Diffraction and interference of walking drops\textsuperscript{1} GIUSEPPE PUCCI, Department of Mathematics, MIT; The Hatter Department of Marine Technologies, University of Haifa, DANIEL M. HARRIS, Department of Mathematics, UNC Chapel Hill; Department of Mathematics, MIT, JOHN W. M. BUSH, Department of Mathematics, MIT — A decade ago, Yves Couder and Emmanuel Fort discovered a wave-particle association on the macroscopic scale: a drop can bounce indefinitely on a vibrating bath of the same liquid and can be piloted by the waves that it generates. These walking droplets have been shown to exhibit several quantum-like features, including single-particle diffraction and interference. Recently, the original diffraction and interference experiments of Couder and Fort (Couder, Y. & Fort, E. Phys. Rev. Lett. 97, 154101 (2006)) have been revisited and contested (Andersen, A. et al. Phys. Rev. E 92(1) 013006 (2015)). We have revisited this system using an improved experimental set-up, and observed a strong dependence of the behavior on system parameters, including drop size and vibrational forcing. In both the single- and the double-slit geometries, the diffraction pattern is dominated by the interaction of the walking droplet with a planar boundary. Critically, in the double-slit geometry, the walking droplet is influenced by both slits by virtue of its spatially extended wave field.

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Giuseppe Pucci
Department of Mathematics, MIT; The Hatter Department of Marine Technologies, University of Haifa

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