

1023-A0-22

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University of Illinois at Chicago, 851 S. Morgan Street MC 249, Chicago, IL 60607. *Big waves on
deep water.*

Large amplitude waves in the open ocean have attracted attention recently and, in some quarters, for many decades. The purpose of this lecture is to introduce some of these phenomena and to explain mathematical issues that revolve around their genesis and their subsequent evolution. (Received September 25, 2006)