Abstract Submitted for the DFD16 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Self-similarity of the large-scale motions in turbulent pipe flow¹ LEO HELLSTRÖM, Princeton University, IVAN MARUSIC, University of Melbourne, ALEXANDER SMITS, Princeton University; Monash University — Townsend's attached eddy hypothesis assumes the existence of a set of energetic and geometrically self-similar eddies in the logarithmic layer in wall-bounded turbulent flows. These eddies can be completely scaled with the distance from their center to the wall. We performed stereo PIV measurements together with a proper orthogonal decomposition (POD) analysis, to address the self-similarity of the energetic motions, or eddies, in fully-developed turbulent pipe flow. The resulting modes/eddies, extracted at $Re_{\tau} = 2460$, show a self-similar behavior for eddies with wall-normal length scales spanning a decade. This single length scale provides a complete description of the cross-sectional shape of the self-similar eddies.

¹ONR Grant N00014-15-1-2402 and the Australian Research Council

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Date submitted: 02 Aug 2016

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