

Abstract Submitted
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**Nonlinear Stability Analysis of a Two-Layer Thin Liquid Film:
Dewetting and Autophobicity** LAEL FISHER, ALEXANDER GOLOVIN,
Northwestern University — The nonlinear analysis of a two-layer thin liquid film
on a solid substrate is performed. Weakly nonlinear stability analysis of nonlinear
evolution equations for the two interfaces reveals that coupling of van der Waals
interactions in the layers can lead to an autophobic behavior of the film, similar
to spinodal decomposition. Numerical simulations of the strongly nonlinear evo-
lution equations confirm this conclusion. The effect of both soluble and insoluble
surfactants on the film stability is also studied. It is shown that the presence of
surfactants can lead to an oscillatory instability of a two-layer film that manifests
itself as dewetting waves.

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