Competing structural instabilities in Ti-based layered-perovskite-oxide superlattices\textsuperscript{1} SERGE NAKHMANSON, Argonne National Lab — Utilizing first-principles computational techniques, we have mapped out structural instabilities in the Ruddlesden-Popper homologous oxide superlattice families with a general chemical formula $A_{n-1}A'_2Ti_nO_{3n+1}$, $A = \text{Sr, Ba, Pb}$ (perovskite-type block) and $A' = \text{Sr}$ (rocksalt-type block), for $n = 1-5$. Our calculations show that each superlattice family has a unique set of “instability footprints” — including the ferroelectric, antiferroelectric and antiferrodistortive types — which may or may not have a strong coupling to epitaxial strain. Furthermore, the existence and strength of structural instabilities within each particular family change dramatically with an increasing number of perovskite-type layers $n$, granting us wide flexibility to fine-tune the properties of these materials for various device applications or, e.g., for integration into composites with magnetic Ru- or Mn-based layered-perovskite-oxide compounds.

\textsuperscript{1}Work supported under contract No. DE-AC02-06CH11357 between UChicago Argonne, LLC and the Department of Energy