



## CZYTAMY PO ANGIELSKU

### Mystery in a Cup of Tea



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Using odds and ends from the space station pantry, researchers have learned something new about fluid physics.



In space, the pull of gravity subsides and other, more subtle phenomena rule. Intermolecular forces can hold films or globs of fluid together that, on Earth, would be torn apart by their own weight. These delicate structures can last for a long time, simply because they float rather than crash into the floor of their container.

That's not to say weightless fluids are still. On the contrary, in a container holding two different fluids, like honey and water, scientists expect strange and complicated currents to flow. "Tiny differences in fluid composition or temperature can, in theory, induce stresses that cause convection," explains Pojman. This effect, called "Korteweg stress," is unobservable on Earth because buoyant motions overwhelm it. But in space it could be important.

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#### Dictionary:

**pull of gravity** – siła grawitacji

**intermolecular** – międzycząsteczkowy

**film** – cienka warstwa

**stress** – naprężenie

**current** – prąd