

## Hybrid Aligned Nematics and second order elasticity

A Sparavigna *et al* 1991 *Phys. Scr.* **43** 210-215 doi:10.1088/0031-8949/43/2/017



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**Abstract.** The effect of the second order elasticity on the critical thickness of Hybrid Aligned Nematic cells possessing either weak planar or weak homeotropic anchoring has been analysed. It is found that the critical thickness of such cells is strictly dependent on the surface elastic constant  $K_{13}$  and on the second order bulk elastic constant  $K^*$ .

Moreover, an experimental method for an indirect measurement of  $K_{13}$  and  $K^*$  is proposed.

Print publication: Issue 2 (1991)

Received 23 August 1989

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