

## Reply

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The authors wish to acknowledge the comments by Richard K. Schmitt on their paper. They were aware of the possibility of manipulating their equations (1)–(3) along the lines done by Schmitt at the time of writing their paper but could not see any specific advantage to this in the context of the problem at hand.

The coefficients  $A(t)$ ,  $B(t)$  and  $C(t)$  in Eq. (2) of Schmitt's comments would be more properly expressed as  $A[r(S,t)]$ ,  $B[r(S,t)]$  and  $C[r(S,t)]$  since they all depend on the dependent variables  $S$  and  $r$  and are, therefore, not explicitly prescribed functions of  $t$  alone. This would underscore the nonlinearity of the equation and the fact that (2) is an incomplete substitute for

the original system. As to the oscillatory character of (2), this depends on the sign of  $A$  which may be either positive or negative, depending on whether  $r$  is growing (condensation), or decreasing (evaporation), and its precise behavior is, of course, not known in advance.

In conclusion, we appreciate Schmitt's attempt to facilitate interpretation of the system of equations governing condensation, but for the reasons given above, we can not see it being of direct help to our work.

Incidentally, the last term in Schmitt's equation (1) should be  $3H_3GbN_T(d/dt)\langle r^{-2} \rangle$ ; furthermore, there should be the additional term  $H_1(dw/dt)$  as we, in our article, did not assume  $w$  to be a constant.