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Frontal collision of internal solitary waves of first mode

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***Research Highlights**

1. Frontal collision of internal solitary waves is studied numerically
2. Collision results in a wave phase shift growing with wave amplitude
3. Nonlinear components of runup for waves of small and large amplitudes differs
4. Collision of waves of large amplitude leads to the shear instability
5. Collision of small and large amplitude waves triggers the shear instability