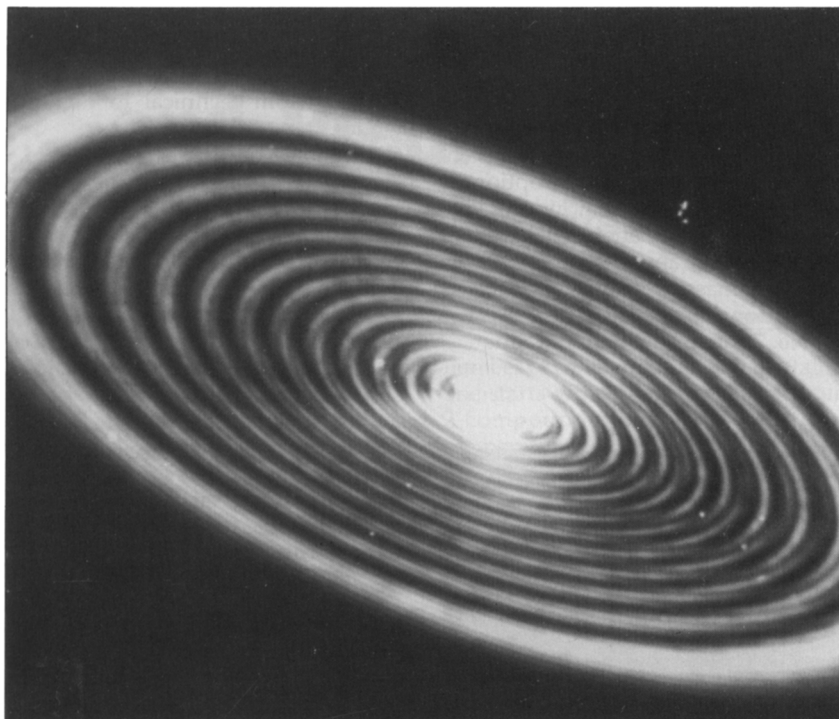


Figures appearing in the EDITOR'S CHOICE are those arising from materials research which strike the editor's fancy as being aesthetically appealing and eye-catching. No further criteria are applied and none should be assumed. When taken out of context, such figures often evoke images beyond and unrelated to the original meaning. Submissions of candidate figures are welcome and should include a complete source citation, a photocopy of the report in which it appears (or will appear), and a reproduction-quality original drawing or photograph of the figure in question.



Editor's Choice this month finds itself on the fringes of pictorial interpretation. From the stellar-like object in the photo, one might think we're at the fringes of the known universe. Not quite. We are, in fact, observing through an optical microscope and infrared TV camera the interference patterns that result from IR laser-diode light reflecting obliquely from a less-than-one-millimeter spot on a GaAlAs crystalline triple layer grown on a (100) GaAs substrate by liquid phase epitaxy. Each of the layers differs in composition and doping. Light reflected from each interface interferes with the incident beam. The superposition of fringes due to each interface gives the maxima an apparent width. Lu Taijing, Koichi Toyoda, Li Lian, Nobuhito Nango, and Tomoya Ogawa explain this new optical characterization method for thin layers in *J. Mater. Res.* 7 (1992) p. 2182. Unfortunately, they do not explain why this photo reminds me of the burners on my electric range.

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