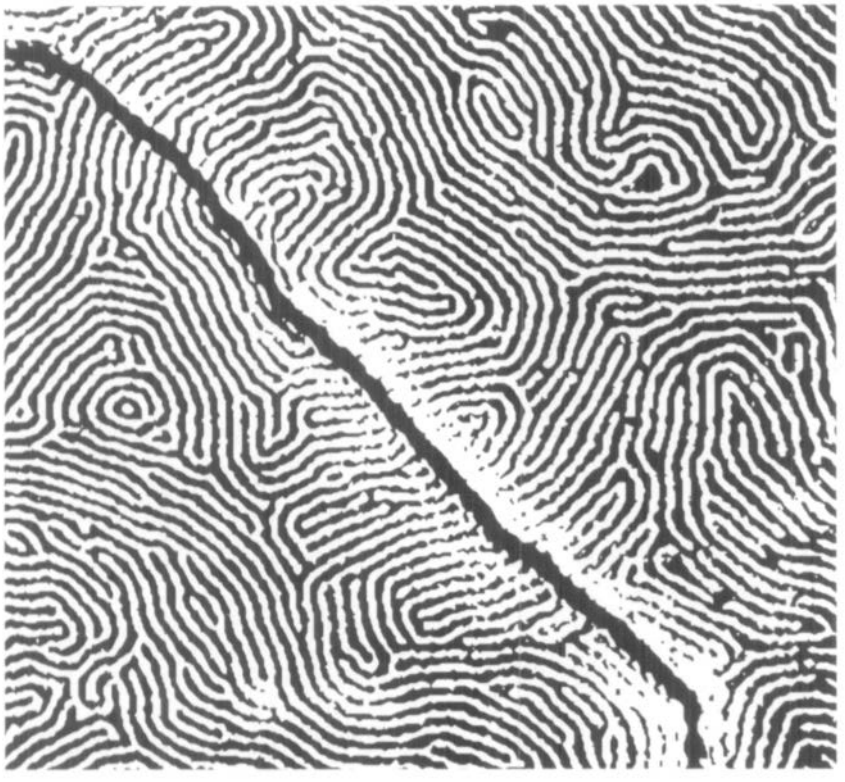
Figures appearing in the EDITOR'S CHOICE are those arising from materials research which strike the editor's fancy as being aesthetically appealing and eye-catching. No further criteria are applied and none should be assumed. When taken out of context, such figures often evoke images beyond and unrelated 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.



A fingerprint as clear as this would be a detective's dream. On top of that, the telltale scar would lead straight to the guilty party. Well, the culprit in this issue's EDITOR'S CHOICE is a block copolymer, precipitated on a microscope slide in a drop of solvent that subsequently evaporated. The original electron micrograph was manipulated by digitizing, filtering out long and short wavelengths, and finally setting all regions darker than a selected midtone to black and those lighter to white. The "scar" is a fracture intentionally caused by shearing the slide. To achieve this pattern, the solvent was one in which the monomers of each of the polymer species repelled each other as well as those of the other species. The micrograph, from C. Henkee and E.L. Thomas of the University of Massachusetts (Amherst), was digitized with the help of Min Lin and Mac Lindsay of Exxon Corporate Research. It can be seen in a colorized rendition in an article by T.A. Witten of the University of Chicago (*Physics Today,* July 1990, p. 21) which discusses the science of the phase separation. On further reflection, it seems likely, notwithstanding the clarify and uniqueness of the evidence, that our culprit would have eluded capture. You see, simple scaling dictates that the culprit would stand approximately 100 micrometers tall based on the 40-nanometer spacing of the "fingerprint" ridges.