

## **The stray-field-induced birefringence of ferrofluids applied to the study of magnetic domains**

U. Hartmann and H. H. Mende

The magneto-optical properties of Bitter patterns on polycrystalline Si-Fe sheets have been investigated by a polarizing microscope. The colloid deposits exhibit a stray-field induced birefringence under the influence of the local magnetic microfield distribution. This leads to new possibilities in the exploration of domain wall fine structures.