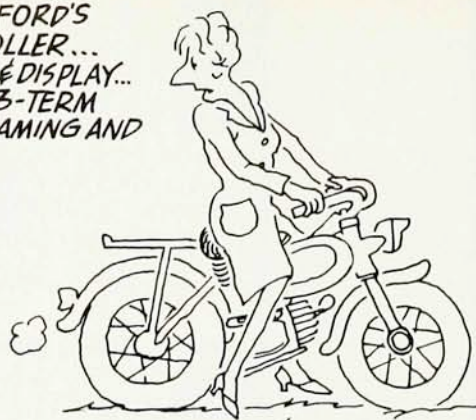


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phase—both at the same frequency and with the same laser source. This should give standing wave amplitude modulation along the beam at a frequency that is linearly related to our speed through space.

Indeed, an experiment that appears to operate on this principle has already been reported<sup>3</sup> and its preliminary findings indicate a positive measure of light-speed anisotropy commensurate with motion through space at 378 km/sec. It is of course all too easy to discredit such claims in view of the overwhelming evidence supporting the theory of relativity. However, in deference to Michelson's conviction about the ether, as shared by Morley, 1987 is perhaps a time when we should be more open to such possibilities. Certainly, if the experiment just mentioned were to hold up at a time when the Michelson-Morley centennial is being celebrated, it would be a remarkable event in the history of physics.

### References

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8/87

## Crystallography's Historical Struggles

It is unfortunate that the rigor we seek in our physics is often less evident when we discuss the history of our subject. A significant number of recent letters to the editor have been related to this matter. I refer particularly to the letter headed "Crystals and Nobels" that appeared in the February 1987 issue (page 9).

The author counts 21 Nobel Prize winners whose research has been associated with x rays and crystals, and then draws conclusions regarding the odds of crystallographers winning the award. This sleight of hand is revealed by the list that then follows, which suggests that Wilhelm Röntgen, Charles G. Barkla, Manne Siegbahn and Arthur H. Compton (among the physicists) can be regarded as crystallographers, simply because their prizewinning work concerned x rays.

Similarly, the chemistry award to Peter Debye in 1936 was for his contribution to the study of molecular structure through his investigations of gases. Apart from the award to

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**February, page 57**—In Alexander Zucker's remarks about the ceramics consortium, the cost was misstated because of a typographical error; it should have been given as \$250 000. ■