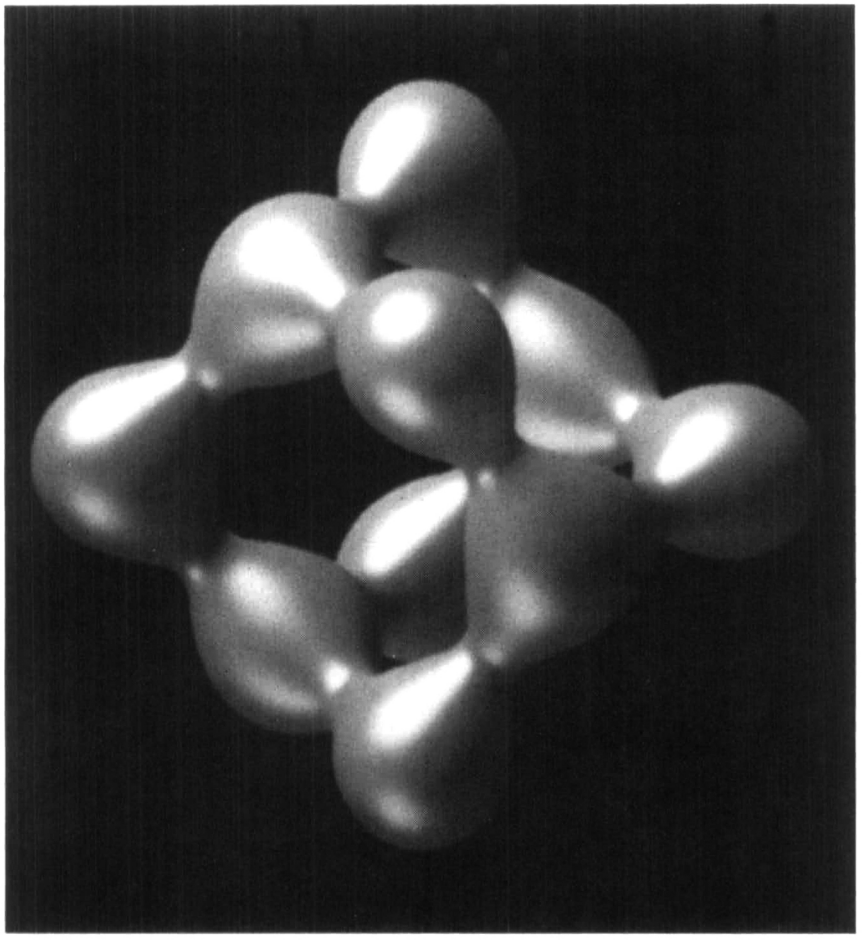
*Figures appearing in the EDITOR'S CHOICE are those arising from materials research which strike the editor's fancy as being asthetically appealing and eye-catching. No further criteria are applied and none should be assumed. When taken out of context, such figures often evoke images beyond and unrelated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



The contour plot isn't what is used to be. EDITOR'S CHOICE has previously selected several of the two-dimensional variety, but in this issue we have graduated to three dimensions. The assemblage of droplet-like pods, apparently captured at an instant of partial coalescence, could be mistaken by science-fiction devotees for a space habitat of some sort. The black background helps in this regard (but we must forget that smooth skinned hulls are aerodynamically unnecessary in space). In fact, as one learns from the paper by D. Tomanek and M.A. Schluter (*Phys. Rev.* **B36** (1987), p. 1208), this illustration shows a calculated contour of constant electron density for a cluster of 10 silicon atoms. The $Si_{10}$ cluster, also known as adamantane, is a metastable structure, and advanced computer graphics, in this case supplied by D. Mitchell of AT&T Bell Laboratories for the authors, has metaphorphized the art of plotting its contours.





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