## MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

## The RESEARCH LABORATORY of ELECTRONICS

# **PROGRESS REPORT**

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# **RLE Progress Report**

## No. 132

### January 1 - December 31, 1989

Submitted by

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#### **RLE Progress Report No. 132**

**Cover and title page:** Shown is the image of an Einstein ring gravitational lens. The data represented in blue was acquired with a Very Large Array (VLA) telescope operated by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in New Mexico. The line drawing on top is a calculation of the appearance of an Einstein ring based on light propagation through a gravitational field. Symmetry of a ring makes a system such as this one particularly attractive as an astrophysics laboratory. Some of Professor Jacqueline N. Hewitt's research is aimed at exploiting this (see page 231 of this report).

**Our special thanks** to the following staff members of the RLE Communications Group: Mary J. Ziegler for her exceptional editing, formatting, and scanning; Mary S. Greene for proofreading and preparation of the publications and personnel chapters; and Rita C. McKinnon for her help with proofreading. We also want to thank David W. Foss, Manager of the RLE Computer Facility, for his technical assistance and Donna M. Ticchi, RLE Administrative Officer, for her help with the personnel sections of this report.

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### Introduction

#### The Research Laboratory of Electronics

The Research Laboratory of Electronics (RLE) was established in 1946 as the Institute's first interdepartmental laboratory. Originally organized under the joint sponsorship of the Departments of Physics and Electrical Engineering, RLE has broadened its interests to cover a wide range of research.

The RLE environment provides both the freedom of action essential in an academic institution and the availability of large-scale laboratory facilities and services required by researchers. RLE's interdisciplinary setting offers many opportunities for creative and collaborative research. By fostering this powerful combination of research and education, RLE effectively penetrates beyond the horizon of new ideas and information.

#### **RLE Progress Report**

RLE Progress Report Number 132 describes research programs at RLE for the period January 1 through December 31, 1989. Each chapter of the *Progress Report* contains both a statement of research objectives and a summary of research efforts for research projects listed. Faculty, research staff, students and others who participated in these projects are identified at the beginning of each project, along with sources of funding.

There are three appendices at the end of the report: Appendix A is a bibliography of RLE publications and papers presented by RLE staff during 1989; Appendix B is a roster of current RLE staff; and Appendix C is an index of RLE sponsors. In addition, the Project Staff and Subject Index provides access to the information in this report.

*RLE Progress Report Number 132* was produced by the RLE Communications Office. Further inquiries may be addressed to:

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