

Malus discovered that natural incident light became polarized when it was reflected by a glass surface, and that the light reflected close to an angle of incidence of 57° . However, in order to obtain the intensity, Malus squared the amplitude relation so that the intensity equation $I(\theta)$ of the reflected polarized light was $I(\theta) = I_0 \cos^2 \theta$, could be extinguished when viewed through the crystal.