

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  $57^\circ$ . 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.