

## Class 20 - Birefringent Crystals, Retarders, Stokes formalism

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The learning objectives of this class:

- Define the terms birefringent materials, retarders, and Stokes parameters.
- Understand the principle of birefringence and how it leads to the splitting of light into two orthogonal polarization components.
- Describe how retarders change the polarization of the light.
- Predict the polarization state after a polarized light passes through full-wave, half-wave, and quarter-wave plates.
- Interpret the Stokes parameters.
- Measure the resultant Stokes parameters of an incoherent superposition.



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