

# Polarization

# Outline of PPT

- What polarization means
- Where Polarization is used in Technology
- Law of Malus
- Brewster's law
- Introduction to Double Refraction

**The wave nature of light clearly explained by  
Interference and Diffraction Phenomenon**

**But These Phenomena failed to explain**

**Whether the light waves are longitudinal or Transverse?**

**Whether the light waves linear, circular or elliptical?**

**Depending on direction of vibration waves are classified as  
Transverse and longitudinal.**

**Phenomena such as Reflection, Refraction, Interference, Diffraction are common in  
both the types**

**But Polarisation is possible only in transverse waves**

**Polarisation is the characteristics of the Transverse wave**

# Light?

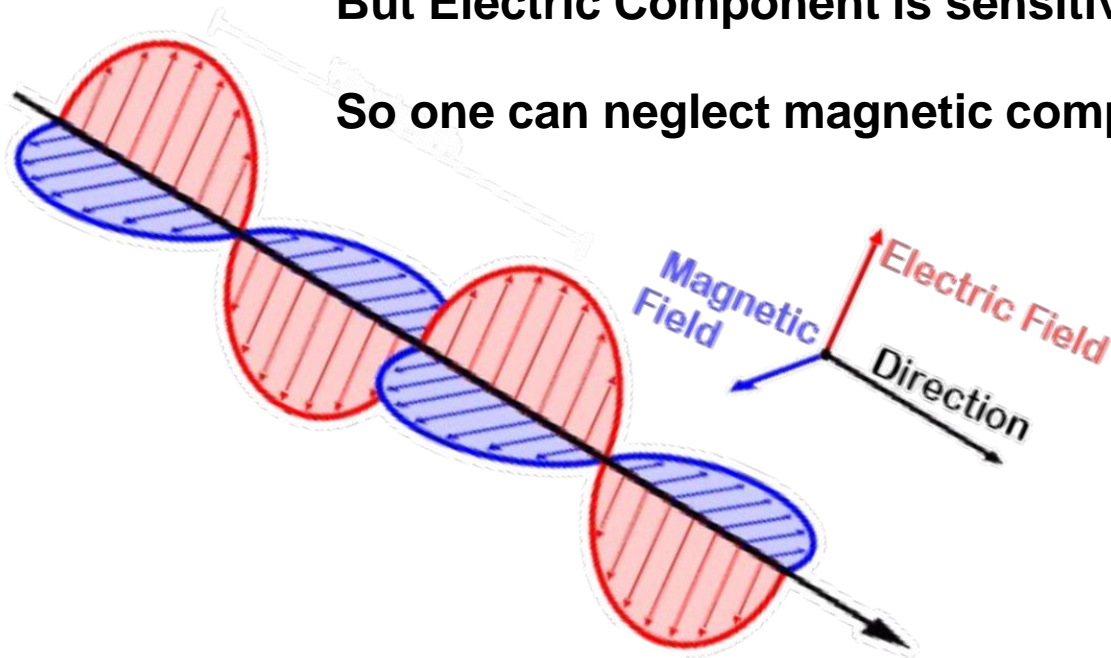
**Light is an Electromagnetic Wave**

**It contains:**

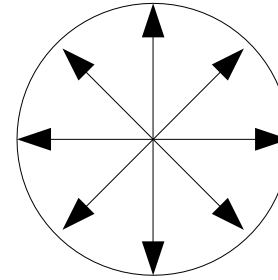
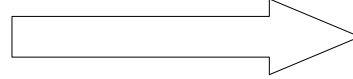
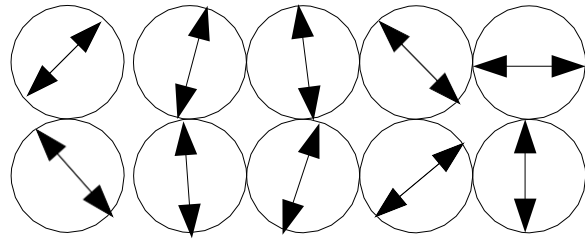
- **Electric Component**
- **Magnetic Component**
- **Both are perpendicular to each other**
- **Both are perpendicular to direction of Propagation**

**But Electric Component is sensitive to eye, so it is called as light vector**

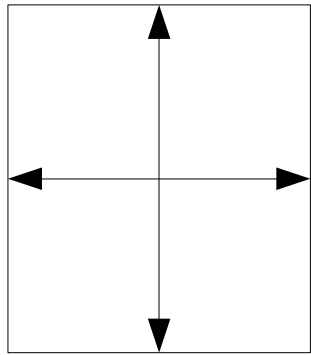
**So one can neglect magnetic component**



Source of light contains large number of atoms/molecules  
Each atom produces its own wave independently  
Each emission has its own electric component, orientation may be different  
What we see is resultant of each emission



**Un-Polarised Light**  
**Electric field**  
**component Vibrates**  
**in all direction**

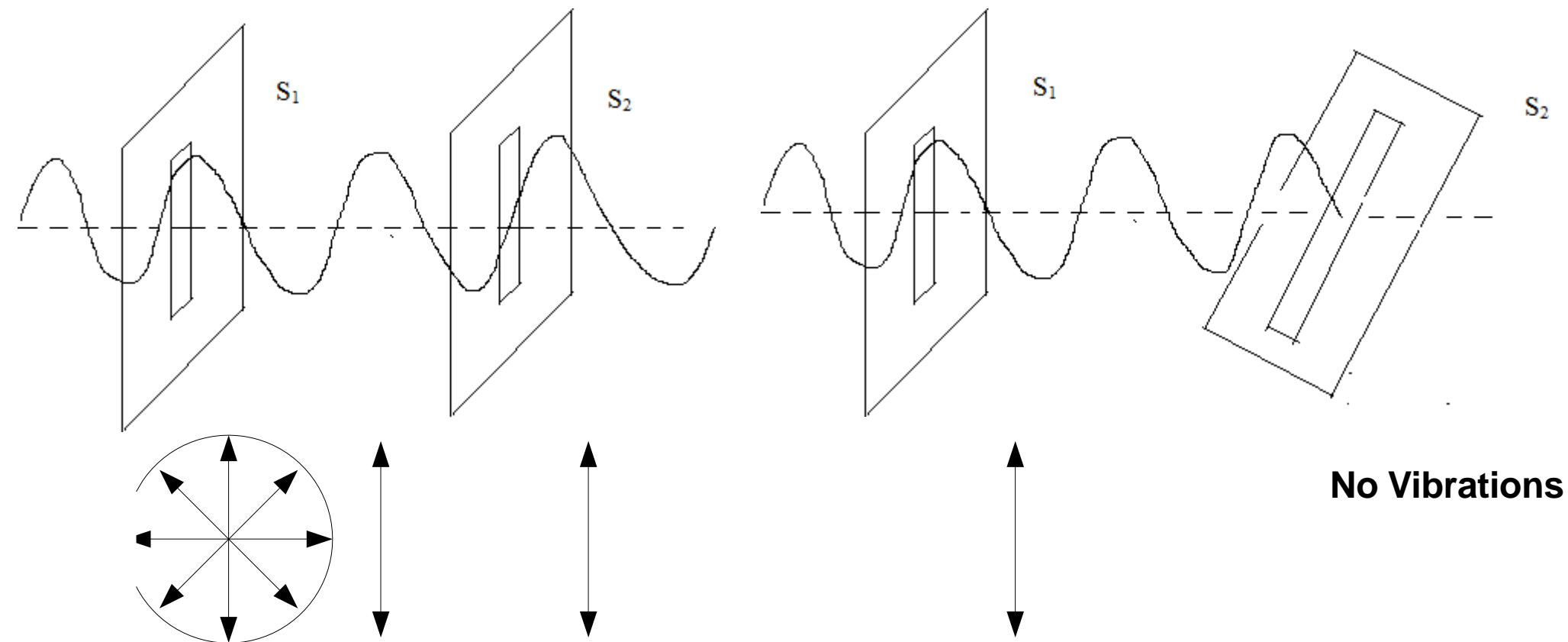


**Electric field is a vector quantity, So one can resolve the vector**

# **Polarisation**

**“Restricting vibrations or oscillations of a wave in a plane perpendicular to the wave propagation in only one direction”**

# Mechanical Analogy



## Optical Analogy

Consider an ordinary light instead of a string  
a Polaroid (or a tourmaline crystal) instead of a slit.

If the Polaroid  $S_1$  is rotated then the intensity of the light will not vary proving that it is unpolarized.

However, the case will be different if light is passed through two Polaroids instead of one.

If the second Polaroid  $S_2$  is rotated across the first one,

Intensity of the light Varies  
at  $90^\circ$  and  $270^\circ$  intensity is **minimum**

At  $0^\circ$ ,  $180^\circ$  and  $360^\circ$  intensity is **maximum**

Ordinary light contains vibrations in all possible directions perpendicular to the direction of propagation.

When such light passes through a polarizer, it contains vibrations only in a particular direction decided by polarizing direction (optic axis) of the polarizer.

This experiment conclusively proves that light is a transverse wave

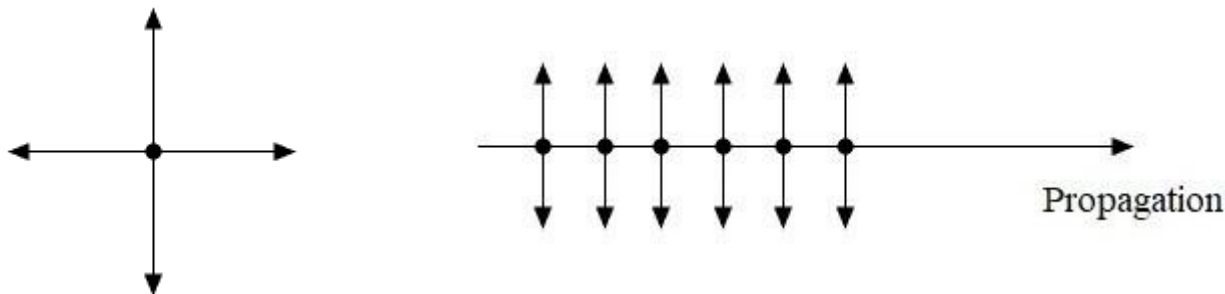


# Types of Polarisation and Representations

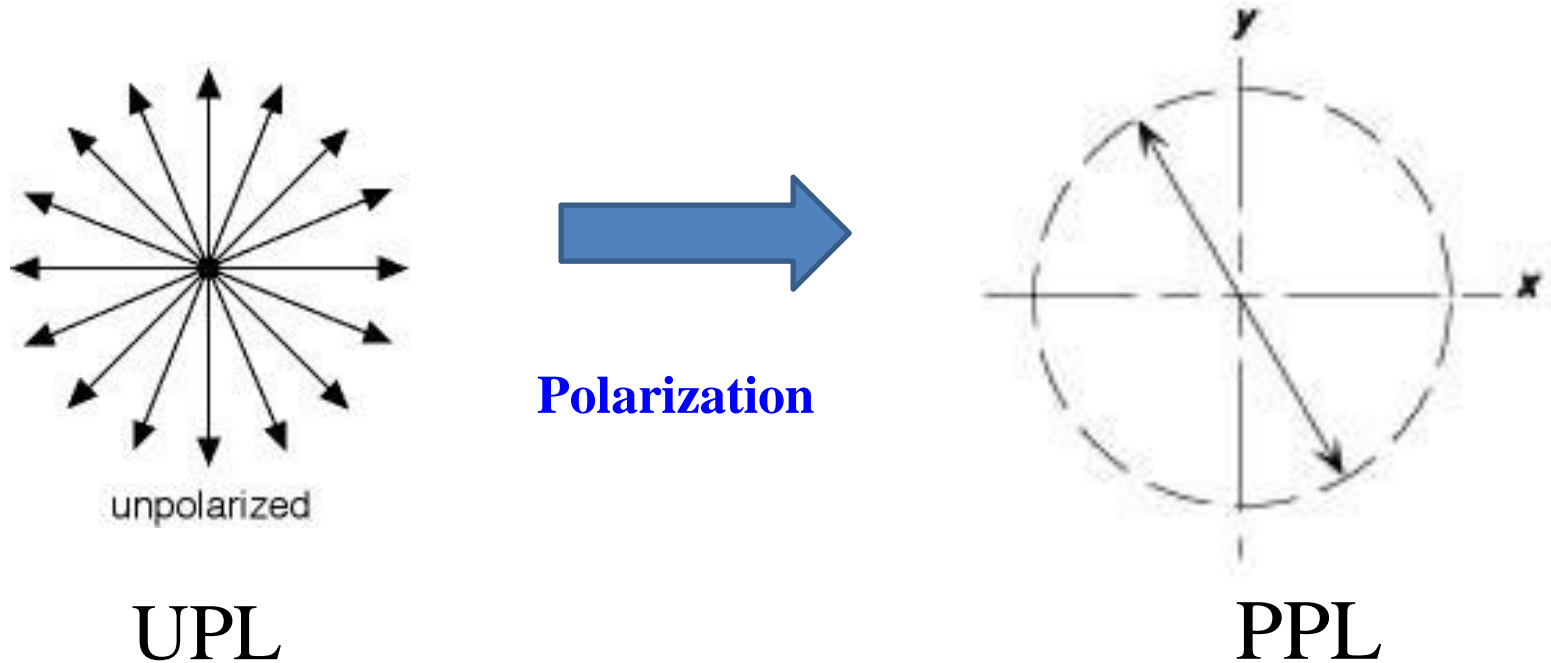
1. Un Polarised Light (UPL)
2. Linearly/Plane Polarised Light (PPL)
3. Circularly Polarised Light (CPL)
4. Elliptically Polarised Light (EPL)
5. Partially Polarised Light (PRPL)

**Unpolarized light:**

**The vibrations are symmetrically distributed in all the directions perpendicular to the direction of propagation**



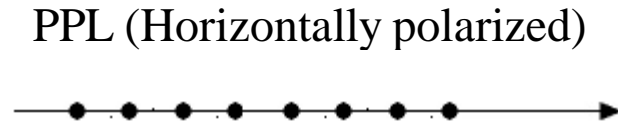
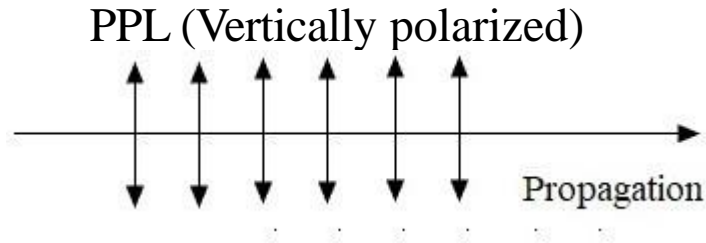
# UPL to PPL is Polarization



- i. Polarizer polarizes the light
- ii. Only vibrations parallel to optic axis are passed
- iii. Thus either X or Y, only one is transmitted
- iv. One axis parallel to optic axis another perpendicular
- v. Thus when light is polarized once, its intensity always falls by 50%: **Polarizing sunglasses**

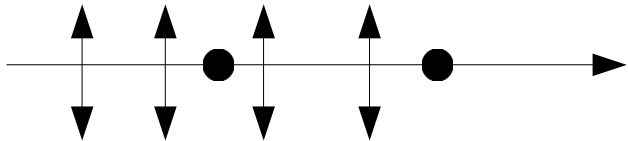
## Plane Polarized Light (PPL)

UPL is allowed to pass through a polarizer, then it vibrates only in one direction parallel to its optic axis. Such light which vibrates only in a particular plane.



## Partially Polarised Light (PRPL)

Neither fully polarized nor fully unpolarized

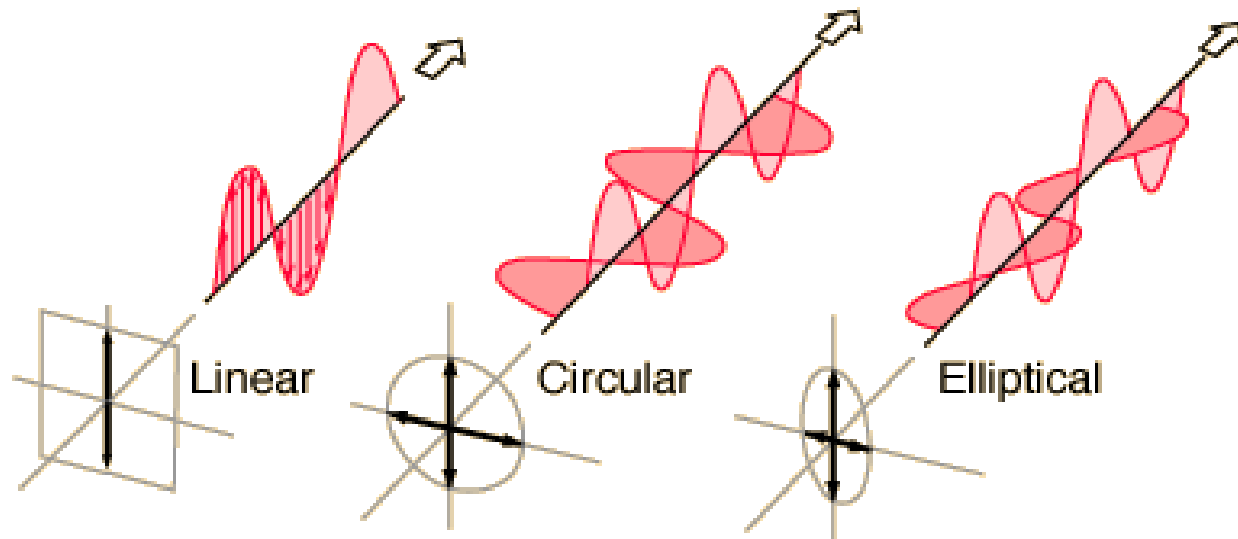


# Circularly Polarised Light

Two plane polarised light of Equal amplitude are superimposed with a path difference  $\lambda/4$   
polarized electric vector in CPL rotates in a circle during its propagation

# Elliptically Polarised Light

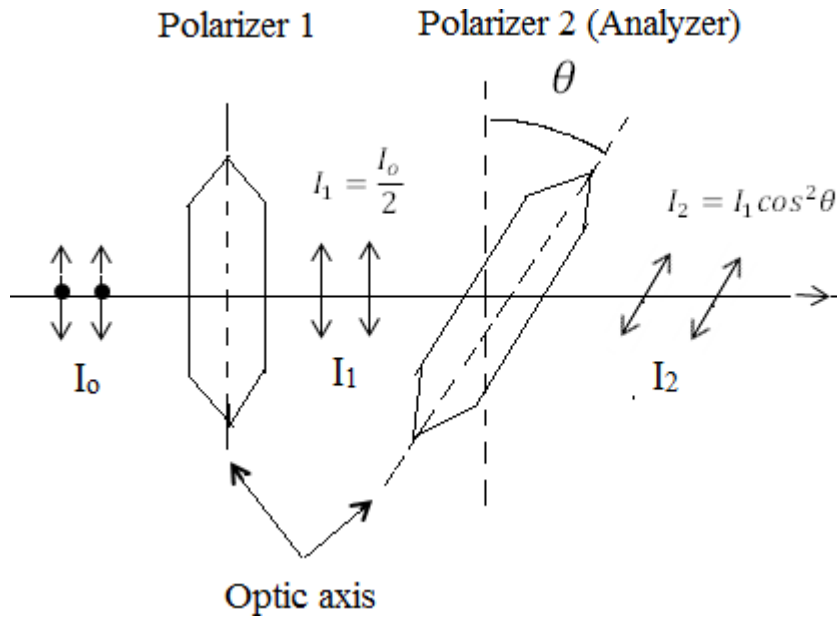
Two plane polarised light of unequal amplitude are superimposed with a path difference  $\lambda/4$   
polarized electric vector in EPL traces in a ellipse during its propagation



## LAW OF MALUS

If the light is passed through two polarizers then the **intensity of light** passing through second polarizer is a **cosine square function** of the **angle** between their optic axis.

$$I_{\theta} = I_m \cos^2 \theta$$



Intensity is Maximum at  $0^\circ$ ,  $180^\circ$ ,  $360^\circ$

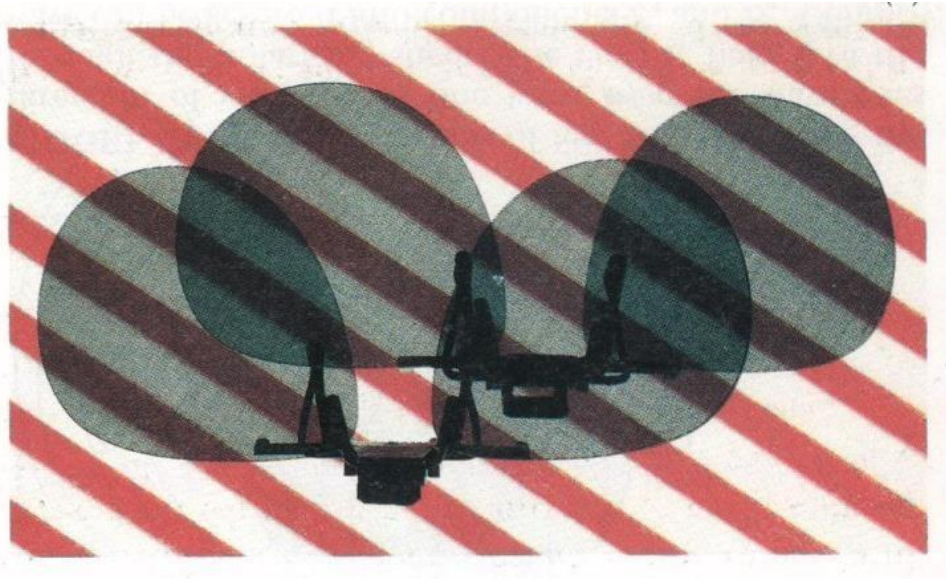
$$I_1 = I_0 \overline{\cos^2 \theta} = \frac{I_0}{2}$$

Intensity is Minimum at  $90^\circ$ ,  $270^\circ$

If the light is polarized once, its intensity falls by 50%

# Demonstration of Law of Malus-I

## Polarizing sunglasses



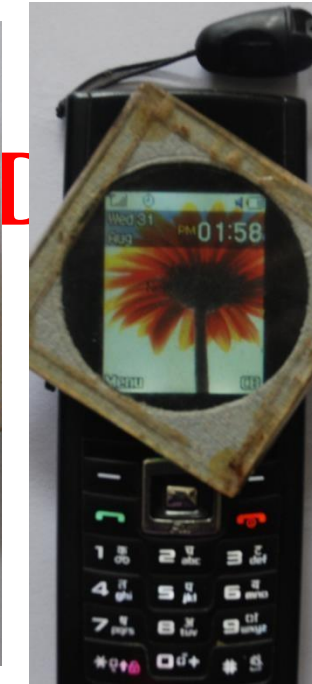
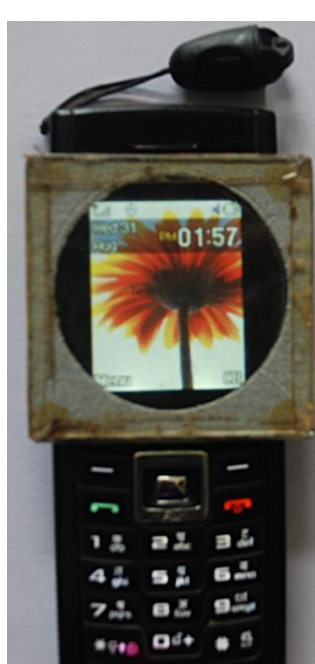
Parallel Sunglasses



Crossed Sunglasses

# Demonstration of Law of Malus-II

## LCD through Polarizers





# Demonstration of Law of Malus-III

