

Name _____

PHYS319 Optics
Pre-lab Birefringence 1

1. What is birefringence?

2. What is calcite? What is calcite used for? What are some uses of **calcite crystals** (Wikipedia under “Use and Applications” is good).

3. What are “ordinary and extraordinary rays?”

4. Below you will find a link to a good simulation of the optical properties of calcite crystals.

<https://www.microscopyu.com/tutorials/birefringence-in-calcite-crystals>

a) Describe what you see when you rotate the crystal in the simulation.

b) Describe what you see when you rotate the polarizer in the simulation.