49. Let θ be the angle of incidence and θ_2 be the angle of refraction at the left face of the plate. Let n be the index of refraction of the glass. Then, the law of refraction yields $\sin\theta = n\sin\theta_2$. The angle of incidence at the right face is also θ_2. If θ_3 is the angle of emergence there, then $n\sin\theta_2 = \sin\theta_3$. Thus $\sin\theta_3 = \sin\theta$ and $\theta_3 = \theta$. The emerging ray is parallel to the incident ray. We wish to derive an expression for x in terms of θ. If D is the length of the ray in the glass, then $D\cos\theta_2 = t$ and $D = t/\cos\theta_2$. The angle α in the diagram equals $\theta - \theta_2$ and $x = D\sin\alpha = D\sin(\theta - \theta_2)$. Thus

$$x = \frac{t\sin(\theta-\theta_2)}{\cos\theta_2} \, .$$

If all the angles θ, θ_2, θ_3, and $\theta - \theta_2$ are small and measured in radians, then $\sin\theta \approx \theta$, $\sin\theta_2 \approx \theta_2$, $\sin(\theta-\theta_2) \approx \theta - \theta_2$, and $\cos\theta_2 \approx 1$. Thus $x \approx t(\theta - \theta_2)$. The law of refraction applied to the point of incidence at the left face of the plate is now $\theta \approx n\theta_2$, so $\theta_2 \approx \theta/n$ and

$$x \approx t\left(\theta - \frac{\theta}{n}\right) = \frac{(n-1)t\theta}{n} \, .$$