Drawing Ray Diagrams for Converging Lenses Lesson Notes

Learning Outcome

• How do you draw ray diagrams for converging lenses?

Converging Lenses: Three "Refraction" Rules

- In incident ray traveling || to the P.A. will refract and pass through F. (Red)
- In incident ray traveling through F will refract and travel || to the P.A. (Blue)
- In incident ray traveling towards the exact center of the lens will continue along its original path. (Green)
- All light originating from the same location on the object will intersect at the same location. (Grey)

Case 1: Object Located Beyond 2F

- 1. Start on the top of the object.
- 2. Draw two sets of incident and refracted rays.

Parallel to the PA and refracting through F. Pass through F and refracting parallel to the PA.

- 3. The image is the location where the refracted rays intersect.
- 4. Repeat for the bottom of the object.

Case 2: Object Located at 2F

- 1. Start on the top of the object.
- Draw two sets of incident and refracted rays. Parallel to the PA and refracting through F. Pass through F and refracting parallel to the PA.
- 3. The image is the location where the refracted rays intersect.
- 4. Repeat for the bottom of the object.







Case 3: Object Located Between F and 2F

- 1. Start on the top of the object.
- 2. Draw two sets of incident and refracted rays.

Parallel to the PA and refracting through F. Pass through F and refracting parallel to the PA.

- 3. The image is the location where the refracted rays intersect.
- 4. Repeat for the bottom of the object.

Case 4: Object Located Between F and Lens

- 1. Start on the top of the object.
- Draw two sets of incident and refracted rays. Parallel to the PA and refracting through F. Pass through the lens' center and continue along original path.
- 3. The image is the location where the refracted rays intersect.
- 4. Repeat for the bottom of the object.





What About the F Location?

- 1. Start on the top of the object.
- Draw two sets of incident and refracted rays. Parallel to the PA and refracting through F. Pass through the lens' center and continue along original path.
- 3. The image is the location where the refracted rays intersect. But these rays do not intersect. There is no image for this object location.

