

MIRROR NOTES

Light travels in a straight line until it strikes the surface of an object. It is then either: reflected, absorbed, or transmitted through (glass, lens)
Reflection: Light changes direction by bouncing off an object
Shiny objects (like mirrors) reflect 90-95% of light that hits them.

Mirrors: objects with a reflective surface

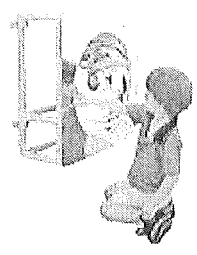
We will draw objects looking in the mirror like this: ↑

Flat Mirror: See image that looks like it is behind the mirror

Concave Mirror: Mirror surface "caves in" or curves inward
Ex: makeup mirror (magnification)

How do things look in a concave mirror?

Far away: inverted
Closer: blurry - no image
Up close: larger, upright magnified

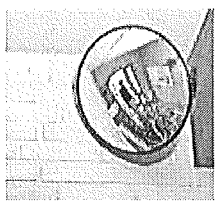


Convex Mirror: Mirror surface curves outward or "bulges"

Ex: carside Mirror

How do things look in a convex mirror?

Far away: smaller, upright (erect)
Closer: _____
Up close: _____



Principle Axis - Dotted line through center of mirror

focal point (f) - The point where light rays focus (inside mirror if a sphere) **Also called the focus**

Focal length - Distance from mirror to focal point

Real Image - Occurs when actual light rays cross **can be projected** onto a screen. (Only concave mirrors make real images...and only sometimes!)

Virtual Image - Image that appears drawn behind the surface of the mirror. (Actual light rays don't cross behind the mirror, just looks like it)

Concave Mirrors

Ray Diagram

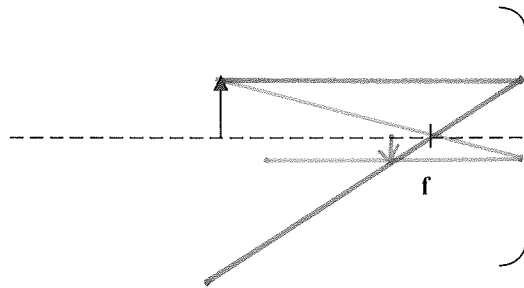
Drawings that locate an image formed by a mirror

Rules for drawing ray diagrams for concave mirrors: Pick 2 light rays.

- 1) A light ray traveling parallel to the principle axis on the way to the mirror bounce back through the focal point (*"parallel, through the focus"*)
- 2) A light ray passing through the focal point on the way to the mirror will bounce back parallel to the principle axis (*"through the focus, parallel"*)

Draw the ray diagrams for the following examples.

Concave Mirror Ex. 1: object located beyond C

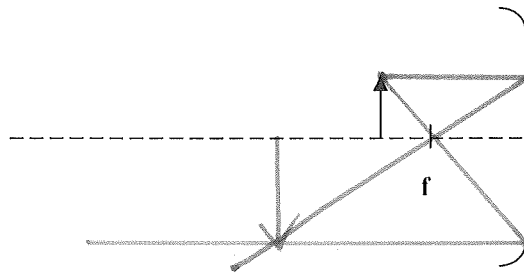


Smaller or larger

Inverted or upright

Real or Virtual

Concave Mirror Ex. 2: object located between C & f

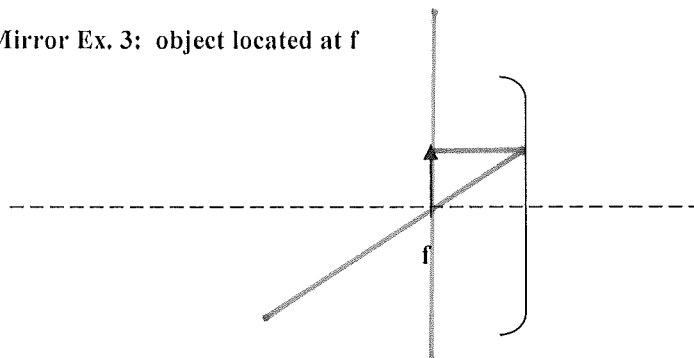


Smaller or larger

Inverted or upright

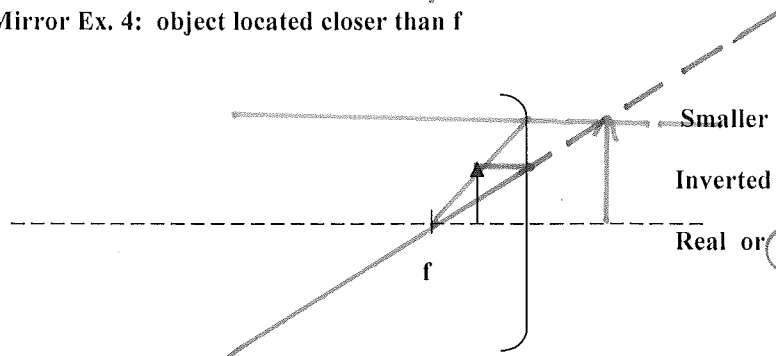
Real or Virtual

Concave Mirror Ex. 3: object located at f



no image
Blurry

Concave Mirror Ex. 4: object located closer than f



Smaller or larger

Inverted or upright

Real or Virtual

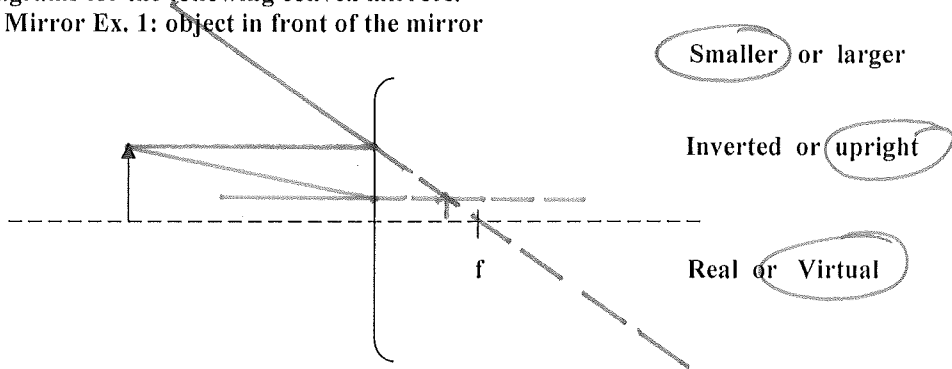
Convex Mirrors

Rules for drawing ray diagrams for convex mirrors: Pick 2 light rays.

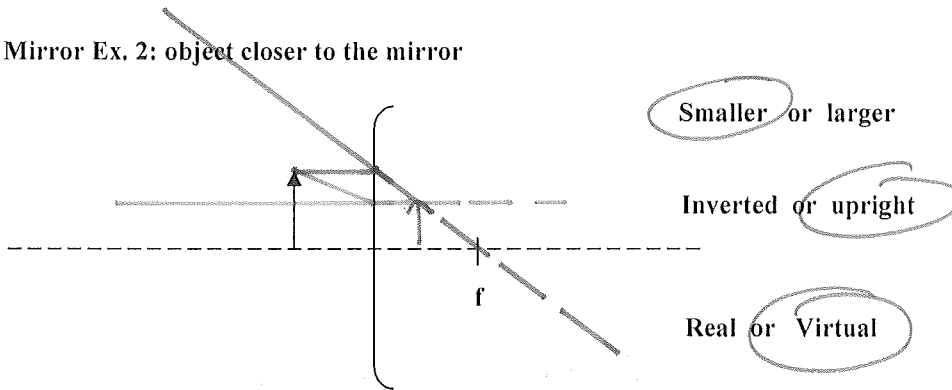
- 1) A light ray traveling parallel to the principle axis on the way to the mirror will reflect in a manner so that its extension will pass through the focal point.
- 2) A light ray passing through the focal point on the way to the mirror such that an extension passes through the focal point will reflect and travel parallel to the principle axis

Draw the ray diagrams for the following convex mirrors.

Convex Mirror Ex. 1: object in front of the mirror



Convex Mirror Ex. 2: object closer to the mirror



The Variables for Mirrors:

All distances are measured from the mirror on the principle axis!*

*You can use meters or centimeters as long as they are all in the same unit!

- f = focal length
- p = object distance from mirror
- q = image distance from mirror
- h_o = object height
- h_i = image height

Sign Conventions for the variables-

When the image is in front of the mirror q is positive / negative
 When the image is behind the mirror q is positive / negative

When objects are upright, h_i is positive / negative
 When the image is inverted h_i is positive / negative