

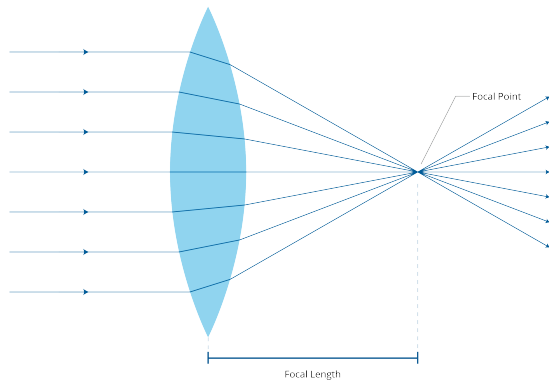


CHAPTER 1

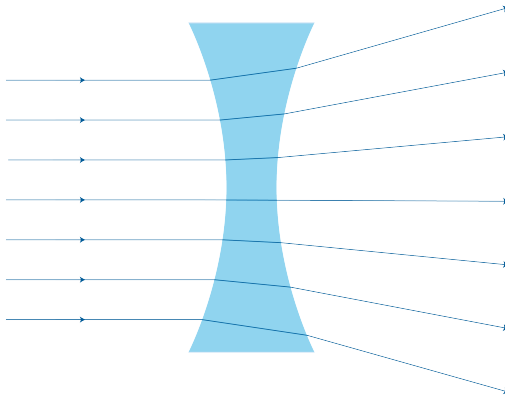
Lenses

Lenses are optical devices with perfect or approximate axial symmetry that transmit and refract light, converging or diverging the beam. There are two main types of lenses, distinguished by their shape and the way they refract light:

- **Converging (or Convex) Lenses:** These are thicker at the center than at the edges. When parallel light rays enter a convex lens, they converge to a point called the focal point. Examples of converging lenses include magnifying glasses and camera lenses.



- **Diverging (or Concave) Lenses:** These are thinner at the center than at the edges. When parallel light rays enter a concave lens, they diverge or spread out. These lenses are often used in glasses to correct nearsightedness.



1.1 Focal Length

The focal length of a lens is the distance between the center of the lens and the focal point. It is determined by the lens shape and the refractive index of the lens material. For a converging lens, the focal length is positive, and for a diverging lens, the focal length is negative.

1.2 Refractive Index

The refractive index of a material is a measure of how much the speed of light is reduced inside the material. The refractive index n of a material is given by the ratio of the speed of light in a vacuum c to the speed of light v in the material:

$$n = \frac{c}{v}$$

The refractive index affects how much a light ray changes direction, or refracts, when entering the material at an angle. A higher refractive index indicates that light travels slower in that medium and the light ray will bend more towards the normal.

Lenses work by refracting light at their two surfaces. By choosing the right lens shape and material, lenses can be designed to bring light to a focus, spread it out, or perform more complex transformations.

This is a draft chapter from the Kontinua Project. Please see our website (<https://kontinua.org/>) for more details.



APPENDIX A

Answers to Exercises



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