

Convex Mirrors

Objective

A convex mirror is used to expand the field of view and allow observation of the largest possible area of

Tools:

objects in front of it.

- Convex mirror
- Candle or luminous object
- Ruler
- White screen (for trial only)

Theory

A convex mirror is a mirror whose reflecting surface bulges outward. It is widely used in car side mirrors and surveillance mirrors.

Applications:

1. **Car side mirrors**
Used to see a wider area of the road and reduce blind spots.
2. **Traffic safety**
Installed at dangerous curves, intersections, and parking garage exits.
3. **Security surveillance**
Used in shops, warehouses, banks, and schools to monitor wide angles.
4. **Factories and warehouses**
For monitoring the movement of workers and vehicles in corridors.
5. **Public places**
Such as hospitals, long hallways, and shopping centers.

Properties of a Convex Mirror

A convex mirror diverges reflected rays and always forms a **virtual, upright, and diminished image** located behind the mirror between the focal point and the pole.

Convex Mirror Formula

$$\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{d_o} + \frac{1}{d_i}$$

Where:

- (f) = focal length (negative for convex mirrors)
- (d_o) = object distance (positive)
- (d_i) = image distance (negative)

Question:

An object of height 4 cm is placed in front of a convex mirror with a radius of curvature of 20 cm. Find the position of the image.

Solution:

1. Finding the focal length (f):

$$f = \frac{R}{2} = \frac{20}{2} = 10$$

Since the mirror is convex:

$$f = -10$$

2. Finding the image position ((d_i)) using the mirror equation:

Assume the object is placed at a distance:

$$d_o = 30$$
$$\frac{1}{d_o} = \frac{1}{f} + \frac{1}{d_i}$$
$$\frac{1}{30} = \frac{1}{-10} + \frac{1}{d_i}$$

$$\frac{1}{d_i} = \frac{1}{-10} - \frac{1}{30}$$

$$\frac{1}{d_i} = -\frac{3}{30} - \frac{1}{30} = -\frac{4}{30}$$

$$d_i = -\frac{30}{4} = -7.5$$

The negative sign confirms that the image is **virtual** and located **behind the mirror**.

