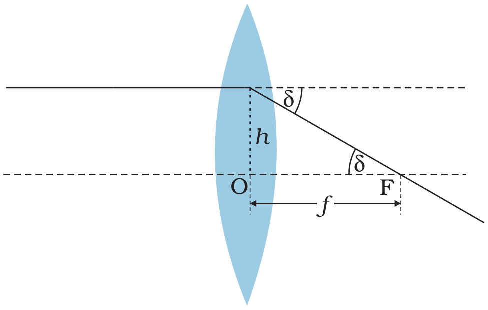

FIGURE 9.20 Power of a lens.

length bends the incident light more, while converging it in case of a convex lens and diverging it in case of a concave lens. The *power P* of a lens is defined as the tangent of the angle by which it converges or diverges a beam of light falling at unit distant from the optical centre (Fig. 9.20). Def.

$$\tan\delta = \frac{h}{f};\ \text{if } h = 1,\quad \tan\delta = \frac{1}{f} \quad \text{or} \quad \delta = \frac{1}{f} \quad \text{for small}$$

value of δ. Thus,

$$\boxed{P = \frac{1}{f}} \tag{9.25}$$

The SI unit for power of a lens is dioptre (D): $1\text{D} = 1\text{m}^{-1}$. The power of a lens of focal length of 1 metre is one dioptre. Power of a lens is positive for a converging lens and negative for a diverging lens. Thus, when an optician prescribes a corrective lens of power + 2.5 D, the required lens is a convex lens of focal length + 40 cm. A lens of power of – 4.0 D means a concave lens of focal length – 25 cm.

Imp

Example 9.8 (i) If f = 0.5 m for a glass lens, what is the power of the lens? (ii) The radii of curvature of the faces of a double convex lens are 10 cm and 15 cm. Its focal length is 12 cm. What is the refractive index of glass? (iii) A convex lens has 20 cm focal length in air. What is focal length in water? (Refractive index of air-water = 1.33, refractive index for air-glass = 1.5.)

Solution

(i) Power = +2 dioptre.

(ii) Here, we have f = +12 cm, R_1 = +10 cm, R_2 = –15 cm.
Refractive index of air is taken as unity.
We use the lens formula of Eq. (9.22). The sign convention has to be applied for f, R_1 and R_2.
Substituting the values, we have

$$\frac{1}{12} = (n-1)\left(\frac{1}{10} - \frac{1}{-15}\right)$$

This gives n = 1.5.

(iii) For a glass lens in air, n_2 = 1.5, n_1 = 1, f = +20 cm. Hence, the lens formula gives

$$\frac{1}{20} = 0.5\left[\frac{1}{R_1} - \frac{1}{R_2}\right]$$

For the same glass lens in water, n_2 = 1.5, n_1 = 1.33. Therefore,

$$\frac{1.33}{f} = (1.5 - 1.33)\left[\frac{1}{R_1} - \frac{1}{R_2}\right] \tag{9.26}$$

Combining these two equations, we find f = + 78.2 cm.

EXAMPLE 9.8

9.5.4 Combination of thin lenses in contact

Consider two lenses A and B of focal length f_1 and f_2 placed in contact with each other. Let the object be placed at a point O beyond the focus of