Physics

the object AB, image A'B' as well as the focus F from the pole P, we have to travel opposite to the direction of incident light. Hence, all the three will have negative signs. Thus,

B' P = -v, FP = -f, BP = -uUsing these in Eq. (9.6), we get

$$\frac{-v+f}{-f} = \frac{-v}{-u}$$

or
$$\frac{v-f}{f} = \frac{v}{u}$$
$$\frac{v}{f} = 1 + \frac{v}{u}$$

Dividing it by *v*, we get

(9.7)

This relation is known as the mirror equation.

The size of the image relative to the size of the object is another important quantity to consider. We define linear magnification (m) as the ratio of the height of the image (h') to the height of the object (h):

$$m = \frac{h'}{h}$$

(9.8)

h and h' will be taken positive or negative in accordance with the accepted sign convention. In triangles A'B'P and ABP, we have,

 $\frac{B'A'}{B'} = \frac{B'P}{B'}$ BA BP

With the sign convention, this becomes

$$\frac{-h'}{h} = \frac{-v}{-u}$$



(9.9)

We have derived here the mirror equation, Eq. (9.7), and the magnification formula, Eq. (9.9), for the case of real, inverted image formed by a concave mirror. With the proper use of sign convention, these are, in fact, valid for all the cases of reflection by a spherical mirror (concave or convex) whether the image formed is real or virtual. Figure 9.6 shows the ray diagrams for virtual image formed by a concave and convex mirror. You should verify that Eqs. (9.7) and (9.9) are valid for these cases as well.



P and F, and (b) a convex mirror.

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