

The Distance Between An Object And Its Image Formed By A Diverging Lens Is 8.0 Cm. The Focal Length Of

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Understanding the behavior of lenses and their optical properties is fundamental in physics and optics. Among various types of lenses, diverging lenses (also known as concave lenses) are widely used in optical devices such as glasses, microscopes, and optical instruments. In this article, we delve into the relationship between the object distance, image distance, and focal length of a diverging lens, using the specific data point: the distance between an object and its image is 8.0 cm. We will explore how to determine the focal length of the lens and discuss the principles governing image formation in diverging lenses.

Introduction to Diverging Lenses

Diverging lenses are optical devices that cause incident light rays to spread apart after passing through the lens. They are typically concave in shape, thicker at the edges and thinner at the center. When an object is placed in front of a diverging lens, the lens forms a virtual, erect, and diminished image on the same side as the object.

Key Characteristics of Diverging Lenses:

- Shape: Concave (bowl-shaped)
- Image Type: Virtual, erect, diminished
- Focal Length: Negative value (since they diverge rays)
- Applications: Glasses for nearsightedness, optical devices, and beam expanders

Fundamental Optical Principles in Diverging Lens Systems

To analyze the object-image relationship, we rely on the lens formula:

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

Where:

- f = focal length of the lens
- v = image distance from the lens
- u = object distance from the lens

Sign conventions:

- Object distance (u) is negative if the object is in front of the lens (real object)
- Image distance (v) is negative for virtual images formed on the same side as the object
- Focal length (f) is negative for diverging lenses

Understanding the Given Data

The problem states:

"The distance between an object and its image formed by a diverging lens is 8.0 cm."

This implies that the absolute difference between the object distance and the image distance is 8.0 cm:

$$|v - u| = 8.0 \text{ cm}$$

Since diverging lenses produce virtual images on the same side as the object, and the image is erect and virtual, the image distance (v) is negative.

Assumptions:

- The object is placed in front of the lens at a distance (u) (negative value)
- The image is virtual, so (v) is negative
- The magnitude of the difference between (v) and (u) is 8.0 cm

Determining the Focal Length of the Diverging Lens

To find the focal length (f) , we need to determine the specific values of (u) and (v) . Since only the distance between the object and image is given, we can analyze the possible scenarios.

Step 1: Define the relationship

Given:

$$|v - u| = 8.0 \text{ cm}$$

Considering the nature of virtual images:

- $(u < 0)$ (object in front of the lens)
- $(v < 0)$ (virtual image on same side)

Therefore, the possible relation:

$$v - u = \pm 8.0 \text{ cm}$$

But because (v) and (u) are both negative, the difference $(v - u)$ can be positive or negative depending on the values.

Step 2: Consider the case $(v - u = 8.0 \text{ cm})$

Since both are negative:

$$[v = u + 8.0]$$

But with both negative, for example:

- If $(u = -x)$, then $(v = -x + 8.0)$

Given that (v) is negative, for $(v = -x + 8.0)$ to be negative:

$$[-x + 8.0 < 0 \Rightarrow x > 8.0]$$

Similarly, for $(u = -x)$, $(x > 8.0)$, and $(v = -x + 8.0)$, which is negative if $(x > 8.0)$.

Step 3: Apply the lens formula

Using the lens formula:

$$\left[\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{v} - \frac{1}{u} \right]$$

Substitute (u) and (v) :

- Let $(u = -x)$
- $(v = -x + 8.0)$

So:

$$\left[\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{-x + 8.0} - \frac{1}{-x} \right]$$

Simplify:

$$\left[\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{-x + 8.0} + \frac{1}{x} \right]$$

Calculating the Focal Length

Let's pick a specific value for (x) that satisfies the conditions. For simplicity, choose $(x = 12 \text{ cm})$:

- $(u = -12 \text{ cm})$
- $(v = -12 + 8 = -4 \text{ cm})$

Calculate (f) :

$$\left[\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{-4} + \frac{1}{12} = -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12} \right]$$

Find common denominator:

$$\left[-\frac{3}{12} + \frac{1}{12} = -\frac{2}{12} = -\frac{1}{6} \right]$$

Therefore:

$$[f = -6 \text{ cm}]$$

This indicates that the focal length of the diverging lens is approximately -6.0 cm.

Summary of Findings

- The focal length of the diverging lens is approximately -6.0 cm.
- The negative sign confirms the lens is diverging.
- The specific object and image distances depend on the object placement, but the relationship and the focal length can be determined with the given distance difference.

Practical Applications and Significance

Understanding how to determine the focal length of a diverging lens based on object-image distances is essential in various fields:

- Optical Instrument Design: Precise calculations enable engineers to design lenses with desired properties.
- Eyewear Manufacturing: Corrective lenses for nearsightedness (myopia) utilize diverging lenses with known focal lengths.
- Scientific Research: Accurate modeling of optical systems requires understanding the relationship between object and image distances.

Conclusion

The relationship between an object, its image, and the focal length in diverging lenses is fundamental in optics. Given the specific data that the distance between an object and its image is 8.0 cm, we deduced that the focal length of the lens is approximately -6.0 cm. This example illustrates how applying the lens formula and understanding sign conventions can help determine key parameters of optical systems. Mastery of these principles is crucial for applications ranging from everyday optics to advanced scientific instrumentation.

Additional Tips for Solving Diverging Lens Problems

- Always adhere to sign conventions to avoid errors.
- Remember that diverging lenses have negative focal lengths.
- Use the lens formula systematically, substituting known values to find unknowns.

- Visualize ray diagrams to better understand image formation.

By mastering these concepts, students and professionals can accurately analyze diverging lens systems and apply these principles in practical scenarios involving optical devices.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the relation between the object distance and the image distance for a diverging lens?

For a diverging lens, the relation is given by the lens formula: $1/f = 1/v - 1/u$, where u is the object distance, v is the image distance, and f is the focal length.

Given the image-object distance of 8.0 cm for a diverging lens, how do you determine the focal length?

Using the lens formula and the known distances, you can calculate the focal length by rearranging the formula: $f = 1 / (1/v - 1/u)$, considering the sign conventions for diverging lenses.

What is the sign convention used for diverging lenses in optics?

In optics, for diverging lenses, the focal length (f) is negative, the object distance (u) is negative if the object is in front of the lens, and the image distance (v) is negative if the image is virtual and on the same side as the object.

How does the distance between an object and its image relate to the lens's focal length?

The distance between the object and its image depends on their respective distances from the lens and the focal length, following the lens formula; for diverging lenses, the image is virtual and upright, typically located closer to the lens than the object.

If the distance between an object and its image formed by a diverging lens is 8.0 cm, what additional information is needed to find the focal length?

You need either the object distance (u) or the image distance (v) to apply the lens formula and calculate the focal length accurately.

Can the focal length be positive for a diverging lens?

No, the focal length of a diverging lens is always negative according to sign conventions.

What type of image is formed by a diverging lens when the object is placed beyond the focal point?

A diverging lens always forms a virtual, upright, and diminished image, regardless of the object position, provided the object is outside the focal length.

How does changing the object distance affect the image distance in a diverging lens?

As the object moves closer to the lens (within the focal length), the virtual image moves farther away; moving the object away makes the virtual image closer to the lens.

What is the significance of the 8.0 cm distance in the context of the lens's optics?

The 8.0 cm distance represents the separation between the object and its virtual image formed by the diverging lens, which depends on the object position and the lens's focal length.

How do you calculate the focal length of a diverging lens if the object distance is known along with the image distance?

Use the lens formula: $1/f = 1/v - 1/u$. Substitute the known object and image distances (keeping signs consistent), then solve for f to find the focal length.

Additional Resources

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In the fascinating realm of optics, lenses play a pivotal role in shaping our perception of the world. Among these, diverging lenses—also known as concave lenses—are unique in their ability to spread light rays apart, creating virtual images that appear to originate from a point behind the lens. A common question that arises in optical studies and practical applications is: Given the distance between an object and its image formed by a diverging lens, what is the focal length of that lens? This inquiry not only deepens our understanding of lens behavior but also underscores the importance of fundamental optical principles such as the lens formula, magnification, and the sign conventions that govern these calculations.

In this comprehensive review, we will analyze the scenario where the object and its image are separated by a distance of 8.0 cm, focusing on how to

determine the lens's focal length. We will explore the underlying physics, the mathematical relationships involved, and the practical implications of these calculations, all while elucidating the core concepts with clarity and precision.

Understanding Diverging Lenses: Basic Concepts

What Is a Diverging (Concave) Lens?

A diverging lens, commonly called a concave lens, is characterized by its inward-curving surfaces. Unlike convex lenses that converge light rays to a focus, concave lenses spread rays outward. When parallel rays of light pass through a diverging lens, they diverge as if emanating from a single point known as the focal point, situated on the same side of the lens as the incoming light.

Key features of diverging lenses include:

- Focal length (f): Negative for diverging lenses, indicating the focal point is virtual and located on the same side as the object.
- Image characteristics: Usually virtual, upright, and reduced in size compared to the object.
- Applications: Eyeglasses for nearsightedness, laser beam expanders, and certain optical instruments.

Significance of Focal Length

The focal length is a fundamental property that indicates the lens's ability to converge or diverge light. For diverging lenses, a negative focal length signifies that the lens causes light rays to spread apart. Determining this value is essential for understanding how the lens manipulates light and forms images.

Optical Principles and the Lens Formula

The Thin Lens Equation

The mathematical relationship connecting object distance, image distance, and focal length is called the lens formula or lens equation:

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

Where:

- f = focal length of the lens
- v = image distance from the lens
- u = object distance from the lens

Important sign conventions:

- For diverging lenses, f is negative.
- When the image is virtual and on the same side as the object, v is negative.
- The object distance u is usually taken as positive if the object is on the same side as incoming light; for real objects placed in front of the lens, u is positive.

Magnification and Its Role

Magnification (m) relates the size of the image to the object:

$$m = \frac{\text{height of image}}{\text{height of object}} = \frac{v}{u}$$

This ratio helps determine how the size of the image compares to the object, which is especially important in virtual imaging scenarios typical of diverging lenses.

Analyzing the Scenario: Object and Image Separation

Given Data

- Distance between object and image: $d = 8.0$, cm

Note: Since diverging lenses produce virtual images on the same side as the object, the positions of the object and image relative to the lens determine the signs and values of u and v .

Possible Configurations and Assumptions

To analyze the problem, we need to clarify:

- Is the distance of 8.0 cm the absolute difference between the object and image distances?
- Are the object and image on the same side or opposite sides of the lens?

Most common scenario:

- The object is placed in front of the lens (on the positive side).
- The diverging lens produces a virtual image on the same side as the object, which is also virtual and upright.
- The distance between object and image is measured along the same line.

Assuming:

$$|v - u| = 8.0, \text{ cm}$$

with $u > 0$ and $v < 0$ (since virtual images in diverging lenses have negative image distances).

Deriving the Focal Length from the Given Data

Step 1: Express the Relationship Between (u) and (v)

Given the absolute difference:

$$|v - u| = 8.0 \text{ cm}$$

Since for a virtual image in a diverging lens, $(v < 0)$ and $(u > 0)$, this becomes:

$$|v - u| = |v| + u = 8.0 \text{ cm}$$

or equivalently:

$$u + |v| = 8.0 \text{ cm}$$

because (v) is negative, so $(|v| = -v)$.

Thus:

$$u + (-v) = 8.0 \text{ cm}$$
$$\Rightarrow u - v = 8.0 \text{ cm}$$

But: To proceed, we need to relate (u) and (v) via the lens formula.

Step 2: Applying the Lens Formula

Recall:

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

Rearranged as:

$$\frac{1}{f} = \frac{u - v}{uv}$$

which indicates that knowing $(u - v)$ and the product (uv) allows us to find (f) .

From the earlier relation:

$$u - v = 8.0 \text{ cm}$$

Let's denote:

$$u - v = 8.0 \text{ cm}$$

and express (f) :

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

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\]
or, considering the sign conventions:
\[
f = \frac{uv}{8.0}, \text{cm}
\]
---

```

Step 3: Expressing (v) in Terms of (u)

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From the relation:
\[
u - v = 8.0, \text{cm}
\]
we get:
\[
v = u - 8.0, \text{cm}
\]
but remember,  $(v)$  is negative (virtual image on the same side as the
object), so:
\[
v = -(some, positive, value)
\]
which suggests that:
\[
u - 8.0, \text{cm} < 0
\]
or equivalently:
\[
v < 0
\]
and
\[
v = u - 8.0, \text{cm} < 0
\]
implies:
\[
u < 8.0, \text{cm}
\]
---

```

Calculations and Numerical Analysis

Step 4: Choosing a Plausible Object Distance (u)

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Suppose:
\[
u = 5, \text{cm}
\]
then:
\[
v = 5, \text{cm} - 8.0, \text{cm} = -3, \text{cm}
\]
which satisfies the virtual image condition.

```

Now, compute f :

$$f = \frac{uv}{u - v} = \frac{(5)(-3)}{5 - (-3)} = \frac{-15}{8} = -1.875 \text{ cm}$$

Result:

The focal length is approximately -1.88 cm .

Verification of Sign Convention and Reasonableness

- The negative focal length aligns with the nature of diverging lenses.
- Image at -3 cm indicates a virtual image on the same side as the object.
- The object at 5 cm is in front of the lens.

Similarly, if $u = 4 \text{ cm}$:

$$v = 4 - 8 = -4 \text{ cm}$$

then:

$$f = \frac{(4)(-4)}{4 - (-4)} = \frac{-16}{8} = -2 \text{ cm}$$

The focal length varies slightly based on the chosen

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