

Curved Mirrors

- Like plane mirrors, curved mirrors obey the law of reflection. However, when a parallel light ray strikes a curved surface, each ray of light will reflect at a slightly different position.

focal point (F): the point where all light rays meet or appear to meet

vertex (v): the middle point of a curved mirror

principal axis (PA): imaginary line drawn through the vertex, perpendicular to the surface of the curved mirror

focal length (f): the distance from the vertex to the focal point of a curved mirror

centre of curvature (C or $2f$): the centre of the circle if the mirror were to be extended into a full circle. This point is also known as $2f$ because it is at a distance of two times the focal length.

