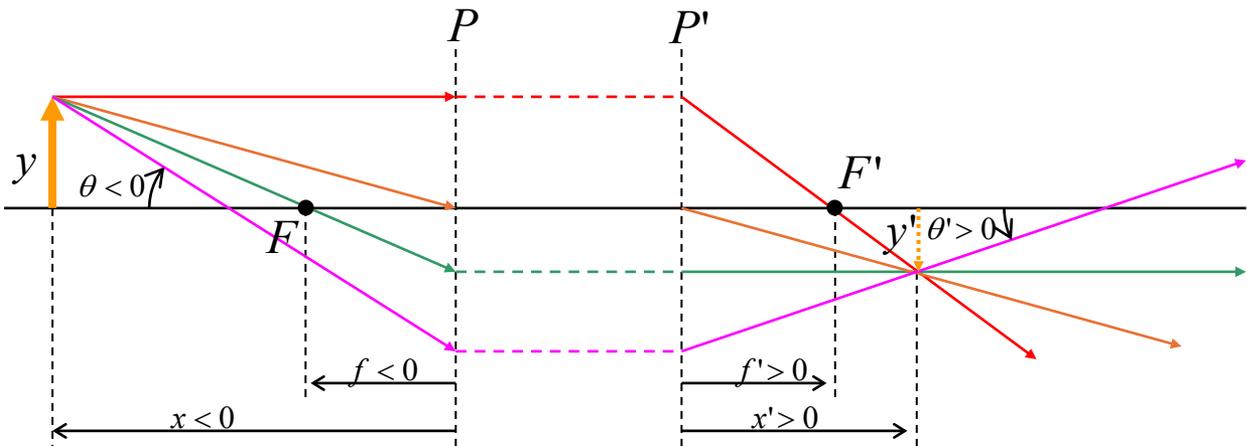


Sign Convention in Geometric Optics



Propagation

- 1) Unless otherwise stated, light propagates from left to right through a positive index medium.



- 2) For light propagating from right to left, the index is taken to be negative.



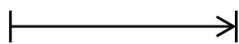
Origin

- 2) The object space principle point is taken as the origin for object space distances.
 3) The image space principle point is taken as the origin for image space distances.

Distances

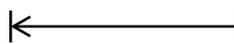
- 4) All distances are measured from a point to a point so they have a sign associated with them.

Distances measured from left to right are taken as positive.



++ Positive ++

Distances measured from right to left are taken as negative.



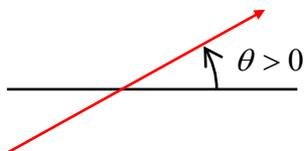
-- Negative --

Note: To more general, distances measured in the same direction as normal propagation are taken as positive.

Angles

- 5) Angles are measured from the optical axis to the ray.

Angles are positive if measured counterclockwise.



Angles are negative if measured clockwise.

