

Principal-Point Locations

Figure 1.36 indicates approximately where the principal points fall in relation to the lens surfaces for various standard lens shapes. The exact positions depend on the index of refraction of the lens material, and on the lens radii, and can be found by formula. In extreme meniscus lens shapes (short radii or steep curves), it is possible that both principal

points will fall outside the lens boundaries. For symmetric lenses, the principal points divide that part of the optical axis between the vertices into three approximately equal segments. For plano lenses, one principal point is at the curved vertex, and the other is approximately one-third of the way to the plane vertex.

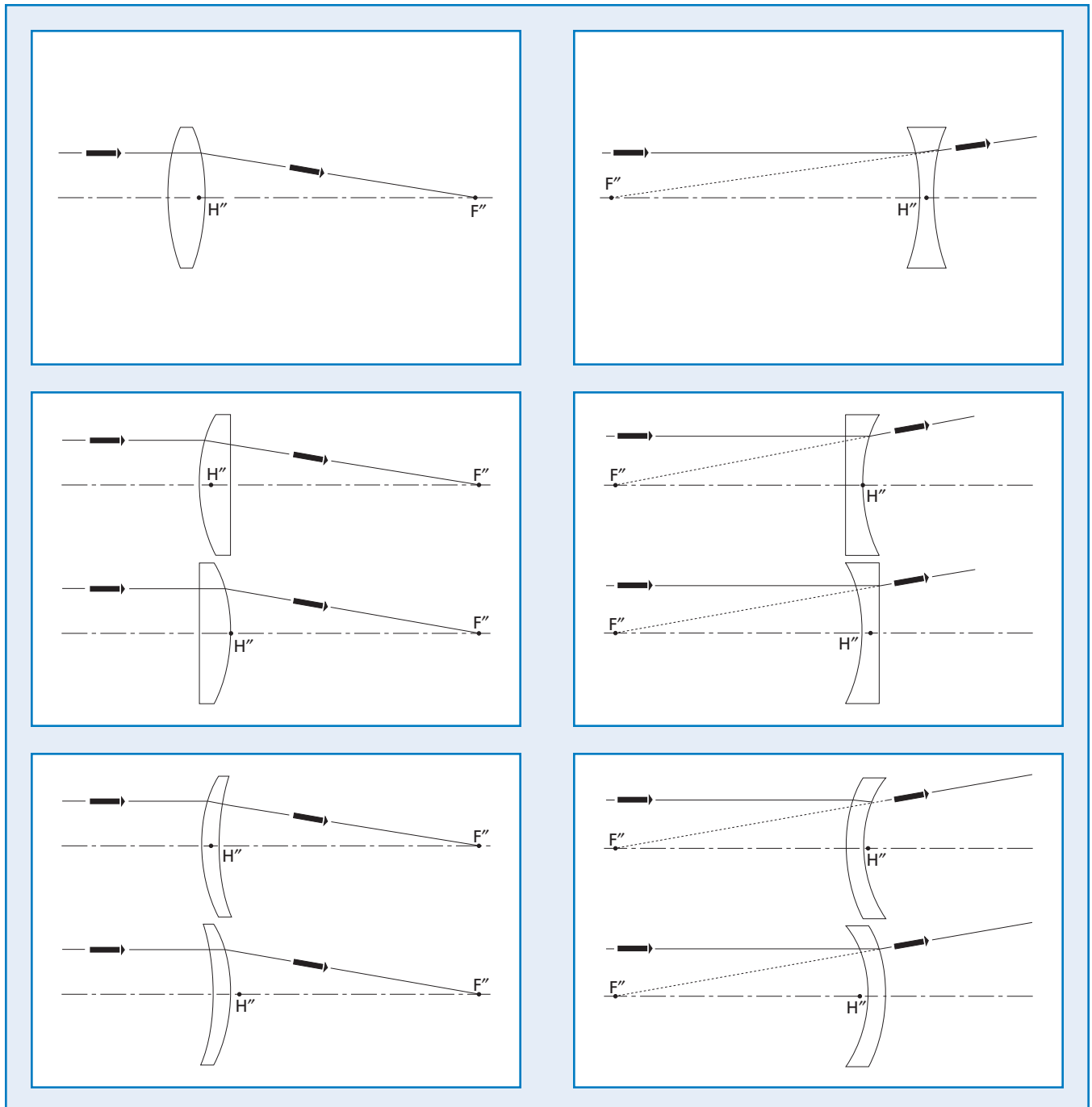


Figure 1.36 Principal points of common lenses