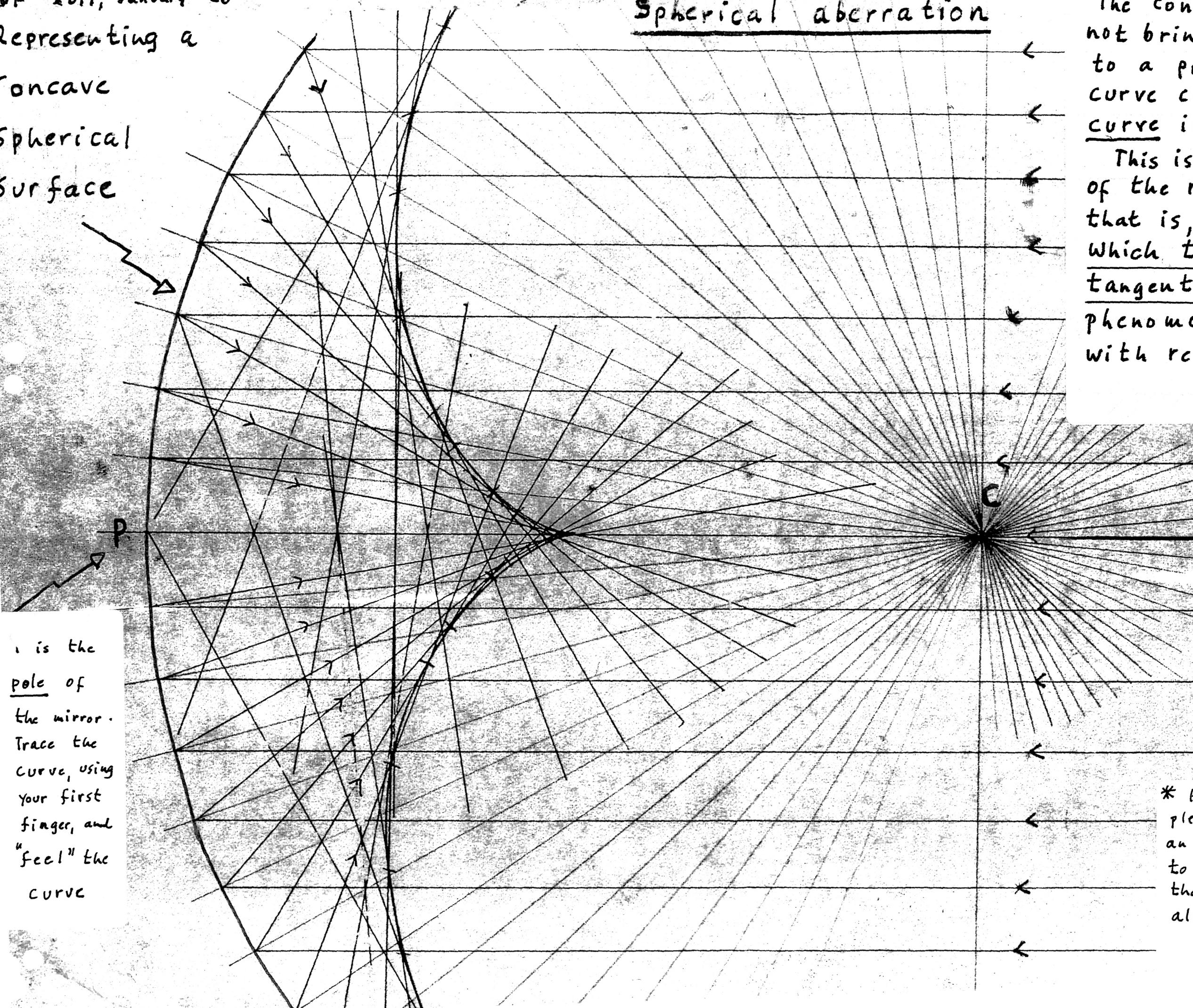


DF 2017, January 26

Representing a
concave
spherical
surface



Spherical aberration

The concave mirror does not bring reflected light to a point. A bright curve called the caustic* curve is observed.

This is the envelope of the reflected rays, that is, the curve to which they are all tangential. A similar phenomenon is observed with refraction.

P.A. C is the centre of curvature of the mirror

* How such an interesting and pleasant sight acquired such an unpleasant name is hard to understand. The shape is that of a cusp, a word almost onomatopoeic.