Classical mechanics

GRE Subject Test · GRE Physics · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
centripetal acceleration /sen'trɪpɪtl ək,selə'reɪʃn/	A car turning a corner has **centripetal acceleration** towards the centre.
free-body diagram /fri: 'bɒdi 'daɪəgræm/	Draw a **free-body diagram** showing every force on the block.
angular momentum /'æŋgjʊlə məʊ'mentəm/	With zero external torque, total **angular momentum** stays constant.
Lagrangian	Form the **Lagrangian** before applying the equation of motion.
generalised coordinates /'dʒenərəlaɪzd kəʊ'ɔ:dɪnəts/	For a pendulum, the angle is a good choice of **generalised coordinates**.
Hamiltonian /ˌhæmɪl'təʊnɪən/	For many systems, the **Hamiltonian** equals the total energy.

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