Quantum mechanics and atomic physics

GRE Subject Test · GRE Physics · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
wavefunction /weɪvˈfʌŋkʃn/	The **wavefunction** must satisfy both boundary conditions.
normalisation /ˌnɔːməlaɪˈzeɪʃn/	**Normalisation** sets the total probability over space to one.
eigenvalue /ˈaɪgənvæljuː/	A measurement always gives an **eigenvalue** of the operator.
Hermitian /hɜːˈmɪʃn/	A **Hermitian** operator has real eigenvalues.
expectation value /ekspɪkˈteɪʃn ˈvæljuː/	The **expectation value** is the average of many measurements.
zero-point energy	A quantum oscillator keeps its **zero-point energy** even at absolute zero.
commutator /ˈkɒmjuːteɪtə/	The **commutator** of x and p is iℏ. $[x,\ p] = i\hbar$

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