Glossary A to $\mathbf{N}$

| Term | Definition | Page <br> References |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| acceleration | Rate of change of <br> velocity. <br> Symbol $a$. SI unit <br> is $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{s}^{2}$. | $56,70,106$, <br> $303,349-$ <br> $354, ~ 499-$ <br> 502 | Acceleration due gravity is $9.81 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}^{2}$. |
| adjacent | Side of a triangle <br> next to the angle. | $172-178$ |  |
| ampere | SI unit of electrical <br> current. Symbol A. | 33 | 2 |


| angular velocity | The amount of rotation a spinning object does per unit time. <br> Symbol is $\omega$ and SI unit is radians per second - rad/s | $\begin{aligned} & 204-6, \\ & 211,352- \\ & 4,552 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Argand diagram | A diagram which represents complex numbers in the plane. | $\begin{aligned} & 526-30, \\ & 540,543- \\ & 44 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| argument of a complex number | The angle which gives the direction of the complex number. | 537 |  <br> $\theta$ is the argument of the complex number |
| asymptote | An asymptote is a line that approaches a given curve. | 122 |  <br> The line $x=\frac{\pi}{2}$ is an asymptote to the curve. |
| atto | 1 atto is $10^{-18}$. | 33 |  |


| B |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| bar chart | A graphical representation of data by plotting bars. | 812-814 |  |
| base of logarithm | If $b^{x}=a$ then $x=\log _{b}(a)$ where $b$ is the base of the logarithm. | 250-2 | $\log _{6} \frac{(a)}{\text { base of } \log }$ |
| bending moment | The moment resulting from a force which causes bending of a beam. SI unit is Nm. | 88 |  |
| boundary value problems | A differential equation with conditions given at different points. | 742-3 | Consider a beam of length $L$. The boundary conditions could be the deflections at the points $x=0$ and $x=L$. |


| calculus | The study of rates of change. | 272-276 | Many physical systems involve rates of change which can be described through calculus. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cantor set | By taking the interval $[0,1]$ and removing the middle third each time results in the Cantor set. | 379 |  |
| capacitor | An electronic device used for storing electrical charge. | 689 | Almost all electronic gadgets contain capacitors such as TV, mobile phones, computers and cd players. |
| Cartesian coordinate system | $x-y$ plane representing the Cartesian coordinate system named after the French mathematician (philosopher) Rene Descartes. | $\begin{aligned} & 102,145 \\ & 181 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| CAST | Mnemonic which gives the quadrant with the positive trigonometric ratio. | 189-90 |  |
| coefficient | The number in front of the variable or multiplied by the variable. | 103, 113 | $\underbrace{7 x+1=0}_{7 \text { is the coefficient of } \mathrm{x}}$ |
| column vector | A n by $1 \underline{\underline{\text { matrix }}}\left(\begin{array}{c}v_{1} \\ \vdots \\ v_{n}\end{array}\right)$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 583,599, \\ 615,617 \end{array}$ |  |
| common logarithm | Logarithm to the base 10. Symbol is log. | 248-9 | Inverse of $10^{x}$. |


| common ratio | Ratio of consecutive terms in a geometric series. | 378 | For example the common ratio of: $\frac{9}{10}+\frac{9}{100}+\frac{9}{1000}+\cdots$ <br> is $1 / 10$. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| complex conjugate | Reflecting the complex number $x+j y$ in the horizontal axis gives the complex conjugate $x-j y$. (The imaginary part changes sign.) | $\begin{aligned} & 520-2 \\ & 524,536 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| complex number | A number made up by a real part and an imaginary part, $a+b \sqrt{-1}$. | 517 | For example $2+3 \sqrt{-1}=2+3 j$ is a complex number. |
| composite function | Combining two or more functions. Normal notation is $g \circ f$. | 153-5 |  |
| constant <br> of integration | When differentiating a constant we get zero so integrating a function must have a constant and this is called the constant of integration. | 400 | The $C$ in the following is the constant of integration. |
| cosecant | Is equal to $\frac{\text { hypotenuse }}{\text { opposite }}$ in a right-angled triangle. Normally denoted by cosec. | $\begin{aligned} & 178-179, \\ & 263 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| cotangent | Is equal to $\frac{\text { adjacent }}{\text { opposite }}$ in a right-angled triangle. Normally denoted by cot. | $\begin{aligned} & 178-179, \\ & 263 \end{aligned}$ |  |

D

| decibel (dB) | Used to <br> measure sound <br> in electronic or <br> communication <br> systems. | 249 | Examples are: <br> Normal conversation is about 65 decibel. <br> Hair dryer is approximately 90 decibel. <br> Chainsaw is 100 to 110 decibel. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Degree of <br> polynomial | The highest <br> power of the <br> variable in the <br> polynomial. | 444 | The degree of the following polynomial is 7: |


| differential <br> equation | An equation <br> which contains <br> a derivative. | 673 | $\left.\begin{array}{c}\text { An example of a differential equation is: } \\ \frac{d^{2} y}{d x^{2}}+5 \frac{d y}{d x}\end{array}\right] 6 y=\cos (x)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

E

| eigenspace | The set of all the eigenvectors and the zero vector. Normally denoted by $E_{\lambda}$. | $\begin{aligned} & 622 . \\ & 623 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| eigenvalue | A scalar quantity $\lambda$ that scales the corresponding eigenvector. | $\begin{aligned} & 613, \\ & 615 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| eigenvector | A vector belonging to an eigenvalue. | 615 | $\mathbf{u}$ is an eigenvector belonging to an eigenvalue $\lambda$ such that $\mathbf{A u}=\lambda \mathbf{u}$. |
| even function | A function which is symmetrical about the vertical axis. | $\begin{aligned} & 111, \\ & 169 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| exa (E) | Prefix in the metric system which represents $10^{18}$. | 33 | 1000000000000000000 |
| exponent | The power or index of an expression. | 32 |  |
| exponent function | The function $e^{x}$ where $e=2.71828 \cdots$ | 241 |  |


| factors | The numbers or expressions which go exactly into another number or expression. | 13. <br> 15, <br> 78 . <br> 79, <br> 81 - <br> 85 , | For example $10=1 \times 10=2 \times 5$ <br> We say $1,2,5$ and 10 are factors of 10 . <br> In algebra $a^{2}-b^{2}=(a-b)(a+b)$ <br> $a-b$ and $a+b$ are factors of $a^{2}-b^{2}$. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| farad (F) | SI unit of capacitance. | $\begin{aligned} & 33 \\ & 63 \end{aligned}$ | In electronic gadgets the capacitor will have a value given in farad and is likely to be a small number such as microfarad, $\mu \mathrm{F}$. |
| femto (f) | Prefix in the metric system which represents $10^{-15}$. | 33 | 0.000000000000001 |
| FOIL | Mnemonic for First, Outside, Inside and Last. | $\begin{aligned} & 75 \\ & 76 \\ & 81 \end{aligned}$ | Used for expanding algebraic expressions with two brackets: |
| fraction | Ratio of two numbers. | $\begin{aligned} & 16 \\ & 18 \end{aligned}$ | Examples are: $\frac{1}{2} \text { and } \frac{22}{7}$ |
| frequency (statistics) | The number of times a particular event occurs. | 807 | If 10 students get $70 \%$ in a particular examination then we say $70 \%$ has a frequency of 10 . |
| frequency (physics) | The number of cycles of a waveform per unit of time. SI unit is hertz (Hz). | 206 |  |


| Froude <br> number | Gives the <br> influence of <br> gravity on a <br> fluid motion. It <br> has no <br> dimensions. | 73 | The formula for the Froude number, $F r$, is given by <br> $F r=\frac{v}{\sqrt{g L}}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| function | Relationship a ship, $v$ is velocity of the ship, $g$ is acceleration <br> due to gravity and $L$ is the length of the ship at water <br> level. <br> quantities $x$ <br> and $y$. For each <br> $x$, the function <br> will assign <br> only one value <br> of $y$ which is <br> normally <br> denoted by <br> $f(x)$. | 137 |  |

G

| geometric series | Series with a common ratio between any two consecutive terms. | $\begin{aligned} & 378- \\ & 383 \end{aligned}$ | For example the following is a geometric series: $\begin{aligned} 0.999 \ldots & =0.9+0.09+0.009+\cdots \\ & =\frac{9}{10}+\frac{9}{100}+\frac{9}{1000}+\cdots \end{aligned}$ <br> Common ratio is $\frac{1}{10}$. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| giga (G) | Prefix in the metric system which represents $10^{9}$. | 33 | 1000000000 |
| gradient | The ratio of rise over run. | $\begin{aligned} & 102 . \\ & 103 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| graph | A diagram that represents the relationship between two or more variables. | $\begin{aligned} & 101 \\ & 105 \end{aligned}$ | Stock market data is represented by a graph where the $x$ coordinate is time and the $y$ coordinate is price: |
| gravity | A force that acts towards the centre of the earth. | $\begin{aligned} & 313, \\ & 658 \\ & 696, \\ & 787 \end{aligned}$ | Consider a ball thrown vertically upwards: $\qquad$ |

H

| heat <br> transfer | It is the <br> transportation <br> of heat from <br> an object with <br> high <br> temperature to <br> an object with <br> a lower <br> temperature. | 699 <br> 700 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |


| independent variable | A variable which does not dependent on another variable. Normally the independent variable is denoted by $x$. | $\begin{aligned} & 102, \\ & 137 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| inductor | An electronic component which stores energy. | $\begin{aligned} & 435, \\ & 689 \end{aligned}$ | An inductor is a coil of wire which resembles a doughnut. |
| integrand | The function being integrated. | 400 | $\int[\text { integrand }] d(\text { variable })$ |
| integration | Inverse of differentiation. | 400 |  |
| inverse function | The opposite or reverse of a given function. | $\begin{aligned} & 141- \\ & 144 \end{aligned}$ | If $f(x)$ is the given function then the inverse is denoted by $f^{-1}(x)$ : |

## J

| joule (J) | SI unit of work <br> or energy. | 34 | One joule is the work done in applying a force <br> of 1 Newton in moving an object by 1 metre. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

K

| Kelvin (K) | SI unit of measuring temperature. | 34 | Zero Kelvin is called absolute zero. $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ is equivalent to 273.16 K .1 K has the same size as $1^{\circ}$ Celsius. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| kilo (k) | Prefix in the metric system which represents 1000. | 33 | For example 1 km is 1000 m . |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { kilogram } \\ & \text { (kg) } \end{aligned}$ | The SI measurement of mass. | 33 | Kilogram (kg) is 1000 grams. (This is equivalent to the mass of a packet of sugar.) |
| kinematics | Part of mechanics which deals with motion of body. | $\begin{aligned} & 349 \\ & 52 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Kirchhoff's voltage law | In a closed loop of a electrical circuit the applied voltage is equal to the voltage drops in the loop. | 689 | For example in the following loop, Kirchhoff's voltage law states that the supply voltage $V_{S}$ is equal to $V_{1}+V_{2}+V_{3}$. |

## L

| leading <br> diagonal | The entries <br> which go <br> from top <br> left to <br> bottom <br> right of a <br> square <br> matrix. | 625 |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

M

| Mach number | The ratio of the speed of an object through a fluid and speed of sound. | 73 | An aircraft of Mach 2 means that it travels twice the speed of sound, which is 761 mph . Hence <br> Mach $2=2 \times 761=1522 \mathrm{mph}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Matrix or matrices (plural) | An array of numbers in a bracket. | 561 | An efficient and systematic way of solving a set of linear equations is to use matrices. |
| maximum | The greatest value a function takes over a given interval. | $\begin{aligned} & 119, \\ & 329 . \\ & 330 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| mean | Gives the average of the data by adding all the data and dividing by the number of data. | $\begin{aligned} & 816 \\ & 817 \end{aligned}$ | In the early nineties there was a TV programme called 2point4 children. This 2point4 was the mean number of children per family in Britain at that time. <br> Mean of data $x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}, \cdots, x_{n}$ is denoted by $\bar{x}$ and is $\bar{x}=\frac{x_{1}+x_{2}+x_{3}+\cdots+x_{n}}{n}$ |
| median | The middle value in an ordered list. | $\begin{aligned} & 817 \\ & 818 \end{aligned}$ | The median of the following data is 4 : $1,2,3,4,5,6,7$ |
| mega (M) | Prefix in the metric system which represents $10^{6}$. | 33 | Mega is one million, that is 1000000. |
| metre (m) | SI unit of length. | 33 | The metre has a length of 100 cm . |
| micro ( $\mu$ ) | Prefix in the metric system which represents $10^{-6}$. | 33 | 0.000001 |


| milli | Prefix in the metric system which represents $10^{-3}$. | 33 | Milli often crops up in electronics where current normally has a value given in milliamps, mA. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| minimum | The smallest value a function takes over a given interval. | $\begin{aligned} & 119, \\ & 329 . \\ & 330 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { micro } \\ & (\mu) \end{aligned}$ | Prefix in the metric system which represents $10^{-6}$. | 33 | 0.000001 |
| mode | The most popular value. | 817 |  |
| moment | Measures the turning effect of a force that acts on an object which has a fixed point. SI unit is Nm and the symbol is $M$. | 803 |  |
| mutually exclusive events | These events cannot occur at the same time. | 834 | There is no overlap between the two events $E_{1}$ and $E_{2}$. <br> For example if we throw a die then we cannot get both a 3 and a 4. |


| nano | Prefix in the metric system which represents $10^{-9}$. | 33 | 0.000000001 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| newton <br> (N) | SI unit of force. | $\begin{aligned} & 34 \\ & 70 \end{aligned}$ | If your mass is 70 kg then your weight (which is a force) would be $70 \times 9.81=686.7 \mathrm{~N}$ <br> The weight of an apple is approximately 1 N . |
| Newton's law of cooling | The rate of change of temperature of a body is proportional to the difference between the temperature of the body and the surrounding temperature. | 699 | Newton's law of cooling tells you how long it takes for a cup of coffee to reach room temperature. The graph below illustrates Newton's law of cooling with temperature given by $\theta$ and time $t$. |
| numerator | Top expression or number in a fraction. | 16 | $\frac{n}{d} \longleftarrow \text { nume rator }$ |
| numerical integration | The approximate evaluation of a definite integral by numerical methods. | 473 | The definite integral is approximated by considering the area: |

## Glossary O to Z

| Odd function | A function with the property $f(-x)=-f(x)$. | $\begin{aligned} & 111, \\ & 169 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ohm | SI unit of electrical resistance. Symbol is $\Omega$. | 33 | A resistor of $1 \Omega$ means that if a voltage of 1 V is applied to this resistor then the current through this resistor would be 1A. |
| Ohm's law | The voltage across a conductor is proportional to the current through it. | 689 | The formula for Ohm's law is $V=I R$ <br> where $V$ is voltage, $I$ is current and $R$ is resistance. |
| opposite | The side opposite the given angle in a triangle. | $\begin{aligned} & 141- \\ & 142 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| ordinate | The $y$ value of a point in the Cartesian coordinate system. | $\begin{aligned} & 475, \\ & 481 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| origin | The point where the axes intersect. Normally denoted by O. | 102 |  |


| parameter | An <br> independent <br> variable, <br> normally time $t$ <br> or angle $\theta$, <br> that gives the <br> coordinates of <br> a point. | 308 | The coordinates of a point $(x, y)$ rotating <br> about the origin can be given by the angle $\theta$ as <br> follows: |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | ( |  |  |


| polynomial | An algebraic <br> expression <br> where the <br> index of the <br> variable must <br> be a positive <br> whole number <br> or zero. | 444 | An example is $2 x^{10}+3 x^{9}+4 x^{5}+9 x+1$. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| projectile | An object upon <br> which the only <br> force acting on <br> it is gravity. | 313 |  |
|  | A whole <br> number greater <br> than 1 whose <br> only divisors <br> are 1 and itself. | 13 | The first few prime numbers are |
| prime |  |  |  |

R

| random <br> variable | A variable <br> associated <br> by <br> experiment <br> and the <br> value <br> determined <br> by chance. | 845 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |


| scalar | Only has magnitude. | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 562, \\ & 637 \end{aligned}$ | The distance between two points is a scalar. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| secant | Is equal to $\qquad$ adjacent Normally denoted by sec. | $\begin{aligned} & 178 \\ & 263 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| series | The sum of mathematical terms in some order. | $\begin{aligned} & 358 \\ & 389 \end{aligned}$ | An example is $1+2+3+4+5+6+\cdots$ |
| SI units | Units of measurement based on the metric system. | 32 | Some SI quantities are: Length measured in metre. Time in second. Mass in kilogram. |
| Simple harmonic motion (SHM) | A motion of an object which is periodic such as the oscillation of a spring or a bicycle wheel. | 304 |  |
| streamlines | Path traced out by a particle which moves with the flow of a fluid. | $\begin{aligned} & 104, \\ & 111, \\ & 679 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| symmetry | The quality of being exactly the same. | $\begin{aligned} & 168, \\ & 176, \\ & 781, \\ & 878 \\ & \text { and } \\ & 881 \end{aligned}$ |  |

T

| tera (T) | Prefix in the <br> metric system <br> which <br> represents $10^{12}$. | 33 | 1000000000000 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| three <br> dimensional <br> co-ordinate <br> system | Three axes at <br> right angles to <br> each other and <br> every point is <br> identified by <br> three co- <br> ordinates <br> $(x, \quad y, z)$. | 774 |  | The time <br> needed to <br> charge a <br> capacitor <br> through a <br> resistor to $63 \%$ <br> of its full <br> charge. Symbol <br> is $\tau$. |
| time <br> constant | 242. | 243 |  |  |

V

| variable | A value that <br> changes. | 53,55 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| vector | A quantity that has <br> magnitude and <br> direction. | 637 | Examples of vectors are velocity, <br> acceleration, force, displacement and <br> moment. |
| velocity | Rate of change of <br> position of an <br> object. Symbol $v$ <br> and SI unit is $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{s}$. | $57,70-73$, <br> 84,91 |  |
| volt (V) | SI unit of voltage. | 33 |  |


| W |
| :--- |
| watt (W) SI unit of power. 34 1W is equal to 1 joule per second. <br> Consider walking up some steps at a <br> rate of 0.5m/s and your weight is <br> $75 \times 10=750 \mathrm{~N}$. The rate of working <br> up these steps is <br> $750 \times 0.5=375 \mathrm{~W}$ <br> work The transfer of <br> energy. 659  |

