

Advancing Physics AS – Glossary of key words

Computerised images

pixel

bit

byte

amount of information

resolution

Lenses

focus

focal length

power (diopetre)

magnification

Electric circuits

charge

current

emf

potential difference

resistance

conductance

series

parallel

internal resistance

load

Instrumentation

resolution

sensitivity

response time

systematic error

'random' variability

Signalling

analogue signal

digital sampling

sampling frequency

amplitude

spectrum

bandwidth

superposition

polarisation

Mechanical properties of materials

stiff

elastic

plastic

ductile

hard

brittle

tough

stress

strain

Young modulus

fracture stress

yield stress

Optical properties of materials

reflection

refraction

refractive index

Electrical properties of materials

resistivity

conductivity

Waves

wave

standing wave

frequency

wavelength

amplitude

phase

phasor

path difference

interference

diffraction

superposition

coherence

Quantum behaviour

frequency

energy

amplitude

phase

superposition

intensity

probability

path difference

interference

diffraction

refraction

reflection

Motion

vector

scalar

displacement

velocity

acceleration

component of a vector

resultant of two vectors

average speed

instantaneous speed

gradient, tangent (with respect to graphs)

relative velocity

acceleration of free fall

trajectory (path)

parabola

mass

gravitational force

weight

kinetic energy

potential energy

work done

power