Catalog of Forces

This is a list of the most common examples of forces you are likely to encounter in problems, along with the usual symbols used to identify them. If you are unable to describe a force in a problem as one of these, be cautious, you could be inventing up a force.



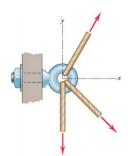
Gravitational Force (aka gravity, aka weight)

 $\vec{F}_{\scriptscriptstyle G},\; \vec{F}_{g},\; \vec{w},\; m\vec{g}$



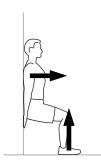
Spring Force

 \vec{F}_{sp}



Tension

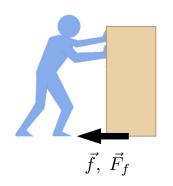
 \vec{T} , \vec{F}_T , \vec{F}_t



Normal Force

 $\vec{n}, \ \vec{F}_N, \ \vec{F}_n$

Friction and Drag (Air resistance)







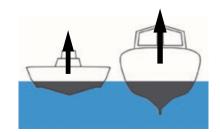
Applied Forces (Push or Pull)

 \vec{F}_p

Other Forces



Thrust



Buoyant Force