

**dividing surface**

A surface, usually taken to be a hyperplane, constructed at right angles to the *minimum-energy path* on a *potential-energy surface*. In conventional *transition-state theory* it passes through the highest point on the minimum-energy path. In generalized versions of transition-state theory the dividing surface can be at other positions; in *variational transition-state theory* the position of the dividing surface is varied so as to get a better estimate of the rate constant.

1996, 68, 163