

separability assumption

This expression refers to the assumption, essential to conventional *transition-state theory*, that the energy of the system may be expressed as the sum of components associated with different degrees of freedom. In transition-state theory it is assumed that the energy of the motion of the system through the *dividing surface* of the *potential-energy surface* is separable into various components. In many practical calculations it is assumed that the energy of the system is separable into electronic, vibrational, rotational and translational energy.

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