Constraints, variational equations and cyclic coordinates

GRE Subject Test · GRE Physics · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
constraints /kən'streɪnts/	A bead on a wire has **constraints** on its motion.
generalised coordinates /'dʒenərəlaɪzd kəʊ'ɔːdɪnəts/	Use as many **generalised coordinates** as the degrees of freedom.
Euler–Lagrange equation	The **Euler–Lagrange equation** gives the equation of motion.
cyclic coordinate /'saɪklɪk kəʊ'ɔːdɪnət/	A **cyclic coordinate** has a conserved conjugate momentum.
holonomic /ˌhɒlə'nɒmɪk/	A **holonomic** constraint can be written as an equation of positions.

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