

col (saddle point)

A mountain-pass in a potential-energy surface is known as a col or saddle point. It is a point at which the gradient is zero along all coordinates, and the curvature is positive along all but one coordinate, which is the reaction coordinate, along which the curvature is negative.

Source:

PAC, 1996, 68, 149 (*A glossary of terms used in chemical kinetics, including reaction dynamics (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)*) on page 158