

English summary

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Must virtual displacements be infinitesimal?

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Summary. The article deals with the teaching of the principle of virtual work especially from the point of view of the nature of the virtual displacements (finite or infinitesimal?). The theme is considered in connection with two simple example cases by applying finite virtual displacements. In this way the difference between the real and virtual work appears in an emphasized form.

Key words: principle of virtual work, finite and infinitesimal displacements, teaching of mechanics