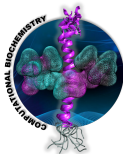


# Potential energy surfaces in Biomolecules

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Computational Biochemistry  
Master in Theoretical Chemistry and Computational Modelling

TCCM

# Index

- 1 Potencial energy surface
  - Born-Oppenheimer approximation
  - Biomolecules
- 2 Stretching vibrations
  - Potential energy curve
  - Harmonic oscillator
- 3 Bending vibrations
- 4 Torsional motions
- 5 Non-bonded interactions
  - Coulomb forces
  - van der Waals forces
- 6 Molecular Mechanics potentials
  - General form
  - Water
- 7 Conformational exploration
  - PES minima
  - Reaction coordinate



# Born-Oppenheimer approximation

- Molecular Hamiltonian  $\Rightarrow \hat{H}(r, R) = \hat{T}_e(r) + \hat{T}_N(R) + \hat{V}(r, R)$

- BO approximation:

- $$\psi(r, R, t) = \underbrace{\phi_j^{\text{BO}}(r, R)}_{\text{electronic}} \underbrace{\Omega(R, t)}_{\text{nuclear}}$$

- $$\left[ \hat{T}_e(r) + \hat{V}(r, R) \right] \phi_j^{\text{BO}}(r, R) = \epsilon_j^{\text{BO}}(R) \phi_j^{\text{BO}}(r, R)$$

- $$i\hbar \frac{\partial \Omega(R, t)}{\partial t} = \left[ \hat{T}_N(R) + \epsilon_j^{\text{BO}}(R) \right] \Omega(R, t)$$

- Grid  $\{R_i\}_{i=1}^N \Rightarrow \{\epsilon_j^{\text{BO}}(R_i)\}_{i=1}^N$

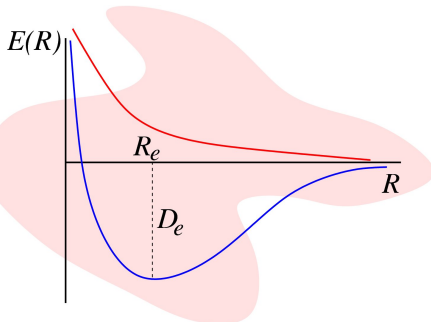


# Biomolecules

- Electronic Schrödinger equation
  - QM methods
    - QM description the whole system  $\Rightarrow$  computationally forbidden
    - QM treatment depends on the particular case
    - QM restricted to reactivity or quantum effects (proton transfer,...)
  - Molecular Mechanics potentials
    - Proteins and nucleic acids are made with the same units
    - Self-assembly potential energy functions
    - Fixed functional form with parameters fitted to experiments or QM data
- Nuclear Schrödinger equation
  - Time-dependent evolution  $\Rightarrow$  Molecular Dynamics (classical)
  - Monte-Carlo,...
- Solvent
  - Atomistic MM models
  - Continuum models



# Potential energy curve



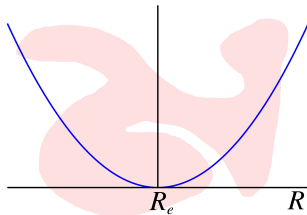
- **Unbound** states.
- **Bound** states.
  - Dissociation energy  $\Rightarrow D_e$
  - Internuclear equilibrium distance  $\Rightarrow R_e$  (bond length)

## • Potential energy curve

$$V(R) = \underbrace{V(R_e)}_{\text{energy origin}} + \underbrace{\left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial R}\right)_{R_e}}_{\text{minimun}}(R-R_e) + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial R^2}\right)_{R_e}(R-R_e)^2 + \frac{1}{6}\left(\frac{\partial^3 V}{\partial R^3}\right)_{R_e}(R-R_e)^3 + \text{higher order terms}$$



# Harmonic oscillator



- $\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} V_h(R) = \infty \neq D_e$
- Minimum at  $R = R_e$
- $\lim_{R \rightarrow 0} V_h(R) = \frac{1}{2} k R_e^2 < \infty$

- Harmonic potential

$$V_h(R) = \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\left( \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial R^2} \right)_{R_e}}_{k \rightarrow \text{force constant}} \underbrace{(R - R_e)^2}_q$$



Hooke's law

$$F = -\frac{dV_h}{dq} = -k q_h$$

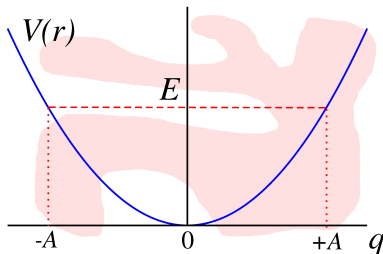


# Harmonic oscillator (HO)

- Classical HO

$$E = \frac{p_h^2}{2\mu} + \frac{1}{2}kq_h^2 = \frac{1}{2}kA^2$$

$$\mu = \frac{m_A m_B}{m_A + m_B}$$



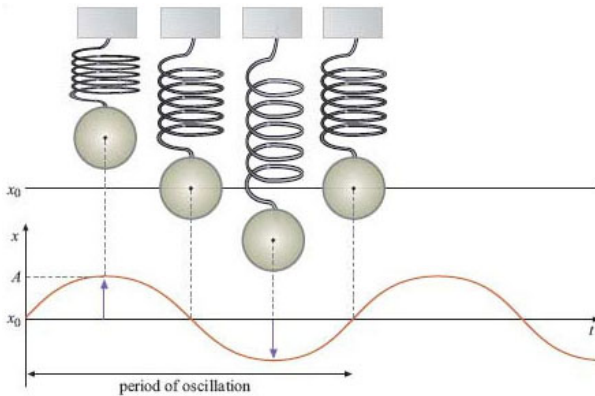
$$F = -k q_h = \mu a \rightarrow -k q_h = \mu \frac{d^2 q_h}{dt^2}$$

$$\downarrow \quad q_h(0)=0$$

$$q_h(t) = A \sin(\omega t) \rightarrow \omega = 2\pi\nu = \sqrt{k/\mu}$$



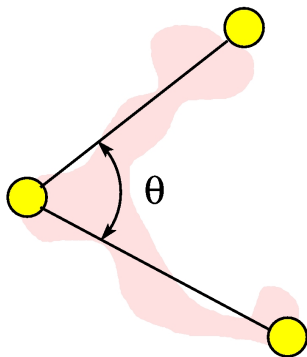
# Harmonic oscillator (HO)







# Bending vibrations



- Harmonic bending vibrations

- $V(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} k (\theta - \theta_e)^2$

- $F_\theta = -k (\theta - \theta_e)$

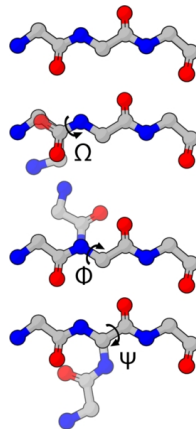
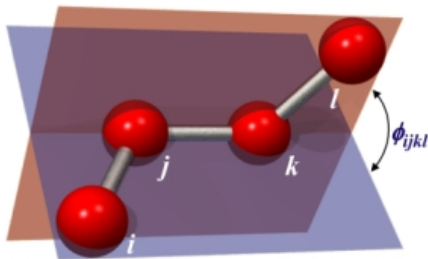
- Anharmonic terms

- $\Rightarrow k_3 (\theta - \theta_e)^3 + \dots$



# Torsional motions

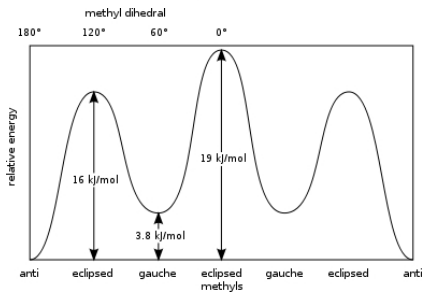
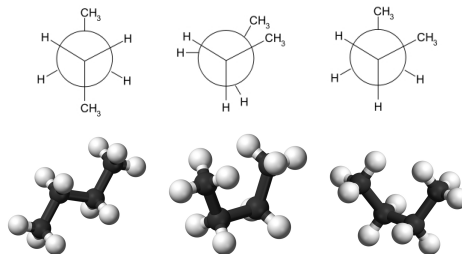
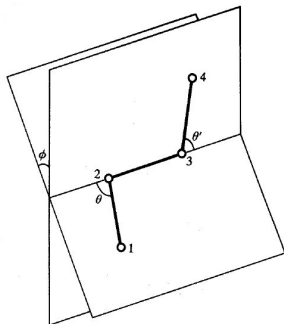
- Dihedral angles





# Torsional motions

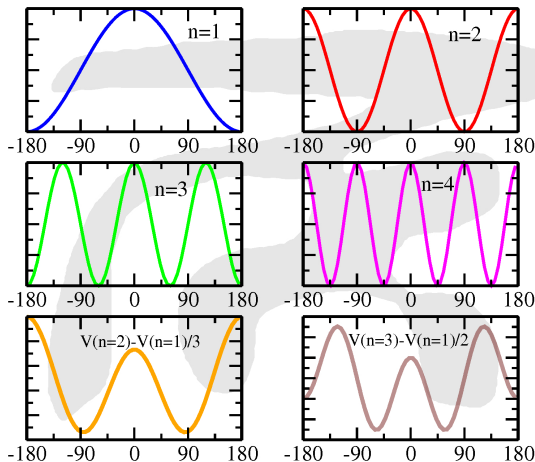
- Torsional motions





# Torsional motions

$$V(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} k (1 + \cos(n\phi + \gamma))$$



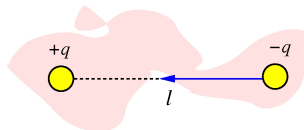




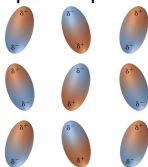
# van der Waals forces

- van der Waals forces

- Electric dipole  $\Rightarrow \mu = q \cdot l$

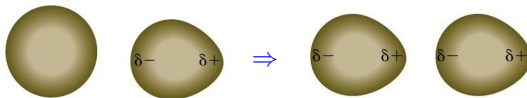


- Dipole-dipole interactions



$$V_{dd} = -\frac{C}{r^6} \rightarrow C \propto \frac{\mu_1 \mu_2}{T}$$

- Dipole-induced dipole interactions

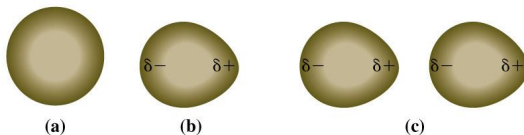




# van der Waals forces

- Instantaneous dipole-induced dipole interactions.

Ej.  $\text{He}_{(1)}$ ,  $\text{Ne}_{(1)}$ , ...



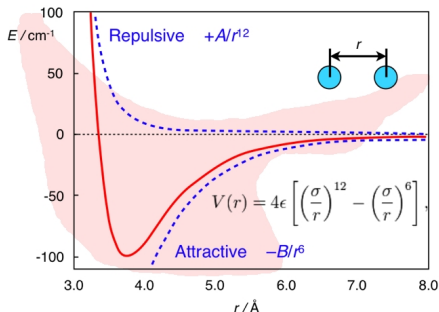
$$V_{dd} = -\frac{C}{r^6} \rightarrow C \propto \frac{\alpha_1 \alpha_2}{T} \rightarrow \alpha \text{ polarizability}$$

- Intensity  $\Rightarrow$  dipole-dipole > dipole-ind. dipole > inst. dipole-ind. dipole
- Short range repulsive forces  $\Rightarrow V_{\text{rep}} \propto \frac{1}{r^{12}}$



# van der Waals forces

## • Lennard-Jones potential



- $V_{\text{LJ}}(r) = 4\epsilon \left( \left( \frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^{12} - \left( \frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^6 \right) = \epsilon \left( \left( \frac{r_{\min}}{r} \right)^{12} - 2 \left( \frac{r_{\min}}{r} \right)^6 \right)$
- $r_{\min} = 2^{1/6} \sigma \Rightarrow V_{\text{LJ}}(r_{\min}) = -\epsilon$
- $V_{\text{LJ}}(\sigma) = 0 \Rightarrow$  effective atomic radius





# van der Waals forces

- Homoatomic interactions

**Table 1.1.** Atom-atom interaction parameters

| Atom | Source                        | $\epsilon/k_B(\text{K})$ | $\sigma(\text{nm})$ |
|------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| H    | [Murad and Gubbins 1978]      | 8.6                      | 0.281               |
| He   | [Maitland <i>et al.</i> 1981] | 10.2                     | 0.228               |
| C    | [Tildesley and Madden 1981]   | 51.2                     | 0.335               |
| N    | [Cheung and Powles 1975]      | 37.3                     | 0.331               |
| O    | [English and Venables 1974]   | 61.6                     | 0.295               |
| F    | [Singer <i>et al.</i> 1977]   | 52.8                     | 0.283               |
| Ne   | [Maitland <i>et al.</i> 1981] | 47.0                     | 0.272               |
| S    | [Tildesley and Madden, 1981]  | 183.0                    | 0.352               |
| Cl   | [Singer <i>et al.</i> 1977]   | 173.5                    | 0.335               |
| Ar   | [Maitland <i>et al.</i> 1981] | 119.8                    | 0.341               |
| Br   | [Singer <i>et al.</i> 1977]   | 257.2                    | 0.354               |
| Kr   | [Maitland <i>et al.</i> 1981] | 164.0                    | 0.383               |

- Heteroatomic interactions

$$\sigma_{AB} = \frac{1}{2} (\sigma_A + \sigma_b)$$

$$\epsilon_{AB} = \sqrt{\epsilon_A \cdot \epsilon_B}$$



# Molecular Mechanics potentials

$$\begin{aligned}
 V = & \sum_{\text{bonds}} \frac{1}{2} k_b (l - l_0)^2 + \sum_{\text{angles}} \frac{1}{2} k_a (\theta - \theta_0)^2 + \sum_{\text{torsions}} \frac{1}{2} V_n [1 + \cos(n\omega - \gamma)] \\
 & + \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \sum_{i=j+1}^N \left\{ \epsilon_{i,j} \left[ \left( \frac{r_{0ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - 2 \left( \frac{r_{0ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right] + \frac{q_i q_j}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_{ij}} \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

- Biomolecules (proteins, ADN, ...)
- Very general
- Accuracy



# Molecular Mechanics potentials

- AMBER  $\Rightarrow$  **A**ssisted **M**odel **B**uilding with **E**nergy **R**efinement  
W.D. Cornell *et al.* *A second generation force field for the simulation of proteins, nucleic acids and organic molecules.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **117**, 5179-5197 (1995).
- CHARMM  $\Rightarrow$  **C**HEmistry **A**t **H**a**R**vard **M**olecular **M**echanics  
small M. Karplus *et al.* *All-atom empirical potential for molecular modeling and dynamics studies of proteins.* *J. Phys. Chem.* **102**, 3586-3616 (1998).
- GROMOS  $\Rightarrow$  **G**ROningen **M**OLEcular **S**imulation  
van Gunsteren *et al.* *A biomolecular force field based on the free enthalpy of hydration and solvation: The GROMOS force field parameter sets 53A5 and 53A6.* *J. Comput. Chem.* **25**, 1656-1676 (2004).
- OPLS  $\Rightarrow$  **O**ptimized **P**otential for **L**iquid **S**imulations  
W.L. Jorgensen *et al.* *Development and testing of the OPLS all-atom force field on conformational energetics and properties of organic liquids.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **118**, 11225-11236 (1996).



# Molecular Mechanics potentials



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2013

Martin Karplus, Michael Levitt, Arieh Warshel

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## The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2013



Photo: A. Mahmoud  
**Martin Karplus**  
Prize share: 1/3



Photo: A. Mahmoud  
**Michael Levitt**  
Prize share: 1/3

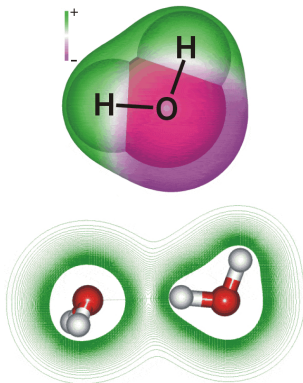


Photo: A. Mahmoud  
**Arieh Warshel**  
Prize share: 1/3

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2013 was awarded jointly to Martin Karplus, Michael Levitt and Arieh Warshel  
*"for the development of multiscale models for complex chemical systems".*



# Water



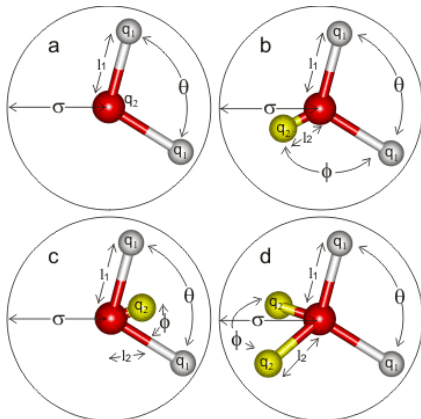
- Most studied molecule  
⇒ H-bond
- 69 anomalous properties of water

[http://www1.lsbu.ac.uk/water/water\\_anomalies.html](http://www1.lsbu.ac.uk/water/water_anomalies.html)



# Water

## Models



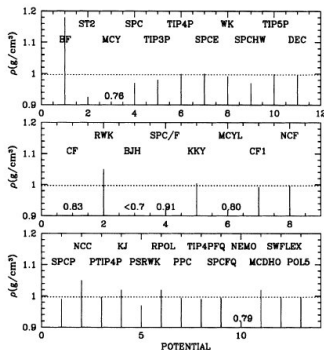
Parameters for some water molecular models

| Model                           | Type             | $\sigma$ Å <sup>6</sup>                    | $\epsilon$ kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> °          | $l_1$ Å            | $l_2$ Å                                    | $q_1$ (e)           | $q_2$ (e)                                   | $\theta^\circ$     | $\phi^\circ$       |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| SSD [511]                       | -g               | 3.016                                      | 15 319                                     | -                  | -                                          | -                   | -                                           | 109.47             | 109.47             |
| SPC [84]                        | a                | 3.166                                      | 0.650                                      | 1.0000             | -                                          | +0.410              | -0.8200                                     | 109.47             | -                  |
| SPC/E [3]                       | a                | 3.166                                      | 0.650                                      | 1.0000             | -                                          | +0.4238             | -0.8476                                     | 109.47             | -                  |
| SPC/HW (D <sub>2</sub> O) [220] | a                | 3.166                                      | 0.650                                      | 1.0000             | -                                          | +0.4350             | -0.8700                                     | 109.47             | -                  |
| SPC/Fw <sup>2</sup> [904]       | a                | 3.166                                      | 0.650                                      | 1.0120             | -                                          | +0.410              | -0.8200                                     | 113.24             | -                  |
| TP3p [180]                      | a                | 3.15061                                    | 0.6364                                     | 0.9572             | -                                          | +0.4170             | -0.8340                                     | 104.52             | -                  |
| TP3P/Fw <sup>2</sup> [904]      | a                | 3.1506                                     | 0.6368                                     | 0.9600             | -                                          | +0.4170             | -0.8340                                     | 104.5              | -                  |
| PPC 1,2 [3]                     | b                | 3.23400                                    | 0.6000                                     | 0.9430             | 0.06                                       | +0.5170             | -1.0340                                     | 106.00             | 127.00             |
| TP4p [180]                      | c                | 3.15365                                    | 0.6480                                     | 0.9572             | 0.15                                       | +0.5200             | -1.0400                                     | 104.52             | 52.26              |
| TP4p-Ew [649]                   | c                | 3.16435                                    | 0.680946                                   | 0.9572             | 0.125                                      | +0.52422            | -1.04844                                    | 104.52             | 52.26              |
| TP4p-FQ [197]                   | c                | 3.15365                                    | 0.6480                                     | 0.9572             | 0.15                                       | +0.63 <sup>1</sup>  | -1.26 <sup>1</sup>                          | 104.52             | 52.26              |
| TP4p/ice [838]                  | c                | 3.1668                                     | 0.8822                                     | 0.9572             | 0.1577                                     | +0.5897             | -1.1794                                     | 104.52             | 52.26              |
| TP4p/2005 [904]                 | c                | 3.1589                                     | 0.7749                                     | 0.9572             | 0.1546                                     | +0.5564             | -1.1128                                     | 104.52             | 52.26              |
| TP4p/2005f [1765]               | c                | 3.1644                                     | 0.7749                                     | 0.9664             | 0.15555                                    | +0.5564             | -1.1128                                     | 104.75             | 52.375             |
| SWFLEX-A1 <sup>2</sup> [201]    | c                | four terms used                            |                                            | 0.968 <sup>3</sup> | 0.14 <sup>1,3</sup>                        | +0.6213             | -1.2459                                     | 102.7 <sup>1</sup> | 51.35 <sup>1</sup> |
| COSY/G [704] 9                  | c                | 3.17459                                    | 0.9445                                     | 1.0000             | 0.15                                       | +0.450672           | -0.901344                                   | 109.47             | -                  |
| COSD [1617] 9, 16               | c                | 3.4365                                     | 0.5119                                     | 0.9572             | 0.257                                      | +0.5863             | -1.1726                                     | 104.52             | -                  |
| GCM <sup>1</sup> [959] 10       | c                | 3.89 <sup>1,11</sup>                       | 0.9146 <sup>4</sup>                        | 0.9572             | 0.27                                       | +0.6113             | -1.2226                                     | 104.52             | 52.26              |
| SWM-NDP <sup>2</sup> 13 [933]   | c                | 3.18396                                    | 0.88257                                    | 0.9572             | 0.24034                                    | 0.55733             | -1.11466                                    | 104.52             | 52.26              |
| ST2 [872] 12                    | d                | 3.10000                                    | 0.31694                                    | 1.0000             | 0.80                                       | +0.24357            | -0.24357                                    | 109.47             | 109.47             |
| TPSP [180]                      | c                | 3.12000                                    | 0.6694                                     | 0.9572             | 0.70                                       | +0.2410             | -0.2410                                     | 104.52             | 109.47             |
| TPSP-Ew [619]                   | d                | 3.097                                      | 0.7448                                     | 0.9572             | 0.70                                       | +0.2410             | -0.2410                                     | 104.52             | 109.47             |
| TTM2-F [1027] 14                | c                | five parameters used                       |                                            | 0.9572             | 0.70                                       | +0.574              | -1.148                                      | 104.52             | 52.26              |
| POLSTZ <sup>2</sup> [256]       | d                | 2.9837 <sup>4</sup>                        | 4                                          | 0.9572             | 0.5                                        | varies <sup>5</sup> | -0.42198                                    | 104.52             | 109.47             |
| Six-site [491]                  | cAd <sup>7</sup> | 3.115 <sub>OO</sub><br>0.673 <sub>HH</sub> | 0.715 <sub>OO</sub><br>0.115 <sub>HH</sub> | 0.980              | 0.8892 <sub>L</sub><br>0.230 <sub>HL</sub> | +0.477              | -0.044 <sub>L</sub><br>-0.869 <sub>HL</sub> | 108.00             | 111.00             |
| QCT [1251]                      | a <sup>15</sup>  | 3.140                                      | 0.753                                      | 0.9614             | -                                          | +0.6064             | -1.2128                                     | 104.067            | -                  |



# Water

- Best model?  $\Rightarrow$  B. Guillot. *A reappraisal of what we have learnt during three decades of computer simulations of water.* J.Mol. Liquids **101**, 219 (2002)



**Figure 1.** Density of simulated water at 298K and 1bar for different model potentials (see Table): top panel (rigid models), middle panel (flexible models) and bottom panel (polarizable models). The dotted line indicates the experimental value for  $H_2O$  (0.997g/cm<sup>3</sup>).



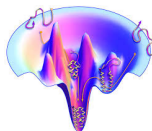
# PES minima

- Gradient descent or steepest descent

$$\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = \mathbf{x}_n - \gamma \nabla V(\mathbf{x}_n)$$

$$V(\mathbf{x}_0) \geq V(\mathbf{x}_1) \geq V(\mathbf{x}_2) \geq \dots$$

- Local minima and absolute minimum



- Simulated annealing  $\Rightarrow$  probabilistic technique
- Minimum energy does not necessarily mean minimum free energy





# Reaction coordinate

- Reaction coordinate  $\Rightarrow$  one-dimensional coordinate which represents progress along a reaction pathway.
- Conformational change
- Minimum energy path
  - Locate the transition state (TS)
  - Compute the Hessian at the TS, and diagonalize it to obtain the normal modes
  - Make a displacement in either the backward or the forward direction along the mode with imaginary frequency
  - From the displaced point, continue the path along the direction of the gradient until the minimum is reached