


# Conformational Search

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**Bombay College of Pharmacy.**



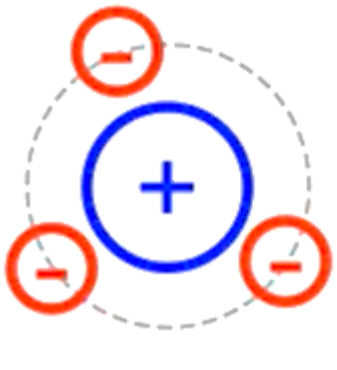
# Introduction

- **Potential energy**
  - **Force fields**
  - **Concept of torsion rotations**
  - **Potential energy surface**
- 

# Potential Energy

- The potential energy **dictates the behavior** of the system.
- The potential energy is the **interaction energy** among all the particles of the system.

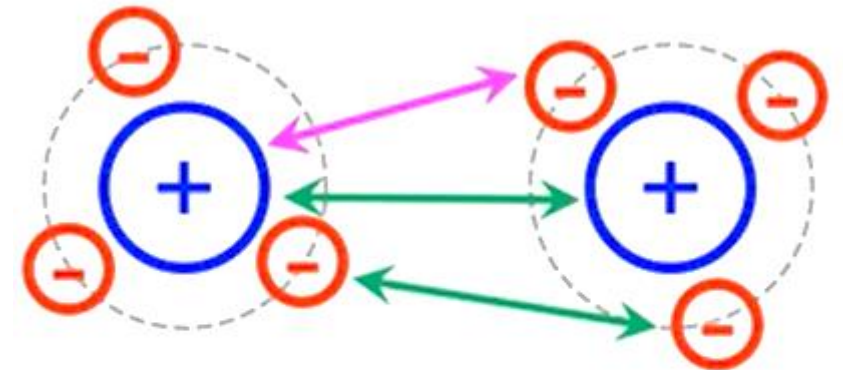
$$V = V_{NN} + V_{ee} + V_{eN}$$



A



B

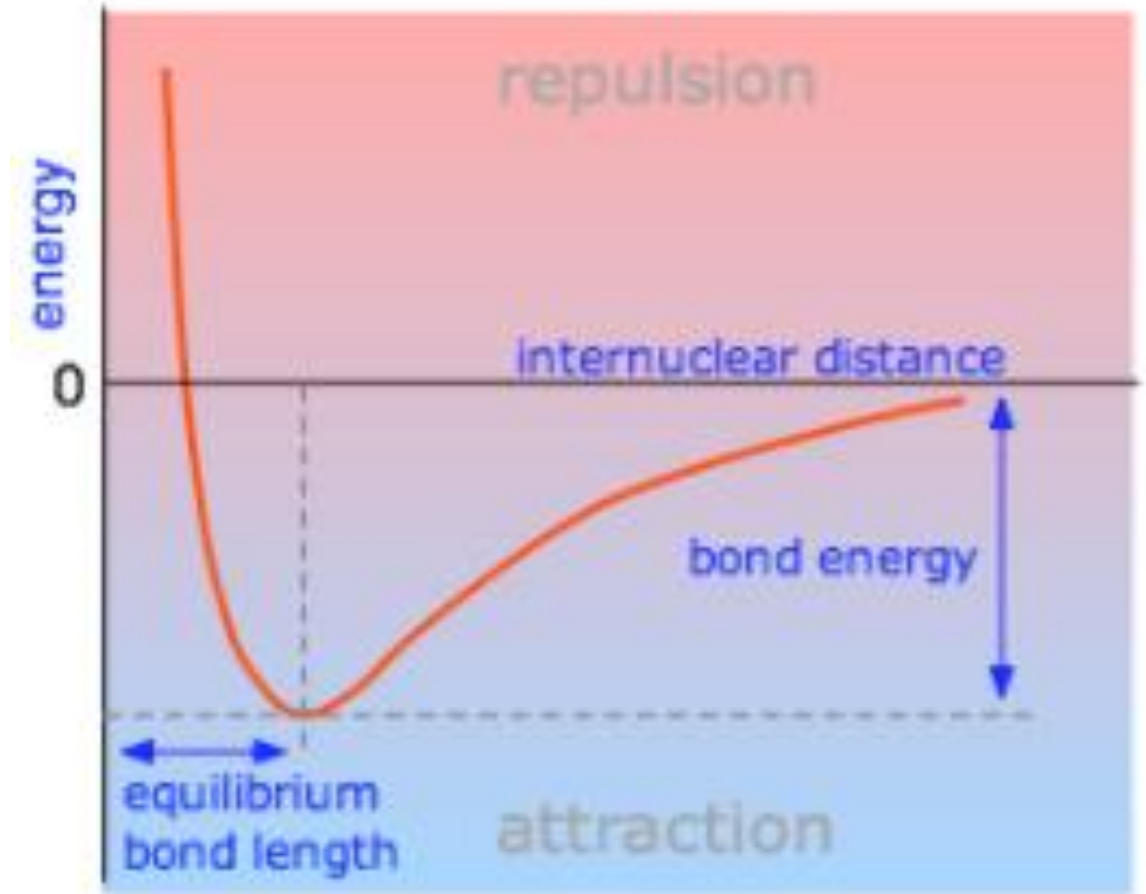
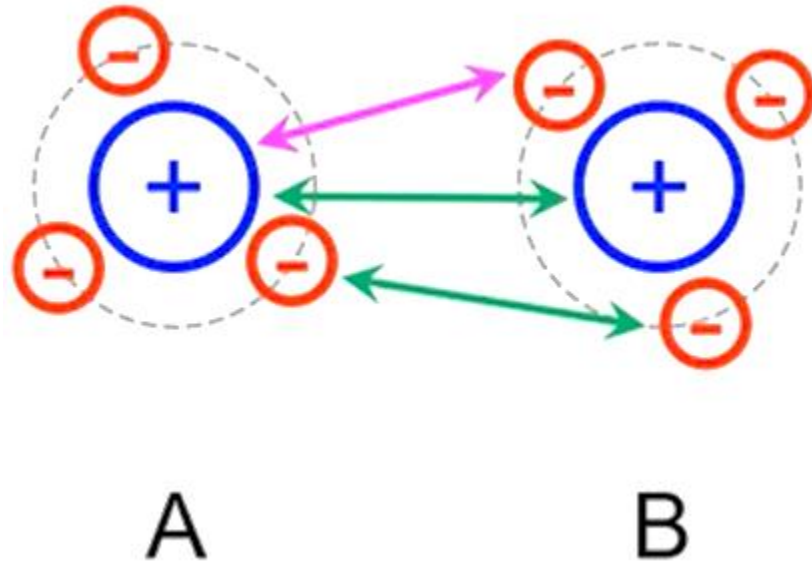


A

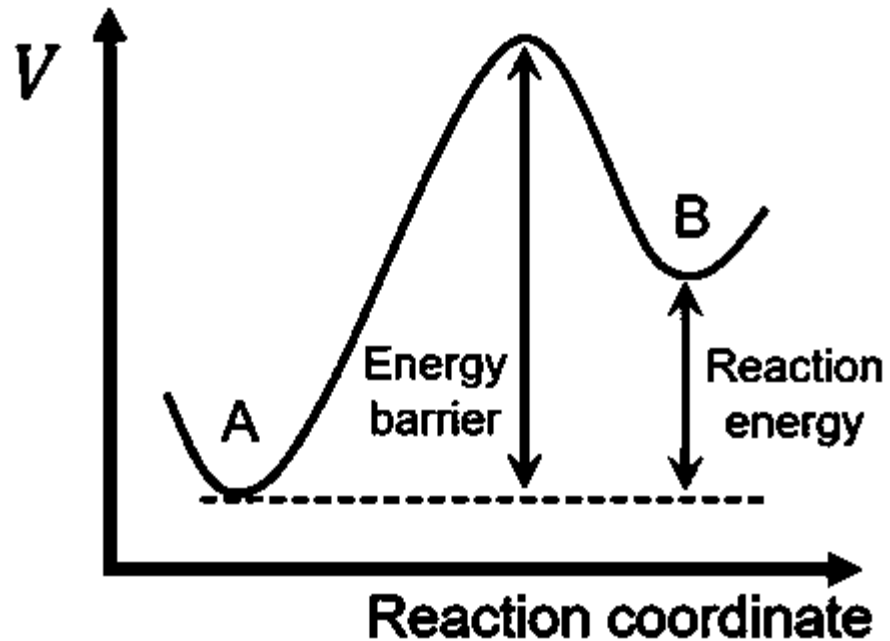
B

# Potential Energy

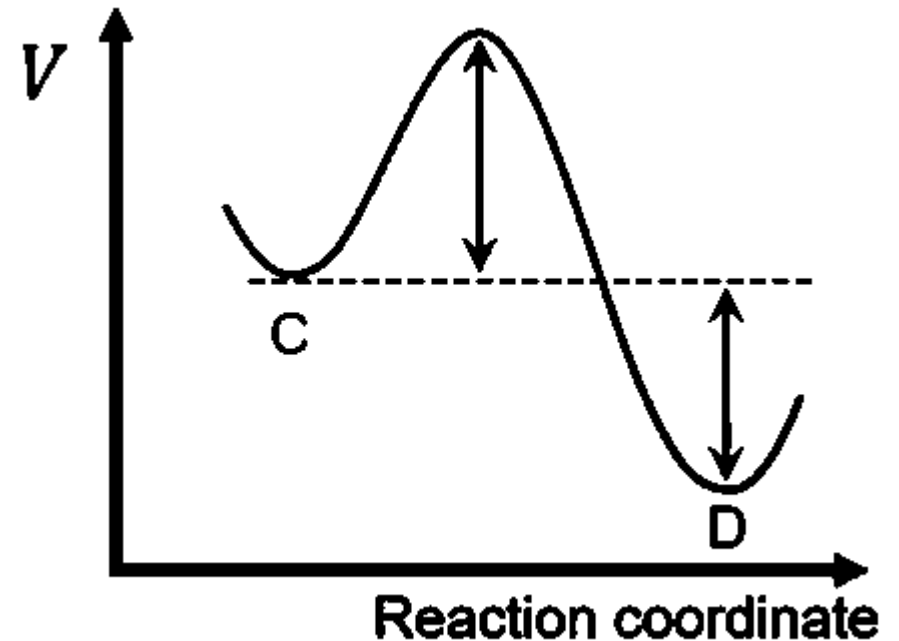
$$V = \underbrace{V_{NN} + V_{ee}}_{\text{Repulsive (positive)}} + \underbrace{V_{eN}}_{\text{Attractive (negative)}}$$



# Potential Energy



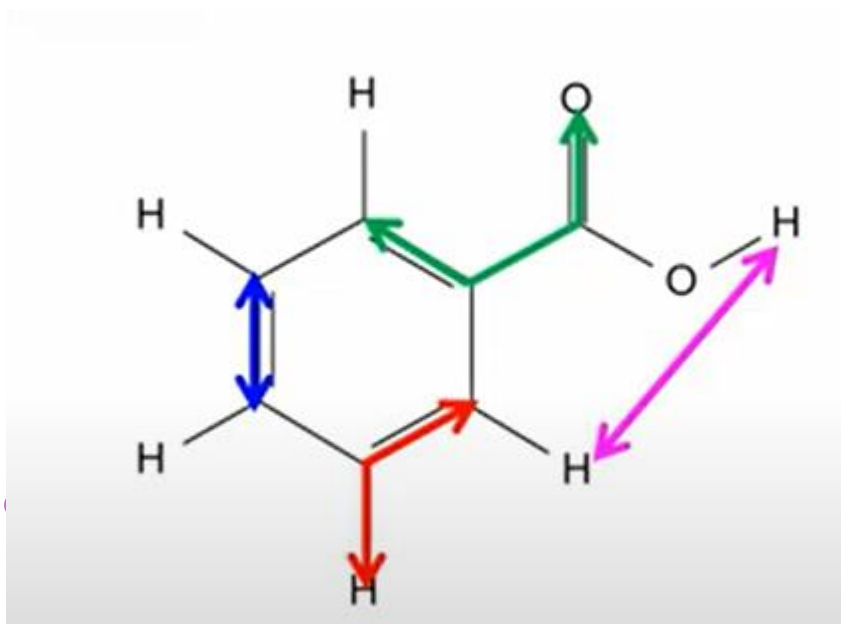
- Large energy barrier  $\rightarrow$  slow reaction
- Positive reaction energy  $\rightarrow$  Unfavourable



- Small energy barrier  $\rightarrow$  fast reaction
- Negative reaction energy  $\rightarrow$  Favourable

# Force Fields

- A force field is a simple equation that **relates the PE** of the system **with its internal coordinates** (bond distances, bond angles,...)
- In most used force fields, the PE is split into **bonded** and **non-bonded** interactions.



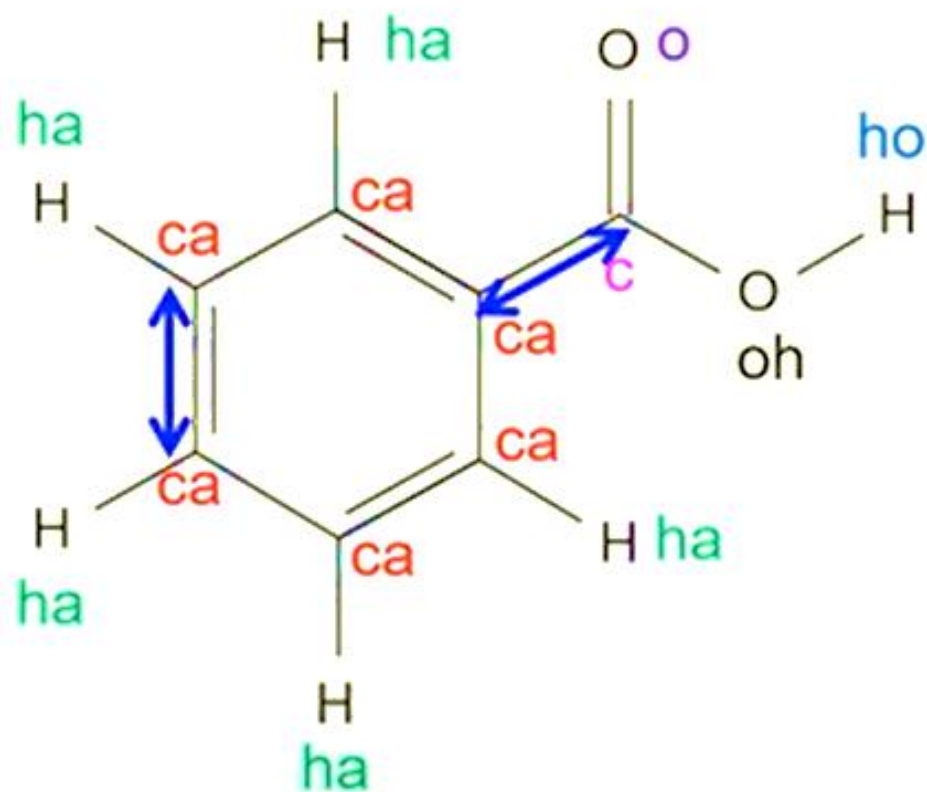
$$E_{\text{total}} = E_{\text{bonded}} + E_{\text{nonbonded}}$$

$$E_{\text{bonded}} = E_{\text{bond}} + E_{\text{angle}} + E_{\text{dihedral}}$$

$$E_{\text{nonbonded}} = E_{\text{electrostatic}} + E_{\text{van der waals}}$$

# Force Fields

The atoms of the molecules are classified in different **atom types** to distinguish interactions between the same chemical class of atoms.



ca: sp<sup>2</sup> C in aromatic system

ha: H bonded to aromatic C

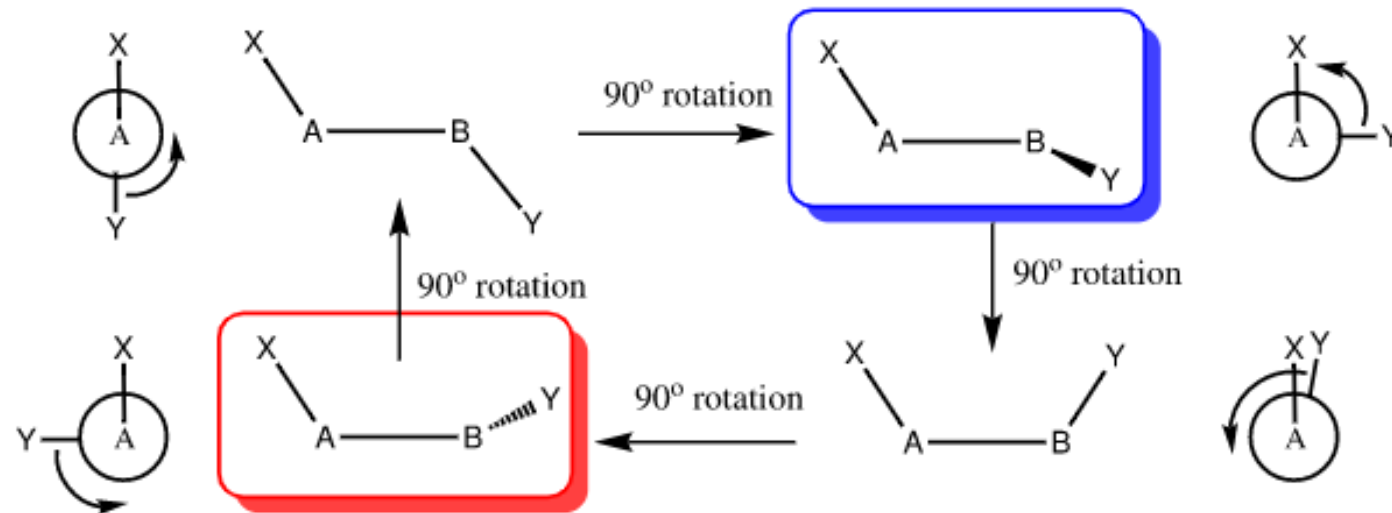
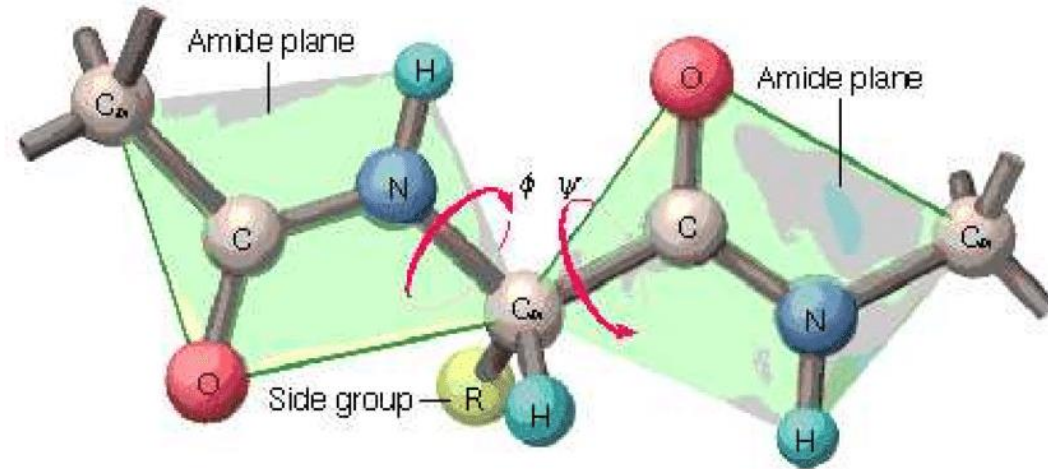
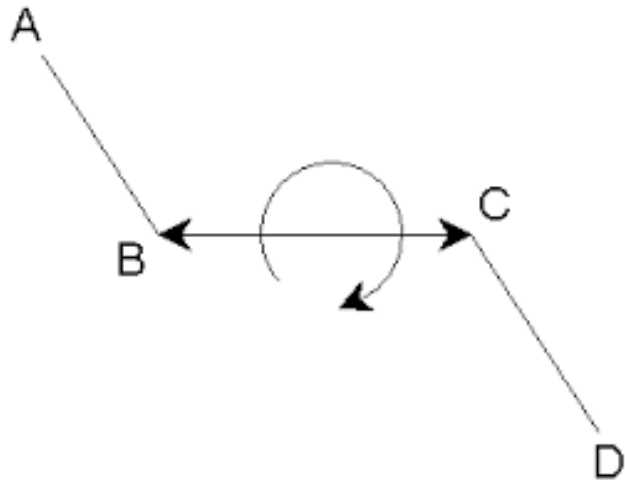
c: sp<sup>2</sup> C of carbonyl group

o: O with one connected atom

oh: O in hydroxyl group

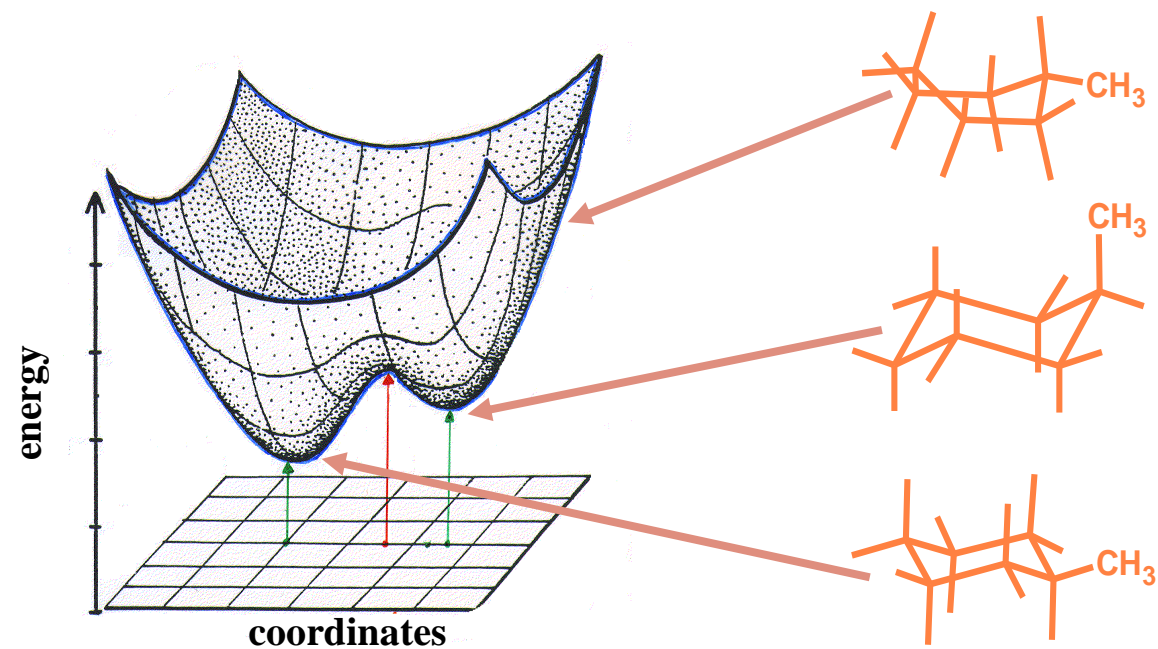
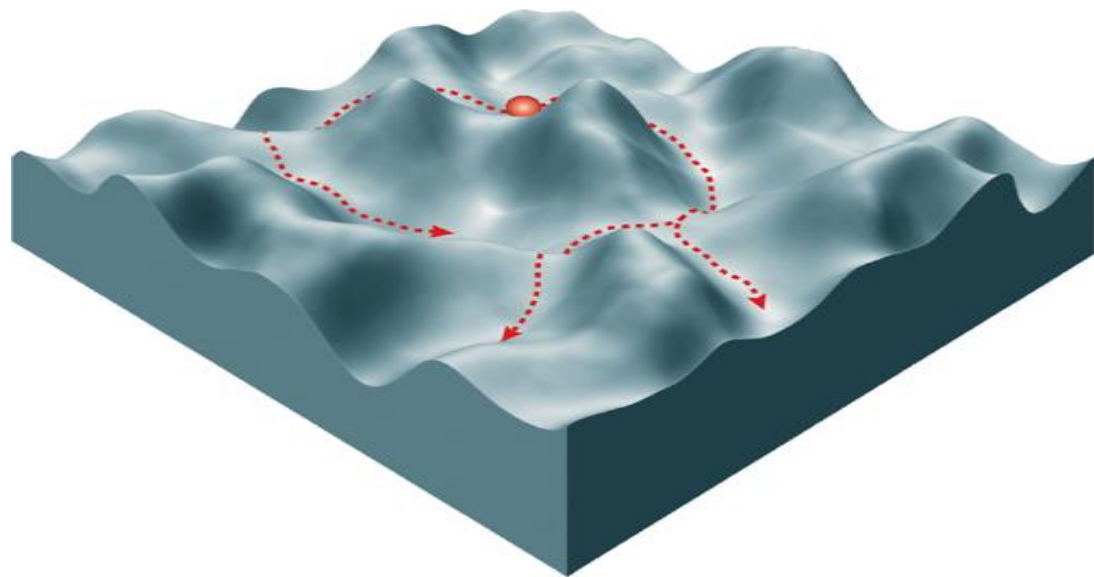
ho: H in hydroxyl group

# Concept of Torsion rotations

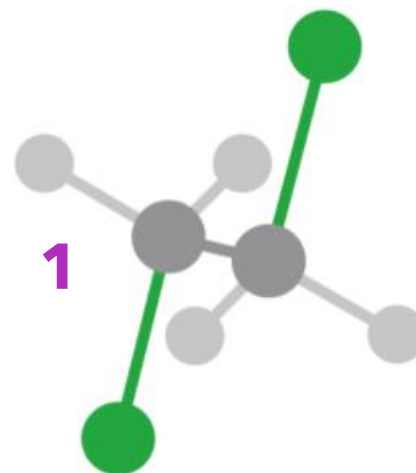
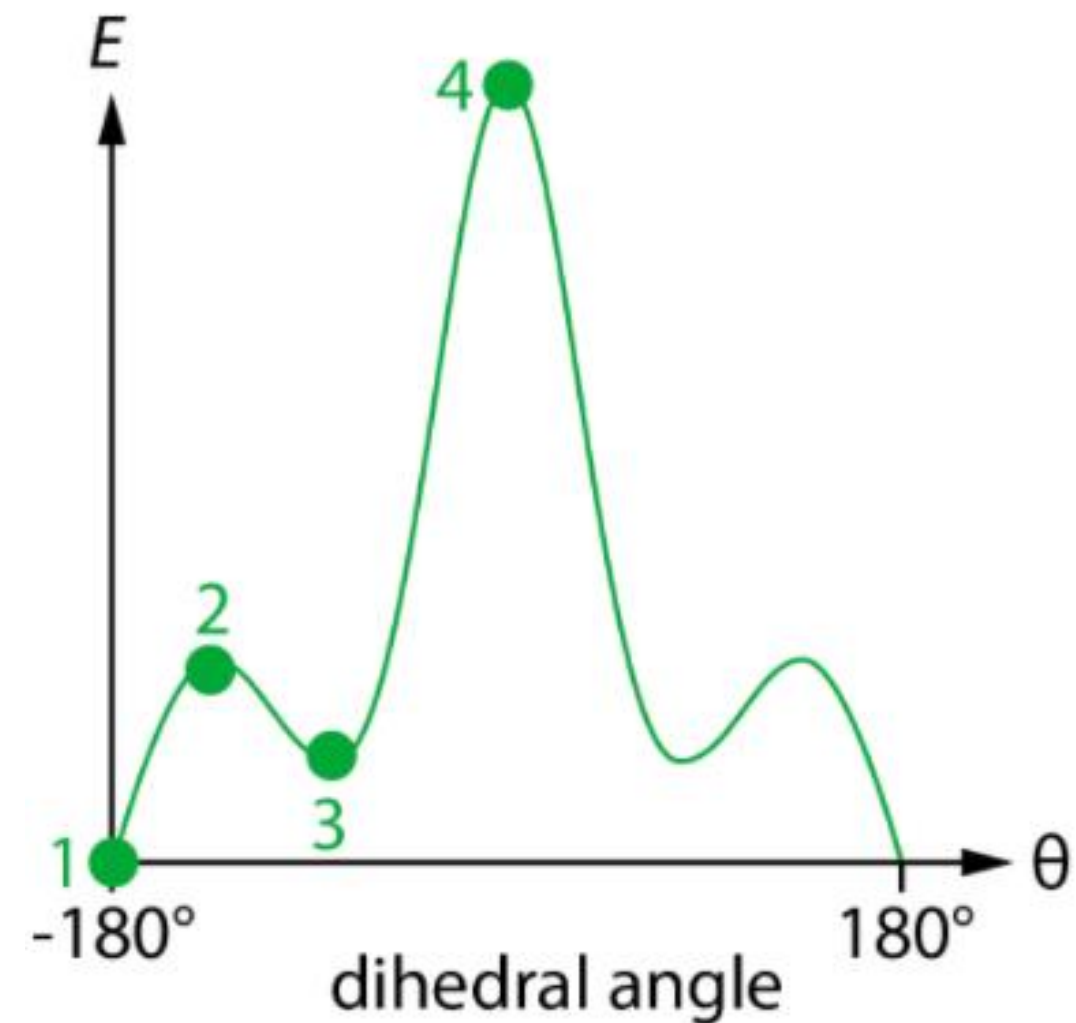




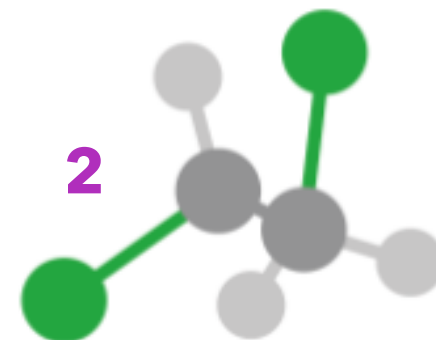
# The Potential Energy Surface



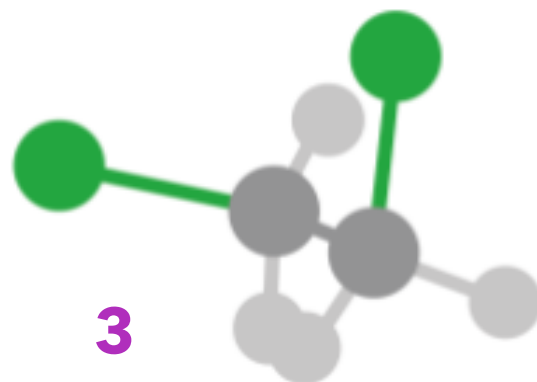
# The Potential Energy Surface



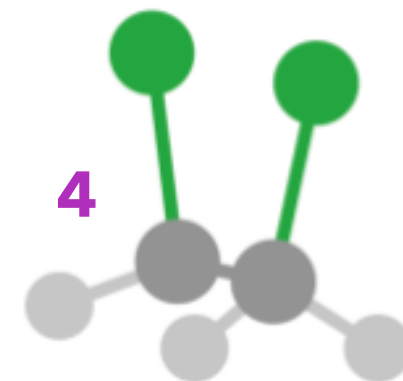
Global Minimum



Local Maximum

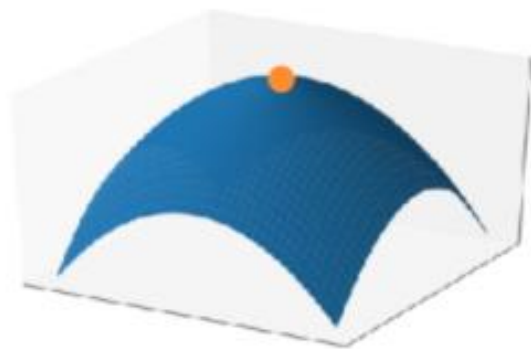


Local Minimum

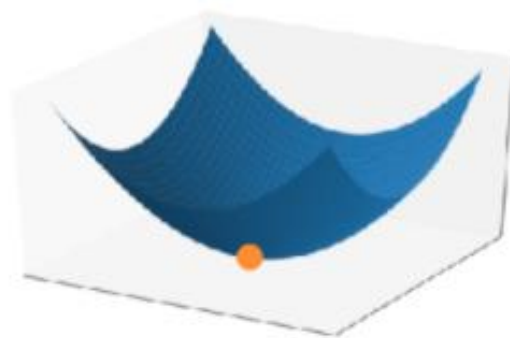


Global Maximum

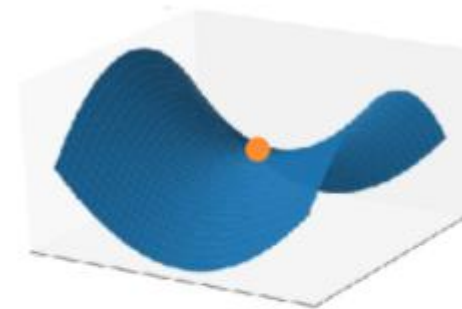
# Classification of stationary points



local maximum

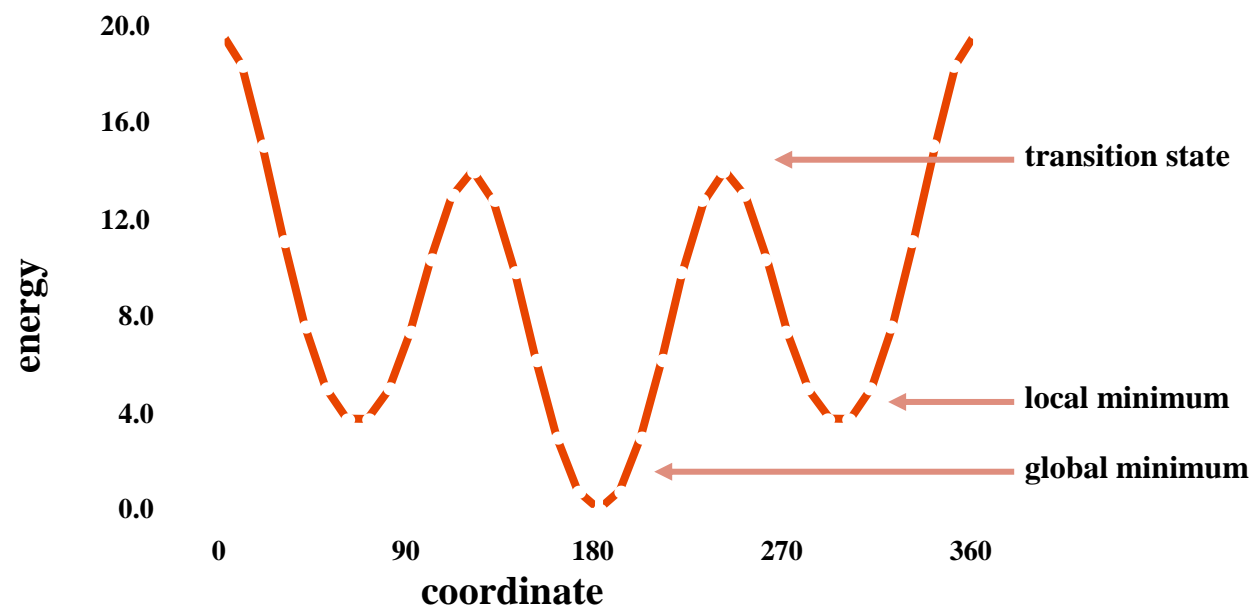


local minimum



saddle point  
(transition state)

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial q_1} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial q_2} = \dots = 0$$



# Classification of stationary points

$$\frac{dE}{dx} = 0.$$

**1<sup>st</sup> Derivative**

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x^2}\right) > 0, \left(\frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial y^2}\right) > 0$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x^2}\right) < 0, \left(\frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial y^2}\right) < 0.$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x_{\parallel}^2}\right) > 0, \left(\frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x_{\perp}^2}\right) < 0.$$

**2<sup>nd</sup> Derivative**

Type	1 <sup>st</sup> Derivative	2 <sup>nd</sup> Derivative*
Minimum	0	positive
Maximum	0	negative
Saddle point	0	negative

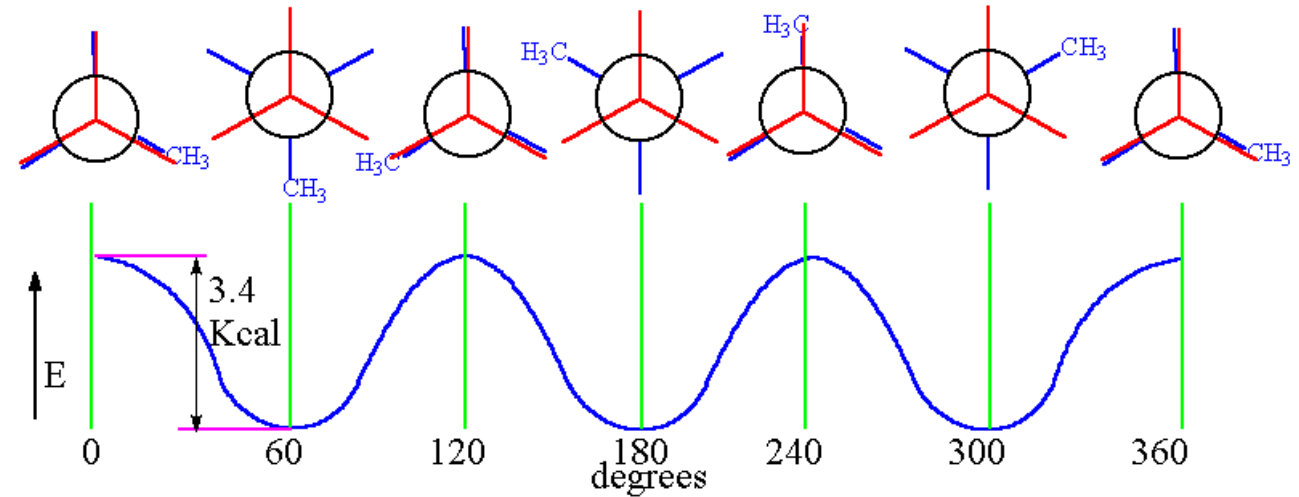
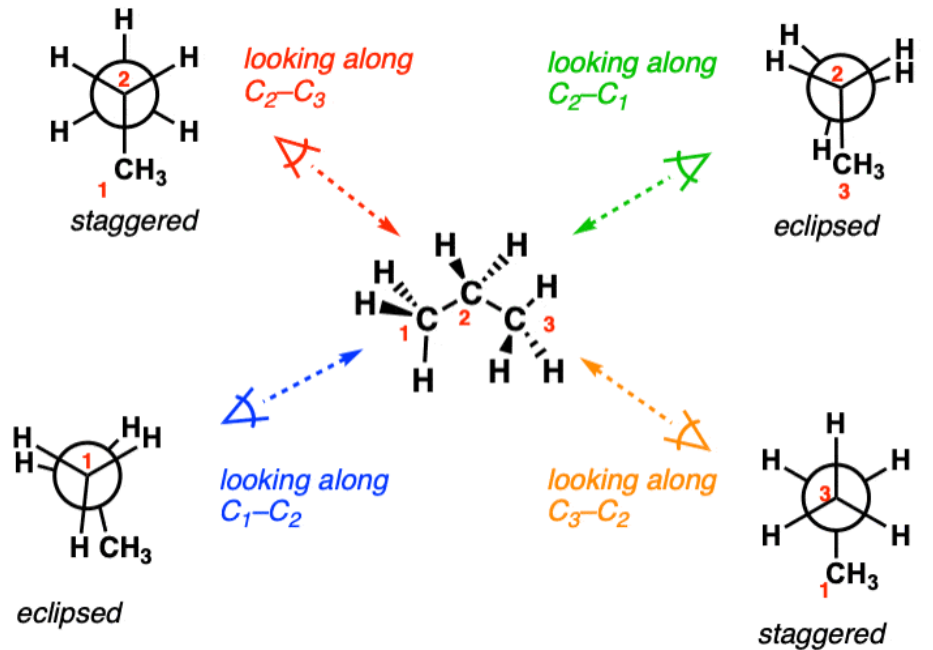
# Methods

- **Systematic search**
- **Model-building approach**
- **Random search**
- **Molecular dynamics**
- **Monte- Carlo**
- **Simulated annealing**
- **Genetic algorithms**

# Systematic Search

# Systematic search

- Propane conformations

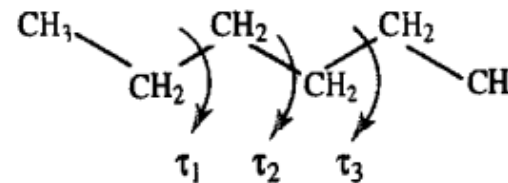


# Systematic search

- **Combinatorial explosion**

$$\text{Number of conformations} = \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{360}{\theta_i}$$

Dihedral over bond  $i$

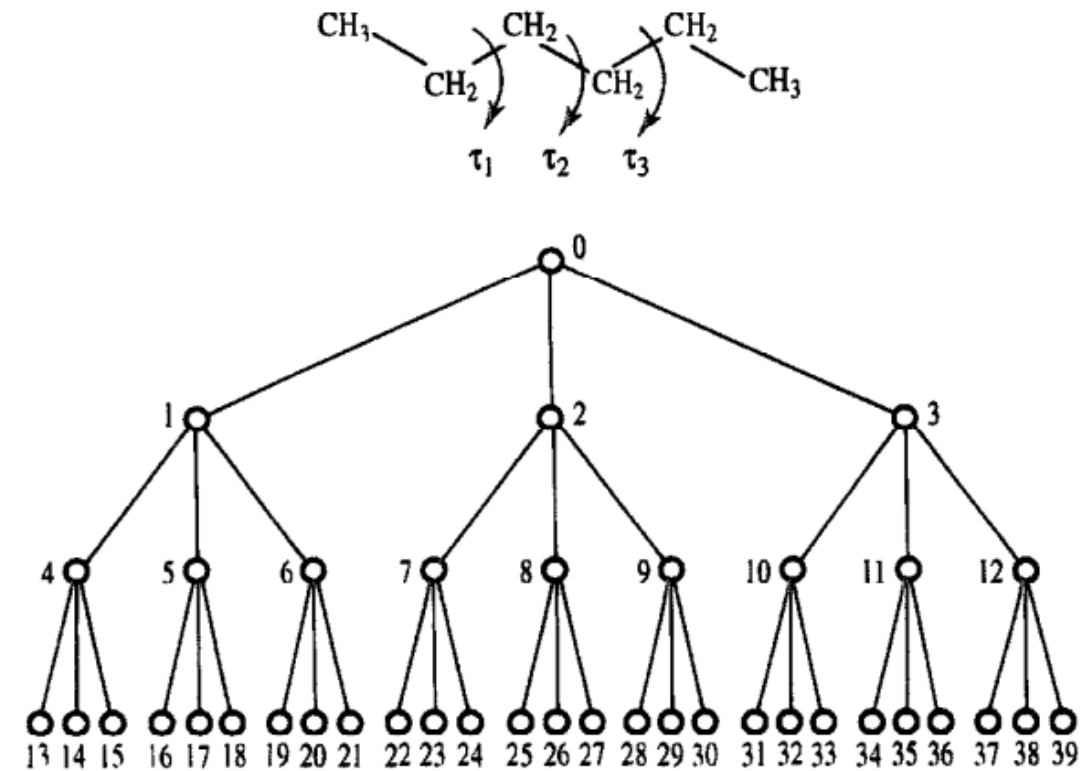
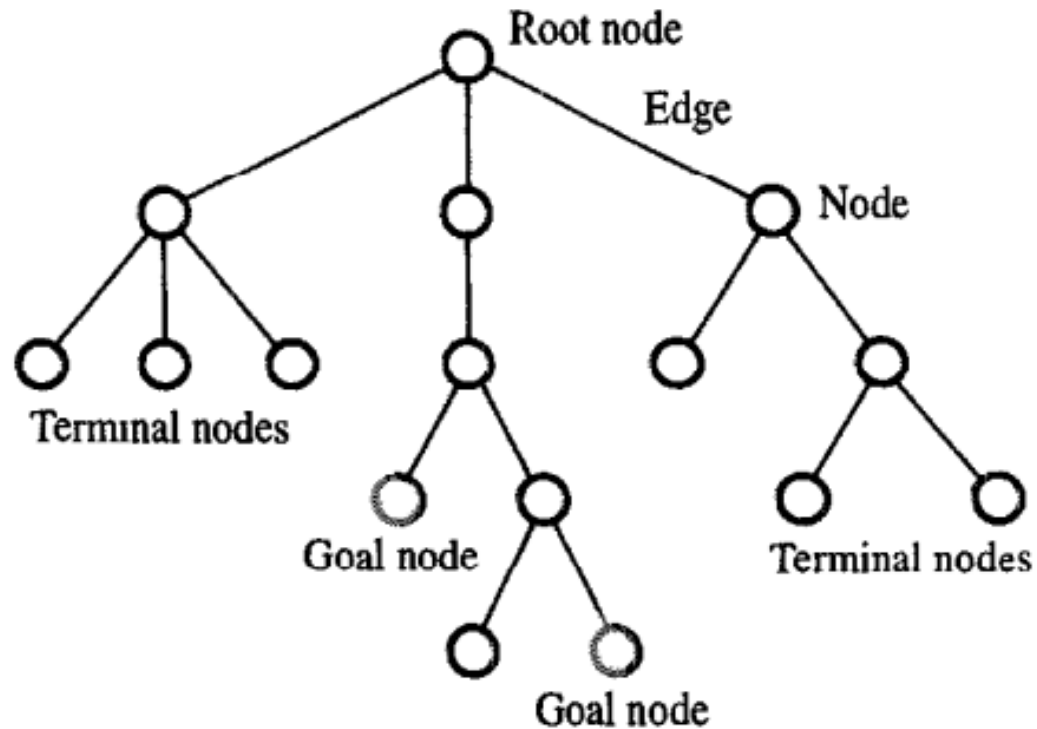


- For **5 bonds** and 30 increments, the total resultant structures is **248832** conformers → (if 1s per structure = 69 hours)
- For **7 bonds** and 30 increments, the total resultant structures is 36 million (**36,000,000**) conformers → (if 1s per structure = 415 days)



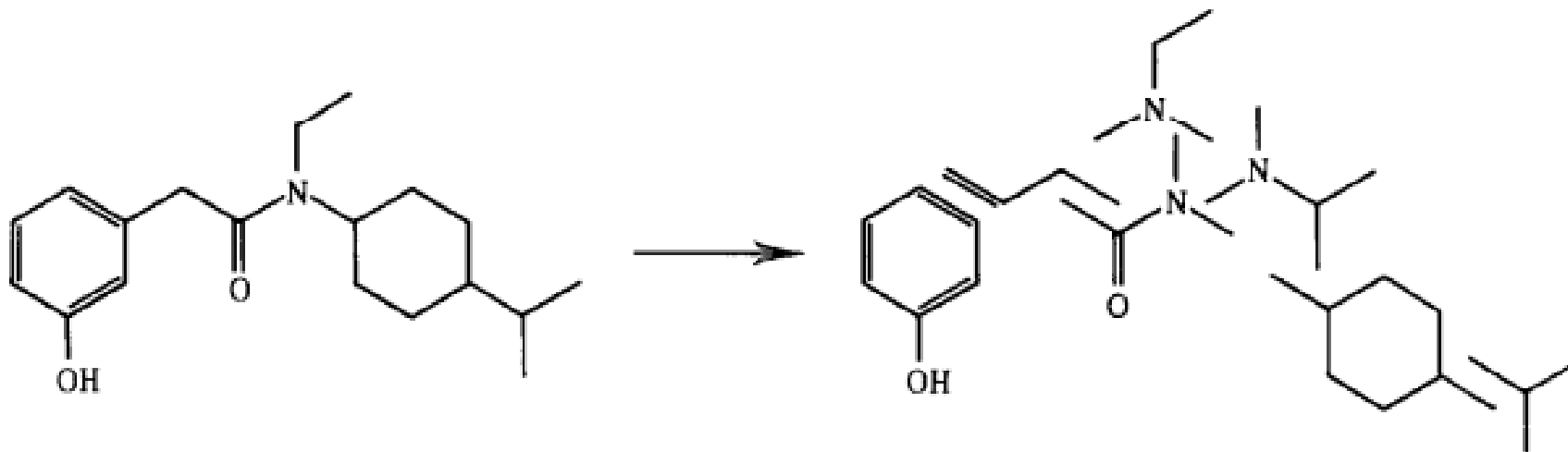
# Systematic search

- Search Trees



# **Model-building Approach**

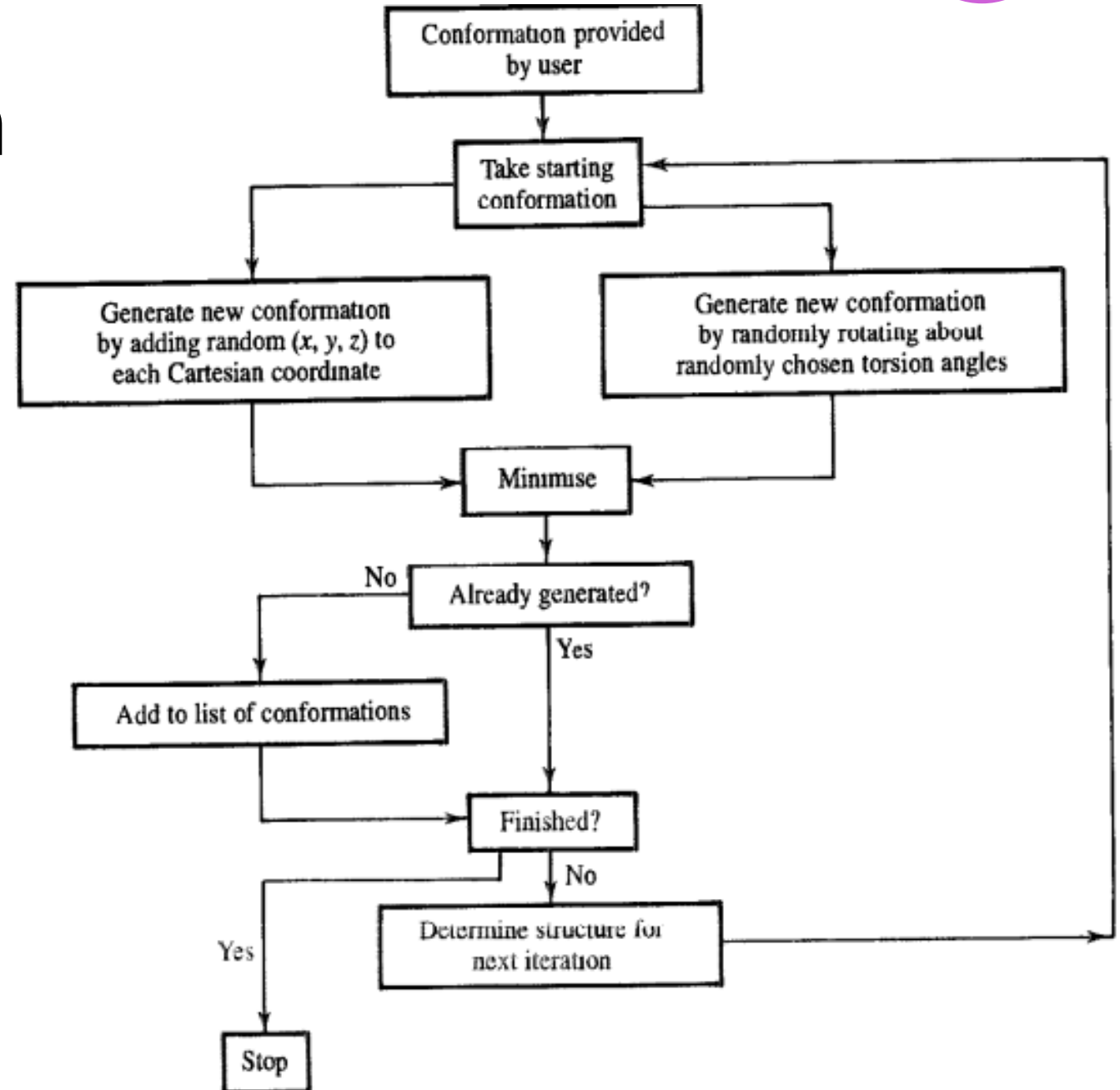
# Model-building approach



- **Decide on the fragments → “substructure search”**
- **Generate the conformations**

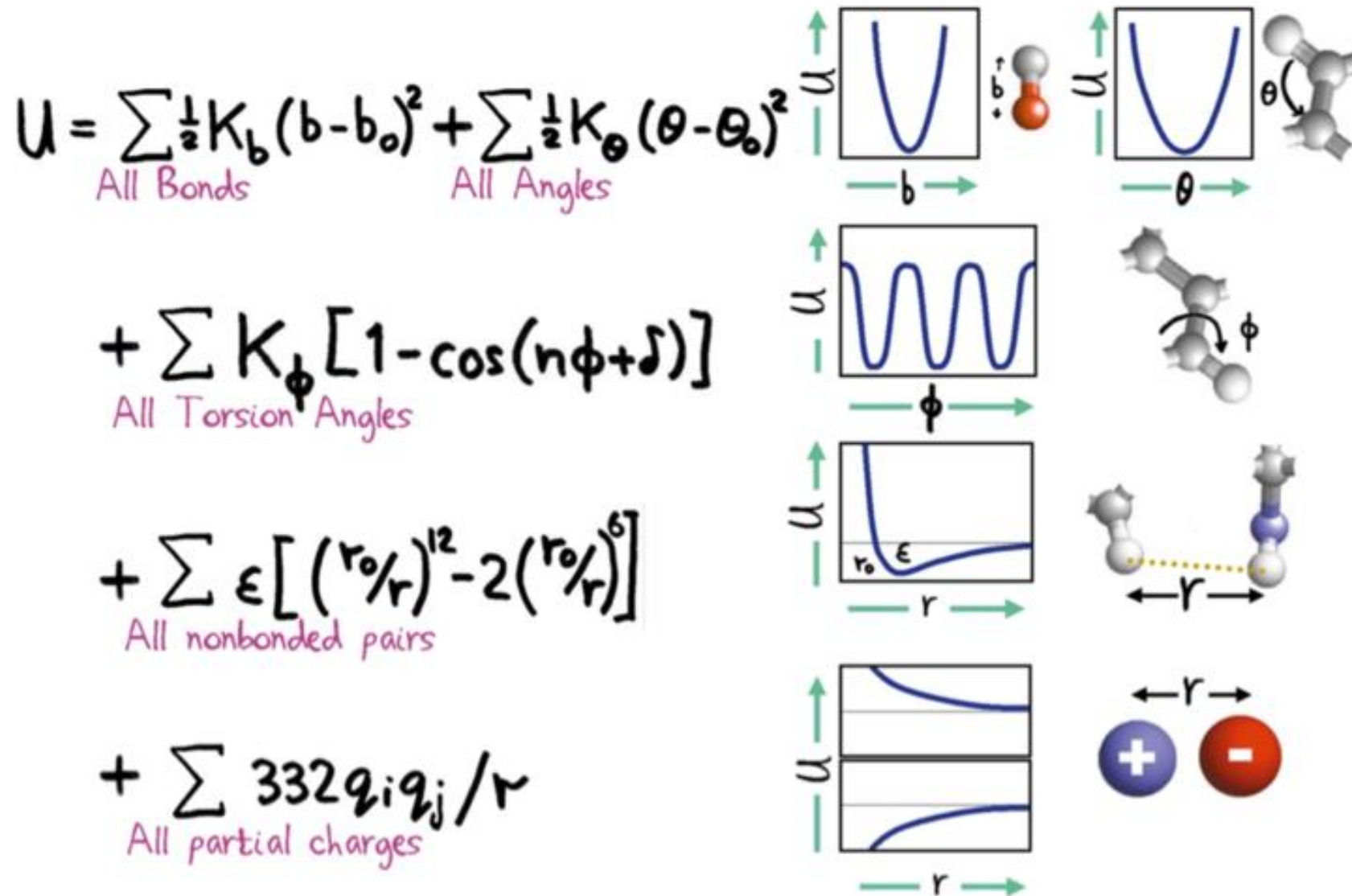
# Random Search

# Random Search



# Molecular Dynamics

# Force Fields

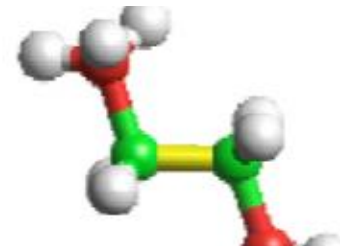
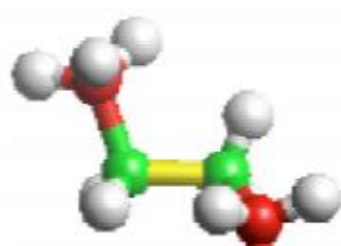
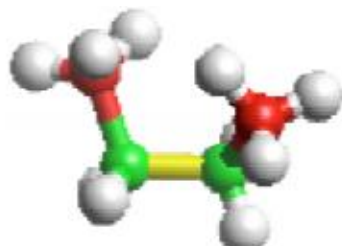
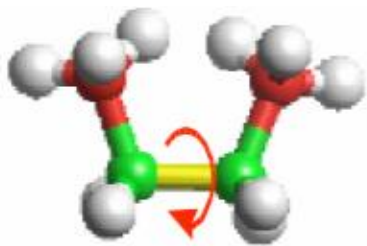
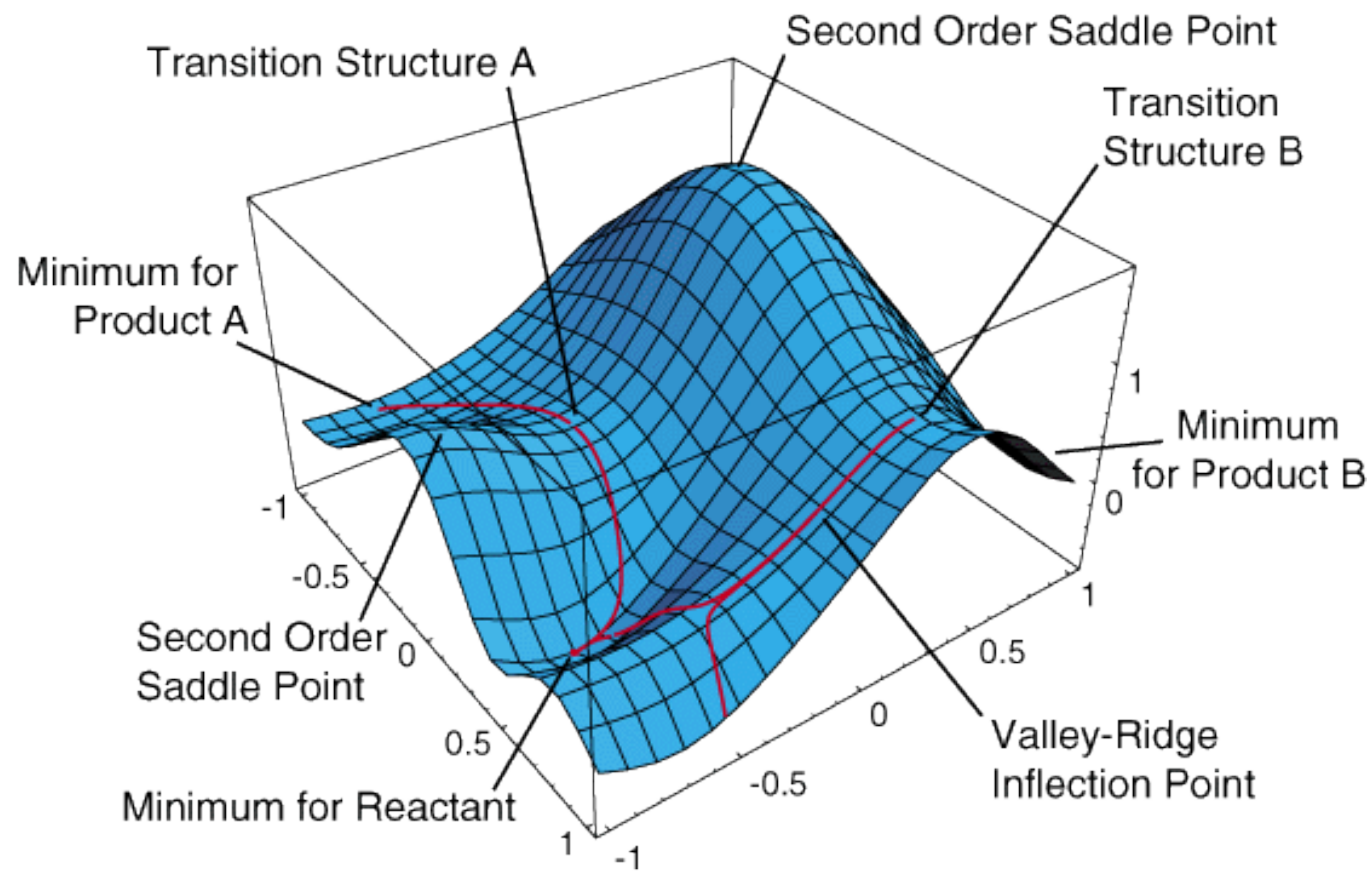


# Popular molecular mechanics force fields

- [AMBER](#) (Assisted Model Building and Energy Refinement) - widely used for proteins and DNA
- [CHARMM](#) - originally developed at Harvard, widely used for both small molecules and macromolecules
- [CVFF](#) - also broadly used for small molecules and macromolecules
- [GROMOS](#) - A force field that comes as part of the GROMACS (GROningen MOlecular Simulation package
- [OPLS-aa, OPLS-ua, OPLS-2001, OPLS-2005](#) - Members of the [OPLS](#) family of force fields developed by [William L. Jorgensen](#) at Yale Department of Chemistry.
- [ECEPP/2](#) - free energy force field

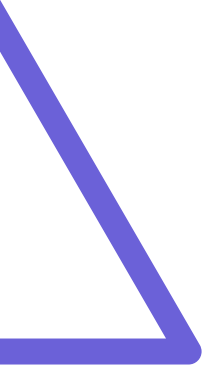


# Potential Energy Surface

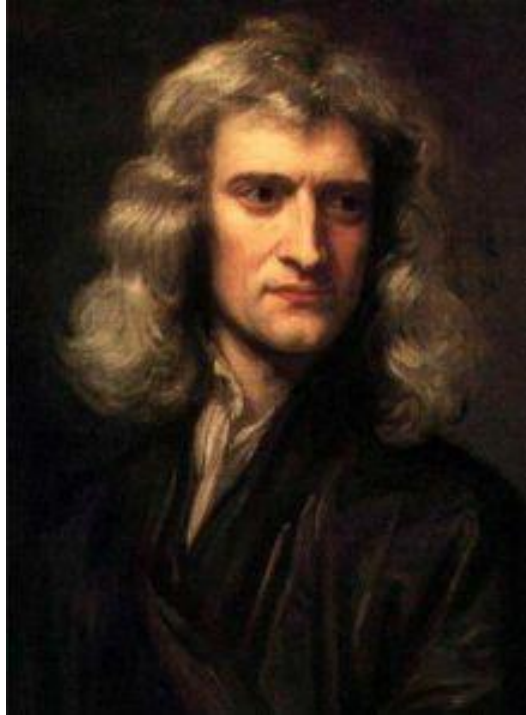




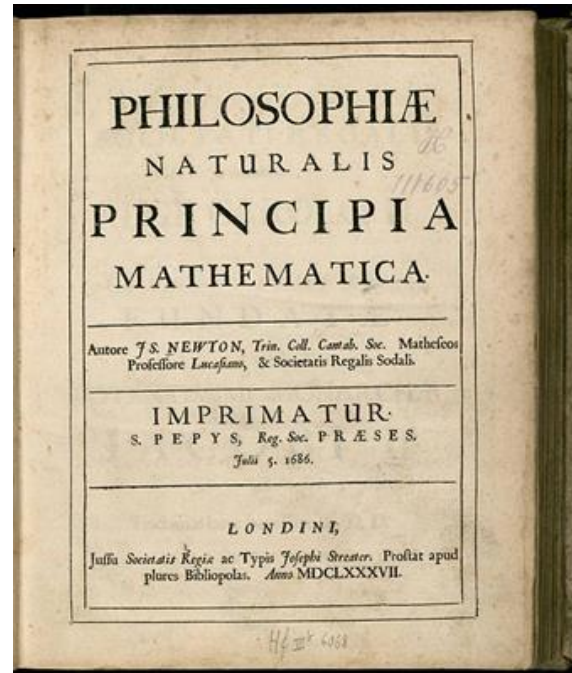
# Why MD simulations?

- Link physics, chemistry and biology
  - Model phenomena that cannot be observed experimentally
  - Understand protein folding...
  - Access to thermodynamics quantities (free energies, binding energies,...)
- 

# Molecular Dynamics



Sir Isaac Newton



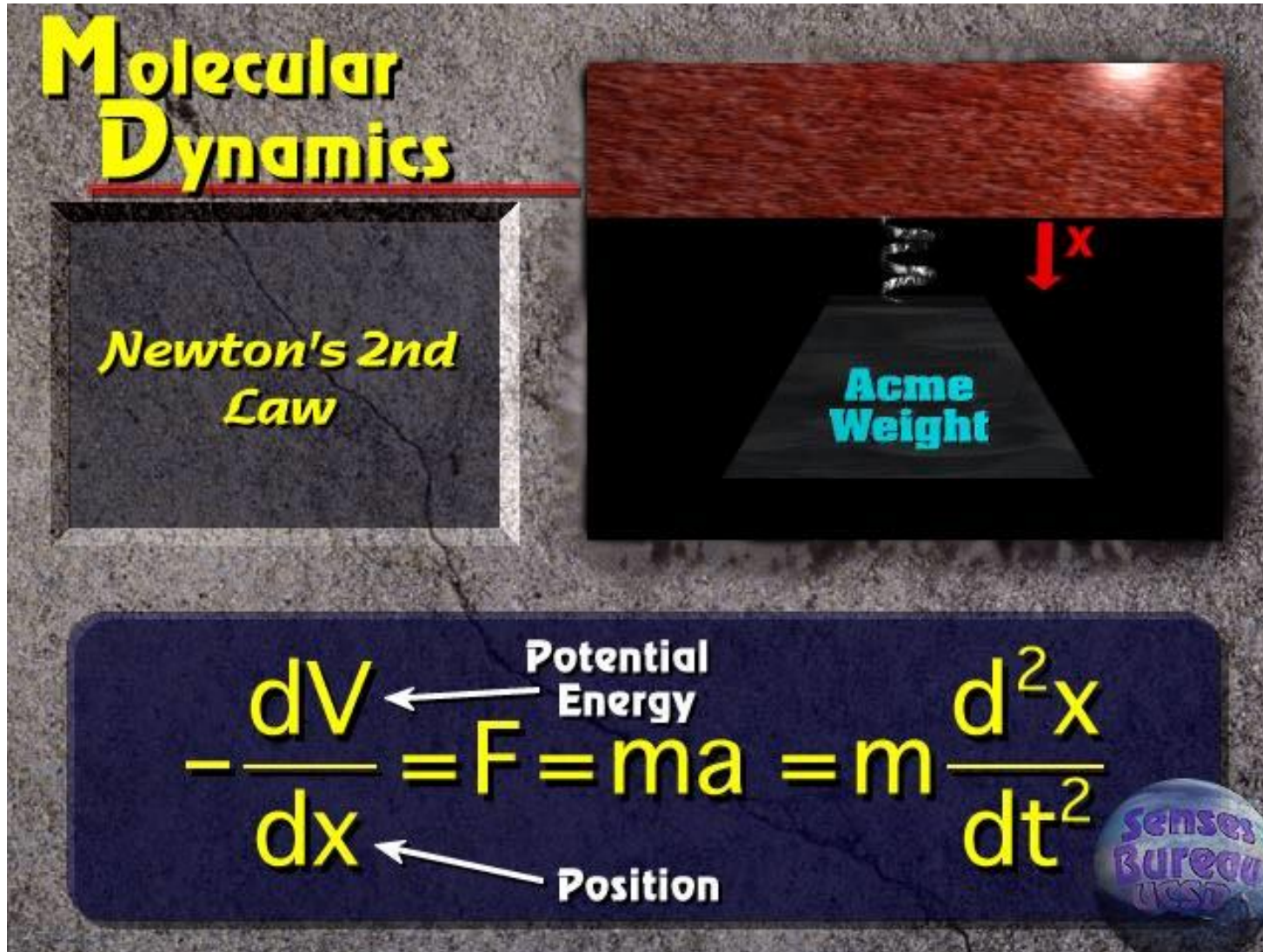
$$\mathbf{F} = m_i \mathbf{a}_i$$



Pierre-Simon Laplace

Deterministic nature of MD

# Molecular Dynamics





# Representing an Atom

- Classical mechanics: a point particle
- Defined by its position  $(x,y,z)$  and its mass
- May carry an electric charge (positive or negative), usually partial (less than an electron)

# Molecular Dynamics

- Time dependent integration of classical equations of motion

$$F = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial x}$$

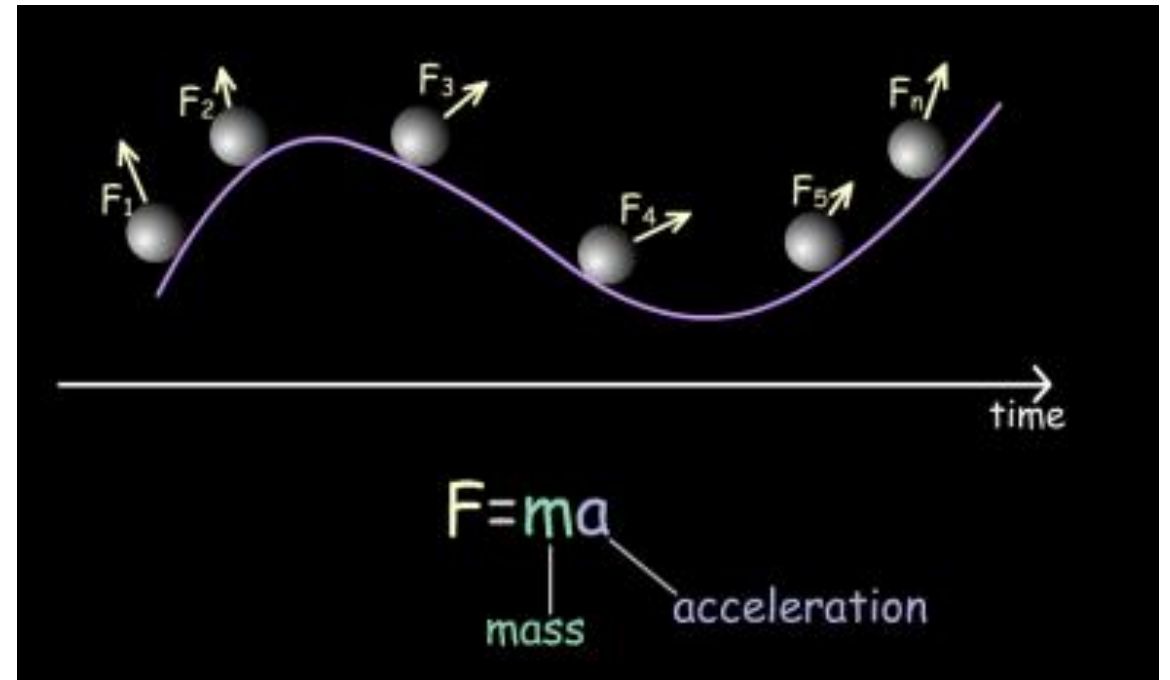
$$F = ma$$

$$a = \frac{v_2 - v_1}{\partial t}$$

$$v = \frac{x_2 - x_1}{\partial t}$$

$$E = U + K$$

$$\partial t = 2 \text{ fs}$$



# Molecular Dynamics: Mathematically

- Time dependent integration

$$F = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial x}$$

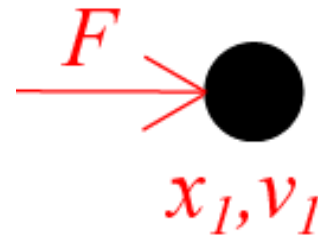
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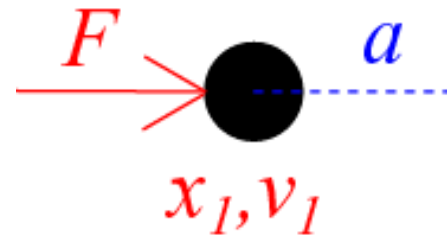
$$F = m \textcircled{a}$$

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# Molecular Dynamics: Mathematically

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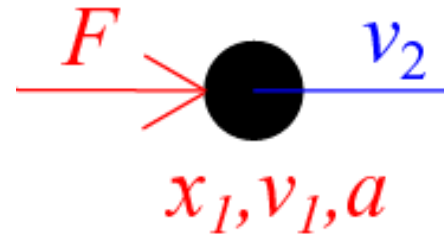
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# Molecular Dynamics: Mathematically

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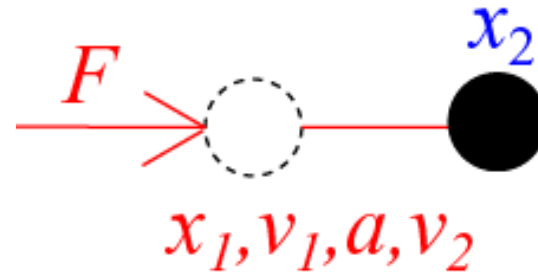
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# Molecular Dynamics: Mathematically

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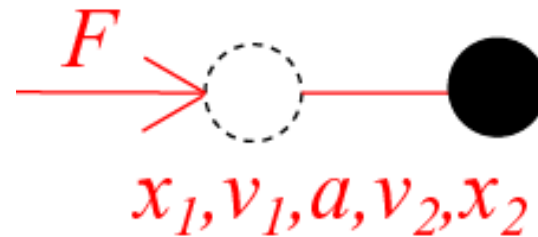
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# Molecular Dynamics: Mathematically

- Time dependent integration

$$F = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial x}$$

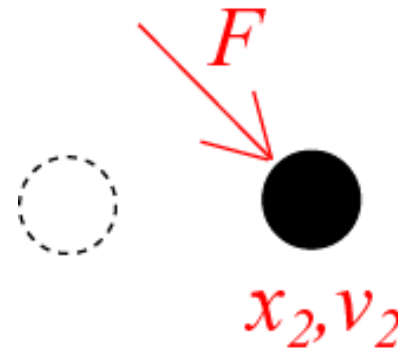
$$F = ma$$

$$a = \frac{v_3 - v_2}{\partial t}$$

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# Molecular Dynamics: Mathematically

- Time dependent integration

$$F = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial x}$$

$$F = ma$$


$$a = \frac{v_3 - v_2}{\partial t}$$

$$v = \frac{x_3 - x_2}{\partial t}$$

$$E = U + K$$

$$\partial t = 2 \text{ fs}$$

- Evaluate forces and perform integration for every atom
- Each picosecond of simulation time requires 500 iterations of cycle
- E.g. w/ 50,000 atoms, each ps ( $10^{-12}$  s) involves 25,000,000 evaluations



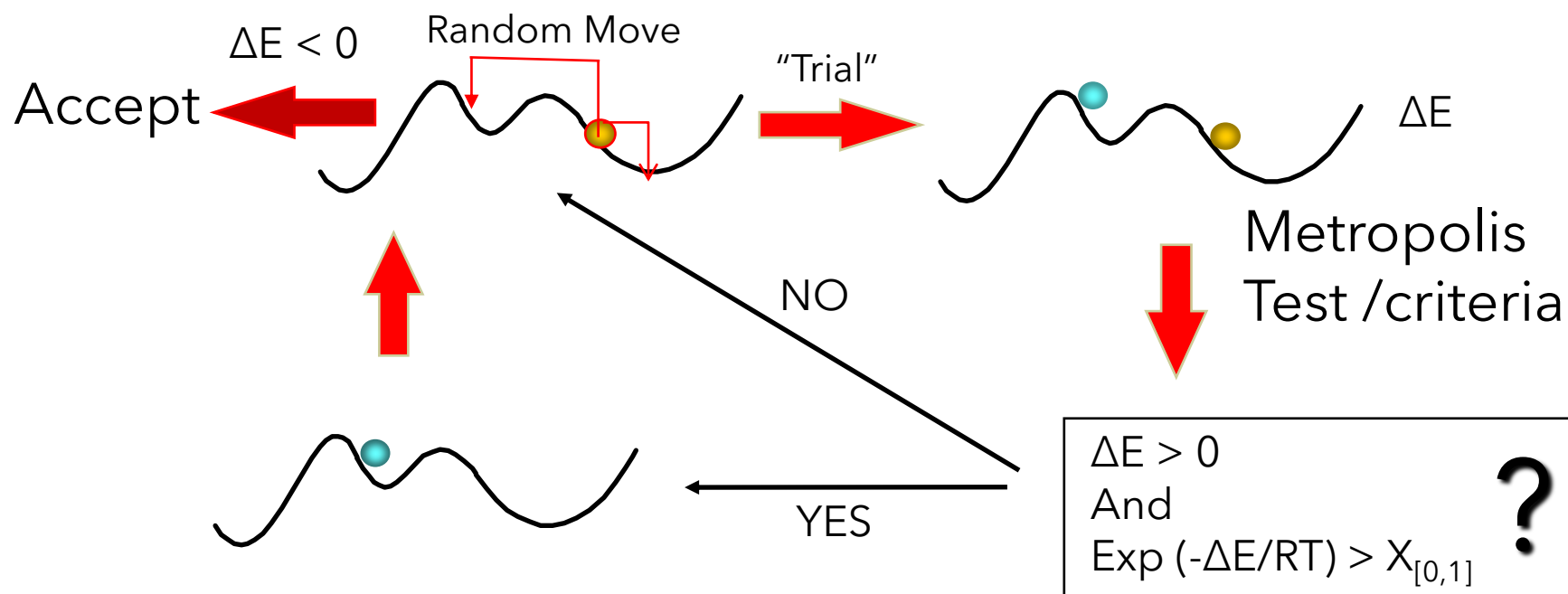
# **Stochastic search- Monte Carlo Simulations**

# Basics

- **System:** The physical process of interest
- **Model:** Mathematical representation of the system
  - Models are a fundamental tool of science, engineering, business, etc.
  - Abstraction of reality
  - Models always have limits of credibility
- **Simulation:** A type of model where the computer is used to imitate the behavior of the system
- **Monte Carlo simulation:** Simulation that makes use of internally generated (pseudo) random numbers

# Monte Carlo Simulation

- A method for sampling the PES.
- Allows for uphill moves (but have difficulty in climbing over barriers)



- Can get stuck in a conformational region.

$X_{[0,1]}$  is a random number in the range 0 to 1, i.e. PROBABILITY

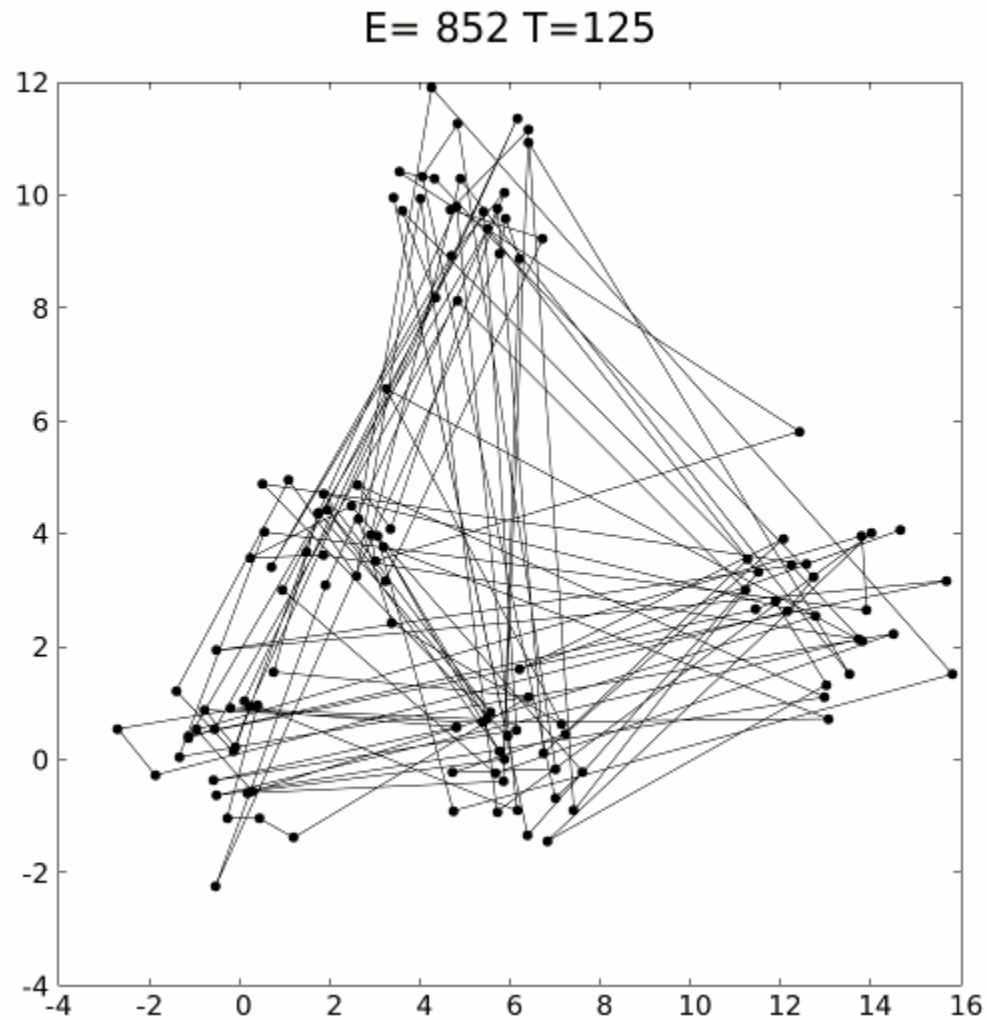


# Theory of Monte Carlo: Basic Principles

- A computing method that relies on probabilities
- exact solutions to statistical mechanical problems
- relies on transition probabilities between different states of the simulated system
- These transitions are traced according to the following scheme:
  - generation of an initial configuration
  - trial of a randomly generated system configuration, and
  - evaluation of an "acceptance criterion" for the trial configuration
- The acceptance criterion is usually formulated in terms of the potential energy change between trial (new) and existing (old) states and some other properties of the new and old configuration

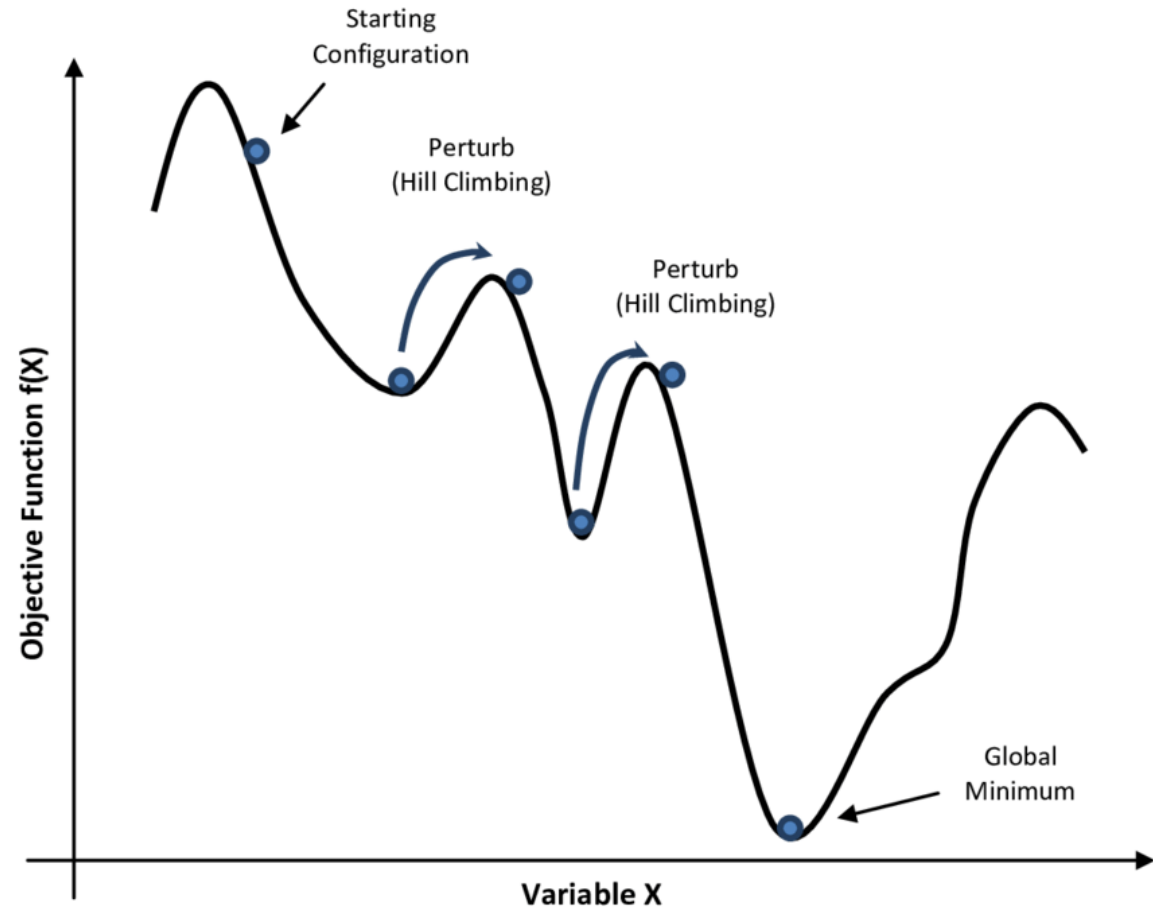
# Simulated Annealing

# Simulated Annealing



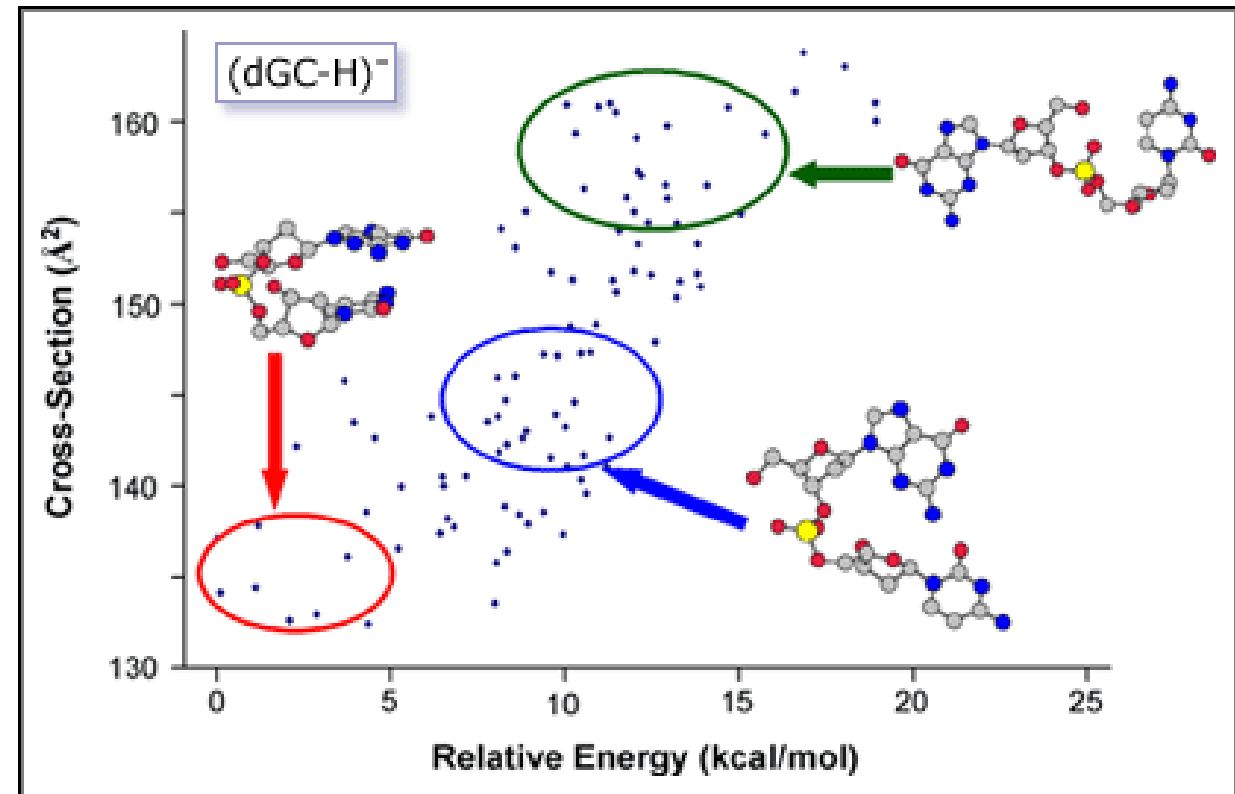
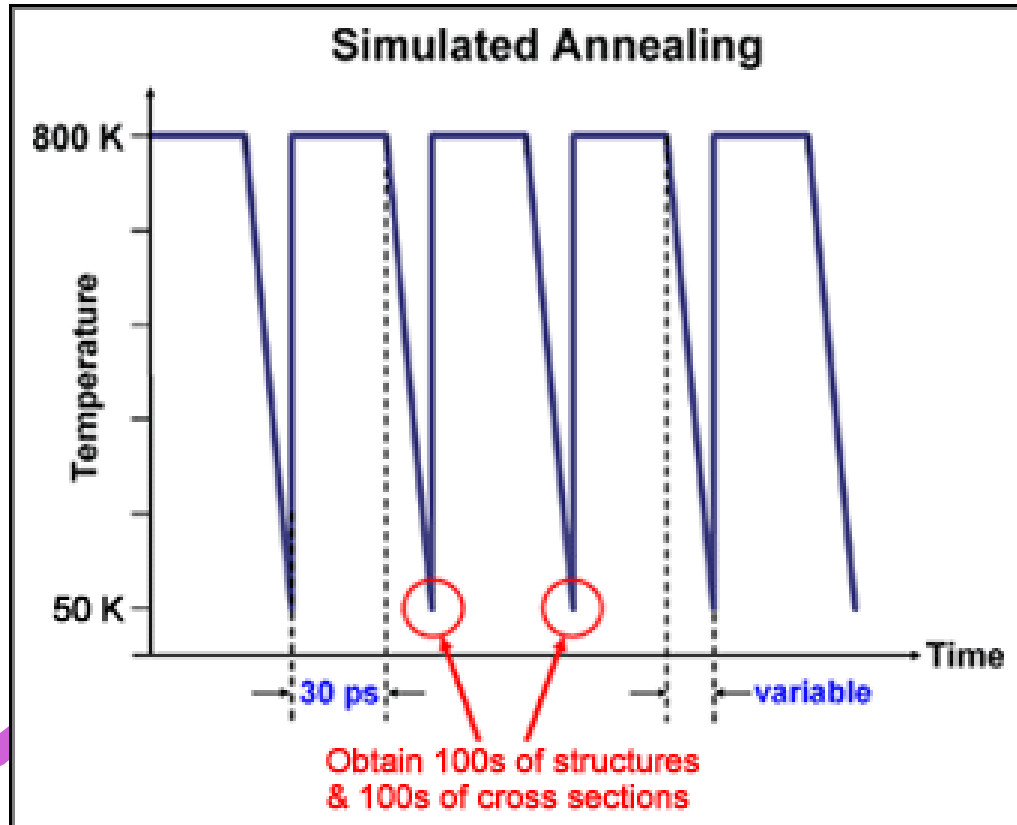
# Simulated Annealing

- Hill Climbing Problem

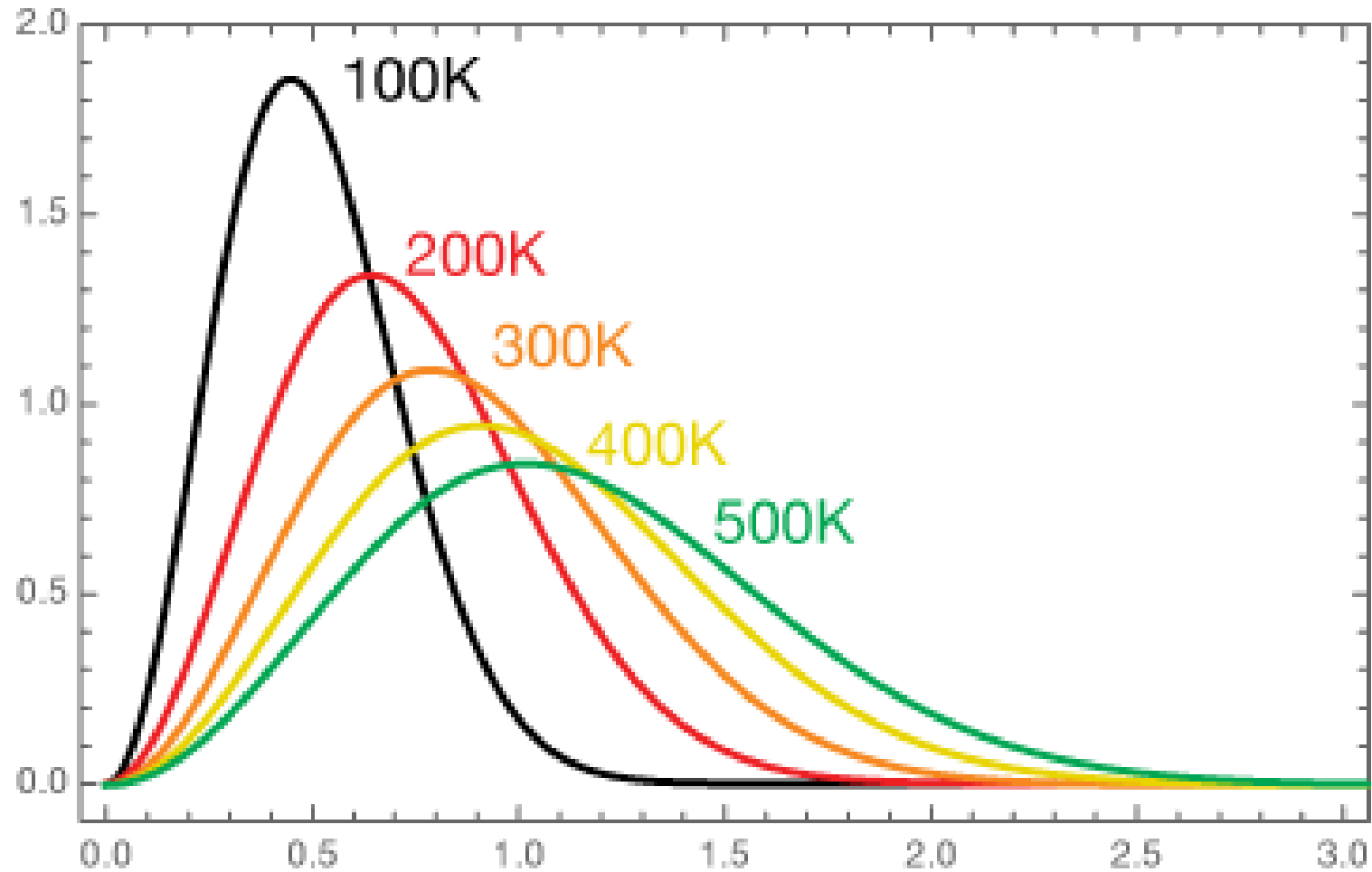


# Simulated Annealing

- Conformational Analysis

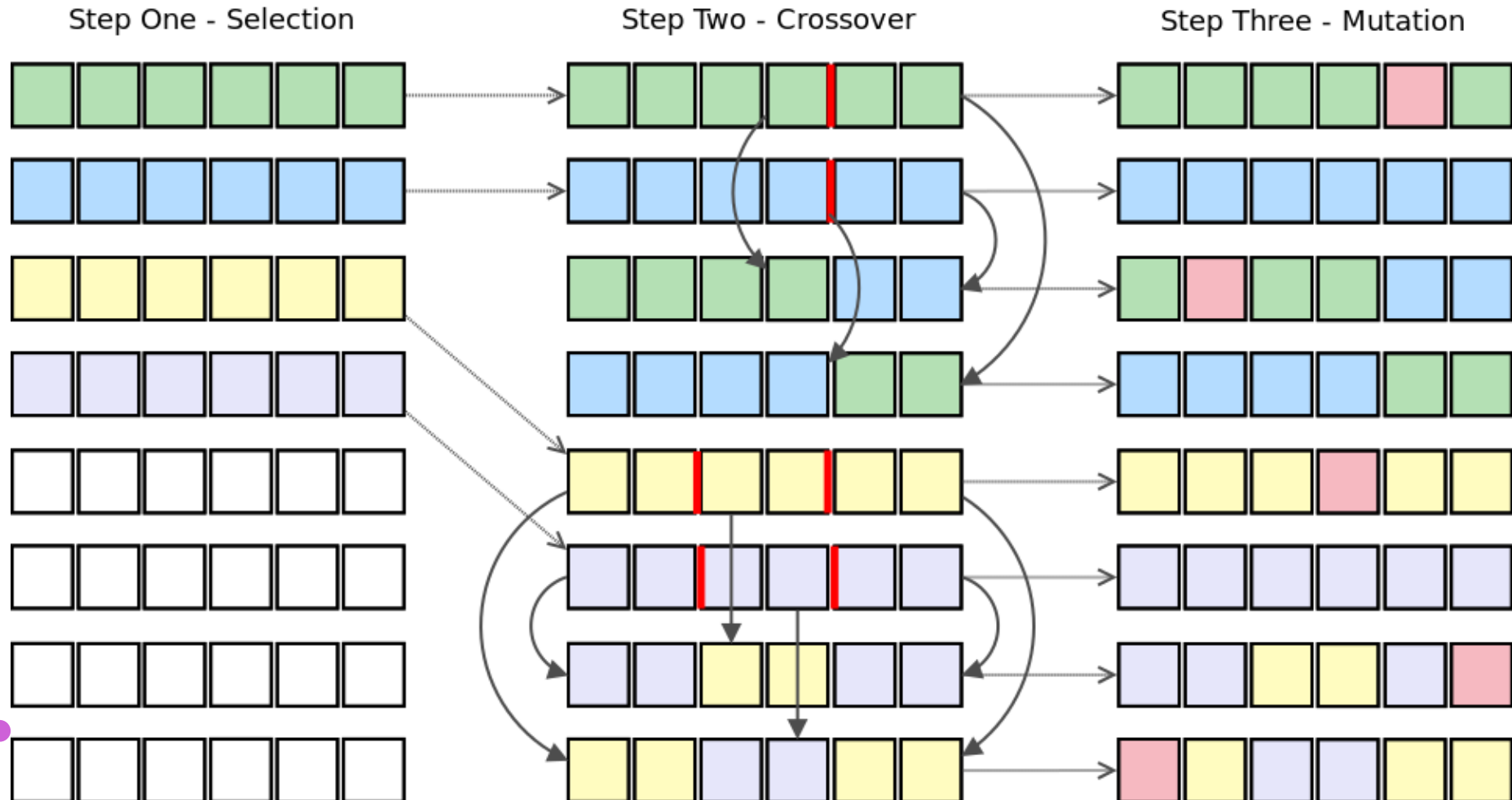


# Boltzmann Distribution



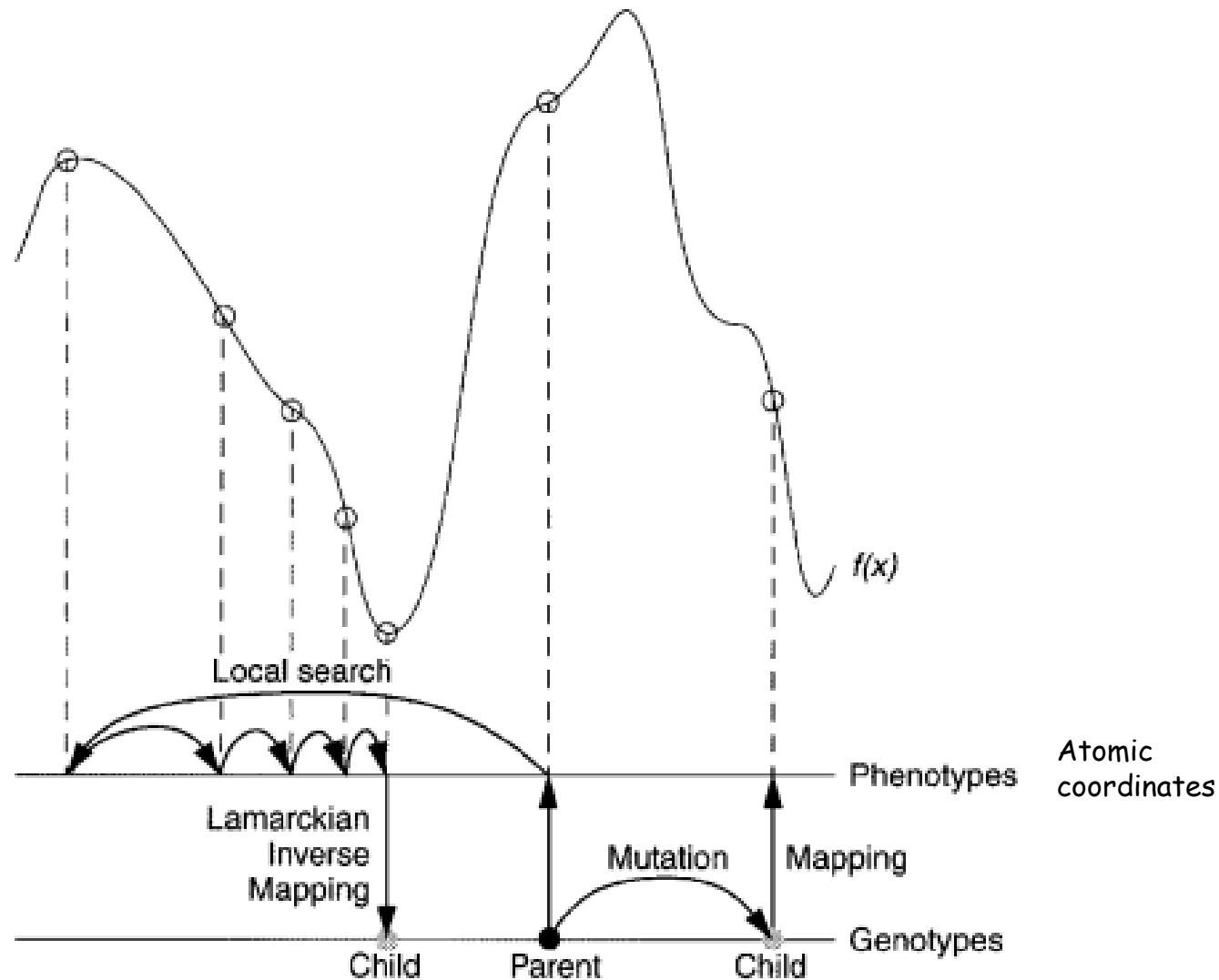
# Genetic Algorithms

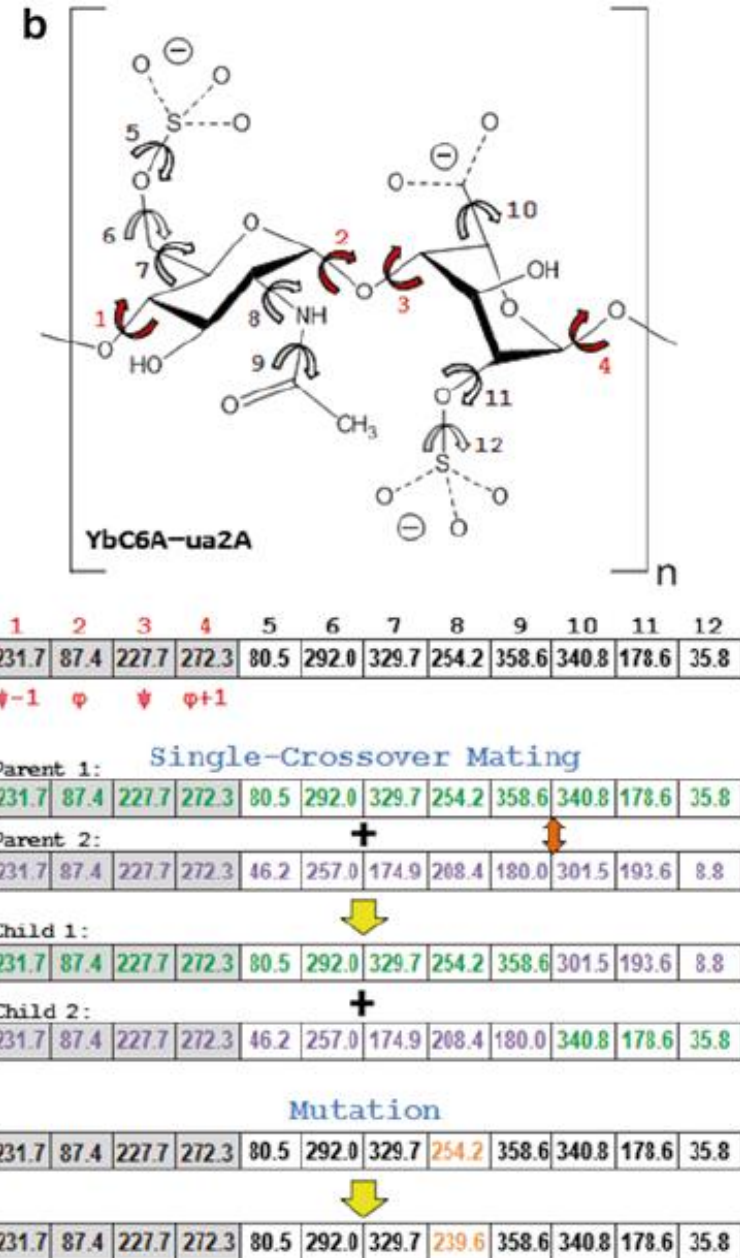
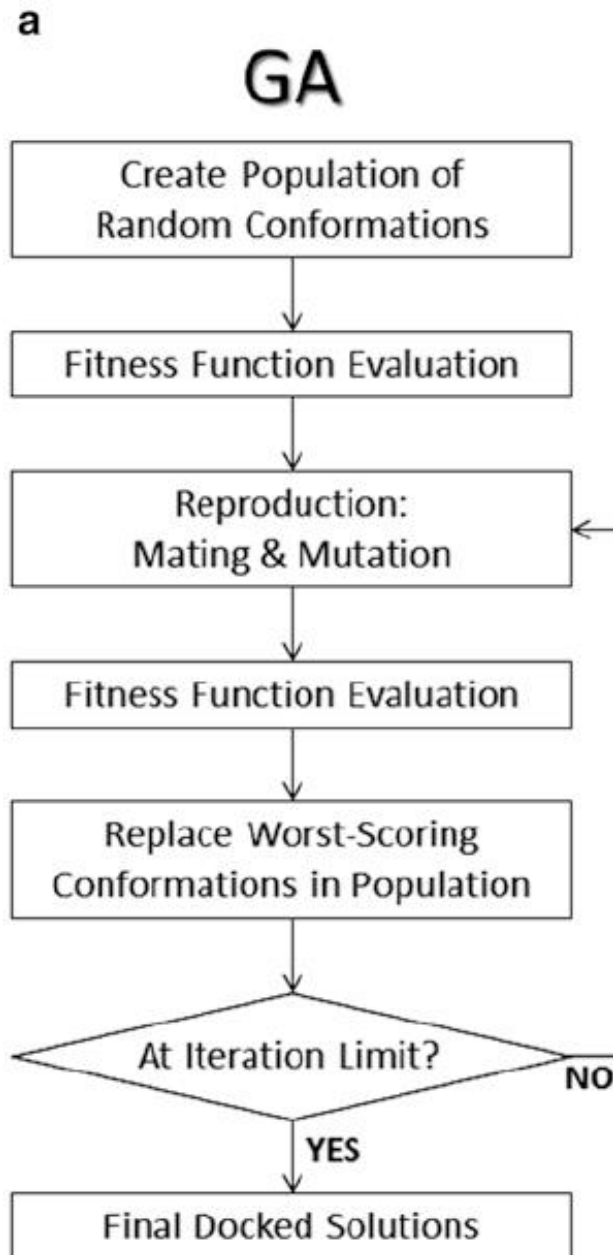
# Genetic Algorithms: Darwinian





# Genetic Algorithms: Lamarckian







# THANK YOU