

$$V(x) = V_2$$

$$V(x) = V_1 < V_2$$

•  $x_0$

The diagram illustrates the concept of level sets for a potential function  $V(x)$ . It features three concentric, horizontally-oriented ellipses drawn with blue lines. The innermost ellipse is labeled  $V(x) = V_1 < V_2$  above it. The outermost ellipse is labeled  $V(x) = V_2$  above it. At the center of these ellipses is a black dot labeled  $\bullet x_0$ . Three black arrows point from the outer ellipse towards the inner ellipse, indicating a direction of decreasing potential energy.