

# **Dimensionality reduction with principal component analysis**

# Dimensionality reduction

- Biomolecular simulations have  $3N$  dimensions, but in practice, functionally relevant macromolecular motion can be described with a lot fewer.
- Cartesian coordinates ( $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$ ) of each atom are the most common description but molecular systems can be described by other coordinate systems
- You have probably already seen
  - the free energy of butane as a function of the dihedral angle
  - the Ramachandran diagram, where protein backbones are described by the  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  angles

