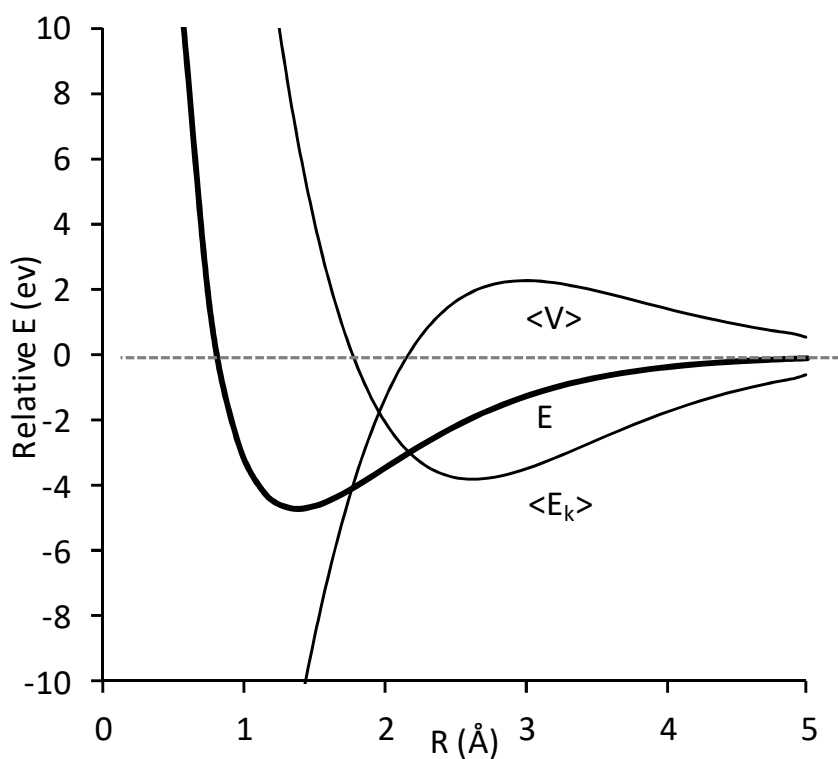
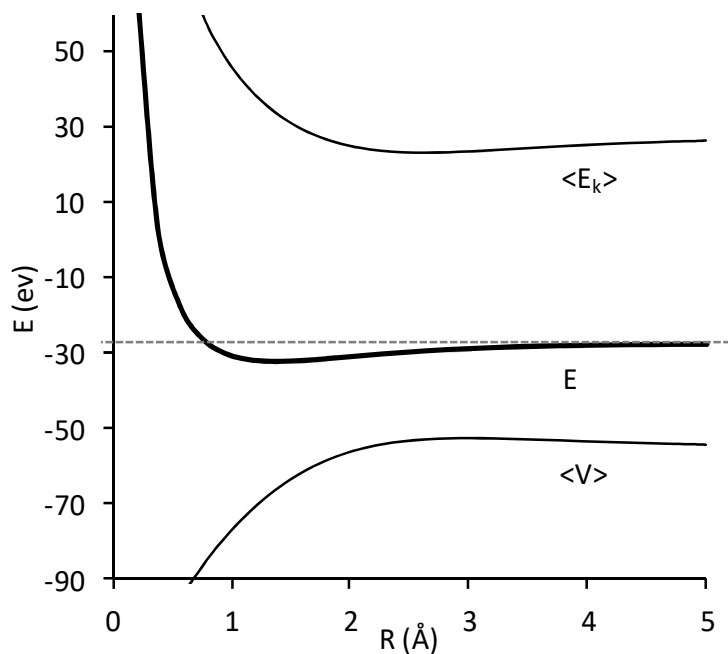


## Why do Atoms Stick Together?



(*Top*): Electronic energy,  $E$ , average kinetic energy,  $\langle E_k \rangle$ , and average potential energy,  $\langle V \rangle$ , as a function of bond length for  $H_2$ . The electronic energy is a balance of large opposing kinetic and potential energy contributions. (*Bottom*): The same data plotted relative to the separated atoms to highlight changes in energy.