

# C7790 Introduction to Molecular Modelling

TSM Modelling Molecular Structures

C9087 Computational Chemistry for Structural Biology

Lesson 13

Potential Energy Surface I

**JS/2022 Present Form of Teaching: Rev3**

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# Context

## macroworld

### states

(thermodynamic properties, G, T,...)

### phenomenological thermodynamics

equilibrium (equilibrium constant)

kinetics (rate constant)

free energy  
(Gibbs/Helmholtz)



partition function

### statistical thermodynamics

### microstates

(mechanical properties, E)

microstate  $\neq$  microworld

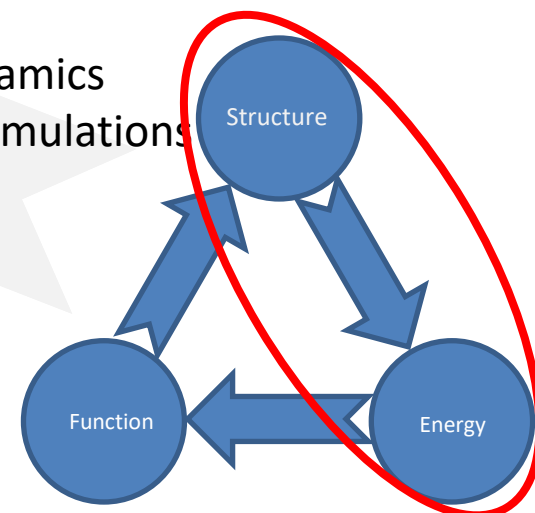
## microworld

### Description levels (model chemistry):

- quantum mechanics
  - semiempirical methods
  - ab initio methods
  - post-HF methods
  - DFT methods
- molecular mechanics
- coarse-grained mechanics

### Simulations:

- molecular dynamics
- Monte Carlo simulations
- docking
- ...



# Revision

$$\hat{H}\phi(\mathbf{x}, t) = i\hbar \frac{\partial \phi(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial t}$$

time dependent Schrödinger equation

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$$\phi(\mathbf{x}, t) = \psi(\mathbf{x})f(t)$$

time independent Schrödinger equation

$$\hat{H}\psi_k(\mathbf{x}) = E_k\psi_k(\mathbf{x})$$

system can exist in several quantum states, each state is described by wavefunction  $\psi_k$  and has energy  $E_k$

# Revision

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time independent Schrödinger equation

**Born- Oppenheim approximation**

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}) = \chi(\mathbf{R})\Psi(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R})$$

$$\hat{H}\psi_k(\mathbf{x}) = E_k\psi_k(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\hat{H}_e\Psi_m(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}) = E_m(\mathbf{R})\Psi_m(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R})$$

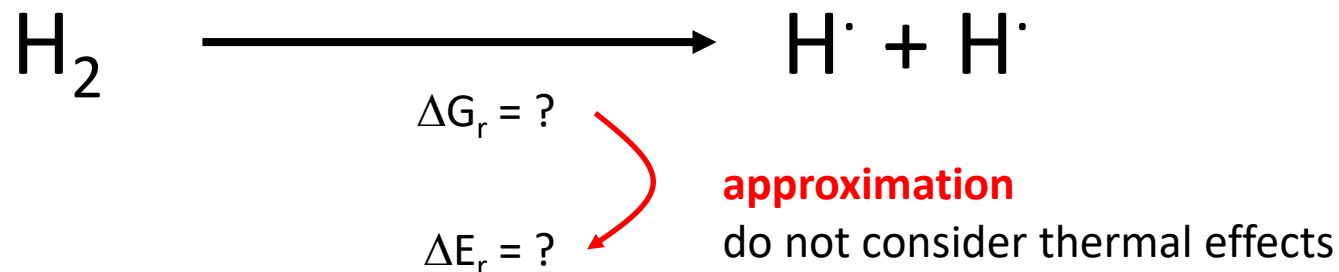
electron motion in the static field of nuclei  
electronic properties

$$\hat{H}_R\chi_l(\mathbf{R}) = E_{VRT,l}\chi_l(\mathbf{R})$$

nuclei motion in effective field of electrons  
vibration, rotation, translation

# Hydrogen molecule

HW: What is the dissociation energy of H<sub>2</sub>, D<sub>2</sub>, and T<sub>2</sub>?



$$\hat{H}_e \Psi_m(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}) = E_m(\mathbf{R}) \Psi_m(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R})$$

Energy is a function of nuclei positions.

The function and its projections to lower dimensional configurational spaces are called potential energy surface.

What is the potential energy surface for H<sub>2</sub>, D<sub>2</sub>, and T<sub>2</sub>?

Do they differ?

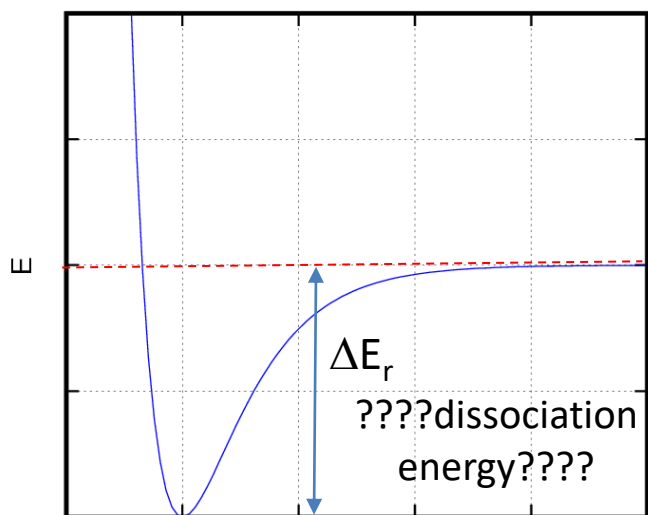
# H<sub>2</sub> - Potential Energy Surface

$$\hat{H}_e \Psi_m(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}) = E_m(\mathbf{R}) \Psi_m(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R})$$

positions of electrons ( $\mathbf{r}$ ) and nuclei ( $\mathbf{R}$ )

dissociated state

Potential Energy Surface



2H·

What is the energy of dissociated state?  
How is it related to reference states?

Two suitable reference states:

- **standard QM reference state** (infinite separation of electrons and nuclei, no kinetic energy) - negative energy
- **dissociated state** is considered as a reference with zero energy

bound state H<sub>2</sub>

distance between two hydrogen atoms

**REMEMBER:**

- The **reference state** represents well defined state with well defined energy, usually zero.
- Its choice is arbitrary, but it must be consistent for all compounds and their states.

# Recall Hamiltonian of chemical system

**Hamiltonian** of chemical system consisting of  $N$  nuclei of mass  $M$  and charge  $Z$  and  $n$  electrons is given by:

kinetic energy operator (**ELECTRONS ONLY**)

potential energy

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j>i}^N \frac{Z_i Z_j}{r_{ij}} - \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{Z_i}{r_{ij}} + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j>i}^n \frac{1}{r_{ij}}$$

electrons

nucleus-nucleus

electron-nucleus

electron-electron

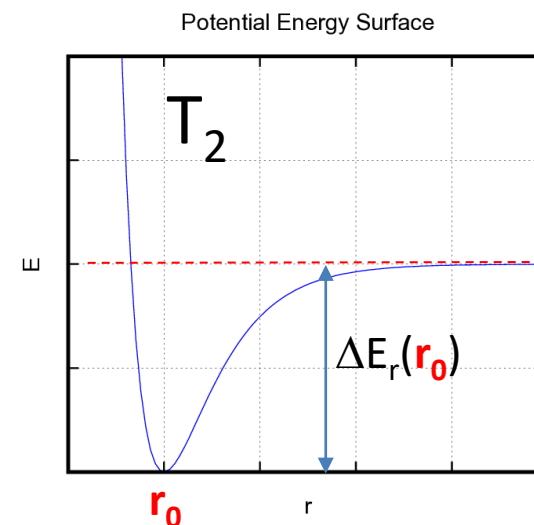
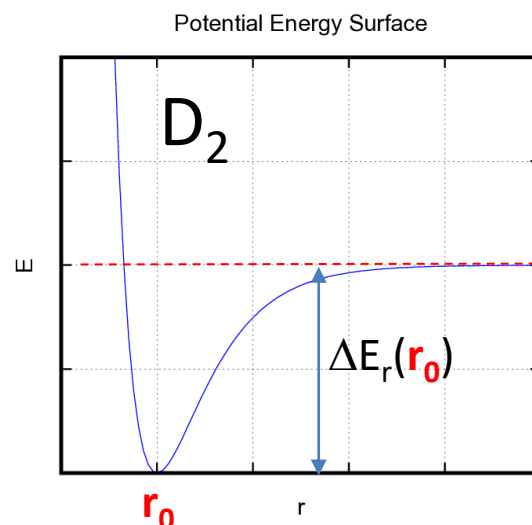
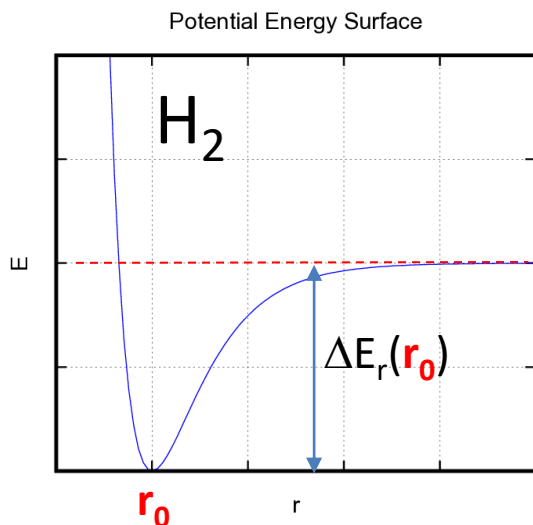
Schrödinger equation:

$$\hat{H}_e \Psi_m(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}) = E_m(\mathbf{R}) \Psi_m(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R})$$

**Nuclei motion (nuclei mass) is not considered in the BO approximation.**



# H<sub>2</sub>, D<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> - Potential Energy Surface

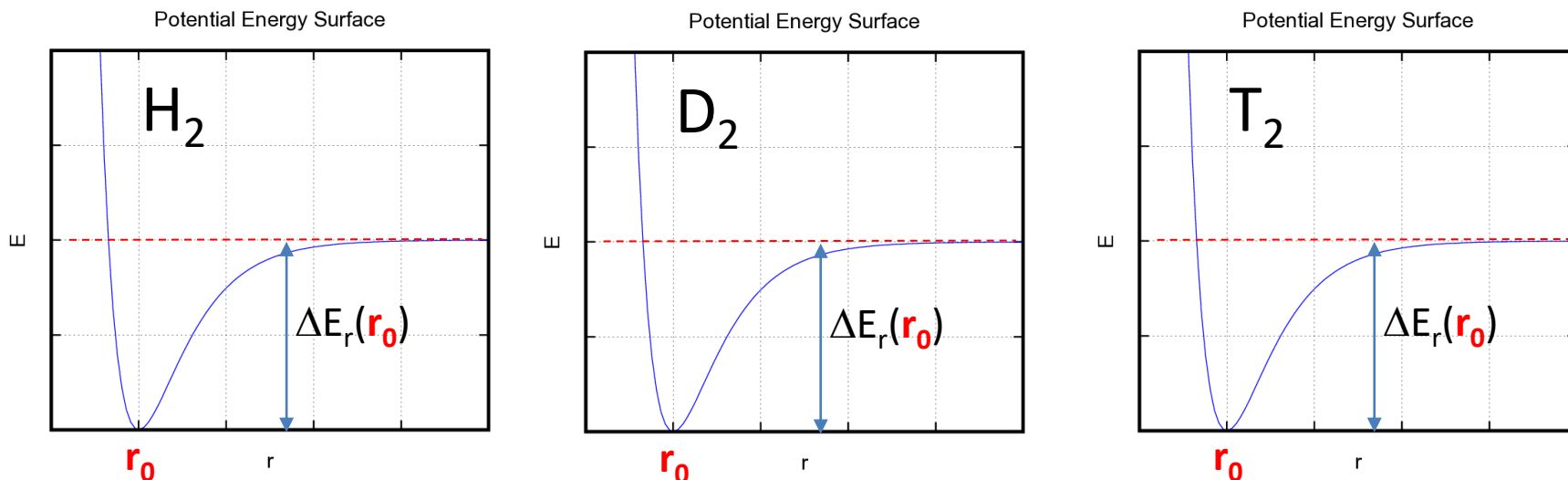


**Potential energy surfaces are the same!  
 $r_0$  is the same as well.**

Reason:

All three systems are chemically identical  
(two electrons and two +1 charged nuclei).

# H<sub>2</sub>, D<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> - Potential Energy Surface



What about vibrations? Do they contribute and how?

Consider harmonic oscillator (approximation):

$$E_V = \left( v + \frac{1}{2} \right) h\nu$$

characteristic frequency

non-zero energy even in the ground vibration state!!!

$$v = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

# H<sub>2</sub>, D<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> - Vibrations

Harmonic oscillator:

$$E_V = \left( v + \frac{1}{2} \right) h\nu \quad \nu = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{K}{\mu}}$$

$v = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

characteristic frequency

force constant; does it differ?

reduced mass (clearly this differs among H<sub>2</sub>, D<sub>2</sub>, and T<sub>2</sub>)

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What about the force constant?

Harmonic potential:

*tangent*

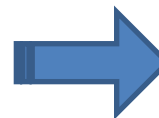
*curvature*

$$V(r) = \frac{1}{2} K(r - r_0)^2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{\partial V(r)}{\partial r} = K(r - r_0) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{\partial^2 V(r)}{\partial r^2} = K$$

first derivative  
with respect to r

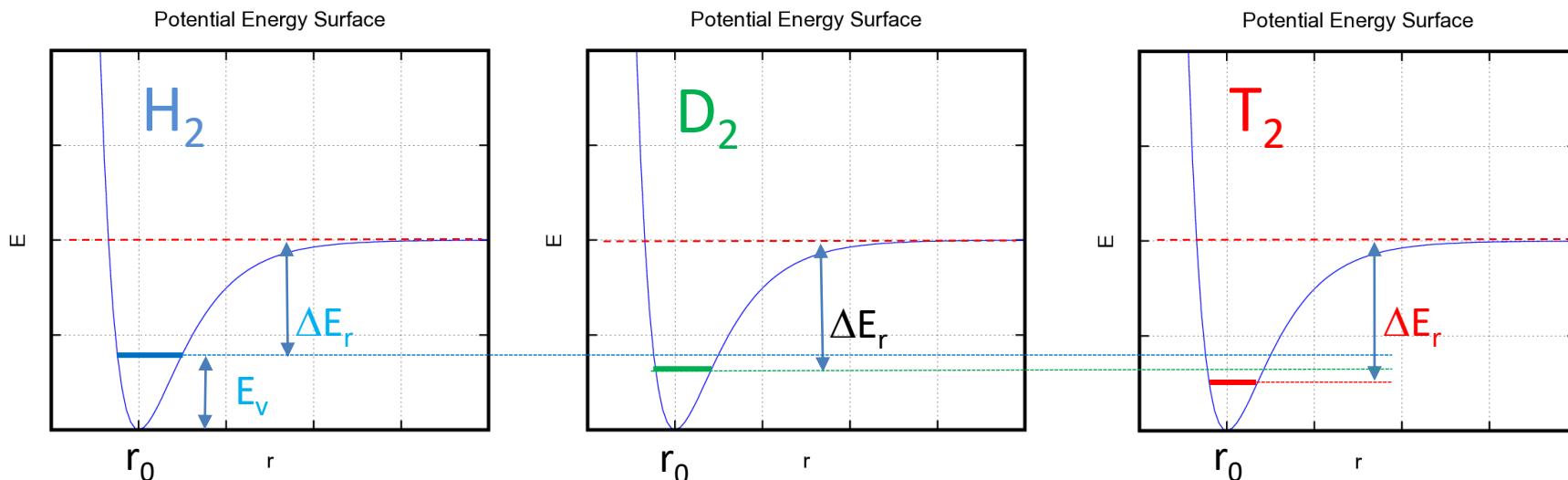
second derivative  
with respect to r

The force constant can be determined from the PES curvature at equilibrium distance ( $r_0$ ) in harmonic approximation.



All three systems have the same PES and thus the same K as well .

# H<sub>2</sub>, D<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> - PES + Vibrations



**!! not in scale !!**

$$|\Delta E_r| < |\Delta E_r| < |\Delta E_r|$$

$$r_0 = r_0 = r_0$$

$r_e \sim r_e \sim r_e$  observable equilibrium bond lengths  
 impact of anharmonicity and QM  
 character of vibrations

bigger mass -> smaller frequency -> lower energy

$$E_V = \left( v + \frac{1}{2} \right) h\nu$$

$$\nu = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{K}{\mu}}$$

bigger mass -> smaller frequency -> lower energy

# Revision

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electron motion in the static field of nuclei  
electronic properties

$$\hat{H}_R \chi_l(\mathbf{R}) = E_{VRT,l} \chi_l(\mathbf{R})$$

nuclei motion in effective field of electrons  
vibration, rotation, translation

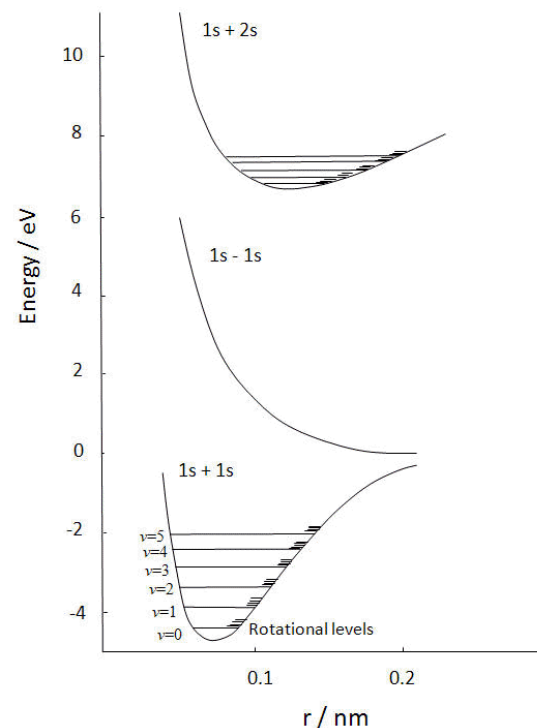
electronic energy part

vibration, rotation,  
translation energy part

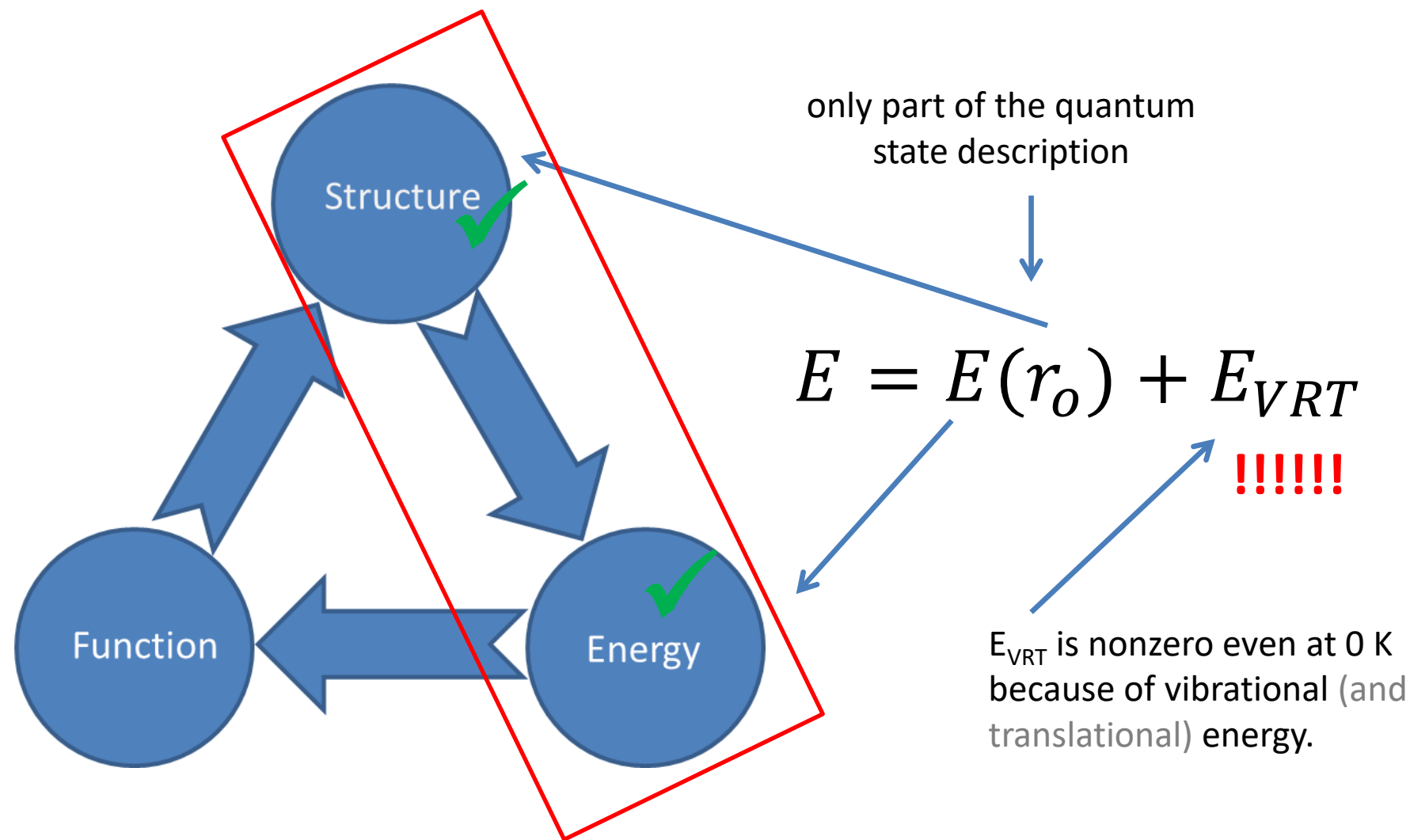
$$E_k = E_m(R_{opt,m}) + E_{VRT,l}$$

total energy of the state

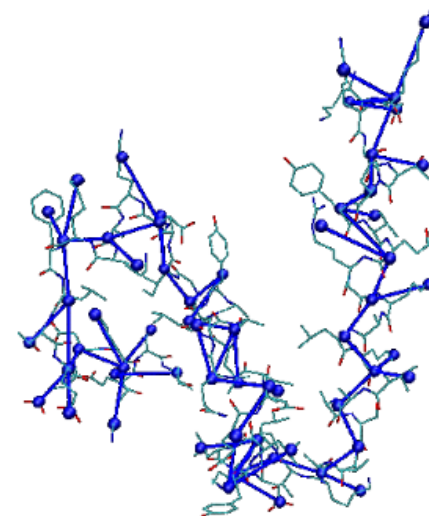
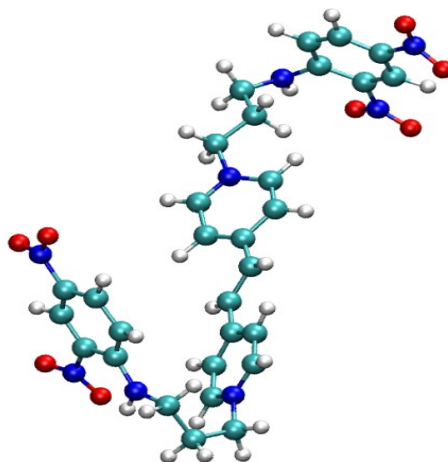
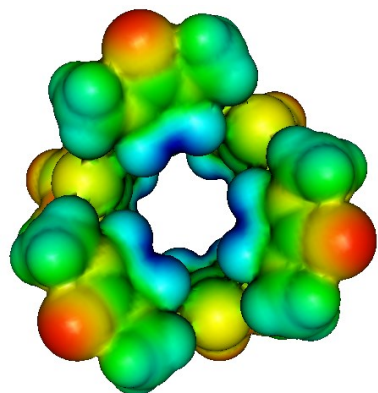
optimal geometry, at  
which  $E_m$  is minimal



# Structure vs system state



# Method overview (model chemistry)



QM (Quantum mechanics)

MM (Molecular mechanics)

CGM (Coarse-grained mechanics)

$$E(\mathbf{R})$$

approximations



$$E(\mathbf{R})$$

approximations



$$E(\mathbf{R})$$

R - position of atom nuclei

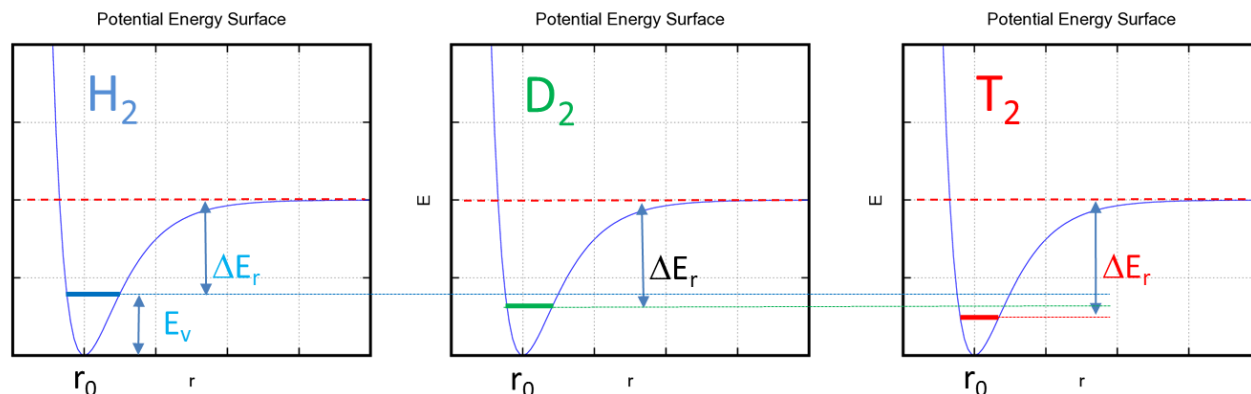
R - position of atoms

R - position of beads



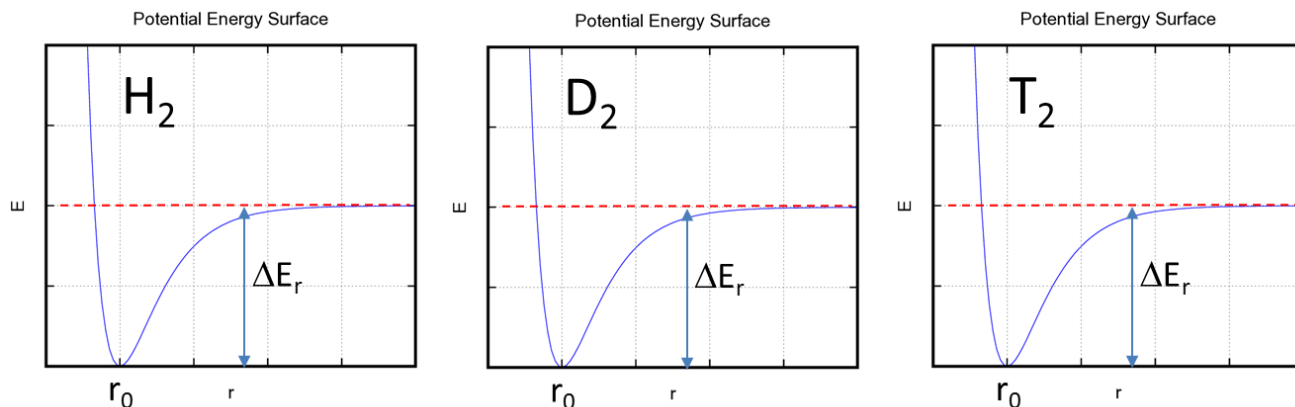
# Quantum vs Classical description

- **Fully QM**
- QM, MM + **QM harmonic approximation**, or similar  $\omega$
- QM, MM + **path integral molecular dynamics**



thermal energy not shown in graphs is  $1/2k_B T$  (equipartition principle) in all cases (fully quantum/classical)

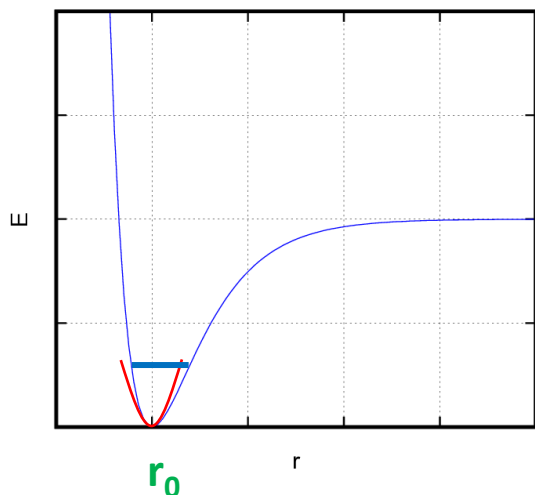
- QM, MM, CG + classical nuclei/atom motions, molecular dynamics (MD)



**NO DIFFERENCE**

# Summary

Potential Energy Surface



To characterize a quantum state:

$$E = E(r_0) + E_{VRT}$$

a) we need to find  
a potential energy minimum

b) we can further evaluate vibrations  
from the PES curvature at the minimum



(too difficult to calculate, thus it is usually neglected)

- PES cannot describe mass effect of nuclei; it only describes electronic effects.
- Isotope effects can be measured experimentally
  - Primary Isotope Effect (kinetics)
  - Secondary Isotope Effect (kinetics)
  - It can be even tasted by your tongue, see:

Ben Abu, N.; Mason, P. E.; Klein, H.; Dubovski, N.; Ben Shoshan-Galeczki, Y.; Malach, E.; Pražienková, V.; Maletínská, L.; Tempra, C.; Chamorro, V. C.; Cvačka, J.; Behrens, M.; Niv, M. Y.; Jungwirth, P. Sweet Taste of Heavy Water. *Communications Biology* **2021**, 4 (1), 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-021-01964-y>.