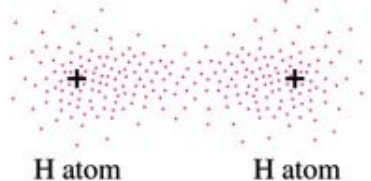


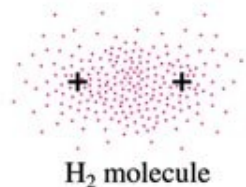
Forming H₂



Sufficiently far apart
to have no interaction

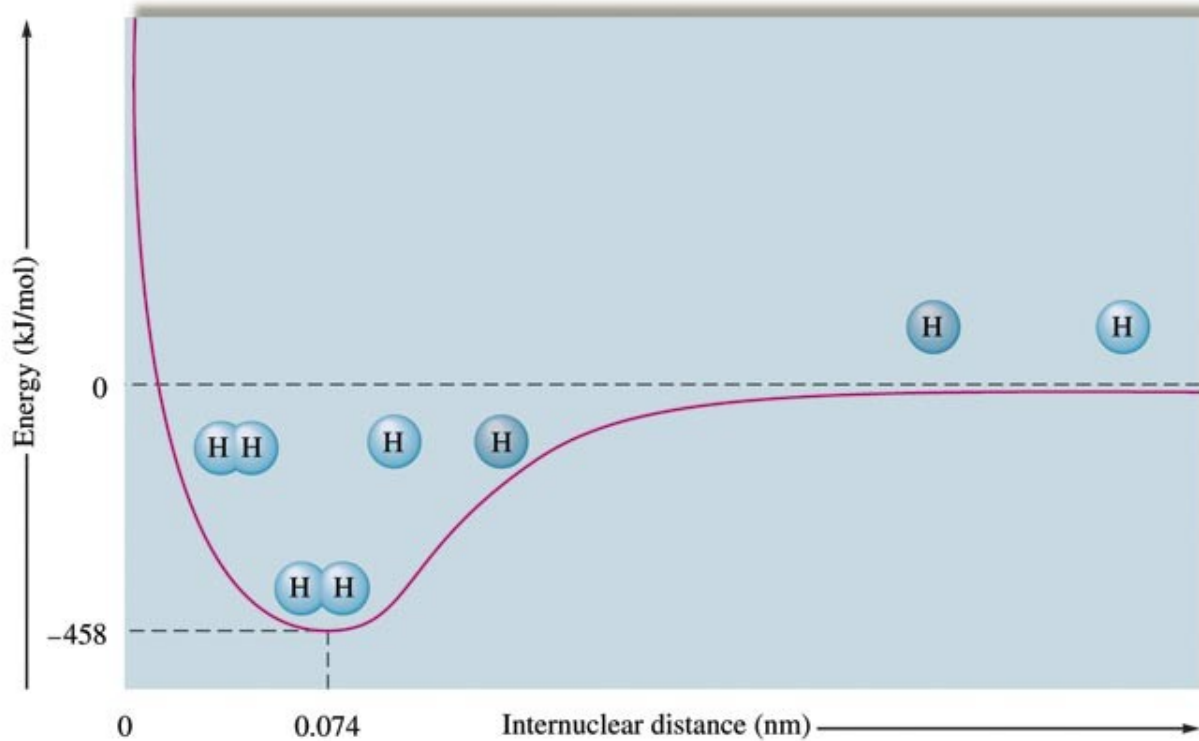


The atoms begin to interact
as they move closer together.



Optimum distance to achieve
lowest overall energy of system

(a)



(H—H bond length)

(b)