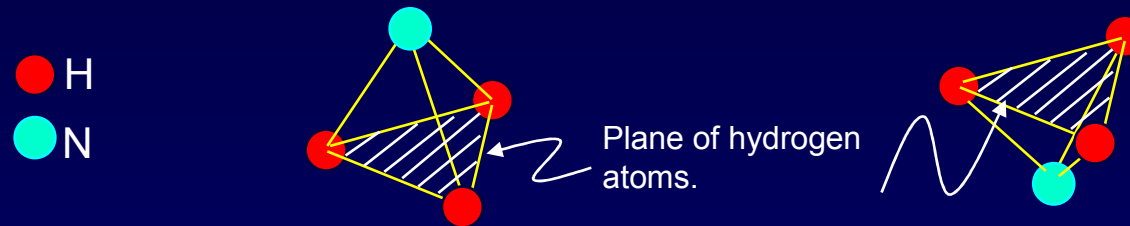
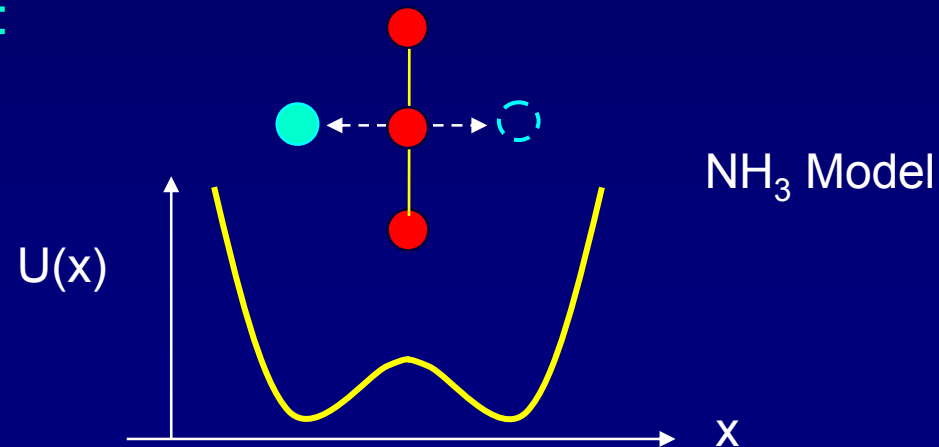


Example: The Ammonia Molecule

This example will bring together several things you've learned so far. Consider the ammonia (NH_3) molecule:



The N atom in the ammonia molecule (NH_3) can have two equilibrium positions: above or below the plane of the H atoms, as shown. If we graph the potential as the N atom moves along the line joining these positions, we get:



The nitrogen atom can tunnel between these two equivalent positions.