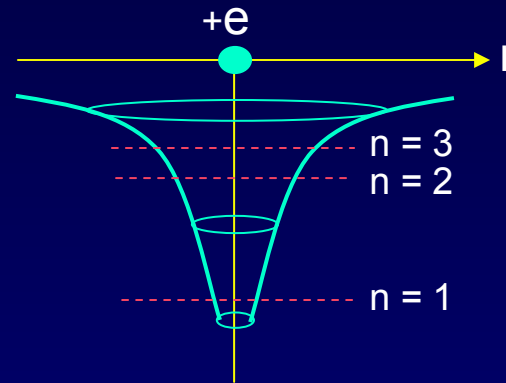


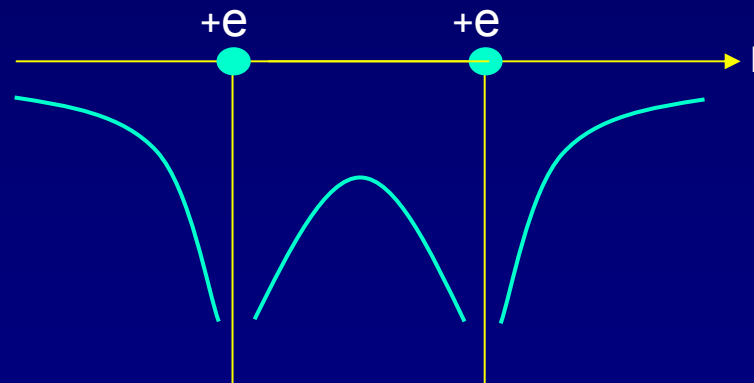
# Bonding Between Atoms

How can two neutral objects stick together?  $H + H \leftrightarrow H_2$

Let's represent the atom in space by its Coulomb potential centered on the proton (+e):



The potential energy due to the two protons in an  $H_2$  molecule looks something like this:



The energy levels for this potential are complicated, so we consider a simpler potential that we already know a lot about.