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Abstract for an Invited Paper for the MAR12 Meeting of the American Physical Society

Generalizations of the string method

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Generalizations of the string method will be presented that permit to identify the saddle points by which the process escapes the basin of attraction of a minimum of the potential due to thermal noise, or to map out the volume of this basin. These methods will be illustrated via examples such as thermal reorganization of Lennard-Jones clusters and packings of soft-spheres.