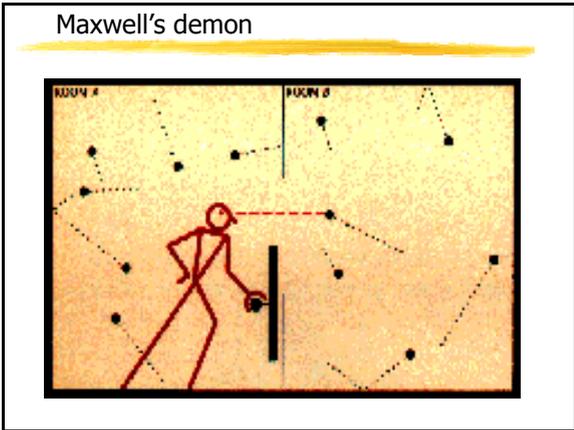
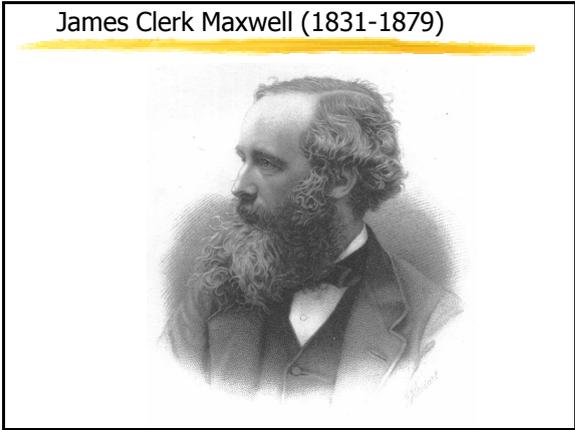


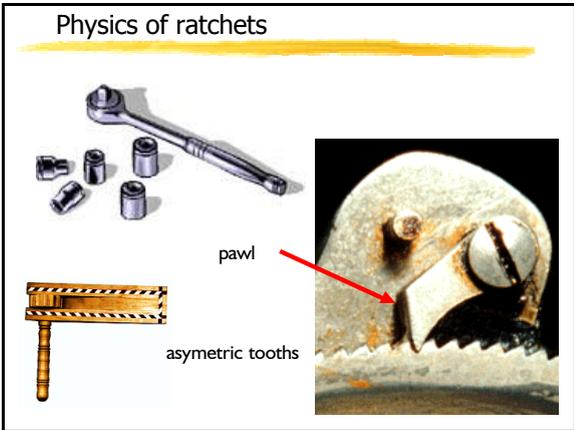
Maxwell's demon and Feynman's ratchet

- I Maxwell's demon
- II Feynman's ratchet
- III Molecular motors



Richard Phillips Feynman (1918-1988)

<http://www.caltech.edu/cgi-bin/arcquery?Feynman>



The Feynman Lectures on Physics, I-46

pawl

ratchet

vane

torque L

F

T_2

T_1

Forward rotation

e energy to lift the pawl
 Lq work done on load
 $e + Lq$ energy to rotate wheel by one tooth
 $f_B^f = Z^{-1} e^{-(e+Lq)/t_1}$ Boltzmann factor for work provided by vane
 $n f_B^f$ ratcheting rate with n attempt frequency
 $n f_B^f Lq$ power delivered

e energy provided to ratchet

Backward rotation

e energy to lift the pawl
 Lq work provided by load
 $e + Lq$ energy given to vane
 $f_B^b = Z^{-1} e^{-e/t_2}$ Boltzmann factor for tooth slip
 $n f_B^b$ slip rate with attempt frequency n

Equilibrium and reversibility

ratcheting rate = slip rate $f_B^b = f_B^f$
 $L_{eq} q = \left(\frac{t_1}{t_2} - 1 \right) e$
 Reversible process by increasing the load infinitesimally from equilibrium L_{eq} . This forces a rotation leading to heating of reservoir 1 with $dq_1 = e + L_{eq} q$ and cooling of reservoir 2 as $dq_2 = -e$:

$$\frac{dq_1}{t_1} + \frac{dq_2}{t_2} = dS_1 + dS_2 = 0$$

isentropic process

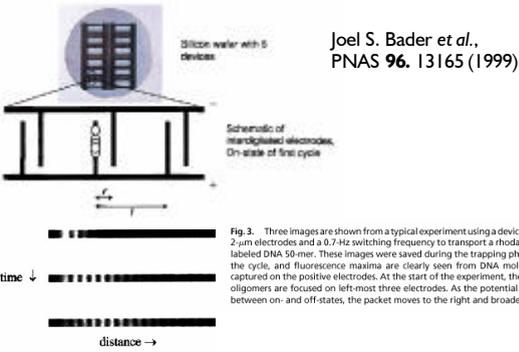
Ratchet Brownian motor

Angular velocity of ratchet: $\Omega = qn (f_B^f - f_B^b) = qn \left(e^{-\frac{e+Lq}{t_1}} - e^{-\frac{e}{t_2}} \right)$
 Without load: $\Omega \xrightarrow{L=0} qn \left(e^{-\frac{e}{t_1}} - e^{-\frac{e}{t_2}} \right)$
 Equal temperatures: $\Omega(L) \xrightarrow{t_1=t_2=t} qn e^{-\frac{e}{t}} \left(e^{-\frac{Lq}{t}} - 1 \right)$

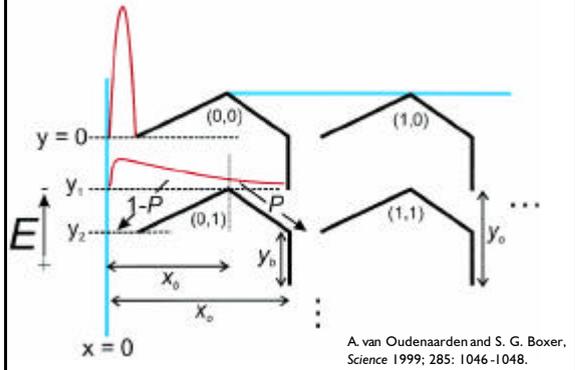
Escherichia coli ATP synthase

H. Wang and G. Oster (Nature 396:279-282 1998)

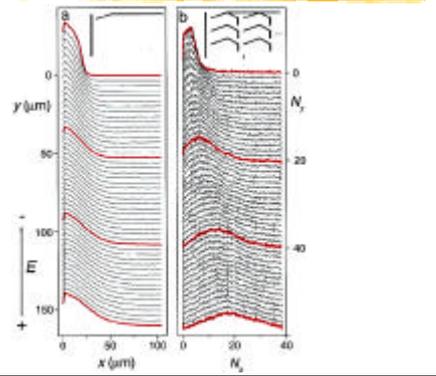
DNA transport by a micromachined Brownian ratchet device



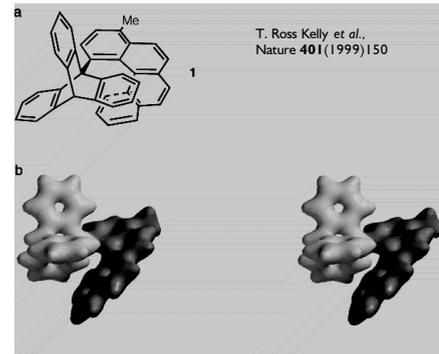
Geometrical Brownian ratchet I



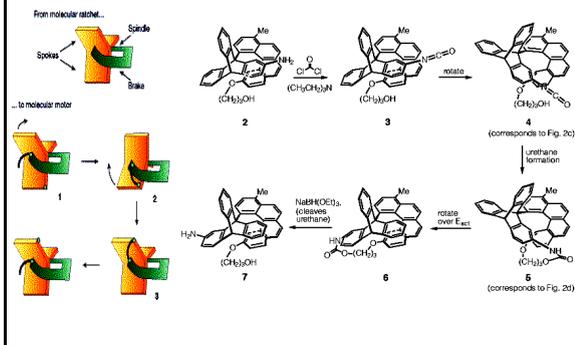
Geometrical Brownian ratchet II



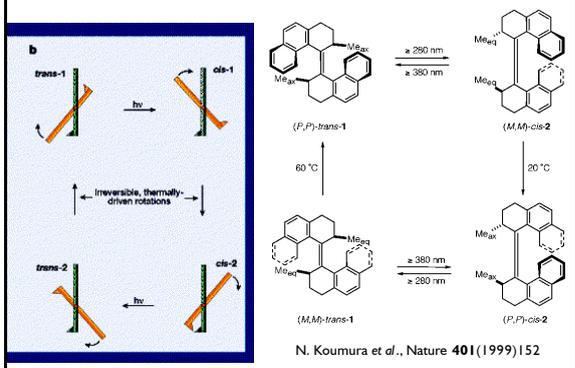
Unidirectional molecular rotation



Chemically driven rotation



Light driven rotation



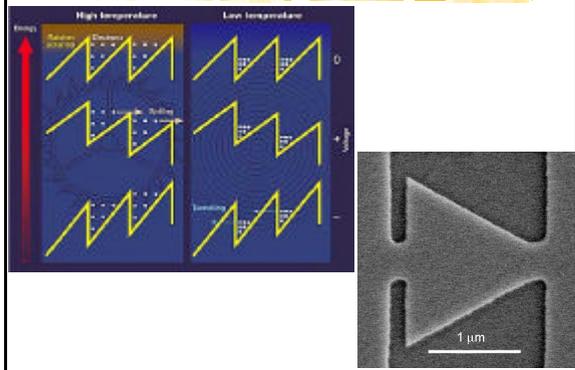
Maxwell's demon



W. Smoluchowski (1941):
No automatic, permanently effective perpetual motion machine can violate the second law by taking advantage of statistical fluctuations (Feynman: the demon is getting hot). Such device might perhaps function if operated by intelligent beings.

W.H. Zurek, Nature **341**(1989)119:
The second law is safe from intelligent beings as long as their abilities to process information are subject to the same laws as these of universal Turing machines.

Quantum demon? (ask Milena Grifoni)



Fluctuations of μm -sized trapped colloidal particles

G.M. Wang *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 89(2002)050601

