

## SECTION 1 : THE MOLECULES THAT GENERATE MOTION

### LECTURE 2 : ROTARY MOTORS

Roop Mallik, BSBE – IIT Bombay

BB101 – Biology. Autumn Semester 2022-2023

#### Resources :-

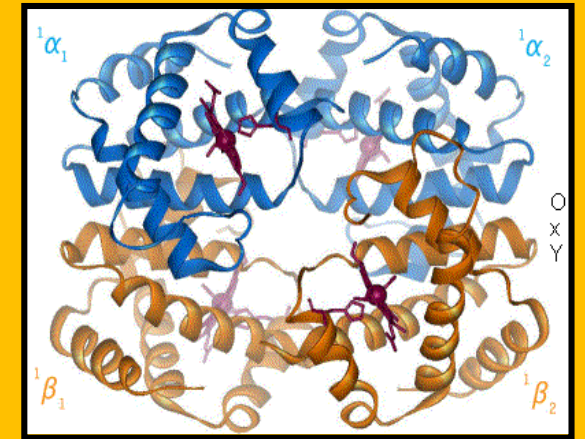
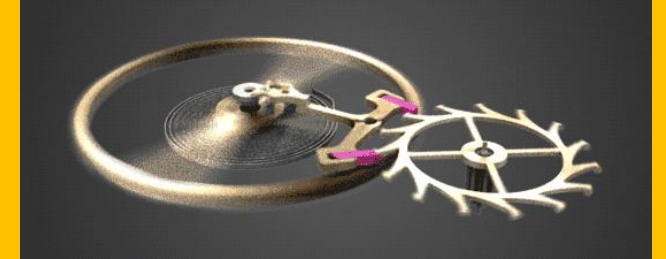
Molecular Biology of the Cell: Alberts

Chapter 4, Single Molecule Biology : Alex Knight

Physical Biology of the Cell. Philips, Kondev, Theriot, Garcia

[Article by R. Berry](#) (Flagellar motor)

#### RECALL FROM LAST LECTURE



# Molecular Motors – Special Protein Machines

Generates Directed “Predictable” Motion  
using :-

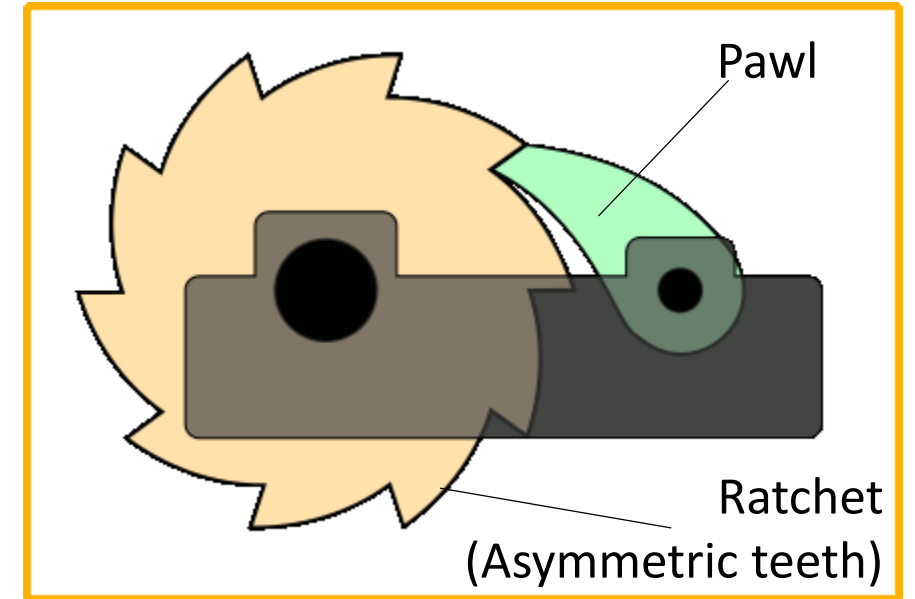
- Electrical energy
- Chemical energy
- Light energy
- Other energy (?)

Motor



- “Mechano-chemical” Enzyme
- Motion drives metabolic functions
- Works at the Molecular Level ... “Nano”

Theoretical Models  
Ratchet and Pawl



Rectify Thermal Motion to do Useful work

# Why should you care ?

- Cannot imagine Life without Motion
- Essential – e.g. needed for cells to divide. Mutations lead to Neuronal degeneration, Developmental defects, Cancer
- Likely important to Evolve higher forms of Life.
- Efficient nanoscale machines - Can we make our own ?

More Info :- [iBiology Talk Ronald Vale](#)  
[Motor Proteins in Disease](#)

## The Motion of Cells



van Leeuwenhoek,  
1674

“The motion of most of them in the water was so swift, and so various, upwards, downwards, and roundabout, that I admit I could not but wonder at it.”

## Motion Inside of Cells



Bonaventura Corti,  
1774

From "Microscopic World" The plant Elodea

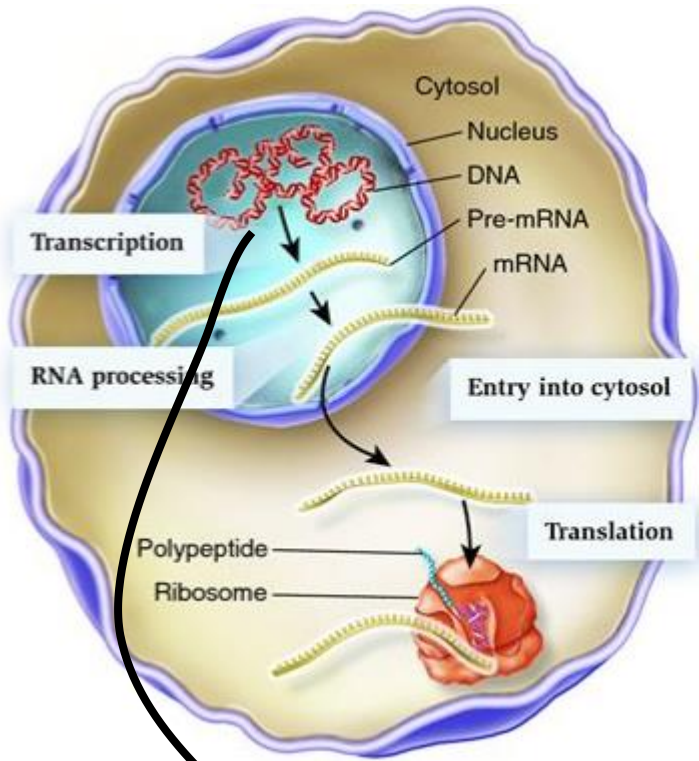
“I know that the phenomenon that I announce is too strange to be believed at first... I saw two torrents inside each section .....One of the torrents rose on one side and descended on the other, constantly... and this not once but thousands of times and for days, and for entire weeks”

What kind of motion do Motor Proteins generate ?

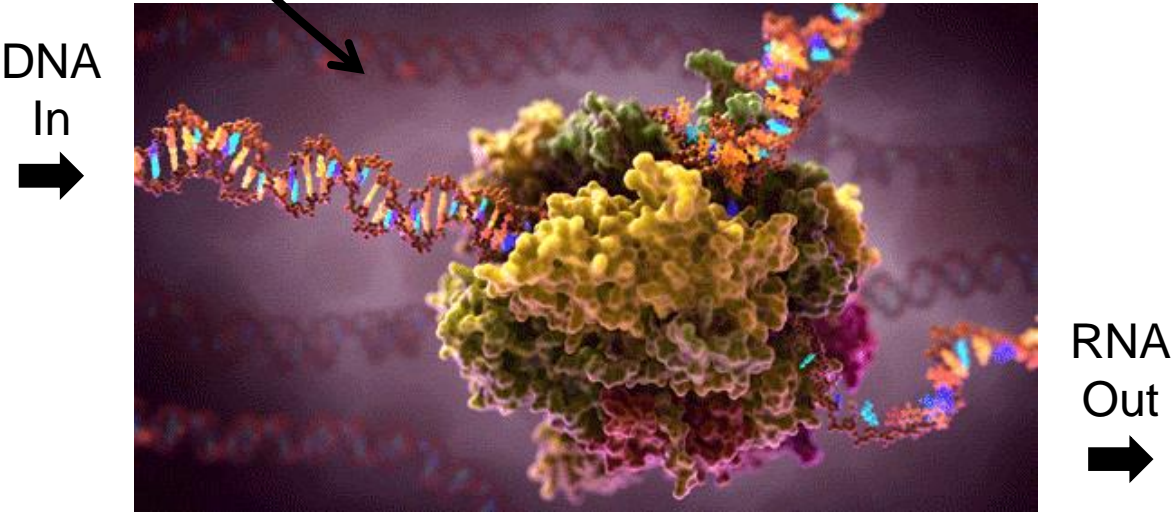
1) Linear Motors



DNA based	Use of Genetic Information (RNA Polymerase) Making Proteins (Ribosome)
Protein based	Moving muscles (Myosin) Moving things in the cell (Myosin, Kinesin, Dynein)



We'll return to Linear Motors in next class



RNA Polymerase *Artofthecell*

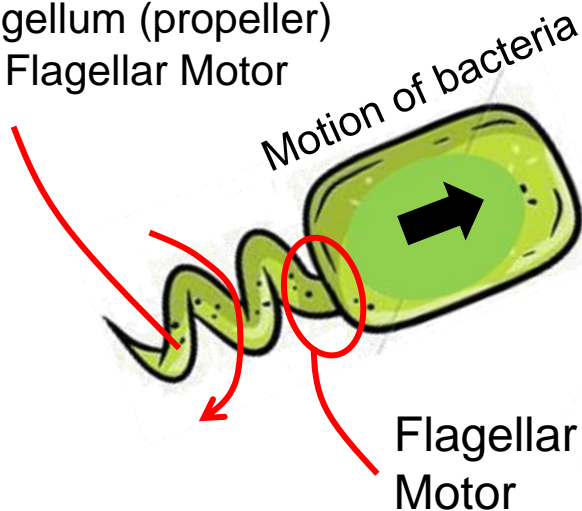


## 2) Rotary Molecular Motors

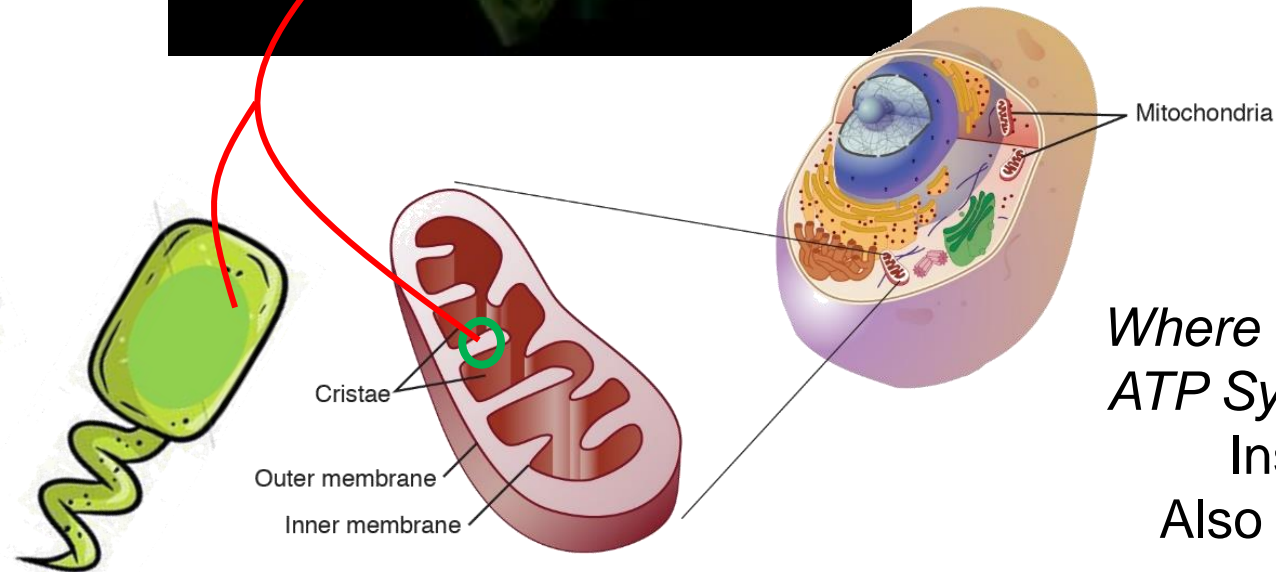
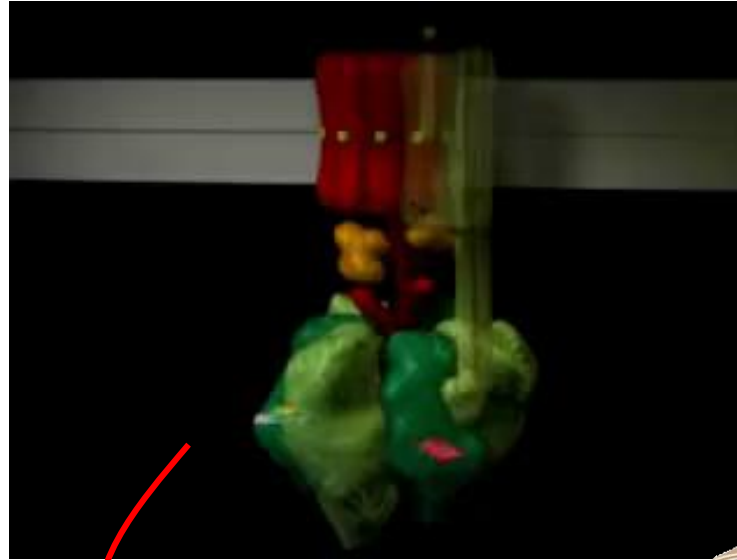
Example 1  
Bacterial Flagellar Motor



Helical Flagellum (propeller)  
rotated by Flagellar Motor



Example 2  
ATP Synthase

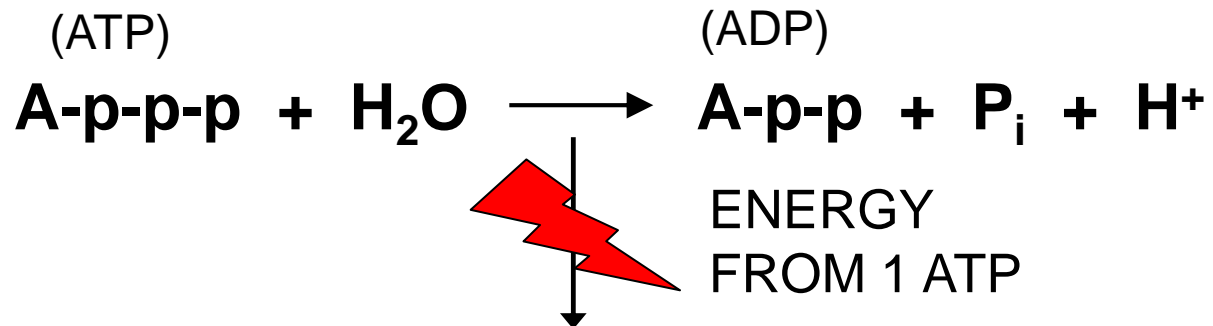


*Where do you find the  
ATP Synthase Motor?  
Inside your Cells  
Also inside bacteria*



# Rotary Motors play a critical role in your body ...

- Allow bacteria to hunt for food (by burning ATP)
- Make ATP to store Chemical energy → Use inside Cells



**$10^{-19}$  Joules = 25 kT = 100 pN-nm**

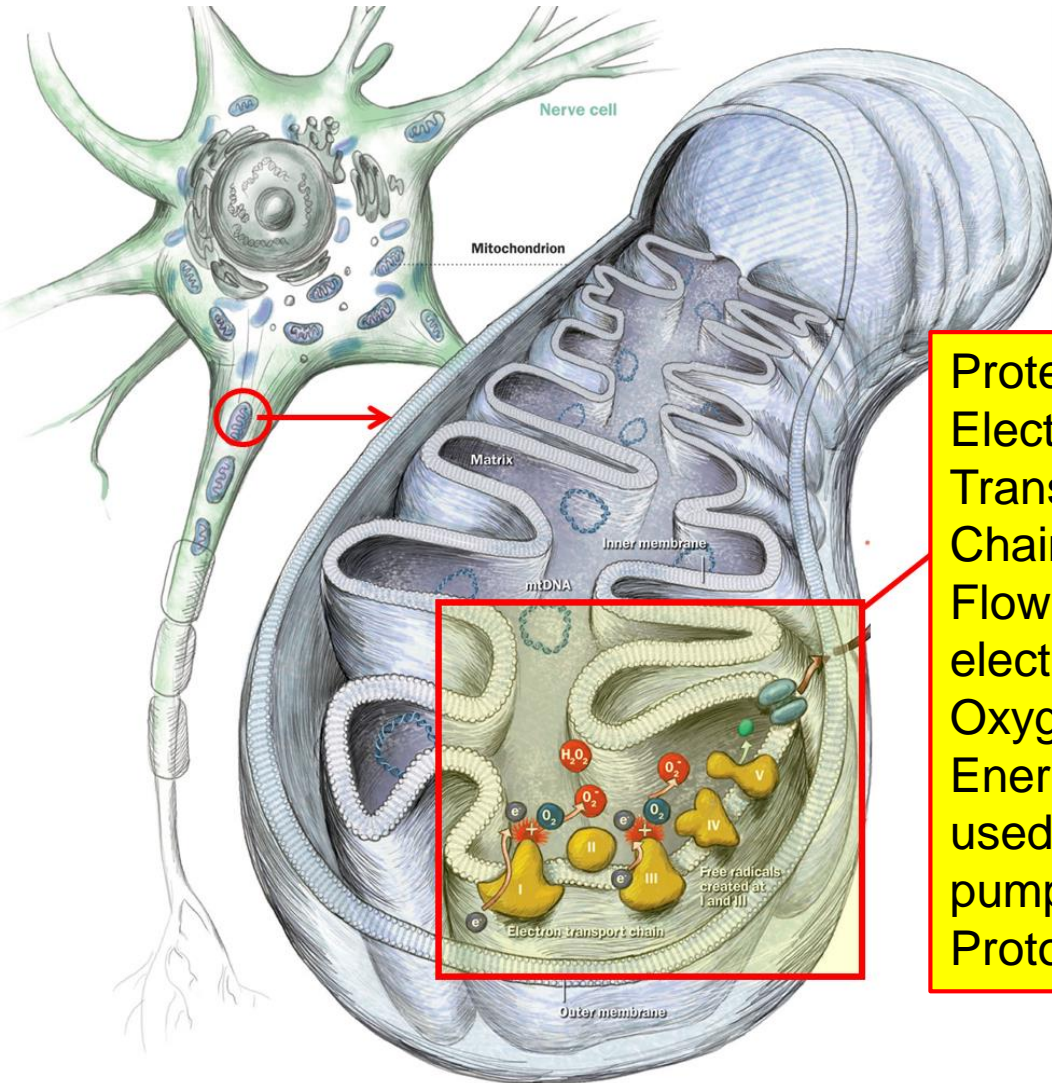
Nanoscale Protein Machines burn ATP to generate Force

Assume one ATP burnt per Cycle.

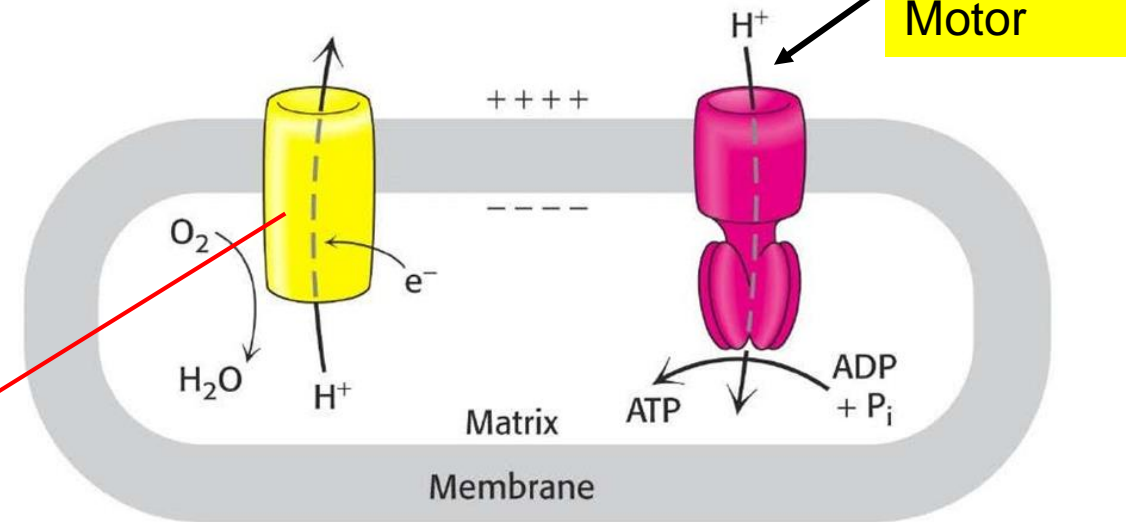
What does this number tell you ?

# Making ATP in your Body

## The ATP synthase Motor in Mitochondria

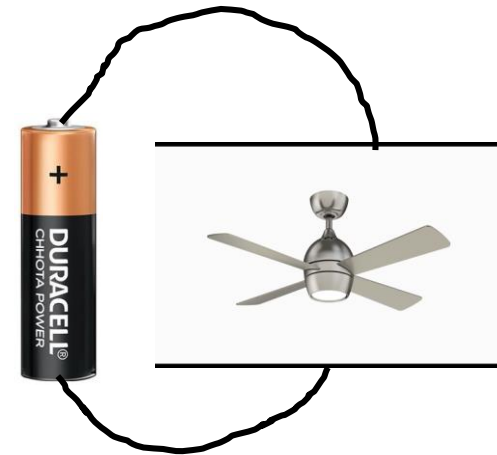


Proteins in  
Electron  
Transport  
Chain →  
Flow of  
electrons to  
Oxygen →  
Energy is  
used to  
pump out  
Protons



*Simplified Cartoon view Biochemistry by Lehninger*

Proton  
gradient  
across  
mitochondria  
membrane  
acts like a  
battery



Turns the fan  
(ATP synthase).

Rotary motion  
compresses  
ADP and  $P_i$   
together to  
make ATP



## Some numbers ...

Daily energy intake for an adult = approx. 2400 Kilo calories  
 $= 2400 \times 1000 \times 4.2 = 10^7$  Joules

Energy in 1 ATP molecule =  $10^{-19}$  Joules

If all food is converted into ATP, then you make  
 $10^7 / 10^{-19} = 10^{26}$  molecules of ATP/day

How much does this ATP weigh? ATP Molecular weight = 507

So,  $6 \times 10^{23}$  ATP molecules weigh 507 grams

$10^{26}$  molecules of ATP would weigh **~85 Kilograms**  
(More than my body weight !)

**Thus, most ATP is continuously converted into Energy.**

1 ATP synthase can make 300 molecules of ATP per second

In 24 hours, it makes  $25 \times 10^6$  ATP molecules

You need  $10^{26} / (25 \times 10^6) = 4 \times 10^{18}$  ATP synthases  
to convert your daily food intake into ATP

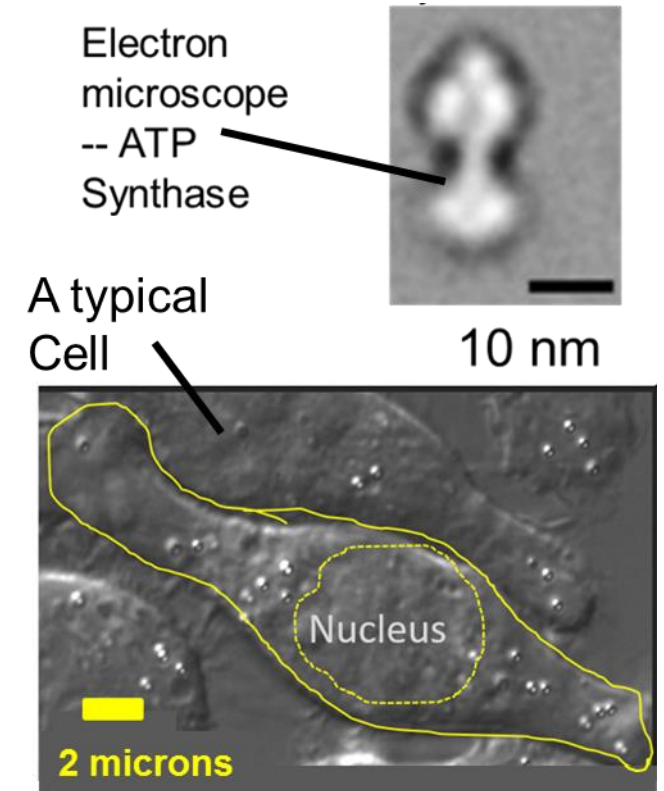
Human body has  $\sim 10^{12}$  Cells, So an average cell should have  $\sim 4$  million ATP synthases.

Homework :- *Would so many ATP synthases fit inside a Cell?*

Will not discuss ATP Synthase.

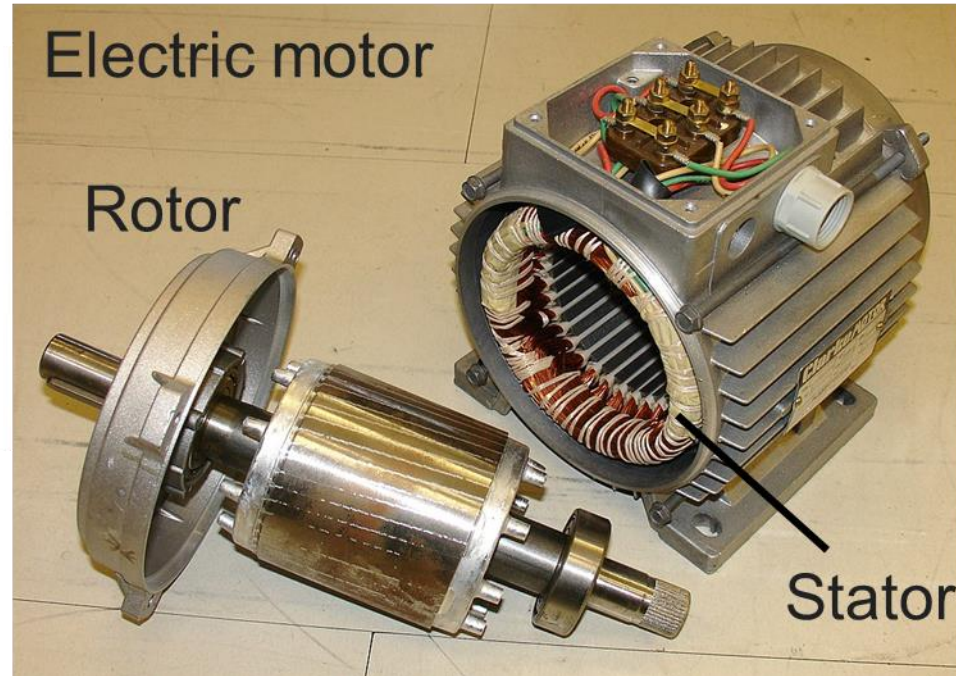
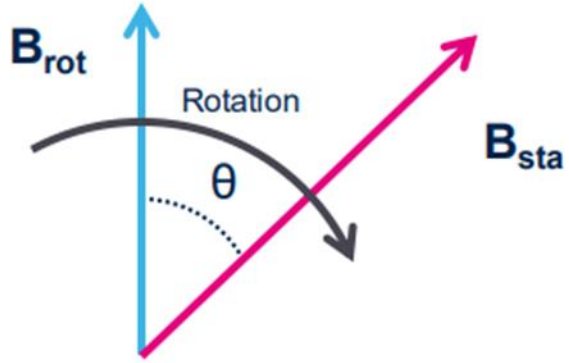
You can read more :-

- (1) Molecular Biology of the Cell by Alberts
- (2) Biochemistry by Lehninger



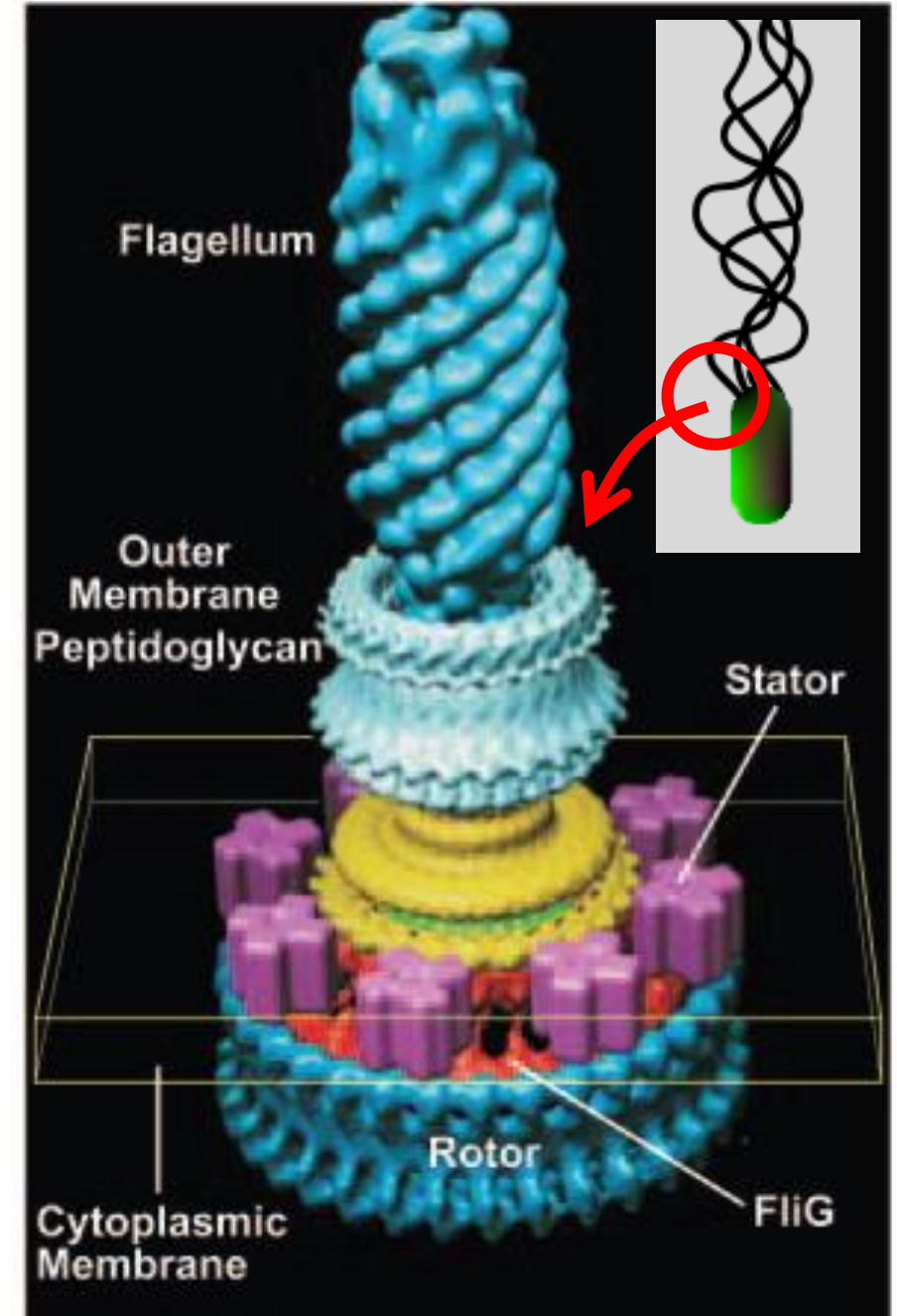






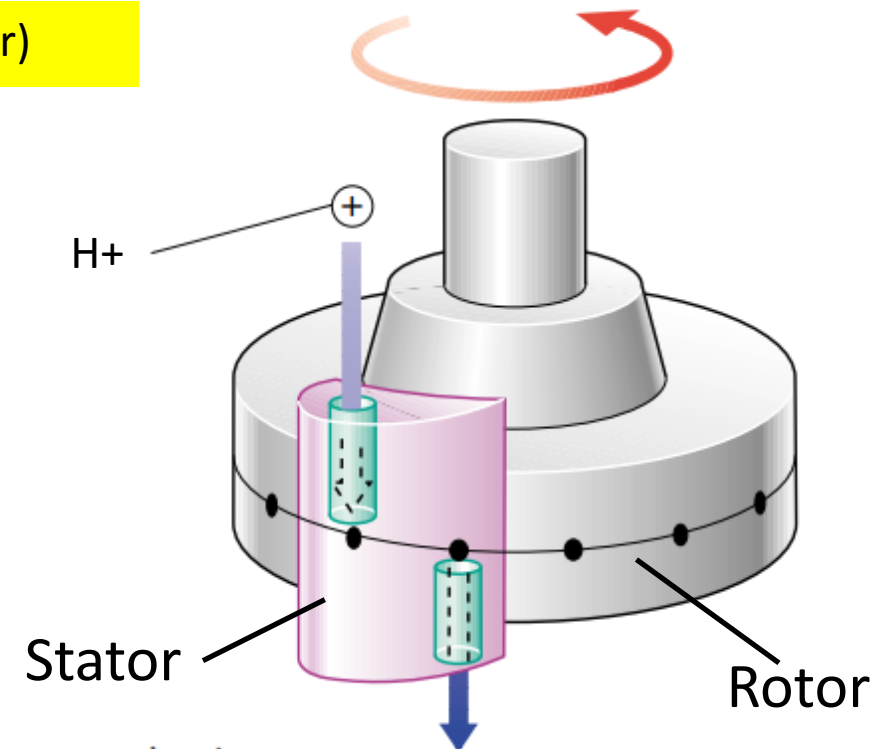
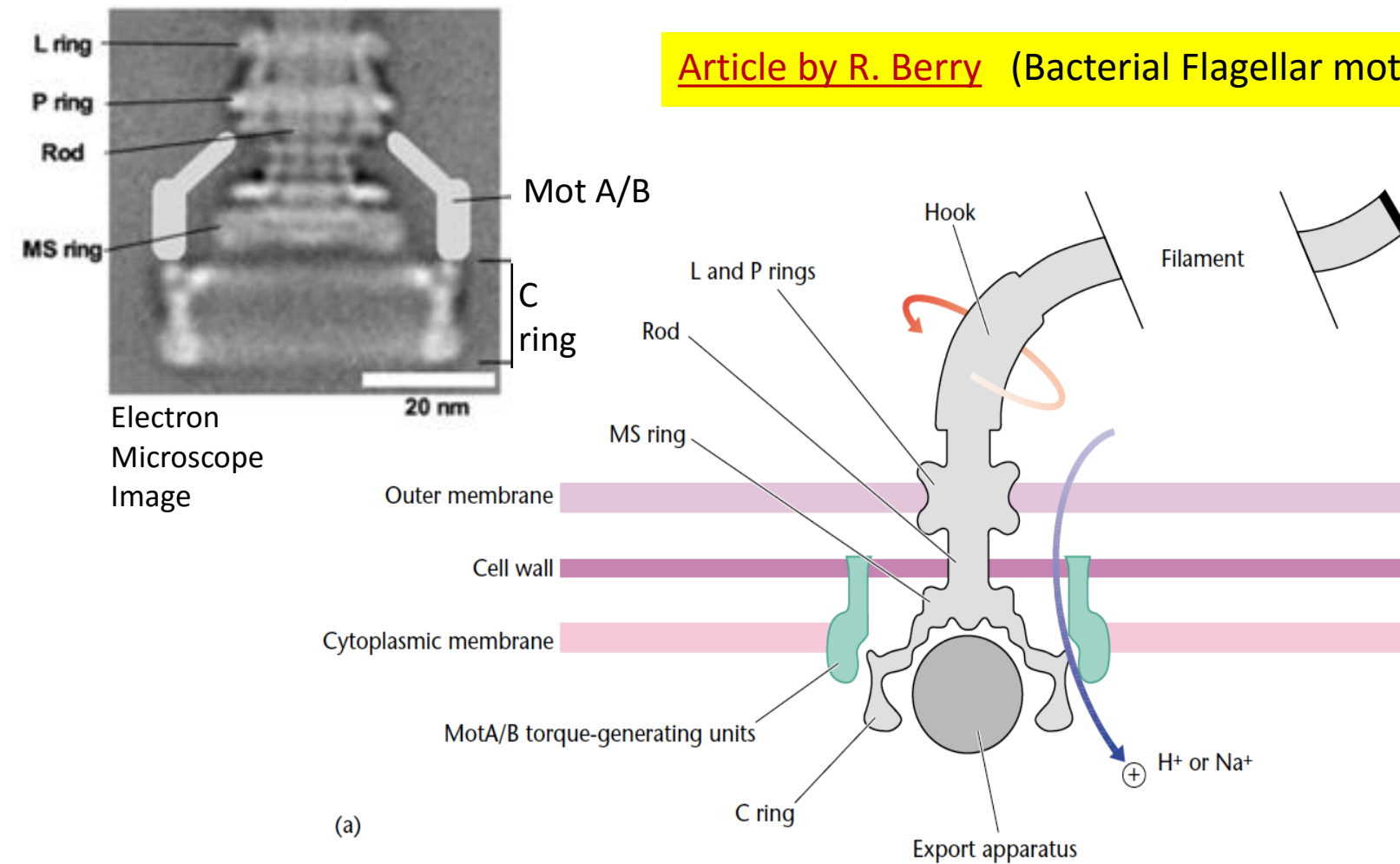
## Flagellar Motor

- No Magnetic field
- Reversible rotary machine, 45 nm dia, hundreds of RPM
- Rotating flagella (~10 mic long, 20nm thick) helical filament
- Maximum power  $\sim 10^{-15}$  W
- Propels bacteria at speeds upto 100  $\mu\text{m/s}$

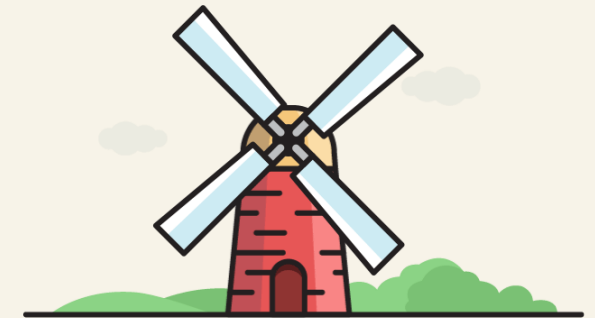




Article by R. Berry (Bacterial Flagellar motor)



Think of it like a Windmill ...

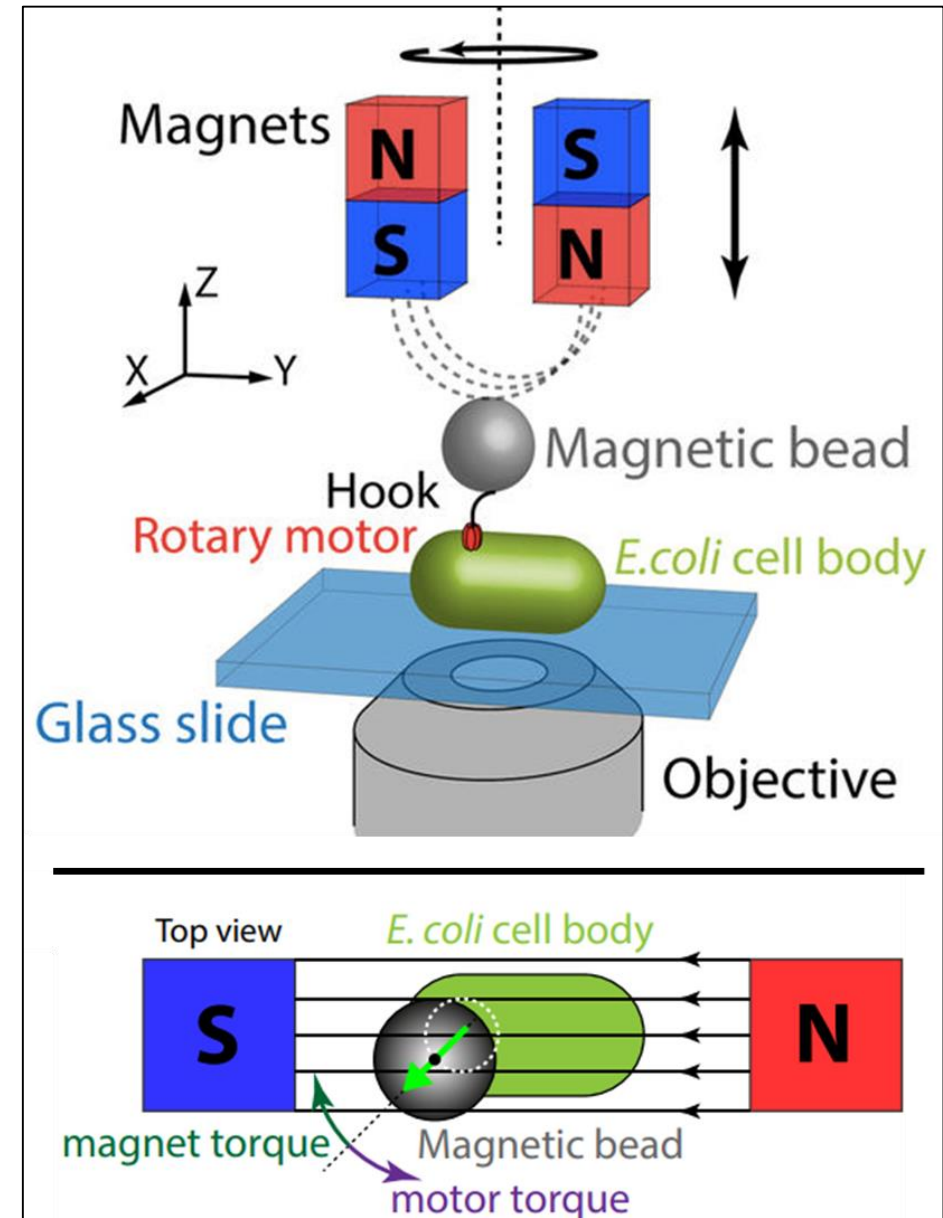
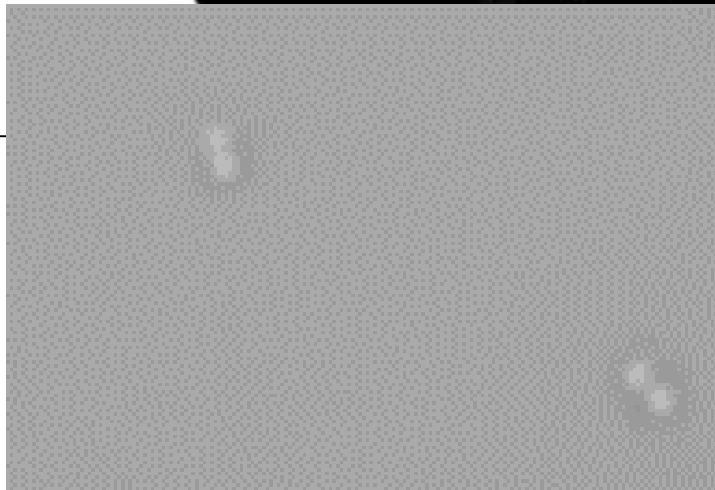
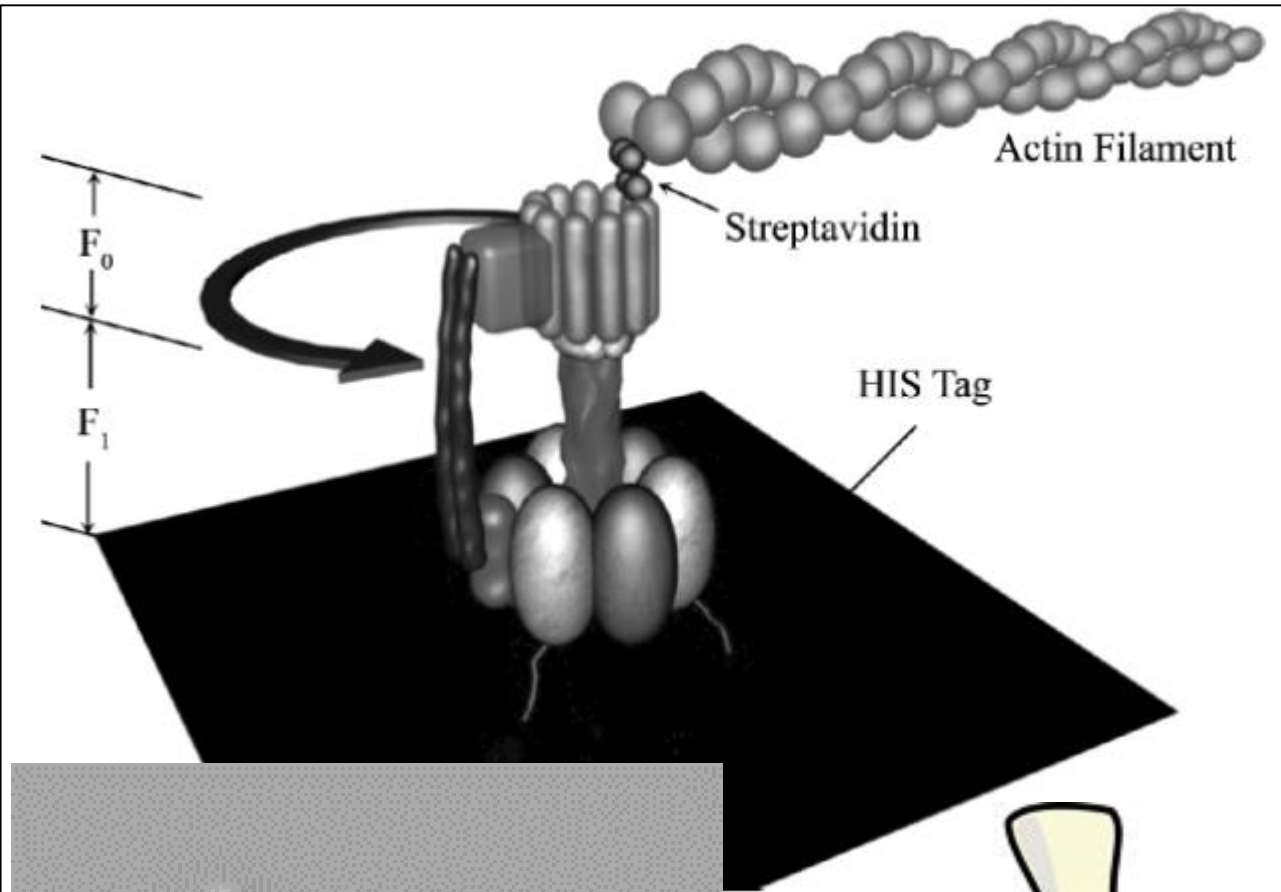


## Bacterial Flagellar Motor

Protons bind the rotor, introduced from outside the cell by channels in the stator. In order to pass into the cell they must be transferred to a second set of channels by rotation of the rotor, so that rotation and proton flow are coupled.



You can see Motors rotate on a Coverslip



[Maarten M. van Oene, SciRep 2017](#)

## How Good is the Bacterial Flagellar Motor?

Rotates upto 18,000 rpm  
(Car engine ??)

Torque  $\approx 2000 \text{ pN-nm} = 2 \times 10^{-18} \text{ N-m}$   
Power  $\approx 10^{-15} \text{ Watts}$

Dimension of Bacterial Motor  $\sim 45 \text{ nm}$   
Volume  $\approx 45 \times 45 \times 45 \approx 90000 \text{ nm}^3$   
 $= 9000 \times 10^{-20} \text{ cm}^3$

Ola Motor  $\sim 10^{20}$  times larger than Bacterial Motor  
Scale up the Flagellar Motor by  $10^{20}$  to Ola Size ...

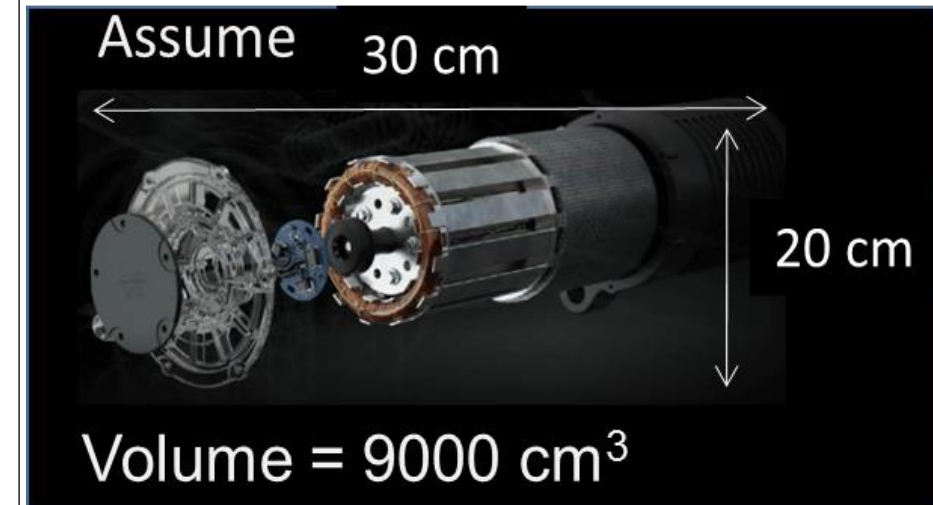
Flagellar Motor could now be  $10^5 \text{ Watts} = 100 \text{ kW}$   
(Compare to Ola 8.5kW)

It's Torque could now be  $200 \text{ N-m}$   
(Compare to Ola 58 N-m)



## Ola S1 electric scooter

Motor Power: **8.5kW**  
Motor Torque: **58Nm**



More Information :

[The biophysicist's guide to the bacterial flagellar motor](#)



How about the Internal Combustion engine ?

Enfield Thunderbird 500 cc

Maximum Power 27.2 HP @ 5250 rpm

Max Torque 41.3 Nm @ 4000 rpm





## FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT/READ ...

- Energy from 1 ATP =  $10^{-19}$  Joules. If a Nanomotor uses 1ATP/Cycle, what does this tell you about the working of the Nanomotor?
- What would happen if a flagella of the bacteria gets stuck to a rigid surface as the bacteria is swimming along ?
- How is the Torque and Power of Bacterial Flagellar Motor measured?

The torque versus speed response of bacterial flagellar motor is shown in a diagram taken from this [PAPER](#)

- How can the motor speed be varied in such experiments?
- What are the approximate values of Torque at low motor speed?
- Why is there a “knee” in this response?

