

peripheral surface 452 of first cylinder 445 and peripheral surface 451 of second cylinder 444. The first loop substrate 441 is disposed within a first internal radius 455 of a second flexible loop substrate 442. A third cylinder 443 is disposed within a second internal radius 456 of the second loop substrate 442. The second loop substrate 442 defines an inner surface 446 and an outer surface 447. The inner surface 446 is in contact with, and supported by, peripheral surface 450 of third cylinder 443 and the outer surface 449 of the first loop substrate 441. At least one of the second and third cylinders 444, 443 are rotatable and may be coupled to a drive member (not shown) in a manner similar to that depicted, for example, in FIG. 1. First cylinder 445 is stationary. At least one of the first, second and third cylinders 445, 444, 443 also may be extended and coupled to a base member (not shown) for supporting the molecular motor 440. A drive member such as a belt (not shown) may also be engaged with the outer surface 447 of the second loop substrate 442.

[0162] The peripheral surface 452 of the first cylinder 445 is coated with a motor protein (e.g., myosin) and the inner surface 448 of the first loop substrate 441 is coated with a complementary motor protein (e.g., directionally applied actin). The outer surface 449 of the first loop substrate 441 also is coated with a motor protein (e.g., directionally applied actin) and the inner surface 446 of the second loop substrate 442 is coated with a complementary motor protein (e.g., myosin). The actin/myosin interaction upon exposure to ATP moves the first loop substrate 441 relative to the second loop substrate 442. Movement of the first loop substrate 441 and/or second loop substrate 442 rotates at least one of the second or third cylinders 444, 443. Second loop substrate 442 may be provided with perforations (not shown) for introducing an ATP-containing liquid between the inner surface 446 of the second loop substrate 442 and the outer surface 449 of the first loop substrate 441.

[0163] Additional nested loop substrates may be provided to increase the rotational velocity of the outer loop substrate. Increasing the width of the loop substrates can increase the power of the molecular motor 440.

[0164] With reference to FIG. 15, a molecular motor 470 is shown that includes a cylinder 472 disposed within a first internal radius 478 defined by a flexible loop substrate 471. A plurality of stationary posts or stanchions 473 are disposed within second radii 479 defined by the loop substrate 471. According to particular embodiments, there are at least three posts 473 so that the loop substrate follows a serpentine path. Each post 473 defines an outer surface 477. The loop substrate 471 defines an inner surface 474 and an outer surface 475. The inner surface 474 is in contact with, and supported by, peripheral surface 476 of cylinder 472 and the outer surfaces 477 of the posts 473. The cylinder 472 may be stationary or rotatable. If the cylinder 472 is rotatable, it may be coupled to a drive member (not shown). A drive member (not shown) may also be engaged with the loop substrate 471. For example, the edges of the loop substrate 471 may define gear teeth (not shown) for engaging with a driven member (not shown). Such gear teeth may also assist in supporting the molecular motor 470.

[0165] The outer surface 477 of each stationary post 473 is coated with a motor protein (e.g., myosin). The inner surface 474 and the outer surface 475 of the loop substrate

471 are coated with a complementary motor protein (e.g., directionally applied actin). The actin/myosin interaction upon exposure to ATP moves the loop substrate 471 relative to the posts 473 and, thus, moves any coupled drive members. The loop substrate 471 may be provided with perforations (not shown) for introducing an ATP-containing liquid between the surfaces 474, 475 of the loop substrate 471 and the outer surfaces 477 of the posts 473. Increasing the width of the loop substrate 471, the contact length between the outer surfaces 477 of the posts 473 and the surfaces 474, 475 of the loop substrate 471, and/or increasing the number of posts 473 can increase the power of the molecular motor 470.

[0166] The motor protein-coated loop substrate shown in the embodiments of FIGS. 14 and 15 can be made by passing the loop substrate through a bath(s) that includes the desired motor protein. The motor protein-coated loop substrate may be placed around the support cylinders. The tension of each individual loop then may be adjusted accordingly.

[0167] In view of the many possible embodiments to which the principles of our disclosure may be applied, it should be recognized that the illustrated embodiment is only a particular example of the disclosure and should not be taken as a limitation on the scope of the disclosure. Rather, the scope of the disclosure is defined by the following claims.

We claim:

1. A molecular rotary motor comprising:
 - a first two dimensional array of a first motor protein;
 - a second two dimensional array of a second motor protein that interacts with the first motor protein to move directionally relatively to the first array; and
 - wherein the first and second arrays of motor proteins are in sufficiently close contact to interact and move the second array relative to the first array.
2. The molecular motor of claim 1, further comprising a driven member moved by the directional movement of the second array.
3. The molecular motor of claim 1, further comprising multiple nested first and second arrays that interact with one another to directionally move the first and second arrays relative to one another.
4. The molecular motor of claim 1, wherein each two dimensional array is a curved surface.
5. The molecular motor of claim 4, wherein each curved surface is a continuous curved surface.
6. The molecular motor of claim 5, wherein each curved surface is a complementary shaped cylindrical or conical surface.
7. The molecular motor of claim 6, comprising a plurality of nested cylindrical or conical members, the surfaces thereof forming the complementary curved surfaces.
8. The molecular motor of claim 1, wherein the first motor protein is actin and the second motor protein is myosin.
9. The molecular motor of claim 1, further comprising a source of ATP.
10. The molecular motor of claim 1, further comprising perforations in surfaces on which the arrays are disposed, to allow permeation of an ATP containing liquid through the surfaces to the motor proteins.