## Direct Transformation of Solar Energy into Mechanical Movement

Jean-Claude Courvoisier, Bryce Crawford Jr., and Gion Calzaferri\*

This would be a long-range development, of specialized but very powerful applications (a Linear Motor).

To illustrate the concept: Molecules are known which change shape in a reversible cis-trans conversion when illuminated. These as monomers can produce a film polymer which would shrink powerfully under light. The identification of similar systems and their study as to polymerization and fabrication should be encouraged. The important point is not to lose sight of this interesting possibility.

Types of application include an «amplifier» whereby a weak force to open and close a shutter can control the powerful force of this polymer. Another possibility would result in small-scale, even microscopic elements, which under controlled illumination would produce a «micropump».

With proper relations between the mechanical relaxation time and the frequency of photon capture, this concept applied to an asymmetric membrane would act as a «Maxwell demon» (without, of course, being able to circumvent the second law of thermodynamics!).

## References:

- M.H. Scherebrin, A. Oplatka, «Contraction-Relaxation of Collagen Fibers in LiBr-Water-Acetone Solutions», *Biopolymers* 6 (1968) 1169–1175.
- A. Katchalsky, «Demonstration of a Mechanochemical Engine», *Proc. 4th Int. Congr. Pharmacology*, Vol. 1, Schwabe & Co, Basel (1970), p.245-248.
- G. Smets, F. de Blauwe, «Chemical Reactions in Solid Polymeric Systems; Photomechanical Phenomena», Pure App. Chem. 39 (1974) 225–237.
- G. Smets, «New Developments in Photochromic Polymers», J. Polym. Sci. 13 (1975) 2223–2231.
- M. Edelson, A. Bree, «The Geometry of trans-Stilbene in the Liquid Phase», Chem. Phys. Lett. 41 (1976) 562-564.
- S. Shinkai, K. Shigematsu, Y. Kusano, O. Manabe, «Photoresponsive Crown Ethers», J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. I (1981) 3279–3283.
- L. Matejka, K. Dusek, «Photochromic Polymers: Photoinduced Conformational Changes and Effects of Polymeric Matrix on the Isomerization of Photochromes», *Macromol. Chem.* 182 (1981) 3223–3236.
- Y. Osada, E. Katsumura, K. Inove, «Photomechanochemical Energy Conversion in a Polyamide Containing a Stilbene Structure in the Backbone», *Macromol. Chem. Rapid Commun.* 2 (1981) 411–415.



Bryce Crawford, Jr.: Born 1914 in New Orleans. Louisiana. Received his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1937; his thesis work in molecular spectroscopy with Prof. P.C. Cross was followed by postdoctoral work with Prof. E.B. Wilson, Jr. at Harvard, and his scientific work has continued to be focused on molecular vibrational spectra and molecular structure, with excursions into related areas. He has been at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis since 1940. As a physical chemist he has been active in the American Chemical Society: Minnesota Award, Minnesota Section, 1969; Board of Directors 1969-1977; Editor, Journal of Physical Chemistry 1970-1980; Priestley Medal 1982. He is also a Fellow of the American Physical Society and of the Optical Society of America, As an infrared spectroscopist he is an Honorary Member of the Coblentz Society and of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. and has received the Pittsburgh Spectroscopy Award (1977) and the Ellis Lippincott Award (1978). He has received Guggenheim Fellowships in 1950 and 1972, as well as Fulbright Professorships in 1951 (Oxford) and 1966 (Tokyo). He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the National Academy of Sciences. Recently he has been active in the Scientific Advisory Board of the U.S. Solar Energy Research Institute.

This paper is supported by: A.J. Nozik (USA), C. Gómez Camacho (E), B. Qvale (DK), H. Ries (CH).