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Molecular motors in new media

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Acknowledgements

After seven and a half years in the same research group I feel like I am part of the furniture, so it is probably healthy that I am moving on. As a bachelor student, I saw the only motor proposal in the stack of potential projects, and thought that I would probably have to fight several people to get it. As it turned out, I was the only one who chose that project, and I have worked on molecular motors ever since. To be honest, I still can't understand why anyone would want to research anything else. I mean, it is a molecule and it is also a machine, what more could you want? Like probably everyone I experienced that some days were better than others, but I am so glad I persisted. I could not have done it all by myself though, so there a quite a few people who deserve my thanks.

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Other than basic organic chemistry, various techniques were required to conduct the research described in this thesis, many of which I know absolutely nothing about. Therefore, I am grateful to my many collaborators. Jan Willem, you spent quite some time laying the foundation for the DNA-motor hybrid project. Thank you for all that work. Qing, I really enjoyed working with you. DNA is really just a molecule, so I was surprised to learn how far removed our respective fields of expertise were from each other, but it made our discussions more interesting. Although we had no way of knowing, it is unfortunate that the design of the motor rendered your part of the work so challenging, but you made it work anyhow and I am proud of the work we did together. Alex, the MD part of this project has only just started, but I am really looking forward to seeing the results, which I am sure will be of tremendous value in the design of new motor-DNA hybrids. Marc, first of all I should thank you for your measurements, which transformed a project I had given up on into a decent and even interesting piece of research. But mostly I just had fun working with you. Erik and Esther, thank you for your contributions. I would also like to thank Salma Kassem and Miriam Wilson, who worked with Tom and me on a review on artificial molecular motors.

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