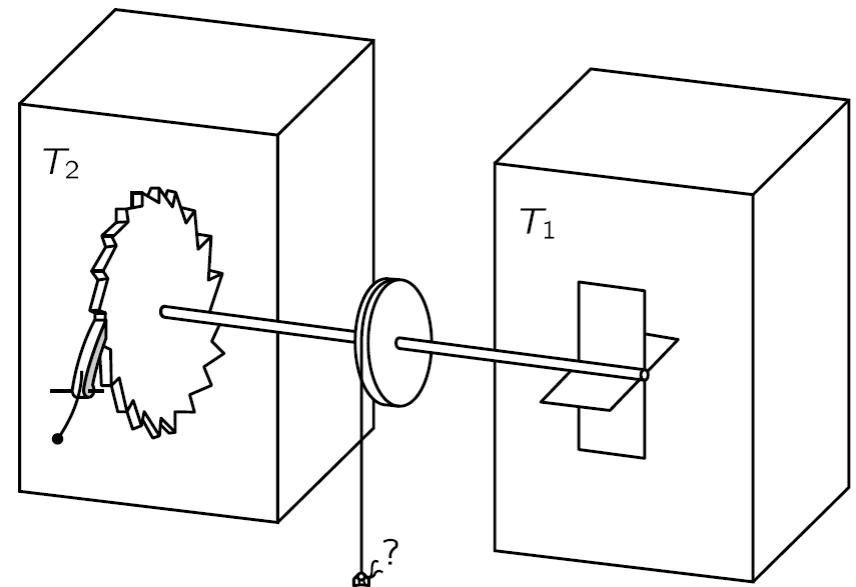


# Fluctuation-Induced Perpetual Motion in Nonequilibrium Systems

Yung-Fu Chen

*Department of Physics  
National Central University*



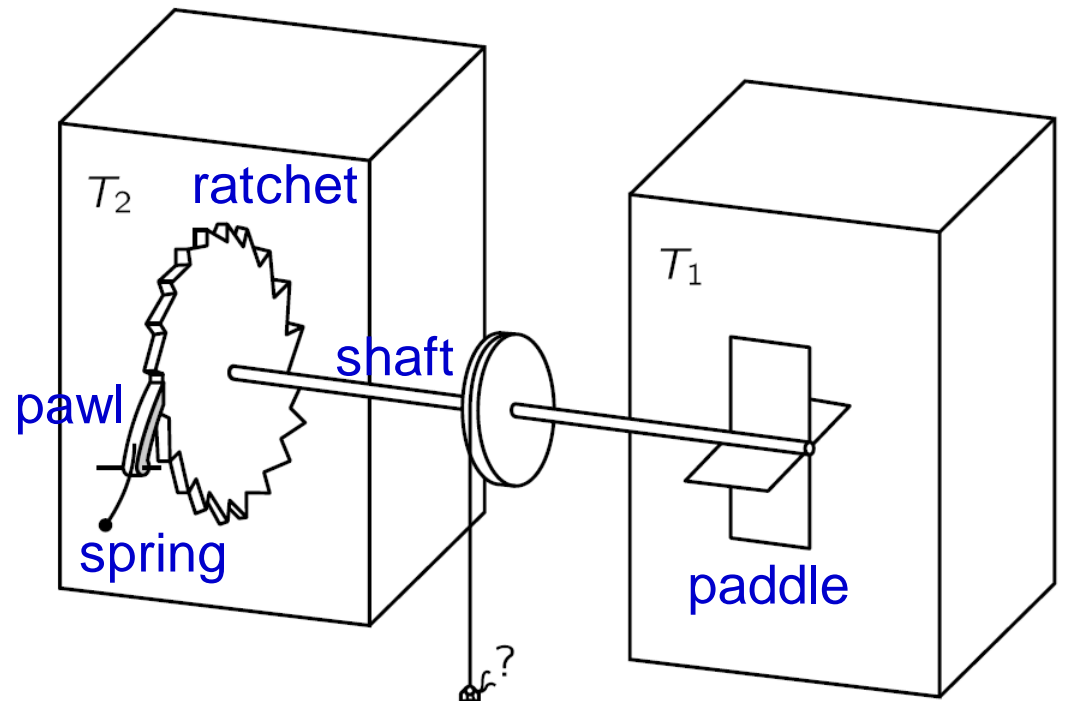
# Feynman Ratchet

Small device: collisions from irregular motion of molecules have effects

Asymmetric: asymmetric toothed wheel (ratchet) with pawl

→ Irreversibility: Directional, perpetual motion agitated by Brownian motion

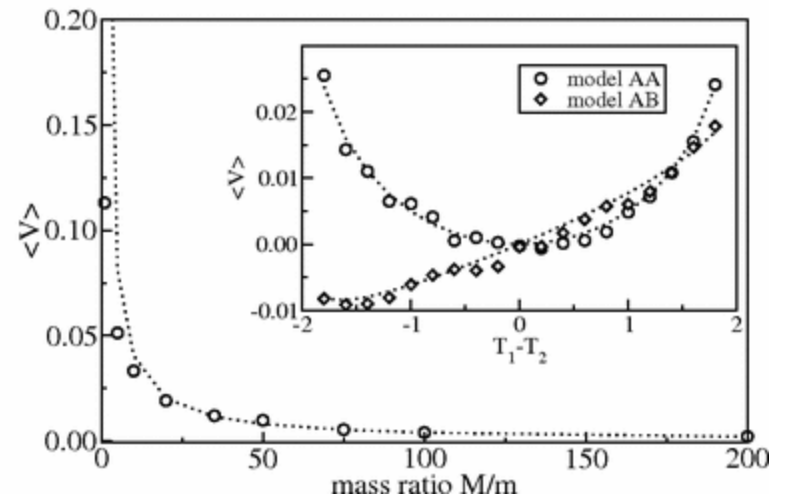
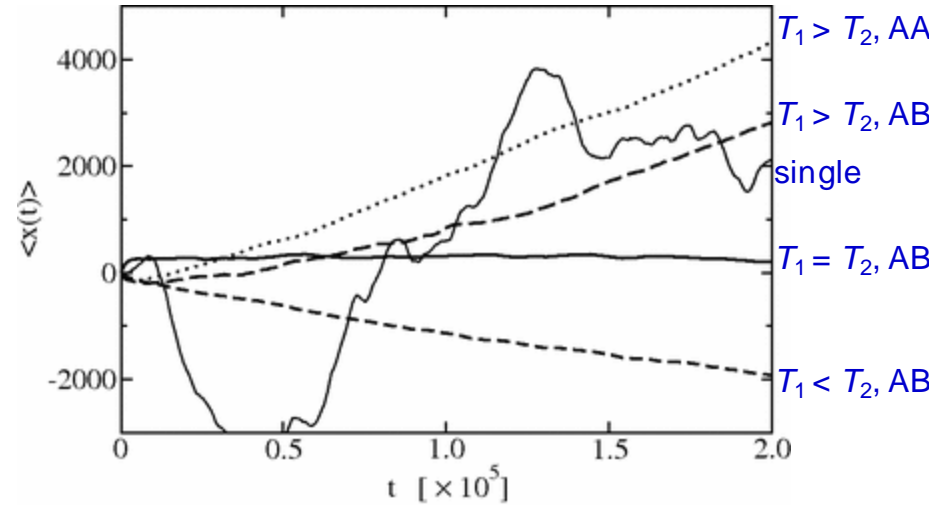
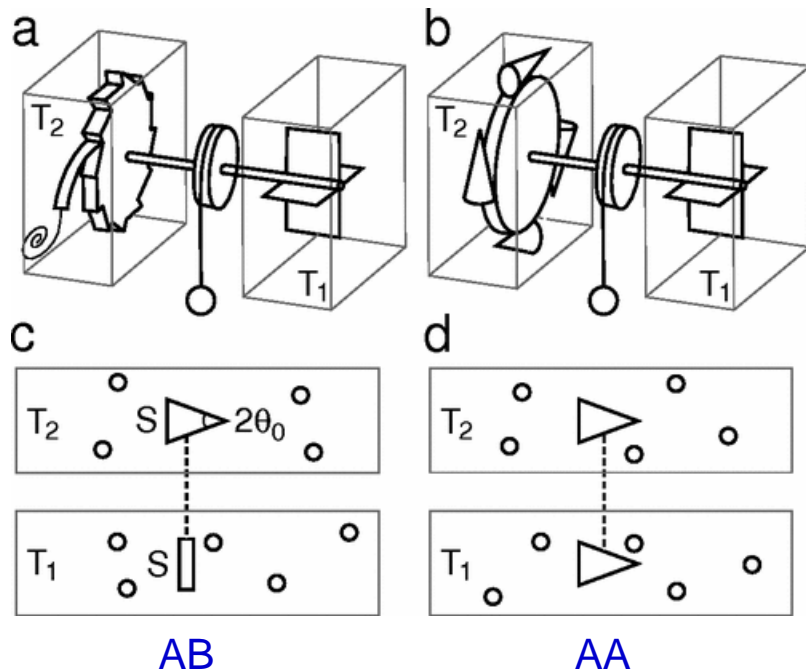
Nonequilibrium ( $T_1 \neq T_2$ ) is required



# Molecular Simulation of Feynman Ratchet

Two requirements for directional motion

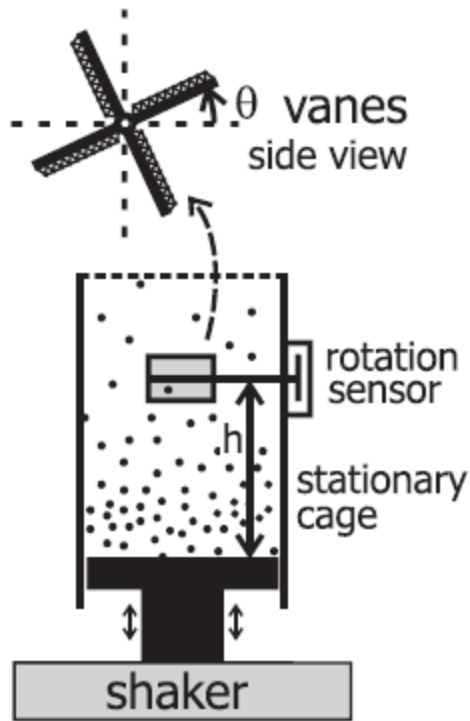
- coupled asymmetric particles
- $T_1 \neq T_2$



# Experimental Realization

## Macroscopic Feynman ratchet

- $T$  at vanes (made by a granular gas)  $\gg$   $T$  at pawl (room temperature)



# Basis of Brownian Motion

Eq. of motion: microscopic object bombarded by irregular motion of molecules

$$m\ddot{x} = -\gamma\dot{x} + \xi$$

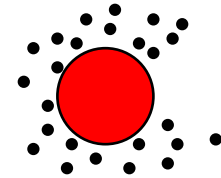
physics is simplified by Langevin eq.

↙ ↘

damping    random

↑

the same microscopic origin



Characteristic of random (thermal) force

$$\langle \xi(t) \rangle = 0$$

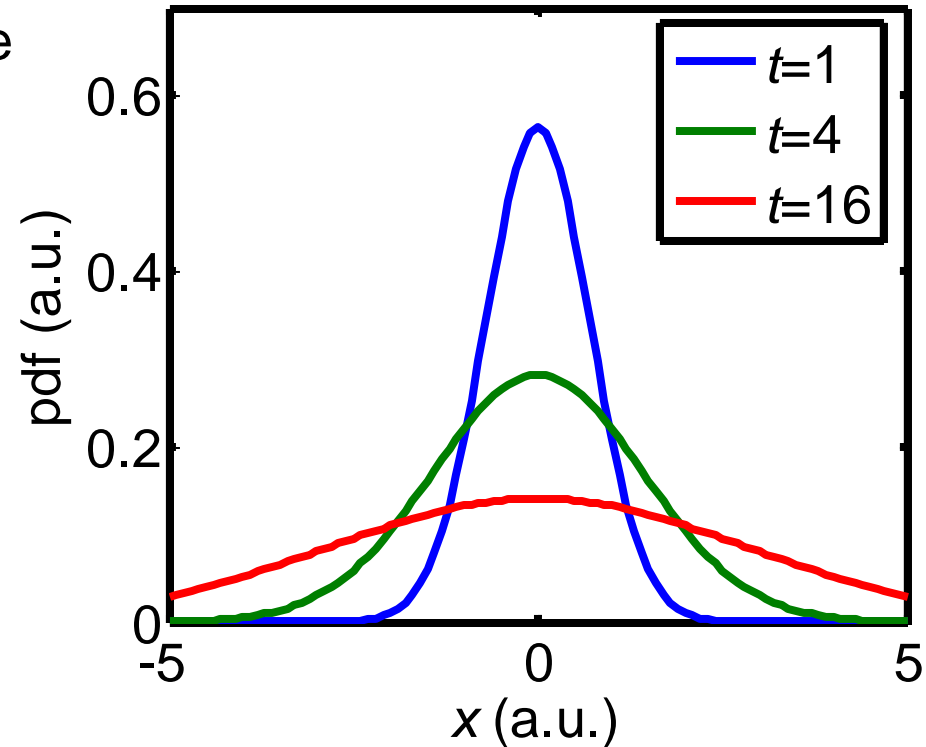
$$\langle \xi(t)\xi(t') \rangle = 2k_B T \gamma \delta(t - t')$$

↑  
Fluctuation-dissipation theorem (FDT)

Diffusion behaviors

$$\langle x \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle x^2 \rangle = \frac{2k_B T}{\gamma} t$$



# Trapped Brownian Particle

1D Brownian motion with harmonic confinement

$$m\ddot{x} = -\gamma\dot{x} - kx + \xi$$

$$\langle \xi(t)\xi(t') \rangle = 2k_B T \gamma \delta(t - t')$$

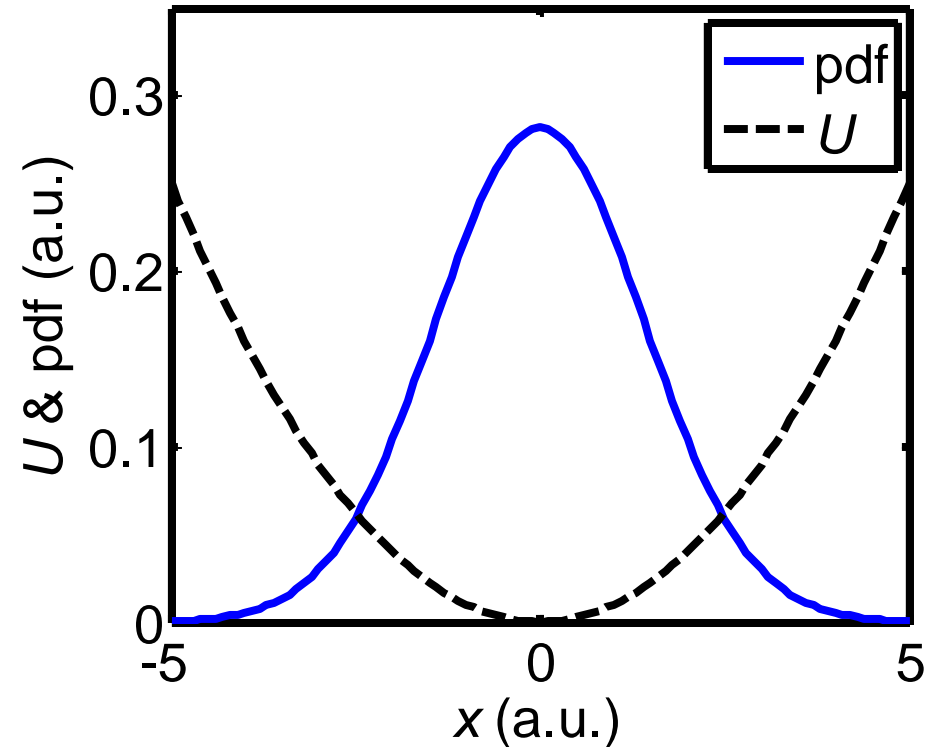
Overdamped system

$$-\gamma\dot{x} - kx + \xi = 0$$

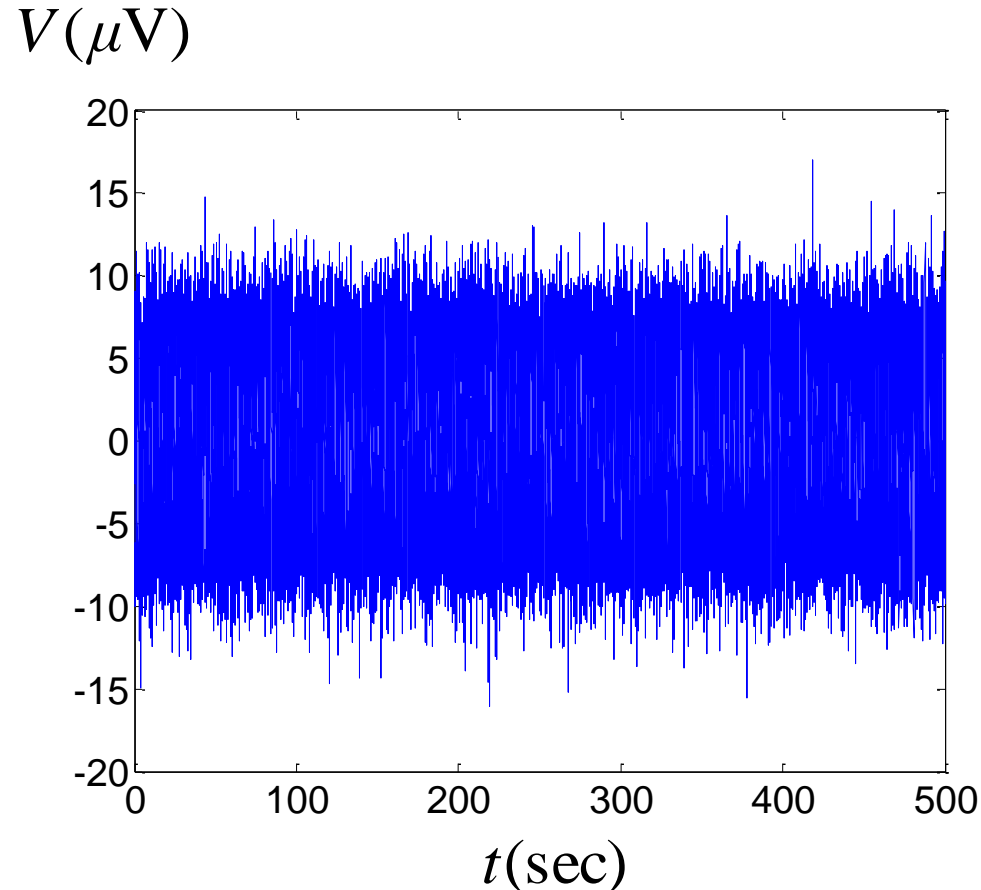
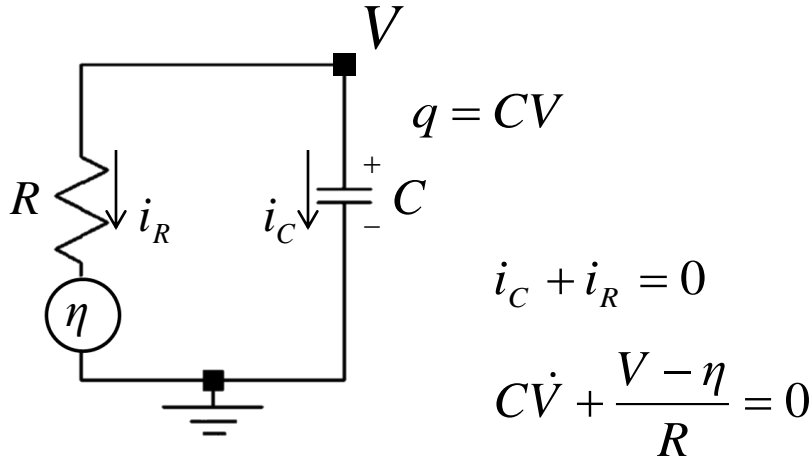
Equilibrium distribution

$$P_{\text{eq}}(x) \sim \exp\left(-\frac{\frac{1}{2}kx^2}{k_B T}\right)$$

Behaviors of diffusion vs. drift



# Thermal Voltage Noise in RC Circuit



Observable:  $V(t)$

Eq. of motion

$$RC\dot{V} + V - \eta = 0$$

Johnson-Nyquist noise in conductor

$$\langle \eta(t) \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle \eta(t)\eta(t') \rangle = 2k_B T R \delta(t - t')$$

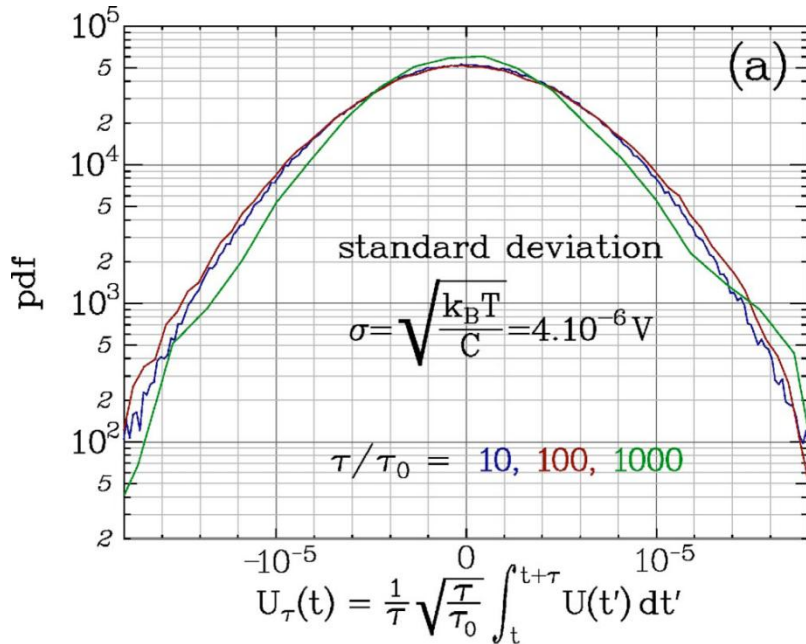
white (temporal uncorrelated)

J. B. Johnson, *Phys. Rev.* **32**, 97 (1928)

H. Nyquist, *Phys. Rev.* **32**, 110 (1928)

# Basic Characterizations in Equilibrium

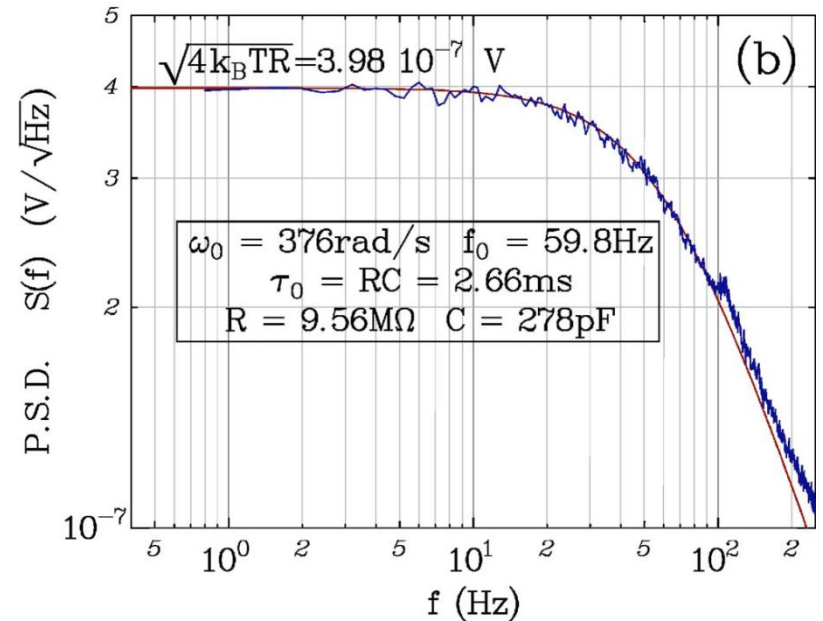
Histogram of voltage (noise)



Gaussian

$$P_{\text{eq}}(V) \sim \exp\left(-\frac{\frac{1}{2} CV^2}{k_B T}\right)$$

Power spectral density



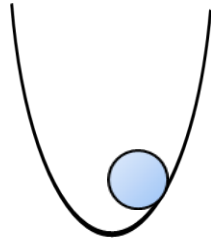
Lorentzian

$$S_V(\omega) = 4k_B TR \frac{1}{1 + R^2 C^2 \omega^2}$$



# Analogies and Comparisons

## Trapped Brownian particle



- Equation of motion (Langevin equation)

$$m\ddot{x} = -\gamma\dot{x} - kx + \xi$$

- Random (thermal) force (satisfy FDT)

$$\langle \xi(t)\xi(t') \rangle = 2k_B T \gamma \delta(t - t')$$

- Overdamped system

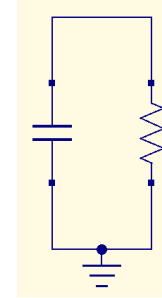
$$\gamma\dot{x} = -kx + \xi$$

- Experimental observable

$$x(t)$$

- Advantage

## RC circuit



$$L\ddot{q} = -R\dot{q} - \frac{1}{C}q + \eta$$

$$\langle \eta(t)\eta(t') \rangle = 2k_B T R \delta(t - t')$$

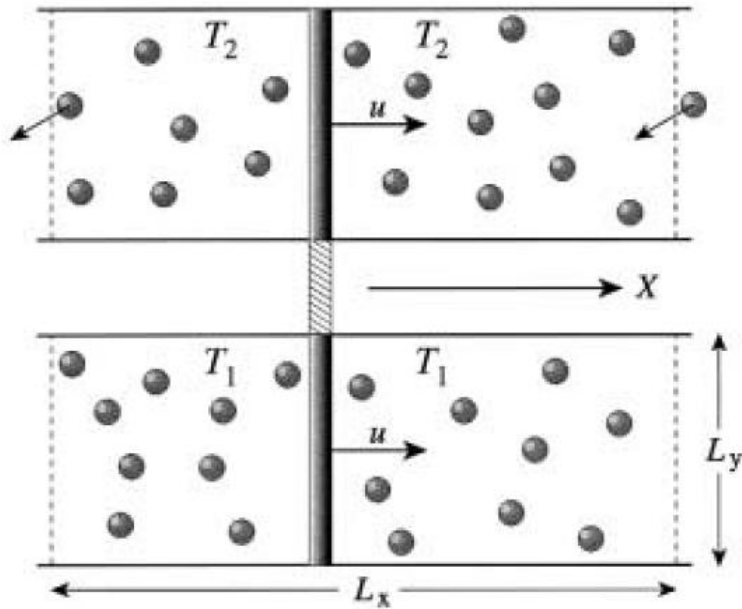
$$R\dot{q} = -\frac{1}{C}q + \eta$$

$$V(t)$$

**Easy to couple!**

# Single Piston Affected by Two Heat Baths

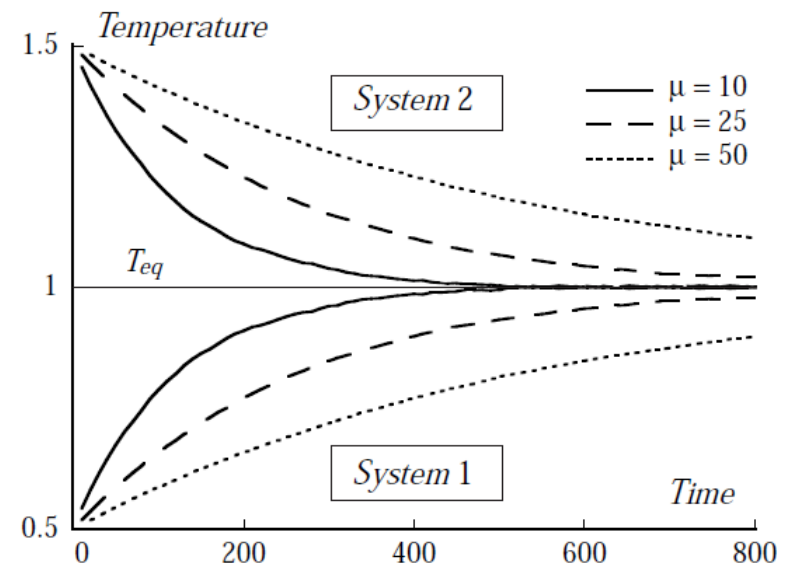
A tiny piston contact to two heat baths at different temperatures (nonequilibrium)



Heat conductivity:

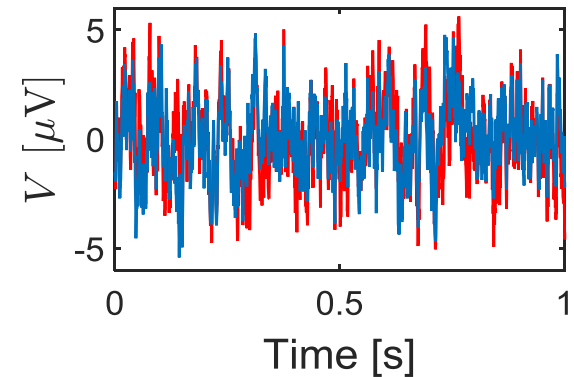
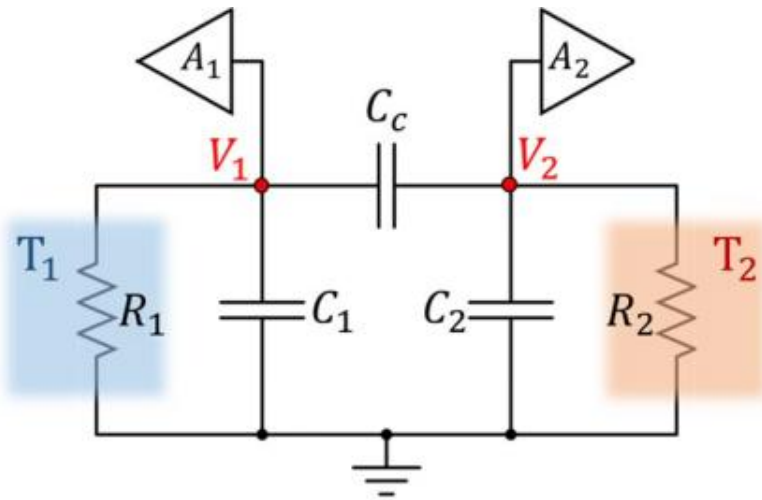
$$\langle \dot{Q}_{1 \rightarrow 2} \rangle = \frac{k_B}{M} \frac{\gamma_1 \gamma_2}{\gamma_1 + \gamma_2} (T_1 - T_2)$$

Relaxation of temperature difference:



# Coupled RC Circuit

- Two RC circuits coupled by a capacitor
- Two resistors in contact with different thermal baths: nonequilibrium steady state (NESS)
- Observables:  $V_1(t)$  and  $V_2(t)$



# Experimental Setup

- Parameters

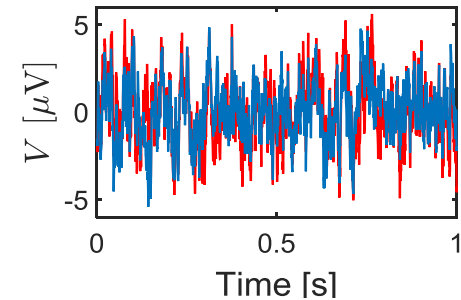
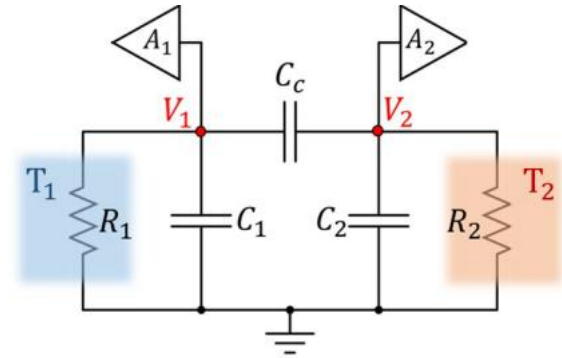
$$R_1 = 9.01 \text{ M}\Omega, C_1 = 488 \text{ pF}$$

$$R_2 = 9.51 \text{ M}\Omega, C_2 = 420 \text{ pF}$$

$$T_2 = 296 \text{ K}$$

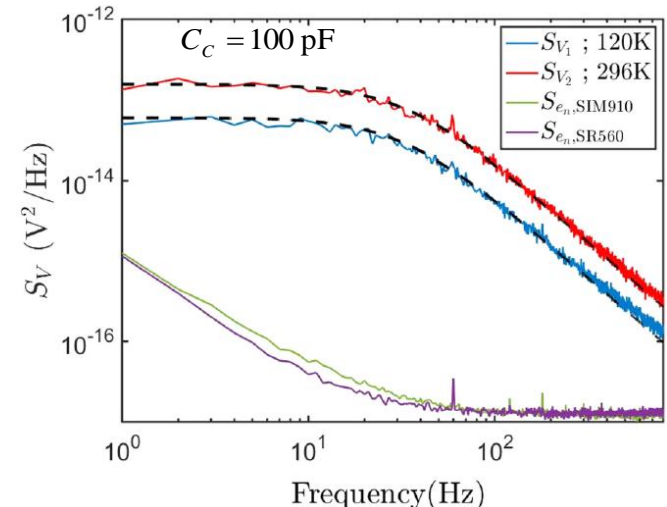
$T_1$ : vary from 120 K to 296 K

$C_c$ : vary from 100 pF to 10 nF

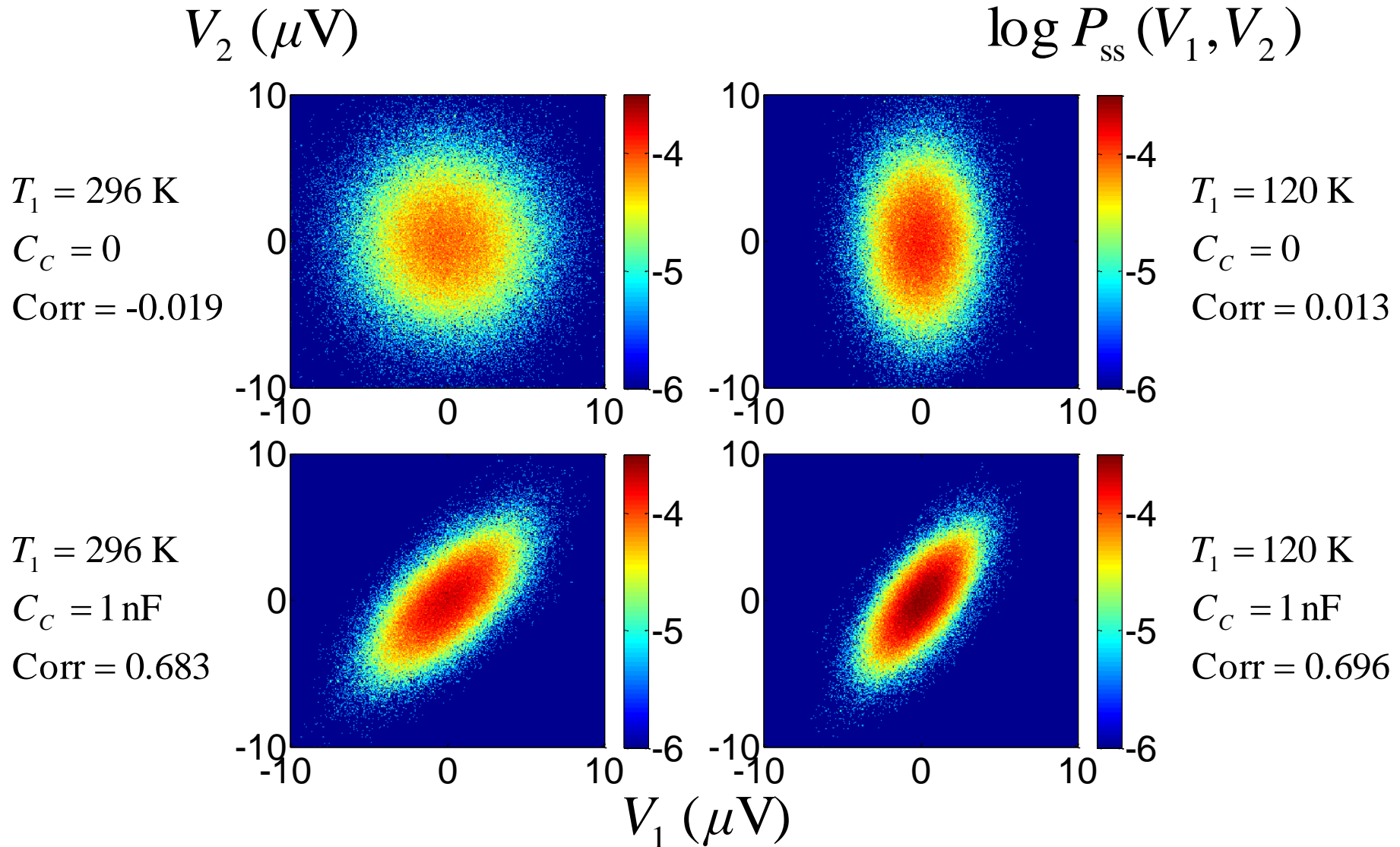


- Measurement of voltage time traces

- Amplification:  $10^4$  (cf. noise amplitude of few  $\mu\text{V}$ )
- Sampling rate: 2048 Hz (cf. correlation time of few ms)
- Samples:  $10^5$ – $10^6$

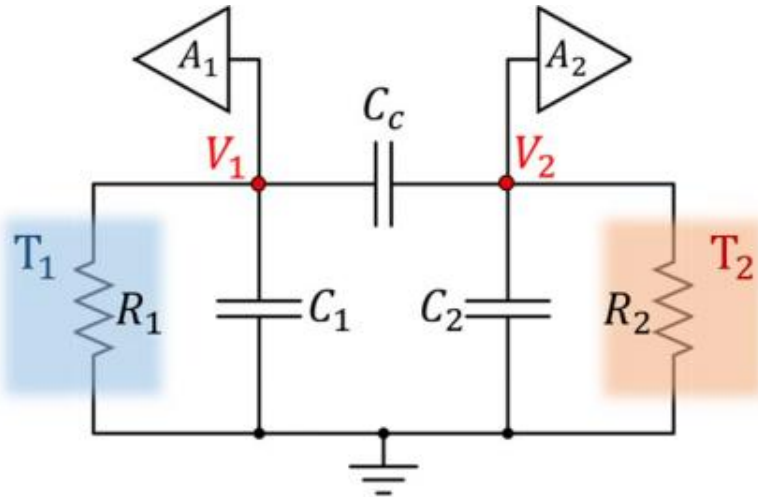


# Distribution of Voltages

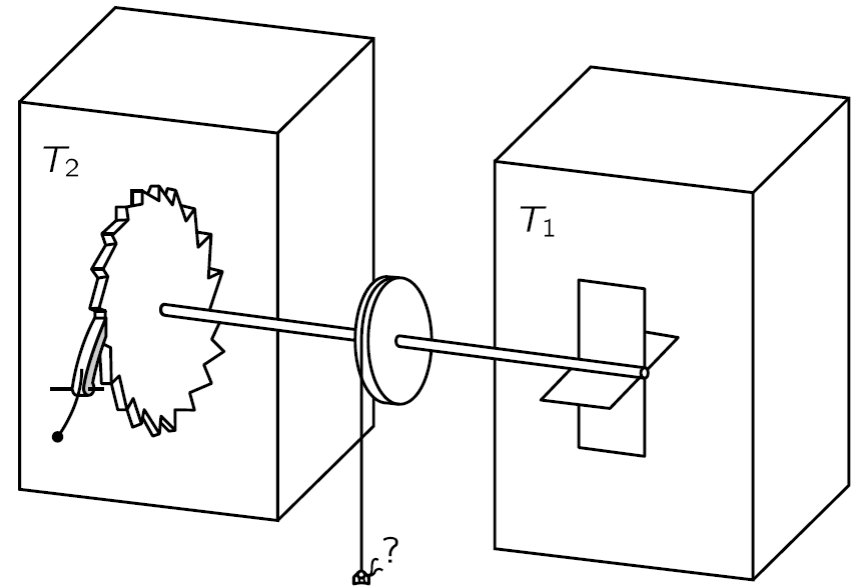


# Similarity between Coupled RC Circuit and Feynman Ratchet

Coupled RC circuit



Feynman ratchet

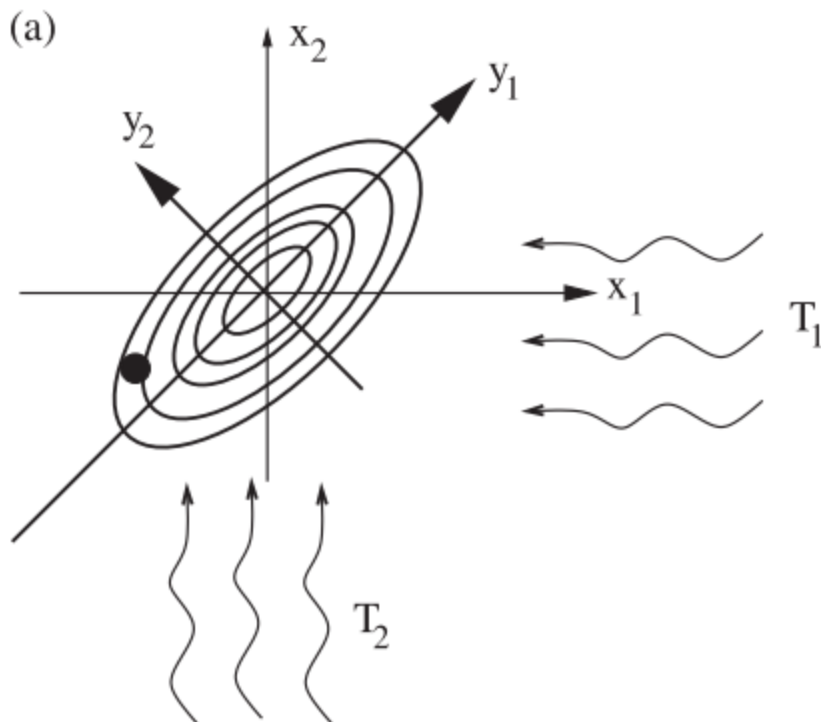


# Brownian Gyration

A Brownian particle confined in 2D harmonic potential

Two requirements for gyrating motion

- asymmetric harmonic potential (different stiffness along  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ )
  - agitated by  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  along  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , respectively ( $T_1 \neq T_2$ )
- $$U(\vec{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{u_i}{2} y_i^2$$



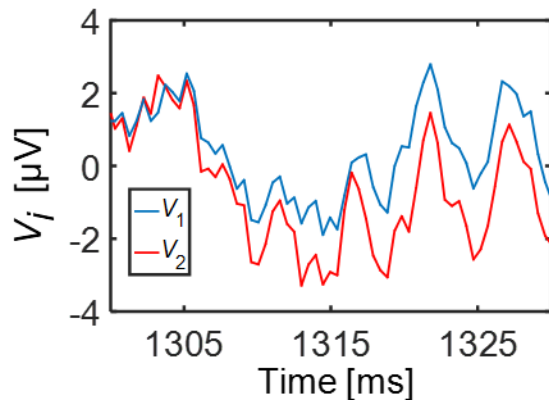
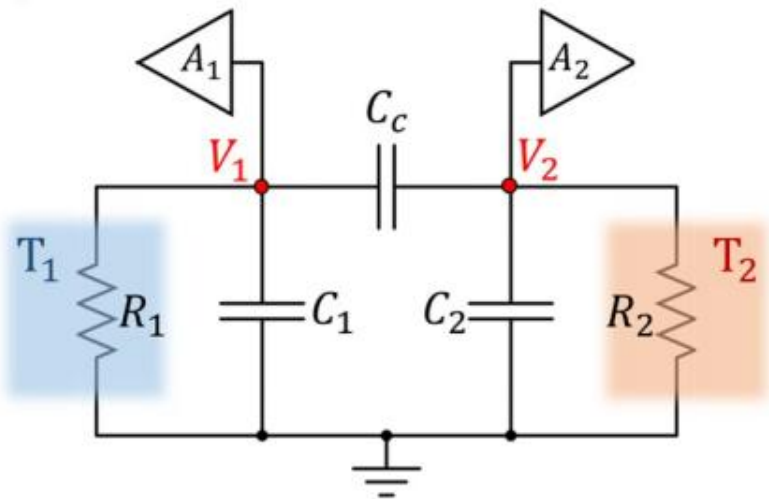
Eq. of motion (analytically solvable)

$$\gamma_i \dot{x}_i = -\frac{\partial U(\vec{x})}{\partial x_i} + \xi_i$$

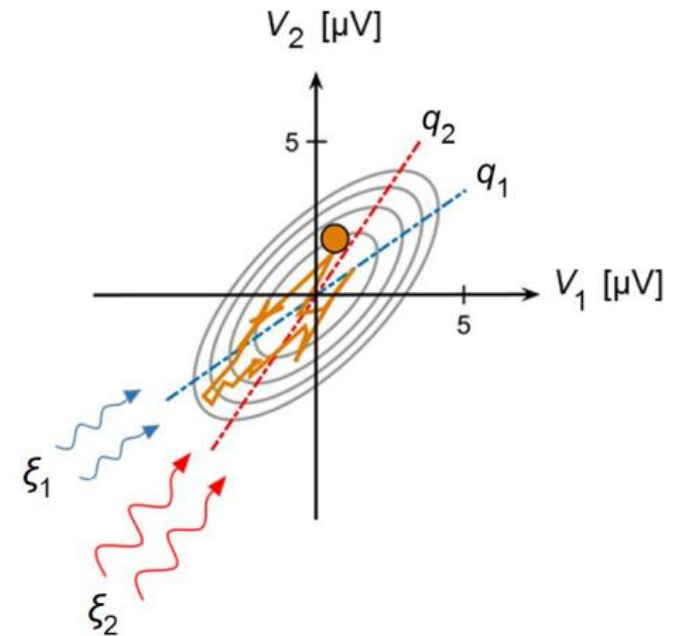
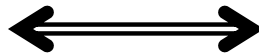
$$\langle \xi_i(t) \xi_j(t') \rangle = 2k_B T_i \gamma_i \delta_{ij} \delta(t - t')$$

# Mapping

Fluctuating voltages in coupled RC circuit



A virtual Brownian particle moving in 2D space ( $V_1, V_2$ )

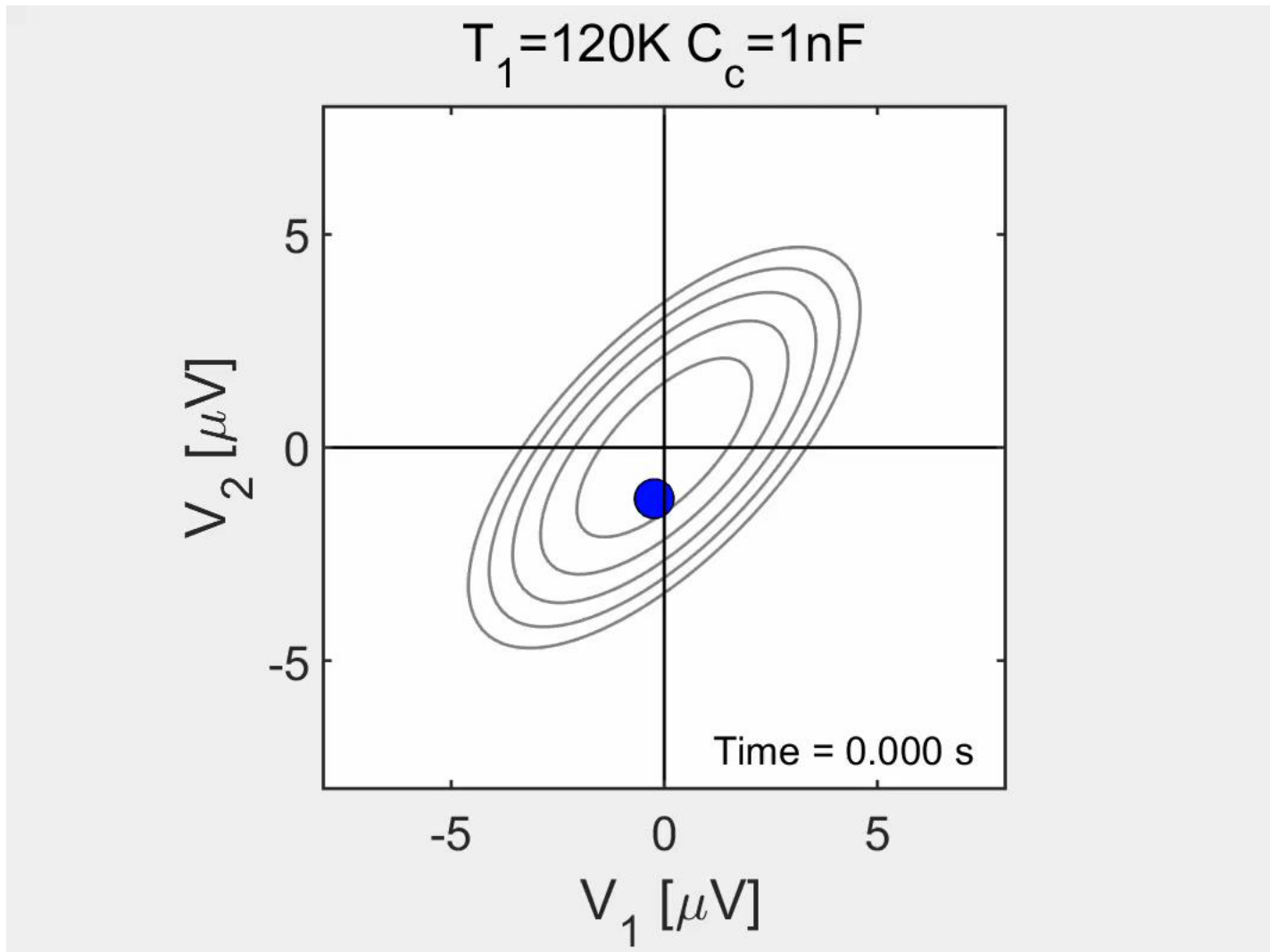


Confined potential:

$$U(V_1, V_2) = \frac{C_1}{2} V_1^2 + \frac{C_2}{2} V_2^2 + \frac{C_c}{2} (V_1 - V_2)^2$$



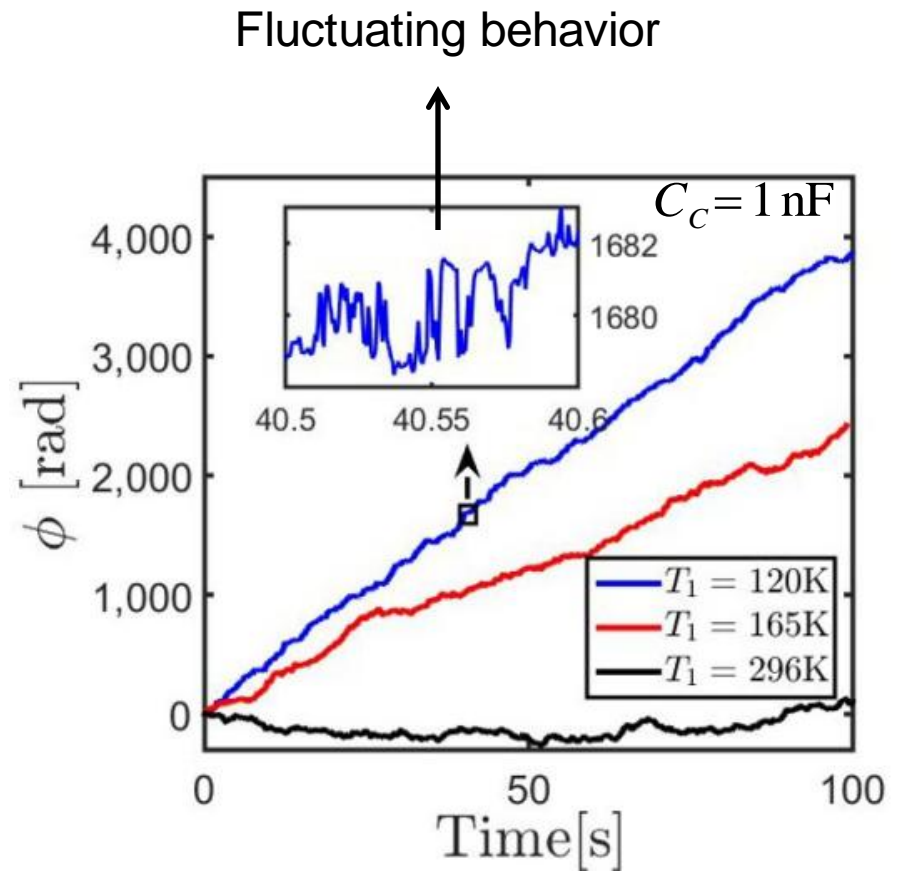
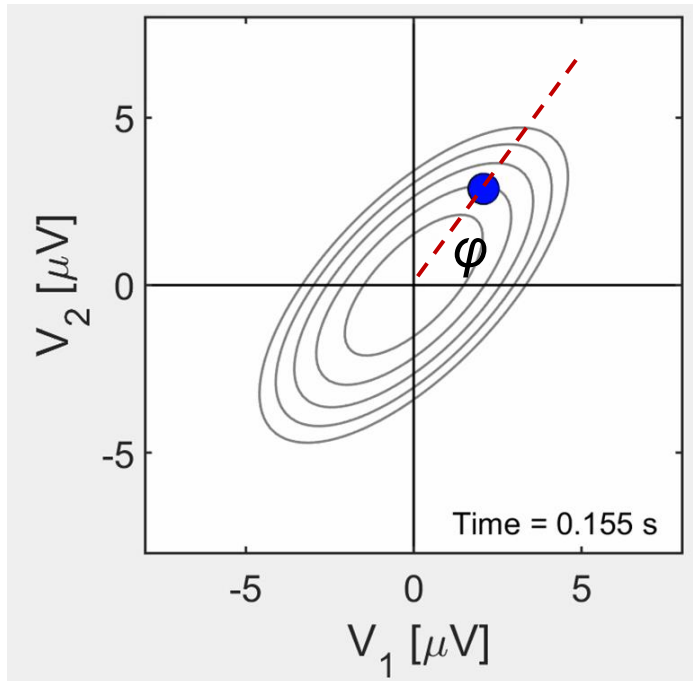
# Visualization of Brownian Gyrating Motion



# Steady Circulation Motion

Angle of position vector

$$\varphi \equiv \tan^{-1} \frac{V_2}{V_1}$$



# Visualization of Steady Circulation Motion

Probability flux

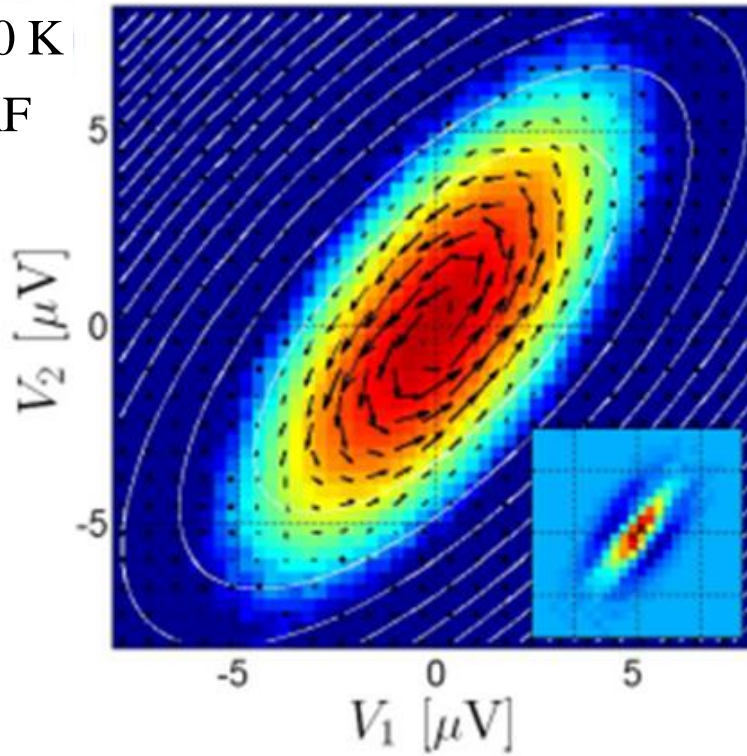
$$\vec{J}_{ss}(\vec{V}) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\vec{V}'} \left[ \frac{\vec{V}' - \vec{V}}{\Delta t} P_{\Delta t}(\vec{V}', \vec{V}) + \frac{\vec{V} - \vec{V}'}{\Delta t} P_{\Delta t}(\vec{V}, \vec{V}') \right] \equiv P_{ss}(\vec{V}) \vec{v}_{\text{flow}}(\vec{V})$$

↑
↑  
 out flux                      in flux

U. Seifert, *Rep. Prog. Phys.* **75**, 126001 (2012)

$T_1 = 120$  K

$C_C = 1$  nF



conservation of prob. density

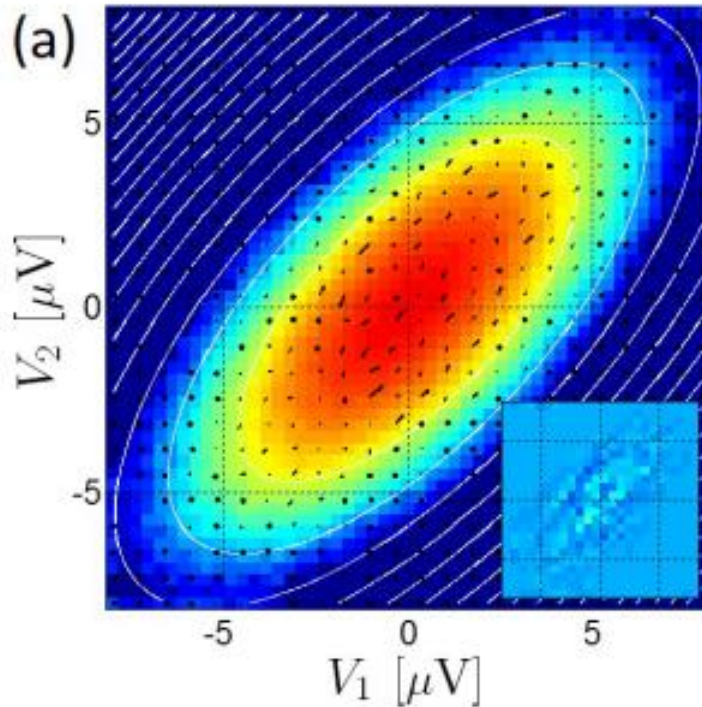
$$\frac{dP_{ss}}{dt} = \nabla P_{ss} \cdot \vec{v}_{\text{flow}} + \frac{\partial P_{ss}}{\partial t} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial P_{ss}}{\partial t} = 0$$

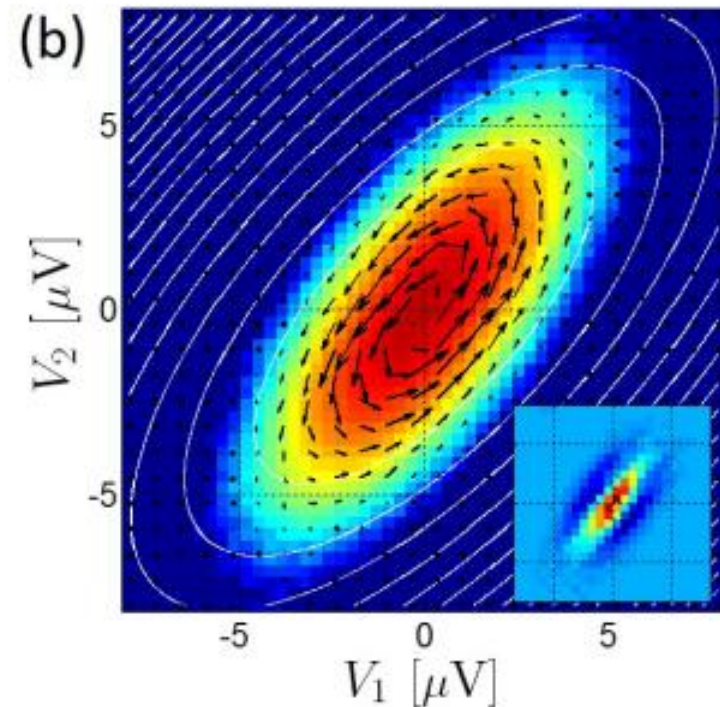
$$\Rightarrow \vec{J}_{ss} \perp \nabla P_{ss}$$

# Equilibrium vs. NESS

Equilibrium ( $T_1 = 296$  K)



NESS ( $T_1 = 120$  K)



In equilibrium

- Detailed balance between any two states

- $$P_{\text{eq}}(\vec{V}) \sim \exp\left(-\frac{U(\vec{V})}{k_B T}\right)$$

In NESS

- Breaking of detailed balance
- Perpetual motion caused by unbalanced diffusion and drifting force

# Theoretical Analysis

Eq. of motion (coupled Langevin eqs.)

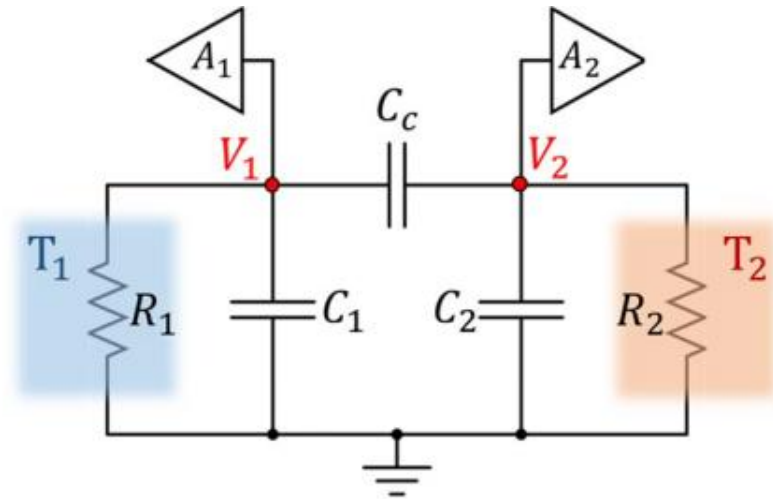
$$R_1(C_1 + C_C)\dot{V}_1 - R_1C_C\dot{V}_2 = -V_1 + \xi_1$$

$$R_2(C_2 + C_C)\dot{V}_2 - R_2C_C\dot{V}_1 = -V_2 + \xi_2$$

$$\langle \xi_i(t)\xi_j(t') \rangle = 2k_B T_i R_i \delta_{ij} \delta(t - t')$$

Thermal noises: white and uncorrelated

Linear coupling: FDT analysis is applicable



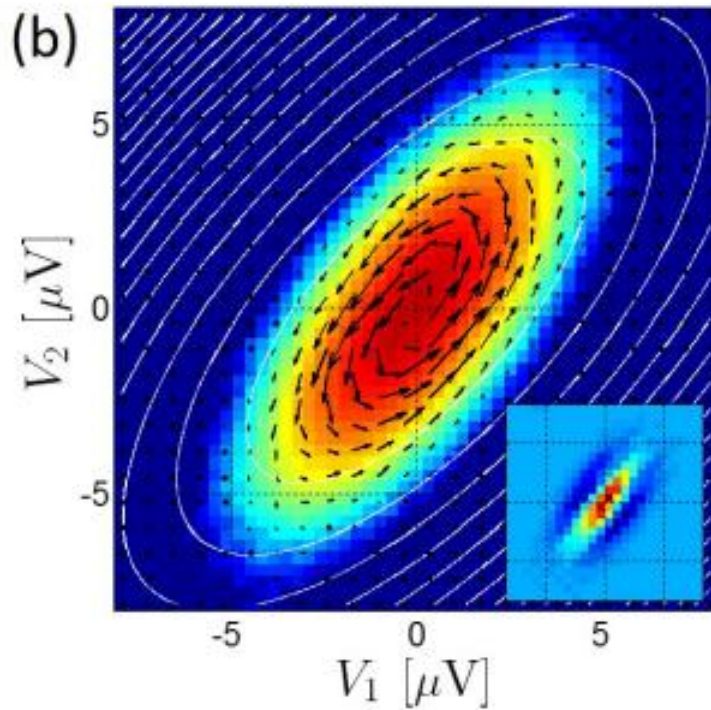
Equivalent Fokker-Planck eq. for state distribution and prob. flux

# Comparison to FDT Analysis

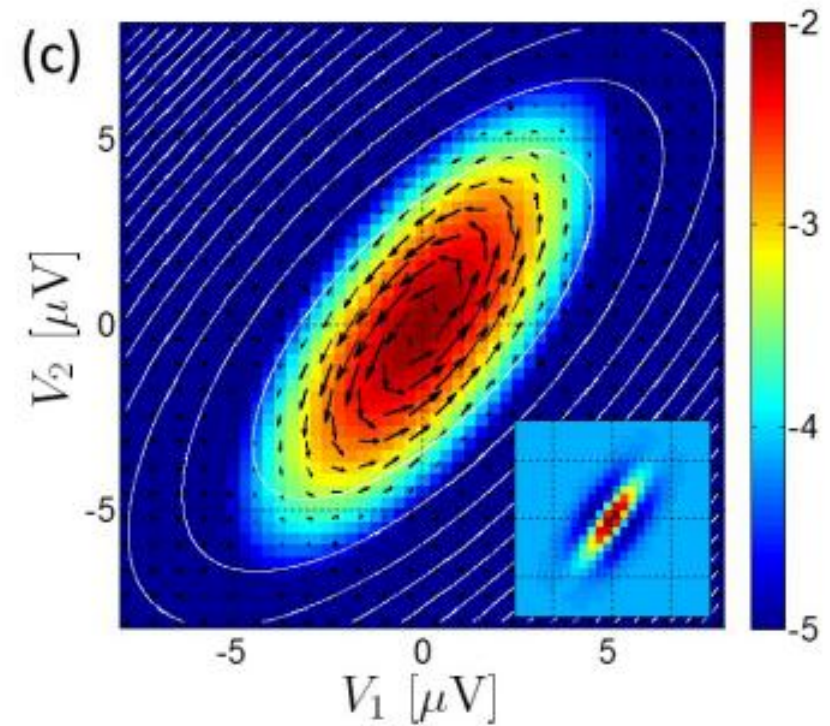
$$T_1 = 120 \text{ K}$$

$$C_c = 1 \text{ nF}$$

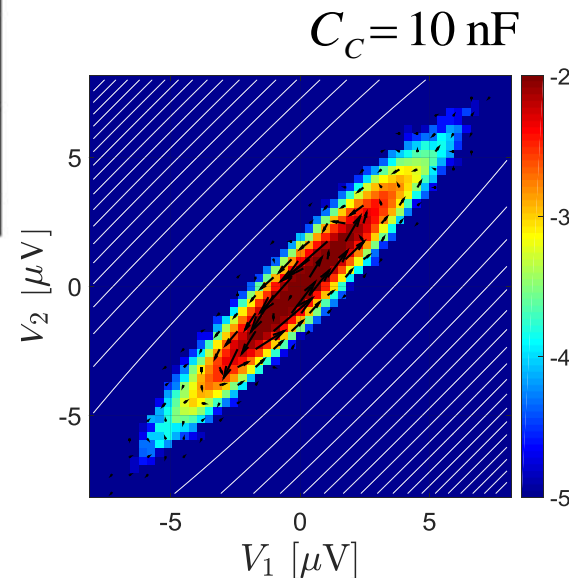
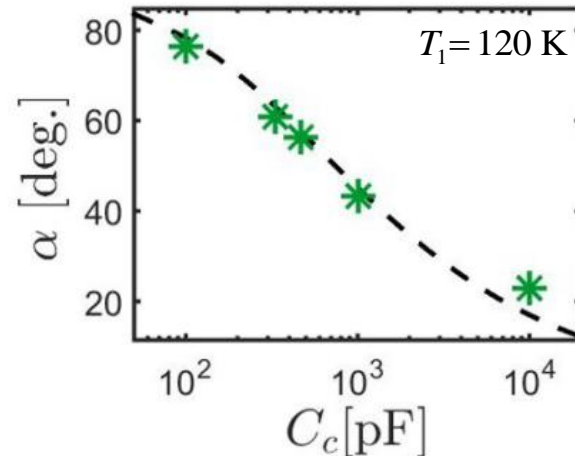
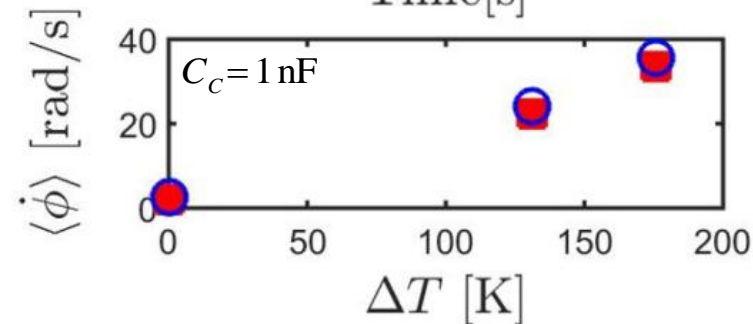
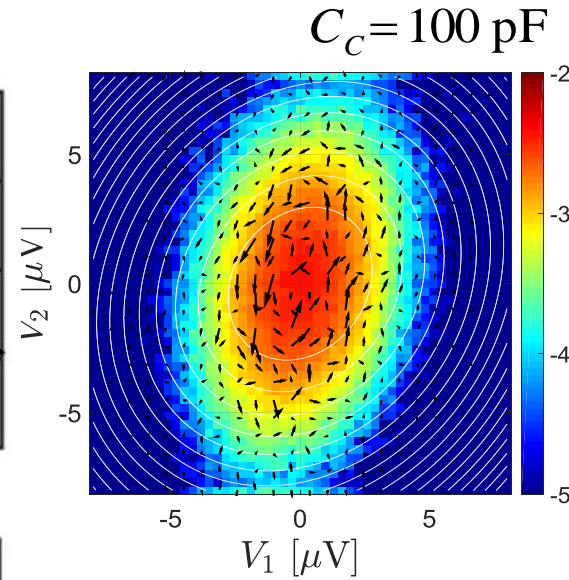
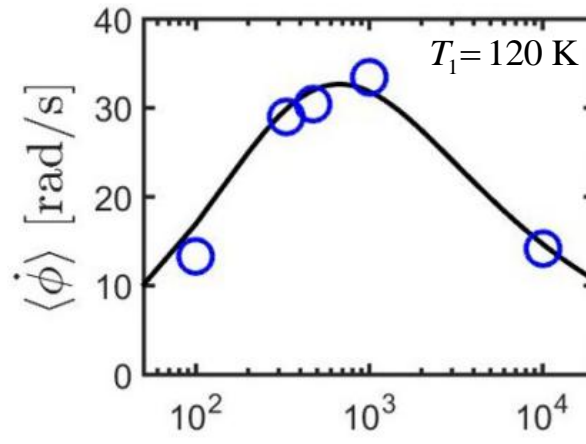
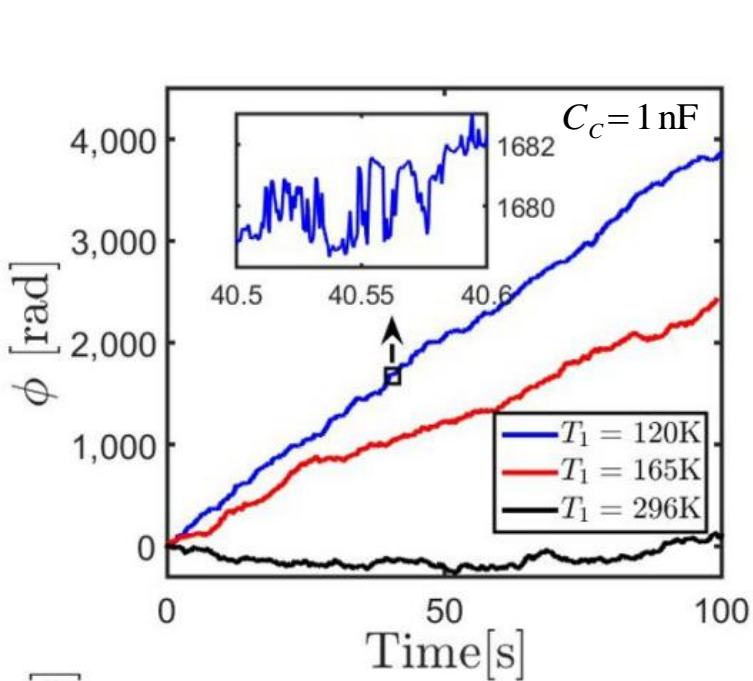
Experimental result



Analytical result



# Phase of Circulation and Perpetual Speed



$$\varphi = \tan^{-1} \frac{V_2}{V_1}$$

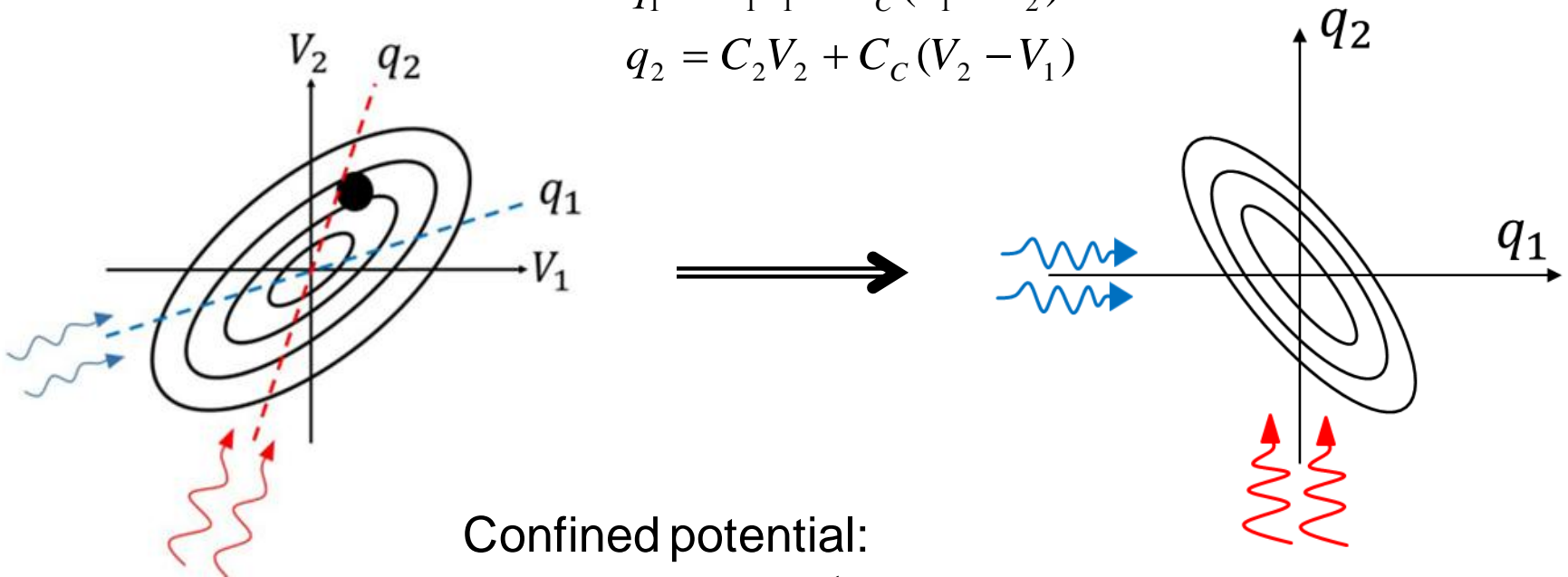
$\alpha$  : leading angle of elliptical circulation

# Change of Variables (Observables)

charges accumulated on two nodes

$$q_1 = C_1 V_1 + C_C (V_1 - V_2)$$

$$q_2 = C_2 V_2 + C_C (V_2 - V_1)$$



Confined potential:

$$U(q_1, q_2) = \frac{1}{2X} [(C_1 + C_C)q_1^2 + (C_2 + C_C)q_2^2 + 2C_C q_1 q_2]$$

$$X = C_1 C_C + C_2 C_C + C_1 C_2$$

Equation of motion:

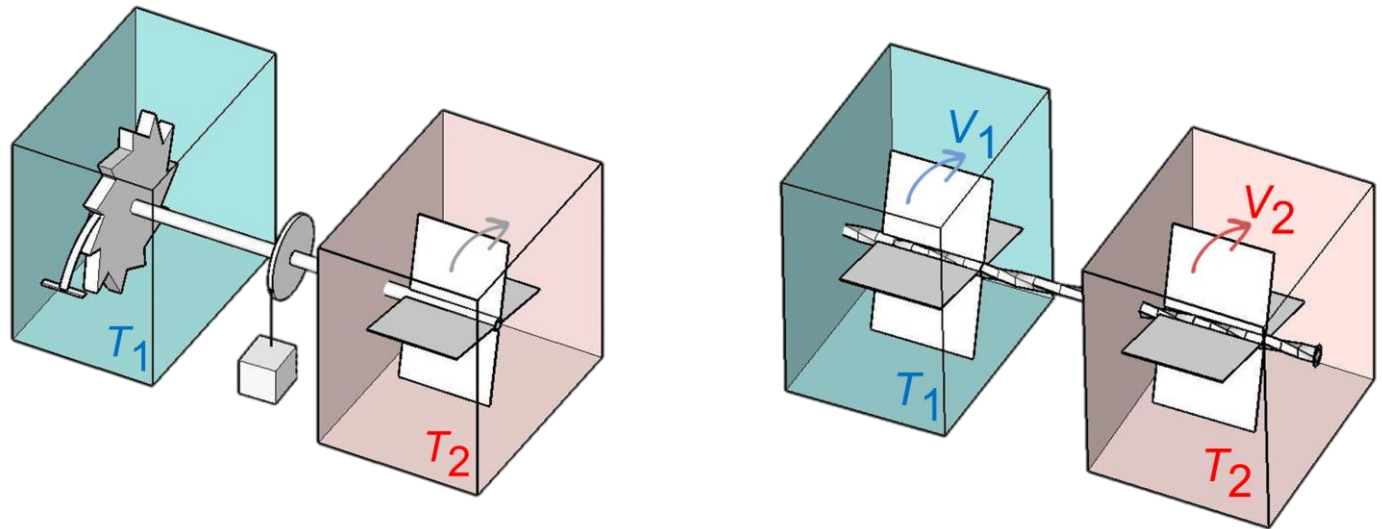
$$R_i \dot{q}_i = -\frac{\partial U(\vec{q})}{\partial q_i} + \zeta_i$$

electrical Brownian gyrator



# A Feynman Ratchet?

System	Feynman ratchet	coupled RC circuit
Asymmetry	clockwise vs. counterclockwise	In-phase vs. out-of-phase
Rectified motion	DC	AC



# Summary: Nonequilibrium Coupled RC

- Coupled RC circuit in NESS driven by temperature difference is well characterized and understood in terms of noise characteristics, voltage correlation, and heat transfer rate
  - Distribution of entropy production satisfies FT
- The device experiences regular, perpetual (gyrating) motion
  - Experimental realization of Brownian gyrator (Brownian motor, Feynman ratchet) at room temperature
- Possibility of making autonomous heat engine and refrigerator is under investigation

# Collaborations

Group:

Kuan-Hsun Chiang  
Xing Zhang

PI:

Prof. Chi-Lun Lee

Prof. Pik-Yin Lai

Prof. Yonggun Jun

*Department of Physics,  
National Central University*

**Thank You!**