



# Maxwell's Demon, Entropy, Information, Computing

*Harvey Leff, Andrew F. Rex*

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About 120 years ago, James Clerk Maxwell introduced his now legendary hypothetical 'demon' as a challenge to the integrity of the second law of thermodynamics. Fascination with the demon persisted throughout the development of statistical and quantum physics, information theory and computer science-and links have been established between Maxwell's demon and each of these disciplines. The demon's seductive quality makes it appealing to physical scientists, engineers, computer scientists, biologists, psychologists, and historians and philosophers of science. This book, *Maxwell's Demon: Entropy, Information, Computing*, brings under one cover twenty-five reprints, including seminal works by James Clerk Maxwell and William Thomson; historical reviews by Martin Klein, Edward Daub and Peter Heimann; important contributions by Leo Szilard, Leon Brillouin, Dennis Gabor and Jerome Rothstein; and remarkable innovations by Rolf Landauer and Charles Bennett. Until now this important material has been scattered throughout diverse journals. *Maxwell's Demon: Entropy, Information, Computing* makes the key literature easily available and helps with the cross-fertilisation of ideas in different disciplines. An annotated chronological bibliography provides a colourful perspective on Maxwell's demon and a rich trail of citations for further study. Available from Princeton University Press in the USA, Canada and Japan.

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