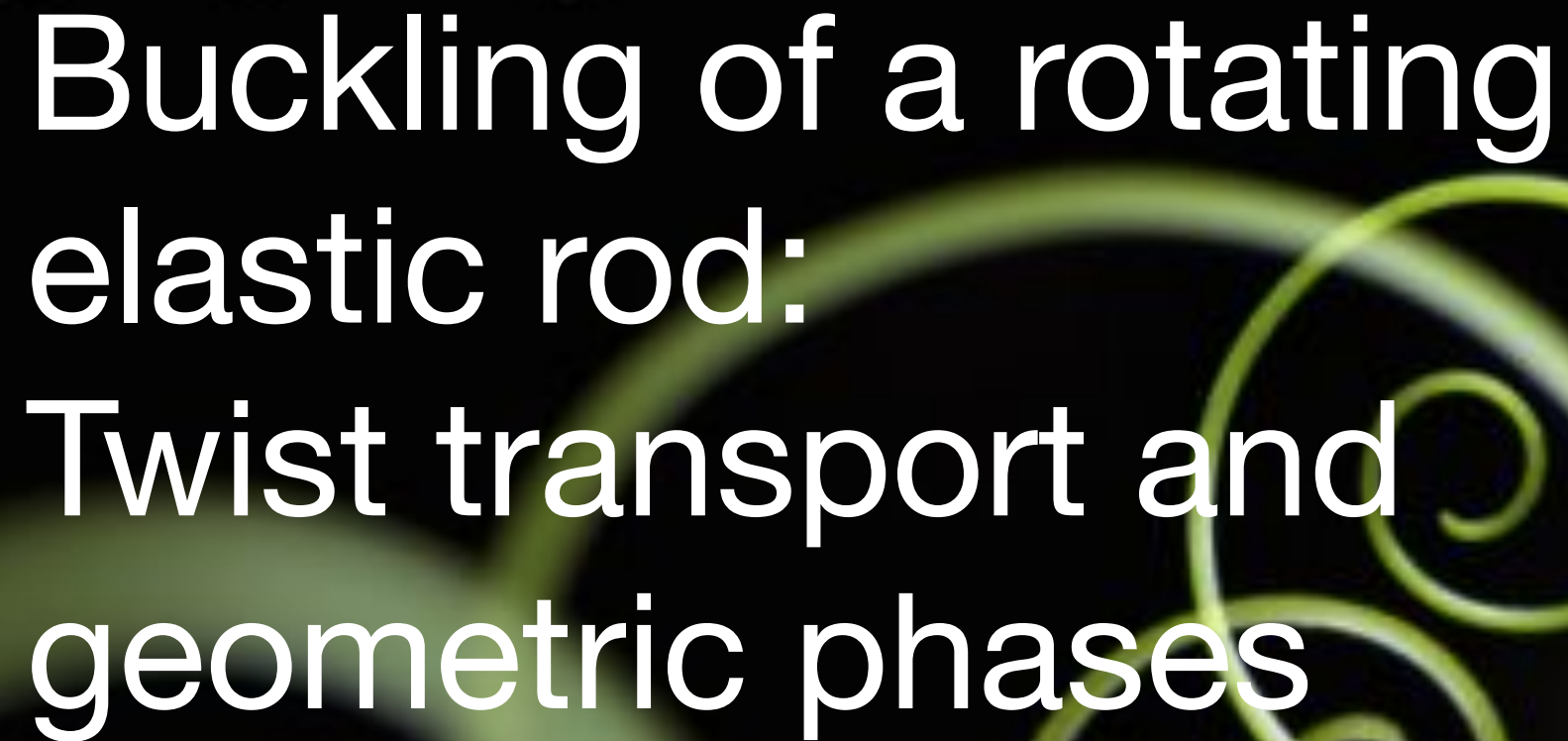


# Buckling of a rotating elastic rod: Twist transport and geometric phases



Hirofumi Wada

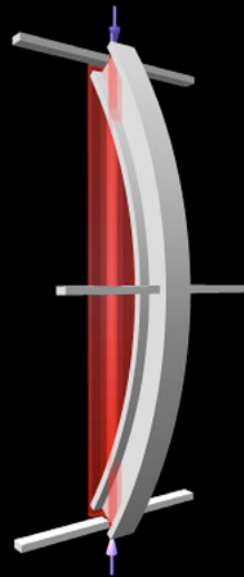
Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics

# Buckling of a thin rod under stress

*A ubiquitous phenomena in our daily life  
A classical lesson on stability analysis*



**Leonhard Euler**  
(1707-1783)



**Euler buckling and Elastica**  
shape instability of a compressed rod

*"Euler and Lagrange are the earliest in the region of elastic instability" -- from A.E.H. Love, "A Treatise on the Mathematical Theory of Elasticity"*



**Gustav Kirchhoff**  
(1824-1887)

## Progress in elastic theory of a thin rod

Kirchhoff rod equations

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_s \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{f} &= 0, \\ \partial_s \mathbf{M} + \partial_s \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{m} &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

*Analogy to Lagrangian mechanics of a top  
"Kirchhoff's kinetic analogue"*

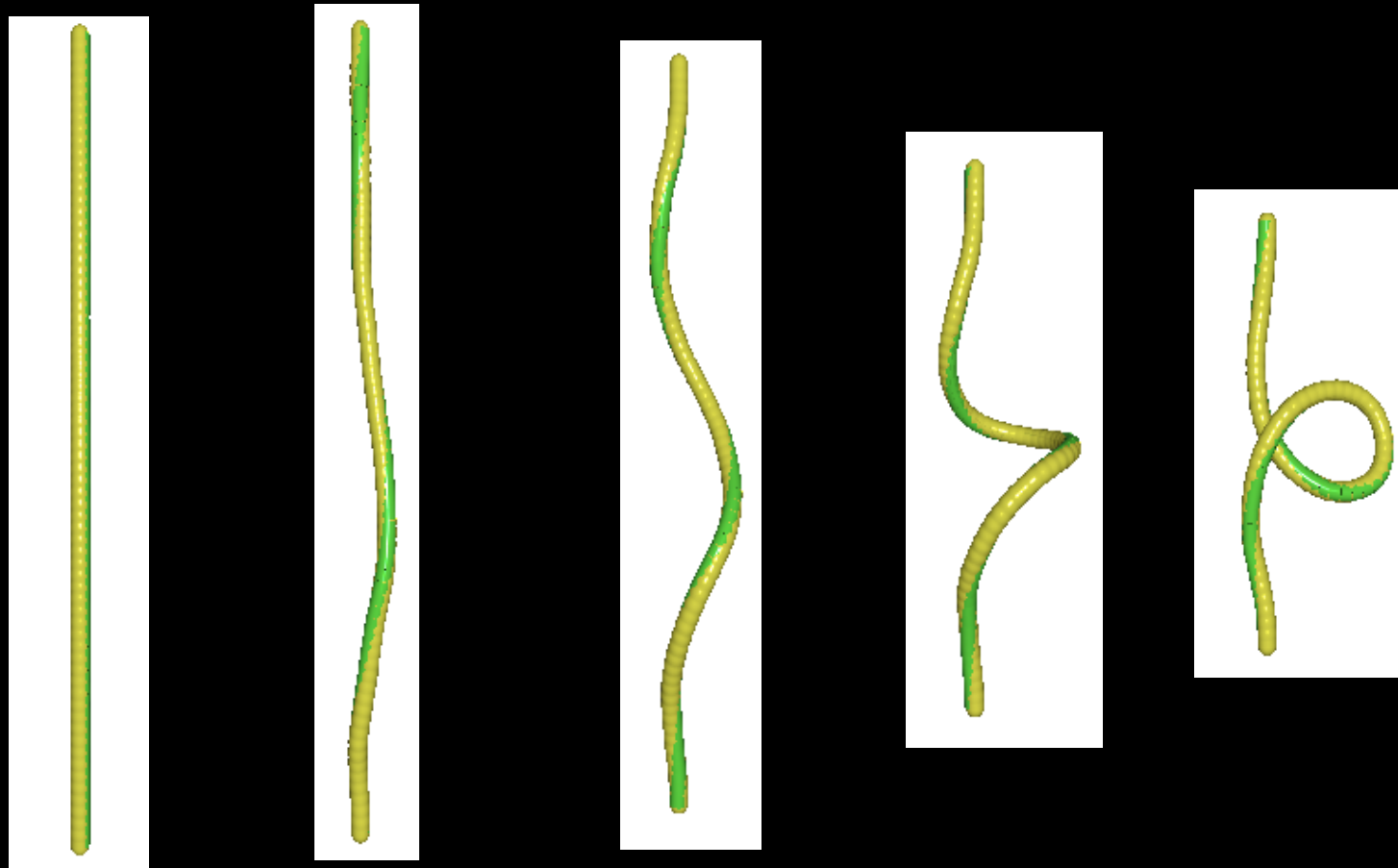
# Twist and loop formation: Geometric aspects

Linking number is invariant:

$$Lk = W_r + T_w$$

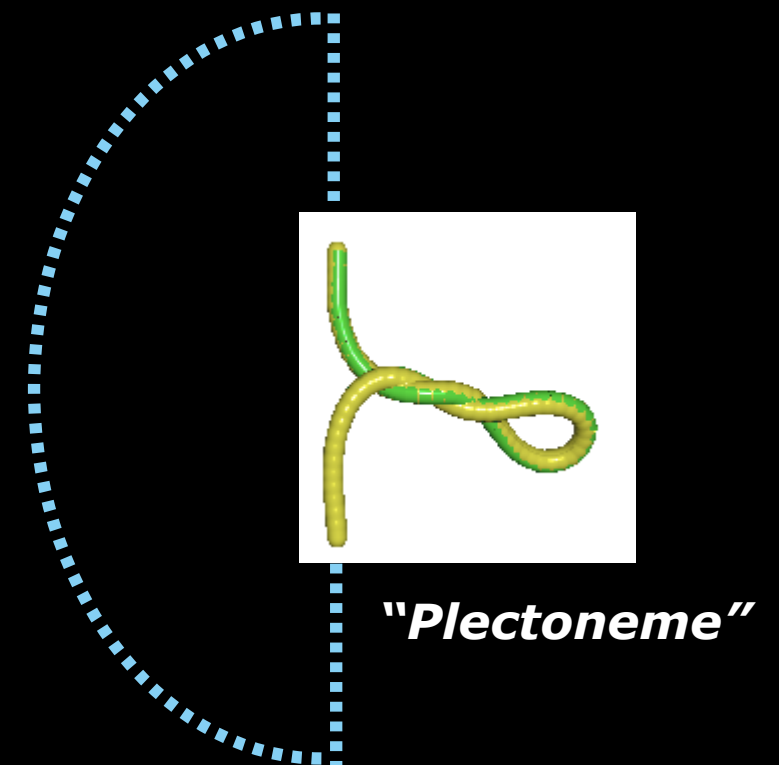
"writhe"      "twist"

Chiral buckling of a twisted filament



Virtual closing of radius

$$r \rightarrow \infty$$



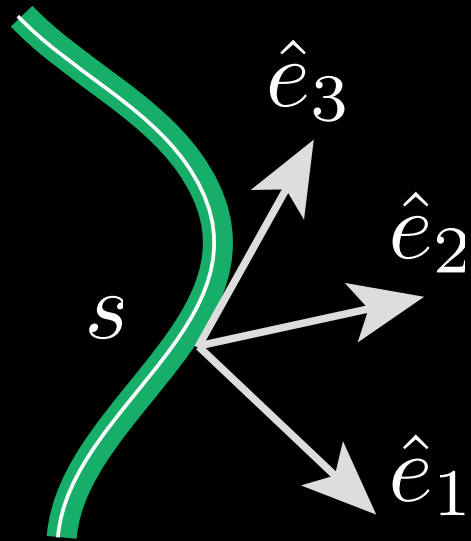
Axial twist is partly converted into centerline windings (writhe) through buckling

Self-crossing of the curve changes  $W_r$  by 2 discontinuously.  
(e.g., Dirac's belt-trick or Feynman's plate trick)

*Violation of topological invariance  $Lk = W_r + T_w$ .*

# Theory for a thin elastic rod

--- Variational formulation



Kinematic equation

$$\partial_s \hat{e}_i = \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \hat{e}_i \quad \boldsymbol{\Omega} \text{ rotation rate vector}$$

Elastic energy for an isotropic straight rod

$$E = \int_0^L ds \frac{A}{2} (\Omega_1^2 + \Omega_2^2) + \frac{C}{2} \Omega_3^2 - \int_0^L ds \Lambda(s),$$

## Variational relations

change of line element

$$\delta(ds) = \hat{e}_3 \cdot \partial_s(\delta \mathbf{r}) ds$$

change of base vectors

$$\delta \hat{e}_1 = (\delta \chi) \hat{e}_2 - [\hat{e}_1 \cdot \partial_s(\delta \mathbf{r})] \hat{e}_3$$

$$\delta \hat{e}_2 = -(\delta \chi) \hat{e}_1 - [\hat{e}_2 \cdot \partial_s(\delta \mathbf{r})] \hat{e}_3$$

$$\delta \hat{e}_3 = \partial_s(\delta \mathbf{r}) - [\hat{e}_3 \cdot \partial_s(\delta \mathbf{r})] \hat{e}_3.$$

change of strain rates

$$\delta \Omega_1 = (\delta \chi) \Omega_2 - 2\Omega_1 \hat{e}_3 \cdot \partial_s(\delta \mathbf{r}) - \hat{e}_2 \cdot \partial_s^2(\delta \mathbf{r}).$$

$$\delta \Omega_2 = -(\delta \chi) \Omega_1 - 2\Omega_2 \hat{e}_3 \cdot \partial_s(\delta \mathbf{r}) + \hat{e}_1 \cdot \partial_s^2(\delta \mathbf{r})$$

$$\delta \Omega_3 = \partial_s(\delta \chi) + (\Omega_1 \hat{e}_1 + \Omega_2 \hat{e}_2) \cdot \partial_s(\delta \mathbf{r}) - \Omega_3 \hat{e}_3 \cdot \partial_s(\delta \mathbf{r})$$

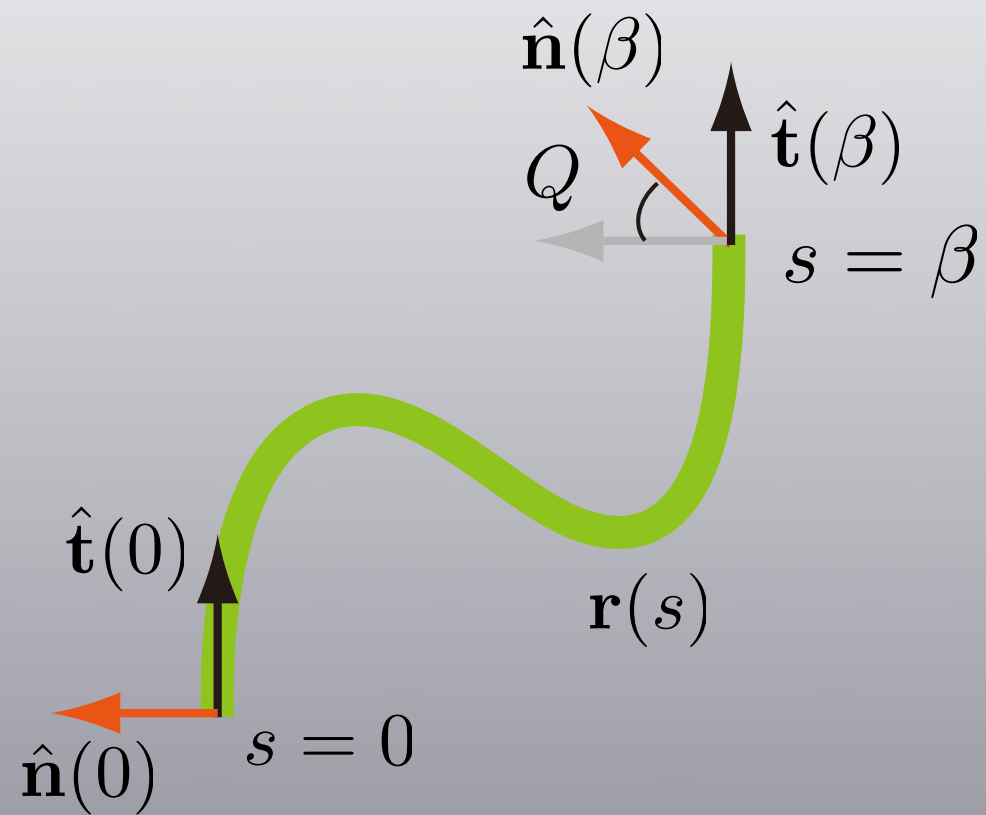
axial rotation (spin) rate

$$\delta \chi = \hat{e}_2 \cdot \partial_s \hat{e}_1$$

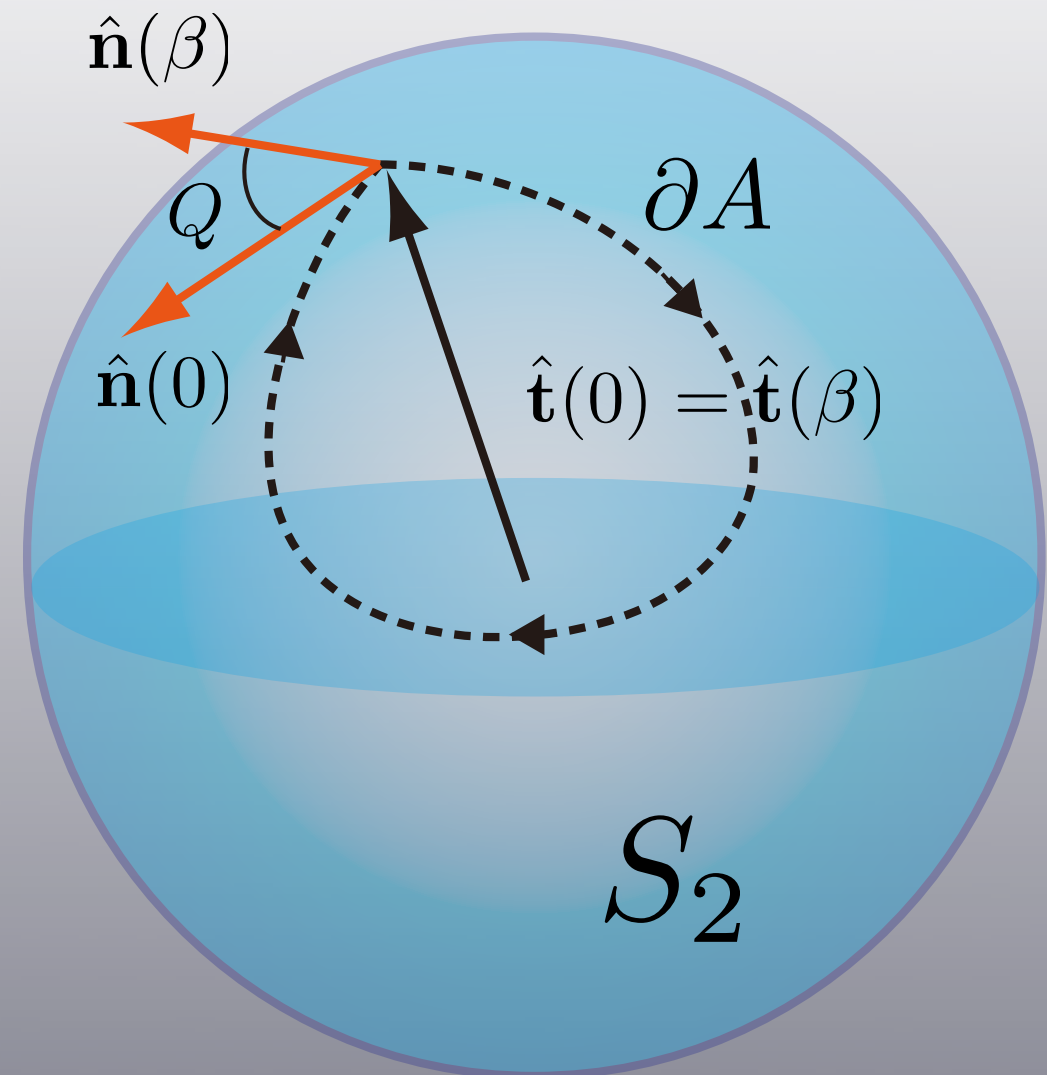
R. E. Goldstein, T. R. Powers and C H. Wiggins, PRL 80, 5232 (1998).



# Simple but Not-so-precise argument on twist



Segment of a rod



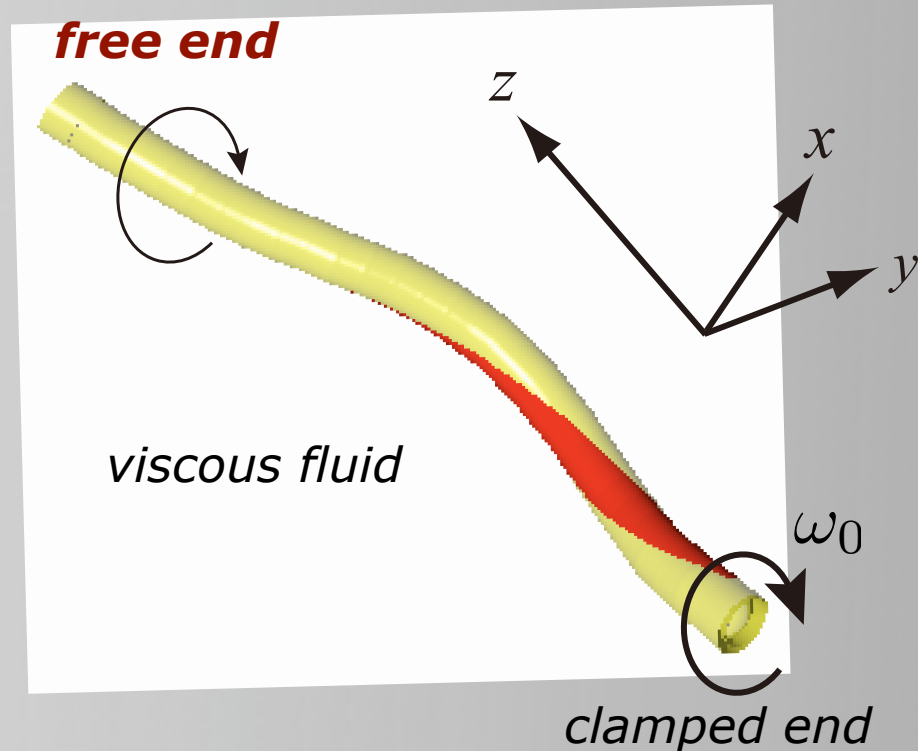
Poincare sphere

"dynamical phase"

"geometric phase"

$$\int_0^\beta ds \Omega_3(s) \sim (\text{pure axial rotation}) - (\text{geometric } Q)$$

(twist)                      (linking number)                      (writhe)



Rotating elastic rod in  
a viscous fluid:  
Dynamical analogue to  
a chiral buckling rod

Viscous equations of motion for bend and twist

$$\zeta \partial_t \mathbf{r} = -A \partial_s^4 \mathbf{r} + C \partial_s [\Omega (\partial_s \mathbf{r} \times \partial_s^2 \mathbf{r})] - \partial_s (\Lambda \partial_s \mathbf{r}),$$

$$\zeta_r \partial_t \Omega = C \partial_s^2 \Omega + \zeta_r (\partial_s \mathbf{r} \times \partial_s^2 \mathbf{r}) \cdot \partial_s (\partial_t \mathbf{r}).$$

Critical frequency for buckling

Wolgemuth et al. PRL (2000)

Linear stability analysis for a straight rod

$$\Omega(s) = \frac{\zeta_r \omega_0}{C} (s - L)$$

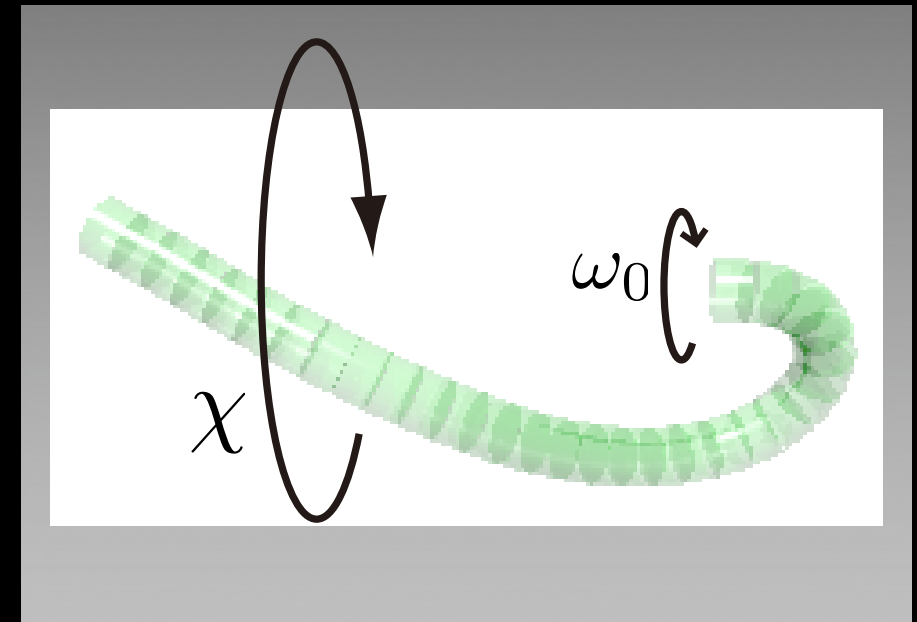
$$\omega_c = 8.9 \frac{A}{\zeta_r L^2}$$

$$\zeta \partial_t \xi = -A \partial_s^4 \xi + i \zeta_r \omega_0 \partial_s [(s - L) \partial_s^2 \xi]$$

Post-buckled nonlinear dynamics

Wada et al EPL (2006)

# Twist transport and nonlinear rotational response



Geometric relation for twist dynamics

$$\partial_t \Omega = \partial_s \omega - \Omega \hat{\mathbf{t}} \cdot \partial_s (\partial_t \mathbf{r}) + (\hat{\mathbf{t}} \times \partial_s \hat{\mathbf{t}}) \cdot \partial_s (\partial_t \mathbf{r})$$

*twist change  
due to axial  
spinning*

*twist change  
due to  
stretching*

*twist change due to  
out-of-plane bending  
("writhing")*

Crankshafting motion of the rod centerline  $\partial_t \mathbf{r} = \chi \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \mathbf{r}(s)$

Geometry provides a local conservation law for twist  $\partial_t \Omega + \partial_s j = 0$

"Effective"  
twist current

$$j(s) = -\omega(s) + \chi \cos \theta(s), \quad \cos \theta = \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{t}}$$

*"writhe current"*

At steady state, current must be constant  $j(s) = j(0) = -\omega_0 + \chi$

$$\omega_0 = \omega(s) + \chi(1 - \cos \theta(s))$$

# Twist transport and nonlinear rotational response

purely geometric (“physicsless”)

$$\omega_0 = \omega(s) + \chi(1 - \cos \theta(s))$$

+

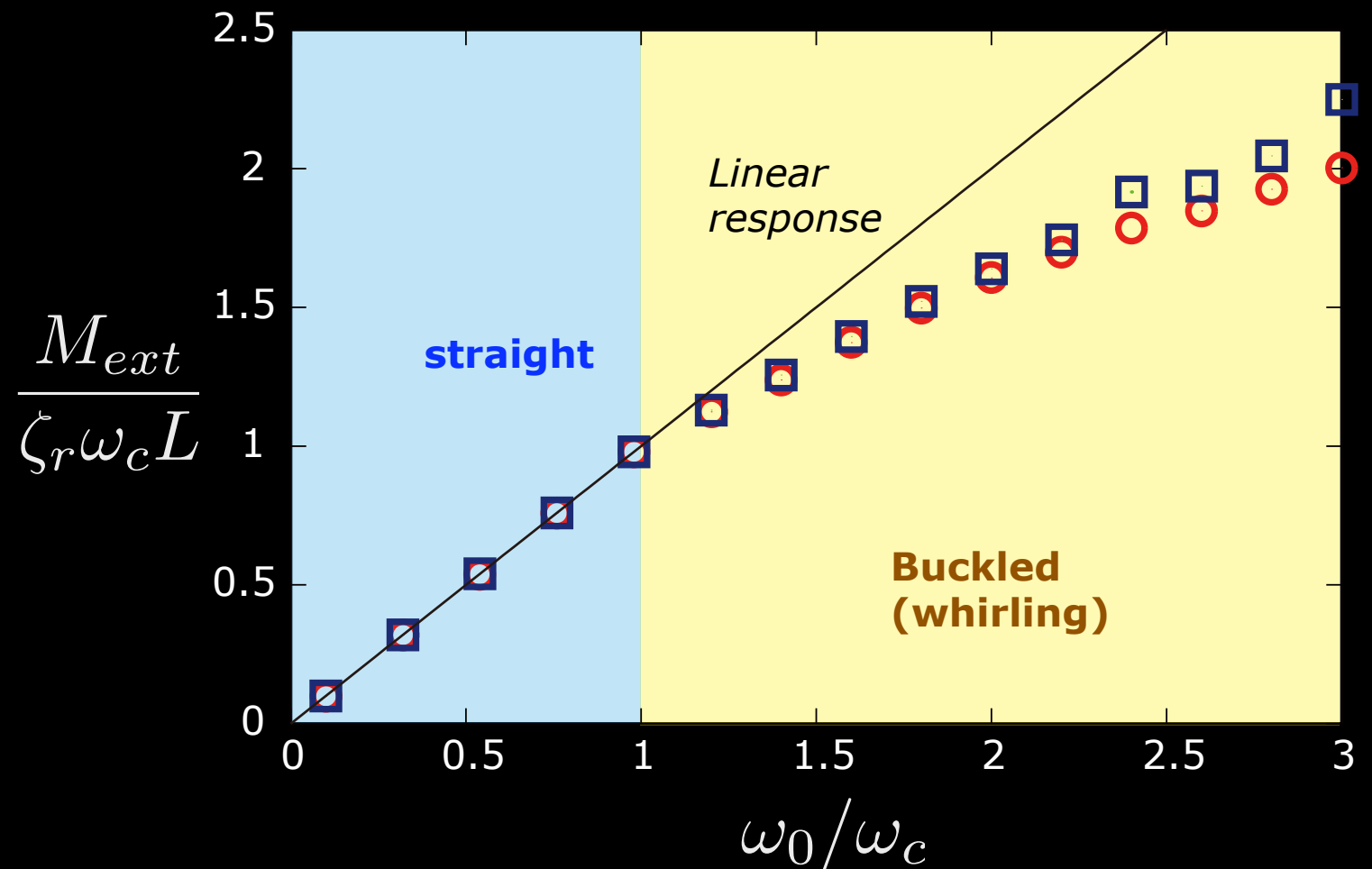
Viscous equations of motion  
(Kirchhoff rod equations)



Nonlinear torque-frequency relationship

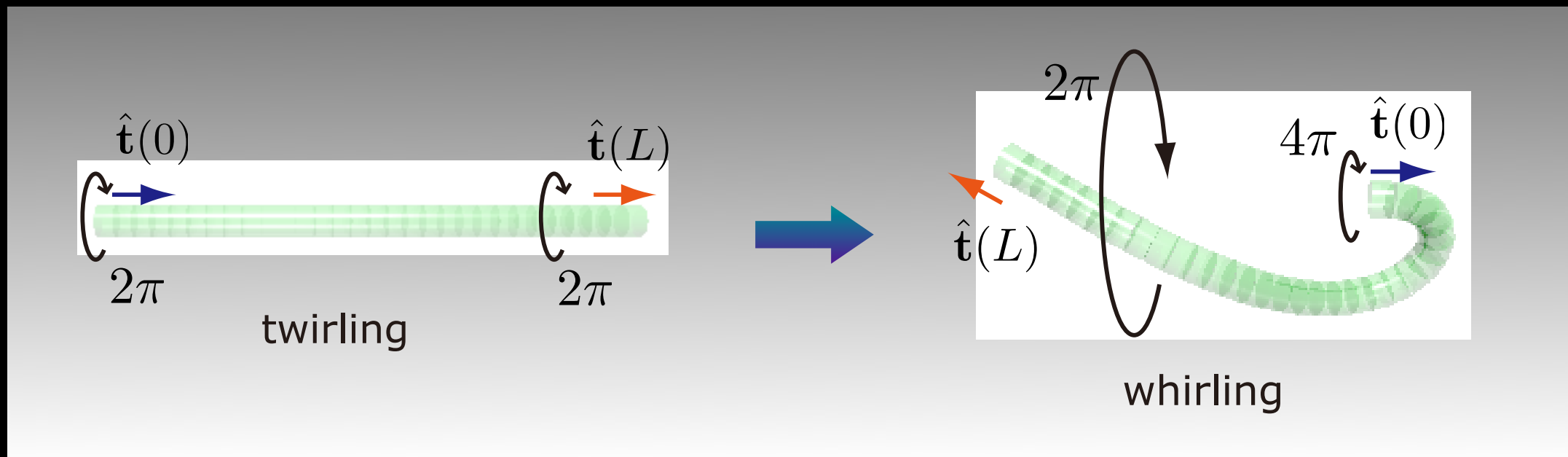
$$M_{ext}(\omega_0) = \zeta_r \omega_0 L \left[ 1 - \frac{\zeta_r L (1 - \sigma)^2}{\int_0^L ds [\zeta_r (1 - \cos \theta)^2 + \zeta |\mathbf{r}_\perp|^2]} \right].$$

*“Dynamical transition as a way to reduce the power dissipation.”*





# Underlying geometry and relation to geometric phases



Rationalization of the analogy to belt trick

$$\omega_0 = \omega(L) + \chi(1 - \cos \theta(L))$$

$$\omega(L) = 0,$$

$$\cos \theta(L) = \hat{\mathbf{t}}(0) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{t}}(L) = -1$$

$$\omega_0 = 2\chi$$

change rate

$$\oint \omega_0 dt = 2 \oint \chi dt = 4\pi$$

Global relation

Topologically equal to a “self-crossing” of a curve (jump of 2 in Wr):  
our example is its dynamical realization

Global topological quantities (Wr and Lk) are defined only to closed curves, but temporal changes in writhe and link are still meaningful in a form of “conservation law” (dynamical tradeoff) even for open filaments.