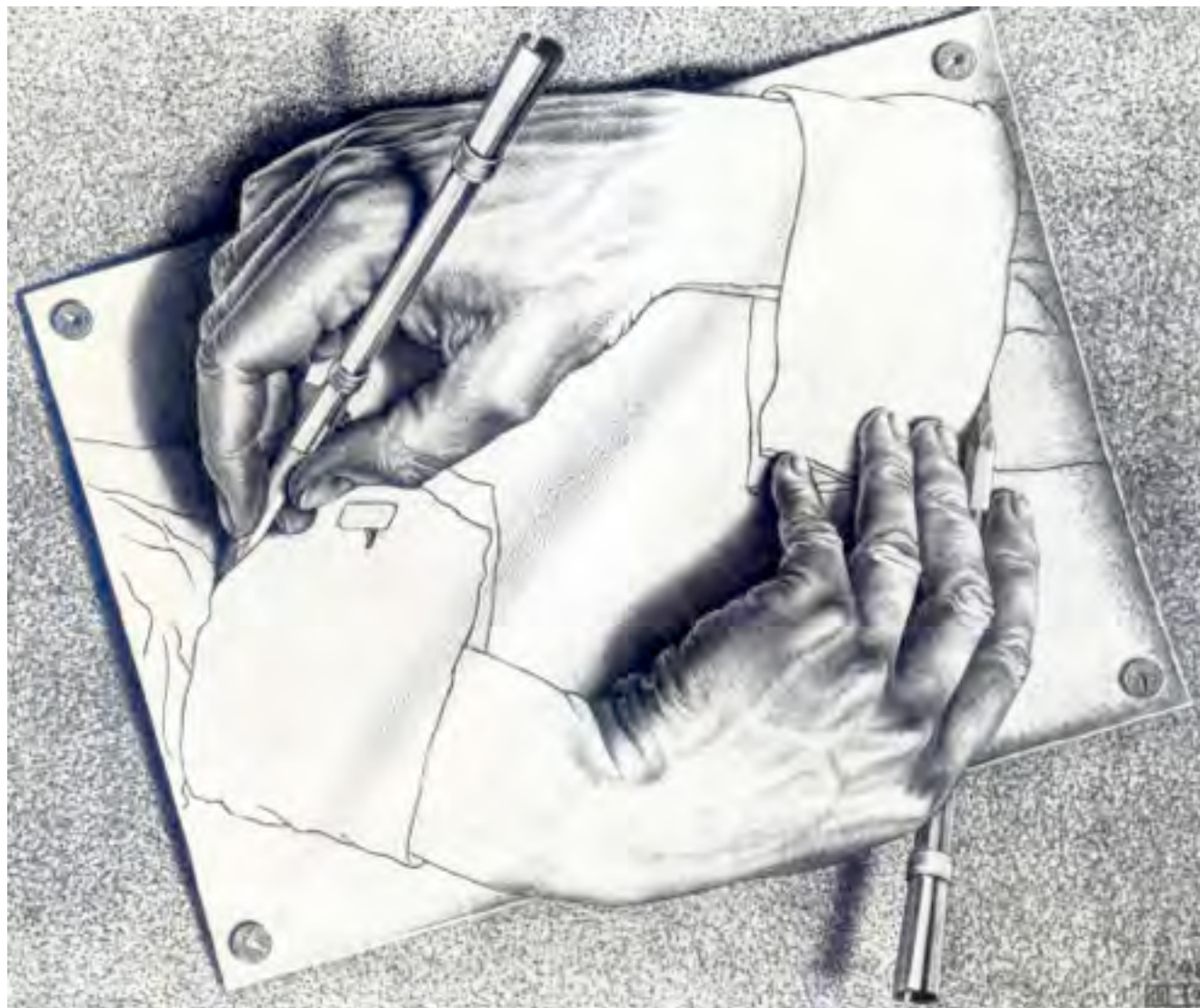


Inversion, Rotation, and Perversion in Mechanical Biology: From Microscopic Anisotropy to Macroscopic Chirality



M.C. Escher, *Drawing hands*, 1948

Alain Goriely
Mathematical Institute
University of Oxford

SIAM-Day Cardiff,
January 2013

Research supported in part by
the NSF, EPSRC, the Royal Society,
and the KAUST-GRP initiative

Left



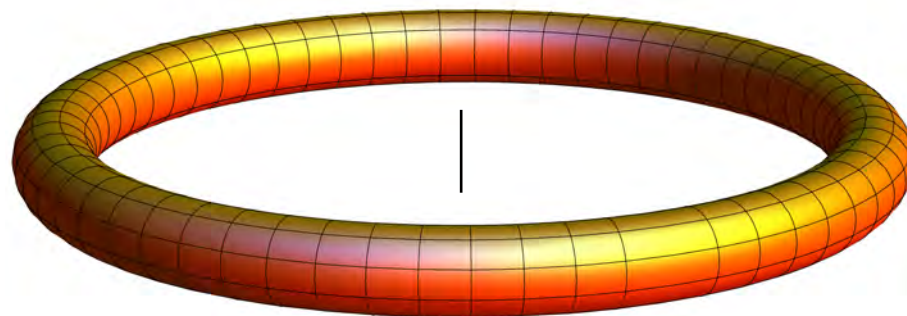
Torsion < 0
Curvature > 0



No Torsion
No Curvature



No Torsion
Curvature > 0



Right



Torsion > 0
Curvature > 0





Right

Panama City

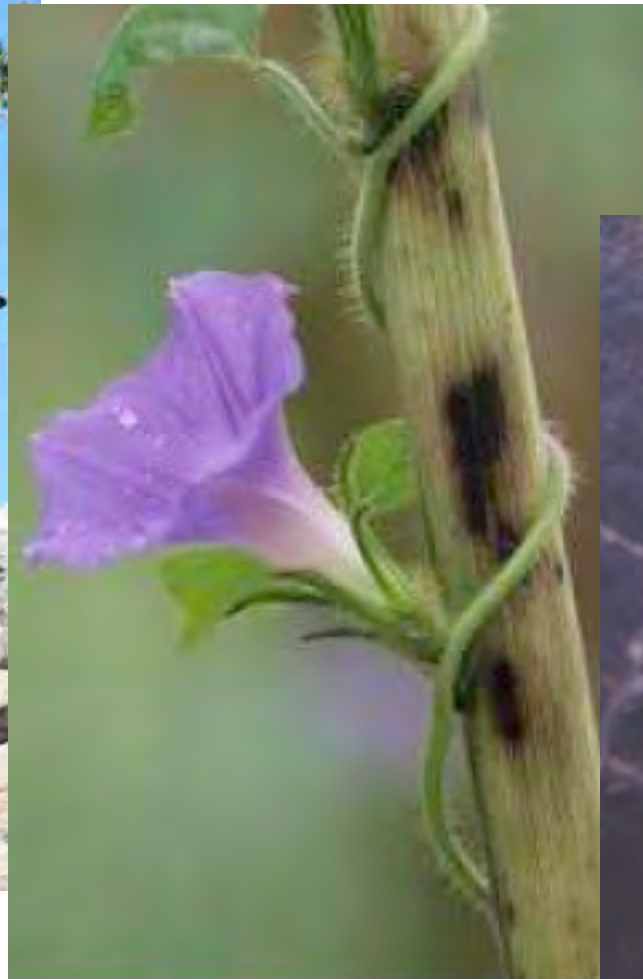
10^2 m



Right

Twisted Tree

10^2 - 10^1 m



Right

Twining Vines

10^1 - 10^0 m



Right

Umbilical cord

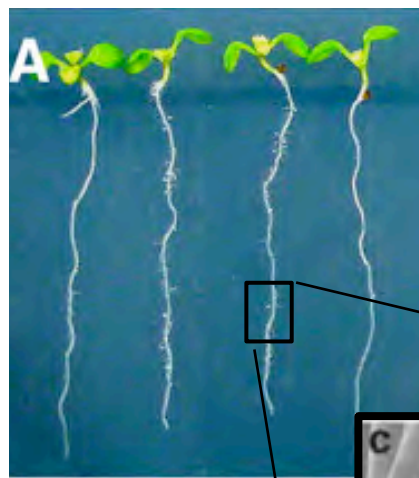
10^0 - 10^{-1} m



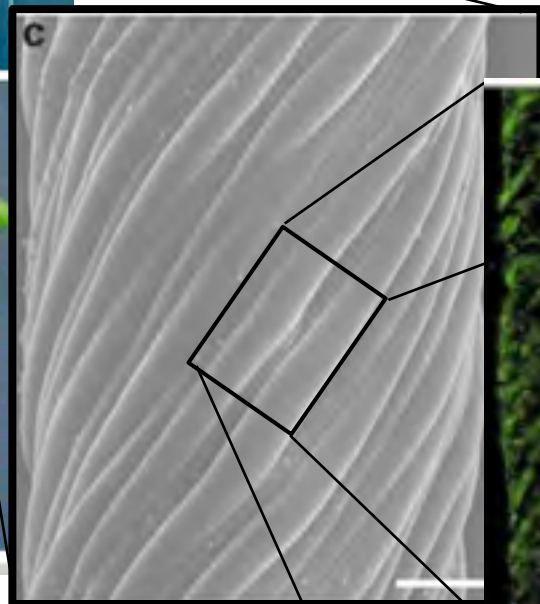
Right

Seashells

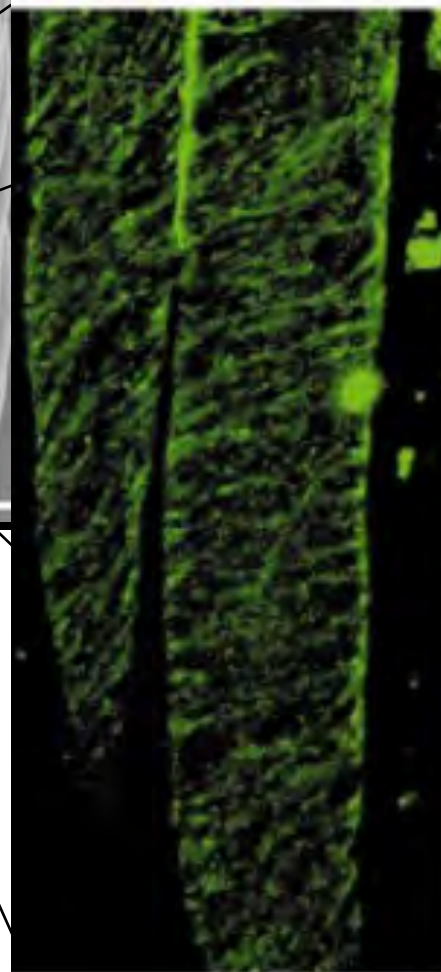
10^{-1} - 10^{-4} m



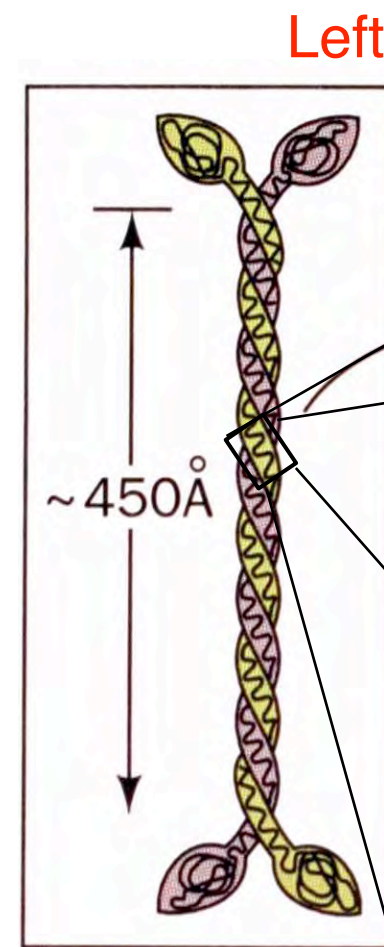
Arabidopsis root (Wang X-07)



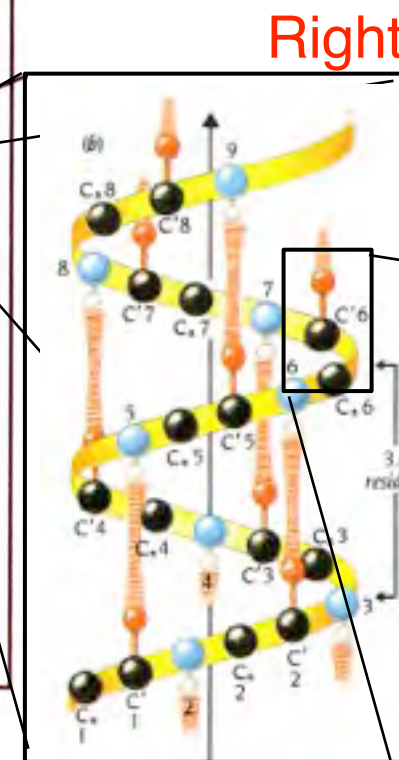
File of cells (Hashimoto-02)



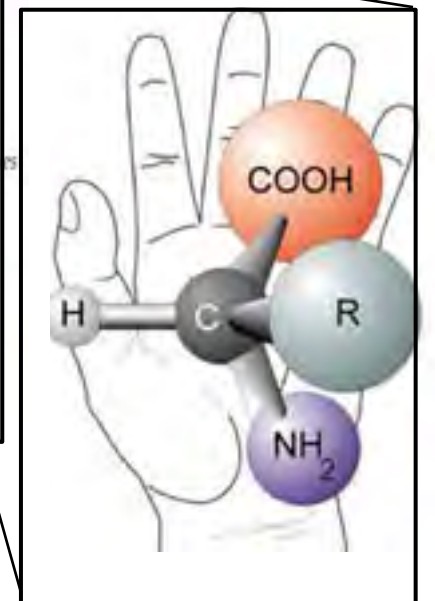
Microtubules Thitamadee 02



Keratin



alpha helix



amino-acid

10^{-2} - 10^{-3} m

10^{-3} - 10^{-4} m

10^{-7} - 10^{-8} m

10^{-9} m

10^{-10} m

GRAND QUESTIONS

- ❖ Absolute or relative notion of space (Immanuel Kant)

“What can more resemble my hand or my ear, and be more equal in all points, than its image in the mirror? And yet I cannot put such a hand as is seen in the mirror in the place of its original ...”(1783)

- ❖ Parity and symmetry breaking in physics (R. Feynman)

“The rule is that the particles which carry spin, like the electron, neutrino and so on, come out (in weak decays) with a spin mostly to the left. Now that is the rule, but today we do not really understand the whys and wherefores of it. Why is this the right rule, what is the fundamental reason for it, and how is it connected to anything else?” (1964)

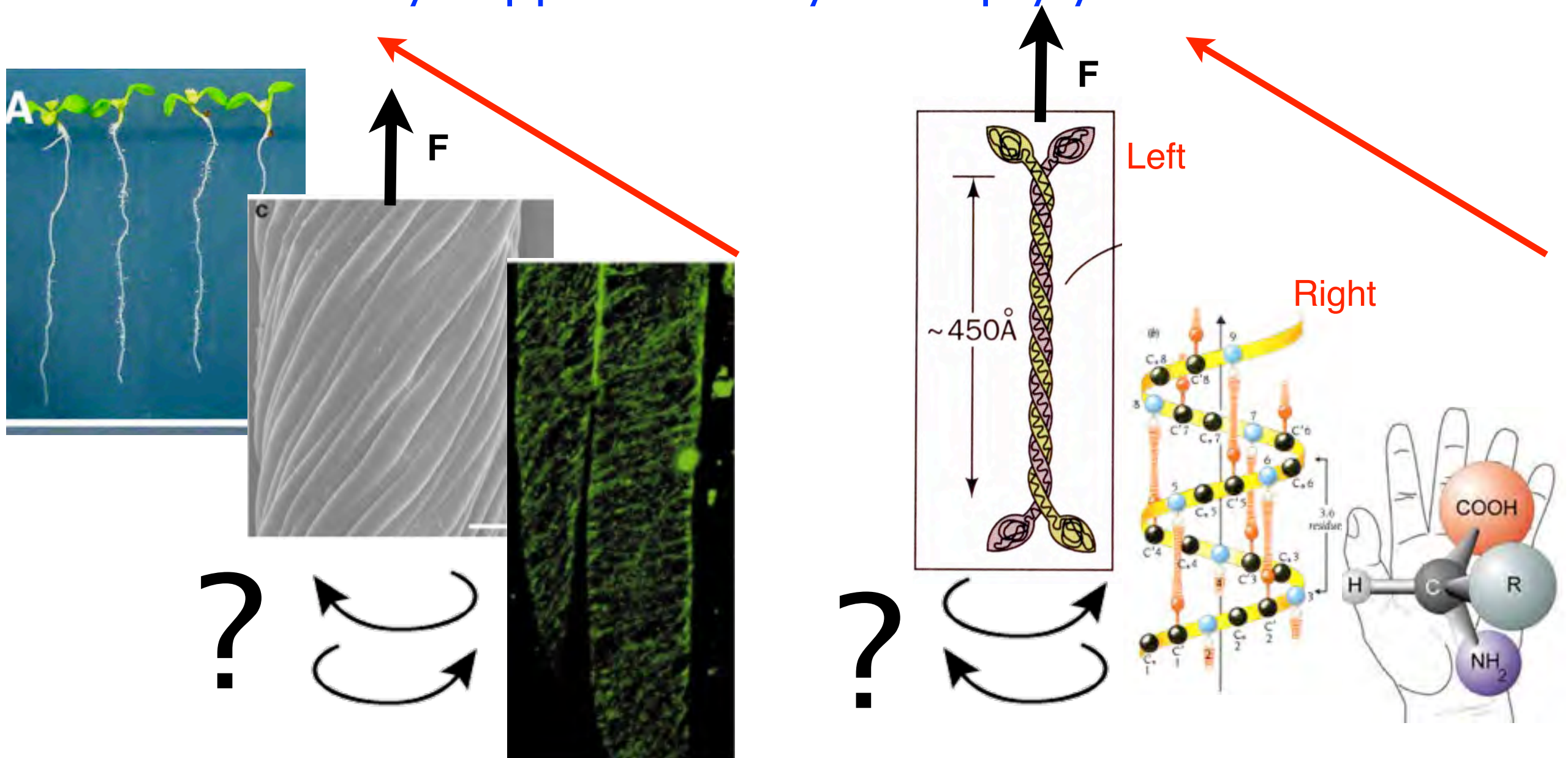
- ❖ Ultimate origin of chirality in nature

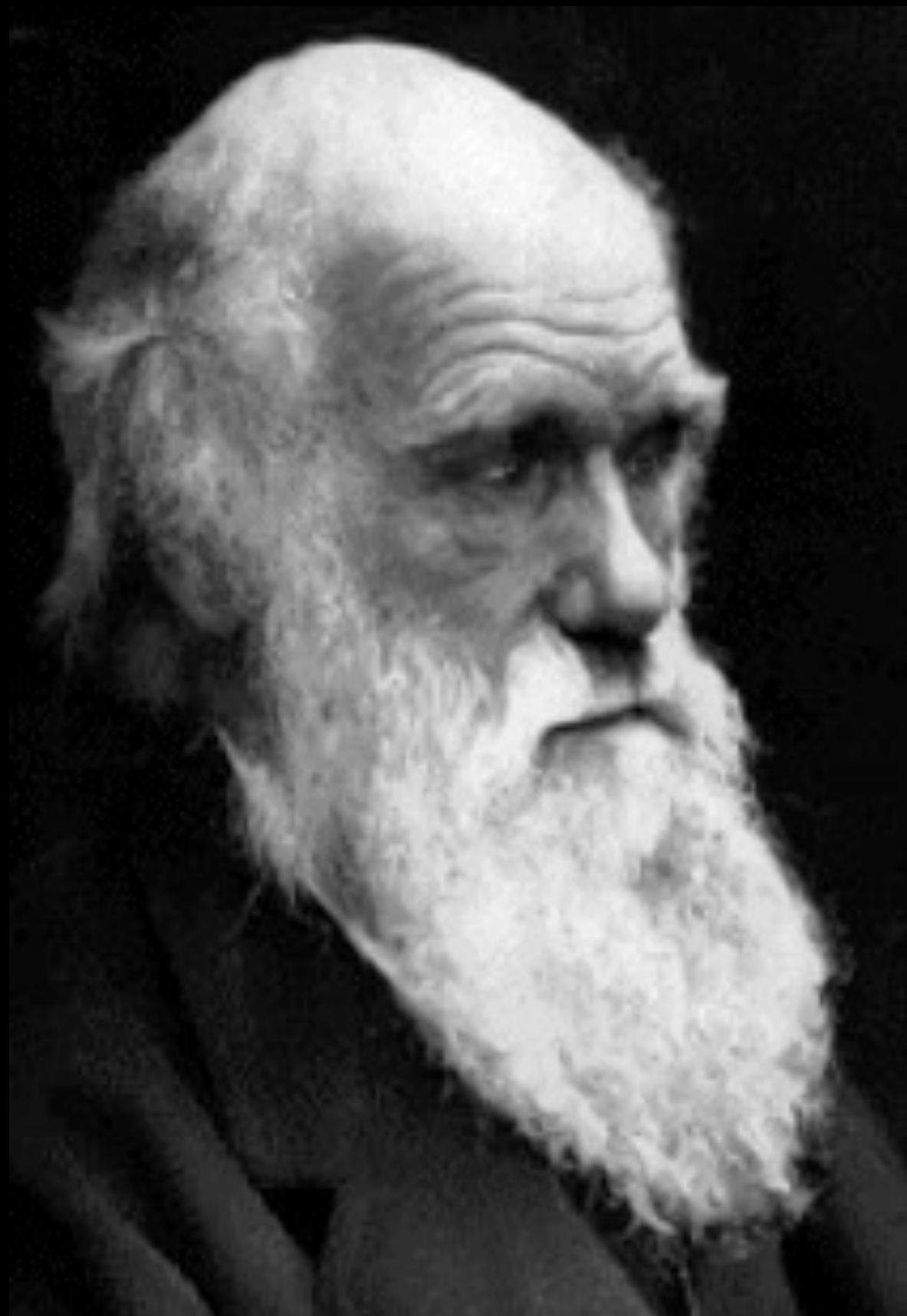
- ❖ Functions of laterality in biology, neurosciences

- ❖ Selection of handedness in genetics

petite questions

- ✦ Mechanics: chirality transfer from scale to scale
- ✦ Response of a chiral structure: winding or unwinding?
- ✦ Explaining inversion (and perversion)
- ✦ and what really happens when you empty your bath?





THE JOURNAL OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY.

On the Movements and Habits of Climbing Plants. By CHARLES
DARWIN, Esq., F.R.S., F.L.S. &c.

[Read February 2, 1865.]

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I WAS led to this subject by an interesting, but too short, paper by Professor Asa Gray on the movements of the tendrils of some Cucurbitaceous plants*. My observations were more than half completed before I became aware that the surprising phenomenon of the spontaneous revolutions of the stems and tendrils of climbing plants had been long ago observed by Palm and by Hugo von Mohl†, and had subsequently been the subject of two

* Proc. Amer. Acad. of Arts and Sciences, vol. iv. Aug. 12, 1858, p. 98.

† Ludwig H. Palm, Ueber das Winden der Pflanzen; Hugo von Mohl, Ueber den Bau und das Winden der Ranken und Schlingpflanzen, 1827. Palm's



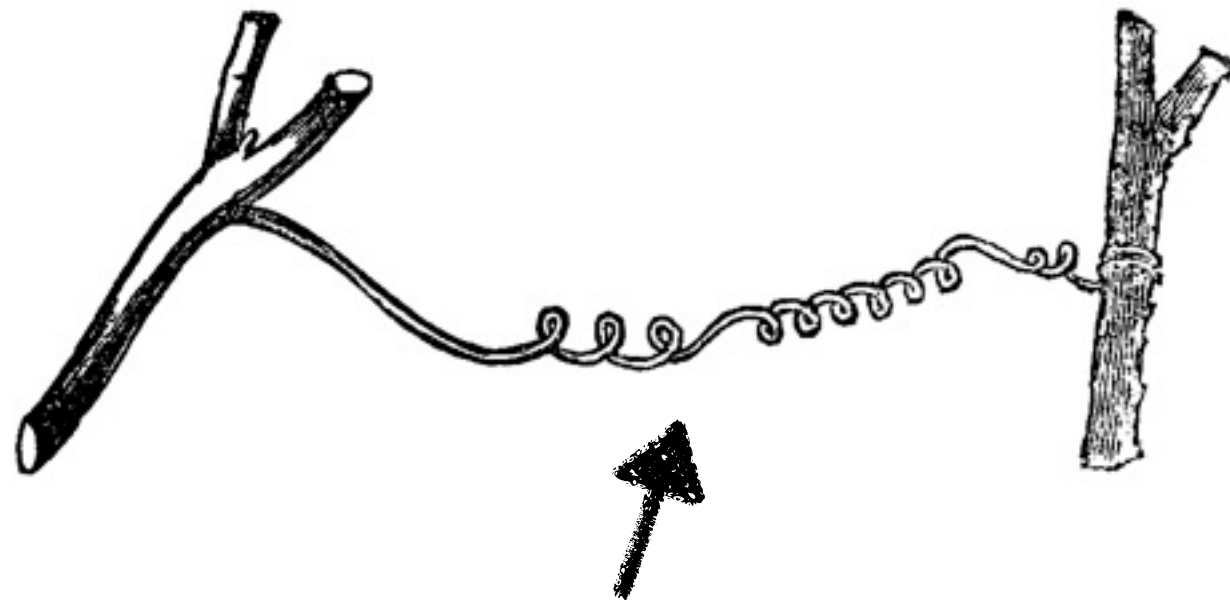
Tendrils Perversion



BBC documentary EARTH (Plants) narrated by D. Attenborough (2009)

A tendril invariably becomes twisted in one part in one direction, and in another part in the opposite direction... This curious and symmetrical structure has been noticed by several botanists, but has not been sufficiently explained.

Darwin *The movements and habits of climbing plants*



Tendrils



1865

Darwin

1858

Léon

1844

Dutrochet

1827

de Candolle

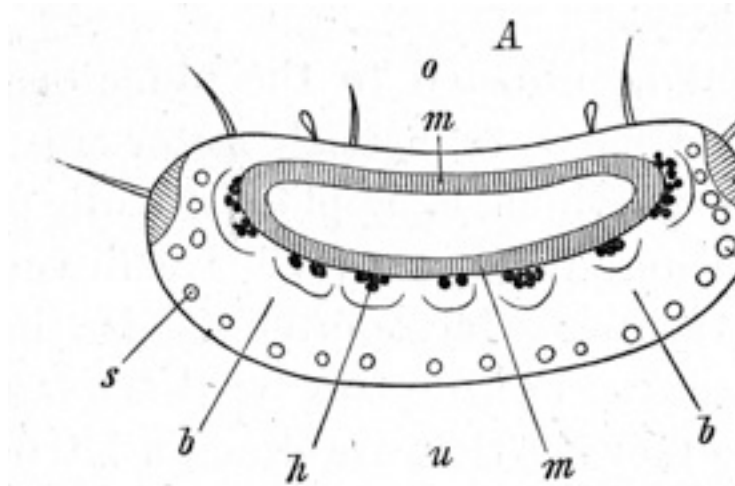
1790

Goethe

1760

Ampère

A mechanism



Transverse section through a tendril
H. de Vries (1877)



GROWTH INDUCED CURVATURE

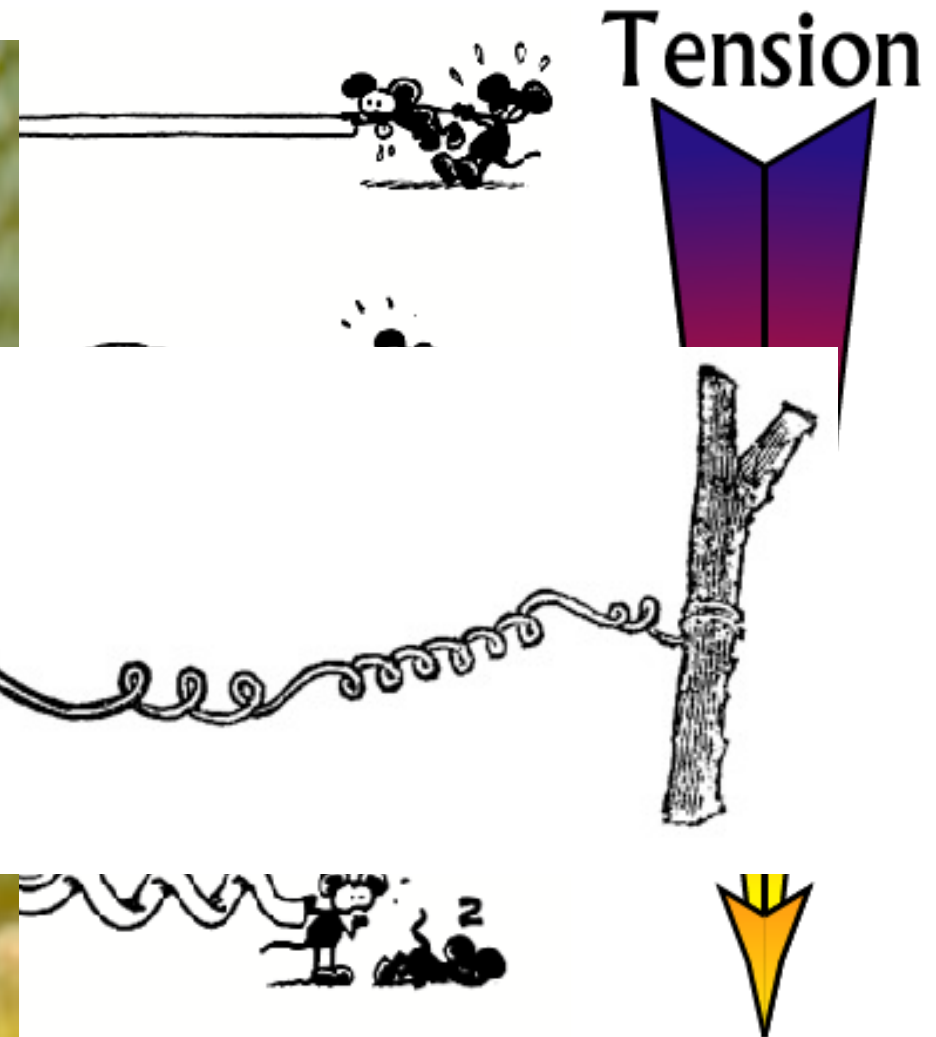
TENSION

NO NET ROTATION

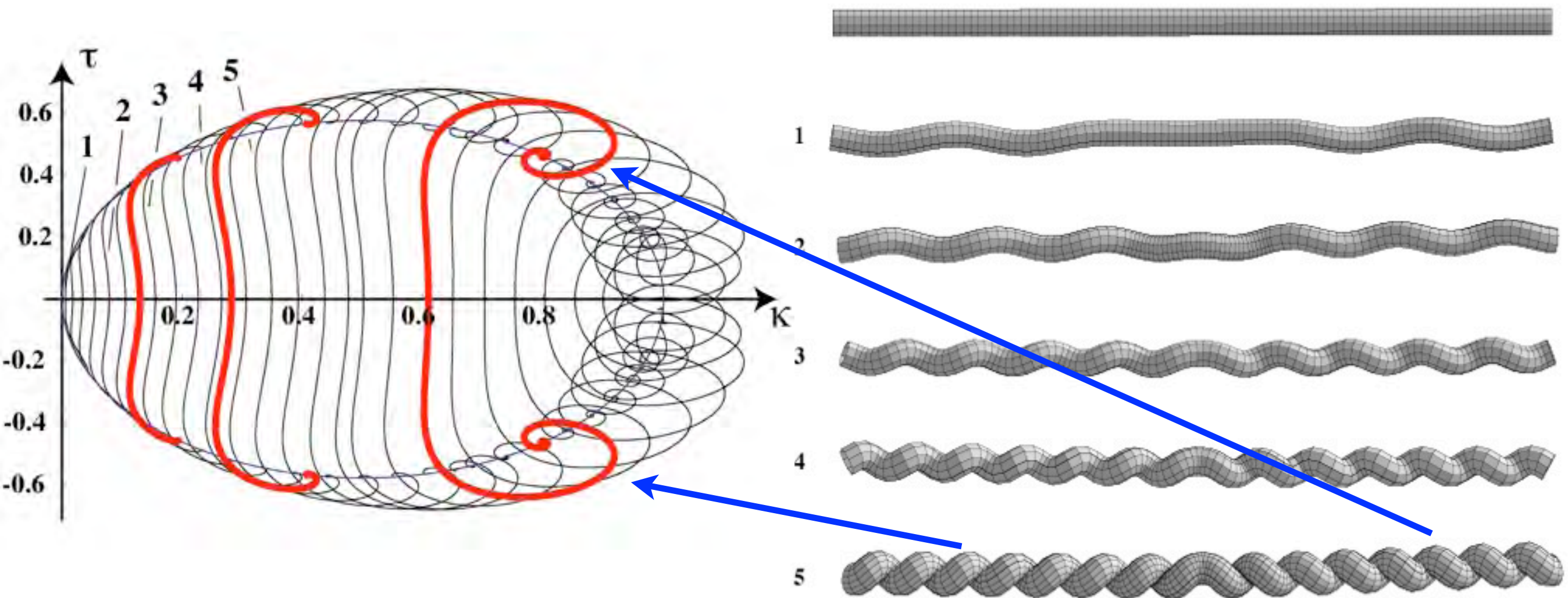
Mechanically, a tendril is an elastic filament with intrinsic curvature under tension whose ends are prevented from rotating



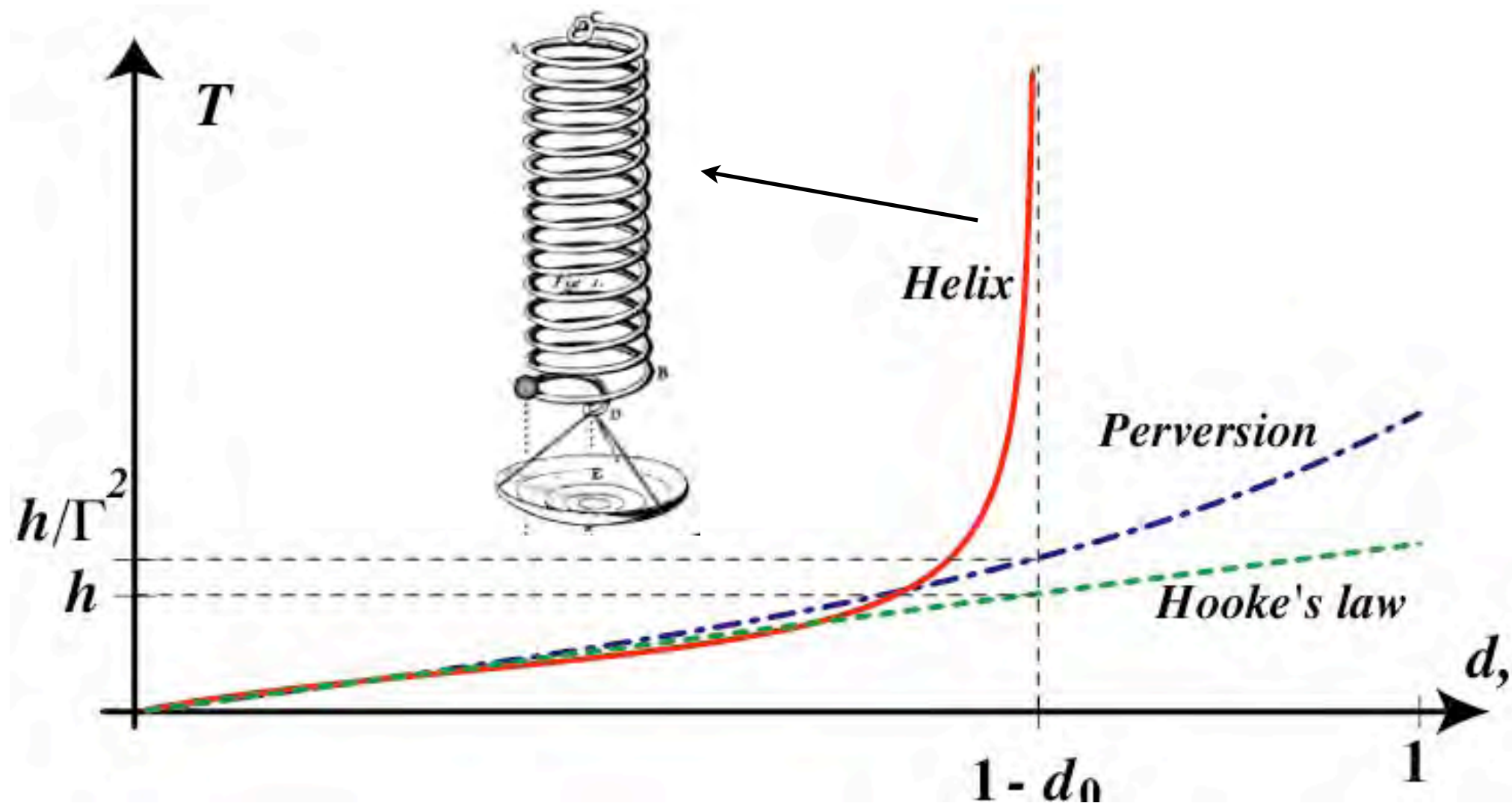
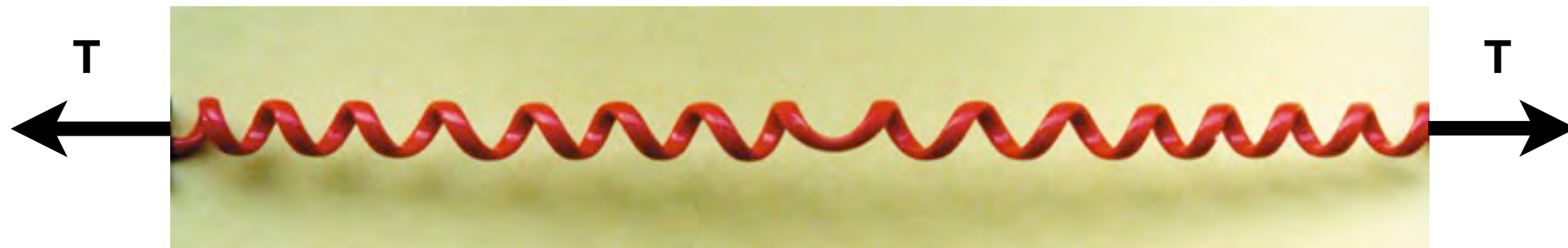
Increasing curvature or reducing tension creates an instability



A mathematical model



A better spring?

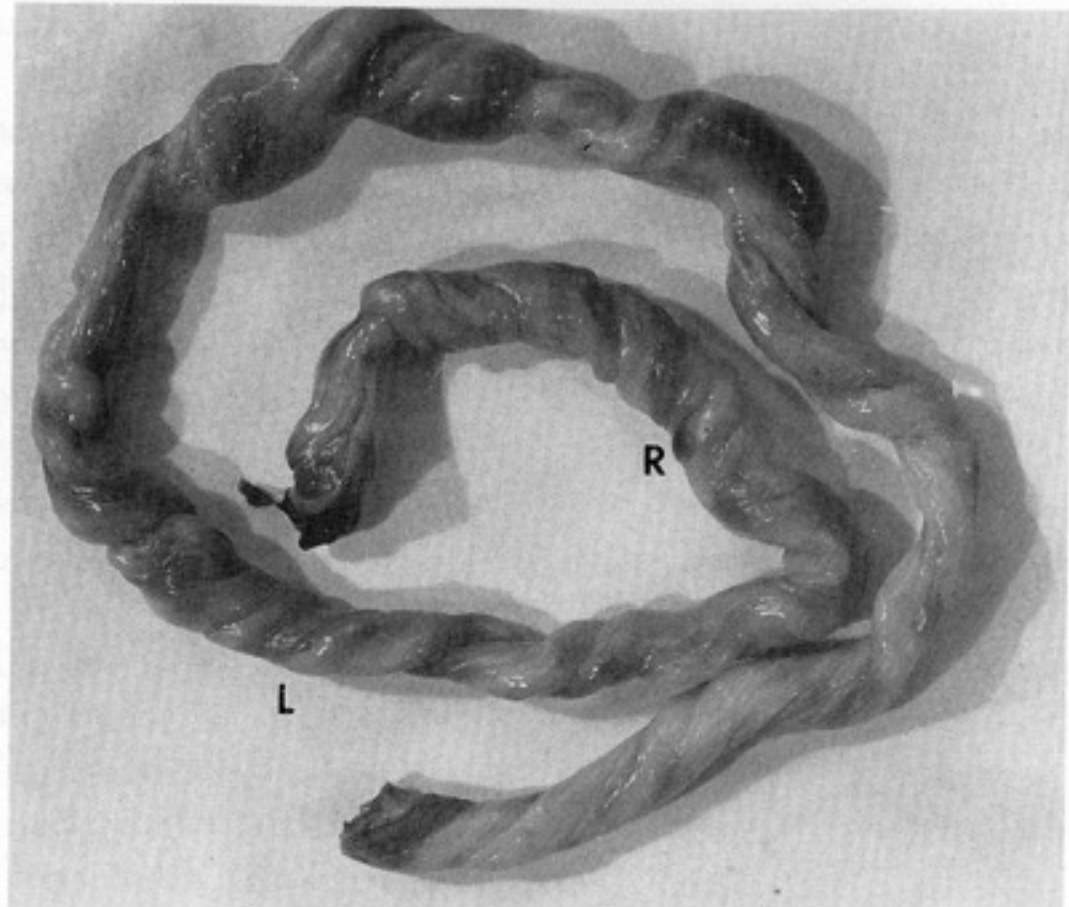


Tendrils are better springs than helical springs

Perversion?

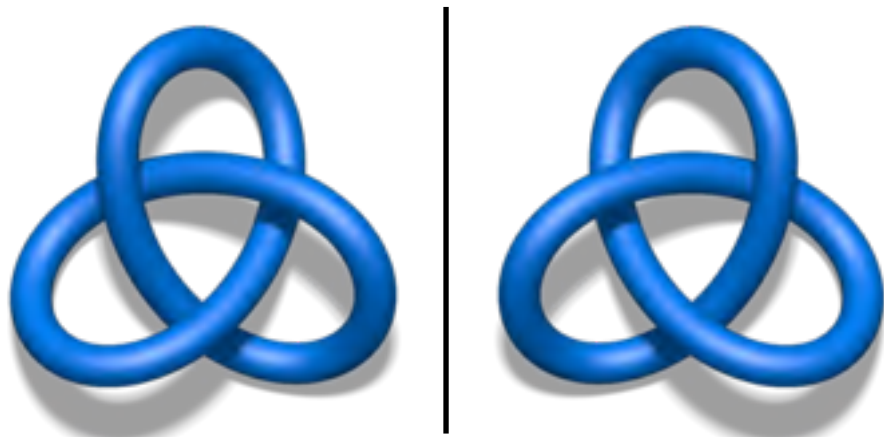


The open
called b
mirror i
J. C. M



ner is
ct in a
, 1892

J. C. Maxwell (1831-1879)



Tait's example of perversion
The trefoil knot

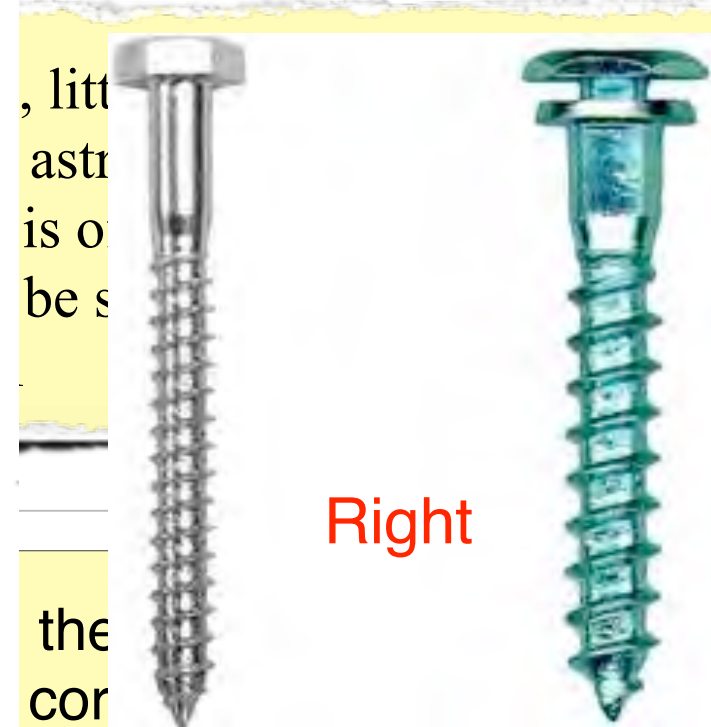


Digression: a convention

London Mathematical Society, 1871



Left



Right

the vine
the Society (Nature, May 1871)

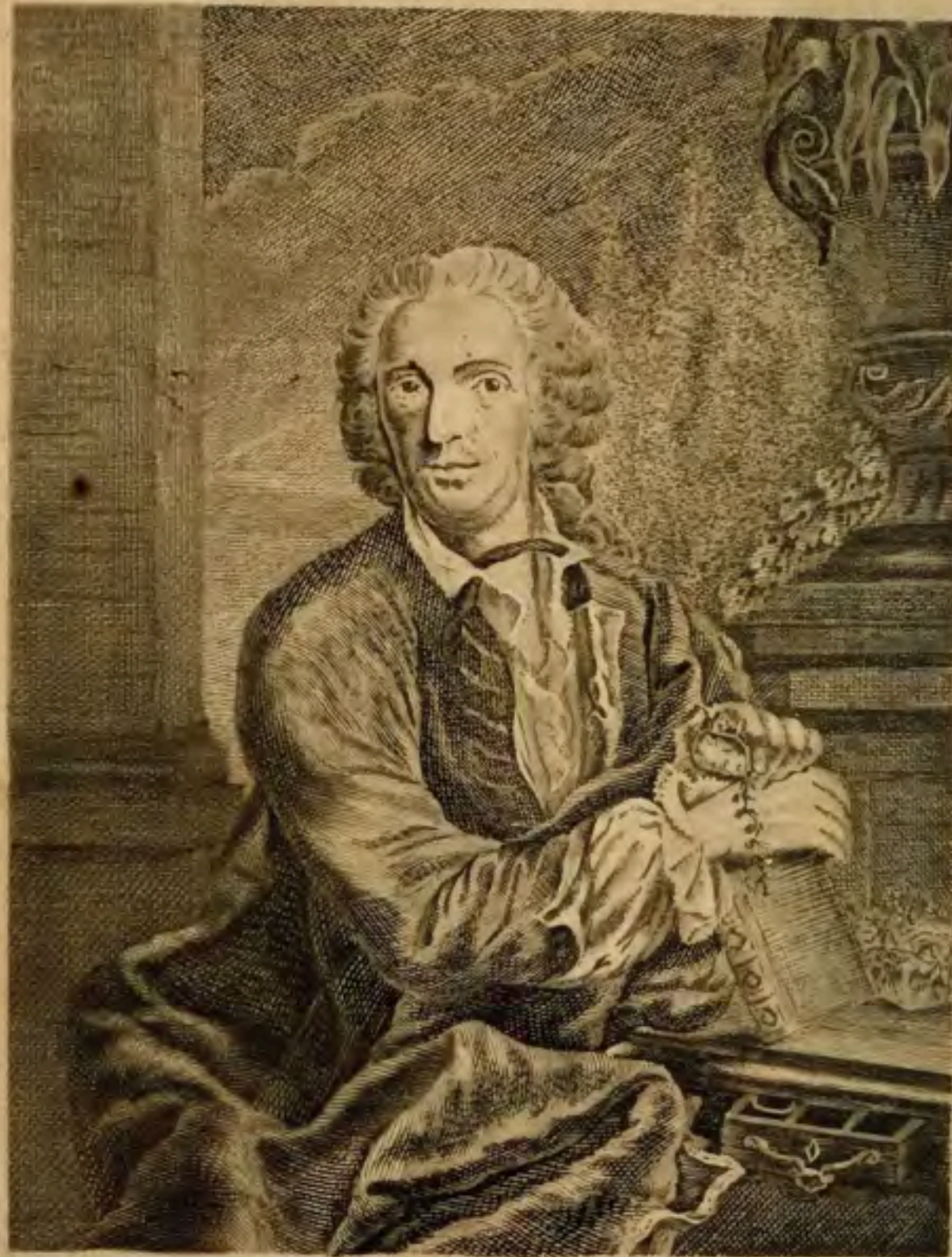
FIG. 2.—Types of Eskimo screws. a, The simplest type. b, A more elaborate type. c, The most elaborate type. (Exact size.)

Professor Miller has suggested to me that as the tendrils of the vine are right-handed screws and those of the hop left-handed, the two systems might be called those of the vine and the hop respectively. The system of the vine, which we adopt, is that of Linnaeus, and of screw-makers in all civilized countries except Japan.

J. C. Maxwell, *A Treatise of Electricity and Magnetism*, 1892



Right



Carolus à Linné.

Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778)

CAROLI LINNÆI
 ARCHIATR. REG. MEDIC. ET BOTAN. PROFESS. UPSAL.
 ACAD. IMPERIAL. MONSPEL. BEROL. TOLOS. UPSAL.
 STOCKH. SOC. ET PARIS. CORRESP.
**PHILOSOPHIA
 BOTANICA**
 IN QVA
 EXPLICANTUR
FUNDAMENTA BOTANICA
 CUM
 DEFINITIONIBUS PARTIUM,
 EXEMPLIS TERMINORUM,
 OBSERVATIONIBUS RARIORUM,

ADJECTIS
 FIGURIS ÆNEIS.



Cum PRIVILEGIO.

STOCKHOLMIÆ,
 APUD GODOFR. KIESEWETTER
 1751.



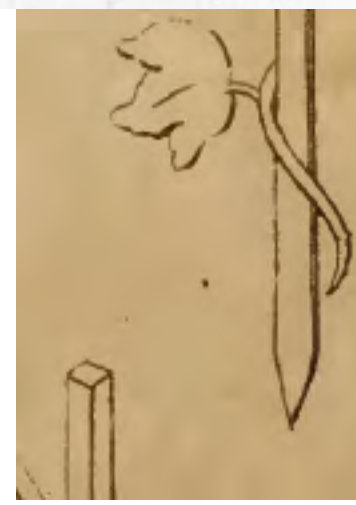
Folia & Fructificationem pro-
sunt VI. *Caulis, Culmus, Sca-*
Petiolus, Frons, Stipes; at *Ramus*
proprius herbæ, elevat Folia Fructifica-
ta serie versus apicem extenditur.
mplicissimus, ramis vix ullis.
destitutus: *Euphorbia, Cactus, Stape-*
Cuscuta.
is instructus est.
undum articulos horum versus flexus:

. IV. f. 115. spiraliter adscendens per
ruin.

Sinistrorsum & secundum solem vul-
go: *Humulus, Helxine, Lonicera,*
Tamus.

Dextrorsum & contra motum solis vul-
gi: *Convolvulus, Basella, i basco-*
lus, Cynanche, Euphorbia, Eupa-
torium.

6. *Reclinatus*, arcuatim versus terram: *Ficus.*



IV. INTORSIO est flexio partium versus alterum
latus.

CAULIS volubilis sinistrorsum C:

Tamus, Dioscorea, Rajania, Menispermum
Cissampelos, Hippocratea.

Lonicera

Humulus

Helxine.

dextrorsum D:

Phaseolus, Dolichos, Clitoria, Glycine, Sè-
curidaca.

Convolvulus, Ipomœa,

Cynanche, Periploca, Ceropegia,

Euphorbia, Tragia.

Basella,

Eupatorium,

Tournefortia.

CIRRHUS volubilis dextrorsum retrorsumque.

Leguminosæ pleræque ejusmodi cirrhos gerunt.

Smilax petiolos cirrhiferos profert; idem ferme *Piper*

COROLLA sinistrorsum (*):

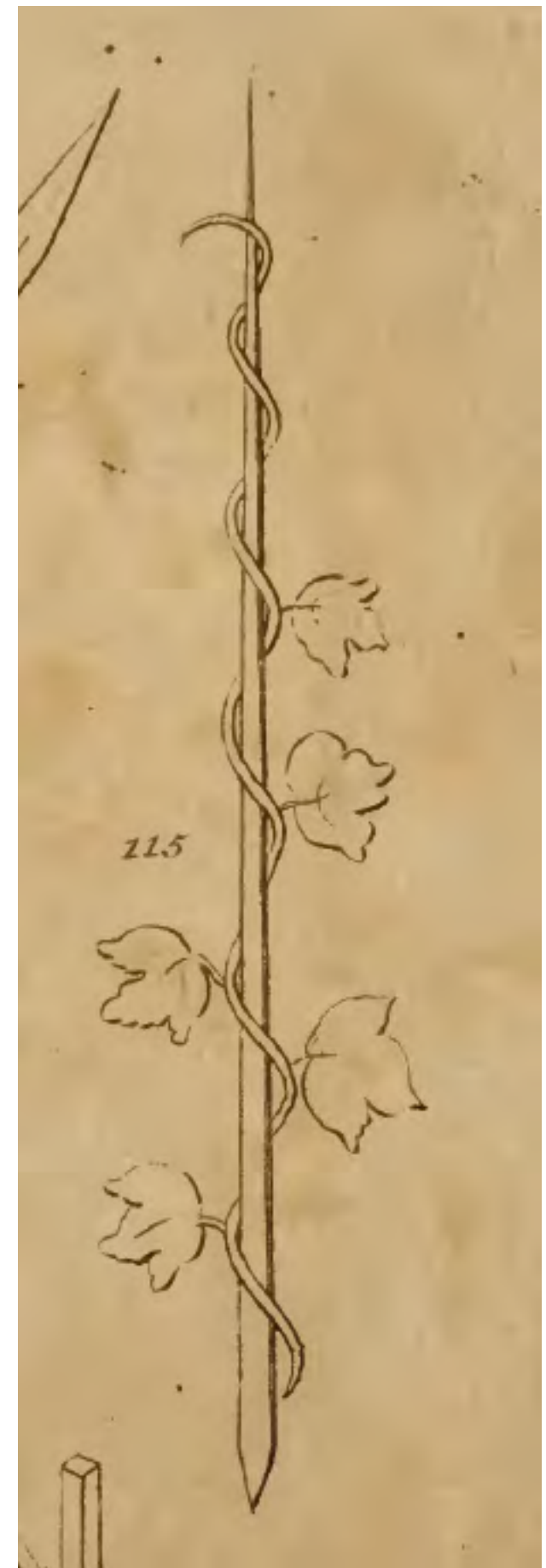
Asclepias, Nerium, Vinca, Rauwolfia, Periploca,
Stapelia.

dextrorsum: *Pedicularis* Fl. fu. 505. 507. 508.

G 4

Trien-

(*) *Sinistrorsum* hoc est, quod respicit dextram, si ponas Te
ipsum, in centro constitutum, meridiem adspicere; *Dex-*
trorsum itaque contrarium.



310

ERRATA.

Page.	8. §.	4. Variora	lege	variora.
9.	-	16. primarii	---	primariæ.
27.	-	7712. Coix	---	Cycas. Caryota.
34.	-	55. Glycine	---	Astragalus.
		57. Bunias	---	dele ultimo.
		59. Carniolaria	---	Craniolaria.
36.	-	68. Adoxa	---	dele.
		Calamaria	---	Hoetes.
38.	-	80. Truni	---	Trunci.
52.	-	8617. Valva	---	Volva.
59.	-	91. longia	---	longæ.
68.	-	10. Melica	---	Melia.
80.	-	22. plana	---	quasi plana.
203.	-	Sinistrum	---	dextrum.
104.	-	Hygrometia	---	Hygrometia.
121.	-	Bernhardia A.	---	Bernhardia H.
		qua	---	quo.
120.	-	170. Ananas	---	Ananas T.
		Melocactus	---	Melocactus T.
123.	-	177. sed	---	nec.
126.	-	177. Flores	---	Florem.
		183. superstruuntur	---	superstructa.
127.	-	Dracunculus	---	Dracunculoides.
147.	-	Mimosa	---	Murnenja.
152.	-	Lupularia	---	Lunularia.
154.	-	Ceratocarpus D.	---	Ceratocarpus B.
156.	-	2. Pontederia	---	Stereulia.
		Glycine	---	Barleria.
		Tetragonia	---	Pothos.
161.	-	Cisso-Ampelos	---	CissAmpelos.
182.	-	Clematis	---	Clematis.
		Ceriploca	---	Periploca.
185.	-	Prasu	---	Supra.
190.	-	αἰμαμηλὶς	---	αἰμαμηλὶς.
196.	-	Hydrophyllum	---	Ceratophyllum.
198.	-	247. pinguenda	---	pingenda.
203.	-	257. irregula	---	irregularis.
222.	-	280. nequeant	---	nequeunt.
216.	-	283	---	273.
		174	---	274.
274.	-	16. Caniculares	---	Tropici.

TER.

Left
Sinistrorsum

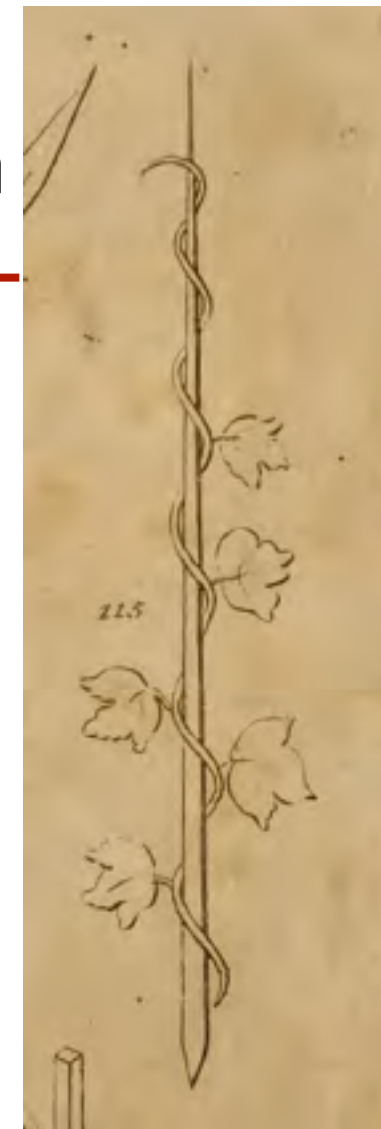
Linnaeus
Gray
Eichler
Duchartre
Darwin

...

Right
Dextrorsum

Linnaeus
de Candolle
von Mohl
Bischoff
Sachs

...



Sinistrorsum externe visus

==

Dextrorsum e centro visus

==

Following the course of the sun

==

Like the hand of a watch

==

Left handed !

ELEMENTS OF QUATERNIONS.

BY THE LATE
SIR WILLIAM ROWAN HAMILTON, LL.D., M.R.I.A.,

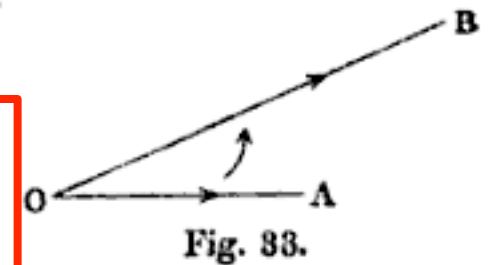
1866



W. R. Hamilton (1805-1865)

110. Again in estimating this *angle*, for the purpose of *distinguishing* one quotient of vectors from another, we must consider not only its *magnitude* (or *quantity*), but also its *PLANE*: since otherwise, in violation of the principle stated in Art. 104, we should have $OB' : OA = OB : OA$, if OB and OB' were *two distinct rays* or sides of a *cone* of revolution, with OA for its *axis*; in which case (by 2) they would necessarily be *unequal vectors*. For a similar reason, we must attend also to the *contrast* between two *opposite angles*, of equal magnitudes, and in one *common plane*. In short, for the purpose of knowing *fully* the *relative direction* of two co-initial lines OA , OB in *space*, we ought to know not only *how many degrees*, or other *parts* of some *angular unit*, the *angle* AOB contains; but also (comp. Fig. 33)

the *direction of the rotation* from OA to OB : including a knowledge of the *plane*, in which the rotation is performed; and of the *hand* (as *right* or *left*, when *viewed* from a known *side* of the plane), *towards which* the rotation is directed.

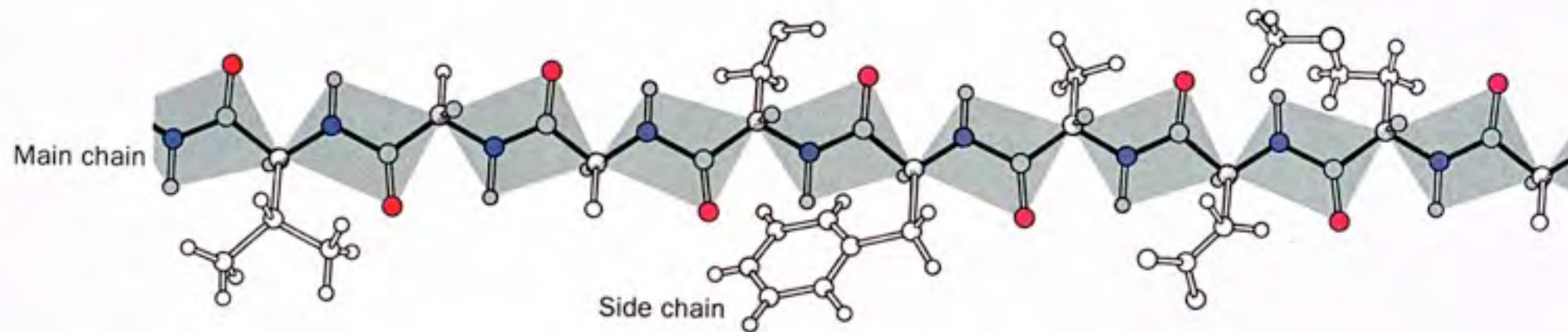


111. Or, if we agree to *select* some *one fixed hand* (suppose the *right*† hand), and to call all *rotations positive* when they

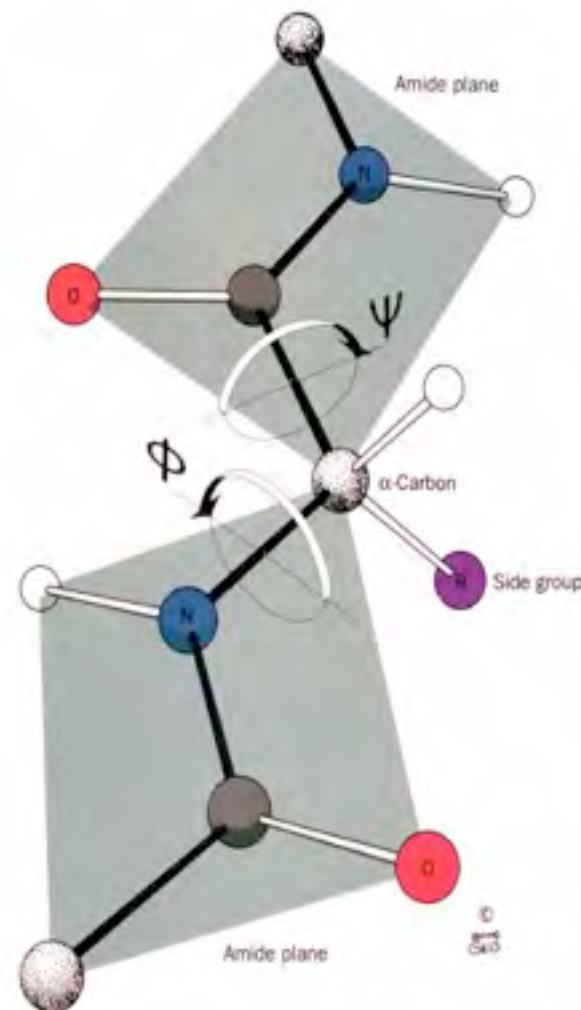
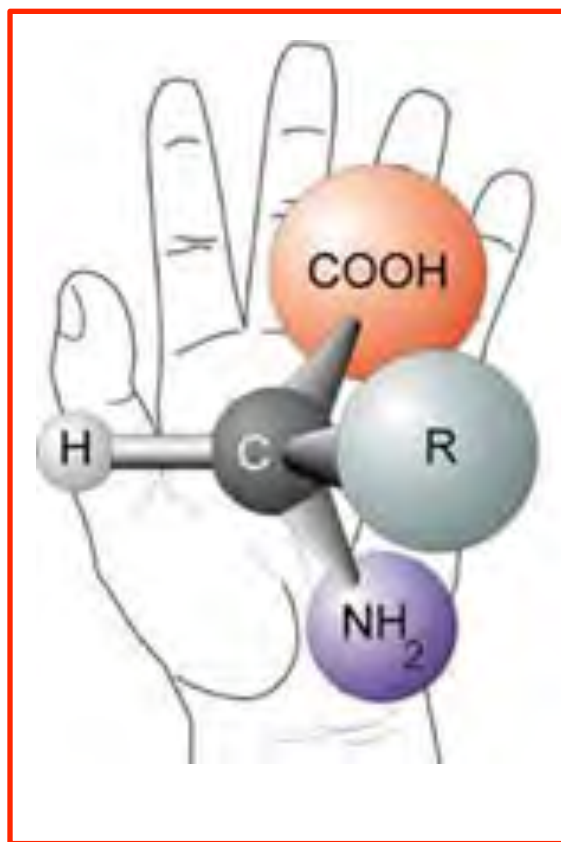
* This *number*, which we shall presently call the *tensor* of the quotient, may be *whole* or *fractional*, or even *incommensurable* with unity; but it may always be *equated*, in calculation, to a *positive scalar*: although it might perhaps more *properly* be said to be a *signless number*, as being derived solely from comparison of *lengths*, without any reference to *directions*.

† If *right-handed rotation* be thus considered as *positive*, then the *positive axis* of the rotation AOB , in Fig. 33, must be conceived to be directed *downward*, or *below* the plane of the paper.

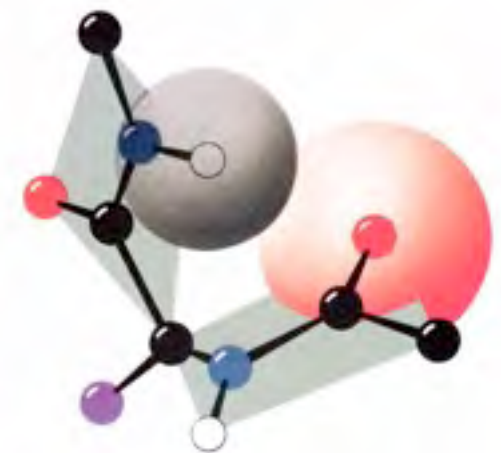
Handedness in proteins



Polypeptide chain: PRIMARY STRUCTURE

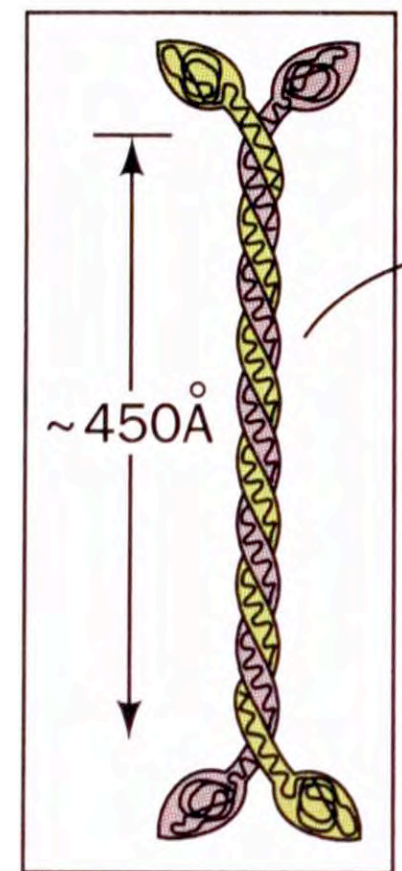


Steric hindrance



Handedness in proteins

alpha-helix



Secondary structure

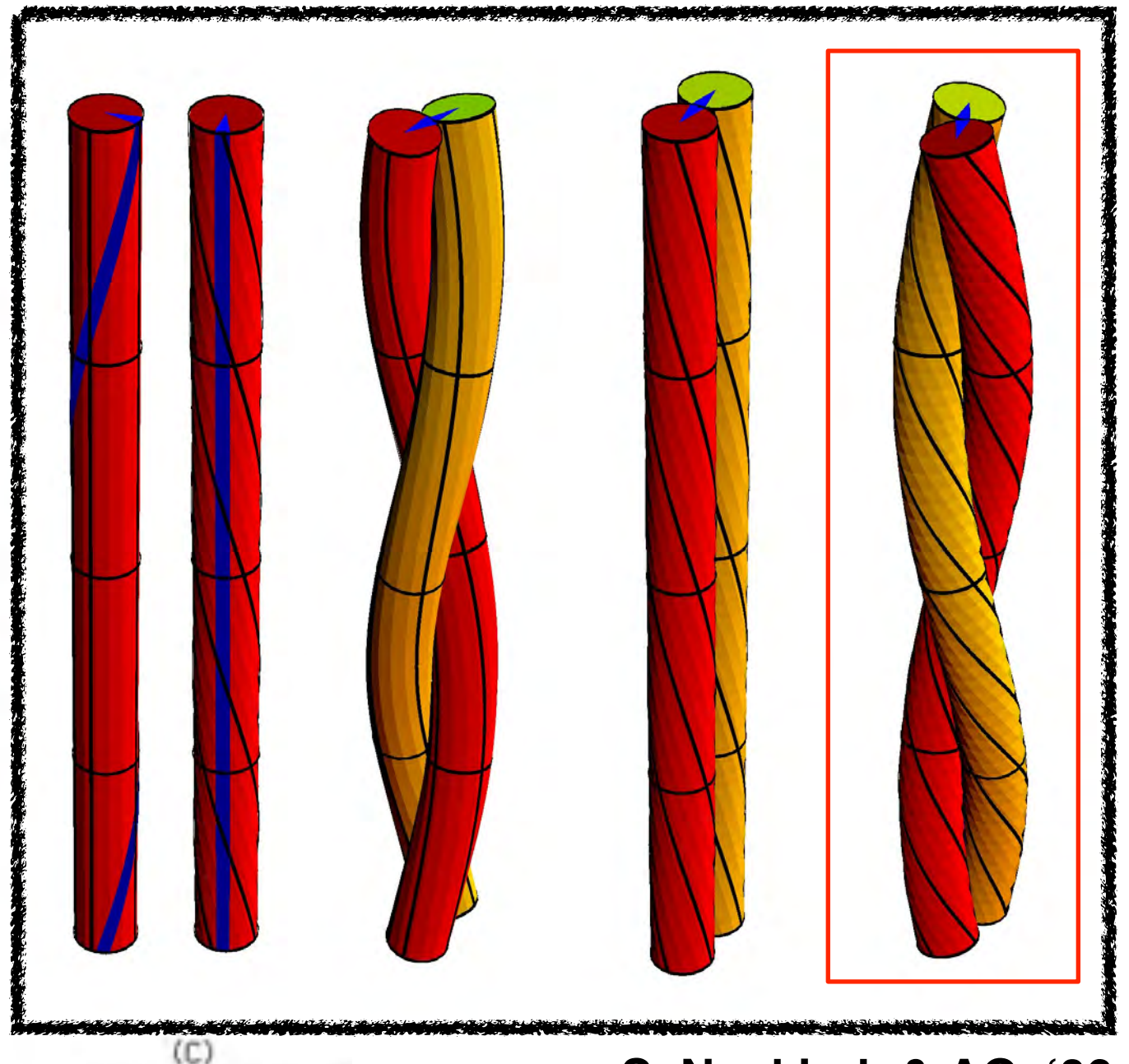
Tertiary structure

Coiled-coils, the heptad repeat



a b c d e f g a b c d e f g
d c b a g f e d c b a g f e

A mechanical model



©1995 GARLAND PUBLISHING

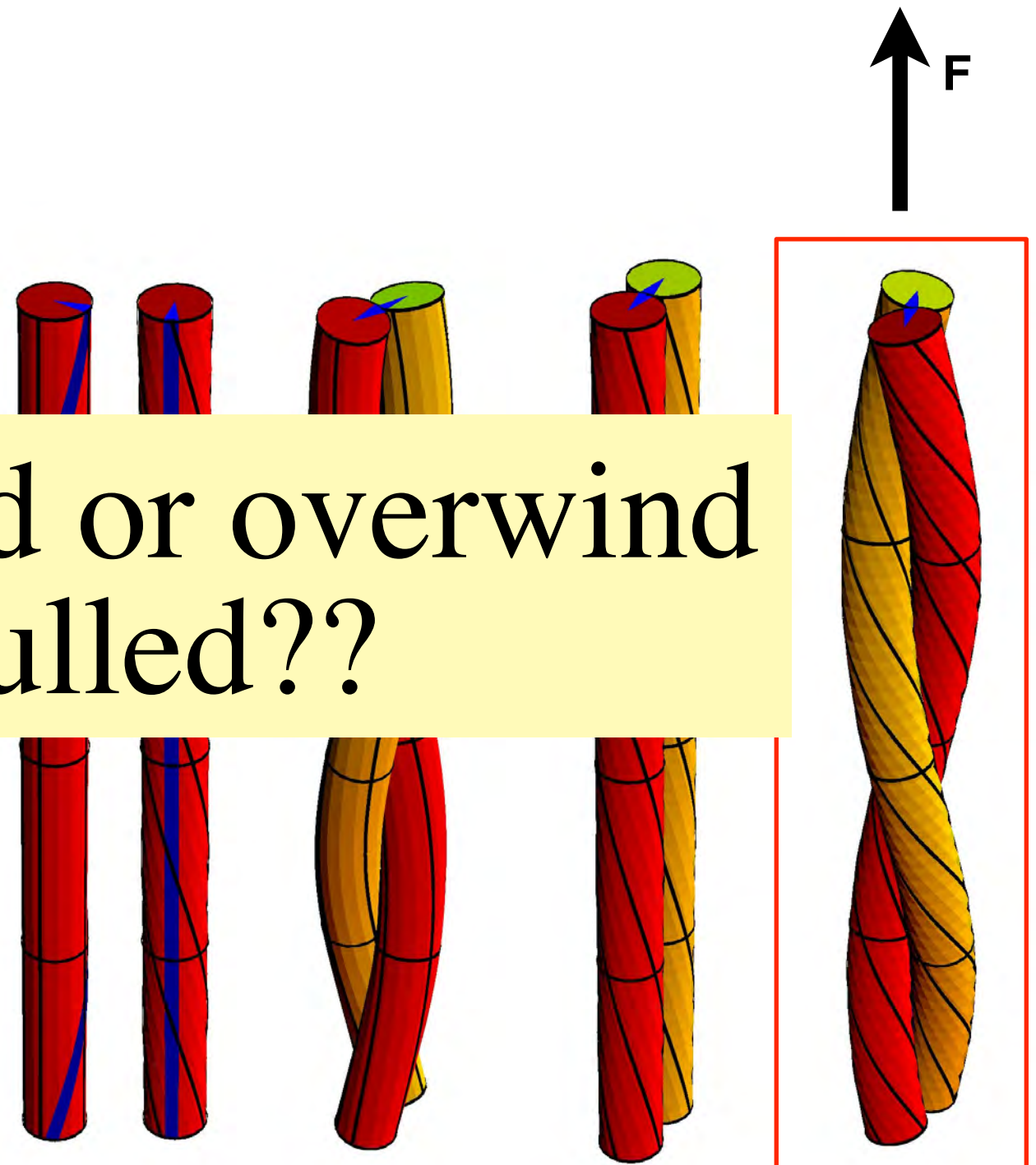
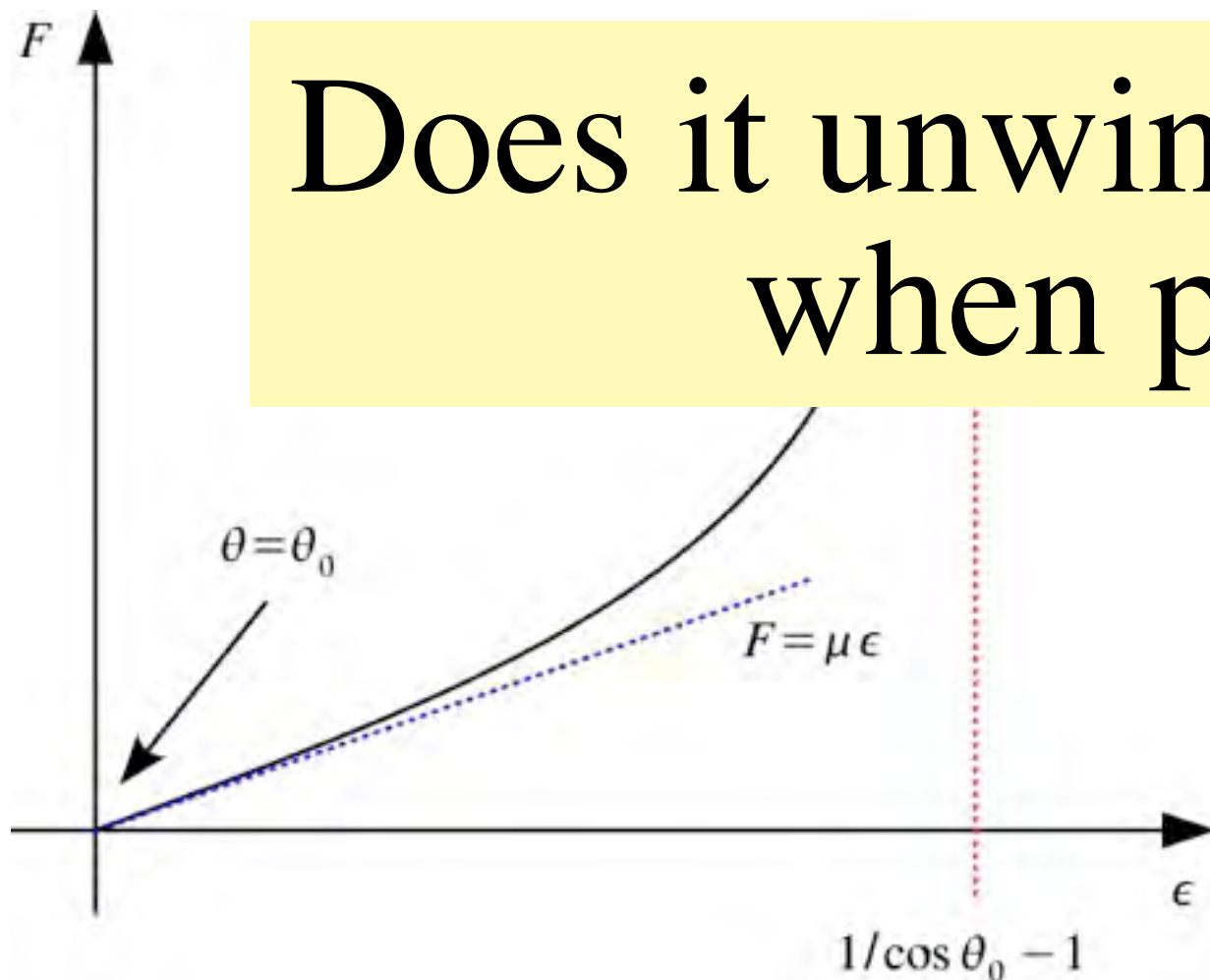
S. Neukirch & AG, '06

Pulling on coiled-coils

Comparison with crystal data

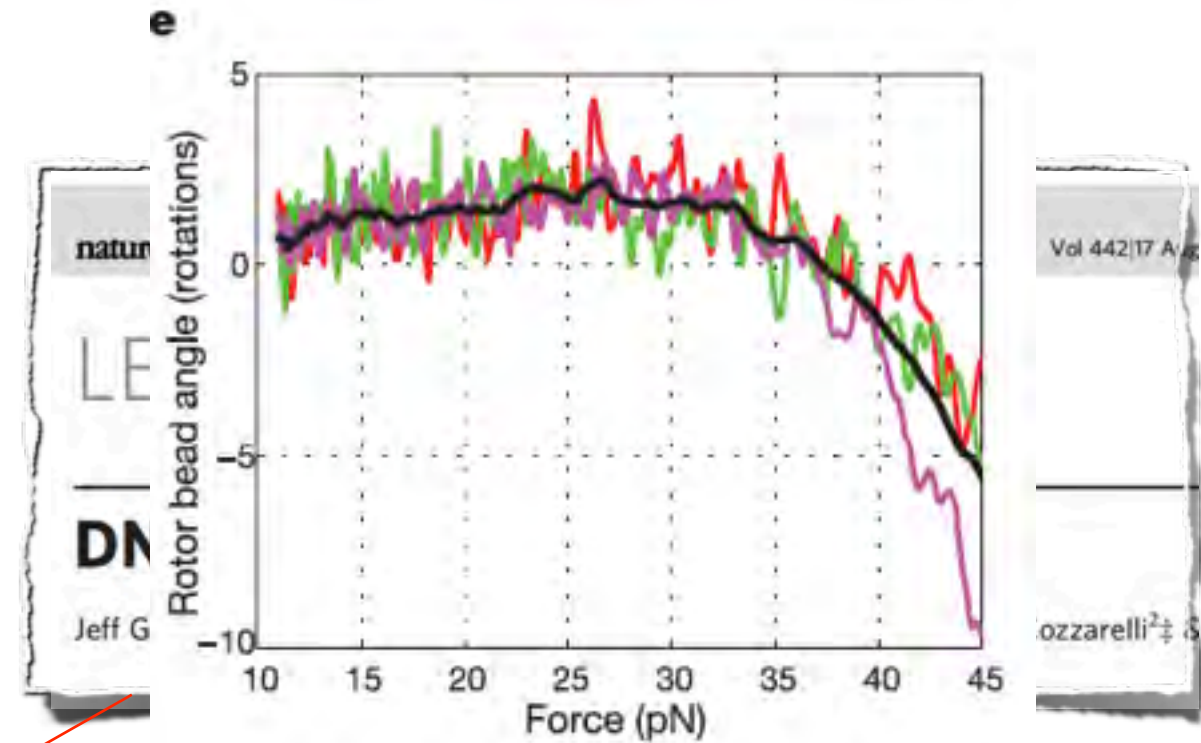
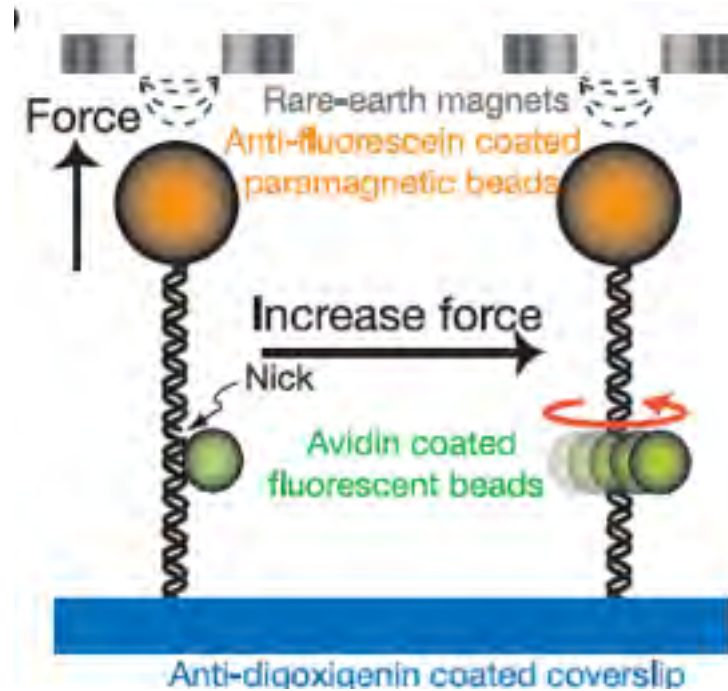
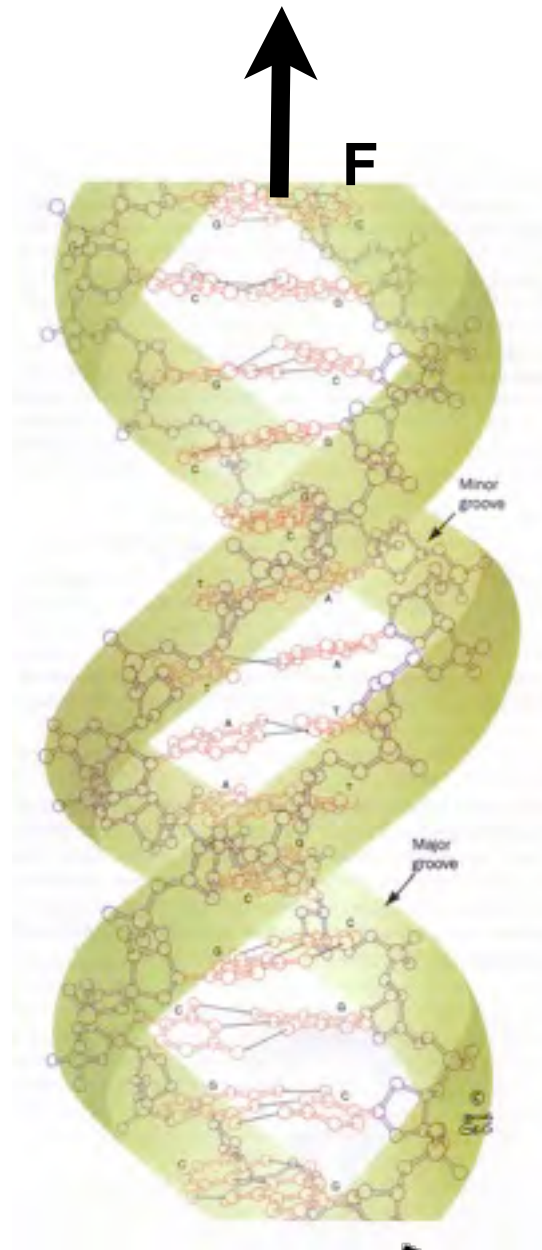
GCN4	super-helix 2θ	model	
		$\hat{\tau}$	2θ
dimer	-23.4°	-0.039	-22°
trimer	-26.8°	-0.033	-25°
tetramer	-26.0°	-0.030	-26°

Does it unwind or overwind when pulled??



S. Neukirch & AG, '06

Winding or unwinding?

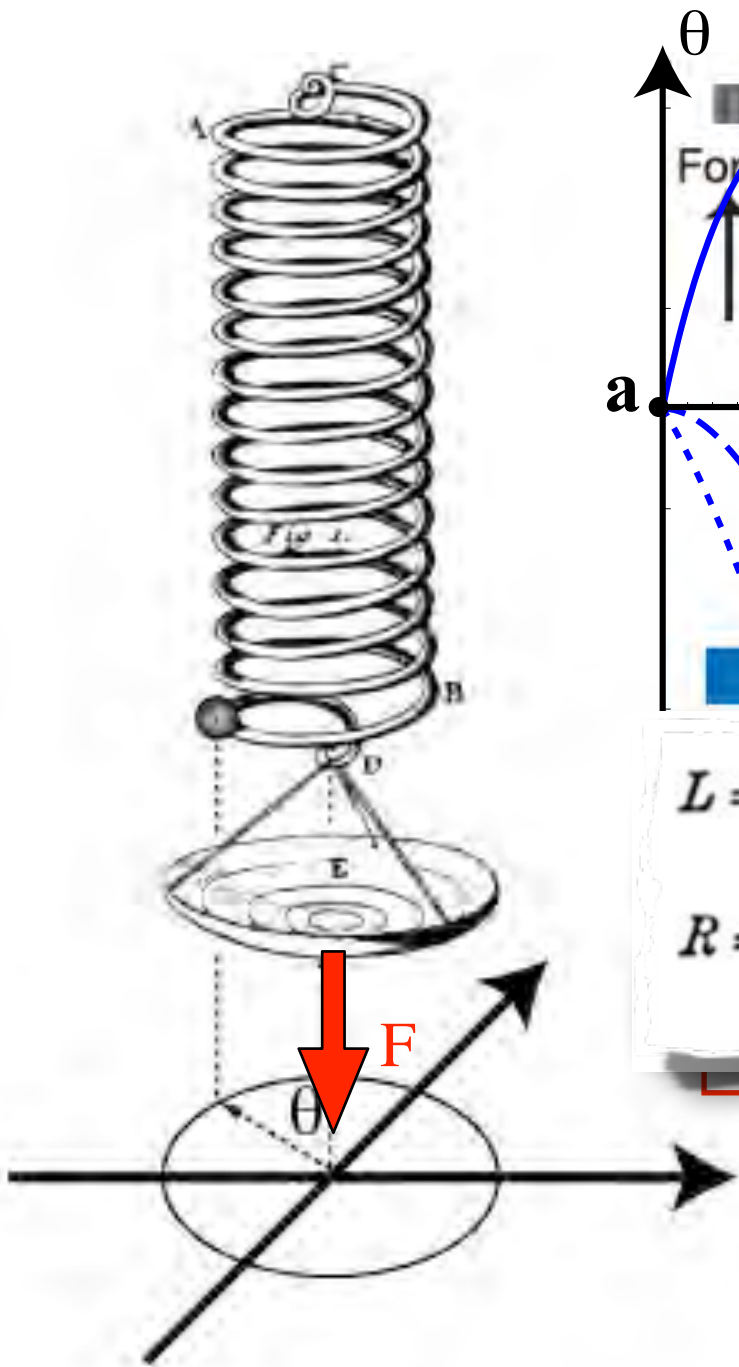


Simple physical intuition predicts that DNA should unwind under tension, ... Here we show that for small distortions, contrary to intuition, DNA overwinds under tension

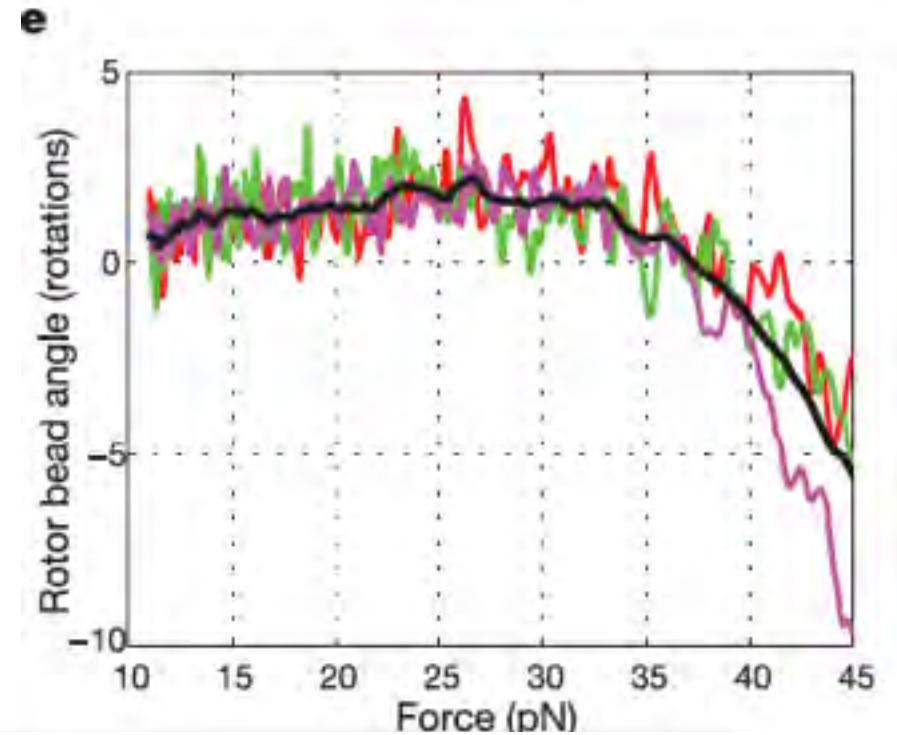
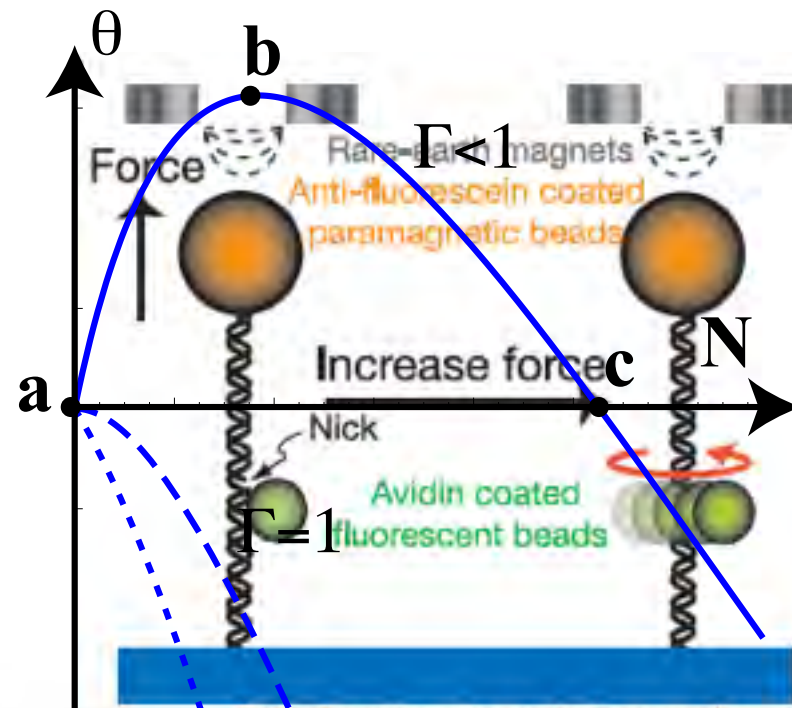


double stranded DNA helix,
B-form (right-handed)

Winding or unwinding?



Spring (Drawing by Hooke)



$$L = \frac{B}{l^3} \left\{ \sqrt{(l^2 - x^2)} \phi - \sqrt{(l^2 - x_0^2)} \phi_0 \right\} \sqrt{(l^2 - x^2)} + \frac{A}{l^2} (x\phi - x_0\phi_0) x$$

$$R = -\frac{B}{l^3} \left\{ \sqrt{(l^2 - x^2)} \phi - \sqrt{(l^2 - x_0^2)} \phi_0 \right\} \frac{x\phi}{\sqrt{(l^2 - x^2)}} + \frac{A}{l^2} (x\phi - x_0\phi_0) \phi \quad (9).$$

Tait and Thomson *Treatise on natural Philosophy* 1867

All uniform helical springs in tension
first wind then unwind!

AG & Maddocks 2013

Unwinding in plant cells

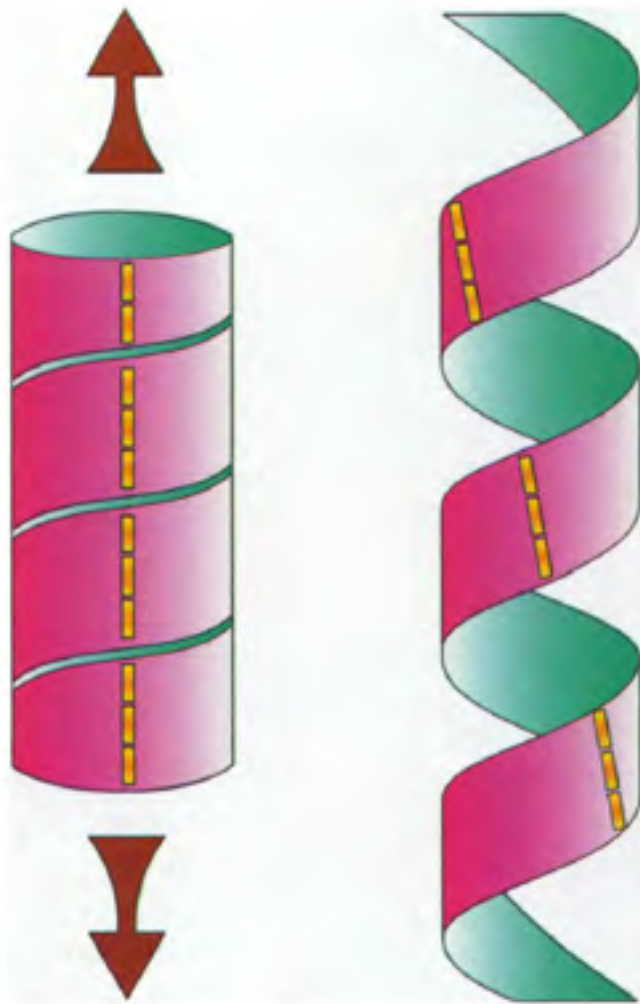


Figure 2. Helices Unwind When They Are Stretched.

Lloyd and Chan 2002.
The Plant Cell

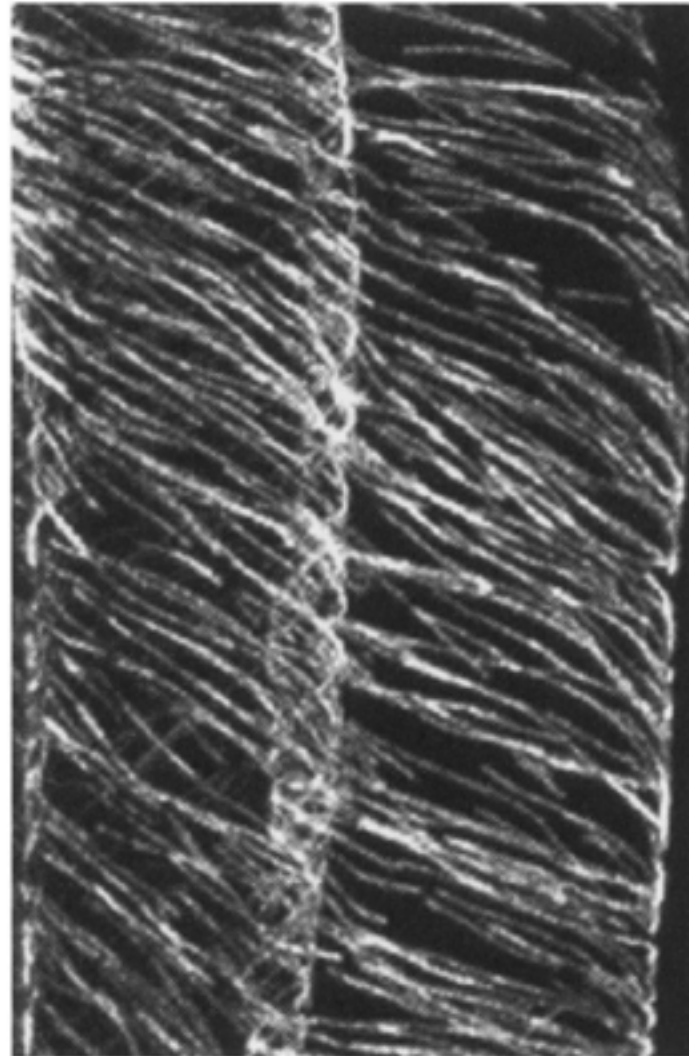


Figure 1. Microtubules in the *spiral* Mutant.

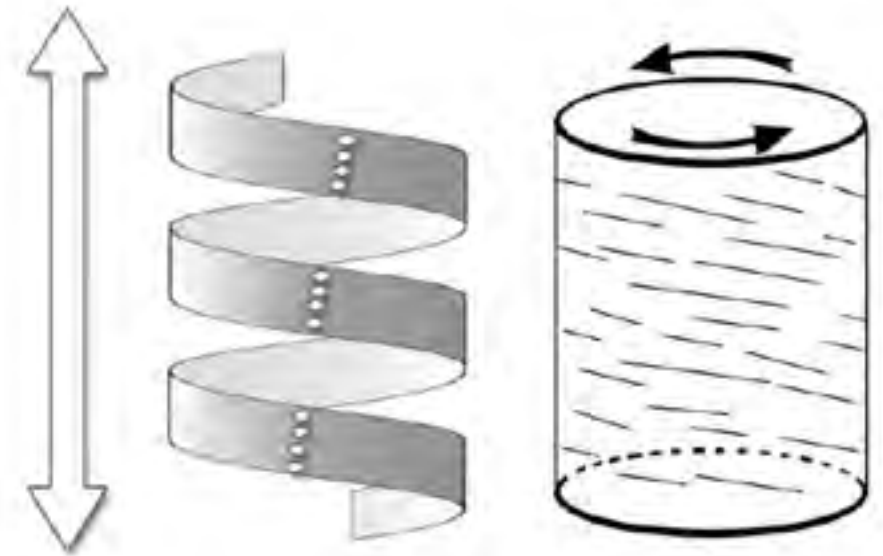
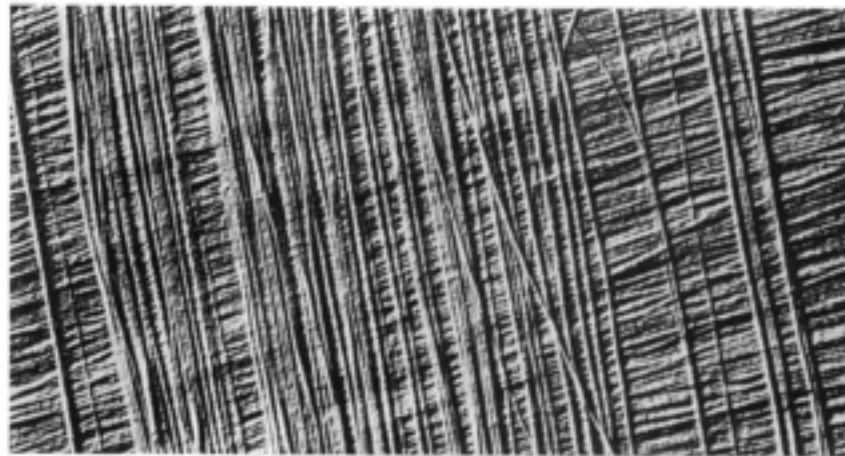
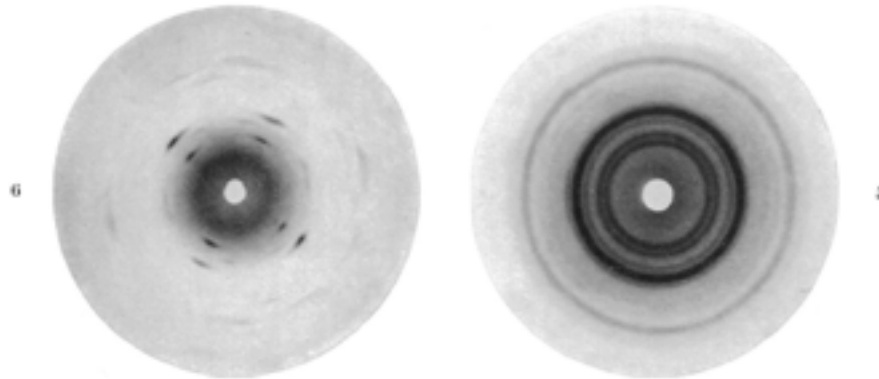
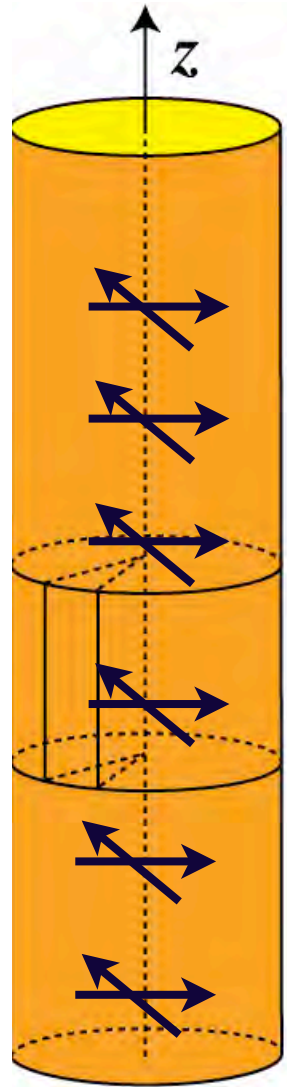


Figure 9. Simple Models Can Explain Helical Growth of Cells Growing in Isolation.

Buschmann et al 2009.
The Plant Cell

Left or right?

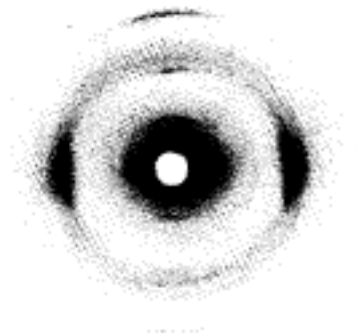


Frei-Preston (1961)
Green Algae



Fig. 18. Growth zone region
of a Stage 4 sporangium,
showing spirals in the cyto-
plasm.

Middlebrook-Preston (1952)
Phycomyces



Freeze one fibre, rotate the other one

Left or right?
Is there a critical angle?
How does it depend on stiffness?

Exact Anisotropic Elasticity I

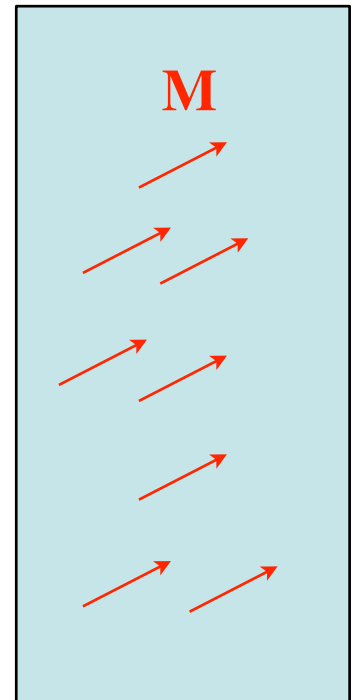
Incompressible **anisotropic** hyperelasticity, e.g. fibre reinforcement of an elastic cylinder.

Introduce new invariants into free energy

$$W = W(I_1, I_2, I_4, I_5)$$

$$I_4 = M \cdot (CM), \quad I_5 = M \cdot (C^2 M)$$

$$C = F^T F$$



M = fibre orientation in reference configuration, e.g. fibres parallel or transverse to a cylinder axis

m = **F.M** = fibre orientation in current configuration

I₄ = **m.m** = measure of fibre extension

See Pence, Horgan & Murphy, Ogden & Merodio,.

Exact Anisotropic Elasticity II

Incompressible
e.g. fiber
V

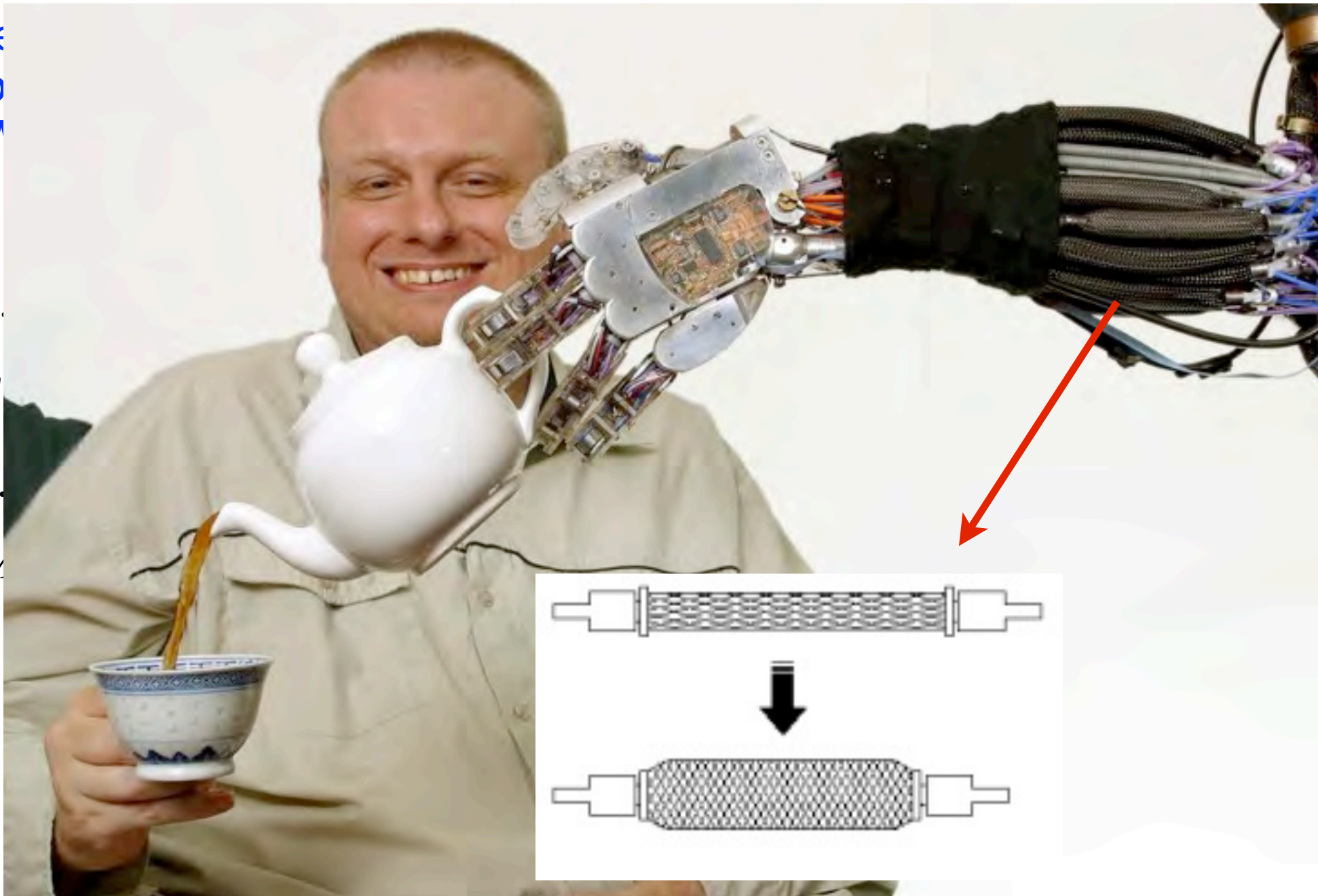
$$W = W$$

$$I_4 = M$$

$$I_6 = M'$$

$$I_8 = M$$

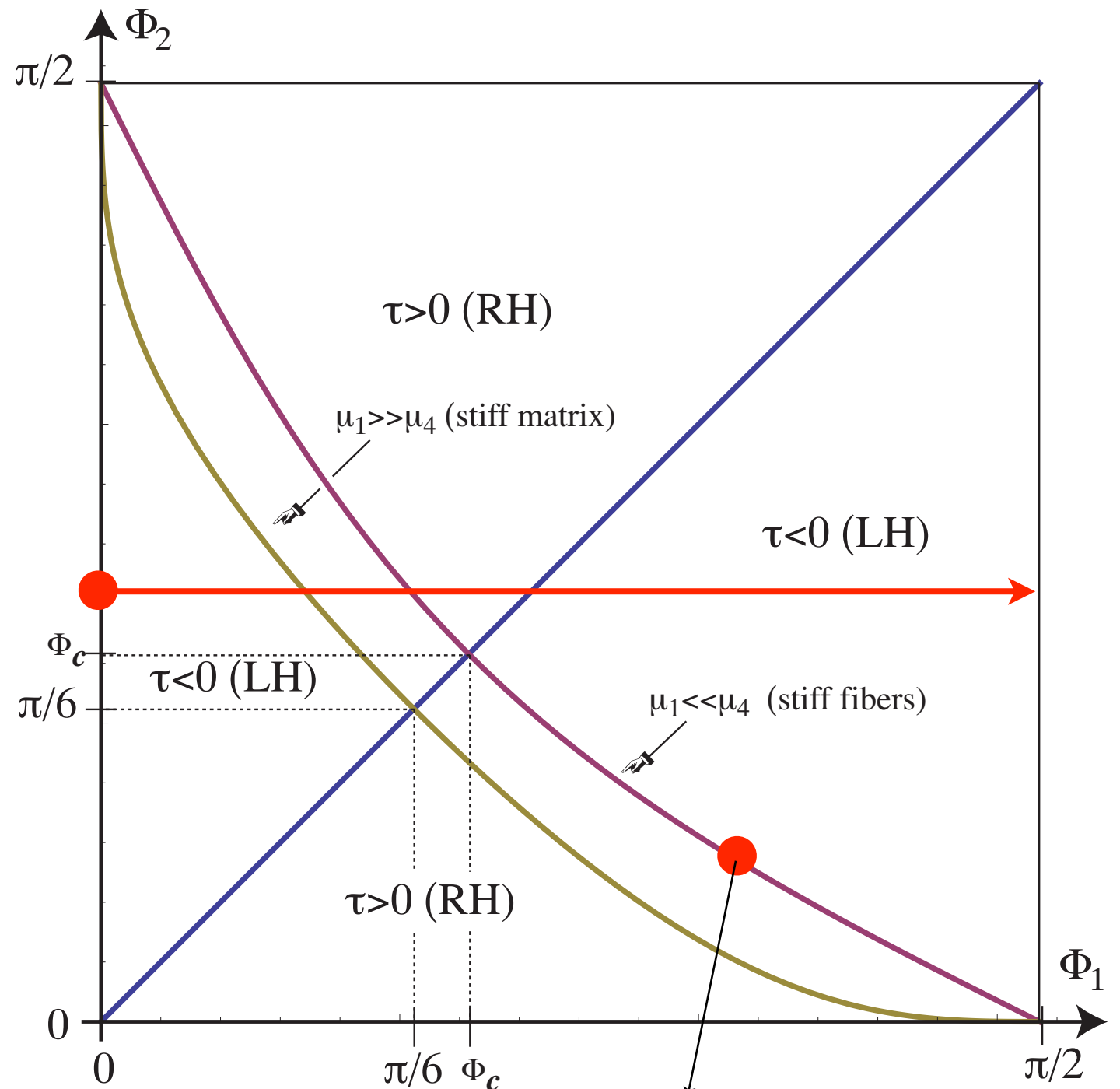
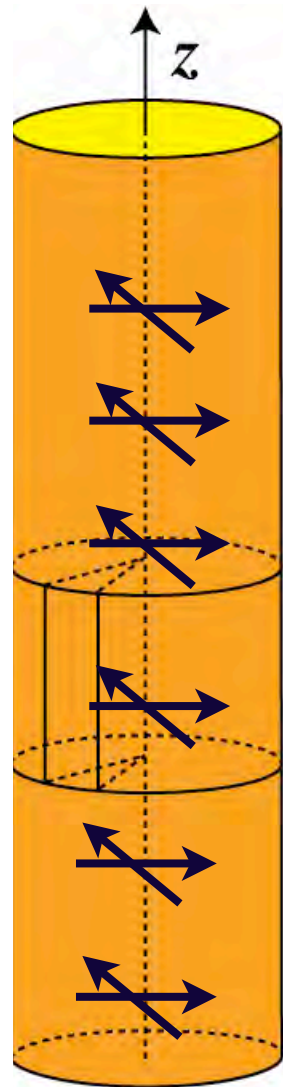
$$M = (M$$



If M and M' equal and opposite no net torque on cylinder

Unequal fibres

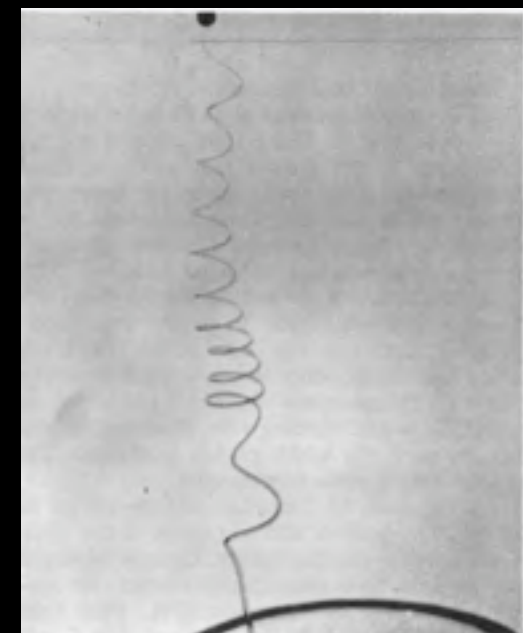
Fix one fibre, rotate the other one. Will it turn CW (left) or CCW (right)?



$$\Phi_c = \sqrt{\arcsin(1/3)} \sim 33.4^\circ$$

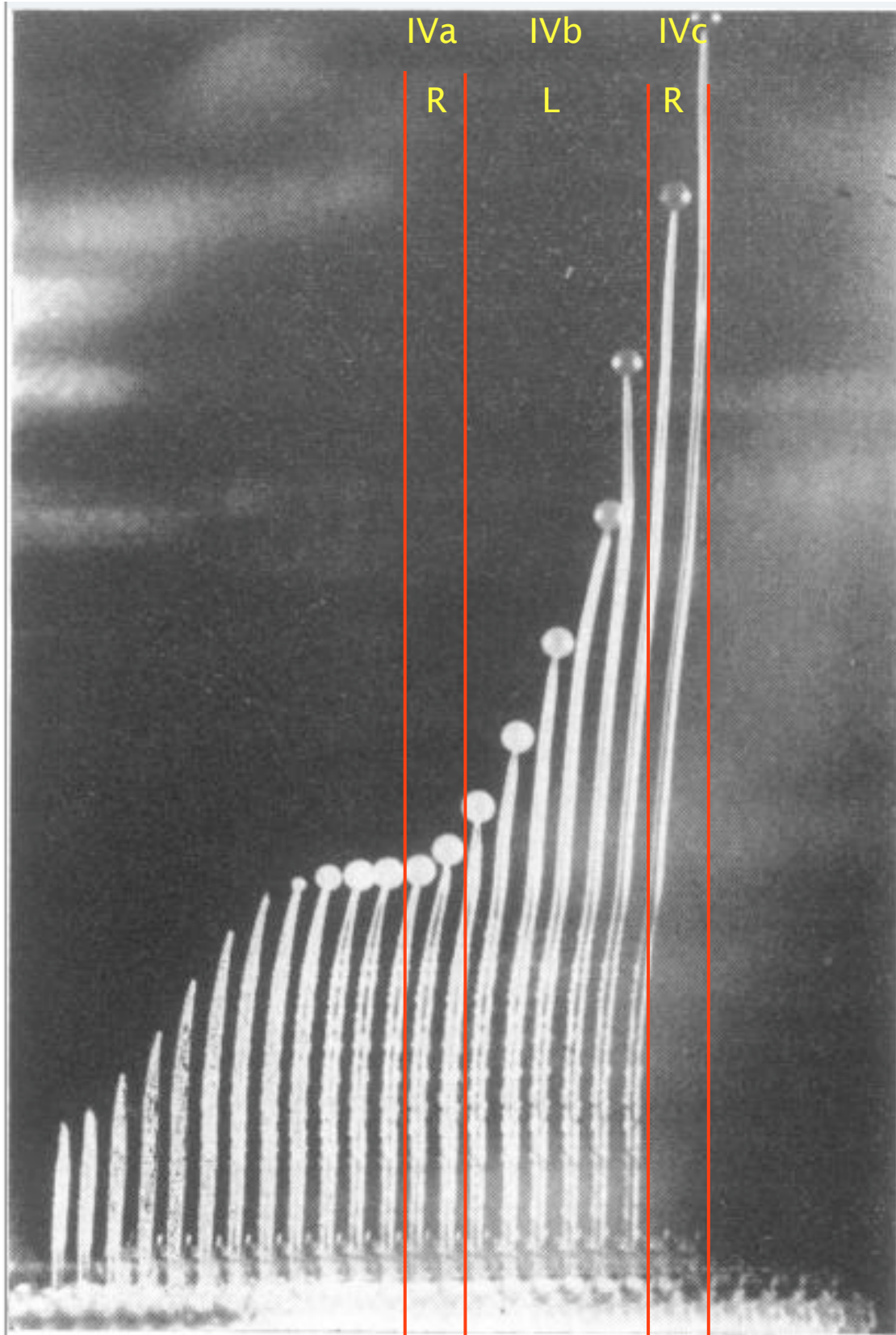
Unequal fibres but no rotation!

Phycomyces



M. Tabor & AG ('11)

Phycomyces: left AND right!

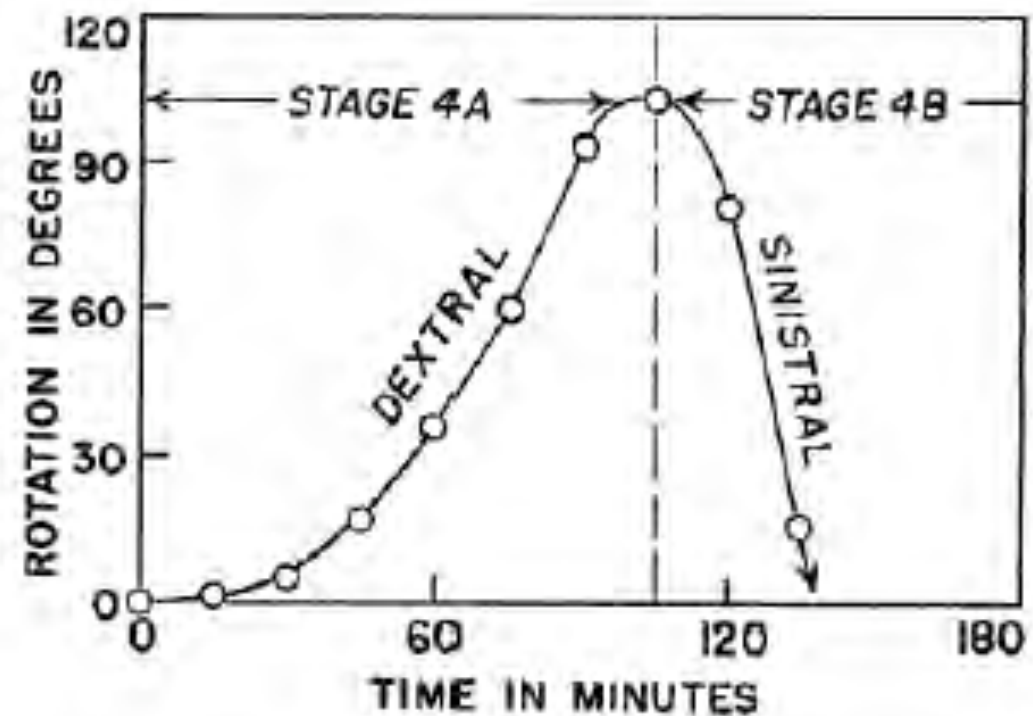


■ Rotation

IVa: Counter-clockwise rotation (1-2h)

IVb: Clockwise rotation (24-48h).

IVc: Counter-clockwise rotation in (1-2h)



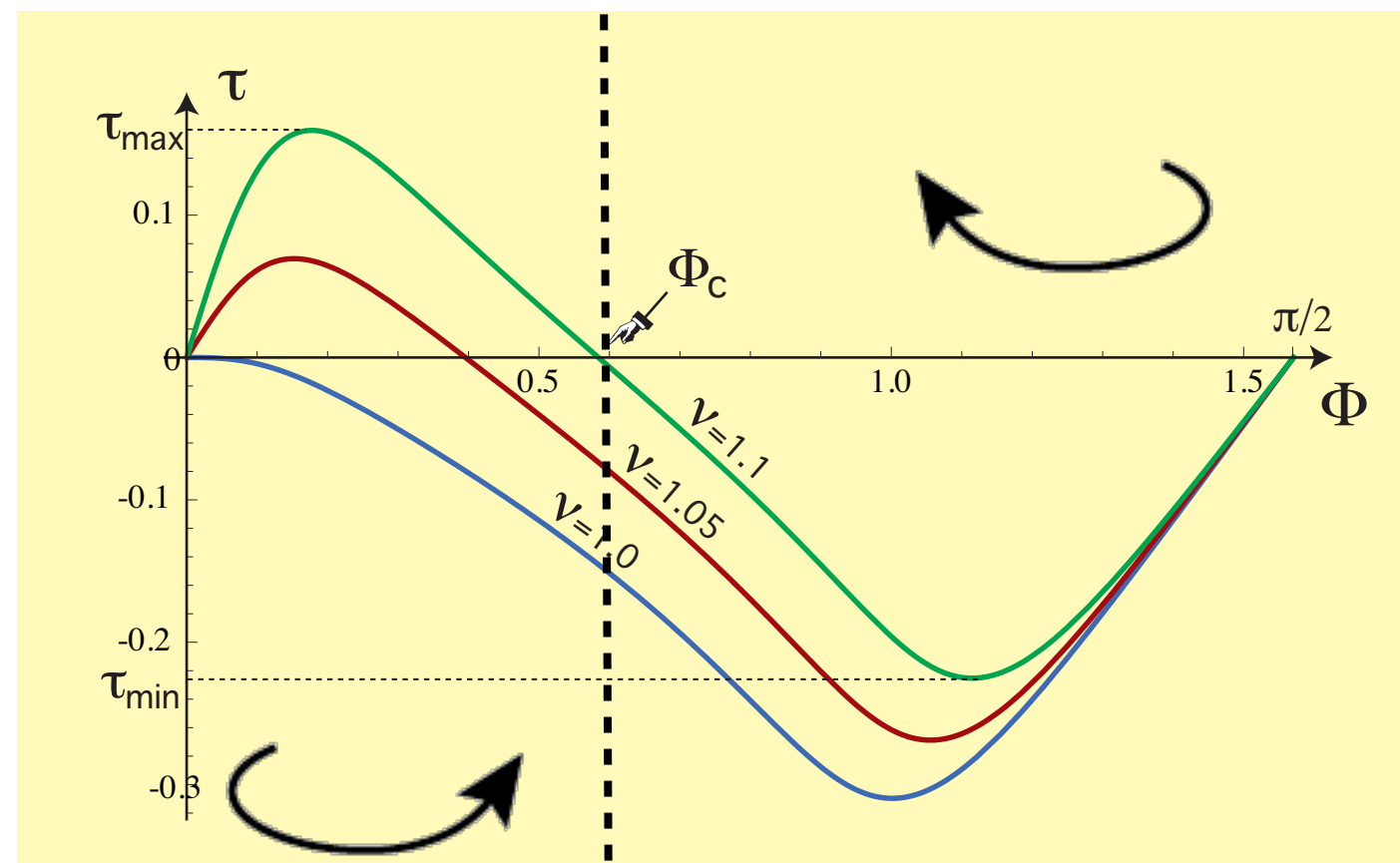
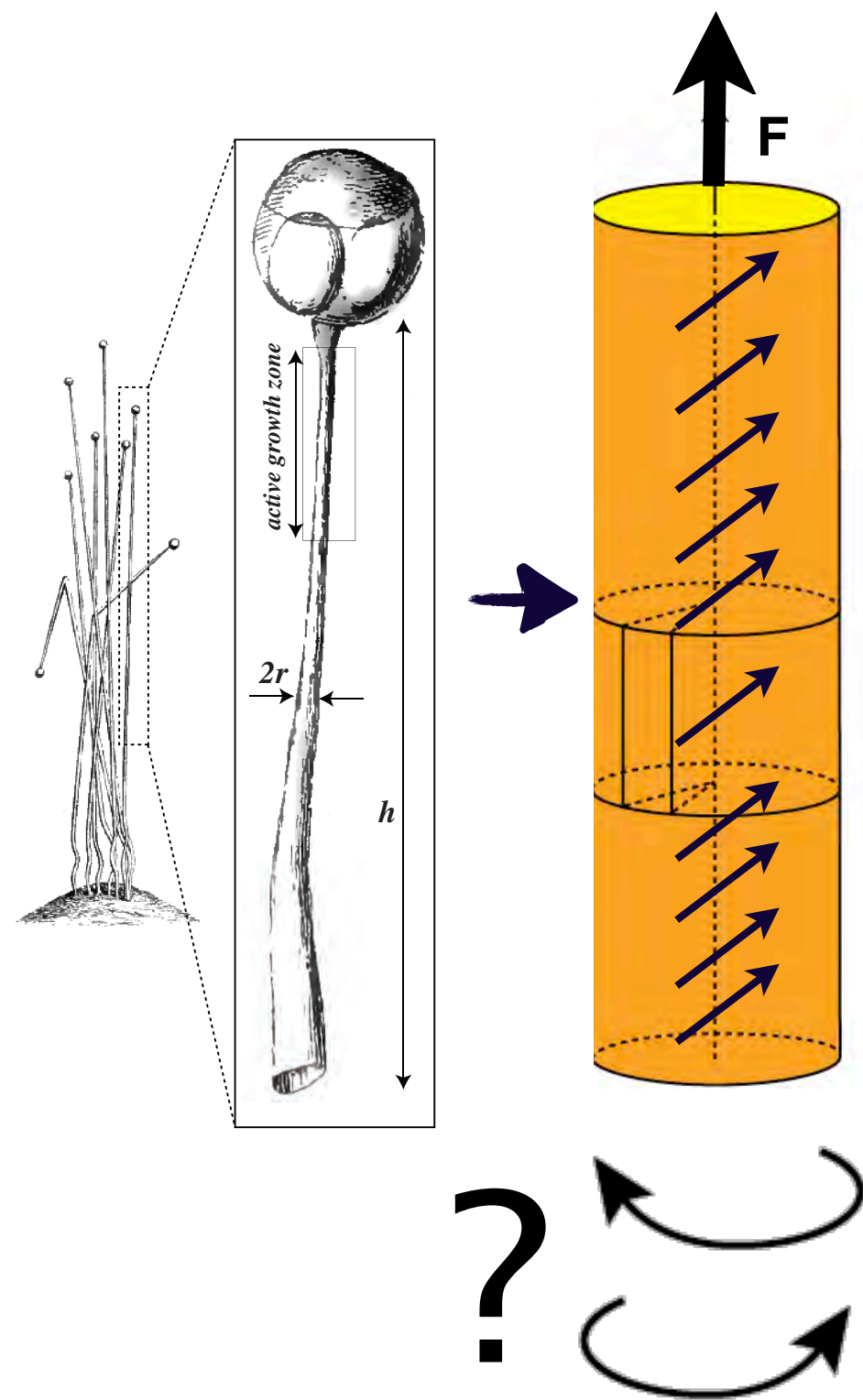
Helical growth: 1915 (Burgeff)

1940's – 1950's: Castle, Roelofsen, Preston,

A model for Phycomyces

ASSUMPTIONS

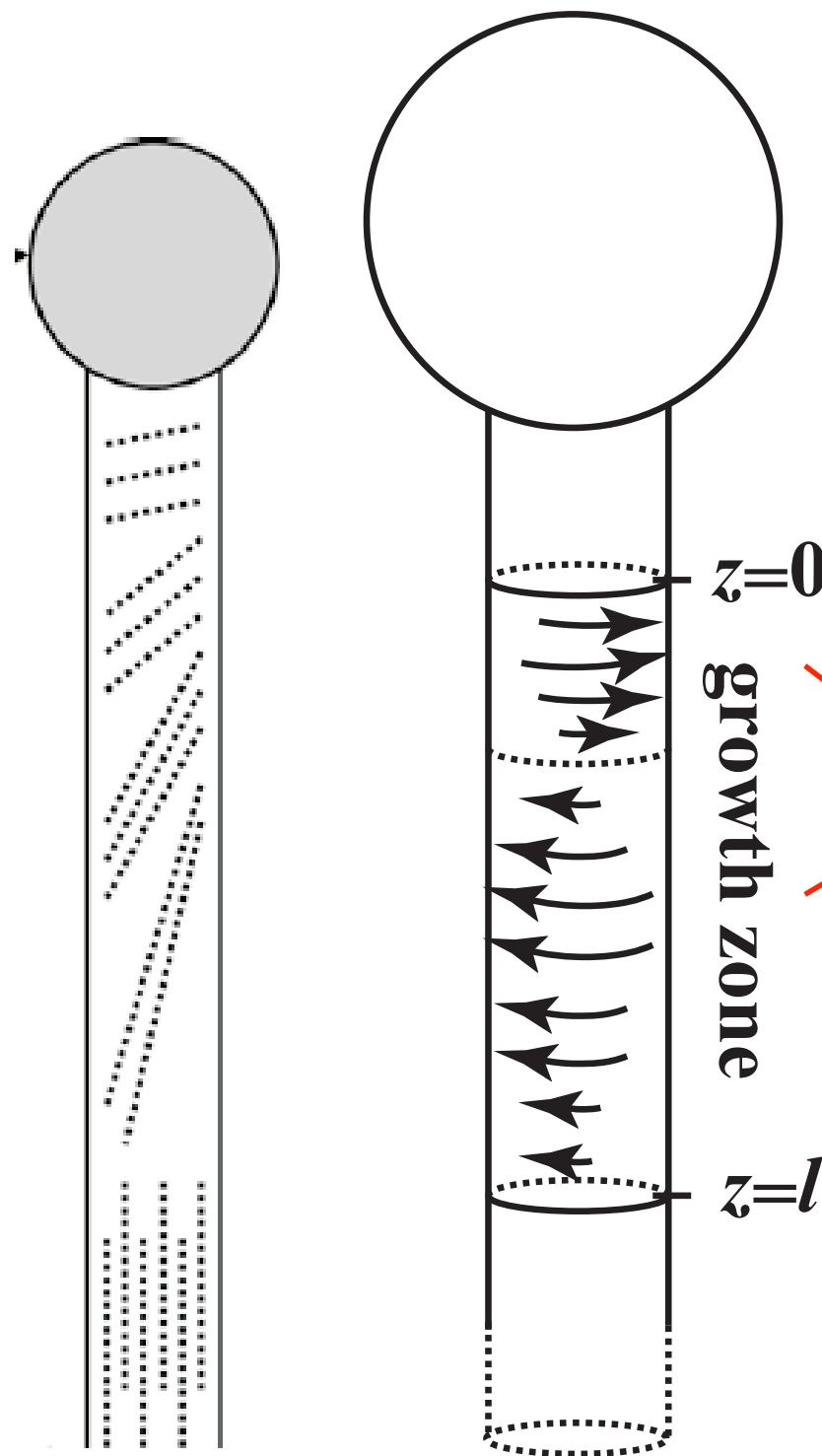
- (1) Elastic thin tube with reinforced fibres
- (2) Right handed helical fibres
- (3) As the tube grows, new fibres are laid down continuously, stress free, and aligned with previous fibres



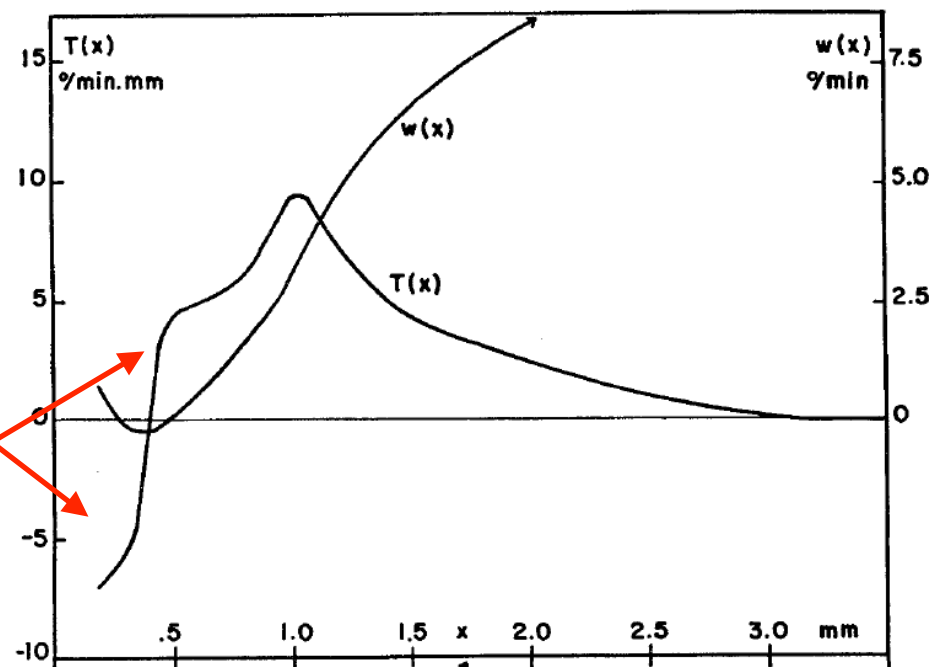
Low angle fibres
rotate CCW

High angle fibres
rotate CW

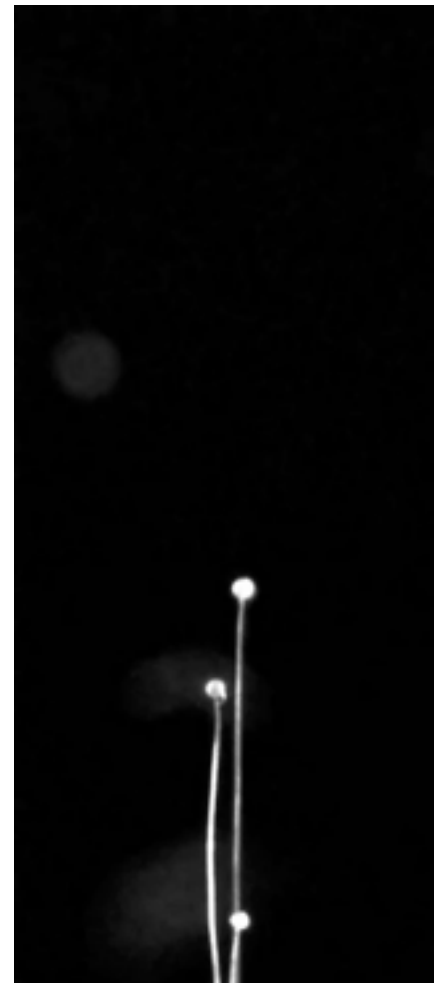
Contradictory rotation

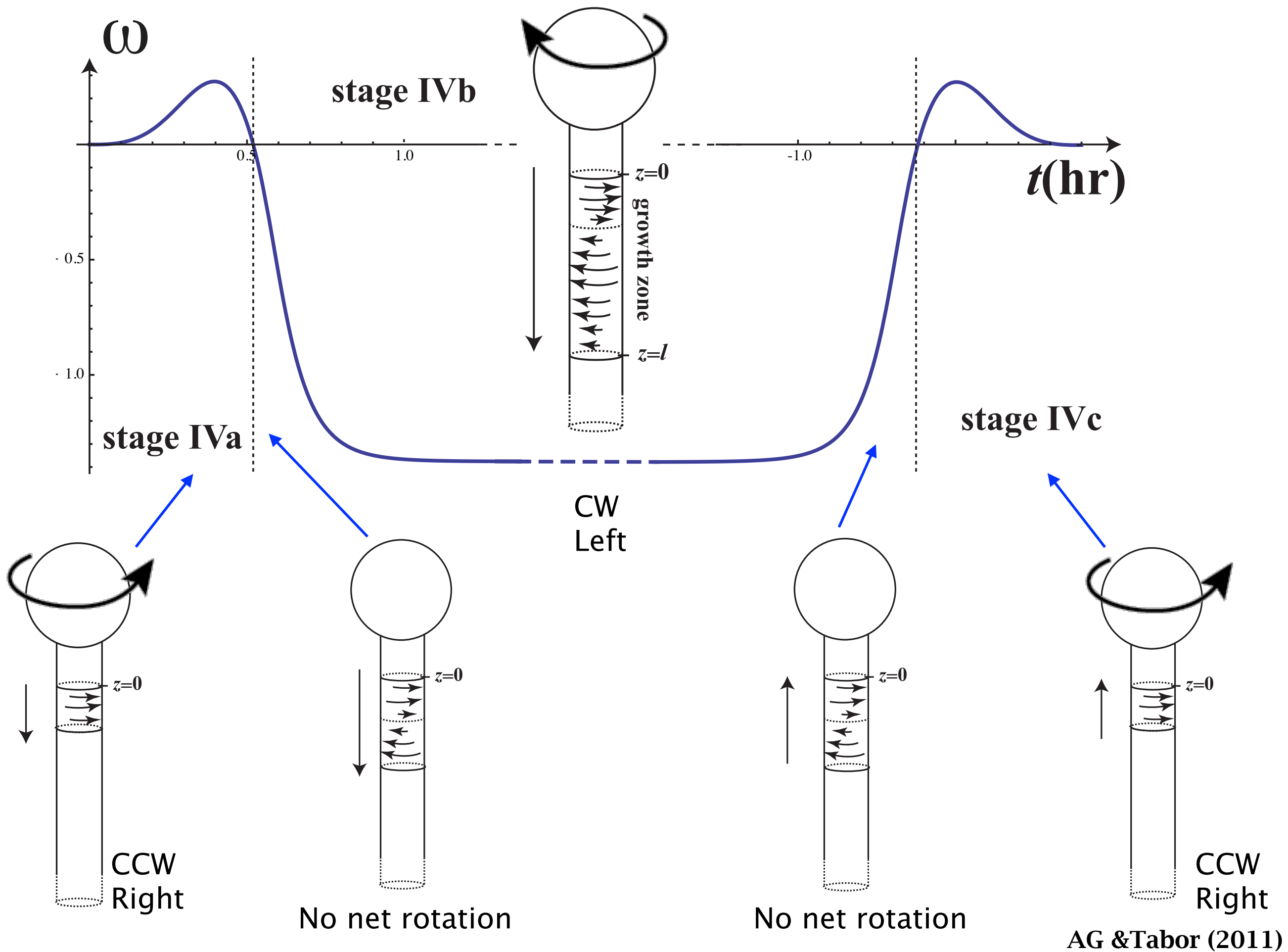


According to our model, points in the upper part of the growth zone turn **counter-clockwise** where points below turn **clockwise**



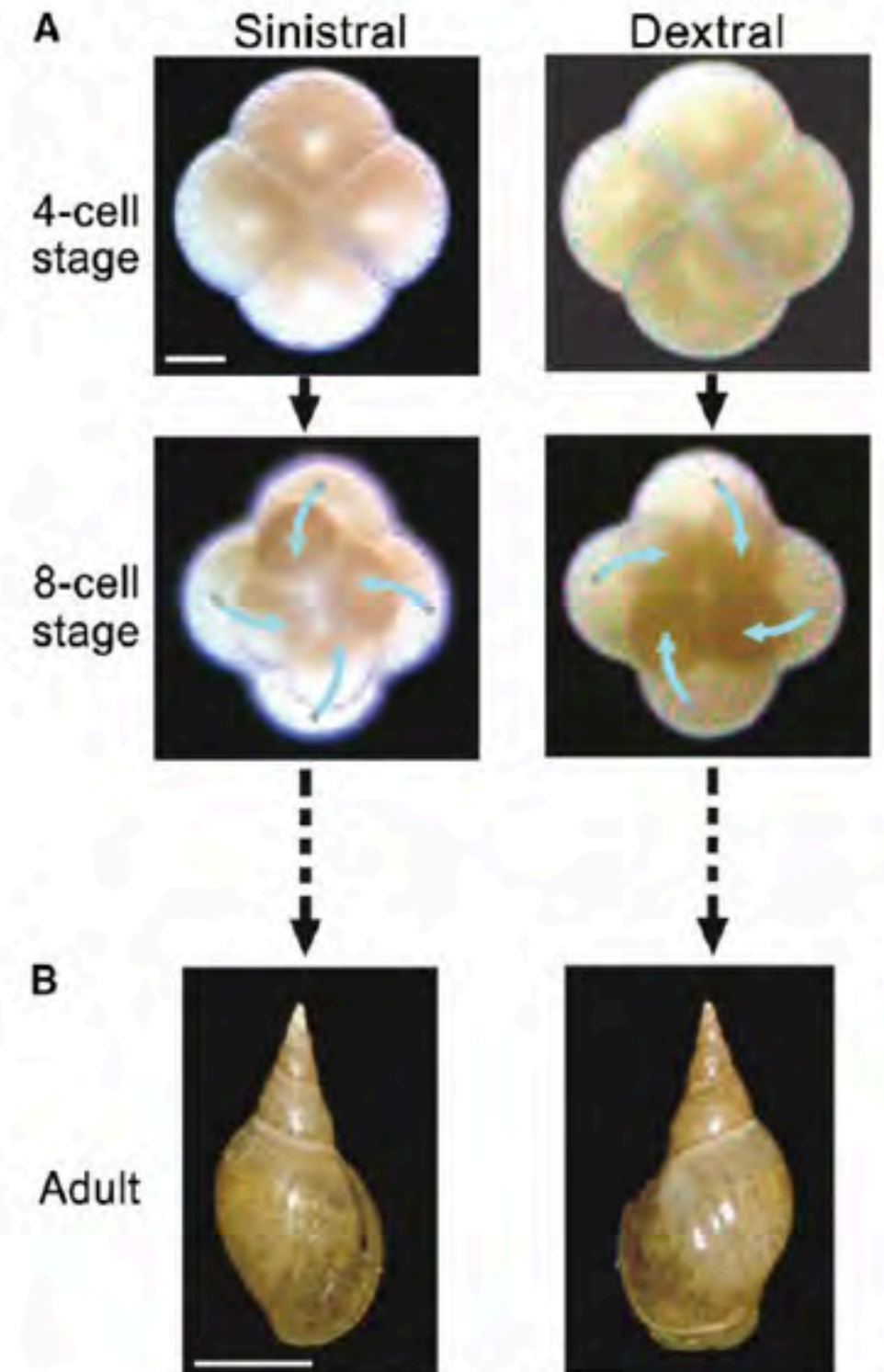
Cohen & Delbrück (1958)
 "Distribution of stretch and twist along the growing zone..."





Conclusions

- ❖ **Response of a chiral structure:**
Combination of geometry, material properties, large deformations, nonlinear response
- ❖ **Inversion/perversion**
Non-monotonous response
- ❖ **Other inversion (AG&Tabor,'13)**
Poynting effect
Shell inflation
Inversion of axial strain in arteries
....
- ❖ **Chirality**
Measure of chirality?
Helicity/Writhe
Gyrality



Kuroda et al. 2009