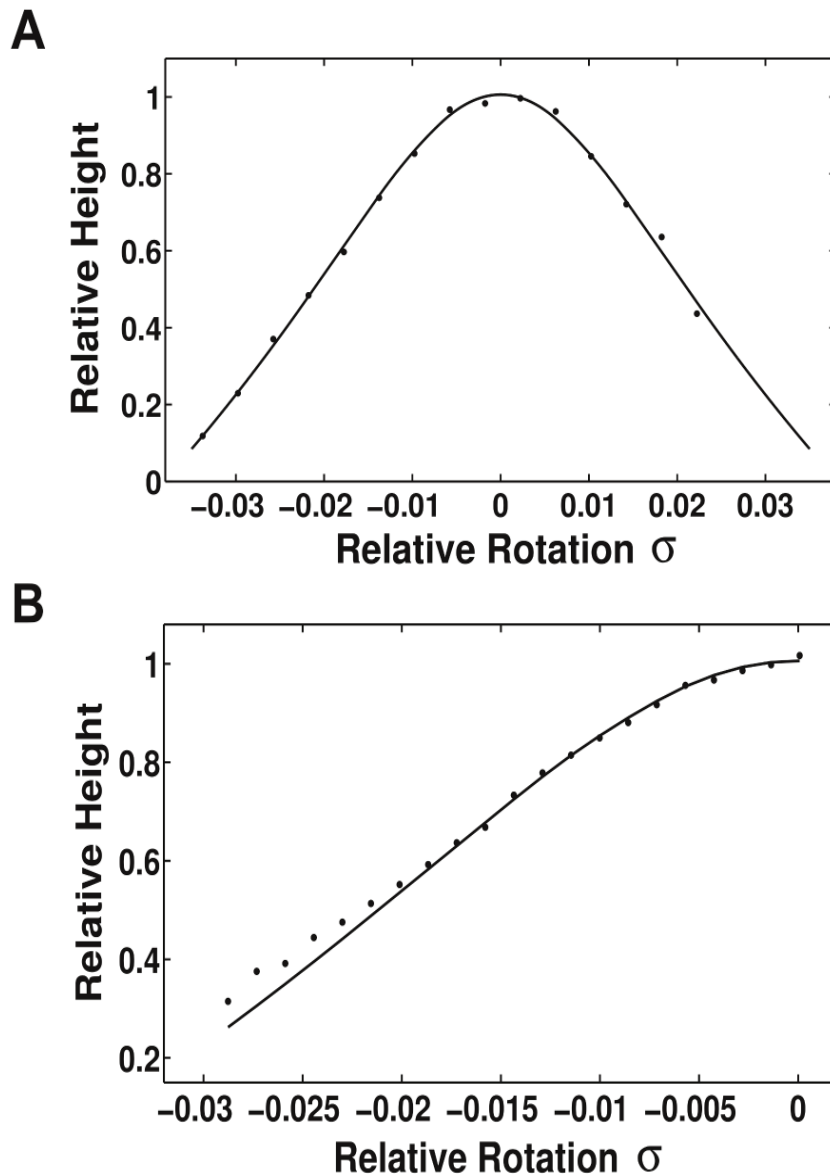


SuppFig1



Legend of supplementary figure S1-A and S1-B:

Example of fits: the figure S1-A shows a segmented spline fit of the experimental data corresponding to the plectonemes formation curve, where relative height is plotted as a function of relative winding σ . The figure S1-B is an illustration of a fit performed on an experimental blockage. The fit has been optimized for the upper part of the curve (see Detailed numerical methods) and is tolerant to errors in the lower part.