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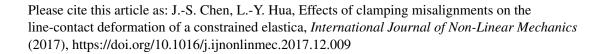
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Effects of clamping misalignments on the line-contact deformation of

a constrained elastica

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Previous research shows that the lowest two natural frequencies of the

line-contact deformation of a clamped-clamped elastic strip constrained by a pair of

plane walls located symmetrically with respect to the clamping axis are degenerately

zero. In experiments, some researchers reported the existence of line-contact

deformation, while others reported that it did not exist. In this article, we study the

effect of various clamping misalignments, which likely occur in experiments, on the

stability of the line-contact deformation. If the tangents of the two end clamps point in

the same side of the line connecting the two ends, the line-contact deformation is

stable. On the other hand, if the clamp tangents point in opposite sides, the

line-contact deformation does not exist at all. In the special case when either one of

the clamp tangents is parallel to the wall, the line-contact deformation exists and

remains neutrally stable. For this case, the chance of obtaining line-contact

deformation in experiment is about the same as the chance of jumping away from

point-contact deformation without going through line-contact. We suspect that this is

due to the difficulty of aligning the clamp tangents parallel to the wall in practice.

Therefore, it is almost impossible to predict whether the line-contact deformation

exists in experiments.

Keywords: constrained elastica; line-contact deformation; stability

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