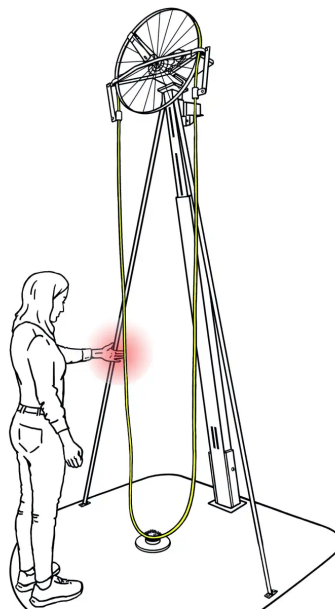


Lariat chain

Norman Tuck

What happens when you touch the chain?



Watch the chain as it moves.

Touch the chain.

Give it a short push or let it run over your hand.

Notice the chain's motion and the shapes it takes.

Touching the chain causes a perturbation to pass through it in both directions. Since the chain is moving fast, the perturbation moving rightwards disappears speedily. In contrast the other one, moving in the opposite direction is slowed down exceedingly. Thus the perturbation appears as astounding twists and aesthetical undulations.

What would happen if the chain would turn even faster?