



Math for the people, by the people.

writhe

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Entry type	Definition
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Synonym	twist number

The *writhe* of a link, also called its *twist number*, is the sum of the signs of the link's crossings. In short, it is the sum of the positive crossings minus the sum of the negative crossings. Note that the writhe is not an isotopy invariant and that it actually depends on the regular homotopy class of its projection.