

Andrews-Curtis Moves Viewed as Biomorphic Events

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Abstract. The Andrews-Curtis conjecture is a long-standing conjecture regarding normal generating sets in free groups. Widely believed to be false, the conjecture suggests that any minimal normal generating set in a free group is equivalent to the free group's standard basis via elementary moves (inversion, multiplication, conjugation). I will review several positive results in the literature and mention an interesting generalization to arbitrary groups. The main purpose of the talk, however, is to describe work in progress to view Andrews-Curtis moves as organic, nature-mimicking events. Approaches to the conjecture inspired by this view will be discussed.