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Calculating the unknotting number (sometimes)

The unknotting number is simultaneously one of the simplest classical knot invariants to define and one of the most challenging to compute. This intractability stems from the fact that typically one has no idea which diagrams admit a collection of crossing changes realizing the unknotting number for a given knot. I will discuss some (mostly false) conjectures concerning the behaviour of the unknotting number as well as a smattering of positive results.