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University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX 75080. *Links modulo rational moves.*

Study of equivalence classes of links up to rational moves plays an important role in the theory of invariants based on the skein relation and, in particular, skein modules. We consider 4-move for knots and links of 2 components and its related invariants. We prove, in particular, that all knots in the family 6^* reduce modulo 4-moves to the trivial knot and show that links of 2 components in $6^*a_1.a_2.a_3.a_4.a_5.a_6$ such that a_i is a 2-algebraic tangle with no trivial components reduce to either the trivial link or to the Hopf link. We also suggest link $9^*.2 : .2 : .2$ as a potential counterexample to 4-move reducibility of links of 2 components. (Received February 19, 2013)