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West Point, NY 10566, and **Louis H Kauffman**. *Virtual Homotopy*. Preliminary report.

In virtual link homotopy, two virtual link diagrams are homotopic if one may be transformed into the other by a sequence of virtual Reidemeister moves, classical Reidemeister moves, and self crossing changes. We also introduce welded homotopy and identify several differences between virtual, welded and classical homotopy. We define link groups for virtual knot diagrams and then extend Milnor's μ and $\bar{\mu}$ invariants to welded and virtual links. We conclude with several new questions that arise in virtual homotopy. (Received January 20, 2007)