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Dan Rutherford* (rutherd@math.duke.edu). *Normal rulings of Legendrian knots.*

A normal ruling of a Legendrian knot in standard contact R^3 is a certain way of decomposing the knot's front diagram into pairs of paths. Normal rulings were introduced independently by Chekanov-Pushkar and Fuchs in quite different contexts. In this talk, I will survey some results (of many authors) in Legendrian knot theory related to normal rulings. Time permitting, I will talk about relationships with the Legendrian contact homology DGA, Bennequin type inequalities, and generating families. (Received February 04, 2009)