1023-57-1010   **Tim D Cochran*** (`cochran@rice.edu`), Mathematics Department, Rice University, PO Box 1892, Houston, TX 77005-1892, and **Carol Gee**, **Shelly L Harvey** and **Constance Leidy**.
Generalizations of Gropes. Preliminary report.

Gropes are simple 2-complexes (generalizing surfaces) whose complexity mirrors commutator series in group theory. These have proven useful in topology. We discuss several generalizations of gropes togther with their group-theoretic analogues. We discuss applications to knot and link theory. (Received September 24, 2006)