1086-37-228 **John C Mayer*** (jcmayer@uab.edu), Department of Mathematics - UAB, CH 452, Birmingham, AL 35294-1170. *The Central Strip Lemma for Laminations of Degree > 2.* Preliminary report.

Quadratic laminations of the unit disk were introduced by Thurston as a vehicle for understanding the (connected) Julia sets of quadratic polynomials and the parameter space of quadratic polynomials. The "Central Strip Lemma" plays a key role in Thurston's classification of gaps in quadratic laminations, and in describing the corresponding parameter space. We generalize the notion of *Central Strip* to laminations of degree $d > 2$ and prove a Central Strip Lemma for degree $d > 2$. We conclude with an application of the Central Strip Lemma to cubic laminations, in particular to *identity return triangles*, that shows it may play a role similar to Thurston's Central Strip Lemma in understanding higher degree laminations. (Received August 08, 2012)