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**Carl Hammarsten\*** ([chammar@gwu.edu](mailto:chammar@gwu.edu)). *Combinatorial Heegaard Floer Homology and Branched Spines.*

A 3-dimensional closed manifold  $Y$  represented by its branched spine has a canonical Heegaard decomposition. We present this decomposition graphically in the form of a Strip Diagram. We show that strip diagrams have nice properties which greatly simplify the calculation of Heegaard Floer homology for “most” manifolds. Motivated by this work, we present a combinatorial definition of a chain complex which we expect to be homotopically equivalent to the Heegaard Floer one, yet significantly smaller. Finally, we consider the presentation of a branched spine by its O-graph and show how to reformulate our definition in these terms. (Received January 27, 2014)