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Consider the following two tools for studying 3-manifolds: decomposition into primes, and Heegaard splittings. From each Heegaard splitting of a 3-manifolds, a class of maps arises between 2-complexes - something that can often be visualized. I will define these classes of maps, discuss their geometry and the effect of this geometry for minimal genus Heegaard splittings of prime 3-manifolds. (Received January 30, 2016)