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University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL 33146, and **Fabiola Manjarrez-Gutiérrez**. *Circular vs.
Linear Heegaard Splittings*. Preliminary report.

Prompted by Pajitnov to give a constructive geometric argument for his proof that the Morse-Novikov number of a link in S^3 is bounded above by twice the tunnel number, we obtain a broad generalization of the result: Roughly, this states that for any relative 2nd homology class and set of annular sutures, the circular handle number of a 3-manifold is bounded above by its linear handle number. (Received September 20, 2021)