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**Ravi Cho\*** ([ravi.cho@sjsu.edu](mailto:ravi.cho@sjsu.edu)), Department of Mathematics and Statistics, San José State University, San José, CA 95192-0103, and **Tim Hsu** and **Ardak Kapbasov**. *Balanced spiders*. Preliminary report.

In the two-player combinatorial game of (finite) Blue-Red Hackenbush, a position is a finite graph of blue and red edges attached to the “ground”; the players  $L$  and  $R$  alternate taking blue and red edges respectively, with edges also being deleted if they no longer connect to the ground; and the first player unable to move loses. A Hackenbush *string* is a string (path) of edges connected to the ground at one end. Berlekamp first solved (gave a recipe for optimal play for) strings, and van Roode solved *arches* (two strings attached at their tops).

A *balanced spider with  $k$  legs* is a game formed by taking  $k$  strings of the same height  $n$  and attaching them at their tops, generalizing both strings and arches. (For technical reasons, we also assume that the bottom two edges of each leg are different colors.) We present a solution for balanced spiders with 3 legs and discuss further results and conjectures for balanced spiders with more legs. (Received September 12, 2019)