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Nathan Dunfield and **Helen Wong***, 8600 College Station, Brunswick, ME 04011. *Quantum invariants of random Heegaard splittings.*

The quantum invariants are known to give (sometimes sharp) lower bounds to the Heegaard genus of a 3-manifold. In order to study the broader effectiveness of such an approach, we consider the distribution of the complex-valued quantum invariants for a random Heegaard splitting, i.e. one associated to the result of a random walk in the mapping class group. (Received February 09, 2009)