

**Meeting:** 1001, Evanston, Illinois, SS 21A, Special Session on Low-Dimensional Topology and Kleinian Groups

1001-57-292      **Tao Li\*** ([tli@math.okstate.edu](mailto:tli@math.okstate.edu)), Department of Mathematics, Oklahoma State University,  
Stillwater, OK 74078. *Heegaard surfaces and measured laminations.*

A famous example of Casson and Gordon shows that a Haken 3-manifold can have an infinite family of irreducible Heegaard splittings with different genera. We prove that a closed non-Haken 3-manifold has only finitely many irreducible Heegaard splittings, up to isotopy. (Received August 30, 2004)