

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

1001-57-422 **Hossein Namazi*** (hossein@yale.edu), 10 Hillhouse Ave., Mathematics Dept., New Haven, CT 06511. *Heegaard splittings and hyperbolic geometry.*

Hempel conjectured that if a closed orientable three manifold admits a Heegaard splitting with “handlebody distance” at least three, then the manifold is hyperbolic. Examples of Heegaard splittings with an arbitrary large handlebody distance were constructed by Kobayashi and Luo. We will discuss the relation between the Heegaard splitting and hyperbolic geometry and a possible approach toward this conjecture. (Received September 01, 2004)