

Meeting: 1007, Santa Barbara, California, SS 6A, Special Session on Geometric Methods in Three Dimensions

1007-57-51 **David Bachman*** (bachman@pitzer.edu), Pitzer College, 1050 N. Mills Ave, Clatemont, CA
91711. *Heegaard splittings and connected sums.*

We sketch a proof that the connected sum of unstabilized Heegaard splittings is unstabilized, and that connected sums of pairs of non-isotopic Heegaard splittings are non-isotopic. The former assertion resolves a conjecture of Gordon when the component manifolds are irreducible. (Received January 12, 2005)