Daniel Ketover* (dketover@math.princeton.edu), Institute for Advanced Study, 1 Einstein
Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540, and Yevgeny Liokumovich and Antoine Song. On the existence
of minimal surfaces isotopic to a Heegaard surface.

In the 80s Pitts-Rubinstein conjectured that strongly irreducible Heegaard surfaces in three-manifolds could be isotoped
to be index 1 minimal surfaces. I’ll explain joint work with Liokumovich and Song giving a proof of this conjecture, and
give further and more recent applications to three-manifold topology. (Received January 28, 2019)