

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

1007-57-129      **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.*

We study the limit of strongly irreducible Heegaard surfaces in the projective measured lamination space. We show that a closed non-Haken 3-manifold has only finitely many irreducible Heegaard splittings, up to isotopy. This gives a complete answer to a conjecture of Waldhausen. (Received February 15, 2005)