1007-57-129 **Tao Li*** (`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)