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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)