1035-57-1810   **William Breslin*** (`breslin@math.ucdavis.edu`). *Curvature bounds for strongly irreducible Heegaard surfaces in hyperbolic 3-manifolds.*

Given a Heegaard splitting of a hyperbolic 3-manifold, how much can it be flattened via isotopy? We use thick geodesic triangulations and normal surface theory to show that if the surface is strongly irreducible, then it is isotopic to a surface with principal curvatures bounded in absolute value by a fixed constant. The constant depends on neither the surface nor the ambient 3-manifold. (Received September 20, 2007)