1023-57-1388   **Martin Scharlemann** and **Maggy Tomova*** (`mtomova@math.uiowa.edu`), 14 MacLean Hall, Iowa city, IA 52242. *Comparing bridge surfaces.*

We show that two different c-weakly incompressible bridge surfaces for a link K can be properly isotoped to intersect in a non-empty collection of curves essential on both surfaces unless the link is a Conway product. We use this result to show that 2-bridge knots have a unique bridge surface up to obvious geometric operations similar to stabilization. (Received September 25, 2006)