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Robin T Wilson* (robinwilson@csupomona.edu), Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Cal Poly Pomona, 3801 West Temple Ave, Pomona, CA 91768. *Almost Normal Surfaces in Knot Complements.*

It was shown independently by Stocking and Rubinstein that any strongly irreducible Heegaard splitting for an irreducible 3-manifold is isotopic to an almost normal surface. In the study of bridge surfaces for knots and links the idea of a weakly incompressible bridge surface is immediately analogous to the idea of a strongly irreducible Heegaard surface for a 3-manifold. In this talk I will present recent work that gives an analog of the result of Stocking and Rubinstein by showing that any weakly incompressible bridge surface in a knot complement is isotopic to an almost normal bridge surface. (Received March 08, 2008)