1070-57-302 **Jesse Johnson** and **Maggy Tomova*** (maggy-tomova@uiowa.edu), 14 MacLean Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242. *Flipping bridge surfaces and bounds on the stable bridge number.*

We show that if $K$ is a knot in $S^3$ and $\Sigma$ is a bridge sphere for $K$ with high distance and $2n$ punctures, the number of perturbations of $K$ required to interchange the two balls bounded by $\Sigma$ via an isotopy is $n$. We also construct a knot with two different bridge spheres with $2n$ and $2n-1$ bridges respectively for which any common perturbation has at least $3n-1$ bridges. We generalize both of these results to bridge surfaces for knots in any 3-manifold. (Received February 15, 2011)