SURFACES WITH A PARALLEL ISOPERIMETRIC SECTION

BY BANG-YEN CHEN

Communicated by Philip Hartman, November 20, 1972

This announcement is a continuation of Chen [1] (also, Yau [3]). We shall present additional theorems relating surfaces in a space form with a parallel normal section.

Let *M* be a surface in an *m*-dimensional Riemannian manifold \mathbb{R}^m with the induced normal connection *D*. For a unit normal section ξ on *M* (that is, a unit normal vector field of *M* in \mathbb{R}^m), let A_{ξ} be the second fundamental tensor with respect to ξ ; if we have $D\xi = 0$ identically, then ξ is called a *parallel section*; if the trace of A_{ξ} is constant (respectively, zero), then ξ is called an *isoperimetric section* (respectively, *minimal section*) on *M*; if the determinant of A_{ξ} is nowhere zero, then ξ is called a *nondegenerate section*; if A_{ξ} vanishes identically, then ξ is called a *geodesic section*; and if A_{ξ} is not proportional to the identity transformation everywhere, then ξ is called a *umbilical-free section*.

THEOREM 1. Let M be a closed surface in an m-dimensional Riemannian manifold \mathbb{R}^m of constant sectional curvature such that the Gaussian curvature of M does not change its sign. If there exists a parallel umbilical-free isoperimetric section on M, then M is flat.

THEOREM 2. Let M be a closed surface of a 4-dimensional Riemannian manifold \mathbb{R}^4 of constant sectional curvature $c \leq 0$ such that the Gaussian curvature of M does not change its sign. If there exists a parallel non-degenerate minimal section on M, then the mean curvature vector of M is parallel.

THEOREM 3. Let M be a surface in an m-dimensional simply-connected complete Riemannian manifold \mathbb{R}^m of constant sectional curvature c such that the Gaussian curvature of M is constant. If there exists a parallel isoperimetric section on M, then either M is contained in a (small or great) hypersphere of \mathbb{R}^m or M is flat.

THEOREM 4. Let M be a surface in a 4-dimensional simply-connected complete Riemannian manifold R^4 of constant sectional curvature $c \leq 0$ such that the Gaussian curvature of M is constant. If there exists a parallel minimal section on M, then either M is contained in a great hypersphere of R^4 or the mean curvature vector H of M is parallel and M is flat.

AMS (MOS) subject classifications (1970). Primary 53A05, 53B25, 53C40.

Key words and phrases. Parallel, isoperimetric, minimal nondegenerate, geodesic, umbilical-free sections, mean curvature, product surface.