Contents

Prefac	ce	ix
Chapt	er 1. The Beginning of the Theory	1
§1.	The Minimal Surface Equation and Minimal Submanifolds	1
$\S 2.$	Examples of Minimal Surfaces in \mathbb{R}^3	8
$\S 3.$	Consequences of the First Variation Formula	18
$\S 4.$	The Gauss Map	28
$\S 5.$	The Theorem of Bernstein	29
$\S 6.$	The Weierstrass Representation	33
§7.	The Strong Maximum Principle	37
§8.	Second Variation Formula, Morse Index, and Stability	38
$\S 9.$	Multi-valued Graphs	50
§10	. Local Examples of Multi-valued Graphs	51
Appendix: The Harnack Inequality		60
App	pendix: The Bochner formula	60
Chapt	ter 2. Curvature Estimates and Consequences	65
§1.	Simons' Inequality	66
$\S 2.$	Small Energy Curvature Estimates for Minimal Surfaces	72
$\S 3.$	Curvature and Area	76
$\S 4.$	L^p Bounds of $ A ^2$ for Stable Hypersurfaces	85
$\S 5.$	Bernstein Theorems and Curvature Estimates	87
$\S 6.$	The General Minimal Graph Equation	88
§7.	Almost Stability	92

vi

§8.	Sublinear Growth of the Separation	97
$\S 9.$	Minimal Cones	101
Chapt	er 3. Weak Convergence, Compactness and Applications	105
§1.	The Theory of Varifolds	106
$\S 2.$	The Sobolev Inequality	113
$\S 3.$	The Weak Bernstein-Type Theorem	119
$\S 4.$	General Constructions	120
$\S 5.$	Finite Dimensionality	124
$\S 6.$	Bubble Convergence Implies Varifold Convergence	128
Chapter 4. Existence Results		133
$\S 1.$	The Plateau Problem	133
$\S 2.$	The Dirichlet Problem	137
$\S 3.$	The Solution to the Plateau Problem	142
$\S 4.$	Branch Points	147
$\S 5.$	Harmonic Maps	148
$\S 6.$	Existence of Minimal Spheres in a Homotopy Class	153
Chapter 5. Min-max Constructions		163
$\S 1.$	Sweepouts by Curves	163
$\S 2.$	Birkhoff's Curve Shortening Process	164
$\S 3.$	Existence of Closed Geodesics and the Width	171
$\S 4.$	Harmonic Replacement	176
$\S 5.$	Minimal Spheres and the Width	190
Chapt	er 6. Embedded Solutions of the Plateau problem	201
§1.	Unique Continuation	201
$\S 2.$	Local Description of Nodal and Critical Sets	207
$\S 3.$	Absence of True Branch Points	215
$\S 4.$	Absence of False Branch Points	217
$\S 5.$	Embedded Solutions of the Plateau Problem	224
Chapter 7. Minimal Surfaces in Three-Manifolds		233
§1.	The Minimal Surface Equation in a Three-Manifold	233
$\S 2.$	Hersch's and Yang and Yau's Theorems	239
§3.	The Reilly Formula	242
$\S 4.$	Choi and Wang's Lower Bound for λ_1	243

Contents

$\S 5.$	Compactness Theorems with A Priori Bounds	244
$\S 6.$	The Positive Mass Theorem	251
§7.	Extinction of Ricci Flow	255
Chapte	er 8. The Structure of Embedded Minimal Surfaces	261
§1.	Disks that are Double-spiral Staircases	261
$\S 2.$	One-sided Curvature Estimate	276
$\S 3.$	Generalized Nitsche Conjecture	278
$\S 4.$	Calabi-Yau Conjectures for Embedded Surfaces	282
$\S 5.$	Embedded Minimal Surfaces with Finite Genus	288
Exercises		295
Bibliography		299
Index		311