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**Violeta Vasilevska\*** ([vvasilev@usd.edu](mailto:vvasilev@usd.edu)), Department of Mathematical Sciences, The University of South Dakota, 414 E. Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069. *Special Manifolds*. Preliminary report.

A closed manifold with a non-trivial fundamental group is *special* if all self maps with non-trivial normal images on  $\pi_1$ -level are homotopy equivalences. We show that all closed, orientable surfaces with negative Euler characteristic are special manifolds. Then we describe some connected sums which are special manifolds. (Received September 28, 2005)