

1097-57-248

Jack S Calcut* (jcalcut@oberlin.edu), Department of Mathematics, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH 44074. *Connected Sum at Infinity*.

The Connected Sum at Infinity operation (CSI), also called end sum, was introduced by Gompf to study exotic \mathbb{R}^4 's. It has been used by Ancel to study Davis manifolds and by Tinsley and Wright and by Myers to study 3-manifolds. After recalling the definition and basic properties of CSI, we will present a few of its applications and discuss its dependence on choices in dimension 4. The latter is joint work with Patrick Haggerty and answers affirmatively a conjecture of Siebenmann. Some open questions will be included. (Received January 23, 2014)