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Calosi, Claudio (CH-GENV-DQ); **Giordani, Alessandro** (I-SACM-Q)

Universalism and extensionalism revisited. (English. English summary)

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The article under review provides a discussion of the relationship between mereological universalism (the thesis that any plurality of entities has a fusion) and mereological extensionalism (the thesis that composite entities having the same proper parts are identical).

A novel notion of sum (a technical notion introduced to capture the intuitive notion of fusion of plurality of entities) that is not equivalent to any of the three notions of sum that are usually recognized in the mereological literature is presented. It is shown that this new notion is immune to reasonable complaints that can be raised against the others.

Finally, it is argued that Varzi's claim (2009) of the point that mereological universalism entails mereological extensionalism is justified if one sticks to Varzi's notion of sum, but does not hold true with this new notion. *Frédéric Morneau-Guérin*