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Clifford Bergman* (cbergman@iastate.edu), **T. Penza** and **A. B. Romanowska**. *Varieties of Semilattice Sums*. Preliminary report.

Let \mathcal{V} be a variety of algebras, and let \mathcal{S} be term-equivalent to the variety of semilattices. We show that if \mathcal{V} satisfies a strongly irregular identity then the Maltsev product $\mathcal{V} \circ \mathcal{S}$ will again be a variety. (In particular, it will be closed under homomorphic images.) By contrast, the class $\mathcal{S} \circ \mathcal{S}$ is not closed under homomorphic images. Members of $\mathcal{V} \circ \mathcal{S}$ are called *semilattice sums of \mathcal{V} -algebras*. We provide some examples. (Received September 13, 2019)