1001-57-88   **Alexander Charles Barchechat*** (`alexb@math.tulane.edu`), 3412 State Street Drive, New Orleans, LA 70125. *Minimal Triangulations of Closed Orientable Reducible 3-Manifolds.*
In my June 2004 thesis, I described a construction to obtain a triangulation of the connected sum of two closed orientable triangulated 3-manifolds. Using this construction, I will explain how to find a sharp upper bound for the maximal number of disjoint essential normal 2-spheres in a 3-manifold M. (Received August 13, 2004)