

Let R be a ring of characteristic zero (not necessarily commutative). Let e , f and g be idempotent elements of R satisfying $e + f + g = 0$. Show that $e = f = g = 0$.

(R is of characteristic zero means that, if $a \in R$ and n is a positive integer, then $na \neq 0$ unless $a = 0$. An idempotent x is an element satisfying $x = x^2$.)