

## MATRIX RINGS

## Why

Matrices with elements in a ring form a ring.

## Example

Let  $(R, +, \cdot)$  be a ring. Define C = A + B by  $C_{ij} = A_{ij} + B_{ij}$  and define C = A + B by  $C_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{n} A_{ik} B_{kj}$ , as with real matrices, for  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ . Then  $(\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, +, -, -)$  is a ring. In other words, the set of  $n \times n$  matrices with elements in R is a ring, with the usual addition and multiplication of matrices.

The additive identity of the ring is the matrix  $0 \in R^{n \times n}$  for which  $0_{ij} = 0 \in R$ . The multiplicative identity the matrix I for which  $I_{ii} = 1 \in R$  for i = 1, ..., n and  $I_{ij} = 0 \in R$  for  $i \neq j = 1, ..., n$ . As seen with real-valued matrices, multiplication on  $R^{n \times n}$  need not be commutative even if R is.

**Exercise 1.** Show that  $R^{n \times n}$  is not a division ring when n > 1.

