

---

Homework 4  
Due: Friday, February 22

1. Consider the set of  $2 \times 2$  matrices,  $\text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{R})$ , equipped with the following binary operations:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ c_1 & d_1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} a_2 & b_2 \\ c_2 & d_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 + a_2 & b_1 + b_2 \\ c_1 + c_2 & d_1 + d_2 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ c_1 & d_1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a_2 & b_2 \\ c_2 & d_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1a_2 + b_1c_2 & a_1b_2 + b_1d_2 \\ c_1a_2 + d_1c_2 & c_1b_2 + d_1d_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

- (a) Show that these operations turn  $\text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{R})$  into a ring.  
(b) What are the additive and multiplicative identity elements in this ring?  
(c) Which elements have a multiplicative inverse?
2. Consider the set of  $2 \times 2$  matrices,  $\text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{R})$ , equipped with the following binary operations:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ c_1 & d_1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} a_2 & b_2 \\ c_2 & d_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 + a_2 & b_1 + b_2 \\ c_1 + c_2 & d_1 + d_2 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ c_1 & d_1 \end{pmatrix} * \begin{pmatrix} a_2 & b_2 \\ c_2 & d_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1a_2 & b_1b_2 \\ c_1c_2 & d_1d_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

- (a) Show that these operations turn  $\text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{R})$  into a ring.  
(b) What are the additive and multiplicative identity elements in this ring?  
(c) Which elements have a multiplicative inverse?
3. [J]16.1. For each part, if the set is a ring, just say so. If it's not a ring, give a short example explaining why. Similarly, if the set is a ring but not a field, write down an element with no multiplicative inverse.
4. [J]16.3(a)(b)(c).
5. Consider the ring of real polynomials  $\mathbb{R}[x]$ .
- (a) Prove that  $\mathbb{R}[x]$  is an integral domain.  
(b) What are the units in  $\mathbb{R}[x]$ ?

**Bonus:** Let  $R$  be a ring with additive identity  $0_R$  and multiplicative identity  $1_R$ . Show that if  $0_R = 1_R$ , then  $R$  only has a single element.