



## Ring of matrices:

Q → Show that the set  $M$  of all  $2 \times 2$  matrices whose entries are real numbers is a ring with respect to addition and multiplication of matrices.

Let  $A, B \in M$ . Then  $A+B \in M$  and  $AB \in M$  since the sum and product of  $2 \times 2$  matrices are  $2 \times 2$  matrices. Therefore  $M$  is closed with respect to addition and multiplication of matrices.

Solution: — Let  $M$  be the set of square matrices of order 2.

Let  $A, B, C \in M$ .

Then we know from our knowledge of Algebra that

Laws of addition.

(i)  $A+B \in M$  (ii)  $(A+B)+C = A+(B+C)$  (Associative law)

(iii) There exists an identity matrix (zero matrix) of order 2 i.e.  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  denoted by  $O \in M$  such that

for each  $A \in M$  we have  $A+O = O+A = A$ .

(iv) There exists a negative matrix  $-A \in M$  corresponding to each  $A \in M$  such that  $A+(-A) = (-A)+A = O$

(v)  $A+B = B+A$ . Thus we find that the set  $M$  of square matrices of order 2 is an Abelian group w.r.t. addition.

Laws of multiplication: (vi)  $(AB)C = A(BC)$  (Associative law)

(vii) Distributive law:  $A(B+C) = AB+AC$ .

Taking all these conditions (i) to (vii), we find that the set of all square matrices of order 2 is a ring.

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17.06.2021