

and  $B_i = E_{i,h}AE_{k,i}$  so  $B_i \in I$ . (Now add up all the ideals). Let

$$\begin{aligned} B &= B_1 + B_2 + \cdots + B_n \\ &= a_{h,k}\{E_{1,1} + E_{2,2} + \cdots + E_{n,n}\} \\ &= a_{h,k} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $B$  is invertible and  $B \in I$ . Thus (by the second last lemma)

$$I = M_n(D)$$

■

**Definition 2.10** Let  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  be rings. Define a new ring, the **direct sum** of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  as

$$R_1 \oplus R_2 = \{(r_1, r_2) \mid r_1 \in R_1, r_2 \in R_2\} \quad (= \underbrace{R_1 \times R_2}_{\text{cartesian product}})$$

Let  $(r_1, r_2)$  and  $(s_1, s_2) \in R_1 \oplus R_2$ . Define  $(r_1, r_2) + (s_1, s_2) = (r_1 + s_1, r_2 + s_2)$  and  $(r_1, r_2)(s_1, s_2) = (r_1s_1, r_2s_2)$ . This defines a ring (check!).

$R_1 \oplus R_2$  is not a division ring since for any non-zero  $r \in R_1$  and  $s \in R_2$ , we have  $(r, 0)(0, s) = (r \cdot 0, 0 \cdot s) = (0, 0) = 0 \in R_1 \oplus R_2$ . So  $(r, 0)$  and  $(0, s)$  are zero divisors. So  $(r, 0)$  and  $(0, s)$  are not invertible. So Hamilton would not be pleased. We could define  $(R_1 \oplus R_2) \oplus R_3 = R_1 \oplus R_2 \oplus R_3$  and ... and  $R_1 \oplus R_2 \oplus \dots \oplus R_n$ .

**Definition 2.11** A ring  $R$  is called a **simple ring** if its only ideals are  $\{0\}$  and  $R$  (i.e. no non-trivial ideals).

**Note :**  $M_n(D)$  is a simple ring.

**Definition 2.12** An element  $e \in R$  is called an **idempotent** if  $e^2 = e$ .