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## Sums, products and bases

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A power basis for a direct power  $R^J$  of a unital ring  $R$  and an infinite set  $J$  is an independent spanning set for  $R^J$ . I study the existence, properties and classification of power bases, and the structure of the endomorphism ring and automorphism group of  $R^J$ . Particularly nice results occur when  $R$  is slender, and a new characterization of slender rings is obtained.