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.