

# 1 Commutativity preserving maps on real matrices

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Let  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$  be the algebra of all  $n \times n$  real matrices. A map  $\phi : M_n(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow M_n(\mathbb{R})$  preserves commutativity if  $\phi(A)\phi(B) = \phi(B)\phi(A)$  whenever  $AB = BA$ ,  $A, B \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$ . If  $\phi$  is bijective and both  $\phi$  and  $\phi^{-1}$  preserve commutativity, then we say that  $\phi$  preserves commutativity in both directions. We will talk about non-linear maps on  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$  that preserve commutativity in both directions or in one direction only.