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**Justin Chen\***, jchen@math.berkeley.edu. *Invertible sums of matrices.*

Given a finite set of matrices whose sum is invertible, can one always find a (small) subsum among them which is still invertible? I will discuss this question, which leads to a characterization of local rings, and other related problems for semilocal rings. The main technical result is a polynomial determinantal identity, which follows from an abstract combinatorial identity. (Received February 09, 2016)