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Almost Cohen–Macaulay algebras

PAUL ROBERTS

Department of Mathematics
University of Utah
155 S 1400 E, Rm 233
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-0090
USA

`roberts@math.utah.edu`

The theory of Cohen–Macaulay rings is a central part of Commutative Algebra. In addition to having nice computational properties, these rings can be used to prove that several conjectures hold for rings that can be mapped to Cohen–Macaulay algebras. In this talk I discuss a generalization, called almost Cohen–Macaulay algebras. The talk will explain what they are, why they are useful, and the extent to which an arbitrary ring can be mapped to an almost Cohen–Macaulay algebra.