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Pascoe**. *Partial Matrix Convexity*. Preliminary report.

Linear Matrix Inequalities (LMIs), matrix convex sets and matrix convex free polynomials are related by the facts that a free set is matrix convex if and only if it is determined by LMIs; a free polynomial is matrix convex if and only if it has an LMI inspired algebraic certificate; and the positivity set of a matrix concave free polynomial is matrix convex. In this talk we will introduce a framework for generalizing these ideas to various notions of partial convexity, focusing most of our attention on the case of Bimatrix Inequalities (BMIs) and the corresponding notions of  $xy$ -matrix convex sets and  $xy$ -matrix convex polynomials. Given two sets of freely noncommuting variables  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_g)$  and  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_h)$ , a monic  $xy$ -pencil is an expression of the form

$$L(x, y) = I + \sum A_j x_j + \sum B_k y_k + \sum C_{p,q} x_p y_q + \sum C_{p,q}^* y_q x_p.$$

Here the  $A_j, B_k, C_{p,q}$  are matrices,  $A_j$  and  $B_k$  are selfadjoint, and of course  $I$  is the identity matrix. The pencil  $L$  is naturally evaluated at a tuple  $(X, Y) = (X_1, \dots, X_g, Y_1, \dots, Y_h)$  of matrices of the same size using the Kronecker tensor product giving output  $L(X, Y)$ . The inequality (in the Loewner ordering)  $L(X, Y) \succeq 0$  is a Bimatrix Inequality (BMI). (Received September 16, 2019)