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Scott Baldridge* (sbaldrid@math.lsu.edu), Department of Mathematics, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, and **Paul Kirk**, Mathematics Department, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405. *Symplectic 4-manifolds with arbitrary fundamental group near the BMY line*. Preliminary report.

In this talk I will describe a family of symplectic 4-manifolds with positive signature for any given fundamental group G that approaches the BMY line. The family is used to show that one cannot hope to do better than the BMY inequality in finding a lower bound for the function $f = \chi + b\sigma$ on the class of all minimal symplectic 4-manifolds with a given fundamental group. (Received September 18, 2005)