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**Meric L. Augat\*** (mlaugat@ufl.edu). *A noncommutative Ax-Grothendieck theorem.* Preliminary report.

The Ax-Grothendieck theorem tells us that a polynomial  $p : \mathbb{C}^g \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^g$  that is injective, is bijective and has a polynomial inverse.

A free map is a noncommutative function acting on tuples of matrices that respects direct sums and joint similarity. James Pascoe proved that if  $p : M(\mathbb{C})^g \rightarrow M(\mathbb{C})^g$  is an injective free polynomial, then  $p$  is bijective, has a free inverse  $q$  and, for each  $n$  there is a free polynomial  $r_n$  such that  $q(X) = r_n(X)$  for each  $X \in M_n(\mathbb{C})^g$ .

Our goal is to prove a strengthening of the free Ax-Grothendieck theorem; a free polynomial is injective if and only if it has a free polynomial inverse. Polynomial identities and degree bounds on polynomial inverses make the task more difficult than initially expected. We present results and techniques associated with proving this stronger Ax-Grothendieck theorem. (Received September 25, 2017)