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MF approximations of crossed products

A C^* -algebra is MF (matricial field) if it approximate embeds into finite-dimensional C^* -algebras. A classical question of Blackadar and Kirchberg asks if every stably finite C^* -algebra is MF. I will discuss the MF approximation problem as it relates to group C^* -algebras and to crossed products of nuclear C^* -algebras by free groups. This is partially based on joint work with Tim Rainone.