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**Frauke M. Bleher\***, Department of Mathematics, University of Iowa, 14 MacLean Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242, and **Ted Chinburg**, Department of Mathematics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6395. *Linear operators and orbit closures*. Preliminary report.

This talk is about joint work with Ted Chinburg. We study the Grassmannian  $\mathcal{G}$  of submodules  $C$  of a given dimension inside a finitely generated projective module  $P$  for a finite dimensional algebra  $\Lambda$  over an algebraically closed field  $k$ . The closure  $\mathcal{X}$  in  $\mathcal{G}$  of the orbit of such a submodule  $C$  under the action of  $\text{Aut}_\Lambda(P)$  has been considered by a number of authors. We concentrate on the case when  $P$  is indecomposable. In this case  $\mathcal{X}$  is a rational variety, and there is an affine  $n$ -space  $\mathbb{A}^n$  in  $\mathcal{X}$  with the following property. The embedding of  $\mathbb{A}^n$  into  $\mathcal{G}$  is given by taking the space spanned by the rows of a matrix of linear polynomials in the  $n$  standard coordinates for  $\mathbb{A}^n$ . For  $n = 2$ , we show that the generic embedding of  $\mathbb{A}^2$  into  $\mathcal{G}$  via such a matrix has closure isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . We also show that there is a positive dimensional family of embeddings for which the closure is the Hirzebruch surface  $X_2$ , respectively  $X_3$ . While it is known by work of the authors and Birge Huisgen-Zimmermann that  $X_2$  arises from an orbit closure  $\mathcal{X}$  as above, this is not known for the surface  $X_3$ . (Received February 08, 2014)