



Mathematics > Group Theory

# The space of bi-invariant orders on a nilpotent group

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We prove a few basic facts about the space of bi-invariant (or left-invariant) total order relations on a torsion-free, nonabelian, nilpotent group  $G$ . For instance, we show that the space of bi-invariant orders has no isolated points (so it is a Cantor set if  $G$  is countable), and give examples to show that the outer automorphism group of  $G$  does not always act faithfully on this space. Also, it is not difficult to see that the abstract commensurator group of  $G$  has a natural action on the space of left-invariant orders, and we show that this action is faithful. These results are related to recent work of T.Koberda that shows the automorphism group of  $G$  acts faithfully on this space.

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