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The Burns-Hale theorem and its generalizations

The Burns-Hale theorem gives necessary and sufficient conditions for a group G to be left-orderable in terms of quotients of finitely generated subgroups of G . A new, simple proof of this theorem has opened the door to many generalizations, some of which give clean proofs of classical results and some of which provide altogether new results. In this talk I will review a few of the possible generalizations and their consequences. This is joint work with Dale Rolfsen and Steven Boyer.