

AUTOMORPHISMS OF LOCALLY COMPACT GROUPS

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It is proved that for arbitrary locally compact groups G the automorphism group $\text{Aut}(G)$ is a complete topological group. Several conditions equivalent to closedness of the group $\text{Int}(G)$ of inner automorphisms are given, such as G admits no nontrivial central sequences. It is shown that $\text{Aut}(G)$ is topologically embedded in the automorphism group $\text{Aut } \mathcal{A}(G)$ of the group von Neumann algebra. However, closedness of $\text{Int } \mathcal{A}(G)$ does not imply closedness of $\text{Int}(G)$, nor conversely.

1. Let G be a locally compact group and $\text{Aut}(G)$ the group of all its topological automorphisms with the Birkhoff topology. A neighborhood basis of the identity automorphism consists of sets $N(C, V) = \{\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G) : \alpha(x) \in Vx \text{ and } \alpha^{-1}(x) \in Vx, \text{ all } x \in C\}$, where C is compact and V is a neighborhood of the identity e of G . As is well known, $\text{Aut}(G)$ is a Hausdorff topological group but not generally locally compact [1; p. 57]. In this article we are mainly concerned with the topological properties of $\text{Aut}(G)$ and its subgroup $\text{Int}(G)$ of inner automorphisms. We prove that for G arbitrary locally compact $\text{Aut}(G)$ is a complete topological group. In particular, if G is also separable $\text{Aut}(G)$ is a Polish group. Furthermore, we give two new characterizations of the topology for $\text{Aut}(G)$, (1.1 and 1.6). In §2 we turn to the question of when certain subgroups (among them $\text{Int}(G)$) are closed in $\text{Aut}(G)$, and several equivalent conditions are given; for instance, $\text{Int}(G)$ is closed iff G admits no nontrivial central sequences (2.2). Applications to more special classes of groups are also given, as well as to the question of unimodularity of $\text{Int}(G)$, (2.7). We remark that there is no separability assumption on the groups before 1.11.

LEMMA 1.1. *The sets*

$$W_{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n, \varepsilon} = \{\tau \in \text{Aut}(G) ; \|\phi_j \circ \tau - \phi_j\|_\infty < \varepsilon, 1 \leq j \leq n\}$$

where $\phi_j \in C_c(G)$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, form a basis for the neighborhoods of the identity in $\text{Aut}(G)$.

Proof. Let $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n \in C_c(G)$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ be given. Note that $\|\phi_j \circ \tau - \phi_j\|_\infty < \varepsilon$ implies $\|\phi_j \circ \tau^{-1} - \phi_j\|_\infty < \varepsilon$, $\tau \in \text{Aut}(G)$. Set $F = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \text{support}(\phi_i)$, and let W be a symmetric neighborhood of e in G such that $|\phi_i(x) - \phi_i(wx)| < \varepsilon$ for all $x \in G$, $w \in W$, $1 \leq i \leq n$. We claim

$N(F, W) \subseteq W_{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n; \varepsilon}$. Let $\tau \in N(F, W)$. Then for $x \in F$, $\tau(x)x^{-1} \in W$, so

$$(*) \quad |\phi_i(x) - \phi_i(\tau(x))| < \varepsilon, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n.$$

If $\tau(x) \in F$, then $\tau^{-1}(\tau(x))\tau(x)^{-1} \in W$, i.e., $x\tau(x)^{-1} \in W$, so $(*)$ holds. If $x \notin F$ and $\tau(x) \notin F$ then $\phi_i(x) = \phi_i(\tau(x)) = 0$, so again $(*)$ is satisfied.

Conversely, let $F \subset G$ be compact and W a neighborhood of e in G . Let U be a compact neighborhood of e in G such that $U^2 \cdot U^{-1} \subset W$. Let $\psi \in C_c(G)$ be such that $0 \leq \psi \leq 1$, support $(\psi) \subset U^2$, and $\psi(u) \geq 1/2 \forall u \in U$. (The existence of such a ψ is clear.) Let $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ be a finite subset of F such that $\{U_{x_i} : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ covers F . Define $\psi_i \in C_c(G)$ by $\psi_i(x) = \psi(xx_i^{-1})$, $1 \leq i \leq n$. It is now routine to verify that $W_{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n; 1/2} \subset N(F, W)$.

1.2. By Braconnier [1] there is a continuous (modular) homomorphism $\Delta: \text{Aut}(G) \rightarrow R^+$ with the property

$$\Delta(\alpha)^{-1} \int_G f \circ \alpha^{-1}(x) dx = \int_G f(x) dx, \quad \text{for } f \in C_c(G),$$

where dx is a fixed Haar measure. Defining

$$\tilde{\alpha}(f) = \Delta(\alpha)^{-1} f \circ \alpha^{-1}, \quad f \in L^1(G), \alpha \in \text{Aut}(G),$$

it is easy to see that $\tilde{\alpha}$ becomes an automorphism of the group algebra $L^1(G)$. Denote by λ the left regular representation of G as well as the left regular representation of $L^1(G)$ on $L^2(G)$. Viewing $\tilde{\alpha}, \alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$, as an automorphism of $\lambda(L^1(G))$, we show that $\tilde{\alpha}$ can be extended to an automorphism of the von Neumann algebra of the left regular representation, $\mathcal{R}(G) = \lambda(L^1(G))'' = \lambda(G)''$. We define a unitary operator $U^\alpha, \alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$, by

$$U^\alpha g = \Delta(\alpha)^{-1/2} g \circ \alpha^{-1}, \quad g \in L^2(G).$$

A straight forward calculation shows

$$\lambda(\tilde{\alpha}(f)) = U^\alpha \lambda(f) U^{\alpha^{-1}}.$$

The unitary implementation $\alpha \mapsto U^\alpha$ allows us to define $\tilde{\alpha}(T)$ for $T \in \mathcal{R}(G)$ by

$$\tilde{\alpha}(T) = U^\alpha T U^{\alpha^{-1}}.$$

LEMMA 1.3. *The map $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G) \mapsto U^\alpha g \in L^2(G)$ is continuous ($g \in L^2(G)$).*

Proof. This follows from Proposition 2, page 78 of [1].

1.4. Our next aim is to study $\text{Aut}(G)$ by embedding it in $\text{Aut } \mathcal{R}(G)$, and we shall prove that the embedding is topological if

$\text{Aut } \mathcal{R}(G)$ is provided with the appropriate topology, namely the uniform-weak topology. A neighborhood base at the identity $\iota \in \text{Aut } \mathcal{R}(G)$ is given by

$$\{\alpha \in \text{Aut } \mathcal{R}(G) : | \langle (\alpha - \iota)\mathcal{R}_1, \phi_i \rangle | < \varepsilon, \phi_i \in \mathcal{R}(G)_*, 1 \leq i \leq n \},$$

where $\varepsilon > 0$ and \mathcal{R}_1 denotes the unit ball in $\mathcal{R}(G)$. Recall that the predual, $\mathcal{R}(G)_*$, is the Fourier algebra $A(G)$ (see [5]). Let

$$W_{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n; \varepsilon} = \{\alpha \in \text{Aut } (G) : \|\phi_i - \phi_i \circ \alpha\| < \varepsilon, 1 \leq i \leq n\}, \quad \phi_i \in A(G),$$

where $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the norm in $A(G)$.

LEMMA 1.5.

$$W_{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n; \varepsilon} = \{\alpha \in \text{Aut } (G) : | \langle (\tilde{\alpha} - \iota)\mathcal{R}_1, \phi_i \rangle | < \varepsilon, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n \}.$$

Proof. First note $\langle \tilde{\alpha}(T), \phi \rangle = \langle T, \phi \circ \alpha \rangle$ for $T \in \mathcal{R}(G)$, $\phi \in A(G)$ and $\alpha \in \text{Aut } (G)$; i.e., $\tilde{\alpha}^t(\phi) = \phi \circ \alpha$: If $T = \lambda(f)$, $f \in L^1(G)$, we have

$$\langle \tilde{\alpha}(\lambda(f)), \phi \rangle = \Delta(\alpha)^{-1} \int_G f \circ \alpha^{-1}(x) \phi(x) dx = \langle \lambda(f), \phi \circ \alpha \rangle.$$

Since $\{\lambda(f) : f \in L^1(G)\}$ is dense in $\mathcal{R}(G)$, the claim follows. Now $\langle (\tilde{\alpha} - \iota)T, \phi \rangle = \langle T, \phi \circ \alpha - \phi \rangle$, $T \in \mathcal{R}_1$. Taking the supremum over all $T \in \mathcal{R}_1$ we get

$$\sup_{T \in \mathcal{R}_1} \langle (\tilde{\alpha} - \iota)T, \phi \rangle = \|\phi \circ \alpha - \phi\|, \quad \phi \in A(G),$$

and the lemma follows.

PROPOSITION 1.6. *The sets $W_{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n; \varepsilon}$, $\phi_i \in A(G)$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, form a base at the identity $\iota \in \text{Aut } (G)$ for the Birkhoff topology. Hence the embedding $\text{Aut } (G) \hookrightarrow \text{Aut } \mathcal{R}(G)$ is topological.*

Proof. We show first that the topology generated by the sets $W_{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n; \varepsilon}$ is weaker than that of $\text{Aut } (G)$. The proof of Lemma 1.5 shows that for $\phi \in A(G)$, $\alpha \in \text{Aut } (G)$.

$$\|\phi - \phi \circ \alpha\| = \sup_{T \in \mathcal{R}_1} | \langle T - \tilde{\alpha}(T), \phi \rangle |.$$

Writing $\phi = (f \circ \tilde{g})^\vee$, $f, g \in L^2(G)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\phi - \phi \circ \alpha\| &= \sup_{T \in \mathcal{R}_1} | \langle (T - \tilde{\alpha}(T))f, g \rangle | \\ &= \sup_{T \in \mathcal{R}_1} | \langle (T - U^\alpha T U^{\alpha^{-1}})f, g \rangle | \\ &= \sup_{T \in \mathcal{R}_1} | \langle (U^{\alpha^{-1}} T - T U^{\alpha^{-1}})f, U^{\alpha^{-1}} g \rangle | \\ &\leq \sup_{T \in \mathcal{R}_1} | \langle (U^{\alpha^{-1}} T - T)f, U^{\alpha^{-1}} g \rangle | \\ &\quad + \sup_{T \in \mathcal{R}_1} | \langle (T - U^{\alpha^{-1}})f, U^{\alpha^{-1}} g \rangle |. \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned}
|\langle (T - TU^{\alpha^{-1}})f, U^{\alpha^{-1}}g \rangle| &\leq \|T(f - U^{\alpha^{-1}}f)\|_2 \|U^{\alpha^{-1}}g\|_2 \\
&\leq \|f - U^{\alpha^{-1}}f\|_2 \|g\|_2, \quad \text{all } T \in \mathcal{R}_1. \\
|\langle (U^{\alpha^{-1}}T - T)f, U^{\alpha^{-1}}g \rangle| \\
&= |\langle U^{\alpha^{-1}}Tf, U^{\alpha^{-1}}g \rangle - \langle Tf, U^{\alpha^{-1}}g \rangle| \\
&= |\langle Tf, g \rangle - \langle Tf, U^{\alpha^{-1}}g \rangle| = |\langle Tf, g - U^{\alpha^{-1}}g \rangle| \\
&\leq \|Tf\|_2 \|g - U^{\alpha^{-1}}g\|_2 \leq \|f\|_2 \|g - U^{\alpha^{-1}}g\|_2, \\
&\quad \text{all } T \in \mathcal{R}_1.
\end{aligned}$$

Let N be a neighborhood of $\iota \in \text{Aut}(G)$ such that $\|f - U^{\alpha^{-1}}f\|_2 \|g\|_2 < \varepsilon/2$ and $\|f\|_2 \|g - U^{\alpha^{-1}}g\|_2 < \varepsilon/2$. Then $\|\phi - \phi \circ \alpha\| < \varepsilon$.

Conversely, let $F \subset G$ be compact and W a neighborhood of e in G . Let U be a compact neighborhood of e such that $U^2 \cdot U^{-1} \subset W$.

Since $A(G)$ is a regular algebra, there exists $\psi \in A(G)$ with $0 \leq \psi \leq 1$, $\psi(u) = 1$ for $u \in U$, and $\text{support}(\psi) \subset U^2$ [5; Lemma 3.2]. Let $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subset F$ be so that $\{Ux_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ covers F . Define $\psi_i(y) = \psi(yx_i^{-1})$, $1 \leq i \leq n$. We claim $W_{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n, 1} \subset N(F, W)$. Indeed, suppose $\tau \in W_{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n, 1}$ and let $x \in F$. Then $x \in Ux_j$ for some j . Now $\|\psi_j \circ \tau - \psi_j\| < 1$ implies $\|\psi_j \circ \tau - \psi_j\|_\infty < 1$, so that $|\psi_j \circ \tau(x) - \psi_j(x)| < 1$. But for $x \in Ux_j$, $\psi_j(x) = \psi(xx_j^{-1}) = 1$. Hence $\tau(x) \in \text{support}(\psi_j)$, or $\tau(x) \in U^2x_j$. But then

$$\tau(x)x^{-1} \in U^2x_jx^{-1} \in U^2U^{-1} \subset W.$$

In addition

$$\|\psi_j \circ \tau^{-1} - \psi_j\|_\infty = \|\psi_j \circ \tau - \psi_j\|_\infty < 1,$$

so the same argument as above yields $\tau^{-1}(x) \in Wx$.

COROLLARY 1.7. *Suppose G has small neighborhoods of the identity, invariant under inner automorphisms (i.e., $G \in [\text{SIN}]$). Then viewing the group $\text{Int}(G)$ as a subgroup of $\text{Aut } \mathcal{R}(G)$, the pointwise-weak and uniform-weak topologies coincide on $\text{Int}(G)$.*

Proof. $G \in [\text{SIN}]$ if and only if $\mathcal{R}(G)$ is a finite von Neumann algebra, [4; 13. 10.5]. The conclusion follows from [10; Proposition 3.7].

Note that the above can just as well be stated for $[\text{SIN}]_B$ -groups where $B \subset \text{Aut}(G)$ is a subgroup. Also, the corollary is not too surprising in view of the fact that for $[\text{SIN}]$ -groups the point-open and Birkhoff topologies of $\text{Aut}(G)$ agree on $\text{Int}(G)$ [9; Satz 1.6].

1.8. We say that G is an $[\text{FIA}]_B$ -group if B is a relatively

compact subgroup of $\text{Aut}(G)$ (see [7]). It is now a trivial consequence of 1.6 that $G \in [\text{FIA}]_B^-$ if and only if B , viewed as a subgroup of $\text{Aut } \mathcal{R}(G)$ endowed with the uniform-weak topology, is relatively compact. Cf. [6; Theorem 2.4]. By [6; Corollary 1.6], the pointwise-weak topology may be substituted for the uniform-weak topology.

We mention another consequence of Proposition 1.6 which was suggested to us by Kenneth Ross. An important tool in harmonic analysis on $[\text{FIA}]_B^-$ -groups is the “sharp operator,” which is defined as follows: if f is a continuous function on $G \in [\text{FIA}]_B^-$, then

$$f^*(x) = \int_{B^-} f \circ \beta(x) d\beta,$$

where $d\beta$ is normalized Haar measure on the compact group $B^- \subset \text{Aut}(G)$. f^* is a continuous, B -invariant function on G . We show that if f is in the Fourier algebra $A(G)$, so is f^* . By Proposition 1.6 the map $\beta \rightarrow f \circ \beta$, $\text{Aut}(G) \rightarrow A(G)$, is continuous. Viewing f^* as a vector valued integral, we can then adapt [14; Lemma 1.4] to show that $f^* \in A(G)$.

1.9. Next we show in an elementary way that for an arbitrary locally compact group G , $\text{Aut}(G)$ is a complete topological group (in its two-sided uniformity).

THEOREM. *Let G be a locally compact group; then $\text{Aut}(G)$ is complete with respect to its two-sided uniformity.*

Proof. Let (α_ν) be a Cauchy net in $\text{Aut}(G)$. Since $\alpha \mapsto U^\alpha$, $\text{Aut}(G) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(L^2(G))$ is continuous in the strong operator topology, it is also weakly continuous. Now $U^\alpha \in \mathcal{L}(L^2(G))_1$ (=unit ball of $\mathcal{L}(L^2(G))$); also the weak and ultraweak topology coincide on $\mathcal{L}(L^2(G))_1$ and $\mathcal{L}(L^2(G))_1$ is compact in this topology. Thus (U^{α_ν}) has a point of accumulation $U \in \mathcal{L}(L^2(G))_1$; let (α_μ) be a subnet such that $U^{\alpha_\mu} \xrightarrow{\mu} U$ weakly. Then for $f, g \in L^2(G)$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (U^{\alpha_\nu} - U)f, g \rangle &= \langle (U^{\alpha_\nu} - U^{\alpha_\mu})f, g \rangle + \langle (U^{\alpha_\mu} - U)f, g \rangle \\ &= \langle f - U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}\alpha_\mu}f, U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}}g \rangle + \langle (U^{\alpha_\mu} - U)f, g \rangle \\ &\leq \|f - U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}\alpha_\mu}f\|_2 \|g\|_2 + \langle (U^{\alpha_\mu} - U)f, g \rangle \xrightarrow{\mu, \nu} 0 \end{aligned}$$

since $\alpha_\nu^{-1}\alpha_\mu \xrightarrow{(\nu, \mu)} \iota$ in $\text{Aut}(G)$. Thus $U^{\alpha_\nu} \xrightarrow{\nu} U$ in the weak operator topology. Similarly $U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}}$ converges weakly to some $V \in \mathcal{L}(L^2(G))_1$. We claim $V = U^{-1}$. Let $f, g \in L^2(G)$, $\varepsilon > 0$. Let ν_0 be such that for $\nu > \nu_0$

$$|\langle U^{\alpha_\nu} Vf - UVf, g \rangle| < \varepsilon, \quad \text{and} \quad \|U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} g - U^{\alpha_{\nu_0}^{-1}} g\|_2 < \frac{\varepsilon}{2\|f\|_2}.$$

Choose ν_1 such that $\nu > \nu_1$ implies

$$|\langle U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} f - Vf, U^{\alpha_{\nu_0}^{-1}} g \rangle| < \varepsilon.$$

Then for $\nu, \mu > \nu_0$ and ν_1 , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & |\langle U^{\alpha_\mu} U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} f - UVf, g \rangle| \\ & \leq |\langle U^{\alpha_\mu} U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} f - U^{\alpha_\mu} Vf, g \rangle| + |\langle U^{\alpha_\mu} Vf - UVf, g \rangle|, \end{aligned}$$

where $|\langle U^{\alpha_\mu} Vf - UVf, g \rangle| < \varepsilon$. Also

$$\begin{aligned} & |\langle U^{\alpha_\mu} U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} f - U^{\alpha_\mu} Vf, g \rangle| = |\langle U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} f - Vf, U^{\alpha_{\mu-1}} g \rangle| \\ & \leq |\langle U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} f - Vf, U^{\alpha_{\nu_0}^{-1}} g \rangle| + |\langle U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} f - Vf, U^{\alpha_\mu^{-1}} g - U^{\alpha_{\nu_0}^{-1}} g \rangle| \\ & < \varepsilon + \|U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} f - Vf\|_2 \|U^{\alpha_\mu^{-1}} g - U^{\alpha_{\nu_0}^{-1}} g\|_2 \\ & < \varepsilon + 2\|f\|_2 \|U^{\alpha_\mu^{-1}} g - U^{\alpha_{\nu_0}^{-1}} g\|_2 < 2\varepsilon, \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$|\langle U^{\alpha_\mu} U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} f - UVf, g \rangle| < 3\varepsilon.$$

But

$$\langle U^{\alpha_\mu} U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} f, g \rangle = \langle U^{\alpha_\mu \alpha_\nu^{-1}} f, g \rangle \xrightarrow{(\mu, \nu)} \langle f, g \rangle,$$

hence

$$\langle UVf, g \rangle = \langle f, g \rangle, \quad \text{all } f, g \in L^2(G);$$

thus $V = U^{-1}$. In addition,

$$\langle Uf, g \rangle = \lim_{\nu} \langle U^{\alpha_\nu} f, g \rangle = \lim_{\nu} \langle f, U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} g \rangle = \langle f, Vg \rangle,$$

so $V = U^*$, and we have $U^{-1} = U^*$, so U is unitary. A standard argument shows U^{α_ν} converges strongly to U :

$$\begin{aligned} \|U^{\alpha_\nu} f - Uf\|_2^2 &= \langle U^{\alpha_\nu} f, U^{\alpha_\nu} f \rangle - \langle Uf, U^{\alpha_\nu} f \rangle \\ &= \langle U^{\alpha_\nu} f, Uf \rangle + \langle Uf, Uf \rangle - \langle Uf, U^{\alpha_\nu} f \rangle \\ &= \langle U^{\alpha_\nu} f, Uf \rangle - \langle U^{\alpha_\nu} f, Uf \rangle \xrightarrow{\nu} 0. \end{aligned}$$

It remains to show that $\lambda(x) \mapsto U\lambda(x)U^{-1}$ defines an automorphism of $\lambda(G)$ (and thus of G). Fix $x \in G$; clearly $(\alpha_\nu(x))$ is a Cauchy net in G and (since G is complete) converges to an element, say $\alpha(x) \in G$. Then

$$U^{\alpha_\nu} \lambda(x) U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} = \lambda(\alpha_\nu(x)) \xrightarrow{\nu} \lambda(\alpha(x)) \text{ weakly ,}$$

and

$$U^{\alpha_\nu} \lambda(x) U^{\alpha_\nu^{-1}} \xrightarrow{\nu} U \lambda(x) U^{-1} \text{ weakly .}$$

So $\lambda(\alpha(x)) = U \lambda(x) U^{-1}$. To prove α is a homomorphism,

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda(\alpha(xy)) &= U \lambda(xy) U^{-1} = (U \lambda(x) U^{-1})(U \lambda(y) U^{-1}) = \lambda(\alpha(x)) \lambda(\alpha(y)) \\ &= \lambda(\alpha(x) \alpha(y)) ; \end{aligned}$$

so $\alpha(xy) = \alpha(x) \alpha(y)$. Also $\lambda(\alpha(x^{-1})) = U \lambda(x^{-1}) U^{-1} = U \lambda(x)^{-1} U^{-1} = (U \lambda(x) U^{-1})^{-1} = \lambda(\alpha(x))^{-1} = \lambda(\alpha(x^{-1}))$ i.e., $\alpha(x^{-1}) = \alpha(x)^{-1}$. To prove continuity of α , let $(x_\mu) \rightarrow x_0$ in G . Then

$$\lambda(\alpha(x_\mu)) = U \lambda(x_\mu) U^{-1} \xrightarrow{\mu} U \lambda(x_0) U^{-1} = \lambda(\alpha(x_0))$$

in the weak operator topology. But $x \mapsto \lambda(x)$ is a homeomorphism of G onto $\lambda(G)$, where $\lambda(G) \subset \mathcal{L}(L^2(G))$ carries the weak topology ([6; Lemma 2.2]). Thus $\alpha(x_\mu) \rightarrow \alpha(x_0)$. Similarly, α^{-1} is continuous, and we have $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$, so that $\text{Aut}(G)$ is complete.

REMARK 1.10. Since by 1.6 $\text{Aut}(G)$ is topologically embedded in the complete group $\text{Aut } \mathcal{R}(G)$, [10; Proposition 3.5], it would be natural to prove completeness of $\text{Aut}(G)$ by showing it is closed in $\text{Aut } \mathcal{R}(G)$. Actually, such a proof can be given, utilizing the profound duality theory in [16]. We sketch the argument. Consider a net (α_ν) in $\text{Aut}(G)$ such that $\tilde{\alpha}_\nu \rightarrow \gamma \in \text{Aut } \mathcal{R}(G)$ in the uniform weak topology. By duality theory $\mathcal{R}(G)$ is a Hopf-von Neumann algebra with comultiplication $\delta: \mathcal{R}(G) \rightarrow \mathcal{R}(G) \otimes \mathcal{R}(G)$ which is a σ -weakly continuous isomorphism given by $\delta(T) = W^{-1}(T \otimes 1)W$, $T \in \mathcal{R}(G)$, where $Wk(s, t) = k(s, st)$, $k \in L^2(G \times G)$, $s, t \in G$, [16; Section 4]. Furthermore, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \{T \in \mathcal{R}(G): \delta(T) = T \otimes T\} \setminus \{0\} \\ = \{T \in \mathcal{R}(G): T = \lambda(s), \text{ for some } s \in G\} . \end{aligned}$$

Notice that $\text{Aut}(G)$ corresponds to the subgroup

$$\{\beta \in \text{Aut } \mathcal{R}(G): \delta(\beta \lambda(s)) = \beta \lambda(s) \otimes \alpha \lambda(s) , \quad \text{all } s \in G\} .$$

Since $\tilde{\alpha}_\nu \rightarrow \gamma \in \text{Aut } (\mathcal{R}(G))$ and $\delta(\tilde{\alpha}_\nu \lambda(s)) = \tilde{\alpha}_\nu \lambda(s) \otimes \tilde{\alpha}_\nu \lambda(s)$, all $s \in G$, continuity of δ gives

$$\delta(\gamma(\lambda(s))) = \gamma(\lambda(s)) \otimes \gamma(\lambda(s)) , \quad \text{all } s \in G .$$

Thus $\gamma = \tilde{\alpha}$ for some $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$.

COROLLARY 1.11. *If G is a separable locally compact group, then $\text{Aut}(G)$ is a Polish topological group.*

Proof. Indeed, if $G = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$, F_n compact, and if $\{U_m\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a neighborhood base at $e \in G$, then $\{N(F_n, U_m)\}_{n,m}$ is a neighborhood base at $\iota \in \text{Aut}(G)$, so that $\text{Aut}(G)$ is metrizable [11; 8.3] and by 1.9. It is complete.

2. We proceed now to applications of the Theorem in 1.9. First we turn to the question of when certain subgroups of $\text{Aut}(G)$ are closed. The following result contains a group theoretical analog to [2; Theorem 3.1]. We thank Erling Stormer for showing us Connes' paper [2], and for helpful discussions concerning central sequences of von Neumann algebras.

PROPOSITION 2.1. *Let G be a separable locally compact group, and B a subgroup of $\text{Aut}(G)$. Suppose there is a separable locally compact group H and a continuous surjective homomorphism $\omega: H \rightarrow B$. Then the following are equivalent.*

- (a) B is closed in $\text{Aut}(G)$.
- (b) $\omega: H \rightarrow B$ is open onto its range B .
- (c) For any neighborhood V of the identity in H there exist $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n \in C_c(G)$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ such that, for all $h \in H$,

$$\|\phi_i \circ \omega(h) - \phi_i\|_{\infty} < \varepsilon, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n, \quad \text{implies } h \in V \cdot (\ker \omega).$$

- (d) Same statement as (c) with $C_c(G)$ replaced by the Fourier algebra $A(G)$ (and its norm $\|\cdot\|$).

Proof. (a) \Rightarrow (b). If B is closed in $\text{Aut}(G)$ then H and B are both Polish. Observe then that a continuous homomorphism between two Polish groups is open [12; Corollary 3, p. 98]. (b) \Rightarrow (c). Put $K = \ker \omega$. Since ω is open it follows from Lemma 1.1. that given a neighborhood V of the identity in H there are functions $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n \in C_c(G)$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ so that $W_{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n; \varepsilon} \cap B \subset \omega(V)$. Now ω can be lifted to a map $\tilde{\omega}$ of $H/K \rightarrow B$, so that the diagram commutes and $\tilde{\omega}$ is a homeomorphism.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H/K & & \\ \uparrow & \searrow \tilde{\omega} & \\ H & \xrightarrow{\omega} & B \end{array}$$

Thus $\omega(h) \in W_{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n; \varepsilon}$ implies $\omega(h) \in \omega(V) = \tilde{\omega}(VK)$; hence $\tilde{\omega}(hK) \in \tilde{\omega}(VK)$, so that $h \in hK \subset VK$.

(c) \Rightarrow (d) is clear in view of Proposition 1.6.

(d) \Rightarrow (a). By 1.6 and 1.11 there is a sequence (ϕ_n) from $A(G)$ such that the sets $W_n = W_{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n; 1/n}$ form a base for the identity in $\text{Aut}(G)$. Let $\{V_n\}$ be a countable base for the identity in H . By (d), given n there is an $m(n)$ so that $\omega(h) \in W_{m(n)}$ implies $h \in V_n K$. Let $\theta \in B^-$ and choose a sequence (α_n) from B so that $\alpha_n \rightarrow \theta$ and $\alpha_{n+j}^{-1} \alpha_n \in W_{m(n)}$ for $j \geq 0$. Setting $\tilde{\omega}^{-1}(\alpha_n) = h_n K$, we have $h_{n+j}^{-1} h_n \cdot K \subset V_n K$, $j \geq 0$. This says that $(h_n K)$ is Cauchy in the left uniformity of H/K . Since H/K is locally compact, it is complete, and $h_n K \xrightarrow{n} hK \in H/K$, hence $\omega(h) = \tilde{\omega}(hK) = \theta$ by continuity of $\tilde{\omega}$, and thus $\theta \in B$.

2.2. Define a homomorphism $\text{Ad}: G \rightarrow \text{Int}(G)$ by $\text{Ad}(g)(x) = gxg^{-1}$. A sequence (x_n) from G is said to be *central* if $\text{Ad}(x_n) \xrightarrow{n} \iota$ in $\text{Aut}(G)$. (x_n) is *trivial* if there is a sequence (z_n) from the center $Z(G)$ of G such that $x_n z_n^{-1} \xrightarrow{n} e$.

COROLLARY. *Let G be separable locally compact. Then $\text{Int}(G)$ is closed if and only if all central sequences are trivial.*

Proof. If $\text{Int}(G)$ is closed, let (x_n) be a central sequence and $\{V_n\}$ a nested neighborhood base for the identity in G . By (d) of 2.1 for each n we can find a set $\{\phi, \dots, \phi_{i_n}\} \subset A(G)$ and $\epsilon_n > 0$ so that for $x \in G$, $\|\phi_j \circ \text{Ad}(x) - \phi_j\| < \epsilon_n$, $1 \leq j \leq i_n$, implies $x \in V_n Z(G)$. Note that if $\omega = \text{Ad}$ in 2.1, $\ker \omega$ is just $Z(G)$. Choosing a sequence (k_j) from N such that $k \geq k_j \Rightarrow \|\phi_j \circ \text{Ad}(x_k) - \phi_j\| < \epsilon_n$, $1 \leq j \leq i_n$, we have $x_k \in V_n Z(G)$, hence $x_k z_k^{-1} \in V_n$ for some $z_k \in Z(G)$. Then $x_k z_k^{-1} \rightarrow e$, and (x_n) is trivial. The converse is shown the same way as (d) \Rightarrow (a) in 2.1.

2.3. We remark that the class of groups for which $\text{Aut}(G)$ is locally compact includes the compactly generated Lie groups [9; Satz 2.2]. For $\text{Int}(G)$ we have the following

COROLLARY. *Let G be separable and locally compact. Then $\text{Int}(G)$ is locally compact $\Leftrightarrow \text{Int}(G)$ is closed.*

Proof. If $\text{Int}(G)$ is locally compact, it is necessarily closed [9; Theorem 5.11]. On the other hand if $\text{Int}(G)$ is closed, take $G = H$ and $\omega = \text{Ad}$ in 2.1. Then by continuity of Ad , $\text{Int}(G)$ is homeomorphic with $G/Z(G)$.

2.4. If $\text{Int}(G)$ is not closed it is still reasonable to ask if $\text{Int}(G)^-$ will be locally compact.

COROLLARY. *Let G be a separable, connected locally compact group. Then the closure $\text{Int}(G)^-$ in $\text{Aut}(G)$ is locally compact.*

Proof. By [17; Lemma 2.2] there is a locally compact connected group P and a continuous map $\rho_G: P \rightarrow \text{Aut}(G)$ with $\rho_G(P) = \text{Int}(G)^-$. Since G is separable, it follows from the construction of P in [17] that P is also separable. Thus by Corollary 1.11 and [12; Corollary 3] ρ_G is a homeomorphism and hence $\text{Int}(G)^-$ is locally compact.

We now give an example that shows that for nonconnected groups, $\text{Int}(G)^-$ need not be locally compact. Let G be the countable weak direct sum of the free group on two generators with the discrete topology: $G = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} G_n$, where G_n is generated by $\{a_n, b_n\}$. The neutral element of G_n is the empty word, Φ_n , and $e = (\Phi_1, \Phi_2, \dots)$ is the neutral element of G . If $\text{Int}(G)^-$ were locally compact there would be a relatively compact open neighborhood N of the identity e in $\text{Int}(G)$. If N_1 is another open neighborhood of e , since $\bigcup_{x \in G} N_1^- \text{Ad}(x)$ covers $\text{Int}(G)^-$, there would be a finite subcover, $N^- \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n N_1^- \text{Ad}(x_i)$ of N^- . Thus

$$(*) \quad N = N^- \cap \text{Int}(G) \subset \left[\bigcup_{i=1}^n N_1^- \text{Ad}(x_i) \right] \cap \text{Int}(G) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n N_1 \text{Ad}(x_i).$$

We may assume $N = N(C, \{e\})$, where $C = \{a_1, b_1\} \times \{a_2, b_2\} \times \dots \times \{a_n, b_n\} \times \{\Phi_{n+1}\} \times \dots$, since N must contain a neighborhood of this form. It is then easy to see $\text{Ad}(g) \in N$ if and only if $g = (\Phi_1, \Phi_2, \dots, \Phi_n, g_{n+1}, \dots)$, $g_{n+j} \in G_{n+j}$, $j \geq 1$. Let $N_1 = N(C', \{e\})$, $C' = \{a_1, b_1\} \times \dots \times \{a_{n+1}, b_{n+1}\} \times \{\Phi_{n+2}\} \times \dots$. Then N and N_1 are subgroups, $\text{Ad}(g) \in N_1$ iff $g = (\Phi_1, \dots, \Phi_n, \Phi_{n+1}, g_{n+2}, \dots)g_{n+j} \in G_{n+j}$, $j \geq 2$. N_1 is normal in N and $N/N_1 \cong G_{n+1}$. This contradicts (*).

2.5. Let G_F be the closed normal subgroup of elements x in G having relatively compact conjugacy classes $\{gxg^{-1}: g \in G\}$. If $G \in [\text{SIN}]$, G_F is open since any compact $\text{Int}(G)$ -invariant neighborhood of e is contained in G_F . Let $\omega: G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(G_F)$ be the continuous homomorphism $\omega(g) = \text{Ad}(g)|_{G_F}$, and let B be the subgroup $\omega(G) \subset \text{Aut}(G_F)$. Clearly G_F is an $[\text{SIN}]_B$ -group, and we have

COROLLARY. *Let G be separable. Then, with notation as above, B is closed $\Leftrightarrow B$ is compact $\Leftrightarrow G/\ker \omega$ is compact.*

Proof. The first equivalence is proved in [7]. If B is closed, B is homomorphic with $G/\ker \omega$ (the proposition in 2.1, (a) \Rightarrow (b)) so by compactness of B , $G/\ker \omega$ must be compact. Conversely, if $G/\ker \omega$ is compact then so is $B = \tilde{\omega}(G/\ker \omega)$ by continuity of the lifted map $\tilde{\omega}$.

Specializing the preceding corollary even further we obtain

COROLLARY 2.6. *Let G be a locally compact group and suppose $\text{Int}(G)^-$ is compact. Then $\text{Int}(G)$ is closed $\Leftrightarrow G/Z(G)$ is compact ($Z(G)$ = the center of (G)).*

Proof. This follows immediately from the Corollary in 2.5 if G is separable. From [7] $\text{Int}(G)$ is closed $\Leftrightarrow \text{Int}(G)$ is compact. But $\text{Int}(G)$ compact implies $\text{Ad}: G \rightarrow \text{Int}(G)$ is open [11; Theorem 5.29], hence $\text{Int}(G) \cong G/Z(G)$, and so $G/Z(G)$ is compact. Conversely if $G/Z(G)$ is compact, lifting Ad to a continuous map $G/Z(G) \rightarrow \text{Int}(G)$ we see that $\text{Int}(G)$ is compact, hence closed.

COROLLARY 2.7. *Let G be a separable locally compact group. Then $\text{Int}(G)$ is unimodular $\Leftrightarrow G$ is unimodular and $\text{Int}(G)$ is closed.*

Proof. If $\text{Int}(G)$ is unimodular, in particular it is closed, so by the proposition in 2.1 it is topologically isomorphic with $G/Z(G)$, so that the latter is unimodular. It is then easy to see G is unimodular; we give a proof for completeness. Let dz and $d\hat{x}$ be Haar measures on $Z(G)$ and $G/Z(G)$ respectively, and $x \mapsto \hat{x}, G \mapsto G/Z(G)$ the canonical map. Let

$$\mu(\phi) = \int_{G/Z(G)} \int_{Z(G)} \phi(xz) dz d\hat{x}, \quad \phi \in C_c(G).$$

By the Weil integration formula μ is a left Haar measure on G . Using right-invariance of $d\hat{x}$ and the fact that $Z(G)$ is the center, one verifies easily that μ is even right-invariant. Thus G is unimodular. Conversely, if G is unimodular and $\text{Int}(G)$ is closed we show that $G/Z(G)$ is unimodular. It will then follow that $\text{Int}(G)$ is unimodular, since $\text{Int}(G) \cong G/Z(G)$.

Define μ as above. By assumption μ is right-invariant. The mapping $C_c(G) \rightarrow C_c(G/Z(G)), \phi \mapsto \tilde{\phi}, \tilde{\phi}(\hat{x}) = \int_{Z(G)} \phi(xz) dz$ is surjective [11, Theorem 15.21]. $\mu(\phi) = \mu(\phi_y)$ for all $\phi \in C_c(G), y \in G$, then implies $d\hat{x}$ is right-invariant:

$$\int_{G/Z(G)} \tilde{\phi}_y(\hat{x}) d\hat{x} = \mu(\phi_y) = \mu(\phi) = \int_{G/Z(G)} \tilde{\phi}(\hat{x}) d\hat{x}$$

(here $\phi_y(x) = \phi(yx)$). Thus $\text{Int}(G)$ is unimodular.

Finally we show that closedness of $\text{Int}(G)$ does not imply closedness of $\text{Int } \mathcal{R}(G)$, nor conversely.

PROPOSITION 2.8. *There is a group G such that $\text{Int}(G)$ is closed and $\text{Int } \mathcal{R}(G)$ is nonclosed. On the other hand, there is a group G with $\text{Int}(G)$ nonclosed and $\text{Int } \mathcal{R}(G)$ closed.*

Before proving the proposition we need a fact, the proof of which we include for the sake of completeness. If \mathbb{Q} and \mathbb{Q}^* represent the rationals and nonzero rationals respectively, let $G = \{(p, q) : p \in \mathbb{Q}^*, q \in \mathbb{Q}\}$ with multiplication $(p, q)(p', q') = (pp', q + pq')$. Provide G with the discrete topology. Then $\text{Aut}(G) = \text{Int}(G)$. To see this, let $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$ and set $\alpha(1, q) = (\alpha_1(q), \alpha_2(q))$, $q \in \mathbb{Q}$. Now $\alpha(1, q)\alpha(1, q') = (\alpha_1(q)\alpha_1(q'), \alpha_2(q) + \alpha_1(q)\alpha_2(q'))$. Also, $\alpha[(1, q)(1, q')] = (\alpha_1(q + q'), \alpha_2(q + q'))$. This forces $\alpha_1(q + q') = \alpha_1(q)\alpha_1(q')$ and thus $\alpha_1(q) = 1$ for all $q \in \mathbb{Q}$, since the only homomorphism of the additive group $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$ into the multiplicative group (\mathbb{Q}^*, \cdot) is the trivial one. Thus $\alpha_2(q + q') = \alpha_2(q) + \alpha_2(q')$, so $\alpha_2 \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Q}, +)$, and so $\alpha_2(q) = aq$, $a \in \mathbb{Q}^*$. Set $\alpha(q, 0) = (\beta_1(p), \beta_2(p))$, $p \in \mathbb{Q}^*$. We calculate $\alpha(p, q) = \alpha[(p, 0)(1, q/p)] = \alpha(p, 0)\alpha(1, q/p) = (\beta_1(p), \beta_2(p) + \beta_1(p) \cdot (aq/p))$. But also

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(p, q) &= \alpha[(1, q)(p, 0)] = \alpha(1, q)\alpha(p, 0) \\ &= (\beta_1(p), aq + \beta_2(p)). \end{aligned}$$

We have $\beta_2(p) + (aq/p)\beta_1(p) = aq + \beta_2(p)$, and hence $\beta_1(p) = p$. Furthermore, equating $\alpha(p, 0)\alpha(p', 0)$ with $\alpha(p', 0)\alpha(p, 0)$, $(p, p' \in \mathbb{Q}^*)$, we arrive at $\beta_2(p)(1 - p') = \beta_2(p')(1 - p)$. If $p, p' \neq 1$, then $\beta_2(p)/(1 - p) = \beta_2(p')/(1 - p') = b \in \mathbb{Q}$, a constant. Thus $\beta_2(p) = b(1 - p)$, $p \neq 1$, $p \in \mathbb{Q}^*$. But since $\alpha(1, 0) = (1, 0)$, $\beta_2(1) = 0$, so the equation holds for all $p \in \mathbb{Q}^*$. Now α has been completely determined:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(p, q) &= \alpha[(1, q)(p, 0)] \\ &= (p, aq + b(1 - p)). \end{aligned}$$

But $(a, b)(p, q)(a, b)^{-1} = (p, aq + b(1 - p))$, which means $\alpha \in \text{Int}(G)$.

Proof of Proposition 2.8. Let G be the group described above. Since all the nontrivial conjugacy classes of G are infinite, $\mathcal{R}(G)$ is a type II_1 factor. Since G is amenable, $\mathcal{R}(G)$ must be the hyperfinite factor [3; Corollary 7.2], hence $\text{Int } \mathcal{R}(G)$ is nonclosed.

For the other direction, let $A = (\prod_1^\infty Z_2) \oplus (\sum_1^\infty Z_2)$, where $\prod_1^\infty Z_2$ has the product topology and the weak direct sum $\sum_1^\infty Z_2$ the discrete topology. Define $\alpha : A \rightarrow A$ as follows

$$\alpha((z_i), (w_i)) = ((z_i + w_i), (w_i)), (z_i) \in \prod_1^\infty Z_2, (w_i) \in \sum_1^\infty Z_2.$$

Then α is a continuous homomorphism and $\alpha^2 = \text{identity}$, so that $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(A)$. Let G be the semidirect product $G = Ax_\gamma Z_2$, where

$\eta(m) = \alpha^m, m \in Z_2^*$. Since α leaves the elements of $\sum_1^\infty Z_2$ fixed, it follows that $G/\prod_1^\infty Z_2$ is abelian so that the commutator $[G, G]$ is compact. In particular all the conjugacy classes of G are precompact. Furthermore one sees that the center $Z(G)$ is equal to $\prod_1^\infty Z_2$ so $G/Z(G)$ is noncompact. Since $Z/(G)$ is open it is clear that G has small invariant neighborhoods of the identity, and by the Ascoli theorem for groups [7; Satz 1.7], $\text{Int}(G)^-$ is compact. According to Corollary 2.6, $\text{Int}(G)$ is not closed in $\text{Aut}(G)$. This can also be seen directly: let $\tau((x_i), (y_i), 0) = ((x_i), (y_i), 0)$ and $\tau((x_i), (y_i), 1) = ((x_i + 1), (y_i), 0)$, where $(x_i) \in \prod_1^\infty Z_2, (y_i) \in \sum_1^\infty Z_2$.

Then

$$\tau \in \text{Int}(G)^- \setminus \text{Int}(G).$$

Observe next that G is type I , containing a normal abelian subgroup A of finite index, thus $\text{Int } \mathcal{R}(G) = \{\alpha \in \text{Aut } \mathcal{R}(G): \alpha \text{ leaves the center of } \mathcal{R}(G) \text{ pointwise fixed}\}$ is closed [15; Corollary 2.9. 32].

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* This example has appeared in [13; p. 104].

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