

962-20-1267

Bert Wiest* (bertw@pims.math.ca), Pacific institute for the Math. Sciences, 1933 West Mall, UBC, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2, Canada. *Right-orderability and bi-orderability of braid groups and their generalisations.*

In this survey talk I will be looking at mapping class groups of surfaces and at surface braid groups (including the 1-string case, fundamental groups of surfaces). It is now quite well-understood exactly which of them are right-orderable and which are bi-orderable, and which kinds of orderings can be found. (Received October 03, 2000)