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**Title:** Maximal normal subgroups of the automorphism groups of free nilpotent groups

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We prove that the subgroup of all IA-automorphisms of the automorphism group  $\text{Aut}N$  of a free nilpotent group  $N$  of infinite rank is normality-small. As a consequence, every maximal normal subgroup of the group  $\text{Aut}N$  is a lifting of a maximal normal subgroup of the automorphism group  $\text{Aut}A$  of the abelianization  $A = N/[N, N]$  of  $N$ .

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