

# Equivariant weak $n$ -equivalences

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The notion of  $n$ -type was introduced by J.H.C. Whitehead ([22, 23]) where its clear geometric meaning was presented. Following J.L. Hernandez and T. Porter ([12, 13]) we use the term *weak  $n$ -equivalence* for a map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  of path-connected spaces which induces isomorphisms  $\pi_k(f) : \pi_k(X) \rightarrow \pi_k(Y)$  on homotopy groups for  $k \leq n$ . Certainly, weak  $n$ -equivalence of a map determines its  $n$ -connectedness but not conversely. For J.H. Baues ([2, page 364])  $n$ -types denote the category of spaces  $X$  with  $\pi_k(X) = 0$  for  $k > n$ . The  $n$ -type of a  $CW$ -space  $X$  is represented by  $P_n X$ , the  $n$ -th term in the Postnikov decomposition of  $X$ . Then the  $n$ -th Postnikov section  $p_n : X \rightarrow P_n X$  is a weak  $n$ -equivalence. Much work has been done to classify the  $n$ -types and find equivalent conditions for a map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  to be a weak  $n$ -equivalence. J.L. Hernandez and T. Porter ([12]) showed how with this notion of weak  $n$ -equivalence and with a suitable notion of  $n$ -fibration and  $n$ -cofibration one obtains a Quillen model category structure ([20]) on the category of spaces. The case of weak  $n$ -equivalences mod a class  $\mathcal{C}$  of groups (in the sense of Serre) was analyzed by C. Biasi and the second author ([3]). E. Dror ([5]) pointed out that weak equivalences of certain spaces (including nilpotent and complete spaces) can be described by means of homology groups. Then in 1977 J.H. Baues ([1]) proved the Dual Whitehead Theorem for maps of  $\mathfrak{R}$ -Postnikov spaces (of order  $k \geq 1$ ), where  $\mathfrak{R}$  is a commutative ring.

Given the growing interest in equivariant homotopy, it is not surprising that notions of equivariant  $n$ -types have been studied. For instance algebraic models for equivariant 2-types have been presented by I. Moerdijk and J.-A. Svensson ([18])

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