

# An equivariant definable version of a theorem of J.H.C. Whitehead

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## Abstract

Let  $\mathcal{N} = (R, +, \cdot, <, \dots)$  be an o-minimal expansion of the standard structure of a real closed field  $R$ . We consider an equivariant definable version of a theorem of J.H.C. Whitehead.

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## 1. Introduction.

Let  $\mathcal{N} = (R, +, \cdot, <, \dots)$  be an o-minimal expansion of the standard structure of a real closed field  $R$ . General references on o-minimal structures are [2], [4], see also [14]. Examples and constructions of them can be seen in [3], [5], [11].

J.H.C. Whitehead proves a weak homotopy equivalence between *CW* complexes is a homotopy equivalence ([15]). Its equivariant version of it is proved by T. Matumoto ([10]) and its definable version of it is proved by [1].

In this paper, we consider an equivariant definable version of the theorem of J.H.C. Whitehead.

Everything is considered in  $\mathcal{N}$  and a definable map is assumed to be continuous unless otherwise stated.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $G$  be a definably compact definable group and  $\phi : (X, A) \rightarrow (Y, B)$*

*a definable  $G$  map between definable  $G$  CW complex pairs. If  $X^H, A^H$  and  $B^H$  are non-empty and the induced maps  $\phi_* : \pi_n(X^H) \rightarrow \pi_n(Y^H)$  and  $\phi_* : \pi_n(A^H) \rightarrow \pi_n(B^H)$  are bijective for  $1 \leq n \leq \max(\dim X, \dim Y)$  and each definable subgroup  $H$  which appears as an isotropy subgroup in  $X$  or  $Y$ , then  $\phi : (X, A) \rightarrow (Y, B)$  is a definable  $G$  homotopy equivalence map.*

## 2. Preliminaries.

Let  $X \subset R^n$  and  $Y \subset R^m$  be definable sets. A continuous map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is *definable* if the graph of  $f$  ( $\subset X \times Y \subset R^n \times R^m$ ) is a definable set. A group  $G$  is a *definable group* if  $G$  is a definable set and the group operations  $G \times G \rightarrow G$  and  $G \rightarrow G$  are definable. A definable subset  $X$  of  $R^n$  is *definably compact* if for every definable map  $f : (a, b)_R \rightarrow X$ , there exist the lim-

its  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a+0} f(x), \lim_{x \rightarrow b-0} f(x)$  in  $X$ , where  $(a, b)_R = \{x \in R \mid a < x < b\}, -\infty \leq a < b \leq \infty$ . A definable subset  $X$  of  $R^n$  is definably compact if and only if  $X$  is closed and bounded ([12]). Note that if  $X$  is a definably compact definable set and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a definable map, then  $f(X)$  is definably compact.

If  $R$  is the field of real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$ , then for any definable subset  $X$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $X$  is compact if and only if it is definably compact. In general, a definably compact set is not necessarily compact. For example, if  $R = \mathbb{R}_{alg}$ , then  $[0, 1]_{\mathbb{R}_{alg}} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}_{alg} \mid 0 \leq x \leq 1\}$  is definably compact but not compact.

Note that every definable subgroup of a definable group is closed ([13]) and a closed subgroup of a definable group is not necessarily definable. For example  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a closed subgroup of  $\mathbb{R}$  but not a definable subgroup of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Let  $G$  be a definable group. A pair  $(X, \phi)$  is a *definable  $G$  set* if  $X$  is a definable set and the  $G$  action  $\phi : G \times X \rightarrow X$  is definable. We simply write  $X$  instead of  $(X, \phi)$ .

Let  $X, Y$  be a definable  $G$  sets. A definable map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a *definable  $G$  map* if for any  $g \in G, x \in X, f(gx) = gf(x)$ . A definable  $G$  map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a *definable  $G$  homeomorphism* if there exists a definable  $G$  map  $h : Y \rightarrow X$  such that  $f \circ h = id_Y$  and  $h \circ f = id_X$ . Two definable  $G$  maps  $f, h : X \rightarrow Y$  are *definably  $G$  homotopic* if there exists a definable  $G$  map  $H : X \times [0, 1]_R \rightarrow Y$  such that  $H(x, 0) = f(x), H(x, 1) = h(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ , where  $[0, 1]_R = \{x \in R \mid 0 \leq x \leq 1\}$ . A definable  $G$  map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a *definably  $G$  homotopy equivalence* if there exists a definable  $G$  map  $h : Y \rightarrow X$  such that  $f \circ h$  is definably  $G$  homotopic to  $id_Y$  and  $h \circ f$  is definably  $G$  homotopic to  $id_X$ .

Recall existence of definable quotient.

**Theorem 2.1.** (*Existence of definable quotient (e.g. 10. 2.18 [2]).*) Let  $G$  be a definably compact definable group and  $X$  a definable  $G$  set. Then the orbit space  $X/G$  exists as a definable set and the orbit map  $\pi : X \rightarrow X/G$  is surjective, definable and definably proper.

Using Theorem 2.1, if  $H$  is a definable subgroup of a definably compact definable group  $G$ , then  $G/H$  is a definable set, and the standard action  $G \times G/H \rightarrow G/H$  defined by  $(g, g'H) \mapsto gg'H$  of  $G$  on  $G/H$  makes  $G/H$  a definable  $G$  set.

Recall definable  $G$  CW complexes and a result on them ([6], [7]).

**Definition 2.2** ([7]). Let  $G$  be a definably compact definable group.

(1) A definable  $G$  CW complex is a finite  $G$  CW complex  $\{X, \{c_i \mid i \in I\}\}$  satisfying the following three conditions.

(a) The underlying set  $|X|$  of  $X$  is a definable  $G$  set.

(b) The characteristic map  $f_{c_i} : G/H_{c_i} \times \Delta \rightarrow \bar{c}_i$  of each open  $G$  cell  $c_i$  is a definable  $G$  map and  $f_{c_i} | G/H \times \text{Int } \Delta : G/H \times \text{Int } \Delta \rightarrow c_i$  is a definable  $G$  homeomorphism, where  $H_{c_i}$  is a definable subgroup of  $G$ ,  $\Delta$  denote a standard closed simplex,  $\bar{c}_i$  is the closure of  $c_i$  in  $X$  and  $\text{Int } \Delta$  means the interior of  $\Delta$ .

(c) For each  $c_i, \bar{c}_i - c_i$  is a finite union of open  $G$  cells.

(2) Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be definable  $G$  CW complexes. A cellular  $G$  map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is definable if  $f : |X| \rightarrow |Y|$  is definable.

Since  $G$  and every standard closed simplex are definably compact, every definable  $G$  CW complex is definably compact.

Let  $G$  be a definably compact definable group. A group homomorphism from  $G$  to some  $O_n(R)$  is a *representation* if it is definable, where  $O_n(R)$  means the  $n$ th orthogonal group of  $R$ . A *representation space* of  $G$  is  $R^n$  with the orthogonal action induced from a representation of  $G$ .

**Theorem 2.3** ([6]). Let  $G$  be a definably compact definable group. Let  $X$  be a  $G$  invariant definable subset of some representation space of  $G$  and  $Y$  a definable closed  $G$  subset of  $X$ . Then there exist a definable  $G$  CW complex  $Z$  in a representation space  $\Xi$  of  $G$ , a  $G$  CW subcomplex  $W$  of  $Z$ , and a definable  $G$  map  $f : X \rightarrow Z$  such that:

1.  $f$  maps  $X$  and  $Y$  definably  $G$  homeomorphically onto  $G$  invariant definable

subsets  $Z_1$  and  $W_1$  of  $Z$  and  $W$  obtained by removing some open  $G$  cells from  $Z$  and  $W$ , respectively.

2. The orbit map  $p : Z \rightarrow Z/G$  is a definable cellular map.
3. The orbit space  $Z/G$  is a finite simplicial complex compatible with  $p(Z_1)$  and  $p(W_1)$ .
4. For each open  $G$  cell  $c$  of  $Z$ ,  $p|\bar{c} : \bar{c} \rightarrow p(\bar{c})$  has a definable section  $s : p|\bar{c} \rightarrow \bar{c}$ , where  $\bar{c}$  denotes the closure of  $c$  in  $Z$ .

Moreover, if  $X$  is definably compact, then  $Z = f(X)$  and  $W = f(Y)$ .

**Corollary 2.4.** *Let  $G$  be a definably compact definable group and  $X$  a  $G$  invariant definably compact definable subset of some representation space of  $G$ . Then  $X$  is a definable  $G$  CW complex.*

Let  $G$  be a definably compact definable group,  $X$  a definable  $G$  set and  $Y$  a definable  $G$  subset of  $X$ . We say that a pair  $(X, Y)$  admits a definable  $G$  homotopy extension if for any definable  $G$  map  $f$  from  $X$  to a definable  $G$  set  $Z$  and any definable  $G$  homotopy  $F : Y \times [0, 1]_R \rightarrow Z$  with  $F(y, 0) = f(y)$  for all  $y \in Y$ , there exists a definable  $G$  homotopy  $H : X \times [0, 1]_R \rightarrow Z$  such that  $H(x, 0) = f(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $H|Y \times [0, 1]_R = F$ .

**Theorem 2.5** ([8]). *Let  $G$  be a definably compact definable group. If  $X$  is a definable  $G$  set and  $Y$  a definable closed  $G$  subset of  $X$ , then  $(X, Y)$  admits a definable  $G$  homotopy extension.*

### 3. Proof of Theorem 1.1.

O-minimal homotopy groups are defined in [1]. We use these groups instead of the classical homotopy groups

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $Z$  be a definable  $G$  set and  $Y \subset X$  be a definable  $G$  CW pair such that the dimensions of whose cells*

*do not exceed  $N$ . If for each definable subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ ,  $Z^H$  is nonempty, definably connected and  $\pi_n(Z^H)$  vanishes for  $n < N$ , then any definable  $G$  map of  $Y$  into  $Z$  is extended equivariantly on  $X$ .*

Let  $\emptyset = Z_{-1} \subset Z_0 \subset \dots$  be a sequence of definable  $G$  subsets of a definable  $G$  set  $Z$  such that any definable  $G$  map  $(G/H \times \Delta^n, G/H \times \partial\Delta^n) \rightarrow (Z, Z_{n-1})$  is definably  $G$  homotopic rel.  $G/H$  to a definable  $G$  map  $G/H \times \Delta^n \rightarrow Z_n$  ( $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ), where  $H$  is any definable subgroup of  $G$ .

Let  $Y \subset X$  be a definable  $G$  CW subcomplex and  $f_0 : X \rightarrow Z$  be a definable  $G$  map such that  $f_0(Y^n) \subset Z_n$  for each  $n = 0, 1, \dots$ .

**Lemma 3.2.** *There exists a definable  $G$  homotopy  $f_t : X \rightarrow Z$  rel.  $Y$  such that  $f_1(X^n) \subset Z_n$ , for each  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ .*

*Proof.* We proceed by induction on  $n$ . We may assume that there exists a definable  $G$  homotopy  $f_t^{n-1} : X^{n-1} \rightarrow Z$  rel  $Y \cap X^{n-1}$  such that  $f_0^{n-1} = f_0|X^{n-1}$  and  $f_1^{n-1}(X^{n-1}) \subset Z_{n-1}$ . Let  $e^n$  be an  $n$  cell of  $X$  which is not contained in  $Y$  and has the  $G$  characteristic map  $G\sigma : G/He \times \Delta^n \rightarrow \overline{Ge} \subset X$ . We define a definable  $G$  map  $F'_s : (G/He) \times \Delta^n \times \{0\} \cup (G/He) \times \partial\Delta^n \times [0, 1]_R \rightarrow Z$  by  $F'_s(g, s, 0) = f_0(G\sigma(g, s))$ ,  $s \in \Delta$  and  $F'_s(g, s, t) = f_t^{n-1}(G\sigma(g, s))$ ,  $s \in \partial\Delta^n$ . By the inductive hypothesis,  $F'(G/He \times \partial\Delta^n \times \{1\}) = f_1^{n-1}(G\sigma(G/He \times \partial\Delta^n)) \subset Z_{n-1}$ . Then there exists a definable  $G$  extension of  $F'_s, F_s : G/He \times \Delta^n \times [0, 1]_R \rightarrow Z$  such that  $F_s(G/He \times \Delta^n \times \{1\}) \subset Z_n$ .  $F_s$  induces a definable  $G$  map of  $Ge \times [0, 1]_R$  into  $Z$  which is an extension of  $f_t^{n-1}$ , therefore we have a definable  $G$  homotopy  $f_t^n : X^n \rightarrow Z$  rel.  $X^n \cap Y$  such that  $f_t^n|X^{n-1} = f_t^{n-1}$ ,  $f_0^n = f_0|X^{n-1}$  and  $f_1^n(X^n) \subset Z_n$ . By the induction on  $n$ , we have  $f_t^n$  for any  $n$ . The map defined by  $f_t : X \rightarrow Z$  by  $f_t|X^n = f_t^n$  is the required definable  $G$  homotopy.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $Z \supset C$  be a definable  $G$  set pair and  $H$  a definable subgroup of  $G$ . If  $C^H$  is nonempty and  $\pi_n(Z^H, C^H)$  vanishes, then any definable  $G$  map  $Gf : (G/H \times$*

$\Delta^n, G/H \times \partial\Delta^n \rightarrow (Z, C)$  is definably  $G$  homotopic rel.  $G/H \times \partial\Delta^n$  to a definable  $G$  map  $G/H \times \Delta^n \rightarrow C$ .

*Proof.* Restricting  $Gf$  to  $H/H \times \Delta^n$ , we have a non-equivariant definable map  $f : (\Delta^n, \partial\Delta^n) \rightarrow (Z^H, C^H)$ . This map is definably homotopic rel.  $\partial\Delta^n$  to a definable map  $f_1 : \Delta^n \rightarrow C^H$ . Let  $f_t : \Delta^n \rightarrow Z^H$  be this homotopy. Define  $Gf_t : G/H \times \Delta^n \rightarrow Z$  by  $Gf_t(g, s) = gf_t(s)$ . Since  $f_t(s) \in Z^H$ , this is well-defined. Thus  $Gf_0 = Gf$  and  $Gf_t$  is a definable  $G$  homotopy rel.  $G/H \times \partial\Delta^n$  of  $Gf_0$  to  $Gf_1 : G/H \times \Delta^n \rightarrow C$ .  $\square$

The above two lemma proves the following proposition which is a generalization of Proposition 3.1.

**Proposition 3.4.** *Let  $Z \supset C$  be a definable  $G$  set pair and  $Y \subset X$  a definable  $G$  CW complex pair such that the dimensions of whose cells do not exceed  $N$ . If for each definable subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  which appears as an isotropy subgroup of a  $X$ ,  $C^H$  is nonempty and  $\pi_n(Z^H, C^H)$  vanishes for each  $n < N + 1$ , then any definable  $G$  map  $(X, Y) \rightarrow (Z, C)$  is definably  $G$  homotopic rel.  $Y$  to a definable  $G$  map  $X \rightarrow C$ .*

**Proposition 3.5.** *Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a definable map between definable sets. Then  $\dim f(X) \leq \dim X$ .*

We now consider the  $G$  cellular approximation theorem. A non-equivariant case of it is studied in [9].

**Lemma 3.6.** *Let  $f : (\Delta^k, \partial\Delta^k) \rightarrow (\Delta^n, \partial\Delta^n)$  be a definable map and  $k < n$ . Then  $f$  is definably homotopic rel.  $f^{-1}(\partial\Delta)$  to a definable map  $\Delta^k$  to  $\Delta^n$ .*

*Proof.* By Proposition 3.5,  $f$  is not surjective,  $(\Delta^k, \partial\Delta^k) \rightarrow (\Delta^n, \partial\Delta^n)$  which transforms  $f'$  to a definable map which is definably homotopic to  $f$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.7.** *Let  $Z = G/H' \times \Delta^n$  and  $C = G/H' \times \partial\Delta$ . Then any definable map  $f : (\Delta^k, \partial\Delta^k) \rightarrow (Z^H, C^H)$  is homotopic rel.  $f^{-1}(C^H)$  to a definable map of  $\Delta^k$  into  $C^H$  for  $k < n$  and any definable subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ .*

*Proof.* Composite  $f$  with the projection  $Z^H = (G/H')^H \times \Delta^n \rightarrow \Delta^n$ . Then we have a definable map  $f' : (\Delta^k, \partial\Delta^k) \rightarrow (\Delta^n, \partial\Delta^n)$  which is definably homotopic rel.  $(f')^{-1}(\partial\Delta^n)$  to a definable map from  $\Delta^k$  to  $\partial\Delta^n$  by Lemma 3.6. This gives a definable homotopy rel.  $f^{-1}(C^H)$  of  $f$  to a definable map from  $\Delta^k$  to  $C^H$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 3.8.** *Let  $X$  be a definable  $G$  CW complex and  $k \leq n$ . Then  $\pi_k(X^H, (X^n)^H) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $f : (\Delta^k, \partial\Delta^k) \rightarrow (X^H, (X^n)^H)$  be a definable map. Let  $Ge_1^m, \dots, Ge_k^m$  be  $G$   $m$  cells of the highest dimension which intersects with  $f(\Delta^k)$ . Then we can consider  $f$  to be a definable map  $(\Delta, \partial\Delta^k)$  into  $(Z^H, (X^n)^H)$ , where  $Z = Ge_2^m \cup \dots \cup Ge_k^m \cup X^{m-1}$ . Since the difference between  $Z$  and  $C$  is only one cell  $G$  cell  $Ge_1^m$ , by the proof of Lemma 3.7, we have a definable homotopy rel.  $f^{-1}(C^H)$  of  $f$  to a definable map  $f' : \Delta^k \rightarrow C^H$ , provided  $k < m$ . Repeating this argument, we have a definable homotopy rel.  $\partial\Delta^k$  of  $f$  to a definable map  $f'' : \Delta^k \rightarrow (X^n)^H$ .  $\square$

By Proposition 3.8, 3.5 and 3.4, we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.9.** *Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a definable  $G$  map between definable  $G$  CW complexes. Then  $f$  is definably  $G$  homotopic to a definable  $G$  map  $h : X \rightarrow Y$  such that  $h(X^n) \subset Y^n$ .*

**Lemma 3.10.** *Let  $\phi : C \rightarrow Z$  be a definable  $G$  map between definable  $G$  sets, and  $X \supset Y$  a definable  $G$  CW pair such that the dimensions of whose cells do not exceed  $N$ . If for each definable subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  which appears as an isotropy subgroup of  $X$ ,  $C^H$  and  $Z^H$  are nonempty and the induced map  $\phi_* : \pi(C^H) \rightarrow \pi(Z^H)$  is bijective for  $n < N$  and surjective for  $n = N$ , then any definable  $G$  map pair  $g : X \rightarrow Z, f' : Y \rightarrow C$  with  $g|Y = \phi \circ f'$ , there exists a definable  $G$  map  $f : X \rightarrow C$  such that  $f|Y = f'$  and  $\phi \circ f$  definably  $G$  homotopic rel.  $C$  to  $g$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $M$  be the definable mapping cylinder of  $\phi : C \rightarrow Z$ . Then  $M^H$

coincides with the mapping cylinder of  $\pi^H : C^H \rightarrow Z^H$  for each definable subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ . Thus  $\pi(M^H, C^H)$  vanishes for  $n < N + 1$ . Hence for  $n \geq 1$ , we can use the exact sequence in the Hurwicz homotopy theory. Therefore we may deduce this lemma from Proposition 3.4.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.11.** *Let  $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$  be a definable  $G$  map between definable  $G$  sets. If each of  $X^H, Y^H$  is nonempty for each definable subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ , then the following conditions are equivalent.*

(1) *For each definable subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ , induced map  $\phi_* : \pi_n(X^H) \rightarrow \pi_n(Y^H)$  is bijective for  $1 \leq n < N$  and surjective for  $n = N$ .*

(2) *The induced map  $\phi_* : [K, X]_G^{def} \rightarrow [K, Y]_G^{def}$  is bijective for  $\dim K < N$  and surjective for  $\dim K = N$  for any definable  $G$  CW complex  $K$ , where  $[\cdot, \cdot]_G^{def}$  denotes the set of definable  $G$  homotopy classes of definable  $G$  maps.*

*Proof.* (1) implies (2) because of Lemma 3.10. If we take  $K = G/H \times (\Delta/\partial\Delta)$ , (2) implies (1).  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* Put  $K = B$ . Then  $\phi|_A$  has a definable  $G$  homotopy left inverse  $\psi$  because the induced map  $\phi_* : [B, A]_G^{def} \rightarrow [B, B]_G^{def}$  is an isomorphism. By the definable  $G$  homotopy extension property, we have a definable  $G$  map  $\phi' : Y \rightarrow Y$  which is definably  $G$  homotopic to the identity and satisfies  $\psi'|_B = \psi$ . Then by Lemma 3.10, we have a definable  $G$  map  $\psi'' : Y \rightarrow X$  such that  $\psi''|_B = \psi$  and  $\phi \circ \psi'' = \psi'$  is definably  $G$  homotopic to the identity of  $Y$ . That is,  $\psi''$  is a definable  $G$  homotopy left inverse of  $\phi$ . Moreover we have a definable  $G$  homotopy left inverse of  $\psi''$  and by algebraic argument,  $(\psi'', \psi)$  is a definable  $G$  homotopy inverse of  $(\phi, \phi|_B)$ .  $\square$

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