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Mod- ℓ homotopy type of the classifying space for commutativity

The classifying space for commutativity, denoted by $B_{com}G$, of a Lie group G is assembled from commuting tuples in G as a subspace of the usual classifying space BG. The resulting space classifies principal G-bundles whose transition functions generate an abelian subgroup of G whenever they are simultaneously defined. The relationship between the homotopy type of G and the space $B_{com}G$ is much more interesting, and non-trivial compared to the case of BG. In this talk, I will present a work, joint with Ben Williams, where we study the mod- ℓ homotopy type of $B_{com}G$ at a prime ℓ . The techniques involve a homotopy colimit decomposition over a topological category generalizing the construction of Adem-Gomez and application of results on mapping spaces between classifying spaces of compact Lie groups due to Dwyer-Wilkerson. We show that for a connected compact Lie group the mod- ℓ homotopy type of $B_{com}G$ depends on the mod- ℓ homotopy type of BG.