The degree of maps of manifolds with actions of compact Lie groups

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Suppose that G is a compact Lie group, M and N are orientable, connected, smooth, free G-manifolds. We show that for certain class of maps $f : M \to N$, including equivariant maps, the degree of f satisfies a formula involving data given by the classifying maps of the orbit spaces M/G and N/G. In particular, if f is equivariant, and if the generator of the top dimensional cohomology of M/G with integer coefficients is in the image of the cohomology map induced by the classifying map for M, then the degree of f is one. We also study the degree of maps $f : M \to N$ that are "equivariant up to an exponent", or equivariant "up to a homomorphism". The degrees mod p, for actions of p-groups, where p is a prime greater than 2, are also studied. Several results of this paper have been obtained jointly with Neža Mramor-Kosta.