

Sheet 9: Elementary homotopy theory

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1. MONOID OBJECTS

Definition 1.1. Let C be a category with finite products (in particular, a terminal object $*$). A *monoid object* is a triple (X, μ, e) where $X \in \text{ob}(C)$ and $\mu : X \times X \rightarrow X$ and $e : * \rightarrow X$ with

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X^3 & \xrightarrow{1_X \times \mu} & X^2 \\ \mu \times 1_X \downarrow & & \downarrow \mu \\ X^2 & \xrightarrow{\mu} & X \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} X \times * & \xrightarrow{1_X \times e} & X^2 & \xleftarrow{e \times 1_X} & * \times X \\ \text{pr}_1 \swarrow & & \downarrow \mu & & \searrow \text{pr}_2 \\ & & X & & \end{array}$$

A *homomorphism* $\varphi : (X, \mu, e) \rightarrow (X', \mu', e')$ is a morphism $\varphi : X \rightarrow X'$ such that $\varphi \circ e = e'$ and $\mu' \circ (\varphi \times \varphi) = \varphi \circ \mu$. This defines a category $\text{Mon}(C)$.

Remark 1.2. Dually, if C has finite coproducts (in particular, an initial object \emptyset), a *comonoid object* is (Y, ν, c) with $\nu : Y \rightarrow Y \sqcup Y$ and $c : Y \rightarrow \emptyset$. Homomorphisms $\psi : (Y, \nu, c) \rightarrow (Y', \nu', c')$ are maps $\psi : Y \rightarrow Y'$ with $c' \circ \psi = c$ and $(\psi + \psi) \circ \nu = \nu' \circ \psi$. This defines a category $\text{Comon}(C)$.

Proposition 1.3.

- A monoid structure on X is the same as a functor $F : C^{op} \rightarrow \mathbf{Mon}$ which lifts the functor $C(-, X) : C^{op} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ over $U : \mathbf{Mon} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$.
- A comonoid structure on X is the same as a functor $G : C \rightarrow \mathbf{Mon}$ which lifts the functor $C(X, -) : C \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ over $U : \mathbf{Mon} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$.

Proof. For duality reasons, we only have to prove the first statement:

- (i) Let (μ, e) be a monoid structure on X . We define a monoid structure on $C(W, X)$ by

$$\begin{aligned} f_1 \star f_2 &:= \mu \circ (f_1, f_2), \\ e_{C(W, X)} &:= e \circ *_W \in C(W, X) \end{aligned}$$

where $*_W : W \rightarrow *$ denotes the terminal morphism. We check everything which is necessary:

- *Associativity.* We see

$$\begin{aligned} (f_1 \star f_2) \star f_3 &= \mu \circ [(\mu \circ (f_1, f_2)), f_3] \\ &= (\mu \circ (\mu \times 1_X)) \circ (f_1, f_2, f_3) \\ &= (\mu \circ (1_X \times \mu)) \circ (f_1, f_2, f_3) \\ &= f_1 \star (f_2 \star f_3). \end{aligned}$$

- *Unitality.* We see

$$f \star e_{C(W, X)} = \mu \circ (f, e \circ *_W) = \mu \circ (1_X \times e) \circ (f, *_W) = f.$$

- For $g : V \rightarrow W$, the map $g^* : C(W, X) \rightarrow C(V, X)$ is a homomorphism. We see

$$g^*(e_{C(W, X)}) = e_{C(W, X)} \circ g = e \circ (*_W \circ g) = e \circ *_V = e_{C(V, X)}$$

by the uniqueness of the terminal arrow $V \rightarrow *$. Moreover, we get

$$g^*(f_1 \star f_2) = \mu \circ (f_1, f_2) \circ g = \mu \circ (f_1 g, f_2 g) = (g^* f_1) \star (g^* f_2).$$

(II) Conversely, let $C(W, X)$ carry a monoid structure $(\star, e_{C(W, X)})$ for each $W \in \text{ob}(C)$ and let the precompositions be homomorphisms. We define

$$\begin{aligned} e &:= e_{C(*, X)} \in C(*, X), \\ \mu &:= \text{pr}_1 \star \text{pr}_2 \in C(X^2, X). \end{aligned}$$

Let us introduce $\text{pr}^i : X^3 \rightarrow X$ for $1 \leq i \leq 3$ and $\text{pr}^{ij} : X^3 \rightarrow X^2$ for $1 \leq i < j \leq 3$. Then $f := 1_X \times (\text{pr}_1 \times \text{pr}_2) : X^3 \rightarrow X^2$ satisfies $\text{pr}_1 \circ f = \text{pr}^1$ and $\text{pr}_2 \circ f = (\text{pr}_1 \star \text{pr}_2) \circ \text{pr}^{23} = \text{pr}^2 \star \text{pr}^3$. We see that

$$\begin{aligned} \mu \circ (1_X \times \mu) &= [\text{pr}_1 \circ (1_X \times (\text{pr}_1 \star \text{pr}_2))] \star [\text{pr}_2 \circ (1_X \times (\text{pr}_1 \star \text{pr}_2))] \\ &= \text{pr}^1 \star ((\text{pr}_1 \star \text{pr}_2) \circ \text{pr}^{23}) \\ &= \text{pr}^1 \star \text{pr}^2 \star \text{pr}^3 \\ &= \mu \circ (\mu \times 1_X). \end{aligned}$$

Now let $\text{pr}^1 : X \times * \rightarrow X$ and $\text{pr}^2 : X \times * \rightarrow *$. We get

$$\begin{aligned} \mu \circ (1_X \times e) &= [\text{pr}_1 \circ (1_X \times e)] \star [\text{pr}_2 \circ (1_X \times e)] \\ &= \text{pr}^1 \star (e_{C(*, X)} \circ \text{pr}^2) \\ &= \text{pr}^1 \star e_{C(X \times *, X)} \\ &= \text{pr}^1. \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Proposition 1.4. *If C has finite biproducts, every object admits both a unique monoid and a unique comonoid structure.*

Proof. We know by EXERCISE IV.1 that there is a unique way to enrich C over **Mon**. This is the same as lifting each $C(-, X)$ and $C(X, -)$ over **Mon** \rightarrow **Set**. \square

Proposition 1.5. *If X is a monoid object and Y is a comonoid object, the two induced monoid structures on $C(Y, X)$ coincide and are abelian.*

Proof. Let (\star, i) be the monoid structure coming from the monoid object (X, μ, e) and (\cdot, j) be the monoid structure coming from the comonoid object (Y, ν, c) . Let's write $(f, g) : Y \rightarrow X \times X$ as before, but $[f, f'] : Y \sqcup Y \rightarrow X$. First, we see that they satisfy the *interchange law*: By the universal property of product and coproduct, it is clear that

$$([f, f'], [g, g']) = [(f, g), (f', g')].$$

Therefore, we get

$$\begin{aligned} (f \star g) \cdot (f' \star g') &= [(f \star g), (f' \star g')] \circ \nu \\ &= [\mu \circ (f, g), \mu \circ (f', g')] \circ \nu \\ &= \mu \circ [(f, g), (f', g')] \circ \nu \\ &= \mu \circ ([f, f'], [g, g']) \circ \nu \\ &= (f \cdot f') \star (g \cdot g') \end{aligned}$$

The rest of the proof is the famous ECKMANN–HILTON ARGUMENT for each two unital structures satisfying the interchange law:

- $j = j \cdot j = (i \star j) \cdot (j \star i) = (i \cdot j) \star (j \cdot i) = i \star i = i$, so just write $i = j = 1$,
- $f \cdot g = (1 \star f) \cdot (g \star 1) = (1 \cdot g) \star (f \cdot 1) = g \star f = (g \cdot 1) \star (1 \cdot f) = (g \star 1) \cdot (1 \star f) = g \cdot f$.

It is even true that we can *conclude* associativity from this without assuming it:

- $(f \cdot g) \star h = (f \cdot g) \cdot (1 \cdot h) = (f \cdot 1) \cdot (g \cdot h) = f \cdot (g \cdot h)$. \square

Definition 1.6. An H -space is a monoid object in $\text{Ho}(\mathbf{Top}_*)$. Dually, a co - H -space is a comonoid object in $\text{Ho}(\mathbf{Top}_*)$.

2. LOOP SPACES

Reminder 2.1. Let A be locally compact and Y an arbitrary space. The *compact-open topology* is a topology on the set $\langle A, Y \rangle = \mathbf{Top}(A, Y)$ of continuous maps such that we have a bijection

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi := \Phi_{X,A,Y} : \mathbf{Top}(X \times A, Y) &\longrightarrow \mathbf{Top}(X, \langle A, Y \rangle), \\ f &\longmapsto \left(x \longmapsto (f_x : a \longmapsto f(x, a)) \right), \\ \left((x, a) \longmapsto g(x)(a) \right) &\longleftarrow g \end{aligned}$$

This means that the endofunctor $- \times A : \mathbf{Top} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Top}$ has a right adjoint $\langle A, - \rangle : \mathbf{Top} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Top}$.

Remark 2.2. We see the following:

- (I) There is a based version. Let $(X, x_0), (A, a_0), (Y, y_0)$ be based.
 - Let $\langle A, Y \rangle_*$ be the subspace of based maps. This is again a based space with basepoint the constant map $c_{y_0} : a \longmapsto y_0$. We have

$$\mathbf{Top}_*(X, \langle A, Y \rangle_*) \subseteq \mathbf{Top}(X, \langle A, Y \rangle_*) \subseteq \mathbf{Top}(X, \langle A, Y \rangle).$$

- We have a projection $\text{pr} : X \times A \longrightarrow X \wedge A$ and $\text{pr}^* : \mathbf{Top}(X \wedge A, Y) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Top}(X \times A, Y)$ is injective as pr is epic. Therefore, we have an inclusion

$$\mathbf{Top}_*(X \wedge A, Y) \subseteq \mathbf{Top}(X \wedge A, Y) \subseteq \mathbf{Top}(X \times A, Y).$$

It is easy to check that Φ restricts to a natural bijection

$$\Psi : \mathbf{Top}_*(X \wedge A, Y) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Top}_*(X, \langle A, Y \rangle_*),$$

so the endofunctor $- \wedge A : \mathbf{Top}_* \longrightarrow \mathbf{Top}_*$ has a right adjoint $\langle A, - \rangle_* : \mathbf{Top}_* \longrightarrow \mathbf{Top}_*$.

- (II) Two maps $f, f' : X \times A \longrightarrow Y$ are homotopic iff $\Phi(f), \Phi(f')$ are homotopic: The map $H : X \times A \times I = X \times I \times A \longrightarrow Y$ is a homotopy between f and f' iff

$$\Phi_{X \times I, A, Y}(H) : X \times I \longrightarrow \langle A, Y \rangle$$

is a homotopy between $\Phi_{X,A,Y}(f)$ and $\Phi_{X,A,Y}(f')$. Two based maps $f, f' : X \wedge A \longrightarrow Y$ are based homotopic iff $\Psi(f), \Psi(f') : X \longrightarrow \langle A, Y \rangle_*$ are based homotopic.

Proposition 2.3. *The reduced suspension $\Sigma : \text{Ho}(\mathbf{Top}_*) \longrightarrow \text{Ho}(\mathbf{Top}_*)$ has a right adjoint Ω .*

Proof. The sphere \mathbb{S}^1 is locally compact. Define the *loop space* $\Omega := \langle \mathbb{S}^1, - \rangle_* : \mathbf{Top}_* \longrightarrow \mathbf{Top}_*$. This is right adjoint to $- \wedge \mathbb{S}^1 = \Sigma$. Now as the natural identification respects based homotopies, this adjunction descends to the homotopy category:

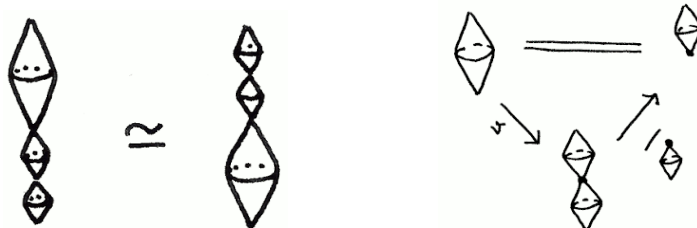
$$[\Sigma X, Y]_* = [X \wedge \mathbb{S}^1, Y]_* = [X, \Omega Y]_* \quad \square$$

Proposition 2.4. *Let X be a space.*

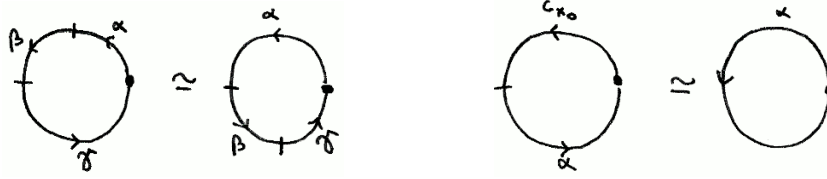
- (I) ΣX has a co- H -space structure,
- (II) ΩX has an H -space structure.

Proof.

- (I) Recall that the coproduct in $\text{Ho}(\mathbf{Top}_*)$ is given by the wedge sum \vee . The comultiplication is given by the equatorial squeeze $\nu : \Sigma X \longrightarrow \Sigma X \vee \Sigma X$, the counit is just the terminal morphism $c : \Sigma X \longrightarrow *$. Associativity and unitality can proven pictorially by:



- (II) The multiplication is given by the concatenation of paths $\mu : \Omega X \times \Omega X \rightarrow \Omega X$, the unit is the based map $e : * \rightarrow \Omega X, * \mapsto c_{x_0}$. Associativity and unitality are proven in the same way we checked the group axioms for the $\pi_1(X)$:



□

Proposition 2.5.

- (I) If X is an H -space, then $\pi_1(X, e)$ is abelian.
 (II) $\pi_k(X, x_0)$ is abelian for each based (X, x_0) and $k \geq 2$.

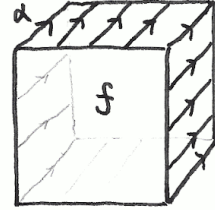
Proof. (I) We see $\pi_1(X, e) = [\Sigma S^0, X]_*$ and the left side is a comonoid, the right side is a monoid. The ECKMANN–HILTON ARGUMENT from the last exercise yields abelianity.

- (II) We see $\pi_k(X, x_0) = [\Sigma^2 S^{k-2}, X]_* = [\Sigma S^{k-2}, \Omega X]_*$ and again, the left side is a comonoid, the right side is a monoid. □

3. Π_1 -ACTION ON HIGHER HOMOTOPY GROUPS

Reminder 3.1. Recall that $\pi_n(X, x_0) = [(I^n, \partial I^n), (X, x_0)]$. We have a Π_1 -action on $\pi_n(X, \cdot)$ as follows: Given a relative map $f : (I^n, \partial I^n) \rightarrow (X, x_1)$ and a path $\alpha : I \rightarrow X$ from x_1 to x_2 , we just choose *any* map $H : I^n \times I \rightarrow X$ with:

- $H(-, 0) : (I^n, \partial I^n) \rightarrow (X, x_1)$ is homotopic to f ,
- $H(z, -) : I \rightarrow X$ is homotopic to α for each $z \in \partial I^n$.



Such an H always exists and we define

$$\alpha_{\#} f : (I^n, \partial I^n) \rightarrow (X, x_2), z \mapsto H(z, 1).$$

The homotopy type of $\alpha_{\#} f$ only depends on the homotopy type of f and α , *not* on the choice of H . Hence, we get a map

$$\Pi_1(X)(x_1, x_2) \times \pi_n(X, x_1) \rightarrow \pi_n(X, x_2), ([\alpha], [f]) \mapsto \alpha_{\#} [f] = [\alpha_{\#} f].$$

Proposition 3.2. Let X be a connected H -space. Then the Π_1 -action on π_n is trivial.

Proof. We have to see that for each two paths $\alpha, \beta : I \rightarrow X$ from x_1 to x_2 , we have $\alpha_{\#} = \beta_{\#}$:

- (i) Choose a path γ from e to x_1 . It is enough to show that $\gamma_{\#}^{-} \circ \beta_{\#}^{-} \circ \alpha_{\#} \circ \gamma_{\#} = \text{id}$, because

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{\#} &= \beta_{\#} \circ \gamma_{\#} \circ \overbrace{\gamma_{\#}^{-} \circ \beta_{\#}^{-} \circ \alpha_{\#} \circ \gamma_{\#} \circ \gamma_{\#}^{-}}{= \text{id}} \\ &= \beta_{\#} \circ \gamma_{\#} \circ \gamma_{\#}^{-} \\ &= \beta_{\#} \end{aligned}$$

This leaves us to show that if $\alpha : I \rightarrow X$ is a loop based in e , then $\alpha_{\#} = \text{id}_{\#}$.

- (ii) Let $f : (I^n, \partial I^n) \rightarrow (X, e)$. Consider the map

$$H^{n+1} : I^n \times I \rightarrow X, (z, t) \mapsto f(z) \cdot \alpha(t).$$

First of all, we see that if $z \in \partial I^n$, then $H(z, 0) = H(z, 1) = \mu(e, e) = e$ because the multiplication $\mu : (X \times X, (e, e)) \rightarrow (X, e)$ is a based map. Now we check:

- Then $H(-, 0) = \mu \circ (f \times e) \circ \text{pr}_1^{-1} = \mu \circ (1_X \times e) \circ (f \text{pr}_1^{-1})$ where $\text{pr}_1 : X \times * \rightarrow X$. We know that $\mu \circ (1_X \times e)$ is based homotopic to pr_1 , so the homotopy $H(-, 0) \simeq f$ is a homotopy relative $f^{-1}(e) \supseteq \partial I^n$.
- For $z \in \partial I^n$, we have $H(z, -) = \mu \circ (e \times \alpha) \circ \text{pr}_2^{-1} = \mu \circ (e \times 1_X) \circ (\alpha \text{pr}_2^{-1})$. As above, the homotopy $H(z, -) \simeq \alpha$ is a homotopy relative $\alpha^{-1}(e) \supseteq \{0, 1\}$.

Therefore, H is an admissible function as above and we get

$$\alpha_{\#}[f] = [H(-, 1)] = [f]. \quad \square$$

Reminder 3.3. Recall that $\pi_n(X, A, x_0) = [(I^n, \partial I^n, J^n), (X, A, x_0)]$ where

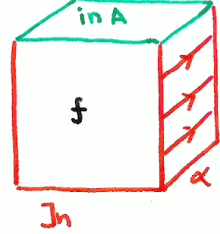
$$J^n := \partial I^n \setminus (I^{n-1} \times \{1\}) = (\partial I^{n-1} \times I) \cup (I^{n-1} \times \{0\}).$$

We have a connecting homomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_n : \pi_n(X, A, x_0) = [(I^n, \partial I^n, J^n), (X, A, x_0)] &\longrightarrow [(I^{n-1}, \partial I^{n-1}), (X, A)] = \pi_{n-1}, \\ [f] &\longmapsto [f|_{I^{n-1} \times \{1\}}]. \end{aligned}$$

The extra assumption that $f|_{J_n} \equiv x_0$ ensures that $(\delta_n[f])|_{\partial I^{n-1}} \equiv x_0$. We have a $\pi_1(A, x_0)$ -action on $\pi_n(X, A, x_0)$ as follows: Given a relative map $f : (I^n, \partial I^n, J^n) \rightarrow (X, A, x_0)$ and a path $\alpha : I \rightarrow X$, choose any map $H : I^n \times I \rightarrow X$ with:

- $H(-, 0) : (I^n, \partial I^n, J^n) \rightarrow (X, A, x_0)$ is homotopic to f ,
- $H(z, t) \in A$ for $z \in \partial I^n$,
- $H(z, -) : I \rightarrow A$ is homotopic to α for $z \in J^n$.



Again, such an H always exists and the relative homotopy type of

$$H(-, 1) : (I^n, \partial I^n, J^n) \rightarrow (X, A, x_0)$$

does only depend on the homotopy type of f and α .

Proposition 3.4. δ_n is equivariant, i. e. we have $\delta_n(\alpha_{\#}[f]) = \alpha_{\#}(\delta_n[f])$.

Proof. Fix α and f and choose H as above. Consider the restriction to the green face

$$G(-, -) := H(-, 1, -) : I^{n-1} \times I \rightarrow A.$$

By construction, $G(-, 0) \simeq f|_{I^{n-1} \times \{1\}} = \delta_n f$ and for $z \in \partial I^{n-1}$, we have $(z, 1) \in J^n$, so we get

$$G(z, -) = H(z, 1, -) \simeq \alpha.$$

Thus, G is an admissible map for constructing $\alpha_{\#}\delta_n[f]$ and we get

$$\delta_n(\alpha_{\#}f) = [H(-, 1, 1)] = [G(-, 1)] = \alpha_{\#}(\delta_n[f]). \quad \square$$

4. THE HOPF INVARIANT, PART 2

Proposition 4.1. *Let M be a closed and oriented m -manifold. Then the mapping degree as a map $\text{deg} : \pi_m(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is a homomorphism.*

Proof. Let $f, g : \mathbb{S}^m \rightarrow M$. We know that $[f] + [g]$ has the homotopy type of $(f \vee g) \circ \nu$ where $\nu : \mathbb{S}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^m \vee \mathbb{S}^m$ is the equatorial squeeze. If we identify $H_m(\mathbb{S}^m) = \mathbb{Z}\langle[\mathbb{S}^m]\rangle$ and $H_m(\mathbb{S}^m \vee \mathbb{S}^m) = \mathbb{Z}\langle[\mathbb{S}^m]_1, [\mathbb{S}^m]_2\rangle$, we have a sequence

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \xrightarrow{(f+g)_*} & & \\ & \searrow & & \searrow & \\ H_m(\mathbb{S}^m) & \xrightarrow{\nu_*} & H_m(\mathbb{S}^m \vee \mathbb{S}^m) & \xrightarrow{(f \vee g)_*} & H_m(M) \\ \parallel & & \parallel & & \parallel \\ \mathbb{Z}\langle[\mathbb{S}^m]\rangle & \xrightarrow{\binom{1}{1}} & \mathbb{Z}\langle[\mathbb{S}^m]_1, [\mathbb{S}^m]_2\rangle & \xrightarrow{f_*+g_*} & \mathbb{Z}\langle[M]\rangle. \end{array}$$

Therefore, we get

$$((f \vee g) \circ \nu)[\mathbb{S}^m] = (f \vee g)_*([\mathbb{S}^m]_1 + [\mathbb{S}^m]_2) = f_*[\mathbb{S}^m] + g_*[\mathbb{S}^m] = (\text{deg}(f) + \text{deg}(g)) \cdot [M]. \quad \square$$

Proposition 4.2. *The Hopf invariant $h : \pi_{4n-1}(\mathbb{S}^{2n}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is a homomorphism.*

Proof. Let $f, g : \mathbb{S}^{4n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^{2n}$. Consider the space $X_{f+g} := e^{4n} \sqcup_{f+g} \mathbb{S}^{2n}$ with $4n$ -cell β_{f+g} and $2n$ -cell α_{f+g} , and also $X_{f \vee g} = (e^{4n} \vee e^{4n}) \sqcup_{f \vee g} \mathbb{S}^{2n}$ with $4n$ -cells β'_f, β'_g and $2n$ -cell $\alpha_{f \vee g}$.

- (i) We have canonical inclusions $i_f : X_f \hookrightarrow X_{f \vee g}$ and $i_g : X_g \hookrightarrow X_{f \vee g}$ sending the $2n$ -cells α_f, α_g to $\alpha_{f \vee g}$ and β_f to β'_f and β_g to β'_g . Therefore, we get $i_f^* \alpha_{f \vee g} = \alpha_f$ and $i_g^* \alpha_{f \vee g} = \alpha_g$ as well as $i_f^* \beta'_f = \beta_f$ and $i_g^* \beta'_g = \beta_g$. Note that $i_f^* + i_g^* : H^{4n}(X_{f \vee g}) \rightarrow H^{4n}(X_f) \oplus H^{4n}(X_g)$ is injective. We see

$$(i_f^* + i_g^*) \alpha_{f \vee g}^2 = \alpha_f^2 + \alpha_g^2 = h_f \beta_f + h_g \beta_g = (i_f^* + i_g^*) (h_f \cdot \beta'_f + h_g \beta'_g),$$

so we conclude $\alpha_{f \vee g}^2 = h_f \beta'_f + h_g \beta'_g$.

- (ii) By collapsing $e^{4n-1} \times \{0\} \subseteq e^{4n} \hookrightarrow X_{f+g}$, we get a projection

$$\text{pr} : X_{f+g} \rightarrow X_{f \vee g}.$$

Apparently $\text{pr}_* \beta_{f+g} = \beta'_f + \beta'_g$, so $\text{pr}^* \beta'_f = \text{pr}^* \beta'_g = \beta_{f+g}$ in cohomology. As pr is a homeomorphism on the $2n$ -cells, we have $\text{pr}^* \alpha' = \alpha$. We conclude

$$\alpha_{f+g}^2 = \text{pr}^* \alpha_{f \vee g}^2 = \text{pr}^* (h_f \beta'_f + h_g \beta'_g) = (h_f + h_g) \cdot \beta_{f+g}. \quad \square$$