

# BYPASSING SOLÈR'S THEOREM

The key to axiomatising dagger categories of  
finite-dimensional Hilbert spaces

MATTHEW DiMEGLIO  
(Joint work with Chris Heunen)

APPLIED CATEGORY THEORY 2023

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The category-theoretic approach identifies the essential structures and properties of categories of Hilbert spaces.

These should eventually inform the design of programming languages for quantum computers.

## THEOREM (Heunen and Kornell):

A monoidal dagger category in which

- finite dagger biproducts exist
  - dagger equalisers exist
  - monoidal unit is simple
  - wide subcategory of dagger monos has directed colimits
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$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f+g} & Y \\ \Delta \downarrow & & \uparrow \nabla \\ X \oplus X & \xrightarrow{f \oplus g} & Y \oplus Y \end{array}$$

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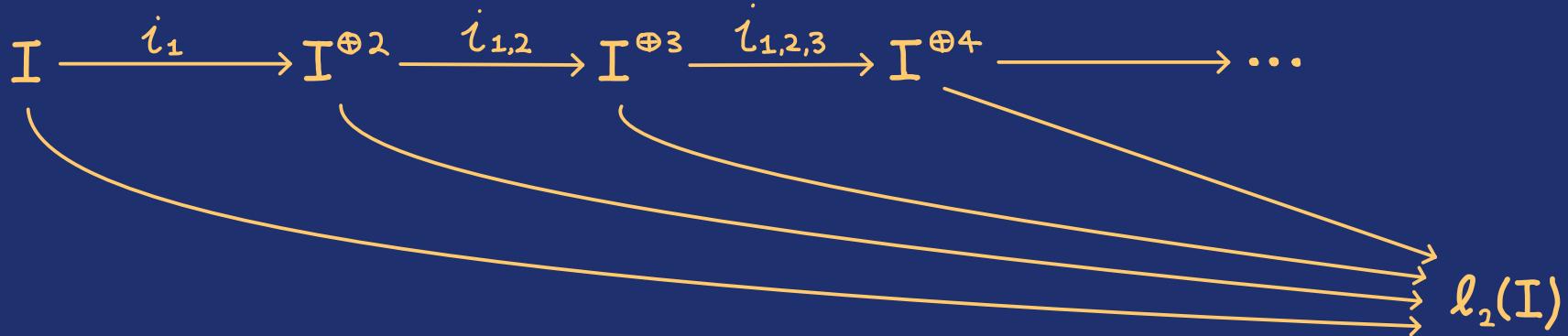
$\mathbb{I}$  is Dedekind complete

## SOLÈR'S THEOREM:

Let  $X$  be an orthomodular space over an involutive division ring  $\mathbb{K}$ . If  $X$  has an infinite orthonormal subset, then  $\mathbb{K} \cong \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$  or  $\mathbb{H}$  and  $X$  is a Hilbert space.

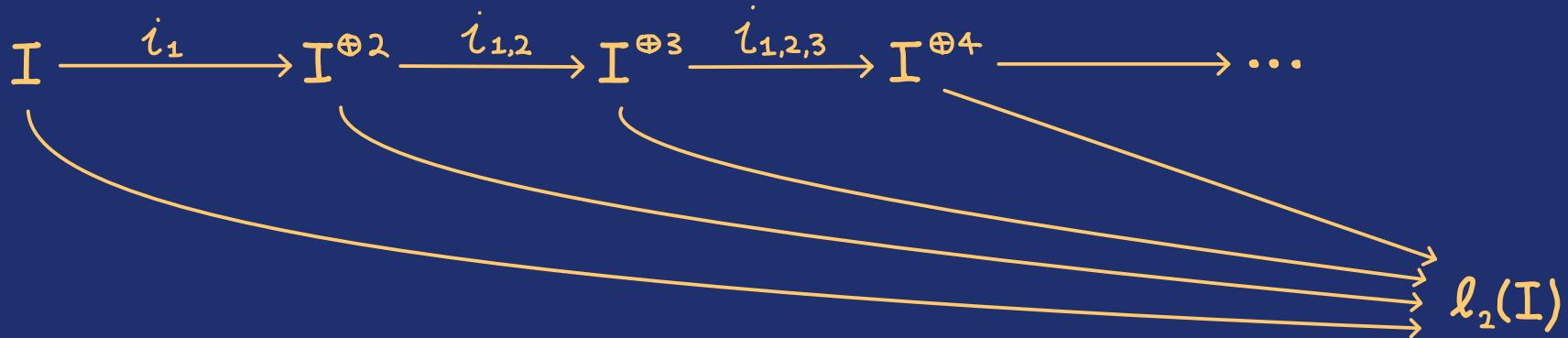
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This idea will not work for FDHilb.

GOAL:

Prove that  $\mathbb{I}$  is  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$  without Solèr's theorem.

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Non-negatives have infima of  
non-increasing sequences

## PROPOSITION:

$\mathbb{I}_{SA} := \{z \in \mathbb{I} : z = z^t\}$  is a partially ordered field  
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## PROOF:

$$a \in \mathbb{I}_{SA}$$

$$a^2 = a^T a$$

$$x^T x \cdot y^T y = (x \circ y)^T (x \circ y)$$

$$x : I \rightarrow X$$

$$a = \frac{1}{4}(a+2)^2 - \frac{1}{4}(a^2 + 4)$$

$$x^T x + y^T y = \langle x, y \rangle^T \langle x, y \rangle$$

$$y : I \rightarrow Y$$

$$1 = 1^T 1$$

$$(x^T x)^{-1} = (x^T x)^{-2} x^T x$$

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**LEMMA:** If  $a > 0$ , then  $a = x^+x$  for some isomorphism  $x: I \rightarrow X$ .

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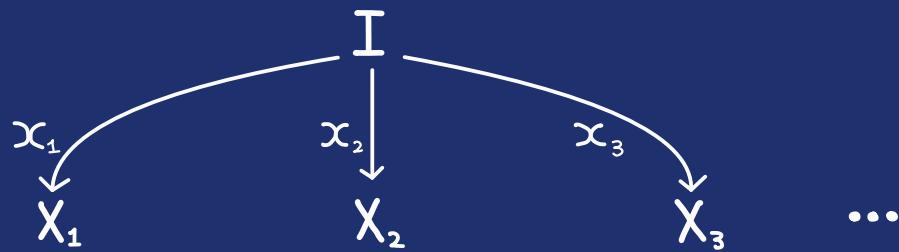
$f: X \rightarrow Y$  such that  $f^*f + \bar{f}^*\bar{f} = 1$  for some  $\bar{f}: \bar{X} \rightarrow \bar{Y}$

**LEMMA:** If  $a > 0$ , then  $a = x^*x$  for some isomorphism  $x: I \rightarrow X$ .

<b>PROOF:</b> $a = y^*y$ for some $y: I \rightarrow Y$		$x^*x = x^*e^*ex = y^*y = a$
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PROOF:

$$\chi_1^+ \chi_1 \geq \chi_2^+ \chi_2 \geq \dots$$
$$\chi_j : I \rightarrow X_j \text{ iso}$$



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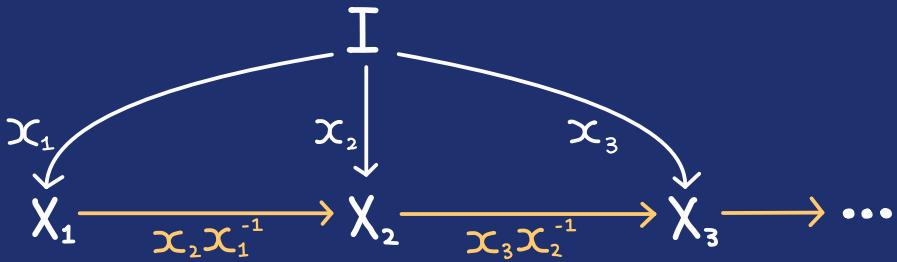
$$x_1^+ x_1 \geq x_2^+ x_2 \geq \dots$$

$x_j : I \rightarrow X_j$  iso

$$1 = x_j^{-+} x_j^+ x_j x_j^{-1} \geq x_j^{-+} x_{j+1}^+ x_{j+1} x_j^{-1}$$

8

contraction]



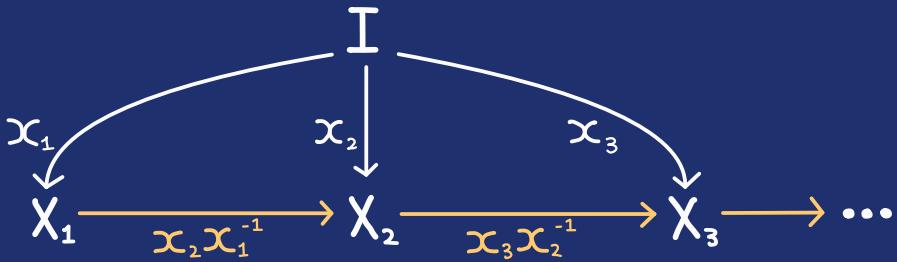
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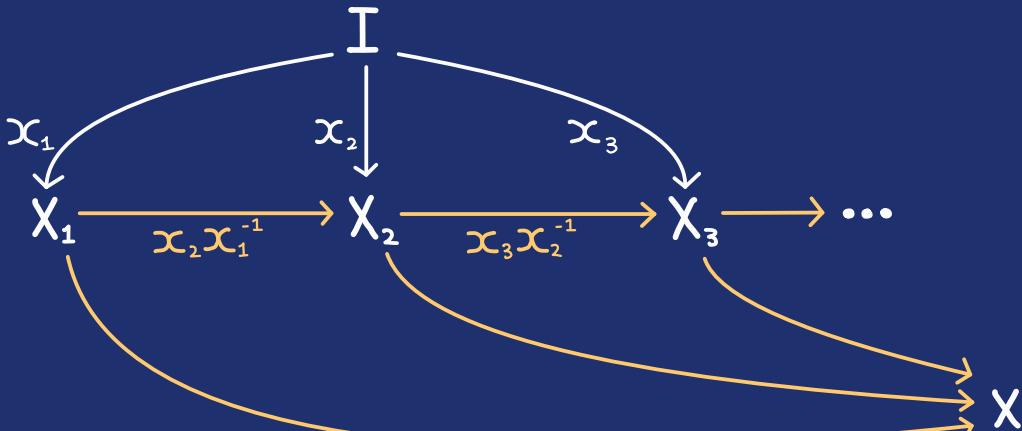
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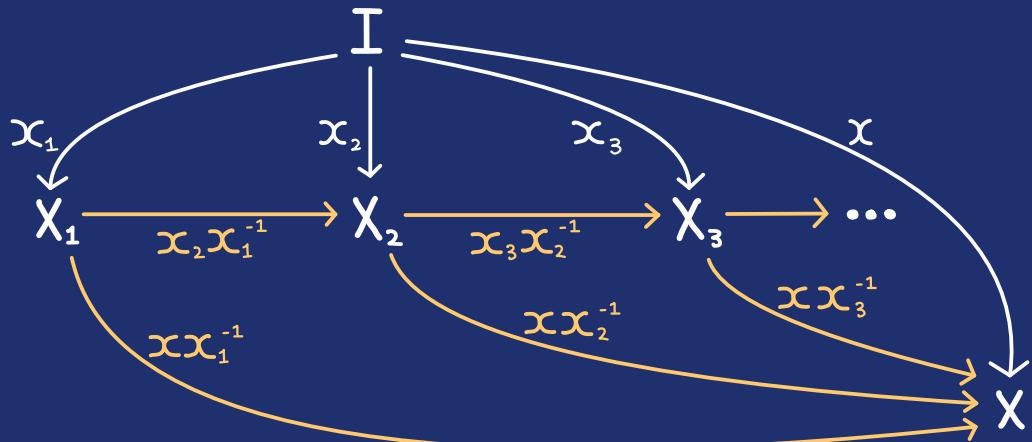
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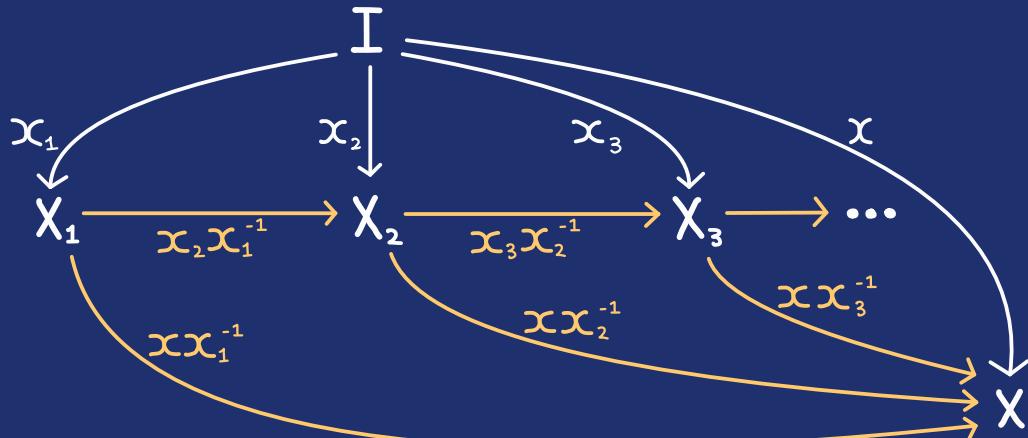
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**PROOF:**

$$y: I \rightarrow Y$$

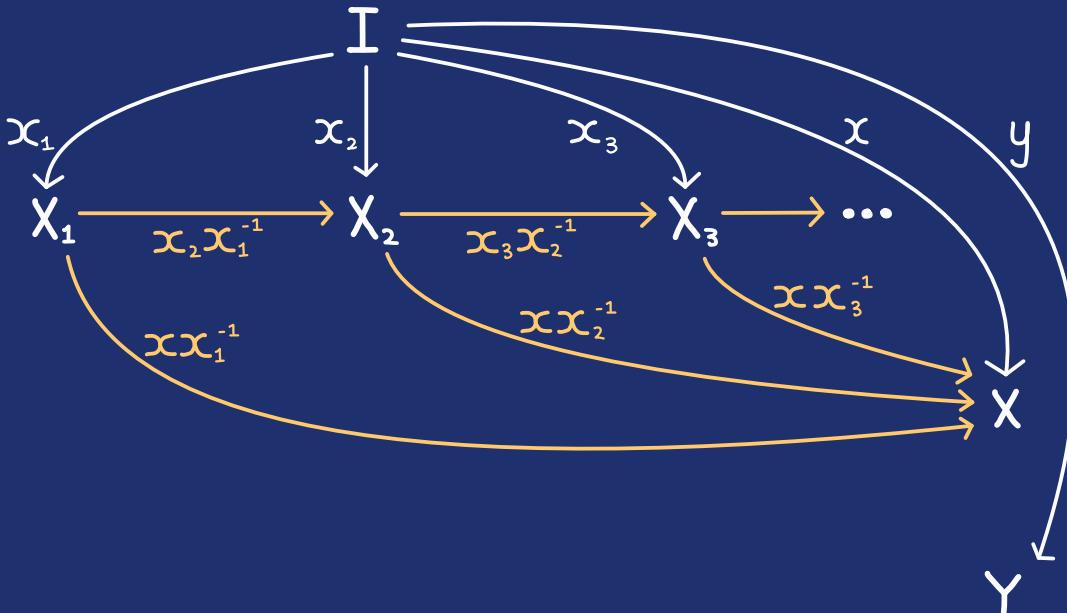
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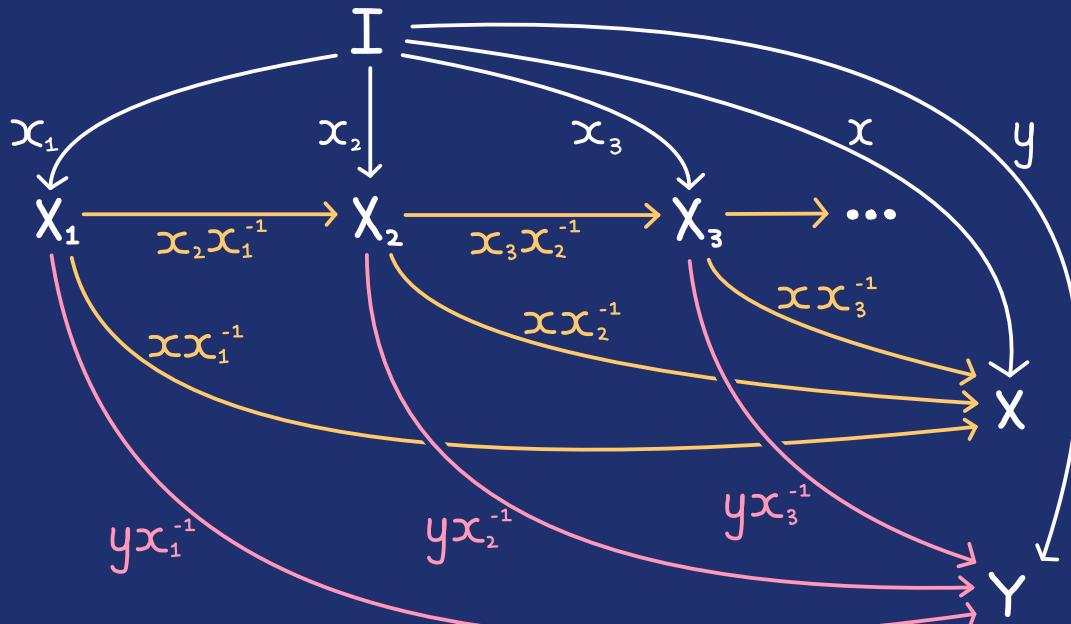
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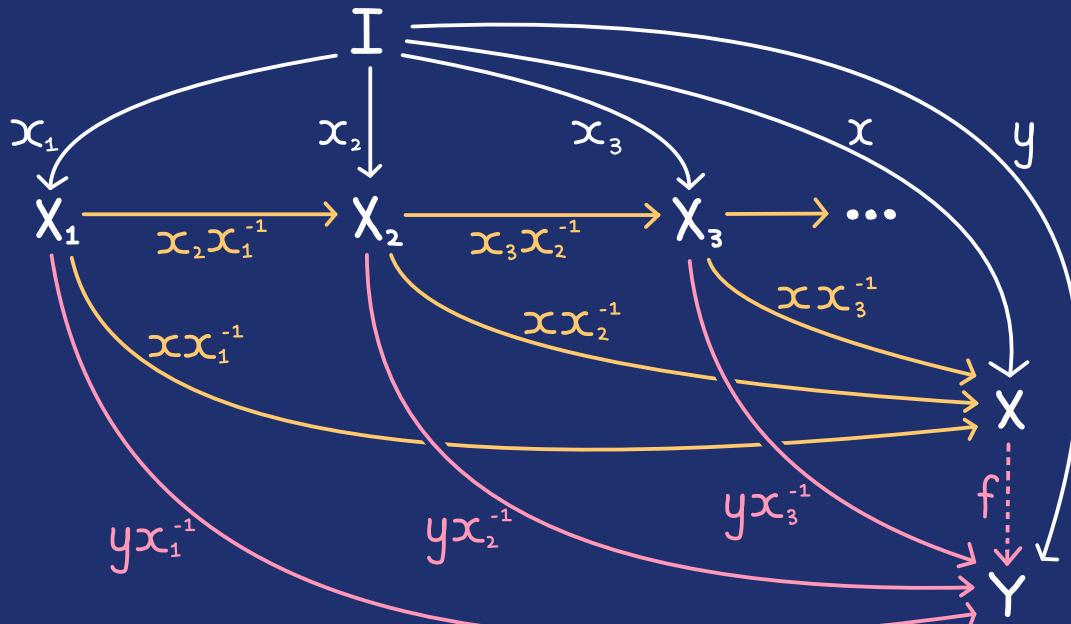
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[greatest lowerbound  
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$$x^+ x \geq x^+ f^+ f x$$

$$= x_1^+ (x x_1^{-1})^+ f^+ f (x x_1^{-1}) x_1$$

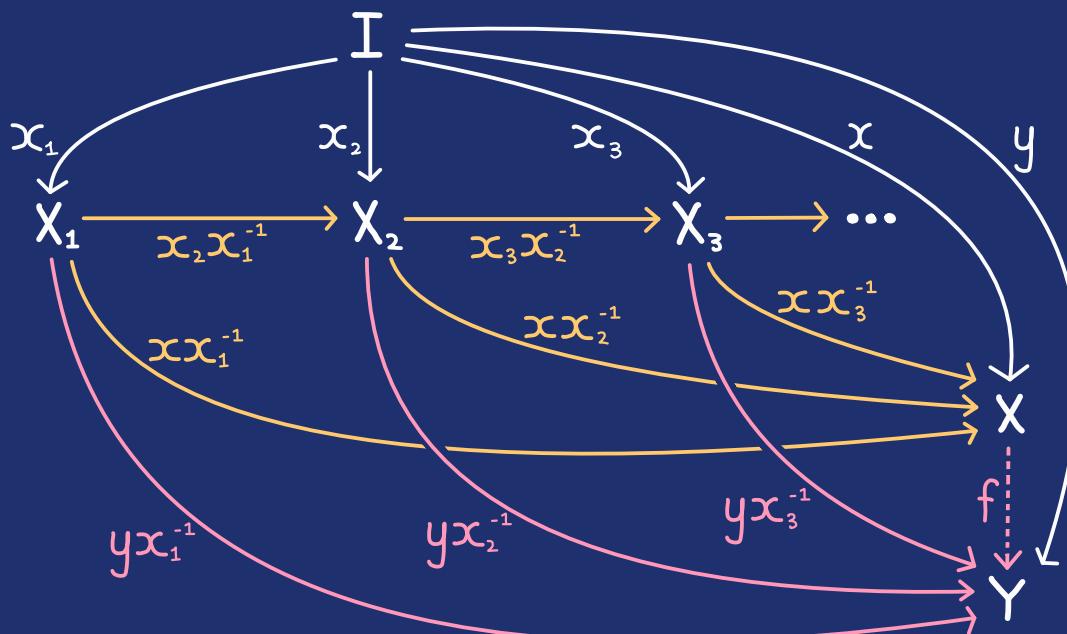
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$\mathbb{I}_{SA} \simeq \mathbb{R}$  by De Marr's theorem. Suppose that  $u \in \mathbb{I} \setminus \mathbb{I}_{SA}$ . Let

$$i = \frac{u - u^+}{\sqrt{-(u - u^+)^2}}.$$

Then  $\{1, i\}$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{I}$  over  $\mathbb{I}_{SA}$  and  $i^2 = -1$ .

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**QUESTION:**

Can directed colimits of contractions be constructed from those of dagger monos?