We present a universal construction that relates reversible dynamics on open systems to arbitrary dynamics on closed systems: the restriction affine completion of a monoidal restriction category quotiented by well-pointedness. This categorical completion encompasses both quantum channels, via Stinespring dilation, and classical computing, via Bennett’s method. Moreover, in these two cases, we show how our construction can be essentially ‘undone’ by a further universal construction. This shows how both mixed quantum theory and classical computation rest on entirely reversible foundations.

1 Introduction

Two constructions relate reversible dynamics on open systems to arbitrary dynamics on closed systems:

- **Stinespring dilation** realises a quantum channel as a reversible process on a larger space [18].
- **Bennett’s method** makes a classical computer program reversible by allowing extra output [2, 17].

This paper presents a universal categorical construction encompassing both, making precise how the relationship between pure and mixed quantum theory resembles the relationship between reversible and conventional classical computation.

The construction has three phases: allowing additional constant input, leakage of output, and making it extensional. The first two phases adjoin auxiliary systems to the processes in question. The ancilla input can be seen as a form of temporary storage, while the output ancilla is not considered part of the desired output, and therefore is sometimes called *garbage*. However, the garbage cannot be discarded without altering the function. The third phase of the construction ensures that at least the garbage is *extensional* (specific to the *map* being computed rather than the *method* used to compute it), so that equality of morphisms is judged solely on their observable input-output behaviour.

We can also go in the converse direction by taking the cofree inverse category. All four phases have universal properties. On the whole, this shows how both mixed quantum theory and classical computation rest on entirely reversible foundations.
There are some idiosyncracies among the four phases. The Inv-construction recovers partial injections from partial functions exactly, but only recovers unitaries from completely positive trace-preserving maps up to a global phase. The Inp-construction leaves the category of partial injections invariant, whereas it turns unitaries into isometries. The Ext-construction leaves the category of completely positive trace-preserving maps invariant, because minimal Stinespring dilations exist. That is, Stinespring dilation allows an extensional choice of auxiliary system, whereas reversibilising embeddings are intensional. There are several (canonical) methods to make irreversible programs reversible. For example, Bennett’s method stores the input and returns it in full along with the output, while the Landauer embedding \[1, 15\] additionally returns a trace of all instructions and attendant intermediate states.

Related work Both Stinespring dilation and Bennett’s method have seen categorical presentations. Despite the similarity of their statements, these categorical completions are surprisingly dissimilar. The universal construction of completely positive trace-preserving maps from isometries and unitaries is due to Huot and Staton \[11, 12\]. A different categorical approach to Stinespring’s dilation theorem as a universal construction is given by Westerbaan and Westerbaan \[19\]. The equivalence of discrete cartesian restriction categories and discrete inverse categories is due to Giles \[5\], though later recast by Comfort \[4\] as a counital completion of inverse categories with chosen semi-Frobenius algebras. Our Aux-construction generalises a result by Hermida and Tennent \[8\]. Combining it with our Ext-construction gives the well-pointed completion of a monoidal restriction category that generalises both Huot-Staton and Giles.

Future work Following Giles, we conjecture that there is an equivalence between a category of certain monoidal inverse categories and certain well-pointed monoidal restriction categories. Another interesting question is whether there is a minimal set that can be adjoined to any partial function to make it injective. Such a minimal Bennett embedding, as the minimal Stinespring dilation, could be used to measure the degree to which a map is reversible. It may relate to the information theoretic characterisation of reversible maps as those that preserve entropy \[15\].

Overview We assume familiarity with basic category theory. Section 2 briefly recalls restriction categories and inverse categories, which is relatively less well-known. Restriction categories \[3\] axiomatise partially defined morphisms. The idea is to record for each morphism \(f: A \to B\) satisfying:

(i) \(f \circ \overline{f} = f\);

(ii) \(\overline{f} \circ \overline{g} = \overline{g} \circ \overline{f}\);

Definition 1. A restriction category is a category equipped with a choice of endomorphism \(\overline{f}: A \to A\) for each morphism \(f: A \to A\) satisfying:

2 Restriction categories and inverse categories

While we assume basic familiarity with category theory, and in particular monoidal categories \[10\], we briefly summarise restriction categories and inverse categories, which is relatively less well-known. Restriction categories \[3\] axiomatise partially defined morphisms. The idea is to record for each morphism \(f\) its restriction idempotent \(\overline{f}\), a partial identity defined precisely where \(f\) is defined.

Definition 1. A restriction category is a category equipped with a choice of endomorphism \(\overline{f}: A \to A\) for each morphism \(f: A \to A\) satisfying:

(i) \(f \circ \overline{f} = f\);

(ii) \(\overline{f} \circ \overline{g} = \overline{g} \circ \overline{f}\);
(iii) \( g \circ \overline{f} = \overline{g} \circ \overline{f} \);
(iv) \( \overline{g} \circ f = f \circ \overline{g} \).

The restriction idempotent \( \overline{f} \) measures ‘how partial’ \( f \) is. If \( \overline{f} = \text{id} \), we call \( f \) total. Any category becomes a restriction category when endowed with the trivial choice \( \overline{f} = \text{id} \), but many other choices may be possible. When working with a restriction category, we often leave implicit which choice is made, just like the choice of tensor product making a category monoidal. When we speak of the following categories, we will use the trivial restriction structure:

- **Unitary**: has finite-dimensional Hilbert spaces as objects and unitary linear maps as morphisms;
- **Isometry**: has finite-dimensional Hilbert spaces as objects and isometric linear maps as morphisms;
- **CPTP**: has finite-dimensional Hilbert spaces as objects and completely positive trace-preserving maps as morphisms.

But there are also nontrivial choices of restriction structure. On the category \( \text{Pfn} \) of sets and partial functions, we will choose the restriction idempotent of a partial function \( f : A \to B \) as follows:

\[
\overline{f}(x) = \begin{cases} 
  x & \text{if } f \text{ is defined at } x \\
  \text{undefined} & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]

Thus a partial function \( f \) is total in the usual sense precisely when it is total in the abstract sense.

A functor \( F : C \to D \) between restriction categories is a restriction functor when \( F(\overline{f}) = \overline{F(f)} \). A (symmetric) monoidal restriction category is a restriction category which that is also (symmetric) monoidal, such that the monoidal product is a restriction bifunctor: \( \overline{f} \times \overline{g} = \overline{f \times g} \).

Similarly, restriction limits and colimits are ones that respect the restriction structure, though especially limits tend to be quite different. A restriction terminal object is an object \( 1 \) such that each object \( A \) allows a unique total morphism \( A \to 1 \). Restriction terminal objects need not be terminal in the usual sense; for example, any singleton set is restriction terminal but not terminal in \( \text{Pfn} \), because there is (at least) also the nowhere defined function \( A \to 1 \).

**Lemma 2.** \([3]\) For all appropriate \( f \) and \( g \) in a restriction category:

(i) \( \overline{g} \circ \overline{f} = \overline{g \circ f} \);
(ii) \( \overline{g} \circ \overline{f} = \overline{f} \) if \( g \) is total;
(iii) \( \overline{f} = \text{id} \) if \( f \) is invertible.

A morphism \( f : A \to B \) in a restriction category is a partial isomorphism if there is a morphism \( f^\dagger : B \to A \) such that \( f^\dagger \circ f = \overline{f} \) and \( f \circ f^\dagger = \overline{f} \). Such partial inverses are unique whenever they exist. In \( \text{Pfn} \), the partial isomorphisms are precisely the partial injective functions.

Recall that in a dagger category, every morphism \( f : A \to B \) has a partner \( f^\dagger : B \to A \) such that \( f^{\dagger\dagger} = f \), \( \text{id}^{\dagger} = \text{id} \), and \( (g \circ f)^\dagger = f^{\dagger} \circ g^{\dagger} \) \([10]\).

**Proposition 3.** \([3]\) The following are equivalent:

(i) \( C \) is a restriction category in which each morphism is a partial isomorphism;
(ii) \( C \) is an inverse category: a dagger category with \( f \circ f^\dagger \circ f = f \) and \( f^\dagger \circ f \circ g^\dagger \circ g = g^\dagger \circ g \circ f^\dagger \circ f \).

Inverse categories were originally conceived as a categorical extension of inverse semigroups \([14]\), but have recently seen applications as categorical models of classical reversible computation \([5, 13, 6, 7]\).

Examples of inverse categories include the category \( \text{PInj} \) of sets and partial injective functions, as well as any groupoid (such as **Unitary**). The connection between restriction and inverse categories generalises that between mere categories and groupoids.
Proposition 4. The wide subcategory $\text{Inv}(C)$ of all partial isomorphisms of a (monoidal) restriction category $C$ is its cofree (monoidal) inverse category: any inverse category $D$ with a (strict monoidal) functor $D \to C$ allows a unique (strict monoidal) functor $D \to \text{Inv}(C)$ making the following diagram commute:

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
D & \rightarrow & \text{Inv}(C) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\text{Inv}(C) & \rightarrow & C
\end{array}
$$

If $C$ in the above is a trivial restriction category, then $\text{Inv}(C)$ is its core, that is, its cofree groupoid.

3 The Aux-construction

This section is dedicated to the Aux-construction, a generalisation of Hermida and Tennent’s construction to (symmetric monoidal) restriction categories. After introducing Aux$(C)$, we show step by step that it is an affine monoidal restriction category. Here, a monoidal restriction category is affine when its tensor unit $I$ is restriction terminal. The crowning theorem shows that Aux$(C)$ is in fact the restriction affine completion of $C$.

Definition 5. Define a relation $\triangleright$ on the morphisms of a symmetric monoidal restriction category as follows. For $f : A \to B \otimes E$ and $f' : A \to B \otimes E'$, set $f \triangleright f'$ if and only if $f = f'$ and there is a mediator $h : E \to E'$ making the triangle commute:

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
f & \xleftarrow{\text{id} \otimes h} & f' \\
B \otimes E & \xrightarrow{id \otimes h} & B \otimes E'
\end{array}
$$

This is a preorder: reflexivity follows by mediating with identities; transitivity follows by composing mediators. However, the relation need not be symmetric, for example if $\dim(E) < \dim(E')$ in Isometry.

Definition 6. Write $\sim$ for the equivalence relation generated by $\triangleright$. Explicitly, for $f : A \to B \otimes E$ and $f' : A \to B \otimes E'$, we have $f \sim f'$ if and only if there are intermediate morphisms $f_1, \ldots, f_{n-1}$ with $f = \overline{f_1} = \cdots = \overline{f_{n-1}} = \overline{f'}$ and mediators $E \xrightarrow{h_1} E_1 \xleftarrow{h_2} E_2 \xrightarrow{h_3} \cdots \xleftarrow{h_n} E'$ making the following diagram commute:

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
f & \xleftarrow{f_1} & f' \\
B \otimes E & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes h_1} & B \otimes E_1 & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes h_2} & B \otimes E_2 & \xleftarrow{\text{id} \otimes h_3} & \cdots & \xleftarrow{\text{id} \otimes h_n} & B \otimes E'
\end{array}
$$

Definition 7. For a symmetric monoidal restriction category $C$, define a category Aux$(C)$:

- objects are those of $C$;
- morphisms $[f, E] : A \to B$ are $\sim$-equivalence classes of morphisms $f : A \to B \otimes E$ in $C$;
- composition of $[f, E] : A \to B$ and $[g, E'] : B \to C$ is $[\alpha \circ (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f, E' \otimes E] : A \to C$;
- identities are $[\rho^{-1}, I] : A \to A$.

The previous definition differs from [8] only by the additional requirement that $\overline{f} = \overline{f'}$ if $f \sim f'$. It follows that the two are the same when $C$ is a trivial restriction category, making Aux a genuine generalisation.
Remark 8. Morphisms in Aux(C) are often given by composing chains of morphisms in C, further quotiented by a nontrivial equivalence relation. This can quickly become unintelligible. Therefore we will always make the zig-zag path of mediators from Definition 6 explicit in equivalence arguments. To indicate which part of a diagram in C corresponds to which morphism in Aux(C), we will use squiggly grey 'ghost' arrows:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \otimes E \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha \\
C \otimes (E' \otimes E) & & \\
\end{array}
\]

This ghost arrow is not a part of the commutative diagram. It merely indicates that \( \alpha \circ (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f \) corresponds precisely to \( [g, E'] \circ [f, E] \) in Aux(C).

Notation settled, we now set out to show that this actually defines a restriction symmetric monoidal category. We proceed in three steps: first we show that it is a category; then that it inherits a restriction structure; and finally that it inherits a symmetric monoidal structure in a way that respects restriction. The proofs of the following three propositions are deferred to Appendix A as they would distract from the main development.

**Proposition 9.** Aux(C) is a category.

**Proposition 10.** Aux(C) inherits a restriction structure from C with \([f, E] = [\rho^{-1} \circ f, I]\).

**Proposition 11.** If C is a restriction symmetric monoidal category, then so is Aux(C):
- the tensor unit and tensor product of objects are as in C;
- the tensor product of \([f, E] : A \to B\) and \([f', E'] : A' \to B'\) is \([\vartheta \circ (f \otimes f'), E \otimes E'] : A \otimes A' \to B \otimes B'\); where \( \vartheta \) is the canonical isomorphism \((B \otimes E) \otimes (B' \otimes E') \simeq (B \otimes B') \otimes (E \otimes E')\) in C.

Having established that Aux(C) is a restriction symmetric monoidal category, our next goal is to show that it is the restriction affine completion of C. Again we proceed in steps. First we show that there is a strict monoidal functor \( C \to \text{Aux}(C)\). Then we show that the unit in Aux(C) is restriction terminal, so that the tensor product has total projections. From this we derive a factorisation theorem for morphisms in Aux(C), which finally lets us institute Aux(C) as the restriction affine completion of C.

**Proposition 12.** If C is a restriction symmetric monoidal category, there is a strict monoidal restriction functor \( \mathcal{E} : C \to \text{Aux}(C)\) given by \( \mathcal{E}(A) = A\) on objects and by \( \mathcal{E}(f) = [\rho^{-1} \circ f, I] \) on morphisms.

**Proof.** To see \( \mathcal{E} \) is functorial, compute \( \mathcal{E}(\text{id}) = [\rho^{-1} \circ \text{id}, I] = [\rho^{-1}, I] = \text{id} \). Composition is preserved because

\[
\mathcal{E}(g) \circ \mathcal{E}(f) = \alpha \circ (\rho^{-1} \otimes \text{id}) \circ (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ \rho^{-1} \circ f = \alpha \circ (\rho^{-1} \otimes \text{id}) \circ \rho^{-1} \circ g \circ f = g \circ f
\]

and the diagram below commutes:
The functor $\mathcal{E}$ preserves restriction idempotents: $\mathcal{E}(f) = [\rho^{-1} \circ \rho^{-1} \circ f, I] = [\rho^{-1} \circ \mathcal{J}, I] = \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{J})$. That it is a strict monoidal functor follows from $\mathcal{E}(A \otimes B) = A \otimes B = \mathcal{E}(A) \otimes \mathcal{E}(B)$, $\mathcal{E}(I) = I$, $\mathcal{E}(f \otimes g) = \mathcal{E}(f) \otimes \mathcal{E}(g)$ (shown entirely analogously to showing $[\rho^{-1} \circ \beta, I] \otimes [\rho^{-1} \circ \phi, I] \sim [\rho^{-1} \circ (\beta \otimes \phi), I]$ for coherences $\beta$ and $\phi$ in Proposition 11, see Appendix A), and the fact that coherence isomorphisms in $C$ are precisely of the form $[\rho^{-1} \circ \beta, I] = \mathcal{E}(\beta)$ for each coherence isomorphism $\beta$ of $C$. \hfill \Box

**Proposition 13.** The tensor unit in Aux($C$) is restriction terminal.

**Proof.** First note $I$ is weakly terminal: there is a morphism from each object $A$ into $I$, namely $[\lambda^{-1}, A]$. Furthermore, this morphism is total since $[\lambda^{-1}, A] = [\rho^{-1} \circ \lambda^{-1}, I] = [\rho^{-1} \circ \text{id}, I] = [\rho^{-1}, I] = \text{id}$. Because any total morphism $[f, E] : A \to I$ satisfies $[f, E] \sim [\lambda^{-1}, A]$. \hfill \Box

We will simply write $! : A \to I$ satisfies $[f, E] \sim [\lambda^{-1}, A]$ from now on.

**Remark 14.** An important property of restriction affine monoidal categories is that they have total maps $\pi_1 : A \otimes B \to A$ and $\pi_2 : A \otimes B \to B$. These can be defined as $A \otimes B \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes !} A \otimes I \xrightarrow{\pi_1} A$ and symmetrically, and are total since $\rho \circ (\text{id} \otimes !) = (\text{id} \otimes !) = \text{id} \otimes ! = \text{id} \otimes \text{id} = \text{id}$, and similarly for the second projection.

These total projections are crucial in showing the following factorisation of morphisms in Aux($C$), based on Hermida and Tennent’s expansion-raw morphism factorisation [8 Lemma 2.8].

**Lemma 15.** Every morphism $[f, E] : A \to B$ of Aux($C$) factors as $\pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E}(f)$. This factorisation is unique in the sense that if $[f, E] \sim \pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E}(f')$ for any $f'$, then $[f, E] \sim [f', E']$.

**Proof.** Let $[f, E] : A \to B$ be a morphism of Aux($C$). First, $\pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E}(f) = \mathcal{E}(f) = \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{J}) = [\rho^{-1} \circ \mathcal{J}, I] = [f, E]$. That $[f, E] \sim \pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E}(f)$ then follows by commutativity of the diagram below.

Now suppose $[f, E] \sim \pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E}(f')$ for some $f' : A \to B \otimes E'$ in $C$. Similarly as before, $[f', E'] \sim \pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E}(f')$, so it simply follows by transitivity that $[f, E] \sim \pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E}(f') \sim [f', E']$. \hfill \Box

We have finally arrived at the main theorem of this section.
**Theorem 16.** Aux(C) is the restriction affine completion of a restriction symmetric monoidal category C: given any other restriction affine symmetric monoidal category D and strong monoidal restriction functor F: C → D, there is a unique functor \( \hat{F} : \text{Aux}(C) \rightarrow D \) with \( F = \hat{F} \circ \mathcal{E} \).

**Proof.** Define \( \hat{F} : \text{Aux}(C) \rightarrow D \) by \( \hat{F}(A) = F(A) \) on objects, on a morphism \([f, E] : A \rightarrow B\) by:

\[
\hat{F}([f, E]) = \hat{F}([\rho^{-1} \circ f, I]) = \pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E} \circ F(\rho^{-1} \circ f) = \pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E} \circ F = F(f)
\]

where \( F(B \otimes E) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{E}} F(B) \otimes F(E) \) is the monoidal strength. This makes the diagram commute since \( \hat{F}(\mathcal{E}(A)) = \hat{F}(A) = F(A) \) on objects, and on morphisms

\[
\hat{F}(\mathcal{E}(f)) = \hat{F}([\rho^{-1} \circ f, I]) = \pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E} \circ F(\rho^{-1} \circ f) = \pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E} \circ F(\rho^{-1}) \circ F = F(f)
\]

because

\[
\pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E} \circ F(\rho^{-1}) = \rho \circ (\text{id} \otimes !) \circ \mathcal{E} \circ F(\rho^{-1}) = \rho \circ \rho^{-1} = \text{id}
\]

by definition of \( \pi_1 \) and right unitality of the monoidal strength. The functor \( \hat{F} \) is strong monoidal because \( F \) is, since \( \hat{F}(A \otimes B) = F(A \otimes B) \simeq F(A) \otimes F(B) \) and since all coherence isomorphisms Aux(C) are of the form \( \mathcal{E}(\hat{\beta}) \) for a coherence isomorphism \( \hat{\beta} \) of C, so that \( \hat{F}(\mathcal{E}(\hat{\beta})) = F(\mathcal{E}(\hat{\beta})) = \mathcal{E}(\hat{\beta}) \). Also, \( \hat{F} \) is a restriction functor since \( F \) is: \( \hat{F}([f, E]) = \pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E} \circ F = \mathcal{F}(f) = F(\mathcal{T}) = \hat{F}([\rho^{-1} \circ \mathcal{T}, I]) = \hat{F}([f, E]) \).

To see that \( \hat{F} \) is unique, suppose \( G : \text{Aux}(C) \rightarrow D \) is a strong monoidal restriction functor making the triangle commute. First, \( \hat{F} \) and \( G \) agree on objects as \( G(A) = \hat{F}(\mathcal{E}(A)) = \hat{F}(A) \). If \([f, E] : A \rightarrow B\) is a morphism of Aux(C), then Lemma[15] guarantees \([f, E] \simeq \pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E}(f)\), so:

\[
G([f, E]) = G(\pi_1 \circ \mathcal{E}(f)) = G(\pi_1) \circ G(\mathcal{E}(f)) = \pi_1 \circ F(f) = \hat{F}([f, E])
\]

\( \square \)

4 Extensionality

Functional extensionality means that two functions are equal if they return the same output on every input. This may not be the case in intensional type theories. This section concerns the second phase of our completion: the Ext-construction. It quotients a given category by an equivalence relation related to well-pointedness to make it extensional, which we will show has a universal property. Combining this with the Aux-construction of Section[3] the main results of this section will show that Ext(Aux(Isometry)) \( \simeq \) CPTP and Ext(Aux(Plnj)) \( \simeq \) Pf.

Say that a (restriction) category is pointed if it has a (restriction) terminal object, and that it is (restriction) well-pointed if additionally \( f = g \) as soon as \( f \circ a = g \circ a \) for all \( a : 1 \rightarrow A \). Both Pf and CPTP are restriction well-pointed.

**Definition 17.** In a pointed restriction category, define a relation \( \approx \) on parallel morphisms \( f, g : A \rightarrow B \) by setting \( f \approx g \) if and only if \( f \circ a = g \circ a \) for all \( a : 1 \rightarrow A \). Write Ext(C) for \( C/\approx \).

**Lemma 18.** The relation \( \cdot \approx \cdot \) is a congruence, and so Ext(C) is a well-defined category.
There is a monoidal equivalence quickly established thanks to Huot and Staton. This section instantiates the theory of the previous ones for our main examples. The quantum case is completed restriction affine monoidal categories to restriction well-pointed monoidal categories.

Proof. Suppose that \( f, f' : A \to B \) and \( g, g' : B \to C \) satisfy \( f \approx f' \) and \( g \approx g' \). Let \( a : 1 \to A \). Then \( f \circ a = f' \circ a \), and hence \( g \circ f \circ a = g' \circ f' \circ a \). So \( g \circ f \approx g' \circ f' \).

The congruence \( \approx \) also respects restriction structure: if \( f, f' : A \to B \) satisfy \( f \approx f' \), then also \( f \approx f' \), by Definition [iv], for if \( a : 1 \to A \), then \( f \circ a = a \circ f \circ a = a \circ f' \circ a = f' \circ a \). Therefore \( \text{Ext}(C) \) is a well-defined restriction category, and the quotient functor \( C \to \text{Ext}(C) \) sending a morphism to its equivalence class is a restriction functor.

However, it is not clear whether \( \approx \) is a monoidal congruence when the category is affine monoidal. If \( f \approx f' : A \to C \) and \( g \approx g' : B \to D \), then \( (f \otimes g) \circ x = (f' \otimes g') \circ x \) for all \( x : 1 \to A \otimes B \) of the form \( x = (a \otimes b) \circ \lambda_i^{-1} \) for \( a : 1 \to A \) and \( b : 1 \to B \). But what about entangled states \( x : 1 \to A \otimes B ? \) Luckily, in the examples below this holds, so \( \text{Ext}(C) \) is again a well-defined monoidal category, and \( C \to \text{Ext}(C) \) a strict monoidal functor.

By construction \( \text{Ext}(C) \) is well-pointed, and the Ext-construction is universal in accomplishing this.

Definition 19. Call a functor \( F : C \to D \) between pointed restriction categories full on points if each \( p : 1 \to F(A) \) in \( D \) is of the form \( F(a) \) for some \( a : 1 \to A \) in \( C \).

Theorem 20. \( \text{Ext}(C) \) is the well-pointed completion of the pointed restriction category \( C \): given a well-pointed restriction category \( D \) and restriction functor \( F : C \to D \) that is full on points, there is a unique restriction functor \( \hat{F} : \text{Ext}(C) \to D \) that is full on points and makes the triangle commute:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
C & \xrightarrow{F} & \text{Ext}(C) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \hat{F} \\
D & & \\
\end{array}
\]

Proof. Set \( \hat{F}(A) = F(A) \) on objects and \( \hat{F}([f]) = F(f) \) on morphisms. To see that this is well-defined, suppose \( f \approx g \), that is \( f \circ a = g \circ a \) for all \( a : 1 \to A \) in \( C \). Then also \( F(f) \circ p = F(g) \circ p \) for all \( p : 1 \to F(A) \) in \( D \) because \( F \) is full on points, and so \( F(f) = F(g) \) since \( D \) is well-pointed.

Moreover, \( \hat{F} \) is a restriction functor since \( \hat{F}([f]) = F(f) = F(\overline{f}) = \hat{F}([\overline{f}]) \), and it is full on points since \( F \) is. Now \( \hat{F} \circ Q = F \) directly. It remains to show that \( \hat{F} \) is the unique such functor. Suppose \( G \circ Q = F \) for a functor \( G : \text{Ext}(C) \to D \) that is full on points. But then \( G(A) = F(A) \), and since \( Q(f) = [f] \), we must also have \( G([f]) = F(f) = \hat{F}([f]) \).

When the functor \( C \to \text{Ext}(C) \) is strict monoidal, as is the case for both Isometry and Plnj, it completes restriction affine monoidal categories to restriction well-pointed monoidal categories.

5 Quantum channels and classical functions as completions

This section instantiates the theory of the previous ones for our main examples. The quantum case is quickly established thanks to Huot and Staton.

Proposition 21. There is a monoidal equivalence \( \text{Ext} (\text{Aux} (\text{Isometry})) \simeq \text{CPTP} \).

Proof. Since Isometry is a trivial restriction category, \( \text{CPTP} \simeq L (\text{Isometry}) \simeq \text{Aux} (\text{Isometry}) \) by [11 Corollary 7]. Also, \( \text{CPTP} \) is already well-pointed, so \( \text{Ext} (\text{CPTP}) \simeq \text{CPTP} \). It is easy to verify that the equivalence is monoidal.
Above, the Ext-phase was trivial, but this is not always the case. Consider the (intensional) category \( \text{Aux}([\text{PInj}]) \): objects are sets, and morphisms \( A \to B \) are partial injective functions \( A \to B \times E \) that are identified \( f \sim f' \) when there is a partial injective function \( h: E \to E' \) such that \( f(x) = (y, e) \) implies \( f'(x) = (y, h(e)) \) for all \( x \in A \). The environment \( E \) is often thought of as the garbage produced by the function because, being injective, it cannot actually discard any information. However, the Aux-construction allows it to place instead the garbage off to the side, demarcating it from the desired output. In reversible computation, such garbage is unavoidable (since not all computable functions, and even not all interesting such, happen to be injective), so it is important that it is managed properly.

Garbage is ideally extensional: we should be able to compare functions by looking only at their input-output behavior, even when some of it is designated as garbage. But unless you are careful, this might not be the case. Consider the successor function \( n \mapsto n + 1 \) on natural numbers. We can consider many different ways to vary the environment: for example \( f_1: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \times \{\ast\} \) given by \( n \mapsto (n + 1, \ast) \); but also \( f_2: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \) given by \( n \mapsto (n + 1, n) \). These two functions effect the exact same behaviour when disregarding garbage. But they are in different equivalence classes as morphisms \( \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \) in \( \text{Aux}([\text{PInj}]) \) because their garbage is so different.

How to mend this? First notice that points \( 1 \to A \) in \( \text{Aux}([\text{PInj}]) \) correspond to those in \( \text{Pfn} \) (see Lemma \ref{lem:points-in-aux} below). Even though \( f_1 \) and \( f_2 \) are different in \( \text{Aux}([\text{PInj}]) \), they do agree on each \( n: 1 \to \mathbb{N} \): build the partial function \( h_n: \mathbb{N} \to 1 \) defined only on \( n \) by \( h_n(n) = \ast \); this mediates because \( f_1(n) = (n + 1, \ast) = (n + 1, h_n(n)) \) and \( f_2(n) = (n + 1, n) \). So, garbage is intensional in \( \text{Aux}([\text{PInj}]) \) because the category is not well-pointed. Because \( \text{Pfn} \) is well-pointed, it is necessary to identify morphisms when they agree on all points, which is exactly what the Ext-construction does.

Why was this not an issue in the quantum case? There, extensionality arises from minimal Stinespring dilations. Minimality gives a unique minimal (up to unitary) auxiliary system we can adjoin to realise any CPTP-map as conjugation by an isometry, thus taking away the choice of environment \( E \) that sparked the trouble in \( \text{Aux}([\text{PInj}]) \).

**Lemma 22.** The global points \( 1 \to A \) in \( \text{Aux}([\text{PInj}]) \) coincide with those in \( \text{Pfn} \).

**Proof.** Points in \( \text{Aux}([\text{PInj}]) \) are partial injective functions \( x: 1 \to A \times E \) modulo identification. However, any such point can always be identified with one of the form \( y: 1 \to A \times 1 \) since if \( x(\ast) = (a, e) \) then the point \( \ast \mapsto e \) mediates \( 1 \to E \) to witness \( (x, E) \sim (y, 1) \). If \( E \) is the empty set, the nowhere defined function trivially mediates. \( \square \)

It follows from the previous Lemma that the functor \( \text{Aux}([\text{PInj}]) \to \text{Ext}(\text{Aux}([\text{PInj}])) \) is full on points. So is \( \text{Aux}([\text{Isometry}]) \to \text{Ext}(\text{Aux}([\text{Isometry}])) \), but in a trivial way: because \( \text{Aux}([\text{Isometry}]) \simeq \text{CPTP} \) by \cite{11}, and \( \text{CPTP} \) is already well-pointed, this functor is an isomorphism of categories.

**Proposition 23.** There is a monoidal equivalence \( \text{Ext}(\text{Aux}([\text{PInj}])) \simeq \text{Pfn} \).

**Proof.** Define \( F: \text{Pfn} \to \text{Ext}(\text{Aux}([\text{PInj}])) \) by \( F(A) = A \) on objects, and on morphisms \( f: A \to B \) by \( F(f) = [b_f, A] \), where \( b_f \) is the Bennett embedding of \( f \) given by \( b_f(x) = (f(x), x) \).

We argue first that this is functorial: \( F(\text{id}) = b_{\text{id}}(x) = (x, x) \), but the chosen identity is (the equivalence class of) \( \rho^{-1}(x) = (x, \ast) \). However, on each point \( p \), simply choose \( p \) itself to mediate to see \( b_{\text{id}} \approx \rho^{-1} \). Likewise, whereas \( F(g \circ f) = b_{g \circ f}(x) = (g(f(x)), x) \) and \( F(g) \circ F(f) = b'_f(x) = (g(f(x)), (f(x), x)) \), for each point \( x \), mediate that point by \( h_x: A \to B \times A \) given by:

\[
h_x(a) = \begin{cases} (f(x), x) & \text{if } a = x \\ \text{undefined} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
\]
Thus $F(g \circ f) \approx F(g) \circ F(f)$. Since $\text{Pfn}$ and $\text{Ext}(\text{Aux}(\text{PInj}))$ have the same objects, it remains only to be seen that $F$ is full and faithful.

For fullness, let a partial injective $f: A \to B \times E$ represent a morphism in $\text{Ext}(\text{Aux}(\text{PInj}))$. Since $[f, E]$ and $[f', E']$ are identified if and only if for all $x \in A$ there exists a partial injective function $h_x: E \to E'$ such that $f(x) = (y, e)$ implies $f'(x) = (y, h_x(e))$, either way $\pi_1 \circ f = \pi_1 \circ f'$ as partial functions. Consider now the Bennett embedding of $\pi_1 \circ f$, that is, the partial injective function $b_{\pi_1 \circ f}: A \to B \times A$ given by $x \mapsto (\pi_1(f(x)), x)$, and compare it to $f: A \to B \times E$. For any $x \in A$, it follows that if $f(x) = (y, e)$ then $b_{\pi_1 \circ f}(x) = (\pi_1(f(x)), x) = (\pi_1(y, e), x) = (y, x)$, so the two agree in the first component. Define a one-point mediator $h_x: A \to E$ for $x$ given by:

$$h_x(a) = \begin{cases} e & \text{if } a = x \\ \text{undefined} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Thus $b_{\pi_1 \circ f} \approx f$ and $F$ is full.

Towards faithfulness, suppose $F(f) \approx F(g)$, so $b_f \approx b_g$ for some $f, g: A \to B$. Thus $b_f(x) = (f(x), x)$ for some partial function $f$, and similarly $b_g(x) = (g(x), x)$. That $b_f \approx b_g$ means that for each $a \in A$ there exists $h_a: A \to A$ (necessarily the identity) such that $b_f(a) = (y, a)$ implies $b_g(a) = (y, h_a(a)) = (y, a)$. But since $y = f(a)$ by definition of $b_f$, and since the above holds for all $a \in A$, it thus follows that $f(x) = g(x)$ for all $x \in A$, which in turn implies $f = g$ in $\text{Pfn}$ by extensionality. So $F$ is faithful.

It is easy to verify that $F$ is monoidal.

**Corollary 24.** $\text{CPTP}$ is the restriction monoidal completion of $\text{Isometry}$ quotiented by well-pointedness, and $\text{Pfn}$ is the restriction monoidal completion of $\text{PInj}$ quotiented by well-pointedness.

**Proof.** Combine Theorems 16 and 20 with Propositions 21 and 23.

## 6 Cofree reversible foundations

While $\text{CPTP}$ and $\text{Pfn}$ both arise as completions of ‘reversible’ categories $\text{Isometry}$ and $\text{PInj}$, it is difficult to pinpoint the features which make them reversible. For example, $\text{PInj}$ is an inverse category, but $\text{Isometry}$ is not even a dagger category. Following [11], we peel off another layer to reveal the inverse category underneath using the Inp-construction, the dual to Aux. Thus we can show that both $\text{CPTP}$ and $\text{Pfn}$ arise via the same universal constructions on the inverse categories $\text{Unitary}$ and $\text{PInj}$. We go on to show that this amalgamation of constructions is itself invertible by universal means, allowing us to reconstruct $\text{PInj}$ and $\text{Unitary}$ from $\text{Pfn}$ and $\text{CPTP}$ as their cofree (monoidal) inverse categories.

**Definition 25.** For a symmetric monoidal inverse category $C$, define $\text{Inp}(C) = \text{Aux}(C^{\text{op}})^{\text{op}}$.

**Proposition 26.** When $C$ is a symmetric monoidal inverse category, $\text{Inp}(C)$ is a coaffine symmetric monoidal restriction category.

**Proof.** Inverse categories are self-dual, $C \simeq C^{\text{op}}$, so $\text{Inp}(C) = \text{Aux}(C^{\text{op}})^{\text{op}} \simeq \text{Aux}(C)^{\text{op}}$. Hence $\text{Aux}(C)$ is an affine symmetric monoidal restriction category, and $\text{Inp}(C)$ is a coaffine symmetric monoidal corestriction category. It is also a symmetric monoidal restriction category under $[f, E]^{\text{op}} = [\rho^{-1} \circ f^T, f]$, because in an inverse category $C$ morphisms $f$ have (monoidal) corestriction $f^T$.

The Aux-construction (and, by duality, the Inp-construction) is conservative: if a monoidal category is already affine, the construction does nothing (up to isomorphism).
**Theorem 29.** If $C$ is a restriction affine symmetric monoidal category, there is a monoidal equivalence $\text{Aux}(C) \simeq C$.

**Proof.** It suffices to show that each morphism is equivalent to one of the form $\mathcal{E}(f')$. Let $[f, E] : A \to B$ be a morphism of $\text{Aux}(C)$. Then $\mathcal{E}(\pi_1 \circ f) = \mathcal{E}(\pi_1 \circ f) = \mathcal{E}(f) = [\rho^{-1} \circ f, I] = [f, E]$ and:

So $\mathcal{E}(\pi_1 \circ f) \sim [f, E]$.

We can now show that $\text{Pfn}$ and $\text{CPTP}$ arise as completions of the inverse categories $\text{Plnj}$ and $\text{Unitary}$. The quantum case relies on Huot and Staton’s characterisation of $\text{Isometry}$ as a completion of $\text{Unitary}$ [12] making initial the unit of the direct sum. We consider $\text{Plnj}$ and $\text{Unitary}$ as inverse rig categories, using the Inp-construction to make the unit of the direct sum initial, and then the Aux-construction to make the tensor unit terminal. In this bimonoidal setting, we will use subscripts to clarify which monoidal structure a construction acts on.

**Theorem 28.** There are equivalences $\text{Ext}(\text{Aux}_{\text{inv}}(\text{Inp}_{\text{r}}(\text{Plnj}))) \simeq \text{Pfn}$ and $\text{Ext}(\text{Aux}_{\text{inv}}(\text{Inp}_{\text{r}}(\text{Unitary}))) \simeq \text{CPTP}$ of categories.

**Proof.** First, that $\text{Ext}(\text{Aux}_{\text{inv}}(\text{Inp}_{\text{r}}(\text{Unitary}))) \simeq \text{Ext}(\text{L}_{\text{r}}(\text{R}_{\text{r}}(\text{Unitary}))) \simeq \text{CPTP}$ follows from the fact that $\text{R}_{\text{r}}(\text{Unitary}) \simeq \text{Isometry}$ by [12, III.3] and Proposition 21. Now $\text{Ext}(\text{Aux}_{\text{inv}}(\text{Inp}_{\text{r}}(\text{Plnj}))) \simeq \text{Pfn}$ follows from the unit 0 of the disjoint sum $\oplus$ in $\text{Plnj}$ already being (restriction) initial, so $\text{Inp}_{\text{r}}(\text{Plnj}) \simeq \text{Plnj}$ by dualising Proposition 27 and finally $\text{Ext}(\text{Aux}_{\text{inv}}(\text{Inp}_{\text{r}}(\text{Plnj}))) \simeq \text{Ext}(\text{Aux}_{\text{inv}}(\text{Plnj})) \simeq \text{Pfn}$. 

Finally, we show that, at least in these two cases, this construction can be undone by considering their cofree inverse categories (see Proposition 4). Write $\text{Unitary}_r$ for the category of finite-dimensional Hilbert spaces and equivalence classes of unitary linear maps up to global phase: unitaries $f, g : H \to K$ are identified when $f = z \cdot g$ for some $z \in U(1)$ [9, 2.1.4].

**Theorem 29.** There are monoidal equivalences $\text{Inv}(\text{Pfn}) \simeq \text{Plnj}$ and $\text{Inv}(\text{CPTP}) \simeq \text{Unitary}_p$.

**Proof.** That $\text{Inv}(\text{Pfn}) \simeq \text{Plnj}$ is well known; see for example [3]. With $\text{CPTP}$ a trivial restriction category, we show that $\text{Unitary}_p$ is its cofree groupoid. It suffices to show that isomorphisms in $\text{CPTP}$ just conjugate with a unitary.

Let $\Lambda : \mathcal{B}(H) \to \mathcal{B}(K)$ be an isomorphism in $\text{CPTP}$, that is, a bijective CPTP map with a CPTP inverse. Notice first that since $\Lambda$ is bijective and $H$ and $K$ finite-dimensional, they must in fact have equal dimension. Second, notice that $\Lambda$ must then preserve pure states, since if $\Lambda(|\phi\rangle\langle\phi|)$ is some mixed state $\sum_i \alpha_i \rho_i$ then $|\phi\rangle\langle\phi| = \Lambda^{-1}(|\phi\rangle\langle\phi|) = \Lambda^{-1}(\sum_i \alpha_i \rho_i) = \sum_i \alpha_i \Lambda^{-1}(\rho_i)$, contradicting purity of $|\phi\rangle\langle\phi|$. But since $\text{id} \otimes \Lambda$ is then also an isomorphism, it too preserves pure states, and so the Choi-state $(\text{id} \otimes \Lambda)(|\Phi\rangle\langle\Phi|)$ for $\Lambda$ is pure, too. Recall that a Stinespring dilation of a CPTP map can be obtained
by purifying its Choi-state, sending the result back through the Choi-Jamiolkowski isomorphism, and tracing out the auxiliary system [16]. Since the Choi-state \((\id \otimes \Lambda)\rho\rangle\langle \rho\) is already pure, \(\Lambda\) must then already be conjugation by some isometry \(V\), which must in fact be unitary by surjectivity of \(\Lambda\).

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A Deferred proofs

**Proposition** $\text{AUX}(C)$ is a category.

**Proof.** We need to show that composition is associative, unital, and well-defined. Let $[f, E] : A \to B$, $[g, E'] : B \to C$, and $[h, E''] : C \to D$ be morphisms of $\text{AUX}(C)$. That $[h, E''] \circ ([g, E'] \circ [f, E])$ is equivalent to $([h, E''] \circ [g, E']) \circ [f, E]$ follows from

$$
\alpha \circ (h \otimes \text{id}) \circ \alpha \circ g \otimes \text{id} \circ f = \alpha \circ \alpha \circ ((h \otimes \text{id}) \otimes \text{id}) \circ g \otimes \text{id} \circ f = ((h \otimes \text{id}) \otimes \text{id}) \circ g \otimes \text{id} \circ f = \alpha \circ (\alpha \otimes \text{id}) \circ ((h \otimes \text{id}) \otimes \text{id}) \circ g \otimes \text{id} \circ f
$$

in $C$ and commutativity of the following diagram in $C$:

That $\text{id} \circ [f, E] \sim [f, E]$ follows from $\alpha \circ (\rho^{-1} \otimes \text{id}) \circ f = \overline{f}$ and commutativity in $C$ of the diagram:

\[\begin{array}{c}
B \otimes E \xrightarrow{g \otimes \text{id}} (C \otimes E') \otimes E \xrightarrow{\alpha} C \otimes (E' \otimes E) \xrightarrow{h \otimes \text{id}} (D \otimes E'') \otimes (E' \otimes E) \\
B \otimes E \xrightarrow{g \otimes \text{id}} (C \otimes E') \otimes E \xrightarrow{(h \otimes \text{id}) \otimes \text{id}} ((D \otimes E'') \otimes E' \otimes E) \xrightarrow{\alpha \otimes \text{id}} (D \otimes (E' \otimes E')) \otimes E
\end{array}\]
Similarly \([f, E] \circ \text{id} \sim [f, E]\). Finally, we show that composition is well-defined. Suppose \([f, E]: A \to B\) is equivalent to \([f', G]: A \to B\) by a zigzag of mediators \(E \xrightarrow{h_1} E_1 \xleftarrow{h_2} E_2 \xrightarrow{h_3} \ldots \xleftarrow{h_n} G\). Given \([g, E'] : B \to C\) and intermediates \(f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_{n-1}\), to show \([g, E'] \circ [f, E] \sim [g, E'] \circ [f', G]\) we see first that the diagram below commutes in \(C\):

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
B \otimes E & \xleftarrow{g \otimes \text{id}} & B \otimes E_1 & \xleftarrow{g \otimes \text{id}} & B \otimes E_2 & \xleftarrow{g \otimes \text{id}} & \ldots & \xleftarrow{g \otimes \text{id}} & B \otimes G \\
& f \downarrow & f_1 \downarrow & f_2 \downarrow & \ldots & \downarrow f \downarrow & \downarrow f' \\
(C \otimes E') \otimes E & \xleftarrow{\alpha \otimes \text{id}} & (C \otimes E') \otimes E_1 & \xleftarrow{\alpha \otimes \text{id}} & (C \otimes E') \otimes E_2 & \xleftarrow{\alpha \otimes \text{id}} & \ldots & \xleftarrow{\alpha \otimes \text{id}} & (C \otimes E') \otimes G \\
& \xdownarrow \alpha & \xdownarrow \alpha & \xdownarrow \alpha & \ldots & \xdownarrow \alpha & \ldownarrow \alpha \\
C \otimes (E' \otimes E) & \xleftarrow{\alpha \otimes \text{id}} & C \otimes (E' \otimes E_1) & \xleftarrow{\alpha \otimes \text{id}} & C \otimes (E' \otimes E_2) & \xleftarrow{\alpha \otimes \text{id}} & \ldots & \xleftarrow{\alpha \otimes \text{id}} & C \otimes (E' \otimes G)
\end{array}
\]

There is no room in the diagram above for ghost arrows, but each downward path \(\alpha \circ (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f_i\) corresponds to \([g, E'] \circ [f_i, E_i]\), and likewise for \([f, E]\) and \([f', G]\) instead of \(f_i\). We have left to show that \(\alpha \circ (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f = \alpha \circ (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f'\). Now \(\text{id} \otimes h_1 \circ f = f \circ (\text{id} \otimes h_1) \circ f = f \circ f = f \circ f = f\), so:

\[
\alpha \circ (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f = (g \circ h_1) \circ f = (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ (\text{id} \otimes h_1) \circ f
\]

By induction eventually \(\alpha \circ (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f = \alpha \circ (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f'\).

Pre-composition is similarly well-defined, though the condition on restriction idempotents follows more readily by \((g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f = (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f = (g' \otimes \text{id}) \circ f = (g' \otimes \text{id}) \circ f = \alpha \circ (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f_i\).

\[\square\]

**Proposition** 10. \(\text{Aux}(C)\) inherits a restriction structure from \(C\) with \([f, E] = [\rho^{-1} \circ f, I]\).

**Proof.** We establish the axioms of Definition 1 in order. That \([f, E] \circ [f, E] = [f, E]\) for each \([f, E]: A \to B\) in \(\text{Aux}(C)\) follows by commutativity of the following diagram in \(C\):

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
B \otimes E & \xrightarrow{\rho^{-1}} & B \otimes E \\
\downarrow f & & \downarrow f \\
A & \xrightarrow{\rho} & (B \otimes E) \otimes I & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & B \otimes (E \otimes I) \\
\downarrow \rho \circ \text{id} & & \downarrow \rho & \downarrow \text{id} \circ \rho \\
B \otimes E & = & B \otimes E \\
\end{array}
\]

\(\square\)
To see that $[f, E] \circ [g, E'] = [g, E'] \circ [f, E]$ for $[f, E] : A \rightarrow B$ and $[g, E'] : A \rightarrow C$ in Aux(C):

![Diagram](image)

To show $[g, E'] \circ [f, E] = [g, E'] \circ [f, E]$ for all $[f, E] : A \rightarrow B$ and $[g, E'] : A \rightarrow C$ of Aux(C), first compute:

$[g, E'] \circ [f, E] = [g, E'] \circ (\rho^{-1} \circ \overline{f}, I) = (\alpha \circ (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ \rho^{-1} \circ \overline{f}, I) = (\alpha \circ \rho^{-1} \circ g \circ \overline{f}, I) = (\rho^{-1} \circ \alpha \circ \rho^{-1} \circ g \circ \overline{f}, I) = (\rho^{-1} \circ g \circ \overline{f}, I)$

Now the diagram below commutes in C because $g \circ f = \overline{g} \circ \overline{f}$:

![Diagram](image)

Finally, for $[f, E] : A \rightarrow B$ and $[g, E'] : B \rightarrow C$ we have $[g, E'] \circ [f, E] = [f, E] \circ [g, E'] \circ [f, E]$ because $[g, E'] \circ [f, E] = [\alpha \circ (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f, I] = [(g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f, I] = [(g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f, I]$ and the diagram below commutes:

![Diagram](image)
Here \((g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f = g \otimes \text{id} \circ f = f \circ (g \otimes \text{id}) \circ f\) by the corresponding axiom in \(C\). \(\square\)

**Proposition 11.** If \(C\) is a restriction symmetric monoidal category, then so is \(\text{Aux}(C)\):

- the tensor unit and tensor product of objects are as in \(C\);
- the tensor product of \([f, E] : A \to B\) and \([f', E'] : A' \to B'\) is \([\vartheta \circ (f \otimes f'), E \otimes E'] : A \otimes A' \to B \otimes B'\); where \(\vartheta\) is the canonical isomorphism \((B \otimes E) \otimes (B' \otimes E') \simeq (B \otimes B') \otimes (E \otimes E')\) in \(C\).

**Proof.** Coherence isomorphisms \(\rho : A \to B\) of \(C\) lift to \(\text{Aux}(C)\) as \([\rho^{-1} \circ \beta, I] : A \to B\). For example, the symmetry \(\gamma : A \otimes B \to B \otimes A\) in \(C\) becomes \([\rho^{-1} \circ \gamma, I] : A \otimes B \to B \otimes A\) in \(\text{Aux}(C)\). Composing coherence isomorphisms \([\rho^{-1} \circ \beta, I] : A \to B\) and \([\rho^{-1} \circ \phi, I] : B \to C\) in \(\text{Aux}(C)\) is equivalent to first composing them in \(C\) and then lifting to \(\text{Aux}(C)\):

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
A & \xrightarrow{\phi} & C \\
| & \downarrow{\rho^{-1}} & \\
B & \xrightarrow{\beta} & C \\
\end{array}
\]

Similarly, tensoring coherences \(\beta\) and \(\phi\) in \(C\) and then lifting is equivalent to first lifting them individually and then tensoring them in \(\text{Aux}(C)\) by

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
A \otimes A' & \xrightarrow{\phi \otimes \phi} & B \otimes B' \\
| & \downarrow{\rho^{-1}} & \\
(\rho^{-1} \otimes \rho^{-1}) & \xrightarrow{\rho^{-1} \otimes \rho^{-1}} & (B \otimes I) \otimes (B' \otimes I) \\
\end{array}
\]

In this way, coherence of the monoidal structure in \(\text{Aux}(C)\) follows from that of \(C\). It remains to show is that the tensor product of morphisms is well-defined, and that it respects restrictions.

Suppose that \([f, E] \sim [g, G]\) via mediators \(E \xrightarrow{h_1} E_1 \xleftarrow{h_2} \cdots \xleftarrow{h_n} E\) and intermediates \(f_1, \ldots, f_{n-1}\) with \(\overline{f} = f_1 = \cdots = f_{n-1} = \overline{g}\). Then

\[
\overline{\vartheta \circ (f \otimes f')} = f \otimes f' = \overline{f} \otimes \overline{f'} = \overline{g} \otimes \overline{f'} = \vartheta \circ (g \otimes f')
\]

since \(\vartheta\) is an isomorphism (and so total). Also \([f \otimes f', E \otimes E'] \sim [g \otimes f', G \otimes E']\):

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
A \otimes A' & \xrightarrow{f \otimes f'} & (B \otimes E) \otimes (B' \otimes E') \\
| & \downarrow{\alpha} & \\
(B \otimes B') \otimes (E \otimes E') & \xrightarrow{\vartheta} & (B \otimes B') \otimes (E \otimes E')
\end{array}
\]
Similarly \([f' \otimes f', E' \otimes E'] \sim [f' \otimes g, E' \otimes G]\). Finally,
\[
[f, E] \otimes [f', E'] = [\rho^{-1} \circ \vartheta \circ (f \otimes f'), I] = [\rho^{-1} \circ f \otimes f', I] = [\rho^{-1} \circ (f \otimes f'), I]
\]
and the diagram below commutes:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
A \otimes A' & \xrightarrow{\rho^{-1} \otimes \rho^{-1}} & (A \otimes I) \otimes (A' \otimes I) \\
& & \Downarrow_{\vartheta} \\
\mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{F} & & (A \otimes A') \otimes (I \otimes I)
\end{array}
\]

This shows that \([f, E] \otimes [f', E'] = [f, E] \otimes [f', E']\). \qed