# The powerset monad on quantale-valued sets

Lili Shen<sup>a</sup>, Xiaojuan Zhao<sup>b,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>School of Mathematics, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610064, China <sup>b</sup>Department of Mathematics, Southwest Jiaotong University, Chengdu 611756, China

#### **Abstract**

For a small involutive quantaloid Q, it is shown that the category of separated complete Q-categories and left adjoint Q-functors is strictly monadic over the category of symmetric Q-categories. In particular, the (covariant) powerset monad on the category of quantale-valued sets is precisely formulated.

Keywords: Category Theory, Quantale, Quantaloid, Quantale-valued set, Symmetric Q-category, Complete

Q-category, Powerset monad

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## 1. Introduction

The (covariant) powerset monad

$$\mathbb{P} = (\mathsf{P}, \{-\}, \cup) \tag{1.i}$$

on the category **Set** is well known (see, e.g., [4, Example II.3.1.1] or [18, Example 5.1.5]). Explicitly:

• the functor P: Set  $\longrightarrow$  Set sends each (crisp) set X to its powerset PX, and each map  $f: X \longrightarrow Y$  to

$$f^{\rightarrow} : \mathsf{P}X \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}Y, \quad A \mapsto \{fx \mid x \in A\};$$
 (1.ii)

• the unit is given by

$$\{-\}: X \longrightarrow PX, \quad x \mapsto \{x\};$$
 (1.iii)

• the multiplication is given by

$$\cup \colon \mathsf{PP}X \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}X, \quad \mathcal{A} \mapsto \bigcup \mathcal{A}. \tag{1.iv}$$

The Eilenberg-Moore category of this monad is exactly the category **Sup** of complete lattices and join-preserving maps. In other words, **Sup** is *strictly monadic* over **Set**. More precisely:

- since (1.ii) is always a join-preserving map between complete lattices, there is a functor 𝔻: Set→Sup obtained
  by replacing the codomain of P with Sup;
- $\mathfrak{P}$  is left adjoint to the forgetful functor  $\mathfrak{U}: \mathbf{Sup} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ , and the induced monad on  $\mathbf{Set}$  is (1.i);
- the right adjoint functor  $\mathfrak{U}: \mathbf{Sup} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  is strictly monadic.

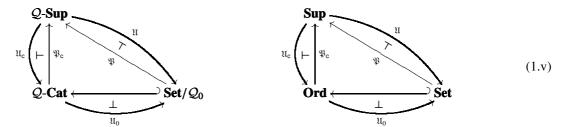
Now, let Q be a small *involutive quantaloid* [20]. From the viewpoint of category theory, it is natural to consider the Q-enriched version of the monad (1.i). The following results are already known:

Email addresses: shenlili@scu.edu.cn (Lili Shen), xjzhao@swjtu.edu.cn (Xiaojuan Zhao)

<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author.

- The category Q-Sup of separated complete Q-categories and left adjoint Q-functors is strictly monadic over the category Q-Cat of Q-categories and Q-functors [26].
- Q-Sup is strictly monadic over the slice category Set/ $Q_0$ , where  $Q_0$  is the set of objects of Q [17].

When Q = 2, the two-element Boolean algebra, these results reduce to the strict monadicity of **Sup** over **Ord** and **Set**, respectively, where **Ord** refers to the category of preordered sets and order-preserving maps. In other words, both the forgetful functors  $\mathfrak{U}_{\mathfrak{C}} \colon Q$ -**Sup**  $\longrightarrow Q$ -**Cat** and  $\mathfrak{U} = (Q$ -**Sup**  $\xrightarrow{\mathfrak{U}_{\mathfrak{C}}} Q$ -**Cat**  $\xrightarrow{\mathfrak{U}_{\mathfrak{C}}} \mathbf{Set}/Q_0)$  are strictly monadic.



Therefore, the classical notion of *powerset* may be extended to the Q-enriched version as follows:

- The "power" of a  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category X is given by its image under  $\mathfrak{U}_{\mathsf{c}}\mathfrak{P}_{\mathsf{c}}$  (where  $\mathfrak{P}_{\mathsf{c}} + \mathfrak{U}_{\mathsf{c}}$ ), which is precisely the  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category  $\mathsf{P}X$  of presheaves on X.
- The "power" of a Q<sub>0</sub>-typed set X (i.e., a set X equipped with a map |-|: X → Q<sub>0</sub>) is given by its image under UP (where P + U), which is precisely the underlying Q<sub>0</sub>-typed set of the presheaf Q-category of the discrete Q-category X.

Let us look again at the special case of Q = 2. Since

$$(\mathsf{P}\colon \mathbf{Set} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}) = (\mathbf{Set} \xrightarrow{\quad \mathfrak{P} \quad} \mathbf{Sup} \xrightarrow{\quad \mathfrak{U} \quad} \mathbf{Set}),$$

there are two steps to obtain the powerset of a set *X*:

- first, generate the complete lattice PX of all subsets of X (ordered by inclusion "⊆") under the functor 𝔻;
- second, forget the order " $\subseteq$ " on PX under the functor  $\mathfrak{U}$ .

As the motivation of this paper, we point out that there is another interpretation of the second step: the discrete set PX may also be regarded as the *symmetrization* of the partially ordered set  $(PX, \subseteq)$ .

However, for a general (small involutive) quantaloid Q, the symmetrization of a presheaf Q-category PX is far more complicated than the underlying  $Q_0$ -typed set of PX. It is now natural to ask what happens if the node  $\mathbf{Set}/Q_0$  in the first triangle of  $(1.\mathbf{v})$  is replaced by Q- $\mathbf{SymCat}$ , the full subcategory of Q- $\mathbf{Cat}$  consisting of symmetric Q-categories. More specifically, with  $(-)_s$ : Q- $\mathbf{Cat} \longrightarrow Q$ - $\mathbf{SymCat}$  denoting the symmetrization functor:

## Question 1.1. Is the composite functor

$$\mathfrak{U}_{s} = (\mathcal{Q}\text{-Sup} \xrightarrow{\ \mathfrak{U}_{c}\ } \mathcal{Q}\text{-Cat} \xrightarrow{\ (-)_{s}\ } \mathcal{Q}\text{-SymCat}) \tag{1.vi}$$

monadic?

$$Q-Sup$$

$$U_{c} \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad$$

This question is of crucial importance in the study of quantale-valued sets [10, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]. Let

$$Q = (Q, \&, k, \circ)$$

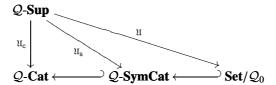
be an *involutive quantale* [16], considered as the table of truth values. Recall that a Q-set [9] is exactly a symmetric category enriched in a quantaloid  $\mathbf{D}_*(Q)$  constructed from Q (cf. Definition 4.1 and [9, Proposition 6.3]). The category

$$Q$$
-Set :=  $D_*(Q)$ -SymCat

of Q-sets is precisely the category of symmetric  $\mathbf{D}_*(Q)$ -categories. So, the following question becomes a special case of Question 1.1:

## **Question 1.2.** What is the Q-powerset of a Q-set?

The main result of this paper, Theorem 3.10, gives an affirmative answer to Question 1.1. Therefore, all the three forgetful functors in the diagram



are strictly monadic, and consequently:

• The "power" of a symmetric  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category X is given by its image under  $\mathfrak{U}_s\mathfrak{P}_s$  (where  $\mathfrak{P}_s \dashv \mathfrak{U}_s$ ), which is precisely the *symmetrization* of the presheaf  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category of X.

In particular, for an involutive quantale Q, the monad generated by the adjunction  $\mathfrak{P}_s \dashv \mathfrak{U}_s$  provides an explicit answer to Question 1.2; that is,

• The "Q-powerset" of a Q-set X is given by its image under  $\mathfrak{U}_s\mathfrak{P}_s$  (where  $\mathfrak{P}_s + \mathfrak{U}_s$ ), which is precisely the *symmetrization* of the presheaf  $\mathbf{D}_*(Q)$ -category of X.

Therefore, the Q-powerset monad on Q-Set is precisely formulated, and we elaborate the details of its components in Section 4.

# 2. Categories and symmetric categories enriched in a quantaloid

Complete lattices and join-preserving maps constitute a symmetric monoidal closed category **Sup** [11]. A *quantaloid* [20]  $\mathcal{Q}$  is a category enriched in **Sup**; that is, a category whose hom-sets are complete lattices, such that the composition of  $\mathcal{Q}$ -arrows preserves joins on both sides, i.e.,

$$v \circ (\bigvee_{i \in I} u_i) = \bigvee_{i \in I} v \circ u_i$$
 and  $(\bigvee_{i \in I} v_i) \circ u = \bigvee_{i \in I} v_i \circ u$ 

for all Q-arrows  $u, u_i: p \longrightarrow q, v, v_i: q \longrightarrow r$   $(i \in I)$ . The corresponding right adjoints induced by the compositions

$$(-\circ u)\dashv (-\swarrow u)\colon \mathcal{Q}(p,r) \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}(q,r) \quad \text{and} \quad (v\circ -)\dashv (v\searrow -)\colon \mathcal{Q}(p,r) \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}(p,q)$$

satisfy

$$v \circ u \leqslant w \iff v \leqslant w \swarrow u \iff u \leqslant v \searrow w$$

for all  $\mathcal{Q}$ -arrows  $u: p \longrightarrow q$ ,  $v: q \longrightarrow r$ ,  $w: p \longrightarrow r$ , where  $\swarrow$  and  $\searrow$  are called *left* and *right implications* in  $\mathcal{Q}$ , respectively.

A *homomorphism* of quantaloids is a functor of the underlying categories that preserves joins of morphisms. A quantaloid Q is *involutive* if it is equipped with an *involution*; that is, a homomorphism

$$(-)^{\circ} : \mathcal{Q}^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}$$
 (2.i)

of quantaloids with

$$q^{\circ} = q$$
 and  $u^{\circ \circ} = u$ 

for all  $q \in \mathcal{Q}_0(= \text{ ob } \mathcal{Q})$  and  $\mathcal{Q}$ -arrows  $u \colon p \longrightarrow q$ , which necessarily satisfies

$$(1_q)^{\circ} = 1_q, \quad (v \circ u)^{\circ} = u^{\circ} \circ v^{\circ} \quad \text{and} \quad \left(\bigvee_{i \in I} u_i\right)^{\circ} = \bigvee_{i \in I} u_i^{\circ}$$

for all  $q \in \text{ob } \mathcal{Q}$  and  $\mathcal{Q}$ -arrows  $u, u_i : p \longrightarrow q, v : q \longrightarrow r \ (i \in I)$ .

Throughout this paper, we let Q denote a *small* involutive quantaloid; that is, Q has a set  $Q_0$  of objects, and Q is equipped with an involution (2.i).

A  $\mathcal{Q}_0$ -typed set X is a set X equipped with a type map  $|\cdot|: X \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_0$ . With type-preserving maps as morphisms, i.e., maps  $f: X \longrightarrow Y$  satisfying |x| = |fx| for all  $x \in X$ , we obtain a category

$$\mathbf{Set}/\mathcal{Q}_0$$

A Q-relation  $\varphi: X \longrightarrow Y$  between  $Q_0$ -typed sets consists of a family of Q-arrows  $\varphi(x, y) \in Q(|x|, |y|)$  ( $x \in X, y \in Y$ ).  $Q_0$ -typed sets and Q-relations constitute a (not necessarily involutive!) quantaloid Q-**Rel**, in which

• the local order is inherited from Q, i.e.,

$$\varphi \leqslant \psi \colon X \longrightarrow Y \iff \forall x \in X, \ \forall y \in Y \colon \varphi(x, y) \leqslant \psi(x, y);$$

• the composition and implications of Q-relations  $\varphi \colon X \longrightarrow Y, \psi \colon Y \longrightarrow Z, \eta \colon X \longrightarrow Z$  are given by

$$\begin{split} \psi \circ \varphi \colon X &\longrightarrow Z, \quad (\psi \circ \varphi)(x,z) = \bigvee_{y \in Y} \psi(y,z) \circ \varphi(x,y), \\ \eta \swarrow \varphi \colon Y &\longrightarrow Z, \quad (\eta \swarrow \varphi)(y,z) = \bigwedge_{x \in X} \eta(x,z) \swarrow \varphi(x,y), \\ \psi \searrow \eta \colon X &\longrightarrow Z, \quad (\psi \searrow \eta)(x,y) = \bigwedge_{y \in Y} \psi(y,z) \searrow \eta(x,z); \end{split}$$

• the identity Q-relation on a  $Q_0$ -typed set X is given by

$$id_X : X \longrightarrow X$$
,  $id_X(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1_{|x|} & \text{if } x = y, \\ \bot_{|x|,|y|} & \text{else,} \end{cases}$ .

where  $\perp_{|x|,|y|}$  refers to the bottom Q-arrow in Q(|x|,|y|).

A *Q-category* [20, 23, 25] consists of a  $Q_0$ -typed set X and a Q-relation  $\alpha: X \longrightarrow X$  such that  $\mathrm{id}_X \leqslant \alpha$  and  $\alpha \circ \alpha \leqslant \alpha$ ; that is,

$$1_{|x|} \leqslant \alpha(x, x)$$
 and  $\alpha(y, z) \circ \alpha(x, y) \leqslant \alpha(x, z)$ 

for all  $x, y, z \in X$ . The underlying (pre)order of a Q-category  $(X, \alpha)$  is given by

$$x \leqslant y \iff |x| = |y| \text{ and } 1_{|x|} \leqslant \alpha(x, y).$$

We write  $x \cong y$  if  $x \leqslant y$  and  $y \leqslant x$ . A Q-category  $(X, \alpha)$  is separated (also skeletal) if x = y whenever  $x \cong y$  in its underlying order.

A *Q-functor* (resp. *fully faithful Q-functor*)  $f:(X,\alpha)\longrightarrow (Y,\beta)$  between *Q*-categories is a type-preserving map  $f:X\longrightarrow Y$  such that

$$\alpha(x, x') \le \beta(fx, fx')$$
 (resp.  $\alpha(x, x') = \beta(fx, fx')$ )

for all  $x, x' \in X$ . With the pointwise (pre)order between Q-functors given by

$$f \leq g: (X, \alpha) \longrightarrow (Y, \beta) \iff \forall x \in X: fx \leq gx \iff \forall x \in X: 1_{|x|} \leq \beta(fx, gx),$$

Q-categories and Q-functors constitute a locally ordered category

Q-Cat.

A pair of  $\mathcal{Q}$ -functors  $f:(X,\alpha)\longrightarrow (Y,\beta)$  and  $g:(Y,\beta)\longrightarrow (X,\alpha)$  forms an adjunction in  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Cat, denoted by  $f\dashv g$ , if

$$1_X \leqslant gf$$
 and  $fg \leqslant 1_Y$ ,

or equivalently, if

$$\beta(fx, y) = \alpha(x, gy)$$

for all  $x \in X$ ,  $y \in Y$ . In this case, f is called a *left adjoint* of g, and g is a *right adjoint* of f.

A Q-category  $(X, \alpha)$  is symmetric [3] if

$$\alpha(x, y) = \alpha(y, x)^{\circ} \tag{2.ii}$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . The full subcategory of Q-Cat consisting of symmetric Q-categories is denoted by

## Q-SymCat.

From each Q-category  $(X, \alpha)$  we may construct a symmetric Q-category  $(X, \alpha_s)$ , with

$$\alpha_{s}(x, y) = \alpha(x, y) \wedge \alpha(y, x)^{\circ}$$
 (2.iii)

for all  $x, y \in X$ . It is clear that  $f: (X, \alpha_s) \longrightarrow (Y, \beta_s)$  is a Q-functor whenever so is  $f: (X, \alpha) \longrightarrow (Y, \beta)$ , giving rise to the *symmetrization* functor

$$(-)_s: \mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{Cat} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{Sym}\mathbf{Cat}.$$
 (2.iv)

In fact, Q-SymCat is a coreflective subcategory of Q-Cat, with  $(-)_s$  being the coreflector [3]:

**Lemma 2.1.** Let  $(X, \alpha)$ ,  $(Y, \beta)$  be Q-categories. If  $(X, \alpha)$  is symmetric, then  $f: (X, \alpha) \longrightarrow (Y, \beta)$  is a Q-functor if, and only if,  $f: (X, \alpha) \longrightarrow (Y, \beta_s)$  is a Q-functor.

For Q-categories  $(X, \alpha)$ ,  $(Y, \beta)$ , a Q-relation  $\varphi \colon X \longrightarrow Y$  becomes a Q-distributor  $\varphi \colon (X, \alpha) \xrightarrow{\bullet} (Y, \beta)$  if

$$\beta \circ \varphi \circ \alpha \leqslant \varphi;$$

that is,

$$\beta(\mathbf{v},\mathbf{v}')\circ\varphi(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{v})\circ\alpha(\mathbf{x}',\mathbf{x})\leqslant\varphi(\mathbf{x}',\mathbf{v}')$$

for all  $x, x' \in X$ ,  $y, y' \in Y$ . Q-categories and Q-distributors constitute a quantaloid Q-**Dist** which includes Q-**Rel** as a full subquantaloid. Compositions and implications of Q-distributors are computed in the same way as in Q-**Rel**, and the identity Q-distributor on a Q-category  $(X, \alpha)$  is given by  $\alpha: (X, \alpha) \xrightarrow{\bullet} (X, \alpha)$ .

Each Q-functor  $f:(X,\alpha) \longrightarrow (Y,\beta)$  induces an adjunction  $f_{\natural} \dashv f^{\natural}$  in Q-**Dist** (i.e.,  $\alpha \leqslant f^{\natural} \circ f_{\natural}$  and  $f_{\natural} \circ f^{\natural} \leqslant \beta$ ), given by

$$f_{\natural}: (X, \alpha) \xrightarrow{\bullet} (Y, \beta), \quad f_{\natural}(x, y) = \beta(fx, y) \quad \text{and} \quad f^{\natural}: (Y, \beta) \xrightarrow{\bullet} (X, \alpha), \quad f^{\natural}(y, x) = \beta(y, fx),$$

called the *graph* and *cograph* of f, respectively. Obviously, the identity Q-distributor  $\alpha$  is the cograph of the identity Q-functor  $1_X: (X, \alpha) \longrightarrow (X, \alpha)$ . Hence, if no confusion arises, in what follows we write

$$1_{X}^{\natural} = \alpha$$

for the hom of a  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category  $X = (X, \alpha)$ , and write  $X_s$  for the symmetrization of X.

For each  $q \in \text{ob } \mathcal{Q}$ , let  $\{q\}$  denote the (necessarily symmetric) one-object  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category whose only object has type q and hom  $1_q$ . A *presheaf*  $\mu$  (of type q) on a  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category X is a  $\mathcal{Q}$ -distributor  $\mu \colon X \xrightarrow{\bullet} \{q\}$ , and presheaves on X constitute a separated  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category PX with

$$1_{\mathsf{P}X}^{\natural}(\mu,\mu') = \mu' \swarrow \mu$$

for all  $\mu, \mu' \in PX$ . Dually, the separated  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category  $\mathsf{P}^\dagger X$  of *copresheaves* on X consists of  $\mathcal{Q}$ -distributors  $\lambda \colon \{q\} \xrightarrow{} X$  with  $|\lambda| = q$  and

$$1_{\mathsf{P}^{\dagger} \mathsf{Y}}^{\natural}(\lambda, \lambda') = \lambda' \searrow \lambda$$

for all  $\lambda, \lambda' \in \mathsf{P}^\dagger X$ . In particular, for each  $q \in \mathcal{Q}_0$ ,  $\mathsf{P}\{q\}$  (resp.  $\mathsf{P}^\dagger\{q\}$ ) consists of  $\mathcal{Q}$ -arrows of domain (resp. codomain) q as objects.

For every Q-functor  $f: X \longrightarrow Y$ , it is straightforward to check that

$$f^{\rightarrow} : \mathsf{P}X \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}Y, \quad f^{\rightarrow}\mu = \mu \circ f^{\natural} \quad \text{and} \quad f^{\leftarrow} : \mathsf{P}Y \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}X, \quad f^{\leftarrow}\lambda = \lambda \circ f_{\natural}$$
 (2.v)

define an adjunction  $f^{\rightarrow} \dashv f^{\leftarrow}$  in  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Cat.

## 3. Complete categories enriched in a quantaloid

A Q-category X is complete if the Yoneda embedding

$$y_X : X \longrightarrow PX, \quad x \mapsto 1_X^{\natural}(-, x)$$

admits a left adjoint  $\sup_X : PX \longrightarrow X$  in Q-Cat, which is equivalent to the existence of a right adjoint  $\inf_X : P^{\dagger}X \longrightarrow X$  to the *co-Yoneda embedding* 

$$y_{\nu}^{\dagger} : X \longrightarrow P^{\dagger}X, \quad x \mapsto 1_{\nu}^{\natural}(x, -).$$

**Remark 3.1.** Let X be a complete Q-category. Elaborating the adjunction  $\sup_X \dashv y_X$  in details, we obtain that

$$1_Y^{\sharp}(\sup_X \mu, -) = 1_Y^{\sharp} \swarrow \mu \tag{3.i}$$

for all  $\mu \in PX$ . In fact, even if a Q-relation  $\mu \colon X \longrightarrow q \ (q \in Q_0)$  is not a presheaf on X, its supremum  $\sup_X \mu$  still exists, and it is an object of X satisfying (3.i). To see this, just note that  $\mu \circ 1_X^{\natural} \in PX$ , and

$$1^{\natural}_X(\sup_X(\mu\circ 1^{\natural}_X),-)=1^{\natural}_X\swarrow(\mu\circ 1^{\natural}_X)=(1^{\natural}_X\swarrow 1^{\natural}_X)\swarrow\mu=1^{\natural}_X\swarrow\mu;$$

that is,  $\sup_X \mu = \sup_X (\mu \circ 1_X^{\sharp})$ . In particular, the Q-functor  $\sup_X : \mathsf{P}X \longrightarrow X$  can be extended to

$$\sup_X : \mathsf{P} X_{\mathsf{S}} \longrightarrow X,$$

since a presheaf on  $X_s$  is always a Q-relation with domain X.

**Example 3.2.** For each  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category X, both  $\mathsf{P}X$  and  $\mathsf{P}^\dagger X$  are separated complete  $\mathcal{Q}$ -categories. In particular, for each  $\Phi \in \mathsf{PP}X$  (see [22, Example 2.9]),

$$\sup_{PX} \Phi = \Phi \circ (\mathbf{y}_X)_{\natural} = \bigvee_{\mu \in PX} \Phi(\mu) \circ \mu. \tag{3.ii}$$

In a  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category X, the *tensor* of  $u \in \mathsf{P}\{|x|\}$  and  $x \in X$ , denoted by  $u \otimes x$ , is an object of X of type  $|u \otimes x| = |u|$ , such that

$$1_Y^{\natural}(u \otimes x, -) = 1_Y^{\natural}(x, -) \swarrow u. \tag{3.iii}$$

*X* is *tensored* if  $u \otimes x$  exists for all choices of *u* and *x*. The dual notions are *cotensors* and *cotensored* Q-categories. A Q-category *X* is *order-complete* if, for any  $q \in Q_0$ ,

$$X_q := \{x \in X \mid |x| = q\}$$

admits all joins (or equivalently, all meets) in its underlying order. In particular, if X is separated and order-complete, then each  $X_q$  is a complete lattice.

**Proposition 3.3.** (See [24].) A Q-category is complete if, and only if, it is tensored, cotensored and order-complete.

Let X be a complete Q-category and  $x \in X$ ,  $q \in Q_0$ . For each subset  $\{x_i \mid i \in I\} \subseteq X_q$ , it follows from [21, Proposition 3.5.4] that

$$1_X^{\dagger} \left( \bigvee_{i \in I} x_i, x \right) = \bigwedge_{i \in I} 1_X^{\dagger} (x_i, x) \quad \text{and} \quad 1_X^{\dagger} \left( x, \bigwedge_{i \in I} x_i \right) = \bigwedge_{i \in I} 1_X^{\dagger} (x, x_i), \tag{3.iv}$$

where the joins and meets of  $x_i$  ( $i \in I$ ) are computed in the underlying order of X. As a consequence, we deduce the following lemma that will be useful later:

**Lemma 3.4.** Let X be a complete Q-category and  $q \in Q_0$ ,  $u \in P\{q\}$ . Then for each subset  $\{x_i \mid i \in I\} \subseteq X_q$ ,

$$u\otimes \Big(\bigvee_{i\in I}x_i\Big)=\bigvee_{i\in I}u\otimes x_i,$$

where the joins are computed in the underlying order of X.

Proof. Note that

$$1_{X}^{\natural} \left( \bigvee_{i \in I} u \otimes x_{i}, - \right) = \bigwedge_{i \in I} 1_{X}^{\natural} (u \otimes x_{i}, -)$$
 (Equations (3.iv))
$$= \bigwedge_{i \in I} (1_{X}^{\natural} (x_{i}, -) \swarrow u)$$
 (Equation (3.iii))
$$= \left( \bigwedge_{i \in I} (1_{X}^{\natural} (x_{i}, -)) \swarrow u \right)$$

$$= 1_{X}^{\natural} \left( \bigvee_{i \in I} x_{i}, - \right) \swarrow u.$$
 (Equations (3.iv))

The conclusion thus follows from the definition (3.iii) of tensors.

When the Q-categories under concern are tensored, the Q-functoriality of a type-preserving map between them can be characterized as follows:

**Proposition 3.5.** (See [21].) A type-preserving map  $f: X \longrightarrow Y$  between tensored Q-categories is a Q-functor if, and only if,

- (1)  $u \otimes_Y fx \leq f(u \otimes_X x)$  for all  $x \in X$ ,  $u \in P\{|x|\}$ , and
- (2) f is an order-preserving map between the underlying ordered sets of X, Y.

Furthermore, left adjoint Q-functors between complete Q-categories have the following equivalent characterizations:

**Proposition 3.6.** (See [23, 24].) For a Q-functor  $f: X \longrightarrow Y$  between complete Q-categories, the following statements are equivalent:

- (i) f is a left adjoint in Q-Cat.
- (ii) f is a left adjoint between the underlying ordered sets of X, Y, and preserves tensors in the sense that  $f(u \otimes_X x) = u \otimes_Y fx$  for all  $x \in X$ ,  $u \in P\{|x|\}$ .
- (iii) f is sup-preserving in the sense that  $f \sup_X = \sup_Y f^{\rightarrow}$ .

Separated complete Q-categories and left adjoint Q-functors (or equivalently, sup-preserving Q-functors) constitute a subcategory of Q-Cat, and we denote it by

Q-Sup.

It is well known (see, e.g., [23, Proposition 6.11]) that the forgetful functor  $\mathfrak{U}_{G}$ :  $\mathcal{Q}$ -**Sup** $\longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}$ -**Cat** admits a left adjoint

$$\mathfrak{P}_{c}: \mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{Cat} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup},$$

which sends each Q-functor  $f: X \longrightarrow Y$  to the left adjoint Q-functor (see (2.v))

$$f^{\rightarrow} : \mathsf{P}X \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}Y.$$

Since Lemma 2.1 implies that the inclusion functor  $\mathcal{Q}$ -SymCat  $\hookrightarrow$   $\mathcal{Q}$ -Cat is left adjoint to  $(-)_s$ , it follows soon that the functor

$$\mathfrak{P}_{s} := (\mathcal{Q}\text{-SymCat} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{Q}\text{-Cat} \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{P}_{c}} \mathcal{Q}\text{-Sup})$$

is left adjoint to

$$\mathfrak{U}_{s} := (\mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup} \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{U}_{c}} \mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{Cat} \xrightarrow{(-)_{s}} \mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{SvmCat}),$$

whose unit and counit are given by

$$\{y_X: X \longrightarrow (PX)_s\}_{X \in \mathcal{Q}\text{-SymCat}} \text{ and } \{\sup_X: PX_s \longrightarrow X\}_{X \in \mathcal{Q}\text{-Sup}},$$

respectively, where

- $y_X: X \longrightarrow (PX)_s$  is the symmetrization (see (2.iv)) of the Yoneda embedding  $y_X: X \longrightarrow PX$ , and
- $\sup_X : \mathsf{P}X_{\mathsf{S}} \longrightarrow X$  is the extension of  $\sup_X : \mathsf{P}X \longrightarrow X$  (see Remark 3.1).

The induced monad on Q-SymCat is denoted by

$$\mathbb{P}_{s} = (\mathsf{P}_{s}, \mathsf{y}, \mathsf{sup}_{\mathsf{P}}), \tag{3.v}$$

where

$$P_s := (Q-SymCat \xrightarrow{\psi_c} Q-Cat \xrightarrow{\psi_c} Q-Sup \xrightarrow{\iota \iota_s} Q-SymCat)$$

sends each symmetric Q-category X to  $(PX)_s$ .

**Remark 3.7.** The unit of the monad  $\mathbb{P}_s$  is simply  $\{y_X : X \longrightarrow (PX)_s\}_{X \in \mathcal{Q}\text{-}SymCat}$ . To understand the multiplication

$$\sup_{PX}: P_sP_sX = (P(PX)_s)_s \longrightarrow P_sX = (PX)_s,$$

just note that it is the symmetrization (see (2.iv)) of the Q-functor

$$\sup_{\mathsf{P}X} \colon \mathsf{P}(\mathsf{P}X)_{\mathsf{S}} \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}X. \tag{3.vi}$$

By Remark 3.1, (3.vi) is the extension of the Q-functor

$$\sup_{PX}: PPX \longrightarrow PX$$

described by (3.ii) in Example 3.2. Indeed, the supremum of each  $\Phi \in P(PX)_s$  is precisely

$$\mathrm{sup}_{\mathsf{P}X}\Phi=\mathrm{sup}_{\mathsf{P}X}(\Phi\circ 1_{\mathsf{P}X}^{\natural})=\Phi\circ 1_{\mathsf{P}X}^{\natural}\circ (\mathsf{y}_X)_{\natural}=\Phi\circ (\mathsf{y}_X)_{\natural}=\bigvee_{\mu\in\mathsf{P}X}\Phi(\mu)\circ \mu,$$

where  $y_X$  refers to the original Yoneda embedding  $X \longrightarrow PX$  as in Example 3.2.

The purpose of this section is to show that the right adjoint functor  $\mathfrak{U}_s$ :  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Sup $\longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}$ -SymCat is strictly monadic. To this end, we need some preparations.

A *Q-closure operator* on a *Q-*category *X* is a *Q-*functor  $c: X \longrightarrow X$  such that

$$1_X \leqslant c$$
 and  $cc \cong c$ .

It is easy to see that each pair of adjoint Q-functors  $f \dashv g \colon Y \longrightarrow X$  gives rise to a Q-closure operator  $gf \colon X \longrightarrow X$ . Moreover:

**Proposition 3.8.** (See [22].) Let  $c: X \longrightarrow X$  be a Q-closure operator, and let

$$Fix(c) := \{x \in X \mid cx \cong x\}$$

be the Q-subcategory of X consisting of fixed points of c.

- (1) The inclusion Q-functor  $\operatorname{Fix}(c) \hookrightarrow X$  is right adjoint to the codomain restriction  $\overline{c}: X \longrightarrow \operatorname{Fix}(c)$  of c.
- (2) If X is a complete Q-category, then so is Fix(c).

Recall that in a category C, an object B is called a *retract* [18] of an object A if there are morphisms  $f: A \longrightarrow B$  and  $g: B \longrightarrow A$  such that

$$fg = 1_B$$
.

In this case, f is called a *retraction* of A onto B, and g is a *section* of h.

**Proposition 3.9.** Let  $(X, \alpha)$  be a separated complete  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category, and let Y be a retract of X in  $\mathbf{Set}/\mathcal{Q}_0$ , with  $f: X \longrightarrow Y$  being a retraction. Suppose that

(a) 
$$f(\bigvee_{i \in I} x_i) = f(\bigvee_{i \in I} x_i')$$
 whenever  $f(x_i) = f(x_i')$  for all  $i \in I$ , and

(b) 
$$f(u \otimes x) = f(u \otimes x')$$
 whenever  $fx = fx'$  and  $u \in P\{|x|\}$ .

Then there exists a section h:  $Y \longrightarrow X$  of f such that

- (1)  $(Y,\beta)$  is a separated complete Q-category with  $\beta(y,y') = \alpha(hy,hy')$  for all  $y,y' \in Y$ ,
- (2)  $f + h: (Y,\beta) \longrightarrow (X,\alpha)$  in Q-Cat, and
- (3) if  $g: Y \longrightarrow X$  is a section of f in  $\mathbf{Set}/\mathcal{Q}_0$ , then  $gy \leqslant hy$  and  $\alpha(gy, gy') \leqslant \alpha(hy, hy')$  for all  $y, y' \in Y$ .

*Proof.* Let  $g: Y \longrightarrow X$  be a section of f in  $\mathbf{Set}/\mathcal{Q}_0$ . For each  $y \in Y$ , define

$$B_{y} := \{x \in X \mid fx = y\} \quad \text{and} \quad hy := \bigvee B_{y}, \tag{3.vii}$$

where the join is computed in the underlying order of the separated complete Q-category  $(X, \alpha)$ , and it is well defined because  $gy \in B_y$ . Then (a) guarantees that

$$fhy = fgy = y (3.viii)$$

for all  $y \in Y$ ; that is,  $h: Y \longrightarrow X$  is a section of f in **Set**/ $\mathcal{Q}_0$ .

Let  $\beta(y, y') = \alpha(hy, hy')$  for all  $y, y' \in Y$ . Then  $(Y, \beta)$  is clearly a Q-category, which is embedded into  $(X, \alpha)$  via the fully faithful and injective Q-functor  $h: (Y, \beta) \longrightarrow (X, \alpha)$ . Next, we show that  $f: (X, \alpha) \longrightarrow (Y, \beta)$  is a Q-functor, which necessarily follows from the Q-functoriality of  $hf: (X, \alpha) \longrightarrow (X, \alpha)$ . Since  $(X, \alpha)$  is tensored by Proposition 3.3, it suffices to check that hf satisfies the two conditions given in Proposition 3.5.

First, hf preserves the underlying order of  $(X, \alpha)$ . Suppose that  $x \leq x'$ . Then

$$fx' = f(x \lor x') = f(hfx \lor hfx'),$$

where the second equality follows from fx = fhfx, fx' = fhfx' and (a). Hence  $hfx \lor hfx' \le hfx'$  by the definition of h, and consequently  $hfx \le hfx'$ .

Second,  $u \otimes hfx \leqslant hf(u \otimes x)$  for all  $x \in X$ ,  $u \in P\{|x|\}$ . Indeed, note that each  $z \in B_{fx}$  satisfies fz = fx, and consequently  $f(u \otimes z) = f(u \otimes x)$  by (b); that is,  $u \otimes z \in B_{f(u \otimes x)}$ . It follows that

$$u \otimes hfx = u \otimes \bigvee B_{fx}$$
 (Equations (3.vii))  

$$= \bigvee \{u \otimes z \mid z \in B_{fx}\}$$
 (Lemma 3.4)  

$$\leqslant \bigvee B_{f(u \otimes x)}$$
 ( $u \otimes z \in B_{f(u \otimes x)}$  if  $z \in B_{fx}$ )  

$$= hf(u \otimes x).$$
 (Equations (3.vii))

Therefore,  $f: (X, \alpha) \longrightarrow (Y, \beta)$  is a Q-functor, which already satisfies  $fh = 1_Y$  by Equation (3.viii). Since  $1_X \le hf$  is an immediate consequence of the definition of h, it follows that

$$f \dashv h$$

in  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Cat. In particular, hf is a  $\mathcal{Q}$ -closure operator on the separated complete  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category  $(X, \alpha)$  and, consequently, the  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category  $(Y, \beta)$  is separated and complete, because it is isomorphic to the  $\mathcal{Q}$ -subcategory Fix(hf) of  $(X, \alpha)$  (see Proposition 3.8).

Finally, for any  $y, y' \in Y$ , it is clear that  $gy \leq hy$ . Since fhy = fgy = y, it follows from (b) that

$$f(\alpha(gy, gy') \otimes hy) = f(\alpha(gy, gy') \otimes gy). \tag{3.ix}$$

Note that

$$1_{|y'|} \leq \alpha(gy, gy') \swarrow \alpha(gy, gy') = \alpha(\alpha(gy, gy') \otimes gy, gy')$$

implies that  $\alpha(gy, gy') \otimes gy \leqslant gy'$ , which in combination with (3.ix) gives rise to

$$\alpha(gy, gy') \otimes hy \leqslant hf(\alpha(gy, gy') \otimes hy) = hf(\alpha(gy, gy') \otimes gy) \leqslant hfgy' = hy'.$$

Hence

$$1_{|y'|} \le \alpha(\alpha(gy, gy') \otimes hy, hy') = \alpha(hy, hy') \swarrow \alpha(gy, gy');$$

that is,  $\alpha(gy, gy') \leq \alpha(hy, hy')$ .

Recall that given a functor  $G: \mathcal{D} \longrightarrow \mathcal{C}$ :

• A G-split coequalizer is a pair  $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$  of  $\mathcal{D}$ -morphisms such that  $GX \xrightarrow{G_g} GY$  extends to a split coequalizer diagram

$$GX \xrightarrow{Gg} GY \xrightarrow{h} Z$$

$$(3.x)$$

in C, which means that

$$h(Gf) = h(Gg), \quad hs = 1_Z, \quad (Gg)t = 1_{GY} \quad \text{and} \quad (Gf)t = sh.$$
 (3.xi)

• G strictly creates coequalizers of G-split pairs if, for every G-split coequalizer (3.x), there exists a unique  $\mathcal{D}$ -object W and a unique  $\mathcal{D}$ -morphism  $k: Y \longrightarrow W$  such that GW = Z, Gk = h and

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{k} W$$

is a coequalizer diagram.

- A right adjoint functor G: D → C is *strictly monadic* if the canonical comparison functor from D to the Eilenberg-Moore category of the induced monad on C defines an isomorphism of categories (see, e.g., [4, Section II.3.2] and [18, Section 5.3], for details).
- Beck's monadicity theorem [1, 14, 18] states that a right adjoint functor G: D → C is strictly monadic if, and only if, it strictly creates coequalizers of G-split pairs (see, e.g., [18, Theorem 5.5.1 and Exercise 5.5.i]).

**Theorem 3.10.** The right adjoint functor  $\mathfrak{U}_s$ :  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Sup  $\longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}$ -SymCat is strictly monadic.

*Proof.* It suffices to show that  $\mathfrak{U}_s$ :  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Sup  $\longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}$ -SymCat strictly creates coequalizers of  $\mathfrak{U}_s$ -split pairs. Let

$$(X,\alpha) \xrightarrow{f} (Y,\beta)$$

be a pair of left adjoint Q-functors between separated complete Q-categories such that

$$(X, \alpha_s) \xrightarrow{f} (Y, \beta_s) \xrightarrow{h} (Z, \gamma)$$

is a split coequalizer diagram in Q-SymCat, which by Equations (3.xi) means that

$$hf = hg$$
,  $hs = 1_Z$ ,  $gt = 1_Y$  and  $ft = sh$ . (3.xii)

**Step 1.**  $h: Y \longrightarrow Z$  satisfies the conditions of Proposition 3.9, which induces a section  $s': Z \longrightarrow Y$  such that

- (1)  $\xi(z, z') = \beta(s'z, s'z')$  defines a separated complete Q-category  $(Z, \xi)$ ,
- (2)  $h \dashv s' : (Z, \xi) \longrightarrow (Y, \beta)$  in  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Cat, and
- (3)  $sz \leqslant s'z$  and  $\beta(sz, sz') \leqslant \beta(s'z, s'z')$  for all  $z, z' \in Z$ .

Moreover,  $\gamma = \xi_s$ . First,  $h(\bigvee_{i \in I} y_i') = h(\bigvee_{i \in I} y_i')$  whenever  $hy_i = hy_i'$  for all  $i \in I$ . In this case, it follows from (3.xii) that

$$fty_i = shy_i = shy_i' = fty_i'$$
.

The combination of Proposition 3.6 and (3.xii) then implies that

$$h(\bigvee_{i \in I} y_i) = h(\bigvee_{i \in I} gty_i) = hg(\bigvee_{i \in I} ty_i) = hf(\bigvee_{i \in I} ty_i) = h(\bigvee_{i \in I} fty_i)$$
$$= h(\bigvee_{i \in I} fty_i') = hf(\bigvee_{i \in I} ty_i') = hg(\bigvee_{i \in I} ty_i') = h(\bigvee_{i \in I} gty_i') = h(\bigvee_{i \in I} y_i').$$

Second,  $h(u \otimes y) = h(u \otimes y')$  whenever hy = hy' and  $u \in P\{|y|\}$ . In this case, by applying (3.xii) and Proposition 3.6 again, we deduce that

$$fty = shy = shy' = fty',$$

and consequently

$$h(u \otimes y) = h(u \otimes gty) = hg(u \otimes ty) = hf(u \otimes ty) = h(u \otimes fty)$$
$$= h(u \otimes fty') = hf(u \otimes ty') = hg(u \otimes ty') = h(u \otimes gty') = h(u \otimes y').$$

as desired.

Finally,  $\gamma = \xi_s$ . Let  $z, z' \in Z$ . On one hand, since  $\gamma$  is symmetric, from the functoriality of s and (3) we obtain that

$$\gamma(z,z') \leqslant \beta(sz,sz') \wedge \beta(sz',sz)^{\circ} \leqslant \beta(s'z,s'z') \wedge \beta(s'z',s'z)^{\circ} = \xi_{s}(z,z').$$

On the other hand,

$$\xi_{\rm S}(z,z') = \beta_{\rm S}(s'z,s'z') \leqslant \gamma(hs'z,hs'z') = \gamma(z,z').$$

**Step 2.**  $(X, \alpha) \xrightarrow{f} (Y, \beta) \xrightarrow{h} (Z, \xi)$  is a coequalizer diagram in  $\mathcal{Q}$ -**Sup**. Let  $h': (Y, \beta) \longrightarrow (Z', \xi')$  be a left adjoint Q-functor between separated complete Q-categories satisfying h'f = h'g. We claim that  $h's' : (Z, \xi) \longrightarrow (Z', \xi')$  is the unique Q-functor that makes the right triangle of the diagram

$$(X,\alpha) \xrightarrow{f} (Y,\beta) \xrightarrow{h} (Z,\xi)$$

$$\downarrow h's'$$

$$(Z',\xi')$$

commutative. On one hand, note that for any  $y, y' \in Y$ , if hy = hy', then

$$h'y = h'gty = h'fty = h'shy = h'shy' = h'fty' = h'gty' = h'y'$$

which in conjunction with Proposition 3.6 implies that

$$h's'hy = h'(\bigvee \{y' \in Y \mid hy' = hy\}) = \bigvee \{h'y' \mid y' \in Y, hy' = hy\} = h'y$$

for all  $y \in Y$ ; that is, the right triangle of the above diagram is commutative. On the other hand, if  $h'': (Z, \xi) \longrightarrow (Z', \xi')$  satisfies h''h = h', then

$$h^{\prime\prime} = h^{\prime\prime} h s^{\prime} = h^{\prime} s^{\prime}.$$

It remains to show that  $h's': (Z, \gamma) \longrightarrow (Z', \gamma')$  is a left adjoint in  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Cat. To this end, note that h' has a right adjoint  $t': (Z', \xi') \longrightarrow (Y, \beta)$  in  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Cat. Since

$$h's'ht' = h't' \leqslant 1_{Z'}$$
 and  $ht'h's' \geqslant hs' = 1_{Z}$ ,

we conclude that  $h's' \dashv ht'$ , as desired.

**Step 3.** For the uniqueness of the lifting of  $(Z, \gamma)$  to a separated complete  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category, suppose that  $(Z, \eta)$  is another separated complete  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category such that

$$(X,\alpha) \xrightarrow{f} (Y,\beta) \xrightarrow{h} (Z,\eta)$$

is a coequalizer diagram in Q-Sup. Then there exists a unique left adjoint Q-functor  $k: (Z, \eta) \longrightarrow (Z, \xi)$  that makes the right triangle of the diagram

$$(X,\alpha) \xrightarrow{f} (Y,\beta) \xrightarrow{h} (Z,\eta)$$

$$\downarrow k$$

$$\downarrow k$$

$$(Z,\xi)$$

commutative; that is, kh = h. Thus, by (3.xii) it is easy to see that

$$kz = khsz = hsz = z$$

for all  $z \in Z$ , which forces  $k = 1_Z$ . So, the identity map  $1_Z : (Z, \eta) \longrightarrow (Z, \xi)$  is a left adjoint Q-functor, whose right adjoint must be given by  $1_Z : (Z, \xi) \longrightarrow (Z, \eta)$ . Hence, the Q-functoriality of  $1_Z$  on both sides forces  $\xi(z, z') = \eta(z, z')$  for all  $z, z' \in Z$ , which completes the proof.

**Corollary 3.11.** The Eilenberg-Moore category Q-SymCat<sup> $\mathbb{P}_s$ </sup> is isomorphic to Q-Sup. Hence, Q-Sup is strictly monadic over Q-SymCat.

## 4. The powerset monad on quantale-valued sets

A (unital) quantale [15, 19] is exactly a one-object quantaloid. Throughout this section, we let

$$Q = (Q, \&, k, ^{\circ})$$

denote an involutive quantale. Explicitly:

- Q is a complete lattice (with a top element  $\top$  and a bottom element  $\bot$ ).
- (Q, &, k) is a monoid, such that the multiplication & preserves joins on both sides.
- The left and right implications and induced by the multiplication are denoted by / and \, respectively, which satisfy

$$p \& q \leqslant r \iff p \leqslant r / q \iff q \leqslant p \setminus r$$

for all  $p, q, r \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

• Q is equipped with an involution, i.e., a map  $(-)^{\circ}$ : Q  $\longrightarrow$  Q such that

$$k^{\circ} = k$$
,  $q^{\circ \circ} = q$ ,  $(p \& q)^{\circ} = q^{\circ} \& p^{\circ}$  and  $(\bigvee_{i \in I} q_i)^{\circ} = \bigvee_{i \in I} q_i^{\circ}$ 

for all  $p, q, q_i \in Q$ .

From Q we may construct a quantaloid  $D_*(Q)$  [9], given by the following data:

- Objects of  $\mathbf{D}_*(Q)$  are hermitian (also self-adjoint) elements of Q; that is,  $q \in Q$  satisfying  $q^\circ = q$ .
- Given hermitian elements  $p, q \in Q$ ,  $\mathbf{D}_*(Q)(p, q)$  consists of elements  $d \in Q$  satisfying

$$d \leqslant p \land q \quad \text{and} \quad (d \mid p) \& p = d = q \& (q \setminus d). \tag{4.i}$$

• The composition of  $d \in \mathbf{D}_*(\mathsf{Q})(p,q)$  and  $e \in \mathbf{D}_*(\mathsf{Q})(q,r)$  is given by

$$e \circ d := (e / q) \& d = e \& (q \setminus d).$$
 (4.ii)

- The identity morphism on  $q \in Q$  is q itself.
- Each hom-set  $\mathbf{D}_*(\mathbf{Q})(p,q)$  is equipped with the order inherited from  $\mathbf{Q}$ .

 $\mathbf{D}_*(Q)$  is obviously an involutive quantaloid with the involution lifted from Q. From the definition we see that a  $\mathbf{D}_*(Q)$ -category consists of a set X, a map  $|-|: X \longrightarrow Q$  and a map  $\alpha: X \times X \longrightarrow Q$  such that

- (1)  $\alpha(x, y) \leq |x| \wedge |y|$ ,
- (2)  $(\alpha(x, y) / |x|) \& |x| = \alpha(x, y) = |y| \& (|y| \setminus \alpha(x, y)),$
- (3)  $|x| \leqslant \alpha(x, x)$ ,
- (4)  $(\alpha(y,z)/|y|)$  &  $\alpha(x,y) = \alpha(y,z)$  &  $(|y| \setminus \alpha(x,y)) \le \alpha(x,z)$

for all  $x, y, z \in X$ , where (1) and (2) follows from  $\alpha(x, y) \in \mathbf{D}_*(\mathbb{Q})(|x|, |y|)$ . Note that the combination of (1) and (3) forces

$$\alpha(x,x)=|x|$$

for all  $x \in X$ , and thus a  $\mathbf{D}_*(\mathbf{Q})$ -category is exactly given by a map  $\alpha: X \times X \longrightarrow \mathbf{Q}$  such that

(S1) 
$$\alpha(x, y) \leq \alpha(x, x) \wedge \alpha(y, y)$$
,

- (S2)  $(\alpha(x, y) / \alpha(x, x)) \& \alpha(x, x) = \alpha(x, y) = \alpha(y, y) \& (\alpha(y, y) \setminus \alpha(x, y)),$
- (S3)  $(\alpha(y,z) / \alpha(y,y)) \& \alpha(x,y) = \alpha(y,z) \& (\alpha(y,y) \setminus \alpha(x,y)) \le \alpha(x,z)$

for all  $x, y, z \in X$ , and it is symmetric if

(S4) 
$$\alpha(x, y) = \alpha(y, x)^{\circ}$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ .

**Definition 4.1.** (See [9].) A Q-set is a symmetric  $\mathbf{D}_*(\mathbf{Q})$ -category; that is, a set X equipped with a map  $\alpha: X \times X \longrightarrow \mathbf{Q}$  satisfying (S1)–(S4).

**Remark 4.2.** The notion of  $\mathbf{D}_*(Q)$  here is slightly different from [12]. The quantaloid  $\mathbf{D}_*(Q)$  in [12] has all elements of Q as its objects, while in this paper we restrict the objects of  $\mathbf{D}_*(Q)$  to hermitian elements of Q. Nevertheless, as [12, Remark 4.1] reveals, it makes no difference when we only deal with symmetric  $\mathbf{D}_*(Q)$ -categories.

**Remark 4.3.** A Q-set may be viewed as a set X equipped with a Q-valued equality (or Q-valued similarity)  $\alpha$  [9, 12]. The value  $\alpha(x, y)$  is interpreted as the extent of x being equal to y, and  $\alpha(x, x)$  represents the extent of existence of x (since every entity is supposed to be equal to itself). Therefore:

- (S1) says that x is equal to y only if both x and y exist.
- The first equality of (S2) says that x is equal to y if, and only if, x exists and its existence forces x being equal to y.
- The first inequality of (S3) says that if x is equal to y, and the existence of y forces y being equal to z, then x is equal to z.
- (S4) says that if x is equal to y, then y is equal to x.

**Example 4.4.** Some important examples of Q-sets are listed below:

(1) If Q = 2, the two-element Boolean algebra, then a 2-set  $(X, \alpha)$  is just an equivalence relation on a subset of X. Explicitly,

$$\{(x, y) \in X \times X \mid \alpha(x, y) = 1\}$$

is an equivalence relation on the subset  $\{x \in X \mid \alpha(x, x) = 1\}$  of X, whose elements are supposed to "exist". In particular,  $(X, \alpha)$  reduces to a (crisp) set if

- $(X, \alpha)$  is separated, i.e.,  $\alpha(x, y) = 1$  if and only if x = y;
- $(X, \alpha)$  is global, i.e.,  $\alpha(x, x) = 1$  for all  $x \in X$ .
- (2) If Q is a *frame*, then Q-sets are precisely  $\Omega$ -sets in the sense of Fourman-Scott [2]. In particular, given a topological space X, let

 $PC(X) := \{f \mid f \text{ is a real-valued continuous map on an open subset } D(f) \subseteq X\}.$ 

For any  $f, g \in PC(X)$ , let

$$\alpha(f,g) := \operatorname{Int}\{x \in D(f) \cap D(g) \mid f(x) = g(x)\},\$$

i.e., the interior of the subset of X consisting of elements on which f and g coincide. Then  $(PC(X), \alpha)$  is an  $\mathcal{O}(X)$ -set, where  $\mathcal{O}(X)$  is the frame of open subsets of X.

(3) Let Q be the Lawvere quantale  $[0, \infty] = ([0, \infty], +, 0)$  [13]. Then  $[0, \infty]$ -sets are symmetric *partial metric spaces*; that is, sets X equipped with a map

$$\alpha: X \times X \longrightarrow [0, \infty]$$

such that

$$\alpha(x, x) \vee \alpha(y, y) \leq \alpha(x, y), \quad \alpha(x, z) \leq \alpha(y, z) - \alpha(y, y) + \alpha(x, y) \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha(x, y) = \alpha(y, x)$$

for all  $x, y, z \in X$ . In particular, let

$$\mathcal{I} := \{ [a, b] \mid 0 \leqslant a < b \leqslant \infty \}$$

be the set of closed intervals contained in  $[0, \infty]$ . Then

$$\alpha([a,b],[c,d]) = b \lor d - a \land c$$

defines a symmetric partial metric space  $(\mathcal{I}, \alpha)$ .

We denote by

$$Q$$
-Set :=  $D_*(Q)$ -SymCat

the category of Q-sets, whose morphisms are maps  $f:(X,\alpha)\longrightarrow (Y,\beta)$  between Q-sets satisfying

$$\alpha(x, x) = \beta(fx, fx)$$
 and  $\alpha(x, x') \le \beta(fx, fx')$  (4.iii)

for all  $x, x' \in X$ . Following the interpretations of Remark 4.3, (4.iii) says that x exists if and only if fx exists, and if x is equal to x', then fx is equal to fx'.

Now, let us elaborate how the monad

$$\mathbb{P}_{s} = (\mathsf{P}_{s}, \mathsf{y}, \sup_{\mathsf{P}}) \tag{4.iv}$$

given by (3.v) on the category  $\mathbf{D}_*(Q)$ -SymCat describes the Q-powerset monad on Q-Set.

First of all, for each Q-set  $(X, \alpha)$ ,

$$P_s(X, \alpha)$$

is the Q-powerset of  $(X, \alpha)$ , whose elements are  $\mathbf{D}_*(\mathsf{Q})$ -distributors  $\mu \colon (X, \alpha) \xrightarrow{\bullet} \{q\} \ (q \in \mathsf{Q})$ ; that is, maps  $\mu \colon X \longrightarrow \mathsf{Q}$  such that

- (P1)  $\mu(x) \leqslant \alpha(x, x) \land q$ ,
- (P2)  $(\mu(x) / \alpha(x, x)) \& \alpha(x, x) = \mu(x) = q \& (q \setminus \mu(x)),$
- (P3)  $(\mu(y) / \alpha(y, y)) \& \alpha(x, y) = \mu(y) \& (\alpha(y, y) \setminus \alpha(x, y)) \le \mu(x)$

for all  $x, y \in X$ .

**Definition 4.5.** A potential Q-subset of a Q-set  $(X, \alpha)$  is a pair  $(\mu, q)$ , where  $\mu: X \longrightarrow Q$  and  $q \in Q$  satisfies (P1)–(P3).

So, the Q-powerset of a Q-set consists of its potential Q-subsets, which can be understood as follows:

**Remark 4.6.** In a potential Q-subset  $(\mu, q)$  of a Q-set  $(X, \alpha)$ :

- the value  $\mu(x)$  represents the degree of x being in  $(\mu, q)$ , and
- q represents the degree of  $(\mu, q)$  being a Q-subset of  $(X, \alpha)$ .

Therefore:

- (P1) says that x is in  $(\mu, q)$  only if x exists and  $(\mu, q)$  is a subset of  $(X, \alpha)$ .
- The first equality of (P2) says that x is in (μ, q) if, and only if, x exists and its existence forces x being in (μ, q).
   The second equality of (P2) says that x is in (μ, q) if, and only if, (μ, q) is a subset of (X, α) and this fact forces x being in (μ, q).
- The first inequality of (P3) says that if x is equal to y, and the existence of y forces y being in  $(\mu, q)$ , then x is in  $(\mu, q)$ .

## **Example 4.7.** For the examples listed in 4.4:

- (1) A potential **2**-subset of a **2**-set  $(X, \alpha)$  is either  $(\emptyset, 0)$  or (U, 1), where U is a subset of  $A := \{x \in X \mid \alpha(x, x) = 1\}$  that is a union of some equivalence classes of the corresponding equivalence relation on A; in other words, if  $y \in U$  and x is equivalent to y, then  $x \in U$ . In particular, if  $(X, \alpha)$  is separated, then U can be any subset of A.
- (2) Let  $(PC(X), \alpha)$  be the  $\mathcal{O}(X)$ -set considered in Example 4.4(2). A potential  $\mathcal{O}(X)$ -subset of  $(PC(X), \alpha)$  is a pair  $(\mu, V)$ , where  $\mu$  is a map  $\mu \colon PC(X) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}(X)$  such that

$$\alpha(f,g)\cap \operatorname{Int}(\mu(g)\cup (X\setminus D(g)))=\mu(g)\cap \operatorname{Int}(\alpha(f,g)\cup (X\setminus D(g)))\subseteq \mu(f)\subseteq D(f)\cap V$$

for all  $f, g \in PC(X)$ , where  $X \setminus D(g)$  refers to the complement of the set D(g) in X.

(3) Let  $(X, \alpha)$  be a symmetric partial metric space (see Example 4.4(3)). A potential  $[0, \infty]$ -subset of  $(X, \alpha)$  is pair  $(\mu, q)$ , where  $\mu$  is a map  $\mu: X \longrightarrow [0, \infty]$  such that

$$\alpha(x, x) \lor q \leqslant \mu(x) \leqslant \mu(y) + \alpha(x, y) - \alpha(y, y)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . In particular, a potential  $[0, \infty]$ -subset of the symmetric partial metric space  $(\mathcal{I}, \alpha)$  is a pair  $(\mu, q)$ , where  $\mu$  is a map  $\mu \colon \mathcal{I} \longrightarrow [0, \infty]$  such that

$$(b-a) \lor q \leqslant \mu([a,b]) \leqslant \mu([c,d]) + b \lor d-a \land c-d+c$$

for all  $[a, b], [c, d] \in \mathcal{I}$ .

Once the notion of potential Q-subset is made clear, it is straightforward to interpret the components of the Q-powerset monad (4.iv) as the Q-valued version of (1.ii), (1.iii) and (1.iv):

• The functor  $P_s$  sends a map  $f: (X, \alpha) \longrightarrow (Y, \beta)$  in Q-Set to the map

$$f^{\rightarrow} : \mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{s}}(X,\alpha) \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{s}}(Y,\beta)$$

between the corresponding Q-powersets. Explicitly, for each potential Q-subset  $(\mu, q)$  of  $(X, \alpha)$ ,

$$f^{\rightarrow}(\mu,q) := (\lambda,q)$$

is a potential Q-subset of  $(Y, \beta)$ , with

$$\lambda(y) = \bigvee_{x \in X} (\mu(x) / \alpha(x, x)) \& \beta(y, fx)$$
(4.v)

for all  $y \in Y$ . Obviously, (4.v) says that y is in  $(\lambda, q)$  if, and only if, there exists x such that x is in  $(\mu, q)$  and y is equal to fx.

• The unit of (4.iv) is given by

$$\mathsf{y}_{(X,\alpha)} : (X,\alpha) \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{s}}(X,\alpha), \quad x \mapsto (\alpha(-,x),\alpha(x,x)),$$

where  $(\alpha(-, x), \alpha(x, x))$  of  $(X, \alpha)$  is the potential Q-subset of  $(X, \alpha)$  such that

- the degree of  $(\alpha(-, x), \alpha(x, x))$  being a Q-subset of  $(X, \alpha)$  is the same as the extent of existence of x, and
- y is in  $(\alpha(-, x), \alpha(x, x))$  if, and only if, y is equal to x.
- By Remark 3.7, the multiplication of (4.iv) is given by

$$\sup\nolimits_{(X,\alpha)} \colon \mathsf{P}_{\mathtt{S}} \mathsf{P}_{\mathtt{S}}(X,\alpha) \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}_{\mathtt{S}}(X,\alpha), \quad (\Phi,p) \mapsto \Big( \bigvee_{(\mu,q) \in \mathsf{P}_{\mathtt{S}}(X,\alpha)} (\Phi(\mu,q) \mathrel{/} q) \; \& \; \mu, p \Big),$$

which means that x is in  $\sup_{(X,\alpha)}(\Phi, p)$  if, and only if, there exists a potential Q-subset  $(\mu, q)$  of  $(X, \alpha)$  such that  $(\mu, q)$  is in  $(\Phi, p)$  and x is in  $(\mu, q)$ .

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