# The powerset monad on quantale-valued sets

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## 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 2020 MSC: 06F07, 18D20, 18C15, 18C20

## 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

$$\{-\}\colon X \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}X, \quad x \mapsto \{x\}; \tag{1.iii}$$

• the multiplication is given by

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

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 𝔅: Set→Sup obtained by replacing the codomain of P with Sup;
- $\mathfrak{P}$  is left adjoint to the forgetful functor  $\mathfrak{U}$ : **Sup**  $\longrightarrow$  **Set**, and the induced monad on **Set** is (1.i);
- the right adjoint functor  $\mathfrak{U}$ : **Sup**  $\longrightarrow$  **Set** is strictly monadic.

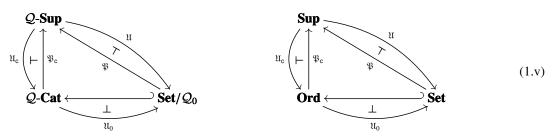
Now, let Q be a small *involutive quantaloid* [20]. From the viewpoint of category theory, it is natural to consider the Q-enriched version of the monad (1.i). The following results are already known:

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- 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  $\mathfrak{U}_c: Q$ -**Sup**  $\longrightarrow Q$ -**Cat** and  $\mathfrak{U} = (Q$ -**Sup**  $\stackrel{\mathfrak{U}_c}{\longrightarrow} Q$ -**Cat**  $\stackrel{\mathfrak{U}_0}{\longrightarrow} \operatorname{Set}/Q_0)$  are strictly monadic.



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

- The "power" of a Q-category X is given by its image under  $\mathfrak{U}_{c}\mathfrak{P}_{c}$  (where  $\mathfrak{P}_{c} + \mathfrak{U}_{c}$ ), which is precisely the Q-category PX of presheaves on X.
- The "power" of a  $\mathcal{Q}_0$ -typed set X (i.e., a set X equipped with a map  $|-|: X \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_0$ ) is given by its image under  $\mathfrak{UP}$  (where  $\mathfrak{P} + \mathfrak{U}$ ), which is precisely the underlying  $\mathcal{Q}_0$ -typed set of the presheaf  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category of the *discrete*  $\mathcal{Q}$ -category X.

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

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

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 " $\subseteq$ ") under the functor  $\mathfrak{P}$ ;
- second, forget the order " $\subseteq$ " on PX under the functor  $\mathfrak{U}$ .

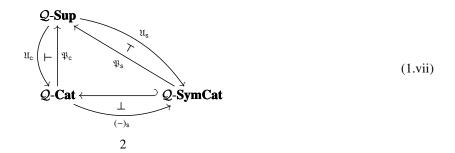
As the motivation of this paper, we point out that there is another interpretation of the second step: the discrete set PX may also be regarded as the *symmetrization* of the partially ordered set ( $PX, \subseteq$ ).

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 **Set**/ $Q_0$ in the first triangle of (1.v) is replaced by Q-**SymCat**, the full subcategory of Q-**Cat** consisting of symmetric Qcategories. More specifically, with  $(-)_s : Q$ -**Cat**  $\longrightarrow Q$ -**SymCat** denoting the symmetrization functor:

Question 1.1. Is the composite functor

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

monadic?



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

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

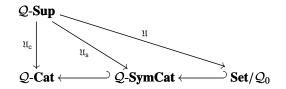
be an *involutive quantale* [16], considered as the table of truth values. Recall that a Q-set [9] is exactly a symmetric category enriched in a *quantaloid*  $\mathbf{D}_*(\mathbf{Q})$  constructed from Q (cf. Definition 4.1 and [9, Proposition 6.3]). The category

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

of Q-sets is precisely the category of symmetric  $D_*(Q)$ -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 Q-category 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 Q-category of X.

In particular, for an involutive quantale Q, the monad generated by the adjunction  $\mathfrak{P}_s + \mathfrak{U}_s$  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  $\mathbf{D}_{*}(\mathbf{Q})$ -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] Q is a category enriched in **Sup**; that is, a category whose hom-sets are complete lattices, such that the composition of Q-arrows preserves joins on both sides, i.e.,

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

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

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

satisfy

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

for all 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 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

$$(-)^{\circ} \colon \mathcal{Q}^{\mathrm{op}} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q} \tag{2.i}$$

of quantaloids with

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

for all  $q \in Q_0(= \text{ ob } Q)$  and Q-arrows  $u: p \longrightarrow q$ , 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  $q \in \text{ob } Q$  and Q-arrows  $u, u_i \colon p \longrightarrow q, v \colon q \longrightarrow r \ (i \in I)$ .

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  $Q_0$ -typed set X is a set X equipped with a type map  $|\cdot| : X \longrightarrow Q_0$ . 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  $\varphi: X \longrightarrow Y, \psi: Y \longrightarrow Z, \eta: X \longrightarrow Z$  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

$$\operatorname{id}_X \colon X \longrightarrow X, \quad \operatorname{id}_X(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1_{|x|} & \text{if } x = y, \\ \perp_{|x|, |y|} & \text{else,} \end{cases}.$$

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  $id_X \leq \alpha$  and  $\alpha \circ \alpha \leq \alpha$ ; that is,

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

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

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

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

$$\alpha(x, x') \leq \beta(fx, fx') \quad (\text{resp. } \alpha(x, x') = \beta(fx, fx'))$$

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 Q-functors  $f: (X, \alpha) \longrightarrow (Y, \beta)$  and  $g: (Y, \beta) \longrightarrow (X, \alpha)$  forms an adjunction in Q-Cat, denoted by  $f \dashv g$ , if  $1_X \leq gf$  and  $fg \leq 1_Y$ ,

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

$$\alpha_{s}(x, y) = \alpha(x, y) \land \alpha(y, x)^{\circ}$$
(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 (–)<sub>s</sub> 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  $\varphi \colon (X, \alpha) \longrightarrow (Y, \beta)$  if

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

that is,

$$\beta(y, y') \circ \varphi(x, y) \circ \alpha(x', x) \leqslant \varphi(x', y')$$

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  $\alpha: (X, \alpha) \longrightarrow (X, \alpha)$ .

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

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

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

$$1_X^q = \alpha$$

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

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

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

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

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

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 Q-Cat.

#### 3. Complete categories enriched in a quantaloid

A Q-category X is complete if the Yoneda embedding

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

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

$$\mathsf{y}_X^\dagger \colon X \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}^\dagger X, \quad x \mapsto \mathbf{1}_X^{\natural}(x, -).$$

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

$$1_X^{\natural}(\sup_X \mu, -) = 1_X^{\natural} \swarrow \mu$$
(3.i)

for all  $\mu \in \mathsf{P}X$ . In fact, even if a  $\mathcal{Q}$ -relation  $\mu: X \longrightarrow q$  ( $q \in \mathcal{Q}_0$ ) 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  $\mu \circ 1_X^{\natural} \in \mathsf{P}X$ , and

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

that is,  $\sup_X \mu = \sup_X (\mu \circ 1_X^{\natural})$ . 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 Q-category X, both  $\mathsf{P}X$  and  $\mathsf{P}^{\dagger}X$  are separated complete Q-categories. In particular, for each  $\Phi \in \mathsf{PP}X$  (see [22, Example 2.9]),

$$\sup_{\mathsf{P}X} \Phi = \Phi \circ (\mathsf{y}_X)_{\natural} = \bigvee_{\mu \in \mathsf{P}X} \Phi(\mu) \circ \mu.$$
(3.ii)

In a *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

$$1_X^{\natural}(u \otimes x, -) = 1_X^{\natural}(x, -) \swarrow u.$$
(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

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

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  $\{x_i \mid i \in I\} \subseteq X_q$ ,

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

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

Proof. Note that

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

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  $x \in X$ ,  $u \in \mathsf{P}\{|x|\}$ , 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  $\mathfrak{U}_{c}: \mathcal{Q}$ -Sup $\longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}$ -Cat admits a left adjoint

$$\mathfrak{P}_{c}: \mathcal{Q}$$
-Cat  $\longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}$ -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 Q-SymCat  $\hookrightarrow Q$ -Cat is left adjoint to  $(-)_s$ , it follows soon that the functor

$$\mathfrak{P}_{\mathsf{s}} := (\mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{Sym}\mathbf{Cat} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{Cat} \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{P}_{\mathsf{c}}} \mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup})$$

is left adjoint to

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

whose unit and counit are given by

$$\{y_X : X \longrightarrow (\mathsf{P}X)_{\mathsf{s}}\}_{X \in \mathcal{Q}}$$
-SymCat and  $\{\sup_X : \mathsf{P}X_{\mathsf{s}} \longrightarrow X\}_{X \in \mathcal{Q}}$ -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

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

where

$$\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{s}} := (\mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{Sym}\mathbf{Cat} \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{V}_{\mathsf{c}}} \mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{Cat} \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{V}_{\mathsf{c}}} \mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup} \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{U}_{\mathsf{s}}} \mathcal{Q}\text{-}\mathbf{Sym}\mathbf{Cat})$$

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

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

$$\sup_{\mathsf{P}X} : \mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{s}}\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{s}}X = (\mathsf{P}(\mathsf{P}X)_{\mathsf{s}})_{\mathsf{s}} \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{s}}X = (\mathsf{P}X)_{\mathsf{s}},$$

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

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

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

$$\sup_{\mathsf{P}X}$$
:  $\mathsf{P}PX \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}X$ 

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

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

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

$$1_X \leq c$$
 and  $cc \cong c$ 

It is easy to see that each pair of adjoint Q-functors  $f \dashv g: Y \longrightarrow X$  gives rise to a Q-closure operator  $gf: X \longrightarrow X$ . Moreover: **Proposition 3.8.** (See [22].) Let  $c: X \longrightarrow X$  be a Q-closure operator, and let

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

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

(1) The inclusion Q-functor  $Fix(c) \longrightarrow X$  is right adjoint to the codomain restriction  $\overline{c}: X \longrightarrow Fix(c)$  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 Q-category, and let Y be a retract of X in **Set**/ $Q_0$ , 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  $fx_i = fx'_i$  for all  $i \in I$ , and
- (b)  $f(u \otimes x) = f(u \otimes x')$  whenever fx = fx' and  $u \in \mathsf{P}\{|x|\}$ .

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)  $f \dashv h: (Y,\beta) \longrightarrow (X,\alpha)$  in Q-Cat, and
- (3) if  $g: Y \longrightarrow X$  is a section of f in **Set**/ $\mathcal{Q}_0$ , then  $gy \leq hy$  and  $\alpha(gy, gy') \leq \alpha(hy, hy')$  for all  $y, y' \in Y$ .

*Proof.* Let  $g: Y \longrightarrow X$  be a section of f in **Set**  $/Q_0$ . 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

$$fy = fgy = y \tag{3.viii}$$

for all  $y \in Y$ ; that is,  $h: Y \longrightarrow X$  is a section of f in **Set**/ $Q_0$ .

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,  $u \otimes hfx \leq hf(u \otimes x)$  for all  $x \in X$ ,  $u \in \mathsf{P}\{|x|\}$ . 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)  
$$\leq \bigvee B_{f(u \otimes x)}$$
( $u \otimes z \in B_{f(u \otimes x)}$  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 Q-Cat. In particular, hf is a Q-closure operator on the separated complete Q-category  $(X, \alpha)$  and, consequently, the Q-category  $(Y,\beta)$  is separated and complete, because it is isomorphic to the 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

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

Note that

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

implies that  $\alpha(gy, gy') \otimes gy \leq gy'$ , 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

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

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  $X \xrightarrow[g]{g} Y$  of  $\mathcal{D}$ -morphisms such that  $GX \xrightarrow[G_g]{G_g} GY$  extends to a split coequalizer diagram

$$\mathbf{GX} \xrightarrow[t]{Gg} Gg \xrightarrow{Gg} f \xrightarrow{h} Z$$

$$(3.x)$$

in C, which means that

$$h(\mathbf{G}f) = h(\mathbf{G}g), \quad hs = \mathbf{1}_Z, \quad (\mathbf{G}g)t = \mathbf{1}_{\mathbf{G}Y} \text{ and } (\mathbf{G}f)t = sh.$$
 (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

$$X \xrightarrow[g]{f} Y \xrightarrow{k} W$$

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

$$(X, \alpha_{\mathbf{s}}) \xrightarrow{f} (Y, \beta_{\mathbf{s}}) \xrightarrow{h} (Z, \gamma)$$

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 Q-Cat, and
- (3)  $sz \leq s'z$  and  $\beta(sz, sz') \leq \beta(s'z, s'z')$  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  $u \in \mathsf{P}\{|y|\}$ . In this case, by applying (3.xii) and Proposition 3.6 again, we deduce that

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

and consequently

$$\begin{aligned} h(u \otimes y) &= h(u \otimes gty) = hg(u \otimes ty) = hf(u \otimes ty) = h(u \otimes fty) \\ &= h(u \otimes fty') = hf(u \otimes ty') = hg(u \otimes ty') = h(u \otimes gty') = h(u \otimes y'). \end{aligned}$$

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

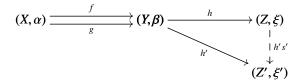
$$\gamma(z,z') \leqslant \beta(sz,sz') \land \beta(sz',sz)^{\circ} \leqslant \beta(s'z,s'z') \land \beta(s'z',s'z)^{\circ} = \xi_{\mathsf{S}}(z,z')$$

On the other hand,

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

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



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

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

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

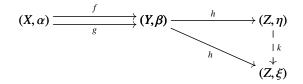
$$h's'ht' = h't' \leq 1_{Z'}$$
 and  $ht'h's' \geq hs' = 1_{Z'}$ 

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

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



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  $\perp$ ).
- (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

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

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

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

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

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

$$d \leq p \wedge q$$
 and  $(d / p) \& p = d = q \& (q \setminus d).$  (4.i)

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

 $\mathbf{D}_*(\mathbf{Q})$  is obviously an involutive quantaloid with the involution lifted from  $\mathbf{Q}$ . From the definition we see that a  $\mathbf{D}_*(\mathbf{Q})$ -category consists of a set *X*, a map  $|\cdot| : X \longrightarrow \mathbf{Q}$  and a map  $\alpha : X \times X \longrightarrow \mathbf{Q}$  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)  $|x| \leq \alpha(x, x)$ ,
- (4)  $(\alpha(y,z) / |y|) \& \alpha(x,y) = \alpha(y,z) \& (|y| \setminus \alpha(x,y)) \leq \alpha(x,z)$

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)  $(\alpha(y,z) \mid \alpha(y,y)) \& \alpha(x,y) = \alpha(y,z) \& (\alpha(y,y) \setminus \alpha(x,y)) \leq \alpha(x,z)$ 

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  $D_*(Q)$  here is slightly different from [12]. The quantaloid  $D_*(Q)$  in [12] has all elements of Q as its objects, while in this paper we restrict the objects of  $D_*(Q)$  to hermitian elements of Q. Nevertheless, as [12, Remark 4.1] reveals, it makes no difference when we only deal with symmetric  $D_*(Q)$ -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  $f, g \in \mathsf{PC}(X)$ , 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 O(X)-set, where 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

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

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

$$\alpha(x, x) = \beta(fx, fx) \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha(x, x') \le \beta(fx, fx') \tag{4.iii}$$

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

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

given by (3.v) on the category  $D_*(Q)$ -SymCat describes the Q-powerset monad on Q-Set.

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

 $\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{s}}(X, \alpha)$ 

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

(P1)  $\mu(x) \leq \alpha(x, x) \wedge q$ ,

(P2)  $(\mu(x) / \alpha(x, x)) \& \alpha(x, x) = \mu(x) = q \& (q \setminus \mu(x)),$ 

(P3)  $(\mu(y) \mid \alpha(y, y)) \& \alpha(x, y) = \mu(y) \& (\alpha(y, y) \setminus \alpha(x, y)) \leqslant \mu(x)$ 

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  $(\mu, q)$  if, and only if, x exists and its existence forces x being in  $(\mu, q)$ . The second equality of (P2) says that x is in  $(\mu, q)$  if, and only if,  $(\mu, q)$  is a subset of  $(X, \alpha)$  and this fact forces x being in  $(\mu, q)$ .
- 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  $(\mathsf{PC}(X), \alpha)$  be the  $\mathcal{O}(X)$ -set considered in Example 4.4(2). A potential  $\mathcal{O}(X)$ -subset of  $(\mathsf{PC}(X), \alpha)$  is a pair  $(\mu, V)$ , where  $\mu$  is a map  $\mu$ :  $\mathsf{PC}(X) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}(X)$  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, α) be a symmetric partial metric space (see Example 4.4(3)). A potential [0, ∞]-subset of (X, α) is pair (μ, q), where μ is a map μ: X → [0, ∞] 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  $\mu: \mathcal{I} \longrightarrow [0, \infty]$  such that

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

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  $\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{s}}$  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

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

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

$$\sup_{(X,\alpha)} \colon \mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{s}}\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{s}}(X,\alpha) \longrightarrow \mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{s}}(X,\alpha), \quad (\Phi,p) \mapsto \Big(\bigvee_{(\mu,q) \in \mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{s}}(X,\alpha)} (\Phi(\mu,q) \mid q) \And \mu, p\Big),$$

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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