

# Probabilistic Solutions to Merchant Problems: Locating of the False Stack

Vladimir L. Oleinik<sup>1</sup> and Boris S. Pavlov<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> V.A. Fock Institute for Physics, Saint-Petersburg State University, 198505, Petrodvorets, St.Petersburg, Russia. E-mail: vladimir@maxnet.co.nz

<sup>2</sup> Department of Mathematics, the University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand. E-mail: pavlov@math.auckland.ac.nz

## Abstract

In [1] a probabilistic solution to the Infinite Merchant's Problem, an undecidable problem equivalent to the Halting Problem, was proposed. The solution uses a real Hilbert space and is based on the estimation of the exponential growth of an unbounded semigroup. In [2] was offered an alternative solution in terms of scattering processes on quantum dots. The authors reduced the problem to a special scattering problem and testify the "halting phenomenon" based on the quantum measurement of results of scattering with random input data. The a-posteriori probability of halting, subject to the negative results of multiple independent tests, was estimated. The possibility of location the number of the bag with false coins in finite-dimensional case was noticed in [1] and proved in [2]. The aim of this paper is to offer a solution of the latter problem in the infinite case.

Keywords: Merchant problem, average on Weiner measure, Hilbert space

## 1 Introduction:

In [1] a probabilistic solution to the Infinite Merchant's Problem, an undecidable problem equivalent to the Halting Problem, was proposed. The solution uses a real Hilbert space and is based on the estimation of the exponential growth of an unbounded semigroup. In [2] was offered an alternative solution in terms of scattering processes on quantum dots. The authors reduced the problem to a special scattering problem and testify the "halting phenomenon" based on the quantum measurement of results of scattering with random input data. The a-posteriori probability of halting, subject to the negative results of multiple independent tests, was estimated. The possibility of location the number of the bag with false coins in finite-dimensional case was noticed in [1] and proved in [2]. The aim of this paper is to offer a solution of the latter problem in the infinite case.

## 2 Locating of the False Stack

Following [1], [2] we will consider the real Hilbert space

$$h := l^2(\mathbf{N}), \quad x := \{x_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \in h, \quad x_n \in \mathbf{R}, \quad \|x\| := \left( \sum_n |x_n|^2 \right)^{1/2},$$

as the quantum space. We suppose that for a fixed computable positive number  $\gamma$ ,  $\gamma > 0$ , the stack with a number  $\beta \in \mathbf{N}$  contains false coins of the weight  $q_\beta = 1 + \gamma$ , while each of the rest consists of true coins of the weight  $q_n = 1$ ,  $n \neq \beta$ .

To localized the false stack, that is, to calculate the number  $\beta$ , we will use two diagonal operators  $Q$  and  $L$  on  $h$ , which are defined as follows:

$$Qx := (1 + \gamma)P_\beta + P_\perp x$$

and

$$Lx := \left\{ \frac{x_n}{n^2} \right\}_{n=1}^\infty,$$

where  $P_\beta$  is the ortho-projector on the  $\beta$ -th element  $e_\beta \in h$  of the standard basis in  $h$ , e.g.  $P_\beta x = x_\beta e_\beta$ , and  $P_\perp := I - P_\beta$ .

Then we construct two quadratic forms induced by the  $T$ -th iteration of the operator  $Q$ , namely,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Q^T x, x \rangle &:= (1 + \gamma)^T \langle P_\beta x, x \rangle + \langle P_\perp x, x \rangle, \\ \langle Q^T Lx, x \rangle &:= \beta^{-2} (1 + \gamma)^T \langle P_\beta x, x \rangle + \langle P_\perp Lx, x \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

After that, similar to [1], [2], for a random vector  $x$  one may consider the Rayleigh ratio

$$\mathcal{J}_T := \frac{\langle Q^T Lx, x \rangle}{\langle Q^T x, x \rangle}. \quad (1)$$

Then the difference:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{J}_T - \beta^{-2} &= \frac{\beta^{-2} (1 + \gamma)^T \langle P_\beta x, x \rangle + \sum_{n \neq \beta} |x_n/n|^2}{(1 + \gamma)^T \langle P_\beta x, x \rangle + \sum_{n \neq \beta} |x_n|^2} - \beta^{-2} \\ &= \frac{\sum_n |x_n/n|^2}{(1 + \gamma)^T |x_\beta|^2 + \sum_{n \neq \beta} |x_n|^2} - \frac{\beta^{-2} \sum_n |x_n|^2}{(1 + \gamma)^T |x_\beta|^2 + \sum_{n \neq \beta} |x_n|^2}. \end{aligned}$$

can be rewritten as:

$$\mathcal{J}_T - \beta^{-2} \left[ 1 - \frac{\sum_n |x_n|^2}{(1 + \gamma)^T |x_\beta|^2 + \sum_{n \neq \beta} |x_n|^2} \right] = \frac{\sum_n |x_n/n|^2}{(1 + \gamma)^T |x_\beta|^2 + \sum_{n \neq \beta} |x_n|^2} \quad (2)$$

or in a short form:

$$\mathcal{J}_T - \beta^{-2} I_1 = I_2 \quad (3)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 &:= 1 - \frac{\sum_n |x_n|^2}{(1 + \gamma)^T |x_\beta|^2 + \sum_{n \neq \beta} |x_n|^2} = \frac{[(1 + \gamma)^T - 1] |x_\beta|^2}{(1 + \gamma)^T |x_\beta|^2 + \sum_{n \neq \beta} |x_n|^2} \\ &= \frac{[(1 + \gamma)^T - 1] (|x_\beta| / \|x_\perp\|)^2}{(1 + \gamma)^T (|x_\beta| / \|x_\perp\|)^2 + 1}, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where  $x_\perp = P_\perp x$ .

Because the vector  $x$  is random we need to imply some average procedure to the equation (3). A suitable average approach in a general way is considered in the following section.

## 2.1 Average Process

In this section  $A$  is a positive self-adjoint (symmetric) operator on a real separable Hilbert space  $H$  with a orthonormal basis  $f := \{f_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ .

Let us choose and fix some natural number  $\beta$ , then for each vector  $u := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n f_n \in H$  we have the following decomposition:  $u = u_{\beta} + u_{\perp}$ , with  $u_{\beta} := x_{\beta} f_{\beta}$  and  $u_{\perp} := \sum_{n \neq \beta} x_n f_n$ .

For a fixed natural number  $N$  we denote by  $H_N$  a finite-dimensional subspace, which is a linear span of the first  $N$  elements of the basis  $f$ . Following [1], [2] we are interested in the behaviour of the ratio:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\beta} := \frac{\int_{|x_{\beta}| < \varepsilon \|u_{\perp}\|} e^{-\langle Au, u \rangle} d\mu_u}{\int e^{-\langle Au, u \rangle} d\mu_u}. \quad (5)$$

as  $N$  goes to infinity and then  $0 < \varepsilon \rightarrow 0+$ . Here  $u$  is an element of  $H_N$  and  $d\mu_u := dx_1 \dots dx_N$  is the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbf{R}^N$ , which is isomorphic to  $H_N$ .

The quadratic form of the operator  $A$  may be rewritten by the following way ( $u \in H$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Au, u \rangle &= a_{\beta} x_{\beta}^2 + 2x_{\beta} \langle u_{\perp}, A_{\perp\beta} f_{\beta} \rangle + \langle A_{\perp\perp} u_{\perp}, u_{\perp} \rangle \\ &= a_{\beta} \left[ x_{\beta} + \frac{\langle u_{\perp}, A_{\perp\beta} f_{\beta} \rangle}{a_{\beta}} \right]^2 - a_{\beta}^{-1} \langle u_{\perp}, A_{\perp\beta} f_{\beta} \rangle \langle A_{\perp\beta} f_{\beta}, u_{\perp} \rangle + \langle A_{\perp\perp} u_{\perp}, u_{\perp} \rangle \\ &=: S_1 - S_2 + S_3, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where  $a_{\beta} := \langle A f_{\beta}, f_{\beta} \rangle$  and the second addend  $S_2$  is the quadratic form of some one dimensional operator. Then the denominator and nominator in (5) may be simplified as:

$$\int e^{-\langle Au, u \rangle} d\mu_u = \int \left( \int e^{-S_1} dx_{\beta} \right) e^{S_2 - S_3} d\mu_{\perp} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a_{\beta}}} \int e^{S_2 - S_3} d\mu_{\perp} \quad (7)$$

and

$$\int_{|x_{\beta}| < \varepsilon \|u_{\perp}\|} e^{-\langle Au, u \rangle} d\mu_u = \int_{|x_{\beta}| < \varepsilon \|u_{\perp}\|} e^{-S_1 + S_2 - S_3} d\mu_u. \quad (8)$$

Thus

$$\mathcal{R}_{\beta} := \frac{\int \sqrt{\frac{a_{\beta}}{\pi}} \int_{|x_{\beta}| < \varepsilon \|u_{\perp}\|} e^{-S_1 + S_2 - S_3} d\mu_u}{\int_{\mathbf{R}^{N-1}} e^{S_2 - S_3} d\mu_{\perp}}. \quad (9)$$

It has been noticed above that  $S_2$  is one-dimension operator, therefore, it can be represented by an ortho-projector  $P$  on an element

$$p := \frac{A_{\perp\beta} f_{\beta}}{\|A_{\perp\beta} f_{\beta}\|},$$

So,

$$S_2 = r \langle P u_{\perp}, u_{\perp} \rangle$$

and putting  $B := A_{\perp\perp}$  one get

$$S_3 - S_2 = \langle (B - rP) u_{\perp}, u_{\perp} \rangle.$$

Finally, for the denominator (7) we have

$$\int e^{-\langle Au, u \rangle} d\mu_u = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a_\beta}} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\det(B - rP)}}$$

with

$$r := a_\beta^{-1} \|A_{\perp\beta} f_\beta\|^2.$$

The determinant can be calculated as the product of the eigenvalues  $\alpha^r$ , which subject to the equation:

$$(B - rP)e = \alpha^r e$$

or

$$e - r(B - \alpha^r)^{-1} P e = 0.$$

Because

$$Pu = \langle p, u \rangle p,$$

then

$$1 - r \langle (B - \alpha^r)^{-1} p, p \rangle = 0.$$

Finally, one have an equation on the eigenvalues of the operator  $B - rP$ :

$$1 - r \sum \frac{\langle p, p_s \rangle^2}{\alpha_s^0 - \alpha^r} = 0,$$

where  $p_s$  - eigenfunctions and  $\alpha_s^0$  - eigenvalues of the operator  $B$ .

Expression for the numerator:

$$\int \sqrt{\frac{a_\beta}{\pi}} \int_{|u_\beta| < \varepsilon \|u_\perp\|} e^{-S_1 + S_2 - S_3} d\mu_u = \int \left[ \sqrt{\frac{a_\beta}{\pi}} \int_{|x_\beta| < \varepsilon \|u_\perp\|} e^{-I_1} dx_\beta \right] e^{-\langle (B - rP)u_\perp, u_\perp \rangle} d\mu_\perp. \quad (10)$$

It has been shown above that

$$\det(B - rP) = \prod_s \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\alpha_s^0}} \sqrt{\prod \frac{\alpha_s^0}{\alpha_s^r}}. \quad (11)$$

1) What may appear from

$$\sqrt{\frac{a_\beta}{\pi}} \int_{|u_\beta| < \varepsilon \|u_\perp\|} e^{-a_\beta \left[ x_\beta + \frac{\langle u_\perp, A_{\perp\beta} f_\beta \rangle}{a_\beta} \right]^2} dx_\beta \quad ?$$

2) Is it possible under some conditions on  $A$  and  $\beta$  to obtain uniform convergence of the ratio  $\mathcal{R}_\beta(\varepsilon) \rightarrow 0$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ ?

If this is done, than one may operate on the indistinguishable set defined as

$$\mathcal{F}_\varepsilon := \{u \in H : |x_\beta| < \varepsilon \|u_\perp\|\} \quad (12)$$

with a non-trivial operator  $A$ . For instance (see [1], [2]), choosing

$$\langle Au, u \rangle := \sum_{s=1}^{\infty} |x_s - x_{s-1}|^2, \quad x_0 = 0, \quad (13)$$

we have got the Wiener measure in the limit  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

## 2.2 Estimates of Averages

The averages on Wiener measure  $W$  of the expressions for  $I_l$  in (3) can be estimated as follows

$$\langle I_l \rangle_W = \langle I_l \rangle_{\mathcal{F}_\varepsilon} + \langle I_l \rangle_{\mathbf{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{F}_\varepsilon}, \quad l = 1, 2. \quad (14)$$

The first addend on the right side in (14) doesn't exceed the  $W$ -measure  $m_\varepsilon := W(\mathcal{F}_\varepsilon)/W(\mathbf{R}^N)$  of the set  $\mathcal{F}_\varepsilon$  because  $I_l \leq 1$  there,  $l = 1, 2$ . Furthermore  $m_\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  (see [1], [2]). The second term in (14) with  $l = 1$  is estimated from below as:

$$\langle I_1 \rangle_{\mathbf{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{F}_\varepsilon} \geq \frac{(1 + \gamma)^T \varepsilon^2}{(1 + \gamma)^T \varepsilon^2 + 1} = 1 - \frac{1}{(1 + \gamma)^T \varepsilon^2 + 1} \approx I, \quad T \rightarrow \infty. \quad (15)$$

It remains to estimate the corresponding average for  $I_2$  in (3) on the domain  $\mathbf{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{F}_\varepsilon$ . Firstly, notice that

$$\sum_n (|x_n|/n)^2 = \langle Lx, x \rangle.$$

Then

$$\langle I_2 \rangle_{\mathbf{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{F}_\varepsilon} \leq \frac{1}{(1 + \gamma)^T \varepsilon^2 + 1} \left\langle \frac{\langle Lx, x \rangle}{\langle x_\perp, x_\perp \rangle} \right\rangle_W. \quad (16)$$

Because  $\langle x, x \rangle^{-1} \in L^1(\mathbf{R}^N)$  with  $N \geq 3$ , the costante

$$C_\beta := \left\langle \frac{\langle Lx, x \rangle}{\langle x_\perp, x_\perp \rangle} \right\rangle_W$$

is finite. Thus,

$$\langle I_2 \rangle_{\mathbf{R}^N \setminus \mathcal{F}_\varepsilon} \rightarrow 0, \quad T \rightarrow \infty. \quad (17)$$

To sum up, we have proved that if the system with high probability contains a false coin under the same general condition of the paper [2], i.e. we do not know in advance whether there is a false coin and we want to find out whether there is one (and we know how to do it with a high probability [2]) and, then, if this is the case, we can locate the false coin, because by (3), (14), (15) and (17) the average of the ratio  $\mathcal{J}_\beta$  tends to some number  $\beta^{-2}$ , where  $\beta$  is the number of the stack with false coins.

## 3 Appendix: Difference Hardy Inequality

In this section we will prove that the operator  $L$ , which has been used in the previous section, is subordinated by the average operator  $A$  from (13). That is,

$$\langle Lx, x \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x_n^2}{n^2} \leq 16 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |x_n - x_{n-1}|^2, \quad x_0 = 0. \quad (18)$$

for any  $x \in h$  such that the right part of the inequality is finite.

The proof easy follows from the Cauchy inequality applied to the following estimation ( $x_0 = 0$ ):

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x_n^2}{n^2} \leq 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x_n^2}{n(n+1)} = 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (x_n - x_{n-1}) \frac{x_n + x_{n-1}}{n}$$

$$\leq 2\sqrt{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (x_n - x_{n-1})^2} \sqrt{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(x_n + x_{n-1})^2}{n^2}}.$$

## 4 Acknowledgments

The first author is very grateful to the Department of Mathematics of the University of Auckland for their hospitality.

## References

- [1] C. S. Calude, B. Pavlov. Coins, quantum measurements, and Turing's barrier, *Quantum Information Processing* 1, 1–2 (2002), 107–127.
- [2] V.A. Adamyany, C.S. Calude, B.S. Pavlov, *A quantum scattering approach to undecidable problem*. In: Quantum information and complexity, Proceedings of the Meijo Winter School 2003, Meijo University, Nagoya, Japan, 6 - 10 January 2003, edited by T Hida, K Sait (Meijo University, Japan) and Si Si (Aichi Prefectural University, Japan).