Atul Singh Arora

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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2021-present

PostDoc, California Institute of Technology, United States

Advisor: Prof. Thomas VIDICK

Primarily studied hybrid models where depth bounded quantum circuits, can be interleaved with BPP machines.

Showed oracle separations among the different hybrid models.1

Characterised quantum depth, relative to a random oracle.2

On the side, worked on quantum foundations and quantum coin flipping.

Motivated by contextuality, demonstrated self-testing of a single quantum system (includes both theory and experiment). 3

Introduced methods to improve the security of device-independent weak coin flipping protocols, resulting in an improvement after a decade.⁴

Solutions to Quantum Weak Coin Flipping—collected all our previous results on the topic into a journal version. 5

- ¹ ASA, A. Gheorghiu, U. Singh. arXiv:2201.01904 (submitted; web)
- ² ASA, Coladangelo, Coudron, Gheorghiu, Singh,

Waldner. arXiv:2210.06454 (STOC '23)

- ³ X. Hu, Y. Xie, ASA, M. Ai, K. Bharti, et. al. arXiv:2203.09003 (submitting)
- ⁴ ASA, J. Sikora, T Van Himbeeck (submitting; overleaf, web)
- ⁵ ASA, J. Roland, C. Vlachou, S. Weis. cryptoeprint:2022/1101 (submitting)

2016-20

PhD Thesis, UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES (ULB), Belgium Quantum Weak Coin Flipping

Advisor: Prof. Jérémie ROLAND

Primarily worked on quantum weak coin flipping, a cryptographic primitive. Its figure of merit is called the bias, ϵ . The best known had $\epsilon \to 1/6$ by C. Mochon in 2005.

Protocols with $\epsilon \to 1/10$ were found¹.

An algorithm to numerically find protocols with $\epsilon \to 0$ was given 1.

An exact (geometric) solution to the problem was found2.

A simpler, exact (algebraic) solution to the problem was found³.

On the side, investigated foundational aspects of quantum mechanics⁴.

 $^{1}\mbox{ASA},$ J. Roland, S. Weis. arXiv:1811.02984 (QIP '19 STOC '19 web)

²ASA, J. Roland, C. Vlachou. arXiv:1911.13283v1 (web)

³ASA, J. Roland, C. Vlachou. arXiv:1911.13283v2 (QCrypt '20 QIP '21 SODA '21 web)

4K. Bharti, A.S.A, L. C. Kwek, J. Roland. arXiv:1811.05294 (Phys. Rev. Res. 2, 033010)

2015-16

Master's Thesis, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Mohali, India

Contextuality in a Deterministic Quantum Theory

Advisor: Prof. Arvind

Concluded that contextuality is not a necessary feature of quantum mechanics and proposed an alternative, non functional-consistency, bolstered by an explicit construction.

ASA, K. Bharti, Arvind. arXiv:1607.03498; Physics Letters A. (Nov 2018)

SUMMER | Internship UNIVERSITY OF SIEGEN, Germany

2015 | Towards a macroscopic test of local realism

Advisor: Prof. Otfried GÜHNE

Constructed a Bell inequality using observables bounded in phase space to probe local realism using macroscopic variables.

ASA, A. Asadian. arXiv:1508.04588; Phys. Rev. A 92, 061207

2011-14 | Internships

IISER MOHALI, India. Quantum simulation (theory). Advisor: Prof Arvind. NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY (NPL), New Delhi, India. Set up an experiment to study the dynamics of a dipole lattice. Advisor: Dr Ravi MEHROTRA. INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT), BOMBAY, INDIA. Yarn defect recognition using OpenCV. Advisor: Prof Anirban Guha.

EDUCATION

SEP 2020 Doctorat en Sciences de l'ingénieur et technologie,

OCT 2016 Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium.

JULY 2016 Bachelor and Master of Science with Physics major,

JULY 2011 Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Mohali,

India.

CPI: 9.4 /10. Graduated with rank two.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

- Poster. Oracle separations of hybrid quantum-classical circuits Quantum Information Processing (QIP). Caltech, USA
- 2022 **Poster**. Improving the security of device independent weak coin flipping protocols.

Quantum Information Processing (QIP). Caltech, USA

Talk. Analytic quantum weak coin flipping protocols with arbitrarily small bias.

ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA). Virtual.

- 2021 **Invited Seminar**. *Analytic quantum weak coin flipping protocols* . . . University of Ottawa (Online). Prof. Broadbent's group.
- 2021 **Talk**. *Analytic quantum weak coin flipping protocols* . . . Quantum Information Processing (QIP). Online/Munich, Germany.
- Talk. Analytic quantum weak coin flipping protocols . . . QCRYPT. Online/Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- 2020 **Invited Seminar**. *Quantum weak coin flipping* Perimeter Institute, Canada.
- 2019 **Participant**. OUANTALGO Worksh

QUANTALGO Workshop. CWI, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

- 2019 Participant.(Physics) Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting (LINO). Lindau, Germany.
- Talk. Quantum Weak Coin Flipping.Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC). Phoenix, Arizona, USA.
- Talk. Quantum Weak Coin Flipping.

 Quantum Information Processing (QIP). University of Colorado, USA.
- Talk. Quantum Weak Coin Flipping beyond bias 1/6.
 QUANTALGO Workshop. Université Paris-Diderot, Paris, France.
- 2018 **Poster**. *Quantum Weak Coin Flipping with bias 1/10*. Quantum Information Processing (QIP). TU Delft, Netherlands.

2017 Participant.

Theory of Quantum Computation, Communication and Cryptography (TQC). Paris, France.

RECOGNITION

- 2020 IQIM Postdoctoral Scholarship, California Institute of Technology.
- 2020 Offered. Hartree Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Maryland.
- 2019 Granted financial support for attending the (*Physics*) Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting, 2019.
- 2018 Renewed. Two year research fellowship from the Belgian Fonds National Recherche de Science (FNRS), through the FRIA grant.
- Awarded. Two year research fellowship from the Belgian *Fonds National Recherche de Science (FNRS)*, through the FRIA grant.
- Top 5% in the physics stream of the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), India.
 Obtained a 92.3 percentile in the national graduate physics exam, Joint Entrance Screening Test (JEST), India.
- Awarded the *Junior Research Fellowship (JRF-NET)* from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India.

 Awarded the *DAAD WISE* fellowship for a summer internship by and in Germany.
- 2013-16 Awarded the Certificate of Merit for the best academic performance in a semester, twice by IISER. Was among the highest scorers four other times.
 - 2012 Awarded the *KVPY* fellowship for my work on Stepper Motor Control, by DST, India.
 - 2010 Granted financial support for attending the Bright Green Youth climate summit, Denmark.

TEACHING

- 2022 Tutor. Week-long graduate school on post-quantum cryptography. IPAM, UCLA.
- 2019 Teaching Assistant. Information Quantique (graduate). ULB, Brussels.
- 2016 Teaching Assistant. Thermodynamics (undergraduate). IISER, Mohali.
- 2015 Teaching Assistant. Classical Mechanics (undergraduate). IISER, Mohali.

REVIEW

Reviewed articles for the following conferences/journals.

- 2022 MFCS, JACM and QIP
- 2021 QCrypt
- 2019 QIP, STOC

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH: Fluent
HINDI: Fluent
FRENCH: Intermediate
PUNJABI: Intermediate

GERMAN: Beginner

INTERESTS & EXTRACURRICULAR

Technology, Open-Source, Programming (C/C++, Python, Fortran, Javascript); Philosophy, Reading; Fitness; Piano, Guitar, Violin.