



City Research Online

## City, University of London Institutional Repository

---

**Citation:** Wojciechowski, B.W. & Pothos, E. M. (2018). Corrigendum: Is there a conjunction fallacy in legal probabilistic decision making? [Front. Psychol. 9, 391 (2018)] doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2018.00391. Frontiers in Psychology, 9(NOV), 2281. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2018.02281

This is the published version of the paper.

This version of the publication may differ from the final published version.

---

**Permanent repository link:** <https://openaccess.city.ac.uk/id/eprint/21132/>

**Link to published version:** <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.02281>

**Copyright:** City Research Online aims to make research outputs of City, University of London available to a wider audience. Copyright and Moral Rights remain with the author(s) and/or copyright holders. URLs from City Research Online may be freely distributed and linked to.

**Reuse:** Copies of full items can be used for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge. Provided that the authors, title and full bibliographic details are credited, a hyperlink and/or URL is given for the original metadata page and the content is not changed in any way.

---

City Research Online:

<http://openaccess.city.ac.uk/>

[publications@city.ac.uk](mailto:publications@city.ac.uk)

---



# Corrigendum: Is There a Conjunction Fallacy in Legal Probabilistic Decision Making?

Bartosz W. Wojciechowski<sup>1\*</sup> and Emmanuel M. Pothos<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Clinical and Forensic Psychology, Institute of Psychology, University of Silesia of Katowice, Katowice, Poland,

<sup>2</sup> Department of Psychology, City, University of London, London, United Kingdom

**Keywords:** conjunction fallacy, legal decision making, quantum cognition, quantum probability theory, legal psychology

## A Corrigendum on

### Is There a Conjunction Fallacy in Legal Probabilistic Making?

by Wojciechowski, B. W., and Pothos, E. M. (2018). *Front. Psychol.* 9:391.  
doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2018.00391

In the original article, there was an error.

In the Discussion section, a small error was made in one of the quantum computations, which requires minor adjustment of the discussion. None of the empirical results, analyses, and other conclusions are affected.

A correction has been made to *Discussion*, paragraph 7. The original sentence was: For a double CF, we have:  $Prob(A), Prob(B) > Prob(A \& B)$ , that is a CF occurs for both conjuncts. This has been corrected to: For a double CF, we have:  $Prob(A), Prob(B) < Prob(A \& B)$ , that is a CF occurs for both conjuncts.

A correction has been made to *Discussion*, paragraph 8. The original sentence was: For the participants with no legal background, we have a situation where  $Prob(A), Prob(B) > Prob(A \& B)$ , for when evaluating criminal cases for which the suspect was guilty for both crimes. This has been corrected to: For the participants with no legal background, we have a situation where  $Prob(A), Prob(B) < Prob(A \& B)$ , for when evaluating criminal cases for which the suspect was guilty for both crimes.

A correction has been made to *Discussion*, paragraph 10. The original sentences were: The observed results require an initial representation for the mental space in a tensor product structure as above, but also a thought process which “mixes” thoughts and beliefs between the two crimes (Pothos and Busemeyer, 2009; Broekaert et al., 2017). It is not our purpose presently to outline in detail a full cognitive model for the consideration of criminal cases and we focus on the technical elements of QPT that allow for coverage of the results (for more relevant details see e.g., Pothos and Busemeyer, 2009; Trueblood and Busemeyer, 2011; Pothos et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2013; Narens, 2014). This has been corrected to: The observed results motivate the consideration of an initial representation for the mental space in a tensor product structure as above, but also a thought process which “mixes” thoughts and beliefs between the two crimes (Pothos and Busemeyer, 2009; Broekaert et al., 2017). It is not our purpose presently to outline in detail a full cognitive model for the consideration of criminal cases and we focus on the technical elements of QPT potentially relevant for coverage of the results (for more relevant details see Pothos and Busemeyer, 2009; Trueblood and Busemeyer, 2011; Pothos et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2013; Narens, 2014).

## OPEN ACCESS

### Edited and reviewed by:

Eldad Yechiam,  
Technion – Israel Institute of  
Technology, Israel

### \*Correspondence:

Bartosz W. Wojciechowski  
bartosz.wojciechowski@us.edu.pl

### Specialty section:

This article was submitted to  
Cognitive Science,  
a section of the journal  
*Frontiers in Psychology*

**Received:** 25 October 2018

**Accepted:** 01 November 2018

**Published:** 27 November 2018

### Citation:

Wojciechowski BW and Pothos EM  
(2018) Corrigendum: Is There a  
Conjunction Fallacy in Legal  
Probabilistic Decision Making?  
*Front. Psychol.* 9:2281.  
doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2018.02281

A correction has been made to *Discussion*, paragraph 11,  $|a - c|^2$  has been replaced by  $|a|^2 + |c|^2$ , and  $|a - b|^2$  has been replaced by  $|a|^2 + |b|^2$ . A sentence has also been added, the corrected paragraph appears below.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Prob}(\text{Crime}_{1\text{yes}}; \psi) &= P_{\text{Crime}_{1\text{yes}}} \otimes I \cdot U \cdot \psi^2 \\ &= \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{pmatrix} \right)^2 = |a|^2 + |c|^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Prob}(\text{Crime}_{2\text{yes}}; \psi) = |I \otimes P_{\text{Crime}_{2\text{yes}}} \cdot U \cdot \psi|^2 = |a|^2 + |b|^2$$

$$\text{Prob}(\text{Crime}_{1\text{yes}} \& \text{Crime}_{2\text{yes}}; \psi) = |a|^2$$

Recall that a mental state vector in QPT is normalized, therefore  $|a|^2 + |b|^2 + |c|^2 + |d|^2 = 1$ . But it should be clear that this scheme still cannot accommodate a CF, which illustrates that only certain space structures can produce a single CF (e.g., as in Pothos and Busemeyer, 2009) and it is unclear whether a double CF is possible at all.

A correction has been made the *Discussion*, paragraph 12. A sentence was added, the corrected paragraphs appear below.

Overall, the present results revealed a double CF, for lay (regarding legal knowledge) individuals, but not for participants

with more advanced levels of legal knowledge/experience with legal proceedings. As an empirical finding, this constitutes a salutary message regarding the ability of humans to embody rational decision making, in situations where there is a high expectation for such decision making. The double CF presents a challenge for decision models specifically developed to account for the CF and related fallacies. We focussed on one model, based on QPT. So far, QPT theory for the CF has been applied to the single CF, which is by far the most common finding. Modeling of the single CF with QPT involves incompatible questions, which lead to a psychological explanation based on how one question alters our perspective for the other. Regarding the double CF, we have outlined one possibility based on QPT, corresponding to compatible questions, and a “mixing” thought process; our outline was intended to simply show indicative calculations, noting that for a single CF only particular space structures will work.

Psychologically this corresponds to a consideration of the two questions in a way that thoughts making each one individually more likely interfere with each other in the conjunctive case to produce probabilities inconsistent with CPT.

The authors apologize for this error and state that this does not change the scientific conclusions of the article in any way. The original article has been updated.

## REFERENCES

- Broekaert, J., Basieva, I., Blasiak, P., and Pothos, E. M. (2017). Quantum-like dynamics applied to cognition: a consideration of available options. *Proc. R. Soc. A* 375:20160387. doi: 10.1098/rsta.2016.0387
- Narens L. (2014). Alternative Probability theories for cognitive psychology. *Top. Cogn. Sci.* 6, 114–120. doi: 10.1111/tops.12071
- Pothos, E. M., and Busemeyer, J. R. (2009). A quantum probability explanation for violations of “rational” decision theory. *Proc. R. Soc. B Biol. Sci.* 276, 2171–2178. doi: 10.1098/rspb.2009.0121
- Pothos, E. M., Shiffrin, R. M., Busemeyer, J. R. (2013). The dynamics of decision making when probabilities are vaguely specified. *J. Math. Psychol.* 59, 6–17. doi: 10.1016/j.jmp.2013.09.001
- Trueblood, J. S., and Busemeyer, J. R. (2011). A quantum probability model of casual reasoning. *Front. Cogn. Sci.* 3:138. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2012.00138

- Wang, Z., Busemeyer, J. R., Atmanspacher, H., and Pothos, E. M. (2013). The potential of using quantum theory to build models of cognition. *Top. Cogn. Sci.* 5, 672–688. doi: 10.1111/tops.12043

**Conflict of Interest Statement:** The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Copyright © 2018 Wojciechowski and Pothos. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY). The use, distribution or reproduction in other forums is permitted, provided the original author(s) and the copyright owner(s) are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms.