

# João Miguel Lourenço Ribeiro

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## Current Positions

**Feb 2023 -** NOVA School of Science and Technology, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal  
*Professor Auxiliar (U.S. equivalent: Assistant Professor), Computer Science Department*

**Feb 2023 -** NOVA Laboratory for Computer Science and Informatics (NOVA LINCS)  
*Integrated Researcher*

## Education

**2017-2021 Imperial College London, UK**

Ph.D. in Computing  
Thesis: [Coding against synchronisation and related errors](#)  
Advisor: [Mahdi Cheraghchi](#)

**2015-2017 ETH Zurich, Switzerland**

M.Sc. in Computer Science (*with distinction*)  
Track: Theoretical Computer Science  
Thesis: [Challenges in information-theoretic secret-key agreement](#)  
(awarded the ETH Medal for outstanding M.Sc. theses)  
Advisor: [Ueli Maurer](#)  
Final grade: 5.89/6.00

**2012-2015 Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon, Portugal**

B.Sc. in Applied Mathematics and Computation (*excellent*)  
Final grade: 19/20

## Previous Positions

**Aug 2021 -** Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA  
**Jan 2023** *Post Doctoral Fellow, Computer Science Department*

Hosted jointly by [Vipul Goyal](#) and [Venkatesan Guruswami](#). Part of the [Cryptography](#) and [Theory](#) groups.

**Feb 2020 -** University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA  
**Mar 2020** *Visiting Scholar*

Hosted by [Mahdi Cheraghchi](#) at the Computer Science and Engineering Department. Topics: information theory and theoretical computer science. Originally planned until May 2020, cut short due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- July 2019 -** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA  
**Aug 2019** *Visiting Scholar*  
 Hosted by [Olgica Milenkovic](#) at the Coordinated Science Laboratory. Topic: coding theory for DNA-based data storage.
- Feb 2019 -** Centre for Quantum Technologies, National University of Singapore, Singapore  
**Apr 2019** *Research Intern*  
 Hosted by [Divesh Aggarwal](#). Topics: pseudorandomness and information-theoretic cryptography.
- July 2018 -** Centre for Quantum Technologies, National University of Singapore, Singapore  
**Aug 2018** *Research Intern*  
 Hosted by [Divesh Aggarwal](#). Topics: pseudorandomness and information-theoretic cryptography.

## Selected Awards

- 2018** *ETH Medal*  
 Awarded by ETH Zurich for an outstanding M.Sc. thesis.
- 2015** *Excellence Scholarship & Opportunity Award*  
 Awarded by ETH Zurich to high potential M.Sc. students.
- 2015** *Professor Jaime Campos Ferreira Prize*  
 Awarded by the Department of Mathematics of Instituto Superior Técnico for outstanding performance in Mathematics.
- 2015** *Diploma of Academic Excellence*  
 Awarded by Instituto Superior Técnico.
- 2013-2015** *"New Talents in Mathematics" Scholarship*  
 Awarded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundations to 20 outstanding undergraduate students in mathematical subjects in Portugal.

## Grants

1. (Jan-Dec 2023) Protocol Labs Cryptonet Network Grant: "Stateless Distributed Randomness Generation" (USD 35,000). Co-PI with Chen-Da Liu Zhang (NTT Research), Elisaweta Masserova (CMU), Mark Simkin (Ethereum Foundation), Pratik Soni (CMU & U Utah), and Sri AravindaKrishnan Thyagarajan (NTT Research).

## Patents

1. Olgica Milenkovic, Ryan Gabrys, João Ribeiro, Mahdi Cheraghchi. *Coded Trace Reconstruction*. United States Patent Application 17/069,247, filed on October 13, 2020 (Provisional application No. 62/925,332, filed on October 24, 2019), published on April 29, 2021.

## Research Papers



All papers are available online at [sites.google.com/site/joaorib94](https://sites.google.com/site/joaorib94). DOIs or links to preprint versions are also listed below. Author ordering is almost always alphabetical (as usual in theoretical computer science). Works where author ordering has been chosen uniformly at random are signaled by  $\textcircled{r}$ . Works with other non-alphabetical author ordering are signaled by  $\textcircled{o}$ .

## Journal papers

- [J1] Mahdi Cheraghchi and João Ribeiro. Simple codes and sparse recovery with fast decoding. *SIAM Journal on Discrete Mathematics*, 37(2):612–631, 2023. Extended version of [C15]. [10.1137/21M1465354](https://doi.org/10.1137/21M1465354).
- [J2] Ryan Gabrys, Venkatesan Guruswami, João Ribeiro, and Ke Wu. Beyond single-deletion correcting codes: Substitutions and transpositions. *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 69(1):169–186, 2023. Extended version of [C5]. [10.1109/TIT.2022.3202856](https://doi.org/10.1109/TIT.2022.3202856).
- [J3] Gianluca Brian, Antonio Faonio, João Ribeiro, and Daniele Venturi. Short non-malleable codes from related-key secure block ciphers, revisited. *IACR Transactions on Symmetric Cryptology*, 2022(3):1–19, Sep. 2022. This work has also been presented at the [2023 Fast Software Encryption \(FSE\) Workshop](https://doi.org/10.46586/tosc.v2022.i3.1-19). [10.46586/tosc.v2022.i3.1-19](https://doi.org/10.46586/tosc.v2022.i3.1-19).
- [J4] Gianluca Brian, Antonio Faonio, Maciej Obremski, João Ribeiro, Mark Simkin, Maciej Skórski, and Daniele Venturi. The mother of all leakages: How to simulate noisy leakages via bounded leakage (almost) for free. *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 68(12):8197–8227, 2022. Extended version of [C9]. [10.1109/TIT.2022.3193848](https://doi.org/10.1109/TIT.2022.3193848).
- [J5] Divesh Aggarwal, Maciej Obremski, João Ribeiro, Mark Simkin, and Luisa Siniscalchi. Privacy amplification with tamperable memory via non-malleable two-source extractors. *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 68(8):5475–5495, 2022. [10.1109/TIT.2022.3167404](https://doi.org/10.1109/TIT.2022.3167404).
- [J6] Mahdi Cheraghchi, Joseph Downs, João Ribeiro, and Alexandra Veliche. Mean-based trace reconstruction over oblivious synchronization channels. *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 68(7):4272–4281, 2022. Extended version of [C8]. [10.1109/TIT.2022.3157383](https://doi.org/10.1109/TIT.2022.3157383).
- [J7] Mahdi Cheraghchi and João Ribeiro. Non-asymptotic capacity upper bounds for the discrete-time Poisson channel with positive dark current. *IEEE Communications Letters*, 25(12):3829–3832, 2021. [10.1109/LCOMM.2021.3120706](https://doi.org/10.1109/LCOMM.2021.3120706).
- [J8] Mahdi Cheraghchi and João Ribeiro. An overview of capacity results for synchronization channels. *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 67(6):3207–3232, 2021. [10.1109/TIT.2020.2997329](https://doi.org/10.1109/TIT.2020.2997329).
- [J9] Mahdi Cheraghchi, Ryan Gabrys, Olgica Milenkovic, and João Ribeiro. Coded trace reconstruction. *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 66(10):6084–6103, 2020. Extended version of [C14]. [10.1109/TIT.2020.2996377](https://doi.org/10.1109/TIT.2020.2996377).
- [J10] Mahdi Cheraghchi and João Ribeiro. Sharp analytical capacity upper bounds for sticky and related channels. *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 65(11):6950–6974, Nov 2019. Extended version of [C16]. [10.1109/TIT.2019.2920375](https://doi.org/10.1109/TIT.2019.2920375).
- [J11] Mahdi Cheraghchi and João Ribeiro. Improved upper bounds and structural results on the capacity of the discrete-time Poisson channel. *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 65(7):4052–4068, July 2019. Extended version of [C17]. [10.1109/TIT.2019.2896931](https://doi.org/10.1109/TIT.2019.2896931).
- [J12] © João Ribeiro, André Souto, and Paulo Mateus. Quantum blind signature with an offline repository. *International Journal of Quantum Information*, 13(02):1550016, 2015. Undergraduate research. [10.1142/S0219749915500161](https://doi.org/10.1142/S0219749915500161).

## Conference papers

- [C1] Alper Çakan, Vipul Goyal, Chen-Da Liu Zhang, and João Ribeiro. Computational quantum secret sharing. In *18th Conference on the Theory of Quantum Computation, Communication and Cryptography (TQC 2023)*, pages 4:1–4:26, 2023. [10.4230/LIPIcs.TQC.2023.4](https://doi.org/10.4230/LIPIcs.TQC.2023.4).
- [C2] Huck Bennett, Mahdi Cheraghchi, Venkatesan Guruswami, and João Ribeiro. Parameterized inapproximability of the minimum distance problem over all fields and the shortest vector problem in all  $\ell_p$  norms. In *55th Annual ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC 2023)*, pages 553–566, 2023. [10.1145/3564246.3585214](https://doi.org/10.1145/3564246.3585214).
- [C3] Vipul Goyal, Chen-Da Liu Zhang, Justin Raizes, and João Ribeiro. Asynchronous multi-party quantum computation. In *14th Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science Conference (ITCS 2023)*, pages 62:1–62:22, 2023. [10.4230/LIPIcs.ITCS.2023.62](https://doi.org/10.4230/LIPIcs.ITCS.2023.62).

- [C4] Divesh Aggarwal, Eldon Chung, Maciej Obremski, and João Ribeiro. On secret sharing, randomness, and random-less reductions for secret sharing. In *Theory of Cryptography Conference (TCC) 2022*, pages 327–354, 2022. [10.1007/978-3-031-22318-1\\_12](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-22318-1_12).
- [C5] Ryan Gabrys, Venkatesan Guruswami, João Ribeiro, and Ke Wu. Beyond single-deletion correcting codes: Substitutions and transpositions. In *RANDOM 2022*, pages 8:1–8:17, 2022. [10.4230/LIPIcs.APPROX/RANDOM.2022.8](https://doi.org/10.4230/LIPIcs.APPROX/RANDOM.2022.8).
- [C6]  Jesper Buus Nielsen, João Ribeiro, and Maciej Obremski. Public randomness extraction with ephemeral roles and worst-case corruptions. In *Advances in Cryptology – CRYPTO 2022*, pages 127–147, 2022. [10.1007/978-3-031-15802-5\\_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-15802-5_5).
- [C7] Omar Alrabiah, Eshan Chattopadhyay, Jesse Goodman, Xin Li, and João Ribeiro. Low-degree polynomials extract from local sources. In *49th International Colloquium on Automata, Languages, and Programming (ICALP 2022)*, pages 10:1–10:20, 2022. [10.4230/LIPIcs.ICALP.2022.10](https://doi.org/10.4230/LIPIcs.ICALP.2022.10).
- [C8] Mahdi Cheraghchi, Joseph Downs, João Ribeiro, and Alexandra Veliche. Mean-based trace reconstruction over practically any replication-insertion channel. In *2021 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, pages 2459–2464, 2021. [10.1109/ISIT45174.2021.9518161](https://doi.org/10.1109/ISIT45174.2021.9518161).
- [C9] Gianluca Brian, Antonio Faonio, Maciej Obremski, João Ribeiro, Mark Simkin, Maciej Skórski, and Daniele Venturi. The mother of all leakages: How to simulate noisy leakages via bounded leakage (almost) for free. In *Advances in Cryptology – Eurocrypt 2021*, pages 408–437, 2021. [10.1007/978-3-030-77886-6\\_14](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-77886-6_14).
- [C10] Divesh Aggarwal, Siyao Guo, Maciej Obremski, João Ribeiro, and Noah Stephens-Davidowitz. Extractor lower bounds, revisited. In *RANDOM 2020*, pages 1:1–1:20, 2020. [10.4230/LIPIcs.APPROX/RANDOM.2020.1](https://doi.org/10.4230/LIPIcs.APPROX/RANDOM.2020.1).
- [C11] Abhishek Agarwal, Olgica Milenkovic, Srilakshmi Pattabiraman, and João Ribeiro. Group testing with runlength constraints for topological molecular storage. In *2020 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, pages 132–137, 2020. [10.1109/ISIT44484.2020.9174502](https://doi.org/10.1109/ISIT44484.2020.9174502).
- [C12] Divesh Aggarwal, Maciej Obremski, João Ribeiro, Luisa Siniscalchi, and Ivan Visconti. How to extract useful randomness from unreliable sources. In *Advances in Cryptology – Eurocrypt 2020*, pages 343–372, 2020. [10.1007/978-3-030-45721-1\\_13](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-45721-1_13).
- [C13] Divesh Aggarwal, Ivan Damgård, Jesper Buus Nielsen, Maciej Obremski, Erick Purwanto, João Ribeiro, and Mark Simkin. Stronger leakage-resilient and non-malleable secret sharing schemes for general access structures. In *Advances in Cryptology – CRYPTO 2019*, pages 510–539, 2019. [10.1007/978-3-030-26951-7\\_18](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-26951-7_18).
- [C14]  Mahdi Cheraghchi, João Ribeiro, Ryan Gabrys, and Olgica Milenkovic. Coded trace reconstruction. In *2019 IEEE Information Theory Workshop (ITW)*, pages 1–5, 2019. [10.1109/ITW44776.2019.8989261](https://doi.org/10.1109/ITW44776.2019.8989261).
- [C15] Mahdi Cheraghchi and João Ribeiro. Simple codes and sparse recovery with fast decoding. In *2019 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, pages 156–160, 2019. [10.1109/ISIT.2019.8849702](https://doi.org/10.1109/ISIT.2019.8849702).
- [C16] Mahdi Cheraghchi and João Ribeiro. Sharp analytical capacity upper bounds for sticky and related channels. In *2018 56th Annual Allerton Conference on Communication, Control, and Computing (Allerton)*, pages 1104–1111, 2018. [10.1109/ALLERTON.2018.8636009](https://doi.org/10.1109/ALLERTON.2018.8636009).
- [C17] Mahdi Cheraghchi and João Ribeiro. Improved capacity upper bounds for the discrete-time Poisson channel. In *2018 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, pages 1769–1773, 2018. [10.1109/ISIT.2018.8437514](https://doi.org/10.1109/ISIT.2018.8437514).
- [C18] Daniel Jost, Ueli Maurer, and João L. Ribeiro. Information-theoretic secret-key agreement: The asymptotically tight relation between the secret-key rate and the channel quality ratio. In *2018 Theory of Cryptography Conference (TCC)*, pages 345–369, 2018. [10.1007/978-3-030-03807-6\\_13](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-03807-6_13).
- [C19] Ueli Maurer and João Ribeiro. New perspectives on weak oblivious transfer. In *2016 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, pages 790–794, 2016. [10.1109/ISIT.2016.7541407](https://doi.org/10.1109/ISIT.2016.7541407).

## Manuscripts

- [M1] Alper Çakan, Vipul Goyal, Chen-Da Liu Zhang, and João Ribeiro. Unbounded leakage-resilience and leakage-detection in a quantum world. <https://eprint.iacr.org/2023/410>.
- [M2] Naresh Goud Boddu, Vipul Goyal, Rahul Jain, and João Ribeiro. Split-state non-malleable codes and secret sharing schemes for quantum messages. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.06466>. Accepted as a contributed talk at QCRYPT 2023.

## Other work

1. [COVID-19 group testing annotated bibliography](#), edited in collaboration with Laura Balzano, Kyle Gilman, Matthew Malloy, Ivo Stoepker, and Yutong Wang, 2020.

## Selected Talks

1. *Parameterized hardness of coding and lattice problems.*  
Talks@DCC Seminar, Faculdade de Ciências, University of Porto, May 2023.
2. *Public randomness extraction with ephemeral roles and worst-case corruptions.*
  - Cryptography Seminar, ETH Zurich, July 2023.
  - CRYPTO 2022, August 2022.  
Recording at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGRUGoeRA1g>
  - Indian Institute of Science – Microsoft Research Lecture Series, August 2022.  
Recording at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zob\\_q-ck8Qo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zob_q-ck8Qo)
3. *Low-degree polynomials, local sources, and a curious log factor.*  
CMU Theory Lunch, March 2022.  
Recording at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eviaYIt\\_S6M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eviaYIt_S6M)
4. *The mother of all leakages: How to simulate noisy leakages via bounded leakage (almost) for free.*
  - Logic and Computation Seminar, Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon, June 2022.
  - Special in-person workshop at the 2021 Theory of Cryptography Conference, November 2021.
5. *Extractor lower bounds, revisited.*  
Random 2020, August 2020.  
Recording at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpHcqsqMFr0>
6. *How to extract useful randomness from unreliable sources.*  
Eurocrypt 2020, May 2020.  
Recording at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15zsUxU9y2o>
7. *Coded and uncoded trace reconstruction.*  
[Shannon Channel](#) (hosted by [Salim El Rouayheb](#)), September 2019.  
Recording at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMEeGD6a0qI>
8. *Information-theoretic secret-key agreement and classical bound entanglement.*  
Quantum Computation and Information Seminar, Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon, February 2019.

## Teaching Experience

**Spring 2023** Instructor for the “Codes and Lattices in Cryptography” informal 5-lecture mini-course at the NOVA School of Science and Technology, Universidade Nova de Lisboa (FCT-UNL). This mini-course was aimed mostly at Masters and PhD students and also faculty of the Department of Mathematics of FCT-UNL. The full set of lecture notes can be found at the [course webpage](#).

- Spring 2023** Co-instructor for the Theory of Computation course at the NOVA School of Science and Technology, Universidade Nova de Lisboa (FCT-UNL). This course is taught to 2nd year Computer Science BSc students.
- Fall 2020** Tutor for the Mathematics I course at Imperial College London. Duties include leading a weekly small-group tutorial and grading weekly assessed coursework.
- Fall 2018** Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Information & Coding Theory and Algorithms II courses at Imperial College London. Duties included teaching weekly exercise classes, grading midterms, and designing coursework.
- Fall 2017** Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Information & Coding Theory course at Imperial College London. Duties included teaching weekly exercise classes and grading midterms.
- Fall 2016** Teaching Assistant for the Discrete Mathematics course at ETH Zurich. Duties included leading a weekly small-group tutorial and grading weekly homework.
- Fall 2015** Teaching Assistant for the Discrete Mathematics course at ETH Zurich. Duties included leading a weekly small-group tutorial and grading weekly homework.

## Student Mentoring and Supervision

### BSc-level research projects

1. Arda Aydın (BSc student, Boğaziçi University). Remote research project, Fall 2021. Topic: Capacity bounds for the multi-trace deletion channel.  
**Next position:** PhD student in the ECE Department of the University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA.

### MSc thesis supervision

1. Gonçalo Cavaco (FCT-UNL). Spring 2023 – present. Topic: Trace reconstruction and population recovery from trims, mutations, and extensions.
2. Diogo Ramos (FCT-UNL), co-advised with [Alexander Davidson](#). Spring 2023 – present. Topic: Investigating key rotation security in oblivious pseudorandom function protocols.

## Academic Service

- Co-organizer of the [CMU Cryptography Seminar](#) (08/2021 – 01/2023).
- **Member of the Conference Program Committee for:**
  1. The 21st IACR Theory of Cryptography Conference ([TCC 2023](#)).
  2. The 4th Conference on Information-Theoretic Cryptography ([ITC 2023](#)).
- **External reviewer for the following conferences:** CiE (Computability in Europe, 2023), CRYPTO (2020, 2021), Eurocrypt (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), FOCS (2019, 2020, 2023), ICALP (2022), ISIT (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023), Conference on Information-Theoretic Cryptography (ITC, 2020), ITCS (2019, 2021, 2022), ITW (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), SODA (2020, 2021), STOC (2018, 2021, 2022), TCC (2018, 2019, 2021), Conference on Security and Cryptography for Networks (SCN, 2020).
- **Reviewer for the following journals:** IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, IEEE Transactions on Communications.
- Reviewer for American Mathematical Society (AMS) [Mathematical Reviews](#) (10/2022 – present).