

Nadim Ghaddar

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Research Interests

Information Theory, Coding Theory, Communication Theory, Signal Processing

Education

- 2016 - 2022 **Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering (Communication Theory and Systems)**, *University of California San Diego (UCSD)*, San Diego, CA.
Thesis: Channel Coding Techniques for Communication over Networks and over Channels with Memory
Advisor: Prof. Young-Han Kim, Co-advisor: Prof. Laurence Milstein
- 2014 - 2016 **M.Sc. in Communication Systems**, *École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)*, Lausanne, Switzerland.
Thesis: Connectionist Temporal Classification for Robust Speech Recognition Applications
Advisors: Prof. Hervé Bourlard (EPFL) and Dr. Wilhelm Hagg (SONY Europe, Germany)
- 2010 - 2014 **B.E. in Computer and Communication Engineering**, *American University of Beirut (AUB)*, Beirut, Lebanon.
Minor in Mathematics. Graduated with Distinction.

Experience

- Summer **Intern**, *Qualcomm Inc.*, Bridgewater, NJ, USA.
2021 Worked on deep learning methods for decoding linear codes.
- Summer **Intern**, *Samsung Semiconductor Inc.*, San Diego, CA, USA.
2019 Worked on the design of a simplified successive cancellation list decoder of polar codes.
- Feb. 2016 - **Intern**, *SONY Europe*, Stuttgart, Germany.
- Sept. 2016 Worked on the design of noise-robust speech recognition systems using connectionist temporal classification (CTC)
- Summer **Intern**, *OnYourMap*, Solution provider for location-based services, Prévèrenge, Switzerland.
2015 Worked on the design and implementation of an RF fingerprinting scheme that uses WiFi for indoor positioning on Android platforms.
- Summer **Intern**, *TELUS*, Wireless and Internet service provider, Edmonton, Canada.
2013 Worked on the development of three applications on TELUS IPTV using Microsoft Mediaroom. Also worked on the addition of functional requirements for the deployment of “Business Voice over IP” (B-VoIP) inside business enterprises, under the supervision of Mr. Edmund Chung.

Publications

Submitted / Preprints

- (S1) Z. Wang, N. Ghaddar, B. Zhu and L. Wang, “Noisy Sorting Capacity,” submitted to *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.01446>
- (S2) N. Ghaddar, S. Ganguly, L. Wang and Y.-H. Kim, “A Lego-brick approach to coding for network communication,” submitted to *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 2022. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.07208>

Journal Papers

- (J1) N. Ghaddar, Y.-H. Kim, L. B. Milstein, L. Ma and B. K. Yi, “Joint channel estimation and coding over channels with memory using polar codes,” in *IEEE Transactions on Communications*, vol. 69, no. 10, pp. 6575-6589, Oct. 2021.

Conference Papers

- (C1) Z. Wang, N. Ghaddar, B. Zhu and L. Wang, “Variable-Length Insertion-Based Noisy Sorting,” in *2023 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, pp. 1782–1787, 2023.
- (C2) B. Zhu, Z. Wang, N. Ghaddar, J. Jiao and L. Wang, “On the Optimal Bounds for Noisy Computing,” in *2023 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, pp. 1788–1793, 2023.
- (C3) Z. Wang, N. Ghaddar, and L. Wang, “Noisy sorting capacity,” in *2022 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, pp. 2541–2546, 2022.
- (C4) N. Ghaddar, S. Ganguly, L. Wang and Y.-H. Kim, “A Lego-brick approach to lossy source coding,” in *2022 17th Canadian Workshop on Information Theory (CWIT)*, pp. 45–50, 2022.
- (C5) N. Ghaddar, S. Ganguly, L. Wang and Y.-H. Kim, “A Lego-brick approach to coding for asymmetric channels and channels with state,” in *2021 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, pp. 1367–1372, 2021.
- (C6) N. Ghaddar, H. Saber, H.-P. Lin, J. H. Bae and J. Lee, “Simplified decoding of polar codes by identifying Reed-Muller constituent codes,” in *2020 IEEE Global Communications Conference (GLOBECOM)*, pp. 1–6, 2020.
- (C7) N. Ghaddar, Y.-H. Kim, L. B. Milstein, L. Ma and B. K. Yi, “Joint channel estimation and error correction for finite-state markov channels using polar codes,” in *2018 IEEE Global Communications Conference (GLOBECOM)*, pp. 1–6, 2018.
- (C8) A. Bhatt, N. Ghaddar, and L. Wang, “Polar coding for multiple descriptions using monotone chain rules,” in *2017 55th Annual Allerton Conference on Communication, Control, and Computing (Allerton)*, pp. 565-571, Oct 2017.

Patents

- (P1) N. Ghaddar, H. Saber, H.-P. Lin, J. H. Bae, and J. Lee, “System and method for identifying and decoding Reed-Muller codes in polar codes,” U.S. Patent 11271596, Mar. 8, 2022.

Invited Talks

- (T1) “A Lego-Brick Approach to Lossy Source Coding”, Information Theory and Applications Workshop (ITA), Graduation-Day talk, UCSD, May 2022.
- (T2) “Noisy Sorting Capacity”, 56th Annual Conference on Information Sciences and Systems (CISS), Princeton University, March 2022.

Teaching Assistantship Experience

- Fall 2022 *Topics in Coding Theory*, UCSD
- Winter 2020 *Introduction to Data Processing and Information Theory*, UCSD
- Fall 2018 *Linear Algebra and Applications*, UCSD
- Spring 2018 *Random Processes*, UCSD
- Fall 2013 *Introduction to Programming*, AUB

Relevant Projects

- Fall 2015 - **Semester Project**, *EPFL*, under supervision of Prof. Emre Telatar and PhD candidate
2016 Mr. Mani Bastani Parizi.
On the pairwise correlation between the synthetic bit-channels from the polar transformation and the tightness of the union bound on the block error probability of polar codes.
- Spring 2015 **Semester Project**, *EPFL*, under supervision of Prof. Rüdiger Urbanke and PhD candidate
Mr. Marco Mondelli.
Extremes of information combining for channels with constant Bhattacharyya parameters.
- Sept. 2013 - **Final Year Project**, *AUB*, under supervision of Prof. Ayman Kayssi.
June 2014 Design and implementation of a GPS signal generator/spoofers using USRP 2920, a radio programmable platform from National Instruments.
- Fall 2013 - **Course Project – Internet Engineering**, *AUB*.
2014 Paper on performance analysis of an interworking architecture between current Internet and Name-Oriented Networks.
- Fall 2013 - **Course Project – Wireless Communications**, *AUB*.
2014 Design of a system level simulator for dimensioning LTE systems under fading conditions.

Honors and Awards

- Fall 2016 Recipient of ECE Departmental Fellowship, UCSD
Fall 2016 Recipient of IC Faculty Fellowship, EPFL
2010-2014 Recipient of a 4-year Merit scholarship, AUB

Computer Skills

- Languages Advanced user of Matlab, Python, C and C++ programming, Very good in Java and Android programming, Good skills in SQL, Basic user of assembly and VHDL
- Platforms Advanced user of Microsoft OS, OS using linux kernel and Microsoft Office
- Machine Learning Tools Tensorflow, PyTorch, Lasagne, Kaldi Speech Recognition Toolkit

Affiliations

- 2017-Present Member of IEEE Communication Society and IEEE Information Theory Society
- 2017-2018 Member of the ECE Graduate Student Council (ECE-GSC) at UCSD
- 2017-2018 Session co-chair at the Information Theory and Application (ITA) Workshop at UCSD