

WSIT'007 – 9th IEEE Winter School on Coding and Information Theory

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Imagine an azure-blue sky, palm and olive trees, Provencal hills, the sparkling Mediterranean Sea... and many PhD students from all around Europe, eager to interact with each other and with renowned professors! You can open your eyes, you are not dreaming... Welcome to the 9th Winter School on Coding and Information Theory, held in la Colle-sur-Loup, French Riviera, France, on March 12-16 2007.

Following a tradition started over 16 years ago by Han Vinck and Rolf Johansson, the 9th IT winter school was chaired by Prof. Merouane Debbah and organized by Eurecom in cooperation with INRIA and I3S and with the support of CNRS, UNSA, I3S, GET, IFANY and NXP. The main purpose of the school was to provide an opportunity for graduate students and researchers from different universities to meet and interact on a wide range of research subjects.

Each morning, 100 IT-winterschoolers – record attendance! – had their technical horizon widened thanks to remarkable tutorial talks given by Prof. Giuseppe Caire (USC, USA) on Joint Source-Channel Coding, Prof. Eitan Altman, (INRIA, France) on Game Theory for Wireless Networks, Prof. Aris Moustakas (UoA, Greece) on Applications of Statistical Mechanics to Information Theory, Dr. Olivier Dousse (Deutsche Telecom Laboratories,

Germany) on Connectivity and Capacity in Multi-hop Wireless Networks and Prof. James Massey (Copenhagen, Denmark) on Zero error. In the afternoon, participants presented their ongoing research to their peers and received feedback from senior researchers during special working sessions.

Work hard, play hard! The winter school was also a great opportunity for students to get to know each other and build a network of friends through social activities. Who did not notice their enthusiasm for the evening international pétanque contests? Who can forget the bold swimming sessions in 11°C water followed by basket-ball matches or initiation to mini-golf? Arts also inspired our engineers, from the visit of Maeght Arts Foundation to their cozy gathering in the evenings around a common passion for music. Last but not least, nobody can deny that his heart was conquered by the charm of Saint-Paul-de-Vence. The excursion in this pearl of the south of France was followed by a banquet in the prestigious Mas de Pierre where French gastronomy delighted our senses

A warm thank is owed to all organizers and participants, who made this winter school a successful and memorable event. Next edition will be organized in 2009 by Prof. Ralf Mueller from NTNU in Trondheim, Norway. We wish him good luck and a great success for this 10th anniversary!

For additional information:

<http://itwinterschool07.eurecom.fr/>