

# Polar Coding for Bidirectional Broadcast Channels with Common and Confidential Messages

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**Abstract**—The integration of multiple services such as the transmission of private, common, and confidential messages at the physical layer is becoming important for future wireless networks in order to increase spectral efficiency. In this paper, bidirectional relay networks are considered, in which a relay node establishes bidirectional communication between two other nodes using a decode-and-forward protocol. In the broadcast phase, the relay transmits additional common and confidential messages, which then requires the study of the *bidirectional broadcast channel (BBC) with common and confidential messages*. This channel generalizes the broadcast channel with receiver side information considered by Kramer and Shamai. Low complexity polar codes are constructed that achieve the capacity region of both the degraded symmetric BBC, and the BBC with common and confidential messages. The use of polar codes allows an intuitive interpretation of how to incorporate receiver side information and secrecy constraints as different sets of frozen bits at the different receivers for an optimal code design. In order to show that the constructed codes achieve capacity, a tighter bound on the cardinality of an auxiliary random variable used in the converse is found using a method by Salehi.

**Index Terms**—Polar codes, bidirectional broadcast channel, bidirectional relaying, confidential message, physical layer security.

## I. INTRODUCTION

RECENT developments such as multiuser MIMO, cooperative multi-point transmission, or relaying have significantly increased the performance of wireless networks. One additional research area that is gaining more importance is the efficient physical layer implementation of multiple services such as the simultaneous transmission of private, common, and confidential messages. For example, in cellular systems, operators establish not only (bidirectional) voice communication, but also offer further services that are either multicast or subject to certain secrecy constraints. Nowadays this is realized by allocating different services on different logical channels and by applying secrecy techniques on higher levels. In general, this is quite inefficient and there is a trend to merge different services directly on the physical layer to increase spectral efficiency.

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Currently, information is kept secret using cryptographic techniques, which are based on the assumption of insufficient computational capabilities of non-legitimate receivers. With increasing computational power and improved algorithms, these techniques are becoming less and less secure. In this context, the concept of information theoretic security is becoming attractive, since it only uses the properties of the wireless channel in order to establish secrecy. Information theoretic secrecy was initiated by Wyner [2], who introduced the *wiretap channel*, which was later generalized by Csiszár and Körner to the *broadcast channel with confidential messages* [3]. Recently, there has been growing interest in information theoretic secrecy, cf. for instance [4–7] and references therein.

Another key technique to improve the overall performance and coverage for future wireless networks is the concept of *bidirectional relaying*. This is mainly based on the fact that it advantageously exploits the property of bidirectional communication to reduce the inherent loss in spectral efficiency induced by half-duplex relays [8, 9]. Bidirectional relaying applies to three-node networks, in which a half-duplex relay node establishes bidirectional communication between two other nodes using a two-phase decode-and-forward protocol [10–12]. This is also known as two-way relaying.

Here, we consider physical layer service integration for bidirectional relaying where the relay integrates additional common and confidential messages in the broadcast phase. In addition to the transmission of both individual messages, it has the following tasks as visualized in Figure 1: the transmission of a common message to both nodes and the transmission of confidential messages to one or both nodes, which have to be kept secret from the other node. This necessitates the analysis of the *bidirectional broadcast channel with common and confidential messages*. The BBC with common and confidential messages is of course not limited to such a two-phase scheme, it is for example a generalization of the broadcast channel with partial side information and degraded message sets considered in [12]. We consider a degraded BBC, where the channel to node 1 is stronger than the channel to node 2. In this setup any message that can be decoded by node 2 can also be decoded by node 1, and thus the only possible receiver of a confidential message is node 1. Note that both receiving nodes can use their own message from the previous phase for decoding so that this channel differs from the classical broadcast channel with common and confidential messages.

The capacity-equivocation region of the discrete memoryless BBC with common and confidential messages was derived

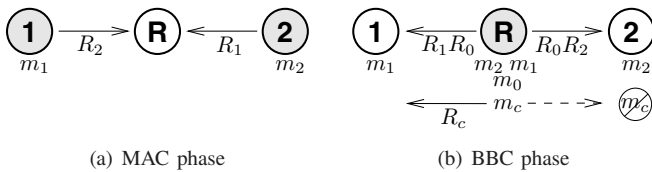


Fig. 1. Physical layer service integration in bidirectional relay networks. In the initial MAC phase, nodes 1 and 2 transmit their messages  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  with rates  $R_2$  and  $R_1$  to the relay node. Then, in the BBC phase, the relay forwards the messages  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  and adds a common message  $m_0$  with rate  $R_0$  to the communication and further a confidential message  $m_c$  for node 1 with rate  $R_c$  which should be kept secret from node 2.

in [13]. The design of practical coding schemes for the BBC was discussed in [14], while [15] addressed the problem of joint network and channel coding in multi-way relay channels.

To pave the way for practical implementation of such concepts, one is interested in finding low complexity coding schemes which achieve capacity. The coding scheme which we consider in this paper are polar codes, which were introduced by Arıkan and were shown to be capacity achieving for a large class of channels in [16, 17]. Polar codes have a natural nested structure [18], which can be used to implement the binning schemes used in multi-user and physical layer security scenarios, and they have been studied for a large range of such setups [19–25]. They generally exhibit weak finite length performance, but recently, polar codes of block length 2048 concatenated with a cyclic redundancy check and decoded with a list decoder were developed, and shown to perform 0.2 dB away from the information theoretical limit over the binary input AWGN channel [26, 27]. This finite block length performance, together with their nested structure and low complexity makes them interesting candidates for practical implementation.

The contributions of this work are the construction of polar codes for the BBC with common and confidential messages and showing that the constructed codes achieve the whole capacity-equivocation region. In order to design polar codes for the BBC with common and confidential messages, we first design capacity achieving schemes for the standard symmetric BBC without confidential messages. We then use superposition coding together with a polar code for the wiretap channel to achieve the capacity-equivocation region. To show that the scheme is capacity achieving, we tighten the outer bound for the capacity-equivocation region obtained in [13] to the degraded setting. Using the methods in [28], we further develop a new bound on the cardinality of the range of the auxiliary random variable  $U$  involved in the coding scheme from [13], to show that it is sufficient to consider binary  $U$ . This improved bound can simplify the code construction for multi-user scenarios significantly, and the method is not widely used in the literature.

As noted previously, the BBC with common and confidential messages is a generalization of the broadcast channel with partial side information and degraded message sets considered in [12], so our scheme is also capacity achieving for degraded channels of this type. To our knowledge, this is the first work to construct low complexity coding schemes which utilize receiver side information in the multi-user setting.

This paper is structured as follows. In Section II, we review polar codes for binary input symmetric channels, and for Wyner’s wiretap channel [2]. In Section III, we introduce the BBC with common and confidential messages and construct polar coding schemes for it. In Section IV, we conclude the paper.

## II. POLAR CODES

We consider binary polar codes which are block codes of length  $N = 2^n$ . Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be the binary field and let  $G = RF^{\otimes n}$ , where  $R$  is the bit-reversal mapping defined in [16],  $F = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $F^{\otimes n}$  denotes the  $n^{\text{th}}$  Kronecker power of  $F$ . Apply the linear transformation  $G$  to  $N$  bits  $u_1^N$  and send the result through  $N$  independent copies of a binary input memoryless channel  $W(y|x)$ . This gives an  $N$ -dimensional channel  $W_N(y_1^N|u_1^N)$ , and Arıkan’s observation was that the channels seen by individual bits, defined by

$$W_N^{(i)}(y_1^N, u_1^{i-1}|u_i) = \sum_{u_{i+1}^N \in \mathcal{X}^{N-i}} \frac{1}{2^{N-1}} W_N(y_1^N|u_1^N), \quad (1)$$

*polarize*, i.e. as  $N$  grows  $W_N^{(i)}$  approaches either an error-free channel or a completely noisy channel. We refer to the error-free channels as *good* channels, and the idea of polar coding is to send information only over the good channels, while keeping the input to the bad channels fixed, and known both at the destination and the sender.

Given an index set  $\mathcal{I} \subset \{1, \dots, N\}$  and a binary vector  $u_{\mathcal{I}}^N$ , let  $G_{\mathcal{I}}$  be the submatrix formed by the rows of  $G$  with indices in  $\mathcal{I}$ , and let  $u_{\mathcal{I}}$  be the corresponding subvector of  $u_1^N$ . Given such an index set  $\mathcal{A}$ , and a binary vector  $u_{\mathcal{F}}$  of length  $N - |\mathcal{A}|$  we define the polar code  $\mathcal{C}(N, \mathcal{A}, u_{\mathcal{F}})$  of length  $N$  as follows. We call  $\mathcal{A}^c = \mathcal{F}$  the frozen set, and the (fixed) bits  $u_{\mathcal{F}}$  frozen bits. The codewords of  $\mathcal{C}(N, \mathcal{A}, u_{\mathcal{F}})$  are given by

$$x^N = u_{\mathcal{A}} G_{\mathcal{A}} \oplus u_{\mathcal{F}} G_{\mathcal{F}},$$

and the rate is given by  $|\mathcal{A}|/N$ .

Polar codes can be decoded using the successive cancellation (SC) decoding rule defined by

$$\hat{u}_i = \begin{cases} u_i & i \in \mathcal{F}, \\ 0 & \text{if } \frac{W_N^{(i)}(y_1^N, \hat{u}_1^{i-1}|u_i=0)}{W_N^{(i)}(y_1^N, \hat{u}_1^{i-1}|u_i=1)} \geq 1 \text{ and } i \in \mathcal{A}, \\ 1 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where the bits  $u_i$  are decoded successively from 1 to  $N$ . It was shown in [16] that the block error probability when using SC decoding can be bounded from above by  $\sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}} Z_N^{(i)}$ , where  $Z_N^{(i)}$  is the Bhattacharyya parameter for the channel  $W_N^{(i)}$ . Further, it was shown in [29] that for any  $\beta < 1/2$ ,

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} |\{i : Z_N^{(i)} < 2^{-N^\beta}\}| = I(W), \quad (3)$$

where  $I(W)$  is given by  $I(X; Y)$  when the input distribution  $P_X$  is uniform. This is called the symmetric capacity of  $W$  and is equal to the Shannon capacity for symmetric channels. Using (3), we see that if we let the good channels be given by

$$\mathcal{G}_N = \{i : Z_N^{(i)} < 2^{-N^\beta}\}, \quad (4)$$

the block error probability  $P_e$  using SC decoding is bounded from above by

$$P_e \leq 2^{-N^\beta}, \quad (5)$$

and the rate of  $\mathcal{C}(N, \mathcal{G}_N, u_{\mathcal{F}})$  approaches  $I(W)$  as  $N$  grows.

Arikan further showed that the encoder and decoder can be implemented with complexity  $O(N \log N)$ .

We define the nested polar code  $\mathcal{C}(N, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, u_{\mathcal{F}})$  of length  $N$  where  $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{A}$  as follows. The codewords of  $\mathcal{C}(N, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, u_{\mathcal{F}})$  are the same as the codewords for  $\mathcal{C}(N, \mathcal{A}, u_{\mathcal{F}})$ . The nested structure is defined by partitioning  $\mathcal{C}(N, \mathcal{A}, u_{\mathcal{F}})$  as cosets of  $\mathcal{C}(N, \mathcal{B}, u_{\mathcal{F}_B})$ , where the entries of  $u_{\mathcal{F}_B}$  are zero if they correspond to an index in  $\mathcal{B} \setminus \mathcal{A}$ , and given by the corresponding entry in  $u_{\mathcal{F}}$  otherwise. Thus the codewords in  $\mathcal{C}(N, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, u_{\mathcal{F}})$  are given by

$$x^N = u_{\mathcal{B}} G_{\mathcal{B}} \oplus u_{\mathcal{A} \setminus \mathcal{B}} G_{\mathcal{A} \setminus \mathcal{B}} \oplus u_{\mathcal{F}} G_{\mathcal{F}},$$

where  $u_{\mathcal{A} \setminus \mathcal{B}}$  determines which coset the codeword lies in. Note that each coset will be a polar code with  $\mathcal{B}^c$  as the frozen set. The frozen bits  $u_i$  are either given by  $u_{\mathcal{F}}$  (if  $i \in \mathcal{A}^c$ ) or they equal the corresponding bits in  $u_{\mathcal{A} \setminus \mathcal{B}}$ .

For the following analysis we will need two results relating degraded channels and nested polar codes. Let  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  be two symmetric binary input memoryless channels, and let  $W_2$  be degraded with respect to  $W_1$ . Denote the polarized channels as defined in (1) by  $W_{1,N}^{(i)}$  and  $W_{2,N}^{(i)}$ , and their Bhattacharyya parameters by  $Z_{1,N}^{(i)}$  and  $Z_{2,N}^{(i)}$ . We will use the following lemma:

**Lemma 1** ([19, Lemma 4.7]). *If  $W_2$  is degraded with respect to  $W_1$ , then  $W_{2,N}^{(i)}$  is degraded with respect to  $W_{1,N}^{(i)}$  and  $Z_{2,N}^{(i)} \geq Z_{1,N}^{(i)}$ .*

The following result for degraded wiretap channels [2] was shown in [21–24]:

**Theorem 1** ([21–24]). *Let  $W$  be a degraded symmetric wiretap channel and denote the marginal channels to the main user and the wiretapper by  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  respectively. Let  $\mathcal{G}_{1,N}$  and  $\mathcal{G}_{2,N}$  be the corresponding sets given by (4). If  $W_2$  is degraded with respect to  $W_1$ , the nested polar code  $\mathcal{C}(N, \mathcal{G}_{1,N}, \mathcal{G}_{2,N}, u_{\mathcal{F}})$  achieves the capacity-equivocation region of the wiretap channel.*

The secrecy capacity of the wiretap channel is achieved by transmitting the message  $m$  over the channels in  $\mathcal{G}_{1,N} \setminus \mathcal{G}_{2,N}$ , while sending random bits over the channels in  $\mathcal{G}_{2,N}$ .

In the next section we introduce the BBC with common and confidential messages, and construct polar coding schemes for the BBC both with and without common and confidential messages.

### III. POLAR CODES FOR THE BIDIRECTIONAL BROADCAST CHANNEL

Let  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}_k$ ,  $k = 1, 2$ , be finite input and output sets. Then for input and output sequences  $x^N \in \mathcal{X}^N$  and  $y_k^N \in \mathcal{Y}_k^N$ ,  $k = 1, 2$ , of length  $N$ , the discrete memoryless broadcast channel is given by  $W_N(y_1^N, y_2^N | x^N) := \prod_{i=1}^N W(y_{1,i}, y_{2,i} | x_i)$ . Since we do not allow any cooperation between the receiving nodes,

it is sufficient to consider the marginal transition probabilities  $W_{k,N} := \prod_{i=1}^N W_k(y_{k,i} | x_i)$ ,  $k = 1, 2$  only.

We consider the standard model with a block code of arbitrary but fixed length  $N$ . The set of individual messages of node  $k$ ,  $k = 1, 2$ , is denoted by  $\mathcal{M}_k := \{1, \dots, M_k^{(N)}\}$ . The sets of common and confidential messages of the relay node are denoted by  $\mathcal{M}_0 := \{1, \dots, M_0^{(N)}\}$  and  $\mathcal{M}_c := \{1, \dots, M_c^{(N)}\}$ , respectively. Further, we use  $\mathcal{M} := \mathcal{M}_c \times \mathcal{M}_0 \times \mathcal{M}_1 \times \mathcal{M}_2$ .

In the bidirectional broadcast phase, we assume that the relay has successfully decoded both individual messages  $m_1 \in \mathcal{M}_1$  and  $m_2 \in \mathcal{M}_2$  that nodes 1 and 2 transmitted in the previous multiple access phase. Thus  $m_k$  is known at node  $k$  and at the relay. Besides both individual messages the relay additionally transmits a common message  $m_0 \in \mathcal{M}_0$  to both nodes and a confidential message  $m_c \in \mathcal{M}_c$  to node 1, which should be kept secret from node 2, cf. Figure 1.

The ignorance of the non-legitimate node 2 about the confidential message  $m_c \in \mathcal{M}_c$  is measured by the concept of equivocation rate. Here, the equivocation rate  $\frac{1}{N} H(\mathcal{M}_c | Y_2^N \mathcal{M}_2)$  characterizes the secrecy level of the confidential message. The higher the equivocation rate, the more ignorant node 2 is about the confidential message. For a rate-equivocation tuple  $(R_c, R_e, R_0, R_1, R_2) \in \mathbb{R}_+^5$  to be achievable we require, in addition to the error probabilities of decoding the legitimate messages going to zero, the equivocation rate to fulfill

$$\frac{1}{N} H(\mathcal{M}_c | Y_2^N \mathcal{M}_2) \geq R_e - \delta$$

for some (small)  $\delta > 0$ .

The case where the equivocation rate  $R_e$  equals the confidential rate  $R_c$  is called *perfect secrecy*. This is often equivalently written as

$$\frac{1}{N} I(\mathcal{M}_c; Y_2^N | \mathcal{M}_2) \leq \delta.$$

The BBC with common and confidential messages was analyzed in [13] for discrete memoryless channels. Its capacity-equivocation region is restated in the following theorem:

**Theorem 2** ([13]). *The capacity-equivocation region of the BBC with common and confidential messages is the set of rate-equivocation tuples  $(R_c, R_e, R_0, R_1, R_2) \in \mathbb{R}_+^5$  that satisfy*

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq R_e \leq R_c \\ R_e &\leq I(\mathcal{V}; \mathcal{Y}_1 | \mathcal{U}) - I(\mathcal{V}; \mathcal{Y}_2 | \mathcal{U}) \\ R_c + R_0 + R_k &\leq I(\mathcal{V}; \mathcal{Y}_1 | \mathcal{U}) + I(\mathcal{U}; \mathcal{Y}_k), \quad k = 1, 2 \\ R_0 + R_k &\leq I(\mathcal{U}; \mathcal{Y}_k), \quad k = 1, 2 \end{aligned}$$

for random variables  $\mathcal{U} - \mathcal{V} - \mathcal{X} - (\mathcal{Y}_1, \mathcal{Y}_2)$ . The cardinalities of the ranges of  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{V}$  can be bounded by

$$|\mathcal{U}| \leq |\mathcal{X}| + 3, \quad |\mathcal{V}| \leq |\mathcal{X}|^2 + 4|\mathcal{X}| + 3.$$

For the following analysis of polar codes we need the case where the marginal channels are degraded, i.e.,  $\mathcal{X} - \mathcal{Y}_1 - \mathcal{Y}_2$ .

**Corollary 1.** *The capacity-equivocation region of the degraded BBC with common and confidential messages is the*

set of rate tuples  $(R_c, R_e, R_0, R_1, R_2) \in \mathbb{R}_+^5$  that satisfy

$$0 \leq R_e \leq R_c$$

$$R_e \leq I(X; Y_1|U) - I(X; Y_2|U)$$

$$R_c + R_0 + R_k \leq I(X; Y_1|U) + I(U; Y_k), \quad k = 1, 2$$

$$R_0 + R_k \leq I(U; Y_k), \quad k = 1, 2$$

for random variables  $U - X - Y_1 - Y_2$ . The cardinality of the range of  $U$  can be bounded by

$$|\mathcal{U}| \leq |\mathcal{X}|.$$

*Proof:* The achievability follows immediately from the non-degraded case in Theorem 2, cf. also [13]. The converse and the bound on the cardinality of  $\mathcal{U}$  is devoted to the appendix. ■

By considering the case of perfect secrecy, i.e.  $R_e = R_c$ , we obtain the secrecy capacity region.

**Corollary 2.** *The secrecy capacity region of the degraded BBC with common and confidential messages is the set of rate tuples  $(R_c, R_0, R_1, R_2) \in \mathbb{R}_+^4$  that satisfy*

$$R_c \leq I(X; Y_1|U) - I(X; Y_2|U)$$

$$R_0 + R_k \leq I(U; Y_k), \quad k = 1, 2$$

for random variables  $U - X - Y_1 - Y_2$ . The cardinality of the range of  $U$  can be bounded by

$$|\mathcal{U}| \leq |\mathcal{X}|.$$

Polar codes that achieve this region were designed in [1].

**Remark 1.** *The improved bound on the cardinality of  $\mathcal{U}$  is particularly helpful when designing coding schemes. In the following subsections we will see that it allows us to consider binary input coding schemes when designing codes for a binary input channel, where a looser bound might have required non-binary schemes.*

**Remark 2.** *Note that by letting  $R_e = 0$  in Corollary 3 we drop the secrecy constraint on the message  $m_c$ . In this case the BBC with common and confidential messages specializes to the broadcast channel with partial receiver side information and degraded message sets considered in [12]. Thus the BBC with common and confidential messages is a generalization of the broadcast channel with partial receiver side information and degraded message sets, and any scheme that is capacity achieving for the first is also capacity achieving for the second.*

In the next subsections we design polar coding schemes for the BBC, and then for the BBC with common and confidential messages.

#### A. Polar Codes for the BBC

First consider a binary input BBC  $W$  with marginal channels  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  with no common and confidential messages. The capacity region is given by

$$R_1 \leq C_1 \quad (6)$$

$$R_2 \leq C_2 \quad (7)$$

where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are the capacities of  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  respectively.

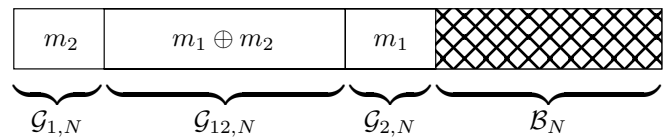


Fig. 2. Frozen sets and encoding for the BBC. A Part of  $m_1$  ( $m_2$ ) is transmitted over  $\mathcal{G}_{1,N}$  ( $\mathcal{G}_{2,N}$ ), and the remaining part of  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are transmitted as  $m_1 \oplus m_2$  over  $\mathcal{G}_{12,N}$ .

In the following theorem we present a polar coding scheme for this channel. Note how the values of the frozen bits for the two users correspond to the side information available.

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $W$  be a BBC with binary input alphabet and symmetric marginal channels  $W_1$  and  $W_2$ . Then there exists a polar coding scheme that achieves the rates given by (6) and (7). The encoders and decoders can be implemented with complexity  $O(N \log N)$ .*

*Proof:* Fix  $0 < \beta < 1/2$ . Let  $W_{k,N}^{(i)}$  and  $Z_{k,N}^{(i)}$  for  $k = 1, 2$  denote the polarized marginal channels and their Bhattacharyya parameters. Now define the following sets:

$$\mathcal{G}_{1,N} = \{i : Z_{1,N}^{(i)} < 2^{-N^\beta} \text{ and } Z_{2,N}^{(i)} \geq 2^{-N^\beta}\}, \quad (8)$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{2,N} = \{i : Z_{1,N}^{(i)} \geq 2^{-N^\beta} \text{ and } Z_{2,N}^{(i)} < 2^{-N^\beta}\}, \quad (9)$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{12,N} = \{i : Z_{1,N}^{(i)} < 2^{-N^\beta} \text{ and } Z_{2,N}^{(i)} < 2^{-N^\beta}\}, \quad (10)$$

$$\mathcal{B}_N = \{i : Z_{1,N}^{(i)} \geq 2^{-N^\beta} \text{ and } Z_{2,N}^{(i)} \geq 2^{-N^\beta}\}, \quad (11)$$

where  $\mathcal{G}_{1,N}$  are the channels that are good only for node 1,  $\mathcal{G}_{2,N}$  the channels that are good only for node 2,  $\mathcal{G}_{12,N}$  are the channels that are good for both nodes, and  $\mathcal{B}_N$  are the channels that are bad for both nodes. Consider the polar code  $\mathcal{C}(N, \mathcal{G}_{1,N} \cup \mathcal{G}_{2,N} \cup \mathcal{G}_{12,N}, u_{\mathcal{F}})$  with input bits given by

$$u_i = \begin{cases} m_{2i} & \text{if } i \in \mathcal{G}_{1,N}, \\ m_{1i} & \text{if } i \in \mathcal{G}_{2,N}, \\ m_{1i} \oplus m_{2i} & \text{if } i \in \mathcal{G}_{12,N}, \end{cases}$$

where we assume that the messages  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are binary vectors. The frozen sets and the encoding is shown in Figure 2. Since node 1 knows  $m_1$  it treats the input bits in  $\mathcal{G}_{2,N}$  as frozen and decodes the input bits  $u_i$  for  $i \in \mathcal{G}_{1,N} \cup \mathcal{G}_{12,N}$  using the SC decoder (2). Finally it subtracts the bits of  $m_1$  that appear in bits in  $\mathcal{G}_{12,N}$ . Thus the rate for node 1 becomes

$$R_{1,N} = \frac{|\mathcal{G}_{1,N}| + |\mathcal{G}_{12,N}|}{N}. \quad (12)$$

Node 2 treats the input bits  $m_2$  in  $\mathcal{G}_{1,N}$  as frozen and gets the rate

$$R_{2,N} = \frac{|\mathcal{G}_{2,N}| + |\mathcal{G}_{12,N}|}{N}. \quad (13)$$

By the definition of  $\mathcal{G}_{1,N}$ ,  $\mathcal{G}_{2,N}$ ,  $\mathcal{G}_{12,N}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_N$  and using (3) - (5) we see that the error probability goes to zero as  $N$  increases, and that the rates  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  approach the capacities  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ . Finally, the complexity of the encoder and the decoder is the same as for the point-to-point channel. ■

Note that we can use some of the input bits in  $\mathcal{G}_{12,N}$  to transmit a common message  $m_0$ , unknown at both destinations, by transferring parts of the rates  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  to  $R_0$ .

**Corollary 3.** *Let  $W$  be a BBC with binary input alphabet and symmetric marginal channels  $W_1$  and  $W_2$ , where  $W_2$  is degraded with respect to  $W_1$ . If we consider an additional common message  $m_0$ , the scheme in Theorem 3 achieves the following rate triples, which is the capacity region,*

$$R_0 + R_1 \leq C_1 \quad (14)$$

$$R_0 + R_2 \leq C_2. \quad (15)$$

*Proof:* It is easy to see that  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are outer bounds to the capacity region. Since  $W_2$  is degraded with respect to  $W_1$  we have  $\mathcal{G}_{2,N} = \emptyset$  by Lemma 1. Thus, by (3),

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} R_{0,N} + R_{1,N} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\mathcal{G}_{1,N}| + |\mathcal{G}_{12,N}|}{N} = C_1, \quad (16)$$

and

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} R_{0,N} + R_{2,N} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\mathcal{G}_{12,N}|}{N} = C_2, \quad (17)$$

which completes the proof.  $\blacksquare$

**Remark 3.** *Note that the condition that  $W_2$  is degraded with respect to  $W_1$  ensures that  $\mathcal{G}_{2,N} = \emptyset$ . If  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  are not ordered by degradation, the highest rate for the common message that can be achieved is given by  $\liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} |\mathcal{G}_{12,N}|/N$ . This quantity is called the compound capacity  $C_{P,SC}(W_1, W_2)$  of  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  using polar codes and SC decoding. In general,  $C_{P,SC}(W_1, W_2)$  is lower than the minimum of the capacities of  $W_1$  and  $W_2$ . Methods to calculate upper and lower bounds on  $C_{P,SC}(W_1, W_2)$  were developed in [30].*

In the next subsection we show how to design polar codes for a degraded BBC with common and confidential messages.

### B. Polar Codes for the BBC with Confidential Messages

We consider the case where  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  are binary symmetric channels (BSC) with transition probabilities  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ , with  $p_2 > p_1$ .<sup>1</sup> We call such a channel a binary symmetric BBC. Using the upper bound on  $|\mathcal{U}|$  from Corollary 1 and the same arguments as in [31, Example 15.6.3] it is easy to show that choosing  $U$  to be a  $\text{Ber}(1/2)$  binary random variable, and  $p_{X|U}$  to be a  $\text{BSC}(\alpha)$ , with  $0 < \alpha < 1/2$  is optimal. In this case the capacity-equivocation region in Corollary 1 becomes

$$0 \leq R_e \leq R_c$$

$$R_e \leq h_2(\alpha \star p_1) - h_2(p_1) - h_2(\alpha \star p_2) + h_2(p_2)$$

$$R_c + R_0 + R_k \leq h_2(\alpha \star p_1) - h_2(p_1) + 1 - h_2(\alpha \star p_k),$$

$$k = 1, 2$$

$$R_0 + R_k \leq 1 - h_2(\alpha \star p_k), \quad k = 1, 2,$$

where  $h_2(x) = -x \log x - (1-x) \log(1-x)$  and  $\alpha \star \beta = (1-\alpha)\beta + \alpha(1-\beta)$ .

Our main result is the following:

**Theorem 4.** *There exists a polar code  $\mathcal{C}_{BBC}$  designed for the binary symmetric BBC, and a polar code  $\mathcal{C}_{WT}$  designed for the binary symmetric wiretap channel such that transmitting*

$$X^N = X_{BBC}^N \oplus X_{WT}^N,$$

<sup>1</sup>This apparent simplification is made to make the exposition clearer. Our results generalize to arbitrary q-ary input BBCs with degraded marginal channels using results from [17].

for  $X_{BBC}^N \in \mathcal{C}_{BBC}$  and  $X_{WT}^N \in \mathcal{C}_{WT}$  achieves the capacity-equivocation region for the binary symmetric BBC with common and confidential messages. The encoders and decoders can be implemented with complexity  $O(N \log N)$ .

*Proof:* Fix  $0 < \alpha < 1/2$ . We first design  $\mathcal{C}_{BBC}$  for a binary symmetric BBC with a common message with transition probabilities  $\alpha \star p_1$  and  $\alpha \star p_2$ . If  $X_{WT}^N$  is statistically indistinguishable from an i.i.d.  $\text{Ber}(\alpha)$  vector, then, by Corollary 3,  $\mathcal{C}_{BBC}$  achieves all rate triples satisfying

$$R_0 + R_k \leq 1 - h_2(\alpha \star p_k), \quad k = 1, 2.$$

Both nodes can now decode  $X_{BBC}^N$  and remove its contribution. Note that since the channels are symmetric, the error probabilities do not depend on the values of the frozen bits, and we can choose them to be zero [16]. Also note that since  $X_{BBC}^N$  and  $X_{WT}^N$  are independent,  $X_{BBC}^N$  provides no information about  $X_{WT}^N$ . Thus, assuming that node 2 decodes  $X_{BBC}^N$  does not increase the equivocation of  $m_c$  at node 2.

Let  $\mathcal{C}_{WT}$  be a polar code with input weight  $\alpha' \in \mathbb{Q}$  designed for a binary symmetric wiretap channel with transition probabilities  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  using Theorem 1. To design a polar code with rational input weight  $\alpha'$ , we augment the binary channel with a virtual q-ary input and then design a polar code for this augmented channel. This technique was introduced by Gallager [32], and used for polar codes in [17, 19]. Since any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  can be approximated arbitrarily well by an  $\alpha' \in \mathbb{Q}$ , such a construction achieves all rate-equivocation pairs satisfying

$$R_c \leq h_2(\alpha \star p_1) - h_2(p_1),$$

$$R_e \leq h_2(\alpha \star p_1) - h_2(p_1) - h_2(\alpha \star p_2) + h_2(p_2).$$

In order to make the codewords of  $\mathcal{C}_{WT}$  statistically indistinguishable from an i.i.d.  $\text{Ber}(\alpha)$  vector we average over all possible values of the frozen bits of  $\mathcal{C}_{WT}$ . Let  $P_{e,BBC}(u_{\mathcal{F}})$ ,  $P_{e,WT}(u_{\mathcal{F}})$ , and  $P_e(u_{\mathcal{F}})$  be the average error probabilities of  $\mathcal{C}_{BBC}$ ,  $\mathcal{C}_{WT}$ , and the overall scheme respectively, when using  $u_{\mathcal{F}}$  as the frozen bits for  $\mathcal{C}_{WT}$ . Choosing  $u_{\mathcal{F}}$  uniformly at random we can make the average error probability

$$E_{U_{\mathcal{F}}}[P_e(U_{\mathcal{F}})] \leq E_{U_{\mathcal{F}}}[P_{e,BBC}(U_{\mathcal{F}}) + P_{e,WT}(U_{\mathcal{F}})]$$

arbitrarily small by choosing  $N$  large enough, since the codewords of  $\mathcal{C}_{WT}$  are i.i.d.  $\text{Ber}(\alpha)$  when averaged over  $u_{\mathcal{F}}$ . Since the average error probability is small there exists at least one  $u_{\mathcal{F}}$  such that  $P_e(u_{\mathcal{F}})$  is small, and using this  $u_{\mathcal{F}}$  as the frozen bits for  $\mathcal{C}_{WT}$  makes the overall error probability small.

Finally, the complexity of the encoders and the decoders are the same as in the point-to-point setting.  $\blacksquare$

**Remark 4.** *Consider a BBC with non-degraded marginal channels. As in Remark 3,  $R_0$  is bounded from above by  $C_{P,SC}(W_1, W_2)$ , but more importantly, the analysis of the equivocation rate  $R_e$  becomes difficult. It was conjectured in [23] that it is possible to achieve the secrecy capacity of non-degraded wiretap channels using polar codes. A proof of this conjecture would also apply to our scheme.*

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

We have given a polar coding scheme with complexity  $O(N \log N)$  for the degraded symmetric bidirectional broadcast channel with common and confidential messages. The different side information available at the different nodes is used in an intuitive way as different values of the frozen bits in the constituent polar codes. In order to show that the coding scheme is optimal, we have specialized the outer bound from [13] to the degraded setting. This outer bound includes an auxiliary random variable  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ , and using methods from [28] we have shown that  $\mathcal{U}$  can be chosen to have cardinality equal to the cardinality of the input alphabet  $\mathcal{X}$ . This allowed us to completely characterize the capacity-equivocation region and show that polar codes can achieve the whole region.

#### APPENDIX

##### A. Proof of Weak Converse

For any sequence of codes for the degraded BBC with common and confidential messages with error probabilities going to zero, we want to show that there exist random variables  $U - X - Y_1 - Y_2$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{N} H(M_c | Y_2^N M_2) &\leq I(X; Y_1 | U) - I(X; Y_2 | U) + o(N^0) \\ \frac{1}{N} (H(M_c) + H(M_0) + H(M_k)) &\leq I(X; Y_1 | U) + I(U; Y_k) \\ &\quad + o(N^0), \quad k = 1, 2 \\ \frac{1}{N} (H(M_0) + H(M_k)) &\leq I(U; Y_k) + o(N^0), \quad k = 1, 2. \end{aligned}$$

We do this by using techniques similar to [33] and the Fano-like inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} H(M_c M_0 M_2 | Y_1^N M_1) &\leq N \epsilon_1^{(N)}, \\ H(M_0 M_1 | Y_2^N M_2) &\leq N \epsilon_2^{(N)}, \end{aligned}$$

from [13]. Let  $M_{012} = (M_0 M_1 M_2)$  and introduce the random variable  $U_i = (M_{012} Y_1^{i-1})$ .

We first bound  $N(R_0 + R_1) \leq H(M_0) + H(M_2)$  as

$$\begin{aligned} H(M_0) + H(M_2) &\leq I(M_{012}; Y_1^N) + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^N I(M_{012} Y_1^{i-1}; Y_{1i}) + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N I(U_i; Y_{1i}) + N \epsilon_1^{(N)}. \end{aligned}$$

Then we bound  $N(R_0 + R_2) \leq H(M_0) + H(M_1)$  as

$$\begin{aligned} H(M_0) + H(M_1) &\leq I(M_{012}; Y_2^N) + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^N I(M_{012} Y_1^{i-1} Y_2^{i-1}; Y_{2i}) + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \\ &\stackrel{(a)}{=} \sum_{i=1}^N I(M_{012} Y_1^{i-1}; Y_{2i}) + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N I(U_i; Y_{2i}) + N \epsilon_2^{(N)}, \end{aligned}$$

where (a) follows from the degradedness  $X_i - Y_{1i} - Y_{2i}$ .

We bound  $H(M_c)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} H(M_c) &\leq I(M_c; Y_1^N | M_{012}) + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} \\ &\leq I(M_c X^N; Y_1^N | M_{012}) + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N I(X^N; Y_{1i} | M_{012} Y_1^{i-1}) + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N H(Y_{1i} | M_{012} Y_1^{i-1}) - H(Y_{1i} | M_{012} Y_1^{i-1} X^N) \\ &\quad + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N H(Y_{1i} | M_{012} Y_1^{i-1}) - H(Y_{1i} | M_{012} Y_1^{i-1} X_i) \\ &\quad + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N I(X_i; Y_{1i} | M_{012} Y_1^{i-1}) + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N I(X_i; Y_{1i} | U_i) + N \epsilon_1^{(N)}. \end{aligned}$$

Finally we bound  $N R_c \leq H(M_c | Y_2^N M_2)$  as

$$\begin{aligned} H(M_c | Y_2^N M_2) &= H(M_c | Y_2^N M_{012}) + I(M_c; M_0 M_1 | Y_2^N M_2) \\ &\leq H(M_c | Y_2^N M_{012}) + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \\ &= I(M_c; Y_1^N | Y_2^N M_{012}) + H(M_c | Y_2^N M_{012} Y_1^N) \\ &\quad + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \\ &\leq I(M_c; Y_1^N | Y_2^N M_{012}) + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \\ &\leq I(M_c X^N; Y_1^N | Y_2^N M_{012}) + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \\ &= I(X^N; Y_1^N | Y_2^N M_{012}) + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \\ &= H(X^N | M_{012} Y_2^N) - H(X^N | M_{012} Y_2^N Y_1^N) \\ &\quad + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \\ &= H(X^N | M_{012} Y_2^N) - H(X^N | M_{012} Y_1^N) \\ &\quad + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \\ &= I(X^N; Y_1^N | M_{012}) - I(X^N; Y_2^N | M_{012}) \\ &\quad + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N I(X^N; Y_{1i} | M_{012} Y_1^{i-1}) - I(X^N; Y_{2i} | M_{012} Y_2^{i-1}) \\ &\quad + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N H(Y_{1i} | Y_1^{i-1} M_{012}) - H(Y_{1i} | Y_1^{i-1} M_{012} X^N) \\ &\quad + H(Y_{2i} | Y_2^{i-1} M_{012}) + H(Y_{2i} | Y_2^{i-1} M_{012} X^N) \\ &\quad + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^N H(Y_{1i} | Y_1^{i-1} M_{012}) - H(Y_{1i} | Y_1^{i-1} M_{012} X_i) \\ &\quad + H(Y_{2i} | Y_2^{i-1} Y_1^{i-1} M_{012}) + H(Y_{2i} | Y_2^{i-1} M_{012} X_i) \\ &\quad + N \epsilon_1^{(N)} + N \epsilon_2^{(N)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \stackrel{(b)}{=} \sum_{i=1}^N H(Y_{1i}|Y_1^{i-1}M_{012}) - H(Y_{1i}|Y_1^{i-1}M_{012}X_i) + \\
& \quad - H(Y_{2i}|Y_1^{i-1}M_{012}) + H(Y_{2i}|Y_1^{i-1}M_{012}X_i) \\
& \quad + N\epsilon_1^{(N)} + N\epsilon_2^{(N)} \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N I(X_i; Y_{1i}|U_i) - I(X_i; Y_{2i}|U_i) + N\epsilon_1^{(N)} + N\epsilon_2^{(N)},
\end{aligned}$$

where (b) follows from the Markov chain  $(Y_1^{i-1}, Y_2^{i-1}, M_{012}) - X_i - Y_{2i}$ , which is due to the channel being memoryless.

Now we get the desired bounds by letting  $\mathbf{J}$  be a R.V. uniformly distributed over  $\{1, \dots, N\}$ , and choosing  $\mathbf{U} = (\mathbf{U}_J, \mathbf{J})$ ,  $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}_J$ ,  $\mathbf{Y}_1 = \mathbf{Y}_{1J}$ , and  $\mathbf{Y}_2 = \mathbf{Y}_{2J}$ .

### B. Proof of Bound on Cardinality of $\mathcal{U}$

We follow [28] closely, and use their notation. By [28, Lemma 3] the capacity-equivocation region is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
\{(R_e, R_c, R_0, R_1, R_2) \in \mathbb{R}_+^5 : \forall (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_4, \lambda_5) \in \mathbb{R}_+^5, \\
\lambda_1 R_e + \lambda_2 (R_c + R_0 + R_1) + \lambda_3 (R_c + R_0 + R_2) + \\
\lambda_4 (R_0 + R_1) + \lambda_5 (R_0 + R_2) \leq G(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_4, \lambda_5)\},
\end{aligned}$$

where  $G(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_4, \lambda_5)$  is given by the supremum of

$$\begin{aligned}
\lambda_1 (I(X; Y_1|U) - I(X; Y_2|U)) + \lambda_2 (I(X; Y_1|U) + I(U; Y_1)) + \\
\lambda_3 (I(X; Y_1|U) + I(U; Y_2)) + \lambda_4 I(U; Y_1) + \lambda_5 I(U; Y_2),
\end{aligned}$$

taken over all R.V.  $U$  s.t.  $P_{UXY_1Y_2} = P_U P_{X|U} P_{Y_1Y_2|X}$ . Now let  $\mathcal{P}$  be the set of probability distributions on  $\mathcal{X}$ , and let  $P_X \in \mathcal{P}$ . We define the following  $|\mathcal{X}|$  functions on  $\mathcal{P}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
f_j(P_X) &= P_X(j), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, |\mathcal{X}| - 1, \\
f_{|\mathcal{X}|}(P_X) &= \lambda_1 (I_{P_X}(X; Y_1) - I_{P_X}(X; Y_2)) \\
& \quad + \lambda_2 (I_{P_X}(X; Y_1) - H_{P_X}(Y_1)) \\
& \quad + \lambda_3 (I_{P_X}(X; Y_1) - H_{P_X}(Y_2)) \\
& \quad - \lambda_4 H_{P_X}(Y_1) - \lambda_5 H_{P_X}(Y_2),
\end{aligned}$$

where  $I_{P_X}(X; Y_i)$  and  $H_{P_X}(Y_i)$  are the corresponding mutual information and entropies when the distribution of  $X$  is  $P_X$ . Each probability distribution  $P_U$  defines a measure  $\mu(dP_X)$  on  $\mathcal{P}$ . Let  $P_X^*$  be the probability distribution that achieves  $G(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_4, \lambda_5)$ , and let  $\mu^*$  be the corresponding measure. Note that

$$\begin{aligned}
\int f_j(P_X) \mu^*(dP_X) &= P_X^*(j), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, |\mathcal{X}| - 1, \\
\int f_{|\mathcal{X}|}(P_X) \mu^*(dP_X) &= \lambda_1 (I_{P_X^*}(X; Y_1|U) - I_{P_X^*}(X; Y_2|U)) \\
& \quad + \lambda_2 (I_{P_X^*}(X; Y_1|U) - H_{P_X^*}(Y_1|U)) \\
& \quad + \lambda_3 (I_{P_X^*}(X; Y_1|U) - H_{P_X^*}(Y_2|U)) \\
& \quad - \lambda_4 H_{P_X^*}(Y_1|U) - \lambda_5 H_{P_X^*}(Y_2|U).
\end{aligned}$$

From  $f_1(P_X^*), \dots, f_{|\mathcal{X}|-1}(P_X^*)$  we can calculate  $H_{P_X^*}(Y_1)$  and  $H_{P_X^*}(Y_2)$  and form

$$\begin{aligned}
\int f_{|\mathcal{X}|}(P_X) \mu^*(dP_X) + (\lambda_2 + \lambda_4) H_{P_X^*}(Y_1) + \\
(\lambda_3 + \lambda_5) H_{P_X^*}(Y_2) = G(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_4, \lambda_5).
\end{aligned}$$

Now it follows from [28, Lemma 2] that it is sufficient to consider R.V.  $U$  with  $|\mathcal{U}| \leq |\mathcal{X}|$ .

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