

Professional preparation

Postdoctoral training, 7/2012 – 6/2014	Dynamical Systems, Robotics, Animal Behavior	New York University, Brooklyn, NY, USA
Ph.D., 2012	Aerospace Engineering	University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA
M.Eng., 2005	Systems Engineering	Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA
B.E., 2000	Mechanical Engineering	Delhi College of Engineering, Delhi University, New Delhi, India

Academic Appointments

08/2016—	Assistant Professor , Department of Mechanical Engineering, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA
07/2014—12/2015	Assistant Professor , Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi), New Delhi, India.

Other Appointments

03/2016—07/2016	Visiting Scholar , Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA
06/2015—08/2015	Visiting Professor , New York University, Brooklyn, NY, USA
08/2000—08/2004	Systems Engineer , Tata Consultancy Services, Delhi, India

Publications¹**Journal**

1. V. Mwaffo, S. Butail, and M. Porfiri. Analysis of pairwise interactions in a maximum likelihood sense to identify leaders in a group *Frontiers in Robotics and AI*, **4**, 2017
2. S. Macri, D. Neri, T. Ruberto, S. Butail, V. Mwaffo and M. Porfiri. Three-dimensional scoring of zebrafish behavior unveils biological phenomena hidden by two-dimensional analyses. *Scientific Reports* **7**(1), 2017
3. V. Mwaffo, S. Butail, and M. Porfiri. *In-silico* experiments of zebrafish behaviour: modelling swimming in three dimensions. *Scientific Reports* **4**(39877), 2017
4. S. Butail, V. Mwaffo, and M. Porfiri. Model-free information-theoretic approach to infer leadership in pairs of zebrafish. *Physical Review E*, **93**(4) 042411, 2016
5. T. Bartolini, V. Mwaffo, A. Showler, S. Macri, S. Butail and M. Porfiri. Zebrafish response to 3D printed shoals of conspecifics: the effect of body size. *Bioinspiration & Biomimetics*, **11**(2):026003, 2016
6. N. Abaid, S. Butail, M. Porfiri, M. and D. Spinello. Dynamics of animal systems. *European Physical Journal (Preface to Special Topics)*, **224**:3109-3117, 2015

¹ Names underlined indicate students directly supervised; names in italics are mentees

7. K. Gajamannage, S. Butail, M. Porfiri, and E. M. Bollt. Identifying manifolds underlying group motion in Vicsek agents. *The European Physical Journal (Special issue: Animal Dynamics)*, **224**: 3245-3256, 2015
8. V. Mwaffo, R. P. Anderson, S. Butail, and M. Porfiri. A jump persistent turning walker to model zebrafish locomotion. *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*, **12**(102): 20140884, 2015.
9. T. Bartolini, V. Mwaffo, S. Butail, and M. Porfiri. Effect of acute ethanol administration on zebrafish tail beat motion. *Alcohol*, **49**:721–725, 2015
10. V. Mwaffo, S. Butail, M. diBernardo, and M. Porfiri. Measuring zebrafish turning rate. *Zebrafish*, **12**(3): 250–254, 2015
11. F. Ladu, T. Bartolini, S. Panitz, F. Chiarotti, S. Butail, S. Macrì, and M. Porfiri. Live predators, robots, and computer-animated images elicit differential avoidance responses in zebrafish. *Zebrafish* (cover page), **12**(3): 2015–214, 2015.
12. T. Bartolini, S. Butail, and M. Porfiri. Temperature influences sociality and activity of freshwater fish. *Environmental Biology of Fishes*, **98**(3): 825–832, 2015.
13. K. D. Gajamannage, S. Butail, M. Porfiri, and E. M. Bollt. Dimensionality Reduction of Collective Motion by Principal Manifolds. *Physica D: Nonlinear Phenomena*, **291**:62–73, 2015.
14. D. Shishika, N. C. Manoukis, S. Butail, and D. A. Paley. Male motion coordination in anopheline mating swarms. *Scientific Reports*, **4**(6318), 2014.
15. S. Butail, F. Ladu, D. Spinello, and M. Porfiri. Information flow in animal-robot interactions. *Entropy (Special issue: Information in Dynamical Systems and Complex Systems)*, **16**(3): 1315–1330, 2014. [One of top 10 cited papers in last two years \(2014-\)](#)
16. F. Ladu, S. Butail, S. Macrì, and M. Porfiri. Sociality modulates the effects of ethanol in zebrafish. *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research*, **38**(7): 2096–2104, 2014.
17. S. Butail, P. Salerno, E. M. Bollt, and M. Porfiri. Classification of collective behavior: a comparison of tracking and machine learning methods to study the effect of ambient light on fish shoaling. *Behavior Research Methods*, 2014.
18. S. Butail, G. Polverino, P. Phamduy, F. Del Sette, and M. Porfiri. Influence of robotic shoal size, configuration, and activity on zebrafish behavior in a free-swimming environment. *Behavioural Brain Research*, **275**:269–280, 2014.
19. A. Chicoli, S. Butail, Y. Lun, J. Bak-Coleman, S. Coombs, and D. A. Paley. “The effects of flow on schooling *Devario aequipinnatus*: school structure, startle response and information transmission. *Journal of Fish Biology*, **84**(5): 1401–1421, 2014.
20. N. C. Manoukis, S. Butail, M. Diallo, J. M. C. Ribeiro, and D. A. Paley. Stereoscopic Video Analysis of *Anopheles gambiae* Behavior in the Field: Challenges and Opportunities. *Acta Tropica*, **132**:S80–S85, 2014.
21. S. Butail, E. M. Bollt, and M. Porfiri. Analysis and classification of collective behavior using generative modeling and nonlinear manifold learning. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, **336**(7): 185–199, 2013.
22. S. Butail, T. Bartolini, and M. Porfiri. Collective response of zebrafish shoals to a free-swimming robotic fish. *PLoS One*, **8**(10): e76123, 2013. [Among the top 10 % cited papers in PLoS One in 2017](#)

23. S. Butail, N. C. Manoukis, M. Diallo, J. M. C. Ribeiro, and D. A. Paley. The Dance of Male *Anopheles gambiae* in Wild Mating Swarms. *Journal of Medical Entomology*, **50**(3): 552–559, 2013.
24. S. Butail, N. C. Manoukis, M. Diallo, J. M. C. Ribeiro, T. Lehmann, and D. A. Paley. Reconstructing the flight kinematics of swarming and mating in wild mosquitoes. *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*, **9**(75): 2624–2638, 2012.
25. S. Butail and D. A. Paley. Three-dimensional reconstruction of the fast-start swimming kinematics of densely schooling fish. *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*, **9**(66): 77–88, 2011.

Book Chapters

26. S. Butail, N. Abaid, S. Macrì, and M. Porfiri. Fish-robot interactions: robot fish in animal behavioral studies. In R. Du, Z. Li, K. Youcef-Toumi, and P. Valdivia y Alvarado, editors, *Robot Fish, Bio-inspired Fishlike Underwater Robots*, chapter 12, pages 221–240. Springer, 2015.

Conference (refereed)

27. N. Gupta*, A. Singh*, and S. Butail. The effect of instructional priming on postural responses to virtual crowds, *In Proceedings of the IEEE Workshop on Virtual Humans and Crowds for Immersive Environments (VHCIE)*, 2017 (*equal contribution)
28. R. Tiwari*, P. Jain*, S. Butail, P. B. Sujit, and M. Goodrich. Effect of Leader Placement on Robotic Swarm Control, *In Proceedings of the International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems* (accepted), 2017 (*equal contribution)
29. V. Mwaffo, S. Butail, and M. Porfiri. A three dimensional model of zebrafish swimming, *In Proceedings of the ASME Dynamic Systems and Control Conference*, October 2016, Minneapolis, MN, USA
30. V. Sathish, S. Ramaswamy, and S. Butail. Training data selection criteria for detecting failures in industrial robots. *IFAC International Conference on Advances in Control and Optimization Of Dynamical Systems*, Tiruchirappalli, India, February 2016
31. S. Butail. Simulating the effect of a social robot on moving pedestrian crowds. *In Proceedings of the IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, pages 2413–2418 Hamburg, Germany, September 2015
32. V. Sathish, S. Ramaswamy, and S. Butail. A simulation based approach to detect wear in industrial robots. *In Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering (CASE)*, pages 1570–1575, Gothenburg, Sweden, August 2015.
33. S. Butail, T. Bartolini, and M. Porfiri. Collective response of zebrafish to a mobile robotic fish. *In Proceedings of the ASME Dynamic Systems and Control Conference*. Invited session on "Biologically-inspired control and its applications", Palo Alto, CA, October 2013.
34. S. Butail, A. Chicoli, and D. A. Paley. Putting the fish in the fish tank: Immersive VR for animal behavior experiments. *In Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, pages 5018–5023, Minneapolis, MN, USA, 2012.
35. S. Butail, N. C. Manoukis, M. Diallo, A. S. Yaro, A. Dao, S. F. Traoré, J. M. C. Ribeiro, T. Lehmann, and D. A. Paley. 3D tracking of mating events in wild swarms of the malaria

- mosquito *Anopheles gambiae*. In *Proceedings of the IEEE Conference of Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBC)*, pages 720–723, Boston, MA, USA, January 2011.
36. S. Butail and D. A. Paley. 3D reconstruction of fish schooling kinematics from underwater video. In *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, pages 2438–2443, Anchorage, AK, USA, May 2010.
 37. S. Butail and D. A. Paley. Vision-based estimation of three-dimensional position and pose of multiple underwater vehicles. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, pages 2477–2482, St. Louis, MO, USA, 2009.
 38. N. Sydney, S. Napora, S. Beal, P. Mohl, P. Nolan, S. Sherman, A. Leishman, S. Butail, and D. A. Paley. A Micro-UUV testbed for Bio-Inspired Motion Coordination. In *International Symposium Unmanned Untethered Submersible Technology*, Durham, NH, USA, 2009.
 39. S. Butail and M. Peck. Non-Contacting Interfaces: A Case Study in Modular Spacecraft Design. In *Proceedings of the Conference on Systems Engineering Research*, volume 2, pages 27–34, New Jersey, NJ, USA, 2007.

Oral Abstracts

1. S. Butail, *V. Mwaffo*, and M. Porfiri, Inferring leadership in zebrafish pairs: an information-theoretic approach. Tutorial Session on: Bio-inspired Network Dynamics and Control, American Control Conference, Seattle, Washington, USA, 2017
2. S. Butail, [A. Bhatia](#), and [E. Mohammadi](#). Speed modulated social influence in evacuating pedestrian crowds. In SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems, Snowbird, Utah, 2017
3. *Mwaffo V.*, Khoury, R., Butail, S., and Porfiri, M. Inferring leadership in pairs of zebrafish, IEEE International Workshop on Complex Systems and Networks 2016 (IWCSN-2016), 14-15 November, 2016, Atlanta, GA, USA.
4. [P. Jain](#), K. Choudhary, S. Pradhan, O. P. Singh, and S. Butail. An indoor lighting system to study mosquito-swarmer behavior. In Research showcase, IIIT-Delhi, New Delhi, India, 2015. [Second prize in Elevator Pitch demo competition](#)
5. F. Ladu, T. Bartolini, S. Panitz, S. Butail, S. Macrì, and M. Porfiri. Biologically- inspired robots elicit a robust fear response in zebrafish. In *Proceedings of the SPIE, Bioinspiration, Biomimetics, and Bioreplication V*, pages 9429–20, San Diego, CA, USA, Mar 2015.
6. S. Butail, *P. Salerno*, E. Bollt, and M. Porfiri. Classification of collective behavior using machine learning: a comparison with visual tracking in a study on the effect of ambient light on fish shoaling. In 8th Annual Machine Learning Symposium, New York Academy of Sciences, New York, New York, USA, March 2014.
7. S. Butail, G. Polverino, P. Phamduy, F. Del Sette, and M. Porfiri. Fish-robot interactions in a free-swimming environment: Effects of speed and configuration of robots on live fish. In *Proceedings of SPIE, Bioinspiration, Biomimetics, and Bioreplication*, page 90550I, San Diego, CA, USA, March 2014.
8. S. Butail, F. Ladu, D. Spinello, and M. Porfiri. Inferring information flow between interacting animals and robots. In U.S. National Congress on Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, Michigan State University, June 2014.

9. K. Gajamannage, S. Butail, E. Bollt, and M. Porfiri. Model reduction of collective motion by principal manifolds. In U.S. National Congress on Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, Michigan State University, June 2014.
10. D. L. Shishika, N. C. Manoukis, S. Butail, and D. A. Paley. The dynamics of malarial mosquitoes in wild mating swarms. In U.S. National Congress on Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, Michigan State University, June 2014.
11. S. Butail, T. Bartolini, V. Cianca, S. Macri, and M. Porfiri. Bioinspired robotic fish for animal behavior research. In Dynamic Systems and Control Conference Video Session, Palo Alto, CA, October 21–23 2013.
12. S. Butail, N. Abaid, E. Bollt, and M. Porfiri. Evolution of a network of multi-agent systems on low-dimensional manifolds. In SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems, Snowbird, Utah, 2013.
13. N. C. Manoukis, S. Butail, D. L. Shishika, D. A. Paley, and J. M. C. Ribeiro. 3D video analysis of male *Anopheles gambiae* mating behavior in the field: Challenges and opportunities. In 4th Research Co-ordination Meeting of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture on Biology of Male Mosquitoes in Relation to Genetic Control Programmes, Juazeiro, Brazil, 2013.
14. J. Coleman, S. Butail, D. A. Paley, and S. Coombs. The spatiotemporal dynamics of rheotaxis in stream-dwelling fish under different flow and sensory conditions. In International Congress of Neuroethology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA, 2012.
15. A. Chicoli, Y. Lun, S. Butail, S. Coombs, and D. A. Paley. Making waves: Quantitative analysis of information transmission in schooling fish. In Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB), Charleston, SC, 2012.
16. D. A. Paley and S. Butail. Reconstruction and analysis of individual dynamics in fish schools and mosquito swarms. In SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems, Snowbird, Utah, 2011.
17. J. Lun, A. Chicoli, S. Butail, S. Coombs, and D. A. Paley. Escape response probability of giant danios to select visual looming stimuli. In Soc. for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, 2011.
18. J. Coleman, S. Butail, D. A. Paley, and S. Coombs. The effect of group size on rheotactic performance in schooling giant danio. In International Congress on Flow Sensing in Air and Water, Bonn, Germany, 2011.
19. A. Chicoli, Y. Lun, S. Butail, S. Coombs, and D. A. Paley. Motion coordination for information transmission in schooling fish: Determining threat-detection sensitivity and response bias. In NSF Engineering Research and Innovation Conf., Atlanta, Georgia, 2011.
20. N. C. Manoukis, S. Butail, D. A. Paley, A. S. Yaro, M. Diallo, S. F. Traoré, A. Dao, J. M. C. Ribeiro, and T. Lehmann. Quantifying and analyzing dance of *Anopheles gambiae* in mating swarms. In American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Meeting (*talk*), 2010.
21. N. C. Manoukis, S. Butail, D. A. Paley, A. S. Yaro, M. Diallo, S. F. Traoré, A. Dao, J. M. C. Ribeiro, and T. Lehmann. Quantifying and analyzing the mosquito dance in mating swarms. In Biology of Mosquito Vectors, Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (*talk & poster*), 2010.

22. S. Butail, D. A. Paley, and A. N. Popper. 3D reconstruction of fish schooling kinematics from underwater video. In Neuroscience and Cognitive Science FEST, University of Maryland, College Park, 2010.
23. S. Butail and D. A. Paley. Vision-based tracking of pose of multiple underwater vehicles. In Northeast Control Workshop, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, 2009.
24. S. Butail and D. A. Paley. Tracking multiple underwater vehicles: a probabilistic framework. In Graduate Research Interaction Day (GRID), University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 2009. [First prize in modeling and simulation](#)

Editorial activities

- Topic Editor for European Physical Journal (EPJ) Special issue titled “Dynamics of Animal Systems” with Nicole Abaid (Virginia Tech), Maurizio Porfiri (New York University), and Davide Spinello (University of Ottawa)

External Grants

- National Science Foundation - Sensors, Dynamics, & Control: “Causal Relationships Underlying the Collective Dynamic Behavior of Swarms” (Co-investigator and sub-awardee, \$22,676, CMMI 1433670, \$350k, September 2014 - August 2017, PI: Maurizio Porfiri, New York University)

Awards

- Travel Awards for International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (2015), International Workshop on Complex Systems and Networks (2012), International Conference on Robotics and Automation (2012), International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (2011)
- Dean’s Graduate Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2007–08

Media coverage

- *EurekaAlert*, *National Science Foundation*, *Futurity*, *Phys.org*, “Swimming for Science: Fish 3D platform for simulating Zebrafish Behavior may replace animals in some research”, January, 2017
- *Reuters*, *Discover magazine*, *Popular science*, *National Science Foundation*, *MSN news*, *Redorbit*, *Futurity*, *Mental floss*, “Follow that Fish! Zebrafish React Differently to Alcohol When Shoalmates are Close by”. May, 2014
- *Nautilus Science Magazine*, “Animals Bow to Their Mechanical Overlords: Robots are infiltrating insect, fish, and bird communities—and seizing control”. Emily Anthes, February 13, 2014
- *E@M*, *The Magazine of the Clark School of Engineering, University of Maryland*; “We, Robots” Spring 2011.

Teaching²

Northern Illinois University (NIU)

- *Engineering vibrations*: undergraduate course with laboratory component on the analysis of free and forced vibration in single and multi degree-of-freedom systems. 2016 (80 students; 49% response rate, 2.54/5, 2.78/5)
- *Mechanism design and analysis*: undergraduate course on the synthesis and kinematic analysis of mechanisms including a design project. 2016 (82 students; 48% response rate, 2.80/5, 2.81/5)
- *Robot vision and control*: undergraduate and graduate course on using vision to control mobile and manipulator robots; includes four team projects. 2017 (39 students; 28% response rate, 4.04/5, 4.41/5)

IIT-Delhi

- *Modeling complex systems*: senior undergraduate and graduate level course on mathematical models of complex systems including population dynamics, disease spreading, collective motion, real-world networks, traffic flow, and social contagion. 2014 (3 students; 4.0/5.0, 5.0/5.0), 2015 (16 students; 3.81/5.0, 3.97/5.0)
- *Math III, multivariable calculus*: undergraduate level course jointly taught with two other faculty in 2014 (60 students)
- *Stochastic estimation and control*: graduate level course on linear estimation and control of dynamical systems with introduction to nonlinear estimation methods; half semester, 2015 (9 students; 3.3/5.0, 3.33/5.0)

Advising

Doctoral thesis

- Sathish, V. (2014-), IIT-Delhi, Sponsored by ABB Group, Data-driven detection of wear-induced faults in industrial robots

Masters thesis

- Mohammadi, E. (2016-), Northern Illinois University
- Maridi, K. (2016-), Northern Illinois University
- Kempel, J. (2017-)
- Boddeeti, H. (2017-)

Undergraduate research thesis

- Puneet Jain (2015-), IIT-Delhi, Frequency response analysis of mosquito swarming behavior

Senior design team projects

- William Moran, Rob LaBore, James Burke, Jonathan Schmid, Sound-based omnidirectional collision avoidance in unmanned aerial vehicles, NIU, (2016-2017)

² Teaching evaluation is reported in terms of two numbers: the first number is the average of questions related to the course effectiveness, and the second number is the average of questions related to the instructor effectiveness.

- Jose Chavez, Jerry Galeana, Juan Mendez, Ramadan Matariyeh, Blake Wuestenfeld, Flow tunnel design for studying hydrodynamics of schooling fish, NIU, (2016-2017)
- Kyle Brown, Lee Gilbert, Adam Zaucha, Joshua Jufko, Active Magnetic Levitation, NIU, (2016-2017)

Student Clubs

- Co-advisor for the NIU-Robotics club.

Internships

- Naman Gupta (2015), IIT-Delhi, Authoring virtual reality display to study crowd behavior
- Anmol Singh (2015), IIT-Delhi, Developing motion capture for crowd behavior test bed
- Abhishek Bhatia (2014-2015), IIT-Delhi, Experimental evaluation and modeling of crowd evacuation
- Sidharth Raja (2015), Delhi Technological University, Identifying features of group membership in crowds for natural robot navigation

Academic advisor for 40-50 students every semester at NIU

Invited Talks

- Learning from and about animal behavior: from natural to engineered collectives, Michigan State University, March 2, 2016; New Jersey Institute of Technology, March 8, 2016; Northern Illinois University, May 5, 2016
- Simulating social robot interaction with moving pedestrian crowds, Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, New York University, June 26, 2015
- Measuring information flow in fish-robot interactions, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, December 1, 2014
- Low-dimensional representation of collective motion in animal groups, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi, June 4, 2013 (e-seminar)
- Collective motion in animal groups: trajectory reconstruction and manifold learning, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Clarkson University, January 22, 2013
- Model-based Estimation and Characterization of Collective Motion in Animal Groups, Department of Aerospace Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, November 9, 2012 (Skype)

Workshops

- Flow of information in collective animal behavior, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, November 28, 2014

Professional Service

- Minisymposium co-organizer, Data-driven Analysis and Modeling of Real-world Dynamical Systems, SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems, Snowbird, Utah, 2017
- Session co-chair, Biologically-inspired control and its applications, Dynamic Systems and Control Conference 2013

Reviewing Activities

- *Journals*: ASME Journal of Dynamic Systems, Automatica, Behavior Research Methods, Bioinspiration & Biomimetics, Biological Invasions, Chaos: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Nonlinear Science, Communications in Nonlinear Science and Numerical Simulation, IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems I, IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems, IEEE Transactions on Mechatronics, International Journal of Mechanical Sciences, International Journal of Robust and Nonlinear Control, International Journal of Computer Assisted Radiology and Surgery, Journal of the Royal Society Interface, Measurement and Control, Neural Computing and Applications, PeerJ, PLoS One, Royal Society Open Science
- *Conferences*: IEEE American Control Conference (ACC), IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC), IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), IEEE/RSS International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), Dynamic Systems and Control Conference (DSCC), International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC)
- *Grant Proposals*: German Research Foundation, Human Frontier Science Program, IMPRINT-India, Luxembourg National Research Fund, National Science Foundation

Professional Societies

SIAM, IEEE Robotics and Automation, IEEE Controls Systems