





# Mishal Assif P K

## Resume

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## EDUCATION

**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**

*Ph.D in Electrical Engineering, CPI: 3.97/4.00*

**Urbana-Champaign, USA**

*Present*

**Indian Institute of Technology Bombay**

*B.Tech + M.Tech in Mechanical Engineering, CPI: 8.63/10.00*

**Bombay, India**

*August 2019*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am broadly interested in the theory and applications of control, optimization and learning. I mostly use topological/geometric and stochastic tools in my research, mainly focusing on:

- Topological machine learning; Biparametric persistent homology, Stochastic differential topology.
- Control and Optimization; Geometric nonlinear control, Robust optimization.

## PUBLICATIONS

Preprints of all papers are available on my [arXiv page](#).

1. **M. Assif P K** *Singularities of Gaussian random maps into the plane*. Submitted to Journal of Applied and Computational Topology.
2. **M. Assif P K**, Y. Baryshnikov *Biparametric persistence of smooth filtrations*. Submitted to Computational Geometry.
3. **M. Assif P K**, M. R. Sheriff, D. Chatterjee *Measure of quality of finite-dimensional linear systems: A frame-theoretic view*. Systems and Control Letters, Vol.151, 2021.
4. **M. Assif P K**, D. Chatterjee, R. Banavar *Scenario approach for minmax optimization in the nonconvex setting: Positive results and caveats*. SIAM Journal on Optimization, Vol.30(2), 2020.
5. **M. Assif P K**, D. Chatterjee, R. Banavar *A simple proof of the discrete time geometric Pontryagin maximum principle*. Automatica, Vol.114, 2020.
6. **M. Assif**, R. Banavar, A. M. Bloch, M. Camarinha, L. Colombo *Variational collision avoidance on Riemannian manifolds*. Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Decision and Control, 2018.

## PRESENTATIONS

1. *Geometric Pontryagin Maximum Principle for discrete time optimal control*, 12th ICMAT Summer School on Geometry, Mechanics and Control, Spain, 2018.

## EXPERIENCE

**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Dept. of ECE**

*Graduate Research Assistant, Advisor: Prof. Yuliy Baryshnikov*

*Fall 2019 - Present*

- Developed a geometric theory for understanding biparametric persistent homology (BPH).
- Studied the average complexity of BPH of Gaussian random fields.
- Working on applications of BPH to 3D shape classification and retrieval.

**Corteva Agriscience**

*Research Intern*

*Summer 2020*

- Created mathematical models for understanding the onset of insect resistance in a variety of seeds under different chemical scenarios.
- Generated software tools that describe insect resistance predictions and various management practices used to influence resistance behavior.

- Studied the effect of a combination of insect resistance management tactics and their economic and environmental impact.

## AUV-IITB, Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Team

*Software developer*

*2015 - 2016*

- Worked as part of a team in the development of algorithms to enable an AUV to autonomously localize and perform realistic missions based on feedback from visual, inertial and acoustic sensors.
- Secured second place at the International AUVSI Robosub competition 2016.
- Maintained a modular software stack written in C++ and Python, using ROS for integration of various subsystems.
- Implemented a finite state machine for planning the execution flow of the AUV.
- Developed and tuned a PID controller for controlling the 5 degrees of freedom of the AUV.
- Created various ancillary tools such as drivers for sensors, simulators and runtime debug interfaces.

## PROJECTS

📄 [github.com/Mishalassif/height-persist](https://github.com/Mishalassif/height-persist)

*Fall 2021-Present*

*3D Object classification using the Persistent homology transform (PHT)*

- Created a pipeline that takes a CAD model in obj/off format and vectorizes it using the Persistent homology transform.
- Trained a random forest classifier on the output of the vectorizing pipeline and obtained an accuracy of 80% on the ModelNet40 dataset.
- Working on training a neural network on the output to obtain higher accuracy. The sparse nature of the PHT features makes this task challenging.

## SOFTWARE SKILLS

Programming Python, C++, Matlab, Mathematica.

ML tools PyTorch, scikit-learn, Tensorflow.

Other tools L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Git, ROS, Gazebo, OpenCV.

## RELEVANT COURSES

- **Probability:** Probability and random processes, Information theory, Stochastic processes.
- **ML:** Pattern recognition, Generative AI models, High dimensional geometric data analysis, Statistical learning theory.
- **Math:** Algebraic topology (I, II), Differentiable manifolds (I, II), Lie groups and Lie algebras.
- **Control theory:** Differential geometric control, Adaptive and Nonlinear control, Optimization.

## TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

- ECE 486 Control Systems, UIUC. *Fall 2020/Spring 2021*
- ME 310 Microprocessors and Automatic Control(Theory + Lab), IITB. *Fall 2018/Spring 2019*
- SC 624 Differential Geometric Methods in Control, IITB. *Spring 2018*

## REFERENCES

- Yuliy Baryshnikov (ymb@illinois.edu), Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, UIUC.
- Debasish Chatterjee (dchatter@iitb.ac.in), Professor, Systems and Control Engineering, IIT Bombay.