

# Blosc2 as an Accelerated Computation Engine

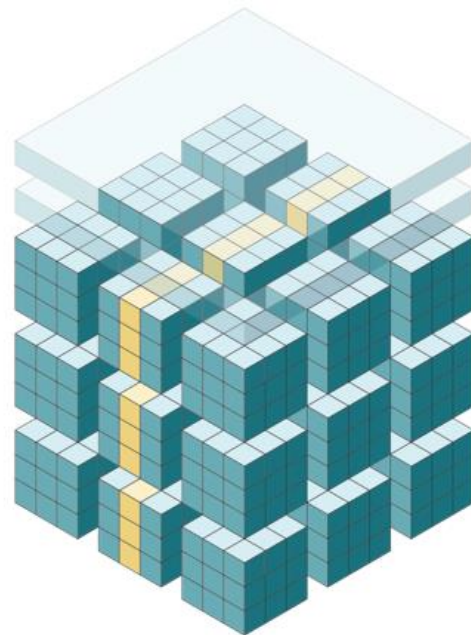
Francesc Alted / @FrancescAltred@masto.social

The Blosc Development Team / @Blosc2@fosstodon.org

CEO [i] ironArray / francesc@ironarray.io

NumFOCUS Project Summit '25

October 22nd 2025



# Blosc2

Blosc1: Better compression for binary data

**Blosc2: Blosc1 + accelerated computation for tensors**

<https://www.blosc.org/>

# Blosc2 for Computing

Blosc2 goes beyond compression

# Accelerating Computation

- Optimized use of resources in modern CPUs
  - Multiple cores: use multi-threading
  - Hierarchical cache / memory / disk storage: use blocking
- Stand on the shoulders of efficient libraries
  - Numexpr (with optional Intel MKL)
  - Intel MKL, Accelerate, OpenBlas, BLIS (linear algebra, via NumPy)

**Blosc2 does not support cluster computation  
(use Dask/Spark for this)**

# Lazy Evaluation: Example

```
import numpy as np
```

```
import blosc2
```

```
N = 1000_000 # this will vary
```

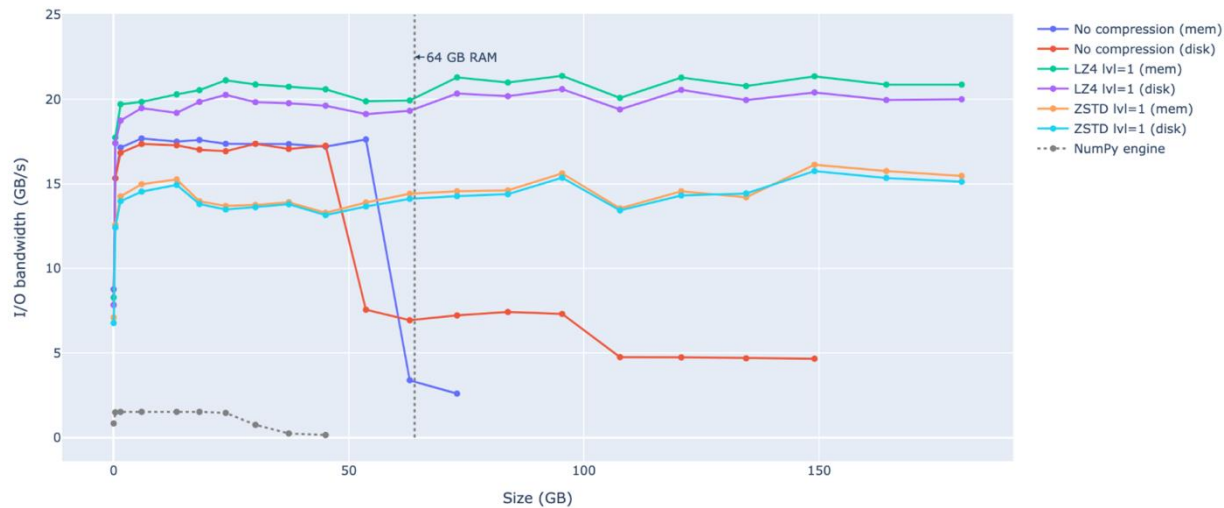
```
dtype = np.float64
```

```
a = blosc2.linspace(0, 1, N * N, dtype=dtype, shape=(N, N))
```

```
b = blosc2.linspace(1, 2, N * N, dtype=dtype, shape=(N, N))
```

```
c = blosc2.linspace(0, 1, N, dtype=dtype, shape=(N,)) # 1D array; broadcasting is supported
```

```
out = np.sum(((a ** 3 + np.sin(a * 2)) < c) & (b > 0), axis=1).compute()
```



<https://ironarray.io/blog/compute-bigger>

# Out-of-Core: Linear Algebra

```
# Assume a and b are large, on-disk blosc2/hdf5/zarr arrays
```

```
axis = (0, 1)
```

```
# Create a lazy expression object
```

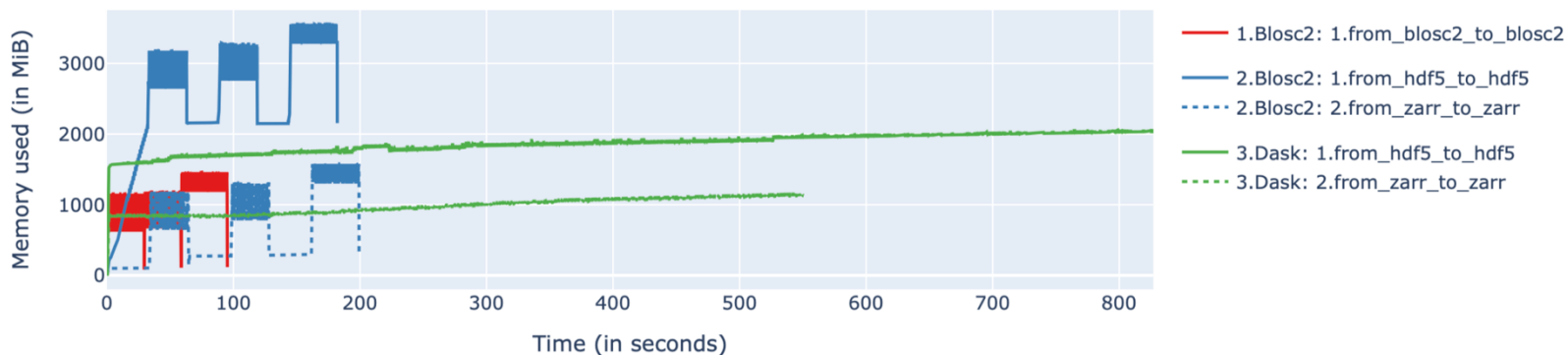
```
lexpr = blosc2.lazyexpr("tensordot(a, b, axes=(axis, axis))")
```

```
# To execute it and save the result to a new persistent array:
```

```
out_blosc2 = lexpr.compute(urlpath="out.b2nd", mode="w")
```

tensordot (1500, 1500, 1500) -- Number of threads: 16

(50 GB Working Set)



<https://www.blosc.org/posts/tensordot-pure-persistent/>

# Blosc2 Is Implementing the Array API

## Problem:

- Python offers many choices of libraries and frameworks for numerical computing
- Many array containers: NumPy, Zarr, HDF5, PyTorch, JAX, Blosc2...

## Mission:

- Offer a shared, interoperable API for all libraries and containers

The user can choose from a wealth of libraries,  
without worrying about the API to use

# Array API and Blosc2

- More than 100 functions, methods and attributes added so far (e.g. [concat, stack, clip, sin, cos, expm1...](#))
- Reductions: [sum, mean, std, var, all, any, min, max...](#)
- Linear algebra: [matmul, tensordot, vecdot, permut\\_dims...](#)

Still a lot of work to do (especially in linear algebra)

Actively asking for funding to complete this effort

<https://www.blosc.org/python-blosc2/development/roadmap.html>



# Synergies with NumFOCUS projects

The Blosc Development Team is always looking to collaborate with other projects to attract funding opportunities and help the wider Python ecosystem thrive!

Do you see Blosc2 helping your project to optimize storage or accelerate computations?

Let's talk!

[blosc@blosc.org](mailto:blosc@blosc.org)

# Thanks to Donors & Contractors!



Jeff  
Hammerbacher

# Thanks! Questions?



 ironArray



[blosc@blosc.org](mailto:blosc@blosc.org)

## Compress Better, Compute Bigger