

Skyler Alderson

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Professional Summary

Enthusiastic and detail-oriented recent graduate with a B.Sc. in Physics and Computer Science from the University of British Columbia (GPA 3.90). Adept at developing data analytics tools, physics simulations, and collaborative software systems. Strong background in software development, experimental physics, qualitative research, and technical teaching. Passionate about astronomy and aerospace, software development, scientific inquiry, and teaching.

Education

University of British Columbia, B.Sc. in Physics, Computer Science

Graduated: 2024 / GPA: 3.90

- Dean’s List honoree
 - Relevant Coursework: Software Development, Parallel Computing, Data Structures, Database Systems, Machine Architecture, Algorithms, Experimental Physics, Statistical Mechanics, Astronomy, Stellar Astrophysics
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Research Experience

Undergraduate Academic Assistant

University of British Columbia – Department of Physics

Jan 2024 – Apr 2024

- Developed Python scripts for analyzing student-submitted code patterns.
- Led semi-structured interviews; performed thematic analysis of transcripts and surveys.
- Contributed to a research project aimed at improving physics laboratory pedagogy.

Advanced Undergraduate Laboratory Work

University of British Columbia – Department of Physics

2022 – 2023

- Created a pair of mutually coupled loop-gap resonators to investigate wireless power transfer efficiency.
 - Used a scintillator and statistical analysis to detect and calculate the lifetime of muons.
 - Performed work on delicate and sensitive equipment such as a torsion balance to perform the Cavendish experiment.
 - Investigated Faraday rotation by performing manual, thorough scanning.
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Technical Projects

Capstone Project: SQL/RelAlg Editors & Auto-Grader

University of British Columbia

May 2023 – Aug 2023

- Built interactive SQL and Relational Algebra editors in JavaScript.
- Developed a Python backend for procedurally generating randomised databases and associated questions.
- Created Python scripts to accurately grade student submission for both preset and randomised questions.
- Integrated CI/CD through DroneCI and automated regression testing.
- Group achieved the highest project grade in class.

Personal Software Projects

- **N-body Simulators:** Built Newtonian and relativistic orbital simulators including a project modeling hypothetical interstellar ion-ramjet spacecraft.
 - **Image Processing Tools:** Created novel algorithm to intelligently select image palettes during downscaling; trained custom neural networks to recognise unique character sets.
 - **Simulation and Analysis:** Worked on several miscellaneous simulation-based projects: lower bound on mine density in infinite grid Minesweeper; optimal strategies in classic card games such as Cribbage and four-card Gold.
 - **High-Performance Computing:** Computationally challenging problems such variants of the unsolved Magic Square mathematics problem and finding sets of pangrams with restrictions.
 - **Other:** Several Minesweeper implementations including a quantum variant, procedural skeletal animation framework for Picotron, and API to transform 16-bit PICO-8 computer system into a 64-bit system.
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Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant – Experimental Physics

University of British Columbia

Sep 2022 – Dec 2023

- Led two undergraduate laboratory sections in experimental physics.
 - Graded assignments, created lecture slides, and guided students in lab technique and analysis for multiple physics and computer science courses.
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Web & Design Work

Frontend Volunteer – iGEM UBC Okanagan Team

Oct 2022

- Designed HTML/CSS frontend for the iGEM wiki site.
 - Helped team win a Gold Medal at the iGEM 2022 competition.
 - Site: <https://2022.igem.wiki/ubc-okanagan/>
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Skills

Programming Languages: Python, Rust, Lua, Java, JavaScript, C, bash, zsh

Data Analysis & Tools: NumPy, SciPy, Matplotlib, Jupyter, Excel, Google Sheets

Web & DevOps: HTML/CSS, Git, GitHub, Docker, DroneCI

Research Methods: Thematic analysis, semi-structured interviews, experimental design, simulations and modelling, data fitting

Languages: English (native), French (DELF B2)

Awards & Honors

- Dean's List, multiple semesters – University of British Columbia
 - iGEM 2022 Gold Medal contributor
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Leadership & Extracurriculars

Executive Member – UBC Astronomy Club

- Organized and lead campus stargazing events.
- Maintained and collimated telescopes for club and personal use.