

Christian Blume, PhD

Principal Engineer

Auckland, New Zealand

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in [christian-blume](#)

Summary

Experienced software developer, researcher, and data science specialist. Skilled in machine learning, data mining, digital signal processing, data storage, and computer graphics. Fluent in a number of programming languages, libraries, and operating systems including software architecture and design. Strong engineering professional with degrees in physics and geoscience along with peer-reviewed publications applying various machine learning techniques. Author of popular open-source libraries. Website: <https://bloomen.github.io>

Work Experience

Since Aug 21 **Principal Engineer - Research & Rapid Prototyping** at **Nyriad** in Auckland, New Zealand.

- Contribute to the release of UltraIO - Nyriad's converged block storage solution exploiting both CPU and GPU
- Measure and analyze UltraIO performance characteristics at both block and file level
- Develop the prototype of a cluster management solution including a REST API to control shares and exports
- Build an UltraIO virtualization engine around QEMU/KVM for rapid deployments
- Build a UI to visualize telemetry data from world-wide deployments
- Research erasure coding techniques on both CPU and GPU
- Assist development teams with researching features and resolving issues
- Tech: Linux, C++, Python, Bash, ISCSI, RDMA, Samba, NFS, QEMU/KVM, REST, Pacemaker

Apr 20 - Jul 21 **Senior Research Engineer II** at **Soul Machines** in Auckland, New Zealand.

- Investigate strategies for predicting and generating 3D meshes using machine learning
- Improve the facial animation engine of digital humans; collaborate with 3D artists
- Research and implement strategies to rapidly generate unique digital humans
- Design and implement various algorithms, e.g., expression transfer, mesh blending, laplace smoothing, etc.
- Develop efficient software in C++ from libraries and command line tools to end user interfaces
- Mentoring, guide research engineers, literature and code reviews, unit testing
- Tech: Windows, Linux, C++, Python, Eigen, dlib, LIBSVM, OpenCV, Maya, Boost, HDF5, Visual Studio

Apr 19 - Mar 20 **Senior Software Developer** at **Mega Limited** in Auckland, New Zealand.

- Develop cross-platform software in C++ for Mega's desktop and mobile applications
- Implement a novel synchronization strategy that allows for the one-way transfer of data
- Various improvements to the open-source SDK, e.g., FAT filesystem support, two-factor auth, high-speed logging, better performance and stability
- Implement a tool to allow for the quick analysis of chat archives for monitoring purposes
- Focus on highly efficient and scalable solutions; Continuous integration and unit testing
- Tech: Linux, Windows, Mac, C++, C, Crypto, Qt, SQLite, gtest, inotify

Jul 16 - Mar 19 **Senior Software Engineer** at **Serato Limited** in Auckland, New Zealand.

- Build real-time applications (Serato DJ, Serato Studio) for the audio industry on Mac/Windows
- Develop object-oriented, multi-threaded, low-latency software in C++
- Improve graphical user interfaces using Qt and in-house GUI technology
- In-depth work with MIDI and audio interfaces and hardware
- Helped with releasing Serato DJ v2.0 and Serato Studio v1.0
- Unit testing, mentor fellow developers, sharing knowledge in seminars
- Tech: Mac, Windows, C++, Python, Bash, SQL, SQLite, Qt, Boost, Juce, gtest, XCode, Visual Studio, LLDB, QML, Curl

Mar 14 - Jun 16 **Senior Software Developer, Team Lead** at **Fotech Solutions Ltd** in Calgary, Canada.

- Develop server-based Distributed Acoustic Sensing (DAS) applications on Linux
- Lead a team of four to five developers within an agile environment
- Build high-throughput, multi-threaded, high-performance software in C++ and CUDA
- Develop algorithms for data analysis, signal processing, and machine learning
- Design and implement novel noise floor estimation using support vector machines
- Design and implement a new data storage system based on HDF5 and lossless compression
- Real-time data processing, graph-based data flow, high-performance storage
- Unit testing, system testing in Python, and continuous integration
- Tech: Linux, C++, C, CUDA, Python, Ruby, Bash, SQL, SQLite, Qt, Boost, libunittest, Armadillo, NetCDF4, HDF5, LIBSVM, Eclipse, GDB, REST, Websockets, Curl

Jun 12 - Feb 14 **Software Developer** at **Blue Yonder GmbH** in Karlsruhe, Germany.

- Develop an automated cloud-based prediction service on Linux
- Object-oriented, highly-available software in Python and C++
- Build software for data analysis, web services, machine learning, user interaction
- Work with data scientists on improving predictions and feature understanding
- Build and test REST interfaces, in-depth work with relational databases
- Unit testing, system testing, and continuous integration
- Tech: Linux, Python, C++, Bash, SQL, Redis, PostgreSQL, EXASOL, Boost, CppUnit, NumPy, Pandas, Scikit, SciPy, Flask, GDB, REST, Nginx

Feb 09 - Apr 12 **Research Scientist** at **Freie Universität Berlin**, Germany.

- Predict stratospheric phenomena using machine learning and pattern recognition
- Compare methods such as neural networks and support vector machines including ensemble techniques
- Apply clustering techniques to gain insights and manage the feature space
- Develop high-performance applications to model high-dimensional, geophysical data
- Publish several peer-reviewed papers and present results at conferences
- Hold seminars in statistics and data analysis
- Tech: Linux, C++, Python, Matlab, Bash, NetCDF3, ROOT, TMVA, LIBSVM, FFTW, GDB, LaTeX

Sep 08 - Jan 09 **Intern** at **Siemens** in Munich, Germany.

- Build the prototype of a web interface for internal business processes using PHP and MySQL

Oct 07 - Jan 08 **Intern** at **IBM Research and Development** in Böblingen, Germany.

- Evaluate the Linux I/O Stack on an IBM Mainframe using C and C++

Education

Feb 09 - Apr 12 **Doctorate degree** in **geoscience** from Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.

Areas of research: Atmospheric interactions, stratospheric weather and climate patterns, prediction and pattern recognition, machine learning. Develop software in C++, Python, and Matlab for machine learning, signal processing, and data analysis.

Thesis: *Statistical Learning to Model Stratospheric Variability*.

<https://refubium.fu-berlin.de/handle/fub188/13901>

Oct 05 - Jan 09 **Master's degree** in **physics** from Technical University Munich, Germany.

Specialized in particle and computational physics. Develop software in C++ for simulations and data analysis.

Thesis: *Simulation of Frictional Cooling*.

https://bloomen.github.io/pub/simulation_of_frictional_cooling.pdf

Feb 05 - Aug 05 **Study abroad** at Universitat de València, Spain. Majoring in physics.

Apr 03 - Feb 05 **Intermediate diploma** in physics from the University of Bonn, Germany.

Technical Profile

Languages	English (fluent), German (native), Spanish (basic), Mandarin (elementary)
Mach. Learning	Linear Models, Neural Networks, Support Vector Machines, Decision Trees, Clustering, Model Selection, Ensemble Techniques, Feature Engineering
Programming	C++, C, Python, Rust, JavaScript, Java, Go, CUDA, Bash, UML, SQL, QML, Matlab
Libraries	BOOST, Armadillo, Eigen, NetCDF4, HDF5, Qt, React, OpenMP, NumPy, Scikit, SciPy, Pandas, TensorFlow, Keras, IntelMKL, ROOT, LIBSVM, OpenCV, FFTW, etc.
Databases	PostgreSQL, SQLite, EXASOL, MySQL, Redis, MongoDB
Tools	Eclipse, Xcode, Visual Studio, GDB, LLDB, Emacs, GCC, Clang, Git, SVN, LaTeX, QEMU/KVM, VirtualBox, Pacemaker, etc.
Miscellaneous	Linux, Low-Latency, High Performance, Data Storage, Computer Graphics, Unit Testing, Solid Presentation Skills, Mentoring

Selected Authored Open-Source Projects

Hosted at <https://github.com/bloomen>

- **cxxpool** - A header-only thread pool for C++
- **densitas** - A C++ library for density estimation of regression problems
- **featureimpact** - A Python package for estimating the impact of features on machine learning models
- **gcl** - A tiny graph concurrent library for C++
- **libpca** - A C++ library for principal component analysis
- **libunittest** - A portable C++ library for unit testing
- **gmlp** - A multi-layer perceptron trained via either backprop or GA
- **rsgrep** - A simple version of *grep* implemented in Rust
- **transwarp** - A header-only C++ library for task concurrency

Public Speaking

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| Dec 2019 | A quick intro to Mega's open-source SDK at Auckland C++ Meetup
https://github.com/bloomen/talks |
| Oct 2017 | Using tasks to simplify concurrency in modern C++ at Pacific++ conference
https://youtu.be/xuL7rfkcWus |
| May 2017 | transwarp - a header-only C++ library for task concurrency at Auckland C++ Meetup
https://github.com/bloomen/talks |
| Jun 2012 | Statistisches Lernen zur Modellierung von Stratosphärischer Variabilität at Freie Universität Berlin. PhD Defense in German language.
https://bloomen.github.io/pub/phd_defense.pdf |
| Sep 2011 | Can we statistically forecast sudden stratospheric warmings? at 11th EMS Annual Meeting/10th European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM) (Berlin 2011)
https://bloomen.github.io/pub/forecast_of_ssw_abstract.pdf |
| May 2010 | Investigating the occurrence of sudden stratospheric warmings with non-linear statistical methods at General Assembly European Geosciences Union (Vienna, Austria 2010)
https://bloomen.github.io/pub/occurrence_of_ssw.pdf |

Publications

- Mar 2022 C. Mauger, C. **Blume**, F. Marcon Swadel, J. Shin, S. Van Hove, T. Szu-Hsien Wu. Conversational Digital Character Blending and Generation. Patent No. 786836 (Provisional Patent)
- Jul 2012 **Blume**, C., 2012: *Statistical Learning To Model Stratospheric Variability*. Doctoral thesis, Institute for Meteorology, Freie Universität Berlin. <https://refubium.fu-berlin.de/handle/fub188/13901>
- Jul 2012 **Blume**, C. and K. Matthes, 2012: *Understanding and forecasting polar stratospheric variability with statistical models*. Atmos. Chem. Phys., 12, 5691–5701. <https://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/12/5691/2012>
- Jun 2012 **Blume**, C., K. Matthes and I. Horenko, 2012: *Supervised Learning Approaches to Classify Sudden Stratospheric Warming Events*. J. Atmos. Sci., 69 (9), 1824–1840. <https://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/full/10.1175/JAS-D-11-0194.1>
- Jul 2010 SPARC CCMVal, *SPARC CCMVal Report on the Evaluation of Chemistry-Climate Models*. V. Eyring, T. G. Shepherd, D. W. Waugh (Eds.), SPARC Report No. 5, WCRP-X, WMO/TD-No. X, 2010, C. **Blume** contributed to chapter 8. <https://www.sparc-climate.org/activities/previous-activities/ccmval>
- Aug 2009 Bao, Y., A. Caldwell, D. Greenwald and C. **Blume**, 2009: *Frictional Cooling Demonstration at MPP*. Proceedings of COOL 2009, TUM1MCCO03, Lanzhou, China. <http://epaper.kek.jp/COOL2009/papers/tum1mcco03.pdf>
- Feb 2009 **Blume**, C., 2009: *Simulation of Frictional Cooling*. Master's thesis, Max-Planck-Institute for Physics, Technical University of Munich. https://bloomen.github.io/pub/simulation_of_frictional_cooling.pdf

Hobbies

- Volleyball, running, hiking, paddle boarding, surfing
- Anything coffee from turkish, to espresso, to moka, to pour over, to french press
- Ray tracing - currently working on my own ray tracer

Please contact me for any further information or references.