

Max Rakitin

Bio

Personal details

Name: Max Rakitin (a.k.a. Maksim S. Rakitin)

Summary: I am a computational scientist at NSLS-II, BNL. I help beamline staff and users run scientific experiments and perform data analysis. I write code in Python to integrate hardware (motors, cameras, detectors, etc.) and 3rd-party software systems with the Bluesky data acquisition framework. I am developing the Sirepo-Bluesky library that integrates Bluesky and the Sirepo browser-based interface to scientific modeling codes to enable access to “virtual” beamlines. I am a proponent of well-tested, modular, reusable, sustainable, and easily accessible code. I am fluent with modern CI systems (GitHub Actions, MS Azure Pipelines, etc.) I use Docker/Podman (including the creation of images), Linux (RHEL8, CentOS, Ubuntu, etc.), vagrant/VirtualBox on a daily basis. I am maintaining [over 100 conda-forge feedstocks](#) (Python, Python with C-extensions, C/C++, Fortran). I lead the continuous integration efforts to deploy and test the conda environments with the Bluesky software stack. I am enthusiastic about new technologies and AI/ML projects. I am a PI on an AI/ML LDRD project and a PI for two SBIR subcontracts with Radiasoft LLC (total funds of \$1M+).

News: “Computer, Is My Experiment Finished?” (September 16, 2022)

<https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=220832>

“Seeing the Forest Through the Trees: Brookhaven Lab Scientists Develop New Computational Approach to Reduce Noise in X-ray Data.” (April 18, 2022)

<https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=219533>

Links: [BNL](#) • [SBU](#) • [SUSU](#)

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Education and training

2008.10–2012.09



Ph.D. in Condensed Matter Physics (defended on September 19, 2012)

South Ural State University (National Research University), Chelyabinsk, Russia

2006.09–2008.06

M.S. in Applied Mathematics and Physics (June 13, 2008)

South Ural State University (SUSU), Chelyabinsk, Russia

2002.09–2006.06

B.S. in Applied Mathematics and Physics (June 20, 2006), *summa cum laude*

South Ural State University (SUSU), Chelyabinsk, Russia

Research and professional expertise



2017.11–present

Associate Computational Scientist, DAMA group, NSLS-II, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY (<https://www.bnl.gov>)

2015.12–2017.10

Research Associate (Postdoc), NSLS-II, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY (<https://www.bnl.gov>)



2013.10–2015.12

Postdoctoral Associate (Postdoc), Department of Geosciences, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY (<https://stonybrook.edu>, <https://uspex-team.org/en>)

2007.06–2013.10



QA Engineer, QA Team Leader, Applied Technologies Ltd., Chelyabinsk, Russia (<https://www.appliedtech.ru/en/>), a partner of Rocket Software Inc., USA (<https://www.rocketsoftware.com>)

Software projects

- **Bluesky** — a library for experiment control and collection of scientific data and metadata, <https://blueskyproject.io/bluesky>.
- **Ophyd** — a device abstraction library, <https://blueskyproject.io/ophyd>.
- **Databroker** — a simple, user-friendly interface for retrieving stored data and metadata from multiple sources, <https://blueskyproject.io/databroker>.
- **Synchrotron Radiation Workshop (SRW)** — computer code for X-ray source and optics simulations, <https://github.com/mrakitin/SRW>.
- **Sirepo** — a cloud-based framework for SRW, <https://github.com/radiasoft/sirepo>.
- **Databroker extractor** — image processing and data visualization, <https://github.com/mrakitin/databroker-extractor>.
- **CRL simulator** — a code for simulation of a transfocator (compound refractive lenses (CRL) for X-ray focusing), <https://github.com/mrakitin/bnlcrl>.
- **USPEX** — a code for evolutionary crystal structure prediction, <https://uspex-team.org/en>.
- **USPEX online utilities** — a set of pre- and post-processing tools for crystal structure simulations, <https://uspex-team.org/en/uspex/tools>.
- **USPEX manual** — <https://uspex-team.org/en/uspex/documentation>.
- Utilities for DFT simulations
- IBM Mainframe software projects

Publications

46. M. Rakitin, S. Campbell, D. Allan, T. Caswell, D. Gavrilov, M. Hanwell, and S. Wilkins, "Next generation experimental data access at NSLS-II," *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, vol. 2380, no. 1, p. 012100, Dec. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/2380/1/012100>
45. B. Nash, D. Abell, R. Nagler, P. Moeller, M. Keilman, I. Pogorelov, N. Goldring, M. Rakitin, J. Lynch, A. Giles, A. Walter, J. Maldonado, T. Morris, S. Bak, and Y. Du, "Combining diagnostics, modeling, and control systems for automated alignment of the TES beamline," *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, vol. 2380, no. 1, p. 012103, Dec. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/2380/1/012103>
44. H. Goel, O. Chubar, L. Wiegart, A. Flueraşu, R. Li, A. He, M. Rakitin, P. Moeller, and R. Nagler, "Developments in SRW Code and Sirepo Framework Supporting Simulation of Time-Dependent Coherent X-ray Scattering Experiments," *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, vol. 2380, no. 1, p. 012126, Dec. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/2380/1/012126>
43. T. W. Morris, M. Rakitin, A. Giles, J. Lynch, A. L. Walter, B. Nash, D. Abell, P. Moeller, I. Pogorelov, and N. Goldring, "On-the-fly optimization of synchrotron beamlines using machine learning," in *Optical System Alignment, Tolerancing, and Verification XIV*, J. Sasián and R. N. Youngworth, Eds., vol. 12222, International Society for Optics and Photonics. SPIE, 2022, p. 122220M. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2644996>
42. L. Huang, T. Wang, O. Chubar, G. Dovillaire, A. He, M. Rakitin, and M. Idir, "Simulation of X-ray Hartmann wavefront sensing with the Synchrotron Radiation Workshop," *Opt. Express*, Oct. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1364/oe.470197>
41. T. Konstantinova, L. Wiegart, M. Rakitin, A. M. DeGennaro, and A. M. Barbour, "Machine Learning for analysis of speckle dynamics: quantification and outlier detection," *Phys. Rev. Research*, vol. 4, p. 033228, Sep. 2022. <https://link.aps.org/doi/10.1103/PhysRevResearch.4.033228>
40. D. Leshchev, M. Rakitin, B. Luvizotto, R. Kadyrov, B. Ravel, K. Attenkofer, and E. Stavitski, "The Inner Shell Spectroscopy beamline at NSLS-II: a facility for in situ and operando X-ray absorption spectroscopy for materials research," *Journal of Synchrotron Radiation*, vol. 29, no. 4, Jul. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1107/S160057752200460X>
39. D. Hidas, A. M. Kiss, M. Rakitin, J. Sinsheimer, T. Tanabe, and M. Musardo, "High precision real-time insertion device and monochromator synchronization at NSLS-II," *Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section A: Accelerators, Spectrometers, Detectors and Associated Equipment*, vol. 1031, p. 166505, Mar. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2022.166505>
38. B. Nash, D. T. Abell, D. L. Bruhwiler, E. G. Carlin, Y. Du, J. P. Edelen, A. Giles, M. V. Keilman, J. Lynch, J. Maldonado, P. Moeller, R. Nagler, I. V. Pogorelov, M. S. Rakitin, A. Walter, and S. D. Webb, "X-Ray Beamline Control with Machine Learning and an Online Model," in *Proc. ICALEPCS'21*, ser. International Conference on

- Accelerator and Large Experimental Physics Control Systems, no. 18. JACoW Publishing, Geneva, Switzerland, Dec. 2021, pp. 695–699. <https://doi.org/10.18429/JACoW-ICALEPCS2021-WEPV024>
37. N. M. Cook, A. M. Barbour, E. G. Carlin, P. Moeller, R. Nagler, B. Nash, M. S. Rakitin, and L. Wiegart, "An Integrated Data Processing and Management Platform for X-Ray Light Source Operations," in *Proc. ICALEPCS'21*, ser. International Conference on Accelerator and Large Experimental Physics Control Systems, no. 18. JACoW Publishing, Geneva, Switzerland, Nov. 2021, pp. 1059–1063. <https://doi.org/10.18429/JACoW-ICALEPCS2021-FRBR02>
 36. R. Jain, D. Abel, M. Rakitin, M. Sullivan, D. T. Lodowski, M. R. Chance, and E. R. Farquhar, "New high-throughput endstation to accelerate the experimental optimization pipeline for synchrotron X-ray footprinting," *Journal of Synchrotron Radiation*, vol. 28, no. 5, pp. 1321–1332, Sep. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1107/S1600577521005026>
 35. L. Yang, E. Lazo, J. Byrnes, S. Chodankar, S. Antonelli, and M. Rakitin, "Tools for supporting solution scattering during the COVID-19 pandemic," *Journal of Synchrotron Radiation*, vol. 28, no. 4, pp. 1237–1244, Jul. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1107/S160057752100521X>
 34. M. S. Rakitin and A. A. Mirzoev, "Ab initio Simulation of Dissolution Energy and Bond Energy of Hydrogen with 3sp, 3d, and 4d Impurities in bcc Iron," *Phys. Solid State*, vol. 63, no. 7, pp. 1065–1068, Jul. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1134/S1063783421070180>
 33. T. Konstantinova, L. Wiegart, M. Rakitin, A. M. DeGennaro, and A. M. Barbour, "Noise reduction in X-ray photon correlation spectroscopy with convolutional neural networks encoder–decoder models," *Sci Rep*, vol. 11, no. 1, Jul. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-93747-y>
 32. S. I. Campbell, D. B. Allan, A. M. Barbour, D. Olds, M. S. Rakitin, R. Smith, and S. B. Wilkins, "Outlook for artificial intelligence and machine learning at the NSLS-II," *Machine Learning: Science and Technology*, vol. 2, no. 1, p. 013001, Mar. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1088/2632-2153/abbd4e>
 31. O. Chubar, L. Wiegart, S. Antipov, R. Celestre, R. Coles, A. Fluerașu, and M. Rakitin, "Analysis of hard x-ray focusing by 2D diamond CRL," in *Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics V*, O. Chubar and K. Sawhney, Eds., vol. 11493, International Society for Optics and Photonics. SPIE, Aug. 2020, pp. 119–127. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2568980>
 30. O. Chubar, R. A. Coles, L. Wiegart, A. Fluerașu, M. Rakitin, J. Condie, P. Moeller, and R. Nagler, "Simulations of coherent scattering experiments at storage ring synchrotron radiation sources in the hard x-ray range," in *Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics V*, O. Chubar and K. Sawhney, Eds., vol. 11493, International Society for Optics and Photonics. SPIE, Aug. 2020, pp. 201–208. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2568833>
 29. A. He, O. Chubar, M. Rakitin, L. Samoylova, C. Fortmann-Grote, S. Yakubov, and A. Buzmakov, "Parallel performance of "Synchrotron Radiation Workshop" code: partially coherent calculations for storage rings and time-dependent calculations for XFELs," in *Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics V*, O. Chubar and K. Sawhney, Eds., vol. 11493, International Society for Optics and Photonics. SPIE, Aug. 2020, pp. 78–87. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2567448>
 28. M. S. Rakitin, A. Giles, K. Swartz, J. Lynch, P. Moeller, R. Nagler, D. B. Allan, T. A. Caswell, L. Wiegart, O. Chubar, and Y. Du, "Introduction of the Sirepo-Bluesky interface and its application to the optimization problems," in *Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics V*, O. Chubar and K. Sawhney, Eds., vol. 11493, International Society for Optics and Photonics. SPIE, Aug. 2020, pp. 209–226. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2569000>
 27. B. Nash, O. Chubar, D. Bruhwiler, M. Rakitin, P. Moeller, R. Nagler, and N. Goldring, "Undulator radiation brightness calculations in the Sirepo GUI for SRW," in *Advances in Laboratory-based X-Ray Sources, Optics, and Applications VII*, A. Murokh and D. Spiga, Eds., vol. 11110, International Society for Optics and Photonics. SPIE, 2019, pp. 79–92. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2530663>
 26. B. Nash, N. Goldring, D. L. Bruhwiler, O. Tchoubar, A. He, M. Rakitin, R. Nagler, and P. Moeller, "Phase IIA Final Technical Report for "Development of software framework for x-Ray optics simulation and modeling", " Jul. 2019. <https://www.osti.gov/biblio/1532614>
 25. D. Allan, T. Caswell, S. Campbell, and M. Rakitin, "Bluesky's Ahead: A Multi-Facility Collaboration for an a la Carte Software Project for Data Acquisition and Management," *Synchrotron Radiation News*, vol. 32, no. 3, pp. 19–22, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08940886.2019.1608121>
 24. L. Wiegart, M. Rakitin, Y. Zhang, A. Fluerașu, and O. Chubar, "Towards the simulation of partially coherent x-ray scattering experiments," *AIP Conference Proceedings*, vol. 2054, no. 1, p. 060079, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.5084710>
 23. B. Nash, O. Chubar, N. Goldring, D. L. Bruhwiler, P. Moeller, R. Nagler, and M. Rakitin, "Detailed x-ray brightness calculations in the sirepo GUI for SRW," *AIP Conference Proceedings*, vol. 2054, no. 1, p. 060080, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.5084711>
 22. M. S. Rakitin, P. Moeller, R. Nagler, B. Nash, D. L. Bruhwiler, D. Smalyuk, M. Zhernenkov, and O. Chubar, "Sirepo: an open-source cloud-based software interface for X-ray source and optics simulations," *Journal of Synchrotron Radiation*, vol. 25, no. 6, pp. 1877–1892, Nov. 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1107/S1600577518010986>
 21. A. Blednykh, B. Bacha, G. Bassi, W. Cheng, O. Chubar, A. Derbenev, R. Lindberg, M. Rakitin, V. Smaluk, M. Zhernenkov, Y.-c. K. Chen-Wiegart, and L. Wiegart, "New aspects of longitudinal instabilities

- in electron storage rings (*DOE Science Highlight*)," *Scientific Reports*, vol. 8, no. 1, p. 11918, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-30306-y>
20. O. Chubar, C. Kitegi, Y.-C. K. Chen-Wiegart, D. Hidas, Y. Hidaka, T. Tanabe, G. Williams, J. Thieme, T. Caswell, M. Rakitin, L. Wiegart, A. Fluerasu, L. Yang, S. Chodankar, and M. Zhernenkov, "Spectrum-Based Alignment of In-Vacuum Undulators in a Low-Emittance Storage Ring," *Synchrotron Radiation News*, vol. 31, no. 3, pp. 4–8, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08940886.2018.1460173>
 19. M. Rakitin, A. A. Mirzoev, and D. A. Mirzaev, "First-Principles and Thermodynamic Simulation of Elastic Stress Effect on Energy of Hydrogen Dissolution in Alpha Iron," *Russian Physics Journal*, vol. 60, no. 12, pp. 2136–2143, Apr. 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11182-018-1337-2>
 18. M. S. Rakitin, O. Chubar, P. Moeller, R. Nagler, and D. L. Bruhwiler, "Sirepo: a web-based interface for physical optics simulations - its deployment and use at NSLS-II (**invited paper**)," in *Proc. SPIE, Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics IV (23 August 2017)*, vol. 10388, 2017, p. 103880R. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2274031>
 17. O. Chubar, M. Rakitin, Y.-C. Chen-Wiegart, A. Fluerasu, and L. Wiegart, "Simulation of experiments with partially coherent x-rays using Synchrotron Radiation Workshop," in *Proc. SPIE, Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics IV (23 August 2017)*, vol. 10388, 2017, p. 1038811. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2274481>
 16. O. Chubar, M. Rakitin, Y.-C. Chen-Wiegart, Y. S. Chu, A. Fluerasu, D. Hidas, and L. Wiegart, "Main functions, recent updates, and applications of Synchrotron Radiation Workshop code (**invited paper**)," in *Proc. SPIE, Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics IV (23 August 2017)*, vol. 10388, 2017, p. 1038805. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2274285>
 15. L. Wiegart, M. Rakitin, A. Fluerasu, and O. Chubar, "X-ray optical simulations supporting advanced commissioning of the coherent hard x-ray beamline at NSLS-II," in *Proc. SPIE, Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics IV (23 August 2017)*, vol. 10388, 2017, p. 103880N. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2274403>
 14. M. Idir, M. Rakitin, B. Gao, J. Xue, L. Huang, and O. Chubar, "Alignment of KB mirrors with at-wavelength metrology tool simulated using SRW," in *Proc. SPIE, Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics IV (23 August 2017)*, vol. 10388, 2017, p. 103880Z. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2274264>
 13. M. M. Davari Esfahani, Q. Zhu, H. Dong, A. R. Oganov, S. Wang, M. S. Rakitin, and X.-F. Zhou, "Novel magnesium borides and their superconductivity," *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, vol. 19, pp. 14 486–14 494, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1039/C7CP00840F>
 12. O. V. Chubar, T. A. Caswell, Y. Chen-Wiegart, A. Fluerasu, Y. Hidaka, D. A. Hidas, C. A. Kitegi, M. S. Rakitin, T. Tanabe, J. Thieme, L. Wiegart, and G. Williams, "Analysis and Correction of in-Vacuum Undulator Misalignment Effects in a Storage Ring Synchrotron Radiation Source," in *Proc. of International Particle Accelerator Conference (IPAC'17), Copenhagen, Denmark, 14–19 May, 2017*, ser. International Particle Accelerator Conference, no. 8. Geneva, Switzerland: JACoW, May 2017, paper TUPAB140, pp. 1663–1665. <https://doi.org/10.18429/JACoW-IPAC2017-TUPAB140>
 11. A. Blednykh, B. Bacha, G. Bassi, O. V. Chubar, M. S. Rakitin, V. V. Smaluk, and M. Zhernenkov, "A Comprehensive Study of the Microwave Instability," in *Proc. of International Particle Accelerator Conference (IPAC'17), Copenhagen, Denmark, 14–19 May, 2017*, ser. International Particle Accelerator Conference, no. 8. Geneva, Switzerland: JACoW, May 2017, paper WEPIK117, pp. 3224–3226. <https://doi.org/10.18429/JACoW-IPAC2017-WEPIK117>
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 8. M. M. Davari Esfahani, Z. Wang, A. R. Oganov, H. Dong, Q. Zhu, S. Wang, M. S. Rakitin, and X.-F. Zhou, "Superconductivity of novel tin hydrides (Sn_nH_m) under pressure," *Scientific Reports*, vol. 6, p. 22873, Mar. 2016. <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep22873>
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 4. A. V. Ursaeva, M. S. Rakitin, G. E. Ruzanova, and A. A. Mirzoev, "Ab initio study of hydrogen interaction with point defects in bcc iron," *Bulletin of the South Ural State University: Math., Mech. and Phys.*, vol. 4, no. 10, pp. 114–119, 2011, Original Russian Text. <https://vestnik.susu.ru/mmph/issue/viewFile/46/22#page=114>

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1. A. A. Mirzoev, M. M. Yalalov, and M. S. Rakitin, "Dependence of TB-LMTO calculations accuracy on k -points number: effect of iterations mixing parameter using Broyden scheme," *Bulletin of the South Ural State University: Math., Phys. and Chem.*, vol. 6, no. 6, pp. 103–105, 2005, Original Russian Text. <https://vestnik.susu.ru/mmph/issue/viewFile/36/12#page=103>