

# 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](#)

[@mrakitin](#) • [@mrakitin](#) • [Google Scholar](#) • [ResearchGate](#)

[ORCID: 0000-0003-3685-852X](#)

## 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/bnclrl>.
- **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

52. M. Rakitin, R. Bode, T. W. Morris, A. C. Giles, A. L. Walter, J. K. Lynch, J. Maldonado, Y. Du, B. Romasky, M. Fedurin, P. Moeller, and B. Nash, "Recent updates of the Sirepo-Bluesky library for virtual beamline representation," in *Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics VI*, O. Chubar and T. Tanaka, Eds., vol. 12697, International Society for Optics and Photonics. SPIE, 2023, p. 126970D. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2678030>
51. T. W. Morris, Y. Du, M. Fedurin, A. C. Giles, P. Moeller, B. Nash, M. Rakitin, B. Romasky, A. L. Walter, N. Wilson, and A. Wojdyla, "Latent Bayesian optimization for the autonomous alignment of synchrotron beamlines," in *Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics VI*, O. Chubar and T. Tanaka, Eds., vol. 12697, International Society for Optics and Photonics. SPIE, 2023, p. 126970B. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2677895>
50. B. Nash, M. S. Rakitin, D. T. Abell, M. Keilman, P. Moeller, I. Pogorelov, Y. Du, A. Giles, J. Lynch, T. W. Morris, A. L. Walter, and N. Goldring, "Reduced model representations of synchrotron radiation and a software framework for beamline control," in *Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics VI*, O. Chubar and T. Tanaka, Eds., vol. PC12697, International Society for Optics and Photonics. SPIE, 2023, p. PC1269703. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2676921>
49. L. Huang, T. Wang, O. Chubar, G. Dovillaire, A. He, M. Rakitin, Y. Yang, A. M. Kiss, and M. Idir, "Investigation of x-ray Hartmann wavefront sensing: from simulation to the initial experiment test," in *Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics VI*, O. Chubar and T. Tanaka, Eds., vol. PC12697, International Society for Optics and Photonics. SPIE, 2023, p. PC1269705. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2675754>
48. H. Goel, O. Chubar, L. Wiegart, A. Flueraşu, R. Li, A. He, M. Rakitin, M. Lin, P. Moeller, and R. Nagler, "GPU accelerated simulations of time-dependent coherent x-ray scattering experiments," in *Advances in Computational Methods for X-Ray Optics VI*, O. Chubar and T. Tanaka, Eds., vol. 12697, International Society for Optics and Photonics. SPIE, 2023, p. 1269709. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2677888>
47. N. Cook, E. Carlin, R. Nagler, R. O'Rourke, A. Barbour, M. Rakitin, and L. Wiegart, "An online analysis platform for improving x-ray light source operations," in *Proc. IPAC'23*, ser. IPAC'23 - 14th International Particle Accelerator Conference, no. 14. JACoW Publishing, Geneva, Switzerland, 05 2023, paper THPA128, pp. 4266–4268. <https://indico.jacow.org/event/41/contributions/2732>
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. Fluerasu, 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>
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  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>
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  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>
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  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>
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  30. O. Chubar, R. A. Coles, L. Wiegart, A. Fluerasu, 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>

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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. Fluerasu, 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>
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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>

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5. D. A. Mirzaev, A. A. Mirzoev, K. Y. Okishev, and M. S. Rakitin, "Theory of hydrogen solubility in binary iron alloys based on *ab initio* calculation results," *Molecular Physics*, vol. 110, no. 11–12, pp. 1299–1304, 2012. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00268976.2011.645895>
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