

# *xraylib*: a library for interactions of X-rays with matter

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# Outline

1. Introduction and history

2. Current status

- Available datasets
- Supported platforms
- Language bindings

3. Typical usage examples

4. Additional interfaces and applications

5. Under development

# A brief introduction to *xraylib*

# The quest for an X-ray parameter library...

## 1. Ease of use

Preferably software that can be linked with our own software

## 2. Reliable data

Most compilations are based on a selection of values considered to be reliable by the authors

# *XCOM*

- NIST: Berger and Hubbell
- Cross sections for scattering and photo ionization
- Compiles into an executable, not a library
- Fortran 77

# *muca*

- Illinois Institute of Technology: written by Pathikrit Bandyopadhyay
- McMaster and Krause
- Edge energies, fluorescence yields, scattering and photoionization cross sections
- Exports only one function for all types of data
- Fortran 77 and C

# Origins of *xraylib*: 2002-2005

- Created by Bruno Golosio to support his work on Monte Carlo simulations and XRF tomography reconstructions
- Contributions from Manuel Sanchez del Rio, Alexandre Simionovici
- Databases taken from Krause, Cullen, Larskin, Deslattes, Hubbell
- Bindings for IDL and Python

*A library for X-ray–matter  
interaction cross sections for  
X-ray fluorescence applications*

A. Brunetti, M. Sanchez del Rio, B. Golosio,  
A. Simionovici and A. Somogyi.  
*Spectrochim. Acta Part B*, 59, 1725-1731 (2004).



*xraylib*: current status

# *xraylib*: What is it?

- Core library written in ANSI-C
- Bindings for many languages
- Very simple and light interface
- Extensive use of macros (KL3\_LINE, K\_SHELL, K\_L2M5\_AUGER etc...)
- Thread-safe!
- BSD license: very liberal...
- Hosted on [www.github.com/tschoonj/xraylib](https://www.github.com/tschoonj/xraylib)
- Comprehensive documentation

# List of available datasets: part1

- Atomic weight
- (Partial) Photoionization cross sections
- Rayleigh cross sections
- Compton cross sections
- XRF cross sections: cascade effect corrected!
- Klein-Nishina CS
- Differential cross sections: polarized and unpolarized
- Absorption edges
- XRF line energies
- Jump factors
- Radiative rates
- Coster-Kronig transition probabilities

# List of available datasets: part 2

- Auger non-radiative rates
- Atomic level widths
- Electronic configurations
- Anomalous scattering
- Atomic form factors
- Incoherent scattering function
- Compton broadening profiles
- Refractive indices
- Crystal diffraction: structure factors, Bragg angles, unit cell volumes, d-spacing, Q scattering amplitude
- Elemental density
- Mass-energy absorption cross sections

# Utility functions

- Compound parser for chemical formulas: support for brackets and real indices
- Builtin composition and densities of the NIST compound list
- List of X-ray producing radionuclides
- Many functions support passing chemical formulas and NIST compound names!

# *xraylib*: supported platforms

Core library requires only C standard library

- Source tarball
- Linux
  - DEB packages for Debian/Ubuntu
  - RPM packages for RHEL/Centos/Fedora
- macOS
  - Homebrew, MacPorts and Fink
- Windows
  - Windows 32- and 64-bit SDKs available with DLLs
  - MSYS2: compile from source
- Anaconda: packages available from conda-forge

# *xraylib*: language bindings

- C++ and Objective-C
- Fortran 2003
- Perl
- Python (2.7/3.x)
- Lua
- Java
- Ruby
- PHP
- .NET/C#
- Pascal/Delphi
- IDL (soon unsupported)
- Matlab (unsupported)
- Mathematica (unsupported)
- Labview (unsupported)

# *xraylib*: language bindings vs. platforms

[illegible]



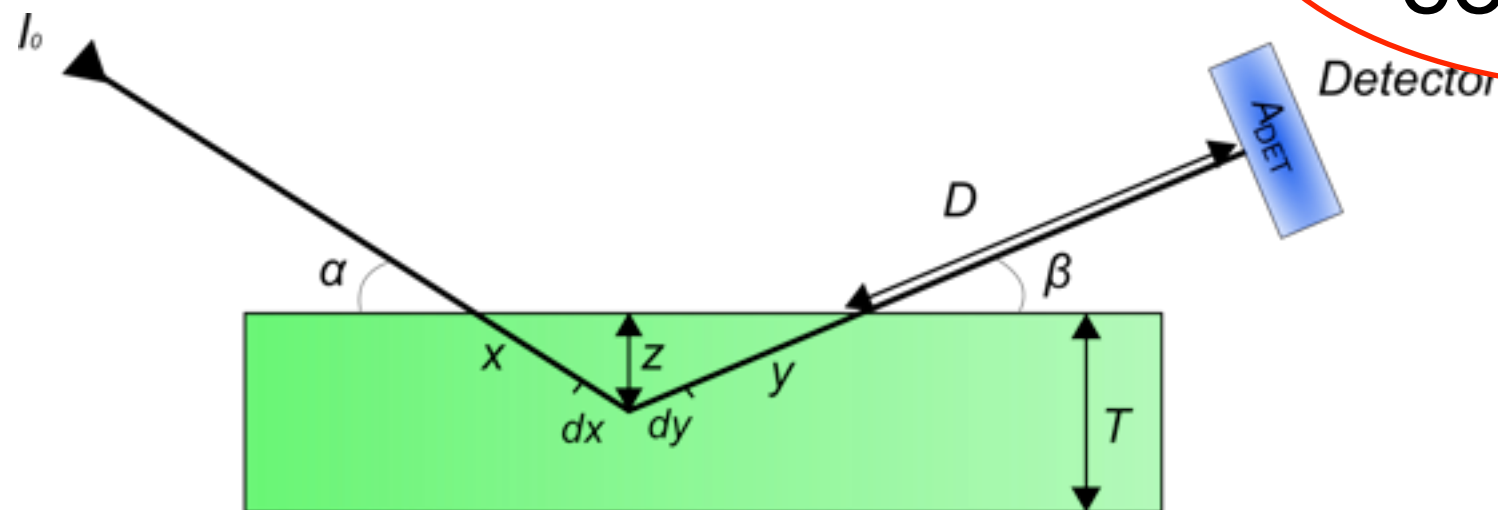
# Typical usage examples

# Fundamental pα XRF cross section method

$$I_{i,K\alpha} = I_0 G w_i Q_{i,K\alpha} \rho T \left( \frac{1 - \exp(-\chi \rho T)}{\chi \rho T} \right)$$

$$\chi = \frac{\mu_0}{\sin \alpha} + \frac{\mu_1}{\sin \beta}$$

Mass  
attenuation  
coefficients



# Fundamental parameter method

Parse chemical formula

```
struct compoundData* CompoundParser(  
    const char compoundString[])
```

XRF production cross section  $Q_{i,K\alpha}$

```
double CS_FluorLine_Kissel(int Z, int line, double energy)
```

Mass attenuation coefficients  $\mu_0 \mu_1$

```
double CS_Total_CP(const char compound[], double energy)
```

```
double LineEnergy(int Z, int line)
```

```

PROGRAM fpm

USE :: xraylib
USE, INTRINSIC :: ISO_C_BINDING

IMPLICIT NONE

REAL (C_DOUBLE) :: flux = 1E9 !photons/s
REAL (C_DOUBLE) :: G = 1E-5
REAL (C_DOUBLE) :: density = 3.19 !g/cm3
REAL (C_DOUBLE) :: thickness = 0.1 !cm
REAL (C_DOUBLE) :: xrf_intensity, chi
REAL (C_DOUBLE) :: mu_0, mu_1, w_Ca, A_corr, Q
REAL (C_DOUBLE) :: alpha = 45.0, beta = 45.0 !degrees
REAL (C_DOUBLE) :: beam_energy = 20.0 !keV
TYPE (compoundData), POINTER :: cd
CHARACTER (len=50) :: apatite = 'Ca5(P04)3(OH)0.33F0.33Cl0.33'
REAL (C_DOUBLE), PARAMETER :: deg2rad = 3.14159265359/180.0

cd => compoundParser(apatite)
w_Ca = cd%massFractions(6)

mu_0 = CS_Total_CP(apatite, beam_energy)
mu_1 = CS_Total_CP(apatite, LineEnergy(20, KL3_LINE))
chi = mu_0/SIN(deg2rad*alpha) + mu_1/SIN(deg2rad*beta)
A_corr = (1.0-EXP(-chi*density*thickness))/chi*density*thickness
Q = CS_FluorLine_Kissel(20, KL3_LINE, beam_energy)

xrf_intensity = flux*G*Q*w_Ca*density*thickness*A_corr

CALL FreeCompoundData(cd)

WRITE (*, '(A, ES12.4)') 'xrf_intensity: ', xrf_intensity
END PROGRAM fpm

```

# Monte Carlo simulation of an X-ray attenuation experiment

Lambert-Beer probability density function:

$$f(x) = \mu\rho \exp(-\mu\rho x)$$

Lambert-Beer cumulative distribution function:

$$F(x) = \int_0^x \mu\rho \exp(-\mu\rho t) dt = 1 - \exp(-\mu\rho x) \equiv R \implies x = -\frac{1}{\mu\rho} \ln(1 - R) \Leftrightarrow x = -\frac{1}{\mu\rho} \ln(R)$$

1. With a random number generator, calculate  $n$  attenuation depths  $x$ .
2. Whenever  $x$  greater than thickness, add 1 to *transmitted*

# Monte Carlo simulation of an X-ray absorption experiment

Density of a NIST catalog compound

```
struct compoundDataNIST* GetCompoundDataNISTByName(  
    const char compoundString[])
```

Mass attenuation coefficients  $\mu$

```
double CS_Total_CP(char compound[], double energy)
```

```
require 'xraylib'

compound = "Uranium Monocarbide"

cdn = Xraylib.GetCompoundDataNISTByName(compound)
density = cdn['density'] #g/cm3
thickness = 0.01 #cm
energy = 50.0 #keV

mu_rho = Xraylib.CS_Total_CP(compound, energy)*density

transmitted = 0
total = 100000

total.times {|i|
  x = -Math.log(rand())/mu_rho
  transmitted += 1 if x > thickness
}

printf("transmitted: %i\n", transmitted)
printf("MC fraction: %f\n", Float(transmitted)/total)
printf("True fraction: %f\n", Math.exp(-mu_rho*thickness))
```

*xraylib:*

Additional interfaces  
and applications



# *xraylib*: web interface

- Website built on top of *xraylib*'s PHP bindings
- Provides syntax examples for all supported bindings
- Hosted at <http://lvserver.ugent.be/xraylib-web>
- Soon to be replaced!

# Xraylib App

**Xraylib Function:** Fluorescence Line Energy

**Element:**

☒ **IUPAC**

**Transition:** ☐ **Siegbahn**

☐ **All**

Initial development and design by [Katherine Rowlinson](#)  
Maintained by [Tom Schoonjans](#)  
Built using xraylib 3.3.0. Development occurs at the [xraylib-web Github repository](#)

# *xraylib*: DAWN and GDA

- *xraylib*'s Java implementation is now used in DAWN and GDA: Operations, Views, Tools, ...
- *xraylib*'s Python bindings support available in DAWN!

## Xraylib Database



H																	He			
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne			
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar			
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Cd	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr			
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe			
Cs	Ba	Lu	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn			
Fr	Ra	Lr	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh														
							La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb
							Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No

## Fe

Atomic number: 26

Atomic weight: 55.85 g/mol

Density: 7.874 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

## ▼ Absorption edge energies

Shell	Energy (keV)
K	7.112
L1	0.8461
L2	0.7211
L3	0.7081
M1	0.0929
M2	0.054
M3	0.054
M4	0.0036
M5	0.0036

## ▼ XRF line energies

Transition	Energy (keV)
------------	--------------

About

Close

## Composition

Compound Formula ☐ Area density (g/cm<sup>2</sup>) ☒ Density (g/cm<sup>3</sup>) 

Estimate

Thickness (μm) ☐ Dilute?Matrix Formula Matrix Density (g/cm<sup>3</sup>) Concentration 

millimolar

☐ Atmosphere Filter?Filter material Filter Density (g/cm<sup>3</sup>) 

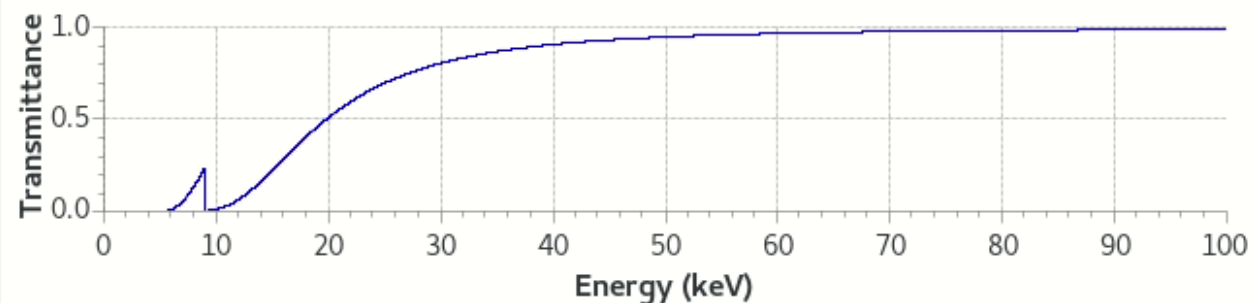
Attenuation path length is equal to sample-detector distance!

☐ Detector Filter?Filter material Filter Density (g/cm<sup>3</sup>) 

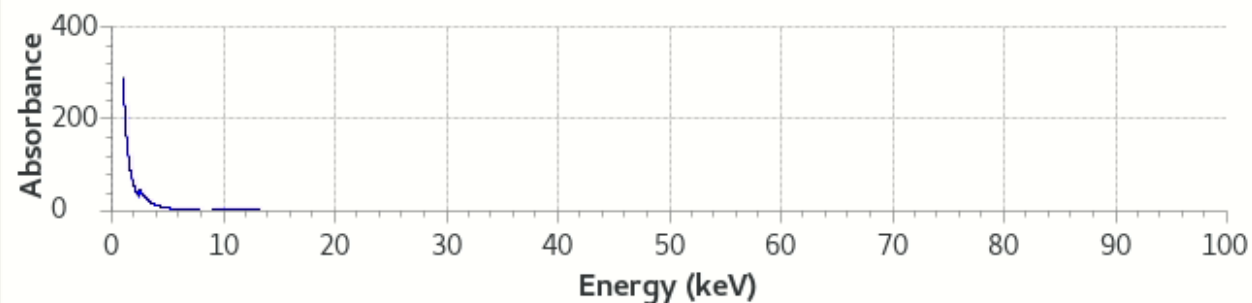
Export to XMI-MSIM

Status: OK!

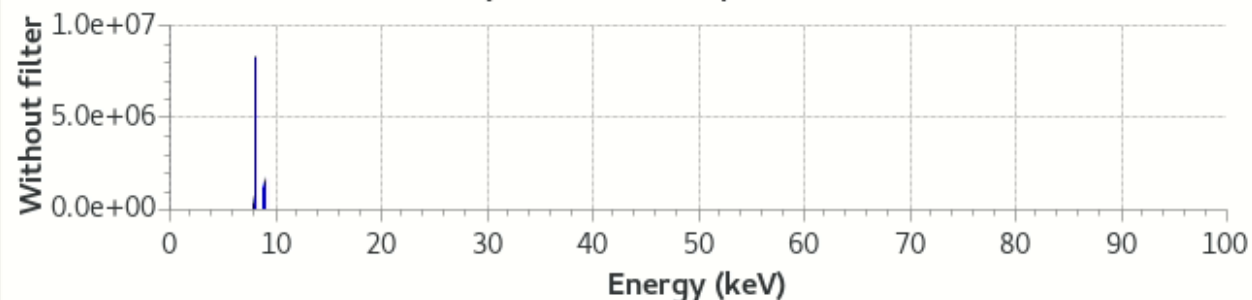
Transmittance



Absorbance



X-ray Fluorescence Spectrum



Total intensity without filters: 4.82900e+07 counts/s

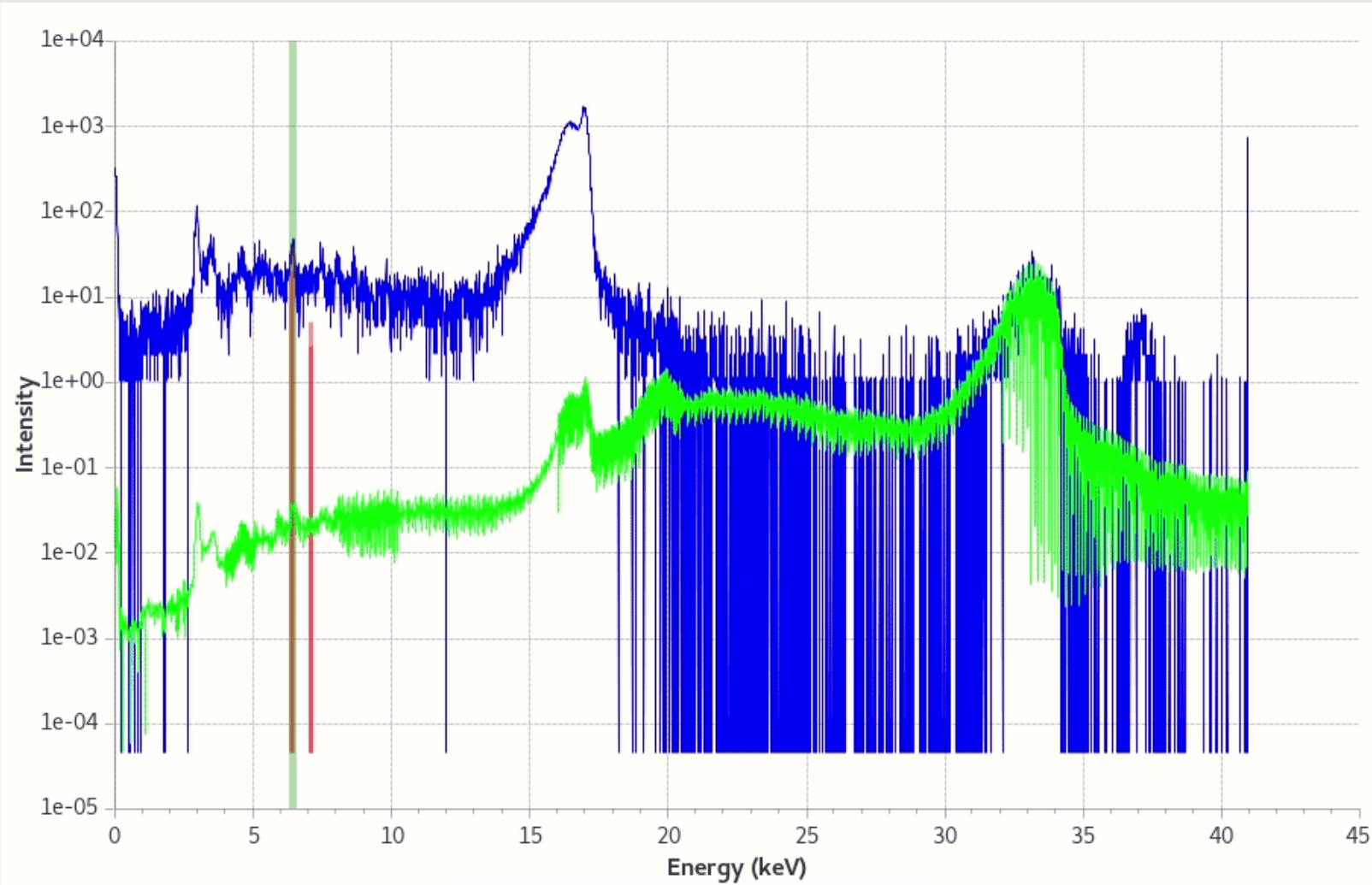
Element	Line	Energy (keV)	Counts	Counts with filter
<input type="checkbox"/> S	KL2 (Kα2)	2.30660	16607.2	
<input type="checkbox"/> S	KL3 (Kα1)	2.30780	32965.8	
<input type="checkbox"/> S	KM2 (Kβ3)	2.46400	1467.39	
<input type="checkbox"/> S	KM3 (Kβ1)	2.46400	2917.43	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cu	KL2 (Kα2)	8.02790	1.42664e+07	

Close

## Region of interest based elemental maps of 2D XRF datasets

Periodic Table Analyze existing spectrum

Fe - 26



No escape peaks ▾

☒ Show sum peaks

Energy unit is 1 keV ▾

- ☒ Use current spectrum  
☐ Use sum spectrum  
☐ Use maximum pixel spectrum  
☐ Use external spectrum

- ☒ Kα  
☐ Kβ  
☐ Lα  
☐ Lβ  
☐ Mα

Selected XRF linegroups

Fe-Kα

Remove linegroup

Min excitation energy (keV) 1.0

Max excitation energy (keV) 50.0

ROI width (# channels) 10



Cancel

Finish

Under development

# Error handling

- Current implementation is outdated and useless
- Check return values: 0 indicates error or unavailable
- Not thread-safe!
- Consider calling `SetErrorMessage(0)` at the start of your program



# Error handling

- Inspired by GLib's GError...
- Optional for C, C++, Fortran
- Translated into exceptions for all bindings!

```
typedef enum {
    XRL_ERROR_MEMORY, /* set in case of a memory allocation problem */
    XRL_ERROR_INVALID_ARGUMENT, /* set in case an invalid argument gets passed to
a routine */
    XRL_ERROR_IO, /* set in case an error involving input/output occurred */
    XRL_ERROR_TYPE, /* set in case an error involving type conversion occurred */
    XRL_ERROR_UNSUPPORTED, /* set in case an unsupported feature has been
requested */
    XRL_ERROR_RUNTIME /* set in case an unexpected runtime error occurred */
} xrl_error_code;

typedef struct {
    xrl_error_code code;
    char *message;
} xrl_error;

double LineEnergy(int Z, int line, xrl_error **error);

xrl_error *error = NULL;
double energy = LineEnergy(26, M5N7_LINE, &error);
if (error != NULL) {
    fprintf(stderr, "Error: %s\n", error->message);
}
```

# *xraylib* publications

A. Brunetti, M. Sanchez del Rio, B. Golosio,  
A. Simionovici and A. Somogyi,  
*Spectrochim. Acta Part B*, 59, 1725-1731, 2004

T. Schoonjans, A. Brunetti, B. Golosio,  
M. Sanchez del Rio, V. A. Solé, C. Ferrero  
and L. Vincze,  
*Spectrochim. Acta Part B*, 66, 776-784, 2011

# Acknowledgements

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- Alexandre Simionovici
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- Claudio Ferrero
- David Sagan
- Teemu Ikonen
- Everyone that ever contributed code or reported bugs!

Thank you!