

PhD in algebraic geometry from 2017, advisor Jan Christoffersen.

In my spare time I like to code fractals and boulder (and wish I had more time to read books).



# MY PHD IN VERY FEW WORDS

- I explored smoothings of highly singular algebraic varieties. In particular if they can be smoothed to Calabi-Yau threefolds.
- I constructed a few new ones.
- I miss teaching and blackboard math discussions. (and blackboards!)

UiO : **University of Oslo**

FREDRIK MEYER

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**Join of hexagons and Calabi-Yau  
threefolds**

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Thesis submitted for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor

Department of Mathematics



**October 2017**

# CURRENT WORK PLACE

- Expert Analytics AS, a small (40 ish) consultancy in Oslo.
- Sometimes referred to as a “kindergarten for refugees from academia” or a “continuation of RF [Realistforeningen] in the private sector”
- From scientific consulting (modelling, data analysis, etc) to software consulting.
- Customers include Statkraft, Vipps, etc. (I currently work at Statkraft)
- <https://expertanalytics.no/>



# FROM PHD TO "REAL WORLD"

- I was quite sure that I wanted a job outside the university, so I started applying for jobs 6 months before my position ended.
- After lots of applications and interviews, I got a job



**Jobb** <jobb@bekk.no>  
til meg ▾

Hei Fredrik,

Viser til din søknad og hyggelig telefonsamtale, og har gleden av å invitere deg til en innledende samtale fredag den 24.02.2017 klokken 08.00 - 08.30.

Samtalen finner sted i BEKKs lokaler på Vippetangen. Der vil du møte Fredrik Valdmanis, og du kan ringe han på 476 33 822 når du kommer. Du finner veibeskrivelse på <http://www.bekk.no/kontakt>.

Fint om du bekrefter at tidspunktet passer. Velkommen!

**Med vennlig hilsen,**

ons. 22. feb. 2017, 08:21

# FROM PHD TO "REAL WORLD"

- I worked at Bekk for 2.5 years. Really nice place to learn how to be a consultant.
- After a while I wanted something new. I met my current boss at a bouldering trip in Fontainebleau outside Paris.
- High nerd factor among my colleagues. 🙏
- I'm working on everything from building web pages (Javascript), to databases and doing architecture choices and managing deployment pipelines.

# THE APPLICATION PROCESS

## For job 1 (Bekk):

- I sent CV (can show).
- First a personal interview.
- Then later called in for second interview, this time technical + personal.
- Third time with the CTO (they were not used to hiring PhD's).
- Profit!

## For job 2:

- Met current boss at climbing trip in France.
- Interview was very nice.



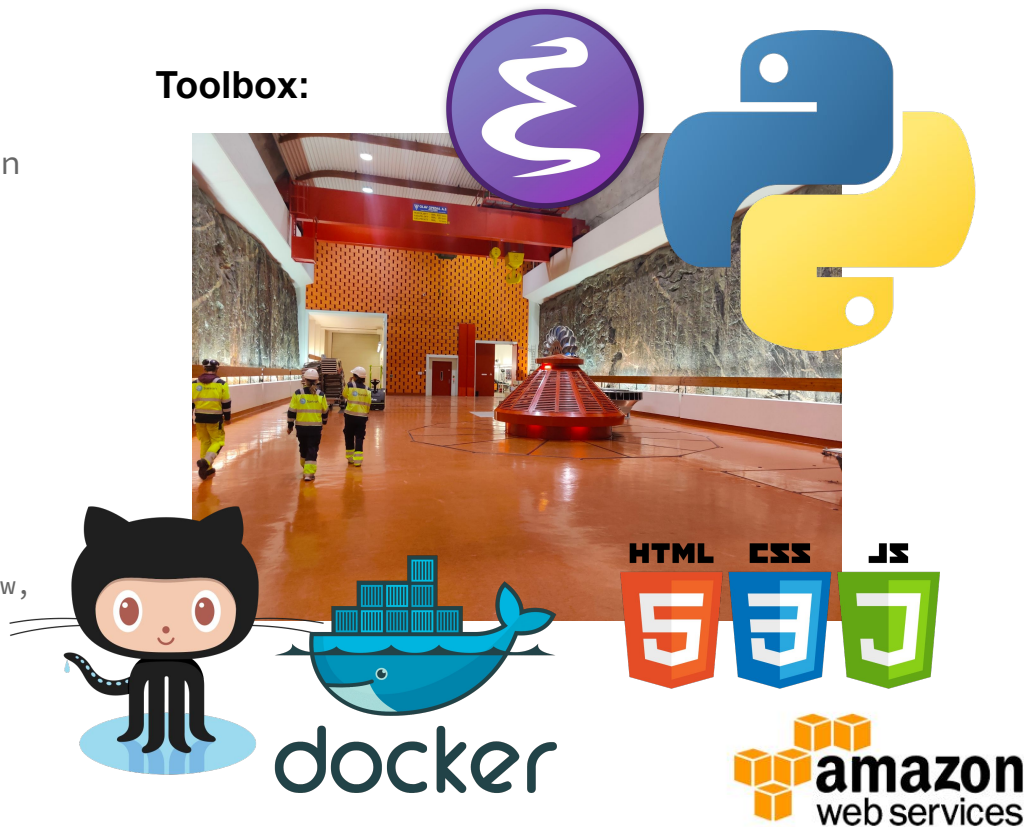
## For job 3:

- Have a small presence and answer your phone...

# THE LIFE OF A SOFTWARE DEVELOPER IN FEW WORDS

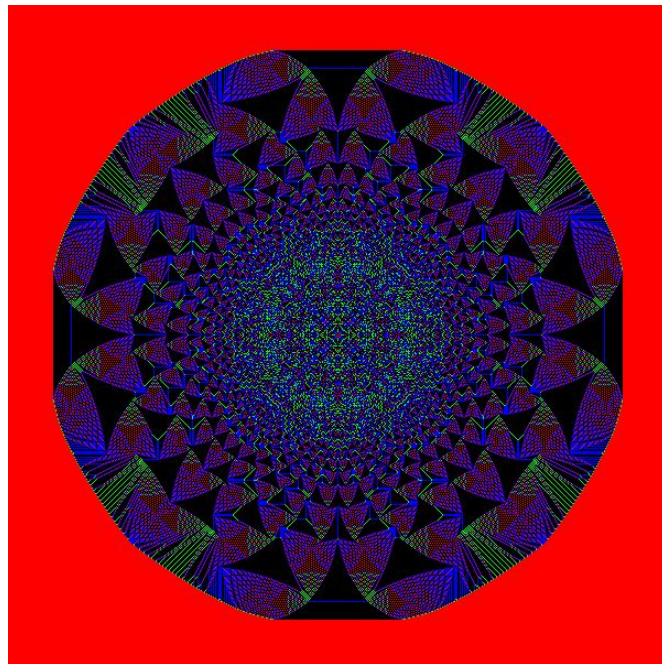
- I have experience in Javascript, Python, Java, among others.
- But programming is **much** more than just languages.
- For example:
  - Making systems talk to each other
  - Getting software out quickly and safely
  - Documentation and knowledge sharing
  - Tons of ways to write maintainable and understandable code
  - Testing, verification, thinking of quality
  - Big organizations, why are they slow, how can you work around that, etc...
  - ...

Toolbox:



I DO MISS MATH THOUGH 🧙

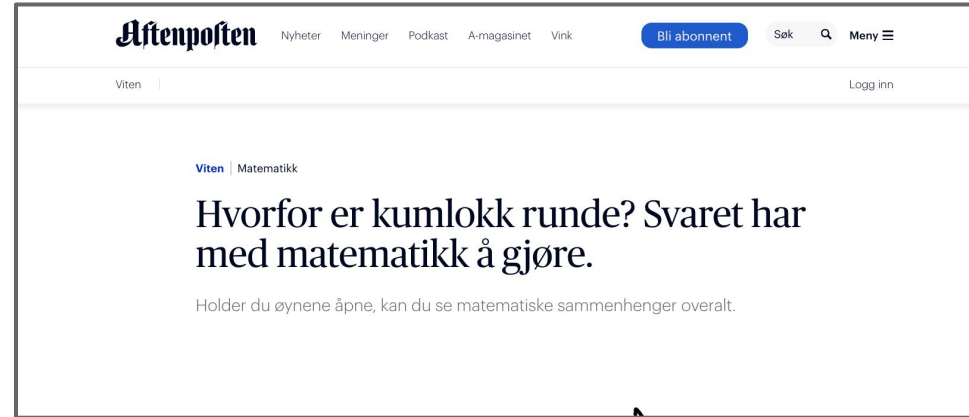
So sometimes I make  
fractals with code.





# FINALLY SOME CAREER TIPS

- Job interviews should not be interviews, but conversations.
  - Ask questions back, higher chance of success if the conversation flows naturally.
- Be clear about what you know, advertise your passions (I like popularizing math)
- As a PhD student you (should) know how to learn things quickly – that is your main skill. Advertise that.



- Be early, many jobs have deadlines early autumn (but it's a lie, so don't panic)
- If you apply "in the real world" – advertise practical skills like programming, not papers.