

Mandelbrot set and Julia sets

iteration $z_{n+1} = z_n^2 + c$

Writing $z_n = x_n + iy_n$

$$z_{n+1} = x_{n+1} + iy_{n+1}$$

$$c = a + ib$$

$$\rightarrow x_{n+1} + iy_{n+1} = (x_n + iy_n)^2 + (a + ib)$$

$$= x_n^2 - y_n^2 + 2x_n y_n i + a + ib$$

equivalent real-number iteration

$$x_{n+1} = x_n^2 - y_n^2 + a$$

$$y_{n+1} = 2x_n y_n + b$$

If the distance of z_n to the origin is greater than 2, the later iterates, z_{n+1} , z_{n+2} , z_{n+3} , ... run away to infinity.

For each c , the Julia set of c is the collection of all points, label each as z_0 , for which

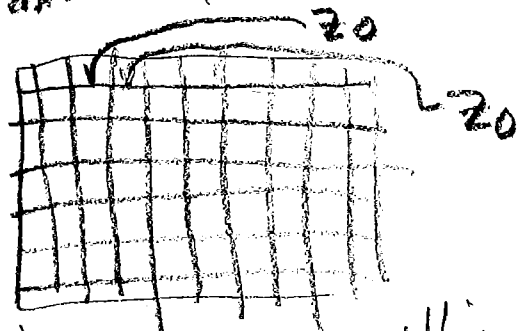
$$z_1 = z_0^2 + c$$

$$z_2 = z_1^2 + c$$

$$\vdots$$

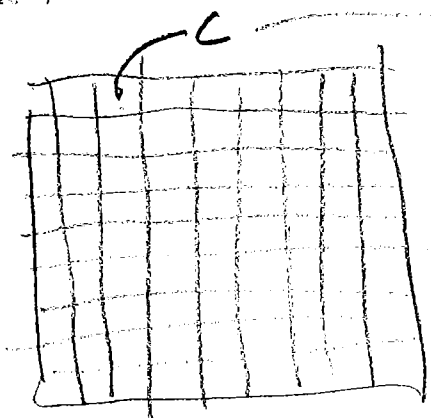
do not run away to ∞ , that is, they don't get farther than 2 from the origin.

c is constant - different Julia set for each c .



If all iterates (we are willing to try) stay within 2 of the origin, we say z_0 belongs to the Julia set and we paint the pixel black. Otherwise, z_0 does not belong to the Julia set and we paint the pixel a color corresponding to how many steps it took to get farther than 2 from the origin.

For the Mandelbrot set, always start the iterations with $z_0 = 0$



for this c , start with $z_0 = 0$, then
 $z_1 = z_0^2 + c$,
 $z_2 = z_1^2 + c$

If the iterates stay within $\bar{2}$ of the origin, c belongs to the Mandelbrot set and we paint the pixel black. If some iterate gets farther than $\bar{2}$ from the origin, c does not belong to the Mandelbrot set, and we paint the pixel a color based on when the iterates first get larger than $\bar{2}$.

Reason: Theorems of Fatou & Julia

Theorem 1 For $z^2 + c$, Julia sets are either connected or are Cantor sets

Theorem 2 For $z^2 + c$, the Julia set is connected if and only if the iterates of $z_0 = 0$ do not run away to infinity.

Then the Mandelbrot set, all c values⁴
for which the iterates of $z_0 = 0$ do
not run away to infinity, is the
collection of c for which the Julia
sets are connected.