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Gaston Julia

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Gaston Maurice Julia (1893 - 1978) French mathematician best known for Julia sets.

In his 20s, Julia served in the French Army in World War I, losing his nose in the conflict. Coming home from the war, Julia attracted the attention of mathematicians for his paper on iterated rational functions. Even in those days before computer graphics, he was able to visualize which are connected and which are not. During World War II, he taught at the École Polytechnique. One of his students there, Benoît Mandelbrot, would grow up to popularize his work on fractals.