

## DSL FOR BUILDING FRACTALS

Liviu Iordan<sup>1\*</sup>,  
Arina Pereteatcu<sup>1</sup>,  
Pavel Țapu<sup>1</sup>,  
Cristian Prodius<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Software Engineering and Automation, gr FAF-223, Faculty of Computers, Informatics and  
Microelectronics Technical University of Moldova, Chișinău, Republic of Moldova

\*Corresponding author: Liviu Iordan, email: liviu.iordan@isa.utm.md  
Tutor: Mariana Catruc, university lecturer

### Abstract.

The Scientific Conference paper introduces a Domain Specific Language (DSL) dedicated to simplifying fractal geometry through automated coding. This language aims to make fractal generation easier for both beginners and experts by providing intuitive syntax and functionalities for defining shapes and parameters. The DSL's development involved domain analysis, design principles, and iterative cycles. Results show its effectiveness in creating intricate fractal patterns for various purposes such as art, education, and science. Potential applications include artistic expression, educational exploration, and integration into scientific simulations. This project contributes to computational geometry, offering a valuable tool for fractal enthusiasts and researchers.

**Keywords:** Fractals, Domain Specific Language (DSL), Computational Geometry, Syntax and Semantics

### Introduction

Fractals, those endlessly intricate and visually captivating geometric patterns, have long been a source of fascination and inquiry across disciplines ranging from mathematics and physics to art and computer science [1]. Defined by their self-similar structure, fractals possess a unique allure that transcends traditional notions of shape and dimensionality. From the mesmerizing complexity of the Mandelbrot set to the elegant simplicity of the Sierpinski triangle, fractals embody a profound mathematical beauty that continues to inspire exploration and creativity [4]. Here are some of the most popular fractal examples:

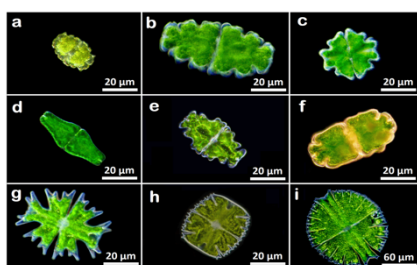


Figure 1. Fractals in biology



Figure 2. Fractals in Nature

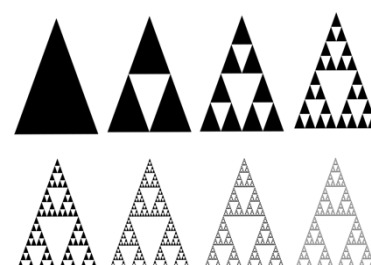


Figure 3. Sierpinski triangle

In this project, a comprehensive exploration of the domain of fractal geometry is undertaken, with a specific focus on addressing the challenges inherent in the creation and manipulation of these complex structures [2]. At the core of this endeavor lies the development of a specialized Domain Specific Language (DSL) tailored specifically for building fractals. This innovative language, designed with meticulous attention to the nuances of fractal design, aims to democratize access to fractal generation while offering a powerful and expressive toolset for users of all backgrounds [1].

The motivation for choosing this topic is deeply rooted in the collective fascination with fractals and their potential applications across a wide range of domains. Fractals, with their innate beauty and mathematical richness, have found utility in fields as diverse as computer graphics, digital art, natural sciences, and even finance [1]. However, despite their ubiquity, the creation of fractals often involves complex mathematical calculations and intricate algorithms, presenting a significant barrier to entry for many enthusiasts and researchers.

This project seeks to address this challenge by introducing a dedicated DSL for building fractals [3], thus democratizing access to fractal generation and empowering users to explore and create complex patterns with ease. The degree of novelty and relevance of this topic lies in its focus on addressing a specific problem within the domain of fractal geometry – the lack of a specialized language tailored to the needs of fractal creators.

The overarching objectives of this project encompass not only the design and implementation of the DSL itself but also a comprehensive exploration of the methodologies and techniques employed in its development [5]. Through rigorous domain analysis, a deep understanding of the intricacies of fractal geometry is aimed to be gained, identifying key concepts, patterns, and challenges that inform the design of the DSL.

Furthermore, this project aims to contribute to the growing field of computational geometry by providing a practical and versatile tool for fractal exploration and creation. By leveraging cutting-edge research in language design, software engineering, and computational mathematics, the boundaries of what is possible in the realm of fractal art and science are aimed to be pushed [4].

The significance of this project lies not only in its technical innovations but also in its potential societal impact. By democratizing access to fractal generation tools, it hopes to inspire a new generation of artists, educators, and researchers to explore the beauty and complexity of fractal geometry. Furthermore, the development of a specialized DSL for fractal generation has implications beyond the realm of art and aesthetics [6]. Fractals have found applications in diverse fields such as data compression, signal processing, and even cryptography. By providing a user-friendly platform for fractal exploration, it aims to unlock new avenues for research and innovation across multiple disciplines [5].

In the subsequent chapters of this report, the details of the project plan will be delved into, beginning with the design of the grammar for the DSL. This foundational step lays the groundwork for the subsequent phases of the project, including the implementation of lexical analyzers and symbol tables, the validation of the DSL through testing and user feedback, and the submission of a scientific paper on the state of the art in fractal geometry. Through these efforts, the aim is to contribute to the advancement of computational geometry and provide a valuable tool for fractal enthusiasts and researchers alike[7].

Manually coding fractals using languages such as Python, Java, or C++ demands a deep understanding of complex mathematical concepts and algorithms, thereby deterring individuals lacking extensive expertise from engaging meaningfully with fractal geometry [5]. The technical intricacies involved in implementing fractal algorithms, such as the Mandelbrot set or the Julia set, pose significant barriers for non-programmers and enthusiasts seeking to explore fractal patterns and phenomena [3].

Existing fractal generation tools and software, while offering functionality in specific areas like L-Systems, visualization, or fractal frameworks, suffer from several shortcomings that impede effective fractal exploration and creation [6]. These tools often lack the comprehensive functionalities and flexibility required to experiment with diverse algorithms, parameters, and combinations, thus restricting users' ability to visualize and express intricate fractal patterns fully.

*Table 1*

### **Identified Challenges and Complexities**

Challenge	Description
Limited Accessibility and Usability	Manual fractal coding using traditional programming languages deters non-programmers and enthusiasts. Existing tools require coding knowledge or involve navigating complex interfaces, posing barriers for users across different skill levels.
Restricted Flexibility and Customization	Many existing tools constrain users to predefined functionalities and parameter sets, inhibiting exploration of intricate variations and personal artistic expression. The lack of flexibility limits users' ability to experiment freely.
Fragmented Landscape	The current landscape of fractal generation tools is fragmented, making it challenging for users to navigate and explore fractal geometry effectively. The absence of a centralized platform hinders beginners and non-programmers from engaging fully.
Lack of Interactivity and Real-Time Feedback	Existing tools often lack interactivity and real-time feedback, hindering users' ability to experiment and iterate quickly. This limitation restricts creativity and exploration, as users must wait for computations to complete before assessing results.
Steep Learning Curves and Technical Jargon	Understanding and implementing fractal algorithms require a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and technical jargon, presenting steep learning curves for beginners and non-experts. This complexity discourages users from engaging with fractal geometry.
Inefficient Resource Utilization	Traditional fractal generation methods may utilize computational resources inefficiently, leading to longer processing times and increased resource consumption. This inefficiency limits scalability and practicality for applications requiring real-time or large-scale fractal generation.
Lack of Standardization	The absence of standardized practices and formats for representing and sharing fractal patterns and algorithms hinders collaboration and interoperability among users and tools. This lack of standardization complicates the exchange and reuse of fractal-related resources and impedes progress in the field.

### Proposed Project Solution

In the realm of fractal geometry, enthusiasts, artists, educators, and researchers face significant challenges in creating and exploring fractal patterns using traditional programming languages and existing fractal generation tools [6]. These challenges include steep learning curves, limited flexibility, and accessibility barriers, which hinder meaningful engagement with fractal geometry for a diverse range of users. As a result, there is a pressing need for a user-friendly Domain-Specific Language (DSL) tailored specifically for fractal generation.

The project aims to address these limitations by creating a user-friendly Fractal Domain-Specific Language (DSL) that offers intuitive, built-in functions and libraries, abstracting away complex algorithms and mathematical concepts. By enabling high flexibility for exploring diverse algorithms, parameters, and combinations, the Fractal DSL will lower the technical barrier, allowing wider audiences to effortlessly engage with fractal creation and exploration [7].

The creation of a user-friendly Fractal DSL presents an opportunity to democratize fractal exploration and creation, empowering users across different skill levels to engage meaningfully with fractal geometry [6]. By addressing the challenges associated with traditional programming languages and existing fractal generation tools, the Fractal DSL has the potential to revolutionize

artistic expression, scientific exploration, and educational advancement within the realm of fractal geometry.

### Proposed Solution Implementation

The proposed solution is to develop a user-friendly Domain-Specific Language (DSL) tailored specifically for fractal generation, which will provide an intuitive and accessible platform for users to create, explore, and visualize intricate fractal patterns without the need for advanced programming knowledge or technical expertise [5]. To address the challenges and limitations outlined in the problem description and analysis, the development of a comprehensive Fractal Domain-Specific Language (DSL) is proposed. This Fractal DSL will serve as a user-friendly platform for creating, exploring, and visualizing intricate fractal patterns with unprecedented ease and flexibility [7].

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the exploration and creation of fractal patterns present both profound opportunities and significant challenges across various fields. Fractals, with their intricate geometric properties, offer insights into the underlying mechanisms of natural phenomena and provide avenues for artistic expression and scientific inquiry.

However, traditional programming languages and existing fractal generation tools impose barriers to entry, limiting access and usability for a diverse range of users. The technical complexities, restricted flexibility, and fragmented landscape of current tools hinder meaningful engagement with fractal geometry, preventing enthusiasts, artists, educators, and researchers from fully realizing the potential of fractal exploration.

The proposed solution, the development of a user-friendly Fractal Domain-Specific Language (DSL), aims to address these challenges by providing an intuitive platform for creating, exploring, and visualizing intricate fractal patterns. By abstracting away complex algorithms and mathematical concepts while offering high flexibility and accessibility, the Fractal DSL has the potential to democratize fractal exploration and revolutionize artistic expression, scientific exploration, and educational advancement within the realm of fractal geometry.

Through the implementation of the proposed solution, a future is envisioned where individuals across different skill levels can effortlessly engage with fractal geometry, unlocking new avenues of creativity, discovery, and understanding. As the project moves forward, it remains committed to bridging the gap between fractal enthusiasts and the fascinating world of fractal geometry, fostering innovation and collaboration in this captivating field.

### References:

- [1] Fractal Foundation: What are Fractals? [online], [accessed on 08.03.2024]:  
<https://fractalfoundation.org/>
- [2] HowStuffWorks: How Fractals Work? [online], [accessed on 07.03.2024]:  
<https://science.howstuffworks.com/math-concepts/fractals.htm>
- [3] HowStuffWorks: How DSL Works? [online], [accessed on 07.03.2024]:  
<https://computer.howstuffworks.com/dsl.htm>
- [4] CosmosMagazine: Do fractals exist in nature? [online], [accessed on 06.03.2024]:  
<https://cosmosmagazine.com/science/mathematics/fractals-in-nature/>
- [5] Eclipse: Forums [online], [accessed on 06.03.2024]:  
<https://www.eclipse.org/forums/index.php/t/1107070/>
- [6] Duncans: Nature of Code Fractals [online], [accessed on 08.03.2024]:  
<https://wp.nyu.edu/tischschoolofthearts-duncanfigurski/2021/04/06/nature-of-code-fractals/>
- [7] Ola Bini: Fractal Programming [online], [accessed on 09.03.2024]:  
<https://olabini.se/blog/2008/06/fractal-programming/>