Richard Abele October 30, 2024

Numerical Methods in Physics and Astrophysics Problem Set 2 - Problem 4: Fractals Through Newton-Raphson

To fulfill the necessary requirements for the assignment, the root finding program from the previous problem set is adapted to work with complex numbers and find the roots of a complex function. Two loops are then created to iterate what will be the pixels of a fractal image.

An initial program called calc_data.c is then created to log the requested data in a .csv file. This data is in a nicely readable format, showing $x_0, y_0, k(z), f(z)$, and $\log_{10}(n)_{\text{iterations}}$ as noted in the assignment. In order to create the final fractal images though, it is more practical to create a file listing only the necessary parameters and no additional strings, hence the creation of a slightly modified program called fractal.c.

Fractals were then plotted with gnuplot, using the .gp files. Images in the form of png follow the format fractal_plot-<equation ID>_<image version> where the equation IDs are used to group the equations.