

# MAT 128B: Project I

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## 1 Introduction

This project explores Julia and Mandelbrot sets. Group members Aguayo, Barnett and Kubota jointly worked on each section.

Given the function  $\phi(z) = z^2 + c$ , where  $c \in \mathbb{C}$  is some constant, we consider the problem of finding the fixed points of  $\phi(z)$  using an iterative method. The usual process starts with some  $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  and uses the relation  $z_{k+1} = \phi(z_k)$  to generate a sequence  $\{z_n\}$  which may, or may not, converge to a fixed point of  $\phi(z)$ , depending on the choice of  $z_0$ .

Julia sets study the set of initial points which generate a sequence that remains bounded. That is, we define the filled Julia set defined by  $\{z \in \mathbb{C} : \text{the sequence } z_{k+1} = \phi(z_k), \text{ with initial value } z_0 = z, \text{ remains bounded}\}$ , and define the Julia set to be the boundary of the filled Julia set.

## 2 Julia Sets

### 2.1 Filled Julia Sets on the Unit Disc

We start with the simplest case:  $\phi(z) = z^2$ , which has two fixed points  $u = 1$  and  $v = 0$ . Clearly, if  $|z_0| \leq 1$ , the sequence will converge because  $|z_1| = |\phi(z_0)| = |(z_0)^2| \leq 1$ , which implies  $|z_2| \leq 1$  and so forth. Also, it is clear that if  $|z_0| > 1$ , the sequence will diverge, because the modulus of the following terms will continue to grow. Thus, the filled Julia set for  $\phi(z)$  is the unit disc  $D^2 = \{z : |z| \leq 1\}$ , and the Julia set is the boundary of this disc.

Below is a plot of the set, which was generated with the MATLAB code provided in section 7.

### 2.2 Various Julia Sets

We also graph the Julia set for the function  $\phi(z) = z^2 + c$ , for  $c = -1.25, 0.36 + 0.1i, -0.123 - 0.745i$  and display their graphs below. Note that the code we use to generate these filled Julia sets checks the magnitude of the sequence elements determined by  $z_n = \phi(z_{n-1})$ . If  $|z_n| > 2$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we assume that the sequence is diverging.

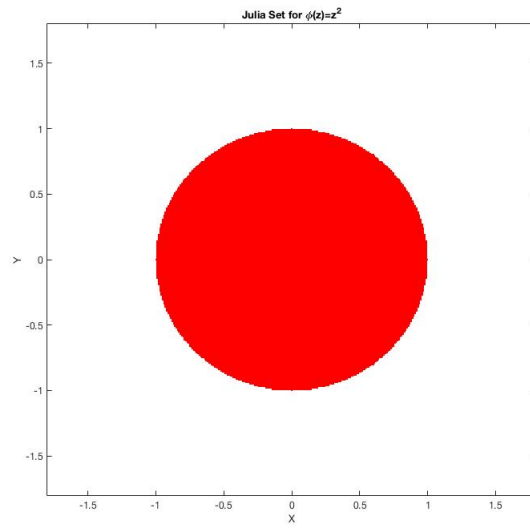
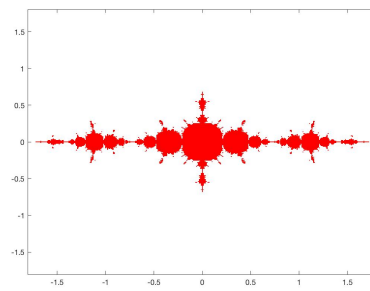
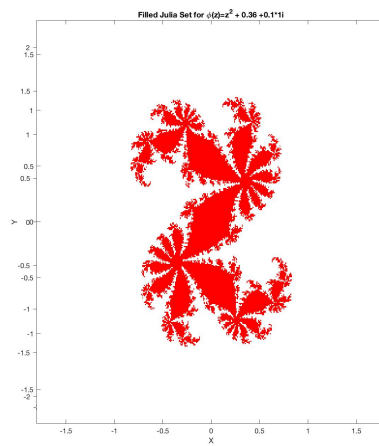


Figure 1



(a)



(b)

Figure 2: Plots of various Julia Sets

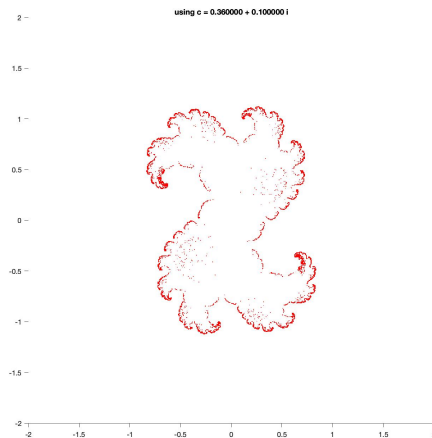


Figure 3

## 2.3 Boundaries of Filled Julia Sets

We also can form the Julia set by plotting the boundary of the filled Julia sets from section 2.2. Boundary points are found by noticing that if  $\phi(z) = z^2 + c$ , then  $z = \pm\sqrt{\phi(z) - c}$ . So, if  $z_k = \phi(z_{k-1})$  we get that  $z_k = \pm\sqrt{\phi(z_k) - c} = \pm\sqrt{z_{k+1} - c}$ , which provides an iterative method to move backwards in the sequences used to generate filled Julia sets. Below are the Julia sets from 2.2.

## 3 Computing Fractal Dimentions

## 4 Orbits

While the filled Julia set studies whether or not the initial starting point  $z_0$  will produce a bounded or converging sequence  $\{z_n\}$  under  $\phi$ , it can be worthwhile to investigate the sequence  $\{z_n\}$  itself. We do this by looking at the orbit of a particular  $z_0$ , where the orbit (denoted by  $orb(z_0)$ ) is given by the set of all elements in the sequence  $\{z_n\}$  generated by  $\phi$ .

### 4.1 Connectedness of the Filled Julia Set

The complex nature of Julia Sets brings up the question of whether or not the filled Julia set is connected (in the topological sense). Surprisingly, there is a simple necessary and sufficient condition for connectedness. Julia and Fatou showed that the filled Julia set for  $\phi(z) = z^s + c$  is connected if, and only if, 0 is in the filled Julia set. Using this condidtion, we develop an algorithm that checks whether or not the  $orb(0)$  for a particular  $\phi$  is bounded. Boundedness implies that 0 is in the filled Julia set for  $\phi$ , so the set is connected. From an algorithmic standpoint, it is difficult to determine with complete certainty that an orbit is bounded since the orbit may remain bounded for many terms and then diverge, or it might grow quickly and then cycle and remain bounded. So, our algorithm checks the first 1000 terms of  $orb(0)$  and if the terms remain bounded by 100, we conclude that  $orb(0)$  is bounded.

## 4.2 Coloring Divergent Orbits

We can also study how fast an orbit diverges. We do this by computing the sequence  $z_n$  generated by  $\phi$ . When  $|z_k| > 1000$  for some  $k$ , we assign a color to the matrix element corresponding to the location of  $z_k$  in the complex plane. For colors that diverge at similar points in the sequence (i.e. for similar  $k$  values), the color is similar. Printing this gives a good idea at how fast points near the boundary of the filled Julia set are diverging. Below is the algorithm, and a sample output for  $\phi(z) = z^2 + 0.36 + 0.1 \cdot i$ .

```
% Checks the orbits of z_0 from the region [-2,2]x[-2,2]
% under phi(z)=z^2+c

%Define the c
c=0.36+0.1*1i;

%Define the functions and fixed points.
phi = @(z) z^2 + c;
fxpt1 = (1 + sqrt(1-4*c))/2;
fxpt2 = (1 - sqrt(1-4*c))/2;

colormap jet;
M= zeros(401,401);
for j=1:401 % Try initial values with imaginary parts between
y = -2+ (j-1)*.01; % -2 and 2
for i=1:401 % and with real parts between
x = -2 + (i-1)*.01; % -2 and 2.
z = x + 1i*y;
zk = z;

iflag1 = 0; % iflag1 and iflag2 count the number of iterations
iflag2 = 0; % when a root is within 1.e-6 of a fixed point;
kcount = 0; % kcount is the total number of iterations.

while kcount < 1000 && abs(zk) < 100 && iflag1 < 5 && iflag2 < 5
kcount = kcount+1;
zk = phi(zk); % This is the fixed point iteration.

err1 = abs(zk-fixpt1); % Test for convergence to fixpt1.
if err1 < 1.e-6
iflag1 = iflag1 + 1;
else
iflag1 = 0;
end

err2 = abs(zk-fixpt2); % Test for convergence to fixpt2.
if err2 < 1.e-6
```

```

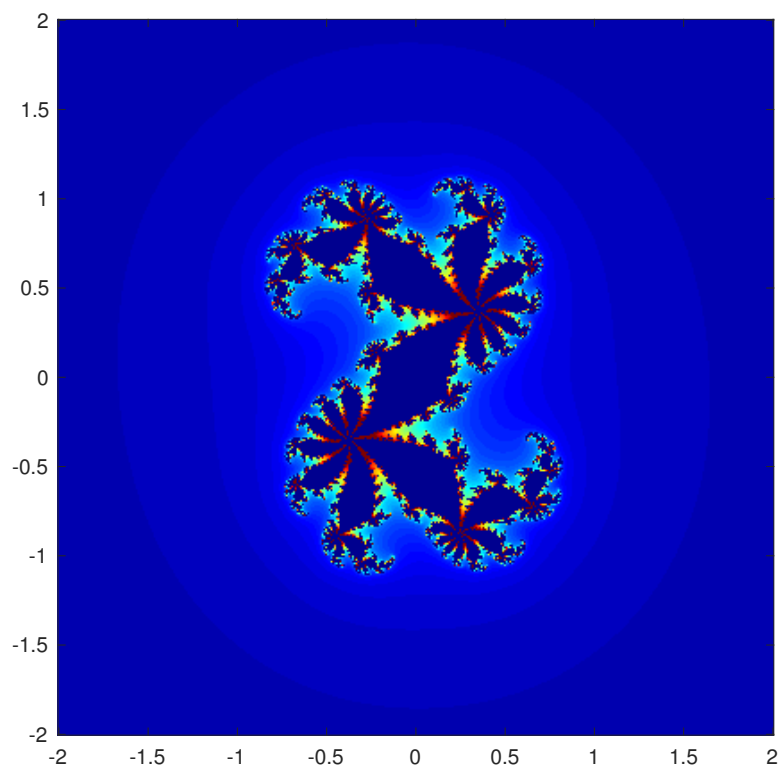
iflag2 = iflag2 + 1;
else
iflag2 = 0;
end

end

if abs(zk)>100 %if the orbit diverged, fill in the color map
M(j,i)=kcount; %the color for terms that diverged with similar
%kcounts will have similar color
end
end
end

image([-2 2],[-2 2],M), % This plots the results.
pbaspect([1 1 1]); %keeps the x/y ratio even
axis xy % prevents inverted xy axis

```



## 5 A Newton's Method Approach

## 6 Mandelbrot Sets

## 7 MATLAB Code