Using Recursion To Understand Complexity: A Systems Engineer's Approach to Fractals

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The term paper must be at least ten pages in length (single-spaced, normal font size, graphics are included in page count). There is no maximum length, although a concise, well-crafted analysis is clearly superior to a lengthy, rambling narrative. The subject of the term paper will be the student's synthesis of how some aspect of complexity, chaos, and other related topics relates to engineering of complex systems. That is, how does each student think at least one of these topics can be integrated into a general approach to systems engineering. The term paper will be due in class during Week 12.

Introduction

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Engineering Concerns

Measurement

Talk about how things are measured at different scales. Bring this discussion to the Koch Snowflake. Explain the snowflake in detail and show lots of figures. Tie it to differences in measurement, accuracy, significant digits, etc. Show

ences in measurement, accuracy, significant digits, etc. Show how this is a systems engineering concern.

Conclusion

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References

Axelrod, R. M., & Cohen, M. D. (2000). Harnessing complexity: Organizational implications of a scientific frontier. Basic Books.