

Thompson-Like Groups Acting on Julia Sets

Jim Belk* and Bradley Forrest

October 2013

Thompson's Groups

In the 1960's, Richard J. Thompson defined three infinite groups:



F acts on the unit interval.



T acts on the unit circle.

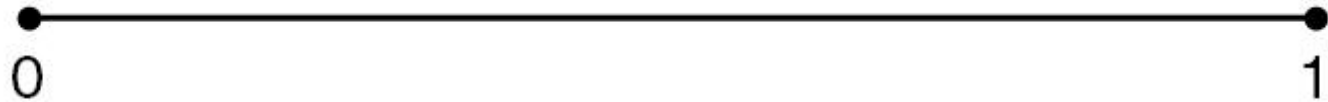


V acts on the Cantor set.

Definition of F

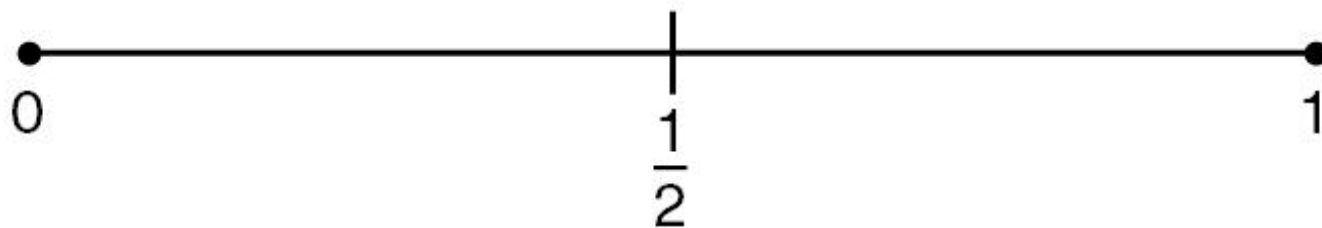
Definition of F

A **dyadic subdivision** of $[0,1]$ is any subdivision obtained by repeatedly cutting intervals in half:



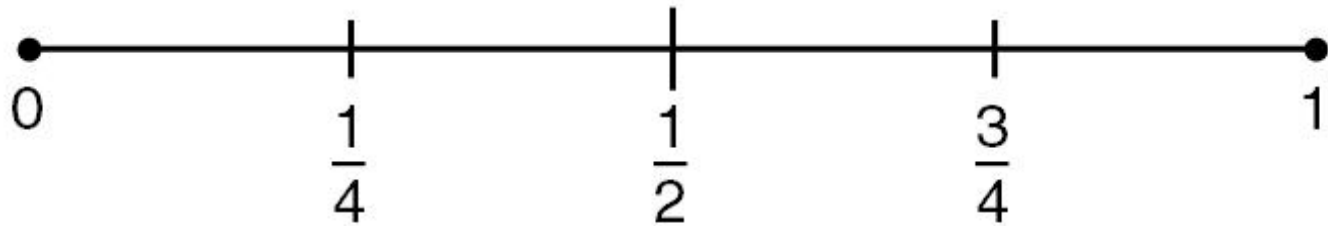
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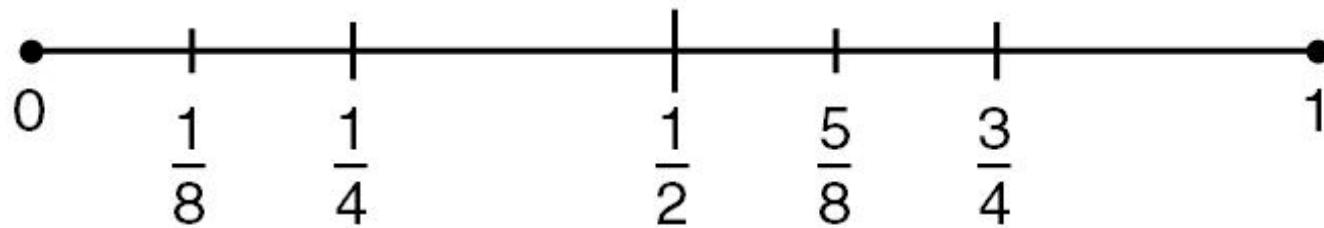
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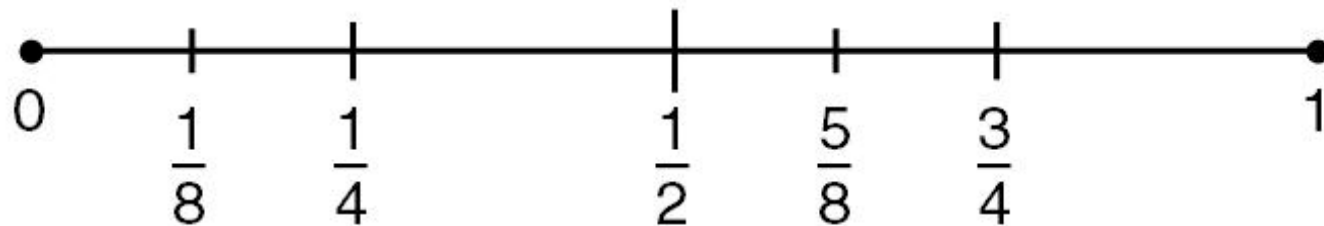
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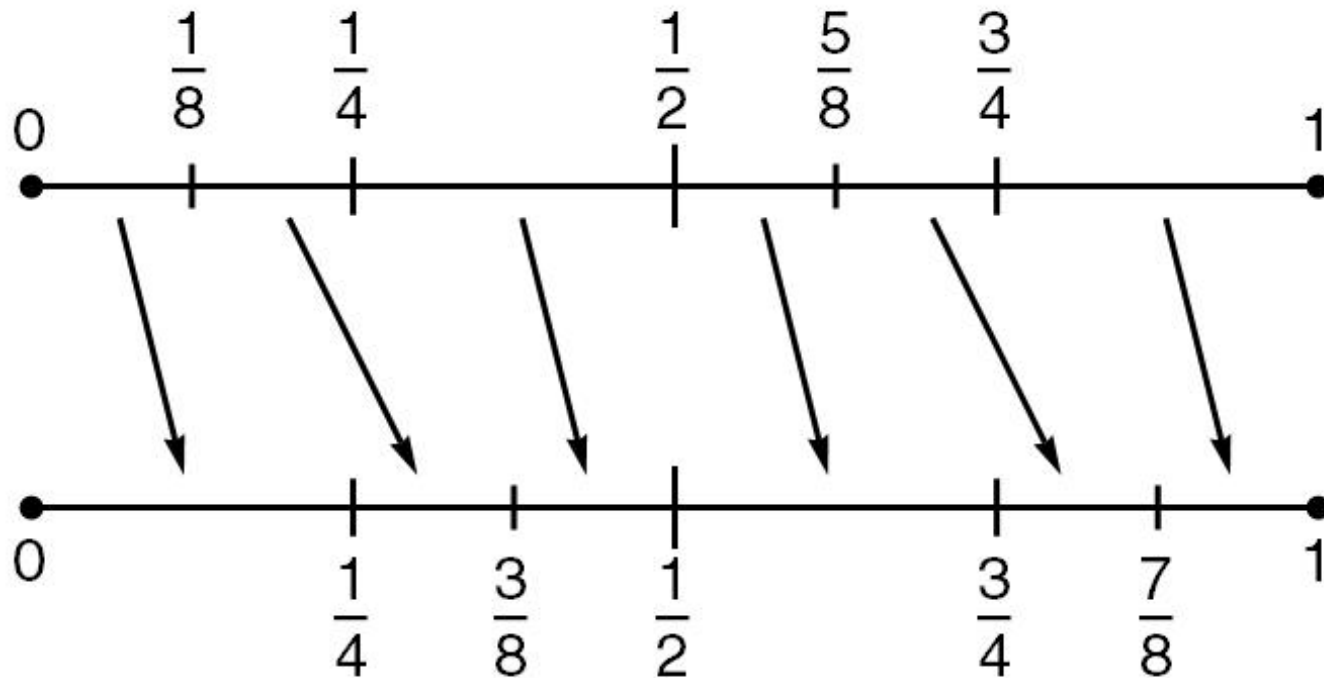


The intervals of such a subdivision are **standard dyadic intervals**:

$$\left[\frac{k}{2^m}, \frac{k+1}{2^m} \right]$$

Definition of F

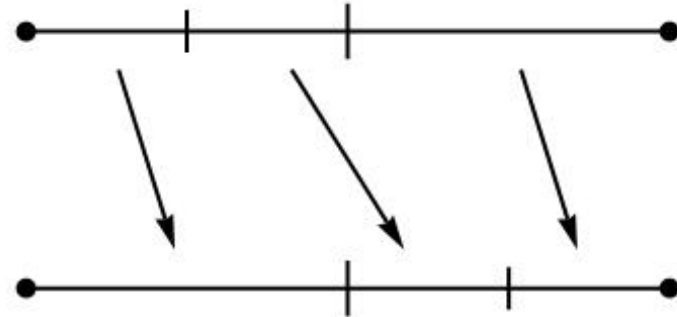
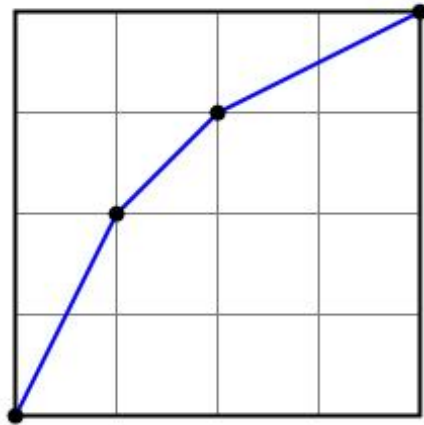
A **dyadic rearrangement** of $[0,1]$ is a PL homeomorphism that maps linearly between the intervals of two dyadic subdivisions:



The group of all dyadic rearrangements is **Thompson's group F** .

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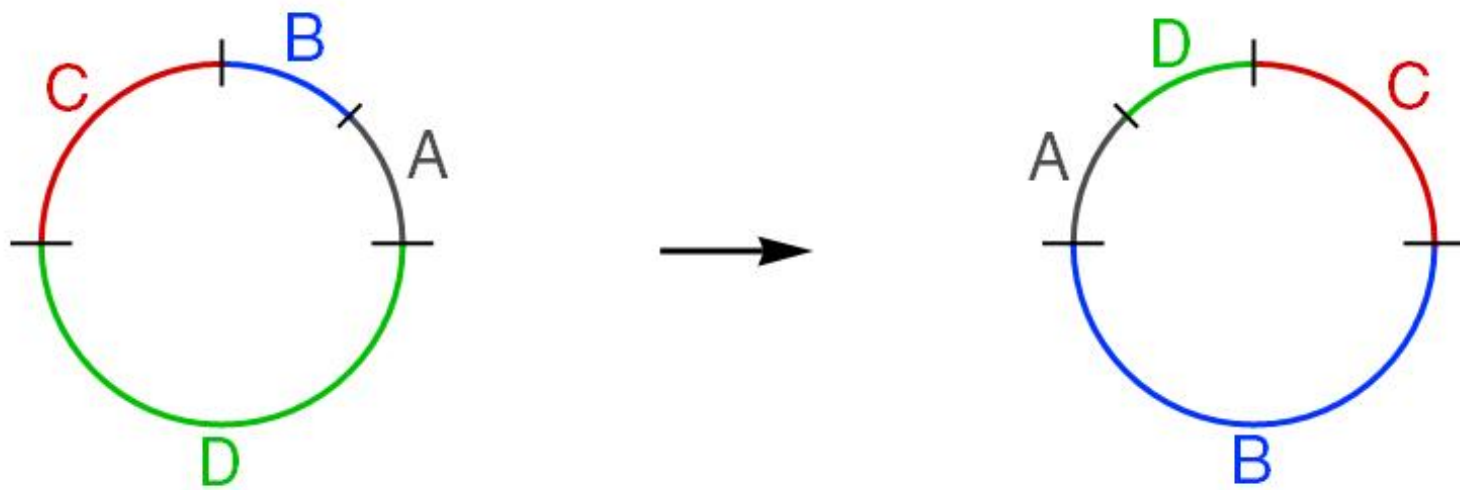
Given an element of F :

- Each segment has slope 2^m .
- Each breakpoint has dyadic rational coordinates.

These conditions characterize the elements of F .

Definitions of T and V

Thompson's group T acts on the circle.



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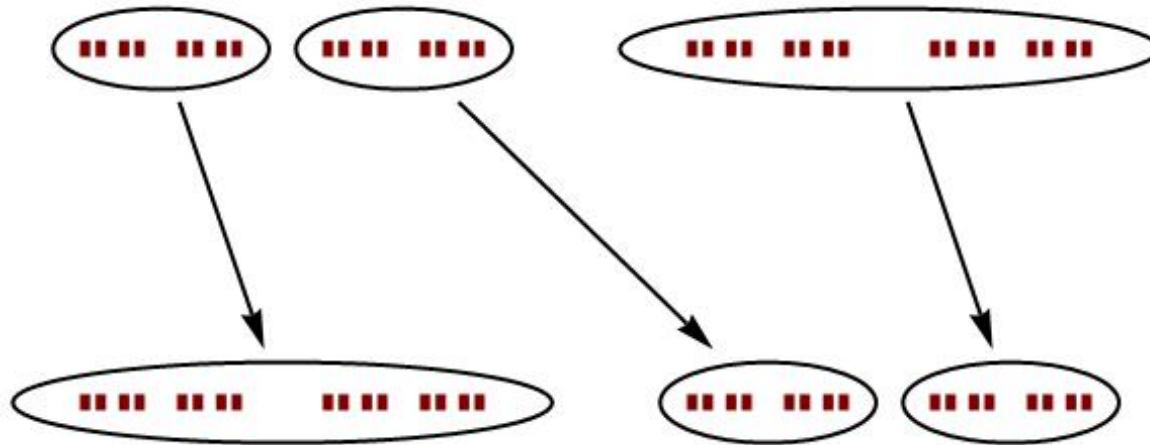
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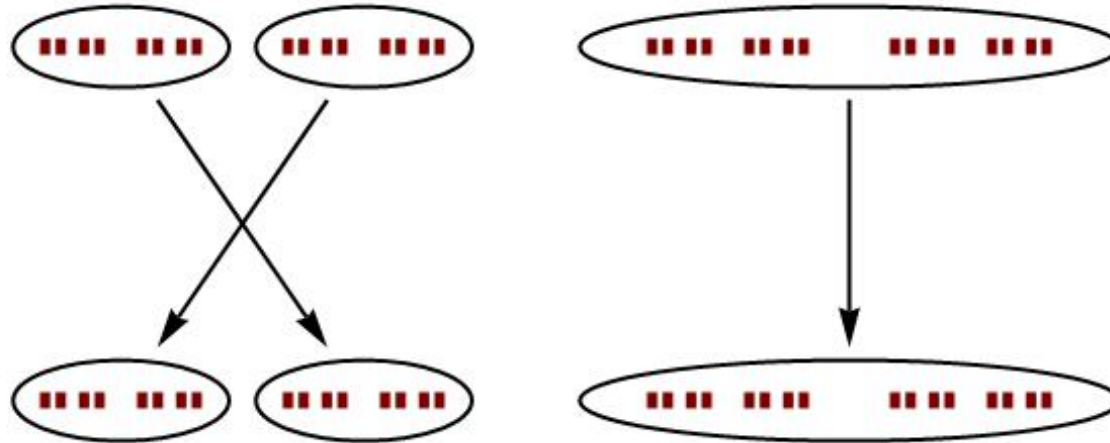
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Properties of F , T , and V

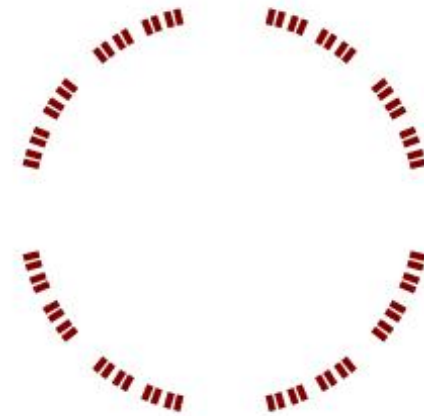
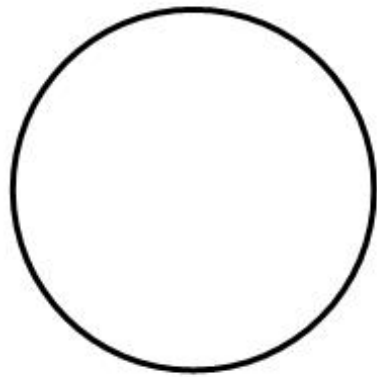
Properties of F , T , and V

- F embeds into T .



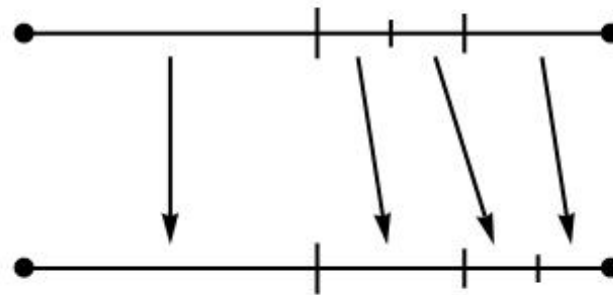
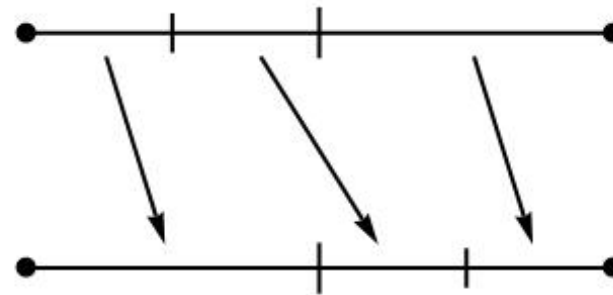
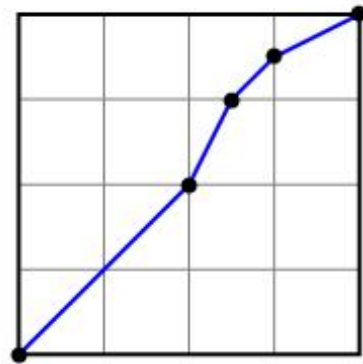
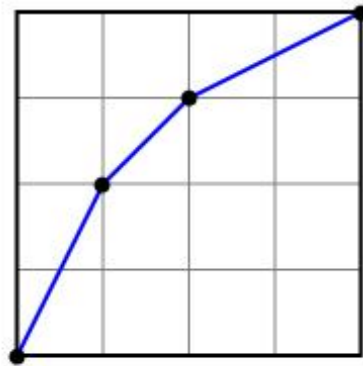
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- Finiteness property: F , T , and V have **type F_∞** .
- F , T , and V act properly and isometrically on CAT(0) cubical complexes.

Generalizations

Basic Questions:

Why are there *three* Thompson groups?

What do the interval, circle, and Cantor set have in common?

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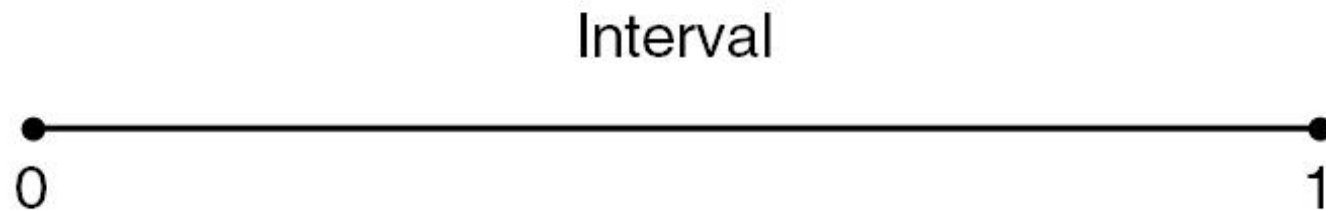
Generalizations:

- $F(n)$, $T(n)$, $V(n)$ (Higman 1974, Brown 1987)
- Other PL groups (Bieri & Strebel 1985, Stein 1992)
- Diagram Groups (Guba & Sapir 1997)
- “Braided” V (Brin 2004, Dehornoy 2006)
- $2V$ (Brin 2004)

Self-Similarity

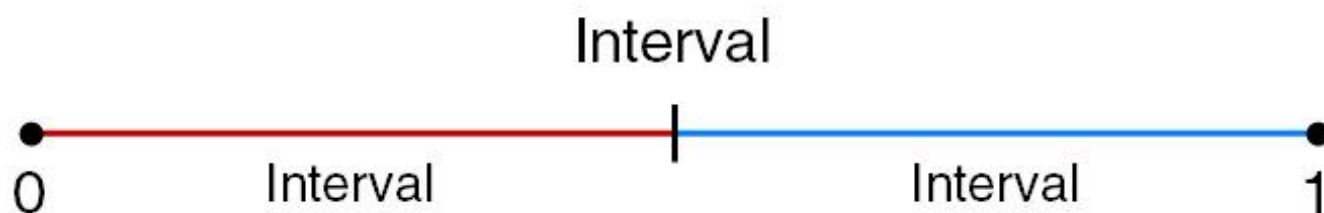
Self-Similarity

The definition of F depends on the ***self-similarity*** of the interval.



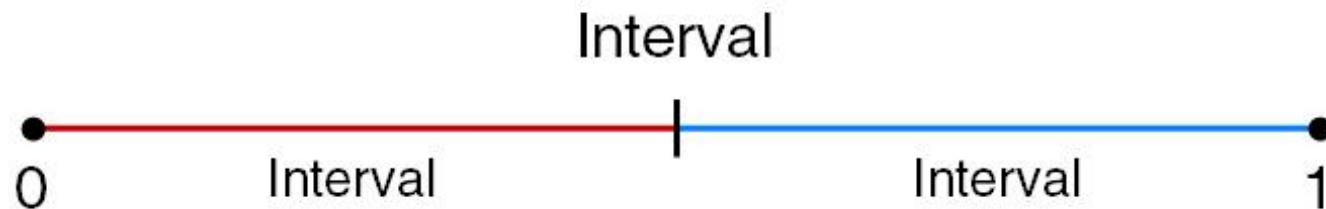
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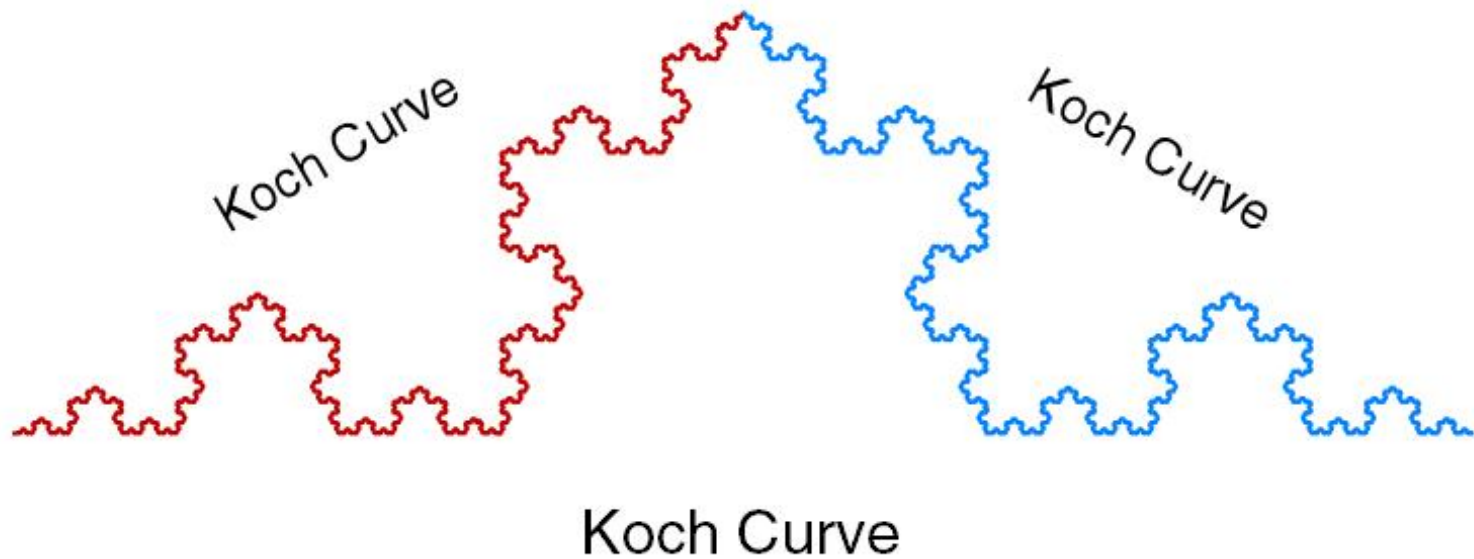


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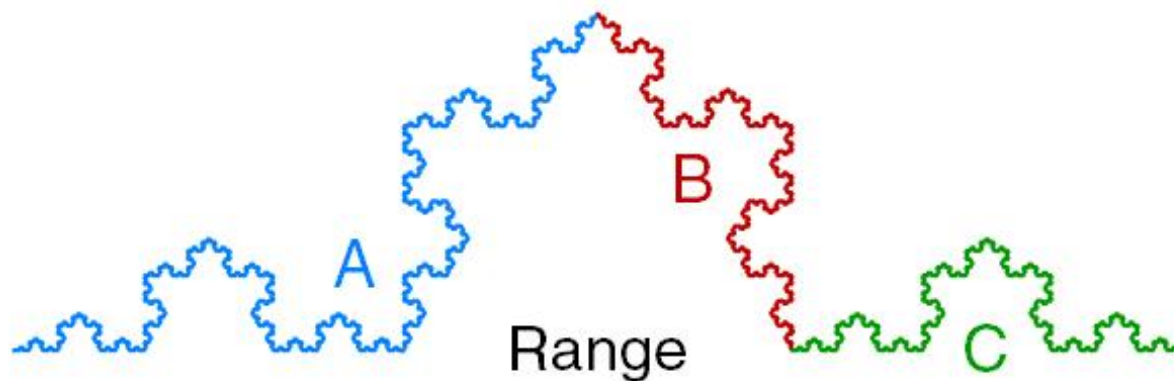
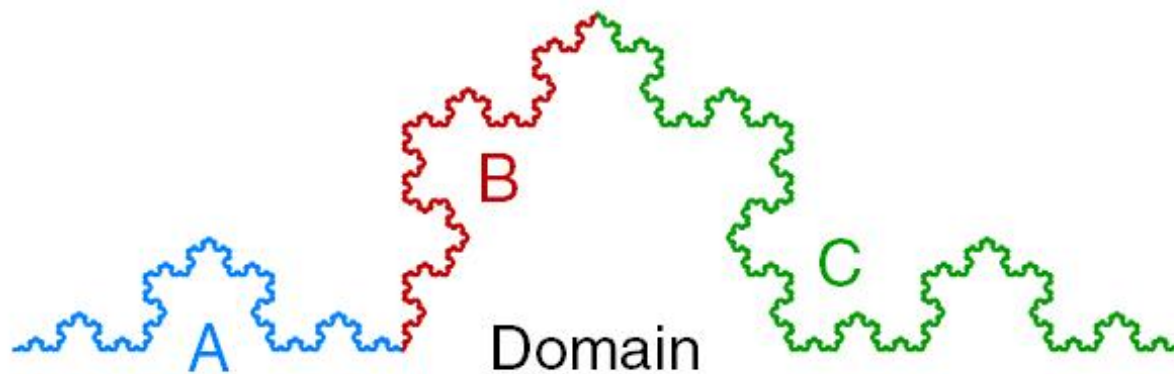


Some fractals have the same self-similar structure as an interval:



Self-Similarity

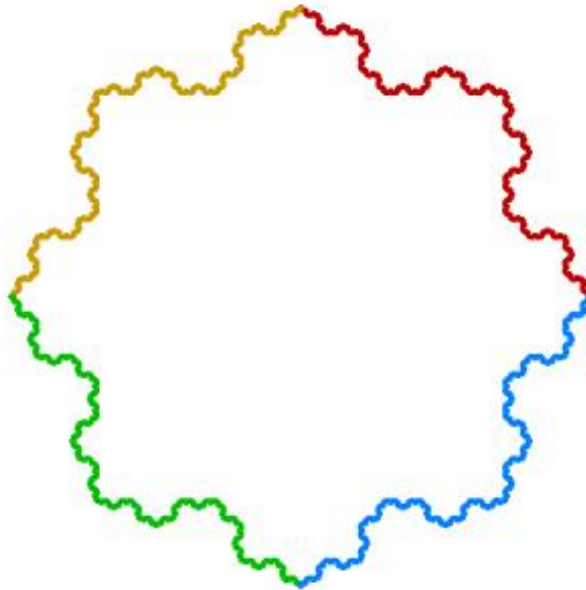
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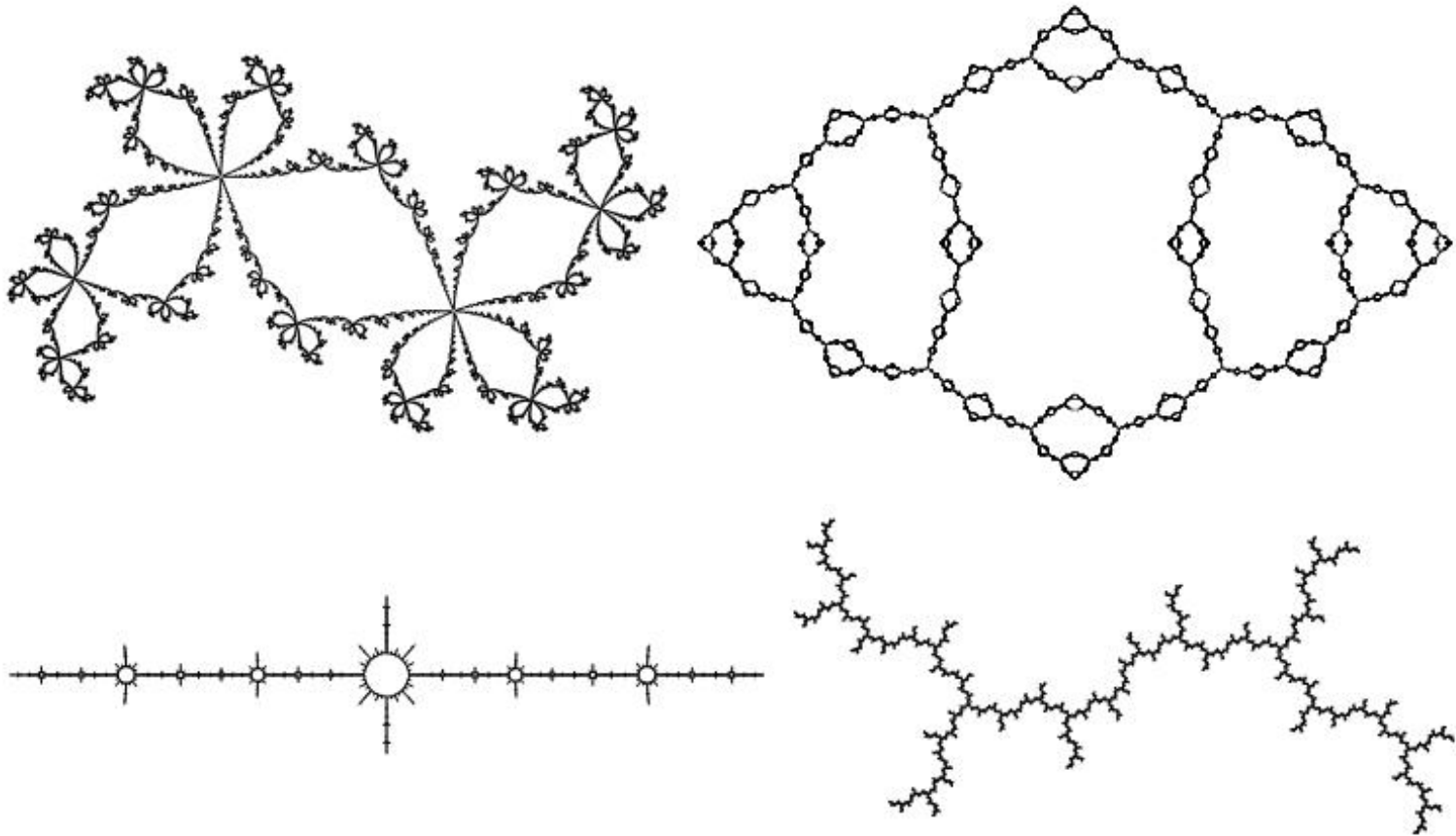
Main Idea:

Perhaps there are Thompson-like groups acting on other fractal shapes.

Julia Sets

Julia Sets

Every rational map on the Riemann sphere has an associated **Julia set**.



Julia Sets

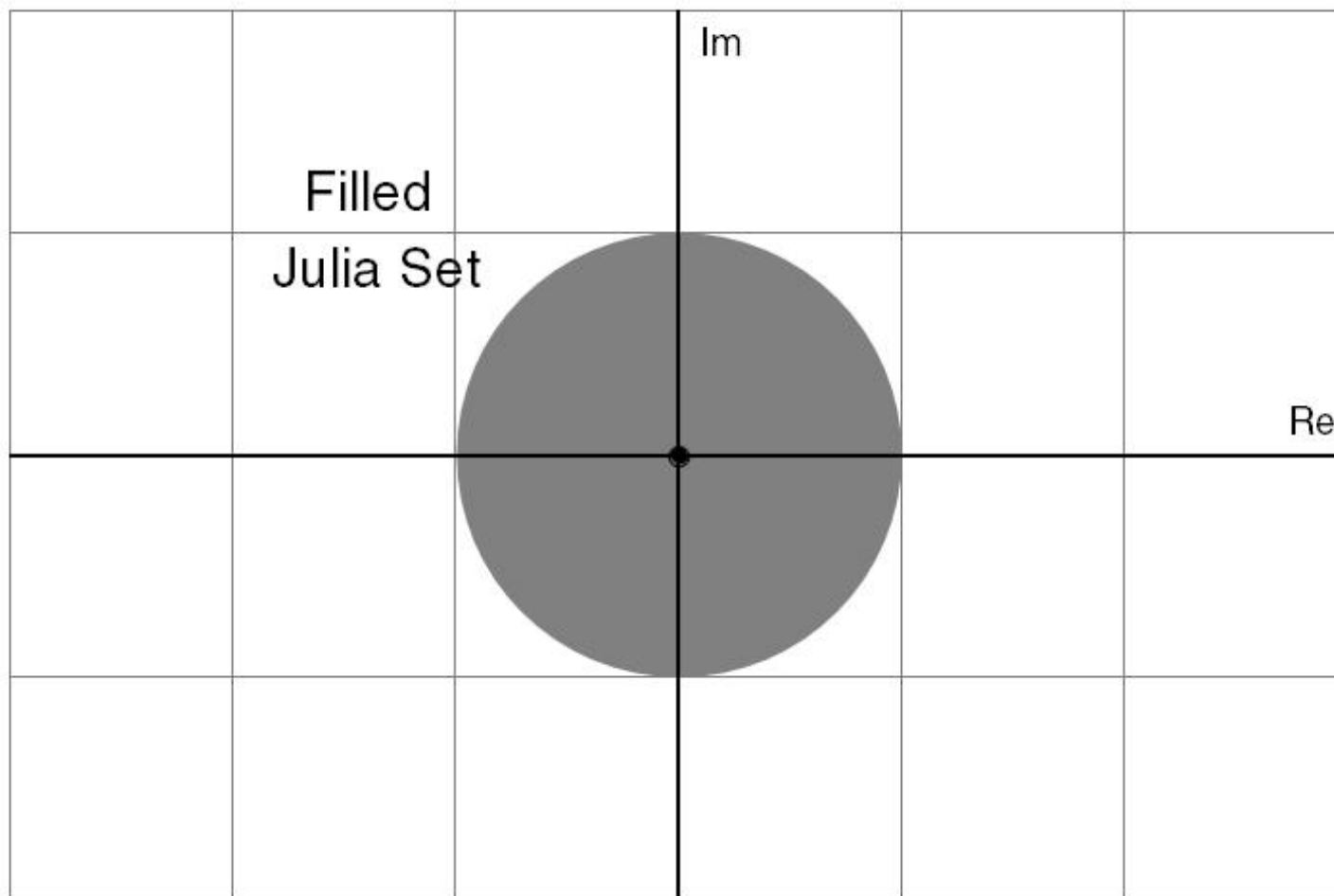
Let $f(z) = z^2 + c$, where z and c are complex.

The **filled Julia set** for f is the set

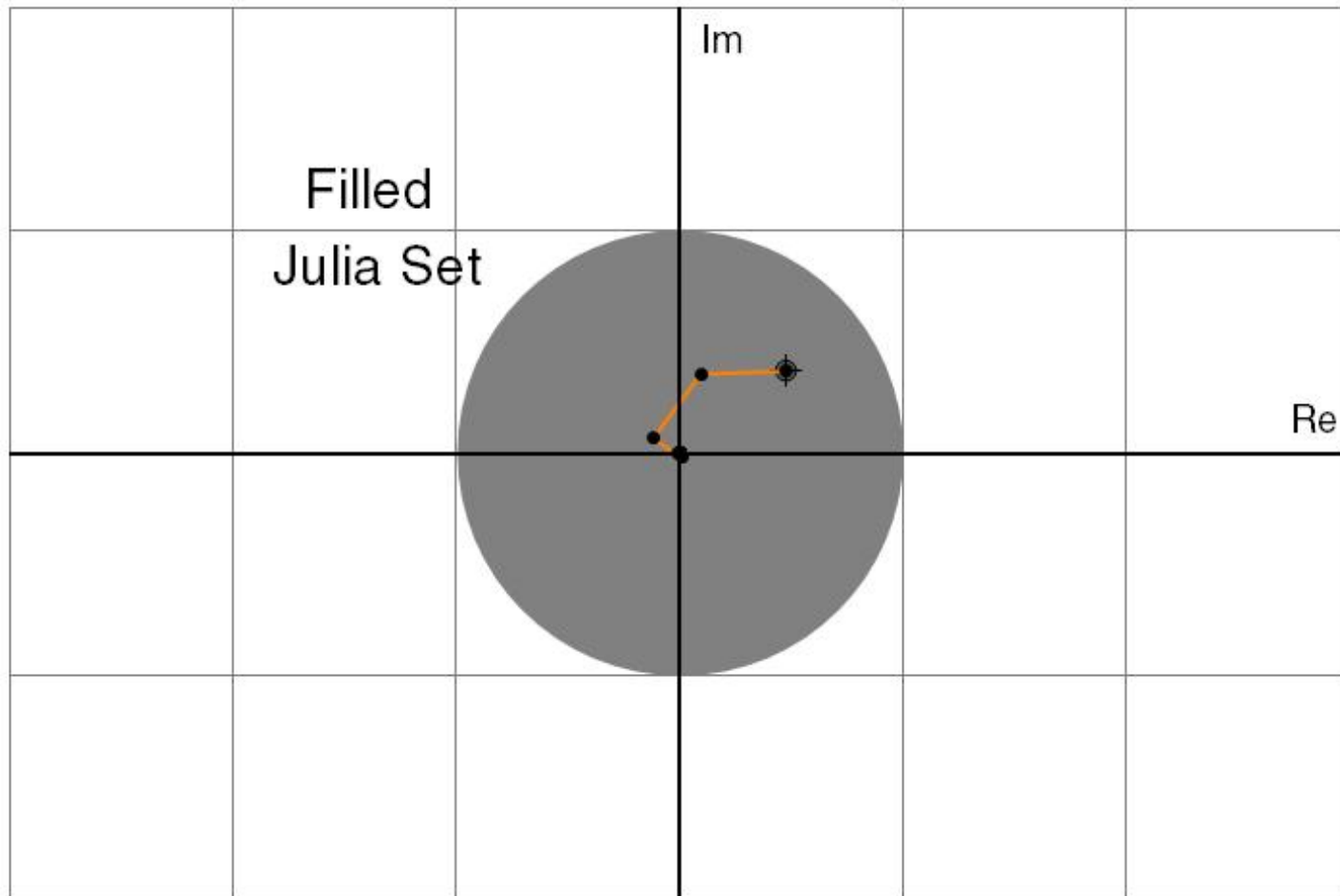
$$\{p \in \mathbb{C} \mid \text{the orbit of } p \text{ under } f \text{ is bounded}\}$$

Example: The filled Julia set for $f(z) = z^2$ is the closed unit disk.

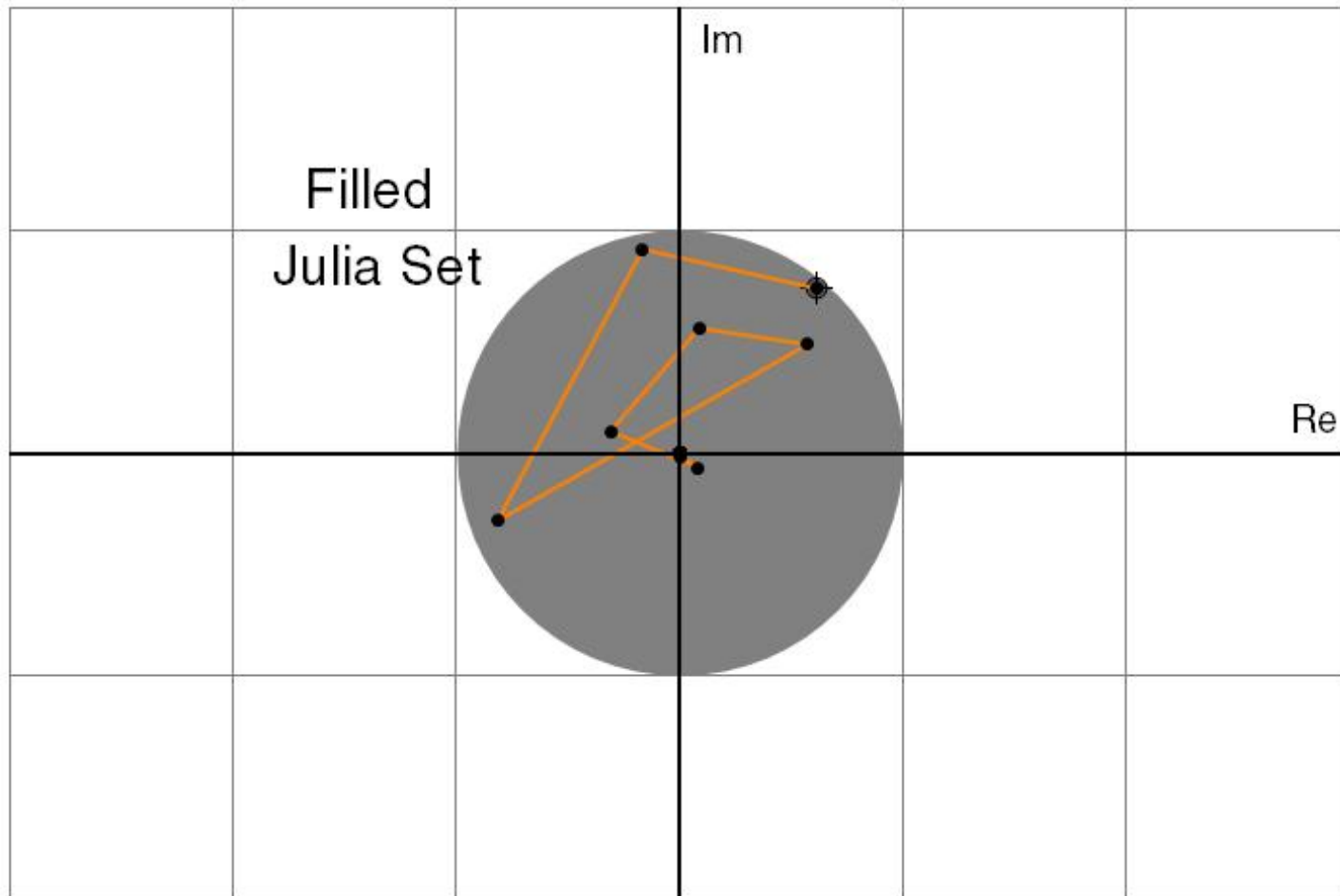
Orbits Under z^2



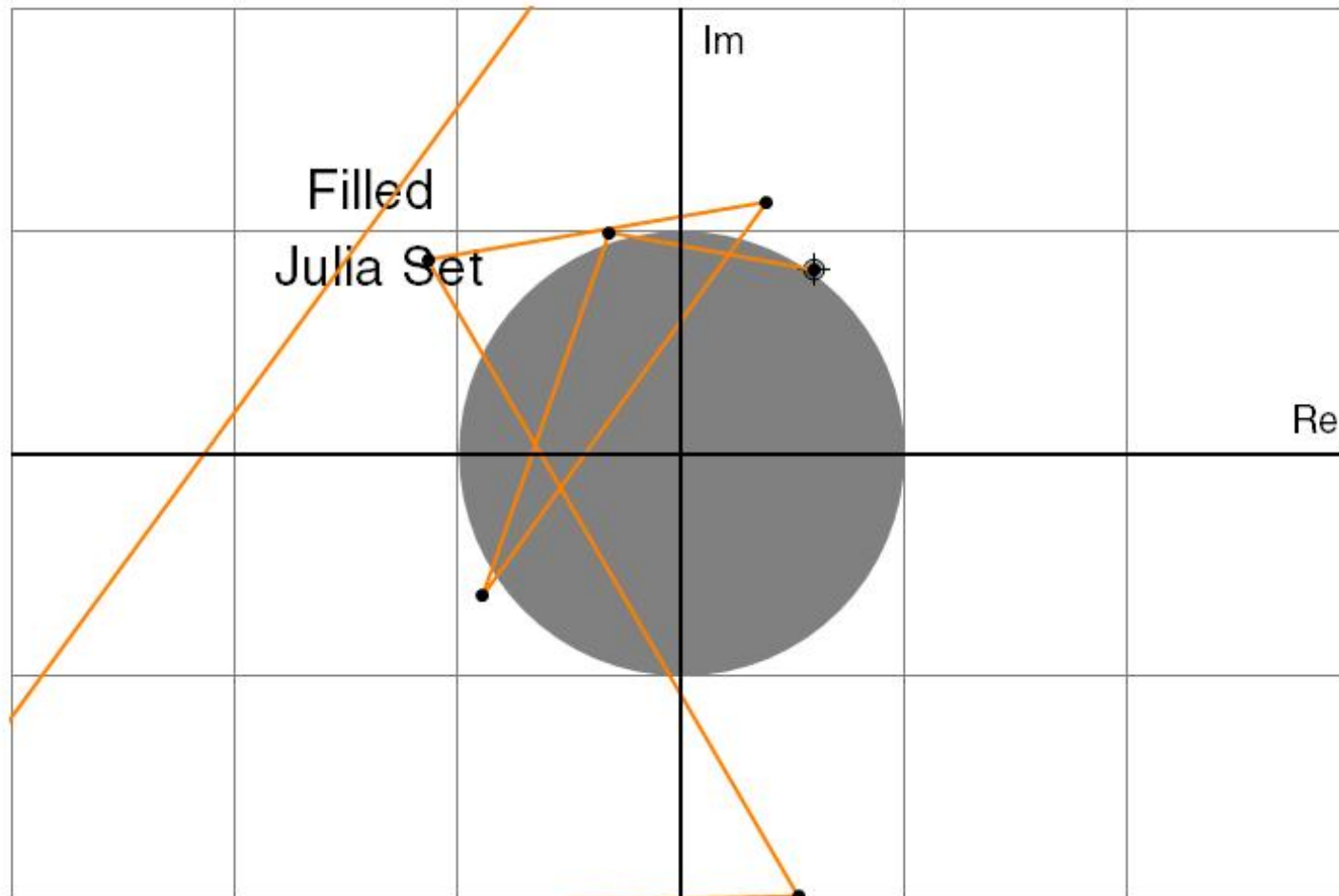
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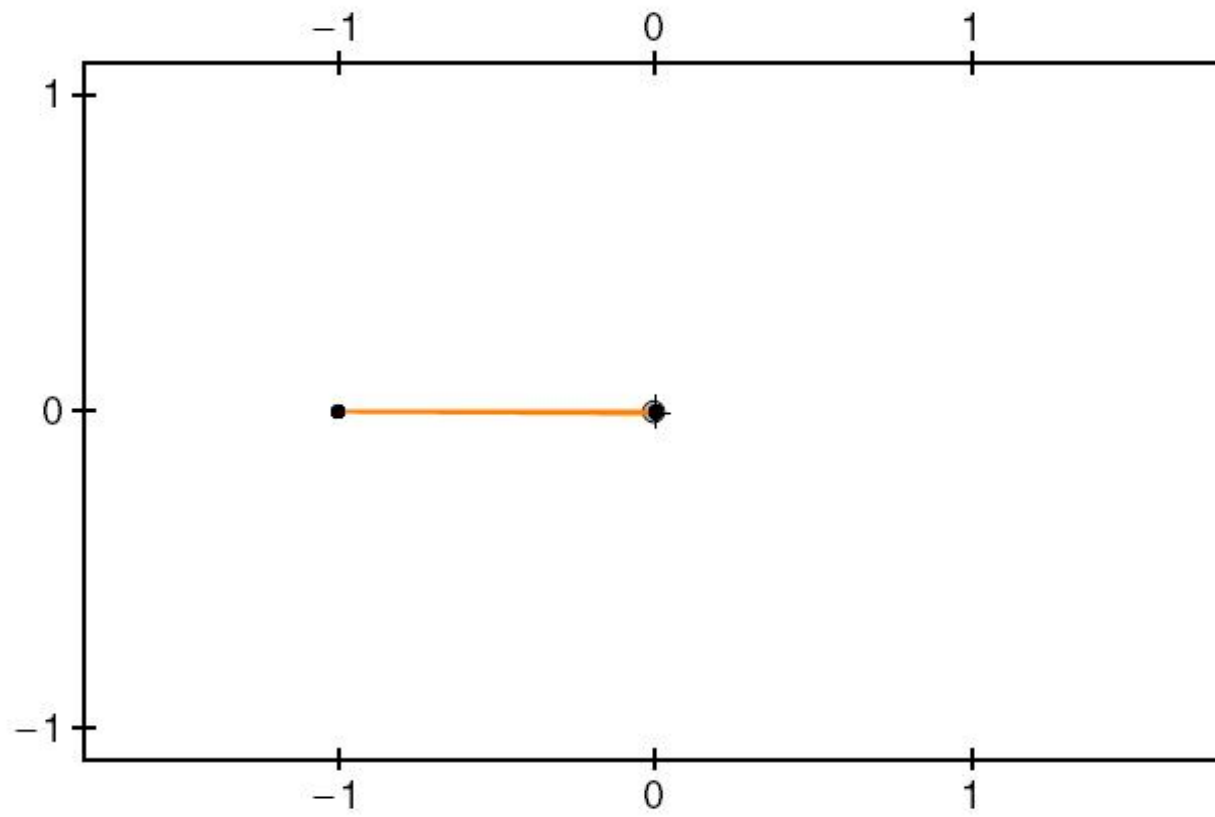
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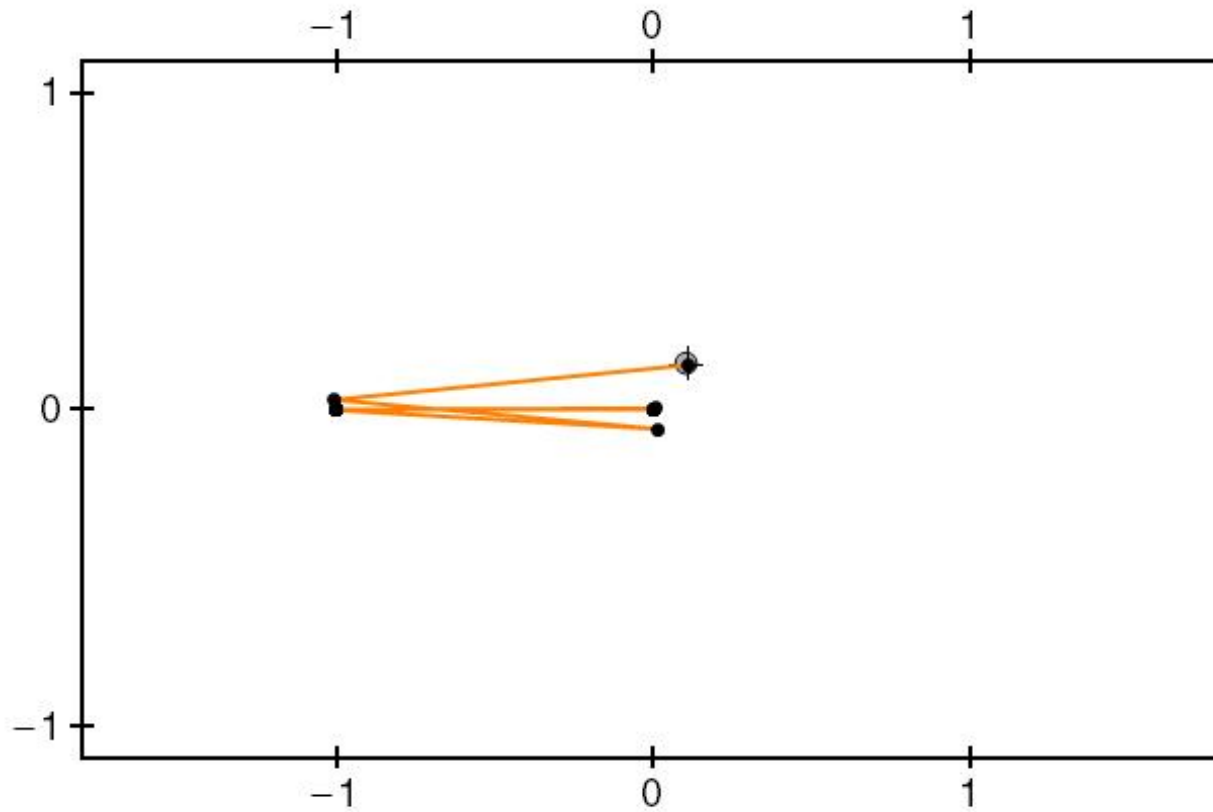
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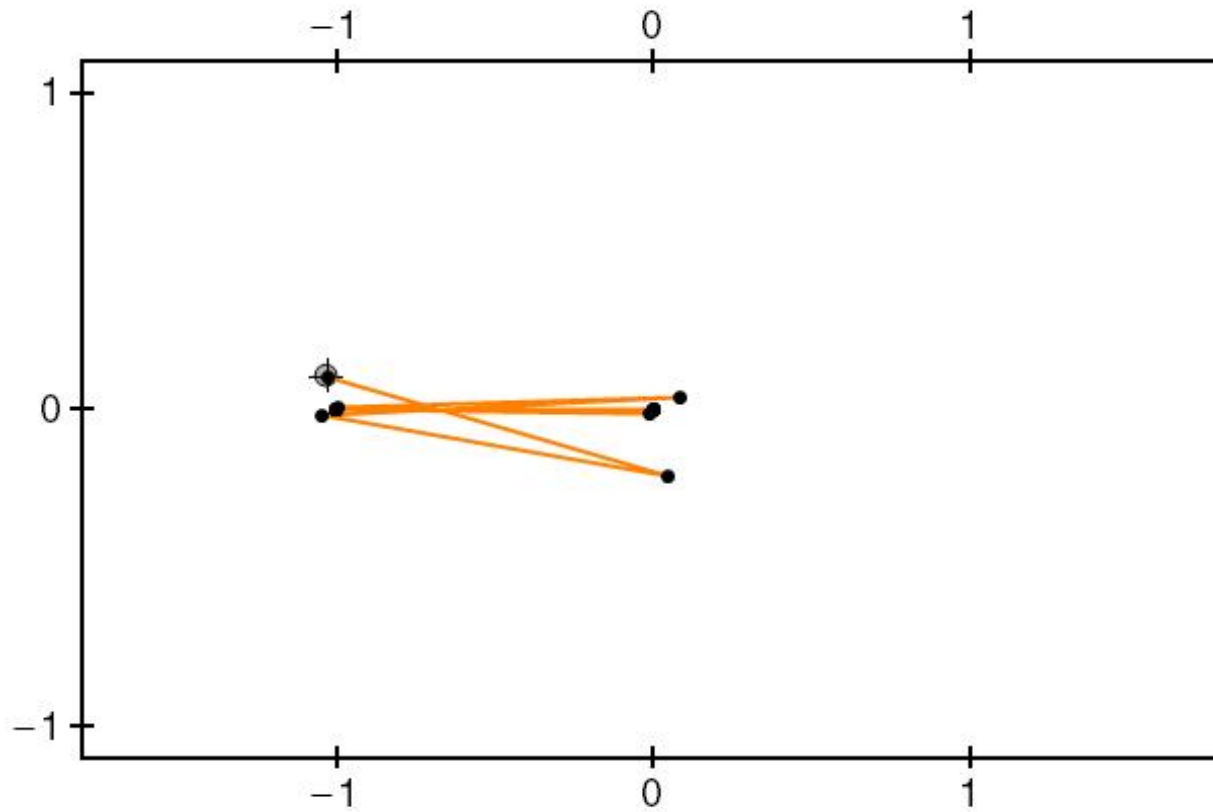
Orbits Under $z^2 - 1$



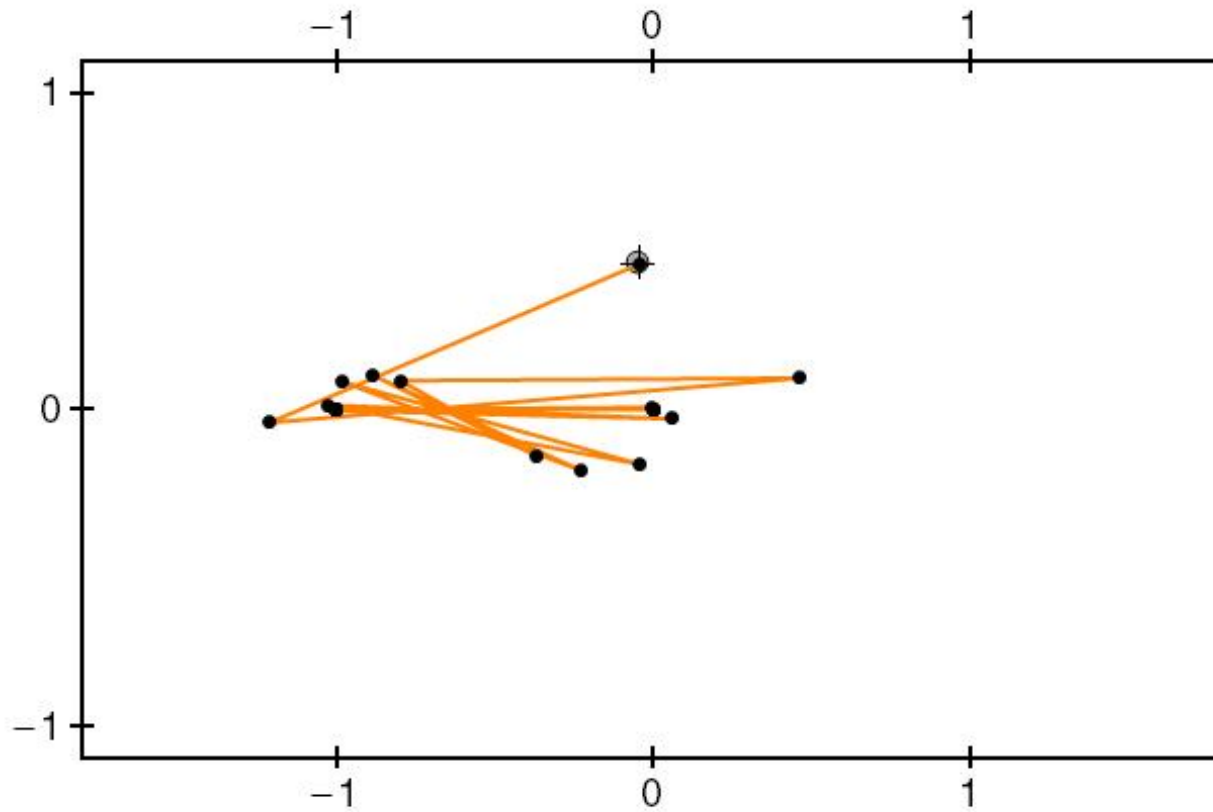
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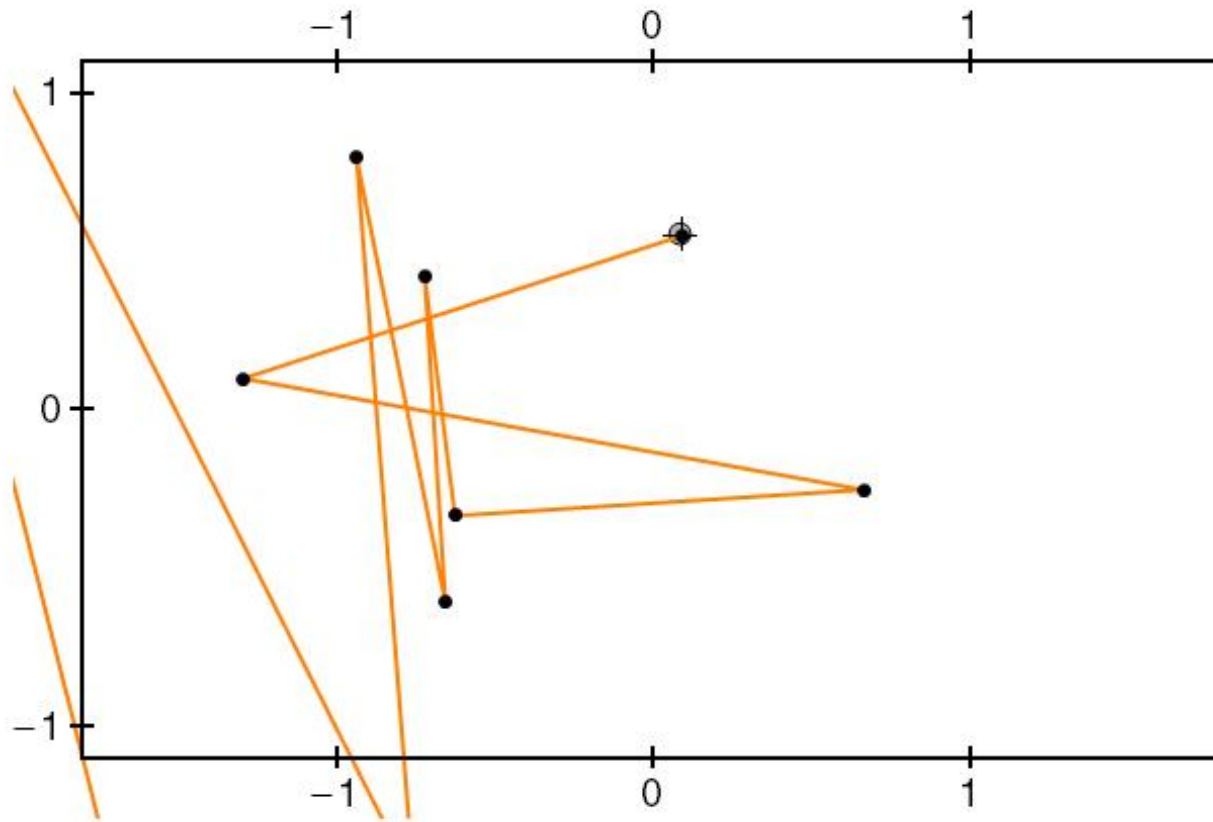
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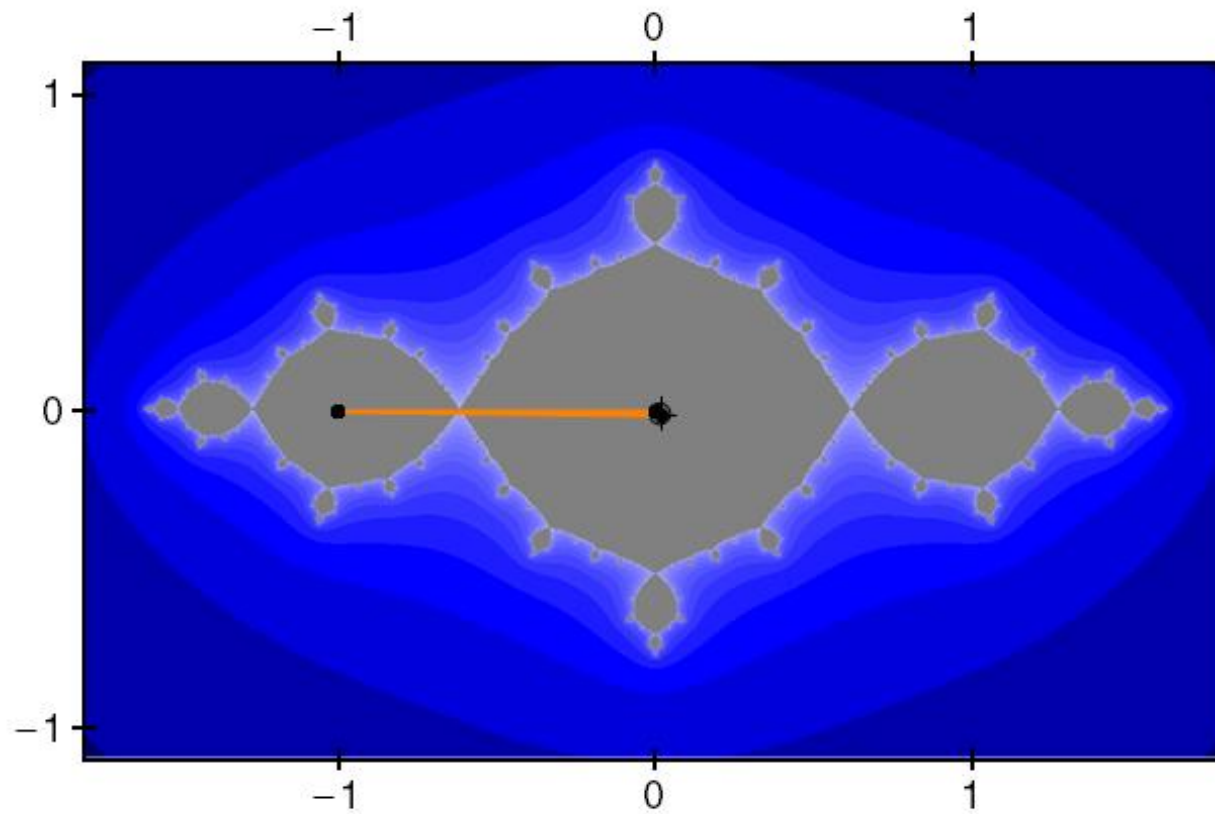
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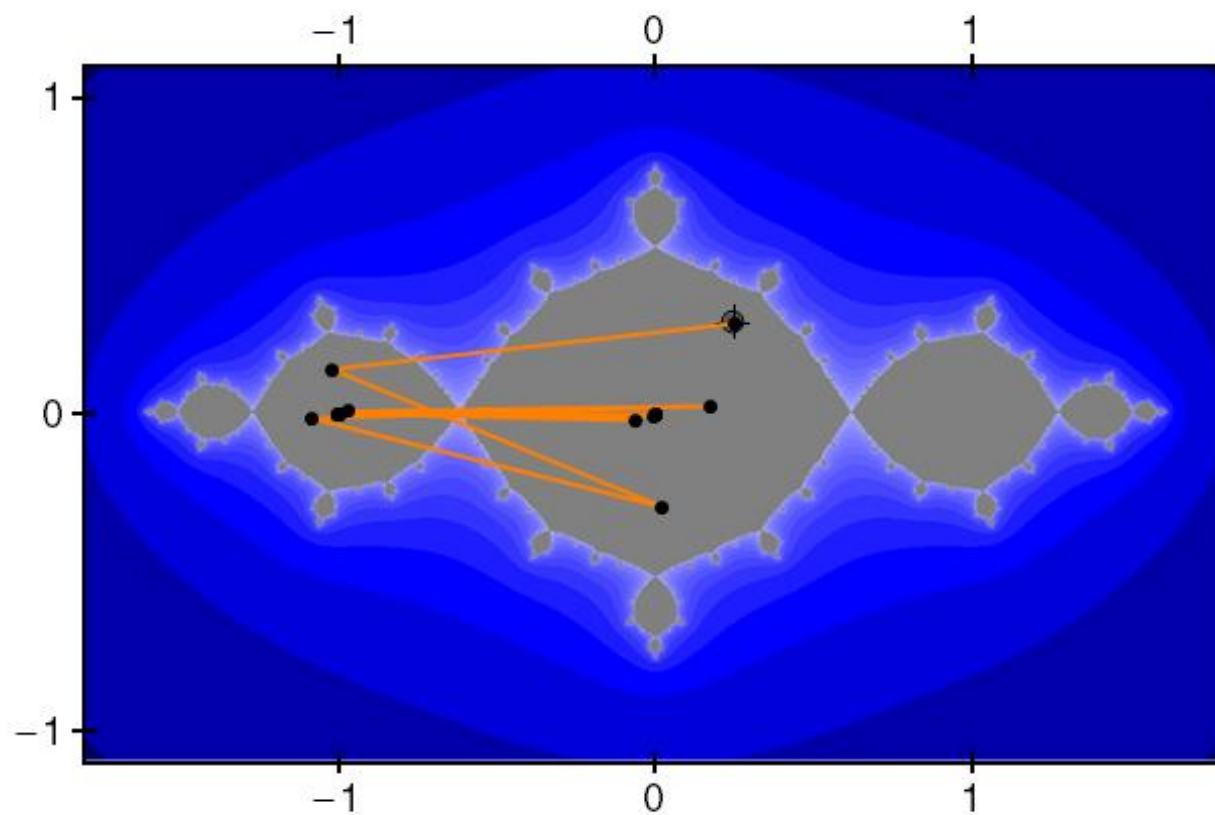
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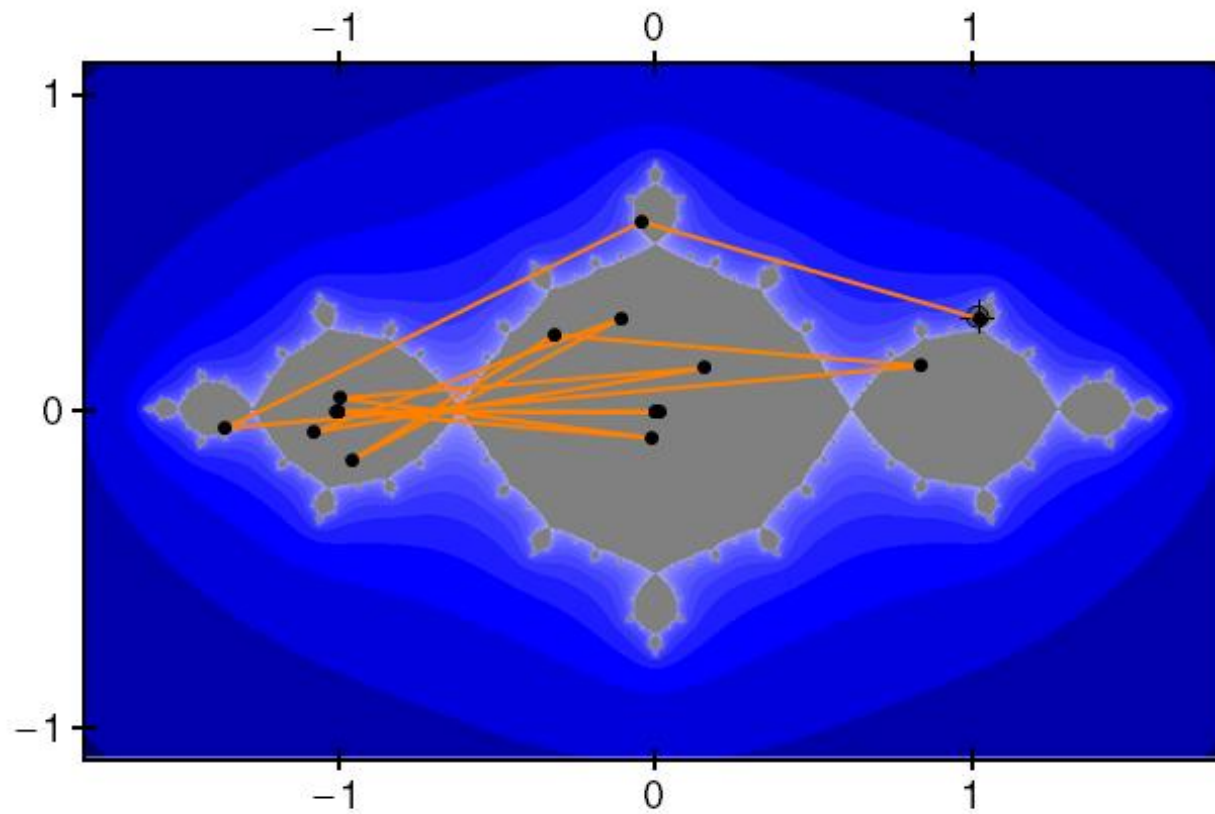
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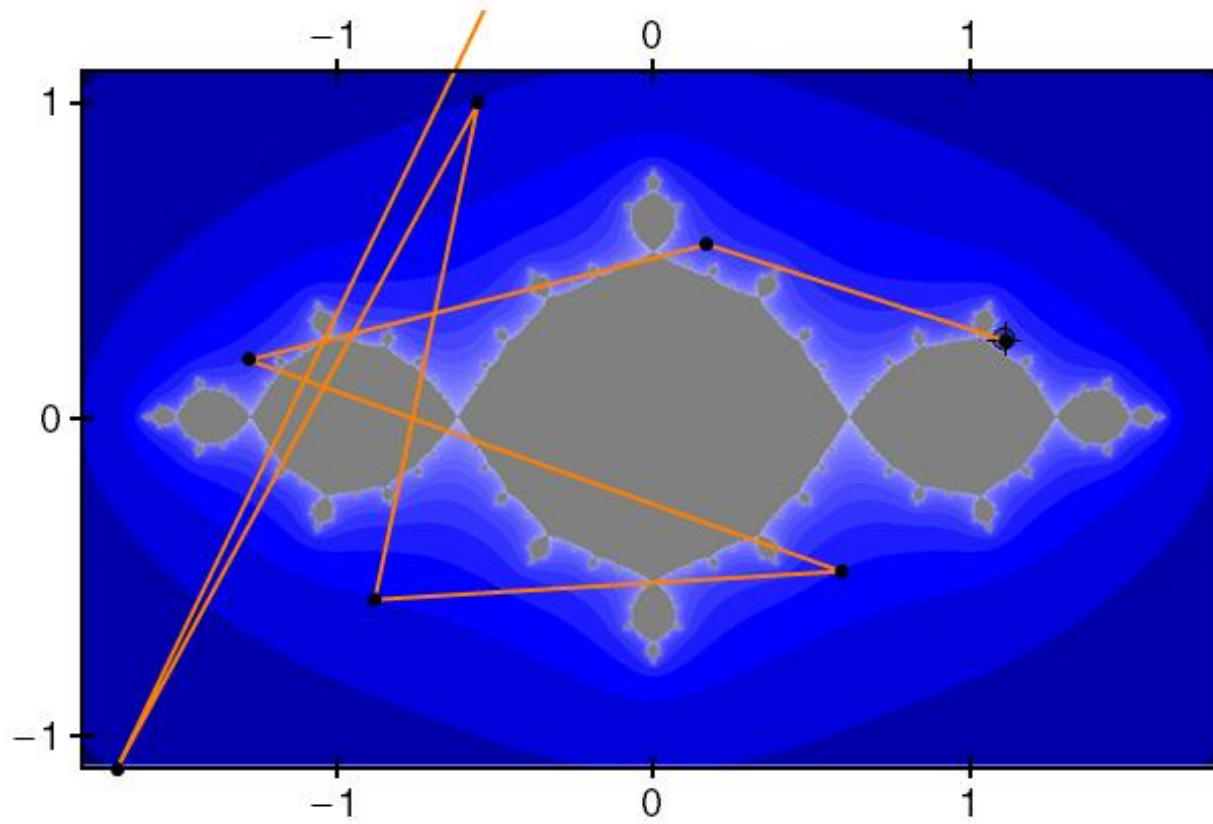
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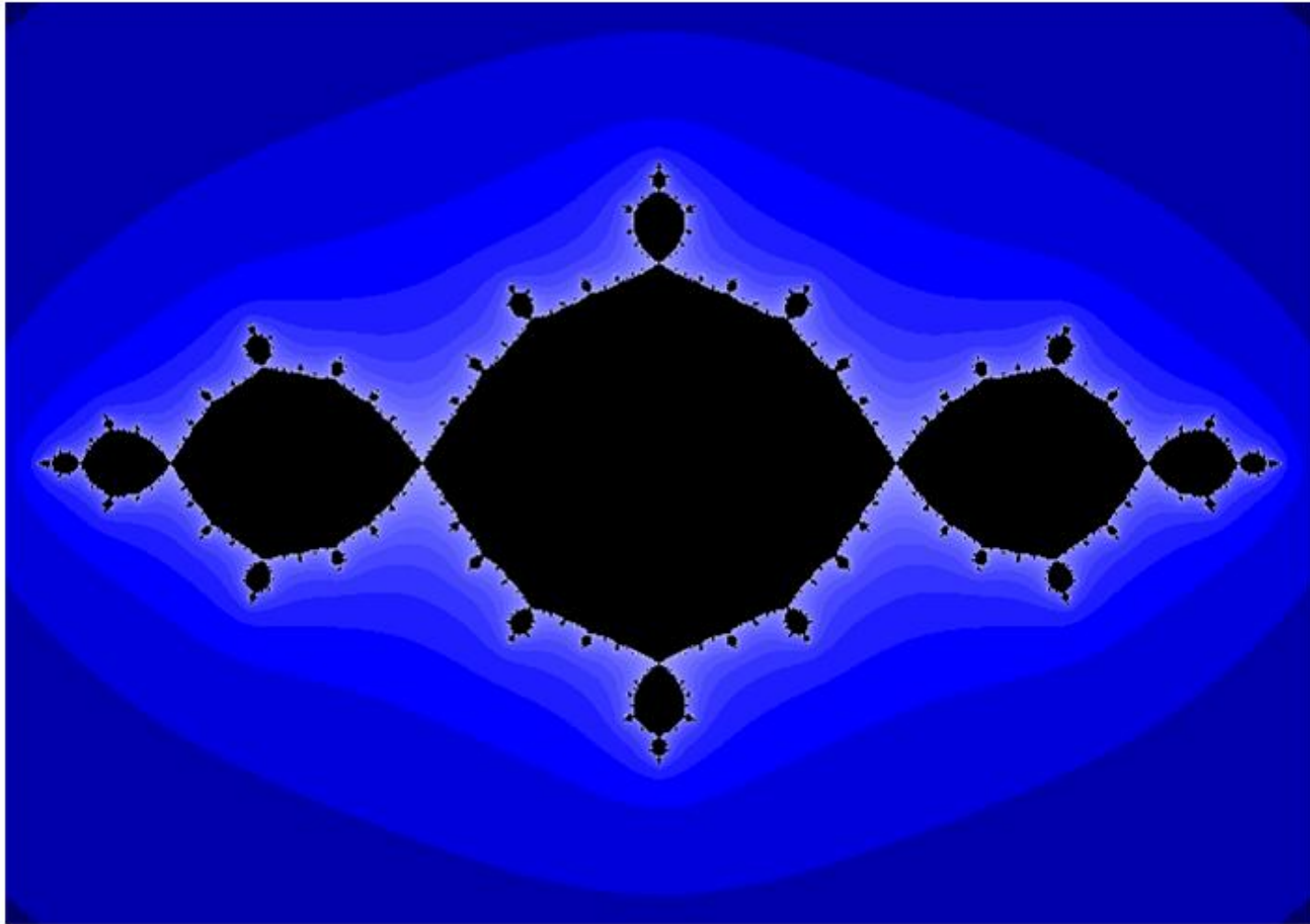
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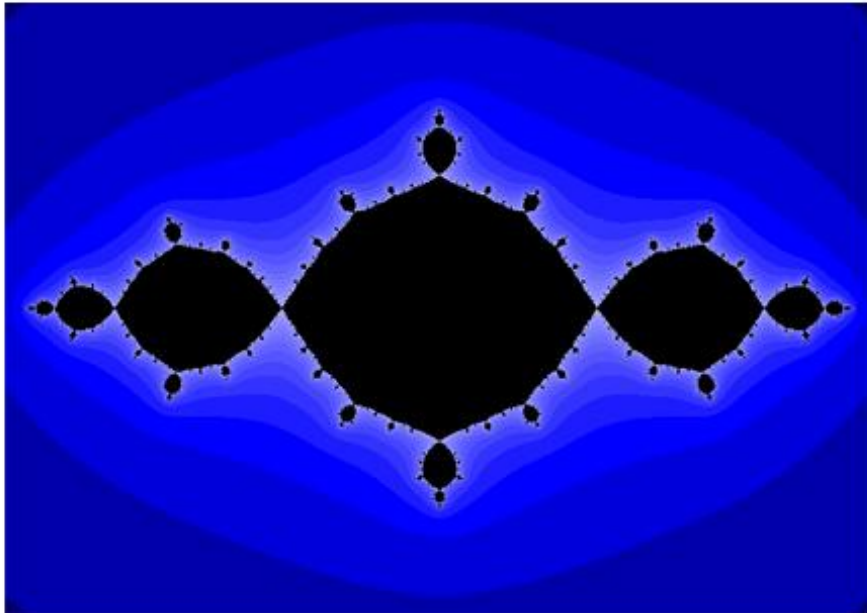


Filled Julia Set for $z^2 - 1$

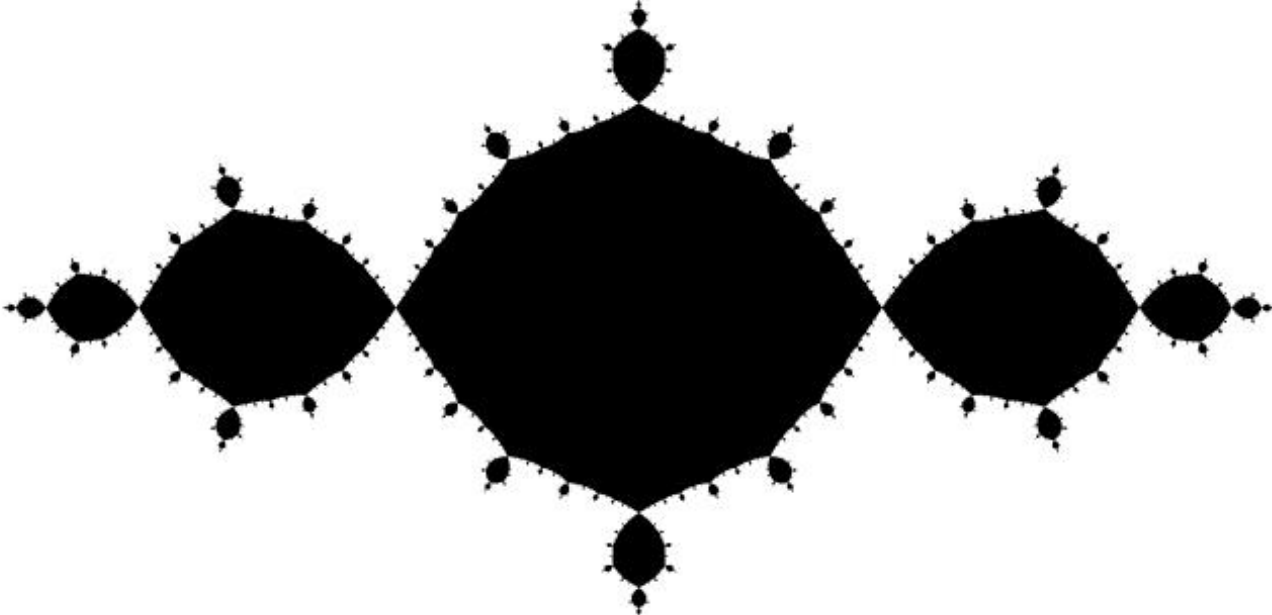


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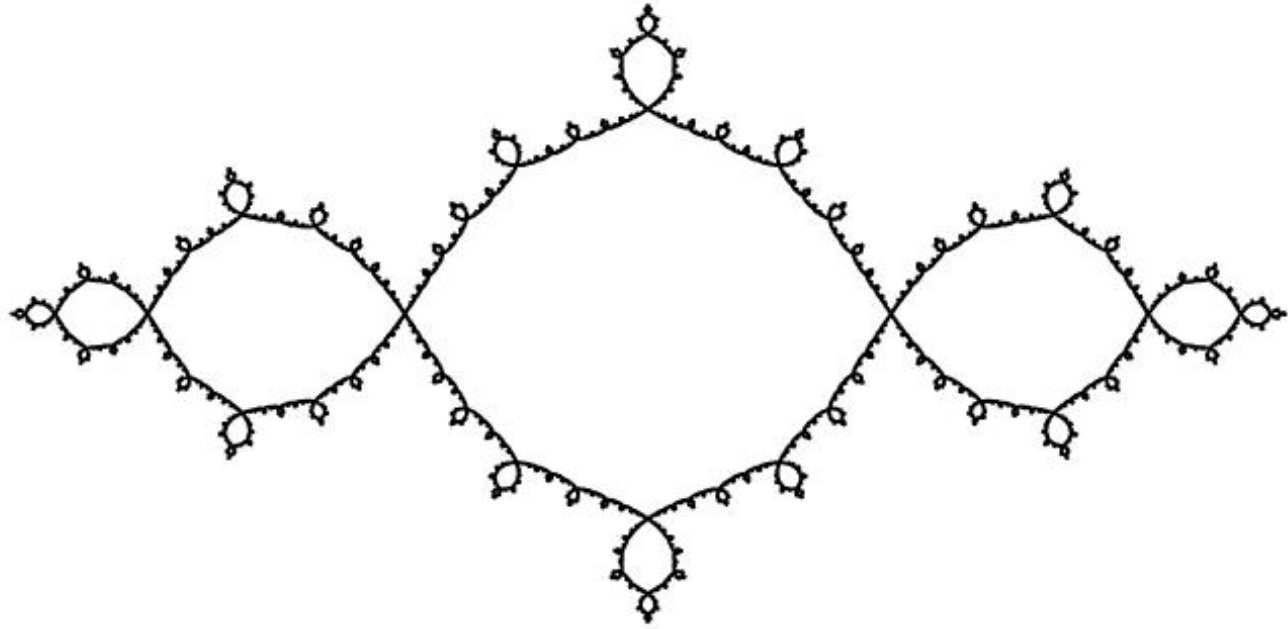
This Julia set is known as the *Basilica*.



Filled Julia Set

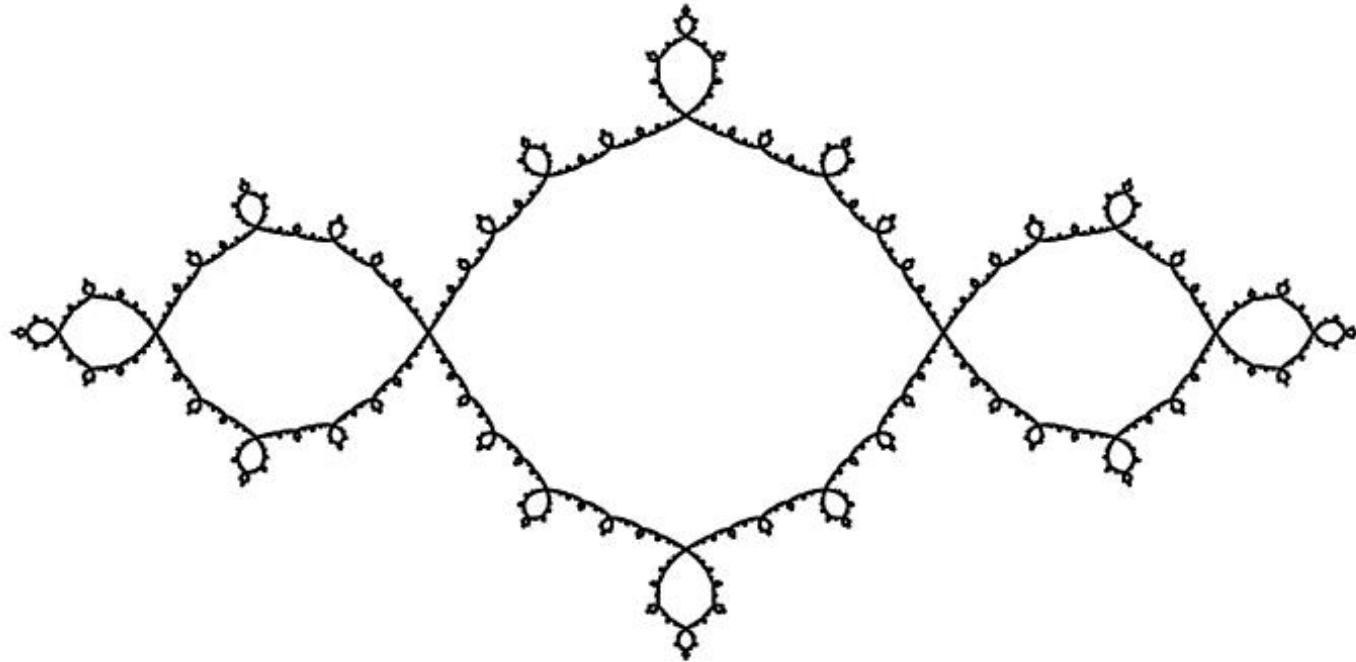


Julia Set



Julia Sets: The Basilica

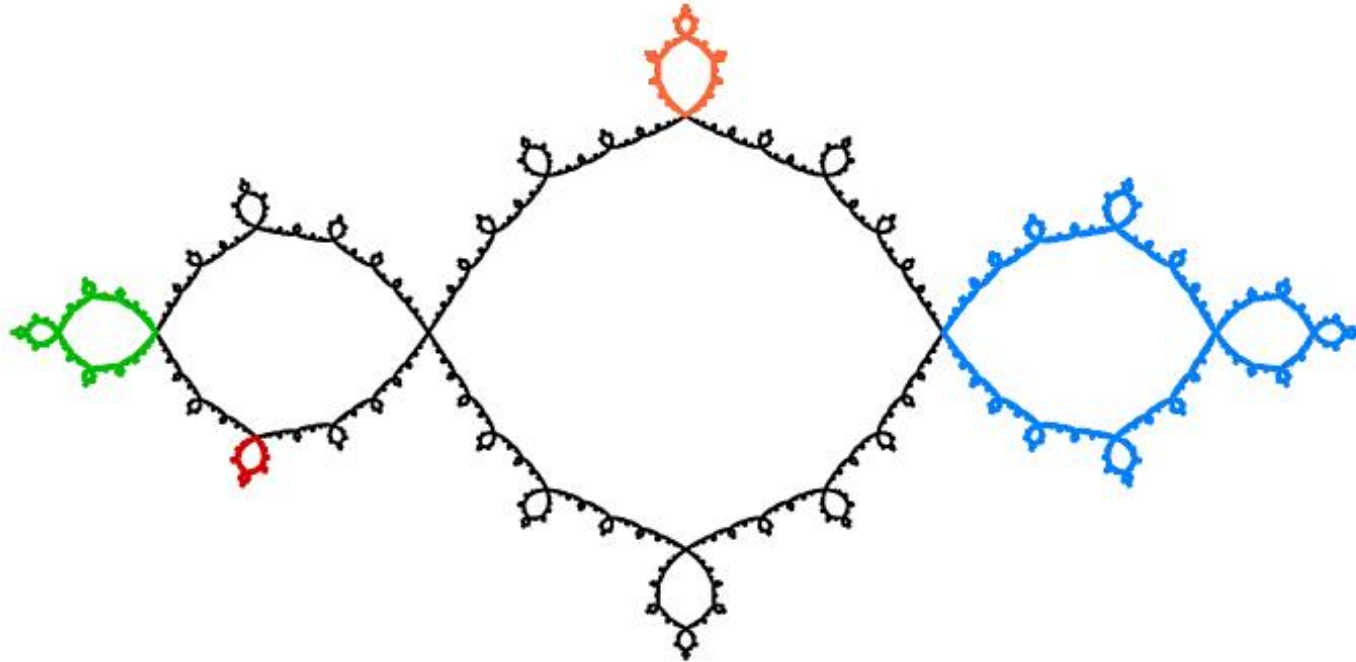
Example: The Julia set for $f(z) = z^2 - 1$ is called the **Basilica**.



It is the simplest example of a fractal Julia set.

Julia Sets: The Basilica

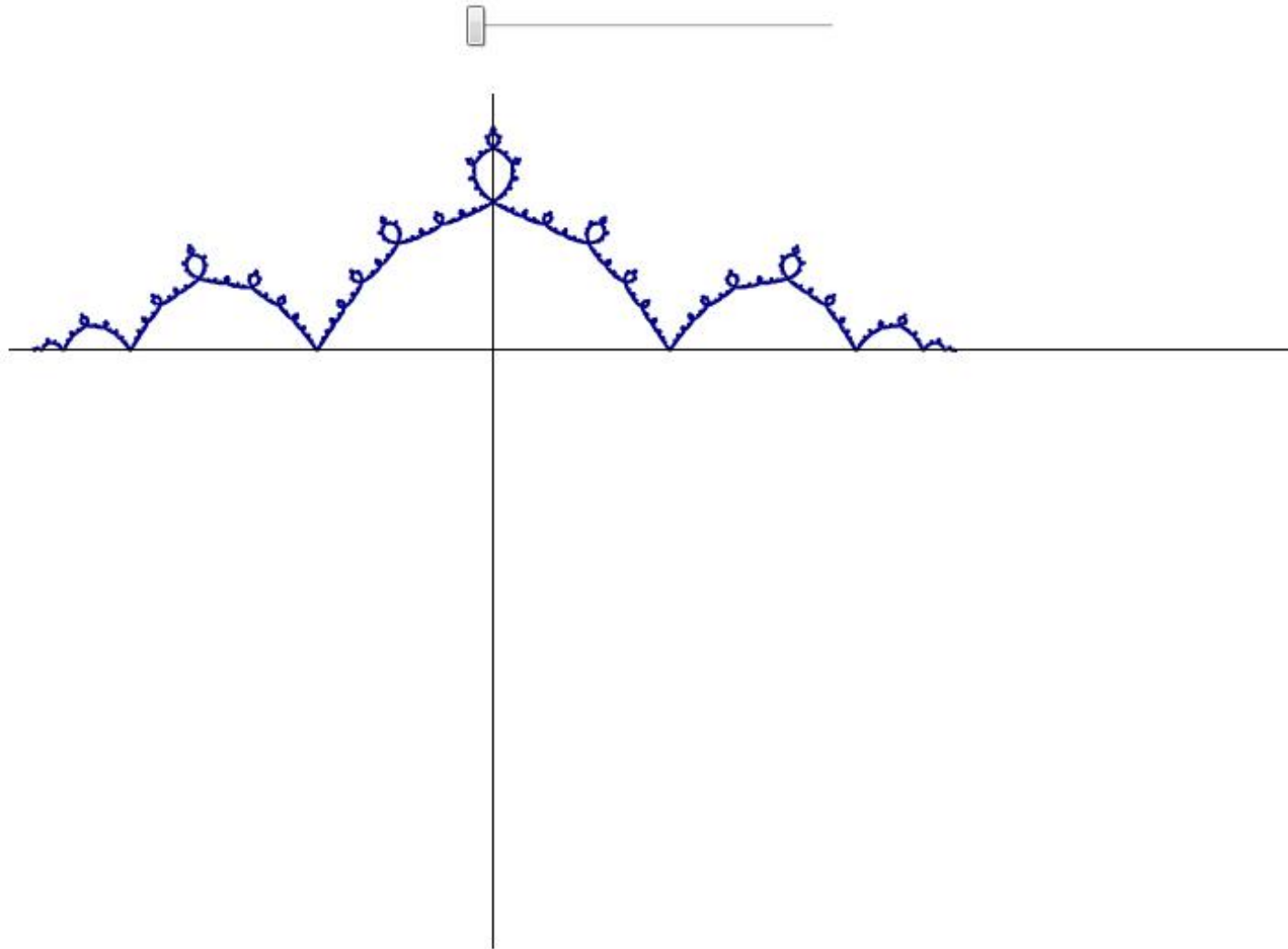
The Julia set has a self-similar structure:



Note: The “similarity” maps are not actually linear.

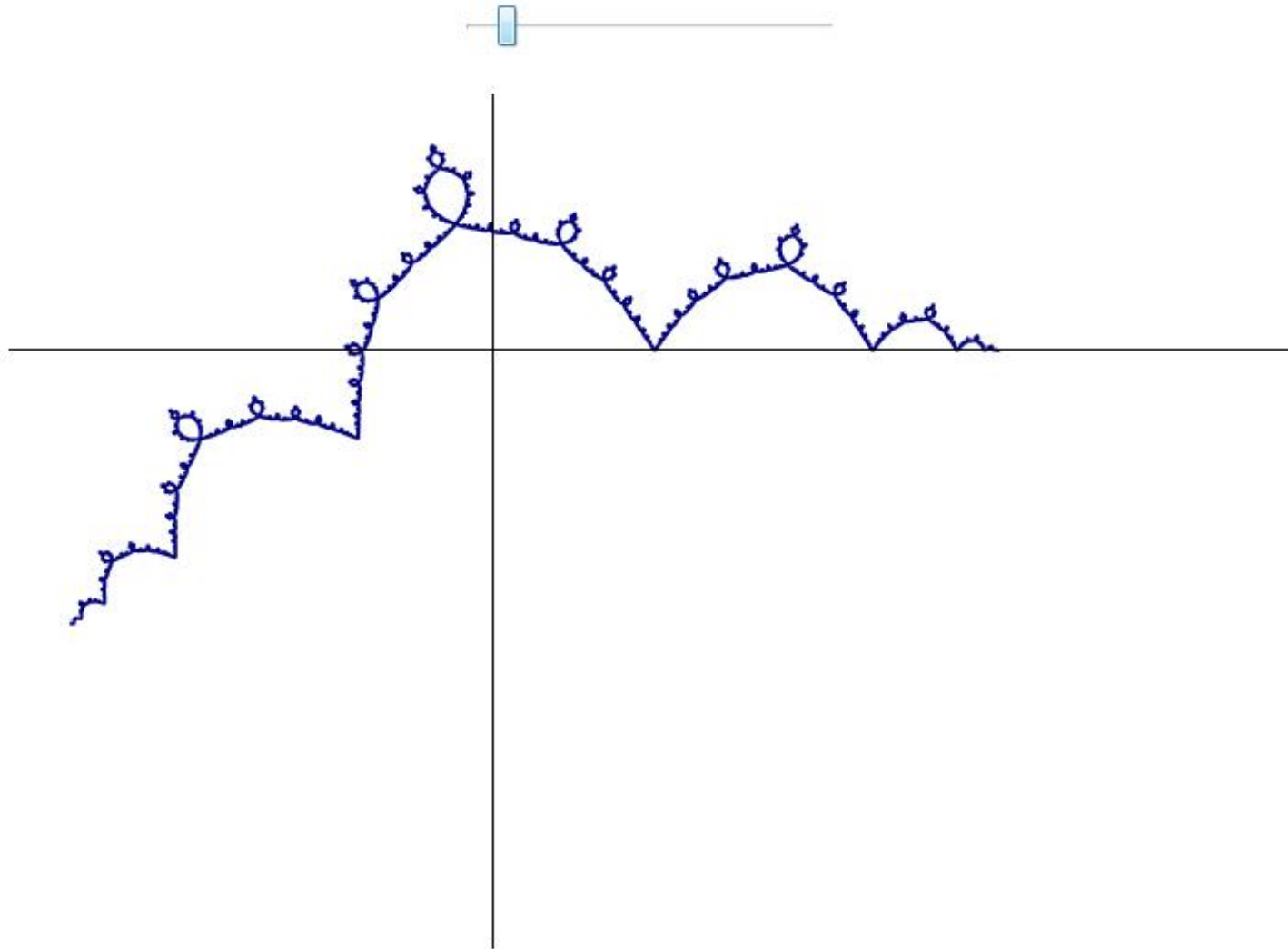
Invariance of the Basilica

The Basilica maps to itself under $f(z) = z^2 - 1$.



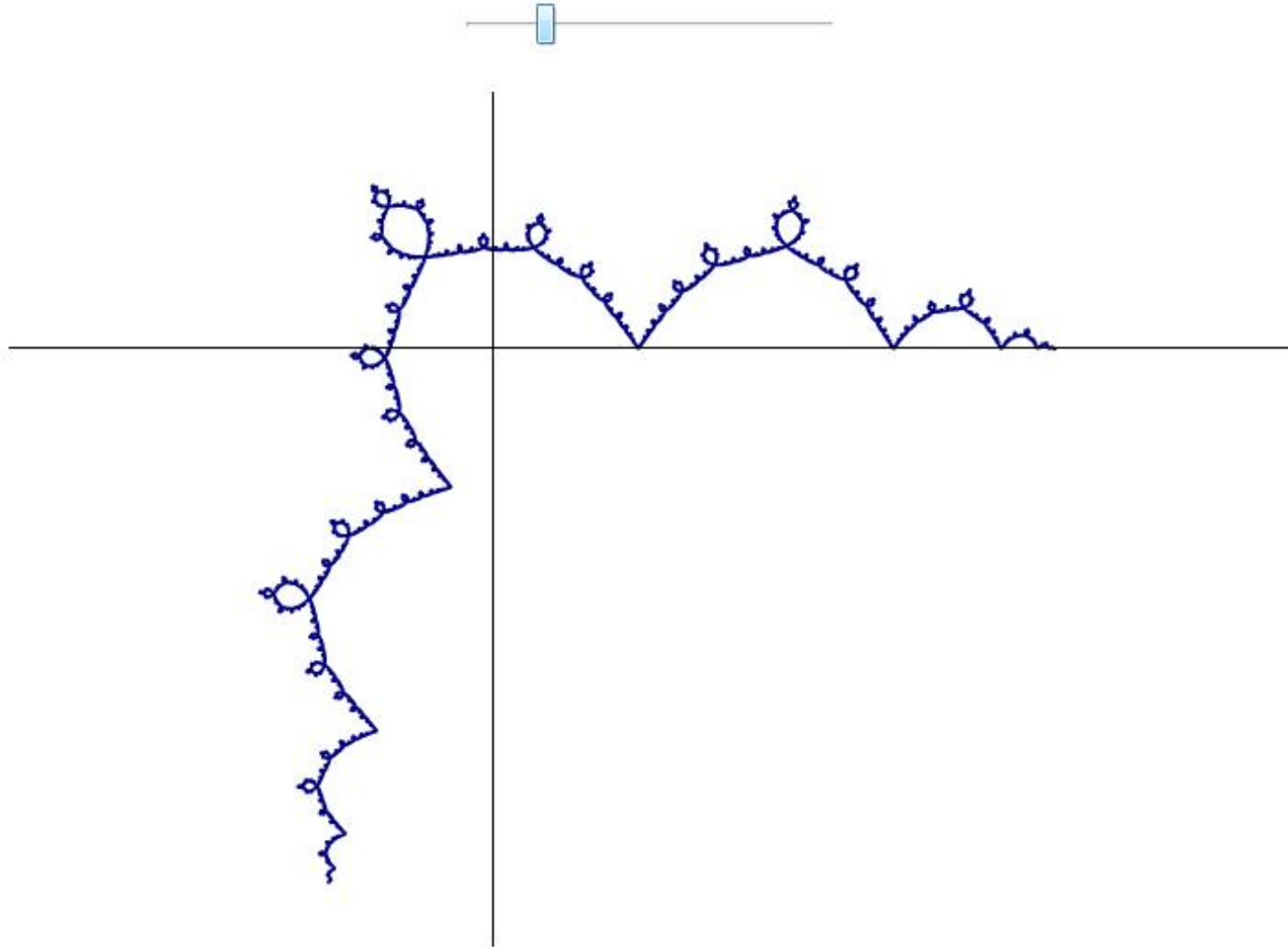
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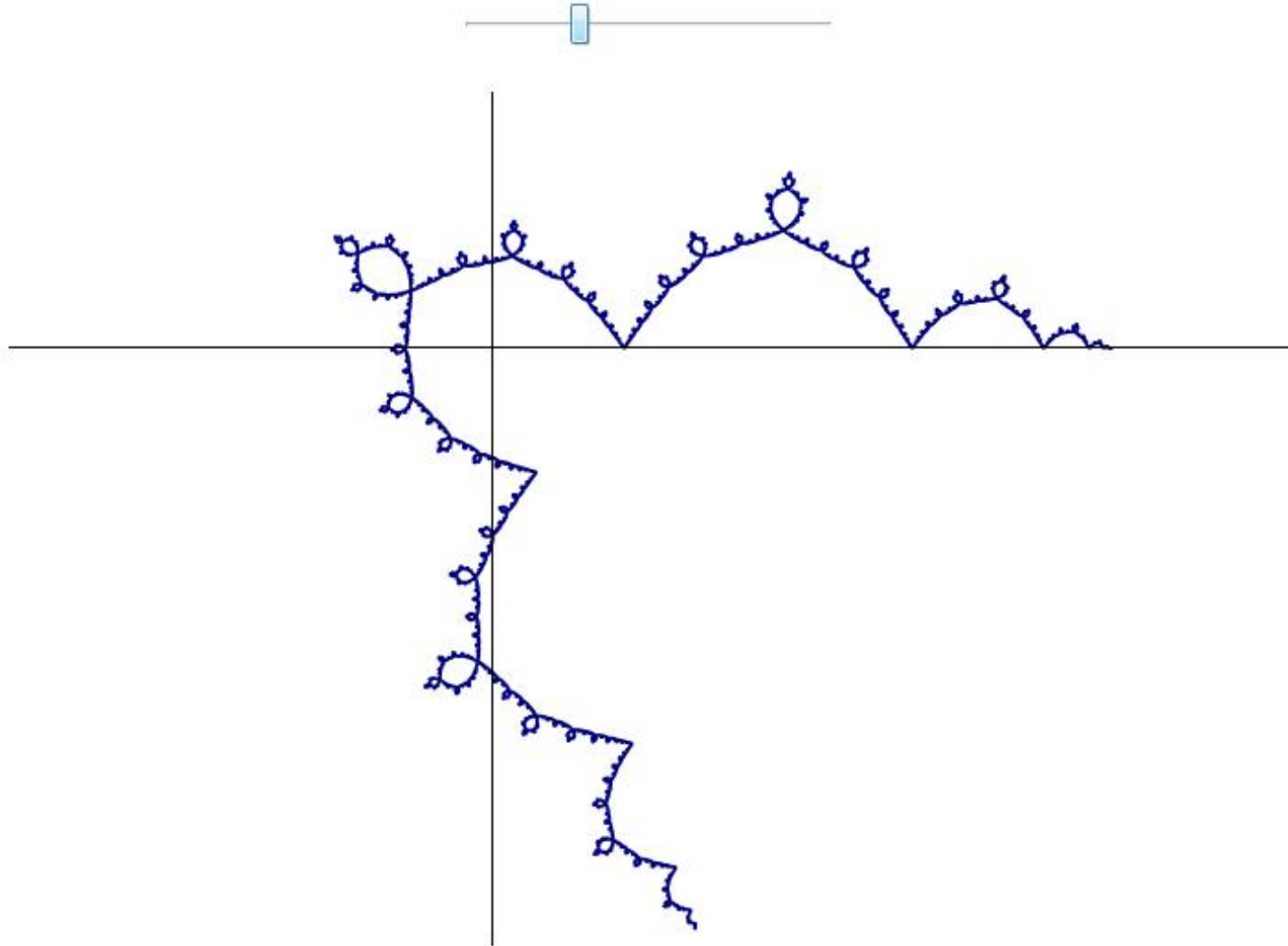
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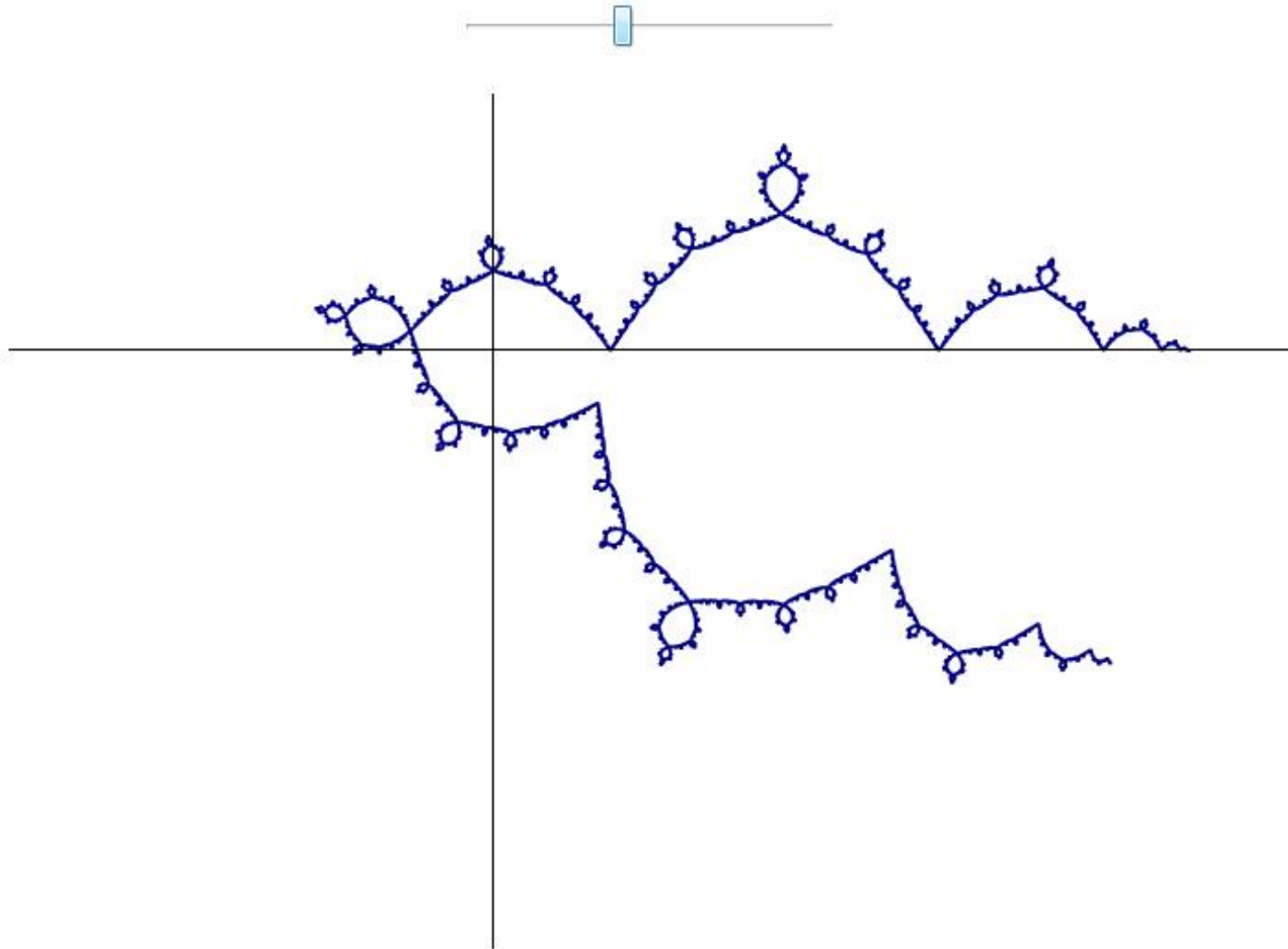
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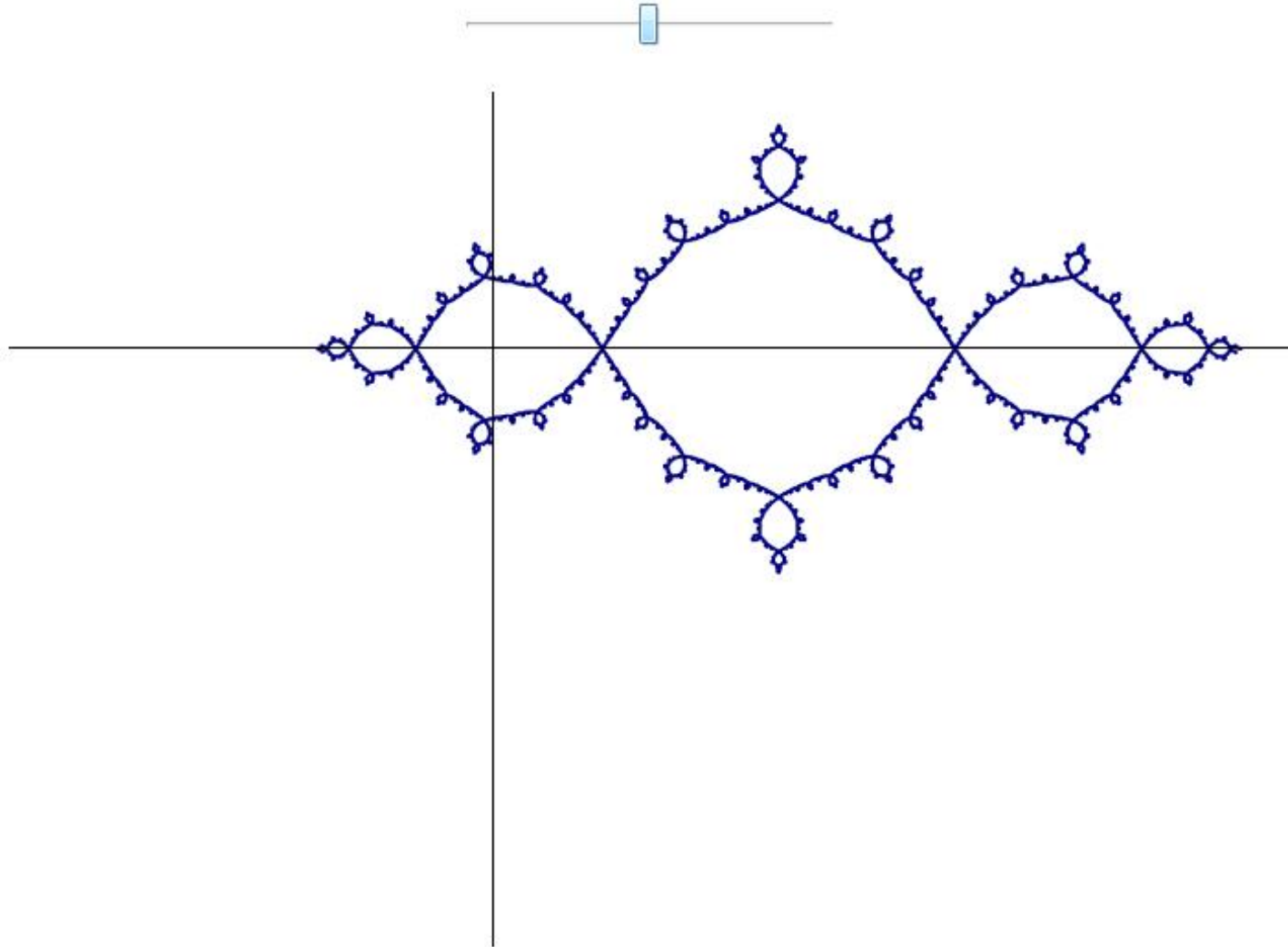
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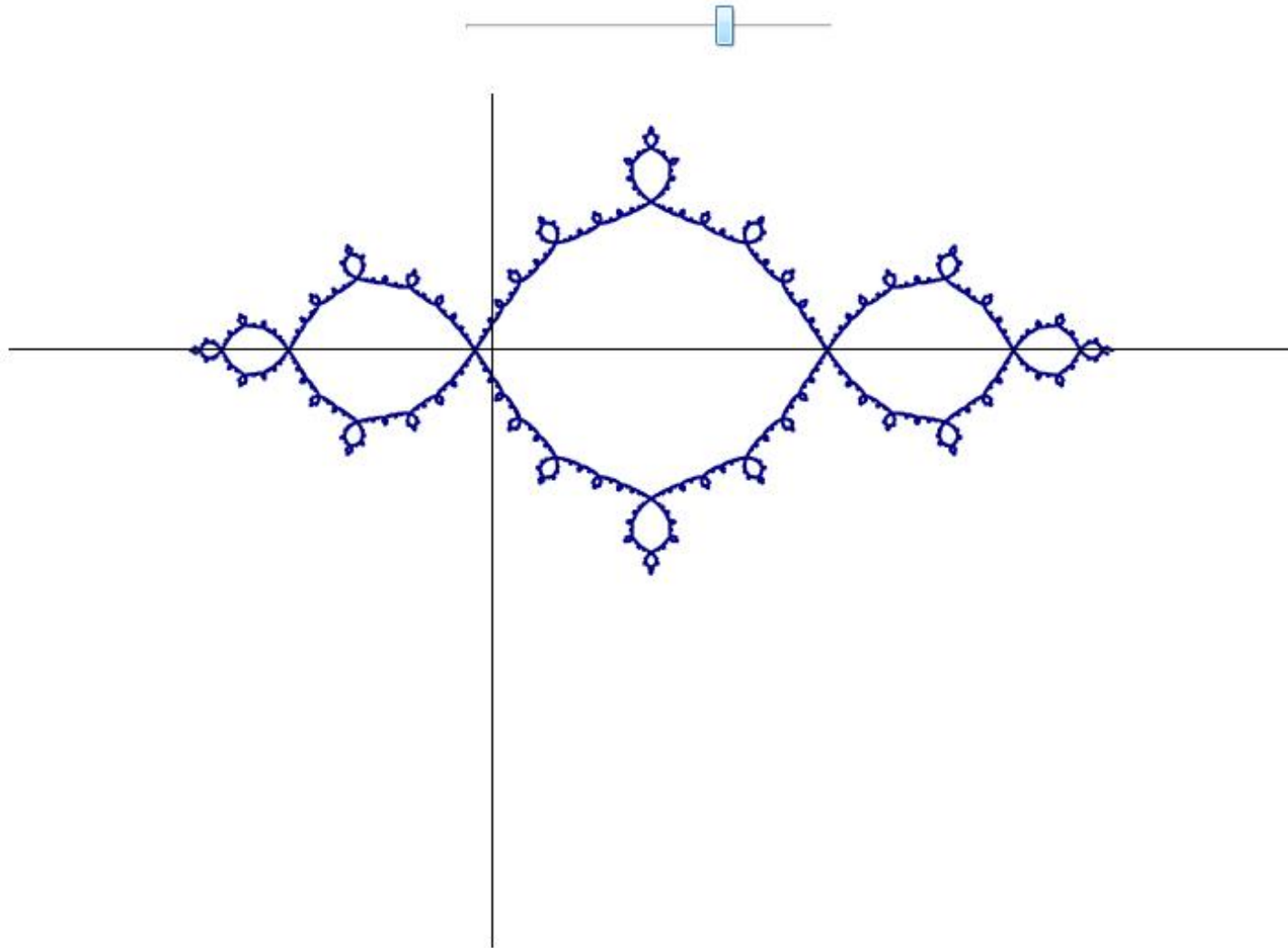
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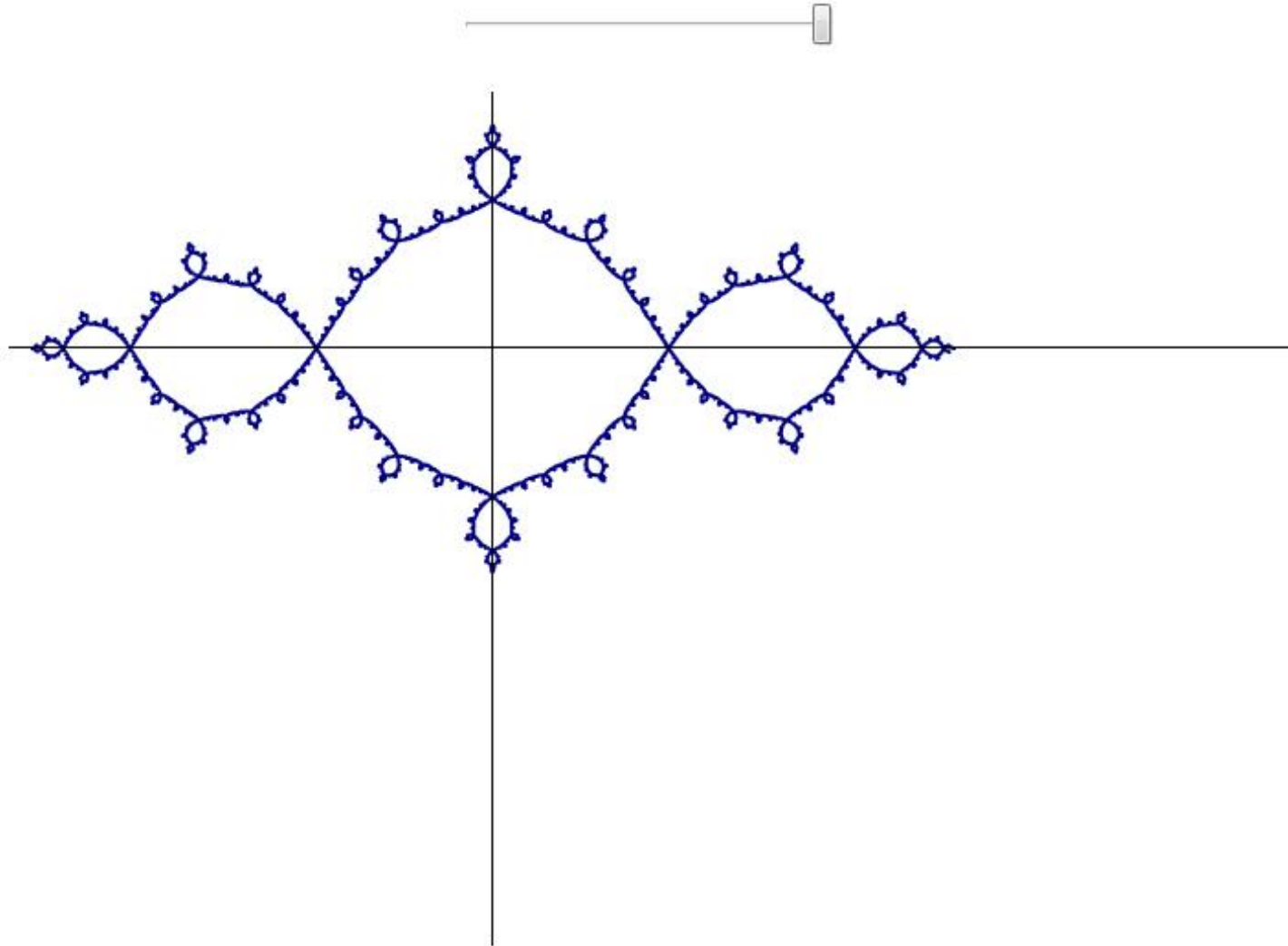
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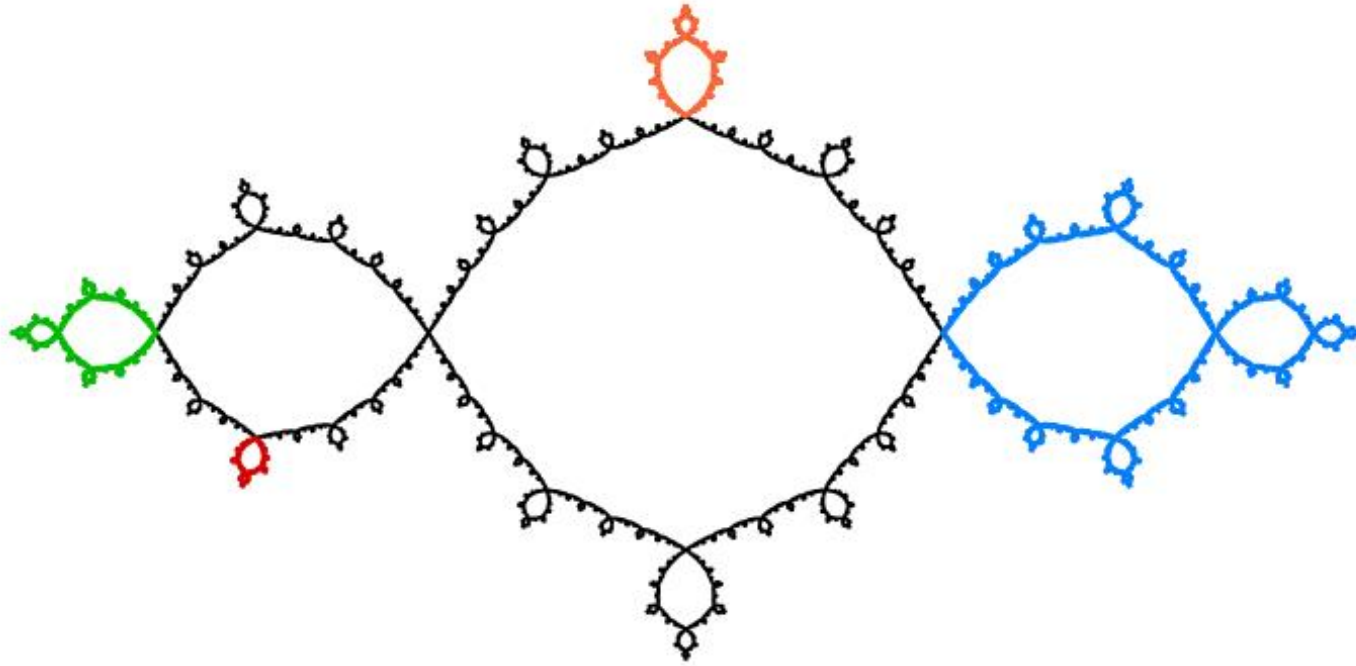
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Julia Sets: The Basilica

The “self-similarities” of the Basilica are *conformal maps*.

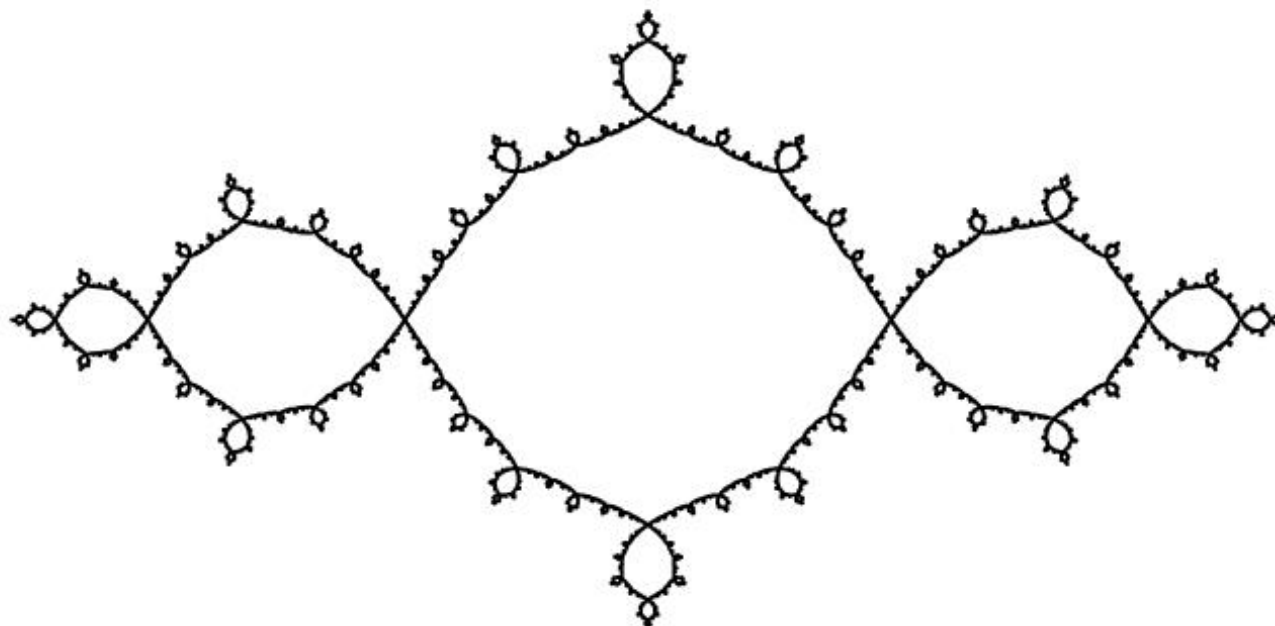


We want a Thompson-like group of *piecewise-conformal* homeomorphisms.

The Basilica Group

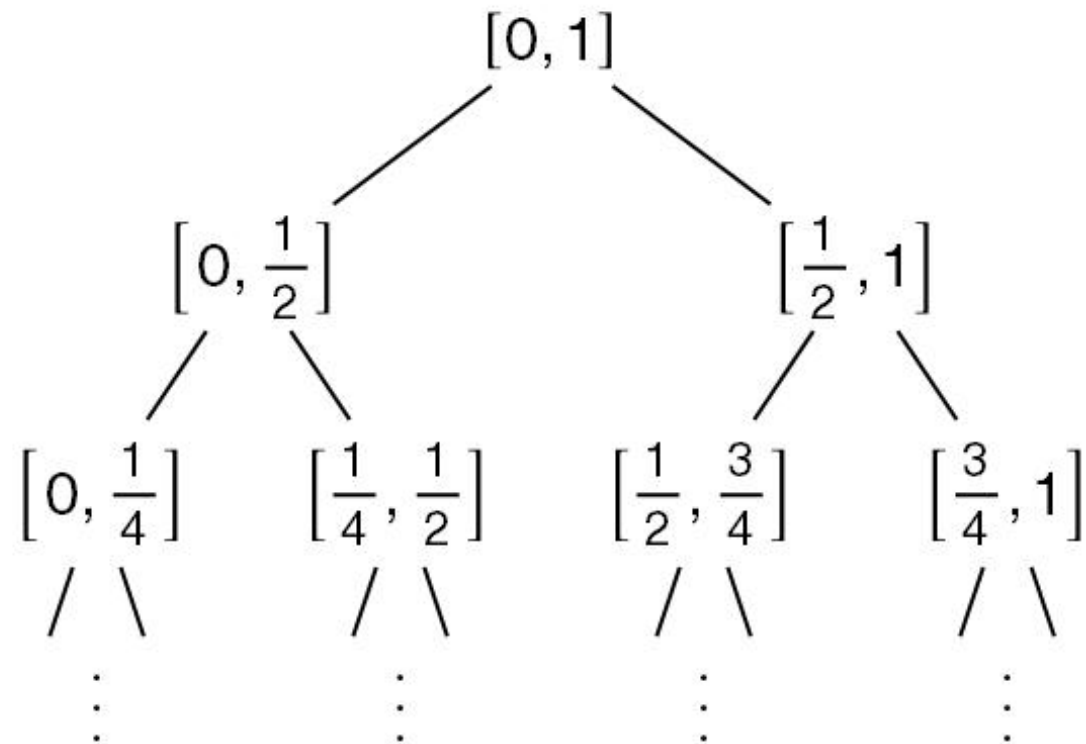
The Basilica Group

We need an analogue of “dyadic subdivision” for the Basilica.



The Basilica Group

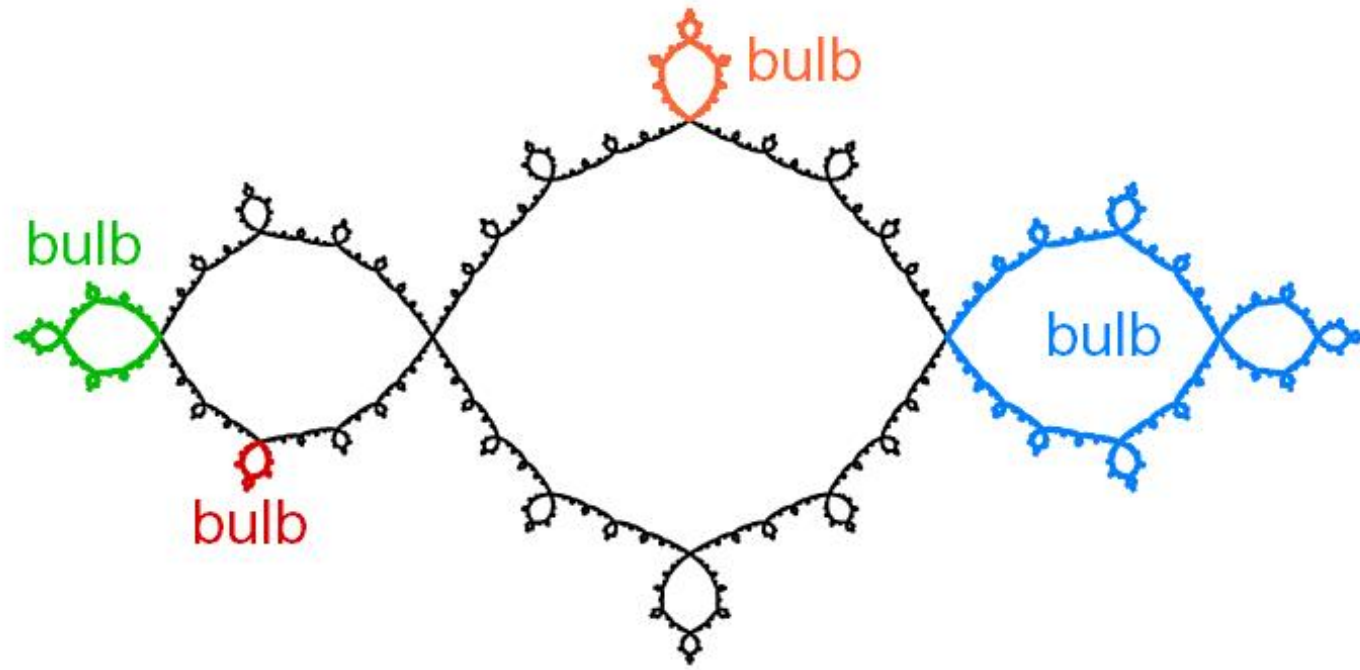
Dyadic subdivisions of $[0, 1]$ are made of ***standard dyadic intervals***.



We need similar “building blocks” for the Basilica.

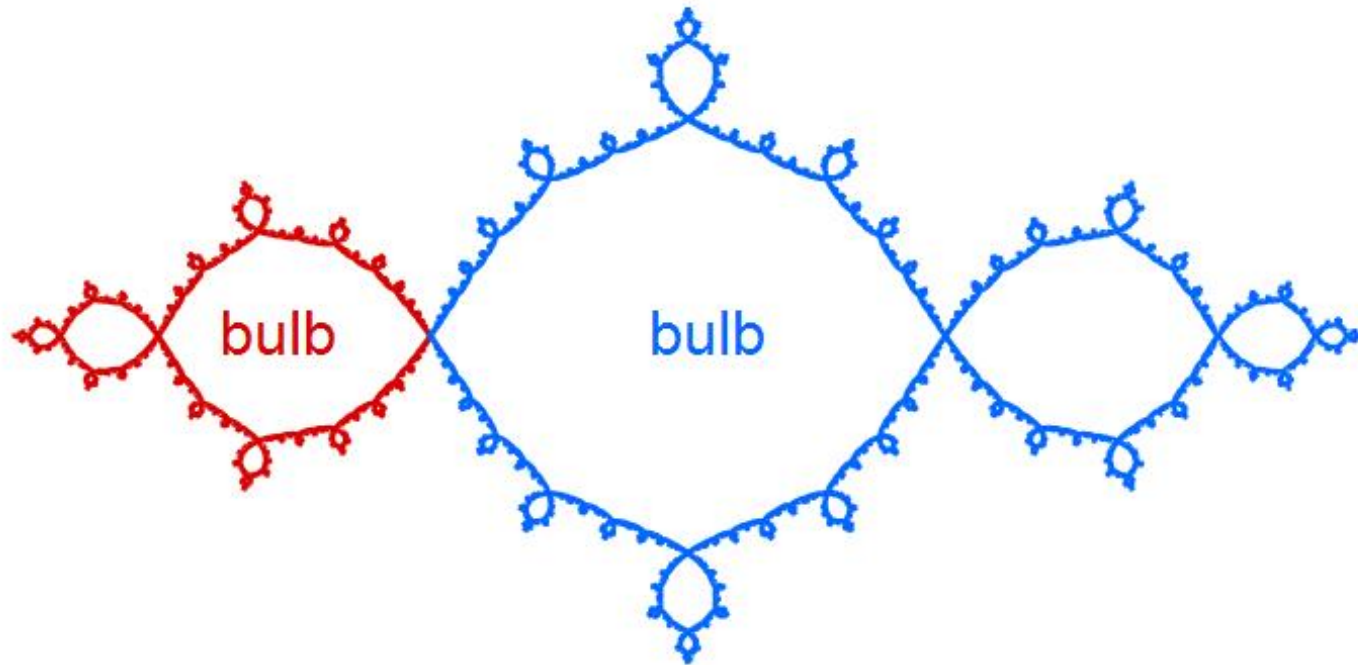
Bulbs and Edges

These structures are all conformally isomorphic. Let's call them *bulbs*.



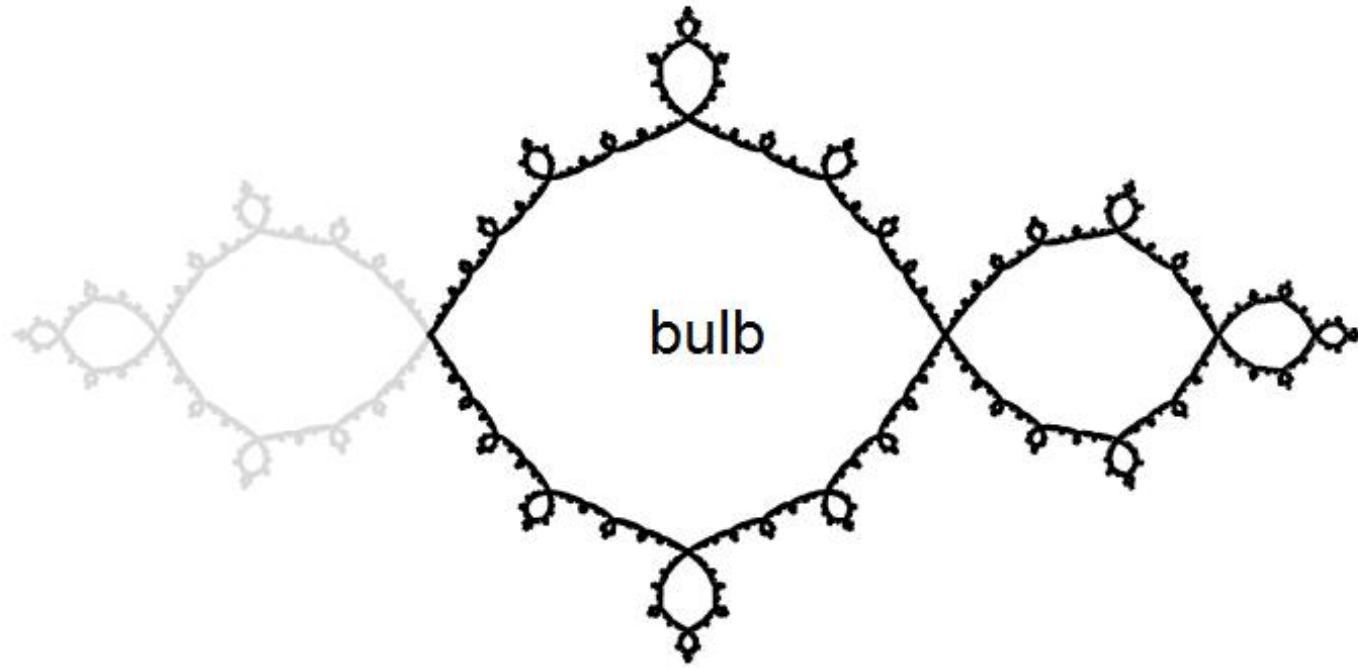
Bulbs and Edges

The Basilica is actually the union of two bulbs.



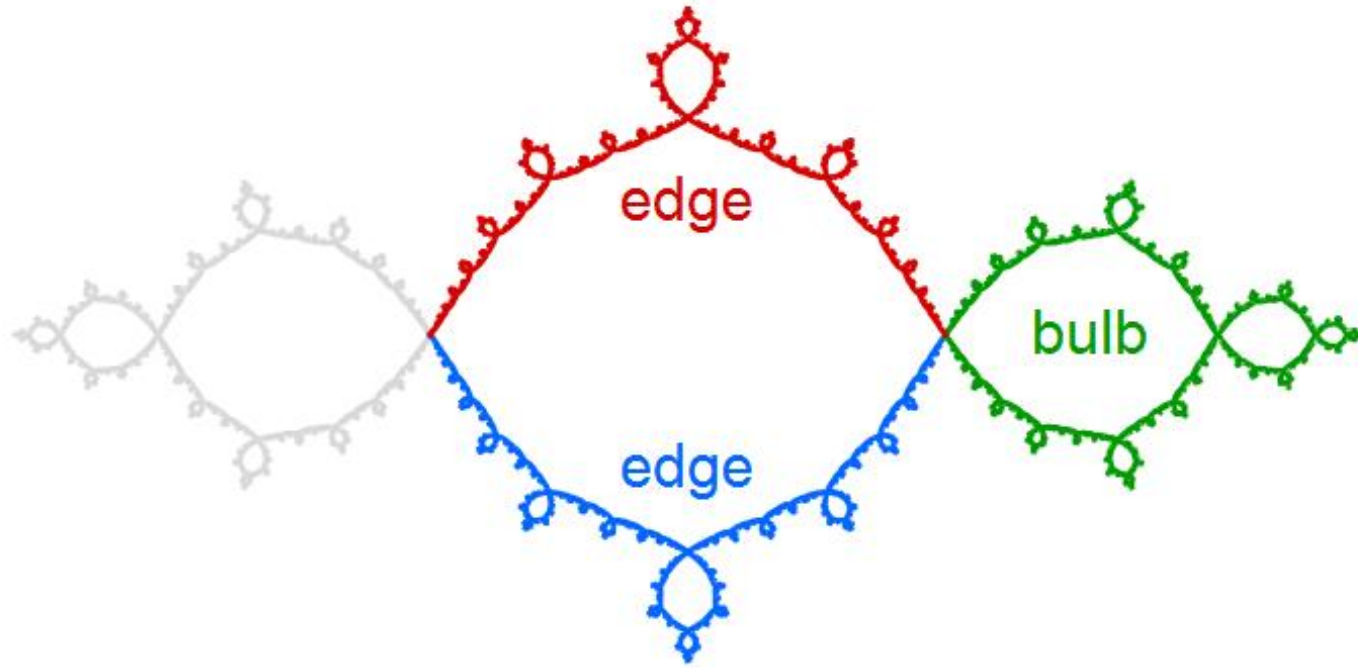
Bulbs and Edges

Each bulb can be partitioned into one smaller bulb and two *edges*.



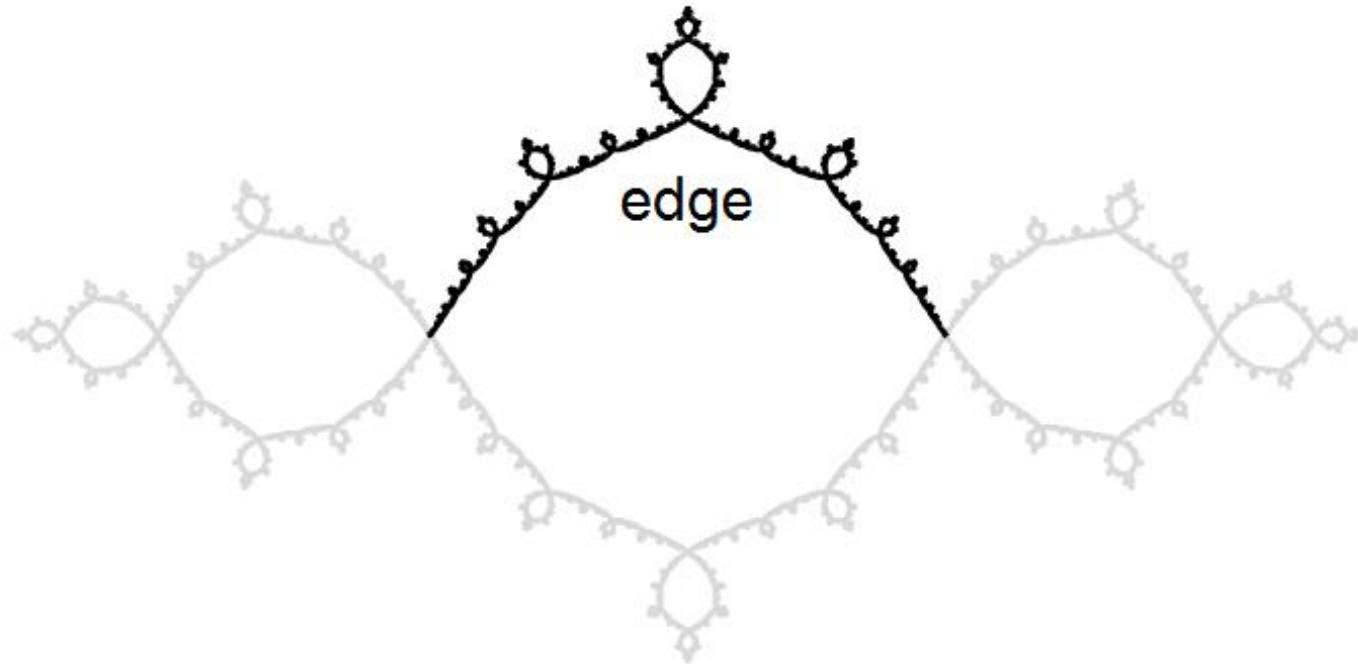
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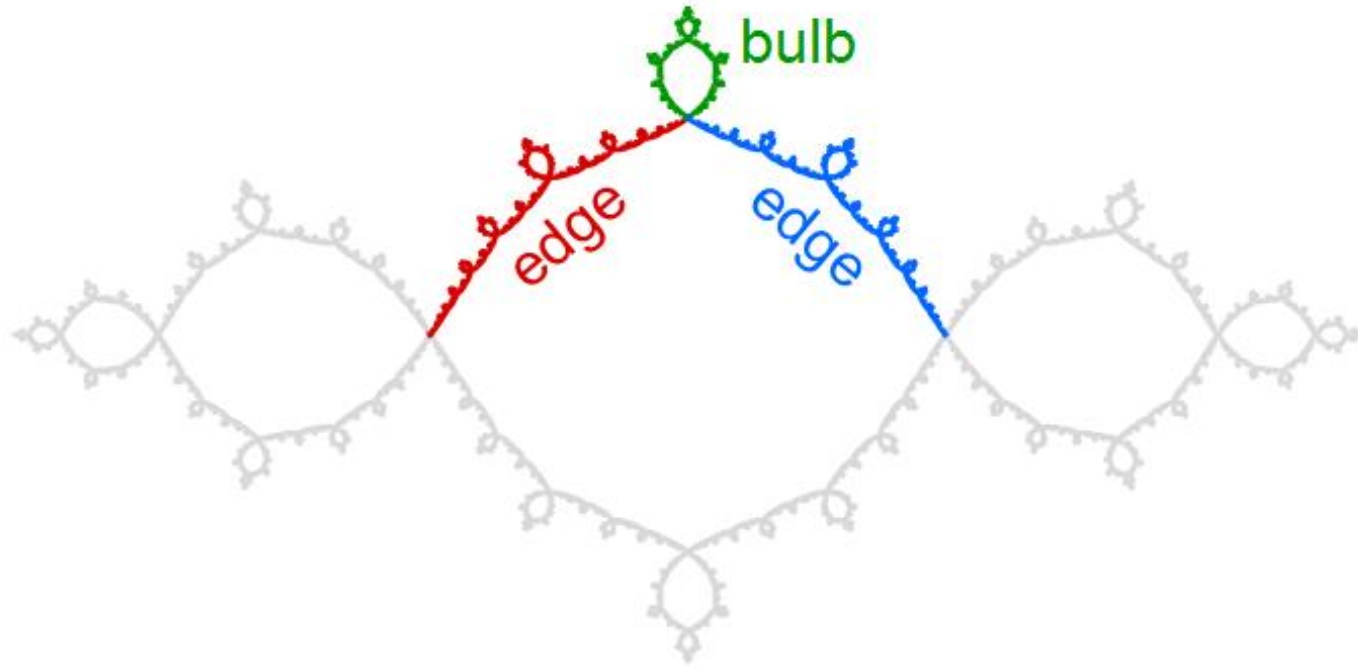
Bulbs and Edges

Similarly, each edge can be partitioned into one bulb and two edges.

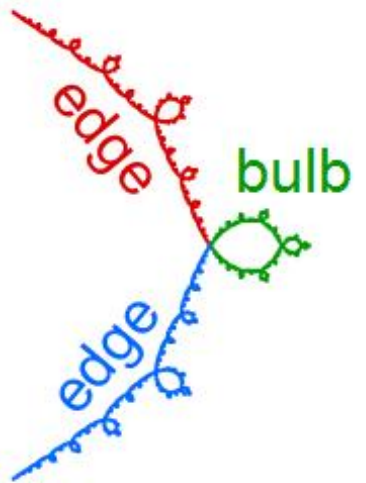
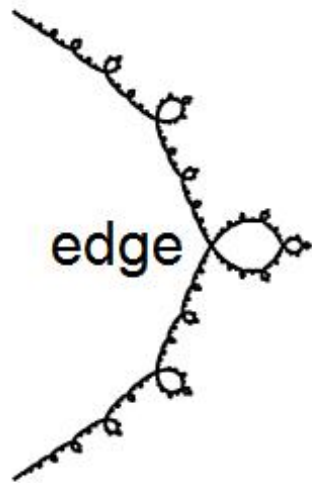
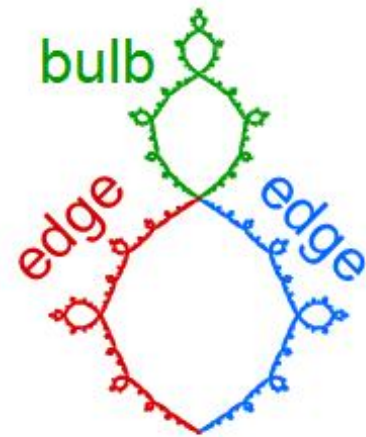
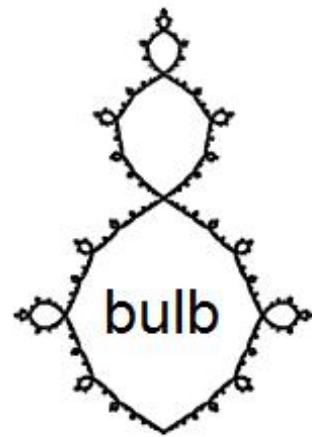


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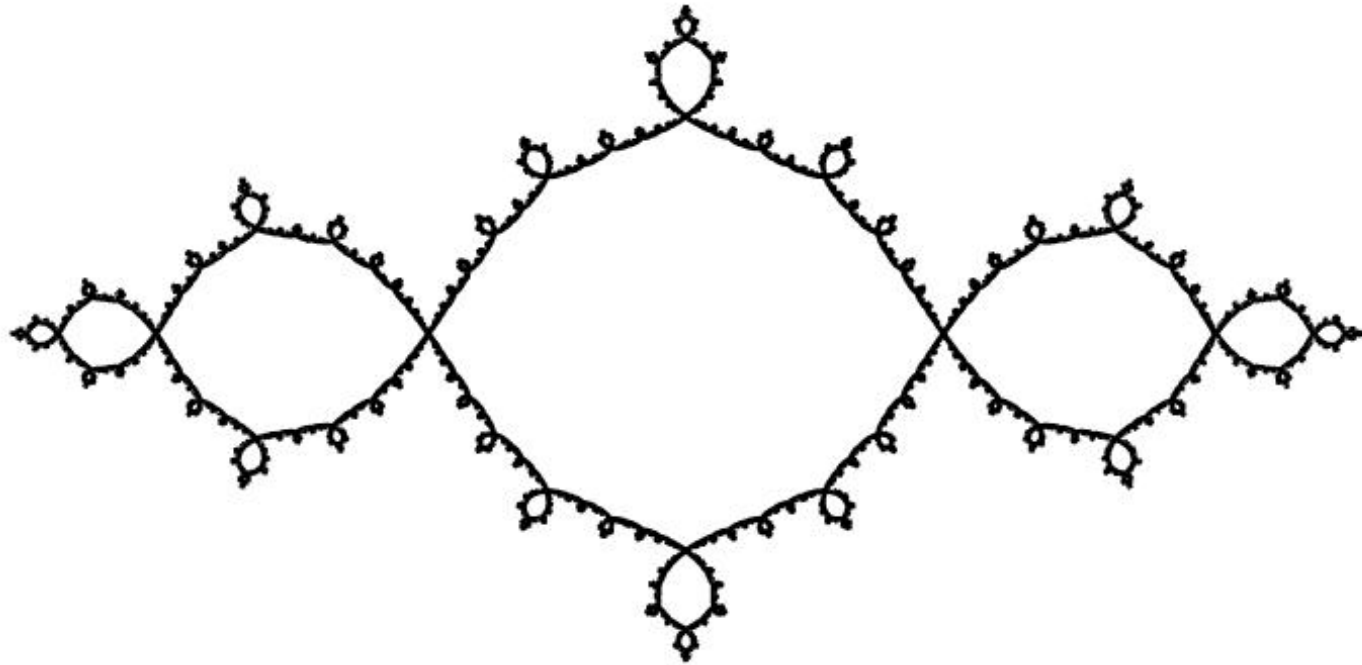


Two Subdivision Moves



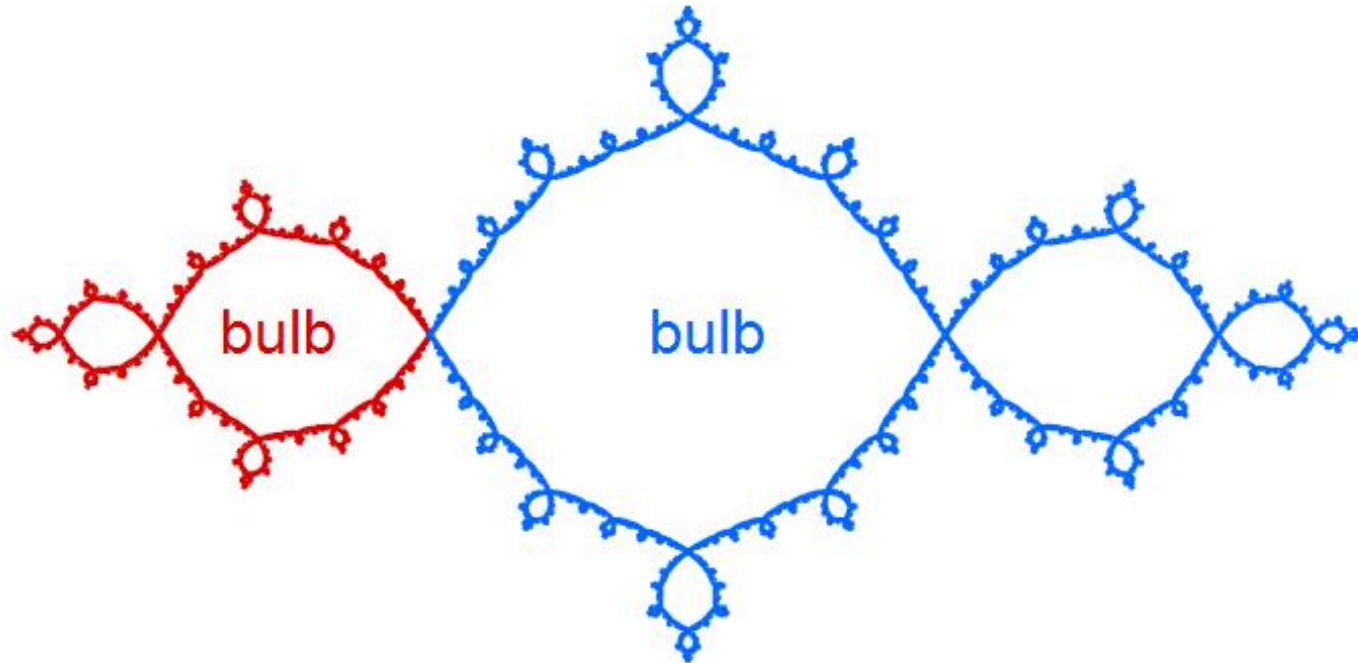
Allowed Subdivisions

An *allowed subdivision* of the Basilica is obtained by repeatedly applying these two moves, starting with the two main bulbs.



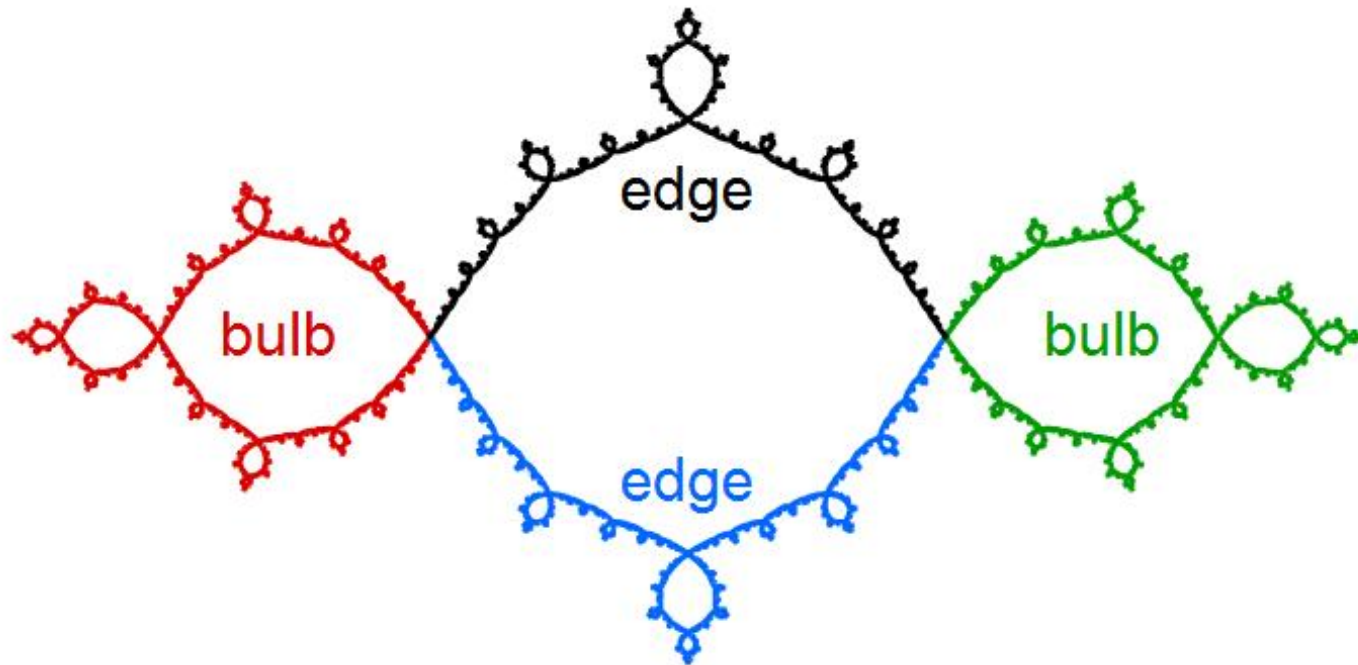
Allowed Subdivisions

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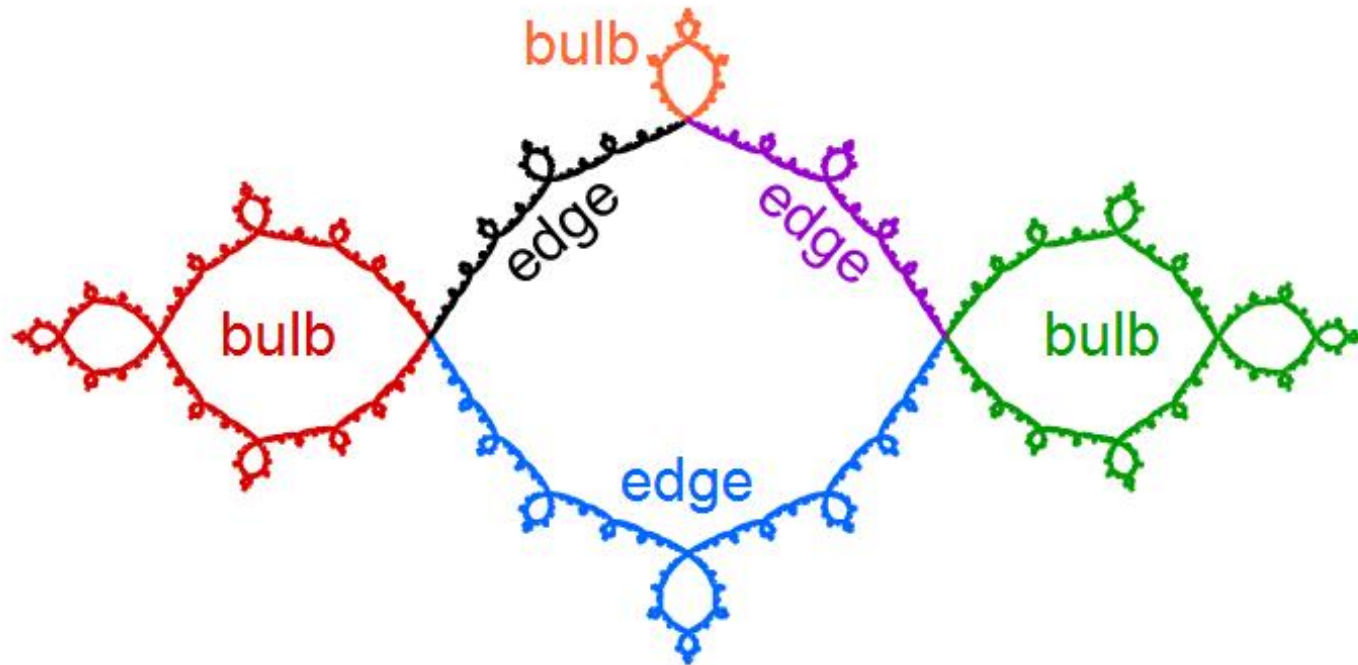
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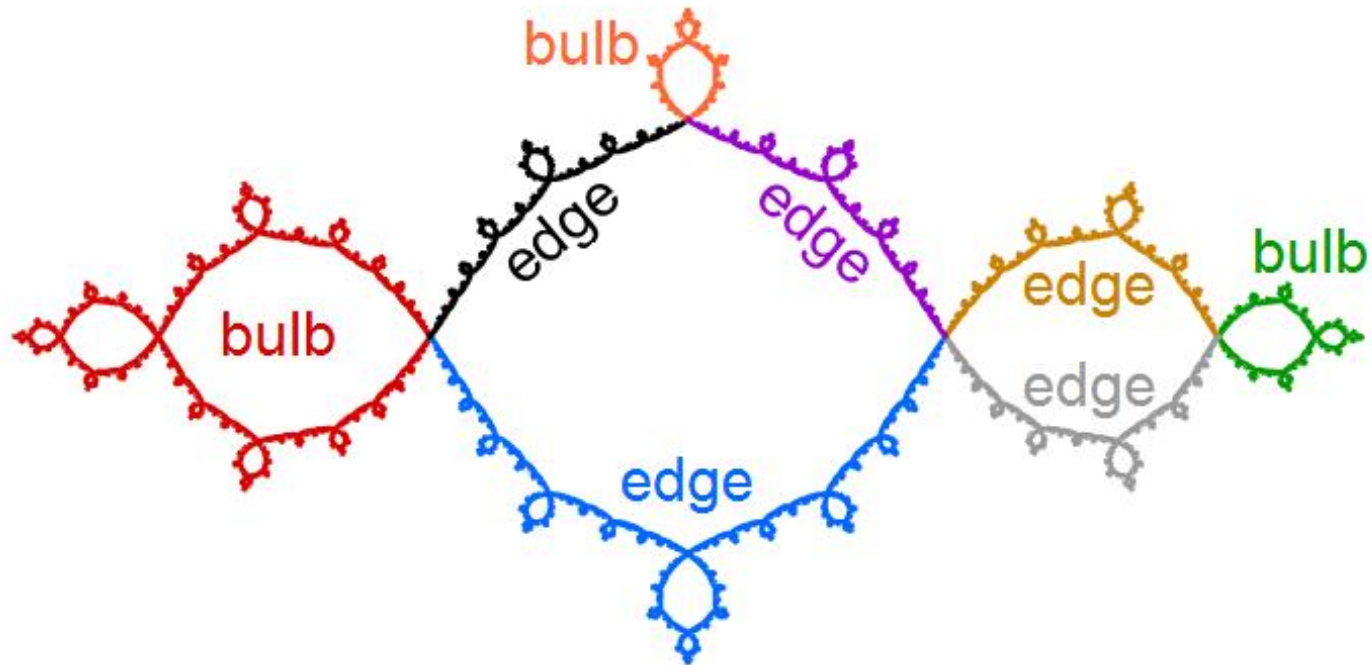
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The Basilica Group

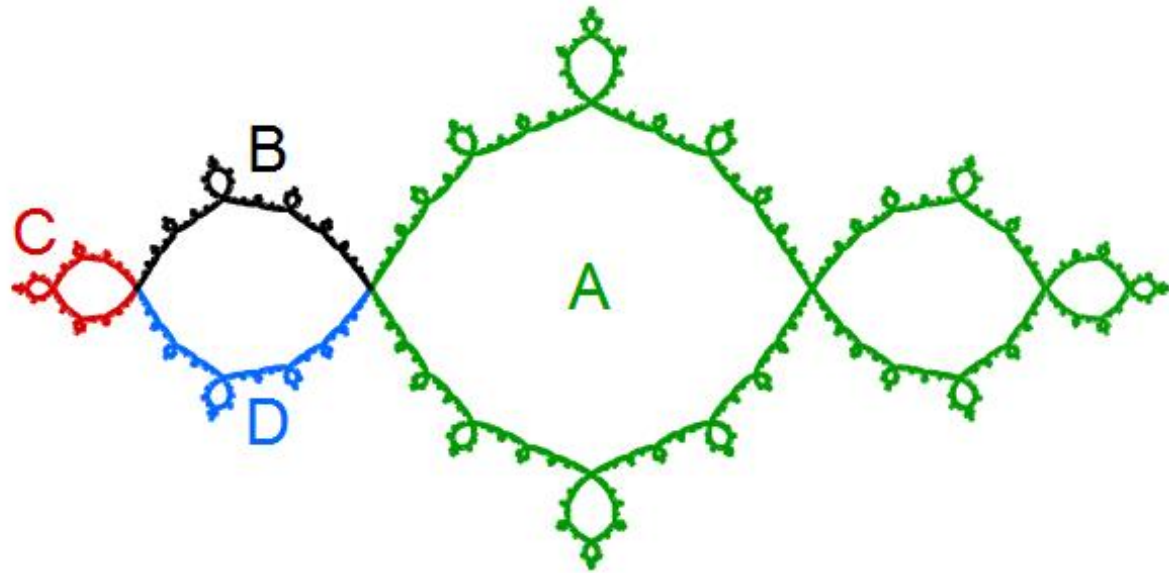
A **rearrangement** of the Basilica is a homeomorphism that maps conformally between the pieces of two allowed subdivisions.



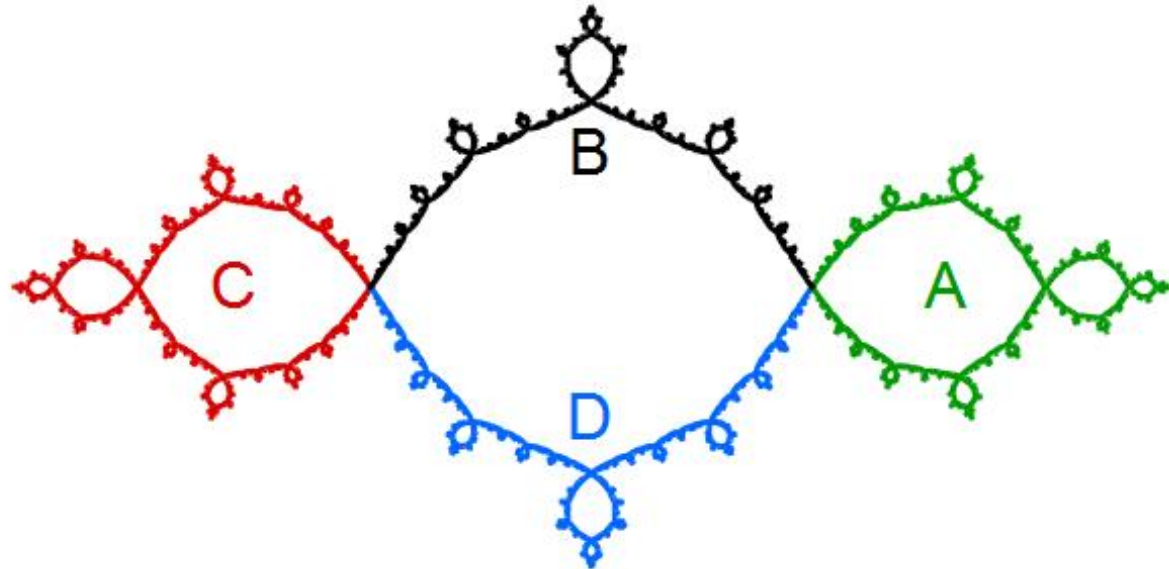
The group of all rearrangements is the **Basilica Thompson group** T_B .

Example Element

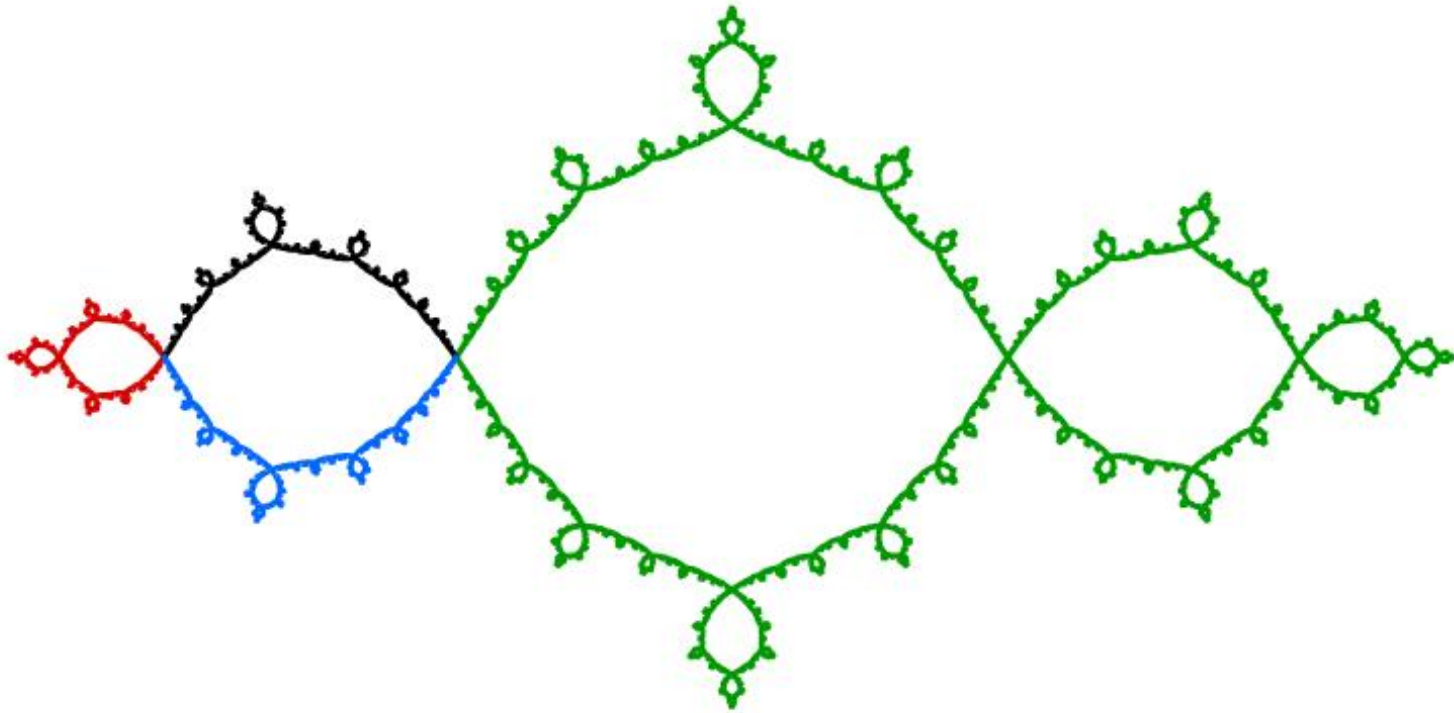
Domain:



Range:

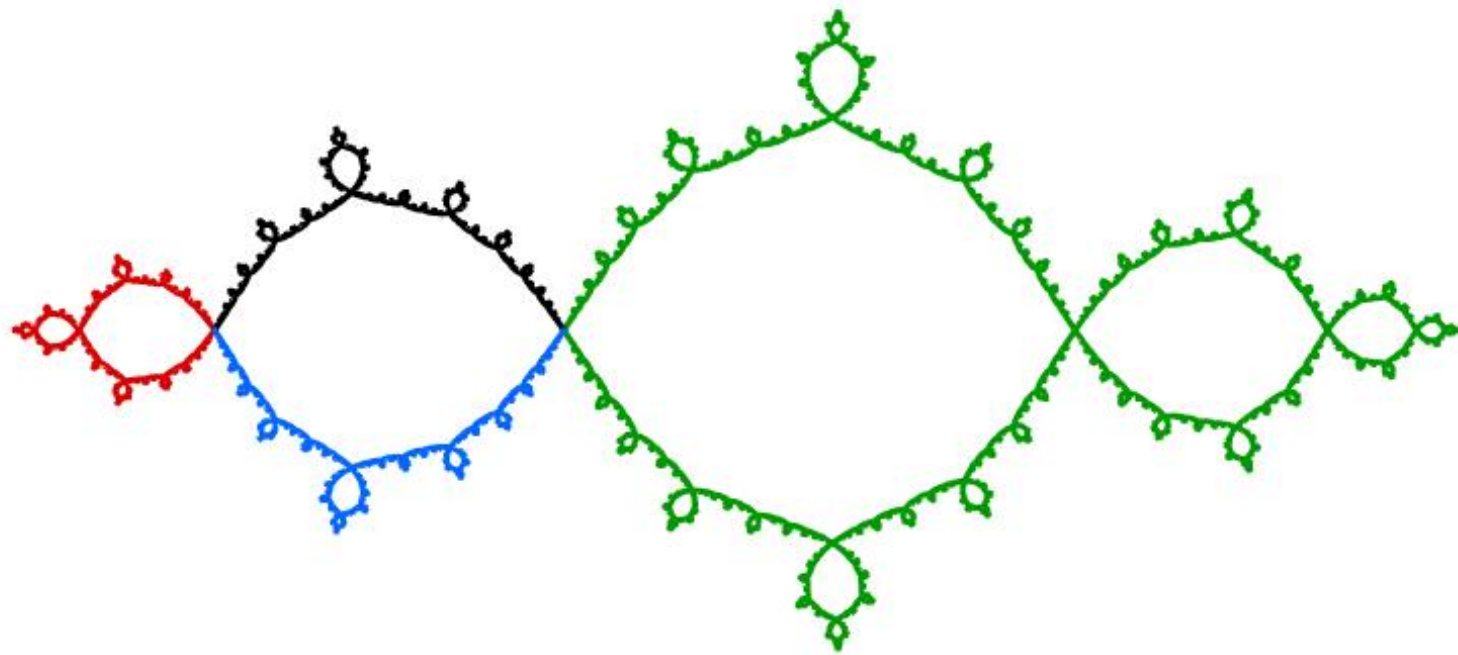


Example Element

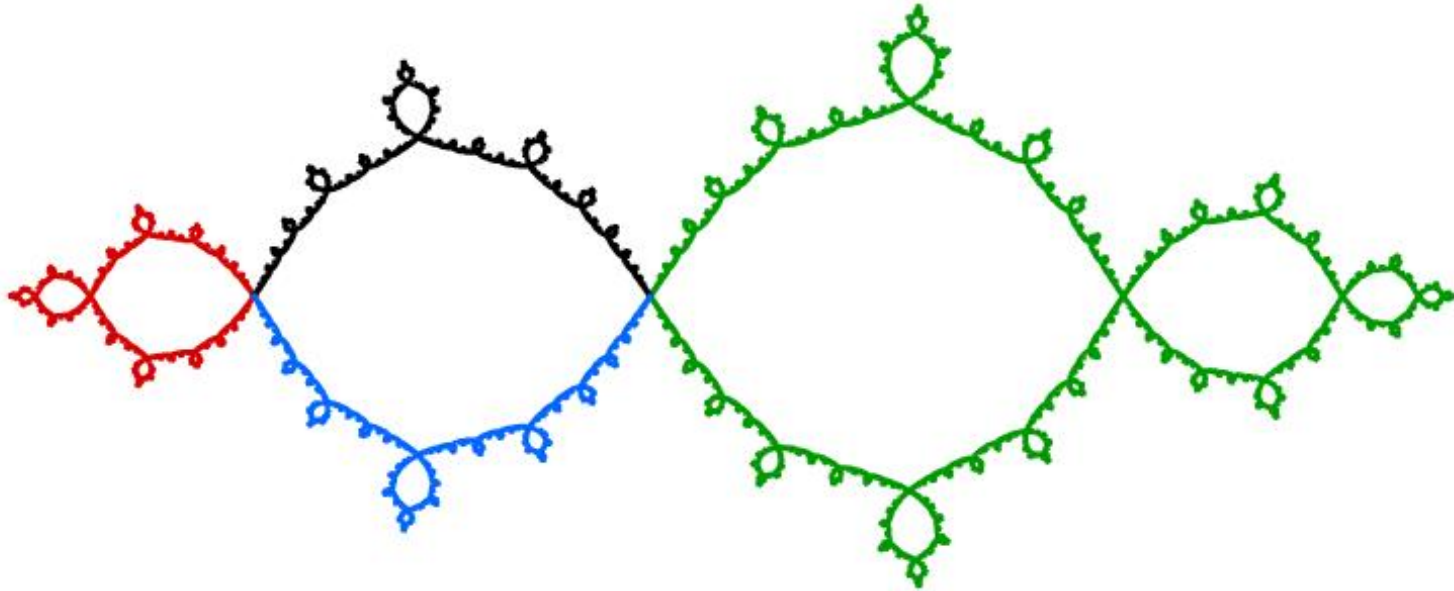


Reset

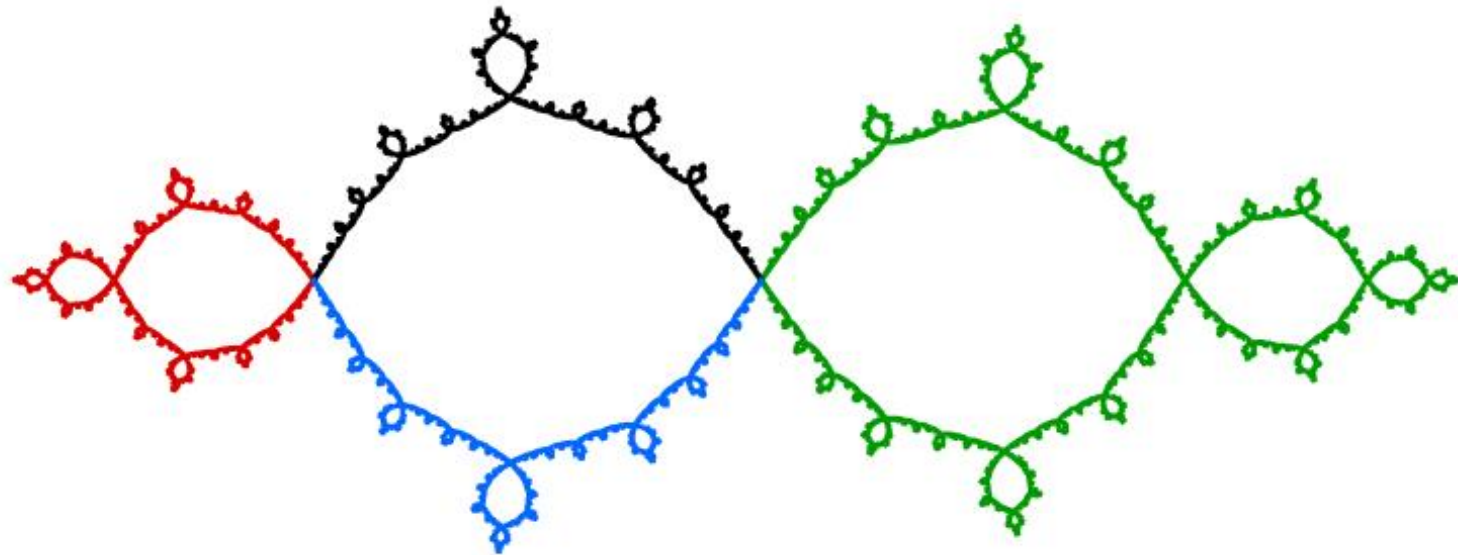
Example Element



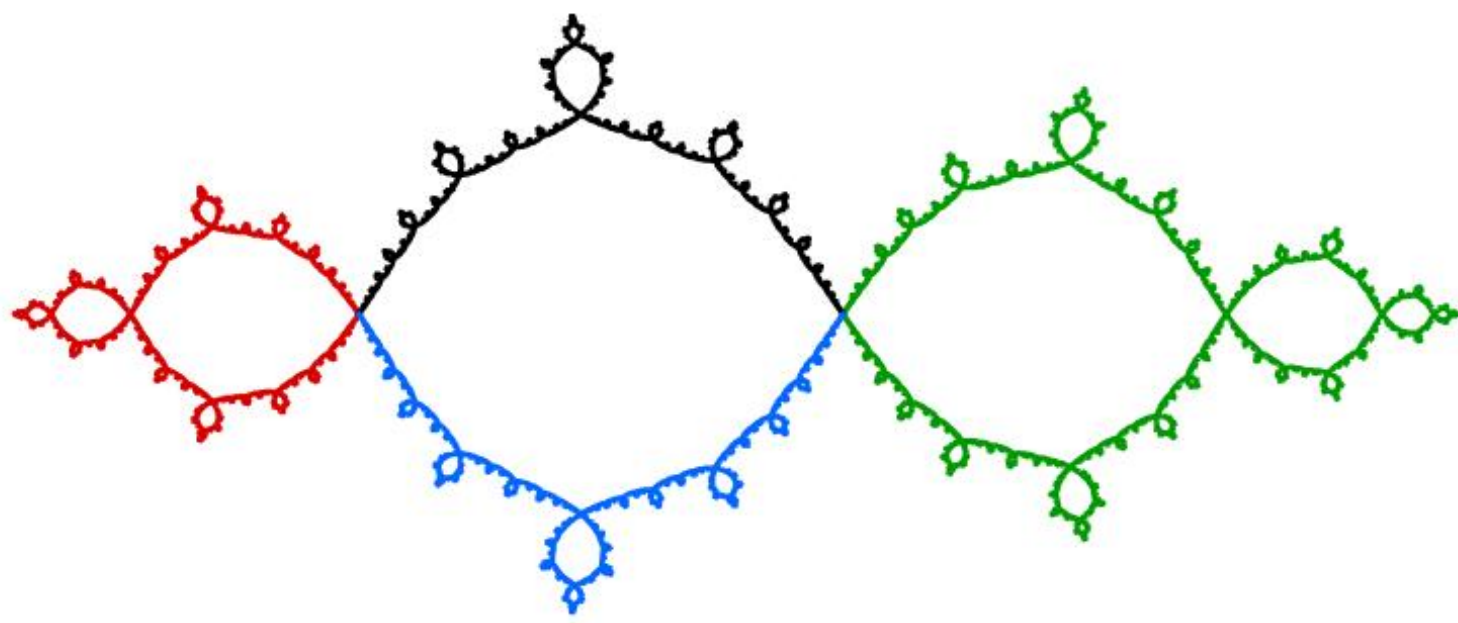
Example Element



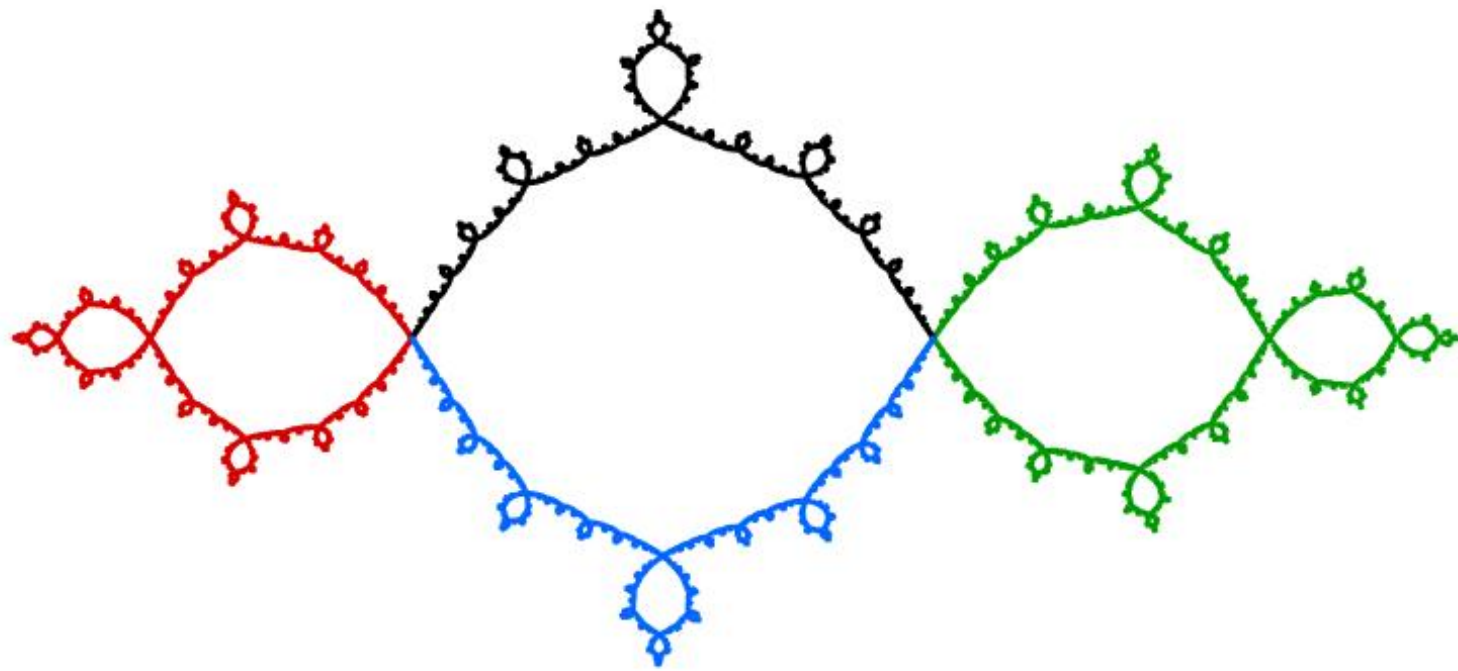
Example Element



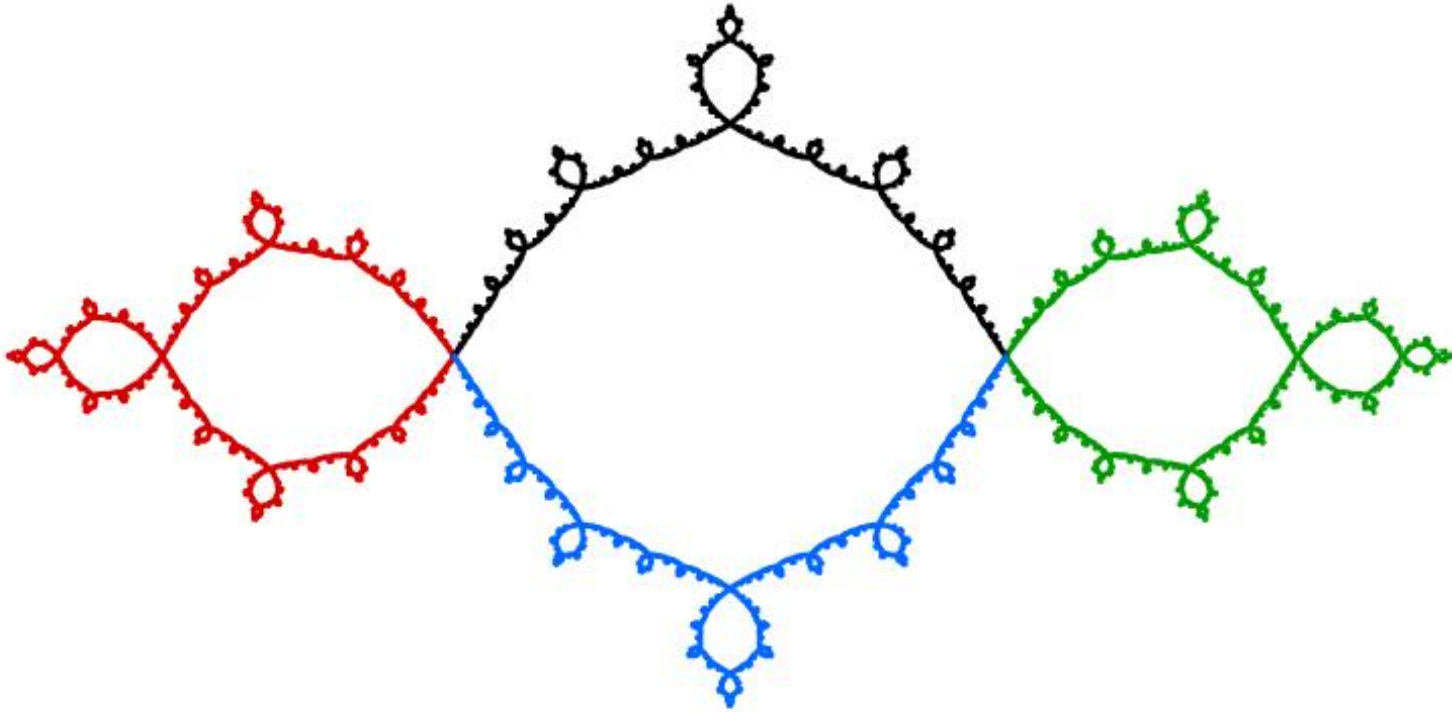
Example Element



Example Element

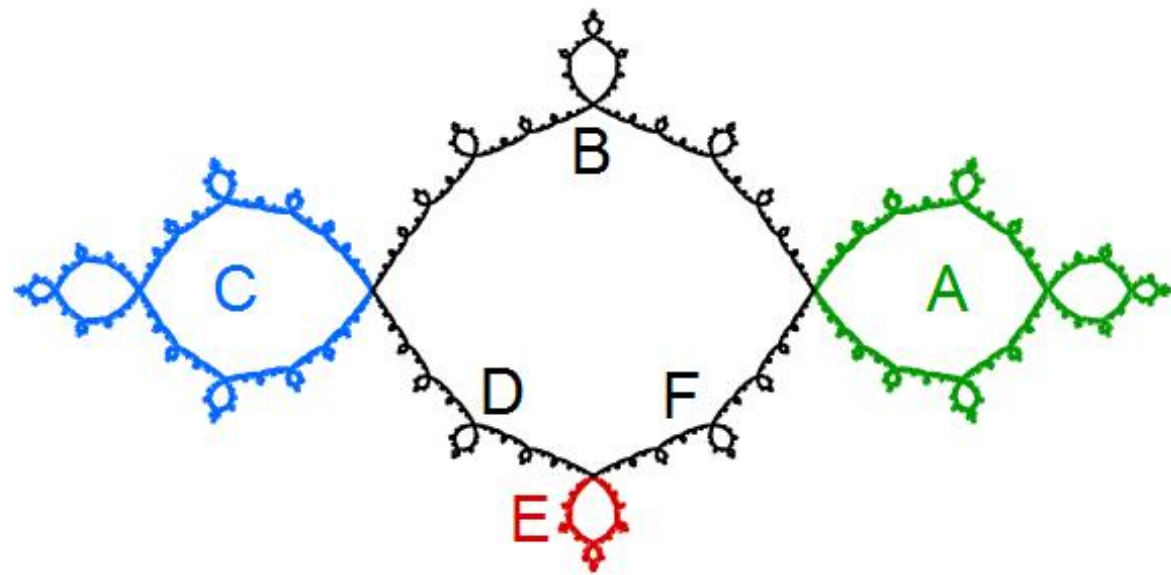


Example Element

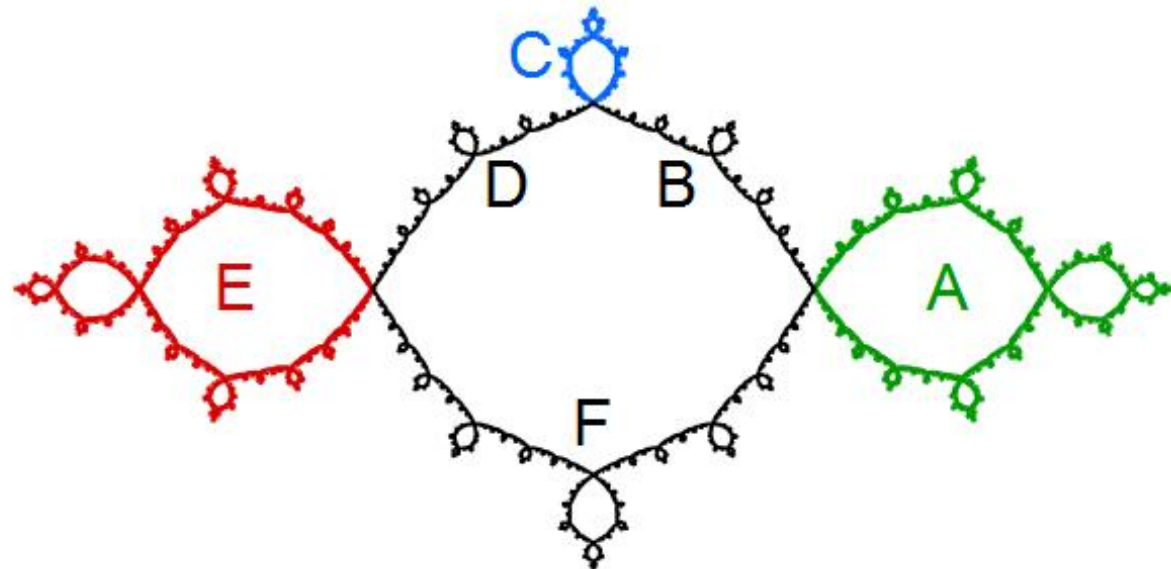


Example Element 2

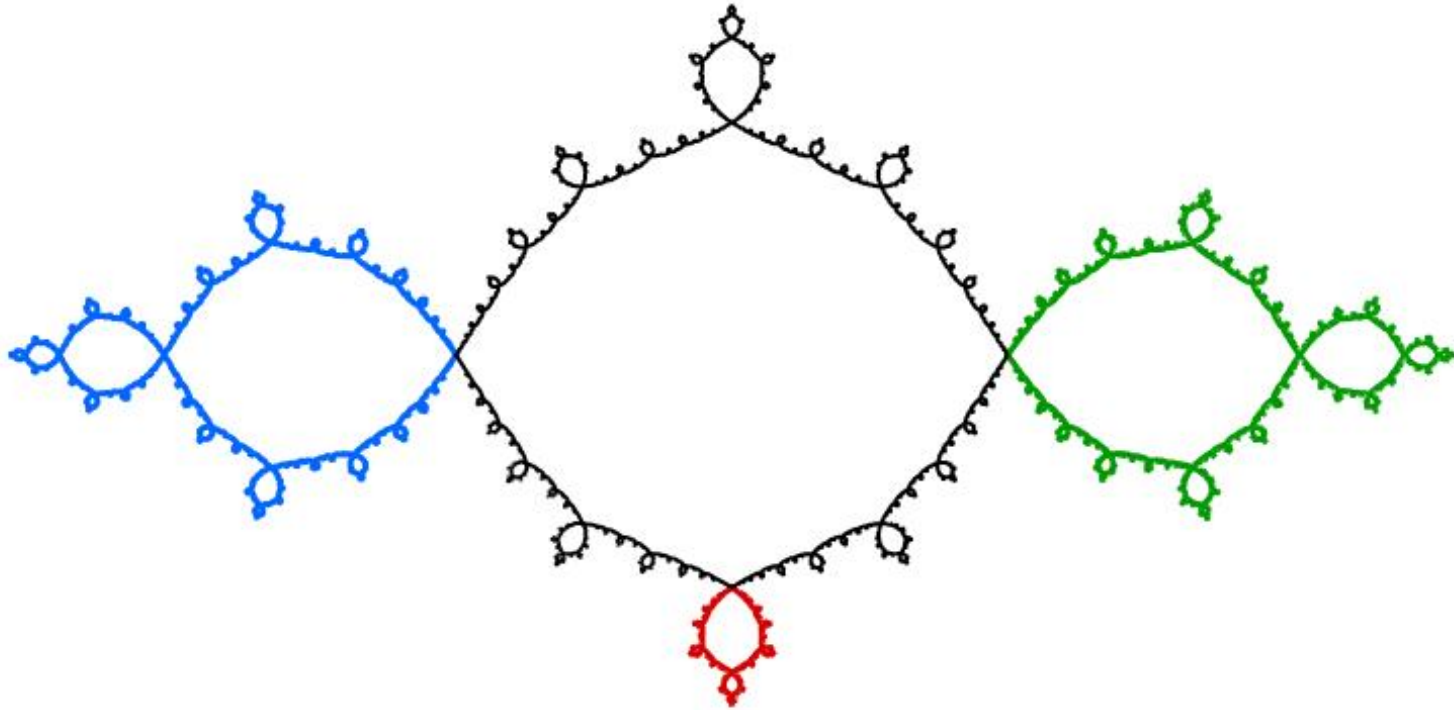
Domain:



Range:

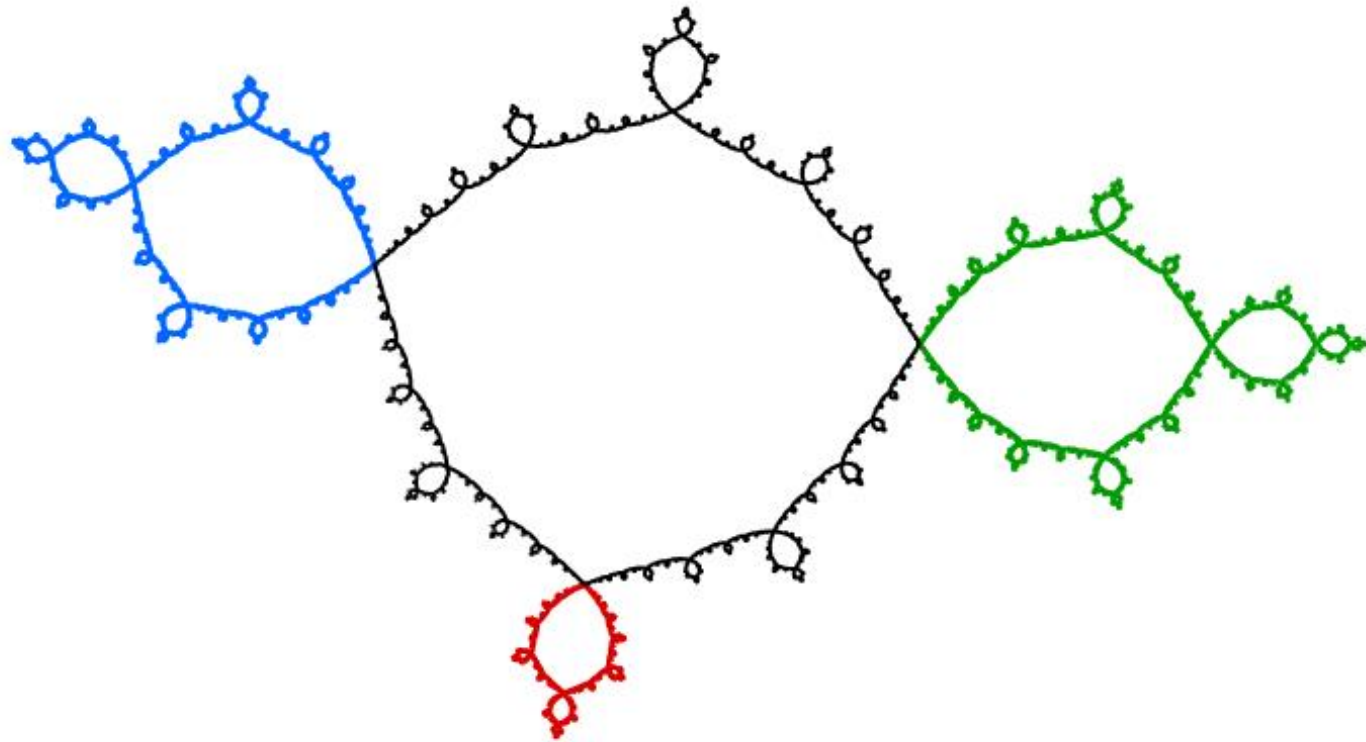


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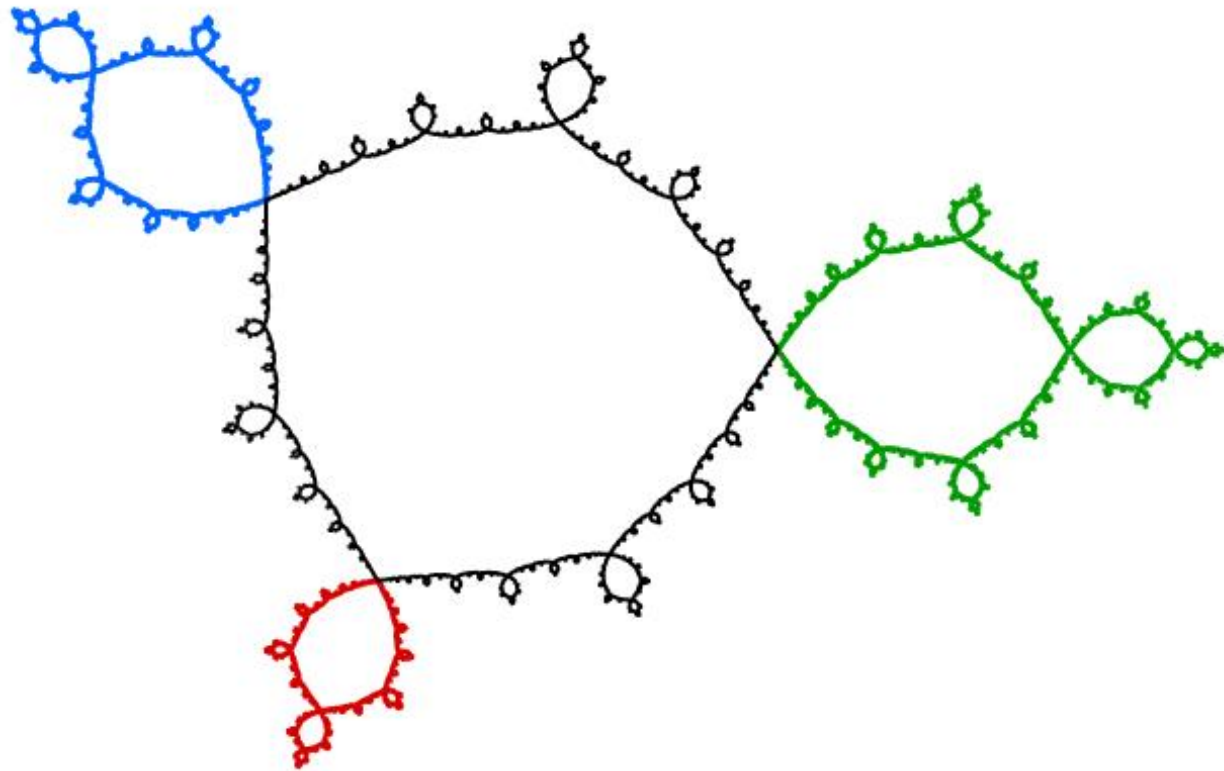


Reset

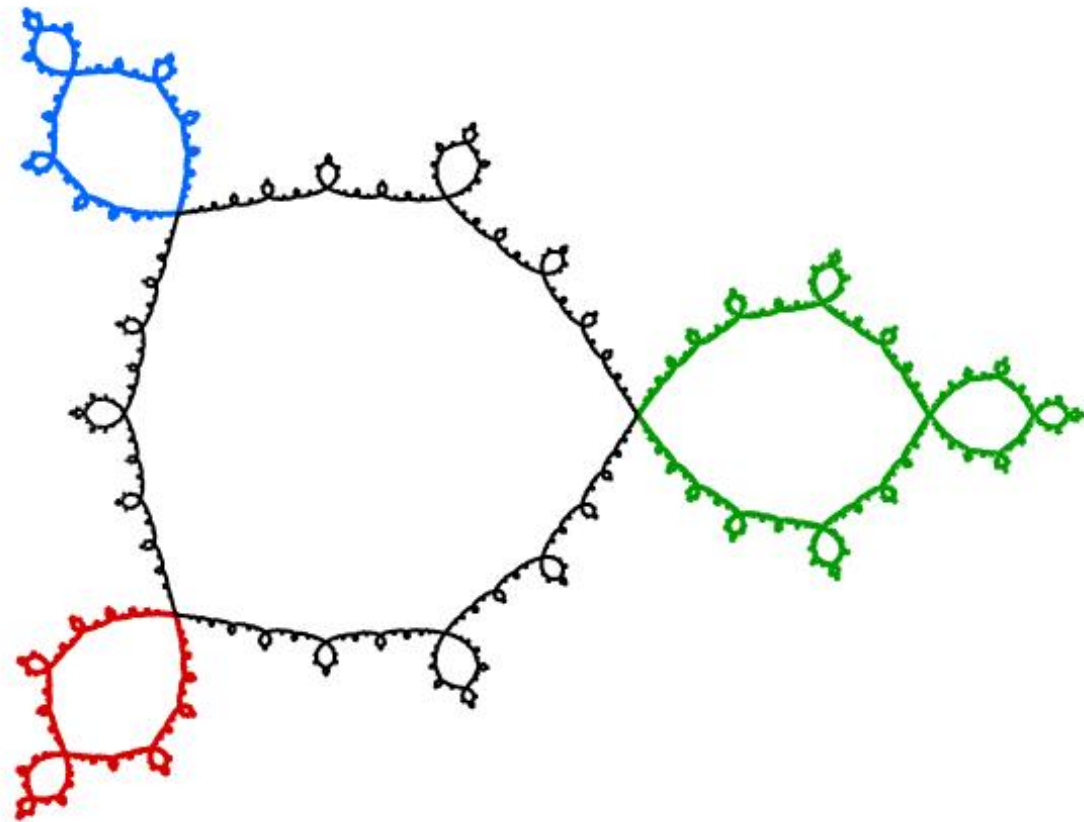
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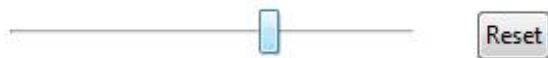
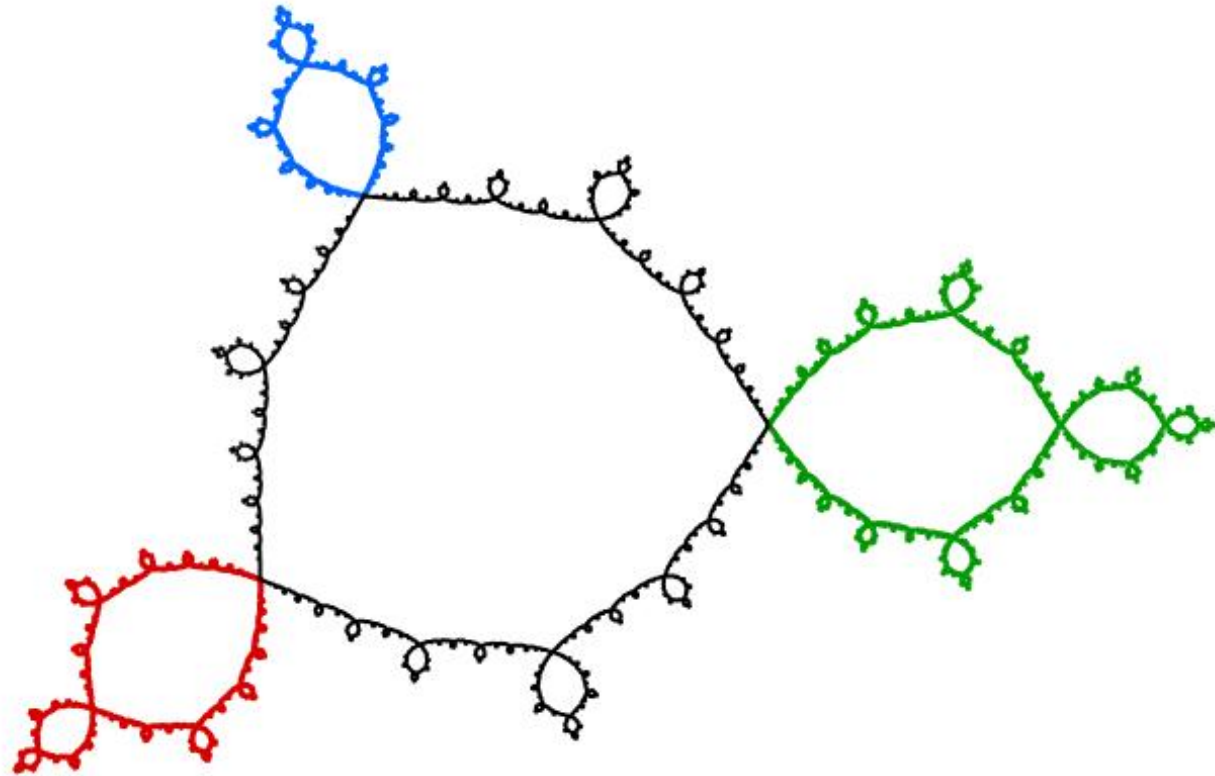
Example Element 2



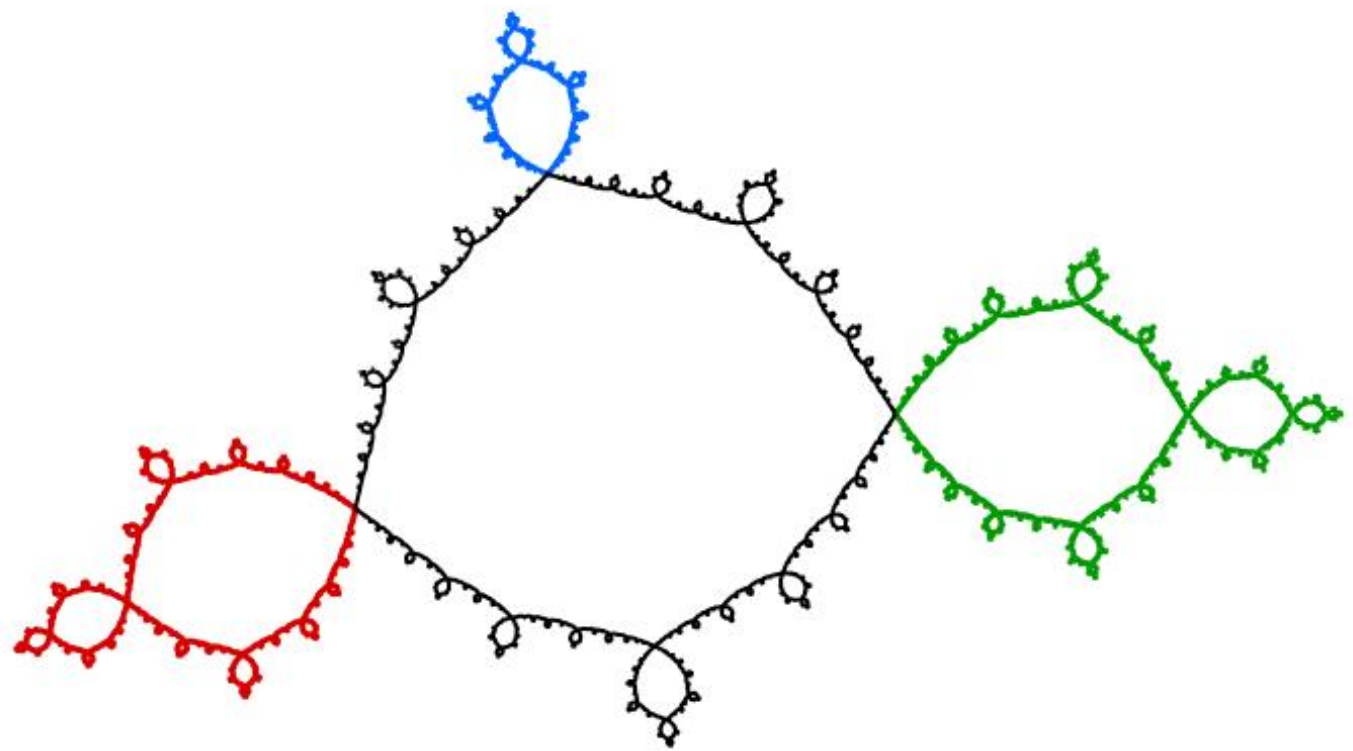
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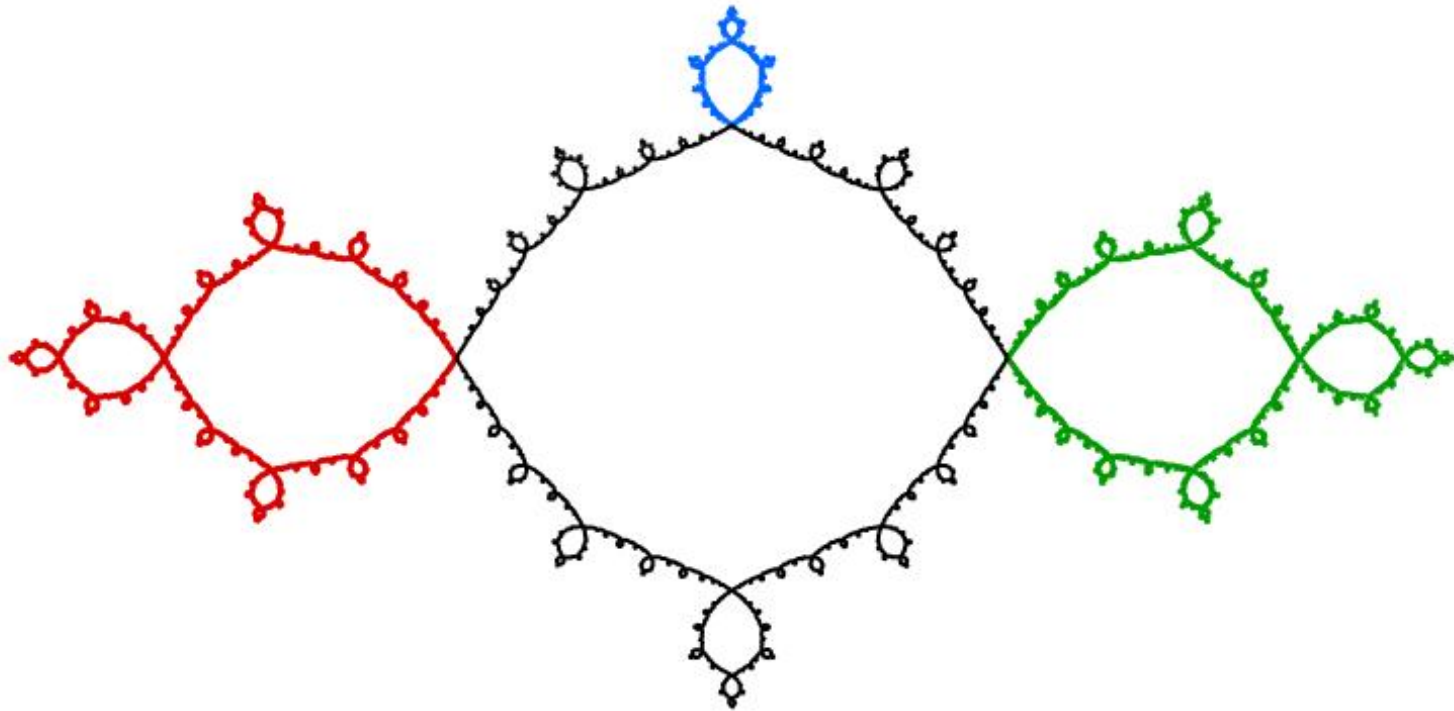
Example Element 2



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Example Element 2



Properties of T_B

Properties of T_B

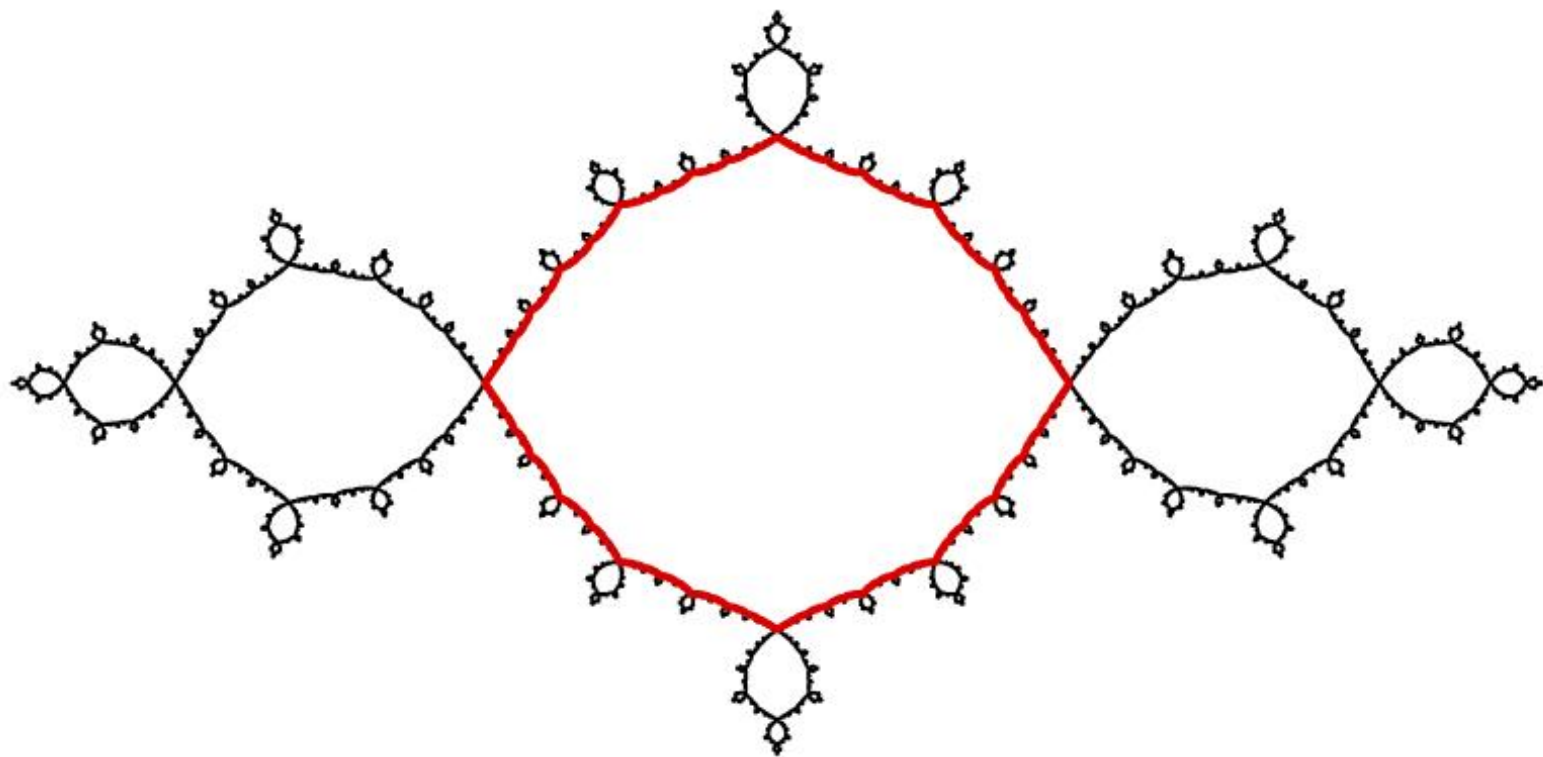
Theorem

1. T_B contains copies of Thompson's group T .

Properties of T_B

Theorem

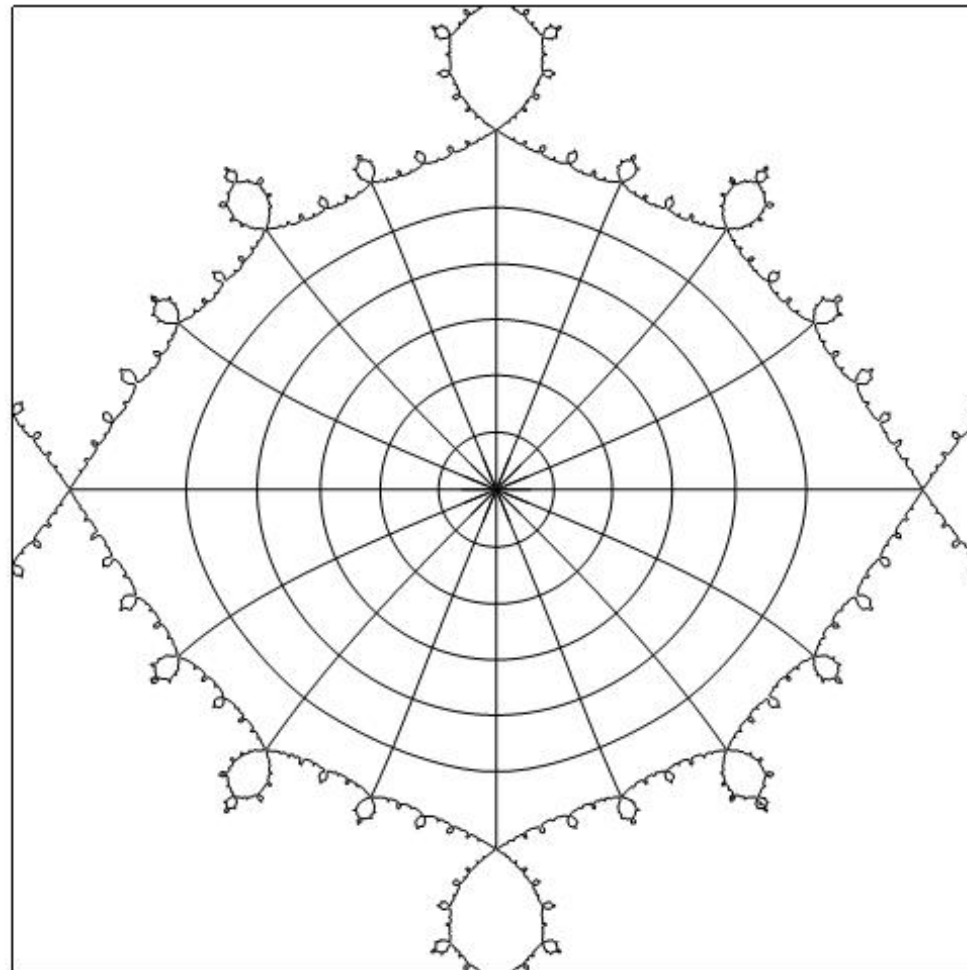
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Properties of T_B

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2. T_B is generated by four elements.

Properties of T_B

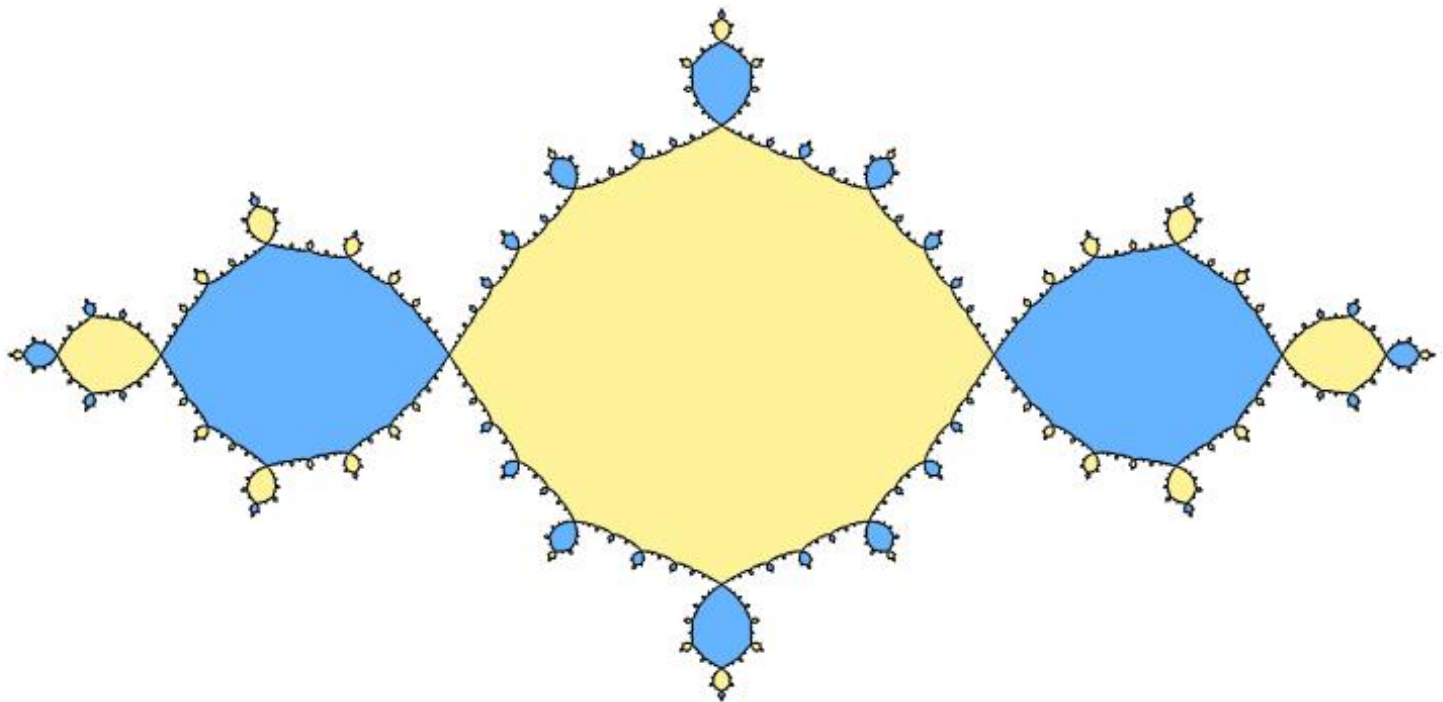
Theorem

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3. $[T_B, T_B]$ has index two, and $T_B = [T_B, T_B] \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2$.

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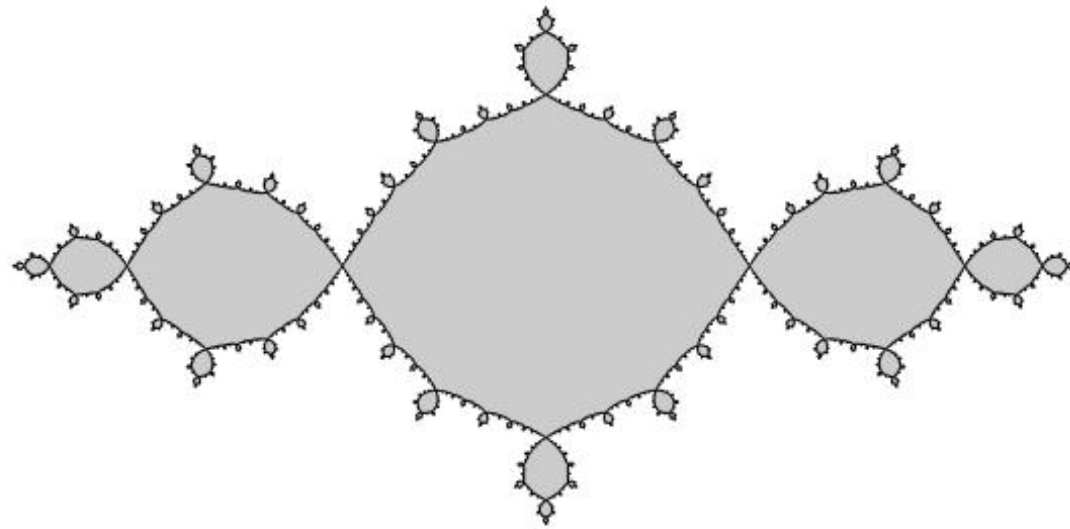
Open Question

Is T_B finitely presented? (We suspect not.)

External Angles

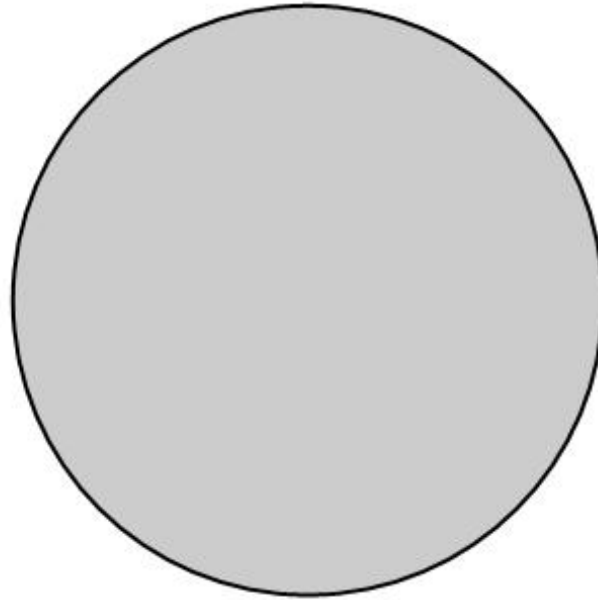
External Angles

The exterior region for the Basilica is simply connected in the Riemann sphere:



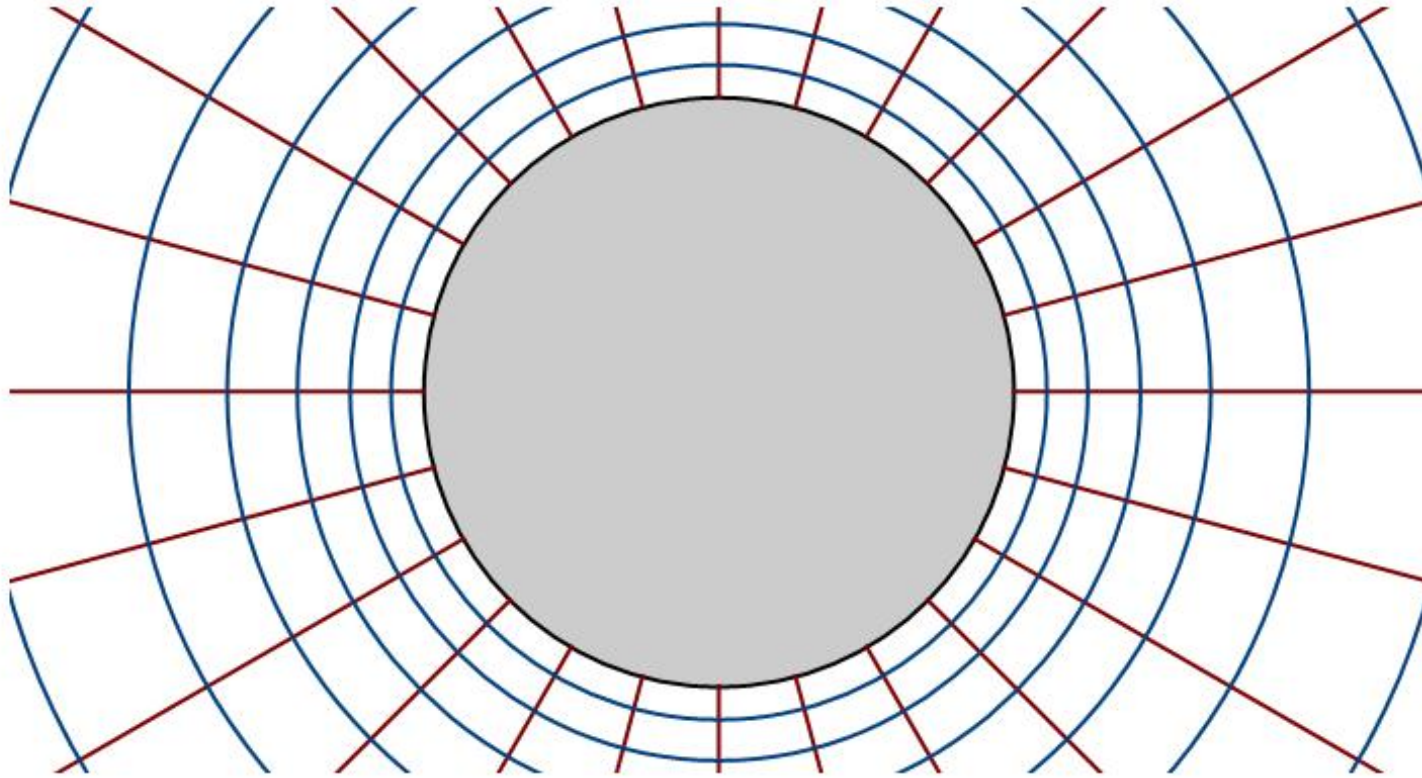
External Angles

The complement of a disk is also simply connected:



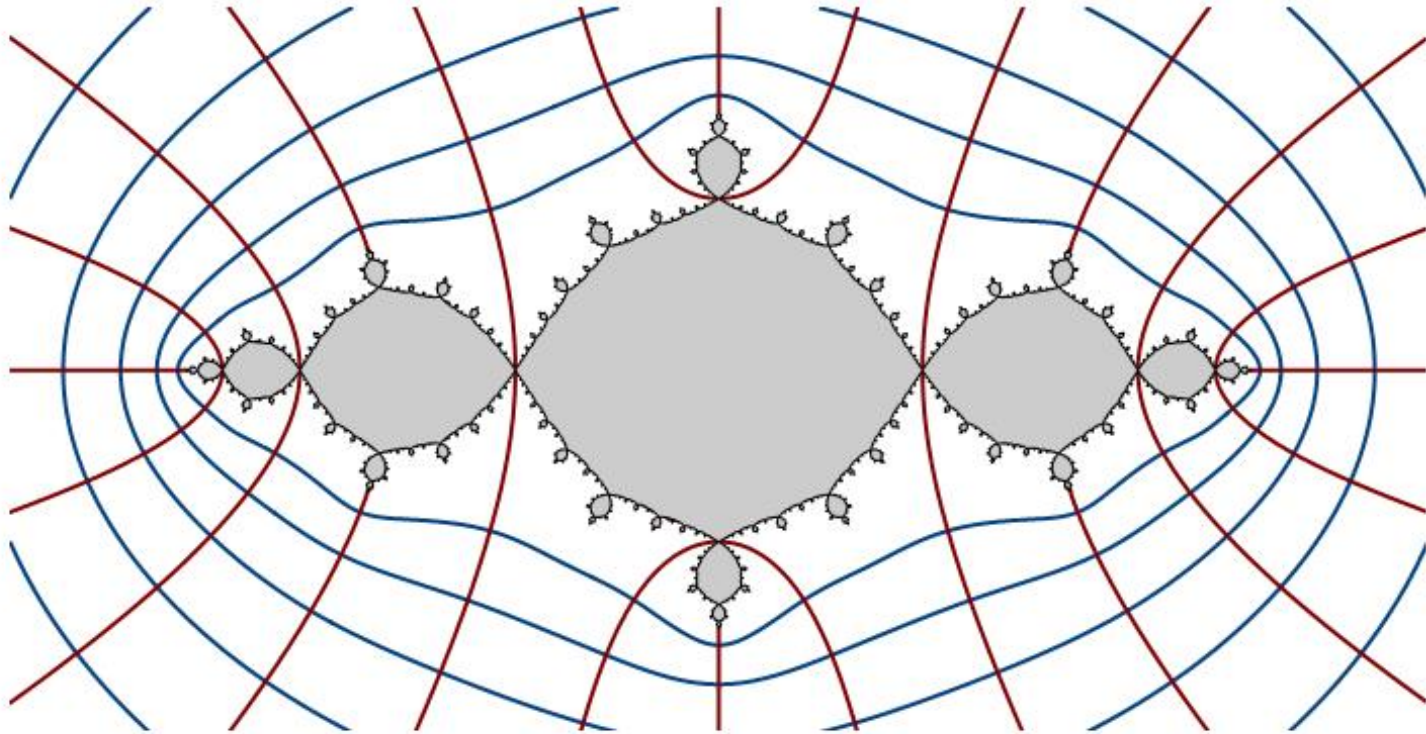
External Angles

So there exists a Riemann map between the two regions.



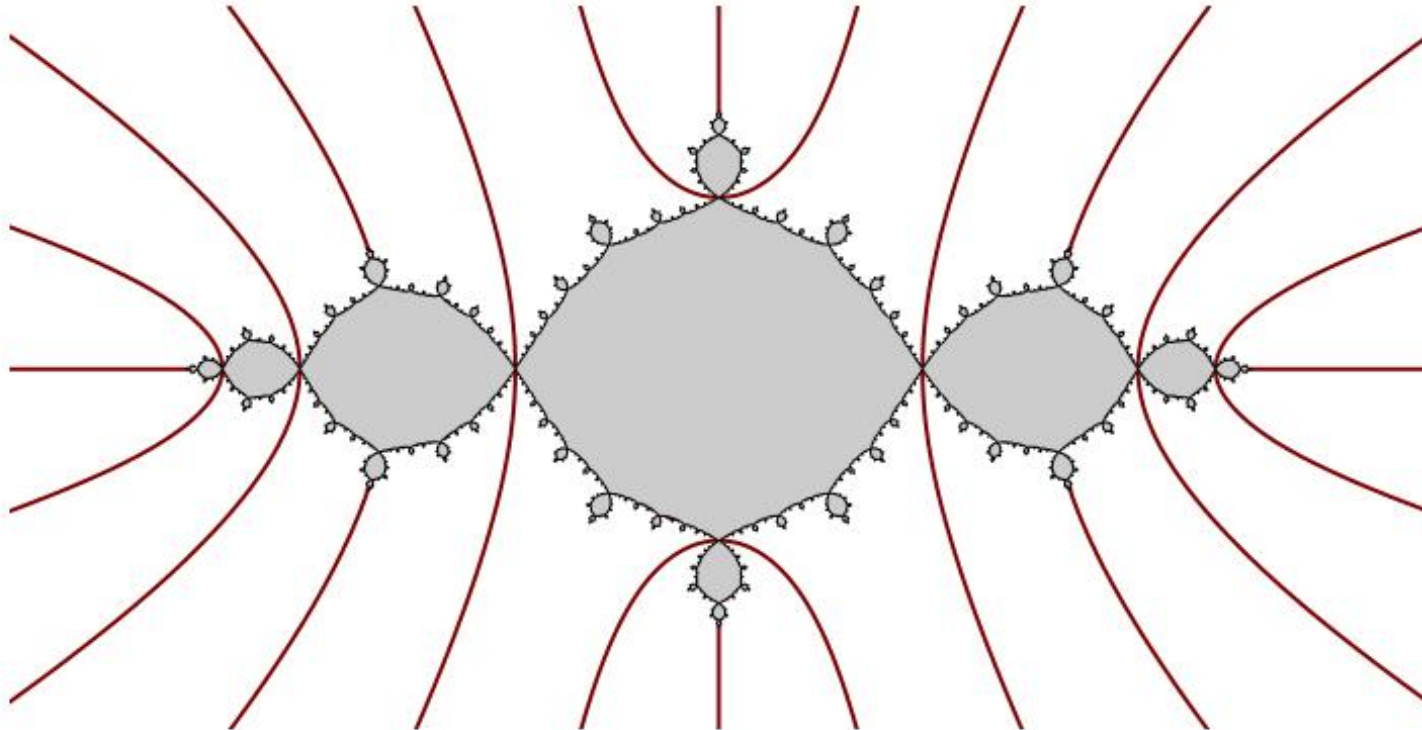
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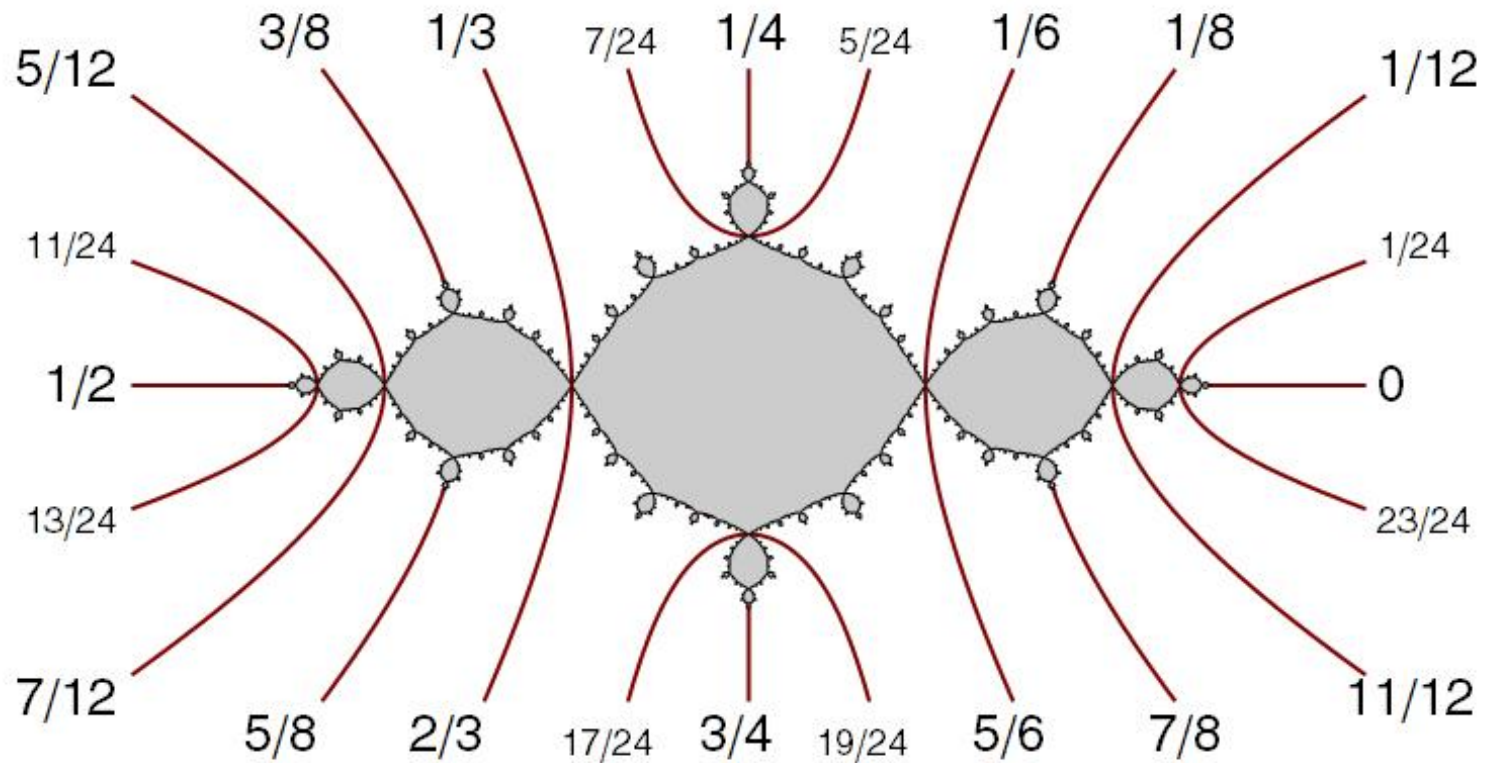
External Angles

The radial lines are called ***external rays***.



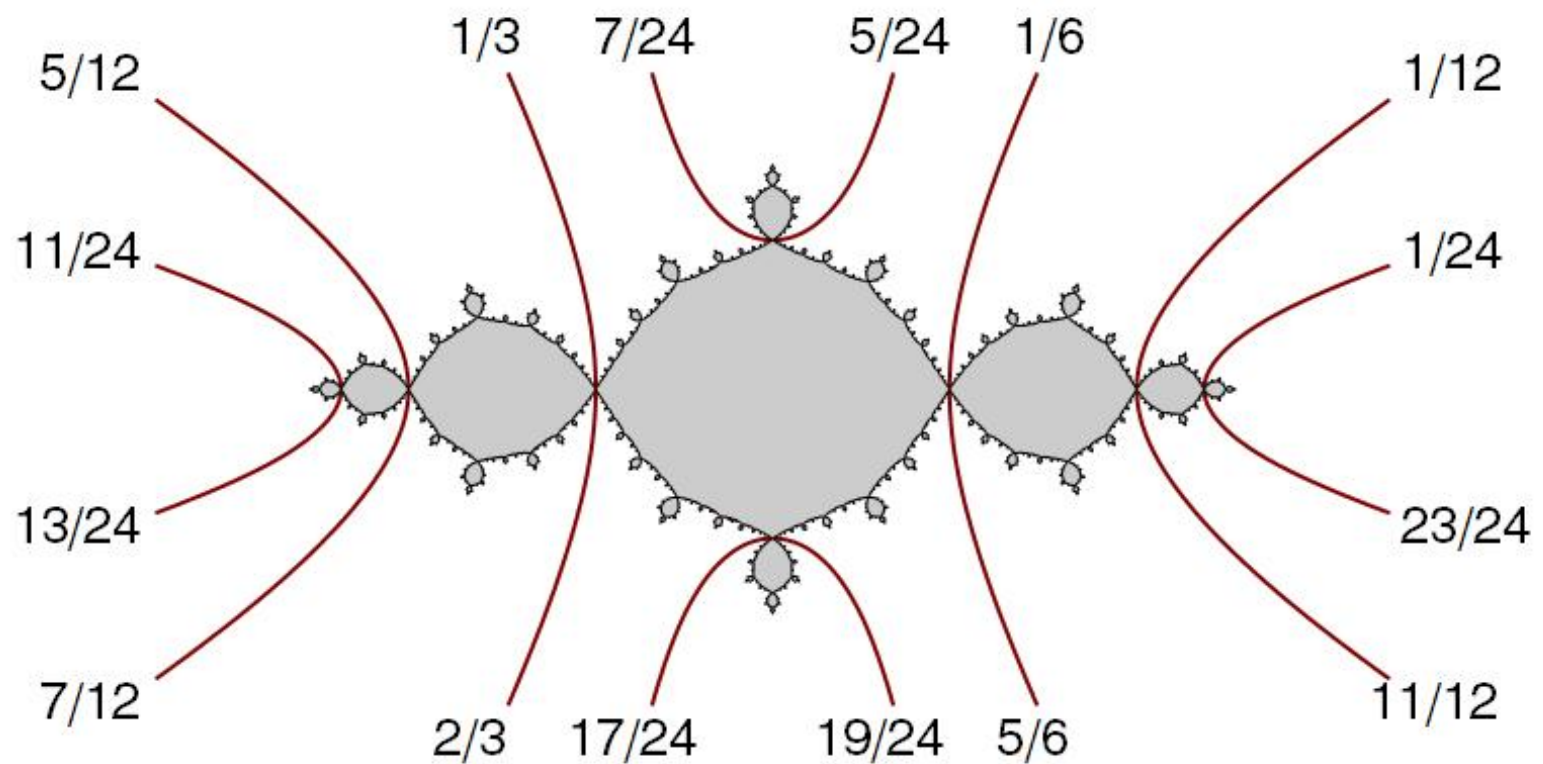
External Angles

These define the **external angles**.



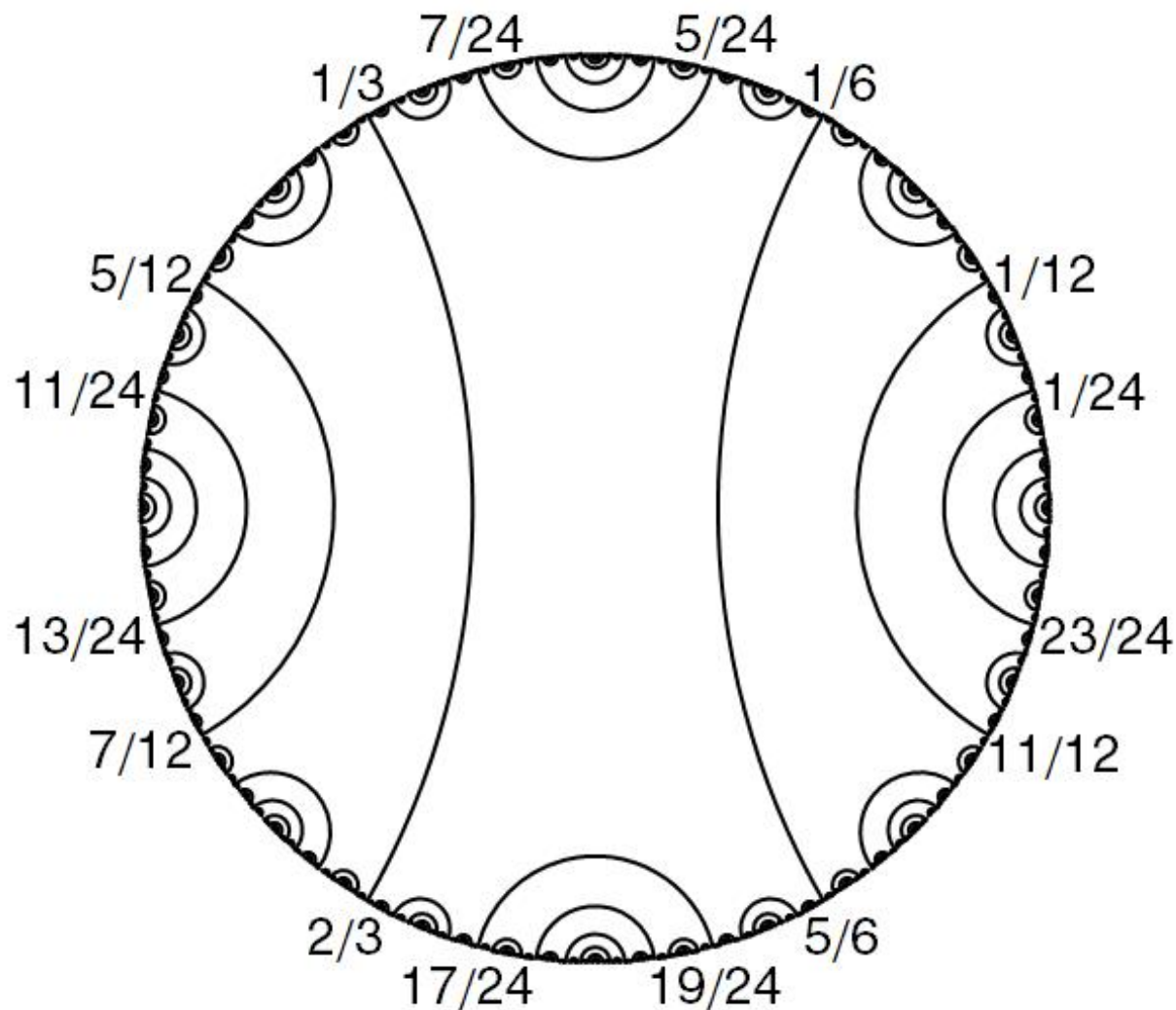
External Angles

Pinch Points: Denominator is $3 \cdot 2^n$



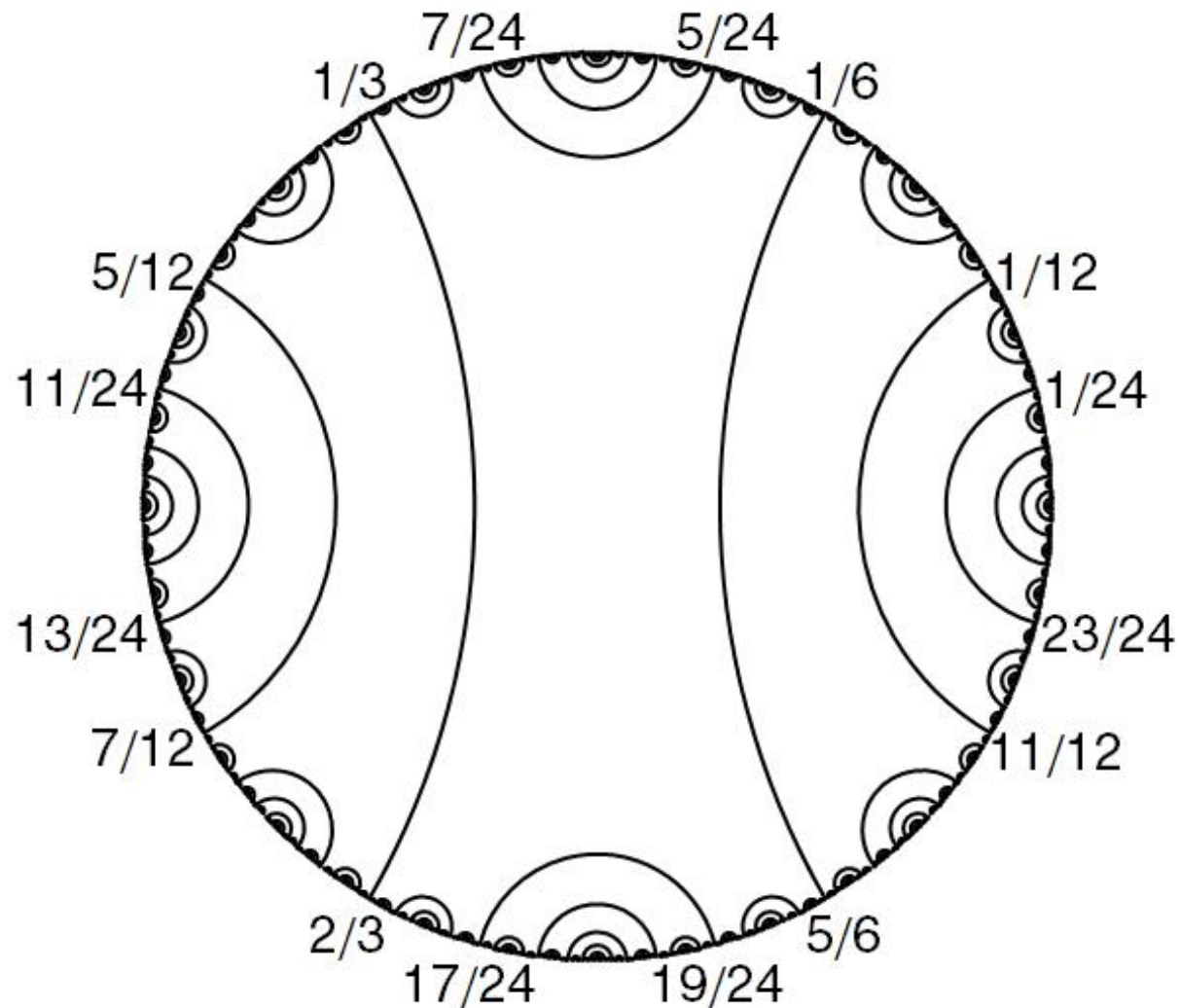
The Invariant Lamination

This picture shows an equivalence relation on the circle. It is called the *invariant lamination* for the Basilica.



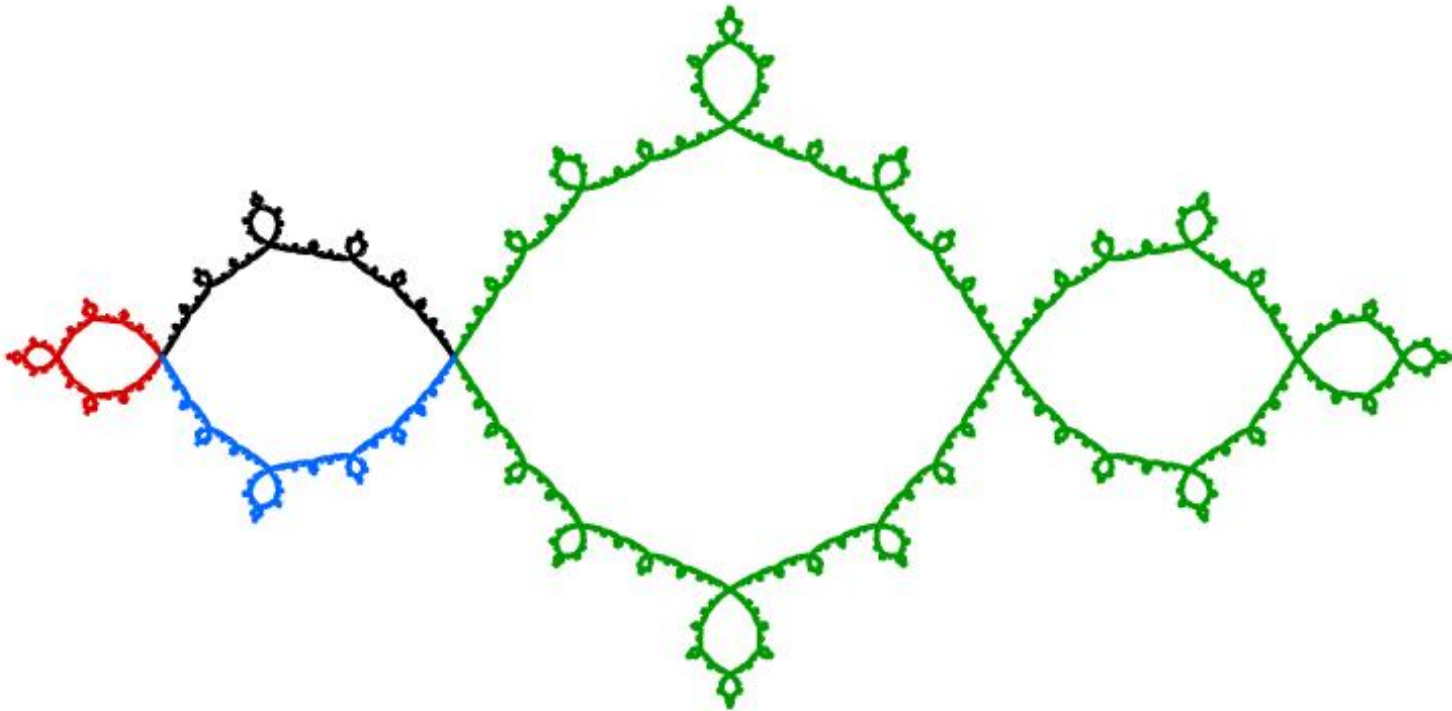
The Invariant Lamination

Homeomorphisms that preserve this equivalence relation descend to the Julia set.



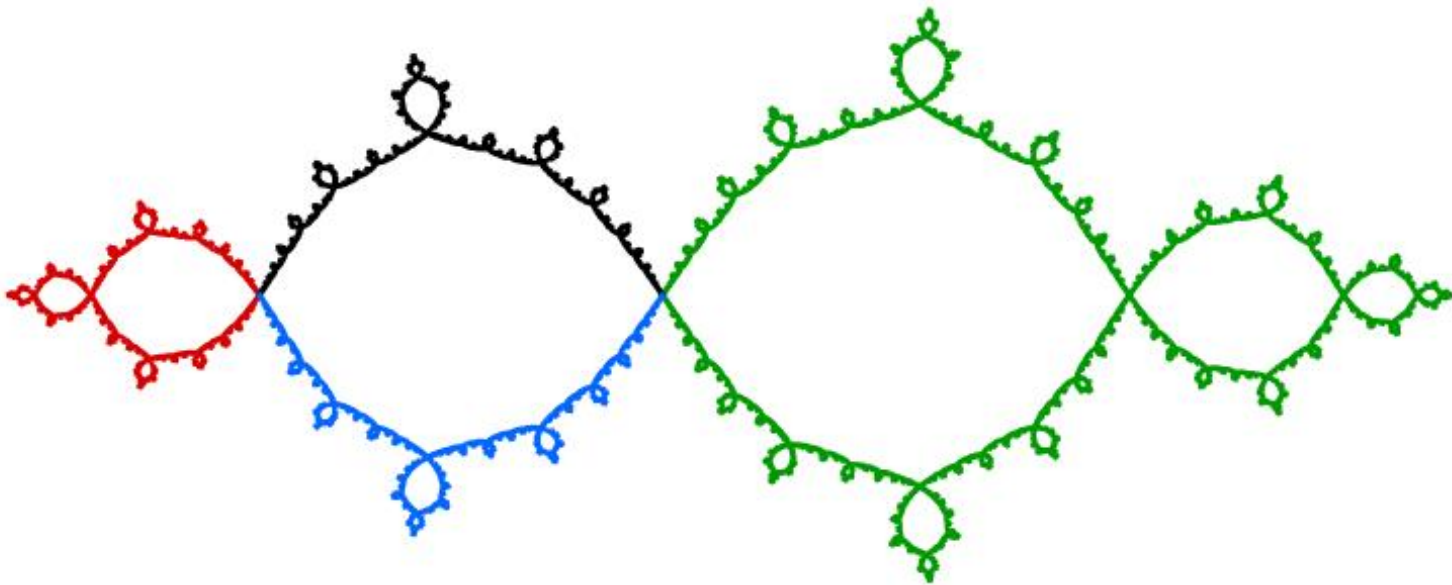
Piecewise-Linear Homeomorphisms

Elements of T_B act as piecewise-linear homeomorphisms.



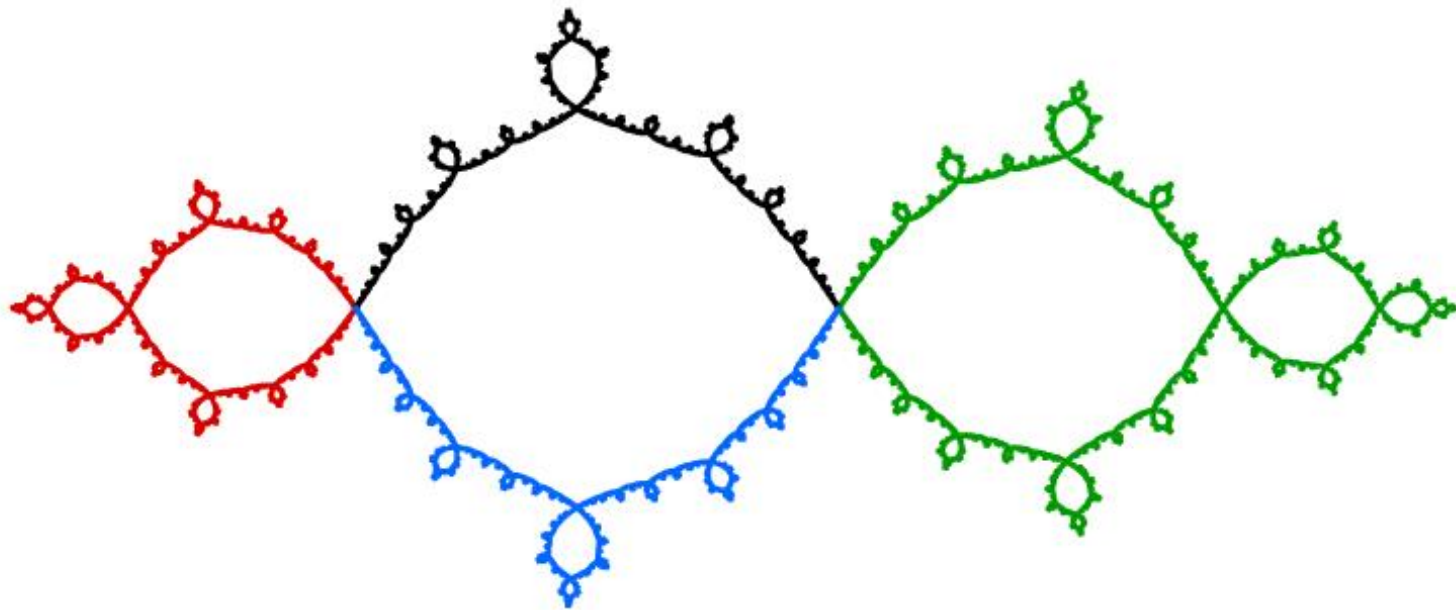
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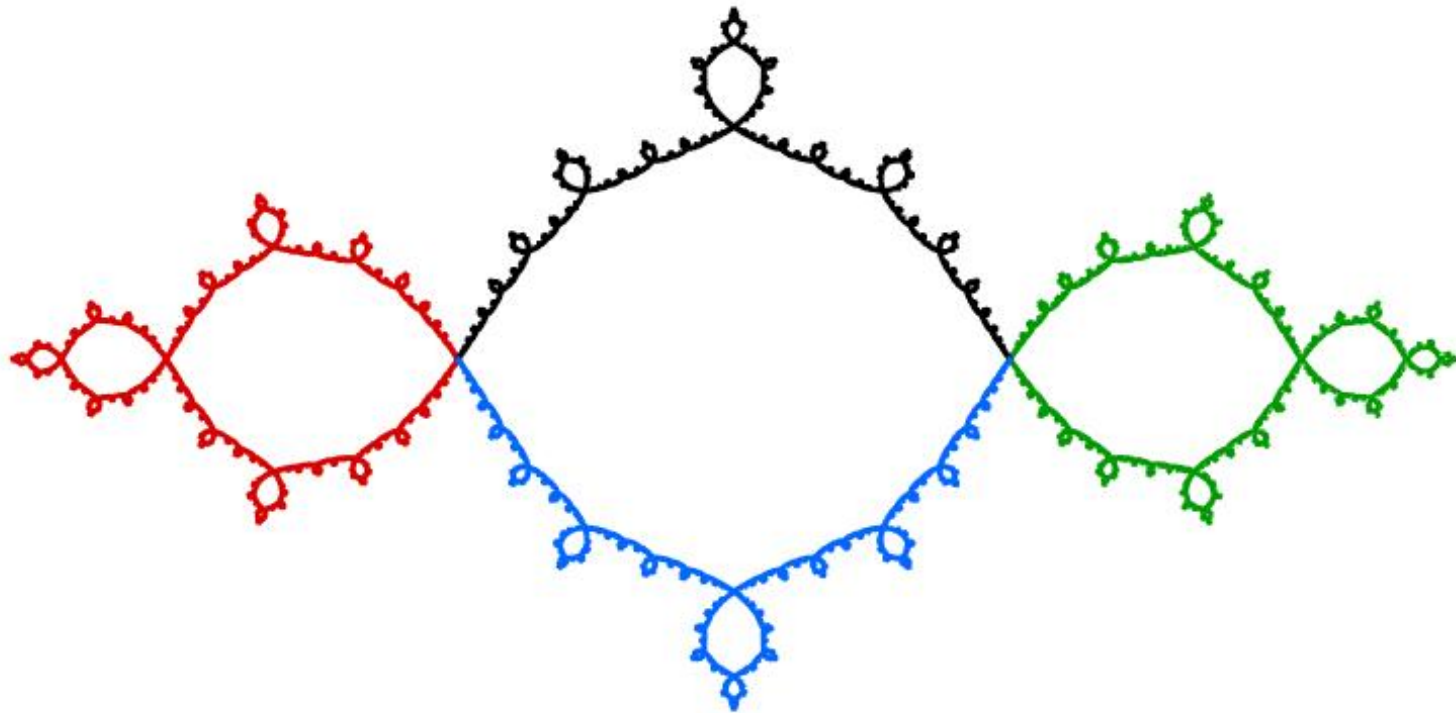
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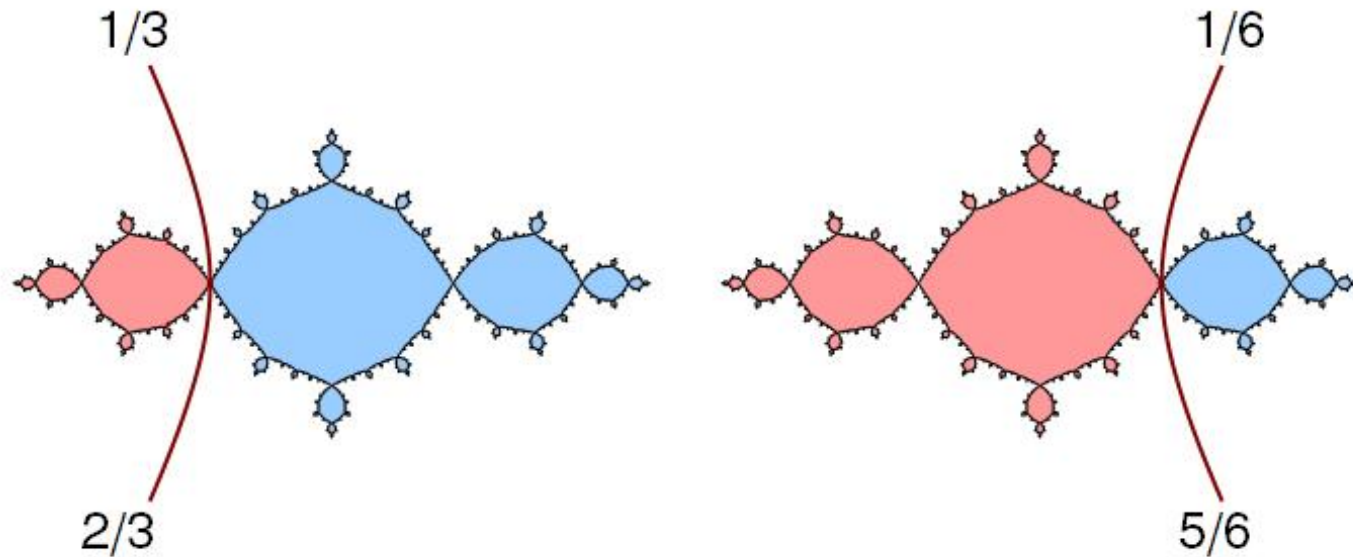
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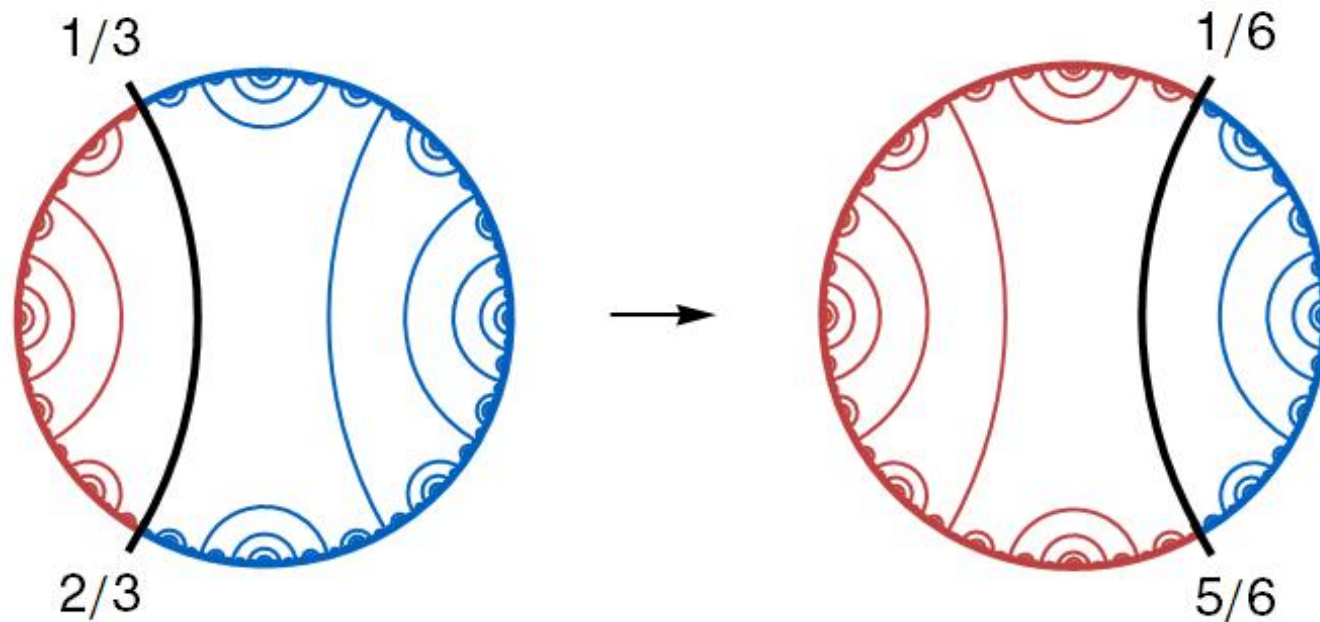
Elements of T_B act as piecewise-linear homeomorphisms.



$$f(\theta) = \begin{cases} \theta/2 & \text{if } -1/3 \leq \theta \leq 1/3 \\ 2\theta - 1/2 & \text{if } 1/3 \leq \theta \leq 2/3 \end{cases}$$

Piecewise-Linear Homeomorphisms

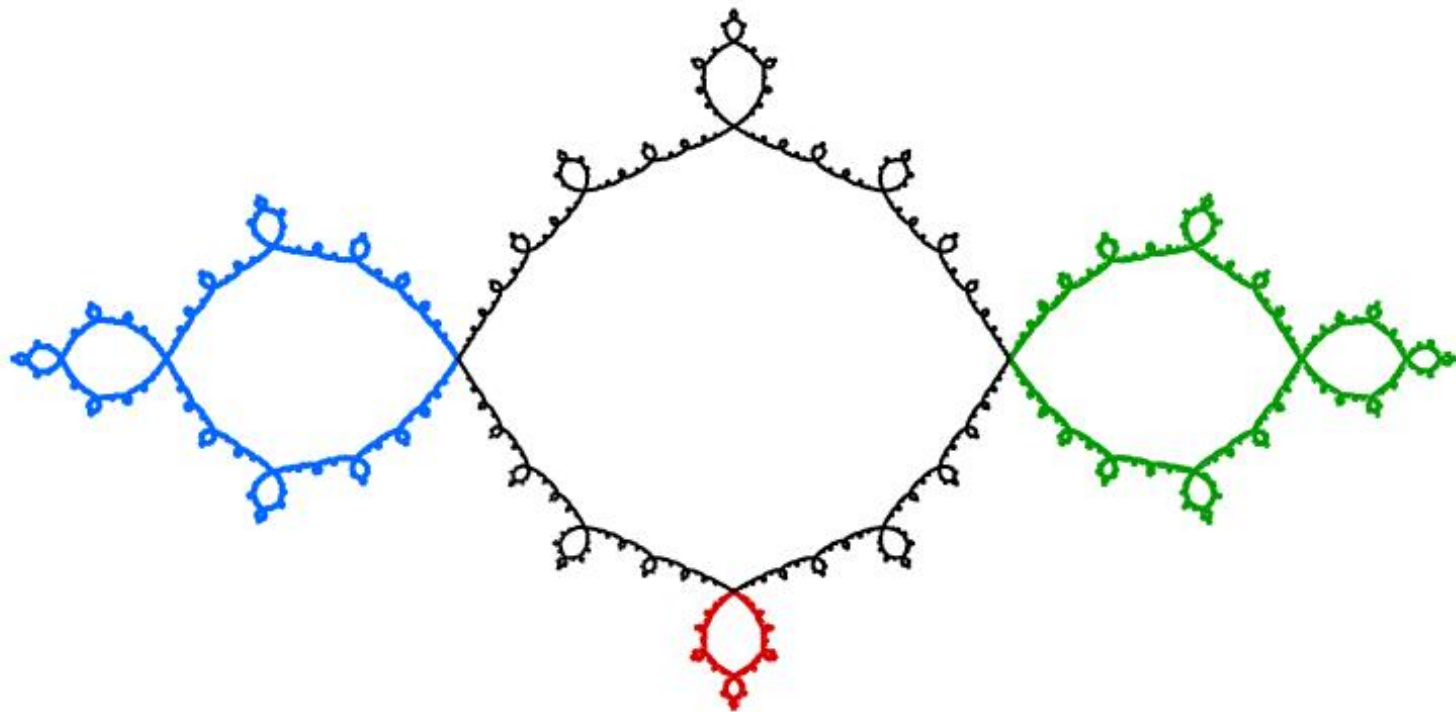
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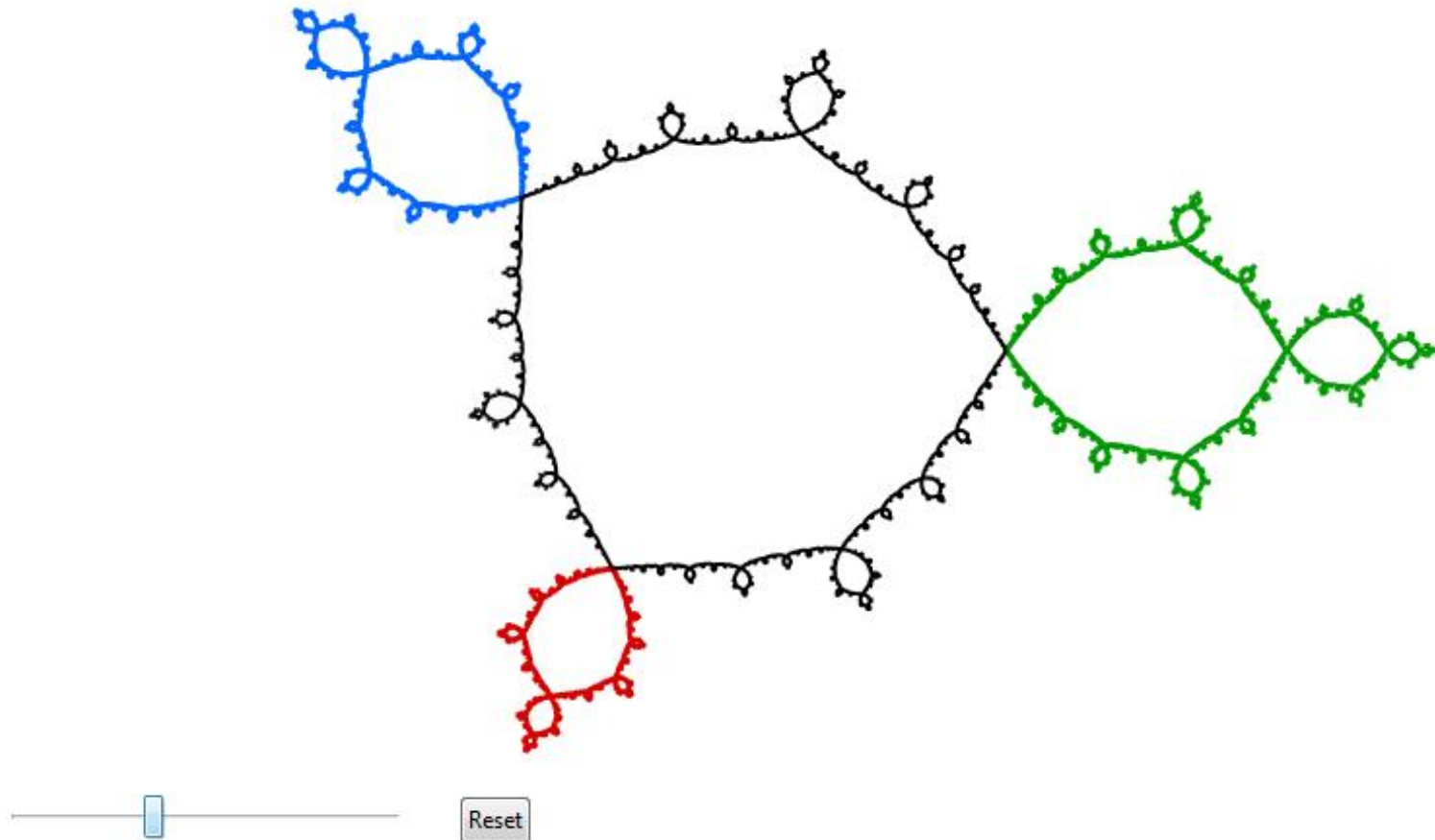
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Reset

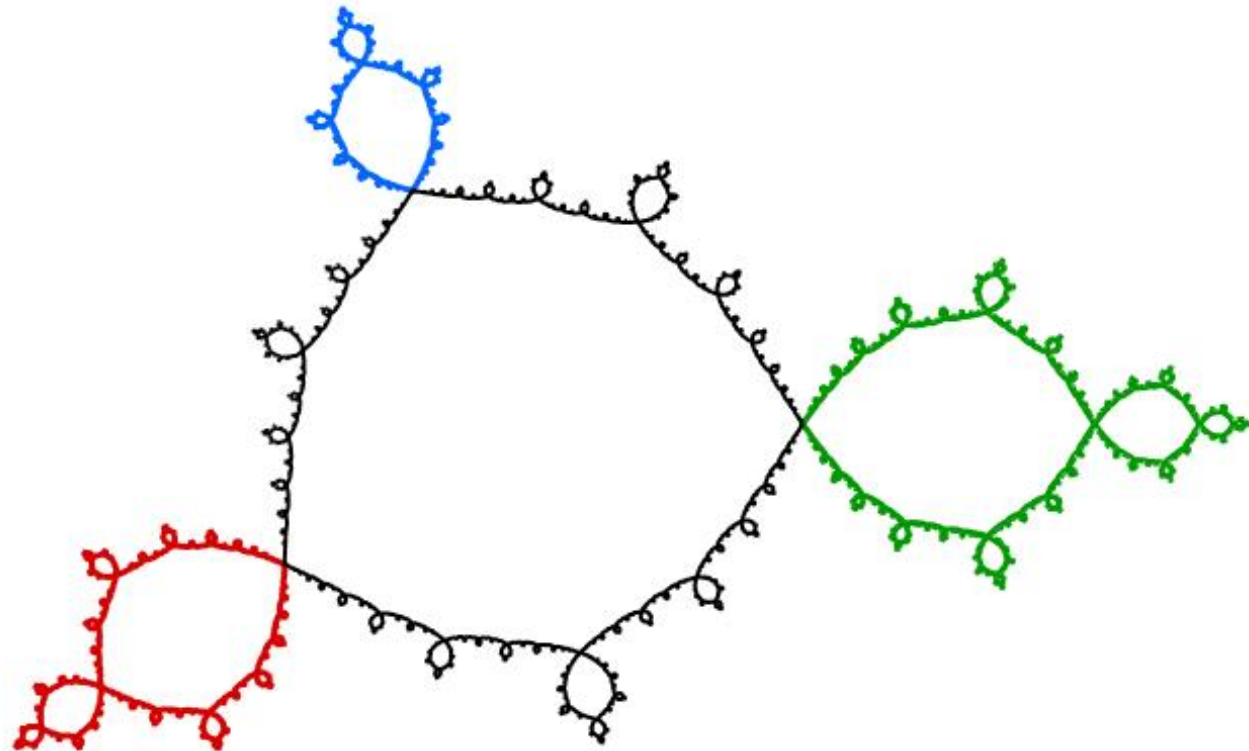
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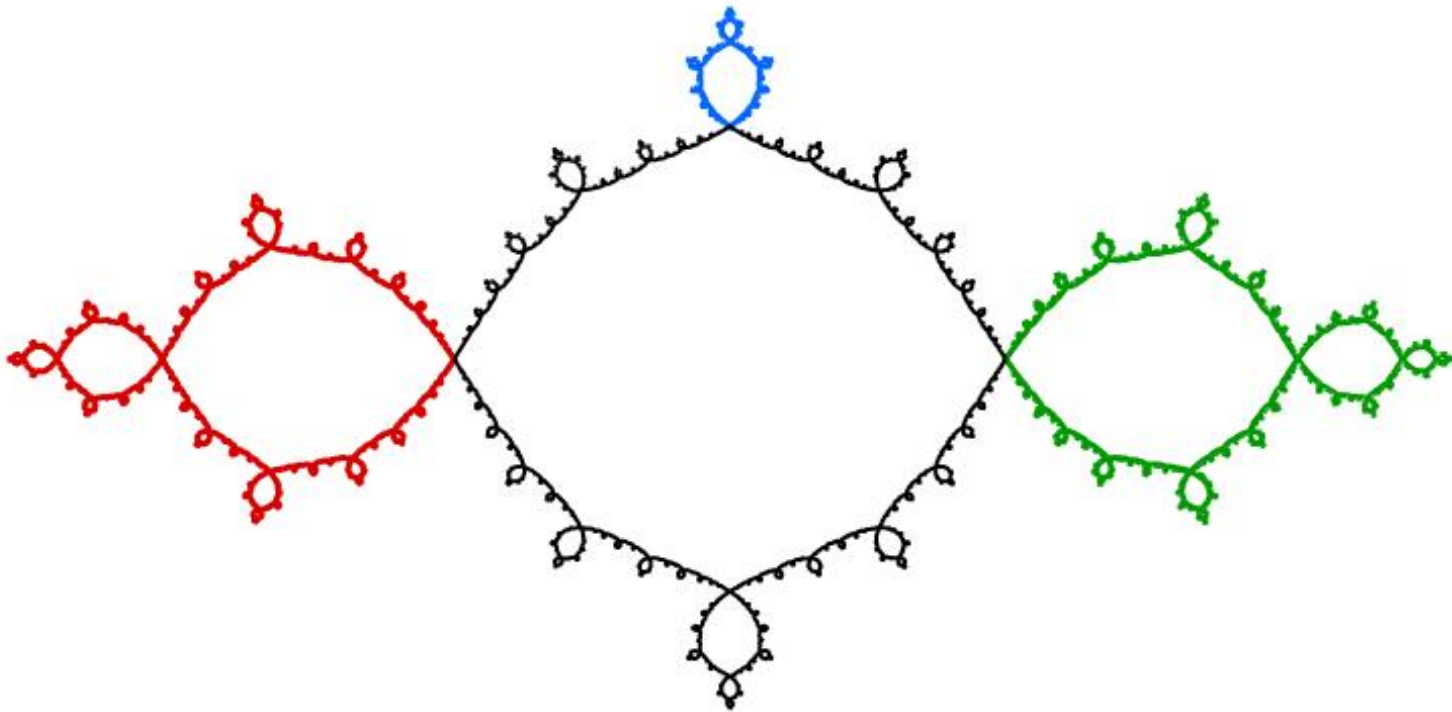
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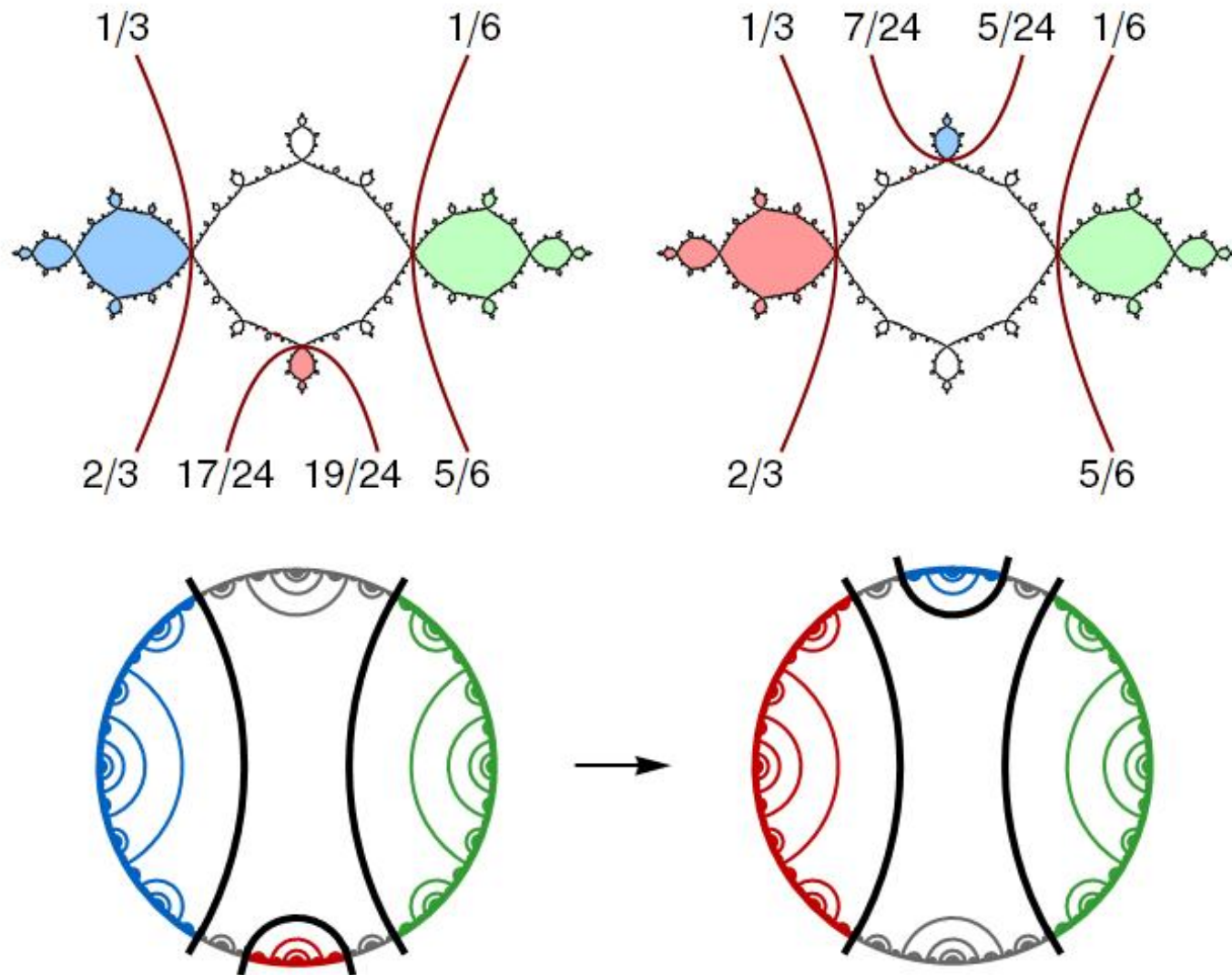
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Piecewise-Linear Homeomorphisms

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Piecewise-Linear Homeomorphisms

Theorem

T_B is isomorphic to the group of all PL homeomorphisms f of the circle for which:

1. f preserves the invariant lamination, and
2. Each breakpoint of f is a pinch point.

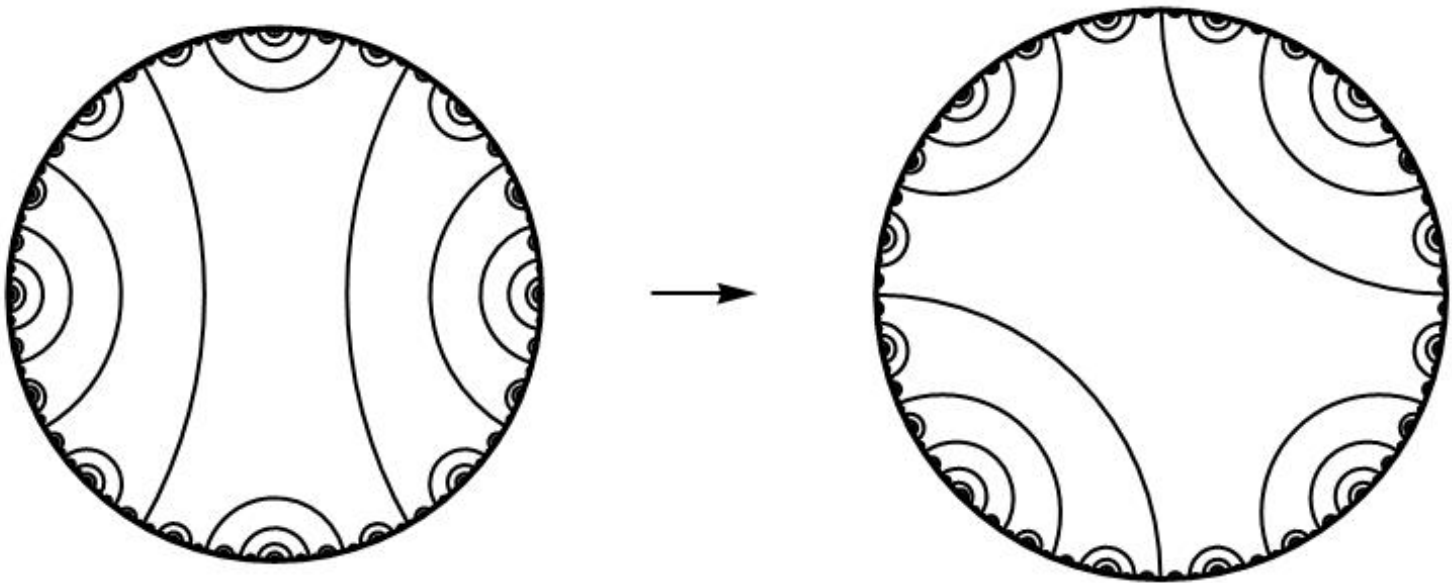
Observations

1. All slopes of elements of T_B are powers of two.
2. All breakpoints have denominators of the form $3 \cdot 2^n$.

Piecewise-Linear Homeomorphisms

Theorem

T_B is isomorphic to a subgroup of Thompson's group T .



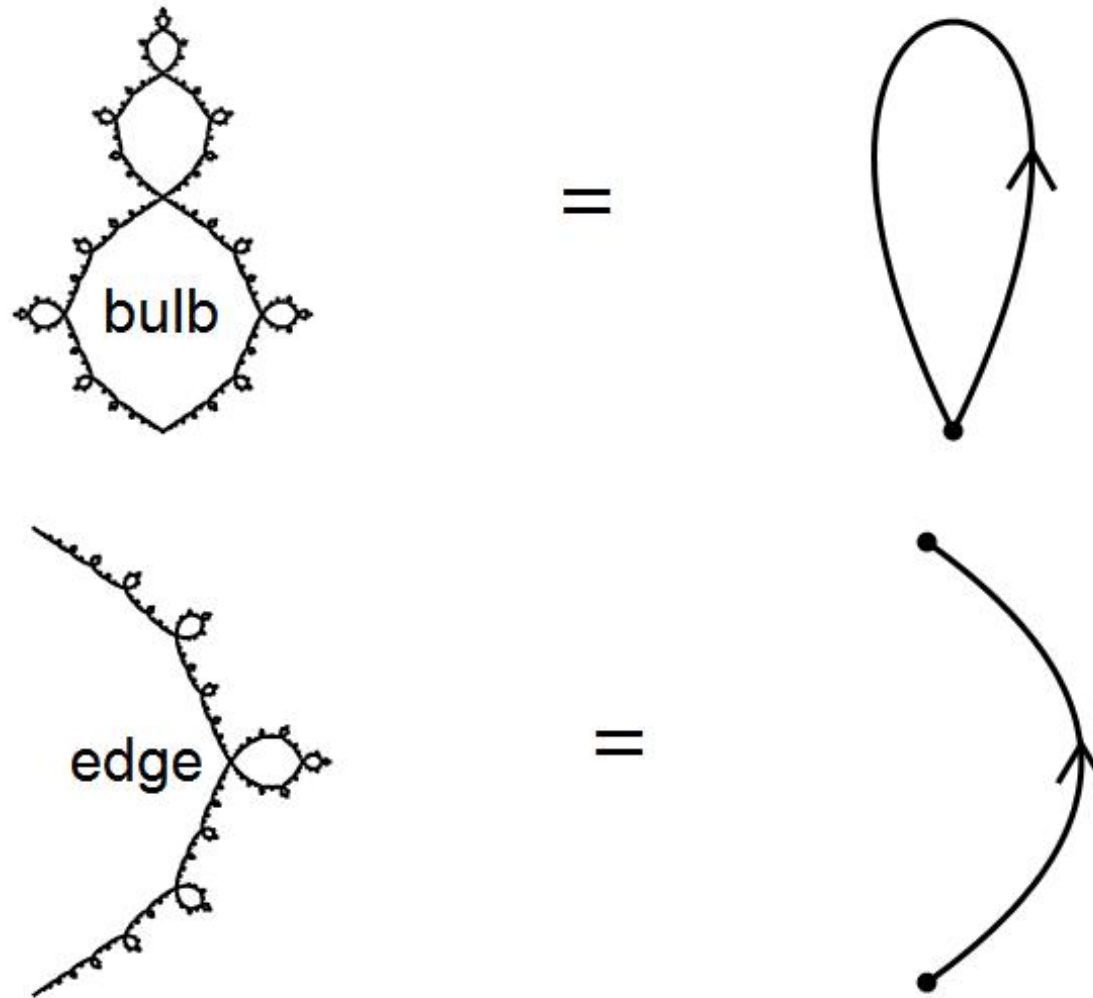
Question

What can be said in general about subgroups of T defined by laminations?

Edge Replacement Systems

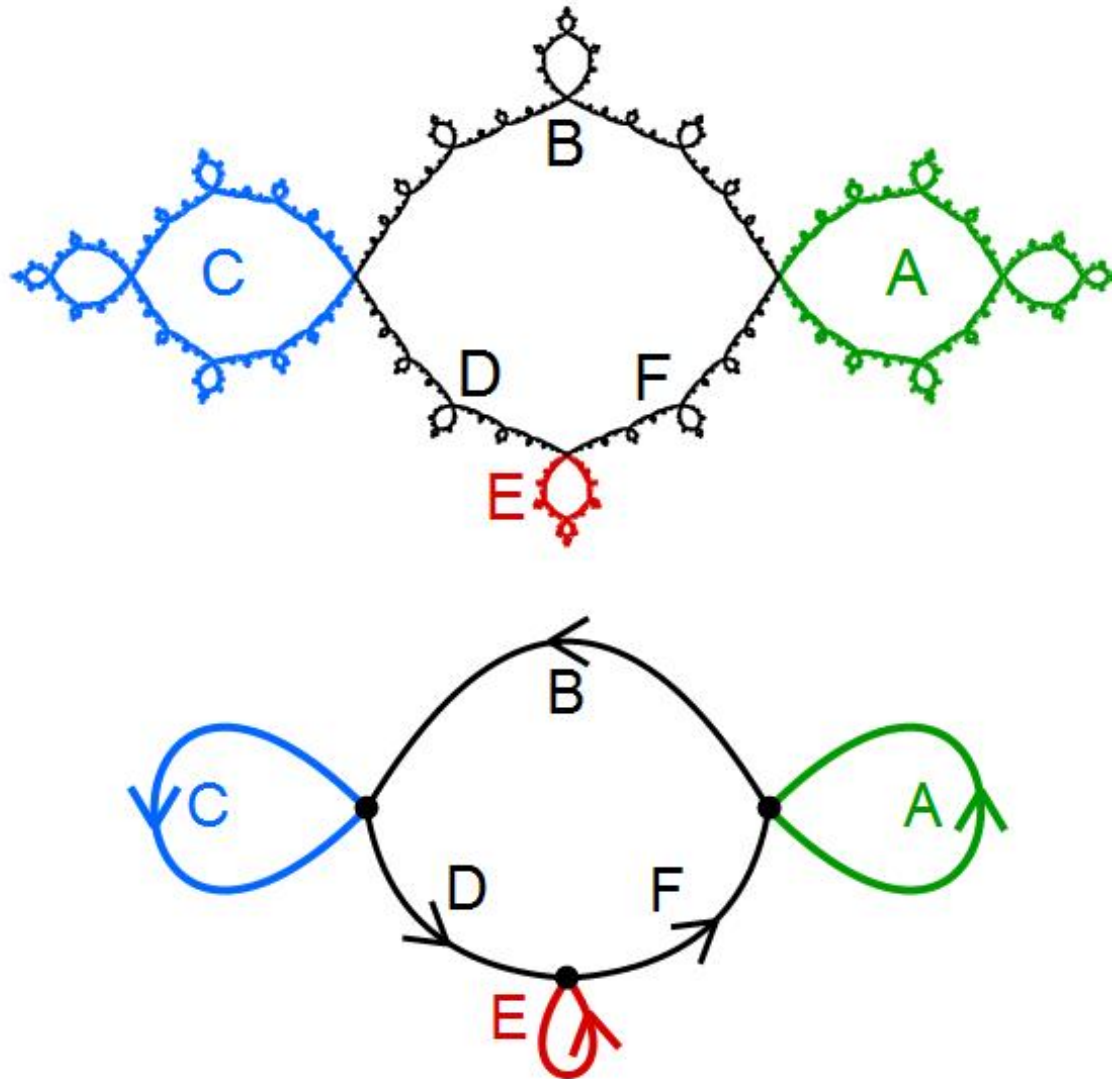
Edge Replacement

We can represent allowed subdivisions of the Basilica using finite graphs.



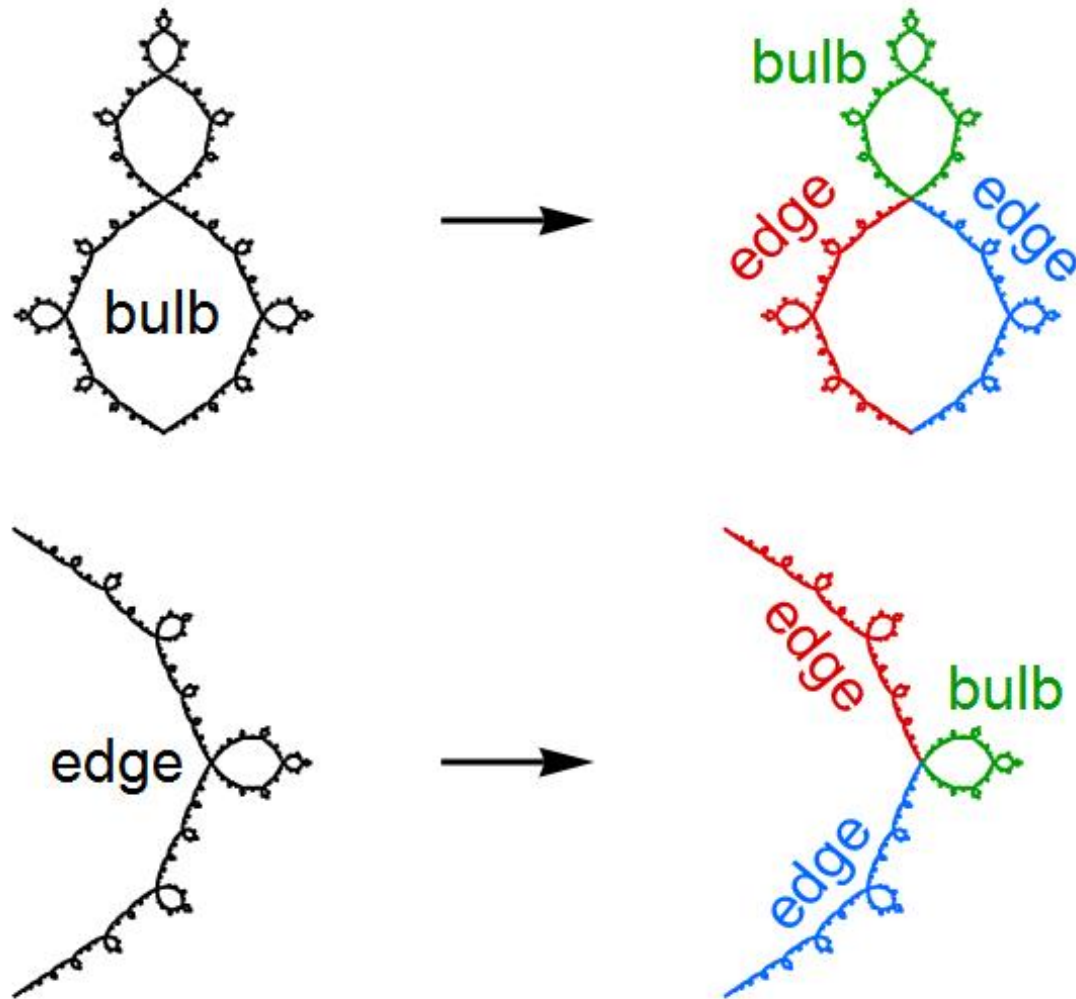
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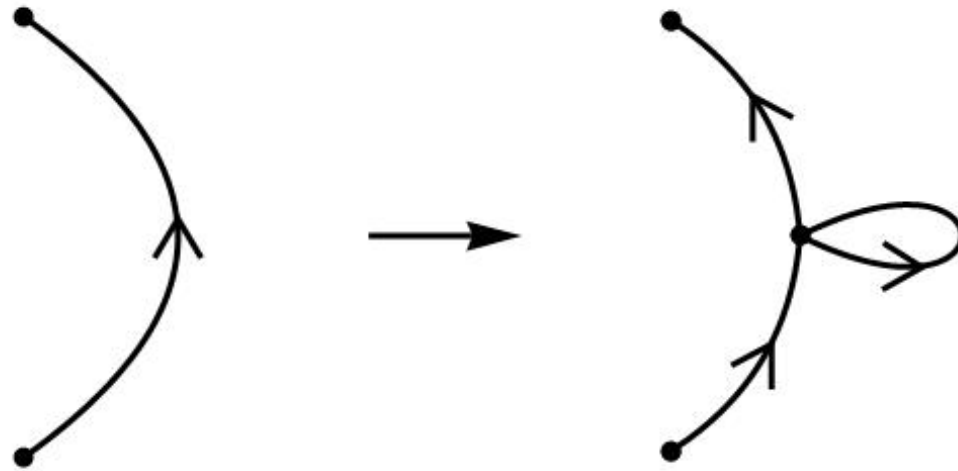
Edge Replacement

Instead of subdivision rules, we have an **edge replacement rule**.



Edge Replacement

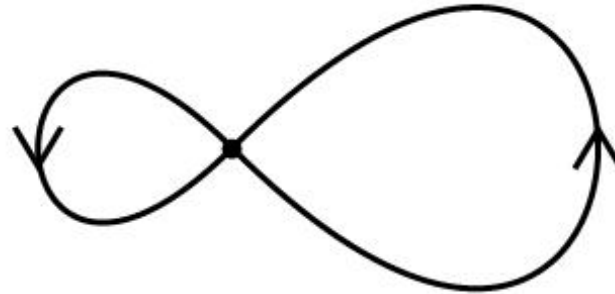
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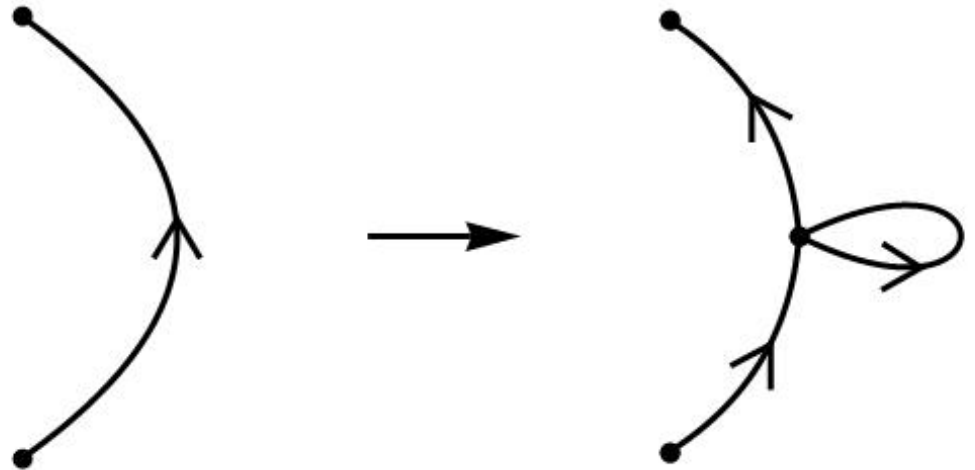
Edge Replacement

Together, these define an **edge replacement system**.

Base Graph:



Replacement Rule:

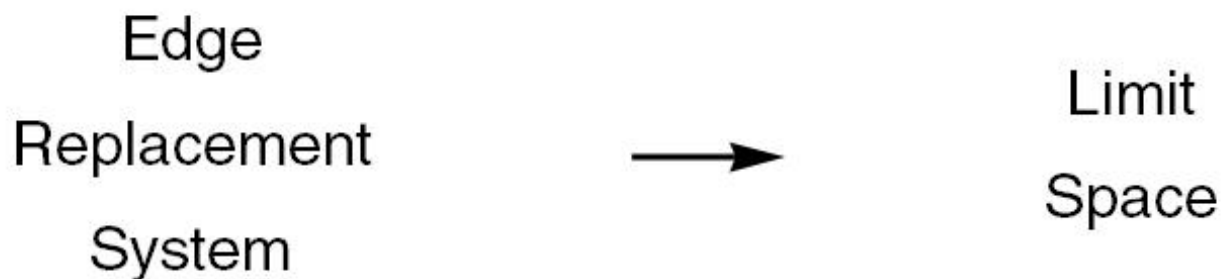


Edge Replacement Systems

In general, an **edge replacement** system consists of:

1. A finite set of **edge types**.
2. A **base graph** (directed graph, edges of the given types).
3. One **replacement rule** for each edge type.

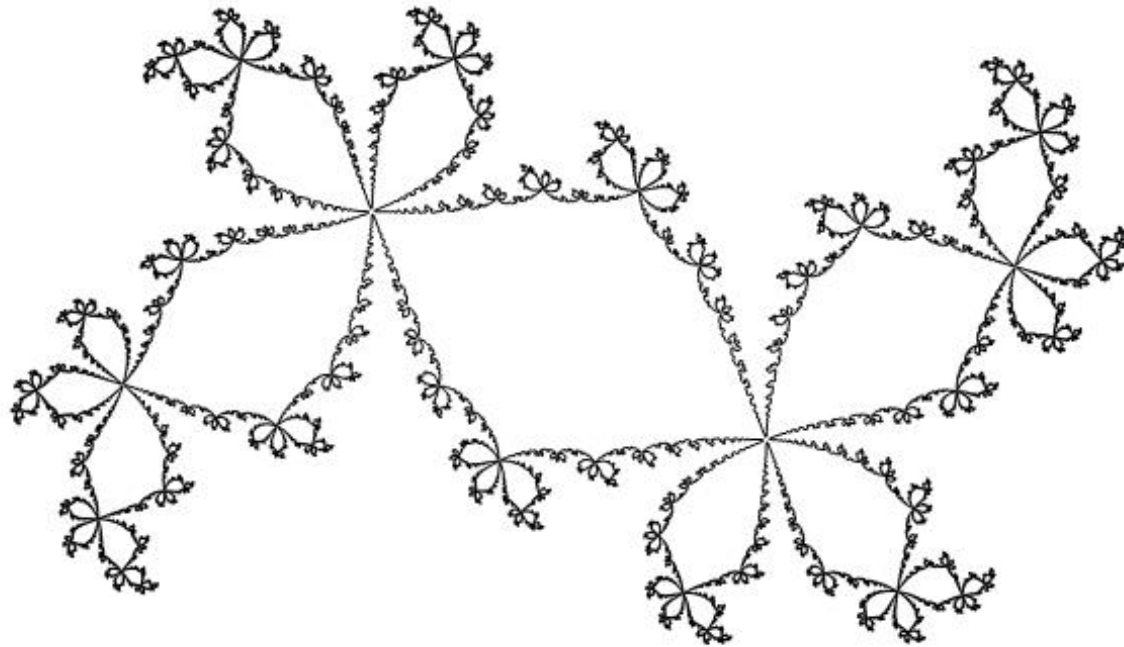
Under certain conditions:



Each edge corresponds to a portion of the limit space.

General Plan

Given: A Julia set (or other fractal).



Find: An edge replacement system that defines it.

Once we have an edge replacement system, it is easy to construct a Thompson-like group that acts on the fractal.

Diagram Groups

Actually, these groups *almost* fit into a well-known scheme.

Victor Guba and Mark Sapir defined **diagram groups**:

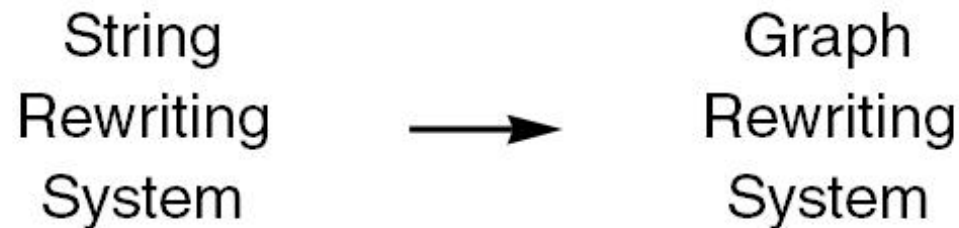
- Generalization of Thompson's groups.
- Defined using a **string rewriting system**.

Theorem (Farley)

Every diagram group over a finite string rewriting system acts properly by isometries on a CAT(0) cubical complex.

CAT(0) Cubical Complexes

An edge replacement system is a type of **graph rewriting system**.



We have defined a class of groups called **graph diagram groups**, which includes all diagram groups as well as all Julia set groups.

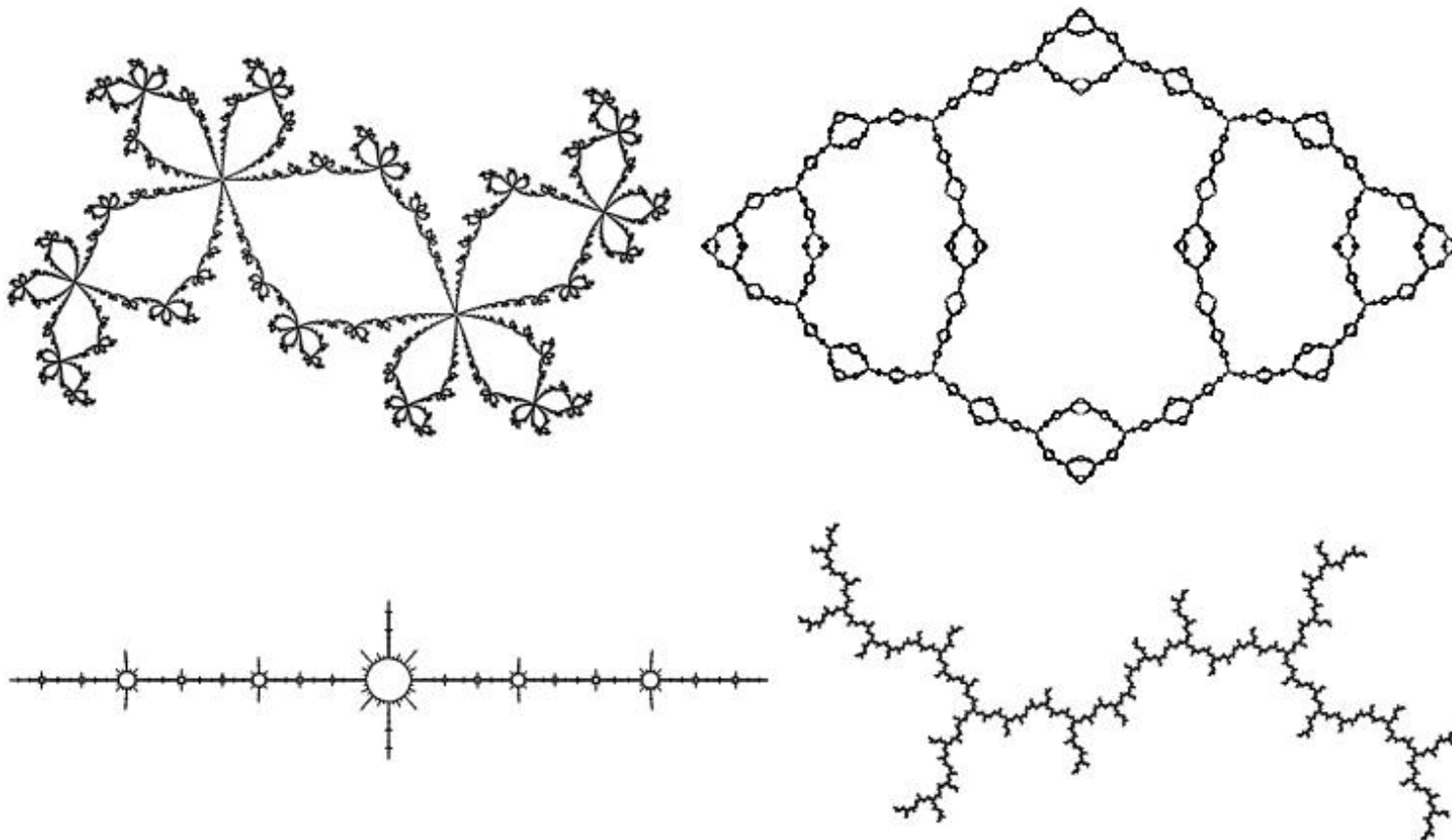
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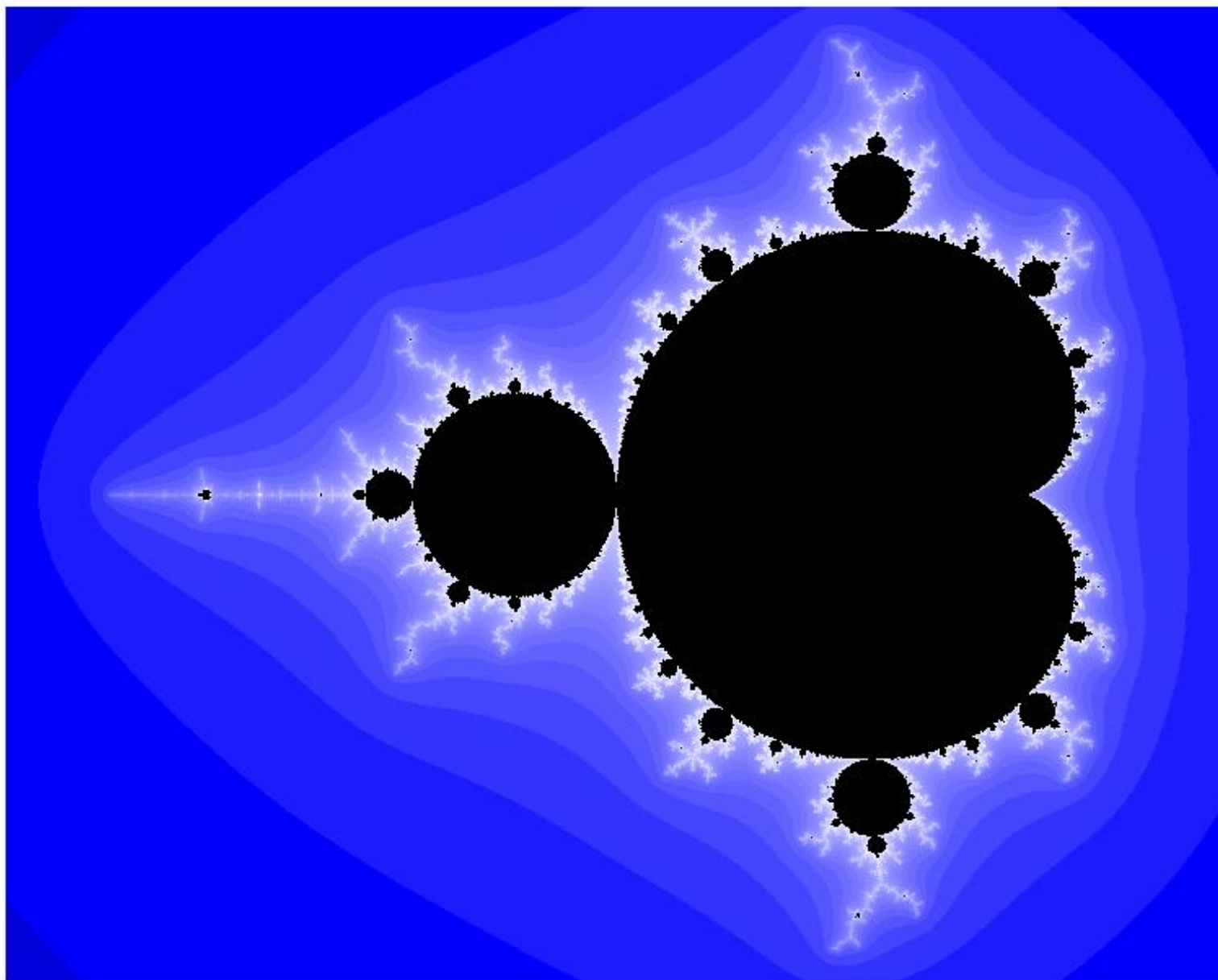
More Julia Sets

More Julia Sets

Every rational map on the Riemann sphere has an associated Julia set.

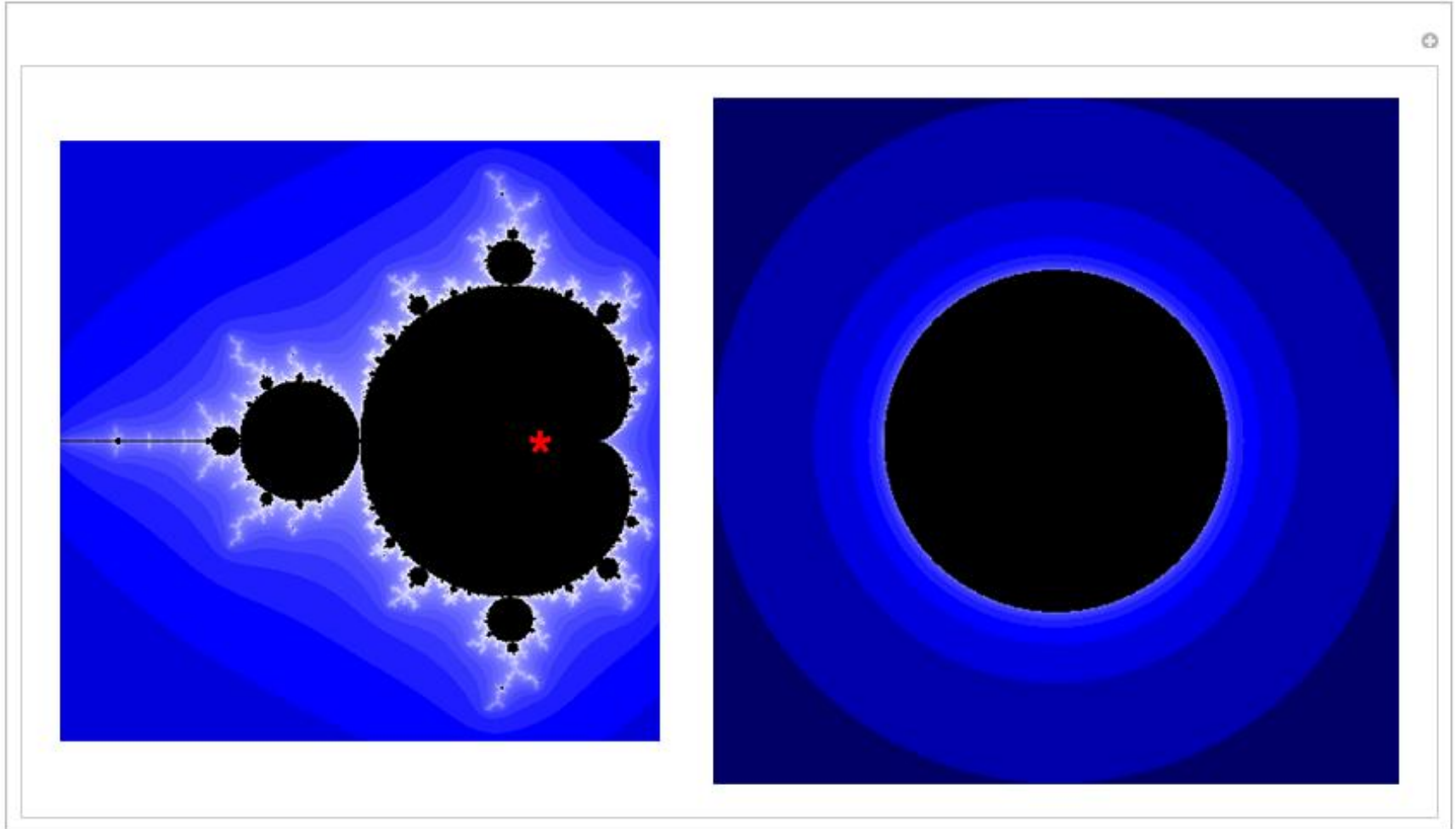


Julia sets for quadratic polynomials $z \mapsto z^2 + c$ are parameterized by the ***Mandelbrot set***.



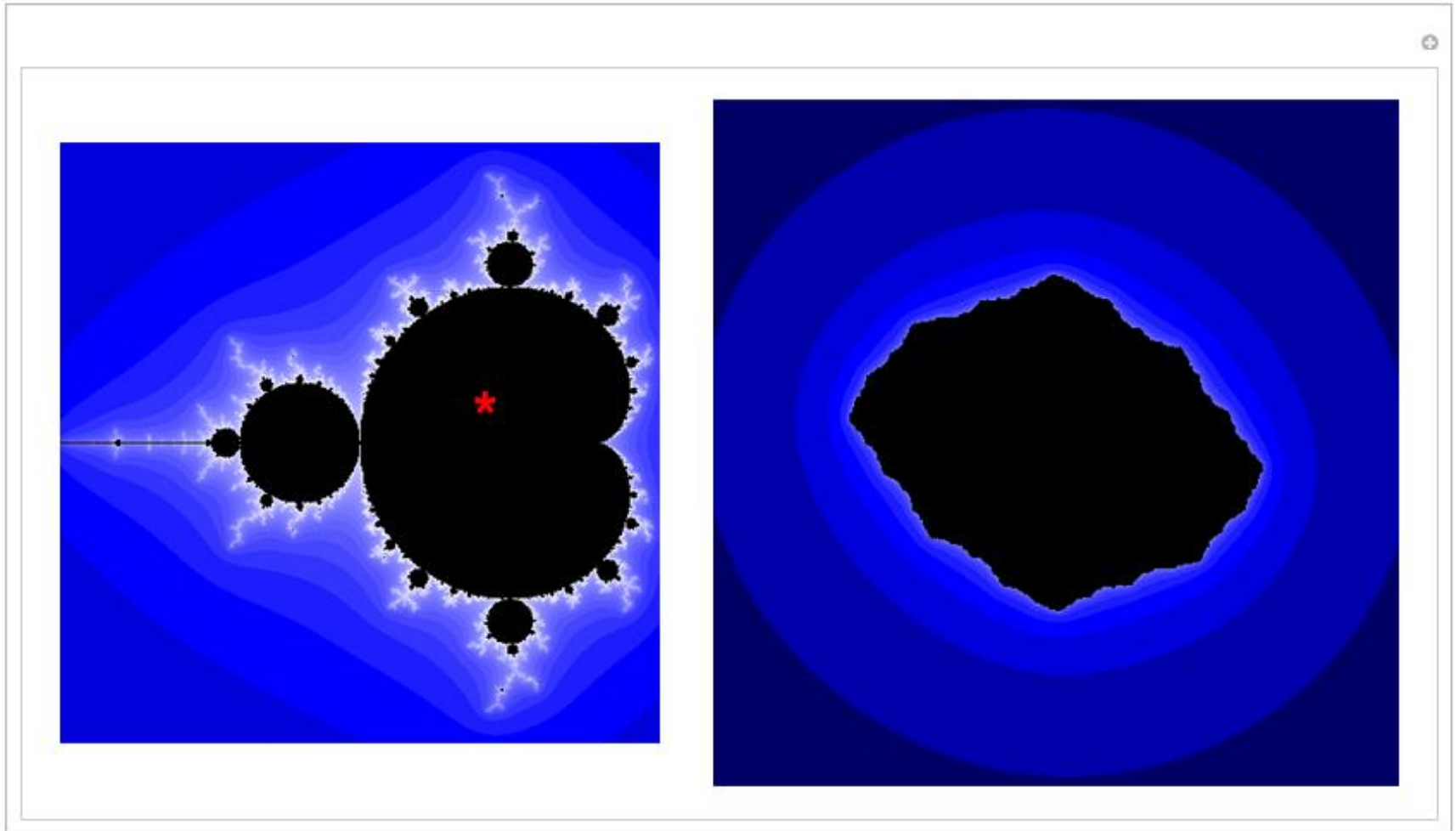
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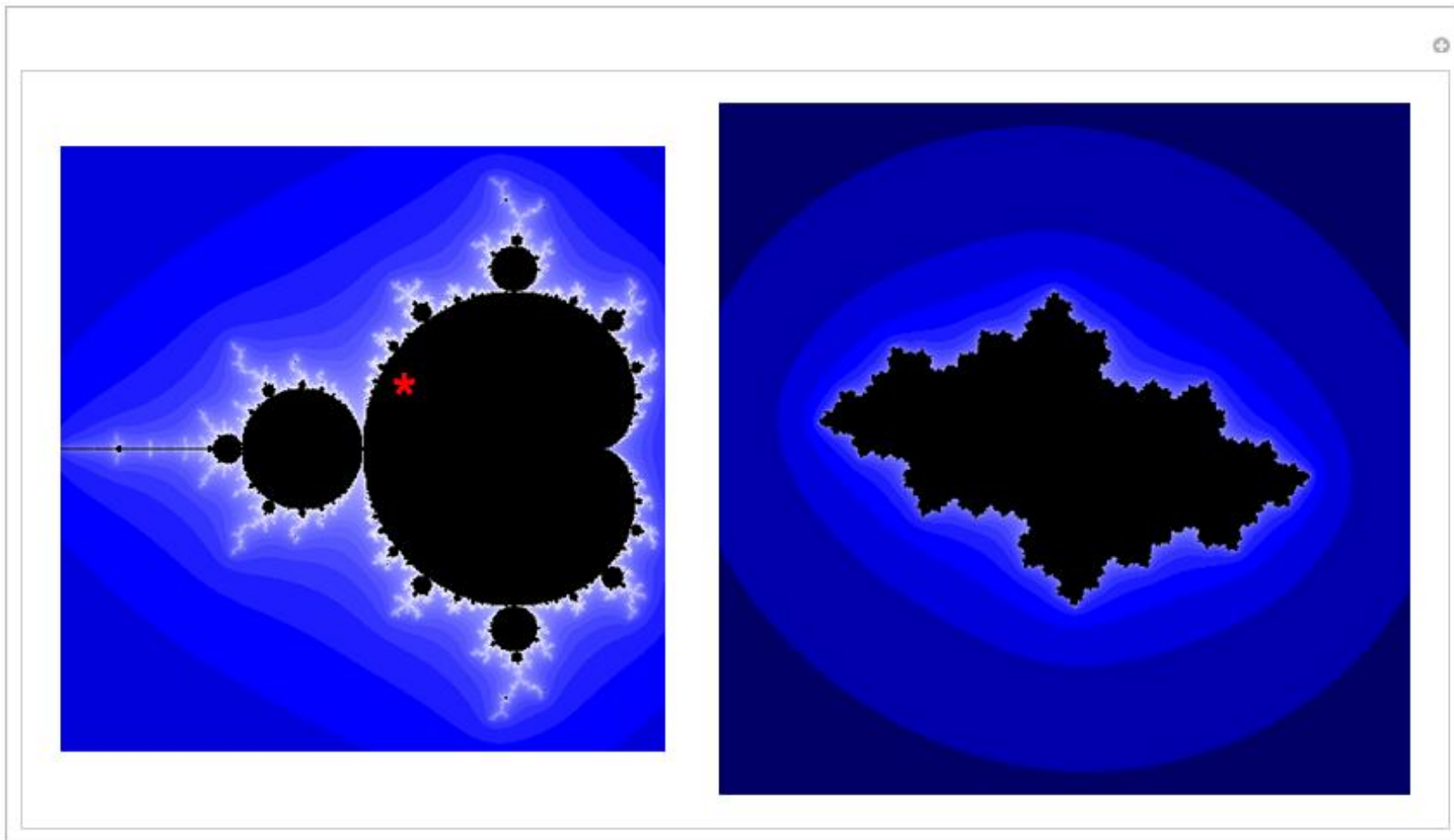
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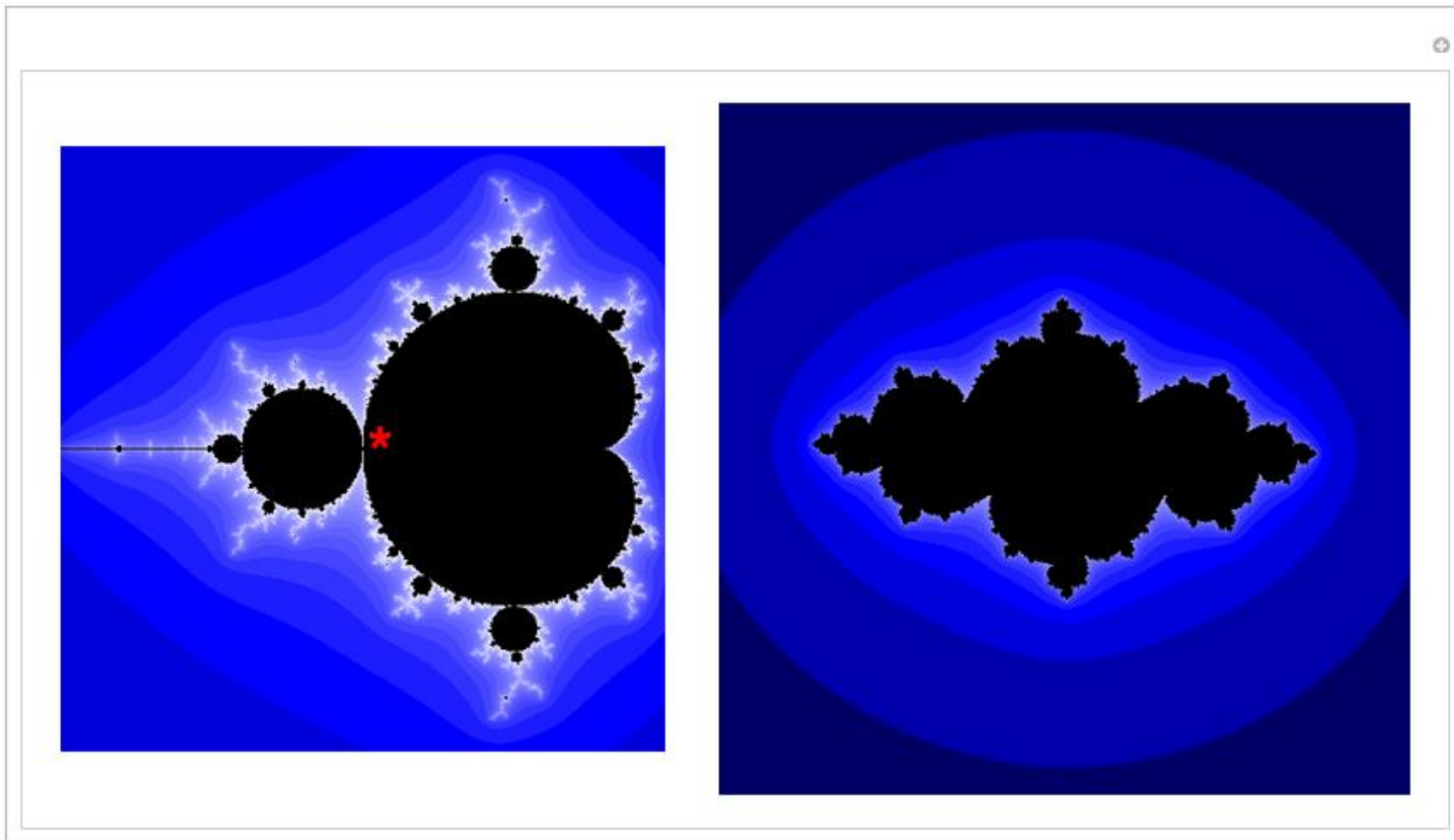
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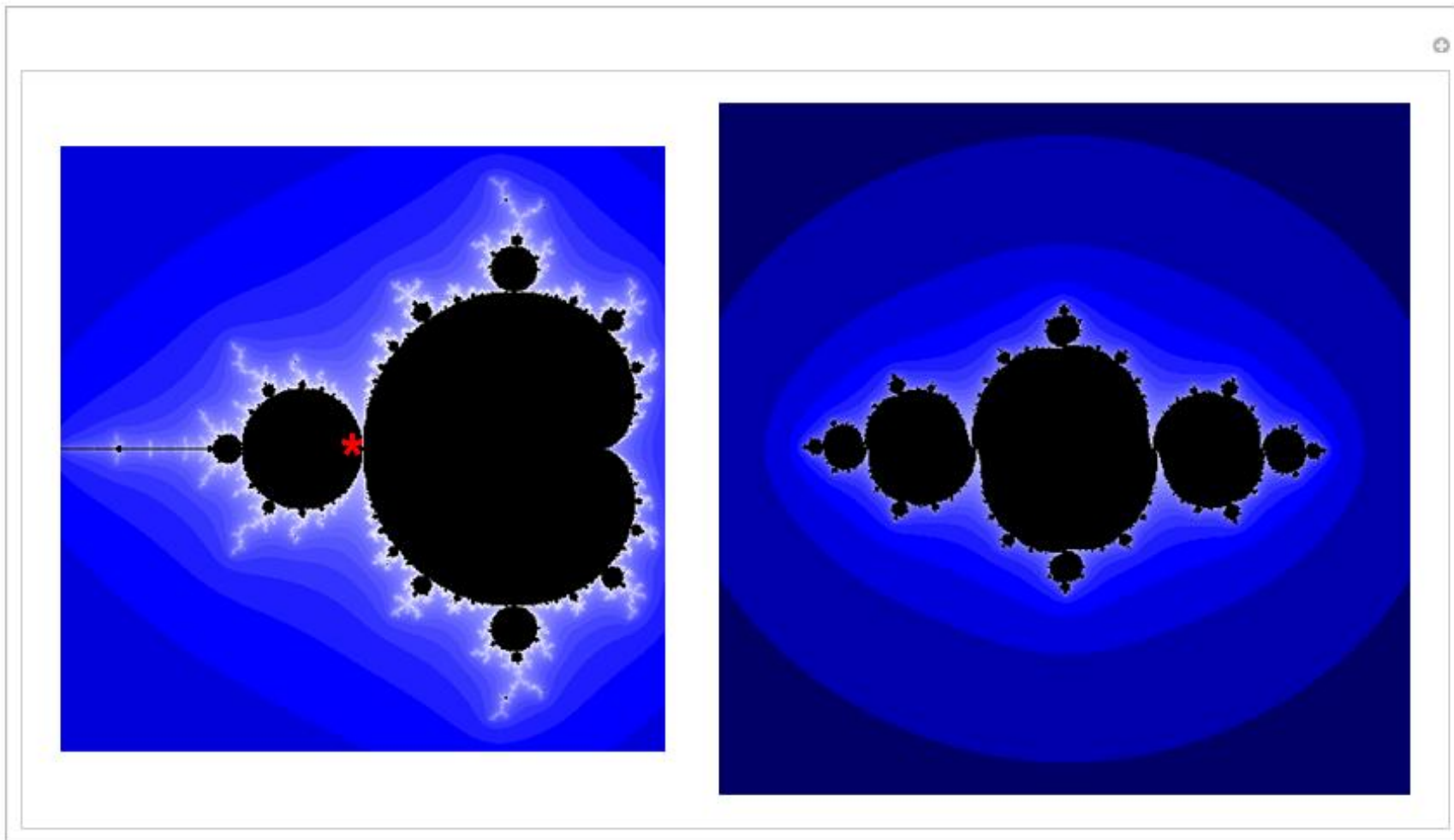
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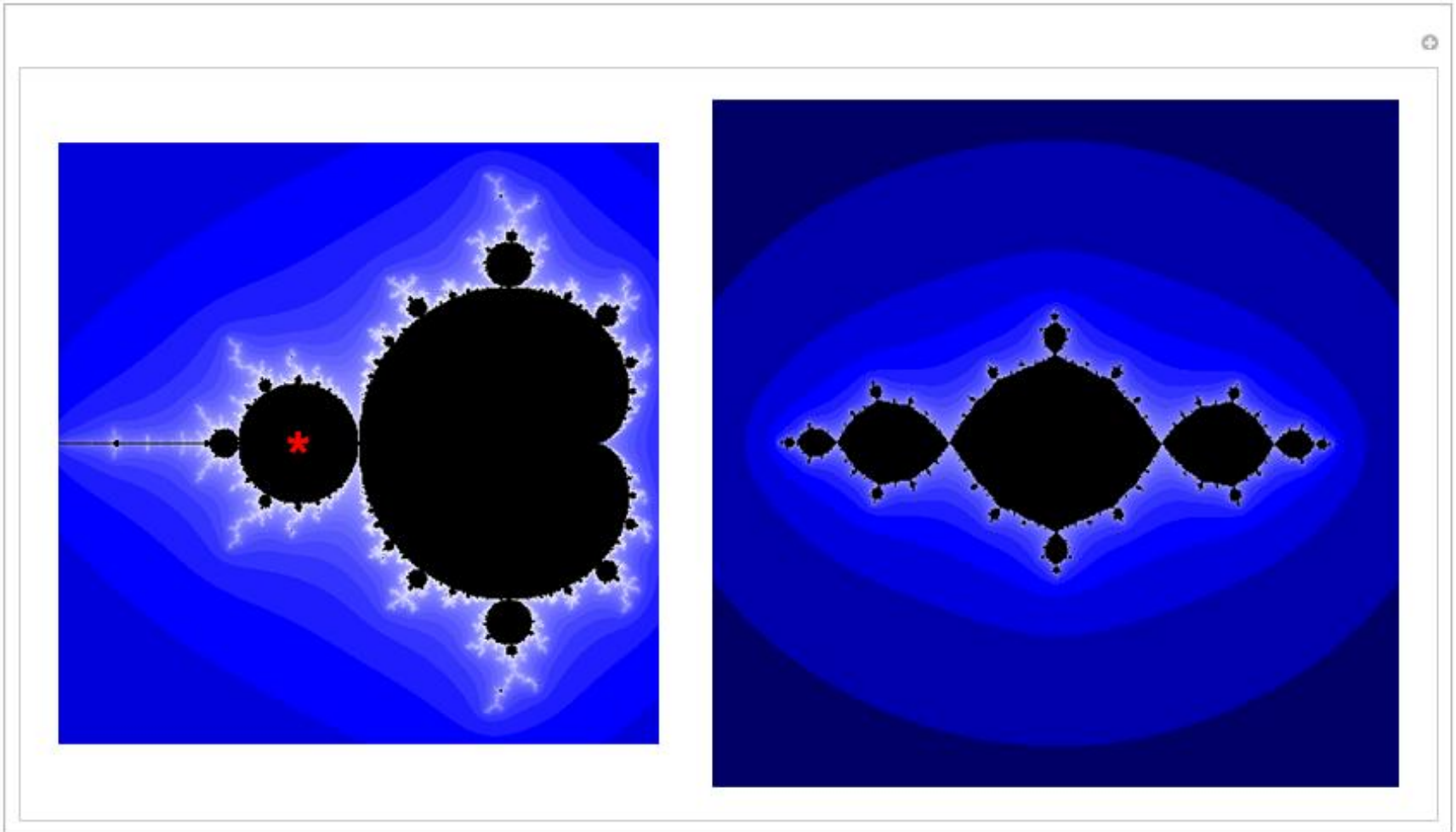
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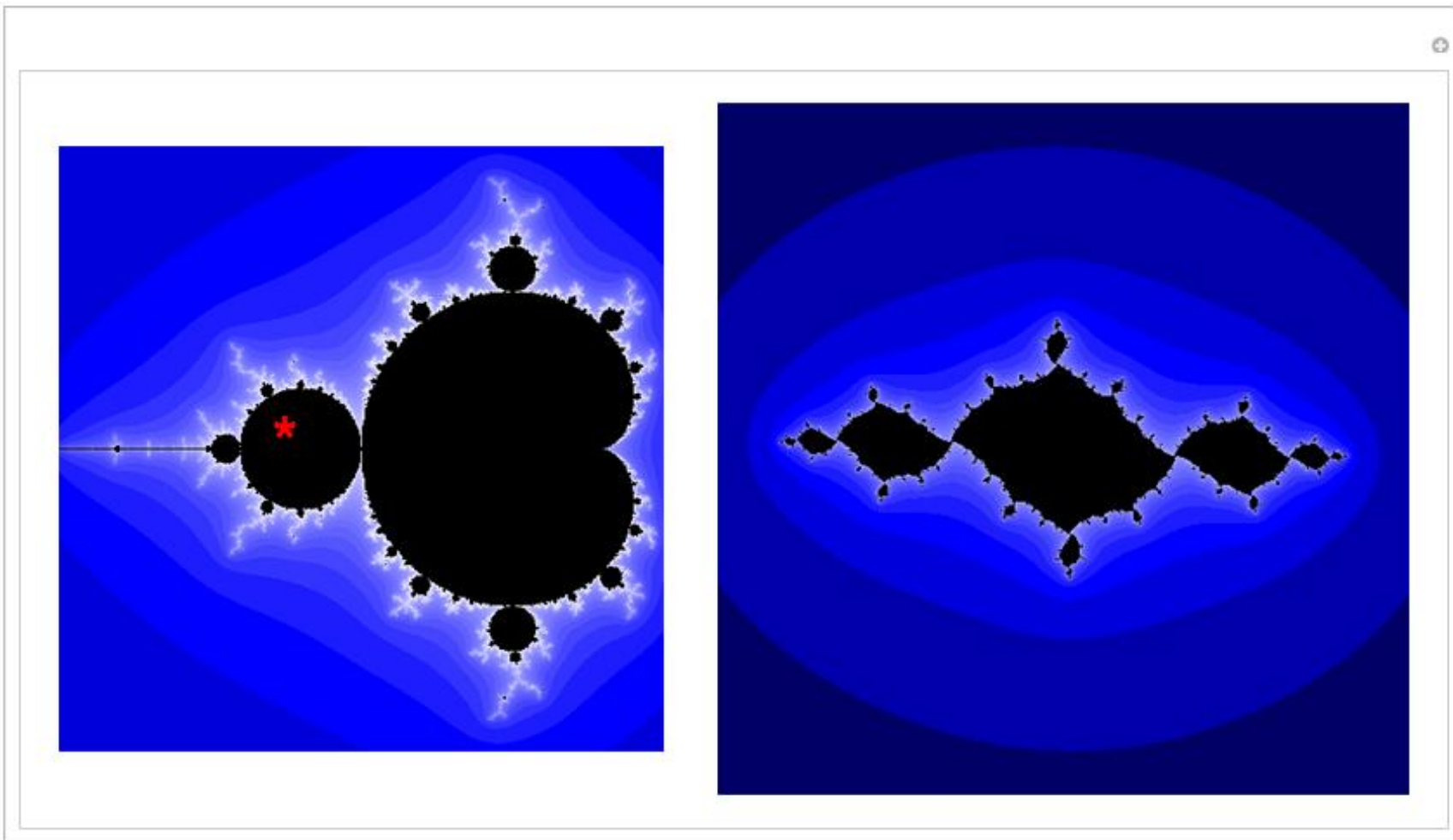
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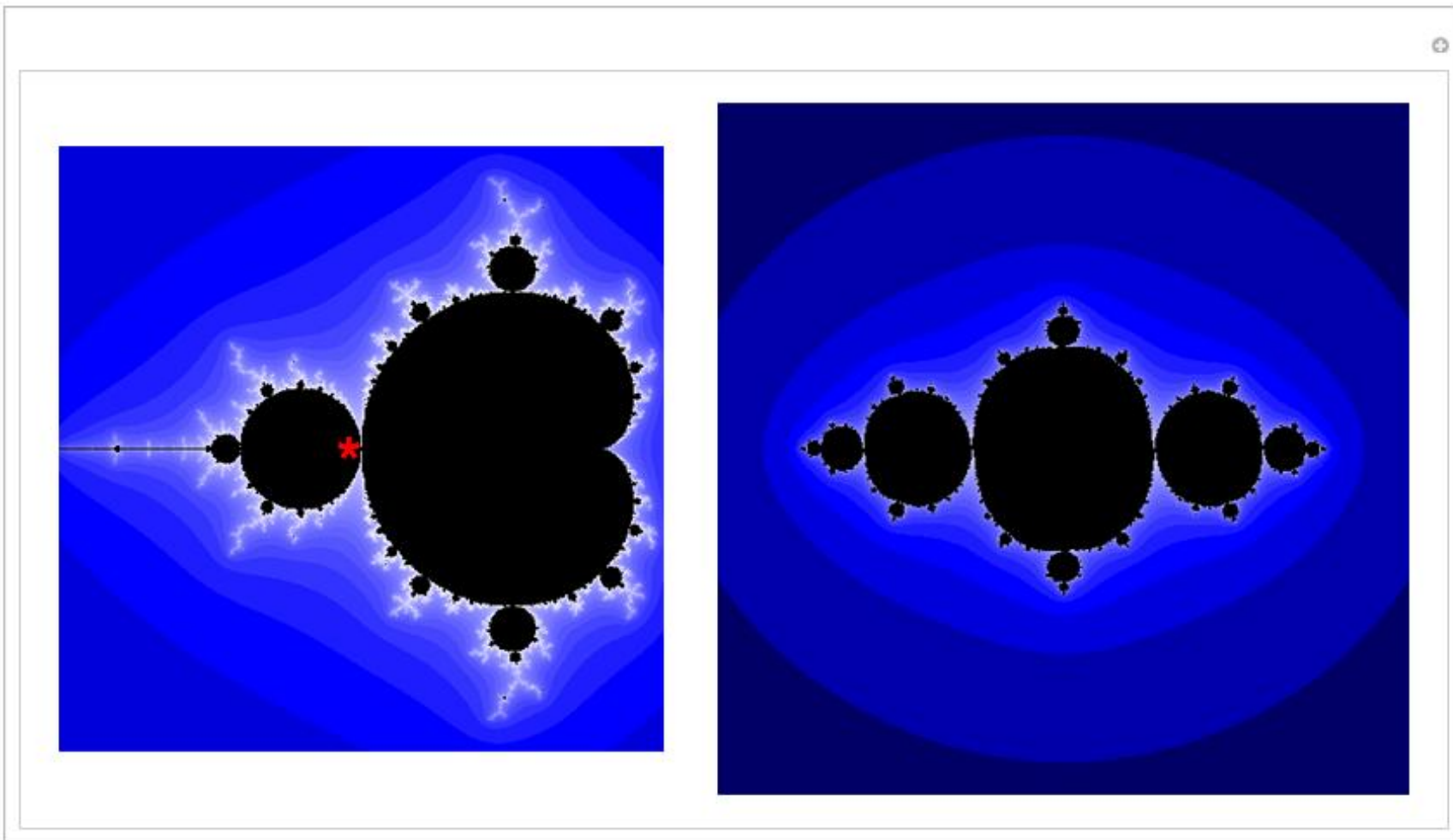
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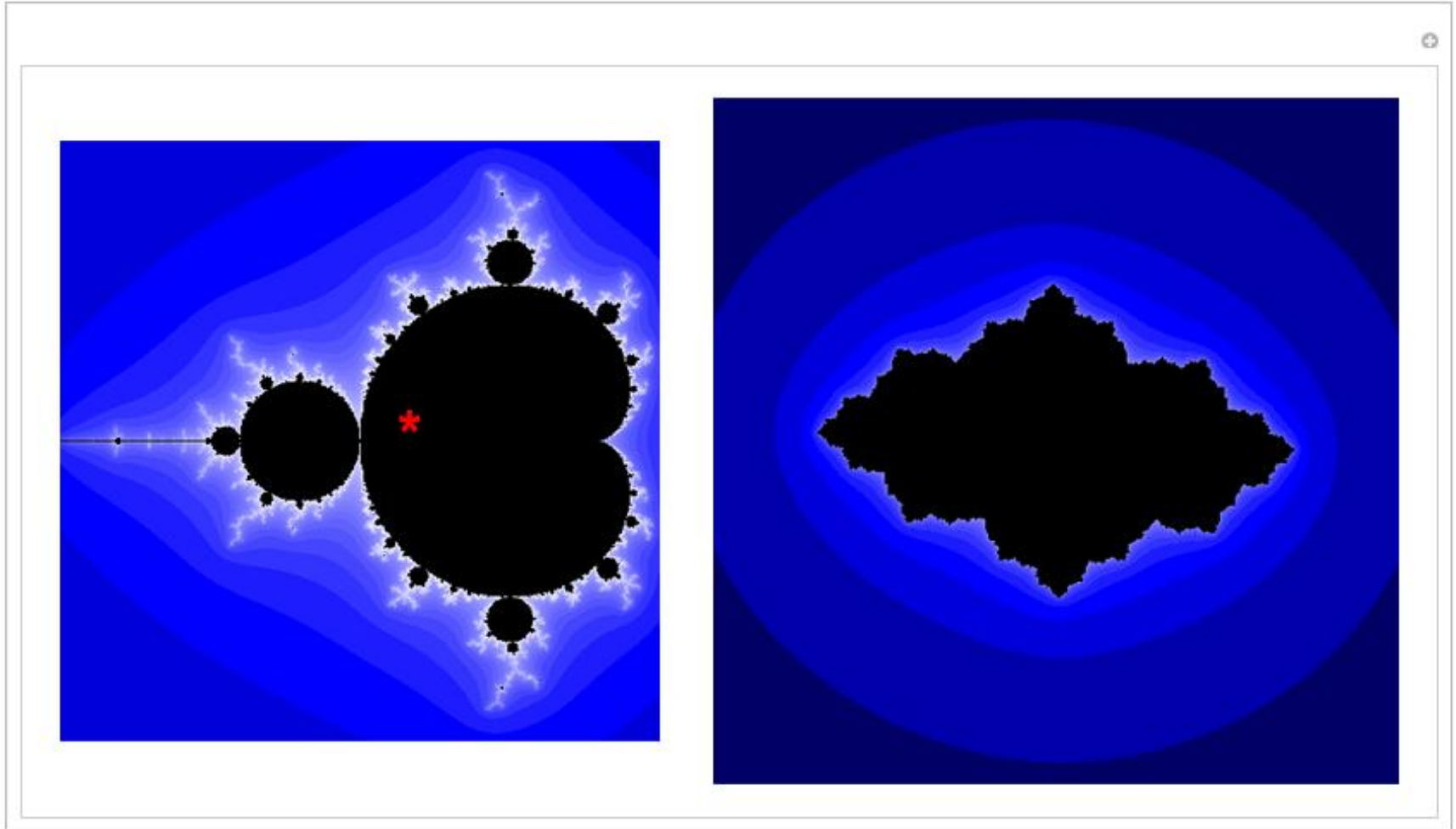
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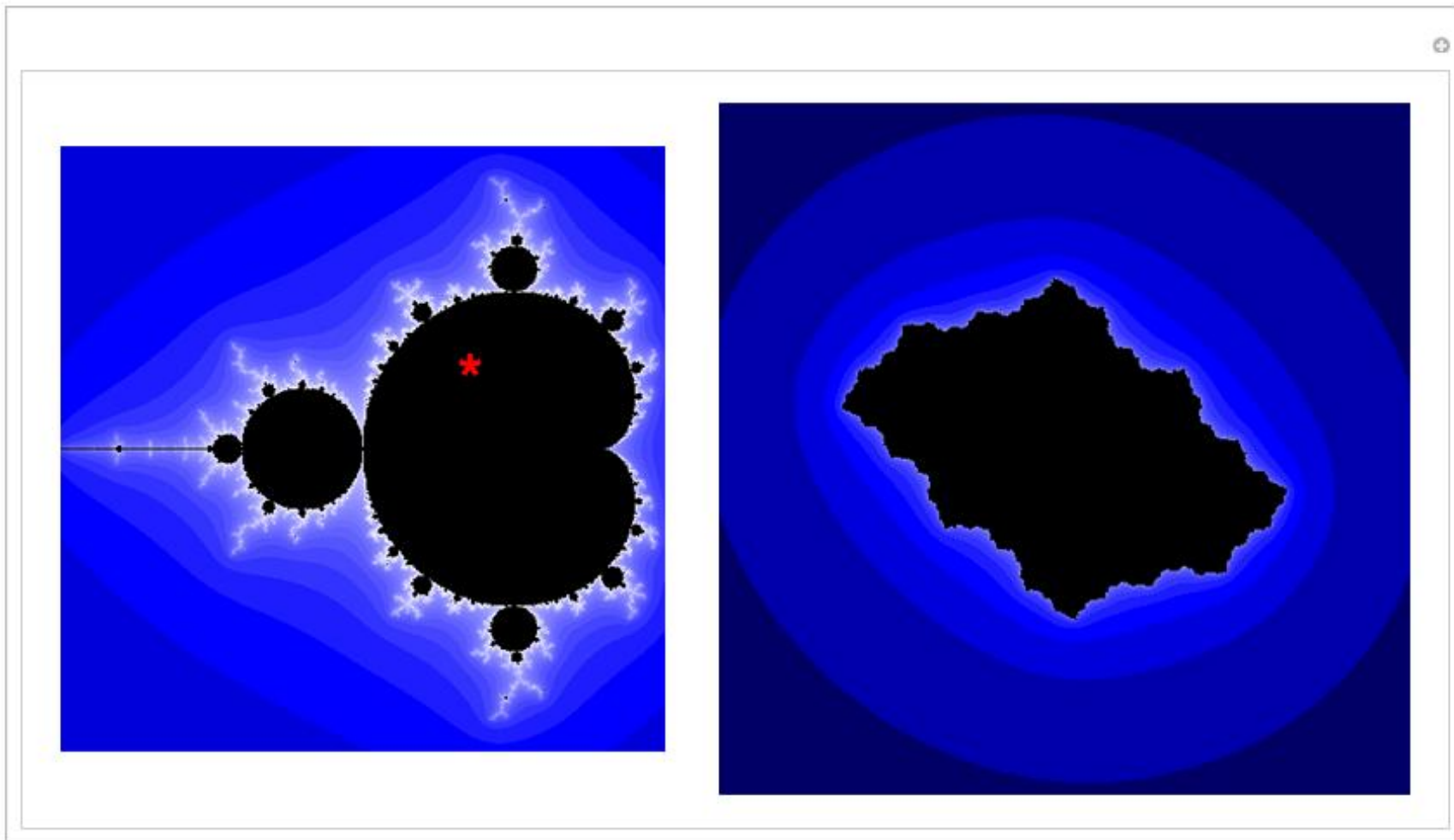
More Julia Sets

Julia sets for quadratic polynomials $z \mapsto z^2 + c$ are parameterized by the *Mandelbrot set*.



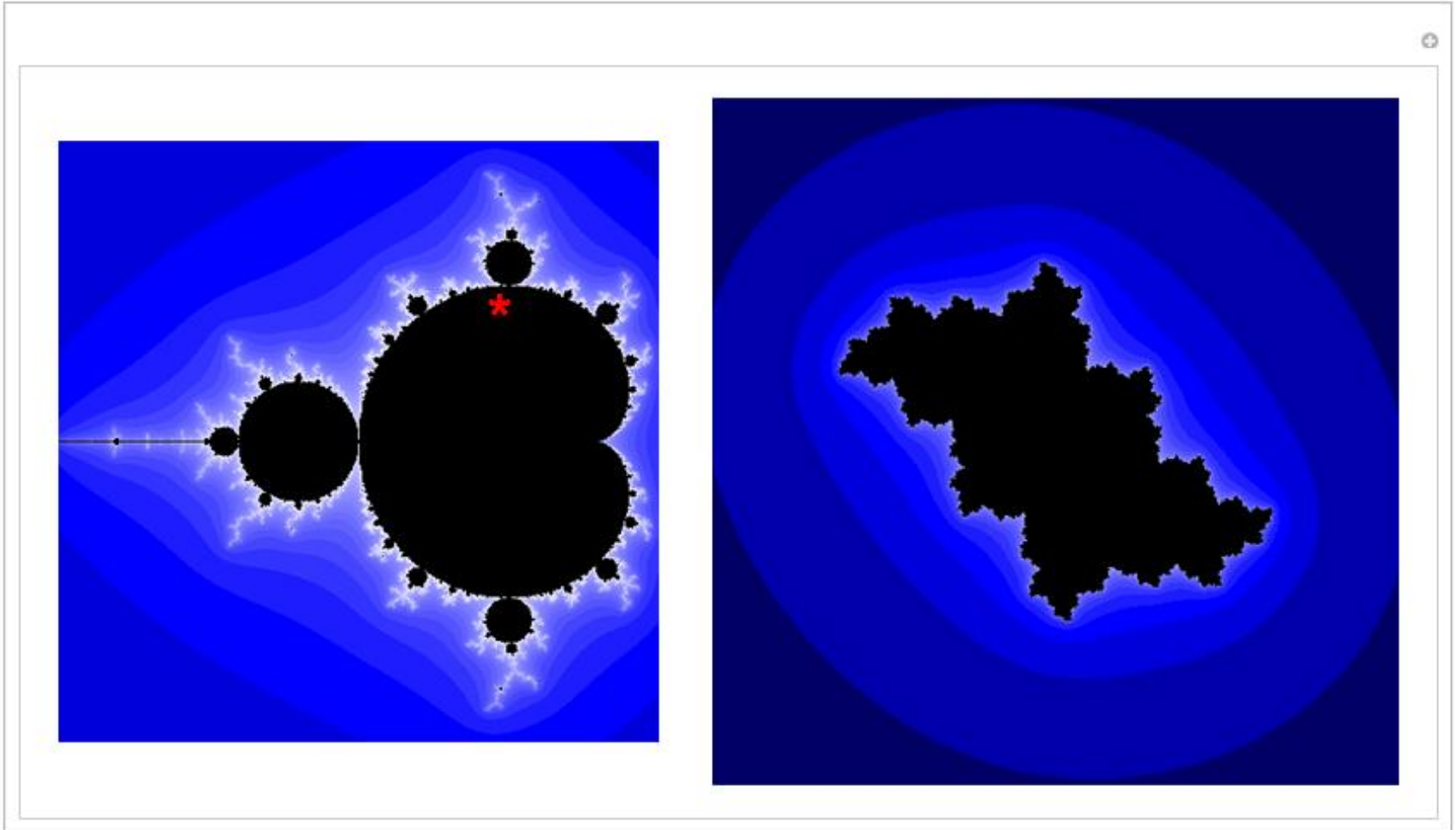
More Julia Sets

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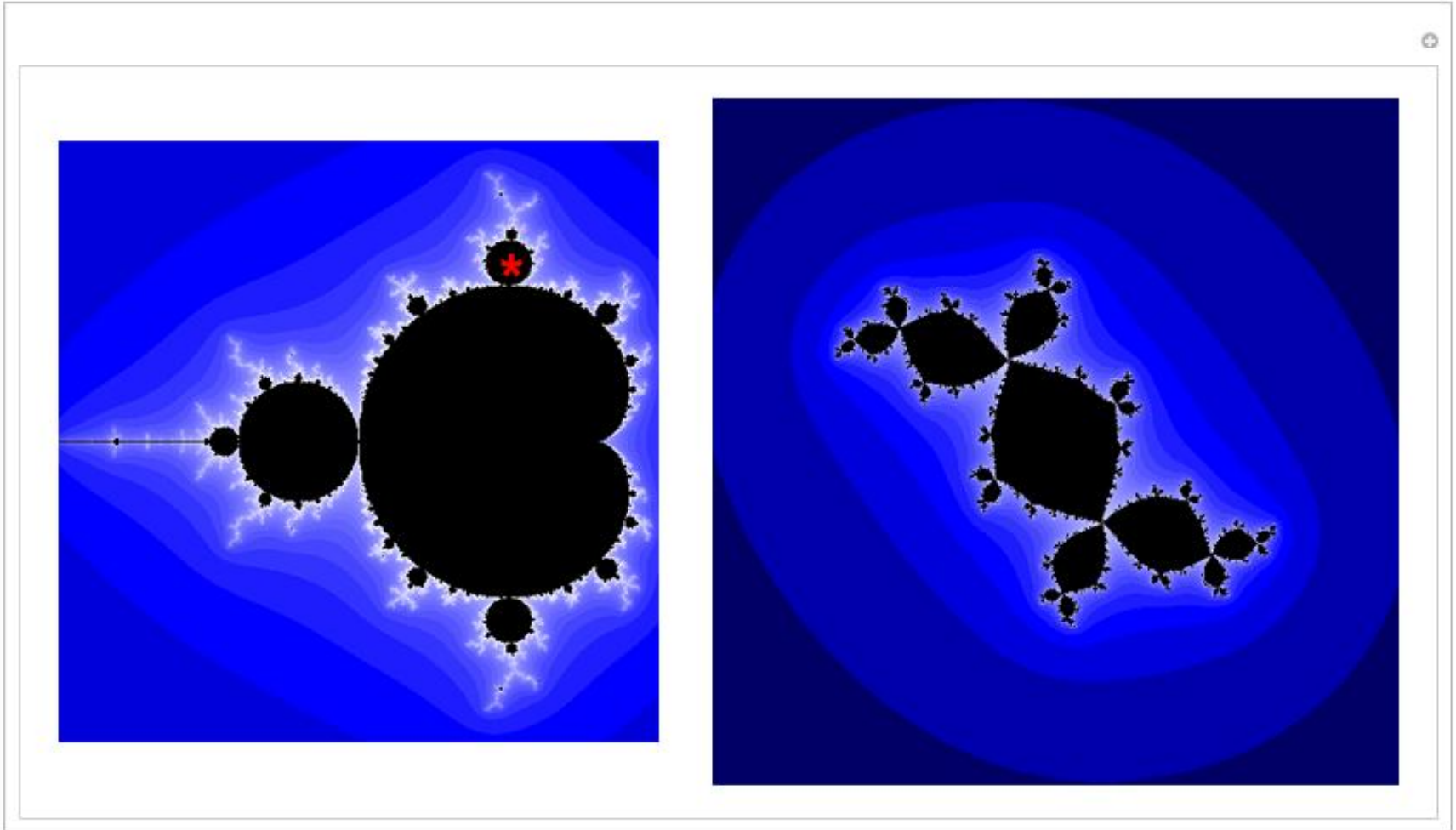
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More Julia Sets

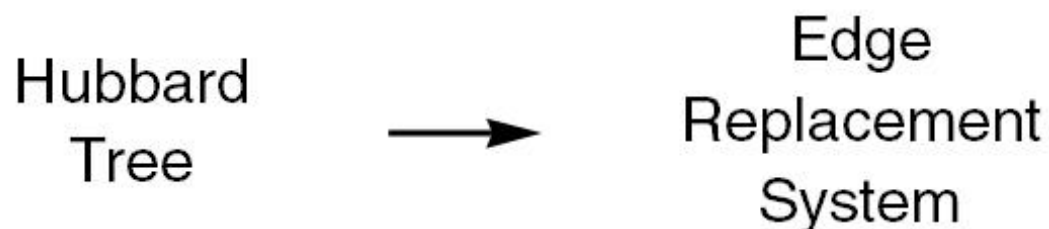
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More Julia Sets

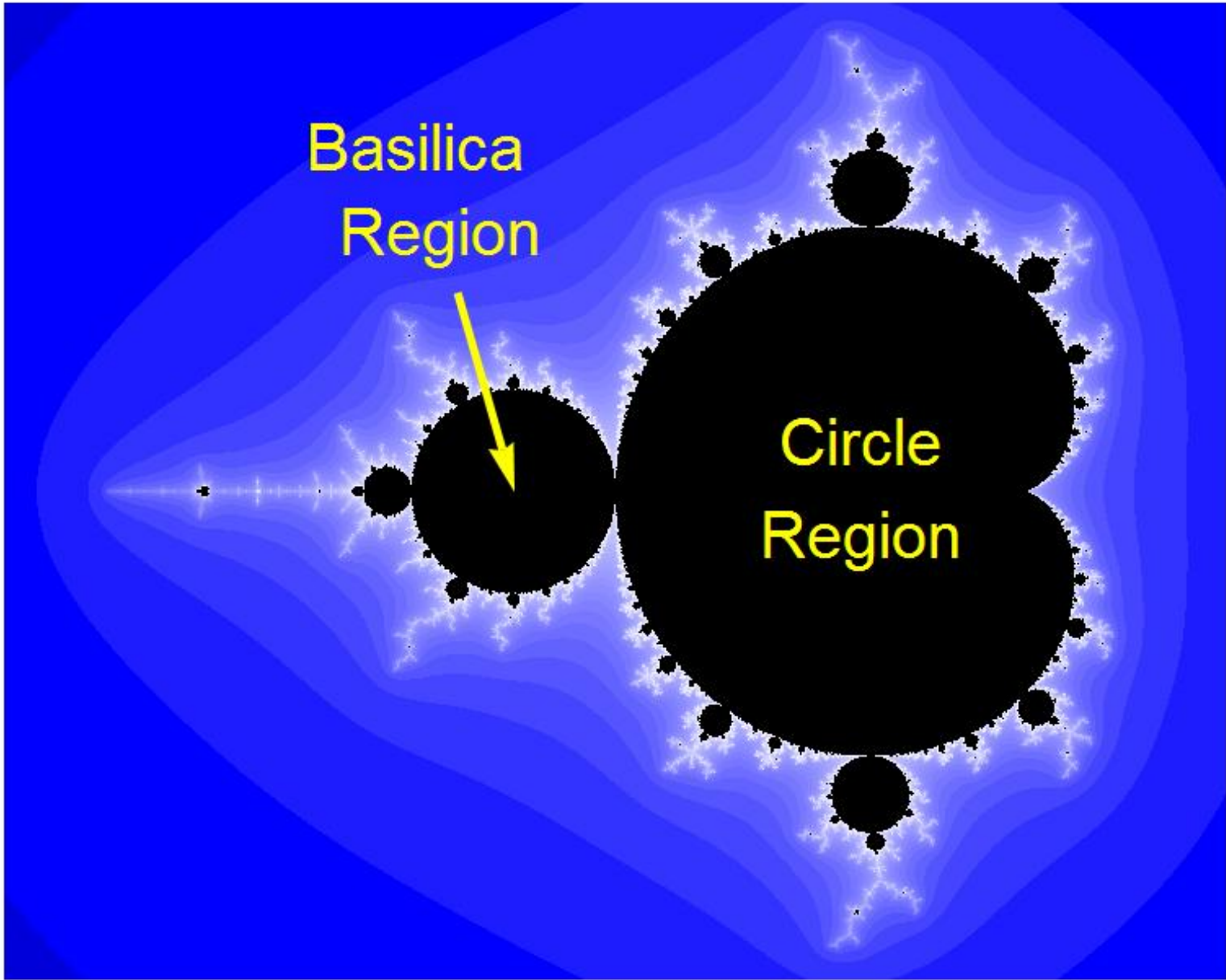
For “most” points in the Mandelbrot set, the structure of the Julia set is described by a ***Hubbard tree***.

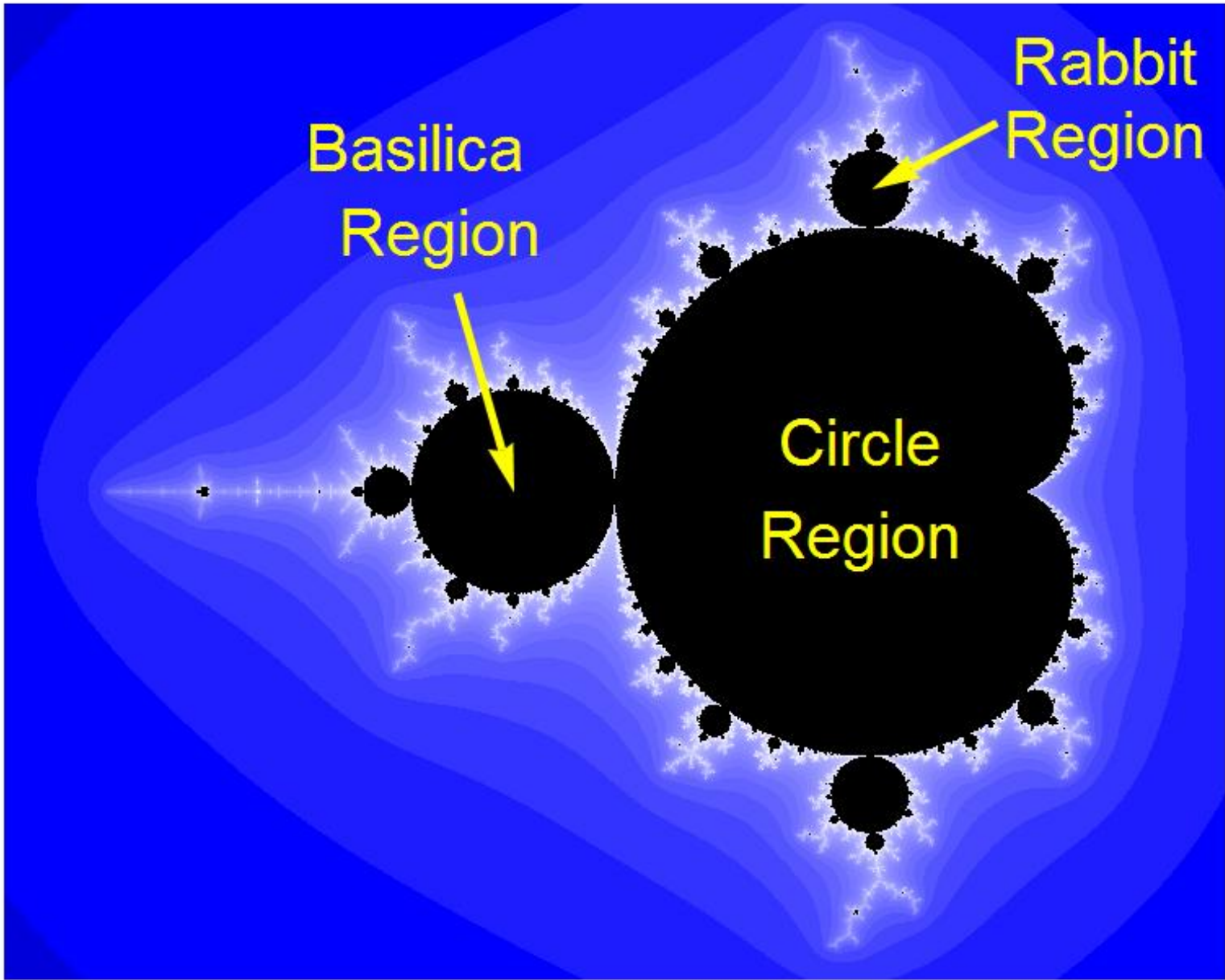
There exists a simple algorithm:



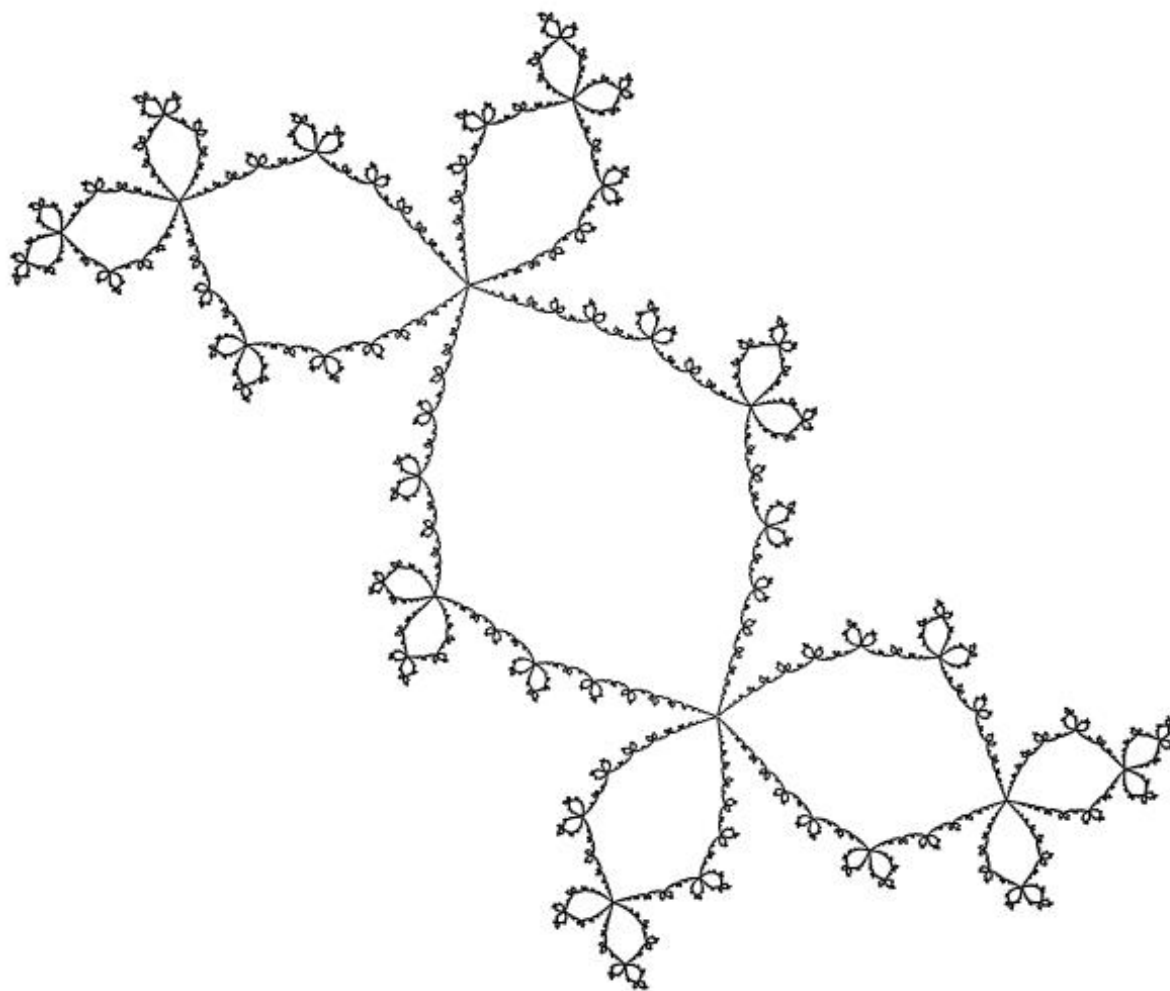
Conclusion

We can construct a Thompson-like group for “most” quadratic Julia sets.

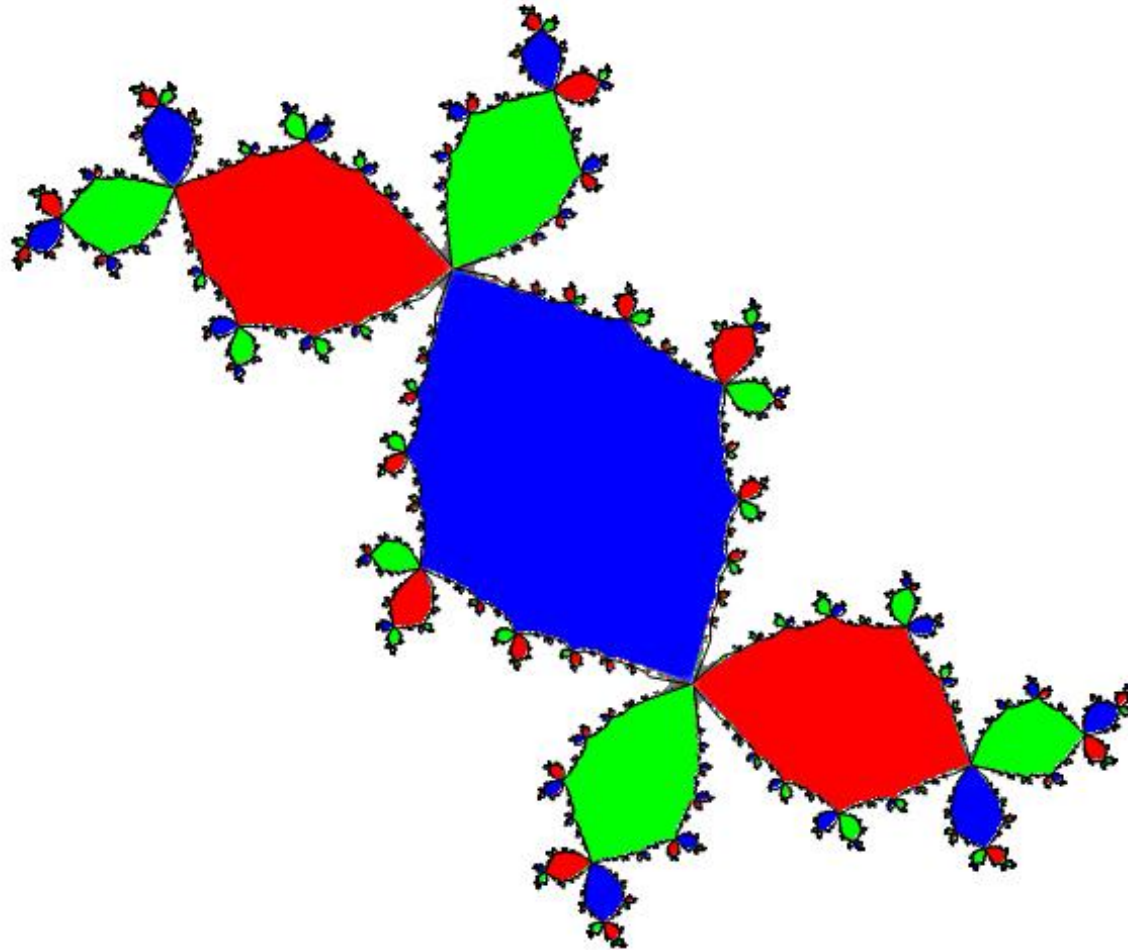




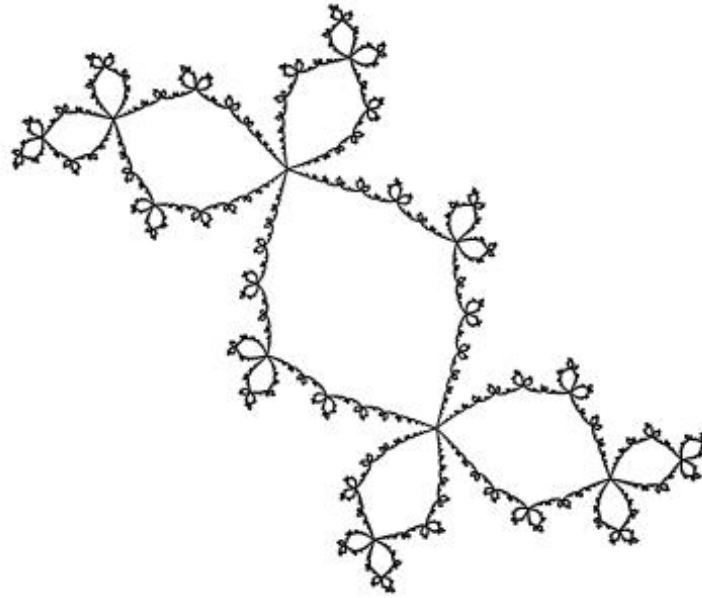
The Douady Rabbit



The Douady Rabbit



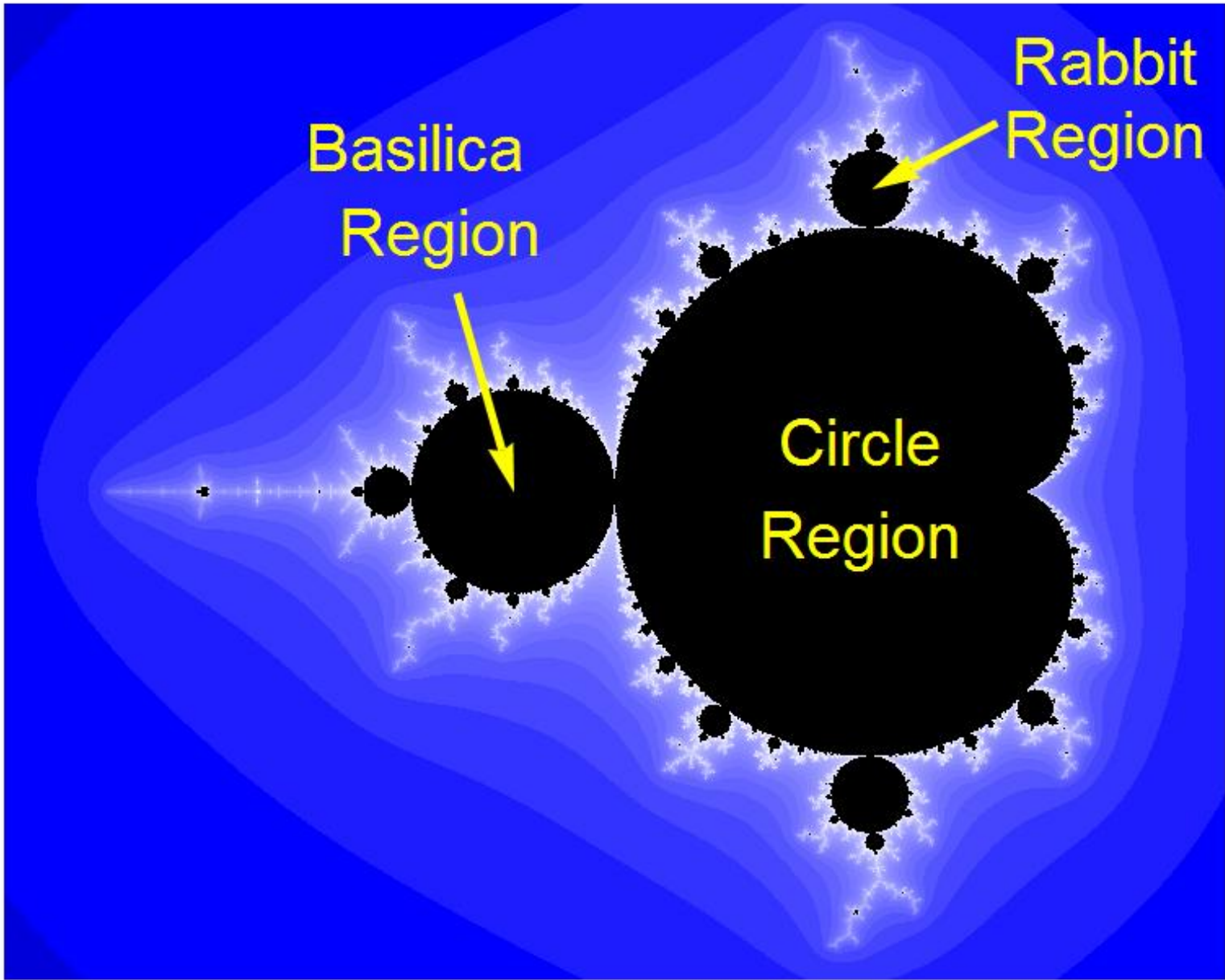
The Douady Rabbit

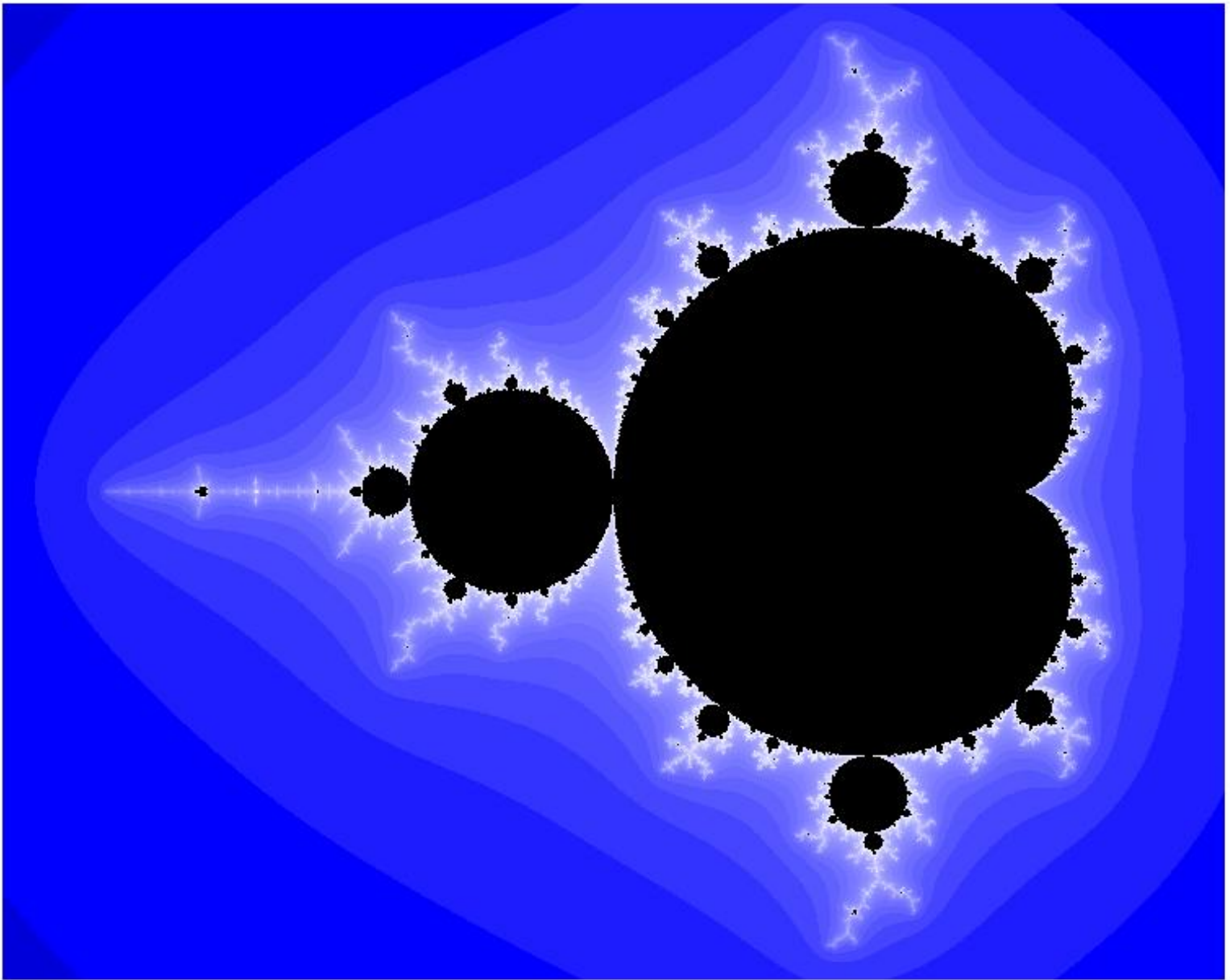


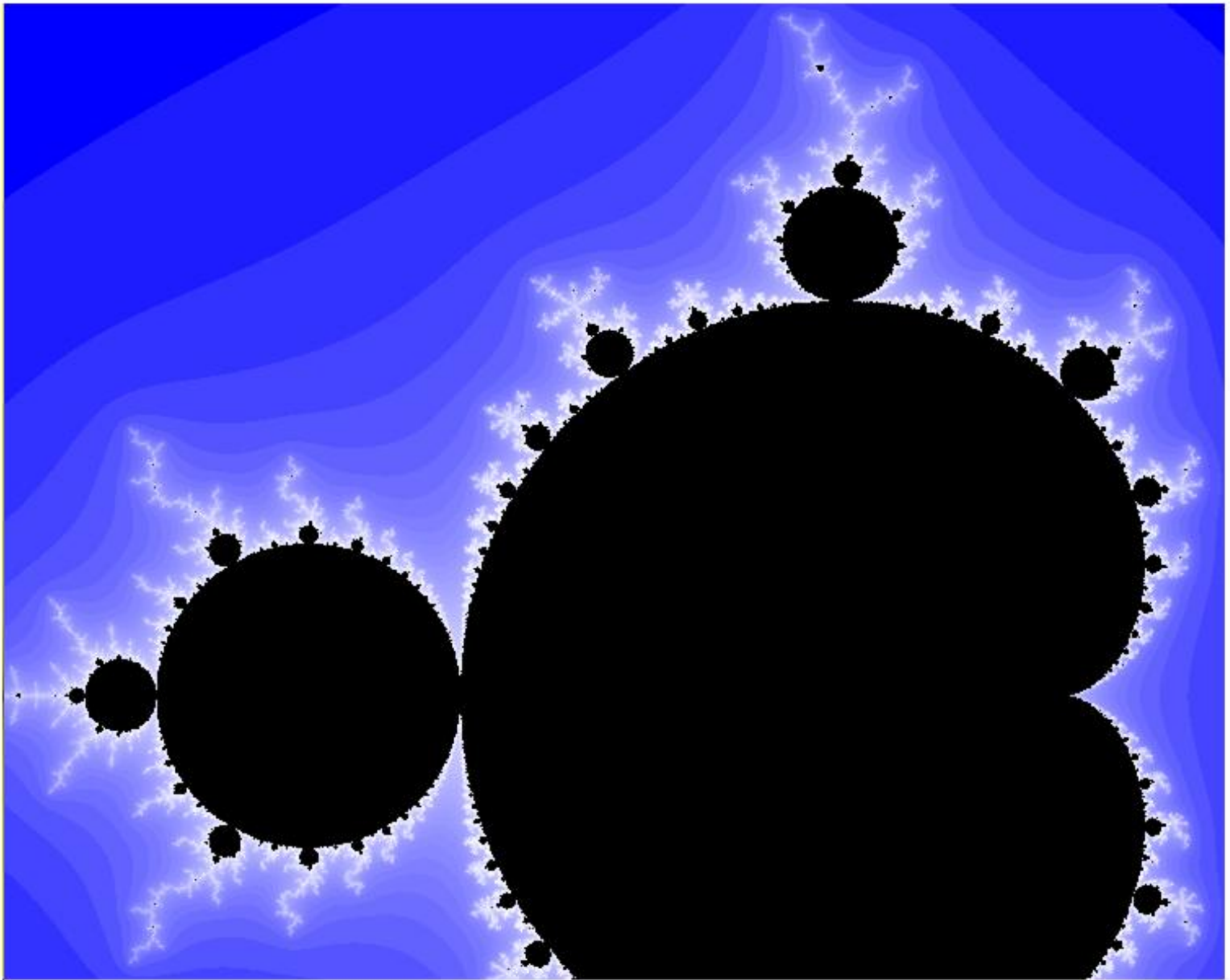
Theorem

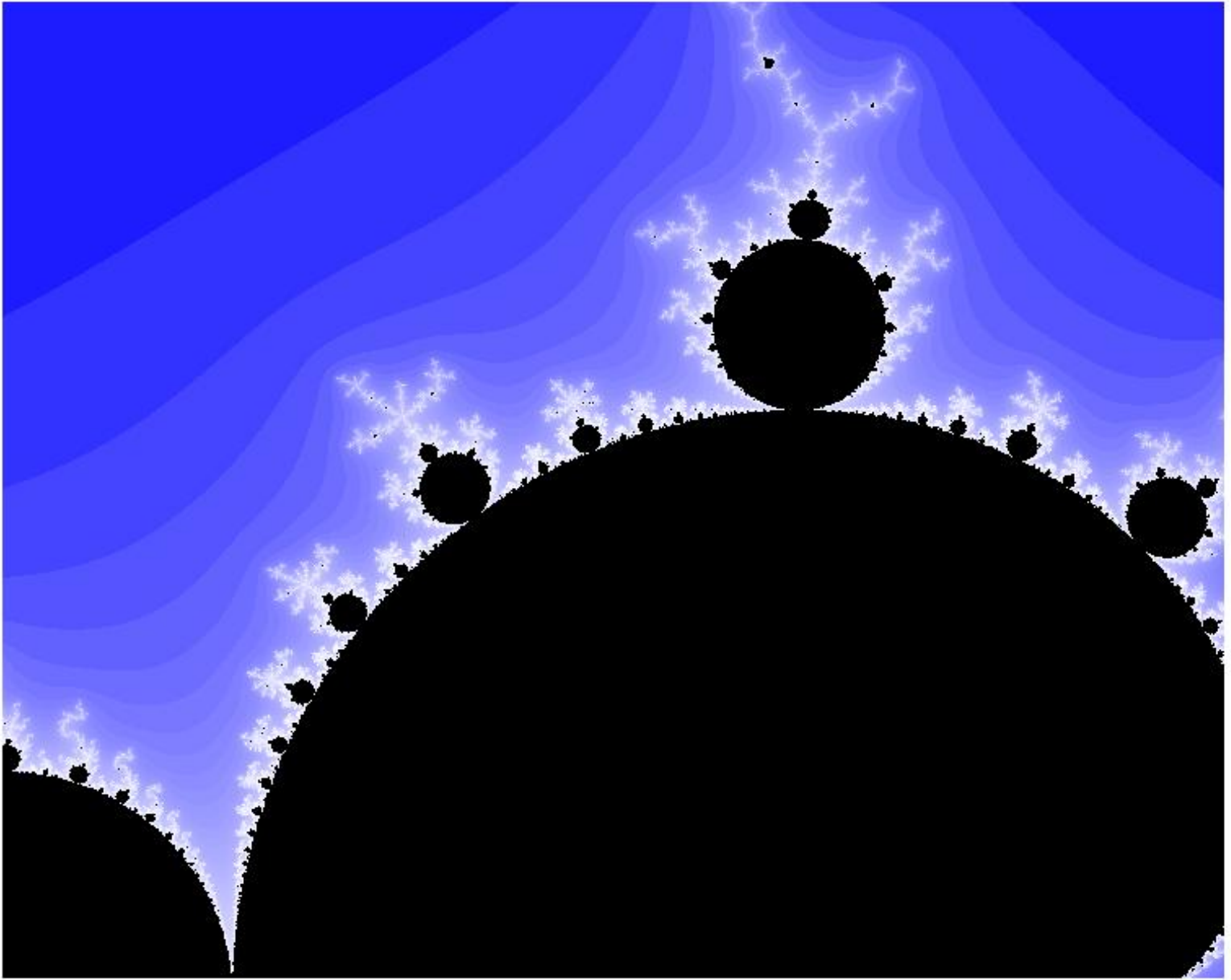
The rabbit Thompson group T_R has the following properties:

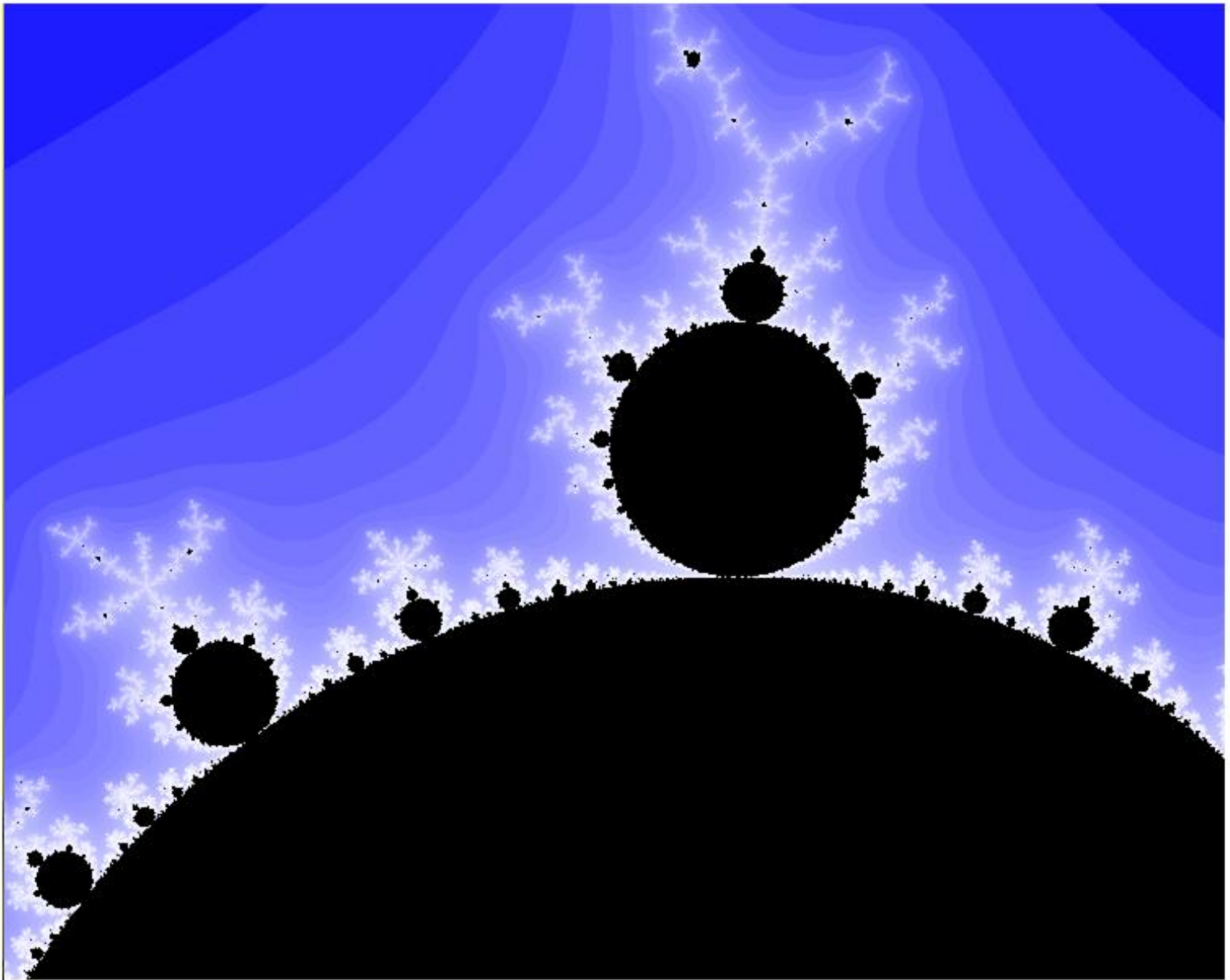
- 1. T_R is generated by four elements.*
- 2. $[T_R, T_R]$ has index three in T_R , and is simple.*

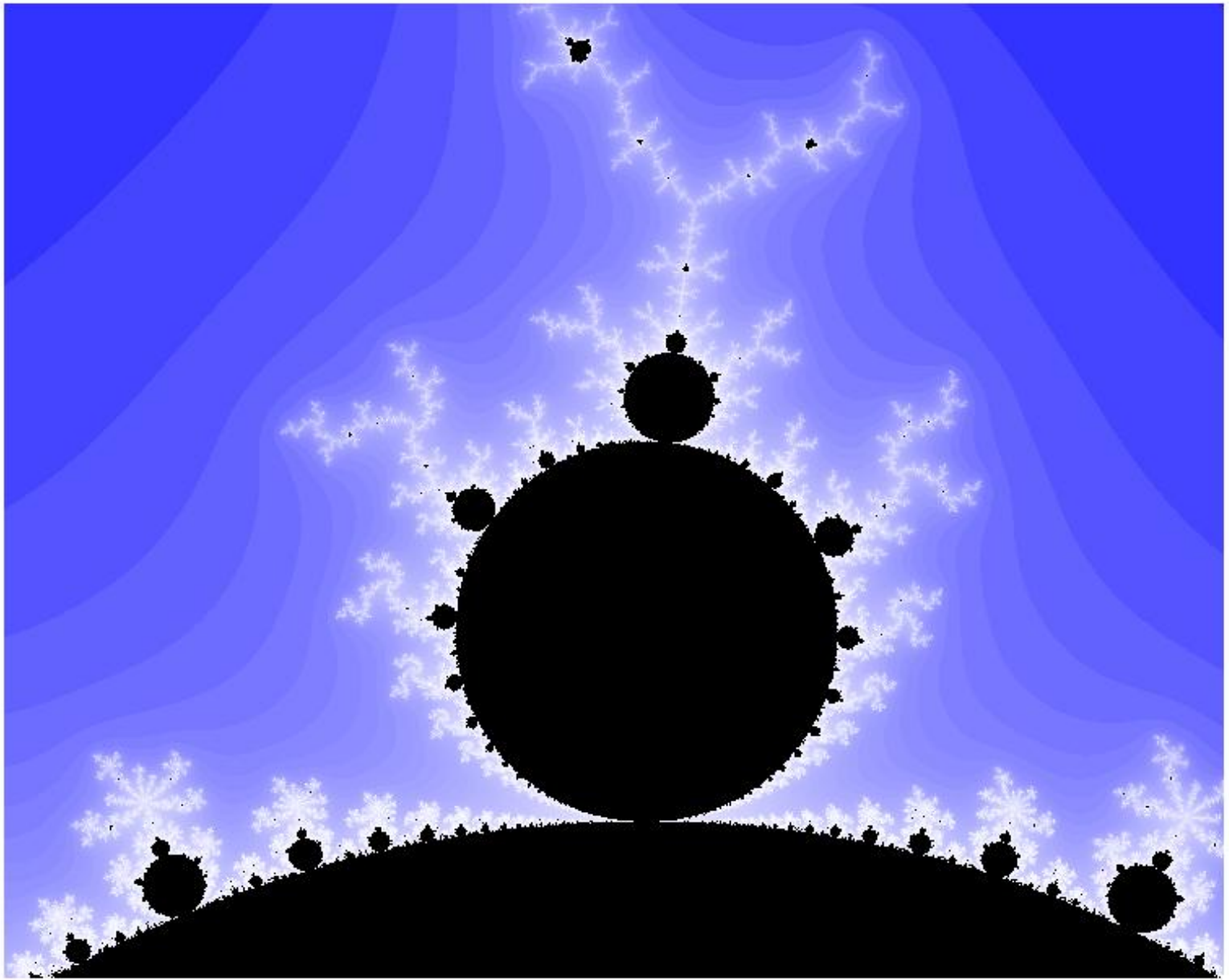


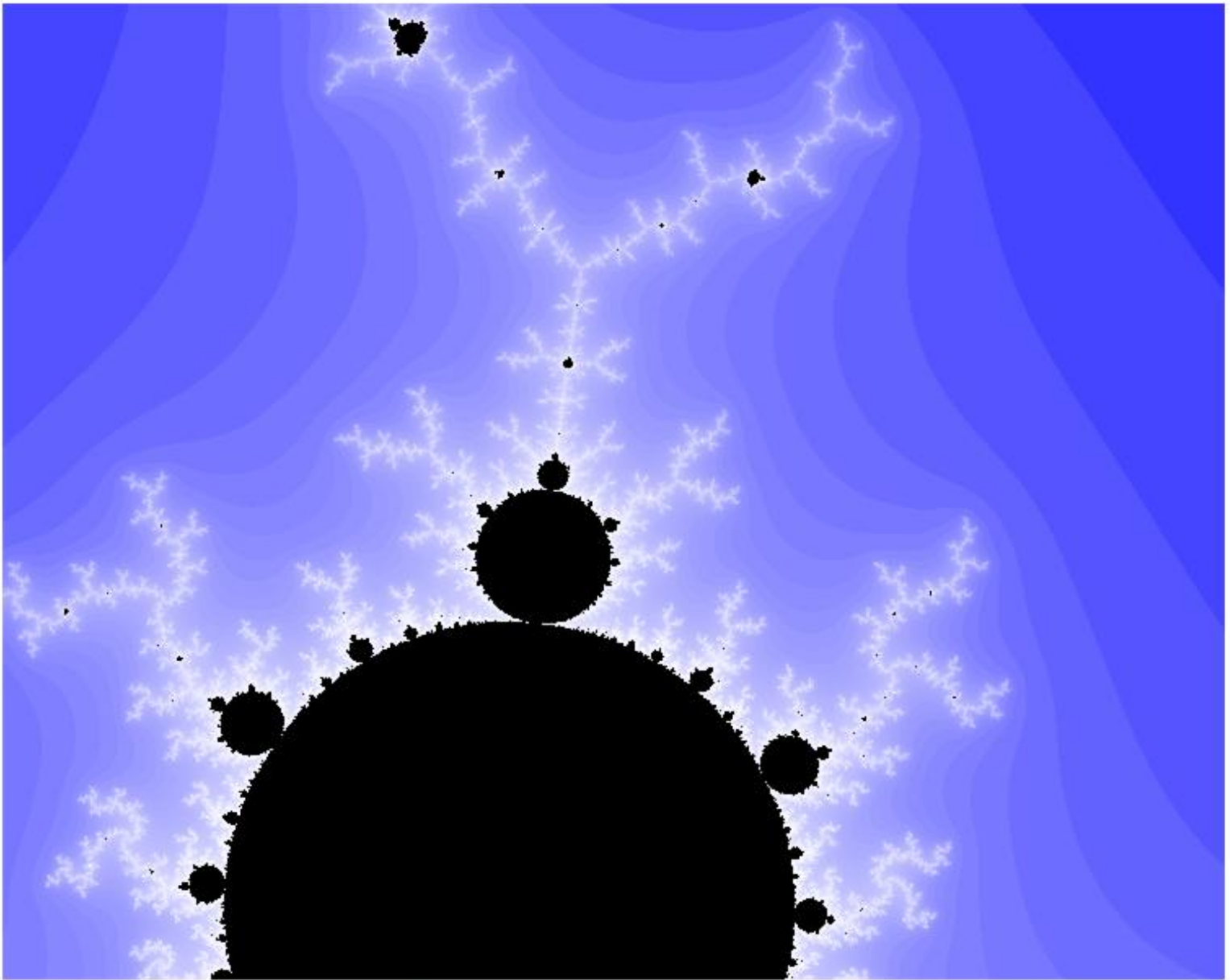


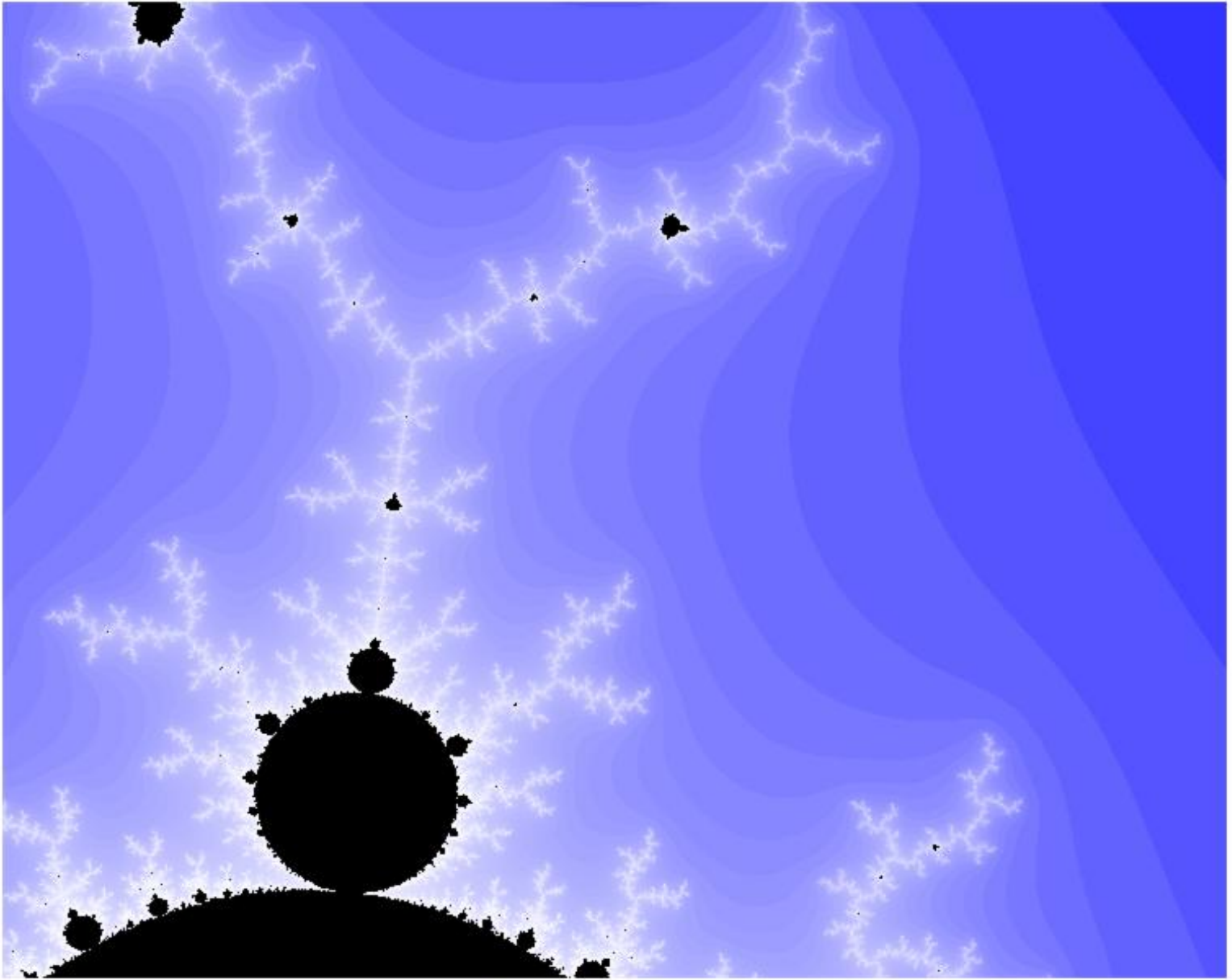


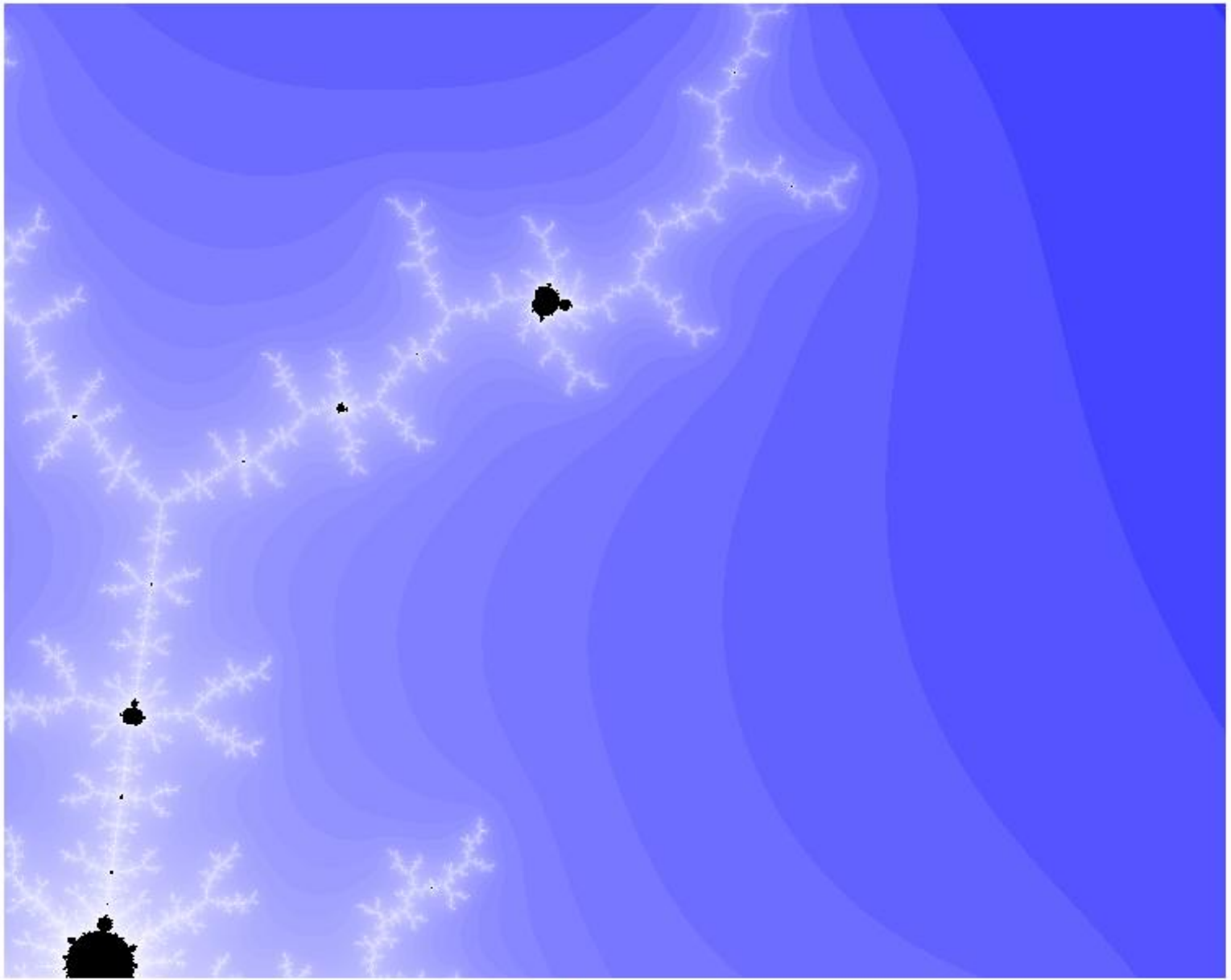


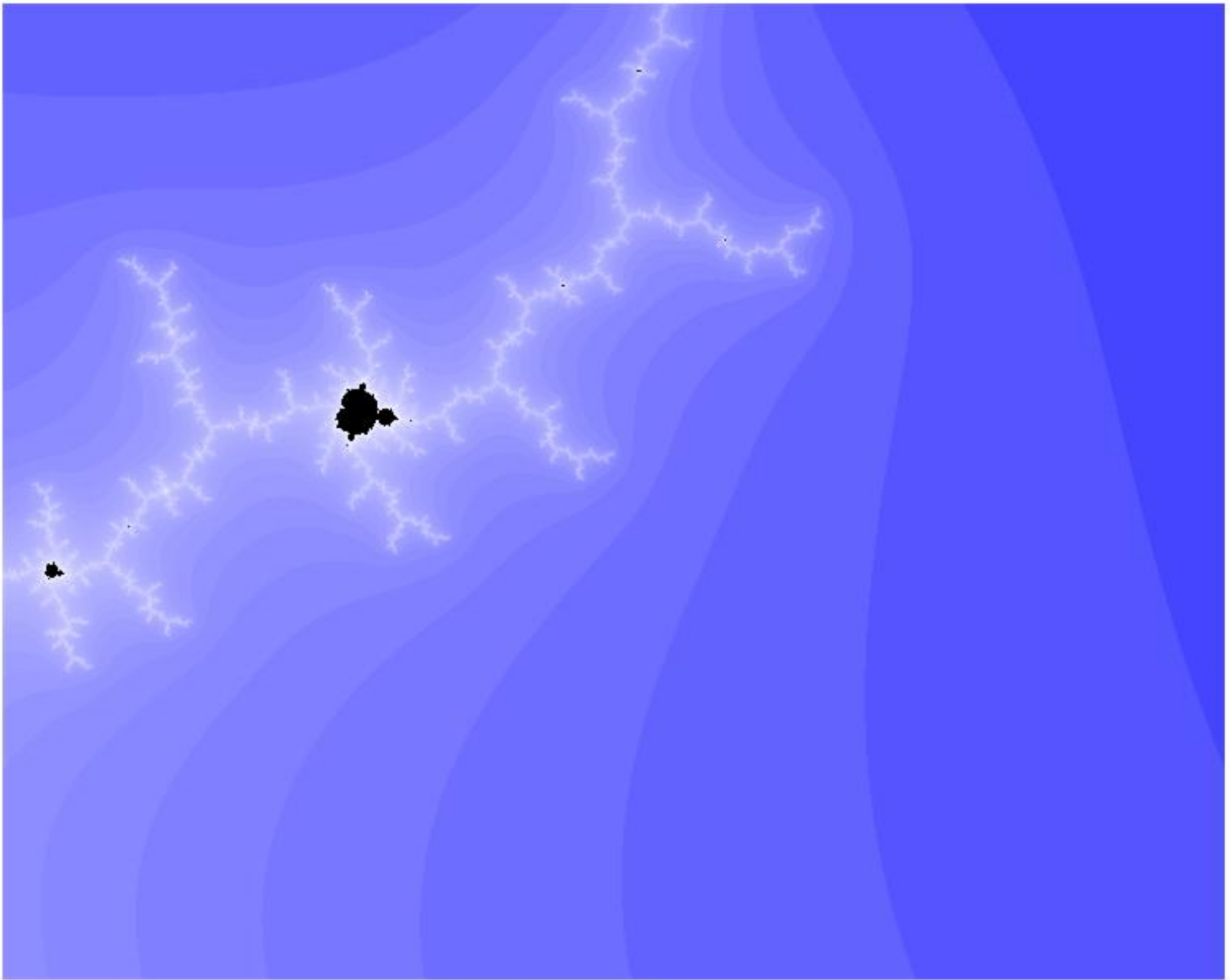


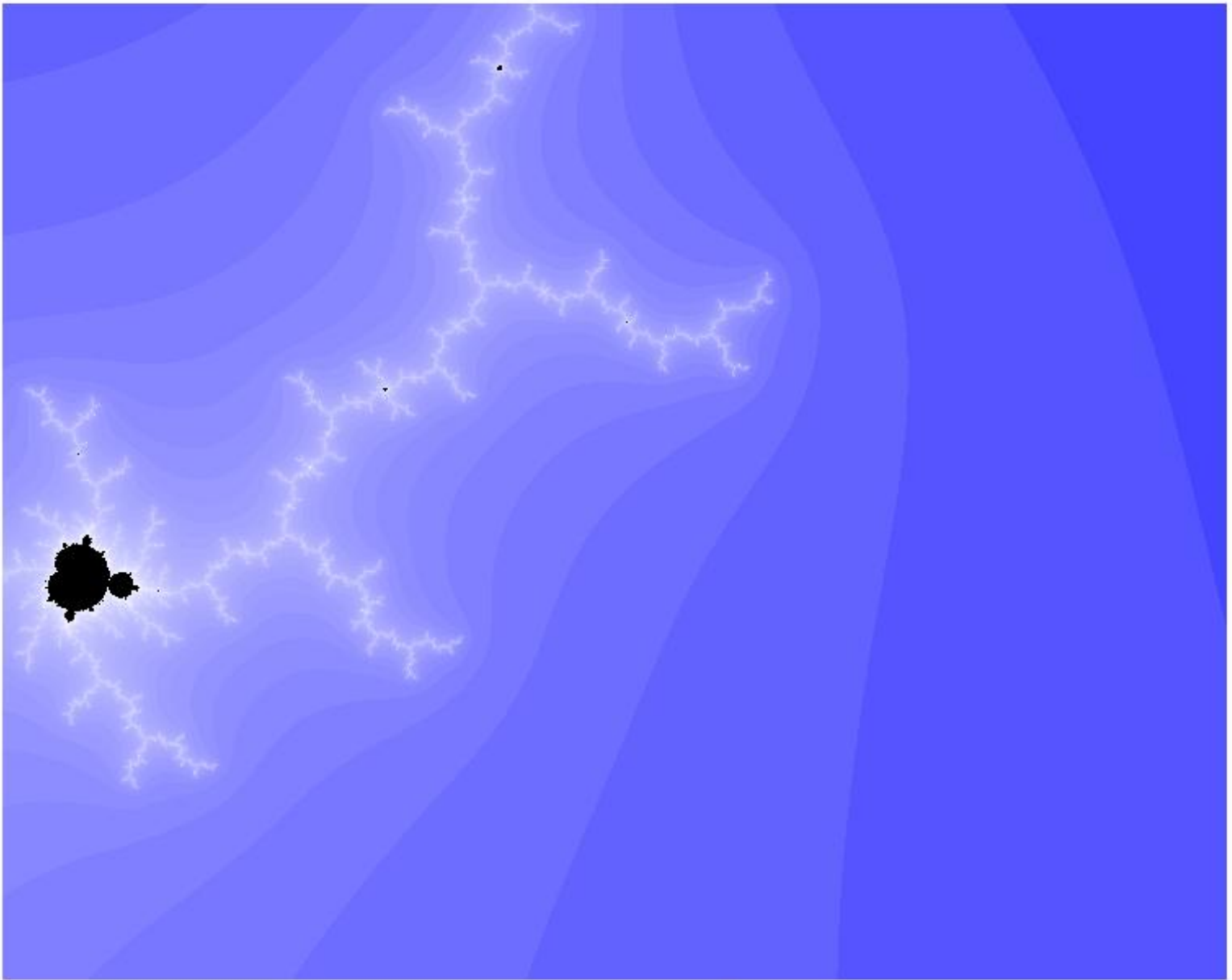




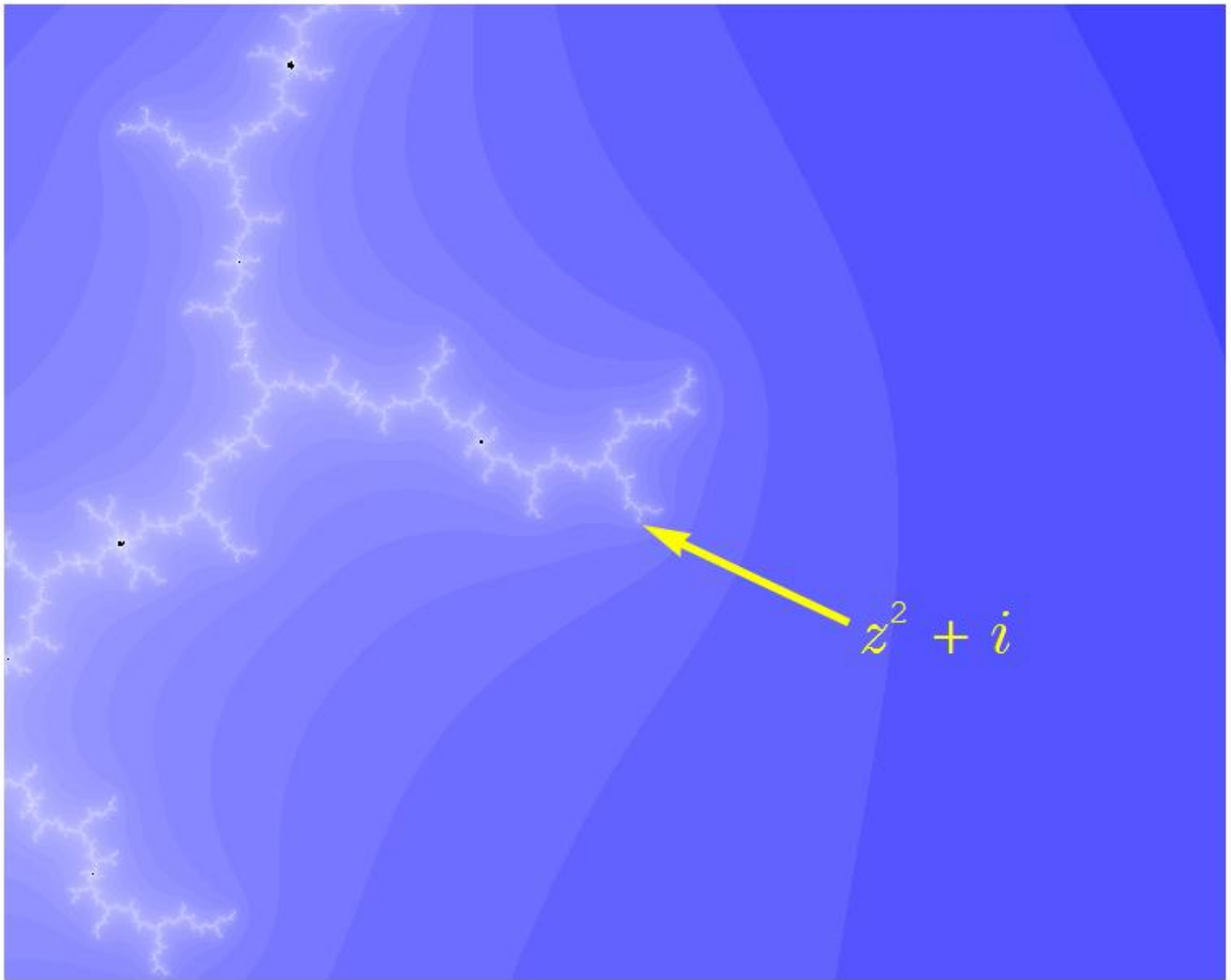




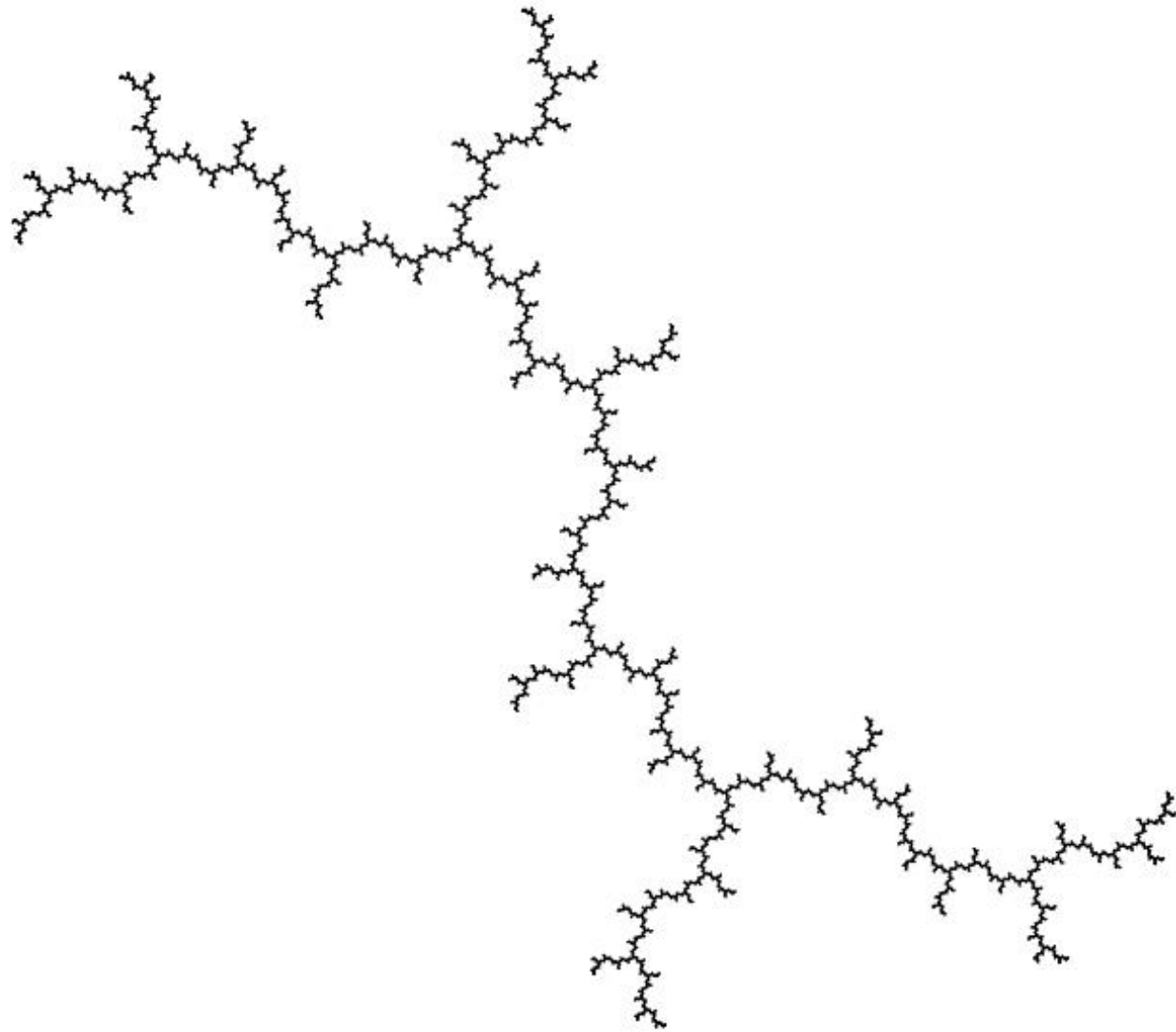




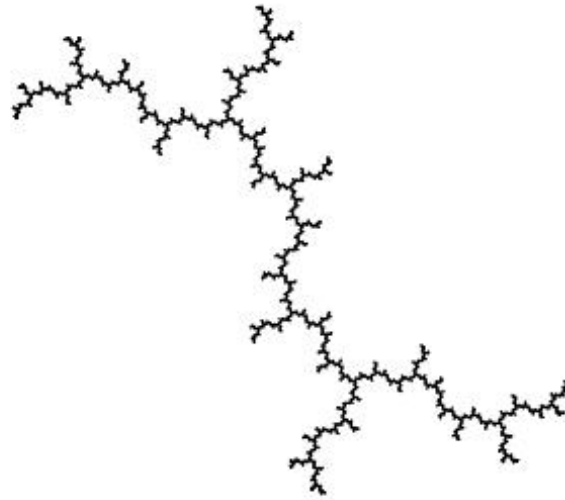




A Dendrite Julia Set



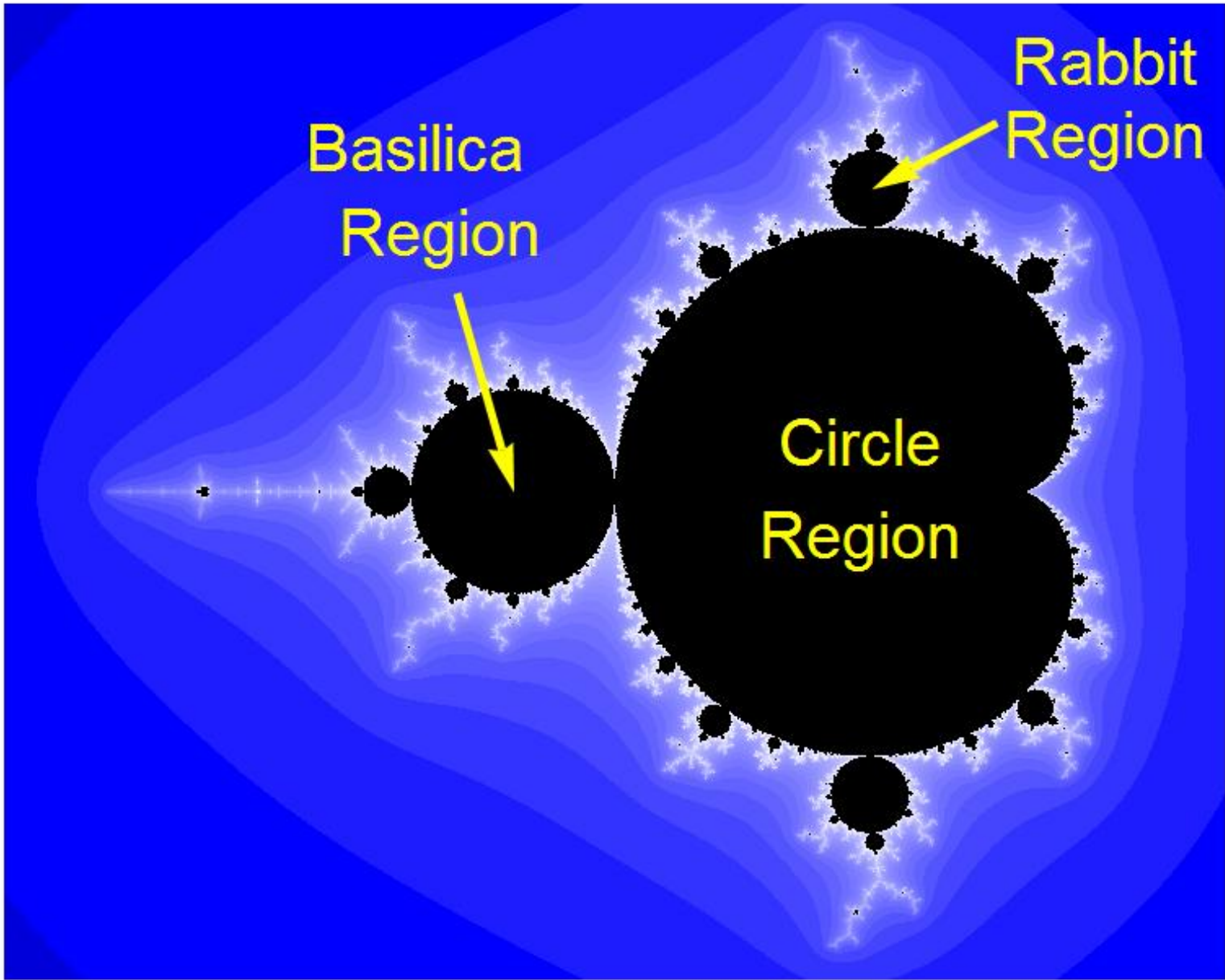
A Dendrite Julia Set

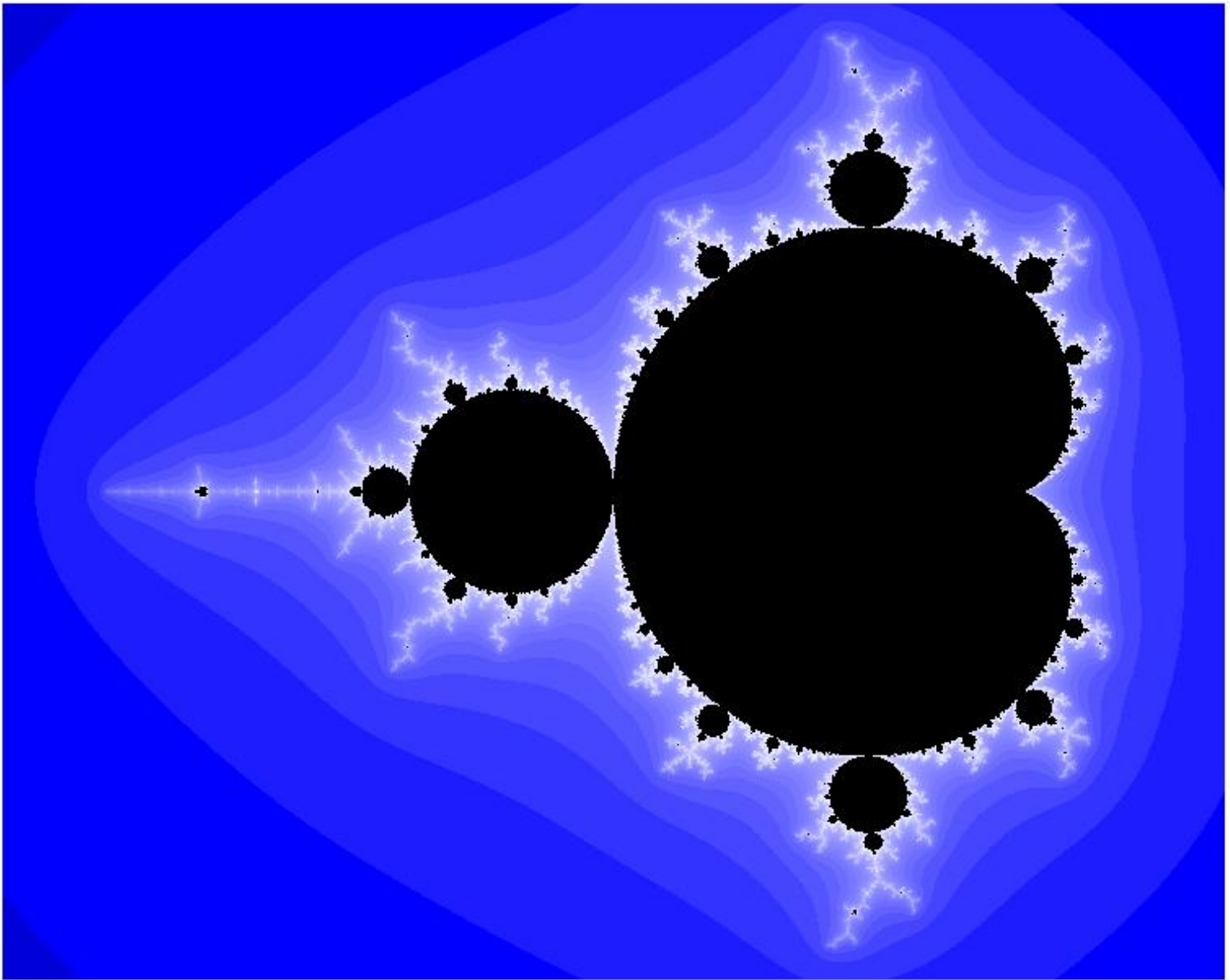


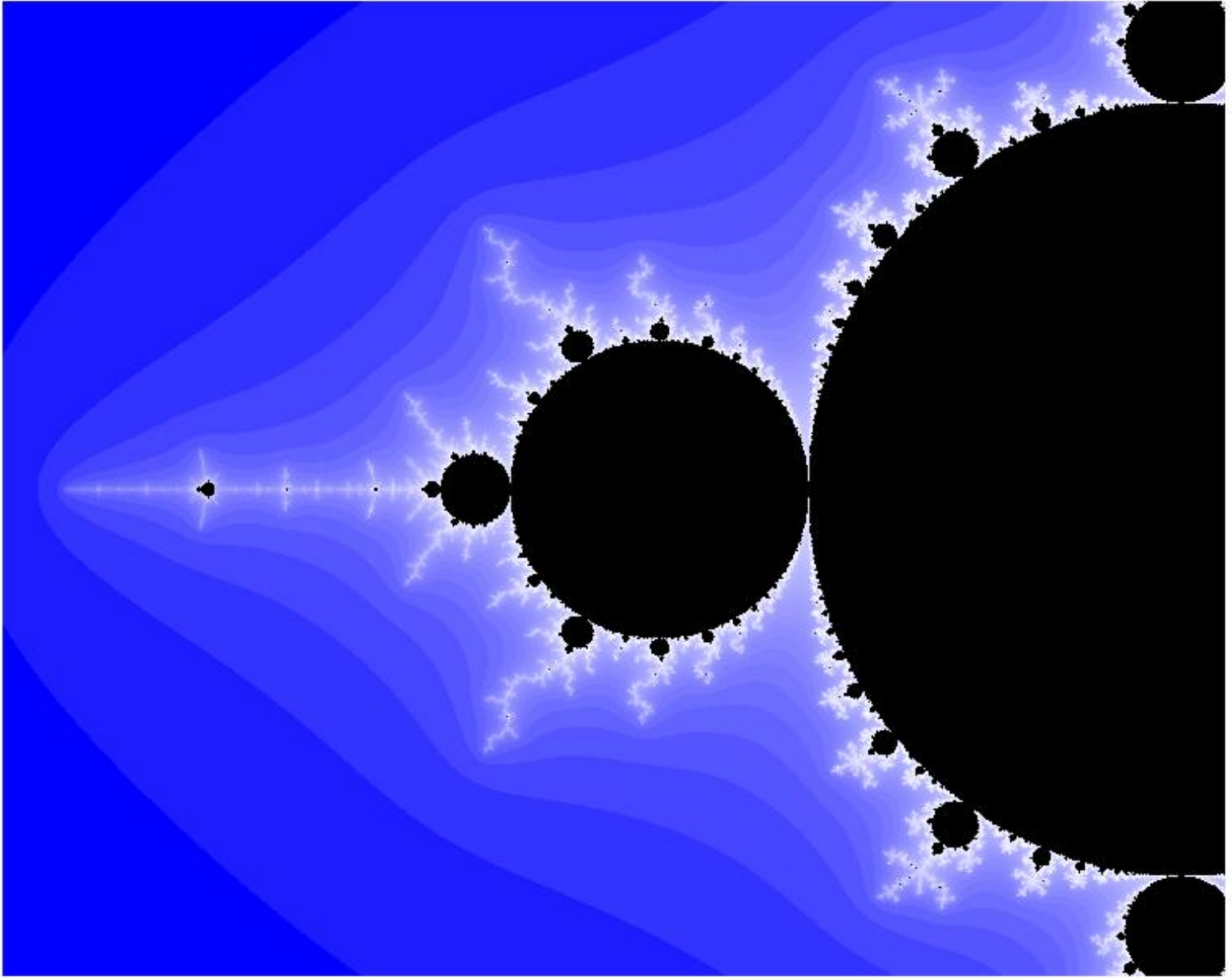
Theorem (Belk & Smith)

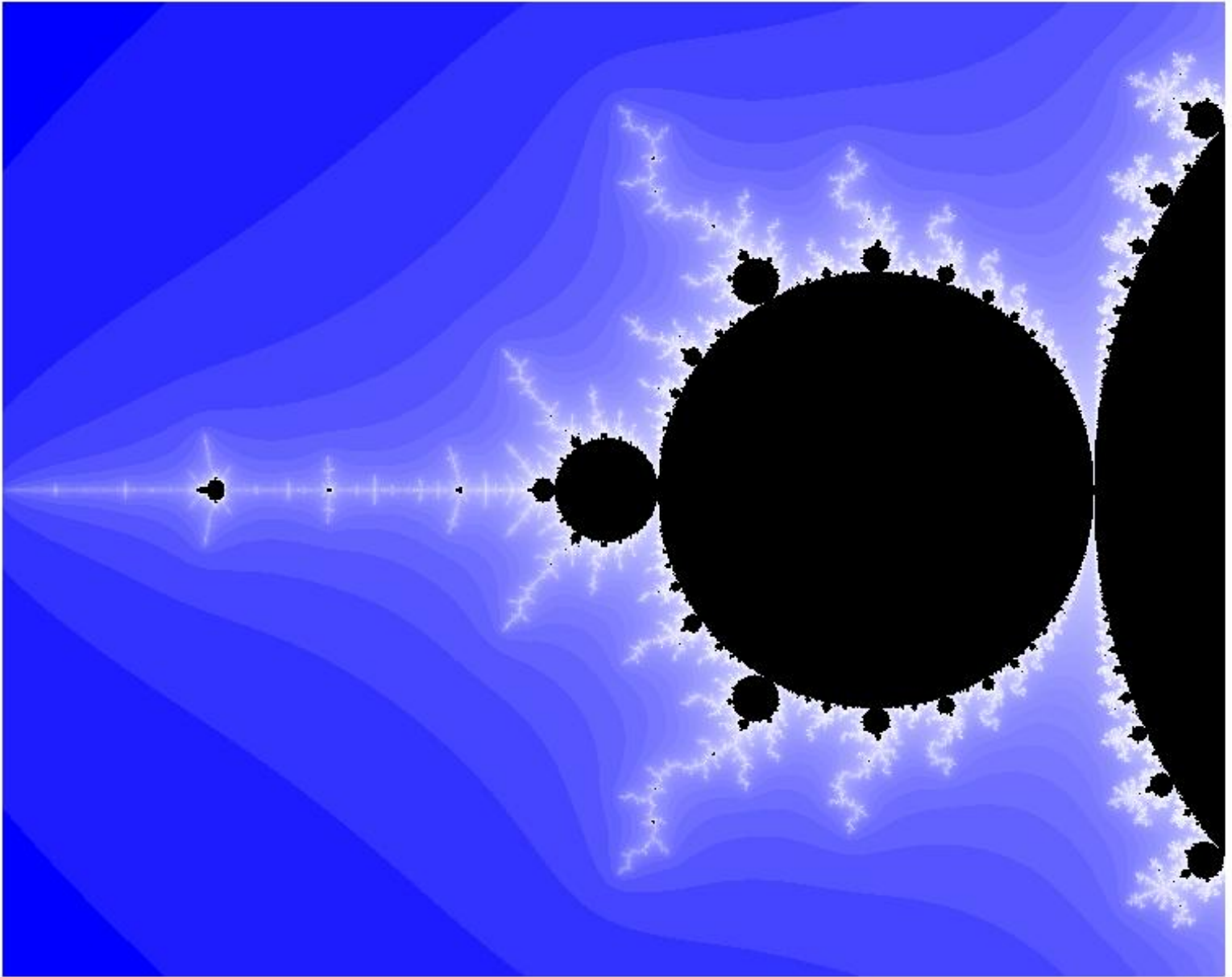
The dendrite Thompson group T_D has the following properties:

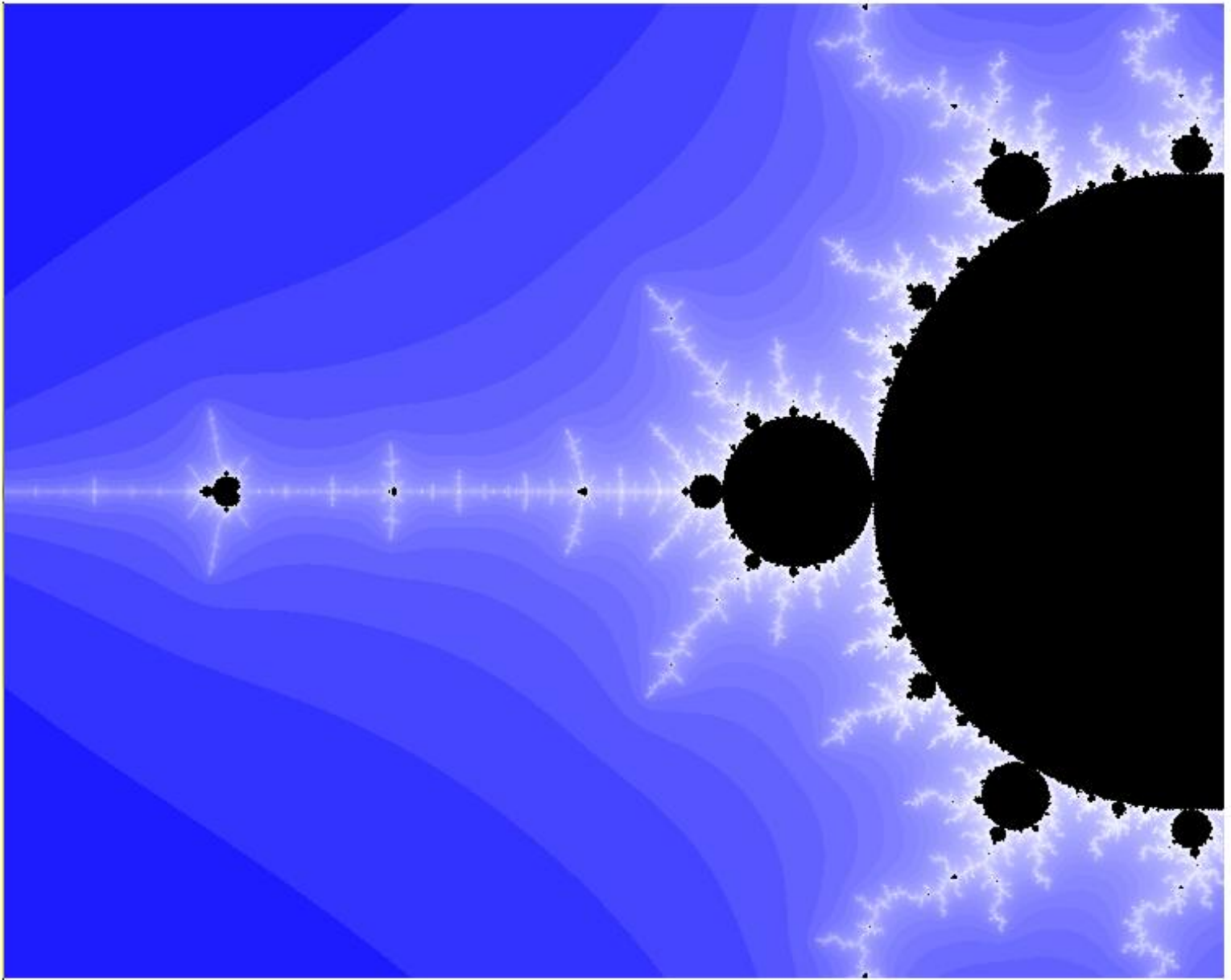
- 1. T_D is generated by three elements.*
- 2. $[T_D, T_D]$ has infinite index in T_D , with virtually cyclic quotient.*
- 3. T_D contains Thompson's group F , but does not contain T .*

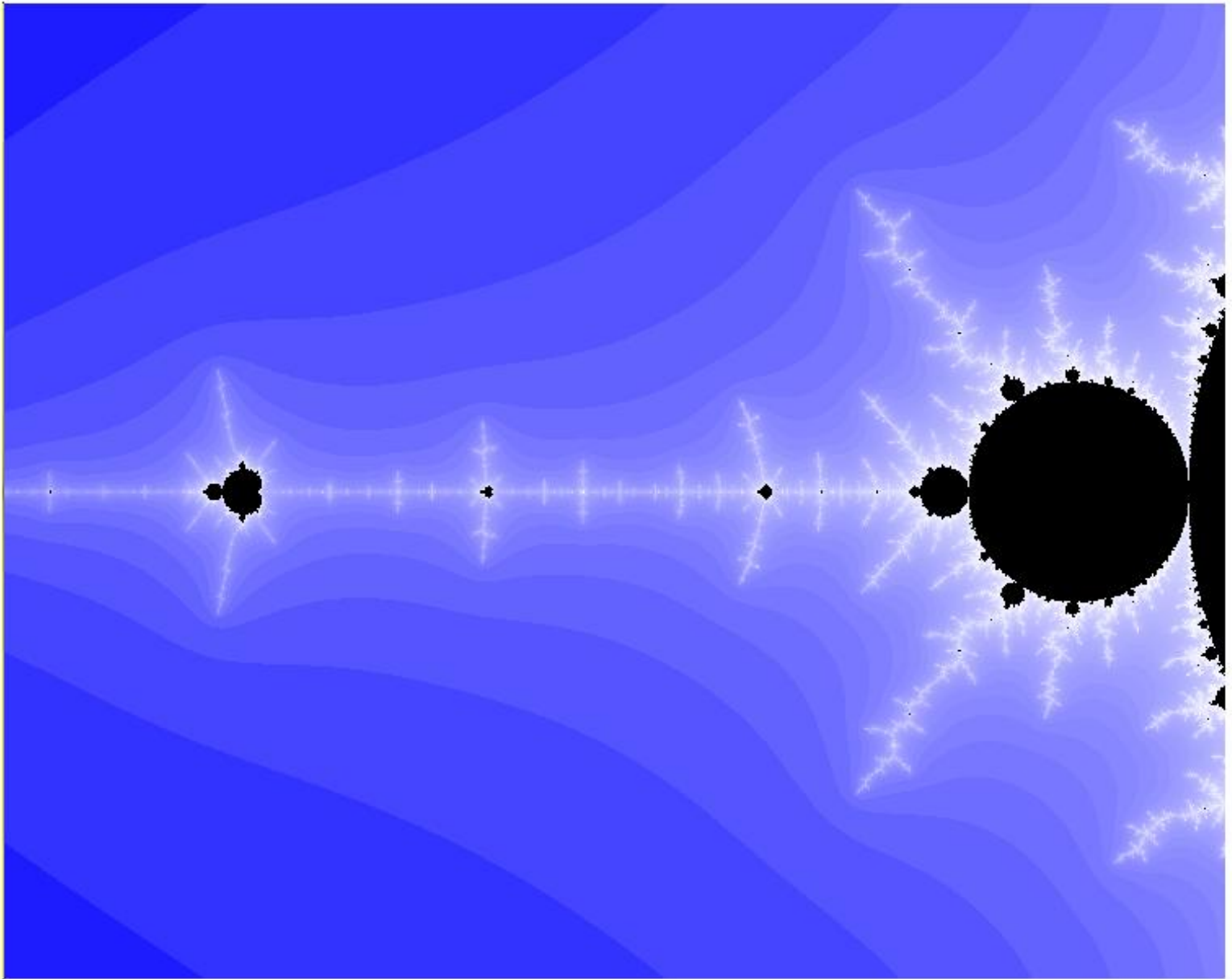


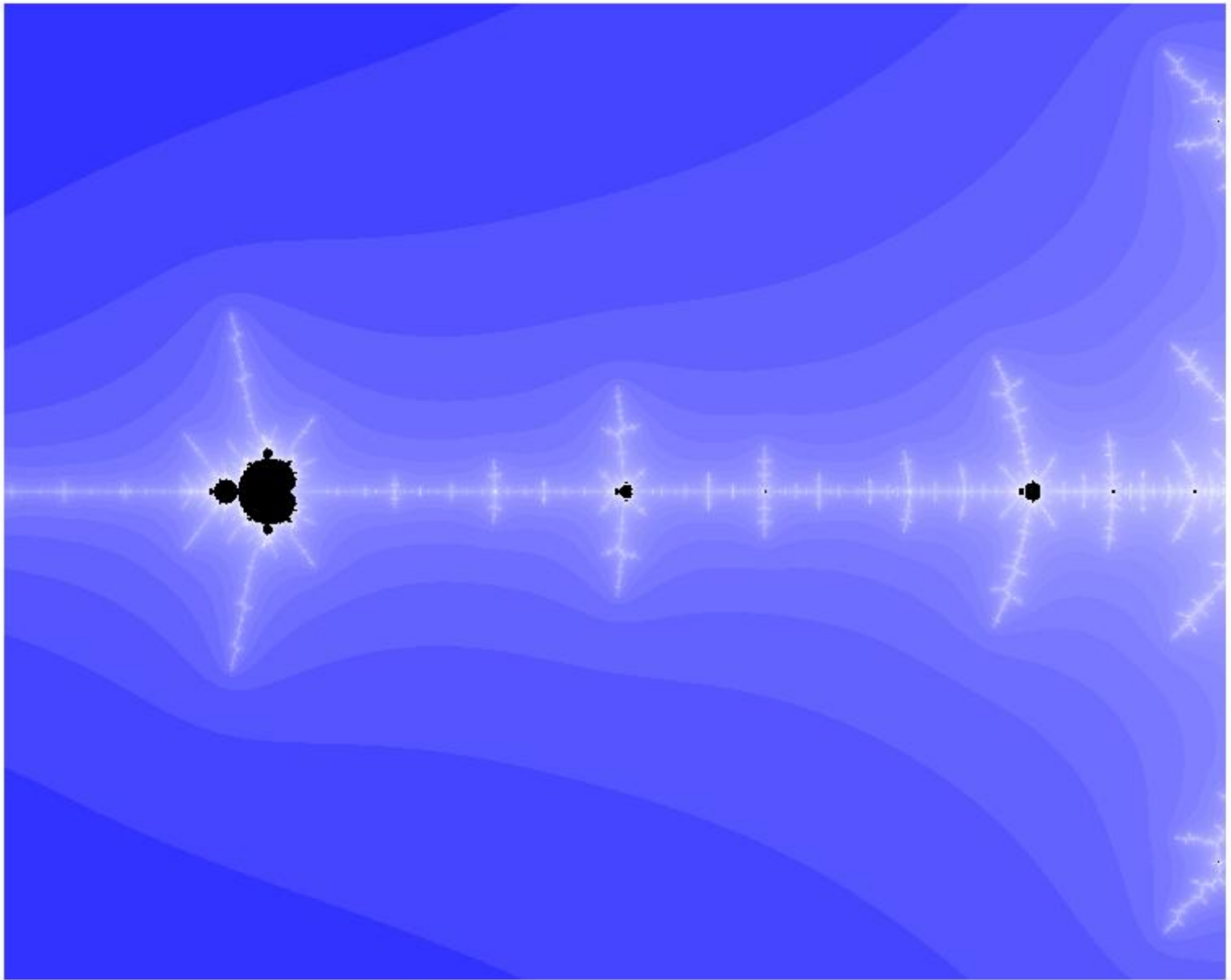


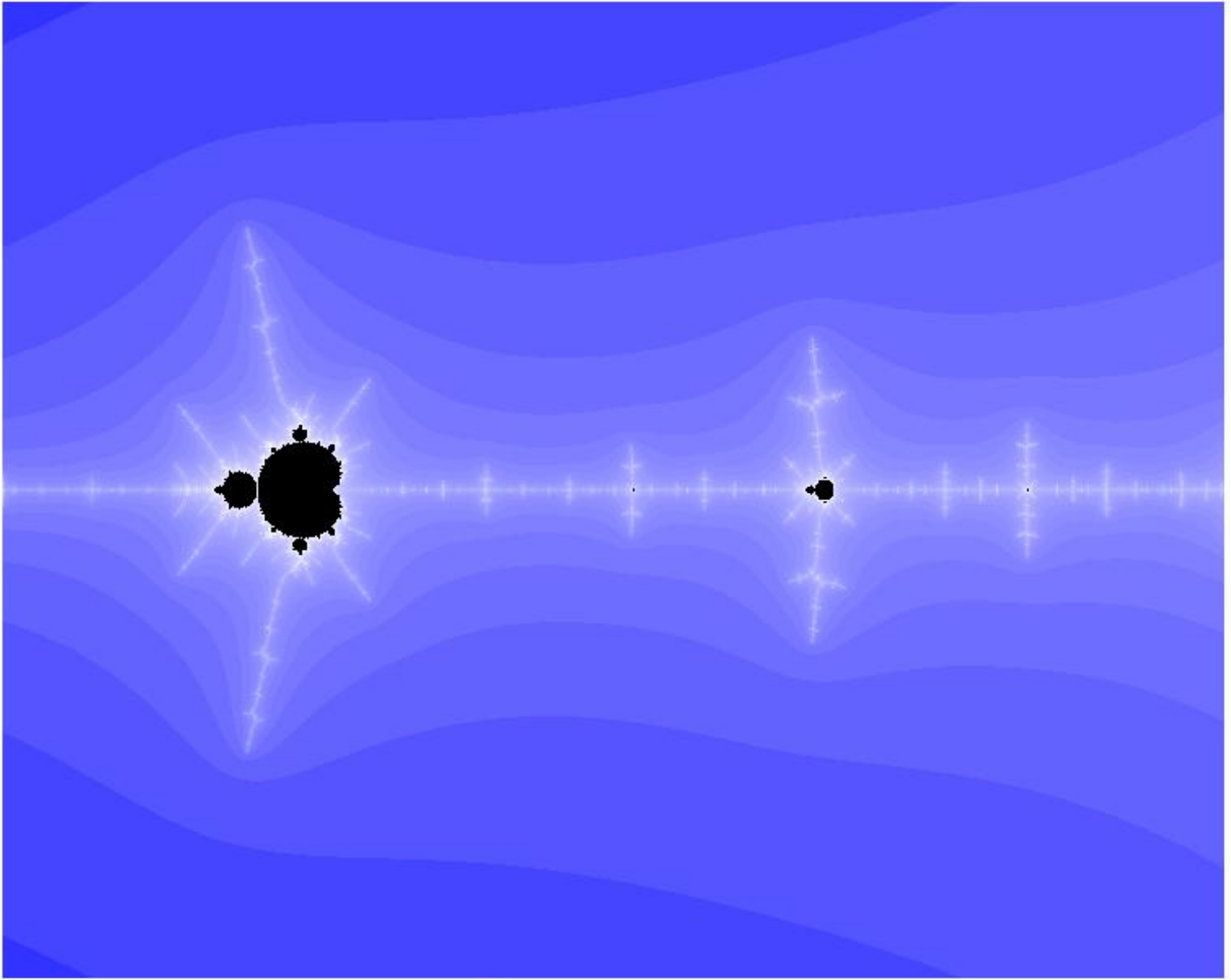


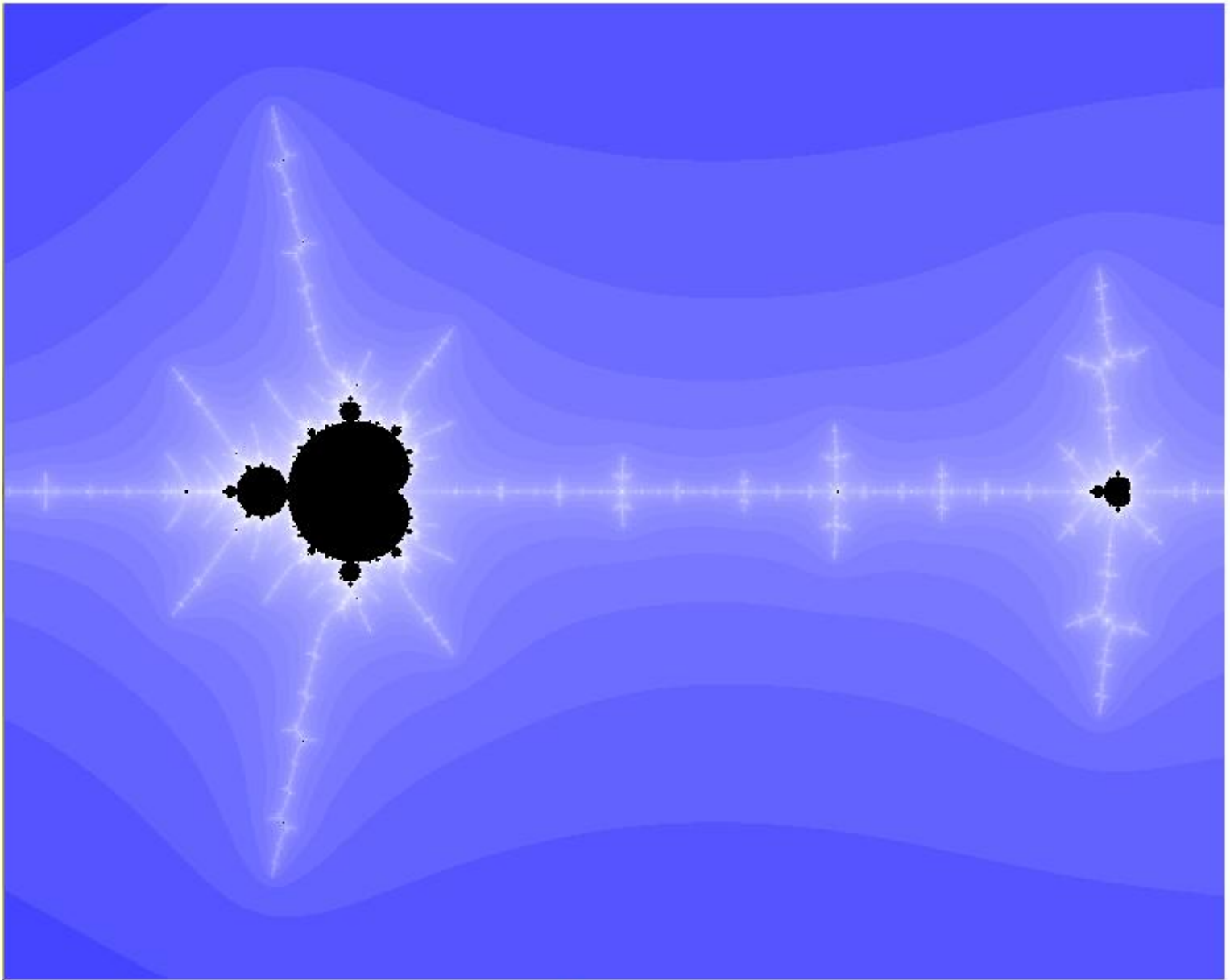


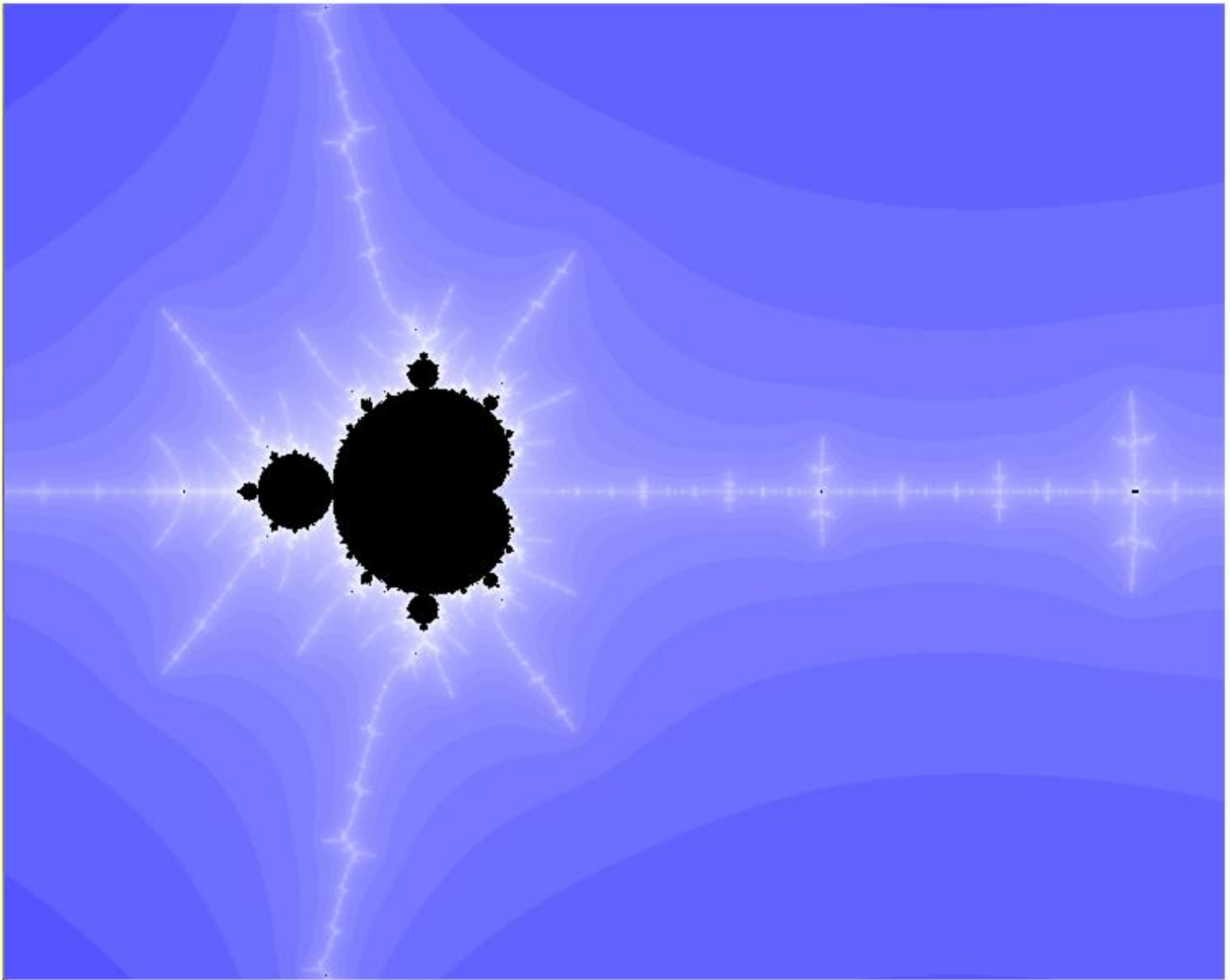


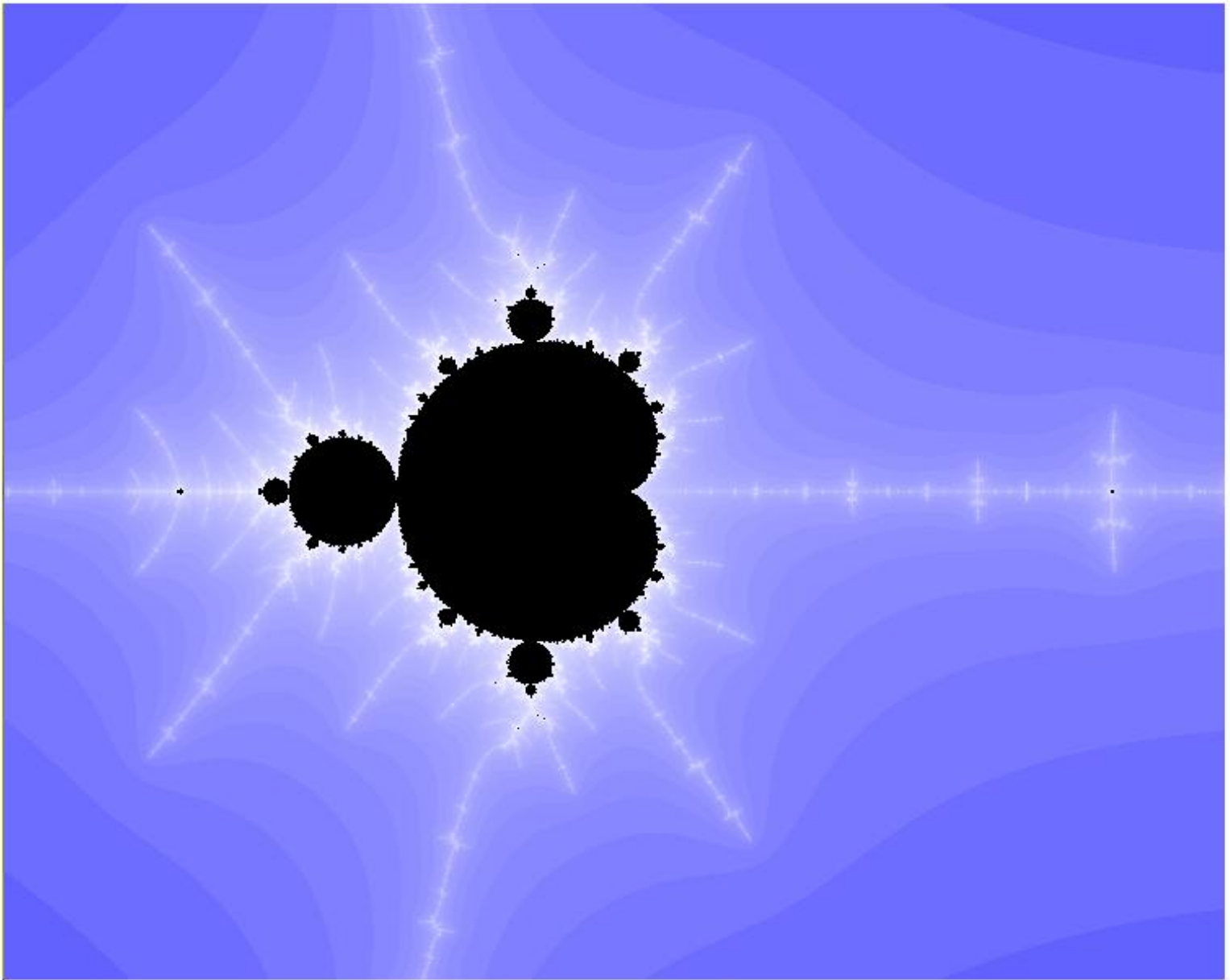


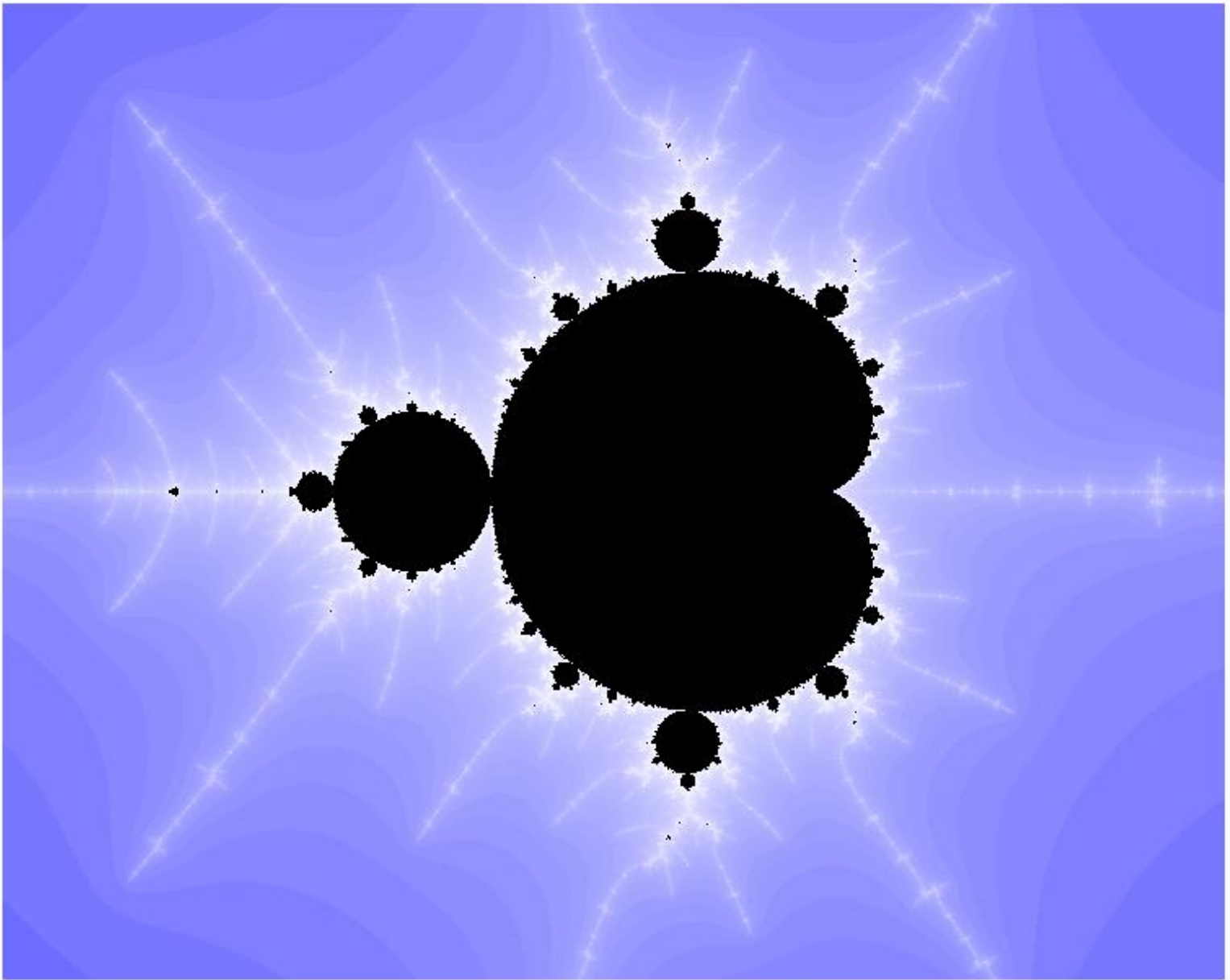


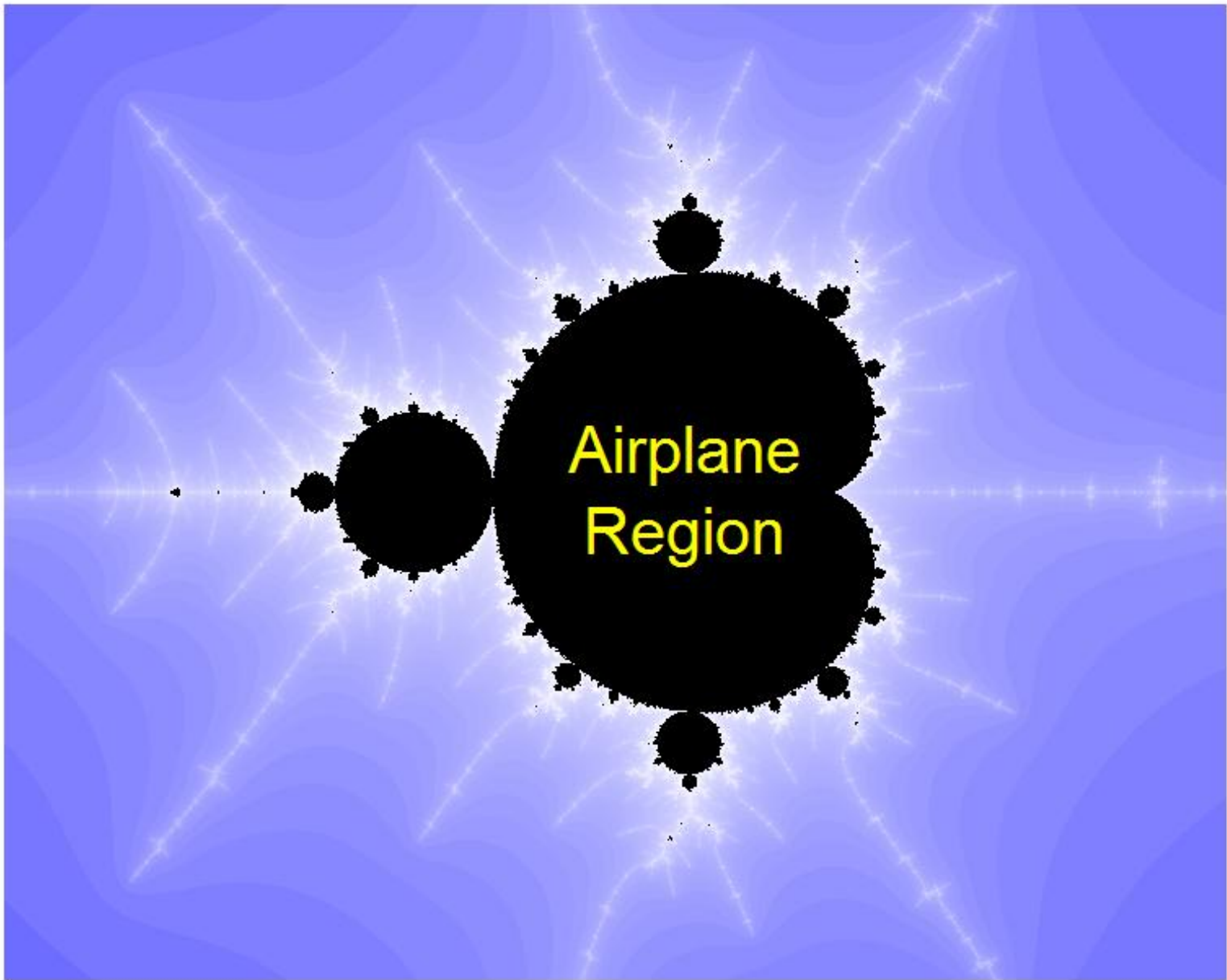






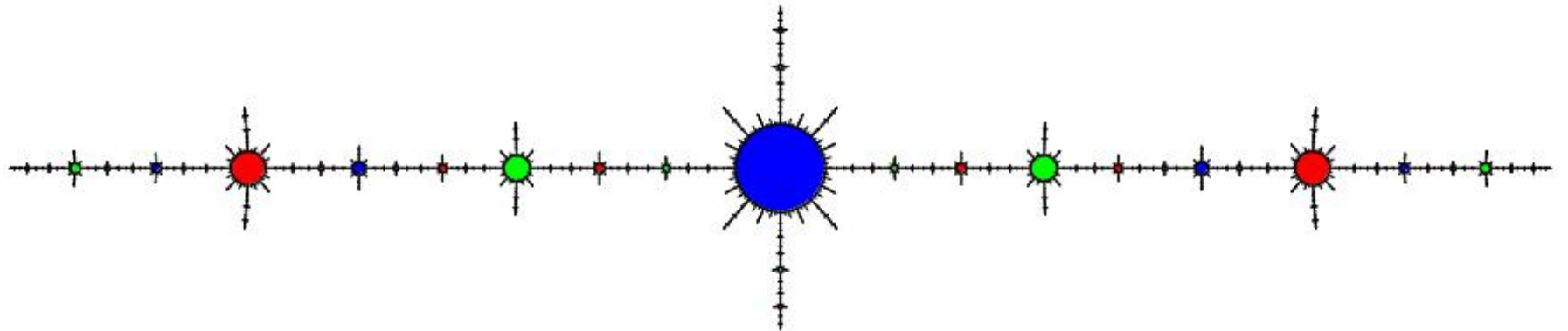
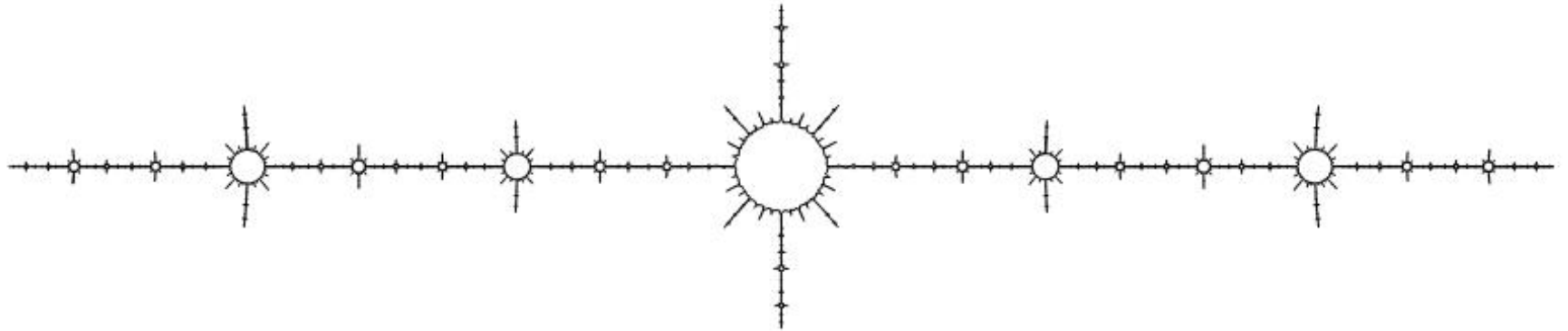






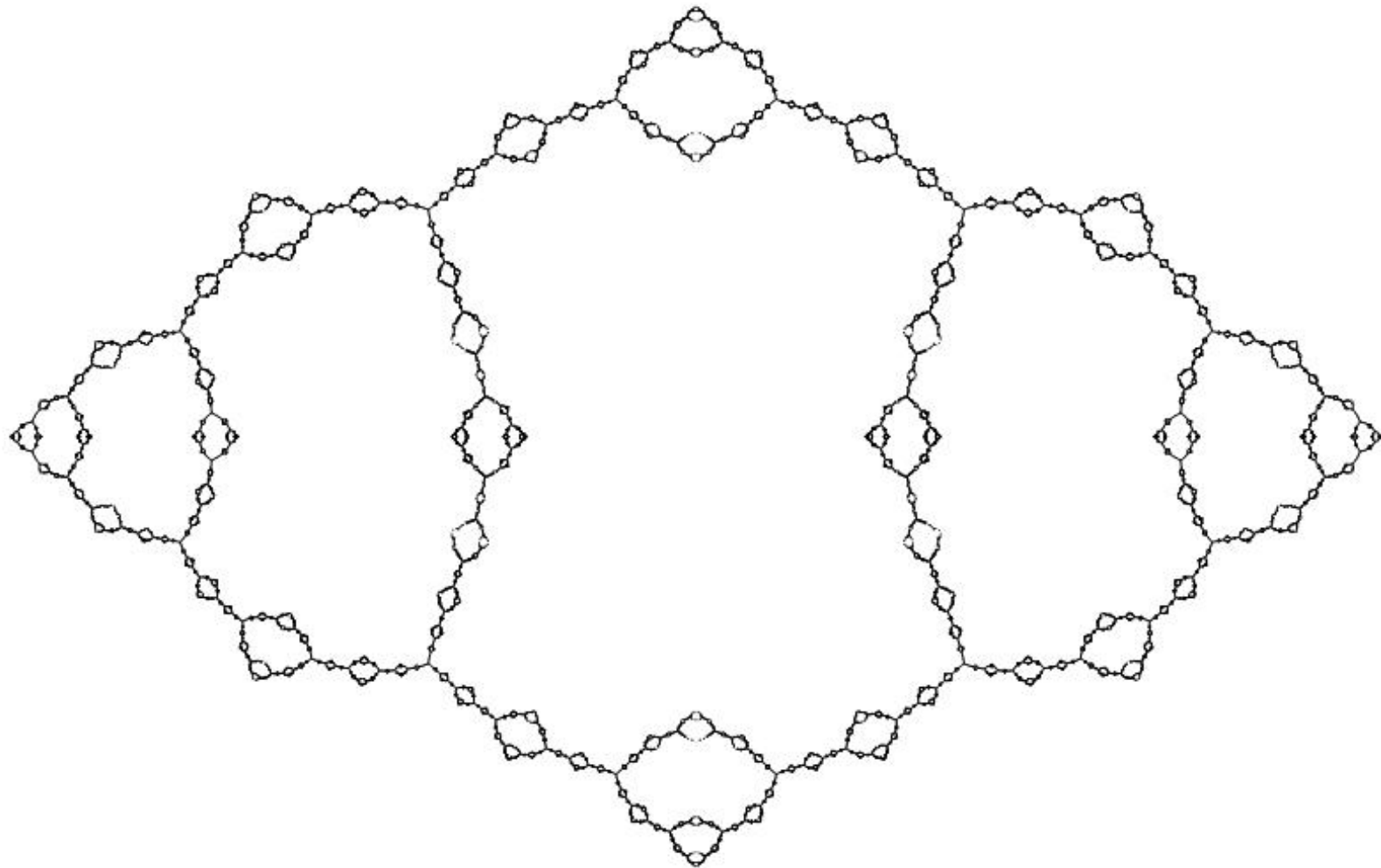
The Airplane

|



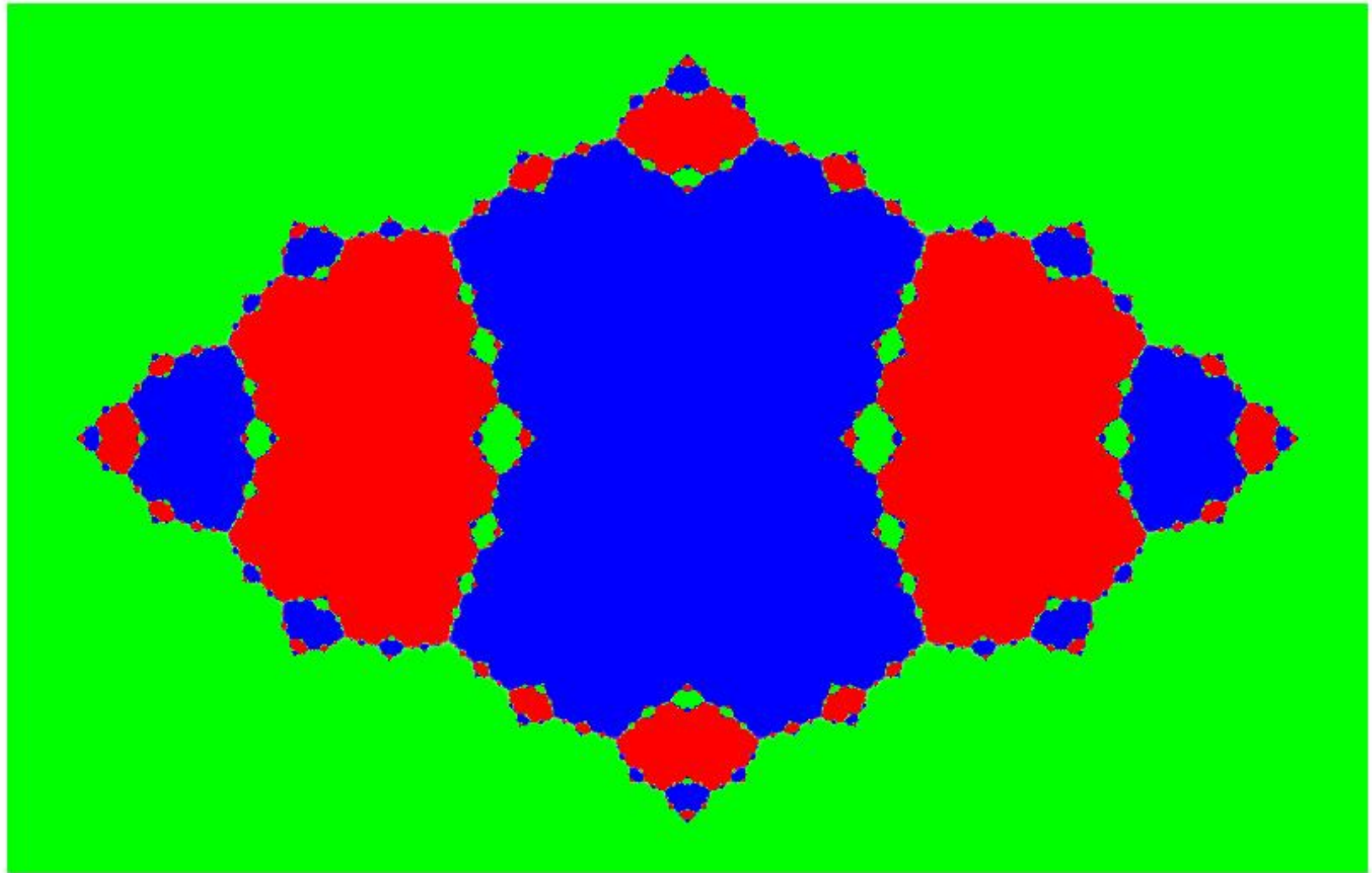
A Rational Julia Set

Here is the Julia set for $z \mapsto 1 - z^{-2}$.

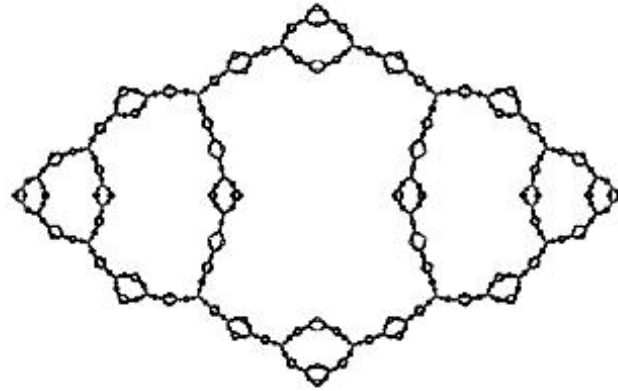


A Rational Julia Set

Here is the Julia set for $z \mapsto 1 - z^{-2}$.



A Rational Julia Set



Theorem (Belk & Weinrich-Burd)

The Thompson group T_{rat} for this Julia set has the following properties:

1. T_{rat} is generated by four elements.
2. $[T_{\text{rat}}, T_{\text{rat}}]$ has index two, and is **not** simple.
3. $T_{\text{rat}} = H \rtimes S_3$, where H is a simple normal subgroup.

Note: T_{rat} is presumably **not** isomorphic to a subgroup of T .

The End