

MPI programming for Julia Sets

Gaston Julia (1893-1978) was a French mathematician, who achieved international fame after his death, when Benoit B. Mandelbrot uncovered his beautiful 200-page 1918 paper (Memoire sur l'iteration des fonctions rationnelles, Journal de mathematiques pures et appliques 8eme serie, tome 1 (1918), p. 47-246.) concerning the iteration of a rational function f. Julia gave a precise description of the set J(f) of those points for which the n th iterate of f(z) stays bounded as n increases to infinity. These sets J(f) are now known as Julia sets even though Julia was probably never able to visualize them. Robert L. Devaney's book titled Chaos, fractals, and dynamics, Computer experiments in mathematics (Addison-Wesley 1990) provides detailed explanations of algorithms that can be used to visualize Julia sets and also makes a point regarding the cpu-intensive nature of these algorithms. This student project aimed at using MPI programming on SHARCNET clusters to produce high-resolution images of Julia sets, with a special focus on the load-balancing issues that arise during the computations. For more information on Dr. Ilias Korsireas or his research please visit: http://www.wlu.ca/science/physcomp/kotsireas/research.html