

patterns.com e-news

fractal fun

I couldn't wait to write this newsletter (which sometimes is a chore, but not this time). I submitted a cover image, in May, to an ezine for CorelDRAW users (CORELDRAWPRO). It was about fractals, and in writing a paragraph to introduce the processes involved in making the image (fig 1) I went to wikipedia (likely my most favorite of all websites) to read up on fractals. While I couldn't begin to write a fractal equation (I am math-challenged) what I understood from their description was the most incredible awe-inspiring thing imaginable--and prompted me to see that fractal equations are somehow encoded in the DNA (genetic code for all life), to produce awesome variability and form (fig. 2). I am copying here part of my description for the ezine.

A fractal (according to wikipedia.com) is a geometric shape, comprising parts which are smaller and smaller replicas (iterations) of the whole, a property called recursiveness, or self-similarity, resulting in infinite variation and infinite detail. The mathematical formula used determines the oscillations (the positive and negative) that occur with each iteration (repeat). Common structures in nature considered to be fractals are: clouds, snowflakes, crystals, mountain ranges, lightning, river networks, cauliflower, and some blood vessel patterns, to which I will add Purkinji cells of the cerebellum and branching of the airways. Fig 3 (from Wikipedia) is an incredible image of a romanesco broccoli showing highly ordered smaller and smaller iterations of the florets. John Polkinghorn considered the fractal edge of the clouds, as a place where the Eternal might actually interface with the Mortal while still being in sync with the laws of physics.

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fig 1



fig 2



fig 3



new patterns

Not every iterative process produces a fractal, but it becomes clear that nature has made considerable use of the iterative principle (which likely yields a huge conservation in genetic code while generating vast biological diversity (like tree branches), since the equations are quite succinct).

A couple of terrific pictures at <http://local.wasp.uwa.edu.au/~pbourke/fractals/interface/> make it absolutely clear that only very subtle changes in these simple equation to orchestrate tremendous biological variation.

In keeping with the fractal theme of this newsletter, the freebie pattern is borrowed and simplified from a fractal pattern, and more fun, found on PDQpatterns.com under geometric >fractal 1, made from a jpg I created from the freebie trial version called FractaleXtreme.

New patterns on <http://PDQpatterns.com> and <http://gospelglass.com> were about 40 for June. So there should be something there for everyone. Some are shown here. Use the SORT options (by date posted -new to -old-, and by name) to get through all 1340 patterns. My favorite this month is "daisy and donald."

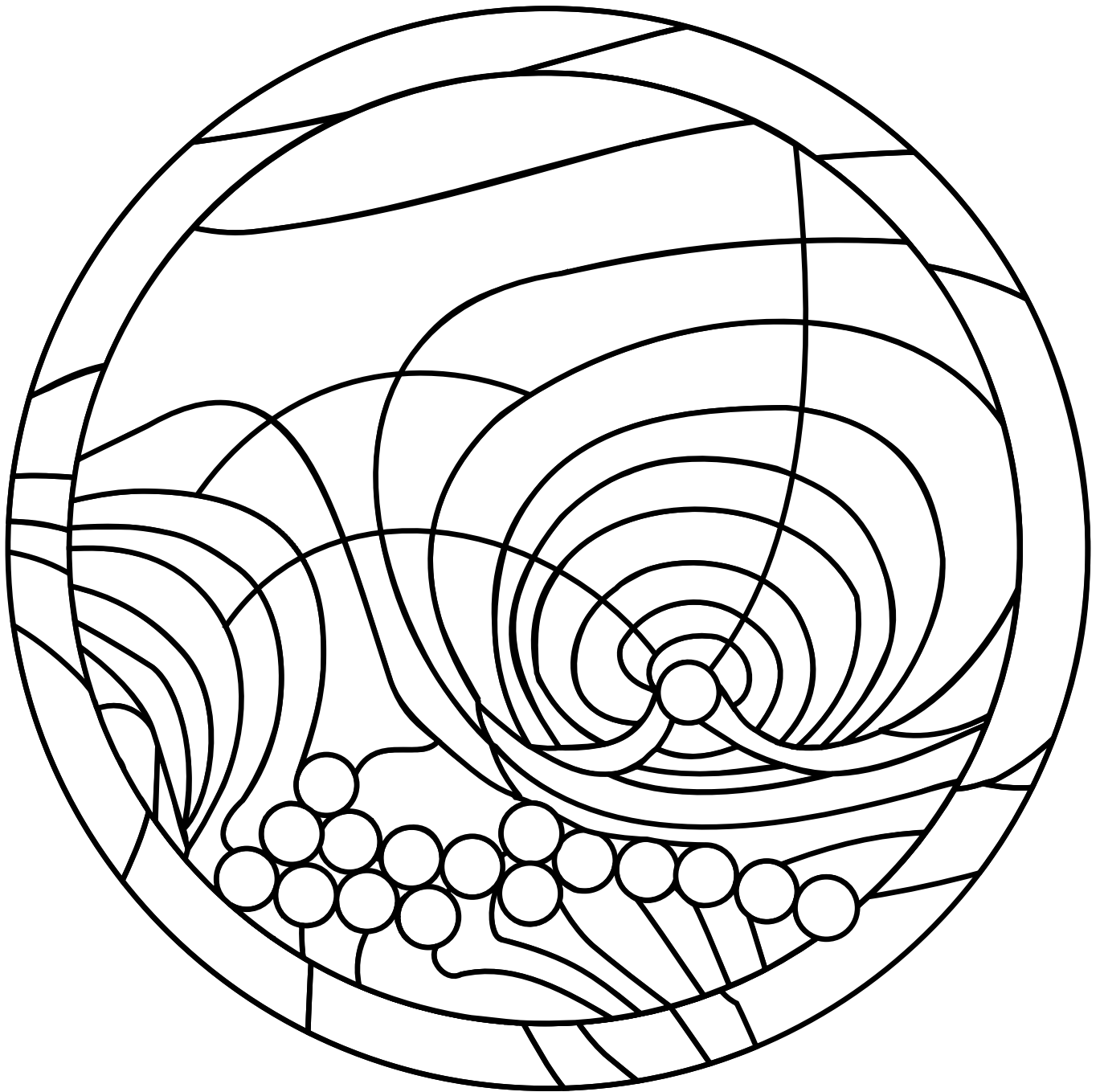


COUPON FOR JULY

Send a fractal image and I
will make it into a freebie pattern for you.

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pattern for July



The fractal round.