

# Computational Fabrication

CS 491 and 591

Professor: Leah Buechley

[https://handandmachine.cs.unm.edu/classes/Computational\\_Fabrication\\_Spring2021/](https://handandmachine.cs.unm.edu/classes/Computational_Fabrication_Spring2021/)

# Weekly Artist: Rogan Brown

<https://roganbrown.com/>



Rogan Brown



Rogan Brown

# **Large Assignment 1: Turtle Geometry & L-Systems**

# **Modeling Plants**

# Project assignments graded on

Design

Craftsmanship, Code

Craftsmanship, Artifact

Documentation

# Documentation: Taking Good Photographs



# Taking Good Photographs

## Indirect natural light only

Turn off artificial lights

Turn off flash

Set up by a window

No direct light

## Plain background

white or grey

Set up a paper background



# Taking Good Photographs



document your entire process  
including problems

questions?

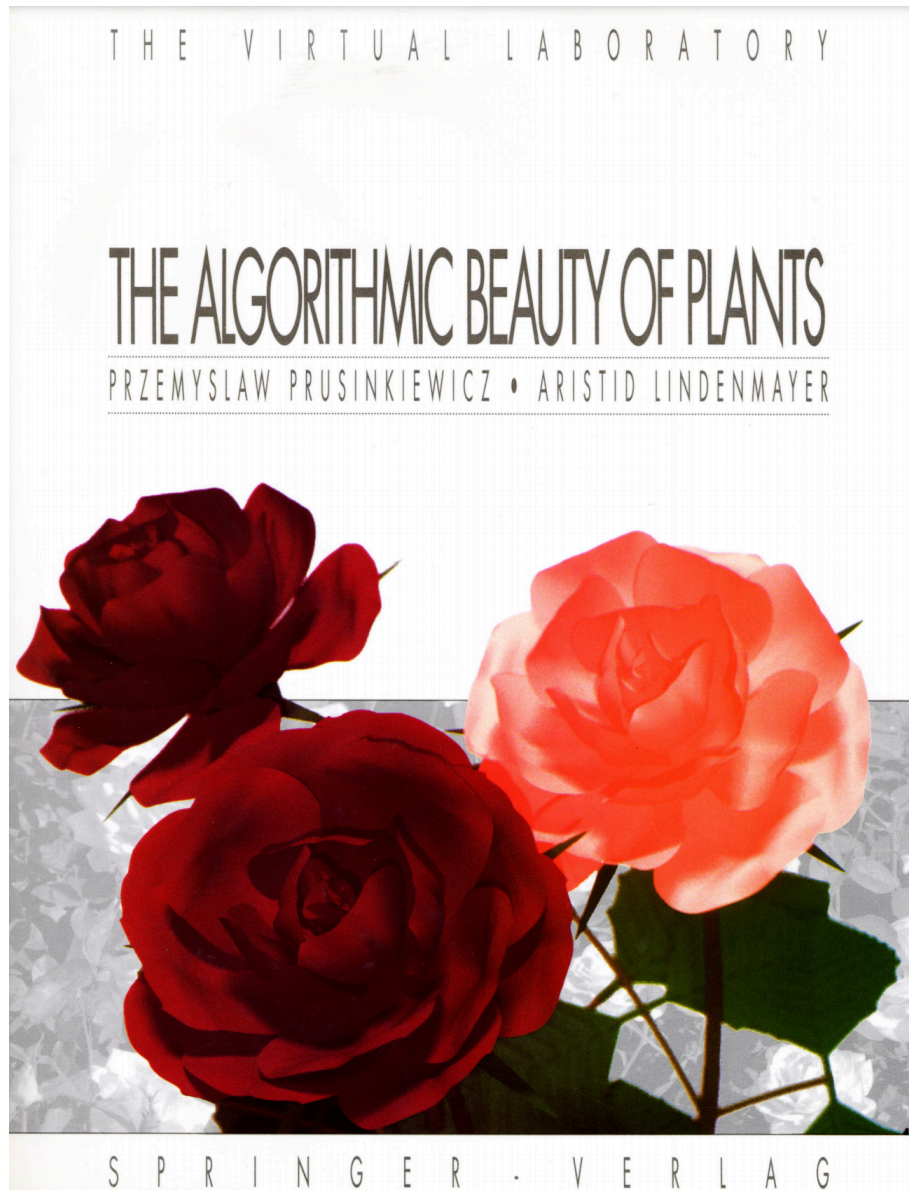
# Office hours (come talk to me!)

**When:** 11-12pm on Tuesday and Thursday, after class, or by appointment (email me)

**Where:** Hand and Machine Lab, Farris Engineering Center basement/ground floor. Room G390

**Why:** Get help with assignments, get help with your printer, career advice, conversation, whatever

# Simulating Natural Growth with L-Systems



# L-Systems

developed by Aristid  
Lindenmayer in 1964

Lindenmayer was a Hungarian  
botanist and biologist

developed as a way to  
understand plant growth

“Algorithmic Beauty of Plants”  
published in 1990

# L-System

Mathematically a “grammar”. Consists of:

**Alphabet (V):** The symbols in the grammar. Must be finite.

**Axiom ( $\omega$ ):** A starting word. Must be made from symbols in the alphabet.

**Rules(P):** Rules or “Productions” that define how symbols in the alphabet should be replaced in each iteration.

**Iteration:** In an iteration, all symbols in the current word are replaced according to the rules. Replacements happen in parallel.



# L-Systems

A set of rules that turn a simple starting word (an “axiom”) into a more complex word by replacing symbols. A grammar.

Example:

axiom (starting word): F

rule:  $F \rightarrow F-F++F-F$

3 iterations of the system:

F

F-F++F-F

F-F++F-F-F-F++F-F++F-F++F-F-F-F++F-F

# L-Systems and Turtle Geometry

Visualize these patterns by translating them into actions carried out by the turtle. Each symbol is translated into an action

Example:

F = move forward an amount (100)

- = turn left an angle ( $60^\circ$ )

+ = turn right an angle ( $60^\circ$ )

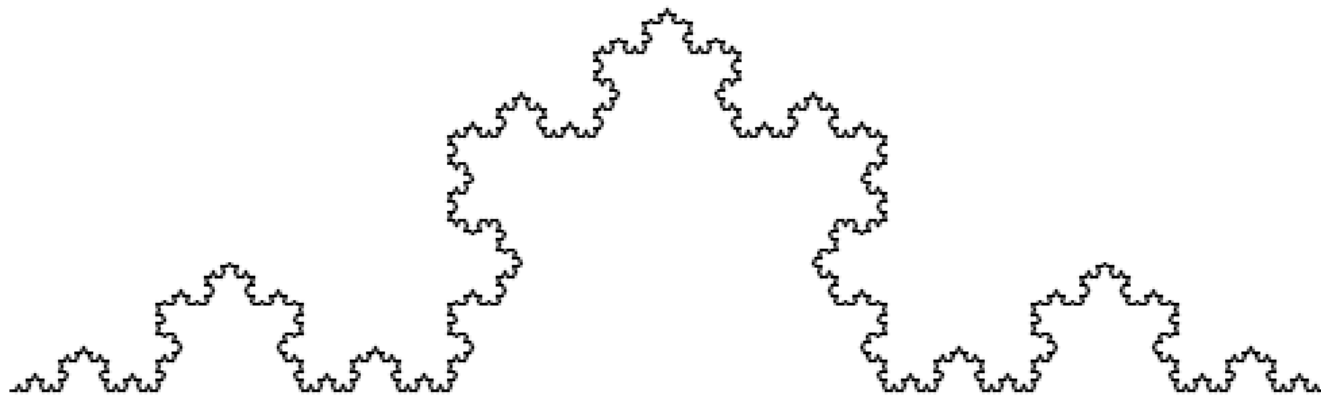
F

F-F++F-F

F-F++F-F-F-F++F-F++F-F++F-F-F-F++F-F

# L-Systems and Turtle Geometry

Koch curve



# Some Questions

## Shh...Raise Your Hand

angle = 60

what is the shape generated by this expression:  
F++F++F ?

angle = 90

what is the the shape generated by this expression:  
F-F-F-F ?

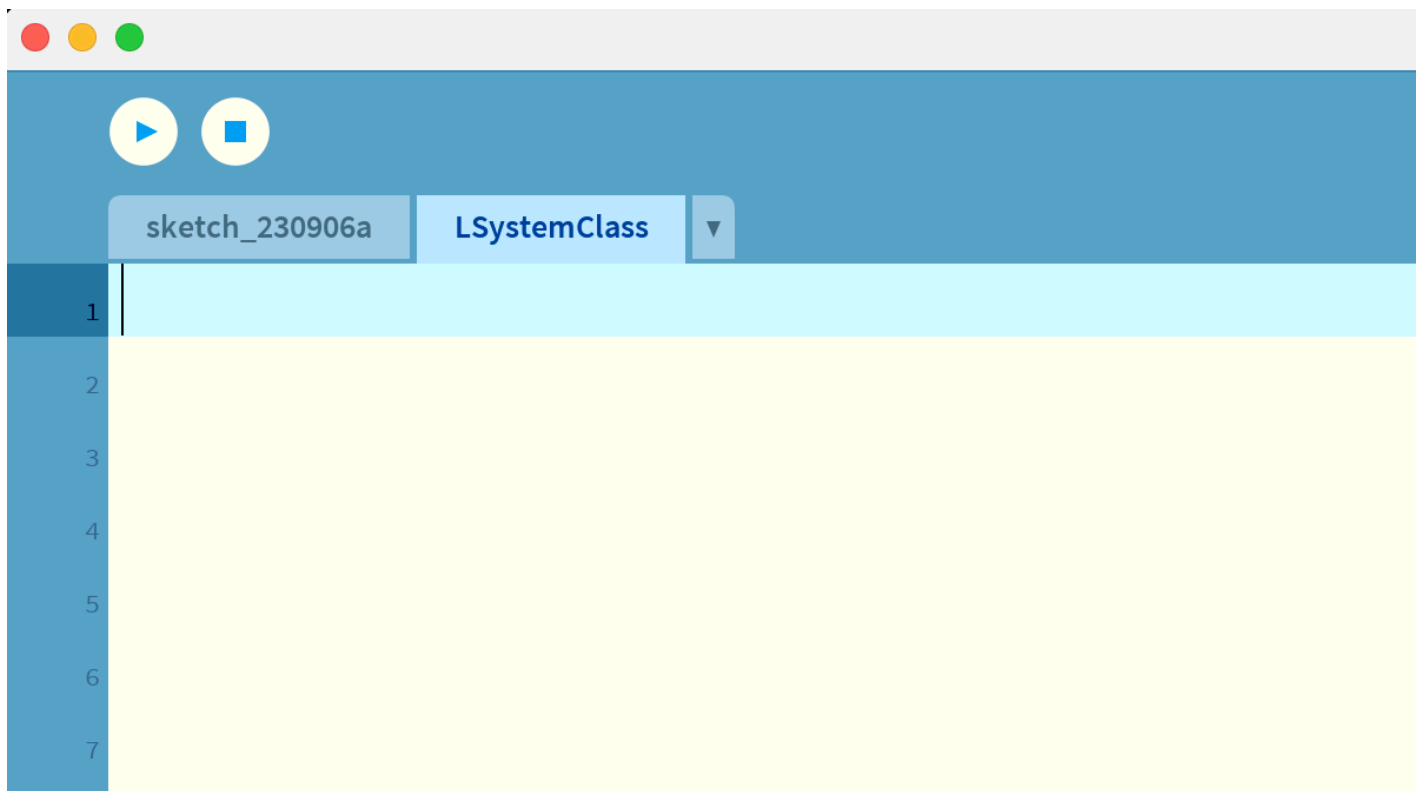
angle = 45

what is the expression for a zigzag?

questions?

# Implementation in Code

First: add a new tab for an LSystemClass



# **LSystem variables and initialization**



in the new tab

```
class LSystemClass {
    String axiom = "F";
    String [][] rules = { {"F", "F-F++F-F"},
                        {"+", "+"},
                        {"-", "-"} };

    String computedWord;

    LSystemClass () {
        computedWord = axiom;
    }
}
```

# Computing one iteration

# What do we do in an iteration?

- Loop through all the characters in the current word
- For each character, check to see what the rule for it is
- Build up a new word that has each character replaced, according to the rules.

# iteration method in LSystemClass

```
void iteration() {
    char s;
    String newWord = "";

    //loop through computedWord
    for (int i = 0; i<computedWord.length(); i++) {
        //for every symbol
        s = computedWord.charAt(i);
        //loop through rules to find a match
        for (int j=0; j<rules.length;j++) {
            if (s == rules[j][0].charAt(0)) {
                newWord = newWord + rules[j][1]; //replacement
                break;
            }
        }
    }
    computedWord = newWord;
    println(computedWord);
}
```

Run program and check output



**Now draw the System**

# What do we do to draw?

- Loop through all the characters in the word
- For each character, take a turtle action



# add size and angle variables to class

```
class LSystemClass {
    String axiom = "F";
    String [][] rules = { {"F", "F-F++F-F"},
                        {"+", "+"},
                        {"-", "-"} };

    String computedWord;
    float size, angle;

    LSystemClass (float size, float angle) {
        this.size = size;
        this.angle = angle;
        computedWord = axiom;
    }
}
```

initialize variables in constructor (LSystemClass method)

# add drawLSystem method to LSystemClass

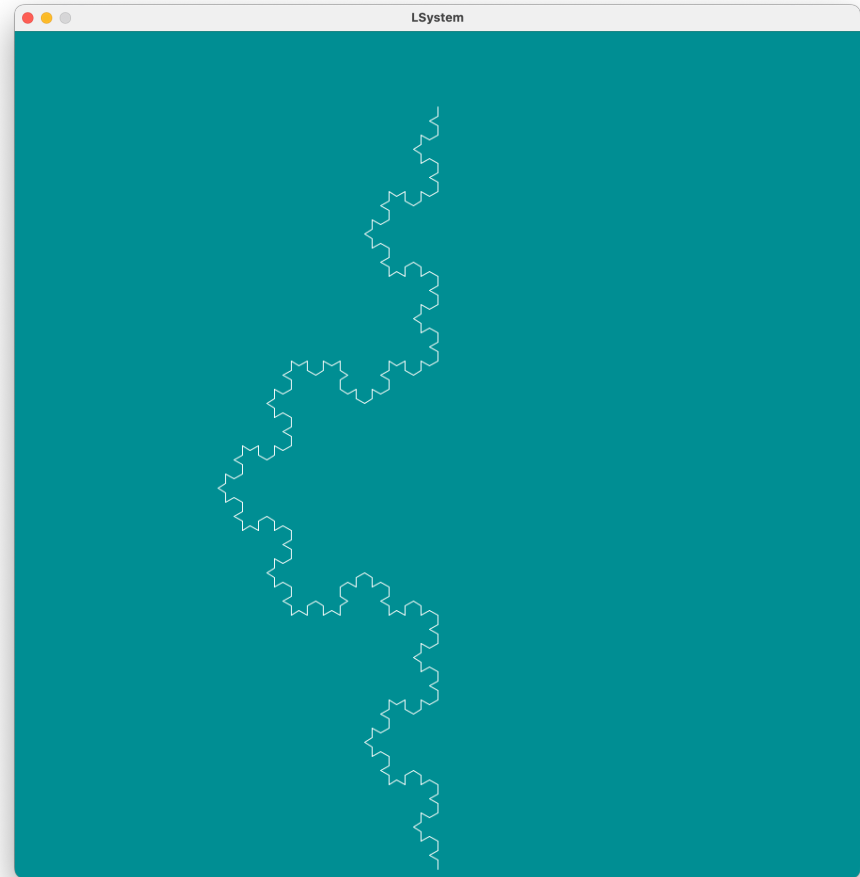
```
void drawLSystem(Turtle t) {
    //loop through computedWord and draw each symbol
    char s;
    for (int i=0;i<computedWord.length();i++) {
        s = computedWord.charAt(i);
        if (s=='F')
            t.forward(size);
        else if (s=='+')
            t.right(angle);
        else if (s=='-')
            t.left(angle);
    }
}
```

# back to main tab

```
import Turtle.*;
LSystemClass l;
Turtle t;

void setup() {
  size(900,900);
  background(#2C9093);
  stroke(255);
  l = new LSystemClass(10,60);
  t = new Turtle(this);
  frameRate(1);
}

void draw() {
  t.setX(width/2);
  t.setY(height-10);
  background(#2C9093);
  l.drawLSystem(t);
  l.iteration();
}
```



Add scaleFactor variable to keep drawing on the screen

# main tab

```
import Turtle.*;
LSystemClass l;
Turtle t;

void setup() {
    size(900,900);
    background(#2C9093);
    stroke(255);
    l = new LSystemClass(10,60,1);
    t = new Turtle(this);
    frameRate(1);
}

void draw() {
    t.setX(width/2);
    t.setY(height-10);
    background(#2C9093);
    l.drawLSystem(t);
    l.iteration();
}
```

# LSystemClass

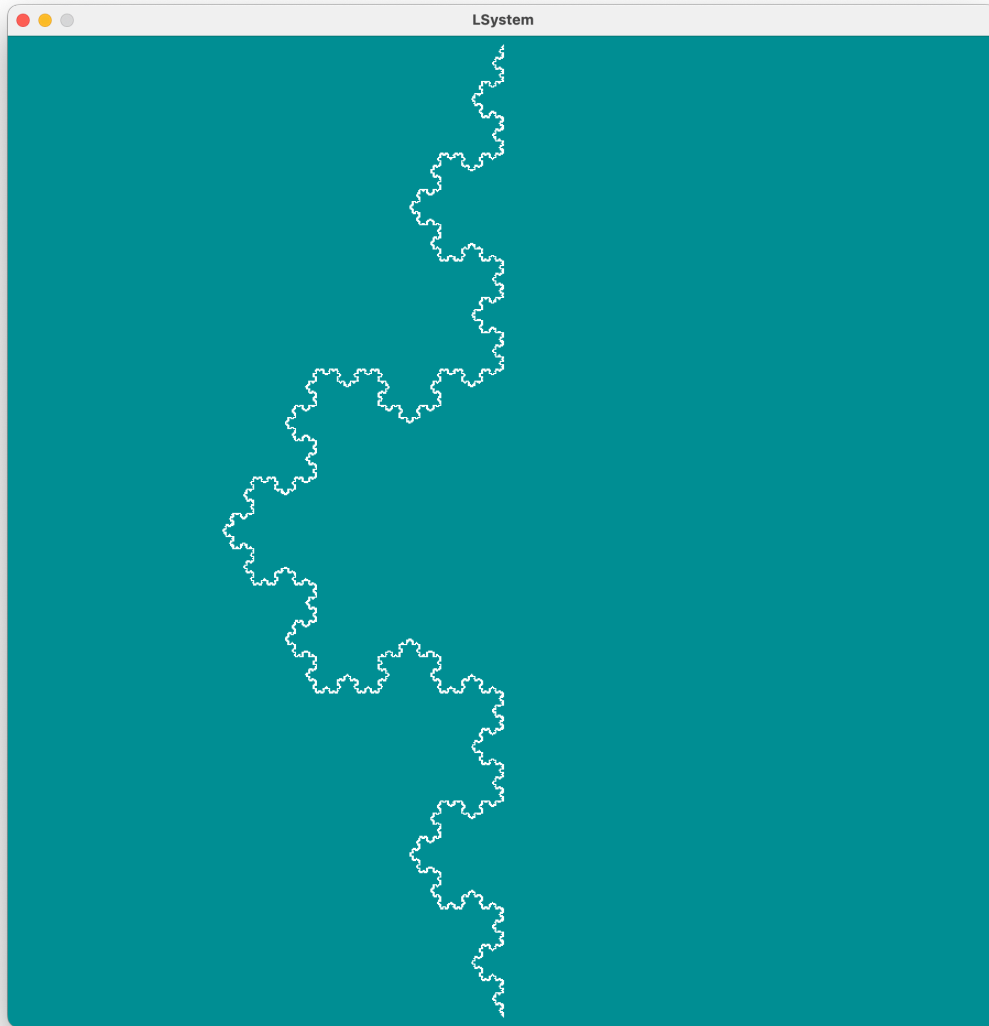
```
class LSystemClass {
    String axiom = "F";
    String [][] rules = { {"F", "F-F++F-F"},
                          {"+", "+"},
                          {"-", "-"} };

    String computedWord;
    int iterations;
    float size, angle, scaleFactor;

    LSystemClass (float size, float angle, float scaleFactor) {
        this.size = size;
        this.angle = angle;
        this.scaleFactor = scaleFactor;
        computedWord = axiom;
        iterations = 0;
    }

    void iteration() {
        char s;
        String newWord = "";
        size = size*scaleFactor;
        //loop through computedWord
        for (int i = 0; i<computedWord.length(); i++) {
            //for every symbol
            s = computedWord.charAt(i);
            //loop through rules to find a match
            for (int j=0; j<rules.length;j++) {
                if (s == rules[j][0].charAt(0)) {
                    newWord = newWord + rules[j][1]; //replacement
                    break;
                }
            }
            iterations++;
            computedWord = newWord;
            println(iterations +": " +computedWord);
        }
    }

    void drawLSystem(Turtle t) {
        //loop through computedWord and draw each symbol
        char s;
        for (int i=0;i<computedWord.length();i++) {
            s = computedWord.charAt(i);
            if (s=='F')
                t.forward(size);
            else if (s=='+')
                t.right(angle);
            else if (s=='-')
                t.left(angle);
        }
    }
}
```



questions?

**Notice: Fractal Structure**



Play with angle variable

**See book for other rules to explore!**