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Relations between "The Flame Algorithm and its Open Source Culture" and

"Biophilic Fractals and the Visual Journey of Organic Screen-savers"

Fractals are a phenomenon that started on March 1, 1980 with the discovery of the Mandelbrot Set by Benoit Mandelbrot. Without computers, fractals would have never become what they are today, since the computational power needed to generate the intensely detailed images we get today are tremendous. An example of a computer generated fractal pattern is the *Electric Sheep*, which is a pattern that starts off with something called a Fractal Flame, which was invented by Scott Darves. "The Flame Algorithm and its Open Source Culture" talks a lot about the *Electric Sheep*, while "Biophilic Fractals and the Visual Journey of Organic Screen-savers" talks more about different kinds of fractals we have found.

The way these two papers relate is relatively easy to see. The "Biophilic Fractals and the Visual Journey of Organic Screen-savers" talks about fractals in general, even mentioning the *Electric Sheep* algorithm, which the first paper's topic is all about. This, however, is where the two essays go their separate ways. "The Flame Algorithm" essay goes on to talk about how the flame algorithm evolved into something much bigger than was first expected by the creator with the help of it being open sourced. This allowed other programmers to add onto the original algorithm, making it more and more diverse, eventually getting to a level that allowed common computer users and artists to make their own sheep and share them on the internet. The other essay goes on to talk about other fractals that have been found, paying close attention to how they are related to nature. Also, the essay goes into more detail about how fractals actually work, describing how and why different patterns are formed by certain algorithms.

Overall, these two essays were very fun to read. The flame algorithm was a huge leap in open sourced technology, allowing people from all over the world to bring their own ideas and interpretations to the table. This in turn also proves that open sourced programming can be very useful, since a lot of the things discovered with this fractal could never have been found out by one person. The other essay had more of a broader scope, talking a bit about the *Electric Sheep* and the Flame Algorithm, but then going more into what other kinds of fractals there are and how they are connected to nature and us.

Bibliography

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