

On the **magic** of some **families** of **fractal dendrites**



Ligia Loretta Cristea

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Universität Graz

joint work with Bertran Steinsky and Gunther Leobacher

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- LLC, B. Steinsky, **Paths of infinite length in 4×4 - labyrinth fractals**, *Geometriae Dedicata* (2009)
- LLC, B. Steinsky, **Curves of Infinite Length in Labyrinth Fractals**, *Proceedings of the Edinburgh Math. Soc.* (2010)
- LLC, B. Steinsky, **Mixed labyrinth fractals**, *J. Topology and its Applications* (2017)
- LLC, G. Leobacher, **A note on lengths of arcs in mixed labyrinth fractals**, *Monatshefte f. Mathematik* (2017)
- LLC, G. Leobacher, **Supermixed labyrinth fractals**, submitted 2018

What is a labyrinth fractal?



- 4 "doors": golden, very "small"
- from any of the "doors" a path is starting
- all "doors" are connected
- infinitely many, infinitely small rooms:
- only one path between any two (rooms)
- this unique path is infinitely long (under certain conditions)

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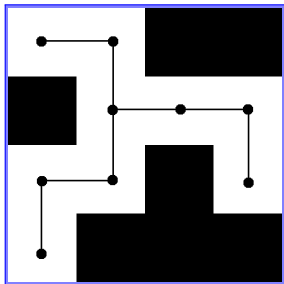
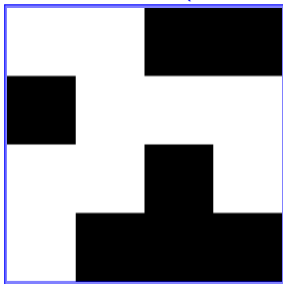
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(Labyrinth) patterns. The graph of a (labyrinth) pattern

A 4×4 (labyrinth) pattern and its graph

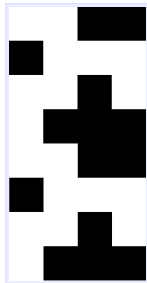
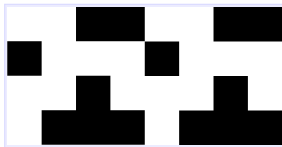
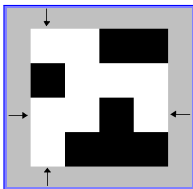


What is a labyrinth pattern?

Property 2 (The Exits Property)

Property

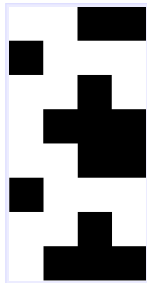
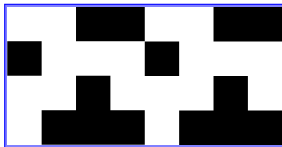
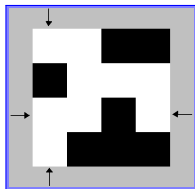
There is *exactly one horizontal* and *exactly one vertical exit pair* in the labyrinth pattern. (*the Exits Property*)



Property 2 (The Exits Property)

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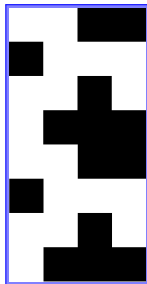
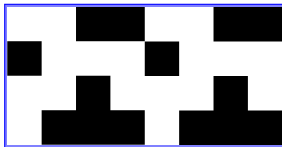
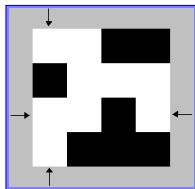
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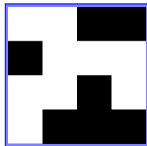
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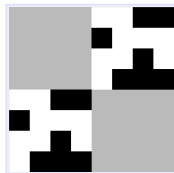
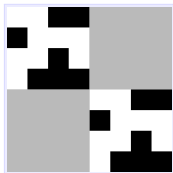


Property 3 (The Corner Property)

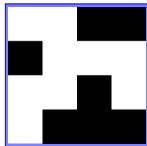


Property

*If there is a **white square at a corner** of the labyrinth pattern, then there is **no white square at the diagonally opposite corner** of the labyrinth pattern. (**the Corner Property**)*

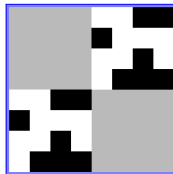
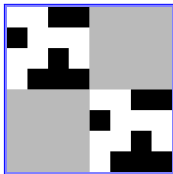


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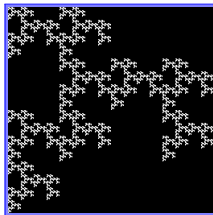
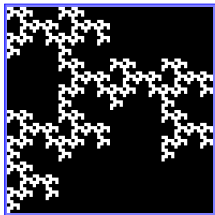
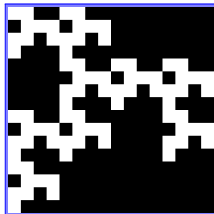
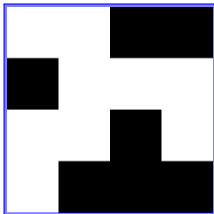
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Construction of a labyrinth fractal

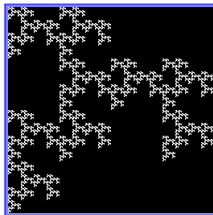
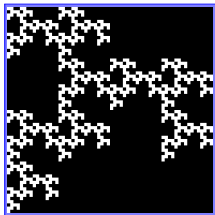
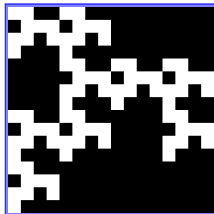
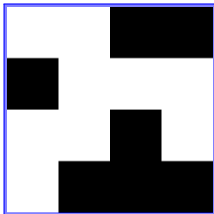
A 4×4 -labyrinth pattern/set.



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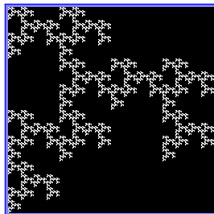


... labyrinth fractal

Dendrites

Theorem

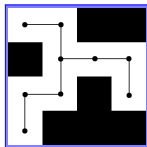
For **all** $m \times m$ labyrinth patterns, the constructed self-similar fractal L is a dendrite.



Dendrite

A dendrite is a connected and locally connected compact Hausdorff space that contains no simple closed curve.

A Fourth Property



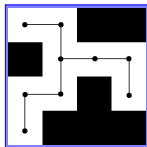
Horizontally Blocked

A labyrinth pattern is called *horizontally blocked* if the row (of squares) from the left exit to the right exit contains at least one black square.

Vertically Blocked

A labyrinth pattern is called *vertically blocked* if the column (of squares) from the top exit to the bottom exit contains at least one black square.

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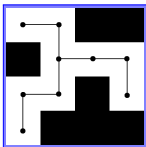
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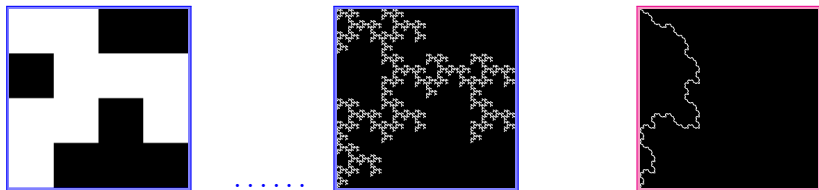
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Self-similar labyrinth fractals. Main Result

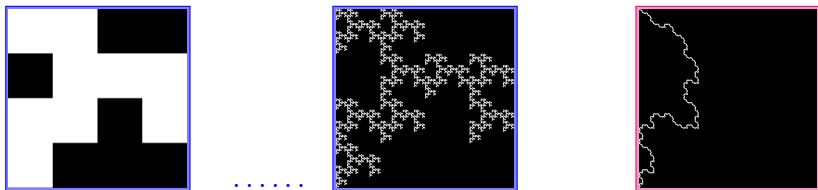


Theorem

Let L_∞ be the (self-similar) labyrinth fractal generated by a horizontally and vertically blocked $m \times m$ -labyrinth pattern.

- (a) Between any two points in L_∞ there is a unique arc a .
- (b) The length of a is infinite and $\dim_B(a) = \frac{\log r}{\log m}$.
- (c) The set of all points, at which no tangent to a exists, is dense in a .

Self-similar labyrinth fractals. Main Result

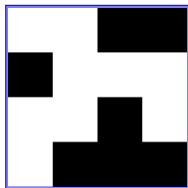


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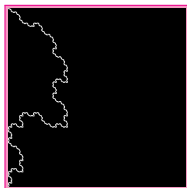
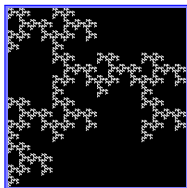
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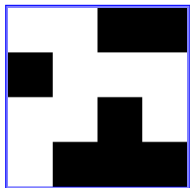


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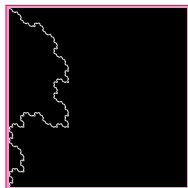
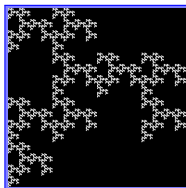
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Self-similar labyrinth fractals

Famous Theorems used for the proofs

- **Jordan Curve** Theorem
- **Hahn-Mazurkiewicz-Sierpiński** Theorem
- **Perron-Frobenius** Theorem
- a *labyrinth* version of the **Steinhaus Chessboard** Theorem

Mixed labyrinth fractals

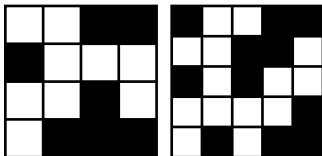


Figure: Two labyrinth patterns, \mathcal{A}_1 (a 4-pattern) and \mathcal{A}_2 (a 5-pattern)

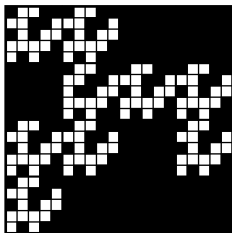


Figure: The mixed (labyrinth) set \mathcal{W}_2 , constructed based on the above patterns \mathcal{A}_1 and \mathcal{A}_2 , that can also be viewed as a 20-pattern

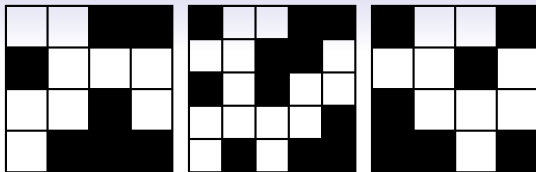


Figure: Labyrinth patterns: \mathcal{A}_1 , \mathcal{A}_2 (as before), and \mathcal{A}_3 (4×4)

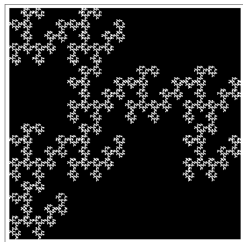


Figure: The **mixed** (labyrinth) set of level 4 defined by a sequence $\{\mathcal{A}_k\}_{k \geq 1}$ where the first three patterns are $\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2, \mathcal{A}_3$, respectively, shown above, and the fourth is \mathcal{A}_1

Topological properties of mixed labyrinth fractals

Lemma

Let $\{\mathcal{A}_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ be a *sequence* of non-empty patterns, $m_k \geq 3$, and $n \geq 1$. If $\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ are *labyrinth patterns*, then \mathcal{W}_n is an $m(n) \times m(n)$ -*labyrinth set* (i.e., it has the *Tree Property*, *Exits Property*, *Corner property*), for all $n \geq 1$, where $m(n) = \prod_{k=1}^n m_k$.

We call the limit set $L_{\infty} = \bigcap_{n \geq 1} \bigcup_{W \in \mathcal{W}_n} W$ the *mixed labyrinth fractal* generated by $\{\mathcal{A}_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$.

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The construction of the path between exits

Example: The path between the bottom exit and the right exit

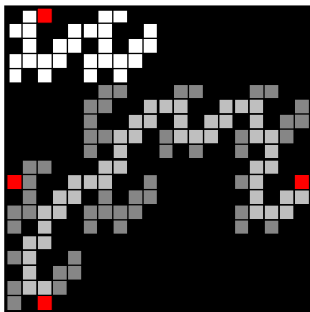


Figure: The set \mathcal{W}_2 constructed with the patterns \mathcal{A}_1 and \mathcal{A}_2 shown before, and the path from the bottom exit to the right exit of \mathcal{W}_2 (in lighter gray).

One can check that $\square(2) = 48$.

The idea of the construction described in the following works for all mixed labyrinth fractals.

Paths in mixed labyrinth sets. Paths in patterns

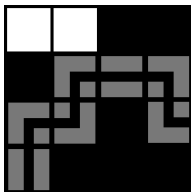








Figure: The path from the **bottom exit** to the **right exit** of \mathcal{A}_1

- first, we find the path between the bottom and the right exit of \mathcal{W}_1
- then we denote each white square in the path according to its neighbours within the path: there are 6 possible types of squares: , , , , , and -square

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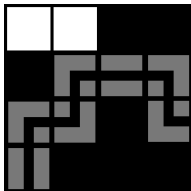


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Paths in mixed labyrinth sets. Paths in patterns

In order to obtain the \blacksquare -path in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{W}_2)$, we replace each \blacksquare -square of the path in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{W}_1)$ with the \blacksquare -path in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A}_2)$.

Analogously, we do this for the other marked white squares.

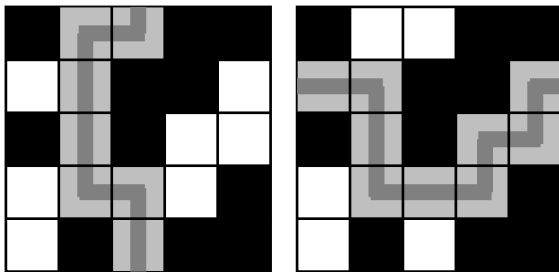
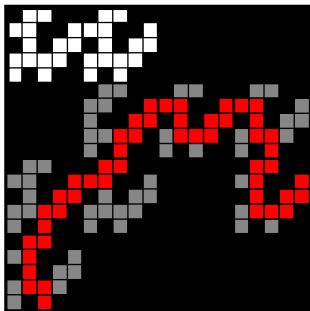


Figure: Paths from bottom to top and from left to right exit of \mathcal{A}_2

Paths in mixed labyrinth sets



In general, for any pair of exits and $n \geq 1$, we replace each marked white square in the path of $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{W}_n)$ by its corresponding path in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A}_{n+1})$ and obtain the path of $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{W}_{n+1})$.

Paths in mixed labyrinth sets

Let $\{\mathcal{A}_k\}_{k \geq 1}$ be a sequence of labyrinth patterns, that defines the sequence $\{\mathcal{W}_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ of mixed labyrinth sets.

Proposition

There exist non-negative 6×6 -matrices M_k , $k = 1, 2, \dots$, such that for all $n \geq 1$, and for $M(n) = M_1 \cdot M_2 \cdot \dots \cdot M_n$, the element in row x and column y of $M(n)$ is the number of y -squares in the x -path in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{W}_n)$, for $x, y \in \{\sqcup, \boxminus, \boxplus, \boxtimes, \boxdot, \boxtimes\}$.

Furthermore,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \sqcup(n) \\ \boxminus(n) \\ \boxplus(n) \\ \boxtimes(n) \\ \boxdot(n) \\ \boxtimes(n) \end{pmatrix} = M(n) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Paths in mixed labyrinth sets

Sketch of the proof

For $k \geq 1$, we define the **matrix** M_k (the **path matrix** of \mathcal{A}_k):

- the columns of M_k from left to right and the rows of M_k from top to bottom correspond to $\begin{smallmatrix} \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare \end{smallmatrix}$, $\begin{smallmatrix} \blacksquare \\ \square \end{smallmatrix}$, $\begin{smallmatrix} \square \\ \blacksquare \end{smallmatrix}$, $\begin{smallmatrix} \square \\ \square \end{smallmatrix}$, and $\begin{smallmatrix} \square \\ \blacksquare \end{smallmatrix}$, (ordered set of indices)
- the element in **row** x and **column** y of M_k is the number of y -squares in the x -path in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A}_k)$.

One can easily check that the **matrix multiplication reflects the substitution of paths**.

(Proof by induction)

Remark. The proposition yields

- in the *self-similar* case $M(n) = M^n$
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Mixed labyrinth fractals generated by special cross patterns

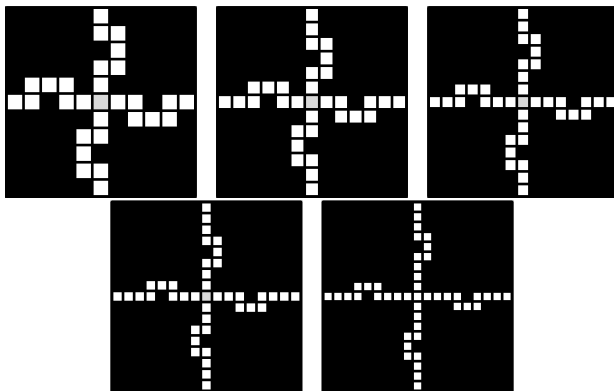


Figure: Example: the first five elements of a sequence of special cross patterns, where $m_k = 2k + 9$, and $a_k = k + 4$

Theorem

There **exist** sequences $\{\mathcal{A}_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ of *both horizontally and vertically blocked labyrinth patterns*, such that the limit set L_{∞} has the property that for *any two points* in L_{∞} the *length* of the *arc* $a \subset L_{\infty}$ that connects them is **finite**. For *almost all* points $x_0 \in a$ (with respect to the length) there *exists the tangent* at x_0 to the *arc* a .

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NEW! Very recent results:

On arclength in **mixed** labyrinth fractals

Theorem

Let $\{\mathcal{A}_k\}_{k \geq 1}$ be a sequence of *horizontally and vertically blocked labyrinth patterns*, such that the corresponding sequence of widths $\{m_k\}_{k \geq 1}$ satisfies the condition

$$\sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{m_k} = \infty.$$

Then, for *all* $x, y \in L_\infty$ with $x \neq y$ the arc in L_∞ that connects x and y has *infinite length*.

Remark. The above condition is sufficient, but not necessary in order to obtain a labyrinth fractal with *all arcs having infinite length*.

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Very recent results: **Supermixed** labyrinth fractals

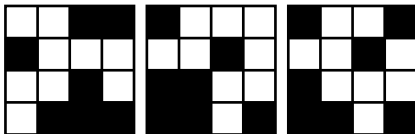


Figure: Three labyrinth patterns, from left to right: the unique pattern in $\{\mathcal{A}_{1,1}\} \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_1$, followed by the (two) patterns $\mathcal{A}_{2,1}, \mathcal{A}_{2,2} \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_2$, $m_1 = m_2 = 4$

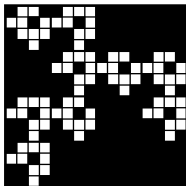


Figure: The (width-homogeneous) **supermixed** labyrinth set \mathcal{W}_2 , constructed with the help of the above patterns from $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_1$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_2$, that can also be viewed as a 16-pattern

Very recent results: paths in supermixed labyrinth sets

Theorem

For all $n \geq 1$,

$$M(n) = Q_{n,1} + \cdots + Q_{n,s_{n+1}}, \quad s_{n+1} = \#(\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n+1})$$

and

$$M(n+1) = \sum_{h=1}^{s_{n+1}} Q_{n,h} \cdot M_{n+1,h}, \quad Q_{n,h} = (q_{i,j}^{n,h})$$

where $q_{i,j}^{n,h}$ is the number of j -squares in the path of type i in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{W}_n)$ which at the next step are “substituted” according to the pattern $\mathcal{A}_{n+1,h}$.

Remark. For $s_{n+1} = 1$, (for some $n \geq 1$), we have $M(n) = Q_{n,1}$ and thus we recover the formula $M(n+1) = M(n) \cdot M_{n+1}$ proven earlier for mixed labyrinth fractals.

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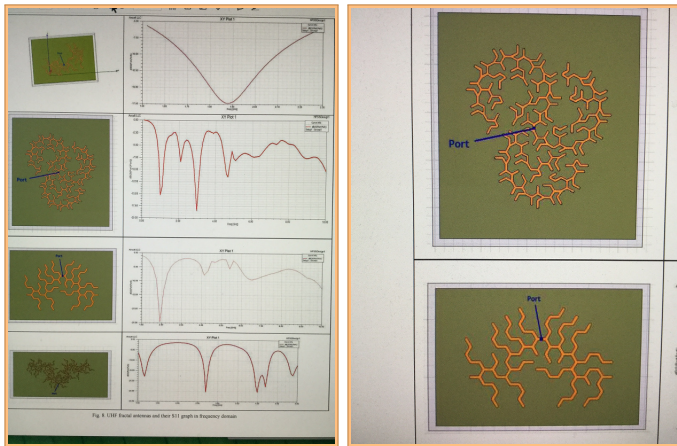
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A. A. Potapov, W. Zhang, CIE International Conference on Radar
(October 2016) : **prototypes of ultra-wide band radar antennas based on
labyrinth fractals**



A. A. Potapov, A. A. Potapov Jr., V. A. Potapov, Conference Paper
(December 2017) : Fractal radioelements, devices and fractal systems for
radar and telecommunications

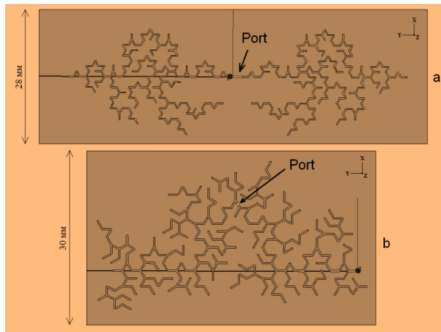


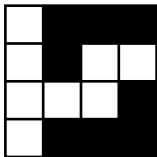
Fig. 5. Results structures for fractal antennas.

T h a n k y o u !

What if the pattern is **not** blocked?

! If only one of the directions of the generating pattern is blocked, then there are pairs of points in the labyrinth fractals such that the length of the arc between them is finite.

Example:



Lemma

The length of the arc in L_∞ between any two distinct points $x, y \in L_\infty$ is **finite** if and only if the straight line segment from x to y is vertical and is contained in L_∞ .

Wild labyrinth patterns/Wild labyrinth fractals

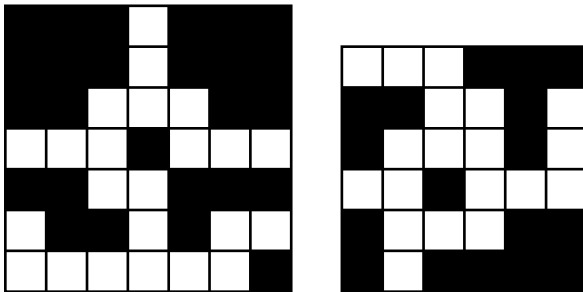
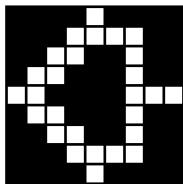


Figure: Examples: wild labyrinth patterns, both vertically and horizontally blocked

- tree \longleftrightarrow connected graph
- uniqueness of v/h exit pair \longleftrightarrow existence of v/h exit pair
- corner property

Paths in wild labyrinth fractals. Example

For wild labyrinth fractals the Lemma about the path construction does **not** hold in general: the squares in the shortest path from the top exit to the bottom exit in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{W}_2)$ do not lie within the shortest path from the top exit to the bottom exit in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{W}_1)$



- in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{W}_1)$: $\Pi_1^{left} = 15$, $\Pi_1^{right} = 13$,
 $\Xi_1 = 15$, $\mathbb{I}_1 = \mathbb{R}_1 = \mathbb{S}_1 = \mathbb{U}_1 = 9$
- the length of the “right” \mathbb{I} -path in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{W}_2)$ is
 $7\Pi_1 + 2\Xi_1 + \mathbb{I}_1 + \mathbb{R}_1 + \mathbb{S}_1 + \mathbb{U}_1 = 7 \cdot 13 + 2 \cdot 15 + 4 \cdot 9 = 157$
- the length of the “left” \mathbb{I} -path in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{W}_2)$ is
 $3\Pi_1 + 0 \cdot \Xi_1 + 3\mathbb{I}_1 + 3\mathbb{R}_1 + 3\mathbb{S}_1 + 3\mathbb{U}_1 = 3 \cdot 13 + 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 9 = 147$