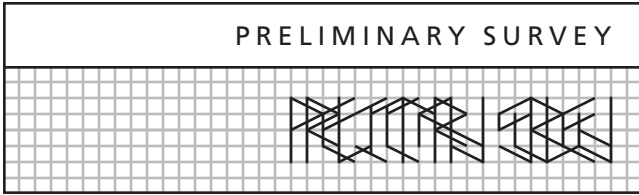
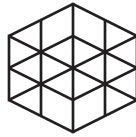


# CRYSTALLOGRAPHY



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## CRYSTALS

A crystal is an atomic tessellation, a tridimensional jigsaw puzzle in which every piece is the same shape.

A crystal assembles itself out of its own constituent disarray: the puzzle puts itself together, each piece falling as though by chance into its correct location.

A crystal is nothing more  
than a breeze blowing sand  
into the form of a castle  
or a film played backwards  
of a window being smashed.

A compound (word) dissolved in a liquid supercooled under microgravitational conditions precipitates out of solution in (alphabetical) order to form crystals whose structuralistic perfection rivals the beauty of machine-tooled objects.

An archæologist without any mineralogical experience might easily mistake a crystal for the artificial product of a precision technology.

A word is a bit of crystal in formation.

c r y s t a l s

a  
s  
t  
r  
a  
l

s  
a  
l  
t

c  
a  
s  
t

a  
s  
t  
r  
a  
y

AMETHYST

S I L I C O N  
X  
Y  
O X Y G E N  
E  
N

sibylline orchid

oblivious

## EXPERIMENT #1

1

Amethyst sugar  
stains tapwater,

like the inkjet  
spray of toner

on wet paper,  
words but dust

dissolved away  
so faint liquid

can transmute  
at the chiming

of the teaspoon  
into grape paint.

Supersaturation.

2

Surgical thread  
dipped in slowly

cooling glasses  
of warm seltzer

with its solute  
at a high degree

of concentration  
attracts stray

atoms in the way  
a magnetic wire

grows a cluster  
of iron filings.

Coprecipitation.



3

Textbooks teach  
you that to lock

solutions in your  
icebox overnight

can precipitate  
from water, candy

on a cord, words  
accreting meaning

so that the line  
can end at last

in the sweetest  
of stalactites.

Crystallization.

l c  
 crystal r  
 c r t y l  
 r y t crystal  
 y l crystal i r t t  
 crystal r t c y a t  
 r t t y lattice s l i  
 y a t crystal t c  
 s l i r t t lattice  
 t c y a t crystal r  
 lattice s l i r t y l  
 l r t c y l t crystal  
 y lattice s a i r t t  
 crystal r t t c y a t  
 r t t y lattice s l i  
 y a t crystal i t c  
 s l i r t t c lattice  
 t c y lattice l  
 lattice s l i  
 l t c  
 lattice  
 l

## CRYSTAL LATTICE

## FRACTAL GEOMETRY

1

Fractals are haphazard maps  
that entrap entropy in tropes.

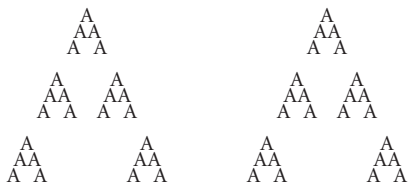
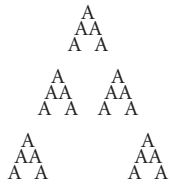
Fractals tell their raconteurs  
to counteract at every point  
the contours of what thought  
recounts (a line, a plot): recant  
the chronicle that cannot coil  
into itself – let the story stray  
off course, its countless details,  
pointless detours, all en route  
toward a tour de force, where  
the here & now of nowhere is.

Don't ramble – lest you dream  
about a random belt of words  
brought to you by Mandelbrot.

2

Fractals are a pretty knotty  
way to say: the length of any  
coastline depends upon the  
lengths to which a ruler goes.

A lost vacationer who strolls  
along a beach patrols a spatial  
breach between dimensions.



A-FRACTAL

3

A fractal is the ideal of redundancy:

the obsessive restatement (re(in)statement)  
of itself, by itself, in itself – a never-ending  
message that digresses from its digressions  
yet nevertheless repeats (repeats) the same  
message over and over and over ad infinitum.

A fractal is the ideal of redundancy:

imagine a series  
of Chinese boxes  
in which each box  
contains a series  
of Chinese boxes.

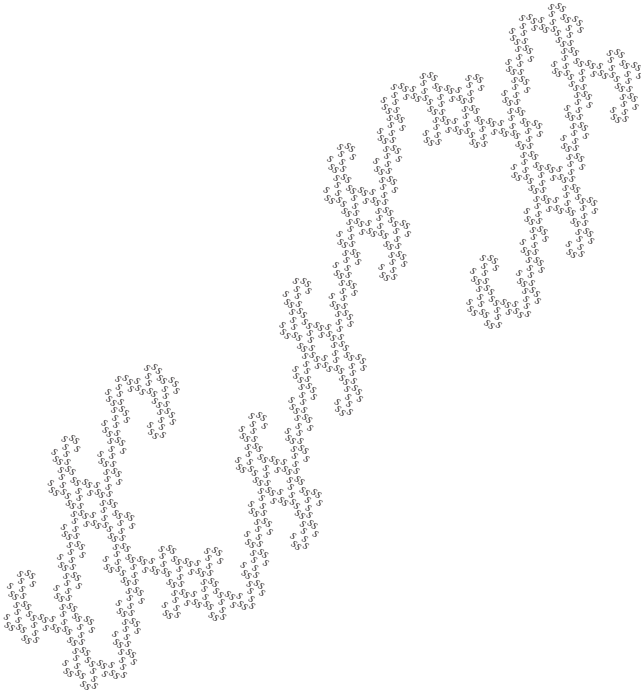
An acoustic fractal would be its own echo chamber.

4

Never forget that fractal  
music sounds the same  
when played at any speed.

Navigate the futile maze  
this sentence plans to be.

Newfangle its simplicity.



S-FRACTAL

5

When two identical mirrors face each other  
their cycle of self-reflection recedes forever  
into an infinite exchange of self-absorption.

Each mirror  
infects itself  
at every scale  
with the virus of its own image.

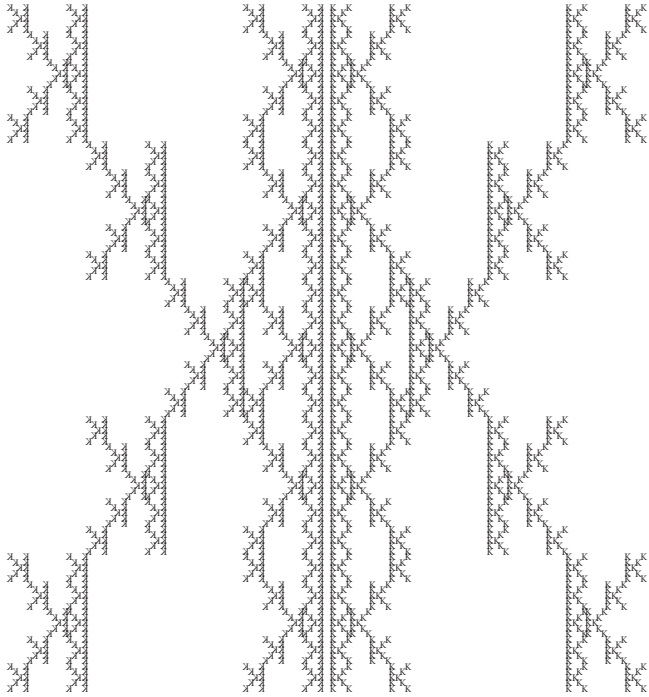
Each mirror  
devours itself  
at every point  
with the abyss of its own dream.

When we gaze upon a fractal, we must peer  
at a one-way mirror, unaware of the other  
mirror, standing somewhere far behind us.

6

Mirror rim (all its  
sides reversed) is  
still a mirror rim.

A fractal is a fatal  
arc (an act as artful  
as a fall): a snow-  
flake knows a leaf.



K-FRACTAL