

This miniproject asks you about the “ $3x + 1$ Conjecture” described in the book (see Example 23).

(a) Verify the “ $3x + 1$ Conjecture” for the following integers.

(i) 6

(ii) 7

(iii) 15

(iv) 17

(v) 21

(vi) 30

(vii) 153

(viii) 1024

(b) Prove the following:

Let M be a positive integer. Suppose that for every positive integer k with $k \leq M$, we know that there is some number of repetitions of the transformation T , applied to k , that will result in the integer 1. Then there is some number of repetitions of the transformation T , applied to $2M$, that will reach the integer 1.

(c) Prove the following:

Let M be a positive integer. Suppose that for every positive integer k with $k \leq M$, we know that there is some number of repetitions of the transformation T , applied to k , that will result in the integer 1. Then there is some number of repetitions of the transformation T , applied to $4M$, that will reach the integer 1.

(d) Prove the following:

Let M be a positive integer. Suppose that for every positive integer k with $k \leq M$, we know that there is some number of repetitions of the transformation T , applied to k , that will result in the integer 1. Then there is some number of repetitions of the transformation T , applied to $2^n M$ for every positive integer n , that will reach the integer 1.