

The Collatz Conjecture

A fascinating thing about mathematics (and science/engineering in general) is that some remarkably simple problems are unsolved. One of these is the “Collatz Conjecture”:

Start with a positive integer. If the integer is even, divide it by two. If it is odd, multiply by three and add one. Stop when you get to the number one. For example, beginning with “7” we get the sequence

$7 \rightarrow 22 \rightarrow 11 \rightarrow 34 \rightarrow 17 \rightarrow 52 \rightarrow 26 \rightarrow 13 \rightarrow 40 \rightarrow 20 \rightarrow 10 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow 16 \rightarrow 8 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 1$

The Collatz Conjecture is that this process always ends at one! No matter what positive integer you start with, you eventually get to one!

Write a program to test the Collatz Conjecture for the first 1000 positive integers.