

## The size of an initial Collatz $F(n)$ is never 2, 4, 5, 7 or 10.

Hartmut F. W. Höft - June 24, 2016

$|F(n)| = 1$ : if  $n \not\equiv 1 \pmod 3$

$|F(n)| = 3$ : if  $n \equiv 1 \pmod 3$  and  $\frac{2n-2}{3} \not\equiv 1 \pmod 3$

If  $n \equiv 1 \pmod 3$  and  $\frac{2n-2}{3} \equiv 1 \pmod 3$  hold then

$|F(n)| = 6$ : if also  $\frac{4n-10}{9} \equiv 0 \pmod 3$

$|F(n)| = 8$ : if also  $\frac{8n-20}{9} \equiv 1 \pmod 3$  and  $\frac{16n-58}{27} \not\equiv 1 \pmod 3$

$|F(n)| = 9$ : if also  $\frac{4n-10}{9} \equiv 1 \pmod 3$  and  $\frac{8n-38}{27} \equiv 0 \pmod 3$

Fans of size 9 are the smallest that are the union of two different maximal trajectories to  $n$ .

The bold face numbers, all even, are the initial numbers for individual trajectories leading to maximum  $n$  depending on which sets of modular conditions are satisfied. The numbers in blue are odd.

The pairs  $[x:y]$  signify size  $x$  and least maximum  $y$  for sets  $F(y)$  of size  $x$ .

Arrow "↑" signifies  $(3 \cdot k + 1)$ -action and arrow "→" signifies  $\left(\frac{k}{2}\right)$ -action.

[1: 4]

[3: 40]

$$\begin{array}{c} n \\ \uparrow \\ \frac{2n-2}{3} \rightarrow \frac{n-1}{3} \\ \uparrow \end{array}$$

[6: 16]

$$\frac{8n-20}{9} \rightarrow \frac{4n-10}{9} \rightarrow \frac{2n-5}{9}$$

[8: 88]

$$\frac{16n-58}{27} \rightarrow \frac{8n-29}{27} \uparrow$$

[11: 628]

$$\frac{64n-340}{81} \rightarrow \frac{32n-170}{81} \rightarrow \frac{16n-85}{81} \uparrow$$

[13: 952]

$$\frac{128n-842}{243} \rightarrow \frac{64n-421}{243} \uparrow$$

[9: 592]

$$\frac{16n-76}{27} \rightarrow \frac{8n-38}{27} \rightarrow \frac{4n-19}{27} \uparrow$$

[12: 52]

$$\frac{64n-412}{81} \rightarrow \frac{32n-206}{81} \rightarrow \frac{16n-103}{81} \uparrow$$

[13: 160]

$$\frac{64n-520}{81} \rightarrow \frac{32n-260}{81} \rightarrow \frac{16n-130}{81} \rightarrow \frac{8n-65}{81} \uparrow$$

If  $n \equiv 1 \pmod 3$  and  $\frac{2n-2}{3} \equiv 1 \pmod 3$  hold then

$|F(n)| = 11$ : if also  $\frac{8n-20}{9} \equiv 1 \pmod 3$ ,  $\frac{16n-58}{27} \equiv 1 \pmod 3$  and  $\frac{32n-170}{81} \equiv 0 \pmod 3$

$|F(n)| = 12$ : if also  $\frac{4n-10}{9} \equiv 1 \pmod 3$ ,  $\frac{16n-76}{27} \equiv 1 \pmod 3$  and  $\frac{32n-206}{81} \equiv 0 \pmod 3$

$|F(n)| = 13$ : either if also  $\frac{4n-10}{9} \equiv 1 \pmod 3$ ,  $\frac{8n-38}{27} \equiv 1 \pmod 3$  and  $\frac{16n-130}{81} \equiv 0 \pmod 3$

or if also  $\frac{8n-20}{9} \equiv 1 \pmod 3$ ,  $\frac{16n-58}{27} \equiv 1 \pmod 3$  and  $\frac{64n-340}{81} \equiv 1 \pmod 3$

There are two types of fans of size 13, one is a single trajectory to the maximum and the other consists of the union of maximal trajectories to  $n$  starting at three different initial values.

There are 6 possible extension points for fans in the partial tree drawn above since numbers  $\frac{64n-520}{81}$  and  $\frac{16n-130}{81}$  form the first pair on a single  $\left(\frac{k}{2}\right)$ -leg that are extendable in a fan simultaneously.