Homework 1A Report

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Problem explanation

Based on the Collatz Conjecture

- Given an integer number n, repeat the following process until n=1
 - If n is odd, n = 3n + 1
 - Else, n = n / 2
- For current problem, count the number of elements until n = 1 (including n and n = 1)

Problem explanation

 Given X and Y, find and print the maximum number of elements accessed by a number between X and Y, inclusive

• 1
$$<= X <= Y <= 100,000$$

- Personal Observation:
 - Multiples of 3 and prime numbers have a higher chance of accessing more elements
- However, this pattern is inconsistent and very dependent on the X and Y range

- Brute Force Method:
 - Repeat the process for every number between X and Y
 - Check and update the maximum number of elements accessed
 - Print out the results

- Line 8: Receive input
- Line 10: For loop to repeat process
 with all values from X to Y
- Line 15: While loop to do the Collatz Conjecture
- N: temporary variable to store the value to be tested
- count: variable to store the elements accessed
- Max: maximum number of elements accessed

```
#include <stdio.h>
 2
     int main()
       int x, y, i;
 6
       int max = 0;
       scanf("%d %d", &x, &y);
 8
       for(i = x; i \le y; i++)
10
11
         int n = i;
12
13
         int count = 0;
14
         while(n != 1)
15
16
            if(n % 2 != 0)
17
18
              n = 3 * n + 1;
19
20
21
```

- Line 17 ~ 25: If condition
 - Line 17 ~ 20 (n is odd): n -> 3n + 1
 - Line 22 ~ 25 (n is even): n -> n / 2
- Line 26 & 28: Increase count variable
 - 1 loop = 1 additional element accessed
 - Line 28: consideration of n = 1
- Line 36: print results

```
while(n != 1)
            if(n % 2 != 0)
20
21
            else
23
24
25
              n /= 2;
26
            count++;
          count++;
          if(count > max)
           max = count;
35
       printf("%d %d %d", x, y, max);
       return 0;
38
```

- Example:
 - X = 11, Y = 15
 - Current max = 0
 - N = 11: 11 34 17 52 26 13 40 20 10 5 16 8 4 2 1
 - Count = 15
 - 15 > 0
 - Max = 15

- Example:
 - X = 11, Y = 15
 - Current max = 15
 - N = 12: 12 6 3 10 5 16 8 4 2 1
 - Count = 10
 - 10 < 15
 - Max = 15

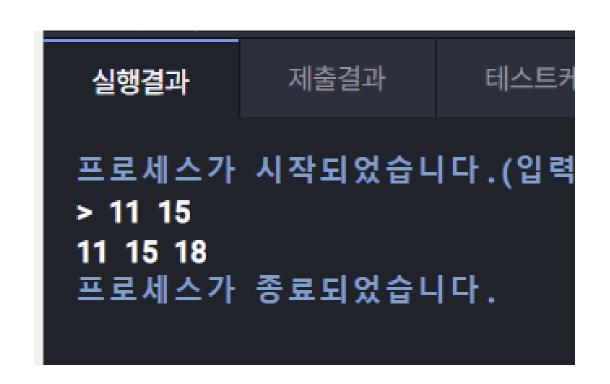
- Example:
 - X = 11, Y = 15
 - Current max = 15
 - N = 13: 13 40 20 10 5 16 8 4 2 1
 - Count = 10
 - 10 < 15
 - Max = 15

- Example:
 - X = 11, Y = 15
 - Current max = 15
 - N = 14: 14 7 22 11 34 17 52 26 13 40 20 10 5 16 8 4 2 1
 - Count = 18
 - 18 > 15
 - Max = 18

- Example:
 - X = 11, Y = 15
 - Current max = 18
 - N = 15: 15 46 23 70 35 106 53 160 80 40 20 10 5 16 8 4 2 1
 - Count = 18
 - 18 = 18
 - Max = 18

- Example:
 - X = 11, Y = 15
 - Current max = 18

• Final Answer: "11 15 18"



Solution analysis

- Pros:
 - Direct approach
 - Fewer chances of errors
- Cons
 - Inefficient due to the need to apply the process to the entire range of numbers

Solution analysis

- Favorable inputs:
 - X and Y are exactly the same (X = Y)
 - Only have to check one case

Thank you!