

A fractal set associated with the Collatz problem

Yukihiro HASHIMOTO

Department of Mathematics, Aichi University of Education, Kariya, 448-8542, Japan

1. Introduction

In 1930's, Lothar Collatz had great interest in representation of integer functions by directed graphs. He proposed the following, known as the Hasse-Collatz-Syracuse problem:

Problem 1. 1. For a natural number $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let us consider the function

$$f(n) = \begin{cases} 3n + 1, & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2}, \\ n/2, & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}. \end{cases}$$

Then for each n , there exists a finite k such that $f^k(n) = \underbrace{f \circ f \circ \dots \circ f}_k(n) = 1$

Our interest in the dynamics of the Collatz procedure. In this note, we observe a graph of the function f . With the help of the binary embedding of natural numbers into $[0, 1]$, we obtain a Cantor set \mathfrak{K} associated with the Collatz procedure with Hausdorff dimension one (Theorem 2. 3, 3. 1 and Proposition 4. 1). The set \mathfrak{K} is generated by an iterated functional system, which satisfies strongly separation condition.

2. Binary embedding of natural numbers and a graph of Collatz procedure

Definition 2. 1. Let $n = a_k \cdot 2^k + a_{k-1} \cdot 2^{k-1} + \dots + a_0$ be a binary expansion of a natural number n . The binary embedding β of n is given by

$$\beta(n) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \frac{a_1}{2^2} + \dots + \frac{a_k}{2^{k+1}}.$$

By definition, $\beta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is one-to-one and \mathbb{N} is densely embedded into $[0, 1]$.

Let \mathbb{N}_{od} be the set of odd natural numbers $\{2n - 1 \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$. Note that \mathbb{N}_{od} is densely embedded into $[1/2, 1)$ by β .

Definition 2. 2. The reduction of the Collatz procedure f is the map $H : \mathbb{N}_{od} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_{od}$ such that for $n \in \mathbb{N}_{od}$,

$$H(n) = k,$$

where $k \in \mathbb{N}_{od}$ and $3n + 1 = k \cdot 2^\nu$ for some $\nu \in \mathbb{N}$.

The exponent ν is given by 2-adic valuation v_2 of $3n + 1$, $v_2(3n + 1) = -\nu$.

Let us consider the graph $\mathfrak{C} = \{(\beta(n), \beta \circ H(n)) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}_{od}\}$ (See figure 1). By definitions of β and H , $\mathfrak{C} \subset [1/2, 1]^2$. One see that \mathfrak{C} has a natural decomposition. Consider the subsets of \mathfrak{C} ,

$$\mathfrak{C}_0 = \mathfrak{C} \cap \left[\frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{8} \right] \times \left[\frac{1}{2}, 1 \right],$$

$$\mathfrak{C}_1 = \mathfrak{C} \cap \left[\frac{3}{4}, 1 \right] \times \left[\frac{1}{2}, 1 \right].$$

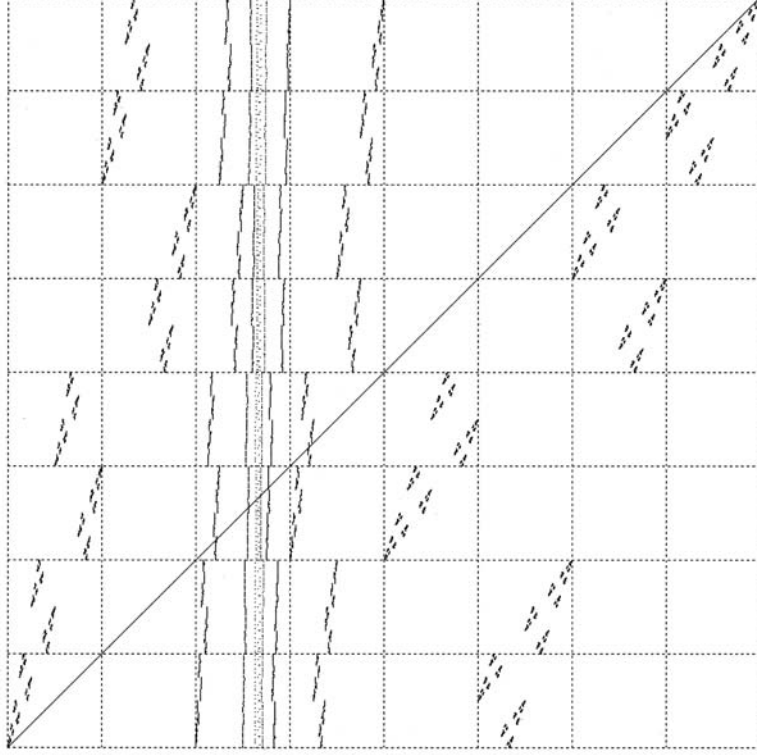
Then the graph \mathfrak{C} is decomposed as follows.

Theorem 2. 3.

$$\mathfrak{C} = \bigsqcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \hat{A}^k(\mathfrak{C}_0 \sqcup \mathfrak{C}_1),$$

where $A : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is given by

$$\hat{A} : (x, y) \rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{4}x + \frac{1}{2}, y \right).$$


Figure 1. The graph of H

To show Theorem 2.3, we need

Lemma 2.4. For $a, k, n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $a < 2^k$,

$$\beta(2^k n + a) = \frac{\beta(n)}{2^k} + \beta(a)$$

Particularly,

$$\beta(4n+1) = \frac{\beta(n)}{4} + \frac{1}{2}.$$

Proof. Let $n = n_l \cdot 2^l + n_{l-1} \cdot 2^{l-1} + \dots + n_0$ and $a = a_h \cdot 2^h + a_{h-1} \cdot 2^{h-1} + \dots + a_0$ ($h < k$) be binary expansions respectively. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \beta(2^k n + a) &= \beta\left(\sum_{i=0}^l n_i \cdot 2^{i+k} + \sum_{j=0}^h a_j \cdot 2^j\right) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^l n_i \cdot 2^{-i-k-1} + \sum_{j=0}^h a_j \cdot 2^{-j-1} = \frac{\beta(n)}{2^k} + \beta(a). \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 2.5. For $n \in \mathbb{N}_{od}$, $H(4n+1) = H(n)$.

Proof. Since $3(4n+1)+1 = 2^2(3n+1)$, it follows from the definition of H .

Lemma 2.6.

$$\mathbb{N}_{od} = \bigsqcup_{k=0}^{\infty} A^k (\{8k+1 \mid k \in \mathbb{N}_0\} \sqcup \{4k+3 \mid k \in \mathbb{N}_0\}),$$

where $A(n) = 4n+1$ and $\mathbb{N}_0 = \mathbb{N} \sqcup \{0\}$.

Proof. For $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$, we see that $8k+3 = 4(2k)+3$, $8k+5 = 4(2k+1)+1 = A(2k+1)$ and $8k+7 = 4(2k+1)+3$. $8k+1 \in A(\mathbb{N}_{od})$ means $8k+1 = 4l+1$ for some $l \in \mathbb{N}_{od}$ and then $l = 2k$ contradicts to $l \in \mathbb{N}_{od}$. $4k+3 \in A(\mathbb{N}_{od})$ means $4k+3 = 4l+1$ for some $l \in \mathbb{N}_{od}$, which leads to a contradiction $2l = 2k+1$. Finally, infinite descent method shows that for any $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$, there exists $h \in \{8l+1, 4l+3 \mid l \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$ and $\nu \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $8k+5 = A^\nu(h)$ since $0 < n < A(n)$ generally.

Lemma 2.7. For $n \in \mathbb{N}_{od}$, $(\beta \circ A(n), \beta \circ H \circ A(n)) = \hat{A}(\beta(n), \beta \circ H(n))$.

Proof. By Lemma 2.4 and 2.5, we have for $n \in \mathbb{N}_{od}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{A}(\beta(n), \beta \circ H(n)) &= \left(\frac{\beta(n)}{4} + \frac{1}{2}, \beta \circ H(n) \right) \\ &= (\beta(4n+1), \beta \circ H(n)) = (\beta(4n+1), \beta \circ H(4n+1)). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. of Theorem 2.3. Lemma 2.7 shows that $\hat{A}^k(\mathbb{C}_0 \sqcup \mathbb{C}_1) \subset \mathbb{C}$ for each $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$, that is $\bigsqcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \hat{A}^k(\mathbb{C}_0 \sqcup \mathbb{C}_1) \subset \mathbb{C}$.

We show the converse. For $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$ we see $\frac{1}{2} \leq \beta(8k+1) = \frac{\beta(k)}{8} + \frac{1}{2} < \frac{5}{8}$ and $\frac{3}{4} \leq \beta(4k+3) = \frac{\beta(k)}{4} + \frac{3}{4} < 1$ by Lemma 2.4, which means

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathbb{C}_0 &= \{(\beta(8k+1), \beta \circ H(8k+1)) \mid k \in \mathbb{N}_0\}, \\ \mathbb{C}_1 &= \{(\beta(4k+3), \beta \circ H(4k+3)) \mid k \in \mathbb{N}_0\}. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 2.6 we find $h \in \{8l+1, 4l+3 \mid l \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$ and $\nu \in \mathbb{N}_0$ such that $n = A^\nu(h)$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}_{od}$. Then Lemma 2.7 shows

$$(\beta(n), \beta \circ H(n)) = (\beta(A^\nu(h)), \beta \circ H(A^\nu(h))) = \hat{A}^\nu(\beta(h), \beta \circ H(h)).$$

It follows that $\mathbb{C} \subset \bigsqcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \hat{A}^k(\mathbb{C}_0 \sqcup \mathbb{C}_1)$, hence the assertion.

Note that $H(8k+1) = (3(8k+1)+1)/4 = 6k+1$ and $H(4k+3) = (3(4k+3)+1)/2 = 6k+5$, hence

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathbb{C}_0 &= \{(\beta(8k+1), \beta(6k+1)) \mid k \in \mathbb{N}_0\}, \\ \mathbb{C}_1 &= \{(\beta(4k+3), \beta(6k+5)) \mid k \in \mathbb{N}_0\}. \end{aligned}$$

3 . A self-similar set associated with the Collatz procedure

We consider contracting maps $g_1, g_2, g_3 : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]^2$,

$$\begin{aligned} g_1(x, y) &= \frac{1}{2}(x+1, y+1), \\ g_2(x, y) &= \frac{1}{4}(x+1, y), \\ g_3(x, y) &= \frac{1}{4}(1-x, 2-y). \end{aligned}$$

It is known that any set of contracting maps, that is, any iterated functional system (IFS) has a unique compact set $\mathfrak{R} \subset [0, 1]^2$ satisfying

$$\mathfrak{R} = g_1(\mathfrak{R}) \cup g_2(\mathfrak{R}) \cup g_3(\mathfrak{R})$$

(See figure 2). Since g_i 's are affine maps and the IFS $\{g_1, g_2, g_3\}$ satisfies the open set condition, it follows from Hutchin-

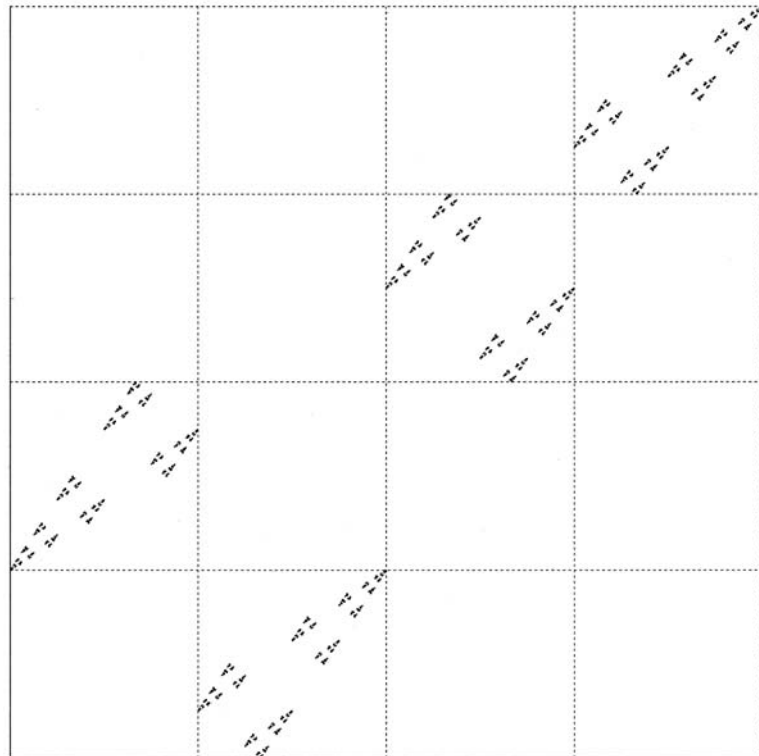


Figure 2. The set \mathfrak{R}

son's theorem [1] that the Hausdorff dimension s of \mathfrak{K} is given as a solution of

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^s + \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^s + \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^s = 1,$$

that is, $s=1$.

Theorem 3.1. *The closures $\overline{\mathfrak{C}_0}$ and $\overline{\mathfrak{C}_1}$ are homeomorphic to \mathfrak{K} .*

Proof. We prove $\overline{\mathfrak{C}_1} \approx \mathfrak{K}$. Take the affine map $T_1: \left[\frac{3}{4}, 1\right] \times \left[\frac{1}{2}, 1\right] \rightarrow [0, 1]^2$, $T_1(x, y) = (4x-3, 2y-1)$ and put

$G_i = T_1^{-1} \circ g_i \circ T_1$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} G_1(x, y) &= \frac{1}{2}(x+1, y+1), \\ G_2(x, y) &= \frac{1}{8}(2x+5, 2y+3), \\ G_3(x, y) &= \frac{1}{8}(8-2x, 7-2y). \end{aligned}$$

We show $\overline{\mathfrak{C}_1} = G_1(\overline{\mathfrak{C}_1}) \sqcup G_2(\overline{\mathfrak{C}_1}) \sqcup G_3(\overline{\mathfrak{C}_1})$. Let us denote $\mathfrak{C}_{1.1} = \mathfrak{C}_1 \cap \left[\frac{7}{8}, 1\right] \times \left[\frac{3}{4}, 1\right]$, $\mathfrak{C}_{1.2} = \mathfrak{C}_1 \cap \left[\frac{13}{16}, \frac{7}{8}\right] \times \left[\frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{8}\right]$ and

$\mathfrak{C}_{1.3} = \mathfrak{C}_1 \cap \left[\frac{3}{4}, \frac{13}{16}\right] \times \left[\frac{5}{8}, \frac{3}{4}\right]$. Note that for each $(x, y) \in \mathfrak{C}_1$ we take $n = 4k+3$, $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$ such that

$(x, y) = (\beta(n), \beta \circ H(n))$ by the definition of \mathfrak{C}_1 .

Since $H(2n+1) = 12k+11 = 2H(n)+1$, $\beta(2n+1) = \beta(8k+7) = \frac{\beta(k)}{8} + \frac{7}{8} \in \left[\frac{7}{8}, 1\right]$ and

$\beta(12k+11) = \beta(4(k+2)+3) = \frac{\beta(k+2)}{4} + \frac{3}{4} \in \left[\frac{3}{4}, 1\right]$, we see

$$\begin{aligned} G_1(\beta(n), \beta \circ H(n)) &= \left(\frac{1}{2}(\beta(n)+1), \frac{1}{2}(\beta \circ H(n)+1)\right) = (\beta(2n+1), \beta(2H(n)+1)) \\ &= (\beta(2n+1), \beta \circ H(2n+1)) \in \mathfrak{C}_{1.1}, \end{aligned}$$

using Lemma 2.4, and hence $G_1(\mathfrak{C}_1) \subset \mathfrak{C}_{1.1}$. Conversely, for any $m \in \mathbb{N}_{od}$, $\beta(m) \in \left[\frac{7}{8}, 1\right]$ means $\beta(m) = \beta(8k+7)$, that is $m = 8k+7 = 2(4k+3)+1$. Thus we have $G_1(\mathfrak{C}_1) = \mathfrak{C}_{1.1}$. Taking the closures, we have $G_1(\overline{\mathfrak{C}_1}) = \overline{\mathfrak{C}_{1.1}}$.

With the help of Lemma 2.4, we see that for $m = 2l+1 \in \mathbb{N}_{od}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\beta(m)}{4} + \frac{5}{8} &= \frac{\beta(2l+1)}{4} + \frac{5}{8} = \frac{\beta(l)}{8} + \frac{3}{4} \\ &= \frac{\beta(l)}{8} + \beta(3) = \beta(8l+3) = \beta(4m-1), \end{aligned}$$

and also $\frac{\beta(m)}{4} + \frac{3}{8} = \beta(4m-3)$ in the similar way. Since $H(4n-1) = 24k+17 = 4H(n)-3$,

$\beta(4n-1) = \beta(16k+11) = \frac{\beta(k)}{16} + \frac{13}{16} \in \left[\frac{13}{16}, \frac{7}{8}\right]$ and $\beta(24k+17) = \beta(8(3k+2)+1) = \frac{\beta(3k+2)}{8} + \frac{1}{2} \in \left[\frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{8}\right]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} G_2(\beta(n), \beta \circ H(n)) &= \left(\frac{1}{4}\beta(n) + \frac{5}{8}, \frac{1}{4}\beta \circ H(n) + \frac{3}{8}\right) = (\beta(4n-1), \beta(4H(n)-3)) \\ &= (\beta(4n-1), \beta \circ H(4n-1)) \in \mathfrak{C}_{1.2} \end{aligned}$$

hence $G_2(\mathfrak{C}_1) \subset \mathfrak{C}_{1.2}$. An argument similar to the case of G_1 shows the converse $G_2(\mathfrak{C}_1) \supset \mathfrak{C}_{1.2}$, and hence $G_2(\overline{\mathfrak{C}_1}) = \overline{\mathfrak{C}_{1.2}}$.

To see $G_3(\overline{\mathfrak{C}_1}) = \overline{\mathfrak{C}_{1.3}}$ we need

Lemma 3.2. *For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we have*

$$1 - \beta(n) = \beta(3 \cdot 2^{\text{ord}(n)} - (n+1)),$$

where $\text{ord}(n) = \lceil \log_2 n \rceil$, the highest degree of the binary expansion of n .

Proof. Let $n = a_l \cdot 2^l + a_{l-1} \cdot 2^{l-1} + \dots + a_0$ be a binary expansion where $l = \text{ord}(n)$. Noticing $a_l = 1$, we see

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - \beta(n) &= \sum_{i=0}^l 2^{-(i+1)} + 2^{-(l+1)} - \sum_{i=0}^l a_i \cdot 2^{-(i+1)} \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{l-1} (1 - a_i) \cdot 2^{-(i+1)} + 2^{-(l+1)} \\ &= \beta\left(2^l + \sum_{i=0}^{l-1} (1 - a_i) \cdot 2^i\right) = \beta\left(2^l + \sum_{i=0}^{l-1} 2^i - n + 2^l\right) \\ &= \beta(2^{l+1} - 1 - n + 2^l) = \beta(3 \cdot 2^l - (n+1)) \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 3.3. *For $p_j = 2^{j+1} - (4s+1)$, $s \in \mathbb{N}_0$, we have*

$$(1 - \beta(4s), 1 - \beta(6s)) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} (\beta(p_j), \beta \circ H(p_j)) \in \overline{\mathfrak{C}_1}.$$

Proof. Taking $j > \text{ord}(6s) > \text{ord}(4s)$, we see $\text{ord}(2^j + 4s) = j$. It follows from Lemma 3.2 that

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - \beta(4s) - 2^{j+1} &= 1 - \beta(2^j + 4s) = \beta(3 \cdot 2^j - (2^j + 4s + 1)) \\ &= \beta(2^{j+1} - (4s + 1)) = \beta(p_j). \end{aligned}$$

As $p_j = 2^{j+1} - (4n + 1) = 4(2^{j-1} - n - 1) + 3$, we see $(\beta(p_j), \beta \circ H(p_j)) \in \mathbb{C}_1$ and $H(p_j) = (3p_j + 1)/2 = 3 \cdot 2^j - (6n + 1)$. For any natural numbers $a > b$, it holds that

$$\begin{aligned} \beta(2^a - 2^b) &= \beta(2^{a-1} + 2^{a-2} + \dots + 2^b) \\ &= \beta(2^{a-1}) + \beta(2^{a-2}) + \dots + \beta(2^b) = \frac{1}{2^b} - \frac{1}{2^a}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $j > l = \text{ord}(6s)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \beta \circ H(p_j) &= \beta(3 \cdot 2^j - (6s + 1)) \\ &= \beta(2^{j+1} + 2^j - 2^{l+1} + (2^{l+1} - 1 - 6s)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{j+2}} + \frac{1}{2^{l+1}} - \frac{1}{2^l} + \beta(2^{l+1} - 1 - 6s). \end{aligned}$$

As $\text{ord}(2^{l+1} - 1 - 6s) = l - 1$, the limit $j \rightarrow \infty$ brings

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \beta \circ H(p_j) &= \frac{1}{2^{l+1}} + \beta(2^{l+1} - 1 - 6s) = \beta(2^l + 2^{l+1} - (6s + 1)) \\ &= \beta(3 \cdot 2^l - (6s + 1)) = 1 - \beta(6s). \end{aligned}$$

We have $H(n) = \frac{3n+1}{2}$ as $n = 4k+3$. It follows from Lemma 2.4 that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{7}{8} - \frac{\beta \circ H(n)}{4} &= 1 - \left\{ \frac{1}{8} + \frac{\beta \circ H(n)}{4} \right\} = 1 - \left\{ \frac{1}{8} + \beta \left(8 \left(\frac{H(n)-1}{2} \right) + 4 \right) \right\} \\ &= 1 - \left\{ \frac{1}{4} + \beta(4(H(n)-1)) \right\} = 1 - \beta(4H(n)-2). \\ &= 1 - \beta(6n) \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$G_3(\beta(n), \beta \circ H(n)) = (1 - \beta(4n), 1 - \beta(6n)).$$

Note that $1 - \beta(4n) = 1 - \beta(4(4k+3)) = 1 - \frac{\beta(k)}{16} - \frac{3}{16} \in \left[\frac{3}{4}, \frac{13}{16} \right]$ and $1 - \beta(6n) = 1 - \beta(8(k+2)+2) = 1 - \frac{\beta(k+2)}{8} - \frac{1}{4} \in \left[\frac{5}{8}, \frac{3}{4} \right]$. Lemma 3.2 shows that $(1 - \beta(4n), 1 - \beta(6n)) = (\beta(p), \beta(q))$ where $p = 3 \cdot 2^{\text{ord}(4n)} - (4n+1)$ and $q = 3 \cdot 2^{\text{ord}(6n)} - (6n+1)$, while $H(p) \neq q$.

Applying Lemma 3.3 for $p_j = 2^{j+1} - (4n+1)$, we have

$$(1 - \beta(4n), 1 - \beta(6n)) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} (\beta(p_j), \beta \circ H(p_j)) \in \overline{\mathbb{C}_{1.3}}.$$

Hence $G_3(\mathbb{C}_1) \subset \overline{\mathbb{C}_{1.3}}$, which means $G_3(\overline{\mathbb{C}_1}) \subset \overline{\mathbb{C}_{1.3}}$.

We show the converse $\overline{\mathbb{C}_{1.3}} \subset G_3(\overline{\mathbb{C}_1})$. Note that $\beta(n) \in \left[\frac{3}{4}, \frac{13}{16} \right]$ means $n = 2^4k + 3 (k \in \mathbb{N}_0)$, then

$H(n) = (3n+1)/2 = 2^3 \cdot 3k + 5$. For $n = 2^4k + 3 (k \in \mathbb{N}_0)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \beta \circ H(n) + \frac{1}{8} &= \frac{\beta(3k)}{2^3} + \beta(5) + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{\beta(3k)}{2^3} + \beta(3) = \beta(2^3 \cdot 3k + 3) \\ &= \beta(H(n) - 2) = \beta\left(\frac{3}{2}(n-1)\right), \end{aligned}$$

and also

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ord}\left(\frac{3(n-1)}{2}\right) &= \text{ord}(2^3 \cdot 3k + 3) = \text{ord}(6k) + 2, \\ \text{ord}\left(\frac{3n-1}{8}\right) &= \text{ord}(6k+1) = \text{ord}(6k), \end{aligned}$$

that is, $\text{ord}\left(\frac{3(n-1)}{2}\right) - 2 = \text{ord}\left(\frac{3n-1}{8}\right)$. It follows from Lemma 3.2 that

$$\begin{aligned} G_3^{-1}(\beta(n), \beta \circ H(n)) &= 4 \left(1 - \beta(n), 1 - \beta \circ H(n) + \frac{1}{8} \right) \\ &= 4 \left(1 - \beta(n), 1 - \beta\left(\frac{3}{2}(n-1)\right) \right) \\ &= 4 \left(\beta(3 \cdot 2^{\text{ord}(n)} - (n+1)), \beta\left(3 \cdot 2^{\text{ord}\left(\frac{3}{2}(n-1)\right)} - \frac{3n-1}{2}\right) \right) \\ &= \left(\beta\left(3 \cdot 2^{\text{ord}(n)-2} - \frac{n+1}{4}\right), \beta\left(3 \cdot 2^{\text{ord}\left(\frac{3}{2}(n-1)\right)-2} - \frac{3n-1}{8}\right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (\beta (3 \cdot 2^{\text{ord}(4k)} - (4k + 1)), \beta (3 \cdot 2^{\text{ord}(6k)} - (6k + 1))) \\ &= (1 - \beta (4k), 1 - \beta (6k)) \end{aligned}$$

Applying Lemma 3.3 for $p_j = 2^{j+1} - \frac{n+1}{4} = 2^{j+1} - (4k + 1)$, we have

$$(1 - \beta (4k), 1 - \beta (6k)) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} (\beta (p_j), \beta \circ H (p_j)) \in \overline{\mathbb{C}}_1.$$

Hence $\mathbb{C}_{1,3} \subset G_3(\overline{\mathbb{C}}_1)$, which shows $\overline{\mathbb{C}}_{1,3} \subset G_3(\overline{\mathbb{C}}_1)$.

We have shown that \mathbb{C}_1 is a solution of set valued equation

$$\mathbb{X} = G_1(\mathbb{X}) \sqcup G_2(\mathbb{X}) \sqcup G_3(\mathbb{X}).$$

It follows from the uniqueness of the invariant set of IFS $\{G_1, G_2, G_3\}$ that $\mathbb{R} = T_1(\overline{\mathbb{C}}_1)$. Similar argument shows $\mathbb{R} \approx \overline{\mathbb{C}}_0$.

4 . \mathbb{R} is a Cantor set

Proposition 4.1. *\mathbb{R} is a Cantor set with the Hausdorff dimension one.*

Proof. As $\mathbb{R} = T_1(\overline{\mathbb{C}}_1) = \overline{T_1(\mathbb{C}_1)}$, $T_1(\mathbb{C}_1)$ is dense in \mathbb{R} . It follows from

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (\beta (n + 2^k), \beta \circ H (n + 2^k)) = (\beta (n), \beta \circ H (n))$$

for $n \in \mathbb{N}_{od}$ that any elements in \mathbb{C}_1 are accumulation points, i.e., \mathbb{C}_1 is a perfect set. Thus \mathbb{R} is so. As the IFS $\{g_1, g_2, g_3\}$ satisfies strong separation condition

$$\mathbb{R} = g_1(\mathbb{R}) \sqcup g_2(\mathbb{R}) \sqcup g_3(\mathbb{R}) \quad \text{and} \quad g_i(\mathbb{R}) \cap g_j(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset, i \neq j,$$

\mathbb{R} is totally disconnected. We see that the Hausdorff dimension of \mathbb{R} is one in the previous section. Hence the assertion.

References

- [1] J. E. Hutchinson, *Fractals and self similarity*, Indiana Univ. Math. J. **30**, pp. 713-747, 1981.
- [2] J. Lagarias, *The $3x+1$ problem and its generalization*, Amer. Math. Monthly **92**, pp. 3-23, 1985.
- [3] G. Wirsching, *The Dynamical System Generated by the $3x+1$ Function*, Lect. Notes in Math. **1681**, Springer, 1998.

(Received September 12, 2006)