

## Refutation of Collatz conjecture

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The Collatz conjecture is described at [wikipedia.org/wiki/Collatz\\_conjecture](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Collatz_conjecture), for which we decompose farther below:

"[A] sequence defined as follows: start with any positive number  $n$ . Then each term is obtained from the previous term as follows: if the previous term is even, the next term is one half the previous term. If the previous term is odd, the next term is 3 times the previous term plus 1. The conjecture is that no matter what value of  $n$ , the sequence will always reach 1."

We assume the method and apparatus of Meth8/VL4 with  $\tau$ autology as the designated *proof* value,  $F$  as contradiction,  $N$  as truthity (non-contingency), and  $C$  as falsity (contingency). The 16-valued truth table is row-major and horizontal.

LET  $p, q, r, s$ : previous term (dividend), quotient, remainder, instant term;  
 $+$  Or, add;  $-$  Not Or, subtract;  $\&$  And, multiply;  $\backslash$  Not And, divide;  
 $>$  Imply, greater than;  $<$  Not Imply, lesser than;  $=$  Equivalent;  $@$  Not Equivalent;  
 $\%$  possibility, possibly, for one or some;  $\#$  necessity, necessarily, for all or every.  
 $(\%r\>\#r)$  ordinal one;  $(\%r\<\#r)$  ordinal two;  $(r=r)$  ordinal three;  $(r@r)$  ordinal zero;

"[A] sequence defined as follows: start with any positive integer  $n$ .", that is,  
 any previous term and instant term are both greater than zero. (0.0.1)

$$(\%p\&s)\>(r@r) ; \quad \text{TTTT TTTT NFNF NFNF} \quad (0.0.2)$$

We define even number as:

If previous term and instant term are both greater than zero, then  
 both (remainder is less than 1 and not( remainder is less than zero)) and  
 both (previous term divided by one equals quotient plus remainder and  
 remainder equals zero). (0.1.1)

$$((\%p\&s)\>(r@r))\>(((r\<\%r\>\#r))\&\sim(r\<(r@r)))\&(((p\backslash(\%r\<\#r))=(q+r))\&(r=(r@r)))) ; \quad \text{FFFF FFFF CTCT CTCT} \quad (0.1.2)$$

Hence, odd number is not Eq. 0.0.1. (0.2.1)

$$\sim(((\%p\&s)\>(r@r))\>(((r\<\%r\>\#r))\&\sim(r\<(r@r)))\&(((p\backslash(\%r\<\#r))=(q+r))\&(r=(r@r))))=(r=r) ; \quad \text{TTTT TTTT NFNF NFNF} \quad (0.2.2)$$

We further decompose the description below.

"[I]f the previous term is even, the next term is one half the previous term. (1.1)

$$(p=((\%p\&s)>(r@r))>((r<(\%r\>\#r))\&\sim(r<(r@r)))\&((p\(\%r<\#r))=(q+r))\&(r=(r@r))))>(s=(p\(\%r<\#r))) ; \quad \text{FTFT FTFT TNTN TNTN} \quad (1.2)$$

"If the previous term is odd, the next term is 3 times the previous term plus 1. (2.1)

$$(p=\sim((\%p\&s)>(r@r))>((r<(\%r\>\#r))\&\sim(r<(r@r)))\&((p\(\%r<\#r))=(q+r))\&(r=(r@r))))>(s=((p\&(r=r))+(\%r\>\#r))) ; \quad \text{TFTF TFTF NTNT NTNT} \quad (2.2)$$

The conjecture is that no matter what value of  $n$ , the sequence will always reach 1." We write this as: Eqs. 1.1 or 2.1 implies one. (3.1)

$$\begin{aligned} &(((p=((\%p\&s)>(r@r))>((r<(\%r\>\#r))\&\sim(r<(r@r)))\&((p\(\%r<\#r))=(q+r))\&(r=(r@r))))>(s=(p\(\%r<\#r)))) \\ &+ \\ &(((p=\sim((\%p\&s)>(r@r))>((r<(\%r\>\#r))\&\sim(r<(r@r)))\&((p\(\%r<\#r))=(q+r))\&(r=(r@r))))>(s=((p\&(r=r))+(\%r\>\#r)))) \\ &>(\%r\>\#r) ; \quad \text{NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN} \quad (3.2) \end{aligned}$$

Eq. 3.2 as rendered is *not* tautologous, refuting the Collatz conjecture. However, Eq. 3.2 does result in N non contingency as truthity.

**Remark:** We reiterate that with  $(p\&s)>(r@r)$  the previous term or instant term are not equal to the placeholder of zero.