

# Proof of Collatz Conjecture Using Division Sequence III

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## Abstract

This paper is positioned as an extra edition of [1]. First, as in [1], define "division sequence", "complete division sequence", and "star conversion". Next, we consider loops and divergences in the Collatz conjecture, respectively. Theorem Proving is not used in this paper.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Collatz Conjecture

The Collatz conjecture poses the question: “What happens if one repeats the operations of taking any positive integer  $n$ ,

- Divide  $n$  by 2 if  $n$  is even, and
- Multiply  $n$  by 3 and then add 1 if  $n$  is odd

The Collatz conjecture affirms that “for any initial value, one always reaches 1 (and enters a loop of 1 to 4 to 2 to 1) in a finite number of operations.”

We call “**(one) Collatz operation**” an operation of performing  $(3x+1)$  on an odd number and dividing by 2 as many times as one can.

The “**initial value**” is the number on which the Collatz operation is performed. This initial value is called the “**Collatz value**.”

## 1.2 Division Sequence and Complete Division Sequence

**Definition 1.1** A division sequence is the sequence given by arranging the numbers of division by 2 in each operation when the Collatz operation is continuously performed with a positive odd number,  $n$ , as the initial value.

For example, in the case of 9, the arrangement of numbers given by continuously performing  $3x + 1$ , and dividing by 2 provides

9,28,14,7,22,11,34,17,52,26,13,40,20,10,5,16,8,4,2,1 (stops when 1 is reached).

Therefore, the division sequence of 9 is [2,1,1,2,3,4].

The division sequence of 1 is an empty list []. Further, [6] is a division sequence of 21, but [6,2] and [6,2,2] ... that repeat the loop of 1 to 4 to 2 to 1 are not division sequences.

When the division sequence is finite, it is equivalent to reaching 1 in a series of Collatz operations.

When the division sequence is infinite, it does not reach 1 in a series of Collatz operations.

It is equivalent to entering a loop other than 4-2-1 or increasing the Collatz value endlessly.

**Definition 1.2** A complete division sequence is a division sequence of multiples of 3.

- $9[2,1,1,2,3,4]$  is a complete division sequence of 9.
- $7[1,1,2,3,4]$  is a division sequence of 7.

**Definition 1.3** Supposing that only one element exists in the division sequence of  $n$ , no Collatz operation can be applied to  $n$ .

**Theorem 1.1** When the Collatz operation is applied to  $x$  in the complete division sequence of  $x$  (two or more elements), (some)  $y$  and its division sequence are obtained.

Proof: This follows the Collatz operation and definition of a division sequence.  $\square$

**Theorem 1.2** When the Collatz operation is applied to  $y$  in the division sequence of  $y$  (two or more elements), (some)  $y$  and its division sequence are obtained.

Proof: It is self-evident from the Collatz operation and definition of a division sequence.  $\square$

## 1.3 One Only Looks at Odd Numbers of Multiples of 3

*There is no need to look at even numbers.*

By continuing to divide all even numbers by 2, one of the odd numbers is achieved.

Therefore, it is only necessary to check “whether all odd numbers reach 1 by the Collatz operation.”

*One only needs to look at multiples of 3.*

For a number  $x$  that is not divisible by 3, the Collatz inverse operation is defined as

obtaining a positive integer by  $(x \times 2^k - 1)/3$ . Multiple numbers can be obtained using the Collatz reverse operation.

Here, we consider the Collatz reverse operation on  $x$ .

The remainder of dividing  $x$  by 9 is one of 1,2,4,5,7,8, i.e.:

$$1 \times 2^6 \equiv 1$$

$$2 \times 2^5 \equiv 1$$

$$4 \times 2^4 \equiv 1$$

$$5 \times 2^1 \equiv 1$$

$$7 \times 2^2 \equiv 1$$

$$8 \times 2^3 \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$$

This indicates that multiplying any number by 2 appropriate number of times provides an even number with a remainder of 1 when divided by 9.

By subtracting 1 from this and dividing by 3, we get an odd number that is a multiple of 3.

Performing the Collatz reverse operation once from  $x$  provides an odd number  $y$  that is a multiple of 3.

If  $y$  reaches 1, then  $x$ , which was once given by the Collatz operation of  $y$ , also reaches 1.

Therefore, the following can be stated.

**Theorem 1.3** One only needs to check “whether an odd number that is a multiple of 3 reaches 1 by the Collatz operation.”

## 2 Star Conversion

A star conversion is defined for a complete division sequence.

A complete division sequence of length,  $n$ , is copied to a complete division sequence of length,  $n$  or  $n+1$ .

The remainder, which is given by dividing the Collatz value  $x$  by 9 is

$$x \equiv 3 \pmod{9}$$

The conversion to copy a finite or infinite sequence  $[a_1, a_2, a_3\dots]$  to a sequence  $[6, a_1 - 4, a_2, a_3\dots]$  is described as A  $[6, -4]$ .

The conversion to copy a finite or infinite sequence  $[a_1, a_2, a_3\dots]$  to a sequence  $[1, a_1 - 2, a_2, a_3\dots]$  is described as B  $[1, -2]$ .

$$x \equiv 6 \pmod{9}$$

The conversion to copy a finite or infinite sequence  $[a_1, a_2, a_3\dots]$  to a sequence  $[4, a_1 - 4, a_2, a_3\dots]$  is described as C  $[4, -4]$ .

The conversion to copy a finite or infinite sequence  $[a_1, a_2, a_3\dots]$  to a sequence  $[3, a_1 - 2, a_2, a_3\dots]$  is described as D  $[3, -2]$ .

$$x \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$$

The conversion to copy a finite or infinite sequence  $[a_1, a_2, a_3\dots]$  to a sequence  $[2, a_1 - 4, a_2, a_3\dots]$  is described as E  $[2, -4]$ .

The conversion to copy a finite or infinite sequence  $[a_1, a_2, a_3\dots]$  to a sequence  $[5, a_1 - 2, a_2, a_3\dots]$  is described as F  $[5, -2]$ .

Furthermore, the conversion to copy a finite or infinite sequence  $[a_1, a_2, a_3...]$  to a sequence  $[a_1 + 6, a_2, a_3...]$  is described as  $G [+6]$ .

Conversions in which the elements of the division sequence are 0 or negative are prohibited. If the original first term is 0 or negative,  $G [+6]$  is performed in advance.

*Example*

$117 \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ ,  $117[5,1,2,3,4]$

can be converted to  $E [2, -4] \rightarrow 9[2, 5-4, 1, 2, 3, 4]$  and  $F [5, -2] \rightarrow 309[5, 5-2, 1, 2, 3, 4]$ .

**Table 1** shows the functions corresponding to each star conversion.

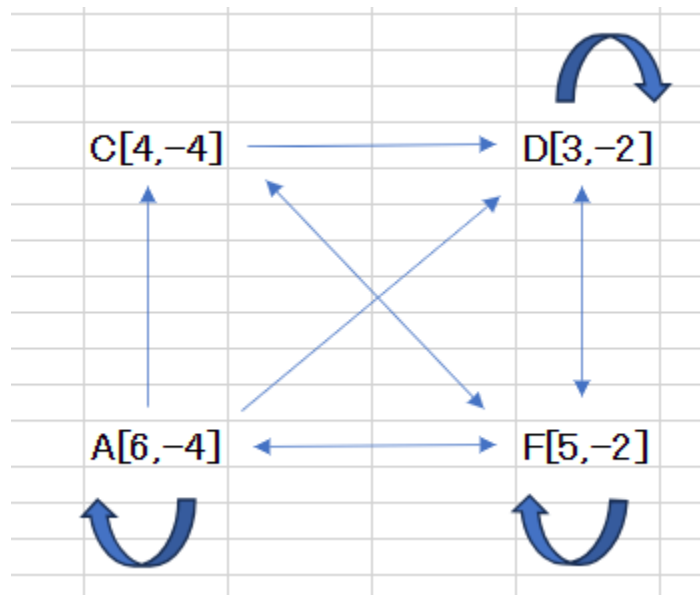
The function represents a change in the Collatz value.

**Table 1.** Star conversion in mod 9.

When	star conversion 1	star conversion 2
$x \equiv 3 \pmod{9}$	A $[6, -4]$ $y = 4x/3 - 7$	B $[1, -2]$ $y = x/6 - 1/2$
$x \equiv 6 \pmod{9}$	C $[4, -4]$ $y = x/3 - 2$	D $[3, -2]$ $y = 2x/3 - 1$
$x \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$	E $[2, -4]$ $y = x/12 - 3/4$	F $[5, -2]$ $y = 8x/3 - 3$
Always	G $[+6]$ $y = 64x + 21$	none

### 3 About loops

Since the elements of the division sequence are positive, for example, B  $[1, -2]$  cannot be placed after E  $[2, -4]$ . This is expressed in Fig 1 in the transition diagram. Here we assume that G  $[+6]$  is not used.



**Fig 1.** Restriction transition diagram for star conversion.

Using this figure, a loop is expressed, for example, in the following form.

- $Dx$
- $CFDx$

- AFD<sub>x</sub>
- CAFD<sub>x</sub>

.....

In other words, the Collatz conjecture constraints the possible loops.

## 4 About divergence

For divergence, we assume that G [+6] is not used as well as loops. Then, the flow of Fig 1 will continue to go on and on.

For example, considering AFDC<sub>x</sub> circling the flow once, the transition equation is  $y = (64x - 1563)/81$ . Considering AFDCAFDC<sub>x</sub> that circles the flow twice, the transition equation is  $y = (4096x - 226635)/6561$ . I used Egison to calculate.

Subtraction in the equation constrained x, but it could not be further developed.

## 5 Summary

In the Collatz conjecture, for loops, assuming G [+6] is not used, the shape of the loop could be constrained. As for divergence, we didn't get very good results.

## References

- [1] Furuta, Masashi. "Proof of Collatz Conjecture Using Division Sequence." *Advances in Pure Mathematics* 12.2 (2022): 96-108. DOI: 10.4236/apm.2022.122009
- [2] Furuta, Masashi. "collatzProof\_DivSeq" [https://github.com/righ1113/collatzProof\\_DivSeq](https://github.com/righ1113/collatzProof_DivSeq)
- [3] Furuta, Masashi. "divseq2" <https://github.com/righ1113/divseq2>