

SAT4Math

Beyond NP & Collatz Conjecture

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`sat4math.com`

50 Years of Successes in Computer-Aided Mathematics

1976 Four-Color Theorem

1998 Kepler Conjecture



2014 Boolean Erdős discrepancy problem (using a SAT solver)

2016 Boolean Pythagorean triples problem (using a SAT solver)

2018 Schur Number Five (using a SAT solver)

2019 Keller's Conjecture (using a SAT solver)

2021 Kaplansky's Unit Conjecture (using a SAT solver)

2022 Packing Number of Square Grid (using a SAT solver)

2023 Empty Hexagon in Every 30 Points (using a SAT solver)

Collatz conjecture

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Collatz conjecture

A Counterexample to the Unit Conjecture

Theorem ([Gardam 2021])

Let $P = \langle a, b \mid b^{-1}a^2b = a^{-2}, a^{-1}b^2a = b^{-2} \rangle$ be a torsion-free group and set $x = a^2$, $y = b^2$, $z = (ab)^2$. Set

$$p = (1 + x)(1 + y)(1 + z^{-1})$$

$$q = x^{-1}y^{-1} + x + y^{-1}z + z$$

$$r = 1 + x + y^{-1}z + xyz$$

$$s = 1 + (x + x^{-1} + y + y^{-1})z^{-1}.$$

Then $p + qa + rb + sab$ is a non-trivial unit in the ring $F_2[P]$.

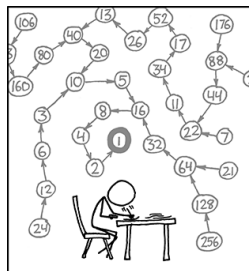
- ▶ Giles Gardam guessed P
- ▶ The SAT solver found p , q , r , and s

The Collatz Conjecture

The Collatz map is defined as follows:

$$\text{Col}(n) = \begin{cases} n/2 & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ (3n + 1)/2 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

Does `while($n > 1$) $n = \text{Col}(n)$;` terminate?



How to (Dis)Prove Collatz Using SAT?

Collatz is a **termination problem** (thus way way beyond NP)

Three possible outcomes:

1. There exists an n for which the sequence goes to infinity
▶ unlikely

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 - ▶ existing methods showed no cycle for n up to 2^{70}
 - ▶ so searching for a cycle is too hard for SAT

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Three possible outcomes:

1. There exists an n for which the sequence goes to infinity
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2. There exists a cycle
 - ▶ existing methods showed no cycle for n up to 2^{70}
 - ▶ so searching for a cycle is too hard for SAT
3. The conjecture holds
 - ▶ search for a ranking function of a certain size/shape
 - ▶ satisfiable: conjecture solved
 - ▶ unsatisfiable: try another size or shape

A Collatz Ranking Function?

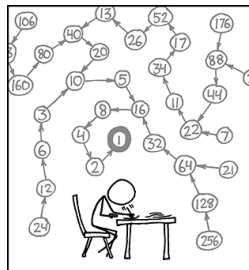
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Does $\text{while}(n > 1) \ n = \text{Col}(n);$ terminate?

Find a non-negative function $f(n)$ s.t.

$$\forall n > 1 : f(n) > f(\text{Col}(n))$$



THE COLLATZ CONJECTURE STATES THAT IF YOU PICK A NUMBER, AND IF IT'S EVEN DIVIDE IT BY TWO AND IF IT'S ODD MULTIPLY IT BY THREE AND ADD ONE, AND YOU REPEAT THIS PROCEDURE LONG ENOUGH, EVENTUALLY YOUR FRIENDS WILL STOP CALLING TO SEE IF YOU WANT TO HANG OUT.

source: xkcd.com/710

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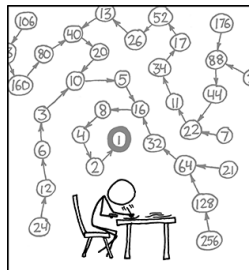
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How can we construct such a function using SAT?

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} f(3) & f(5) & f(8) & f(4) & f(2) & f(1) \\ \hline 5 & 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$$

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Motivating Example: String Rewriting

Σ alphabet

$\ell \rightarrow r$ rewrite rule

R rewriting system

\rightarrow_R rewrite relation

Motivating Example: String Rewriting

Σ alphabet

$\ell \rightarrow r$ rewrite rule

R rewriting system

\rightarrow_R rewrite relation

Example

► $R = \{ab \rightarrow ba\}$

$\underline{a}bbab \rightarrow_R b\underline{a}bab \rightarrow_R bba\underline{a}b \rightarrow_R bb\underline{a}ba \rightarrow_R bbbaa$

Motivating Example: Termination Examples

R is terminating if there is no infinite chain with $X_i \in \Sigma^*$:

$$X_0 \rightarrow_R X_1 \rightarrow_R X_2 \rightarrow_R \cdots$$

Example

► $R = \{ab \rightarrow ba\}$ terminating

► $S = \{a \rightarrow aa\}$ nonterminating

► $T = \{aa \rightarrow a\}$ terminating

► $P = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} a \rightarrow b \\ b \rightarrow a \end{array} \right\}$ nonterminating

► $Z = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} aa \rightarrow bc \\ bb \rightarrow ac \\ cc \rightarrow ab \end{array} \right\}$?

Proving termination [Baader and Nipkow, 1998]

R is terminating if there exists a well-founded order \succ_{Σ^*} such that for all $X, Y \in \Sigma^*$

$$X \rightarrow_R Y \implies X \succ_{\Sigma^*} Y.$$

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Translate $s \in \Sigma$ into an element $[s]$ of another domain (A, \succ_A) and show that $[\ell] \succ_A [r]$ for all $\ell \rightarrow r \in R$.

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Example

► $T = \{aa \rightarrow a\}$. Let $[a] = 1$, extend to strings additively.

$$[aa] = 2 > 1 = [a]$$

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Example

- $T = \{aa \rightarrow a\}$. Let $[a] = 1$, extend to strings additively.

$$[aa] = 2 > 1 = [a]$$

- $R = \{ab \rightarrow ba\}$. Let $[a](x) = x^2$ and $[b](x) = x + 1$, extend to strings compositionally.

$$[ab](x) = (x + 1)^2 > x^2 + 1 = [ba](x)$$

Matrix interpretations [Hofbauer and Waldmann, 2006]

Affine functions $[s]: \mathbb{N}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^d$
(extended to strings compositionally):

$$[s](\vec{x}) = \mathbf{M}_s \vec{x} + \mathbf{v}_s$$

Well-founded order:

$$\vec{x} \succ \vec{y} \iff x_1 > y_1 \wedge x_i \geq y_i \text{ for } i \in \{2, 3, \dots, d\}$$

Look for interpretations satisfying

$$[\ell](\vec{x}) = \mathbf{M}_\ell \vec{x} + \mathbf{v}_\ell \succ \mathbf{M}_r \vec{x} + \mathbf{v}_r = [r](\vec{x}) \text{ for all } \vec{x} \in \mathbb{N}^d.$$

Encode all the resulting constraints as a SAT instance.

Motivating Example: Proof by SAT Solver (I)

$$Z = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} aa \rightarrow bc \\ bb \rightarrow ac \\ cc \rightarrow ab \end{array} \right\}$$

Motivating Example: Proof by SAT Solver (I)

$$Z = \begin{cases} aa \rightarrow bc \\ bb \rightarrow ac \\ cc \rightarrow ab \end{cases}$$
$$[a](\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$[b](\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$[c](\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Motivating Example: Proof by SAT Solver (II)

$$\vec{x} \succ \vec{y} \iff x_1 > y_1 \wedge x_i \geq y_i \text{ for } i \in \{2, 3, \dots, d\}$$

It is decidable to check the following:

$$[aa](\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \succ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = [bc](\vec{x})$$

$$[bb](\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} + \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \succ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} = [ac](\vec{x})$$

$$[cc](\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \succ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = [ab](\vec{x})$$

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Collatz as Rewrite System: Symbols and Rules

Consider the following 7 symbols to express numbers:



Numbers can be expressed in multiple ways:

- ▶ 27 (binary): A sequence of six boxes: blue (1), light green (×2+1), green (×2), light green (×2+1), light green (×2+1), and dark blue (×1).
- ▶ 27 (ternary): A sequence of five boxes: blue (1), purple (×3), purple (×3), purple (×3), and dark blue (×1).

Collatz as Rewrite System: Symbols and Rules

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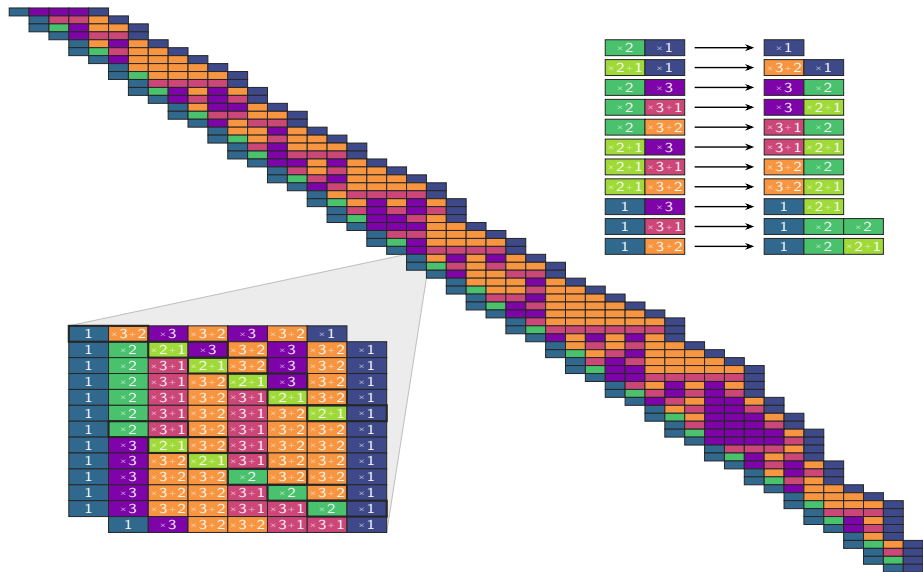
Numbers can be expressed in multiple ways:

- ▶ 27 (binary):
- ▶ 27 (ternary):

These rewrite rules express Collatz:

		→		$2n \rightarrow n$
		→		$2n + 1 \rightarrow 3n + 2$
		→		$\times 6 + 0 \rightarrow \times 6 + 0$
		→		$\times 6 + 1 \rightarrow \times 6 + 1$
		→		$\times 6 + 2 \rightarrow \times 6 + 2$
		→		$\times 6 + 3 \rightarrow \times 6 + 3$
		→		$\times 6 + 4 \rightarrow \times 6 + 4$
		→		$\times 6 + 5 \rightarrow \times 6 + 5$
		→		$3 \rightarrow 3$
		→		$4 \rightarrow 4$
		→		$5 \rightarrow 5$

Collatz as Rewriting System: Starting at 27 Down to 1



Collatz as Rewrite System: Theorem

$$\begin{array}{lll} f(x) = 2x & 0(x) = 3x & \triangleleft(x) = 1 \\ t(x) = 2x + 1 & 1(x) = 3x + 1 & \triangleright(x) = x \\ & 2(x) = 3x + 2 & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{llll} f\triangleright \rightarrow \triangleright & f0 \rightarrow 0f & t0 \rightarrow 1t & \triangleleft 0 \rightarrow \triangleleft t \\ t\triangleright \rightarrow 2\triangleright & f1 \rightarrow 0t & t1 \rightarrow 2f & \triangleleft 1 \rightarrow \triangleleft ff \\ & f2 \rightarrow 1f & t2 \rightarrow 2t & \triangleleft 2 \rightarrow \triangleleft ft \end{array}$$

Theorem

Above system is terminating \iff Collatz conjecture holds.

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 & f2 \rightarrow 1f & t2 \rightarrow 2t & \triangleleft 2 \rightarrow \triangleleft ft
 \end{array}$$

Theorem

Above system is terminating \iff Collatz conjecture holds.

Example

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 12 & 12 & 6 & 6 & 3 & 3 & 5 \\
 \triangleleft f \underline{f} 0 \triangleright \rightarrow \triangleleft f 0 \underline{f} \triangleright \rightarrow \triangleleft \underline{f} 0 \triangleright \rightarrow \triangleleft 0 \underline{f} \triangleright \rightarrow \triangleleft \underline{0} \triangleright \rightarrow \triangleleft \underline{t} \triangleright \rightarrow \triangleleft \underline{2} \triangleright \\
 5 & 8 & 8 & 8 & 4 & 2 & 1 \\
 \rightarrow \triangleleft f \underline{t} \triangleright \rightarrow \triangleleft \underline{f} 2 \triangleright \rightarrow \triangleleft \underline{1} f \triangleright \rightarrow \triangleleft f f \underline{f} \triangleright \rightarrow \triangleleft f \underline{f} \triangleright \rightarrow \triangleleft \underline{f} \triangleright \rightarrow \triangleleft \triangleright
 \end{array}$$

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Farkas' Variant: Definition & Rewrite System

Informal: if $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, then $\frac{n-1}{3}$, otherwise Collatz

$$F(n) = \begin{cases} \frac{n-1}{3} & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ \frac{n}{2} & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \text{ or } n \equiv 2 \pmod{6} \\ \frac{3n+1}{2} & \text{if } n \equiv 3 \text{ or } n \equiv 5 \pmod{6} \end{cases}$$

Farkas' Variant: Termination Proof (Arctic: $-$ means $-\infty$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 [\mathbf{f}](\vec{x}) &= \begin{bmatrix} - & - & 2 & - \\ & 2 & 0 & - \\ 2 & - & - & - \\ - & - & - & - \\ - & - & - & - \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} \oplus \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ - \\ - \\ - \end{bmatrix} & [\mathbf{t}](\vec{x}) &= \begin{bmatrix} - & - & - & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & - \\ 2 & - & 2 & - \\ - & - & - & - \\ - & - & - & - \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} \oplus \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ - \\ - \\ - \end{bmatrix} \\
 [\mathbf{<}](\vec{x}) &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ - \\ - \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} & [\mathbf{>}](\vec{x}) &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & - & - & - \\ - & - & - & - \\ - & - & - & - \\ - & - & - & - \\ - & - & - & - \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} & [\mathbf{o}](\vec{x}) &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 4 & 0 & - \\ - & 4 & - & - \\ - & 4 & 0 & - \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & - \\ - & - & - & - \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} \\
 [\mathbf{1}](\vec{x}) &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & - & - & - \\ - & 4 & 0 & - \\ - & 4 & 0 & - \\ 0 & - & - & - \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & - \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} & [\mathbf{2}](\vec{x}) &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & - & 0 & - \\ - & 4 & - & - \\ 0 & - & 1 & - \\ - & - & - & - \\ 0 & - & 0 & - \end{bmatrix} \vec{x}
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 \end{aligned}$$

DEMO

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Subsystems: Introduction

The full system is too hard.

We don't need to show that all rules are decreasing

- ▶ Only one rule needs to decrease, while no other increases
- ▶ Remove that rule and continue with the remaining ones

The first step is too hard, but all remaining steps are doable

- ▶ Consider any subset of 10 out of the 11 rules
- ▶ We can prove termination of each subset

Subsystems: Results

Rule removed	Matrix			Arctic		
	D	V	Time	D	V	Time
$f\triangleright \rightarrow \triangleright$	3	4	1.42s	3	5	15.95s
$t\triangleright \rightarrow 2\triangleright$	1	2	0.27s	1	3	0.28s
$f0 \rightarrow 0f$	4	2	0.92s	3	4	2.46s
$f1 \rightarrow 0t$	1	3	0.50s	1	4	0.51s
$f2 \rightarrow 1f$	1	2	0.38s	1	3	0.39s
$t0 \rightarrow 1t$	4	3	1.20s	3	4	0.87s
$t1 \rightarrow 2f$	5	2	0.89s	4	3	0.84s
$t2 \rightarrow 2t$	4	4	10.00s	2	5	0.62s
$\triangleleft 0 \rightarrow \triangleleft t$	2	2	0.40s	2	3	0.42s
$\triangleleft 1 \rightarrow \triangleleft ff$	3	3	0.53s	3	4	0.57s
$\triangleleft 2 \rightarrow \triangleleft ft$	4	4	7.51s	4	3	4.04s

Subsystems: Solver Considerations

Phase-saving heuristic:

- ▶ Phase-saving uses cached assignments to variables when choosing a branch to explore.
- ▶ For small values, order encoding assigns a large fraction of the variables to false.
- ▶ Disable phase-saving and use negative branching: always explore the “false” branch first.

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Heavy-tailed behavior:

- ▶ There is a large variance in runtime across different initial conditions of the search. Some runs have a nonnegligible chance of finishing early.
- ▶ Run multiple instances of the SAT solver with varying seeds and different shufflings of the formula.

Subsystems: Solver Configurations

Interpretation	D	V	Phase-saving		Negative branching	
			Single	Parallel	Single	Parallel
Arctic	5	8	240.00s	240.00s	44.45s	9.22s
Arctic	3	5	1.52s	0.13s	29.95s	13.12s
Arctic	3	4	3.75s	0.83s	3.27s	1.71s
Natural	4	4	75.78s	19.12s	29.62s	8.13s
Natural	4	4	75.05s	5.22s	24.31s	6.43s
Arctic	4	3	3.33s	0.52s	11.55s	3.84s
Natural	3	11	240.00s	240.00s	240.00s	79.05s
Arctic	3	12	1.94s	0.33s	3.28s	0.38s

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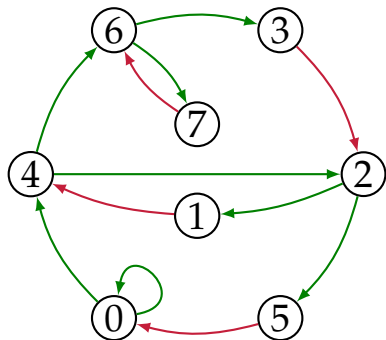
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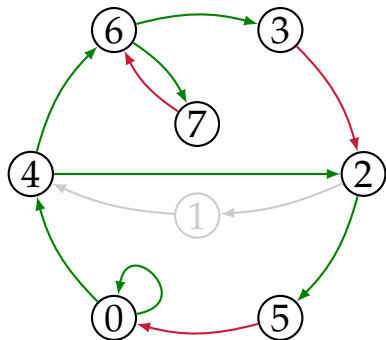
Collatz Modulo 8: Cycles

The full system is too hard.
What if we drop some states modulo 8?



cycle	effect
$(0, 0)$	$n/2$
$(0, 4, 2, 5, 0)$	$(3n + 8)/8$
$(1, 4, 2, 1)$	$(3n + 1)/4$
$(2, 5, 0, 4, 2)$	$(3n + 2)/8$
$(2, 1, 4, 2)$	$(3n + 2)/4$
$(4, 2, 5, 0, 4)$	$(3n + 4)/8$
$(4, 2, 1, 4)$	$(3n + 4)/4$
$(5, 0, 4, 2, 5)$	$(3n + 1)/8$
$(5, 0, 4, 6, 3, 2, 5)$	$(9n + 11)/16$
$(7, 6, 7)$	$(3n + 1)/2$
$(1, 4, 6, 3, 2, 1)$	$(9n + 7)/8$

Collatz Modulo 8: Terminate at 1 Mod 8



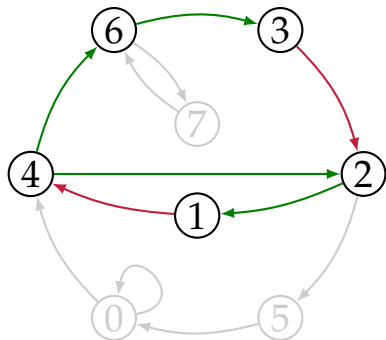
Does

```
while( $n \not\equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ )  
   $n = Col(n)$ 
```

terminate?

\$500 prize

Collatz Modulo 8: Terminate at 5 or 7 Mod 8



Even the case without 5 or 7 mod 8 is open

It is equivalent to

$$H(n) = \begin{cases} \frac{3n}{4} & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{4} \\ \frac{9n+1}{8} & \text{if } n \equiv 7 \pmod{8} \\ \perp & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

\$500 prize

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Conclusions and Next Steps

The presented system is just one of many possible rewriting systems that captures the Collatz conjecture.

Which system facilitates efficient reasoning?

Conclusions and Next Steps

The presented system is just one of many possible rewriting systems that captures the Collatz conjecture.

Which system facilitates efficient reasoning?

How to encode the SAT formula?

- ▶ The order encoding for multiplication is very effective
- ▶ Reduce the size of the encoding by reusing calculations

Conclusions and Next Steps

The presented system is just one of many possible rewriting systems that captures the Collatz conjecture.

Which system facilitates efficient reasoning?

How to encode the SAT formula?

- ▶ The order encoding for multiplication is very effective
- ▶ Reduce the size of the encoding by reusing calculations

Which SAT solving techniques are effective?

- ▶ Some old SAT techniques work better than new ones
- ▶ Can local search be effective (we only look for solutions)?

Conclusions: Starting at 27 Down to 1

