

3x+1 Problem

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The Collatz conjecture, also known as the $3x + 1$ problem, is defined as:

$$c(x) = \begin{cases} x/2, & \text{if } x \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \\ 3x + 1, & \text{if } x \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \end{cases}, x \in \mathbb{N}^+$$

Or the "shortcut" version:

$$s(x) = \begin{cases} x/2, & \text{if } x \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \\ (3x + 1)/2, & \text{if } x \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \end{cases}, x \in \mathbb{N}^+$$

This process will eventually reach the number 1, regardless of which positive integer is chosen initially.

1 Proving the Collatz Conjecture for the set 2^n

$\{x \in \mathbb{N}^+ : 2^x\}$

In this case, $c^{(\log_2 x)}(x) = 1$.

Ex. $x = 2, c(2) = \frac{2}{2} = 1$

Therefore, the conjecture for the set 2^n is true.