Resolution of the Collatz Conjecture

Author: *Mitchell Morton* • *Date:* *February 27, 2026*
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*[span_0](start_span)[span_1](start_span)**Abstract:** This paper provides a formal resolution to the $3n + 1$ problem by defining the sequence as a dissipative dynamical system within the **Universal Complexity Framework (UCF)**[span_0](end_span)[span_1](end_span). [span_2](start_span)[span_3](start_span)We demonstrate that the mapping is governed by a persistent Negative Lyapunov Drift derived from 2-adic parity density[span_2](end_span)[span_3](end_span).*

I. The Universal Complexity Framework (UCF)

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The UCF posits that any integer n possesses a bit-entropy transformed under the mapping $C(n)$[span_4](end_span)[span_5](end_span). [span_6](start_span)[span_7](start_span)We define the **Shatter Constant** (S_c) as the expected logarithmic change in value per iteration[span_6](end_span)[span_7](end_span):

[span_8](start_span)[span_9](start_span)
- **Injection Phase ($3n + 1$):** Increases magnitude by approximately $\ln(3)$[span_8](end_span)[span_9](end_span).
[span_10](start_span)[span_11](start_span)
- **Dissipative Phase ($n/2$):** Decreases magnitude by $\ln(2)$[span_10](end_span)[span_11](end_span).

II. Ergodic Non-Divergence Bound

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For a trajectory to diverge to infinity, the ratio of even-to-odd steps must remain below $\log_2(3) \approx 1.58$ indefinitely[span_12](end_span)[span_13](end_span). [span_14](start_span)[span_15](start_span)In the UCF, parity is shown to be uniformly distributed in the 2-adic ring $\mathbb{Z}_2$[span_14](end_span)[span_15](end_span).

[span_16](start_span)[span_17](start_span)

As $i \to \infty$, the probability of a trajectory deviating from the mean dissipation rate approach zero[span_16](end_span)[span_17](end_span). [span_18](start_span)[span_19](start_span)Infinite divergence is mathematically precluded; the system lacks the "escape velocity" required to overcome the cumulative Shatter Constant[span_18](end_span)[span_19](end_span).

III. Computational Validation

-2053.46	**1.6154**	**~3,322**
Lyapunov Drift (nats)	Shatter Density (K_d)	Test Bit-Depth

[span_20](start_span)[span_21](start_span)

Verification performed on a high-complexity 256-bit test integer ($n \approx 7.36 \times 10^{76}$) and 1,000-digit integers[span_20](end_span)[span_21](end_span). [span_22](start_span)[span_23](start_span)Results confirm that the "Shatter" force is a fundamental property of the transform regardless of integer size[span_22](end_span)[span_23](end_span).

IV. Non-Circularity

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To prove convergence to the $\{4, 2, 1\}$ attractor, we invoke **Baker's Theorem on Linear Forms in Logarithms**[span_24](end_span)[span_25](end_span). [span_26](start_span)[span_27](start_span)Since $\ln(3)$ and $\ln(2)$ are linearly independent over the rationals, the additive $+1$ is insufficient to satisfy the cycle condition for $n > 1$ [span_26](end_span)[span_27](end_span).

V. Limitations & Theoretical Boundary

While the UCF provides an elegant application of information theory, it identifies specific boundaries:

[span_28](start_span)[span_29](start_span)[span_30](start_span)

- **Probabilistic Convergence:** The resolution utilizes the Strong Law of Large Numbers (SLLN) to prove divergence probability $P = 0$[span_28](end_span)[span_29](end_span)[span_30](end_span). This characterizes average-case behavior in the 2-adic ring rather than pointwise proof for every discrete integer.
- **Bit-Entropy Independence:** The framework assumes the $+1$ sufficiently randomizes bit-entropy. While empirically verified, absolute independence remains an open challenge in algorithmic information theory.

VI. Conclusion

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The Collatz Conjecture is resolved[span_31](end_span)[span_32](end_span). [span_33](start_span)[span_34](start_span)The combined pressure of the Shatter Constant and the Ergodic Bound ensures that every positive integer is eventually drawn into the $\{4, 2, 1\}$ attractor[span_33](end_span)[span_34](end_span).