



# On a Family of Solutions to Arithmetic Differential Equations Involving the Collatz Map

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## Abstract

The arithmetic derivative is a nonlinear derivation on the positive integers which forms a natural analog of the conventional derivative. While exploring solutions to arithmetic differential equations, we stumbled across a curious pattern in the positive integers for which the arithmetic derivative and the Collatz map commute. Here we report on these empirical findings, and prove several analytical results on the form of such numbers. Among these findings is the existence of a family of semiprime numbers which are mapped by the Collatz function to another semiprime having a sum of prime factors which is half of the original semiprime's. We show that this family of semiprimes solves the commutation problem and that the sum of their reciprocals converges.

## 1 Introduction

The arithmetic derivative is a distinctive analogue to the conventional derivative from calculus. Unlike its continuous counterpart, the arithmetic derivative is tailored specifically for positive integers and encodes information about a number's prime factorization, offering a novel perspective on the structural properties of numbers. It was introduced initially by Shelly in 1911 [15] and subsequently refined by various mathematicians, including Barbeau [1], who extended it to the rationals, showing that the arithmetic derivative satisfies an analog of the familiar quotient rule. Later, this operation was extended to the set of irrational numbers which can be written as the product of primes raised to rational powers

by Ufnarovski and Ahlander [17]. Central to the arithmetic derivative is its adherence to a product rule akin to that of traditional calculus, facilitating computations that reveal relationships between integers. This operation has garnered attention not only for its theoretical elegance but also for its connections to conjectures in number theory, such as the Goldbach and twin prime conjectures [17], and these links hint at deeper insights into the distribution and behavior of prime numbers.

Meanwhile, the Collatz conjecture has been studied at least as far back as 1937, and it remains a surprisingly challenging open problem. It has been attacked from many angles, including studies of the number of steps needed to reach 1 (the total stopping time) [12], continuous extensions [4], and the determination of bounds on the size of a nontrivial cycle [8]. In 1972, Conway showed that a natural generalization of the Collatz conjecture was undecidable [5] and later built on this work to construct a method for universal computation known as FRACSTRAN [6]. Interestingly, the Collatz iterates were also related to Benford's Law [11, 13]. More recently, it was shown by Tao that almost all orbits of the Collatz map attain almost bounded values in the sense of logarithmic density [16], and Barina has confirmed that positive integers as high as  $2^{68}$  obey the conjecture [2]. Despite decades of scrutiny and extensive computational exploration, the Collatz conjecture remains unproven, captivating mathematicians with its deceptively simple nature.

The original motivation for this work was to investigate numbers for which the arithmetic derivative and compositions of the Collatz map commute. It can be shown that arithmetic functions which satisfy this property for some integer  $n$  in a cycle  $\Omega$  necessarily send  $n$  into a cycle of length dividing  $|\Omega|$ . Indeed, if  $D(C^{|\Omega|}(n)) = C^{|\Omega|}(D(n))$  and  $C^{|\Omega|}(n) = n$ , then  $D(n) = C^{|\Omega|}(D(n))$ , so that  $D(n)$  generates a cycle. Note that the choice of  $D$  was arbitrary here, and the arithmetic derivative was chosen merely out of curiosity while exploring concrete examples. In the course of our exploration, we find that for  $|\Omega| = 1$ , these numbers satisfy a puzzling property. Indeed, all but one example are congruent to 9 modulo 10 and can be written as the product of two distinct primes, one which ends in 1, while the other ends in 9. The exception is the number 606938385, which is the product of the three distinct primes 3, 5, and 40462559.

In this work, we introduce a class of semiprime numbers which we call *compatible* ([A376275](#) in the OEIS [9]), showing that they satisfy the arithmetic differential equation  $D\left(\frac{3n+1}{2}\right) = \frac{D(n)}{2}$ , thereby solving the commutation problem  $D(C(n)) = C(D(n))$ . Naturally, we ask whether there are infinitely many such numbers. Just as in Brun's work on twin primes [3], we show that the sum of the reciprocals of the compatible semiprimes converges, so that an easy answer to this question does not seem likely. However, we show that all known solutions to the commutation problem are semiprimes of this form except for the case 606938385, which instead solves the arithmetic differential equation  $D\left(\frac{3n+1}{2}\right) = \frac{3D(n)+1}{2}$ . Moreover, we explain the observation that all solutions (again, except for 606938385) are congruent to 9 modulo 10 by showing that this is the case for all compatible semiprimes. This result does not rule out the possibility that further solutions which break this congruence exist, but merely explains what is seen empirically.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we review the arithmetic derivative, re-deriving several known results, and we define the Collatz map. In Section 3, we present several analytical results about the numbers for which these maps commute. We show that all such numbers are odd, and motivated by our empirical results, attempt to characterize the distinct primes appearing in these numbers by showing that they cannot have the forms of several classes of prime numbers. We then give a bound on the difference between these primes, showing that it grows at least linearly with the larger prime. We also produce a class of semiprime numbers which belong to this sequence of numbers and show that all known elements of the sequence belong to this class, with the exception of 606938385. In Section 4, we show that the sum of the reciprocals of the numbers in this class converges. Finally, in Section 5, we give concluding remarks and put forth several conjectures, including the assertion that there are infinitely many numbers for which the arithmetic derivative and Collatz map commute.

## 2 Background

The arithmetic derivative is a natural analog of the conventional derivative from calculus, at least algebraically. We define the arithmetic derivative to be a non-linear derivation  $D : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  on the set of natural numbers with the property that  $D(1) = D(0) = 0$  and  $D(p) = 1$  for all primes  $p$ . Explicitly, we define  $D$  so that

$$D(mn) = D(m)n + mD(n) \tag{1}$$

for every  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ . This requirement already demands  $D(1) = D(1)+D(1)$ , so that  $D(1) = 0$  by construction. Moreover, if  $n = pm$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and some prime  $p$ , it follows from (1) that  $D(n) = D(p)m + pD(m)$ . If  $m$  is composite, we may proceed inductively until the only derivatives appearing on the right side of the equality are derivatives of primes. Thus, the arithmetic derivative (and indeed every arithmetic function that satisfies (1)) is completely determined by its action on prime numbers. The choice of  $D(p) = 1$  serves to treat all prime numbers with equal weighting. Another consequence of (1) is that the arithmetic derivative satisfies a power rule. Indeed, we have

$$D(n^k) = kn^{k-1}D(n),$$

and so it follows that if  $n = p_1^{\nu_1} \cdots p_k^{\nu_k}$  is the prime factorization of  $n$ , then

$$D(n) = n \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\nu_j}{p_j} D(p_j) = n \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\nu_j}{p_j}. \tag{2}$$

Notice the logarithmic derivative flavor of (2). If we divide by  $n$  and define the logarithmic arithmetic derivative  $\text{ld}(n) := D(n)/n$ , then (2) becomes

$$\text{ld}(n) = \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\nu_j}{p_j}.$$

Interestingly, the arithmetic derivative can be linked to both the Goldbach and twin primes conjectures rather easily. Indeed, if  $p, p + 2$  are twin primes, then  $D(2p) = D(2)p + 2D(p) = p + 2$ . Now applying the arithmetic derivative again, we find that  $D^2(2p) = 1$ . Thus, if the twin prime conjecture holds, then there are infinitely many  $n$  for which  $D^2(n) = 1$ . As for the Goldbach conjecture, observe that if  $2n = p + q$  for some  $p, q$  prime, then  $D(pq) = p + q = 2n$ . Thus, if the Goldbach conjecture holds, then for every even integer  $2n$ , there is another integer  $k$  such that  $D(k) = 2n$ .

We make use of inequalities for the arithmetic derivative derived by Barbeau [1] and then strengthened by Dahl, Olsson, and Loiko [7]. In particular, we make use of the following lemma featuring the prime omega function (the number of prime factors in  $n$ ).

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $\Omega$  denote the prime omega function and let  $p$  be the least prime in  $n$ . Then*

$$\Omega(n)n^{\frac{\Omega(n)-1}{\Omega(n)}} \leq D(n) \leq \frac{n \log_p(n)}{p}.$$

Moreover, equality holds if and only if  $n$  is a prime power.

*Proof.* Let  $n = p_1^{\nu_1} \cdots p_k^{\nu_k}$ . Then

$$D(n) = n \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\nu_j}{p_j}.$$

Let  $p$  be the least prime of  $p_1, \dots, p_k$ . Then

$$D(n) \leq n \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\nu_j}{p} \leq n \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\nu_j \log_p(p_j)}{p} = \frac{n \log_p(n)}{p}$$

and equality holds whenever  $p_1 = \cdots = p_k = p$ . For the lower bound, note that  $\frac{1}{\Omega(n)}D(n) = \frac{n}{\Omega(n)} \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\nu_j}{p_j}$  is an arithmetic mean and apply the AM-GM inequality. This produces

$$\frac{D(n)}{\Omega(n)} \geq n \left( \prod_{j=1}^k \frac{1}{p_j^{\nu_j}} \right)^{1/\Omega(n)} = n^{\frac{\Omega(n)-1}{\Omega(n)}},$$

and equality holds in the AM-GM inequality whenever  $p_1 = \cdots = p_k$ . □

The Collatz mapping is the arithmetic function defined by

$$C(n) = \begin{cases} 3n + 1, & \text{if } n \text{ odd;} \\ \frac{n}{2}, & \text{if } n \text{ even.} \end{cases}$$

A longstanding open problem in mathematics is the so-called Collatz conjecture, which states that the discrete dynamical system with trajectories defined by  $C$  always converges to the  $\{4, 2, 1\}$  cycle. Equivalently, it says that for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists a  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$C^k(n) = 1$ . This seemingly simple problem has gone unproven for more than eighty years, and those who study it deeply often comment that the problem is completely intractable and outside the scope of the mathematical tools available today. While this may be the case, it can be interesting to explore certain aspects of this problem in an attempt to gain even the smallest insight. We forgo a study of what is known about the Collatz conjecture and instead refer the reader to the excellent survey by Lagarias [12]. We, however, point out that when  $n$  is odd, the next iterate in the trajectory of  $n$  is even. It is therefore common to redefine the Collatz map as

$$C(n) = \begin{cases} \frac{3n+1}{2}, & \text{if } n \text{ odd;} \\ \frac{n}{2}, & \text{if } n \text{ even,} \end{cases}$$

and we take this as our definition throughout the rest of our work.

### 3 The commutation problem and compatible semiprimes

We let  $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  denote the sequence of numbers for which the arithmetic derivative and Collatz map commute. In our empirical investigation, we have found the first 30 numbers of this sequence and they are listed along with their prime factorization in Table 1. We note that all but one of these numbers are congruent to 9 mod 10 and can be written as a product of two distinct primes, one of which is congruent to 1 while the other is congruent to 9. All numbers with the exclusion of the exceptional case  $n = 12$  are also congruent to 2 modulo 3. For  $n = 12$ , we see that  $a_n$  is divisible by 3. We note also that in the case of  $n = 12$ , the largest prime is at least an order of magnitude larger than all of the remaining primes in the table.

Our empirical results seem to indicate several constraints on the form of  $a_n$ , some of which can be proven by elementary methods. Take, for example, the fact that all numbers in the table are odd. We can easily show that this is always the case.

**Proposition 2.** *Let  $a_n$  be the sequence of positive integers for which  $D(C(a_n)) = C(D(a_n))$ . Then  $a_n$  is odd for all  $n$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $a_n$  were even for some  $n$ . Then there exists an  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a_n = 2m$ , and we must have  $D(C(a_n)) = D(m)$  while  $C(D(a_n)) = C(m + 2D(m))$ . If  $m + 2D(m)$  is even, it follows that  $2D(m) = m + 2D(m)$ , so that  $m = 0$ , a contradiction (since  $a_n > 0$  by assumption). On the other hand, if  $m + 2D(m)$  is odd, it follows that  $D(m) = (3m + 6D(m) + 1)/2$ , so that  $4D(m) = -3m - 1$ , which is again a contradiction. Thus,  $a_n$  is odd for all  $n$ .  $\square$

Our data suggests that  $a_n$  must be a product of distinct primes (an almost-prime), and we notice that no single prime appears in the table. This latter fact is indeed the case in general, as the next proposition shows.

$n$	$a_n$	Prime Factorization	$D(a_n)$	$C(a_n)$	Prime Factorization
1	114239	$71 \times 1609$	1680	171359	$349 \times 491$
2	144059	$71 \times 2029$	2100	216089	$281 \times 769$
3	933899	$131 \times 7129$	7260	1400849	$439 \times 3191$
4	1918199	$79 \times 24281$	24360	2877299	$241 \times 11939$
5	25054499	$149 \times 168151$	168300	37581749	$449 \times 83701$
6	30495419	$1129 \times 27011$	28140	45743129	$5099 \times 8971$
7	33065159	$569 \times 58111$	58680	49597739	$1801 \times 27539$
8	72602039	$1511 \times 48049$	49560	108903059	$5711 \times 19069$
9	255442559	$809 \times 315751$	316560	383163839	$2459 \times 155821$
10	353104079	$1511 \times 233689$	235200	529656119	$4691 \times 112909$
11	575473559	$3631 \times 158489$	162120	863210339	$12611 \times 68449$
12	606938385	$3 \times 5 \times 40462559$	323700487	910407578	$2 \times 47 \times 83 \times 116689$
13	808589879	$2801 \times 288679$	291480	1212884819	$8861 \times 136879$
14	846509819	$2861 \times 295879$	298740	1269764729	$9049 \times 140321$
15	1042804799	$6871 \times 151769$	158640	1564207199	$36709 \times 42611$
16	1055710979	$2999 \times 352021$	355020	1583566469	$9421 \times 168089$
17	1059728279	$4079 \times 259801$	263880	1589592419	$13411 \times 118529$
18	1184657879	$2281 \times 519359$	521640	1776986819	$7001 \times 253819$
19	1247085239	$4751 \times 262489$	267240	1870627859	$15889 \times 117731$
20	1791627599	$8609 \times 208111$	216720	2687441399	$38431 \times 69929$
21	2196997739	$9059 \times 242521$	251580	3295496609	$37199 \times 88591$
22	2323221179	$7741 \times 300119$	307860	3484831769	$27581 \times 126349$
23	2372469179	$9091 \times 260969$	270060	3558703769	$35899 \times 99131$
24	2591327159	$10369 \times 249911$	260280	3886990739	$46439 \times 83701$
25	3063507719	$8191 \times 374009$	382200	4595261579	$28211 \times 162889$
26	3276652079	$5881 \times 557159$	563040	4914978119	$18701 \times 262819$
27	4021840859	$2909 \times 1382551$	1385460	6032761289	$8821 \times 683909$
28	5489857619	$2309 \times 2377591$	2379900	8234786429	$6961 \times 1182989$
29	5716553879	$3881 \times 1472959$	1476840	8574830819	$11801 \times 726619$
30	6022735799	$929 \times 6483031$	6483960	9034103699	$2789 \times 3239191$

Table 1: First 30 elements of  $a_n$ .

**Proposition 3.** *Let  $a_n$  be the sequence of positive integers for which  $D(C(a_n)) = C(D(a_n))$ . Then  $a_n$  is a composite number for all  $n$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $a_n = p$  were prime for some  $n$  and note that  $p \neq 2$  by Proposition 2. Then  $D(C(a_n)) = D\left(\frac{3p+1}{2}\right)$ , while  $C(D(a_n)) = C(1) = 2$ . It follows that  $D\left(\frac{3p+1}{2}\right) = 2$ . If  $\Omega\left(\frac{3p+1}{2}\right) = 1$ , then  $\frac{3p+1}{2}$  is prime and so  $D\left(\frac{3p+1}{2}\right) = 1$ , a contradiction. Then by Lemma 1, we have

$$2 = D\left(\frac{3p+1}{2}\right) \geq 2\sqrt{\frac{3p+1}{2}},$$

which produces a contradiction. Thus,  $a_n$  is composite for all  $n$ .  $\square$

It is worth noting that a weak connection between the arithmetic derivative and the Collatz conjecture can be constructed. Indeed, a tetration of a prime belongs to the sequence  $a_n$  if and only if its image under the Collatz map is a tetration of a prime.

**Proposition 4.** *Let  $p^p$  be a tetration of a prime. Then  $a_n = p^p$  for some  $n$  if and only if  $C(p^p) = q^q$  for some prime  $q$ .*

*Proof.* If  $C(p^p) = q^q$  for some prime  $q$ , then

$$D(C(p^p)) = D(q^q) = q^q = C(p^p) = C(D(p^p)),$$

and we are done. Conversely, suppose  $p^p$  belongs to the sequence  $a_n$ . From Proposition 2, we know that  $p \neq 2$ . Then we have

$$D\left(\frac{3p^p+1}{2}\right) = D(C(p^p)) = C(D(p^p)) = \frac{3p^p+1}{2}. \quad (3)$$

We claim that the only positive fixed points of the arithmetic derivative are tetrations of primes. To see this, assume that  $m = p_1^{\nu_1} \cdots p_k^{\nu_k}$  and let  $D(m) = m$ . It follows from (2) that

$$\sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\nu_j}{p_j} = 1,$$

and since all terms are non-negative, this tells us that  $\nu_j \leq p_j$  for all  $j$ . Multiplying both sides by  $p_1 \cdots p_k$  then produces

$$\sum_{j=1}^k \nu_j \prod_{i \neq j} p_i = p_1 \cdots p_k,$$

from which it follows that  $p_j$  divides  $\nu_j$ . But since  $\nu_j \leq p_j$ , it follows that  $\nu_j = 0$  or  $\nu_j = p_j$ . Of course, the latter cannot be true for more than one choice of  $j$ . Thus, the only positive fixed points are of the form  $q^q$  for some prime  $q$ , and it now follows from (3) that  $C(p^p) = q^q$  for some prime  $q$ .  $\square$

Note that it is not known whether a prime tetration of the form in Proposition 4 exists, only that if it does exist, the connection outlined therein holds. Let us now dive deeper into our empirical results. By examining Table 1, we are led to believe that most values of  $a_n$  are squarefree semiprimes. It is therefore natural to wonder how the primes making up  $a_n$  are related to each other. In the next proposition, we give a bound for the difference between these two primes.

**Proposition 5.** *Let  $a_n$  be the sequence of positive integers for which  $D(C(a_n)) = C(D(a_n))$ . If  $a_n = pq$  for some primes  $q < p$ , then*

$$p - q \geq 2\sqrt{30p^2 + 2} - 10p,$$

that is, the difference between the two primes grows at least linearly with the larger prime.

*Proof.* The proof is a simple calculation using Lemma 1. Note that neither  $p$  nor  $q$  is equal to 2, as  $n$  would then be even, contradicting Proposition 2. We can therefore assume that  $m := p - q$  is even. Observe that

$$D(C(p(p - m))) = D\left(\frac{3p(p - m) + 1}{2}\right)$$

and that

$$C(D(p(p - m))) = C(2p - m) = p - \frac{m}{2},$$

where we have used the fact that  $m$  is even in the last equality. If  $\frac{3p(p-m)+1}{2}$  is prime, it follows that  $m = 2(p - 1)$ . But this implies that  $a_n = p(2 - p)$ , a contradiction. It therefore follows from Lemma 1 that

$$p - \frac{m}{2} \geq 2\sqrt{\frac{3p(p - m) + 1}{2}}.$$

Squaring and rearranging the terms produces the inequality  $20pm + m^2 - 8 \geq 20p^2$ , and now factoring the left side gives

$$(m + 10p)^2 \geq 120p^2 + 8,$$

from which it follows that

$$m \geq 2\sqrt{30p^2 + 2} - 10p.$$

□

Proposition 5 eliminates several commonly paired primes. As every prime is obviously a distance zero from itself, squares of primes ([A001248](#)) cannot belong to  $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ . The twin primes ([A001359](#)) differ from each other by two, and so their products are also eliminated, as are the products of the so-called cousin primes ([A046132](#)) which differ by four. Similarly, we are able to rule out products of Sophie Germain primes ([A005384](#)) with their corresponding safe prime; that is, products of the form  $p(2p + 1)$  with both  $p$  and  $2p + 1$  prime.



**Corollary 6.** *There does not exist an  $n$  such that  $a_n$  is a square of a prime, a product of twin primes, a product of cousin primes, or a product of a Sophie Germain prime and its corresponding safe prime.*

From Table 1, we see that when  $D(a_n)$  is even, the known  $a_n$  are a product of two distinct primes, as are the corresponding  $C(a_n)$ . Moreover, when this is the case, we have  $\frac{p+q}{2} = C(D(a_n)) = D(C(a_n)) = r + s$ . The entries in the table are exhaustive in the sense that there are no additional elements of  $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  less than  $a_{30} = 6022735799$ . Using the observations just outlined, we can extend this list in a non-exhaustive manner with the following proposition.

**Proposition 7.** *Let  $p, q$  be primes such that both*

$$r_{\pm} = \frac{p + q \pm \sqrt{p^2 - 22pq + q^2 - 8}}{4}$$

*are also prime. Then  $C(pq) = r_+r_-$  and  $pq$  is an element of  $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ .*

*Proof.* Observe that

$$\frac{3pq + 1}{2} = \left( \frac{p + q + \sqrt{p^2 - 22pq + q^2 - 8}}{4} \right) \left( \frac{p + q - \sqrt{p^2 - 22pq + q^2 - 8}}{4} \right)$$

so that  $C(pq) = r_+r_-$ . Moreover,  $r_+ + r_- = \frac{p+q}{2}$ , and it follows that  $D(C(pq)) = D(r_+r_-) = r_+ + r_- = \frac{p+q}{2} = C(D(pq))$ .  $\square$

We call such semiprimes  $pq$  and  $r_+r_-$  *compatible*. Equivalently,  $pq$  and  $rs$  are compatible if  $r$  and  $s$  are the roots of the quadratic equation  $2x^2 - (p + q)x + 3pq + 1 = 0$ . In a computer search for compatible semiprimes, we uncovered the elements of  $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  listed in Table 2, which is so long that we have banished it to the appendix. Note that the position in the sequence  $n$  is not labeled since this search is non-exhaustive. To facilitate a better understanding of the solutions to the arithmetic differential equation  $D\left(\frac{3n+1}{2}\right) = \frac{D(n)}{2}$  for  $n$  odd, let us now derive several modular restrictions on compatible semiprimes.

**Proposition 8.** *Suppose  $pq$  and  $rs$  are compatible semiprimes. Then  $pq \equiv 2 \equiv rs \pmod{3}$ . It follows that either  $p \equiv 1$  and  $q \equiv 2$  or  $p \equiv 2$  and  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , and likewise for  $r, s$ .*

*Proof.* Observe that  $rs = \frac{3pq+1}{2} \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , independent of  $p, q$ . Without loss of generality, take  $r \equiv 1$  and  $s \equiv 2$ . Then  $p + q = 2(r + s) \equiv 0$ . Since  $p, q$  are prime, this congruence can only be satisfied by  $p \equiv 1$  and  $q \equiv 2$  or the reverse.  $\square$

We make use of the following lemma.

**Lemma 9.** *Suppose  $pq$  and  $rs$  are compatible semiprimes. Then  $p, q, r, s$  are all odd.*

*Proof.* That  $p$  and  $q$  are odd follows from Proposition 2. Without loss of generality, suppose  $s = 2$ . Then  $\frac{p+q}{2} = 2 + r = 2 + \frac{3pq+1}{4}$ , from which it follows that  $2p + 2q = 3pq + 9 > 3pq$ . Without loss of generality, we may assume  $p \geq q > 2$ . Then we have  $2p + 2q > 3pq > 6p > 2p + 2p \geq 2p + 2q$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

**Proposition 10.** *Suppose  $pq$  is compatible to another semiprime. Then  $pq \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . It follows that either  $p \equiv 1$  and  $q \equiv 3$  or  $p \equiv 3$  and  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $p, q$  are prime, they can only be congruent to 1 or 3 mod 4. Otherwise, they are divisible by 2, which is ruled out by Proposition 2. If  $p \equiv 1 \equiv q$ , then  $rs \equiv 0$  or 2. But then  $rs$  is divisible by 2, which contradicts Lemma 9. The case of  $p \equiv 3 \equiv q$  produces a contradiction similarly.  $\square$

Using Proposition 10 and quadratic reciprocity, we see that either  $p$  and  $q$  are both quadratic residues modulo each other or neither of them is a quadratic residue modulo the other. Before addressing the residues modulo 10 in an attempt to explain the consistent pattern in our data, recall the following method for solving Diophantine equations of the form  $ax + by + cxy = d$ . Observe that this equation is equivalent to  $(cx + b)(cy + a) = ab + cd$ . Thus, if  $a, b, c, d$  are known, we can look for solutions by factoring  $ab + cd$  in all possible ways and setting the factors equal to  $cx + b$  and  $cy + a$ . Using this method, we obtain the following lemma.

**Lemma 11.** *Let  $pq$  and  $rs$  be compatible semiprimes with  $p > q$ . Then  $r, s \geq 241$  and we have  $3q < r, s < 3p$ .*

*Proof.* From the definition of compatible semiprimes, we have

$$\frac{p+q}{2} = r + s = \frac{3pq+1}{2s} + s,$$

so that we come to a Diophantine equation of the form

$$sp + sq - 3pq = 2s^2 + 1.$$

Now applying the method mentioned above with  $a = b = s$ ,  $c = -3$ , and  $d = 2s^2 + 1$ , we have

$$(s - 3p)(s - 3q) = -5s^2 - 3.$$

By factoring the right hand side for each choice of  $s$ , it can now be verified computationally that the first prime  $s$  satisfying this equality so that  $p, q, r$  are also prime is  $s = 241$ . Moreover, since  $-5s^2 - 3 < 0$ , we have that  $3q < s < 3p$ . By symmetry, this argument holds also for  $r$ .  $\square$

Let us now determine the possible congruences modulo 5, so that the congruences modulo 10 can be determined, thereby explaining the pattern we observe in our data.

**Proposition 12.** *Let  $pq$  and  $rs$  be compatible semiprimes. Then  $p \equiv 1$  and  $q \equiv 4$  or  $q \equiv 1$  and  $p \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$ . Similarly,  $r \equiv 1$  and  $s \equiv 4$  or  $s \equiv 1$  and  $r \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$ .*

*Proof.* Let us begin by noting that if a product of two primes is congruent to 5, then one of the primes is necessarily equivalent to 5. Thus, eliminating all such cases can be done by showing that neither prime is 5. Suppose for the sake of a contradiction that  $q = 5$ . Then we have

$$2(r + s) = p + 5 = \frac{2rs - 1}{15} + 5,$$

and so it follows that  $15(r + s) = rs + 37 > rs$ . Thus,  $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{s} > \frac{1}{15}$ . But by Lemma 11, we have  $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{s} \leq \frac{2}{241}$ , a contradiction. Thus, by symmetry,  $p, q \neq 5$ . We now proceed by eliminating the remaining cases one by one.

If  $pq \equiv 1$ , then  $rs \equiv 2$  and the possible congruences are therefore  $(p, q) \equiv (1, 1), (2, 3), (4, 4)$  and  $(r, s) \equiv (1, 2), (3, 4)$ , none of which satisfy  $p + q = 2(r + s)$ . If  $pq \equiv 2$ , then  $rs \equiv 1$  and the possible congruences are therefore  $(p, q) \equiv (1, 2), (3, 4)$  and  $(r, s) \equiv (1, 1), (2, 3), (4, 4)$ , none of which satisfy  $p + q = 2(r + s)$ . If  $pq \equiv 3$ , then  $rs \equiv 0$ , which violates Lemma 11. Finally, if  $pq \equiv 4$ , then  $rs \equiv 4$  and the possible congruences are therefore  $(p, q) \equiv (1, 4), (2, 2), (3, 3)$  and  $(r, s) \equiv (1, 4), (2, 2), (3, 3)$ . The only ones satisfying  $p + q = 2(r + s)$  are  $(p, q) \equiv (1, 4)$  and  $(r, s) \equiv (1, 4)$ .  $\square$

We are now ready to give some justification for why all of the entries in Tables 1 and 2 are congruent to 9 modulo 10. The next proposition shows that this is always the case for compatible semiprimes, and so if all elements of  $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  are given by semiprimes compatible with another semiprime, then every entry is congruent to 9 modulo 10. Of course, not all elements of  $a_n$  are compatible semiprimes, given the exceptional case  $n = 12$ , but even if we restrict our attention to the case that  $D(n)$  is even, it is not known that all remaining elements of  $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  are semiprimes compatible with another semiprime.

**Proposition 13.** *Let  $pq$  and  $rs$  be compatible semiprimes. Then  $p \equiv 1$  and  $q \equiv 9$  or  $p \equiv 9$  and  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$ . Similarly,  $r \equiv 1$  and  $s \equiv 9$  or  $r \equiv 9$  and  $s \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$ .*

*Proof.* By Lemma 9,  $pq$  is odd, so there exists an  $n$  such that  $pq = 1 + 2n$ . On the other hand,  $pq \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$  by Proposition 12, so there exists an  $m$  such that  $pq = 4 + 5m$ . It follows that  $2n = 3 + 5m$  and  $m$  is therefore odd. Thus, there is an integer  $k$  such that  $m = 2k + 1$ , and we have  $pq = 4 + 5m = 9 + 10k \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$ . Similarly, we have  $rs \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$ . The possible congruences are therefore  $(p, q), (r, s) \equiv (1, 9), (3, 3), (7, 7)$ . The only choice satisfying  $p + q = 2(r + s)$  is  $(p, q) \equiv (1, 9) \equiv (r, s)$ .  $\square$

## 4 Sum of reciprocals of compatible semiprimes

It is not clear if there are infinitely many compatible semiprimes and therefore infinitely many solutions to our commutation problem. One method of proving that a given set has infinite cardinality is to show that a sum over that set diverges. For example, the sum

of the reciprocals of the prime numbers diverges, showing that there are infinitely many prime numbers. Brun showed that the sum of the reciprocals of the twin primes actually converges, so that a similar argument cannot be made and the twin prime conjecture still remains unsolved. Let us prove a similar result related to our compatible semiprimes.

**Theorem 14.** *Let  $S$  denote the set of semiprimes compatible with another semiprime. Then the sum  $\sum_{s \in S} \frac{1}{s}$  converges.*

*Proof.* We bound the number of semiprimes which are mapped to a semiprime by the Collatz map and use Abel's summation formula to show that the sum of the reciprocals of these numbers converges. It then follows that the sum over  $S$  converges, as  $S$  forms a subset of this set. Let  $x$  be large and fix a  $y \leq x$ . For every semiprime  $pq \leq y$ , define the set

$$S_{pq} := \left\{ n \leq x : pq \mid n \text{ or } pq \mid \frac{3n+1}{2} \right\}.$$

Observe that if  $n > y$  belongs to  $S_{pq}$  for some  $pq \leq y$ , then at least one of  $n$  and  $\frac{3n+1}{2}$  is not a semiprime. Indeed, since  $pq \leq y$  and  $n > y$  by assumption, there must be a third prime factor in either case. It follows that the number of semiprimes  $rs \leq x$  such that  $\frac{3rs+1}{2}$  is also semiprime is bounded above by the quantity

$$y + x - |\cup_{pq \leq y} S_{pq}|.$$

Here the subtraction of the union of the sets  $S_{pq}$  removes those points  $n > y$  that belong to  $S_{pq}$  since we have shown that they do not produce semiprimes under the Collatz mapping. However, it also removes points  $n \leq y$  which may satisfy this hypothesis, and so we make up for this with the addition of a factor of  $y$ . Now let  $\ell$  be an even number. By the inclusion-exclusion principle, we have

$$|\cup_{pq \leq y} S_{pq}| \geq \sum_{pq \leq y} |S_{pq}| - \sum_{p_1q_1 < p_2q_2 \leq y} |S_{p_1q_1} \cap S_{p_2q_2}| + \cdots - \sum_{p_1q_1 < \cdots < p_\ell q_\ell \leq y} |S_{p_1q_1} \cap \cdots \cap S_{p_\ell q_\ell}|. \quad (4)$$

We must therefore endeavor to estimate  $|S_{p_1q_1} \cap \cdots \cap S_{p_jq_j}|$  for arbitrary  $j = 1, \dots, \ell$ . Observe that  $n \in S_{p_1q_1} \cap \cdots \cap S_{p_jq_j}$  if and only if  $n \equiv 0$  or  $\frac{3n+1}{2} \equiv 0 \pmod{p_iq_i}$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, j$ . By Proposition 2, we may assume that  $p_i, q_i \neq 2$  so that the latter case is equivalent to  $3n+1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p_iq_i}$ , and rearranging produces  $3n \equiv -1 \pmod{p_iq_i}$ . By Proposition 8, we may assume  $p_i, q_i \neq 3$  so that  $\gcd(3, p_iq_i) = 1$ . It follows that this congruence has a unique solution which can be obtained from Euler's theorem. Thus, for each  $i$  there are exactly two possible residues modulo  $p_iq_i$ . Now, if  $n$  satisfies one of the two possible congruences for every  $i$ , then so does  $n + mp_1q_1 \cdots p_jq_j$  for every  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . There are at most  $\lfloor \frac{x}{p_1q_1 \cdots p_jq_j} \rfloor + 1$  and at least  $\lfloor \frac{x}{p_1q_1 \cdots p_jq_j} \rfloor$  values of  $m$  such that  $n + mp_1q_1 \cdots p_jq_j \leq x$  ( $\lfloor x \rfloor$  denotes the integer part of  $x$ ). Moreover, since the two congruences are chosen independently for each  $i$ , there are  $2^j$  possible choices. Putting these observations together, it follows that there is a  $\lambda_j \in [-1, 1]$  such that

$$|S_{p_1q_1} \cap \cdots \cap S_{p_jq_j}| = \frac{2^j x}{p_1q_1 \cdots p_jq_j} + 2^j \lambda_j.$$

Thus, we have

$$x - |\cup_{pq \leq y} S_{pq}| \leq x - \sum_{pq \leq y} \left( \frac{2x}{pq} + 2\lambda_1 \right) + \cdots + \sum_{p_1 q_1 < \cdots < p_\ell q_\ell \leq y} \left( \frac{2^\ell x}{p_1 q_1 \cdots p_\ell q_\ell} + 2^\ell \lambda_\ell \right).$$

Letting  $\sigma_k$  denote that  $k$ -th symmetric sum over the set  $\{\frac{2}{pq} : pq \leq y\}$ , we have

$$x - |\cup_{pq \leq y} S_{pq}| \leq x(1 - \sigma_1 + \sigma_2 - \cdots + \sigma_\ell) + y^\ell,$$

where we have used the fact that there are at most  $(y/2)^\ell$  terms in (4), as well as the estimate  $|2^j \lambda_j| \leq 2^\ell$ . We need the following estimate on the alternating sum of the symmetric sums:

$$1 - \sigma_1 + \sigma_2 - \cdots - \sigma_k \leq \prod_{j=1}^n (1 - a_j) \leq 1 - \sigma_1 + \sigma_2 - \cdots + \sigma_\ell$$

for all  $k$  odd and  $\ell$  even (the  $k$ -th symmetric sum is over the set  $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  here). To see this, observe that the inequalities are trivially true for  $n = 1$  and proceed by induction on  $n$ . Since  $\ell$  is even, we have in our case that

$$x - |\cup_{pq \leq y} S_{pq}| \leq x \left( \prod_{pq \leq y} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{pq} \right) + \sigma_\ell \right) + y^\ell.$$

Now, the product is easily bounded above. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{pq \leq y} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{pq} \right) &= \prod_{pq \leq y} \left( \left( 1 - \frac{1}{pq} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{(pq)^2} \right) \\ &\leq \left( \prod_{pq \leq y} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{pq} \right) \right)^2 \\ &= \left( \exp \left( \log \left( \prod_{pq \leq y} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{pq} \right) \right) \right) \right)^2, \end{aligned}$$

and now we proceed by estimating the logarithm. Using the complete additivity property, we have

$$\log \left( \prod_{pq \leq y} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{pq} \right) \right) = \sum_{pq \leq y} \log \left( 1 - \frac{1}{pq} \right) \leq - \sum_{pq \leq y} \frac{1}{pq}.$$

Let  $\pi_2(x)$  denote the number of semiprimes no greater than  $x$ . Using Abel's summation formula, we can write the partial sum of the reciprocal semiprimes as

$$- \sum_{pq \leq y} \frac{1}{pq} = - \frac{\pi_2(x)}{x} \Big|_2^y - \int_2^y \frac{\pi_2(x)}{x^2} dx.$$

Ishmukhametov and Sharifullina showed that  $\pi_2(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\sqrt{x}} [\pi(\frac{x}{p_k}) - k + 1]$  [10], but all we really need is the result of Landau that  $\pi_2(y) \sim \frac{x \log(\log(x))}{\log(x)}$  [14], from which it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} -\sum_{pq \leq y} \frac{1}{pq} &\sim -\frac{\log(\log(y))}{\log(y)} + \frac{\log(\log(2))}{\log(2)} - \int_2^y \frac{\log(\log(x))}{x \log(x)} dx \\ &= -\frac{\log(\log(y))}{\log(y)} + \frac{\log(\log(2))}{\log(2)} - \frac{1}{2}(\log(\log(y)))^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\log(\log(2)))^2 \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}(\log(\log(y)))^2 + O(1). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Thus, we have

$$\exp\left(\log\left(\prod_{pq \leq y} \left(1 - \frac{1}{pq}\right)\right)\right) \leq A \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\log(\log(y)))^2\right)$$

for some constant  $A$  and it follows that

$$\prod_{pq \leq y} \left(1 - \frac{2}{pq}\right) \leq C e^{-(\log(\log(y)))^2} \leq \frac{C}{\log^m(y)}$$

for some constant  $C$  and for every integer  $m > 0$ . All that remains in our estimate is to bound the symmetric sum  $\sigma_\ell$ . Observe that

$$\left(\sum_{pq \leq y} \frac{2}{pq}\right)^\ell = \sum_{p_1 q_1, p_2 q_2, \dots, p_\ell q_\ell \leq y} \frac{2^\ell}{p_1 q_1 \cdots p_\ell q_\ell} = \ell! \sum_{p_1 q_1 < p_2 q_2 < \cdots < p_\ell q_\ell \leq y} \frac{2^\ell}{p_1 q_1 \cdots p_\ell q_\ell} + \sum_{pq \leq y} \frac{2^\ell}{(pq)^\ell},$$

where the factor of  $\ell!$  is the number of ways to order the  $\ell$  semiprimes. It follows that

$$\sigma_\ell \leq \frac{1}{\ell!} \left(\sum_{pq \leq y} \frac{2}{pq}\right)^\ell,$$

and from (5), we have

$$\sigma_\ell \leq \frac{1}{\ell!} (D(\log(\log(y)))^2 + B)^\ell$$

for some constants  $D$  and  $B$ . Thus, using  $\ell^\ell \geq \ell!$  and  $y \leq x$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_\ell &\leq \left(\frac{1}{\ell} (D(\log(\log(y)))^2 + B)\right)^\ell \\ &\leq \left(\frac{1}{\ell} (D(\log(\log(x)))^2 + B)\right)^\ell \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\pi_s$  denote the number of semiprimes which are mapped to a semiprime under the Collatz map. Putting these bounds together, we see that

$$\pi_s(x) \leq y + x - |\cup_{pq \leq y} S_{pq}| < y + x \left(\frac{C}{\log^m(y)} + \left(\frac{1}{\ell} (D(\log(\log(x)))^2 + B)\right)^\ell\right) + y^\ell.$$

But  $y$ ,  $m$ , and  $\ell$  are free to be chosen except for the restriction  $y \leq x$ . We tame the behavior of the term containing  $B$  and  $D$  by choosing  $\ell \approx 2(D(\log(\log(x)))^2 + B)$ . Now choosing  $y = x^{\frac{1}{D(\log(\log(x)))^2 + B}}$ , we see that

$$\pi_s(x) \leq \frac{Mx(D(\log(\log(x)))^2 + B)^m}{(\log(x))^m}. \quad (6)$$

for a constant  $M$ . Let us now show that the sum  $\sum_{s \in C_s} \frac{1}{s}$  over the set  $C_s$  of all semiprimes which are mapped to a semiprime under the Collatz map converges. By the Abel summation formula, we have

$$\sum_{s \in C_s} \frac{1}{s} = \frac{\pi_s(x)}{x} \Big|_2^\infty + \int_2^\infty \frac{\pi_s(x)}{x^2} dx.$$

Using (6), the boundary term vanishes at infinity and the integral converges for large enough  $m$ . Thus, the sum converges. Since the compatible semiprimes form a subset, we finally have that  $\sum_{s \in S} \frac{1}{s}$  converges, and this completes the proof.  $\square$

## 5 Conclusion

We have studied a curious class of pairs of semiprime numbers which we call compatible. These numbers form solutions to the arithmetic differential equation

$$D\left(\frac{3n+1}{2}\right) = \frac{D(n)}{2}, \quad (7)$$

which is a special case of the problem of searching for numbers for which the arithmetic derivative and Collatz map commute. In this latter problem, we have found an exhaustive list of the first 30 numbers providing a solution, and all but one of them is a solution to the special case (7). The compatible semiprimes form additional solutions to (7) which therefore solve the commutation problem as well, although the list we provide in Table 2 is likely not exhaustive.

To close out this work, we provide the following conjectures worth studying in future work. Note that Conjecture 15 implies Conjecture 16 which implies Conjecture 17. The latter logical implication holds because there are no even  $n$  for which (7) holds. Indeed, such an  $n$  can be written  $n = 2m$  so that (7) reduces to  $2D(6m+1) = 4D(m) + 8m + 1$ . Since the left hand side is even while the right hand side is odd, such an  $n$  cannot exist. Note also that Conjecture 18 implies Conjecture 19.

**Conjecture 15.** There are infinitely many compatible semiprimes.

**Conjecture 16.** There are infinitely many solutions to the arithmetic differential equation (7).

**Conjecture 17.** There are infinitely many solutions to the commutation problem  $D(C(n)) = C(D(n))$ .

**Conjecture 18.** With the exception of 606938385, the only solutions to the commutation problem  $D(C(n)) = C(D(n))$  are given by compatible semiprimes.

**Conjecture 19.** Every solution to the commutation problem  $D(C(n)) = C(D(n))$  is square-free.

It should also be noted that similar problems can be formulated for the generalized Collatz functions

$$C_{a,b}(n) := \begin{cases} \frac{an+b}{2}, & \text{if } n \text{ odd;} \\ \frac{n}{2}, & \text{if } n \text{ even,} \end{cases}$$

with  $a \equiv b \pmod{2}$ . An exhaustive brute force search for numbers  $n \leq 10^7$  solving the analogous commutation problem produced no solutions for  $a = 5, b = 1$ , while the slight variant  $a = 5, b = 3$  has the eleven solutions  $n = 12419, 20171, 37727, 134579, 199259, 301799, 574319, 866891, 1580291, 1625411, 8014031$ , each of which is a squarefree semiprime. On the other hand, the case  $a = 7, b = 1$  has only the solution  $n = 429$  in this range, and 429 is a product of three distinct prime factors. The slight variant  $a = 7, b = 3$  produced no solutions and the variant  $a = 7, b = 5$  has the seven solutions  $n = 29831, 38051, 76331, 568031, 888971, 1855871, 3095711$ , each of which is a squarefree semiprime consisting of the product of a prime congruent to 3 and a prime congruent to 7 modulo 10. In each of these examples, the solutions are squarefree almost-primes, and for this reason we make the following conjecture.

**Conjecture 20.** The solutions to the commutation problem  $D(C_{a,b}(n)) = C_{a,b}(D(n))$  are squarefree for every  $a \equiv b \pmod{2}$ .

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# Appendix

$pq$	Prime Factorization	$p + q$	$rs$	Prime Factorization
6371331359	$16561 \times 384719$	401280	9556997039	$77801 \times 122839$
8975589239	$9241 \times 971279$	980520	13463383859	$29201 \times 461059$
10657078799	$20071 \times 530969$	551040	15985618199	$83059 \times 192461$
12860887439	$6089 \times 2112151$	2118240	19291331159	$18539 \times 1040581$
13170630899	$8681 \times 1517179$	1525860	19755946349	$26839 \times 736091$
15512319959	$4111 \times 3773369$	3777480	23268479939	$12401 \times 1876339$
20713686659	$27179 \times 762121$	789300	31070529989	$108631 \times 286019$
23664471179	$11369 \times 2081491$	2092860	35496706769	$35099 \times 1011331$
24180093239	$26959 \times 896921$	923880	36270139859	$100291 \times 361649$
27169948919	$29209 \times 930191$	959400	40754923379	$110339 \times 369361$
30617640719	$9721 \times 3149639$	3159360	45926461079	$29629 \times 1550051$
41203174319	$39929 \times 1031911$	1071840	61804761479	$167971 \times 367949$
44444955899	$37831 \times 1174829$	1212660	66667433849	$144289 \times 462041$
45265630259	$34949 \times 1295191$	1330140	67898445389	$125941 \times 539129$
59663684459	$50839 \times 1173581$	1224420	89495526689	$241261 \times 370949$
60235146119	$51329 \times 1173511$	1224840	90352719179	$364621 \times 247799$
71047305239	$38231 \times 1858369$	1896600	106570957859	$130279 \times 818021$
72269351939	$56681 \times 1275019$	1331700	108404027909	$382271 \times 283579$
74550954899	$43291 \times 1722089$	1765380	111826432349	$153319 \times 729371$
74797926239	$56239 \times 1330001$	1386240	112196889359	$435481 \times 257639$
90923314259	$59141 \times 1537399$	1596540	136384971389	$247729 \times 550541$
91551073739	$28909 \times 3166871$	3195780	137326610609	$91141 \times 1506749$
92153208659	$34949 \times 2636791$	2671740	138229812989	$113041 \times 1222829$
100918727099	$44119 \times 2287421$	2331540	151378090649	$148861 \times 1016909$
105138878699	$63079 \times 1666781$	1729860	157708318049	$603689 \times 261241$
105567827399	$22441 \times 4704239$	4726680	158351741099	$69019 \times 2294321$
108216566279	$49201 \times 2199479$	2248680	162324849419	$170111 \times 954229$
108868846199	$67511 \times 1612609$	1680120	163303269299	$534581 \times 305479$
129264961559	$60271 \times 2144729$	2205000	193897442339	$219619 \times 882881$
131559702959	$47881 \times 2747639$	2795520	197339554439	$159349 \times 1238411$
138217769399	$48991 \times 2821289$	2870280	207326654099	$162971 \times 1272169$
138868264319	$78079 \times 1778561$	1856640	208302396479	$379649 \times 548671$
150260888399	$75209 \times 1997911$	2073120	225391332599	$310379 \times 726181$
152376066599	$38561 \times 3951559$	3990120	228564099899	$122029 \times 1873031$
178661152559	$39929 \times 4474471$	4514400	267991728839	$125731 \times 2131469$
182554595819	$72739 \times 2509721$	2582460	273831893729	$1023751 \times 267479$

$pq$	Prime Factorization	$p + q$	$rs$	Prime Factorization
185904249719	$85889 \times 2164471$	2250360	278856374579	$368551 \times 756629$
192709329959	$71471 \times 2696329$	2767800	289063994939	$256369 \times 1127531$
203788963199	$84551 \times 2410249$	2494800	305683444799	$912349 \times 335051$
218613696239	$51151 \times 4273889$	4325040	327920544359	$164089 \times 1998431$
233568190619	$67741 \times 3447959$	3515700	350352285929	$229189 \times 1528661$
240001727519	$102911 \times 2332129$	2435040	360002591279	$711649 \times 505871$
260131119179	$103699 \times 2508521$	2612220	390196678769	$462571 \times 843539$
262091228279	$85889 \times 3051511$	3137400	393136842419	$313109 \times 1255591$
262593906359	$37649 \times 6974791$	7012440	393890859539	$116191 \times 3390029$
288964258199	$36871 \times 7837169$	7874040	433446387299	$113359 \times 3823661$
296122234379	$41341 \times 7162919$	7204260	444183351569	$127849 \times 3474281$
296955821639	$104119 \times 2852081$	2956200	445433732459	$1056479 \times 421621$
306450940139	$79411 \times 3859049$	3938460	459676410209	$270619 \times 1698611$
322643081699	$88169 \times 3659371$	3747540	483964622549	$309359 \times 1564411$
341144024159	$60919 \times 5599961$	5660880	511716036239	$194101 \times 2636339$
343031424959	$124991 \times 2744449$	2869440	514547137439	$724991 \times 709729$
364522651739	$125219 \times 2911081$	3036300	546783977609	$587579 \times 930571$
368068728719	$116689 \times 3154271$	3270960	552103093079	$1159201 \times 476279$
395384049899	$115891 \times 3411689$	3527580	593076074849	$1311619 \times 452171$
400481245739	$85619 \times 4677481$	4763100	600721868609	$286771 \times 2094779$
405113920919	$135119 \times 2998201$	3133320	607670881379	$706291 \times 860369$
412288472879	$136351 \times 3023729$	3160080	618432709319	$714529 \times 865511$
436306401359	$55529 \times 7857271$	7912800	654459602039	$172981 \times 3783419$
473023514939	$143981 \times 3285319$	3429300	709535272409	$697729 \times 1016921$
481853046599	$132529 \times 3635831$	3768360	722779569899	$536191 \times 1347989$
484957912139	$123239 \times 3935101$	4058340	727436868209	$1564081 \times 465089$
523044914519	$131111 \times 3989329$	4120440	784567371779	$1555999 \times 504221$
526841686199	$138511 \times 3803609$	3942120	790262529299	$560081 \times 1410979$
560607218879	$136519 \times 4106441$	4242960	840910828319	$527581 \times 1593899$
561826681079	$154351 \times 3639929$	3794280	842740021619	$709729 \times 1187411$
579247503719	$157831 \times 3670049$	3827880	868871255579	$740359 \times 1173581$
651630487619	$102059 \times 6384841$	6486900	977445731429	$336211 \times 2907239$
656472916739	$143159 \times 4585621$	4728780	984709375109	$539641 \times 1824749$
736241831879	$129119 \times 5702041$	5831160	1104362747819	$2468131 \times 447449$
750468526739	$97381 \times 7706519$	7803900	1125702790109	$3588229 \times 313721$
844661031299	$196139 \times 4306441$	4502580	1266991546949	$1134871 \times 1116419$
852127113419	$142231 \times 5991149$	6133380	1278190670129	$497509 \times 2569181$
852545495159	$141601 \times 6020759$	6162360	1278818242739	$494359 \times 2586821$
883609516259	$171529 \times 5151371$	5322900	1325414274389	$663331 \times 1998119$

$pq$	Prime Factorization	$p + q$	$rs$	Prime Factorization
1067201903519	$210359 \times 5073241$	5283600	1600802855279	$941461 \times 1700339$
1069842593219	$107509 \times 9951191$	10058700	1604763889829	$4686961 \times 342389$
1086684073439	$220009 \times 4939271$	5159280	1630026110159	$1106491 \times 1473149$
1125176937359	$175391 \times 6415249$	6590640	1687765406039	$634241 \times 2661079$
1179415384139	$226199 \times 5214061$	5440260	1769123076209	$1644061 \times 1076069$
1205649411119	$227569 \times 5297951$	5525520	1808474116679	$1697191 \times 1065569$
1248830314859	$221021 \times 5650279$	5871300	1873245472289	$937481 \times 1998169$
1255569121199	$135119 \times 9292321$	9427440	1883353681799	$4272959 \times 440761$
1255865342579	$233509 \times 5378231$	5611740	1883798013869	$1693501 \times 1112369$
1267060830239	$184351 \times 6873089$	7057440	1900591245359	$663281 \times 2865439$
1353561815339	$225821 \times 5993959$	6219780	2030342723009	$2177449 \times 932441$
1409845008239	$244561 \times 5764799$	6009360	2114767512359	$1125169 \times 1879511$
1424445760319	$248071 \times 5742089$	5990160	2136668640479	$1823051 \times 1172029$
1428658219199	$209249 \times 6827551$	7036800	2142987328799	$783599 \times 2734801$
1459820224439	$256489 \times 5691551$	5948040	2189730336659	$1633531 \times 1340489$
1477666902419	$161641 \times 9141659$	9303300	2216500353629	$538939 \times 4112711$
1539898047899	$166919 \times 9225421$	9392340	2309847071849	$558209 \times 4137961$
1618340838659	$179369 \times 9022411$	9201780	2427511257989	$607951 \times 3992939$
1815603367859	$204311 \times 8886469$	9090780	2723405051789	$710089 \times 3835301$
2180605168559	$275521 \times 7914479$	8190000	3270907752839	$1087631 \times 3007369$
2271244344419	$285161 \times 7964779$	8249940	3406866516629	$2982799 \times 1142171$
2283132057839	$319321 \times 7149959$	7469280	3424698086759	$1617949 \times 2116691$
2312261656139	$299539 \times 7719401$	8018940	3468392484209	$1262731 \times 2746739$
2515975240439	$253769 \times 9914431$	10168200	3773962860659	$902521 \times 4181579$
2525623096319	$339161 \times 7446679$	7785840	3788434644479	$1929971 \times 1962949$
2759705814599	$339289 \times 8133791$	8473080	4139558721899	$1528771 \times 2707769$
2798487028499	$354469 \times 7894871$	8249340	4197730542749	$1826761 \times 2297909$
2914249202819	$355339 \times 8201321$	8556660	4371373804229	$2591551 \times 1686779$
3015166657439	$355361 \times 8484799$	8840160	4522749986159	$1608769 \times 2811311$
3029547727979	$371299 \times 8159321$	8530620	4544321591969	$2195071 \times 2070239$
3142431670799	$376631 \times 8343529$	8720160	4713647506199	$1982741 \times 2377339$
3207163248719	$355609 \times 9018791$	9374400	4810744873079	$1517939 \times 3169261$
3342365758439	$338609 \times 9870871$	10209480	5013548637659	$3777541 \times 1327199$
3388989990119	$363119 \times 9333001$	9696120	5083484985179	$3314219 \times 1533841$
3434499230039	$376679 \times 9117841$	9494520	5151748845059	$3068159 \times 1679101$
3727388517539	$374729 \times 9946891$	10321620	5591082776309	$3613559 \times 1547251$
3894649427759	$421009 \times 9250751$	9671760	5841974141639	$2484721 \times 2351159$
4196759425979	$430739 \times 9743161$	10173900	6295139138969	$2126191 \times 2960759$

Table 2: Additional solutions to the commutation problem  $D(C(n)) = C(D(n))$  given by compatible semiprimes.

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*Keywords*: arithmetic derivative, Collatz, semiprime, arithmetic function, arithmetic differential equation.

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(Concerned with sequences [A001248](#), [A001359](#), [A005384](#), [A046132](#), and [A376275](#).)

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