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AFDELING NUMERIEKE WISKUNDE (DEPARTMENT OF NUMERICAL MATHEMATICS)

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APRIL

H.J.J. TE RIELE

RULES FOR CONSTRUCTING HYPERPERFECT NUMBERS

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Rules for constructing hyperperfect numbers \*)

by

H.J.J. te Riele

#### ABSTRACT

Two rules are given by which hyperperfect numbers with k+2 different prime factors can be constructed from certain related numbers with k+1 and with k different prime factors, respectively. By means of these rules many HP's with three and with four, and one with five different prime factors were constructively computed.

It is proved that  $\alpha ll$  HP's of the form  $p^{\alpha}q$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$ , (below a given bound) can be found with one of these two rules or with an additional rule for the construction of certain HP's of the form  $p^2q$ . Furthermore, the results are presented of an exhaustive search for all HP's  $\leq 10^8$ . It turns out that all HP's found could also have been computed (but using much less computer time) with at least one of the rules given here.

Finally, a generalisation of HP's to so-called hypercycles is described.

KEY WORDS & PHRASES: Hyperperfect numbers

<sup>\*)</sup> This paper will be submitted for publication elsewhere.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

As usual, let  $\sigma(n)$  denote the sum of all the divisors of n (with  $\sigma(1) = 1$ ) and let  $\omega(n)$  denote the number of different prime factors of n, with  $\omega(1) := 0$ . The set of prime numbers will be denoted by P. The set of hyperperfect numbers (HP's) is the set  $M := \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n$ , where

(1) 
$$M_n := \{m \in \mathbb{N} \mid m=1+n [\sigma(m)-m-1]\}.$$

We also define the sets

(2) 
$$M_{n} := \{m \in M_{n} \mid \omega(m) = k\}, \quad k, n \in \mathbb{N},$$

and  $_k^M:=\bigcup_{n=1}^\infty \ _k^M;$  clearly, we have  $_n^M:=\bigcup_{k=1}^\infty \ _k^M.$  We will also use the related set  $_n^*:=\bigcup_{n=1}^\infty \ _n^M,$  where

(3) 
$$M_n^* := \{m \in \mathbb{N} \mid m=1+n [\sigma(m)-m]\},$$

and the sets

(4) 
$$M_{k,n}^{\star} := \{m \in M_{n}^{\star} \mid \omega(m) = k\}, \quad k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N},$$

and  $_k^M$  :=  $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \, \underset{k}{\overset{\star}{n}}$ , so that also  $\underset{n}{\overset{\star}{n}} = \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \, \underset{k}{\overset{\star}{n}}$ .

It is not difficult to verify that  $_{1}^{M}{}_{n} = \emptyset$ ,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and that

$$0^{M_{n}^{*}} = \{1\}, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and}$$

$$\{(n+1)^{\alpha}, \quad \alpha \in \mathbb{N}\}, \quad \text{if } n+1 \in P,$$

$$1^{M_{n}^{*}} = \emptyset, \quad \text{if } n+1 \notin P.$$

 $M_1$  is the set of perfect numbers (for which  $\sigma(m)=2m$ ). The n-hyperperfect numbers  $M_1$ , introduced by MINOLI and BEAR [1], are a meaningful generalization of the even perfect numbers because of the following

RULE 0 ([2]). If  $p \in P$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$  and if  $q := p^{\alpha+1}-p+1 \in P$  then  $p^{\alpha}q \in M_{p-1}$ . There are 71 hyperperfect numbers below 10<sup>7</sup> ([2],[3] and [4]). Only one of them belongs to  $_3$ M, all others are in  $_2$ M. In [5] and [6] the present author has constructively computed several elements of  $_3$ M and two of  $_4$ M.

In section 2 of this paper we shall give rules by which one may find (with enough computer time) an element of  $(k+2)^M n$  and of  $(k+1)^M n$  from an element of k n ( $k \ge 0$ ), and an element of k n from an element of  $(k-2)^M n$  ( $k \ge 2$ ). Because of (5) this suggests the possibility to construct HP's with k = 1 different prime factors for any positive integer  $k \ge 2$ . By actually applying the rules we have found many elements of k = 10, seven elements of k = 11 and one element of k = 12.

In section 3 necessary and sufficient conditions are given for numbers of the form  $p^{\alpha}q$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$ , to be hyperperfect. For example, for  $\alpha \geq 3$ , these conditions imply that there are no other HP's of the form  $p^{\alpha}q$  than those characterised by Rule 0. The results of this section enable us to compute very cheaply  $\alpha ll$  HP's of the form  $p^{\alpha}q$  below a given bound. Unfortunately, we have not been able to extend these results to more complicated HP's like those of the form  $p^{\alpha}q^{\beta}$ ,  $\alpha \geq 2$  and  $\beta \geq 2$ , or  $p^{\alpha}q^{\beta}r^{\gamma}$  with  $\alpha \geq 1$ ,  $\beta \geq 1$  and  $\gamma \geq 1$ , etc.

Because of the importance of the set  $M^*$  for the construction of hyperperfect numbers, we give in section 4 the results of an exhaustive search for all  $m \in M^*$  with  $m \le 10^8$  and  $\omega(m) \ge 2$ . It turned out that elements of  $3^M$  are very rare compared with  $2^M$ , in analogy with the sets  $3^M$  and  $2^M$ . This search also gave all elements  $\le 10^8$  of M, almost for free, because of the similarity of the equations defining  $M^*$  and M.

The paper concludes with a few remarks, in section 5, on a possible generalisation of hyperperfect numbers to so-called hypercycles, special cases of which are the ordinary perfect numbers and the amicable number pairs.

#### 2. RULES FOR CONSTRUCTING HYPERPERFECT NUMBERS

We have found the following rules (we write  $\bar{a}$  for  $\sigma(a)$ ):

RULE 1. Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a \in M_n^*$  and p := na + 1 - n; if  $p \in P$  then  $ap \in (k+1)^M n^*$ 

The proofs of these rules don't require much more than the application of the definitions, and are therefore left to the reader. In fact, the proof of Rule 2 was already given in [6], although the rule itself was formulated there less explicitly.

Rule 1 can be applied for  $k \ge 1$ , but not for k = 0 since  $0 = \{1\}$  and a = 1 gives  $p = 1 \notin P$ . For k = n = 1 Rule 1 reads: if  $p := 2^{\alpha+1} - 1 \in P$ , then  $2^{\alpha}p \in 2^{M_1}$ , which is Euclid's rule for finding even perfect numbers. For k = 1 Rule 1 is equivalent with Rule 0 given in section 1.

Rules 2 and 3 can both be applied for  $k \ge 0$ . For instance, for k = 0 Rule 2 reads: let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be given; if  $p := n + A \in P$  and  $q := n + B \in P$ , where  $AB = 1 + n^2$ , then  $pq \in {}_2M_n$ . For n = 1, 2 and 6 this yields the hyperperfect numbers  $2 \times 3$ ,  $3 \times 7$  and  $7 \times 43$ , respectively. Rule 3 reads for k = 0: let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be given; if  $p := n + A \in P$  and  $q := n + B \in P$ , where  $AB = 1 + n + n^2$ , then  $pq \in {}_2M_n^*$ . For n = 4 and n = 10 we find that  $7 \times 11 \in {}_2M_4^*$  and  $13 \times 47 \in {}_2M_{10}^*$ , respectively.

Rule 3 shows a rather curious "side-effect" for  $k \ge 1$ : if both the numbers p and q in this rule are prime, then not only apq  $\epsilon_{(k+2)}^{M}$ , but also the number b := pq is an element of  $2^{M}$  -. Indeed, we have

$$\frac{b-1}{\sigma(b)-b} = \frac{pq-1}{p+q+1} = \frac{n^{2-2} + na(A+B) + AB-1}{2n\overline{a} + A + B + 1} = \frac{n^{2-2} + na(A+B) + na + na^{2-2}}{2n\overline{a} + A + B + 1} = n\overline{a} \in \mathbb{N}.$$

For example, we know that  $7 \times 11 \in {}_{2}\text{M}_{4}^{\star}$ . From Rule 3 with k = 2, n = 4,  $a = 7 \times 11$  we find that  $7 \times 11 \times 547 \times 1291 \in {}_{4}\text{M}_{4}^{\star}$ ; the side-effect is that  $547 \times 1291 \in {}_{2}\text{M}_{(4 \times 8 \times 12)}^{\star} = {}_{2}\text{M}_{384}^{\star}$ .

#### In [5] we gave the following additional

RULE 4. Let  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  and p := 6t-1, q := 12t+1; if  $p \in P$  and  $q \in P$  then  $p = q \in 2^M(4t-1)$ . For example, t=1 and t=3 give  $5^2 \cdot 13 \in 2^M \cdot 3$  and  $17^2 \cdot 37 \in 2^M \cdot 11$ , respectively. In section 3 we will prove that with Rules 1, 2 and 4 it is possible to find all HP's of the form  $p = q \cdot q$ ,  $q \in \mathbb{N}$ , below a given bound. We leave it to the reader to find out why there is no rule (at least for  $k \ge 1$ ), analogous to Rule 1, for finding an element of q = 12t+1; if  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  then  $q \in P$  then  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  then  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  then  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  then  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  then  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  then  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  then  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  then  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  then  $q \in P$  and  $q \in P$  and

From Rules 1 - 3 it follows that elements of  ${}_kM_n$  for some given  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  may be found from  ${}_{(k-1)}M_n^*$  (with Rule 1) and from  ${}_{(k-2)}M_n^*$  (with Rule 2) provided that sufficiently many elements of  ${}_{(k-1)}M_n^*$  resp.  ${}_{(k-2)}M_n^*$  are available; these can be found with Rule 3 and the "starting" sets  ${}_{0}M_n^*$  and  ${}_{1}M_n^*$  given in (5). We have carried out this "program" for the constructive computation of HP's with three, four and five different prime factors.

- (i) Construction of elements of  $_3$ Mn. With Rule 1 we found 34 HP's of the form pqr, from numbers pq  $\in$   $_2$ Mn (the smallest one is  $61 \times 229 \times 684433 \in$   $_3$ M48 and the largest one 9739 × 13541383 × 1283583456107389  $\in$   $_3$ M9732). The elements of  $_2$ Mn were "generated" with Rule 3 from  $_0$ Mn = {1}. With Rule 2 we found, from prime powers powers powers one is 8929 × 79727051 × 577854714897923  $\in$   $_3$ M8928), 48 HP's of the form powers power powers power powers power pow
- (ii) Construction of elements of  $_4\mathrm{M}_n$ . In order to construct elements of  $_4\mathrm{M}_n$  with Rule 1, sufficiently many elements of  $_3\mathrm{M}_n^*$  had to be avaiable. This was realised with Rule 3, starting with elements  $_2\mathrm{P}^\alpha\in_{1}\mathrm{M}_{(p+1)}$ ,  $_2\mathrm{P}$ . The following four HP's with four different prime factors were found:  $_3\mathrm{O}49\times9297649\times69203101249\times5981547458963067824996953\in_4\mathrm{M}_3048$ ,

4201 × 17692621 × 7061044981 × 2204786370880711054109401  $\epsilon_4^{\rm M}_{4200}$ ,  $181^2$ 5991031 × 579616291 × 20591020685907725650381  $\epsilon_4^{\rm M}_{180}$ ,  $181^3$ 1108889497 × 33425259193 × 39781151786825440683346549261  $\epsilon_4^{\rm M}_{180}$ . By means of Rules 2 and 3 the following three additional elements of  $_4^{\rm M}_{\rm n}$  were found:

 $1327 \times 6793 \times 10020547039 \times 17769709449589 \in {}_{4}M_{1110}$  (already in [5]),  $1873 \times 24517 \times 79947392729 \times 80855915754575789 \in {}_{4}M_{1740}$  (already in [6]),  $5791 \times 10357 \times 222816095543 \times 482764219012881017 \in {}_{4}M_{3714}$ .

(iii) Construction of an element of  $_5M_n$ . We have also constructively computed one element of  $_5M_n$  with Rule 1. The elements of  $_4M_n^*$  needed for this purpose were computed from  $_0M_n^*$  by twice applying Rule 3 (first yielding elements of  $_2M_n^*$  and next elements of  $_4M_n^*$ ). The HP found is the largest one we know of (apart from the ordinary perfect numbers). It is the 87-digit number

2095497171870781405883328851321934328974054 07437906414236764925538317339020708786590793 =  $4783 \times 83563 \times 1808560287211 \times 297705496733220305347 \times$   $\times 973762019320700650093520128480575320050761301 \in {}_{5}^{M}{}_{4524}.$ 

3. CHARACTERIZATION OF ALL HP's OF THE FORM page

The hyperperfect numbers of the form  $p^{\alpha}q$  are characterised by the following

THEOREM. Let  $m := p^{\alpha}q(\alpha \in N, p \in P, q \in P)$  be an hyperperfect number, then

(i)  $\alpha = 1 \Rightarrow (\exists n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ with } m \in {}_{2}^{M}n \text{ such that } p = n + A, q = n + B, \text{ with } AB = 1 + n^{2});$ 

(ii) 
$$\alpha = 2 \Rightarrow (\exists t \in \mathbb{N} \text{ with } m \in 2^{M}(4t-1) \text{ and } p = 6t - 1 \text{ and } q = 12t + 1)$$

$$\vee (m \in 2^{M}(p-1) \text{ with } q = p^{3} - p + 1);$$

(iii) 
$$\alpha > 2 \Rightarrow (m \in 2^{M}(p-1))$$
 with  $q = p^{\alpha+1} - p + 1$ .

<u>PROOF</u>. (i) This case follows immediately from Rule 2 (with k=0).

(ii) If  $p^2q$  is hyperperfect, then the number  $(p^2q-1)/((p+1)(p+q))$  must be

a positive integer. Consider the function  $f(x,y) := (x^2y-1)/((x+1)(x+y))$ ,  $x,y \in \mathbb{N}$ . We want to characterise all pairs x,y for which  $f(x,y) \in \mathbb{N}$ . We can safely take  $x \ge 2$  and  $y \ge 2$ . Let  $x \ge 2$  be fixed, then we have for all  $y \ge 2$ 

$$f(x,y) < \frac{x^2y}{(x+1)(x+y)} < \frac{x^2}{x+1} = x-1 + \frac{1}{x+1}$$
.

Hence, the largest integral value which could possibly be assumed by f is x-1, and one easily checks that this value is actually assumed for  $y = x^3 - x + 1$ . So we have found

(6) 
$$f(x,x^3-x+1) = x-1, x \in \mathbb{N}, x \ge 2.$$

One also easily checks that f is monotonically increasing in y (x fixed) so that

(7) 
$$2 \le y \le x^3 - x + 1$$
.

Now in order to have  $f \in \mathbb{N}$ , it is necessary that x + 1 divides  $x^2y - 1$ , or, equivalently, that x + 1 divides y - 1 (since  $(x^2y-1)/(x+1) = y(x-1) + (y-1)/(x+1)$ ). Therefore, we have y = k(x+1)+1, with  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $1 \le k \le x(x-1)$  by (7). Substitution of this into f yields

$$f(x,y) = \frac{kx^2 + x - 1}{(k+1)(x+1)} = x - 1 - \frac{x^2 - x - k}{(k+1)(x+1)} = x - 1 - g(x,k).$$

It follows that x+1 must divide  $x^2$ -x-k or, equivalently, that x+1 must divide k-2. Hence, k=j(x+1)+2, with j  $\in$  IN  $\cup$  {0} and 0  $\leq$  j  $\leq$  x-2. Substitution of this into g yields

$$g(x,j(x+1)+2) = \frac{x-2-j}{j(x+1)+3}$$
.

This function is decreasing in j, and for j = 0,1,...,x-2 it assumes the values:

$$g(x,2) = (x-2)/3,$$

$$g(x,x+3) = \frac{x-3}{x-4} < 1,$$

$$\vdots$$

$$g(x,x(x-1)) = 0.$$

It follows that there is precisely one more possibility (in addition to (6)) for f to be a positive integer, viz., when j=0, k=2, y=2x+3 and  $x \pmod 3=2$ . So we have found

(8) 
$$f(3t-1,6t+1) = 2t-1, t \in \mathbb{N}$$
.

The statement in the theorem now easily follows from (6) and (8). (iii) As in the proof of (ii) we now have to find out for which values of  $x,y \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x \ge 2$  and  $y \ge 2$ , the function  $f(x,y) \in \mathbb{N}$ , where

$$f(x,y) := \frac{x^{\alpha}y-1}{(x^{\alpha-1}+...+1)(x+y)}, \quad \alpha > 2.$$

For fixed  $x \ge 2$  we have

$$f(x,y) < \frac{x^{\alpha}}{x^{\alpha-1} + \dots + 1} = x-1 + \frac{1}{x^{\alpha-1} + \dots + 1}$$

As in the proof of (ii) we find that f(x,y) = x-1 for  $y = x^{\alpha+1}-x+1$  and that  $2 \le y \le x^{\alpha+1}-x+1$ . Furthermore,  $x^{\alpha-1}+\ldots+1$  must divide  $x^{\alpha}y-1$ , so that  $y = k(x^{\alpha-1}+\ldots+1)+1$ , with  $1 \le k \le x(x-1)$ . Substitution of this into f yields a certain function g, in the same way as in the proof of (ii), but in this case g can only assume integral values for k = x(x-1). This implies the statement in the theorem, case (iii). Q.E.D.

It is easy to see that the characterizations given in this theorem are equivalent to Rule 2 (k=0) when  $\alpha$ =1, to Rule 4 or Rule 1 (k=1) when  $\alpha$ =2, and to Rule 1 (k=1) when  $\alpha$  > 2.

This theorem enables us to find very cheaply all HP's of the form  $p^{\alpha}q$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$ , below a given bound. For example, to find all HP's in M<sub>n</sub> of the form pq below 10<sup>8</sup>, we only have to check whether  $p := n+A \in P$  and

q:= n+B  $\in$  P for all possible factorisations of AB = 1 + n<sup>2</sup>, for  $1 \le n \le 4999$ . This range of n follows from the fact that if pq  $\in$  M then pq > 4n<sup>2</sup>. The following additional restrictions can be imposed on n:

- (i) n should be 1 or even since, if n is odd and  $n \ge 3$  then  $n^2 + 1 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ , so that one of A and B is odd and one of p and q is even and  $\ge 4$ .
- (ii) If  $n \ge 3$  then  $n \equiv 0 \pmod 3$  since if  $n \equiv 1$  or  $2 \pmod 3$  then  $n^2 + 1 \equiv 2 \pmod 3$ , so that one of A and B is  $\equiv 1 \pmod 3$  and the other is  $\equiv 2 \pmod 3$ ; consequently, one of p and q is  $\equiv 0 \pmod 3$  and > 3.

Hence, the only values of n to be checked are n = 1, n = 2 and n = 6t,  $1 \le t \le 833$ .

#### 4. EXHAUSTIVE COMPUTER SEARCHES

From the rules given in section 2 it follows that it is of importance to know elements of  $M^*$ , when one wants to find elements of M. Therefore, we have carried out an exhaustive computer search for all elements of  $M^*$  below the bound  $10^8$ . Because of (5) the search was restricted to elements with at least two different prime factors. A check was done whether  $(m-1)/(\sigma(m)-m) \in \mathbb{N}$ , for all  $m \le 10^8$  with  $\omega(m) \ge 2$ . Since the most time consuming part is the computation of  $\sigma(m)$ , a second check was done (in case  $(m-1)/(\sigma(m)-m) \notin \mathbb{N}$ ) whether  $(m-1)/(\sigma(m)-m-1) \in \mathbb{N}$ . If so, m was an HP, so that our program also produced, almost for free, all HP's below  $10^8$ . The results are as follows.

Apart from the ordinary perfect numbers, there are 146 HP's below  $10^8$ . Only two of them have the form  $p^{\alpha}qr$  (viz.,  $13 \times 269 \times 449 \in {}_{3}M_{12}$  and  $7^2383 \times 3203 \in {}_{3}M_{6}$ ); these were also found in the searches described in section 2. All others have the form characterised in section 3, and could have been found with a search based on that characterisation (using the fact that if  $p^{\alpha}q \in {}_{2}^{M}n$ , then p > n and q > n). A question which naturally arises is the following: are there any HP's which can *not* be constructed with one of the Rules 1, 2 and 4?

There are 312 numbers m  $\leq$  10<sup>8</sup> which belong to M\* and which have

 $\omega(m) \ge 2$ . 306 of them have the form pq and could have been found very cheaply with Rule 3 of section 2. The others are:  $7 \times 61 \times 229 \in {}_{3}M_{6}$ ,  $113 \times 127 \times 2269 \in {}_{3}M_{58}^{*}$ ,  $149 \times 463 \times 659 \in {}_{3}M_{96}^{*}$ ,  $19 \times 373 \times 10357 \in {}_{3}M_{18}^{*}$ ,  $151 \times 373 \times 1487 \in {}_{3}M_{100}^{*}$  and  $7 \times 11 \times 547 \times 1291 \in {}_{4}M_{4}^{*}$ ; the second, third and fifth number could not have been found with Rule 3.

#### HYPERCYCLES

A possible generalisation of hyperperfect numbers can be obtained as follows. Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be given and define the function  $f_n \colon \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\} \Rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  as follows:

(9) 
$$f_n(m) := 1 + n[\sigma(m)-m-1], m \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}.$$

Starting with some  $m_0 \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$  one might investigate the sequence

(10) 
$$m_0, f_n(m_0), f_n(f_n(m_0)), \dots$$

For n = 1 this is the well-known aliquot sequence of  $m_0$ , which can have cycles of length 1 (perfect numbers), length 2 (amicable pairs) and others. In order to get some impression of the cyclic behaviour for n > 1, we have computed, for  $2 \le n \le 20$ , five terms of all sequences (10) with starting term  $m_0 \le 10^6$  and we have registered the cycles with length  $\ge 2$  and  $\le 5$  in the following table.

#### Table. Hypercycles

i.e., different numbers  $m_0, m_1, \dots, m_{k-1}$  such that  $m_k = m_0$  where  $m_{i+1} := f_n(m_i)$ ,  $f_n$  defined in (9)

```
m_0, m_1, \dots, m_{k-1}
           19461=3.13.499, 42691=11.3881
          925=5<sup>2</sup>37, 1765=5.353, 2507=23.109
           28145=5.13.433. 66481=19.3499
           238705=5.47741, 381969=3<sup>3</sup>7.43.47, 2350961=79.29759
           94225=5<sup>2</sup>3769, 181153=7<sup>2</sup>3697, 237057=3.31.2549, 714737=61.11717
           3452337=3<sup>2</sup>7.54799. 17974897=53.229.1481
           469=7.67, 667=23.29
     2
          1315=5.263, 2413=19.127
     2
          1477=7.211, 1963=13.151
          2737=7.17.23, 6463=23.281
          1981=7.283, 2901=3.967, 9701=89.109
10
           697=17.41, 2041=13.157
12
     2
           3913=7.13.43, 12169=43.283
          54265=5.10853, 130297=29.4493
     2 1261=13.97, 1541=23.67
14
          508453=11.17.2719, 1106925=3.5<sup>2</sup>14759, 10126397=281.36037
          9197=17.541, 10603=23.461
19
           184491=3<sup>3</sup>6833, 1688493=3.562831, 10693847=709.15083,
                                                           300049=31.9679
           5151775=5<sup>2</sup>251.821, 24124073=89.271057
```

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