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### 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  ${\mathscr P}$ . The set of hyperperfect numbers (HP's) is the set  $M := \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n$ , where

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

We also define the sets

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

and  $k^M := \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} k^M_n$ ; clearly, we have  $M_n = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} k^M_n$ . We will also use the re-

lated set  $M^* := \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n^*$ , where

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

and the sets

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

and  $_kM^{\star}:=\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty}{_kM_n^{\star}}$ , so that also  $M_n^{\star}=\bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty}{_kM_n^{\star}}.$  It is not difficult to verify that  $_1M_n=\emptyset$ ,  $\forall\,n\in\mathbb{N}$ , and that

$$\begin{cases} {}_{0}M_{n}^{\star} = \{1\}, \ \forall n \in \mathbf{N} \ \text{and} \\ \\ {}_{1}M_{n}^{\star} = \begin{cases} \{(n+1)^{\alpha}, \ \alpha \in \mathbf{N}\}, \ \text{if } n+1 \in \mathscr{P}, \\ \emptyset, & \text{if } n+1 \notin \mathscr{P}. \end{cases} \end{cases}$$
(5)

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

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RULE 0 (from [2]): If  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$ , and if  $q := p^{\alpha+1} - p + 1 \in \mathcal{P}$ , then  $p^{\alpha}q \in M_{p-1}$ .

There are 71 hyperperfect numbers below  $10^7$  (see [2], [3], [4], [5]). Only one of them belongs to  $_3M$ , all others are in  $_2M$ . In [6] and [7] the present author has constructively computed several elements of  $_3M$  and two of  $_4M$ .

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  $_kM_n^*$   $(k \ge 0)$ , and an element of  $_kM_n^*$  from an element of  $_{(k-2)}M_n^*$   $(k \ge 2)$ . Because of (5), this suggests the possibility to construct HP's with k different prime factors for any positive integer  $k \ge 2$ . By actually applying the rules, we have found many elements of  $_3M$ , seven elements of  $_4M$ , and one element of  $_5M$ .

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  $\alpha \geqslant 3$ , these conditions imply that there are no other HP's of the form  $p^{\alpha}q$  than those characterized by Rule 0. The results of this section enable us to compute very cheaply all 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  $p^{\alpha}q^{\beta}$ ,  $\alpha \geqslant 2$  and  $\beta \geqslant 2$ , or  $p^{\alpha}q^{\beta}r^{\gamma}$  with  $\alpha \geqslant 1$ ,  $\beta \geqslant 1$  and  $\gamma \geqslant 1$ , etc. (However, these numbers are extremely scarce compared to HP's of the form  $p^{\alpha}q$ , and no HP's of the form  $p^{\alpha}q^{\beta}$  and  $p^{\alpha}q^{\beta}r^{\gamma}$  with  $\alpha \geqslant 2$  and  $\beta \geqslant 2$  have been found to date.)

Because of the importance of the set  $M^*$  for the construction of hyperperfect numbers, we given in Section 4 the results of an exhaustive search for all  $m \in M^*$  with  $m \leq 10^8$  and  $\omega(m) \geqslant 2$ . It turned out that elements of  $_3M^*$  are very rare compared with  $_2M^*$ , in analogy with the sets  $_3M$  and  $_2M$ . This search also gave all elements  $\leq 10^8$  of M, at very low cost, because of the similarity of the equations defining  $M^*$  and M. See note 1 below.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Lists of these numbers may be obtained from the author on request.

Remark: After completing this paper, the author computed, with the rules given in Section 2, 860 HP's below the bound  $10^{10}$ . See note 1 above.

## 2. RULES FOR CONSTRUCTING HYPERPERFECT NUMBERS

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

<u>RULE 1</u>: Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\alpha \in {}_kM_n^*$ , and  $p := n\overline{\alpha} + 1 - n$ ; if  $p \in \mathscr{P}$ , then  $\alpha p \in {}_{(k+1)}M_n$ .

<u>RULE 2</u>: Let  $k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a \in {}_kM_n^*$ , and  $p := n\overline{a} + A$ ,  $q := n\overline{a} + B$ , where  $AB = 1 - n + n\overline{a} + n^2\overline{a}^2$ ; if  $p \in \mathscr{P}$  and  $q \in \mathscr{P}$ , then  $apq \in {}_{(k+2)}M_n$ .

<u>RULE 3</u>: Let  $k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a \in {}_kM_n^*$ , and  $p := n\overline{a} + A$ ,  $q := n\overline{a} + B$ , where  $AB = 1 + n\overline{a} + n^2\overline{a}^2$ ; if  $p \in \mathscr{P}$  and  $q \in \mathscr{P}$ , then  $apq \in {}_{(k+2)}M_n^*$ .

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 [7], although the rule itself was formulated there less explicitly.

Rule 1 can be applied for  $k \ge 1$ , but not for k = 0, since  ${}_0M_n^* = \{1\}$  and  $\alpha = 1$  gives  $p = 1 \notin \mathcal{P}$ . For k = n = 1, Rule 1 reads:

If 
$$p := 2^{\alpha+1} - 1 \in \mathcal{P}$$
, then  $2^{\alpha}p \in {}_{2}M_{1}$ ,

which is Euclid's rule for finding even perfect numbers. For k = 1, Rule is equivalent to Rule 0, given in Section 1.

Rules 2 and 3 can both be applied for  $k \ge 0$ . For instance, for k = 0, le 2 reads:

Let 
$$n \in \mathbb{N}$$
 be given; if  $p := n + A \in \mathcal{P}$  and  $q := n + B \in \mathcal{P}$ , 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  $p := n + A \in \mathscr{P}$  and  $q := n + B \in \mathscr{P}$ , where  $AB = 1 + n + n^2$ , then  $pq \in {}_{2}M_{n}^{*}$ .

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  $\alpha pq \in {}_{(k+2)}M_n^*$ , but also the number b := pq is an element of  ${}_2M_{n\overline{q}}^*$ . Indeed, we have

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

For example, we know that  $7 \times 11 \in {}_{2}M_{4}^{*}$ . From Rule 3 with k = 2, n = 4, and  $\alpha = 7 \times 11$ , we find that  $7 \times 11 \times 547 \times 1291 \in {}_{L}M_{L}^{*}$ ; the side-effect is that

$$547 \times 1291 \in {}_{2}M^{*}_{(4 \times 8 \times 12)} = {}_{2}M^{*}_{384}.$$

In [6] we gave the following additional rule.

RULE 4: Let  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  and p := 6t - 1, q := 12t + 1; if  $p \in \mathscr{P}$  and  $q \in \mathscr{P}$ , then  $p^2q \in {}_2M_{(4t-1)}$ .

For example, t=1 and t=3 give  $5^213\in {}_2M_3$  and  $17^237\in {}_2M_{11}$ , 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  $p^{\alpha}q$ ,  $\alpha\in \mathbb{N}$ , below a given bound. We leave it to interested readers to discover why there is no rule (at least for  $k\geqslant 1$ ), analogous to Rule 1, for finding an element of  ${}_{k}M_{n}^{\star}$ .

From Rules 1-3, it follows that elements of  $_kM_n$  for some given  $k\in \mathbf{N}$  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  $_0M_n^*$  and  $_1M_n^*$  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  $_3M_n$ . With Rule 1, we found 34 HP's of the form pqr, from numbers  $pq \in _2M_n^*$ :

the smallest is 61  $\times$  229  $\times$  684433  $\in {}_{3}M_{+8}$ ;

the largest one is 9739  $\times$  13541383  $\times$  1283583456107389  $\in$   $_3M_{9732}$ . The elements of  $_2M_n^{\star}$  were "generated" with Rule 3 from  $_0M_n^{\star}$  = {1}. Using Rule 2 we found, from prime powers  $p^{\alpha} \in _1M_n^{\star}$ , 67 HP's of the form pqr:

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five of the smallest are given in [6],
     the largest is 8929 \times 79727051 \times 577854714897923 \in {}_{3}M_{8928};
48 HP's of the form p^2qr,
     the smallest five are given in [6],
     the largest is 7459^2414994003583 \times 34444004601637408163219 \in {}_{3}M_{7458};
9 of the form p^3qr,
     the smallest is given in [6],
     the largest is 811^3432596915921 \times 89927962885420066391 \in {}_{3}M_{810};
4 of the form p^4qr,
     the smallest is 7^430893 \times 36857 \in {}_{3}M_{6},
     the largest is 223^4553821371657 \times 130059326113901 \in {}_{3}M_{2,2,2};
and, furthermore,
      7^{6}1340243 \times 2136143 \in {}_{3}M_{6}
      13^{7}815787979 \times 11621986347871 \in {}_{3}M_{12}
and
     19^8322687706723 \times 11640844402910006759 \in {}_{3}M_{18}.
      (ii) Construction of elements of {}_{\bf u}M_n. In order to construct elements
 f _4M_n with Rule 1, sufficiently many elements of _3M_n^{\star} had to be available.
 his was realized with Rule 3, starting with elements p^{\alpha} \in {}_{1}M_{(p+1)}, p \in \mathscr{P}.
 .ne following four HP's with four different prime factors were found:
     3049 \times 9297649 \times 69203101249 \times 5981547458963067824996953 \in {}_{4}M_{3048}
     4201 \times 17692621 \times 7061044981 \times 2204786370880711054109401 \in {}_{\mathbf{L}}M_{\mathbf{L}_{200}}
     181^25991031 \times 579616291 \times 20591020685907725650381 \in {}_{4}M_{180}
      181^31108889497 \times 33425259193 \times 39781151786825440683346549261 \in {}_{4}M_{180}.
By means of Rules 2 and 3, the following three additional elements of {}_{4}M_{n}
were found:
      1327 × 6793 × 10020547039 × 17769709449589 \in {}_{4}M_{1110} (is in [6]),
      1873 \times 24517 \times 79947392729 \times 80855915754575789 \in {}_{4}M_{1740} (is in [7]),
      5791 \times 10357 \times 222816095543 \times 482764219012881017 \in {}_{4}M_{3714}
      (iii) Construction of an element of {}_5M_{\rm m}. We have also constructively
computed one element of {}_5M_n with Rule 1. The elements of {}_4M_n^{\bigstar} needed for
this purpose were computed from {}_{0}\mathit{M}^{\bigstar}_{n} by twice applying Rule 3 (first yield-
ing elements of {}_{2}M_{n}^{\star}, then elements of {}_{4}M_{n}^{\star}). The HP found is the largest
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one we know of (apart from the ordinary perfect numbers). It is the 87-digit number:

209549717187078140588332885132193432897405407437906414 236764925538317339020708786590793

- $= 4783 \times 83563 \times 1808560287211 \times 297705496733220305347$
- $\times$  973762019320700650093520128480575320050761301  $\in {}_{5}M_{4,5,2,4}$ .

## 3. CHARACTERIZATION OF ALL HP'S OF THE FORM $p^{lpha}q$

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

Theorem: Let  $m:=p^{\alpha}q$  ( $\alpha\in\mathbb{N},p\in\mathscr{P},q\in\mathscr{P}$ ) be a hyperperfect number, then

- (i)  $\alpha = 1 \Rightarrow (\exists n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ with } m \in {}_2M_n \text{ such that } p = n + A, \ q = n + B, \text{ with } AB = 1 + n^2);$
- (ii)  $\alpha = 2 \Rightarrow (\exists t \in \mathbb{N} \text{ with } m \in {}_{2}M_{(+t-1)} \text{ and } p = 6t-1 \text{ and } q = 12t+1)$  $\vee (m \in {}_{2}M_{(p-1)} \text{ with } q = p^{3}-p+1);$
- (iii)  $\alpha > 2 \Rightarrow (m \in {}_2M_{(p-1)} \text{ with } q = p^{\alpha+1} p + 1).$

<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

$$f(x, y) := \frac{x^2y - 1}{(x + 1)(x + y)}, x, y \in \mathbf{N}.$$

To characterize 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

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

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

$$2 \leqslant y \leqslant x^3 - x + 1. \tag{7}$$

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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

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

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  $j\in \mathbb{N}\cup\{0\}$  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  $j=0,1,\ldots,x-2$  it assumes the values: q(x,2)=(x-2)/3,

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

:

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

follows that there is precisely one more possibility [in addition to (3)] 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

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

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

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

For fixed  $x \ge 2$ , we have

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

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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,  $x^{\alpha-1} + \cdots + 1$  must divide  $x^{\alpha}y - 1$ , so that  $y = k(x^{\alpha-1} + \cdots + 1) + 1$ , 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  $M_n$  of the form pq below  $10^8$ , we only have to check whether

$$p := n + A \in \mathcal{P}$$
 and  $q := n + B \in \mathcal{P}$ 

for all possible factorizations of  $AB = 1 + n^2$ , for  $1 \le n \le 4999$ . This range of n follows from the fact that if  $pq \in M_n$  then  $pq > 4n^2$ . 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 or B is odd and one of p or 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 or B is  $\equiv 1 \pmod 3$  and the other is  $\equiv 2 \pmod 3$ ; consequently, one of p or 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,  $1 \le t \le 833$ . It took about 6 seconds CPU-time on a CDC CYBER 175 computer to check these values of n, and to generate in this way all HP's of the form pq below  $10^8$ .

# 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,

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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 to determine whether  $(m-1)/(\sigma(m)-m)\in \mathbf{N}$ , for all  $m\leqslant 10^8$  with  $\omega(m)\geqslant 2$ . Since the most time-consuming part is the computation of  $\sigma(m)$ , a second check was done to determine whether  $(m-1)/(\sigma(m)-m-1)\in \mathbf{N}$  [in the case where  $(m-1)/(\sigma(m)-m)\notin \mathbf{N}$ ]. If so, m was an HP; thus, our program also produced, almost for free, all HP's below  $10^8$ . (The search took about 100 hours of "idle" computer time on a CDC CYBER 175.) 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  $p^{\alpha}qr$ :

 $13 \times 269 \times 449 \in {}_3M_{12}$  and  $7^2383 \times 3203 \in {}_3M_6$ ; these were also found in the searches described in Section 2. All others have the form characterized in Section 3, and could have been found with a search based on that characterization (using the fact that if  $p^{\alpha}q \in {}_2M_n$ , then p > n and q > n). A question that naturally arises is the following: Are there any HP's that cannot be constructed with one of Rules 1, 2, or  $4?^2$ 

There are 312 numbers  $m \le 10^8$  which belong to  $M^*$  and which have  $\omega(m)$  2. Of these, 306 have the form pq and could have been (and, as a check, stually were) found very cheaply with Rule 3 of Section 2. The others are:

$$7 \times 61 \times 229 \in {}_{3}M_{6}^{*}$$
,  $113 \times 127 \times 2269 \in {}_{3}M_{58}^{*}$ ,  $149 \times 463 \times 659 \in {}_{3}M_{96}^{*}$ ,  $19 \times 373 \times 10357 \in {}_{3}M_{18}^{*}$ ,  $151 \times 373 \times 1487 \in {}_{3}M_{100}^{*}$ ,  $7 \times 11 \times 547 \times 1291 \in {}_{4}M_{4}^{*}$ ;

the second, third, and fifth numbers could not have been found using Rule 3.

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  The referee has answered this question in the affirmative by giving the example 12161963773 = 191  $\times$  373  $\times$  170711  $\in$   $\rm M_{126}$  .

## 5. HYPERCYCLES

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

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

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

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

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 behavior 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 1
HYPERCYCLES\*

п	k	$m_0$ , $m_1$ ,, $m_{k-1}$
5	2	$19461 = 3 \times 13 \times 499$ , $42691 = 11 \times 3881$
7	3	$925 = 5^237$ , $1765 = 5 \times 353$ , $2507 = 23 \times 109$
8	2	$28145 = 5 \times 13 \times 433$ , $66481 = 19 \times 3499$
	3	$238705 = 5 \times 47741$ , $381969 = 3^37 \times 43 \times 47$ , $2350961 = 79 \times 29759$
	4	$94225 = 5^23769$ , $181153 = 7^23697$ , $237057 = 3 \times 31 \times 2549$ ,
		$714737 = 61 \times 11717$
	2	$3452337 = 3^27 \times 54799$ , $17974897 = 53 \times 229 \times 1481$
9	2	$469 = 7 \times 67, 667 = 23 \times 29$
	2	$1315 = 5 \times 263$ , $2413 = 19 \times 127$
	2	$1477 = 7 \times 211$ , $1963 = 13 \times 151$
	2	$2737 = 7 \times 17 \times 23$ , $6463 = 23 \times 281$
10	3	$1981 = 7 \times 283$ , $2901 = 3 \times 967$ , $9701 = 89 \times 109$
12	2	$697 = 17 \times 41$ , $2041 = 13 \times 157$
	2	$3913 = 7 \times 13 \times 43$ , $12169 = 43 \times 283$
	2	$54265 = 5 \times 10853$ , $130297 = 29 \times 4493$
14	2	$1261 = 13 \times 97, \ 1541 = 23 \times 67$
	3	$508453 = 11 \times 17 \times 2719$ , $1106925 = 3 \times 5^2 14759$ ,
		$10126397 = 281 \times 36037$

<sup>\*</sup>Different numbers  $m_0$ ,  $m_1$ , ...,  $m_{k-1}$  such that  $m_k=m_0$ , where  $m_{i+1}:=f_n\left(m_i\right)$ ,  $f_n$  defined in (9).

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## TABLE 1 (continued)

n	k	$m_0, m_1, \ldots, m_{k-1}$
19	2	9197 = 17 × 541, 10603 = 23 × 461
	4	$184491 = 3^36833$ , $1688493 = 3 \times 562831$ , $10693847 = 709 \times 15083$ , $300049 = 31 \times 9679$
	2	$5151775 = 5^2251 \times 821$ , $24124073 = 89 \times 271057$

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