

PERFECT NUMBERS

(Addendum to the article in Newsletter #2)

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Two new "Mersenne primes" have been discovered since the 25th (which was $(2^{21701}-1)$). They are $(2^{23209}-1)$ and $(2^{44497}-1)$. The first of these was found by Kurt Noll, who with Laura Nickel, had discovered the 25th. The second was the joint work of two other computer workers, Harry Nelson and David Slowinski. Incidentally, the last prime above has 13,395 digits (when expressed in the base 10). Because of the connection between Mersenne primes and perfect numbers, there are now twenty seven even perfect numbers known.