Hudalrichus Regius Encyclopedia Article

Hudalrichus Regius

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Hudalrichus Regius

fl. 1530s

Mathematician who showed that not all numbers of the form 2^n-1 for all primes *n* are themselves prime. Up to Regius's time, mathematicians had assumed that this was so, since $2^2-1=3$, $2^3-1=7$, $2^5-1=31$, and so on. However, Regius showed that the result of $2^{11}-1$ is not a prime number: its result, 2047, is equal to 23 multiplied by 89.