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Rod Canfield* (erc@cs.uga.edu), Department of Computer Science, Graduate Studies Building, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, and **Carl Pomerance**, Department of Mathematics, Kemeny Hall, Hanover, NH 03755. *The maximum Stirling number(s) of the second kind.*

The Stirling numbers of the second kind, $S(n, k)$, count the partitions of an n -set into k blocks. For each n the maximum $S(n, k)$ is achieved either at a unique $k = K_n$, or is achieved twice consecutively at $k = K_n, K_n + 1$. Call those n of the latter type *exceptional*. Is $n = 2$ the only exceptional integer? The attempt to answer this question has led to some interesting analytic considerations. (Received May 17, 2010)