

Googolplex Written Out

Wolfgang H. Nitsche

A graphic featuring a spiral made of the number '9' that winds inward from the top right towards the center. The word 'volume' is positioned at the top left of the spiral. In the center of the spiral, the numbers '4', '5', '4', '9', and '7' are arranged in a small cluster.

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Foreword

In 1940, the mathematician Edward Kasner published the book "Mathematics and the Imagination", in which he popularized the words googol and googolplex which his nephew suggested as names for big numbers.

The number googol has been defined as 1 followed by a hundred zeros:

[illegible]

The much larger number googolplex has been defined as 1 followed by a googol zeros. While this number can easily be written as

$$\text{googolplex} = 10^{\text{googol}} = 10^{(10^{100})}$$

using the exponential notation, it has often been claimed that the number googolplex is so large that it can never be written out in full.

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August 2013
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