

Googolplex Written Out

Wolfgang H. Nitsche

A large circle composed of black digits. The top half of the circle consists of the digit '9' repeated approximately 18 times. The bottom half consists of the digit '6' repeated approximately 18 times. On the left side, where the two halves meet, the sequence of digits from top to bottom is 9, 9, 5, 6, 5, 8.

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Wolfgang H. Nitsche

Stanford University

[illegible]

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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Wolfgang H. Nitsche
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