

Googolplex Written Out

Wolfgang H. Nitsche

A large, stylized graphic of a spiral made of the number 9, with the word 'volume' at the top left. The spiral is composed of many '9's arranged in a circular pattern, with some '9's rotated to form a continuous line. The word 'volume' is written in a bold, sans-serif font at the top left of the spiral.

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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.

[illegible]

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