Infinity Emoji Submission

To: Unicode Consortium

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Abstract

This is a request for the inclusion of an infinity emoji. There are currently very few mathematical emojis, but this symbol has a meaning that goes far away from its mathematical meaning.

Introduction

Infinity is an abstract concept describing something without any bound or larger than any number[1]
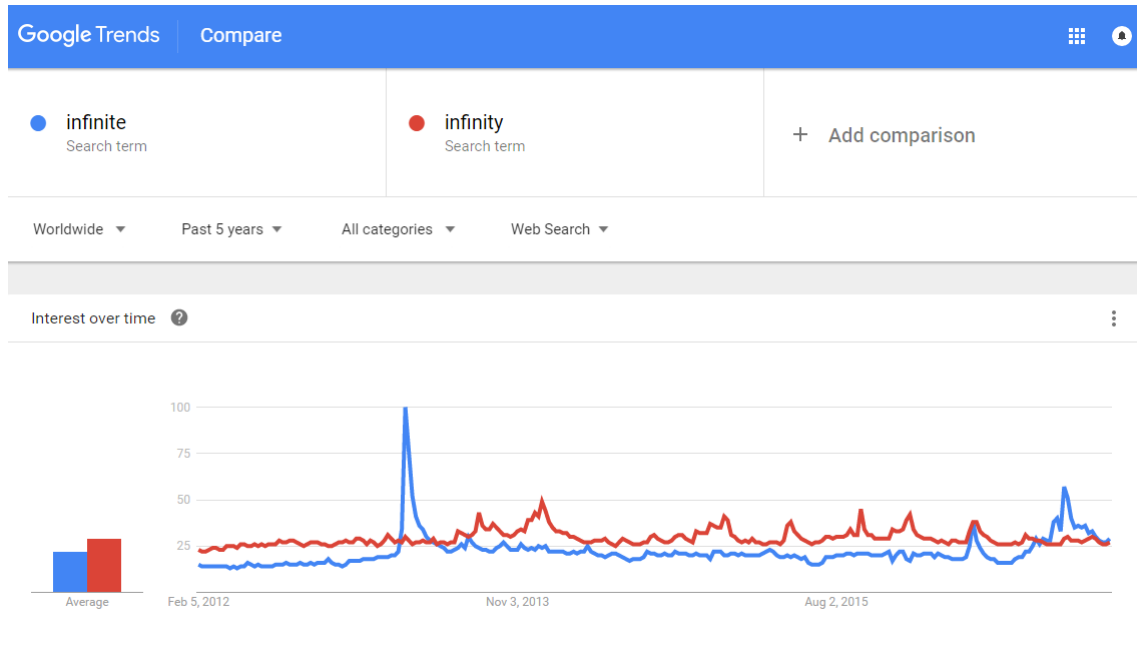
As a philosophical concept, the idea of infinite or limitless has been a concern and a subject of study since ancient civilizations such as Early Greek and Early Indian. Along modern human history, this concept has found its appliance on several disciplines like mathematics, physics, philosophy, arts and cognitive sciences.
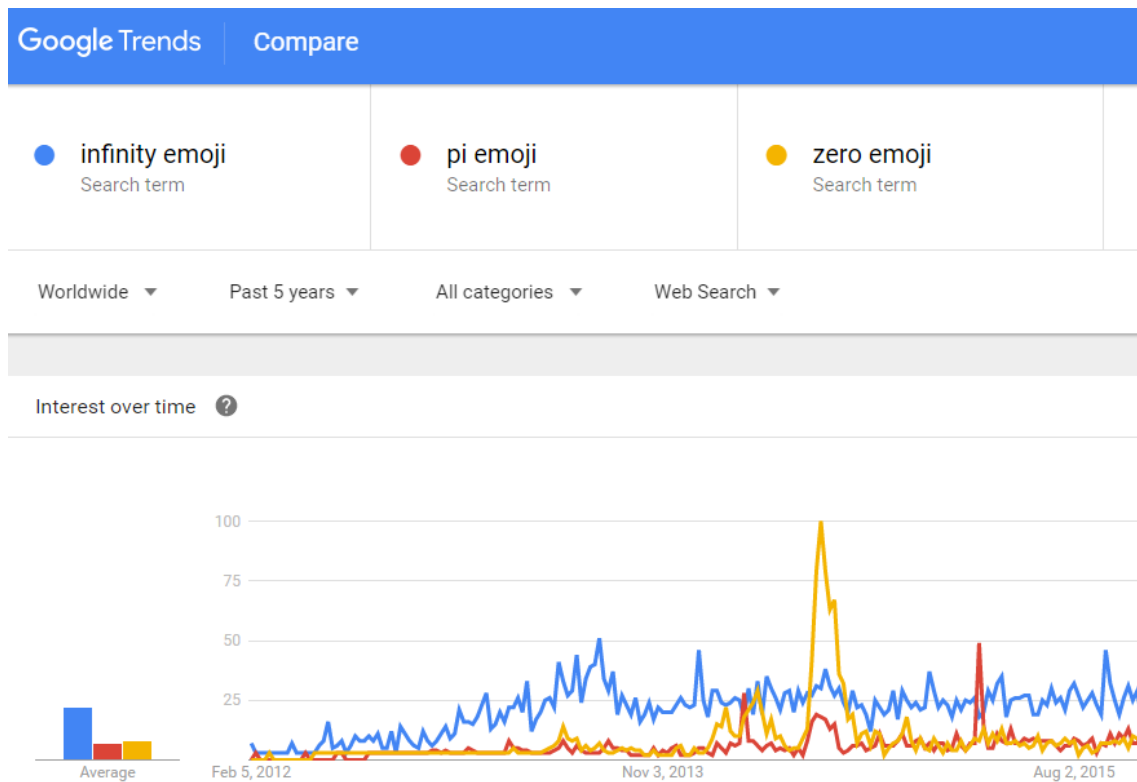
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[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infinity
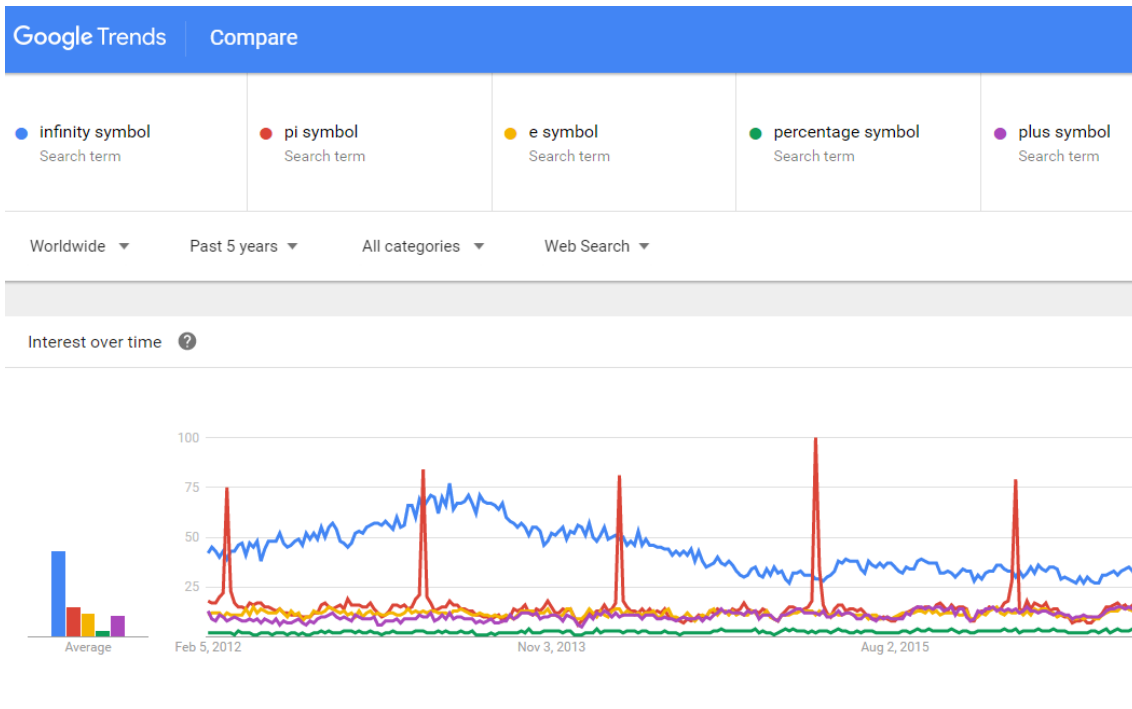
Expected Usage

Frequency

Interest and queries about infinite and infinity are consistent across the time. In fact, it has been a matter of concern since the beginning of the History.

As you can observe below, queries about "infinity emoji" outranks similar questions about emojis for popular mathematical symbols.

Multiple Uses

Infinity is not just about Maths. Infinite is a concern on several disciplines. Infinity is a symbol that can be used to express something that you feel and goes so far that you cannot put into words. "I love you infinitely" (I cannot express how much I love you).
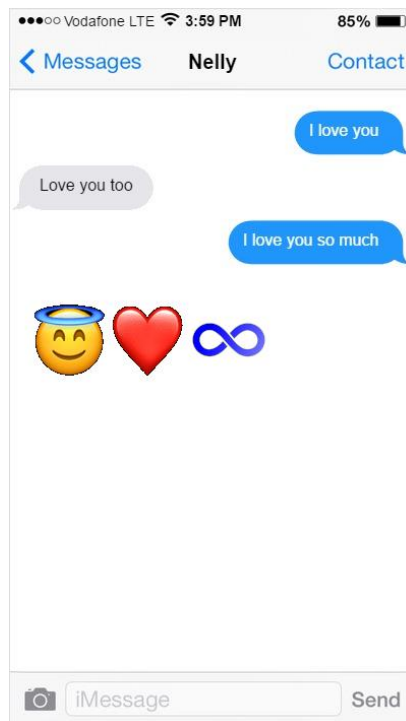

Figure 1: An example of a conversation using the infinity emoji. Made using iphonefaketext.com

Demand

Infinity emoji is a recurrent topic across the Internet. You can find multiple guides[2], tutorial and, even, packs of unofficial sets of emojis that include that symbol[3]

On social networks[4], many people ask for an infinity emoji because they want to use to amplify feelings expressed by other emojis like 😍 or ❤️ (also 😡). To use Unicode character ∞ does not look great next to an emoji, especially after recent updates for messaging software that enlarge the messages when are compound by just a couple of emojis.

Image Distinctiveness

An infinity emoji would be visually distinct from any current emoji but, essentially, a refined version of Unicode character adapted to fit well at the side of any emoji.

The infinity symbol has a long pedigree. It has been used since it was introduced by John Wallis in his *De sectionibus conicis* in 1655[4]. It has been related to the infinite abstract concept since then and it is widely recognizable. No matter what culture or religion confesses the sender and/or the receiver.

Completeness

There is not a specific group for mathematical symbols into Emoji ordering. Maybe, it could be started with the inclusion of infinite symbol (and others like pi, e, not equal…)

Meanwhile, it could fit well into other-symbol group, where are located plus and minus symbols and which is needed of more mathematical symbols.

Factors for exclusion

Overly specific

There are variants for infinity symbol like those included into Unicode Character Set. None of them is included into Emoji Set. The proposed emoji is the universal representation for infinite concept.

Open-Ended

There is not a group of infinity symbols. Even though there are different kinds of infinite, there is no need for adding their corresponding symbols. Emojis are not intended to write mathematical formulas (and I hope nobody tries to). Infinity emoji has the purpose of represent the concept of infinite by itself, or amplify the meaning or the feeling transmitted by another emoji.

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[2] http://blog.getemoji.com/post/105270995750/how-can-i-get-he-infinity-emoji-its-driving-me

[3] https://twitter.com/getemoji/status/544515918148427778?lang=es

[4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infinity_symbol

Already Representable

There is an existing infinity symbol at Unicode Character Set. That's true. But it is a text character and it does not fit well with other emojis.

Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

There are many corporate logos that include the infinity symbol but, by itself, is publicly available and not confined to any specific branding or logo.

Transient

Infinity symbol has been used and widely recognized as the infinite concept representation since 17th century. It is safe to think that it is not a passing fad.

Image

This infinity symbol was created by Gonzalo Alonso using Inkscape. The image is free for use and distribution by members of the Unicode Consortium.

Color image

This proposal also extends to including color alternatives, such as those proposed below:

Black and White Image