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Subject: Re: Superscripts in IDL [x-y]title  
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Wed, 11 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT  
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Henry J. P. Smith wrote:

> Hello,  
>  
> Just did (tried to do) a search on dejaneux to see if I could find  
> this there and got not hits. So here goes.  
>  
> My co-author on a paper would like to see superscripts in the axis  
> titles of simple 2-d plots, e.g. instead of something like cm\*\*<sup>-3</sup> ot  
> have cm<sup>{-3}</sup> - using TeX notation.  
>  
> I am using PS fonts so I think there must be a way to do this. Is  
> there any way to get IDL to do it directly? I suppose I could do it in  
> POSTSCRIPT but I don't really know PS and don't have time to learn it  
> right now. At least I think I don't - perhaps the same thing? <G>  
>  
> Any suggestions? TIA  
>  
> Regards,  
>  
> Henry Smith

Please find attached two routines that should facilitate this  
task: strchem and strsci.  
Here is an example that produces a string which will be output as

```
      +  
      NH  
      4
```

```
print,strchem(strchem('NH4+',/sub),/super,special='+-')
```

```
result: 'NH!!4!n!u+!n'
```

B

... and strsci produces a string in format A x 10 given a numeric argument:

```
print,strsci( 2000000, format='(i1)' )
```

```
result: '2 x 10!u6!n'
```

Hope this helps,

Martin.

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-----  
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-----

; \$Id: strchem.pro,v 1.1 1998/10/09 19:53:32 mgs Exp \$

;

;+

; NAME:

;     STRCHEM (function)

;

; PURPOSE:

;     Superscripts or subscripts numbers and special  
;     characters ('x', 'y') found in strings containing  
;     names of chemical species.

;

; CATEGORY:

;     String Utilities

;

; CALLING SEQUENCE:

;     Result = STRCHEM( STR [,keywords] )

;

; INPUTS:

;     STR     -> The input string containing the name of the  
;             chemical species (e.g. 'NOx', 'H2O', CxO2, etc, )

;

; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:

;     /SUB    -> Will cause numbers and special characters to  
;             be subscripted. This is the default.

;

;     /SUPER -> Will cause numbers and special characters to  
;             be superscripted.

;

;     SPECIALCHARS -> a string with characters that shall be sub- or  
;             superscripted. Defaults are '0123456789xyXY' for  
;             /SUB and '+-0123456789' for /SUPER

;

;

```

; PROTECT -> internal keyword used to protect certain characters
;           from being super or subscripted. May be useful to
;           circumvent troubles. See example below.
;
; /TRIM    -> perform a strtrim( ,2) on the result
;
; OUTPUTS:
; Returns a string with formatting characters included
;
; SUBROUTINES:
; None
;
; REQUIREMENTS:
; Example 3 uses STRWHERE function.
;
; NOTES:
;
; EXAMPLE:
; print,strchem('C2H5O2 [pptv]')
;
; ; prints "C!|2!nH!|5!nO!|2!n [pptv]"
;
; print,strchem(strchem('NH4+',/sub),/super,special='+-')
;
; ; prints NH!|4!n!u+!n.
;
; s0 = '(H2O2)2' ; supposed to be H2O2 squared
; protect = strlen(s0)-1 ; protect last character
; s1 = strchem(s0,protect=protect)
; s2 = strchem(s1,/super,protect=protect)
; print,s1,'->',s2
;
; ; prints (H!|2!nO!|2!n)2->(H!|2!nO!|2!n)!u2!n
; ; without protect the "square" would have been subscripted
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
; bmy, 01 Jun 1998: VERSION 1.00
; mgs, 02 Jun 1998: VERSION 1.10 - rewritten
; mgs, 11 Jun 1998:
; - removed IS_ION keyword
; - changed default specialchars for SUPER
; mgs, 22 Sep 1998:
; - added TRIM keyword
;
; -
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; with subject "IDL routine strchem"
;----- --
```

```
Function StrChem, Str, Super=Super, Sub=Sub, SpecialChars=SpecialChars, $
    Protect=Protect, Trim=Trim
```

```
; Error checking
on_error, 2
```

```
; Return empty string if no string is passed
if ( n_elements( Str ) eq 0 ) then return, "
```

```
; temporary copy of Str
tmp = Str
```

```
; Keyword default settings
Sub = ( keyword_set( Sub ) )
Super = ( keyword_set( Super ) ) * ( 1 - Sub)
```

```
; set up string with characters to sub(super)script
if (n_elements(specialchars) eq 0) then begin
    if (sub) then $
        specialchars = '0123456789xyXY' $
    else $
        specialchars = '+-0123456789'
endif
```

```
; convert to byte array
BS = byte(specialchars)
```

```
; here are the formatting characters
BE = (byte('!'))[0]
BA = (byte('l'))[0]
if (Super) then BA = (byte('u'))[0]
BN = (byte('n'))[0]
```

```
; convert string argument to byte array and loop through,
; inserting the formatting characters at each occurrence of
; a specialchar
```

```

; (obsolete Trick: loop backwards in order to simplify ionic case)
BStr = byte(tmp)
Res = 0B

; create local protect array and expand protect if passed
LProtect = intarr(n_elements(BStr))
if (n_elements(Protect) gt 0) then $
  LProtect[Protect] = 1

RProtect = 0 ; resulting Protect array

done = 0
i = n_elements(BStr)-1

while (not done) do begin
  ind = where(BS eq BStr[i])
  if (ind(0) ge 0 AND not LProtect[i]) then begin
    Res = [ Res, BN, BE, BStr[i], BA, BE ]
    RProtect = [ RProtect, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 ]
  endif else begin
    Res = [ Res, BStr[i] ]
    RProtect = [ RProtect, 0 ]
  endelse

  i = i - 1

  if (i lt 0) then Done = 1
endwhile

; eliminate first (zero) character and revert "string"
Res = Reverse(Res[1: *])

; same with new Protect array which will be returned
RProtect = Reverse(RProtect[1: *])
Protect = where(RProtect gt 0)

; convert byte array back to string and return
result = string(Res)
if (keyword_set(TRIM)) then result = strtrim(result,2)
return,result

end

; $Id: strsci.pro,v 1.1 1998/10/09 19:53:32 mgs Exp $
;-----
;+
; NAME:
;   STRSCI (function)

```

```

;
; PURPOSE:
;   Given a number, returns a string of that      B
;   number in scientific notation format ( e.g. A x 10 )
;
; CATEGORY:
;   String Utilities
;
; CALLING SEQUENCE:
;   Result = STRSCI( DATA [,keywords] )
;
; INPUTS:
;   DATA    -> A floating point or integer number to be
;              converted into a power of 10.
;
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:
;   FORMAT   -> The format specification used in the string
;              conversion for the coefficient part (i.e. the
;              "A" of "A x 10^B"). Default is '(f12.2)'.
;
;   /POT_ONLY -> Will return only the "power of 10" part of the
;              string (i.e. the "10^B"). Default is to return
;              the entire string (e.g. "A x 10^B" )
;
;   /MANTISSA_ONLY -> return only mantissa of the string
;
;   /SHORT -> return 10^0 as '1' and 10^1 as '10'
;
;   /TRIM -> don't insert blanks
;
; OUTPUTS:
;   None
;
; SUBROUTINES:
;   None
;
; REQUIREMENTS:
;   None
;
; NOTES:
;   Need a better symbol than the 'x' for the multiplier...
;
; EXAMPLE:
;   Result = STRSCI( 2000000, format='(i1)' )
;   print, result
;   ;
;   ;           6
;   ;   prints 2 x 10!u6!n, which gets plotted as 2 x 10
;
;

```

```

;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
;   bmy, 28 May 1998: VERSION 1.00      B
;   - now returns string of the form A x 10
;   mgs, 29 May 1998:
;   - bug fix: now allows negative numbers
;   - keyword MANTISSA_ONLY added
;   - default format changed to f12.2
;   bmy, 02 Jun 1998:
;   - renamed to STRSCI ("STRing SCientific notation"),
;   mgs, 03 Jun 1998:
;   - added TRIM keyword
;   mgs, 22 Sep 1998:
;   - added SHORT keyword
;   - modified handling of TRIM keyword
;   mgs, 24 Sep 1998:
;   - bug fix with SHORT flag
;
;
;-
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; with subject "IDL routine strsci"
;-----

```

```

function StrSci, Data, Format=Format, POT_Only=POT_Only, $
      MANTISSA_ONLY=MANTISSA_ONLY, SHORT=SHORT, TRIM=TRIM

; Error checking
on_error, 2

; Make sure DATA is passed
if ( n_elements( Data ) eq 0 ) then begin
;   print, 'DATA must be passed to EXP_STR!!'
   return, ""
endif

; Default value for FORMAT
if ( not keyword_set( Format ) ) then Format = '(f12.2)'
POT_Only = keyword_set( POT_Only )
MANTISSA_Only = keyword_set( MANTISSA_Only )

```

```

; Take the common log of Data
Log10Data = alog10( abs(Data) * 1d0 )
sign = (data lt 0.)

; Compute the Mantissa (frac part) and Characteristic (int part)
Characteristic = fix( Log10Data )
Mantissa      = Log10Data - Characteristic

; String for the coefficient part,
; The coefficient is just antilog of the Mantissa
A = strtrim( string( 10d0^Mantissa, Format=Format ), 2 )
if (sign) then A = '-' + A

; String for the power of 10 part
B = '10!u' + strtrim( string( Characteristic ), 2 ) + '!n'
if (keyword_set(SHORT)) then begin
    if (Characteristic eq 0) then B = '1'
    if (Characteristic eq 1) then B = '10'
endif

; composite string
result = A + ' x ' + B
if (keyword_set(SHORT) AND B eq '1') then result = A
if ( POT_Only ) then result = B
if (MANTISSA_ONLY ) then result = A

; eliminate blanks if TRIM keyword is set
if (keyword_set(TRIM)) then result = strcompress(result,/remove_all)

return, result

end

```

## File Attachments

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- 1) [strchem.pro](#), downloaded 141 times
  - 2) [strsci.pro](#), downloaded 115 times
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