
Subject: Re: How do I use FORMAT as I would SPRINTF?? Please Help!
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Thu, 19 Sep 2002 12:09:04 GMT
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Brian Huether wrote:

```
> I am quite perplexed by the IDL FORMAT keyword. I am used to MATLAB where I
> can quite simply use the sprintf command. For instance, in MATLAB, the
> command
>
> s = sprintf('IDL has been driving me crazy for the last %d days', 10)
>
> would result in a string that contains
>
> 'IDL has been driving me crazy for the last 10 days'
>
> What I really need to do is something like this:
>
> s = sprintf('SIZE(%s, /%s)', arrayname, somekeyword)
>
> So if arrayname is A and somekeyword is TYPE, then the resulting string
> would be
>
> 'SIZE(A, /TYPE)'
>
> It is a meaningless example but hopefully you see what I want to do (i.e. I
> need to execute IDL commands in a loop, where each time through, the command
> input parameters are varying and are specified by indexing arrays that
> contain the parameters)
>
>
```

nice idea, did someone else like to have such a function,
I believe it's quite easy to solve.

For example:

```
FUNCTION sprintf,STRING,number
```

```
  per=STRPOS(STRING,'%')
  sign=STRMID(STRING,per,2)
  CASE sign OF
    '%d' : str_num=STRTRIM(STRING(number,format='(I2)'),2)
    ELSE:
  ENDCASE
```

```
  RETURN,STRMID(STRING,0,per)+str_num+STRMID(STRING,per+2,3276 7)
END
```

This could be a bit more enhanced. But I am not sure what this function did in matlab or if you only like to add a number as string in your output.

There are some routines from our library which may be useful

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/find_form.tar.gz
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/number_format.tar.gz
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/n2s.tar.gz

or as idl5.5 binary

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/find_form.sav
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/number_format.sav
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/n2s.sav

For example:

```
print,'I have learned wonderful things in IDL in the last '+n2s(10)+ $  
      ' days!!'
```

I have learned wonderful things in IDL in the last 10 days!!

best regards

Reimar

--

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

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