
Subject: Re: formatting exponential notation

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Fri, 10 Mar 2006 14:28:20 GMT

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In article <1141997588.908348.289430@j52g2000cwj.googlegroups.com>,
"Steve.Morris@libero.it" <Steve.Morris@libero.it> wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> I need a quick advice on the way to write number in the exponent format
> I want.
> For example, I want the number printed on my screen in the following
> form
> -2.3435e-5
>
> i.e. 4 digits after the point and as function of e-5
>
> Any suggestion? I have tryed to use the format='(EX.X)' but without
> much of a success :(

I think one reason that the E format works the way it does:

```
IDL> print, -2.3435E-5, format = "(E12.4)"  
-2.3435E-05
```

is to ensure that the exponent part of the field is always 4 digits.
That makes it easy to produce uniformly-aligned tables of numbers.

If you really want the result to appear like this

```
-2.3435e-5
```

you could always format it yourself (base-10 logarithms come to mind).

Ken Bowman
