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Subject: Re: format integers with place separators  
Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Tue, 04 Oct 2005 15:42:00 GMT  
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Ben Tupper wrote:

>  
> Is it possible to format an integer using the format specifiers such  
> place separators are used? For example...  
>  
> 1234 becomes 1,234  
>  
> 1234567 becomes 1,234,567  
>  
> 123456789 becomes 123,456,789  
>

I think it's not possible. I wrote my own function, see below. I used it  
only a couple times, hopefully it's too buggy.

Benjamin

```
;+
; NAME:
;   COMMAFORMAT
;
;
;
; PURPOSE:
;
;
;   This function takes a number and returns it as a string with a
;   comma every 10^3.
;
;
;
; AUTHOR:
;
;
;   Benjamin Hornberger
;   benjamin.hornberger@stonybrook.edu
;
;
;
; CATEGORY:
;
;
;   Utilities
;
;
;
; CALLING SEQUENCE:
;
;
;   Result = COMMARFORMAT(number, dec)
;
```

```
; INPUT PARAMETERS:  
;  
;   number: The number to be formatted  
;  
;   dec: number of decimals  
;  
;  
; INPUT KEYWORDS:  
;  
;   INT: Set this keyword to return and integer without decimal  
;         point.  
;  
;  
; RESTRICTIONS:  
;  
;   Currently, the function just cuts off the number at the specified  
;   decimal position, without performing any rounding.  
;  
;  
; EXAMPLE:  
;  
;   IDL> print, commaformat(123456789.12)  
;   123,456,789.12  
;  
;  
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:  
;  
;   2004-05-27 BH: Written  
;   2005-06-30 BH: Changed error handling. Added standard  
;                 documentation header.  
;-
```

FUNCTION commaformat, number, dec, int=int

```
on_error, 2  
  
;; don't allow complex, strings, structures, pointers and object  
;; references  
IF size(number, /type) GT 5 AND size(number, /type) LT 12 THEN $  
  message, 'commaformat supports only integer and real numbers'  
  
IF n_elements(dec) EQ 0 THEN dec = 0  
  
IF keyword_set(int) THEN BEGIN  
  string = string(abs(number), format='(i0)')  
  dotpos = strlen(string)  
ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
```

```

string = string(abs(number), format='(f0)')
dotpos = strpos(string, '.')
;; Cut off decimals. Unfortunately, the strmid function can't
;; take a separate 'First_Character' parameter for each array
;; entry.
FOR i=0, n_elements(string)-1 DO $
  string[i] = strmid(string[i], 0, dotpos[i]+1+dec[0])
ENDELSE

FOR i=0, n_elements(string)-1 DO BEGIN
  WHILE dotpos[i] GT 3 DO BEGIN
    string[i] = strmid(string[i], 0, dotpos[i]-3) + ',' + $
      strmid(string[i], dotpos[i]-3)
    dotpos[i] = dotpos[i]-3
  ENDWHILE
ENDFOR

negatives = where(number LT 0, count)
IF count GT 0 THEN $
  string[negatives] = '-' + string[negatives]

return, string

```

---

END

---



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**Subject:** Re: format integers with place separators  
**Posted by** [Benjamin Hornberger](#) **on** Tue, 04 Oct 2005 15:43:33 GMT  
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Benjamin Hornberger wrote:  
> Ben Tupper wrote:  
>  
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>  
> I think it's not possible. I wrote my own function, see below. I used it  
> only a couple times, hopefully it's too buggy.  
>

Of course I meant "hopefully it's \*not\* too buggy" :-).

Benjamin

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Subject: Re: format integers with place separators

Posted by [btt](#) on Wed, 05 Oct 2005 12:33:00 GMT

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Benjamin Hornberger wrote:

> Ben Tupper wrote:

>

>>

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> I think it's not possible. I wrote my own function, see below. I used it  
> only a couple times, hopefully it's to too buggy.

>

> Benjamin

>

Thanks, Benjamin.

Cheers,

the other Benjamin

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