Numeric Formats

Columns in tables display either text or numeric waves. For numeric waves, the column format determines how the data values in the wave are entered and displayed. The column format has no effect on data columns of text waves.

In addition to regular number formats, tables support date, time and date&time formats. The format is merely a way of displaying a number. Even dates and times are stored internally in Igor as numbers. You can enter a value in a numeric column of a table as a number, date, time or date&time if you set the format for the column appropriately.

The following table lists all of the numeric formats.

Numeric Format	Description
General	Displays numbers in a format appropriate to the number itself. Very large or small numbers are displayed in scientific notation. Other numbers are displayed in decimal form (e.g. 1234.567). The Digits setting controls the number of significant digits. Integers are displayed with no fractional digits.
Integer	Numbers are displayed as the nearest integer number. For example, 1234.567 is displayed as 1235.
Integer with comma	Numbers are displayed as the nearest integer number. In addition, commas are used to separate groups of three digits. For example, 1234.567 is displayed as 1,235.
Decimal	As many digits to the left of the decimal point as are required are used to display the number. The Digits setting controls the number of digits to the right of the decimal point. For example, if the number of digits is specified as two, 1234.567 is displayed as 1234.57.
Decimal with comma	Identical to the decimal format except that commas are used to separate groups of three digits to the left of the decimal point.
Scientific	Numbers are displayed in scientific notation. The Digits setting controls the number of digits to the right of the decimal point.
Date	Dates are displayed using the format set in the Table Date Format dialog. See **Date/Time Formats** on page II-256.
Time	[+][-]hhhh:mm:ss[.ff] [AM/PM]. See **Date/Time Formats** on page II-256.
Date & Time	Date format plus space plus time format. See **Date/Time Formats** on page II-256.
Octal	Numbers are displayed in octal (base 8) notation. Only integers are supported. The number of digits displayed depends on the wave data type and the Digits setting is ignored. See **Octal Numeric Formats** on page II-257 for details.
Hexadecimal	Numbers are displayed in hexadecimal (base 16) notation. Only integers are supported. The number of digits displayed depends on the wave data type and the Digits setting is ignored. See **Hexadecimal Numeric Formats** on page II-257 for details.

When you enter a number in a table, Igor expects either dot or comma as the decimal symbol, as determined by the Decimal Symbol setting in the Table Misc Settings dialog. The factory default is dot. This setting applies only to entering numbers in tables. To change it, choose Table→Table Misc Settings. If it is set to Per System Setting and you change the system decimal symbol, you must restart Igor for the change to take effect.

For most numeric formats you can control the number of digits displayed. You can set this using the Modify Columns dialog or using the Digits submenu of the Table menu, table pop-up menu (gear icon), or table