contextual menu. The meaning of the number that you choose from the Digits submenu depends on the numeric format.

Numeric Format	You Specify
General	Number of displayed digits
Decimal (0.0...0)	Number of digits after the decimal point
Decimal with comma (0.0...0)	Number of digits after the decimal point
Time and Date&Time	Number of digits after the decimal point when displaying fractional seconds
Scientific (0.0...0E+00)	Number of digits after the decimal point
Octal	Total number of octal digits to display.
Hexadecimal	Total number of hexadecimal digits to display.

The Digits setting has no effect on columns displayed using the integer, octal and hexadecimal formats and also has no effect on columns displaying text waves. It affects time and date/time formats only if the display of fractional seconds is enabled.

With the General format, you can choose to display trailing zeros or not.

With the time format, Igor accepts and displays times from -9999:59:59 to +9999:59:59. This is the supported range of elapsed times. If you are entering a time-of-day rather than an elapsed time, you should restrict yourself to the range 00:00:00 to 23:59:59.

With the Time and Date&Time formats, you can choose to display fractional seconds. Most people dealing with time data use whole numbers of seconds. Therefore, by default, a table does not show fractional seconds. If you want to see fractional seconds in a table, you must choose Show Fractional Seconds from the Table→Format menu. Once you do this, the Table→Digits menu controls the number of digits that appear in the fractional part of the time.

If you always want to see fractional seconds, use the Capture Table Prefs dialog to capture columns whose Show Fractional Seconds setting is on. This applies to tables created after you capture the preference.

When displaying fractional seconds, Igor always displays trailing zeros and the Show Trailing Zeros menu item in the Table→Format menu has no effect.

When choosing a format, remember that single precision floating point data stores about 7 decimal digits and double-precision floating point data stores about 16 decimal digits. If you want to inspect your data down to the last decimal place, you need to select a format with enough digits.

The format does not affect the precision of data that you export via the clipboard from a table to another application. See **Exporting Data from Tables** on page II-252.

Date/Time Formats

As described under **Date Values** on page II-245, the way you enter dates in tables and the way Igor displays them is controlled by the Table Date Format dialog which you invoke through the Table menu. This dialog sets a global preference that determines the date format for all tables. By factory default, the table date format is controlled by the system Regional Settings control panel.

If you set the column format to time, then Igor displays time in elapsed time format. You can enter elapsed times from -9999:59:59 to +9999:59:59. You can precede an elapsed time with a minus sign to enter a negative elapsed time. You can also enter a fractional seconds value, for example 31:35:20.19. To view fractional seconds, choose Show Fractional Seconds from the Format submenu of the Table menu.