

Metro

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<https://github.com/fenjalien/typst-units>

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1 Introduction

The Metro package aims to be a port of the Latex package siunitx. It allows easy typesetting of numbers and units with options. This package is very early in development and many features are missing, so any feature requests or bug reports are welcome!

Metro's name comes from Metrology, the study scientific study of measurement.

2 Usage

2.1 Options

`#metro-setup(..options)`

Options for Metro's can be modified by using the `metro-setup` function. It takes an argument sink and saves any named parameters found. The options for each function are specified in their respective sections.

All options and function parameters use the following types:

Literal Takes the given value directly. Input type is a string, content and sometimes a number.

Switch On-off switches. Input type is a boolean.

Choice Takes a limited number of choices, which are described separately for each option. Input type is a string.

Number Takes a float or integer.

2.2 Numbers

`#num(number, e: none, pm: none, pwr: none, ..options)`

Formats a number. All parameters listed can be given as a string, content (including inside an equation) or a number.

Also note that explicitly written parts of a number when using a number type will be lost as Typst automatically parses them.

number Literal

The number to format.

pm Literal

(default: none)

The uncertainty of the number.

e Literal

(default: none)

The exponent of the number. It can also be given as an integer in the number parameter when it is of type string or content. It should be prefixed with an “e” or “E”.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1×10^{10} | <code>#num("1e10")</code> |
| 1×10^{10} | <code>#num[1E10]</code> |

pwr Literal

(default: none)

The power of the number, it will be attached to the top. No processing is currently done to the power. It can also be passed as an integer in the number parameter when it is of type string or content. It should be prefixed after the exponent with an “^”.

| | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 1^2 | <code>#num("1^2")</code> |
| 1^2 | <code>\$num(1^2)\$</code> |

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 123 | <code>#num(123)</code> |
| 1234 | <code>#num("1234")</code> |
| 12 345 | <code>#num[12345]</code> |
| 0.123 | <code>#num(0.123)</code> |
| 0.1234 | <code>#num("0,1234")</code> |
| 0.123 45 | <code>#num[.12345]</code> |
| 3.45×10^{-4} | <code>#num(e: -4)[3.45]</code> |
| -10^{10} | <code>#num("-1", e: 10, print-unity-mantissa: false)</code> |

2.2.1 Options

2.2.1.1 Parsing

input-decimal-markers Array<Literal> (default: ('\\.', ',', ''))

An array of characters that indicate the separation between the integer and decimal parts of a number. More than one input decimal marker can be used, it will be converted by the package to the appropriate output marker.

retain-explicit-decimal-marker Switch (default: false)

Allows a trailing decimal marker with no decimal part present to be printed.

| | |
|-----|--|
| 10 | <code>#num[10.]</code> |
| 10. | <code>#num(retain-explicit-decimal-marker: true)[10.]</code> |

retain-explicit-plus Switch (default: false)

Allows a leading plus sign to be printed.

| | |
|------|---|
| 345 | <code>#num[+345]</code> |
| +345 | <code>#num(retain-explicit-plus: true)[+345]</code> |

retain-negative-zero Switch (default: false)

Allows a negative sign on an entirely zero value.

| | |
|----|---|
| 0 | <code>#num[-0]</code> |
| -0 | <code>#num(retain-negative-zero: true)[-0]</code> |

2.2.1.2 Post Processing

drop-exponent Switch (default: false)

When true the exponent will be dropped (*after* the processing of exponent)

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 0.01×10^3 | <code>#num("0.01e3")</code> |
| 0.01 | <code>#num("0.01e3", drop-exponent: true)</code> |

drop-uncertainty Switch (default: false)

When true the uncertainty will be dropped.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 0.01 ± 0.02 | <code>#num("0.01", pm: 0.02)</code> |
| 0.01 | <code>#num("0.01", pm: 0.02, drop-uncertainty: true)\</code> |

drop-zero-decimal Switch (default: false)

When true, if the decimal is zero it will be dropped before setting the minimum numbers of digits.

| | |
|-----|--|
| 2.1 | <code>#num[2.1]</code> |
| 2.0 | <code>#num[2.0]</code> |
| 2.1 | <code>#metro-setup(drop-zero-decimal: true)</code> |
| 2 | <code>#num[2.1]</code> |
| | <code>#num[2.0]\</code> |

exponent-mode Choice (default: "input")

How to convert the number to scientific notation. Note that the calculated exponent will be added to the given exponent for all options.

input Does not perform any conversions, the exponent will be displayed as given.

scientific Converts the number such that the integer will always be a single digit.

fixed Convert the number to use the exponent value given by the fixed-exponent option.

engineering Converts the number such that the exponent will be a multiple of three.

threshold Like the scientific option except it will only convert the number when the exponent would be outside the range given by the exponent-thresholds option.

```
0.001          #let nums = [  
0.0100         #num[0.001]  
1200          #num[0.0100]  
 $1 \times 10^{-3}$    #num[1200]  
 $1 \times 10^{-2}$    ]  
1.200  $\times 10^3$  #nums  
 $1 \times 10^{-3}$    #metro-setup(exponent-mode: "scientific")  
 $10 \times 10^{-3}$   #nums  
1.200  $\times 10^3$   #metro-setup(exponent-mode: "engineering")  
00.000 01  $\times 10^2$  #nums  
00.000 100  $\times 10^2$  #metro-setup(exponent-mode: "fixed", fixed-exponent: 2)  
 $12 \times 10^2$     #nums
```

exponent-thresholds Array<Integer> (default: (-3, 3))

Used to control the range of exponents that won't trigger when the exponent-mode is "threshold". The first value is the minimum inclusive, and the last value is the maximum inclusive.

```
#let inputs = (
  "0.001",
  "0.012",
  "0.123",
  "1",
  "12",
  "123",
  "1234"
)

#table(
  columns: (auto,)*3,
  [Input], [Threshold -3:3$], [Threshold -2:2$],
  ..for i in inputs {(
    num(i),
    num(i, exponent-mode: "threshold"),
    num(i, exponent-mode: "threshold", exponent-thresholds: (-2, 2)),
  )}
)
```

| Input | Threshold -3 : 3 | Threshold -2 : 2 |
|-------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 0.001 | 1×10^{-3} | 1×10^{-3} |
| 0.012 | 0.012 | 1.2×10^{-2} |
| 0.123 | 0.123 | 0.123 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 12 | 12 | 12 |
| 123 | 123 | 1.23×10^2 |
| 1234 | 1.234×10^3 | 1.234×10^3 |

fixed-exponent Integer (default: 0)

The exponent value to use when exponent-mode is “fixed”. When zero, this may be used to remove scientific notation from the input.

```
1.23 × 104      #num("1.23e4")
12 300          #num("1.23e4", exponent-mode: "fixed", fixed-exponent: 0)
```

minimum-decimal-digits Integer (default: 0)

May be used to pad the decimal component of a number to a given size.

```
0.123           #num(0.123)
0.123           #num(0.123, minimum-decimal-digits: 2)
0.1230          #num(0.123, minimum-decimal-digits: 4)
```

minimum-integer-digits Integer (default: 0)

May be used to pad the integer component of a number to a given size.

```
123             #num(123)
123             #num(123, minimum-integer-digits: 2)
0123            #num(123, minimum-integer-digits: 4)
```

2.2.1.3 Printing

group-digits Choice (default: "all")

Whether to group digits into blocks to increase the ease of reading of numbers. Takes the values all, none, decimal and integer. Grouping can be activated separately for the integer and decimal parts of a number using the appropriately named values.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 12 345.678 90 | <code>#num[12345.67890]</code> |
| 12345.67890 | <code>#num(group-digits: "none")[12345.67890]</code> |
| 12345.678 90 | <code>#num(group-digits: "decimal")[12345.67890]</code> |
| 12 345.67890 | <code>#num(group-digits: "integer")[12345.67890]</code> |

group-separator Literal (default: `sym.space.thin`)

The separator to use between groups of digits.

| | |
|--------|--|
| 12 345 | <code>#num[12345]</code> |
| 12,345 | <code>#num(group-separator: ",")[12345]</code> |
| 12 345 | <code>#num(group-separator: " ")[12345]</code> |

group-minimum-digits Integer (default: 5)

Controls how many digits must be present before grouping is applied. The number of digits is considered separately for the integer and decimal parts of the number: grouping does not “cross the boundary”.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1234 | <code>#num[1234]</code> |
| 12 345 | <code>#num[12345]</code> |
| 1 234 | <code>#num(group-minimum-digits: 4)[1234]</code> |
| 12 345 | <code>#num(group-minimum-digits: 4)[12345]</code> |
| 1234.5678 | <code>#num[1234.5678]</code> |
| 12 345.678 90 | <code>#num[12345.67890]</code> |
| 1 234.567 8 | <code>#num(group-minimum-digits: 4)[1234.5678]</code> |
| 12 345.678 90 | <code>#num(group-minimum-digits: 4)[12345.67890]</code> |

digit-group-size Integer (default: 3)

Controls the number of digits in each group. Finer control can be achieved using `digit-group-first-size` and `digit-group-other-size`: the first group is that immediately by the decimal point, the other value applies to the second and subsequent groupings.

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 1 234 567 890 | <code>#num[1234567890]</code> |
| 12345 67890 | <code>#num(digit-group-size: 5)[1234567890]</code> |
| 1 23 45 67 890 | <code>#num(digit-group-other-size: 2)[1234567890]</code> |

output-decimal-marker Literal (default: `.`)

The decimal marker used in the output. This can differ from the input marker.

| | |
|------|---|
| 1.23 | <code>#num(1.23)</code> |
| 1,23 | <code>#num(output-decimal-marker: ",")[1.23]</code> |

exponent-base Literal (default: 10)

The base of an exponent.

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 1×2^2 | <code>#num(exponent-base: "2", e: 2)[1]</code> |
|----------------|--|

exponent-product Literal (default: `sym.times`)

The symbol to use as the product between the number and its exponent.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1×10^2 | <code>#num(e: 2, exponent-product: sym.times)[1]</code> |
| $1 \cdot 10^2$ | <code>#num(e: 2, exponent-product: sym.dot)[1]</code> |

output-exponent-marker Literal (default: none)

When not none, the value stored will be used in place of the normal product and base combination.

| | |
|-----|---|
| 1e2 | <code>#num(output-exponent-marker: "e", e: 2)[1]</code> |
| 1E2 | <code>#num(output-exponent-marker: "E", e: 2)[1]</code> |

bracket-ambiguous-numbers Switch (default: true)

There are certain combinations of numerical input which can be ambiguous. This can be corrected by adding brackets in the appropriate place.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| $(1.2 \pm 0.3) \times 10^4$ | <code>#num(e: 4, pm: 0.3)[1.2]</code> |
| $1.2 \pm 0.3 \times 10^4$ | <code>#num(bracket-ambiguous-numbers: false, e: 4, pm: 0.3)[1.2]</code> |

bracket-negative-numbers Switch (default: false)

Whether or not to display negative numbers in brackets.

| | |
|----------|---|
| -15 673 | <code>#num[-15673]</code> |
| (15 673) | <code>#num(bracket-negative-numbers: true)[-15673]</code> |

tight-spacing Switch (default: false)

Compresses spacing where possible.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 2×10^3 | <code>#num(e: 3)[2]</code> |
| 2×10^3 | <code>#num(e: 3, tight-spacing: true)[2]</code> |

print-implicit-plus Switch (default: false)

Force the number to have a sign. This is used if given and if no sign was present in the input.

| | |
|------|---|
| 345 | <code>#num(345)</code> |
| +345 | <code>#num(345, print-implicit-plus: true)</code> |

It is possible to set this behaviour for the exponent and mantissa independently using `print-mantissa-implicit-plus` and `print-exponent-implicit-plus` respectively.

print-unity-mantissa Switch (default: true)

Controls the printing of a mantissa of 1.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1×10^4 | <code>#num(e: 4)[1]</code> |
| 10^4 | <code>#num(e: 4, print-unity-mantissa: false)[1]</code> |

print-zero-exponent Switch (default: false)

Controls the printing of an exponent of 0.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 444 | <code>#num(e: 0)[444]</code> |
| 444×10^0 | <code>#num(e: 0, print-zero-exponent: true)[444]</code> |

print-zero-integer Switch (default: true)

Controls the printing of an integer component of 0.

| | |
|-------|---|
| 0.123 | <code>#num(0.123)</code> |
| .123 | <code>#num(0.123, print-zero-integer: false)</code> |

zero-decimal-as-symbol Switch (default: false)

Whether to show entirely zero decimal parts as a symbol. Uses the symbol stored using `zero-symbol` as the replacement.

| | |
|---------|---|
| 123.00 | <code>#num[123.00]</code> |
| 123.— | <code>#metro-setup(zero-decimal-as-symbol: true)</code> |
| 123.[—] | <code>#num[123.00]</code> |
| | <code>#num(zero-symbol: [#sym.bar.h])[123.00]</code> |

zero-symbol Literal (default: `sym.bar.h`)

The symbol to use when `zero-decimal-as-symbol` is true.

2.3 Units

```
#unit(unit, ..options)
```

Typsets a unit and provides full control over output format for the unit. The type passed to the function can be either a string or some math content.

When using math Typst accepts single characters but multiple characters together are expected to be variables. So Metro defines units and prefixes which you can import to be use.

```
#import "@preview/metro:0.1.0": unit, units, prefixes
#unit($units.kg m/s^2$)
// because `units` and `prefixes` here are modules you can import what you need
#import units: gram, metre, second
#import prefixes: kilo
$unit(kilo gram metre / second^2)$
// You can also just import everything instead
#import units: *
#import prefixes: *
$unit(joule / mole / kelvin)$

kg m s-2
kg m s-2
J mol-1 K-1
```

When using strings there is no need to import any units or prefixes as the string is parsed. Additionally several variables have been defined to allow the string to be more human readable. You can also use the same syntax as with math mode.

```
// String
#unit("kilo gram metre per square second")
// Math equivalent
#unit($kilo gram metre / second^2$)
// String using math syntax
#unit("kilo gram metre / second^2")

kg m s-2
kg m s-2
kg m s-2
```

`per` used as in “metres *per* second” is equivalent to a slash `/`. When using this in a string you don’t need to specify a numerator.

```
#unit("metre per second")
$unit(metre/second)$

#unit("per square becquerel")
#unit("/becquerel^2")

m s-1
m s-1

Bq-2
Bq-2
```

`square` and `cubic` apply their respective powers to the units after them, while `squared` and `cubed` apply to units before them.


```
#unit("square becquerel")
#unit("joule squared per lumen")
#unit("cubic lux volt tesla cubed")
Bq2
J2 lm-1
lx3 V T3
```

Generic powers can be inserted using the `tothe` and `raiseto` functions. `tothe` specifically is equivalent to using caret `^`.

```
#unit("henry tothe(5)")
#unit($henry^5$)
#unit("henry^5")

#unit("raiseto(4.5) radian")
#unit($radian^4.5$)
#unit("radian^4.5")
H5
H5
H5

rad4.5
rad4.5
rad4.5
```

You can also use the `sqrt` function for half powers. If you want to maintain the square root, you must set the `power-half-as-sqrt` option.

```
H0.5          $unit(sqrt(H))$
√H            #unit("sqrt(H)", power-half-as-sqrt: true)\
```

Generic qualifiers are available using the `of` function which is equivalent to using an underscore `_`. Note that when using an underscore for qualifiers in a string with a space, to capture the whole qualifier use brackets `()`.

```
#unit("kilogram of(metal)")
#unit($kilogram_"metal"$)
#unit("kilogram_metal")

#metro-setup(qualifier-mode: "bracket")
#unit("milli mole of(cat) per kilogram of(prod)")
#unit($milli mole_"cat" / kilogram_"prod"$)
#unit("milli mole_(cat) / kilogram_(prod)")

kgmetal
kgmetal
kgmetal

mmol(cat) kg(prod)-1
mmol(cat) kg(prod)-1
mmol(cat) kg(prod)-1
```

2.3.1 Options

inter-unit-product Literal (default: `sym.space.thin`)

The separator between each unit. The default setting is a thin space: another common choice is a centred dot.

$F^2 \text{ lm cd}$ `#unit("farad squared lumen candela")`
 $F^2 \cdot \text{lm} \cdot \text{cd}$ `#unit("farad squared lumen candela", inter-unit-product: \dot{c})`

per-mode Choice (default: "power")

Use to alter the handling of per.

power Reciprocal powers

$\text{J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ `#unit("joule per mole per kelvin")`
 m s^{-2} `#unit("metre per second squared")`

fraction Uses the `math.frac` function (also known as $\$ / \$$) to typeset positive and negative powers of a unit separately.

$\frac{\text{J}}{\text{mol K}}$ `#unit("joule per mole per kelvin", per-mode: "fraction")`
 $\frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$ `#unit("metre per second squared", per-mode: "fraction")`

symbol Separates the two parts of a unit using the symbol in `per-symbol`. This method for displaying units can be ambiguous, and so brackets are added unless `bracket-unit-denominator` is set to `false`. Notice that `bracket-unit-denominator` only applies when `per-mode` is set to `symbol`.

$\text{J}/(\text{mol K})$ `#metro-setup(per-mode: "symbol")`
 m/s^2 `#unit("joule per mole per kelvin")`
`#unit("metre per second squared")`

per-symbol Literal (default: `sym.slash`)

The symbol to use to separate the two parts of a unit when `per-symbol` is "symbol".

`#unit("joule per mole per kelvin", per-mode: "symbol", per-symbol: [div])`
 J div (mol K)

bracket-unit-denominator Switch (default: `true`)

Whether or not to add brackets to unit denominators when `per-symbol` is "symbol".

`#unit("joule per mole per kelvin", per-mode: "symbol", bracket-unit-denominator: false)`
 J/mol K

sticky-per Switch (default: `false`)

Normally, `per` applies only to the next unit given. When `sticky-per` is `true`, this behaviour is changed so that `per` applies to all subsequent units.

$\text{Pa Gy}^{-1} \text{ H}$ `#unit("pascal per gray henry")`
 $\text{Pa Gy}^{-1} \text{ H}^{-1}$ `#unit("pascal per gray henry", sticky-per: true)`

qualifier-mode Choice (default: "subscript")

Sets how unit qualifiers can be printed.

subscript

`#unit("kilogram of(pol) squared per mole of(cat) per hour")`
 $\text{kg(pol)}^2 \text{ mol(cat)}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$

bracket

`#unit("kilogram of(pol) squared per mole of(cat) per hour", qualifier-mode: "bracket")`
 $\text{kg(pol)}^2 \text{ mol(cat)}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$

combine Powers can lead to ambiguity and are automatically detected and brackets added as appropriate.

```
dBi #unit("deci bel of(i)", qualifier-mode: "combine")
```

phrase Used with qualifier-phrase, which allows for example a space or other linking text to be inserted.

```
#metro-setup(qualifier-mode: "phrase", qualifier-phrase: sym.space)
#unit("kilogram of(pol) squared per mole of(cat) per hour")
#metro-setup(qualifier-phrase: [ of ])
#unit("kilogram of(pol) squared per mole of(cat) per hour")
kg pol2 mol cat-1 h-1
kg of pol2 mol of cat-1 h-1
```

power-half-as-sqrt Switch (default: false)

When true the power of 0.5 is shown by giving the unit symbol as a square root. This

```
Hz0.5 #unit("Hz tothe(0.5)")
√Hz #unit("Hz tothe(0.5)", power-half-as-sqrt: true)
```

2.4 Quantities

#qty(number, unit, ..options)

This function combines the functionality of num and unit and formats the number and unit together. The number and unit arguments work exactly like those for the num and unit functions respectively.

```
1.23 J mol-1 K-1 #qty(1.23, "J / mol / kelvin")
0.23 × 107 cd $qty(.23, candel, e: 7)$
1.99/kg #qty(1.99, "per kilogram", per-mode: "symbol")
1.345  $\frac{\text{C}}{\text{mol}}$  #qty(1.345, "C/mol", per-mode: "fraction")
```

2.4.1 Options

allow-quantity-breaks Switch (default: false)

Controls whether the combination of the number and unit can be split across lines.

```
#box(width: 4.5cm)[Some filler text #qty(10, "m")]
#metro-setup(allow-quantity-breaks: true)
#box(width: 4.5cm)[Some filler text #qty(10, "m")]
Some filler text
10 m
Some filler text 10
m
```

quantity-product Literal (default: sym.space.thin)

The product symbol between the number and unit.

```
#qty(2.67, "farad")
#qty(2.67, "farad", quantity-product: sym.space)
#qty(2.67, "farad", quantity-product: none)
2.67 F
2.67 F
2.67F
```

separate-uncertainty Choice (default: "bracket")

When a number has multiple parts, then the unit must apply to all parts of the number.

bracket Places the entire numerical part in brackets and use a single unit symbol.

$(12.3 \pm 0.4) \text{ kg}$ `#qty(12.3, "kg", pm: 0.4)`

repeat Prints the unit for each part of the number.

$12.3 \text{ kg} \pm 0.4 \text{ kg}$ `#qty(12.3, "kg", pm: 0.4, separate-uncertainty: "repeat")`

single Prints only one unit symbol: mathematically incorrect.

$12.3 \pm 0.4 \text{ kg}$ `#qty(12.3, "kg", pm: 0.4, separate-uncertainty: "single")`

3 Meet the Units

The following tables show the currently supported prefixes, units and their abbreviations. Note that unit abbreviations that have single letter commands are not available for import for use in math. This is because math mode already accepts single letter variables.

4 Creating

The following functions can be used to define custom units, prefixes, powers and qualifiers that can be used with the unit function.

4.1 Units

`#declare-unit(unit, symbol, ..options)`

Declare's a custom unit to be used with the unit and qty functions.

unit string

The string to use to identify the unit for string input.

symbol Literal

The unit's symbol. A string or math content can be used. When using math content it is recommended to pass it through unit first.

```
#let inch = "in"
#declare-unit("inch", inch)
#unit("inch / s")
#unit($inch / s$)
in s-1
in s-1
```

4.2 Prefixes

`#create-prefix(symbol)`

Use this function to correctly create the symbol for a prefix. Metro uses Typst's `math.class` function with the `class` parameter "unary" to designate a prefix. This function does it for you.

symbol Literal

The prefix's symbol. A string or math content can be used. When using math content it is recommended to pass it through unit first.

`#declare-prefix(prefix, symbol, power-tens)`

Declare's a custom prefix to be used with the unit and qty functions.

prefix string

The string to use to identify the prefix for string input.

symbol Literal

The prefix's symbol. This should be the output of the `create-prefix` function specified above.

power-tens Number

The power ten of the prefix.

```
#let myria = create-prefix("my")
#declare-prefix("myria", myria, 4)
#unit("myria meter")
#unit($myria meter$)

mym
mym
```

4.3 Powers

`#declare-power`(before, after, power)

This function adds two symbols for string input, one for use before a unit, the second for use after a unit, both of which are equivalent to the power.

before string

The string that specifies this power before a unit.

after string

The string that specifies this power after a unit.

power Number

The power.

```
#declare-power("quartic", "tothefourth", 4)
#unit("kilogram tothefourth")
#unit("quartic metre")

kg4
m4
```

4.4 Qualifiers

`#declare-qualifier`(qualifier, symbol)

This function defines a custom qualifier for string input.

qualifier string

The string that specifies this qualifier.

symbol Literal

The qualifier's symbol. Can be string or content.

```
#declare-qualifier("polymer", "pol")
#declare-qualifier("catalyst", "cat")
#unit("gram polymer per mole catalyst per hour")

gpol molcat-1 h-1
```