

Package ‘signs’

May 9, 2026

Title Insert Proper Minus Signs

Version 0.1.2

Description Provides convenience functions to replace hyphen-minuses (ASCII 45) with proper minus signs (Unicode character 2212). The true minus matches the plus symbol in width, line thickness, and height above the baseline. It was designed for mathematics, looks better in presentation, and is understood properly by screen readers.

URL <https://benjaminwolfe.github.io/signs>

BugReports <https://github.com/BenjaminWolfe/signs/issues>

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Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

Imports scales, rlang (>= 0.4.0)

RoxygenNote 7.0.2

Suggests ggplot2, dplyr, ggrepel, testthat (>= 2.1.0), knitr, rmarkdown, covr

VignetteBuilder knitr

NeedsCompilation no

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Contents

signs	2
signs_format	3

Index	5
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signs

*Add proper minus signs***Description**

The true minus sign (Unicode 2212) – neither an em dash, nor an en dash, nor the usual hyphen-minus – is highly underrated. It makes everything look better!

Usage

```
signs(
  x,
  ...,
  format = getOption("signs.format", scales::number),
  add_plusses = getOption("signs.add.plusses", FALSE),
  trim_leading_zeros = getOption("signs.trim.leading.zeros", FALSE),
  label_at_zero = getOption("signs.label.at.zero", "none")
)
```

Arguments

x	Numeric vector.
...	Other arguments passed on to format.
format	Any function that takes a numeric vector and returns a character vector, such as <code>scales::number</code> , <code>scales::comma</code> , or <code>scales::percent</code> (all of which are documented at number_format).
add_plusses	Logical. Should positive values have plus signs?
trim_leading_zeros	Logical. Should signs trim leading zeros from values of x between -1 and 1?
label_at_zero	Character. What should be returned when $x = 0$? Options "none" (no change), "blank" (a zero-length string), or "symbol" (add a plus-minus symbol).

Details

`add_plusses`, `trim_leading_zeros`, and `label_at_zero` are offered for convenience.

The options `signs.format`, `signs.add.plusses`, `signs.trim.leading.zeros`, and `signs.label.at.zero` are set when the package is loaded to `scales::number`, `FALSE`, `FALSE`, and "none", respectively. If the package is not loaded and these options are not otherwise set, `signs` will use those defaults.

`label_at_zero` is applied *after* format; that is, if it is "blank" and you've specified an accuracy of 0.1, `-0.04` will show as blank.

Value

A UTF-8 character vector

Examples

```
x <- seq(-5, 5)
scales::number(x)
signs(x)
signs(x, accuracy = 1, scale = 1, format = scales::percent)
signs(x, add_plusses = TRUE)
signs(x, add_plusses = TRUE, label_at_zero = "blank")
signs(x, add_plusses = TRUE, label_at_zero = "symbol")
signs(x, accuracy = .1, scale = .1, trim_leading_zeros = TRUE)
```

signs_format

A function factory to add proper minus signs

Description

Returns a *function* that will format numeric vectors with proper minus signs.

Usage

```
signs_format(
  ...,
  format = getOption("signs.format", scales::number),
  add_plusses = getOption("signs.add.plusses", FALSE),
  trim_leading_zeros = getOption("signs.trim.leading.zeros", FALSE),
  label_at_zero = getOption("signs.label.at.zero", "none")
)
```

Arguments

...	Other arguments passed on to format.
format	Any function that takes a numeric vector and returns a character vector, such as <code>scales::number</code> , <code>scales::comma</code> , or <code>scales::percent</code> (all of which are documented at number_format).
add_plusses	Logical. Should positive values have plus signs?
trim_leading_zeros	Logical. Should signs trim leading zeros from values of <code>x</code> between -1 and 1?
label_at_zero	Character. What should be returned when <code>x = 0</code> ? Options "none" (no change), "blank" (a zero-length string), or "symbol" (add a plus-minus symbol).

Details

See [signs](#) for details.

Value

A function that takes a numeric vector and returns a UTF-8 character vector

Examples

```
x <- seq(-5, 5)
scales::number(x)
```

```
f1 <- signs_format()
f1(x)
```

```
f2 <- signs_format(accuracy = 1, scale = 1, format = scales::percent)
f2(x)
```

```
f3 <- signs_format(add_plusses = TRUE)
f3(x)
```

```
f4 <- signs_format(add_plusses = TRUE, label_at_zero = "blank")
f4(x)
```

```
f5 <- signs_format(add_plusses = TRUE, label_at_zero = "symbol")
f5(x)
```

```
f6 <- signs_format(accuracy = .1, scale = .1, trim_leading_zeros = TRUE)
f6(x)
```

Index

number_format, [2](#), [3](#)

signs, [2](#), [3](#)

signs_format, [3](#)