digit exponent powers - don't work
$20^{-12}$

But it seems it should - ConTEXt magazine3 May 2003, from which the following non-working examples come
spacing and decimal points
12345000.90

Has the same effect as this hard-coded beasty.
12345000.78

Digits without exponents seem to work....
1230.92
12460800.89

Now a little challenge - write out the speed of light, with units. So to combine units with digits
$299792458 \mathrm{~m} \cdot \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$
So try the digits command - two possibilities
Conclusion digits and units don't play nicely together...unless someone has a nice solution
Maybe a bit hard coding - fugly, but maybe...
299792458 meter inverse second
$299792458 \mathrm{~m} \cdot \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$
Now for trying to write in standard form..first the inelegant form, but giving a passable result
Speed $=3 \times 10^{8} \mathrm{~m} \cdot \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$
But I'd guess this will not be inside a tex box, so the layout might be dodgy... numbers and units should not be split over two lines...
A much more elegant solution would be:
Speed $=3^{8} \mathrm{~m} \cdot \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$
This one would be cleanly coded, if only the exponentiation worked...
spread of a physical quantity One more, whilst I'm here. People will want to indicate a spread in a physical quantity, so:
$400-700 \mathrm{THz}$
You can again kludge, by
400-700 THz
But elegant coding it ain't . . .and again probably no bounding tex box, so may get split over two lines.

