
Subject: Re: complex arithmetic
Posted by [stl](#) on Wed, 06 Apr 1994 06:49:29 GMT
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In article <1994Apr5.123735.8305@news.uit.no> royd@zapffe.mat-stat.uit.no (Roy Einar Dragseth) writes:

```
> Why isn't this supported:
> IDL> x = complex(0.,1.)
> IDL> print, x^(1./3.)
> % Operation illegal with complex type.
> % Execution halted at $MAIN$ .
>
> We are running IDL. Version 3.5.1 (hp-ux hp_pa) on a HP9000/755.
>
Hi,
```

neat little problem! I just tested this on my Sparc 10 running Solaris 4.1 with IDL version 3.5.1 and the problem seems even worse then you stated. The following works:

```
IDL> x = complex(0.,1.)
IDL> print,x^(3)
(  -0.00000,  -1.00000
```

but, as soon as you change the print to include a float things blow up:

```
IDL> print,x^(3.)
% Operation illegal with complex type.
% Execution halted at $MAIN$ .
```

does anyone understand this? Should such an operation even be allowed?

-stephen

--
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Swiss Meteorological Institute, Zuerich / LIVE TO TELL ABOUT IT
01 256 93 85 / (and pray for snow)
