
Subject: Re: Complex numbers

Posted by [mmeron](#) on Tue, 14 Oct 2003 20:01:10 GMT

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In article <162586e3.0310141140.406f5659@posting.google.com>, biomedthesis2002@yahoo.com (New2IDL) writes:

> hi,

> I have a numerical equation

> $a = (-0.2)^{-2.2}$.

>

> IDL gives me an error message "Program caused arithmetic error:

> Floating illegal operand"

>

> But MATLAB gives the output, which is complex number. I am not sure

> how to solve this in IDL. Can anybody help me on this please?

>

IDL needs to be told that you want a complex operation

```
IDL> print, (-0.2)^(-2.2)
```

```
      -NaN
```

```
IDL> print, (complex(-0.2))^(-2.2)
```

```
(   27.9056,   -20.2746)
```

Mati Meron

| "When you argue with a fool,

meron@cars.uchicago.edu

| chances are he is doing just the same"
