Subject: Re: negation operator
Posted by JD Smith on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 16:17:20 GMT
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On Thu, 13 Jul 2006 06:31:18 -0700, greg michael wrote:

> This is odd...
>
> IDL> print,-100 > -90 < 90
>
> print,-100 > -90 < 90
>   ^
> Syntax error.
> IDL> print,-100 > (-90) < 90
>   -90
>
> Is there any reason why a negation operator should ever come lower than
> anything else?

You get the same problem with exponentiation, which is 2 steps up in
the operator precedence chain (see
http://www.dfanning.com/misc_tips/precedence.html).

IDL> print, 2.^-2

print, 2.^-2
        ^
% Syntax error.
IDL> print, 2.^(-2)
    0.250000

So it's not that fact that `-' shares precedence with '>', just that
both are left-right associative, so you can't put two adjacent. This
doesn't always hold though... for example, how about `++' (2nd highest
precedence) and '~' (2nd to last precedence):

IDL> a=1
IDL> print,~++a
 0

but how about:

IDL> print,~-a

print,~-a
       ^
% Syntax error.

This *should* work. Negation is priority 5, logical negation is priority 8, so it should evaluate -a first, and then ~(-a). Not sure if this should be considered a bug or just a weakness of the interpreter.

JD