
Subject: Re: Commutativity of multiplication
Posted by [Sven Geier](#) on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 21:54:59 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

[...]

> It also explains this:

>

> IDL> f = 500L

> IDL> g = 1UL

> IDL> help, g*(-f)

> <Expression> ULONG = 4294966796

> IDL> help, (-f)*g

Wow. This is ... uhm ... "more interesting than I thought". There's whole realms of oddity here that I never knew existed:

```
IDL> help,f,g
```

```
F      LONG    =    -500
```

```
G      ULONG   =      1
```

```
IDL> print,f*g
```

```
-500
```

```
IDL> print,g*f
```

```
4294966796
```

```
IDL> if f*g eq g*f then print,f*g," equals ",g*f
```

```
-500 equals  4294966796
```

So for the sake of multiplication preservation of a sign is considered important enough to break commutativity, but for the sake of comparison, type conversion is performed that changes the value of an expression by four billion.

Some days I can get all my exercise just by shaking my head over these kinds of oddities...

Thanks for the reply, tho ...

- S

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<http://www.sgeier.net>

My real email address does not contain any "Z"s.
