
Subject: Re: Math Question

Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Mon, 30 Oct 2006 20:35:57 GMT

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Jean H. wrote:

> Jo Klein wrote:

>

>>> Just out of curiosity, has anyone tried this on Matlab? I'd expect the
>>> same (or similar) results, but it'd be interesting if they weren't.

>>

>>

>> Matlab returns the real part of the argument if it's a real number you
>> put in:

>>>> -0.1^2.0

>>

>> ans =

>> -0.0100

>>

>>>> -0.1^2.01

>> ans =

>> -0.0098

>>

>>>> complex(-0.1,0)^2.01

>> ans =

>> 0.0098 + 0.0003i

>> Hmm - I don't know if this is more desirable than IDL's behaviour, I

>> think it's fair enough to warn people who try to do something like

>> that with their data. In Matlab, try and invert the second operation

>> ... this can't be good. Suppose there are arguments for both approaches.

>> Jo

>

>

> It depends indeed...

>

>>> -0.1^2.1

> ans =

> -0.0079

>

>>> (-0.1)^2.1

> ans =

> 0.0076 + 0.0025i

>

> You don't have to specify the complex() statement!

>

> Jean

for clarity:

>> a=-0.1

```
a =  
-0.1000
```

```
>> a^2  
ans =  
0.0100
```

```
>> a^2.1  
ans =  
0.0076 + 0.0025i
```
