
Subject: Re: Math Question

Posted by [Jo Klein](#) on Mon, 30 Oct 2006 20:17:55 GMT

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> 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
