
Subject: Re: Math Question

Posted by [Braedley](#) on Mon, 30 Oct 2006 18:22:54 GMT

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edward.s.meinel@aero.org wrote:

> Rob wrote:

>> In general, powers of negative numbers are complex so you should start
>> with that assumption in the expression:

>>

>> IDL> print,(dcomplex(-1.0,0.0))^2.01

>> (0.99950656, 0.031410729)

>> IDL> print,(dcomplex(-1.0,0.0))^2.0

>> (1.0000000, -2.4492127e-016)

>>

>> It would be nice if IDL told you this rather than throwing a NaN at

>> you.

>

> Actually, to be consistent, IDL should just return a complex number.

> One of the reasons that I've been using IDL is that it automatically

> changes the variable TYPE when necessary so that I don't have to keep

> track of whether I'm operating on a BYTE, LONG, DOUBLE, whatever... Now

> I find out that it's "mostly" true (but who can refuse a nice mutton

> sandwich?).

>

> I would consider this a bug.

>

> Ed "to blame" Meinel

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.

Braedley
