
Subject: Re: Math Question

Posted by edward.s.meinel@aero on Mon, 30 Oct 2006 15:19:01 GMT

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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
