
Subject: sqrt(-1)??? answer depends on platform!!!
Posted by [brooker](#) on Thu, 07 Dec 1995 08:00:00 GMT
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An observation I just made for IDL ver 3.5.1 and how it interprets SQRT(-1).
This should produce an error.

On a VAX 4000 WITH openvms you get:

```
IDL> a=sqrt(-1)
% Program caused arithmetic error: Square root of negative number
% Detected at: $MAIN$ (SQRT).
```

On a alpha running open vms you get:

```
IDL> a=sqrt(-1)
IDL> print,a
% PRINT: Variable is undefined: A.
% Execution halted at $MAIN$ (PRINT).
IDL>
```

On an alpha running unix/ultrix/osf:

```
IDL> a=sqrt(-1)
IDL> print,a
0.00000
```

peter b.
