
Subject: Re: Need Math Instruction

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 07 Mar 2013 03:25:21 GMT

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wlandsman writes:

```
> An exponent has higher precedence than negation.  So
>
> IDL> print,(-0.5)^(0.5)
>      -NaN
> % Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand
>
> i.e. you can't take the square root of a negative number, but
>
> IDL> print,-0.5^(0.5)
>      -0.707107
>
> says to negate the result of 0.5^(0.5)
```

Ah, Occam's Razor again. I had conspiracy theories in mind. ;-)

Thanks!

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
