
Subject: fractional powers of negative numbers?

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Thu, 24 Apr 1997 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Can someone explain this to me? Is it possible to compute the fractional power of a negative number? IDL does it on single negative values but not on arrays containing negative values.

```
IDL> print,findgen(11)-5
```

```
-5.00000  -4.00000  -3.00000  -2.00000  
-1.00000   0.00000   1.00000   2.00000  
 3.00000   4.00000   5.00000
```

```
IDL> print,(findgen(11)-5)^1.51
```

```
-1.#IND0  -1.#IND0  -1.#IND0  -1.#IND0  
-1.#IND0   0.00000   1.00000   2.84810  
 5.25355   8.11168  11.3617
```

```
% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand
```

```
IDL> print,-2.^1.51
```

```
-2.84810
```

```
IDL> print,-5.^1.51
```

```
-11.3617
```

Med Bennett

bennettm@boulder.pti-enviro.com
