I strongly get the idea that this is one of those "Doctor, it hurts
when I do this." "Don't do that." type posts, but here it goes. In IDL
v3.0.0 on a sparcstation 10, running 4.0.3b there seems to be an
inconsistency with how logarithms of negative numbers are done. Don't
sugguest that I shouldn't be doing this in the first place, I know I
shouldn't, however what IDL is giving me seems a tad bit weird. I do
know that if I do a
IDL>tmp=check_math(trap=0) & delvar,tmp
in my startupfile, IDL returns NaN's for the illegal values, but it
does not seem to do so by default.

Greg Hennessy


```
> idl
IDL. Version 3.0.0 (sunos sparc).
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% Compiled module: CINIT.
SUNIDL>x=findgen(6)-3
SUNIDL>print,x
   -3.00000    -2.00000    -1.00000     0.00000     1.00000     2.00000
SUNIDL>print,alog10(x)
% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand
% Detected at $MAIN$   (ALOG10).
% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating divide by 0
% Detected at $MAIN$   (ALOG10).
    200000.    200000.    200000.     0.00000     0.00000    0.301030
SUNIDL>print,alog10(x)
% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand
% Detected at $MAIN$   (ALOG10).
% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating divide by 0
% Detected at $MAIN$   (ALOG10).
    1.00000     1.00000     1.00000     0.00000     0.00000    0.301030
SUNIDL>
```

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