
Subject: cubic root

Posted by [fd_luni](#) on Tue, 16 Apr 2013 15:08:12 GMT

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Hi all

I have a question about cubic roots. The cubic roots of a negative number there exists. The cubic root of -1 is -1, of -2 is -1.25 and so on why when I typed in IDL to calculate the cubic root of a negative value it prints out NaN which means Not a Number?

E.g. I typed: $(-1)^{1.0/3}$ and it prints out NaN

Is there any way to fix it and don't get NaNs but get the actual value?

Best Wishes

Maria

Subject: Re: cubic root

Posted by [mairan.teodoro](#) on Thu, 25 Apr 2013 17:40:11 GMT

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Hi Maria,

One question, what version of IDL are you using?

I'm using 8.2 and, as Lajos mentioned, the command

IDL> print, $(-1)^{1.0/3}$

results in -0.33333 for me.

m.

Subject: Re: cubic root

Posted by [fd_luni](#) on Fri, 26 Apr 2013 09:11:18 GMT

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I am using 6.4 version.

Yes you are write I have wrote it wrong.

IDL> print, $(-1)^{1.0/3}$

results in -0.33333 for me as well.

Subject: Re: cubic root

Posted by [mairan.teodoro](#) on Fri, 26 Apr 2013 13:43:49 GMT

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Hi Maria!

Great to know that you found the problem!

However, to find the cubic root you should use any of the suggestions given by the people in this thread.

Best regards,
m.
