When -2^2 does not equal -2^2

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Table 1: Squaring a negative number and raising a negative number to a second power: A comparison of results across several software packages.

Program	-2^2	Result	-2^{2^3}	Result
Calc	-2^2	4	-2^2^3	64
Excel	-2^2	4	-2^2^3	64
Gnumeric [1]	-2^2	4	-2^2^3	256
Perl	-2**2	4	-2**2**3	256
Octave	-2^2	-4	-2**2**3	-64
Python	-2**2	-4	-2**2**3	-256
R	-2^2	-4	-2^2^3	-256
Matlab	-2^2	-4	-2^2^3	-64
Sage	-2**2	-4	-2**2**3	-256

1 In Gnumeric if one enters = `-2^2` in a cell, Gnumeric automatically converts the equation to =`(-2)^2`. Similarly, =`-2^2^3` gives =`(-2)^(2^3)`

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