- 1. Floats and Decimals have distinct benefits and drawbacks. Floats offer efficient computation and memory usage, but their limited precision can lead to rounding errors in decimal arithmetic. On the other hand, Decimals provide precise decimal arithmetic with no rounding issues, ensuring accurate calculations. However, Decimals are slower and require more memory compared to floats. The choice between the two depends on the specific requirements of the application. If exact decimal precision is crucial, as in financial applications or when dealing with decimal quantities, Decimals are the preferred choice. For general-purpose arithmetic with higher performance, floats may be more suitable.
- 2. Decimal('1.200') and Decimal('1.2') represent the same value, but they have different internal states. While they both correspond to the exact same decimal value, the presence of trailing zeros in Decimal('1.200') indicates a higher precision compared to Decimal('1.2'). The trailing zeros explicitly define the precision, making Decimal('1.200') suitable for cases where exact decimal representation is needed.
- 3. When checking the equality of Decimal('1.200') and Decimal('1.2'), the result will be False. Decimal objects consider trailing zeros significant, so the two objects are not considered equal. It is essential to be cautious when comparing Decimal objects to avoid unexpected outcomes due to differences in internal precision.
- 4. Starting a Decimal object with a string, such as Decimal('1.200'), is preferable to using a floating-point value. This is because converting a floating-point value to Decimal can introduce rounding errors due to the inherent imprecision of floats. Starting with a string ensures an exact representation without any rounding issues, preserving the intended precision of the decimal value.
- 5. Combining Decimal objects with integers is straightforward and preserves the required precision. Decimal handles the necessary conversions and automatically adjusts the precision to maintain accuracy in arithmetic operations involving Decimal objects and integers. This seamless integration between Decimal and integer data types allows for precise calculations even when dealing with large or small integer values.
- 6. Combining Decimal objects with floating-point values may introduce precision discrepancies. Floating-point numbers inherently have limited precision and cannot represent all decimal values accurately. When mixing Decimal and float values in arithmetic operations, the resulting precision may not be as expected, and rounding errors can occur. Therefore, it is generally advisable to convert floats to Decimal objects before performing arithmetic to maintain accuracy.
- 7. The Fraction class enables expressing quantities with absolute precision. For instance, consider the fraction Fraction(1, 3). This representation precisely captures one-third without any rounding issues or loss of precision.
- 8. A quantity that can be accurately expressed by the Decimal or Fraction classes but not by a floating-point value includes certain exact decimal values with repeating digits, such as 1/3 or 1/7. Floats cannot precisely represent such values, leading to approximation errors.
- 9. The internal state of Fraction(1, 2) and Fraction(1, 2) is not the same, even though they represent the same fraction. The Fraction class reduces the fraction to its simplest form, so both fractions will be reduced to Fraction(1, 2) internally.
- 10. The Fraction class and the integer type (int) are related through containment, as Fraction can represent integers with a denominator of 1. Fraction objects can handle both fractions and whole numbers, making them a versatile choice for exact fractional arithmetic.