

Table 23.4
Max, Min, and Epsilon
Macros in <float.h>

Name	Value	Description
FLT_MAX	$\geq 10^{+37}$	Largest finite value
DBL_MAX	$\geq 10^{+37}$	
LDBL_MAX	$\geq 10^{+37}$	
FLT_MIN	$\leq 10^{-37}$	Smallest positive value
DBL_MIN	$\leq 10^{-37}$	
LDBL_MIN	$\leq 10^{-37}$	
FLT_EPSILON	$\leq 10^{-5}$	Smallest representable difference between two numbers
DBL_EPSILON	$\leq 10^{-9}$	
LDBL_EPSILON	$\leq 10^{-9}$	

C99 C99 provides two other macros, DECIMAL_DIG and FLT_EVAL_METHOD. DECIMAL_DIG represents the number of significant digits (base 10) in the widest supported floating type; it has a minimum value of 10. The value of FLT_EVAL_METHOD indicates whether an implementation will perform floating-point arithmetic using greater range and precision than is strictly necessary. If this macro has the value 0, for example, then adding two float values would be done in the normal way. If it has the value 1, however, then the float values would be converted to double before the addition is performed. Table 23.5 lists the possible values of FLT_EVAL_METHOD. (Negative values not shown in the table indicate implementation-defined behavior.)

Table 23.5
Evaluation Methods

Value	Meaning
-1	Indeterminable
0	Evaluate all operations and constants just to the range and precision of the type
1	Evaluate operations and constants of type float and double to the range and precision of the double type
2	Evaluate all operations and constants to the range and precision of the long double type

Most of the macros in <float.h> are of interest only to experts in numerical analysis, making it probably one of the least-used headers in the standard library.

23.2 The <limits.h> Header: Sizes of Integer Types

The <limits.h> header provides macros that define the range of each integer type (including the character types). <limits.h> declares no types or functions.

One set of macros in <limits.h> deals with the character types: char, signed char, and unsigned char. Table 23.6 lists these macros and shows the maximum or minimum value of each.

The other macros in <limits.h> deal with the remaining integer types: short int, unsigned short int, int, unsigned int, long int, and