

pointer parameter, but it always has `int *` type.) Having a type-generic macro for `modf` would pose some difficult problems. For example, the meaning of `modf(d, &f)`, where `d` has type `double` and `f` has type `float`, is unclear: are we calling the `modf` function or the `modff` function? Rather than develop a complicated set of rules for a single function (and probably taking into account that `modf` isn't a very popular function), the C99 committee chose not to provide a type-generic `modf` macro.

**Q:** When a `<tgmath.h>` macro is invoked with an integer argument, the `double` version of the corresponding function is called. Shouldn't the `float` version be called, according to the usual arithmetic conversions? [p. 725]

usual arithmetic conversions ► 7.4

**A:** We're dealing with a macro, not a function, so the usual arithmetic conversions don't come into play. The C99 committee had to create a rule for determining which version of a function would be called when an integer argument is passed to a `<tgmath.h>` macro. Although the committee at one point considered having the `float` version called (for consistency with the usual arithmetic conversions), they eventually decided that choosing the `double` version was better. First, it's safer: converting an integer to `float` may cause a loss of accuracy, especially for integer types whose width is 32 bits or more. Second, it causes fewer surprises for the programmer. Suppose that `i` is an integer variable. If the `<tgmath.h>` header isn't included, the call `sin(i)` calls the `sin` function. On the other hand, if `<tgmath.h>` is included, the call `sin(i)` invokes the `sin` macro; because `i` is an integer, the preprocessor replaces the `sin` macro with the `sin` function, and the end result is the same.

**Q:** When a program invokes one of the type-generic macros in `<tgmath.h>`, how does the implementation determine which function to call? Is there a way for a macro to test the types of its arguments?

**A:** One unusual aspect of `<tgmath.h>` is that its macros need to be able to test the types of the arguments that are passed to them. C has no features for testing types, so it would normally be impossible to write such a macro. The `<tgmath.h>` macros rely on special facilities provided by a particular compiler to make such testing possible. We don't know what these facilities are, and they're not guaranteed to be portable from one compiler to another.

## Exercises

### Section 27.1

1. (C99) Locate the declarations of the `intN_t` and `uintN_t` types in the `<stdint.h>` header installed on your system. Which values of `N` are supported?
2. (C99) Write the parameterized macros `INT32_C(n)`, `UINT32_C(n)`, `INT64_C(n)`, and `UINT64_C(n)`, assuming that the `int` type and `long int` types are 32 bits wide and the `long long int` type is 64 bits wide. *Hint:* Use the `##` preprocessor operator to attach