For example, the format string `"ISBN %d-%d-%ld-%d"` specifies that the input will consist of:

the letters `ISBN`
possibly some white-space characters
an integer
the - character
an integer (possibly preceded by white-space characters)
the - character
a long integer (possibly preceded by white-space characters)
the - character
an integer (possibly preceded by white-space characters)

...scanf Conversion Specifications

Conversion specifications for ...scanf functions are actually a little simpler than those for ...printf functions. A ...scanf conversion specification consists of the character `%` followed by the items listed below (in the order shown).

- `*` (optional). The presence of `*` signifies *assignment suppression:* an input item is read but not assigned to an object. Items matched using `*` aren't included in the count that ...scanf returns.

- *Maximum field width* (optional). The maximum field width limits the number of characters in an input item: conversion of the item ends if this number is reached. White-space characters skipped at the beginning of a conversion don't count.

- *Length modifier* (optional). The presence of a length modifier indicates that the object in which the input item will be stored has a type that's longer or shorter than is normal for a particular conversion specification. Table 22.11 lists each length modifier, the conversion specifiers with which it may be used, and the type indicated by the combination of the two. (Any combination of length modifier and conversion specifier not shown in the table causes undefined behavior.)

Table 22.11
Length Modifiers for
...scanf Functions

Length Modifier	*Conversion Specifiers*	*Meaning*
hh[†]	d. i. o. u. x. X. n	`signed char *, unsigned char *`
h	d. i. o. u. x. X. n	`short int *, unsigned short int *`
l *(ell)*	d. i. o. u. x. X. n	`long int *, unsigned long int *`
	a. A. e. E. f. F. g. G	`double *`
	c. s. or [	`wchar_t *`
ll[†] *(ell-ell)*	d. i. o. u. x. X. n	`long long int *,` `unsigned long long int *`
j[†]	d. i. o. u. x. X. n	`intmax_t *, uintmax_t *`
z[†]	d. i. o. u. x. X. n	`size_t *`
t[†]	d. i. o. u. x. X. n	`ptrdiff_t *`
L	a. A. e. E. f. F. g. G	`long double *`

[†]C99 only