23 Library Support for Numbers and Character Data

This chapter describes the five most important library headers that provide support for working with numbers, characters, and character strings. Sections 23.1 and 23.2 cover the `<float.h>` and `<limits.h>` headers, which contain macros describing the characteristics of numeric and character types. Sections 23.3 and 23.4 describe the `<math.h>` header, which provides mathematical functions. Section 23.3 discusses the C89 version of `<math.h>`; Section 23.4 covers the C99 additions, which are so extensive that I've chosen to cover them separately. Sections 23.5 and 23.6 are devoted to the `<ctype.h>` and `<string.h>` headers, which provide character functions and string functions, respectively.

C99 adds several headers that also deal with numbers, characters, and strings. The `<wchar.h>` and `<wctype.h>` headers are discussed in Chapter 25. Chapter 27 covers `<complex.h>`, `<fenv.h>`, `<inttypes.h>`, `<stdint.h>`, and `<tgmath.h>`.

23.1 The `<float.h>` Header: Characteristics of Floating Types

The `<float.h>` header provides macros that define the range and accuracy of the `float`, `double`, and `long double` types. There are no types or functions in `<float.h>`.

rounding direction ➤23.4

Two macros apply to all floating types. The `FLT_ROUNDS` macro represents the current rounding direction for floating-point addition. Table 23.1 shows the possible values of `FLT_ROUNDS`. (Values not shown in the table indicate implementation-defined rounding behavior.)