

Table 1. IEEE 754 single precision standard.

exponent	fraction	representation
0	0	0
0	nonzero	denormalized numbers
[1, 254]	anything	normalized numbers
255	0	$\pm\infty$
255	nonzero	NaN

Table 2. Comparison among the IEEE 754 half, single, and double precision standard.

type	significand digits	range of exponent
half	10 + 1	$[-14, +15]$
single	23 + 1	$[-126, +127]$
double	52 + 1	$[-1022, +1023]$

The smallest positive normalized single precision floating-point number is

$$(1. \underbrace{0 \dots 0}_{23 \text{ zeros}})_2 \times 2^{1-127} = 2^{-126}$$

The largest positive normalized single precision floating-point number is

$$(1. \underbrace{1 \dots 1}_{23 \text{ ones}})_2 \times 2^{254-127} = (2 - 2^{-23}) \times 2^{127} = 2^{128} - 2^{104}$$

Hence the range of **normalized** single precision floating-point numbers is

$$\left[- \left(2^{128} - 2^{104} \right), -2^{-126} \right] \cup \left[2^{-126}, 2^{128} - 2^{104} \right]$$

The smallest positive denormalized single precision floating-point number is

$$(0. \underbrace{0 \dots 0}_{22 \text{ zeros}} 1)_2 \times 2^{-126} = 2^{-23} \times 2^{-126} = 2^{-149}$$

The largest positive normalized single precision floating-point number is

$$(0. \underbrace{1 \dots 1}_{23 \text{ ones}})_2 \times 2^{-126} = (1 - 2^{-23}) \times 2^{-126} = 2^{-126} - 2^{-149}$$

Hence the range of **denormalized** single precision floating-point numbers is

$$\left[- \left(2^{-126} - 2^{-149} \right), -2^{-149} \right] \cup \left[2^{-149}, 2^{-126} - 2^{-149} \right]$$

Similarly, we can get the corresponding ranges for the half precision standard and the double precision standard. The result is summarized in Table 2 and Table 3.

Table 3. Comparison among the ranges of (positive) numbers of the IEEE 754 half, single, and double precision standard.

type	denormalized numbers	normalized numbers
half	$[2^{-14-10}, (1 - 2^{-10}) \times 2^{-14}]$	$[2^{-14}, (2 - 2^{-10}) \times 2^{15}]$
single	$[2^{-126-23}, (1 - 2^{-23}) \times 2^{-126}]$	$[2^{-126}, (2 - 2^{-23}) \times 2^{127}]$
double	$[2^{-1022-52}, (1 - 2^{-52}) \times 2^{-1022}]$	$[2^{-1022}, (2 - 2^{-52}) \times 2^{1023}]$