

8. Floating-point Numbers II

Floating-point Number Systems; IEEE Standard; Limits of Floating-point Arithmetics; Floating-point Guidelines; Harmonic Numbers

Floating-point Number Systems

A Floating-point number system is defined by the four natural numbers:

- $\beta \geq 2$, the base,
- $p \geq 1$, the precision (number of places),
- e_{\min} , the smallest possible exponent,
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Notation:

$$F(\beta, p, e_{\min}, e_{\max})$$

Floating-point number Systems

$F(\beta, p, e_{\min}, e_{\max})$ contains the numbers

$$\pm \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} d_i \beta^{-i} \cdot \beta^e,$$

$$d_i \in \{0, \dots, \beta - 1\}, \quad e \in \{e_{\min}, \dots, e_{\max}\}.$$

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represented in base β :

$$\pm d_0 \bullet d_1 \dots d_{p-1} \times \beta^e,$$

Floating-point Number Systems

Representations of the decimal number 0.1 (with $\beta = 10$):

$$1.0 \cdot 10^{-1}, \quad 0.1 \cdot 10^0, \quad 0.01 \cdot 10^1, \quad \dots$$

Different representations due to choice of exponent

Normalized representation

Normalized number:

$$\pm d_0 \bullet d_1 \dots d_{p-1} \times \beta^e, \quad d_0 \neq 0$$

Remark 1

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Remark 2

The number 0, as well as all numbers smaller than $\beta^{e_{\min}}$, have no normalized representation (we will come back to this later)

Set of Normalized Numbers

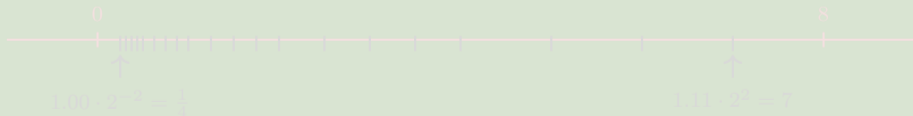
$$F^*(\beta, p, e_{\min}, e_{\max})$$

Normalized Representation

Example $F^*(2, 3, -2, 2)$

(only positive numbers)

$d_0 \bullet d_1 d_2$	$e = -2$	$e = -1$	$e = 0$	$e = 1$	$e = 2$
1.00_2	0.25	0.5	1	2	4
1.01_2	0.3125	0.625	1.25	2.5	5
1.10_2	0.375	0.75	1.5	3	6
1.11_2	0.4375	0.875	1.75	3.5	7

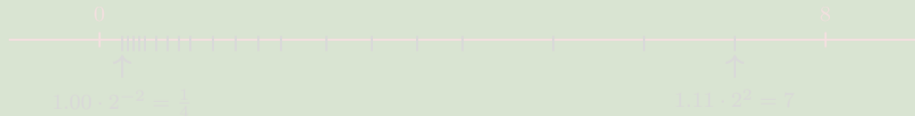


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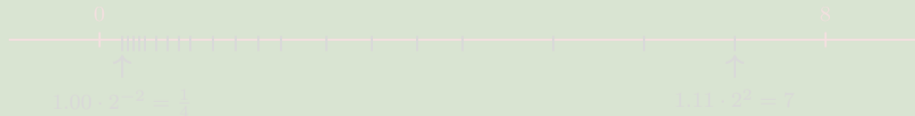


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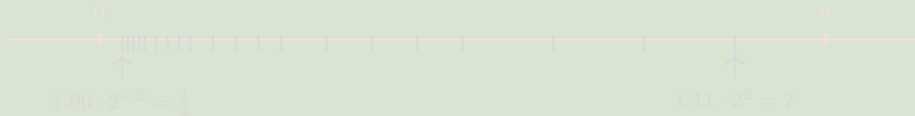


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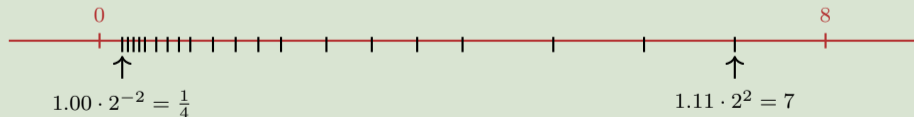


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Binary and Decimal Systems

- Internally the computer computes with $\beta = 2$
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(binary system)
- Literals and inputs have $\beta = 10$
(decimal system)

Computation of the *binary representation*:

$$x = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} b_i 2^{-i}$$

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$$x = b_0.b_1b_2b_3\dots$$

Computation of the *binary representation*:

$$\begin{aligned}x &= b_0 \bullet b_1 b_2 b_3 \dots \\ &= b_0 + 0 \bullet b_1 b_2 b_3 \dots\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}x &= b_0.b_1b_2b_3\dots \\ &= b_0 + 0.b_1b_2b_3\dots \\ &\implies \\ (x - b_0) &= 0.b_1b_2b_3b_4\dots\end{aligned}$$

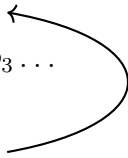
Computation of the *binary representation*:

$$\begin{aligned}x &= b_0 \bullet b_1 b_2 b_3 \dots \\ &= b_0 + 0 \bullet b_1 b_2 b_3 \dots \\ &\implies \\ 2 \cdot (x - b_0) &= b_1 \bullet b_2 b_3 b_4 \dots\end{aligned}$$

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```
for (int b_0; x != 0; x = 2 * (x - b_0)) {  
    b_0 = (x >= 1);  
    std::cout << b_0;  
}
```

Example (binary)

$$x = 1.01011$$

$$= 1 + 0.01011$$

\implies

$$2 \cdot (x - 1) = 0.1011$$

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$$\begin{aligned}x &= 0.\bullet 1011 \\ &= 0 + 0.\bullet 1011\end{aligned}$$

\implies

$$2 \cdot (x - 0) = 1.\bullet 011$$

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$$\begin{aligned}x &= 0.\mathbf{1011} \\ &= 0 + 0.\mathbf{1011} \\ &\implies \\ 2 \cdot (x - 0) &= \mathbf{1.011}\end{aligned}$$

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Example (binary)

$$x = 0.\mathbf{0}11$$

$$= \mathbf{0} + 0.\mathbf{0}11$$

\implies

$$2 \cdot (x - \mathbf{0}) = 1.\mathbf{0}1$$

Example (binary)

$$x = 0.\mathbf{11}$$

$$= 0 + 0.\mathbf{11}$$

\implies

$$2 \cdot (x - 0) = \mathbf{1.1}$$

Example (binary)

$$\begin{aligned}x &= 1.1 \\ &= 1 + 0.1 \\ &\implies \\ 2 \cdot (x - 1) &= 1\end{aligned}$$

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Example (binary)

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Binary representation of 1.1_{10}

$$\begin{array}{r} x \quad b_i \quad x - b_i \quad 2(x - b_i) \\ \hline 1.1 \quad b_0 = 1 \end{array}$$

Binary representation of 1.1_{10}

x	b_i	$x - b_i$	$2(x - b_i)$
1.1	$b_0 = 1$	0.1	0.2

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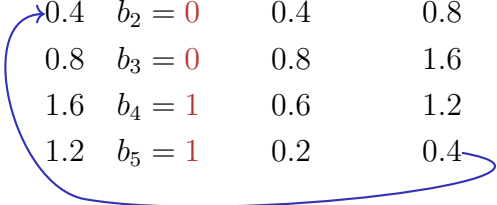
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$\Rightarrow 1.000\overline{11}$, periodic, *not* finite

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- `1.1f` und `0.1f`: *Approximations* of 1.1 and 0.1
- In `diff.cpp`: $1.1 - 1.0 \neq 0.1$

Binary Number Representations of 1.1 and 0.1

on my computer:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{1.1} &= \underline{1.10000000000000000888178\dots} \\ \mathbf{1.1f} &= \underline{1.1000000238418\dots} \end{aligned}$$

Computing with Floating-point Numbers

is nearly as simple as with integers.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1.111 \cdot 2^{-2} \\ + 1.011 \cdot 2^{-1} \end{array}$$

Computing with Floating-point Numbers

Example ($\beta = 2, p = 4$):

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1. adjust exponents by denormalizing one number

Computing with Floating-point Numbers

Example ($\beta = 2, p = 4$):

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Computing with Floating-point Numbers

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- Double precision (**double**) numbers:

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- Single precision (**float**) numbers:

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- Double precision (**double**) numbers:

$$F^*(2, 53, -1022, 1023) \text{ (64 bit)} \quad \text{plus } 0, \infty, \dots$$

- All arithmetic operations round the *exact* result to the next representable number

Example: 32-bit Representation of a Floating Point Number



± Exponent

Mantisse

± $2^{-126}, \dots, 2^{127}$
 $0, \infty, \dots$

1.000000000000000000000000
...
1.111111111111111111111111

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Do not test rounded floating-point numbers for equality.

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    std::cout << i << "\n";
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for (float i = 0.1; i != 1.0; i += 0.1)
    std::cout << i << "\n";
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endless loop because i never becomes exactly 1

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Do not add two numbers of very different orders of magnitude!

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Addition of 1 does not have any effect!

- The n -th harmonic number is

$$H_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i}$$

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$$H_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i} \approx \ln n.$$

- This sum can be computed in forward or backward direction, which is mathematically clearly equivalent

```
std::cout << "Compute H_n for n =? ";
unsigned int n;
std::cin >> n;

float fs = 0;
for (unsigned int i = 1; i <= n; ++i)
    fs += 1.0f / i;
std::cout << "Forward sum = " << fs << "\n";

float bs = 0;
for (unsigned int i = n; i >= 1; --i)
    bs += 1.0f / i;
std::cout << "Backward sum = " << bs << "\n";
```



```
std::cout << "Compute H_n for n =? ";  
unsigned int n;  
std::cin >> n;
```

Input: **1000000**

```
float fs = 0;  
for (unsigned int i = 1; i <= n; ++i)  
    fs += 1.0f / i;  
std::cout << "Forward sum = " << fs << "\n";
```

forwards: **15.4037**

```
float bs = 0;  
for (unsigned int i = n; i >= 1; --i)  
    bs += 1.0f / i;  
std::cout << "Backward sum = " << bs << "\n";
```

backwards: **16.686**

```
std::cout << "Compute H_n for n =? ";  
unsigned int n;  
std::cin >> n;
```

Input: **10000000**

```
float fs = 0;  
for (unsigned int i = 1; i <= n; ++i)  
    fs += 1.0f / i;  
std::cout << "Forward sum = " << fs << "\n";
```

forwards: **15.4037**

```
float bs = 0;  
for (unsigned int i = n; i >= 1; --i)  
    bs += 1.0f / i;  
std::cout << "Backward sum = " << bs << "\n";
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backwards: **18.8079**

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Explanation:

- For $1 + 1/2 + 1/3 + \dots$, later terms are too small to actually contribute
- Problem similar to $2^5 + 1 = 2^5$

Rule 4

Do not subtract two numbers with a very similar value.

Cancellation problems, cf. lecture notes.

Literature

David Goldberg: What Every Computer Scientist Should Know About Floating-Point Arithmetic (1991)



Randy Glasbergen, 1996

9. Functions I

Defining and Calling Functions, Evaluation of Function Calls, the Type **void**

Computing Powers

```
double a;
int n;
std::cin >> a; // Eingabe a
std::cin >> n; // Eingabe n

double result = 1.0;
if (n < 0) { //  $a^n = (1/a)^{-n}$ 
    a = 1.0/a;
    n = -n;
}
for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i)
    result *= a;

std::cout << a << "^" << n << " = " << result << ".\n";
```

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double a;  
int n;  
std::cin >> a; // Eingabe a  
std::cin >> n; // Eingabe n
```

```
double result = 1.0;  
if (n < 0) { // a^n = (1/a)^(-n)  
    a = 1.0/a;  
    n = -n;  
}  
for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i)  
    result *= a;
```



"Funktion pow"

```
std::cout << a << "^" << n << " = " << pow(a,n) << ".\n";
```

Function to Compute Powers

```
// PRE: e >= 0 || b != 0.0
// POST: return value is b^e
double pow(double b, int e)
{
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e < 0) { // b^e = (1/b)^(-e)
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e; ++i)
        result *= b;
    return result;
}
```

Function to Compute Powers

```
double pow(double b, int e){...}
```

Function to Compute Powers

```
// Prog: callpow.cpp
// Define and call a function for computing powers.
```

```
#include <iostream>
```

```
double pow(double b, int e){...}
```

```
int main()
```

```
{
    std::cout << pow( 2.0, -2) << "\n"; // outputs 0.25
    std::cout << pow( 1.5, 2) << "\n"; // outputs 2.25
    std::cout << pow(-2.0, 9) << "\n"; // outputs -512
```

```
    return 0;
```

```
}
```


Function Definitions

T fname (T_1 pname₁, T_2 pname₂, ..., T_N pname_N)

block

function name



Function Definitions

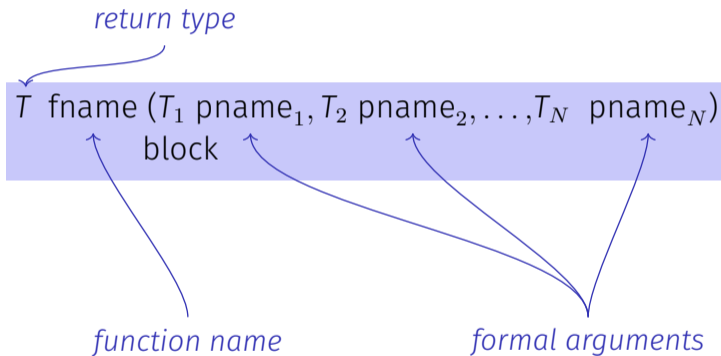
return type

T fname (T_1 pname₁, T_2 pname₂, ..., T_N pname_N)

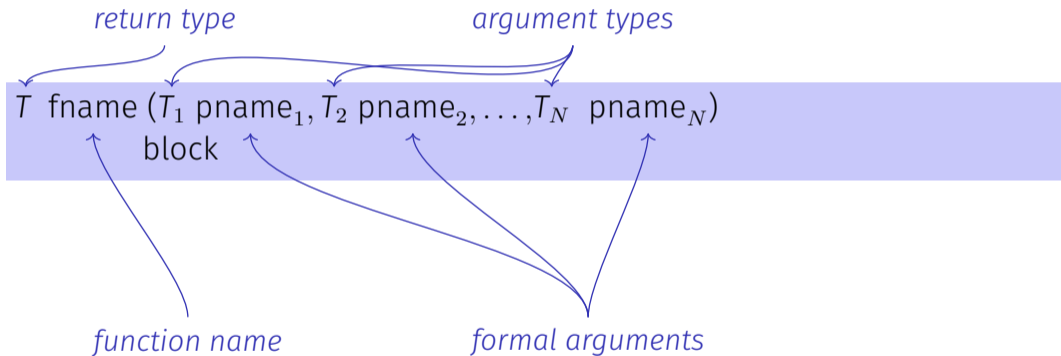
block

function name

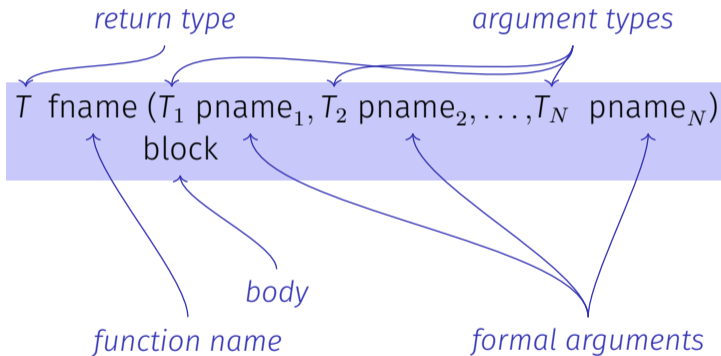
Function Definitions



Function Definitions



Function Definitions



Xor

```
// post: returns l XOR r
bool Xor(bool l, bool r)
{
    return l && !r || !l && r;
}
```

Harmonic

```
// PRE: n >= 0
// POST: returns nth harmonic number
//       computed with backward sum
float Harmonic(int n)
{
    float res = 0;
    for (unsigned int i = n; i >= 1; --i)
        res += 1.0f / i;
    return res;
}
```

min

```
// POST: returns the minimum of a and b
int min(int a, int b)
{
    if (a<b)
        return a;
    else
        return b;
}
```


Function Calls

$fname (expression_1, expression_2, \dots, expression_N)$

- All call arguments must be convertible to the respective formal argument types.

Function Calls

$fname (expression_1, expression_2, \dots, expression_N)$

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- The function call is an expression of the return type of the function.

Function Calls

$fname (expression_1, expression_2, \dots, expression_N)$

- All call arguments must be convertible to the respective formal argument types.
- The function call is an expression of the return type of the function.

Example: **pow(a,n)**: Expression of type **double**

Function Calls

For the types we know up to this point it holds that:

- Call arguments are R-values
 - ↔ *call-by-value* (also *pass-by-value*), more on this soon
- The function call is an R-value.

Function Calls

For the types we know up to this point it holds that:

- Call arguments are R-values
 \hookrightarrow *call-by-value* (also *pass-by-value*), more on this soon
- The function call is an R-value.

$fname: \text{R-value} \times \text{R-value} \times \dots \times \text{R-value} \longrightarrow \text{R-value}$

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        //  $b^e = (1/b)^{-e}$ 
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        result * = b;
    return result;
}
```

```
...
pow (2.0, -2)
```

Evaluation Function Call

Call of pow



```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        // b^e = (1/b)^(-e)
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        result * = b;
    return result;
}

...
pow (2.0, -2)
```

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){  
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);  
    double result = 1.0;  
    if (e<0) {  
        //  $b^e = (1/b)^{-e}$   
        b = 1.0/b;  
        e = -e;  
    }  
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)  
        result * = b;  
    return result;  
}
```

b=2.0,e=-2

```
...  
pow (2.0, -2)
```


Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        // b^e = (1/b)^(-e)
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        result * = b;
    return result;
}
```

b=2.0,e=-2

// ok

...

pow (2.0, -2)

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        // b^e = (1/b)^(-e)
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        result * = b;
    return result;
}
```



result=1.0

```
...
pow (2.0, -2)
```

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        // b^e = (1/b)^(-e)
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        result * = b;
    return result;
}
```



e == -2

```
...
pow (2.0, -2)
```

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        //  $b^e = (1/b)^{-e}$ 
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        result * = b;
    return result;
}
```



b=0.5

```
...
pow (2.0, -2)
```

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        //  $b^e = (1/b)^{-e}$ 
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        result * = b;
    return result;
}
```



e=2

```
...
pow (2.0, -2)
```

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        //  $b^e = (1/b)^{-e}$ 
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i) → i=0
        result * = b;
    return result;
}

...
pow (2.0, -2)
```

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        // b^e = (1/b)^(-e)
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        result * = b;
    return result;
}
```

i=0

result=0.5

...

```
pow (2.0, -2)
```

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        //  $b^e = (1/b)^{-e}$ 
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i) → i=1
        result * = b;
    return result;
}

...
pow (2.0, -2)
```


Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        // b^e = (1/b)^(-e)
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        result * = b;
    return result;
}
```

i=1

result=0.25

```
...
pow (2.0, -2)
```

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        //  $b^e = (1/b)^{-e}$ 
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i) → i=2
        result * = b;
    return result;
}

...
pow (2.0, -2)
```

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        //  $b^e = (1/b)^{-e}$ 
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        result * = b;
    return result;
}
```

→ result=0.25

```
...
pow (2.0, -2)
```

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        // b^e = (1/b)^(-e)
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        result * = b;
    return result;
}

...
pow (2.0, -2)
```


result=0.25

Return

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        // b^e = (1/b)^(-e)
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        result * = b;
    return result;
}

...
pow (2.0, -2)
```

A red arrow originates from the 'return result;' line in the function definition and points to the 'pow (2.0, -2)' call. The arrow is labeled 'Return' in red, slanted text. At the end of the arrow, there is a red-bordered box containing the text 'value: 0.25'.

Evaluation Function Call

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    assert (e >= 0 || b != 0);
    double result = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        //  $b^e = (1/b)^{-e}$ 
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        result * = b;
    return result;
}
```

...

pow (2.0, -2)

value: 0.25

Scope of Formal Arguments

```
int main(){  
    double b = 2.0;  
    int e = -2;  
    double z = pow(b, e);  
  
    std::cout << z; // 0.25  
    std::cout << b; // 2  
    std::cout << e; // -2  
    return 0;  
}
```

Scope of Formal Arguments

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    double r = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        r * = b;
    return r;
}
```

```
int main(){
    double b = 2.0;
    int e = -2;
    double z = pow(b, e);


    std::cout << z; // 0.25
    std::cout << b; // 2
    std::cout << e; // -2
    return 0;
}
```


Scope of Formal Arguments

```
double pow(double b, int e){
    double r = 1.0;
    if (e<0) {
        b = 1.0/b;
        e = -e;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < e ; ++i)
        r * = b;
    return r;
}
```

```
int main(){
    double b = 2.0;
    int e = -2;
    double z = pow(b, e);

    std::cout << z; // 0.25
    std::cout << b; // 2
    std::cout << e; // -2
    return 0;
}
```



Not the formal arguments **b** and **e** of `pow` but the variables defined here locally in the body of `main`

The type void

```
// POST: "(i, j)" has been written to standard output
???? print_pair(int i, int j) {
    std::cout << "(" << i << ", " << j << ")\n";
}

int main() {
    print_pair(3,4); // outputs (3, 4)
    return 0;
}
```

The type void

```
// POST: "(i, j)" has been written to standard output
void print_pair(int i, int j) {
    std::cout << "(" << i << ", " << j << ")\n";
}

int main() {
    print_pair(3,4); // outputs (3, 4)
    return 0;
}
```

The type `void`

- Fundamental type with empty value range

The type `void`

- Fundamental type with empty value range
- Usage as a return type for functions that do *only* provide an effect

void-Functions

- do not require **return**.
- execution ends when the end of the function body is reached or if
- **return;** is reached

Functions and return

Wrong:

```
bool compare(float x, float y) {  
    float delta = x - y;  
    if (delta*delta < 0.001f) return true;  
}
```

Functions and return

The behavior of a function with non-`void` return type is **undefined** if the end of the function body is reached without a `return` statement.

Wrong:

```
bool compare(float x, float y) {  
    float delta = x - y;  
    if (delta*delta < 0.001f) return true;  
}
```

Here the value of `compare(10,20)` is undefined.

Functions and return

The behavior of a function with non-`void` return type is **undefined** if the end of the function body is reached without a `return` statement.

Better:

```
bool compare(float x, float y) {  
    float delta = x - y;  
    if (delta*delta < 0.001f)  
        return true;  
    else  
        return false;  
}
```

All execution paths reach a `return`

Functions and return

The behavior of a function with non-`void` return type is **undefined** if the end of the function body is reached without a `return` statement.

Even better and simpler

```
bool compare(float x, float y) {  
    float delta = x - y;  
    return delta*delta < 0.001f;  
}
```