

Document: WG14 N1303
Date: 2008-04-17

Two sets of macros for <float.h>

Existing practice: Many implementation have macros (with various spellings) for the minimum subnormal numbers. C99 has DECIMAL_DIG with the similar meaning as LDBL_MAXDIG10.

Add new bullets to 5.2.4.2.2 Characteristics of floating types <float.h>

[bullet near DECIMAL_DIG] The number of base 10 digits required to ensure that floating-point numbers with /p/ radix /b/ digits which differ by only one unit in the last place (ulp) are always differentiated,

$$\begin{array}{ll} /p/ \log_{10} /b/ & \text{if } /b/ \text{ is power of } 10 \\ \text{ceil}(1 + /p/ \log_{10} /b/) & \text{otherwise} \end{array}$$

[Note to editor: WG14 paper N1290 on printed page 9 has the correct symbols/fonts for the above two math expressions; it is also the same as the existing math expressions for DECIMAL_DIG in C99.]

```
FLT_MAXDIG10    6
DBL_MAXDIG10   10
LDBL_MAXDIG10  10
```

[bullet after FLT_MIN] An implementation shall define the following macros if and only if it supports [footnote] subnormal (also known as denormal) numbers of the respective types. Their value is the minimum positive subnormal floating-point number:

```
FLT_SUBNORMAL_MIN    1E-42
DBL_SUBNORMAL_MIN    1E-46
LDBL_SUBNORMAL_MIN   1E-46
```

Their values are typically, but not always, FLT_MIN * FLT_EPSILON, DBL_MIN * DBL_EPSILON, LDBL_MIN * LDBL_EPSILON, respectively.

[footnote]: Support means that they are not flushed to zero when used as operands, nor, when an arithmetic operation produces them.

[paragraph 13, example 1]

```
Add
FLT_MAXDIG10    ??
DBL_MAXDIG10    ??
after DECIMAL_DIG
```

[paragraph 14, example 2]

Remove "normalized" from just before IEC60559.

```
Add
FLT_MAXDIG10    6
DBL_MAXDIG10    17
after DECIMAL_DIG
```

```
Add
FLT_SUBNORMAL_MIN    ? // decimal constant
```

```
FLT_SUBNORMAL_MIN      0X1P-149F // hex constant
DBL_SUBNORMAL_MIN      ? // decimal constant
DBL_SUBNORMAL_MIN      0X1P-1074 // hex constant
after FLT_MIN and DBL_MIN.
```

Words for Rationale: Are any needed?