

There are also special patterns which don't represent normal numbers.
The full IEEE 754 layout is given below:

Single precision		Double precision		Represents
Exponent (8 bits)	Significand (mantissa) (23 bits)	Exponent (11 bits)	Significand (mantissa) (52 bits)	
0	0	0	0	0
0	nonzero	0	nonzero	+/- denormalised number
1-254	anything	1-2046	anything	+/- normalised floating point number
255	0	2047	0	+/- infinity
255	nonzero	2047	nonzero	NaN (Not a Number)

IEEE 754/854 Floating Point layout

A *denormalised* number is a way of allowing very small values (which don't have a 1 immediately after the binary point) and is used in specialised operations.

The two representations for + and -infinity mean that a division by zero can be dealt with *without* having to cause a run-time hardware error. NaN values result from attempts to divide zero by zero, or subtract infinity from itself.