

NAME

`erfc`, `erfcf`, `erfcl` – complementary error function

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <math.h>
```

```
double erfc(double x);
```

```
float erfcf(float x);
```

```
long double erfcl(long double x);
```

Link with `-lm`.

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature_test_macros\(7\)](#)):

`erfc()`:

```
_ISOC99_SOURCE || _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200112L || _XOPEN_SOURCE
  || /* Since glibc 2.19: */ _DEFAULT_SOURCE
  || /* Glibc versions <= 2.19: */ _BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE
```

`erfcf()`, `erfcl()`:

```
_ISOC99_SOURCE || _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200112L
  || /* Since glibc 2.19: */ _DEFAULT_SOURCE
  || /* Glibc versions <= 2.19: */ _BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION

These functions return the complementary error function of x , that is, $1.0 - \text{erf}(x)$.

RETURN VALUE

On success, these functions return the complementary error function of x , a value in the range $[0,2]$.

If x is a NaN, a NaN is returned.

If x is $+0$ or -0 , 1 is returned.

If x is positive infinity, $+0$ is returned.

If x is negative infinity, $+2$ is returned.

If the function result underflows and produces an unrepresentable value, the return value is 0.0 .

If the function result underflows but produces a representable (i.e., subnormal) value, that value is returned, and a range error occurs.

ERRORS

See [math_error\(7\)](#) for information on how to determine whether an error has occurred when calling these functions.

The following errors can occur:

Range error: result underflow (result is subnormal)

An underflow floating-point exception (**FE_UNDERFLOW**) is raised.

These functions do not set *errno*.

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see [attributes\(7\)](#).

Interface	Attribute	Value
<code>erfc()</code> , <code>erfcf()</code> , <code>erfcl()</code>	Thread safety	MT-Safe

CONFORMING TO

C99, POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008.

The variant returning *double* also conforms to SVr4, 4.3BSD.

NOTES

The `erfc()`, `erfcf()`, and `erfcl()` functions are provided to avoid the loss accuracy that would occur for the calculation $1 - \text{erf}(x)$ for large values of x (for which the value of $\text{erf}(x)$ approaches 1).

SEE ALSO

cerf(3), erf(3), exp(3)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 5.05 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at <https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.