Synopsis

Parse a formatted string

Syntax

```
Int_Type sscanf (s, fmt, r1, ... rN)
```

Description

```
String_Type s, fmt;
Ref_Type r1, ..., rN
```

The sscanf function parses the string s according to the format fmt and sets the variables whose references are given by r1, ..., rN. The function returns the number of references assigned, or −1 upon error.

The format string fmt consists of ordinary characters and conversion specifiers. A conversion specifier begins with the special character % and is described more fully below. A white space character in the format string matches any amount of whitespace in the input string. Parsing of the format string stops whenever a match fails.

The % is used to denote a conversion specifier whose general form is given by %[*][width][type]format where the brackets indicate optional items. If * is present, then the conversion will be performed by no assignment to a reference will be made. The width specifier specifies the maximum field width to use for the conversion. The type modifier is used to indicate size of the object, e.g., a short integer, as follows.

If type is given as the character h, then if the format conversion is for an integer (dioux), the object assigned will be a short integer. If type is l, then the conversion will be to a long integer for integer conversions, or to a double precision floating point number for floating point conversions.

The format specifier is a character that specifies the conversion:

```
%     Matches a literal percent character. No assignment is performed.
d     Matches a signed decimal integer.
D     Matches a long decimal integer (equiv to `ld')
u     Matches an unsigned decimal integer
U     Matches an unsigned long decimal integer (equiv to `lu')
i     Matches either a hexadecimal integer, decimal integer, or octal integer.
I     Equivalent to `li'.
```
Example

Suppose that `s` is "Coffee: (3,4,12.4)". Then

```
    n = sscanf (s, "%[a-zA-Z]: (%d,%d,%lf)", &item, &x, &y, &z);
```

will set `n` to 4, `item` to "Coffee", `x` to 3, `y` to 4, and `z` to the double precision number 12.4. However,

```
    n = sscanf (s, "%s: (%d,%d,%lf)", &item, &x, &y, &z);
```

will set `n` to 1, `item` to "Coffee:" and the remaining variables will not be assigned.

See Also

```
slangrtl
  apropos, print stack, slang_guess_type, atof, char, double, fread, fwrite, int, integer, is_substr, isdigit, message, pack, pad_pack_format, putenv, set_float_format, sizeof_pack, sprintf, strcat, string, string_match, string_match_nth, tolower, toupper, typecast, uname, unpack, verror, vmessage
```

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URL: http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao3.4/sscanf.tm.html

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