



## Why

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## Definition

The *permanent* of a matrix  $A \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times m}$  is

$$\sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \prod_{i=1}^n A_{i, \sigma(i)}$$

where  $S_n$  is the symmetric group of degree  $n$  (see Permutations).

## Notation

We denote the permanent of  $A$  by  $\text{perm}(A)$ .

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<sup>1</sup>Future editions will include. The reasoning is that several counting problems to do with graphs reduce to permanents of the adjacency matrix.



