



Why

1

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 **perm**(A).

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

