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Subject: Re: multiplication

Posted by [meron](#) on Tue, 28 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <38E03BDC.868B8396@hotmail.com>, marc <m\_schellens@hotmail.com> writes:

> Is there a function like TOTAL but for multiplication.

> Like the big PI symbol in mathematical notation.

> Or this really something for the for loop?

>

> I.E.

>

> a=[1,2,3,...]

>

> result=a[1]\*a[2]\*a[3]...

>

if all the elements of a are positive then you can simply do

```
result = exp(total(alog(a)))
```

\*\*\* warning: This has a big chance to result in overflow, even for moderately sized arrays. But you can check for it before you take the EXP\*\*\*

If some of the elements are negative, you can still handle it. do

```
dum = where(a lt 0, ndum)
```

```
sig = (-1)^ndum
```

```
result = sig*exp(total(alog(abs(a))))
```

Mati Meron | "When you argue with a fool,  
meron@cars.uchicago.edu | chances are he is doing just the same"

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