

20.23. WHEN THREE NESTED FOR LOOP $\neq O(n^3)$

LET'S TAKE AN EXAMPLE:

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for(i = 1; i ≤ n; i++){  
    for(j = 1; j ≤ i2; j++){  
        for(k = 1; k ≤  $\frac{n}{2}$ ; k++){  
            c = c + 1;  
        }  
    }  
}
```

SOLUTION

OUTER LOOP RUNS 1 TO N, J LOOP RUNS:

$i = 1, j = 1$

$i = 2, j = 2^2 = 4$

$i = 3, j = 3^2 = 9$

... n^2 times,

And for every loop of j k runs $\frac{n}{2}$ i. e.

$$j = 1, k = 1 \text{ to } \frac{n}{2}, c = c + 1 = \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{n}{2}} 1 = \frac{n}{2}$$

$$j = 4, k = 1 \text{ to } \frac{n}{2}, c = c + 1 = \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{n}{2}} 1 = \frac{n}{2}$$

....

$$j = n^2, k = 1 \text{ to } \frac{n}{2}, c = c + 1 = \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{n}{2}} 1 = \frac{n}{2}$$

Hence we can formulate:

$$1 \times \frac{n}{2} + 4 \times \frac{n}{2} + 9 \times \frac{n}{2} + \dots + n^2 \times \frac{n}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{n}{2} (1 + 4 + 9 + \dots + n^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{n}{2} \times \sum_{n=1}^n n^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{n}{2} \times \frac{2n^3 + 3n^2 + n}{6}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2n^4 + 3n^3 + n^2}{12}$$

$$O\left(\frac{2n^4 + 3n^3 + n^2}{12}\right) = O(n^4)$$

HENCE IT IS PROVED THAT 3 FOR LOOP DOES NOT REPRESENTS $O(n^3)$ *always*.