

To rotate a given $n \times n$ 2D matrix by 90 degrees clockwise **in-place**, the solution follows a two-step approach:

Step 1: Transpose the Matrix

The first step is to transpose the matrix. Transposing means converting all rows into columns (or vice versa). Specifically, for each element at position (i, j) in the matrix, it swaps with the element at position (j, i) . This is done using the nested loops:

```
for(int i = 0; i < s; i++) {  
    for(int j = i + 1; j < s; j++) {  
        swap(matrix[i][j], matrix[j][i]);  
    }  
}
```

- The outer loop iterates over the rows (i), and the inner loop iterates over the columns starting from $i+1$ (j).
- The swap function exchanges the elements at positions (i, j) and (j, i) .
- After this step, the matrix is transposed.

For example: Original matrix:

```
1 2 3  
4 5 6  
7 8 9
```

After transpose:

```
1 4 7  
2 5 8  
3 6 9
```

Step 2: Reverse Each Row

The second step is to reverse each row of the transposed matrix. Reversing a row flips the order of its elements. This is done using the reverse function:

```
for(int i = 0; i < s; i++) {  
    reverse(matrix[i].begin(), matrix[i].end());  
}
```

- The outer loop iterates over each row (*i*).
- The reverse function reverses the elements of the row from the beginning to the end.

For example: Transposed matrix:

```
1 4 7  
2 5 8  
3 6 9
```

After reversing each row:

```
7 4 1  
8 5 2  
9 6 3
```

Why Does This Work?

Rotating a matrix by 90 degrees clockwise can be broken down into these two steps:

1. **Transpose:** Converts rows into columns.
2. **Reverse Rows:** Flips the order of elements in each row to achieve the final rotation.

By combining these two operations, the matrix is effectively rotated in-place without requiring additional memory for another matrix.

Final Output

For the input matrix:

```
1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9
```

The output after applying the solution will be:

```
7 4 1
8 5 2
9 6 3
```

This matches the expected result of a 90-degree clockwise rotation.

Key Points

1. The solution modifies the matrix **in-place**, ensuring no extra space is used for another matrix.
2. The time complexity is **$O(n^2)$** because we iterate through all elements of the matrix twice (once for transposing and once for reversing).
3. The space complexity is **$O(1)$** since no additional data structures are used apart from a few variables.

Final Answer: The solution works by first transposing the matrix and then reversing each row, achieving a 90-degree clockwise rotation in-place.