

**Question - 1**  
**Performance**

SCORE: 5 points

You have a problem whose execution time is a polynomial function of  $N$ , the number of elements in the problem.

That's to say:  $t = cN^k$

Which of the following techniques might you consider to reduce the execution time (check all that apply)?

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lessen the coefficient  $c$  (e.g. by running on a faster computer);

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Effectively reduce the size of  $N$  by dividing the problem into smaller, independent sub-problems (provided that the cost of recombining the solutions doesn't outweigh the benefit).

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Specifying a different value of the exponent  $k$ .

**Question - 2**  
**3 sum problem**

SCORE: 20 points

Given an array of  $n$  integers, are there elements  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  in the array such that  $a + b + c = 0$ ? Find the number of unique triplets in the array which gives the sum of zero.

Hint: be careful not to count duplicates.