

Best Case

As every recursion will make 3 recursive calls with $\frac{n}{3}$ data set, the time complexity :

$$T(n) = 3T\left(\frac{n}{3}\right) + O(n)$$

Using Master Method:

$$a = 3$$

$$b = 3$$

$$f(n) = O(n)$$

$$f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a})$$

$$n = n \quad (\text{as } \log_3 3 = 1)$$

$$\text{Therefore } T(n) = O(n \log n)$$

Worst Case

As the first and third partition contains 0 elements, & partition two contains $n-2$ elements and it iterates once (through the array) we can write :

$$T(n) = T(n-2) + O(n)$$

$$= T(n-2) + n$$

$$\text{It will be } O(n^2)$$

Using Substitution:

$$T(n) = T(n-4) + O(n-2) + O(n)$$

$$= T(n-6) + O(n-4) + O(n-2) + O(n)$$

$$= T(n-8) + O(n-6) + O(n-4) + O(n-2) + O(n)$$

k times

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