

How many array accesses does the following code fragment make as a function of  $n$ ?

(Assume the compiler does not optimize away any array accesses in the innermost loop.)

```
1 int sum = 0;
2 for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
3     for (int j = i+1; j < n; j++)
4         for (int k = 1; k < n; k = k*2)
5             if (a[i] + a[j] >= a[k]) sum++;
```

- ☐  $\sim 3n^2$
- ☒  $\sim \frac{3}{2} n^2 \lg n$

**Correct**

Not all triple loops have cubic running times. For a given value of  $i$  and  $j$ , the  $k$ -loop requires only  $3 \lg n$  array access: the body is executed  $\lg n$  times and each time involves 3 array accesses. As in the 2-SUM and 3-SUM analysis, the number of times the  $k$ -loop is executed is  $\binom{n}{2} \sim \frac{1}{2} n^2$ .

- ☐  $\sim \frac{3}{2} n^3$
- ☐  $\sim 3n^3$