

1. Explain what you think the worst-case, big-Oh complexity and the best-case, big-Oh complexity of merge sort is. Why do you think that?

Both best/worst case time complexity of merge sort is $O(n \log n)$ since it needs to divide the array into half and merge with linear time.

For space complexity $O(n)$, it requires extra space for auxiliary array for left and right intermediate array; if recursion implementation, the recurrence call stack will also cost extra space $O(\log n)$.

2. Merge sort as we have implemented in there is a recursive algorithm as this is the easiest way to think about it. It is also possible to implement merge sort iteratively:

```
// Iteratively sort subarray `A[low..high]` using a temporary array
void mergesort(int A[], int temp[], int low, int high)
{
    // divide the array into blocks of size `m`
    // m = [1, 2, 4, 8, 16...]
    for (int m = 1; m <= high - low; m = 2 * m)
    {
        // for m = 1, i = 0, 2, 4, 6, 8...
        // for m = 2, i = 0, 4, 8...
        // for m = 4, i = 0, 8...
        // ...
        for (int i = low; i < high; i += 2*m)
        {
            int from = i;
            int mid = i + m - 1;
            int to = min(i + 2*m - 1, high);

            merge(A, temp, from, mid, to);
        }
    }
}
```

Explain what you think the worst-case, big-Oh complexity and the best-case, big-Oh complexity is for this iterative merge sort. Why do you think that?

for worst case & best case time complexity, it's the same as the recursive version since it still needs to sort sub-arrays of size 1 then merge into size 2, then merge size 2 into size 4 ...merge $n/2$ into size n which is $O(n \log n)$.

but if interested, can add extra test check if array is already sorted to reduce the time complexity to $O(n)$

But for space complexity, it still needs extra auxiliary temp array $O(n)$ to store intermediate values. just save the recursive call stack $O(\log n)$ therefore space complexity is still $O(n)$