

2. The worst-case complexity of the overall mergesort algorithm using this merge() function is  $O(n \log n)$ .

This is because the divide step takes  $O(\log n)$  time as we repeatedly halve the array until reaching arrays of size 1, and the merge step takes  $O(n)$  time as we merge the divided arrays.

3.

Initial list: [8, 42, 25, 3, 3, 2, 27, 3]

[8, 42, 25, 3] and [3, 2, 27, 3]

[8, 42] [25, 3]

[8] [42]

[8, 42]

[25, 3]

[25] [3]

[3, 25]

[8, 42] and [3, 25] to get [3, 8, 25, 42]

[3, 2, 27, 3]

[3, 2] [27, 3]

[3] [2]

[2, 3]

[27] [3]

[3, 27]

[2, 3] and [3, 27] to get [2, 3, 3, 27]

[3, 8, 25, 42] and [2, 3, 3, 27] to get [2, 3, 3, 3, 8, 25, 27, 42]

4. The number of steps taken is consistent with our complexity analysis.

Each division step halved the size of

the array until we reached arrays of size 1, which took  $O(\log n)$  steps,

and each merge step combined the divided

arrays, taking  $O(n)$  steps. Thus, the overall time complexity matches our analysis of  $O(n \log n)$ .