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Question 1

1.1:

First, according to the question, for each positive integer x , the volume of the fridge that can be bought can be found as $3x \cdot (2x+1) \cdot (2^x)$, and the time complexity of each such calculation is $O(1)$. It is worth noting that all three parts of the expression for volume with respect to x are increasing functions, so the expression for volume with respect to x is also increasing, i.e., the volume increases as x increases.

Next, the dichotomy can be used to try to find the smallest x . The specific steps are as follows. Clearly, x takes values in the range $[1, V]$. For each iteration of the domain of values $[a, b]$, the volume is calculated by taking $[b-a]/2$ as x . If the resulting volume is less than V , the next interval is $[[b-a]/2, b]$, if the resulting volume is equal to V , the minimum x value is $[b-a]/2$, if the resulting volume is greater than V , the next interval is $[a, [b-a]/2]$.

Thus, after at most $\log(V-1)$ iterations we can find the minimum x value, and each iteration requires a time complexity of $O(1)$, so the time complexity of the whole algorithm is $O(\log(V-1)) = O(\log V)$.

1.2:

According to the analysis in solution of 1.1, for each positive integer x , the volume of the fridge that can be bought can be found as $3x \cdot (2x+1) \cdot (2^x)$, and the time complexity of each such calculation is $O(1)$. It is worth noting that all three parts of the expression for volume with respect to x are increasing functions, so the expression for volume with respect to x is also increasing, i.e., the volume increases as x increases. The time complexity of $O(\log V)$ can only be obtained using the dichotomy method in 1.1. To reduce the time complexity to $O(\log(\log V))$, the dichotomy method needs to be further extended.

Similar to the dichotomous method, this time we also use a gradual reduction of the domain of values taken, starting from the initial domain of values $[1, V]$ of x . For each iteration of the domain of values $[a, b]$, the volume is calculated by taking $[a+\sqrt{b-a}]$ as the checkpoint. If the resulting volume is less than V , the next interval is $[[a+\sqrt{b-a}], b]$, if the resulting volume is equal to V , the minimum x value is $[a+\sqrt{b-a}]$, if the resulting volume is greater than V , the next interval is $[a, [a+\sqrt{b-a}]]$.

Therefore, according to such an algorithm, at each iteration, the range of values of the original n numbers will be reduced to the square root of n and no longer to $n/2$ as in the dichotomy method. Thus, the total number of iterations required in this problem is $\log(\log(V-1))$, each time requiring a volume calculation of time complexity $O(1)$, so the overall time complexity of the algorithm is $O(\log(\log(V-1))) = O(\log(\log V))$.