

136. Given an array of integers `nums`, sort the array in ascending order and return it. You must solve the problem without using any built-in functions in $O(n \log(n))$ time complexity and with the smallest space complexity possible.

AIM: To sort an array in ascending order by given time complexity:

PROGRAM:

```
def merge_sort(nums):
    if len(nums) <= 1:
        return nums

    mid = len(nums) // 2
    left_half = merge_sort(nums[:mid])
    right_half = merge_sort(nums[mid:])

    sorted_nums = merge(left_half, right_half)

    return sorted_nums

def merge(left, right):
    result = []
    i = 0
    j = 0

    while i < len(left) and j < len(right):
        if left[i] <= right[j]:
            result.append(left[i])
            i += 1
        else:
            result.append(right[j])
            j += 1
    result.extend(left[i:])
    result.extend(right[j:])

    return result

nums = [3, 1, 4, 1, 5, 9, 2, 6, 5, 3, 5]
sorted_nums = merge_sort(nums)
print("Sorted array:", sorted_nums)
```

```
Sorted array: [1, 1, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 5, 5, 6, 9]
```

OUTPUT:

TIME COMPLEXITY: $O(n \log n)$