

Question 3

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First, sort the array A incrementally using a merge sort algorithm.

We start by setting m to the largest integer in the array A . We need to traverse the array A with a different m . Starting with the first integer in array A , add one to the answer for each separation greater than or equal to m . Finally, check if you have chosen enough k , subtract $(m/2)/2$ from m if there are less than k , add $(m/2)/2$ to m if there are more than k , then re-traverse the array and update the answer. Until m is no longer divisible, return the answer.

The first step of sorting requires a time complexity of $O(n \log n)$. The second step requires two nested loops, based on m and n respectively. The time complexity of the outer layer's m -based loop is $O(\log m)$, and then the time complexity of each inner layer's n -based loop is $O(n)$, so the total time complexity is $O(n \log m)$. Then because m is larger than n , the time complexity of these two steps together is $O(n \log m)$.