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18. . 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 find. 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.

CODE:

```
def merge_sort(nums):
    if len(nums) <= 1:
        return nums
    mid = len(nums) // 2
    left_half = nums[:mid]
    right_half = nums[mid:]
    left_half = merge_sort(left_half)
    right_half = merge_sort(right_half)
    sorted_nums = merge(left_half, right_half)
    return sorted_nums

def merge(left, right):
    merged = []
    i = j = 0
    while i < len(left) and j < len(right):
        if left[i] < right[j]:
            merged.append(left[i])
            i += 1
        else:
            merged.append(right[j])
            j += 1
    merged.extend(left[i:])
    merged.extend(right[j:])
    return merged
```

```
j += 1
merged.extend(left[i:])
merged.extend(right[j:])
return merged
nums = [5, 2, 9, 3, 7, 1, 8, 6, 4]
sorted_nums = merge_sort(nums)
print(sorted_nums)
```

OUTPUT:

```
[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
=== Code Execution Successful ===
```

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