1764. Form Array by Concatenating Subarrays of Another Array

Problem Description

In this problem, we are provided with a two-dimensional integer array called `groups`, with a length of `n`. Also, we have another one-dimensional integer array named `nums`. The objective of the problem is to check whether it's possible to find `n` disjoint (non-overlapping) subarrays within `nums` that match the subarrays described in `groups` in the exact same order.

A few key points to understand the problem:

- The subarray `groups[i]` should match exactly with a contiguous portion of `nums`.
- If `i > 0`, the subarray `groups[i - 1]` must be found in `nums` before the subarray `groups[i]`. This enforces the order of the subarrays to be the same as their respective order in `groups`.
- Disjoint subarrays mean no element in `nums` can be part of more than one subarray that matches the `groups`.

To summarize, the task is to verify if we can find matching sequences in `nums` for each of the subarrays in `groups`, following the sequence order and ensuring that the matching sequences in `nums` do not overlap.

Intuition

When approaching the solution, it is crucial to sequentially search through the `nums` array and check for a subarray that matches the current `groups` subarray. If we find a matching subsequence, we move on to the next subarray in `groups` while also advancing our position in `nums` past the matched sequence.

Here's a step-by-step approach to the solution:

1. Initialize two pointers - `i` to iterate over `groups` and `j` to iterate over `nums`.
2. Iterate over both arrays using the pointers until either of them reaches the end.
3. In each iteration, check if the subarray of `nums` starting from the current position `j` matches the `groups[i]` subarray. This can be done by comparing slices of `nums`.
4. If a match is found, increment the pointer `i` to the next subarray in `groups` and increment the pointer `j` by the length of the matched group. This ensures the subarrays are disjoint and follows the correct sequence.
5. If a match is not found, only increment the pointer `j` to check the next possible starting position in `nums`.
6. Continue this process until all `groups` are matched or we reach the end of `nums`.

The key to the solution is realizing that all elements in each subarray in `groups` must appear in the same order and without interruption within `nums`. This means that the whole subarray must match a contiguous slice of `nums`. By updating pointers accordingly and ensuring we only progress in `groups` when a complete match is found, we can determine if there's a way to choose the disjoint subarrays that satisfy the conditions laid out in the problem description.

Ultimately, the goal is to check if the pointer `i` equals the length of `groups`, which would indicate all subarrays from `groups` have been matched in `nums`. If this is the case, we return `true`; otherwise, `false`.

Solution Approach

The problem can be solved using a straightforward two-pointer approach without requiring any additional data structures or complex algorithms. Let's delve into the implementation details of the solution provided:

1. **Initialize Pointers**: We start by initializing two pointers `i` and `j` to `0`. Pointer `i` will traverse the `groups` array to check each group one by one, whereas `j` will traverse the `nums` array to find the matching subarrays.

2. **Main Loop**: We run a `while` loop where it continues as long as `i` is less than `n` (length of `groups`) and `j` is less than `m` (length of `nums`). This ensures we do not go out of bounds of either array.

3. **Matching Subarrays**: Inside the loop, we compare the subarray from `nums` starting at index `j` and having the same length as the current `group` we are checking (represented by `groups[i]`). If `nums[j:j+len(groups[i])]` equals `groups[i]`, we have found a matching subarray.

4. **Advance Pointers**: When a match is found, we increment `i` by `1` to move to the next group in `groups` and `j` by the length of the matched group (`len(g)`), ensuring that the next search in `nums` starts right after the end of the current matched group. This ensures the subarrays are disjoint, as the elements in `nums` used for the current match no longer participate in future matches.

5. **No Match, Increment `j`**: If there is no match, we just increment `j` by `1`. This is because we are trying to find the next possible starting point for the current group within `nums`.

6. **Termination**: The loop will terminate in one of two cases: We have either found all the `groups` within `nums` (success case), or we've reached the end of `nums` without matching all groups (failure case).

7. **Return Result**: After exiting the loop, we check if `i == n`, which would mean all `groups` have been matched correctly. If this is true, we return `true`, indicating that it is possible to choose `n` disjoint subarrays from `nums` that match `groups` in order. If not, we return `false`.

The simplicity of the two-pointer approach lies in its linear traversal of the `nums` array and the incremental checking process against `groups`. It allows us to verify the presence and correct sequencing of subarrays within an array using constant additional space and `O(m)` time complexity, where `m` is the length of `nums`.

Example Walkthrough

To illustrate the solution approach, let's work through a small example. Suppose `groups = [[1, 2], [2, 3]]` and `nums = [1, 2, 3, 2, 3]`. We need to check if we can find two disjoint subarrays within `nums` that match the subarrays described in `groups` in the exact same order.

Let's start with the initial setup:

- `i` (pointer for `groups`) is at position 0, meaning we are looking for `[1, 2]`.
- `j` (pointer for `nums`) is at position 0.

Now, let's step through the algorithm:

1. At `j = 0`, we find that `nums[0:2]` is `[1, 2]`, which matches `groups[0]`. So now we increment `i` by 1 (moving to the next group, which is `[2, 3]`) and `j` by 2 (the length of the matched group).

   Current pointers: `i = 1`, `j = 2`.

2. Now looking at `nums` starting from `j = 2`, we have `nums[2:4]` is `[3, 2]`, which does not match `groups[1]`. So we just increment `j` by 1 and keep `i` the same.

   Current pointers: `i = 1`, `j = 3`.

3. From `j = 3`, we see that `nums[3:5]` is `[2, 3]`, which matches `groups[1]`. Now we've matched both subarrays in `groups`, so we increment `i` by 1 signaling we've found all group subarrays.

   Current pointers: `i = 2` (which equals the length of `groups`), `j = 5` (end of `nums`).

At the end of the steps, we've matched all subarrays in `groups` with disjoint subarrays in `nums` following the correct order. Since `i` equals the length of `groups`, we can return `true`.

So, applying this solution approach to our example, it indicates we can choose disjoint subarrays from `nums` ([1, 2] and [2, 3]) that exactly match the `groups` in order.

Python Solution

```python
from typing import List

class Solution:
    def canChoose(self, groups: List[List[int]], nums: List[int]) -> bool:
        # Initialize variables
        # Total number of groups
        total_groups = len(groups)
        # Total number of elements in 'nums'
        total_nums = len(nums)

        # Pointers for the current group and current number in 'nums'
        group_idx = num_idx = 0

        # Loop through the groups and 'nums' list
        while group_idx < total_groups and num_idx < total_nums:
            # Get current group
            current_group = groups[group_idx]
            # If current group matches a subsequence in 'nums' starting from current num_idx
            if current_group == nums[num_idx : num_idx + len(current_group)]:
                # Move num_idx ahead by the length of the current group since we found a match
                num_idx += len(current_group)
                # Move to the next group after a successful match
                group_idx += 1
            else:
                # If no match, move to the next number in 'nums'
                num_idx += 1

        # Return True if all groups have been successfully matched, False otherwise
        return group_idx == total_groups
```

Java Solution

```java
class Solution {

    // Method to determine if all groups can be found as subsequences in 'nums' array in the given order
    public boolean canChoose(int[][] groups, int[] nums) {
        int groupCount = groups.length; // Number of groups
        int numLength = nums.length; // Length of 'nums' array
        int currentGroupIndex = 0; // Current index of group being searched for in 'nums'

        // Loop through 'nums' array looking for each group
        for (int numsIndex = 0; numsIndex < numLength && currentGroupIndex < groupCount; ++numsIndex) {
            // If current group is found in 'nums' starting from currentIndexInNums
            if (isGroupMatching(groups[currentGroupIndex], nums, currentIndexInNums)) {
                // Move currentIndexInNums ahead by the length of the found group
                currentIndexInNums += groups[currentGroupIndex].length;
                // Move to the next group
                ++currentGroupIndex;
            } else {
                // If not found, increment the 'nums' index to check the next subsequence
                ++currentIndexInNums;
            }
        }
        // Return true if all groups have been found, false otherwise
        return currentGroupIndex == groupCount;
    }

    // Helper method to check if a group is found at a specific starting index in 'nums'
    private boolean isGroupMatching(int[] group, int[] nums, int startIndex) {
        int groupLength = group.length; // Length of the current group
        int numLength = nums.length; // Length of 'nums' array
        int groupIndex = 0; // Index for iterating over the group elements

        // Loop over the group and 'nums' starting from startIndex
        for (; groupIndex < groupLength && startIndex < numLength; ++groupIndex, ++startIndex) {
            // If any element does not match, return false
            if (group[groupIndex] != nums[startIndex]) {
                return false;
            }
        }
        // Return true if all elements matched, meaning the whole group is found
        return groupIndex == groupLength;
    }
}
```

C++ Solution

```cpp
class Solution {
public:
    // Function to determine if all 'groups' can be chosen in the same order they appear, as subarrays from 'nums'
    bool canChoose(vector<vector<int>>& groups, vector<int>& nums) {
        // Lambda function to check if subarray starting from index 'startIdx' in 'nums' matches the 'group'
        auto isMatch = [&](vector<int>& group, vector<int>& nums, int startIdx) {
            int groupSize = group.size(), numsSize = nums.size();
            // Check each element of the 'group' against 'nums' starting from 'startIdx'
            for (int i = 0; i < groupSize && startIdx + numsSize; ++i, ++startIdx) {
                if (group[i] != nums[startIdx]) {
                    return false; // Mismatch found, return false
                }
            }
            return i == groupSize; // All elements match if we have gone through the entire 'group'
        };

        int totalGroups = groups.size(), numsSize = nums.size();
        int currentGroupIndex = 0; // Index of the current group

        // Iterate through 'nums' with index 'j'
        for (int j = 0; currentGroupIndex < totalGroups && j < numsSize; ) {
            // If current group matches a subarray starting at 'j' in 'nums'
            if (isMatch(groups[currentGroupIndex], nums, j)) {
                j += groups[currentGroupIndex].size(); // Move 'j' past this group in 'nums'
                ++currentGroupIndex; // Move on to the next group
            } else {
                ++j; // Mismatch found, move 'j' to check for the current group starting at the next index
            }
        }
        // If all groups have been matched, return true
        return currentGroupIndex == totalGroups;
    }
};
```

Typescript Solution

```typescript
// Represents a group of numbers and the main array of numbers
type NumGroup = number[];
type MainArray = number[];

// Function to determine if all 'groups' can be chosen in the same order they appear, as subarrays from 'nums'
function canChoose(groups: NumGroup[], nums: MainArray): boolean {
    // Helper function to check if subarray starting from index 'startIndex' in 'nums' matches the 'group'
    const isMatch = (group: NumGroup, nums: MainArray, startIndex: number): boolean => {
        const groupSize = group.length;
        const numsSize = nums.length;
        let i = 0;

        // Check each element of the 'group' against 'nums' starting from 'startIndex'
        for (; i < groupSize && startIndex < numsSize; ++i, ++startIndex) {
            if (group[i] !== nums[startIndex]) {
                return false; // Mismatch found, return false
            }
        }

        // All elements match if we have gone through the entire 'group'
        return i === groupSize;
    };

    const totalGroups = groups.length;
    const numsSize = nums.length;
    let currentGroupIndex = 0; // Index of the current group being matched

    // Iterate through 'nums' with index 'j'
    for (let j = 0; currentGroupIndex < totalGroups && j < numsSize; ) {
        // Check if the current group matches a subarray starting at 'j'-th index of 'nums'
        if (isMatch(groups[currentGroupIndex], nums, j)) {
            j += groups[currentGroupIndex].length; // Move 'j' past this matched group in 'nums'
            currentGroupIndex++; // Move on to the next group
        } else {
            j++; // Mismatch found, move 'j' to check for the current group starting at the next index
        }
    }

    // If all groups have been matched, return true
    return currentGroupIndex === totalGroups;
}
```

Time and Space Complexity

The given Python code is designed to check whether all the groups of numbers in the `groups` list can be chosen sequentially from the `nums` list.

Time Complexity:

The time complexity of the code depends on the number of elements in both `groups` and `nums`.

Let's denote:

- `n` as the length of `groups`
- `m` as the length of `nums`
- `k` as the average length of a group in `groups`

In the worst-case scenario, you may have to check each element of `nums` against each group in `groups`. The worst-case time complexity will be `O(n * m * k)` since for each group we potentially check each element in `nums`, and for each comparison, we may compare up to `k` elements (the length of a group).

However, in practice, the pointer `j` advances by at least one with each outer loop iteration, so you should not always multiply `n` and `m`. The real time complexity is between `O(n + m + k)` and `O(n * m * k)` depending on the structure of `groups` and `nums`.

Space Complexity:

The space complexity of the code is `O(1)`, which is constant. This is because the code only uses a fixed amount of extra space (a few integer variables like `i`, `j`, and `g`). The slices in `nums[i : j + len(g)]` do not count towards extra space since Python utilizes an iterator over the sublist rather than copying it. Thus, the use of space does not scale with the size of the input.