

632. Smallest Range Covering Elements from K Lists

You have k lists of sorted integers in ascending order. Find the **smallest** range that includes at least one number from each of the k lists.

We define the range $[a,b]$ is smaller than range $[c,d]$ if $b-a < d-c$ or $a < c$ if $b-a == d-c$.

Example 1:

Input: `[[4,10,15,24,26], [0,9,12,20], [5,18,22,30]]`

Output: `[20,24]`

Explanation:

List 1: `[4, 10, 15, 24,26]`, 24 is in range `[20,24]`.

List 2: `[0, 9, 12, 20]`, 20 is in range `[20,24]`.

List 3: `[5, 18, 22, 30]`, 22 is in range `[20,24]`.

Note:

1. The given list may contain duplicates, so ascending order means \geq here.
2. $1 \leq k \leq 3500$
3. $-10^5 \leq \text{value of elements} \leq 10^5$.

CODE:

```
vector<int> smallestRange(vector<vector<int>>& nums) {
    int rows = nums.size();
    priority_queue<pair<int,int>,vector<pair<int,int>>,greater<pair<int,int>>> pq;

    int maxe = -1;

    for(int i=0;i<rows;i++){
        pq.push({nums[i][0],i});
        maxe = max(maxe,nums[i][0]);
    }

    int minRange = INT_MAX;
    vector<int> minInd(rows,0);
    vector<int> ans;

    while(true){
        pair<int,int> minp = pq.top();    pq.pop();

        if(maxe - minp.first < minRange){
            minRange = maxe - minp.first;
            ans = {minp.first,maxe};
        }

        minInd[minp.second]++;

        if(minInd[minp.second] >= nums[minp.second].size())
            break;
    }
}
```

```
    maxe = max(maxe,nums[minp.second][minInd[minp.second]]);  
    pq.push({nums[minp.second][minInd[minp.second]],minp.second});  
}  
return ans;  
}
```