

632. Smallest Range Covering Elements from K Lists

You have k lists of sorted integers in **non-decreasing 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: `nums = [[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]`.

Example 2:

Input: `nums = [[1,2,3],[1,2,3],[1,2,3]]`

Output: `[1,1]`

Constraints:

- `nums.length == k`
- `1 <= k <= 3500`
- `1 <= nums[i].length <= 50`
- `-105 <= nums[i][j] <= 105`
- `nums[i]` is sorted in **non-decreasing** order.

Smallest Range Covering Elements from K Lists

```
/*
k pointers
min heap to get the min
Time complexity: O(nlogk)
Space complexity: O(k)
n: total number of elements in all k lists
*/

typedef std::tuple<int, int, int> iii; // min_val, index of list, index of min_val

class Solution {
public:
    std::vector<int> smallestRange(std::vector<std::vector<int>>& nums){
        int k=nums.size();
        int left=INT_MAX, right=INT_MIN;
        std::priority_queue<iii, std::vector<iii>, std::greater<iii>> min_heap;
        for(int i=0; i<k; ++i){
            auto v=nums[i];
            left=std::min(left, v[0]);
            right=std::max(right, v[0]);
            min_heap.push({v[0], i, 0});
        }

        std::vector<int> ans={left, right};
        while(!min_heap.empty()){
            auto [mi, list_idx, mi_idx]=min_heap.top();
            min_heap.pop();
            mi_idx++;
            if(mi_idx<nums[list_idx].size()){
                min_heap.push({nums[list_idx][mi_idx], list_idx, mi_idx});
                left=std::get<0>(min_heap.top());
                right=std::max(right, nums[list_idx][mi_idx]);
            }
            else break;

            if(right-left<ans[1]-ans[0]) ans={left, right};
        }
        return ans;
    }
};
```