

Better solution $\rightarrow O(n+m)$ {leetcode solⁿ}

This solution can be achieved with the help of 3 points. Take $i = m-1$, $j = n-1$ and $k = m+n-1$. Traverse until any one of array finishes.

- 1) $nums1[i] > nums2[j]$, then insert $nums1[i]$ & decrement k and i both.
- 2) $nums1[i] \leq nums2[j]$, then insert $nums2[j]$ & decrement k & j both.

Now if any one of the array is bigger, run loop for that also.

Dry run

$nums1 \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, 0, 0, 0\}$, $m = 3$

$nums2 \rightarrow \{2, 5, 6\}$ $n = 3$

$\{1, 2, 3, 0, 0, 0\}$

$\uparrow i$

$\uparrow k$

$\{2, 5, 6\}$

$\uparrow j$

1) $nums1[i] = 3$

$nums2[j] = 6$

Here $nums2[j] > nums1[i]$ & hence insert $nums2[j]$ & decrement both k & j .

nums1 \downarrow

nums2 \downarrow

2) {1, 2, 3, 0, 0, 6}

{2, 5, 6}

\uparrow \uparrow
 i k

\uparrow
 j

nums1[i] = 3

nums2[j] = 5

nums2[j] > nums1[i] & hence insert
nums2[j] & decrement both k & j

3) {1, 2, 3, 0, 5, 6}

{2, 5, 6}

\uparrow \uparrow
 i k

\uparrow
 j

nums1[i] = 3

nums2[j] = 2

nums1[i] > nums2[j] & hence insert
nums1[i] and decrement both i & j

4) {1, 2, 3, 3, 5, 6}

{2, 5, 6}

\uparrow \uparrow
 i k

\uparrow
 j

nums1[i] = 2

nums2[j] = 2

Both equal & hence insert nums2[j] &
then decrement both j & k

5) {1, 2, 2, 3, 5, 6}

{2, 5, 6}

\uparrow
 i, k

\uparrow
 j

6) Traverse fully from i & hence nums1
here remains same.

{1, 2, 2, 3, 5, 6} is the answer.

Code

```
void merge (vector <int> & nums1, int m,
vector <int> & nums2, int n) {
    // Maintaining 3 pointers
    int i = m-1;
    int j = n-1;
    int k = m+n-1;
    // Traverse until any of the array finishes
    while (i >= 0 && j >= 0) {
        // Inserting element of nums1
        if (nums1[i] > nums2[j]) {
            nums1[k--] = nums1[i--];
        }
        // Inserting element of nums2
        else {
            nums1[k--] = nums2[j--];
        }
    }
    // For handling case in which one array is bigger
    while (i >= 0) {
        nums1[k--] = nums1[i--];
    }
    while (j >= 0) {
        nums1[k--] = nums2[j--];
    }
}
```

Time complexity = $O(n+m)$

Space complexity = $O(1)$