

Leetcode - 54

Given an $m \times n$ matrix, return all elements in spiral order.

Example 1:

Input: matrix = $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$
Output: [1,2,3,6,9,8,7,4,5]

Example 2:

Input: matrix = $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$
Output: [1,2,3,4,8,12,11,10,9,5,6,7]

Approach:

Use four pointers:

- `minr` , `maxr` : top and bottom row boundaries
- `minc` , `maxc` : left and right column boundaries

Traverse in this order:

1. Left → Right
2. Top ↓ Bottom
3. Right ← Left
4. Bottom ↑ Top

Repeat this in a loop until all elements are visited.

✓ Full C++ Code:

```
class Solution {
public:
    vector<int> spiralOrder(vector<vector<int>>& matrix) {
        if (matrix.empty() || matrix[0].empty()) return {};

        int m = matrix.size();
        int n = matrix[0].size();

        int minc = 0, maxc = n - 1;
        int minr = 0, maxr = m - 1;
        vector<int> v;

        while (minc <= maxc && minr <= maxr) {
            // right
            for (int j = minc; j <= maxc; j++)
                v.push_back(matrix[minr][j]);
            minr++;

            // down
            for (int i = minr; i <= maxr; i++)
                v.push_back(matrix[i][maxc]);
            maxc--;

            // left
            if (minr <= maxr) {
                for (int j = maxc; j >= minc; j--)
                    v.push_back(matrix[maxr][j]);
                maxr--;
            }

            // up
            if (minc <= maxc) {
                for (int i = maxr; i >= minr; i--)
                    v.push_back(matrix[i][minc]);
            }
        }

        return v;
    }
};
```

```
        minc++;  
    }  
}  
  
    return v;  
}  
};
```

Complexity:

- **Time:** $O(m \times n)$
- **Space:** $O(1)$ (excluding output vector)