

Course Schedule

This problem is equivalent to detecting if a directed graph has a cycle:

- Courses = nodes.
- Prerequisites = directed edges ($b_i \rightarrow a_i$)
- If there is no cycle, we can finish all courses (topological ordering exists).
- If there is a cycle, it's impossible to finish all courses.

Approach: DFS cycle detection

Steps: 1

1. Build graph: adjacency list from prerequisites.
2. Use DFS to detect cycles:
 - Maintain three states for each node:
 - 0: unvisited
 - 1: visiting (currently in recursion stack)
 - 2: visited (processed)
 - If we encounter a node marked 1 during DFS, we found a cycle \rightarrow return false.
3. If no cycles found \rightarrow return true.

Complexity:

Time: - building graph: $O(V+E)$

• DFS traversal: $O(V+E)$

• Total: $O(V+E)$ where V = num Courses, E = prerequisites length

Space: $O(V+E)$ for adjacency list and recursion stack.