

## Linked List Cycle

For this problem the goal is to detect if a linked list has a cycle, and the optimal approach is to use Floyd's Cycle Detection Algorithm (Tortoise and Hare algorithm).

**Approach:** Floyd's cycle detection

**Idea:**

- Use two pointers:
  - Slow pointer moves 1 step at a time.
  - Fast pointer moves 2 steps at a time.
- If there is a cycle, slow and fast will eventually meet.
- If fast or fast  $\rightarrow$  next becomes nullptr, there is no cycle.

**Steps:**

1. Initialize slow = head fast = head.
2. Move slow by 1 step and fast by 2 steps in each iteration.
3. If slow == fast at any point, return true (cycle exists).
4. If fast or fast  $\rightarrow$  next is nullptr, return false (no cycle).

**Complexity Analysis:**

- Time Complexity:  $O(n)$  - Each node is visited at most twice.
- Space Complexity:  $O(1)$  - No extra memory used.