

## Problem Link:

<https://leetcode.com/problems/linked-list-cycle/>

## Problem Description:

Given `head`, the head of a linked list, determine if the linked list has a cycle in it. There is a cycle in a linked list if there is some node in the list that can be reached again by continuously following the `next` pointer. Internally, `pos` is used to denote the index of the node that tail's `next` pointer is connected to. **Note that `pos` is not passed as a parameter.** Return `true` if there is a cycle in the linked list. Otherwise, return `false`.

## Problem Approach:

We will use **Floyd's Cycle Detection Algorithm** (Tortoise and Hare Algorithm) to check for cycles in the list by employing two pointers that move at different speeds.

## Solution:

We start by initializing two pointers `slow` and `fast` as the head of the list. Now, we iterate through the list until `fast` is not none, or `fast.next` is not none. If `fast` or `fast.next` is None, this means we have reached the end of the list, and no cycle exists. The idea is:

- `slow` moves one node at a time.
- `fast` moves two nodes at a time.

If there's a cycle, `slow` and `fast` will eventually meet. If not, `fast` will reach the end of the list. So, we move `slow` one step by `slow = slow.next`, while we move `fast` two steps by `fast = fast.next.next`. If we find both `slow` and `fast` pointers pointing to the same node, we return `True` as there's a cycle in the linked list.

Otherwise, if we break the loop with any of the conditions, then it means that we've reached the end of the linked list, and hence, we should return `False`. This algorithm uses  $O(n)$  time and  $O(1)$  space complexity, and is hence, efficient.

## Code (Python):

```
def hasCycle(self, head: Optional[ListNode]) -> bool:
    slow = head
    fast = head
    while fast is not None and fast.next is not None:
        slow = slow.next
        fast = fast.next.next
        if slow == fast:
            return True
    return False
```