

Bellman Ford Algorithm (Simple Implementation)

Given a graph and a source vertex **src** in graph, find shortest paths from **src** to all vertices in the given graph. The graph may contain negative weight edges.

We have discussed [Dijkstra's algorithm](#) for this problem. Dijkstra's algorithm is a Greedy algorithm and time complexity is $O(V+E \log V)$ (with the use of Fibonacci heap). *Dijkstra doesn't work for Graphs with negative weight edges, Bellman-Ford works for such graphs. Bellman-Ford is also simpler than Dijkstra and suites well for distributed systems. But time complexity of Bellman-Ford is $O(VE)$, which is more than Dijkstra.*

1) This step initializes distances from the source to all vertices as infinite and distance to the source itself as 0. Create an array `dist[]` of size $|V|$ with all values as infinite except `dist[src]` where `src` is source vertex.

2) This step calculates shortest distances. Do following $|V|-1$ times where $|V|$ is the number of vertices in given graph.

.....**a)** Do following for each edge `u-v`

.....If `dist[v] > dist[u] + weight of edge uv`, then update `dist[v]`

.....`dist[v] = dist[u] + weight of edge uv`

3) This step reports if there is a negative weight cycle in graph. Do following for each edge `u-v`

.....If `dist[v] > dist[u] + weight of edge uv`, then "Graph contains negative weight cycle"

The idea of step 3 is, step 2 guarantees the shortest distances if the graph doesn't contain a negative weight cycle. If we iterate through all edges one more time and get a shorter path for any vertex, then there is a negative weight cycle

How does this work? Like other Dynamic Programming Problems, the algorithm calculates shortest paths in a bottom-up manner. It first calculates the shortest distances which have at-most one edge in the path. Then, it calculates the shortest paths with at-most 2 edges, and so on. After the *i*-th iteration of the outer loop, the shortest paths with at most *i* edges are calculated. There can be maximum $|V| - 1$ edges in any simple path, that is why the outer loop runs $|V| - 1$ times. The idea is, assuming that there is no negative weight cycle, if we have calculated shortest paths with at most *i* edges, then an iteration over all edges guarantees to give shortest path with at-most (*i*+1) edges ==> Very Important

```
import sys
class Solution:
    def isNegativeWeightCycle(self, n, edges):
        #Code here
        cost = [float("Inf")]*n
        cost[0] = 0
        for i in range(n-1):
```

```
    for info in edges:
        u = info[0]
        v = info[1]
        wt = info[2]
        if cost[u] != float("Inf") and cost[u] + wt < cost[v]:
            cost[v] = cost[u] + wt

#Checks for negative cycles. If -ve cycle is present then BF can't
be used.

    for info in edges:
        u = info[0]
        v = info[1]
        wt = info[2]
        if cost[u] != float("Inf") and cost[u] + wt < cost[v]:
            return 1

    return 0
```