

# Kahn's algorithm for Topological Sorting

---

**Solution:** In this article we will see another way to find the linear ordering of vertices in a directed acyclic graph (DAG). The approach is based on the below fact:

**A DAG G has at least one vertex with in-degree 0 and one vertex with out-degree 0.**

**Proof:** There's a simple proof to the above fact is that a DAG does not contain a cycle which means that all paths will be of finite length. Now let S be the longest path from u(source) to v(destination). Since S is the longest path there can be no incoming edge to u and no outgoing edge from v, if this situation had occurred then S would not have been the longest path

=>  $\text{indegree}(u) = 0$  and  $\text{outdegree}(v) = 0$

**Algorithm:** Steps involved in finding the topological ordering of a DAG:

**Step-1:** Compute in-degree (number of incoming edges) for each of the vertex present in the DAG and initialize the count of visited nodes as 0.

**Step-2:** Pick all the vertices with in-degree as 0 and add them into a queue (Enqueue operation)

**Step-3:** Remove a vertex from the queue (Dequeue operation) and then.

1. Increment count of visited nodes by 1.
2. Decrease in-degree by 1 for all its neighbouring nodes.
3. If in-degree of a neighbouring nodes is reduced to zero, then add it to the queue.

**Step 4:** Repeat Step 3 until the queue is empty.

**Step 5:** If count of visited nodes is **not** equal to the number of nodes in the graph then the topological sort is not possible for the given graph.

**How to find in-degree of each node?**

1. Time Complexity: The outer for loop will be executed V number of times and the inner for loop will be executed E number of times, Thus overall time complexity is  $O(V+E)$ .

The overall time complexity of the algorithm is  $O(V+E)$

2. **Auxillary Space:**  $O(V)$ .

The queue needs to store all the vertices of the graph. So the space required is  $O(V)$

```
class Solution:
    def canFinish(self, numCourses: int, prerequisites: List[List[int]]) -> bool:
        graph = defaultdict(list)
        for u,v in prerequisites:
            graph[u].append(v)
        inDegrees = [0]*numCourses
        for i in range(numCourses):
            for nbr in graph[i]:
                inDegrees[nbr] = inDegrees[nbr]+1
```

```

queue = []
for i in range(numCourses):
    if inDegrees[i]==0:
        queue.append(i)

count = 0
while len(queue)>0:
    ele = queue.pop(0)
    count = count+1
    for nbr in graph[ele]:
        inDegrees[nbr] = inDegrees[nbr]-1

        if inDegrees[nbr]==0:
            queue.append(nbr)

return count==numCourses
# print(count)

```

```

class Solution:
    def findOrder(self, numCourses: int, prerequisites: List[List[int]]) -
> List[int]:
        graph = defaultdict(list)
        for u,v in prerequisites:
            graph[u].append(v)
        inDegrees = [0]*numCourses
        for i in range(numCourses):
            for nbr in graph[i]:
                inDegrees[nbr] = inDegrees[nbr]+1
        queue = []
        for i in range(numCourses):
            if inDegrees[i]==0:
                queue.append(i)

        count = 0
        topSort = []
        while len(queue)>0:
            ele = queue.pop(0)
            count = count+1
            topSort.append(ele)
            for nbr in graph[ele]:
                inDegrees[nbr] = inDegrees[nbr]-1

                if inDegrees[nbr]==0:

```

```
        queue.append(nbr)

    if count==numCourses:
        return topSort[::-1]
    else:
        return []
```