Negative cycle application: arbitrage detection

Problem. Given table of exchange rates, is there an arbitrage opportunity?

	USD	EUR	GBP	CHF	CAD
USD	1	0.741	0.657	1.061	1.011
EUR	1.350	1	0.888	1.433	1.366
GBP	1.521	1.126	1	1.614	1.538
CHF	0.943	0.698	0.620	1	0.953
CAD	0.995	0.732	0.650	1.049	1

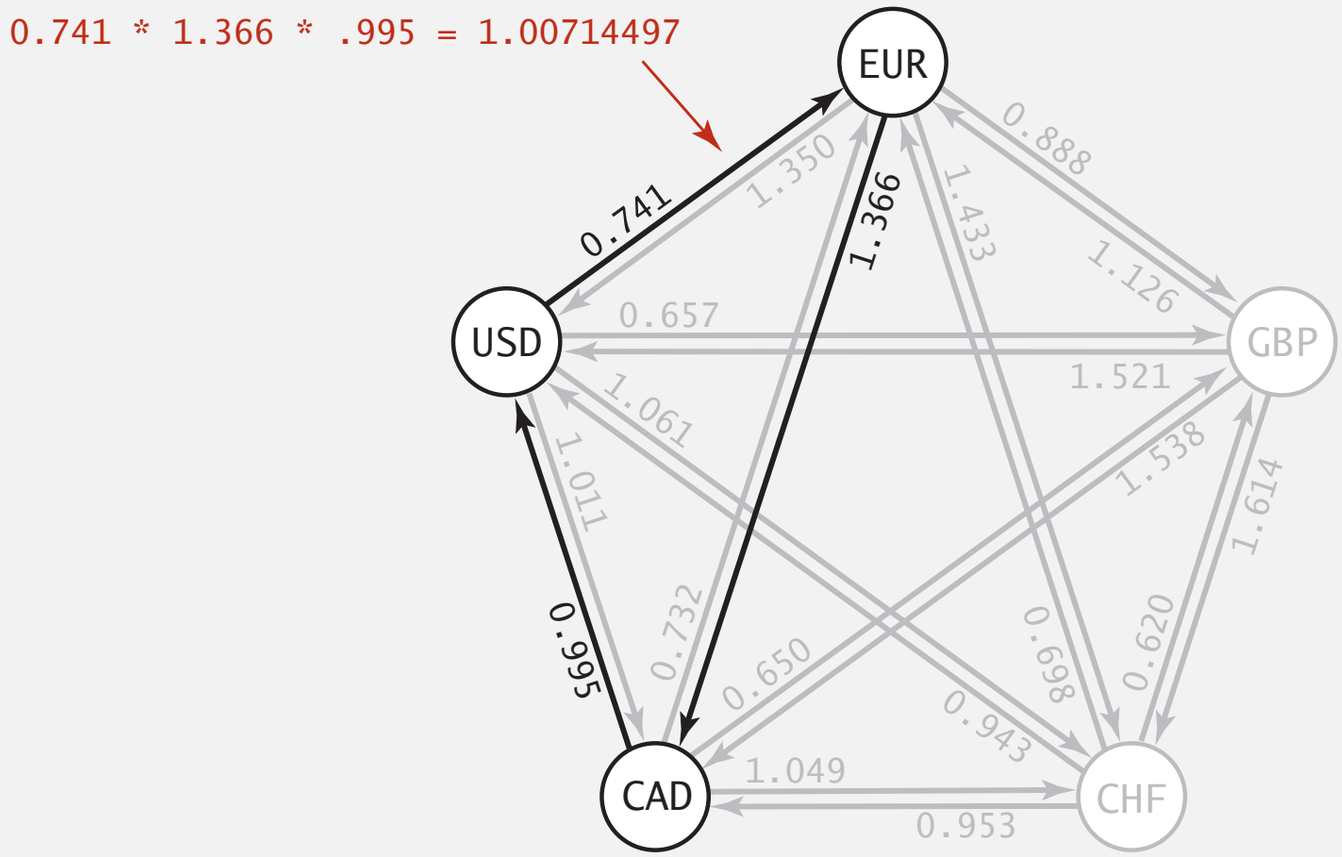
Ex. \$1,000 ⇒ 741 Euros ⇒ 1,012.206 Canadian dollars ⇒ \$1,007.14497.

$1000 \times 0.741 \times 1.366 \times 0.995 = 1007.14497$

Negative cycle application: arbitrage detection

Currency exchange graph.

- Vertex = currency.
- Edge = transaction, with weight equal to exchange rate.
- Find a directed cycle whose product of edge weights is > 1.

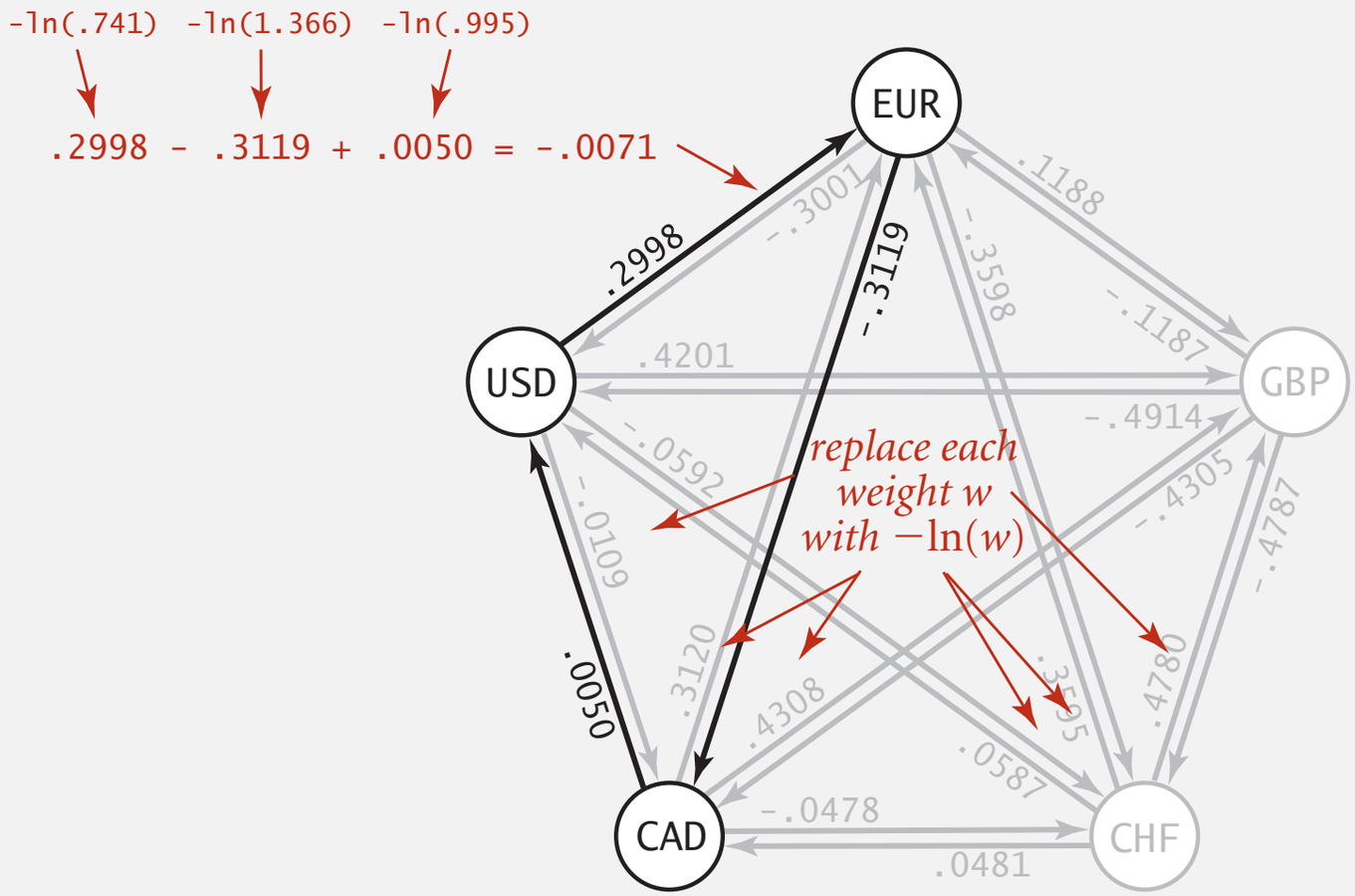


Challenge. Express as a negative cycle detection problem.

Negative cycle application: arbitrage detection

Model as a negative cycle detection problem by taking logs.

- Let weight of edge $v \rightarrow w$ be $-\ln$ (exchange rate from currency v to w).
- Multiplication turns to addition; > 1 turns to < 0.
- Find a directed cycle whose sum of edge weights is < 0 (negative cycle).



Remark. Fastest algorithm is extraordinarily valuable!