

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ y \in T}} f(x, y) \\
 &\quad - \sum_{\substack{u \in T \\ v \in N}} f(u, v) \\
 &= \sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ y \in N}} f(x, y) - \sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ u \in V}} f(u, x) \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

Maximum Flow Problem

Def Let  $N = (V, E)$  be a connected directed simple graph. Then  $N$  is called a network, or transport network, if

1. There is a unique vertex  $s \in V$ , called the source, with all incident edges directed away from  $s$ .

2. There is a unique vertex  $t \in V$ , called the sink, with all incident edges directed towards  $t$ .
3. A capacity function  $c$  that assigns to each edges  $(v, w)$  a (nonnegative integer) capacity  $c(v, w)$ .

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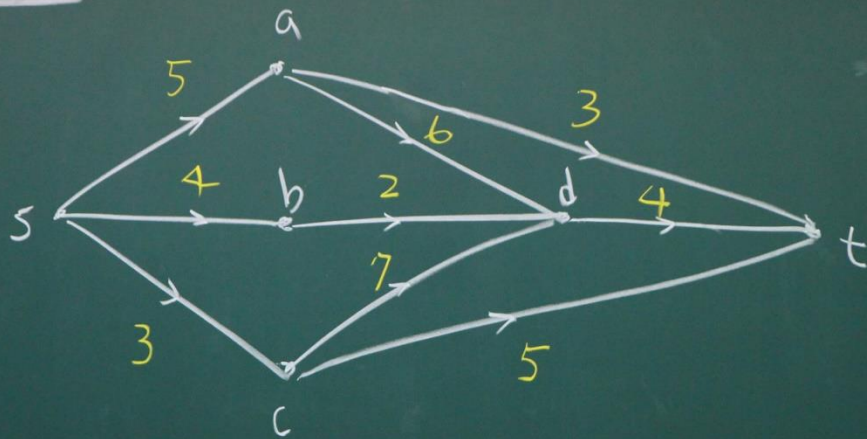
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## Example

A network



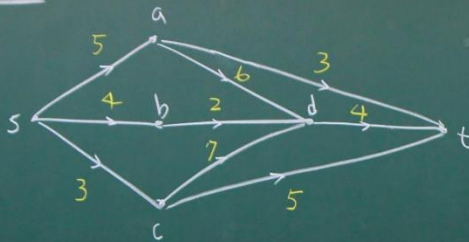


Def A flow  $f$  in a network  $N = (V, E)$  is a function that assigns to each edge  $e$  a nonnegative integer  $f(e)$  such that

1.  $f(e) \leq c(e)$ , for  $e \in E$ . (feasibility)
2.  $\text{inflow}(v) = \sum_{u \in V} f(u, v) = \sum_{w \in V} f(v, w) = \text{outflow}(v)$  for  $v \neq s, t$ . (conservation)

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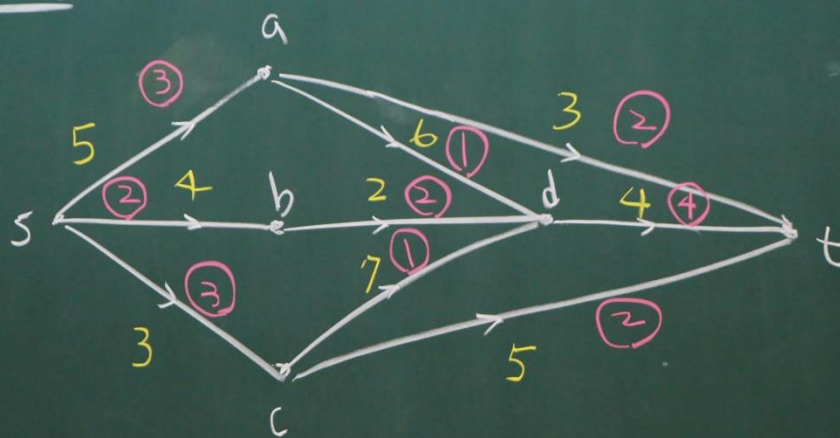


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Example

A network



Remark If there is no edge  $(u,v)$ , then  $c(u,v) = f(u,v) = 0$ .

Example (Continued.)

$$\text{outflow}(s) = 3 + 2 + 3 = 8$$

$$\text{inflow}(a) = 3 = 1 + 2 = \text{outflow}(a)$$

$$\text{inflow}(b) = 2 = \text{outflow}(b)$$

$$\text{inflow}(c) = 3 = 1 + 2 = \text{outflow}(c)$$

$$\text{inflow}(d) = 1 + 2 + 1 = 4 = \text{outflow}(d)$$

$$\text{inflow}(t) = 2 + 4 + 2 = 8.$$

Def The value of the flow is defined as the outflow of the source.

Example (Continued)  $\text{val}(f) = \text{outflow}(s) = 8$ .



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Example (continued)  $\text{val}(f) = \text{outflow}(s) = 8$ .

Def A cut  $(S, T)$  (separating  $s$  and  $t$ ) for a network  $N = (V, E)$  is a partition of  $V$ :  $V = S \cup T$  (with  $S \cap T = \emptyset$ ) such that  $s \in S$  and  $t \in T$ .

Property For a flow  $f$  and any cut  $(S, T)$ ,

$$\text{val}(f) = \sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ y \in T}} f(x, y) - \sum_{\substack{u \in T \\ v \in S}} f(u, v)$$

Example (continued)

Let  $S = \{s, a, b, d\}$  and  $T = \{c, t\}$ .

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Example (continued)

Let  $S = \{s, a, b, d\}$  and  $T = \{c, t\}$ .

$$\sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ y \in T}} f(x, y) = 2 + 4 + 3 = 9.$$

$$\sum_{\substack{u \in T \\ v \in S}} f(u, v) = 1$$

$$\text{val}(f) = 8 = 9 - 1.$$

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Example (Continued)

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Proof

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{val}(f) &= \text{outflow}(s) = \sum_{y \in V} f(s, y) \\
 &= \sum_{y \in V} f(s, y) - \underbrace{\sum_{u \in V} f(u, s)}_{\text{inflow}(s) = 0} \\
 &= \sum_{y \in V} f(s, y) - \sum_{u \in V} f(u, s) \\
 &\quad + \sum_{x \in V - \{s\}} \left( \underbrace{\sum_{y \in V} f(x, y) - \sum_{u \in V} f(u, x)}_{\text{outflow}(x) - \text{inflow}(x) = 0} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{\substack{x \in N \\ y \in T}} f(x, y) - \sum_{\substack{x \in N \\ u \in V}} f(u, x) \\
 &= \sum_{\substack{x \in N \\ y \in T}} f(x, y) + \sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ y \in T}} f(x, y) - \left( \sum_{\substack{u \in N \\ v \in T}} f(u, v) + \sum_{\substack{u \in N \\ v \in T}} f(u, v) \right) \\
 &= \sum_{\substack{x \in N \\ u \in V}} f(x, u)
 \end{aligned}$$



Proof

$$\begin{aligned} \text{val}(f) &= \text{outflow}(s) = \sum_{y \in V} f(s, y) \\ &= \sum_{y \in V} f(s, y) - \underbrace{\sum_{u \in V} f(u, s)}_{= \text{inflow}(s) = 0} \\ &= \sum_{y \in V} f(s, y) - \sum_{u \in V} f(u, s) \\ &\quad + \sum_{x \in S - \{s\}} \left( \underbrace{\sum_{y \in V} f(x, y) - \sum_{u \in V} f(u, x)}_{= \text{outflow}(x) - \text{inflow}(x) = 0} \right) \end{aligned}$$

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$\sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ y \in T}} f(x, y)$

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Remark Let  $S = V - \{t\}$  and  $T = \{t\}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We have } \text{val}(f) &= \sum_{x \in V - \{t\}} f(x, t) - \sum_{v \in V - \{t\}} f(t, v) \\ &= \text{inflow}(t) - \underbrace{\text{outflow}(t)}_0 \\ &= \text{inflow}(t) \end{aligned}$$



Def The capacity of the cut  $(S, T)$

is defined by  $\text{cap}(S, T) = \sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ y \in T}} c(x, y)$ .

Example (Continued)

If  $S = \{s, a, b\}$  and  $T = \{c, d, t\}$

$$\text{cap}(S, T) = \sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ y \in T}} c(x, y) = 3 + 6 + 2 + 3 = 14.$$

$$\text{If } S = \{s, b\} \text{ and } T = \{a, c, d, t\}, \text{cap}(S, T) = \sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ y \in T}} c(x, y) = 5 + 2 + 3 = 10.$$

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Property For a flow  $f$  and any cut  $(S, T)$ ,  
 $\text{val}(f) \leq \text{cap}(S, T)$ .

Proof

$$\begin{aligned} \text{val}(f) &= \sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ y \in T}} f(x, y) - \sum_{\substack{u \in T \\ v \in S}} f(u, v) \\ &\leq \sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ y \in T}} f(x, y) \quad \underbrace{\text{outflow}(S)}_{\geq 0} \\ &\leq \sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ y \in T}} c(x, y) = \text{cap}(S, T) \end{aligned}$$



Remark  $\text{max-flow} \leq \text{min-cut}$

Example (Continued)

Consider the directed path  $s, a, t$ .

Neither the edge  $(s, a)$  nor  $(a, t)$  is carrying flow into its full capacity, and so we can increase the flow on both edges by  $\min(5-3, 3-2) = 1$ .

Hence  $f_1(s, a) = 3+1 = 4$  and  $f_1(a, t) = 2+1 = 3$ .

The rules of feasibility and conservation still hold, and  $\text{val}(f_1) = 8+1 = 9$ .

Now consider the "path"  $s, a, d, c, t$ .

A path in a network is a path in the associated undirected graph.

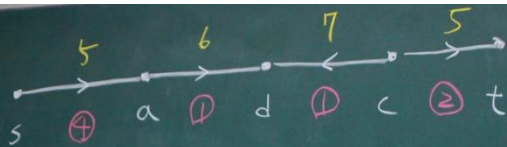
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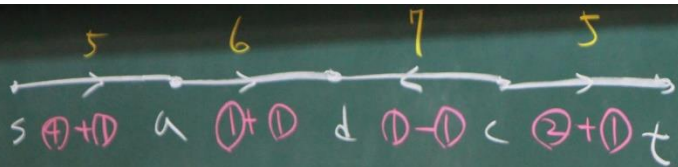
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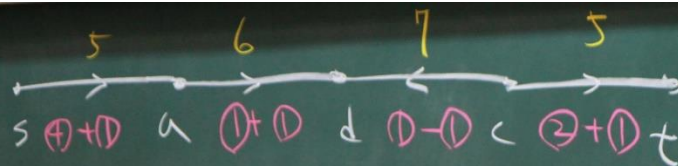
We can increase the flow on these edges by

$\min(5-4, 6-1, 1, 5-2) = 1$ ,  
without violating the feasibility and conservation rules.



We then obtain a new flow  $f_2$  with  
 $\text{val}(f_2) = 9 + 1 = 10$ .

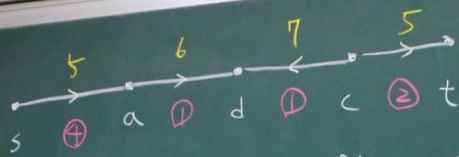
Recall that if  $S = \{s, b\}$  and  $T = \{a, c, d, t\}$ ,  
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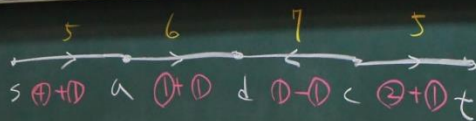




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∴  $f_2$  is a maximum flow.

In general, given a flow  $f$  in a network, a path  $p$  from  $s$  to  $t$  is called an  $f$ -augmenting path provided that for each edge  $e$  on  $p$ ,

$$f(e) < c(e), \quad \text{for } e \text{ a forward edge,}$$

$$f(e) > 0, \quad \text{for } e \text{ a backward edge.}$$

Given an  $f$ -augmenting path  $p$ , the maximum amount of the flow we can increase on the forward edges and decrease on the backward edges without violating the feasibility and conservation rules, is

$$\Delta_p = \min_{e \in p} \Delta_e,$$

where

$$\Delta_e = \begin{cases} c(e) - f(e), & \text{for } e \text{ a forward edge} \\ f(e), & \text{for } e \text{ a backward edge.} \end{cases}$$

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