



CS240 Algorithm Design and Analysis

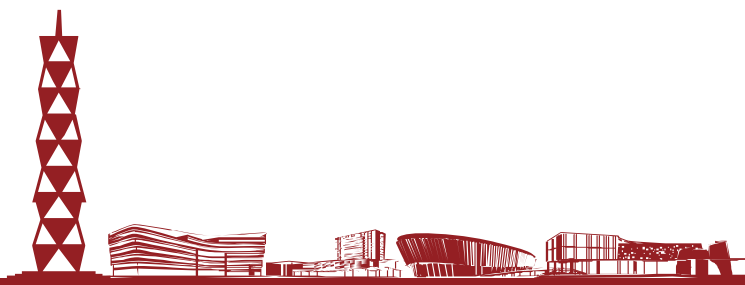
Lecture 9

Network Flow (Cont.)

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Fall 2025
2025.10.16



Baseball Elimination

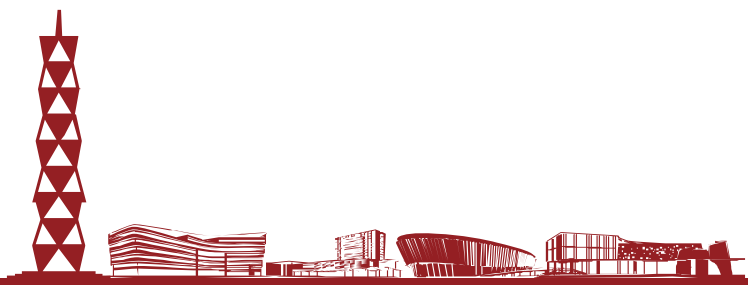


Baseball Elimination



Team i	Wins w_i	Losses l_i	To play r_i	Against = r_{ij}			
				Atl	Phi	NY	Mon
Atlanta	83	71	8	-	1	6	1
Philly	80	79	3	1	-	0	2
New York	78	78	6	6	0	-	0
Montreal	77	82	3	1	2	0	-

- Which teams have a chance of finishing the season with most wins?
 - Montreal eliminated since it can finish with at most 80 wins, but Atlanta already has 83
 - $w_i + r_i < w_j \rightarrow$ team i eliminated
 - Sufficient, but not necessary!

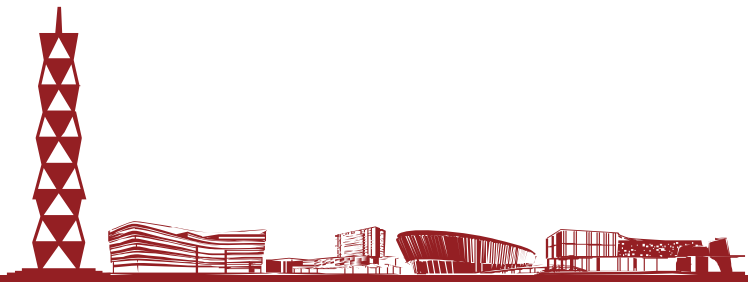


Baseball Elimination



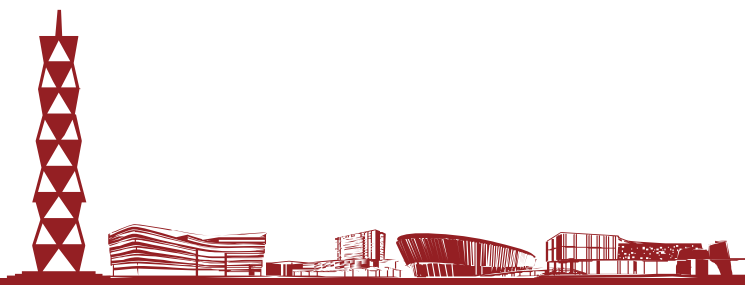
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- Which teams have a chance of finishing the season with most wins?
 - Philly can win 83, but still eliminated...
 - If Atlanta loses all games, then New York wins 84...



- **Baseball elimination problem**

- Set of teams S
- Distinguished team $z \in S$
- Team x has won w_x games already
- Teams x and y play each other g_{xy} additional times
- Is there any outcome of the remaining games in which team z finishes with the most (or tied for the most) wins?



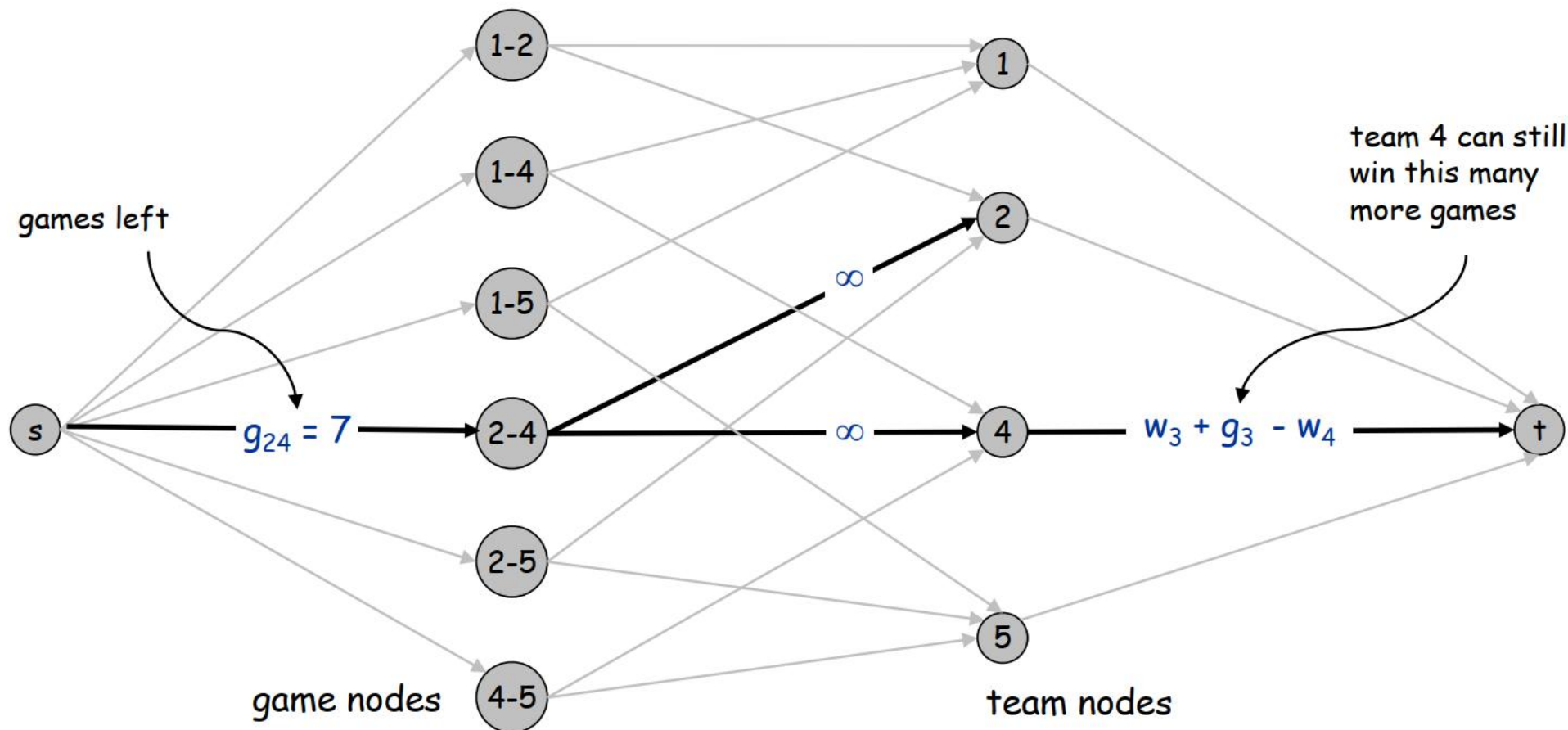


Baseball Elimination: Max Flow Formulation



- **Can team 3 finish with most wins?**

- Assume team 3 wins all remaining games $\rightarrow w_3 + g_3$ wins
- Divvy remaining games so that all teams have $\leq w_3 + g_3$ wins

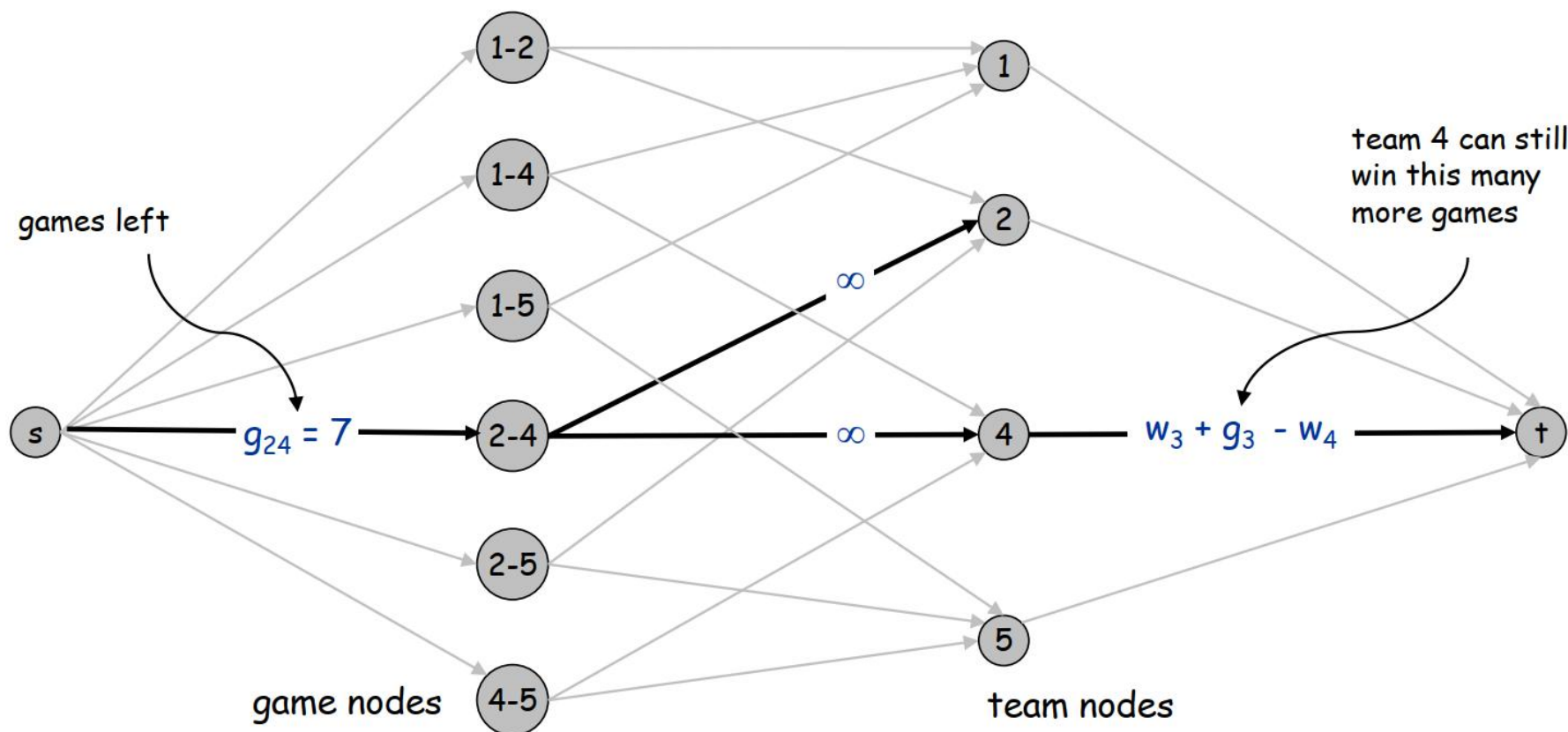




Baseball Elimination: Max Flow Formulation



- **Theorem.** Team 3 is not eliminated iff max flow saturates all edges leaving source
 - Integrality theorem \rightarrow each remaining game between x and y added to number of wins for team x or team y
 - Capacity on (x, t) edges ensure no team wins too many games



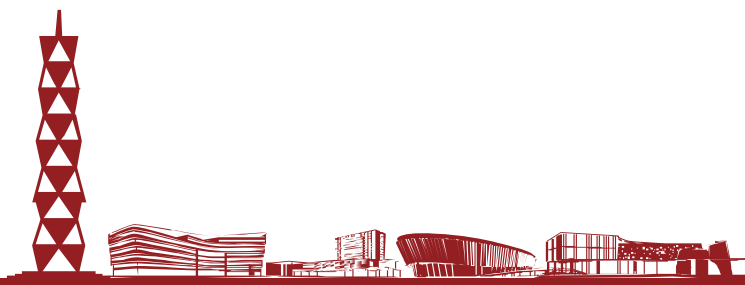


Baseball Elimination: Explanation for Sports Writers



Team i	Wins w_i	Losses l_i	To play r_i	Against = r_{ij}				
				NY	Bal	Bos	Tor	Det
NY	75	59	28	-	3	8	7	3
Baltimore	71	63	28	3	-	2	7	4
Boston	69	66	27	8	2	-	0	0
Toronto	63	72	27	7	7	0	-	-
Detroit	49	86	27	3	4	0	0	-

- Which teams have a chance of finishing the season with most wins?
 - Detroit could finish season with $49 + 27 = 76$ wins





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AL East: August 30, 1996

- Which teams have a chance of finishing the season with most wins?
 - Detroit could finish season with $49 + 27 = 76$ wins
- Certificate of elimination. $R = \{\text{Ny, Bal, Bos, Tor}\}$
 - Have already won $w(R) = 278$ games
 - Remaining games among R is $r(R) = 3+8+7+2+7 = 27$
 - Average team in R wins at least $(278 + 27)/4 > 76$ games





Baseball Elimination: Explanation for Sports Writers



- **Certificate of elimination**

$$T \subseteq S, \quad w(T) := \overbrace{\sum_{i \in T} w_i}^{\# \text{ wins}}, \quad g(T) := \overbrace{\sum_{\{x,y\} \subseteq T} g_{xy}}^{\# \text{ remaining games}},$$

- **Theorem.** [Hoffman-Rivlin 1967] Team z is eliminated iff there exists a subset T^* such that

$$\overbrace{\frac{w(T^*) + g(T^*)}{|T^*|}}^{\text{LB on avg \# games won}} > w_z + g_z$$

- **Proof.** ←

- The average number of wins of teams in T^* is larger than the maximum number of wins of z



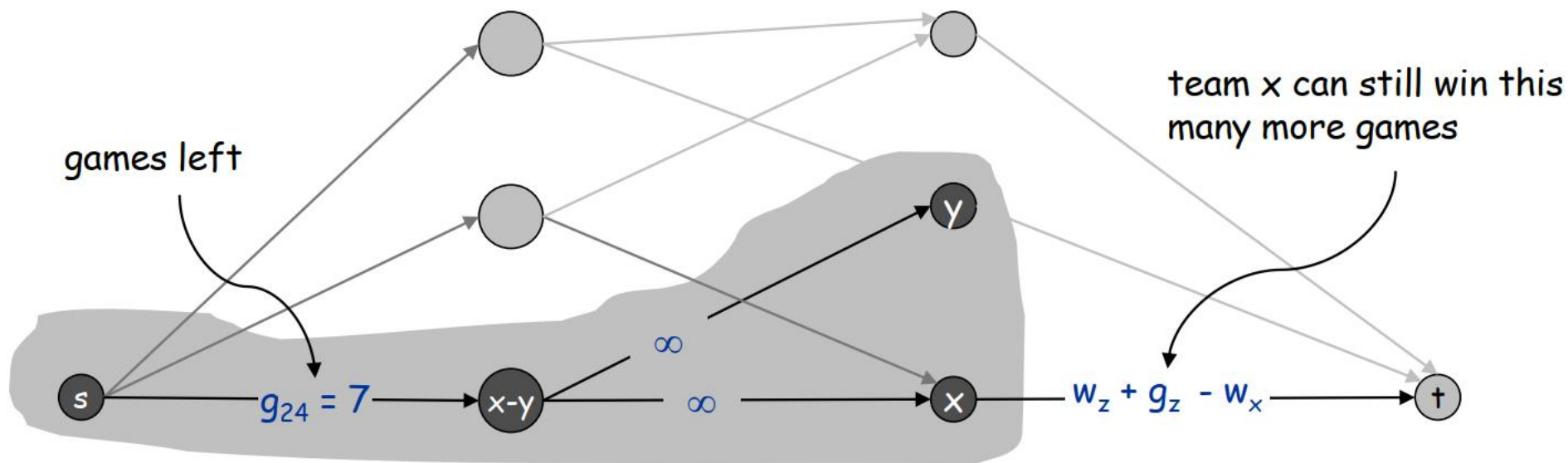


Baseball Elimination: Explanation for Sports Writers



• Proof. →

- Use max flow formulation, and consider min cut (A, B)
- Define T^* = team nodes on source side of min cut
- Observer $x-y \in A$ iff both $x \in T^*$ and $y \in T^*$
 - Infinite capacity edges ensure if $x-y \in A$ then $x \in A$ and $y \in A$
 - If $x \in A$ and $y \in A$ but $x-y \in B$, then adding $x-y$ to A decreases capacity of cut





Baseball Elimination: Explanation for Sports Writers



• Proof. →

- Use max flow formulation, and consider min cut (A, B)
- Define T^* = team nodes on source side of min cut
- Observer $x-y \in A$ iff both $x \in T^*$ and $y \in T^*$
- Since z is eliminated, by max-flow min-cut theorem:

$$g(S - \{z\}) > \text{cap}(A, B)$$

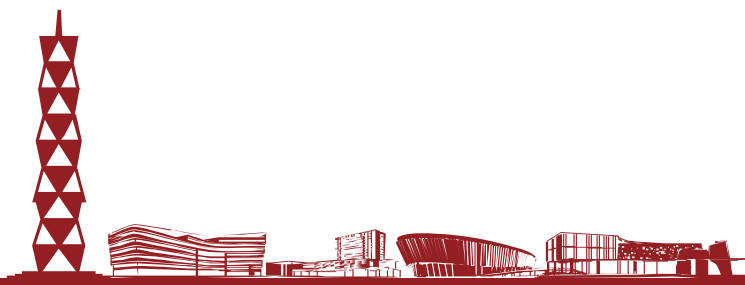
$$\begin{aligned} &= \overbrace{g(S - \{z\}) - g(T^*)}^{\text{capacity of game edges leaving } T^*} + \overbrace{\sum_{x \in T^*} (w_z + g_z - w_x)}^{\text{capacity of team edges entering } T^*} \\ &= g(S - \{z\}) - g(T^*) - w(T^*) + |T^*| (w_z + g_z) \end{aligned}$$

Rearranging terms: $w_z + g_z < \frac{w(T^*) + g(T^*)}{|T^*|}$.





Project Selection

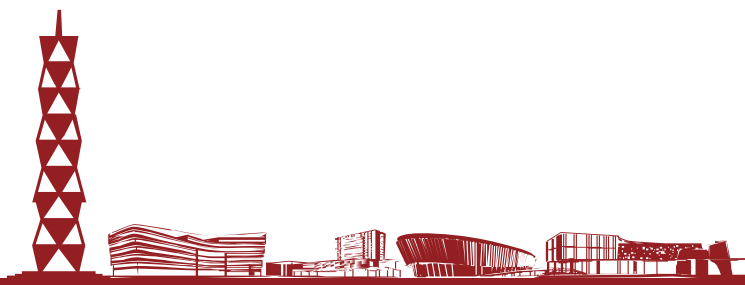


- **Projects with prerequisites**

Can be positive or negative



- Set P of possible projects. Project v has associated revenue p_v
 - Some projects generate money: create e-commerce interface, design web page
 - Others cost money: upgrade computers, get site license
 - Set of prerequisites E . If $(v, w) \in E$, can't do project v unless also do project w
 - A subset of projects $A \subseteq P$ is **feasible** if the prerequisite of every project in A also belongs to A
-
- **Project selection.** Choose a feasible subset of projects to maximize revenue



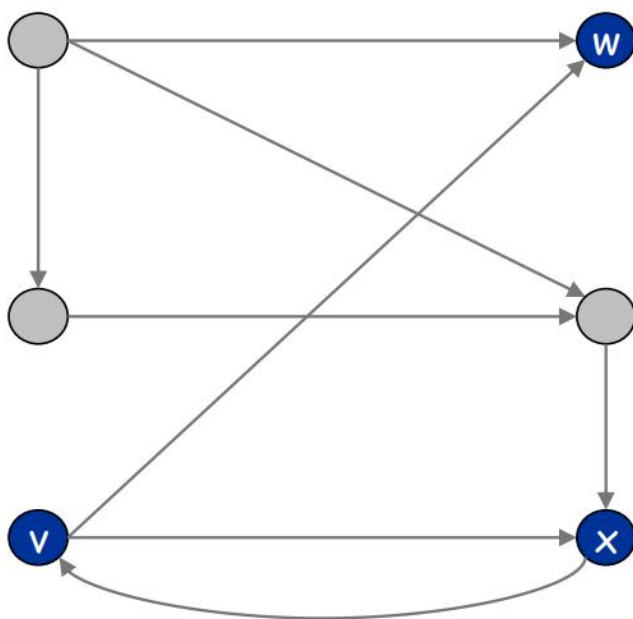


Project Selection: Prerequisite Graph

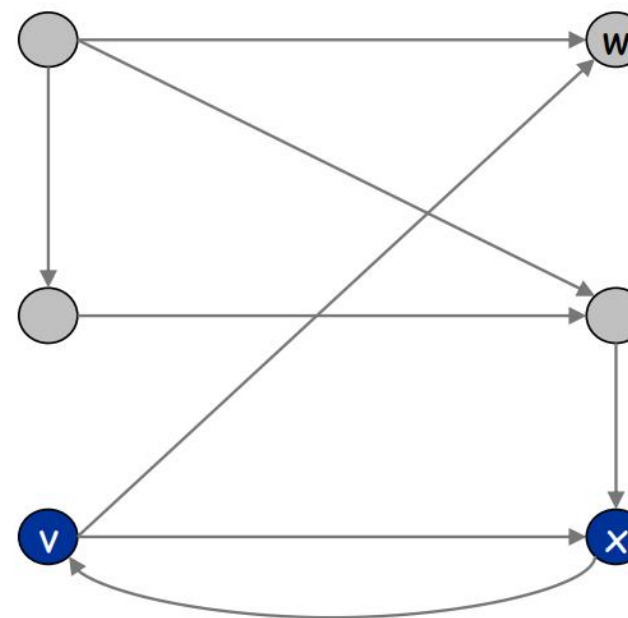


- **Prerequisite graph**

- Include an edge from v to w if can't do v without also doing w
- $\{v, w, x\}$ is feasible subset of projects
- $\{v, x\}$ is infeasible subset of projects



feasible



infeasible



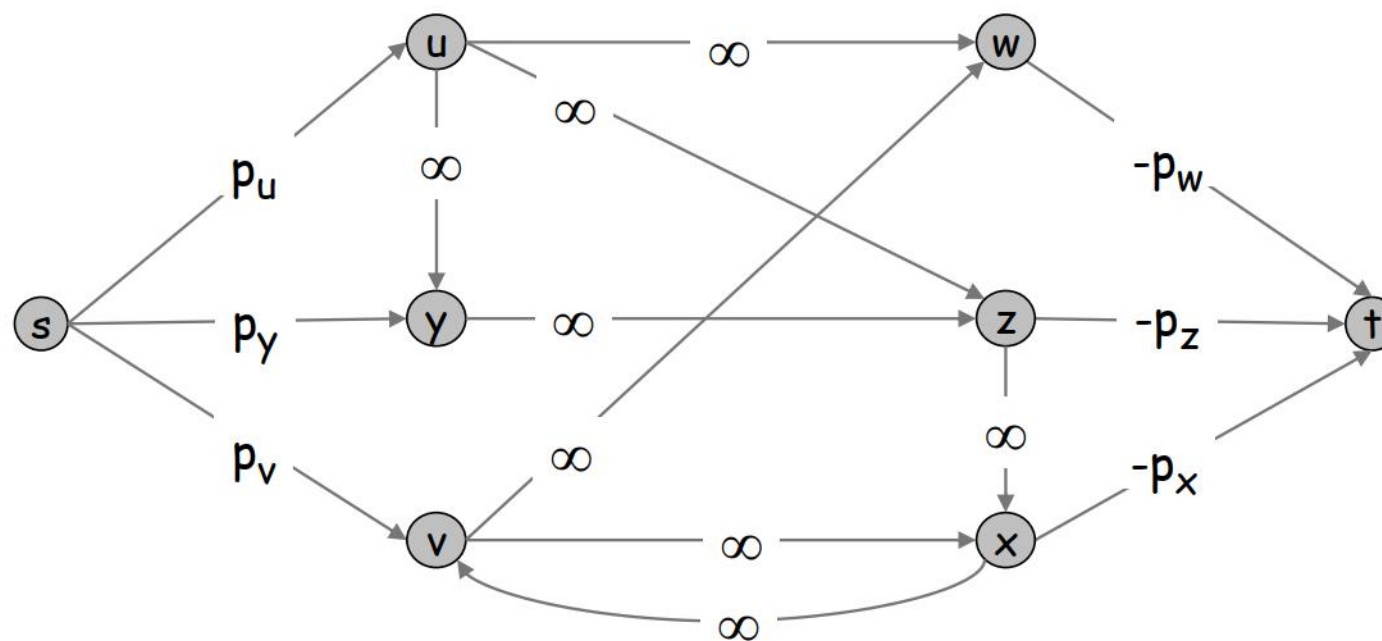


Project Selection: Min Cut Formulation



• Min Cut formulation

- Assign capacity ∞ to all prerequisite edges
- Add edge (s, v) with capacity p_v if $p_v > 0$
- Add edge (v, t) with capacity $-p_v$ if $p_v < 0$
- For notational convenience, define $p_s = p_t = 0$





Project Selection: Min Cut Formulation



- **Claim.** (A, B) is min cut iff $A - \{s\}$ is optimal set of project

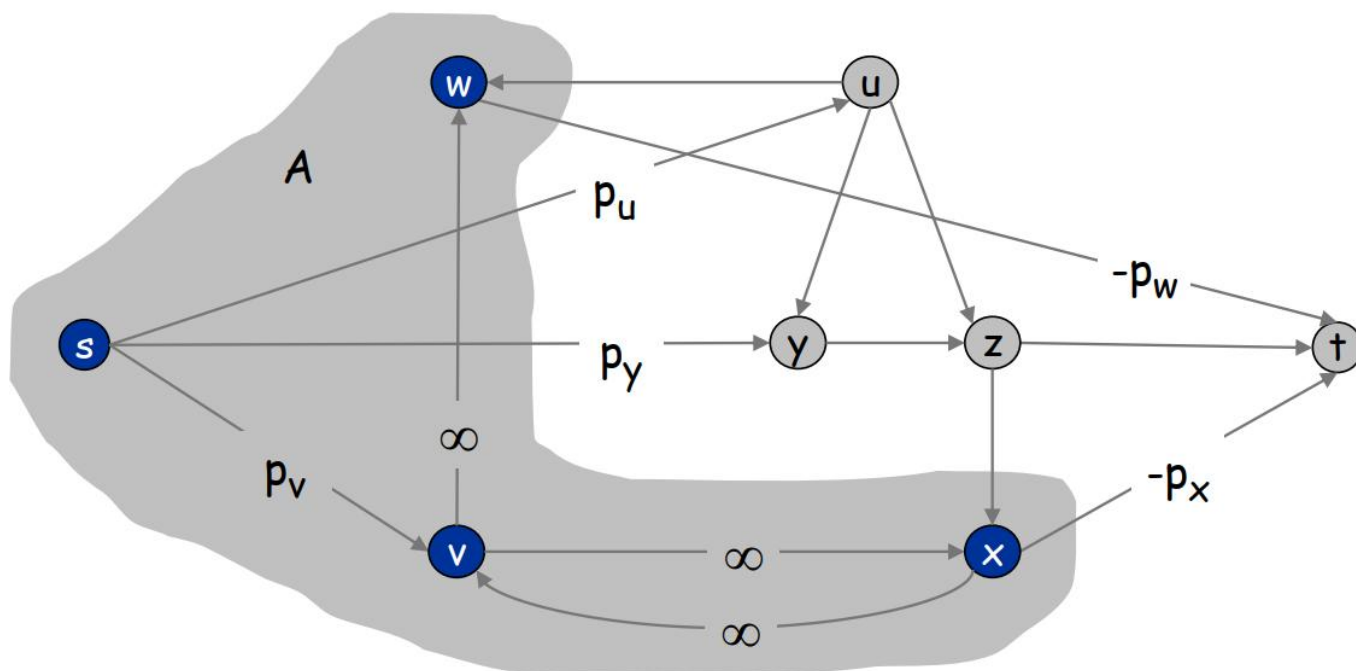
- Infinite capacity edges ensure $A - \{s\}$ is feasible

- Max revenue because:

$$cap(A, B) = \sum_{v \in B: p_v > 0} p_v + \sum_{v \in A: p_v < 0} (-p_v)$$

$$= \sum_{v \in B: p_v > 0} p_v + \sum_{v \in A: p_v > 0} p_v - \sum_{v \in A: p_v > 0} p_v + \sum_{v \in A: p_v < 0} (-p_v)$$

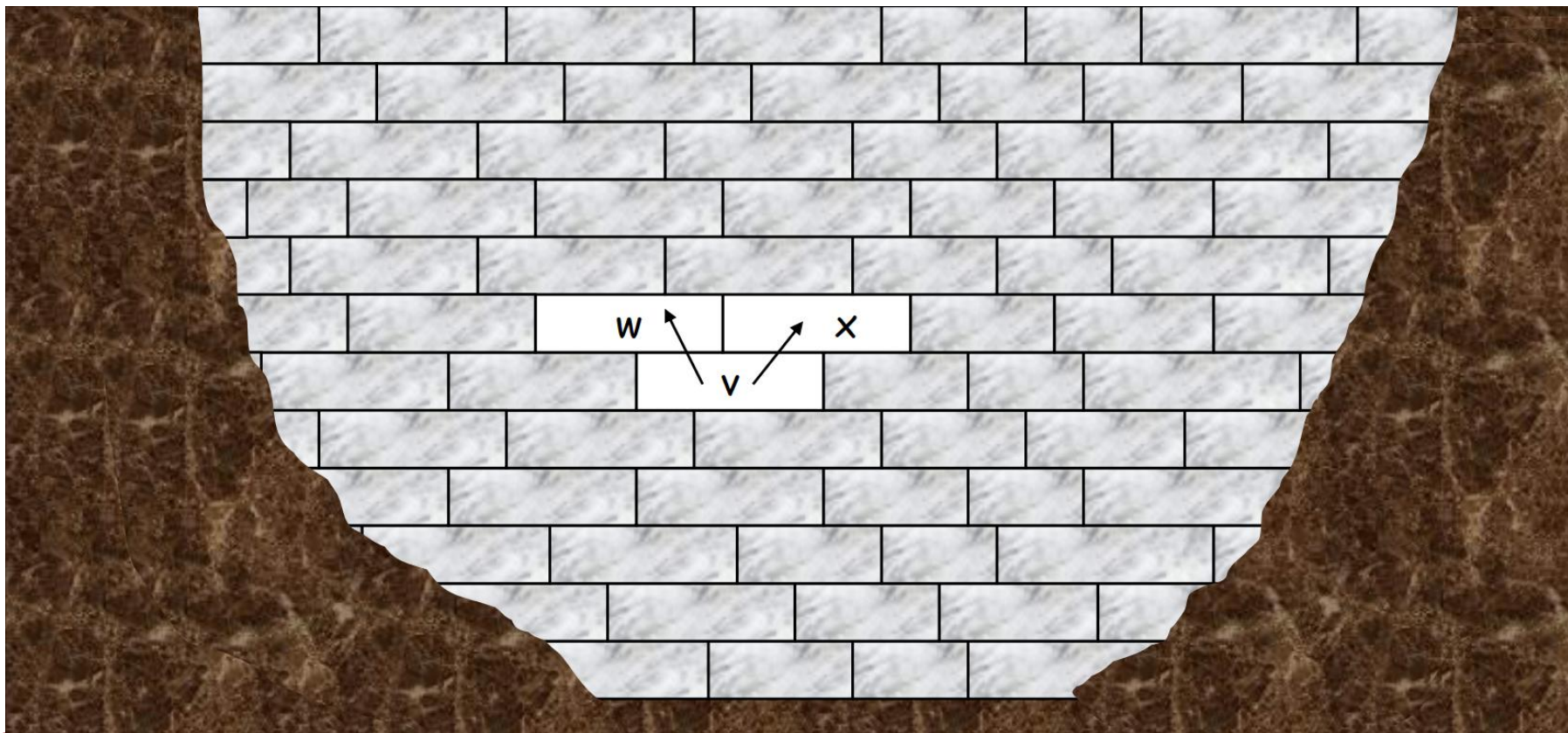
$$= \underbrace{\sum_{v: p_v > 0} p_v}_{\text{constant}} - \sum_{v \in A} p_v$$



Open Pit Mining

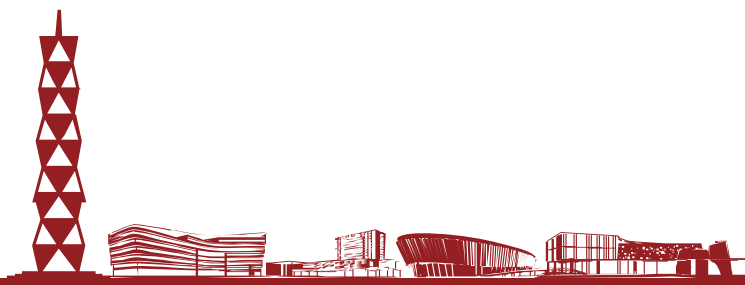


- Open-pit mining. (studied since early 1960s)
 - Blocks of earth are extracted from surface to retrieve ore
 - Each block v has net value $p_v = \text{value of ore} - \text{processing cost}$
 - Can't remove block v before w or x





Summary

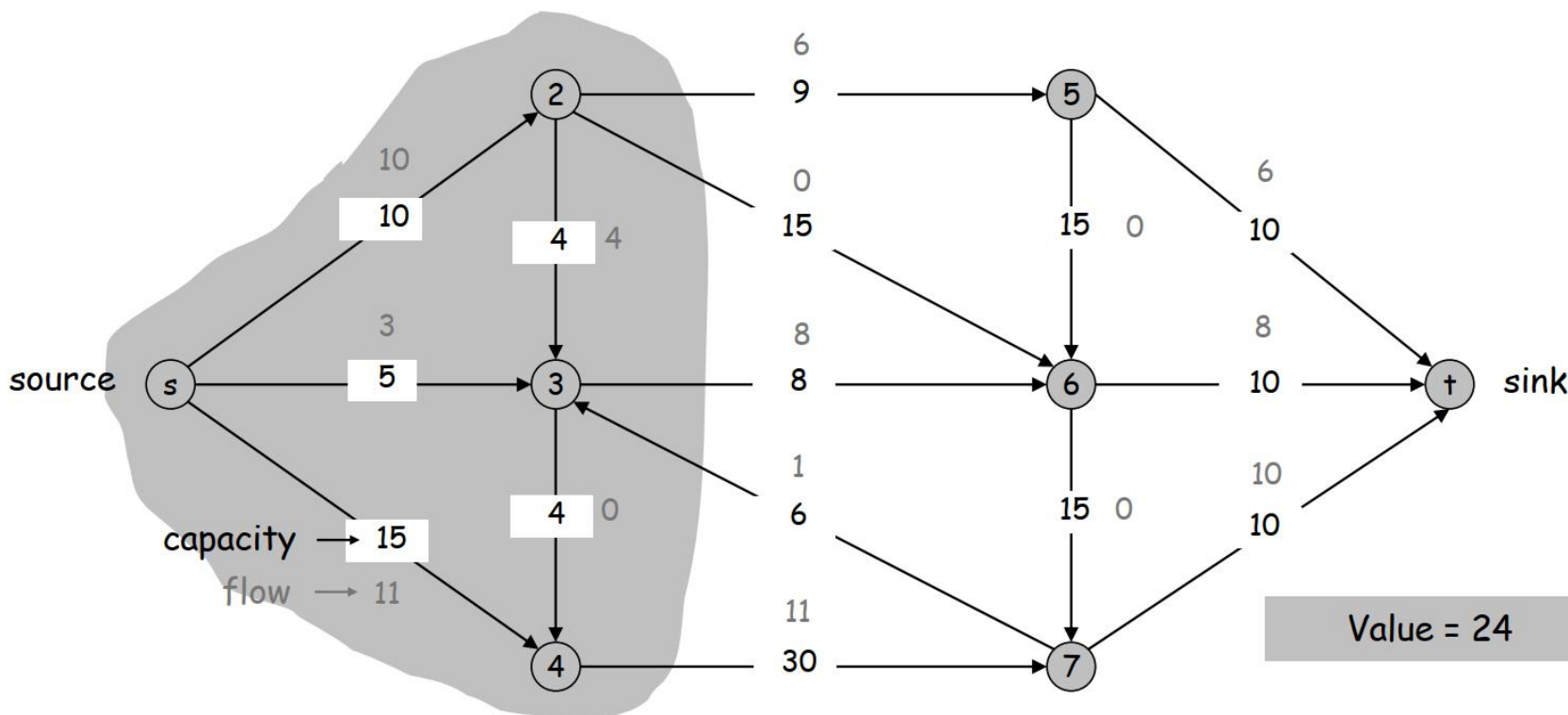




• Concepts

- s-t flow
- Max-flow
- s-t cut
- Min-cut

Max-flow min-cut theorem: The value of the max flow is equal to the value of the min cut



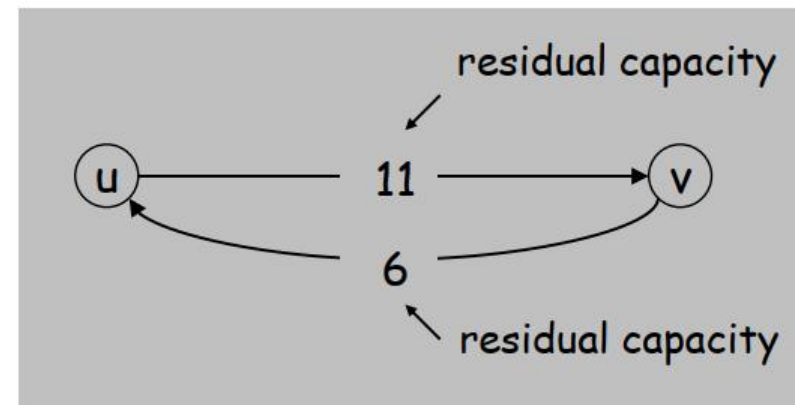
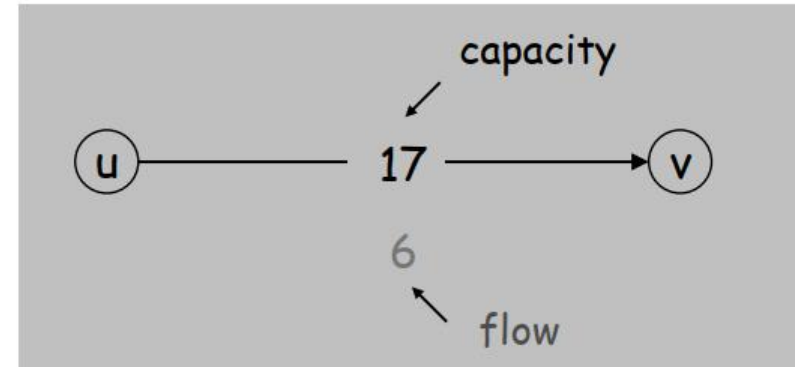


Ford-Fulkerson Algorithm



• Ford-Fulkerson Algorithm

- Start with $f(e) = 0$ for all edge $e \in E$
- Find an augmenting path P in the residual graph G_f
 - Can be chosen using capacity scaling
- Augment flow along path P
- Repeat until you get stuck



```
Ford-Fulkerson( $G, s, t, c$ ) {  
  foreach  $e \in E$   $f(e) \leftarrow 0$   
   $G_f \leftarrow$  residual graph  
  
  while (there exists augmenting path  $P$ ) {  
     $f \leftarrow$  Augment( $f, c, P$ )  
    update  $G_f$   
  }  
  return  $f$   
}
```





Applications



- **Problems covered in class**
 - Bipartite Matching
 - Disjoint Paths
 - Circulation with Demands (+ edge lower bounds)
 - Survey Design
 - Image Segmentation
 - Baseball Elimination
 - Project Selection

