



**Question:** You are given a network with  $n$  vertices,  $m$  edges, a source  $s$  and a sink  $t$ . Suppose your friend presents to you an  $s$ - $t$  flow for the network by assigning for every edge  $e$ , a flow  $f(e)$ . Describe an  $O(n + m)$  algorithm to test if your friend's flow assignment is a maximum  $s$ - $t$  flow.

**Answer:** The answer is basically equivalent to a single iteration of the Ford-Fulkerson algorithm. You may also want to make sure the given flow is feasible too. The runtime is dominated by the DFS execution which is  $O(m+n)$ .

```
IsMaxFlow(G, s, t, c, f) {
    // Check flow feasibility
    for each edge e in G.E {
        if c[e] < f[e] OR f[e] < 0
            return false // not a valid flow
    }
    for each node u in G.V {
        flow[u] = null
    }
    DFS(u, x, cf)
    if flow[t] = null {
        return true // max flow
    }
    return false // not a max flow
}

DFS(u, x, c, f) {
    flow[u] = x
    for each e = (u, v) as outgoing edges of u {
        if flow[v] = null and c[u, v] - f[u, v] > 0 {
            parent[v] = u
            DFS(v, min(x, c[u, v] - f[u, v]))
        }
    }
    for each e = (v, u) as incoming edges of u {
        if flow[v] = null and f[v, u] > 0 {
            parent[v] = u
            DFS(v, min(x, f[v, u]))
        }
    }
}
```