

# طراحی الگوریتم ها

مبحث هفدهم:  
شماره پیشینه

**سجاد شیرعلی شهرضا**

**بهار، 1402**

**چهارشنبه، 20 اردیبهشت 1402**

## اطلاع رسانی

- بخش مرتبط کتاب برای این جلسه: 26
- تمدید مهلت ارسال تمرین سوم: 8 صبح روز پنجشنبه 28 اردیبهشت 1402

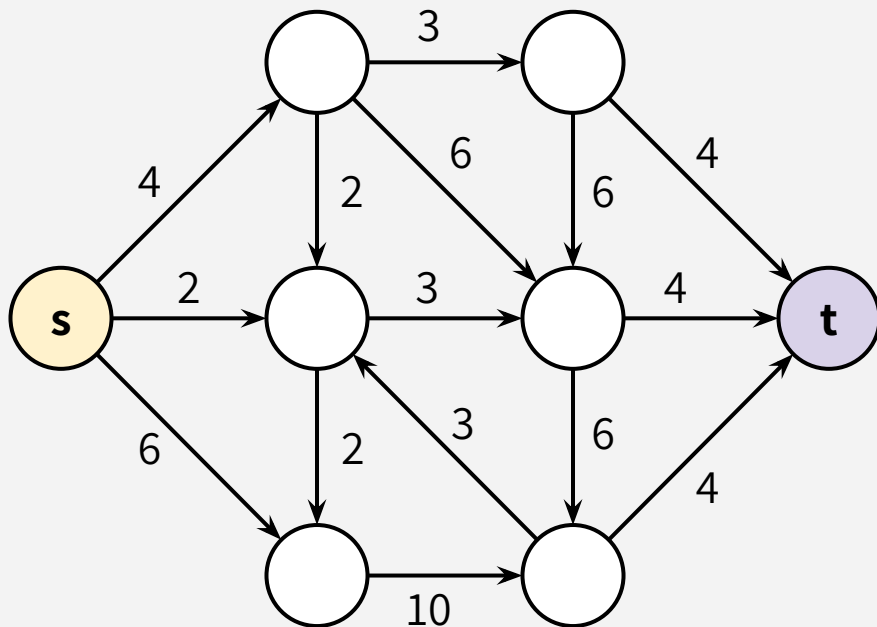
برش کمینه s-t

**برش کمینه برای جداسازی دو راس خاص**

# s-t MINIMUM CUTS

A **minimum s-t cut** is a cut which separates **s** from **t** with minimum cost

Now, we're talking about  
*directed & weighted*  
graphs.



The **cost/capacity**  
of a cut is the sum  
of the capacities of  
the edges that  
*cross the cut*  
(i.e. edges that go **from**  
the s-side to the t-side)

# s-t MINIMUM CUTS

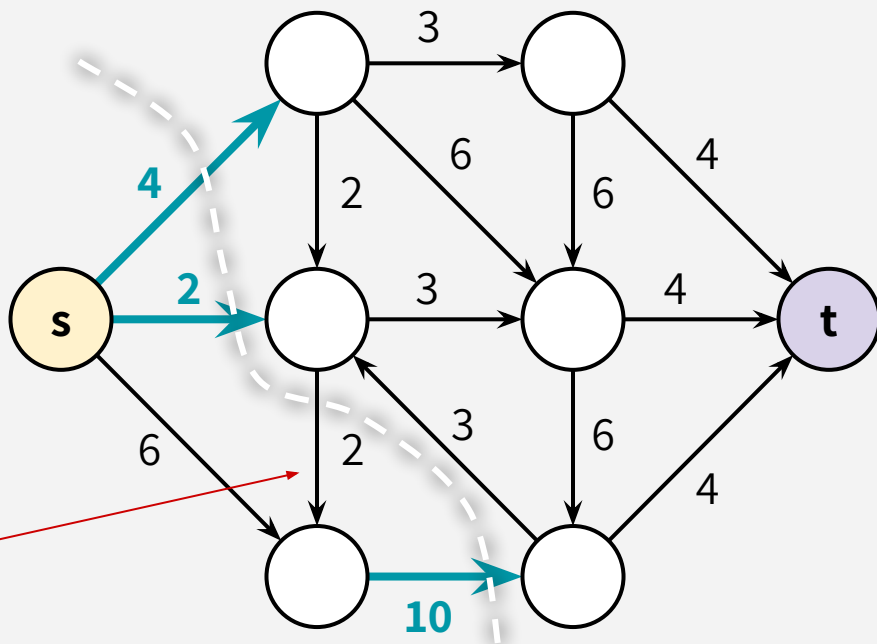
A **minimum s-t cut** is a cut which separates **s** from **t** with minimum cost

This is a cut that separates **s** from **t**!

It has cost  
 $4 + 2 + 10 = 16$

**Note that this edge does not cross the cut!**

It's going in the wrong direction (from the t-side to the s-side)



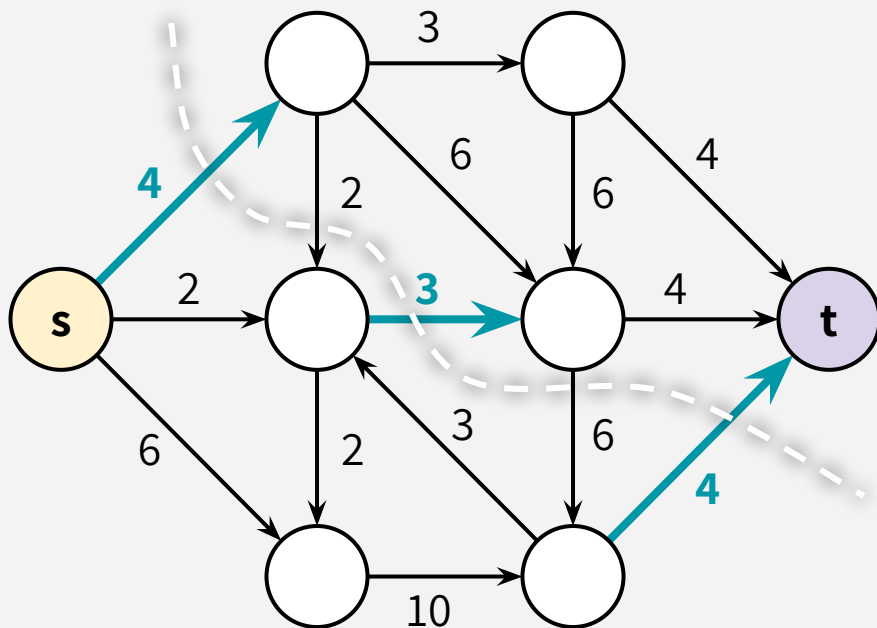
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# s-t MINIMUM CUTS

A **minimum s-t cut** is a cut which separates **s** from **t** with minimum cost

This is a cut that separates **s** from **t**!  
It has cost  
 $4 + 3 + 4 = \mathbf{11}$

This is actually a minimum s-t cut!



The **cost/capacity** of a cut is the sum of the capacities of the edges that *cross the cut* (i.e. edges that go **from** the s-side to the t-side)

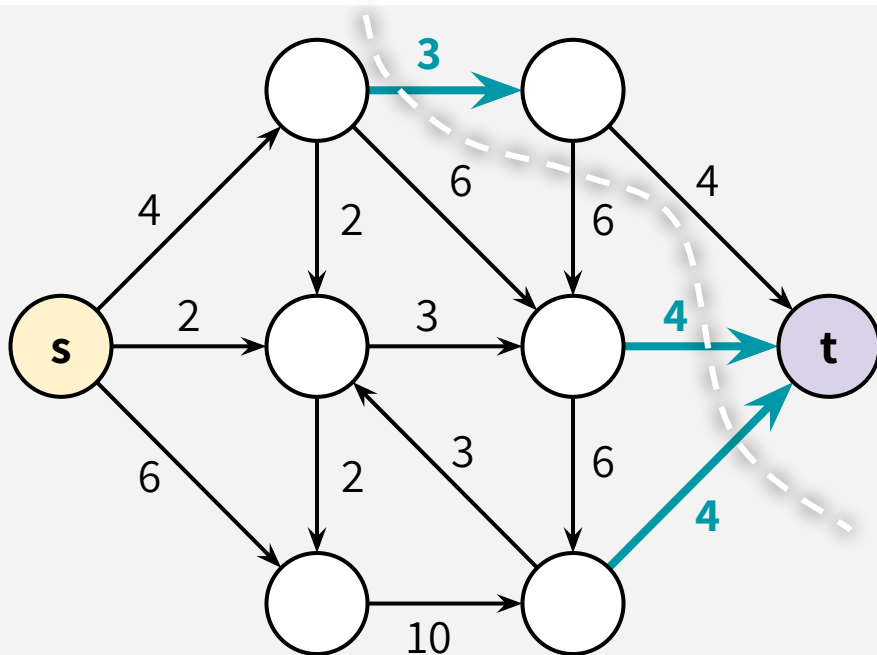
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A **minimum s-t cut** is a cut which separates **s** from **t** with minimum cost

This cut has cost

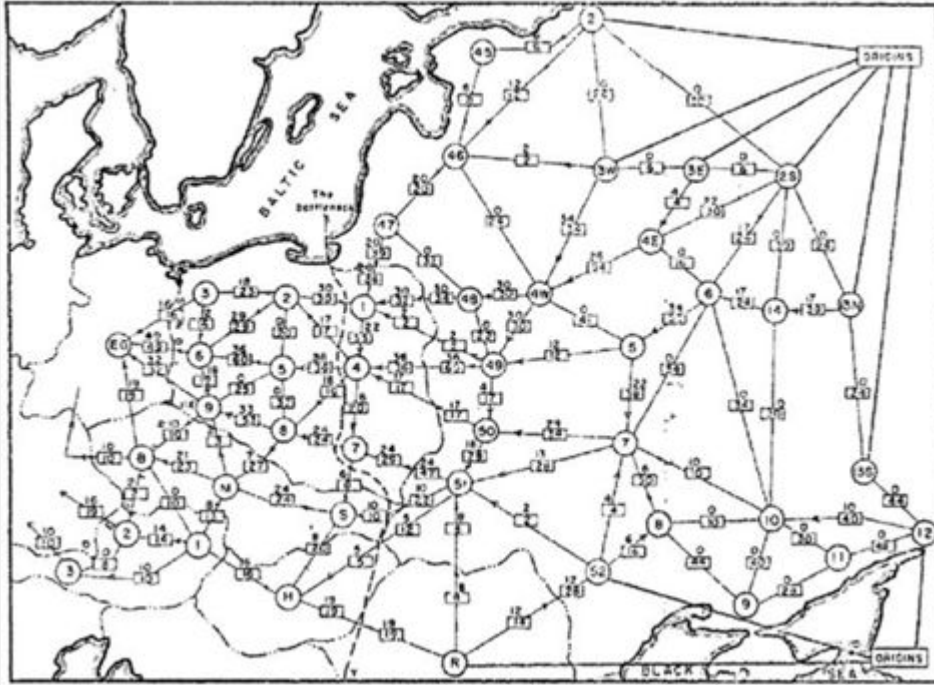
$$3 + 4 + 4 = \mathbf{11}$$

This is also a  
minimum s-t cut!



The **cost/capacity** of a cut is the sum of the capacities of the edges that *cross the cut* (i.e. edges that go **from** the s-side to the t-side)

# EXAMPLE APPLICATION



**1955 map of rail networks from the Soviet Union to Eastern Europe.**

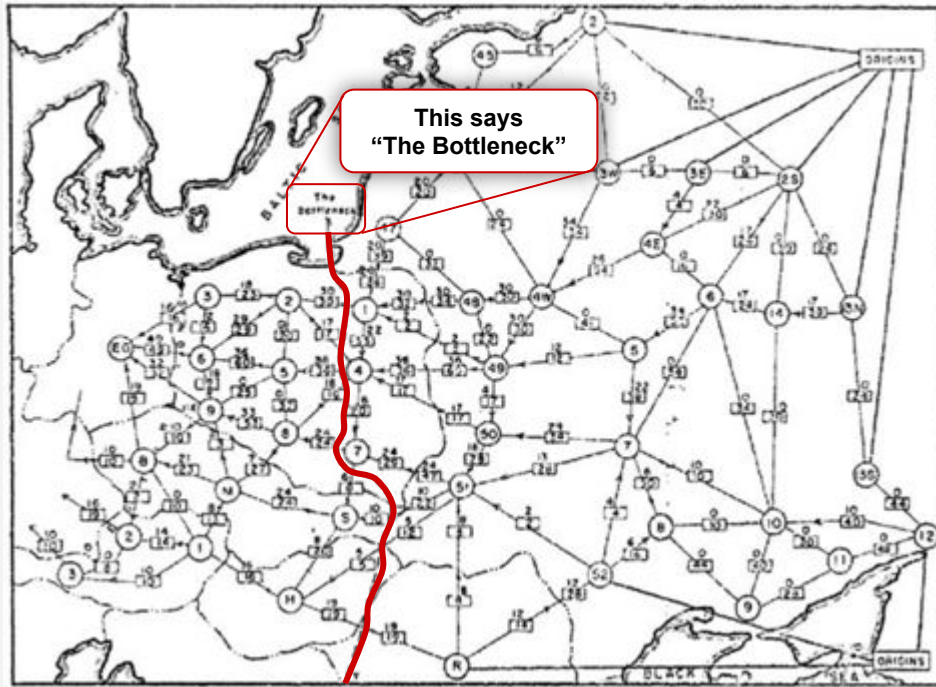
Declassified in 1999.

44 edges, 105 vertices

The US wanted to cut off routes from suppliers in Russia to Eastern Europe as efficiently as possible.



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In 1955, Ford and Fulkerson gave an algorithm which finds the optimal s-t cut.

# EXAMPLE APPLICATION



**1955 map of rail networks from the Soviet Union to Eastern Europe.**

Declassified in 1999.

44 edges, 105 vertices

**How do we find a minimum  $s$ - $t$  cut?**

First, we need to talk about flows!

... routes from  
... Eastern Europe  
... possible.

In 1955, Ford and Fulkerson gave an algorithm which finds the optimal  $s$ - $t$  cut.



سوال؟

# شماره پیشینه

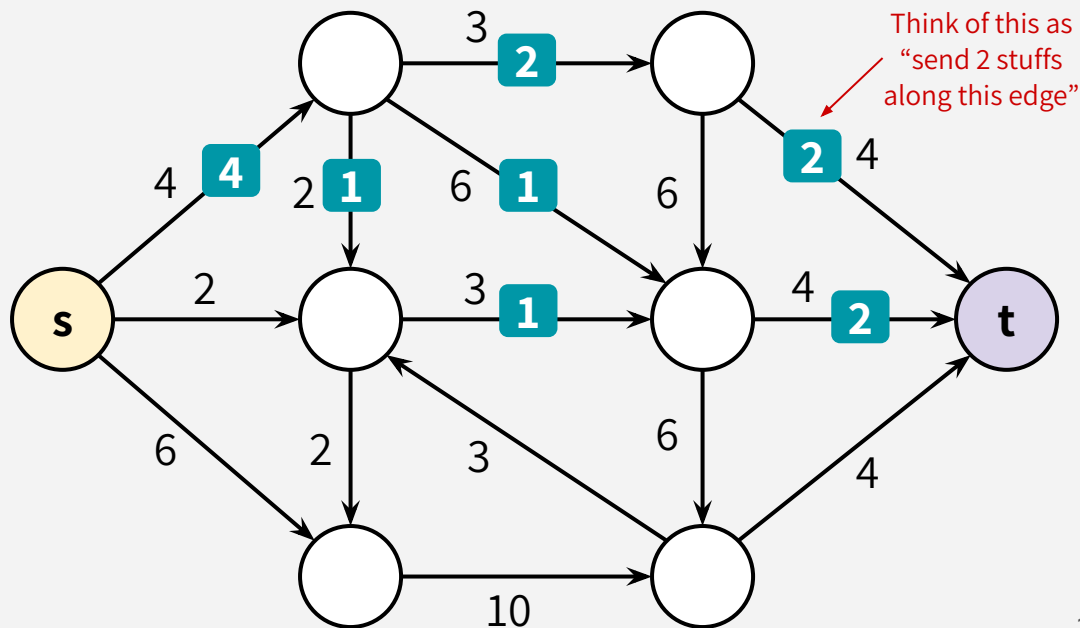
**و رابطه آن با برش کمینه**

# (s-t) MAXIMUM FLOWS

The **value of a flow** is the amount of stuff coming out of **s**  
(aka the amount of stuff flowing into **t**, due to flow conservation!)

**Every edge has a flow**

Edges with 0 flow are unmarked



# (s-t) MAXIMUM FLOWS

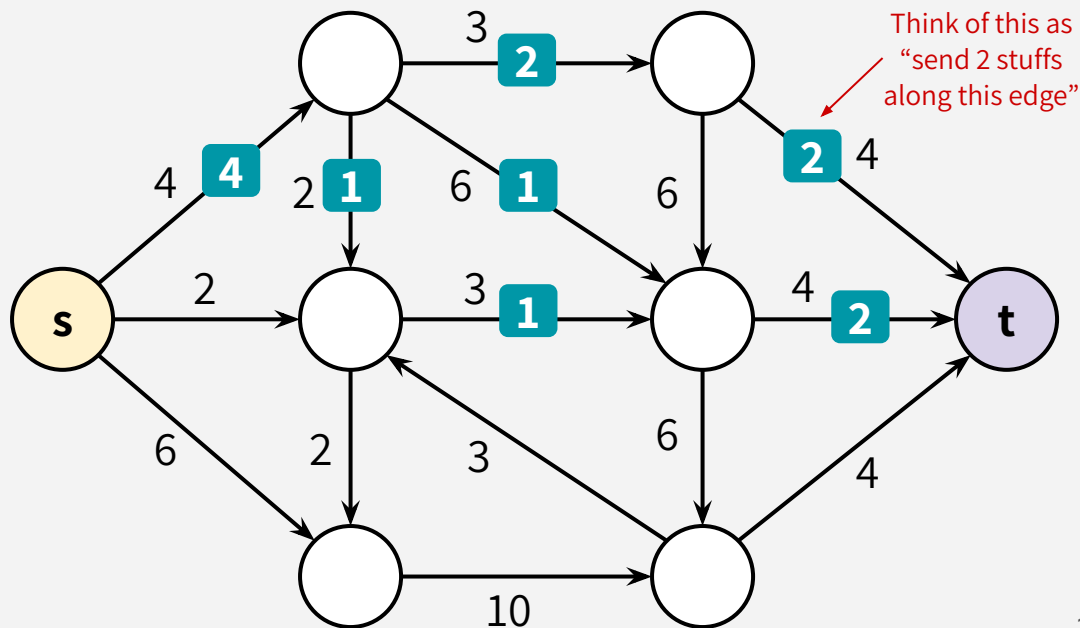
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The flow on any edge must be  $\leq$  its capacity!



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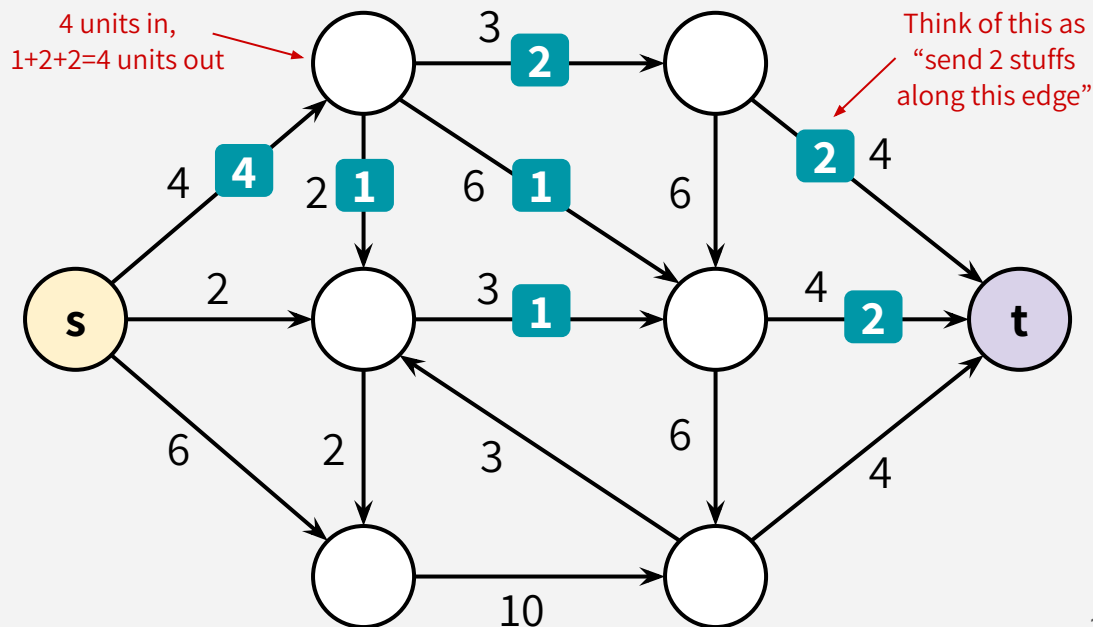
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At each vertex, the incoming flows must equal the outgoing flows



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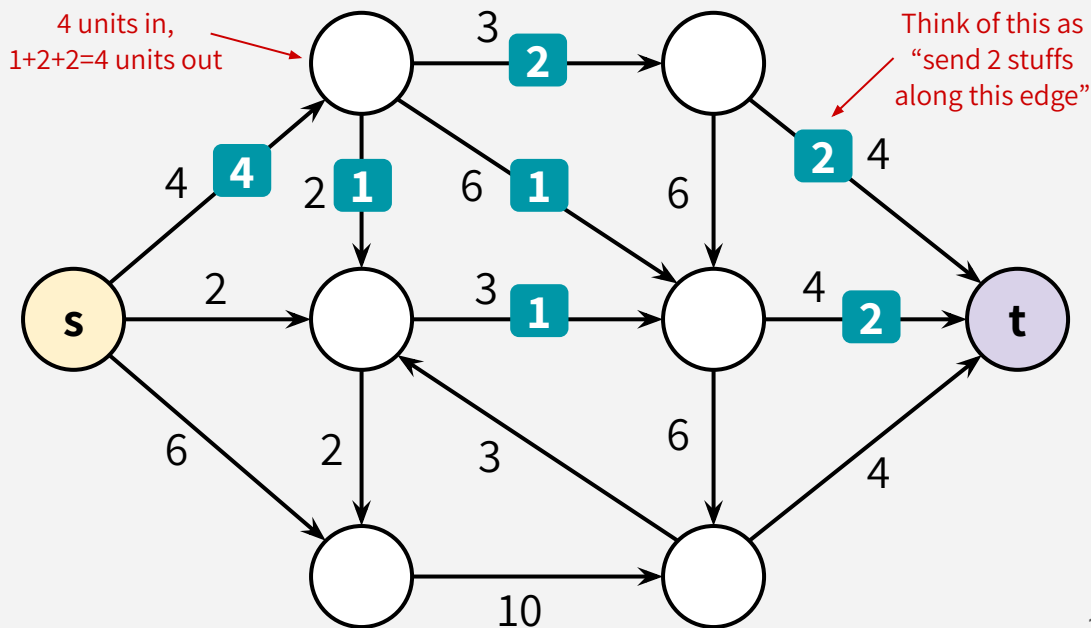
Capacity Constraint

The value of  
this flow is 4

(Not a max-flow, as it's not  
utilizing edge capacities well)

Flow Conservation

At each vertex, the  
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equal the outgoing flows



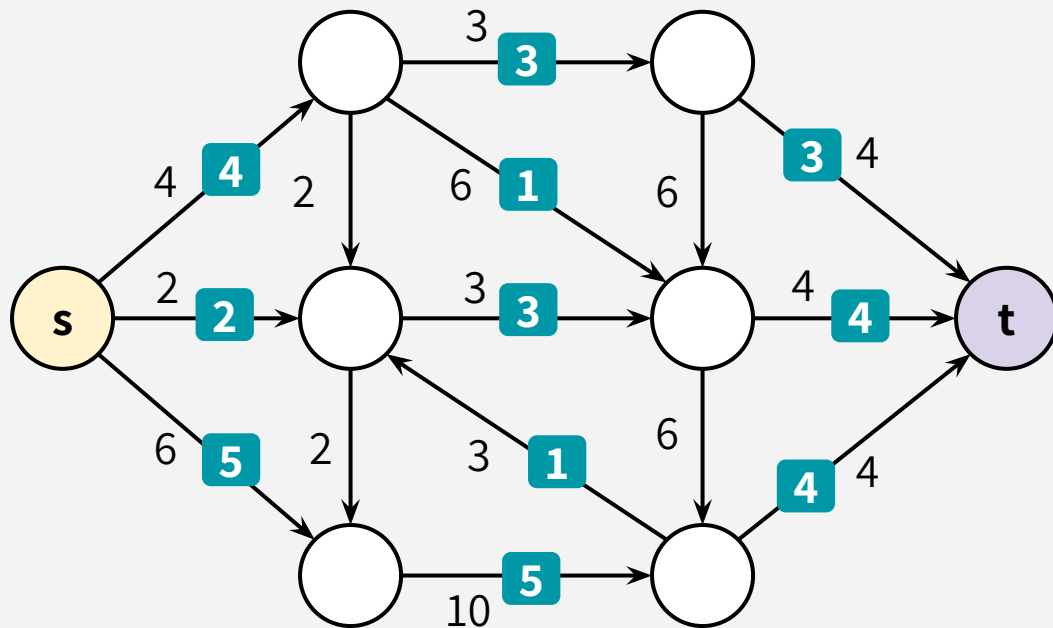


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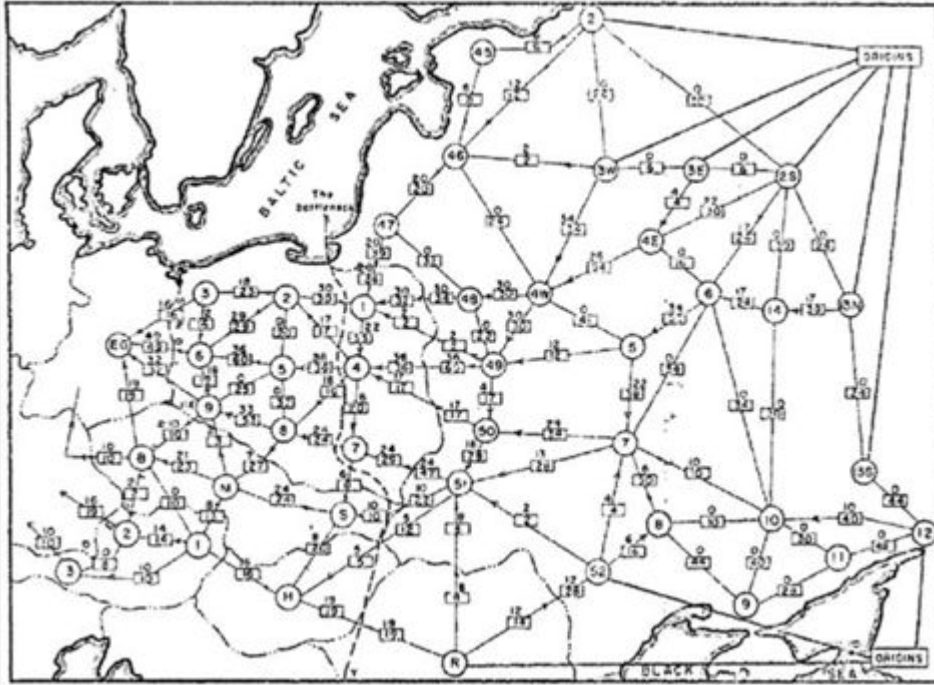
The **value of a flow** is the amount of stuff coming out of **s**  
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**This one *is* a  
maximum flow.**

**The value of  
this flow is 11.**



# EXAMPLE APPLICATION



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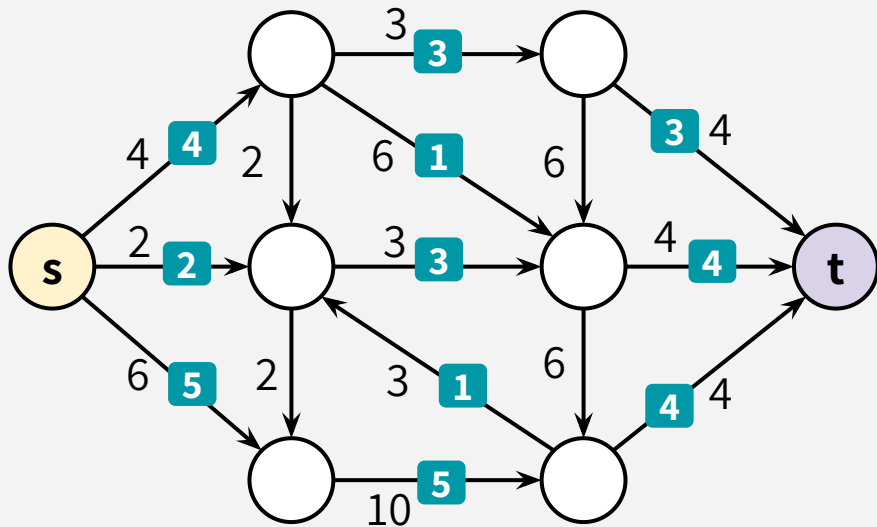
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44 edges, 105 vertices

The Soviet Union wants to route supplies  
from suppliers in Russia to Eastern  
Europe as efficiently as possible  
(edge capacities/flows are indicated on each edge)

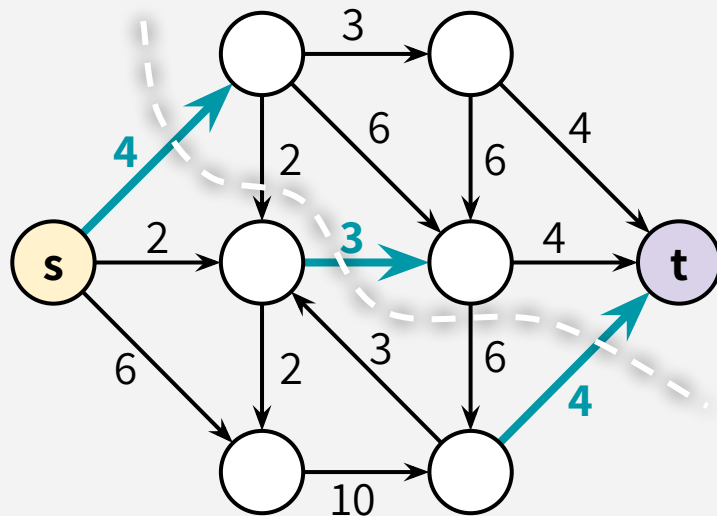
# MAX-FLOW MIN-CUT THEOREM

*This is not a coincidence!*



**This max-flow has value 11.**

**The cost of this min-cut is 11.**

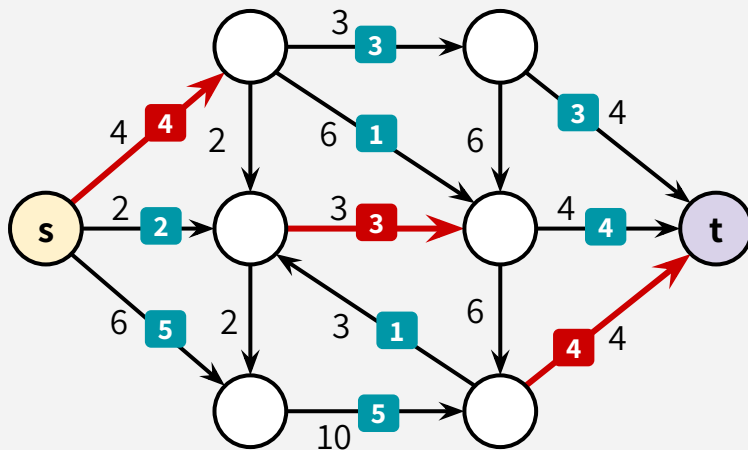


# MAX-FLOW MIN-CUT THEOREM

## THEOREM:

**The value of a max-flow from  $s$  to  $t$  is equal to the cost of a min  $s$ - $t$  cut.**

**Intuition:** in a max-flow, edges crossing the min-cut will “fill up”, and this is the bottleneck (once it’s filled up, there’s no way to send more flow from  $s$  to  $t$ !)





سوال؟

رابطه شماره پیشینه با برش کمینه

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**To prove this, we will prove 2 things:**

**LEMMA 1:** value of max flow  $\leq$  cost of min cut

Proof by picture!

**LEMMA 2:** value of max flow  $\geq$  cost of min cut

Proof by algorithm (Ford-Fulkerson), which incrementally builds a flow  $f$  using a “residual graph”  $G_f$ .

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For ANY s-t flow and ANY s-t cut, the value of the flow is at most the cost of the cut!  
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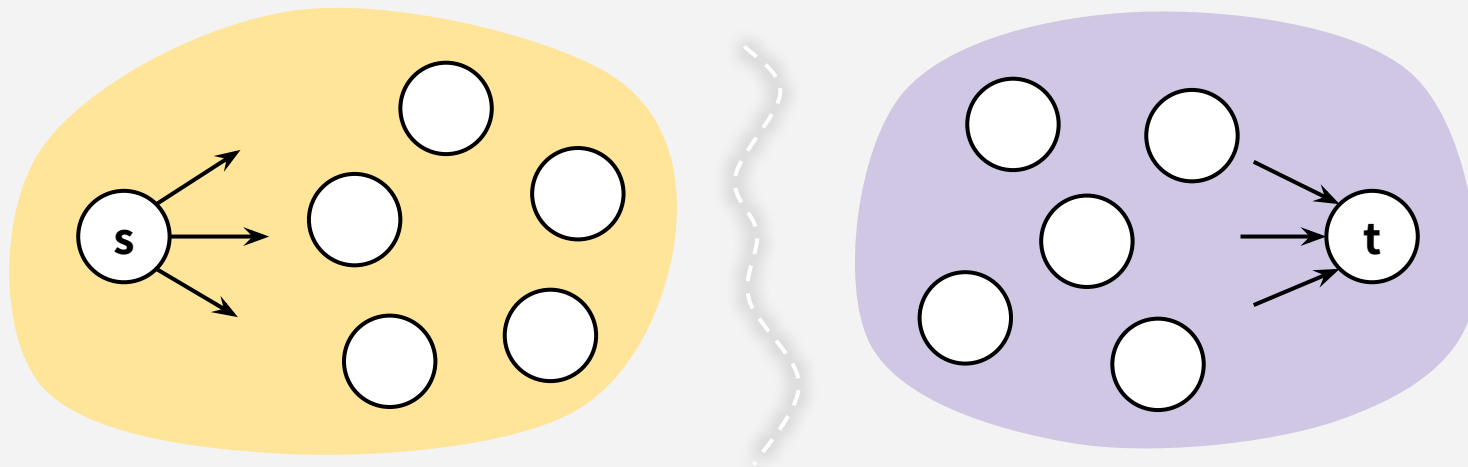
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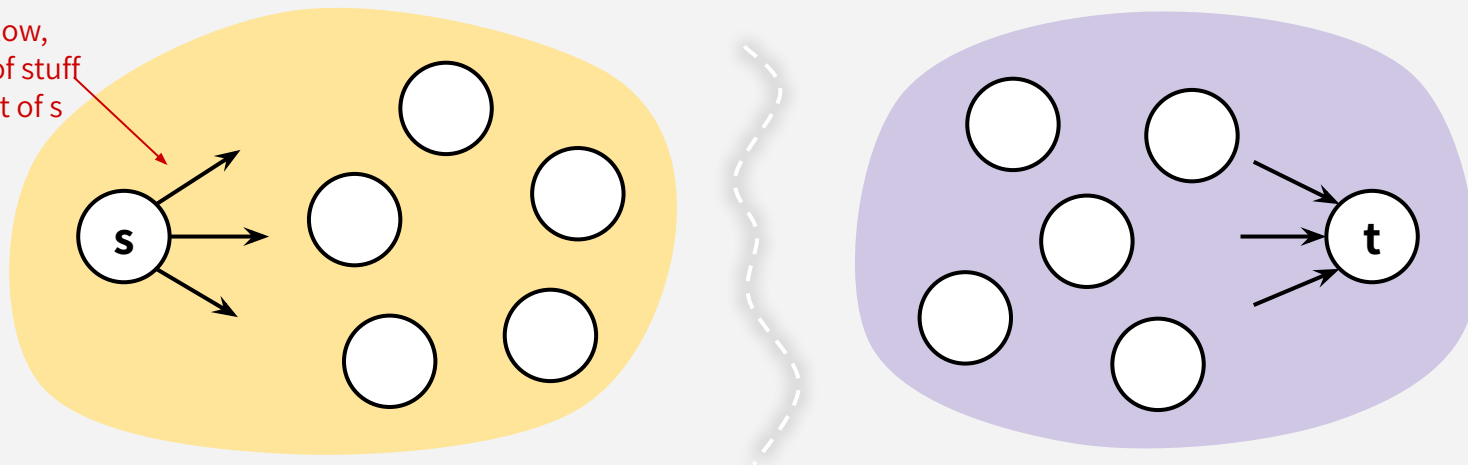
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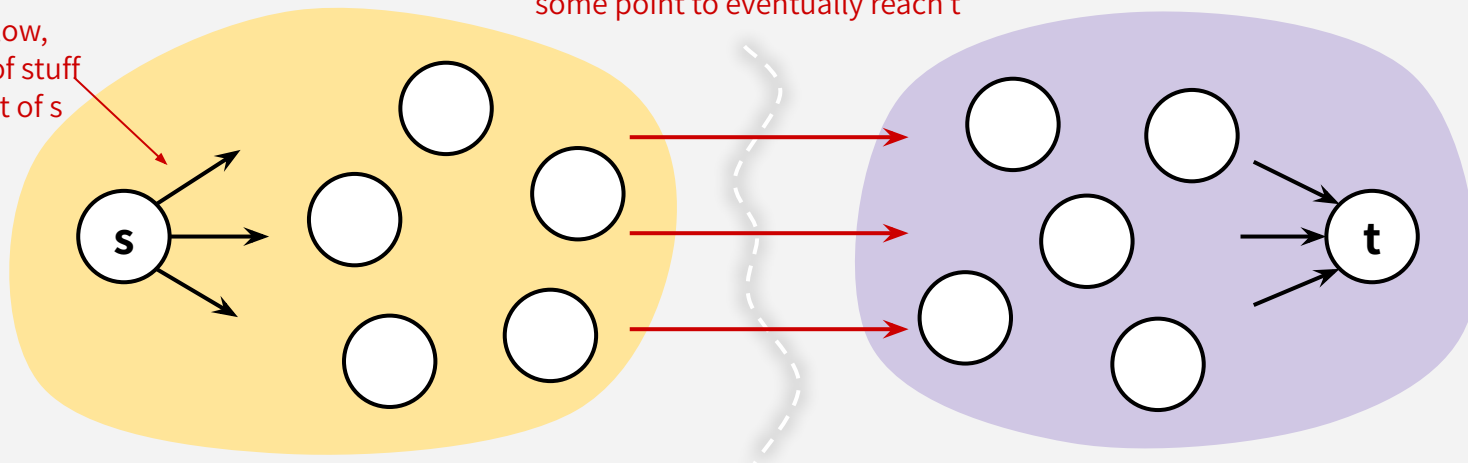
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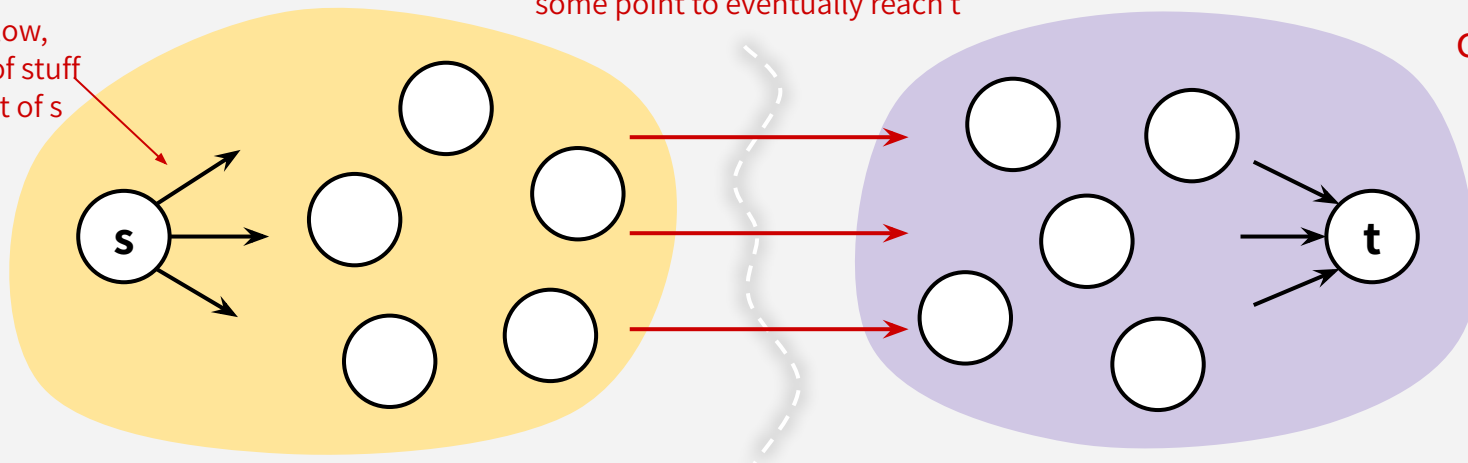
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سوال؟

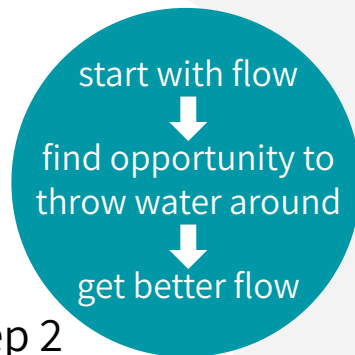
# الگوریتم فورد-فالکرسون



# FORD-FULKERSON

## **FORD-FULKERSON( $G, s, t$ ):**

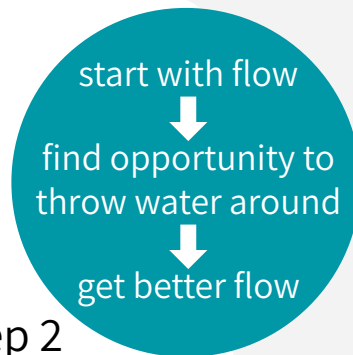
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  - if there is a path, update the flow  $f$ , and go back to step 2
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**We'll define what a residual graph is. This will make sense in a bit, but here's a comment:**

In my head, I like to call this an “**opportunity graph**”! I have the following story in mind: Your friend hands you some flow  $f$ , and you're tasked with finding new ways to throw water from  $s$  to  $t$ . To do so, you construct an “opportunity graph” that records all the available remaining opportunities you have to throw water around. If you find a new path of water-throwing in your opportunity graph, then “add” that path to your friend's flow  $f$ , and you've improved their flow!

# FORD-FULKERSON: RESIDUAL GRAPH

## **FORD-FULKERSON( $G, s, t$ ):**

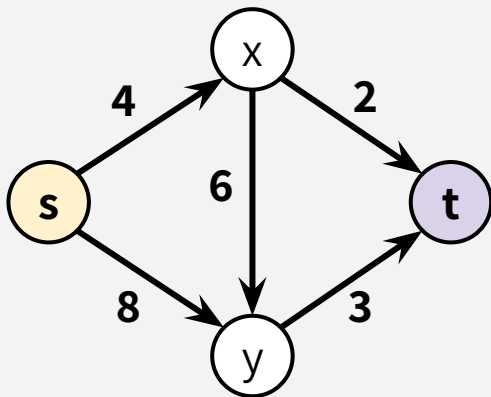
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## ORIGINAL GRAPH $G$

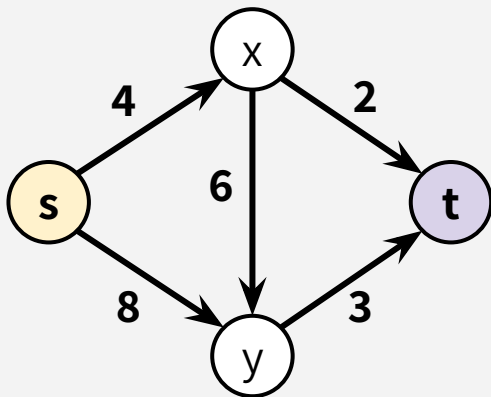


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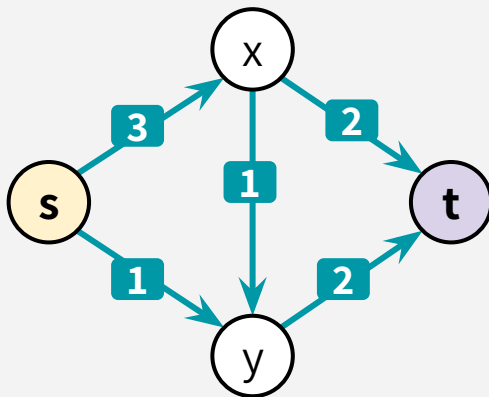
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ORIGINAL GRAPH  $G$



SOME FLOW  $f$

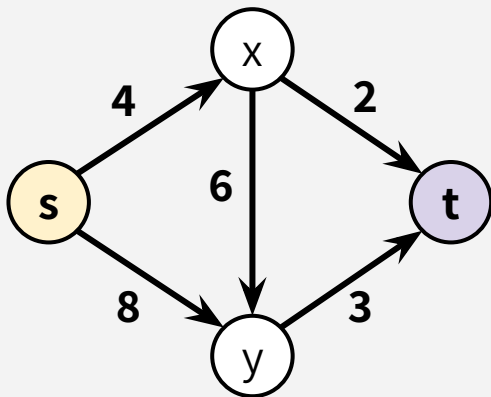


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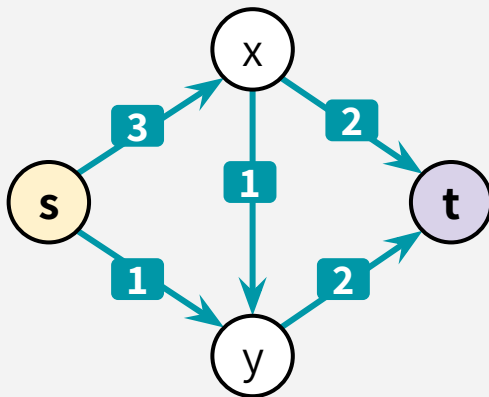
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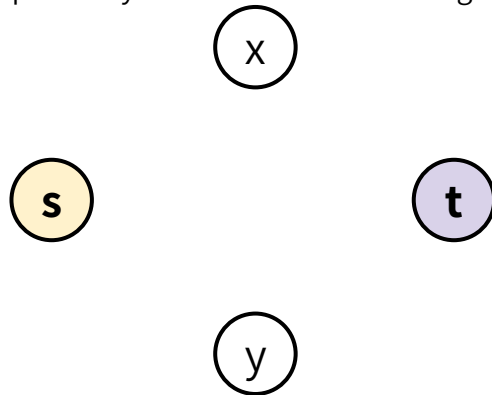


## SOME FLOW $f$



## RESIDUAL GRAPH $G_f$

(opportunity-to-throw-water-around graph)

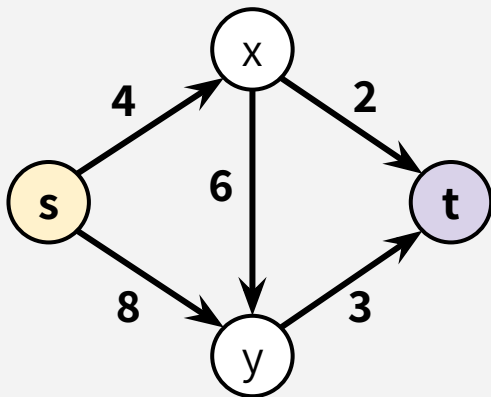


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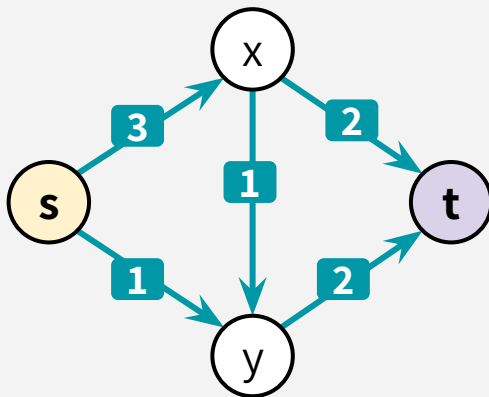
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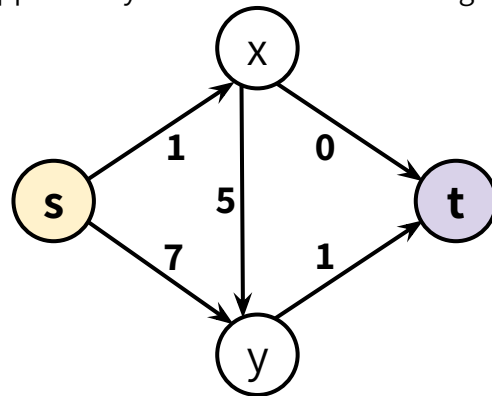


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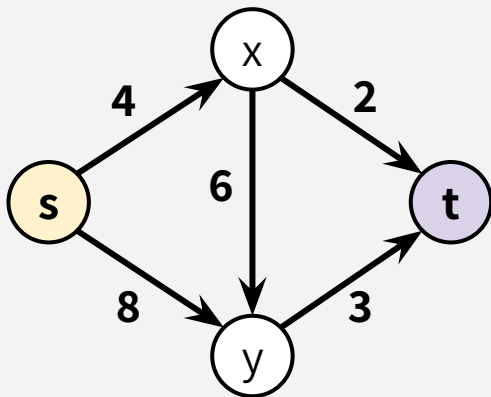
→ “FORWARD EDGES”  
unused capacities in the original graph

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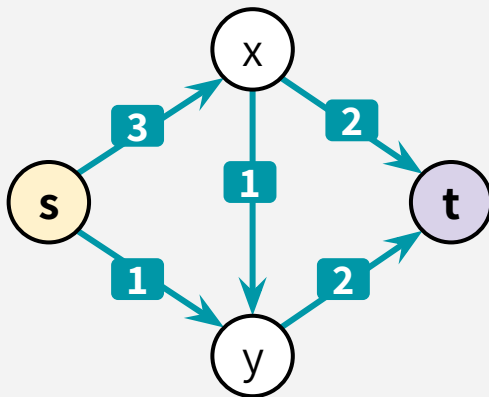
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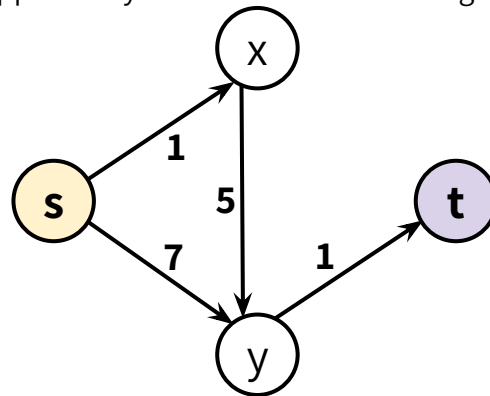


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(you can throw water that your friend's flow didn't use up)

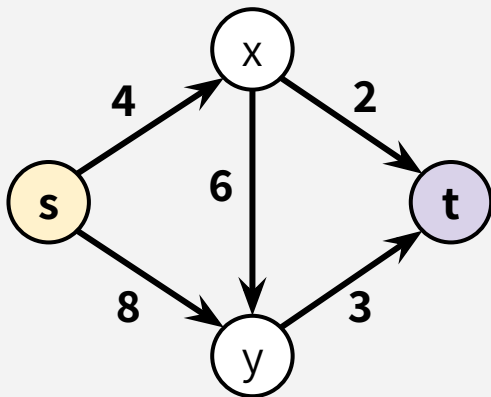


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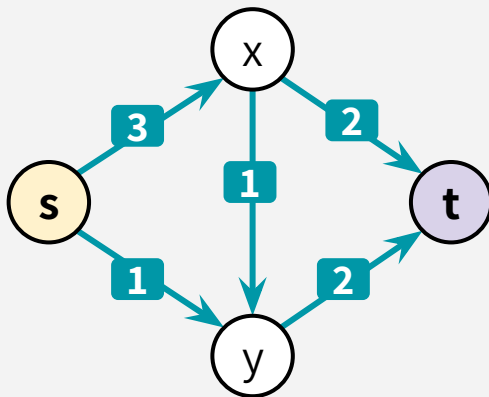
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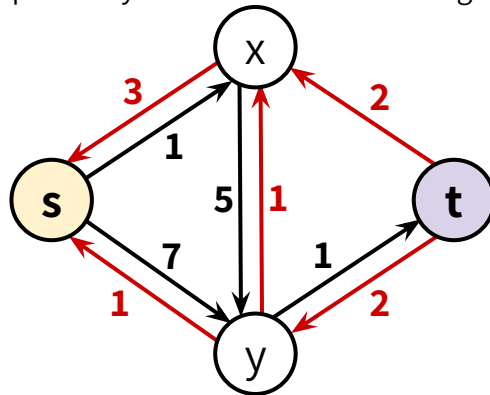
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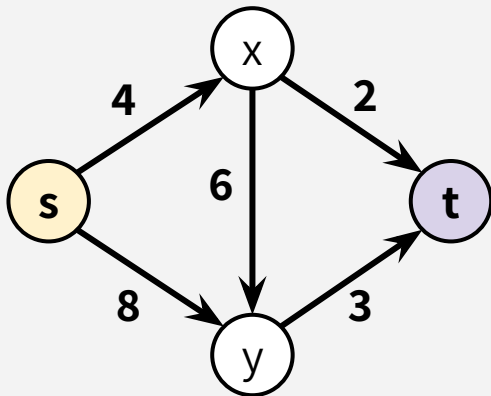
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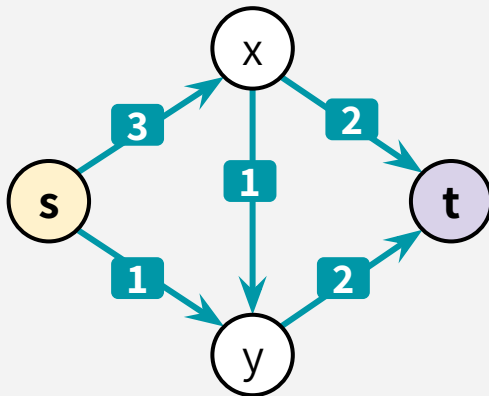
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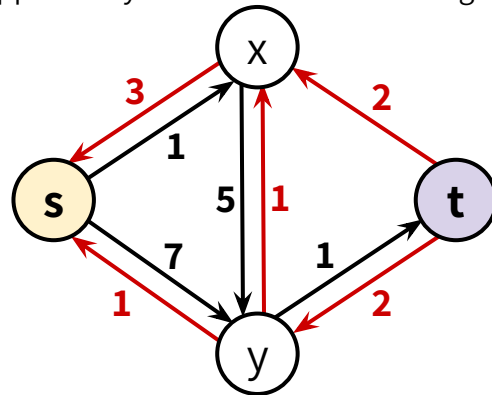
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(if your friend threw  $X$  amount of water one way, you have the opportunity to throw back their water in the reverse direction)

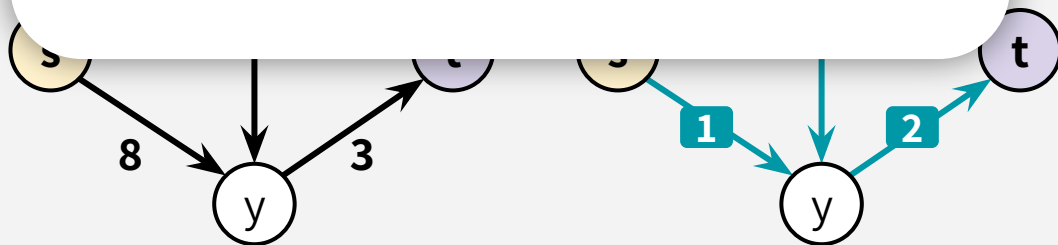
# FORD-FULKERSON: RESIDUAL GRAPH

## FORD-FULKERSON( $G, s, t$ ):

1. Start with arbitrary flow  $f$  (let's say flow of 0)
2. Construct residual graph  $G_f$
3. Check if there's a path in  $G_f$  from  $s$  to  $t$

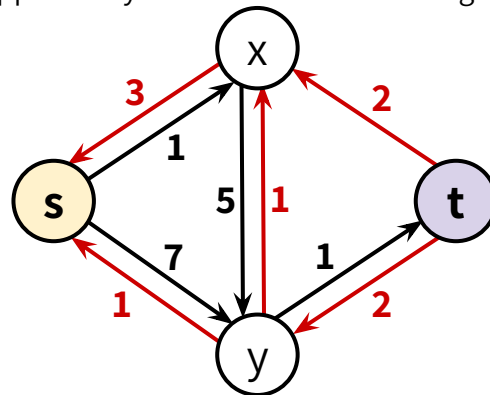
If we can find a  $s$ - $t$  path in  $G_f$ ,  
then we've found an **augmenting path**.

An augmenting path represents a way to improve  
our flow (we just “add” the path to our old flow!)



## RESIDUAL GRAPH $G_f$

(opportunity-to-throw-water-around graph)

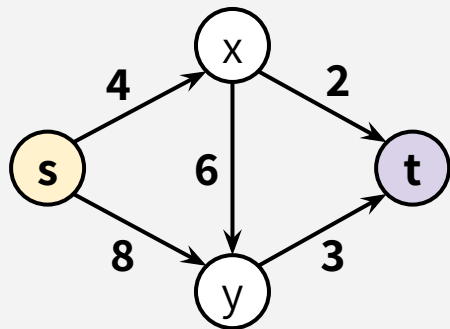


→ “**FORWARD EDGES**”  
unused capacities in the original graph  
(you can throw water that your friend's flow didn't use up)

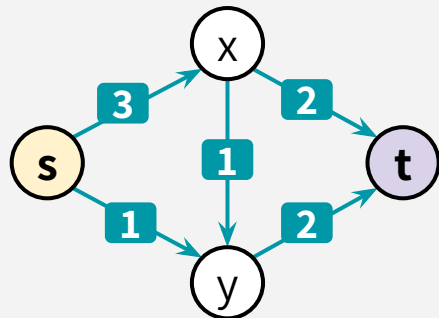
→ “**BACKWARD EDGES**”  
capacities  $f$  already used, but backwards!  
(if your friend threw  $X$  amount of water one way, you have the opportunity to throw back their water in the reverse direction)

# AUGMENTING PATH EXAMPLE 1

**ORIGINAL GRAPH  $G$**

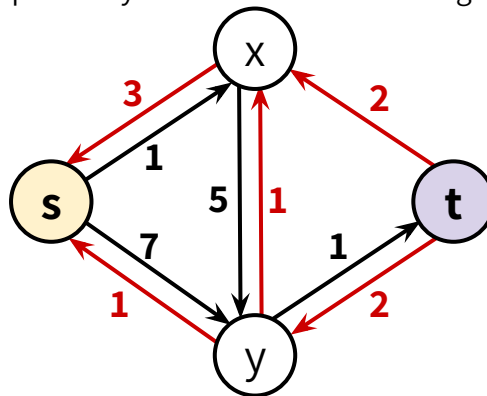


**SOME FLOW  $f$**



**RESIDUAL GRAPH  $G_f$**

(opportunity-to-throw-water-around graph)



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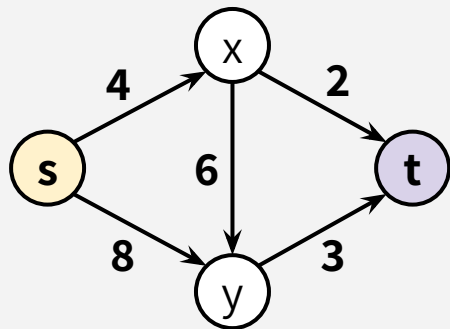
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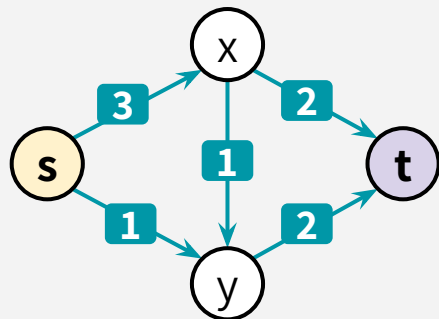
Let’s find an  
augmenting  
path in  $G_f$

# AUGMENTING PATH EXAMPLE 1

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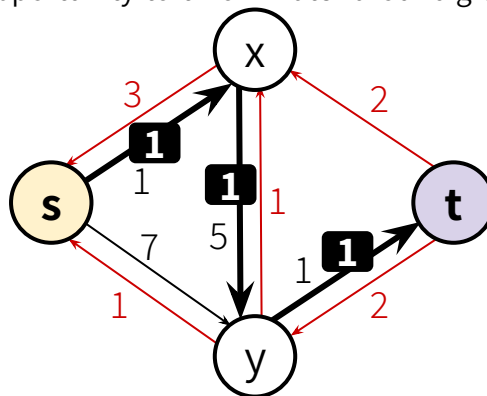


**SOME FLOW  $f$**



**RESIDUAL GRAPH  $G_f$**

(opportunity-to-throw-water-around graph)



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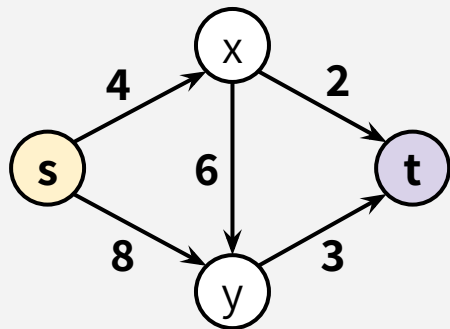
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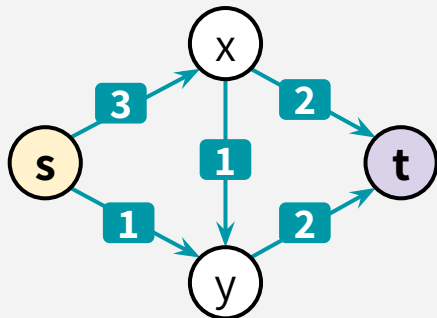
(there may be multiple, but just pick one)

# AUGMENTING PATH EXAMPLE 1

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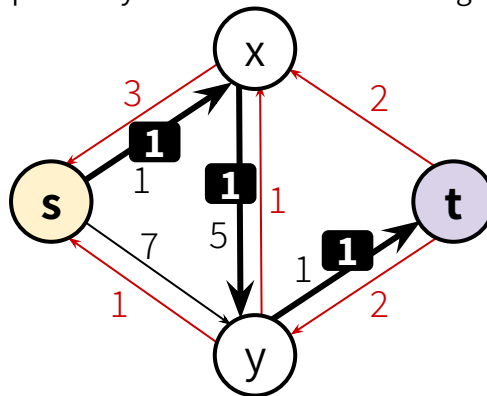


**SOME FLOW  $f$**



**RESIDUAL GRAPH  $G_f$**

(opportunity-to-throw-water-around graph)

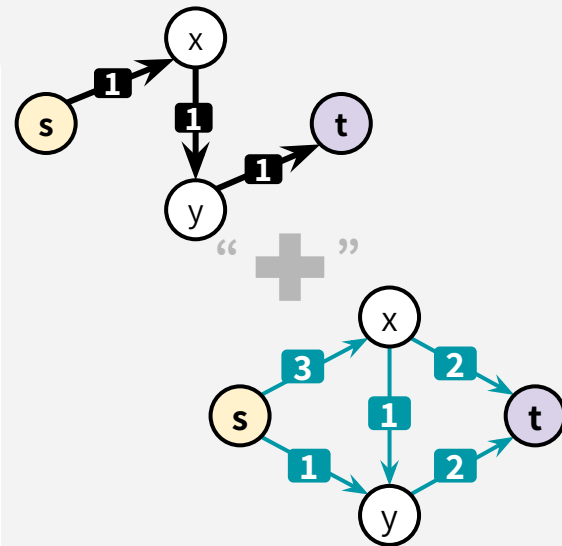


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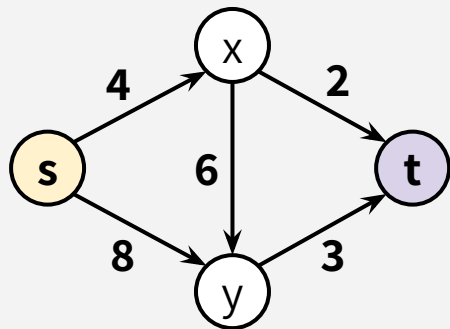
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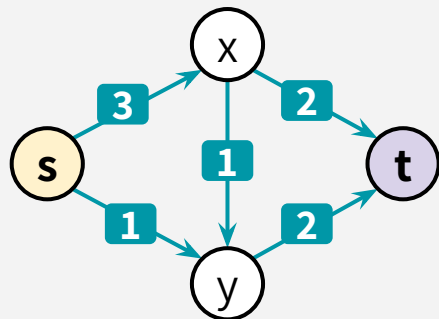


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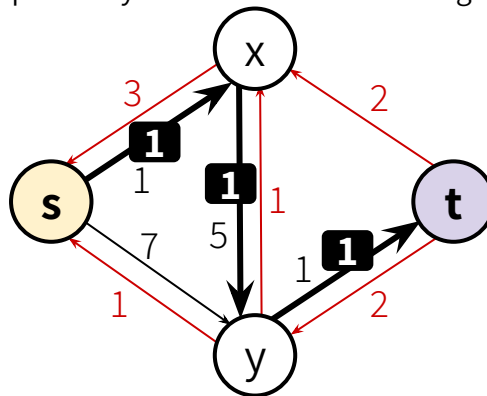


**SOME FLOW  $f$**



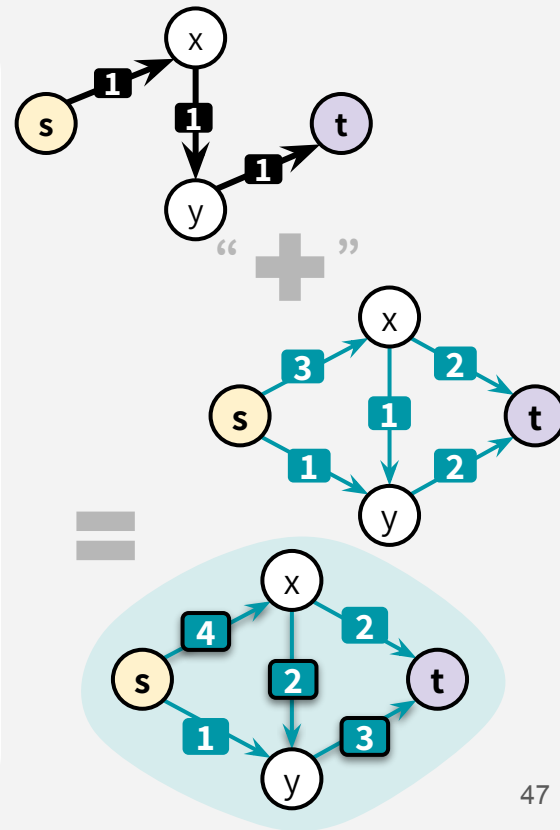
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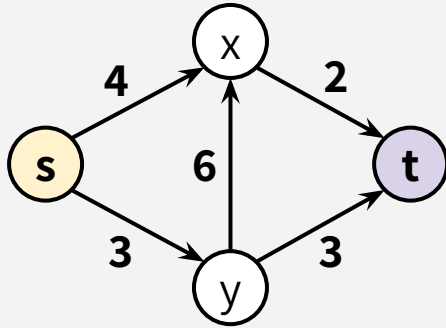
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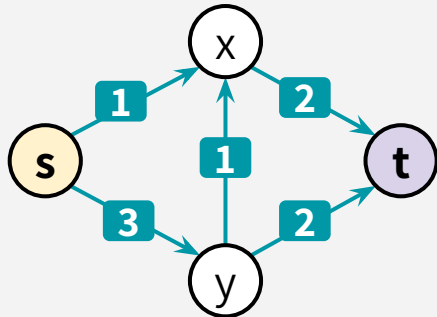


# AUGMENTING PATH EXAMPLE 2

**ORIGINAL GRAPH G**



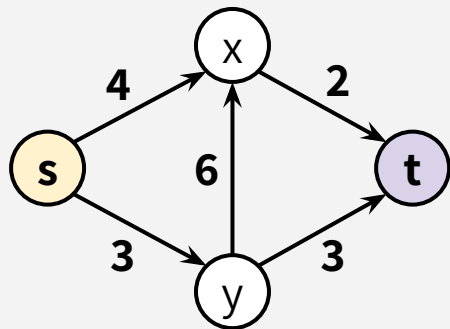
**SOME FLOW  $f$**



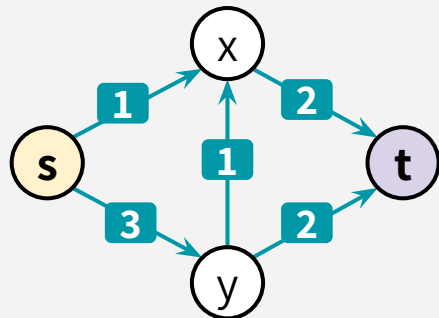


# AUGMENTING PATH EXAMPLE 2

**ORIGINAL GRAPH  $G$**

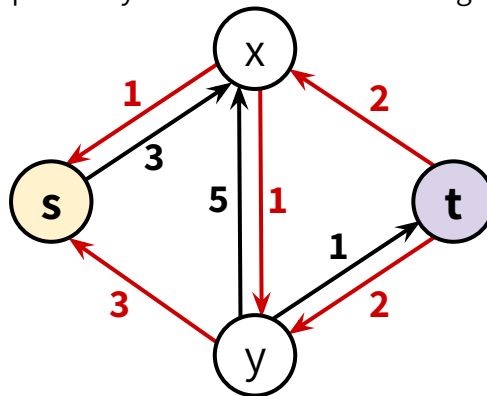


**SOME FLOW  $f$**



**RESIDUAL GRAPH  $G_f$**

(opportunity-to-throw-water-around graph)



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unused capacities in the original graph  
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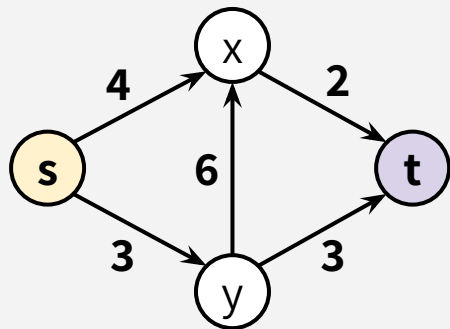
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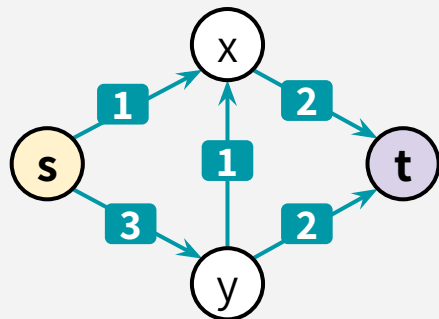
Let’s find an  
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# AUGMENTING PATH EXAMPLE 2

## ORIGINAL GRAPH $G$

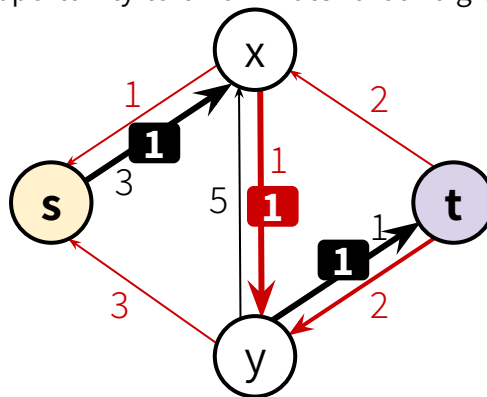


## SOME FLOW $f$



## RESIDUAL GRAPH $G_f$

(opportunity-to-throw-water-around graph)



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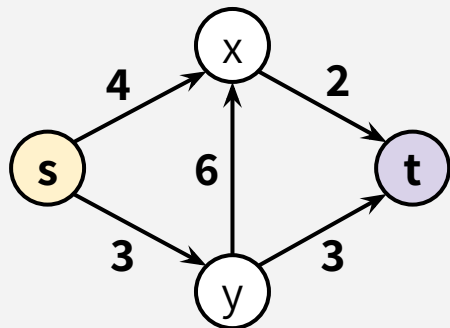
Let’s find an augmenting path in  $G_f$

Here’s one!

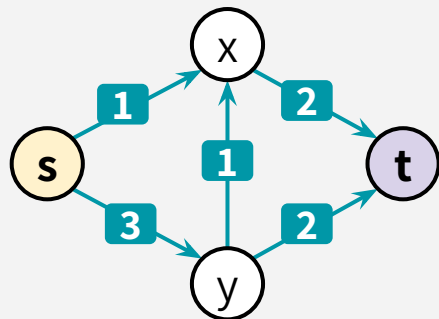
Note that it takes a backwards edge! This indicates that you should probably “undo” something in your original flow (in this case, notice that the flow of 1 from  $y \rightarrow x$  just looks like a bad decision...). Having these backwards edges in our residual graph gives us a chance to undo these bad decisions!

# AUGMENTING PATH EXAMPLE 2

**ORIGINAL GRAPH  $G$**

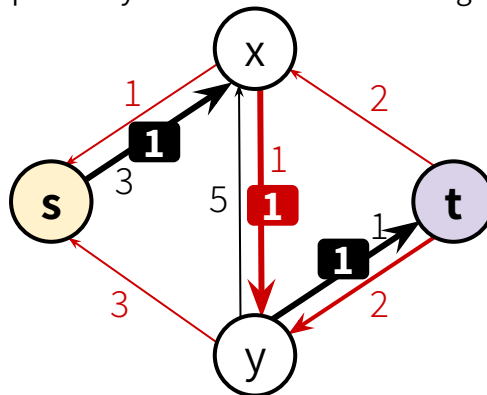


**SOME FLOW  $f$**



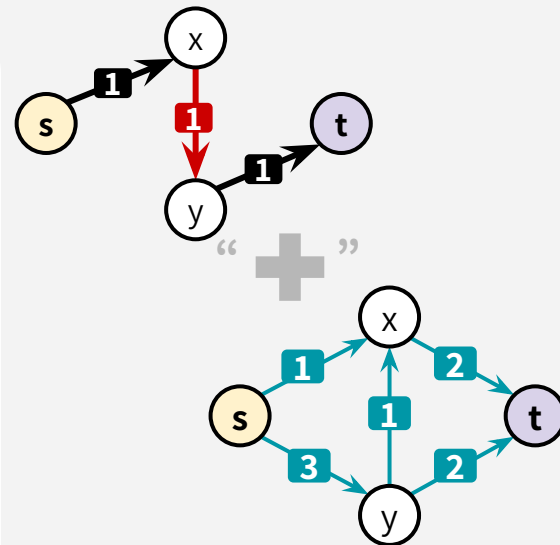
**RESIDUAL GRAPH  $G_f$**

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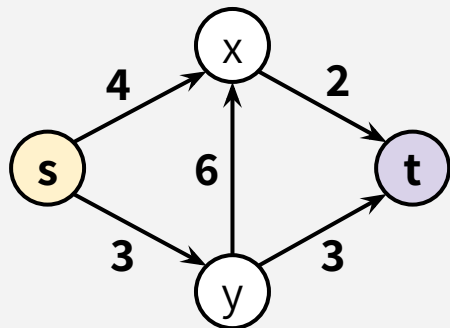
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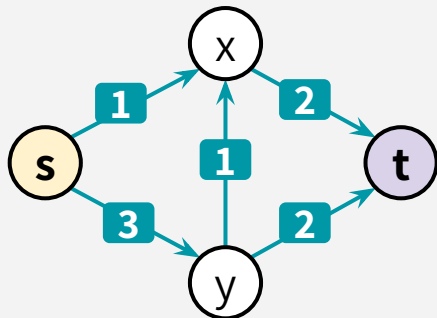


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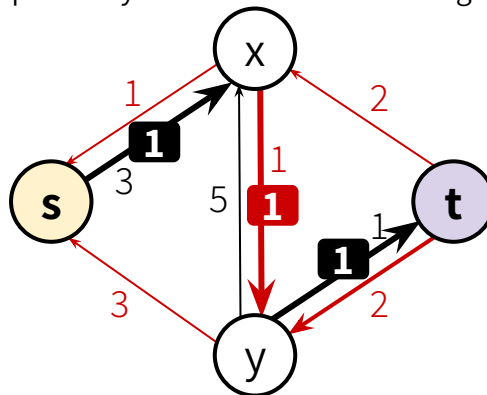


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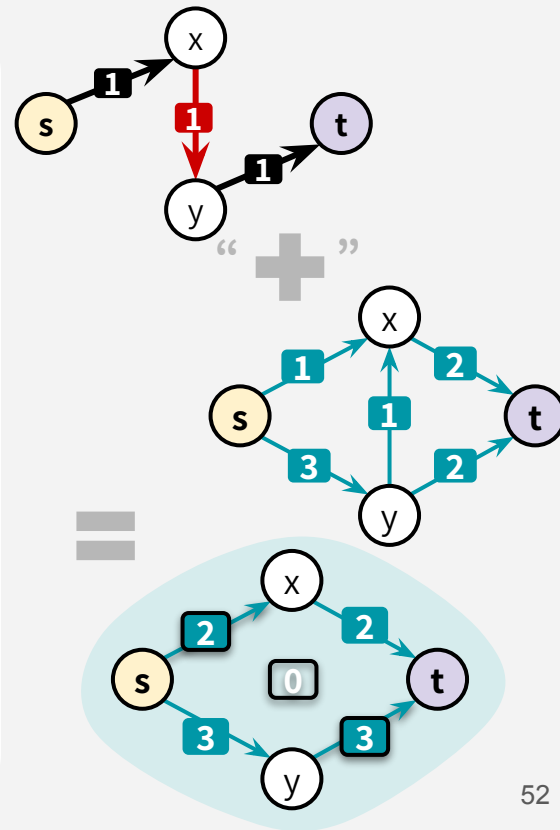
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# AUGMENTING PATH PROCEDURE

## UPDATE\_FLOW(path P in $G_f$ , flow f):

- $x = \min$  weight on any edge in P from  $G_f$
- for  $(u, v)$  in P:
  - if  $(u, v)$  in E:  $f_{\text{new}}(u, v) = f(u, v) + x$
  - if  $(v, u)$  in E:  $f_{\text{new}}(u, v) = f(u, v) - x$
- return  $f_{\text{new}}$

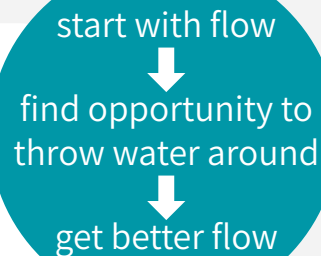


**Note:** you should convince yourself that increasing flow along an augmenting path will result in a **larger & legitimate** flow!

# FORD FULKERSON

## FORD-FULKERSON( $G, s, t$ ):

1. Start with arbitrary flow  $f$  (let's say flow of 0)
2. Construct residual graph  $G_f$
3. Check if there's a path  $P$  in  $G_f$  from  $s$  to  $t$ 
  - if there is a path  $P$ ,  $f = \text{UPDATE\_FLOW}(P, f)$ , & go back to step 2
  - if there isn't a path, then  $f$  is the max flow!



# MAX-FLOW MIN-CUT THEOREM

## THEOREM:

**The value of a max-flow from  $s$  to  $t$  is equal to the cost of a min  $s$ - $t$  cut.**

**To prove this, we will prove 2 things:**



**LEMMA 1:** value of max flow  $\leq$  cost of min cut

Proof by picture!

We still need to finish proving LEMMA 2, and we'll use Ford-Fulkerson to do that...

**LEMMA 2:** value of max flow  $\geq$  cost of min cut

Proof by algorithm (Ford-Fulkerson), which incrementally builds a flow  $f$  using a “residual graph”  $G_f$ .



سوال؟



# اثبات درستی الگوریتم فورد- فالکرسون

# MAX-FLOW MIN-CUT THEOREM

**LEMMA 2:** the value of a max flow  $\geq$  the cost of a min cut

**Proof:** We'll first prove that if there is no augmenting path, our flow  $\mathbf{f}$  is a max flow.

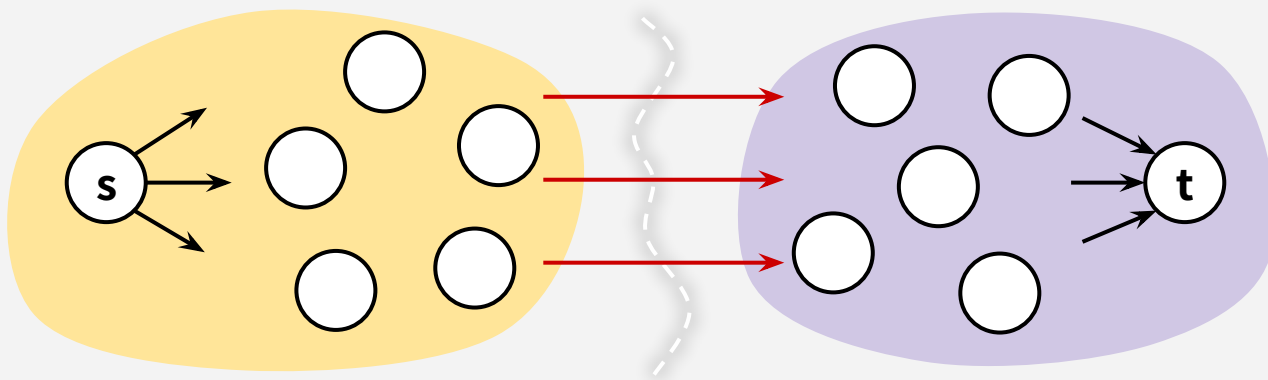
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Consider the cut  $\{\text{things reachable from } s \text{ (in } G_f)\}, \{\text{things not reachable from } s \text{ (in } G_f)\}$

The flow from  $s$  to  $t$  is *equal* to the cost of this cut.



# MAX-FLOW MIN-CUT THEOREM

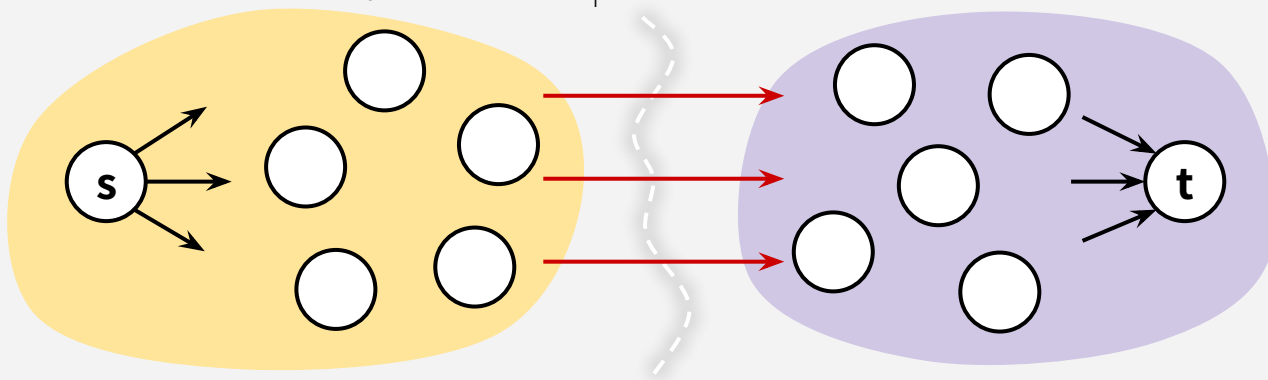
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Consider the cut **{things reachable from  $s$  (in  $G_f$ )}**, **{things not reachable from  $s$  (in  $G_f$ )}**

The flow from  $s$  to  $t$  is *equal* to the cost of this cut.

The edges in the cut must be **full** because they don't exist in  $G_f$   
(if they existed in  $G_f$ , then  $s$  could still reach  $t$ )



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So it turns out that when Ford-Fulkerson stops, the current  $\mathbf{f}$  must be a max flow:

**f's flow value = cost of some cut**

↑  
from above

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So it turns out that when Ford-Fulkerson stops, the current  $\mathbf{f}$  must be a max flow:

**$\mathbf{f}$ 's flow value = cost of some cut  $\geq$  cost of min cut  $\geq$  max flow value**

↑  
from above

↑  
definition of  
minimum cut

↑  
Lemma 1

# MAX-FLOW MIN-CUT THEOREM

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The edges in the cut must be **full** because they don't exist in  $G_f$   
(if they existed in  $G_f$ , then  $s$  could still reach  $t$ )

We haven't proved the inequality in the Lemma yet, but it's nice to know Ford-Fulkerson does succeed in finding a max flow!!

So it turns out that when Ford-Fulkerson stops, the current  $\mathbf{f}$  must be a max flow:

**$\mathbf{f}$ 's flow value = cost of some cut  $\geq$  cost of min cut  $\geq$  max flow value**

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The edges in the cut must be **full** because they don't exist in  $G_f$   
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But also, this means that:

**$\mathbf{f}$ 's flow value = cost of some cut**

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# MAX-FLOW MIN-CUT THEOREM

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But also, this means that:

**max flow value  $\geq$  f's flow value = cost of some cut  $\geq$  cost of min cut**

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↑  
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**To prove this, we will prove 2 things:**



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Proof by picture!



**LEMMA 2:** value of max flow  $\geq$  cost of min cut

Proof by algorithm (Ford-Fulkerson), which incrementally builds a flow  $f$  using a “residual graph”  $G_f$ .  
We basically thought about why Ford-Fulkerson works, and it led us to show that max flow  $\geq$  min cut!

# FORD FULKERSON: ~PSEUDOCODE

## FORD-FULKERSON( $G, s, t$ ):

$f$  = all zero flow

$G_f = G$

**while**  $t$  is reachable from  $s$  in  $G_f$  (e.g. use BFS):

    get an  $s$ - $t$  path  $P$  in  $G_f$

$f = \text{INCREASE\_FLOW}(P, f)$

    update  $G_f$

**return**  $f$

Using BFS results in  
what's called the  
EDMONDS-KARP  
Algorithm



**Runtime (using BFS to find augmenting paths):  $O(nm^2)$**

We will not prove this runtime in class! It's quite an involved proof,  
but if you're curious, the full is in the book!



سوال؟

نکاتی درباره الگوریتم فورد-  
فالکرسون

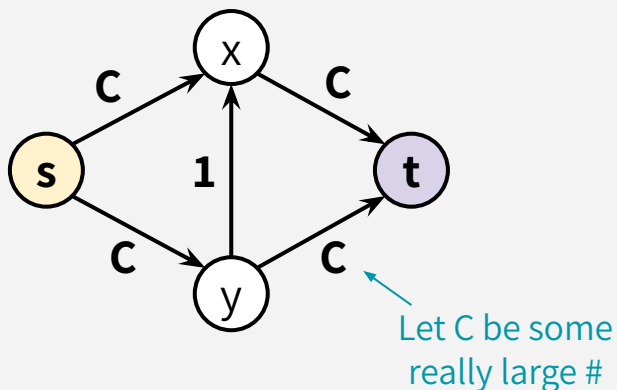
# FORD FULKERSON: SOME NOTES

**Not all augmenting path-finding procedures are created equal:**

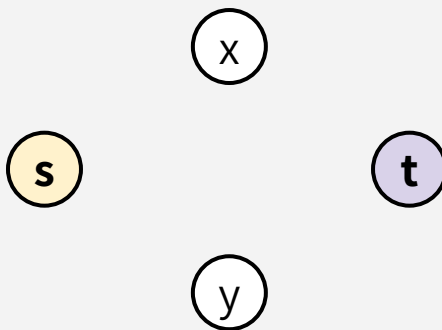
We need to be careful about *how* we select an augmenting path.

For example, this would be a bad way to pick paths:

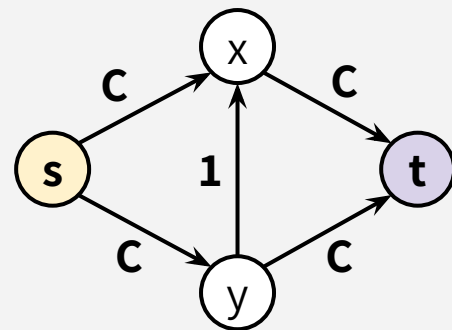
**ORIGINAL GRAPH  $G$**



**OUR FLOW  $f$**



**RESIDUAL GRAPH  $G_f$**



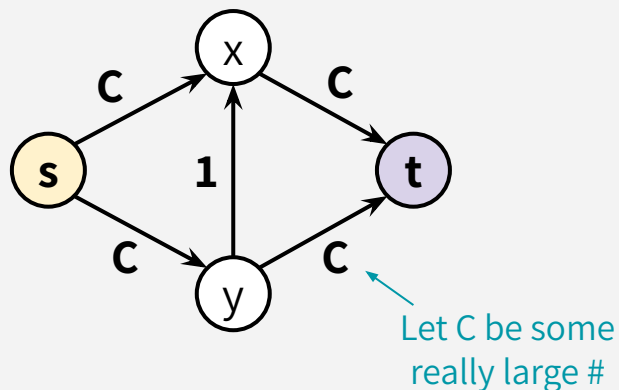
# FORD FULKERSON: SOME NOTES

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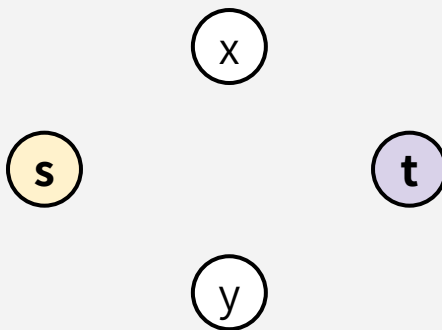
We need to be careful about *how* we select an augmenting path.

For example, this would be a bad way to pick paths:

**ORIGINAL GRAPH  $G$**

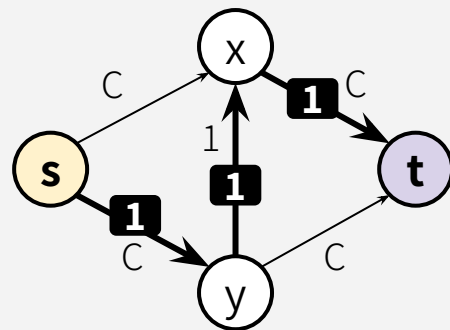


**OUR FLOW  $f$**



(find augmented path)

**RESIDUAL GRAPH  $G_f$**



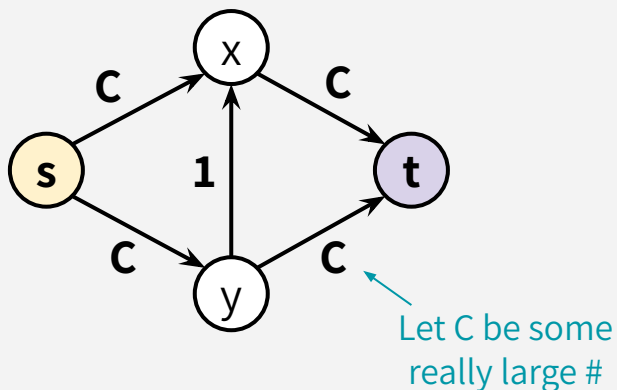
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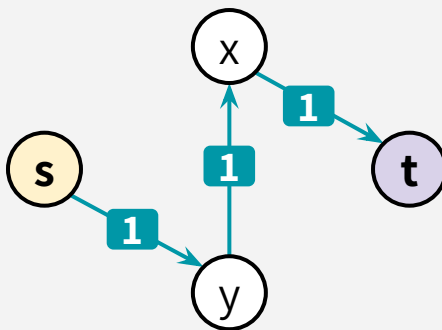
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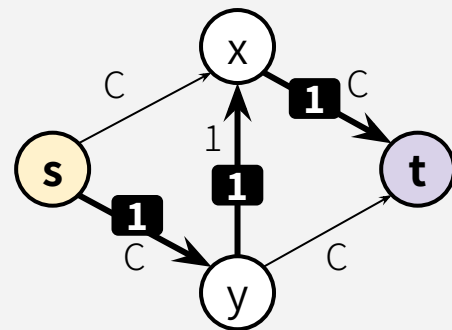


**OUR FLOW  $f$**



(update flow)

**RESIDUAL GRAPH  $G_f$**





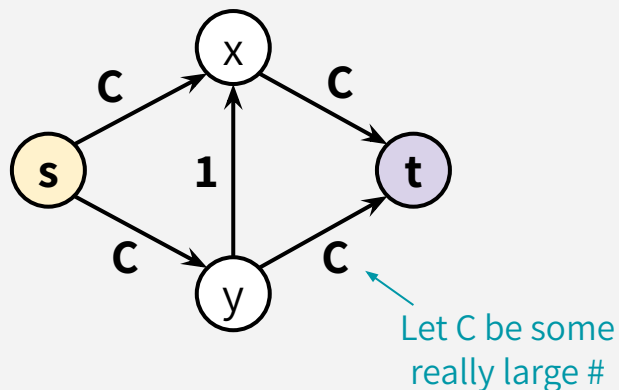
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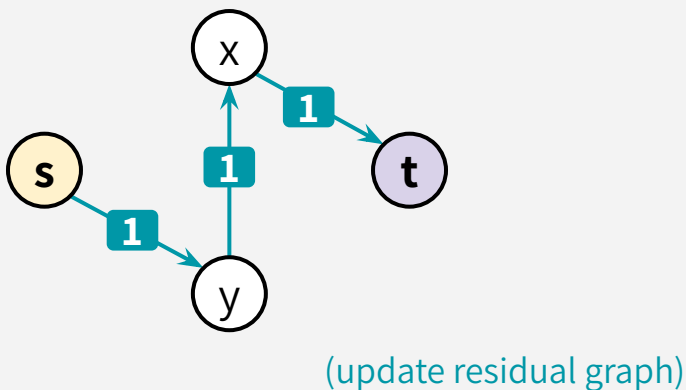
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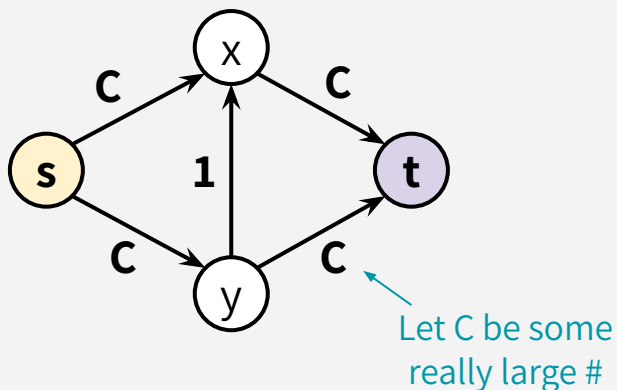
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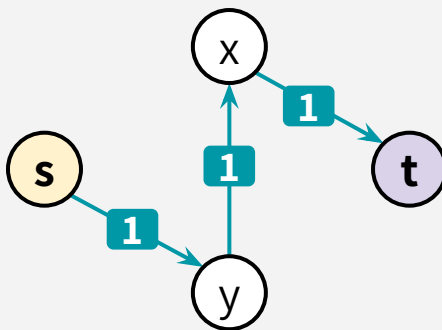
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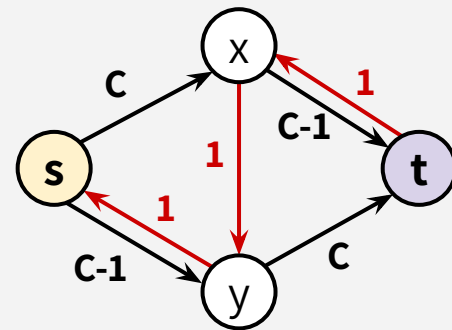


**OUR FLOW  $f$**



(update residual graph)

**RESIDUAL GRAPH  $G_f$**



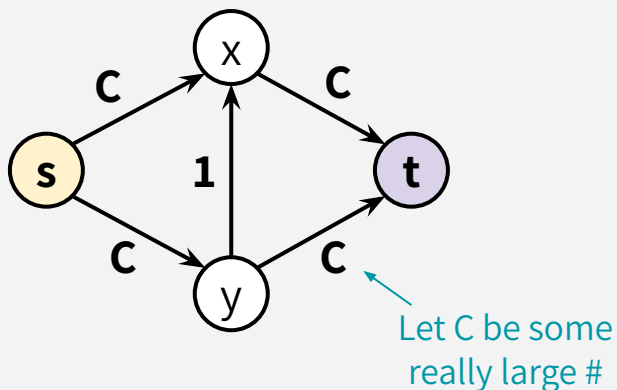
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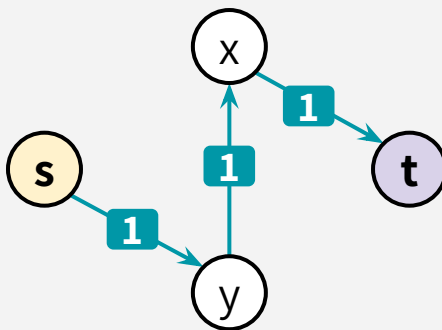
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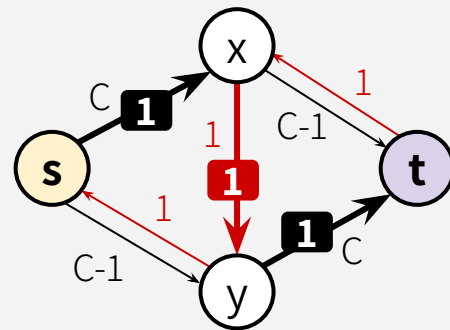


**OUR FLOW  $f$**



(find augmented path)

**RESIDUAL GRAPH  $G_f$**



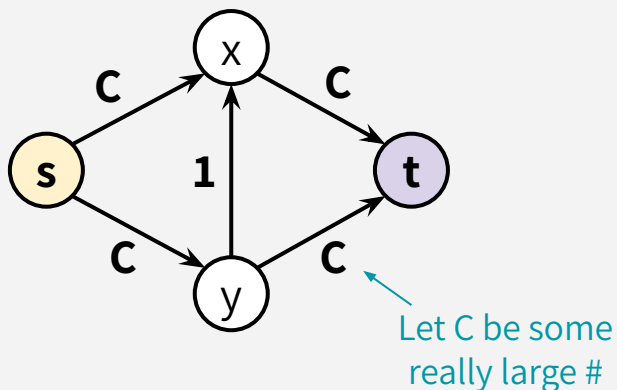
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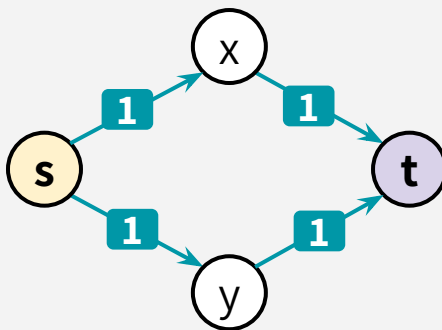
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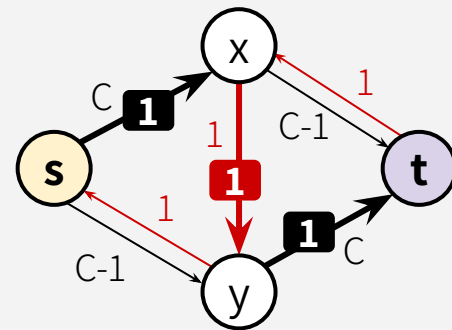
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**RESIDUAL GRAPH  $G_f$**



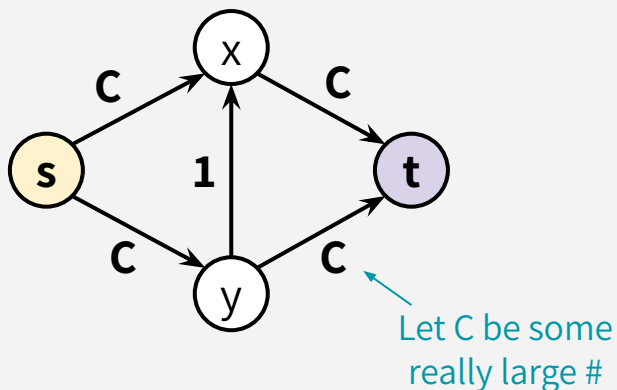
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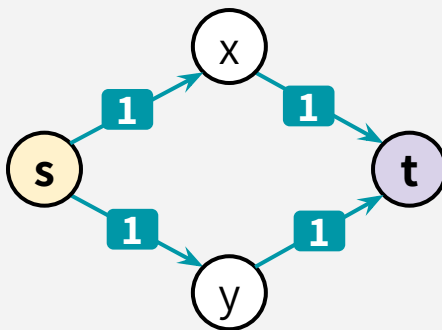
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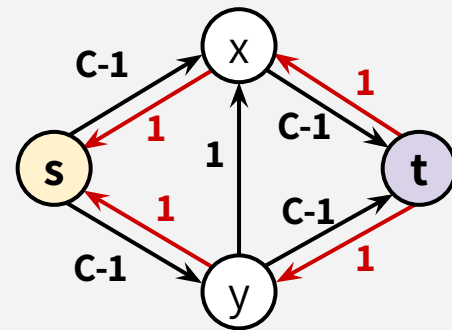


**OUR FLOW  $f$**



(update residual graph)

**RESIDUAL GRAPH  $G_f$**



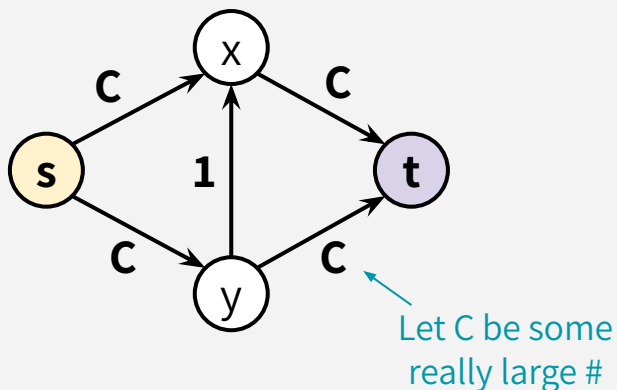
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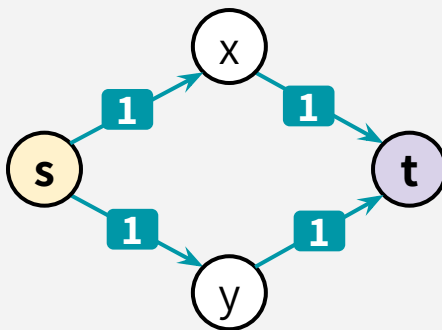
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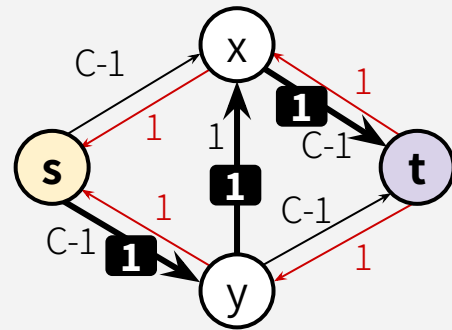


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(find augmented path)

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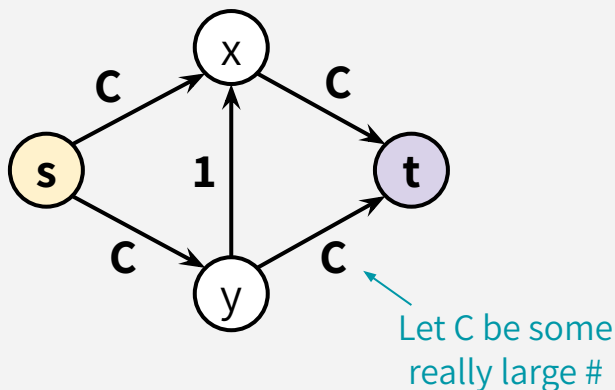
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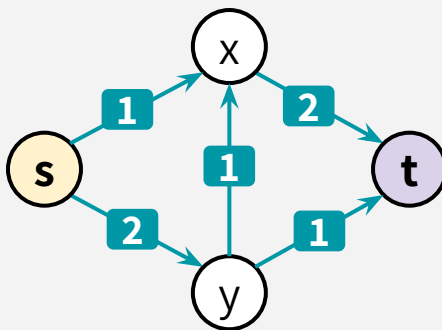
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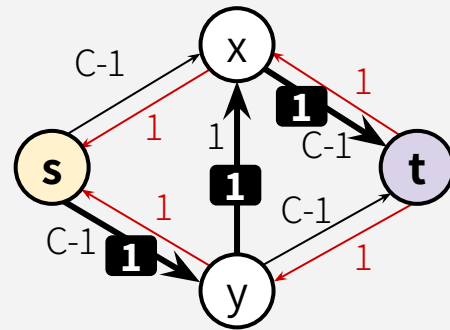


**OUR FLOW  $f$**



(update flow)

**RESIDUAL GRAPH  $G_f$**



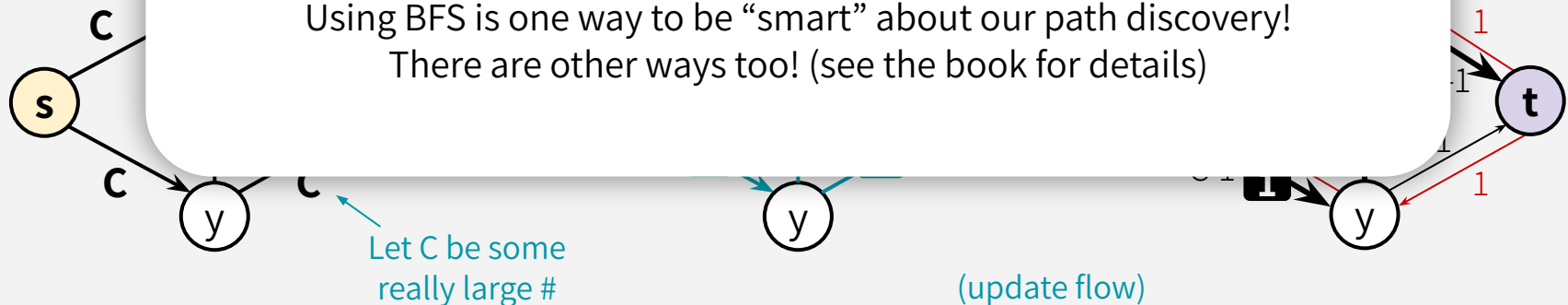
# FORD FULKERSON: SOME NOTES

**Not all augmenting path-finding procedures are created equal:**

If we're not thoughtful about how we select our augmenting path, then this could go on for a while...

**The algorithm will ultimately be correct, but the way in which we discover augmenting paths determines how efficient our algorithm is!**

Using BFS is one way to be “smart” about our path discovery!  
There are other ways too! (see the book for details)





# FORD FULKERSON: SOME NOTES

**Also, if the capacities of the input graph are all integers, then the value of any max flow is also an integer!**

When we update flows in Ford-Fulkerson, we're only ever adding or subtracting integers! So, since we started with a flow of value 0 (which is an integer), our flow will only ever have an integer value.

# s-t MIN CUT & MAX FLOW: RECAP

## **What have we learned?**

Finding the Max s-t flow is equal to finding the min s-t cut!

**Ford-Fulkerson is a method for finding the max-flow/min-cut!**

Use augmenting paths to find the max-flow. In the final residual graph, the cut that separates nodes reachable by s and nodes not reachable by s is the min-cut

**There are different ways to discover augmenting paths!**

Edmonds-Karp uses BFS to discover an augmenting path. There are other ways!



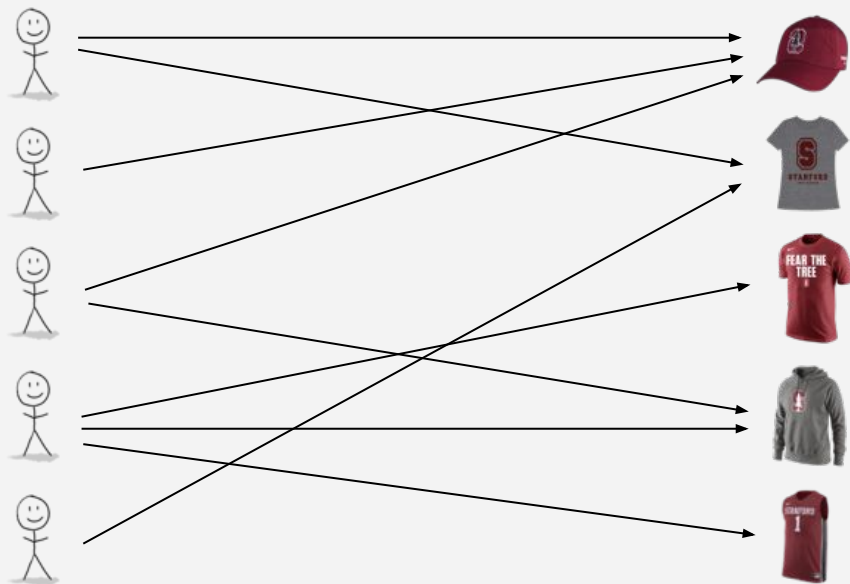
سوال؟

# کاربردهای شاره پیشینه

# AN APPLICATION: BIPARTITE MATCHING

Suppose we have a group of students and some items. Each student only would want certain items (depending on fit, style, etc.), and I only have one of each item.

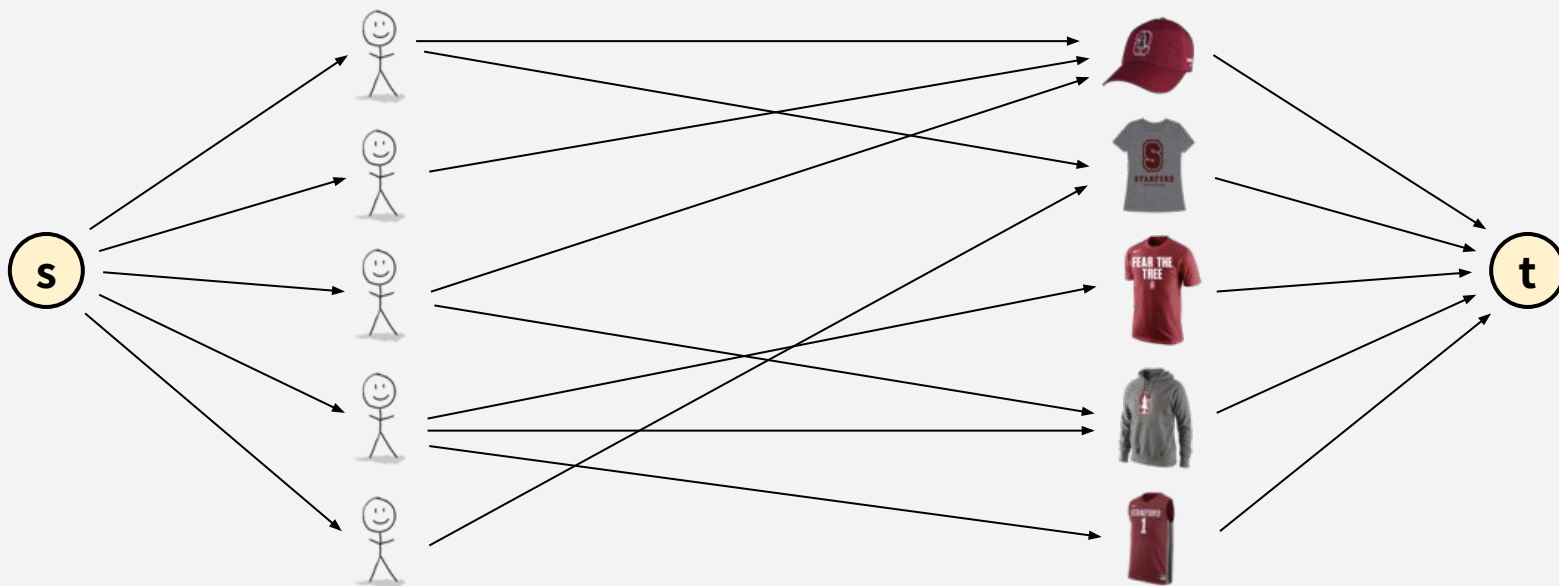
**How can we make as many students as possible happy?**



# AN APPLICATION: BIPARTITE MATCHING

**Turn this into a Max-Flow problem!**

Add a source node  $s$  and a sink node  $t$ . Give all edges a capacity of 1.

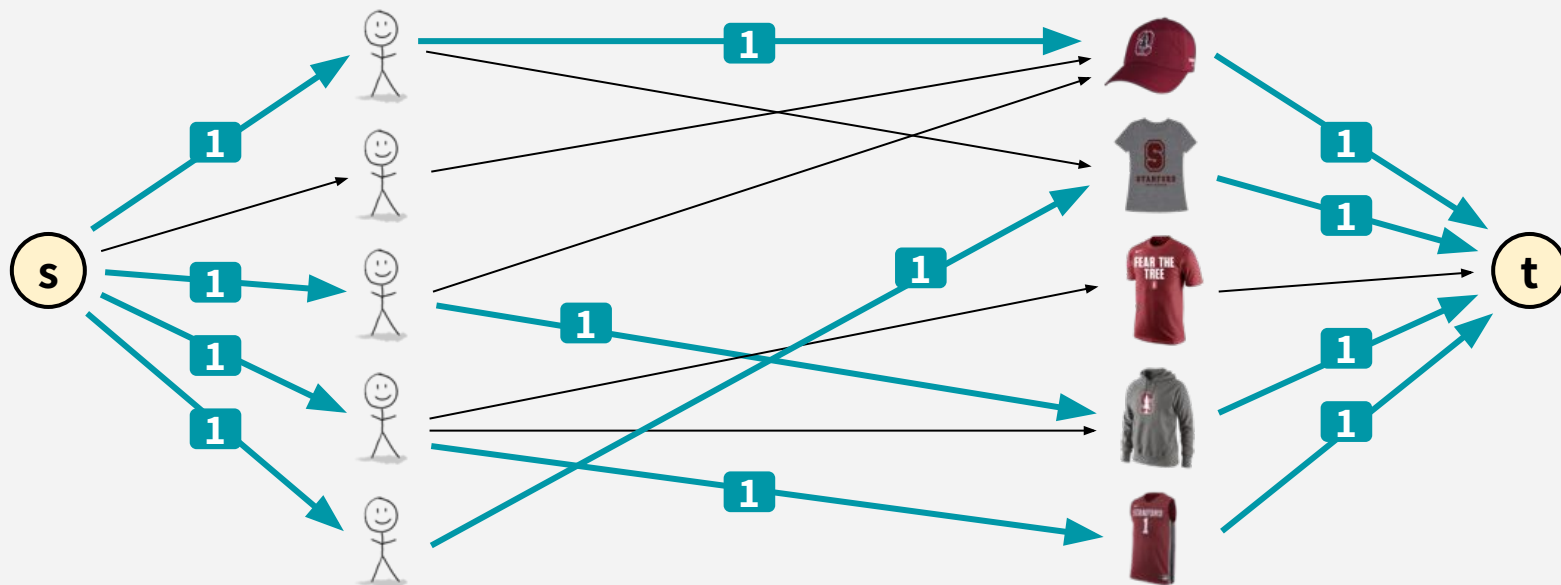


# AN APPLICATION: BIPARTITE MATCHING

**Turn this into a Max-Flow problem!**

Add a source node  $s$  and a sink node  $t$ . Give all edges a capacity of 1.

**Any student  $\rightarrow$  item edge that is filled up denotes an assignment!**

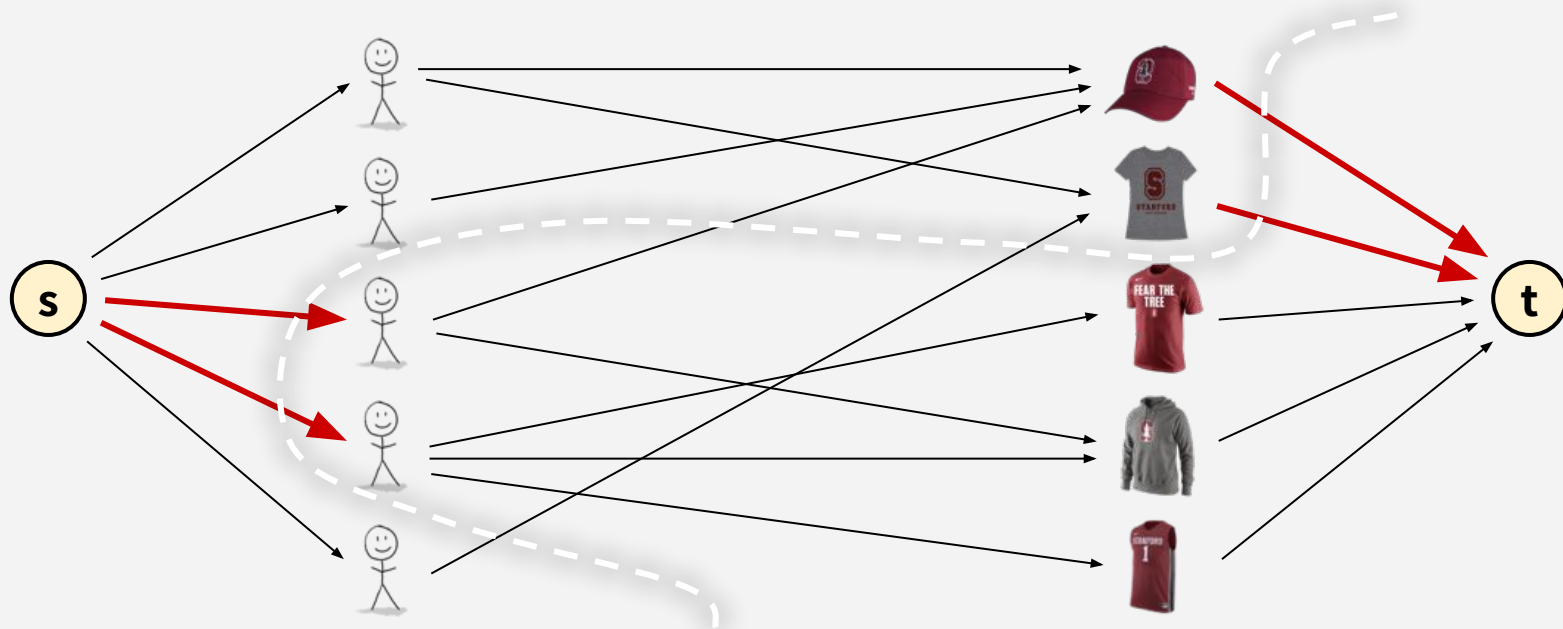


# AN APPLICATION: BIPARTITE MATCHING

**Also, for those curious, this is the min-cut of this graph!**

**It has cost 4 (same as the max-flow value).**

(Remember, only edges that cross from the s-side to the t-side count towards the cost)





# AN APPLICATION: BIPARTITE MATCHING

**There are endless bipartite scenarios that could be translated into a Max-Flow problem!**

Students each want different amounts of ice cream scoops.

Each student has certain ice cream flavor preferences.

Each ice cream tub has a certain number of scoops available.

**Goal: provide as many scoops of ice cream as possible!**

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**Goal: provide as many scoops of ice cream as possible!**

Create a source node  $s$ , and a sink node  $t$ .

Source  $\rightarrow$  student edges have capacity representing the # of ice cream scoops that student wants.

Ice cream  $\rightarrow$  sink edges have capacity representing the # of ice cream scoops available in that tub.

Student  $\rightarrow$  ice cream edges have infinity capacity!

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*Each student can eat a maximum of 3 scoops out of any given ice cream tub.*

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**There are endless bipartite scenarios that could be translated into a Max-Flow problem!**

A group of housemates have bought different amounts of house-groceries over a few months, and now they want to split the costs evenly.

**Goal: figure out what payments should happen to make costs even!**

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**There are endless bipartite scenarios that could be translated into a Max-Flow problem!**

A group of housemates have bought different amounts of house-groceries over a few months, and now they want to split the costs evenly.

**Goal: figure out what payments should happen to make costs even!**

For each person, compute how much they owe/are owed.

Two groups = shouldPay people & shouldn'tPay people.

Create a source node  $s$ , and a sink node  $t$ .

Source  $\rightarrow$  shouldPay edges have capacity representing the \$ that the person owes.

shouldn'tPay  $\rightarrow$  sink edges have capacity representing the \$ that person is owed.

shouldPay  $\rightarrow$  shouldn'tPay edges have infinity capacity!

# AN APPLICATION: BIPARTITE MATCHING

**There are endless bipartite scenarios that could be translated into a Max-Flow problem!**

A group

over a

**There are so many other types of problems!**

**Try coming up with other scenarios where Max-Flow & Ford-Fulkerson could be applied to solve the problem.**

Create a source node  $s$ , and a sink node  $t$ .

Source  $\rightarrow$  shouldPay edges have capacity representing the \$ that the person owes.

shouldn'tPay  $\rightarrow$  sink edges have capacity representing the \$ that person is owed.

shouldPay  $\rightarrow$  shouldn'tPay edges have infinity capacity!



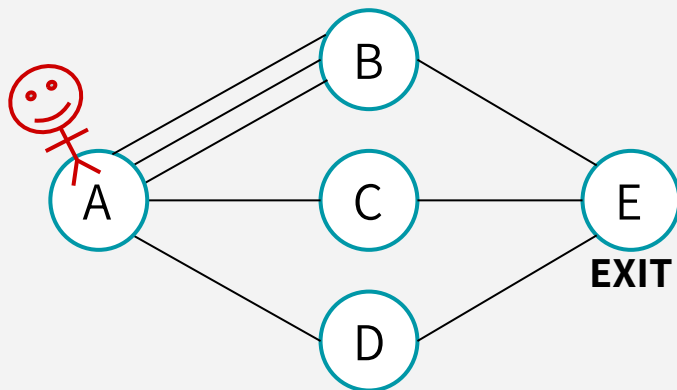
سوال؟



یک کاربرد دیگر شاره پیشینه

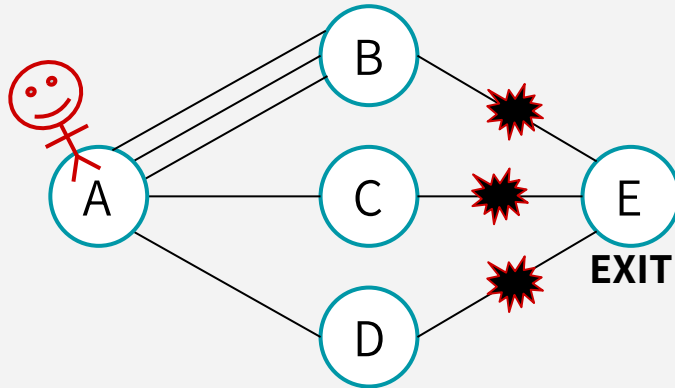
# BONUS: STOPPING THIEVES

- Thief is inside an underground complex with rooms connected by tunnels
- There's 1 room that exits to the outside world where the thief can escape to
- We can track the thief's location, and we can stop the thief from escaping by closing tunnels (which requires mechanical effort)
- GOAL: close the minimum number of tunnels to trap the thief!



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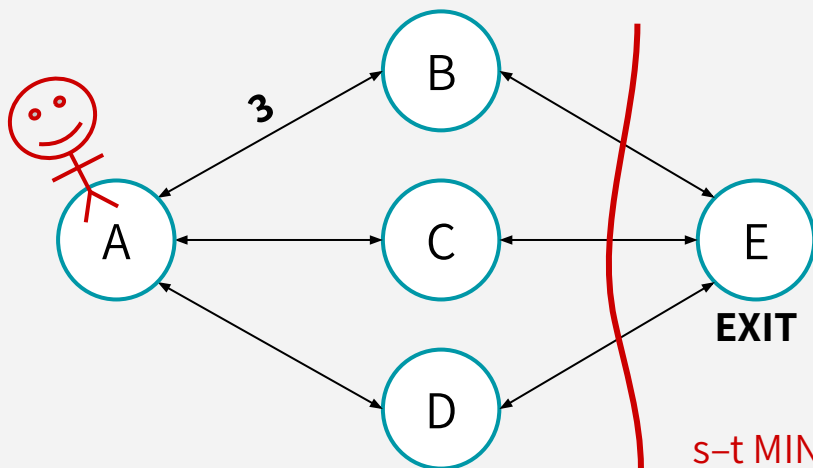


## THINGS I NOTICE:

- undirected edges
- multi-edges
- cutting off resources (between a “source” and “sink”)

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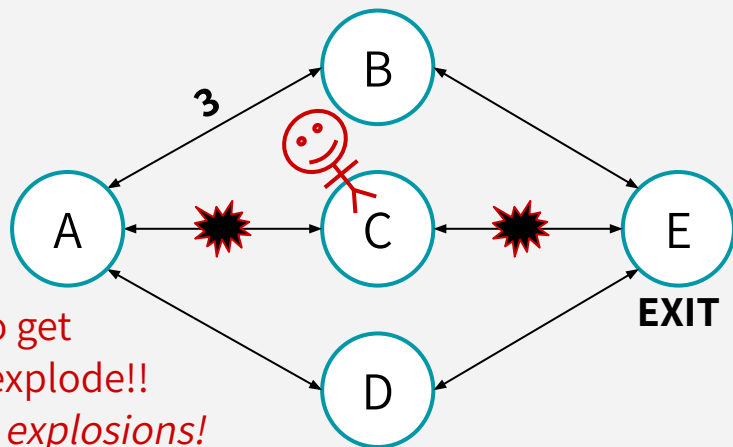
## SOLVE AS $s$ - $t$ MIN-CUT!

- direct the edges
- multi-edges  $\rightarrow$  weights
- $s$  = thief current location
- $t$  = exit

$s$ - $t$  MIN-CUT: cost 3

# BONUS: STOPPING THIEVES

- Thief is inside an underground complex with rooms connected by tunnels
- **BUT THE THIEF IS ON THE MOVE!!!**
- There's 1 room that exits to the outside world where the thief can escape to
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wait for thief to get  
to C and then explode!!  
→ *only costs 2 explosions!*

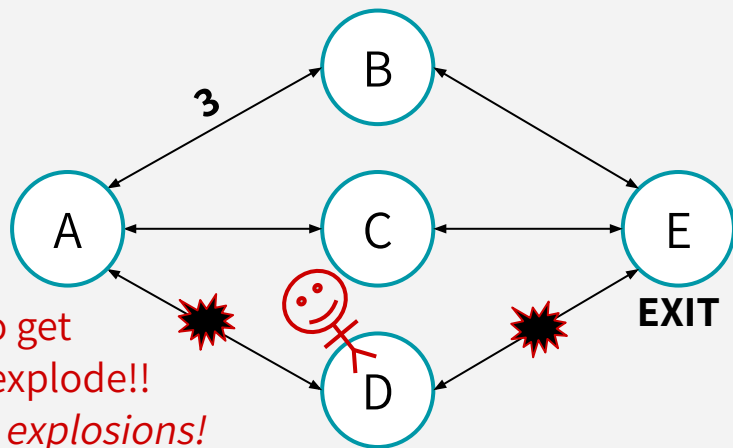
## SOLVE AS $s-t$ MIN-CUT??

- direct the edges
- multi-edges → weights
- $s$  = thief current location
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But now,  $s$  can change as the thief moves around, so we may want to delay explosions!

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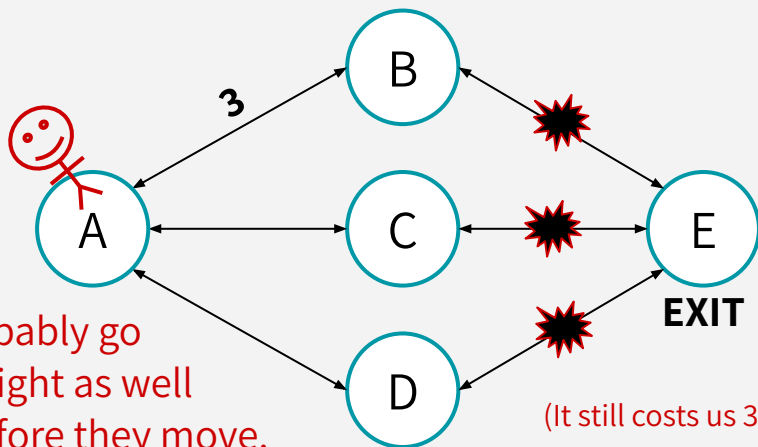
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- Thief is inside an underground complex with rooms connected by tunnels
- **BUT THE THIEF IS ON THE MOVE!!! (AND THE THIEF IS SMART)**
- There's 1 room that exits to the outside world where the thief can escape to
- We can track the thief's location, and we can stop the thief from escaping by closing tunnels (which requires mechanical effort)
- GOAL: close the minimum number of tunnels to trap the thief!



Thief will probably go to B, so we might as well stop them before they move.

(It still costs us 3 explosions to stop the thief once they reach B)

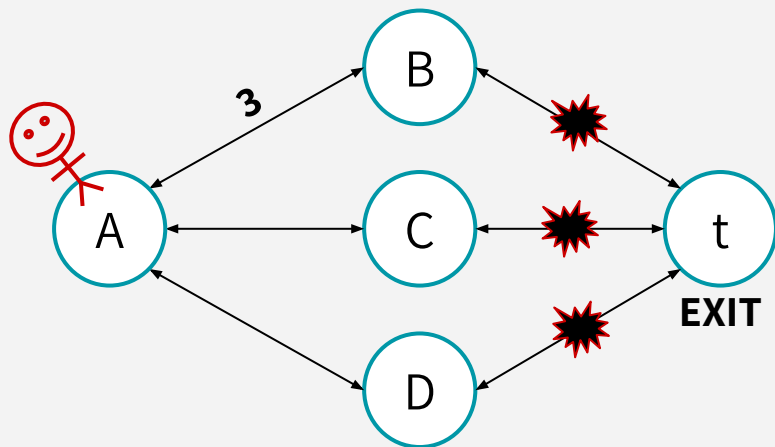
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Thief starts at location  $x$

- Find  $\text{minCut}(x,t)$

For all paths  $p$  from  $x \rightarrow t$ :

- $\text{minCutP} = \min_{v \in p} \text{minCut}(v,t)$

$\text{maxMinCutP}$  = largest of these  $\text{minCutP}$

**If  $\text{minCut}(x,t) \geq \text{maxMinCutP}$ : delay explosions**

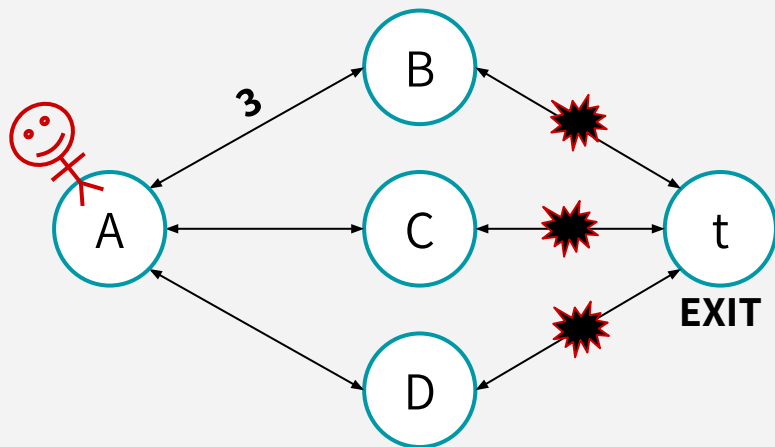
- i.e. recurse on thief's next location

**If  $\text{minCut}(x,t) < \text{maxMinCutP}$ : explode that min-cut!**



# BONUS: STOPPING THIEVES

- This was an example of cutting off resources (s-t min-cut application)
- This involved a “dynamic” source node, needed to remodel graph + edge weights
- Dynamic programming in nature!
  - Potentially would be recomputing  $\text{minCut}(v,t)$  many times  $\rightarrow$  cache that!
- Smart & active thieves suck  $\rightarrow$  min-max cleverness
- What if some tunnels can't be closed?



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