

T&R Team of Algorithm Design  
College of Computer Science and Engineering, CQU



# Algorithm Analysis & Design

## Introduction to Algorithm





# **Chapter 26:**

## **Maximum Flow**

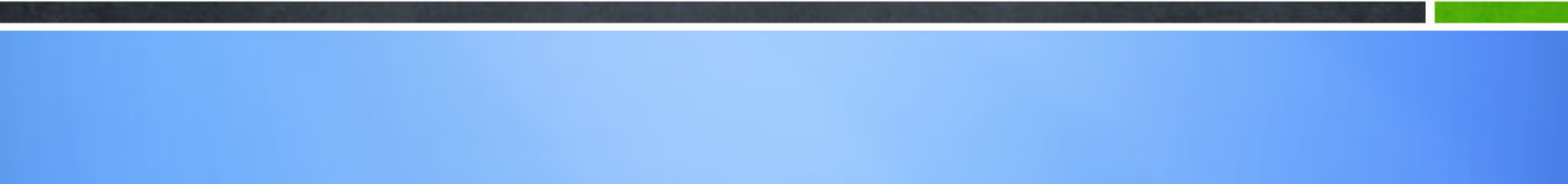
# Outlines

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- **Flow networks**
- **Ford-Fulkerson method**



# Flow Networks



# The Tao of Flow

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“Let your body go with the flow.”

-Madonna, *Vogue*

“Go with the flow, Joe.”

-Paul Simon, *50 ways to leave your lover*

“Use the flow, Luke!”

-Obi-wan Kenobi, *Star Wars*

“Life is flow; flow is life.”

-Ford & Fulkerson, *Ford & Fulkerson Algorithm*

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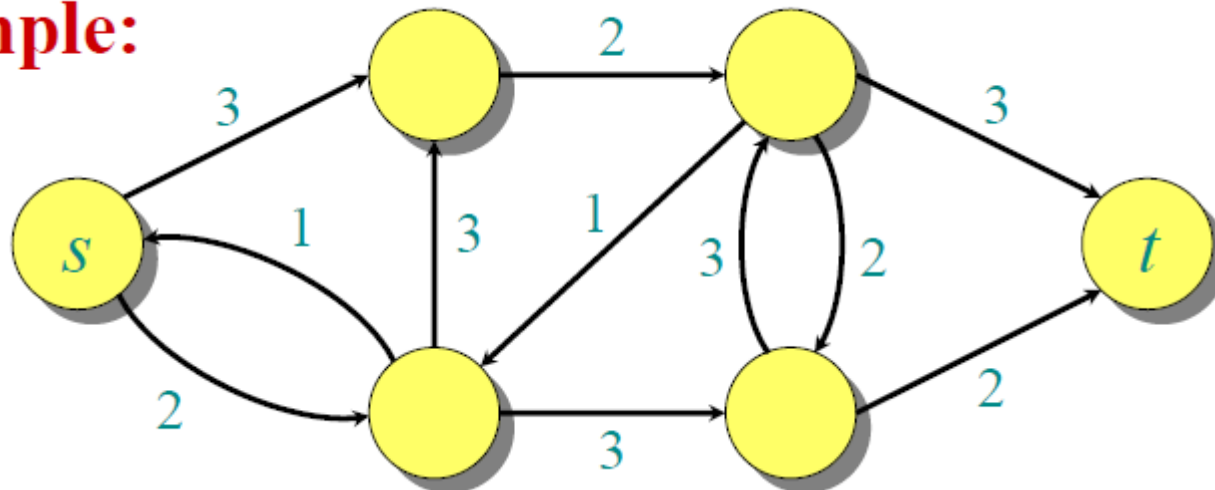
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“Learn flow, or flunk the course”

# Flow Network

- digraph  $G = (V, E)$
- weights, called **capacities** on edges  $c(u, v)$
- two distinct vertices
  - Source, “s”:
  - Sink, “t”:
- each vertex on some path from source to sink

**Example:**

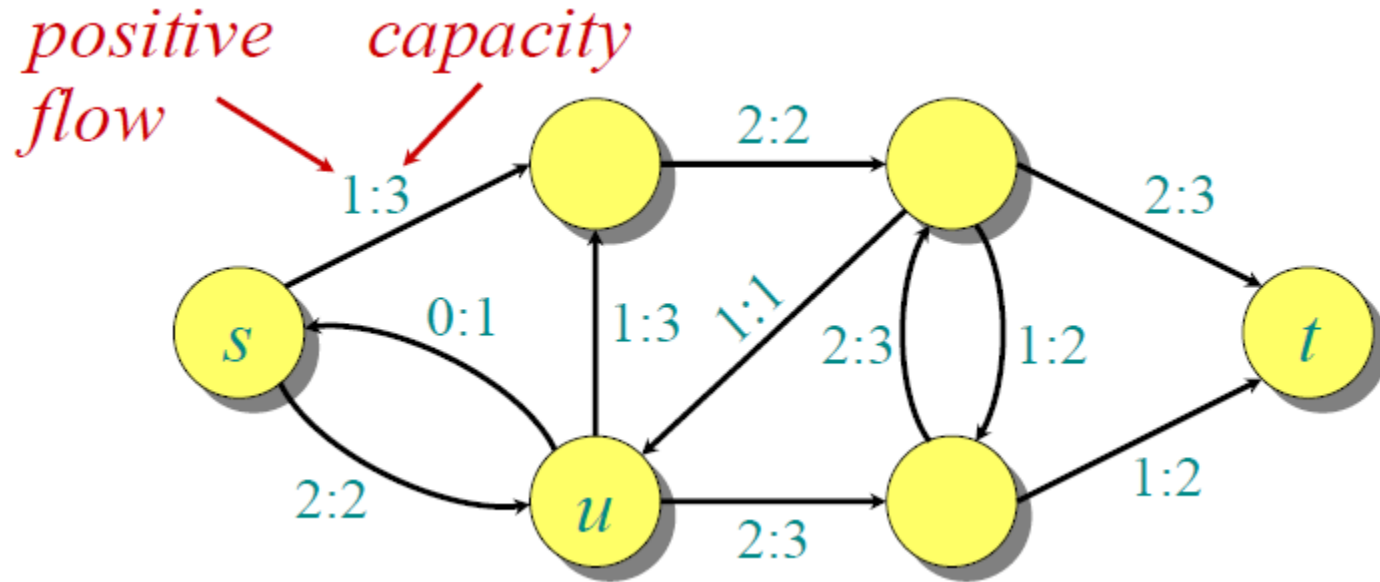


# Capacity and Flow

- Edge Capacities:  $c(u, v)$   
Nonnegative weights on network edges  
If  $(u, v) \notin E$ ,  $c(u, v) = 0$ .
- Flow:  
Function on network edges:  $p : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ 
  - **Capacity constraint:** For all  $u, v \in V$ ,  
 $0 \leq p(u, v) \leq c(u, v)$ .
  - **Flow conservation:** For all  $u \in V - \{s, t\}$ ,  
$$\sum_{v \in V} p(u, v) - \sum_{v \in V} p(v, u) = 0.$$



# Capacity and Flow



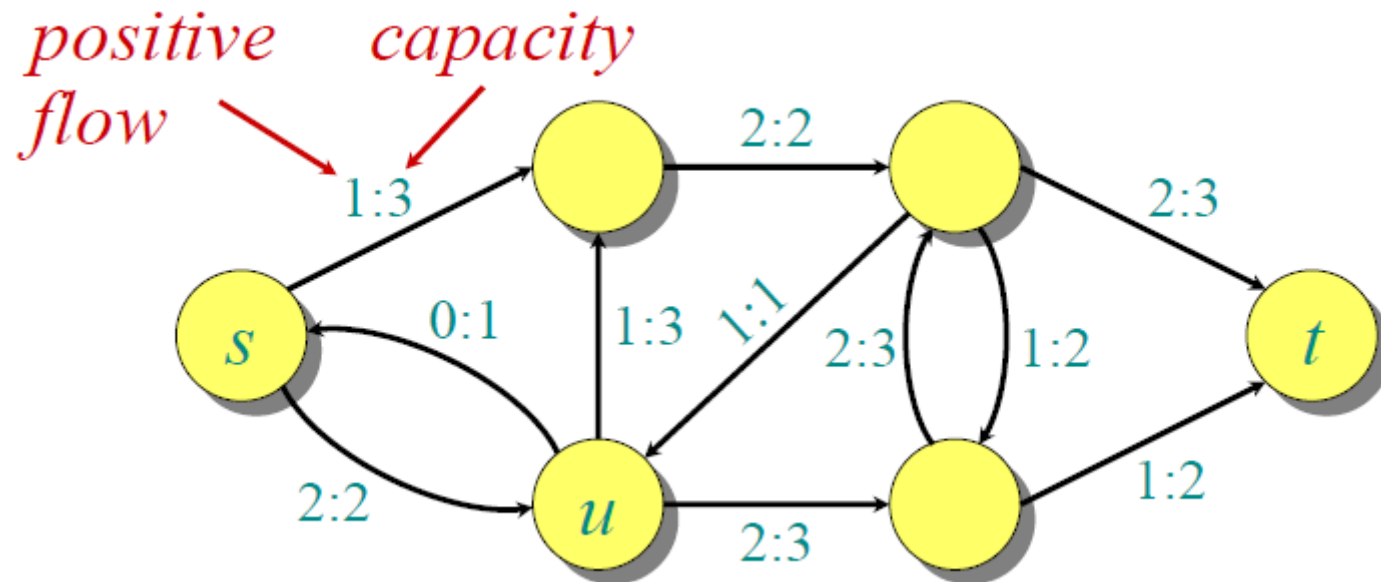
*Flow conservation* (like Kirchhoff's current law):

- Flow into  $u$  is  $2 + 1 = 3$ .
- Flow out of  $u$  is  $0 + 1 + 2 = 3$ .

# Flow Value

The *value* of a flow is the net flow out of the source:

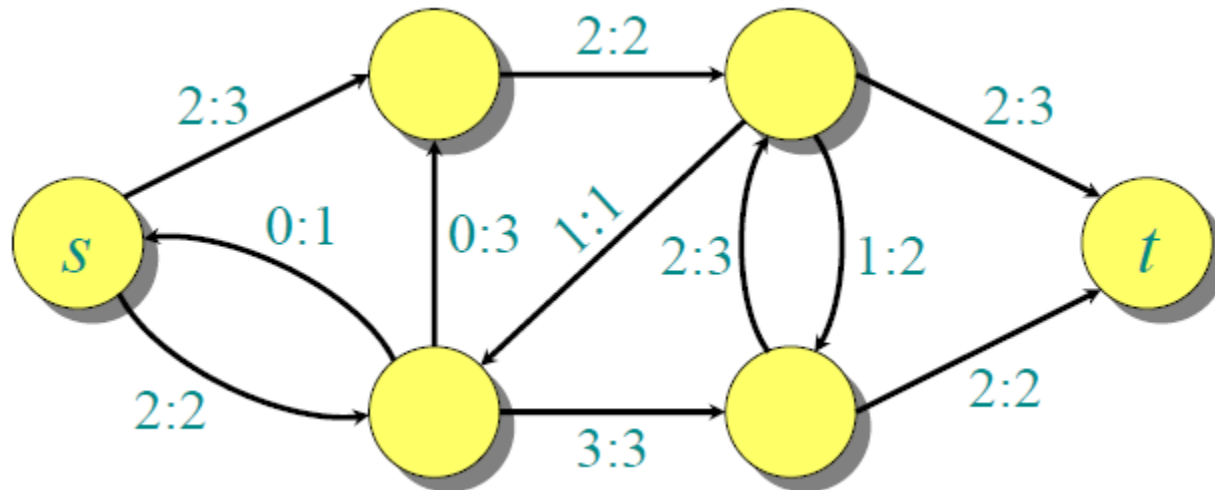
$$\sum_{v \in V} p(s, v) - \sum_{v \in V} p(v, s).$$



The value of this flow is  $1 - 0 + 2 = 3$ .

# The Maximum-Flow Problem

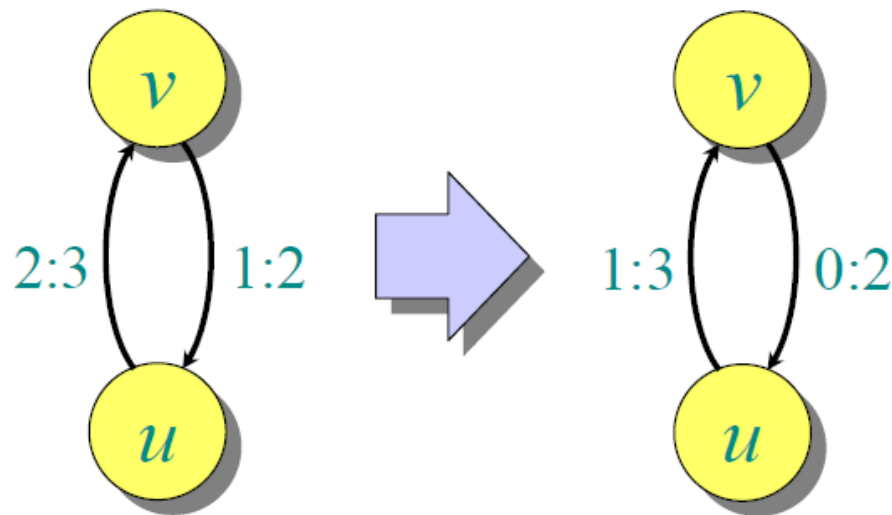
**Maximum-flow problem:** Given a flow network  $G$ , find a flow of maximum value on  $G$ .



The value of the maximum flow is 4.

# Flow Cancellation

Without loss of generality, positive flow goes either from  $u$  to  $v$ , or from  $v$  to  $u$ , but not both.



Net flow from  $u$  to  $v$  in both cases is 1.

**INTUITION:** View flow as a *rate*, not a *quantity*.

# Net Flow Definitions

**IDEA:** Work with the net flow between two vertices

**Definition.** A *(net) flow* on  $G$  is a function  $f : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfying the following:

- **Capacity constraint:** For all  $u, v \in V$ ,  
$$f(u, v) \leq c(u, v).$$
- **Skew symmetry:** For all  $u, v \in V$ ,  
$$f(u, v) = -f(v, u).$$
- **Flow conservation:** For all  $u \in V - \{s, t\}$ ,  
$$\sum_{v \in V} f(u, v) = 0. \leftarrow \text{One summation instead of two.}$$

# Net Flow Value

**Definition.** The *value* of a flow  $f$ , denoted by  $|f|$ , is given by

$$\begin{aligned}|f| &= \sum_{v \in V} f(s, v) \\ &= f(s, V).\end{aligned}$$



**Implicit summation notation**

- **Example** — flow conservation:  
 $f(u, V) = 0$  for all  $u \in V - \{s, t\}$ .

# Simple Properties of Net Flow

## Lemma.

- $f(X, X) = 0$ ,
- $f(X, Y) = -f(Y, X)$ ,
- $f(X \cup Y, Z) = f(X, Z) + f(Y, Z)$  if  $X \cap Y = \emptyset$ .

# Simple Properties of Net Flow

## Lemma.

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(Proof).  $\sum_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in X} f(x, y) + \sum_{y \in X} \sum_{x \in X} f(y, x) = 0$

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(Proof). **Exercise**

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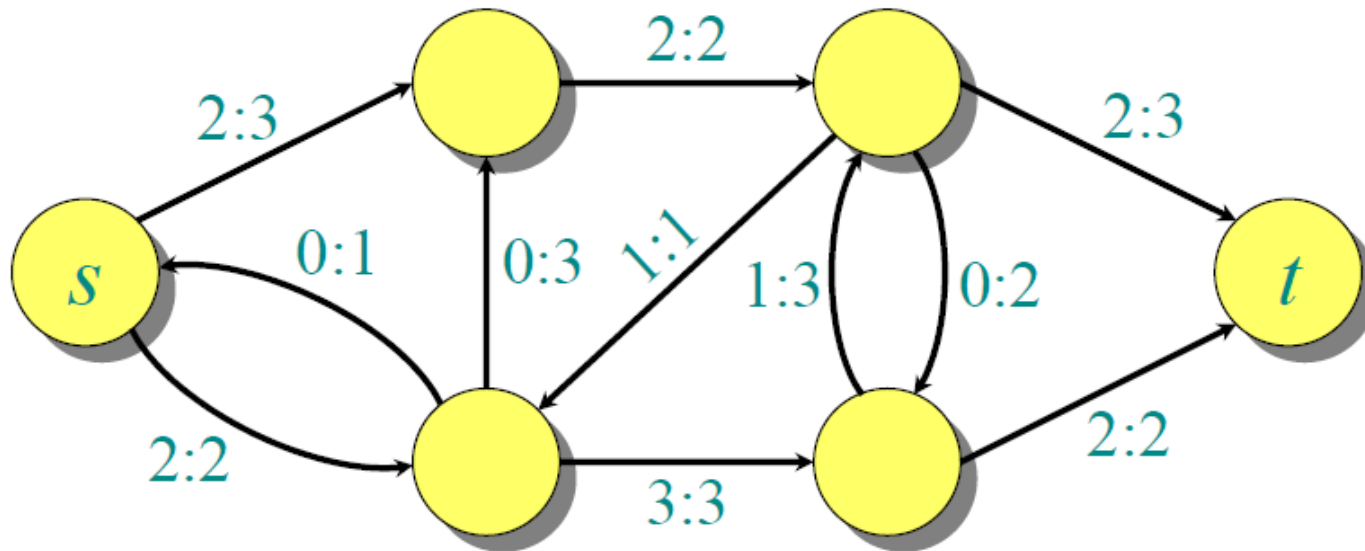
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# Net Flow into Sink

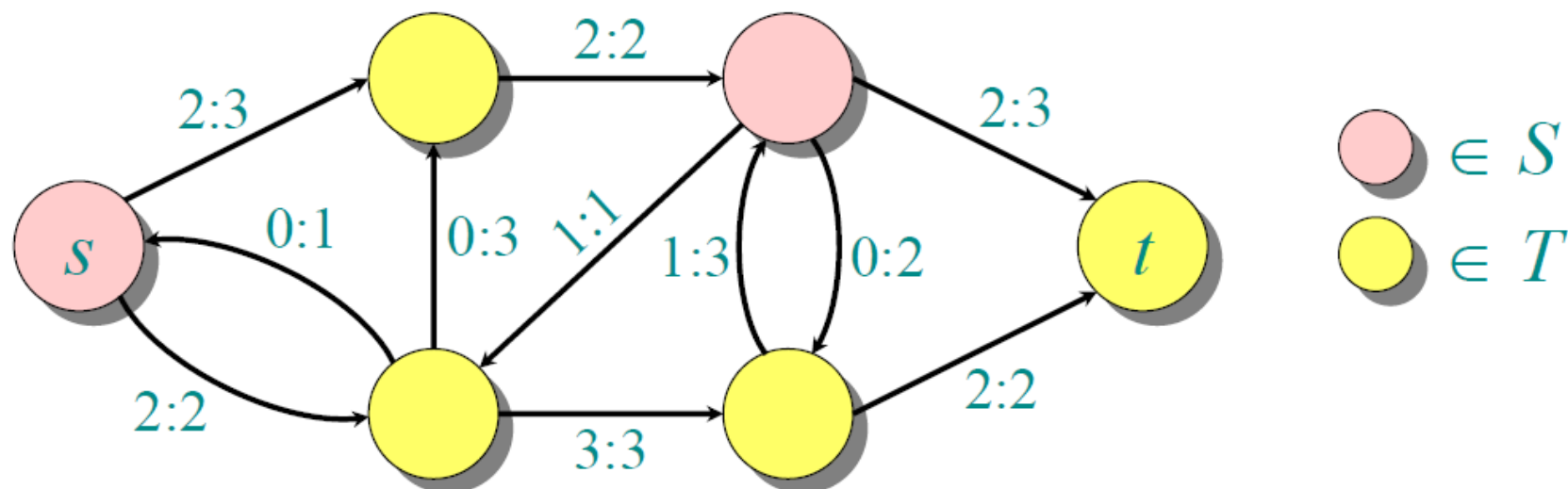


$$|f| = f(s, V) = 4$$

$$f(V, t) = 4$$

# Cut

**Definition.** A *cut*  $(S, T)$  of a flow network  $G = (V, E)$  is a partition of  $V$  such that  $s \in S$  and  $t \in T$ .



*flow across the cut*

$$\begin{aligned} f(S, T) &= (2 + 2) + (-2 + 1 - 1 + 2) \\ &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

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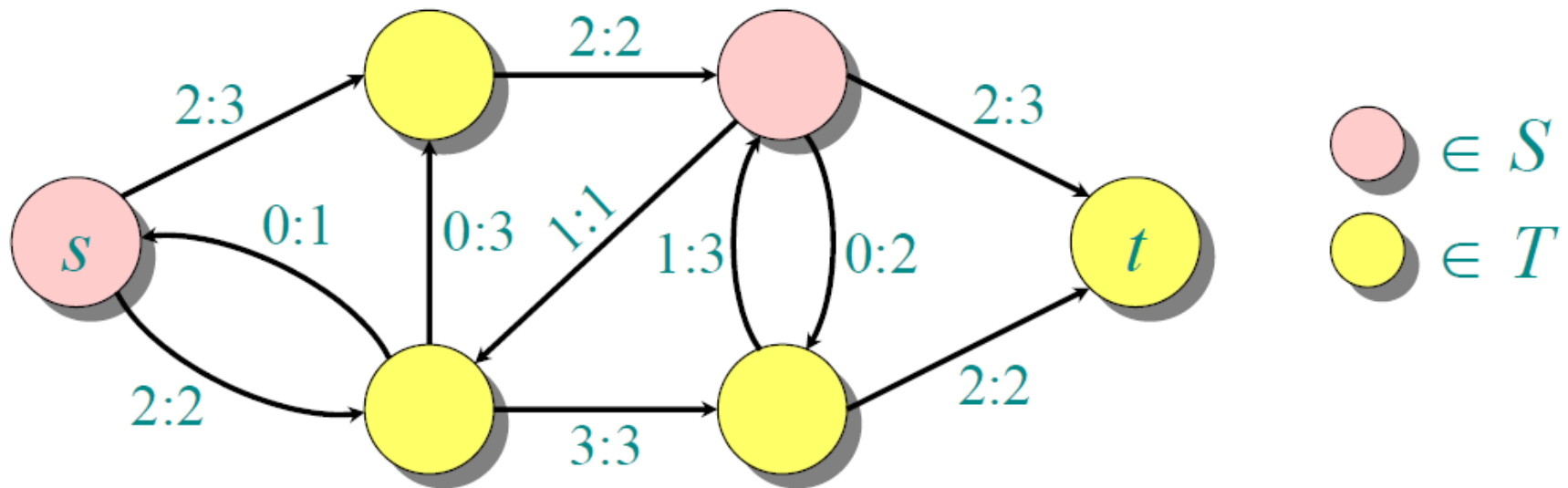
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$$\begin{aligned} f(S, T) &= f(S, V) - f(S, S) \\ &= f(S, V) \\ &= f(s, V) + f(S-s, V) \\ &= f(s, V) \\ &= |f|. \end{aligned}$$

# Capacity of A Cut

**Definition.** The *capacity of a cut*  $(S, T)$  is  $c(S, T)$ .



$$\begin{aligned} c(S, T) &= (3 + 2) + (1 + 2 + 3) \\ &= 11 \end{aligned}$$

# Upper Bound on Flow Value

---

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$$\leq \sum_{u \in S} \sum_{v \in T} c(u, v)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} |f| &= f(S, T) \\ &= \sum_{u \in S} \sum_{v \in T} f(u, v) \\ &\leq \sum_{u \in S} \sum_{v \in T} c(u, v) \\ &= c(S, T). \end{aligned}$$

# Residual Network

**Definition.** Let  $f$  be a flow on  $G = (V, E)$ . The *residual network*  $G_f(V, E_f)$  is the graph with strictly positive *residual capacities*

$$c_f(u, v) = c(u, v) - f(u, v) > 0.$$

**Example:**

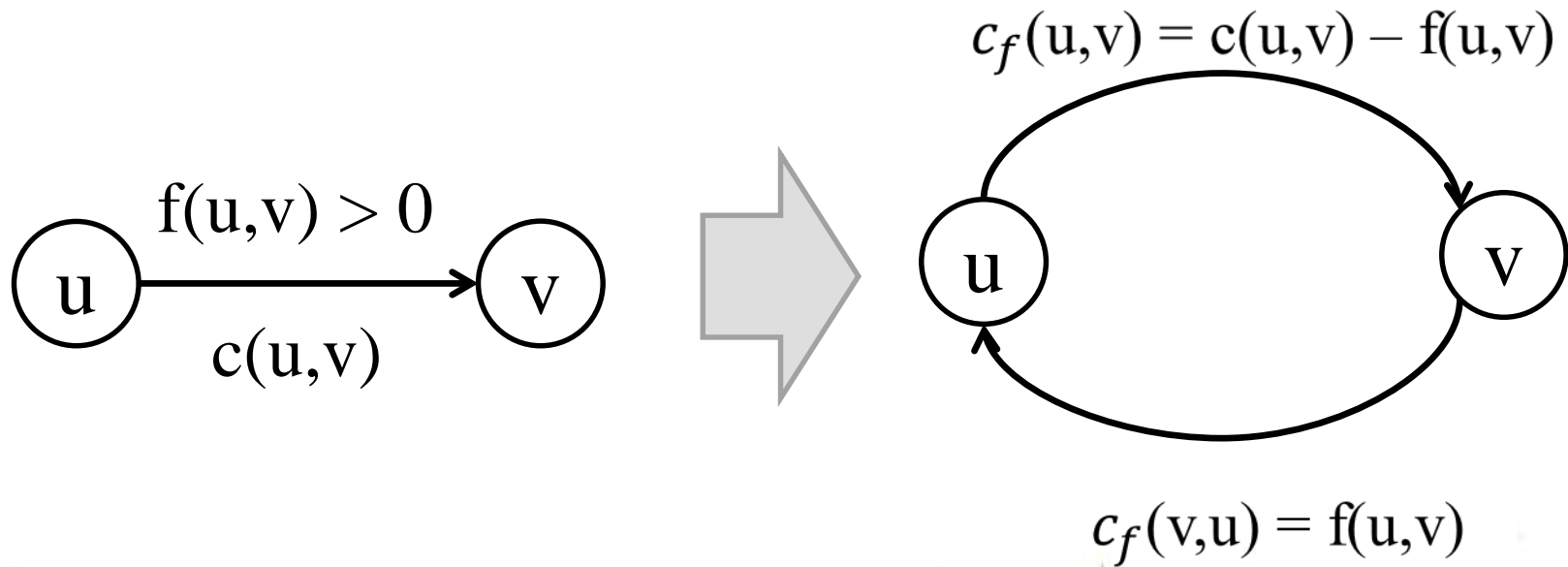


Edges in  $E_f$  admit more flow.

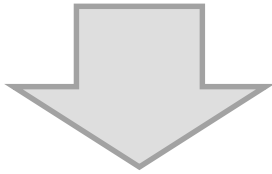
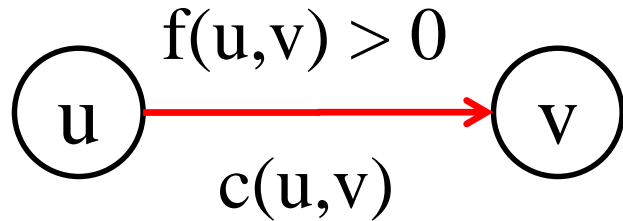


# Residual Network

**Lemma.**  $|E_f| \leq 2|E|$ .



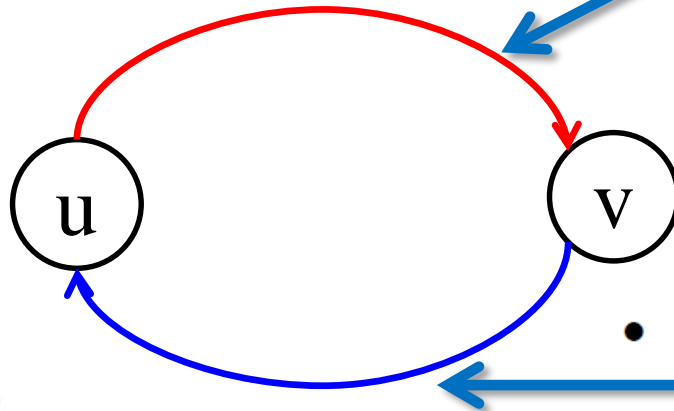
# Residual Network



- **Forward Edges**

$$c_f(u,v) = c(u,v) - f(u,v)$$

$\text{flow}(u,v) < \text{capacity}(u,v)$   
flow can be increased!

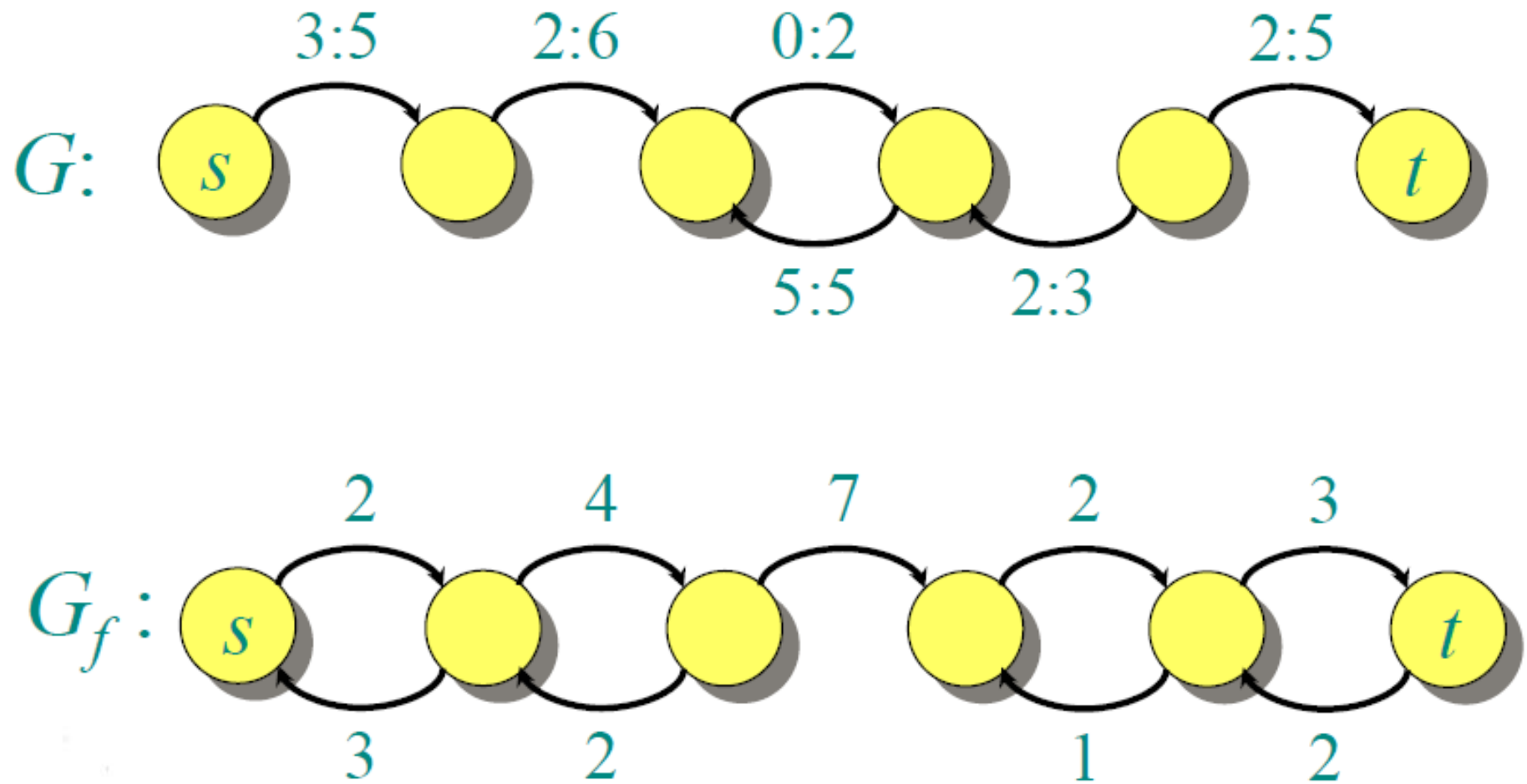


- **Backward Edges**

$$c_f(v,u) = f(u,v)$$

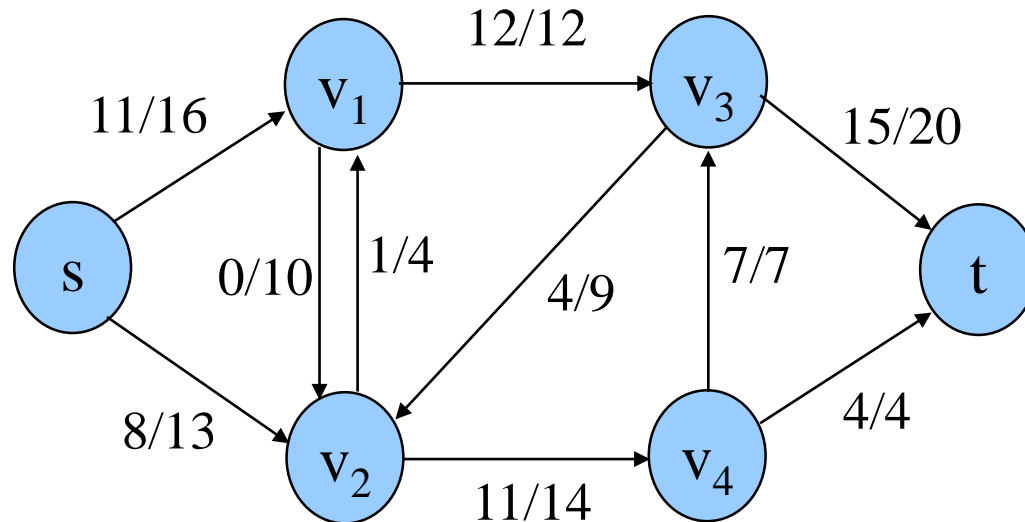
$\text{flow}(u,v) > 0$   
flow can be decreased!

# Residual Network Example



# Short Test in Class

- Give the residual network of the next graph



# Exercises

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- 26.1-1
- 26.1-3

# Augmenting Path

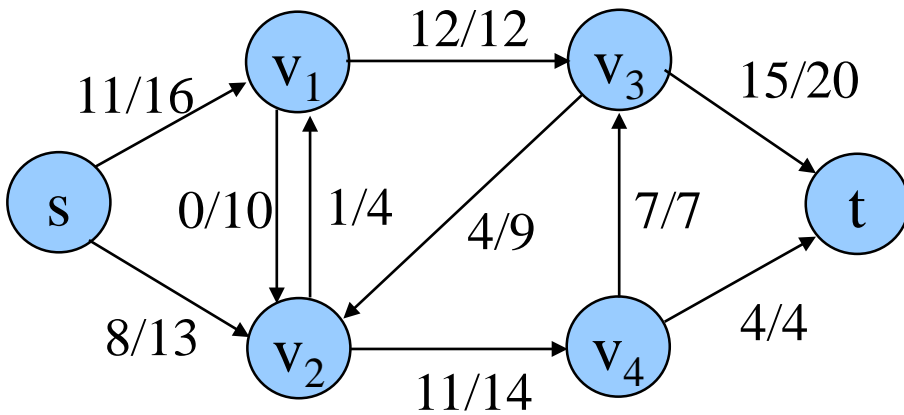
An **augmenting path**  $p$  is a simple path from  $s$  to  $t$  in the residual network  $G_f$  of a flow network  $G$ .

**residual capacity** of  $p$

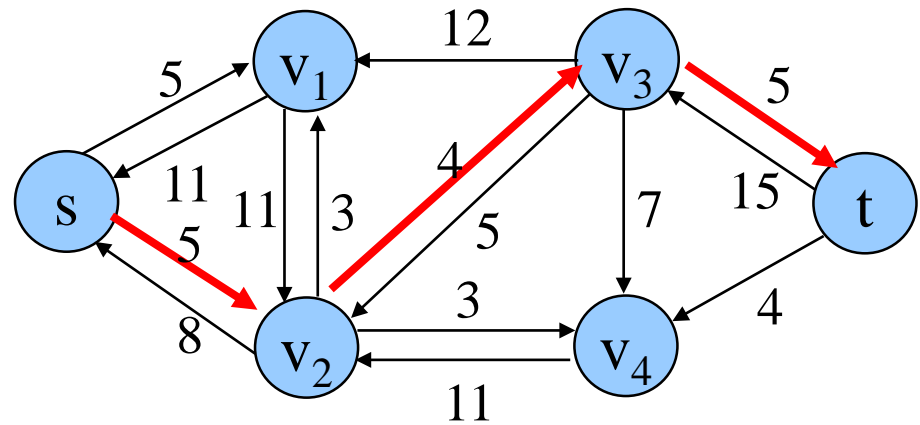
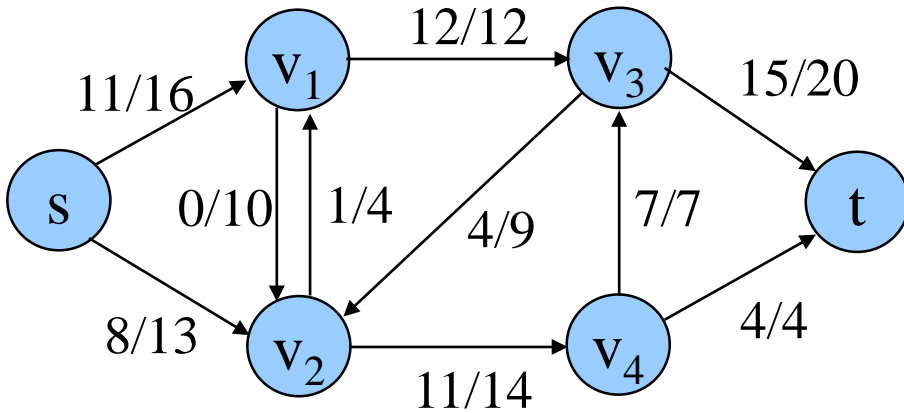
$$c_f(p) = \min_{(u,v) \in p} \{c_f(u,v)\}.$$

the maximum flow  $|f|$  can be increased by increasing the flow on each edge in  $p$

# Augmenting Path Example

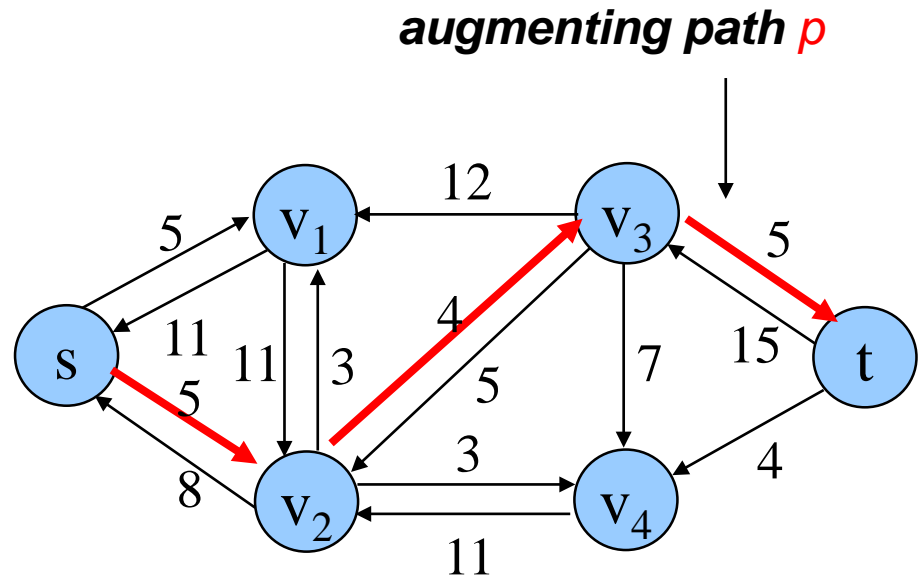
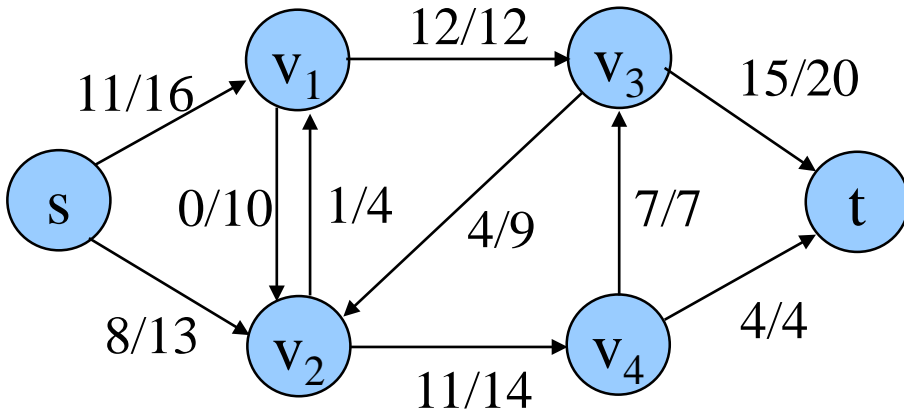


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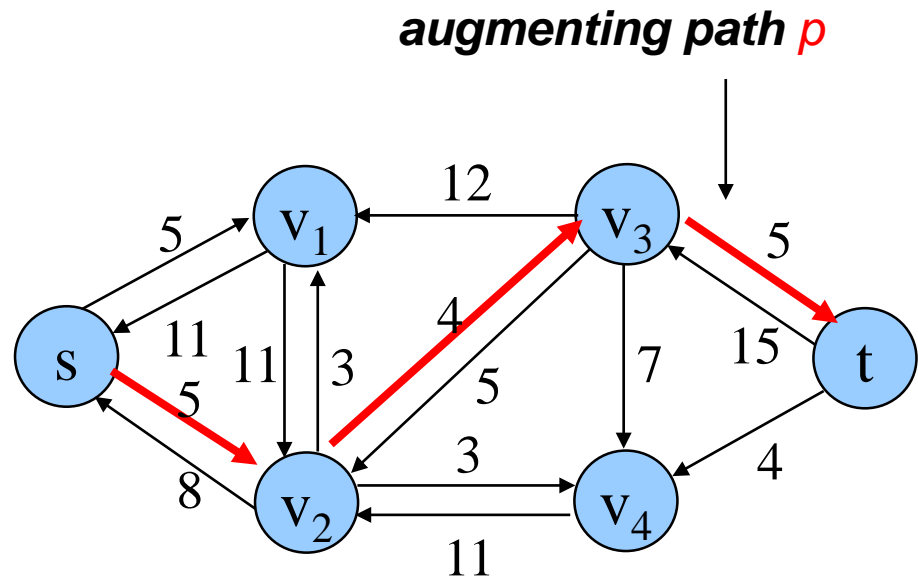
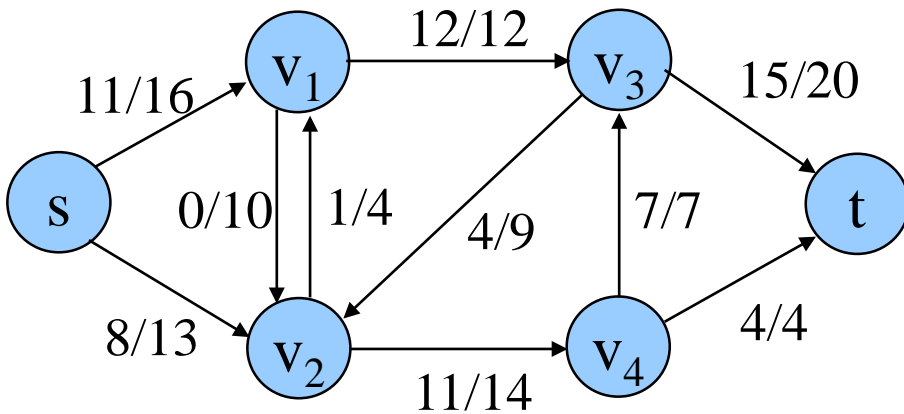




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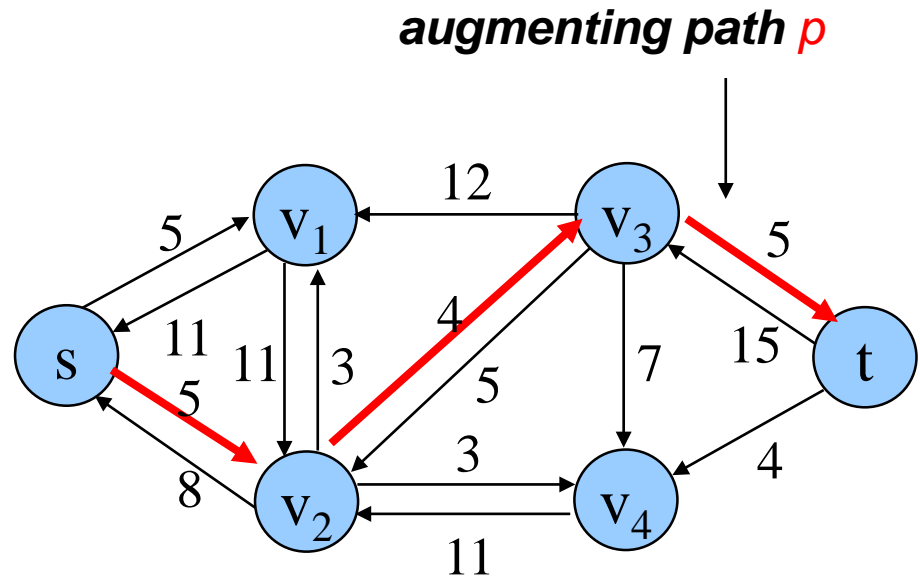
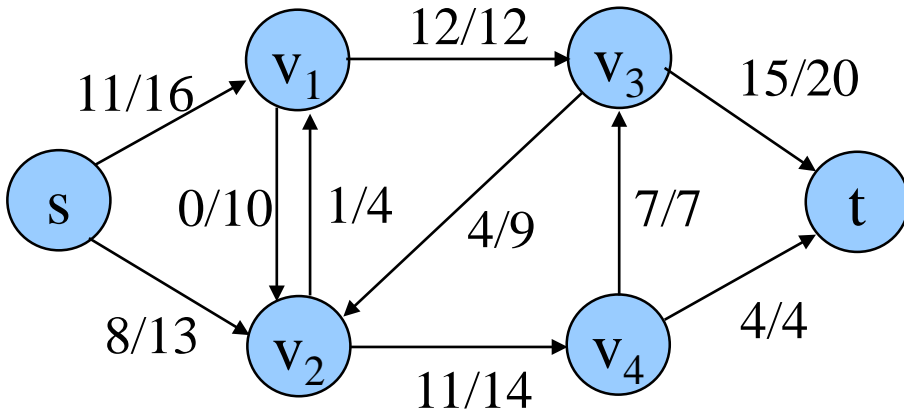


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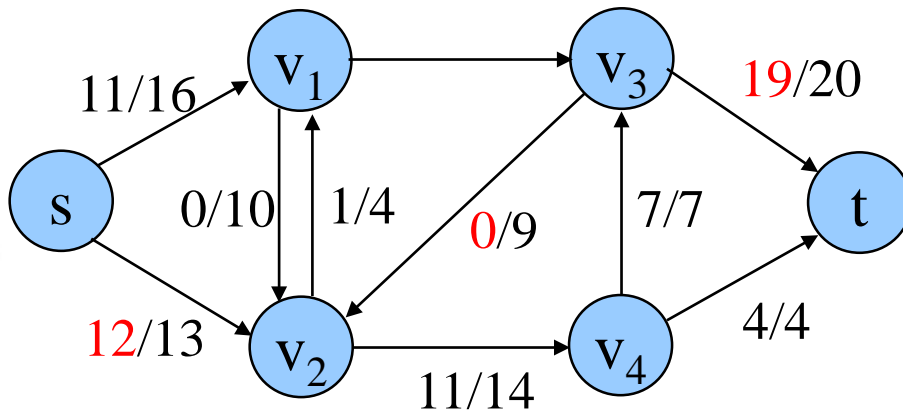


$$c_f(p) = 4$$

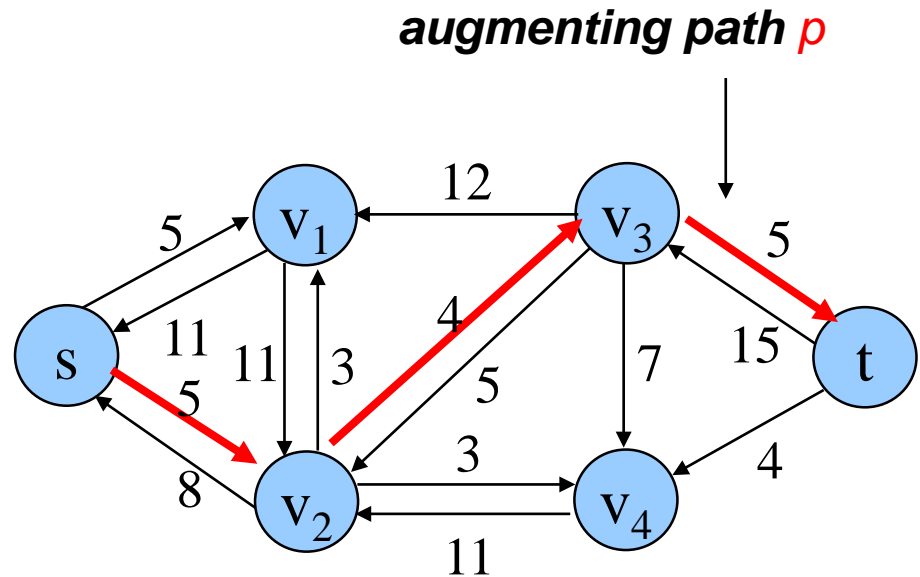
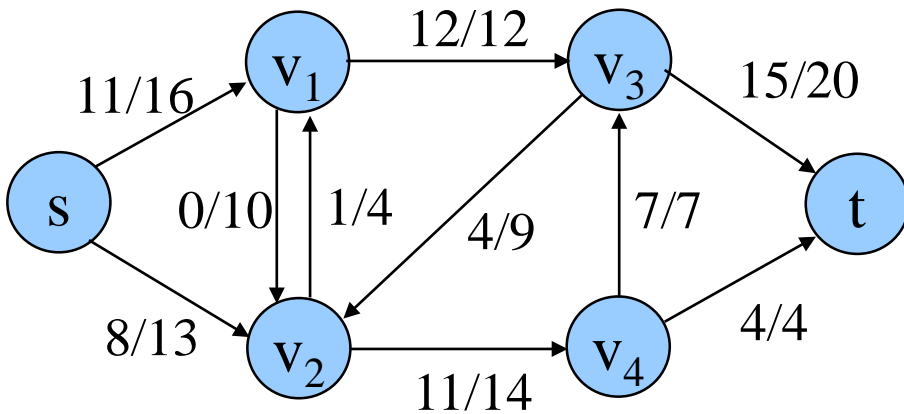
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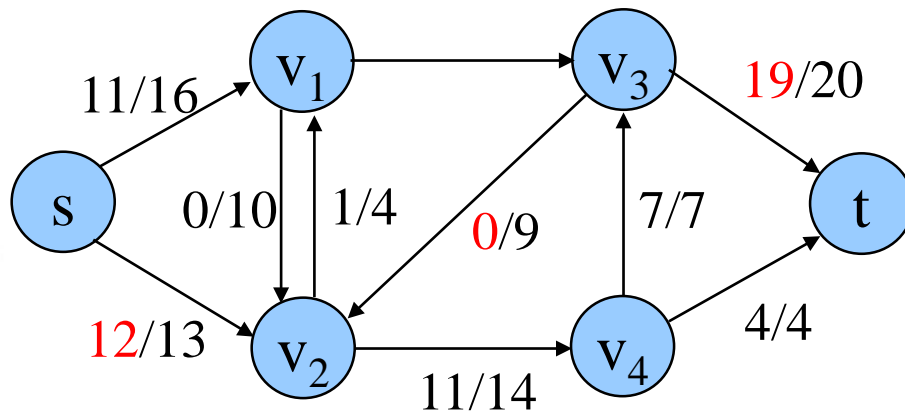
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# Augmenting Path Example



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Maximum flow increased by 4!

# Maximum Flow Theorem

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Flow is maximum  $\Rightarrow$  No augmenting path

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(The *only-if* part is easy to prove.)

No augmenting path  $\Rightarrow$  Flow is maximum

(Proving the *if* part is more difficult.)

# Max-Flow, Min-Cut Theorem

---

**Theorem.** The following are equivalent:

1.  $|f| = c(S, T)$  for some cut  $(S, T)$ .
2.  $f$  is a maximum flow.
3.  $f$  admits no augmenting paths.



# Max-Flow, Min-Cut Theorem

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*Proof.*

(1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2): Since  $|f| \leq c(S, T)$  for any cut  $(S, T)$



$|f| = c(S, T)$  implies that  $f$  is a maximum flow.

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(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3): If there were an augmenting path,



$|f|$  flow value could be increased,

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$T = V - S$

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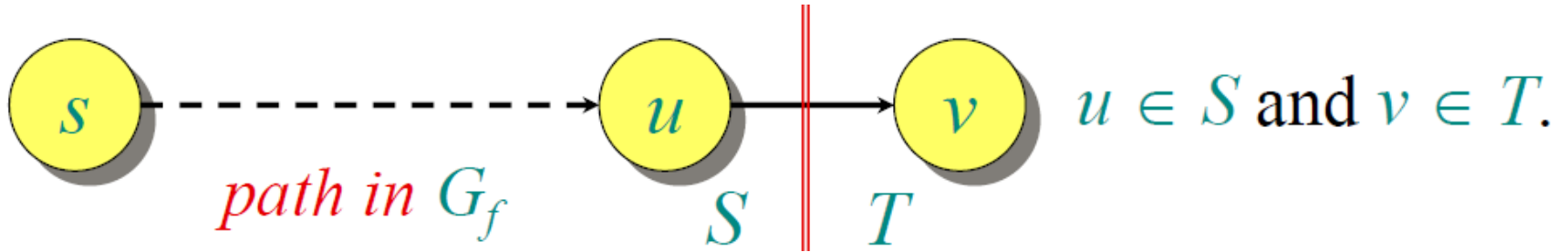
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$(S, T)$  is a cut! Why?

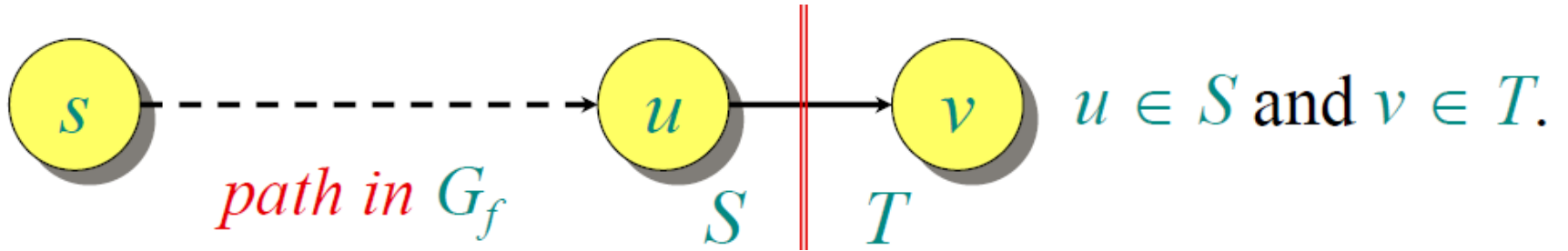
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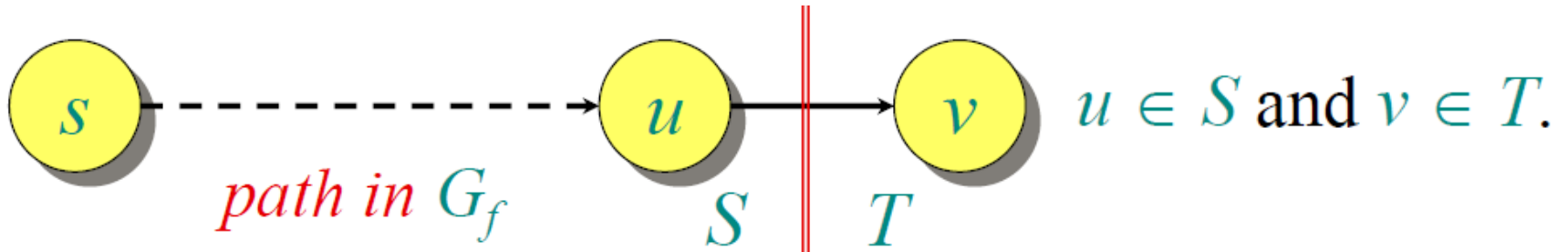
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$$v \in T \Rightarrow (u, v) \notin E_f \Rightarrow c_f(u, v) = 0$$

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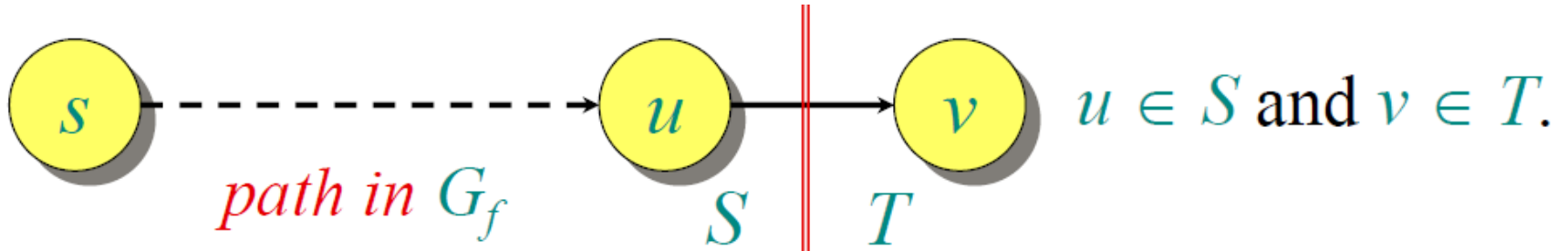


$$v \in T \Rightarrow (u, v) \notin E_f \Rightarrow c_f(u, v) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow f(u, v) = c(u, v) \quad \because c_f(u, v) = c(u, v) - f(u, v)$$

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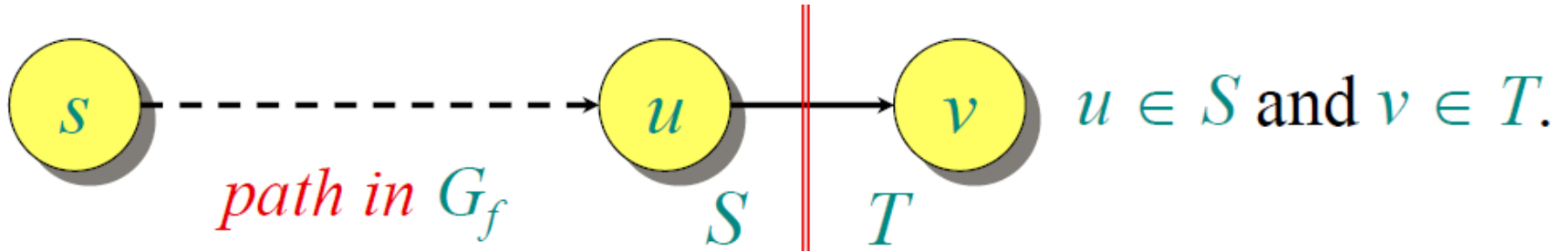
$$\Rightarrow f(u, v) = c(u, v) \quad \because c_f(u, v) = c(u, v) - f(u, v)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{u \in S} \sum_{v \in T} f(u, v) = \sum_{u \in S} \sum_{v \in T} c(u, v)$$



# Max-Flow, Min-Cut Theorem

*Proof.* (3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1):  $f$  admits no augmenting paths.



$$v \in T \Rightarrow (u, v) \notin E_f \Rightarrow c_f(u, v) = 0$$

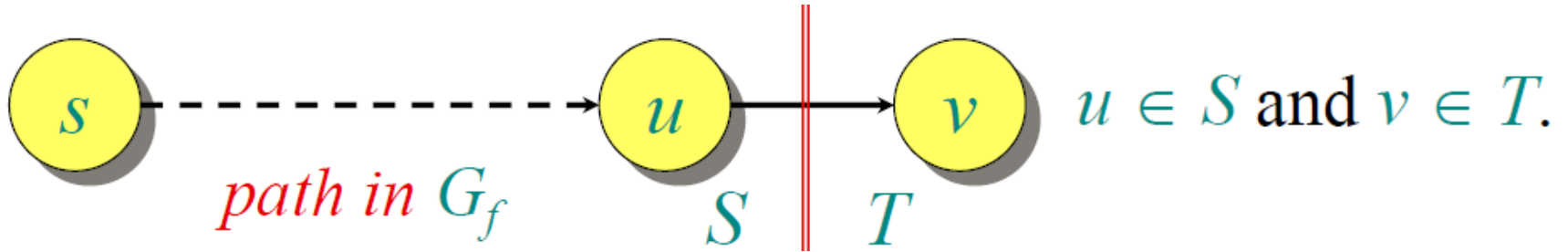
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$$\Rightarrow f(S, T) = c(S, T) = |f|$$

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$$\Rightarrow f(S, T) = c(S, T) = |f| \quad \text{Maximum flow!}$$



# Ford-Fulkerson Algorithm

# A Story

---

- One day, Ford phoned his buddy Fulkerson and said, “Hey Fulk! Let’s formulate an algorithm to determine maximum flow.” Fulk responded in kind by saying, “Great idea, Ford! Let’s just do it!” And so, after several days of abstract computation, they came up with the Ford Fulkerson Algorithm, affectionately known as the “Ford & Fulkerson Algorithm.”

# Rough Idea

---

initialize network with null flow;

## **Method FindFlow**

if augmenting paths exist then

find augmenting path;

increase flow;

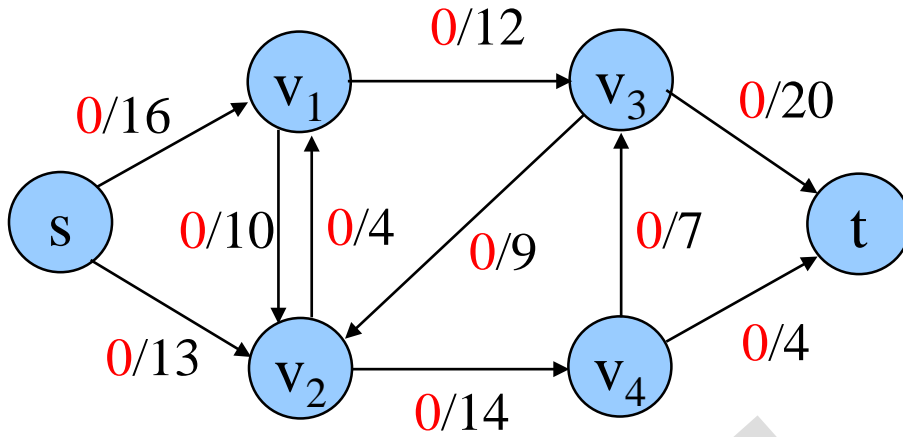
recursive call to FindFlow;

# Algorithm

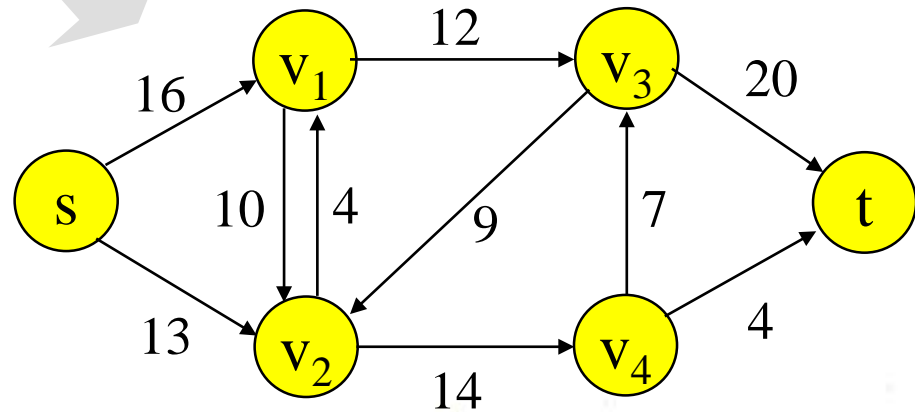
$f[u, v] \leftarrow 0$  for all  $u, v \in V$

**while** an augmenting path  $p$  in  $G$  wrt  $f$  exists  
  **do** augment  $f$  by  $c_f(p)$

# Example—Basic Implementation



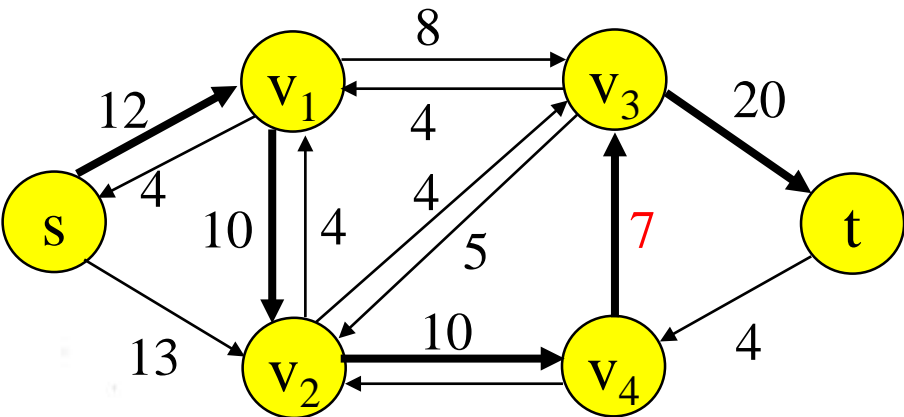
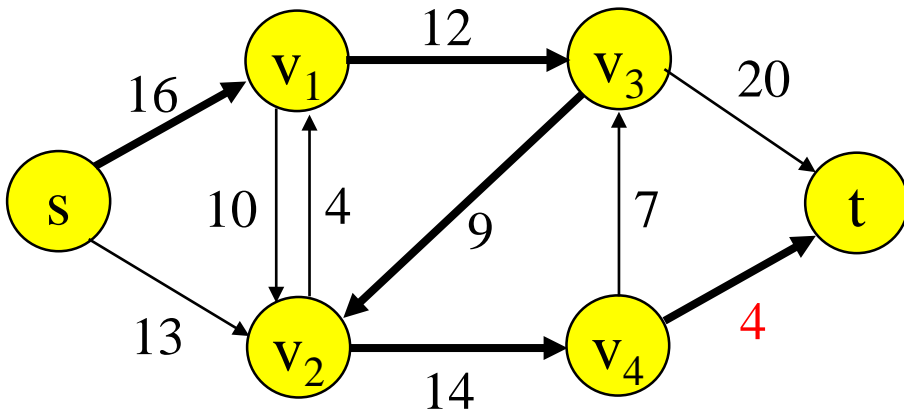
Flow initialization



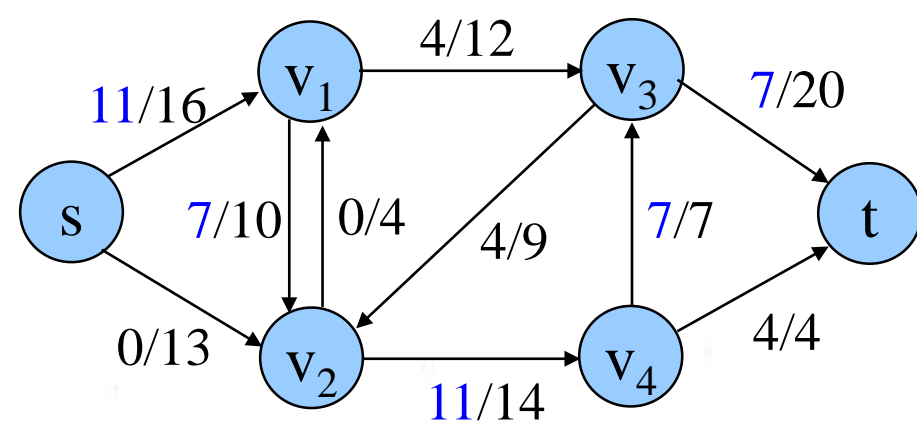
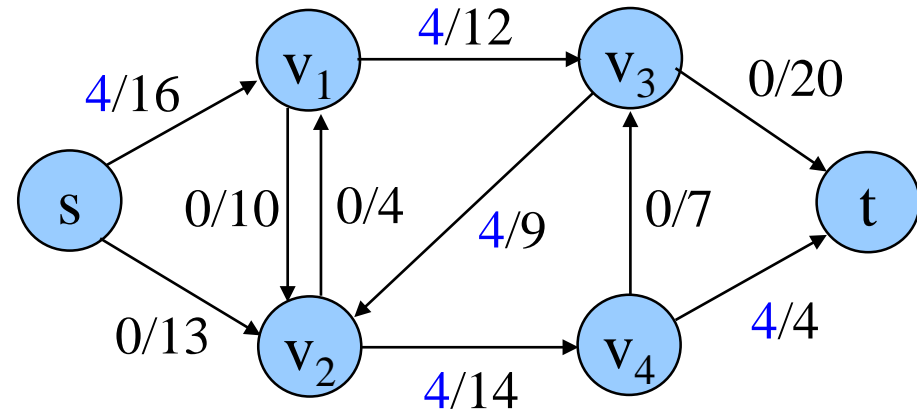
Residual network

# Example

## Residual Networks



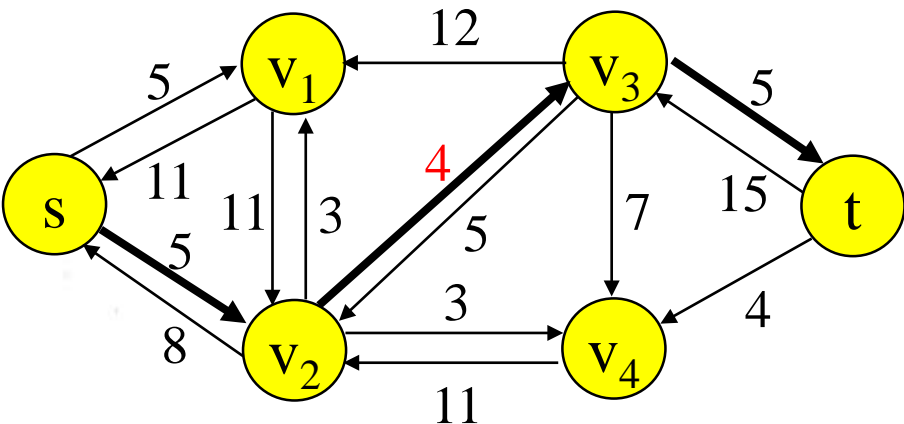
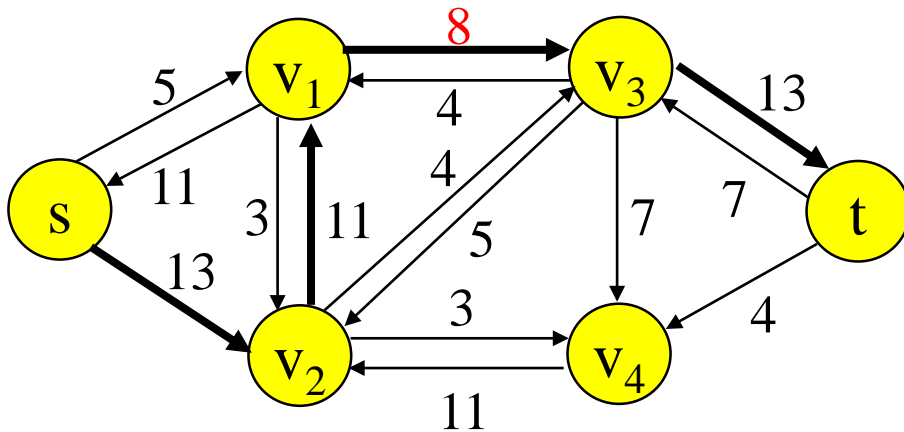
## Flows



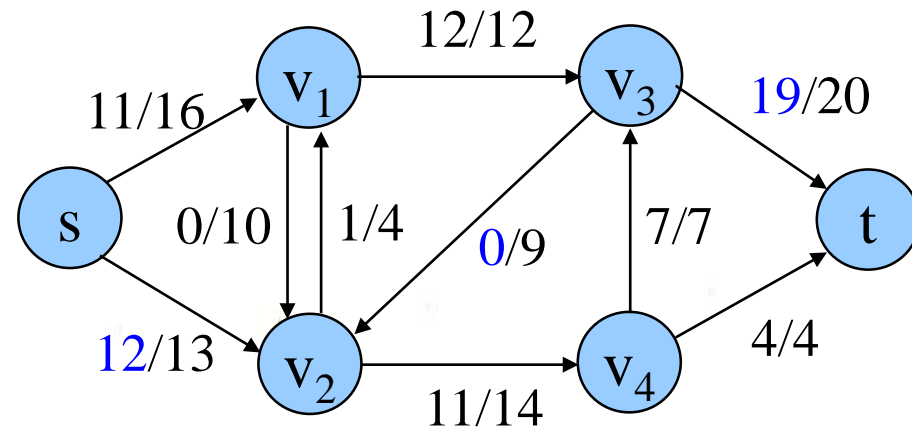
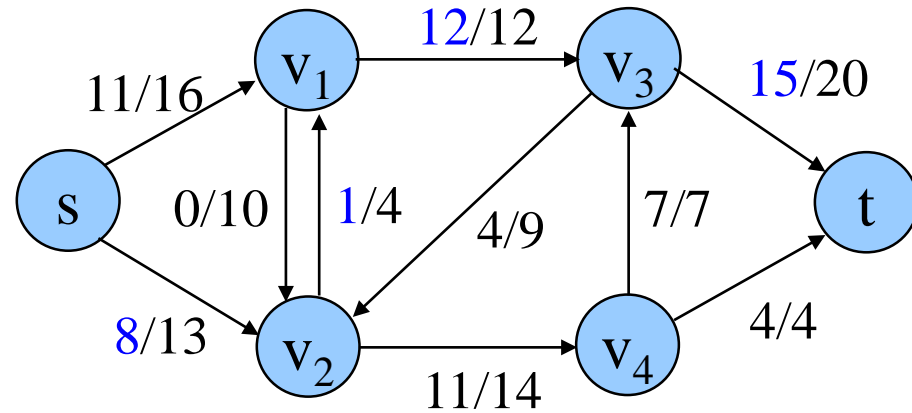


# Example

Residual Networks

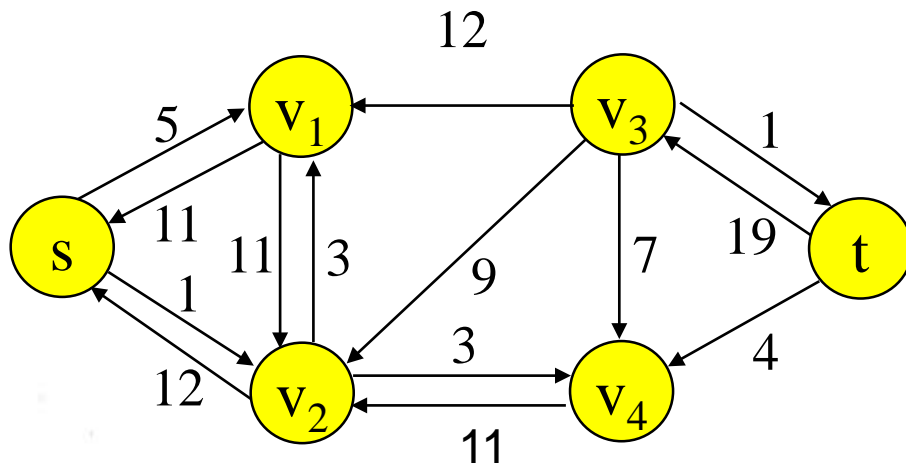


Flows

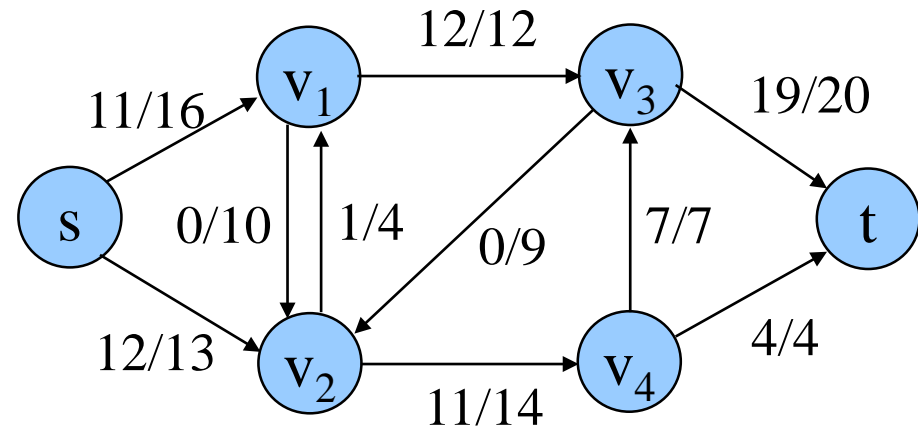


# Example

## Residual Networks

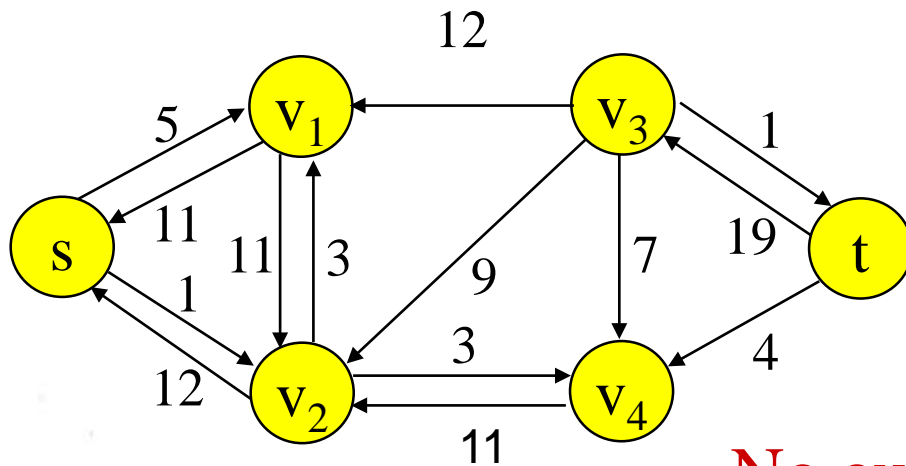


## Flows

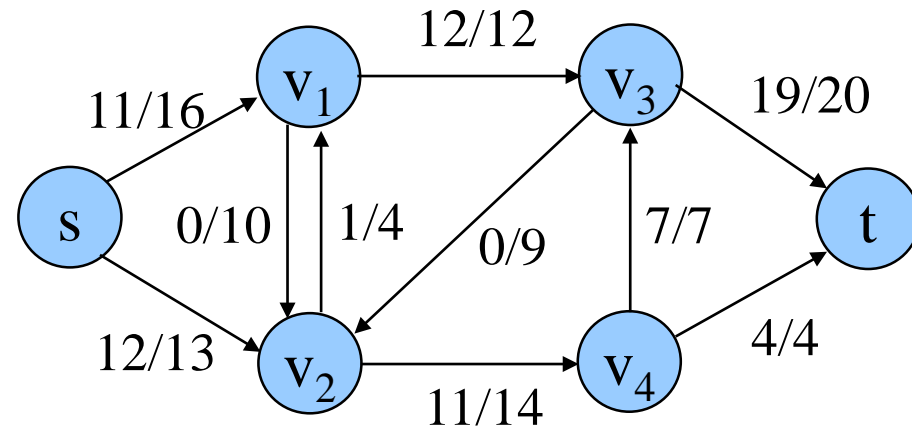


# Example

## Residual Networks



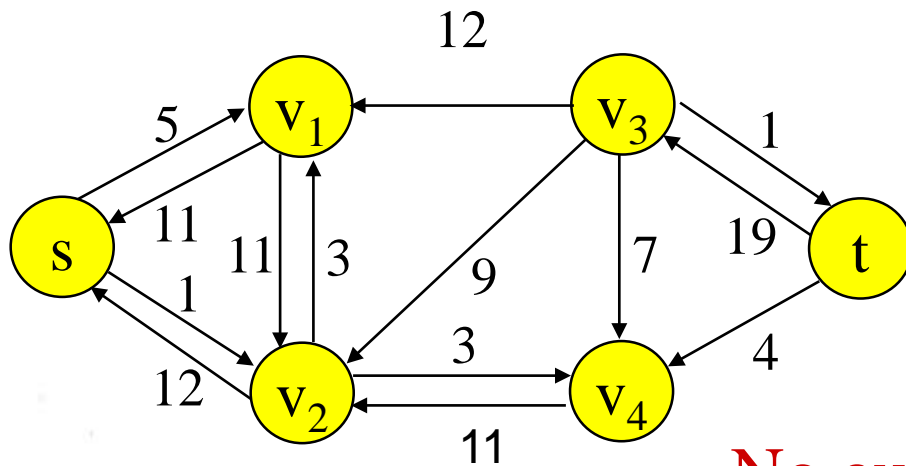
## Flows



No augmenting path

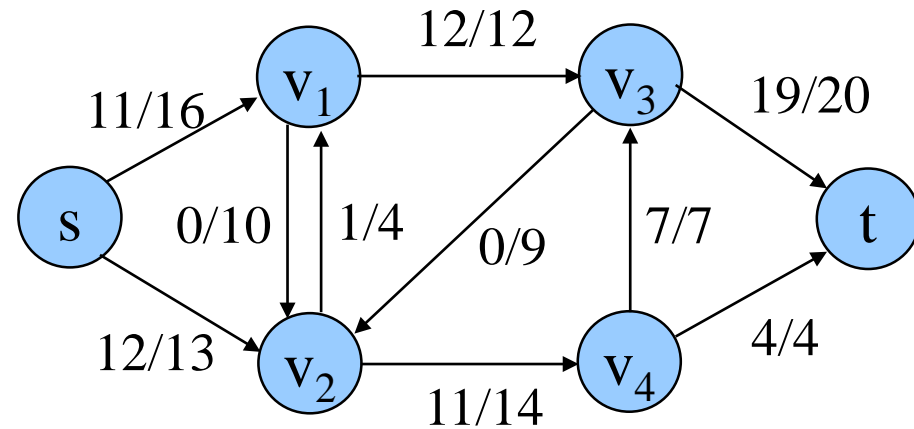
# Example

## Residual Networks



No augmenting path

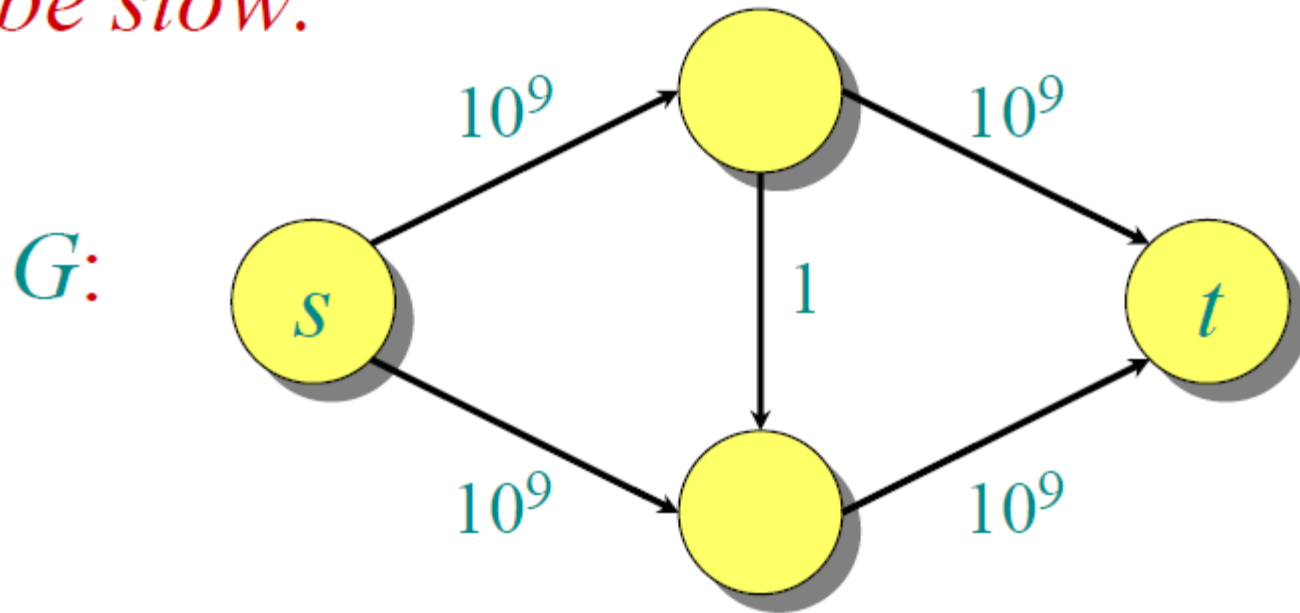
## Flows



Maximum flow  $|f| = 11 + 12 = 23$

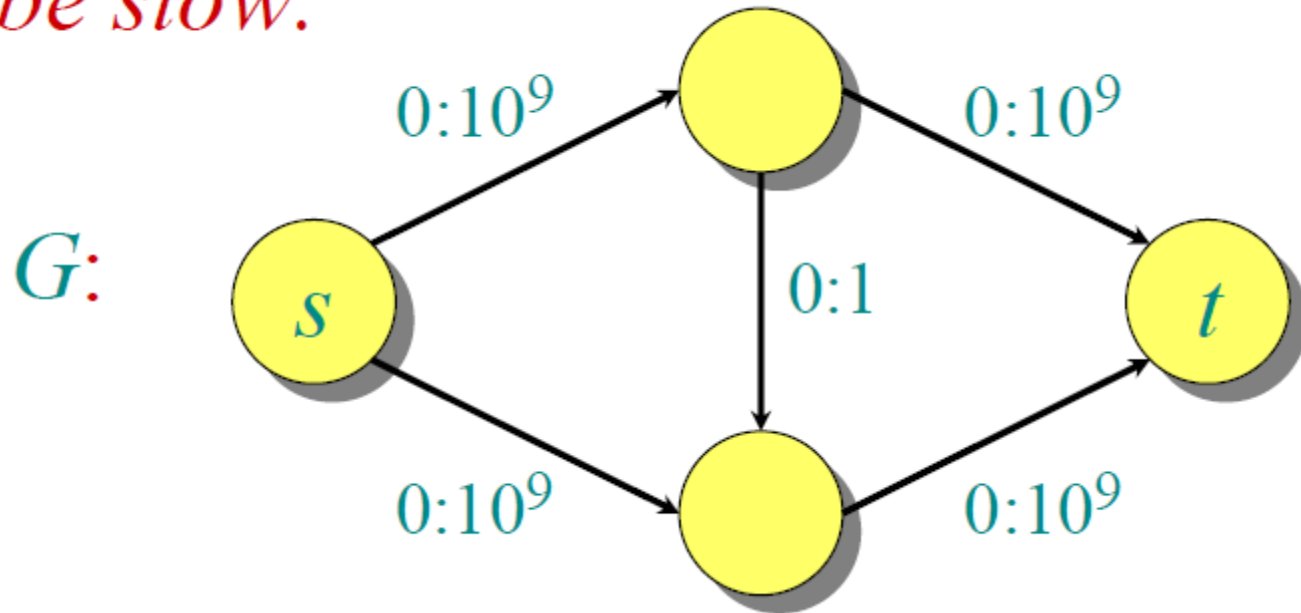
# Problem: Time Complexity

*Can be slow:*



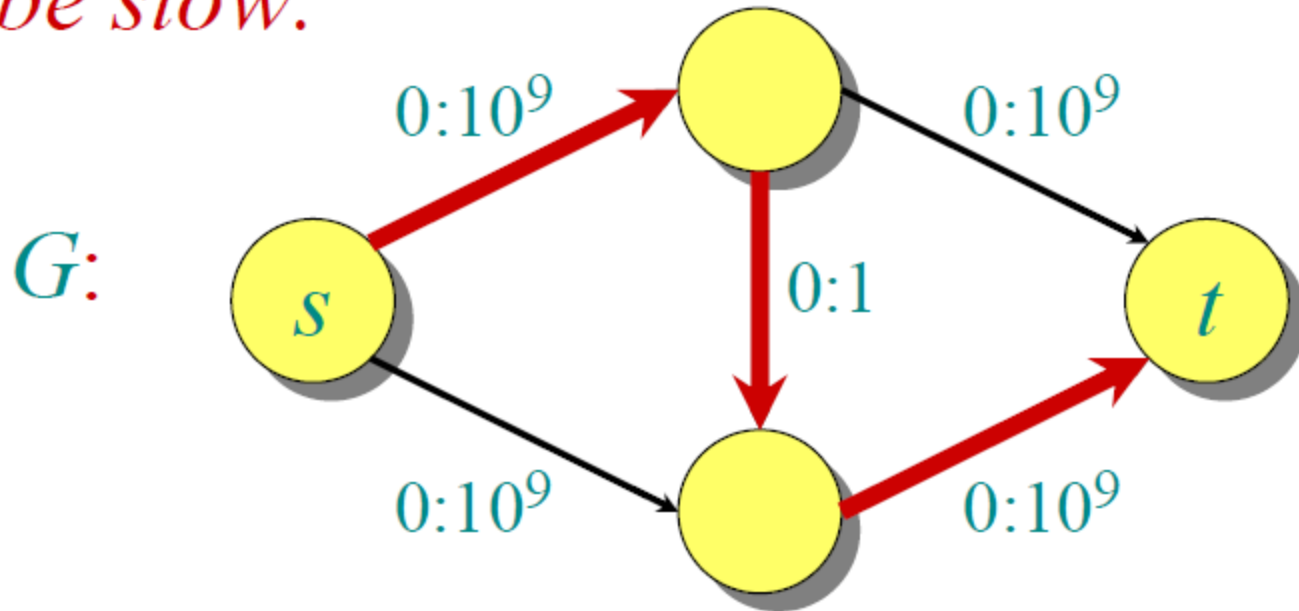
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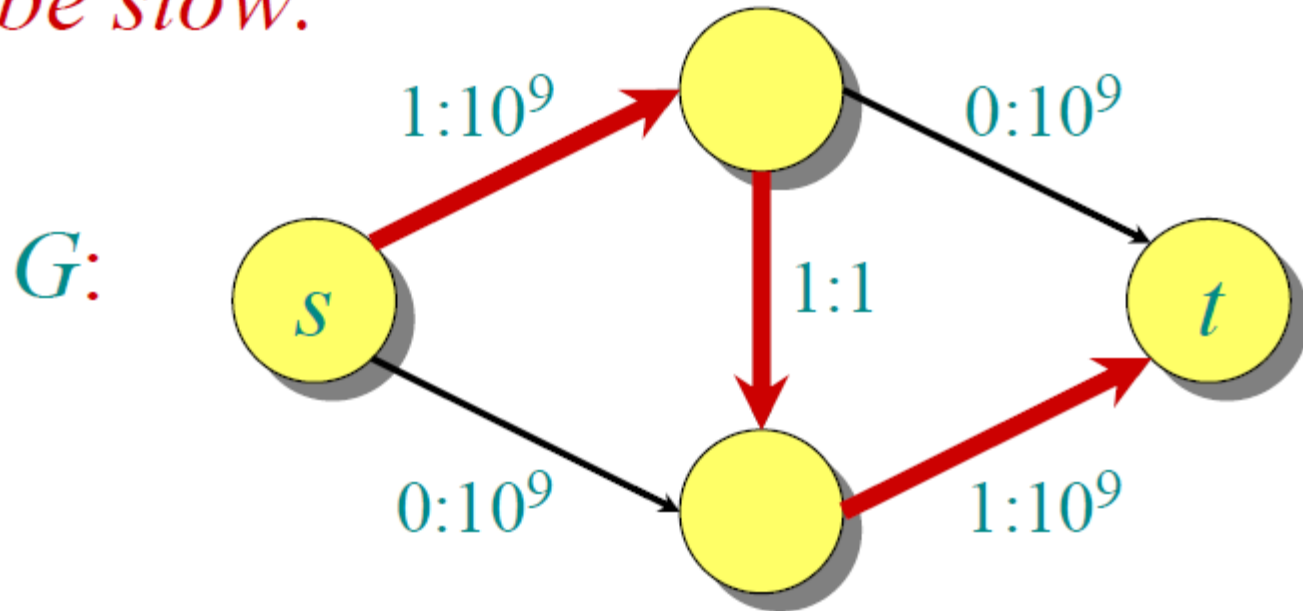
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# Problem: Time Complexity

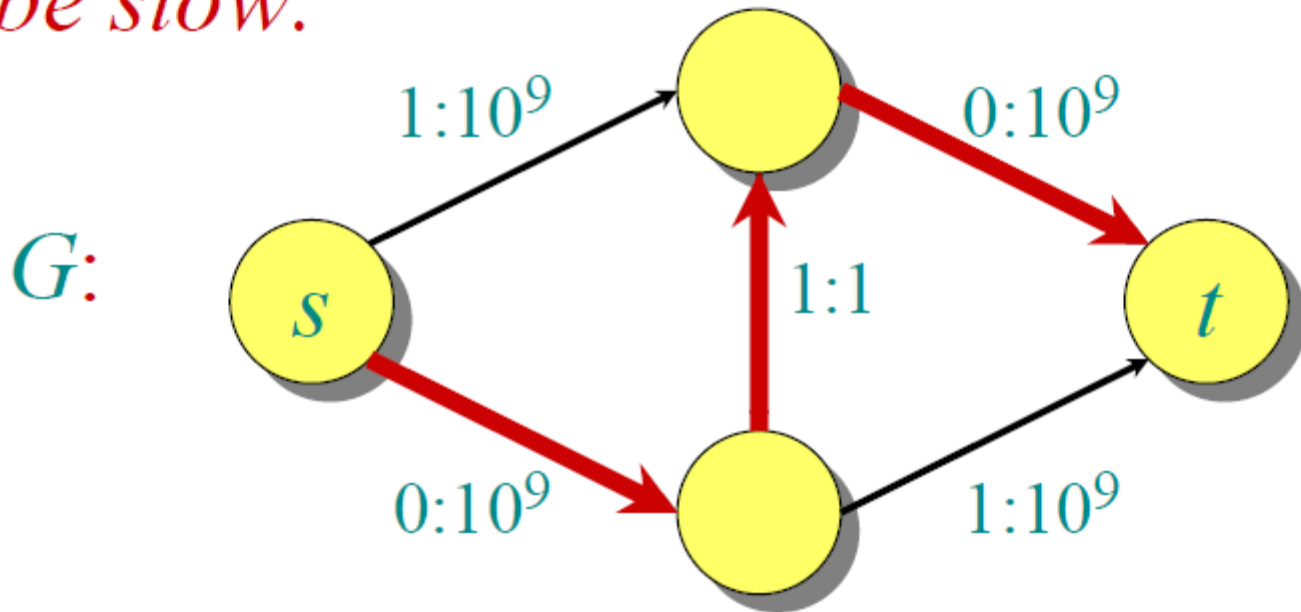
*Can be slow:*





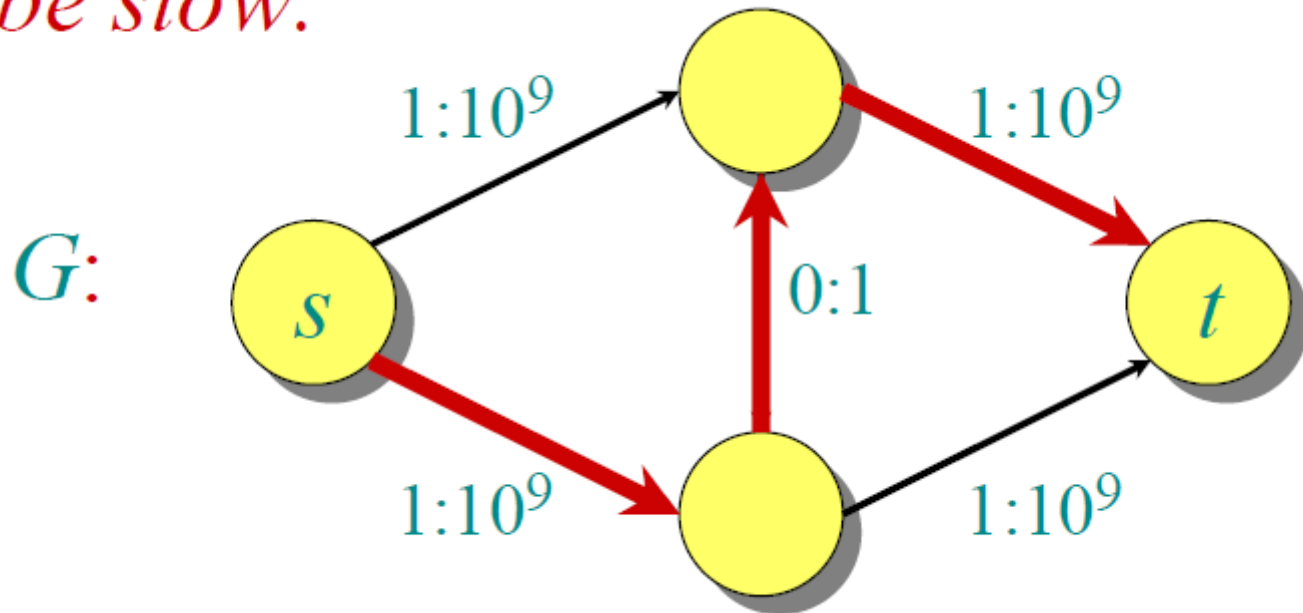
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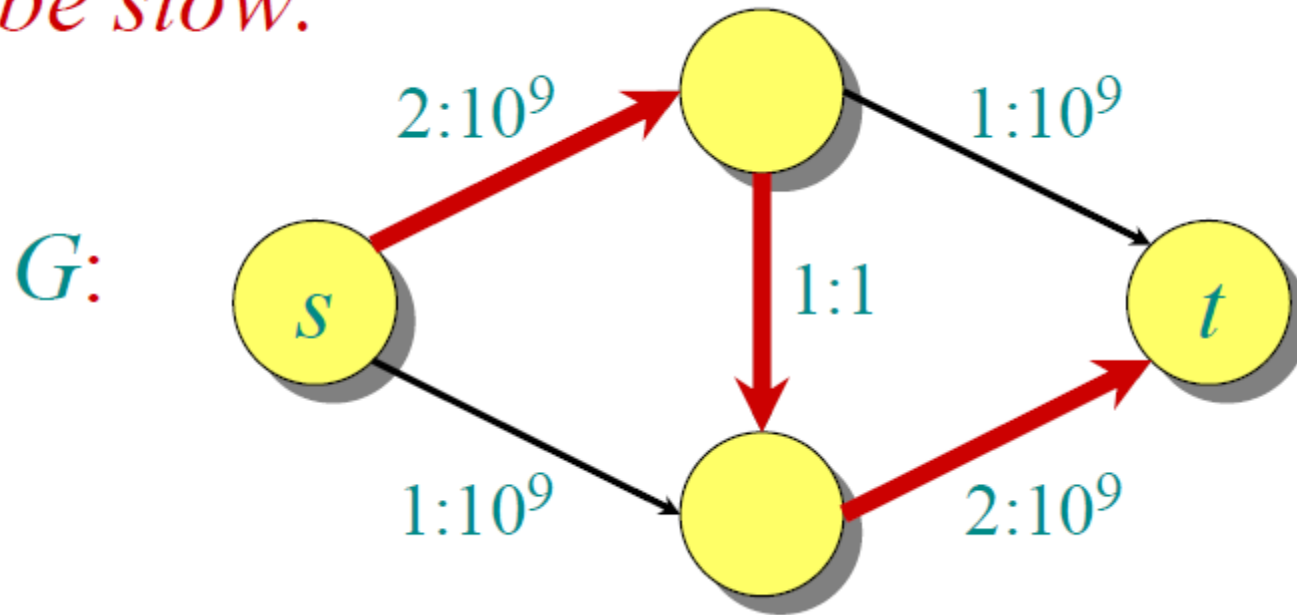
# Problem: Time Complexity

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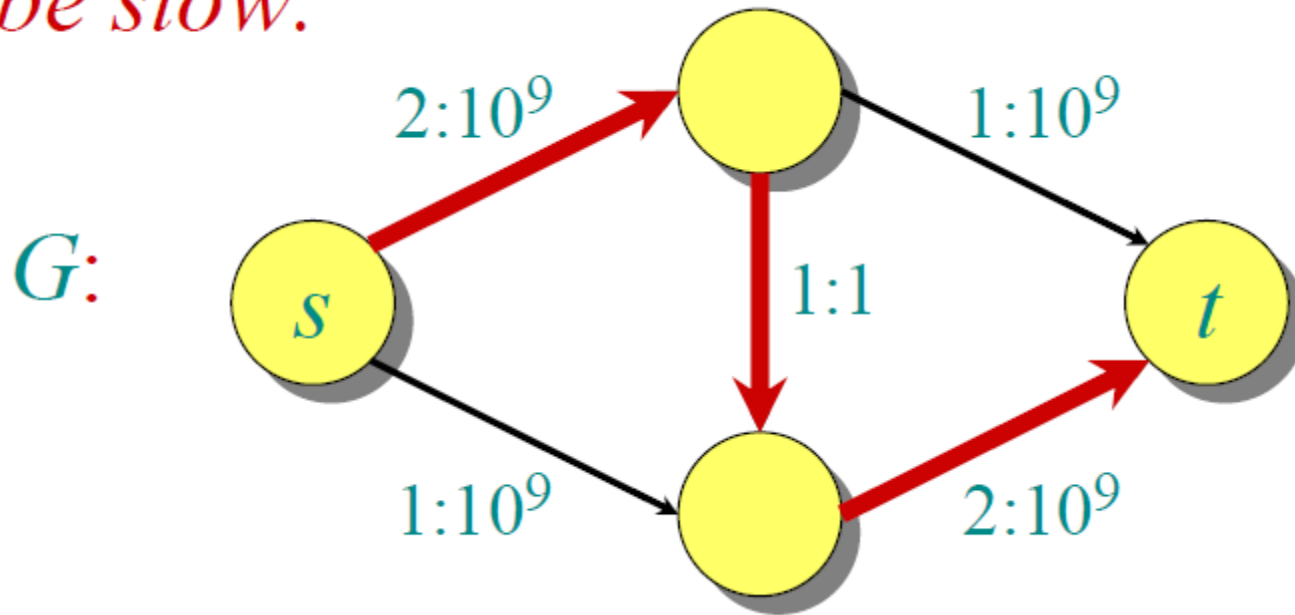
# Problem: Time Complexity

*Can be slow:*



# Problem: Time Complexity

*Can be slow:*



2 billion iterations on a graph with 4 vertices!

# Time Complexity

$$O( F (n + m) )$$

where  $F$  is the maximum flow value,  $n$  is the number of vertices, and  $m$  is the number of edges

The problem with this algorithm, however, is that it is strongly dependent on the **maximum flow value  $F$** .

if  $F=2^n$  -----

Then, along came Edmonds & Karp...



# Edmonds & Karp Algorithm

# Breadth-First Search

- **Input:**
  - Graph  $G = (V, E)$ , either directed or undirected,
  - *source vertex*  $s \in V$ .
- **Output:** for all  $v \in V$ 
  - $d[v]$  = length of **shortest path** from  $s$  to  $v$   
( $d[v] = \infty$  if  $v$  is not reachable from  $s$ ).
  - $\pi[v] = u$  if  $(u, v)$  is last edge on shortest path  $s \rightsquigarrow v$ .
    - $u$  is  $v$ 's **predecessor**.
  - **breadth-first tree** = a tree with root  $s$  that contains all reachable vertices.

# Definitions on BSF

- **Path** between vertices  $u$  and  $v$ :  
vertices  $(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k)$  such that  
 $u=v_1$  and  $v=v_k$ ,  
 $(v_i, v_{i+1}) \in E$ , for all  $1 \leq i \leq k-1$ .
- **Length of the path**: Number of edges in the path.
- Path is **simple** if no vertex is repeated.



# Principle of Breadth-First Search

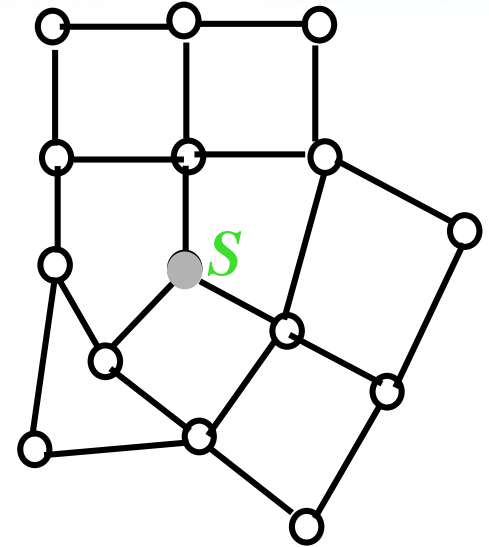
---

- Expands the frontier between discovered and undiscovered vertices **uniformly** across the **breadth** of the frontier.
  - A vertex is “**discovered**” the first time it is encountered during the search.
  - A vertex is “**finished**” if all vertices adjacent to it have been discovered.

# BFS for Shortest Paths

Colors the vertices to keep track of progress.

- **Undiscovered**
- **Discovered**
- **Finished**



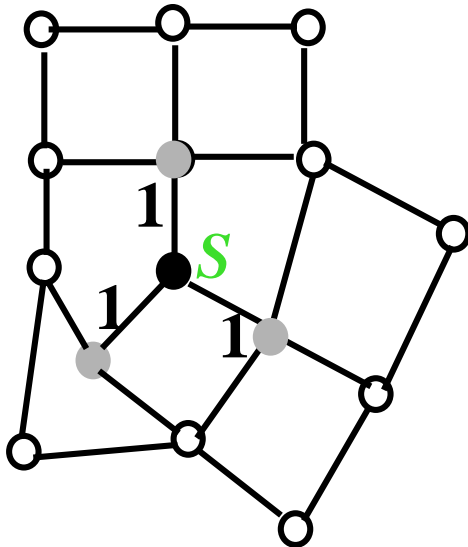
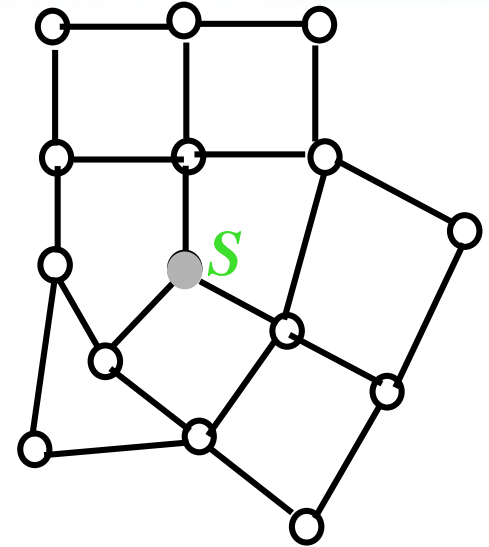
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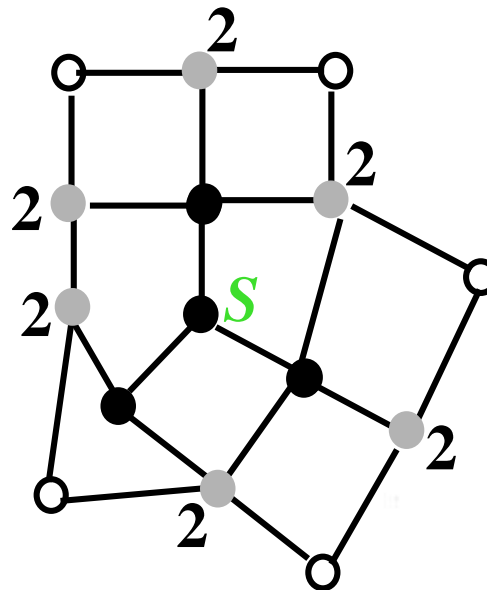
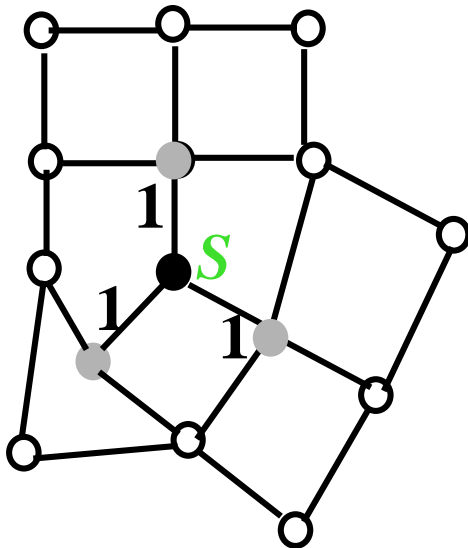
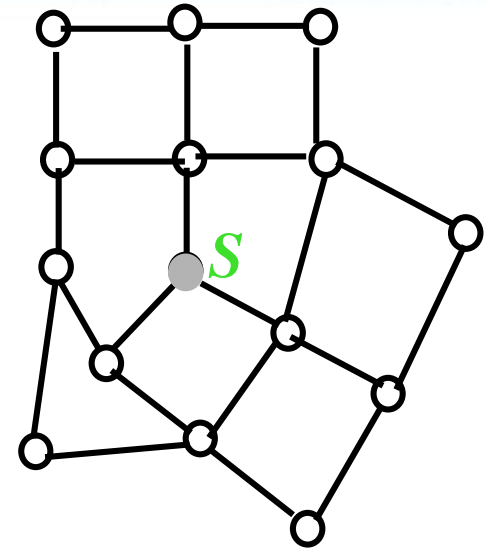
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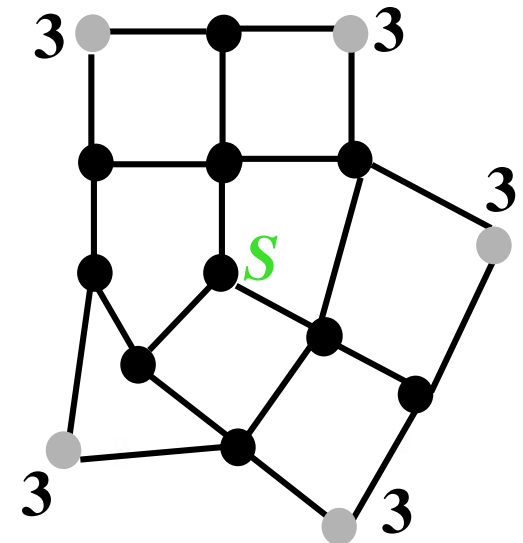
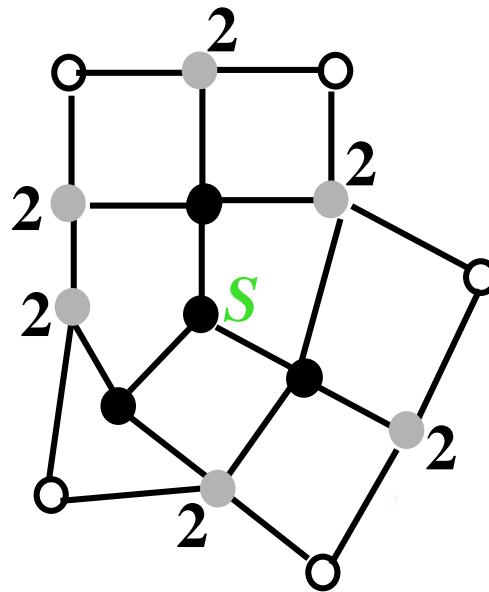
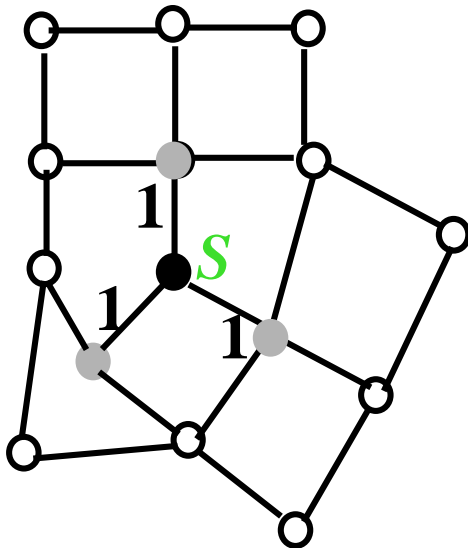
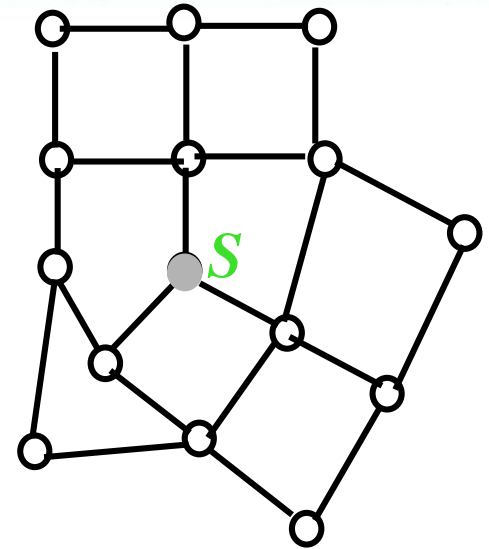
# BFS for Shortest Paths

Colors the vertices to keep track of progress.

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● **Discovered**

● **Finished**



## BFS(G,s)

```
1. for each vertex  $u$  in  $V[G] - \{s\}$ 
2     do  $color[u] \leftarrow \text{white}$ 
3          $d[u] \leftarrow \infty$ 
4          $\pi[u] \leftarrow \text{nil}$ 
5  $color[s] \leftarrow \text{gray}$ 
6  $d[s] \leftarrow 0$ 
7  $\pi[s] \leftarrow \text{nil}$ 
8  $Q \leftarrow \Phi$ 
9  $\text{enqueue}(Q,s)$ 
10 while  $Q \neq \Phi$ 
11     do  $u \leftarrow \text{dequeue}(Q)$ 
12         for each  $v$  in  $\text{Adj}[u]$ 
13             do if  $color[v] = \text{white}$ 
14                 then  $color[v] \leftarrow \text{gray}$ 
15                      $d[v] \leftarrow d[u] + 1$ 
16                      $\pi[v] \leftarrow u$ 
17                      $\text{enqueue}(Q,v)$ 
18          $color[u] \leftarrow \text{black}$ 
```

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white: undiscovered

gray: discovered

black: finished

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```

white: undiscovered

gray: discovered

black: finished

$Q$ : a queue of discovered vertices

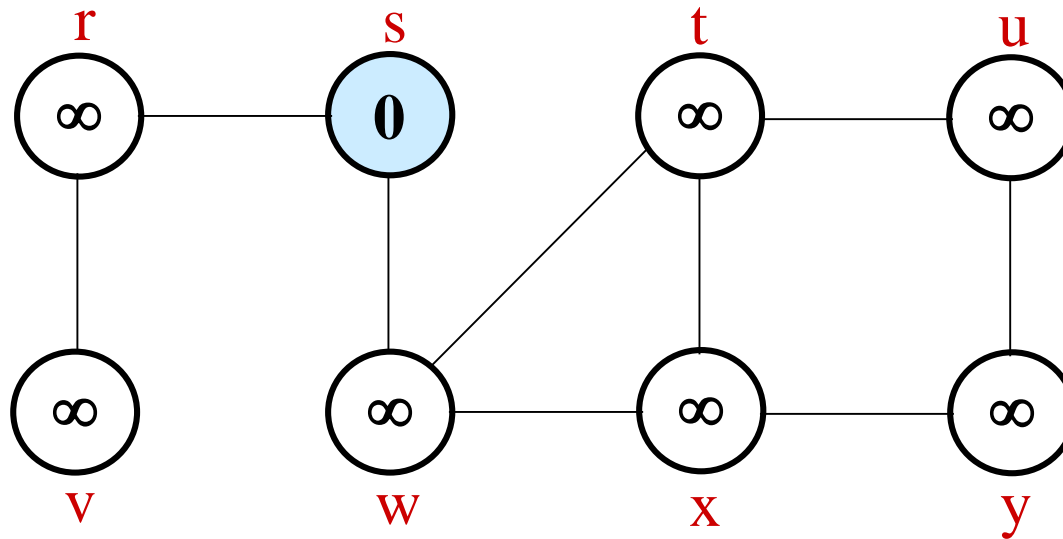
$color[v]$ : color of  $v$

$d[v]$ : distance from  $s$  to  $v$

$\pi[u]$ : predecessor of  $v$

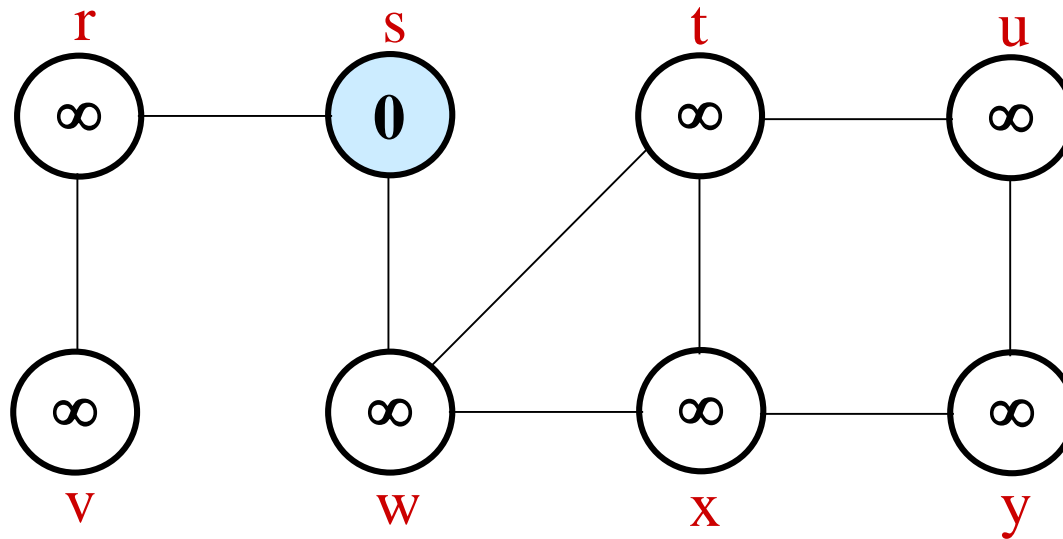


# Example (BFS)



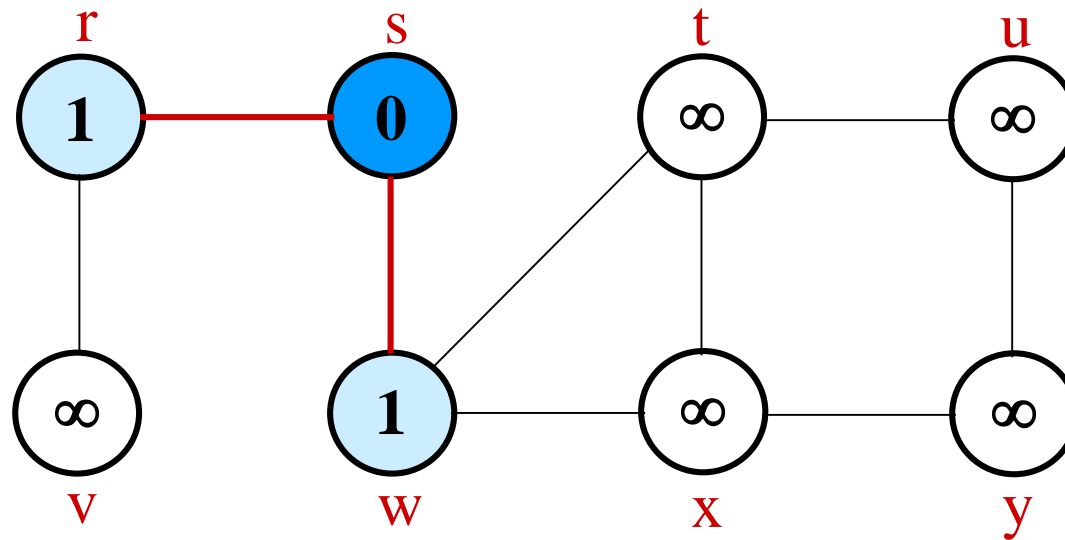
**Q:**  $s$   
0 frontier

# Example (BFS)



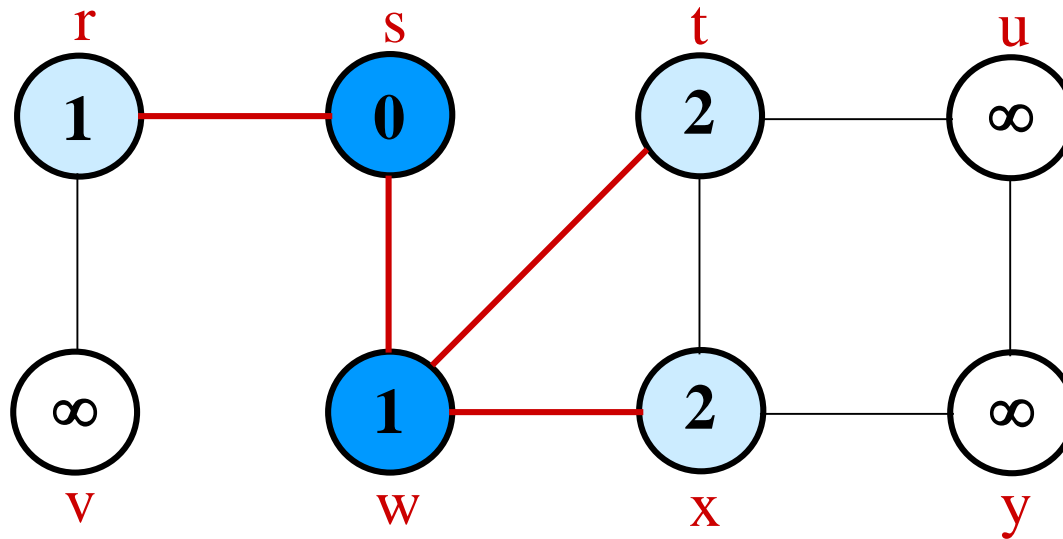
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0 frontier

# Example (BFS)



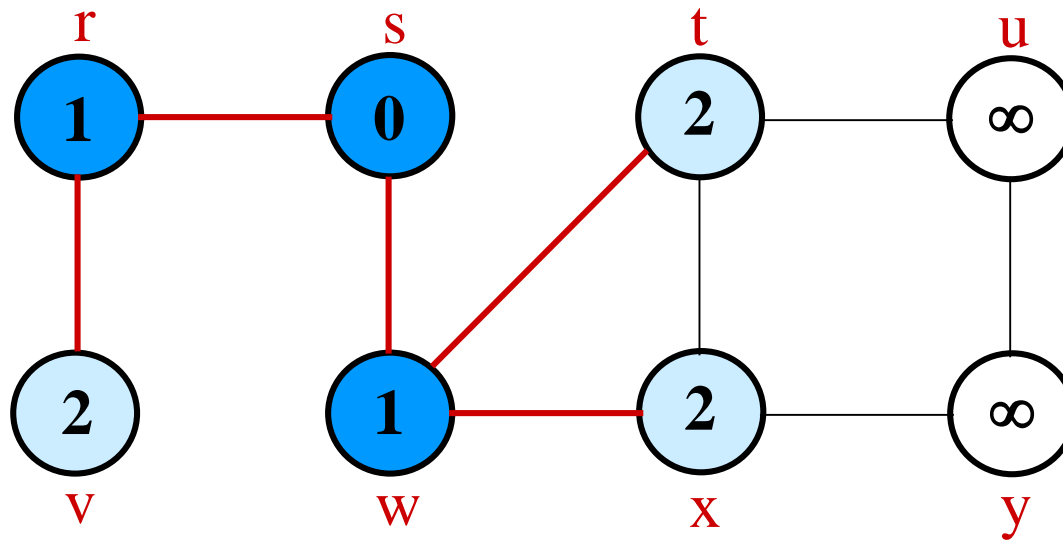
<b>Q:</b>	w	r
	1	1

# Example (BFS)



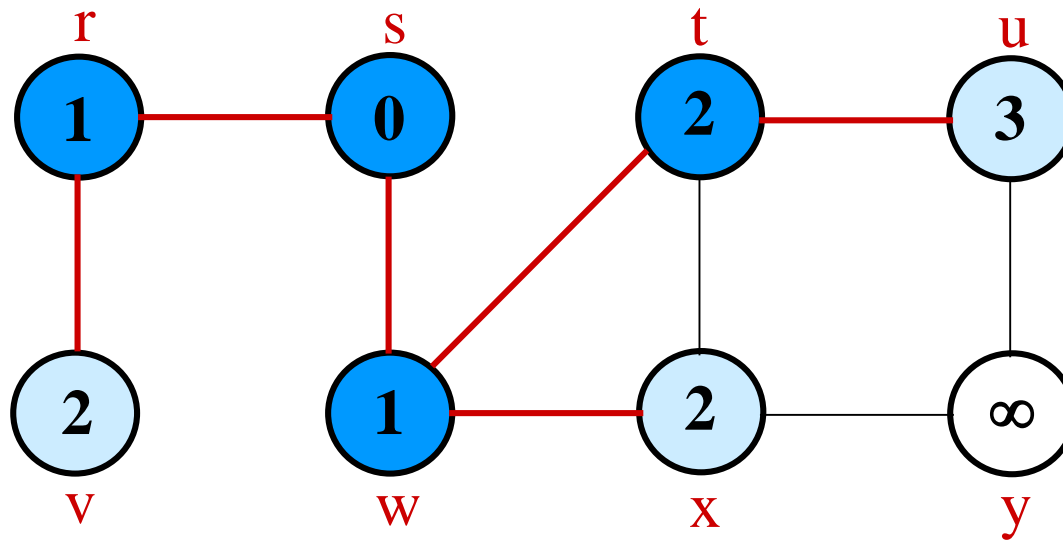
Q:	r	t	x
	1	2	2

# Example (BFS)



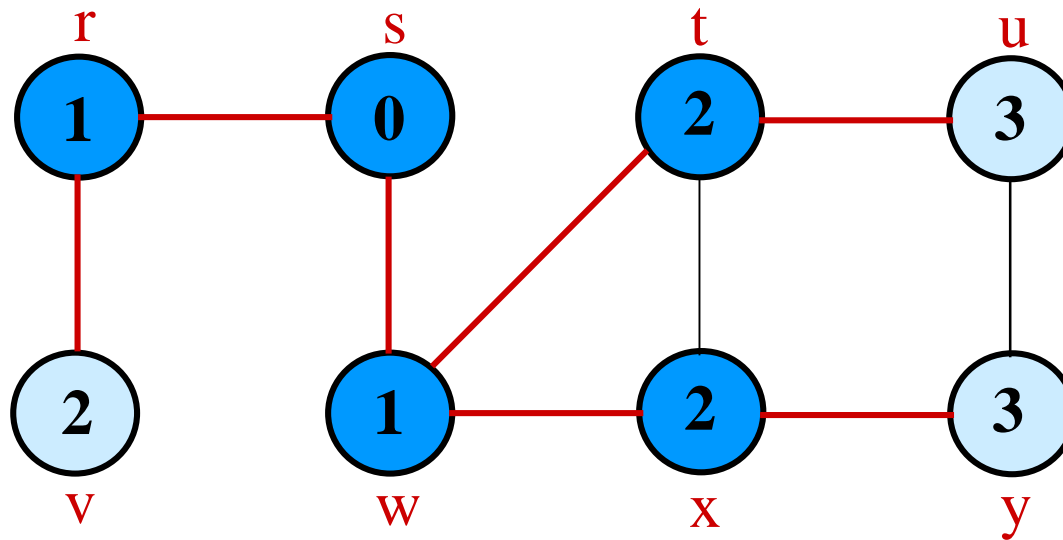
<b>Q:</b>	<i>t</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>v</i>
	2	2	2

# Example (BFS)



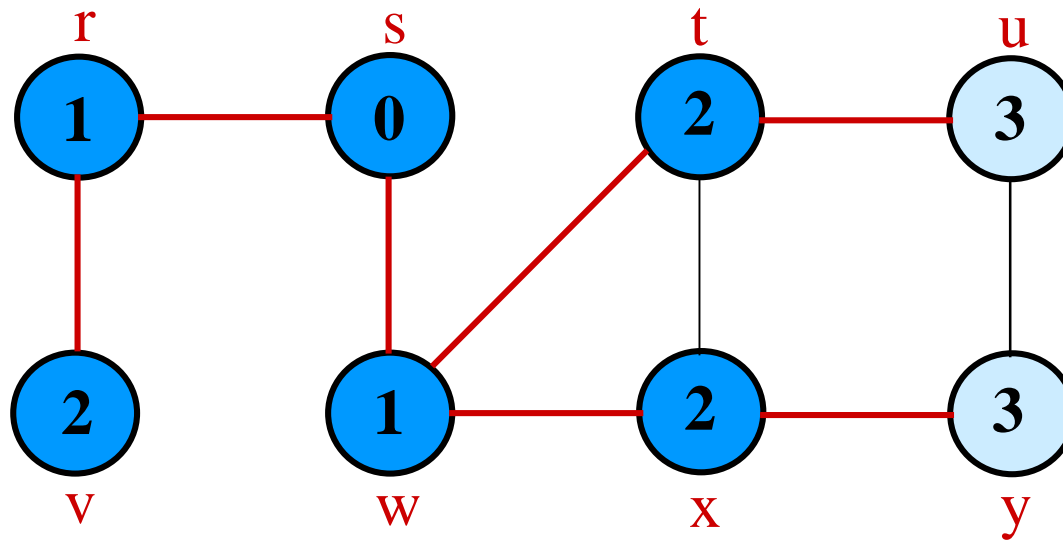
<b>Q:</b>	$x$	$v$	$u$
	2	2	3

# Example (BFS)



Q:	v	u	y
	2	3	3

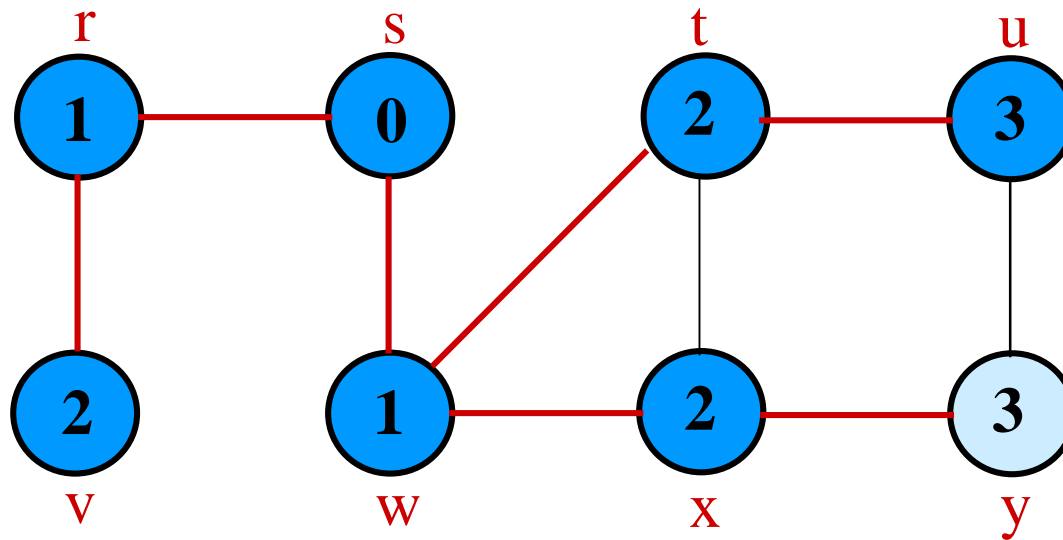
# Example (BFS)



Q:	u	y
	3	3

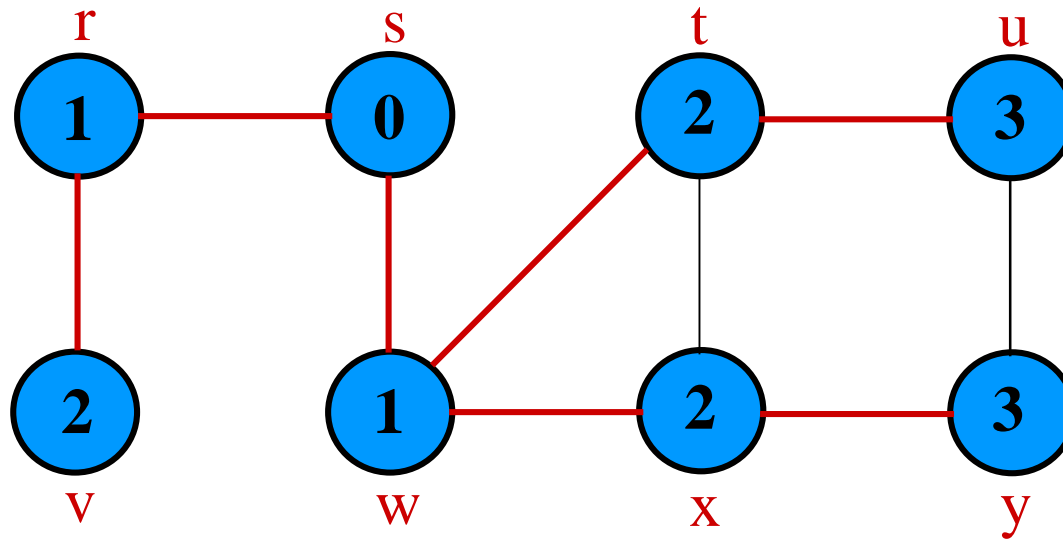


# Example (BFS)



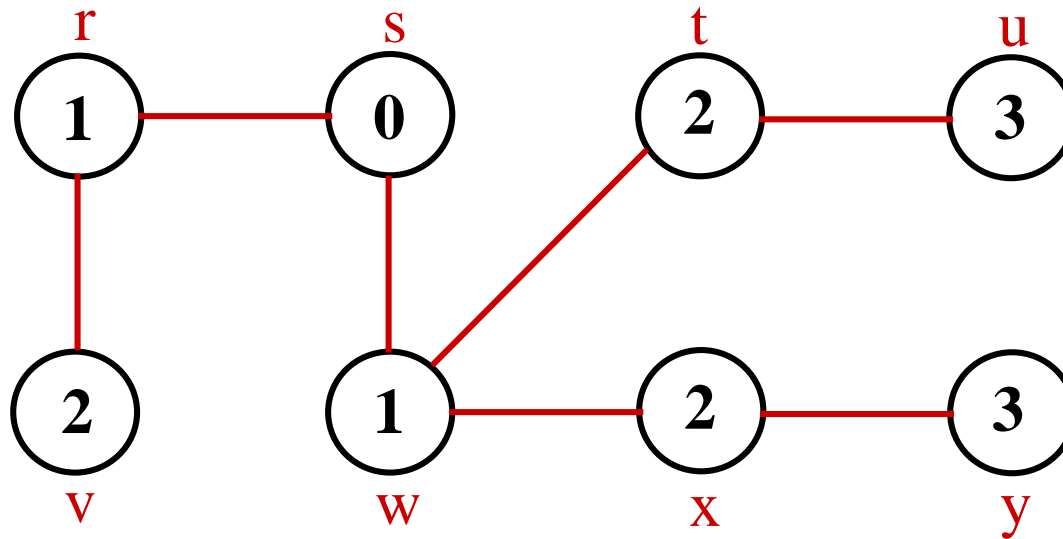
Q: y  
3

# Example (BFS)



$Q: \emptyset$

# Example (BFS)



**BF Tree**

# Breadth-First Tree

- **Predecessor sub-graph** of  $G = (V, E)$  with source  $s$  is  
is  
 $G_\pi = (V_\pi, E_\pi)$  where
  - $V_\pi = \{v \in V : \pi[v] \neq \text{NIL}\} + \{s\}$
  - $E_\pi = \{(\pi[v], v) \in E : v \in V_\pi - \{s\}\}$
- $G_\pi$  is a **breadth-first tree** if:
  - $V_\pi$  consists of the vertices reachable from  $s$
  - for all  $v \in V_\pi$ , there is a unique simple path from  $s$  to  $v$  in  $G_\pi$
  - the path is also a shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$  in  $G$ .
- The edges in  $E_\pi$  are called **tree edges**.  
 $|E_\pi| = |V_\pi| - 1$ .

# Analysis of BFS

- Initialization takes  $O(|V|)$ .
- **Traversal Loop**
  - Each vertex is enqueued and dequeued at most once, so the total time for queuing is  $O(|V|)$ .
  - The adjacency list of each vertex is scanned at most once.
  - The sum of lengths of all adjacency lists is  $\Theta(|E|)$ .
- Total running time of BFS is  $O(|V| + |E|)$
- **Correctness of BFS** (see Dijkstra later)

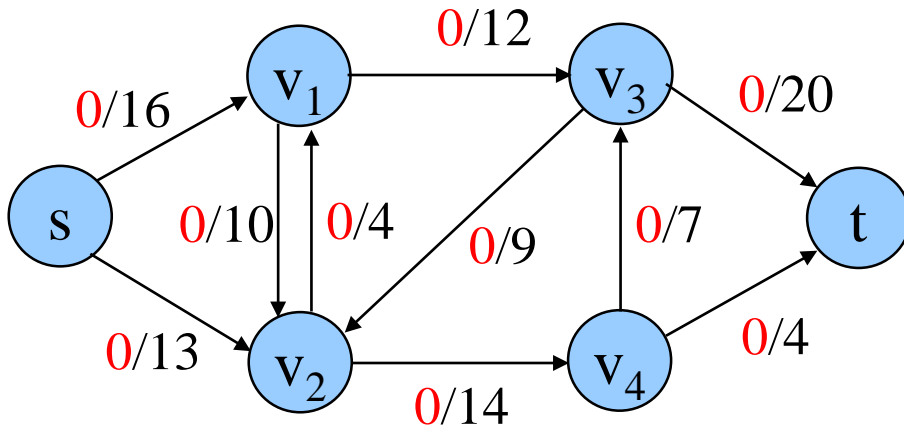
# Edmonds & Karp Algorithm

---

- Find the augmenting path using **breadth-first search**.
- Breadth-first search gives the shortest path for graphs (**Assuming the length of each edge is 1.**)
- Time complexity of Edmonds-Karp algorithm is  $O(|V||E|^2)$ .
- The proof is very hard!.

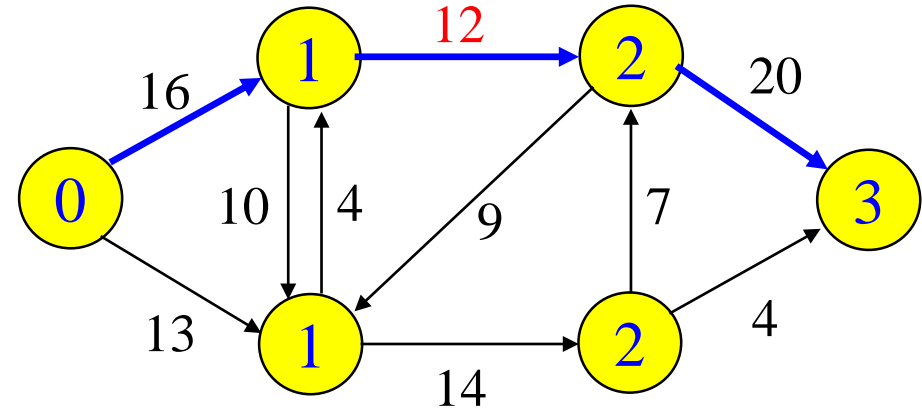
# Example

## Flows



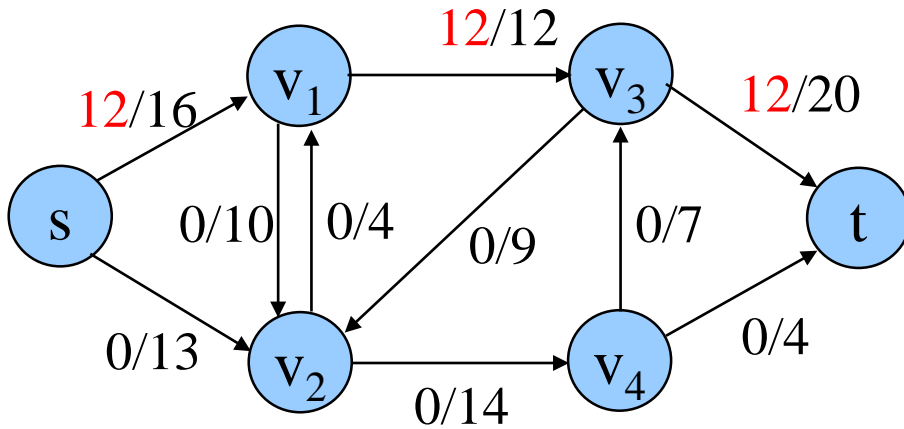
## Residual Networks

### BFS



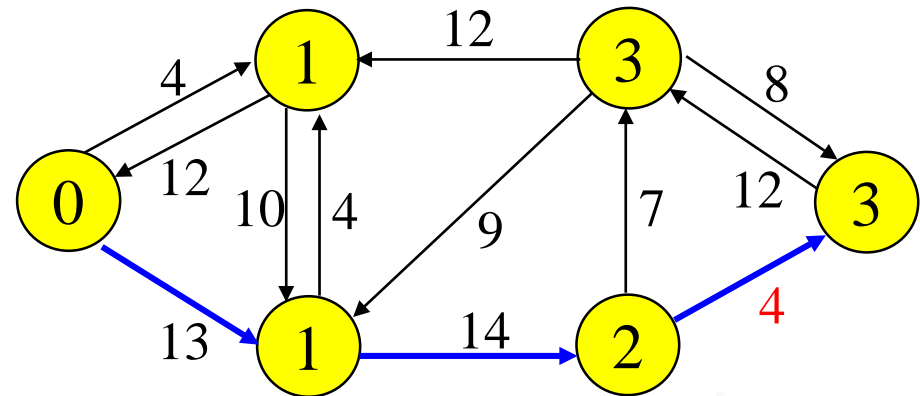
# Example

## Flows



## Residual Networks

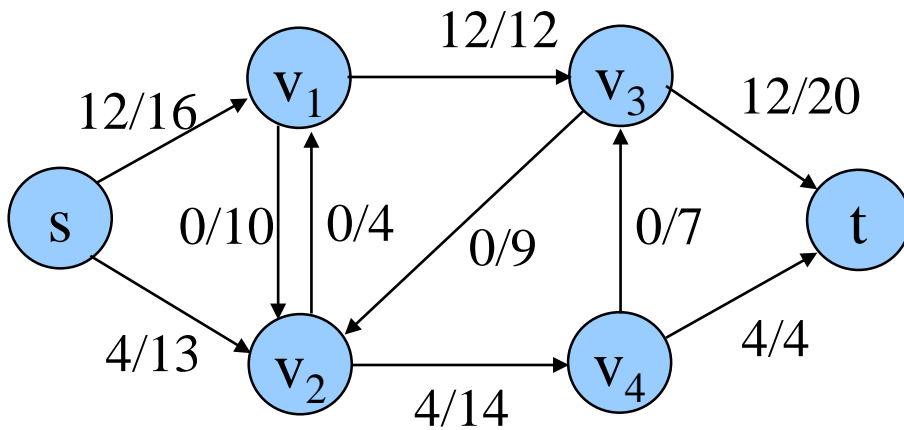
### BFS





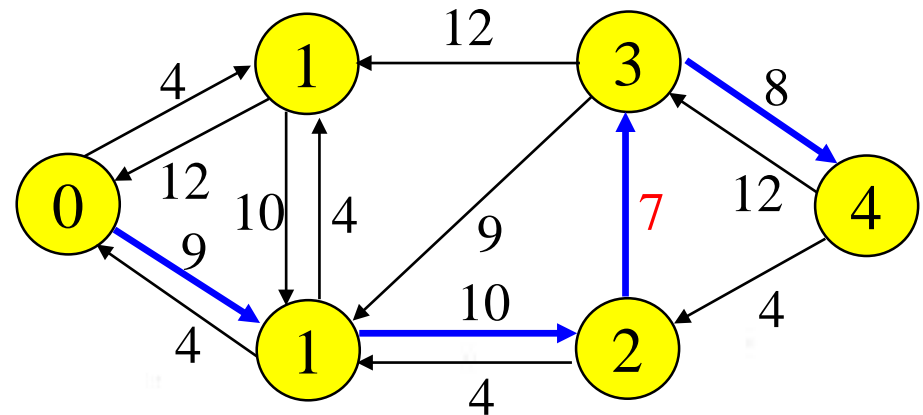
# Example

## Flows



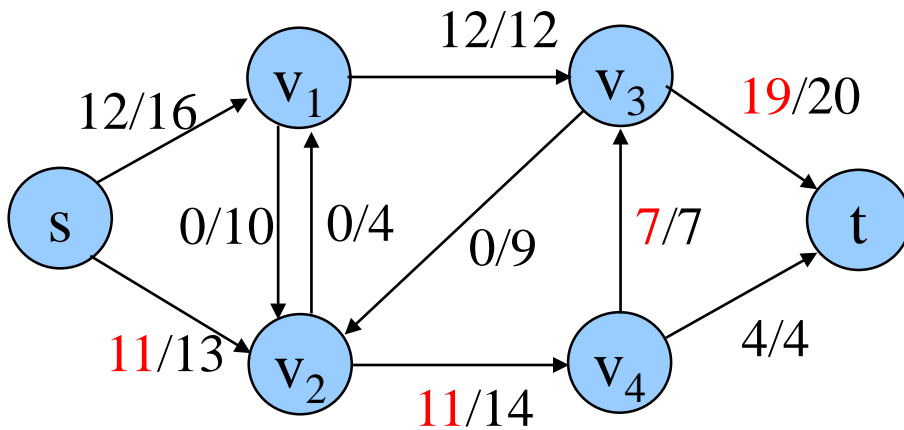
## Residual Networks

### BFS



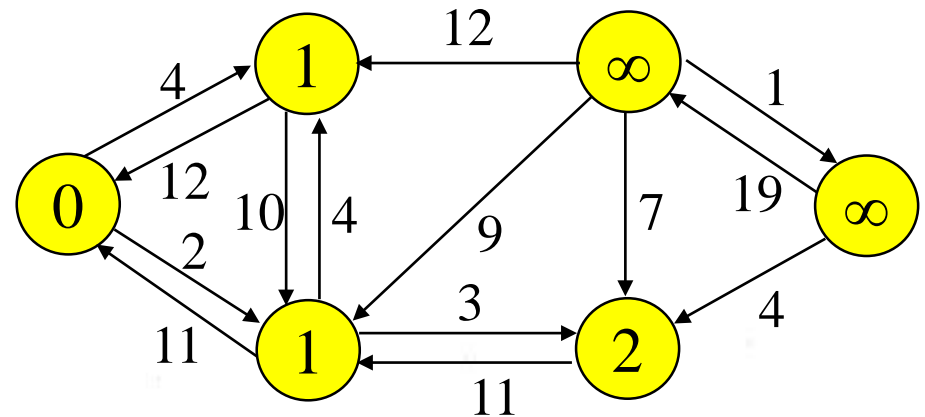
# Example

## Flows



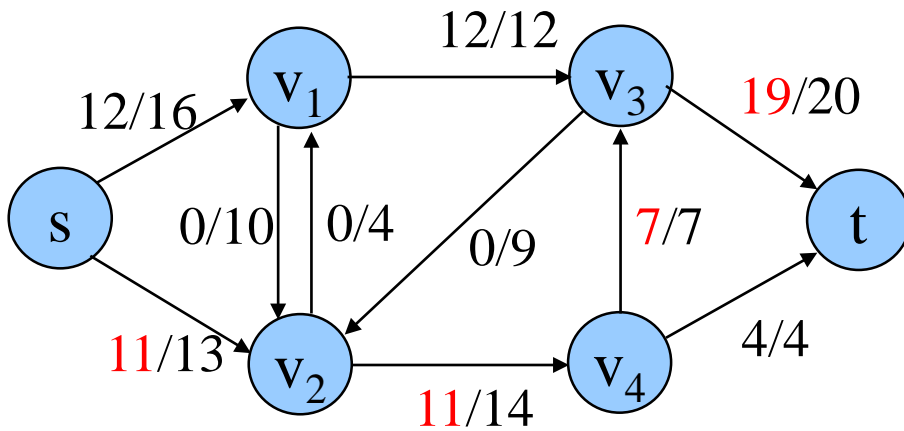
## Residual Networks

### BFS



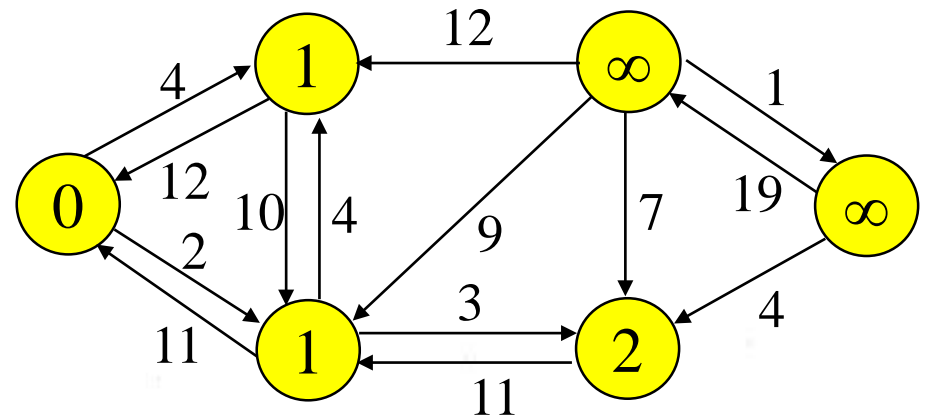
# Example

## Flows



## Residual Networks

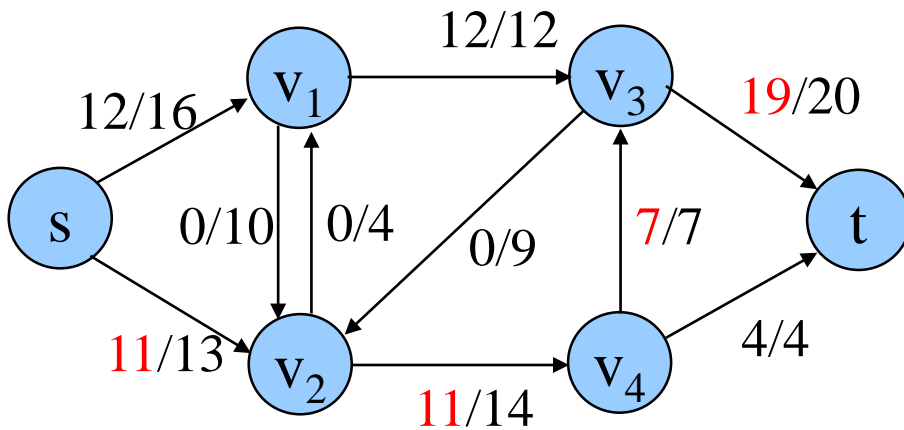
### BFS



No path to sink

# Example

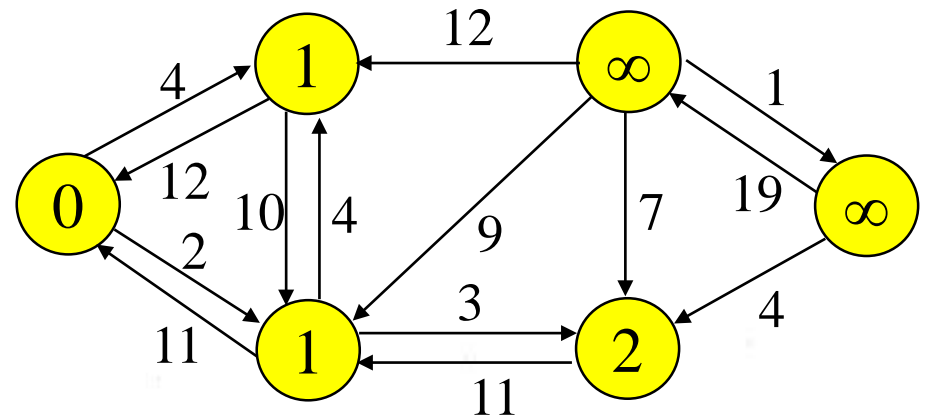
## Flows



Maximum!

## Residual Networks

BFS



No path to sink

# Exercises

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- **26.2-3**
- **26.2-8**

# Exercises


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- 26.2-3
- 26.2-8

No path to sink



算法分析课程组  
重庆大学计算机学院



End of Section.

