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Let $G = (V, c)$ be a flow network. Prove that flow is “transitive” in the following sense: if r, s, t are vertices, and there is an r - s -flow of value k and an s - t -flow of value k , then there is an r - t -flow of value k .

Proof. Note that there is an r - s -flow of value k means that the value of the maximum r - s -flow is at least k , which also means that the value of the minimum r - s -cut is at least k . Similarly, the value of the minimum s - t -cut is also at least k .

Now consider an r - t -cut. It is either an r - s -cut (if s is not in the cut) or an s - t -cut (if s is in the cut). So the capacity of the minimum r - t -cut is at least k . It follows that the value of the maximum r - t -flow is at least k , and thus there is an r - t -flow of value k . □