

I collaborated with: TA

Solution

Using FordFulkerson on a network flow $G = (V, E)$, we can build a residual graph using the following rules, where $e = (u, v) \in E$, $e^R = (v, u)$, flow $f(e)$, capacity $c(e)$:

$$c_f(e) = \begin{cases} c(e) - f(e), & \text{if } e \in E \\ f(e), & \text{if } e^R \in E \end{cases}$$

Now, grab all the vertices reachable from s in the residual graph. These vertices are *upstream*. Then, switch the direction of every edge in G , and grab all the vertices reachable from t in the residual graph. These vertices are *downstream*. All the remaining vertices are *central*.

Time Complexity: $O(|E||V|C)$

Space Complexity: $O(|E| + |V|)$

Proof. Let A be the set of all vertices reachable from s in the residual graph of a network flow G . Let U be the set of all *upstream* vertices.

Claim: $A = U$.

In order to show $A = U$, we must show $U \subseteq A$ and $A \subseteq U$. We know A is a min-cut because all edges not reachable from s have maximum flow and are not part of a min-cut, thus all *upstream* vertices are in A (7.9 in the book). Therefore, $U \subseteq A$. Now, assume a vertex $v \in A$ is *downstream*. This means that v is always on the sink side of every min-cut. However, we know v is reachable from s . This is a contradiction, so v is *upstream* and $A \subseteq U$. We have showed that $U \subseteq A$ and $A \subseteq U$ which implies $A = U$. \square