

# Ford Fulkerson and Min Cut Algo Examples

Ford-Fulkerson Algo:

MaxFlow( $G$ ):

// Initialize

Set  $f(e) = 0 \forall e \in G$

// While there is an  $S$ - $t$  path in  $G_f$

While  $P = \text{FindPath}(s, t, \text{Residual}(G, f)) \neq \text{None}$ :

$f = \text{Augment}(f, P)$

Update  $\text{Residual}(G, f)$

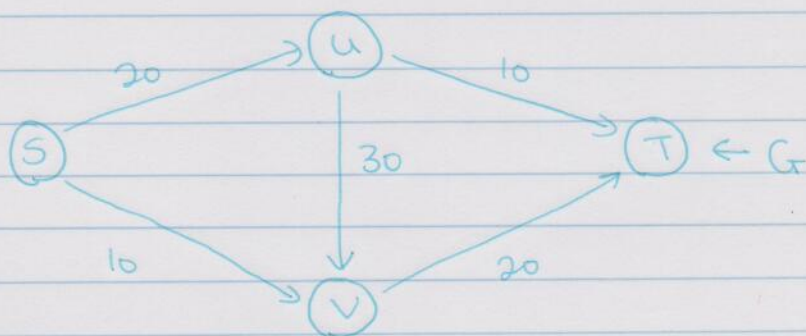
return  $f$

Min-Cut Algo:

1. Run F-F to find a max flow  $f$
  2. Construct its residual graph  $G_f$
  3. Let  $A^*$  be the set of nodes reachable from  $s$  in  $G_f$
  4. Then  $(A^*, V \setminus A^*)$  is a min cut
- Note: We define the cut in  $G$ .

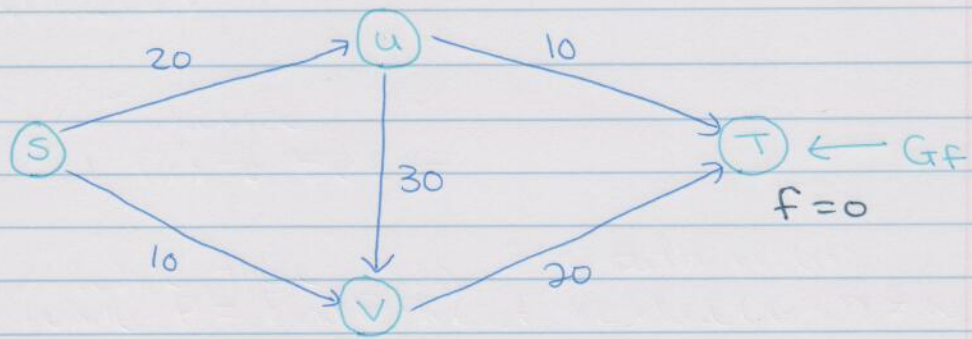
Examples:

1. Find the max-flow and min cut for  $G$ :



Soln:

1. Create  $G_F$

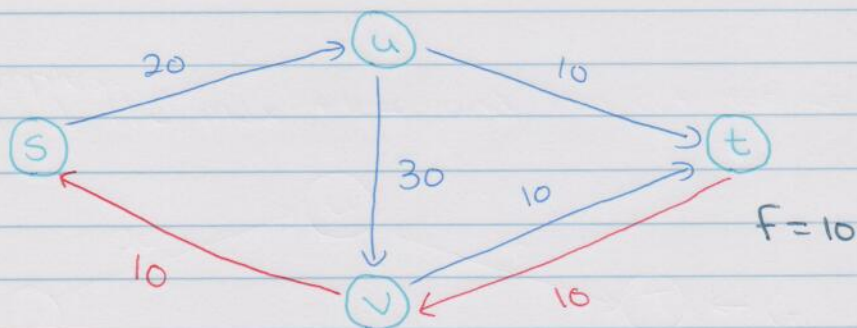


Note: Edges in blue are forward edges.  
Edges in red are reverse edges.

2. Find a  $s$ - $t$  path in  $G_F$ , if one exists.

I'll use the path  $(s, v) \rightarrow (v, t)$ .  
The bottleneck of this path is 10.

3. Update  $G_F$ .

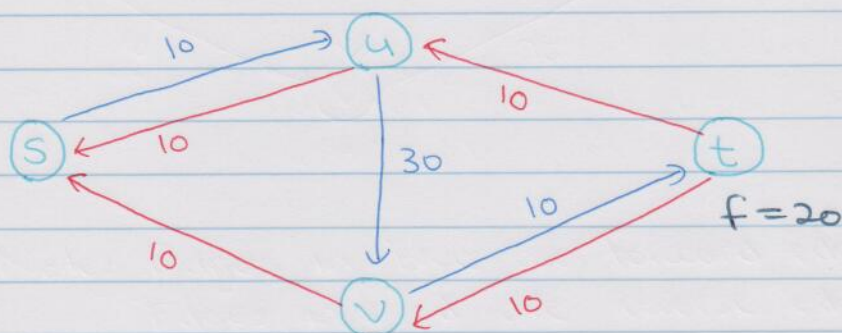




4. Find an  $s$ - $t$  path in  $G_f$ , if one exists

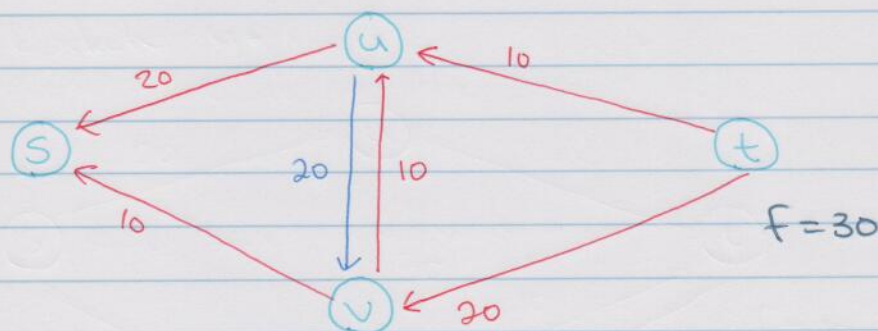
I'll use the path  $(s, u) \rightarrow (u, t)$ .  
The bottleneck is 10.

5. Update  $G_f$



6. Find an  $s$ - $t$  path in  $G_f$ , if one exists.

I'll use the path  $(s, u) \rightarrow (u, v) \rightarrow (v, t)$ .  
The bottleneck is 10.

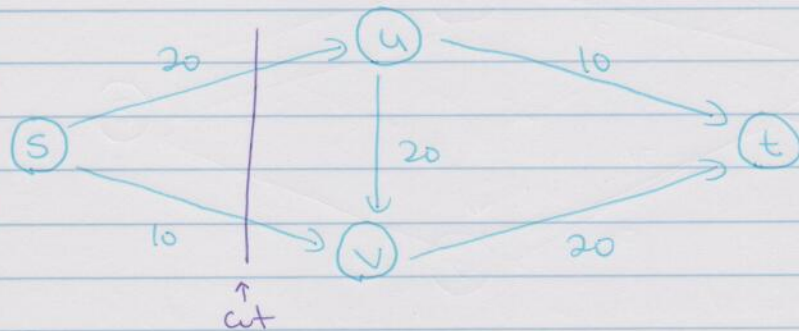


There's no more  $s$ - $t$  path, so we stop.  
The max flow is 30.

I'll Find the min cut now.

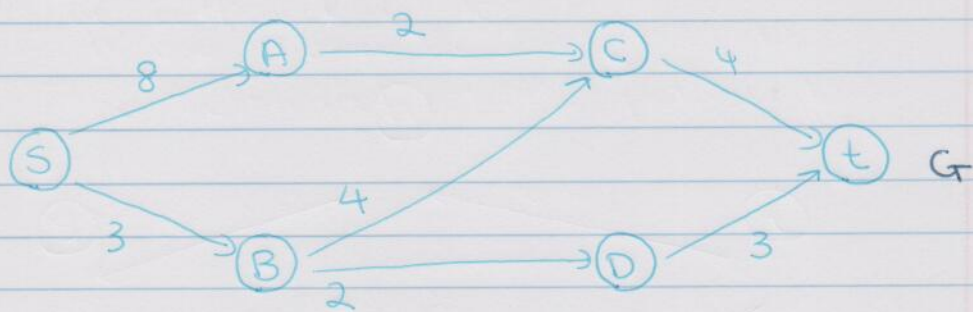
Since the only node reachable from  $S$  in  $G_f$  is  $S$ ,  $A^* = \{S\}$  and  $B^* = \{V \setminus A^*\}$

Hence, in  $G$ , the cut would look like this:



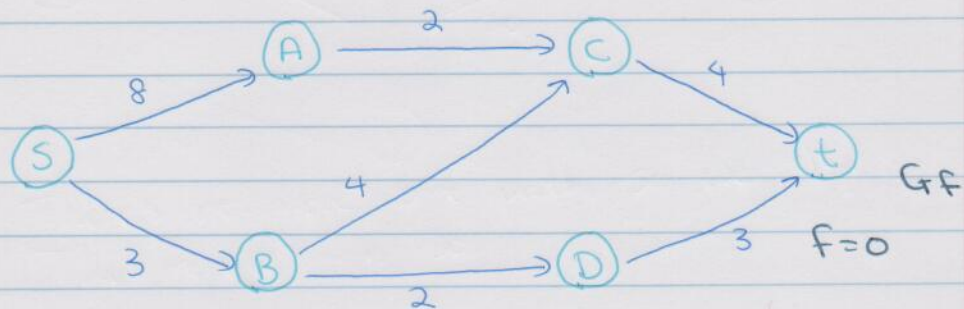
The capacity of the cut is 30.

2. Find the max flow and min cut of  $G$



Soln:

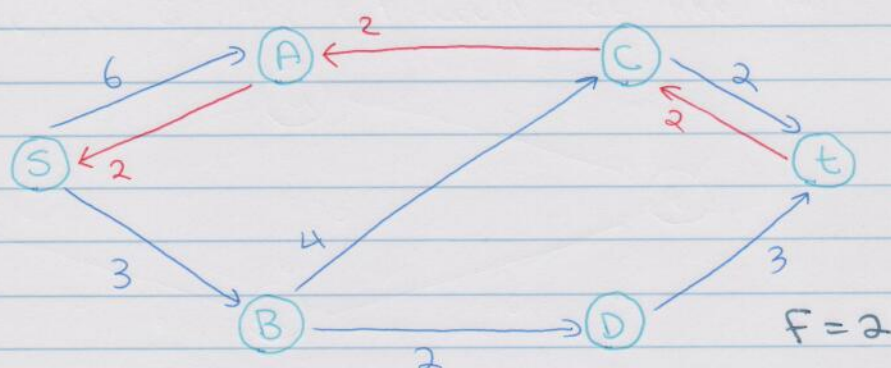
1.





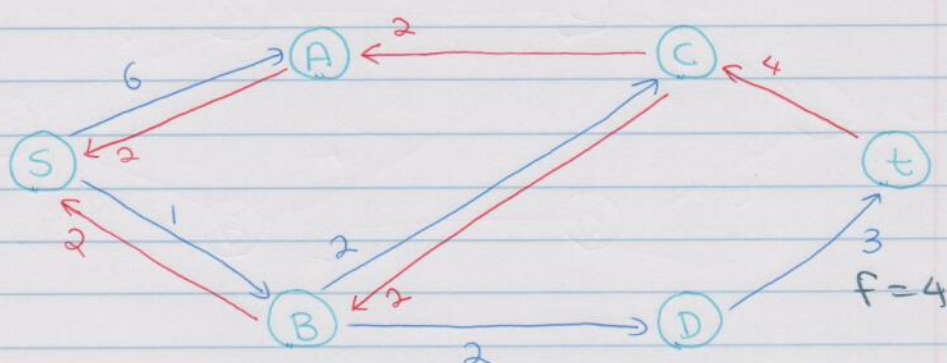
2. I'll use the s-t path  $(s, A) \rightarrow (A, C) \rightarrow (C, t)$ .  
The bottleneck is 2.

3.

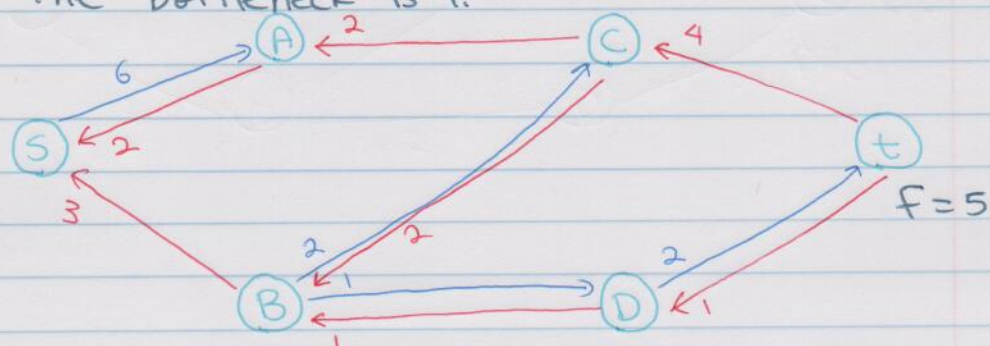


4. I'll use the s-t path  $(s, B) \rightarrow (B, C) \rightarrow (C, t)$ .  
The bottleneck is 2.

5.



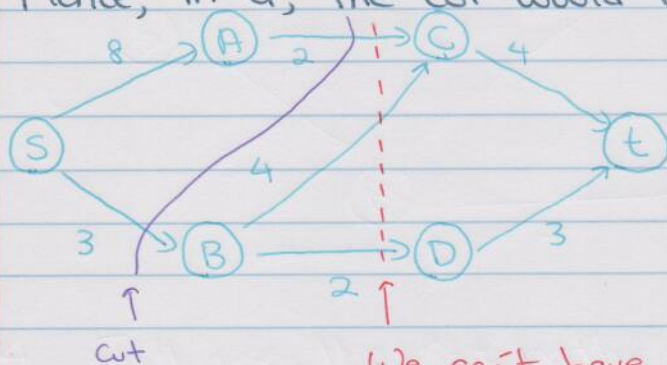
6. I'll use the s-t path  $(s, B), (B, D), (D, t)$ .  
The bottleneck is 1.



Since there's no more  $s$ - $t$  path, the max flow is 5.

$A^* = \{s, A\} \leftarrow$  Only  $s$  and  $A$  are reachable from  
 $B^* = \{V \setminus A^*\}$   $s$  in  $G_f$ .

Hence, in  $G$ , the cut would look like this:



We can't have a cut like this bc it includes  $B$ .

$\therefore$  The min cut capacity is 5.