

# Algorithm Ford-Fulkerson( $G, s, t$ )

**for** each edge  $(u, v) \in E$  **do**  $\backslash\backslash$ initialize

$f(u, v) \leftarrow 0; f(v, u) \leftarrow 0$

**while** there exists a path  $p$  from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G_f$  **do**  
 $\backslash\backslash$ find augmenting path

compute  $c_f(p)$

**for** each edge  $(u, v)$  in  $p$  **do**

**if**  $(u, v) \in E$  **then**  $f(u, v) \leftarrow f(u, v) + c_f(p)$

**else**  $f(v, u) \leftarrow -f(u, v)$

# An alternate pseudocode for Algorithm Ford-Fulkerson( $G, s, t$ )

Initialize  $f$  as zero-flow and residual network  $G_f$  with  
 $G$

**while** there exists a path  $p$  from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G_f$  **do**

    Augment  $f$  using  $p$

    Update  $G_f$

**return**  $f$

# Running time of Ford-Fulkerson

- Building the residual network
- Finding an augmenting path in the residual network
- How many augmenting paths can be found in the worst case?
  - value of maximum flow many (no more since the augmenting path has at least capacity 1)

# Theorem: Ford-Fulkerson indeed computes a maximum flow

- To show this, we prove the Maxflow-mincut Theorem

# $st$ -cuts (continued)

- Recall: A *cut* in a (directed) graph is a partition of the vertices into two disjoint subsets.
- The *cut edges* of a graph with a cut are the edges that have one endpoint in each subset of the partition.
- An  *$st$ -cut* is a cut that places vertex  $s$  in one of its subsets and vertex  $t$  in the other.

# $st$ -cuts

- *Capacity* of an  $st$ -cut in an  $st$ -network: sum of the capacities of the cut's edges from the subset containing  $s$  to the subset containing  $t$
- *Flow across* an  $st$ -cut in an  $st$ -network: difference between the sum of the flows of cut's edges from the subset containing  $s$  to the subset containing  $t$  and the sum of the flows of cut's edges from the subset containing  $t$  to the subset containing  $s$

# minimum $st$ -cut problem (or *mincat* problem)

- Given an  $st$ -network, find an  $st$ -cut such that the capacity of no other cut is smaller.

# Properties of feasible $st$ -flows in $st$ -flow networks

1. For any  $st$ -flow, the flow across each  $st$ -cut is equal to the value of the flow
2. The outflow from  $s$  is equal to the inflow to  $t$
3. No  $st$ -flow's value can exceed the capacity of any  $st$ -cut
4. Let  $f$  be an  $st$ -flow and let  $(S, T)$  be an  $st$ -cut whose capacity equals  $|f|$ . Then  $f$  is a maximum flow and  $(S, T)$  is a minimum cut.



# Maxflow-Mincut Theorem

- Let  $f$  be an  $st$ -flow. The following three conditions are equivalent:
  - A. there exists an  $st$ -cut whose capacity equals  $|f|$
  - B.  $f$  is a maximum flow
  - C. there is no augmenting path with respect to  $f$

# EdmondsKarp( $G, s, t$ )

Initialize  $f$  as zero-flow and residual network  $G_f$  with  $G$

**while** there exists a path  $p$  from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G_f$  **do**

    Let  $p$  be a path from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G_f$

    Augment  $f$  using  $p$

    Update  $G_f$

**return**  $f$