CS 577 - Network Flow

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TopHat Join Code: 524741

Network Flow

Network Flow

Flow Problems

- Flow Network / Transportation Networks: Connected directed graph with water flowing / traffic moving through it.
- Edges have limited *capacities*.
- Nodes act as switches directing the flow.
- Many, many problems can be cast as flow problems.

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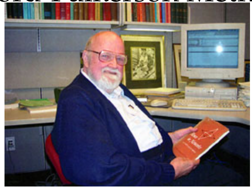
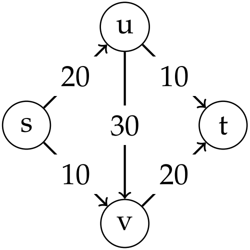
Ford-Fulkerson Method (1956)



L R Ford Jr.

D. R. Fulkerson

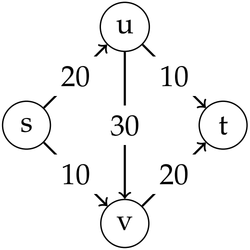
Flow Network



Basic Flow Network

- Directed graph $G = (V, E)$.
- Each edge e has $c_e \geq 0$.
- Source $s \in V$ and sink $t \in V$.
- Internal node $V/\{s, t\}$.

Flow Network



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Defining Flow

- Flow starts at s and exits at t.

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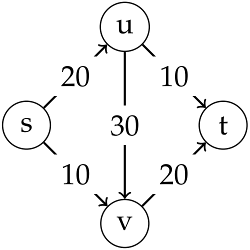

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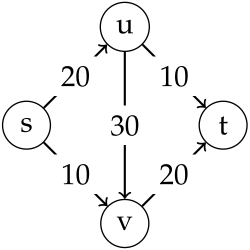

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- Flow Conditions:
  1. Capacity: For each $e \in E$, $0 \leq f(e) \leq c_e$.
  2. Conservation: For each $v \in V/\{s, t\}$,

$$\sum_{e \text{ into } v} f(e) = f^{\text{in}}(v) = f^{\text{out}}(v) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } v} f(e)$$

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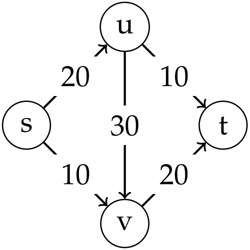

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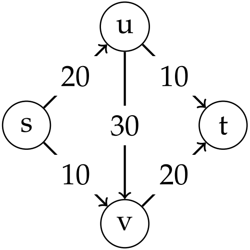
- Flow value $v(f) = f^{\text{out}}(s) = f^{\text{in}}(t)$

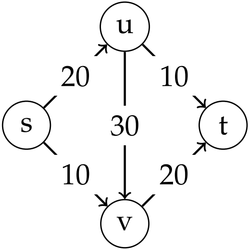
Maximum-Flow Problem



Max-Flow

Given a flow network G, what is the maximum flow value, i.e., what is the flow f that maximizes $v(f)$?

Maximum-Flow Problem



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Alternate View: Min-Cut

- A Cut: Partition of V into sets (A, B) with $s \in A$ and $t \in B$.

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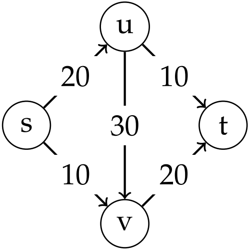

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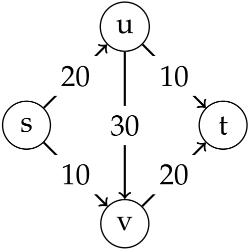

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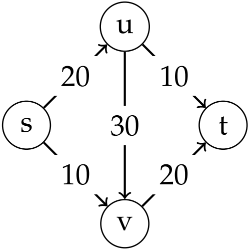

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- Minimum-cut of G: The cut (A^*, B^*) that minimizes $c(A^*, B^*)$ for G.

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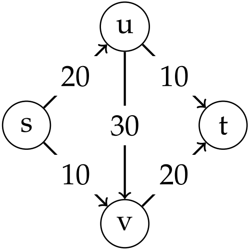

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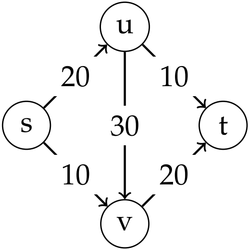
- Cut capacity: $c(A, B) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } A} c_e$
- Minimum-cut of G: The cut (A^*, B^*) that minimizes $c(A^*, B^*)$ for G.
- The min-cut and max-flow are the same value for any flow network.

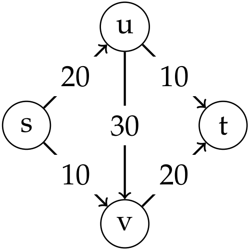
Designing the Approach



TopHat 1

What is the max-flow value in the example?

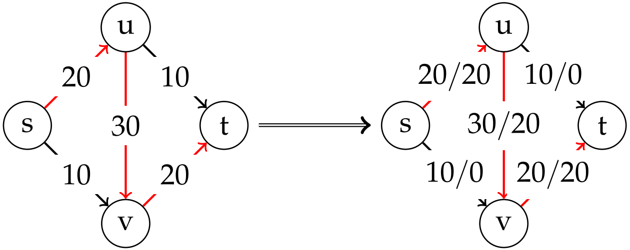
Designing the Approach



TopHat 2

What is the min-cut value in the example?

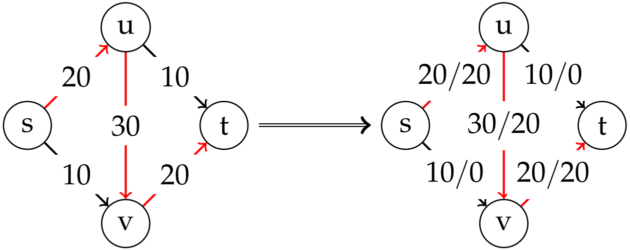
Designing the Approach



Basic Greedy Approach

- Initialize $f(e) = 0$ for all edges.
- While there is a path from s to t with available capacity, push flow equal to the minimum available capacity along path.

Designing the Approach



Basic Greedy Approach

- Initialize $f(e) = 0$ for all edges.
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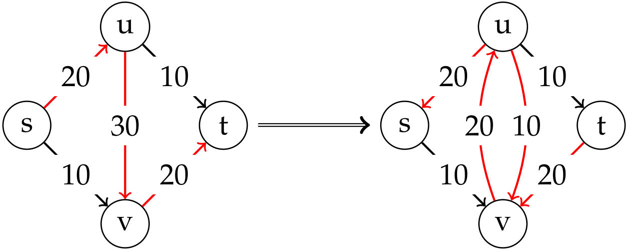
- We need a mechanism to reverse flow...

Residual Graph

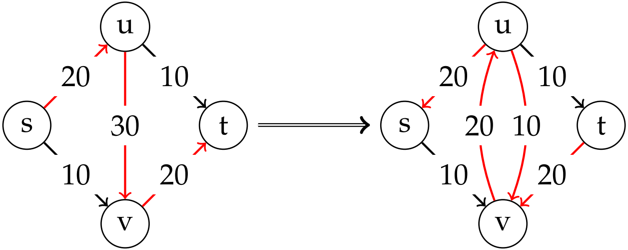


Residual Graph

Given a flow network G and a flow f on G, we get the residual graph G_f:

- Same nodes as G.
- For edge (u, v) in E:
  - Add edge (u, v) with capacity $c_e - f(e)$.
  - Add edge (v, u) with capacity $f(e)$.

Residual Graph



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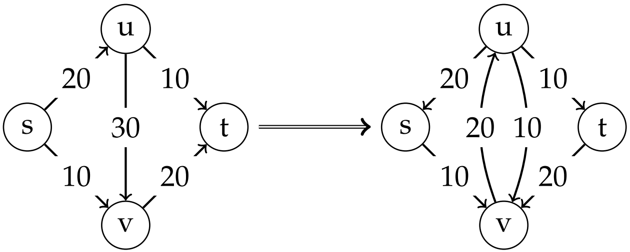
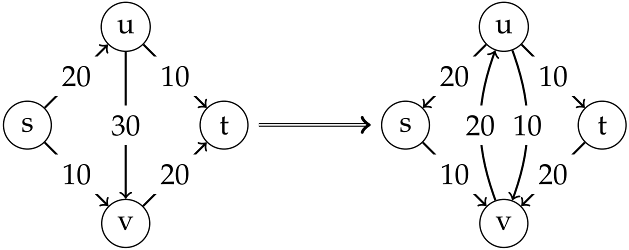
Augmenting Path



Augmenting Path

- A simple directed path from s to t.
- $\textsc{bottleneck}(P, G_f)$: Minimum residual capacity on augmenting path P.

Augmenting Path



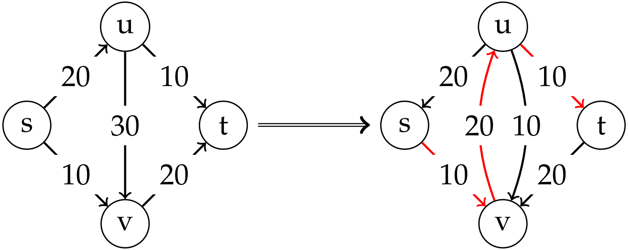
Augmenting Path

- A simple directed path from s to t.
- BOTTLENECK(P, G_f): Minimum residual capacity on augmenting path P.

TopHat 3

List the nodes (separated by commas, i.e. s,u,t) of an augmenting path in the example residual graph.

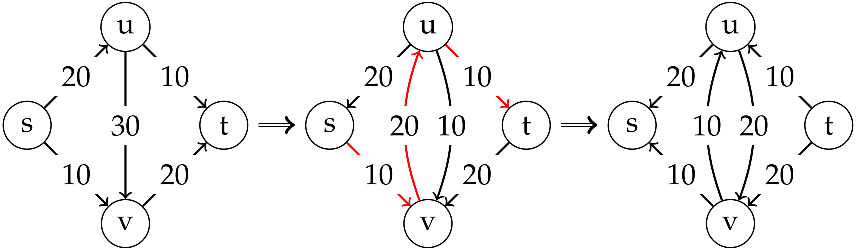
Augmenting Path



Increasing the Flow along Augmenting Path

- Push $\textsc{bottleneck}(P, G_f) = q$ along path P:
  - Pushing q along a directed edge in G, increase flow by q.
  - Pushing q in opposite directed of edge in G, decreases flow by q.

Augmenting Path



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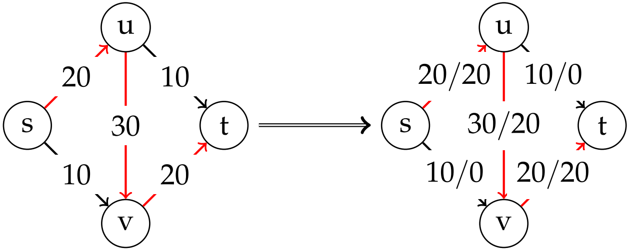

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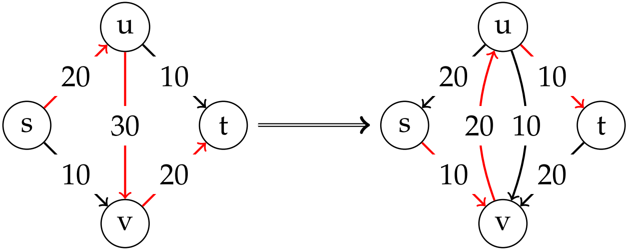

Refined Greedy Approach

- Initialize $f(e) = 0$ for all edges.
- While G_f contains an augmenting path P:
  - Update flow f by $\textsc{bottleneck}(P, G_f)$ along P.

Analyzing the Algorithm

Constant Increase and Termination

Observation 1

If all capacities are integers, then all $f(e)$, residual capacities, and $v(f)$ are integers at every iteration.

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TopHat 4

What technique should we use to prove the observation?

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Lemma 1

$v(f') > v(f)$, where $v(f') = v(f) + \textsc{bottleneck}(P, G_f)$ for an augmenting path P in G_f.

ANALYZING THE ALGORITHM

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Proof.

By definition of P, first edge of p is an out edge from s that we increase by $\text{BOTTLENECK}(P, G_f) = q$. By the law of conservation, this will give q more flow. □

ANALYZING THE ALGORITHM

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Theorem 2

Let $C = \sum_{e \text{ out of } s} c_e$, the FF method terminates in at most C iterations.

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TopHat 5: What technique? $\square$

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From Lemma 1, the flow strictly increases at each iteration. Hence, the residual capacity out of s decreases by at least 1 at each iteration. □

Analyzing the Algorithm

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Analyzing the Algorithm

Runtime

Observation 2

Since G is connected, $m \geq$TH6.

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Analyzing the Algorithm

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Since G is connected, $m \geq n/2$. *Hence,* $O(m+n) = O(m)$.

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Suppose all capacities are integers. Then, runtime of $O(mC)$.

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TopHat 7

Is this a polynomial bound?

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Is this a polynomial bound? No, it is pseudo-polynomial.

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Proof.

- Theorem 2: termination happens in at most C iterations.
- Work per iteration:
  1. Find an augmenting path: TH8: How can we do that?

□

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□

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  2. Update flow along path P: TH9: Time bound?

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- Work per iteration:
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  2. Update flow along path P: $O(n)$.
  3. Build new G_f: TH10: Time bound?

□

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Theorem 3

Suppose all capacities are integers. Then, runtime of $O(mC)$.

Proof.

- Theorem 2: termination happens in at most C iterations.
- Work per iteration:
  1. Find an augmenting path: BFS or DFS: $O(m+n)$.
  2. Update flow along path P: $O(n)$.
  3. Build new G_f: $O(m)$.

$\square$

Analyzing the Algorithm

Runtime

Observation 2

Since G is connected, $m \geq n/2$. Hence, $O(m+n) = O(m)$.

Refined Greedy Approach

- Initialize $f(e) = 0$ for all edges.
- While G_f contains an augmenting path P:
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Suppose all capacities are integers. Then, runtime of $O(mC)$.

Proof.

- Theorem 2: termination happens in at most C iterations.
- Work per iteration: Overall: $O(m)$
  1. Find an augmenting path: BFS or DFS: $O(m+n)$.
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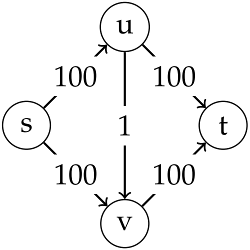
Choosing Good Augmenting Paths



Idea

- Choose paths with large bottlenecks.

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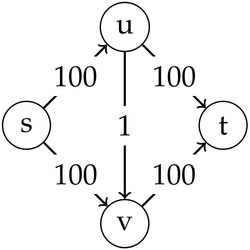

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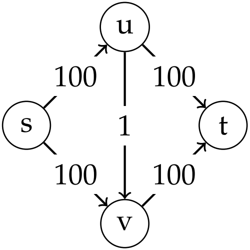

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Scaled Version

- Initialize $f(e) = 0$ for all edges.
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Termination

- As before, inner loop always terminates.
- Outer loop advances to 1.

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Advancement

- As before, inner loop always improves the flow.
- Since last outer iteration has $\Delta = 1$, this returns the same max-flow value as the non-scaled version.

Analyzing the Scaled Version

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Runtime

- Number of scaling phases: TH11.

ANALYZING THE SCALED VERSION

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- Number of scaling phases: $1 + \lceil \lg C \rceil$.

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- Number of scaling phases: $1 + \lceil \lg C \rceil$.
- Number of augmenting phases per scaling phases: .

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- Number of scaling phases: $1 + \lceil \lg C \rceil$.
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Analyzing the Scaled Version

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- Cost per augmentation: TH13.

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- Overall: $O(m^2 \log C)$.

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TopHat 14: Is this polynomial?

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TopHat 14: Is this polynomial? Yes, because $\lceil \log C \rceil$ is the # of bits needed to encode C.

Strongly Polynomial

Definition

- Polynomial in the dimensions of the problem, not in the size of the numerical data.
- m and n for max-flow.

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Fewest Edges Augmenting Path

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Other Variations

- Dinitz 1970: $O\left(\min\left\{n^{\frac{2}{3}}, m^{\frac{1}{2}}\right\} m\right)$.
- Preflow-Push 1974/1986: $O(n^3)$.
- Best: Orlin 2013: $O(mn)$

Minimum Cut

Max-Flow and Min-Cut

Recall Cut

- A Cut: Partition of V into sets (A, B) with $s \in A$ and $t \in B$.
- Cut capacity: $c(A, B) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } A} c_e$.

Max-Flow and Min-Cut

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Lemma 4

Let f be any $s - t$ flow and (A, B) be any $s - t$ cut. Then,

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- By definition, $f^{\text{out}}(A) = f^{\text{in}}(B)$ and $f^{\text{in}}(A) = f^{\text{out}}(B)$.

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- By definition, $$\begin{aligned} v(f) &= f^{\text{out}}(s) \\ &= f^{\text{out}}(s) - f^{\text{in}}(s) \\ &= \sum_{v \in A} \left(f^{\text{out}}(v) - f^{\text{in}}(v)\right) \end{aligned}$$
- Last line follows since $\sum_{v \in A \setminus \{s\}} \left(f^{\text{out}}(v) - f^{\text{in}}(v)\right) = 0$.

$$\sum_{v \in A} \left(f^{\text{out}}(v) - f^{\text{in}}(v)\right) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } A} f(e) - \sum_{e \text{ into } A} f(e) = f^{\text{out}}(A) - f^{\text{in}}(A).$$

□

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$$v(f) = f^{\text{out}}(A) - f^{\text{in}}(A) \leq f^{\text{out}}(A) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } A} f(e)$$

$$\leq \sum_{e \text{ out of } A} c_e = c(A, B)$$

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Theorem 6

If f is a $s - t$ flow such that there is no $s - t$ path in G_f, then there is an $s - t$ cut (A^*, B^*) in G for which $v(f) = c(A^*, B^*)$.

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- Let A^* be the set of nodes for which $\exists$ an $s-v$ path in G_f. Let $B^* = V \setminus A^*$.

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- Let A^* be the set of nodes for which $\exists$ an $s-v$ path in G_f. Let $B^* = V \setminus A^*$.
- (A^*, B^*) is an $s-t$ cut:
    - Partition of V
    - $s \in A^*$ and $t \in B^*$

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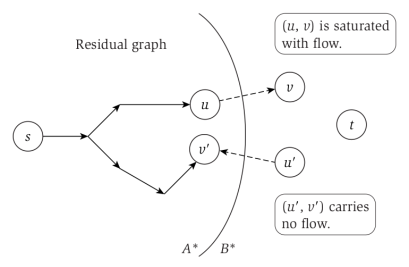

- Consider $e = (u, v)$: Claim $f(e) = c_e$.
  - If not, then $s - v$ path in G_f which contradicts definition of $A*$ and $B*$.

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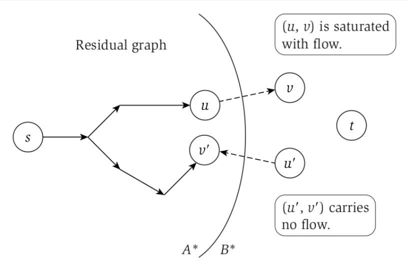

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- Let A^* be the set of nodes for which $\exists$ an $s - v$ path in G_f. Let $B^* = V \setminus A^*$.
- Consider $e = (u, v)$: Claim $f(e) = c_e$.
- Consider $e = (u', v')$: Claim $f(e) = 0$.
- Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} v(f) &= f^{\text{out}}(A^*) - f^{\text{in}}(A^*) \\ &= \sum_{e \text{ out } A^*} c_e - 0 \\ &= c(A^*, B^*) \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

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Corollary 7

Let f be flow from G_f with no $s-t$ path. Then, $v(f) = c(A^*, B^*)$ for minimum cut (A^*, B^*).

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□

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Corollary 8

Ford-Fulkerson method produces the maximum flow since it terminate when residual graph has no $s-t$ paths.

Finding the Min-Cut

Theorem 9

Given a maximum flow f, an $s - t$ cut of minimum capacity can be found in $O(m)$ time.

Finding the Min-Cut

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Given a maximum flow f, an $s-t$ cut of minimum capacity can be found in $O(m)$ time.

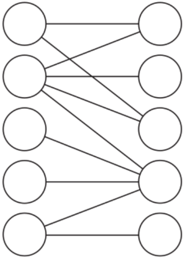
Proof.

- Construct residual graph G_f ($O(m)$ time).
- BFS or DFS from s to determine A^* ($O(m+n)$ time).
- $B^* = V \setminus A^*$ ($O(n)$ time).

$\square$

Bipartite Matching

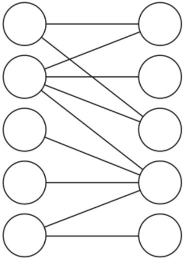
Bipartite Matching Problem



Definition

- Bipartite Graph $G = (V = X \cup Y, E)$.
- All edges go between X and Y.
- Matching: $M \subseteq E$ s.t. a node appears in only one edge.
- Goal: Find largest matching (cardinality).

Bipartite Matching Problem



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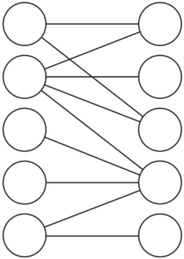
Reduction to Max-Flow Problem

- Goal: Create a flow network based on the the original problem.
- The solution to the flow network must correspond to the original problem.
- The reduction should be efficient.

Bipartite Matching Problem



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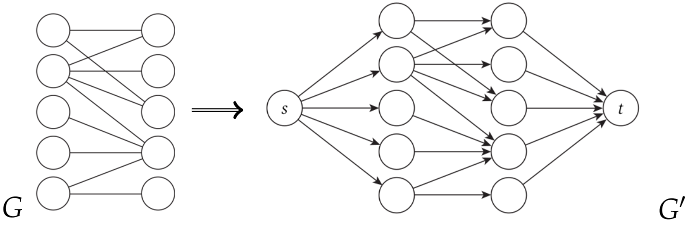
Reduction to Max-Flow Problem

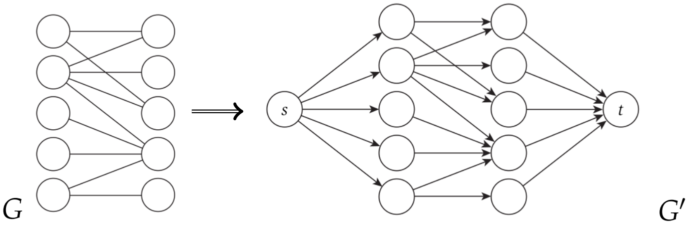
- How can the problem be encoded in a graph?
- Source/sink: Are they naturally in the graph encoding, or do additional nodes and edges have to be added?
- For each edge: What is the direction? Is it bi-directional? What is the capacity?

Bipartite Matching to Flow Network



- Add source connected to all X.
- Add sink connected to all Y.
- Original edges go from X to Y.
- Capacity of all edges is 1.

Bipartite Matching to Flow Network



Theorem 10

$|M^*|$ in G is equal to the max-flow of G', and the edges carrying the flow correspond to the edges in the maximum matching.

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- s can send at most 1 unit of flow to each node in X.

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Bipartite Matching to Flow Network

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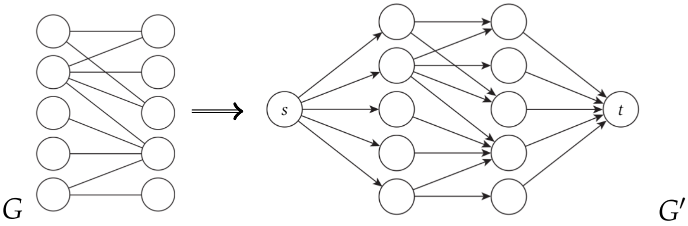
Proof.

- s can send at most 1 unit of flow to each node in X.
- Since $f^{\text{in}} = f^{\text{out}}$ for internal nodes, Y nodes can have at most 1 flow from 1 node in X.

$\square$

Bipartite Matching to Flow Network



Runtime

- Assume $n = |X| = |Y|, m = |E|$.

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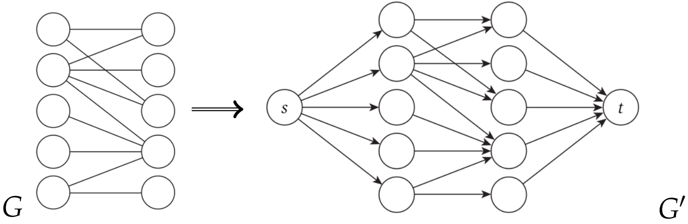

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- Overall: TH15.

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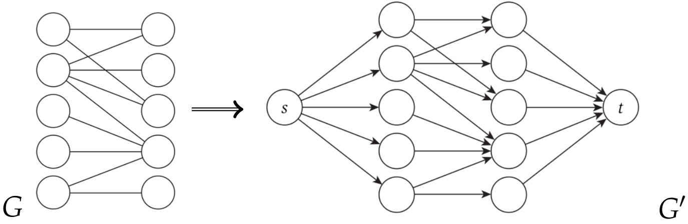
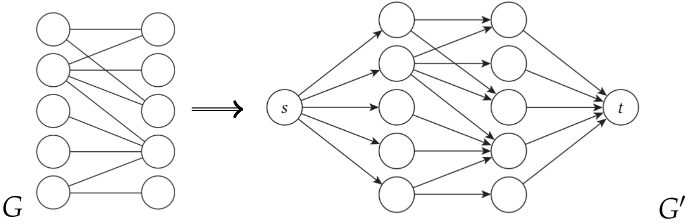


Runtime

- Assume $n = |X| = |Y|, m = |E|$.
- Overall: $O(mn)$.

Bipartite Matching to Flow Network



Runtime

- Assume $n = |X| = |Y|, m = |E|$.
- Overall: $O(mn)$.
- Basic FF method bound: $O(mC)$, where $C = f^{\text{out}}(S) \leq n$.

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- Directed Graph:
  - s is the source and t is the sink.
  - Add capacity of 1 to every edge.
- Undirected Graph:
  - For each undirected edge (u, v), convert to 2 directed edges (u, v) and (v, u).
  - Apply directed graph transformation.

Edge-Disjoint Paths Analysis

Observation 3

If there are k edge-disjoint paths in G from $s - t$, then the max-flow is k in G'.

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- Let f be a max-flow for this problem. How can we recover the k edge-disjoint paths?
- DFS from s in f along edges e, where $f(e) = 1$:
  1. Find a simple path P from s to t: set flow to 0 along P; continue DFS from s.
  2. Find a path P with a cycle C before reaching t: set flow to 0 along C; continue DFS from start of cycle.

Node Demand and Lower Bounds

Flow Network Extension

Adding Node Demand

Flow Network with Demand

- Each node has a demand d_v:
  - if $d_v < 0$: a source that demands $f^{\text{in}}(v) - f^{\text{out}}(v) = d_v$.
  - if $d_v = 0$: internal node ($f^{\text{in}}(v) - f^{\text{out}}(v) = 0$).
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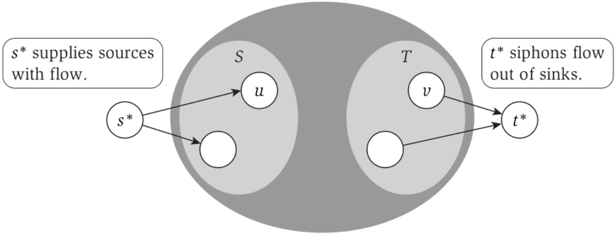
Feasibility $\implies \sum_{v \in V} d_v = 0$, but $\sum_{v \in V} d_v = 0 \not\Longrightarrow$ feasibility.

Reduction to Max-Flow



Reduction from G (demands) to G' (no demands)

- Super source s^*: Edges from s^* to all $v \in S$ with $d_V < 0$ with capacity $-d_v$.

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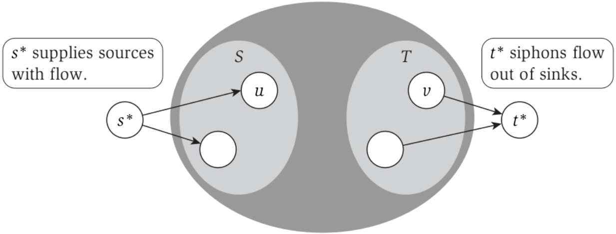

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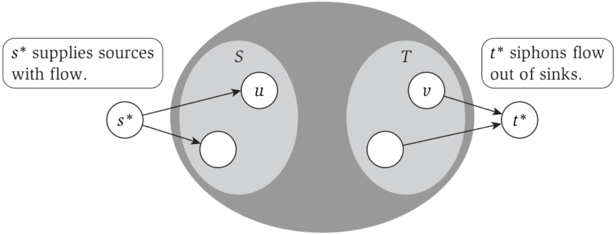

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- Maximum flow of $D = \sum_{v:d_v>0 \in V} d_v = \sum_{v:d_v<0 \in V} -d_v$ in G' shows feasibility.

Another Flow Network Extension

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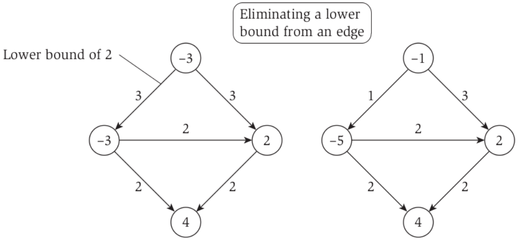
Reduction to Only Demand



Step 1: Reduction from G (demand + LB) to G' (demand)

- Consider an f_0 that sets all edge flows to ℓ_e:
  $L_v = f_0^{\text{in}}(v) - f_0^{\text{out}}(v)$.
  - if $L_v = d_v$: Condition is satisfied.
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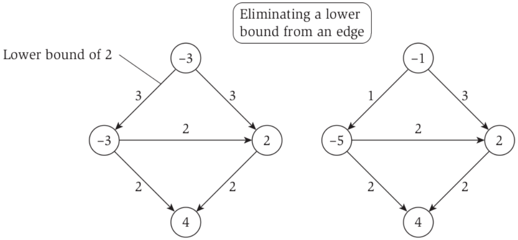
REDUCTION TO ONLY DEMAND



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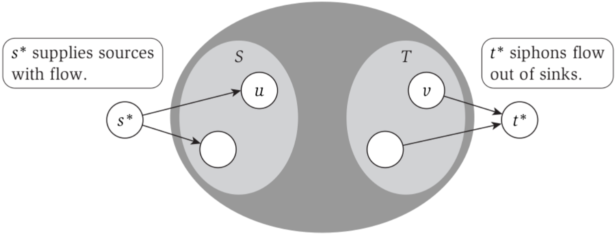
- For G':
  - Each edge e, $c'_e = c_e - \ell_e$ and $\ell_e = 0$.
  - Each node v, $d'_v = d_v - L_v$.

Reduction to Only Demand



Step 2: Reduction from G' (demand) to G'' (no demand)

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Survey Design

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TopHat 16: What type of graph to use?

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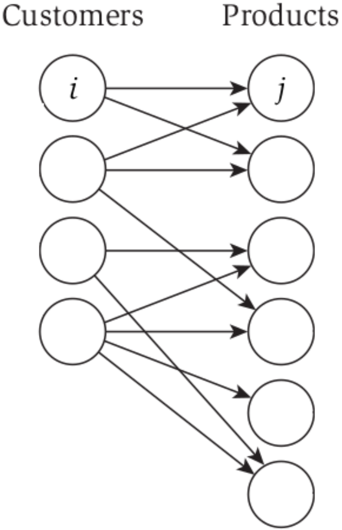

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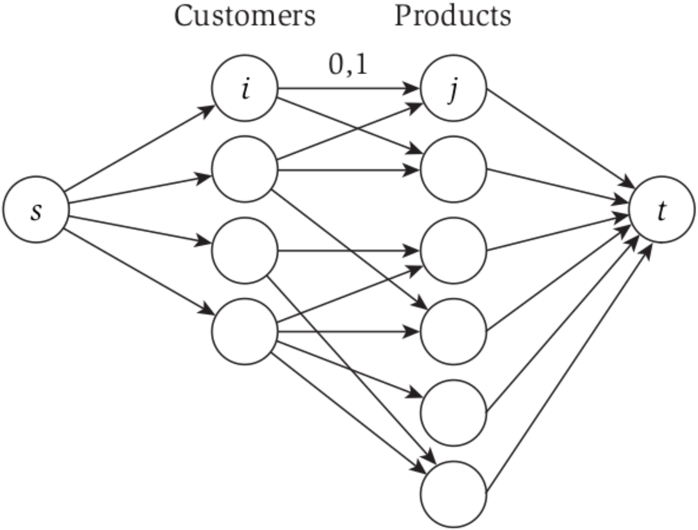

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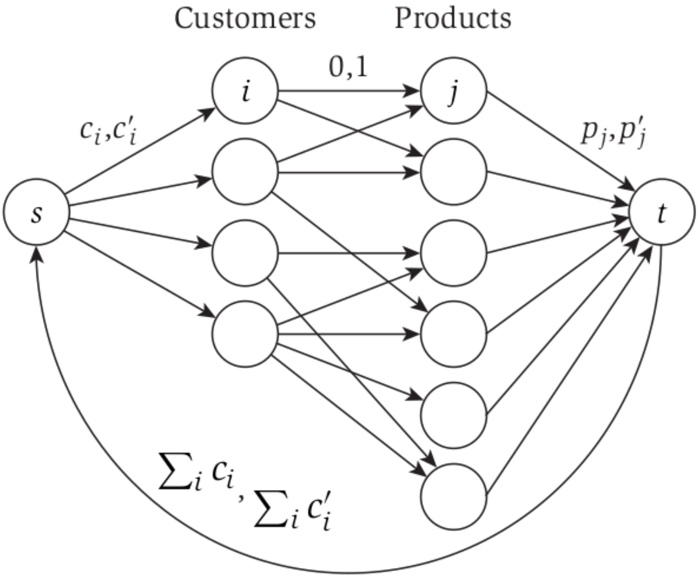

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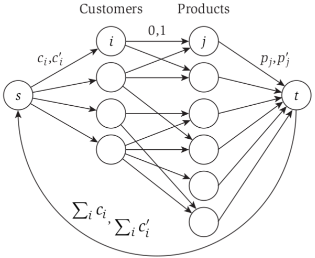
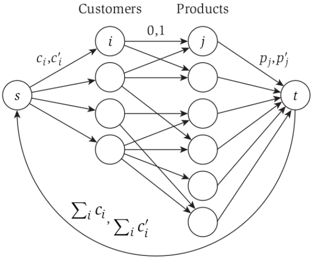


Reduction

- Bipartite Graph: Customers to products with min of 0 and max of 1.
- Add s with edges to customer i with min of c_i and max of c'_i.
- Add t with edges from product j with min p_j and max of p'_j.
- Edge (t, s) with min $\sum_i c_i$ and max $\sum_i c'_i$.
- All nodes have a demand of 0.

Algorithm Design



Solution

- Feasibility means it is possible to meet the constraints.
- Edge (i, j) carries flow if customer i asked about product j.
- Flow (t, s) overall # of questions.
- Flow (s, i) # of products evaluated by customer i.
- Flow (j, t) # of customers asked about product j.

Airline Scheduling

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Flights: (2 airplanes)

1. Boston (6 am) – Washington DC (7 am)
2. Philadelphia (7 am) – Pittsburgh (8 am)
3. Washington DC (8 am) – Los Angeles (11 am)
4. Philadelphia (11 am) – San Francisco (2 pm)
5. San Francisco (2:15 pm) – Seattle (3:15 pm)
6. Las Vegas (5 pm) – Seattle (6 pm)

Simple Version

- Scheduling a fleet of k airplanes.
- m flight segments, for segment i:
    - Origin and departure time.
    - Destination and arrival time.

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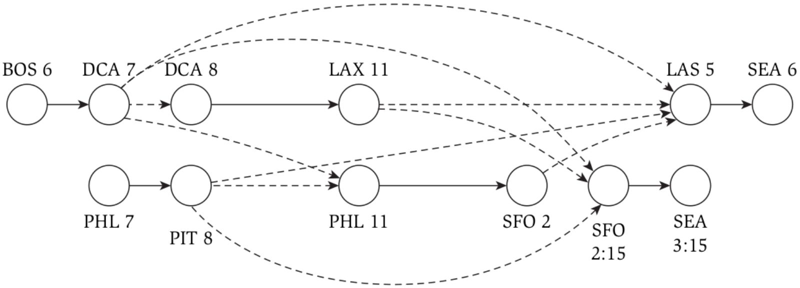
How might you represent this as a graph?

Algorithm Design

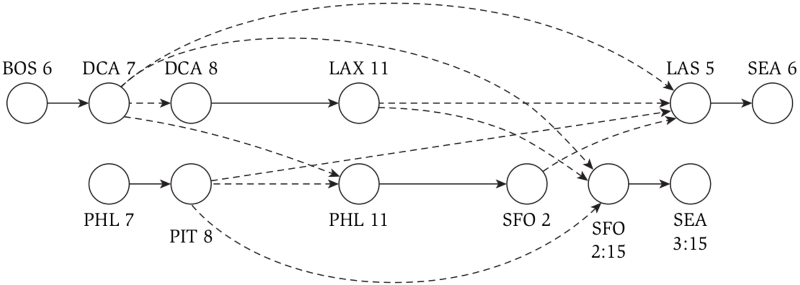


$k = 2$ planes

Exercise: Reduce to a flow network

Hint: Use lower bounds and demand.

Algorithm Design



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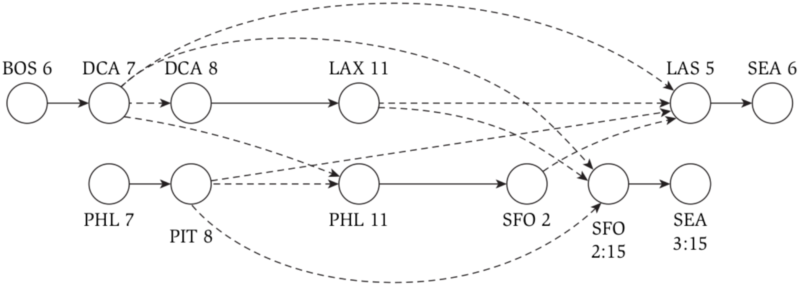
- TH17: Are s-t new nodes?
- TH18: What is the max capacity of the edges from G?

Algorithm Design



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Exercise: Reduce to a flow network

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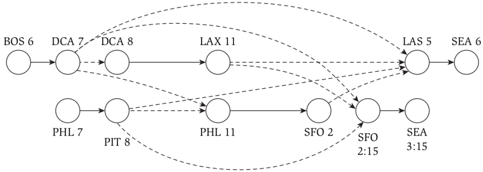
- TH19: In the example, how many edges out from s?
- TH20: In the example, how many edges in to t?

Algorithm Design

$k = 2$ planes

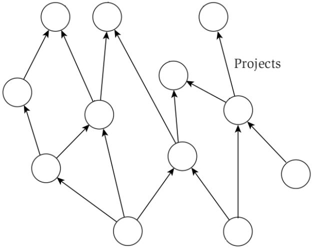


Reduction

- Units of flow correspond to airplanes.
- Each edge of a flight has capacity $(1, 1)$.
- Each edge between flights has capacity of $(0, 1)$.
- Add node s with edges to all origins with capacity of $(0, 1)$.
- Add node t with edges from all destinations with cap $(0, 1)$.
- Edge (s, t) with a min of 0 and a max of k.
- Demand: $d_s = -k, d_t = k, d_v = 0 \forall v \in V \setminus \{s, t\}$.

Project Selection

Project Selection



Problem

- Set of projects: P.
- Each $i \in P$: profit p_i (which can be negative).
- Directed graph G encoding precedence constraints.
- Feasible set of projects A: $\textsc{profit}(A) = \sum_{i \in A} p_i$.
- Goal: Find A^* that maximizes profit.

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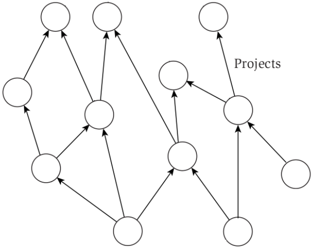

Use Min-Cut to solve this problem.

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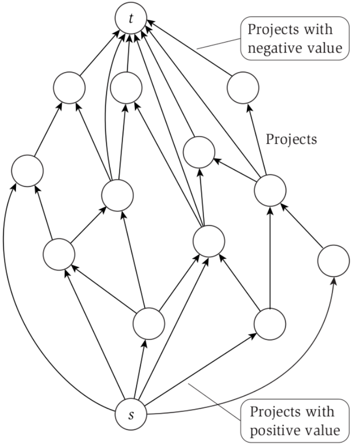

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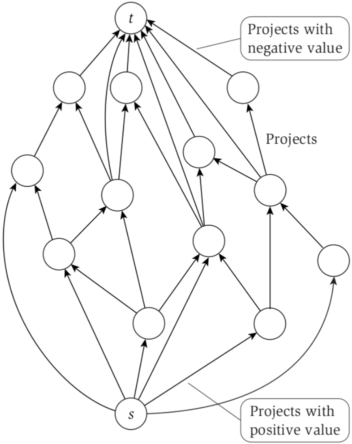
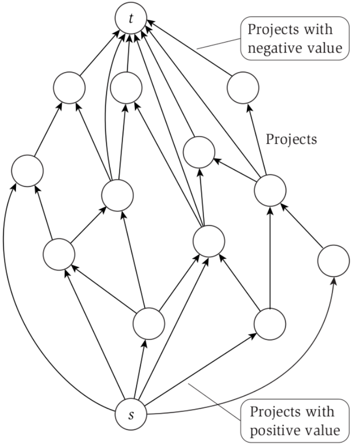


Reduction

- Use Min-Cut
- Add s with edge to every project i with $p_i > 0$ and capacity p_i.

Algorithm Design



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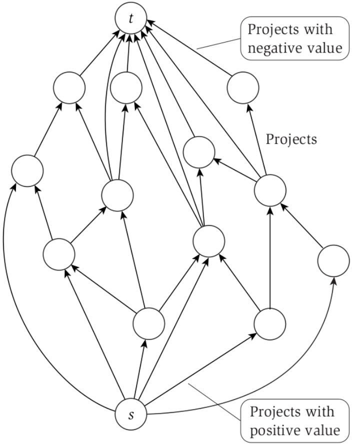

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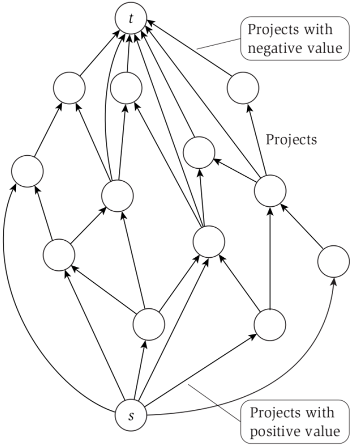

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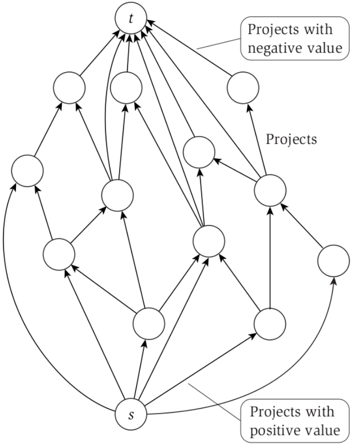
  TH21: What is the capacity of the cut $(\{s\}, P \cup \{t\})$?

Algorithm Design



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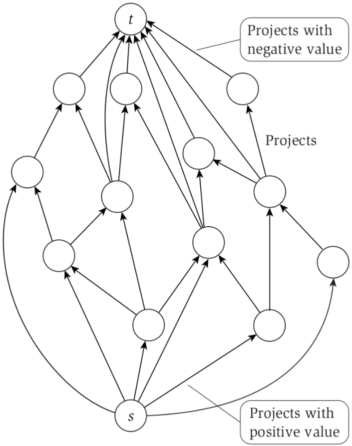
- Add s with edge to every project i with $p_i > 0$ and capacity p_i.
- Add t with edge from every project i with $p_i < 0$ and capacity $-p_i$.
- Max-flow is $\leq C = \sum_{i \in P : p_i > 0} p_i$ which is the capacity $(\{s\}, P \cup \{t\})$

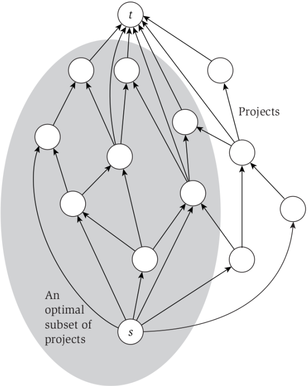
Algorithm Design



Reduction

- Use Min-Cut
- Add s with edge to every project i with $p_i > 0$ and capacity p_i.
- Add t with edge from every project i with $p_i < 0$ and capacity $-p_i$.
- Max-flow is $\leq C = \sum_{i \in P : p_i > 0} p_i$.
- For edges of G, capacity is ∞ (or $C + 1$).

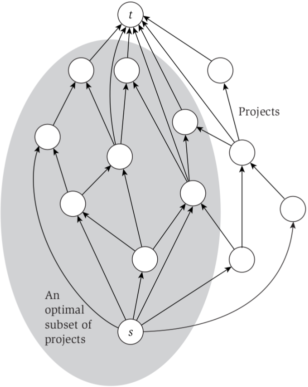
Algorithm Analysis



Observation 4

If $c(A', B') \leq C$, then $A = A' \setminus \{s\}$ satisfies precedence as edges of G have capacity $> C$.

Algorithm Analysis



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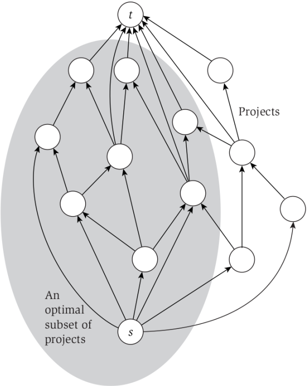
If $c(A', B') \leq C$, then $A = A' \setminus \{s\}$ satisfies precedence as edges of G have capacity $> C$.

Lemma 12

Let (A', B') be a cut satisfies precedence; then $c(A', B') = C - \sum_{i \in A} p_i$.

Algorithm Analysis



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If $c(A', B') \le C$, then $A = A' \setminus \{s\}$ satisfies precedence as edges of G have capacity $> C$.

Lemma 12

Let (A', B') be a cut satisfies precedence; then $c(A', B') = C - \sum_{i \in A} p_i$.

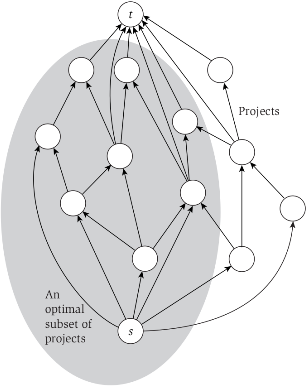
Proof.

Consider the different edges:

- (i, t): $-p_i$ for $i \in A$.
- (s, i): p_i for $i \notin A$.

$c(A', B') = \sum_{i \in A : p_i < 0} -p_i + C - \sum_{i \in A : p_i > 0} p_i = C - \sum_{i \in A} p_i$ $\square$

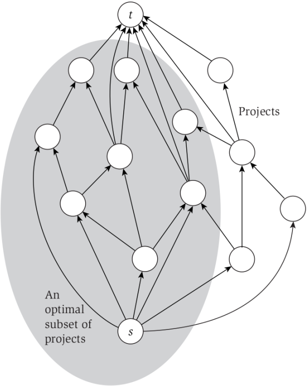
Algorithm Analysis



Theorem 12

If (A', B') is a min-cut in G', then $A = A' \setminus \{s\}$ is an optimal solution.

Algorithm Analysis



Theorem 12

If (A', B') is a min-cut in G', then $A = A' \setminus \{s\}$ is an optimal solution.

Proof.

- Obs: $c(A', B') = C - \sum_{i \in A} p_i$ means feasible.
$$c(A', B') = C - \textsc{profit}(A)$$
$$\iff \textsc{profit}(A) = C - c(A', B')$$
- Given that $c(A', B')$ is a minimum, profit is maximized as C is a constant.

$\square$

Baseball Elimination

Baseball Elimination

	Wins	Games Left
New York	92	NYY vs TOR
Toronto	91	TOR vs BAL
Baltimore	91	BAL vs BOS
Boston	90	BOS vs TOR
		NYY vs BAL

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TH22: Is Boston Eliminated?

Baseball Elimination

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New York	92	NYY vs TOR
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TH22: Is Boston Eliminated? Yes.

Baseball Elimination

	Wins	Games Left
New York	92	NYY vs TOR
Toronto	91	TOR vs BAL
Baltimore	91	BAL vs BOS
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Why is Boston eliminated?

Case analysis:

- Boston must win its 2 remaining games.

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New York	92	NYY vs TOR
Toronto	91	TOR vs BAL
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Boston	90	BOS vs TOR
		NYY vs BAL

Why is Boston eliminated?

Case analysis:

- Boston must win its 2 remaining games.
- New York must lose its 2 remaining games.

Baseball Elimination

	Wins	Games Left
New York	92	NYY vs TOR
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Baltimore	91	BAL vs BOS
Boston	90	BOS vs TOR
		NYY vs BAL

Why is Boston eliminated?

Case analysis:

- Boston must win its 2 remaining games.
- New York must lose its 2 remaining games.
- This leaves TOR vs BAL: So one of Toronto or Baltimore will end with 93 wins.

Baseball Elimination

	Wins	Games Left
New York	92	NYY vs TOR
Toronto	91	TOR vs BAL
Baltimore	91	BAL vs BOS
Boston	90	BOS vs TOR
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Why is Boston eliminated?

Analytical approach:

- Boston can finish with ≤ 92 wins.

Baseball Elimination

	Wins	Games Left
New York	92	NYY vs TOR
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Why is Boston eliminated?

Analytical approach:

- Boston can finish with ≤ 92 wins.
- Currently, other 3 teams have 274 combined wins with 3 remaining games between them:

Baseball Elimination

	Wins	Games Left
New York	92	NYY vs TOR
Toronto	91	TOR vs BAL
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Boston	90	BOS vs TOR
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Why is Boston eliminated?

Analytical approach:

- Boston can finish with ≤ 92 wins.
- Currently, other 3 teams have 274 combined wins with 3 remaining games between them:
  - Overall, at the end, there will be 277 combined wins between the other 3 teams.

Baseball Elimination

	Wins	Games Left
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Toronto	91	TOR vs BAL
Baltimore	91	BAL vs BOS
Boston	90	BOS vs TOR
		NYY vs BAL

Why is Boston eliminated?

Analytical approach:

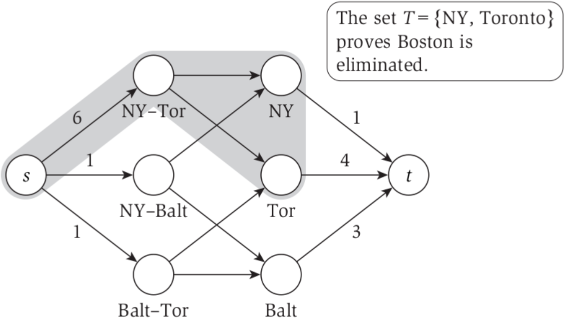
- Boston can finish with ≤ 92 wins.
- Currently, other 3 teams have 274 combined wins with 3 remaining games between them:
  - Overall, at the end, there will be 277 combined wins between the other 3 teams.
  - Average of 92 1/3 wins which implies that one team will have at least 92 1/3 $\implies$ 93 wins.

Baseball Elimination

Problem

- A set S of teams.
- For each team $x \in S$: w_x is the # of wins.
- For each pair $x, y \in S$: g_{xy} is # of games left btw x and y.
- Goal: Decide if team z has been eliminated.

Algorithm Design

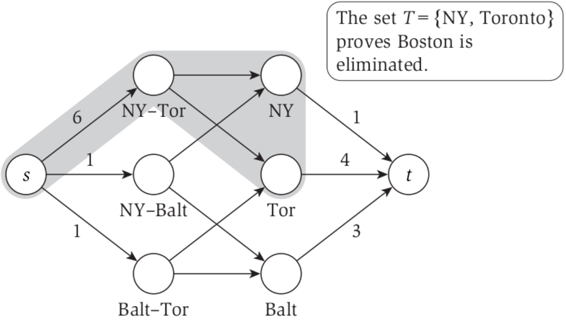


Let m be the max # of wins for z, $S' = S \setminus \{z\}$, and $g^* = \sum_{x,y \in S'} g_{xy}$.

Reduction

- Nodes:
  - Source s, sink t.
  - v_x for each $x \in S'$.
  - u_{xy} for each pair $x, y \in S'$.

Algorithm Design



Let m be the max # of wins for z,
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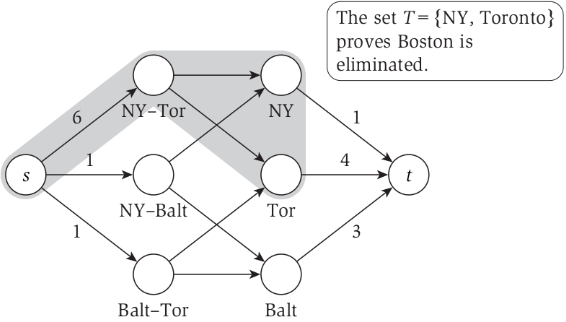
Reduction

- Edges:
  - For each v_x: (v_x, t) with capacity $m - w_x$.
  - For each u_{xy}:
    - (s, u_{xy}) with capacity g_{xy}.
    - (u_{xy}, v_x) and (u_{xy}, v_y) with capacity ∞ (or g_{xy}).

Algorithm Design



Let m be the max # of wins for z,
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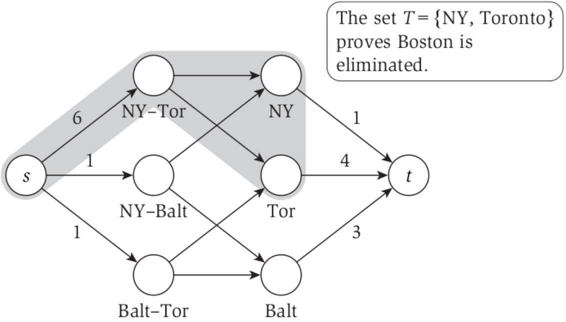
Solution

- $v(f) = g^*$: z is not eliminated.

Algorithm Design



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Solution

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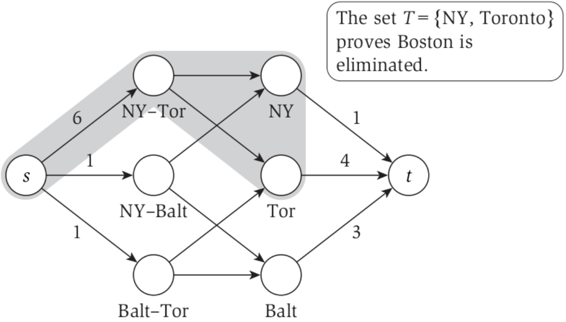
$$v(f) = g^* = f^{\text{in}}(t) \leq \sum_{x \in S'} (m - w_x) = m|S'| - \sum_{x \in S'} w_x$$

$$\iff \sum_{x,y \in S'} g_{xy} \leq m|S'| - \sum_{x \in S'} w_x$$

Algorithm Design



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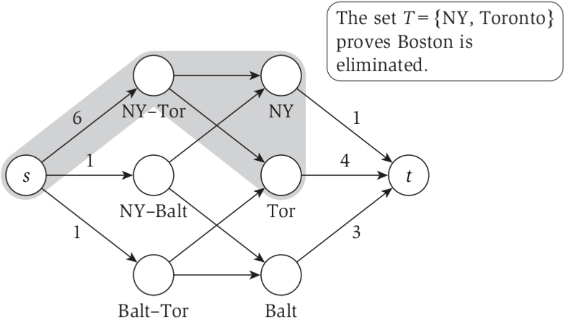
$$\iff m|S'| \geq \sum_{x,y \in S'} g_{xy} + \sum_{x \in S'} w_x$$

Algorithm Design



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Solution

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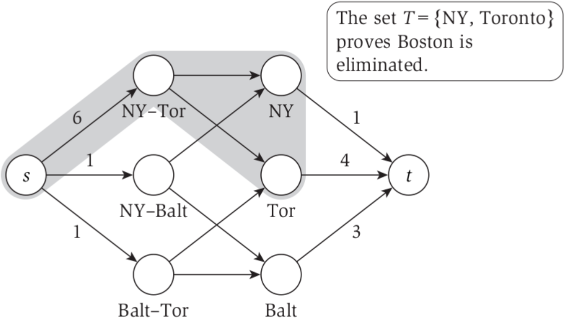
$$v(f) = g^* = f^{\text{in}}(t) \leq \sum_{x \in S'} (m - w_x) = m|S'| - \sum_{x \in S'} w_x$$

$$\iff m \geq \Big(\sum_{x,y \in S'} g_{xy} + \sum_{x \in S'} w_x \Big) / |S'|$$

Algorithm Design

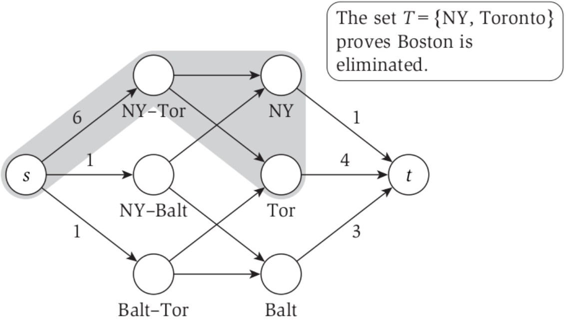


Let m be the max # of wins for z, $S' = S \setminus \{z\}$, and $g^* = \sum_{x,y \in S'} g_{xy}$.

Solution

- $v(f) = g^*$: z is not eliminated.
- $v(f) < g^*$: z is eliminated.

Solution Characterization



Let m be the max # of wins for z,
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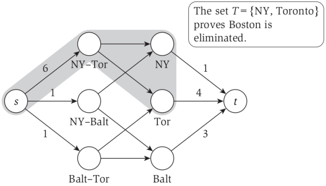
Theorem 13

Suppose z has been eliminated. Then, there is a set of items $T \subseteq S'$ such that: $m|T| < \sum_{x,y \in T} g_{xy} + \sum_{x \in T} w_x$

Solution Characterization



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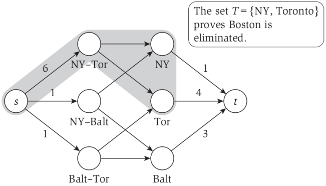
Proof.

- Let (A, B) be a min-cut with $c(A, B) = g' \leq \min\{\sum_{x,y \in S'} g_{xy}, \sum_{x \in S'} m - w_x\}$.

□

Solution Characterization



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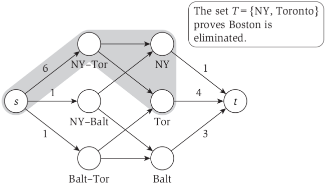
Proof.

- Let (A, B) be a min-cut with $c(A, B) = g' \leq \min\{\sum_{x,y \in S'} g_{xy}, \sum_{x \in S'} m - w_x\}$.
- Consider a $u_{xy} \in A$, $x \in T$, and $y \notin T$ (WLOG).
  - Contradiction: $c_{(u_{xy}, y)} = \infty$.

Solution Characterization



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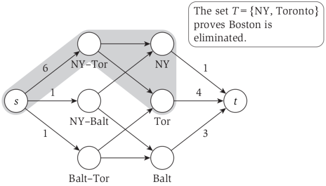
Proof.

- Let (A, B) be a min-cut with $c(A, B) = g' \leq \min\{\sum_{x,y \in S'} g_{xy}, \sum_{x \in S'} m - w_x\}$.
- Consider a $u_{xy} \notin A$, and $x, y \in T$.
  - Contradiction: $c(A \cup \{u_{xy}\}, B \setminus \{u_{xy}\}) = c(A, B) - g_{xy}$.

$\square$

Solution Characterization



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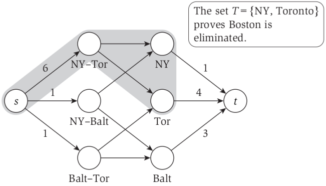
Proof.

- Let (A, B) be a min-cut with $c(A, B) = g' \leq \min\{\sum_{x,y \in S'} g_{xy}, \sum_{x \in S'} m - w_x\}$.
- $c(A, B) = g' = m|T| - \sum_{x \in T} w_x + \sum_{x,y \notin T} g_{xy}$

$\square$

Solution Characterization



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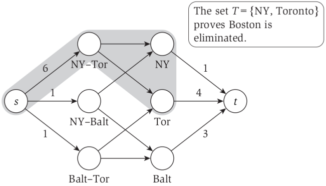
$\square$

Solution Characterization



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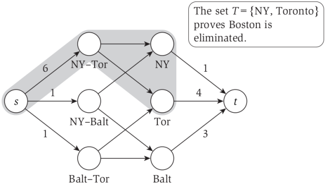
Proof.

- Let (A, B) be a min-cut with $c(A, B) = g' \leq \min\{\sum_{x,y \in S'} g_{xy}, \sum_{x \in S'} m - w_x\}$.
- $c(A, B) = g' = m|T| - \sum_{x \in T} w_x + g^* - \sum_{x,y \in T} g_{xy}$ $\iff 0 > m|T| - \sum_{x \in T} w_x - \sum_{x,y \in T} g_{xy}$ as $g' < g^*$

$\square$

Solution Characterization



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Proof.

- Let (A, B) be a min-cut with $c(A, B) = g' \leq \min\{\sum_{x,y \in S'} g_{xy}, \sum_{x \in S'} m - w_x\}$.
- $c(A, B) = g' = m|T| - \sum_{x \in T} w_x + g^* - \sum_{x,y \in T} g_{xy}$ $\iff m|T| < \sum_{x \in T} w_x + \sum_{x,y \in T} g_{xy}$

$\square$

Appendix

References

Image Sources I

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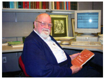

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