

**Proof:**

Given a valid flow in a network  $G$  with capacities and  $V \in V$  in  $G$ , the flow still satisfies the conservation constraints on this network.

Let  $A$  be a subset of vertices in  $G$ . We want to show that the total flow out of  $A$  is equal to the total flow into  $A$ .

By summing over all edges in  $G$ :

$$\sum_e f(e) = \sum_e f(e) \quad (1)$$

Consider an edge  $e = (a, b)$  in  $G$ .

We rearrange the equation:

$$\sum_{e \in \delta^+(A)} f(e) = \sum_{e \in \delta^-(A)} f(e) \quad (2)$$

Where  $\delta^+(A)$  represents the set of edges with one end in  $A$ , and  $\delta^-(A)$  represents the set of edges with one end in  $A$ .

Now, let's consider the different cases for the edge  $e$  in terms of its endpoints:

- Case 1: Entirely in  $A$ , so both the start and end are in  $A$ .
- Case 2: Leaving  $A$ , so it starts at  $a$ , where  $a \in A$ , and goes towards  $b$ , where  $b \in VnA$ .
- Case 3: Entering  $A$ , so it starts at  $b$ , where  $b \in VnA$ , and comes towards  $a$ , where  $a \in A$ .
- Case 4: Entirely in  $VnA$ , so it never appears in the sum.

From observation, if edge  $e = (a, b)$  is in Case 1, then  $f(e)$  appears on the left-hand side when  $v = b$ , and  $f(e)$  also appears on the right-hand side when  $v = a$ .

Thus, we have:

$$\sum_{e \in \delta^+(A)} f(e) + \sum_{e \in \delta^-(A)} f(e) = \sum_{e \in \delta^+(A)} f(e) \quad (3)$$

This implies that the total flow out of  $A$  equals the total flow into  $A$ , which completes the proof.