

Due Wednesday Nov. 17 at 11:59 p.m.

1. (50 points, 10 + 5 + 5 + 15 + 15) Consider the *shortest s - t path problem* in which the input is an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ with nonnegative edge weights and vertices $s, t \in V$. The goal is to find the shortest path (minimum cost) s - t path in G .

Consider the following primal and dual LP for the shortest s - t path problem. Here $S' = \{S \subseteq V : s \in S, t \notin S\}$ i.e. S' is the set of all s - t cuts in G . $\delta(S)$ represents edges in the cut S i.e. $\delta(S) = |\{(u, v) \in E : |\{u, v\} \cap S| = 1\}|$. The LPs are given below:

$$\begin{array}{ll|ll} \text{minimize} & \sum_{e \in E} c_e x_e & \text{maximize} & \sum_{S \in S'} y_S \\ \text{subject to} & \sum_{e \in \delta(S)} x_e \geq 1 & \text{subject to} & \sum_{S \in S' : e \in \delta(S)} y_S \leq c_e \\ & x_e \geq 0 & & y_S \geq 0 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ll} \forall S \in S' & \\ \forall e \in E. & \end{array}$$

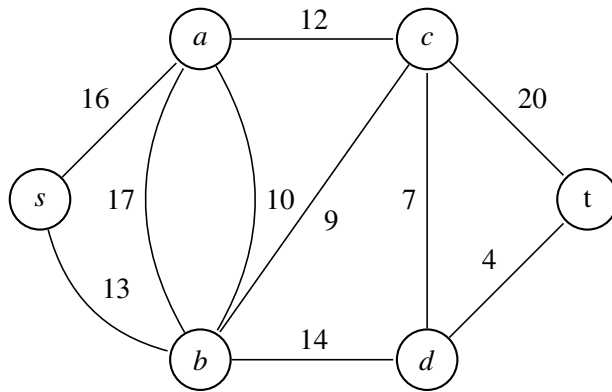
Let $G : (V, E)$ be the input graph. Consider the following algorithm based on these LPs.

- Initialize $y_S = 0$, $x_e = 0$ for all edges $e \in E$ and all cuts $S \in S'$.
- **While** there is no s - t path formed in G using edges in $\{e : x_e > 0\}$ **do**
 Let $C \subseteq V$ be the connected component formed by edges whose $x_e = 1$ (C always contains s).¹
 Increase y_C until there is an edge $e' \in \delta(C)$ such that $\sum_{S \in S' : e' \in \delta(S)} y_S = c_{e'}$
 Set $x_{e'} = 1$.
- Return an s - t path in G using edges in $\{e : x_e > 0\}$.

Let the path returned be denoted by P .

- (a) What is an interpretation of the primal and dual LP – explain in sentences, as was done in class for the Chicago vs. Detroit Pizza example? In particular, explain what each variable, the objective and each constraint means.
- (b) Consider the following graph. We execute the above algorithm on this graph. In the first iteration, some set C_1 is chosen, and some edge e_1 has $x_{e_1} = 1$ at the end of the first iteration. Similarly we choose sets C_2, C_3 and edges e_2, e_3 in the second and third iteration, respectively. What are $C_1, C_2, C_3, e_1, e_2, e_3$, as well as $y_{C_1}, y_{C_2}, y_{C_3}$?

¹In the first step, when $x_e = 0$ for all e , C is just the node s .



- (c) Prove that at any point of the algorithm the set F of edges with $x_e = 1$, i.e. $F_t = \{e \in E : x_e = 1\}$ at the end of iteration t of the algorithm, forms a tree .
- (d) Prove that for any $S \in S'$, if $y_S > 0$ at the end of the algorithm, then $|P \cap \delta(S)| = 1$ (where P is the path returned by the algorithm).
- (e) Prove that the given algorithm returns a shortest s - t path in G . You can use parts (b) and (c) as stated (even if you didn't provide a solution for them).
2. (50 points, 10 + 10 + 10 + 20 respectively) For each of the following problems either design and analyze an efficient algorithm (i.e. at least polynomial time), or prove that they are NP -hard.
- (a) Given an undirected graph G , with positive edge weights, does G have a spanning tree of weight at most 42?
- (b) Given an undirected graph G , does G have a spanning tree with exactly 2 leaves?
- (c) Given an undirected graph G , does G have a spanning tree with maximum degree 2?
- (d) Given an undirected graph G , does G have a spanning tree with at most 42 leaves?

Any vertex with degree one in a tree is referred to as a leaf.