

# Graphs - Maximum Flow

## Fundamental Algorithms

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Technical University of Cluj-Napoca  
Computer Science Department

# Agenda

- 1 Maximum Flow concepts
- 2 The Ford-Fulkerson method
- 3 Maximum bipartite matching
- 4 Graphs recap
- 5 Exam info



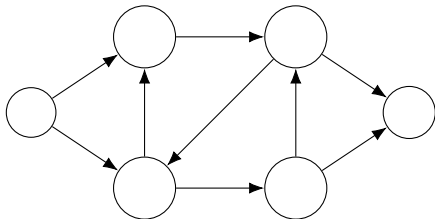
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# Flow networks

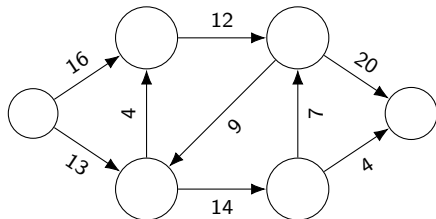
- a directed graph  $G = (V, E)$





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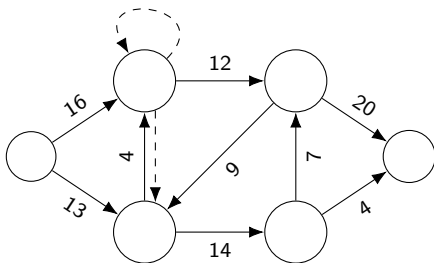
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- a **capacity** function  
 $c : E \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ 
  - $c(u, v) \geq 0$
  - if  $(u, v) \notin E$ , then  $c(u, v) = 0$





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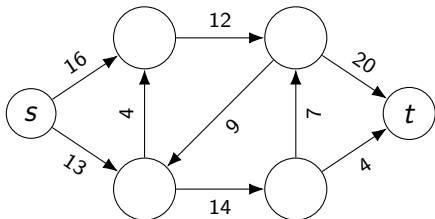
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- no antiparallel edges (if  $(u, v) \in E$  then  $(v, u) \notin E$ )
- no self-loops





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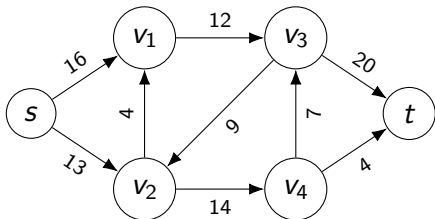
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- two special vertices:
  - a **source**  $s$
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- no self-loops
- two special vertices:
  - a **source**  $s$
  - a **target/sink**  $t$
- all other nodes  $v \in V$  are on a path from  $s$  to  $t$  ( $s \rightsquigarrow v \rightsquigarrow t$ )

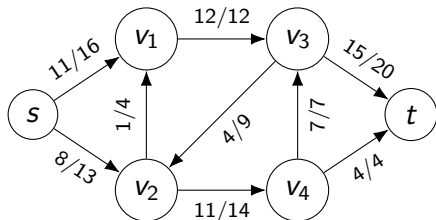






# Flow formalism

$$f : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$



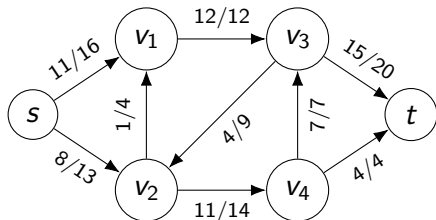


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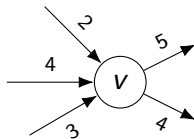
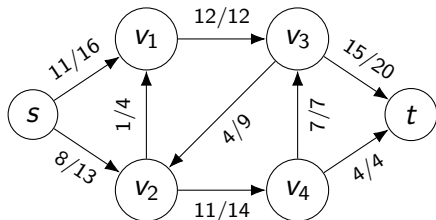
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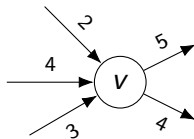
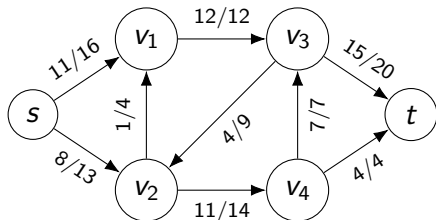
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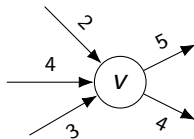
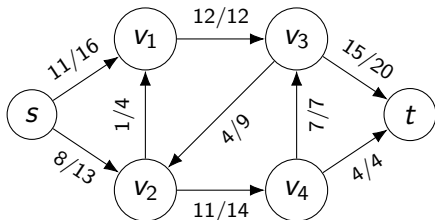
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## Maximum-flow problem

Given a directed graph  $G = (V, E)$ , a source  $s$ , a sink  $t$  and a capacity function  $c : E \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ , find the flow  $f$  with the maximum value.





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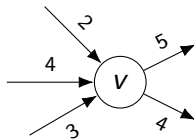
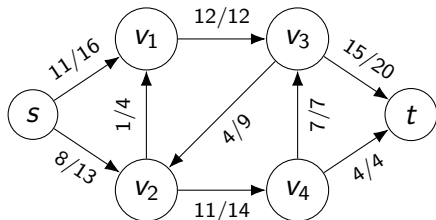
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Real world applications

- water pipes
- electrical networks



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# Residual networks

- define the remaining capacity after some flow  $f$  passes
  - subtract the flow from each edge capacity
  - add reversed edges (so we can decrease the flow later)

$$c_f(u, v) = \begin{cases} c(u, v) - f(u, v) & \text{if } (u, v) \in E \\ f(v, u) & \text{if } (v, u) \in E \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- use all the edges with a positive remaining flow

$$G_f = (V, E_f), \quad E_f = \{(u, v) \in V \times V : c_f(u, v) > 0\}$$





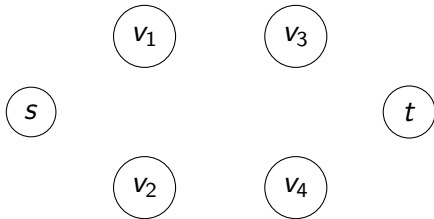
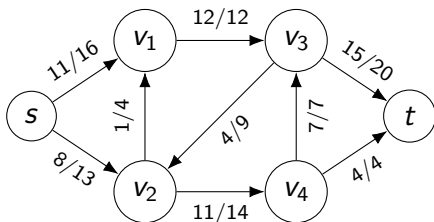
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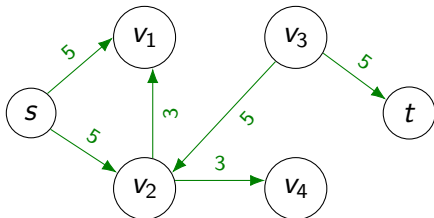
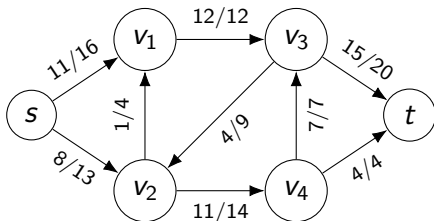
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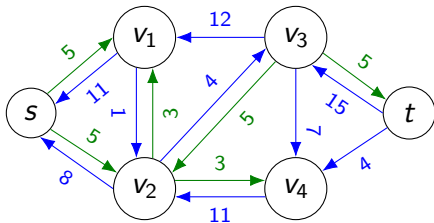
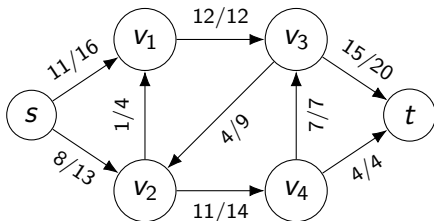
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## Lemma 26.1

The function  $f \uparrow f'$  is a flow in  $G$  with the value  $|f \uparrow f'| = |f| + |f'|$ .



# Augmenting paths

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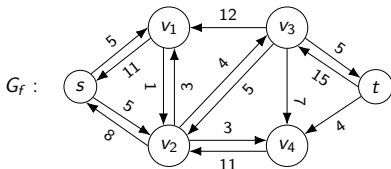
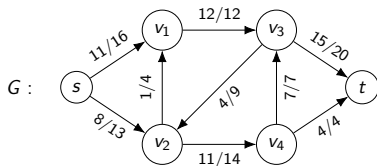
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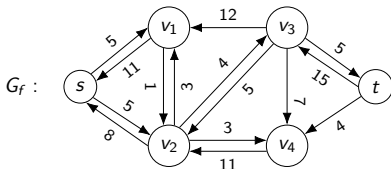
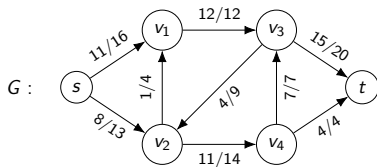


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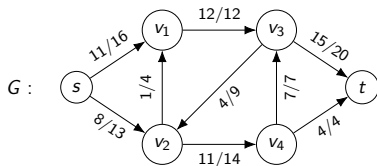




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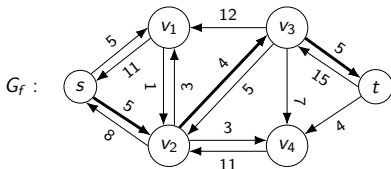
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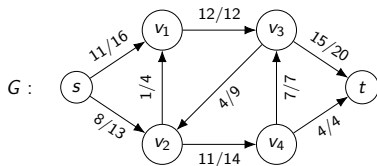




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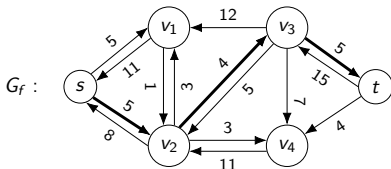
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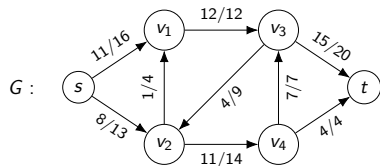




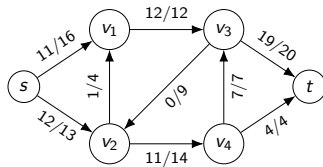
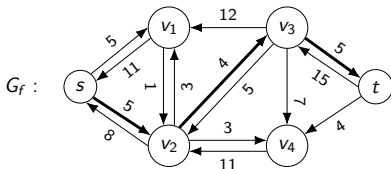
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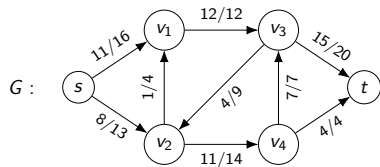




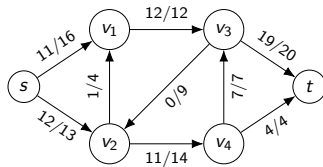
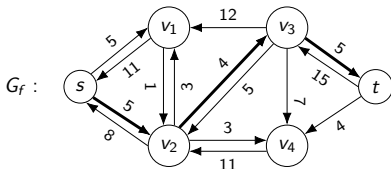
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- $|f \uparrow f_p| = 11 + 12 = 19 + 4 = 23$



# The Ford-Fulkerson method

FORD-FULKERSON-METHOD( $G, s, t$ )

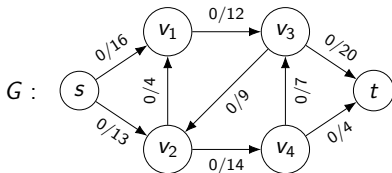
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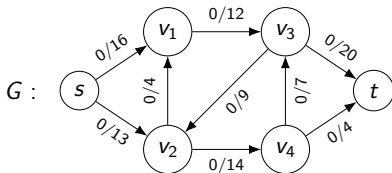
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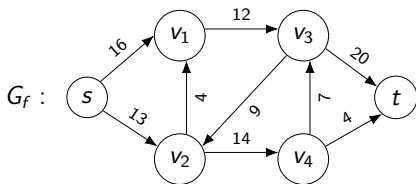
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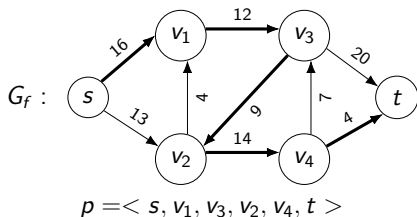
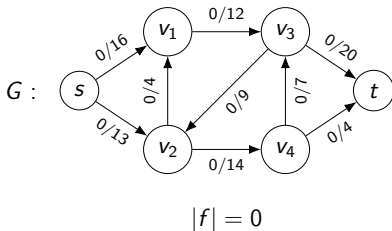




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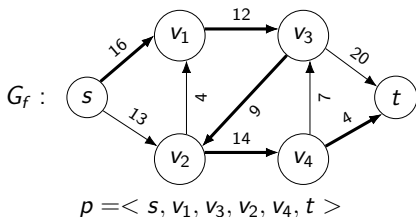
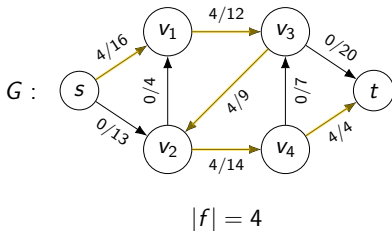




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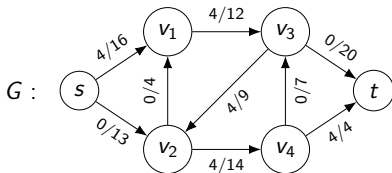




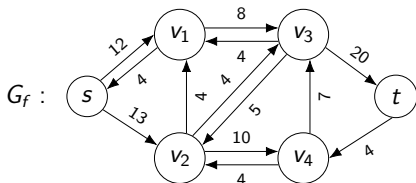
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$$|f| = 4$$

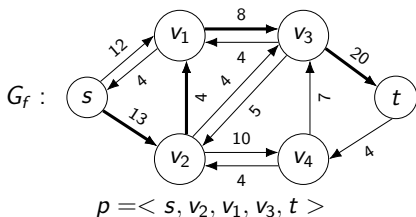
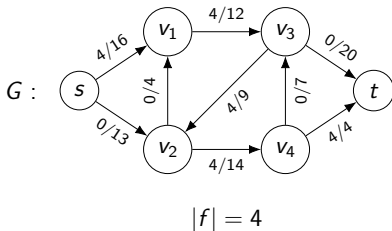




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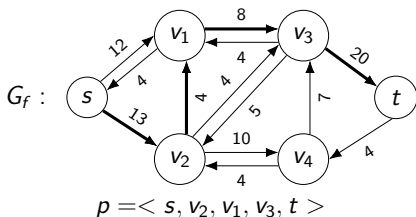
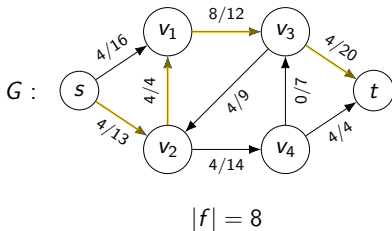




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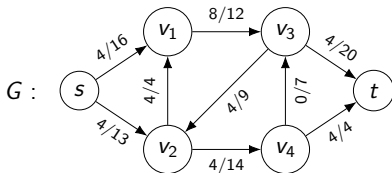




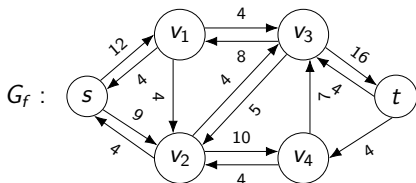
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$$|f| = 8$$

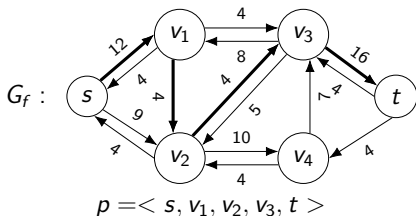
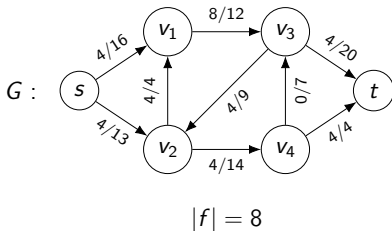




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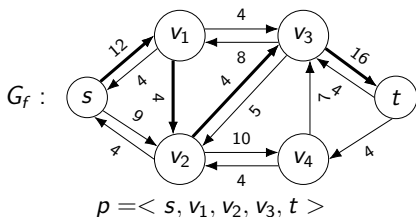
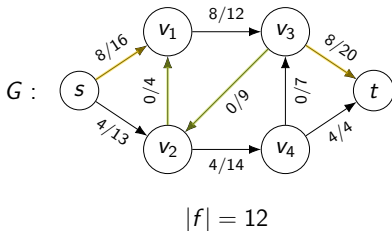




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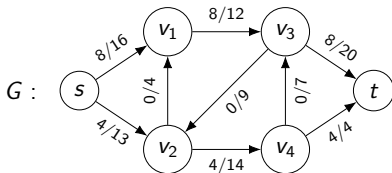




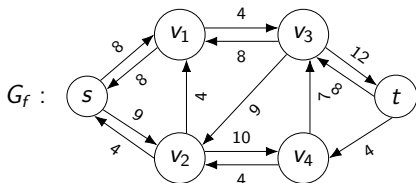
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$$|f| = 12$$

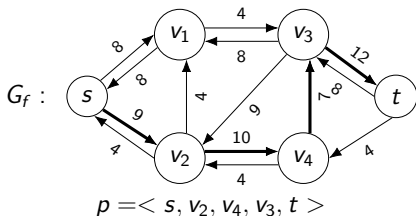
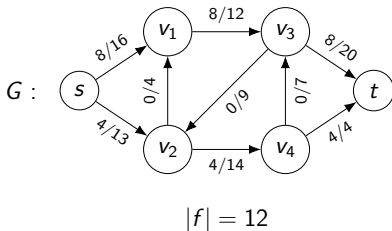




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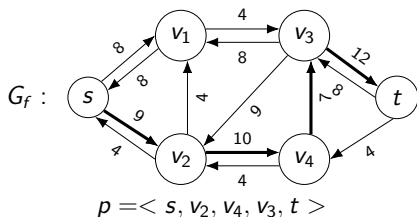
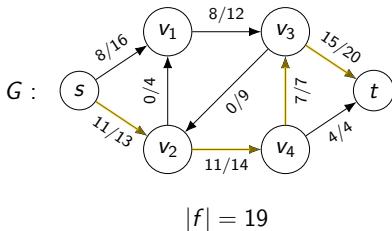




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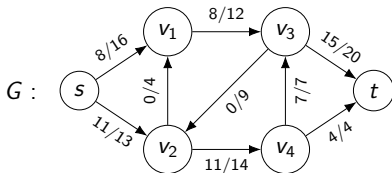




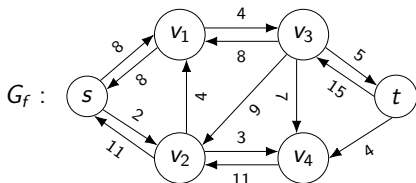
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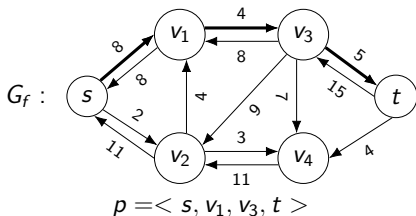
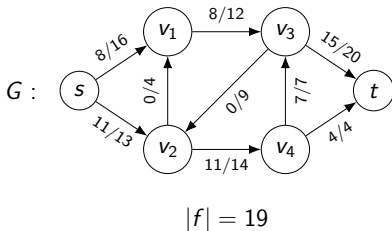




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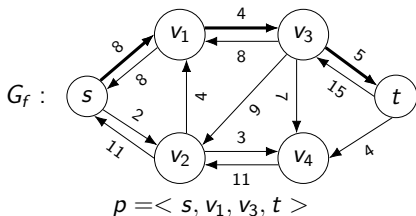
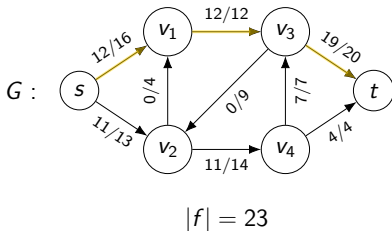




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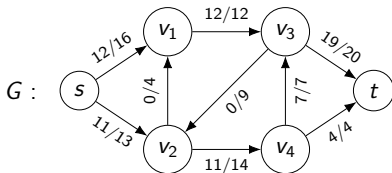




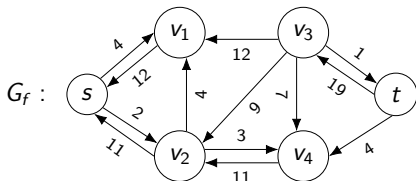
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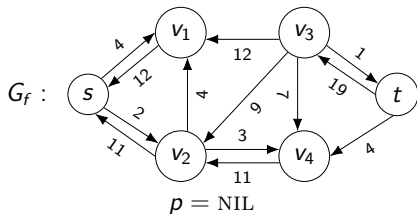
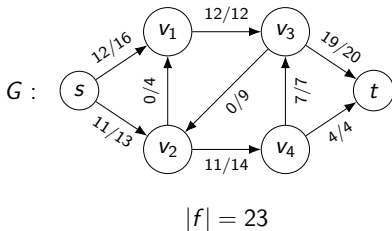




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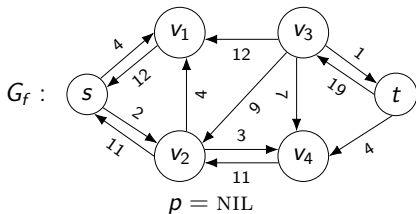
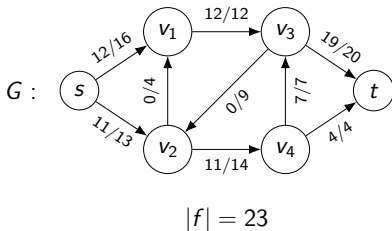




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  - the maximum flow is finite  $\Rightarrow$  the flow cannot increase forever
  - if all capacities are rational, we can scale with the least common multiple of all denominators and work with integer capacities
  - with irrational capacities and a poor choice of augmenting paths, the algorithm might not terminate (the flow value increases with smaller and smaller values)
  - see the link below for a pathological example where the algorithm doesn't terminate:

<https://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/spring13/cos423/lectures/07DemoFordFulkersonPathological.pdf>



# The Ford-Fulkerson method - analysis (2)

- correctness
  - no augmenting paths in  $G_f \rightarrow f$  is a maximum flow (from the *max-flow min-cut theorem*, that will follow)



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- correctness
  - no augmenting paths in  $G_f \rightarrow f$  is a maximum flow (from the *max-flow min-cut theorem*, that will follow)
- complexity
  - finding an augmenting path and augmenting the flow:  
 $O(V + E) = O(E)$
  - for integer capacities, if the maximum flow is  $f^*$ , the number of iterations is at most  $|f^*|$
  - total running time:  $O(E \cdot |f^*|)$





# Cuts of flow networks (1)

$(S, T)$  is a **cut** of the flow network  $G = (V, E)$  if

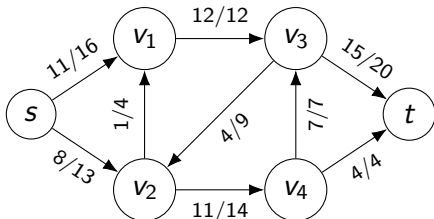
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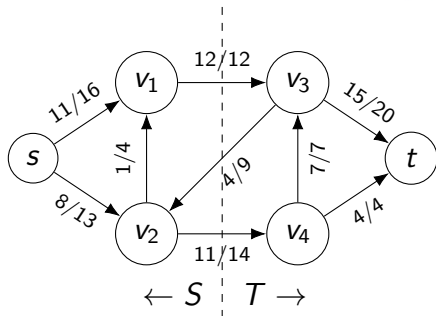




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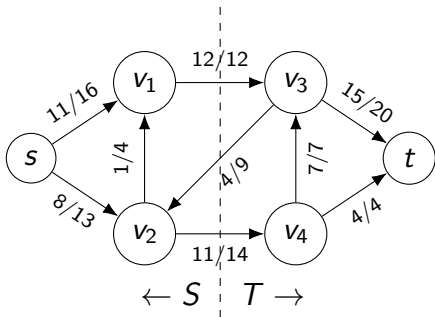




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The **net flow**  $f(S, T)$  across the cut is

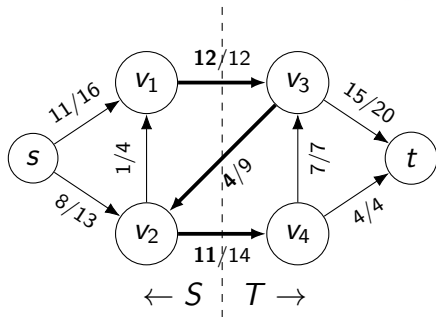
$$f(S, T) = \sum_{u \in S} \sum_{v \in T} f(u, v) - \sum_{u \in S} \sum_{v \in T} f(v, u).$$



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$$f(S, T) = 12 + 11 - 4 = 19$$

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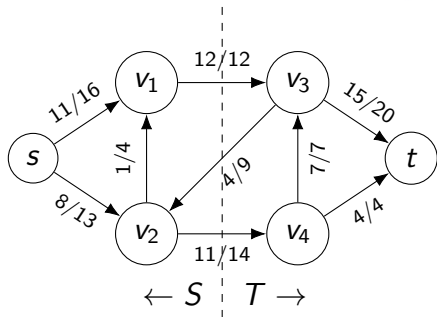
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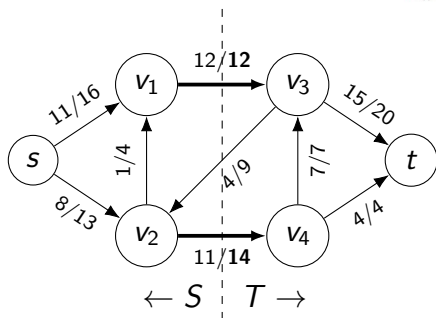
The **capacity** of the cut  $(S, T)$  is  $c(S, T) = \sum_{u \in S} \sum_{v \in T} c(u, v).$



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$$f(S, T) = 12 + 11 - 4 = 19$$

$$c(S, T) = 12 + 14 = 26$$

The **net flow**  $f(S, T)$  across the cut is

$$f(S, T) = \sum_{u \in S} \sum_{v \in T} f(u, v) - \sum_{u \in S} \sum_{v \in T} f(v, u).$$

The **capacity** of the cut  $(S, T)$  is  $c(S, T) = \sum_{u \in S} \sum_{v \in T} c(u, v).$



## Cuts of flow networks (2)

### Lemma 26.4

Let  $f$  be a flow in the network  $G$  with source  $s$  and sink  $t$ .  
 $\forall (S, T)$  a cut of  $G$ , the flow across  $(S, T)$  is  $f(S, T) = |f|$ .





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### Corollary 26.5

The value of any flow  $f$  in a flow network  $G$  is bounded from above by the capacity of any cut of  $G$ .



# Max-flow min-cut theorem

## Theorem 26.6

If  $f$  is a flow in a network  $G = (V, E)$  with source  $s$  and sink  $t$ , then the following conditions are equivalent:

- 1  $f$  is a maximum flow in  $G$
- 2 the residual network  $G_f$  contains no augmenting paths
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Proof:

- $(1) \Rightarrow (2)$  : contradiction  $|f \uparrow f_p| = |f| + |f_p| > |f|$



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- $(1) \Rightarrow (2)$  : contradiction  $|f \uparrow f_p| = |f| + |f_p| > |f|$
- $(2) \Rightarrow (3)$  : let  $S = \{v \in V : \exists s \rightsquigarrow v \text{ in } G_f\}$ ,  $T = V \setminus S$   
 $\Rightarrow |f| \stackrel{\text{Lemma 26.4}}{=} f(S, T) = c(S, T)$



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- $(3) \Rightarrow (1)$  : from Corollary 26.5



# The Edmonds-Karp algorithm - approach

- based on the Ford-Fulkerson method
- finds the augmenting path in  $G_f$  using the BFS algorithm



# The Edmonds-Karp algorithm

EDMONDS-KARP( $G, s, t$ )

```

1  for each edge  $(u, v) \in G.E$ 
2       $(u, v).f = 0$ 
3  repeat
4       $G_f = \text{COMPUTE-RESIDUAL-NETWORK}(G, s, t)$ 
5       $p = \text{BFS-PATH}(G_f, s, t)$  // call  $\text{BFS}(G_f, s)$  and find path to  $t$ 
6      if  $p \neq \text{NIL}$ 
7           $c_f(p) = \min\{c_f(u, v) : (u, v) \in p\}$ 
8          for each edge  $(u, v) \in p$ 
9              if  $(u, v) \in E$ 
10                  $(u, v).f = (u, v).f + c_f(p)$ 
11                 else  $(v, u).f = (v, u).f - c_f(p)$ 
12  until  $p == \text{NIL}$ 
  
```

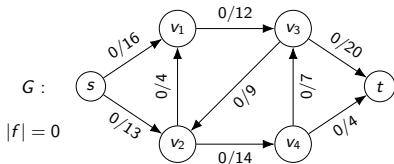


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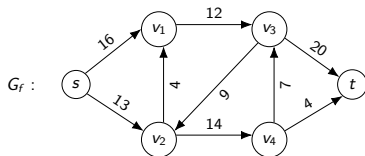
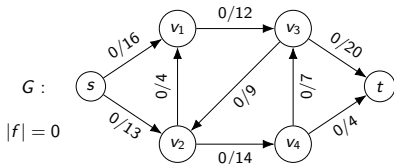


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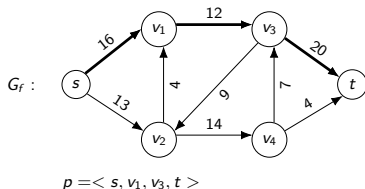
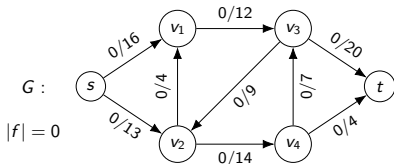


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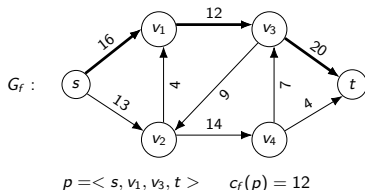
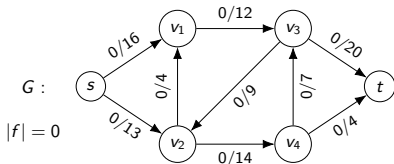


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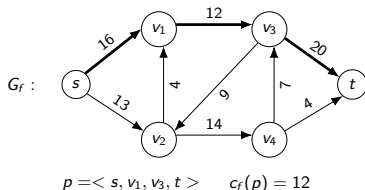
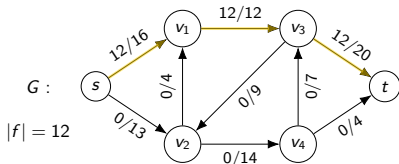


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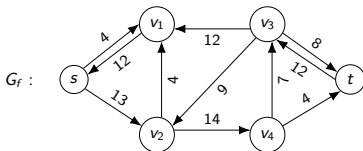
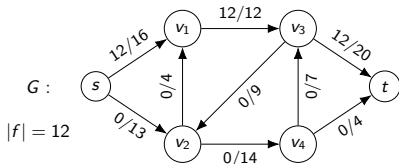


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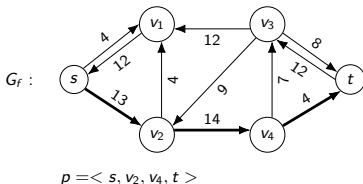
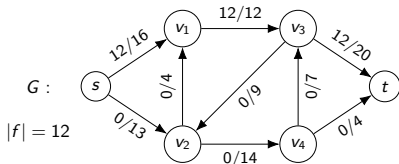


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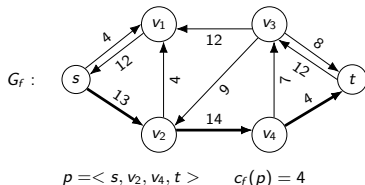
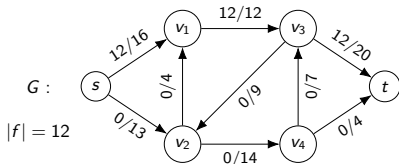


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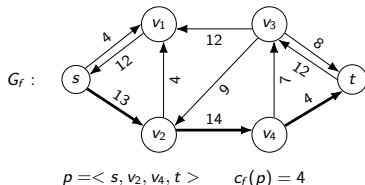
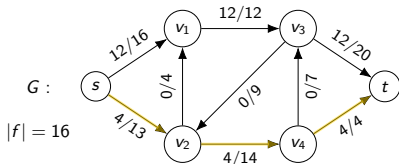


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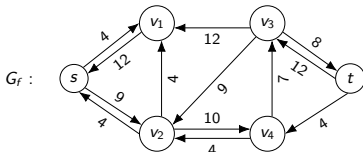
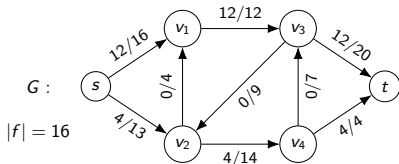


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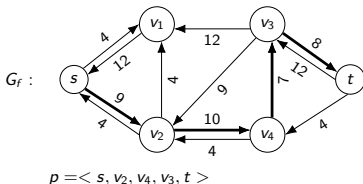
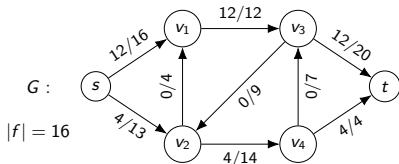


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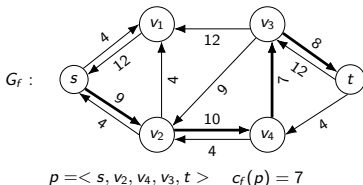
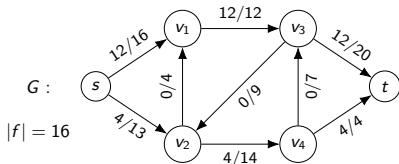


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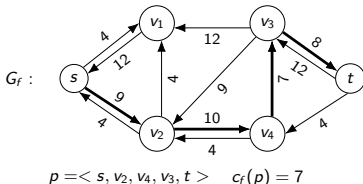
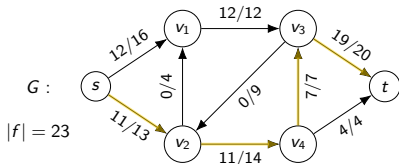


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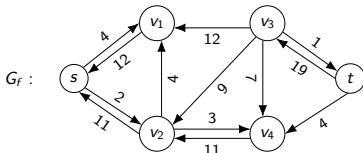
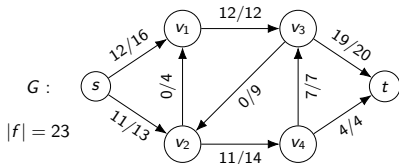


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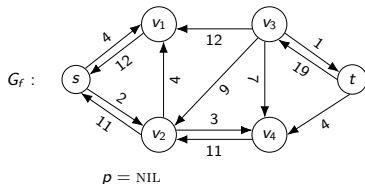
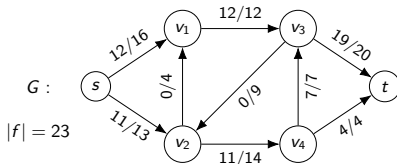


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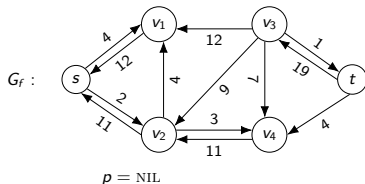
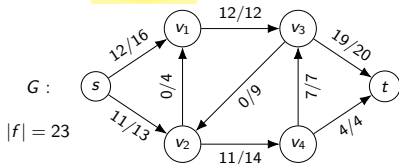


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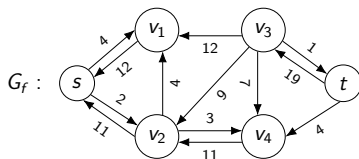
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# Max-flow min-cut exemplification

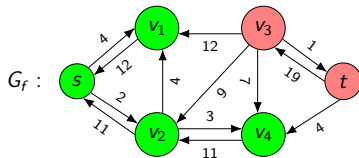


No path from  $s$  to  $t$  in the residual network





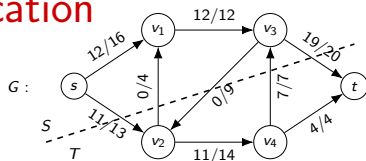
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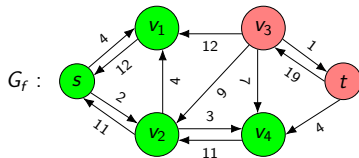
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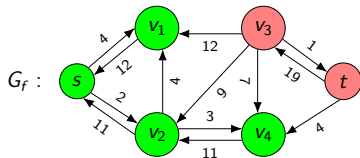
- $f(S, T) = 11 + 0 + 19 - 0 - 7 = 23$
- $c(S, T) = 13 + 9 + 20 = 42$
- any cut has the same net flow



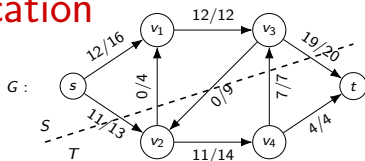
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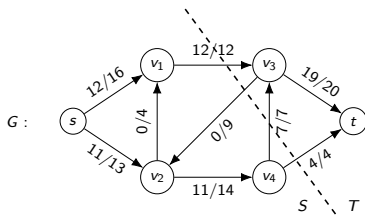
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- $f(S, T) = 11 + 0 + 19 - 0 - 7 = 23$
- $c(S, T) = 13 + 9 + 20 = 42$
- any cut has the same net flow



- $f(S, T) = 12 + 7 + 4 - 0 = 23$
- $c(S, T) = 12 + 7 + 4 = 23$
- $f(S, T) = c(S, T) \Rightarrow$  **min-cut**



# The Edmonds-Karp algorithm - analysis

## Theorem 26.8

If the Edmonds-Karp algorithm is run on a flow network  $G = (V, E)$  with source  $s$  and sink  $t$ , then the total number of flow augmentations performed by the algorithm is  $O(V \cdot E)$ .



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- since each BFS takes  $O(V + E) = O(E)$ , the total running time is  $O(V \cdot E^2)$
- there exist  $O(V^3)$  algorithms for computing the maximum flow (see textbook) and even faster ones



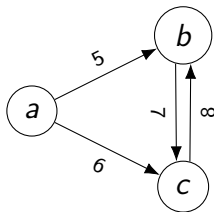
# Networks with anti-parallel edges

- we didn't allow anti-parallel edges so we can add them in the residual network
- in real-world problems we can avoid anti-parallel edges by adding an extra vertex



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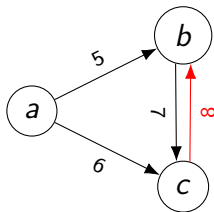






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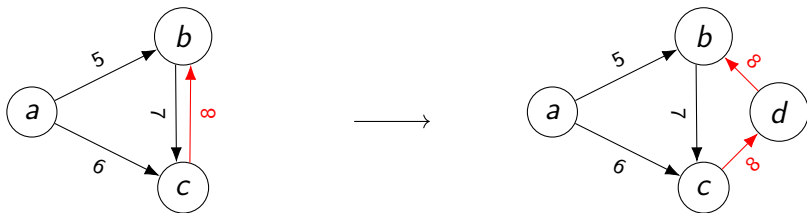
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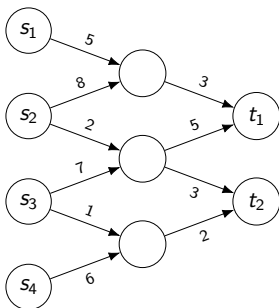
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# Networks with multiple sources and sinks

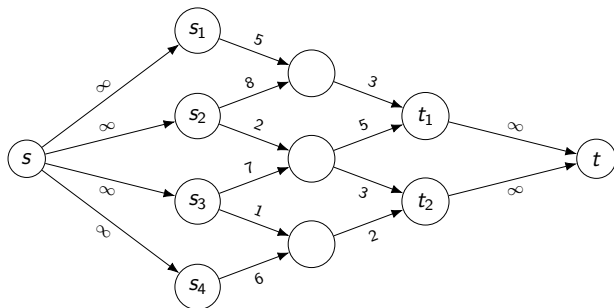
- the problem is more generic





# Networks with multiple sources and sinks

- the problem is more generic
- we can reduce it to the single source single sink problem by adding two extra vertices
  - source  $s$  with infinite-capacity edges to previous sources
  - sink  $t$  with infinite-capacity edges from previous sinks





# Agenda

- 1 Maximum Flow concepts
- 2 The Ford-Fulkerson method
- 3 Maximum bipartite matching**
- 4 Graphs recap
- 5 Exam info



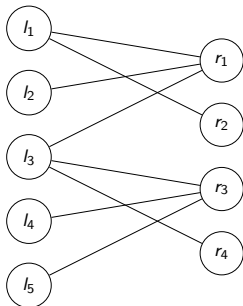
## Intuition

- we are given a team of people  $L$  and a set of jobs  $R$
- each person can perform a specific set of jobs
- assign at most one job to each person in order to perform as many jobs as possible



# Intuition

- we are given a team of people  $L$  and a set of jobs  $R$
- each person can perform a specific set of jobs
- assign at most one job to each person in order to perform as many jobs as possible
- we can model the problem as a graph  $G = (V, E)$  where  $V = L \cup R$  and  $E = \{(l_i, r_j) : \text{person } l_i \text{ can perform job } r_j\}$





# Formalism

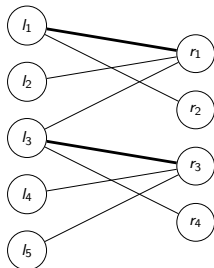
- Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , a **matching** is a subset of edges  $M \subseteq E$  such that  $\forall v \in V$ , at most one edge of  $M$  is incident on  $v$ .
- A **maximum matching** is a matching of maximum cardinality.





# Formalism

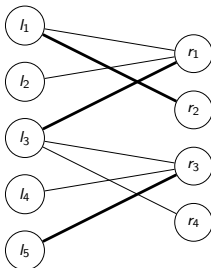
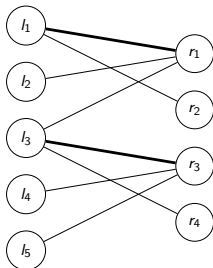
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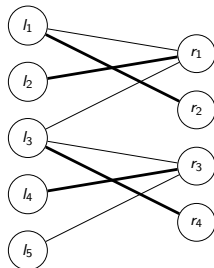
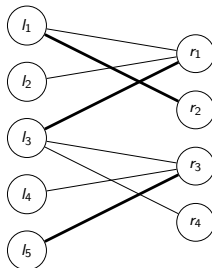
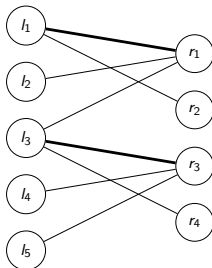
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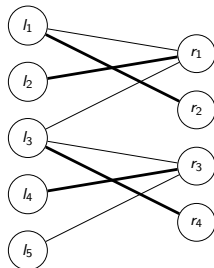
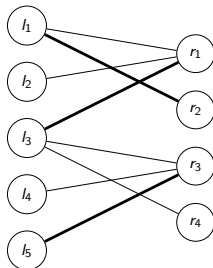
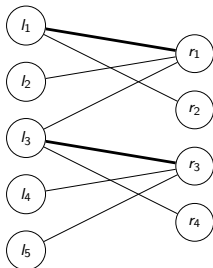
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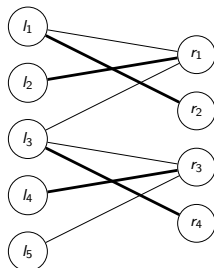
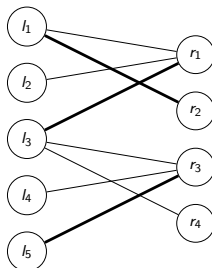
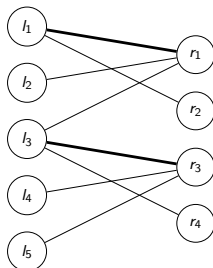


- We are interested in finding the **maximum matching** in **bipartite graphs**.



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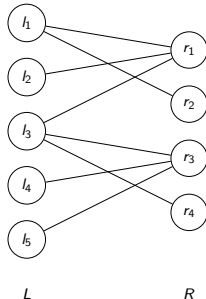


- We are interested in finding the **maximum matching** in **bipartite graphs**.
- Greedy approach doesn't work (see the figure on the left).



# Maximum bipartite matching as a flow problem

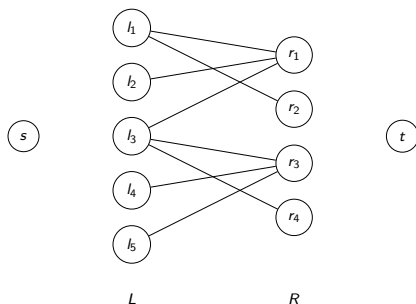
- define the corresponding flow network  $G' = (V', E')$





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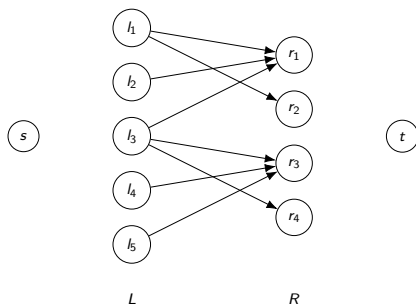
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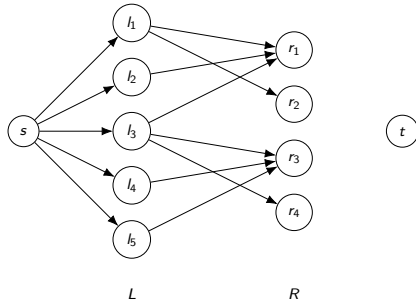






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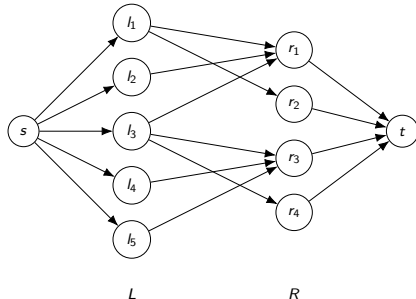
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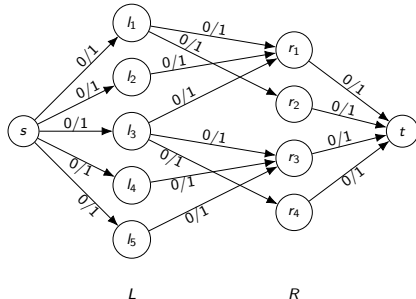
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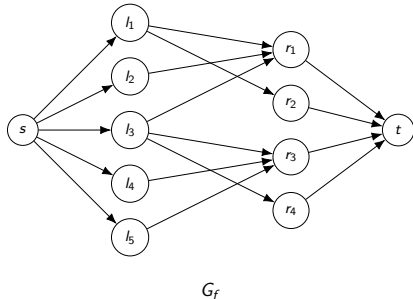
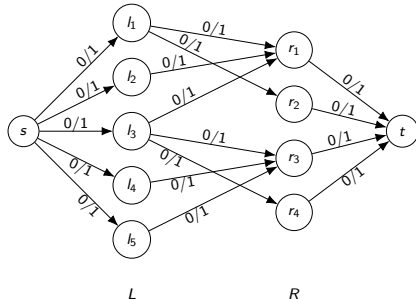
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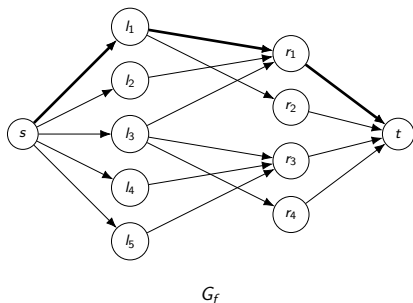
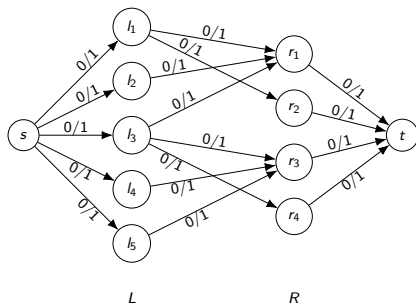
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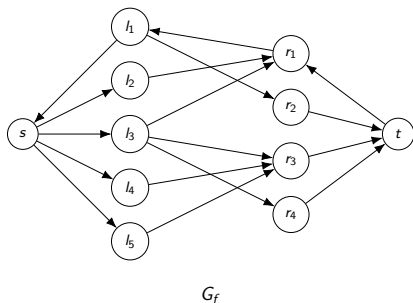
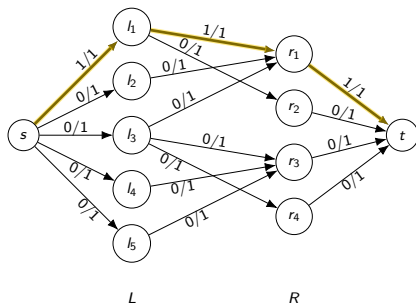
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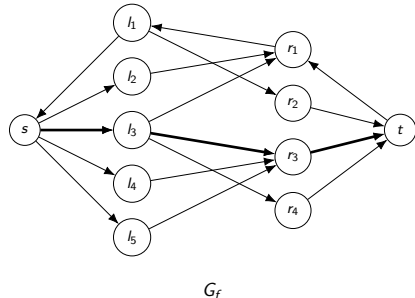
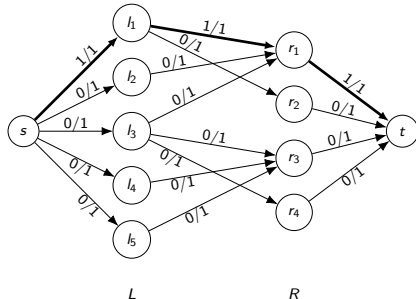
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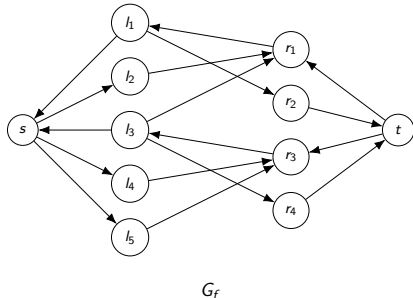
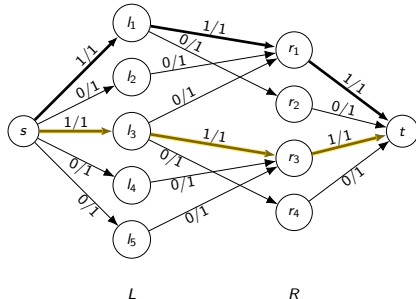
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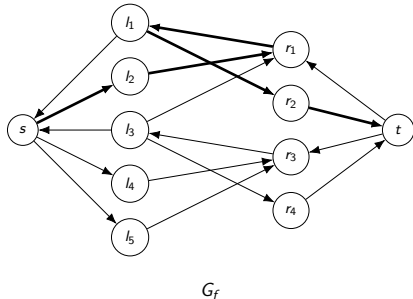
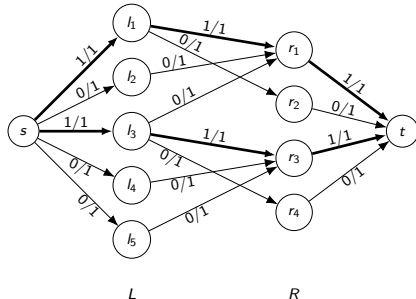






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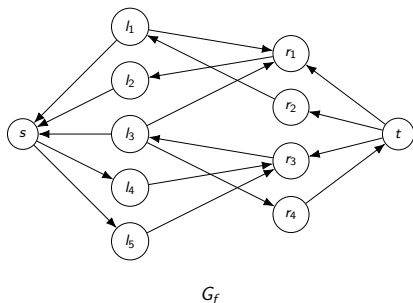
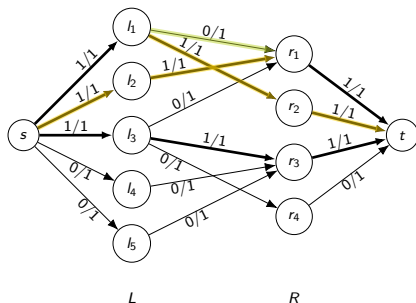
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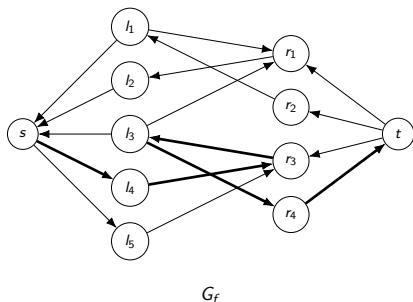
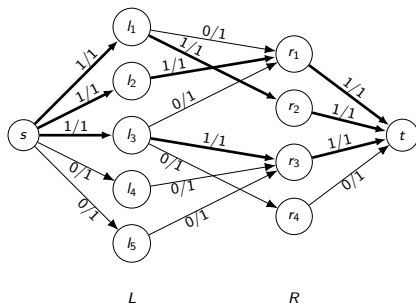
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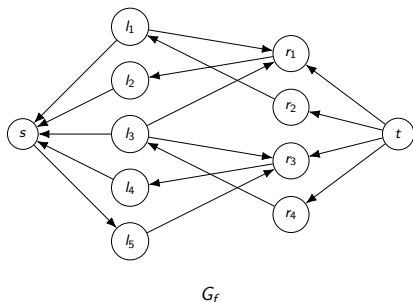
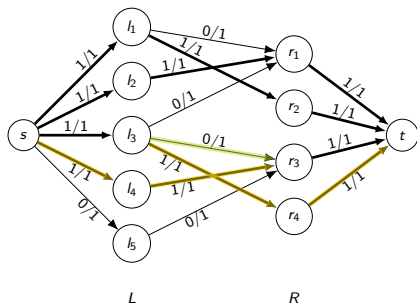
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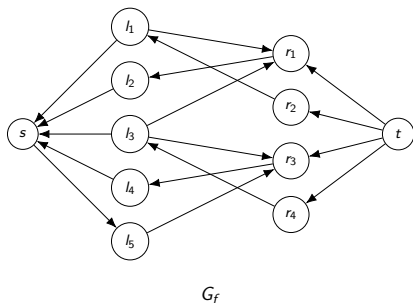
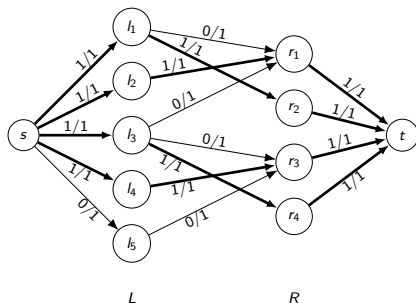
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# Maximum bipartite matching - analysis

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- complexity for maximum bipartite matching:  $O(V \cdot E)$

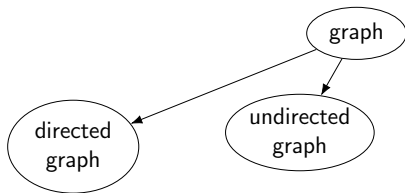


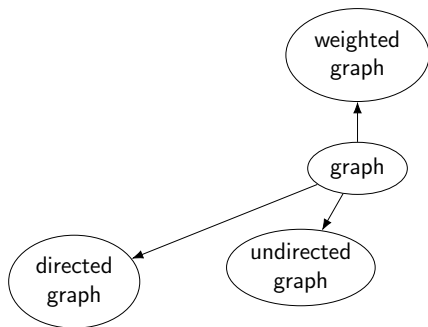
# Agenda

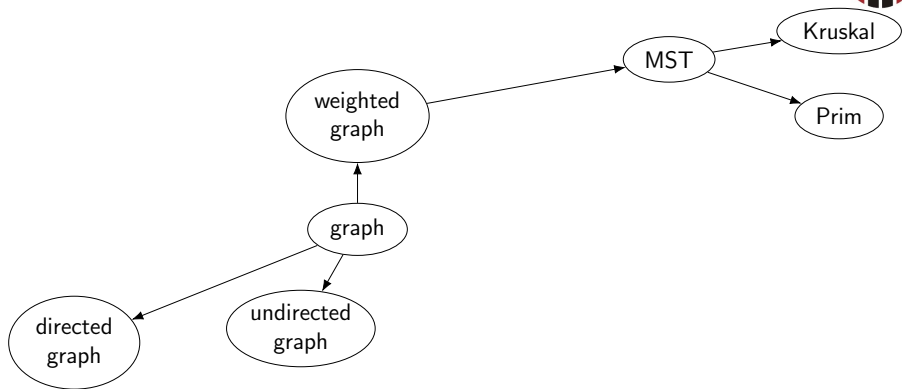
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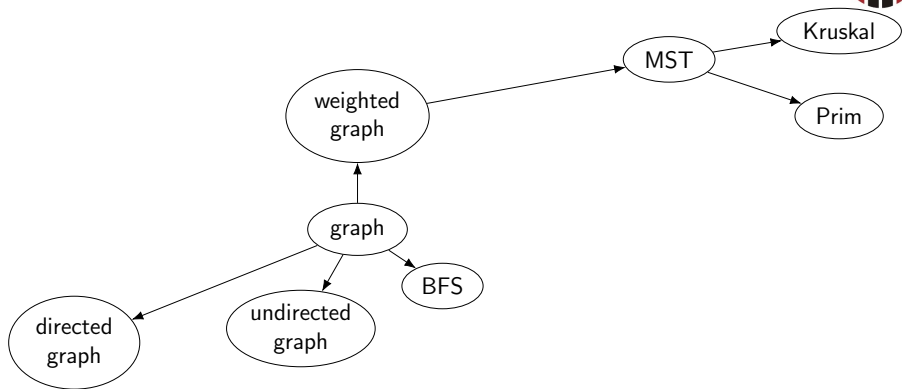


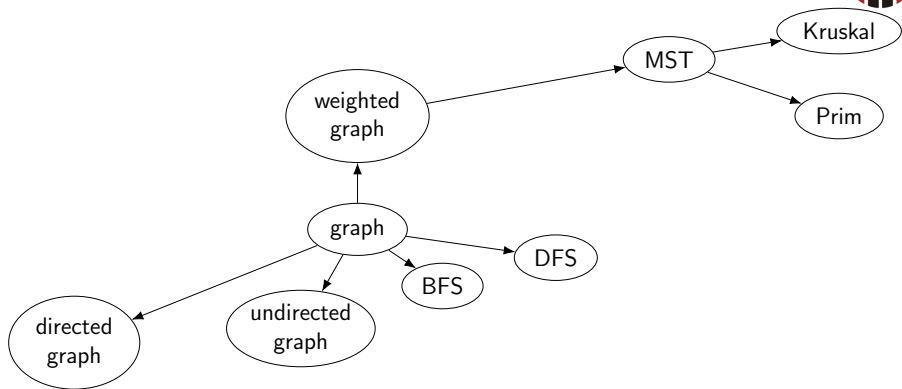
graph



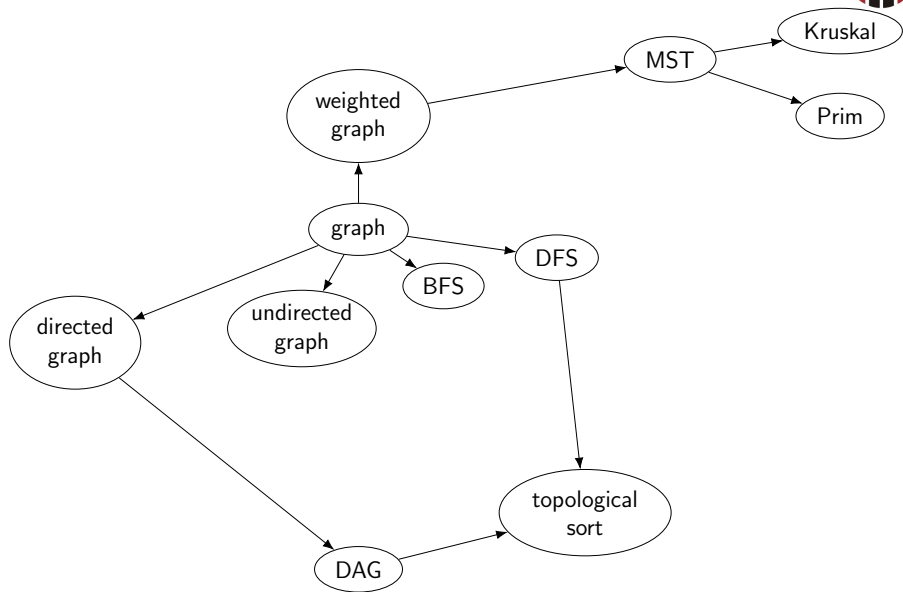


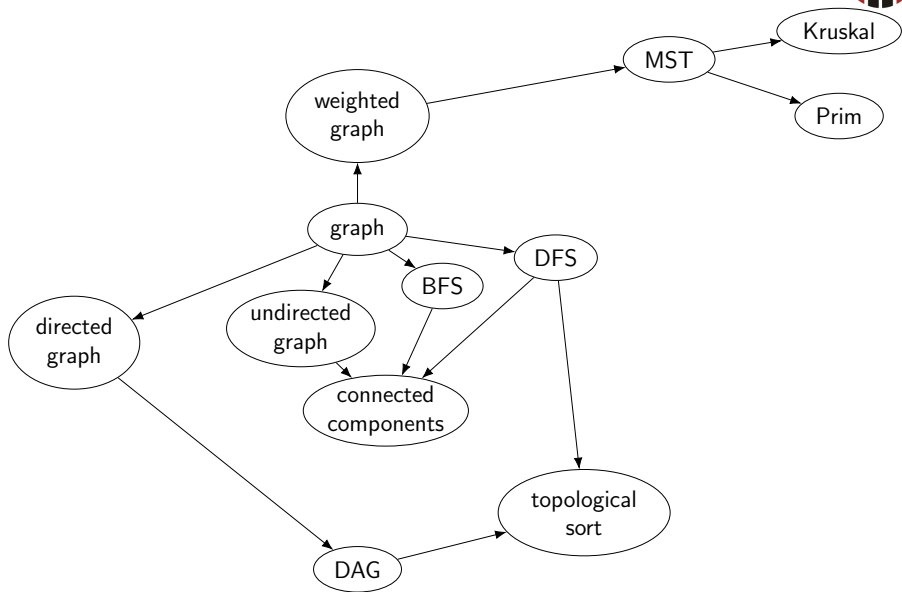


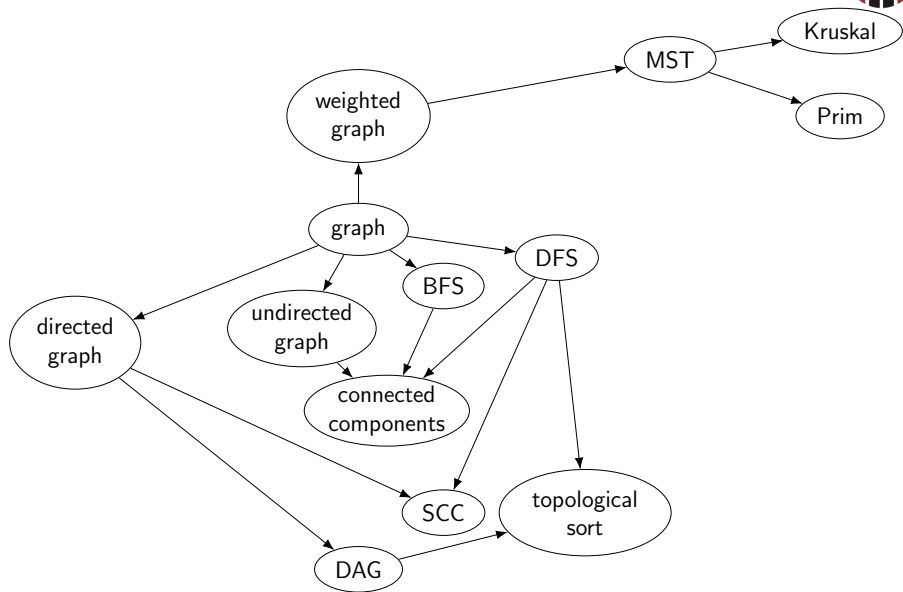


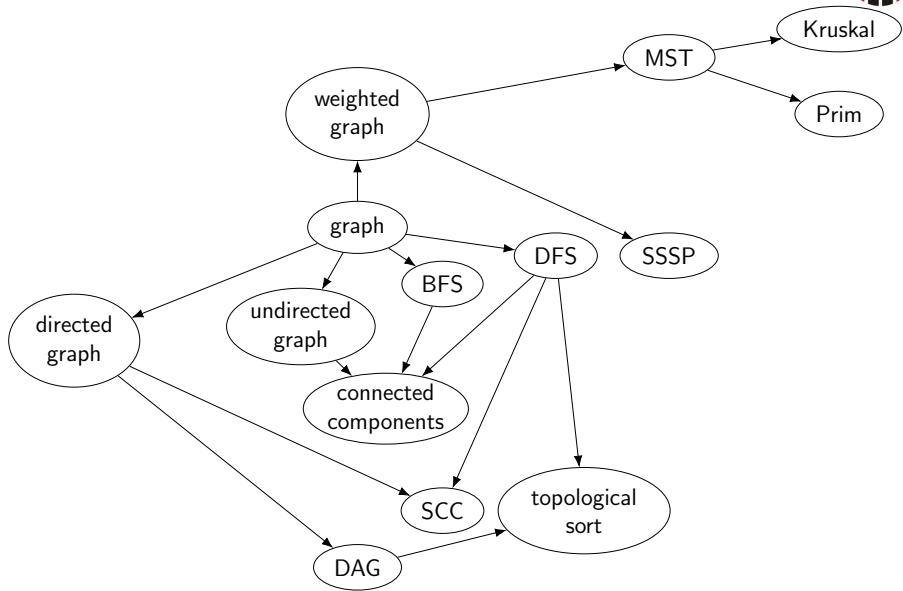


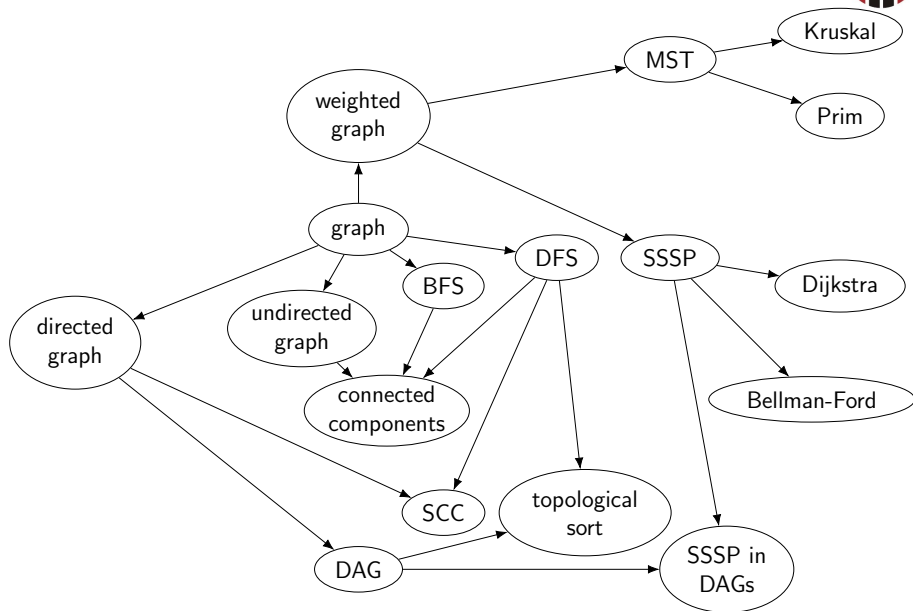


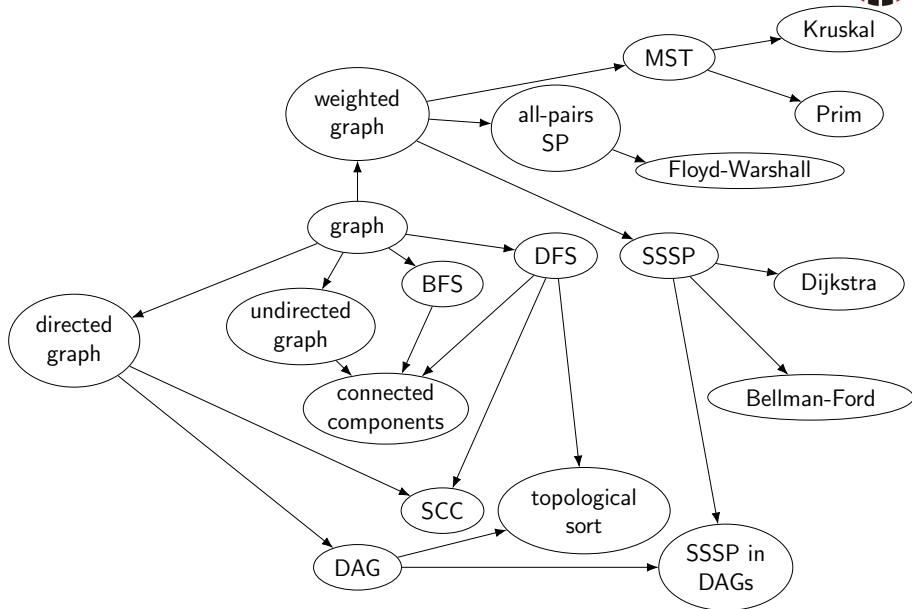


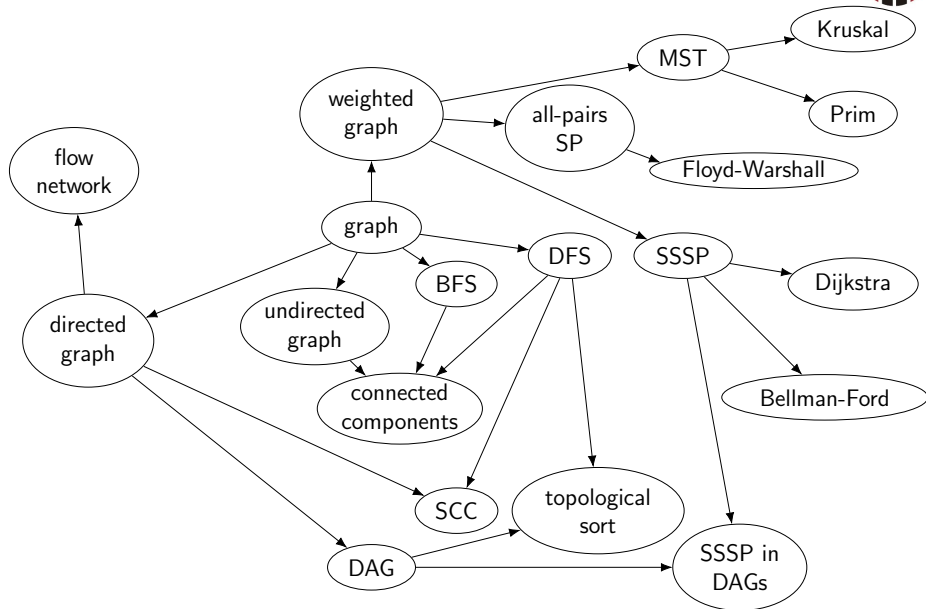


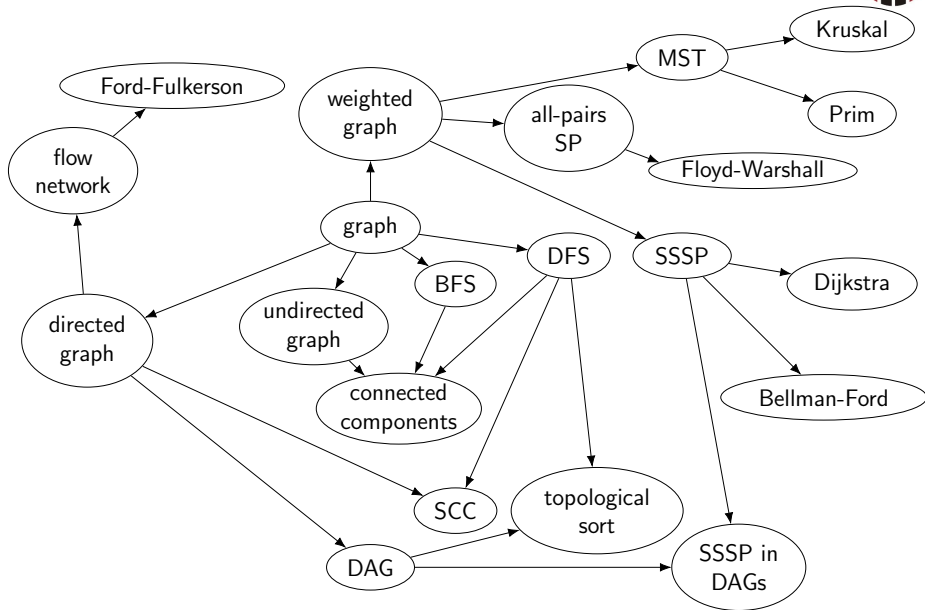




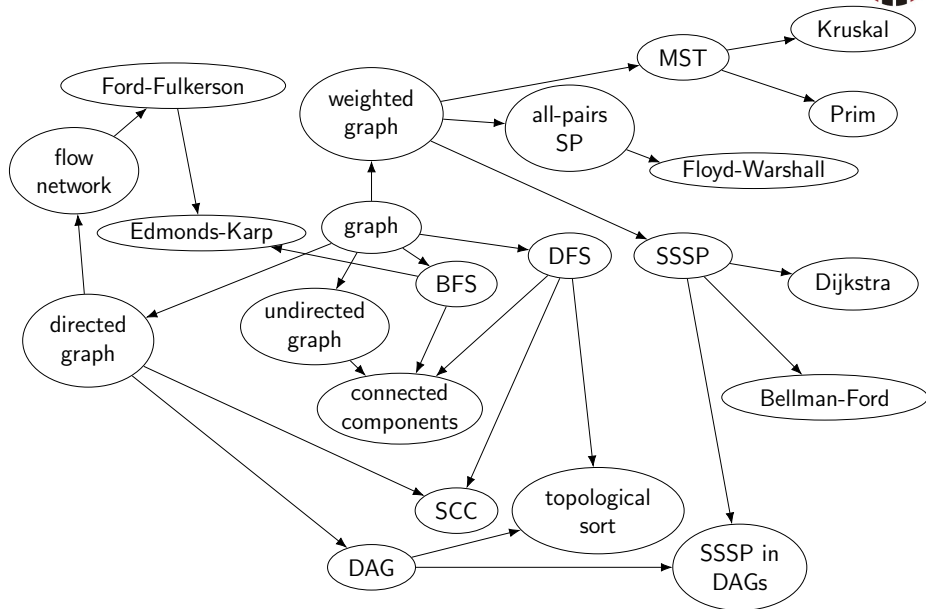


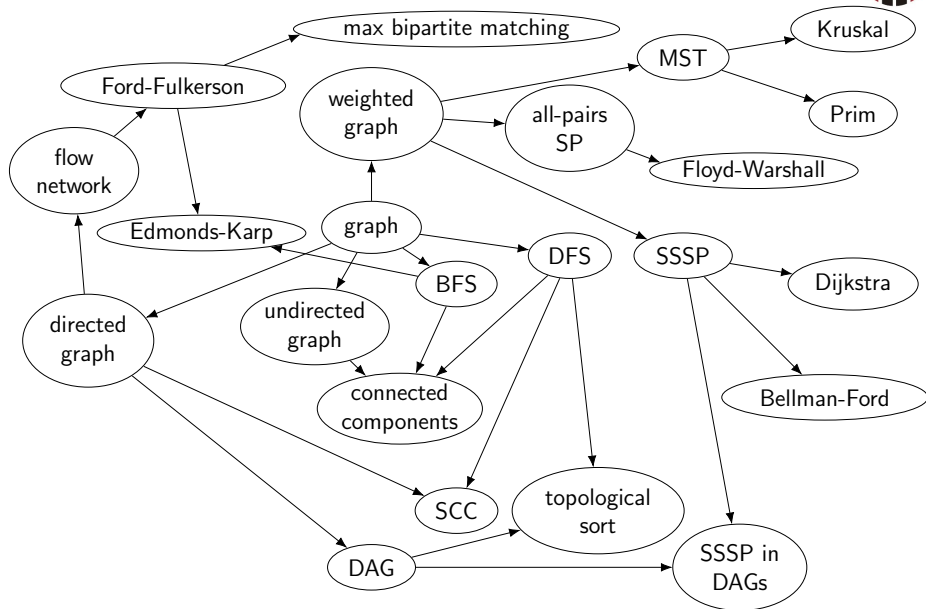














# Agenda

- 1 Maximum Flow concepts
- 2 The Ford-Fulkerson method
- 3 Maximum bipartite matching
- 4 Graphs recap
- 5 Exam info



# Location

- Romanian series A:  
`https://moodle1.cs.utcluj.ro/course/view.php?id=292`
- Romanian series B:  
`https://moodle2.cs.utcluj.ro/course/view.php?id=292`
- English series:  
`https://moodle3.cs.utcluj.ro/course/view.php?id=292`
  
- the three server will be clones of the main moodle server
  - make sure your login works on them 48h before the exam



# Format

- several Moodle quizzes
  - multiple choice - automatically graded
  - short answer - automatically graded
  - fill in the gaps - automatically graded
  - essay (text/images) - manually graded
- for each question/part you will have a fixed time interval
- sequential access (once you answer or skip a question, you won't be able to return to it)



# Structure and grading

- 30% lab grade
- 20% course quizzes
- 50% final exam
  - 30% part 1 - questions resembling the course quizzes
  - 40% part 2 - questions focused on tracing the studied algorithms
  - 40% part 3 - questions focused on designing and analyzing algorithms
    - explain the solution and (informally) justify the correctness
    - write the pseudocode (without defining data structures)
    - analyze the algorithm complexity



# Bibliography

- Cormen, Thomas H., et al., *"Introduction to algorithms."*, MIT press, 2009, cap. 26