



Programa de Pós-graduação em
INFORMÁTICA



PUC Minas



Teoria dos Grafos e Computabilidade

— Network Flow —

Silvio Jamil F. Guimarães

Graduate Program in Informatics – PPGINF

Image and Multimedia Data Science Laboratory – IMScience

Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais – PUC Minas



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— Maximum Flow and Minimum Cut —

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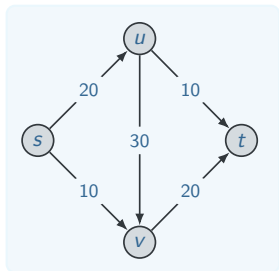
Maximum Flow and Minimum Cut

- ▶ Two rich algorithmic problems.
- ▶ Fundamental problems in combinatorial optimization.
- ▶ Beautiful mathematical duality between flows and cuts.
- ▶ Numerous non-trivial applications:
 - ▶ Bipartite matching.
 - ▶ Data mining.
 - ▶ Project selection.
 - ▶ Airline scheduling.
 - ▶ Baseball elimination.
 - ▶ Image segmentation.
 - ▶ Network connectivity.
 - ▶ Open-pit mining.
 - ▶ Network reliability.
 - ▶ Distributed computing.
 - ▶ Egalitarian stable matching.
 - ▶ Security of statistical data.
 - ▶ Network intrusion detection.
 - ▶ Multi-camera scene reconstruction.
 - ▶ Gene function prediction.

- ▶ Use directed graphs to model transportation networks :
 - ▶ edges carry traffic and have capacities.
 - ▶ nodes act as switches.
 - ▶ *source* nodes generate traffic, *sink* nodes absorb traffic.

Flow Networks

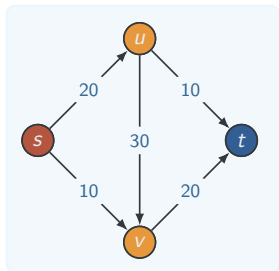
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 - ▶ Each edge $e \in E$ has a capacity $c(e) > 0$.

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 - ▶ edges carry traffic and have capacities.
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- ▶ A **flow network** is a directed graph $G = (V, E)$
 - ▶ Each edge $e \in E$ has a capacity $c(e) > 0$.
 - ▶ There is a single **source** node $s \in V$.
 - ▶ There is a single **sink** node $t \in V$.
 - ▶ Nodes other than s and t are **internal**.

Defining Flow

- In a flow network $G = (V, E)$, an **s-t flow** is a function $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ such that

- (i) **Capacity conditions** For each $e \in E$, $0 \leq f(e) \leq c(e)$.
- (ii) **Conservation conditions** For each internal node v ,

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

- The **value** of a flow is $\nu(f) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } s} f(e)$.

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- ▶ The **value** of a flow is $\nu(f) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } s} f(e)$.
- ▶ Useful notation:

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

For $S \subseteq V$,

$$f^{\text{out}}(S) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } S} f(e)$$

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

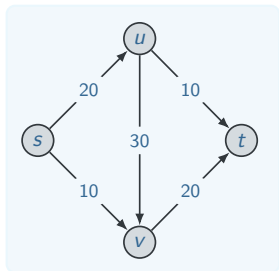
$$f^{\text{in}}(S) = \sum_{e \text{ into } S} f(e)$$

Maximum-Flow Problem

MAXIMUM FLOW

INSTANCE A flow network G

SOLUTION The flow with largest value in G



► **Assumptions:**

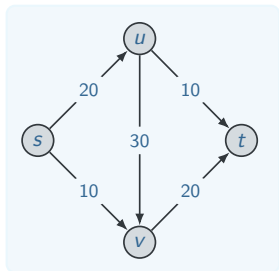
1. No edges **enter** s , no edges **leave** t .

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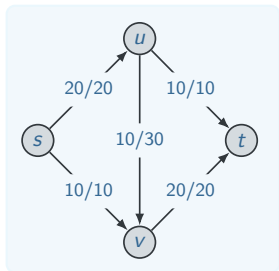
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► **Assumptions:**

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3. All edge capacities are **integers**.

Questions?

Network Flow

- Maximum Flow and Minimum Cut –



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Teoria dos Grafos e Computabilidade

— Ford-Fulkerson Algorithm —

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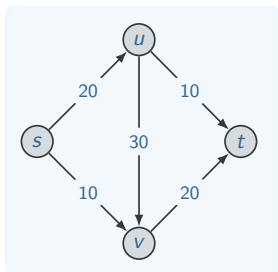
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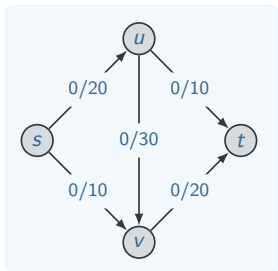
Developing the Algorithm

- ▶ A flow network is a directed graph $G = (V, E)$



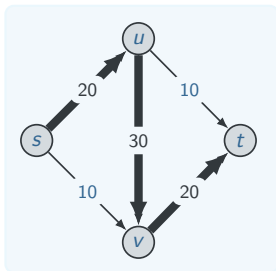
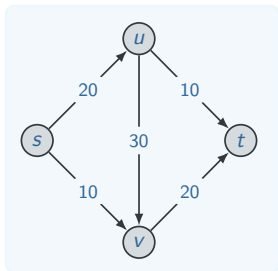
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- ▶ A **flow network** is a directed graph $G = (V, E)$
- ▶ Let us take a greedy approach.
 1. Start with **zero flow** along all edges.



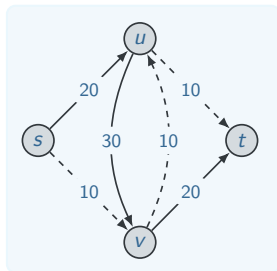
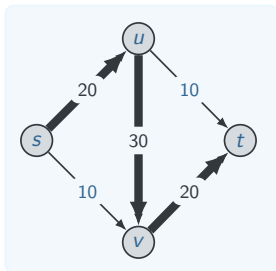
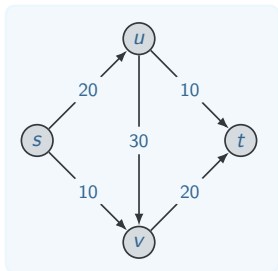
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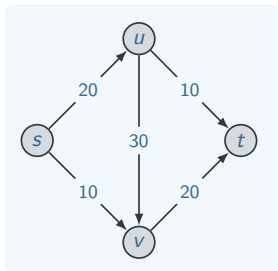
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 3. **Key idea**: Push flow along edges with **leftover** capacity and **undo flow** on edges already carrying flow.



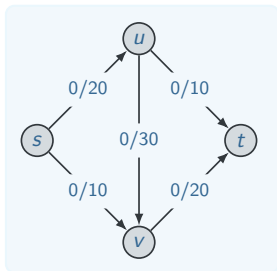
Residual Graph

- ▶ Given a flow network $G = (V, E)$ and a flow f on G , the residual graph G_f of G with respect to f is a directed graph such that
 - (i) Nodes – G_f has the same nodes as G .



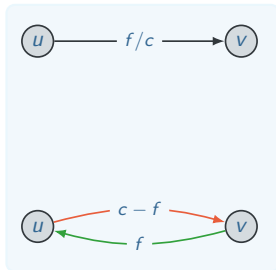
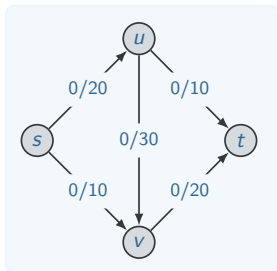
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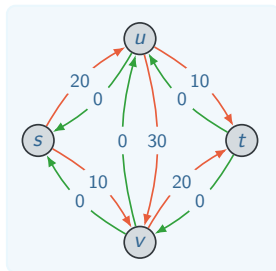
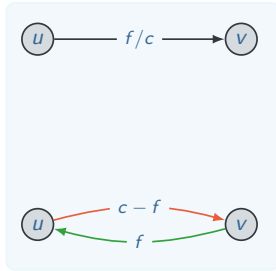
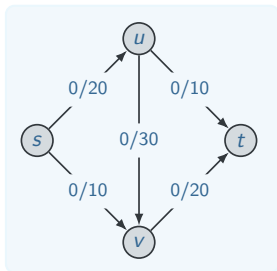
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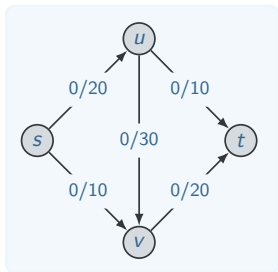
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Augmenting Paths in a Residual Graph

- ▶ Let P be a **simple s - t path** in G_f .
- ▶ **bottleneck(P, f)** is the minimum residual capacity of any edge in P .
- ▶ The following operation **augment(f, P)** yields a new flow f' in G :



Algorithm: Augmented path

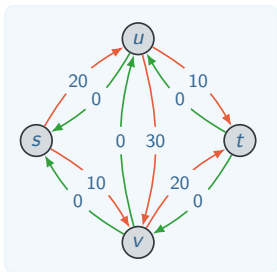
input : A graph $G = (V, E)$, a path P and a source s and a sink t nodes.

output: The distances of the vertices from s

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1 Let  $b = \text{bottleneck}(P, f)$  ;
2 foreach edge  $e = (u, v) \in P$  do
3   if  $e$  is a forward edge then
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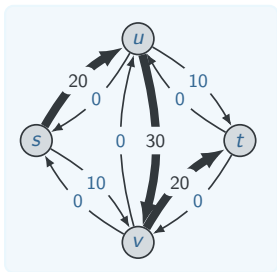
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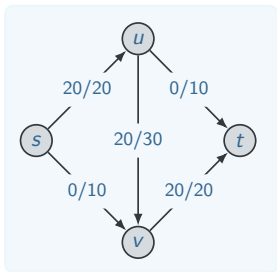
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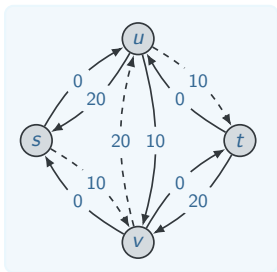
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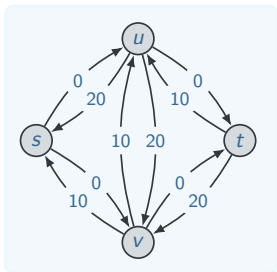
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- ▶ A simple s - t path in the residual graph is an augmenting path.
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 - ▶ Conservation condition on internal node $v \in P$. Four cases to work out.

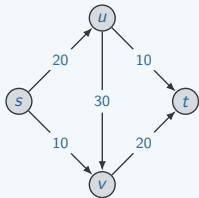
Ford-Fulkerson Algorithm

Algorithm: Ford-Fulkerson Algorithm

input : A graph $G = (V, E)$, a source s and a sink t nodes.

output: The flow f

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1  $f(e) = 0, \forall e \in E$ ;  
2 while there is a path  $s$ - $t$  in the residual graph  $G_f$  do  
3   | Let  $P$  be a simple  $s$ - $t$  path in  $G_f$ ;  
4   |  $f' = \text{augment}(f, P)$ ;  
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7 end  
8 return  $f$ ;
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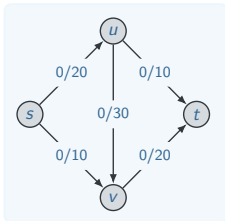
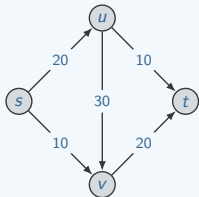
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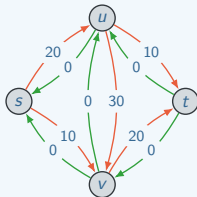
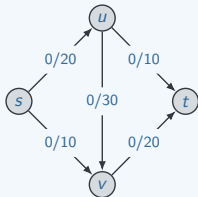
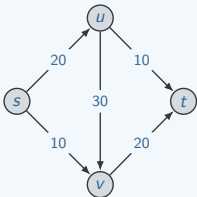
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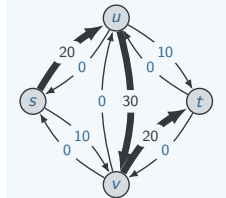
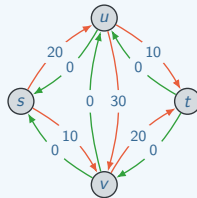
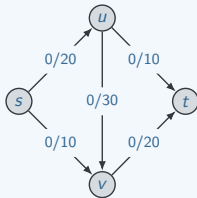
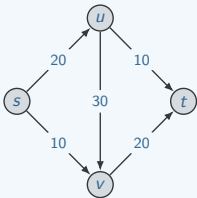
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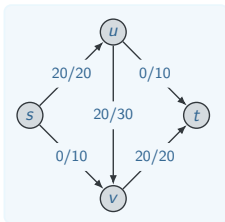
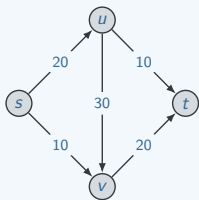
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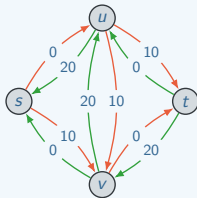
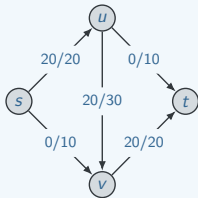
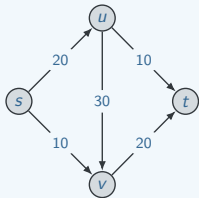
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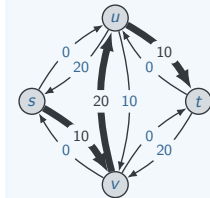
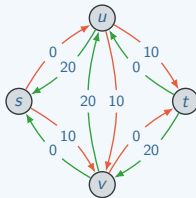
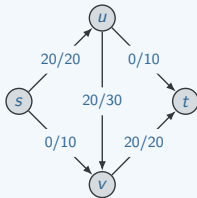
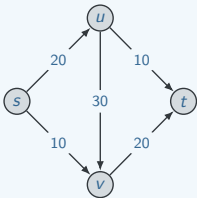
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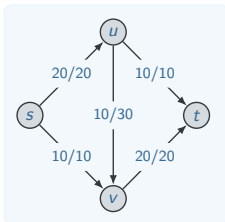
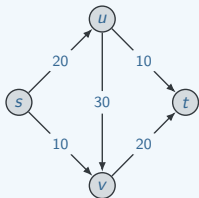
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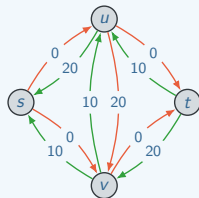
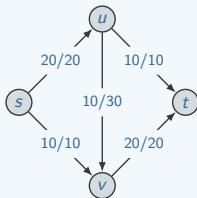
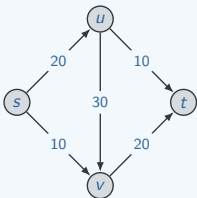
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- ▶ Idea: An **s - t cut** is a partition of V into sets A and B such that $s \in A$ and $t \in B$.
 - ▶ **Capacity** of the cut (A, B) is $c(A, B) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } A} c(e)$.
 - ▶ Intuition: For every flow f , $\nu(f) \leq c(A, B)$.

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- ▶ Question: Is the reverse true? Is the smallest capacity of a cut at most the maximum flow?
- ▶ Answer: Yes, and the Ford-Fulkerson algorithm computes this **cut**!

- ▶ Let \bar{f} denote the flow computed by the Ford-Fulkerson algorithm.
- ▶ Enough to show $\exists s-t$ cut (A^*, B^*) such that $\nu(\bar{f}) = c(A^*, B^*)$.
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- ▶ Claim: If f is an s - t flow such that G_f has no s - t path, then there is an s - t cut (A^*, B^*) such that $\nu(f) = c(A^*, B^*)$.
 - ▶ Claim applies to *any* flow f such that G_f has no s - t path, and not just to the flow \bar{f} computed by the Ford-Fulkerson algorithm.

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- ▶ Claim: f is an s - t flow and G_f has no s - t path $\Rightarrow \exists$ s - t cut (A^*, B^*) , $\nu(f) = c(A^*, B^*)$.
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Max-Flow Min-Cut Theorem

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- ▶ Corollary: If all capacities in a flow network are integers, then there is a maximum flow f where every flow value $f(e)$ is an integer.

Questions?

Network Flow
– Ford-Fulkerson Algorithm –



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Teoria dos Grafos e Computabilidade

— Scaling Max-Flow Algorithm —

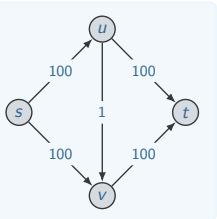
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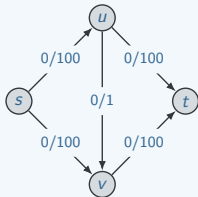
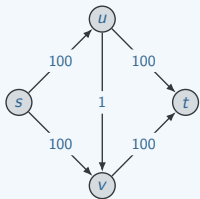
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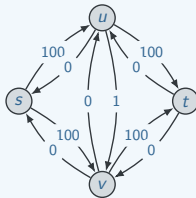
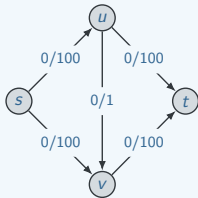
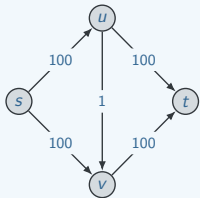
Bad Augmenting Paths



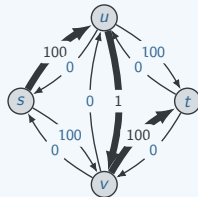
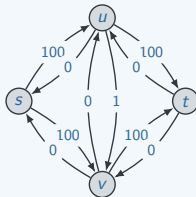
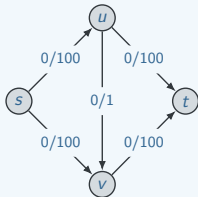
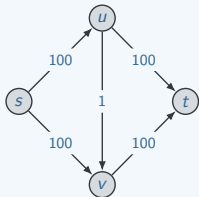
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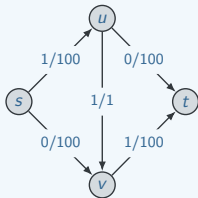
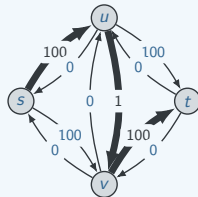
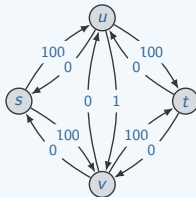
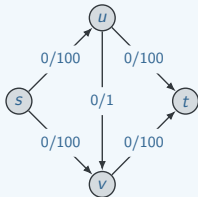
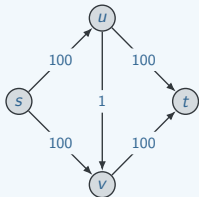
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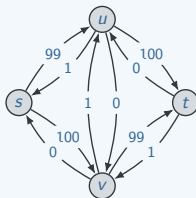
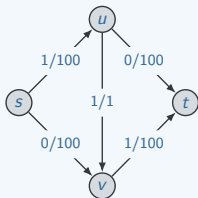
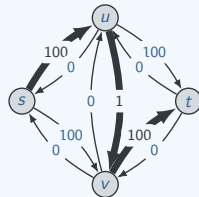
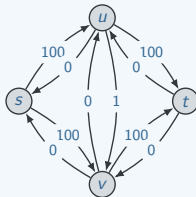
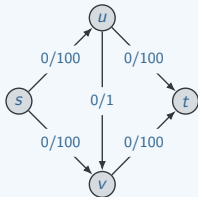
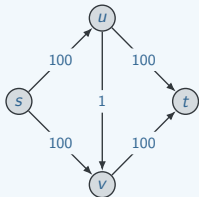
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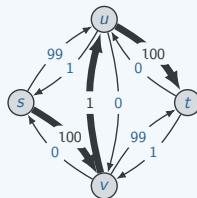
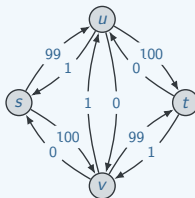
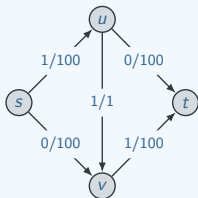
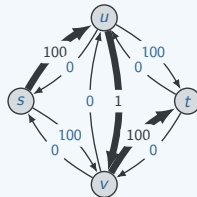
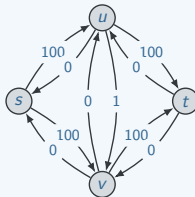
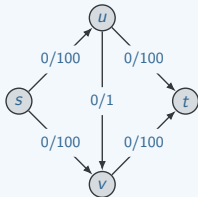
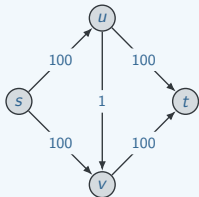
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Improving Ford-Fulkerson Algorithm

- ▶ Bad case for Ford-Fulkerson algorithm is when the bottleneck edge is the augmenting path has a low capacity.
- ▶ Idea: decrease number of iterations by picking s - t path with bottleneck edge of largest capacity.

Improving Ford-Fulkerson Algorithm

- ▶ Bad case for Ford-Fulkerson algorithm is when the bottleneck edge is the augmenting path has a low capacity.
- ▶ Idea: decrease number of iterations by picking s - t path with bottleneck edge of largest capacity. Computing this path can slow down each iteration considerably.

Other Maximum Flow Algorithms

- Desire a **strongly polynomial** algorithm: running time depends only on the *size* of the graph and is *independent* of the numerical values of the capacities (as long as numerical operations).

Other Maximum Flow Algorithms

- ▶ Desire a **strongly polynomial** algorithm: running time depends only on the *size* of the graph and is *independent* of the numerical values of the capacities (as long as numerical operations).
- ▶ **Edmonds-Karp, Dinitz**: choose augmenting path to be the shortest path in G_f (use breadth-first search).

Questions?

Network Flow

– Scaling Max-Flow Algorithm –



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Teoria dos Grafos e Computabilidade

— Exercises —

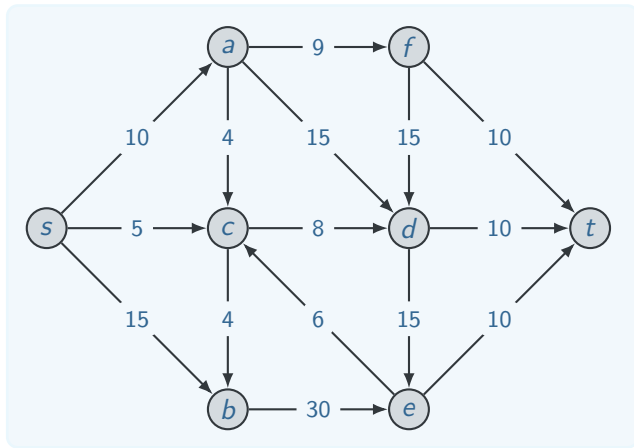
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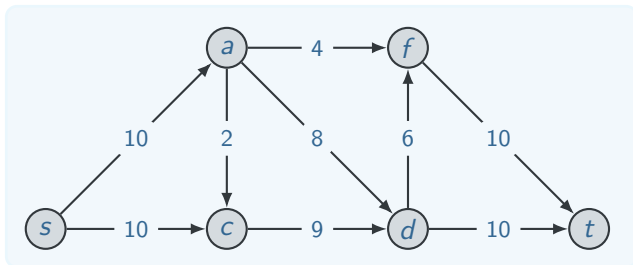
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Compute the maximum flow



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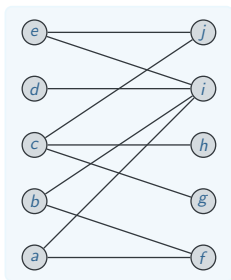


Bipartite graph matching

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INSTANCE Let $G = (L \cup R, E)$ be an undirected graph. $M \subseteq E$ is a **matching** if each node appear in, at most, one edge in M .

SOLUTION Find a **max cardinality** matching.

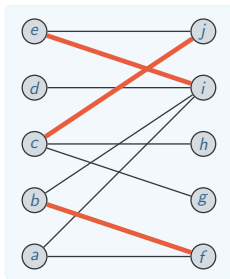


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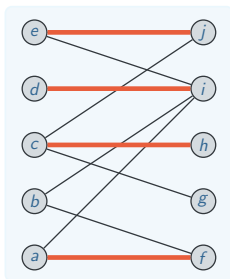


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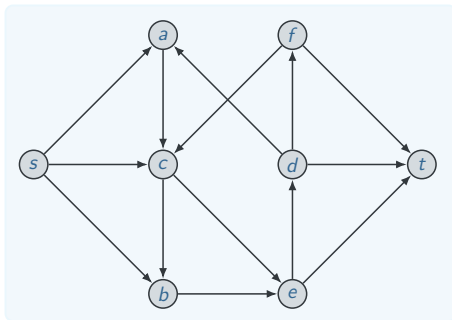
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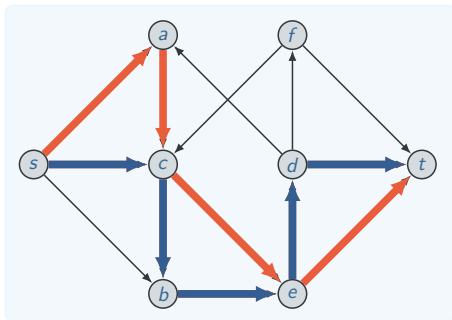


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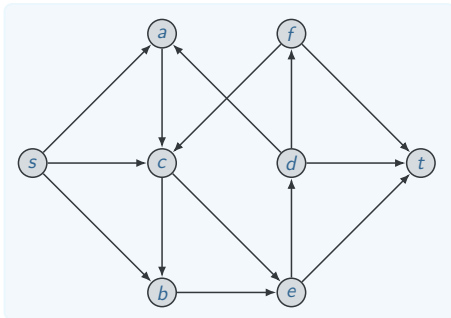
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