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Lemma: Let \tilde{G} be an update flow network with k flow pairs, and let $F, F' \in P$ be two flow pairs such that:

$$(i) d_F = d_{F'},$$

(ii) F and F' have no common vertices other than s, t , that is $V(F) \cap V(F') = \{s, t\}$, and

(iii) there are edges $e_F, e_{F'}$ such that
 (i) $e_F, e_{F'}$ is the last edge on both F^o and F^u (F'^o and F'^u), and

(ii) the capacity constraint for $e_F, e_{F'}$ is true always satisfied, that is

$$c(e_F) \geq \sum_{p \in P: e_F \in E(p^o \cup p^u)} d_p \quad c(e_{F'}) \geq \sum_{p \in P: e_{F'} \in E(p^o \cup p^u)} d_p.$$

Then there is an update flow network \tilde{G} with $k-1$ flow pairs such that $(|\tilde{G}| = O(|G|))$ and there is a feasible block sequence $B = (t_1, \dots, t_c)$ for \tilde{G} iff there is a feasible block sequence $\tilde{B} = (\tilde{t}_1, \dots, \tilde{t}_c)$ for \tilde{G} .

Proof.

Let $v_F, v_{F'}$ be two vertices such that let $G = (V, E, P, s, t, c)$ be an update flow network with $|P| \geq 2$, and let $F, F' \in P$ be two flow pairs satisfying properties (i), (ii), (iii). Then let $v_P, v_{P'}$ be two vertices such that $(v_F, t) \in E(F^o \cap F^u)$, $(s, v_{F'}) \in E(F'^o \cap F'^u)$, and the capacity constraints for $(v_F, t), (s, v_{F'})$ are always satisfied. We construct an update flow network $\tilde{G} = (V, \tilde{E}, \tilde{P}, s, t, \tilde{c})$ such that there is a feasible block sequence $B = (t_1, \dots, t_c)$ for \tilde{G} iff there is a feasible block sequence $\tilde{B} = (\tilde{t}_1, \dots, \tilde{t}_c)$ for \tilde{G} as follows. Intuitively, we merge flow pairs F and F' into a single flow pair \tilde{F} by concatenating F and F' . More precisely, \tilde{F} will be the union of F and F' except that we replace edges (v_F, t) and $(s, v_{F'})$ by edge $(v_F, v_{P'})$. More formally, we define \tilde{F} as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} - \tilde{E}(\tilde{F}^o) &= E(F^o) - \{(v_F, t)\} \cup E(F'^o) - \{(s, v_{F'})\} \cup \{(v_F, v_{P'})\} \\ - \tilde{E}(\tilde{F}^u) &= E(F^u) - \quad " \quad . \\ - d_{\tilde{F}} &= d_F \end{aligned}$$

Update flow network $\tilde{G} = (V, \tilde{E}, \tilde{P}, s, t, \tilde{c})$ is defined as follows:

Actually, we might $- \tilde{E} = E \cup \{(v_F, v_{P'})\}$
 have to remove (v_F, t) ,

$(s, v_{F'})$, so just define $- \tilde{P} = P - \{F, F'\} \cup \{\tilde{F}\}$
 E as the union of all $E(\tilde{P}^o \cup \tilde{P}^u)$

We probably
 need that
 $(v_F, v_{P'}) \notin E$

$$\begin{cases} \sum_{P \in \tilde{P}: e \in E(\tilde{P}^o \cup \tilde{P}^u)} d_p & \text{if } e = (v_F, v_{P'}) \\ (c) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Notice that \tilde{G} is feasible iff G is feasible.

We now show that there is a feasible block sequence $\tilde{B} = \{\tilde{B}_1, \dots, \tilde{B}_c\}$ for \tilde{b} iff there is a feasible block sequence $B = \{B_1, \dots, B_c\}$ for b .

$$\text{Claim: } \tilde{B}^*(\tilde{b}) = \begin{cases} B^*(b) - \{\{v_F, t\}\} \cup B^F(b) - \{\{s, v_F\}\} \cup \{\{v_F, v_P\}\} & \text{if } \tilde{P} = \tilde{F} \\ B^P(b) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Proof.

See scratch.

\Rightarrow''

Let $B = \{B_1, \dots, B_c\}$ be a feasible block sequence for b . We define block sequence $\tilde{B} = \{\tilde{B}_1, \dots, \tilde{B}_c\}$ for \tilde{b} as follows.

$$\tilde{B}(\tilde{b}) = \begin{cases} \tilde{b} & \text{if } \tilde{P}(\tilde{b}) = \tilde{F} \text{ and } \tilde{b} = \{\{v_F, v_P\}\} \\ B(b) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

I would like to avoid this case as we don't need to schedule this block anyway.

Notice that if $\tilde{P}(\tilde{b}) \neq \tilde{F}$ or $\tilde{b} \neq \{\{v_F, v_P\}\}$, then by Claim $\sim \tilde{b} \in B(b)$.

We now show that \tilde{B} is indeed feasible. Let $i \in [1]$ and $(u, v) \in E$. We show that inequality (1) is satisfied

for i , (u, v) . If $(u, v) \in \{\{v_F, t\}, \{s, v_F\}, \{v_F, v_P\}\}$, then $c(u, v) \geq \sum_{p \in P: (u, v) \in E(p, p)} d_p$. Hence it suffices to consider $(u, v) \notin \dots$

Do we need $\{(v_F, t), (s, v_F)\}$ here?

Claim: Let $i \in [1]$. Then:

(i) If $\tilde{\alpha}_{\tilde{P}}(c, \tilde{B}_i) = \text{active}$, then $\alpha_p(c, B_i) = \text{active}$ or $\alpha_p(s, B_i) = \text{active}$.

(ii) Let $\tilde{P} \supseteq \{\tilde{F}\}$. Then if $\tilde{\alpha}_{\tilde{P}}(c, \tilde{B}_i) = \text{active}$, then $\alpha_{\tilde{P}}(c, B_i) = \text{active}$.

We now have

$$\tilde{P} = (\tilde{P} - \{\tilde{F}\}) \cup \{\tilde{F}\}$$

$$\sum_{p \in P: \tilde{\alpha}_{\tilde{P}}((u, v), \tilde{B}_{i-1}) = \text{active} \text{ or } \tilde{\alpha}_{\tilde{P}}((u, v), \tilde{B}_i) = \text{active}} d_p = \sum_{p \in \tilde{P} - \{\tilde{F}\}: \tilde{\alpha}_{\tilde{P}}((u, v), \tilde{B}_{i-1}) = \text{active} \text{ or } \tilde{\alpha}_{\tilde{P}}((u, v), \tilde{B}_i) = \text{active}} d_p$$

Claim $\sim (i, ii)$

$$\sum_{p \in P: \tilde{\alpha}_{\tilde{P}}((u, v), \tilde{B}_{i-1}) = \text{active} \text{ or } \tilde{\alpha}_{\tilde{P}}((u, v), \tilde{B}_i) = \text{active}} d_p + \sum_{p \in \{\tilde{F}\}: \tilde{\alpha}_{\tilde{P}}((u, v), \tilde{B}_{i-1}) = \text{active} \text{ or } \tilde{\alpha}_{\tilde{P}}((u, v), \tilde{B}_i) = \text{active}} d_p =$$

$$P = (P - \{F, F'\}) \cup \{F, F'\}$$

$$\sum_{p \in P - \{F, F'\}: \alpha_p((u, v), B_{i-1}) = \text{active} \text{ or } \alpha_p((u, v), B_i) = \text{active}} d_p + \sum_{p \in \{F, F'\}: \alpha_p((u, v), B_{i-1}) = \text{active} \text{ or } \alpha_p((u, v), B_i) = \text{active}} d_p = d_F = d_{F'} = d_F$$

$\sum_{p \in P: \alpha_p((u, v), B_{i-1}) = \text{active} \text{ or } \alpha_p((u, v), B_i) = \text{active}} d_p \leq c(u, v) \nmid \tilde{B} \text{ feasible then}$

$$(u, v) = (u, v) \neq (v_F, v_P)$$

$$\tilde{c}(u, v)$$

Proof (d.) \Leftarrow

Let $\tilde{B} = (\tilde{t}_1, \dots, \tilde{t}_c)$ be a feasible block sequence for \tilde{G} . We define block sequence $B = (t_1, \dots, t_c)$ for G as follows. We don't need to update F -block $\{v_{F_i}, t_i\}$ and F' -block $\{s_{F_i}, v_{F_i}\}$. For every other block b_i , we define $B(b_i) = \tilde{B}(b_i)$. Notice that $b_i \in B(b_i)$.

We now show that B is feasible. Let $i \in [1]$ and $(u, v) \in E$. We show that inequality (1) is satisfied for $i, (u, v)$. If $(u, v) \in \{(v_{F_i}, t_i), (s_{F_i}, v_{F_i})\}$, then $c(u, v) \geq \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}: (u, v) \in E(p \circ v_{F_i})} d_p$ by assumption (iii)(b).

Now let $(u, v) \in E - \{(v_{F_i}, t_i), (s_{F_i}, v_{F_i})\}$. Hence $(u, v) \in \tilde{E}$.

Claim: Let $i \in [1]$ and $e \in E - \{(v_{F_i}, t_i), (s_{F_i}, v_{F_i})\}$. Then:

(i) If $\alpha_p(e, B_{i-1}) = \text{active}$, then $\tilde{\alpha}_p(e, \tilde{B}_i) = \text{active}$, and $\alpha_p(e, \overset{B}{B}_i) = \text{inactive}$ for every B , and $E(F^o \cup F'^o)$

(ii) If $\alpha_p(e, \tilde{B}_i) = \text{active}$, then $\alpha_p(e, B_{i-1}) = \text{inactive}$.

(iii) Let $P \in \mathcal{P} - \{F, F'\}$. Then if $\alpha_p(e, B_{i-1}) = \text{active}$, then $\tilde{\alpha}_p(e, \tilde{B}_i) = \text{active}$.

We now have

$$\sum_{p \in P: \alpha_p((u, v), B_{i-1}) = \text{active} \text{ or } \tilde{\alpha}_p((u, v), B_{i-1}) = \text{active}} d_p =$$

$$\sum_{p \in P - \{F, F'\}: \alpha_p((u, v), B_{i-1}) = \text{active} \text{ or } \tilde{\alpha}_p((u, v), B_{i-1}) = \text{active}} d_p + \sum_{p \in \{F, F'\}: \alpha_p((u, v), B_{i-1}) = \text{active} \text{ or } \tilde{\alpha}_p((u, v), B_{i-1}) = \text{active}} d_p \stackrel{F=F'}{\leq} \dots$$

$$\sum_{p \in \mathcal{P} - \{F\}: \tilde{\alpha}_p((u, v), \tilde{B}_{i-1}) = \text{active} \text{ or } \tilde{\alpha}_p((u, v), \tilde{B}_i) = \text{active}} d_p + \sum_{p \in \{F\}: \tilde{\alpha}_p((u, v), \tilde{B}_{i-1}) = \text{active} \text{ or } \tilde{\alpha}_p((u, v), \tilde{B}_i) = \text{active}} d_p =$$

$$\sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}: \tilde{\alpha}_p((u, v), B_{i-1}) = \text{active} \text{ or } \tilde{\alpha}_p((u, v), B_i) = \text{active}} d_p \leq \tilde{B} \text{ variable}$$

$$\tilde{c}(u, v) = (u, v) \in E$$

$$c(u, v)$$