

Network Algorithm UE709

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Maximum Flow : Question

With an infinit input source, how much "flow" can we push through the network given that each edge has a certain capacity?

Edges capacity : can receive a certain amount of flow.



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The key takeaway here is that the Ford-Fulkerson method does not specify how to actually find the augmenting paths.

This is where **optimizations** come into the game.

ex: using a DFS to find augmented paths takes $O(Ef)$

Edmonds-Karp algorithm

The Edmonds-Karp algorithm uses a Breadth First Search (BFS) to find the augmenting paths which yields an arguably better time complexity of $O(VE^2)$.

The **major difference** in this approach is that the time complexity no longer depends on the capacity value of any edge.

Strongly polynomial

- as a method of augmentation which repeatedly **finds the shortest augmenting path** from s to t in terms of the **number of edges** used in each iteration.



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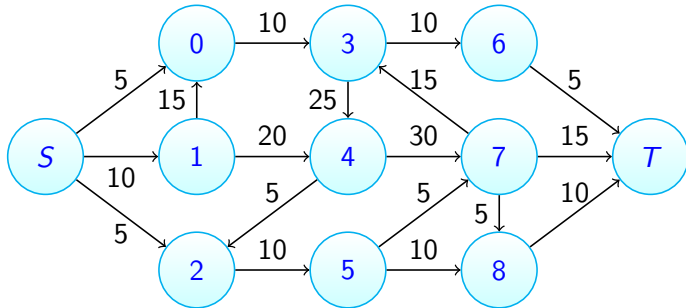
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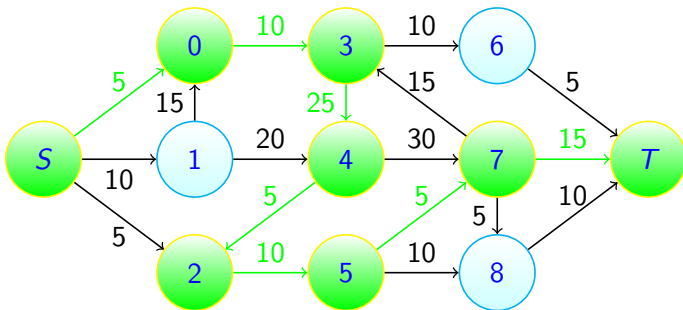
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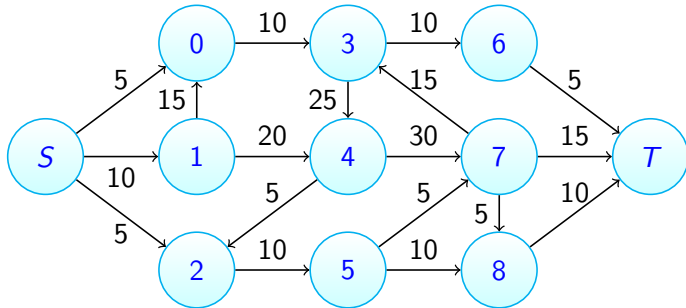


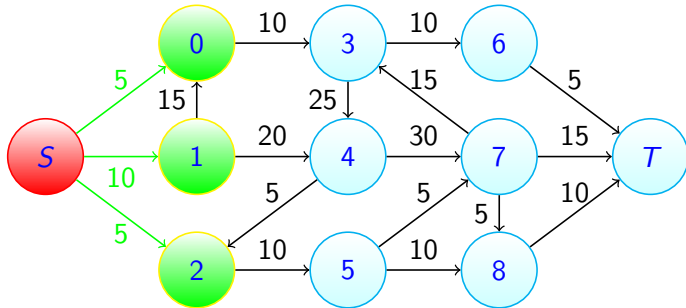


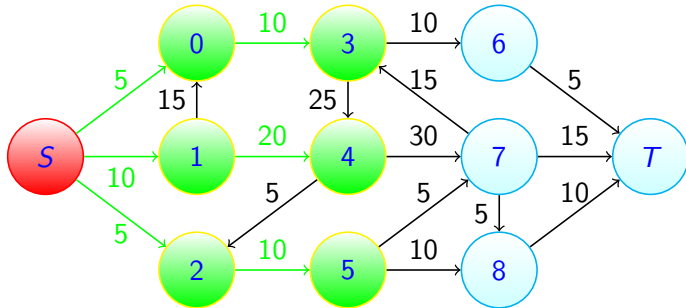
If we use **Ford-Fulkerson** and we use **DFS**, we can have a very long augmented path.

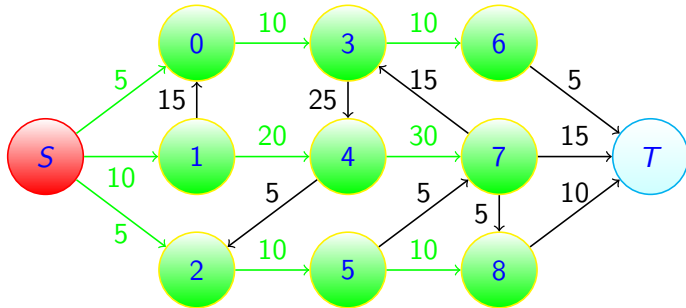


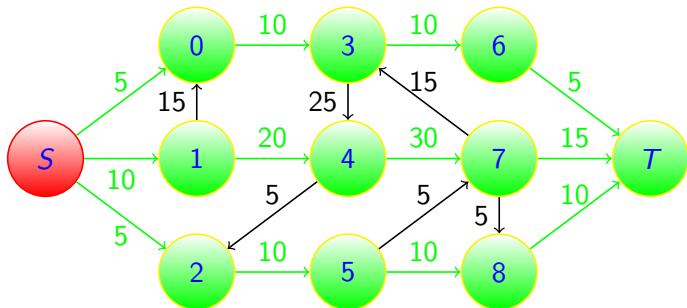
This is the big difference with Edmonds-Karps that use **BFS** so all paths will be smallest in number of edges.

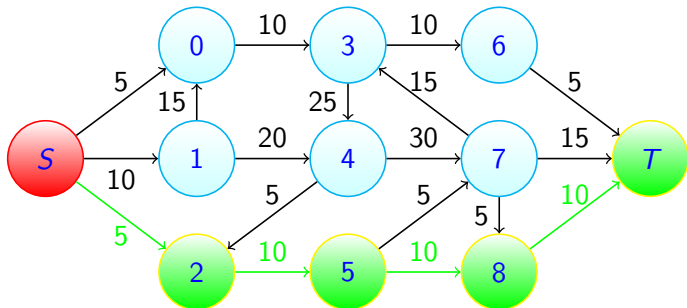


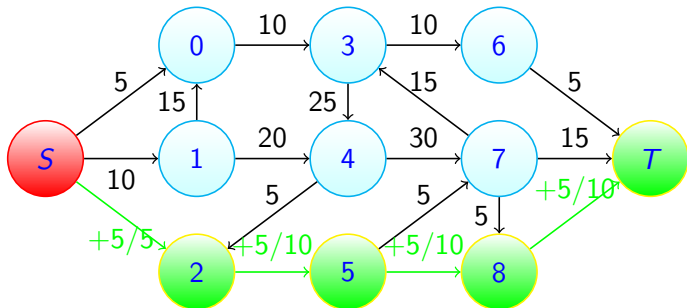


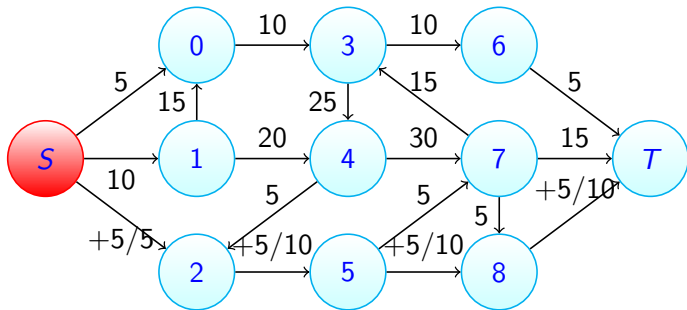


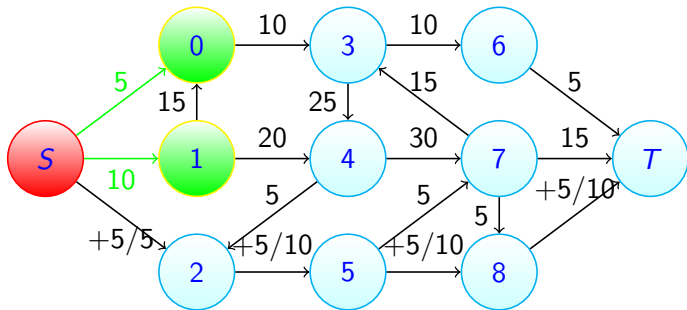


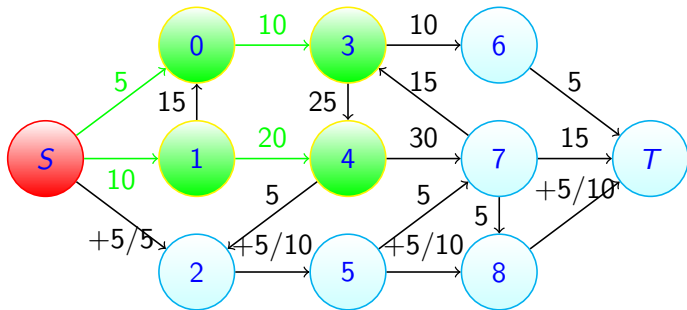


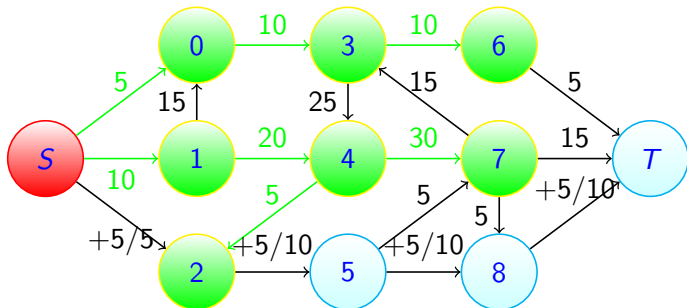


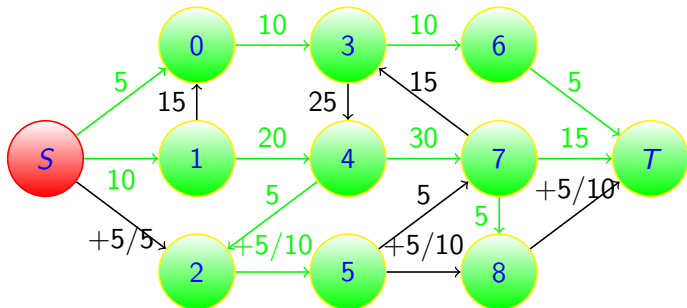


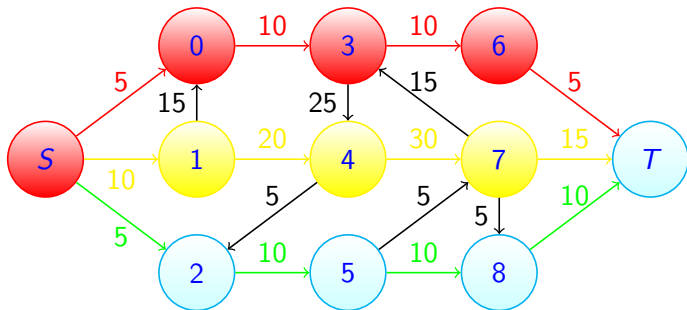












$$\text{MaxFlow} = \sum \text{bottleneckValues} = 5 + 10 + 5 = 20$$



Strongly polynomial max flow algorithm. $O(V^2E)$

Extremely fast **and works better** on bipartite graph. $O(\sqrt{VE})$

Yefin Dinitz 1969

Analogy: I call you I have 1% battery
coffee shop a few streets east.



You don't know the coffee shop. How can you
get there?

So we use level graph.



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- 1 Construct a level graph by doing a BFS from source to label all the levels of the current flow graph.
- 2 If the sink was never reached while building the level graph, then stop and return max flow.
- 3 Using only valid edges in the level graph, do multiple DFSs from $s \rightarrow t$ until a blocking flow is reached, and sum over the bottleneck values of all the augmenting paths found to calculate the max flow.



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