

CMPSC 465

Data Structures and Algorithms

Spring 2022

Instructor: Chunhao Wang

Flow network
(Textbook, Section 7.2
Kleinberg & Tardos Section 7.1)

Motivation

We use graphs to model “transportation networks”

Motivation

We use graphs to model “transportation networks”

i.e., networks whose edges allow some sort of traffic, and vertices act as switches

Motivation

We use graphs to model “transportation networks”

i.e., networks whose edges allow some sort of traffic, and vertices act as switches

In this setting, edges have **capacities**, and we assume there is a **source vertex** generating traffic, a **sink vertex**, which absorbs traffic.

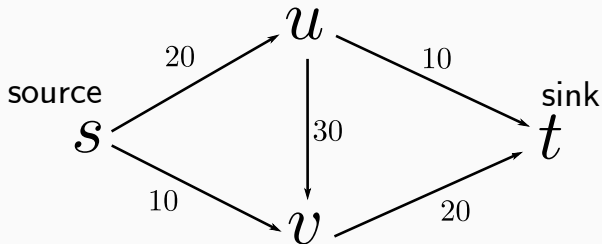
Motivation

We use graphs to model “transportation networks”

i.e., networks whose edges allow some sort of traffic, and vertices act as switches

In this setting, edges have **capacities**, and we assume there is a **source vertex** generating traffic, a **sink vertex**, which absorbs traffic.

Example:



Definition

A **flow network** is a directed graph $G = (V, E)$ s.t.

Definition

A **flow network** is a directed graph $G = (V, E)$ s.t.

1. there is a capacity $c_e \geq 0$ for all $e \in E$

Definition

A **flow network** is a directed graph $G = (V, E)$ s.t.

1. there is a capacity $c_e \geq 0$ for all $e \in E$
2. there is a single source $s \in V$

Definition

A **flow network** is a directed graph $G = (V, E)$ s.t.

1. there is a capacity $c_e \geq 0$ for all $e \in E$
2. there is a single source $s \in V$
3. there is a single sink $t \in V$

Definition

An **s - t flow** is a function $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ satisfying

Definition

An **s - t flow** is a function $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ satisfying

- **Capacity constraint:** $\forall e \in E, 0 \leq f(e) \leq c_e$

Definition

An **s - t flow** is a function $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ satisfying

- **Capacity constraint:** $\forall e \in E, 0 \leq f(e) \leq c_e$
- **Conservation condition:** $\forall v \in V - \{s, t\}$

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



Definition

An **s - t flow** is a function $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ satisfying

- **Capacity constraint:** $\forall e \in E, 0 \leq f(e) \leq c_e$
- **Conservation condition:** $\forall v \in V - \{s, t\}$

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

Intuition: $f(e)$ is the amount of flow/traffic carried out by e

Definition

An **s - t flow** is a function $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ satisfying

- **Capacity constraint:** $\forall e \in E, 0 \leq f(e) \leq c_e$
- **Conservation condition:** $\forall v \in V - \{s, t\}$

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

Intuition: $f(e)$ is the amount of flow/traffic carried out by e

Definition

The **value** of a flow f is

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

Definition

An **s - t flow** is a function $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ satisfying

- **Capacity constraint:** $\forall e \in E, 0 \leq f(e) \leq c_e$
- **Conservation condition:** $\forall v \in V - \{s, t\}$

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

Intuition: $f(e)$ is the amount of flow/traffic carried out by e

Definition

The **value** of a flow f is

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

Intuition: $v(f)$ shows how much traffic can be accommodated

The max-flow problem

Problem (The Max-Flow problem)

Given a flow network, find a flow of the maximum possible value

The max-flow problem

Problem (The Max-Flow problem)

Given a flow network, find a flow of the maximum possible value

Natural idea: Find an s - t path and push a flow of value $\min\{c_e : e \text{ along the path}\}$. Then keep doing this

The max-flow problem

Problem (The Max-Flow problem)

Given a flow network, find a flow of the maximum possible value

Natural idea: Find an s - t path and push a flow of value $\min\{c_e : e \text{ along the path}\}$. Then keep doing this

Example:

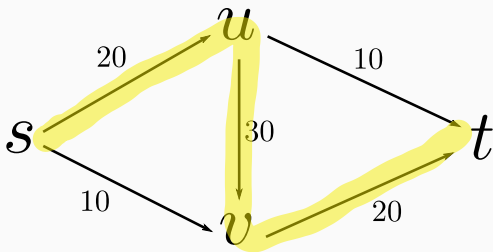
The max-flow problem

Problem (The Max-Flow problem)

Given a flow network, find a flow of the maximum possible value

Natural idea: Find an s - t path and push a flow of value $\min\{c_e : e \text{ along the path}\}$. Then keep doing this

Example:



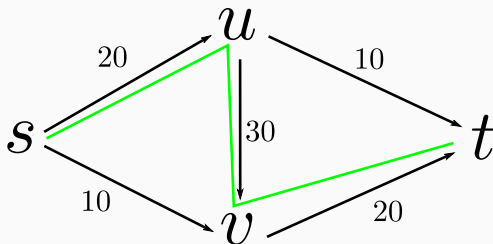
The max-flow problem

Problem (The Max-Flow problem)

Given a flow network, find a flow of the maximum possible value

Natural idea: Find an s - t path and push a flow of value $\min\{c_e : e \text{ along the path}\}$. Then keep doing this

Example:



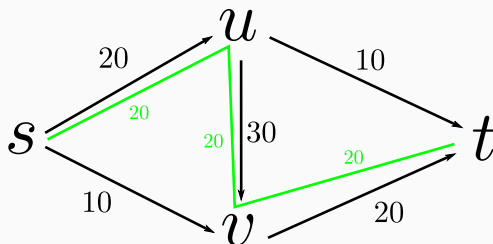
The max-flow problem

Problem (The Max-Flow problem)

Given a flow network, find a flow of the maximum possible value

Natural idea: Find an s - t path and push a flow of value $\min\{c_e : e \text{ along the path}\}$. Then keep doing this

Example:



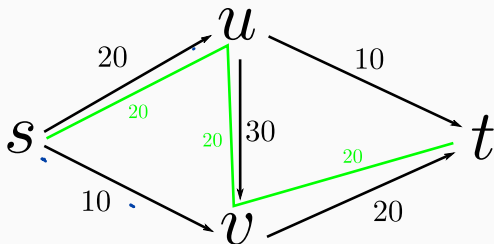
The max-flow problem

Problem (The Max-Flow problem)

Given a flow network, find a flow of the maximum possible value

Natural idea: Find an s - t path and push a flow of value $\min\{c_e : e \text{ along the path}\}$. Then keep doing this

Example:



$$f(s, u) = 20$$

$$f(u, v) = 20$$

$$f(v, t) = 20$$

$$f(s, v) = 0$$

$$f(u, t) = 0$$

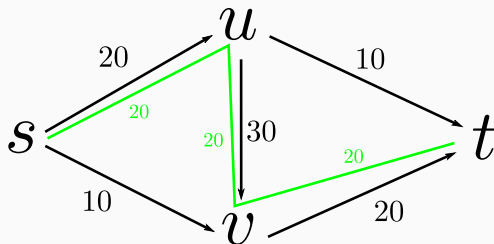
The max-flow problem

Problem (The Max-Flow problem)

Given a flow network, find a flow of the maximum possible value

Natural idea: Find an s - t path and push a flow of value $\min\{c_e : e \text{ along the path}\}$. Then keep doing this

Example:



$$f(s, u) = 20$$

$$f(u, v) = 20$$

$$f(v, t) = 20$$

$$f(s, v) = 0$$

$$f(u, t) = 0$$

$$v(f) = 20.$$

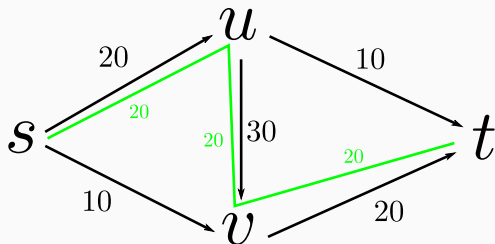
The max-flow problem

Problem (The Max-Flow problem)

Given a flow network, find a flow of the maximum possible value

Natural idea: Find an s - t path and push a flow of value $\min\{c_e : e \text{ along the path}\}$. Then keep doing this

Example:



$$f(s, u) = 20$$

$$f(u, v) = 20$$

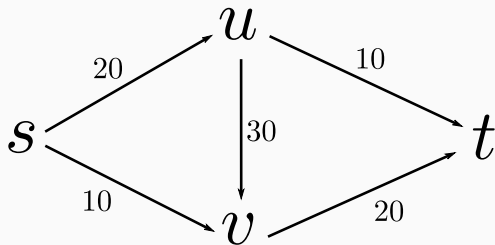
$$f(v, t) = 20$$

$$f(s, v) = 0$$

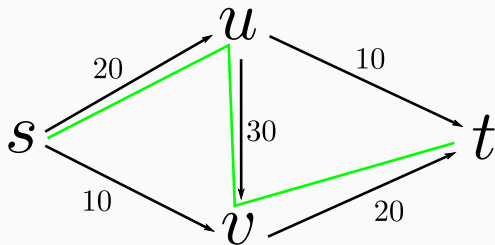
$$f(u, t) = 0$$

$v(f) = 20$. Can we do better?

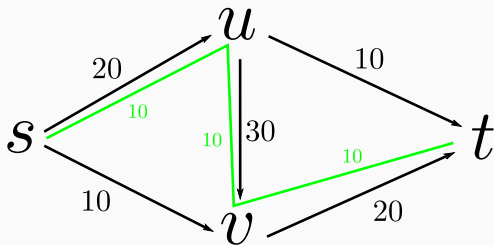
A better flow



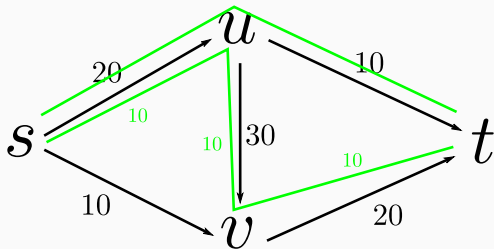
A better flow



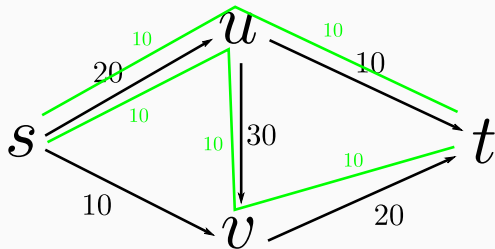
A better flow



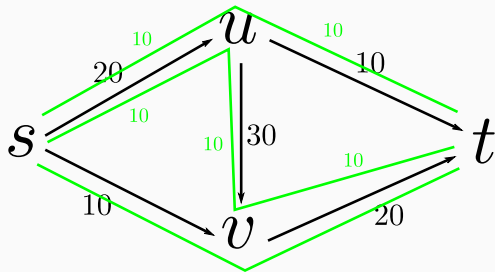
A better flow



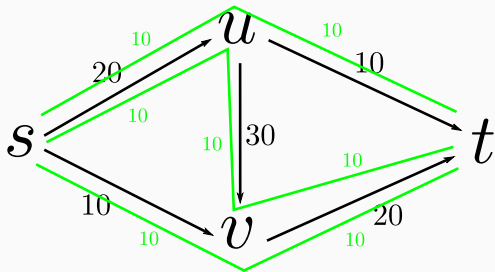
A better flow



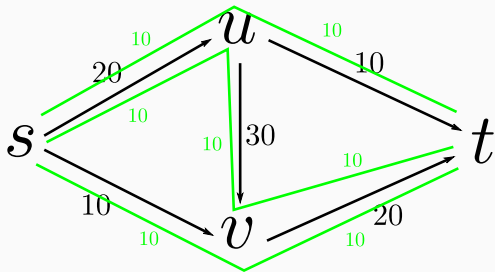
A better flow



A better flow



A better flow



$$f(s, u) = 20$$

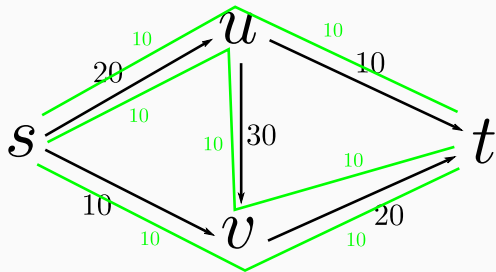
$$f(u, v) = 10$$

$$f(v, t) = 20$$

$$f(s, v) = 10$$

$$f(u, t) = 10$$

A better flow



$$f(s, u) = 20$$

$$f(u, v) = 10$$

$$f(v, t) = 20$$

$$f(s, v) = 10$$

$$f(u, t) = 10$$

$$v(f) = 30.$$

Residual graph

We use a residual graph to keep track of the “leftover” capacity

Residual graph

We use a residual graph to keep track of the “leftover” capacity

Given a flow network G , flow f , construct the ~~residue~~ **residual** graph G_f as follows

Residual graph

We use a residual graph to keep track of the “leftover” capacity

Given a flow network G , flow f , construct the **residue graph** G_f as follows

- the vertex set of G_f is the same as G

Residual graph

We use a residual graph to keep track of the “leftover” capacity

Given a flow network G , flow f , construct the **residue graph** G_f as follows

- the vertex set of G_f is the same as G
- for each edge e of G with $f(e) < c_e$ (leftover),

Residual graph

We use a residual graph to keep track of the “leftover” capacity

Given a flow network G , flow f , construct the **residue graph** G_f as follows

- the vertex set of G_f is the same as G
- for each edge e of G with $f(e) < c_e$ (leftover), include e in G_f with capacity $c_e - f(e)$ (**forward edge**)

Residual graph

We use a residual graph to keep track of the “leftover” capacity

Given a flow network G , flow f , construct the **residue graph** G_f as follows

- the vertex set of G_f is the same as G
- for each edge e of G with $f(e) < c_e$ (leftover), include e in G_f with capacity $c_e - f(e)$ (**forward edge**)
- for each edge $e = (u, v)$ in G with $f(e) > 0$ (how much we can undo),

Residual graph

We use a residual graph to keep track of the “leftover” capacity

Given a flow network G , flow f , construct the **residual graph** G_f as follows

- the vertex set of G_f is the same as G
- for each edge e of G with $f(e) < c_e$ (leftover), include e in G_f with capacity $c_e - f(e)$ (**forward edge**)
- for each edge $e = (u, v)$ in G with $f(e) > 0$ (how much we can undo), include $e' = (v, u)$ in G_f with capacity $f(e)$ (**backward edge**)

Residual graph

We use a residual graph to keep track of the “leftover” capacity

Given a flow network G , flow f , construct the **residual graph** G_f as follows

- the vertex set of G_f is the same as G
- for each edge e of G with $f(e) < c_e$ (leftover), include e in G_f with capacity $c_e - f(e)$ (**forward edge**)
- for each edge $e = (u, v)$ in G with $f(e) > 0$ (how much we can undo), include $e' = (v, u)$ in G_f with capacity $f(e)$ (**backward edge**)

Capacity of an edge in the residual graph is called **residual capacity**

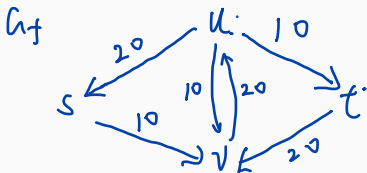
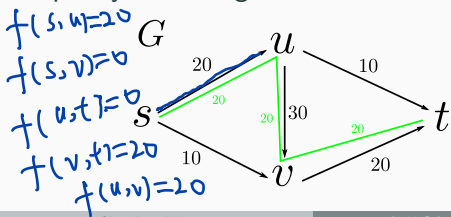
Residual graph

We use a residual graph to keep track of the “leftover” capacity

Given a flow network G , flow f , construct the **residual graph** G_f as follows

- the vertex set of G_f is the same as G
- for each edge e of G with $f(e) < c_e$ (leftover), include e in G_f with capacity $c_e - f(e)$ (**forward edge**)
- for each edge $e = (u, v)$ in G with $f(e) > 0$ (how much we can undo), include $e' = (v, u)$ in G_f with capacity $f(e)$ (**backward edge**)

Capacity of an edge in the residual graph is called **residual capacity**



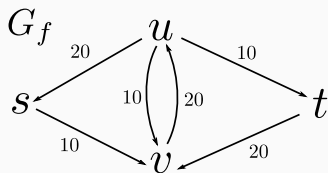
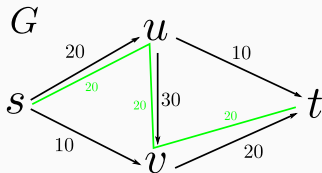
Residual graph

We use a residual graph to keep track of the “leftover” capacity

Given a flow network G , flow f , construct the **residue graph** G_f as follows

- the vertex set of G_f is the same as G
- for each edge e of G with $f(e) < c_e$ (leftover), include e in G_f with capacity $c_e - f(e)$ (**forward edge**)
- for each edge $e = (u, v)$ in G with $f(e) > 0$ (how much we can undo), include $e' = (v, u)$ in G_f with capacity $f(e)$ (**backward edge**)

Capacity of an edge in the residual graph is called **residual capacity**



Better idea

We introduce **augmenting paths**

Better idea

We introduce **augmenting paths**

Let P be an s - t path in G_f ,

Better idea

We introduce **augmenting paths**

Let P be an s - t path in G_f , we can improve our flow by augmenting along P as follows

Better idea

We introduce **augmenting paths**

Let P be an s - t path in G_f , we can improve our flow by augmenting along P as follows

Define $\text{bottleneck}(P, f)$ as the minimum residual capacity of edges of P

Better idea

We introduce **augmenting paths**

Let P be an s - t path in G_f , we can improve our flow by augmenting along P as follows

Define $\text{bottleneck}(P, f)$ as the minimum residual capacity of edges of P

def AUGMENT(f, P):

|

Better idea

We introduce **augmenting paths**

Let P be an s - t path in G_f , we can improve our flow by augmenting along P as follows

Define $\text{bottleneck}(P, f)$ as the minimum residual capacity of edges of P

def AUGMENT(f, P):

 Set $b = \text{bottleneck}(P, f)$;

Better idea

We introduce **augmenting paths**

Let P be an s - t path in G_f , we can improve our flow by augmenting along P as follows

Define $\text{bottleneck}(P, f)$ as the minimum residual capacity of edges of P

def AUGMENT(f, P):

 Set $b = \text{bottleneck}(P, f)$;

for each $e = (u, v) \in P$:

Better idea

We introduce **augmenting paths**

Let P be an s - t path in G_f , we can improve our flow by augmenting along P as follows

Define $\text{bottleneck}(P, f)$ as the minimum residual capacity of edges of P

def AUGMENT(f, P):

 Set $b = \text{bottleneck}(P, f)$;

for each $e = (u, v) \in P$:

if e is a forward edge:

 |

Better idea

We introduce **augmenting paths**

Let P be an s - t path in G_f , we can improve our flow by augmenting along P as follows

Define $\text{bottleneck}(P, f)$ as the minimum residual capacity of edges of P

def AUGMENT(f, P):

 Set $b = \text{bottleneck}(P, f)$;

for each $e = (u, v) \in P$:

if e is a forward edge:

 Increase $f(e)$ by b ;

Better idea

We introduce **augmenting paths**

Let P be an s - t path in G_f , we can improve our flow by augmenting along P as follows

Define $\text{bottleneck}(P, f)$ as the minimum residual capacity of edges of P

def AUGMENT(f, P):

 Set $b = \text{bottleneck}(P, f)$;

for each $e = (u, v) \in P$:

if e is a forward edge:

 Increase $f(e)$ by b ;

else:

Better idea

We introduce **augmenting paths**

Let P be an s - t path in G_f , we can improve our flow by augmenting along P as follows

Define $\text{bottleneck}(P, f)$ as the minimum residual capacity of edges of P

def AUGMENT(f, P):

 Set $b = \text{bottleneck}(P, f)$;

for each $e = (u, v) \in P$:

if e is a forward edge:

 Increase $f(e)$ by b ;

else:

 Decrease $f(e)$ by b ;

Better idea

We introduce **augmenting paths**

Let P be an s - t path in G_f , we can improve our flow by augmenting along P as follows

Define $\text{bottleneck}(P, f)$ as the minimum residual capacity of edges of P

def AUGMENT(f, P):

 Set $b = \text{bottleneck}(P, f)$;

for each $e = (u, v) \in P$:

if e is a forward edge:

 Increase $f(e)$ by b ;

else:

 Decrease $f(e)$ by b ;

return f ;

Better idea

We introduce **augmenting paths**

Let P be an s - t path in G_f , we can improve our flow by augmenting along P as follows

Define $\text{bottleneck}(P, f)$ as the minimum residual capacity of edges of P

def AUGMENT(f, P):

 Set $b = \text{bottleneck}(P, f)$;

for each $e = (u, v) \in P$:

if e is a forward edge:

 Increase $f(e)$ by b ;

else:

 Decrease $f(e)$ by b ;

return f ;

Any s - t path in G_f is called an **augmenting path**

The Ford-Fulkerson algorithm

```
def FORD-FULKERSON( $G$ , capacities  $c$ ):
```


The Ford-Fulkerson algorithm

def FORD-FULKERSON(G , *capacities* c):

 Set $f(e) = 0$ for all $e \in G$;

The Ford-Fulkerson algorithm

```
def FORD-FULKERSON( $G$ , capacities  $c$ ):  
    Set  $f(e) = 0$  for all  $e \in G$ ;  
    while  $\exists$   $s$ - $t$  path in the residual graph  $G_f$ :
```

The Ford-Fulkerson algorithm

```
def FORD-FULKERSON( $G$ , capacities  $c$ ):  
    Set  $f(e) = 0$  for all  $e \in G$ ;  
    while  $\exists$   $s$ - $t$  path in the residual graph  $G_f$ :  
        Let  $P$  be a simple  $s$ - $t$  path in  $G_f$ ;
```

The Ford-Fulkerson algorithm

```
def FORD-FULKERSON( $G$ , capacities  $c$ ):  
    Set  $f(e) = 0$  for all  $e \in G$ ;  
    while  $\exists$   $s$ - $t$  path in the residual graph  $G_f$ :  
        Let  $P$  be a simple  $s$ - $t$  path in  $G_f$ ;  
         $f' = \text{AUGMENT}(f, P)$ ;
```

The Ford-Fulkerson algorithm

```
def FORD-FULKERSON( $G$ , capacities  $c$ ):  
    Set  $f(e) = 0$  for all  $e \in G$ ;  
    while  $\exists$   $s$ - $t$  path in the residual graph  $G_f$ :  
        Let  $P$  be a simple  $s$ - $t$  path in  $G_f$ ;  
         $f' = \text{AUGMENT}(f, P)$ ;  
         $G_f = G_{f'}$ ;
```

The Ford-Fulkerson algorithm

def FORD-FULKERSON(G , *capacities* c):

Set $f(e) = 0$ for all $e \in G$;

while \exists s - t path in the residual graph G_f :

Let P be a simple s - t path in G_f ;

$f' = \text{AUGMENT}(f, P)$;

$G_f = G_{f'}$;

$f = f'$;

The Ford-Fulkerson algorithm

def FORD-FULKERSON(G , capacities c):

Set $f(e) = 0$ for all $e \in G$;

while \exists s - t path in the residual graph G_f :

Let P be a simple s - t path in G_f ;

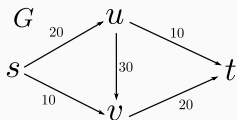
$f' = \text{AUGMENT}(f, P)$;

$G_f = G_{f'}$;

$f = f'$;

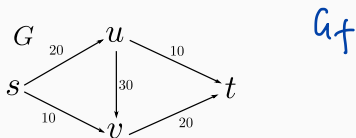
return f ;

Running example



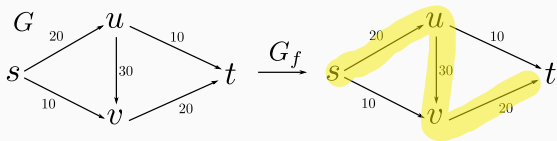
e	$f(e)$		
$s \rightarrow u$	0		
$s \rightarrow v$	6		
$u \rightarrow v$	6		
$u \rightarrow t$	6		
$v \rightarrow t$	0		

Running example



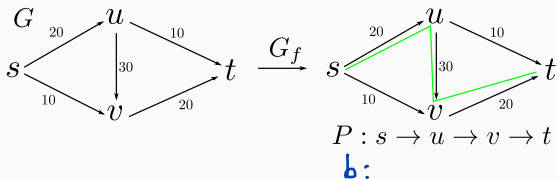
e	$f_1(e)$		
$s \rightarrow u$	0		
$s \rightarrow v$	0		
$u \rightarrow v$	0		
$u \rightarrow t$	0		
$v \rightarrow t$	0		

Running example



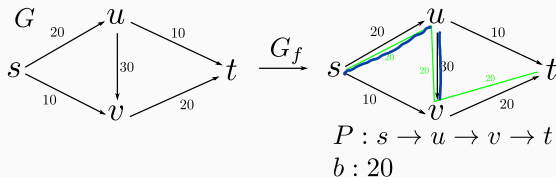
e	$f_1(e)$		
$s \rightarrow u$	0		
$s \rightarrow v$	0		
$u \rightarrow v$	0		
$u \rightarrow t$	0		
$v \rightarrow t$	0		

Running example



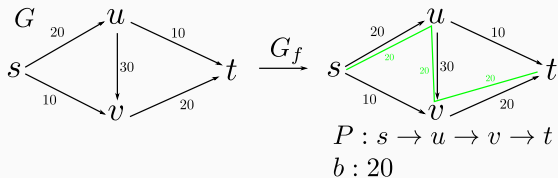
e	$f_1(e)$		
$s \rightarrow u$	0		
$s \rightarrow v$	0		
$u \rightarrow v$	0		
$u \rightarrow t$	0		
$v \rightarrow t$	0		

Running example



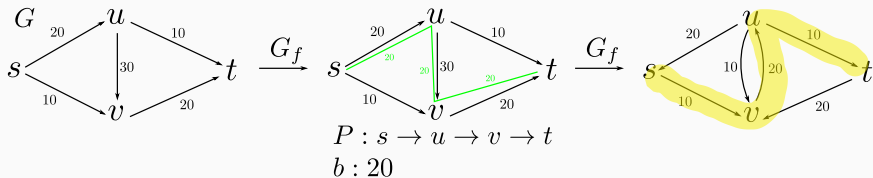
e	$f_1(e)$	$f(e)$	
$s \rightarrow u$	0	20	
$s \rightarrow v$	0	0	
$u \rightarrow v$	0	20	
$u \rightarrow t$	0	0	
$v \rightarrow t$	0	20	

Running example



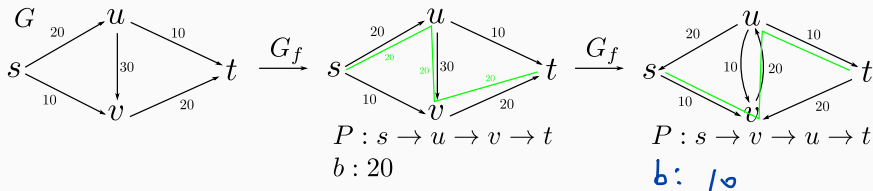
e	$f_1(e)$	$f_2(e)$
$s \rightarrow u$	0	20
$s \rightarrow v$	0	0
$u \rightarrow v$	0	20
$u \rightarrow t$	0	0
$v \rightarrow t$	0	20

Running example



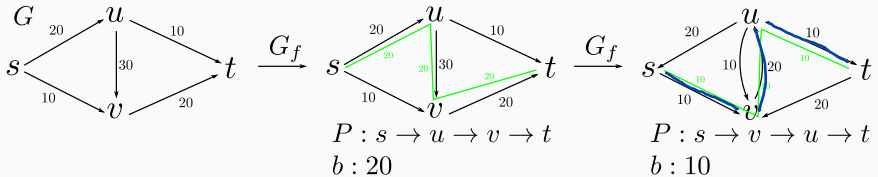
e	$f_1(e)$	$f_2(e)$	
$s \rightarrow u$	0	20	
$s \rightarrow v$	0	0	
$u \rightarrow v$	0	20	
$u \rightarrow t$	0	0	
$v \rightarrow t$	0	20	

Running example



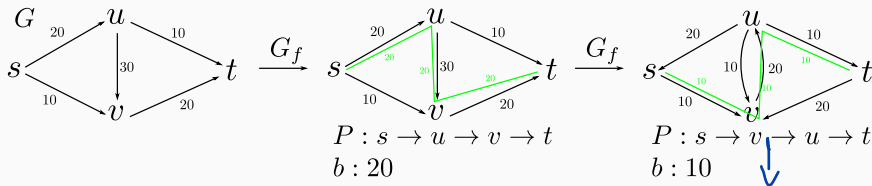
e	$f_1(e)$	$f_2(e)$	
$s \rightarrow u$	0	20	
$s \rightarrow v$	0	0	
$u \rightarrow v$	0	20	
$u \rightarrow t$	0	0	
$v \rightarrow t$	0	20	

Running example

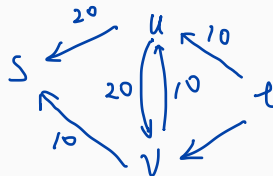


e	$f_1(e)$	$f_2(e)$	$f(e)$
$s \rightarrow u$	0	20	20
$s \rightarrow v$	0	0	10
$u \rightarrow v$	0	20	10
$u \rightarrow t$	0	0	10
$v \rightarrow t$	0	20	20

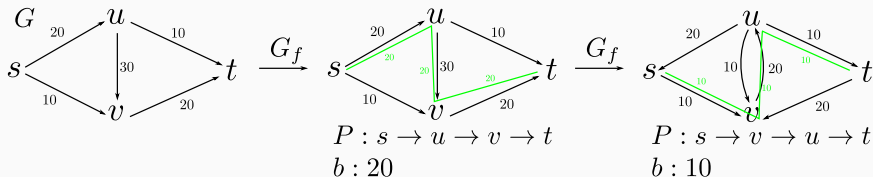
Running example



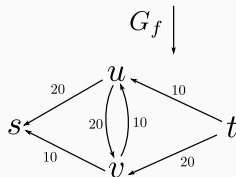
e	$f_1(e)$	$f_2(e)$	$f_3(e)$
$s \rightarrow u$	0	20	20
$s \rightarrow v$	0	0	10
$u \rightarrow v$	0	20	10
$u \rightarrow t$	0	0	10
$v \rightarrow t$	0	20	20



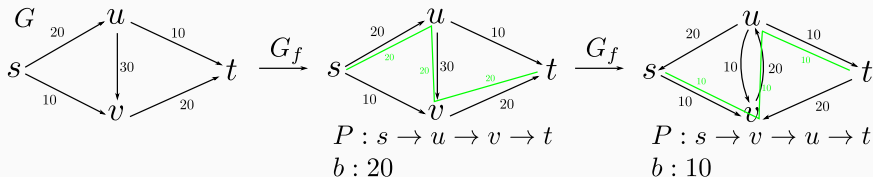
Running example



e	$f_1(e)$	$f_2(e)$	$f_3(e)$
$s \rightarrow u$	0	20	20
$s \rightarrow v$	0	0	10
$u \rightarrow v$	0	20	10
$u \rightarrow t$	0	0	10
$v \rightarrow t$	0	20	20



Running example



e	$f_1(e)$	$f_2(e)$	$f_3(e)$
$s \rightarrow u$	0	20	20
$s \rightarrow v$	0	0	10
$u \rightarrow v$	0	20	10
$u \rightarrow t$	0	0	10
$v \rightarrow t$	0	20	20

