

Chapter 7

Network Flow



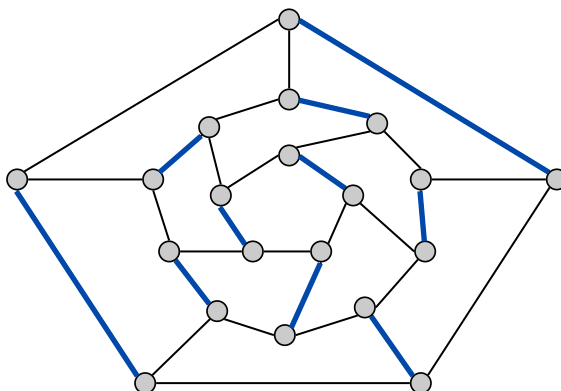
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7.5 Bipartite Matching

Matching

Matching.

- Input: undirected graph $G = (V, E)$.
- $M \subseteq E$ is a **matching** if each node appears in at most edge in M .
- Max matching: find a max cardinality matching.

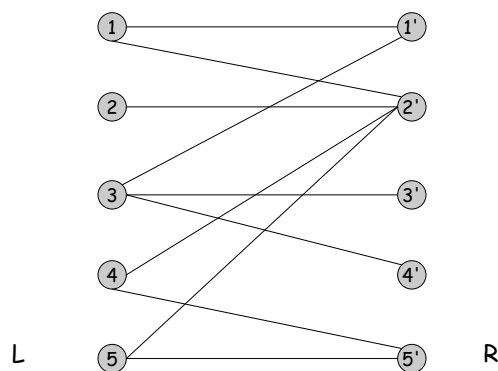


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Bipartite Matching

Bipartite matching.

- Input: undirected, **bipartite** graph $G = (L \cup R, E)$.
- $M \subseteq E$ is a **matching** if each node appears in at most edge in M .
- Max matching: find a max cardinality matching.

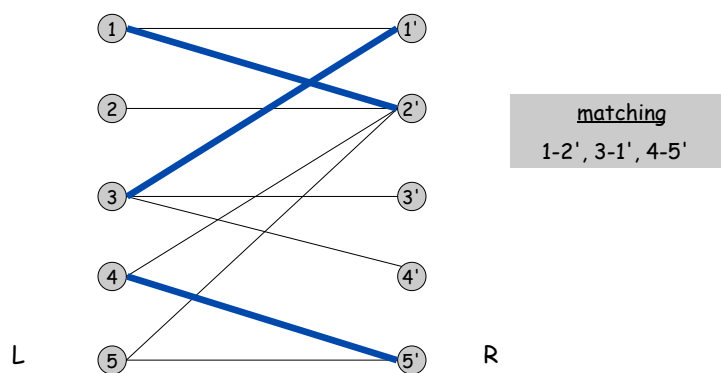


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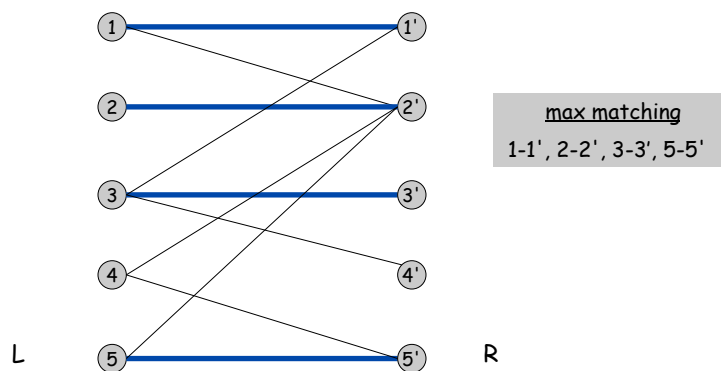


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Bipartite Matching

Bipartite matching.

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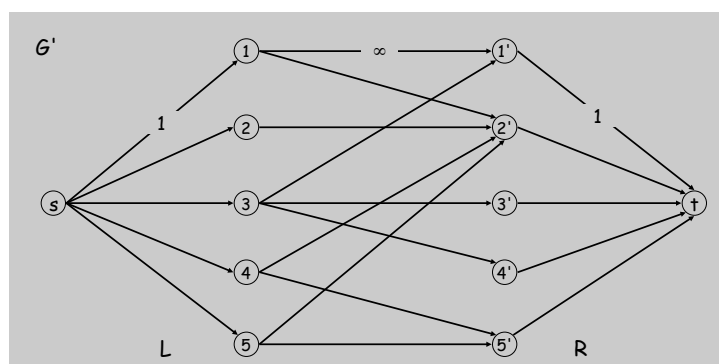


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Bipartite Matching

Max flow formulation.

- Create digraph $G' = (L \cup R \cup \{s, t\}, E')$.
- Direct all edges from L to R , and assign infinite (or unit) capacity.
- Add source s , and unit capacity edges from s to each node in L .
- Add sink t , and unit capacity edges from each node in R to t .



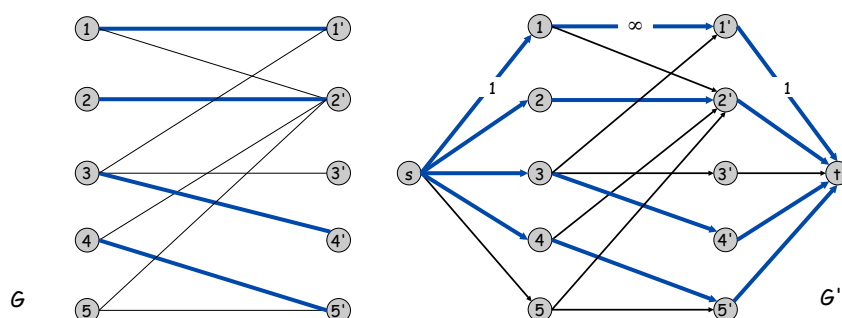
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Bipartite Matching: Proof of Correctness

Theorem. Max cardinality matching in G = value of max flow in G' .

Pf. \leq

- Given max matching M of cardinality k .
- Consider flow f that sends 1 unit along each of k paths.
- f is a flow, and has cardinality k . ■



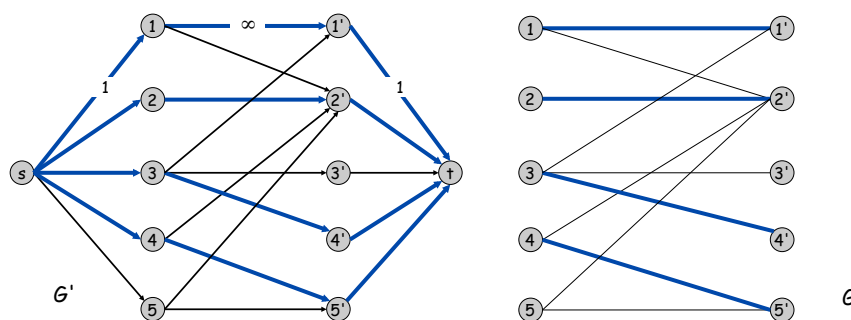
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Bipartite Matching: Proof of Correctness

Theorem. Max cardinality matching in G = value of max flow in G' .

Pf. \geq

- Let f be a max flow in G' of value k .
- Integrality theorem $\Rightarrow k$ is integral and can assume f is 0-1.
- Consider M = set of edges from L to R with $f(e) = 1$.
 - each node in L and R participates in at most one edge in M
 - $|M| = k$: consider cut $(L \cup s, R \cup t)$ ▪



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Perfect Matching

Def. A matching $M \subseteq E$ is **perfect** if each node appears in exactly one edge in M .

Q. When does a bipartite graph have a perfect matching?

Structure of bipartite graphs with perfect matchings.

- Clearly we must have $|L| = |R|$.
- What other conditions are necessary?
- What conditions are sufficient?

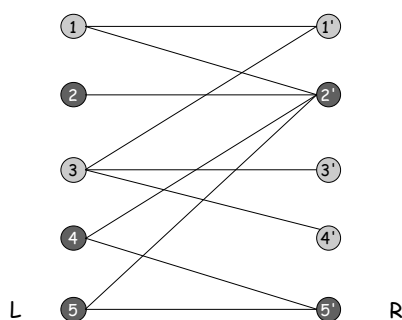
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Perfect Matching

Notation. Let S be a subset of nodes, and let $N(S)$ be the set of nodes adjacent to nodes in S .

Observation. If a bipartite graph $G = (L \cup R, E)$ has a perfect matching, then $|N(S)| \geq |S|$ for all subsets $S \subseteq L$.

Pf. Each node in S has to be matched to a different node in $N(S)$.



No perfect matching:

$S = \{2, 4, 5\}$

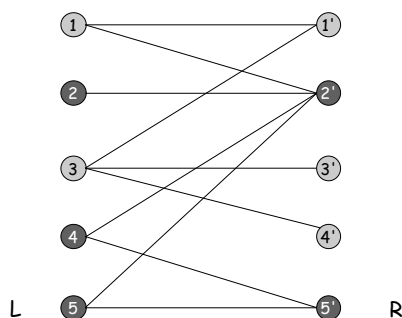
$N(S) = \{2', 5'\}$.

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Marriage Theorem

Marriage Theorem. [Frobenius 1917, Hall 1935] Let $G = (L \cup R, E)$ be a bipartite graph with $|L| = |R|$. Then, G has a perfect matching iff $|N(S)| \geq |S|$ for all subsets $S \subseteq L$.

Pf. \Rightarrow This was the previous observation.



No perfect matching:

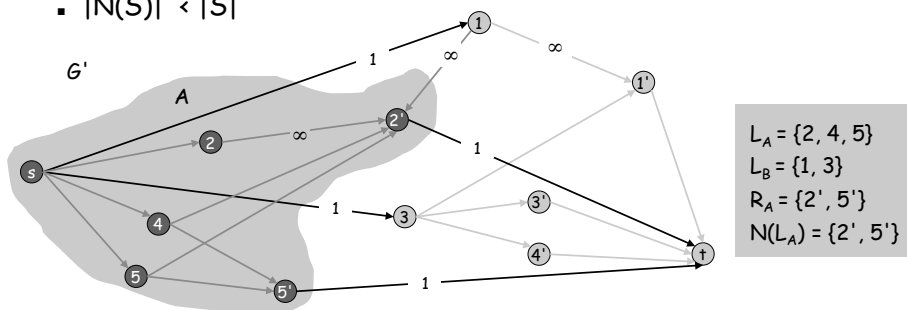
$S = \{2, 4, 5\}$

$N(S) = \{2', 5'\}$.

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Proof of Marriage Theorem

- Pf. \Leftarrow Suppose G does not have a perfect matching.
- Formulate as a max flow problem and let (A, B) be min cut in G' .
 - By max-flow min-cut, $\text{cap}(A, B) < |L|$.
 - Define $L_A = L \cap A$, $L_B = L \cap B$, $R_A = R \cap A$.
 - $\text{cap}(A, B) = |L_B| + |R_A|$.
 - Since min cut can't use ∞ edges: $N(L_A) \subseteq R_A$.
 - $|N(L_A)| \leq |R_A| = \text{cap}(A, B) - |L_B| < |L| - |L_B| = |L_A|$.
 - Choose $S = L_A$, $|N(S)| < |S|$.



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Bipartite Matching: Running Time

Which max flow algorithm to use for bipartite matching?

- Generic augmenting path: $O(m \cdot \text{val}(f^*)) = O(mn)$.
- Capacity scaling: $O(m^2 \log C) = O(m^2)$.
- C denotes the sum of capacities of all edges out of s .
- Shortest augmenting path: $O(mn)$.
- Proved by Dinitz (also by Edmonds and Karp)

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7.6 Disjoint Paths

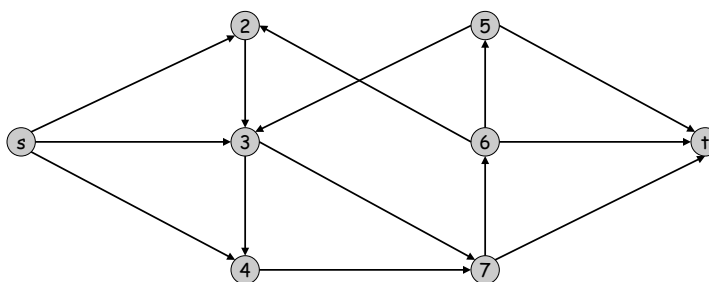
Edge Disjoint Paths

Disjoint path problem. Given a digraph $G = (V, E)$ and two nodes s and t , find the max number of edge-disjoint s - t paths.

Def. Two paths are **edge-disjoint** if they have no edge in common.

Ex: communication networks.

Class Exercise: Find the max number of edge-disjoint s - t paths!

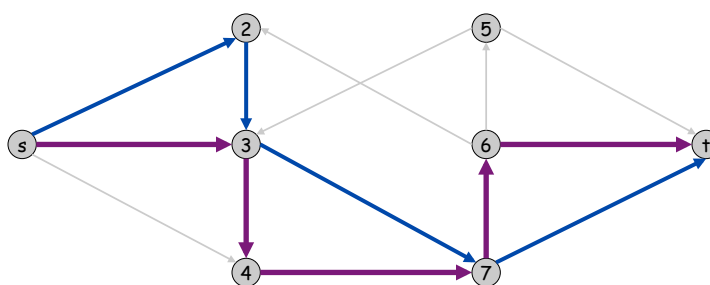


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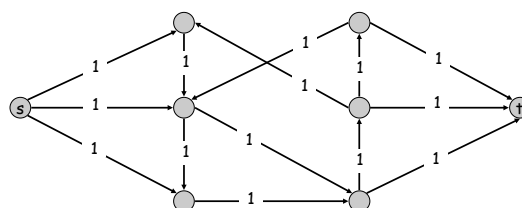
Ex: communication networks.



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Edge Disjoint Paths

Max flow formulation: assign unit capacity to every edge.



Theorem. Max number edge-disjoint s - t paths equals max flow value.

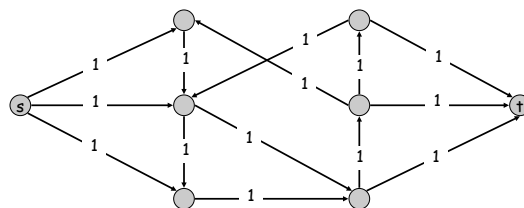
Pf. \leq

- Suppose there are k edge-disjoint paths P_1, \dots, P_k .
- Set $f(e) = 1$ if e participates in some path P_i ; else set $f(e) = 0$.
- Since paths are edge-disjoint, f is a flow of value k . ▪

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Edge Disjoint Paths

Max flow formulation: assign unit capacity to every edge.



Theorem. Max number edge-disjoint s - t paths equals max flow value.

Pf. \geq

- Suppose max flow value is k .
 - Integrality theorem \Rightarrow there exists 0-1 flow f of value k .
 - Consider edge (s, u) with $f(s, u) = 1$.
 - by conservation, there exists an edge (u, v) with $f(u, v) = 1$
 - continue until reach t , always choosing a new edge
 - Produces k (not necessarily simple) edge-disjoint paths. ▪
- can eliminate cycles to get simple paths if desired

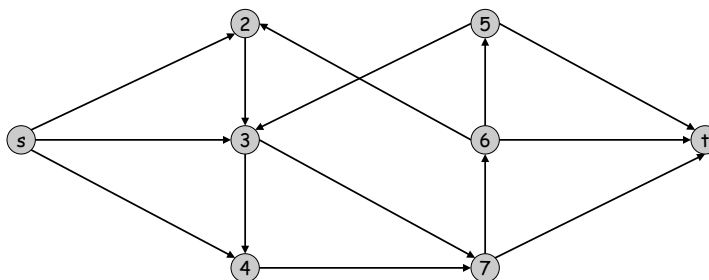
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Network Connectivity

Network connectivity. Given a digraph $G = (V, E)$ and two nodes s and t , find min number of edges whose removal disconnects t from s .

Def. A set of edges $F \subseteq E$ **disconnects t from s** if every s - t path uses at least one edge in F .

Class Exercise: Find the min number of edges whose removal disconnects t from s !

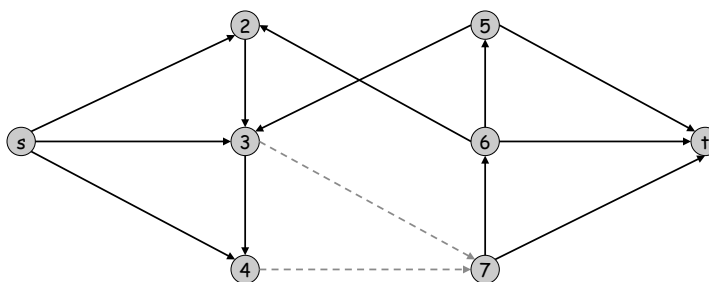


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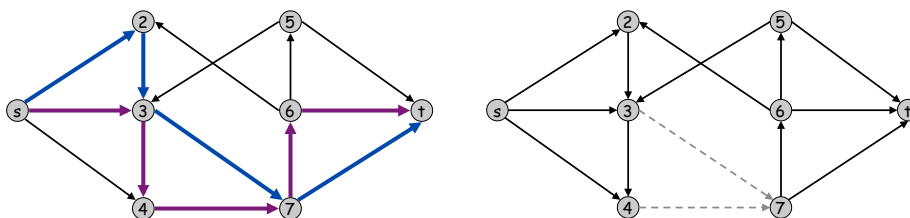
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Edge Disjoint Paths and Network Connectivity

Theorem. [Menger 1927] The max number of edge-disjoint s - t paths is equal to the min number of edges whose removal disconnects t from s .

Pf. \leq

- Suppose the removal of $F \subseteq E$ disconnects t from s , and $|F| = k$.
 - Every s - t path uses at least one edge in F .
- Hence, the number of edge-disjoint paths is at most k . ■



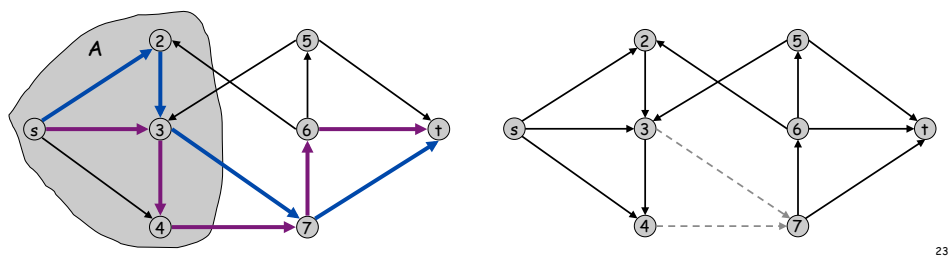
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Disjoint Paths and Network Connectivity

Theorem. [Menger 1927] The max number of edge-disjoint s - t paths is equal to the min number of edges whose removal disconnects t from s .

Pf. \geq

- Suppose max number of edge-disjoint paths is k .
- Then max flow value is k .
- Max-flow min-cut \Rightarrow cut (A, B) of capacity k .
- Let F be set of edges going from A to B .
- $|F| = k$ and disconnects t from s . ▪



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7.7 Extensions to Max Flow

Circulation with Demands

Circulation with demands.

- Directed graph $G = (V, E)$.
- Edge capacities $c(e)$, $e \in E$.
- Node supply and demands $d(v)$, $v \in V$.

\uparrow
 demand if $d(v) > 0$; supply if $d(v) < 0$; transshipment if $d(v) = 0$

Def. A **circulation** is a function that satisfies:

- For each $e \in E$: $0 \leq f(e) \leq c(e)$ (capacity)
- For each $v \in V$: $\sum_{e \text{ in to } v} f(e) - \sum_{e \text{ out of } v} f(e) = d(v)$ (conservation)

Circulation problem: given (V, E, c, d) , does there exist a circulation?

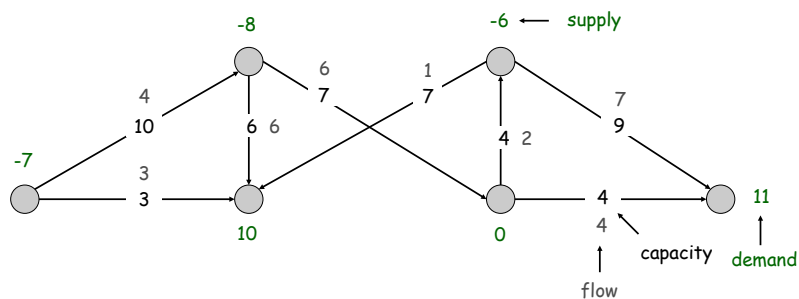
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Circulation with Demands

Necessary condition: sum of supplies = sum of demands.

$$\sum_{v: d(v) > 0} d(v) = \sum_{v: d(v) < 0} -d(v) =: D$$

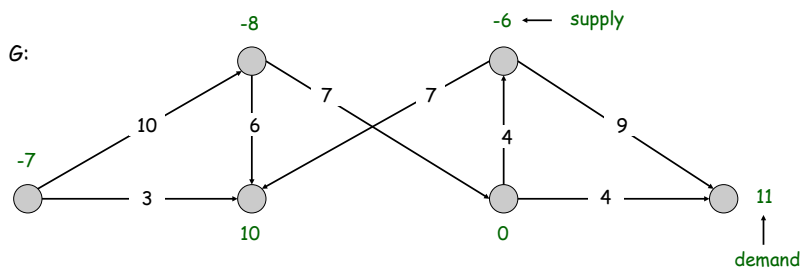
Pf. Sum conservation constraints for every demand node v .



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Circulation with Demands

Max flow formulation.



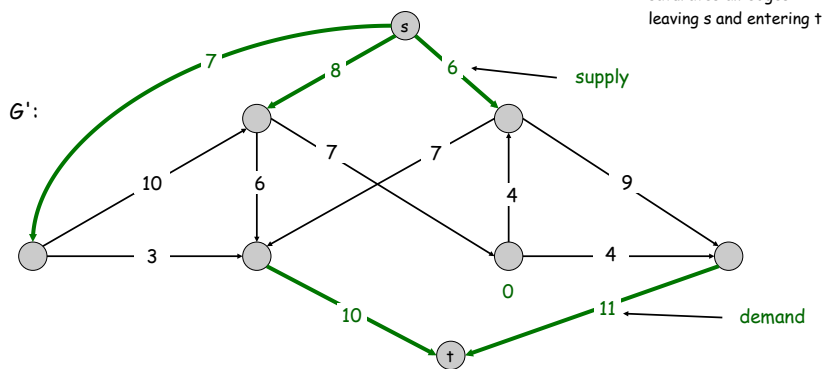
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Circulation with Demands

Max flow formulation.

- Add new source s and sink t .
- For each v with $d(v) < 0$, add edge (s, v) with capacity $-d(v)$.
- For each v with $d(v) > 0$, add edge (v, t) with capacity $d(v)$.
- Claim: G has circulation iff G' has max flow of value D .

$$\sum_{v: d(v) > 0} d(v) = \sum_{v: d(v) < 0} -d(v) =: D$$



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Circulation with Demands

Characterization. Given (V, E, c, d) , there does **not** exist a circulation iff there exists a node partition (A, B) such that $\sum_{v \in B} d_v > \text{cap}(A, B)$

Pf idea. Look at min cut in G' .

↑
demand by nodes in B exceeds supply
of nodes in B plus max capacity of
edges going from A to B

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Circulation with Demands and Lower Bounds

Feasible circulation.

- Directed graph $G = (V, E)$.
- Edge capacities $c(e)$ and lower bounds $\ell(e)$, $e \in E$.
- Node supply and demands $d(v)$, $v \in V$.

Def. A **circulation** is a function that satisfies:

- For each $e \in E$: $\ell(e) \leq f(e) \leq c(e)$ (capacity)
- For each $v \in V$: $\sum_{e \text{ in to } v} f(e) - \sum_{e \text{ out of } v} f(e) = d(v)$ (conservation)

Circulation problem with lower bounds. Given (V, E, ℓ, c, d) , does there exist a circulation?

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Circulation with Demands and Lower Bounds

Idea. Model lower bounds with demands.

- Send $\ell(e)$ units of flow along edge e .
- Update demands of both endpoints.



Theorem. There exists a circulation in G iff there exists a circulation in G' . If all demands, capacities, and lower bounds in G are integers, then there is a circulation in G that is integer-valued.

Pf sketch. $f(e)$ is a circulation in G iff $f'(e) = f(e) - \ell(e)$ is a circulation in G' .

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Max-flow and Circulation Comparison

Max-flow

- $G = (V, E)$ = directed graph,
- Two distinguished nodes:
 - s = source, t = sink.
- $c(e)$ = capacity of edge e .
- $0 \leq f(e) \leq c(e)$

$$\sum_{e \text{ in to } v} f(e) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } v} f(e)$$
- max flow = min cut
- Algorithms:
 - Generic augmenting path:
 - $O(m \cdot \text{val}(f^*))$.
 - Capacity scaling:
 - $O(m^2 \log C)$
 - *Shortest augmenting path:
 - $O(n^2 m)$.
 - * Preflow-Push:
 - $O(m \cdot n^2)$ or $O(n^3)$.

Circulation with demands

- Node supply and demands $d(v)$, $v \in V$.
 - demand if $d(v) > 0$;
 - supply if $d(v) < 0$;
 - transshipment if $d(v) = 0$
- Conservation
$$\sum_{e \text{ in to } v} f(e) - \sum_{e \text{ out of } v} f(e) = d(v)$$
- Necessary condition to have a circulation

$$\sum_{v: d(v) > 0} d(v) = \sum_{v: d(v) < 0} -d(v) =: D$$
- Convert to network flow:
 - Add new source s and sink t .
 - For each v with $d(v) < 0$, add edge (s, v) with capacity $-d(v)$.
 - For each v with $d(v) > 0$, add edge (v, t) with capacity $d(v)$.
 - Claim: G has circulation iff G' has max flow of value D (saturates all edges leaving s and entering t)
- with Demands and Lower Bound:

$$\ell(e) \leq f(e) \leq c(e)$$
- Transfer each edge $e: (v, w)$:
 - $d(v) = d(v) + \ell(e)$; $d(w) = d(w) - \ell(e)$; $c(e) = c(e) - \ell(e)$

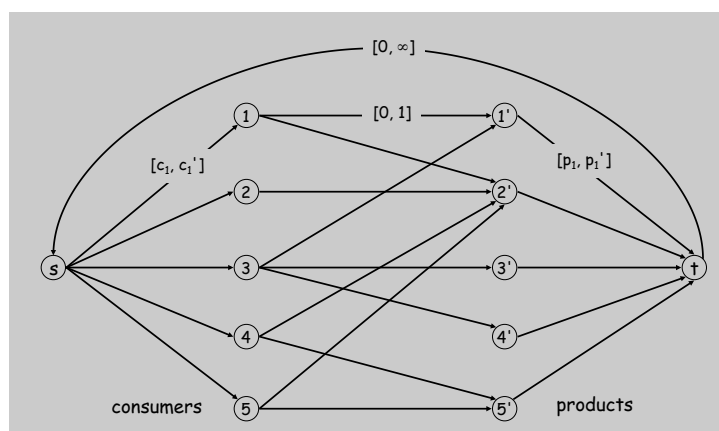
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7.8 Survey Design

Survey Design

Algorithm. Formulate as a circulation problem with lower bounds.

- Include an edge (i, j) if consumer j owns product i .
- Integer circulation \Leftrightarrow feasible survey design.



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Survey Design Example

Survey design.

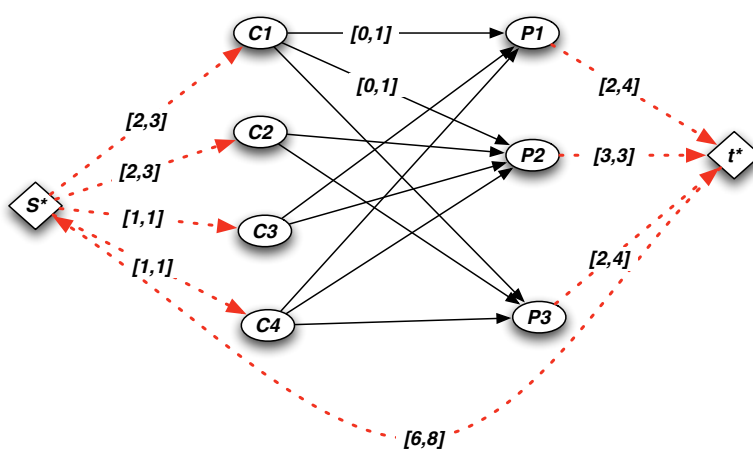
- Design survey asking 4 consumers about 3 products.
- Can only survey consumer i about product j if they own it, see table below.
- Ask consumer 1, consumer 2 each between 2 and 3 questions.
- Ask consumer 3, consumer 4 each 1 question only.
- Ask between 2 and 4 consumers about product 1.
- Ask 3 consumers about product 2.
- Ask between 2 and 4 consumers about product 3.

Goal. Design a survey that meets these specs, if possible.

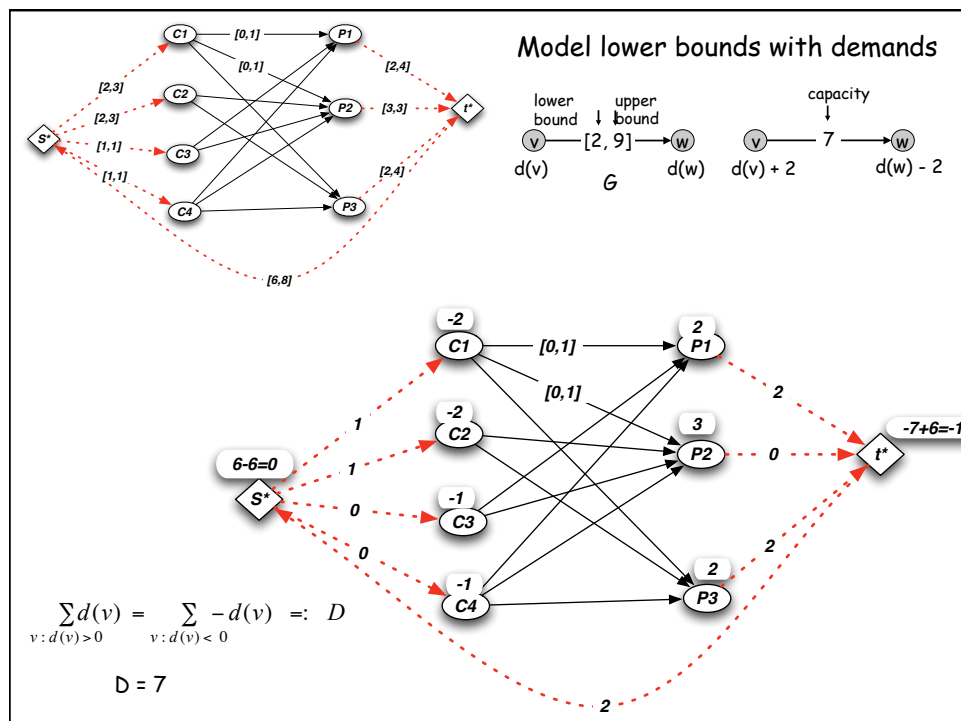
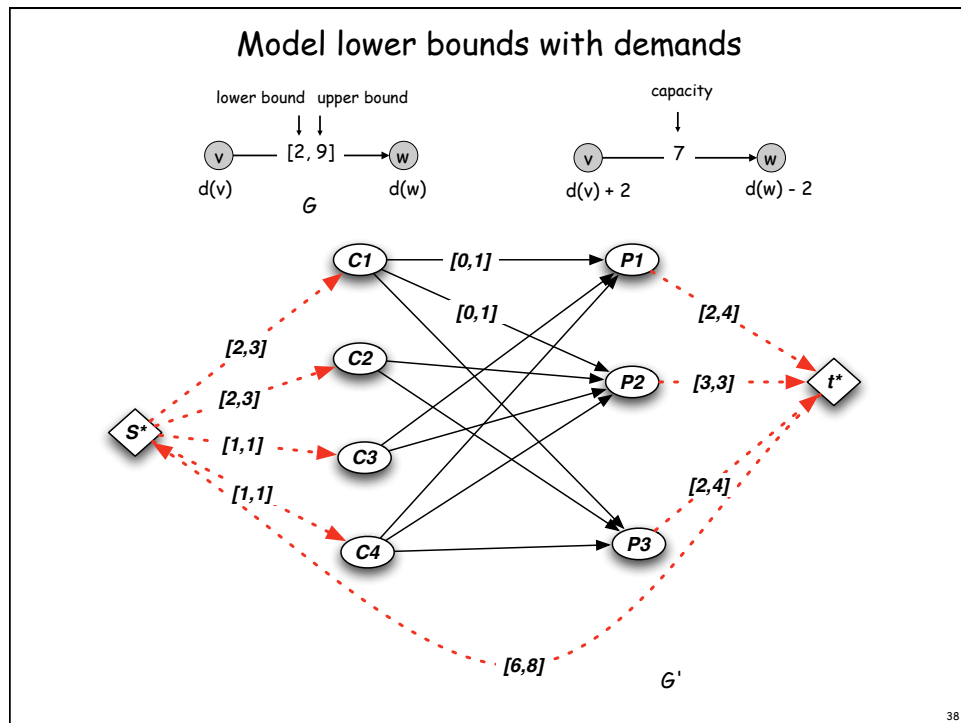
	P1	P2	P3
C1	1	1	1
C2		1	1
C3	1	1	
C4	1	1	1

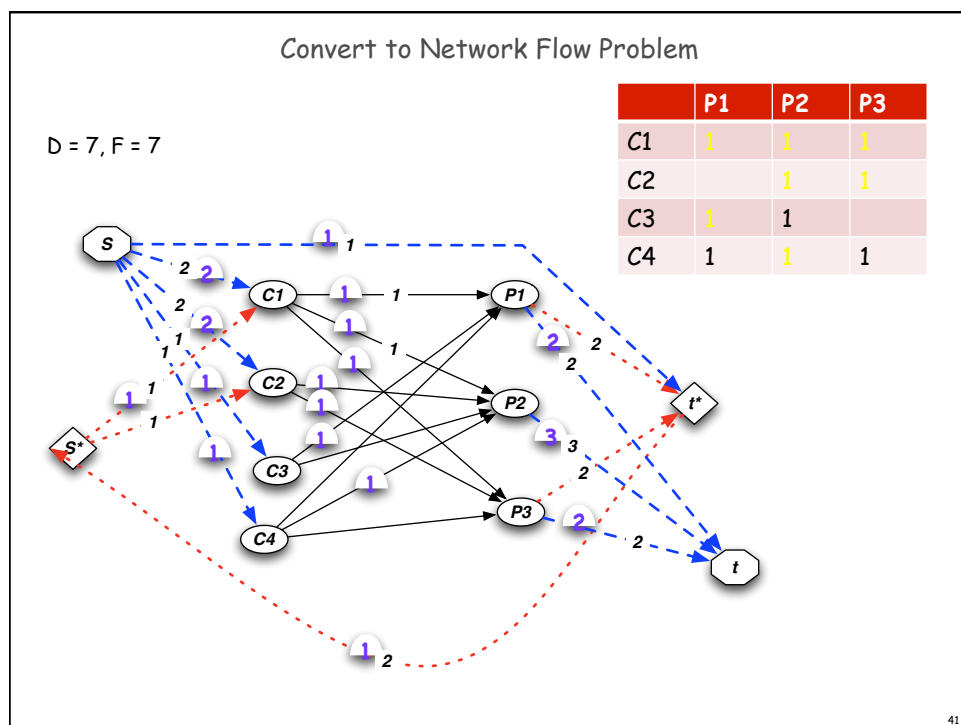
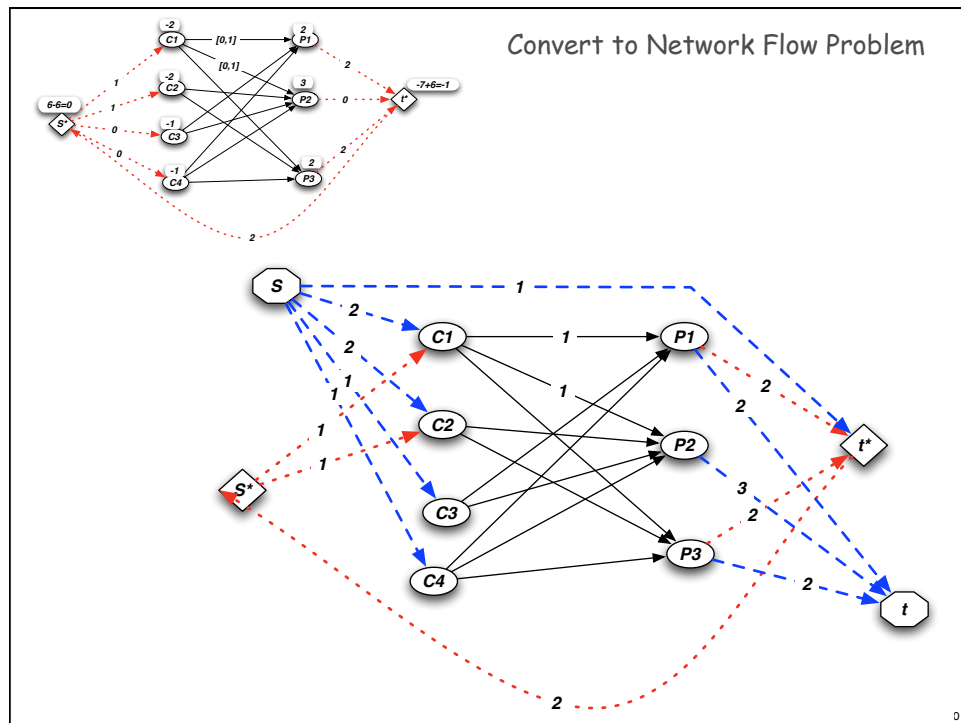
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Convert to Network Flow Problem



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7.11 Project Selection

Project Selection

Projects with prerequisites.

can be positive or negative



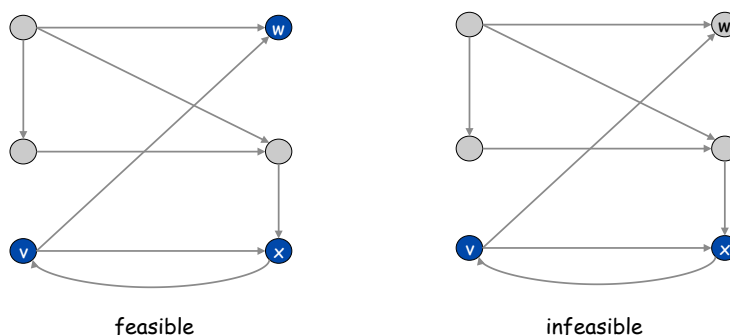
- Set P of possible projects. Project v has associated revenue p_v .
 - some projects generate money: create interactive e-commerce interface, redesign web page
 - others cost money: upgrade computers, get site license
- Set of prerequisites E . If $(v, w) \in E$, can't do project v and unless also do project w .
- A subset of projects $A \subseteq P$ is **feasible** if the prerequisite of every project in A also belongs to A .

Project selection. Choose a feasible subset of projects to maximize revenue.

Project Selection: Prerequisite Graph

Prerequisite graph.

- Include an edge from v to w if can't do v without also doing w .
- w is pre-requisites of v
- $\{v, w, x\}$ is feasible subset of projects.
- $\{v, x\}$ is infeasible subset of projects.

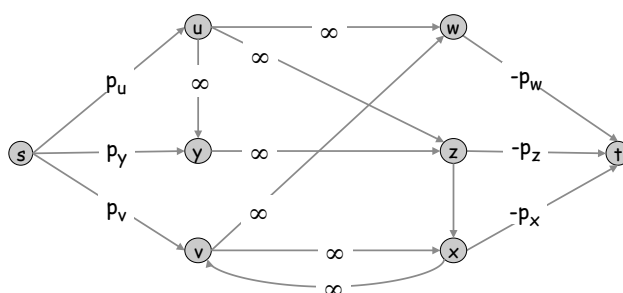


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Project Selection: Min Cut Formulation

Min cut formulation.

- Assign capacity ∞ to all prerequisite edge.
- Add edge (s, v) with capacity p_v if $p_v > 0$.
- Add edge (v, t) with capacity $-p_v$ if $p_v < 0$.
- For notational convenience, define $p_s = p_t = 0$.



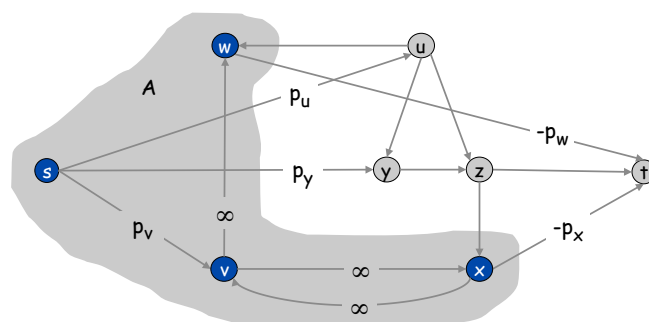
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Project Selection: Min Cut Formulation

Claim. (A, B) is min cut iff $A - \{s\}$ is optimal set of projects.

- Infinite capacity edges ensure $A - \{s\}$ is feasible.
- Max revenue because:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cap}(A, B) &= \sum_{v \in B: p_v > 0} p_v + \sum_{v \in A: p_v < 0} (-p_v) \\ &= \underbrace{\sum_{v: p_v > 0} p_v}_{\text{constant}} - \sum_{v \in A} p_v \end{aligned}$$



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Solved Exer. 2: Doctor Assignment

