

SECRET 804-1573  
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Fig. 7 — Traffic pattern: entire network available

**Legend:**

- International boundary
- (B) Railway operating division
- Capacity: 12 each way per day.  
Required flow of 9 per day toward  
destinations (in direction of arrow)  
with equivalent number of returning  
trains in opposite direction
- All capacities in *trains* *1,000's of tons* each way per day
- Origins: Divisions 2, 3W, 3E, 2S, 13N, 13S,  
12, 52(USSR), and Romania
- Destinations: Divisions 3, 6, 9 (Poland);  
B(Czechoslovakia); and 2, 3(Austria)
- Alternative destinations: Germany or East  
Germany

Note IX at Division 9, Poland

Two problems:

Given directed graph  
 $G = (V, E)$  + two vertices

$s \neq t$

# Maximum Flow

$(s, t)$ -flow  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  that

satisfies conservation constraints:

$\forall v \in V, v \neq s, t$

$$\sum_u f(u \rightarrow v) = \sum_w f(v \rightarrow w)$$

Total in = total out

If  $u \rightarrow v \notin E$ , say  $f(u \rightarrow v) =$

$$\partial f(v) := \sum_w f(v \rightarrow w) - \sum_u f(u \rightarrow v)$$

$$\Rightarrow \partial f(v) = 0 \quad \forall v \neq s, t$$

The value of  $f$  is

$$|f| := \partial f(s) = \sum_w f(s \Rightarrow w) - \sum_u f(u \Rightarrow s)$$

$$\sum_v \partial f(v) = \partial f(s) + \partial f(t)$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \partial f(s) + \partial f(t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \partial f(t) = -|f|$$

Also give a capacity function

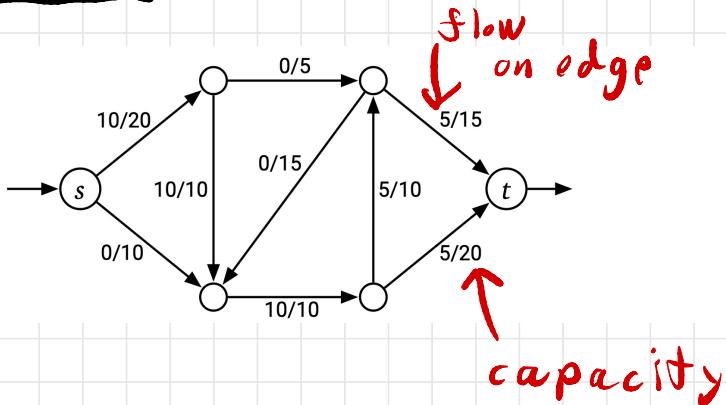
$$c: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$$

$f$  is feasible wrt  $c$  if

$$f(e) \leq c(e) \quad \forall e$$

$f$  saturates  $e$  if  $f(e) = c(e)$

$f$  avoids  $e$  if  $f(e) = 0$



Maximum flow problem:

find a max value  $(s,t)$ -flow  
that is feasible wrt  $c$ .

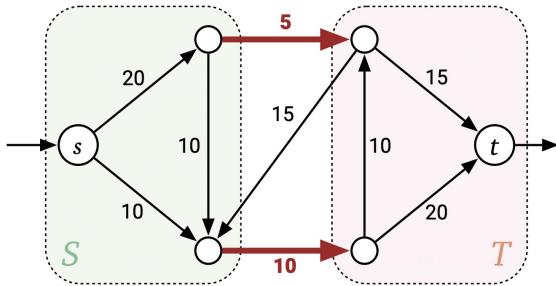
An  $(s, t)$ -cut is a partition of  $V$  into two subsets  
 $(S \cup T = V \wedge S \cap T = \emptyset)$   
s.t.  $s \in S \wedge t \in T$ .

Given  $c: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , the  
capacity of cut  $(S, T)$

is sum of capacities for  
edges from  $S$  to  $T$

$$|(S, T)| := \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{w \in T} c(v \rightarrow w)$$

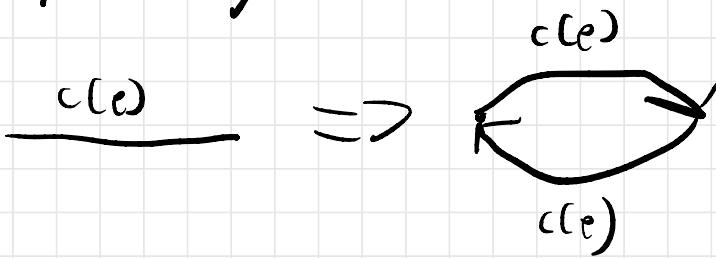
(if  $v \rightarrow w \notin E$ , say  $c(v \rightarrow w) = 0$ )



$$|S, T| = 15$$

minimum cut problem:

find  $(s, t)$ -cut of minimum capacity



Lemma: The value of any  $(s, t)$ -flow  $f$  is at most the capacity of any  $(s, t)$ -cut  $(S, T)$ .

$$|f| = \partial f(s) \quad [\text{by definition}]$$

$$= \sum_{v \in S} \partial f(v) \quad [\text{conservation constraint}]$$

$$= \sum_{v \in S} \sum_w f(v \rightarrow w) - \sum_{v \in S} \sum_u f(u \rightarrow v) \quad [\text{math, definition of } \partial]$$

$$= \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{w \notin S} f(v \rightarrow w) - \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{u \notin S} f(u \rightarrow v) \quad [\text{removing edges from } S \text{ to } S]$$

$$= \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{w \in T} f(v \rightarrow w) - \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{u \in T} f(u \rightarrow v) \quad [\text{definition of cut}]$$

$$\leq \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{w \in T} f(v \rightarrow w) \quad [\text{because } f(u \rightarrow v) \geq 0]$$

$$\leq \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{w \in T} c(v \rightarrow w) \quad [\text{because } f(v \rightarrow w) \leq c(v \rightarrow w)]$$

$$= \|S, T\| \quad [\text{by definition}]$$

So...  $\|S, T\| = |f|$  if and only if  
 $f$  saturates all  $S \rightarrow T$  edges &  
 avoids all  $T \rightarrow S$  edges.

$\Rightarrow$   $f$  is maximum value &  
 $(S, T)$  is minimum capacity

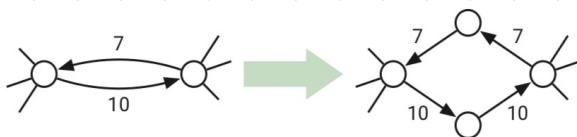
# Maxflow Mincut Theorem

[Ford-Fulkerson '54, Elias, Feinstein, Shannon '56]:

The value of the max flow = capacity min cut!

Assume the graph is reduced:

one of  $u \rightarrow v$  or  $v \rightarrow u$  not in  
 $E$



Suppose we have a feasible  
(s,t)-flow  $f$ .

Residual capacities w.r.t  $f$

$$c_f : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$c_f(u \rightarrow v) =$$

$$c(u \rightarrow v) - f(u \rightarrow v) \quad \text{if } u \rightarrow v \in E$$

how much we can undo

$$\rightarrow f(v \rightarrow u) \quad \text{if } v \rightarrow u \in E$$

0

o.w.

$$f(u \rightarrow v) \geq 0$$

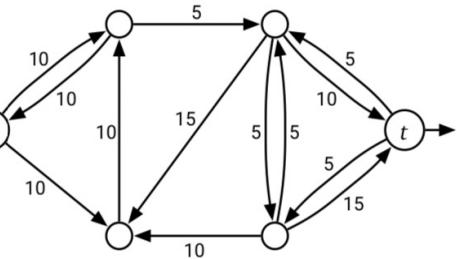
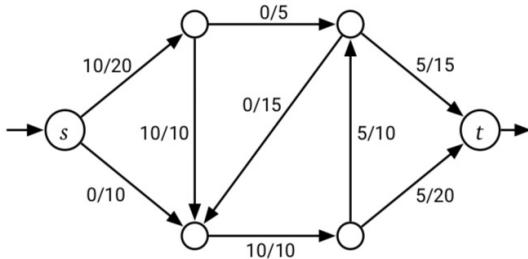
$$f(u \rightarrow v) \leq c(u \rightarrow v)$$

so  $c_f$  is non-negative

$f(u \rightarrow v)$  may be  $> 0$  even if  
 $u \rightarrow v \notin E$

residual graph  $G_f = (V, E_f)$

$E_f$  : pairs  $u \rightarrow v$  s.t.  $c_f(u \rightarrow v) > 0$   
positive



Suppose  $\exists$  path  $P$  from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G_f$ .

augmenting

↙ max amount

of flow we can "push"

$$F := \sum_{u \rightarrow v \in P} c_f(u \rightarrow v) \text{ through } P$$

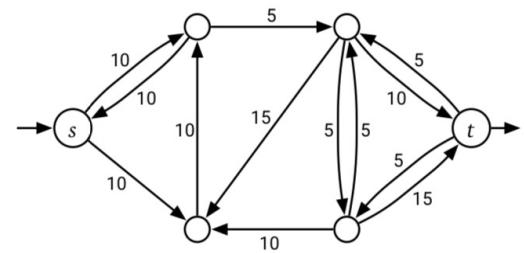
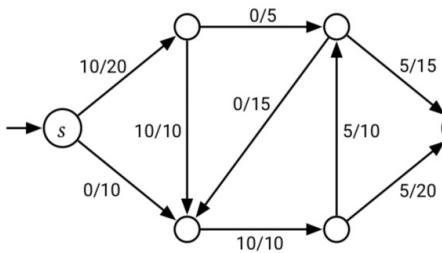
Define  $f' : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$f'(u \rightarrow v) =$$

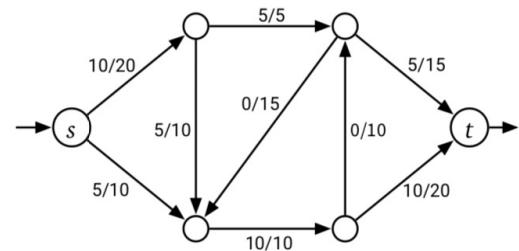
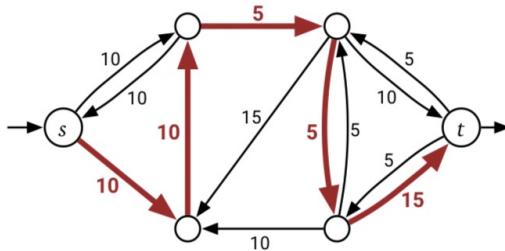
$$f(u \rightarrow v) + F \quad \text{if } u \rightarrow v \in P$$

$$f(u \rightarrow v) - F \quad \text{if } v \rightarrow u \in P$$

$$f(u \rightarrow v) \quad \partial, w$$



$$F = S$$



$s'$  is a feasible  $(s, t)$ -flow

$|s'| = |S| + F \Rightarrow f$  was not max value

Suppose o.w. that  $s$  cannot reach  $t$  in  $G_f$ .

$S$ : Vertices reachable from  $s$  in  $G_f$

$T$ :  $V \setminus S$ .

$(S, T)$  is an  $(s, t)$ -cut.

$\forall u \in S, v \in T$  saturated

If  $u \rightarrow v \in E$ , then

$$0 = c_{G_f}(u \rightarrow v) = c(u \rightarrow v) - f(u \rightarrow v)$$

If  $v \rightarrow u \in E$ , then avoided

$$0 = c_{G_f}(u \rightarrow v) = f(v \rightarrow u)$$

$$\Rightarrow |S| = \|S, T\|$$

$\uparrow$                        $\uparrow$

max                      min