





We cannot find an augmenting path in the residual graph. So, terminate.



```
def ford_fulkerson(g, s, t):
 1
        # Let f be a flow, initially empty
 2
        for u \rightarrow v in g.edges:
 3
            f(u \rightarrow v) = 0
 4
 5
        # Define a helper function for finding an augmenting path
 6
        def find_augmenting_path():
 7
             # Define the residual graph h on the same vertices as g
 8
             for u \rightarrow v in g.edges:
 9
                 if f(u \to v) < c(u \to v): give h an edge u \to v labelled "inc u \to v"
10
                 if f(u \rightarrow v) > 0: give h an edge v \rightarrow u labelled "dec u \rightarrow v"
11
             if h has a path from s to t:
12
                 return some such path, together with the labels of its edges
13
             else:
14
15
                 # Let S be the set of vertices reachable from S (used in the proof)
18
                 return None
19
20
        # Repeatedly find an augmenting path and add flow to it
21
        while True:
22
             p = find_augmenting_path()
23
             if p is None:
                                                                                                          a
24
                 break
25
             else:
26
                 compute \delta, the amount of flow to apply along p, and apply it
33
                 # Assert: \delta > 0
39
                 # Assert: f is still a valid flow
                                                                                    S
                                                                                                                                             t
                                                                                                                     b
                                                                                                               reachable
                                                                                                       С
```

# SECTION 6.3 Max-flow min-cut





A **cut** is a partition of the vertices into two sets,  $V = S \cup \overline{S}$ , with the source vertex  $s \in S$  and the sink vertex  $t \in \overline{S}$ .

The **capacity** of the cut is

capacity(
$$S, \overline{S}$$
) =  $\sum_{\substack{u \in S, v \in \overline{S}:\\u \to v}} c(u \to v)$ 

#### MAX-FLOW MIN-CUT THEOREM

For any flow f and any cut  $(S, \overline{S})$ , value $(f) \leq \text{capacity}(S, \overline{S})$ 





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### CORRECTNESS THEOREM

#### Suppose Ford-Fulkerson terminates, producing a flow $f^*$ . Then $f^*$ is a maximum flow.



- 1. Let  $S^* = \{ \text{vertices reachable from } s \}$  in the residual graph, at termination.
- 2. The algorithm terminated, so  $t \notin S^*$ , so  $(S^*, \overline{S}^*)$  is a cut.
- 3. The residual graph has no edges from  $S^*$  to  $\overline{S}^*$ , hence
  - on edges  $S^* \to \overline{S}^*$  in the flow network, flow=capacity
  - on edges  $S^* \leftarrow \overline{S}^*$  in the flow network, flow=0
- 4. From the inequalities in the max-flow min-cut theorem, value( $f^*$ ) = capacity( $S^*, \overline{S}^*$ ); hence  $f^*$  is a maximum flow.

SECTION 6.4 Matchings



## DEFINITIONS

- A bipartite graph is an undirected graph in which the vertices are split into two sets, and all edges go between these sets
- A matching in a bipartite graph is a selection of edges, such that no vertex is connected to more than one of the edges
- The size of a matching is the number of edges it includes
- A maximum matching is one with the largest possible size

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

Given a bipartite graph, find a maximum matching



0. Given a bipartite graph

• • •

- 1. Build a helper graph:
- add source s and sink t
- add edges from s and to t

2. Solve max-flow on the helper graph, to find a maximum flow  $f^*$ 

3. Interpret the flow  $f^*$  as a matching

What's the bug in my thinking?



wtf?! This isn't the sort of flow 1 expected!

0. Given a bipartite graph

...

- 1. Build a helper graph:
- add source *s* and sink *t*
- add edges from *s* and to *t*

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I'll set up a flow problem where the goal is to pick edges to **discard**.

Hold on! The max-flow solution actually leads to a worse matching.



0. Given a bipartite graph

...

- 1. Build a helper graph:
- add source s and sink t
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2. Solve max-flow on the helper graph, to find a maximum flow  $f^*$ 

3. Interpret the flow  $f^*$  as a matching

## THE TRANSLATION STRATEGY

**CLAIM1:** We can find a max flow  $f^*$  that can be translated into a matching, call it  $m^*$ 

**CLAIM2:** If there were a larger-size matching m' then it would translate to a larger-value flow f'

But there cannot be such a f', because  $f^*$  is a maximum flow. Therefore there is no such m', thus  $m^*$  is a maximum matching.



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But there cannot be such a f', because  $f^*$  is a maximum flow. Therefore there is no such m', thus  $m^*$  is a maximum matching.

When we did the translation  $f^* \rightarrow m^*$ , value $(f^*) = size(m^*)$ 

When we translate any matching to a flow, in the obvious way, value(flow)=size(matching)

So if we had a larger-size matching m' it would translate to a larger-value flow f'.

*Ford-Fulkerson will produce an integer flow, since all capacities are integer. Indeed, the flow on each edge must be either 0 or 1.* 



*The capacity constraints tell us that, when we translate f*<sup>\*</sup> *into an edge selection, it meets the definition of "matching".* 



