COL351: Analysis and Design of Algorithms

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Algorithm

`Ford-Fulkerson`

- Start with a flow f such that $f(e) = 0$
- While there is an $s - t$ path P in G_f
  - Augment flow along an $s - t$ path and let f' be resulting flow
  - Update f to f' and G_f to $G_{f'}$
- return(f)

- How do we prove that the flow returned by the `Ford-Fulkerson` algorithm is the maximum flow?

- Theorem 1: Let f be the flow returned by the `Ford-Fulkerson` algorithm. Then f maximizes $v(f) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } s} f(e)$.

Definition (f^{in} and f^{out})

Let S be a subset of vertices and f be a flow. Then

$$f^{in}(S) = \sum_{e \text{ into } S} f(e) \quad \text{and} \quad f^{out}(S) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } S} f(e)$$

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Definition ($s - t$ cut)

A partition of vertices (A, B) is called an $s - t$ cut iff A contains s and B contains t.

Definition (Capacity of $s - t$ cut)

The capacity of an $s - t$ cut (A, B) is defined as $C(A, B) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } A} c(e)$.

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Proof

- Claim 1.1: For any $s - t$ cut (A, B) and any $s - t$ flow f, $v(f) = f^{out}(A) - f^{in}(A)$.

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Proof of claim 1.1.

$v(f) = f^{out}(\{s\}) - f^{in}(\{s\})$ and for all other nodes $v \in A, f^{out}(\{v\}) - f^{in}(\{v\}) = 0$. So,

$$v(f) = \sum_{v \in A}(f^{out}(\{v\}) - f^{in}(\{v\})) = f^{out}(A) - f^{in}(A).$$

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- Claim 1.2: Let f be any s-t flow and (A, B) be any s-t cut. Then $v(f) \leq C(A, B)$.

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Proof of claim 1.2.

$v(f) = f^{out}(A) - f^{in}(A) \leq f^{out}(A) \leq C(A, B)$. □

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- Claim 1.2: Let f be any s-t flow and (A, B) be any s-t cut. Then $v(f) \leq C(A, B)$.
- Claim 1.3: Let f be an s-t flow such that there is no s-t path in G_f. Then there is an s-t cut (A^*, B^*) such that $v(f) = C(A^*, B^*)$. Furthermore, f is a flow with maximum value and (A^*, B^*) is an s-t cut with minimum capacity.

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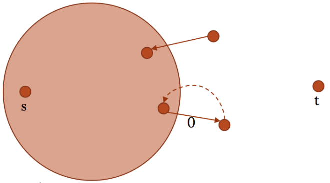
Proof of claim 1.3

- Let A^* be all vertices reachable from s in the graph G_f (see figure below). Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} v(f) &= f^{out}(A^*) - f^{in}(A^*) \\ &= f^{out}(A^*) - 0 \\ &= C(A^*, B^*) \end{aligned}$$



A^* (all vertices reachable from s in G_f)

Theorem (Max-flow-min-cut theorem)

In every flow network, the maximum value of s-t flow is equal to the minimum capacity of s-t cut.

- Summary:
  - `Ford-Fulkerson` Algorithm:
    - Given network with integer capacities, find a source-to-sink path and push as much flow along the path as possible.
    - Update the residual capacity of edges in the residual graph.
    - Repeat.
  - Proof of correctness:
    - The algorithm terminates (since the capacities are integers).
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- What if the capacities are not integers? Does the algorithm terminate?
  - There is a network where the edges have non-integer capacities where the Ford-Fulkerson algorithm does not terminate.

Applications of Network Flow

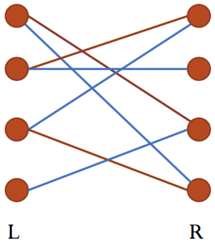
Definition (Matching in bipartite graphs)

A subset M of edges such that each node appears in at most one edge in M.

Problem

Given a bipartite graph $G = (L, R, E)$, design an algorithm to give a maximum matching in the graph.

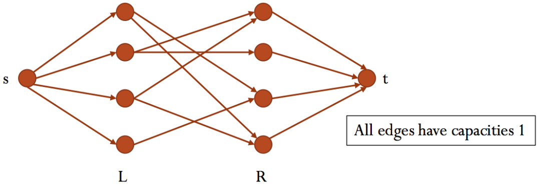
- Example:



Problem

Given a bipartite graph $G = (L, R, E)$, design an algorithm to give a maximum matching in the graph.

- Consider the network graph below constructed from the bipartite graph.



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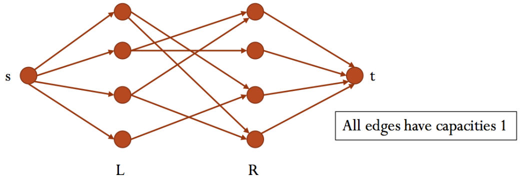

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  - Consider those bipartite edges along which the flow is 1. Argue that due to flow conservation these edges form a matching.

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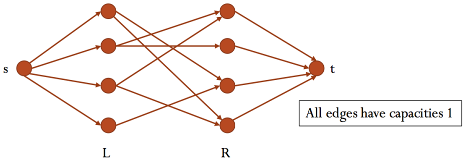

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- <u>Claim 2</u>: Suppose the bipartite graph has a matching of size k. Then there is an integer flow of value k in the network graph.

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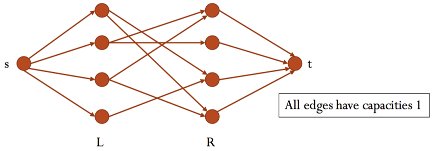

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  - Consider those bipartite edges along which the flow is 1. Argue that due to flow conservation these edges form a matching.
- Claim 2: Suppose the bipartite graph has a matching of size k. Then there is an integer flow of value k in the network graph.
  - Consider the flow where the flow along the edges in the matching is 1.

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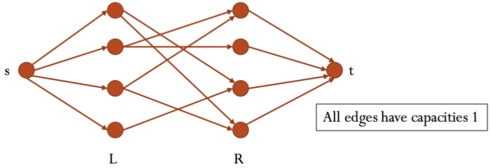

Figure: Network construction from Bipartite graph

Algorithm

Max-Matching(G)

- Construct the network G' using G as shown in Figure
- Execute the Ford-Fulkerson algorithm on G' to obtain flow f
- Let M be all bipartite edges with flow value 1
- return(M)

End