Network Flows

Inge Li Gørtz

## Applications

- Matchings
- Job scheduling
- Image segmentation
- Baseball elimination
- Disjoint paths
- Survivable network design

Network Flow


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- Example 1:
- Solution 1: 4 trucks
- Solution 2: 5 trucks



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- Example 1:
- Solution 1: 4 trucks
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- Example 2:



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- Example 2:
- 5 trucks (need to cross river).


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- Maximum flow problem: find s-t flow of maximum value


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- Find augmenting path, use it
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c(S, T)=8
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- Since $|f|=c(S, T)$ this implies $|f|=\left|f^{\star}\right|$ and $c(S, T)=c\left(S^{\star}, T^{*}\right)$.

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- => value of flow $(\mathrm{S}, \mathrm{T})=$ capacity of the cut.


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- $=>|f|=f_{1}+f_{2}-f_{3}=f_{1}+f_{2}=c_{1}+c_{2}=c(S, T)$.
- => f a maximum flow and $(S, T)$ a minimum cut.



## Removing assumptions

- Edges into $s$ and out of $t$ :

$$
v(f)=f^{\text {out }}(s)-f^{i n}(s)
$$

- Capacities not integers.


## Network Flow

- Multiple sources and sinks:


