CS 341: ALGORITHMS

Lecture 18: applications of max flow

Readings: CLRS 26.2

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MAX BIPARTITE MATCHING

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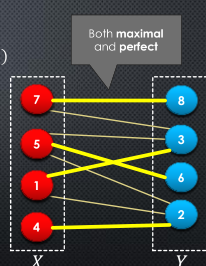
BIPARTITE MATCHING

- **Input:** a **bipartite** graph $G = (X, Y, E)$
- **Output:** a **maximum cardinality** set of edges that are **vertex disjoint**



- Set S of edges is called a **matching** if no two edges in S share a vertex
- A matching is a **perfect matching** IFF every vertex is matched

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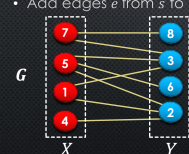
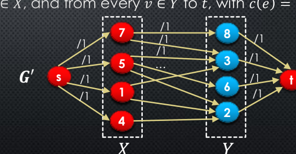
REDUCTION TO MAX FLOW

- Given bipartite $G = (X, Y, E)$ construct $G' = (V', E')$ as follows
- $V' = \{s\} \cup X \cup Y \cup \{t\}$ where s and t are new vertices
  - All $e \in E$ appear in E', pointing from X to Y, with $c(e) = 1$
  - Add edges e from s to every $v \in X$, and from every $v \in Y$ to t, with $c(e) = 1$





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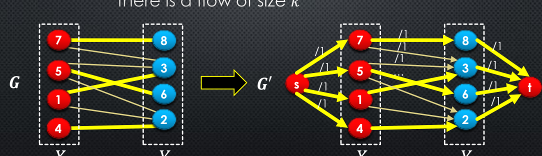
CORRECTNESS OF THE REDUCTION

- Claim: there is a matching of size k in G IFF there is an s-t flow of value k in G'
- Proof: (➔) clearly if there is a matching of size k, there is a flow of size k



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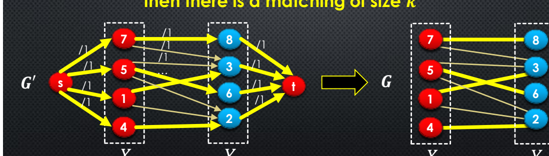
CORRECTNESS OF THE REDUCTION

- Claim: there is a matching of size k in G IFF there is an s-t flow of value k in G'
- **Proof: (🡐) let's show if there is a flow of size k, then there is a matching of size k**



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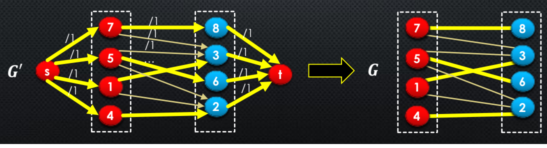
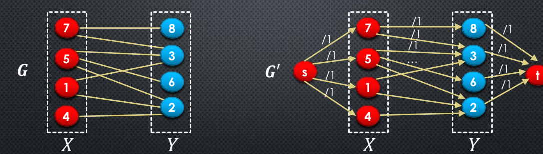
PROOF: FLOW OF SIZE $k \Rightarrow$ MATCHING OF SIZE k

- Decompose flow into k capacity disjoint s-t paths, each with flow 1
- Each path is 3 edges: s to X, X to Y, Y to t
- Each edge from s to X or from Y to t has capacity 1
- So **each vertex** except for s, t can be used on at most **one path**
- Removing edges s to X and Y to t gives k vertex-disjoint edges. □



COMPLEXITY

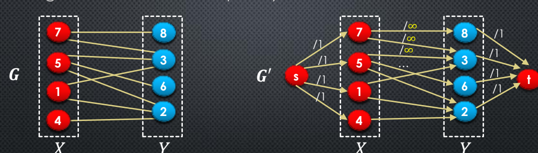
- Given bipartite $G = (X, Y, E)$ construct $G' = (V', E')$ as follows



- O(n+m) to build G' (simplifies to O(m) if G is connected)
- max flow is O(n), so O(nm) to run Ford-Fulkerson → total O(nm)

MODIFIED REDUCTION (FOR THE NEXT PROOF)

- For edges from X to Y set capacity to ∞ instead of 1



- Does not affect the correctness of the reduction!
  (**Each vertex can still only be used once**)

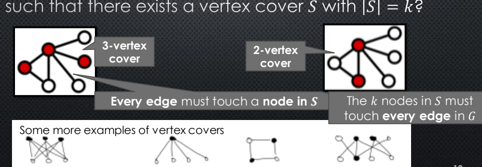
MINIMUM VERTEX COVER (FOR A BIPARTITE GRAPH)

RECALL: MAX-FLOW MIN-CUT THEOREM

- **Theorem 3:** every max s-t flow has value equal to the capacity of a min s-t cut
- Consequence: if the max s-t flow is k, then there is an s-t cut with **capacity** k
  - I.e., the only reason the max flow is limited to k is that there is a cut with capacity k that limits the flow

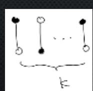
MINIMUM VERTEX COVER PROBLEM

- **Vertex cover:** given a graph $G = (V, E)$ a set S of vertices is called a **vertex cover** IFF for every $(u, v) \in E$, either $u \in S$ or $v \in S$
- **Minimum vertex cover:** what is the smallest k such that there exists a vertex cover S with $|S| = k$?



CONNECTING MATCHING AND VERTEX COVER

- In bipartite graphs, These problems are related via "duality"
- Explaining their duality involves formulating both problems as **linear programming** problems – see linear optimization courses
- We study their connection in a more ad-hoc way
  - Observe: If there is a matching with k edges, then there is any vertex cover S must have $|S| \geq k$
  - Why? The k edges in the matching are vertex disjoint, so k distinct vertices are needed to cover them



So |vertex cover| ≥ |max matching|

In fact we can prove |vertex cover| = |max matching|, so can solve with max matching, which we reduced to **max flow**

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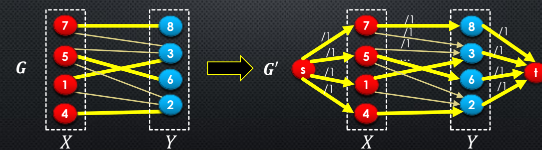
KÖNIG'S THEOREM
|MAX MATCHING| = |MIN VERTEX COVER|

- Let $k = |\text{max matching}|$ in G. Show ∃ vertex cover of size k.
- Recall our reduction from max matching to max flow
  - The max s-t **flow in** G' **is** k



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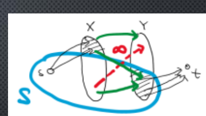
KÖNIG'S THEOREM
|MAX MATCHING| = |MIN VERTEX COVER|

- Since the max s-t **flow in** G' **is** k,
- By max-flow min-cut, there is an s-t **cut** S in G' with **capacity** k



- This flow must cross the cut to reach t, and it must consume k units of **capacity** crossing the cut
- There are three cases in which **capacity** can possibly **cross the cut**
  - **(1)** it can cross the cut going from s to X,
    or **(2)** it can cross the cut going from X to Y,
    or **(3)** it can cross the cut going from Y to t

There **cannot be an edge satisfying case 2**, or cut capacity would be ∞, not k!

So only cases 1&3 are possible

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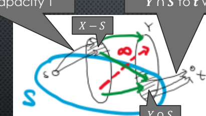
KÖNIG'S THEOREM
|MAX MATCHING| = |MIN VERTEX COVER|

- So capacity can only cross the cut in 2 cases: $\boldsymbol{s}$ **to** $\boldsymbol{X}$, $\boldsymbol{Y}$ **to** $\boldsymbol{t}$

Case $\boldsymbol{s}$ **to** $\boldsymbol{X}$: via an edge from $\boldsymbol{s}$ to $\boldsymbol{X}-\boldsymbol{S}$ with capacity 1

Case $\boldsymbol{Y}$ **to** $\boldsymbol{t}$: via an edge from $\boldsymbol{Y} \cap \boldsymbol{S}$ to $\boldsymbol{t}$ with capacity 1



- **k = capacity crossing cut = # of such edges**
- **= total # vertices in** $(\boldsymbol{X}-\boldsymbol{S}) \cup (\boldsymbol{Y} \cap \boldsymbol{S})$

So there are exactly k vertices in $(\boldsymbol{X}-\boldsymbol{S}) \cup (\boldsymbol{Y} \cap \boldsymbol{S})$

Claim: this set of vertices $(\boldsymbol{X}-\boldsymbol{S}) \cup (\boldsymbol{Y} \cap \boldsymbol{S})$ is a vertex cover for $\boldsymbol{G}$

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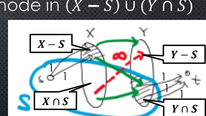
KÖNIG'S THEOREM
|MAX MATCHING| = |MIN VERTEX COVER|

- Showing $(\boldsymbol{X}-\boldsymbol{S}) \cup (\boldsymbol{Y} \cap \boldsymbol{S})$ is a **vertex cover for G**
- Show every edge in **G** must touch some node in $(X-S) \cup (Y \cap S)$
  - I.e., every edge from X to Y touches a node in $(X-S) \cup (Y \cap S)$
- Suppose not for contra
- Then there is an edge from X to Y that does not touch $(X-S) \cup (Y \cap S)$
- Such an edge must be directed from $X \cap S$ to $Y - S$



- But such an edge has capacity ∞, and would cross the cut, contradicting $c^{out}(S) = k$

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SOLVING VERTEX COVER

- So |max matching| = |min vertex cover| **in bipartite graphs**
- And we also reduced max bipartite matching to max flow, obtaining an O(nm) algorithm for max bipartite matching
- So we can use the same algorithm to solve min (bipartite) vertex cover in O(nm) time
  - Construct graph G' for max matching, then run max flow
  - Given the resulting flow, extract |min vertex cover| by summing flows out of s
- Exercise: how can we identify the vertices in the vertex cover?

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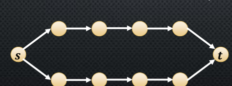
BONUS SLIDES

VERTEX DISJOINT PATHS

VERTEX DISJOINT PATHS

- We already saw max flow can be used to find **edge-disjoint** paths
  - (and capacity-disjoint paths)
- What if we want s-t paths that are **vertex disjoint**?
- Two s-t paths P_1 and P_2 are called (internally) vertex-disjoint if they only share the vertices s and t, and **no other vertices**

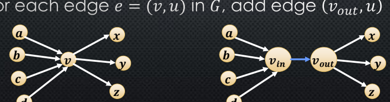


VERTEX DISJOINT PATHS

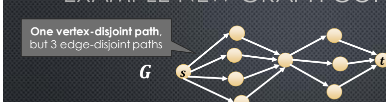
- Can be reduced to maximum edge-disjoint s-t paths
  - Meaning an algorithm for edge-disjoint paths can solve this
- Goal: **transform** the input graph G into a **new graph G'** so that for any two paths P_1 and P_2 in G, P_1 and P_2 are vertex-disjoint **IFF** there are two corresponding edge-disjoint paths in G'
- Then we can run $\text{MaxEdgeDisjointPaths}(G')$ to identify the vertex-disjoint paths in G

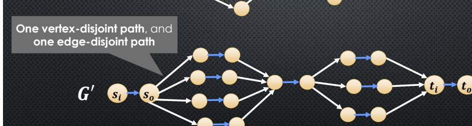
REDUCTION **TO** EDGE-DISJOINT PATHS

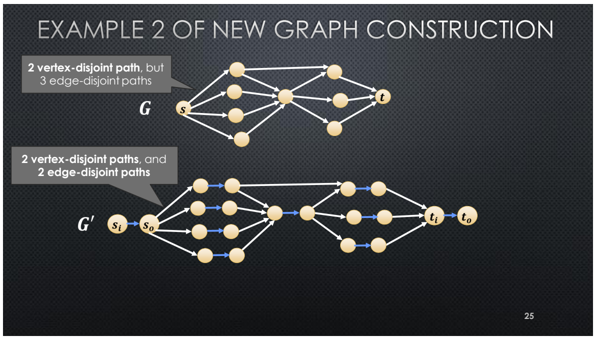
- Let $\boldsymbol{G, s, t}$ be an input to the vertex-disjoint s-t paths problem
- Create a new graph G' as follows
  - For each vertex v in G, add vertices v_{in} and v_{out}, and **edge** (v_{in}, v_{out})
  - For each edge $e = (u, v)$ in G, add edge (u, v_{in})
  - For each edge $e = (v, u)$ in G, add edge (v_{out}, u)



EXAMPLE NEW GRAPH CONSTRUCTION






EXAMPLE 2 OF NEW GRAPH CONSTRUCTION
2 vertex-disjoint path, but 3 edge-disjoint paths
G
s
t
2 vertex-disjoint paths, and **2 edge-disjoint paths**
G'
s_i
s_o
t_i
t_o
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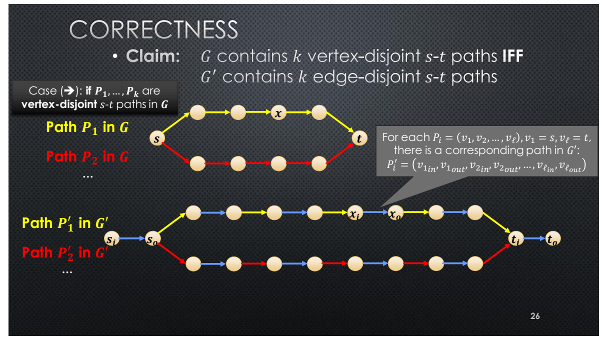
CORRECTNESS
• **Claim:** G contains k vertex-disjoint s-t paths **IFF** G' contains k edge-disjoint s-t paths
Case (➔): **if $P_1, \dots, P_k$ are vertex-disjoint** s-t paths in G
Path P_1 in G
Path P_2 in G
…
For each $P_i = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_\ell), v_1 = s, v_\ell = t$, there is a corresponding path in G': $P_i' = (v_{1_{in}}, v_{1_{out}}, v_{2_{in}}, v_{2_{out}}, \dots, v_{\ell_{in}}, v_{\ell_{out}})$
Path P_1' in G'
Path P_2' in G'
…
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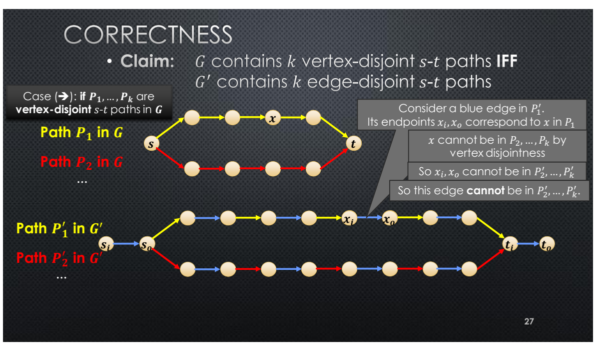
CORRECTNESS
• **Claim:** G contains k vertex-disjoint s-t paths **IFF** G' contains k edge-disjoint s-t paths
Case (➔): **if $P_1, \dots, P_k$ are vertex-disjoint** s-t paths in G
Path P_1 in G
Path P_2 in G
…
Consider a blue edge in P_1'. Its endpoints x_i, x_o correspond to x in P_1
x cannot be in $P_2, \dots, P_k$ by vertex disjointness
So x_i, x_o cannot be in $P_2', \dots, P_k'$
So this edge **cannot** be in $P_2', \dots, P_k'$.
Path P_1' in G'
Path P_2' in G'
…
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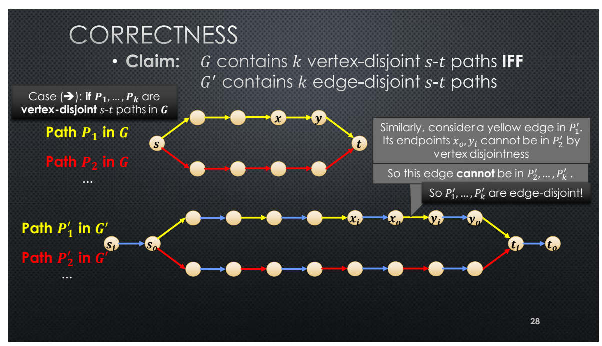
CORRECTNESS
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Case (➔): **if $P_1, \dots, P_k$ are vertex-disjoint** s-t paths in G
Path P_1 in G
Path P_2 in G
…
Similarly, consider a yellow edge in P_1'. Its endpoints x_o, y_i cannot be in P_2' by vertex disjointness
So this edge **cannot** be in $P_2', \dots, P_k'$.
So $P_1', \dots, P_k'$ are edge-disjoint!
Path P_1' in G'
Path P_2' in G'
…
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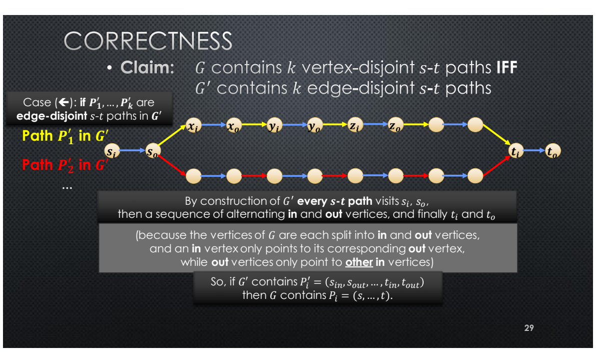
CORRECTNESS
• **Claim:** G contains k vertex-disjoint s-t paths **IFF** G' contains k edge-disjoint s-t paths
Case (🡐): **if $P_1', \dots, P_k'$ are edge-disjoint** s-t paths in G'
Path P_1' in G'
Path P_2' in G'
…
By construction of G' **every s-t path** visits s_i, s_o, then a sequence of alternating **in** and **out** vertices, and finally t_i and t_o
(because the vertices of G are each split into **in** and **out** vertices, and an **in** vertex only points to its corresponding **out** vertex, while **out** vertices only point to **other in** vertices)
So, if G' contains $P_i' = (s_{in}, s_{out}, \dots, t_{in}, t_{out})$ then G contains $P_i = (s, \dots, t)$.
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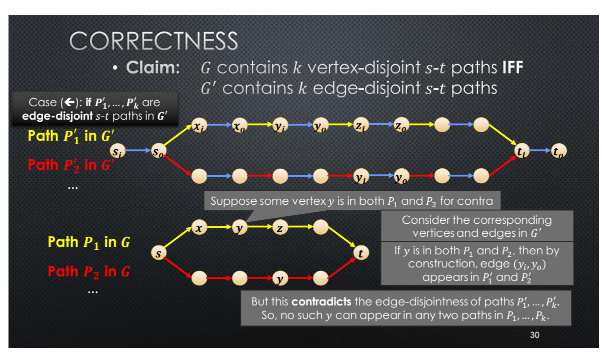
CORRECTNESS
• **Claim:** G contains k vertex-disjoint s-t paths **IFF** G' contains k edge-disjoint s-t paths
Case (🡐): **if $P_1', \dots, P_k'$ are edge-disjoint** s-t paths in G'
Path P_1' in G'
Path P_2' in G'
…
Suppose some vertex y is in both P_1 and P_2 for contra
Path P_1 in G
Path P_2 in G
…
Consider the corresponding vertices and edges in G'
If y is in both P_1 and P_2, then by construction, edge (y_i, y_o) appears in P_1' and P_2'
But this **contradicts** the edge-disjointness of paths $P_1', \dots, P_k'$. So, no such y can appear in any two paths in $P_1, \dots, P_k$.
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ALGORITHM

- Algorithm given graph G and s, t
  - Transform G into G' as described
  - Run $\text{MaxEdgeDisjointPaths}(G', s, t)$
  - Return the result
- This **reduces** the problem of solving **max vertex-disjoint paths** to the problem of solving **max edge-disjoint paths**
  - Such a result is typically written $\text{MaxVertexDisjointPaths} \leq \text{MaxEdgeDisjointPaths}$

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IMPLEMENTATION

- Transforming the graph is easy
- But how do we solve $\text{MaxEdgeDisjointPaths}(G', s, t)$?
  - Can **reduce disjoint paths** to **max flow** (we mentioned this last time)
    - Max edge disjoint s-t paths in a graph is just a special case of max s-t flow where the capacity of each edge is 1
  - So $\text{MaxVertexDisjointPaths} \leq \text{MaxEdgeDisjointPaths} \leq \text{MaxFlow}$
- So we let capacity function c be $c(e) = 1$ for all edges e in G', then run and return $\text{MaxFlow}(\text{G}', \text{c}, \text{s}, \text{t})$

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RUNTIME

- Transforming the graph can be done in $O(n + m) = O(m)$ time for a connected graph
- Then we call $\text{MaxEdgeDisjointPaths}(G', s, t)$, which simply calls $\text{MaxFlow}(G', c, s, t)$
- Fork-Fulkerson runs in time $O(km)$ where k is the value of the max flow… can we bound k?
- Recall that in our reduction, the max flow is ultimately going to compute the number of vertex-disjoint s-t paths
  - Each vertex can be used by at most one of those paths, so there can be at most n such paths
  - So flow is at most n, which means $k \leq n$, so runtime is $O(nm)$

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