

Combinatorics

Matching Theory

尹一通 Nanjing University, 2026 Spring

System of Distinct Representatives (Transversal)

system of distinct representatives (SDR)

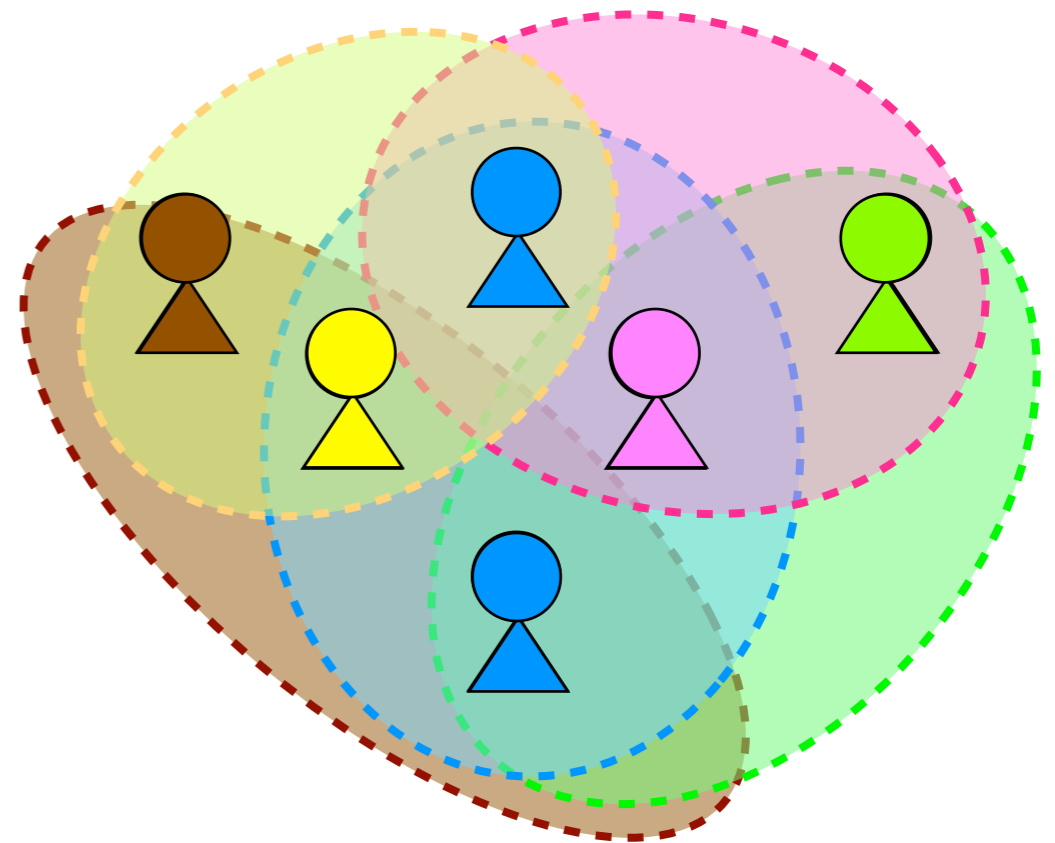
for sets $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m \subseteq [n]$

distinct representatives

$$x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m \in [n]$$

$$x_i \in S_i$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$



Marriage Problem

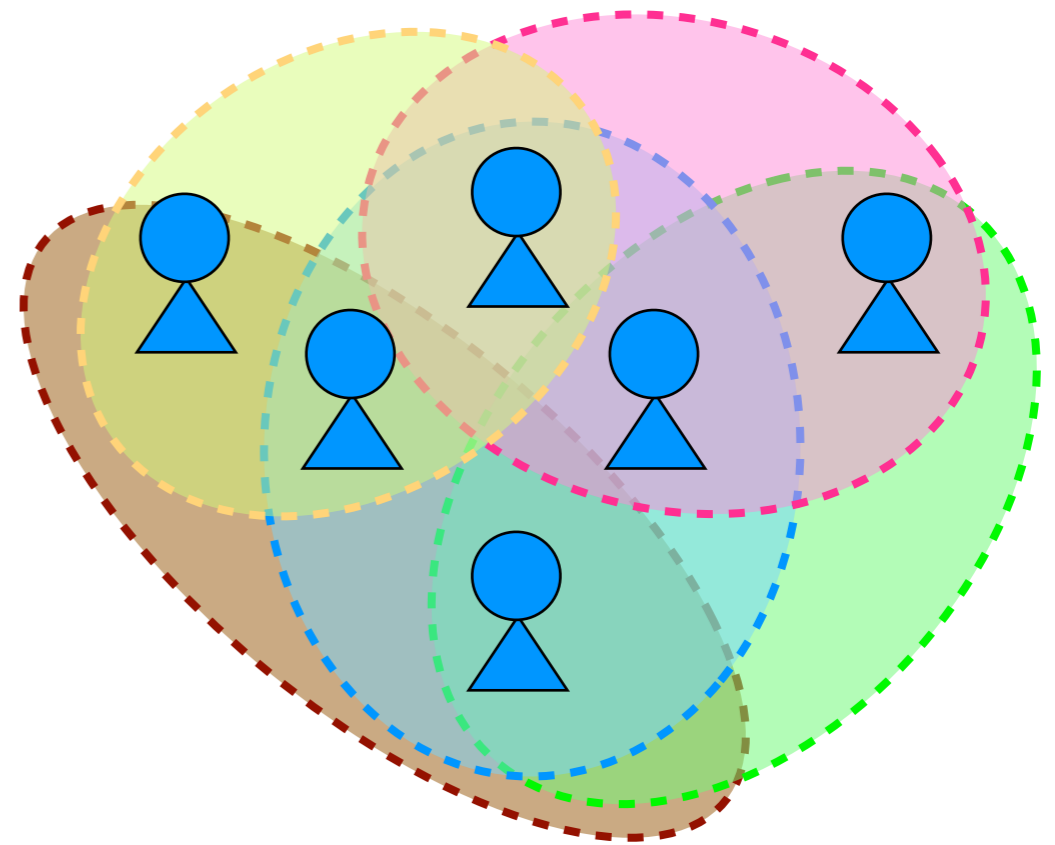
Does there **exist** an SDR for

$$S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m ?$$

m girls

S_i : boys that girl i is
OK to marry to

“Is there a way of marrying
these m girls?”



S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m have a SDR 

\exists distinct $x_1 \in S_1, x_2 \in S_2, \dots, x_m \in S_m$



$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\},$

$$|\bigcup_{i \in I} S_i| \geq |\{x_i \mid i \in I\}| \geq |I|.$$

distinct

S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m have a SDR 

$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, \quad \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i \right| \geq |I|.$$

Hall's Theorem (marriage theorem)

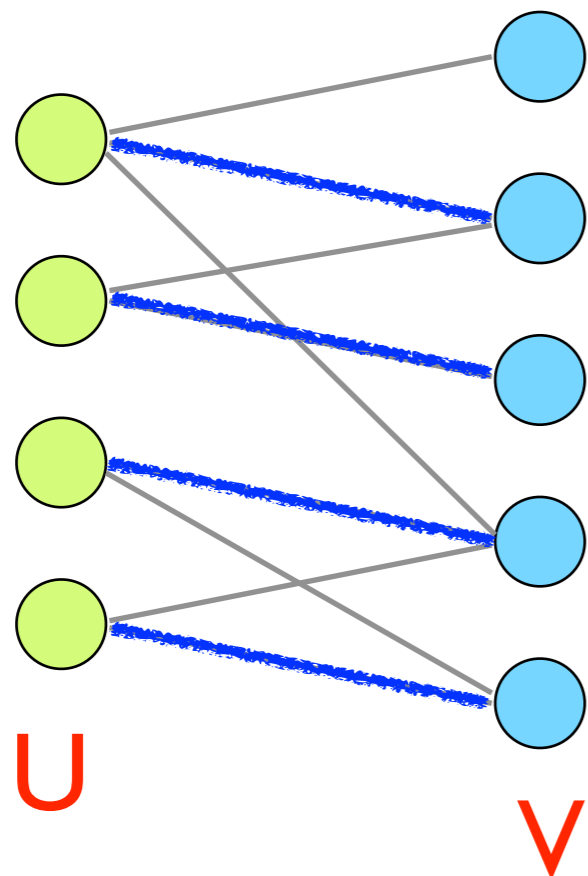
S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m have a SDR 

$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, \quad \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i \right| \geq |I|.$$

Hall's Theorem (graph theory form)

A bipartite graph $G(U, V, E)$ has a matching of U

↔ $|N(S)| \geq |S|$ for all $S \subseteq U$



matching: edge independent set

$$M \subseteq E \text{ with}$$

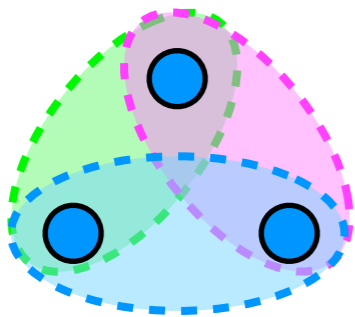
no $e_1, e_2 \in M$ share a vertex

$$N(S) = \{v \mid \exists u \in S \text{ s.t. } uv \in E\}$$

Hall's Theorem (marriage theorem)

$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, \quad \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i \right| \geq |I|.$$

➔ S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m have a SDR



critical family: $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k \quad k < m$

$$\left| \bigcup_{i=1}^k S_i \right| = k$$

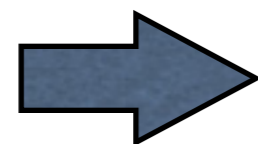
Induction on m : $m = 1$, trivial

case.1: there is no **critical family** in S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m

case.2: there is a **critical family** in S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m

Hall's Theorem (marriage theorem)

$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, \quad \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i \right| \geq |I|.$$

 S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m have a SDR

case.1: there is no **critical family** in S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m

$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \text{ that } |I| < m, \quad \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i \right| > |I|$$

take **an arbitrary** $x \in S_m$ as representative of S_m

remove S_m and x $S_i' = S_i \setminus \{x\} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m-1$

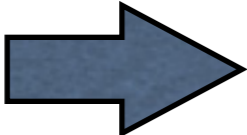
$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m-1\}, \quad \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i' \right| \geq |I|$$

due to **I.H.** S_1', \dots, S_{m-1}' have a SDR $\{x_1, \dots, x_{m-1}\}$

x_1, \dots, x_{m-1} and x form a SDR for S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m

Hall's Theorem (marriage theorem)

$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, \quad \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i \right| \geq |I|.$$

 S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m have a SDR

case.2: there is a **critical family** in S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m

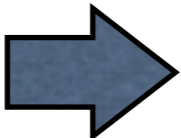
say $|S_{m-k+1} \cup \dots \cup S_m| = k \quad k < m$

due to **I.H.** S_{m-k+1}, \dots, S_m have a SDR $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$

$$S_i' = S_i \setminus X \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m-k$$

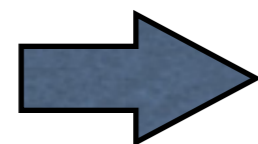
$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m-k\},$$

$$\left| \bigcup_{i=m-k+1}^m S_i \cup \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i \right| \geq k + |I|$$

 $\left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i' \right| \geq |I|$

Hall's Theorem (marriage theorem)

$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, \quad \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i \right| \geq |I|.$$

 S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m have a SDR

case.2: there is a **critical family** in S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m

say $|S_{m-k+1} \cup \dots \cup S_m| = k \quad k < m$

due to **I.H.** S_{m-k+1}, \dots, S_m have a SDR $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$

$$S_i' = S_i \setminus X \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m-k$$

$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m-k\}, \quad \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i' \right| \geq |I|$$

due to **I.H.**

S_1', \dots, S_{m-k}' have a SDR $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_{m-k}\}$

X and Y form a SDR for S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m

Hall's Theorem (marriage theorem)

S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m have a SDR 

$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, \quad \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i \right| \geq |I|.$$

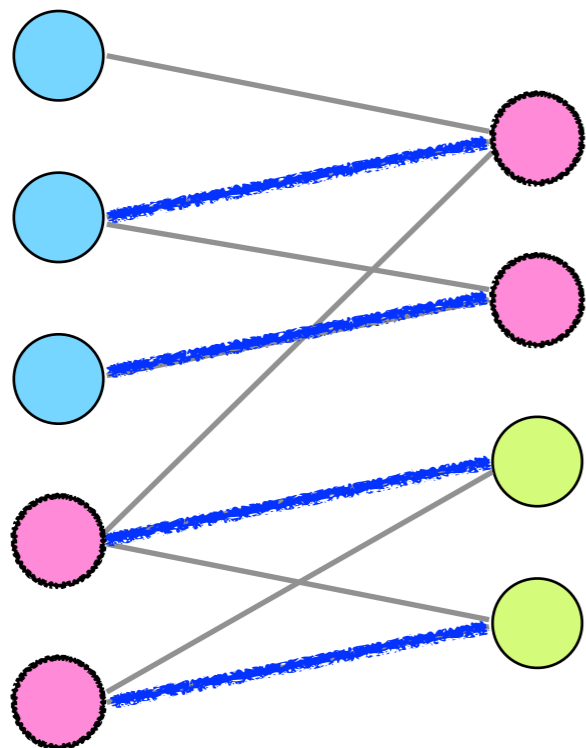
Min-Max Theorems

- **König-Egerváry theorem:** in bipartite graph
 \min vertex cover = \max matching
- **Dilworth's theorem:** in poset
 \min chain-decomposition = \max antichain
- **Menger's theorem:** in graph
 \min vertex-cut = \max vertex-disjoint paths

König-Egerváry theorem

Theorem (König 1931, Egerváry 1931)

In a bipartite graph, the size of a maximum matching equals the size of a minimum vertex cover.



matching: $M \subseteq E$

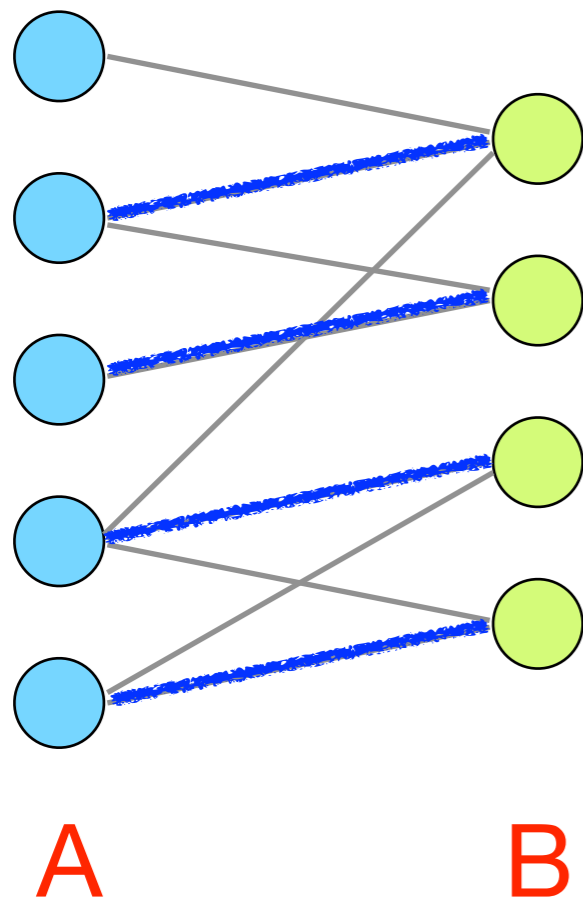
no $e_1, e_2 \in M$ share a vertex

vertex cover: $C \subseteq V$

all $e \in E$ adjacent to some $v \in C$

Theorem (König 1931, Egerváry 1931)

In a bipartite graph, the size of a maximum matching equals the size of a minimum vertex cover.



matching:

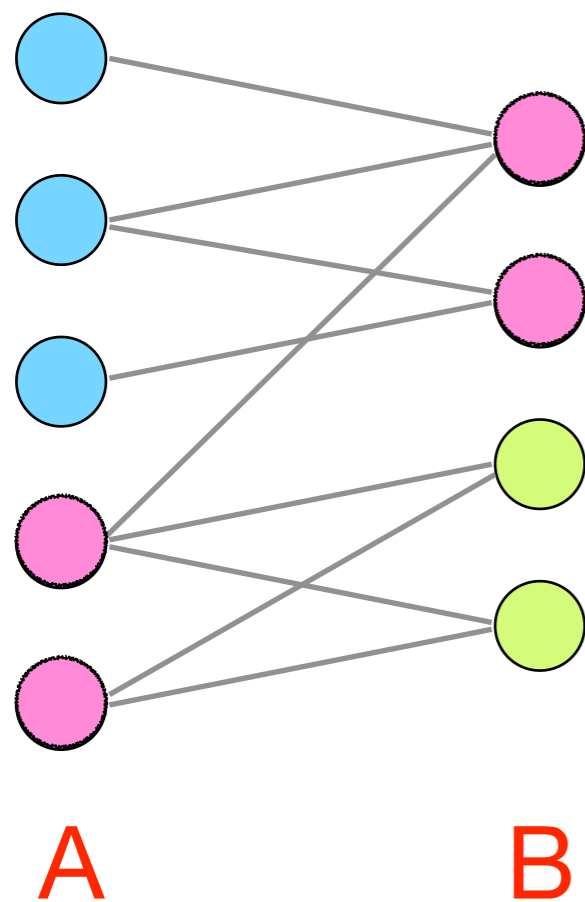
independent 1s

do not share
row/column

					B
	1	0	0	0	
	1	1	0	0	
	0	1	0	0	
	1	0	1	1	
	0	0	1	1	
A					

Theorem (König 1931, Egerváry 1931)

In a bipartite graph, the size of a maximum matching equals the size of a minimum vertex cover.



vertex cover:

rows/columns
covering all 1s

1	0	0	0
1	1	0	0
0	1	0	0
1	0	1	1
0	0	1	1

A

B

Theorem (König 1931, Egerváry 1931)

In a bipartite graph, the size of a maximum matching equals the size of a minimum vertex cover.

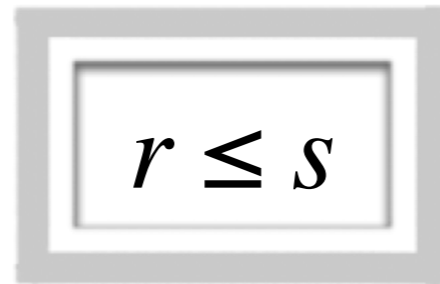
König-Egerváry Theorem (matrix form)

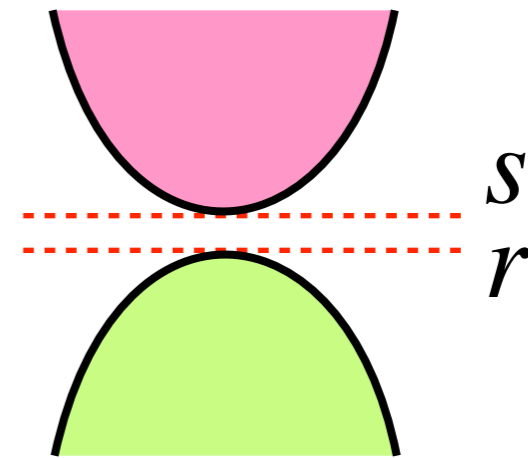
For any 0-1 matrix, the maximum number of independent 1's equals the minimum number of rows and columns required to cover all the 1's.

A : $m \times n$ 0-1 matrix

s : min # of rows/columns covering all 1's

r : max # of independent 1's


$$r \leq s$$



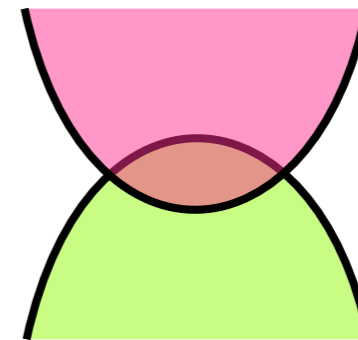
any r independent 1's
requires r rows/columns to cover

A : $m \times n$ 0-1 matrix

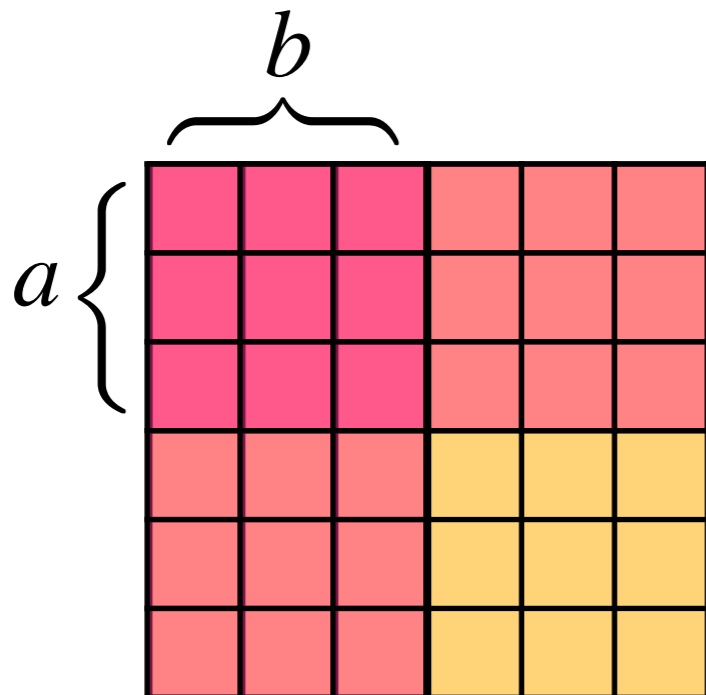
s : min # of rows/columns covering all 1's

r : max # of independent 1's

$$r \geq s$$



min covering: $s = a$ rows + b columns



$$A = \begin{bmatrix} B_{a \times b} & C_{a \times (n-b)} \\ D_{(m-a) \times b} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

C has a independent 1's

D has b independent 1's

A has **min** covering: $s = a$ rows + b columns

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} B_{a \times b} & C_{a \times (n-b)} \\ D_{(m-a) \times b} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

C has a independent 1's

$$S_i = \{j \mid C_{ij} = 1\}$$

S_2

1	0	1

S_1, S_2, \dots, S_a have a SDR

otherwise $\exists 1 \leq |I| \leq a, \quad |\bigcup_{i \in I} S_i| < |I|$ (Hall)

C can be covered by $(a - |I|)$ rows + $|\bigcup_{i \in I} S_i|$ columns

A has **min** covering: $s = a$ rows + b columns

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} B_{a \times b} & C_{a \times (n-b)} \\ D_{(m-a) \times b} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

C has a independent 1's

$$S_i = \{j \mid C_{ij} = 1\}$$

S_2

1	0	1

S_1, S_2, \dots, S_a have a SDR

otherwise $\exists 1 \leq |I| \leq a, \quad \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i \right| < |I|$ (Hall)

C can be covered by $< a$ rows&columns

A can be covered by $< a+b$ rows&columns

contradiction!

A has **min** covering: $s = a$ rows + b columns

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} B_{a \times b} & C_{a \times (n-b)} \\ D_{(m-a) \times b} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

C has a independent 1's

$$S_i = \{j \mid C_{ij} = 1\}$$



S_1, S_2, \dots, S_a have a SDR

SDR: distinct j_1, j_2, \dots, j_a

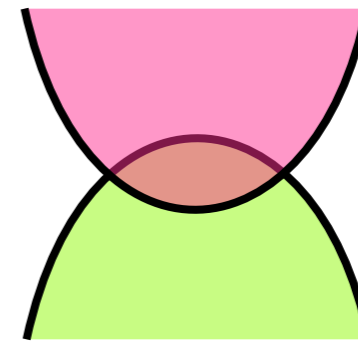
$$C(i, j_i) = 1$$

A : $m \times n$ 0-1 matrix

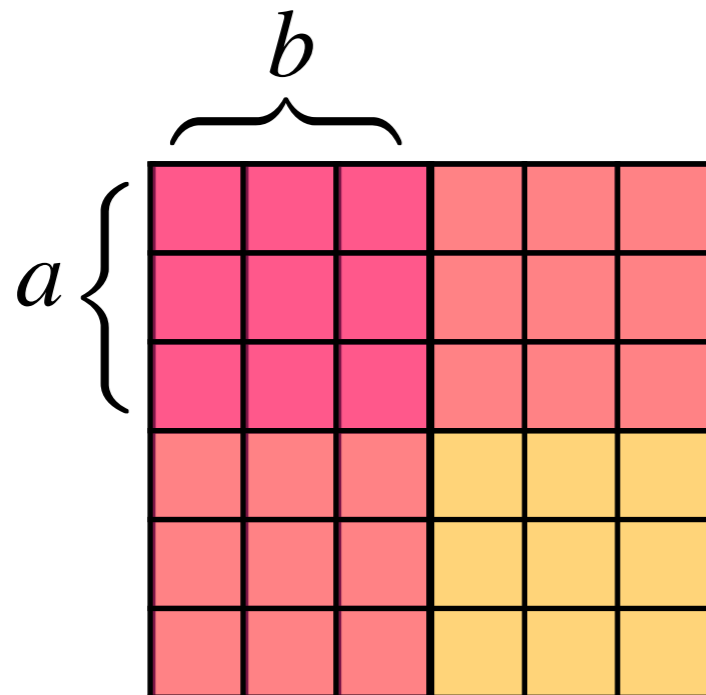
r : max # of independent 1's

s : min # of rows/columns covering all 1's

$$r \geq s$$



A has min covering: $s = a$ rows + b columns



$$A = \begin{bmatrix} B_{a \times b} & C_{a \times (n-b)} \\ D_{(m-a) \times b} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

C has a independent 1's

D has b independent 1's

König-Egerváry Theorem (matrix form)

For any 0-1 matrix, the maximum number of independent 1's equals the minimum number of rows and columns required to cover all the 1's.

Theorem (König 1931, Egerváry 1931)

In a bipartite graph, the size of a maximum matching equals the size of a minimum vertex cover.

Poset

$\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^{[n]}$ with \subseteq define a

partially ordered set (poset)

reflexivity: $A \subseteq A$

antisymmetry:

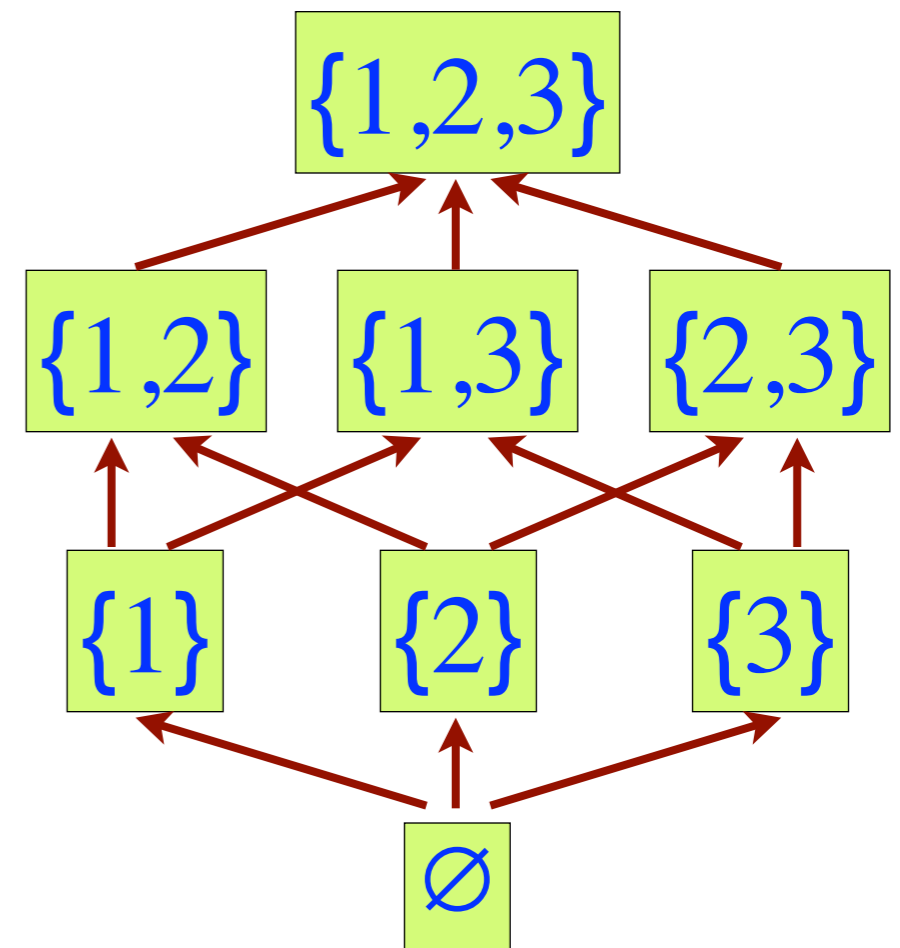
$$A \subseteq B \text{ and } B \subseteq A \Rightarrow A = B$$

transitivity:

$$A \subseteq B \text{ and } B \subseteq C \Rightarrow A \subseteq C$$

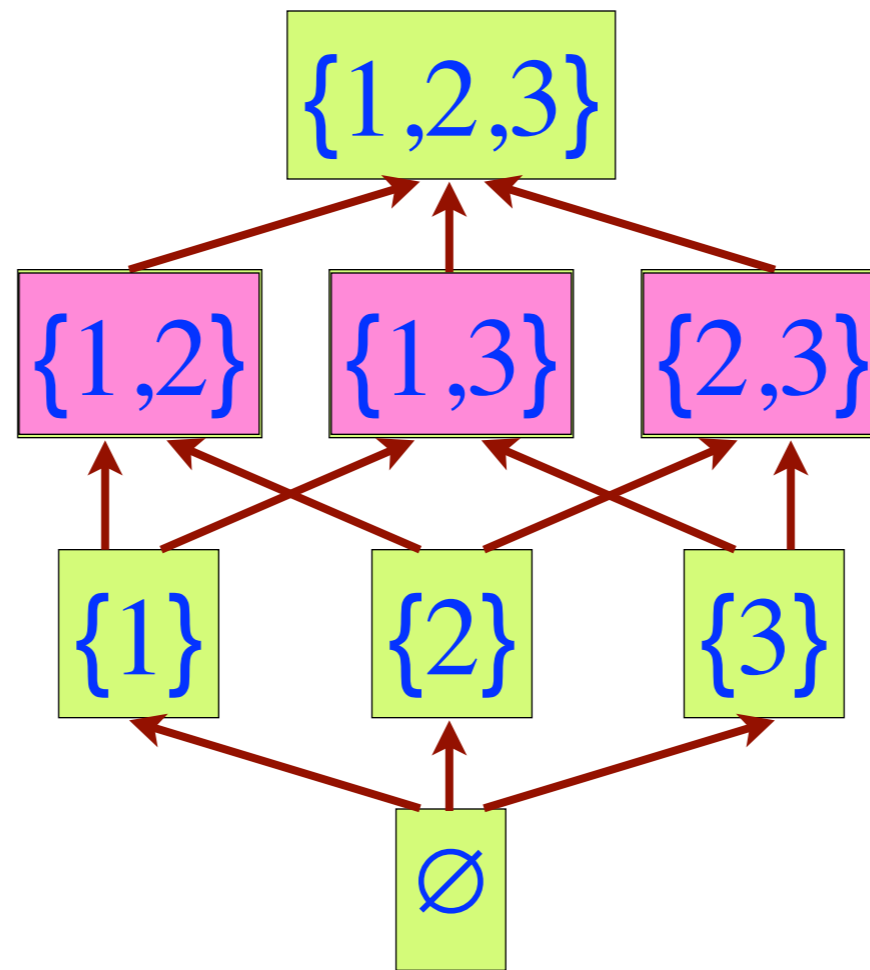
chain: $A_1 \subseteq A_2 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq A_r$

antichain: A_1, A_2, \dots, A_r that $\forall A_i, A_j, A_i \not\subseteq A_j$



Dilworth's Theorem

Size of the largest **antichain** in the poset P = size of the smallest **partition** of P into **chains**.



Dilworth's Theorem

Size of the largest **antichain** in the poset P = size of the smallest partition of P into **chains**.

Suppose: P has an **antichain** of size r .

P can be partitioned to s **chains**.

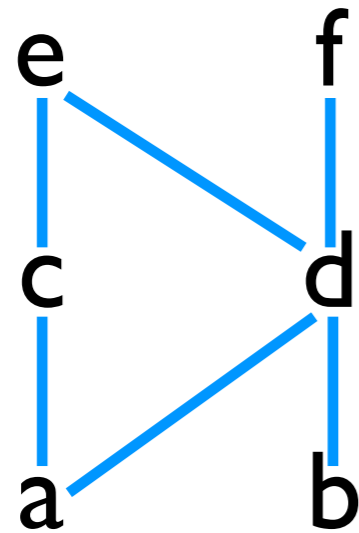
$$r \leq s$$

antichain A , chain C $|A \cap C| \leq 1$

We only need to prove:

There **exist** an antichain $A \subseteq P$ of size r
and a partition of P into r chains.

poset P

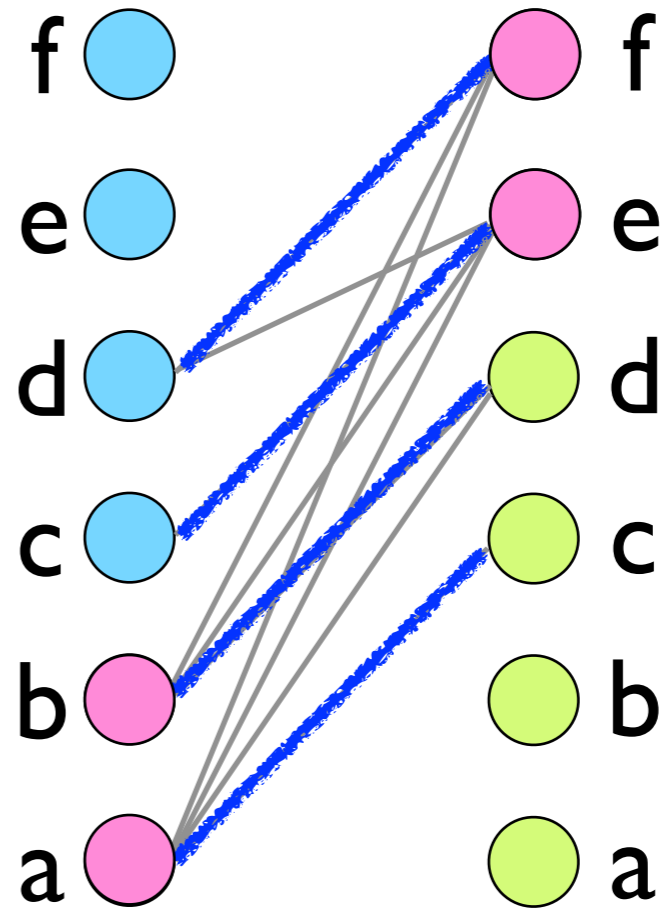


$$|P| = n$$

$G(U, V, E)$

$$U = V = P$$

$uv \in E$ if
 $u < v$

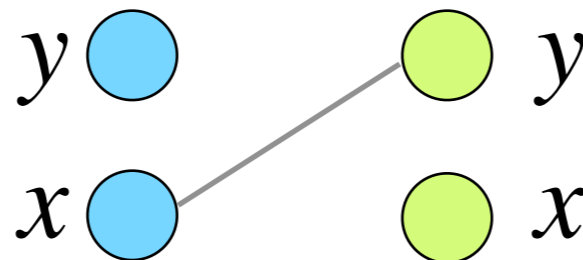


König-Egerváry Theorem:

\exists matching M and vertex cover C , $|M| = |C| = k$

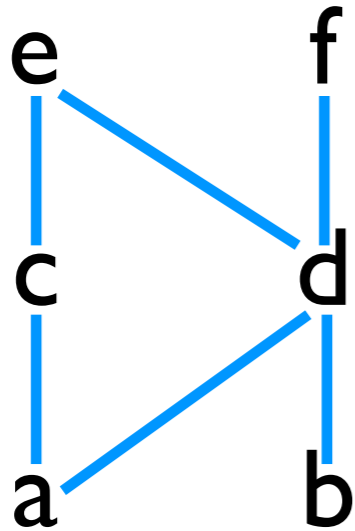
$x \in P$ **un**covered by $C \Rightarrow$ **antichain** $\geq n - k$

otherwise



C is not a
vertex cover

poset P

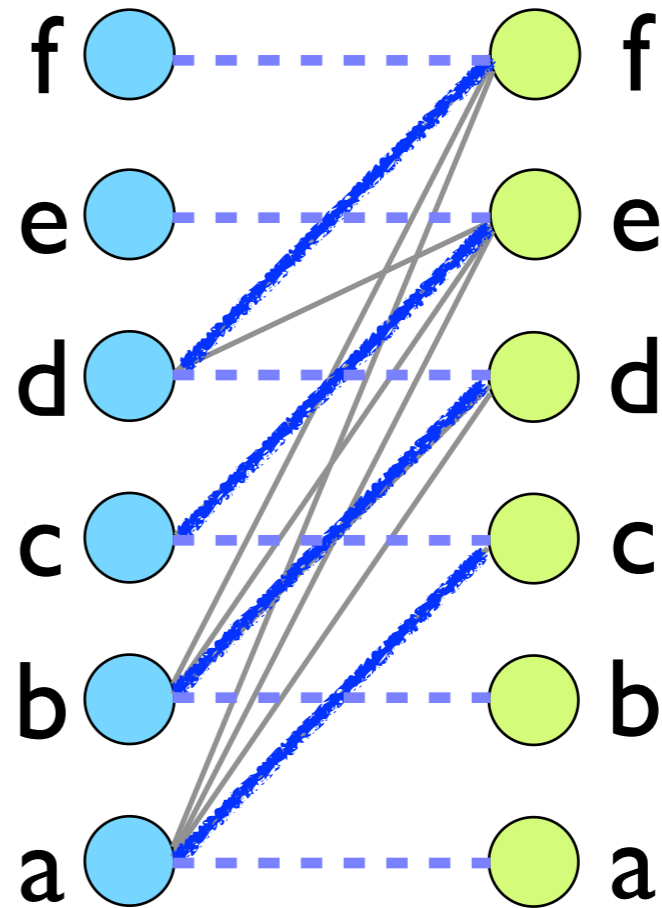


$$|P| = n$$

$G(U, V, E)$

$$U = V = P$$

$$uv \in E \text{ if } u < v$$



\exists matching M and vertex cover C , $|M| = |C| = k$

\exists antichain of size $\geq n - k$

decompose P into chains:

u, v in the same chain if $uv \in M$

chains = # unmatched vertices in U = $n - k$

Dilworth's Theorem

Size of the largest **antichain** in the poset P = size of the smallest partition of P into **chains**.

\exists **antichain** of size $\geq n-k = \#$ **chains**

There **exists** an antichain $A \subseteq P$ and a partition of P into r chains such that $|A| = r$.

Hall's Theorem (marriage theorem)

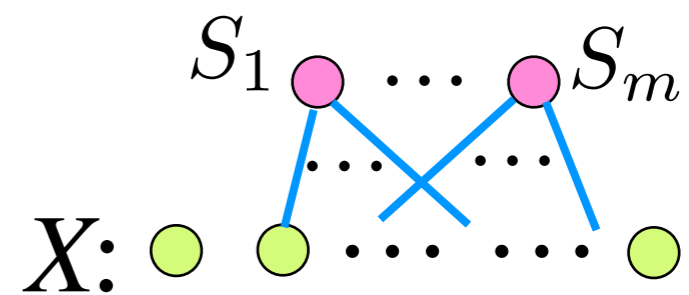
$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, \quad \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i \right| \geq |I|.$$

➔ S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m have a SDR

let $X = S_1 \cup \dots \cup S_m$

poset $P: X \cup \{S_1, \dots, S_m\}$

$x < S_i$ if $x \in S_i$



X is the largest antichain in P .

$A \subseteq P$ is an antichain $I = \{i \mid S_i \in A\}$ $S_I = \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i$

$$A \cap S_I = \emptyset \quad \text{➔} \quad |A| \leq |I| + |X| - |S_I| \leq |X|$$

Hall condition

Hall's Theorem (marriage theorem)

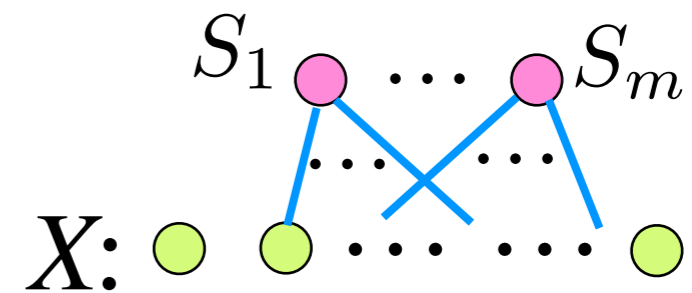
$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, \quad \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i \right| \geq |I|.$$

➔ S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m have a SDR

let $X = S_1 \cup \dots \cup S_m$

poset P : $X \cup \{S_1, \dots, S_m\}$

$x < S_i$ if $x \in S_i$



X is the largest antichain in P .

Dilworth: P can be partitioned into $n=|X|$ chains

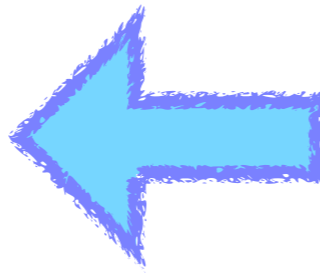
$\{S_1, x_1\}, \{S_2, x_2\}, \dots, \{S_m, x_m\}, \{x_{m+1}\}, \dots, \{x_n\}$



Hall's Theorem



Dilworth's
Theorem



König-Egerváry
Theorem

Erdős-Szekeres Theorem

Any sequence of $N > mn$ distinct numbers must contain at least one of the followings:

- an increasing subsequence of length $m + 1$
- a decreasing subsequence of length $n + 1$

(a_1, \dots, a_N) of N different numbers $N > mn$

poset $P: \{(i, a_i) \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, N\}$

$(i, a_i) \leq (j, a_j)$ if $a_i \leq a_j$ and $i \leq j$

chain: increasing subseq

antichain: decreasing subseq

Use Dilworth!

Birkhoff - von Neumann Theorem

Every doubly stochastic matrix is a convex combination of permutation matrix.

doubly stochastic matrix A : $n \times n$ $A_{ij} \geq 0$

$$\forall j, \sum_i A_{ij} = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \forall i, \sum_j A_{ij} = 1$$

permutation matrix P : $P_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$

every row/column has precisely one 1

convex combination:

$$A = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i P_i \quad \lambda_i \geq 0 \quad \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = 1$$

$n \times n$ nonnegative matrix A :

$$\forall j, \sum_i A_{ij} = \gamma \quad \forall i, \sum_j A_{ij} = \gamma \quad \gamma > 0$$

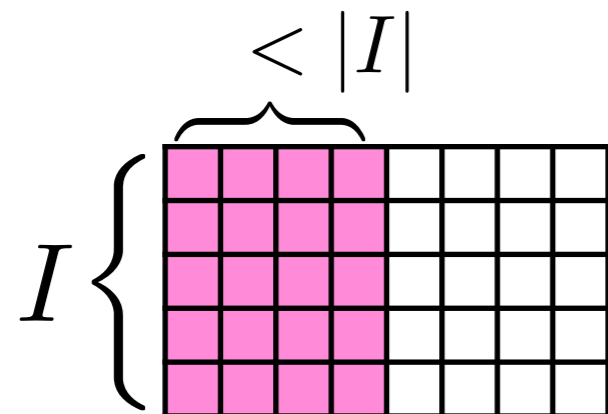
$$A = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i P_i \quad \lambda_i \geq 0 \quad \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = \gamma$$

induction on # of non-zeros in A denoted m

$\gamma > 0 \Rightarrow m \geq n$ **Basis:** $m=n$

$$S_i = \{j \mid A_{ij} > 0\} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

If $\exists I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}, |\bigcup_{i \in I} S_i| < |I|$



sum by columns $< |I|\gamma$

sum by rows $= |I|\gamma$

contradiction!

$n \times n$ nonnegative matrix A :

$$\forall j, \sum_i A_{ij} = \gamma \quad \forall i, \sum_j A_{ij} = \gamma \quad \gamma > 0$$

$$A = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i P_i \quad \lambda_i \geq 0 \quad \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = \gamma$$

induction on # of non-zeros in A denoted m

$$S_i = \{j \mid A_{ij} > 0\} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

$$\forall I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}, \left| \bigcup_{i \in I} S_i \right| \geq |I|$$

Hall's Thm: \exists SDR $j_1 \in S_1, \dots, j_n \in S_n$

permutation matrix $P_m(i, j_i) = 1$ otherwise $= 0$

$$\lambda_m = \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} A(i, j_i) \quad A' = A - \lambda_m P_m$$

$$\gamma' = \gamma - \lambda_m \quad m' \leq m - 1$$

I.H.

Birkhoff - von Neumann Theorem

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convex combination:

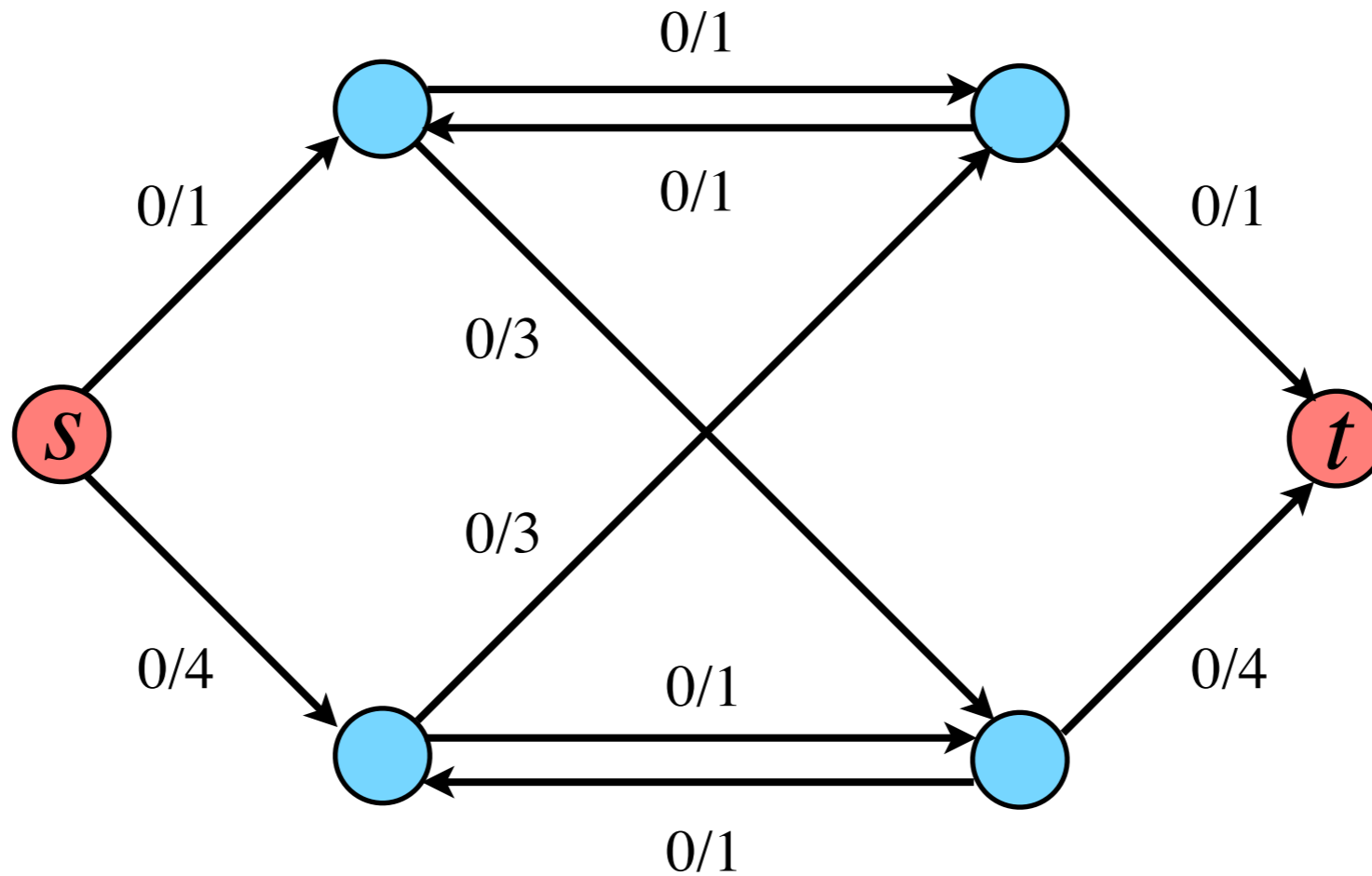
$$A = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i P_i \quad \lambda_i \geq 0 \quad \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = 1$$

Flow and Cut

Flow

digraph: $D(V, E)$ source: $s \in V$ sink: $t \in V$

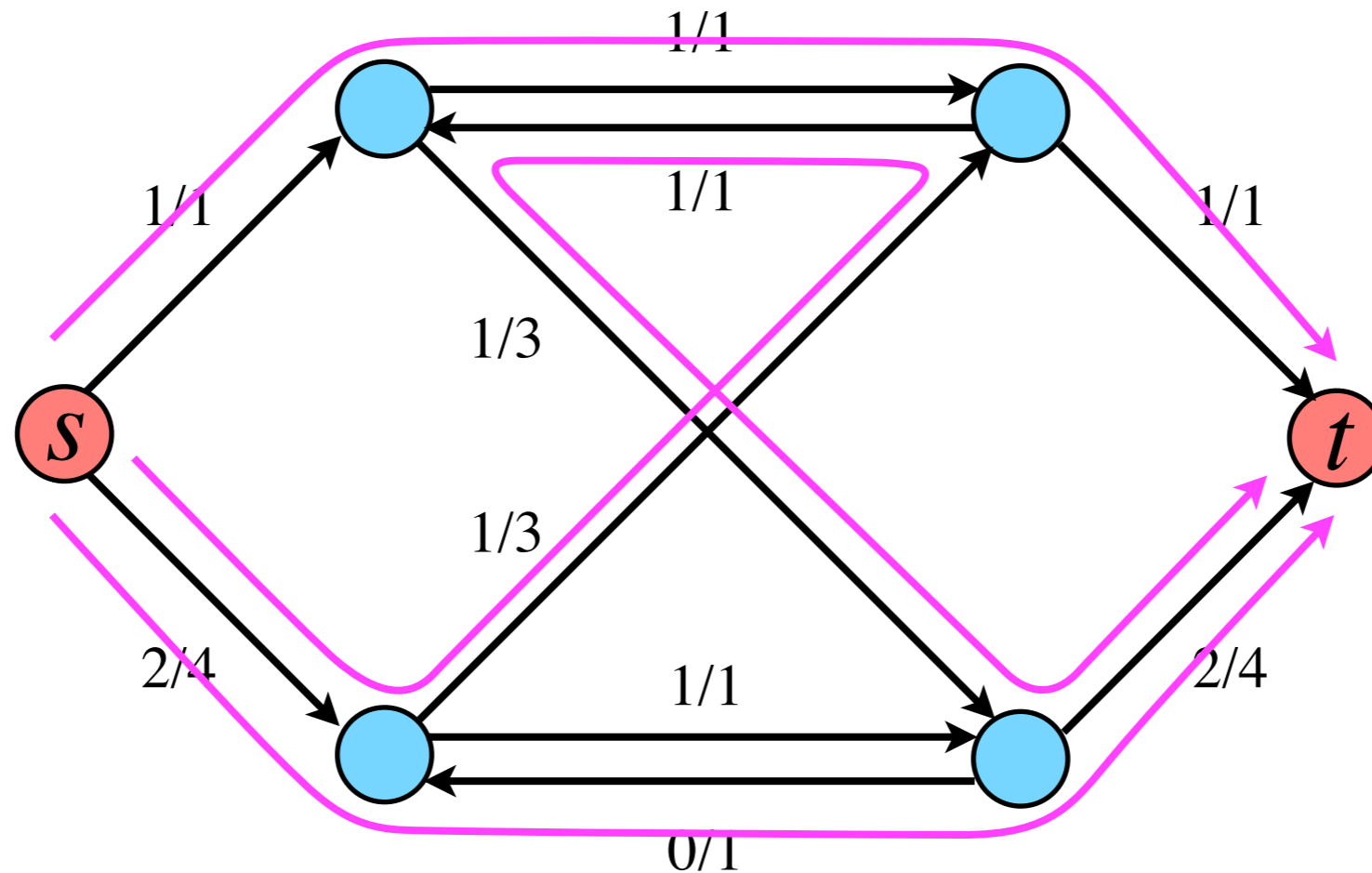
capacity $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$



Flow

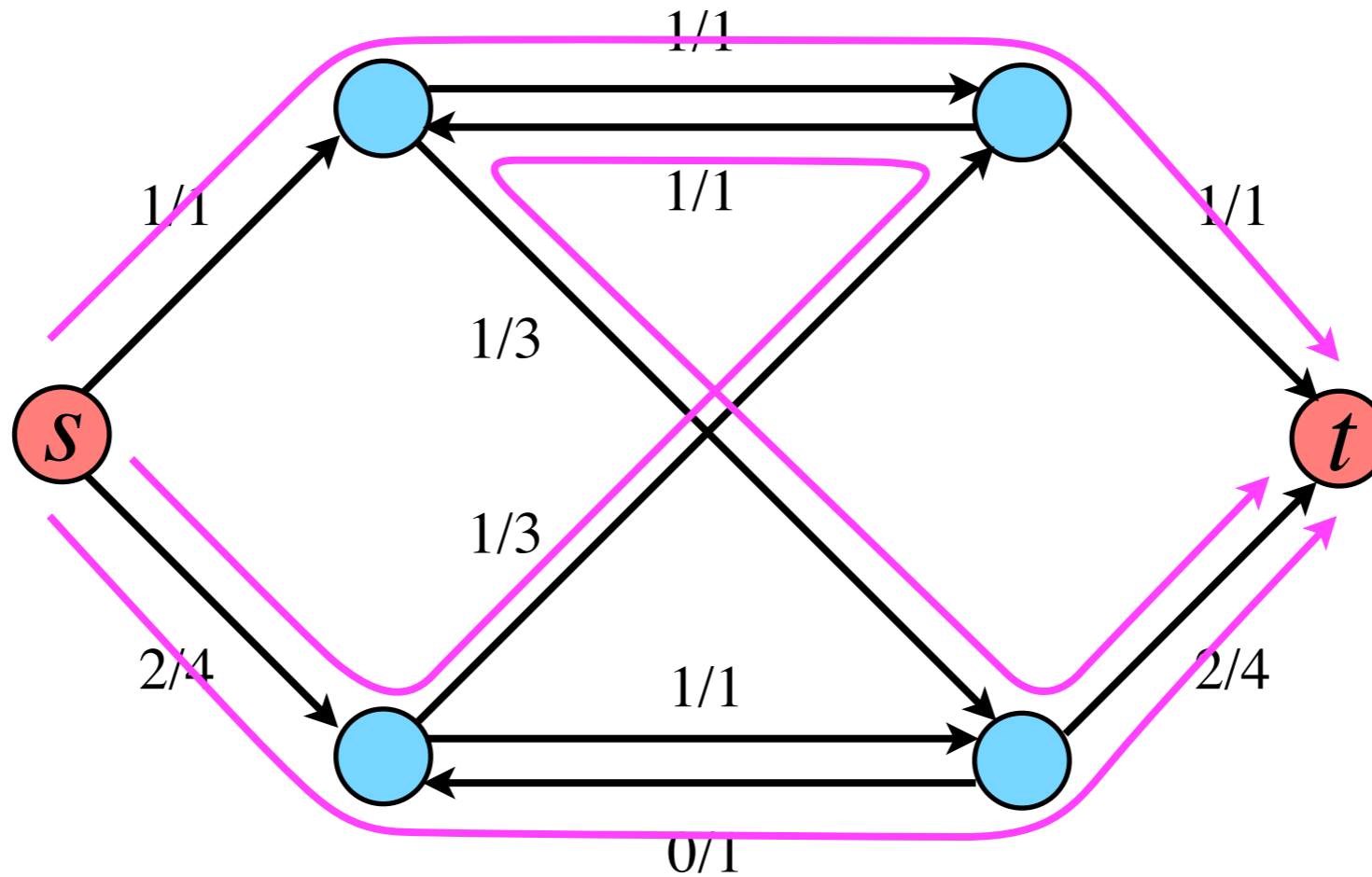
digraph: $D(V, E)$ source: $s \in V$ sink: $t \in V$

capacity $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ flow $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$



capacity: $\forall (u, v) \in E, f_{uv} \leq c_{uv}$

conservation: $\forall u \in V \setminus \{s, t\}, \sum_{(w, u) \in E} f_{wu} = \sum_{(u, v) \in E} f_{uv}$

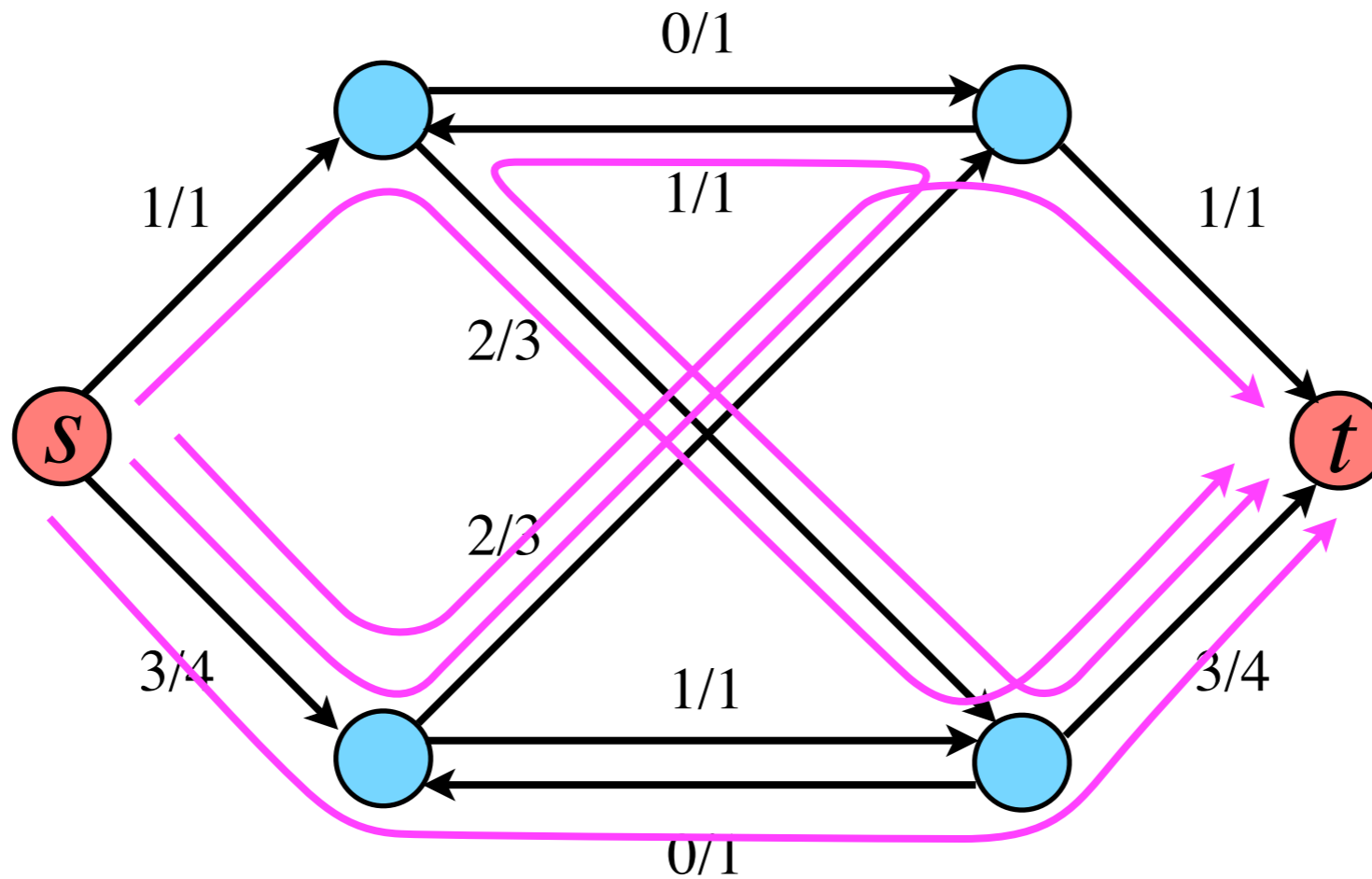


capacity: $\forall (u, v) \in E, f_{uv} \leq c_{uv}$

conservation: $\forall u \in V \setminus \{s, t\}, \sum_{(w, u) \in E} f_{wu} = \sum_{(u, v) \in E} f_{uv}$

value of flow: $\sum_{(s, u) \in E} f_{su} = \sum_{(v, t) \in E} f_{vt}$

maximum flow



capacity: $\forall (u, v) \in E, f_{uv} \leq c_{uv}$

conservation: $\forall u \in V \setminus \{s, t\}, \sum_{(w, u) \in E} f_{wu} = \sum_{(u, v) \in E} f_{uv}$

value of flow: $\sum_{(s, u) \in E} f_{su} = \sum_{(v, t) \in E} f_{vt}$

maximum flow

Maximum Flow

digraph: $D(V, E)$

source: $s \in V$ sink: $t \in V$

capacity $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$

$$\max \sum_{u:(s,u) \in E} f_{su}$$

$$\text{s.t. } 0 \leq f_{uv} \leq c_{uv}$$

$$\forall (u, v) \in E$$

$$\sum_{w:(w,u) \in E} f_{wu} - \sum_{v:(u,v) \in E} f_{uv} = 0$$

$$\forall u \in V \setminus \{s, t\}$$

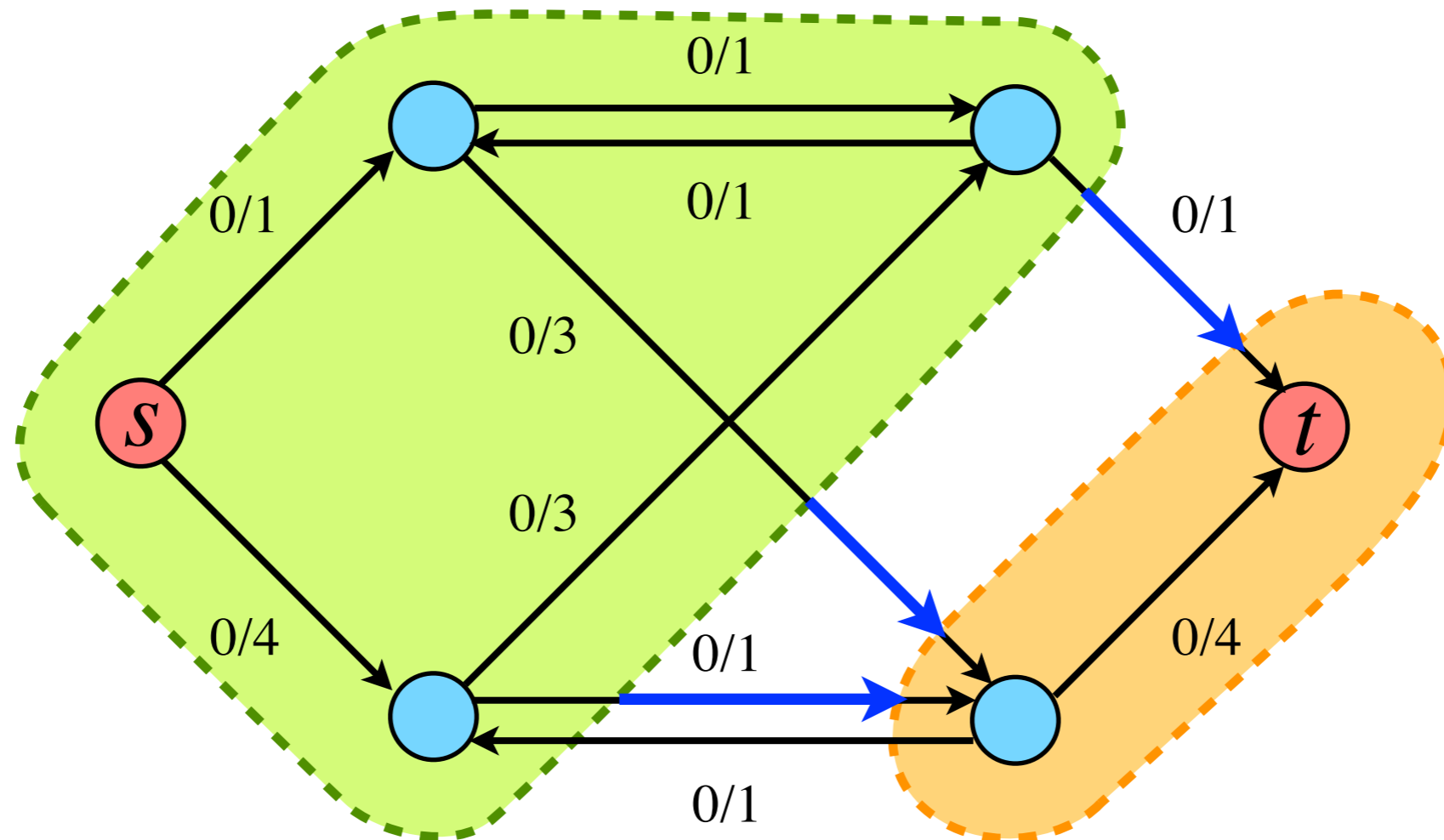
integral flow: $f_{uv} \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\forall (u, v) \in E$$

Cut

digraph: $D(V, E)$ source: $s \in V$ sink: $t \in V$

capacity $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$



s - t cut:

$$S \subset V$$

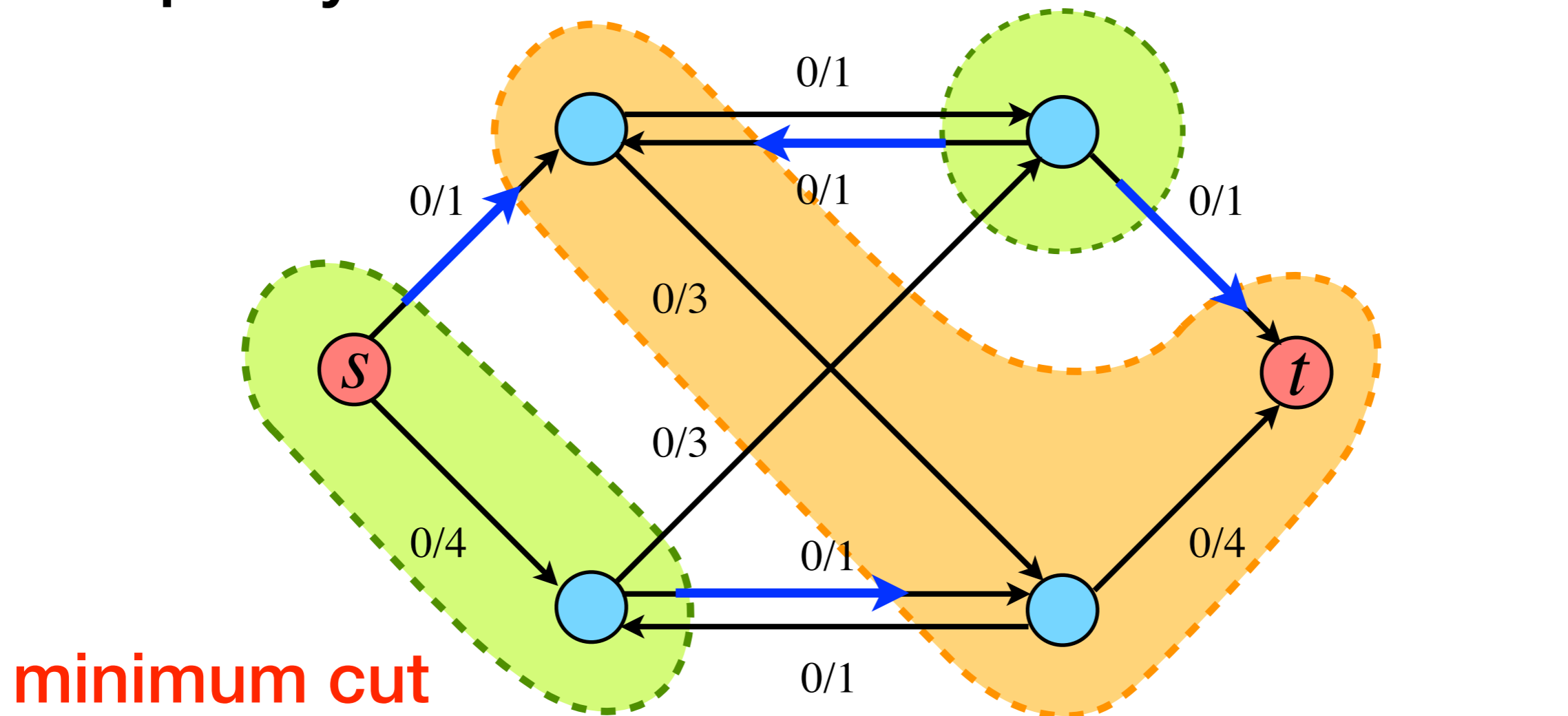
$$s \in S, t \notin S$$

$$\sum_{u \in S, v \notin S, (u, v) \in E} c_{uv}$$

Cut

digraph: $D(V, E)$ source: $s \in V$ sink: $t \in V$

capacity $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$



minimum cut

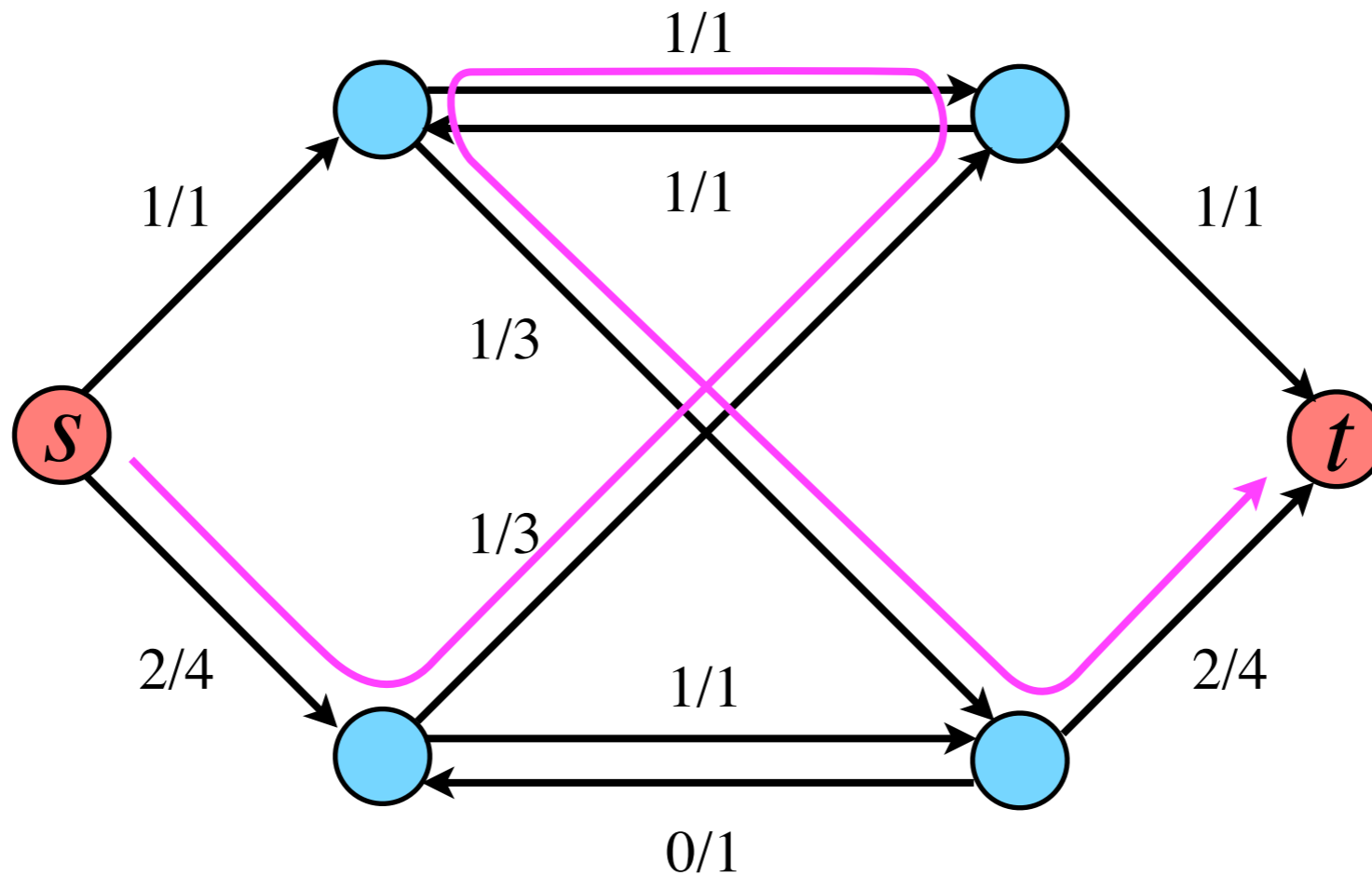
s - t cut: $S \subset V$
 $s \in S, t \notin S$

$\sum_{u \in S, v \notin S, (u, v) \in E} c_{uv}$

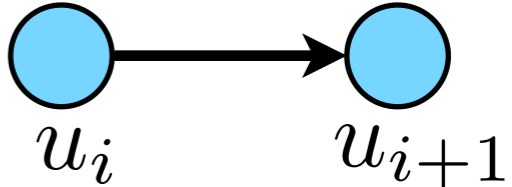
Fundamental Theorems of Flow

- **max integral flow = max flow**
(assuming integral capacities)
- **max flow = min cut**

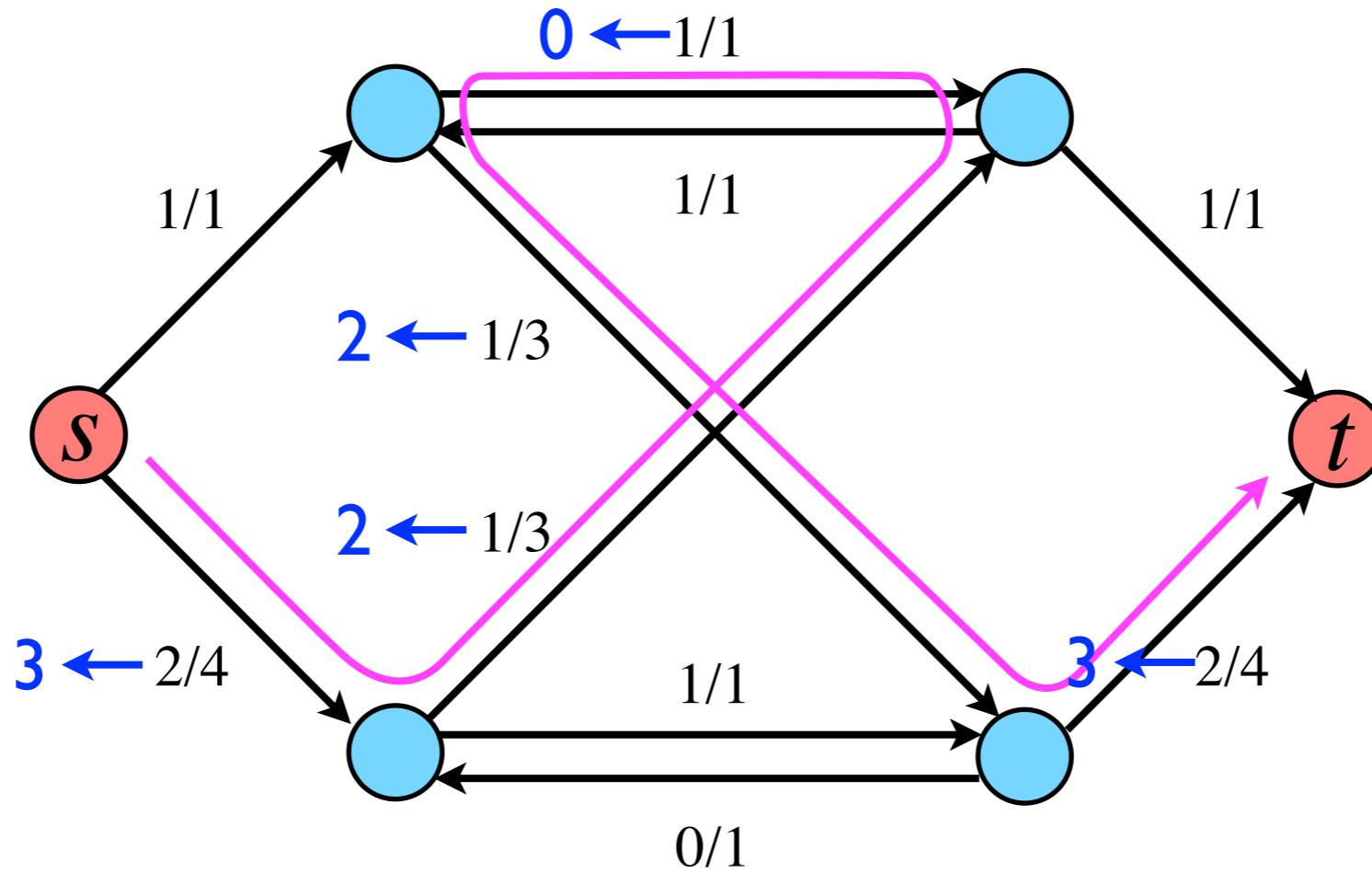
Augmenting Path



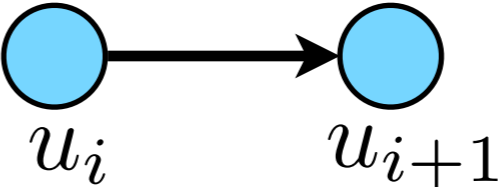
augmenting path: $s = u_0 u_1 \cdots u_k = t$


$f(u_i u_{i+1}) < c(u_i u_{i+1})$ if 

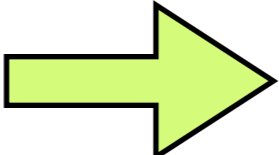
$f(u_{i+1} u_i) > 0$ if 

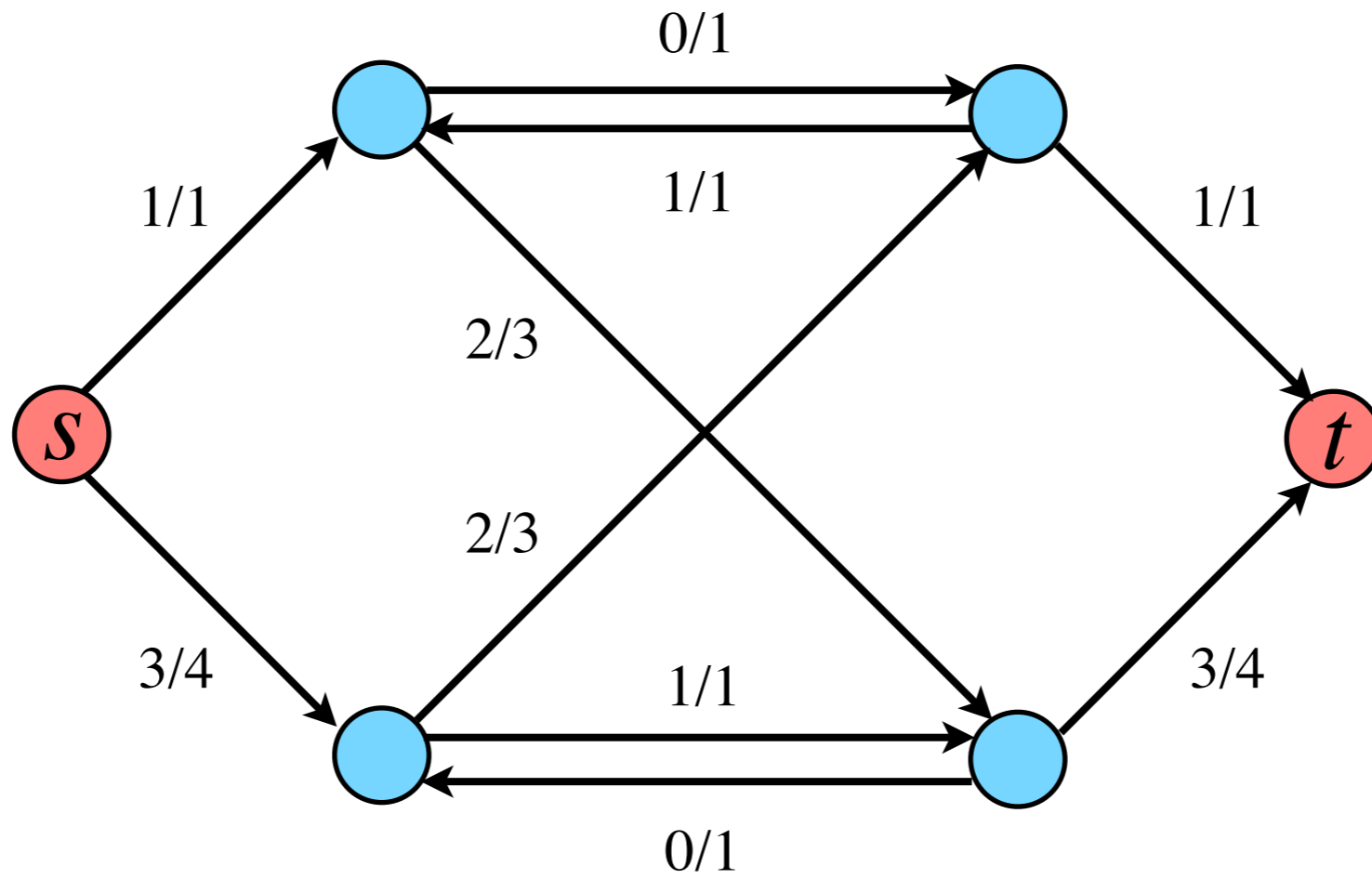


augmenting path: $s = u_0 u_1 \cdots u_k = t$ **flow increased**

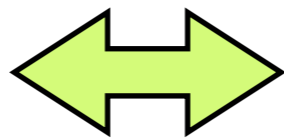
$f(u_i u_{i+1}) < c(u_i u_{i+1})$ if  $f(u_i u_{i+1}) + \epsilon$

$f(u_{i+1} u_i) > 0$ if  $f(u_{i+1} u_i) - \epsilon$

maximum flow  no augmenting path

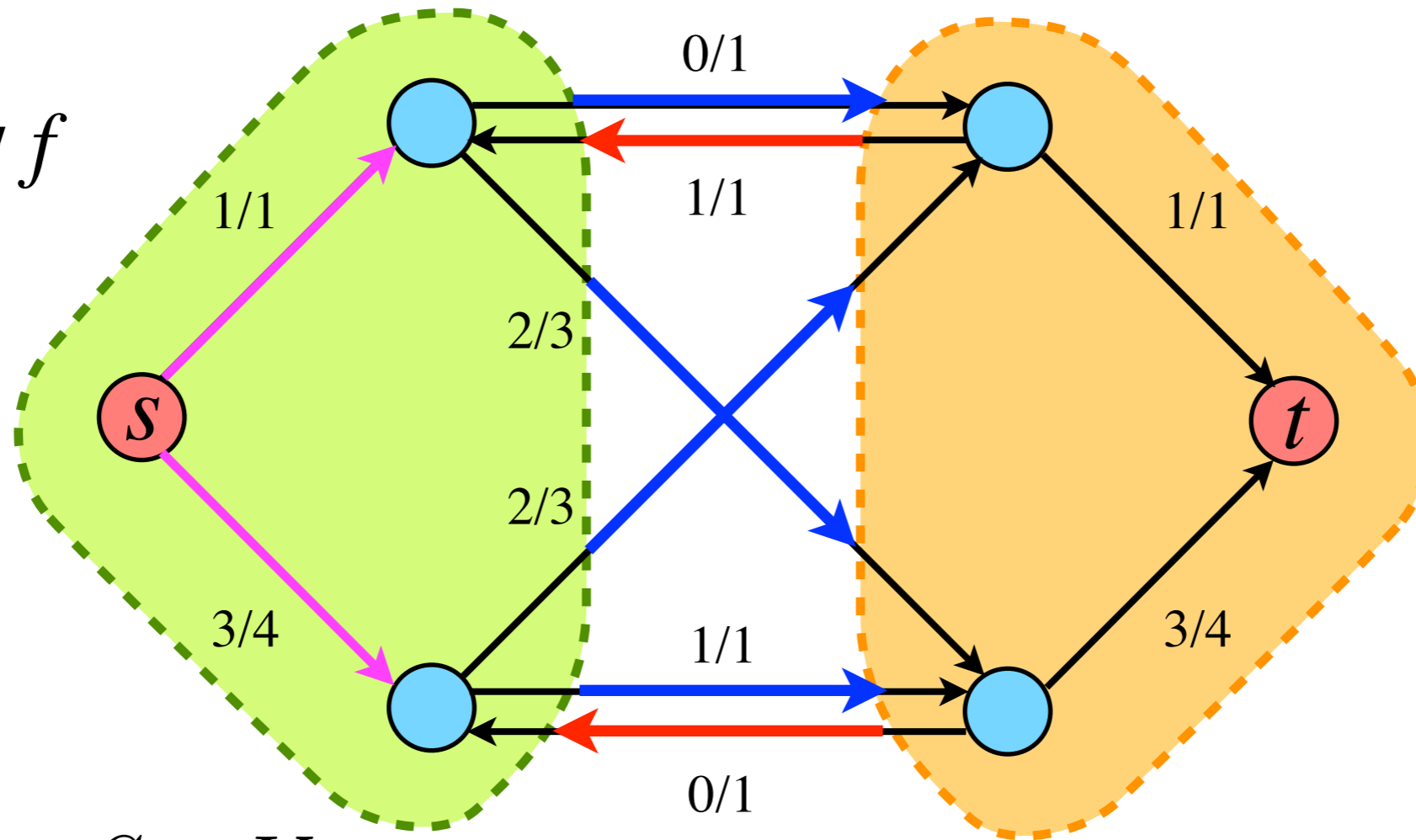


maximum flow



no augmenting path

\forall flow f



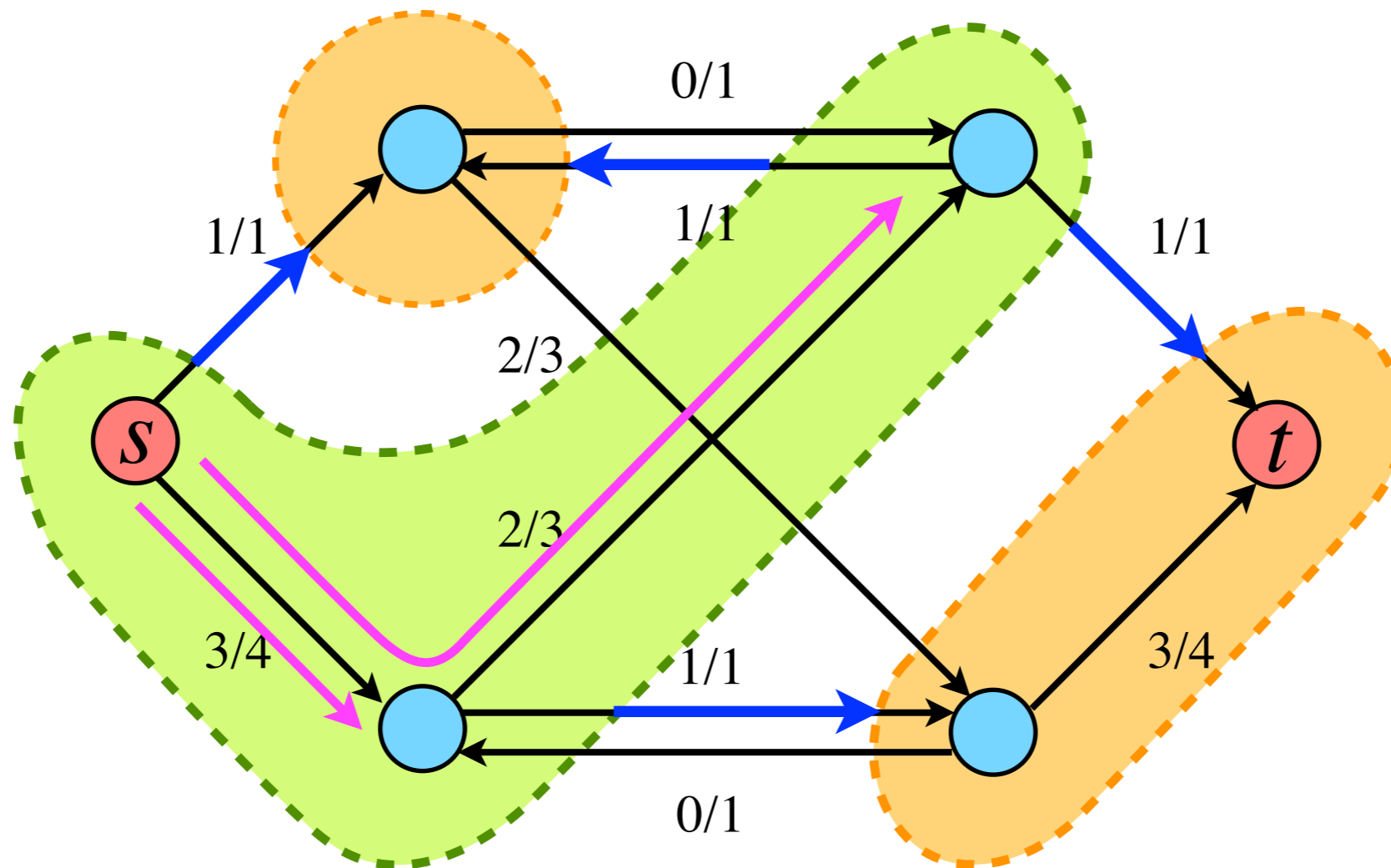
$\forall s-t$ cut $S \subset V$

$$\sum_{u:(s,u) \in E} f_{su} = \sum_{\substack{u \in S, v \notin S \\ (u,v) \in E}} f_{uv} - \sum_{\substack{u \in S, v \notin S \\ (v,u) \in E}} f_{vu}$$

$$\sum_{u:(s,u) \in E} f_{su} \leq \sum_{\substack{u \in S, v \notin S \\ (u,v) \in E}} f_{uv} \leq \sum_{\substack{u \in S, v \notin S \\ (u,v) \in E}} c_{uv}$$

max-flow

min-cut



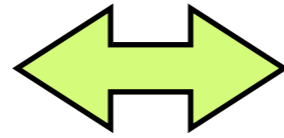
$$S = \{u \mid \exists \text{ augmenting path from } s \text{ to } u\}$$

no augmenting path $\implies s \in S, t \notin S$ s - t cut

$$\forall u \in S, v \notin S, (u, v) \in E \begin{cases} f_{uv} = c_{uv} \\ f_{vu} = 0 \end{cases}$$

flow $\sum_{u:(s,u) \in E} f_{su} = \sum_{\substack{u \in S, v \notin S \\ (u,v) \in E}} f_{uv} - \sum_{\substack{u \in S, v \in S \\ (v,u) \in E}} f_{vu} = \sum_{\substack{u \in S, v \notin S \\ (u,v) \in E}} c_{uv}$ **cut**

maximum flow



no augmenting path

Max-Flow Min-Cut Theorem

(Ford-Fulkerson 1956; Kotzig 1956)

max-flow = min-cut

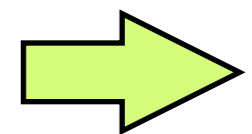
Flow Integrality Theorem

If capacities are integers, then

max integral flow = max-flow

in an integral flow f :

\exists augmenting path



\exists **integral** augmenting path  \exists **larger integral** flow

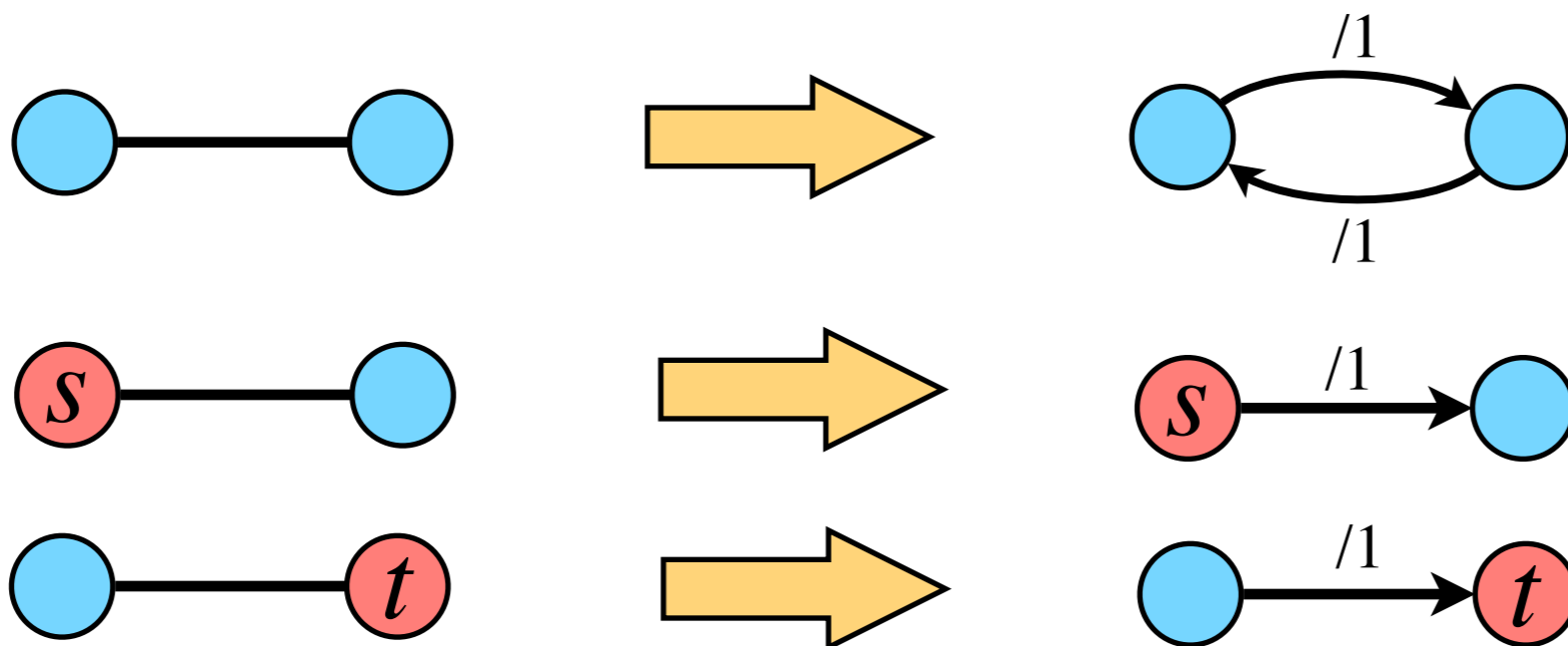
Menger's Theorem

undirected graph: $G(V, E) \quad \forall s, t \in V$

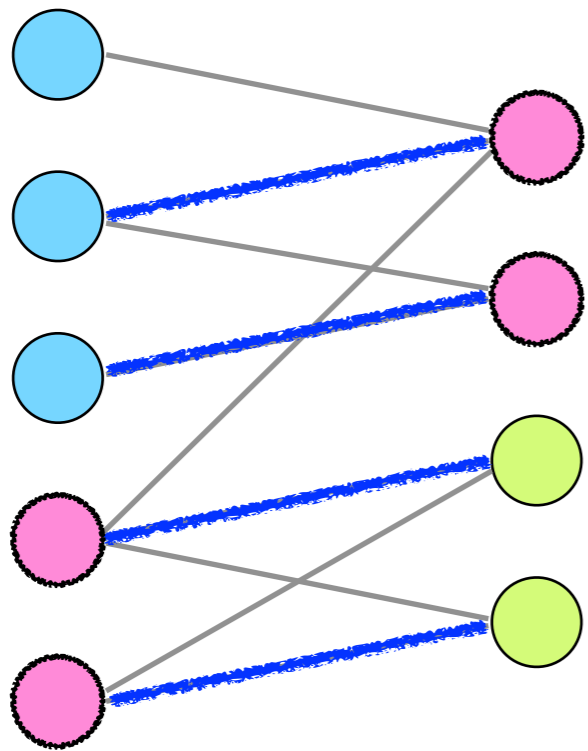
s - t cut $C \subset E$ removing C disconnects s, t

Theorem (Menger 1927)

min s - t cut = max # of **disjoint** s - t paths



Bipartite Matching



matching: $M \subseteq E$

no $e_1, e_2 \in M$ share a vertex

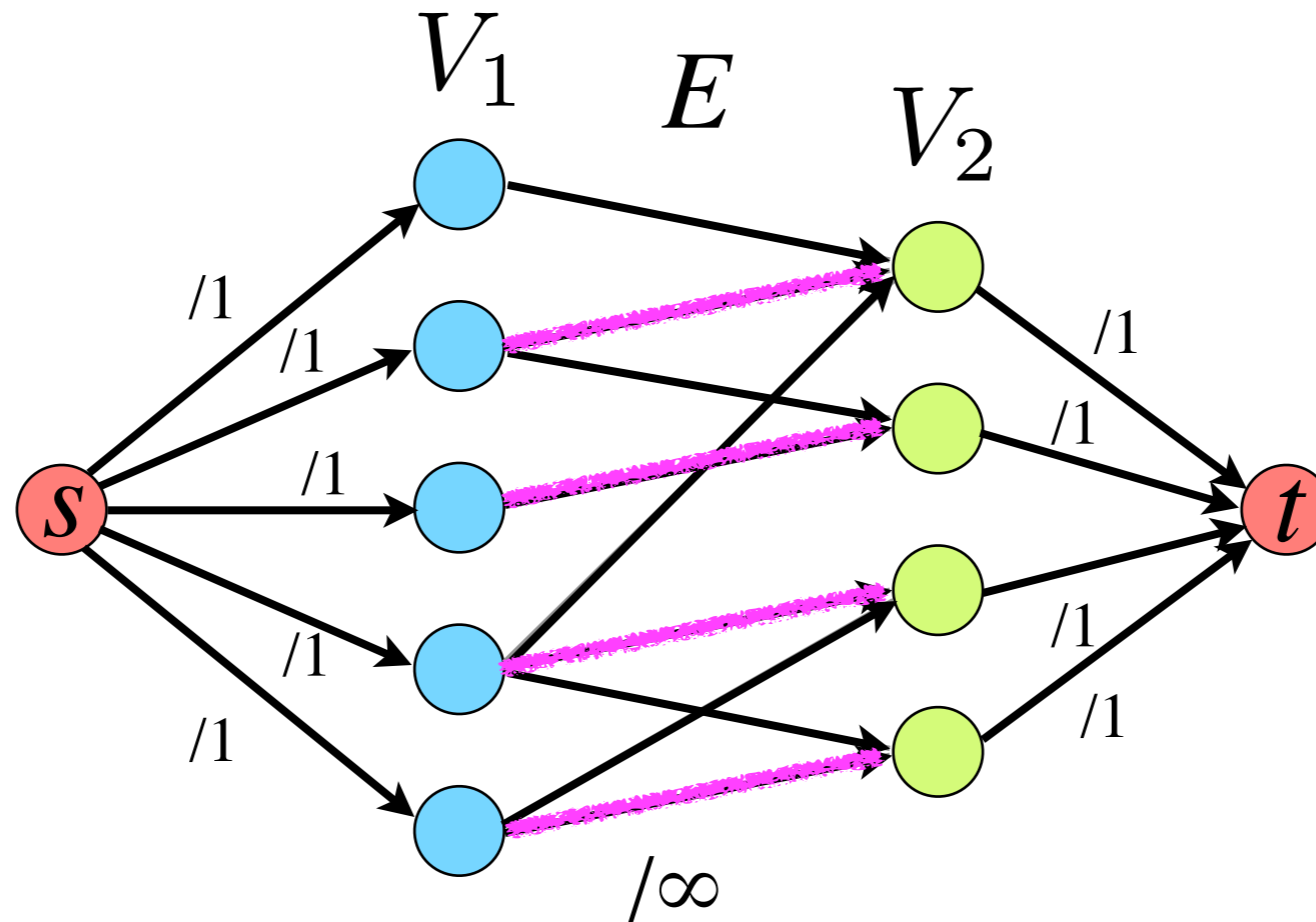
vertex cover: $C \subseteq V$

all $e \in E$ adjacent to some $v \in C$

Theorem (König 1931, Egerváry 1931)

In a bipartite graph,

max matching = min vertex cover.

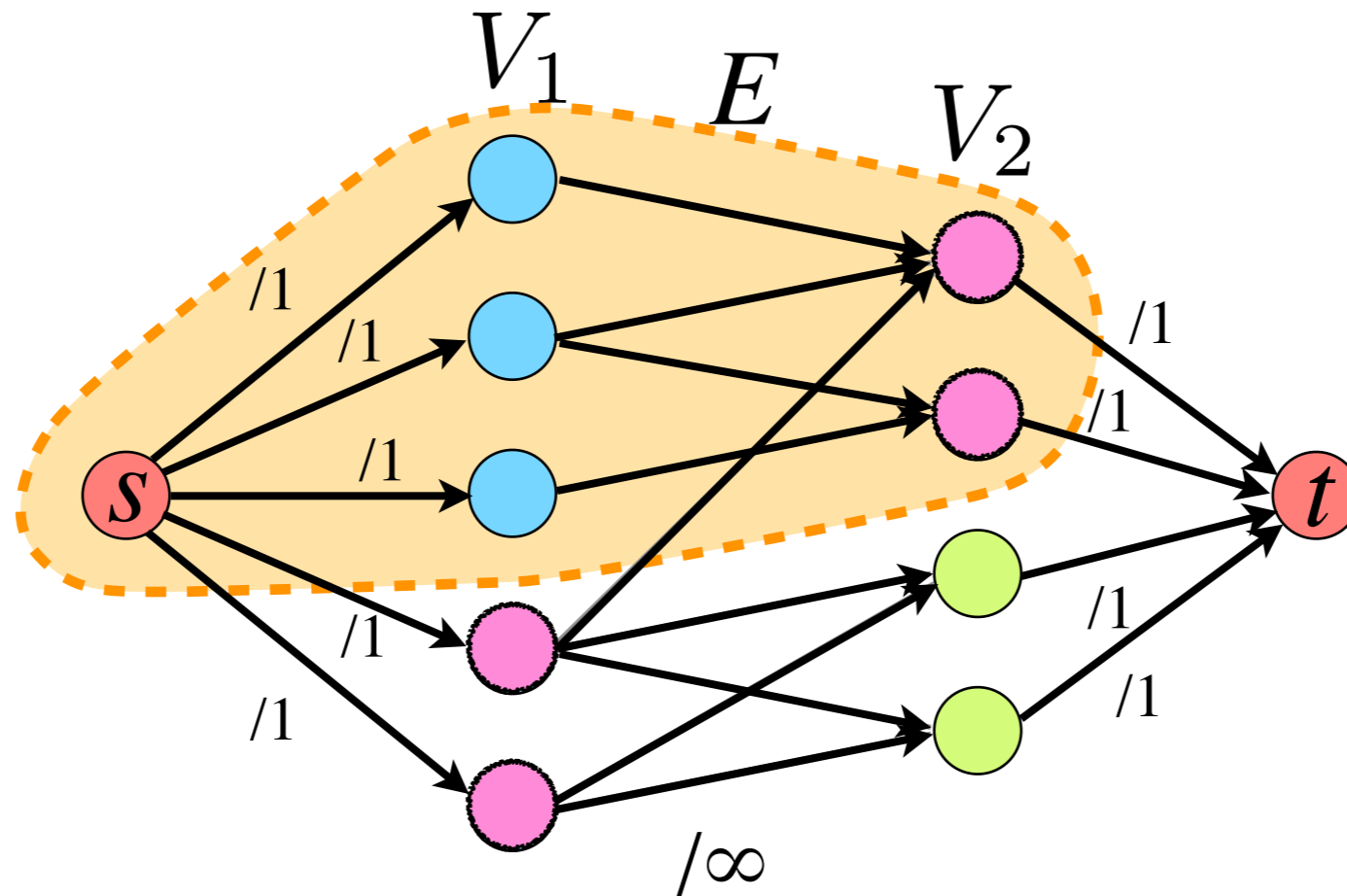


max integral flow = max matching

$$\forall (u, v) \in E \quad f_{uv} \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$\forall u \in V_1, \quad \sum_{v:(u,v) \in E} f_{uv} \leq 1$$

$$\forall v \in V_2, \quad \sum_{u:(u,v) \in E} f_{uv} \leq 1$$



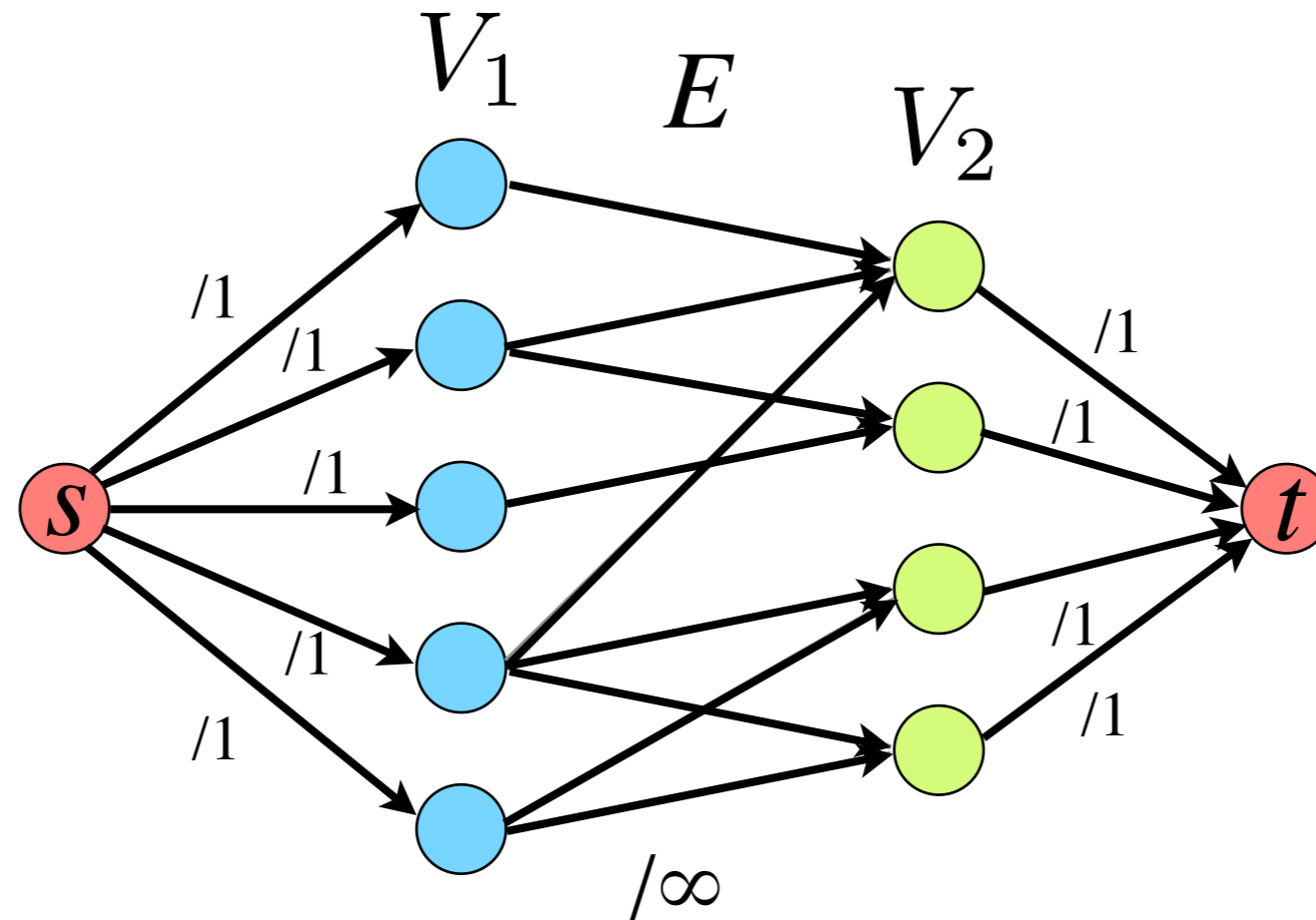
min s - t cut = vertex cover

min-cut $s \in S, t \notin S$ \Rightarrow $\sum_{\substack{u \in S, v \notin S \\ (u,v) \in E}} c_{uv} < \infty$ \Rightarrow

no edge $(u, v) \in E$ has $u \in V_1 \cap S, v \in V_2 \setminus S$

$\Rightarrow (V_1 \setminus S) \cup (V_2 \cap S)$ is a vertex cover

$$|V_1 \setminus S| + |V_2 \cap S| = \sum_{v \in V_1 \setminus S} c_{sv} + \sum_{u \in V_2 \cap S} c_{ut} = \sum_{\substack{u \in S, v \notin S \\ (u,v) \in E}} c_{uv}$$



max integral flow = max matching

min s-t cut = vertex cover

Theorem (König 1931, Egerváry 1931)

In a bipartite graph,

max matching = min vertex cover.

Duality and Integrality

Maximum Flow

digraph: $D(V, E)$ source: $s \in V$ sink: $t \in V$

capacity $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$

$$\max \sum_{u:(s,u) \in E} f_{su}$$

$$\text{s.t. } 0 \leq f_{uv} \leq c_{uv} \quad \forall (u, v) \in E$$

$$\sum_{w:(w,u) \in E} f_{wu} - \sum_{v:(u,v) \in E} f_{uv} = 0 \quad \forall u \in V \setminus \{s, t\}$$

Linear Programming (LP)

general form: matrix $A = \{a_{ij}\}_{m \times n}$

sets $M \subseteq [m]$ $N \subseteq [n]$

$$\min \quad \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} = b_i \quad i \in M$$

$$\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} \geq b_i \quad i \in \overline{M}$$

$$x_j \geq 0 \quad i \in N$$

$$x_j \text{ unconstrained} \quad i \in \overline{N}$$

Canonical Form for LP

general form:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} = b_i \quad i \in M \\ & \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} \geq b_i \quad i \in \bar{M} \\ & x_j \geq 0 \quad i \in N \\ & x_j \text{ unconstrained} \quad i \in \bar{N} \end{array}$$

canonical form:

$$\begin{array}{ll} & m \times n \text{ matrix } A \\ \min & \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} & A\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{b} \\ & \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array}$$

$$\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} = b_i \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} \geq b_i \\ -\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} \geq -b_i \end{cases}$$

$$x_j \text{ unconstrained} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} x_j^+ \geq 0 \\ x_j^- \geq 0 \end{array} \quad x_j = x_j^+ - x_j^-$$

Standard Form for LP

canonical form:

$m \times n$ matrix A

$$\min \quad c^T x$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad Ax \geq b$$

$$x \geq 0$$

standard form:

$m \times n$ matrix A

$$\min \quad c^T x$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad Ax = b$$

$$x \geq 0$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \geq b_i \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j - s_i = b_i \\ s_i \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

slack variable

Convex Polytopes

hyperplane:

subspace of dimension $n-1$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_j x_j = b$$

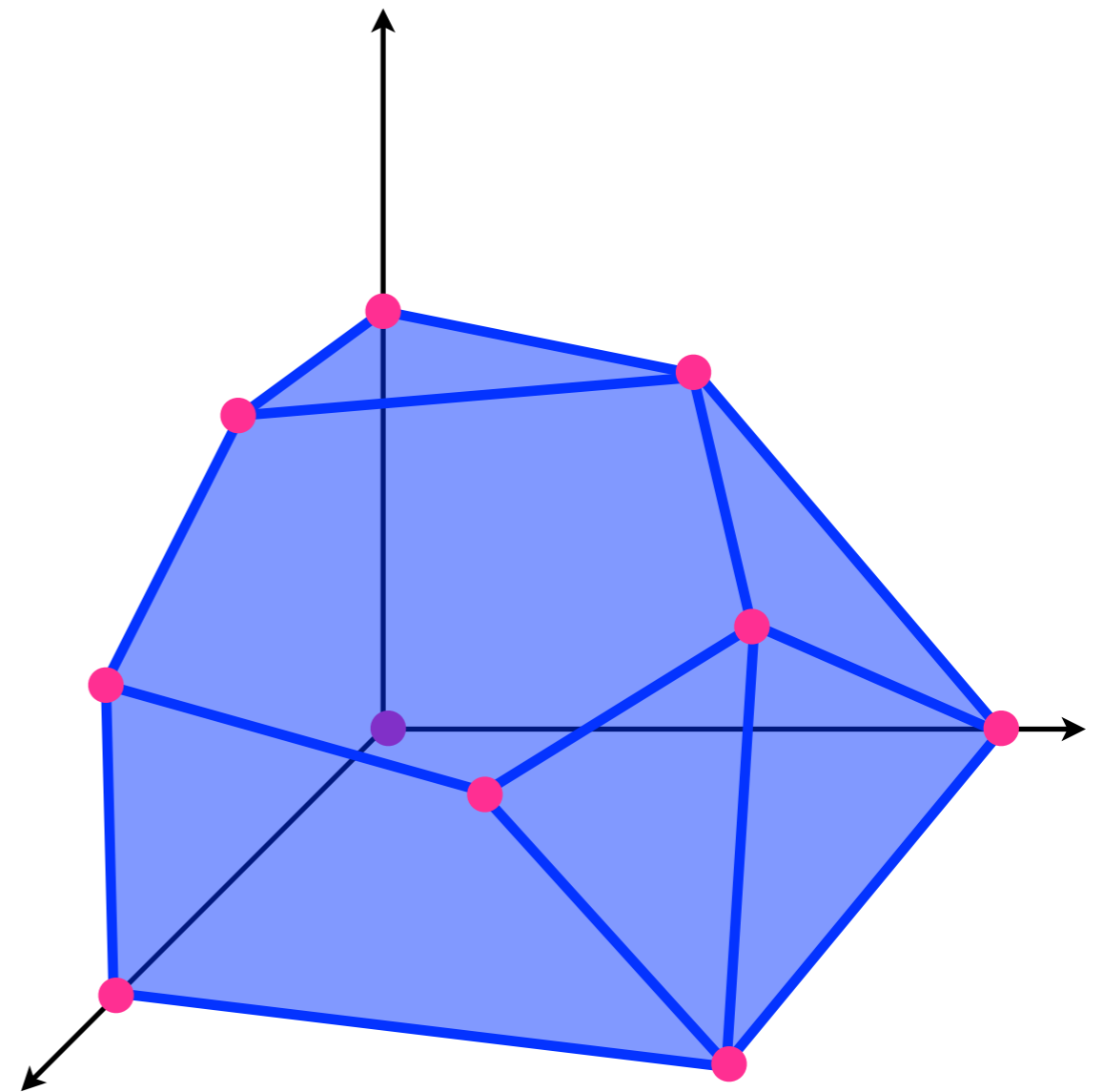
(closed) halfspace:

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_j x_j \geq b$$

convex polyhedron:

intersection of halfspaces

convex polytope: bounded convex polyhedron

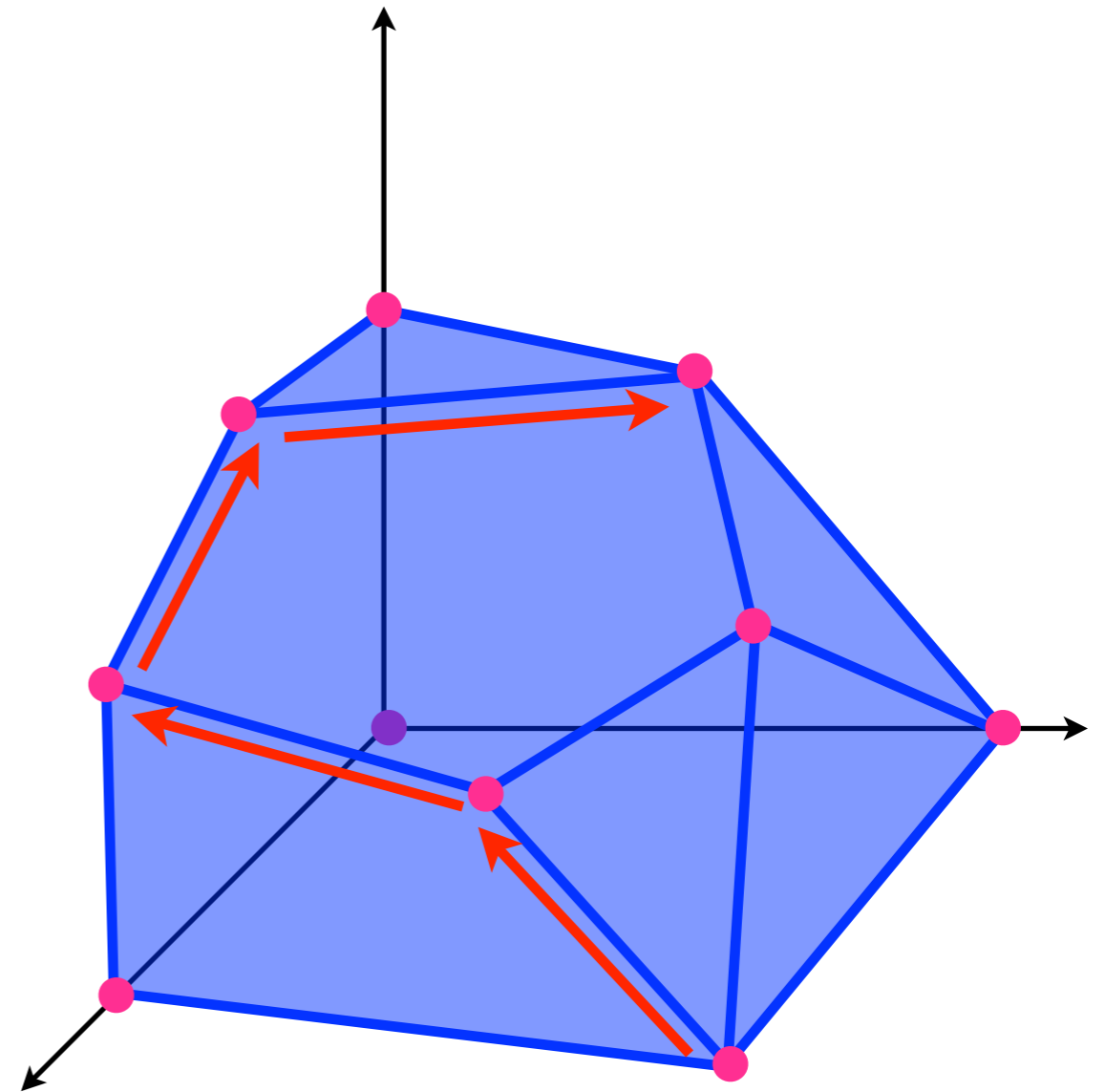


The Simplex Algorithm

(Dantzig, 1947)

\mathbf{y} is a neighbor of \mathbf{x}
if \exists an edge between
 \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y}

find a vertex \mathbf{x} ;
repeat:
 pick a neighbor \mathbf{y}
 with $\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{y} < \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}$;
 $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow \mathbf{y}$;
until no such \mathbf{y} .



Estimate the Optima

minimize

$$7x_1 + x_2 + 5x_3$$

VI

subject to

$$x_1 - x_2 + 3x_3 \geq 10$$

+

$$5x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 \geq 6$$

||

$$x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0 \quad 16$$

16 ? \leq OPT \leq 30 (any feasible solution)

$$x = (2, 1, 3)$$

Estimate the Optima

minimize

$$7x_1 + x_2 + 5x_3$$

VI

subject to

$$y_1 (x_1 - x_2 + 3x_3) \geq 10y_1$$

$$+ y_2 (5x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3) \geq 6y_2$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0$$

$$10y_1 + 6y_2 \leq \text{OPT}$$

for any

$$\begin{array}{rcll} y_1 + 5y_2 & \leq & 7 \\ -y_1 + 2y_2 & \leq & 1 \\ 3y_1 - y_2 & \leq & 5 \end{array} \quad y_1, y_2 \geq 0$$

Primal-Dual

Primal

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{min} & 7x_1 + x_2 + 5x_3 \\ \text{s.t.} & x_1 - x_2 + 3x_3 \geq 10 \\ & 5x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 \geq 6 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Dual

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{max} & 10y_1 + 6y_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & y_1 + 5y_2 \leq 7 \\ & -y_1 + 2y_2 \leq 1 \\ & 3y_1 - y_2 \leq 5 \\ & y_1, y_2 \geq 0 \end{array}$$

dual
feasible
solution
 \leq
primal
OPT

Diet Problem



calories

vitamin 1

⋮

vitamin m

c_1	c_2	⋯	c_n
a_{11}	a_{12}	⋯	a_{1n}
⋮	⋮		⋮
a_{m1}	a_{m2}	⋯	a_{mn}

healthy

$\geq b_1$

⋮

$\geq b_m$

solution:

x_1

x_2

⋯

x_n

minimize the calories while keeping healthy

Diet Problem

minimize $\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}$

subject to $A\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{b}$

$\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}$

calories

vitamin 1

⋮

vitamin m

c_1	c_2	⋯	c_n
a_{11}	a_{12}	⋯	a_{1n}
⋮	⋮		⋮
a_{m1}	a_{m2}	⋯	a_{mn}

healthy

$\geq b_1$

⋮

$\geq b_m$

solution:

x_1

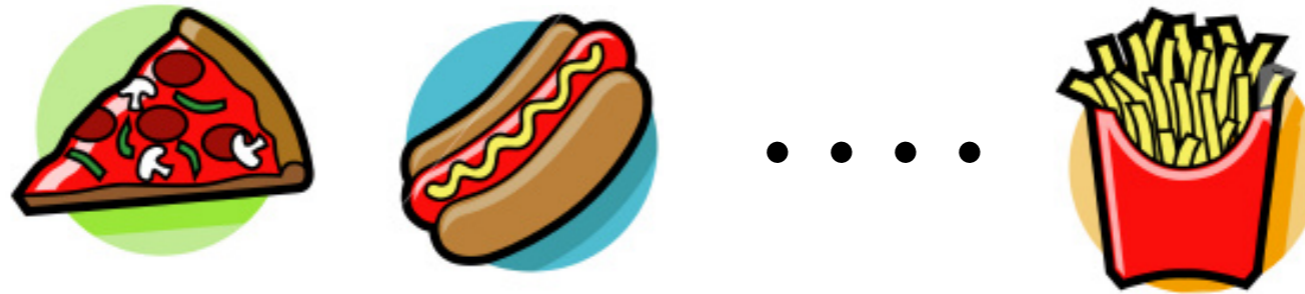
x_2

⋯

x_n

minimize the calories while keeping healthy

Surviving Problem



price
vitamin 1
⋮
vitamin m

c_1	c_2	⋯	c_n
a_{11}	a_{12}	⋯	a_{1n}
⋮	⋮		⋮
a_{m1}	a_{m2}	⋯	a_{mn}

healthy

$$\begin{array}{l} \geq b_1 \\ \vdots \\ \geq b_m \end{array}$$

solution: x_1 x_2 ⋯ x_n

minimize the total price while keeping healthy

Surviving Problem

$$\min \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{Ax} \geq \mathbf{b}$$

$$\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}$$

price
vitamin 1
⋮
vitamin m

c_1	c_2	⋯	c_n
a_{11}	a_{12}	⋯	a_{1n}
⋮	⋮		⋮
a_{m1}	a_{m2}	⋯	a_{mn}

healthy

$$\geq b_1$$

⋮

$$\geq b_m$$

solution: x_1 x_2 ⋯ x_n

minimize the total price while keeping healthy

Dual LP

Primal:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax \geq b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Dual:

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & b^T y \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y^T A \leq c \\ & y \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

dual
solution:

price
 y_1 vitamin 1
 \vdots
 y_m vitamin m

c_1	c_2	c_n
a_{11}	a_{12}	a_{1n}
\vdots	\vdots		\vdots
a_{m1}	a_{m2}	a_{mn}

healthy

b_1
 \vdots
 b_m

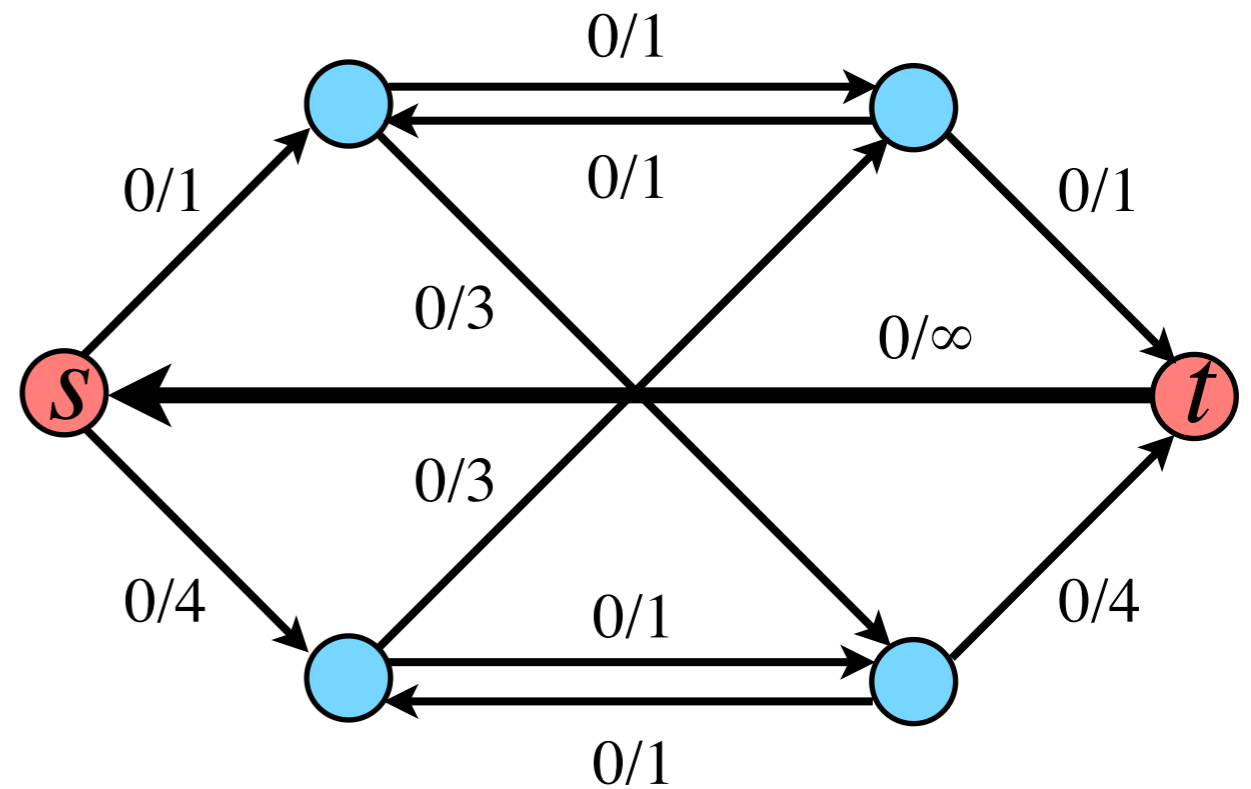
m types of vitamin pills, design a pricing system
competitive to n natural foods, max the total price

Max-Flow

digraph: $D(V, E)$

capacity $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$

source: $s \in V$ sink: $t \in V$



$$\max \sum_{u:(s,u) \in E} f_{su}$$

$$d_{uv} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad 0 \leq f_{uv} \leq c_{uv}$$

$$\forall (u, v) \in E$$

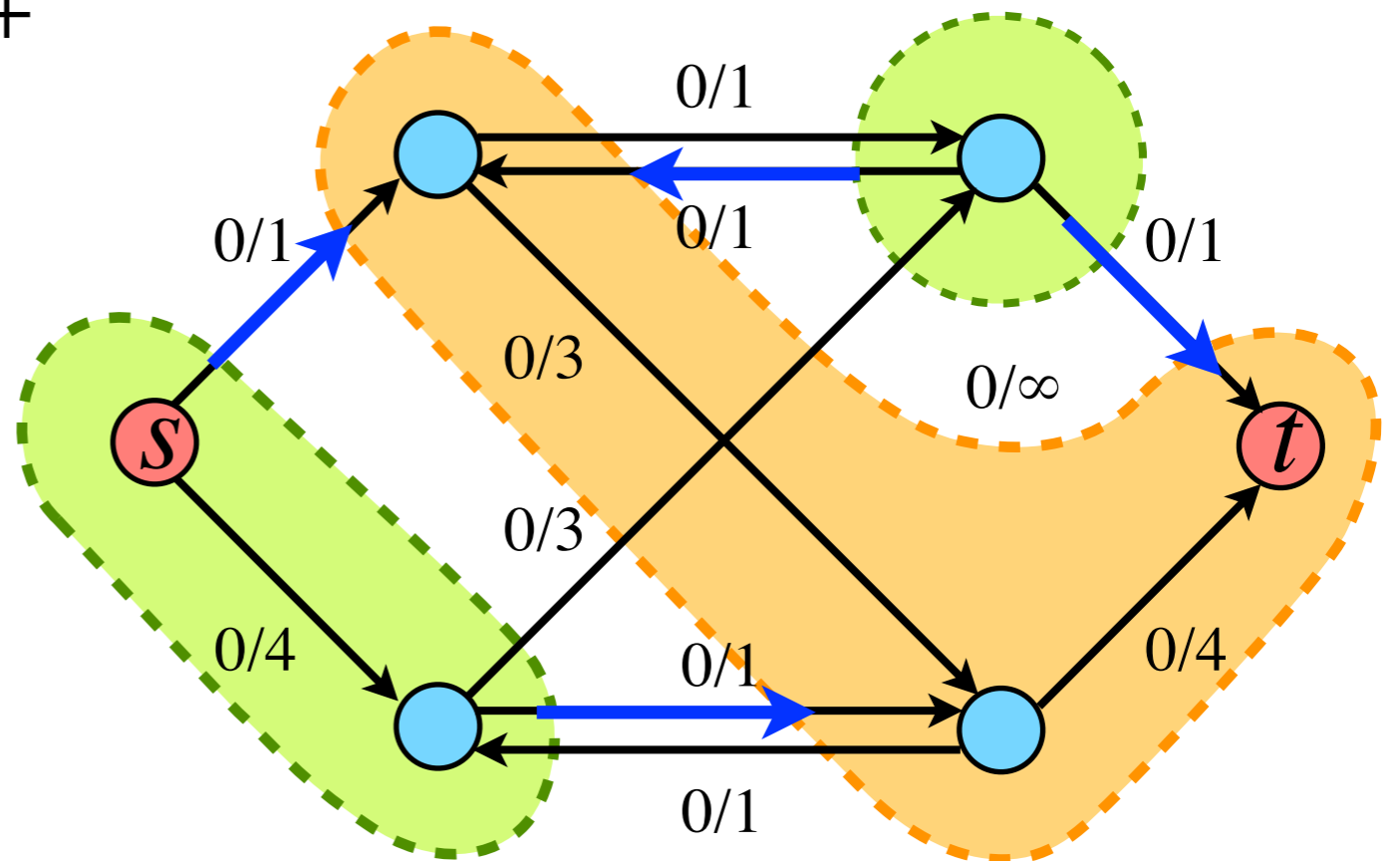
$$p_u \quad \sum_{w:(w,u) \in E} f_{wu} - \sum_{v:(u,v) \in E} f_{uv} \leq 0 \quad \forall u \in V \setminus \{s, t\}$$

Dual-LP

digraph: $D(V, E)$

source: $s \in V$ sink: $t \in V$

capacity $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$



$$\min \sum_{(u,v) \in E} c_{uv} d_{uv}$$

$$\text{s.t. } d_{uv} - p_u + p_v \geq 0 \quad \forall (u, v) \in E$$

$$p_s - p_t \geq 1$$

$$d_{uv}, p_u, p_t \in [0, 1] \quad \forall (u, v) \in E \quad \forall u \in V$$

$$\forall (u, v) \in E \quad \forall u \in V$$

Flow-Cut Duality by Another LP

Primal:

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{s-t \text{ path } p} x_p \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{p:e \in p} x_p \leq c_e \quad \forall e \in E \\ & x_p \geq 0 \quad \forall s-t \text{ path } p \end{aligned}$$

Dual:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{e \in E} y_e c_e \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{e:e \in p} y_e \geq 1 \quad \forall s-t \text{ path } p \\ & y_e \geq 0 \quad \forall e \in E \end{aligned}$$

Duality

Primal:

$$\min \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \quad \geq$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{b}$$

$$\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}$$

Dual:

$$\max \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{y}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{A} \leq \mathbf{c}^T$$

$$\mathbf{y} \geq \mathbf{0}$$

dual of dual is primal

\forall feasible \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y}

$$\mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{b} \leq \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}$$

Duality

Primal:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax \geq b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Dual:

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & b^T y \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y^T A \leq c^T \\ & y \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Strong Duality Theorem

$$\text{OPT}_{\text{primal}} \cong \text{OPT}_{\text{dual}}$$

Maximum Integral Flow

digraph: $D(V, E)$ source: $s \in V$ sink: $t \in V$

capacity $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+$

$$\max \sum_{u:(s,u) \in E} f_{su}$$

$$\text{s.t. } 0 \leq f_{uv} \leq c_{uv} \quad \forall (u, v) \in E$$

$$\sum_{w:(w,u) \in E} f_{wu} - \sum_{v:(u,v) \in E} f_{uv} = 0 \quad \forall u \in V \setminus \{s, t\}$$

integral flow: $f_{uv} \in \mathbb{Z} \quad \forall (u, v) \in E$

Integer Programming

canonical form:

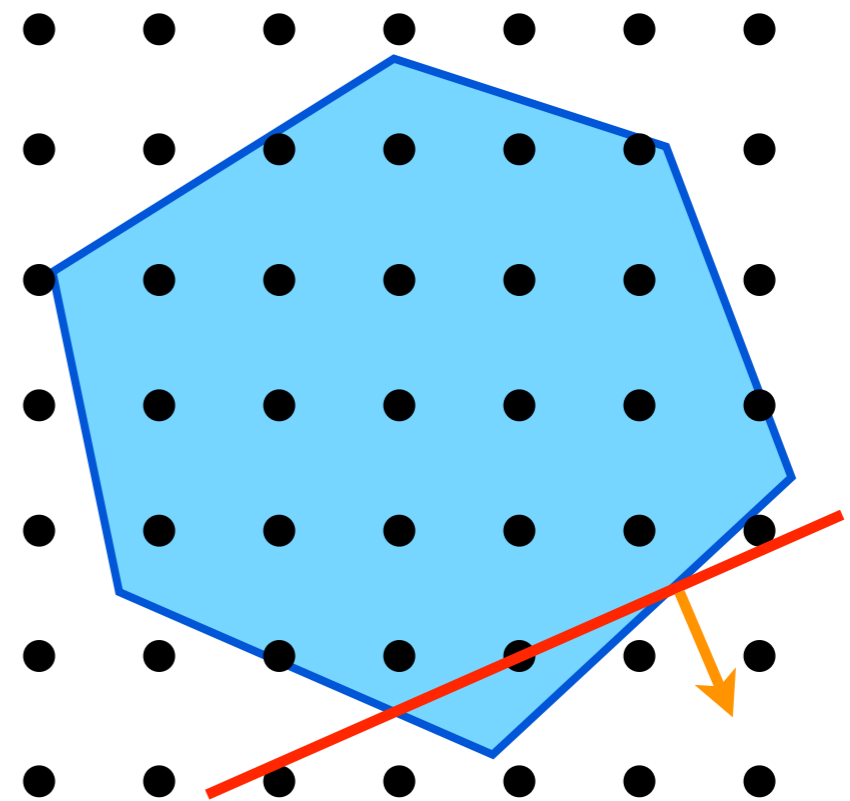
$m \times n$ matrix A

$$\min \quad c^T x$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad Ax \geq b$$

$$\cancel{x \in \mathbb{Z}^n}$$

LP-relaxation



Integrality gap

$$\text{3-SAT: } \bigwedge_{i=1}^m (l_{i_1} \vee l_{i_2} \vee l_{i_3})$$

literal $l_{i_j} \in \{x_{i_j}, \neg x_{i_j}\}$

Boolean variable $x_i \in \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$

$$\text{max } \sum_{i=1}^m z_i$$

$$\text{s.t. } z_i \leq y_{i_1} + y_{i_2} + y_{i_3} \quad \forall 1 \leq i \leq m$$

$$y_{i_j} = x_{i_j} \quad \text{if } l_{i_j} = x_{i_j}$$

$$y_{i_j} = 1 - x_{i_j} \quad \text{if } l_{i_j} = \neg x_{i_j}$$

$$x_j, z_i \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall 1 \leq i \leq m, \quad 1 \leq j \leq n$$

ILP (Integer Linear Program) is NP-hard

Integral Polytope

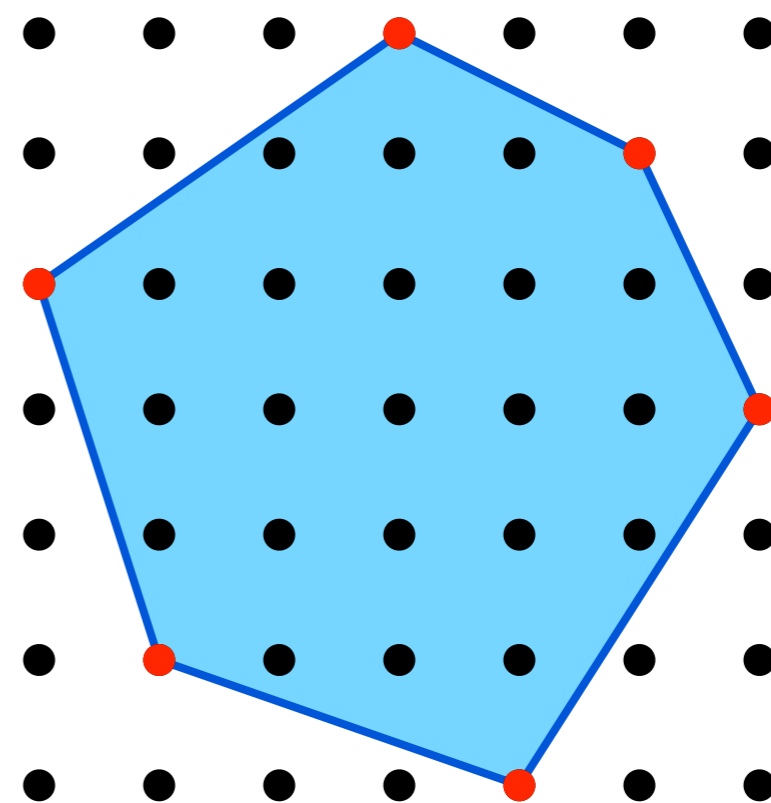
Integral polyhedron:

all vertices are integral

OPT for ILP =

OPT for LP-relaxation

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax \geq b \\ & x \in \mathbb{Z}^n \end{aligned}$$



How to tell whether $Ax \geq b$ is an integral polyhedron?

Unimodularity

$m \times m$ integer matrix B

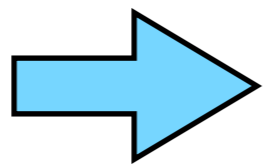
B is **unimodular** if $\det(B) = \pm 1$.

$m \times n$ integer matrix A

A is **totally unimodular** if

\forall **square submatrix** B , $\det(B) \in \{0, 1, -1\}$.

A is totally
unimodular



$\forall \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{Z}^m$ polyhedron
 $A\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{b}$ is integral

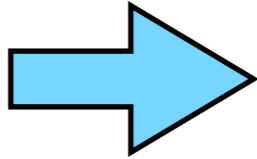
\forall **basis** B : a set of m linearly independent columns of A
basic solution $\mathbf{x} = B^{-1}\mathbf{b} = B^*\mathbf{b} / \det(B)$ **integral**

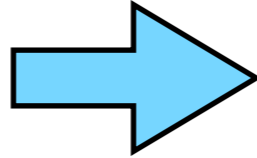
Total Unimodularity

A is **totally unimodular** if

\forall **square submatrix** B , $\det(B) \in \{0, 1, -1\}$.

Theorem (Hoffman-Kruskal, 1956)

A is totally unimodular  polyhedron $Ax \geq b, x \geq \mathbf{0}$ is integral for $\forall b \in \mathbb{Z}^m$

A is totally unimodular  so is $[A \ I]$

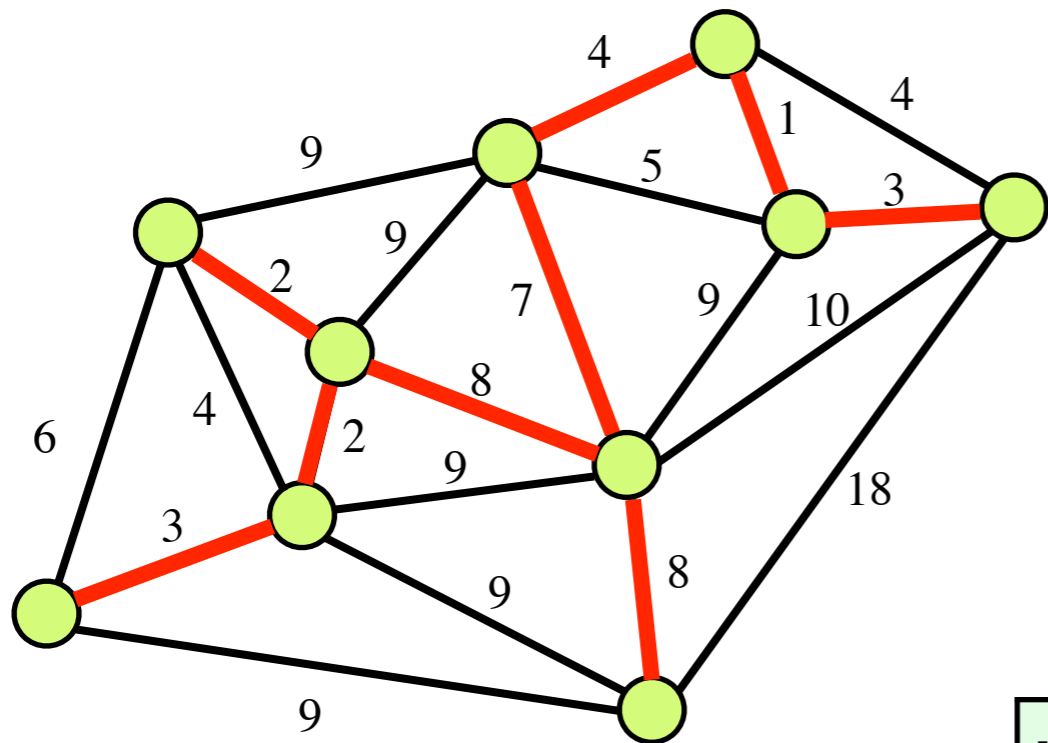
canonical to standard by adding slack variables

Totally Unimodular LP

- Max-Flow
- Maximum Bipartite Matching
- Shortest Paths

Matroid

Minimum Spanning Tree (MST)



Find the

**minimum
spanning tree**

undirected graph
 $G(V, E)$

weight $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$

Kruskal's Algorithm: **Greedy!**

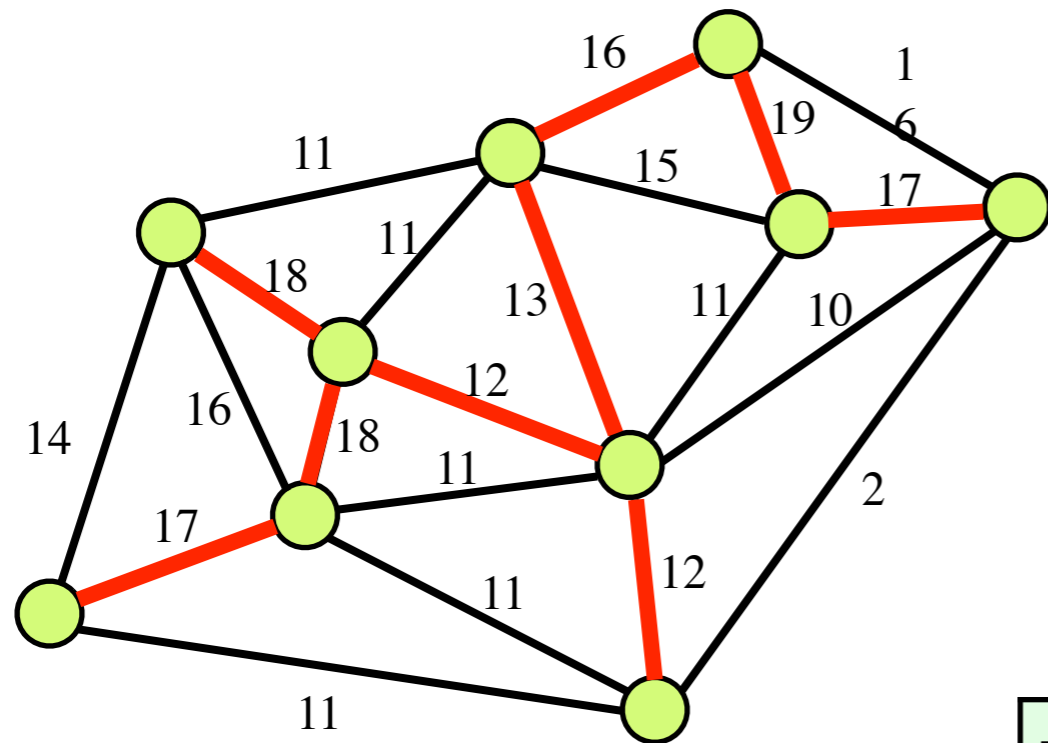
$S = \emptyset;$

while $\exists e \in E$ that $S \cup \{e\}$ is a forest:

pick such e with $\min c_e;$

$S = S \cup \{e\};$

Maximum Weight Spanning Tree



undirected graph
 $G(V, E)$

weight $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$

Find the

maximum weight
spanning tree

Kruskal's Algorithm:

$S = \emptyset;$

while $\exists e \in E$ that $S \cup \{e\}$ is a forest:

pick such e with **max** c_e ;

$S = S \cup \{e\};$

Matroid

set system $\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^X$

each $S \in \mathcal{F}$ is called an **independent set**

hereditary: $S \in \mathcal{F}, T \subset S \Rightarrow T \in \mathcal{F}$

matroid property:

$\forall Y \subseteq X, \left. \begin{array}{l} S, T \in \mathcal{F} \\ S, T \subseteq Y \\ S, T \text{ maximal} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow |S| = |T|$

$\forall Y \subseteq X, \text{ **basis: maximal } S \in \mathcal{F}, S \subseteq Y**$

rank: $r(Y) = |S|$ S is a basis of Y

Graph Matroid

undirected graph $G(V, E)$

set system $\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^E$

$$\mathcal{F} = \{ \text{all forests in } G \}$$

hereditary: subgraphs of a forest are forests

matroid property:

\forall subgraph of G with k components

all spanning forests of G have the same size

$$|V| - k$$

Linear Matroid

$m \times n$ matrix A

set system $\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^{[n]}$

$\mathcal{F} = \{S \mid \text{columns } A_{.j}, j \in S \text{ are linearly independent}\}$

hereditary: subsets of a linearly independent set are linearly independent

matroid property:

\forall subset of columns of A sub-matrix B

all basis of B have the same size

Greedy Algorithm

matroid $\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^X$

weight $c : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$

find the $S \in \mathcal{F}$ with the

maximum weight $c(S) = \sum_{i \in S} c_i$

Greedy Algorithm:

$S = \emptyset;$

while $\exists i \in X$ that $S \cup \{i\} \in \mathcal{F}$:

pick such i with **max** c_i ;

$S = S \cup \{i\};$

Greedy Algorithm

matroid $\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^X$

weight $c : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$

find the $S \in \mathcal{F}$ with the

maximum weight $c(S) = \sum_{i \in S} c_i$

Theorem (Rado 1957; Edmonds 1970)

The Greedy Algorithm finds the maximum weight independent set in a matroid.

Proof: Same as Kruskal's Algorithm.