

# Flow Networks

## CSCI 432

# Optimality

Max-Flow( $G$ )

$f(e) = 0$  for all  $e$  in  $G$

**while**  $s$ - $t$  path in  $G_f$  exists

$P =$  simple  $s$ - $t$  path in  $G_f$

$f' =$  augment( $f, P$ )

$f = f'$

$G_f = G_{f'}$

**return**  $f$

augment( $f, P$ )

$b =$  bottleneck( $P, f$ )

**for** each edge  $(u, v)$  in  $P$

**if**  $(u, v)$  is a back edge

$f((v, u)) -= b$

**else**

$f((u, v)) += b$

**return**  $f$

Need to show:

- ~~1. Validity.~~
- ~~2. Running time.~~
3. Finds max flow.

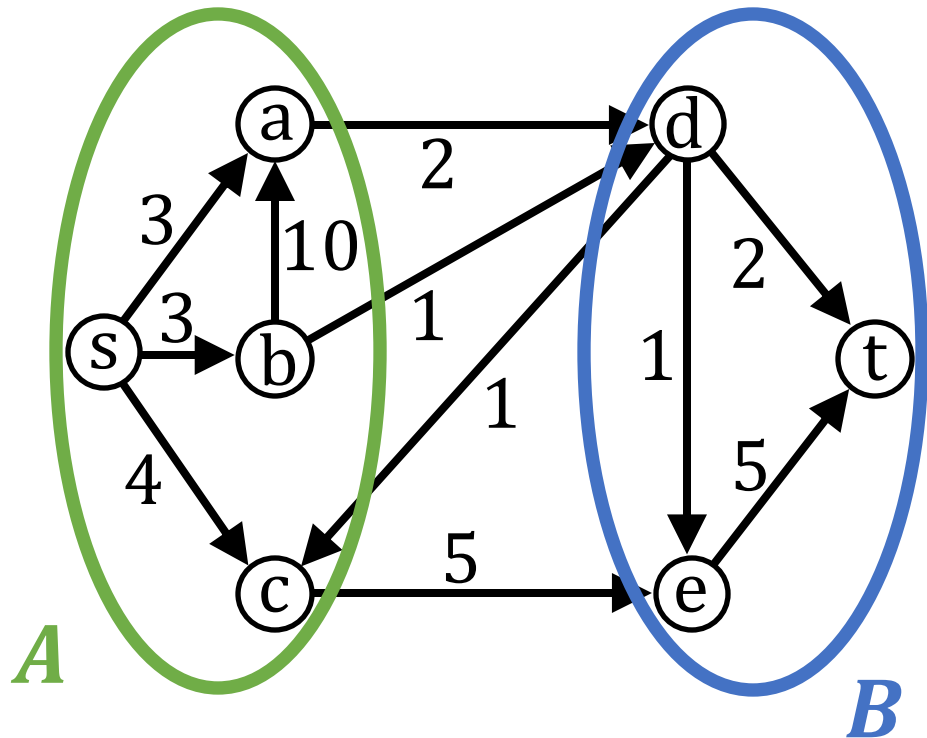
# Optimality

Theorem: The flow returned by the Ford-Fulkerson algorithm is a maximum flow.

Proof: ...

# Optimality

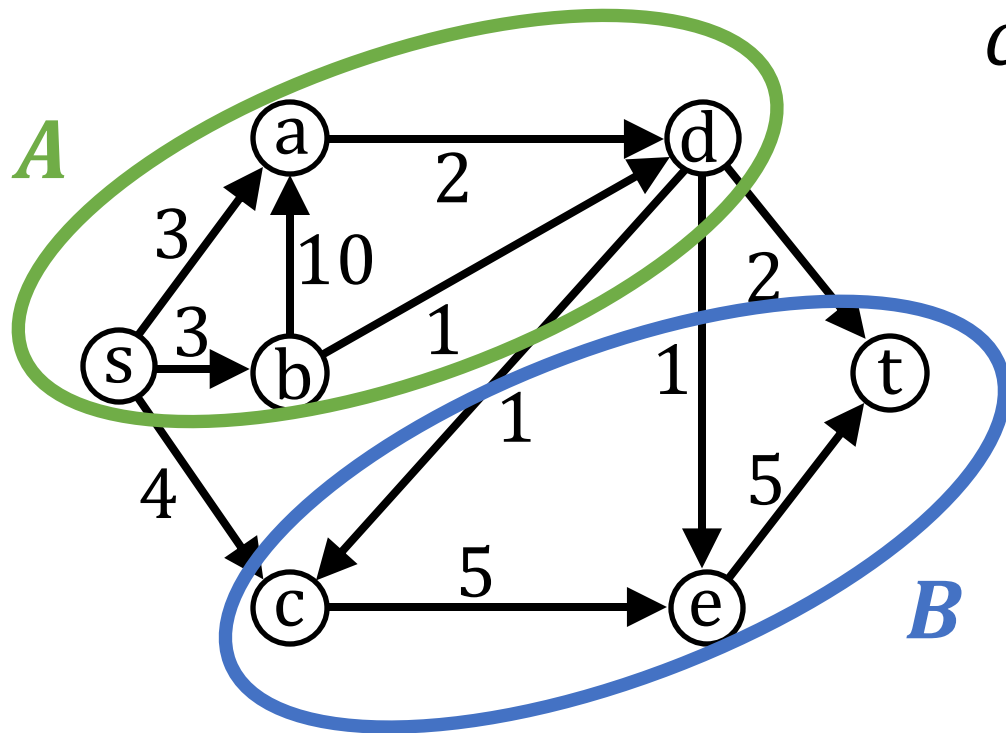
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$$c(A, B) = 8$$

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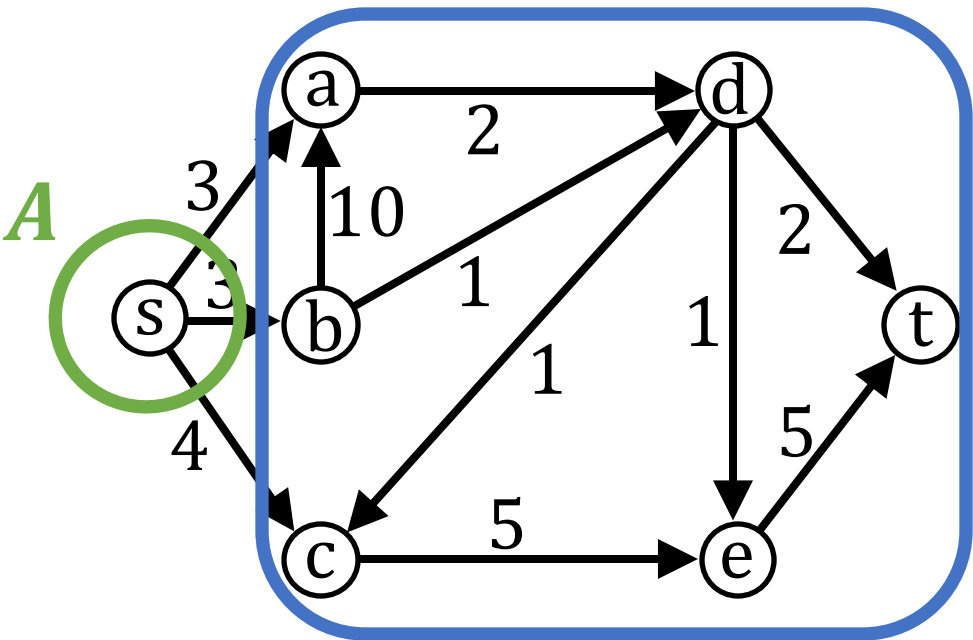
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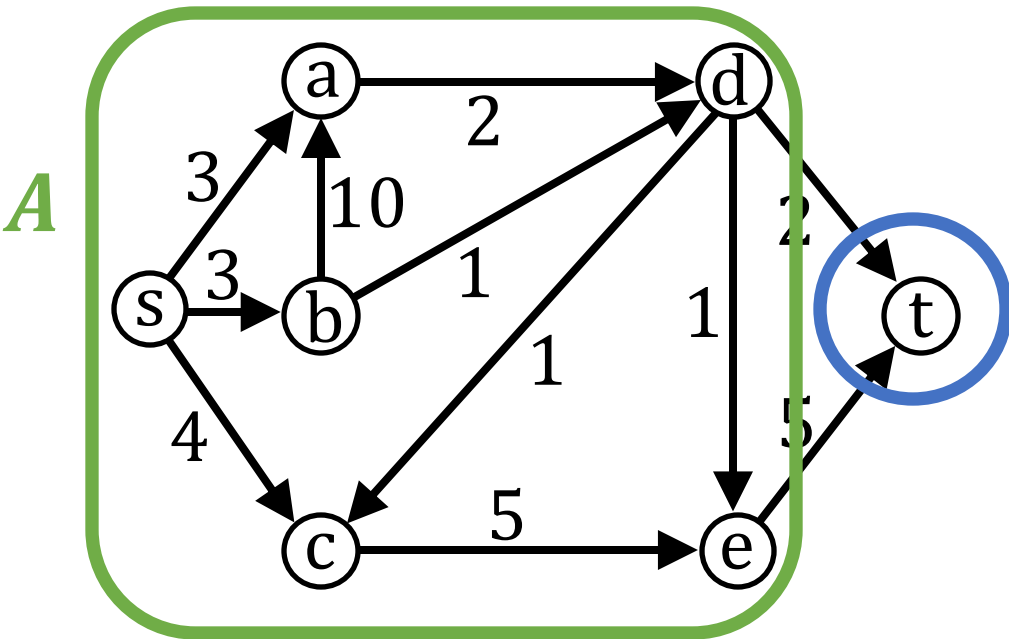
$$c(A, B) = 10$$

$B$

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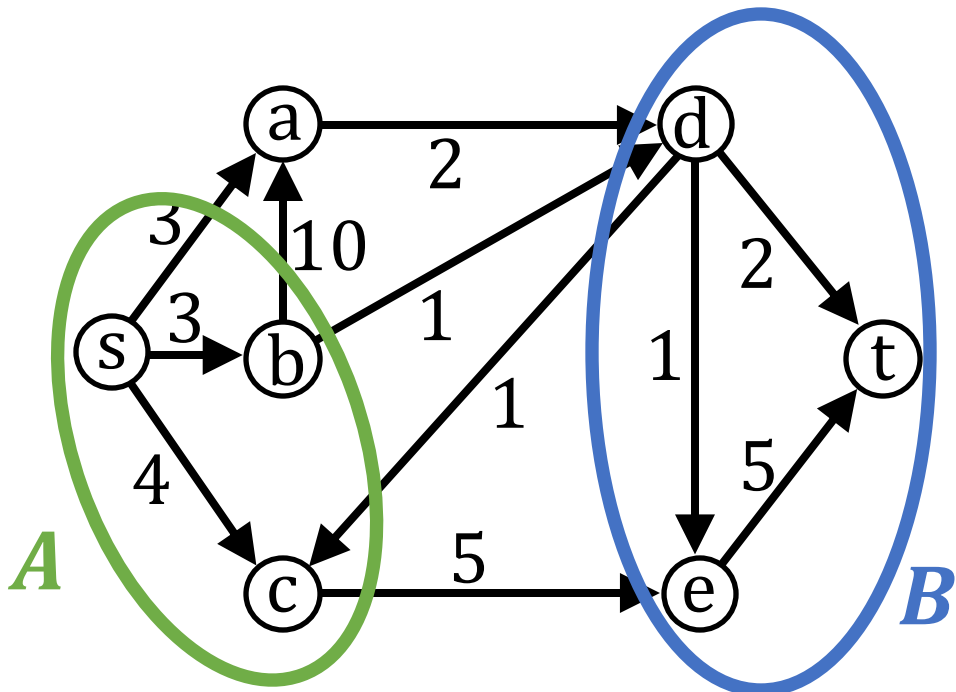
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$$c(A, B) = 7$$



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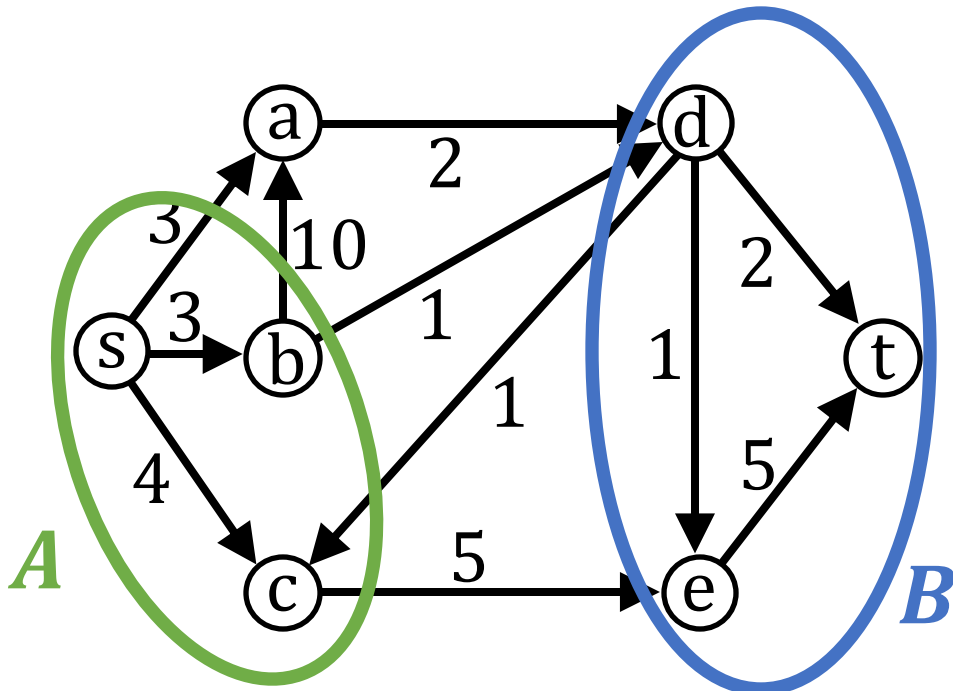


$$c(A, B) = ??$$



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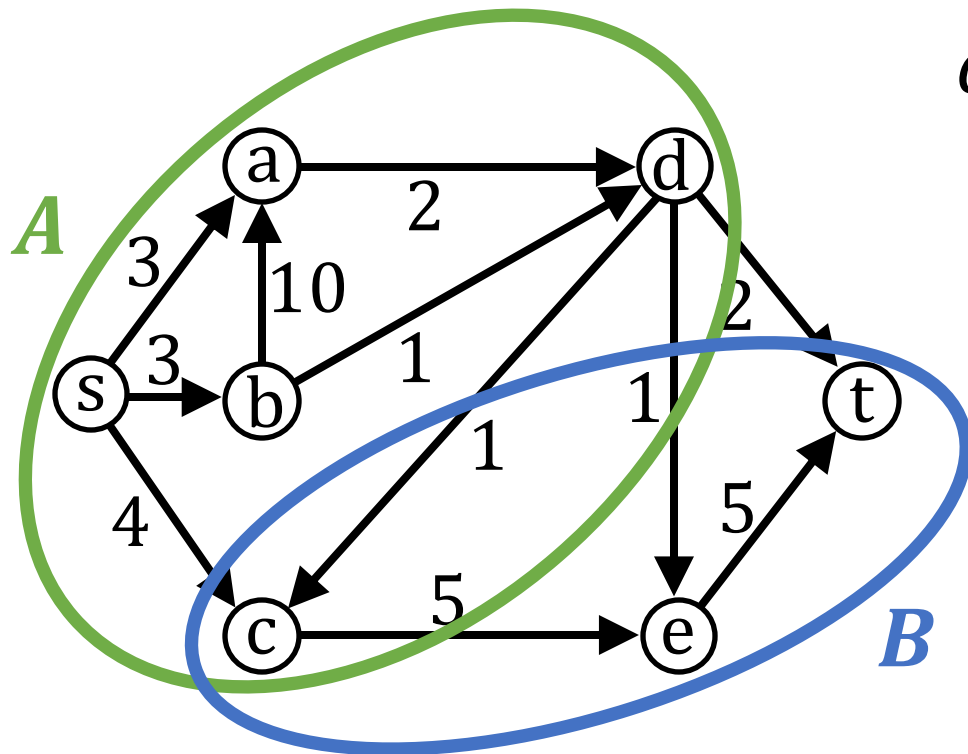
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**Invalid cut! Every vertex needs to be in one of the sets!**

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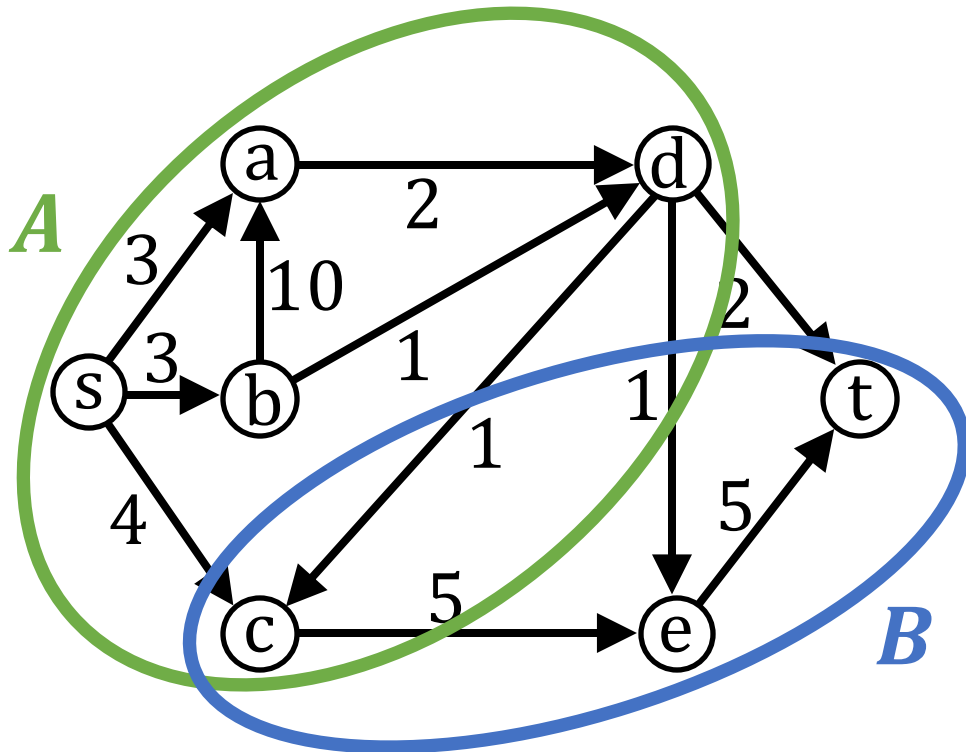
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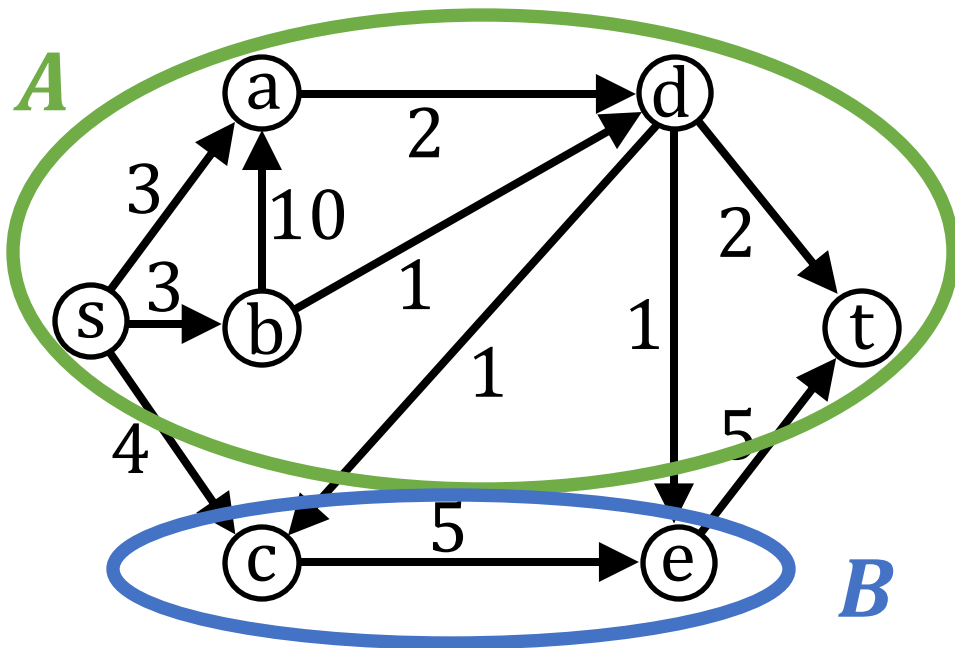


**Invalid cut! Every vertex needs to be in exactly one of the sets!**

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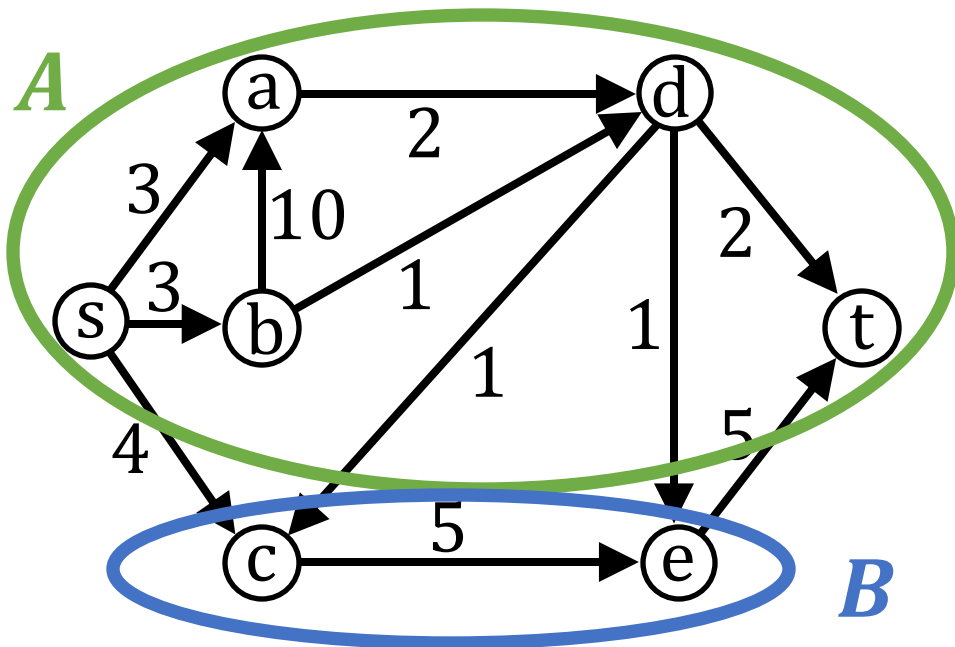
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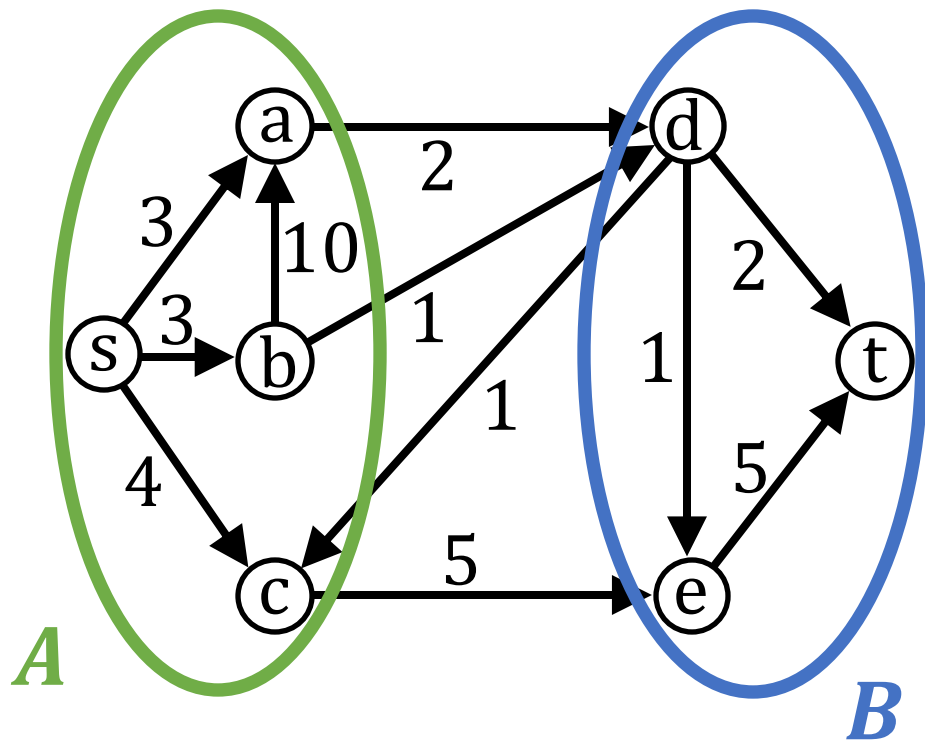
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**Invalid  $s - t$  cut!  $s$  and  $t$  need to be in different sets!**

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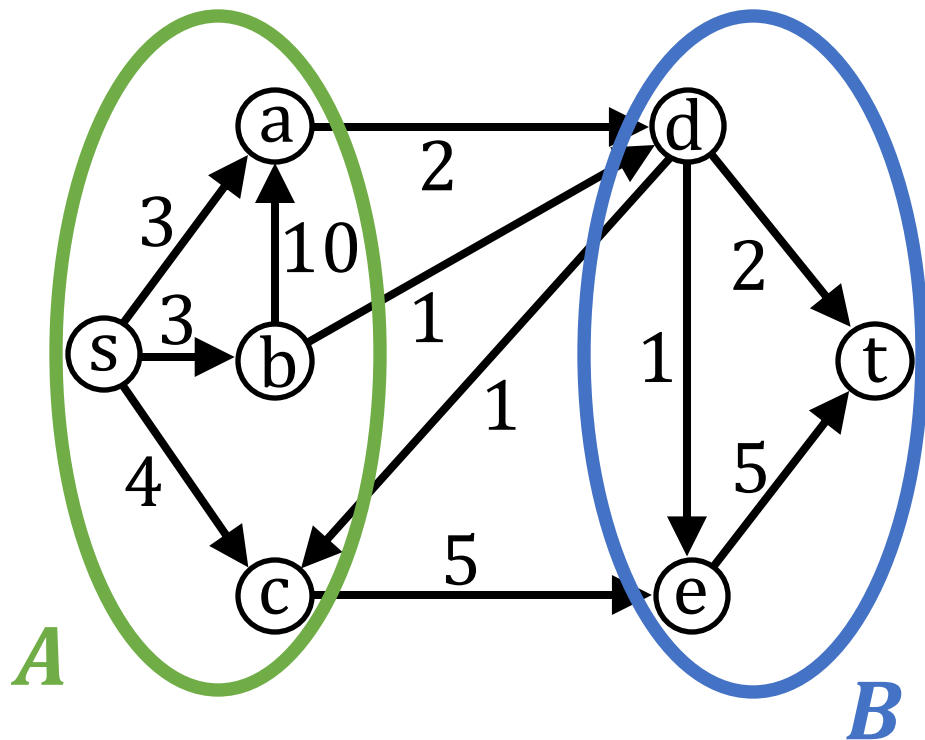


$$c(A, B) = 8$$

Game Plan:

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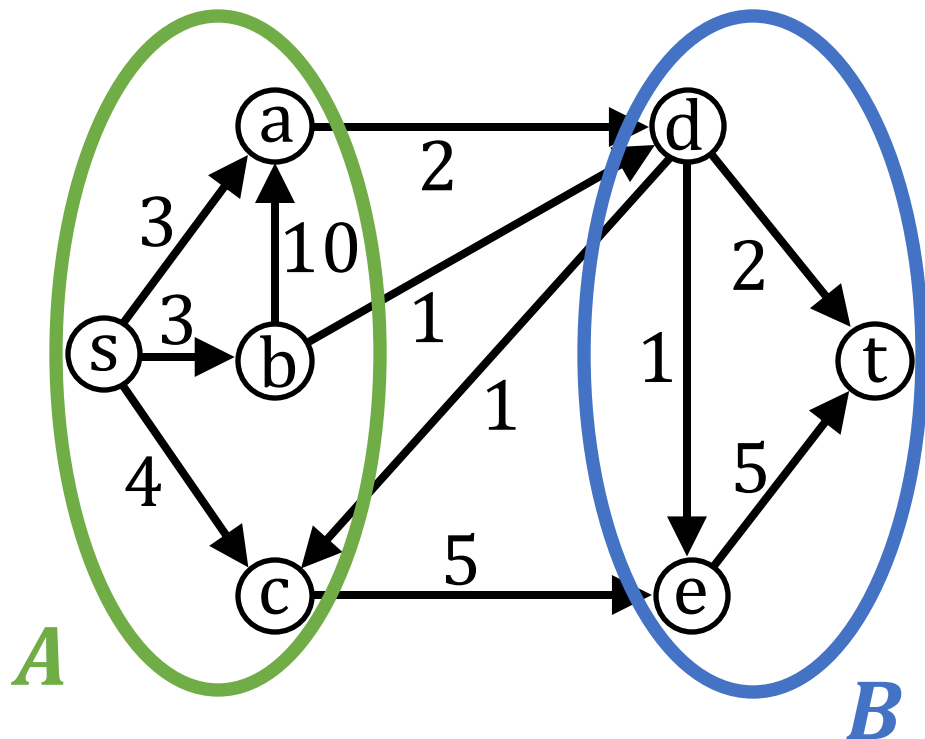
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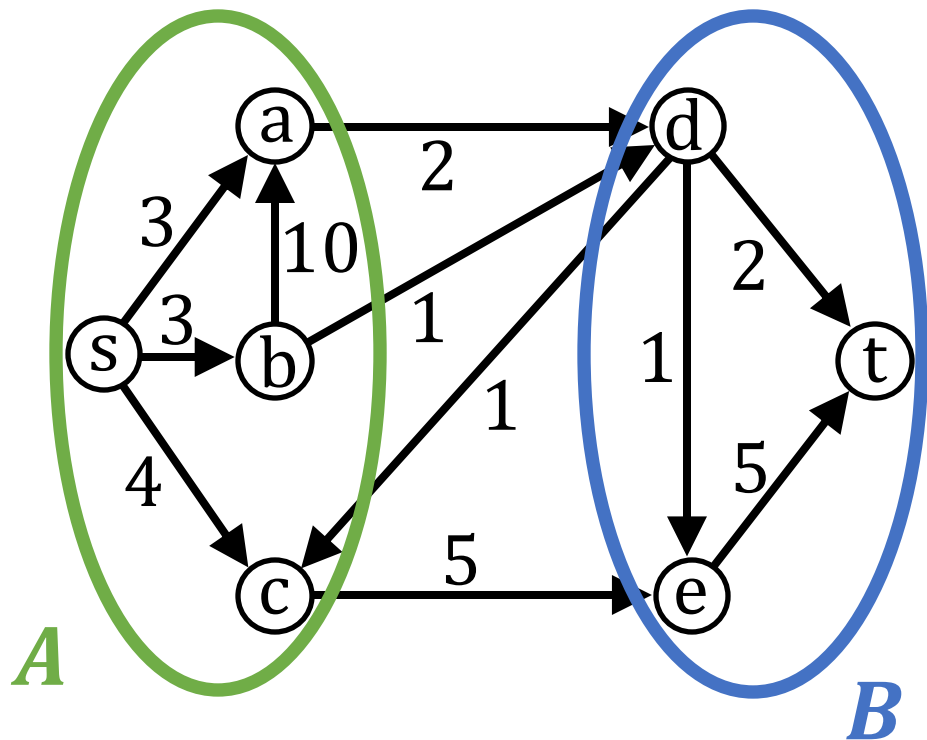
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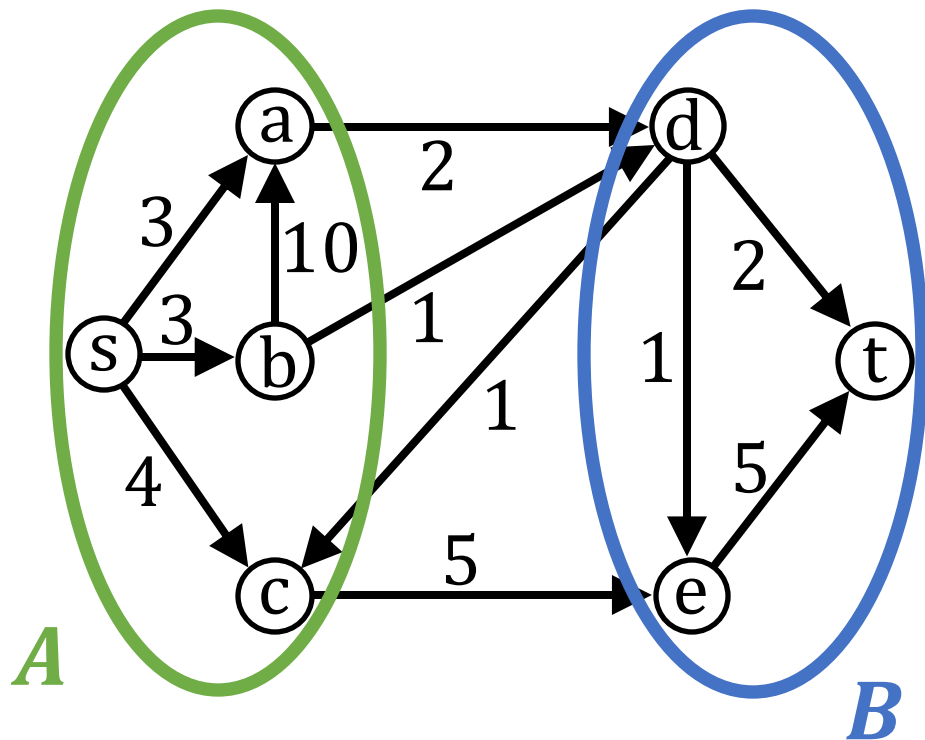
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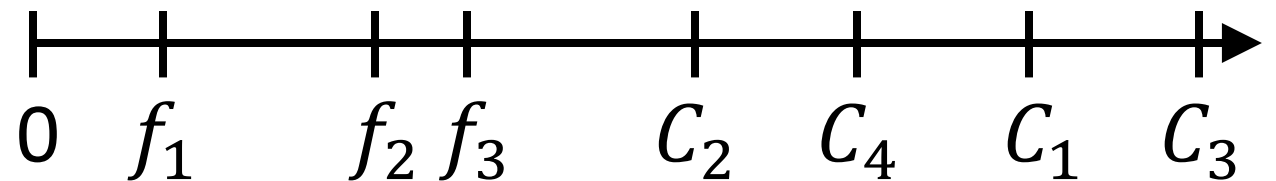
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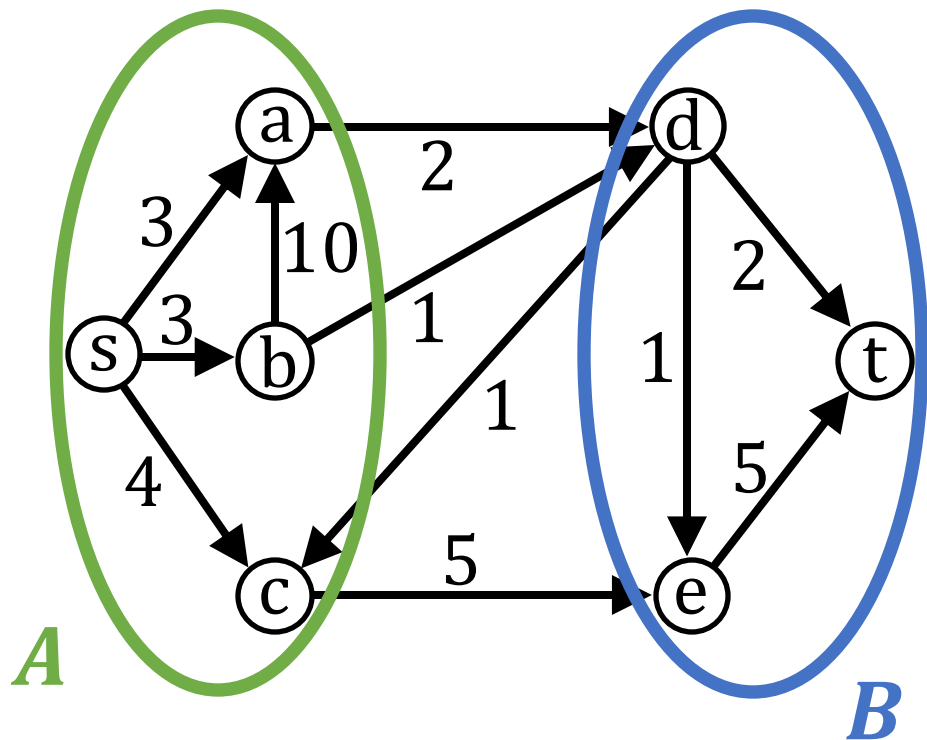
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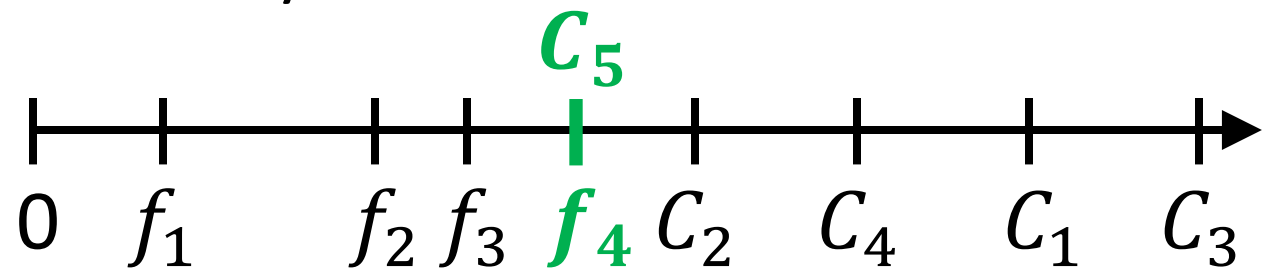


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**Consequence: If we find some flow whose value equals the capacity of some cut, it must be the optimal flow.**

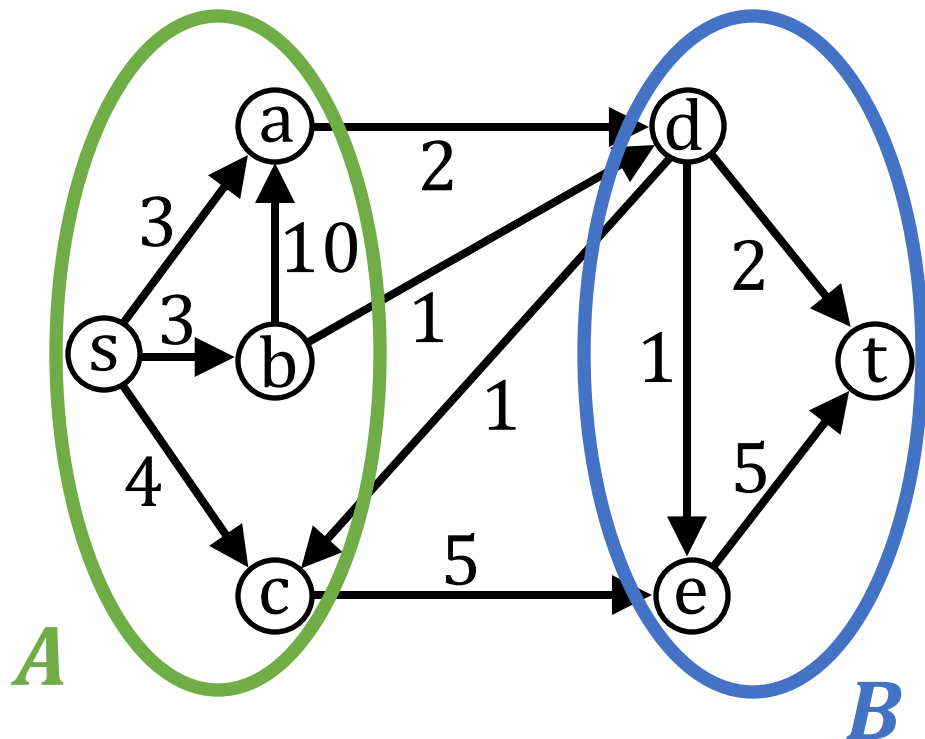
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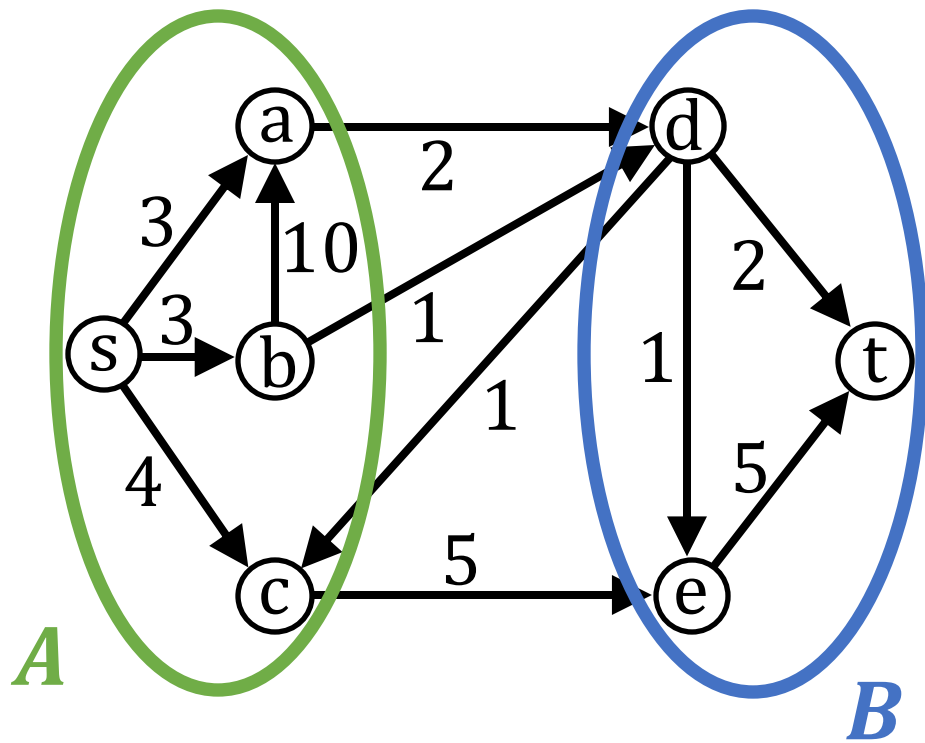
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1. Show the value of every flow is  $\leq$  capacity of every cut.
2. Given a flow where there are no  $s - t$  paths left in the residual graph, there is a specific cut whose capacity = flow value.

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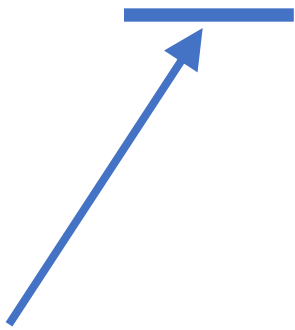
**Consequence: The algorithm is optimal**

# Optimality

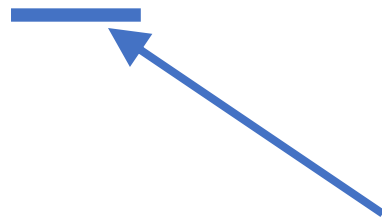
Theorem 1: Let  $G$  be a flow network,  $(A, B)$  be an  $s - t$  cut, and  $f$  be an  $s - t$  flow.

Then,  $|f| = \sum_{e \in \text{out}(A)} f(e) - \sum_{e \in \text{in}(A)} f(e)$ .

Proof:



**Edges that leave the set A**



**Edges that enter the set A**

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This relates arbitrary  $s - t$  flows  
to arbitrary  $s - t$  cuts

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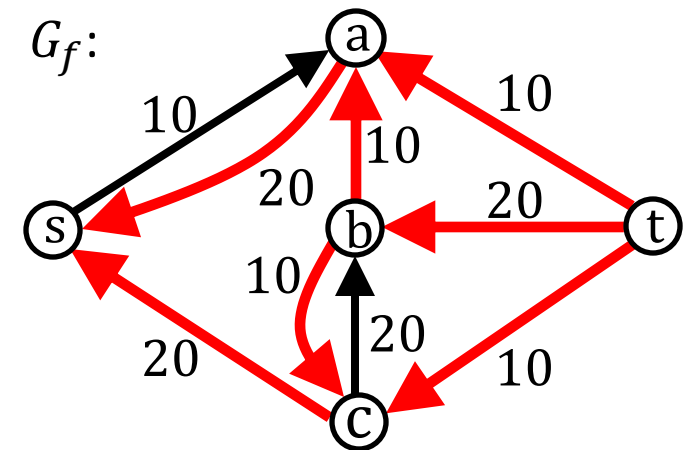
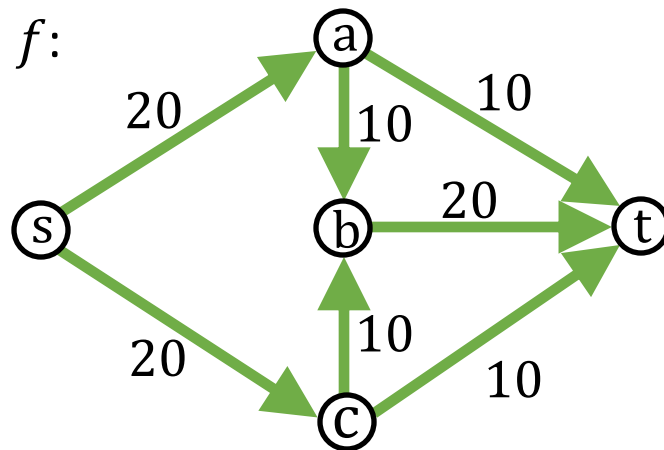
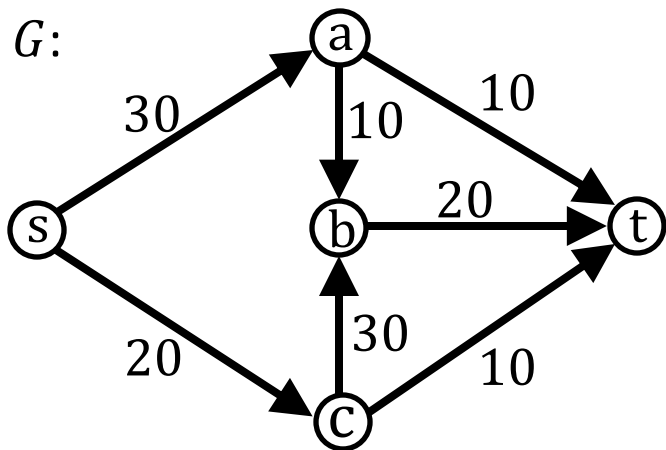
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Theorem 1: Let  $G$  be a flow network,  $(A, B)$  be an  $s - t$  cut, and  $f$  be an  $s - t$  flow. Then,  $|f| = \sum_{e \in \text{out}(A)} f(e) - \sum_{e \in \text{in}(A)} f(e)$ .

Proof:

$$|f| = 40$$



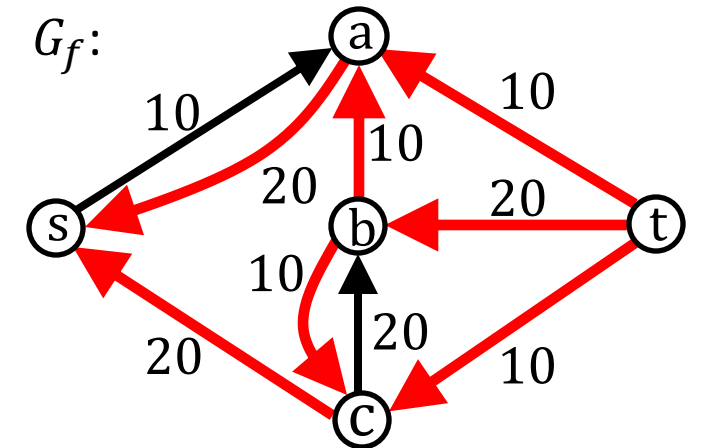
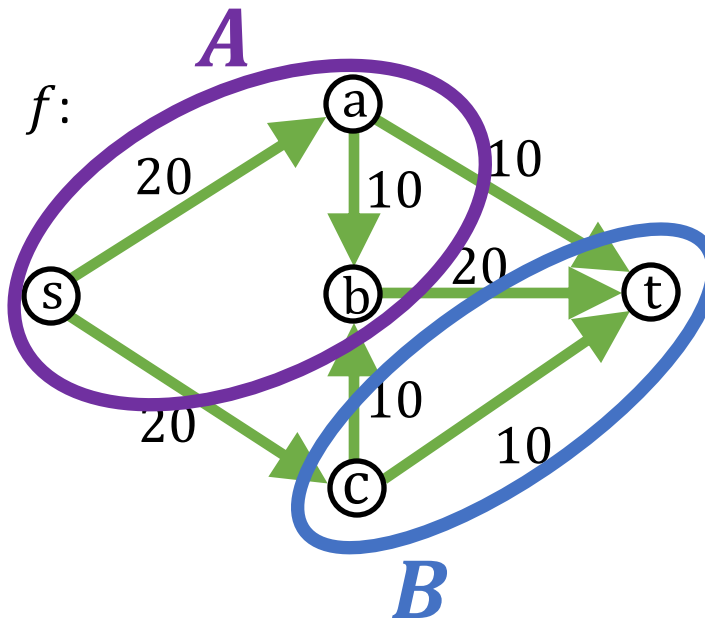
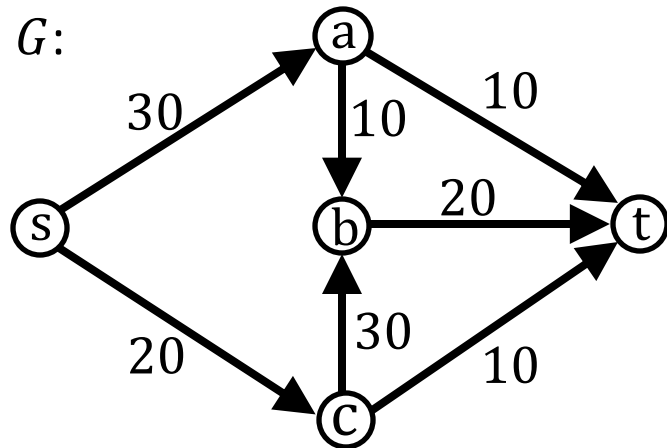


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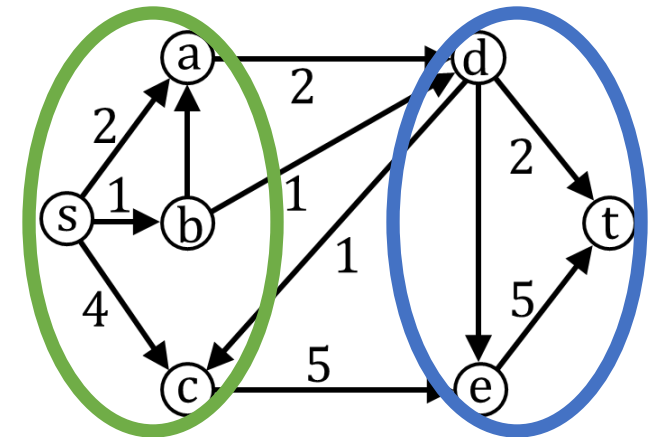
$$\begin{aligned} |f| &= 40 \\ \sum_{e \in \text{out}(A)} f(e) &= 50 \\ \sum_{e \in \text{in}(A)} f(e) &= 10 \end{aligned}$$



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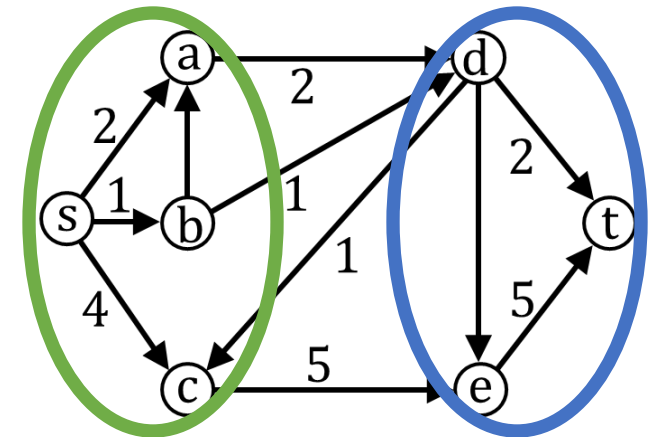


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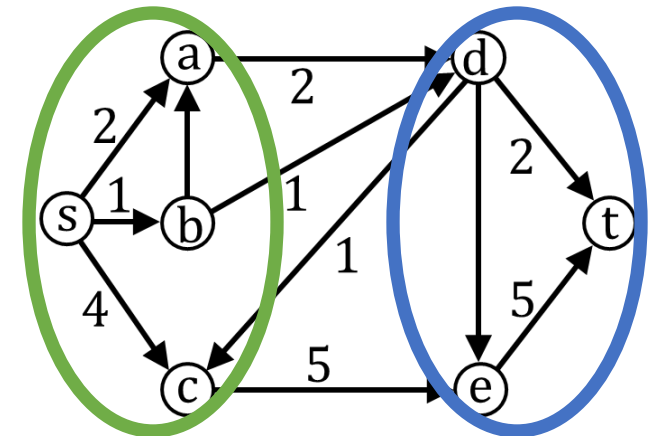


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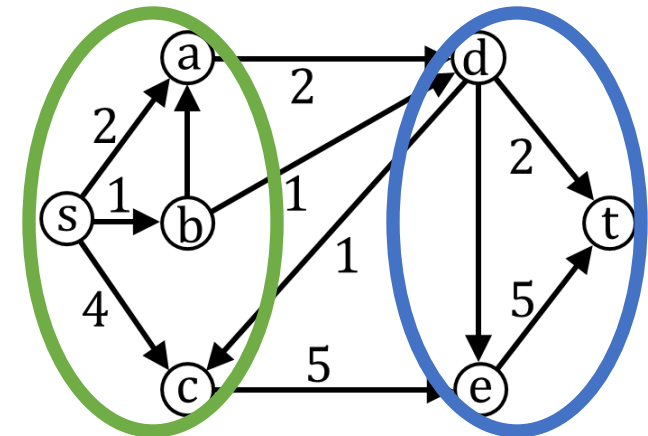
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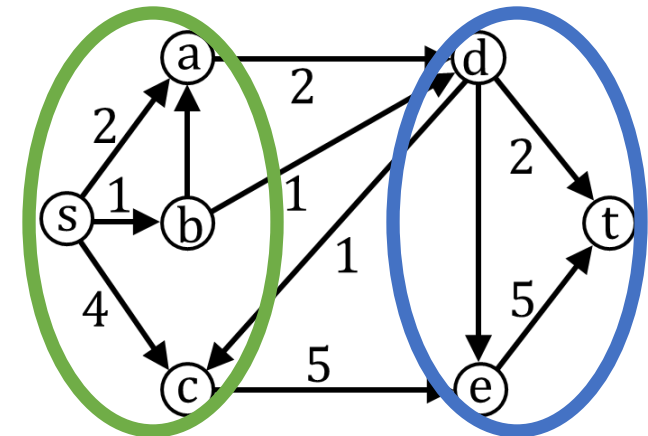
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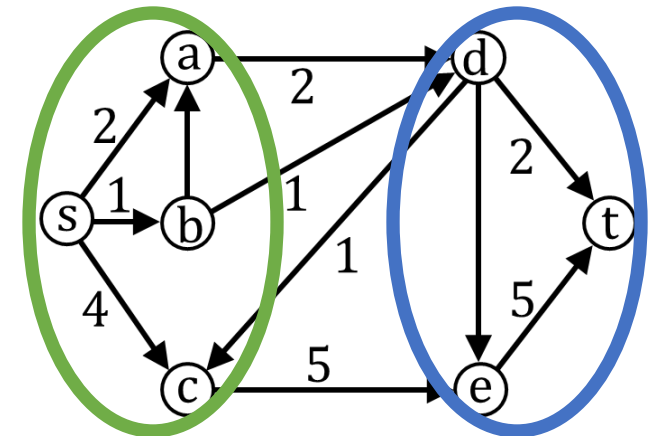
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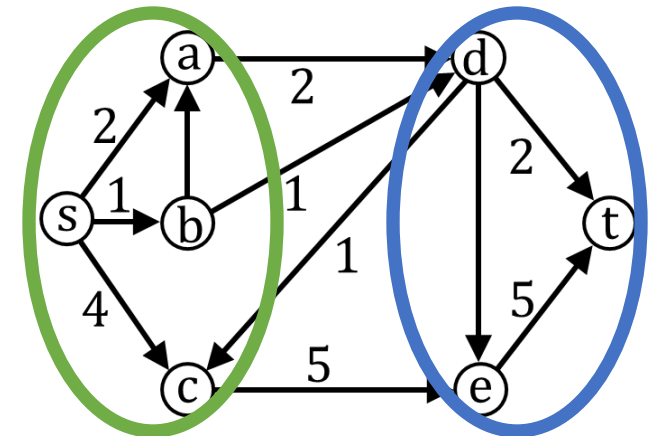


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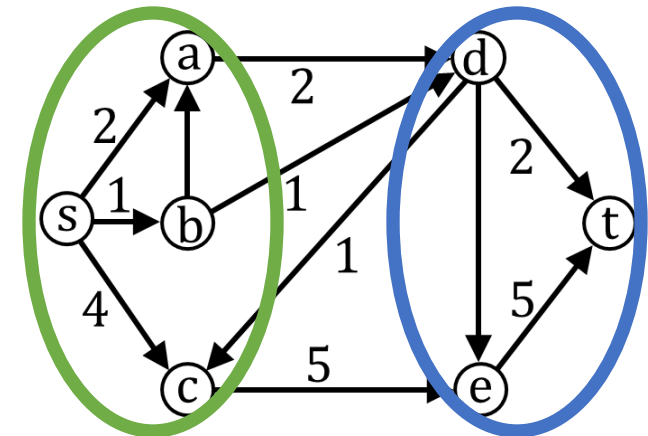
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**Need to translate vertices in  $A$  into edges leaving  $A$ .**



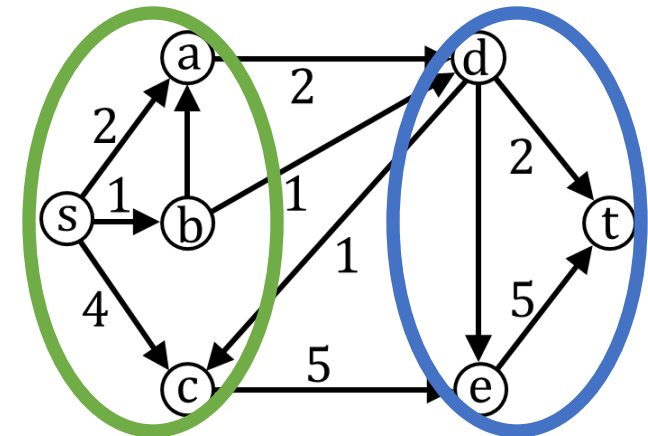
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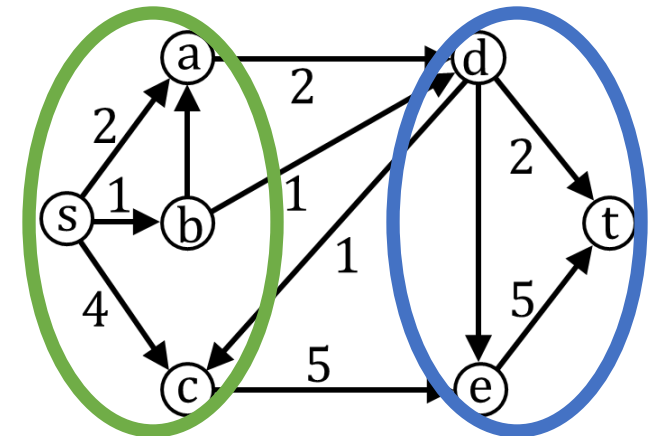
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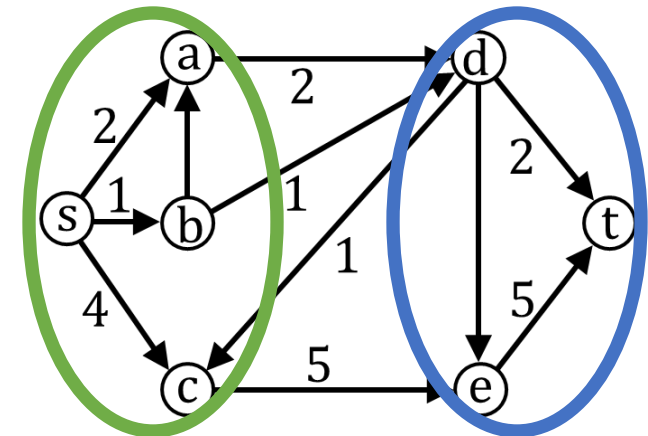
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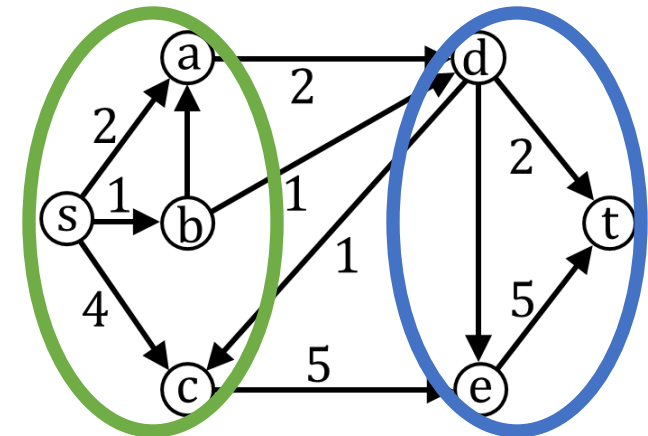
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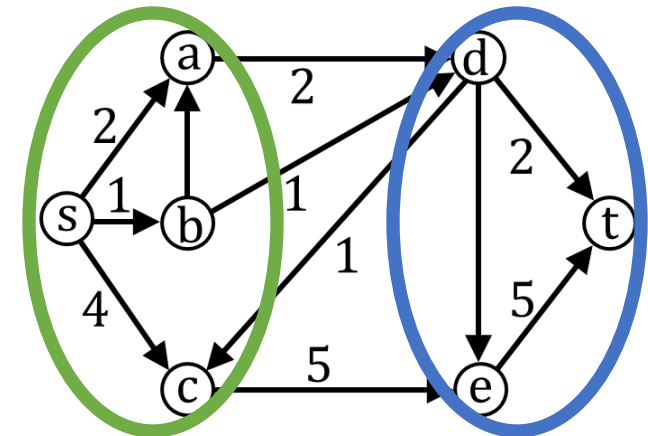
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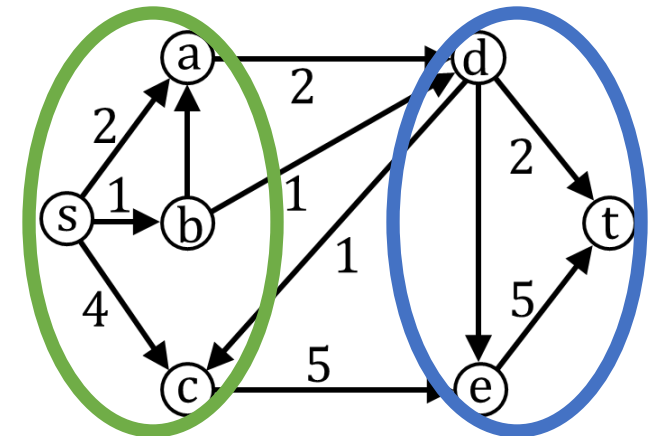
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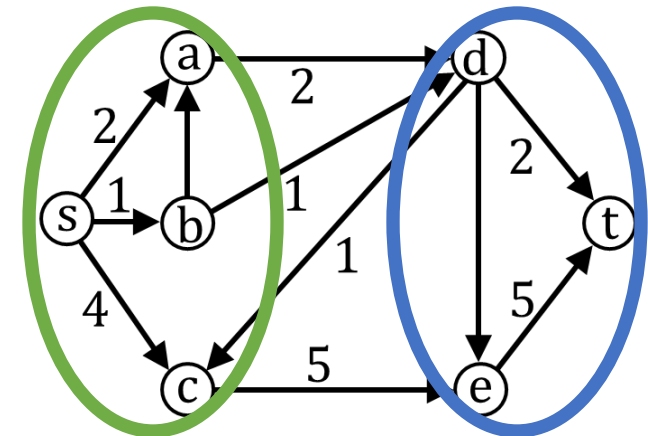
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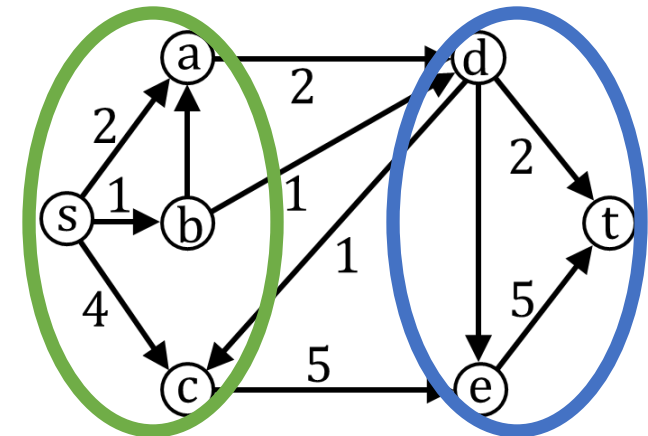
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This relates arbitrary  $s - t$  flows  
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If we find some flow  $f$  and some cut  $(A, B)$  such that  $|f| = c(A, B)$ , then ?

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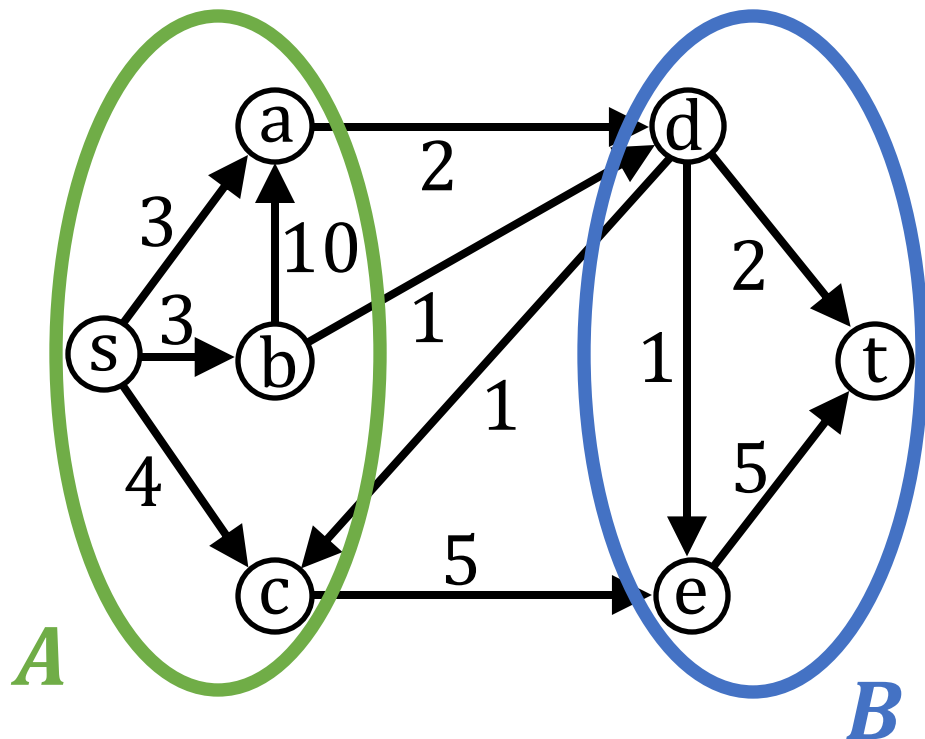
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If we find some flow  $f$  and some cut  $(A, B)$  such that  $|f| = c(A, B)$ , then  $f$  is a maximum flow.



# Optimality

Definitions: Suppose  $G$  is a flow network and nodes in  $G$  are divided into two sets,  $A$  and  $B$ , such that  $s \in A$  and  $t \in B$ . We call  $(A, B)$  an  $s - t$  cut. The *capacity* of the cut,  $c(A, B)$ , is the sum of capacities of all edges out of  $A$ .



$$c(A, B) = 8$$

Game Plan:

1. Show the value of every flow is  $\leq$  capacity of every cut.
2. Given a flow where there are no  $s - t$  paths left in the residual graph, there is a specific cut whose capacity = flow value.

# Optimality

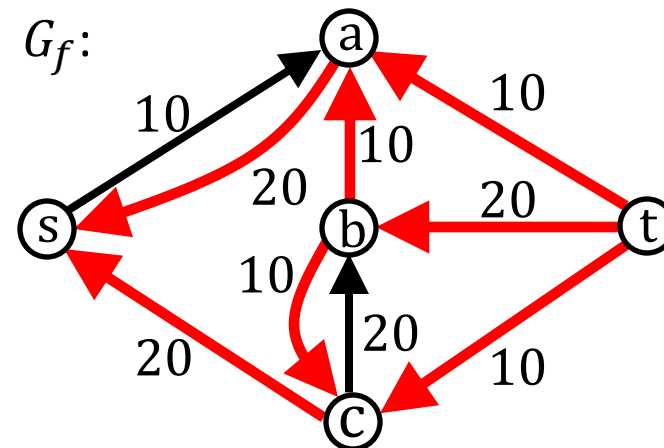
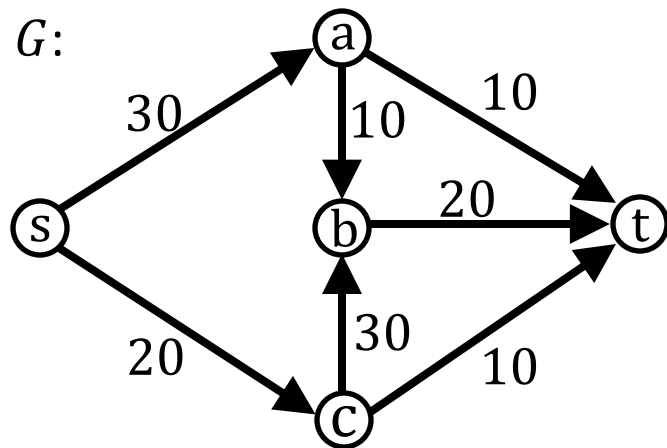
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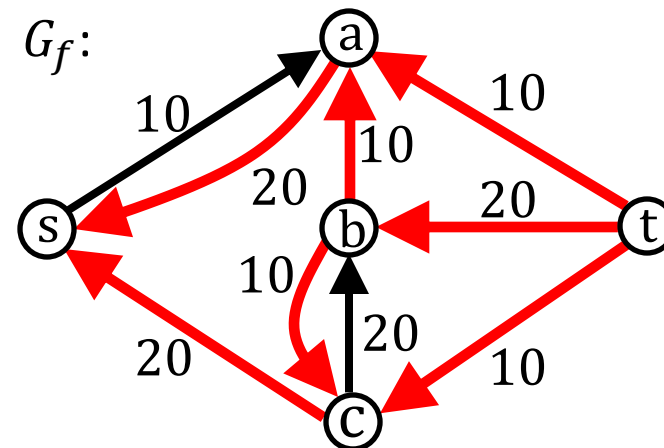
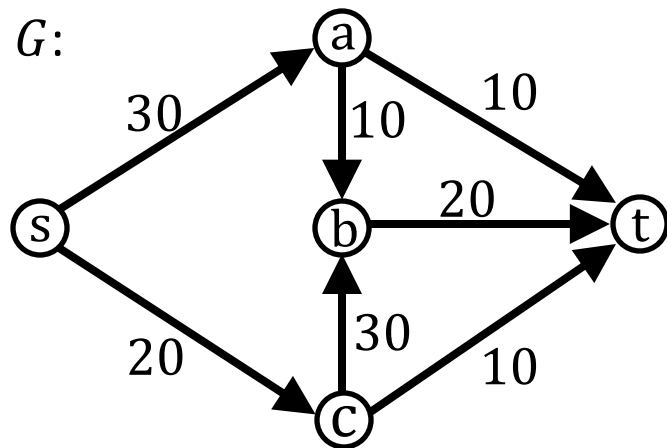
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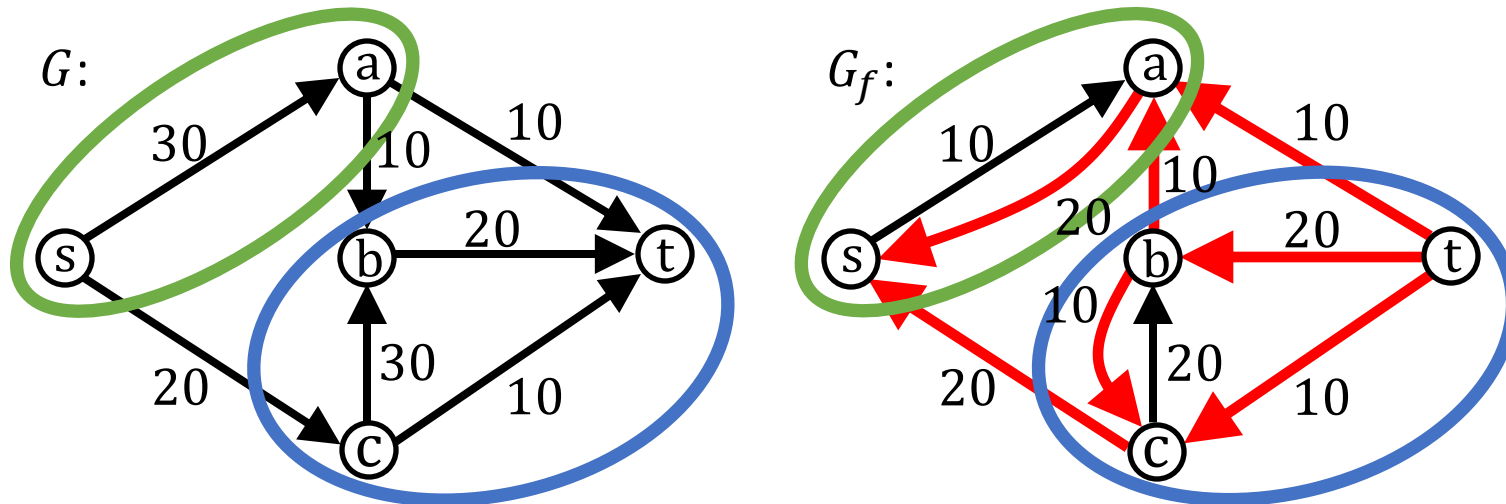
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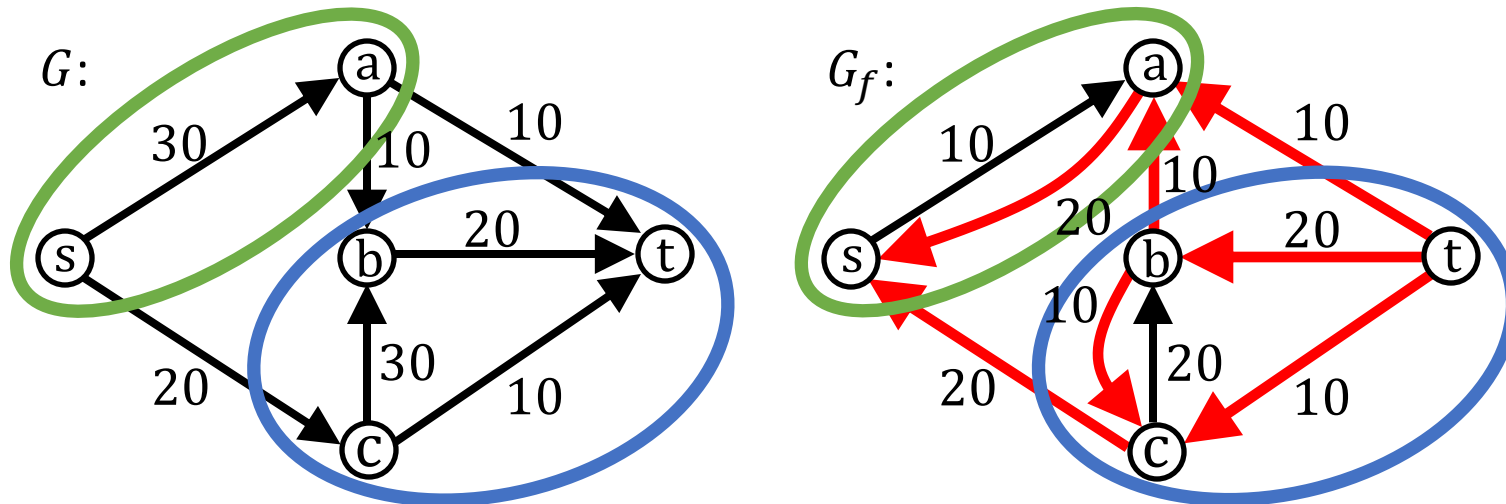
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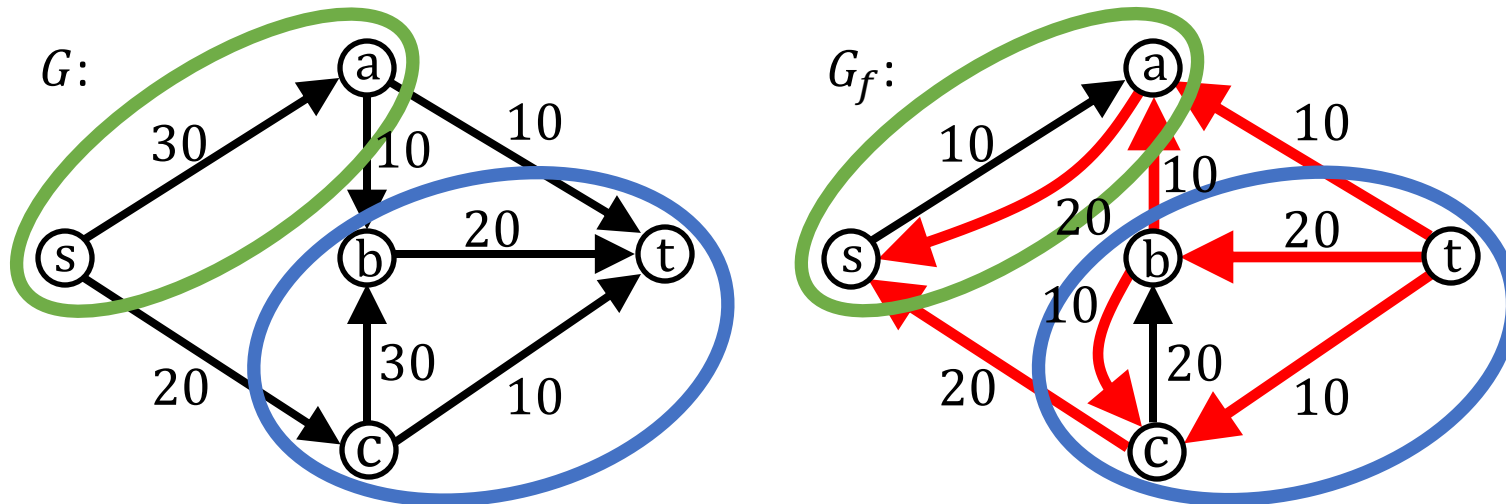


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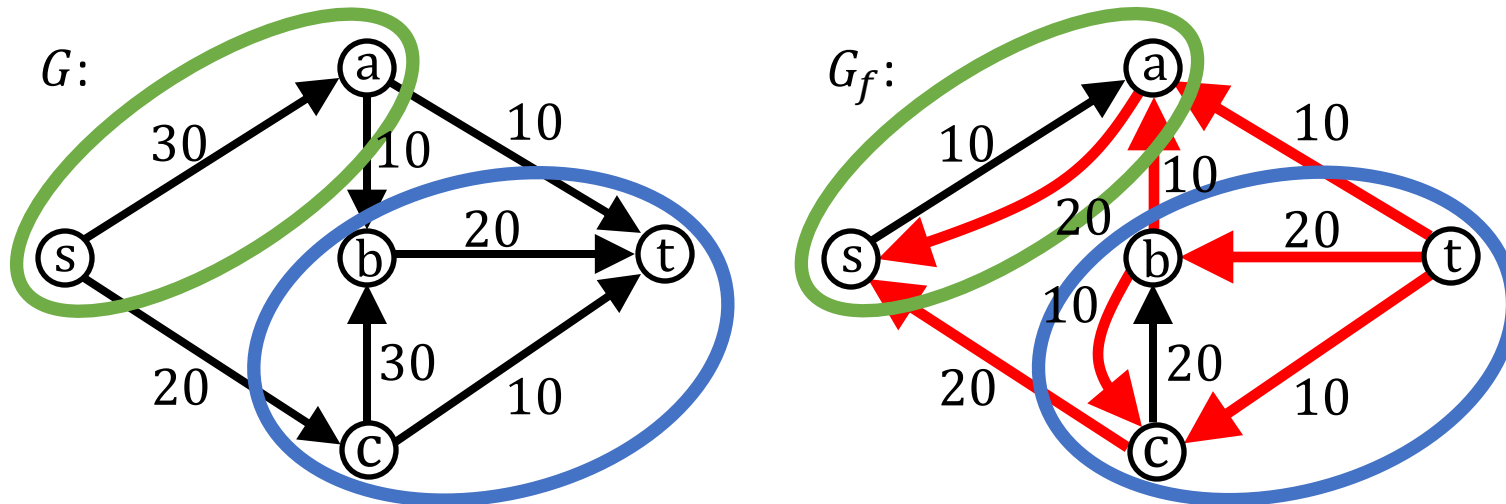
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Need to compare flow across cut to capacity of cut.





# Optimality

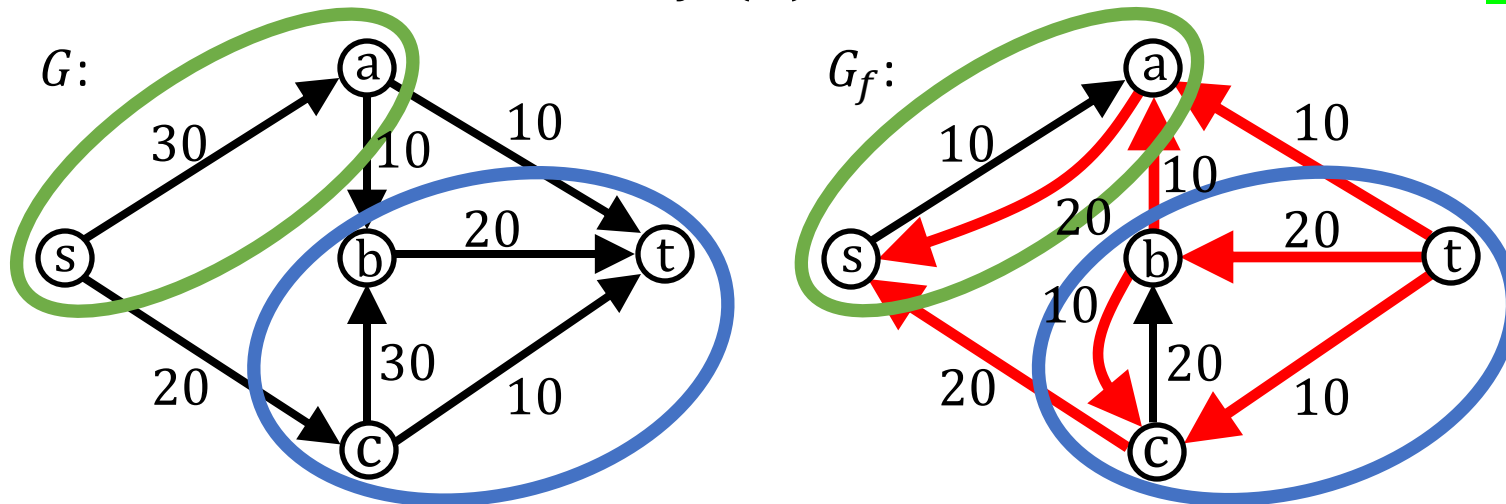
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Let  $e = (u, v) \in E$  (directed edge) such that  $u \in A$  and  $v \in B$ .

What can we say about  $f(e)$  related to its capacity?



# Optimality

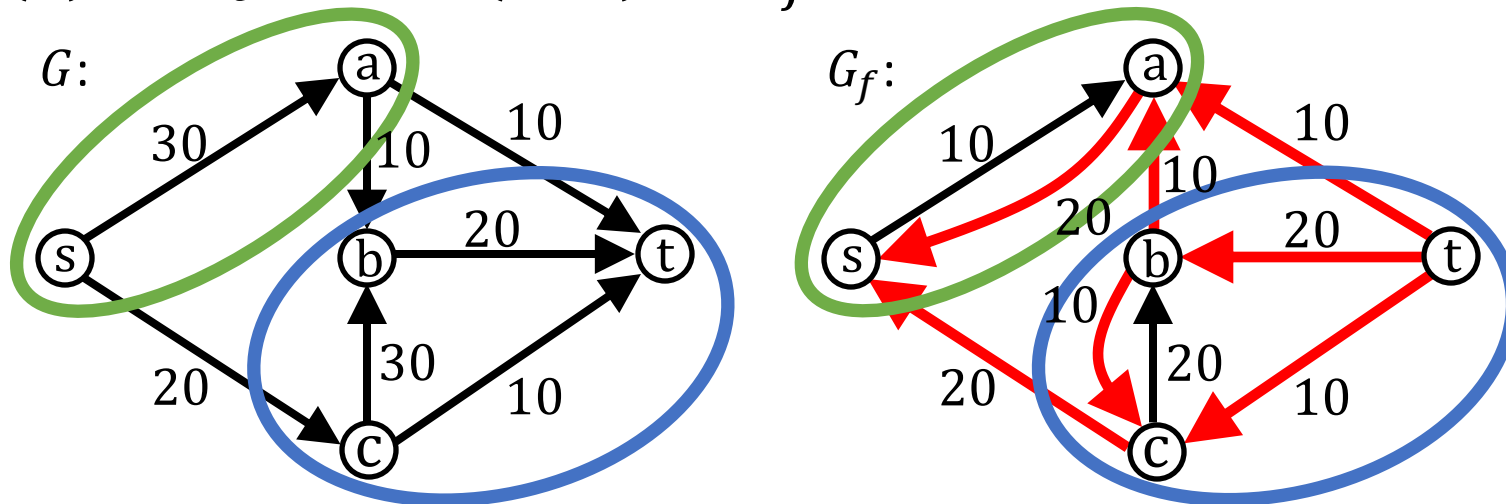
Theorem 2: if  $f$  is an  $s - t$  flow such that no  $s - t$  path exists in residual graph  $G_f$ , then there is an  $s - t$  cut  $(A, B)$  in  $G = (V, E)$  for which  $|f| = c(A, B)$ .

Proof: Let  $A = \{v \in V : \exists s - v \text{ path in } G_f\}$  and  $B = V \setminus A$ .

$(A, B)$  is an  $s - t$  cut (because it partitions  $V$ ,  $s \in A$ , and  $t \in B$ )

Let  $e = (u, v) \in E$  (directed edge) such that  $u \in A$  and  $v \in B$ .

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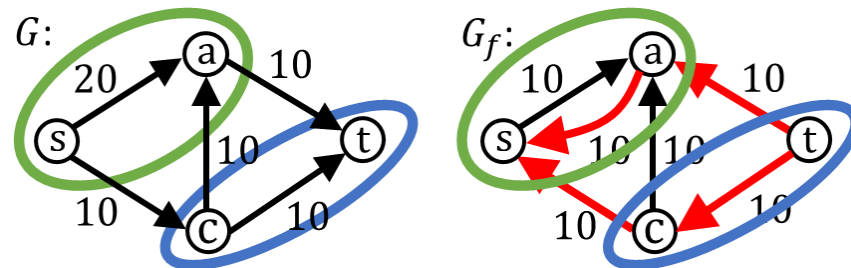
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What can we say about  $f(e')$ ?



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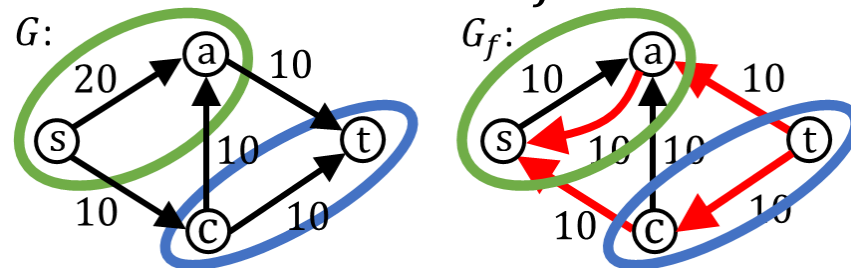
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Therefore,  $|f| = \sum_{e \in \text{out}(A)} f(e) - \sum_{e \in \text{in}(A)} f(e)$  (By Theorem 1)

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore, } |f| &= \sum_{e \in \text{out}(A)} f(e) - \sum_{e \in \text{in}(A)} f(e) \quad (\text{By Theorem 1}) \\ &= \sum_{e \in \text{out}(A)} c_e - 0 = c(A, B) \end{aligned}$$

# Optimality

Theorem: The flow returned by the Ford-Fulkerson algorithm is a maximum flow.

Proof:

??

Corollary: Suppose  $G$  is a flow network,  $f$  is an  $s - t$  flow on  $G$ , and  $(A, B)$  is an  $s - t$  cut. Then,  $|f| \leq c(A, B)$ . (i.e. every flow is bounded by any  $s - t$  cut)

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