

The network simplex

(Friday Dies, Ex. Sheets \rightarrow MA 503)

Network Simplex (solving Min. Cost Flow Problems)

Min Cost Flow Problem:

Instance: G, c, b $G=(V, E)$ directed graph with $|V|=n$ and $|E|=m$

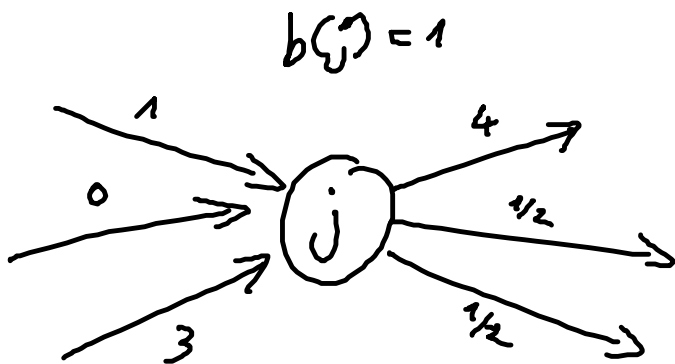
$c: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ cost for edges

$b: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ balances for all vertices

$b(v) > 0$ then v has a supply
 < 0 v has a demand

$(u: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+)$ capacities) for today $u \leq \infty$

Solution: Flow $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ s.t. $\underbrace{\sum_{e=(j,i)} f(e)}_{\text{outgoing}} - \underbrace{\sum_{e=(i,j)} f(e)}_{\text{incoming}} = b(j) \quad \forall j \in V$

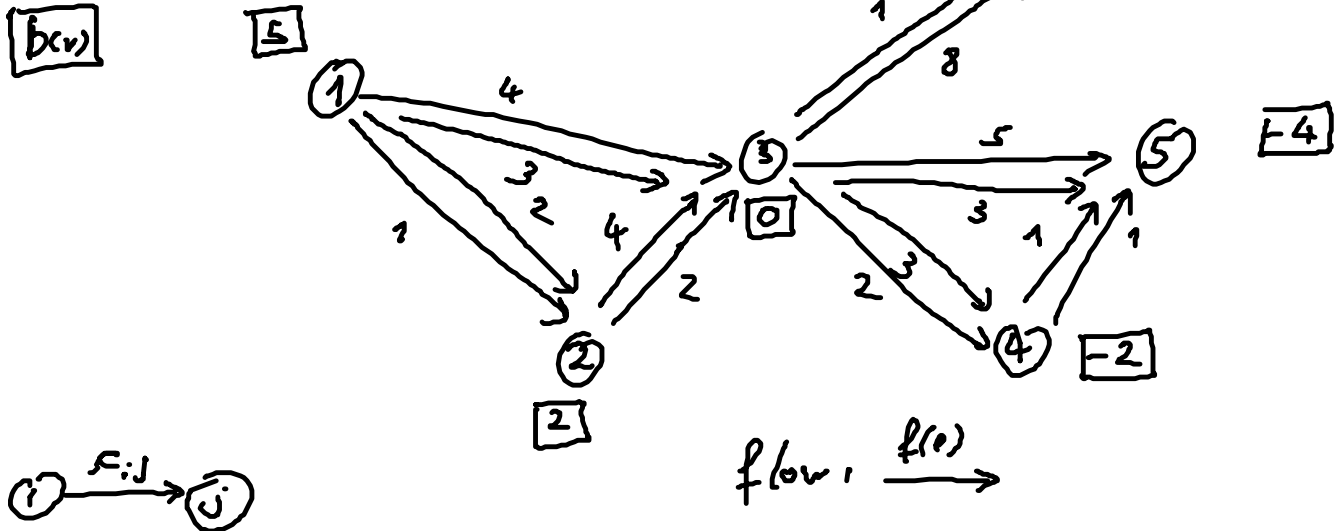


$5 - 4 = 1 = b(j)$

$0 \leq f(e) (\leq u(e))$

costs: $\sum_{e \in E} c(e) \cdot f(e)$

Example:



LP formulation:

$$\min c^T f$$

$$A \cdot f = b$$

$$(u \geq) f \geq 0$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} e_1 & \dots & e_k = (i,j) & \dots & e_m \\ \vdots & & \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{array} & & \end{pmatrix}$$

A is a node-edge incidence matrix

→ sum of all rows is $(0, \dots, 0)$
delete row n

remark: flow conservation in node v_n is a consequence of the flow conservation in all other nodes

new system: $\bar{A} f = \bar{b} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$, \bar{A} has $n-1$ lin. independent rows

Assume: $\cdot \sum b(i) = 0$ (no solution otherwise)

\cdot Graph G is connected (several subproblems)

Tree and basic feas. solutions

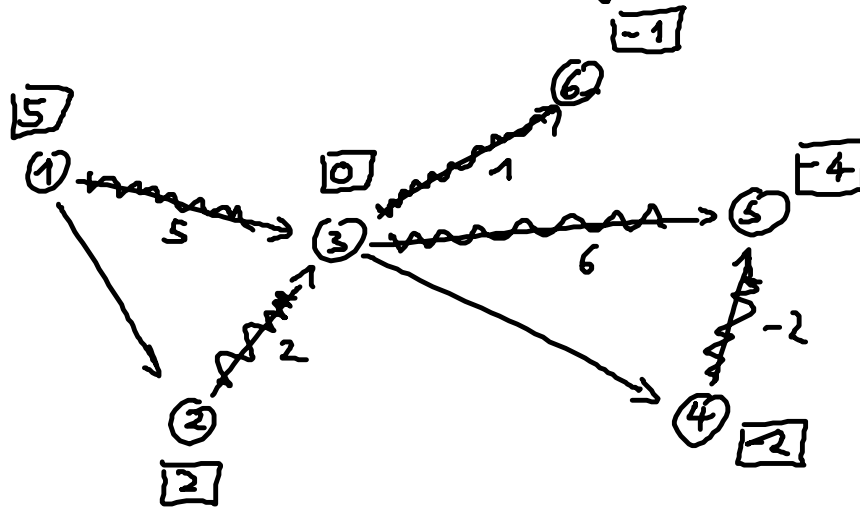
Def: f is tree sol. iff it can be constructed by this procedure

(a) pick $T \subseteq E$, $|T| = n-1$, T is a tree

(b) $f_{ij} = 0 \quad \forall (i,j) \notin T$

(c) solve $\bar{A} f = \bar{b}$ to get f_{ij} for $(i,j) \in T$

Example:



- procedure:
- select root (1)
 - calculate flow in pre order sequence of the nodes (T_L, T_R, root)
 - solution is uniquely determined by the tree, notness. a feas. solution ($f(e) < 0$)

Thm: $T \subseteq E$ is a set of $n-1$ edges that form a tree $\Rightarrow \bar{A} f = \bar{b}$ and $f_{ij} = 0 \quad \forall (i,j) \notin T$ has a unique sol.

Thm: a flow is a bfs iff it is a feas. tree sol.

- Proof: " \Leftarrow "
- $f_{ij} = 0$ for all non-tree edges
 - $n-1$ edges in a tree, with unique sol
 - size correct, edges independent structure

" \Rightarrow " suppose f is a bfs

$$S = \{(i,j) \in E \mid f_{ij} \neq 0\}$$

- case 1: no cycle in S , select $T \supseteq S$ st. $|T| = n-1$, T is a tree
 \rightarrow there is a unique sol.

- case 2: S contains cycle:

$$f = f' + f_c$$

$$\bar{A} f = \bar{A} f' + \underbrace{\bar{A} f_c}_{=0} = b$$

another sol. f' , at least 1 edge has then before with a positive flow

$\Rightarrow f$ was no bfs \Leftarrow



so far:

- correspondance $\text{bfs} \Leftrightarrow \text{feas. tree sol.}$
- given basis B , $f = B^{-1}b$ can be computed easily
 \rightarrow no need for B^{-1}
 \rightarrow no numerical problems

change of basis:

- choose an edge, curr. not in tree T
- edge $e = (i,j)$ enters basis, another leaves T



$T + \{e\}$ has a cycle C

- $f_e = 0$, if $e' \in C$ $f_{e'} = 0$
 \rightarrow delete e' from T

otherwise: send flow along cycle, C is oriented in the dir. of e

$$\bar{f}_{ke} = \begin{cases} f_{ke} + \delta & (k,l) \in F \\ f_{ke} - \delta & (k,l) \in B \\ f_{ke} & (k,l) \notin C \end{cases}$$

B are backward edges in cycle C
 F are forward edges in cycle C

$$\delta_0 = \min_{(A) \in B} f_{ke}, \text{ (max. flow change)}$$

needed for $f \geq 0$

cost changes changes by $\delta_0 \left(\underbrace{\sum_{(A) \in F} f_{ke} - \sum_{(A) \in B} c_{ke}}_{\bar{c}_{ij} \sim \text{cost for cycle}} \right)$

flow amount

another formula for \bar{c} :

reminder: $\bar{c} = c - \pi^T A$ $\pi_i \quad 1 \leq i \leq n-1$ (for each node)

$\pi^T = c_0^T \cdot B^{-1}$ $x(i,j)$ is the k -th edge $\Rightarrow k$ -th entry $\pi^T A$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = \begin{cases} c_{ij} - (\pi_i - \pi_j) & i, j \neq n \\ c_{ij} - \pi_j & j = n \\ c_{ij} + \pi_j & i = n \end{cases}$$

\leadsto solving $\pi_n = 0$ gives red. cost

$\pi_i - \pi_j = c_{ij}$

- Algorithm 1
- ① start with bfs T associated with tree
 - ② compute π by proceeding from root towards leaves
 - ③ compute \bar{c}_{ij} :
 - $\bar{c} \geq 0 \Rightarrow$ opt. sol. found
 - $\bar{c}_{ij} < 0$ for (i,j) , (i,j) enters T ,
 - sends flow along cycle
 - another var. leaves basis

→ if no backward edges ⇒ unbounded

④ $S_0 = \min_{(i,j) \in E} f_{ij}$, push S_0 along cycle, remove (i,j) from T

remarks:

introduce new node $n+1$

edges $(i, n+1) \forall i \in V: b(i) \leq 0$
 $(n+1, i) \forall i \in V: b(i) > 0$

flow: $f_{(i, n+1)} = |b(i)|$

$f_{(n+1, i)} = |b(i)|$

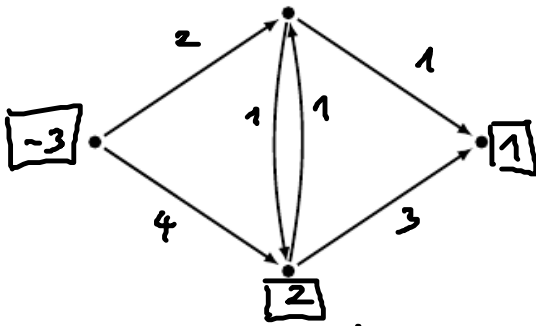
$f = 0$ for the rest

cost on the edges: $\kappa = \sum_{e \in E} \kappa(e) + 1$



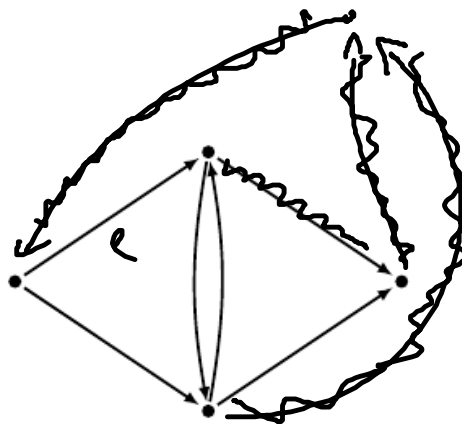
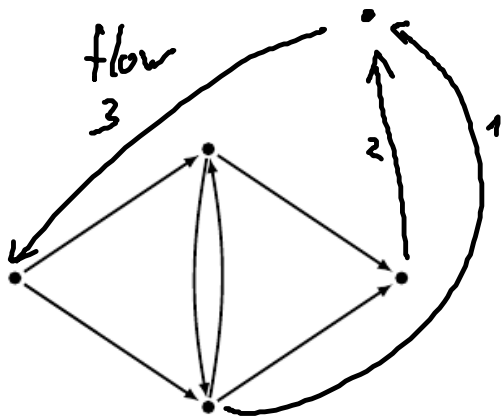
Examples

instance



flow

tree



$\bar{c}_e = 2 + M + M + M$

$\bar{c}_e > 0 \quad \forall e \in E$
 \rightarrow no valid sol., can not satisfy
inflow of 3 at vertex 1 w.o.
artificial edges