

Network flow, duality and Linear Programming

Lecture 20

November 5, 2015

20.1: Network flow via linear programming

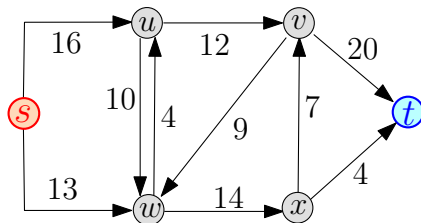
20.1.1: Network flow: Problem definition

Network flow

- 1 Transfer as much “merchandise” as possible from one point to another.
- 2 Wireless network, transfer a large file from s to t .
- 3 Limited capacities.

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Network: Definition

- 1 Given a network with capacities on each connection.
- 2 Q: How much “flow” can transfer from source s to a sink t ?
- 3 The flow is **splittable**.
- 4 Network examples: water pipes moving water. Electricity network.
- 5 Internet is packet base, so not quite splittable.

Definition

- ★ $\mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{E})$: a **directed** graph.
- ★ $\forall (u, v) \in \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{G})$: **capacity** $c(u, v) \geq 0$,
- ★ $(u, v) \notin \mathbf{E} \implies c(u, v) = 0$.
- ★ s : **source** vertex, t : target **sink** vertex.
- ★ \mathbf{G} , s , t and $c(\cdot)$: form **flow network** or **network**.

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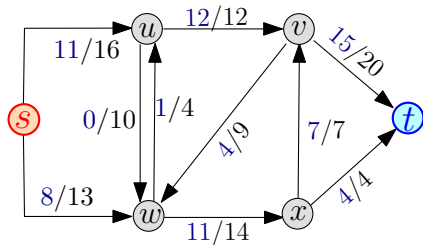
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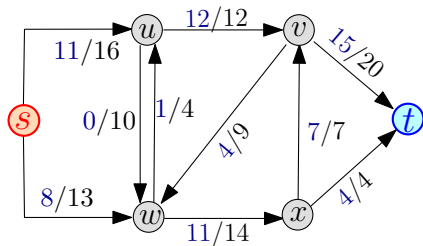
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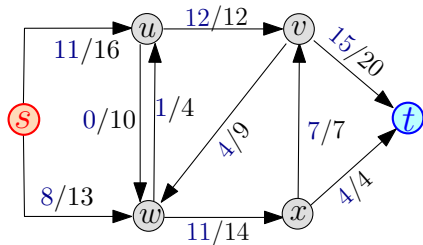
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Flow definition

Definition (flow)

flow in network is a function $f(\cdot, \cdot) : \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{G}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$:

(A) **Bounded by capacity**:

$$\forall (u, v) \in \mathbf{E} \quad f(u, v) \leq c(u, v).$$

(B) **Anti symmetry**:

$$\forall u, v \quad f(u, v) = -f(v, u).$$

(C) Two special vertices: (i) the **source** s and the **sink** t .

(D) **Conservation of flow** (Kirchhoff's Current Law):

$$\forall u \in \mathbf{V} \setminus \{s, t\} \quad \sum_v f(u, v) = 0.$$

flow/value of f : $|f| = \sum_{v \in \mathbf{V}} f(s, v).$

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Problem: Max Flow

- 1 Flow on edge can be negative (i.e., positive flow on edge in other direction).

Problem (Maximum flow)

Given a network \mathbf{G} find the **maximum flow** in \mathbf{G} . Namely, compute a legal flow \mathbf{f} such that $|\mathbf{f}|$ is maximized.

20.1.2: Network flow via linear programming

Network flow via linear programming

Input: $\mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{E})$ with source \mathbf{s} and sink \mathbf{t} , and capacities $\mathbf{c}(\cdot)$ on the edges. Compute max flow in \mathbf{G} .

$$\forall (u, v) \in E \quad \begin{aligned} 0 &\leq x_{u \rightarrow v} \\ x_{u \rightarrow v} &\leq \mathbf{c}(u \rightarrow v) \end{aligned}$$

$$\forall v \in V \setminus \{\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}\} \quad \sum_{(u,v) \in E} x_{u \rightarrow v} - \sum_{(v,w) \in E} x_{v \rightarrow w} \leq 0$$

$$\sum_{(u,v) \in E} x_{u \rightarrow v} - \sum_{(v,w) \in E} x_{v \rightarrow w} \geq 0$$

maximizing $\sum_{(s,u) \in E} x_{s \rightarrow u}$

20.1.3: Min-Cost Network flow via linear programming

Min cost flow

Input:

$G = (V, E)$: directed graph.

s : source.

t : sink

$c(\cdot)$: capacities on edges,

ϕ : Desired amount (**value**) of flow.

$\kappa(\cdot)$: Cost on the edges.

Definition - cost of flow

cost of flow f : $\text{cost}(f) = \sum_{e \in E} \kappa(e) * f(e).$

Min cost flow problem

Min-cost flow

minimum-cost s - t flow problem: compute the flow \mathbf{f} of min cost that has value ϕ .

min-cost circulation problem

Instead of ϕ we have lower-bound $\ell(\cdot)$ on edges.
(All flow that enters must leave.)

Claim

If we can solve min-cost circulation \implies can solve min-cost flow.

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20.2: Duality and Linear Programming

Duality...

- ① Every linear program L has a **dual linear program** L' .
- ② Solving the dual problem is essentially equivalent to solving the **primal linear program** original LP .
- ③ Lets look an example..

20.2.1: Duality by Example

Duality by Example

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & z = 4x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 1 \\ & 3x_1 - x_2 + x_3 \leq 3 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- 1 η : maximal possible value of target function.
- 2 Any feasible solution \Rightarrow a lower bound on η .
- 3 In above: $x_1 = 1, x_2 = x_3 = 0$ is feasible, and implies $z = 4$ and thus $\eta \geq 4$.
- 4 $x_1 = x_2 = 0, x_3 = 3$ is feasible $\implies \eta \geq z = 9$.
- 5 How close this solution is to opt? (i.e., η)
- 6 If very close to optimal – might be good enough. Maybe stop?

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- ① Add the first inequality (multiplied by 2) to the second inequality (multiplied by 3):

$$\begin{aligned} 2(x_1 + 4x_2) &\leq 2(1) \\ +3(3x_1 - x_2 + x_3) &\leq 3(3). \end{aligned}$$

- ② The resulting inequality is

$$11x_1 + 5x_2 + 3x_3 \leq 11. \quad (1)$$

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- 2 inequality must hold for any feasible solution of L .
- 3 Objective: $z = 4x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3$ and x_1, x_2 and x_3 are all non-negative.
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- ② Opt solution is LP L is somewhere between 9 and 11.

- ③ Multiply first inequality by y_1 , second inequality by y_2 and add them up:

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Duality by Example: IV

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & z = 4x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 1 \\ & 3x_1 - x_2 + x_3 \leq 3 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

① $(y_1 + 3y_2)x_1 + (4y_1 - y_2)x_2 + y_2x_3 \leq y_1 + 3y_2.$

- ① Compare to target function – require expression bigger than target function in each variable.

$$\begin{aligned} \implies z = 4x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 &\leq \\ (y_1 + 3y_2)x_1 + (4y_1 - y_2)x_2 + y_2x_3 &\leq y_1 + 3y_2. \end{aligned}$$

Duality by Example: IV

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$$\textcircled{1} \quad (y_1 + 3y_2)x_1 + (4y_1 - y_2)x_2 + y_2x_3 \leq y_1 + 3y_2.$$

$$4 \leq y_1 + 3y_2$$

$$1 \leq 4y_1 - y_2$$

$$3 \leq y_2,$$

$\textcircled{1}$ Compare to target function – require expression bigger than target function in each variable.

$$\begin{aligned} \implies z = 4x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 &\leq \\ (y_1 + 3y_2)x_1 + (4y_1 - y_2)x_2 + y_2x_3 &\leq y_1 + 3y_2. \end{aligned}$$

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Duality by Example: IV

Primal LP:

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & z = 4x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 1 \\ & 3x_1 - x_2 + x_3 \leq 3 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Dual LP: \hat{L}

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & y_1 + 3y_2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y_1 + 3y_2 \geq 4 \\ & 4y_1 - y_2 \geq 1 \\ & y_2 \geq 3 \\ & y_1, y_2 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

- 1 Best upper bound on η (max value of z) then solve the LP \hat{L} .
- 2 \hat{L} : Dual program to L .
- 3 opt. solution of \hat{L} is an upper bound on optimal solution for L .

Duality by Example: IV

Primal LP:

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & z = 4x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 1 \\ & 3x_1 - x_2 + x_3 \leq 3 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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- 2 \hat{L} : Dual program to L .
- 3 opt. solution of \hat{L} is an upper bound on optimal solution for L .

Primal program/Dual program

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i, \\ & \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m, \\ & x_j \geq 0, \\ & \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m b_i y_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} y_i \geq c_j, \\ & \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n, \\ & y_i \geq 0, \\ & \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m. \end{aligned}$$

Primal program/Dual program

<i>Dual variables</i> \ <i>Primal variables</i>	$x_1 \geq 0$	$x_2 \geq 0$	$x_3 \geq 0$	\dots	$x_n \geq 0$	<i>Primal relation</i>	<i>Min v</i>
$y_1 \geq 0$	a_{11}	a_{12}	a_{13}	\dots	a_{1n}	\leq	b_1
$y_2 \geq 0$	a_{21}	a_{22}	a_{23}	\dots	a_{2n}	\leq	b_2
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
$y_m \geq 0$	a_{m1}	a_{m2}	a_{m3}	\dots	a_{mn}	\leq	b_m
<i>Dual Relation</i>	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV		
<i>Max z</i>	c_1	c_2	c_3	\dots	c_n		

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \max & c^T x \\
 \text{s. t.} & Ax \leq b. \\
 & x \geq 0.
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \min & y^T b \\
 \text{s. t.} & y^T A \geq c^T. \\
 & y \geq 0.
 \end{array}$$

Primal program/Dual program

What happens when you take the dual of the dual?

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i, \\ & \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m, \\ & x_j \geq 0, \\ & \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m b_i y_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} y_i \geq c_j, \\ & \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n, \\ & y_i \geq 0, \\ & \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m. \end{aligned}$$

Primal program / Dual program in standard form

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i, \\ & \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m, \\ & x_j \geq 0, \\ & \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m (-b_i) y_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m (-a_{ij}) y_i \leq -c_j, \\ & \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n, \\ & y_i \geq 0, \\ & \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m. \end{aligned}$$

Dual program in standard form

Dual of a dual program

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m (-b_i) y_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m (-a_{ij}) y_i \leq -c_j, \\ & \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n, \\ & y_i \geq 0, \\ & \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n -c_j x_j \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n (-a_{ij}) x_j \geq -b_i, \\ & \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m, \\ & x_j \geq 0, \\ & \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

Dual of dual program

Dual of a dual program written in standard form

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n -c_j x_j \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n (-a_{ij}) x_j \geq -b_i, \\ & \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m, \\ & x_j \geq 0, \\ & \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

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\implies Dual of the dual LP is the primal LP!

Dual of dual program

Dual of a dual program written in standard form

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n -c_j x_j \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n (-a_{ij}) x_j \geq -b_i, \\ & \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m, \\ & x_j \geq 0, \\ & \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

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\implies Dual of the dual LP is the primal LP!

Result

Proved the following:

Lemma

Let L be an LP, and let L' be its dual. Let L'' be the dual to L' . Then L and L'' are the same LP.

20.2.2: The Weak Duality Theorem

Weak duality theorem

Theorem

If (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) is feasible for the primal LP and (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m) is feasible for the dual LP, then

$$\sum_j c_j x_j \leq \sum_i b_i y_i.$$

Namely, all the feasible solutions of the dual bound all the feasible solutions of the primal.

Weak duality theorem – proof

Proof.

By substitution from the dual form, and since the two solutions are feasible, we know that

$$\sum_j c_j x_j \leq \sum_j \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{ij} \right) x_j \leq \sum_i \left(\sum_j a_{ij} x_j \right) y_i \leq \sum_i b_i y_i .$$



- 1 y being dual feasible implies $c^T \leq y^T A$
- 2 x being primal feasible implies $Ax \leq b$
- 3 $\Rightarrow c^T x \leq (y^T A)x \leq y^T (Ax) \leq y^T b$

Weak duality theorem – proof

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- 2 x being primal feasible implies $Ax \leq b$
- 3 $\Rightarrow c^T x \leq (y^T A)x \leq y^T (Ax) \leq y^T b$

Weak duality is weak...

① If apply the weak duality theorem on the dual program,

② $\implies \sum_{i=1}^m (-b_i)y_i \leq \sum_{j=1}^n -c_jx_j,$

③ which is the original inequality in the weak duality theorem.

④ Weak duality theorem does not imply the strong duality theorem which will be discussed next.

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④ Weak duality theorem does not imply the strong duality theorem which will be discussed next.

20.3: The strong duality theorem

The strong duality theorem

Theorem (Strong duality theorem.)

If the primal LP problem has an optimal solution $\mathbf{x}^* = (x_1^*, \dots, x_n^*)$ then the dual also has an optimal solution, $\mathbf{y}^* = (y_1^*, \dots, y_m^*)$, such that

$$\sum_j c_j x_j^* = \sum_i b_i y_i^*.$$

Proof is tedious and omitted.

20.4: Some duality examples

20.4.1: Maximum matching in Bipartite graph

Max matching in bipartite graph as LP

Input: $\mathbf{G} = (L \cup R, \mathbf{E})$.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}} x_{uv} \\ s.t. & \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}} x_{uv} \leq 1 \quad \forall v \in \mathbf{G}. \\ & x_{uv} \geq 0 \quad \forall uv \in \mathbf{E} \end{array}$$

Max matching in bipartite graph as LP (Copy)

Input: $\mathbf{G} = (L \cup R, \mathbf{E})$.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}} x_{uv} \\ \text{s.t.} & \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}} x_{uv} \leq 1 \quad \forall v \in \mathbf{G}. \\ & x_{uv} \geq 0 \quad \forall uv \in \mathbf{E} \end{array}$$

Max matching in bipartite graph as LP (Notes)

20.4.2: Shortest path

Shortest path

- 1 $\mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{E})$: graph. \mathbf{s} : source, \mathbf{t} : target
- 2 $\forall (u, v) \in \mathbf{E}$: weight $\omega(u, v)$ on edge.
- 3 Q: Comp. shortest \mathbf{s} - \mathbf{t} path.
- 4 No edges into \mathbf{s} /out of \mathbf{t} .
- 5 d_x : var=dist. \mathbf{s} to x , $\forall x \in \mathbf{V}$.
- 6 $\forall (u, v) \in \mathbf{E}$:
 $d_u + \omega(u, v) \geq d_v$.
- 7 Also $d_s = 0$.
- 8 Trivial solution: all variables 0.
- 9 Target: find assignment max d_t .
- 10 LP to solve this!

Shortest path

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- 10 **LP** to solve this!

Shortest path

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & d_t \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & d_s \leq 0 \\ & d_u + \omega(u, v) \geq d_v \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \forall (u, v) \in \mathbf{E}, \\ & d_x \geq 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathbf{V}. \end{aligned}$$

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 $d_u + \omega(u, v) \geq d_v$.
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- 10 **LP** to solve this!

Shortest path

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & d_t \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & d_s \leq 0 \\ & d_u + \omega(u, v) \geq d_v \\ & \quad \quad \quad \forall (u, v) \in \mathbf{E}, \\ & d_x \geq 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathbf{V}. \end{aligned}$$

Equivalently:

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & d_t \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & d_s \leq 0 \\ & d_v - d_u \leq \omega(u, v) \\ & \quad \quad \quad \forall (u, v) \in \mathbf{E}, \\ & d_x \geq 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathbf{V}. \end{aligned}$$

- 1 $\mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{E})$: graph. \mathbf{s} : source, \mathbf{t} : target
- 2 $\forall (u, v) \in \mathbf{E}$: weight $\omega(u, v)$ on edge.
- 3 Q: Comp. shortest \mathbf{s} - \mathbf{t} path.
- 4 No edges into \mathbf{s} /out of \mathbf{t} .
- 5 d_x : var=dist. \mathbf{s} to x , $\forall x \in \mathbf{V}$.
- 6 $\forall (u, v) \in \mathbf{E}$:
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The dual

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{(u,v) \in \mathbf{E}} y_{uv} \omega(u,v) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y_s - \sum_{(s,u) \in \mathbf{E}} y_{su} \geq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (*)$$

$$\max \quad d_t$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad d_s \leq 0$$

$$d_v - d_u \leq \omega(u,v) \\ \forall (u,v) \in \mathbf{E},$$

$$d_x \geq 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathbf{V}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{(u,x) \in \mathbf{E}} y_{ux} - \sum_{(x,v) \in \mathbf{E}} y_{xv} \geq 0 \\ \forall x \in \mathbf{V} \setminus \{s, t\} \end{aligned} \quad (**)$$

$$\sum_{(u,t) \in \mathbf{E}} y_{ut} \geq 1 \quad (***)$$

$$y_{uv} \geq 0, \quad \forall (u,v) \in \mathbf{E},$$

$$y_s \geq 0.$$

The dual – details

- 1 y_{uv} : dual variable for the edge (u, v) .
- 2 y_s : dual variable for $d_s \leq 0$
- 3 Think about the y_{uv} as a flow on the edge y_{uv} .
- 4 Assume that weights are positive.
- 5 LP is min cost flow of sending 1 unit flow from source s to t .
- 6 Indeed... (***) can be assumed to hold with equality in the optimal solution...
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- 8 Equation (***) implies that one unit of flow arrives to the sink t .
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Integrality

- ① In the previous example there is always an optimal solution with integral values.
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Set cover...

Details in notes...

Set cover LP:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & \sum_{F_j \in \mathcal{F}} x_j \\ \text{s.t.} & \sum_{\substack{F_j \in \mathcal{F}, \\ u_i \in F_j}} x_j \geq 1 & \forall u_i \in \mathbf{S}, \\ & x_j \geq 0 & \forall F_j \in \mathcal{F}. \end{array}$$

Set cover dual is a packing LP...

Details in notes...

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & \sum_{u_i \in \mathcal{S}} y_i \\ \text{s.t.} & \sum_{u_i \in F_j} y_i \leq 1 \quad \forall F_j \in \mathcal{F}, \\ & y_i \geq 0 \quad \forall u_i \in \mathcal{S}. \end{array}$$

Network flow

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{(s,v) \in E} x_{s \rightarrow v} \\ & x_{u \rightarrow v} \leq c(u \rightarrow v) \quad \forall (u,v) \in E \\ & \sum_{(u,v) \in E} x_{u \rightarrow v} - \sum_{(v,w) \in E} x_{v \rightarrow w} \leq 0 \quad \forall v \in V \setminus \{s, t\} \\ & - \sum_{(u,v) \in E} x_{u \rightarrow v} + \sum_{(v,w) \in E} x_{v \rightarrow w} \leq 0 \quad \forall v \in V \setminus \{s, t\} \\ & 0 \leq x_{u \rightarrow v} \quad \forall (u,v) \in E. \end{aligned}$$

Dual of network flow...

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{(u,v) \in E} c(u \rightarrow v) y_{u \rightarrow v} \\ & d_u - d_v \leq y_{u \rightarrow v} & \forall (u, v) \in E \\ & y_{u \rightarrow v} \geq 0 & \forall (u, v) \in E \\ & d_s = 1, \quad d_t = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Under right interpretation: shortest path (see notes).

Duality and min-cut max-flow

Details in class notes

Lemma

The Min-Cut Max-Flow Theorem follows from the strong duality Theorem for Linear Programming.

