

## 7. NETWORK FLOW I

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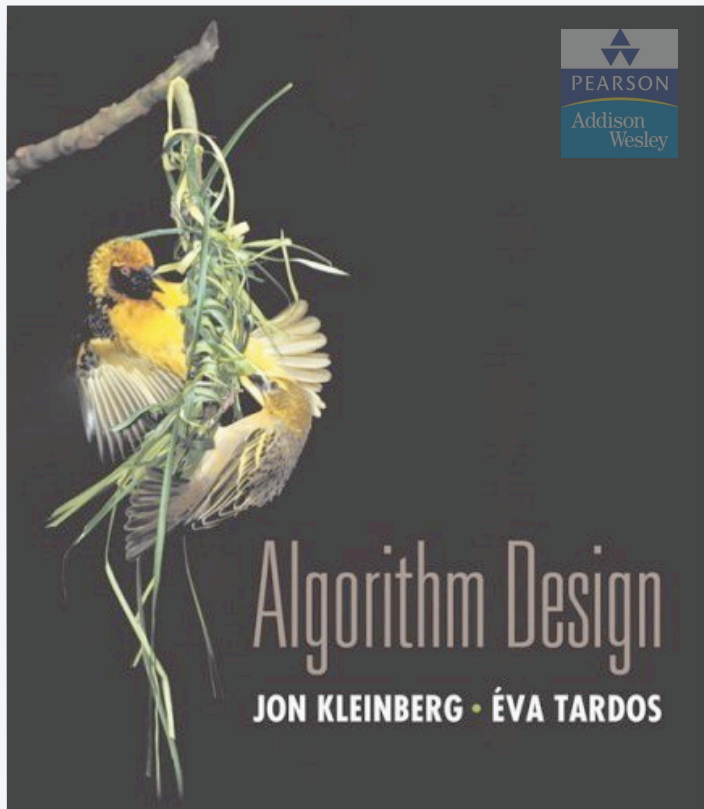
- ▶ *max-flow and min-cut problems*
- ▶ *Ford-Fulkerson algorithm*
- ▶ *max-flow min-cut theorem*
- ▶ *capacity-scaling algorithm*
- ▶ *shortest augmenting paths*
- ▶ *blocking-flow algorithm*
- ▶ *unit-capacity simple networks*

Lecture slides by Kevin Wayne

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<http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~wayne/kleinberg-tardos>



## SECTION 7.1

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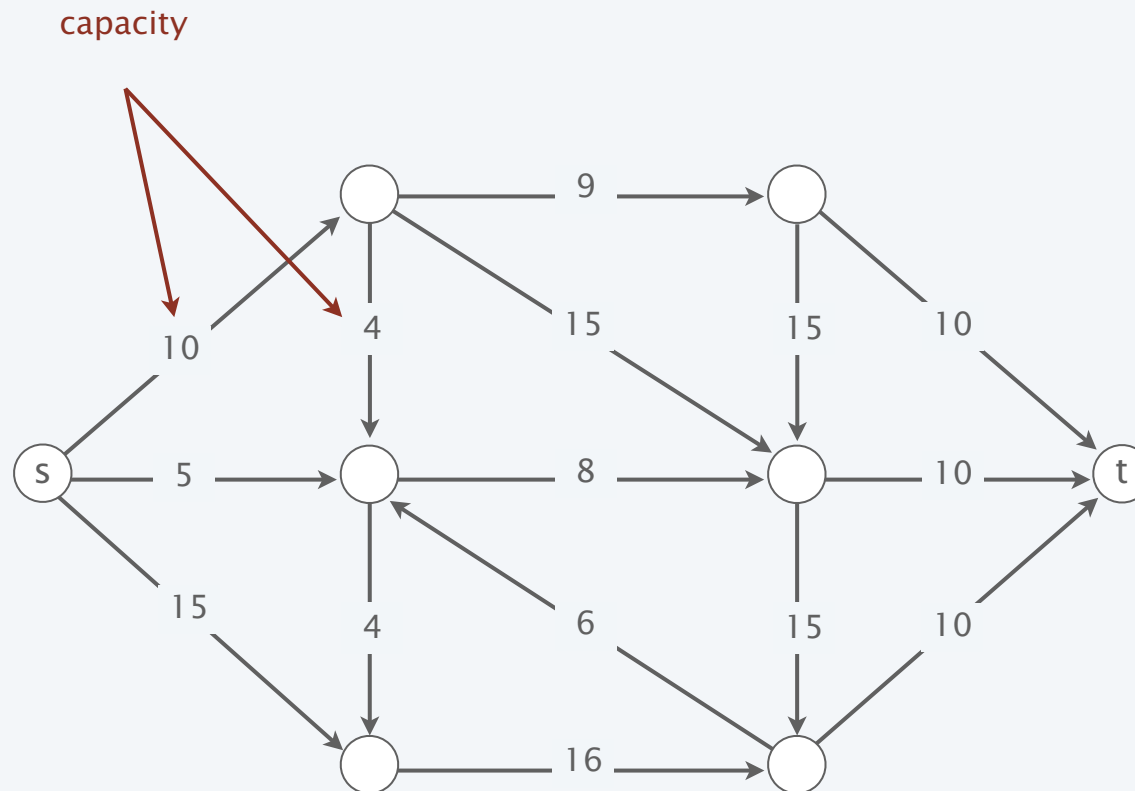
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# Flow network

- Abstraction for material **flowing** through the edges.
- Digraph  $G = (V, E)$  with source  $s \in V$  and sink  $t \in V$ .
- Nonnegative integer capacity  $c(e)$  for each  $e \in E$ .

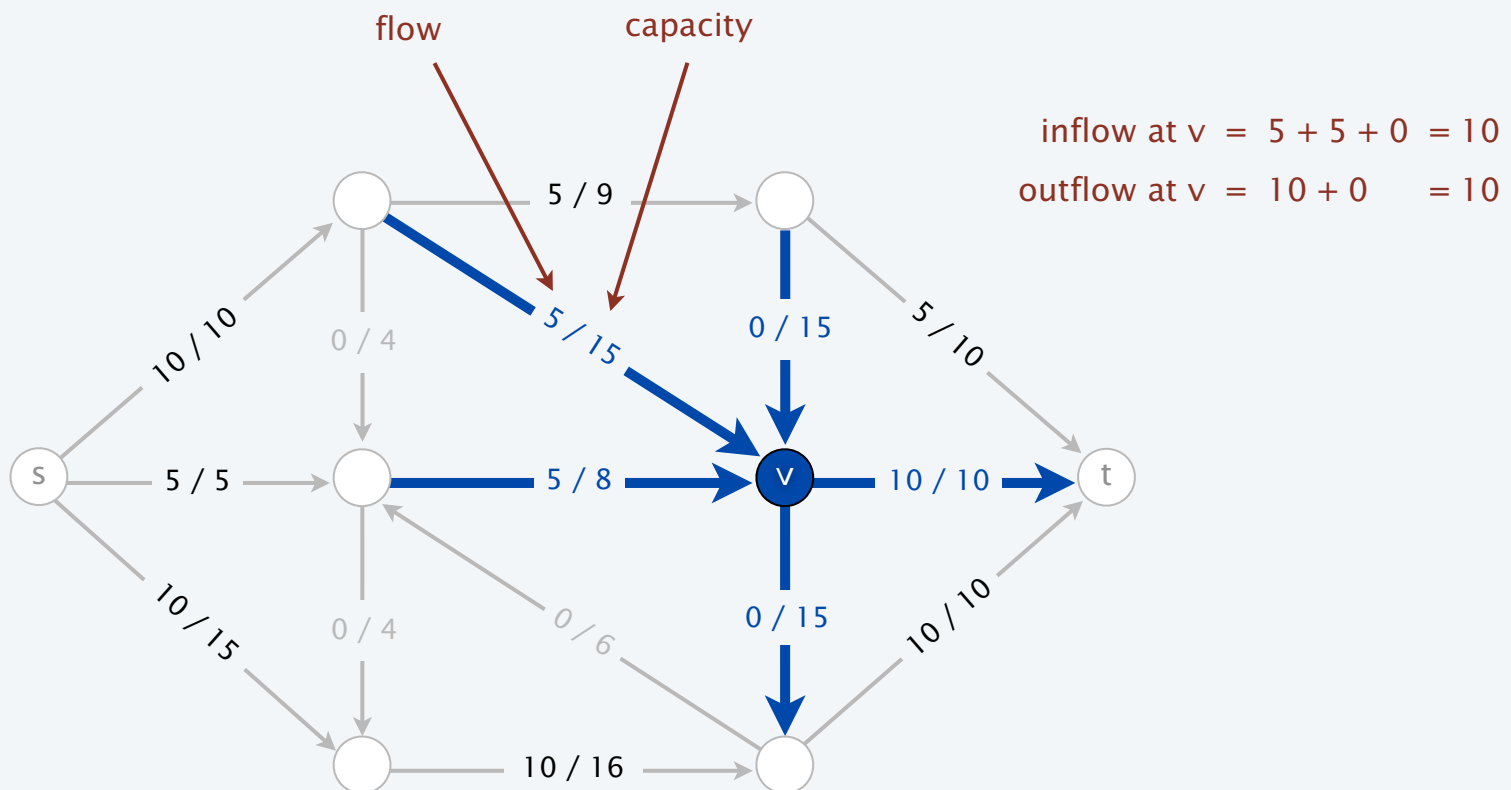
no parallel edges  
no edge enters  $s$   
no edge leaves  $t$



# Maximum flow problem

Def. An *st*-flow (flow)  $f$  is a function that satisfies:

- For each  $e \in E$ :  $0 \leq f(e) \leq c(e)$  [capacity]
- For each  $v \in V - \{s, t\}$ :  $\sum_{e \text{ in to } v} f(e) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } v} f(e)$  [flow conservation]

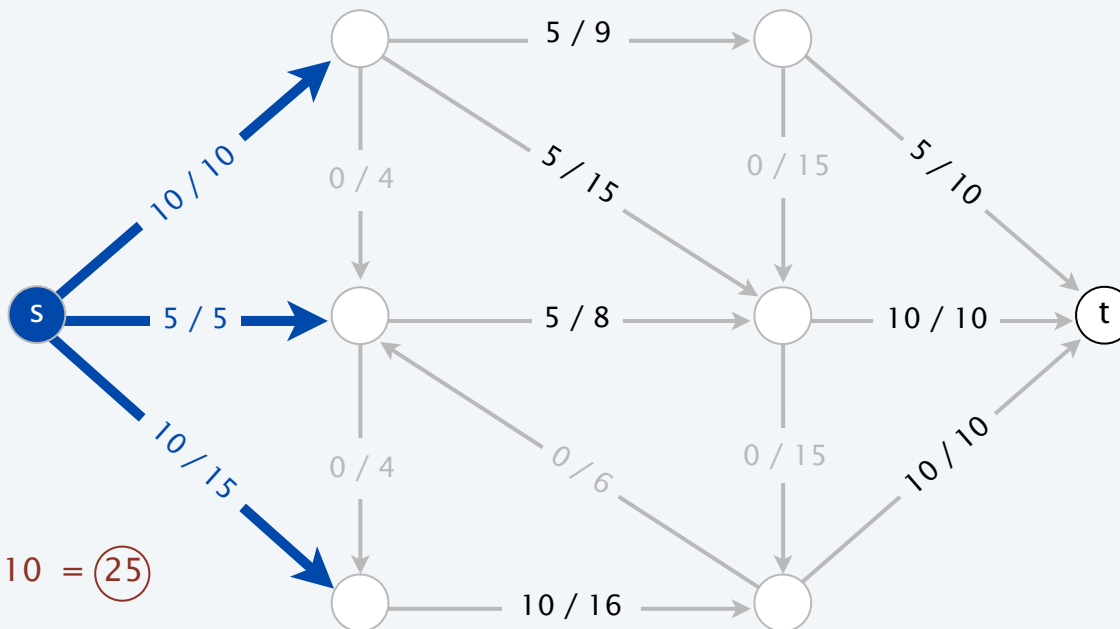


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Def. The **value** of a flow  $f$  is:  $val(f) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } s} f(e)$ .



value = 5 + 10 + 10 = 25

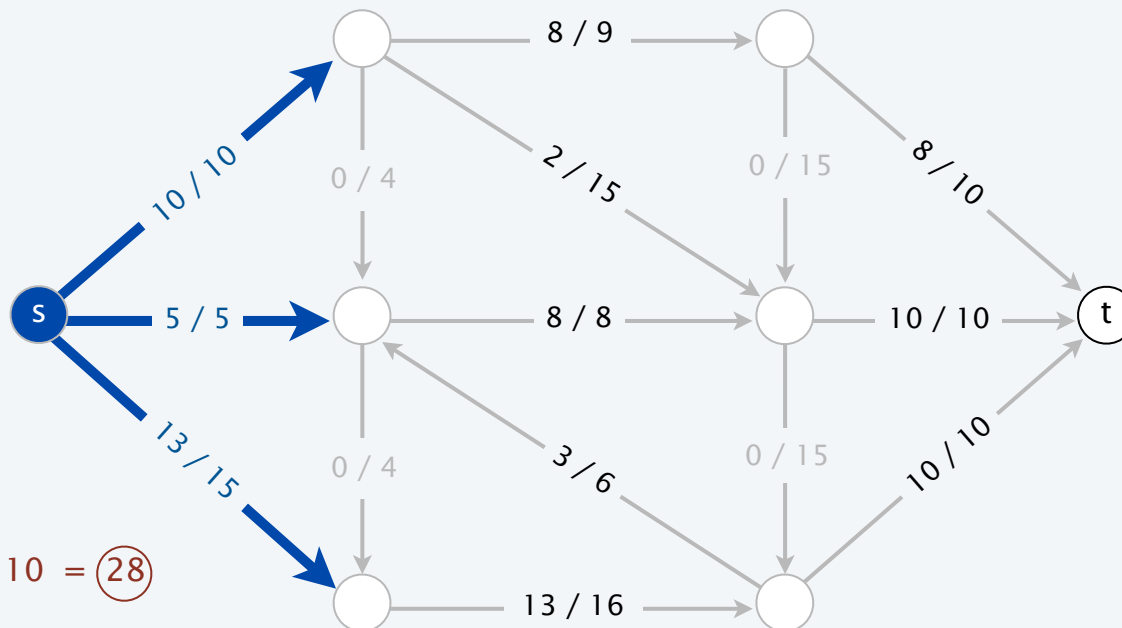
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**Def.** The **value** of a flow  $f$  is:  $val(f) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } s} f(e)$ .

**Max-flow problem.** Find a flow of maximum value.



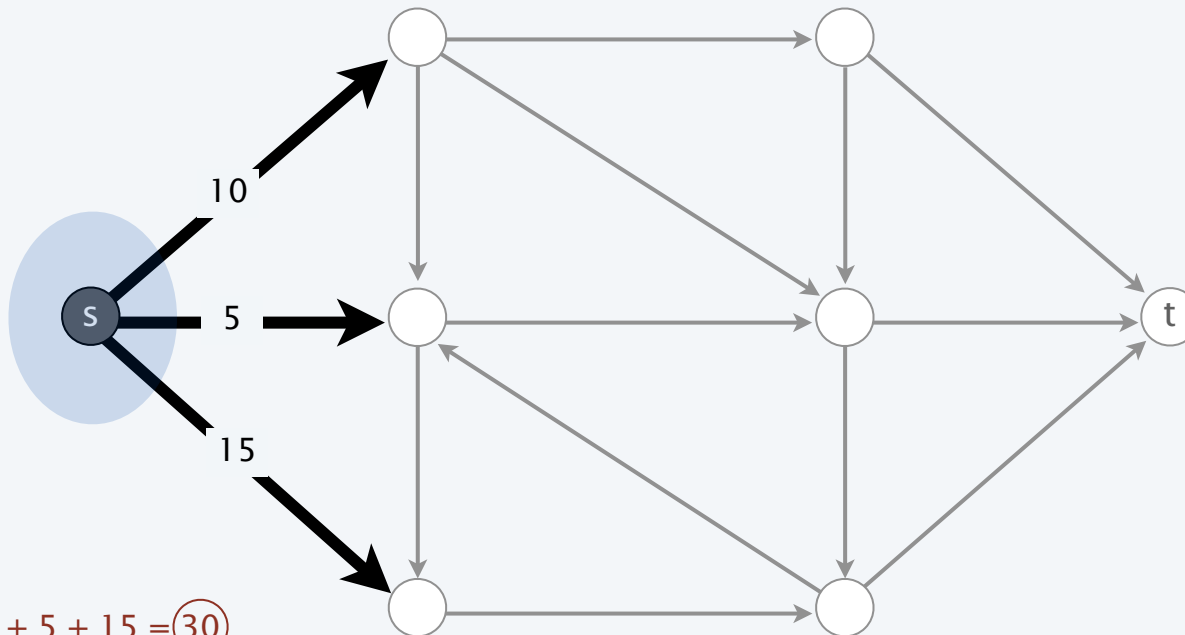
# Minimum cut problem

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**Def.** A *st-cut (cut)* is a partition  $(A, B)$  of the vertices with  $s \in A$  and  $t \in B$ .

**Def.** Its *capacity* is the sum of the capacities of the edges from  $A$  to  $B$ .

$$\text{cap}(A, B) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } A} c(e)$$



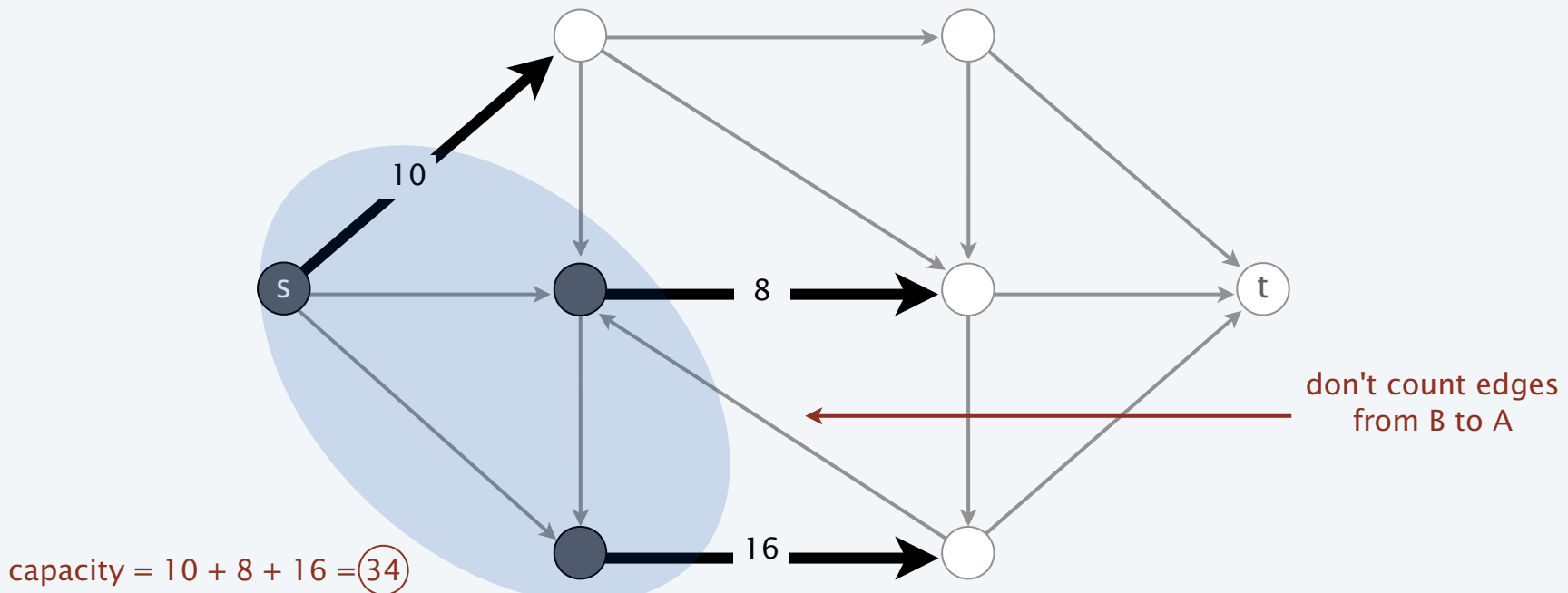
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# Minimum cut problem

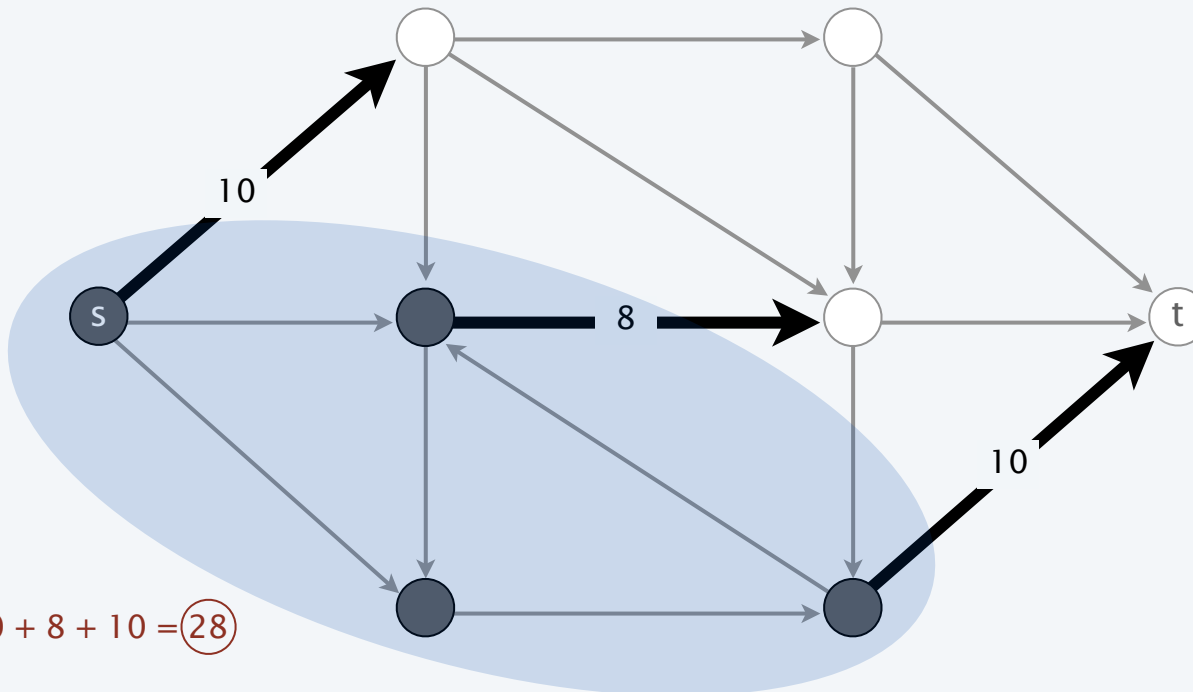
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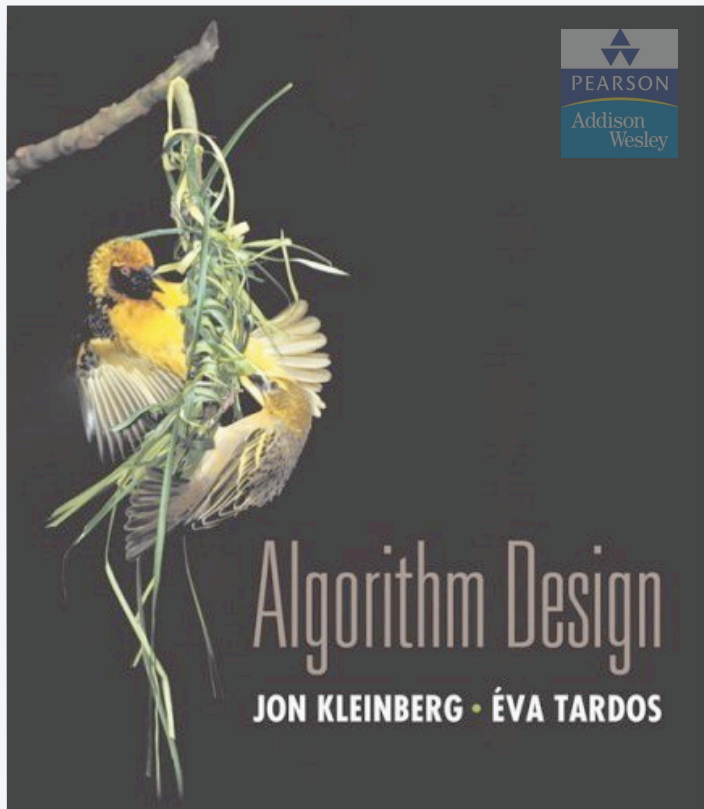
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**Min-cut problem.** Find a cut of minimum capacity.





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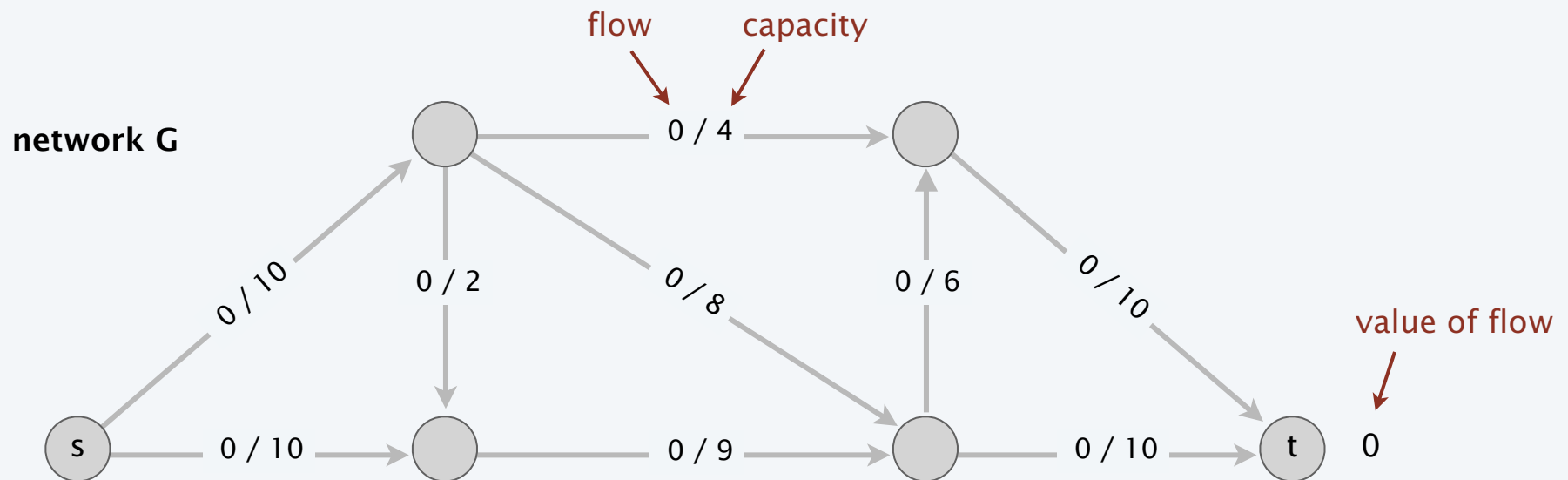
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# Towards a max-flow algorithm

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## Greedy algorithm.

- Start with  $f(e) = 0$  for all edge  $e \in E$ .
- Find an  $s \rightarrow t$  path  $P$  where each edge has  $f(e) < c(e)$ .
- Augment flow along path  $P$ .
- Repeat until you get stuck.

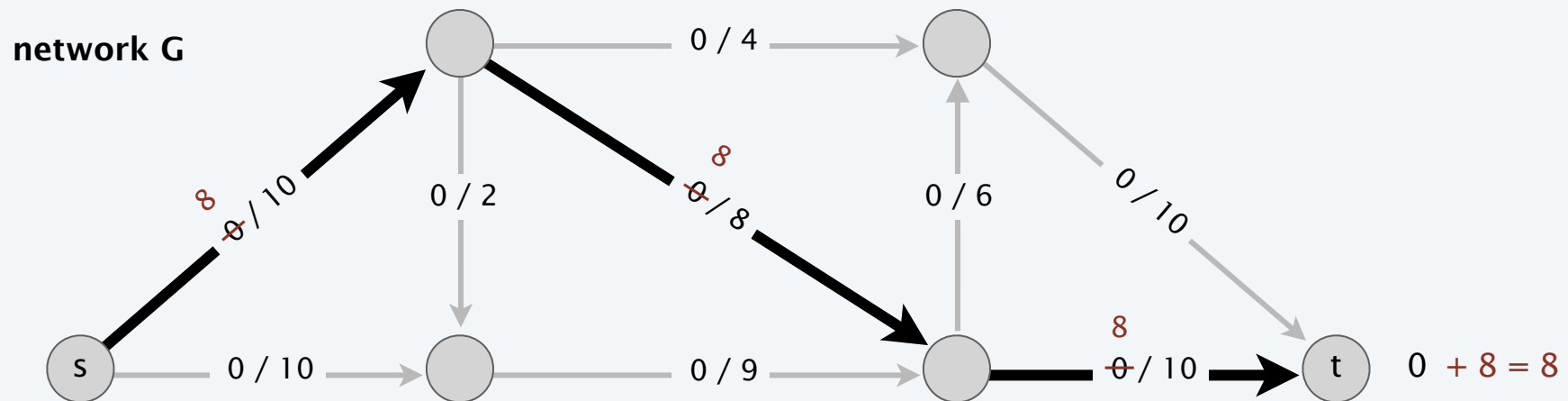


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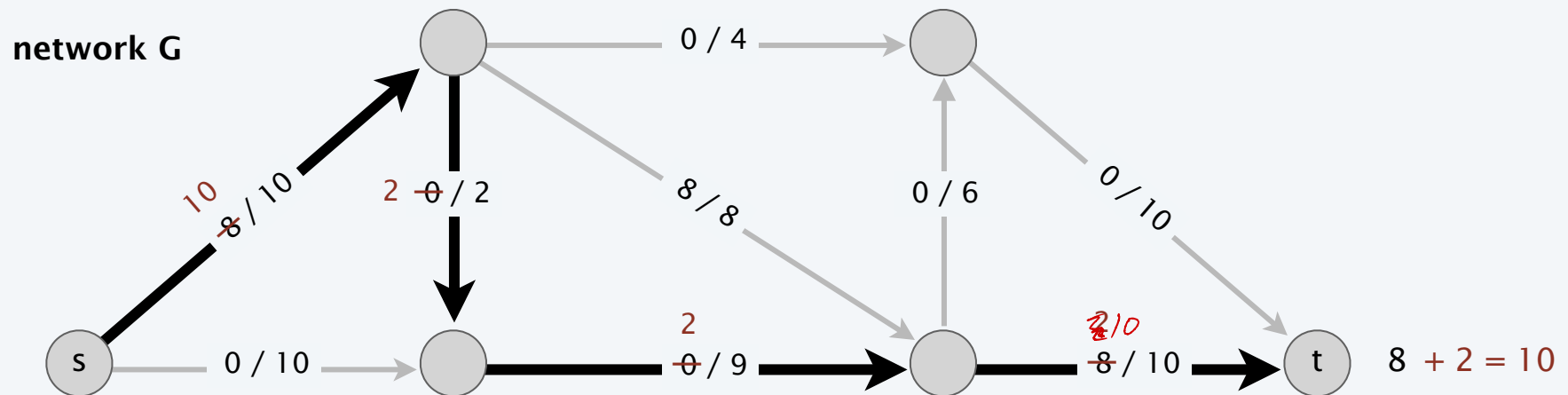


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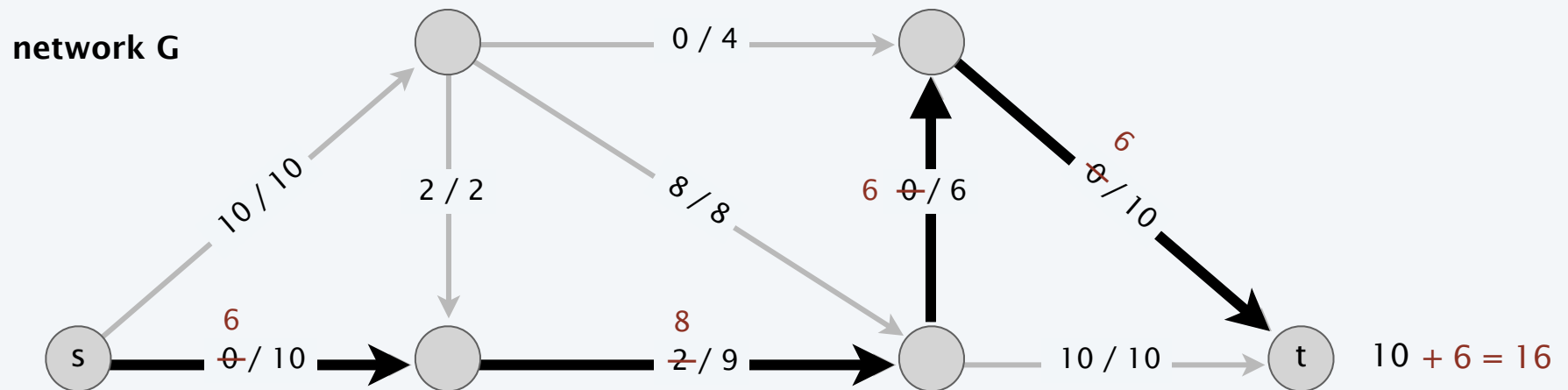


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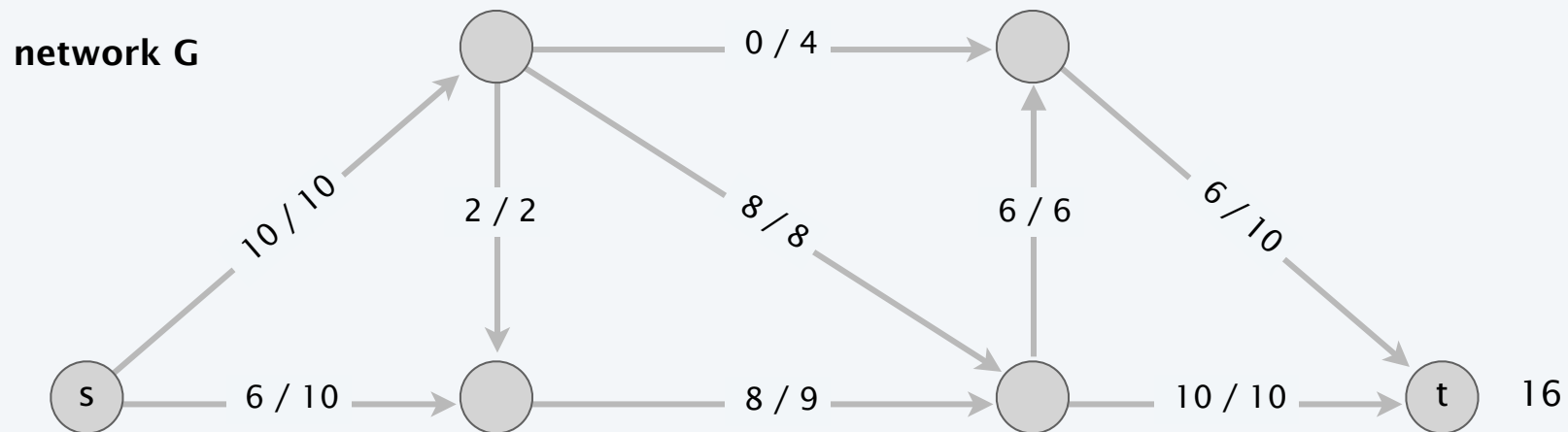
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ending flow value = 16



# Towards a max-flow algorithm

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- Repeat until you get stuck.

but max-flow value = 19

