

CSE 421

Max Flow Min Cut Problem

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DP Techniques Summary

Recipe:

- Follow the natural induction proof.
- Find out additional assumptions/variables/subproblems that you need to do the induction
- Strengthen the hypothesis and define w.r.t. new subproblems

Dynamic programming techniques.

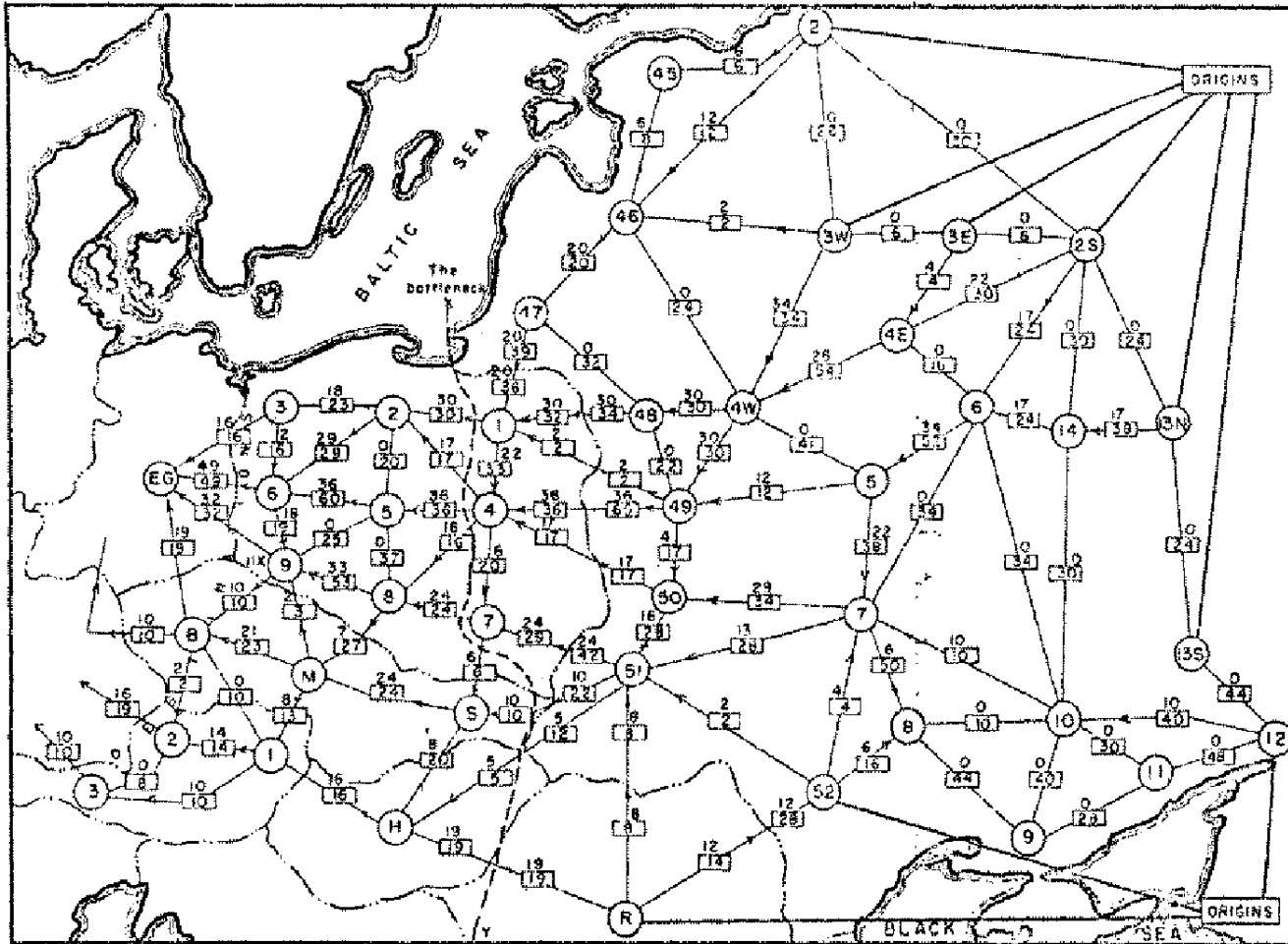
- Whenever a problem is a special case of an NP-hard problem an ordering is important:
- Adding a new variable: knapsack.
- Dynamic programming over intervals: RNA secondary structure.

Top-down vs. bottom-up:

- Different people have different intuitions
- Bottom-up is useful to optimize the memory

Network Flows

Soviet Rail Network



Reference: *On the history of the transportation and maximum flow problems.*
Alexander Schrijver in *Math Programming*, 91: 3, 2002.

Network Flow Applications

Max flow and min cut.

- Two very rich algorithmic problems.
- Cornerstone problems in combinatorial optimization.
- Beautiful mathematical duality.

Nontrivial applications / reductions.

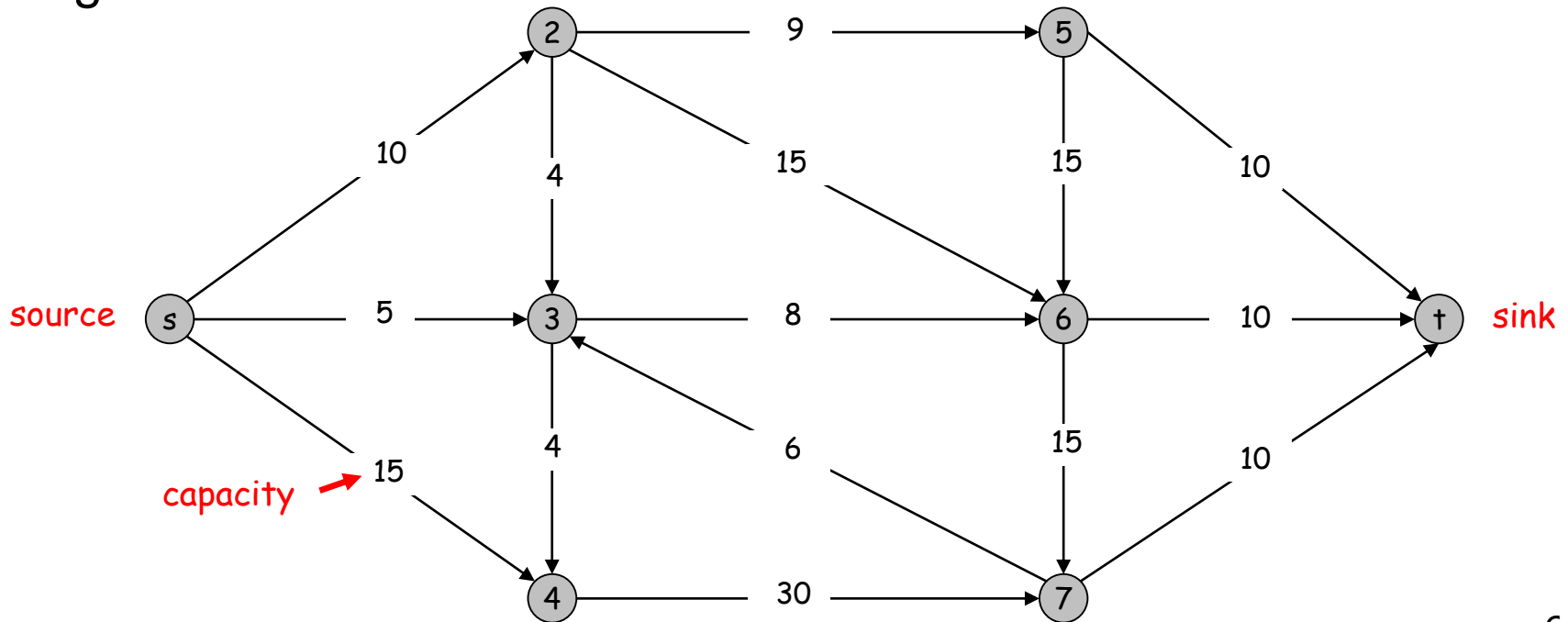
- Data mining.
- Open-pit mining.
- Project selection.
- Airline scheduling.
- Bipartite matching.
- Baseball elimination.
- Image segmentation.
- Network connectivity.

Minimum s-t Cut Problem

Given a directed graph $G = (V, E)$ = directed graph and two distinguished nodes: s = source, t = sink.

Suppose each directed edge e has a nonnegative capacity $c(e)$

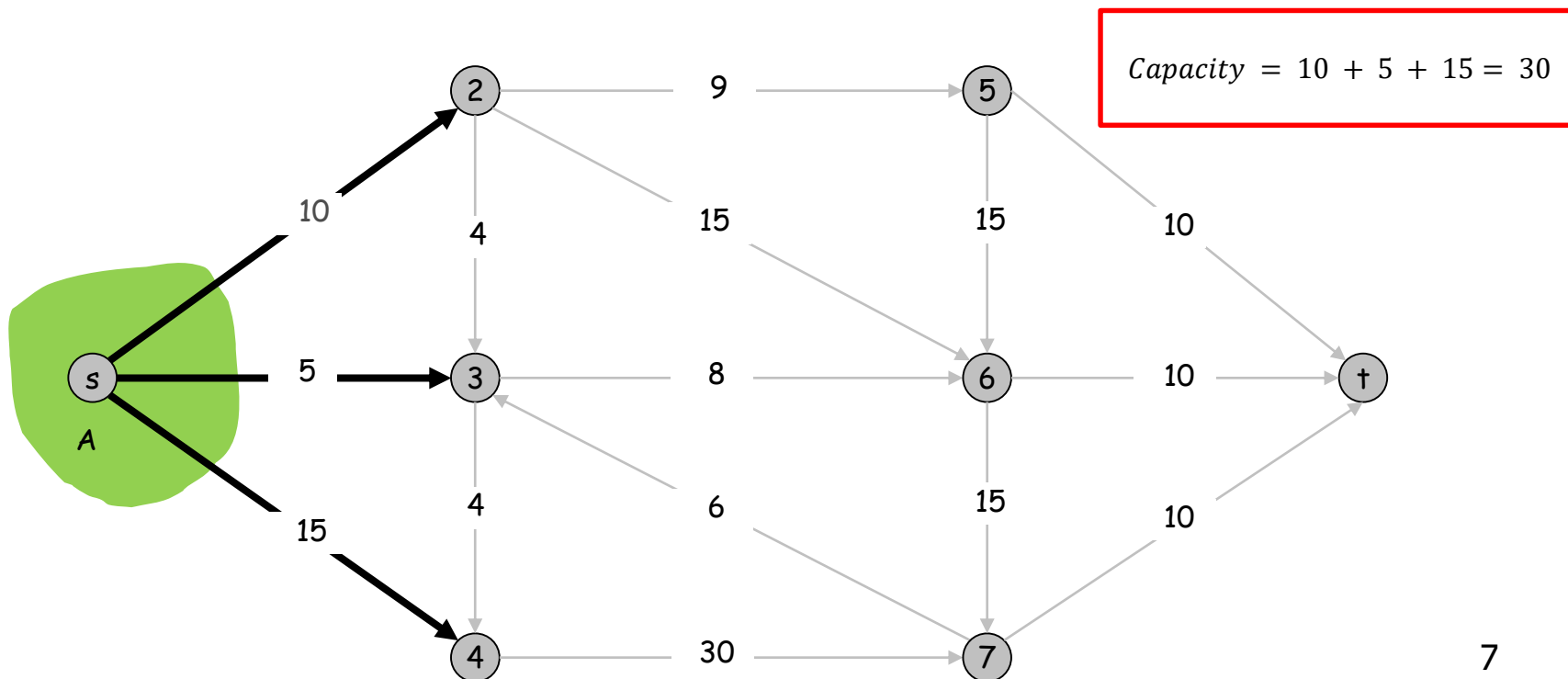
Goal: Find a cut separating s, t that cuts the minimum capacity of edges.



s-t cuts

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

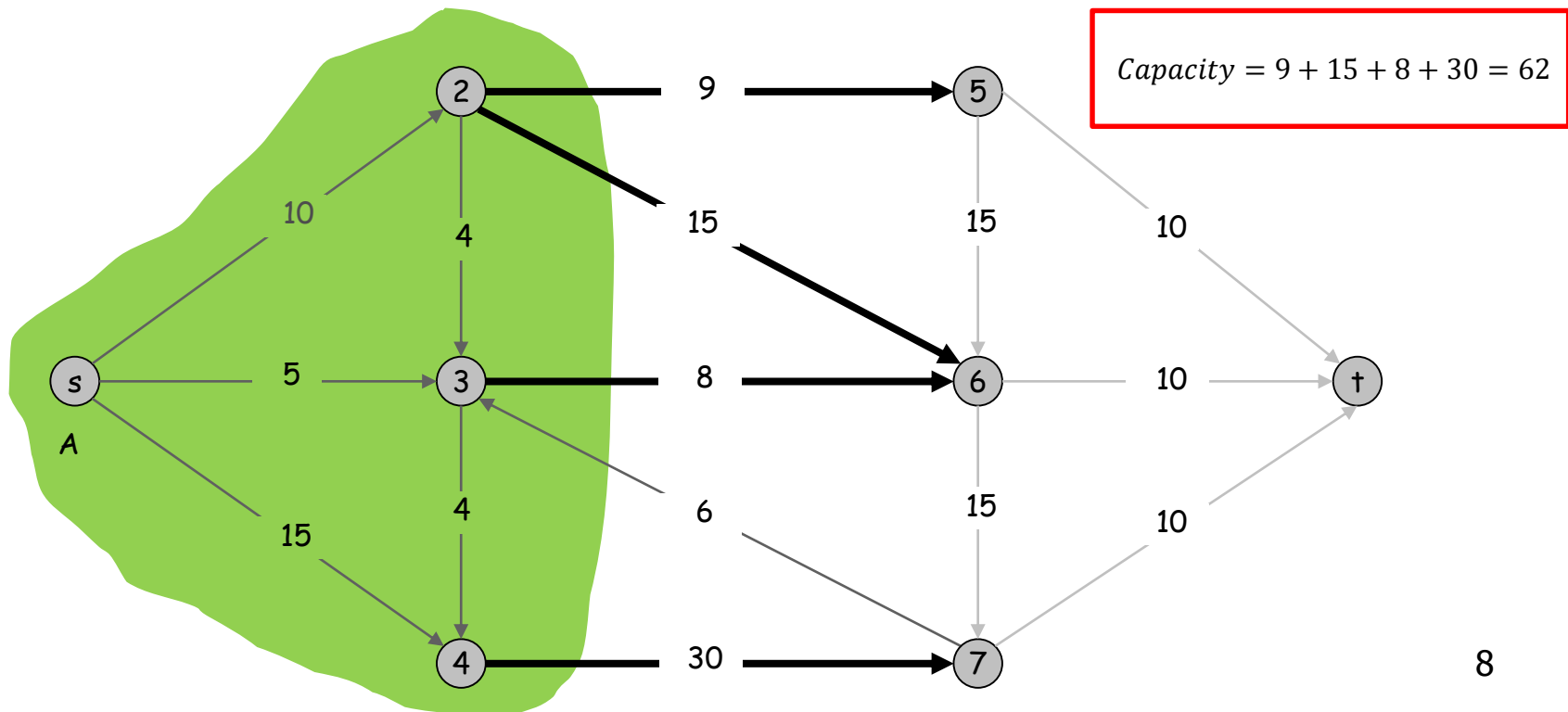
Def. The **capacity** of a cut (A, B) : $cap(A, B) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } A} c(e)$



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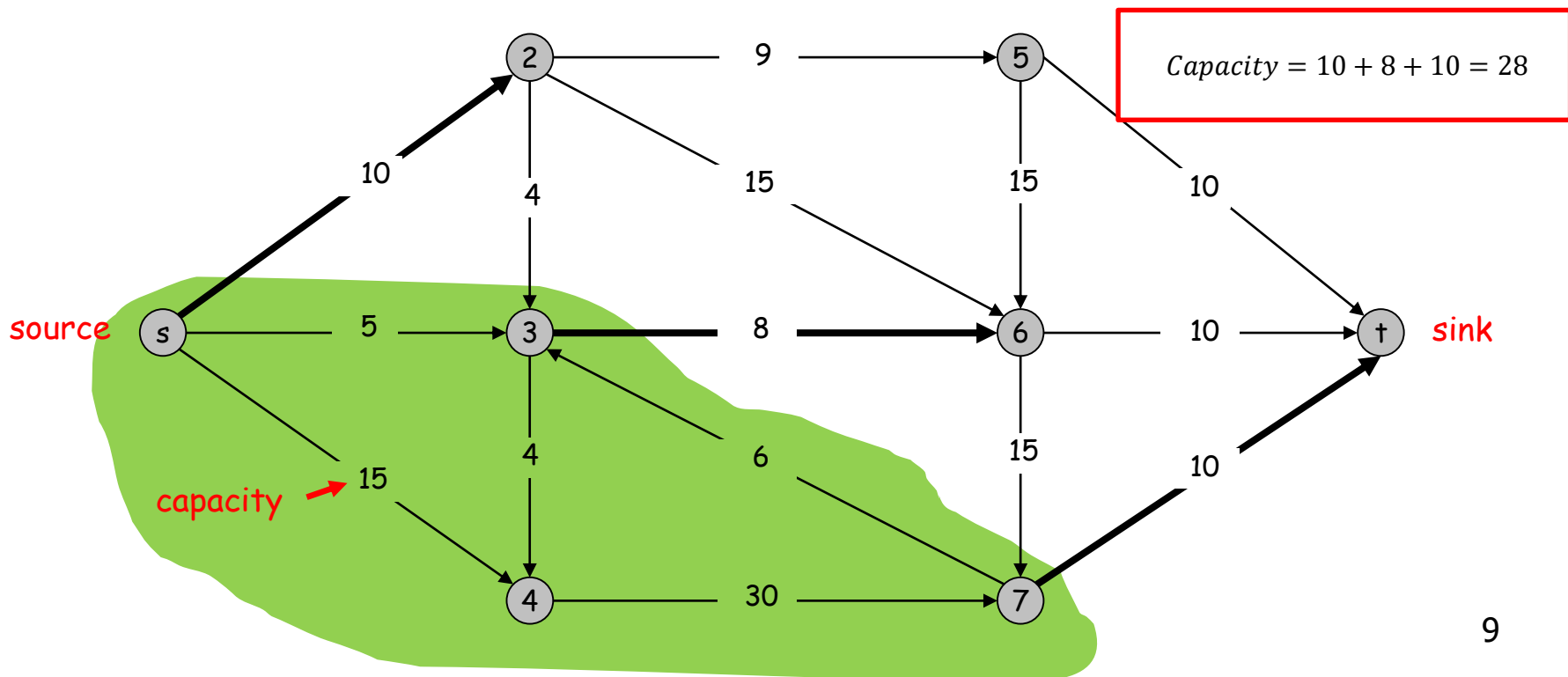


Minimum s-t Cut Problem

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Goal: Find a s-t cut of minimum capacity

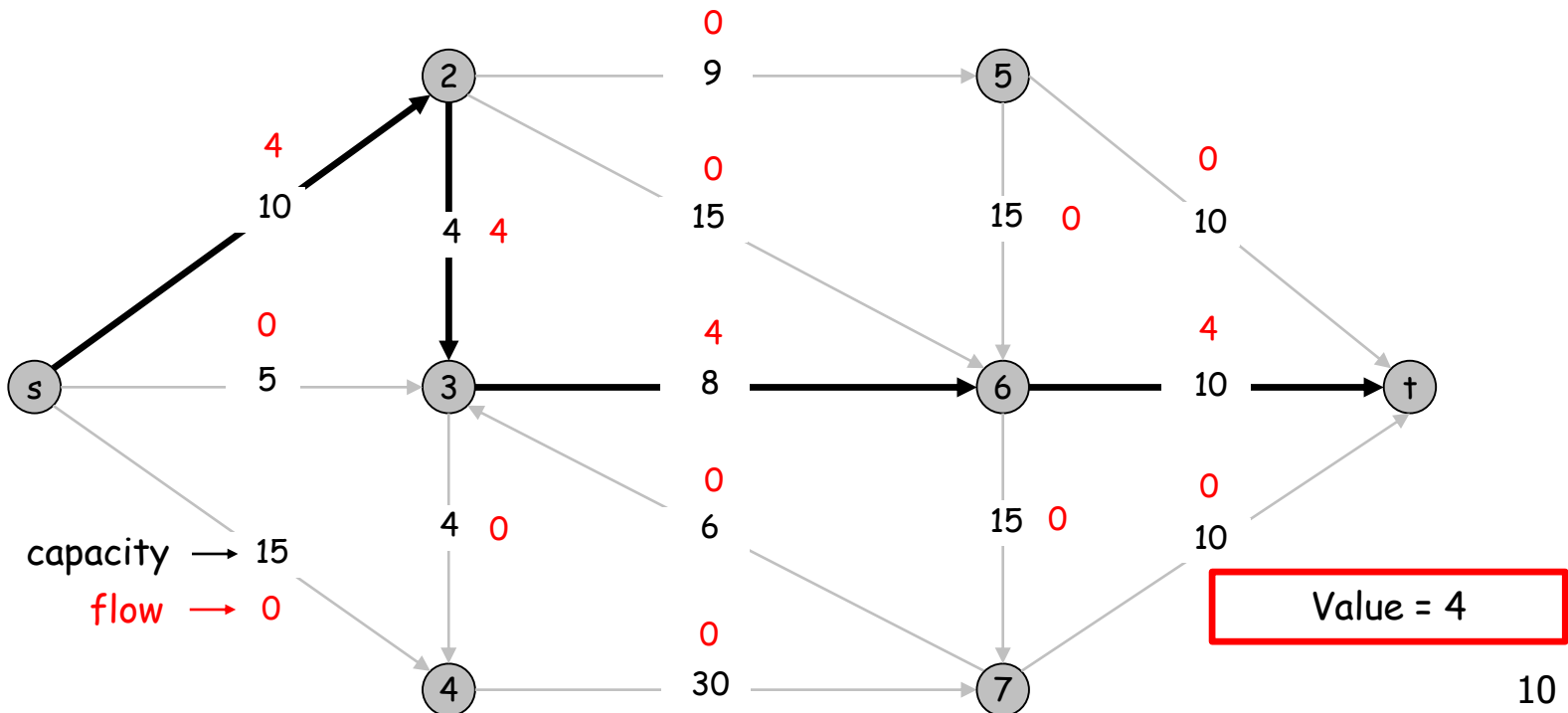


s-t Flows

Def. An **s-t flow** is a function that satisfies:

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

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

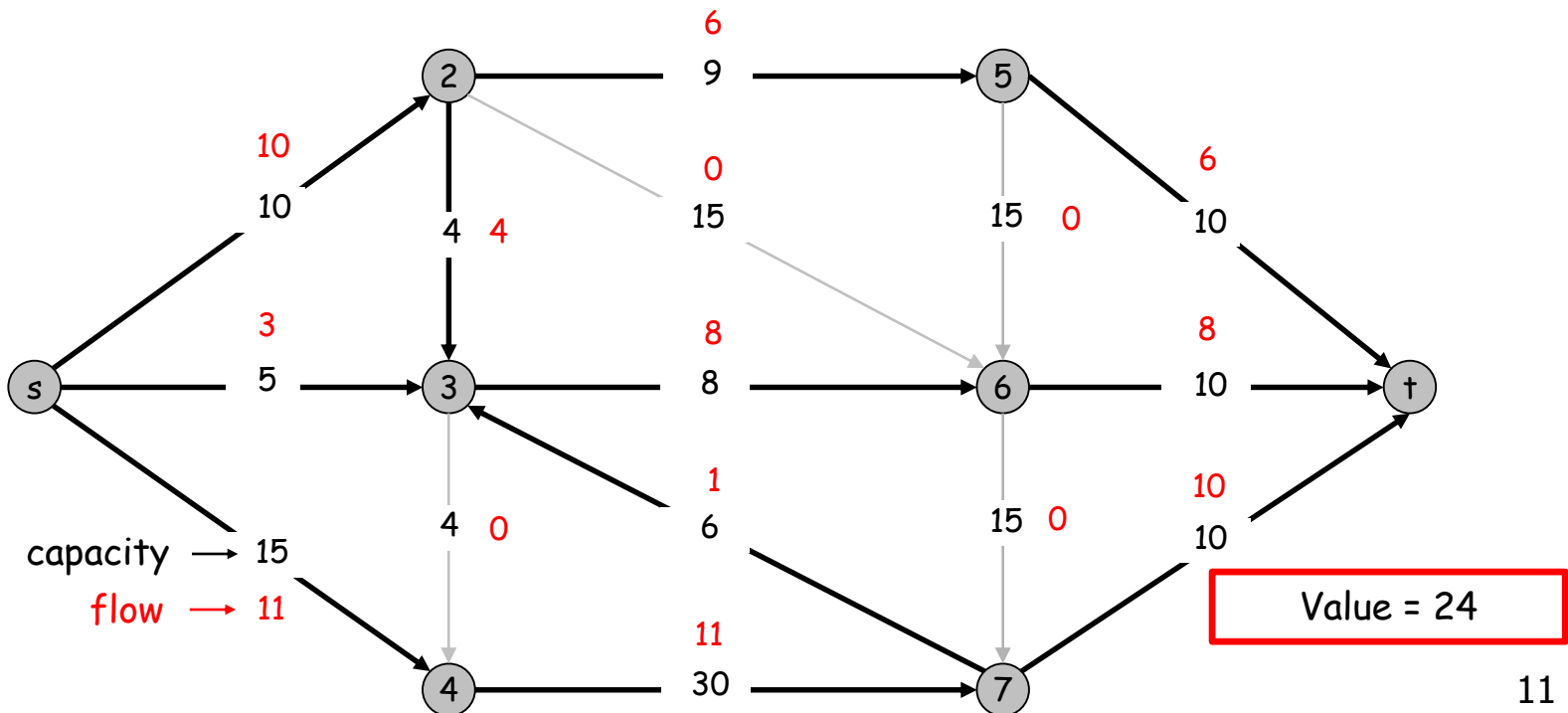


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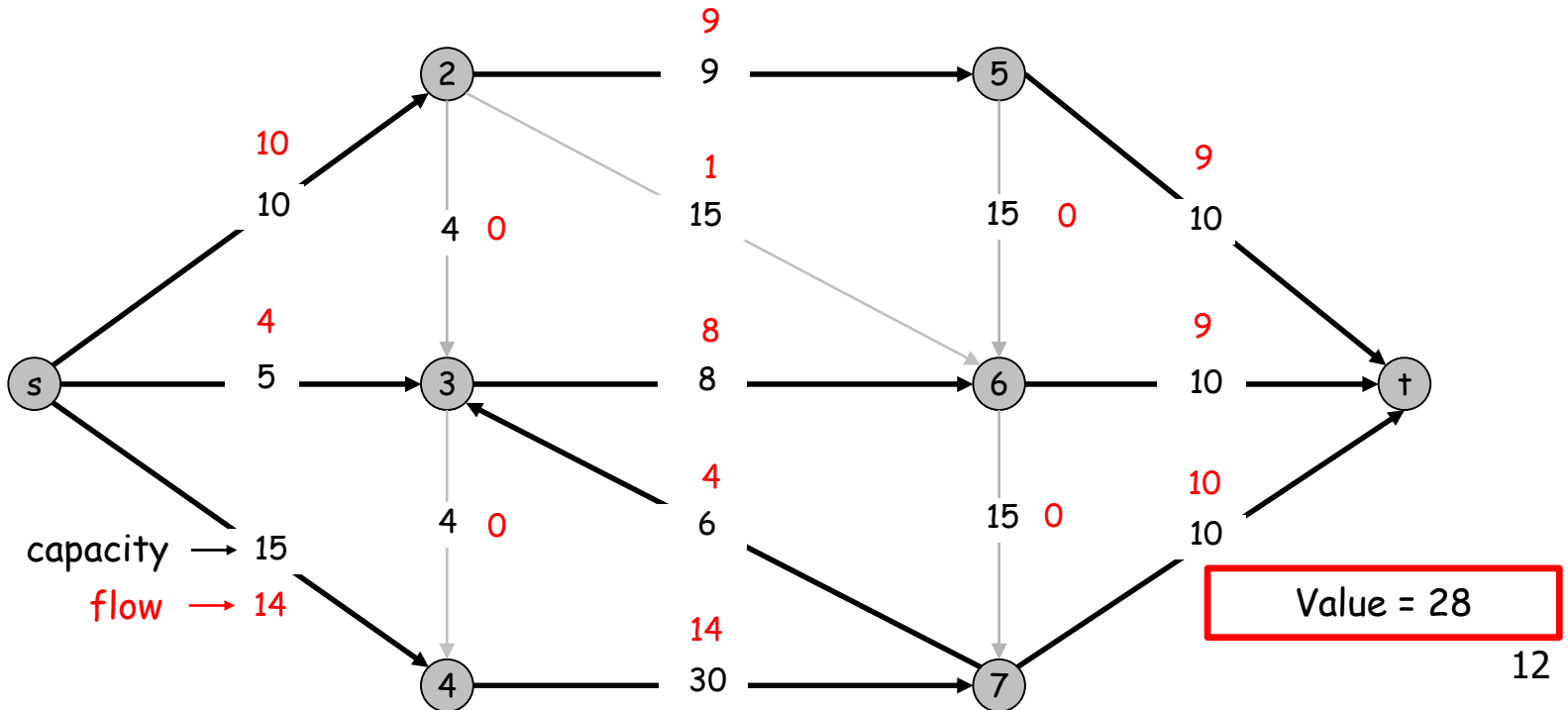
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Maximum s-t Flow Problem

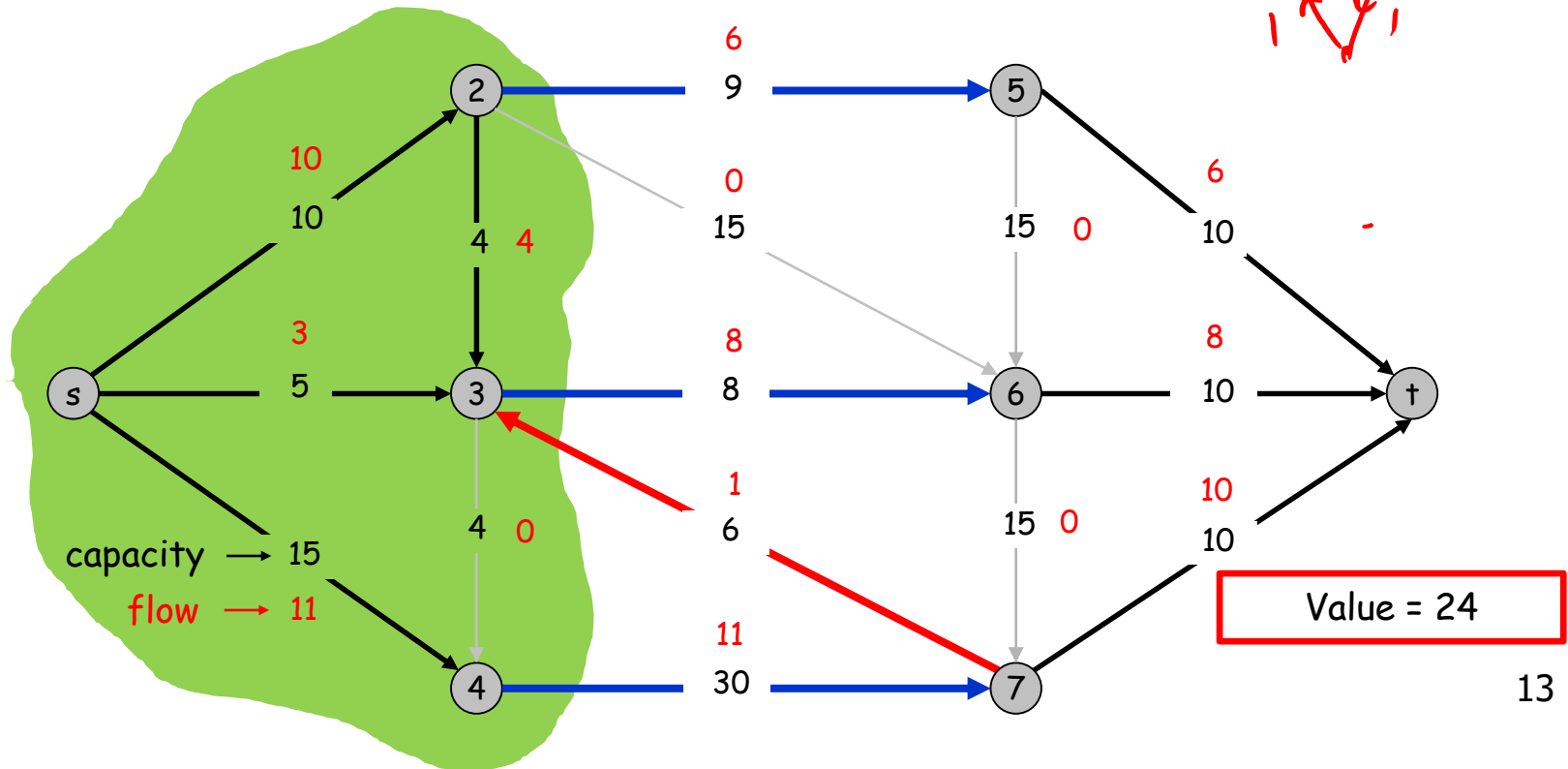
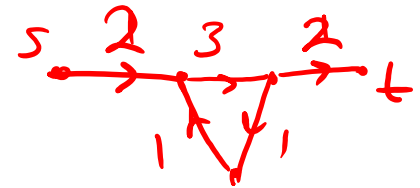
Goal: Find a s-t flow of largest value.



Flows and Cuts

Flow value lemma. Let f be any flow, and let (A, B) be any s - t cut. Then, the net flow sent across the cut is equal to the amount leaving s .

$$\sum_{e \text{ out of } A} f(e) - \sum_{e \text{ in to } A} f(e) = v(f)$$



Pf of Flow value Lemma

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$$\sum_{e \text{ out of } A} f(e) - \sum_{e \text{ in to } A} f(e) = v(f)$$

Pf.

$$v(f) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } s} f(e)$$

By conservation of flow,
all terms except $v=s$ are 0

$$\rightarrow = \sum_{v \in A} \left(\sum_{e \text{ out of } v} f(e) - \sum_{e \text{ in to } v} f(e) \right)$$

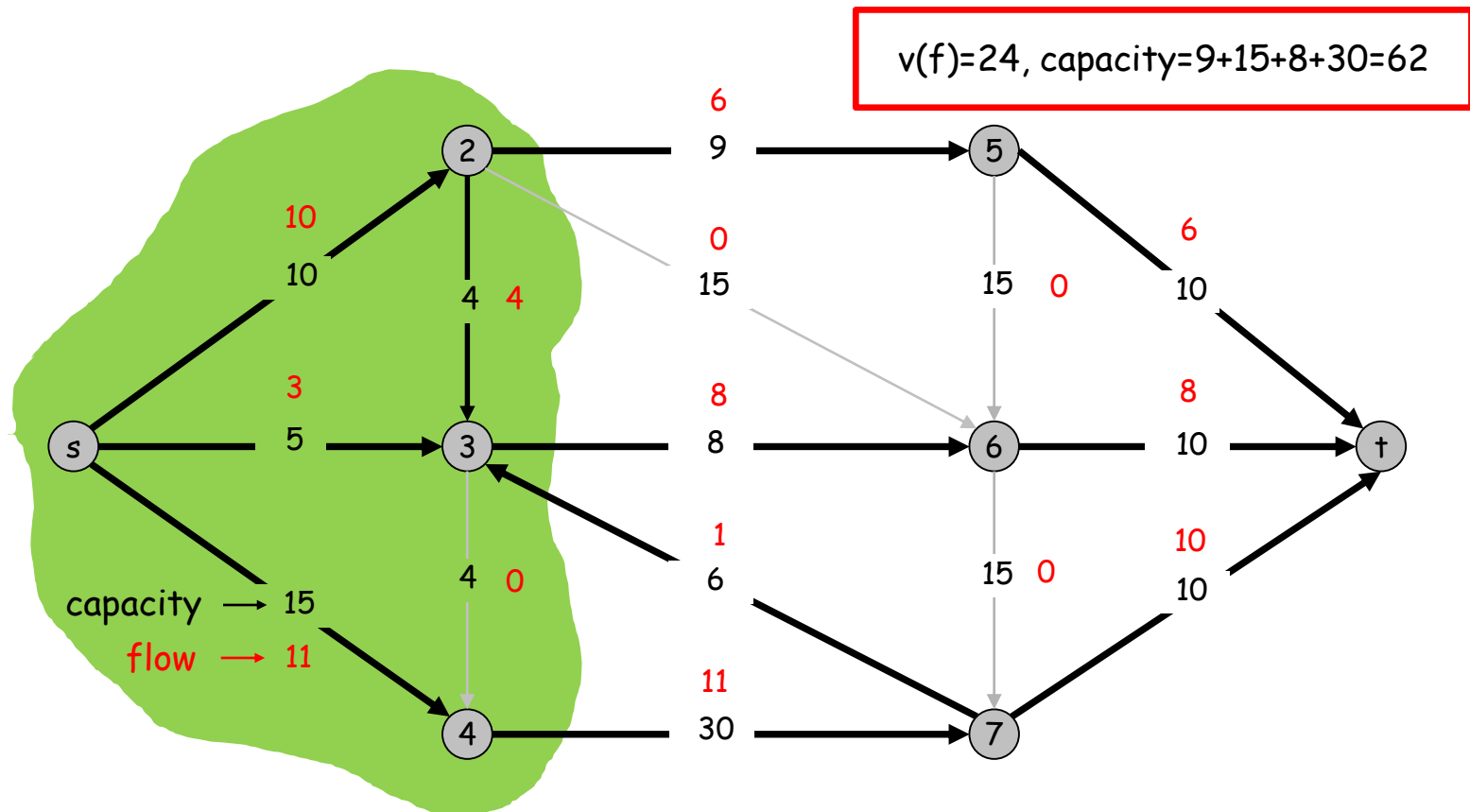
All contributions due to
internal edges cancel out

$$\rightarrow = \sum_{e \text{ out of } A} f(e) - \sum_{e \text{ in to } A} f(e)$$

Weak Duality of Flows and Cuts

Flow value lemma. Let f be any flow, and let (A, B) be any s - t cut. Then the value of the flow is at most the capacity of the cut.

$$v(f) \leq \text{cap}(A, B)$$



Weak Duality of Flows and Cuts

Flow value lemma. Let f be any flow, and let (A, B) be any s - t cut. Then the value of the flow is at most the capacity of the cut.

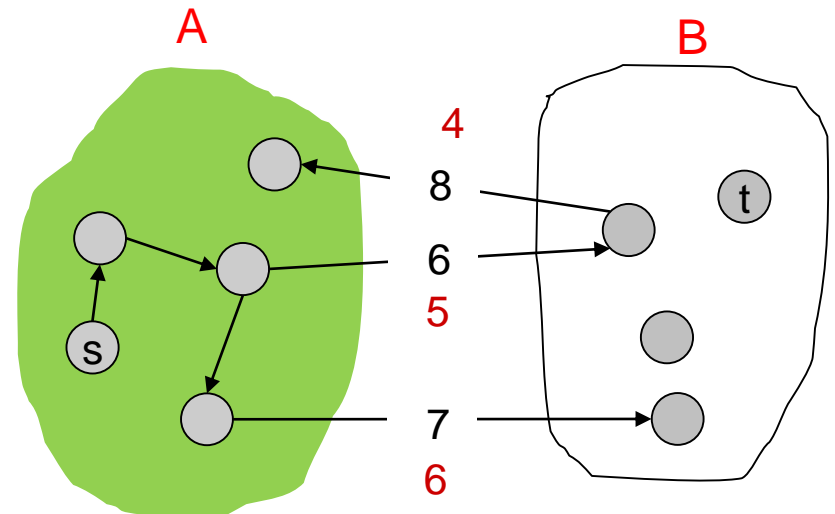
$$v(f) \leq \text{cap}(A, B)$$

Pf.

$$v(f) = \sum_{e \text{ out of } A} f(e) - \sum_{e \text{ in to } A} f(e)$$

$$\leq \sum_{e \text{ out of } A} f(e)$$

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

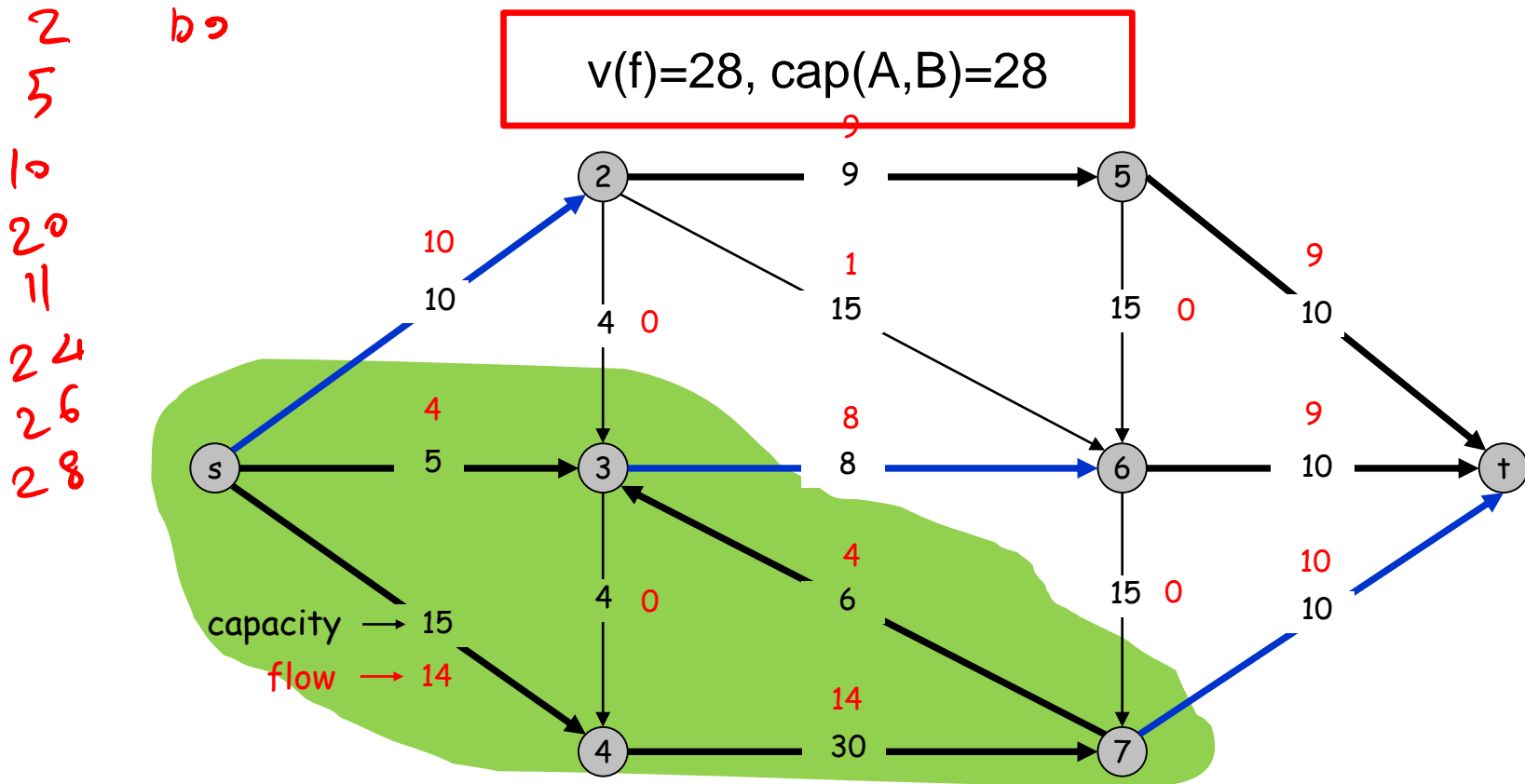


Certificate of Optimality

Corollary: Suppose there is a s-t cut (A,B) such that

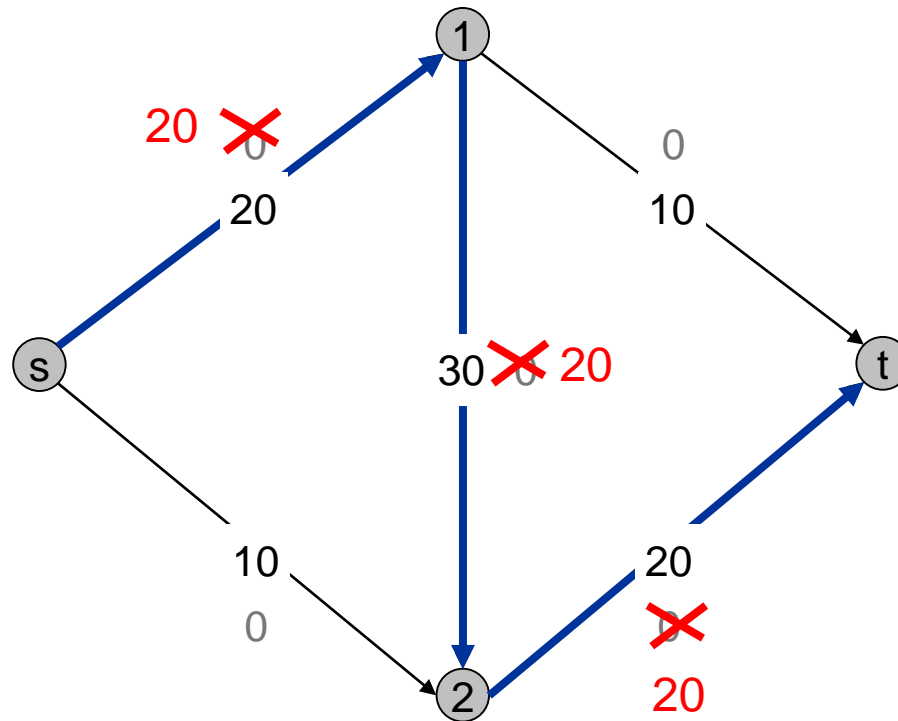
$$v(f) = \text{cap}(A, B)$$

Then, f is a maximum flow and (A,B) is a minimum cut.



A Greedy Algorithm for Max Flow

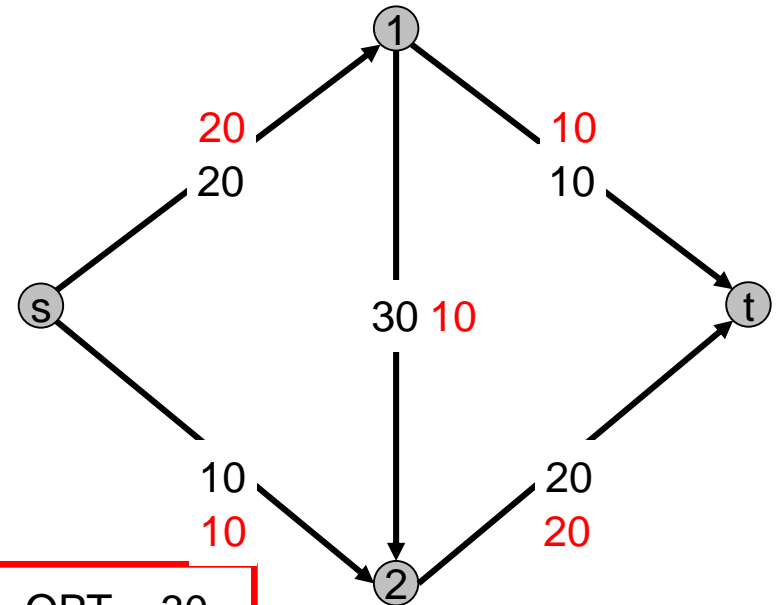
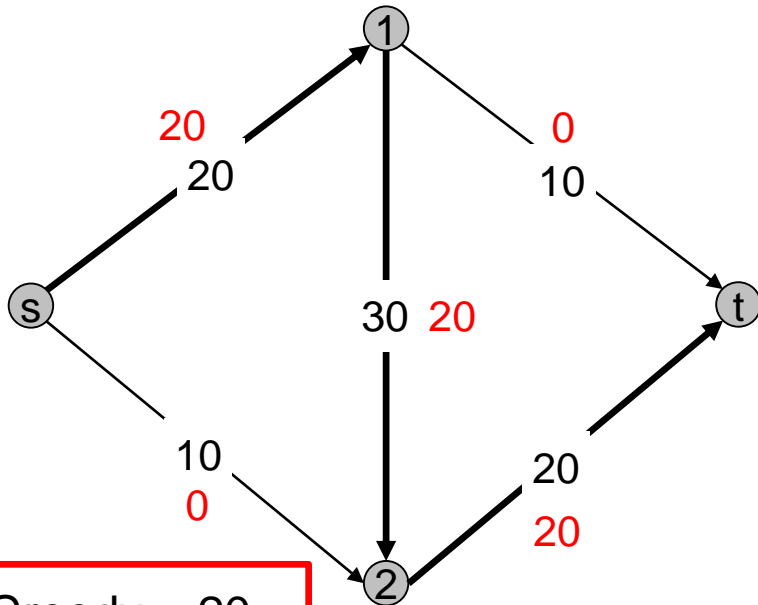
- Start with $f(e) = 0$ for all edge $e \in E$.
- Find an s-t path P where each edge has $f(e) < c(e)$.
- Augment flow along path P .
- Repeat until you get stuck.



A Greedy Algorithm for Max Flow

- Start with $f(e) = 0$ for all edge $e \in E$.
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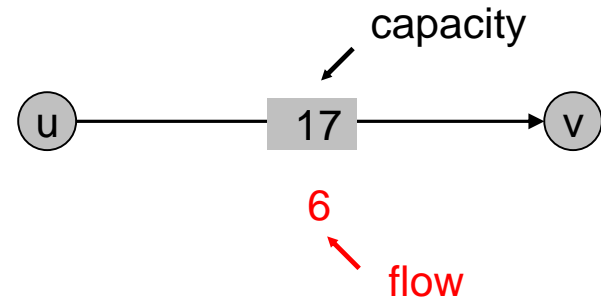
Local Optimum \neq Global Optimum



Residual Graph

Original edge: $e = (u, v) \in E$.

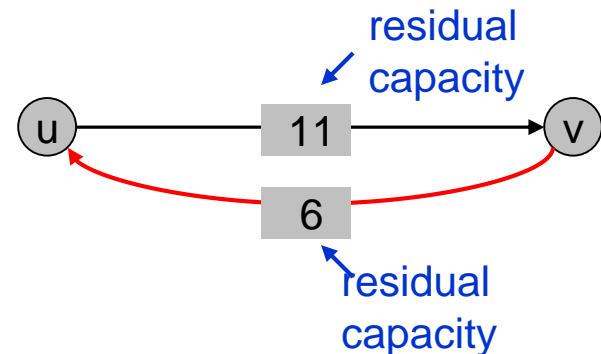
- Flow $f(e)$, capacity $c(e)$.



Residual edge.

- "Undo" flow sent.
- $e = (u, v)$ and $e^R = (v, u)$.
- Residual capacity:

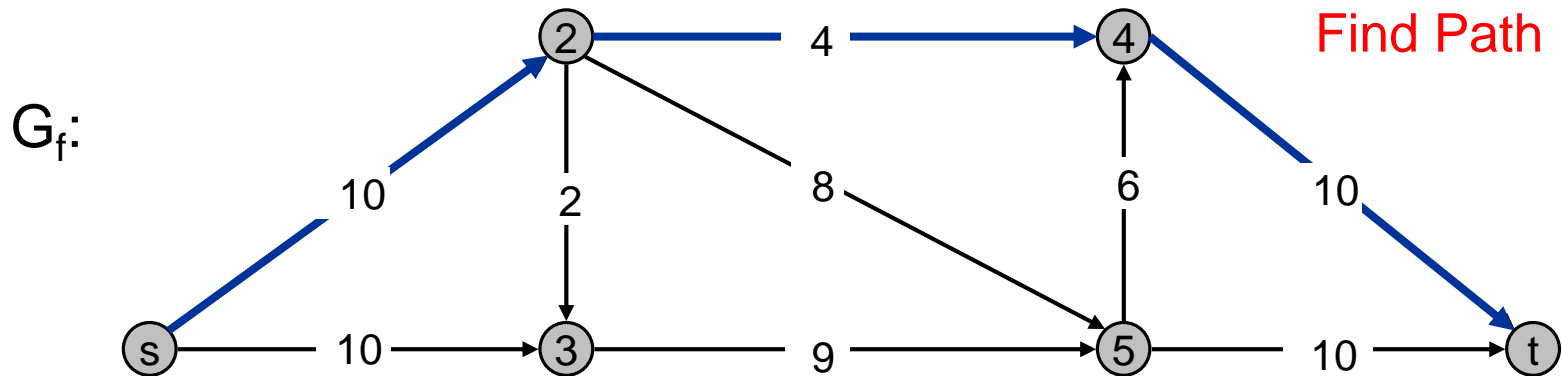
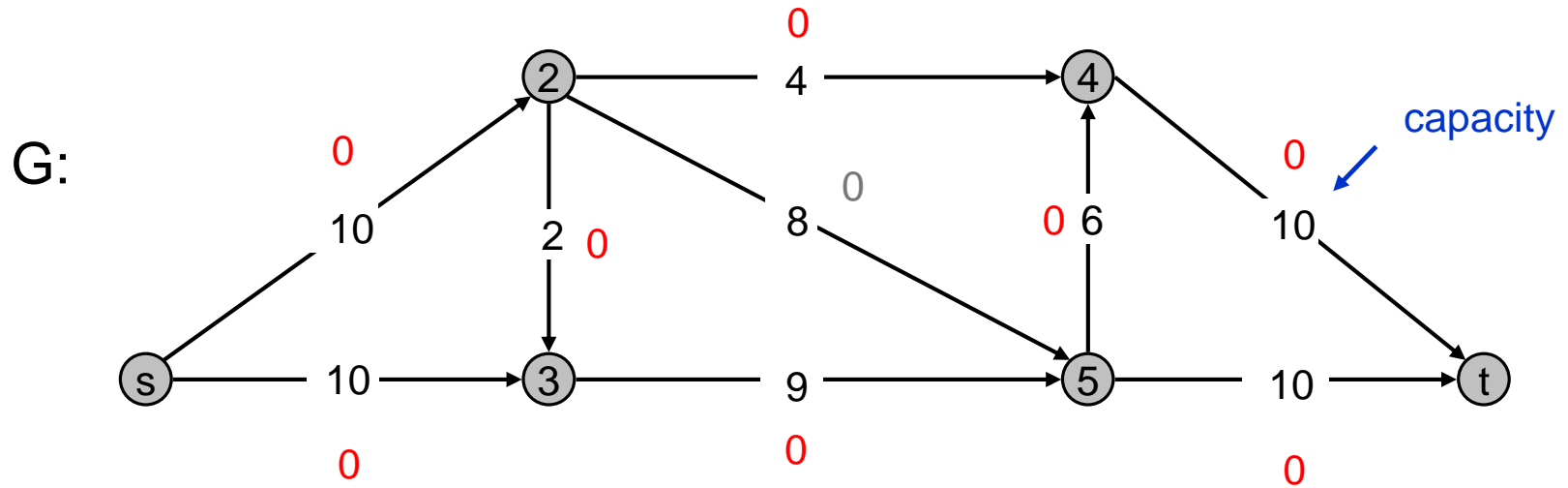
$$c_f(e) = \begin{cases} c(e) - f(e) & \text{if } e \in E \\ f(e) & \text{if } e^R \in E \end{cases}$$



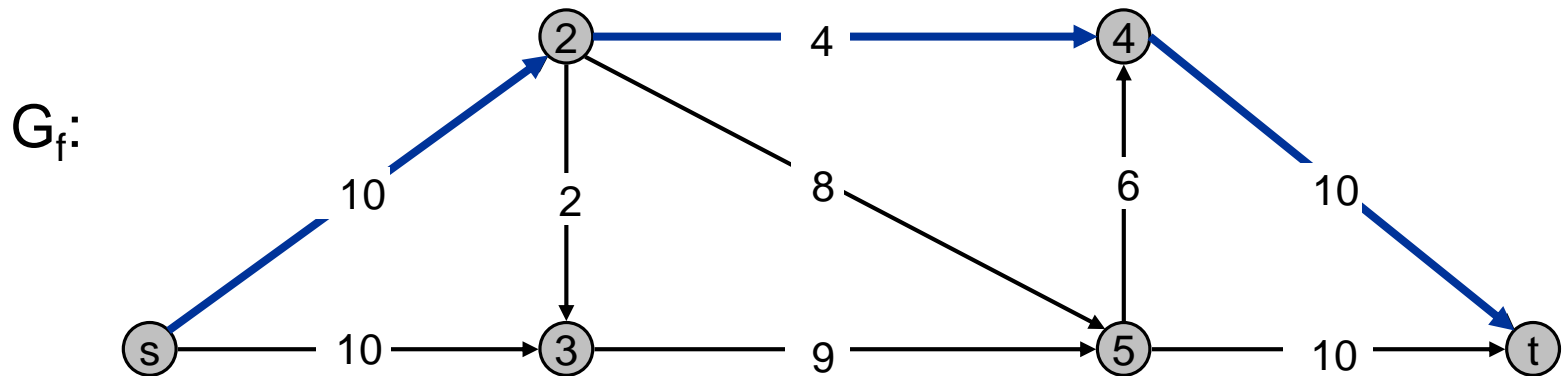
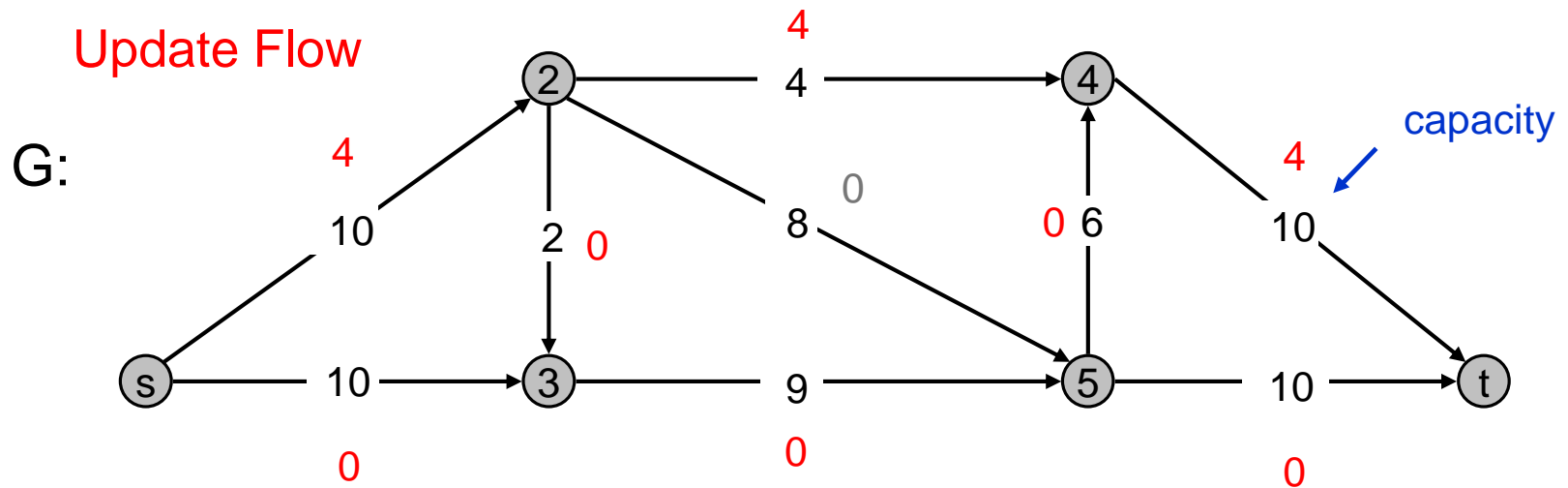
Residual graph: $G_f = (V, E_f)$.

- Residual edges with positive residual capacity.
- $E_f = \{e : f(e) < c(e)\} \cup \{e : f(e^R) > 0\}$.

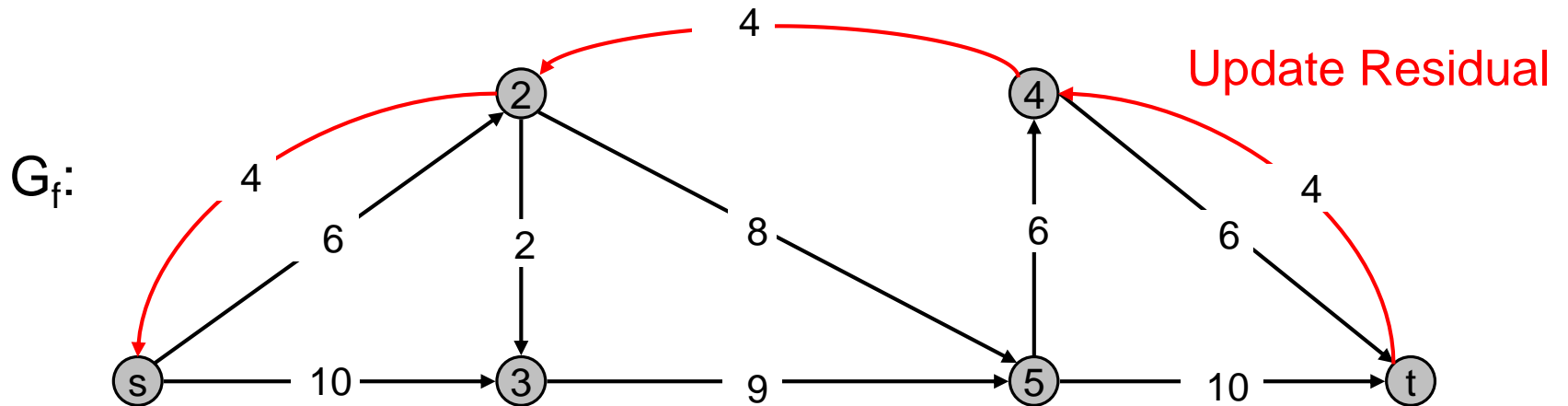
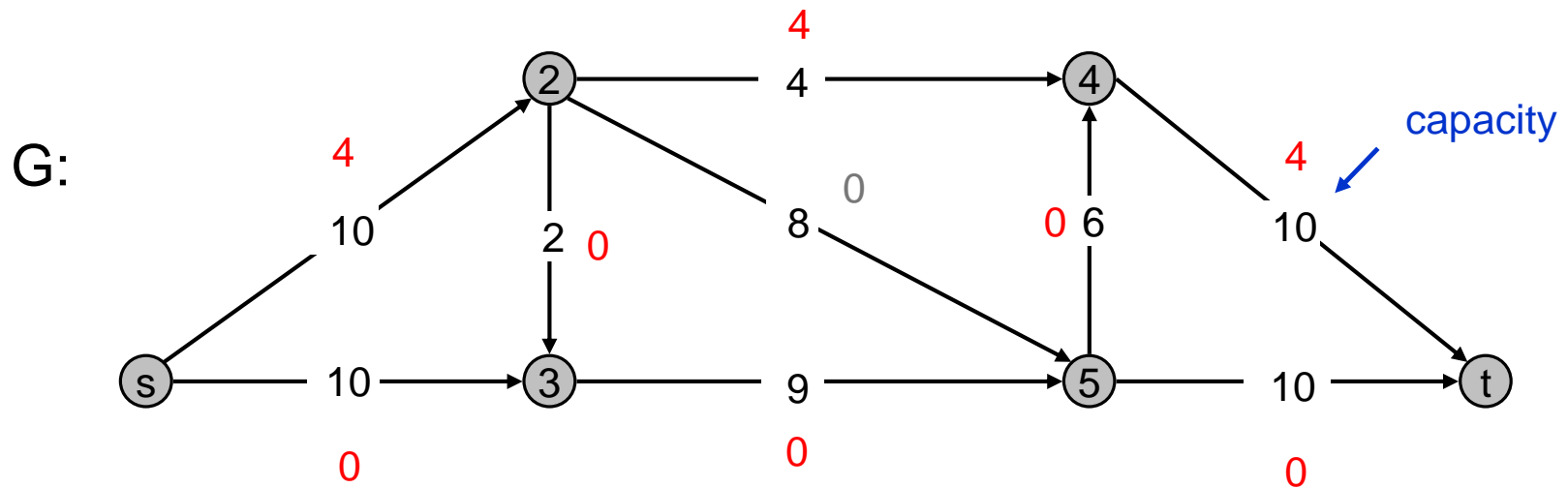
Ford-Fulkerson Alg: Greedy on G_f



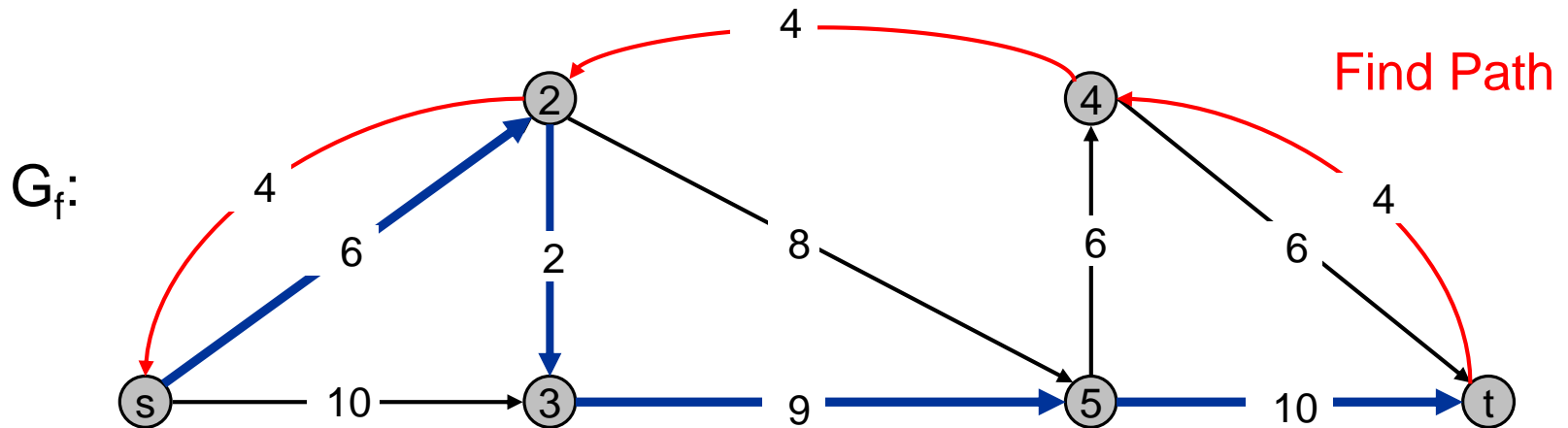
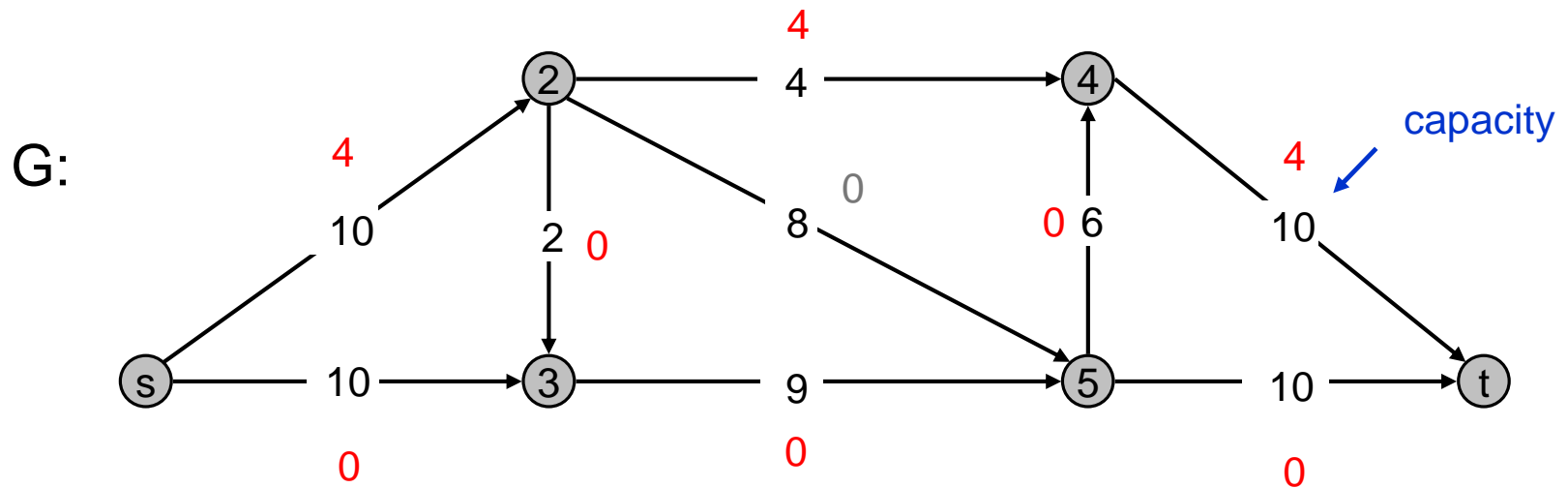
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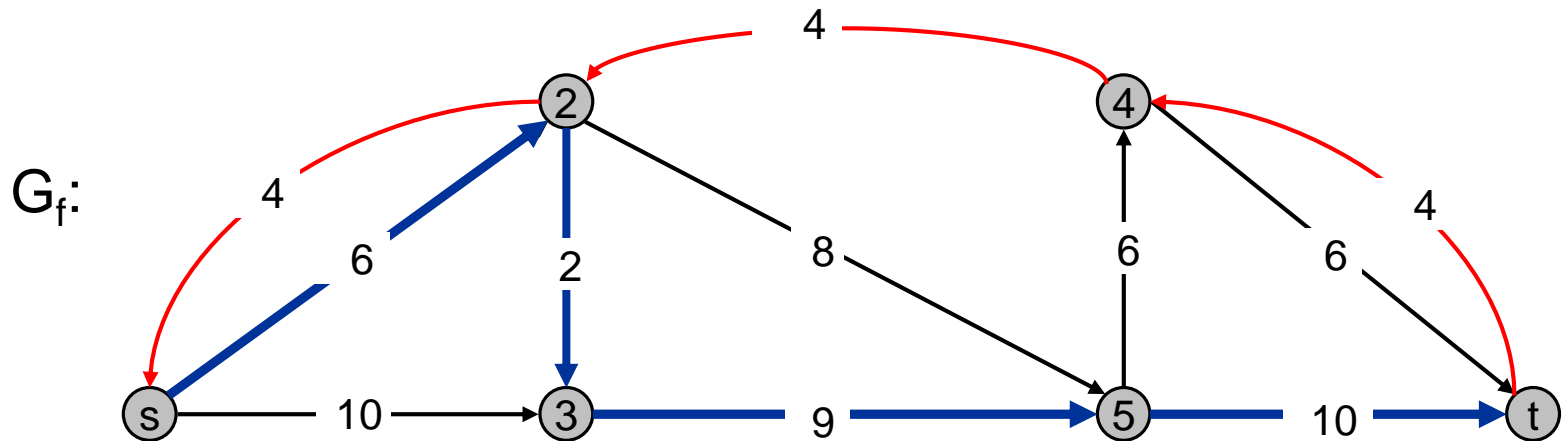
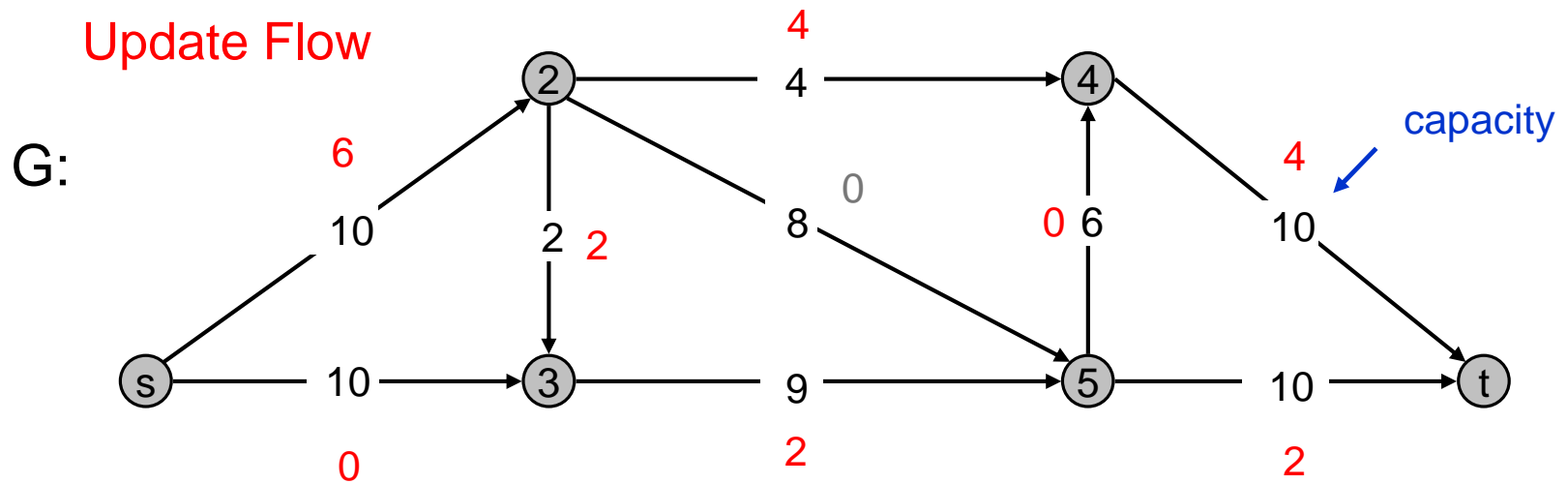
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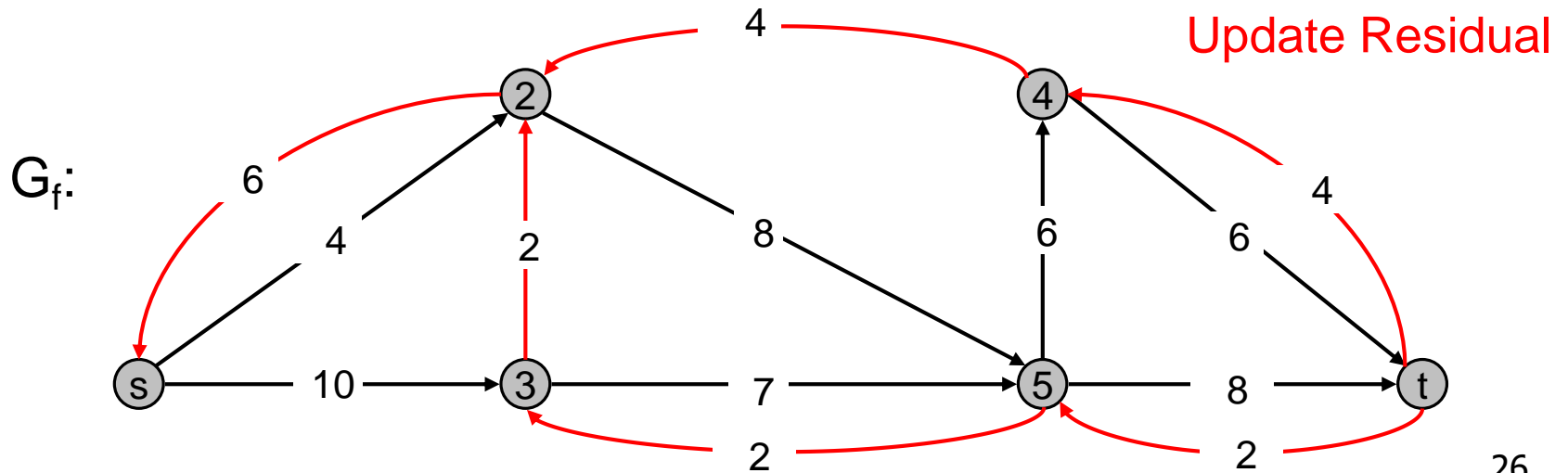
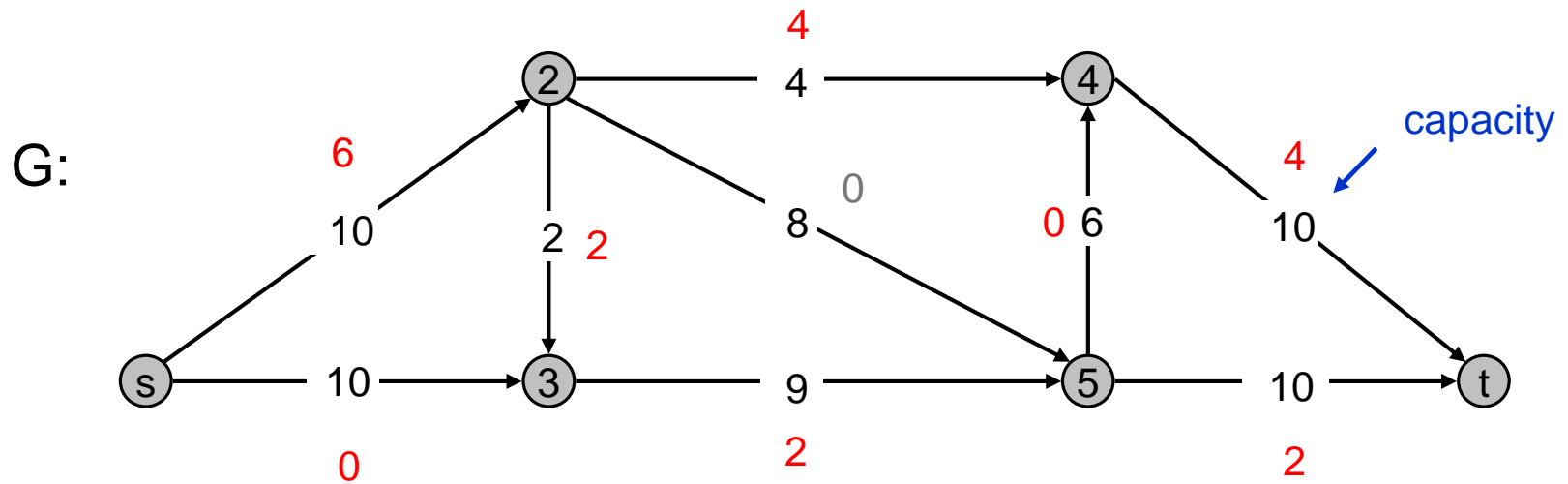
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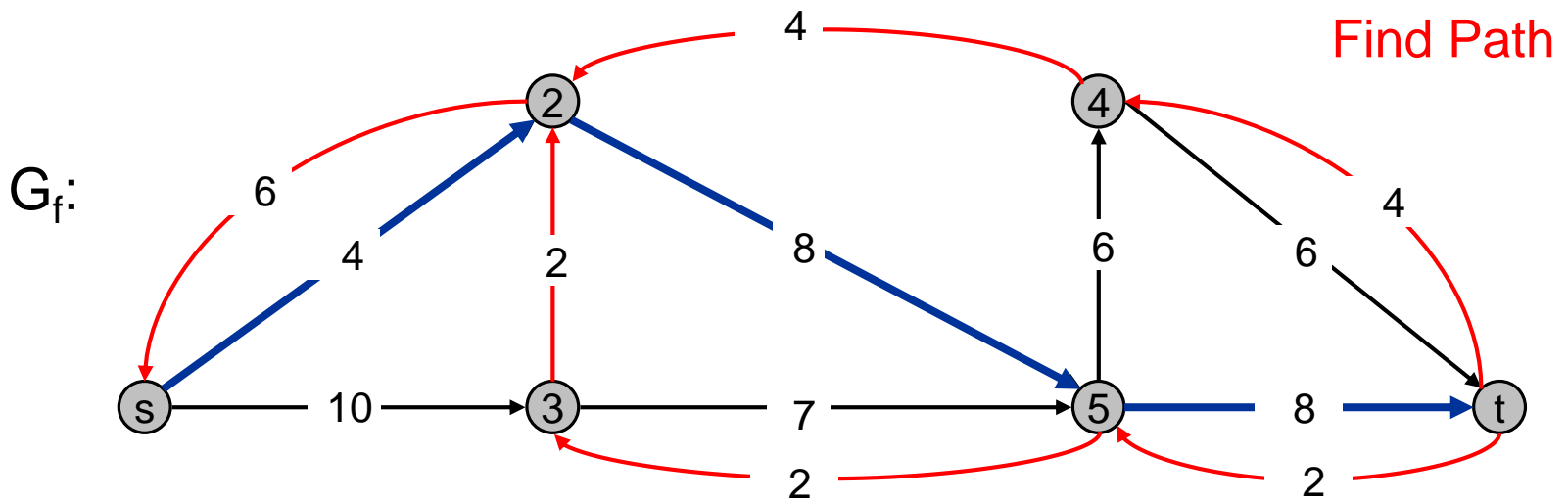
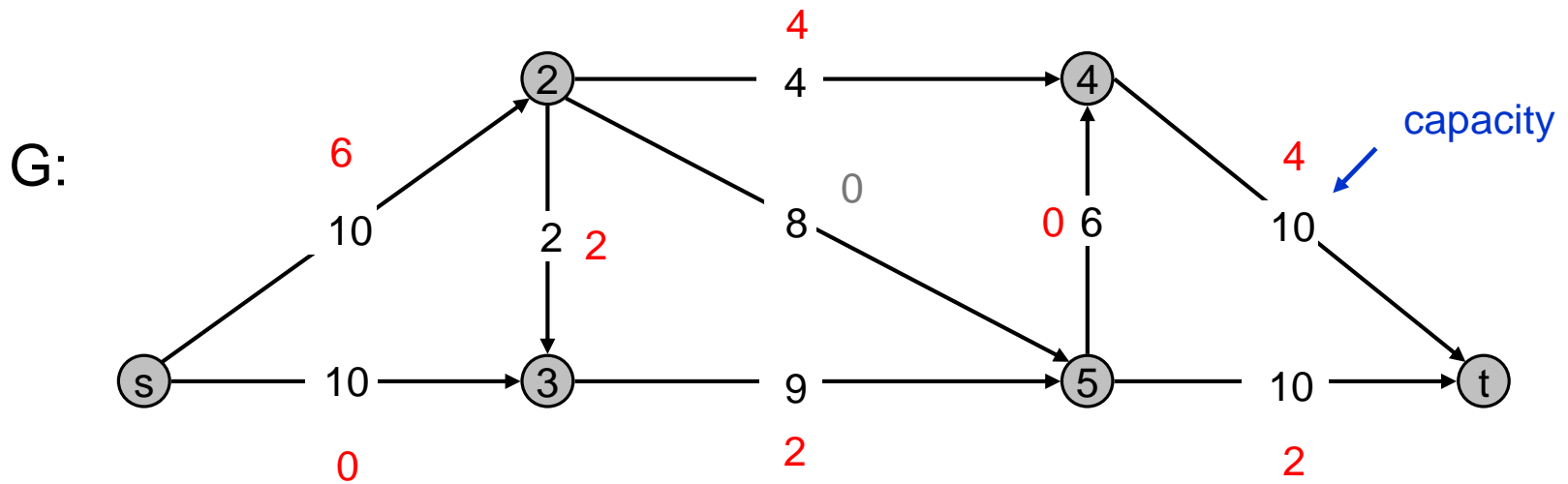
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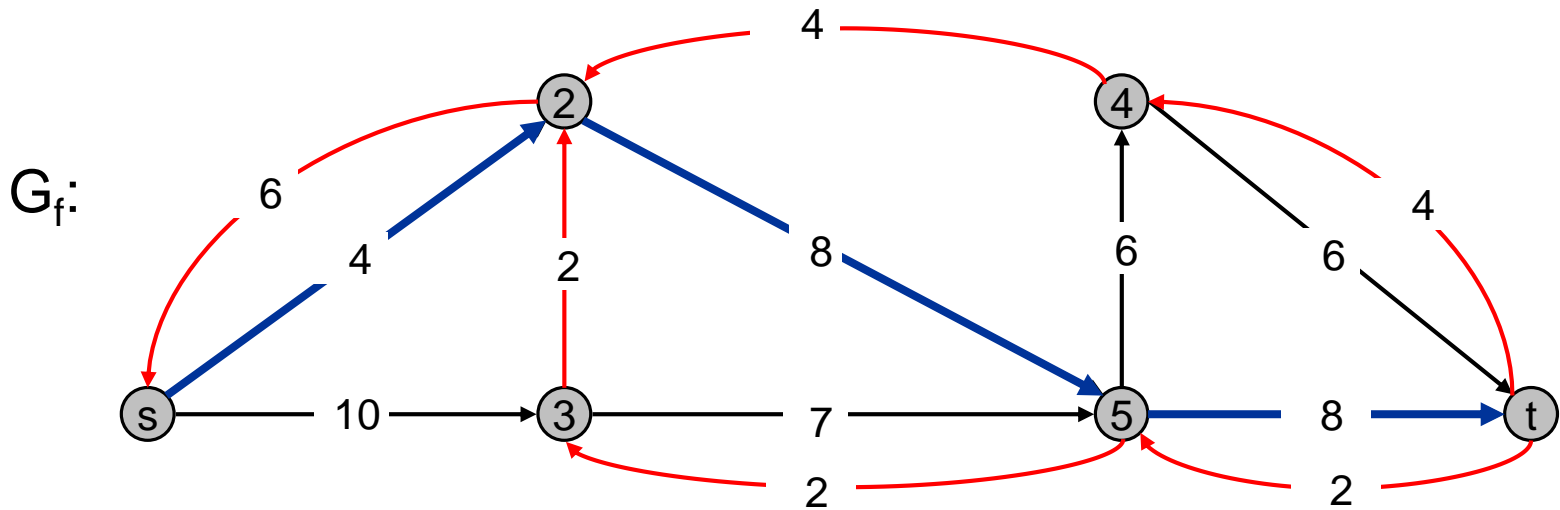
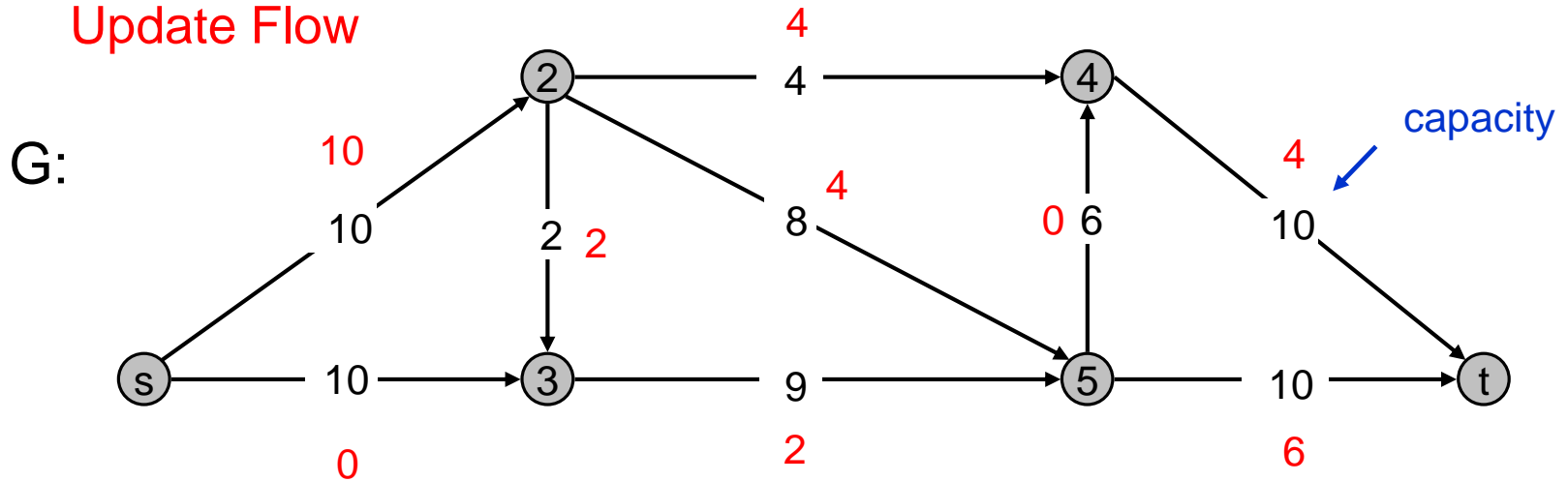


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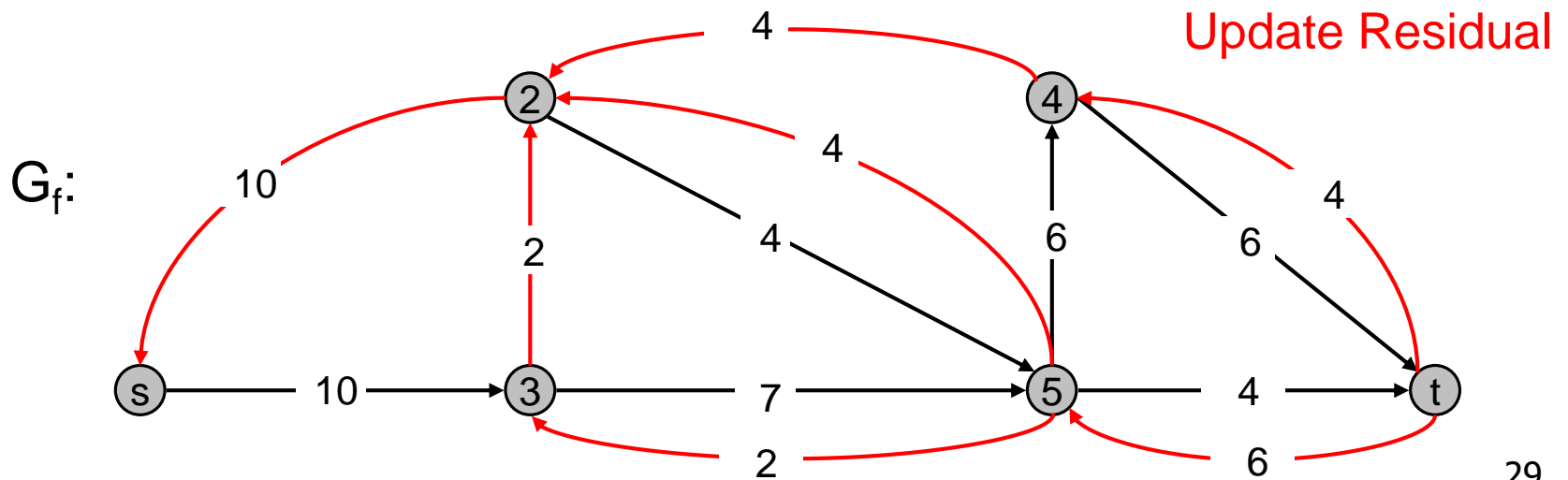
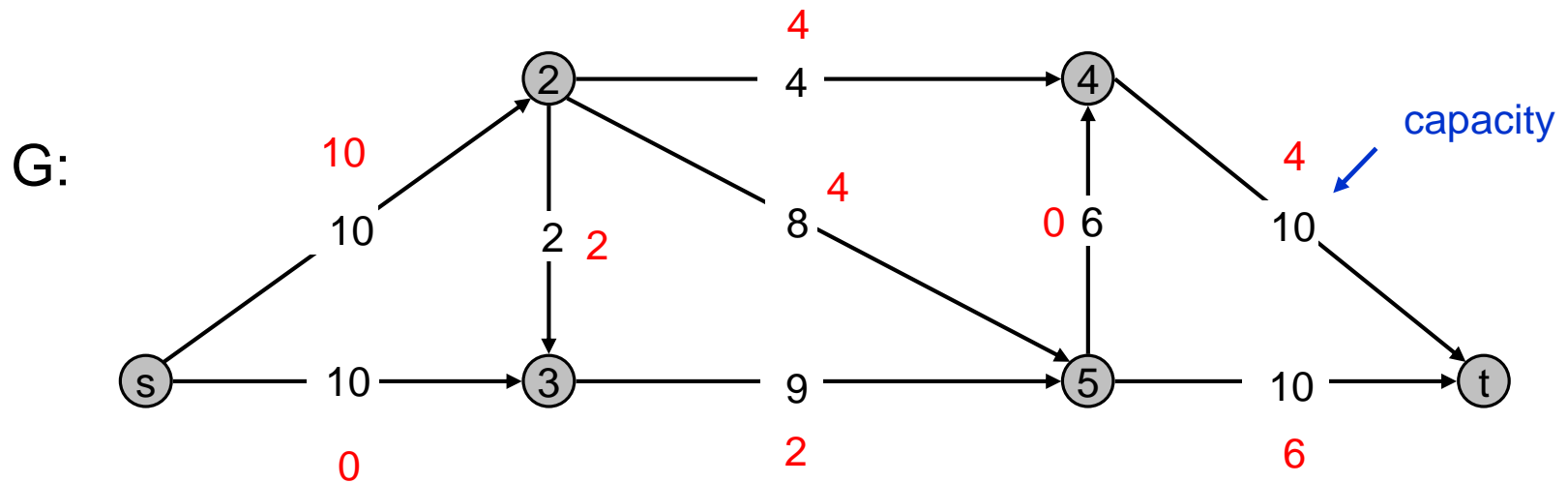


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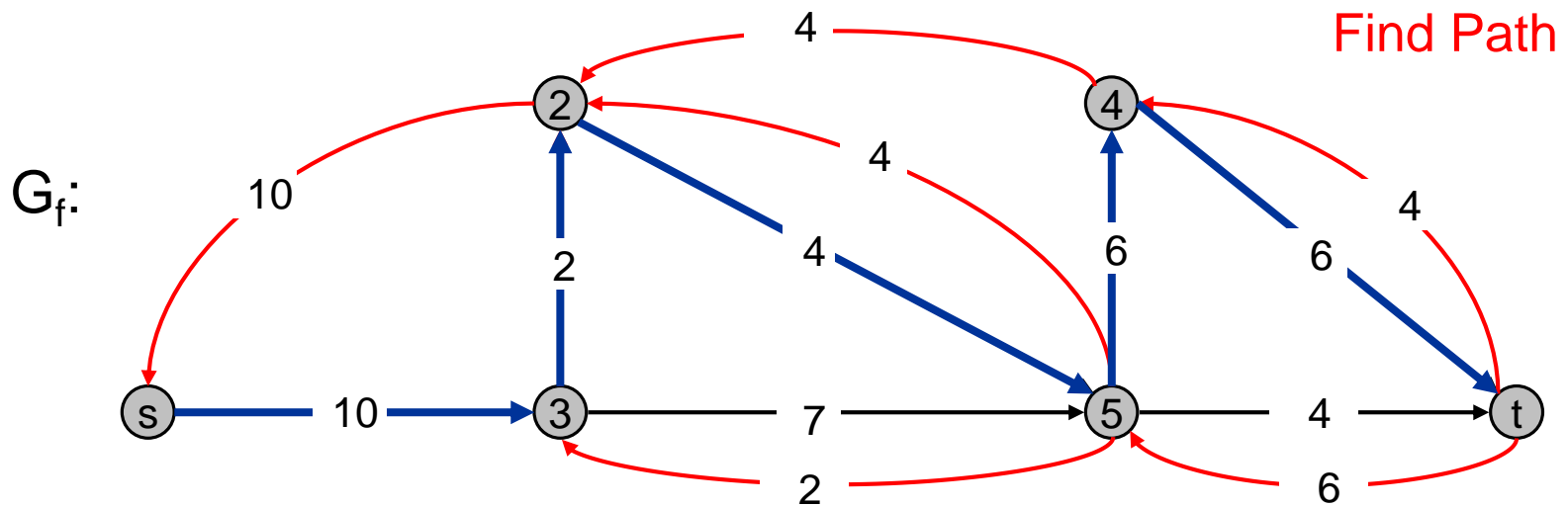
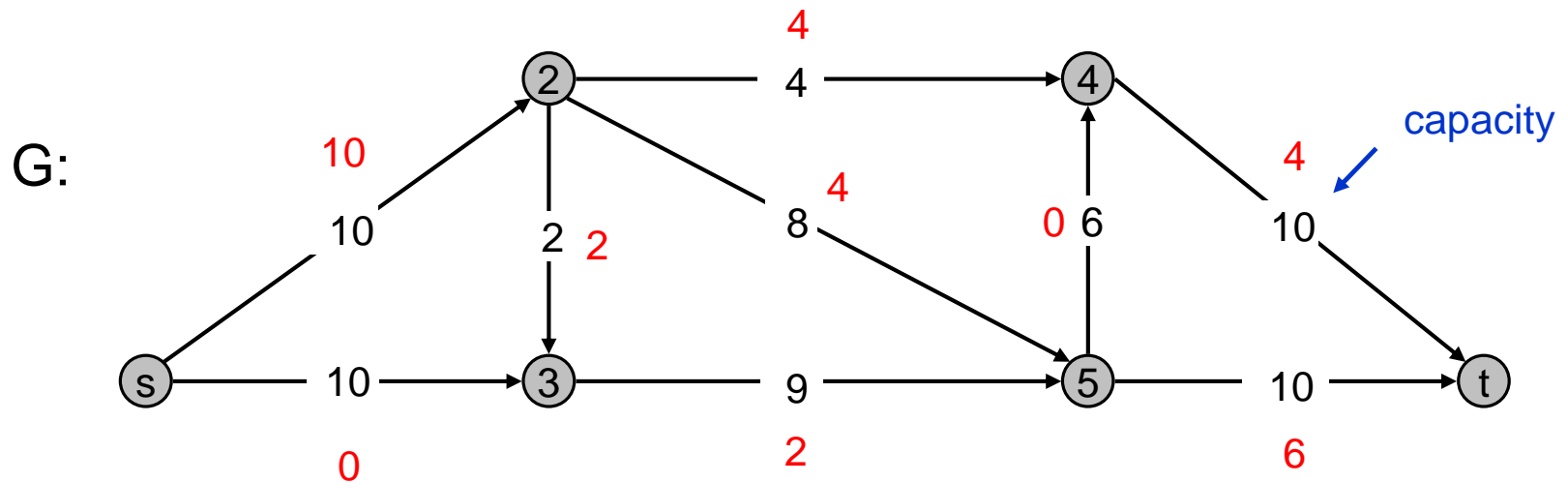
Update Flow



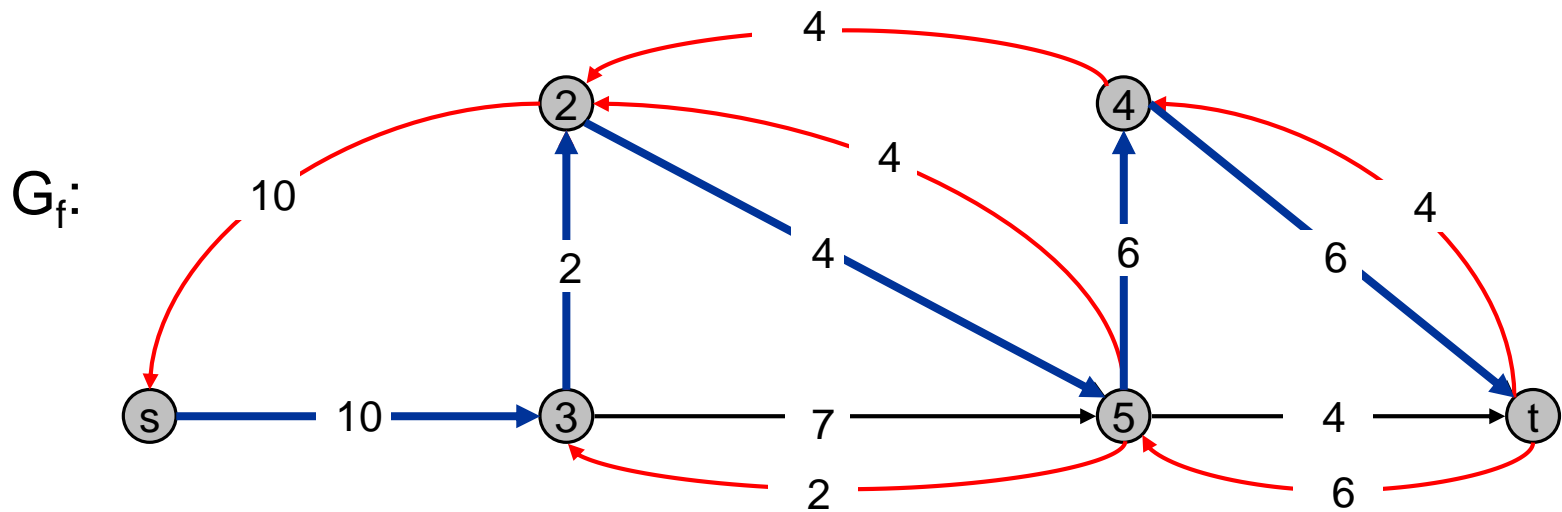
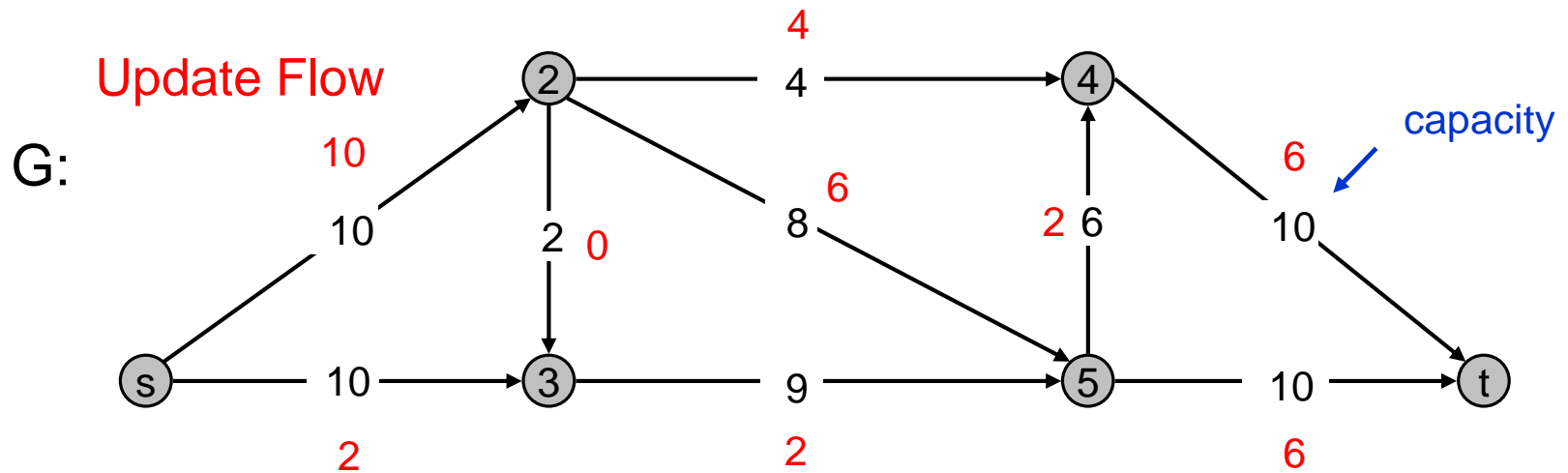
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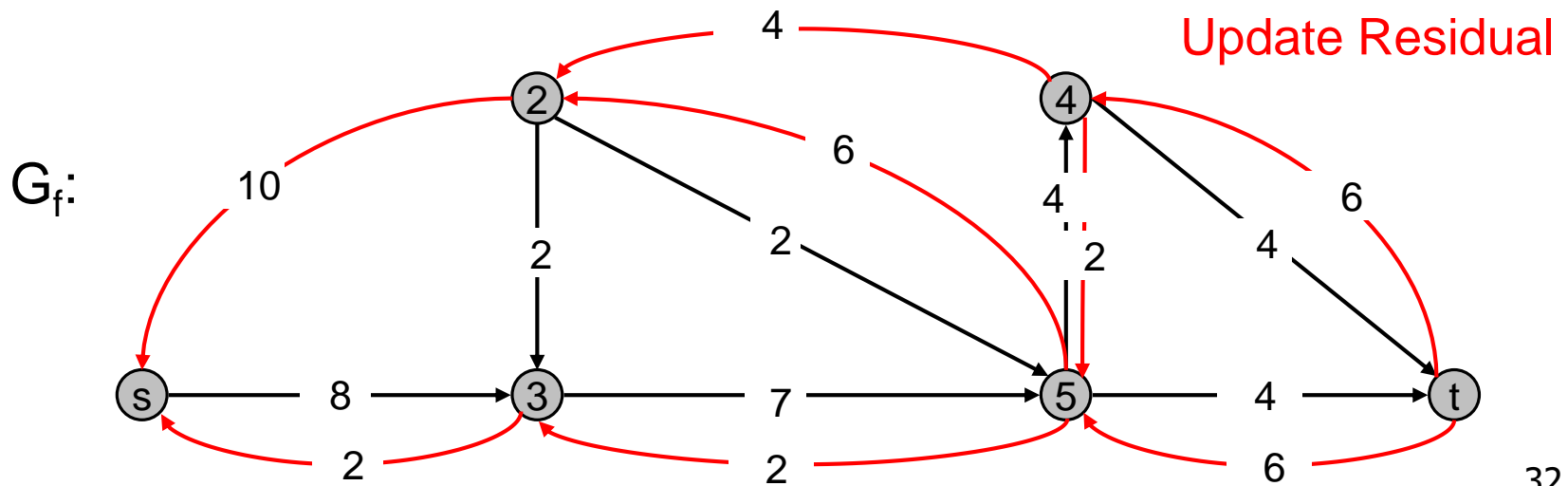
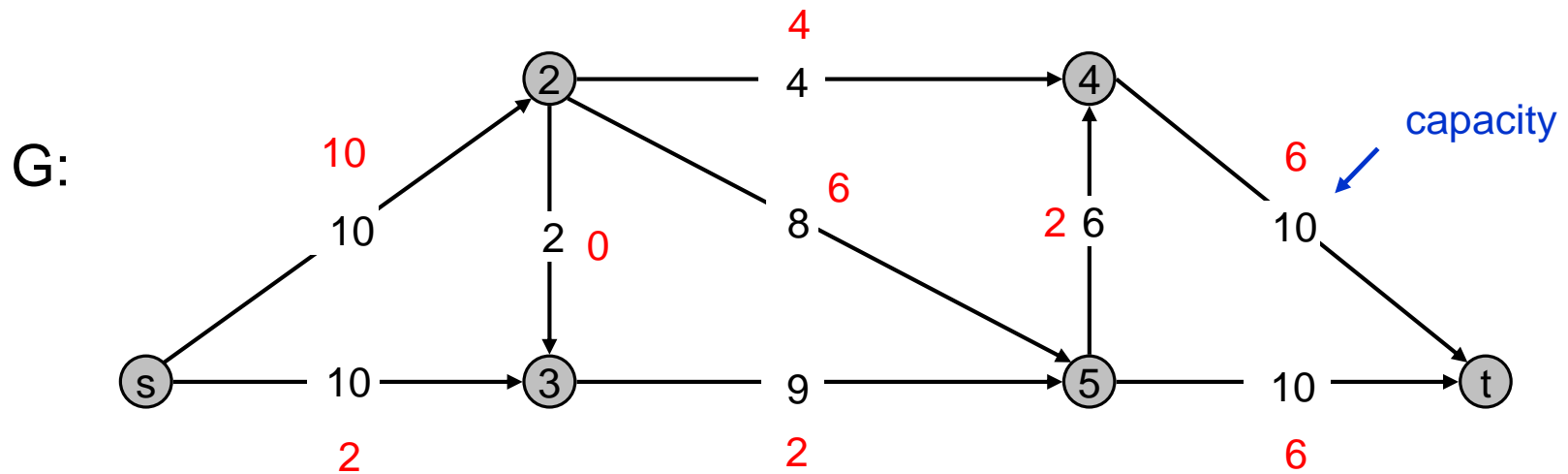
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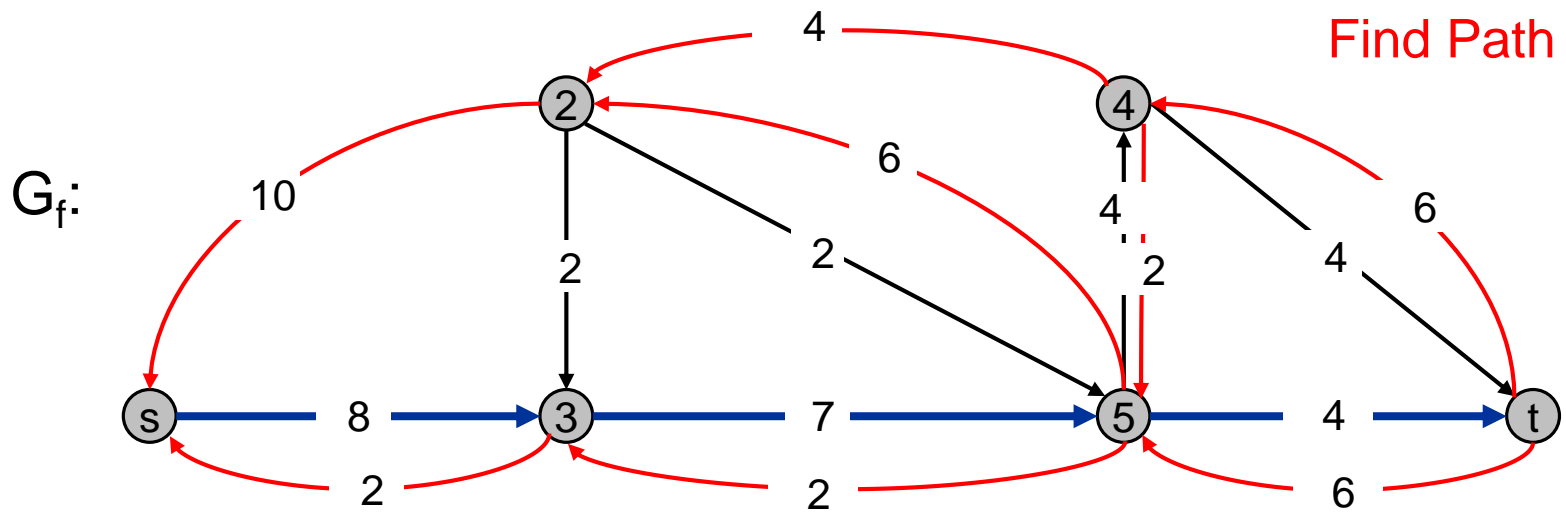
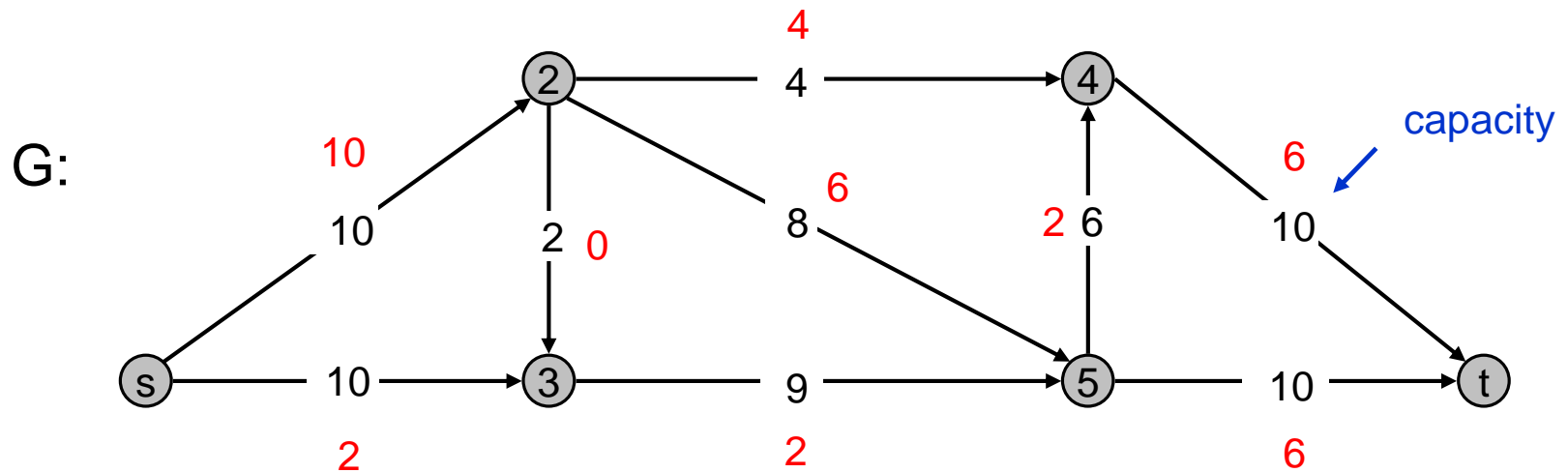
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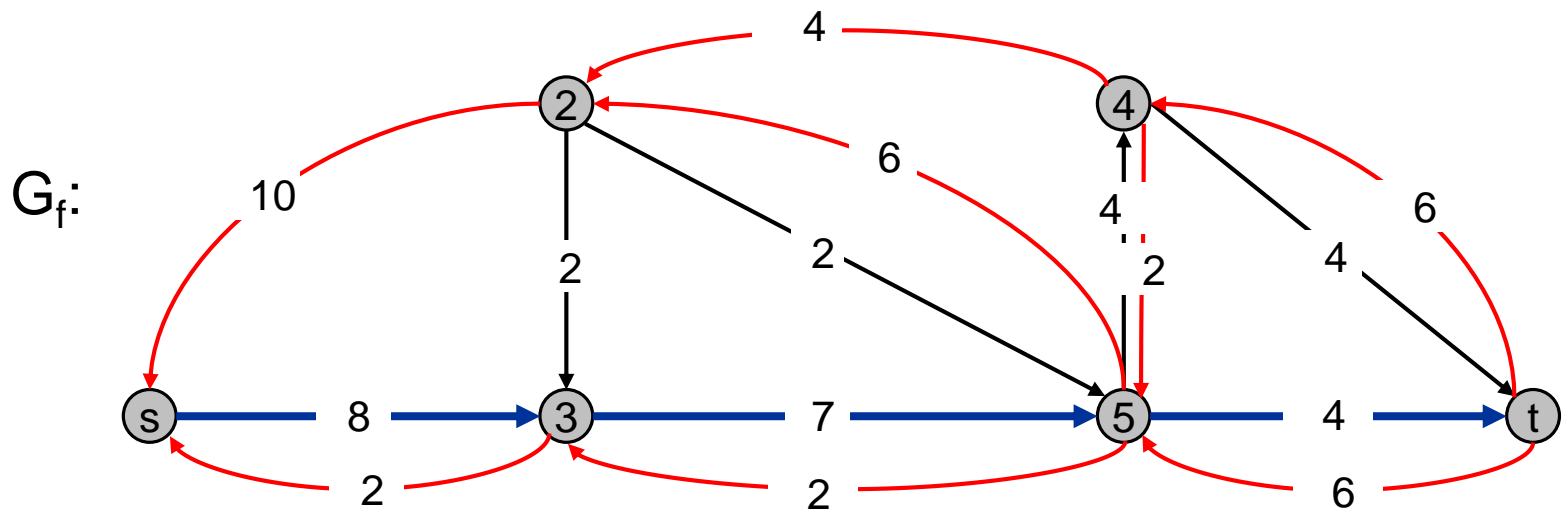
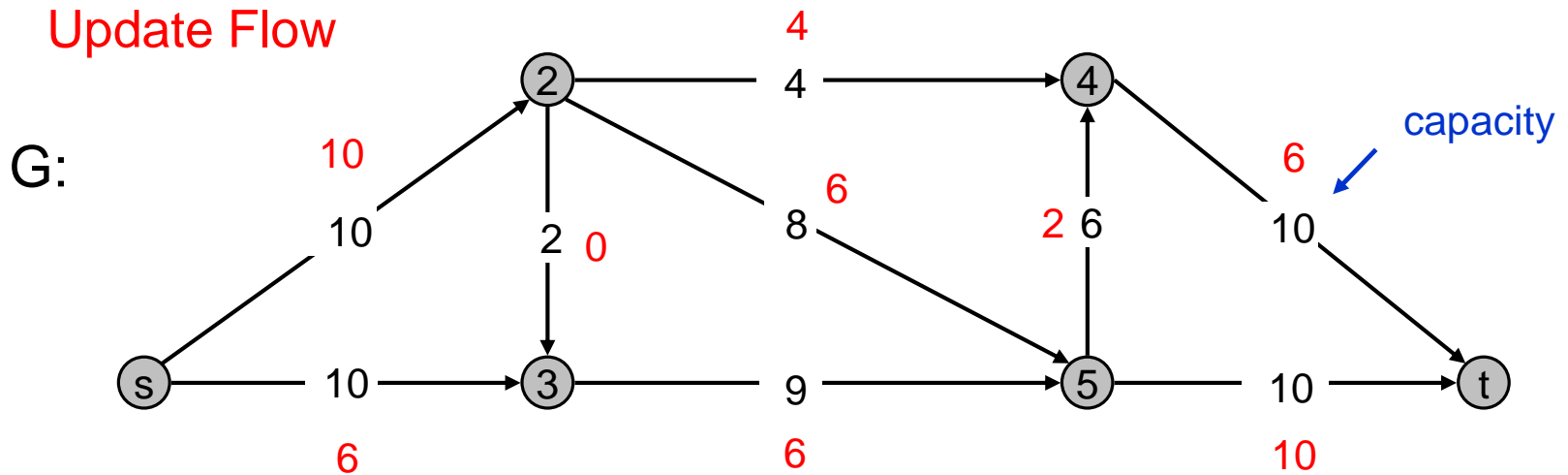


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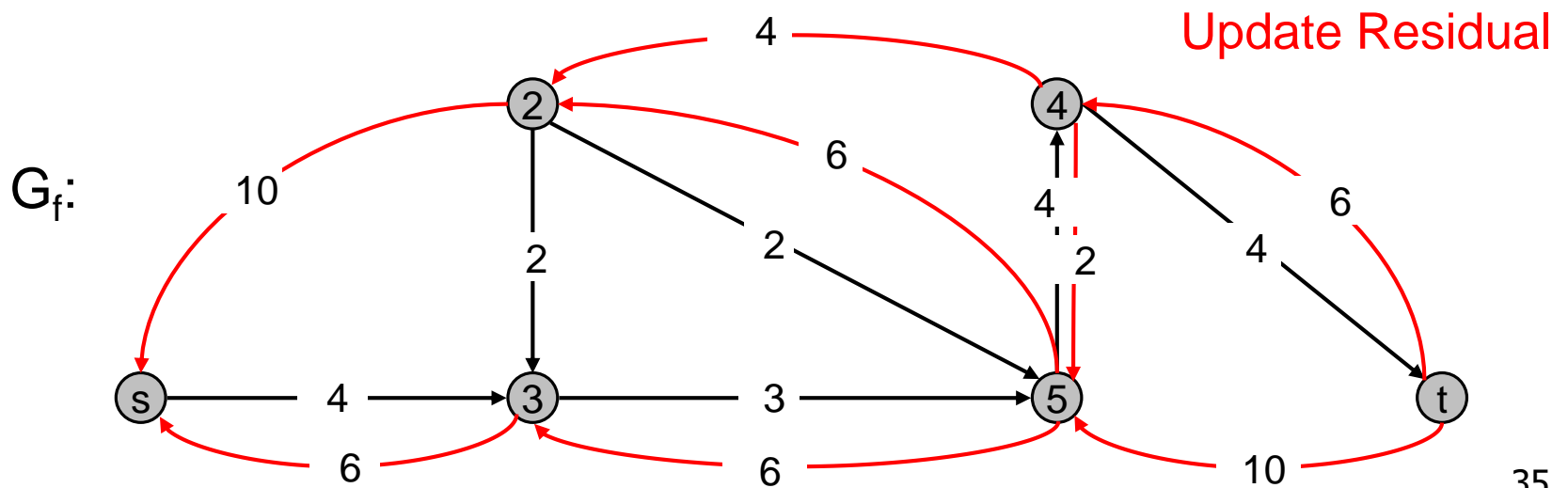
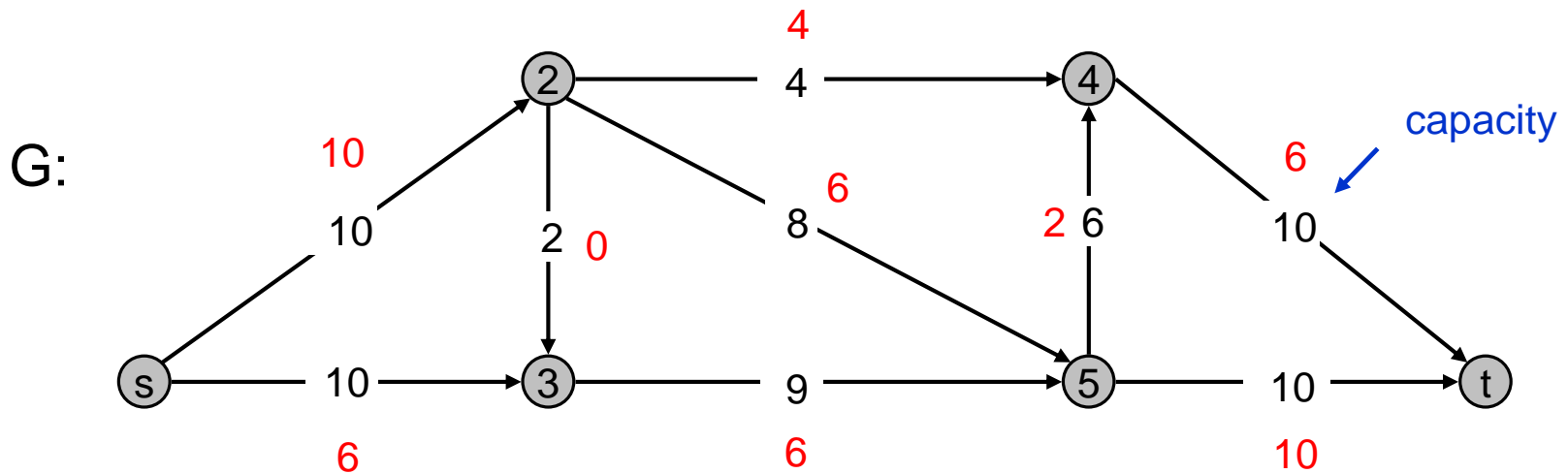


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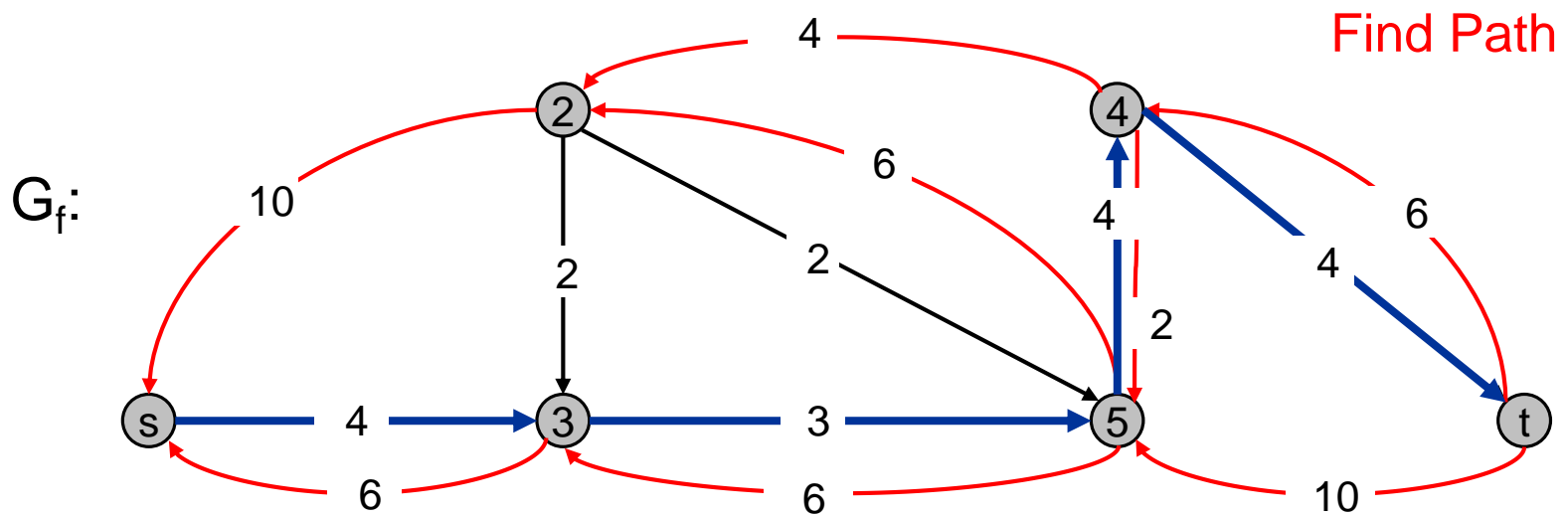
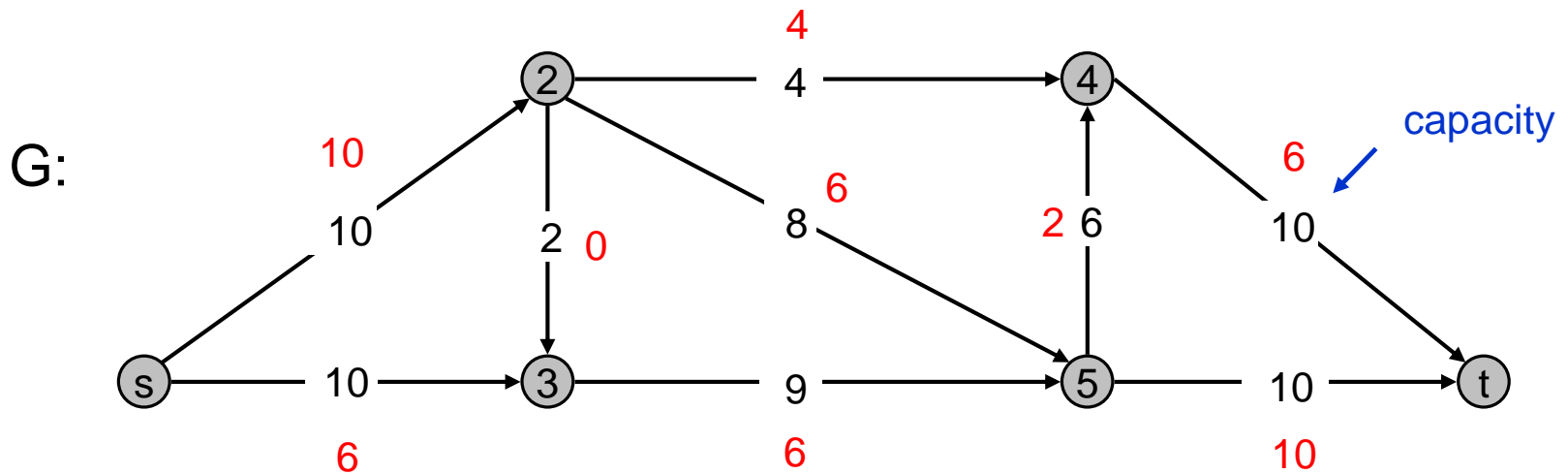
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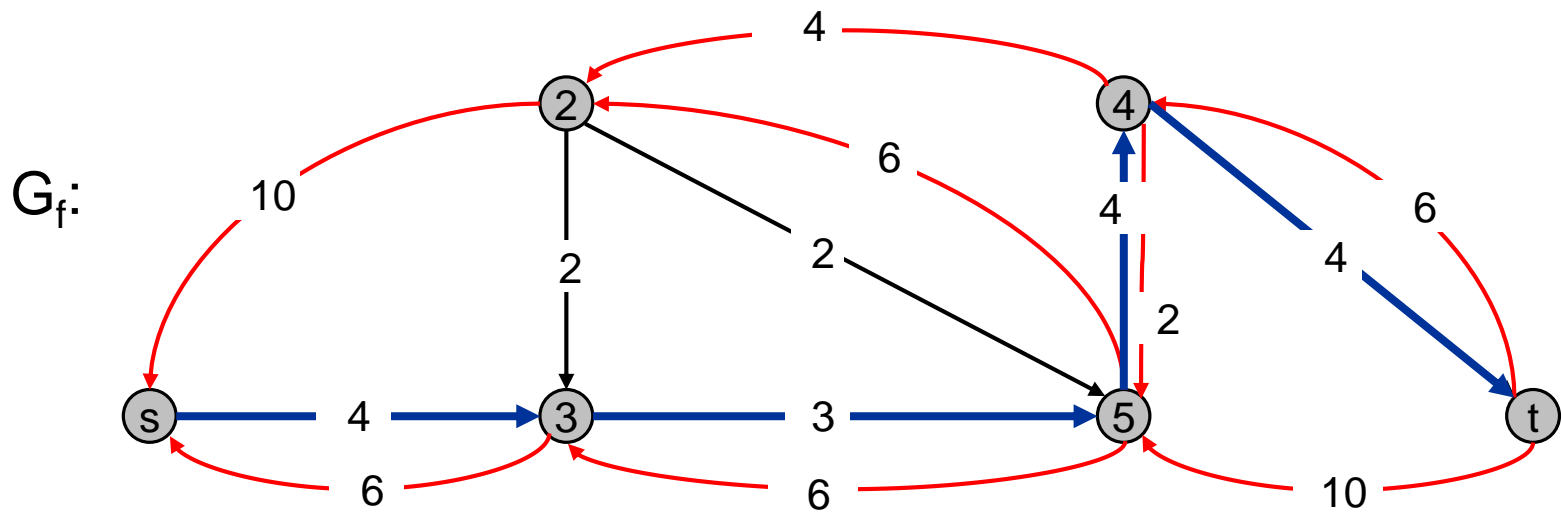
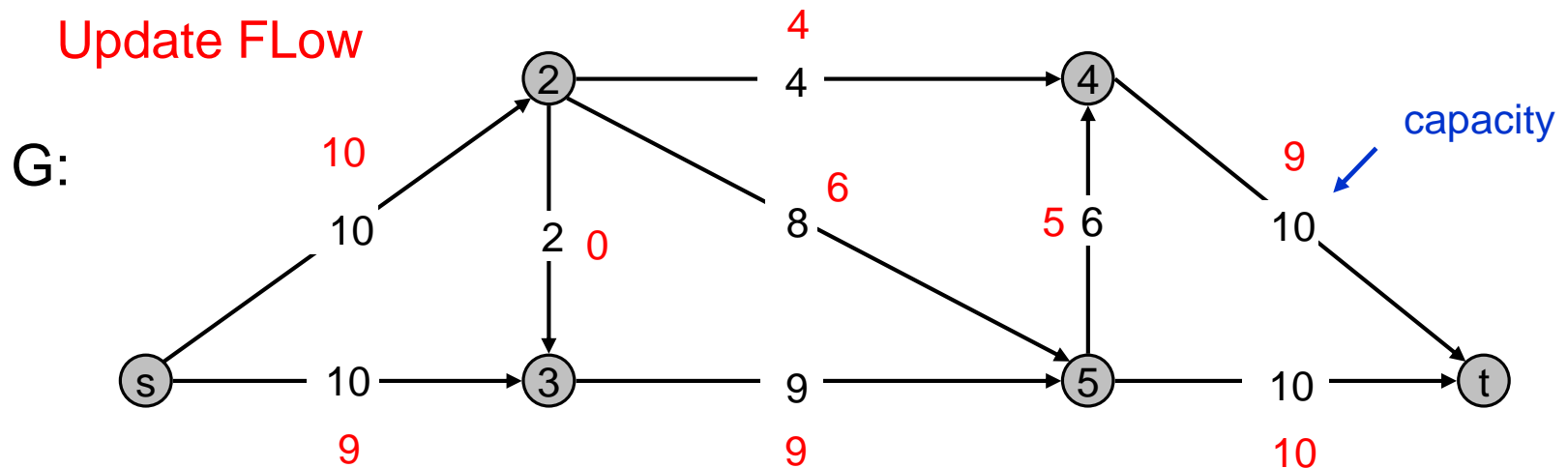
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