

More analysis

Lemma: Let f be a feasible non-optimal flow. Let X be the minimum mean cycle in G_f . Then there exist π s.t.

$$c^\pi(v, w) = \mu(f) = -\epsilon(f) \quad \forall (v, w) \in X$$

s -1
 $\sum_{i=1}^n c'(v, w) = c(v, w) + 1$

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Progress

Lemma: Let f be a feasible non-optimal flow. Let X be the minimum mean cycle in G_f . Suppose we push flow around X to obtain f' . Then $\epsilon(f') \leq \epsilon(f) = \epsilon$

edge(s)
leave G_f .
That cannot
increase ϵ

$c^\pi(v, w) = -c^\pi(w, v)$


Any new cycle in $G_{f'}$ has at least one
edge w/ $c^\pi = \epsilon$ and all others $\geq -\epsilon$. \therefore mean is $> -\epsilon$.

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Summary

- In m iterations, ϵ decreases by a $1 - 1/n$ factor.
- In nm iterations, ϵ decreases by a $(1 - 1/n)^n \approx 1/e$ factor.
- Initially $\epsilon \leq C$
- We stop when $\epsilon \leq 1/n$
- Decrease by a factor of $e \ln(nC)$ times.
- Therefore, number of iterations is $O(nm \log(nC))$
- Running time is $O(n^2 m^2 \log(nC))$

Nice feature of algorithm: No explicit scaling. Explicit scaling enforces a lower bound.

Handwritten notes:
 $\lg C$ added a bit to the capacity


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Strongly Polynomial Algorithm

- Recall that strongly polynomial means polynomials in n and m and “independent” of C and U .
- We have seen strongly polynomial algorithms for maximum flow.
- No strongly polynomial algorithm is known for linear programming.
- No strongly polynomial algorithm is known for multicommodity flow.
- We will see a strongly polynomial algorithm for minimum cost flow, one of the “hardest” problems for which such an algorithm exists.
- Strongly polynomial is mainly a theoretical issue.

Theorem: The minimum mean cycle algorithm runs in $O(n^2 m^3 \log n)$ time.

Handwritten notes:
 s.p. max flow multi LP
 strong poly } don't know

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Measured Progress

Lemma: Let f be a feasible non-optimal flow. Suppose that we execute m iterations of the minimum-mean cycle algorithm to obtain f' . Then, if the algorithm has not terminated, we have that

$$\epsilon(f') \leq \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \epsilon(f)$$

PF Fix π from f

Case 1) each iteration cancels a cycle X
 $w \mid (\pi(v,w) \leq 0 \ \forall (v,w) \in X$.

Each iteration removes ^{at least one} an edge $w \mid (\pi(v,w) \leq 0$
 from res. graph,

and might insert edges $w \mid (\pi(v,w) \geq 0$ into res. graph.

After m iterations, flow f' and in $G_{f'}$ $(\pi(v,w) \geq 0$
 $\Rightarrow f'$ is optimal. $\forall (v,w) \in G_{f'}$.

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Case 2: Some iteration cancels a cycle X
 $w \mid (\pi(v,w) > 0$. for some $(v,w) \in X$.

Look at X .

This is the min mean cycle.

$$\mu(f) \geq \frac{-\epsilon|X| + 0}{|X|}$$

$$\geq \frac{-\epsilon(n)}{n}$$

$$= -\epsilon\left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)$$

Let f' be the flow after this iteration

$$\epsilon'(f) \leq \epsilon\left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)$$

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