

### How to choose augmenting paths?

- ▶ We need to find paths efficiently.
- ▶ We want to guarantee a small number of iterations.

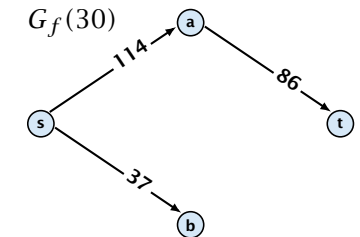
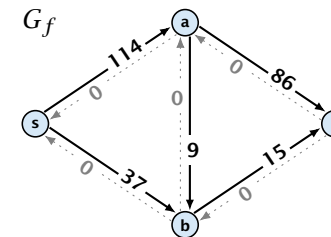
### Several possibilities:

- ▶ Choose path with maximum bottleneck capacity.
- ▶ Choose path with sufficiently large bottleneck capacity.
- ▶ Choose the shortest augmenting path.

## Capacity Scaling

### Intuition:

- ▶ Choosing a path with the highest bottleneck increases the flow as much as possible in a single step.
- ▶ Don't worry about finding the exact bottleneck.
- ▶ Maintain scaling parameter  $\Delta$ .
- ▶  $G_f(\Delta)$  is a sub-graph of the residual graph  $G_f$  that contains only edges with capacity at least  $\Delta$ .



## Capacity Scaling

### Algorithm 1 maxflow( $G, s, t, c$ )

```
1: foreach  $e \in E$  do  $f_e \leftarrow 0$ ;  
2:  $\Delta \leftarrow 2^{\lceil \log_2 C \rceil}$   
3: while  $\Delta \geq 1$  do  
4:    $G_f(\Delta) \leftarrow \Delta$ -residual graph  
5:   while there is augmenting path  $P$  in  $G_f(\Delta)$  do  
6:      $f \leftarrow \text{augment}(f, c, P)$   
7:     update( $G_f(\Delta)$ )  
8:    $\Delta \leftarrow \Delta/2$   
9: return  $f$ 
```

## Capacity Scaling

### Assumption:

All capacities are integers between 1 and  $C$ .

### Invariant:

All flows and capacities are/remain integral throughout the algorithm.

### Correctness:

The algorithm computes a maxflow:

- ▶ because of integrality we have  $G_f(1) = G_f$
- ▶ therefore after the last phase there are no augmenting paths anymore
- ▶ this means we have a maximum flow.

## Capacity Scaling

### Lemma 5

There are  $\lceil \log C \rceil + 1$  iterations over  $\Delta$ .

**Proof:** obvious.

### Lemma 6

Let  $f$  be the flow at the end of a  $\Delta$ -phase. Then the maximum flow is smaller than  $\text{val}(f) + m\Delta$ .

**Proof:** less obvious, but simple:

- ▶ There must exist an  $s$ - $t$  cut in  $G_f(\Delta)$  of zero capacity.
- ▶ In  $G_f$  this cut can have capacity at most  $m\Delta$ .
- ▶ This gives me an upper bound on the flow that I can still add.

## Capacity Scaling

### Lemma 7

There are at most  $2m$  augmentations per scaling-phase.

**Proof:**

- ▶ Let  $f$  be the flow at the end of the previous phase.
- ▶  $\text{val}(f^*) \leq \text{val}(f) + 2m\Delta$
- ▶ Each augmentation increases flow by  $\Delta$ .

### Theorem 8

We need  $\mathcal{O}(m \log C)$  augmentations. The algorithm can be implemented in time  $\mathcal{O}(m^2 \log C)$ .