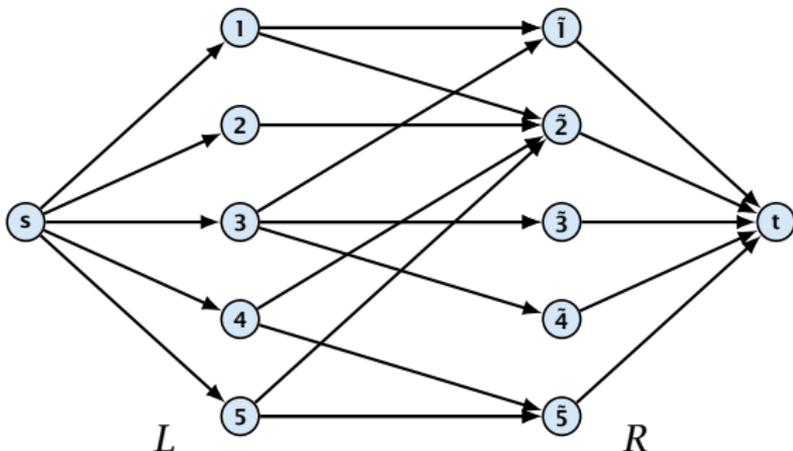


17 Bipartite Matching via Flows

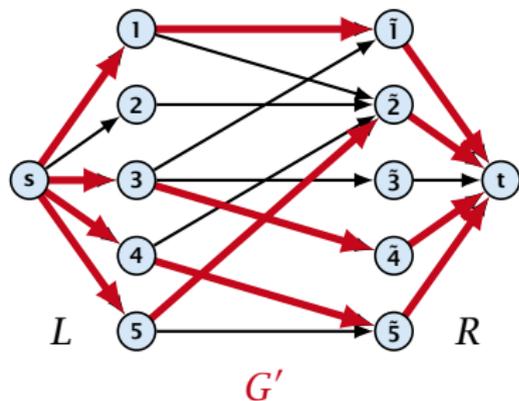
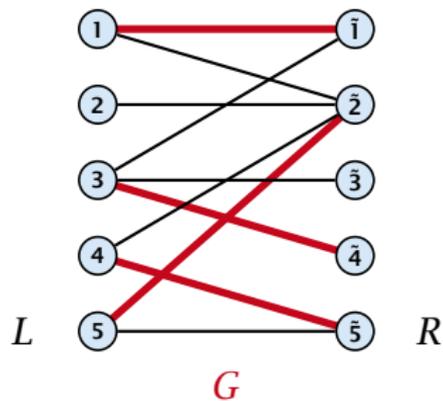
- ▶ Input: undirected, bipartite graph $G = (L \uplus R \uplus \{s, t\}, E')$.
- ▶ Direct all edges from L to R .
- ▶ Add source s and connect it to all nodes on the left.
- ▶ Add t and connect all nodes on the right to t .
- ▶ All edges have unit capacity.



Proof

Max cardinality matching in $G \leq$ value of maxflow in G'

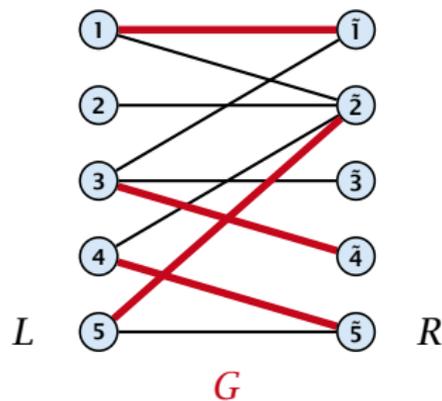
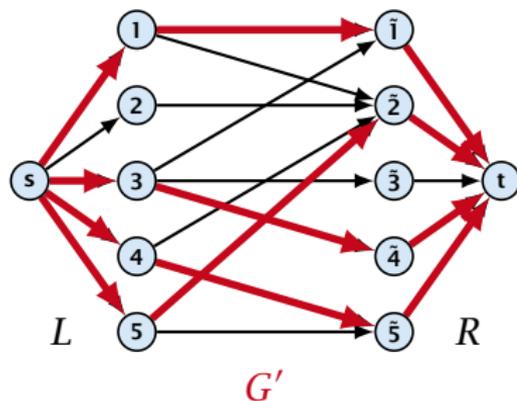
- ▶ Given a maximum matching M of cardinality k .
- ▶ Consider flow f that sends one unit along each of k paths.
- ▶ f is a flow and has cardinality k .



Proof

Max cardinality matching in $G \geq$ value of maxflow in G'

- ▶ Let f be a maxflow in G' of value k
- ▶ Integrality theorem $\Rightarrow k$ integral; we can assume f is 0/1.
- ▶ Consider $M =$ set of edges from L to R with $f(e) = 1$.
- ▶ Each node in L and R participates in at most one edge in M .
- ▶ $|M| = k$, as the flow must use at least k middle edges.



17 Bipartite Matching via Flows

Which flow algorithm to use?

- ▶ Generic augmenting path: $\mathcal{O}(m \text{val}(f^*)) = \mathcal{O}(mn)$.
- ▶ Capacity scaling: $\mathcal{O}(m^2 \log C) = \mathcal{O}(m^2)$.