



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING &  
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

# Network Flows

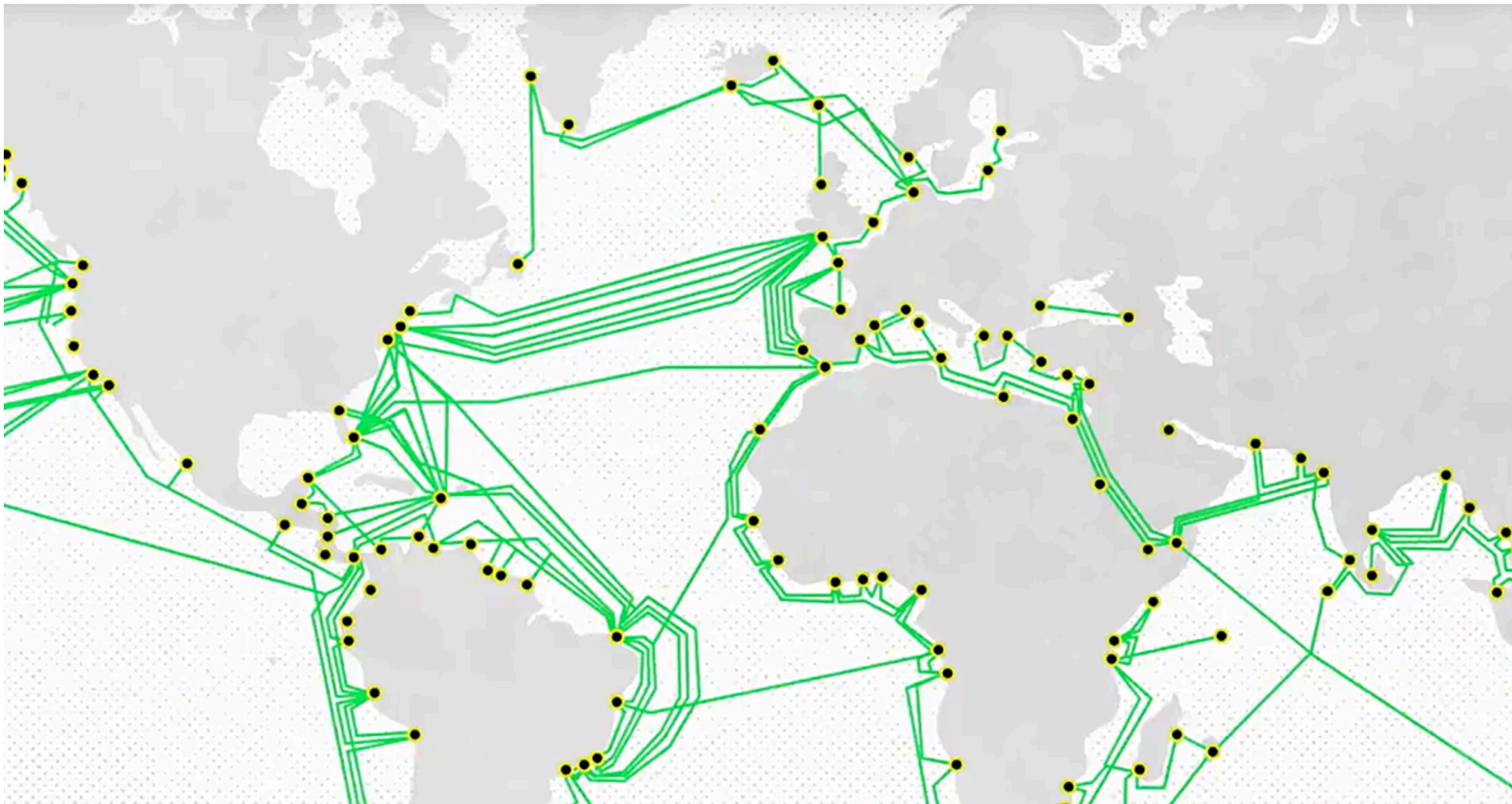
**Max flow / min cut: Ford-Fulkerson, part one**

# Network flow



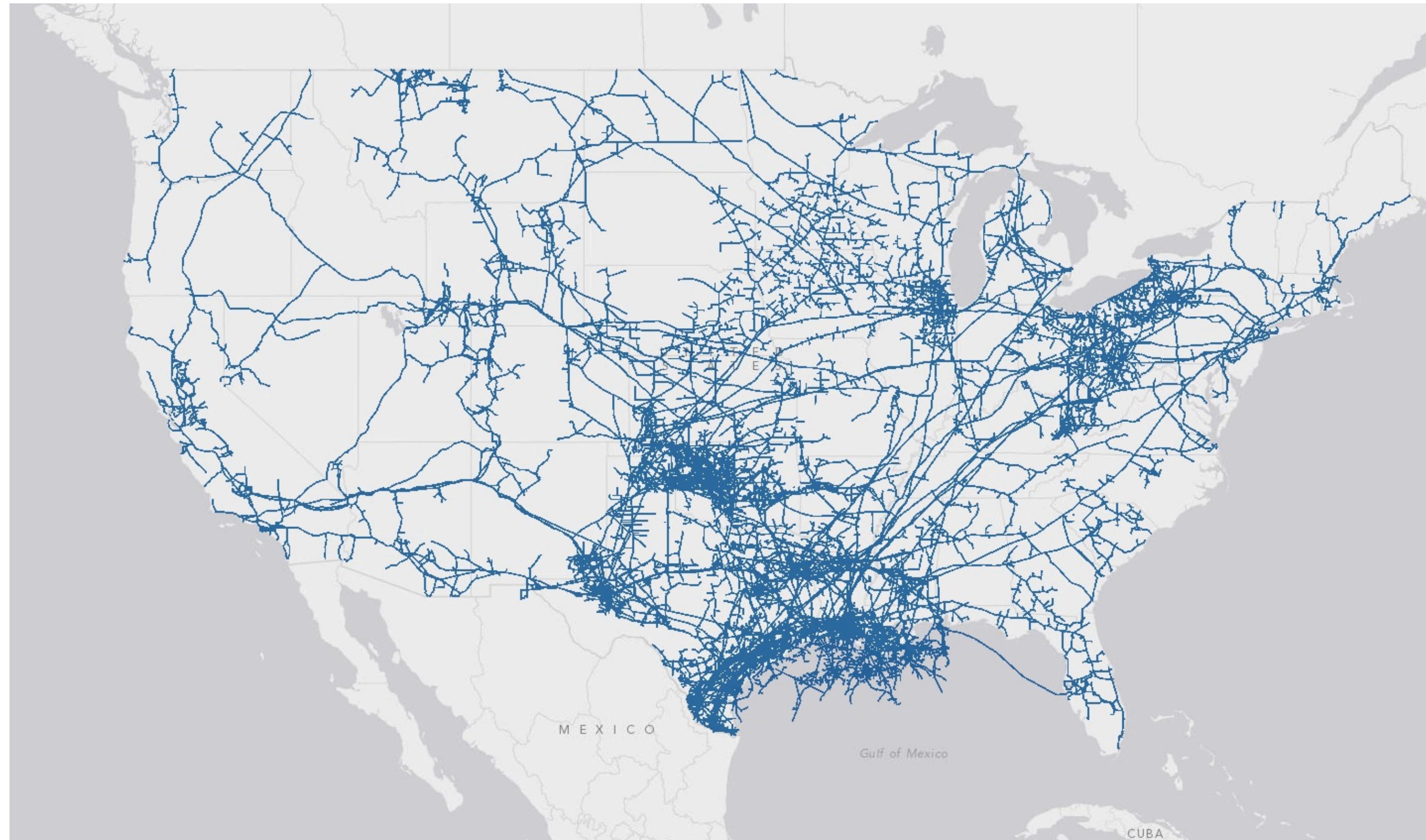
Source: Transport for London, [tfl.gov.uk](https://tfl.gov.uk)

# Network flow



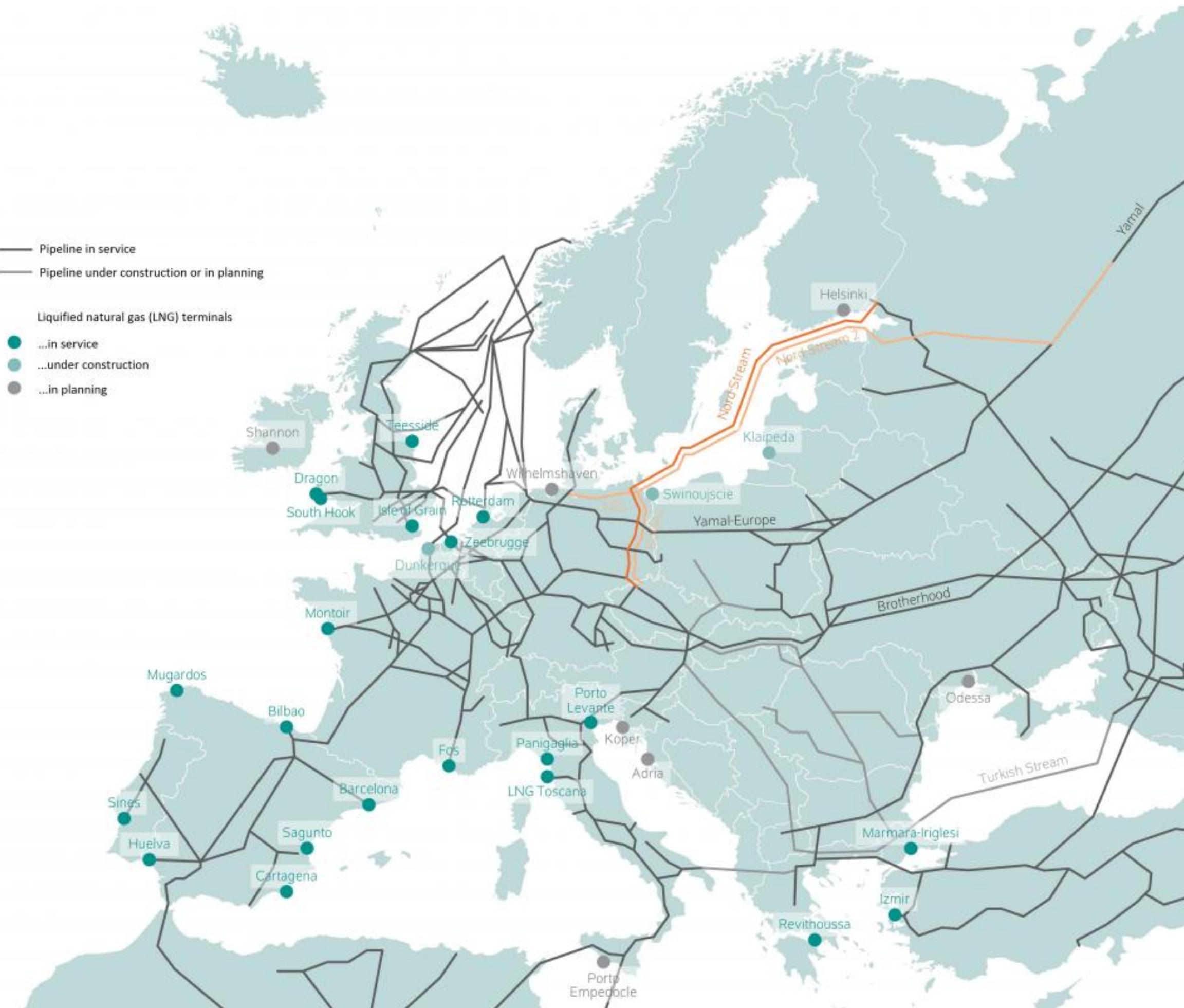
Source: The Visual Capitalist, <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/global-fiber-optic-cable-network-map.png>

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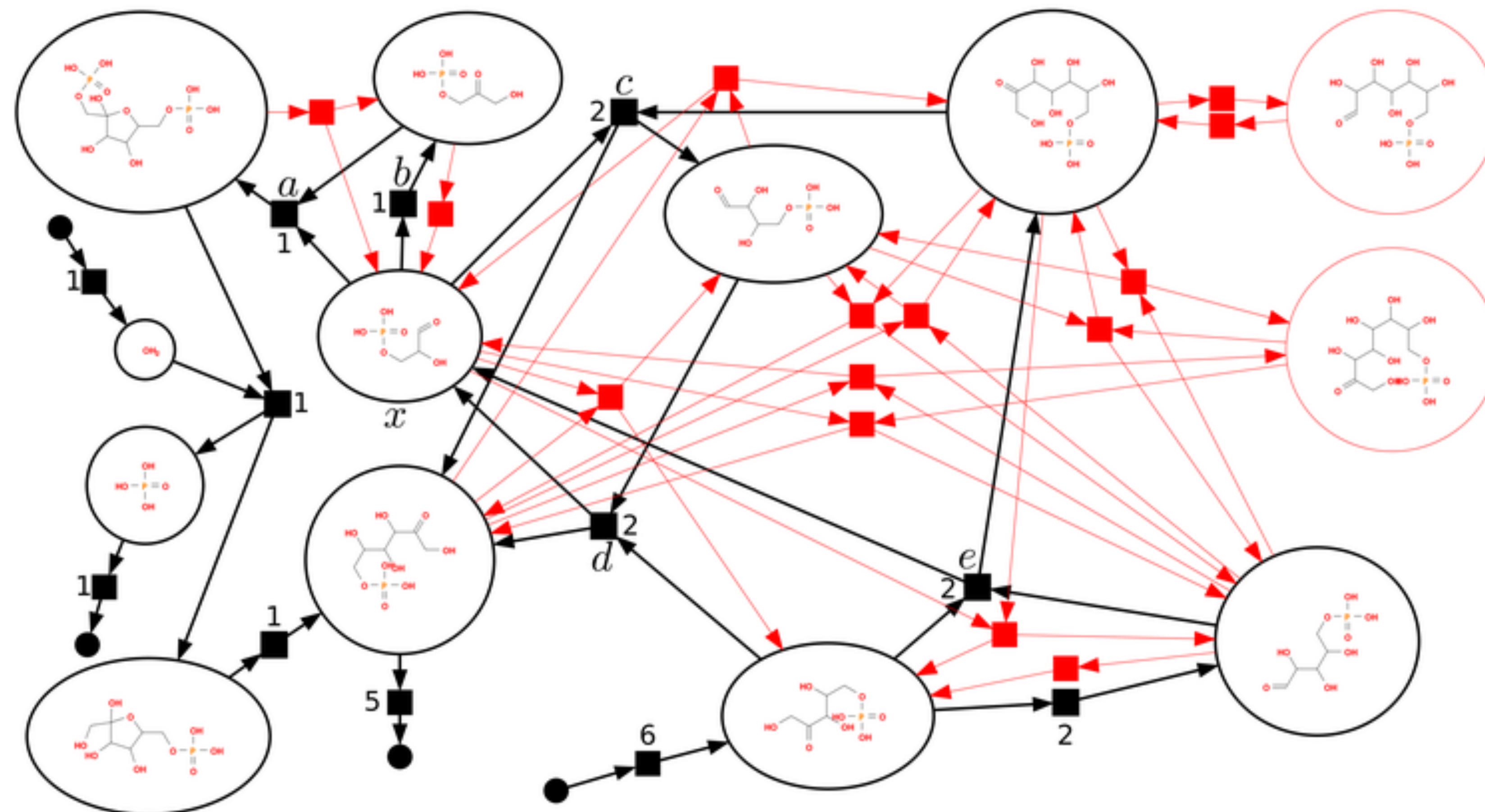
Source: Smithsonian Magazine,  
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/tour-the-countrys-energy-infrastructure-through-a-new-interactive-map-8844967/>

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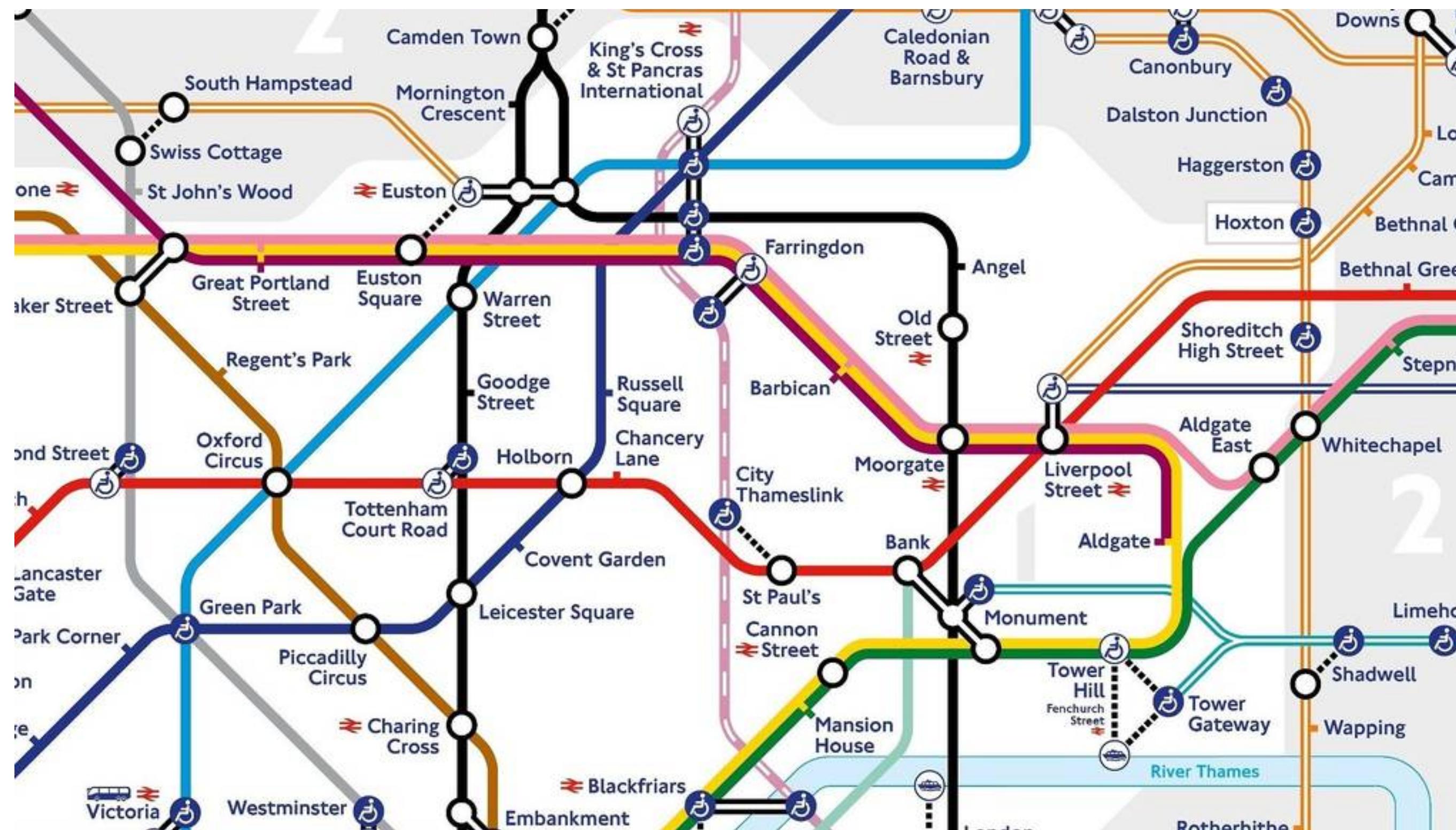
Source: DIW 2018, based on Kai-Olaf Lang and Kirsten Westphal, "Nord Stream 2 – Versuch einer politischen und wirtschaftlichen Einordnung," SWP Studie S21 (2016); ENTSO-G, Capacity Map (2017).

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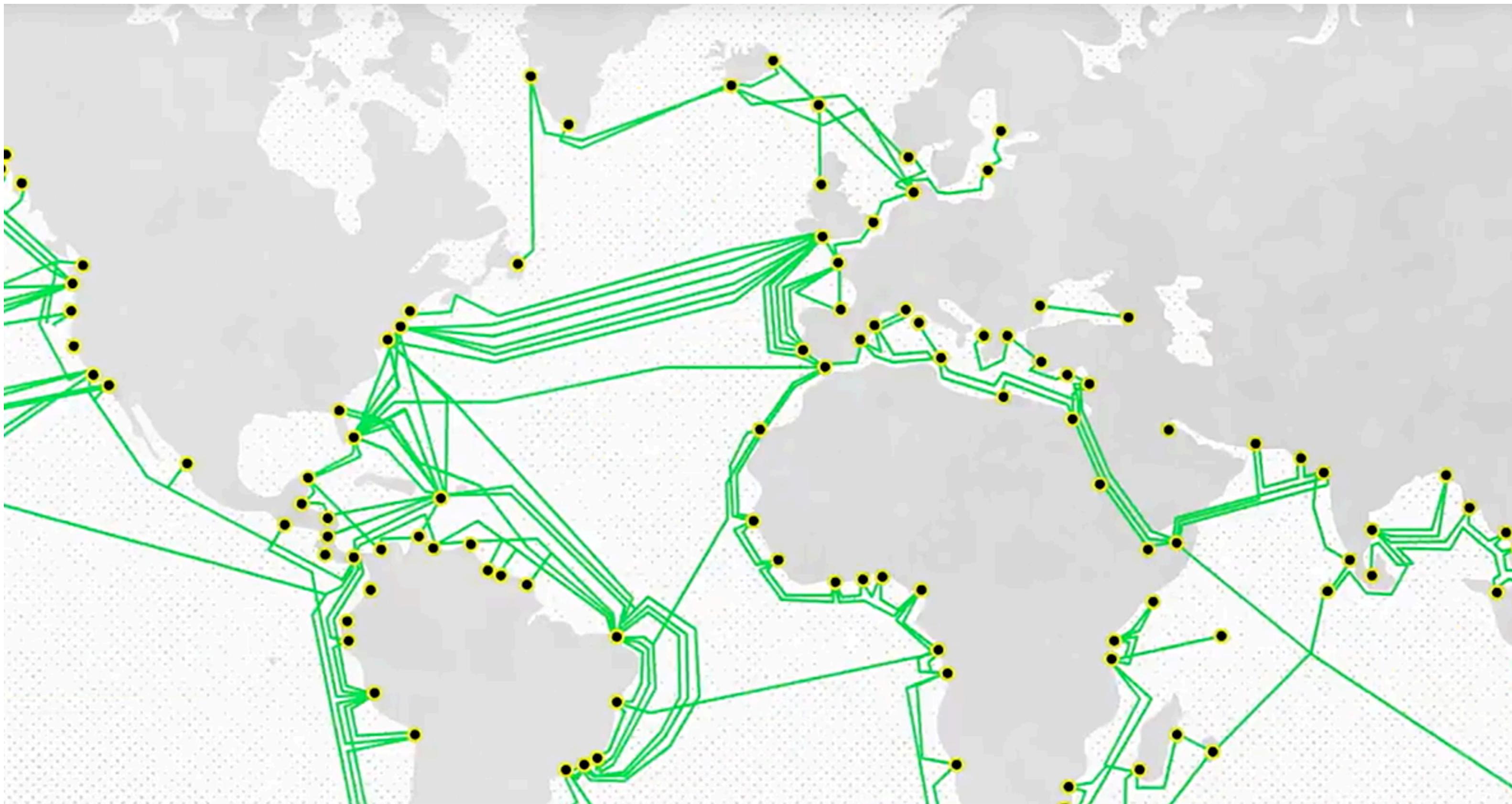
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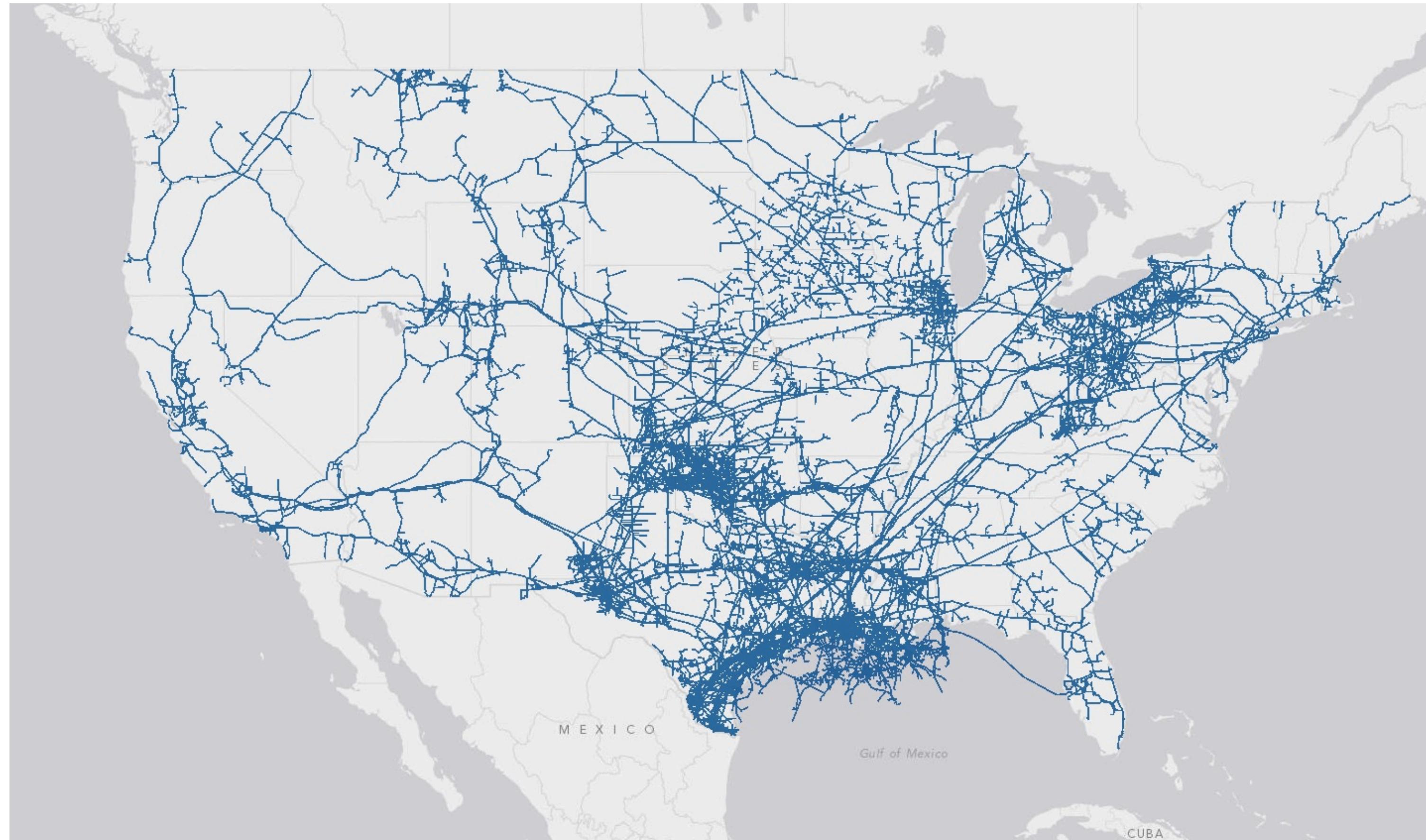
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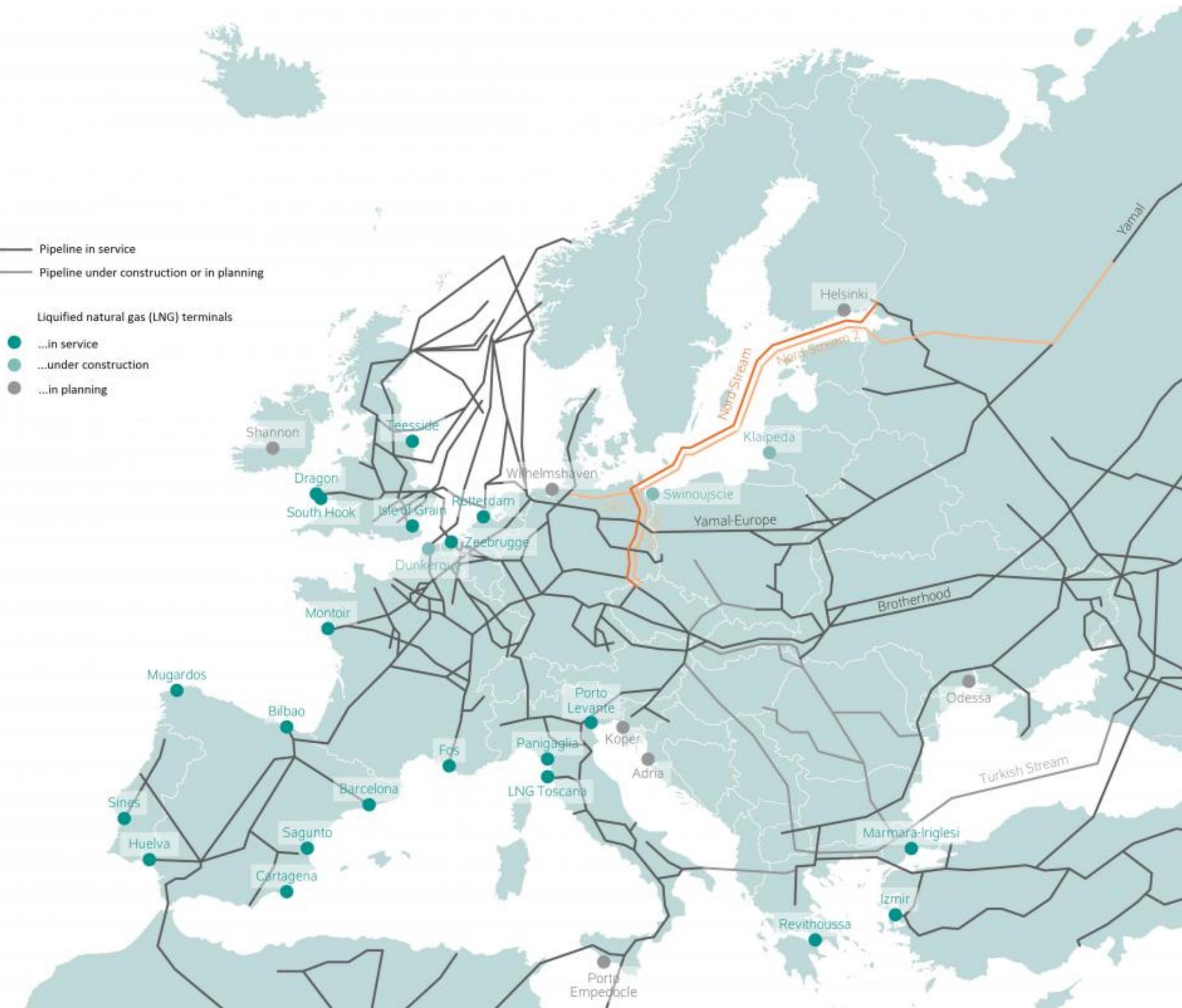
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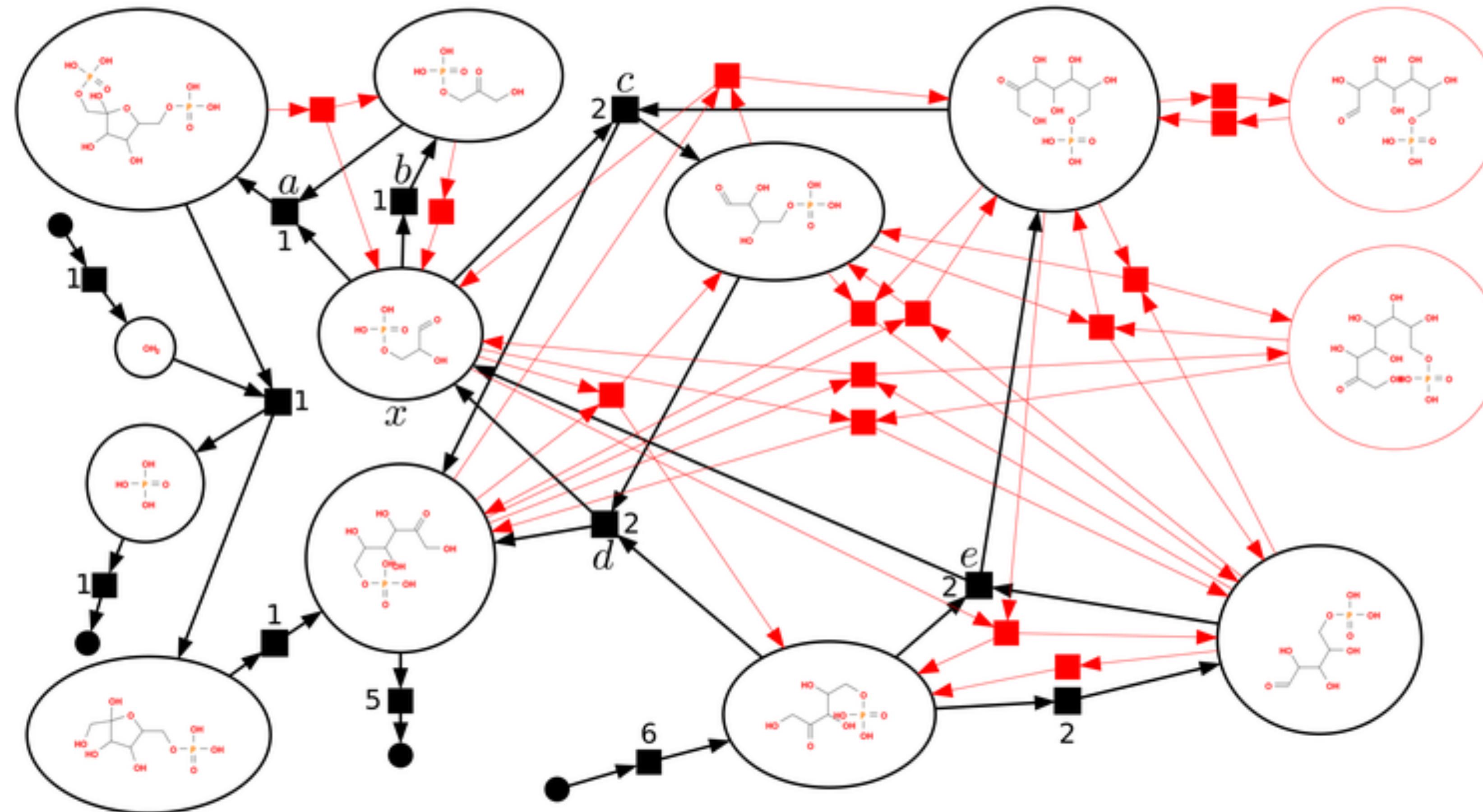
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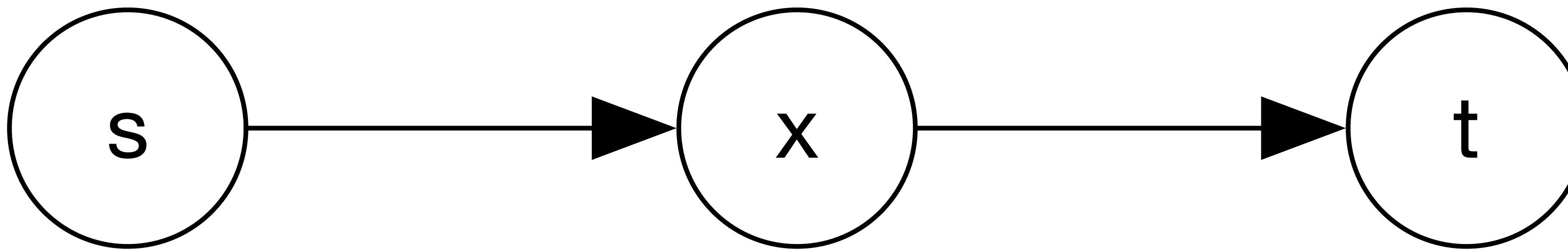
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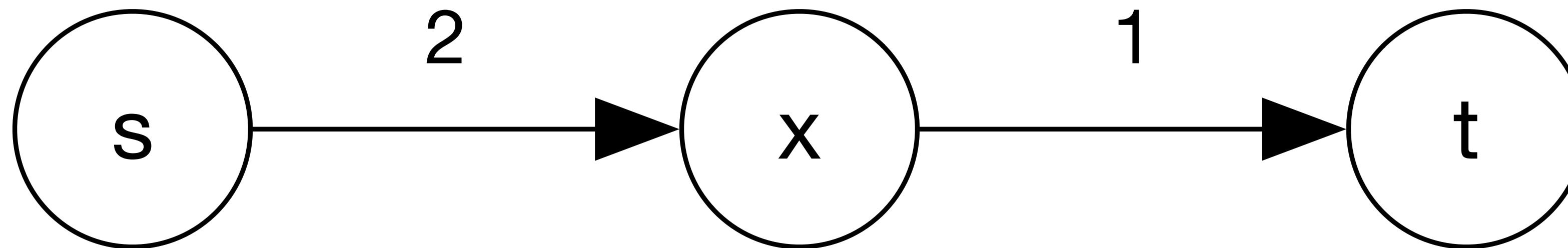
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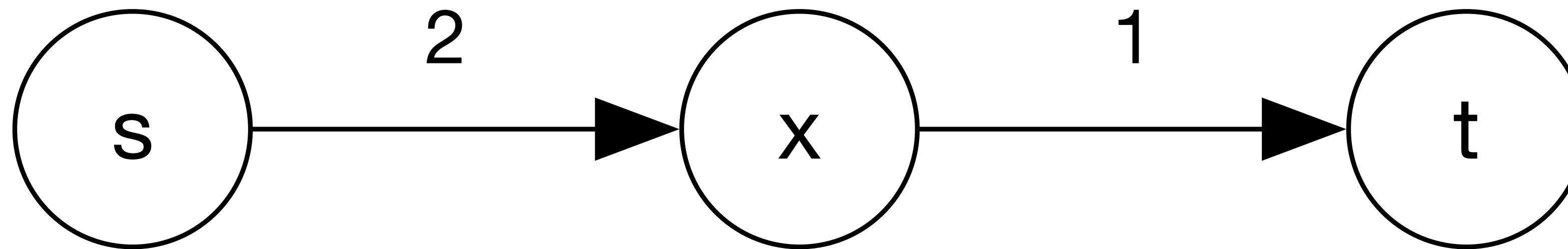


A very simple network!

# Network flow



# Network flow



# Network flow

$f_{u,v}$  is the flow from  $u$  to  $v$

# Network flow

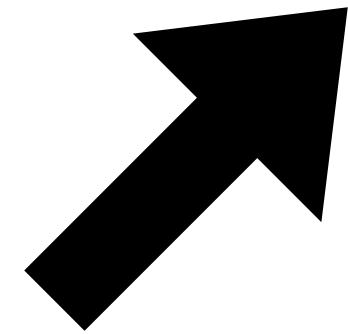
$f_{u,v}$  is the flow from  $u$  to  $v$

$$f_{u,v} \leq c_{u,v}$$

# Network flow

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flow

# Network flow

$f_{u,v}$  is the flow from  $u$  to  $v$

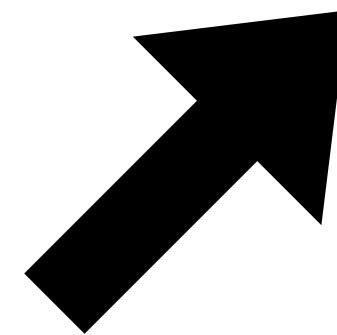
$$f_{u,v} \leq c_{u,v}$$


flow                      capacity

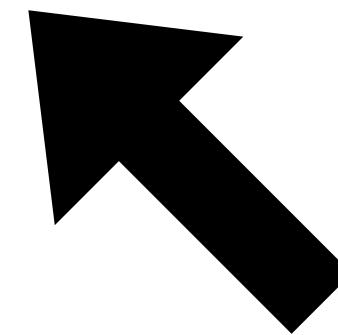
# Network flow

$f_{u,v}$  is the flow from  $u$  to  $v$

$$f_{u,v} \leq c_{u,v}$$



flow



capacity

flow across an edge cannot exceed capacity of the edge

# Network flow

$f_{u,v}$  is the flow from  $u$  to  $v$

$$f_{u,v} \leq c_{u,v}$$

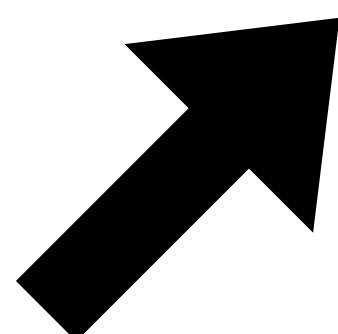
$$\sum_{u:(u,v) \in E} f_{u,v} = \sum_{w:(v,w) \in E} f_{v,w}$$

# Network flow

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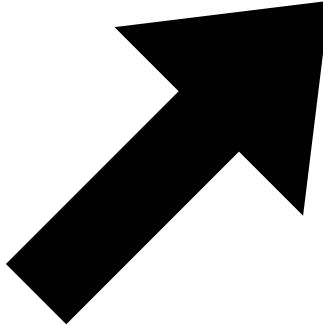
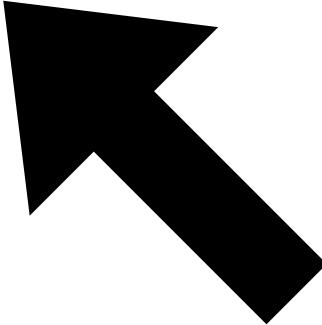
flow into node v

# Network flow

$f_{u,v}$  is the flow from  $u$  to  $v$

$$f_{u,v} \leq c_{u,v}$$

$$\sum_{u:(u,v) \in E} f_{u,v} = \sum_{w:(v,w) \in E} f_{v,w}$$

 flow into node v       flow out of node v

# Network flow

$f_{u,v}$  is the flow from  $u$  to  $v$

$$f_{u,v} \leq c_{u,v}$$

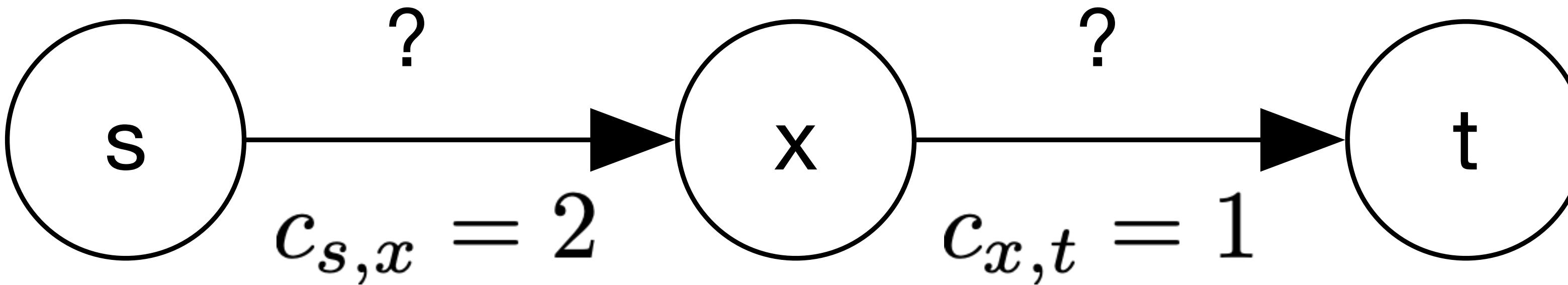
$$\sum_{u:(u,v) \in E} f_{u,v} = \sum_{w:(v,w) \in E} f_{v,w}$$

flow into node v

flow out of node v

for all nodes except source and sink, flow into a node = flow out from the node

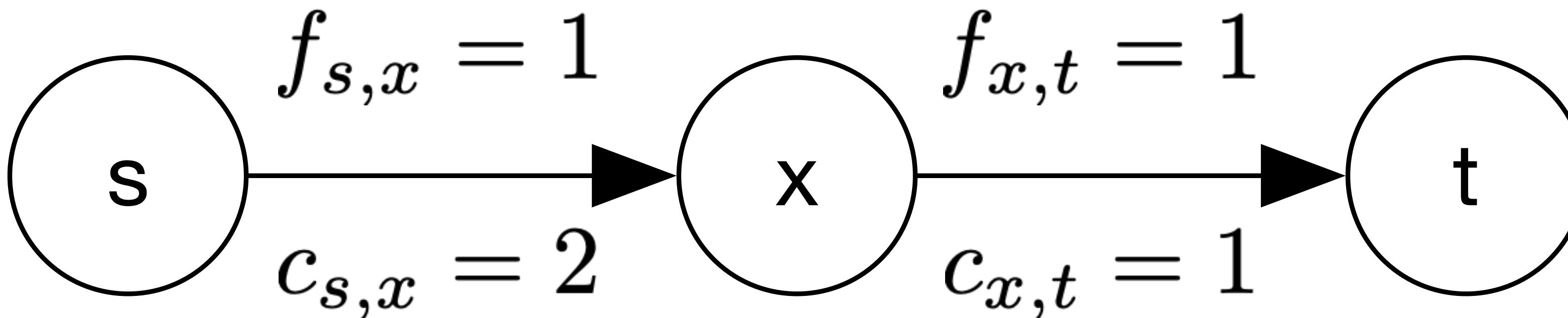
# Network flow



$$f_{u,v} \leq c_{u,v}$$

$$\sum_{u:(u,v) \in E} f_{u,v} = \sum_{w:(v,w) \in E} f_{v,w}$$

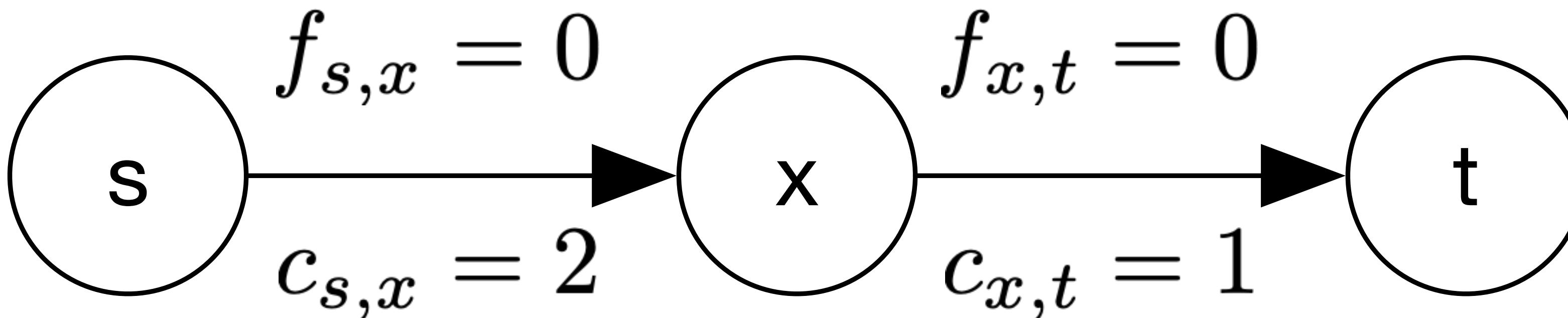
# Network flow



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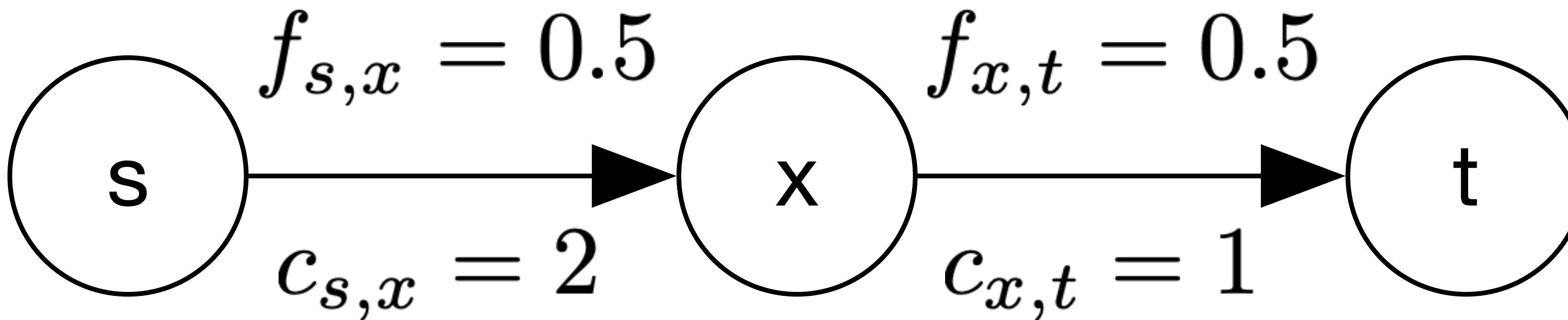
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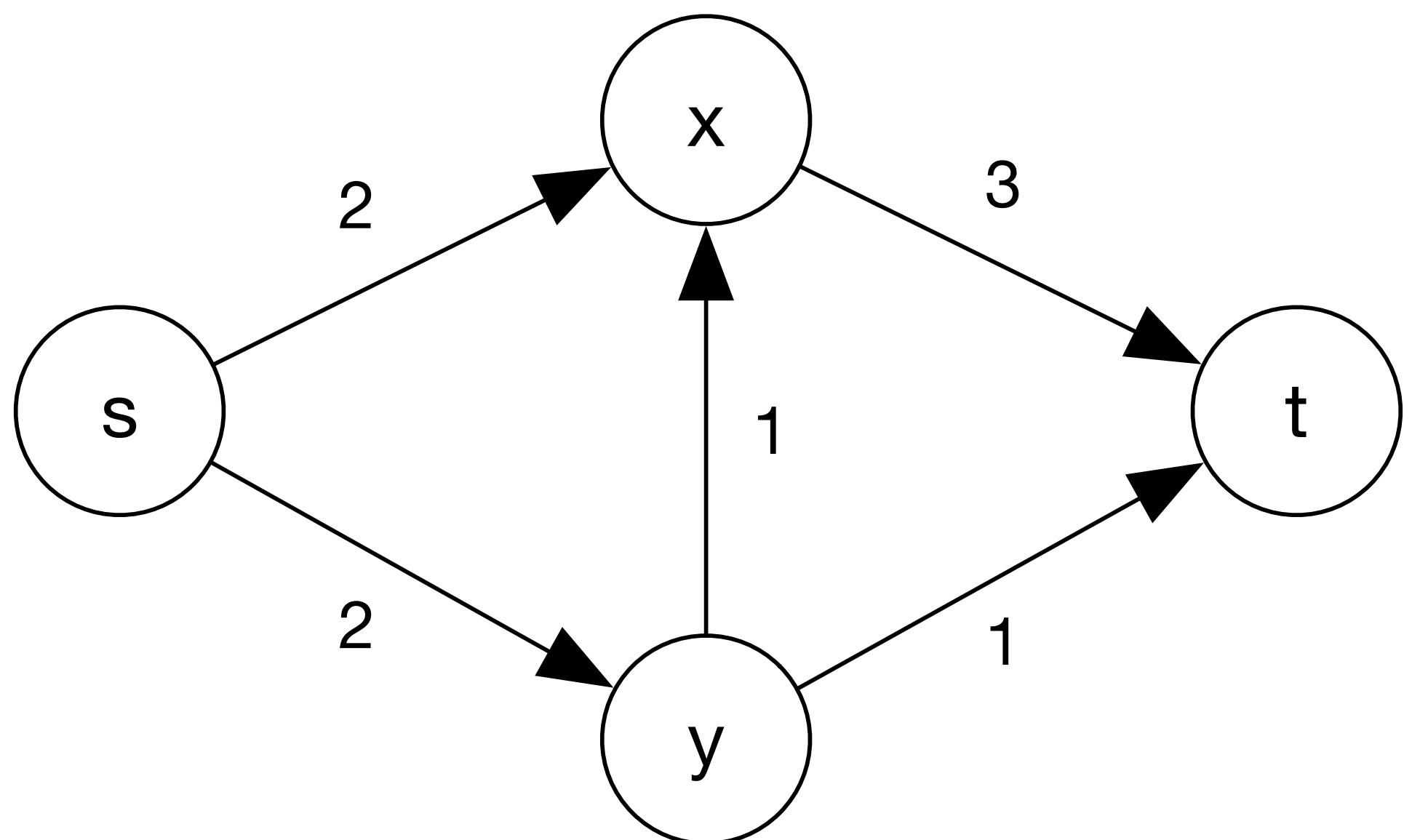
# Network flow



$$f_{u,v} \leq c_{u,v}$$

$$\sum_{u:(u,v) \in E} f_{u,v} = \sum_{w:(v,w) \in E} f_{v,w}$$

# Network flow



capacity = flow

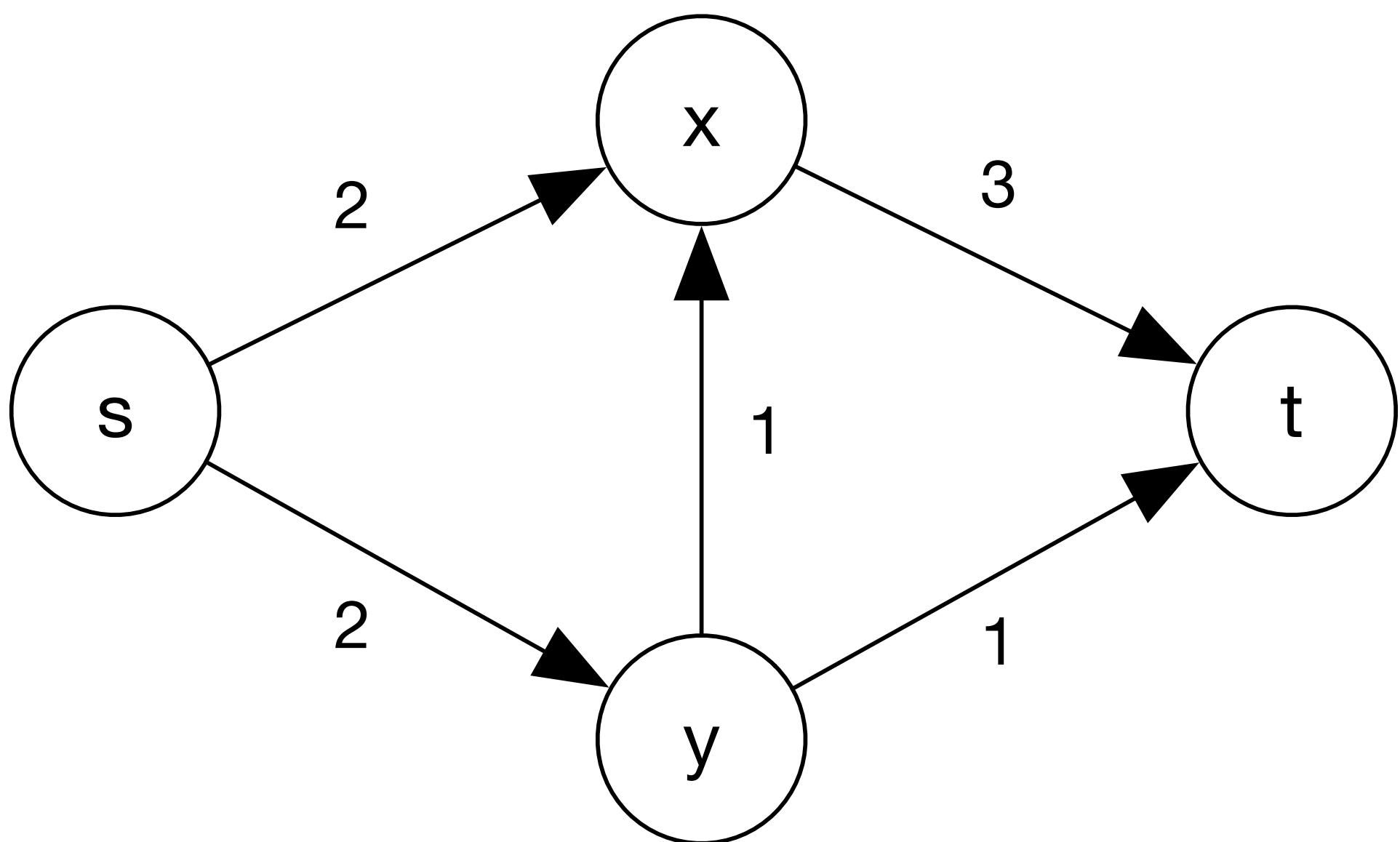
$$\sum_{u:(u,x) \in E} = \sum_{w:(x,w) \in E} = 3$$

flow into node  $x$  = flow out of node  $x$

$$\sum_{u:(u,y) \in E} = \sum_{w:(y,w) \in E} = 2$$

flow into node  $y$  = flow out of node  $y$

# Network flow

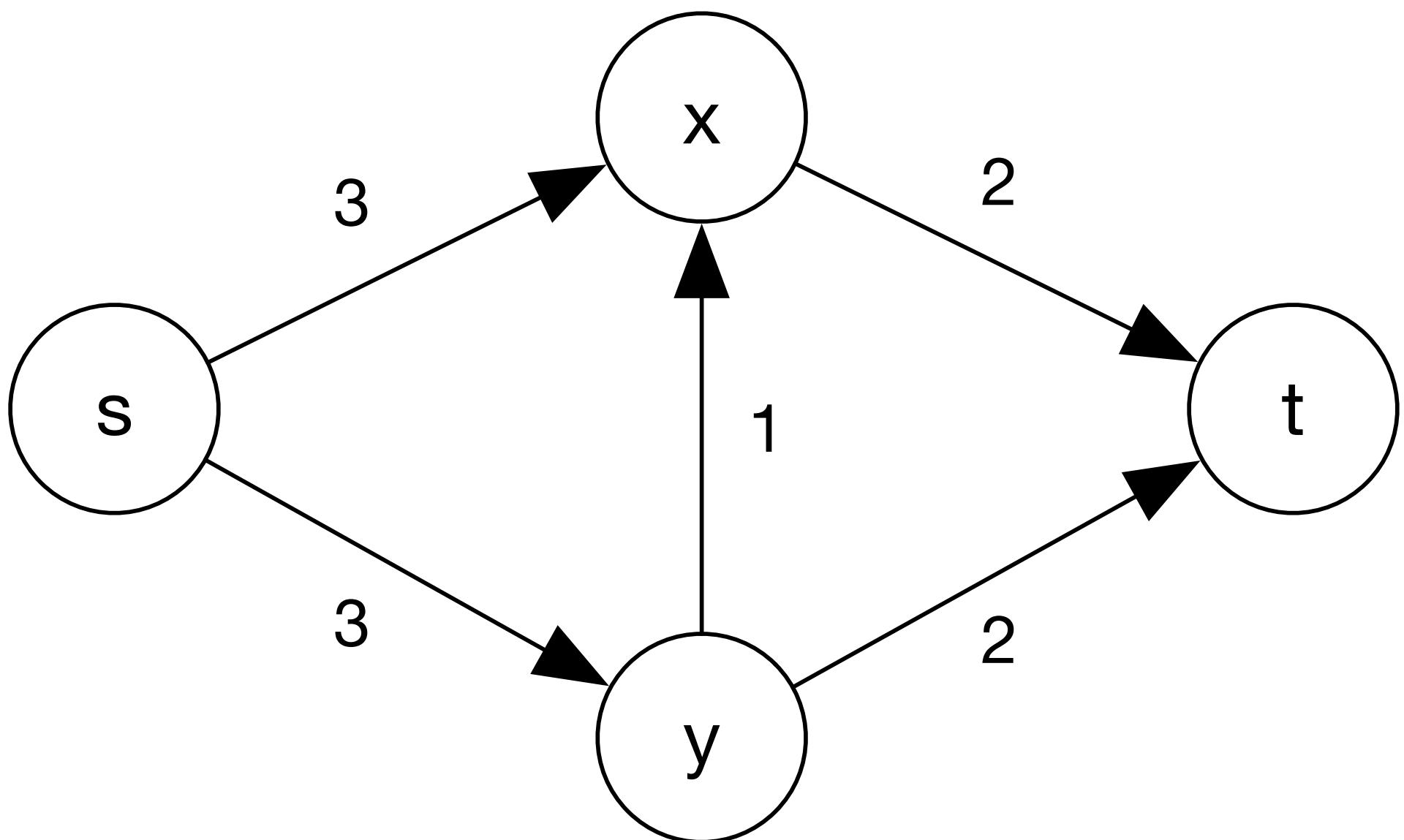


capacity = flow

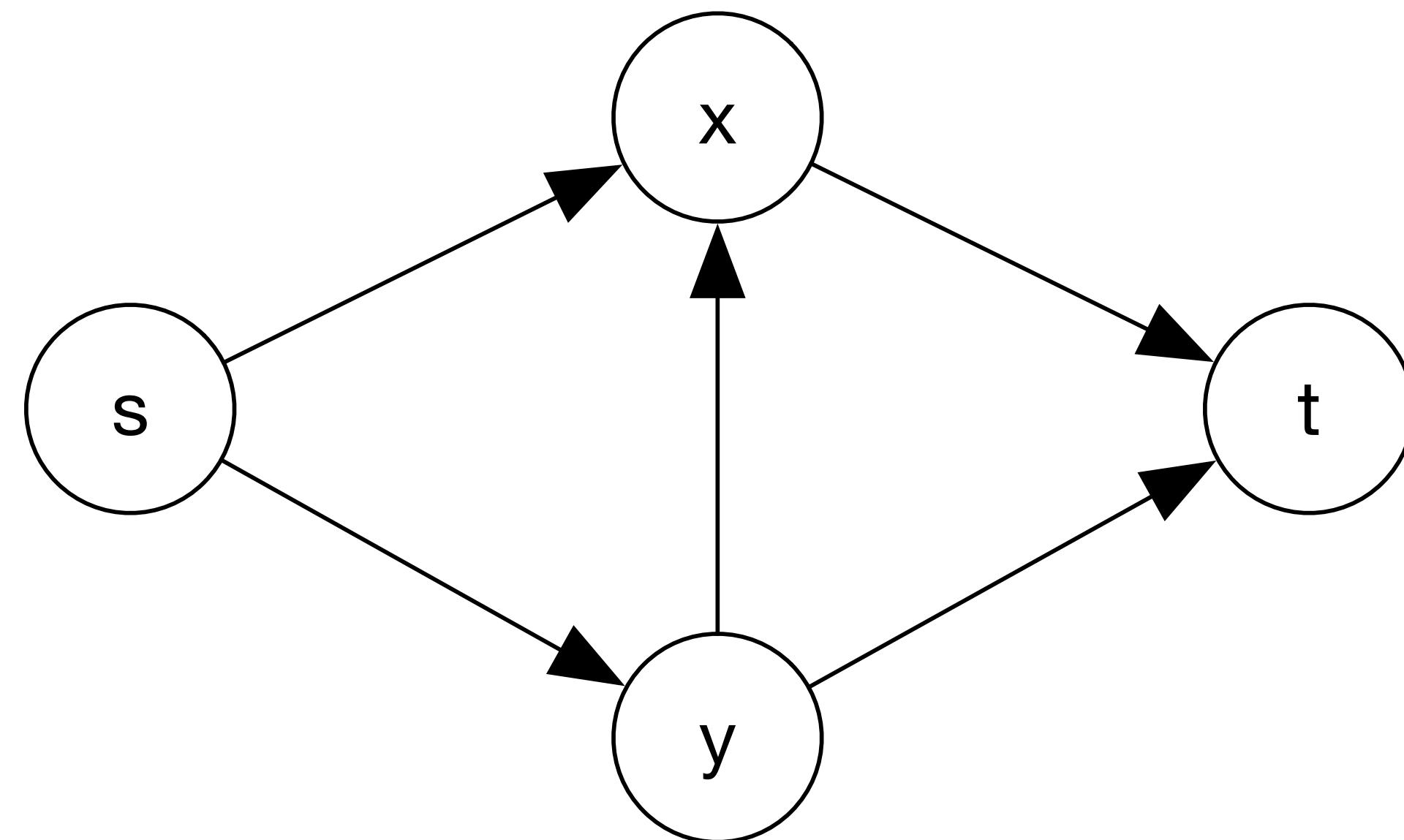
$$\sum_{u:(s,u) \in E} = \sum_{w:(w,t) \in E} = 4$$

flow out of source = flow into sink

# Network flow

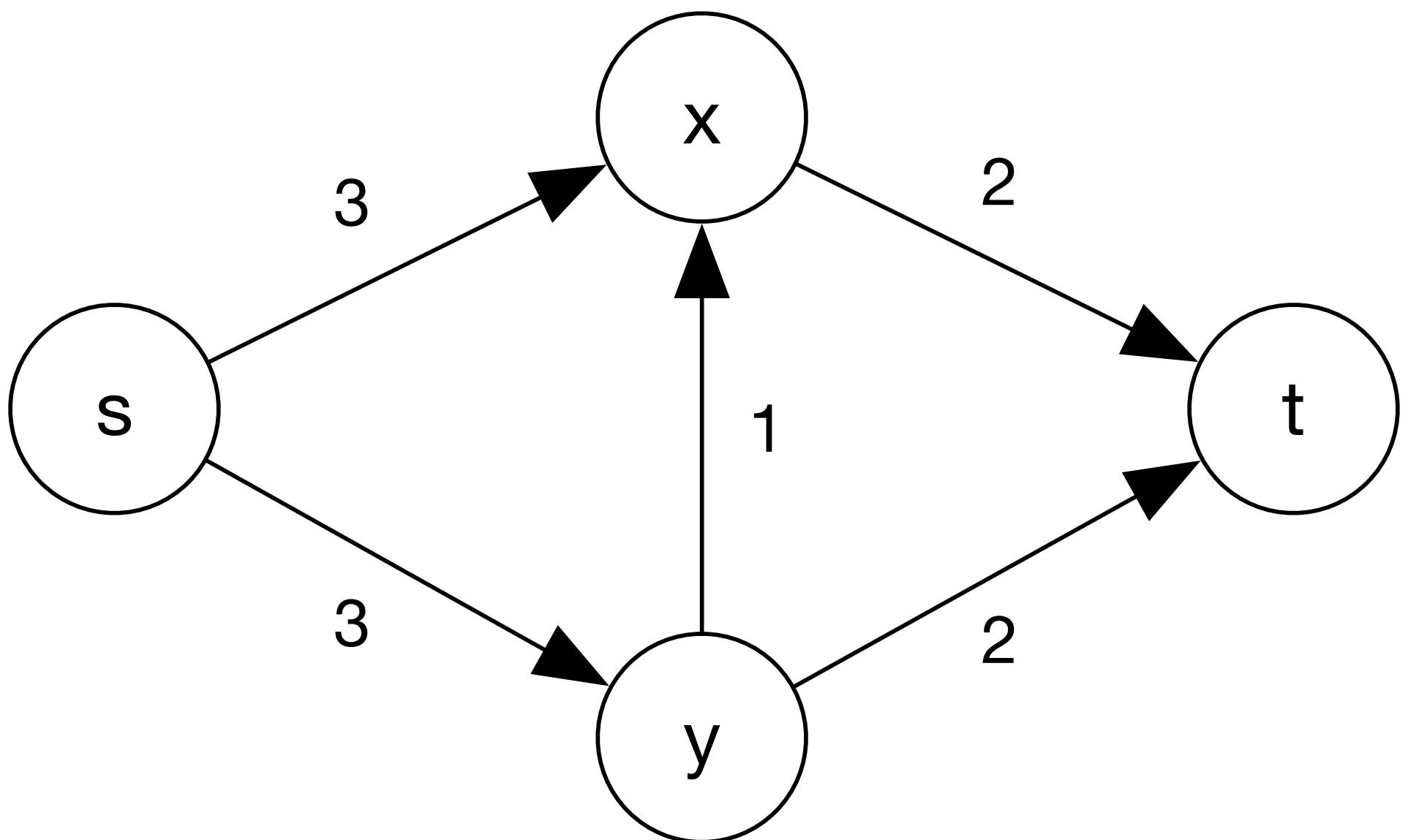


capacity

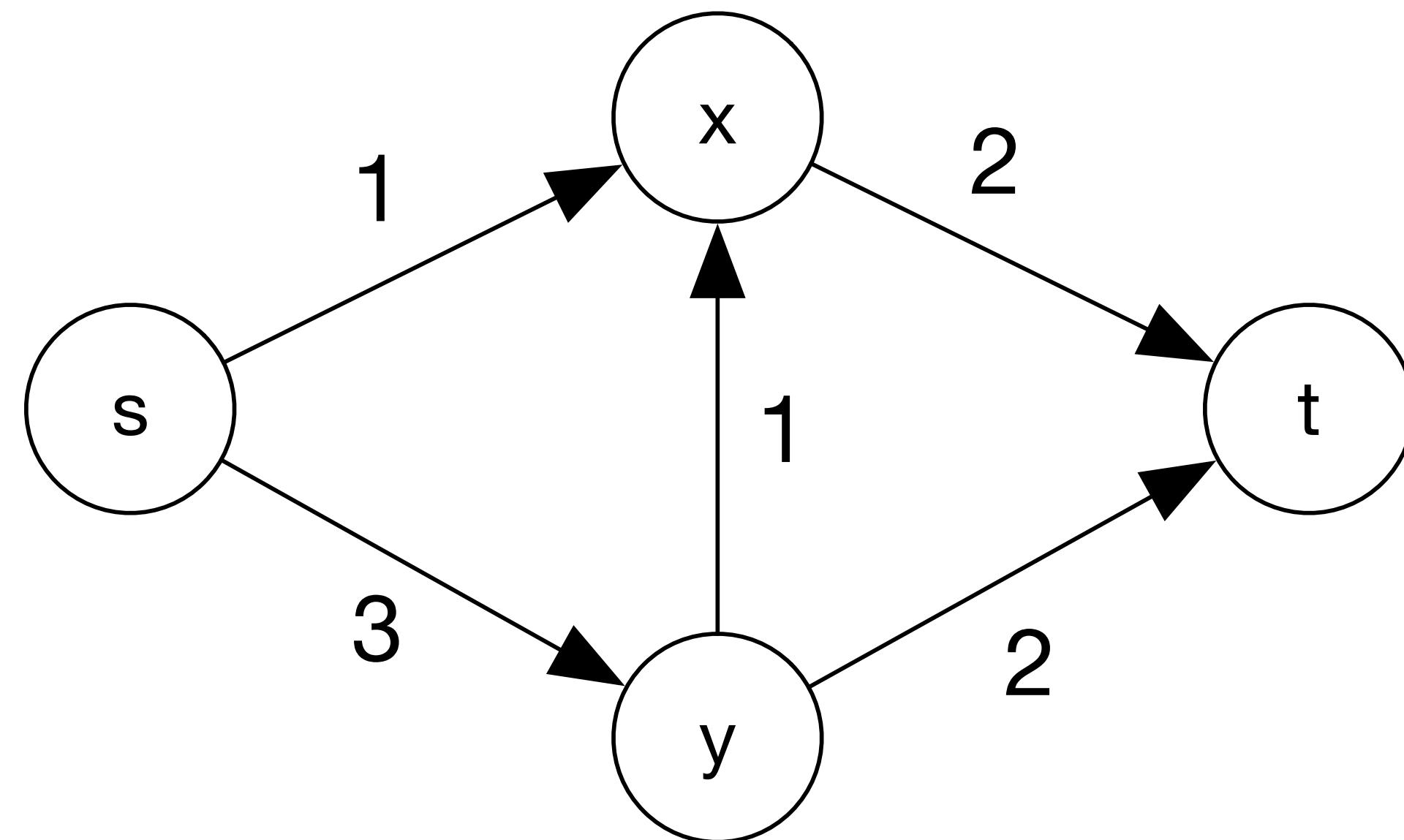


flow

# Network flow

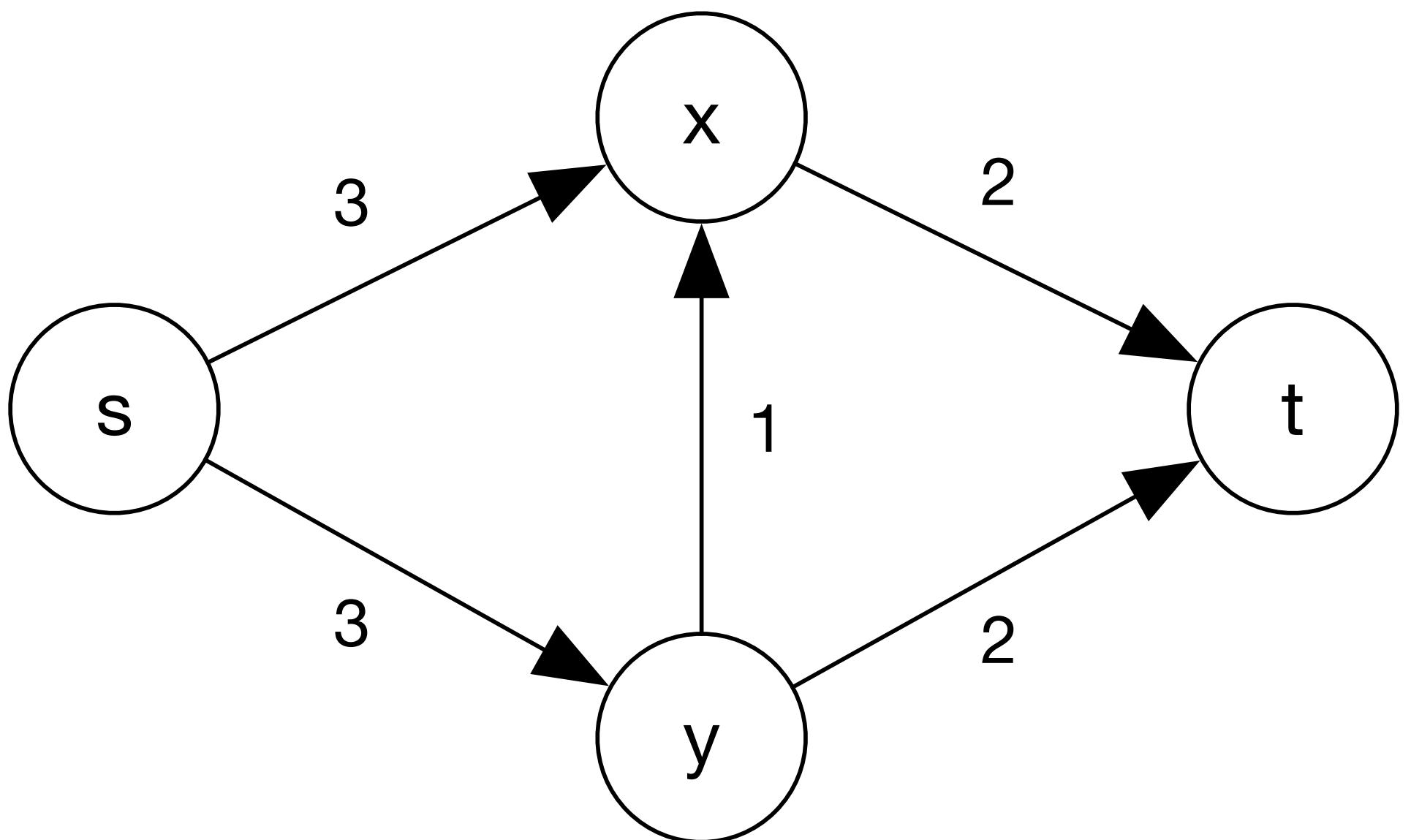


capacity

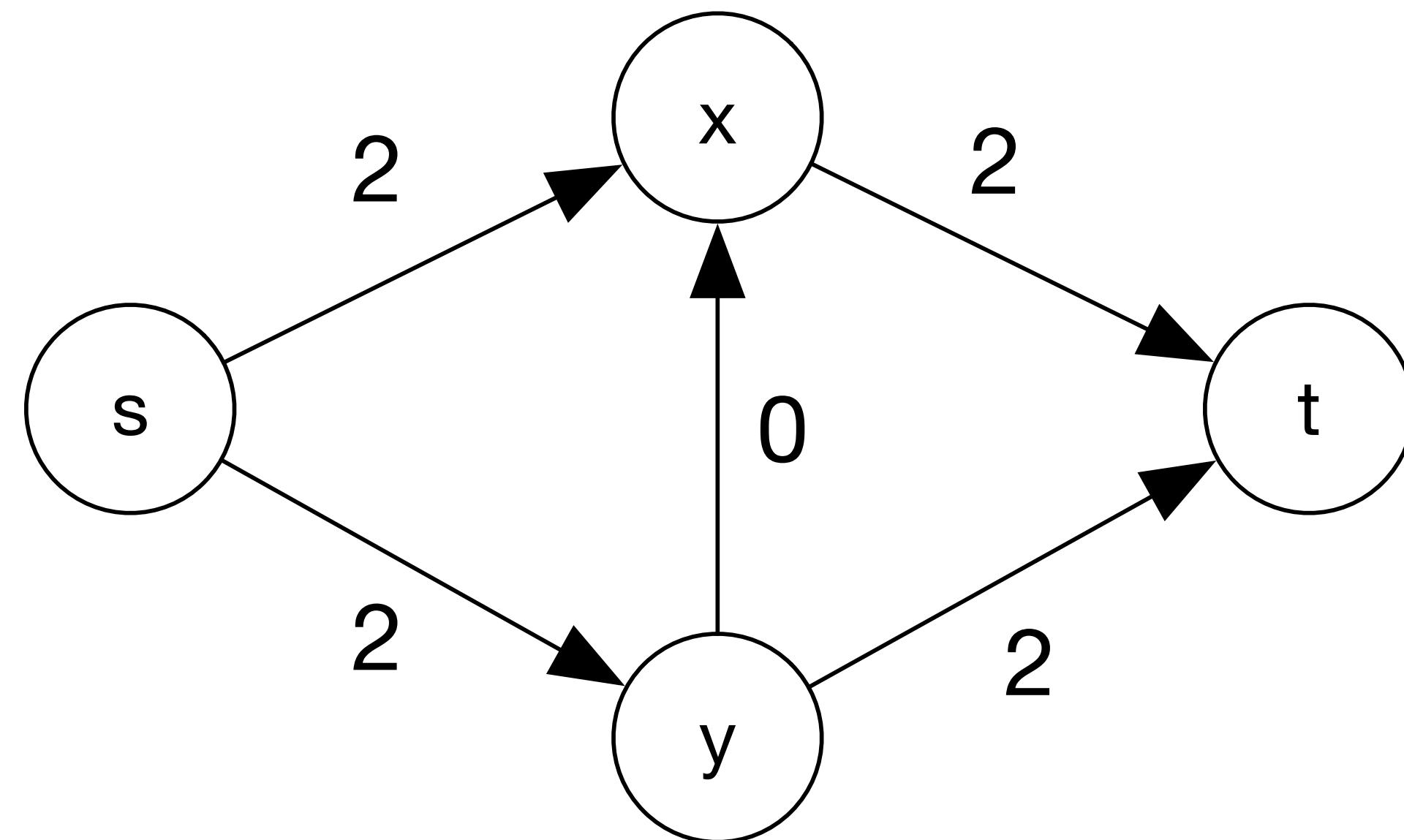


flow

# Network flow

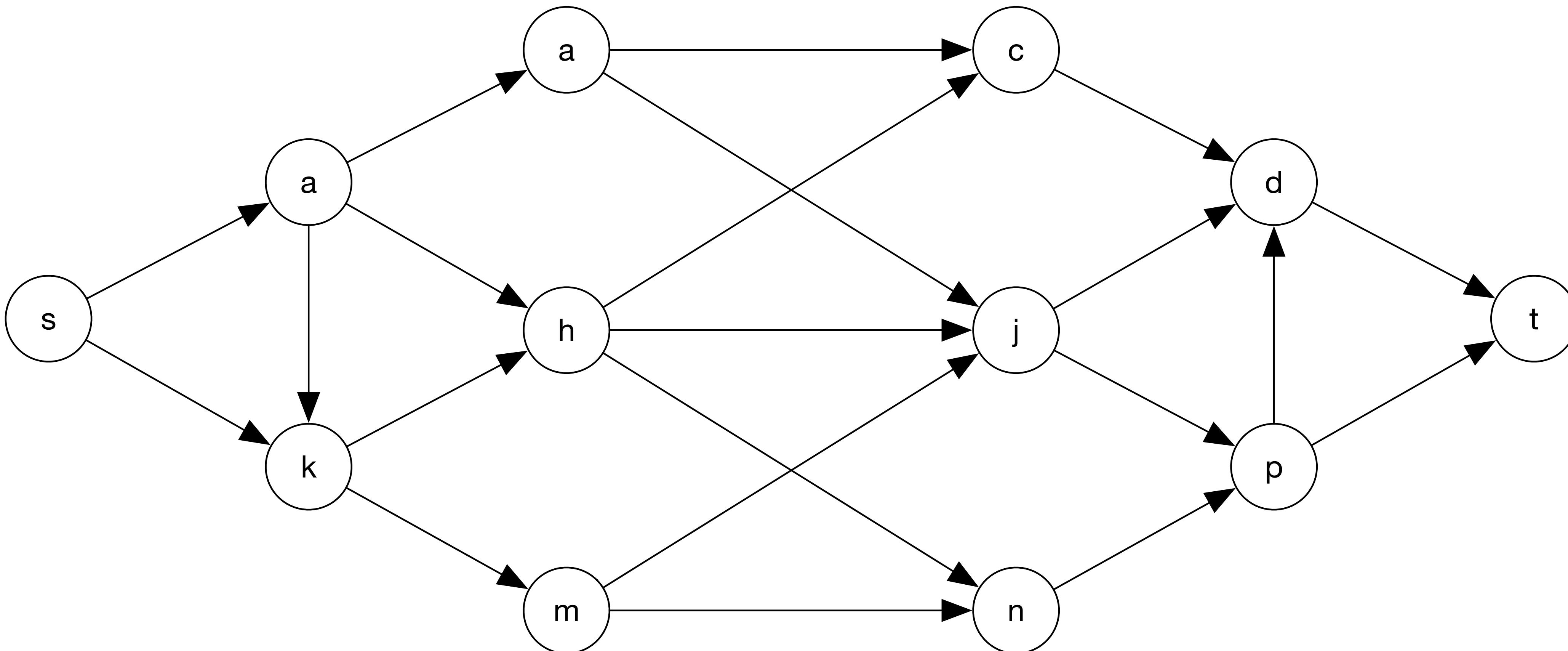


capacity

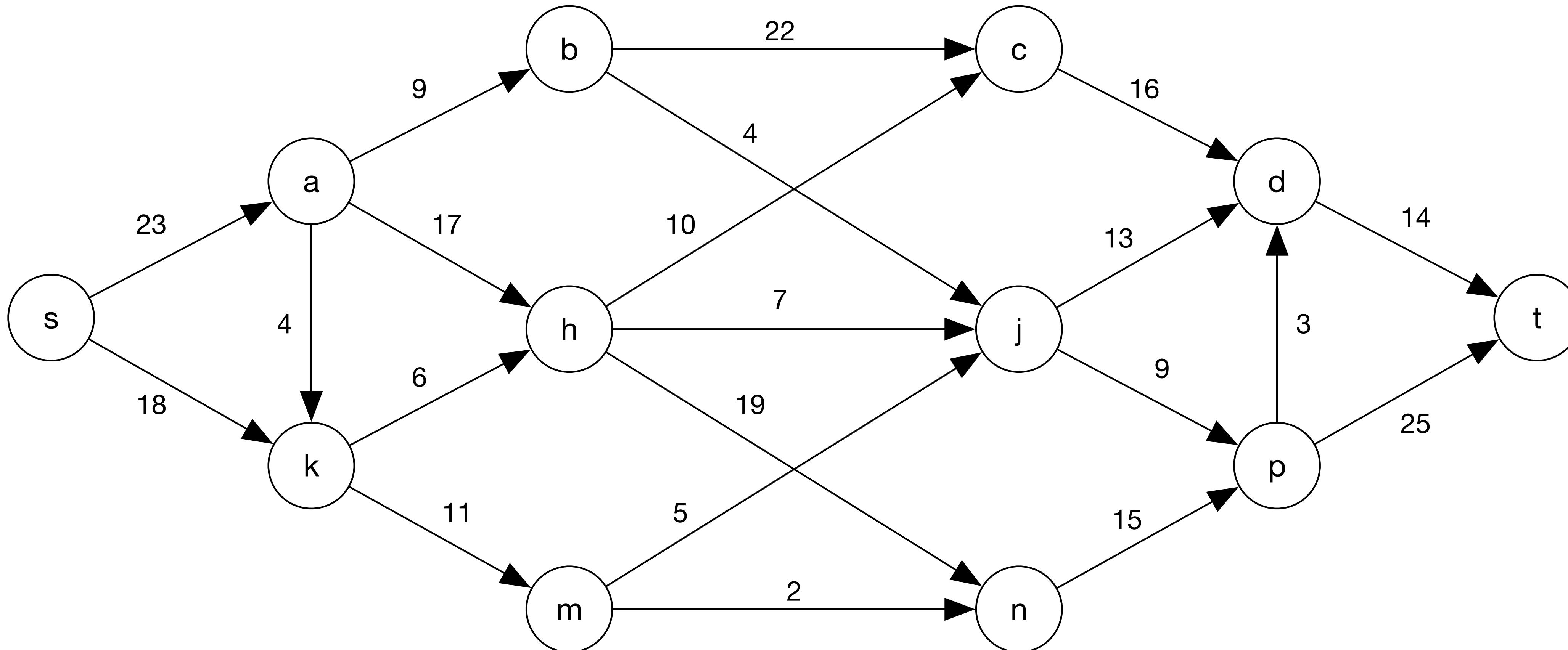


flow

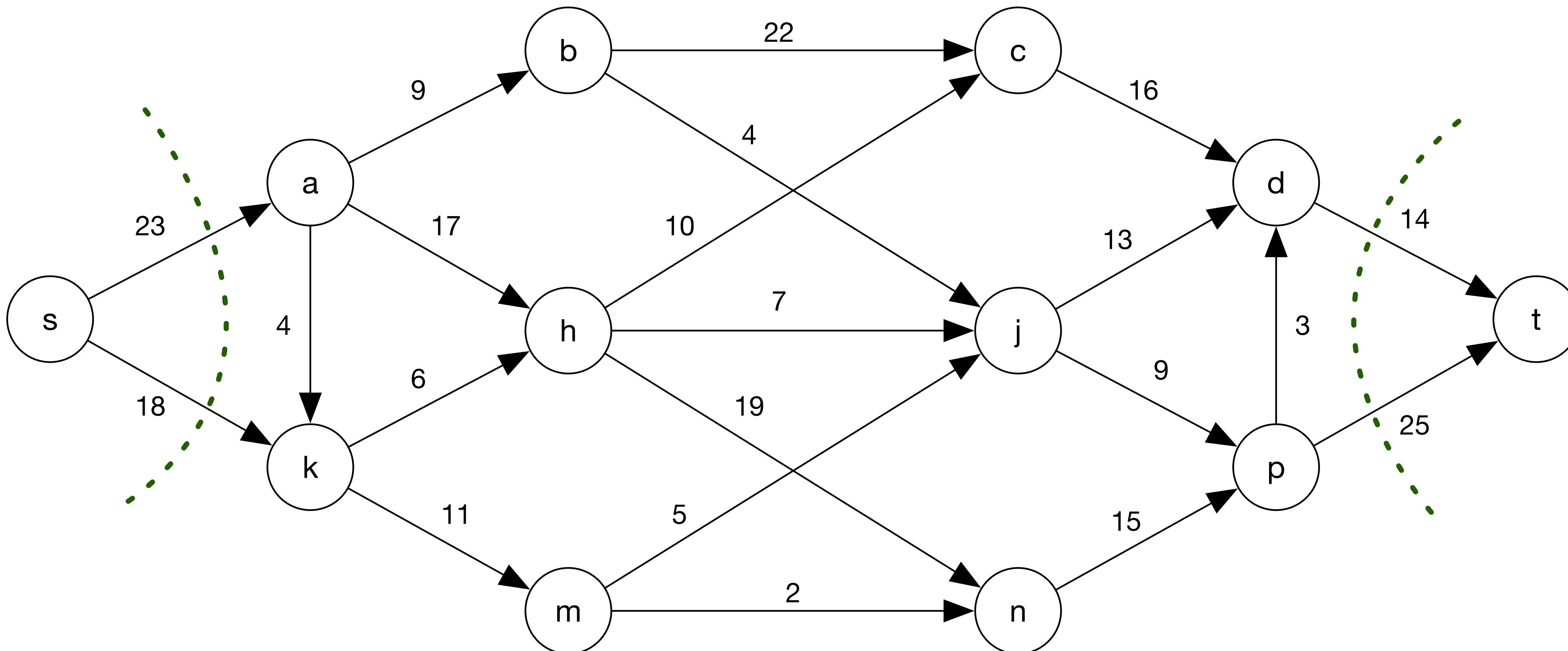
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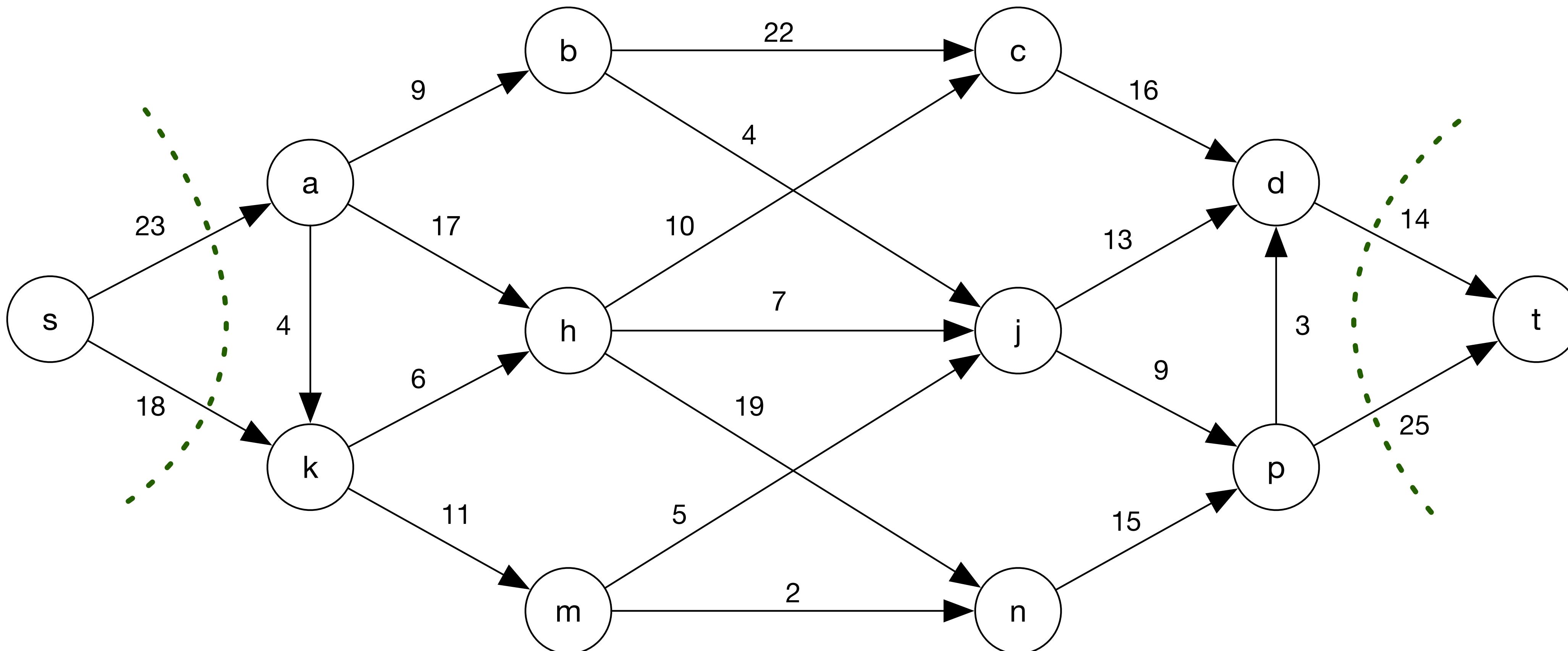
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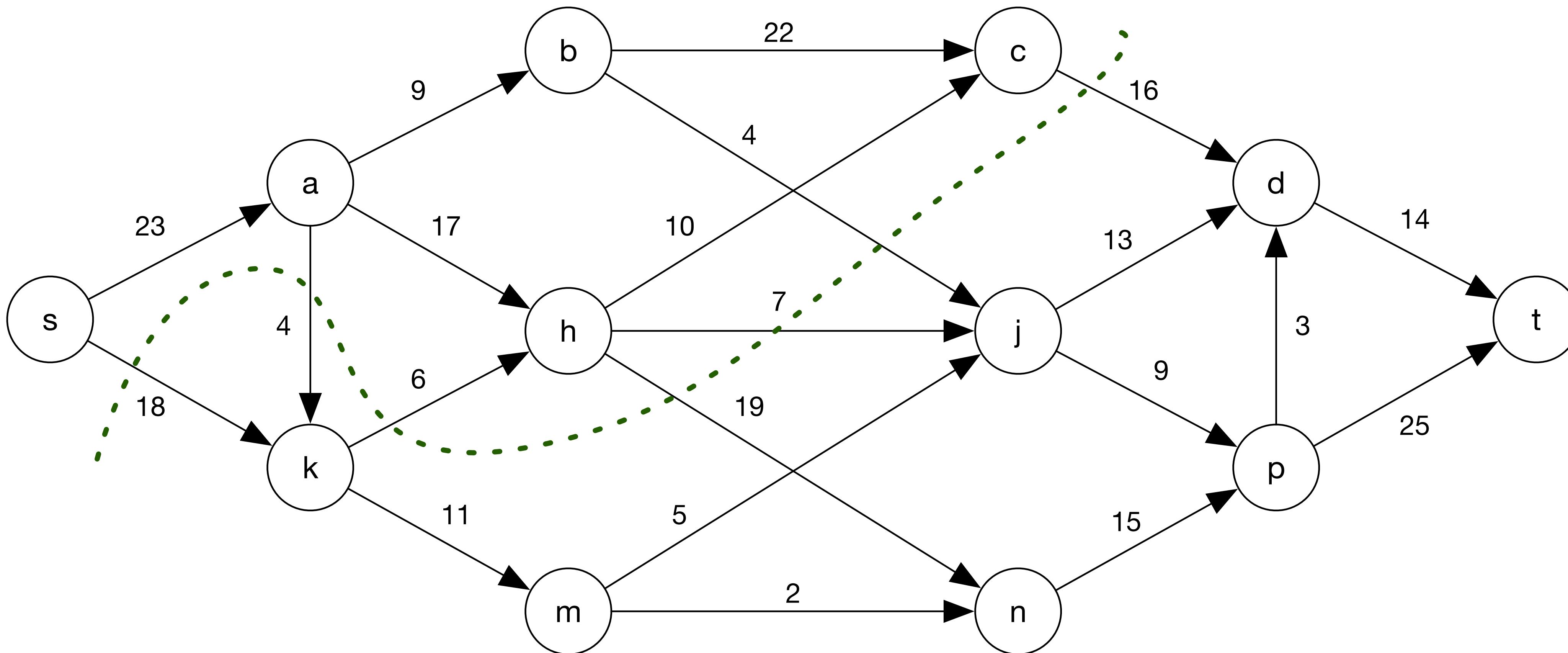
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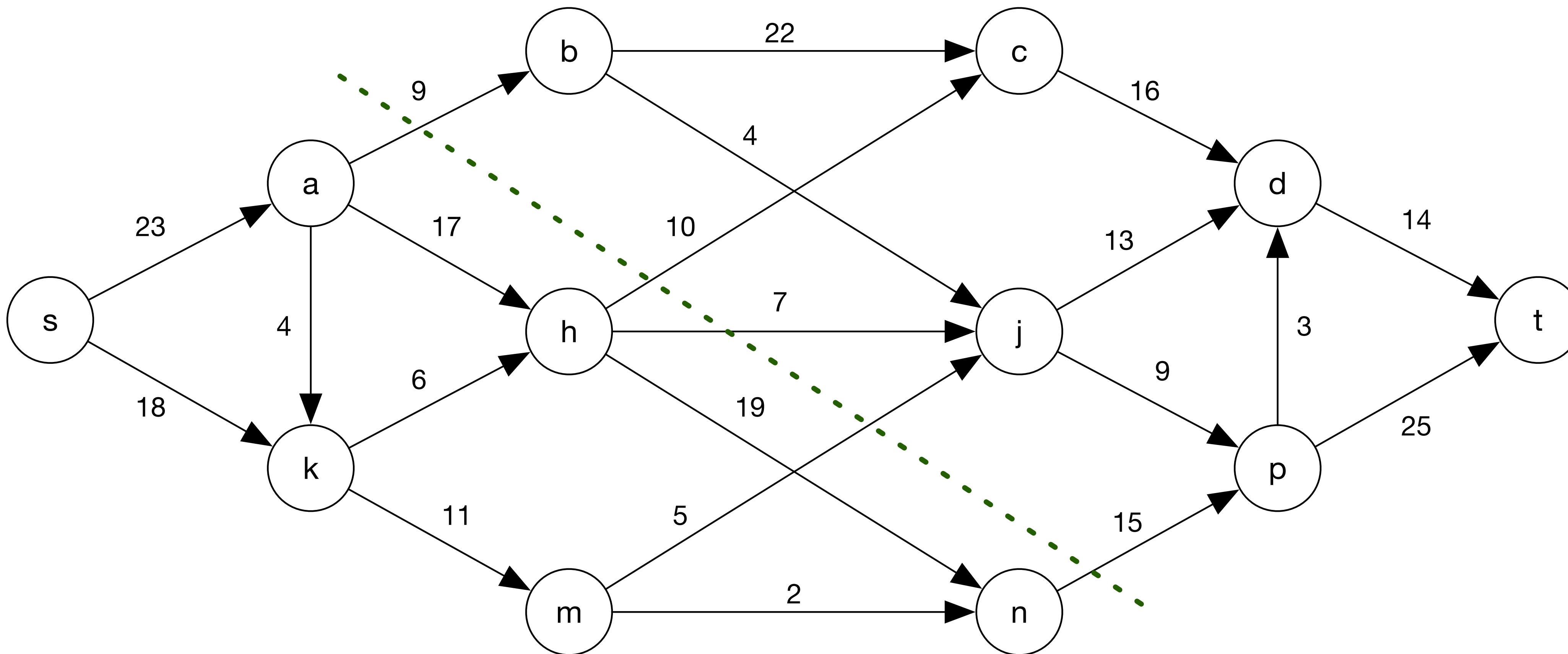
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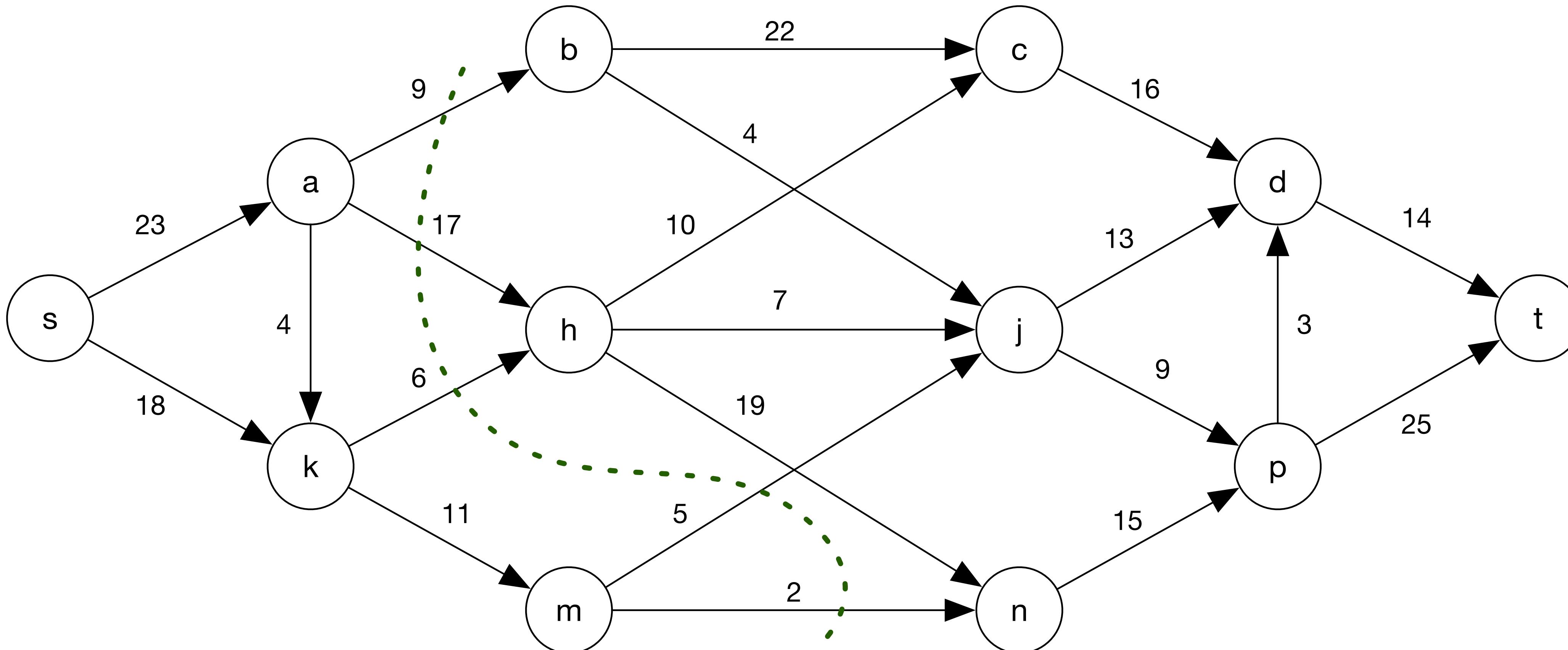
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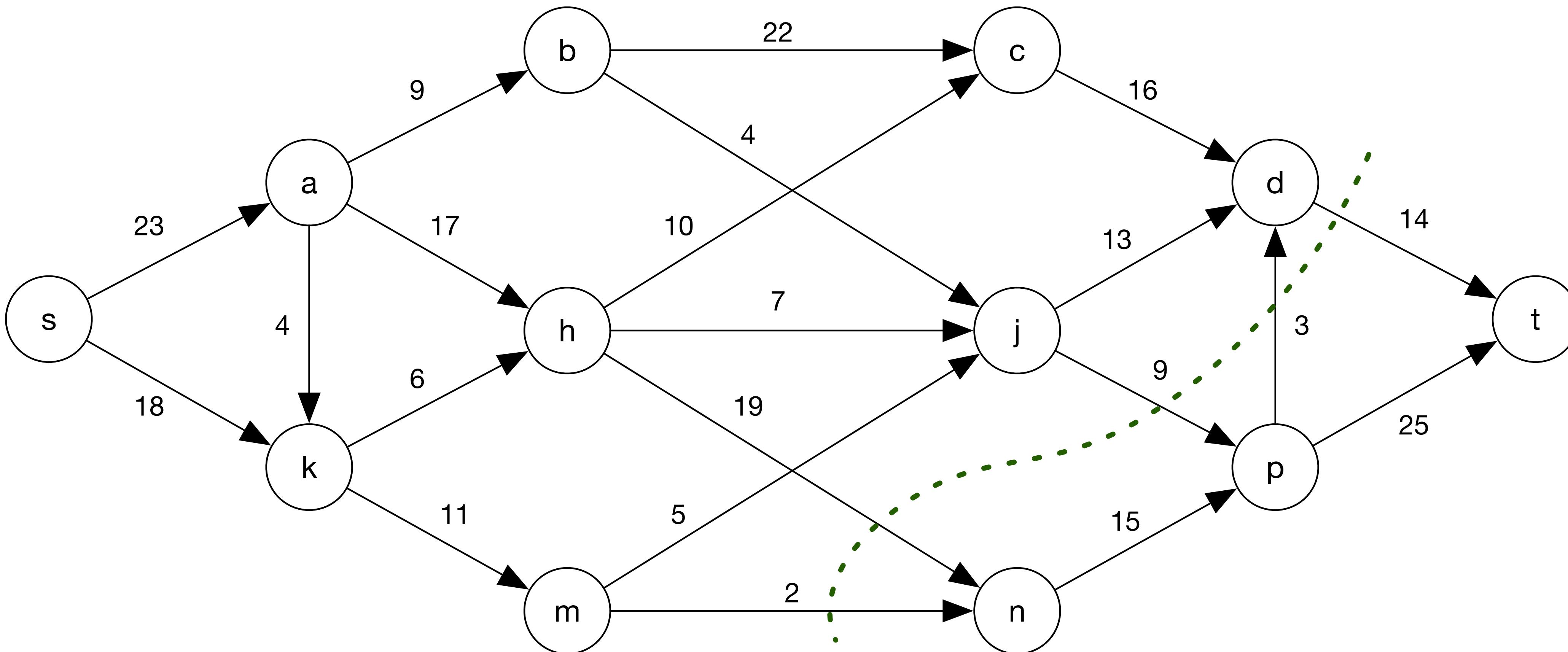
# Network flow



# Network flow



# Network flow



# Network flow

Ford-Fulkerson algorithm

Edmonds-Karp algorithm

Karger-Stein algorithm

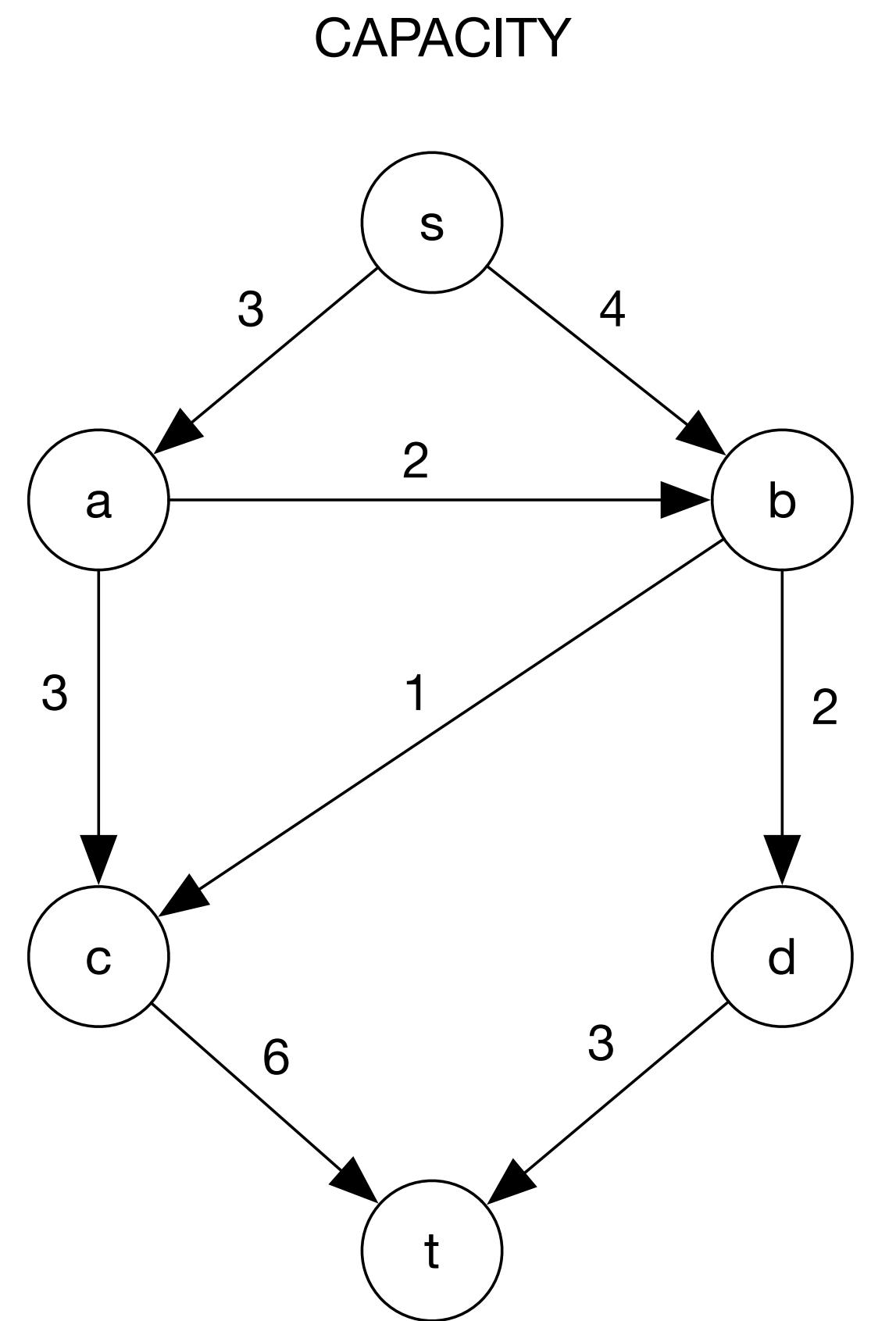
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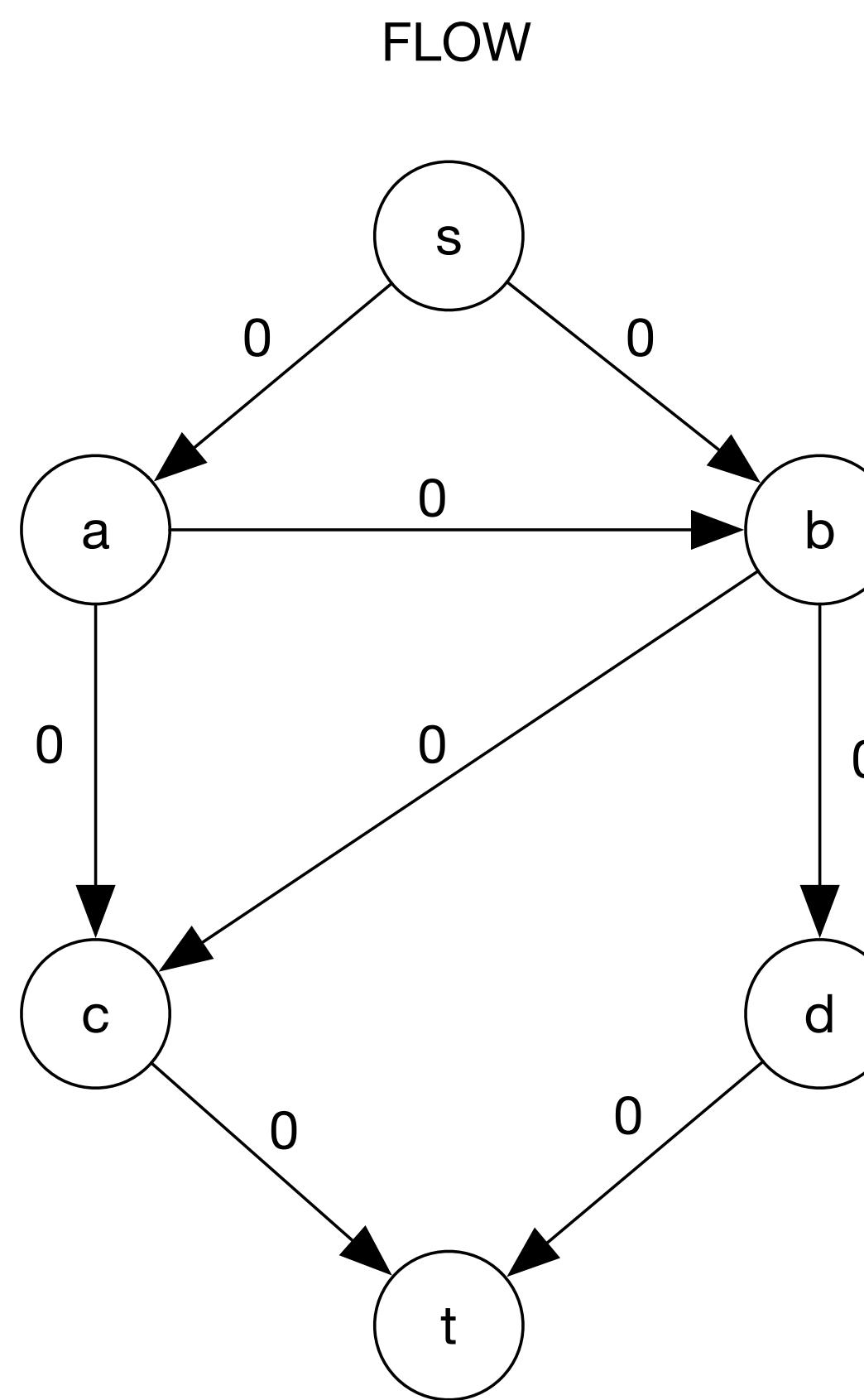
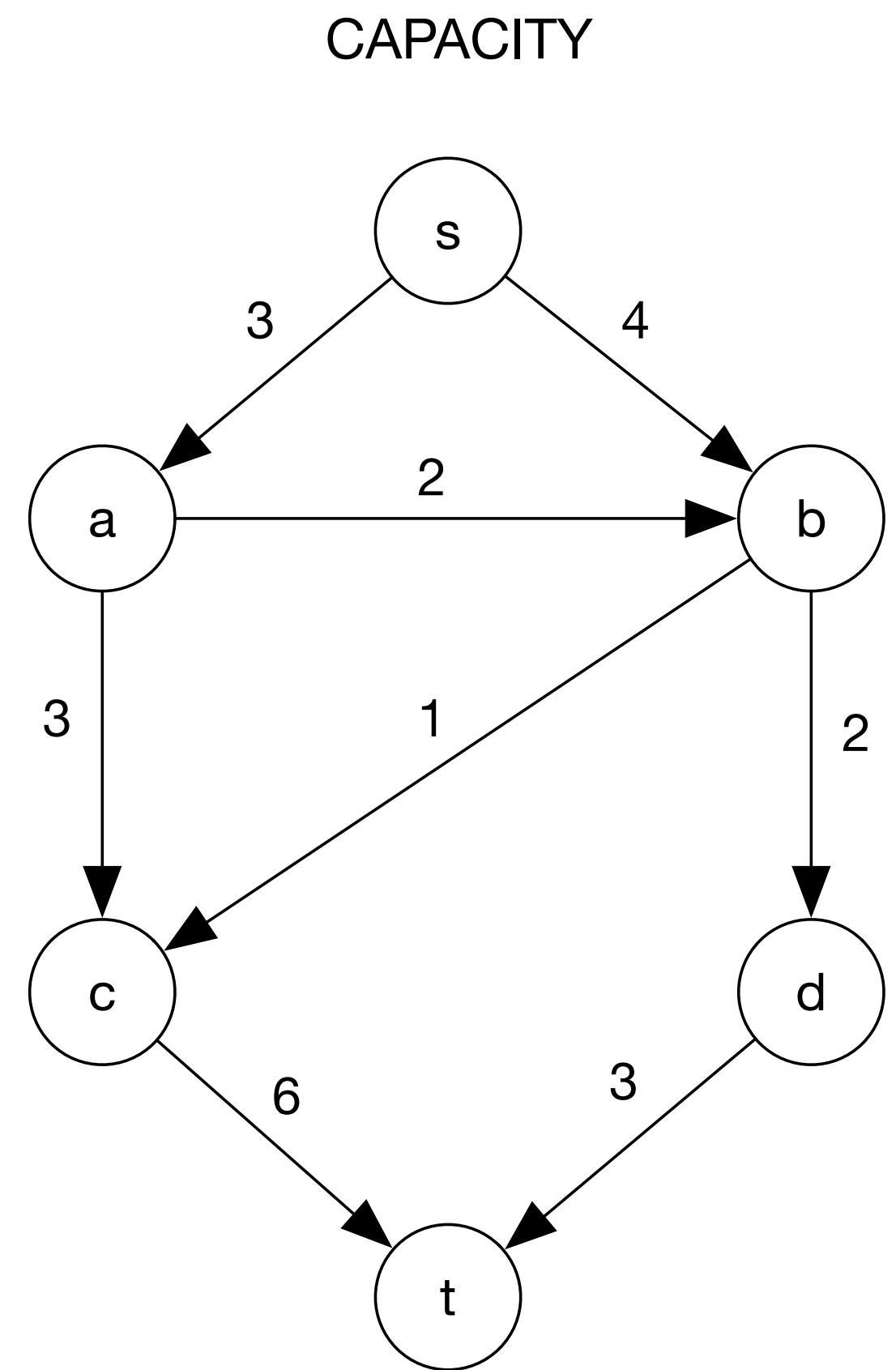
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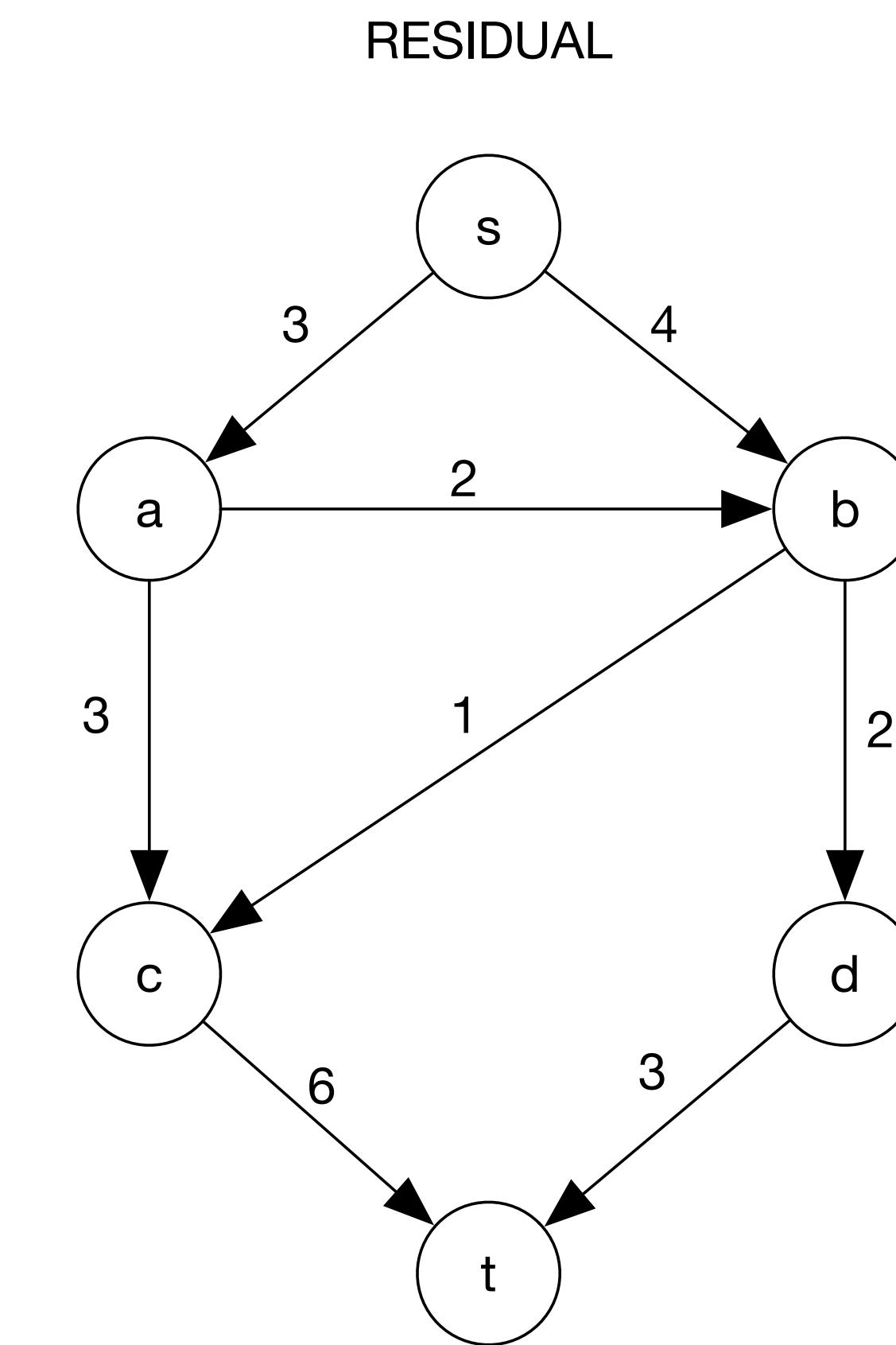
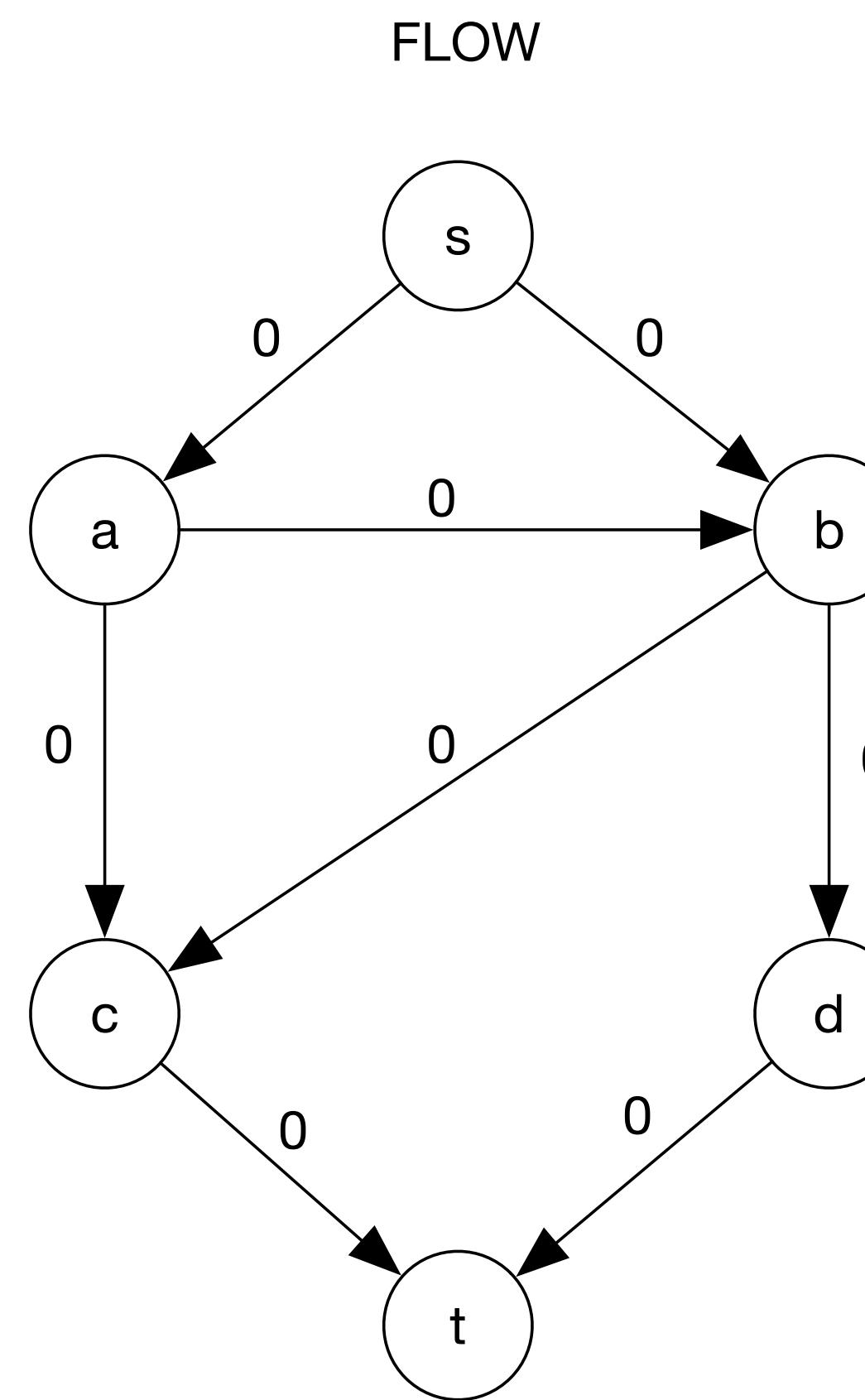
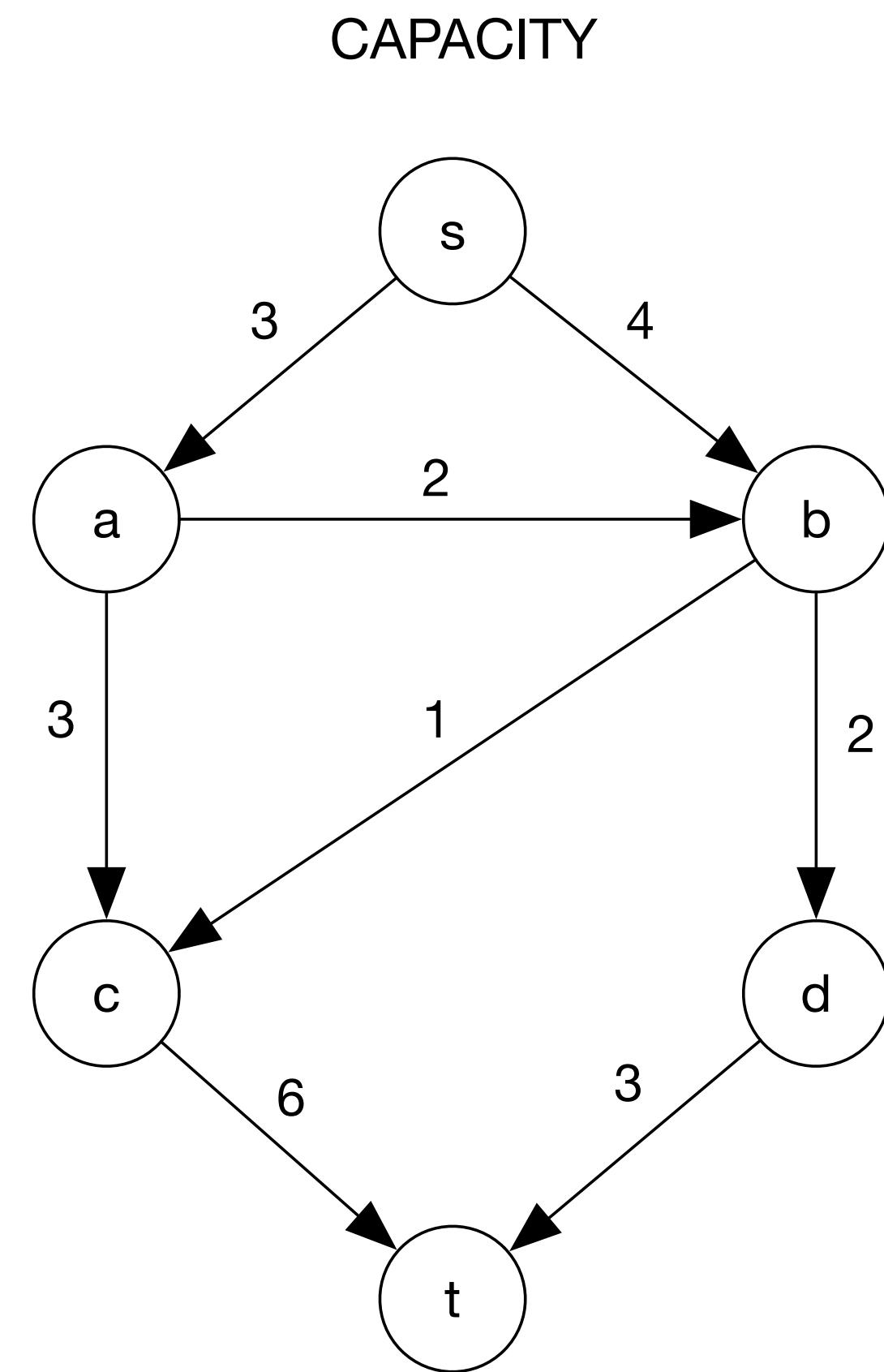
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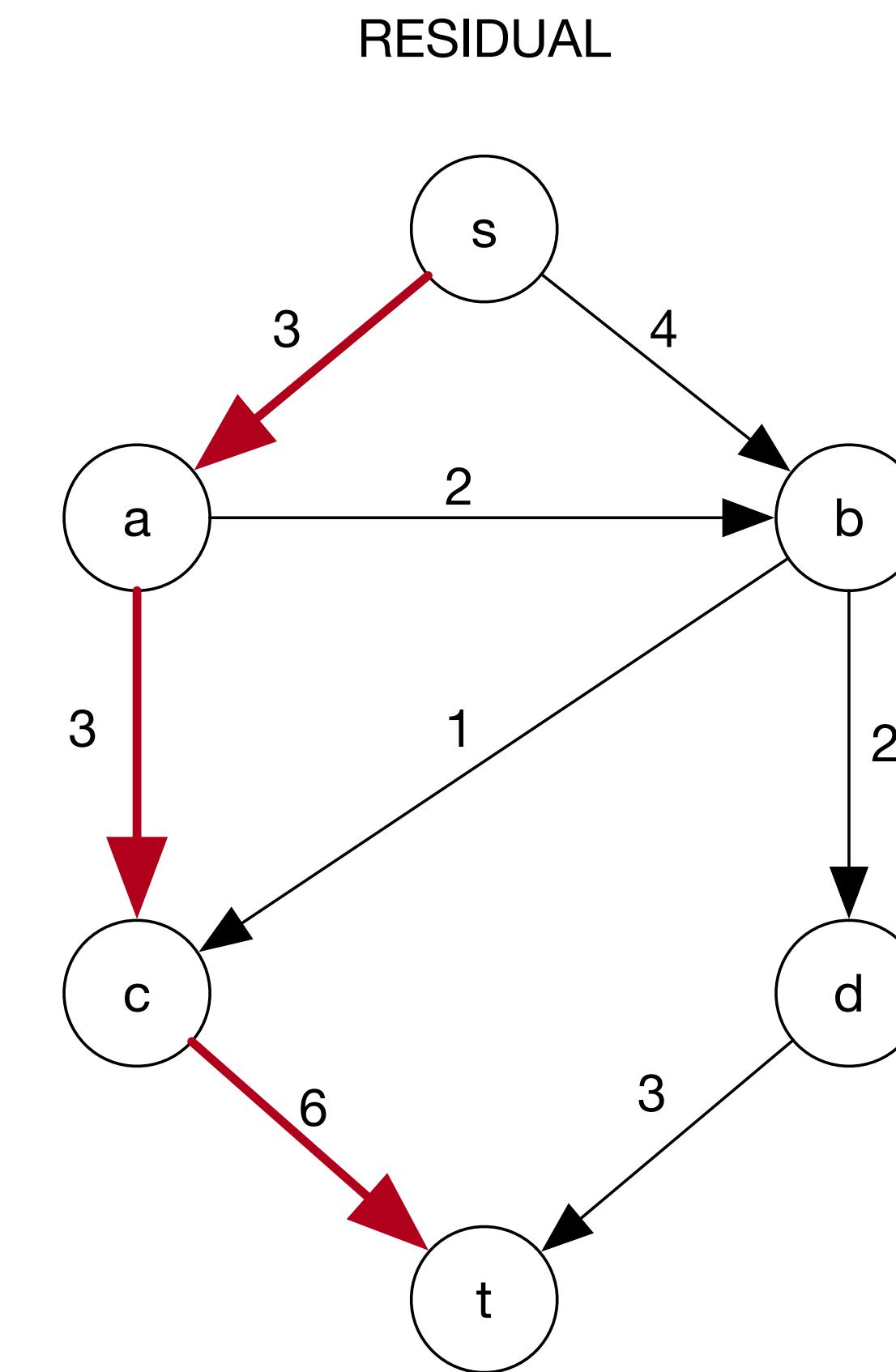
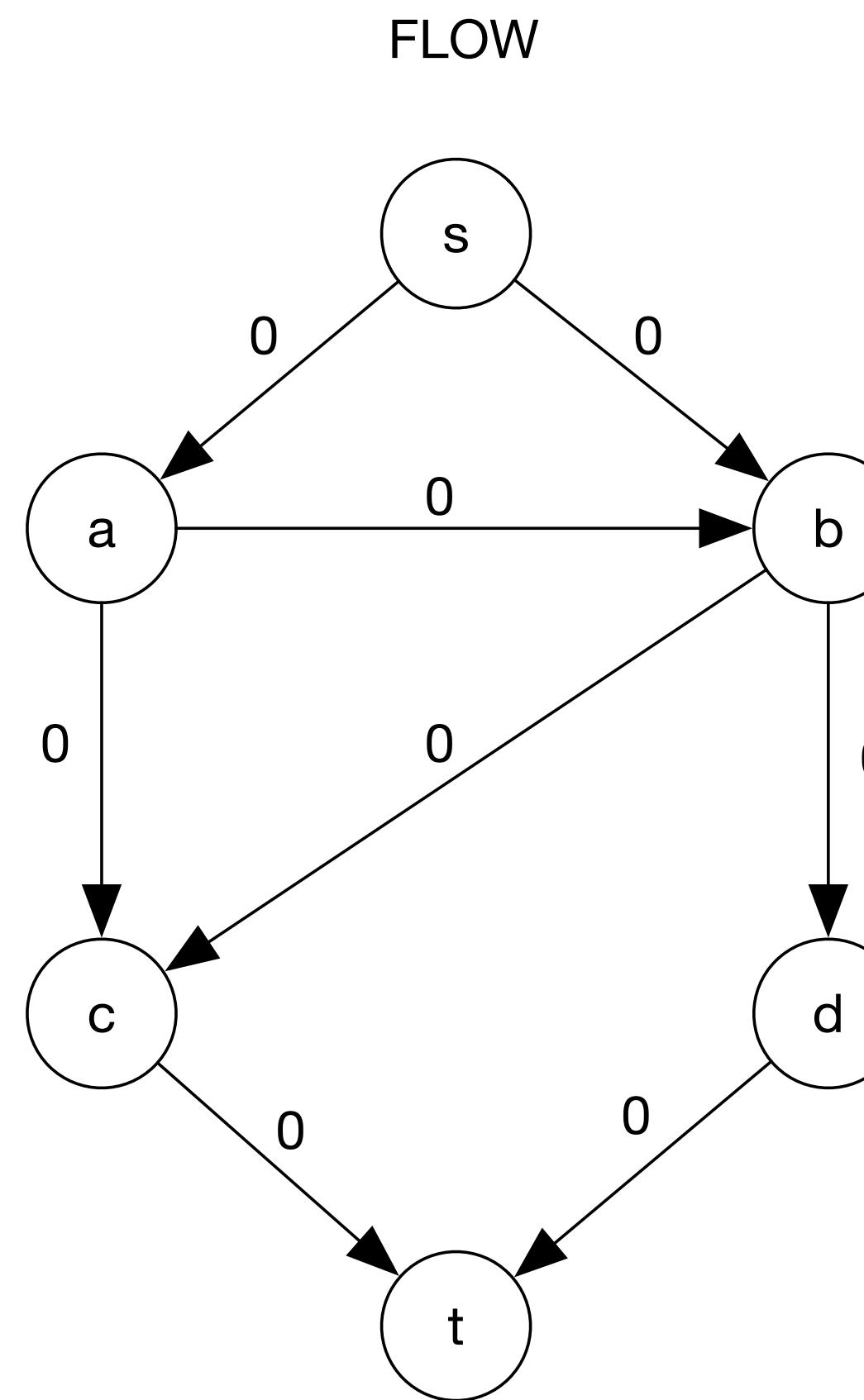
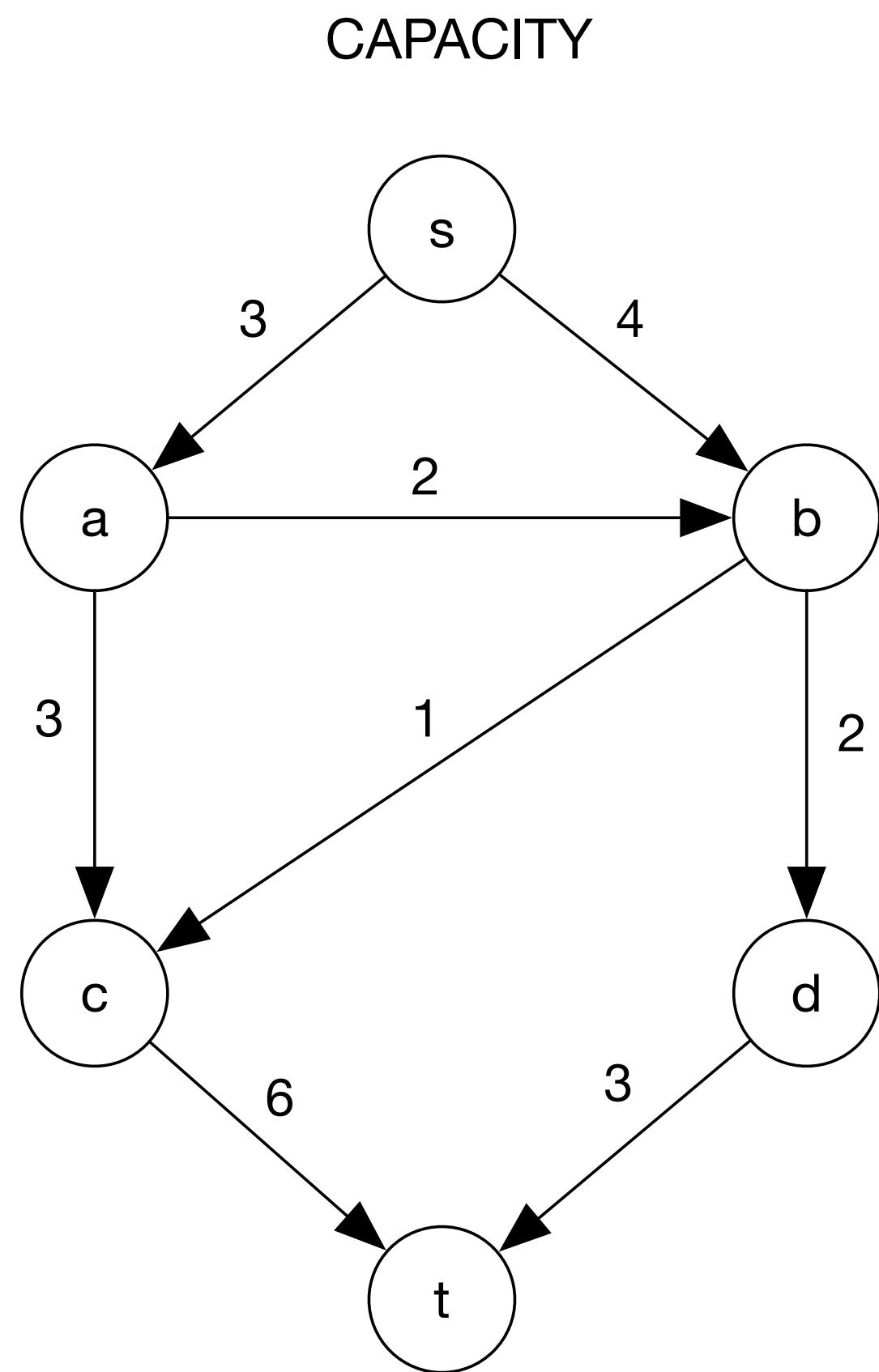
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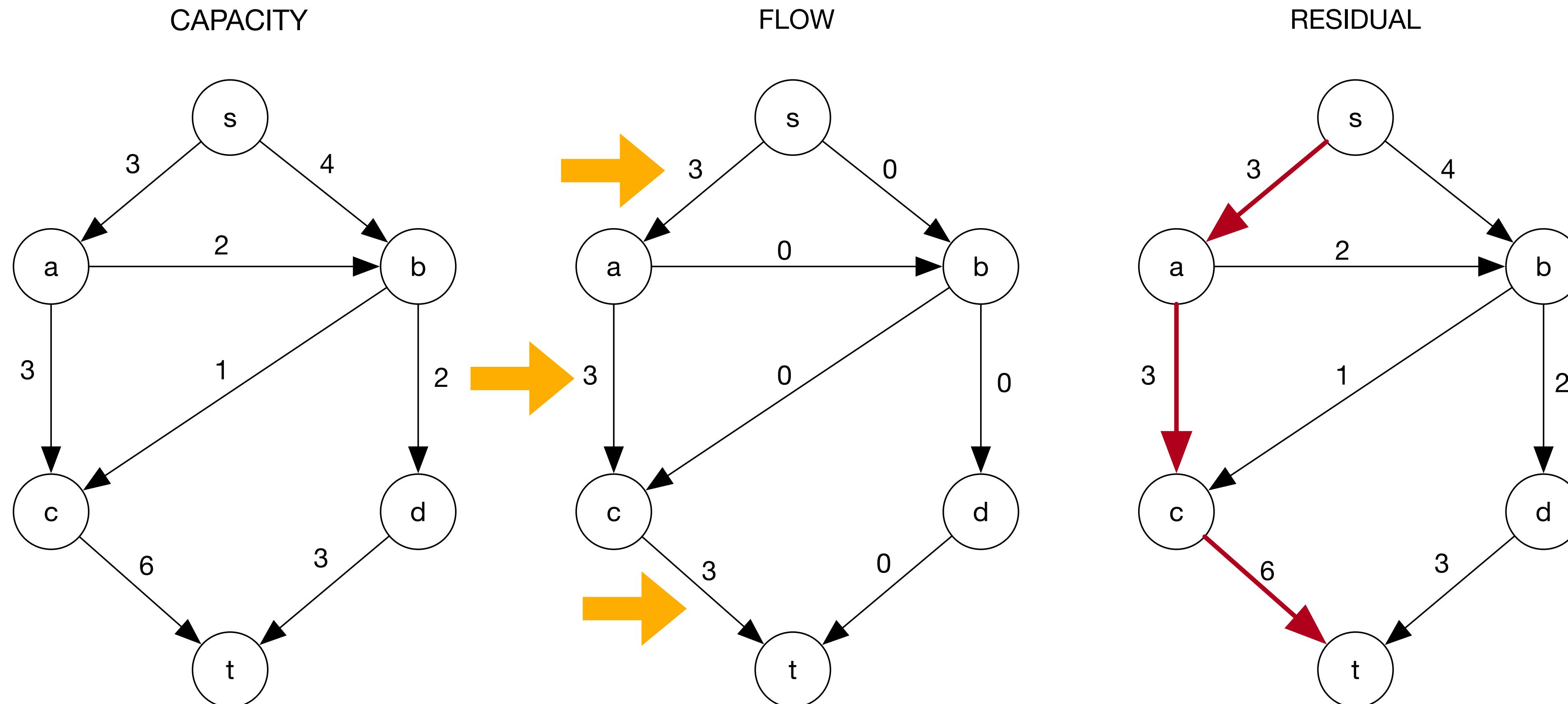
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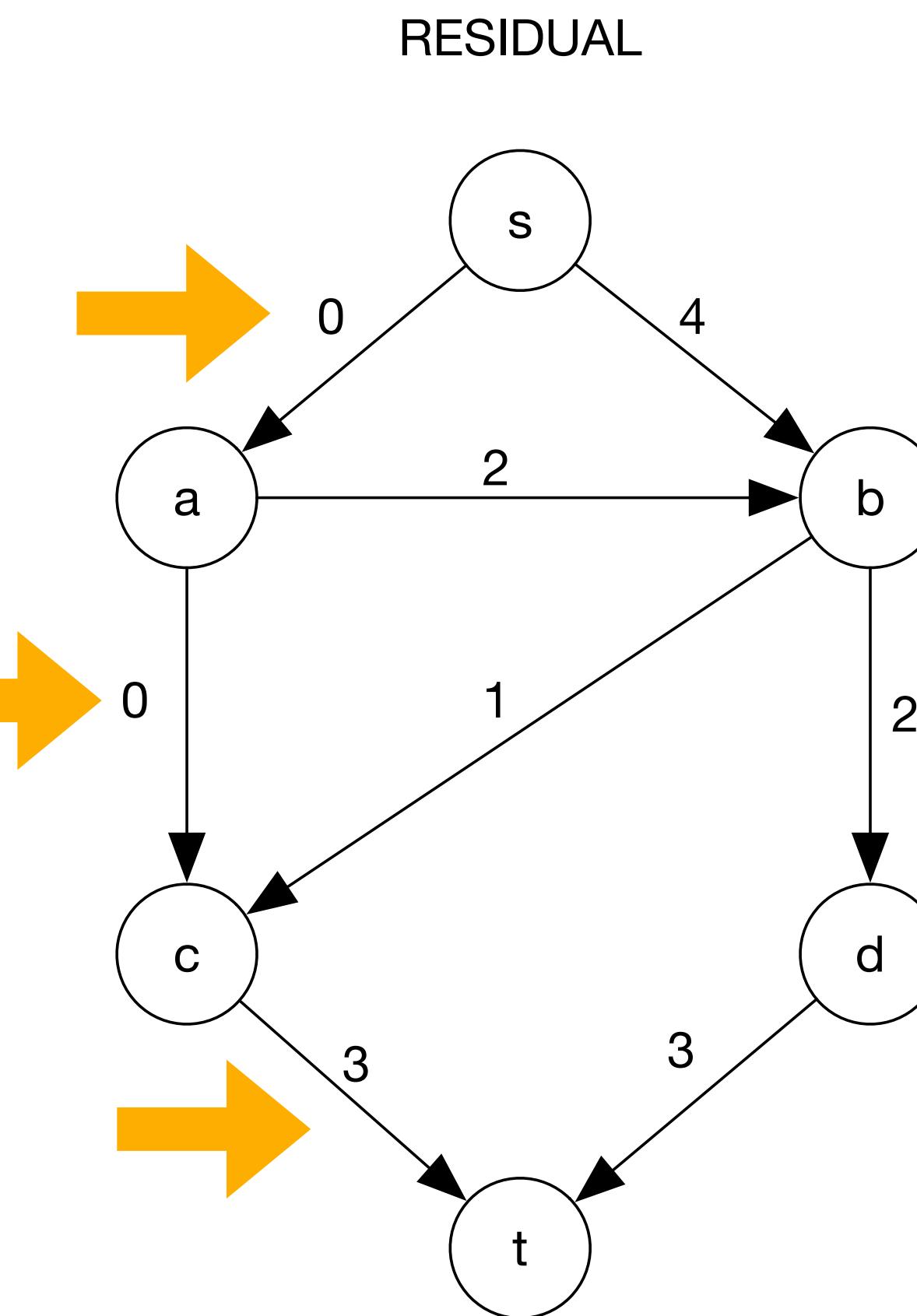
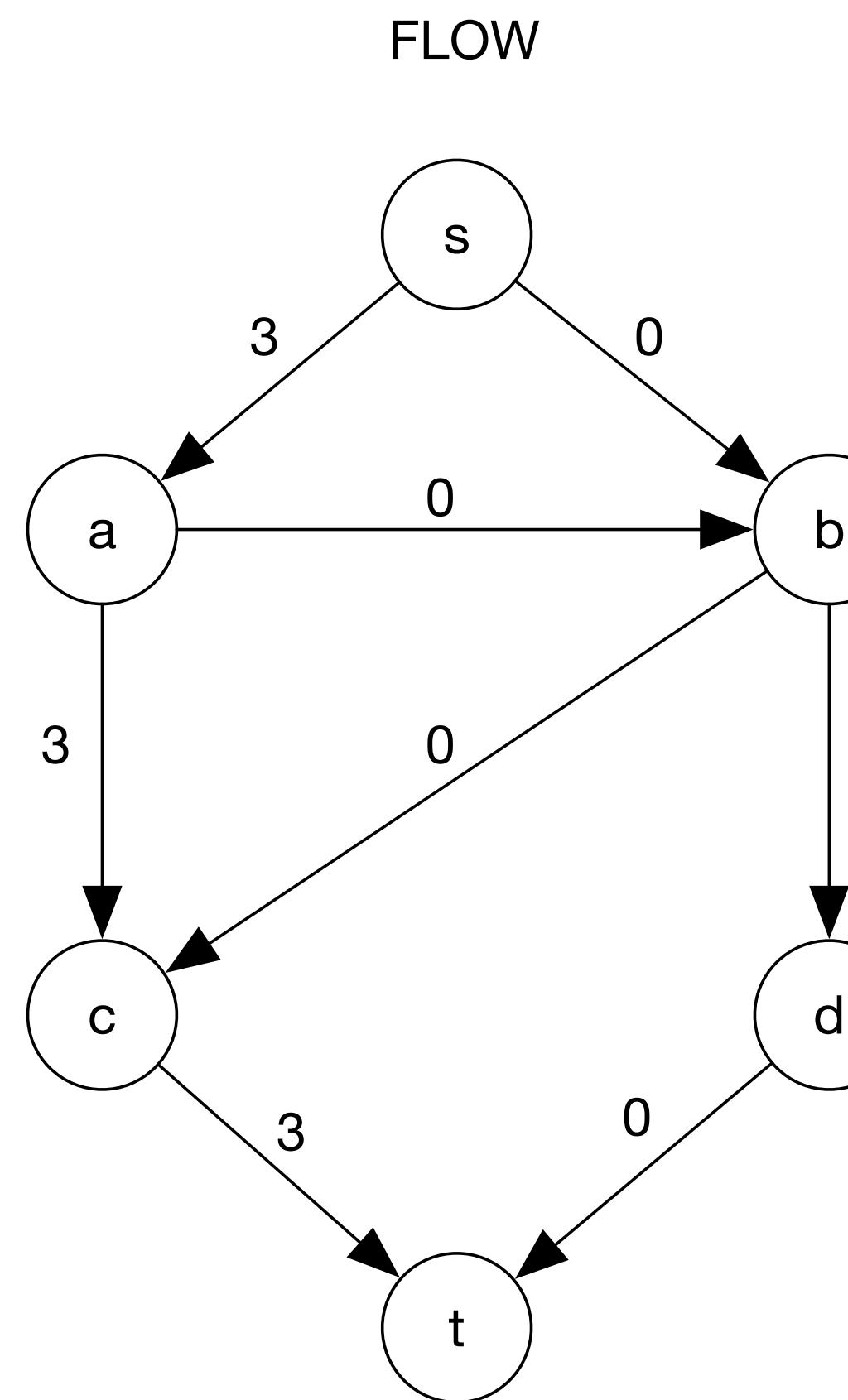
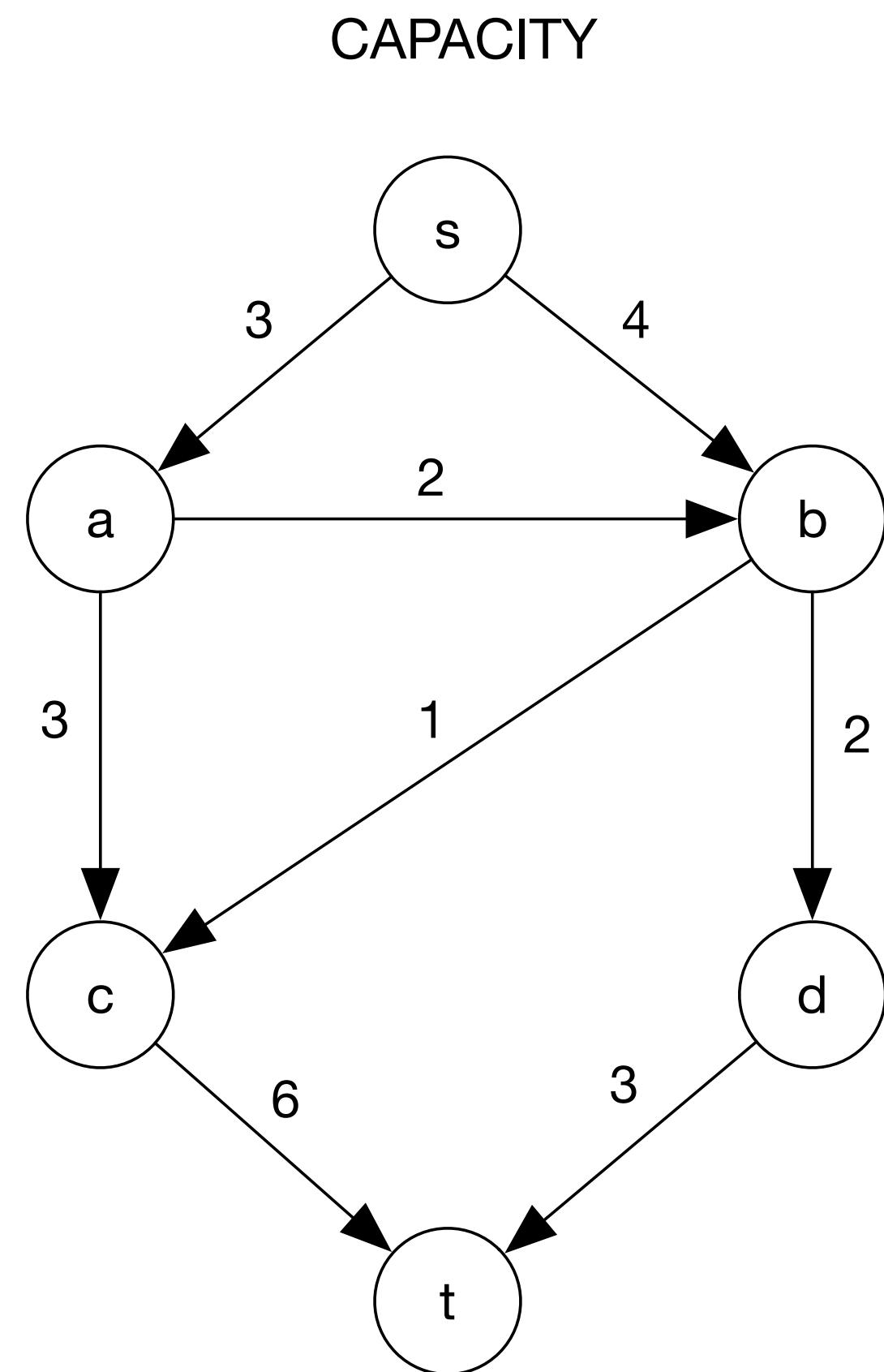
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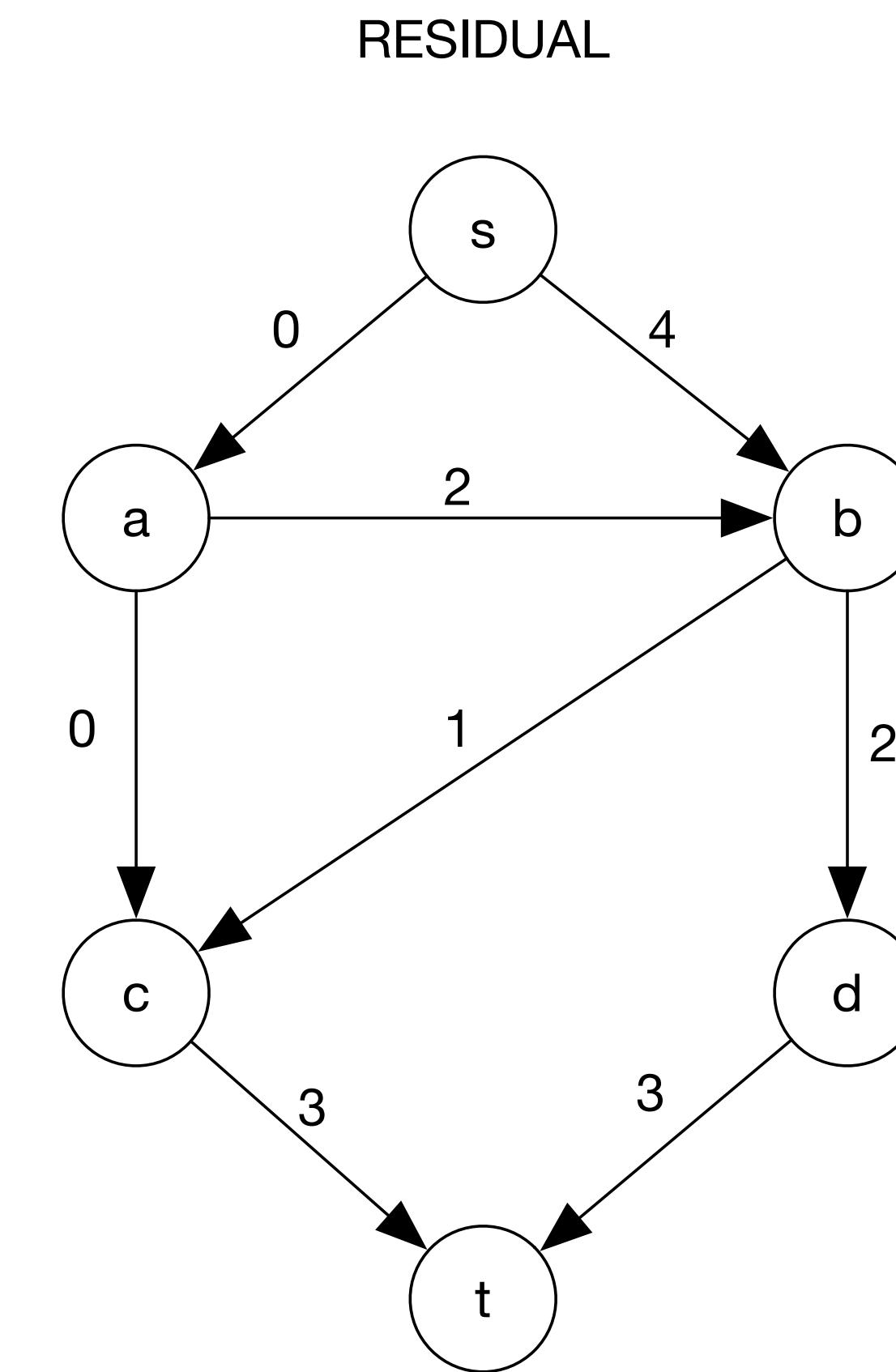
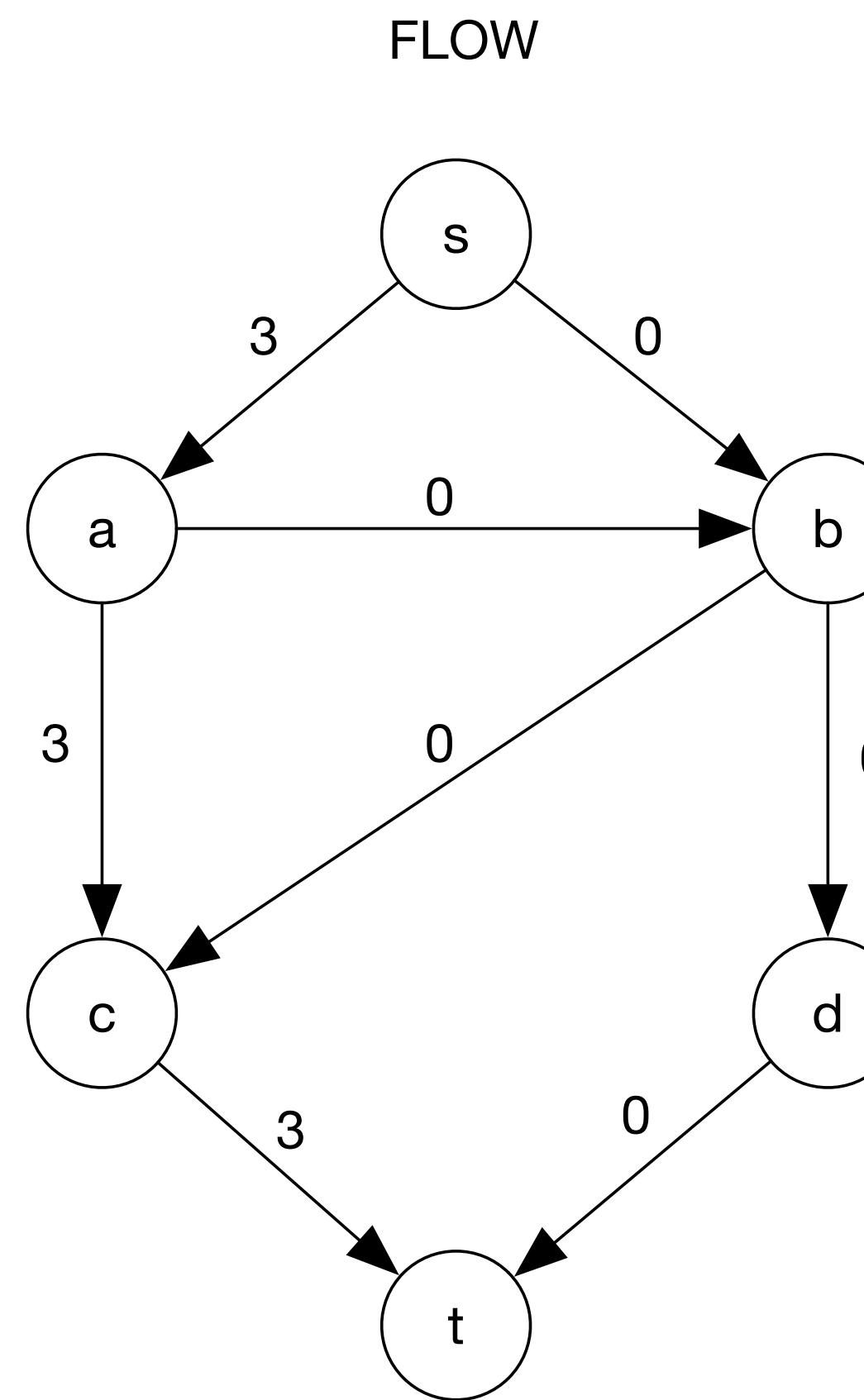
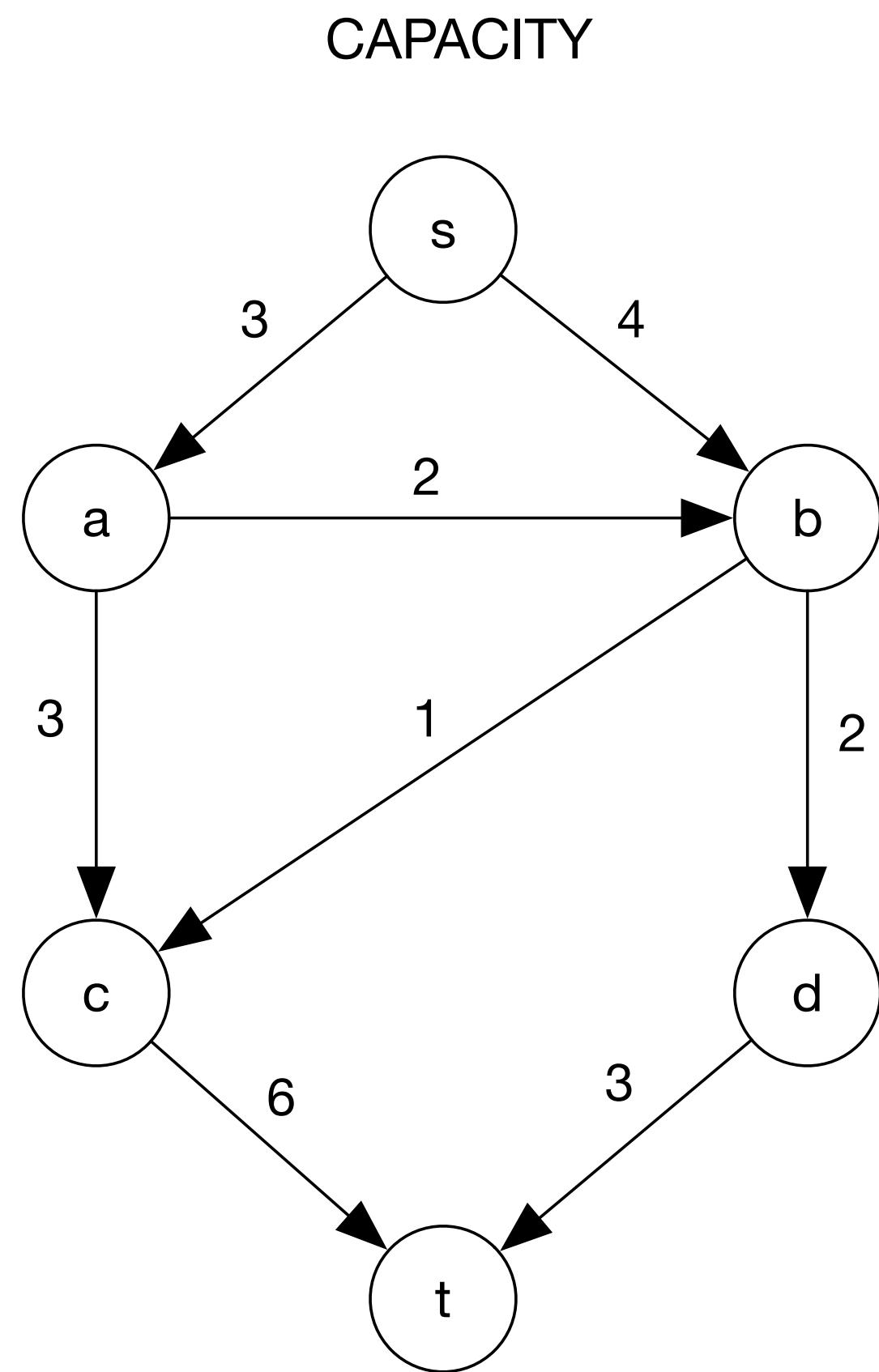
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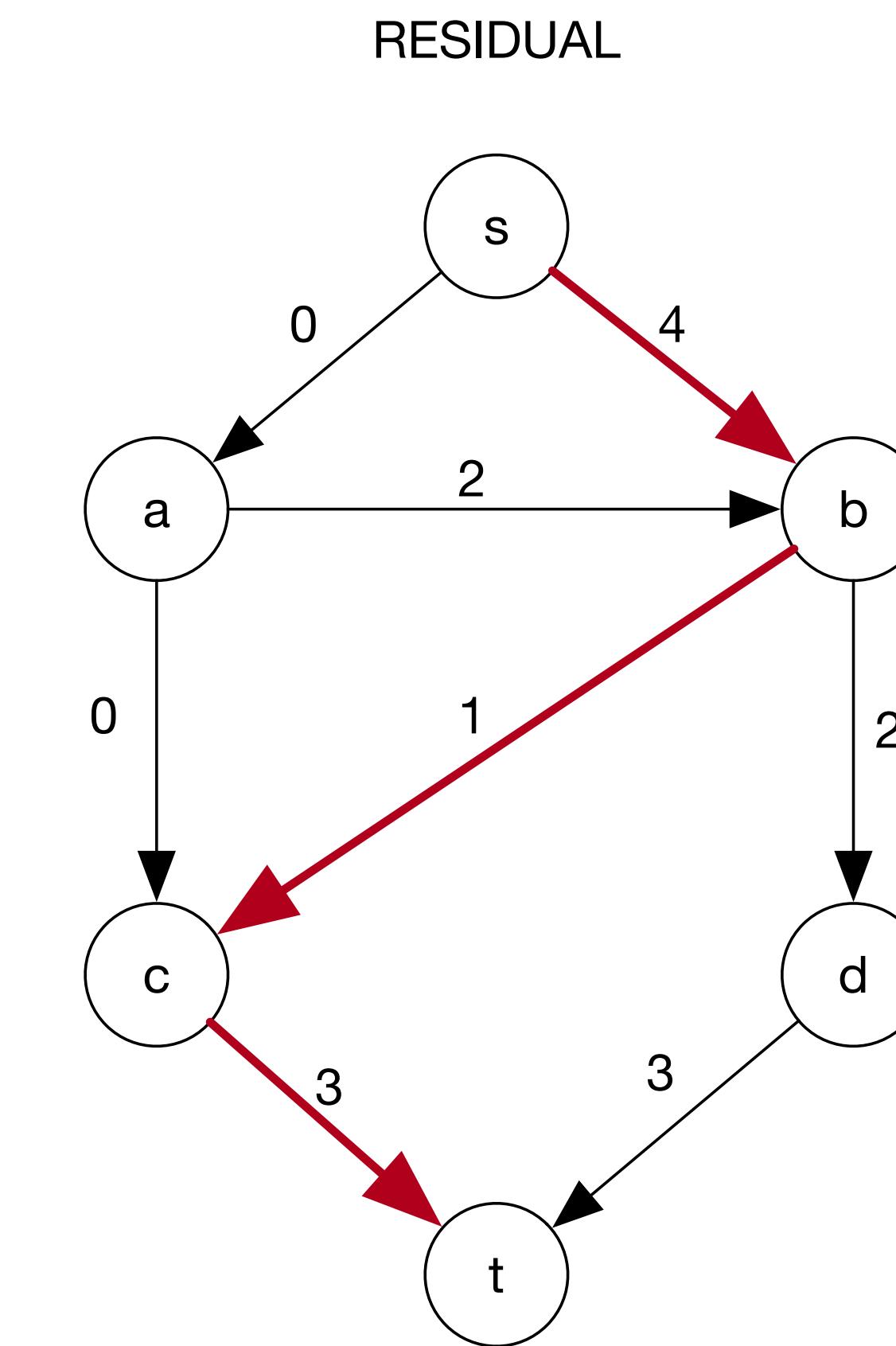
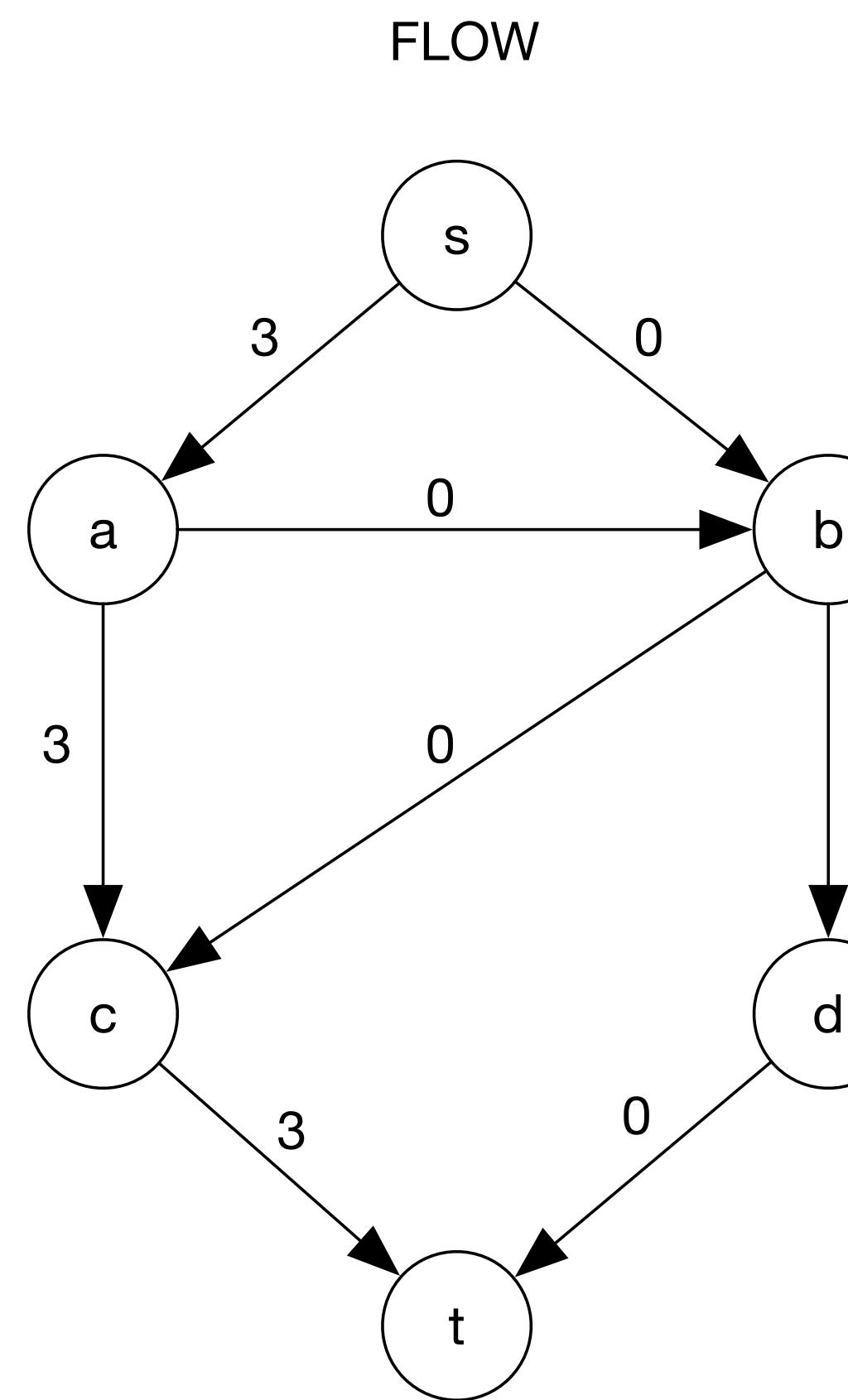
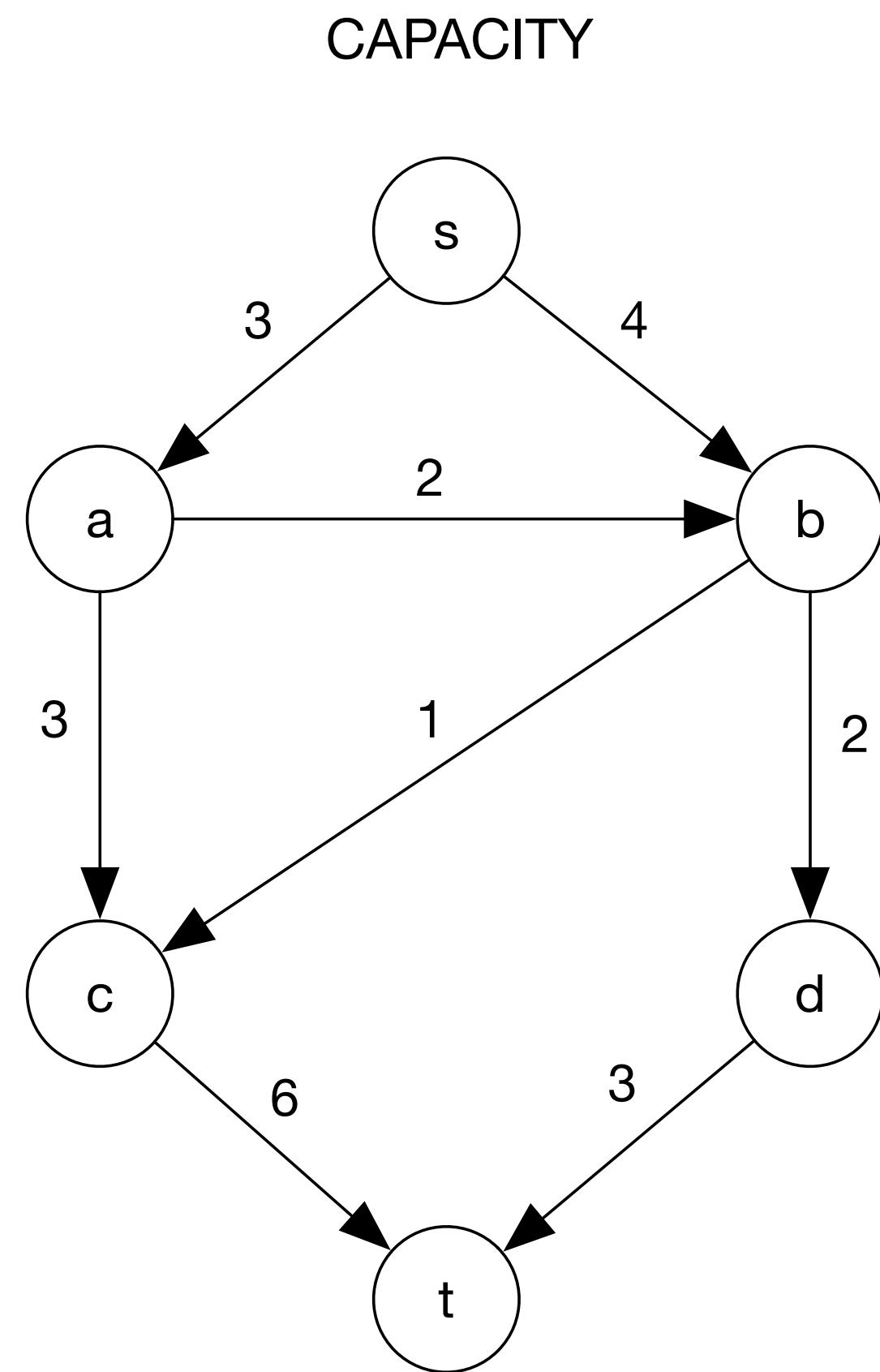
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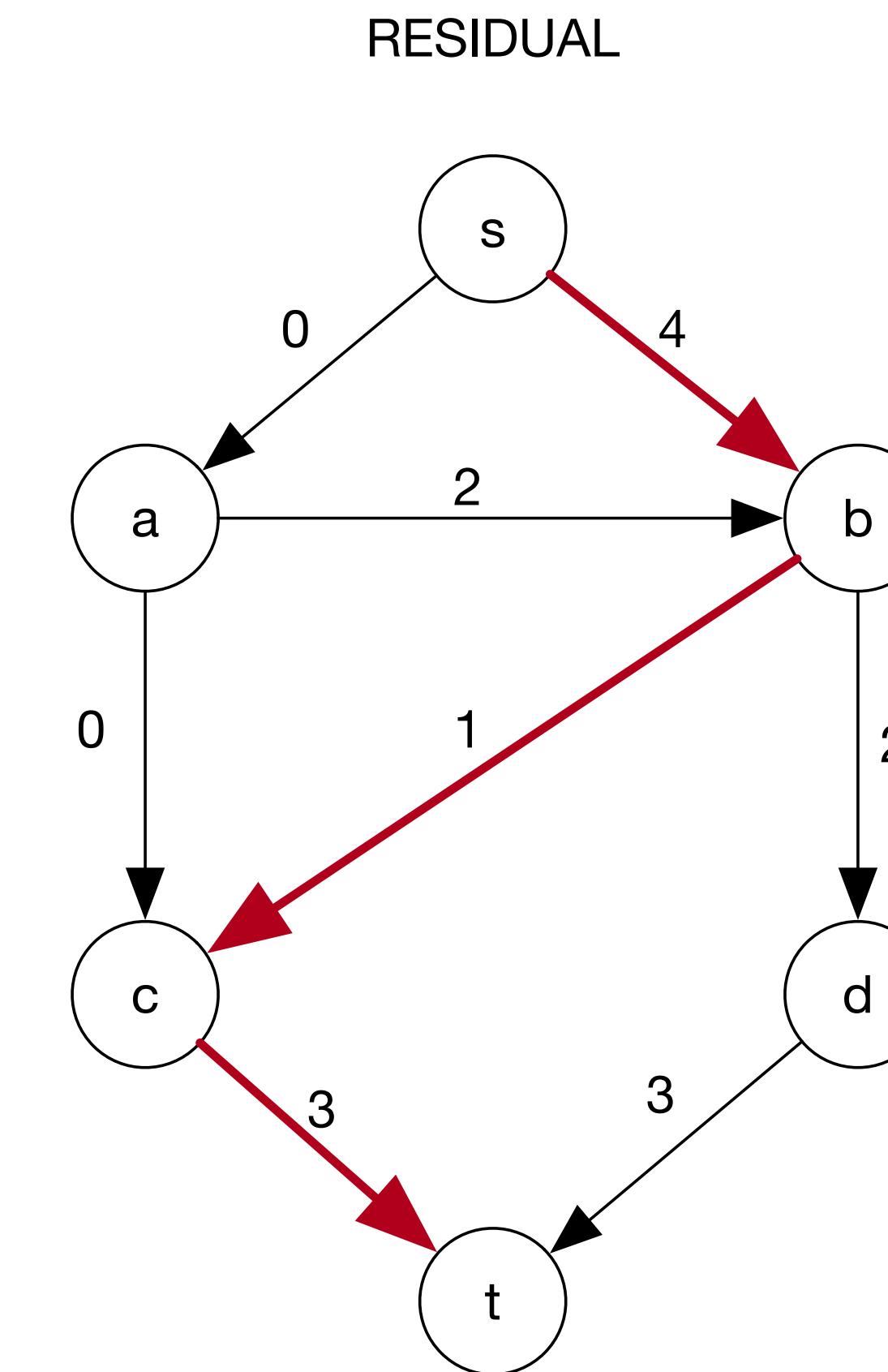
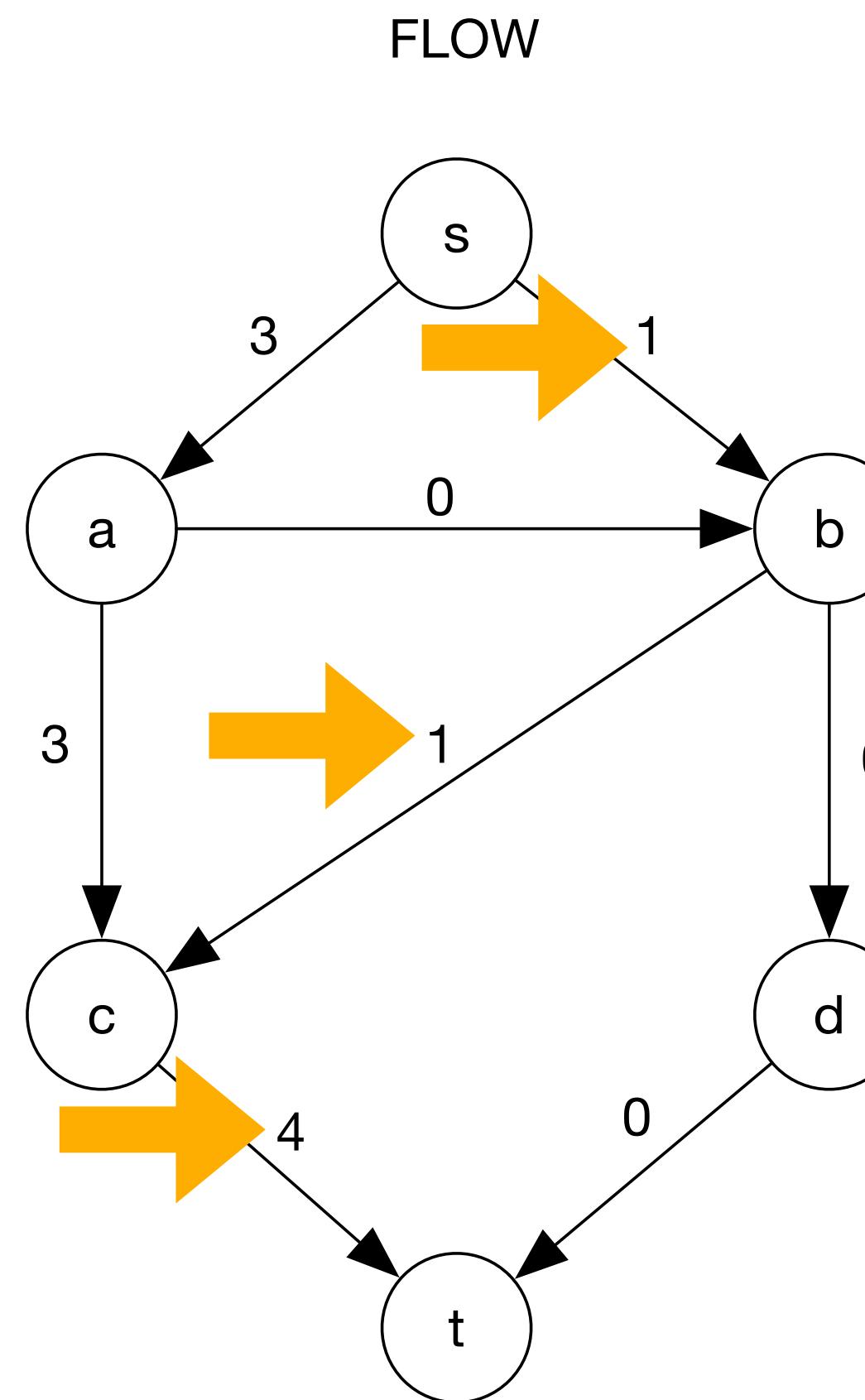
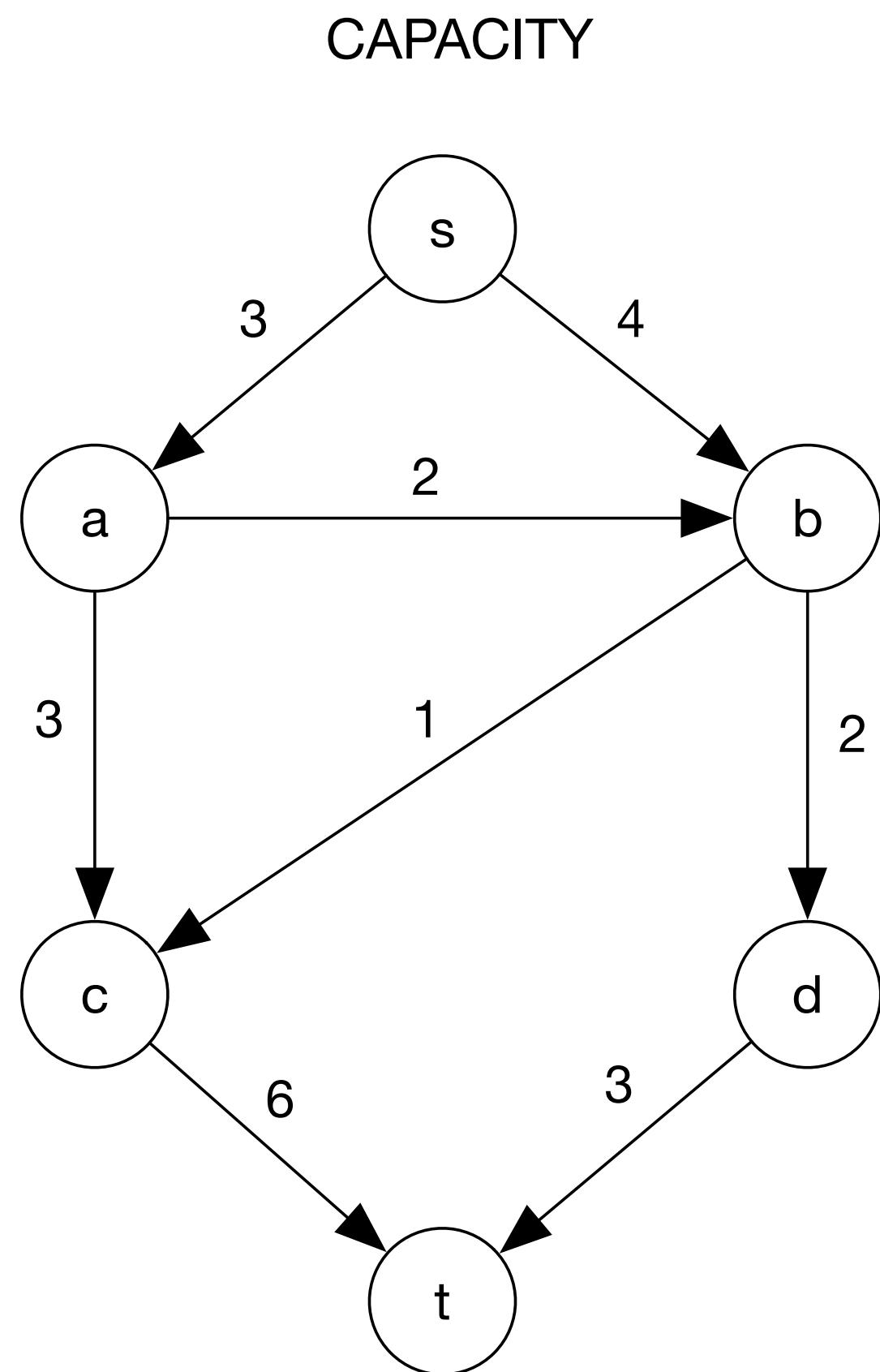
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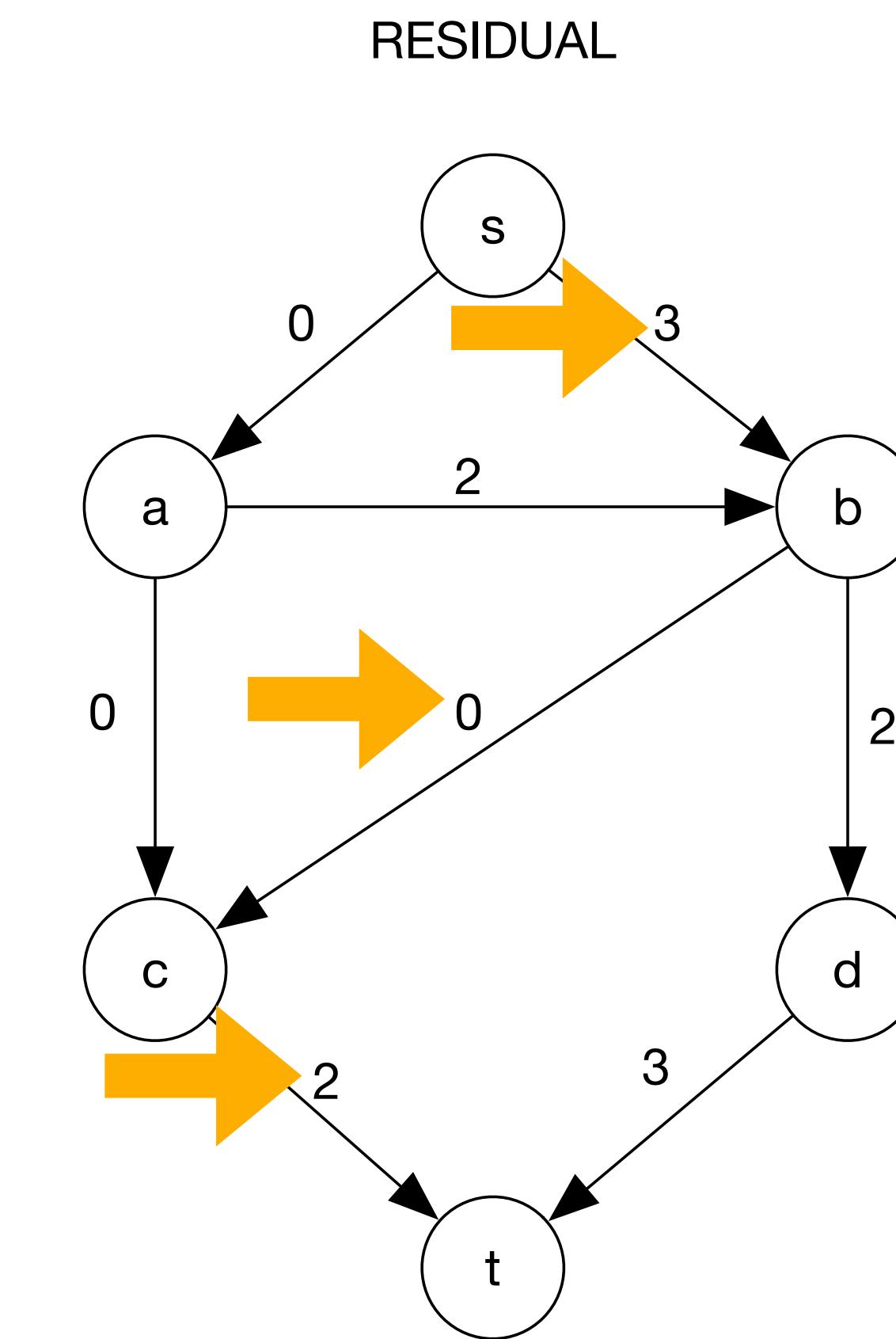
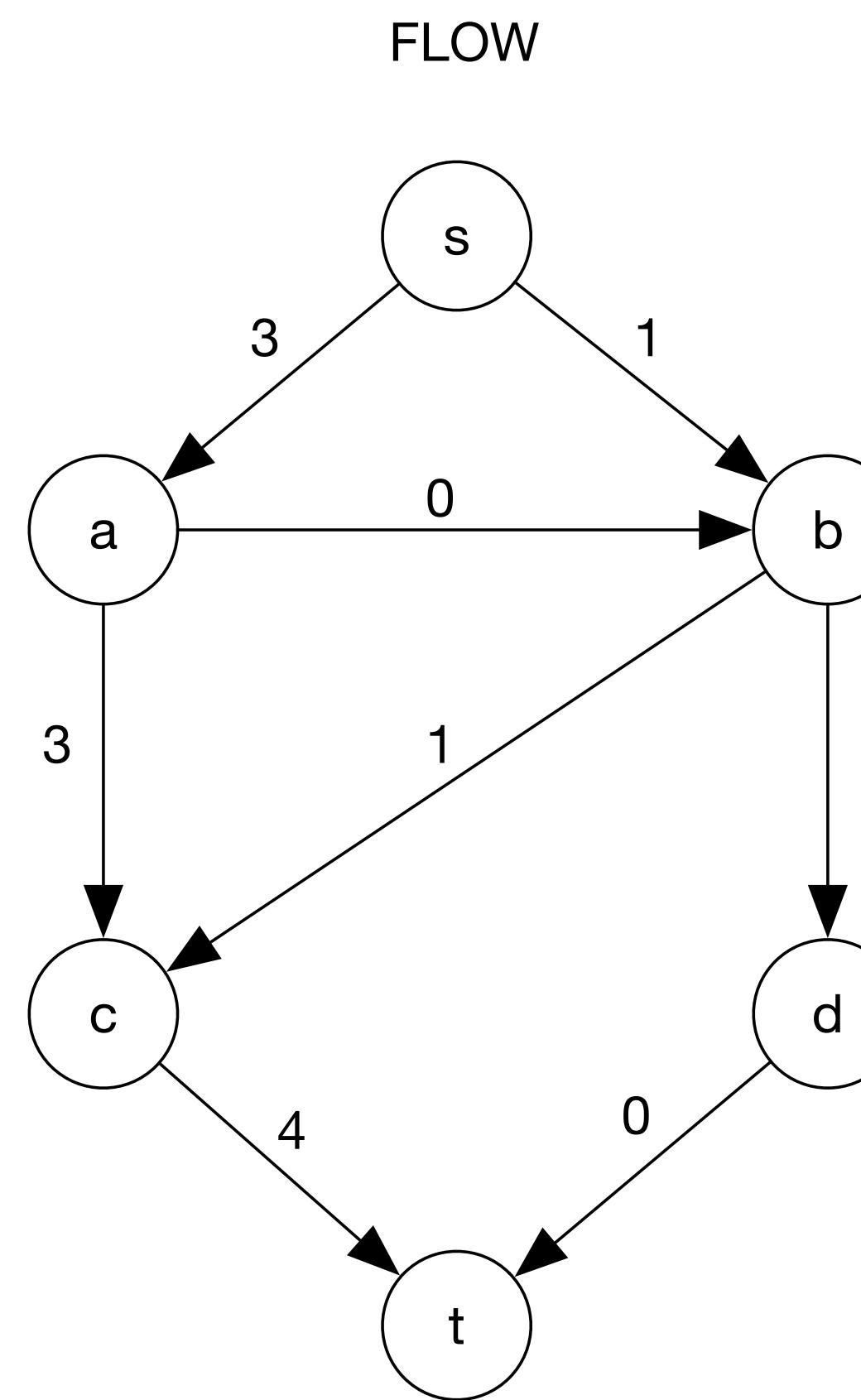
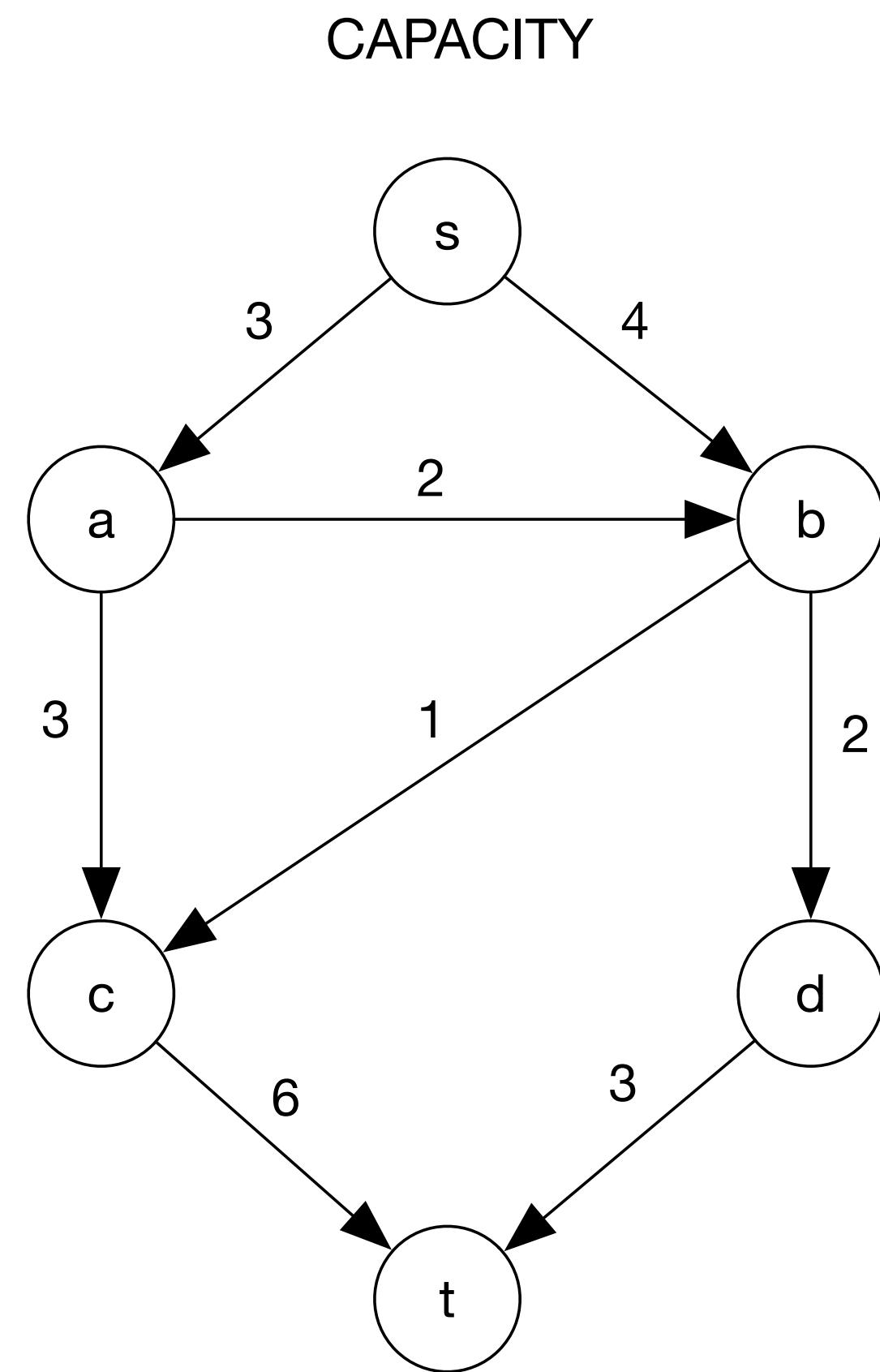
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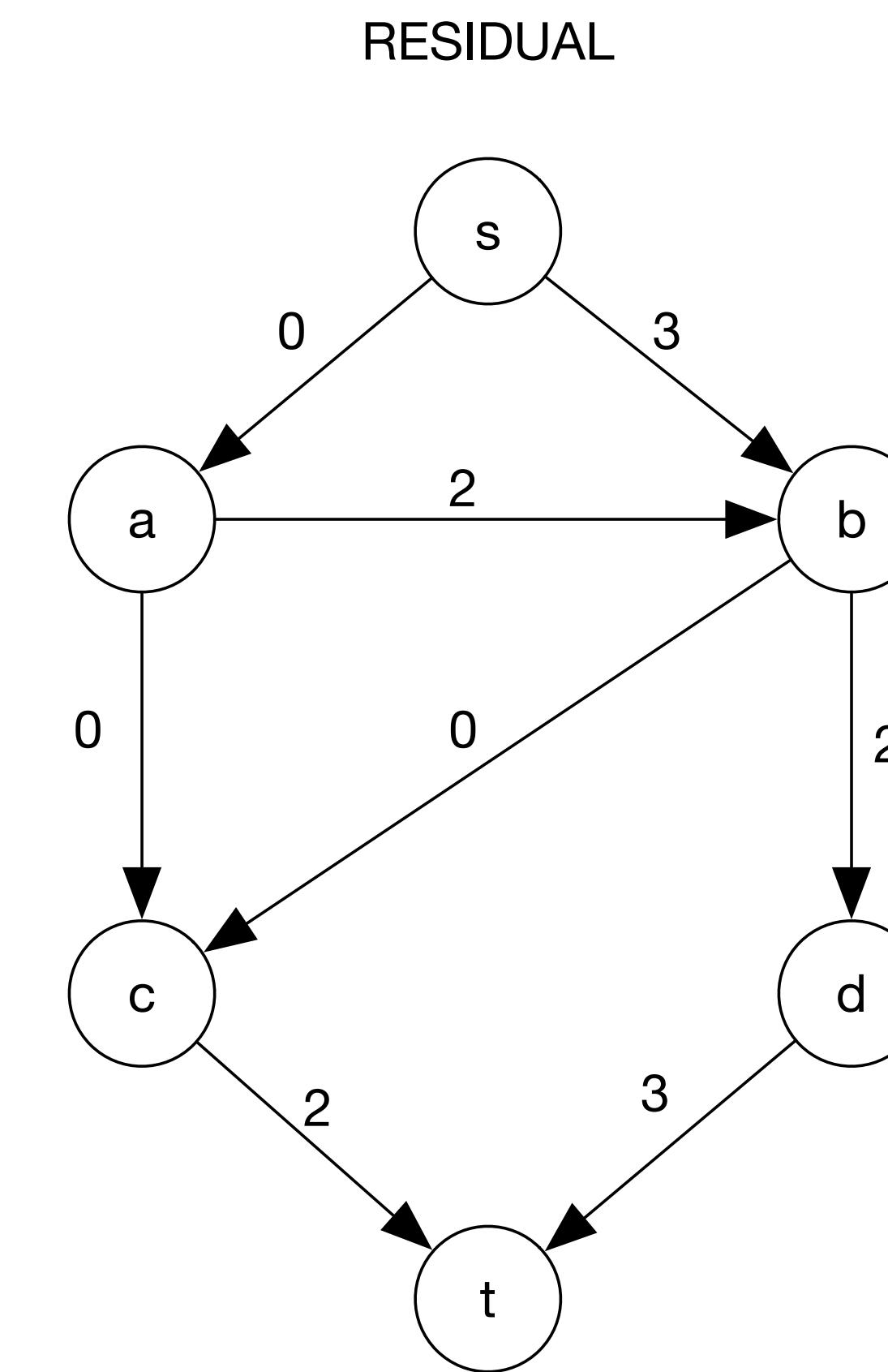
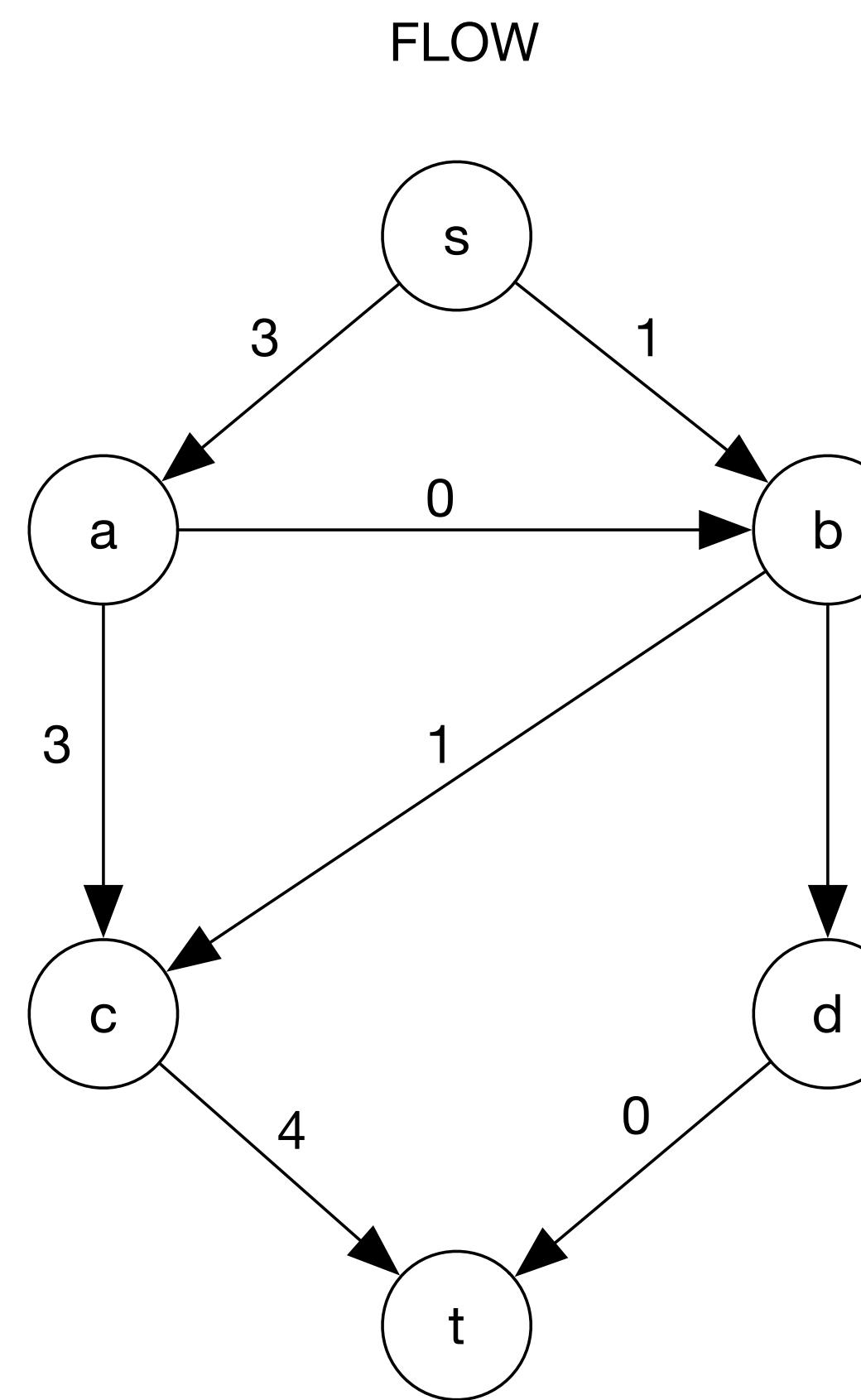
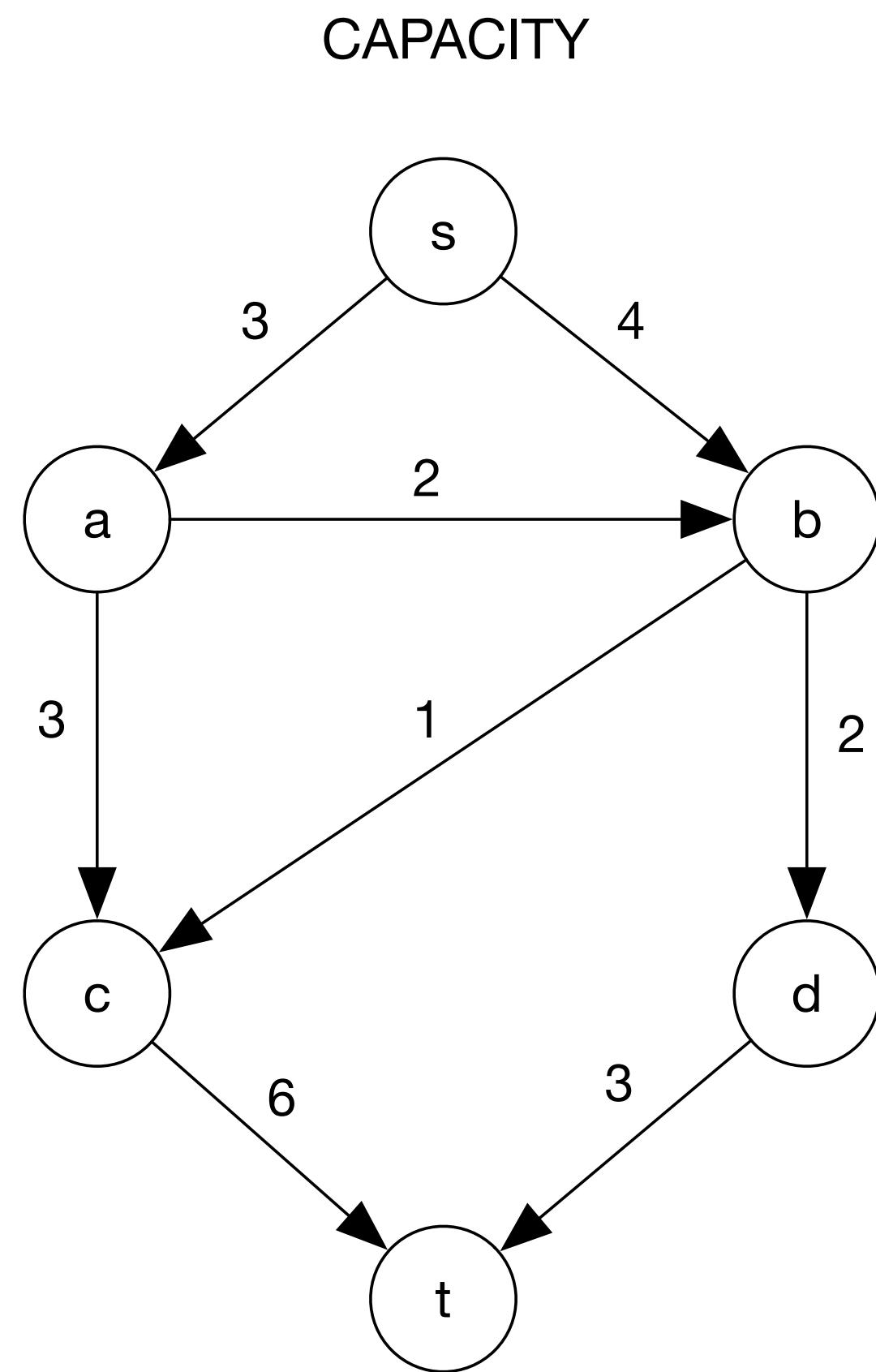
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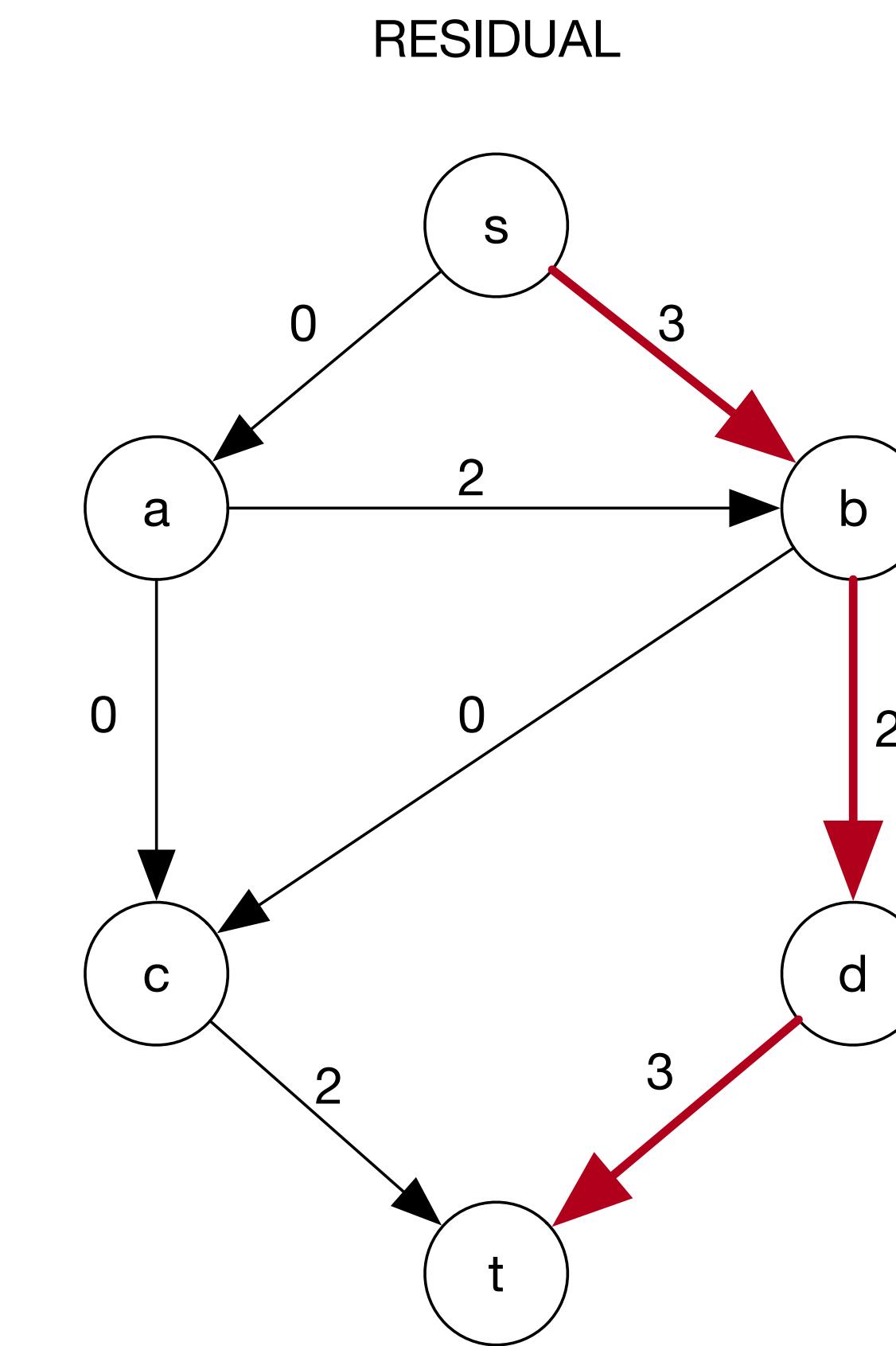
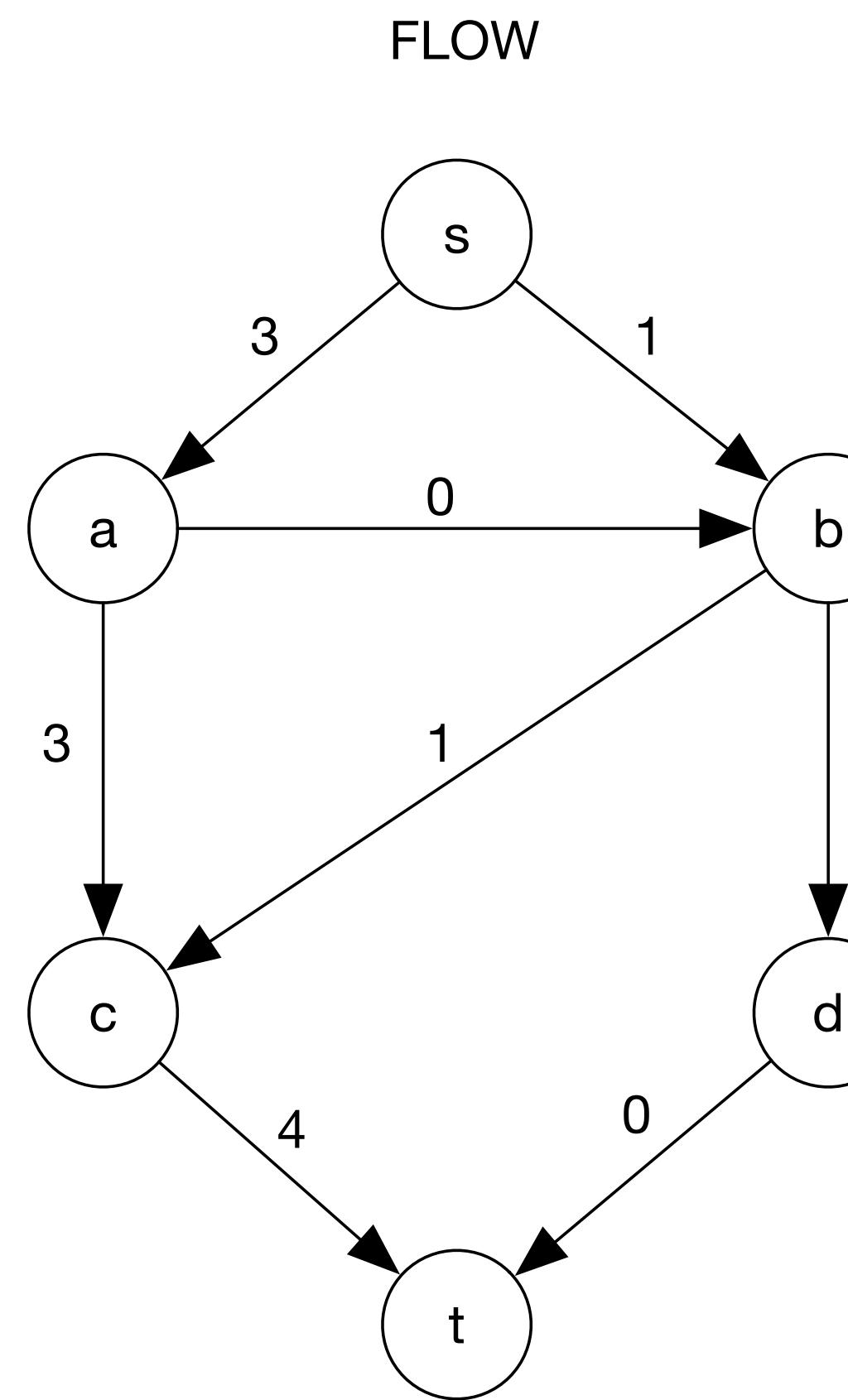
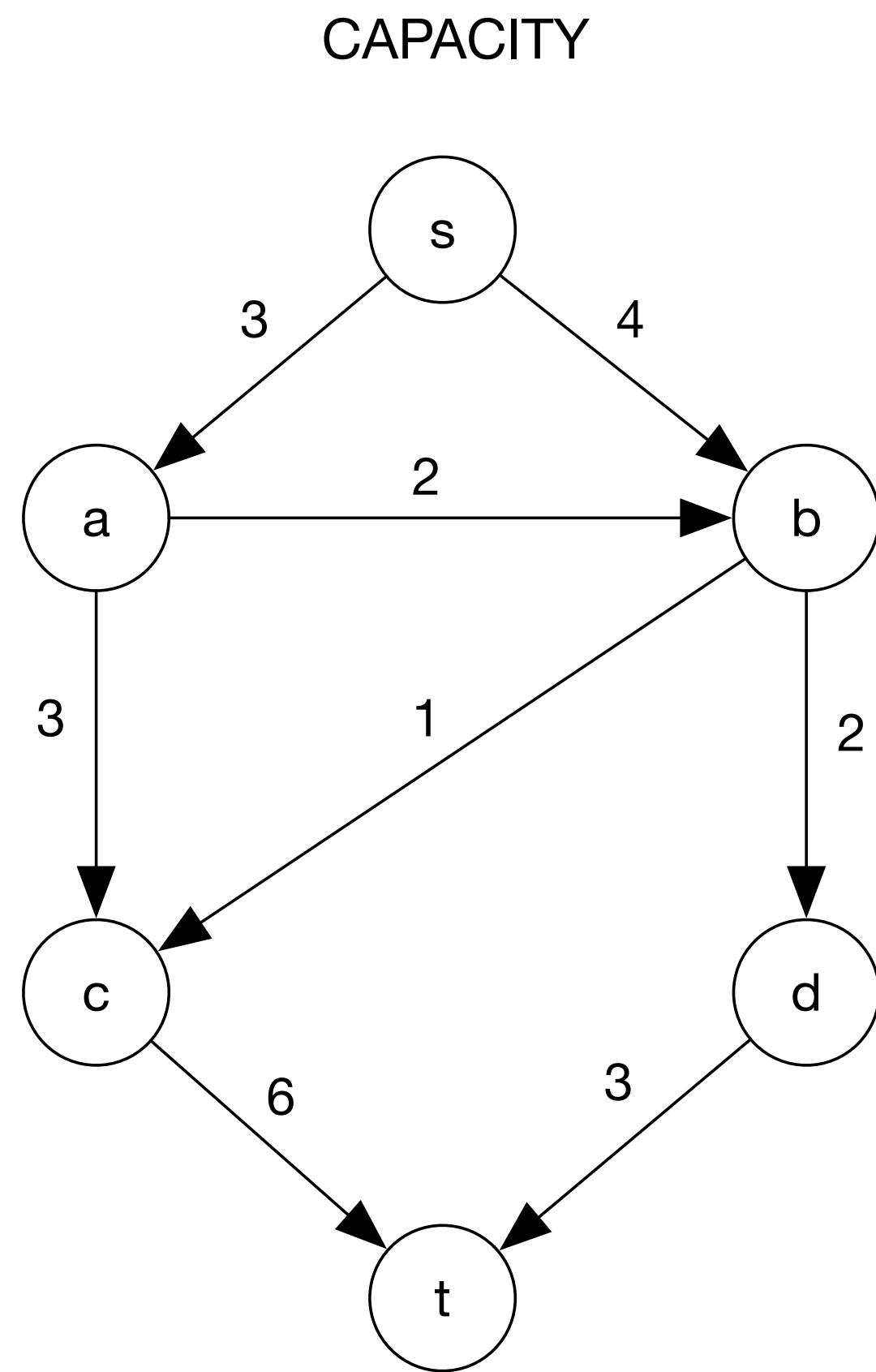
# Network flow



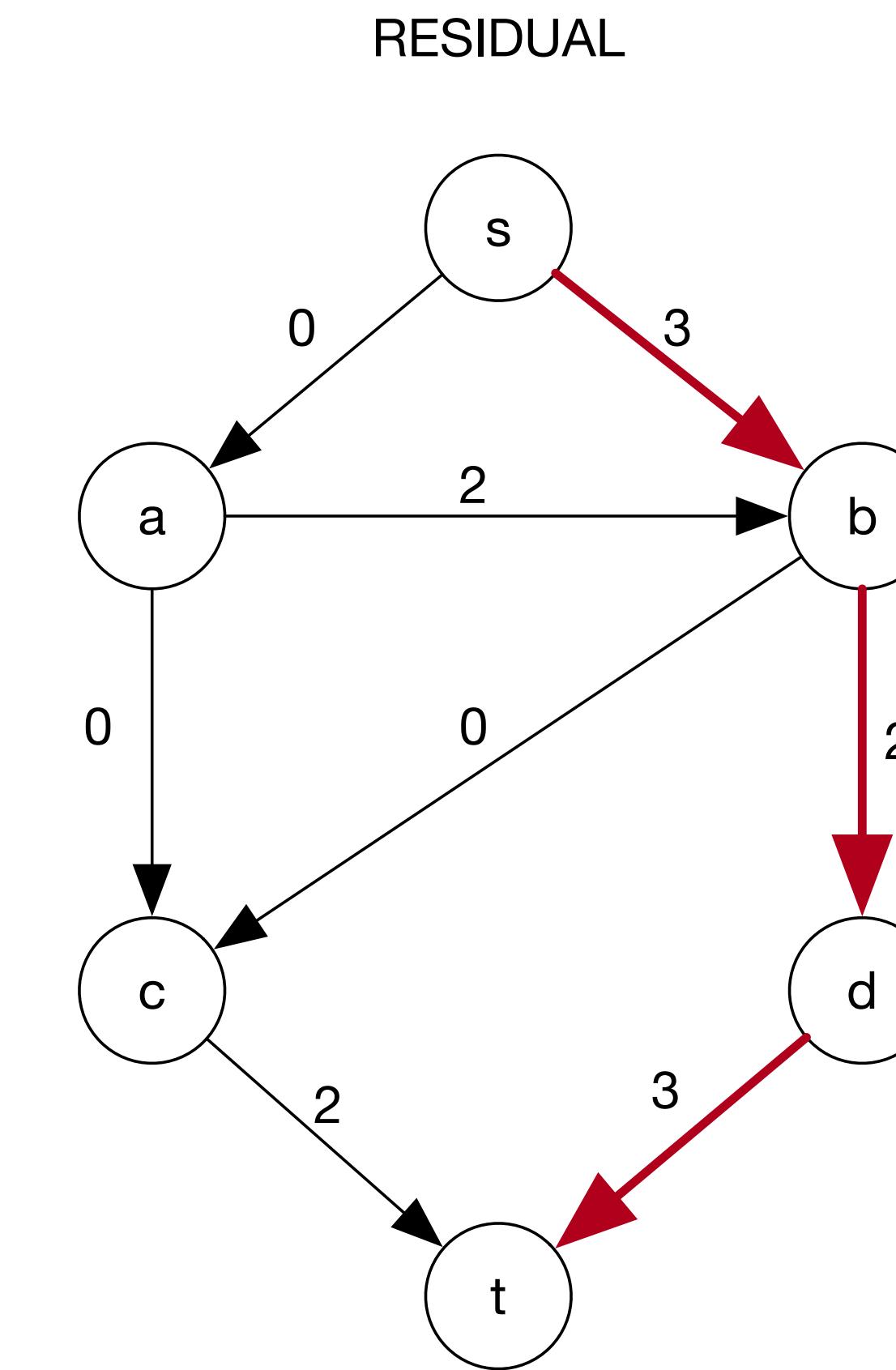
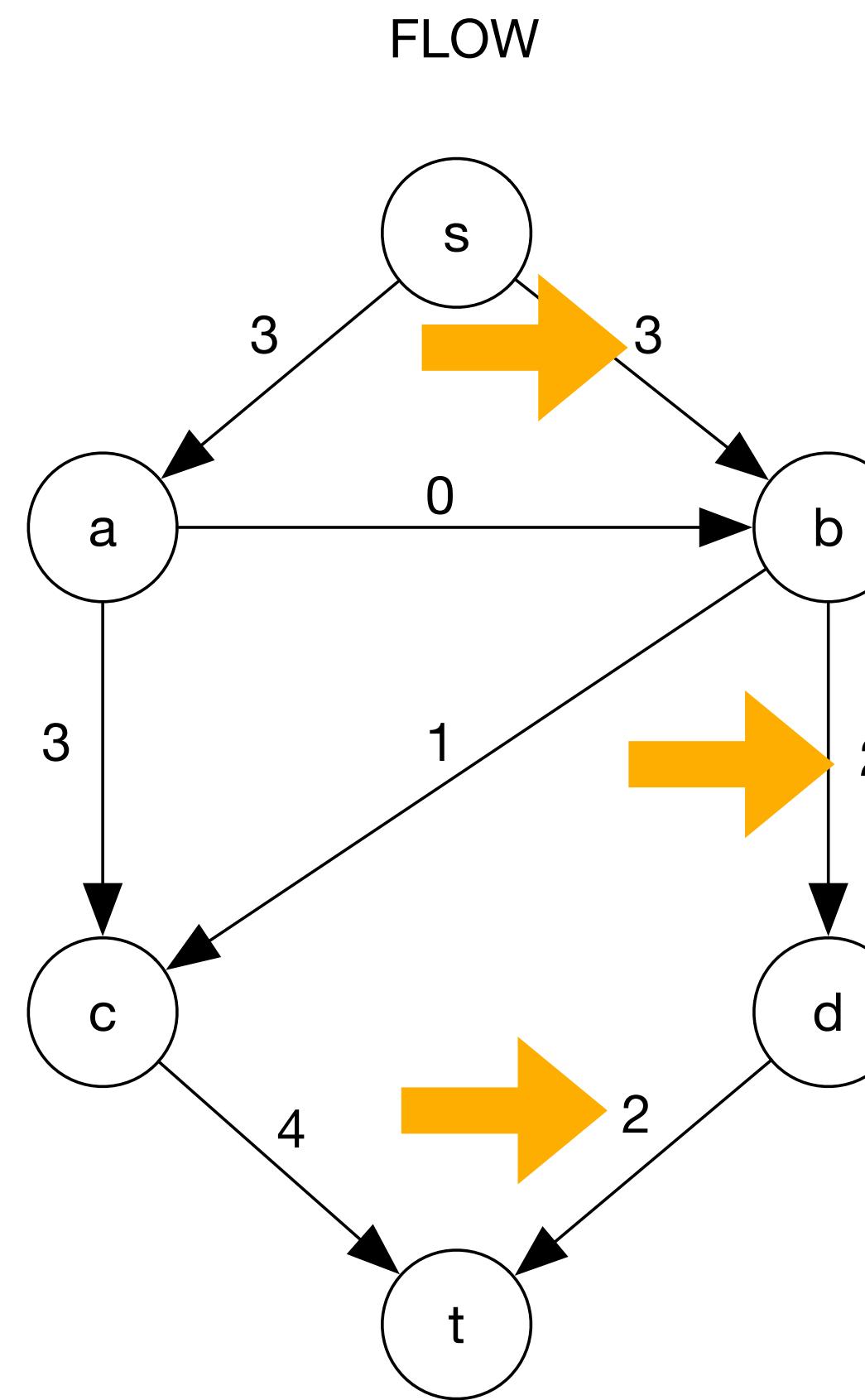
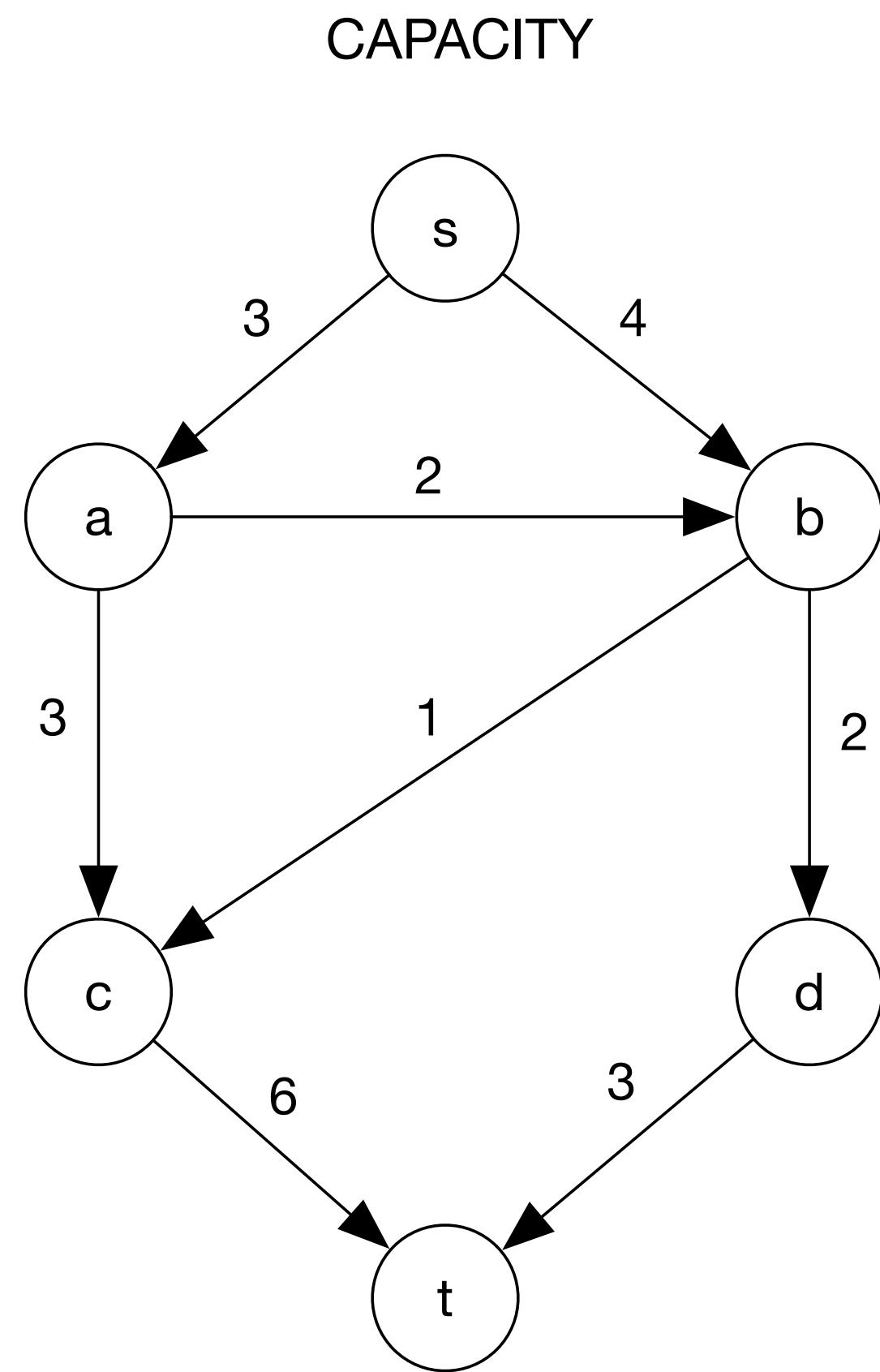
# Network flow



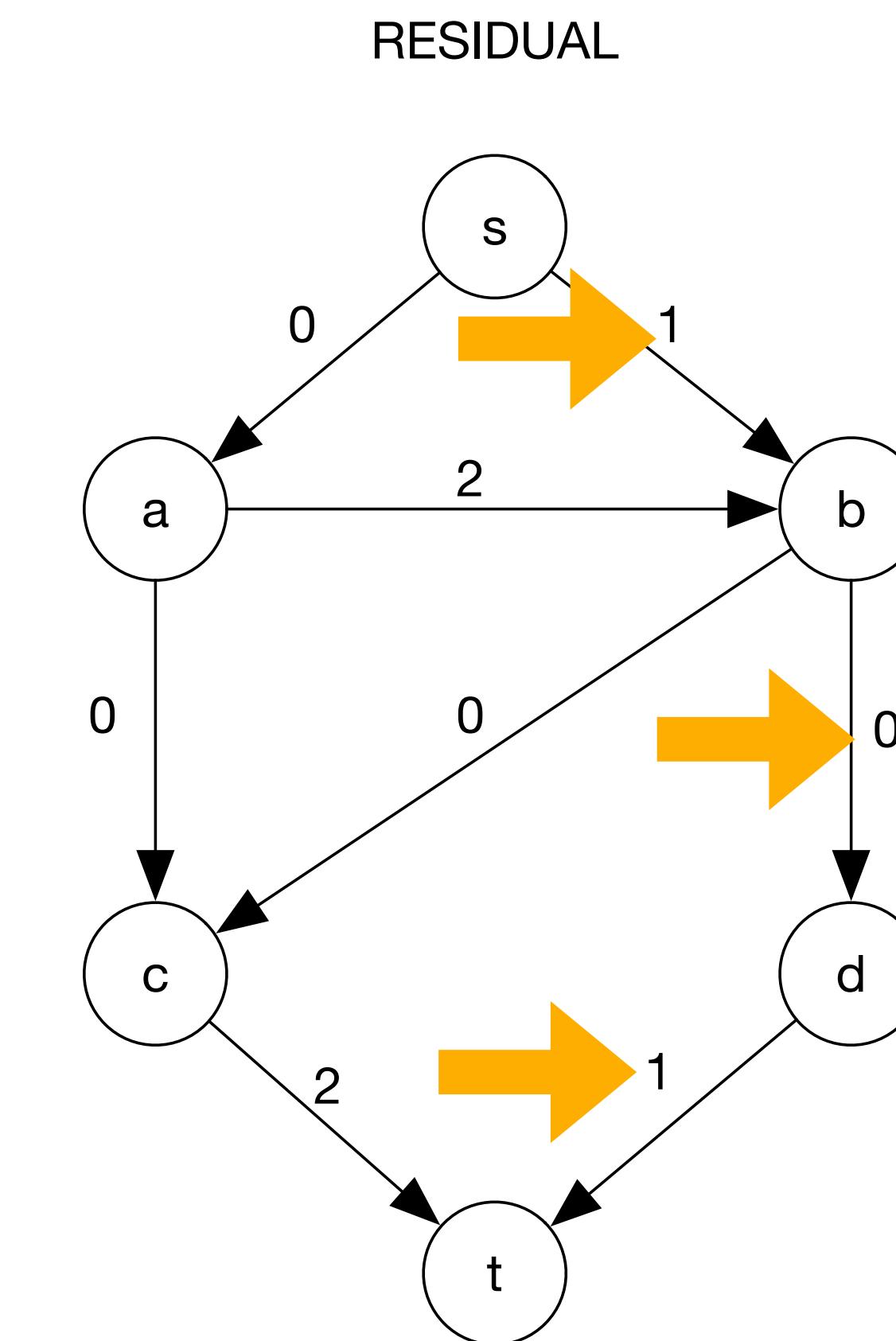
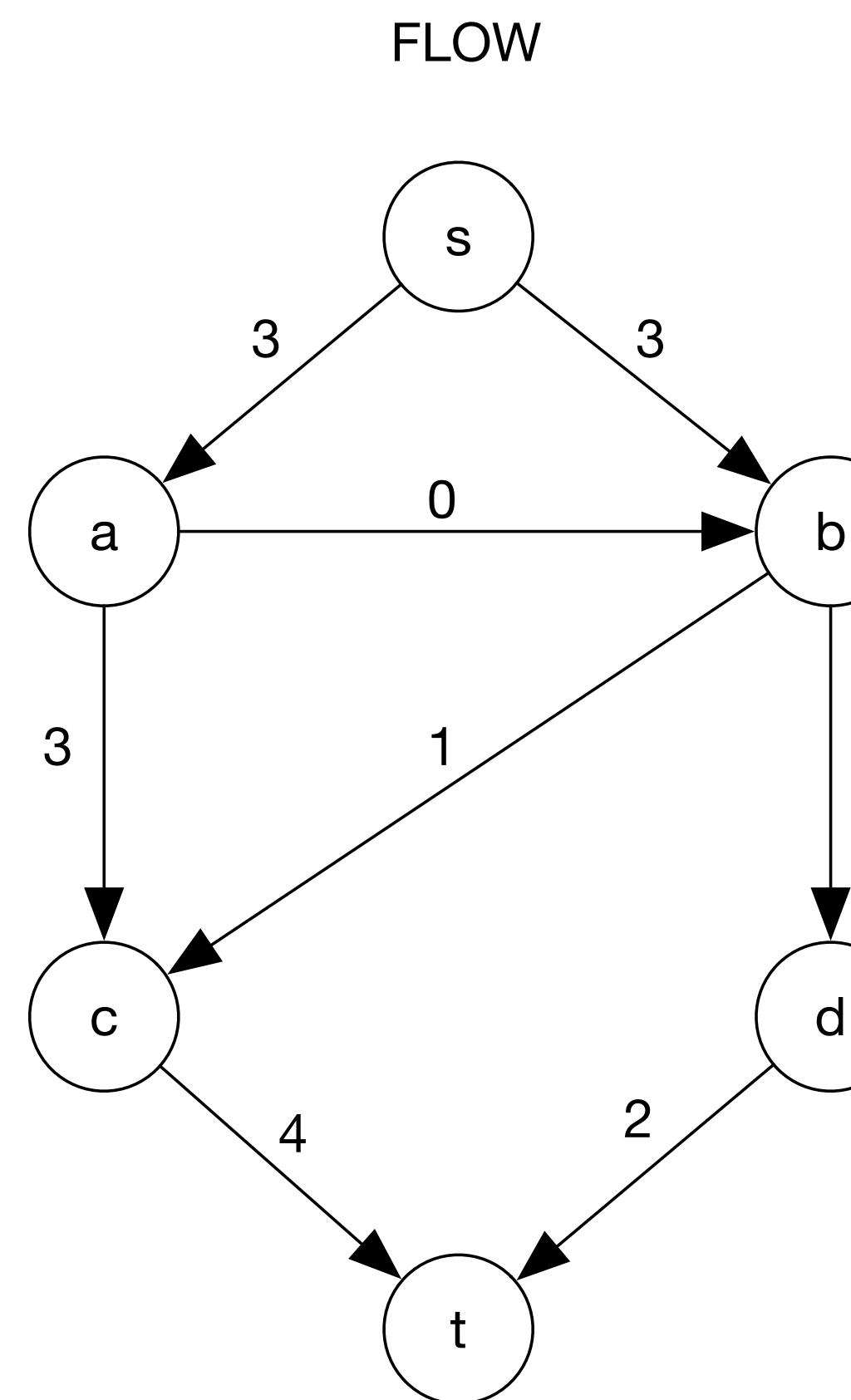
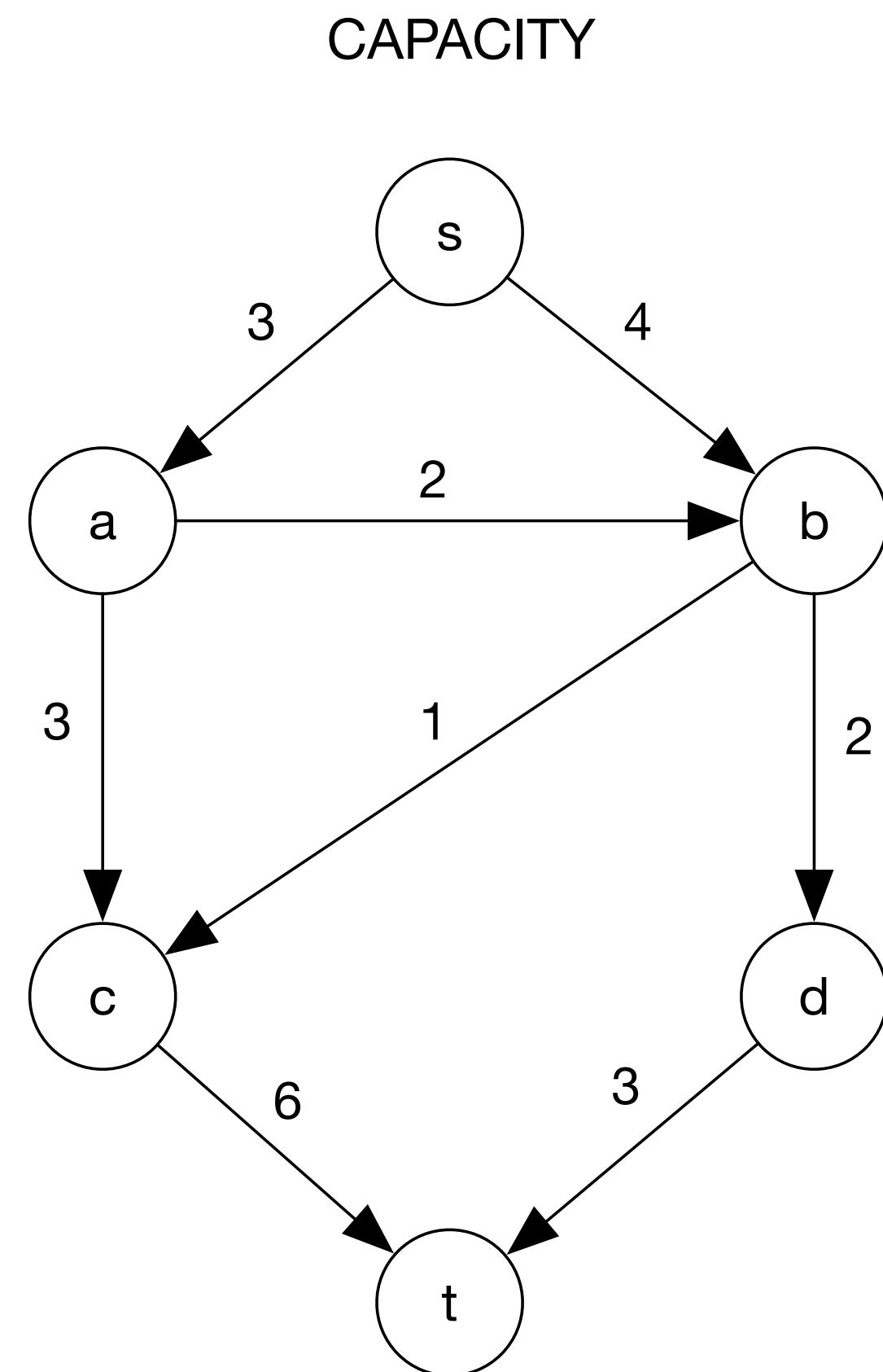
# Network flow



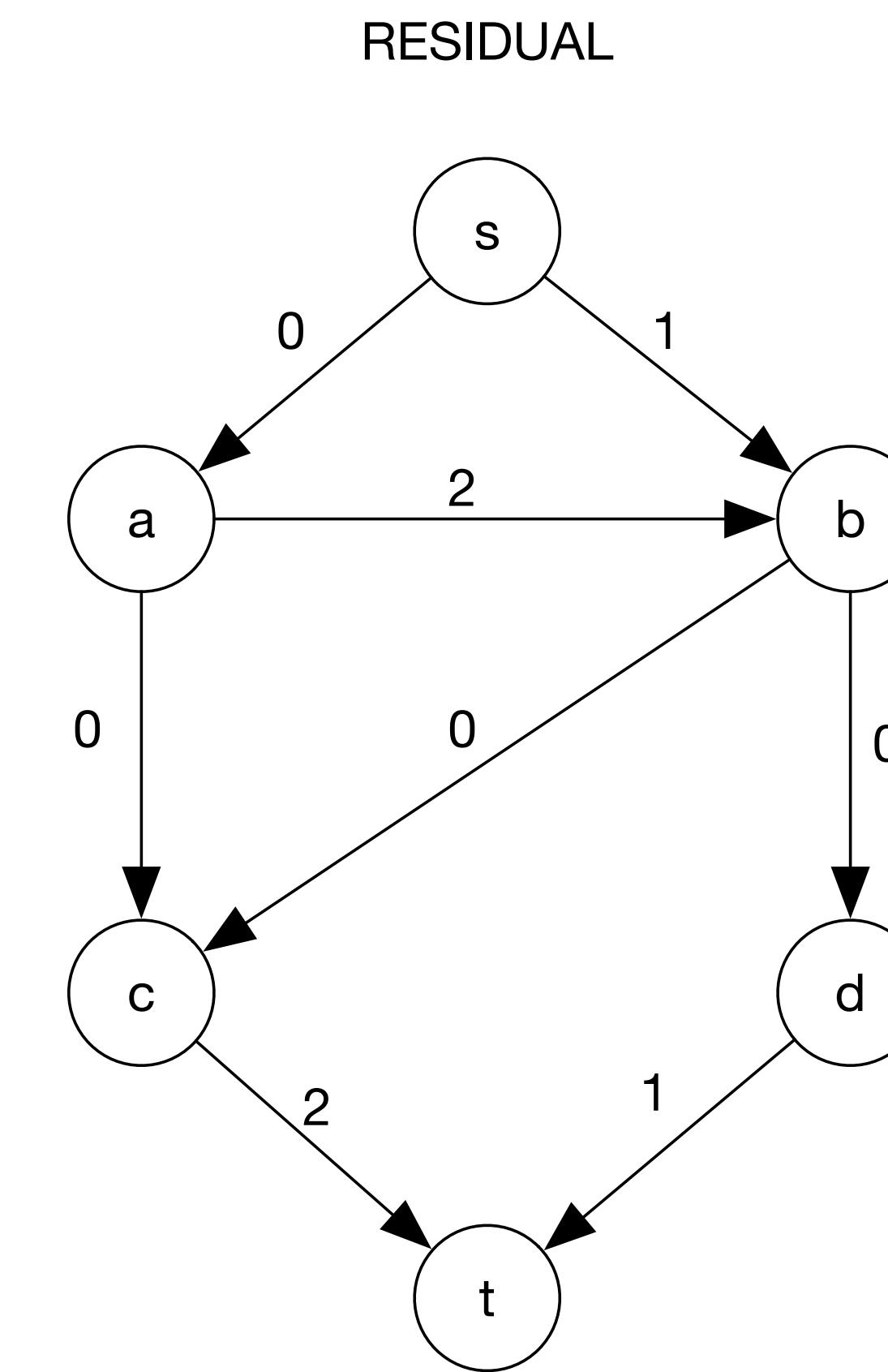
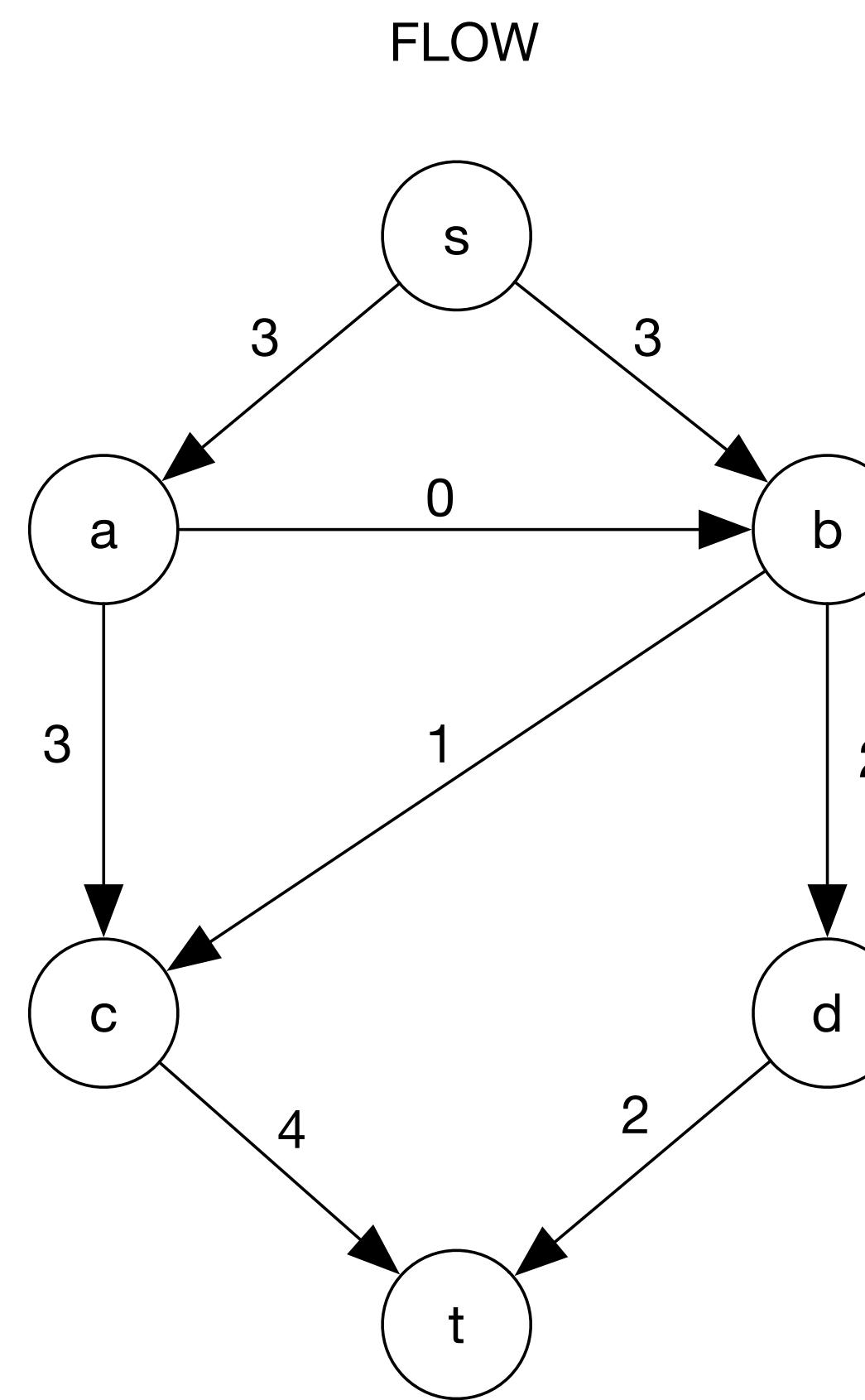
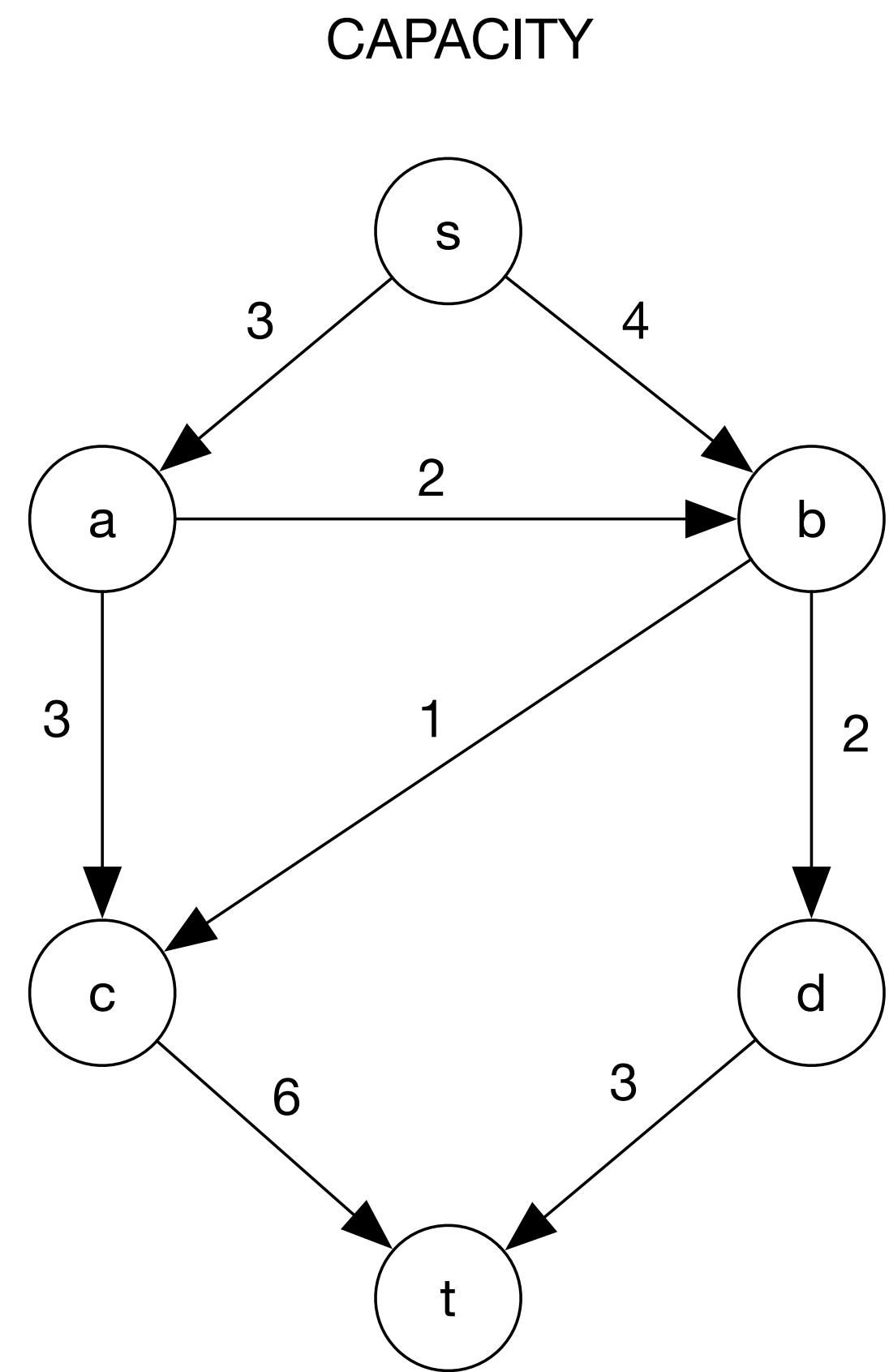
# Network flow



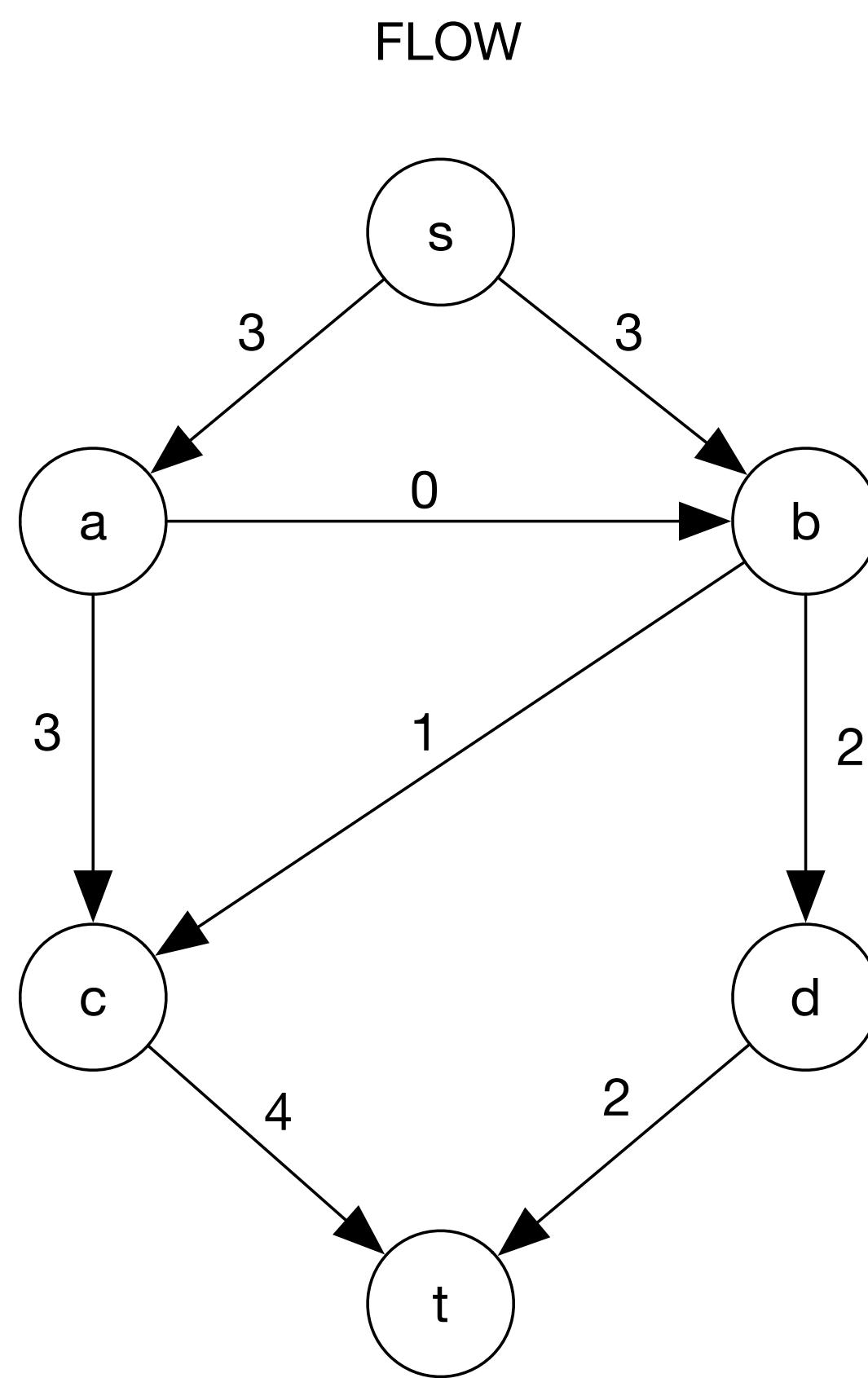
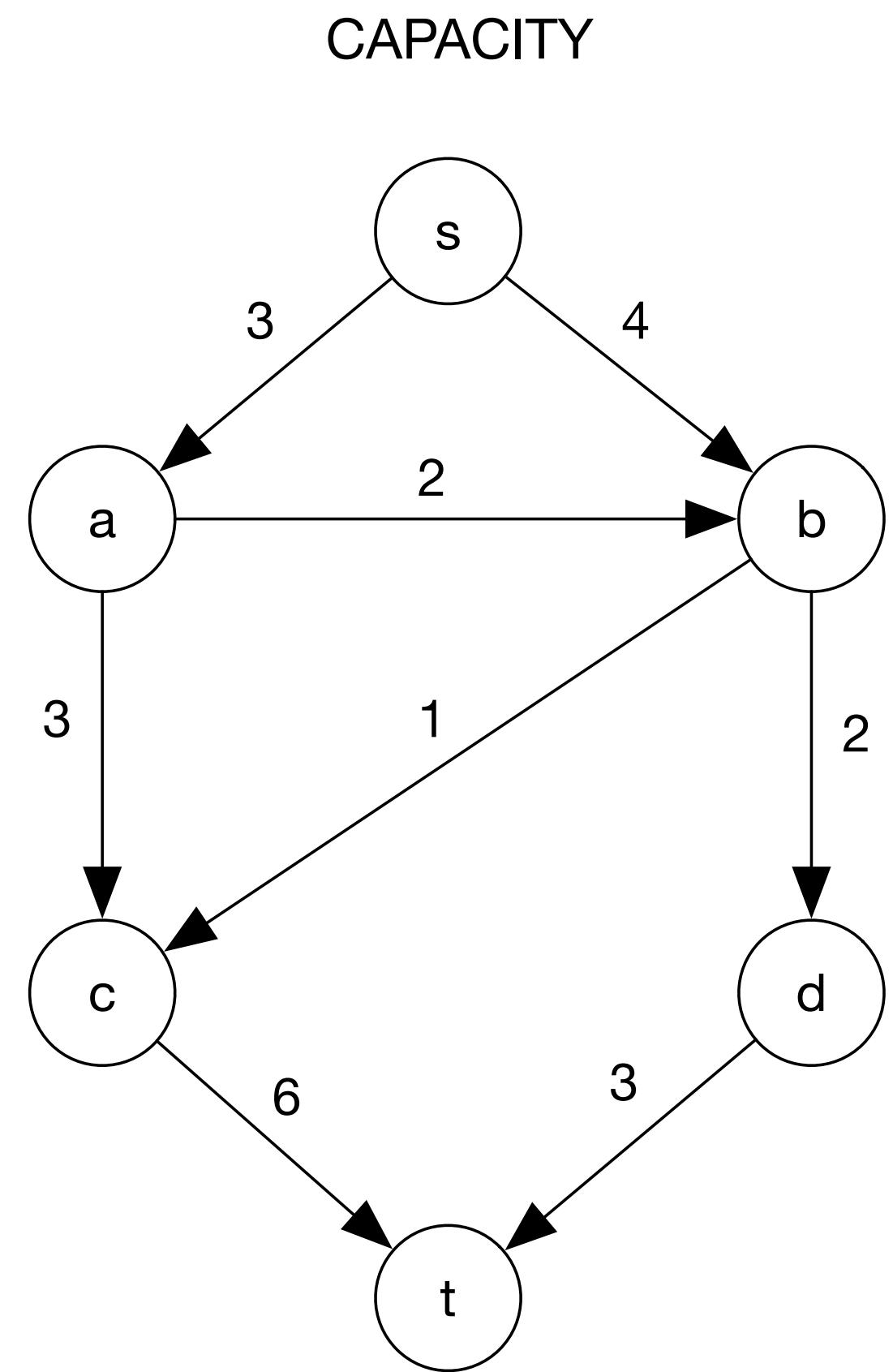
# Network flow



# Network flow

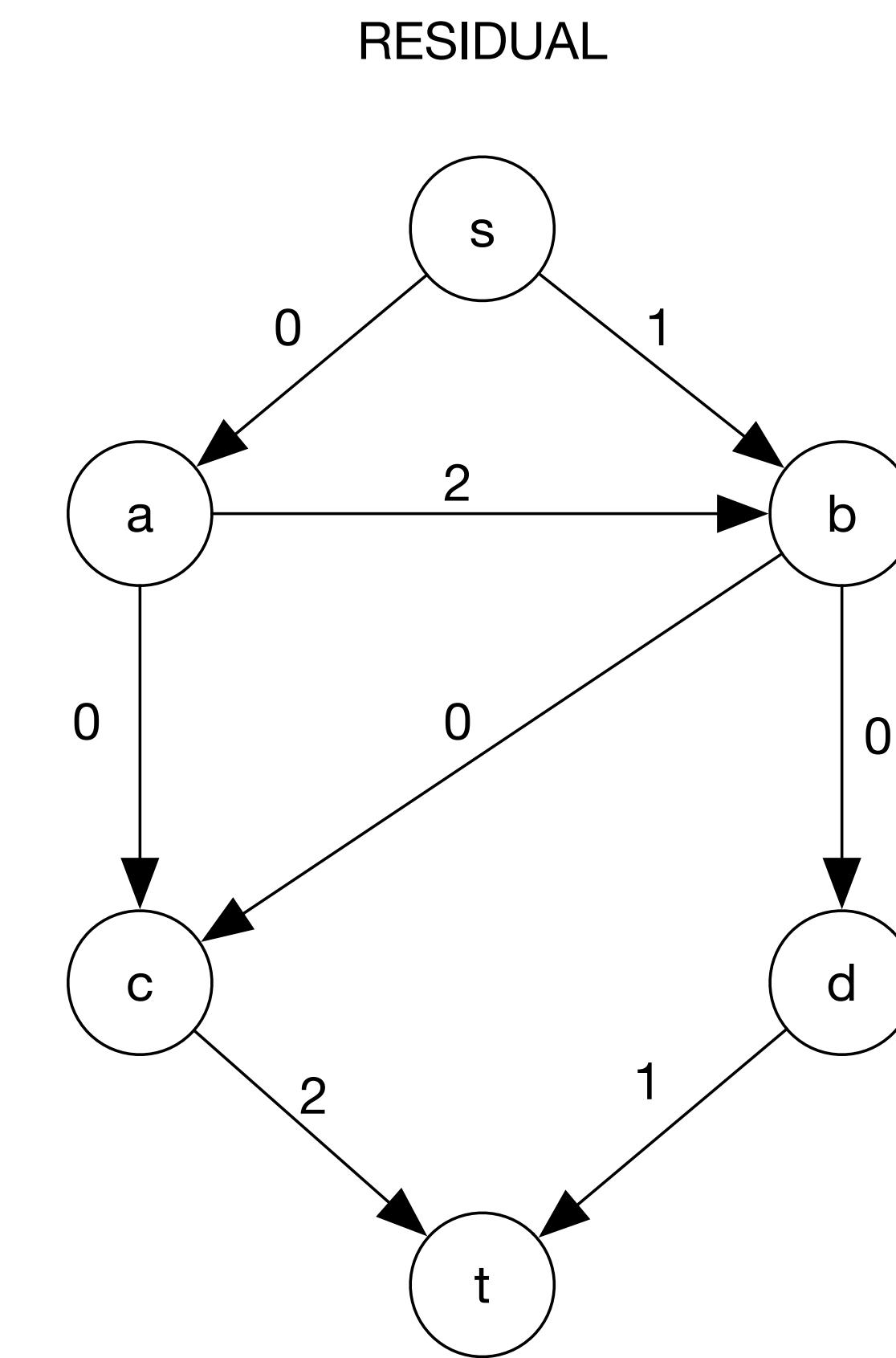
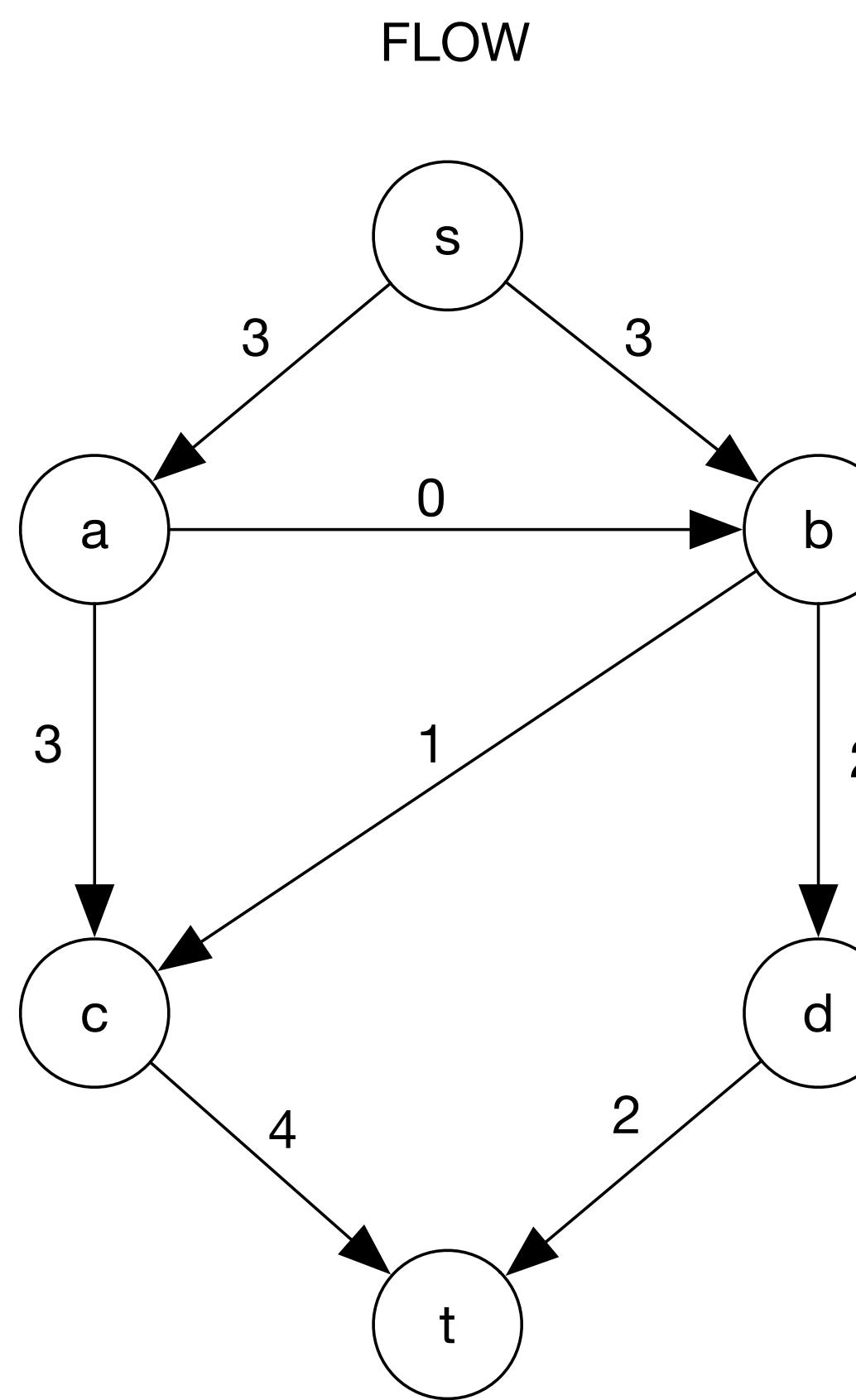
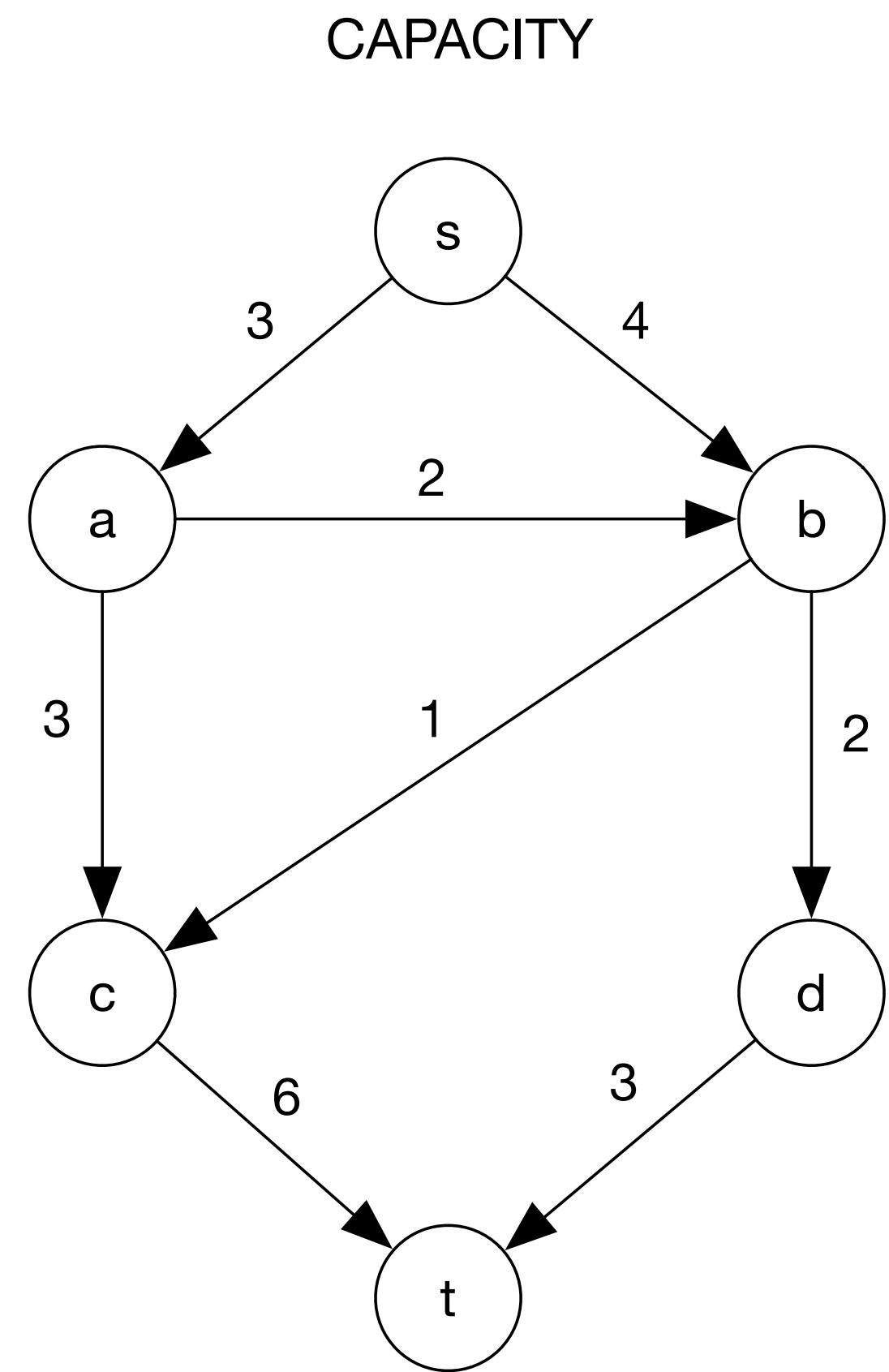


# Network flow

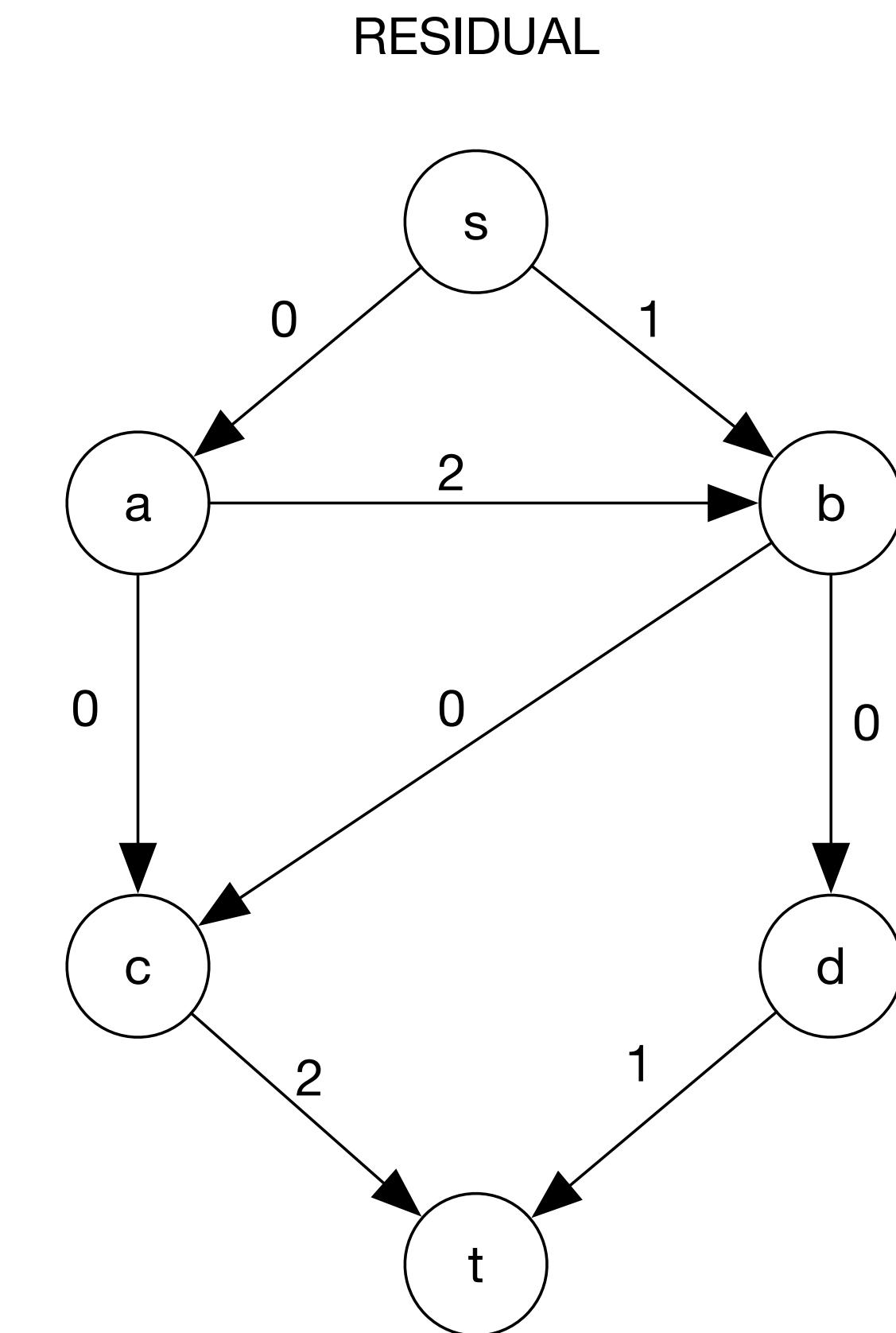
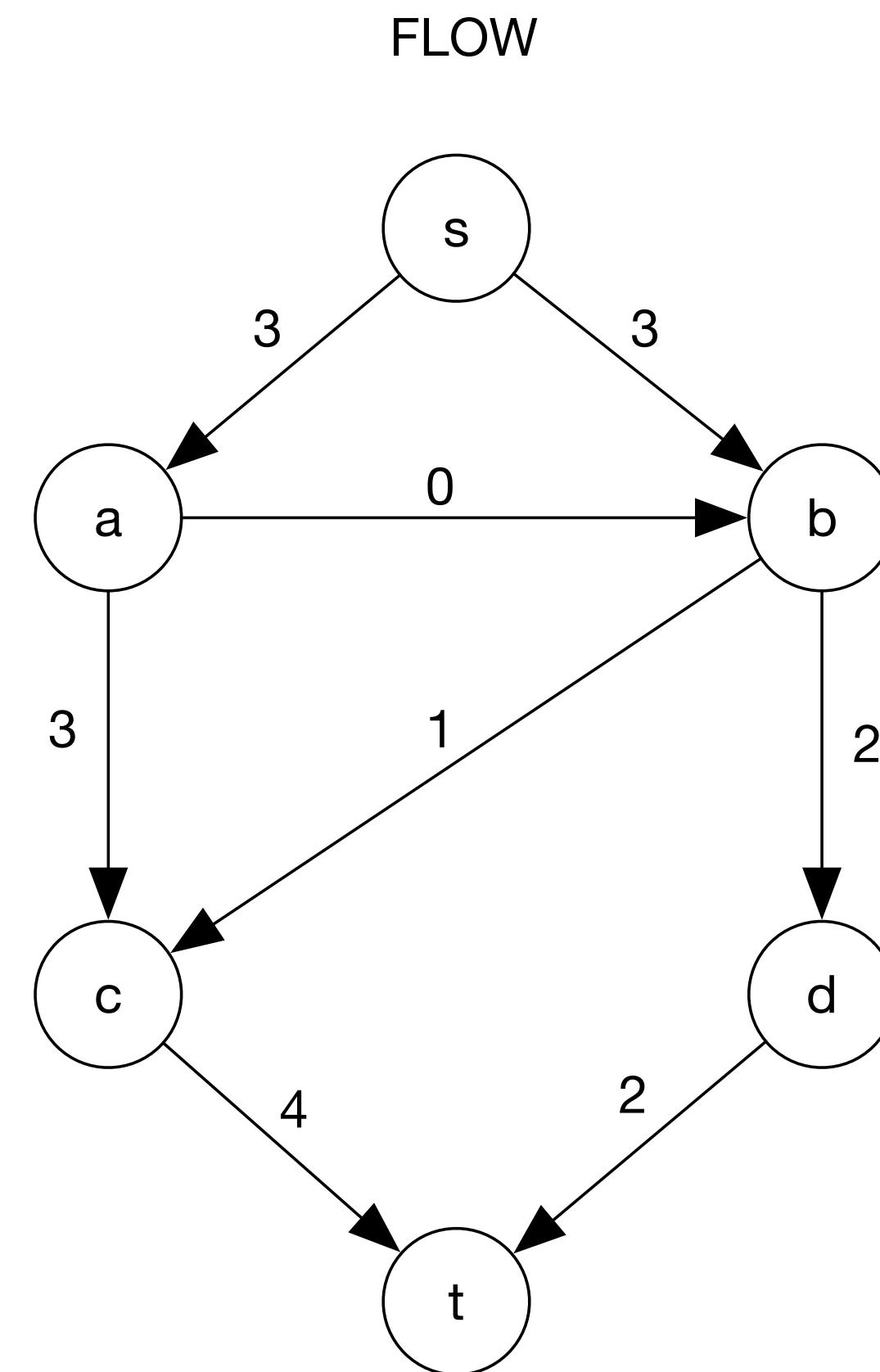
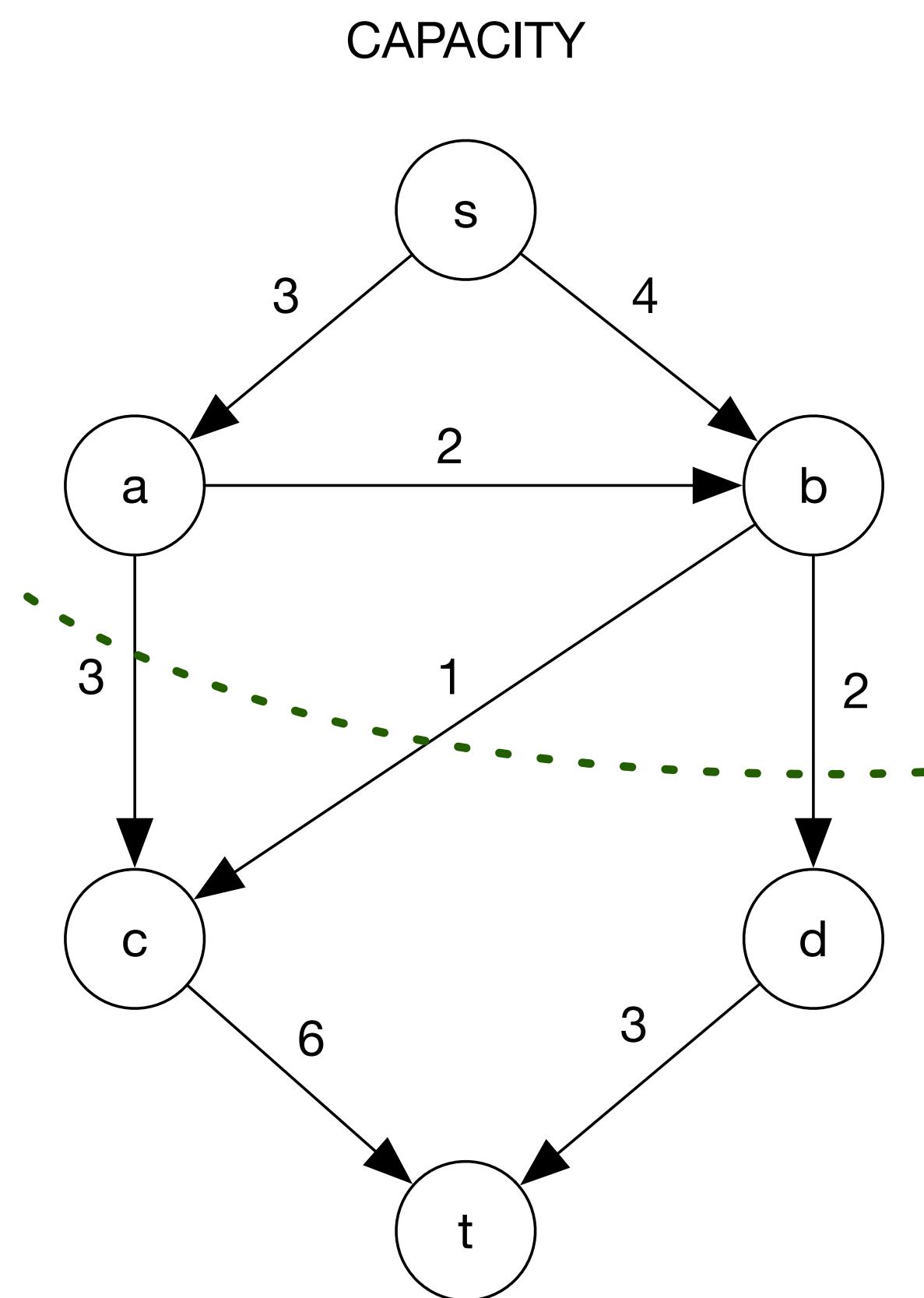


$$\begin{aligned} f_{u,v} &\leq c_{u,v} \\ \sum_{u:(u,v) \in E} f_{u,v} &= \sum_{w:(v,w) \in E} f_{v,w} \\ \sum_{u:(s,u) \in E} &= \sum_{w:(w,t) \in E} f_{v,w} \end{aligned}$$

# Network flow



# Network flow



# Network flow

Is this a greedy algorithm?

# Network flow

Is this a greedy algorithm? Yes!

# Network flow

Is this a greedy algorithm? Yes!

What's the complexity?

# Network flow

Is this a greedy algorithm? Yes!

What's the complexity?  $\mathcal{O}(|E|f)$

# Network flow

Is this a greedy algorithm? Yes!

What's the complexity?  $\mathcal{O}(|E|f)$

How do we find augmenting paths?

# Network flow

Is this a greedy algorithm? Yes!

What's the complexity?  $\mathcal{O}(|E|f)$

How do we find augmenting paths? It depends.