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**Solution.** The starting point of the Ford–Fulkerson-algorithm is an arbitrary feasible flow. In practice, we can always choose the everywhere-zero flow, but in this presentation our starting point is a less trivial feasible flow.

















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$$\max_{\mathfrak{f} \text{ flow}} \mathsf{val}(\mathfrak{f}) \le c(S,T) = 4 + 2 + 7 + 4 = 17 = \mathsf{val}(f).$$

$$\Downarrow$$

f is a maximum flow, i.e. in this network the maximum flow value is 17.  $\hfill \Box$