

Messaging: $2 * m_i$

Arithmetic at H due to L_i : $2 * a_H$

Prefer option (a) when $(n_i * m_i) + (a_H * n_i) <$
 $(2 * m_i) + (a_L * (n_i - 1)) + (2 * a_H)$

EXTRA 1: Very similar to original except replace:

$(a_H * n_i)$ with $(a_H * (n_i - 1))$

$(2 * m_i)$ with m_i

$(2 * a_H)$ with a_H

EXTRA 2: Except for certain extreme cases, all values must be transmitted to a single site in order to compute a median, so only option (a) is feasible.