

## Solution

In this problem, the optimal substructure property does not hold. That is, let there be a route from  $x$  to  $y$ . The path which optimizes average effort to reach  $y$  and passes through  $x$  need not be the path which minimizes the average effort to reach  $x$ . For example, if there is a path to  $x$  of average effort 10 and total length 100 and another path of average effort 5 and total length 10. and then length of  $x - y$  route is 100 and it's average effort is 20, then it makes sense to choose the first path to  $x$  and then go to  $y$ . However, if you are given a value of average effort and asked whether it is possible to attain atmost this average effort, then it can be easily tested. Let  $k$  be the average value that you want to test. Then let  $f(z)$  denote the smallest value of  $\sum_{(x,y) \text{ on } P} dist(x,y) * (effort(x,y) - k)$  over all paths  $P$  from which start at the top and end at  $x$ . The value of  $f(z)$  can be computed for all  $z$  using the relation

$$f(z) = \min_{(y,z) \in R} f(y) + dist(y,z) * (effort(y,z) - k)$$

If the  $f$  value for base is negative, then  $k$  is attainable, otherwise it is not. One can do binary search to find the minimal value for  $k$  for which a solution is possible.