

Rail

Solution

Way : Ad Hoc

Query complexity: $3(N-1)$

Time complexity : $O(N \log N)$

** This problem can be solved by the following steps :

First, we know that station 0 is C type, and its location. We can query all the other stations' distances from station 0, we call this : $dis[0][i]$

Second, we sort all the $dis[0][i]$, and obviously, the station x with the shortest distance $dis[0][x]$ must be the first D type location after station 0.

Third, we process each station one by one according to their shortest distance with station 0 (that is, the order obtained in second step). For each station processed, we determine its type and location immediately as follows:

3.1 First, we maintain the information (location, id) of the leftmost C type and the rightmost D type as the algorithm proceeds.

3.2 To process the current station k, we use two queries, $query(k, \text{leftmost C type})$ as $dis[k][L]$, $query(k, \text{rightmost D type})$ as $dis[k][R]$. And we also have $dis[0][k]$. By some observations, we know that either $dis[k][L]$ or $dis[k][R]$ is achieved with a 'direct' route (without moving forth and back).

For example, we have only 4 cases to consider :

a. $dis[k][L]$ is a direct route

())
L k R

b. $dis[k][L]$ is a direct route

())
L R k

c. $dis[k][R]$ is a direct route

(()
k L R

d. $dis[k][R]$ is a direct route

(()
L k R

By careful analysis (some if/else conditions), we can get the answer. Sometimes, we may need extra information to resolve the four cases, where we can check with $\text{dis}[0][k]$.

Take case (a) for example :

a. $\text{dis}[k][L]$ is a direct route

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (&) &) \\ L & k & R \end{array}$$

the location of k might be $L + \text{dis}[k][L]$, Then use this location, we need to check if $\text{dis}[k][R]$ is reasonable or not.

a.1

$$\begin{array}{ccc} ((&) &) \\ L & p & k & R \end{array}$$

There might be some p(type C) between L and k, So the $\text{dis}[k][R]$ is $\text{dis}[p][R] + \text{dis}[p][k]$, we need to check whether p exists or not. If p doesn't exist, then case (a) might be wrong, then try cases (b),(c), and (d) until we find the answer.