

2191. Minimum Number of Food Buckets to Feed the Hamsters

Difficulty : Medium

<https://leetcode.com/problems/minimum-number-of-food-buckets-to-feed-the-hamsters>

You are given a **0-indexed** string `hamsters` where `hamsters[i]` is either:

- 'H' indicating that there is a hamster at index *i*, or
- '.' indicating that index *i* is empty.

You will add some number of food buckets at the empty indices in order to feed the hamsters. A hamster can be fed if there is at least one food bucket to its left or to its right. More formally, a hamster at index *i* can be fed if you place a food bucket at index *i* - 1 **and/or** at index *i* + 1.

Return the *minimum number of food buckets you should place at empty indices to feed all the hamsters or -1 if it is impossible to feed all of them.*

Example 1:



Input: `hamsters = "H..H"`

Output: 2

Explanation: We place two food buckets at indices 1 and 2.

It can be shown that if we place only one food bucket, one of the hamsters will not be fed.

Example 2:



Input: `hamsters = ".H.H."`

Output: 1

Explanation: We place one food bucket at index 2.

Example 3:



Input: `hamsters = ".HHH."`

Output: -1

Explanation: If we place a food bucket at every empty index as shown, the hamster at index 2 will not be able to eat.

Constraints:

- $1 \leq \text{hamsters.length} \leq 10^5$
- `hamsters[i]` is either 'H' or '.'.