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

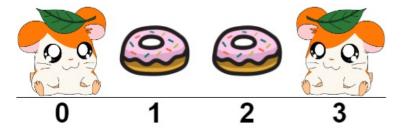
You are given a **0-indexed** string hamsters where hamsters[i] is either:

- '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:

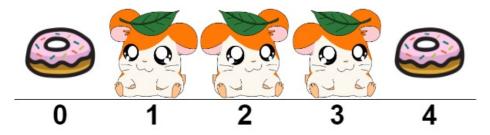


Input: hamsters = ".H.H."

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 <= hamsters.length <= 10^5
- hamsters[i] is either 'H' or '.'.