

Question 1: Block Palindromes

A *palindrome* is a word that shows the same sequence of letters when reversed. If a word can have its letters grouped together in two or more blocks (each containing one or more adjacent letters) then it is a *block palindrome* if reversing the order of those blocks results in the same sequence of blocks.

For example, using brackets to indicate blocks, the following are *block palindromes*:

- BONBON can be grouped together as (BON)(BON);
- ONION can be grouped together as (ON)(I)(ON);
- BBACBB can be grouped together as (B)(BACB)(B) or (BB)(AC)(BB) or (B)(B)(AC)(B)(B)

Note that (BB)(AC)(B)(B) is *not* valid as the reverse (B)(B)(AC)(BB) shows the blocks in a different order.

1(a) [23 marks]

Write a program which reads in a word of between 2 and 10 (inclusive) uppercase letters.

You should output a single number, the number of different ways the input can be grouped to show it is a *block palindrome*.

Sample run

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BBACBB
3
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1(b) [2 marks]

Give all the groupings of AABCBA that show it is a *block palindrome*.

1(c) [6 marks]

Suppose that all the groupings of a *block palindrome* contain an even number of blocks. What can you say about the length of the *block palindrome*? How many different groupings can it have? Justify both your answers.