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The Virtual Learning Environment for Computer Programming

## Turning off lights

Examen final d'Algorísmia, FME (2014-01-16)
Suppose that each cell in an $n \times m$ board has a light that can be off or on. Furthermore, every cell has a switch that changes the state of the (at most) 8 neighboring lights, and also the state of the light in the same cell. Compute how many switches must be pressed to turn off all the lights.

## Input

Input consists of several cases, each with the dimensions $n$ and $m$, both between 2 and 5 , followed by $n$ rows with $m$ characters each. A point indicates a light that is off, and an asterisk a light that is on.

## Output

For every case, print the minimum number of switches to be pressed to turn off all the lights. If it is impossible, print "no".

## Observation

The expected solution to this problem is a "reasonably" pruned backtracking.

| Sample input | Sample output |
| :---: | :---: |
| 24 |  |
|  | 1 |
|  | 2 |
| 33 | 4 |
| *** | no |
| *** |  |
| *** | no |
| 33 |  |
| *.* |  |
| **** |  |
| $* * *$ 3 |  |
| $\ldots$ |  |
| $\ldots$ |  |
| 23 |  |
| $\cdots$ |  |
| $2{ }_{2}$ |  |
| -**** |  |
| $\stackrel{*}{* * *}$. |  |
| ***.. |  |
|  |  |
| ****. |  |
| ...** |  |

## Problem information

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