

Rust  
COMP 4210  
Spring 2026

## Assignment 2

Write a **Rust** program to solve the *Prof. Fumblemore and the Collatz Conjecture* problem from the 2023 [archives](#) of the ACM-ICPC [East Central NA Regional Programming Contest](#). The precise input and output format is specified, and your output must match byte-for-byte. Your program must consist of one source file called "collatz.rs".

The archives linked above not only have the original problem specification, which appears on the next page, but they also have several different solutions, written in Java, Kotlin, C, and C++. You might find these solutions helpful and insightful, but you also might find them confusing, distracting, and unhelpful; so look at them at your own discretion.

Your goals for this project should be prioritized as follows:

1. A working solution that produces the correct output for the two sample inputs provided, and also for any other inputs that satisfy the problem specifications.
2. Your program should be written in a Rust style rather than a Java, Python, or C++ style. *However, you should not get carried away with this. Too much of anything is bad, especially when you're learning.*
3. Formatting: your code should be readable, have clarity, and be well-documented. It should also have your name at the top in comments.

You may feel free to use Rust features we haven't yet covered. However, all code you submit should be your own. Do not look at or in any other way use other students' code or AI generated code.

**DUE:** Monday, February 9 by 11:59 pm

# Problem E

## Prof. Fumblemore and the Collatz Conjecture

Time limit: 2 seconds

The *Collatz function*,  $C(n)$ , on positive integers is:

$$n/2 \text{ if } n \text{ is even and } 3n+1 \text{ if } n \text{ is odd}$$

The *Collatz sequence*,  $CS(n)$ , of a positive integer,  $n$ , is the sequence

$$CS(n) = n, C(n), C(C(n)), C(C(C(n))), \dots$$

For example,  $CS(12) = 12, 6, 3, 10, 5, 16, 8, 4, 2, 1, 4, 2, 1, \dots$

The *Collatz Conjecture* (also known as the  $3n+1$  problem) is that  $CS(n)$  for every positive integer  $n$  eventually ends repeating the sequence 4, 2, 1. To date, the status of this conjecture is still unknown. No proof has been given and no counterexample has been found up to very large values.

Prof. Fumblemore wants to study the problem using *Collatz sequence types*. The *Collatz sequence type* (CST) of an integer  $n$ ,  $CST(n)$  is a sequence of letters E and O (for even and odd) which describe the parity of the values in  $CS(n)$  up to but not including the first power of 2. So,

$$CST(12) = EEEOO$$

Note that

$$CS(908) = 908, 454, 227, 682, 341, 1024, 512, 256, 128, 64, 32, 16, 8, 4, 3, 2, \dots$$

so 12 and 908 have the same CST.

Prof. Fumblemore needs a program which allows him to enter a sequence of E's and O's and returns the **smallest** integer  $n$  for which the given sequence is  $CST(n)$ .

Notes:

- E's are even numbers which are not powers of 2,
- O's are odd numbers greater than 1.
- The last letter in a sequence must be an O (if  $C(n)$  is a power of 2, so is  $n$ )
- There can not be two O's in succession ( $C(\text{odd}) = \text{even}$ )
- Since, Prof. Fumblemore does not type well, you must check that the input sequence is valid before attempting to find  $n$ . That is, the sequence contains only E's and O's, ends in O and no two O's are adjacent.

### Input

Input consists of one line containing a string of up to 50 letters composed of E's and O's.

### Output

There is one line of output that consists of the string `INVALID` if the input line is invalid, or a single decimal integer,  $n$ , such that  $n$  is the *smallest* integer for which  $CST(n)$  is the input sequence. Input will be chosen such that  $n \leq 2^{47}$ .

Sample Input 1	Sample Output 1
EEEOO	12
Sample Input 2	Sample Output 2
EEOOEO	INVALID