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Intuition

This code checks the validity of a Sudoku board using three defaultdicts (`row` , `column` , and `box`) to track unique number occurrences in rows, columns, and 3x3 boxes. It iterates through the 9x9 board, skipping empty cells, and returns False if a number violates Sudoku rules. Sets in defaultdicts efficiently prevent duplicates. If the entire board is traversed without conflicts, it returns True, confirming a valid Sudoku configuration where each row, column, and box contains only unique numbers.

Approach

1. Data Structures:

- Utilizes three defaultdicts (`row` , `column` , and `box`) with sets to keep track of unique occurrences of numbers in each row, column, and 3x3 box of the Sudoku board.

2. Iteration:

- Uses nested loops to iterate over each cell of the 9x9 Sudoku board.

3. Skip Empty Cells:

- Skips over cells with "." (indicating empty) as they don't contribute to rule violations.

4. Check Violations:

- Checks if the current number violates Sudoku rules by looking for its presence in the corresponding row, column, and box sets.

5. Return False on Violation:

- If a violation is detected, returns False, indicating that the board is not valid.

6. Update Sets:

- If the number is not violating any rules, updates the sets in `row` , `column` , and `box` defaultdicts to record its presence.

Complexity

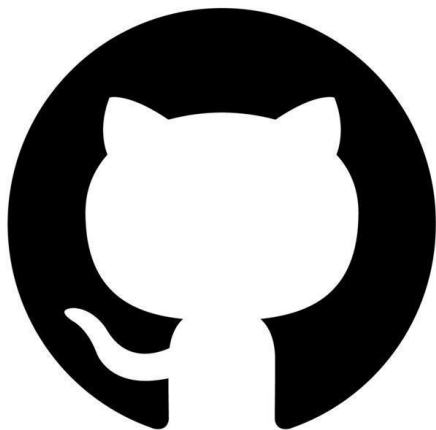
- Time complexity: $O(n^2)$
- Space complexity: $O(n)$

Code

```
class Solution:
    def isValidSudoku(self, board: List[List[str]]) -> bool:
        row = collections.defaultdict(set)
        column = collections.defaultdict(set)
        box = collections.defaultdict(set)

        for i in range(9):
            for j in range(9):
                if board[i][j] == ".":
                    continue
                if (board[i][j] in row[i] or
                    board[i][j] in column[j] or
                    board[i][j] in box[(i // 3, j // 3)]):
                    return False
                row[i].add(board[i][j])
                column[j].add(board[i][j])
                box[(i // 3, j // 3)].add(board[i][j])
        return True
```

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GitHub