SudokuSolver

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Chapter 1

SudokuSolver

This C++ program can solve Sudokus by applying human strategies. A simple text-based user interface is provided in order to easily enter the quiz. It's also possible to read a quiz from file. A few test boards are in this repo. The solution path with all steps will be summarized in a pdf file. This requires Latex to be installed.

How does the solving algorithm work? First, the program passes through all empty cells and collects all possible candidates for each cell. Depending on how many entries are given in the same row, column or block, an empty cell can have one or more possible candidates. Based on logical rules and dependencies between cells, the algorithm then tries to eliminate candidates until only one number is left in the set. This, however, can not always be guaranteed. Sudokus can become very complex and because strategic solving needs to include many constellations and subcases, the candidate reduction is not always successful. Even if this implementation says the quiz is not solvable, you might have the chance to find a solution with pen and paper. So far, this implementation focuses on 10 logical strategies.

- · Hidden singles
- · Naked singles
- · Hidden pairs
- · Naked pairs
- · Naked triplets
- · Locked candidates
- X-wings
- · XY-wings
- · Colored pairs
- · Forcing chains

For further descriptions and illustrations see both https://www.sudoku9x9.com/sudoku_solving←_techniques.php and my own visualizations.

How to use the algorithm? Just compile the project using the makefile (run make or make debug), execute ./sudoku in terminal and enter your Sudoku. Please note that the makefile is configured to use the gcc compiler (change if you're on a non-UNIX system).

As an example you might solve the quiz test.txt from the testboard directory. Then simply run ./sudoku testboards/test.txt. The program will solve the quiz and prints all solving steps starting with the (row, col)-coordinates of the current cell.

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```
8
                  9
                           5
                               8
   9
                  8
                           6
1
   4
      5
            8
               9
                  7
                        3
                           2 6
  8
            6
               5
                  3
                        1
                           8
(0, 1): Cands {6} are locked in block
(0, 4): Cands {3, 6} are locked in col
(0, 6): Cands {8} are locked in col
(2, 7): Hidden Single
(2, 8): Naked Triplet in col with cell (7, 8) and cell (8, 8)
(3, 4): Cands {1} are locked in row (3, 6): Cands {2} are locked in col
(3, 8): Naked Single
(4, 0): Cands {8} are locked in block
(4, 3): row-wise X-Wing with diag cell(5, 7)
(4, 5): Hidden Single
(4, 7): Cands {3} are locked in block
(5, 0): Hidden Single
(5, 3): Hidden Pair {3, 5} with cell (4, 3)
(6, 6): Hidden Single
(7, 1): Hidden Single
(7, 2): Hidden Single
(7, 6): Cands (7) are locked in block
(7, 7): Naked Triplet in block with cell (7, 8) and cell (8, 8)
(7, 8): Naked Pair with cell (8, 8)
(8, 2): Hidden Single
(8, 3): Hidden Pair {4, 7} with cell (1, 3)
(8, 5): Hidden Single
(8, 6): Hidden Single
(8, 8): Naked Pair with cell (7, 8)
(0, 0): Cands {3} are locked in block
(0, 5): Naked Triplet in block with cell (1, 3) and cell (2, 5)
(1, 0): Cands {1, 2, 5} are locked in block
(1, 3): Naked Pair with cell (2, 5)
(1, 4): Naked Triplet in row with cell (1, 6) and cell (1, 7) (1, 6): Cands \{4\} are locked in block
(2, 5): Hidden Single
(2, 8): Naked Single
(3, 2): Hidden Single
(3, 4): Hidden Single
(3, 5): Naked Single
(3, 6): Cands {2, 7} are locked in block (6, 0): Cands {4} are locked in block
(6, 4): Hidden Single
(6, 5): Hidden Single
(7, 4): row-wise X-Wing with diag cell(8, 8)
(7, 6): Naked Single (7, 7): Naked Single
(7, 8): Hidden Single
(8, 0): Hidden Single
(8, 3): Naked Single
(8, 4): Hidden Single
(8, 8): Naked Single
(0, 5): Naked Single
(1, 3): Naked Single
(2, 0): Naked Single
(2, 1): Hidden Single
(2, 4): Naked Single
(3, 1): Naked Single
(3, 6): Naked Single
(4, 0): Naked Triplet in row with cell (4, 1) and cell (4, 2)
(4, 1): Cands {4, 5, 9} are locked in block
(4, 3): Naked Single
(4, 6): Hidden Single
(4, 7): Naked Single
(5, 1): Naked Single
(5, 2): Naked Single
(5, 3): Naked Single
(5, 6): Naked Single
(5, 7): Naked Single
(7, 4): Naked Single
(0, 0): Naked Single
(0, 1): Hidden Single
(0, 2): Naked Single
(0, 4): Hidden Single
(0, 6): Naked Single
(1, 0): Hidden Single
(1, 1): Naked Single
(1, 2): Naked Single
(1, 4): Naked Single
```

```
(1, 6): Naked Single
(1, 7): Naked Single
(4, 0): Naked Single
(4, 1): Hidden Single
(4, 2): Naked Single
(6, 0): Naked Single
(6, 1): Naked Single
(6, 2): Naked Single
```

Documentation: The repository additionally contains a Doxygen config file. If you have Doxygen installed, run make doc to create the documentation. You'll get a html and a pdf documentation (pdf is in doc folder). If you don't have Doxygen, you'll find all relevant comments in solver.h.

Python implementation: An older version of the solving algorithm was written in Python. Use python3 sudoku.py <file with board> to test this.

4 SudokuSolver

Chapter 2

Class Index

2.1 Class List

Here are the classes, structs, unions and interfaces with brief descriptions:

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Cell																		 						12
SudokuBo	ard																							15

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Chapter 3

File Index

3.1 File List

Here is a list of all files with brief descriptions:

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/Users/paulkeydel/Documents/coding projects/SudokuSolver/solver.h.								24

8 File Index

Chapter 4

Class Documentation

4.1 CandSet Struct Reference

```
#include <solver.h>
```

Public Member Functions

- CandSet ()
- · void insert (int dig)
- void erase (int dig)
- int size ()
- void clear ()
- const std::set< int >::iterator begin () const
- const std::set< int >::iterator end () const
- bool remove (CandSet &set)
- std::string cand2str ()
- bool contain (int dig)
- bool operator== (CandSet &op)
- bool operator!= (CandSet &op)
- CandSet operator- (CandSet &op)
- CandSet operator&& (CandSet &op)
- CandSet operator|| (CandSet &op)
- CandSet & operator+= (CandSet &op)
- CandSet & operator-= (CandSet &op)
- CandSet & operator= (const CandSet &op)

Private Attributes

std::set< int > data

4.1.1 Detailed Description

CandSet is used to store and manage all possible candidates of a cell, i.e. the class contains both a container for candidates and several functions to manipulate the set. Manipulating data includes adding new digits, subtracting digits or calculating the union and intersection.

CandSet::data is an internal container for storing all possible candidates. It's of type std::set<int>.

To simplify coding, several operators are overloaded in this class. With CandSet it's possible to use =, ==, !=, -, +=, -=, || and &&. The binary || operator calculates the union between two CandSets while the && operator takes the intersection between the left and right operand. The assignment(=) creates a copy of the source.

4.1.2 Constructor & Destructor Documentation

4.1.2.1 CandSet()

```
CandSet::CandSet () [inline]
```

Creates an empty candidate container. After creation, the objects internal data variable has size 0.

4.1.3 Member Function Documentation

4.1.3.1 begin()

```
const std::set< int >::iterator CandSet::begin () const [inline]
```

4.1.3.2 cand2str()

```
string CandSet::cand2str ()
```

Produces a formatted output string containing the entire set of candidates.

Returns

A string "{cand0, cand1, cand2}".

4.1.3.3 clear()

```
void CandSet::clear () [inline]
```

Reset the object and delete all candidates in set. After this, CandSet::size is 0.

4.1.3.4 contain()

4.1.3.5 end()

```
const std::set< int >::iterator CandSet::end () const [inline]
```

4.1.3.6 erase()

Deletes a specific candidate number from list.

Parameters

dig The digit to be deleted from set (between 1 and 9).

4.1.3.7 insert()

Inserts a specific candidate number into the list.

Parameters

dig The digit to be inserted into the set (between 1 and 9).

4.1.3.8 operator"!=()

4.1.3.9 operator&&()

4.1.3.10 operator+=()

4.1.3.11 operator-()

4.1.3.12 operator-=()

4.1.3.13 operator=()

4.1.3.14 operator==()

4.1.3.15 operator" | " | ()

4.1.3.16 remove()

Removes all candidates that are given by the argument.

Returns

<true> if at least one candidate could successfully be removed. <false> if the size could not be reduced.

4.1.3.17 size()

```
int CandSet::size () [inline]
```

Gives the number of listed candidates.

Returns

dig The number of candidates as an int value. If CandSet::data is empty, 0 is returned.

4.1.4 Member Data Documentation

4.1.4.1 data

```
std::set<int> CandSet::data [private]
```

The documentation for this struct was generated from the following files:

- /Users/paulkeydel/Documents/coding projects/SudokuSolver/solver.h
- /Users/paulkeydel/Documents/coding projects/SudokuSolver/solver.cpp

4.2 Cell Struct Reference

```
#include <solver.h>
```

4.2 Cell Struct Reference 13

Public Member Functions

- Cell ()
- void init (int idx, int digit)
- std::string cord2str ()
- bool isEq (int dig)
- bool isGap ()
- · const int lc ()

Public Attributes

- int val
- int row
- int col
- int blk
- int blkidx
- int rowBlkPos
- int colBlkPos
- · int pairColor
- · CandSet candidates

4.2.1 Detailed Description

Each of all 81 Sudoku cells are mapped to an object of the class Cell. The Cell class contains the coordinates, the digit (0 if it's a gap) and the color parameter for the coloring pair algorithm. Here is an overview about the class members:

Cell::val is an int and contains the digit ($0 \le val \le 9$, 0 = empty).

Cell::row and Cell::col are used to index all board cells. The (row, col)-coordinate system starts in the upper left with (row, col) = (0, 0) and ends with (8, 8) in the bottom right.

Cell::blk and Cell::blkidx form a coordinate system based on the 3x3-subblocks which will be counted in Z-scan order, starting with subblock blk = 0 in the upper left. blkidx addresses all 9 cells within the 3x3 block by row-wise indexing, $0 \le blkidx \le 9$.

Cell::rowBlkPos and Cell::colBlkPos are (row, col)-coordinates referencing to the upper left cell within the current subblock. They are generally multiple of 3 (= 0, 3 or 6).

Cell::candidates is used to store and manage all possible candidates. It's an object of class CandSet. If Cell::val is between 1 and 9, Cell::candidates will be an empty set.

Cell::pairColor is needed for pairing colors. All identical candidate pairs in board can be colorized by setting Cell::pairColor alternately to 0 and 1.

4.2.2 Constructor & Destructor Documentation

4.2.2.1 Cell()

Cell::Cell () [inline]

4.2.3 Member Function Documentation

4.2.3.1 cord2str()

```
string Cell::cord2str ()
```

Get current coordinates as formatted string.

4.2.3.2 init()

```
void Cell::init (
                int idx,
                int digit)
```

Set all class parameters (position and digit) based on the Z-ordered cell index.

4.2.3.3 isEq()

```
bool Cell::isEq (
                int dig) [inline]
```

Is equal to Cell::val?

4.2.3.4 isGap()

```
bool Cell::isGap () [inline]
```

Is cell unknown?

4.2.3.5 lc()

```
const int Cell::lc () [inline]
```

Get length of cands set.

4.2.4 Member Data Documentation

4.2.4.1 blk

int Cell::blk

4.2.4.2 blkidx

int Cell::blkidx

4.2.4.3 candidates

CandSet Cell::candidates

4.2.4.4 col

int Cell::col

4.2.4.5 colBlkPos

int Cell::colBlkPos

4.2.4.6 pairColor

int Cell::pairColor

4.2.4.7 row

int Cell::row

4.2.4.8 rowBlkPos

int Cell::rowBlkPos

4.2.4.9 val

int Cell::val

The documentation for this struct was generated from the following files:

- /Users/paulkeydel/Documents/coding projects/SudokuSolver/solver.h
- /Users/paulkeydel/Documents/coding projects/SudokuSolver/solver.cpp

4.3 SudokuBoard Class Reference

#include <solver.h>

Public Member Functions

- SudokuBoard (int *board)
- void print ()
- std::string & printSolvingSteps ()
- Cell & at (int row, int col)
- Cell & atBlock (int block, int index)
- bool isInCol (int col, int digit, bool includeCands=false)
- bool isInRow (int row, int digit, bool includeCands=false)
- bool isInBlock (int block, int digit, bool includeCands=false)
- bool isValid ()
- bool isSolved ()
- void collectCands ()
- bool updateCandsInRow (int row, std::vector< int > excludedPositions, CandSet digits)
- bool updateCandsInCol (int col, std::vector< int > excludedPositions, CandSet digits)
- bool updateCandsInBlock (int blk, std::vector< int > excludedPositions, CandSet digits)
- void setFinalValue (int row, int col)
- bool checkCellForNakedSingle (int row, int col, std::string prefix)
- bool checkCellForHiddenSingle (int row, int col, std::string prefix)
- bool checkCellForNakedPair (int row, int col, std::string prefix)
- bool checkCellForHiddenPair (int row, int col, std::string prefix)
- bool checkCellForNakedTriplet (int row, int col, std::string prefix)
- bool checkCellForXWing (int row, int col, std::string prefix)
- · bool checkCellForXYWing (int row, int col, std::string prefix)
- bool checkCellForLockedCandsInBlocks (int row, int col, std::string prefix)
- bool checkForIntersectingColorPairs (int row, int col, std::string prefix, int row1=-1, int col1=-1, int color=0)
- void applyStrategies (std::string prefix="")
- bool tryForcingChain (int numIterations)
- bool solve (int numIterations=INT MAX)

Private Member Functions

- void appendSolvStep (int row, int col, std::string text, bool bReducedCands)
- void copyBoard (const std::array< Cell, 81 > &src, std::array< Cell, 81 > &dest)

Private Attributes

- std::array< Cell, 81 > b
- std::vector< std::pair< int, std::string >> solvingSteps
- std::string latexCode

4.3.1 Detailed Description

SudokuBoard represents the whole board and comprises all 81 cells of type Cell. The class additionally includes methods for collecting and updating candidates as well as solving techniques.

Use SudokuBoard::solve to find the solution of the current quiz. The algorithm iteratively applies all implemented techniques to each cell. The methods SudokuBoard::print and SudokuBoard::printSolvingSteps print the resulting board and all effective solving steps.

The first step of solving is to collect all candidates in empty cells. For this, SudokuBoard::solve calls SudokuBoard::collectCands. For each empty cell SudokuBoard::collectCands checks if a digit between 1 and 9 is

missing in current row, column and block by calling helper functions SudokuBoard::isInRow, SudokuBoard::isInRow, SudokuBoard::isInRow, SudokuBoard::isInBlock.

The next step is the strategic solving. Here the approach of the implemented techniques depends on whether we have only one or more candidates in the list. If there is a naked single or a hidden single, we'll obtain a candidate set with only one entry. Thus, Cell::val can directly be set and the found digit can be removed from all candidate sets in same row, column and subblock. The process of setting Cell::val and updating the corresponding row, column or block is condensed in SudokuBoard::setFinalValue. All other solving techniques are used to piecewise reduce the CandSet by considering logic patterns and dependencies. Elimination either covers the own CandSet or the sets in neighborhood. In order to check if an elimination was successful in a row, column or block sub-structure, the algorithm utilises SudokuBoard::updateCandsInRow, SudokuBoard::updateCandsInRow and SudokuBoard::updateCandsInRow. Only if all existing candidate sets can be reduced to size 1 the Sudoku solver can give a complete solution.

4.3.2 Constructor & Destructor Documentation

4.3.2.1 SudokuBoard()

4.3.3 Member Function Documentation

4.3.3.1 appendSolvStep()

```
void SudokuBoard::appendSolvStep (
          int row,
          int col,
          std::string text,
          bool bReducedCands) [private]
```

4.3.3.2 applyStrategies()

4.3.3.3 at()

4.3.3.4 atBlock()

4.3.3.5 checkCellForHiddenPair()

4.3.3.6 checkCellForHiddenSingle()

```
bool SudokuBoard::checkCellForHiddenSingle (
    int row,
    int col,
    std::string prefix)
```

4.3.3.7 checkCellForLockedCandsInBlocks()

4.3.3.8 checkCellForNakedPair()

4.3.3.9 checkCellForNakedSingle()

4.3.3.10 checkCellForNakedTriplet()

4.3.3.11 checkCellForXWing()

4.3.3.12 checkCellForXYWing()

```
bool SudokuBoard::checkCellForXYWing (
    int row,
    int col,
    std::string prefix)
```

4.3.3.13 checkForIntersectingColorPairs()

```
bool SudokuBoard::checkForIntersectingColorPairs (
    int row,
    int col,
    std::string prefix,
    int row1 = -1,
    int col1 = -1,
    int color = 0)
```

4.3.3.14 collectCands()

```
void SudokuBoard::collectCands ()
```

4.3.3.15 copyBoard()

```
void SudokuBoard::copyBoard (  const \ std::array < \ Cell, \ 81 > \& \ src, \\ std::array < \ Cell, \ 81 > \& \ dest) \ \ [private]
```

4.3.3.16 isInBlock()

4.3.3.17 isInCol()

```
bool SudokuBoard::isInCol (
          int col,
          int digit,
          bool includeCands = false)
```

4.3.3.18 isInRow()

```
4.3.3.19 isSolved()
```

```
bool SudokuBoard::isSolved ()
4.3.3.20 isValid()
bool SudokuBoard::isValid ()
4.3.3.21 print()
void SudokuBoard::print ()
4.3.3.22 printSolvingSteps()
string & SudokuBoard::printSolvingSteps ()
4.3.3.23 setFinalValue()
void SudokuBoard::setFinalValue (
            int row,
            int col)
4.3.3.24 solve()
bool SudokuBoard::solve (
            int numIterations = INT_MAX)
4.3.3.25 tryForcingChain()
bool SudokuBoard::tryForcingChain (
            int numIterations)
4.3.3.26 updateCandsInBlock()
bool SudokuBoard::updateCandsInBlock (
             int blk,
             std::vector< int > excludedPositions,
             CandSet digits)
4.3.3.27 updateCandsInCol()
bool SudokuBoard::updateCandsInCol (
            int col,
```

std::vector< int > excludedPositions,

CandSet digits)

4.3.3.28 updateCandsInRow()

4.3.4 Member Data Documentation

4.3.4.1 b

```
std::array<Cell, 81> SudokuBoard::b [private]
```

4.3.4.2 latexCode

```
std::string SudokuBoard::latexCode [private]
```

4.3.4.3 solvingSteps

```
std::vector<std::pair<int, std::string> > SudokuBoard::solvingSteps [private]
```

The documentation for this class was generated from the following files:

- /Users/paulkeydel/Documents/coding projects/SudokuSolver/solver.h
- /Users/paulkeydel/Documents/coding projects/SudokuSolver/solver.cpp

Chapter 5

File Documentation

5.1 /Users/paulkeydel/Documents/coding projects/SudokuSolver/main.cpp File Reference

```
#include <curses.h>
#include <vector>
#include <cassert>
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
#include <fstream>
#include <sstream>
#include "solver.h"
```

Functions

- void getBoardFromStdin (int *board)
- void getBoardFromFile (std::string fname, int *board)
- void saveBoardToFile (std::string fname, int *board)
- void createPdfSolvSteps (std::string &srcCode)
- int main (int argc, char *argv[])

5.1.1 Function Documentation

5.1.1.1 createPdfSolvSteps()

```
void createPdfSolvSteps (
          std::string & srcCode)
```

5.1.1.2 getBoardFromFile()

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5.1.1.3 getBoardFromStdin()

5.1.1.4 main()

```
int main (
          int argc,
          char * argv[])
```

5.1.1.5 saveBoardToFile()

```
void saveBoardToFile (
          std::string fname,
          int * board)
```

5.2 /Users/paulkeydel/Documents/coding projects/SudokuSolver/README.md File Reference

5.3 /Users/paulkeydel/Documents/coding projects/SudokuSolver/solver.cpp File Reference

```
#include "solver.h"
#include <cassert>
#include <iostream>
```

5.4 /Users/paulkeydel/Documents/coding projects/SudokuSolver/solver.h File Reference

```
#include <set>
#include <array>
#include <vector>
```

Classes

- struct CandSet
- struct Cell
- class SudokuBoard

5.5 /Users/paulkeydel/Documents/coding projects/SudokuSolver/solver.h

Go to the documentation of this file.

```
00001 #include <set>
00002 #include <array>
00003 #include <vector>
00004
00012 struct CandSet
00013 {
00014 private:
00015
          std::set<int> data;
00016 public:
00018
        CandSet() {};
          void insert(int dig) { this->data.insert(dig); }
00026
          void erase(int dig) { this->data.erase(dig); }
00030
          int size() { return (int) (this->data.size()); }
00033
          void clear() { this->data.clear(); }
00034
          const std::set<int>::iterator begin() const { return this->data.begin(); }
00035
          const std::set<int>::iterator end() const { return this->data.end(); }
          bool remove(CandSet& set);
00043
          std::string cand2str();
00044
          bool contain(int dig) { return data.find(dig) != data.end();
          bool operator==(CandSet& op) { return this->data == op.data;
bool operator!=(CandSet& op) { return this->data != op.data;
00045
00046
00047
          CandSet operator-(CandSet& op);
00048
          CandSet operator&&(CandSet& op);
00049
          CandSet operator | (CandSet& op);
00050
          CandSet& operator+=(CandSet& op);
          CandSet& operator = (CandSet& op);
00051
00052
          CandSet& operator=(const CandSet& op);
00053 };
00054
00070 struct Cell
00071 {
00072
          //digit of the cell
00073
          int val:
00074
          //position parameters
00075
          int row;
00076
         int col;
00077
00078
          int blkidx;
00079
          //upper left cell in current subblock
          int rowBlkPos;
00080
          int colBlkPos;
00081
00082
          //color for color pair algorithm
          int pairColor;
00083
00084
          //set for storing candidates
00085
          CandSet candidates;
00086
          //methods
00087
          Cell() {};
00089
          void init(int idx, int digit);
          std::string cord2str();
00091
00093
          bool isEq(int dig) { return (this->val == dig); };
00095
          bool isGap() { return (this->val == 0); };
00097
          const int lc() { return this->candidates.size(); };
00098 };
00110 class SudokuBoard
00112 private:
         std::array<Cell, 81> b;
//stuff for list of solving steps
00113
00114
00115
          std::vector<std::pair<int, std::string> solvingSteps;
          std::string latexCode;
00117
          void appendSolvStep(int row, int col, std::string text, bool bReducedCands);
00118
          void copyBoard(const std::array<Cell, 81>& src, std::array<Cell, 81>& dest);
00119 public:
         SudokuBoard(int* board);
00120
00121
          void print();
          std::string& printSolvingSteps();
00122
          Cell& at(int row, int col);
00123
00124
          Cell& atBlock(int block, int index);
00125
          bool isInCol(int col, int digit, bool includeCands = false);
          bool isInRow(int row, int digit, bool includeCands = false);
00126
00127
          bool isInBlock(int block, int digit, bool includeCands = false);
          bool isValid();
00129
          bool isSolved();
00130
          //methods for managing candidate list
00131
          void collectCands();
          bool updateCandsInRow(int row, std::vector<int> excludedPositions, CandSet digits);
00132
00133
          bool updateCandsInCol(int col, std::vector<int> excludedPositions, CandSet digits);
00134
          bool updateCandsInBlock(int blk, std::vector<int> excludedPositions, CandSet digits);
          void setFinalValue(int row, int col);
```

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```
00136
                                  //solving techniques
                                //solving techniques
bool checkCellForNakedSingle(int row, int col, std::string prefix);
bool checkCellForNakedPair(int row, int col, std::string prefix);
bool checkCellForNakedPair(int row, int col, std::string prefix);
bool checkCellForHiddenPair(int row, int col, std::string prefix);
bool checkCellForNakedTriplet(int row, int col, std::string prefix);
bool checkCellForNakedTriplet(int row, int col, std::string prefix);
bool checkCellForXWing(int row, int col, std::string prefix);
bool checkCellForLockedCandsInBlocks(int row, int col, std::string prefix);
bool checkForIntersectingColorPairs(int row, int col, std::string prefix, int rowl = -1, int col1
1, int color = 0);
 00137
00138
00139
00140
00141
00142
00143
00144
00145
                   = -1, int color = 0);
                                void applyStrategies(std::string prefix = "");
bool tryForcingChain(int numIterations);
bool solve(int numIterations = INT_MAX);
00146
00147
 00148
00149 };
```

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