

```
def solve_sudoku(grid):  
    """  
    Solves a 9x9 Sudoku puzzle using backtracking algorithm.
```

Args:

grid: 9x9 list of lists where 0 represents empty cells

Returns:

True if puzzle is solved, False if unsolvable

```
    """
```

```
def is_valid(grid, row, col, num):  
    """Check if placing num at (row, col) is valid"""
```

```
    # Check row
```

```
    for x in range(9):
```

```
        if grid[row][x] == num:
```

```
            return False
```

```
    # Check column
```

```
    for x in range(9):
```

```
        if grid[x][col] == num:
```

```
            return False
```

```
    # Check 3x3 box
```

```
    start_row = row - row % 3
```

```
    start_col = col - col % 3
```

```
    for i in range(3):
```

```
        for j in range(3):
```

```
            if grid[i + start_row][j + start_col] == num:
```

```
                return False
```

```
    return True
```

```
def find_empty(grid):
```

```
    """Find next empty cell (returns row, col or None)"""
```

```
    for i in range(9):
```

```
        for j in range(9):
```

```
            if grid[i][j] == 0:
```

```
                return i, j
```

```
    return None
```

```
# Find empty cell
```

```
empty = find_empty(grid)
```

```
if not empty:
```

```
    return True # Puzzle solved
```

```
row, col = empty
```

```
# Try numbers 1-9
```

```
for num in range(1, 10):
```

```

    if is_valid(grid, row, col, num):
        grid[row][col] = num

        # Recursively solve
        if solve_sudoku(grid):
            return True

        # Backtrack
        grid[row][col] = 0

    return False

def print_grid(grid):
    """Print the Sudoku grid in a readable format"""
    for i in range(9):
        if i % 3 == 0 and i != 0:
            print("-----+-----+-----")

        for j in range(9):
            if j % 3 == 0 and j != 0:
                print("| ", end="")

            print(str(grid[i][j]) + " ", end="")

        print()

# Example usage
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Sudoku puzzle (0 represents empty cells)
    puzzle = [
        [5, 3, 0, 0, 7, 0, 0, 0, 0],
        [6, 0, 0, 1, 9, 5, 0, 0, 0],
        [0, 9, 8, 0, 0, 0, 0, 6, 0],
        [8, 0, 0, 0, 6, 0, 0, 0, 3],
        [4, 0, 0, 8, 0, 3, 0, 0, 1],
        [7, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 6],
        [0, 6, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 8, 0],
        [0, 0, 0, 4, 1, 9, 0, 0, 5],
        [0, 0, 0, 0, 8, 0, 0, 7, 9]
    ]

    print("Original Sudoku puzzle:")
    print_grid(puzzle)
    print("\nSolving...\n")

    if solve_sudoku(puzzle):
        print("Solved Sudoku puzzle:")
        print_grid(puzzle)
    else:
        print("No solution exists for this puzzle.")

```