

Borovlev Petr

Sudoku Puzzle Generator and Solver

What the task was?

My project was to implement sudoku generator and solver. I had to:

- Console (or other user) interface
- Implement the solver that can solve any valid puzzle
- Generator that generates puzzles, allowing to vary difficulty
- Analyze the performance and make it as efficient as possible
- Handle invalid inputs
- Implement property-based tests

Architecture of my solution:

- src/Board.hs:
 - Type Board is defined
 - Several helper functions that are used throughout whole project are implemented here
 - Also function printBoard is defined, which nicely prints the grid into the console
- src/Solver.hs:
 - Main algorithm of solving the sudoku is implemented here. It works using backtracking
 - Some other helpful functions are implemented here:
 - findEmpty: returns the position of the first empty cell, if there are non Nothing is returned
 - isValid: returns Bool representing wether specific move is valid or not
- src/Generator.hs:

The logic of generation is to at first generate a full valid board, and then removing x random cells, where x depends on the difficulty. I supposed that easy puzzle misses 30 cells, for middle this number is equal to 40, and for hard level it is 50.

 - So there are functions fillRandomly and generateSolved that generate a full grid
 - And there is removeRandomly function that takes board and number of cells to be removed and removes them
 - Lastly, for each difficulty there is getXXXSudoku where instead of XXX is the level of difficulty, like getEasySudoku.
- src/SampleBoards.hs:

Basically it is just a file I used while testing. It contains several hardcoded boards.
- app/Main.hs:

User interface is implemented in it. I could've done it with any user interface, so I've chosen REPL style console interface:

```
Welcome to the Sudoku solver!
Choose an option:
1. Play sudoku
2. Generate and solve sudoku
3. Exit
1
Choose difficulty:
1. Easy
2. Medium
3. Hard
2
Ah, a medium-level puzzle. Lets see if you can handle something thats not completely brain-dead.
Current board:
#-----#
| 6 . . | 9 . 1 | 3 4 . |
| . . 5 | 7 2 4 | 6 . 8 |
| . . . | 6 3 5 | 7 2 1 |
#-----#
| . . . | 3 . . | 2 . . |
| 5 9 3 | 2 . . | 1 7 6 |
| 2 . . | . 9 6 | 5 3 . |
#-----#
| 7 . . | . . . | . . . |
| . . . | 4 6 3 | 9 . . |
| 3 . . | . . 9 | 4 1 2 |
#-----#
Enter your turn in form of x y val, where x and y are coordinates of the cell in 1-indexation, and val is the value you are setting
```

Why certain libraries were chosen

- vector - this was used to be able to store the board in a data structure that allows efficient random access to data. At first I was using `Data.Array` but changed it to `Vector` because of the speed (I'll take about it later)
- random and random-shuffle - those are the 2 libraries I use when randomly generating the board. First one is used to generate seeds that are passed into `shuffle` function from `random-shuffle`

Investigation of the performance

- As mentioned above I changed `Array` into `Vector`, because it is more efficient