

Backtracking and MRV Heuristic and Constraint Propagation Trace

1. Command in terminal: `./homework2.py inputFileName.txt`
2. The program starts off in `homework2.py` where it checks if the input file provided meets necessary requirements
3. Prompts user for which heuristic they would like to test. User input is 1 (for backtracking and mrv heuristic).
4. Goes to `heuristic.py`, and a function called `backtracking(inputArray, nmkArray, additional="None")`. Function takes in sudoku as an array (`inputArray`) and list of nmk values (`nmkArray`), and `additional` as "CP", representing constraint propagation.
5. Creates a list (`stackOfSudoku`) that will hold possible renditions of the sudoku puzzle
6. Goes into loop that will continue until this list is empty, or if the answer is found
7. Pops out the last value in the list and checks if it is the answer with `isAnswer(inputArray)`.
8. If answer, exits loop. If not, goes to function `mrv(inputArray, nmkArray, additional = "None")`
9. Mrv function looks for the location of the sudoku puzzle that has the least possible inputs. Variable called "RemainingValues" holds possible values for each location.
10. First checks each row. Gathers all numbers in a row, possible numbers that aren't in this list are then added to RemainingValues for each location.
11. Then checks each column. Anytime a number is found, it removes it from the corresponding RemainingValues column.
12. Then checks each box. Creates lists corresponding to box values present. If these values are in the corresponding RemainingValues box, it removes them.
13. Checks if constraint propagation needs to be done. Answer = yes.
14. Goes to function `arcConsistency(remainingValues, nmkArray)` to perform arc consistency as the constraint propagation
15. Goes through RemainingValues checks if there is a single possible value.
16. Using this value, goes through row, column and box and removes the value from corresponding RemainingValues
17. If a change has been made to RemainingValues due to this, steps 15-16 are repeated until no change is made anymore
18. Repeat steps 15-17 for all single possible values
19. Altered RemainingValues is returned and replaces old RemainingValues
20. Goes through RemainingValues and finds location which has minimum values. Location cannot equal [-1], representing a number that has been already placed or [], where there are no possible remaining values.
21. Checks if forward checking needs to be done. Answer = no.

22. Goes to a function called `generateNewPuzzle(inputArray, location, values)` . This function takes the `inputArray` and produces new arrays with an altered value, from a list (`values`), at a location. Returns a list of new arrays.
23. Given that this returned list is not empty, appends it `stackOfSudoku`
24. Repeats steps 6 through 23 until answer is found or all possible routes have been explored.