Episode – 1
31st January – 06th February 2026

Standard & Neighbours
by
Akash Doulani

Sudoku Mahabharat rounds will also serve as qualifiers for Indian Sudoku Championship for year 2026. Please check http://logicmastersindia.com/SM/2026sm.asp **for details.**

Important Links

Submission Page : http://logicmastersindia.com/live?contest=SM202601

Discussion Thread : http://logicmastersindia.com/t/?tid=6722

F. A. Q. : http://logicmastersindia.com/t/?tid=2773

Registration, if required : http://logicmastersindia.com/register.asp

About this Episode

This episode has 18 Sudokus with the following breakdown:

- 2* Classic Sudoku 6x6 and 4* Classic Sudoku 9x9
- 1 each of Pencil Marks Sudoku 6x6 and Pencil Marks Sudoku 9x9
- 1 each of Liar Sudoku 6x6 and Liar Sudoku 9x9
- 1 each of Trio Sudoku 6x6 and Trio Sudoku 9x9
- 1 each of Faded Kropki Sudoku 6x6 and Faded Kropki Sudoku 9x9
- 1 each of 1-2 Consecutive Pairs Sudoku 6x6 and 1-2 Consecutive Pairs Sudoku 9x9
- 1 each of Quad Max Sudoku 6x6 and Quad Max Sudoku 9x9

How to participate?

- Understand the rules of different variants that will appear in this episode. This Instruction Booklet has rules for each of them.
- Any time on or after 31st Jan (but on or before 6th Feb), login at the submission page using your LMI user-id and password. Please check the submission page for exact timing.
- **If you plan to solve on paper:**
  a) Download the password protected Puzzle booklet (will be uploaded before the test starts). The Puzzle booklet contains the actual Puzzles to be solved. It is password protected, so you won't be able to open it.
  b) Click on "Start". At this time, password for pdf will be shown and timer will start. **The contest duration is 90 minutes.**
  c) The puzzle booklet can be downloaded, printed and solved on paper.
  d) We advise you to have a printer accessible with enough paper.
  e) You are allowed to use writing implements, eraser, blank paper (including commercial graph paper), ruler, scissors, and tape.
- **If you plan to solve on LMI's Penpa-Integrated Interface:**
  a) Click on this link and understand the instructions - https://logicmastersindia.com/live/faq-online-solving.asp
  b) It is noted on the link too, but we note it here as well to be clear – the participants must still input the answer keys in the boxes below the puzzle and submit them to receive credit as given below.
- Faded Kropki solving help of any kind is not permitted. This includes but is not limited to: assistance of any kind from any other person; prepared notes, books, calculators, computers, or tools other than items explicitly permitted.
- Participants may use both paper solving and online solving, even interchangeably. Eventually our system will only count anything submitted in the submission boxes in either mode.

If you are participating at LMI for first time, it will be useful to check the F.A.Q. at http://logicmastersindia.com/t/?tid=2773.

About answer keys and Submission

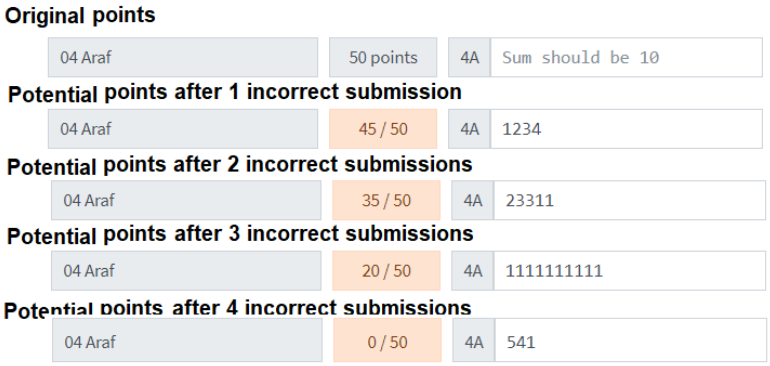
- After solving the puzzle, you need to submit the puzzle using the answer keys.
- You may submit the answer keys anytime during the test duration.
- Answer keys are always to be entered from left to right or top to bottom
- Don't enter any separator unless specified in the answer key
- If one row and one column is marked, enter the row first and then the column
- If multiple rows are marked, enter from top to bottom for marked rows
- If multiple columns are marked, enter from left to right for marked columns

Points Table and Scoring

Points typically indicate difficulty of the Puzzles and time required to solve them. You will get full points if you enter the correct answer key. While the organizers have made best efforts to match them, **your personal experience and preference may differ.**

Classic Sudoku 6x6	2, 1
Classic Sudoku 9x9	8, 6, 4, 5
Pencil Marks Sudoku 6x6 & 9x9	3, 8
Liar Sudoku 6x6 & 9x9	2, 6
Trio Sudoku 6x6 & 9x9	2, 8
Faded Kropki Pairs Sudoku 6x6 & 9x9	4, 12
1-2 Difference Pairs Sudoku 6x6 & 9x9	4, 10
Quad Max Sudoku 6x6 & 9x9	3, 12

This test uses instant grading where a solver can submit any individual Puzzle and receive confirmation that the solution is correct or not. Each incorrect submission reduces the puzzle's potential score. The first, second, third, and fourth incorrect submissions reduce the potential score to 90%, 70%, 40%, and 0% respectively. A demonstration for this is shown below.



Bonus and Ranking

If you submitted all Puzzles correctly, you can have bonus points 1 point per minute saved, computed up to seconds.

Ranking will be based on following rules in order:

1. Most total points
2. Earliest final submission time, up to seconds (ignoring incorrect submissions)

Credits

- The original creator **opt-pan** for penpa edit - https://opt-pan.github.io/penpa-edit/
- **Swaroop Guggilam** for his recent efforts in adding features to Penpa-edit - https://swaroopg92.github.io/penpa-edit/ and also working to integrate it with our contest engine.

About the Puzzle Booklet

The password protected Puzzle booklet will have 9 pages. This is relevant only for paper solvers.

Solutions to examples are towards the end of the booklet in the Solutions section.

Rules Powered by Sudokuib - https://github.com/vopani/sudokuib

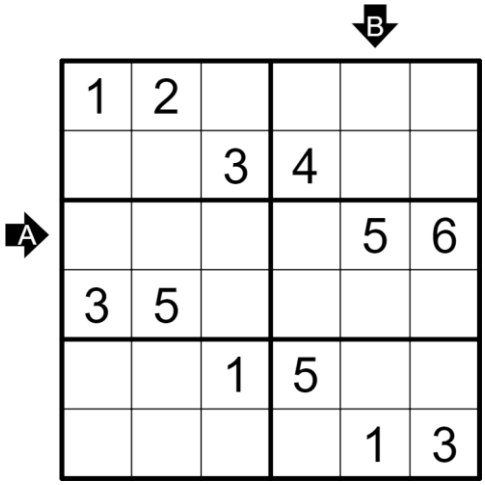
All answer keys are the same for all puzzles – enter the contents of the marked rows/columns, including given digits, along the direction of the arrow.

1-2 Classic Sudoku 6x6

2 + 1 points

Place a digit from 1 to 6 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and 2x3 outlined box.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/2nvezsrr

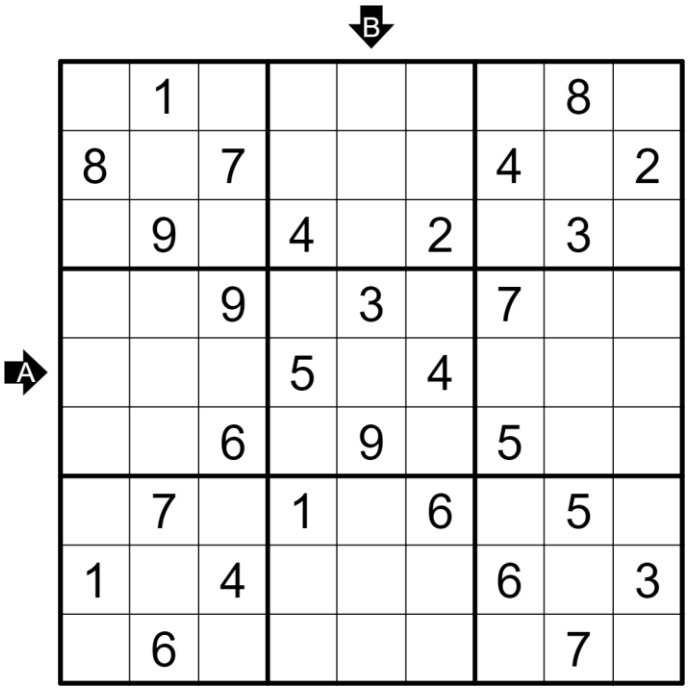


3-6 Classic Sudoku 9x9

8 + 6 + 4 + 5 points

Place a digit from 1 to 9 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 outlined box.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/333ntt48



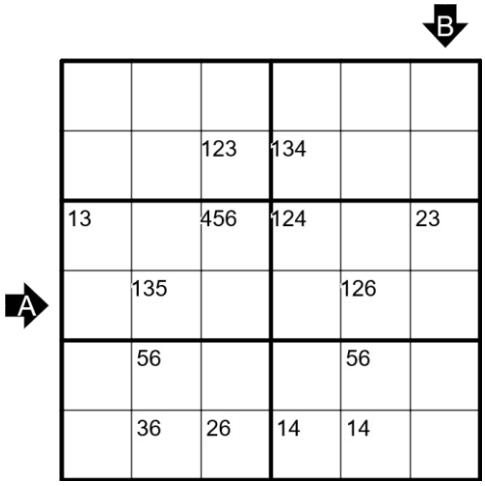
7 Pencil Marks Sudoku 6x6

3 points

Place a digit from 1 to 6 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and 2x3 outlined box.

Cells with pencil-mark digits (small given digits) must contain one of those digits.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/24avpdyf



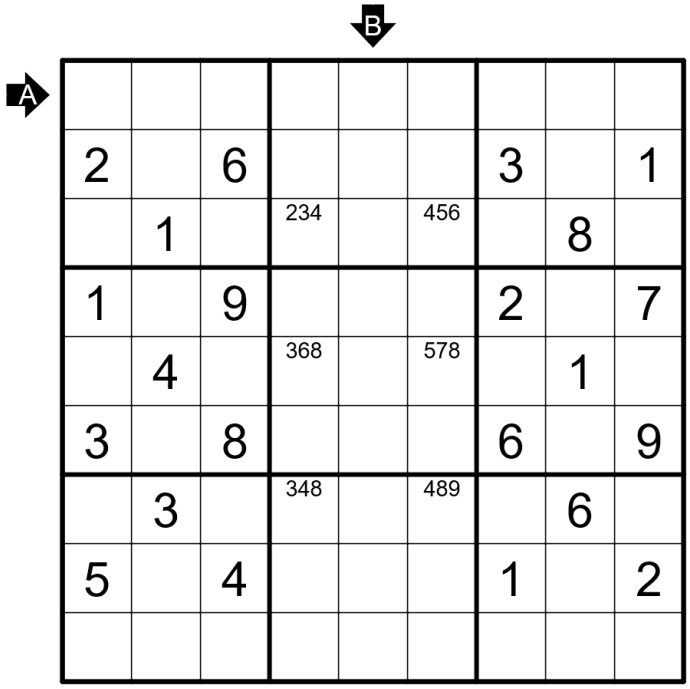
8 Pencil Marks Sudoku 9x9

8 points

Place a digit from 1 to 9 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 outlined box.

Cells with pencil-mark digits, i.e. small given digits, must contain one of those digits.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/2aedk7cn



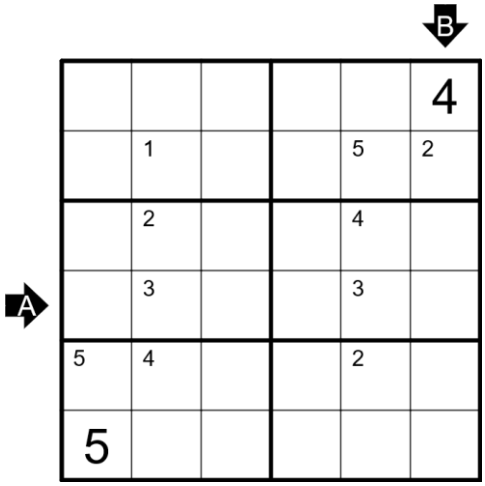
9 Liar Sudoku 6x6

2 points

Place a digit from 1 to 6 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and 2x3 outlined box.

Digits placed in the cells with given small numbers must be one higher or one lower than the small number in that cell.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/2asp4vlc



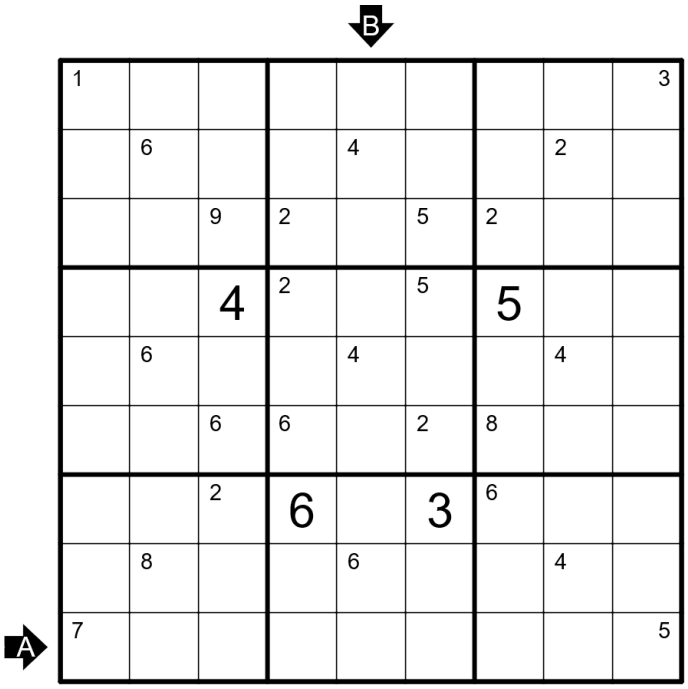
10 Liar Sudoku 9x9

6 points

Place a digit from 1 to 9 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 outlined box.

Digits placed in the cells with given small numbers must be one higher or one lower than the small number in that cell.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/2cgu4snz



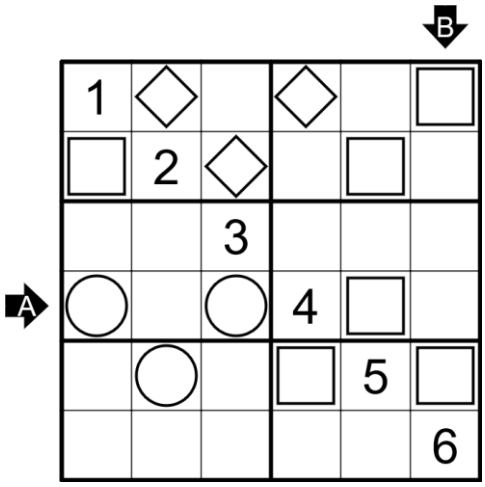
11 Trio Sudoku 6x6

2 points

Place a digit from 1 to 6 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and 2x3 outlined box.

Cells with circles contain the digits 1 and 2.
Cells with squares contain the digits 3 and 4.
Cells with diamonds contain the digits 5 and 6.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/25qks5tz



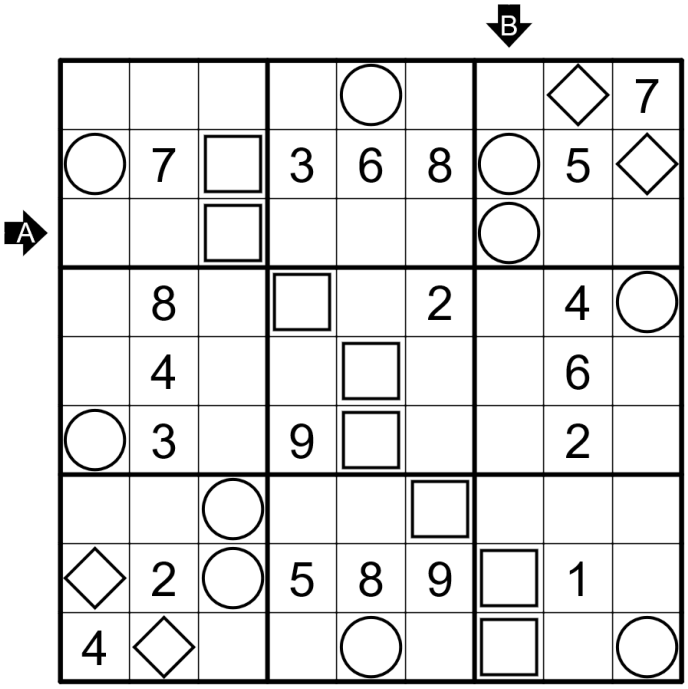
12 Trio Sudoku 9x9

8 points

Place a digit from 1 to 9 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 outlined box.

Cells with circles contain the digits 1, 2 and 3.
Cells with squares contain the digits 4, 5 and 6.
Cells with diamonds contain the digits 7, 8 and 9.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/2cdbadv9



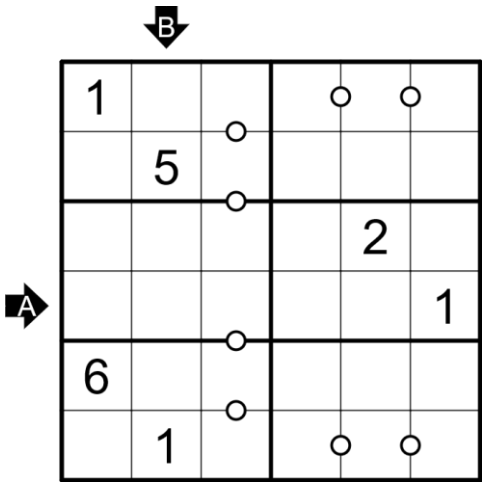
13 Faded Kropki Pairs Sudoku 6x6

4 points

Place a digit from 1 to 6 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and 2x3 outlined box.

Adjacent cells marked with a circle contain either consecutive digits, and/or digits where one digit is double of the other digit. All possible circles are not necessarily marked.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/2xvfq3wo



14 Faded Kropki Pairs Sudoku 9x9

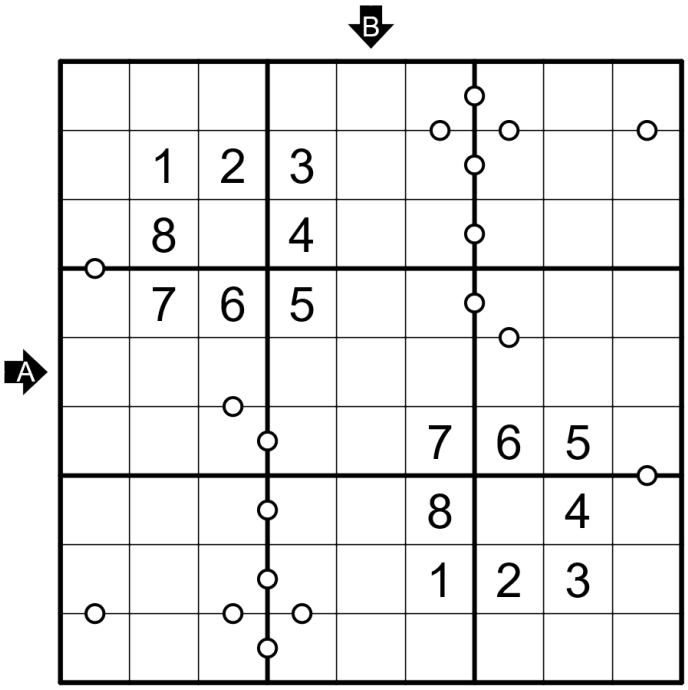
12 points

Place a digit from 1 to 9 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 outlined box.

Adjacent cells marked with a circle contain either consecutive digits, or digits where one digit is double of the other digit. All possible circles are not necessarily marked.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/22t7qah8

This Sudoku has been taken from Akash Doulani's blog - https://akashdoulani.blogspot.com/2025/11/puzzle-no-481-faded-kropki-pairs-sudoku.html



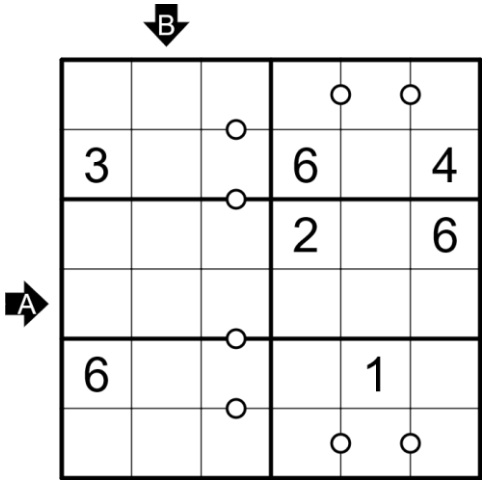
15 1-2 Difference Pairs Sudoku 6x6

4 points

Place a digit from 1 to 6 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and outlined region.

Adjacent cells marked by a circle contain digits that differ by 1 or by 2. All possible circles are not necessarily marked.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/29x8gx7r



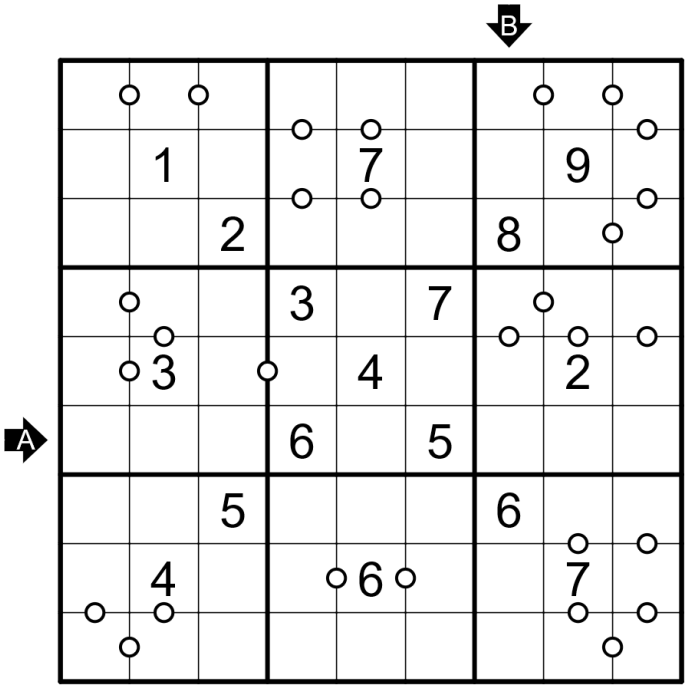
16 1-2 Difference Pairs Sudoku 9x9

10 points

Place a digit from 1 to 9 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and outlined region.

Adjacent cells marked by a circle contain digits that differ by 1 or by 2. All possible circles are not necessarily marked.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/24byodnn



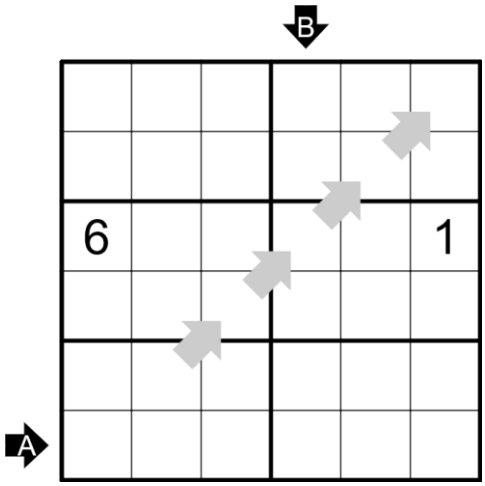
17 Quad Max Sudoku 6x6

3 points

Place a digit from 1 to 6 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and 2x3 outlined box.

The digit pointed by each arrow must be larger than the other three digits that the arrow touches. All possible arrows are not necessarily marked.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/22zdntzs



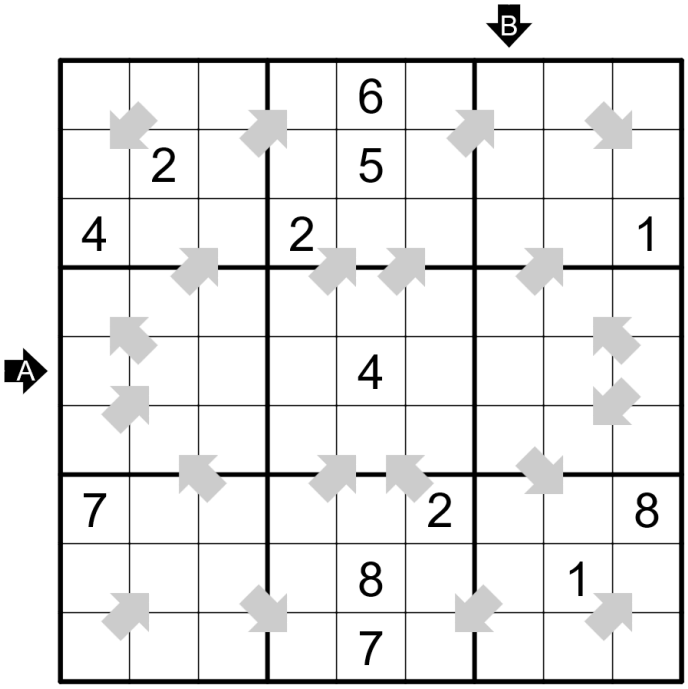
18 Quad Max Sudoku 9x9

12 points

Place a digit from 1 to 9 into each empty cell in the grid so that each digit appears exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 outlined box.

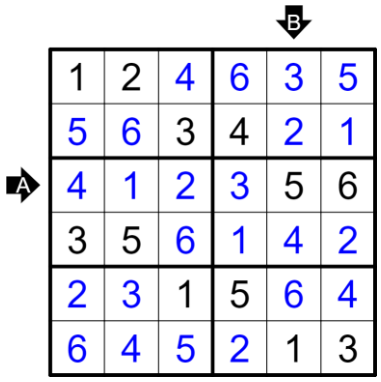
The digit pointed by each arrow must be larger than the other three digits that the arrow touches. All possible arrows are not necessarily marked.

Penpa for example:
https://tinyurl.com/26s5dc9q



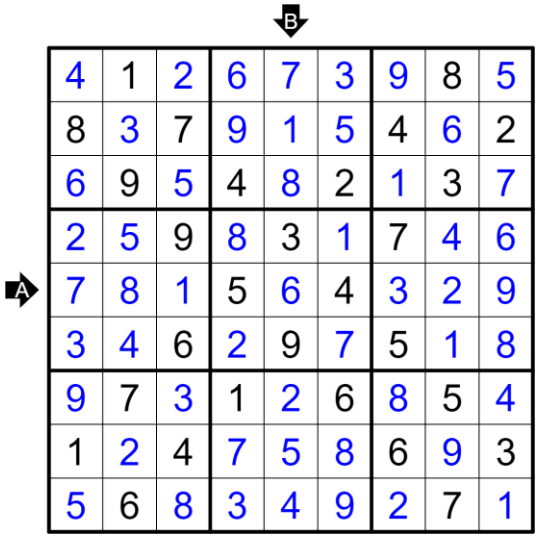
Solutions

Classic Sudoku 6x6



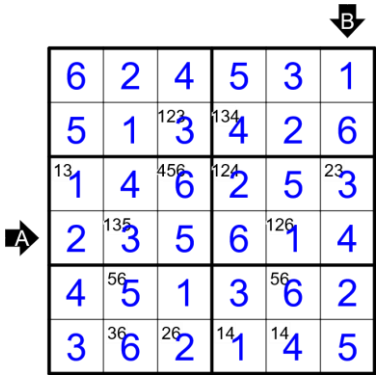
Key: 412356,325461

Classic Sudoku 9x9



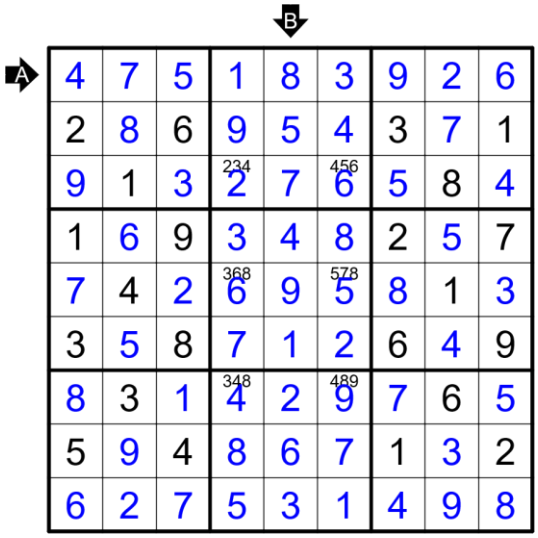
Key: 781564329,718369254

Pencil Marks Sudoku 6x6



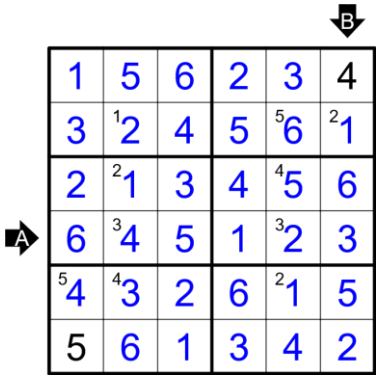
Key: 235614,163425

Pencil Marks Sudoku 9x9



Key: 475183926,857491263

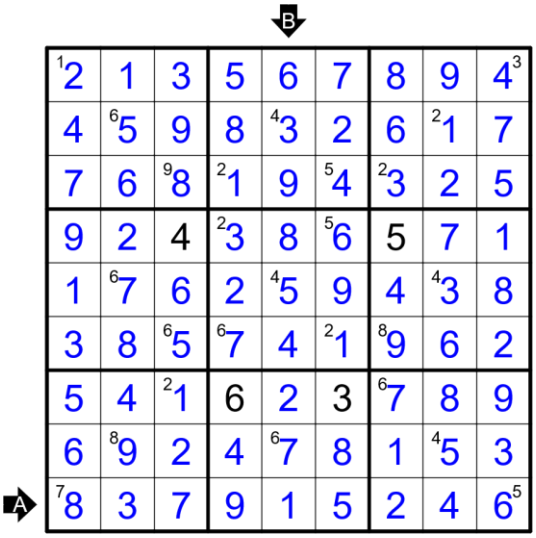
Liar Sudoku 6x6



1	5	6	2	3	4
3	12	4	5	56	21
2	21	3	4	45	6
6	34	5	1	32	3
54	43	2	6	21	5
5	6	1	3	4	2

Key: 645123,416352

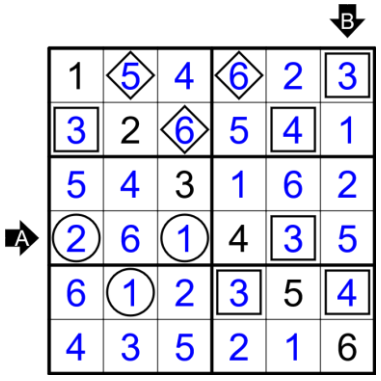
Liar Sudoku 9x9



12	1	3	5	6	7	8	9	43
4	65	9	8	43	2	6	21	7
7	6	98	21	9	54	23	2	5
9	2	4	23	8	56	5	7	1
1	67	6	2	45	9	4	43	8
3	8	65	67	4	21	89	6	2
5	4	21	6	2	3	67	8	9
6	89	2	4	67	8	1	45	3
78	3	7	9	1	5	2	4	65

Key: 837915246,639854271

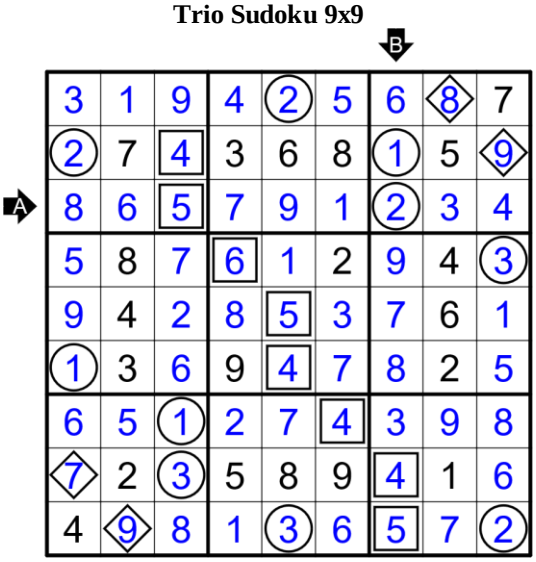
Trio Sudoku 6x6



1	5	4	6	2	3
3	2	6	5	4	1
5	4	3	1	6	2
2	6	1	4	3	5
6	1	2	3	5	4
4	3	5	2	1	6

Key: 261435,312546

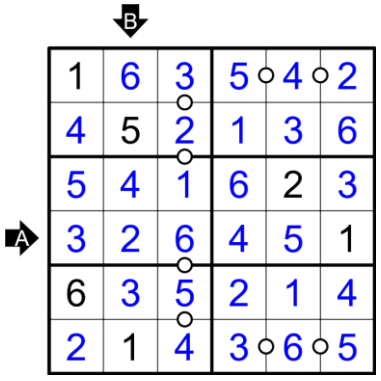
Trio Sudoku 9x9



3	1	9	4	2	5	6	8	7
2	7	4	3	6	8	1	5	9
8	6	5	7	9	1	2	3	4
5	8	7	6	1	2	9	4	3
9	4	2	8	5	3	7	6	1
1	3	6	9	4	7	8	2	5
6	5	1	2	7	4	3	9	8
7	2	3	5	8	9	4	1	6
4	9	8	1	3	6	5	7	2

Key: 865791234,612978345

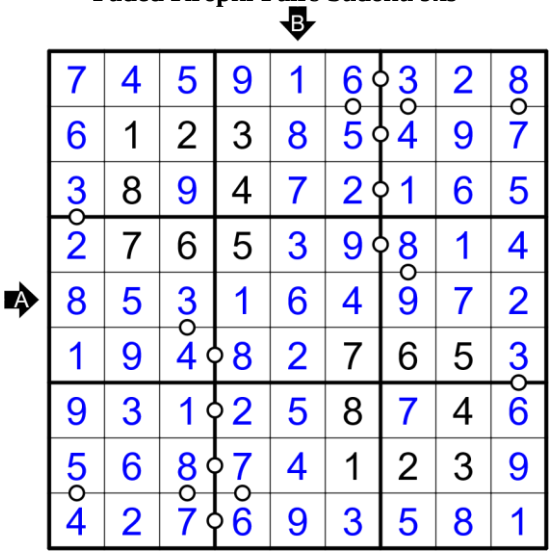
Faded Kropki Pairs Sudoku 6x6



1	6	3	5	4	2
4	5	2	1	3	6
5	4	1	6	2	3
3	2	6	4	5	1
6	3	5	2	1	4
2	1	4	3	6	5

Key: 326451,654231

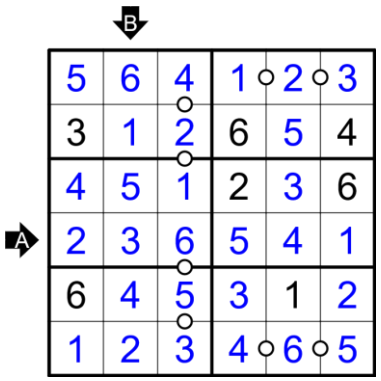
Faded Kropki Pairs Sudoku 9x9



7	4	5	9	1	6	3	2	8
6	1	2	3	8	5	4	9	7
3	8	9	4	7	2	1	6	5
2	7	6	5	3	9	8	1	4
8	5	3	1	6	4	9	7	2
1	9	4	8	2	7	6	5	3
9	3	1	2	5	8	7	4	6
5	6	8	7	4	1	2	3	9
4	2	7	6	9	3	5	8	1

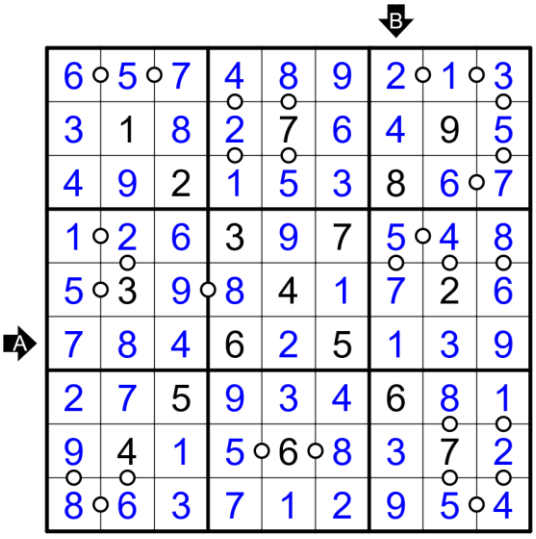
Key: 853164972,187362549

1-2 Difference Pairs Sudoku 6x6



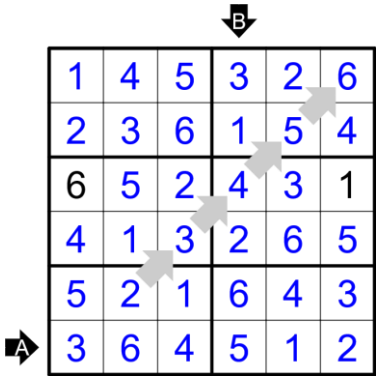
Key: 236541,615342

1-2 Difference Pairs Sudoku 9x9



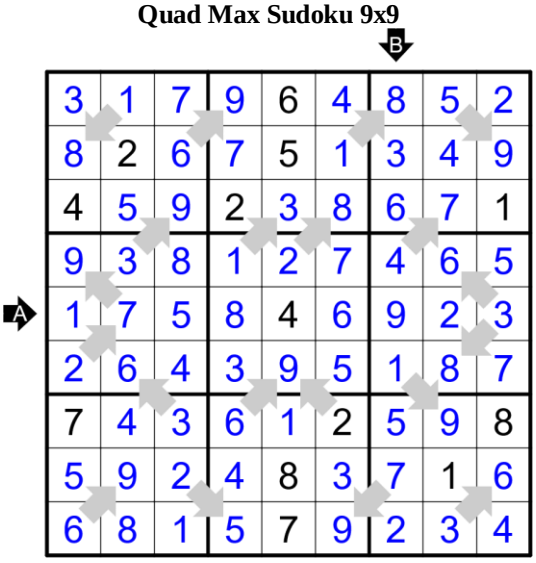
Key: 784625139,248571639

Quad Max Sudoku 6x6



Key: 364512,314265

Quad Max Sudoku 9x9



Key: 175846923,836491572