



Evening Attractions

There are so many things to do in the evening: going bowling, say, then the theatre or a movie, and then on to a nightclub – or just gaze up at the night sky. And everything can be accompanied by sudoku!

Here at CtC we like to affirm the positive, but we also study the dark side occasionally and the world of negative constraints.

Here are seven puzzles, all featuring negative constraints – you might not need them for solving, or they might be essential.

To complete the final puzzle, you will have to sum various totals from the first six (see the notes below each puzzle title). Then you will have to enter a string of 27 digits, as specified on the final page, in the form at <http://tinyurl.com/yc5nybsm> by 4.00pm UK time on 20th March 2024.

In the puzzle *Dinner Theatre*, please note that because of the perimeter cells, the conflict checker will not work, and the answer check will only be triggered if all perimeter digits are entered.

You might be wondering why the hunt is themed on Evening Attractions – play with its letters to find out!

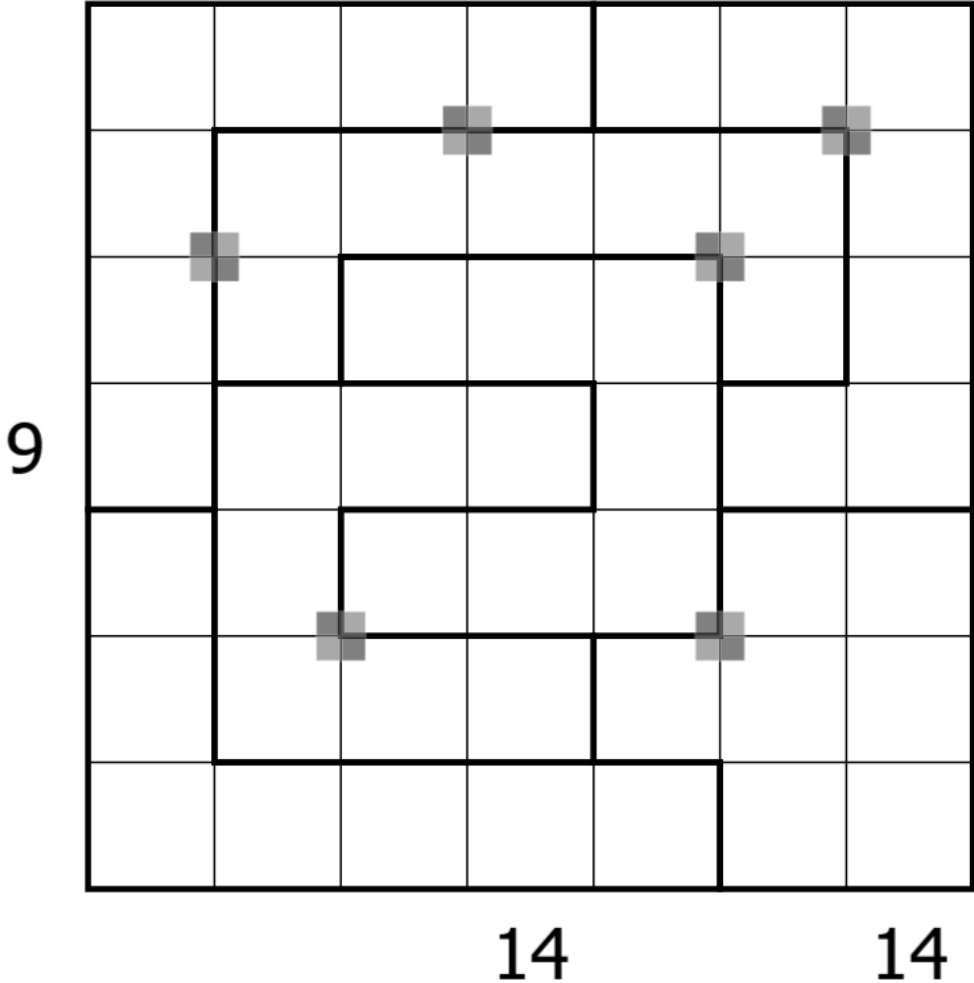
Simon & Mark

Evening Attractions

For once we accentuate the negative ...

Curtain Raiser

A: the sum of the Battenberg cells; or the sum of the non-Battenberg cells



<https://app.crackingthecryptic.com/h4sw1xi31c>

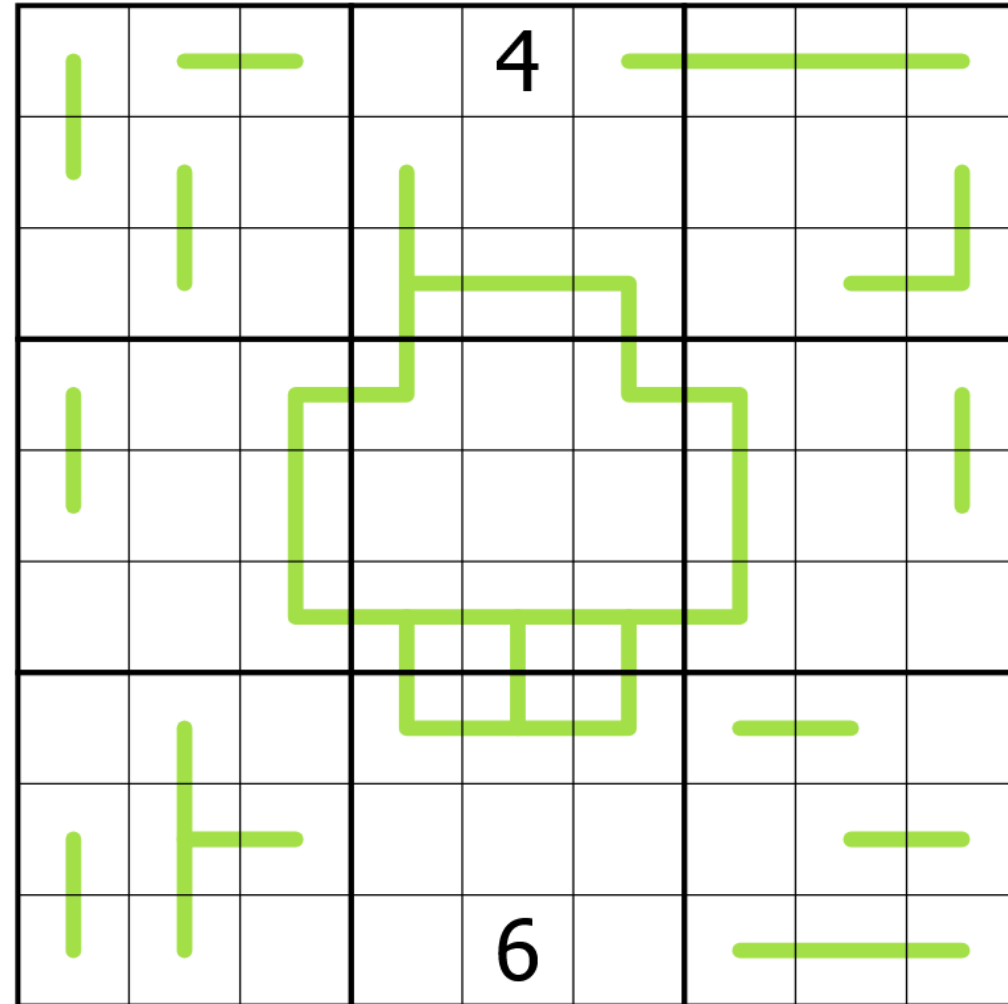
Place 1-7 in each row, column and marked region. A number outside the grid indicates the sum of the first X cells seen from that vantage point, where X is the first-seen digit. Whenever two odd and two even digits form a checkerboard, this is indicated by a Battenberg marking.

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Minion Movie

B: the sum of cells with a green line; or the sum of cells without a green line.



<https://app.crackingthecryptic.com/dN7LP2rJ9P>

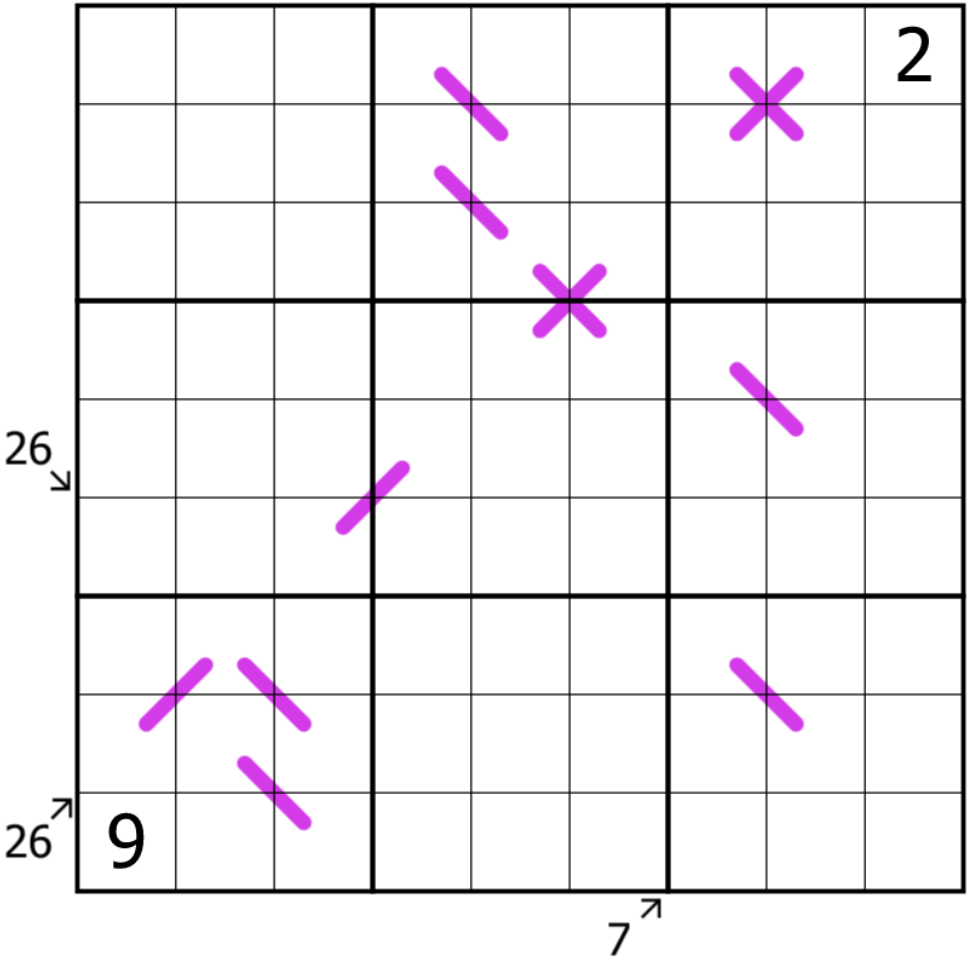
Normal sudoku rules apply. Every time a pair of horizontally or vertically adjacent digits has a difference of 5 or more, those cells are joined with a green line.

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Strikes and Spares

C: the sum of cells with a purple line; or the sum of cells without a purple line.



<https://app.crackingthecryptic.com/FQJh8FBdQT>

Normal sudoku rules apply. Digits along a diagonal must sum to the indicated total. If two cells that touch diagonally contain consecutive digits, they must be marked by a purple line segment. Conversely, diagonally touching cells without a purple line segment may not be consecutive.

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Disco Ball

D: the sum of all circled cells - 9; or the sum of all non-circled cells + 9



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

<https://sudokupad.app/n9Jrd2pPFG>

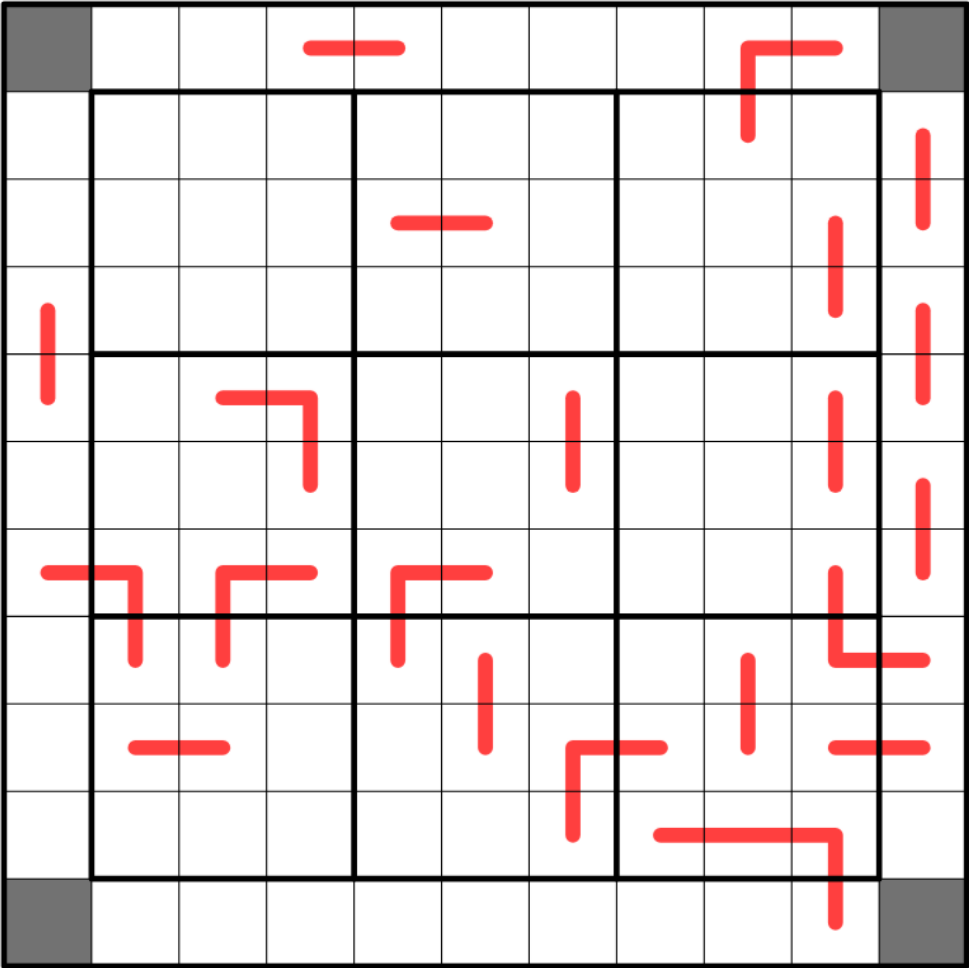
Normal sudoku rules apply. Use two colours to shade the grid such that each colour forms a single orthogonally connected region and no 2x2 area contains only one colour. A circle contains a digit which indicates how many cells of the same colour it sees horizontally and vertically including itself. The other colour blocks sight. All possible circles are given.

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Dinner Theatre

E: the sum of cells with a red line; or the sum of cells without a red line. (Include perimeter)



<https://app.crackingthecryptic.com/T444TQr8mF>

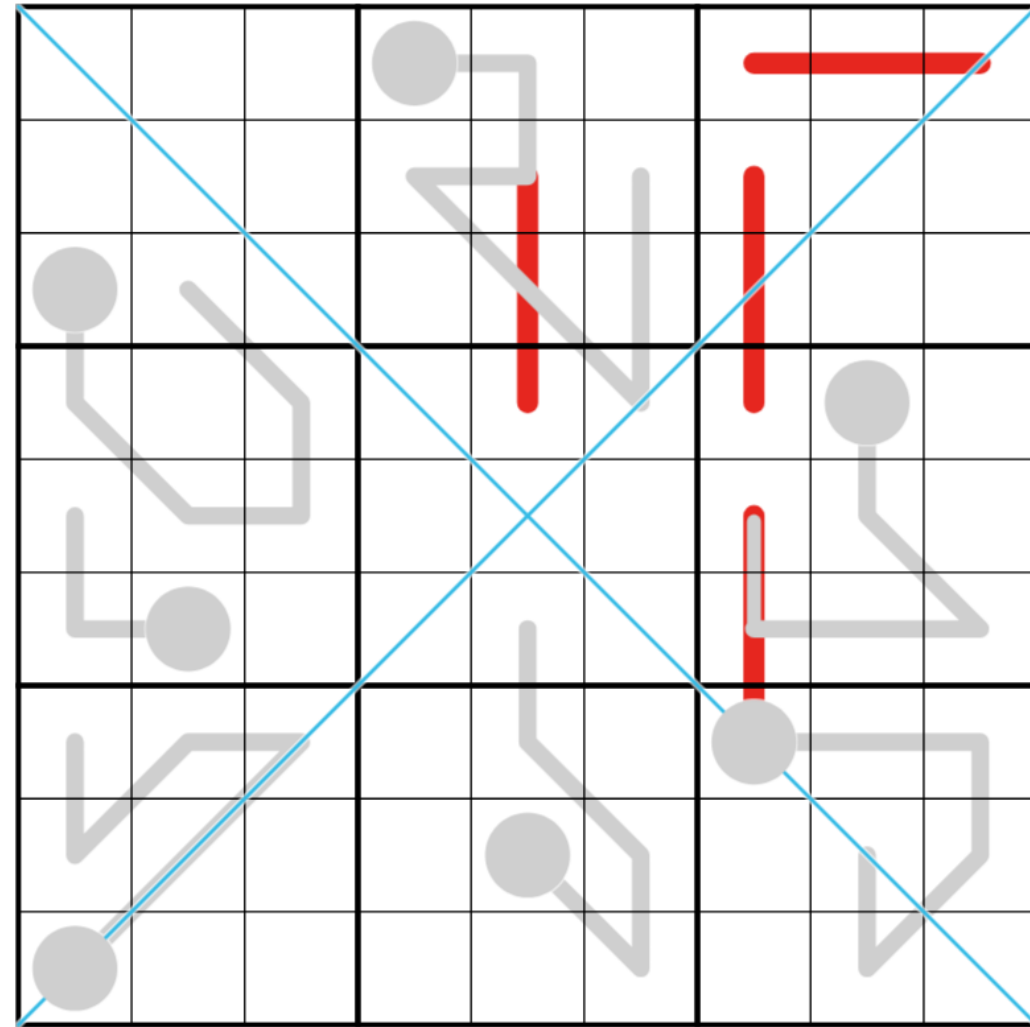
Normal sudoku rules apply to the 9x9 grid. The perimeter must be filled with digits which are 'numbered rooms' clues. They indicate the digit located X steps away from the clue into the grid, where X is the first-seen digit (e.g. if r1c0 was 1 and r1c1 was 6, 1 must appear in r1c6). If two cells sharing an edge contain digits summing to 6 or having a difference of 6, they must be connected by a red line.

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The Zodiac

F: the sum of cells with a red line; or the sum of cells without a red line.



<https://app.crackingthecryptic.com/DjB8fGjP2g>

Normal sudoku rules apply. Digits do not repeat along a marked diagonal. If three adjacent cells either horizontally or vertically contain digits of the same parity (odd or even), they are marked with a red line. Conversely any three adjacent cells horizontally or vertically not linked with a red line contain a mixture of odd and even digits. Digits along a thermometer increase from the bulb.

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End of the Evening

To enter March's competition, the answer code is rows 2, 5 and 8 of this puzzle as a 27-digit string (no spaces). Use the Google form at <http://tinyurl.com/yc5nybsm> to enter.



A								
			x					
B								
C								
	v			v				
D	x		x		x			
E						x	v	
								v
F			x					

<https://app.crackingthecryptic.com/q63QQqtLbp>

Normal sudoku rules apply. Write the number A (from puzzle 1) left-to-right in consecutive cells somewhere in row A, B in the row labelled B etc. Cells joined by X sum to 10, and those joined by V sum to 5. All Xs and Vs are given.