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Skyscraper
Sudoku p. 64

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SKYSCRAPER SUDOKU

BY RODOLFO KURCHAN

This is a new Sudoku variant that combines Sudoku and Skyscrapers. Normal Sudoku rules apply, that is, each row, column, and heavily outlined 3x3 square must contain each digit from 1 through 9 exactly once.

In these puzzles, each number represents a building. Arrows indicate how many buildings you can see from the direction in which the arrow is pointing.

In normal Skyscrapers puzzles, the clues are numbers outside the grid that indicate how many buildings can be seen from that direction. But here, the clues are the arrows.

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EXAMPLE

In this example, the number 1 represents a building with one floor. The number 3 with an arrow means that, from that square in that direction, you can see 3 buildings. The arrow in the square with no number means that the number you put there will represent the number of buildings you can see from that square in the direction of the arrow. In this 4x4 sudoku grid, that number cannot be a 4, because the maximum number of buildings visible from that square is 3. So that square could contain a 1, 2, or 3.

		1
▶		
	3	

Now, consider the square with the 3 and an arrow. This allows you to place the numbers 1, 2, and 4, since that is the only configuration that would allow 3 buildings to be visible while still following Sudoku rules.

4		1
2		
▶	1	
	3	

Now you can complete the left bottom square, since the arrow square cannot contain a 4.

4		1
2		
2	1	
4	3	

Then, so that 2 buildings will be visible, the other numbers in that row will be 4 and 3.

4		1
2		
2	1	4 3
4	3	1 2

Now you can complete the lower right square with 1 and 2.

3	4	2	1
1	2	3	4
2	1	4	3
4	3	1	2

Finally, use Sudoku rules to finish the puzzle.

PUZZLE 1 (EASY/MEDIUM)

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

PUZZLE 2 (MEDIUM)

	2				
4		1			2
			1		5
6		2		2	1
		4			6
	6	1	3		
2					3
		8		2	4

PUZZLE 3 (MEDIUM/DIFFICULT)

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

PUZZLE 4 (DIFFICULT)

9 4	3	5
	7	
1 3		6
	2	8

PUZZLE 5 (VERY DIFFICULT)
