

The sudoku2pdf puzzle rating system

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The **sudoku2pdf rating** of sudoku puzzles is a single integer that expresses puzzle difficulty on a 1000–2800 scale, analogous to [Elo ratings](#) in chess.

The rating of a puzzle is equal to the highest rating of the techniques used to solve the puzzle according to the following table:

Solving method	Rating
Full House, Hidden Single (box)	1000
Hidden Single (row/column), Naked Single	1040 - 1100
Pointing Pairs/Triples, Claiming	1200 - 1320
Naked/Hidden Pairs	1360 - 1480
Naked/Hidden Triples, X-Wing	1520 - 1640
W-Wing, XYZ-Wing, Swordfish, Naked/Hidden Quads	1680 - 1800
Finned X-Wing, Sashimi, Franken Fish	1800 - 2120
Alternating Inference Chains (AIC), Forcing Chains	2120 - 2580
Nested Forcing Chains	≥ 2600
Backtracking (no human-logic solution found)	2800

We believe that this rating is easier to read than the original Sudoku Explainer decimal values, and leaves room for later refinements if needed.

The difficulty level of a puzzle is related to its rating according to the following table:

Difficulty	Rating
Easy	≤ 1100
Medium	1120 - 1380
Hard	1400 - 1660
Fiendish	1680 - 1980
Diabolical	≥ 2000