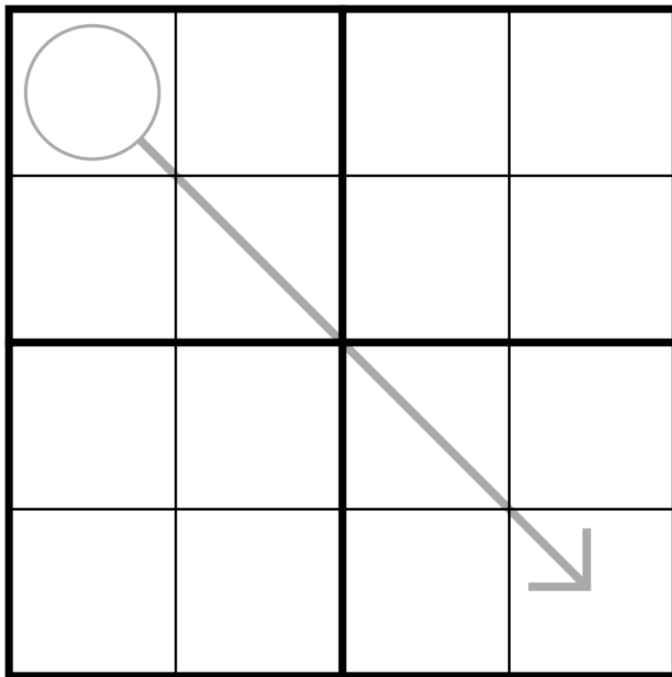


I tried (with apologies from Justin Kalef)

Am I ever embarrassed! I had intended to provide you all with a few mini-Sudoku puzzles – that is, 4x4 grids in which every row, column, and heavily-outlined 2x2 box contains each digit from 1 to 4 – but I somehow lost the file with the puzzles and have not managed to remember or reconstruct all the relevant details. Here's what little I do remember.

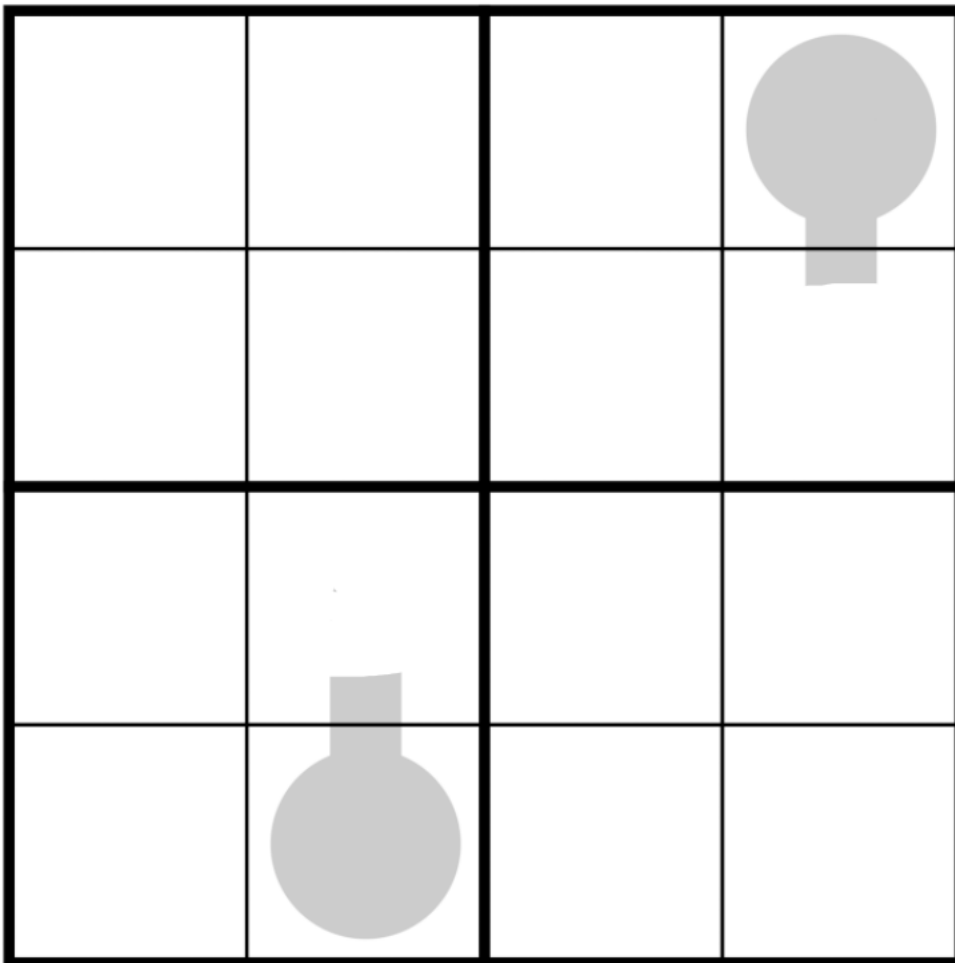
1. The first was an arrow Sudoku with two arrows.

In an arrow Sudoku, the sum of the digits along an arrow must be the digit in the circle attached to that arrow. Unfortunately, you won't be able to solve the puzzle without the other arrow, which is one cell shorter than the arrow you see. I do remember that the circle of that other arrow was also in the top row, somewhere in the upper right box, and that the attached arrow extended to somewhere in the lower right box. Ah, well.



2. The second was a thermo-Sudoku with two thermometers.

In a thermo-Sudoku, digits on a thermometer get higher (though not necessarily consecutively) as one moves from the bulb to the tip. I do remember that the thermometer beginning in the lower bulb moves upward – maybe straight upward, maybe veering into the leftmost column at some point – and that it is four cells long. I also remember that the one that begins in the upper right corner is three cells long and ends up in the lower right box. But I can't remember what becomes of either thermometer after each one crosses from the bulb into its next square. Pity!



3. The last was an anti-knight skyscraper Sudoku – or was it a skyscraper *sum* Sudoku?

A little background might be useful here. In a skyscraper Sudoku, you are to imagine the puzzle as a map of a complex of buildings, one in each cell, and each one the height of the digit in that cell. Numbers are added outside of the grid that show the number of buildings one could see if one were standing at that outside vantage point looking across to the other side of the puzzle, with taller buildings obscuring shorter ones. A skyscraper sum Sudoku is similar to this, but this time any number outside the grid gives the *sum* of the heights of the skyscrapers visible from that outside vantage point. Well, I remember that I chose one of those two types of puzzle – skyscraper, or skyscraper sum – and, by adding in an anti-knight constraint (i.e. no two cells that are a knight's move apart may have the same digit), was able to make the puzzle solvable with the addition of just one digit, which I remember was where you see the question mark now. Unfortunately, I now forget what number goes there, and also whether it was a skyscraper or skyscraper sum puzzle! I'm so sorry.

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