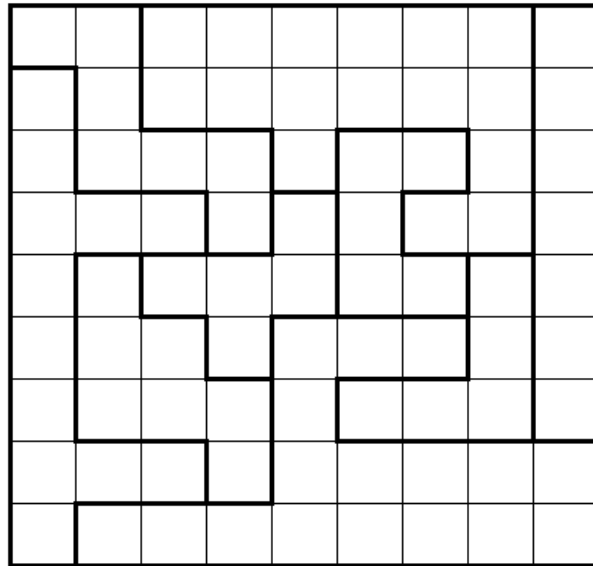
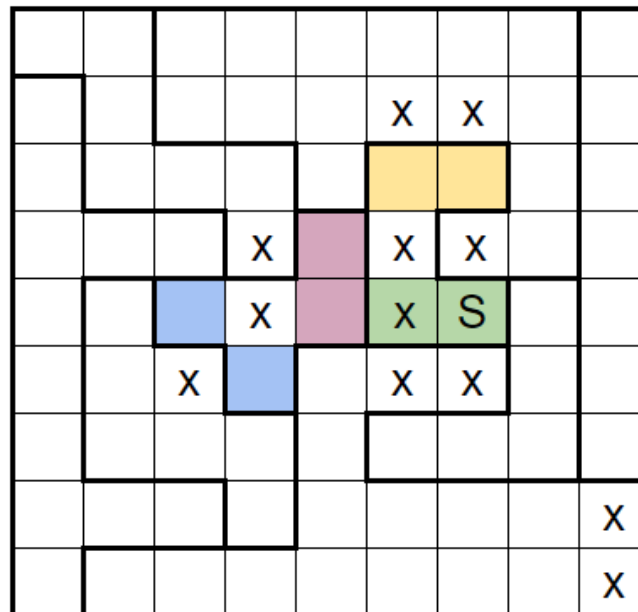


Here are some of the basic techniques that I use, on this example, requiring two stars in each row, column and region.

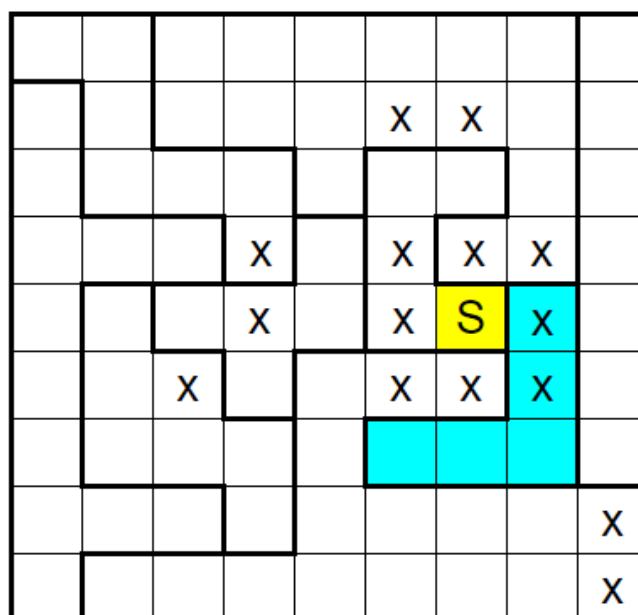
[illegible]

These small regions have now ended up separated into distinct mini regions which must contain a star each (coloured below), so there can be no stars adjacent to these regions or else these could

not contain the required stars. Note that the left cell of the green region received a cross, meaning that the other cell in the green region had to have a star, so we placed our first star.



When you place a star, you can eliminate all cells surrounding it. In this case, the new blue region coloured below becomes so small that there is only one way of arranging two stars in it.



Once you put these two stars in, you have filled the row, so the whole row (coloured green below) can be crossed, which leaves the remaining cells in the orange region below as mandatory mini regions, which can be treated as before by crossing cells which would empty these regions.

					X	X		
			X		X	X	X	
			X		X	S	X	
		X		X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	S	X	S	X
				X	X	X	X	X
								X

Once this is done, the central region only has one way of being filled, so the purple cell must get a star. We can also look at the blue row. If this row is to have two cells, there must be a star in one of the two cells on the left, so the adjacent cells below must be empty.

					X	X		
			X		X	X	X	
X		X	X		X	S	X	
X		X		X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	S	X	S	X
		X	S	X	X	X	X	X
		X	X	X				X

We now have the orange cell as the only one in the region which can take the second star, the blue column with both its stars placed and the pink area at the bottom as only being fillable in one way.

					X	X		
			X		X	X	X	
X		X	X	X	X	S	X	
X		X	S	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	S	X	S	X
		X	S	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X				X

The orange celled start meant there was only one place in the adjacent region, which now means that each of the three coloured columns have both their stars and we can place a lot of empty cells at the top of the grid.

			X		X	X	X	
			X		X	X	X	
			X	X	X	S	X	
			X	S	X	X	X	
X		X	X	X	X	S	X	
X		X	S	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	S	X	S	X
		X	S	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	S	X	S	X

This has left the top region with two mandatory mini regions, allowing some forced empty cells in the top left.

	X		X		X	X	X	
	X		X		X	X	X	
			X	X	X	S	X	
			X	S	X	X	X	
X		X	X	X	X	S	X	
X		X	S	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	S	X	S	X
		X	S	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	S	X	S	X

The top left region now has a forced star and mandatory mini region, which forces some more empty cells.

S	X		X		X	X	X	
X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
			X	X	X	S	X	
	X	X	X	S	X	X	X	
X		X	X	X	X	S	X	
X		X	S	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	S	X	S	X
		X	S	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	S	X	S	X

The long region on the left can only have one star in the red area due to the top left star, so the little space coloured green must have a star.

S	x		x		x	x	x	
x	x	x	x		x	x	x	
			x	x	x	S	x	
	x	x	x	S	x	x	x	
x		x	x	x	x	S	x	
x		x	S	x	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	x	S	x	S	x
	S	x	S	x	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	x	S	x	S	x

The rest of the grid can be filled by ensuring that all rows and columns have two stars in, as follows:

S	x		x		x	x	x	
x	x	x	x		x	x	x	
			x	x	x	S	x	
	x	x	x	S	x	x	x	
x		x	x	x	x	S	x	
x		x	S	x	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	x	S	x	S	x
x	S	x	S	x	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	x	S	x	S	x

S	x	S	x		x	x	x	
x	x	x	x		x	x	x	
	x	S	x	x	x	S	x	
	x	x	x	S	x	x	x	
x		x	x	x	x	S	x	
x		x	S	x	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	x	S	x	S	x
x	S	x	S	x	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	x	S	x	S	x

S	x	S	x	x	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	S	x	x	x	S
x	x	S	x	x	x	S	x	x
S	x	x	x	S	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	x	x	S	x	S
x	S	x	S	x	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	x	S	x	S	x
x	S	x	S	x	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	x	S	x	S	x