

Extreme sudoku 65: XY-wing, 25 clues

Hardest step: XY-wing · 25 clues · one solution

7	4							
		2		8	4			3
							8	9
6		1						
						2		
4		9		6				
				7	8			
2	8			9	3	7		
	3		6		2		1	

Extreme sudoku 65: the key move (XY-wing)

The board just before the hardest step

7	4	8	9	3	6	¹ 5	2	¹ 5
1	9	2	5	8	4	6	7	3
3	6	5	2	1	7	4	8	9
6	7	1	3	2	⁵ 9	⁵ 9	4	8
8	5	3	7	4	¹ 9	2	⁶ 9	¹ 6
4	2	9	8	6	¹ 5	¹ 5	³ 5	7
5	1	6	4	7	8	³ 9	³ 9	2
2	8	4	1	9	3	7	⁵ 6	⁵ 6
9	3	7	6	5	2	8	1	4

XY-wing. The pivot R4C7 has two candidates and shares one with each wing, R6C8 and R7C7; both wings also carry 3. Whichever value the pivot takes, one wing becomes 3, so 3 comes off the cells that see both wings: R6C7 and R7C8. R4C7 means row 4, column 7.

Violet digits are already solved. Tinted cells form the pattern; pink struck digits are the ones it removes.

Extreme sudoku 65: XY-wing (solution)

Hardest step: XY-wing · 25 clues · one solution

7	4	8	9	3	6	1	2	5
1	9	2	5	8	4	6	7	3
3	6	5	2	1	7	4	8	9
6	7	1	3	2	5	9	4	8
8	5	3	7	4	9	2	6	1
4	2	9	8	6	1	5	3	7
5	1	6	4	7	8	3	9	2
2	8	4	1	9	3	7	5	6
9	3	7	6	5	2	8	1	4

Hardest step. XY-wing: pivot R4C7, wings R6C8 and R7C7; removes 3.

Solve path: 8 singles first; 14 squares still open at the hardest step.