

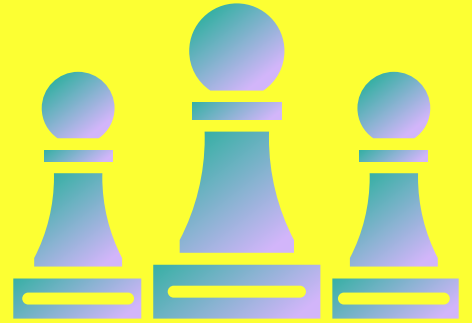
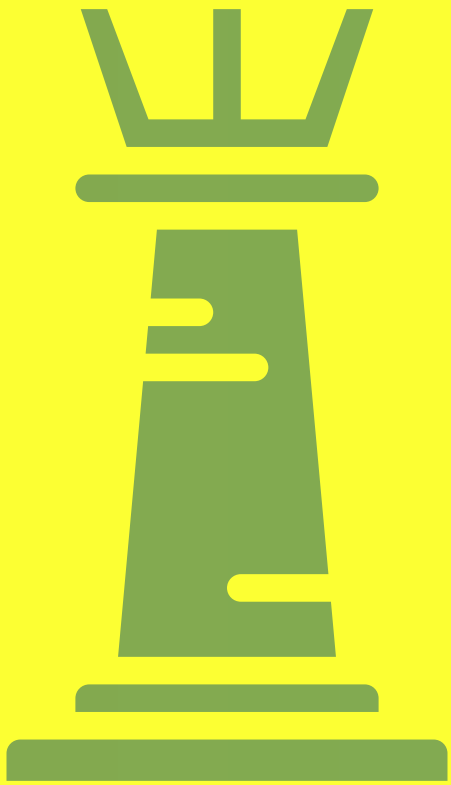


Modern Chess Magazine

Issue 21

Fortress

The Ultimate Defence

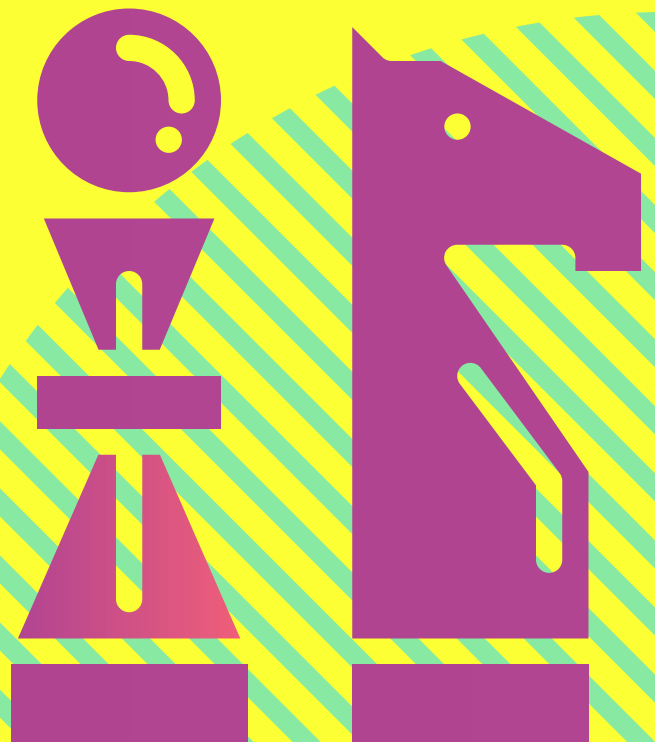


Understand the English
Hedgehog **Part 2**

The Danger of Making
Natural Moves
Learn to Fight Your Reflexes

Understand the Najdorf
Structures **Part 2**

Endgame Series 21
Simplifications in
Difficult Endgames



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82 Ud

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The Danger of Making Natural Moves - Learn to Fight Your Reflexes

of a butterfly wing on one continent may cause an earthquake on another. Rephrasing this formula of Chaos Theory we can state that a move that was good with the pawn on h2 may be a fatal mistake with a pawn on h3. Definitely, reflexes help us when we are short on time. But if we have enough time on the clock, we need to consider all nuances and to double-check all around do not miss something important that can be out of our reflex system. Now let me show how all this can influence on our c 0

Ec

Y c c d c c c c c
) / c 1
 c 0Q
 c c
 d c c c
 c 0G
 c c c d / c /
 0D c c
 c c 0
 V c K c
 c
 0[c / Kc 0Dc c
 c
 0

□ Joe Belomo
■ Bruce Highcock

c d
:
9 9
8 8
7 7
6 6
5 5
4 4
3 3 ○
c d

C c c d 0
Y c c c 72
 0D K
 c Y d
 G c0K c c c
 0CDUQNWGN
 c c c 3+ c
 d 4+ c 0H
 c . c
 0H c d
 c c c
 1 c 0
 G c c c d c
 c d c d d 0
 U c c =
 c c = c
 c d 0U c
 c c 0D

single position is individual. Every single position has own nuances. Even the flap

V c c d / c9/
c8 /c Y c
c 030.Bxa6! D c c
c c c c c
d c dc 0 30...bxa6?
]V d c / /
52 8 D c
c d c 0
53 3 P P : c
c Y) c d
c Td8+ c
dc c 0
31.Rxb6± c c D c d
c 0Y c c
dc c
c / c c 0
V
c c dc 0l c c
c c c c c 0
G c c c c c
c c c d c
c 0Oc d c 0
C c c
c OH Hcd c Ec c c
c / cd
Y E c /d c c 0

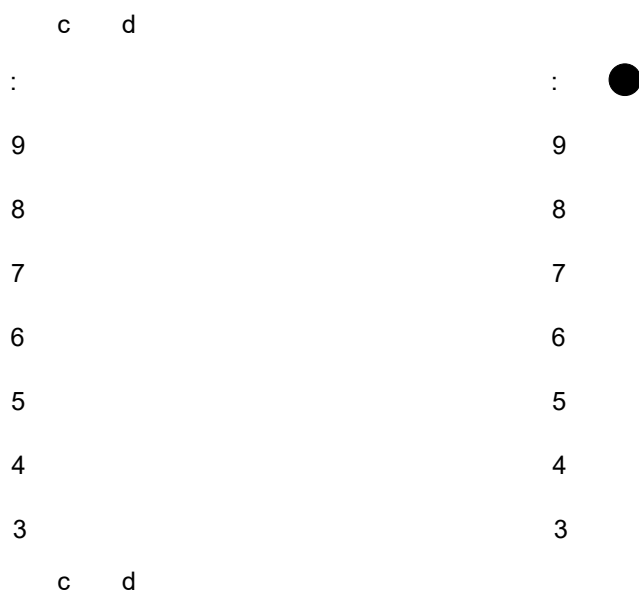
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** 2835
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** 2832
YE Tc VD 423: 3+ 423:

c d
:
9 9
8 8
7 7
6 6
5 5
4 4
3 3
c d

Ec c c c c c
c c c c c
0J c c
c c / c . c . / c
c c c c c
c 0D c =
d c 0 **37...Kxe4?**
]V c
59 4- 5: M 5 M 6 c dc
c Y D c c
c 0 5; 9 (39.Re7+ Kf3
d c d Tc30) 5; c3
c M50 620 7 (40.Rc7
Rf1 41.Rc6 Rxf5 42.Rxa6 Rb5=)
62 M5 63 M 4 Tc4- ?
38.Re7+!
]Ec)
c =d c 9
Dc dc c 0 5: 9A Tc4-
5; M 5 Tc3? c c
c 0

13...0-0?! Dc c c d
c c c) cd
c c c OM
c c c
c 0
]N 35000 9 d
2/2/2 c c c 0C c
Dc Y c
c d c
0 360P 5 2/2/2 3702/2 8
c 8/ 7=D c c c
0
14.0-0 Nf5 15.Nf3 Bd7 16.g4!
c d
:
9 9
8 8
7 7
6 6
5 5
4 4
3 3
c d
c 8 D0H
J c c | O
c c 0Y Y c
c c c
c D c 0
16...Ng7 17.Bh6 Rae8
] 39000c6
T 4 0

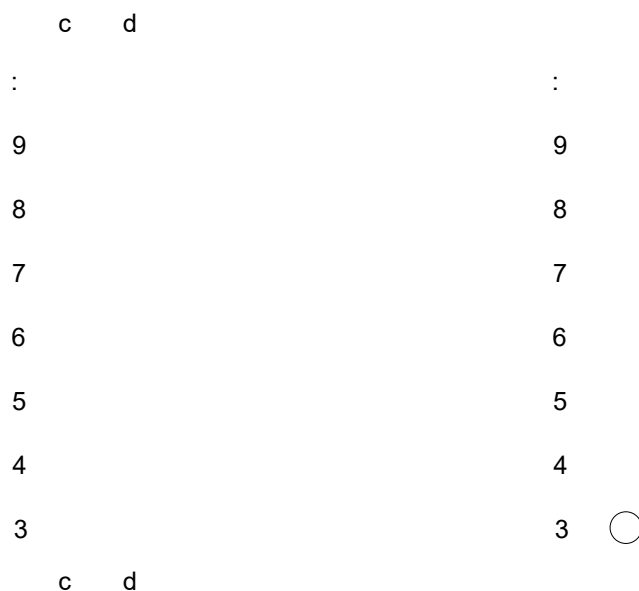
18.Rad1! Ba4 19.Rd2 Rf7 20.Nd4
Bxd4? V c
0J c c c c c
c 600 c c c
c d c c 0 21.Rxd4±
Ref8 22.f4 Bd7 23.Kh1 Bc8 24.Rf3
Qc6 25.Rg3 Kh8 26.h4 Rg8 27.Rh3
Bd7 28.Bf3 Qc8 29.Qh2 Rgf8
30.Bd1!



Strong player does not force things if he has not all pieces placed perfectly. B goes to c2 where it pushes on g6, h7 squares. **30...Rg8 31.Bc2 Qc7 32.Bg5 Ne8 33.h5!** All preparations are done. Now it is the beginning of the end for Black. **33...gxh5 34.Rxh5 Bc8 35.Qh4 Rgf8 36.Bg6** Black resigned. His king could not survive from an attack that was provoked by natural 0-0. Kudos Sax! Excellent attack.
1-0

Alapin variation

K c K c
c 2/2 c d c c 0
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6
5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 Nc6
7.Bc4 dxe5 8.dxe5 Ndb4 9.Qb3 e6



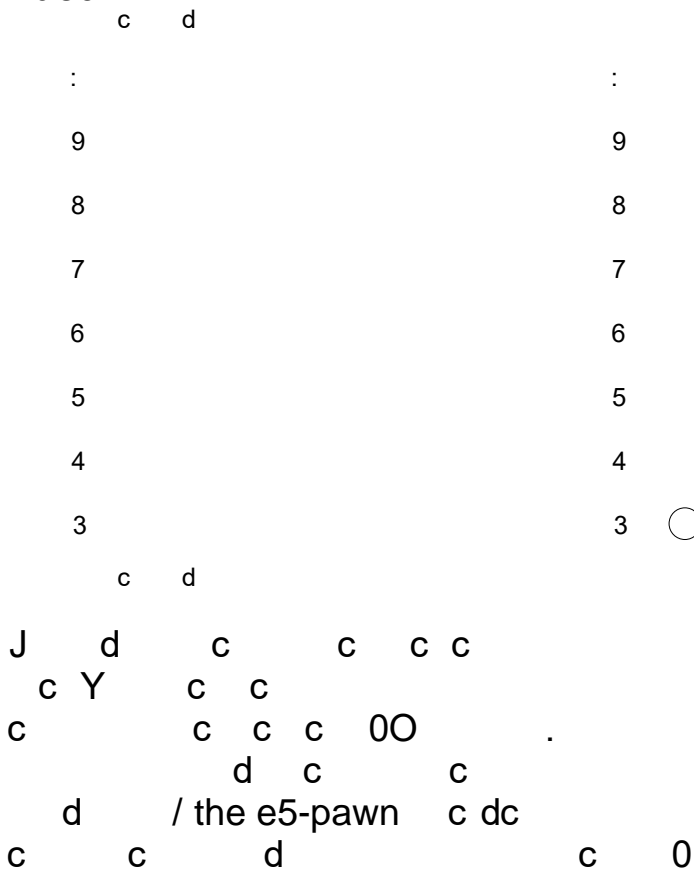
C c D : c
d Dc) d 0K
d cd d
c c . Dc c
0V c
C c . c d +0
c c c d
c c 7/ c c d c
0E D : c
R 7 d Y
d c c c c c 0
Y) dcd c c c c c
c c
0D c c c AK
c cdc . c
32: 0K ; : c Y c
2/20 10.0-0? D c c

c Dc c
 c d 0
]K c Y c c 32 7 A
 Dc c /
 c d c d
 Y 0 D 9 (Dc c
 c 10...Qb6 c Pc7
 c D 60 11.Be2!? C
 c c c
 d c 0Q c Y c
 Dc c d
 c c D : 0V c
 c d c Y
 0 10...Qd7 11.Bb5
 11.D 4 c c d 0 a6
 12.Be2 h6 13.Bd2 b5 Uc .L
 43; 5+R .O 4826+N d
 RQT 4239 14.a3 Nd5 15.Nc3
 Dc S cd
 Y d c
 0) 33 9 S 9 34 5
 P 7 Dc D :
 c) c d Y
 c 0 (
 c 12...Na5? 13.Bb5+ Nbc6
 14.Qc3±Pc7 c d 0)
 35 2/2 (13.Bxd5 exd5 14.Qxd5
 Bf5 15.0-0 Rd8≡) 35 2/2 36 4

c d
 : : ●
 9 9
 8 8
 7 7
 6 6
 5 5
 4 4
 3 3
 c d
 C c Y c
 c c c c
 dc D : 0D Y
 c c c 8
 c c c /
 c d +0
10...Na5!
 c d
 : :
 9 9
 8 8
 7 7
 6 6
 5 5
 4 4
 3 3 ○
 c d

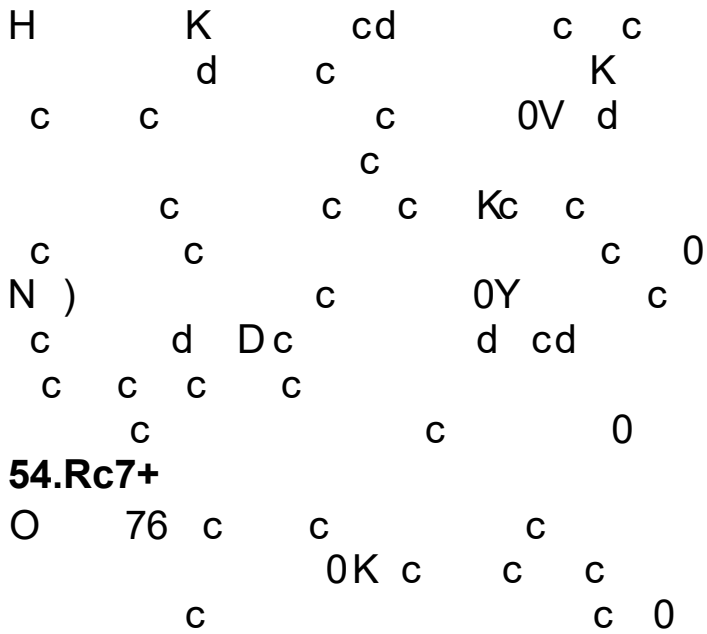
11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Qa4 Bxb5 13.Qxb5+

Nac6



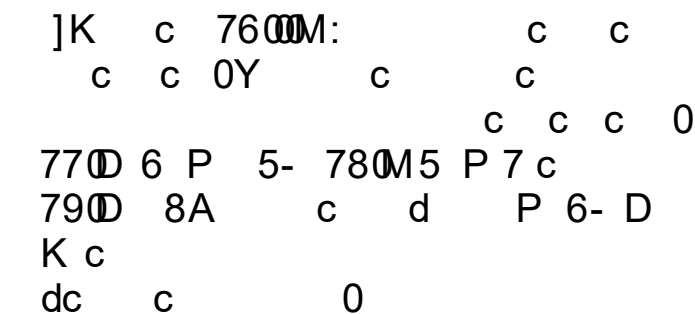
☐ Petr, Martin
☒ Aveskulov, Valeriy
 E)

2484
 2538
 4233

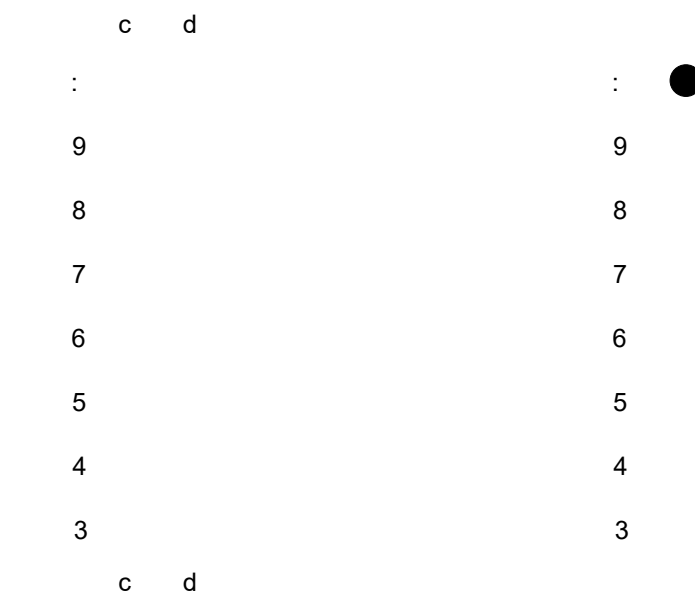


54.Rc7+

54...Kg6?



55.Bc4 Nxg3+ 56.Kf3 Nf5 57.Bxe6!



Q K c K
c c c 0 57...Rd3+?
]7900P 6- 7: 0M 6 T 3 c
T 3 c d K c cd
0
]7900P 6- A c dc
7: 0M 6 P 8 7; 07- M 8 820 8
c 8 cd 0
58.Ke2 Re3+ 59.Kf2 Rh3?
V d 0
]C 7; 00T 6 Y
c 0 820T 6
D P c 0 T 6 830D 6
P 6 840D 5- M 8 (62...Kf7 63.Kg3
Ng6 64.Bxg6+ Kxg6 65.Kh4+-)
850M 5 7 860 8 -/
]7; 00T c5 c c 0
60.Rc6!

c d
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c d
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U K c c c c
60 60...Nd4
]C 8200T 6AA 830D :-
0
61.Bxh3+ Nxc6 62.Ke3 V
c 0 62...Kf7 63.Ke4
]850D 9 P 9 8607
c c c c c P 80
63...Ne7 64.Kf3 Ng6 65.Kg3 Kf8
66.Be6 Ke8 67.Bd5 Ne7 68.Be4

D c c 6 c
c 0 68...g6
69.Kf3 Kf7 70.Ke3 Ke6 71.Kd4 Kf7
72.Kc4 Ke6 73.Kd4 Kf7 74.Bd5+ Ke8
75.Be6 Nc6+ 76.Kc5 Nd8 77.Bd5
Ke7 78.Kd4!

c d
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c d
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P c d = c
dc 0 78...Ke8 79.Ke4
Kf8 80.f5 gxf5+ 81.Kxf5 Kg7 82.Kg5
Kh7 83.Kf6 Dc 0
1-0

☐ **Aveskulov,Valeriy** **2538**
☒ **Yuffa,Daniil** **2285**
T E / 4233 4233

c d
:
9
8
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c d
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C K c c c
c c d c c c 0
G c / Tc9- 038.Ra7+ D c
0

38...Kf6?? c

c c c c 0
]E c dc c
c c R /
C +0 5: M : □ c c
5; Dd8 Td6 Y c
d c c
c 0

39.Bb6!+-

c d

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c d

C c c c
c c Y c c c
Dc c d D : c T 9+0
Dc c c d 0

39...Re1+ 40.Kh2 Bh6

]Dc c c
c 62 M 9 63 c8-/

41.Rh7!

c d

:

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c d

fxg3+

]63 M 9 64 6 6 65 D 6--/
]63 M : 64 D : - M7 65 T 9- M 6
66 T : M5 67 Dd8-/

42.Kxg3 Bf4+

]C 64 M 9 65 D 5 Dc c
c c D 7/M9. D 8 c0
T 3- (43...Bf8 44.Bg5+ Kf5
45.Rf7+ Ke4 46.Rxf8+-) 66 M 4 Tc3
67 D 7- M9 68 D 8-/

43.Kxg4

c d

:

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c d

Dc c c d d
c d c 0
43...Rg1+ 44.Kf3 g5 45.hxg5+ Bxg5
46.a6 Ra1 47.a7 Dc 0
1-0

□ Aveskulov 2529
■ Onischuk, Volodimir 2720
T E c + 4238

c d
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9
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c d
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W c . c c
c c dcd c) K
c c +0Dc
c c c c
0 44...Qf5??
O c c 45.Qxf5+
Kxf5 Rc 6 c c
Y c 0
46.Kf2 g5
]6800M8 c c 690M5 M 9
6: 0M 6 M 8 6; 0M 6 8 (49...Kxd5
50.Kg5 Ke6 51.h4 Ke7 52.f5+-
c c c 0)

7207

c d
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c d
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E c c c
c 0 7 (50...g5+ 51.Kh5
Kxd5 52.Kg6 Ke5 53.h3+-

c d
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c d
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c c c +0)
730M 5- /
47.fxg5
]6908 M 8 6: 0 7 M 8 6; 0M5
- / c 0D
c 0

47...Kxg5 Jc

0 48.Kf3?
]K c c c 6: 0M 4
c M7
5 Y c
c

c c 60
6; 0M 5 M 7 720M 6 M 7 730M 7
M 7 7406- / c c
c 0

c d

:

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c d

48...Kf5 49.d6 Ke6 50.Kg4 Kxd6
51.Kxh4 Ke5 52.Kg3

c d

:

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c d

Q

c 0 52...Ke4 53.h4 f5 54.h5 Ke3
55.h6 f4+ 56.Kg4 f3 57.h7 f2 58.h8Q
f1Q F c 0
1/2

□

Williams, Simon

1999

■

Le Ruyet, Leopold

2220

D

c

4238

c d

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c d

E
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 Y
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 45
 47
 +-+) 47
 c
 OP Y
 c
 (26.Kd2 Rg2 27.Rf8 Rxf2+
 28.Kc3 Bh5 Dc
 c
 (0) 48
 (Dc) 0Y
 c 27.Kd2 Rg2 28.Bh4 Rxh2
 29.Bg3 Rh7
 49
 c 0
]K
 c c c Dc
 d c

c 0Dc
 c c d c
 c
 0 45 : A 46 : M 8
 47 9 D 8 48 Dd: c8 49 Dc9±
24.Kd2 Rg2 25.e4!? Y
 4 c 5/ c
 0K d c
 cdd / c 3/ 4/ 5/ 6/ 7/ 8/
 9+ c Dc c
 0 **25...Bxe4 26.Ke3 Bg6**
27.h4!? Qd
 c d Dc c
 0 **27...Rg4 28.b3 Rg1**
29.Rh8+ Bh7 30.Kf4 Rb1
]R c c 52 3
 c c M 7 c 0
31.Ke5 Y Dc c c =
 Y c c d
 c 0 **31...Rxb3 32.f4**
Re3+ Q c c c c 0
]C c Dc c)
 d
 c c 0 54 5 ?
33.Kd6
 c d
 : : ●
 9 9
 8 8
 7 7
 6 6
 5 5
 4 4
 3 3
 c d

Re4?? C c c c
 0
]Dc c c c
 c 0Q c 0
 D c c c
 d Y d cd c
 0 5500T 5 560M 9 T :
 570T : D : 580M: D 9
 (36...Kh7?? Dc c
 c 0 37.a4 a6 38.h5 a5
 39.h6+-) 590M 9 D 5?
]U c c 9
 5500M 8 560M 9 c
 6/ 70 T 5?

34.Ke7 Rxc4
]5600M 8 c c c
 c 5707- M 8 580D 7 7
 590M 8 T 6 5: 0M9 d7 5; 0 9-
 M 7 620T 9- M 6 630D 7-/

35.Be5!+-

c d

:

9

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c d

Y d 0 35...Kg6 36.h5+
 Kh6 37.Kxf7 Ra4 38.Bg7+ Kxh5
 39.Rxh7+ Kg4 40.Be5 Dc 0
 V c c

30Pc c c c c
 c c / c+ c c c
 c c c

c c = d+
 c c c c 0
2. Y d c c
 c c c cd 0
3. K c
 c c c H . c
 c c c 1 c =
 c c OK
 c c c c
 d c d c
 c c = c c
 c c dc
 c c =
 d / d
 d c c c 0

Analysis position

c d

:

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

c d

C K c
 c
 d c 0
 Y 0

□ Wright,Chris
 ■ Wood,David
 E c N J c E

1709
 2002
 4232

□ Carlsen,Magnus
 ■ Grischuk,Alexander
 9 O c V c O c 6+

2835
 2761
 4234

c d
 :
 9
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 7
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 3
 c d
 D c 0

: ●
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c d
 :
 9
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 c d
 Y 0

:
 9
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 5
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 3 ○

□ Aveskulov,V...
 ■ Panchanathan,Magesh
 O c + : +

2539
 2482
 4402604229

□ Tarlev,Konstantin
 ■ Aveskulov,Valeriy
 M c c +

4239

c d
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 c d
 Y 0
 0-1

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c d
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 c d
 D c 0
 1/2

: ●
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 4
 3

<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominguez Perez,Lenier	2723
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Topalov,Veselin	2793
Oc	c Rc c I R	4235

c d

: : ●

9 9

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6 6

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4 4

3 3

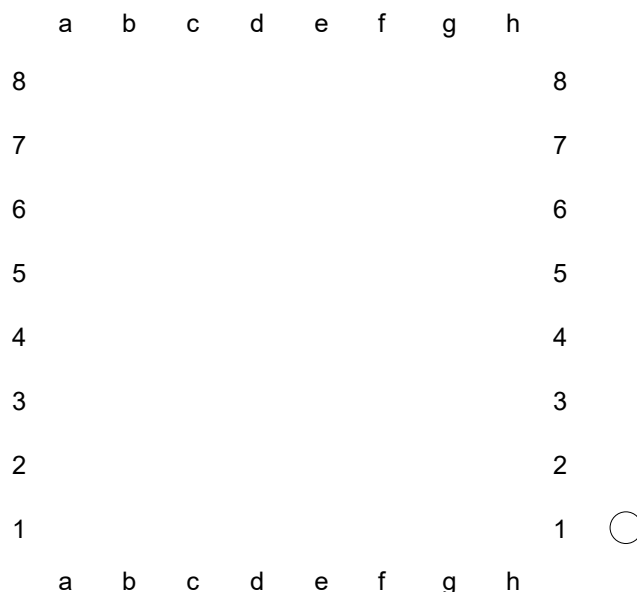
c d

Dc 0

You can find the solutions in the PGN version or on the website where you can solve the positions interactively.

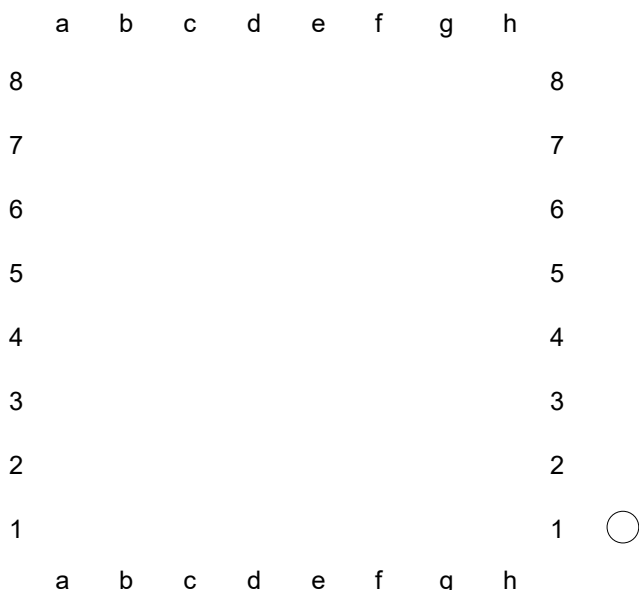
Fortress - The Ultimate Defence

38...Kd7 39.Bf8 Nh4 40.Bxh6 Nf3!



One of the highlights of Tata Steel tournament last January occurred in the game between the American champion Sam Shankland and Netherland's No.1 Anish Giri in round 11.

Giri, Anish **2783**
 Shankland, Samuel **2725**
 81st Tata Steel GpA (11.4) 25.01.2019



38.Kf6 Black is about to lose his kingside pawns and consequently the resulting ending. Is any hope left?

Black deliberately steps in the cage.

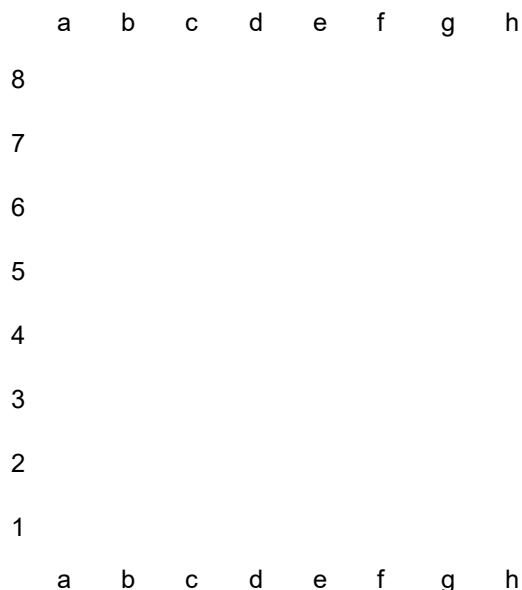
41.h3 Ng1! 42.Bxg5 Nxh3

43.Be3. The knight is dominated. Time for Black to lie his arms down?

43...Kd6 44.Kf5 Kd5 45.b6

[Black is indeed about to lose his knight however the resulting position is surprisingly still drawish! Following 45.b6 Kd6 46.Kg4 Kd7 47.Kxh3 Kc8 48.Bf4 Kd7 49.Kg4 Kc8 50.Kf5 Kd7 51.Kf6 Kc8 The game reaches a well known positional draw as his opponent explained to him right after their handshake. The black king is may not be driven out of that part of the board owing to a stalemate! What we witness here is a special type of positional draw where the inferior side, despite its significant material

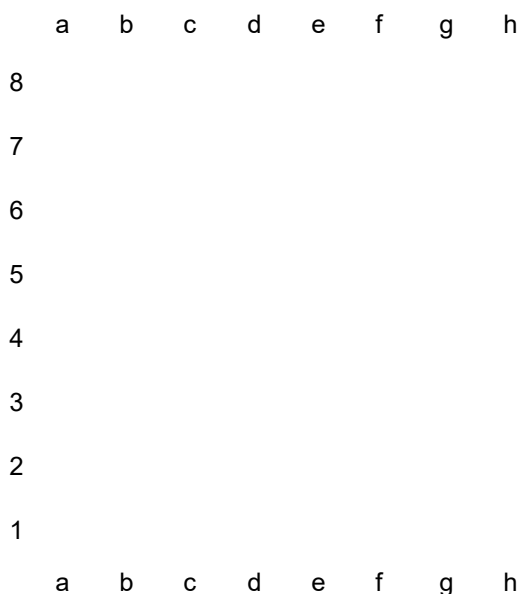
inferiority, builds up an impenetrable zone of protection. A proper fortress denies any king penetration, pawn breakthrough or Zugzwang.]



At this point Black resigned!
1-0

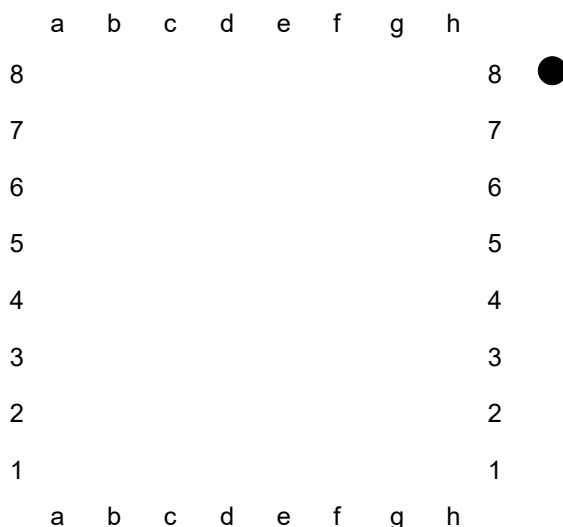
□ **Piket, Jeroen**
■ **McShane, Luke J**
Bundesliga 9697

2640
2400
1997



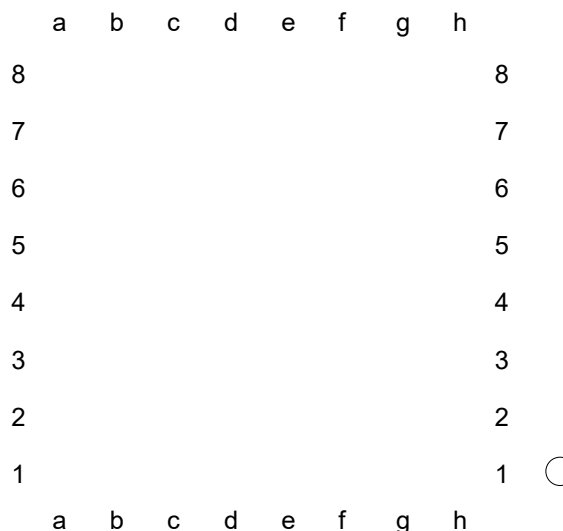
The fortress is a common way of defence in basic theoretical endings.

Most common and useful are Queen vs. Rook + pawn (or pawns) endings. Here is a relatively simple example from grandmaster practice. 66.Rf5+!= Kg6 67.Kf4 Qh2+ 68.Kf3 Qg1 69.Rh5 Qf1+ 70.Kg3 Qe2 71.Rf5 Qe4 72.Kh3 Qe1 73.Kg2 Qe3 74.Kh2 Qe4 75.Kg3



Draw. The Black king cannot penetrate the barrier. The white king is maneuvering around his pawn and Zugzwang is not available since the Rf5-h5 and back are safe waiting moves.
1/2

Alexey Troitzky
Tidskrift for Schack 1910



The fortress as an extreme and versatile defensive tool has naturally turned on the imagination of the study composers who have demonstrated numerous artistic fortresses, partly with practical value and partly mere creatures of fantasy. Here is one by the father of Modern study. Can white meet his opponent's double threat? White cannot both save his knight and stop the passed pawn and should find a creative reply to the promotion.

1.Nc6!

[1.Nd7? d3 2.Nf6 is refuted by the zwischenschach Bb8+! (to avoid 2...d2 3.g3+ Kg5 4.Ne4+)]

1...d3! 2.Nxa7!

[2.Ne5? is met by d2 3.f4 with another zwischenschach Bg1+!

(to avoid 3...d1Q? 4.g3#)]

2...d2 3.Nb5! d1Q 4.Nc3!

5.Kh1! Qd6+

[Not 5.Kg1? Qc5+]

5...Qe6 Or any other queen move.

[5...Kg5 6.Ne4+] [5...Kg3 6.Ne4+]

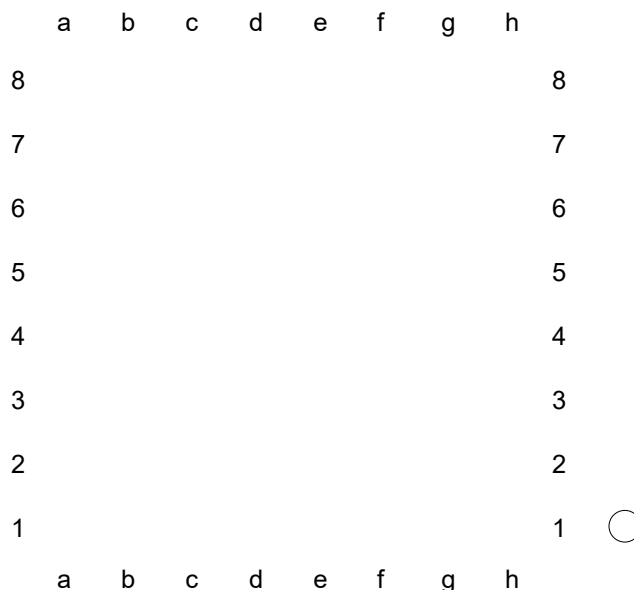
6.Ne4! The knight has completed the sieg around the black king From now on dear reader it's your move!

1/2

□ **Timman,Jan H** **2655**

■ **Nunn,John DM** **2590**

Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee (2) 16.01.1982



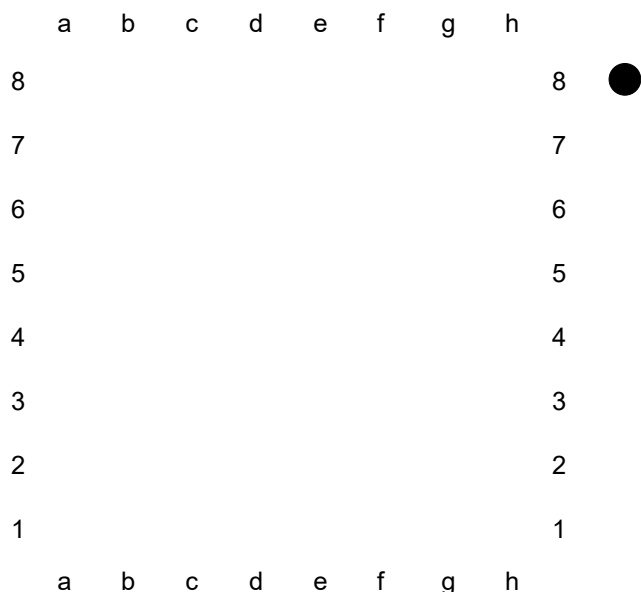
White was well aware that he had already created a fortress position, but still carelessly blundered the game away by **69.Ka2?? a3!** after which he had to call it a day as the fortress falls apart following **70.Rb3+**

[Or 70.Kb1 Qe1+ 71.Ka2 Qc1 72.Rb3+ Ka4 winning.]

70...Kc4 White resigned. What should white play instead? If instead of the unfortunate 69.Ka2?? white played 69. Ra3 and kept moving his Rook to a3 and d3 Black would not shatter the fortress.

0-1

Exercise 1



The Knight seems to be trapped. Is the game over for Black?

Exercise 3



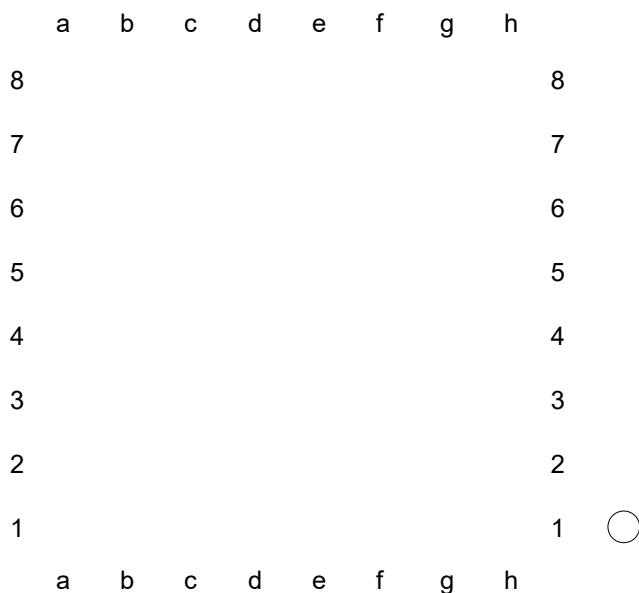
How to restrain the pawns on the queenside?

Exercise 2



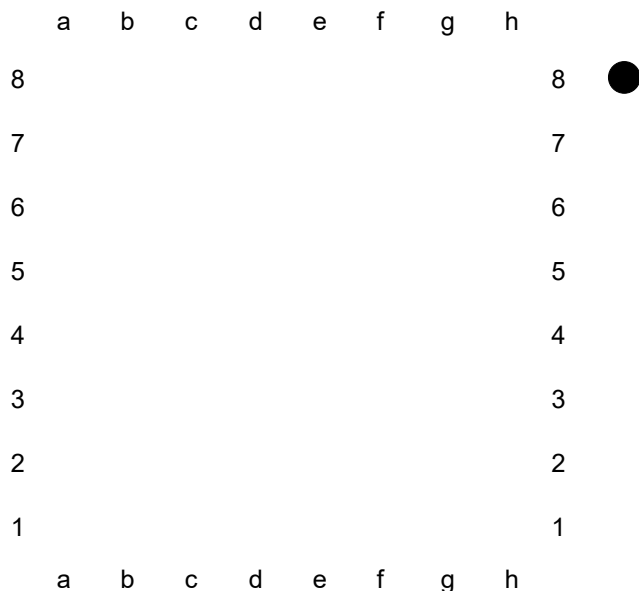
There is probably more than one way to avoid losing in this position, however, there is only one way to force the draw right away and save further defensive struggle. How?

Exercise 4



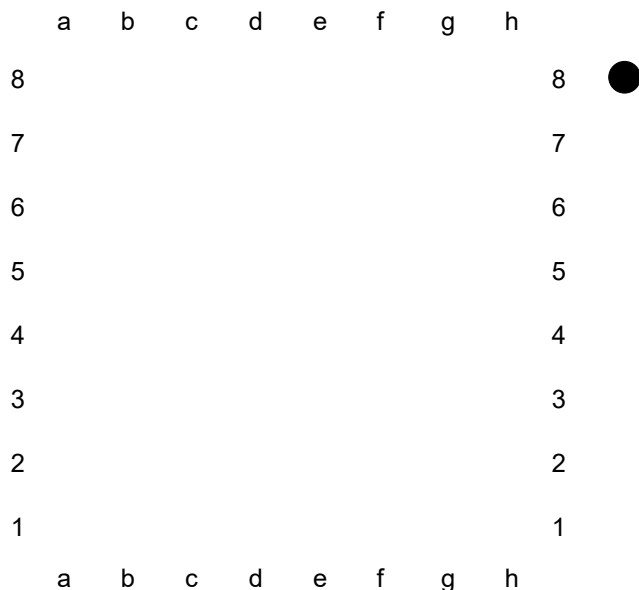
How White can save the game?

Exercise 5



The white passer is about to cost black a piece. Is this fate indeed unavoidable?

Exercise 6



White threatens to destroy the black castle by 60.Nxg6. Is there any defense?

Exercise 7



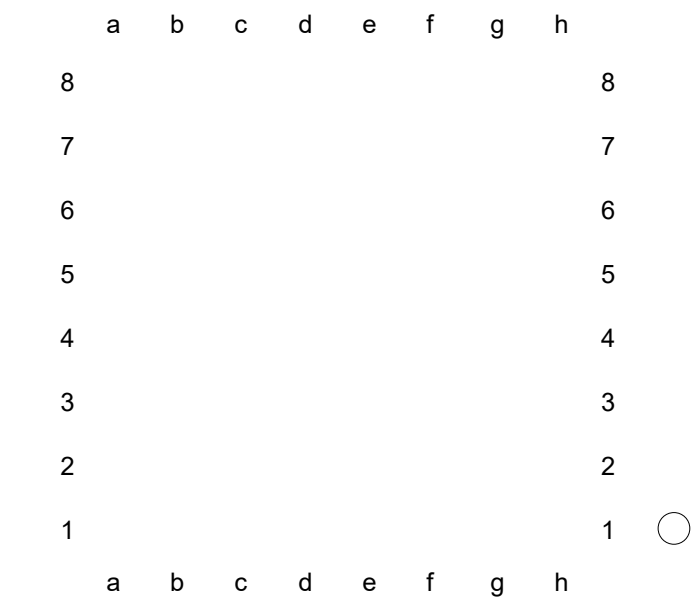
White, a pawn ahead, is ready to move his King to the queenside while the black king is tied up to restrain the passer. How should black face this threat?

Exercise 8



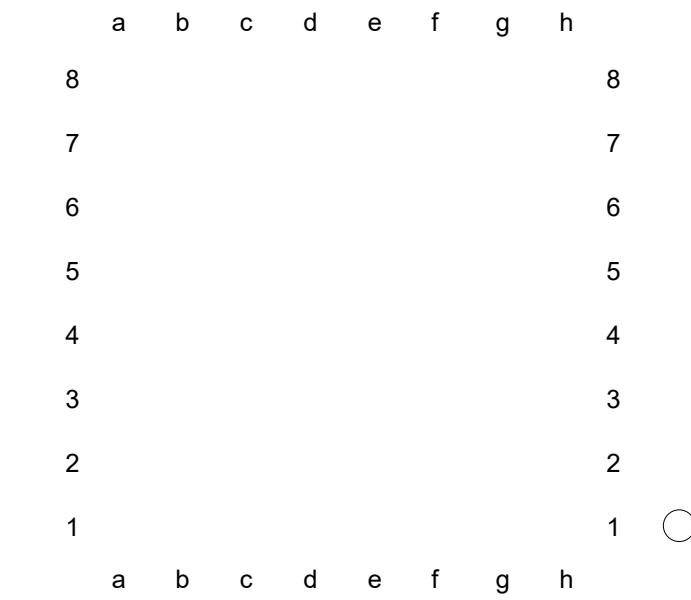
Can you find a defense for White?

Exercise 9



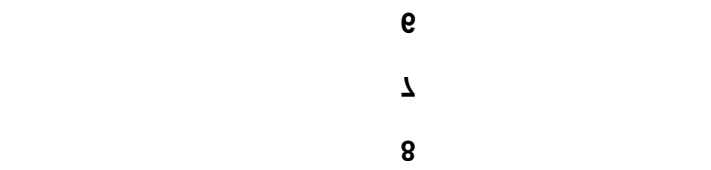
White seems in trouble facing 2
advanced enemy passed pawns. Where
lies his best chance to escape defeat?

Exercise 10

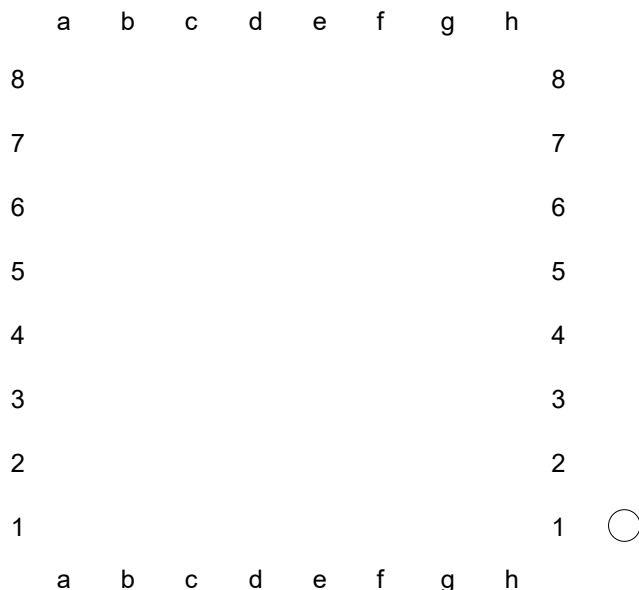


How should white welcome the newborn
queen?

Exercise 11



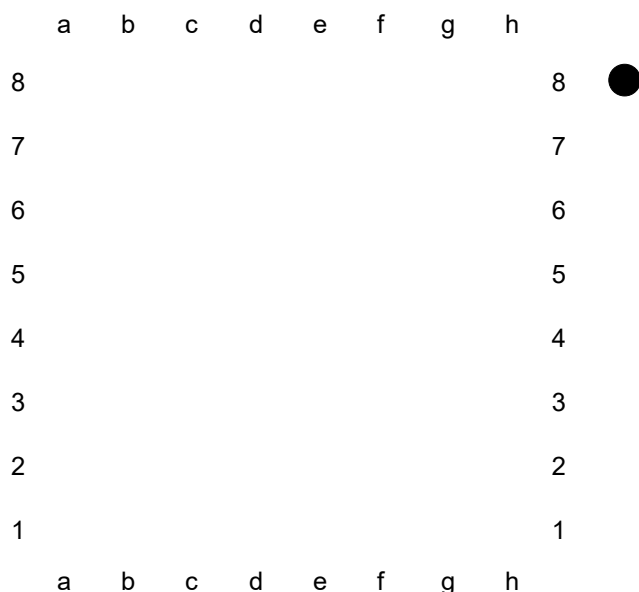
Exercise 13



How should white face the unavoidable invasion to the second rank?

Answers

☐ **Kobaidze**
☒ **Cereteli**
 USSR 1969



Exercises: The Knight seems to be trapped. Is the game over for Black? Not as yet! 1...Ke8!! 2.Bxb6 Ke7! creating a fortress. The black Bishop moves along the diagonal a5-e1 with the white King unable to help his Bishop behind the enemy line.

1/2



☐ **Serper, Grigory** 2542
☒ **Nakamura, Hikaru** 2620
 USA-ch San Diego (6) 30.11.2004

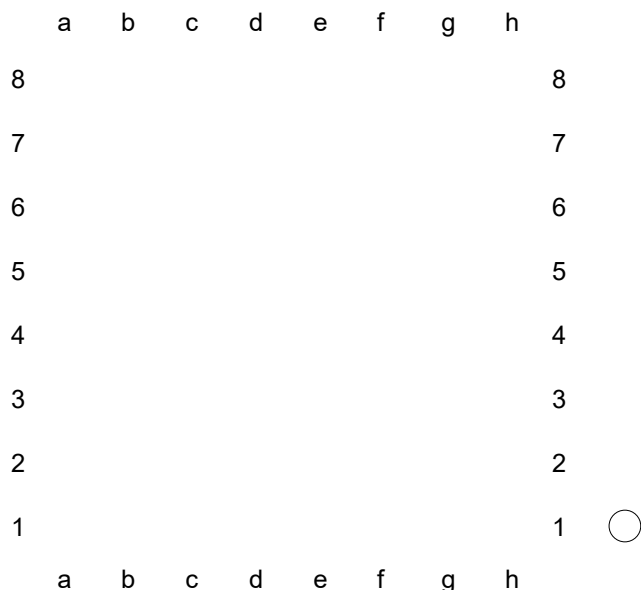


There is probably more than one way to avoid losing in this position, however, there is only one way to force the draw right away and save further defensive struggle. How? 82.Nxe4! Kxe4 83.Kf1! Be5 84.Kg1 The White king may stand either on f1 or on h1. Black, despite being a piece ahead is unable to make any progress further than stalemating the white king, as indeed happened.

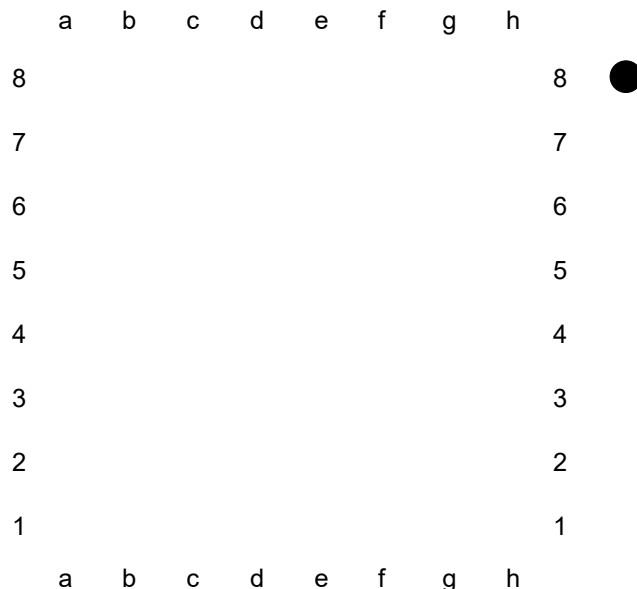
84...Kd3 85.e4 Ke3 86.Kf1 Kd4 87.Kg1 Kc4 88.Kh1 Kd3 89.Kg1 Ke2 90.Kh1 Bd4 91.e5 Bxe5 92.Kg1 Ke1 93.Kh1 Kf2 94.h4 gxh4

1/2

 **Ivan Cheparinov** **2678**
 **Alexander Grischuk** **2779**
 Rapid World Championship (4.5) 6.6.13



 **Salov, Valery** **2665**
 **Kortschnoj, Viktor Lvovich** **2635**
 Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee (13) 02.02.97



41...Kh7 A decisive moment in Wijk aan Zee 22 years ago. In the very last round the leader Salov secured his tournament victory by a miraculous fortress. In this desperate position he went for **42.Nf5!?** **gxf5?** and Korchnoj indeed fell for it.

[After 42...Rxe2+ 43.Kg3 almost any move of the black knight wins.]

43.Rxf4 Rxe2+ 44.Kg3 Re1



How to restrain the pawns on the queenside? By giving away his own Bishop and create a fortress in return. **46.Bxb4! Kxb4 47.Kd3 Bg5 48.h7 Bf6 49.h8Q** By no means necessary however the pawn is useless anyway. **49...Bxh8 50.Kc2 Kc4 51.Kb1 Kc3 52.Kc1**

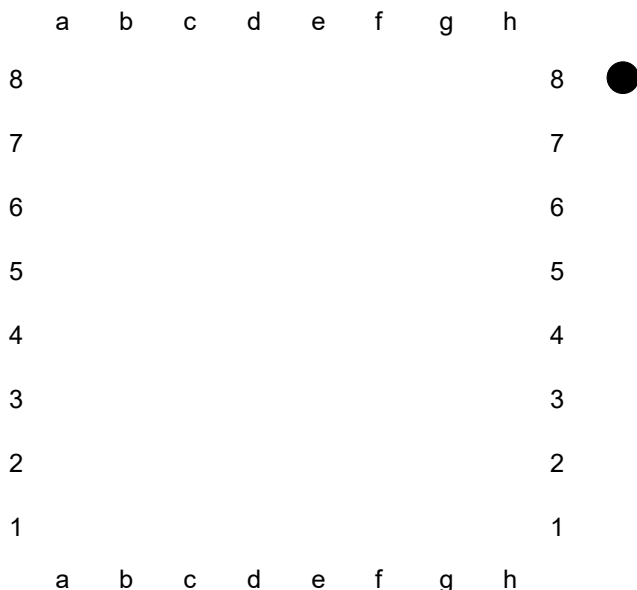
[Attention! 52.Ka1?? Kc2#]

52...Kd3 53.Kb1 Black cannot get more than stalemate.

1/2

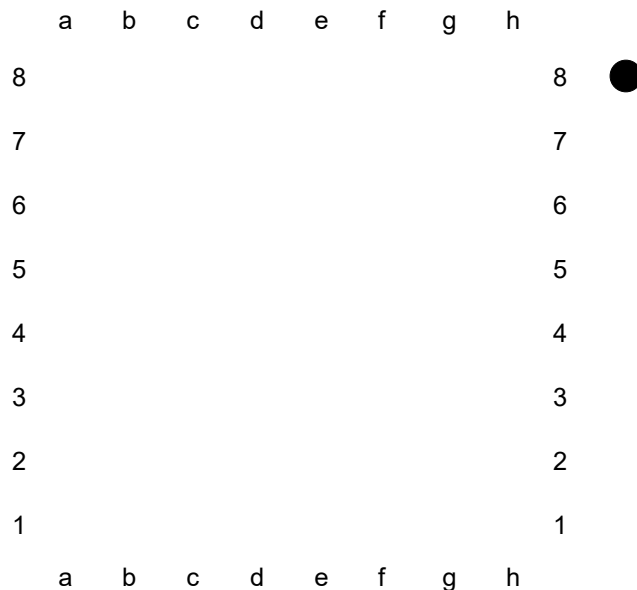
How did the Russian save the game?

45.Rxf5! Rg1+ 46.Kh2 e2 47.Kxg1 e1Q+ 48.Kg2 Kg6 49.Rh5 Qe2+ 50.Kg3 Qf1 51.Kf4 Qe1 52.Rd5=



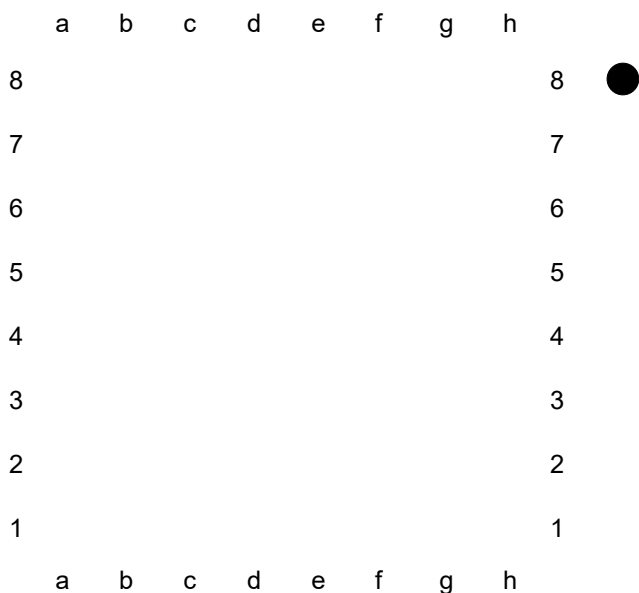
Picking up the fruits of his creativity. It's a firm fortress which even stubborn Victor did not manage to crack in the next moves. **52...Qc1+ 53.Kg3 Qc7+ 54.Kg2 Qf4 55.Rh5 Kf6 56.Rd5 Ke6 57.Rh5 Qd2+ 58.Kg3 f6 59.Rf5 Qc1 60.Rh5 Qg1+ 61.Kf4 Qe1 62.Rb5 Qc1+ 63.Kg3 Qg1+ 64.Kf4 Qh2+ 65.Ke3 Kf7 66.Rh5 Qg1+ 67.Kf4 Kg6 68.Rd5 Qh2+ 69.Ke3 Kf7 70.Rh5 Qg1+ 71.Kf4 Ke6 72.Rb5 Qh2+ 73.Ke3 Kd6 74.Rf5 Qb2 75.Rh5 Ke6 76.Kf4 Qc3 77.Kg3 Qc7+ 78.Kg2 Qf7 79.Rb5 Qe8 80.Rf5 Qg6 81.Rb5** Draw was finally agreed to crown Salov as the tournament winner.
1/2

□ **Lautier, Joel** 2666
 ■ **Rublevsky, Sergei** 2670
 Poikovsky Karpov 04th (7) 27.04.2003



The white passer is about to cost black a piece. Is this fate indeed unavoidable? Black may change the nature of the ending at the price of a single pawn by **32...Bd4+! 33.Bxd4 Kxc7 34.Bxg7 Kb6 35.Kf2 Kxa6 36.Ke3** Black is a pawn behind and has his king in exile still enjoys one of the friendliest options if one is in material inferiority- An opposite colour bishop ending. Black is going to survive this position too.
36...Kb7 37.Kf4 Bd3 38.Kg5 Kc6 39.Kf6 Bc4 40.h4
 [40.Bh6 Kd7 41.Kg7 Ke6 42.Kxh7 Bf1 43.g3 Bg2 44.f4 Bh3=]
40...Kd7 41.Bh6 Bf1 42.g3 Be2 43.f4 Ke8 44.Kg7 Bg4 45.Kxh7 Collecting a second pawn does not change the result.
45...Ke7 46.Kg7 Ke6 47.Bg5

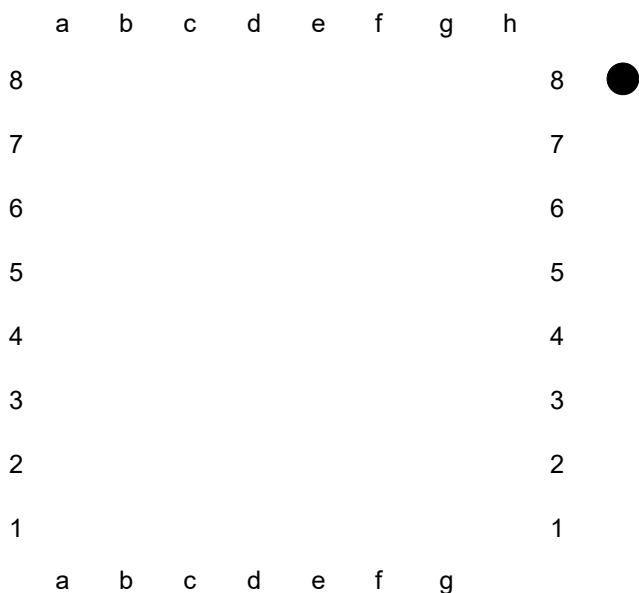
47...Kf5! Nice even if not necessary. White is 3 pawns ahead however they are totally blockaded. **48.Kxf7 Bh5+**



49.Kg7 Bd1 50.Be7
1/2

☐ **Hans Ree**
☒ **Vlastimil Hort**

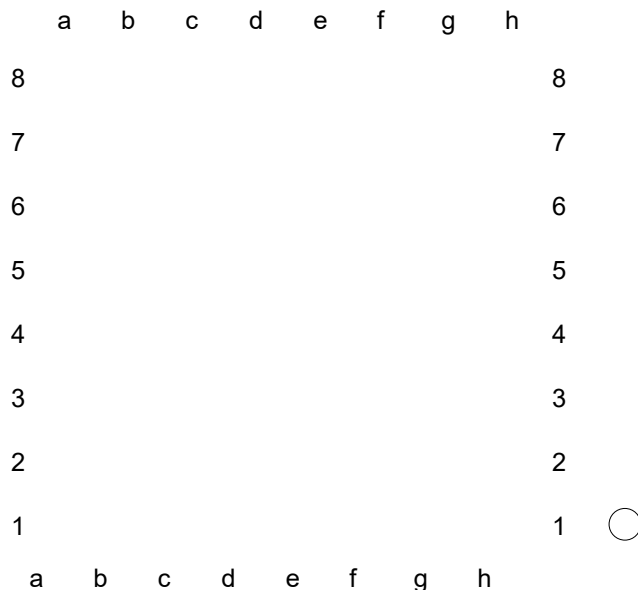
Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee NED (12)



White threatens to destroy the black castle by 60.Nxg6. Is there any defence? **59...Rxh4!!**

[The alternative 59...Bf2+? 60.Kxf2 Rxh4 61.Ke3 allows white winning chances owing to the weakness on d6. Black's choice on the other hand results in a complete fortress.]

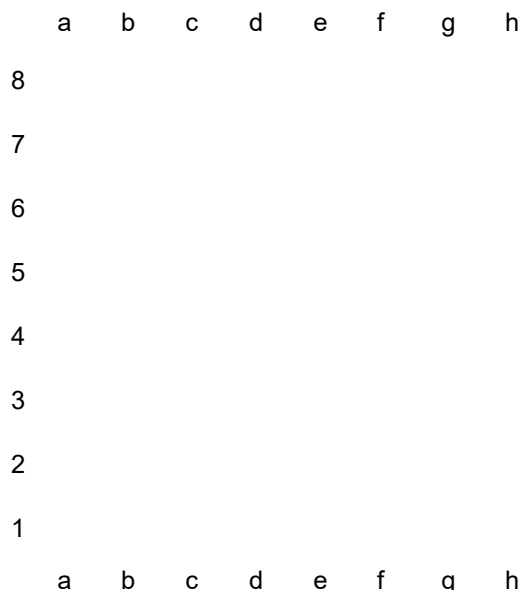
60.Kxh4 Bd4!



The queen is surprisingly dominated. **61.Kg3 Ke7 62.Kf3 Ba1** There is nothing to play for anymore and draw was agreed with no delay.
1/2

□ **Kozul,Zdenko**
 ■ **Zaja,Ivan**
 Pula op 11th (8)

2590
2440
 1997

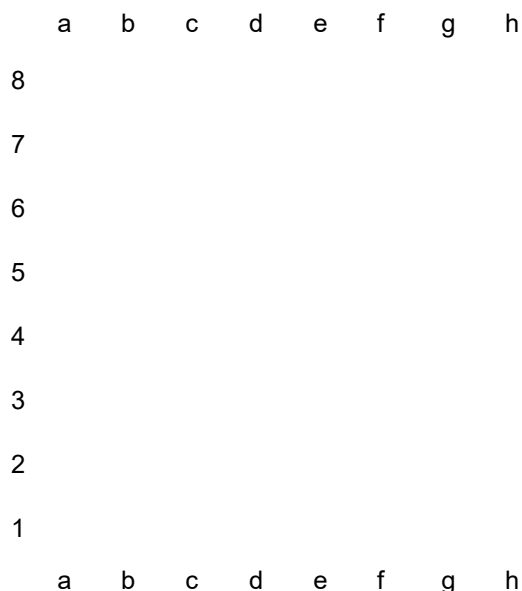


White, a pawn ahead, is ready to move his King to the queenside while the black king is tied up to restrain the passer. How should black face this threat? **58...b4!**

59.axb4 axb4 60.Bd4 Na5

[Or 60...Nd2]

61.Ke4 Nb3! 62.Kd5 Na1! 63.Kc4 b3

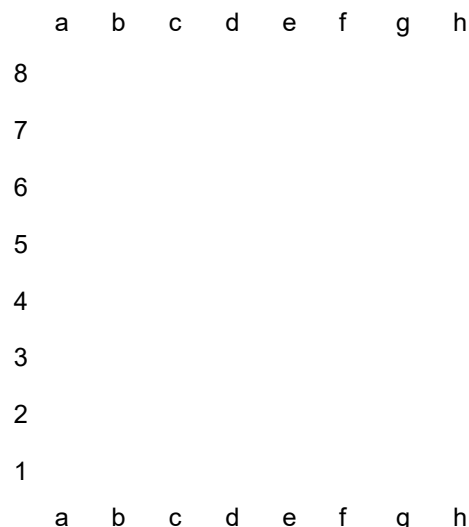


The passed pawn is under control while the black pawn is safe as the bishop is unable to attack its guard.

1/2

□ **Polgar,Sofia**
 ■ **Smyslov,Vassily V**
 Women-Veterans (4)

2480
2510
 1996



40.c4!!

[While 40.Kd2 loses to Kd5]

[Just before the time control White played the automatic 40.axb4? a3

41.Kc3 cxb4+ 42.Kb3 Kd5

(White resigned in view of 42...Kd5

43.c3 bxc3 44.Kxa3 Ke4 45.f5 gxf5

46.gxf5 Kd3-+ Was there still a

proper defence for white prior to the time control? She should have played

40.c4!! Kd6 (Attention! After 40...

bxa3?? 41.Kc2 Kd6 42.Kb1 white

even wins) 41.Kc2 Kc6 42.Kb2

creating a fortress that allows no entry to the enemy king. Draw!)]

40...Kd6

[(Attention! After 40...bxa3?? 41.Kc2

Kd6 42.Kb1 White even wins]

41.Kc2 Kc6 42.Kb2 creating a fortress that allows no entry to the enemy king.

Draw!

0-1

□ Sokolov, Andrei
 ■ Vaganian, Rafael A
 Candidates qf1 (6)

2595
 2645
 1986



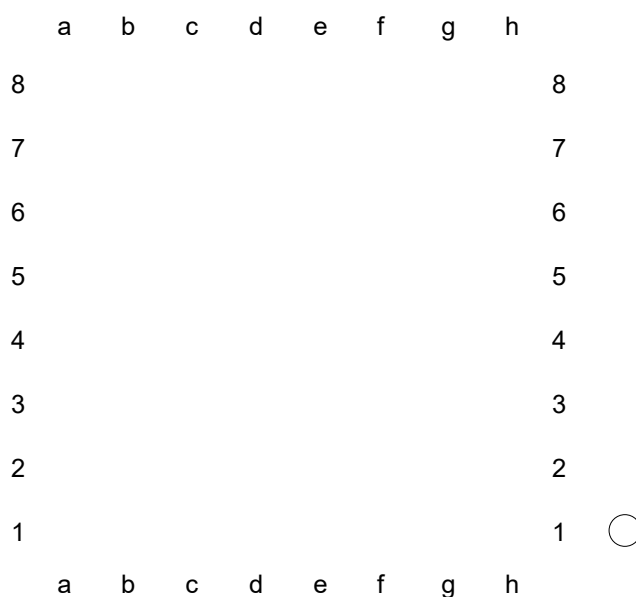
White seems in trouble facing 2 advanced enemy passed pawns. Where lies his best chance to escape defeat? White took advantage of the rare opportunity to liquidate to a fortress as follows:

44.Nxc2! dxc2 45.Rxc6 b3 46.Kh2 b2 47.Rc8+ Ke7 48.Rc7+ Kf8 49.Rxc2! b1Q 50.Rc8+ Ke7 51.e5!Qd3 52.Rc6



The game has reached a blockade by a pawn chain, denying any penetration of the black king. while the white king is perfectly safe. **52...Qe3**

[An attempt to shake white's pawn formation by 52...g5 would be met 53.Rf6 gxf4 54.gxf4 Black had tried to shake the fortress for some 30 more moves before the players shared the point.]



53.Ra6 Qc5 54.Ra1 Ke6 55.Rf1 Kd5 56.Rf3 Kc4 57.Kh1 Qd4 58.Kh2 Qd1 59.Rf2 Kd4 60.Rf3 Ke4 61.Rc3 Kf5 62.Rf3 Qd8 63.Kg1 Qd5 64.Kh2 Kg4 65.Rc3 Qd4 66.Rf3 Kf5 67.Kh1 f6 68.exf6 Qxf6 69.Kh2 Qh8+ 70.Kg1 Ke4 71.Rb3 Qh5 72.Rf3 Qf5 73.Kh2 Kd4 74.Kg1 Qc5 75.Kh2 Qh5+ 76.Kg1 Kc4 77.Rf1 Qc5+ 78.Kh2 Kd3 79.Rf3+ Ke2 80.Kh1 Qc1+ 81.Kh2 Qb1 82.Rc3 Qb2 1/2

Froim Simkhovich

Schweizerische Schachzeitung

1923



How should white welcome the newborn queen? **1.Bxf6+! exf6 2.h4! b2**

[2...gxh3 e.p.fails to 3.Nf3 b2 4.Nd2 when white even wins.]

3.Kg2! b1Q 4.Kf2 Qb2+ 5.Ne2 Qa1

6.Ke3! Qe1

[6...Qd1 7.Kf2]

7.h5 Kh7 8.h6 Qf1 9.Kd2 Kxh6

10.Ke3



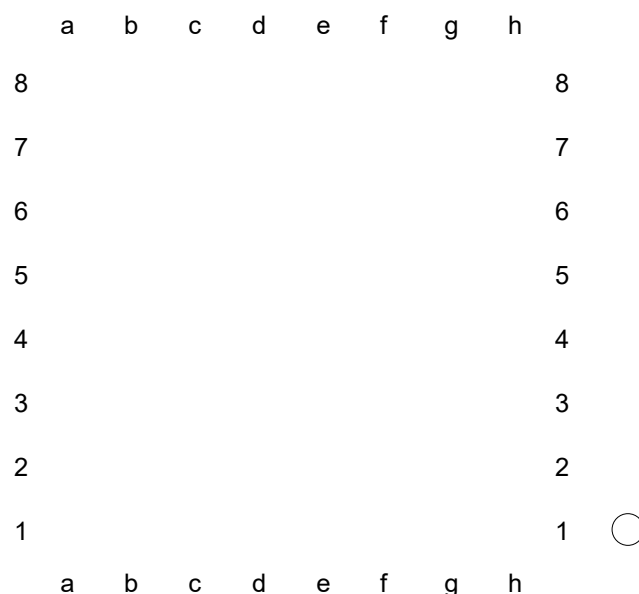
It's a fortress. The king remains out of the action while the queen alone is not capable more then a stalemate.

1/2

A.Gurvich

Etyudi

1961



Though the ending is materially equal White is in a serious trouble as any liquidation to a pawn ending would lead to his defeat. What good advice could we still give him? **1.Bh2!**

[1.Bxf4? gxf4 2.Kg4 (2.g4 f3)

2...Kxg2 3.Kxf4 Kf2 winning]

[1.Be1? Kg1 2.g3 Kf1! wins.]

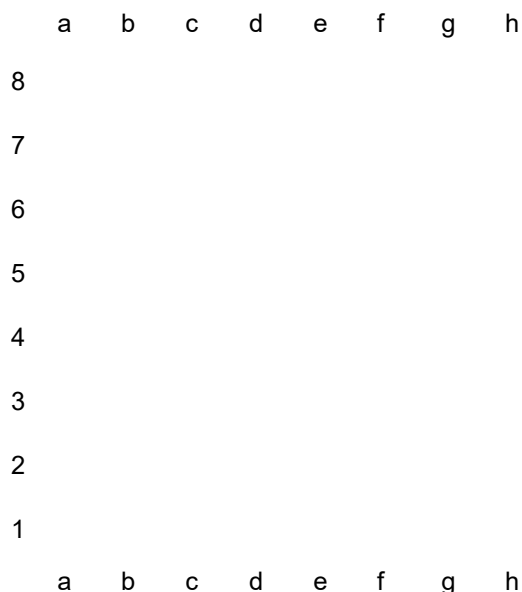
1...Bxh2

[Not 1...g4+ 2.Kxg4 Bxh2 3.Kf3 draws.]

2.g4! Bg1

[2...Bc7 is stalemate!]

3.Kg3 Bf2+ 4.Kh3!



Bg1

[4...Be1 or]

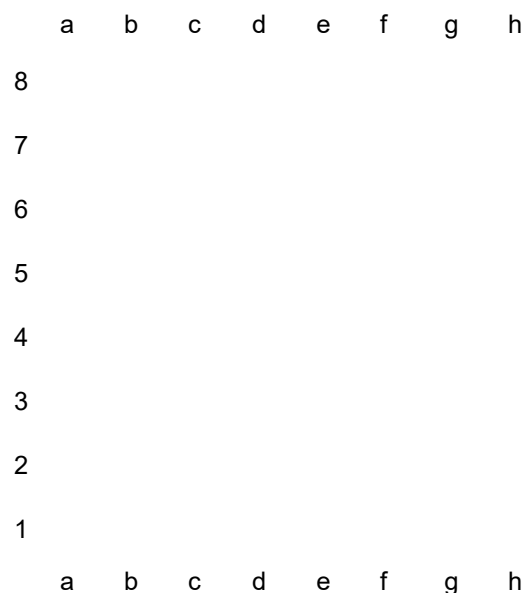
[4...Kg1 are both stalemate!]

5.Kg3 Bh2+ 6.Kh3 Black can make no progress. It's a fortress!
1/2

Vitaly Chekhover

Parna Ty Bull

1947



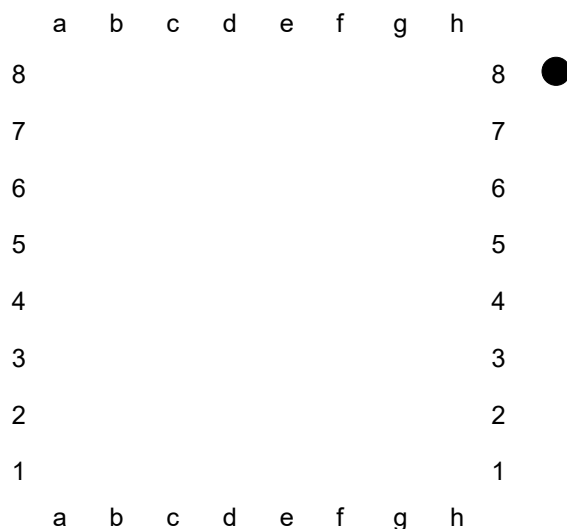
How should white face the unavoidable invasion to the second rank? **1.Kd1!**

[Following either 1.Kc2? Rh2! 2.Bf1 Rxf2 3.Bd3 Rg2]

[or 1.Bf3? Rf8 2.Bh5 Rxf2 3.g4 Rg2 4.Kc2 Rg3 the black king will join his rook on a decisive attack.]

1...Rh2 2.Ke1!!

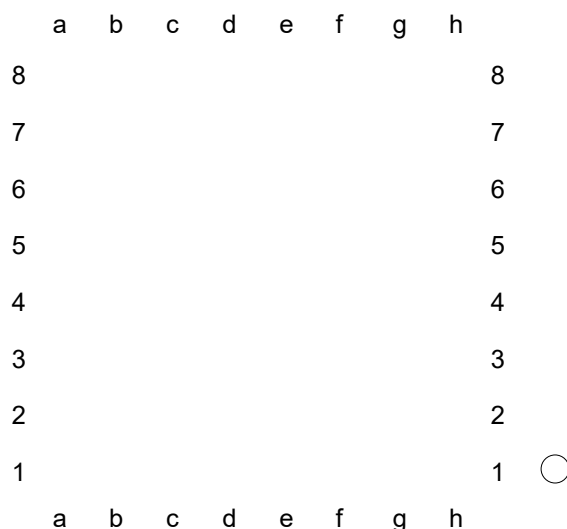
[or 2.Ke2]



2...Rxc2 3.Kf1 Rh2 4.Kg1 Rh3 5.Kg2 Rh6 6.f3! Rh7 Black can make no progress against the white fortress.
1/2

Yochanan Afek

Dedicated to the Dutch open Dieren



A tougher nut to end with. White is a rook down and his king is in danger. What could we still advise him? **1.Bf1!**

[Not 1.Qxc4+? Nxc4 2.Bf1 Kxb6 3.Bxc4 Rd2 wins.]

1...Qxf1 2.Qc8+ Nb7!

[2...Kxb6 loses to 3.Qc7+ Ka6 4.Qa7#]

3.Qxb7+ Ka5 4.Qa7+!

queen exchanges with a rook down saves the day !

[The more natural option 4.Qd5+? fails to Kxa4! 5.b7 Qa6+ 6.Kb8 Rxb7+!! The one and only! 7.Qxb7 Qxd6+ 8.Ka7 Ka5! followed by queen exchanges after which pawn is won for black. e.g. 9.Qb1 Qa6+ 10.Kb8 Qb6+-+]

[4.Qc8? Rb4!-+]

4...Qa6

[After 4...Kb4 5.b7 Qf3 6.Qb6+ Ka3 7.Qc7= Black can make no progress.]

5.Qxa6+ Kxa6 6.a5! Rb5!

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
8									8
7									7
6									6
5									5
4									4
3									3
2									2
1									1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

Time to lay arms down? **7.b7!!**

[Not as yet! White sacrifices his best pawn! Not 7.a4? Rxa5 8.b7 Kb6+-+]

7...Rxb7 8.a4! Threatening...stalemate!

8...Ra7+ 9.Kb8 Rb7+ What else?

10.Ka8!

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
8									8 ●
7									7
6									6
5									5
4									4
3									3
2									2
1									1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

It's a fortress in which black, a rook ahead may choose between repeating moves or stalemate!

1/2

Endgame Series 21 - Simplifications in Difficult Endgames

Simplification is a method of reducing the number of pieces on the board with a certain purpose. In the endgame, simplification can serve two purposes:

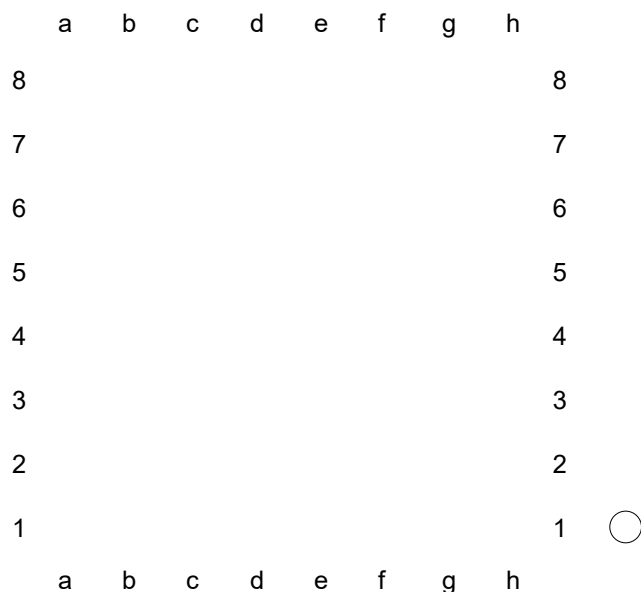
- 1) **Defensive strategy** (i.e. achieving a draw)
- 2) **Winning strategy** (i.e. winning the game) In this issue of Endgame series, we will explore simplification as a defensive strategy, while in the next one, we will focus on simplification as a winning strategy. The goal of simplification as a defensive strategy is to reduce the number of opponent's fighting units, and thus his winning chances. Usually, this is done by exchanging our own pieces/pawns for opponent's, but it can also be accomplished by sacrificing material for opponent's important assets, such as a far advanced passed pawn.

Considering the importance of pawns in endgames, simplification by reducing the number of pawns on the board usually increases drawing chances. The primary reason for that is the fact that many pawnless endgames are drawn either due to insufficient mating material (K+N/B vs K) or theoretically drawn (e.g. R+B/ N vs R are the most common ones). The secondary reason is that reducing the number of defender's own pawns reduces the number of potential targets that the stronger side could exploit (e.g. backward or isolated pawn). Besides drawing scenarios mentioned above, there are several other ways a draw can be reached in a chess game, and I list them below: Draw by:

- *Stalemate*
- *Threefold repetition*
- *Perpetual check*
- *Insufficient mating material*
- *Theoretical draw* (well-known positions with limited material in which defending side needs to know the correct drawing method or sequence; e.g. Philidor defense in R+p vs R or Cochrane defense in R+B vs R)
- *Positional draw* (e.g. blockade, fortress, wrong color bishop etc.)
- *Fifty-move rule*
- *Mutual agreement*

Simplification, if done wisely, can help us achieve many of these drawn outcomes while defending a worse endgame. Now, let us see some examples from grandmaster practice, in which simplification as a drawing method played the key role in the endgame. Draw due to insufficient mating material We start with a simple example, from an 1841 study by Walker.

 **Walker**
 **1841**



The material balance that we have on the board is often sufficient for White to win the game. The usual plan is to send the king toward d6-square and outflank the opponent's king or provoke Black into pushing his pawns when it becomes easier to pick them up. However, in this particular case, Black can achieve a draw by permanently threatening to trade off white c-pawn with a timely ...c6-c5, followed by ...Kc(a)6 and ...b6-b5.

1.Kd4

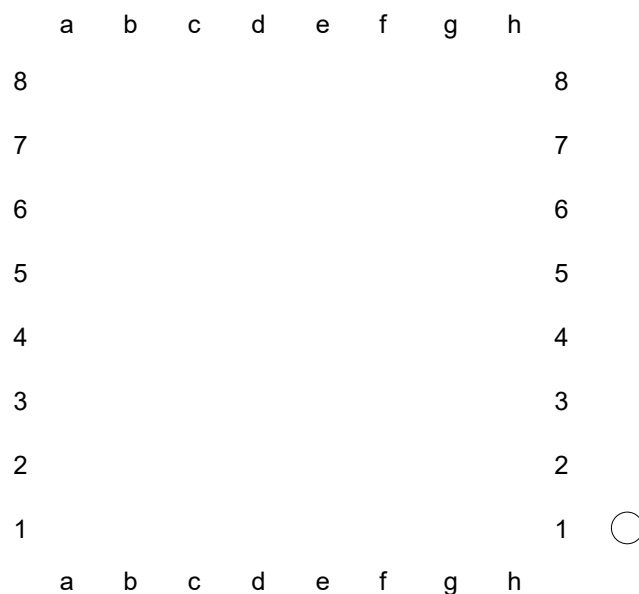
[White can prevent the aforementioned simplification plan by going the other way with his king -1.Kb4 but after: Ka6 2.Bg5 Kb7

3.Bd8 Ka6= neither side can make progress, so we have a positional draw.]

1...Ka6 2.Ke5 c5!

[2...b5? 3.c5 b4 4.Kd6 Kb5 5.Bd4 b3 6.Bb2+-]

3.Kd5 b5

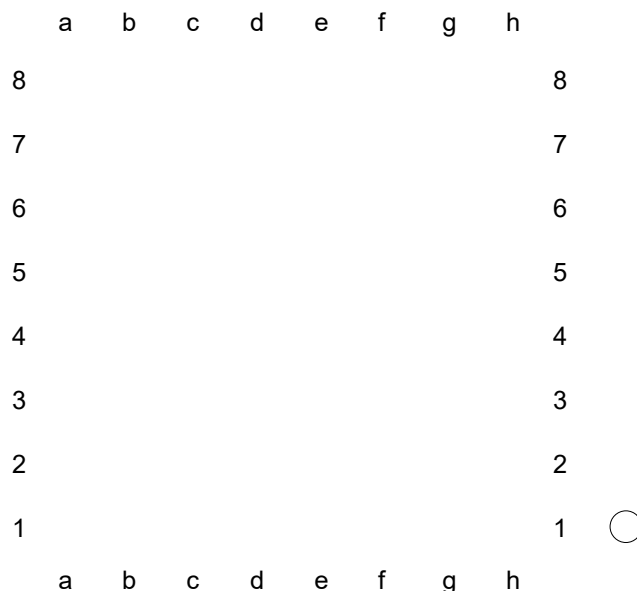


and after trading off last white pawn, a draw due to insufficient mating material is reached.

1/2

In the next example, we have a typical simplification method in rook endgames:

 **Kortschnoj, Viktor Lvovich** **2650**
 **Miles, Anthony John** **2590**
Baden-Baden **1981**



Endgames with 3 against 2 pawns on the same flank have very drawish tendencies. However, in this case Black has a passed pawn on the e-file, which increases his winning chances. How should White hold this endgame? Viktor Kortschnoj provides the answer: **46.g4!** As Kortschnoj notes in his "Praxis des Turmendspiels" ("Rook endgames practice"), this move increases White's drawing chances in three ways: 1. by simplifying the position; 2. by allowing passive white king to activate 3. by creating a weak pawn on g6- or h5-square that White can exploit. **46...Rb3+**

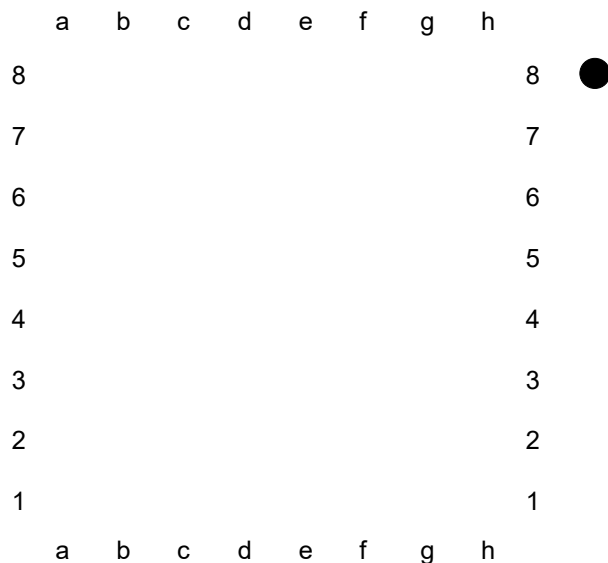
[Black can hold the h-pawn under control with: 46...Rb5 47.Re1+ Kd5 48.gxh5 gxh5 49.Kh4 Kd6 50.Ra1 Rf5 but White easily holds the position with: 51.Ra6+ Ke7 52.Ra8



achieving a drawn position thanks to maximum activity of his rook and king. For example: e5 53.Ra6 e4 54.Ra4 Re5 55.Kg3 e3 56.Ra1= and the e-pawn falls.]

[The most direct attempt is: 46...e5 47.gxh5 gxh5 48.Kh4 Rb2 49.h3

A) 49...Rb3 50.Kxh5 Rxh3+ 51.Kg4

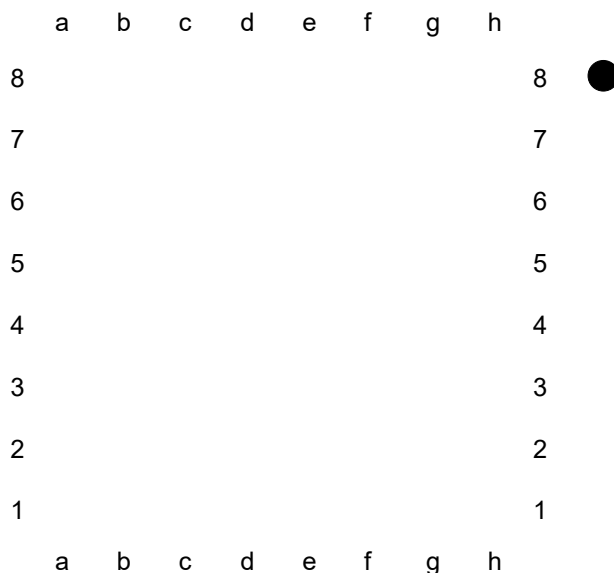


leads to theoretically drawn R+p vs R endgames, in case of both: Ra3)and: 62 Sf4 63 Sb2 52.Re1+ Kd5 53.Rd1+ Ke6 54.Re1=; **B) 49...Kf3** 50.Kxh5 e4 51.h4 e3 52.Kg6 e2 53.Re1 Kf2 54.Rxe2+ Rxe2 55.h5= Black king is too far away to catch the pawn, so the game is drawn.]

47.Kh4 hxg4

[One last trick was: 47...Kf4 but White can simply sidestep it with: 48.Rd4+)59 h i 6 h6 48...Ke5 49.Ra4 hxg4 50.Kxg4=]

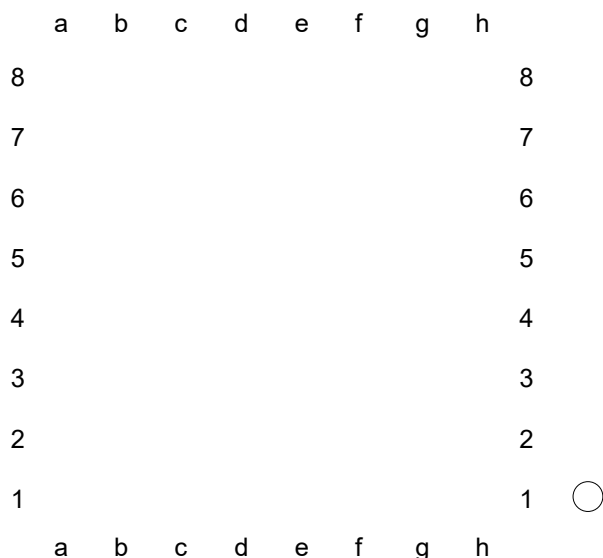
48.Kxg4



Now, we have a 2 vs 1 rook endgame, getting White closer to a draw. **48...e5 49.h4** White prepares counterplay against the g6-pawn. **49...Rb2 50.Re1+ Kd5 51.Kg5 Rb6**

[A more active 51...Rg2+ also does not work due to: 52.Kf6 e4 53.Rd1+ Kc4 54.Ke5 e3 55.Ke4 e2 56.Rc1+ Kb3 57.Kf3=]

52.h5 gxh5



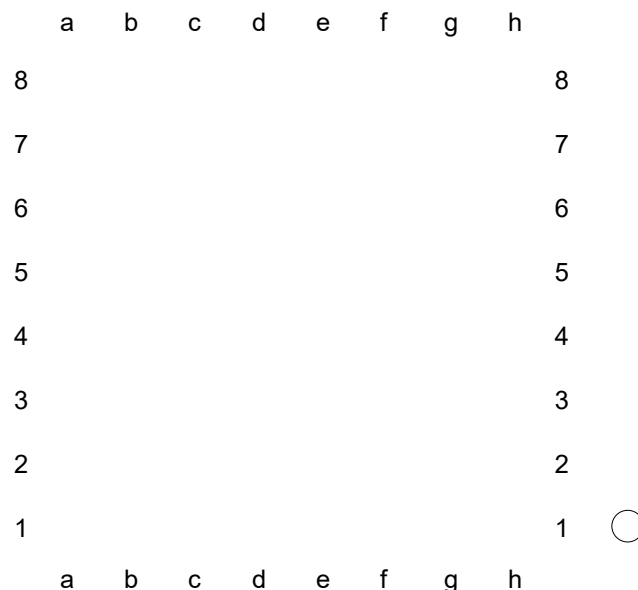
Kortschnoj swapped off another pair of pawns, and now he uses a small finesse to force a draw at once: **53.Kf5!=** In principle, it is more important to eliminate the central pawn, since rook's pawn is less dangerous.

[That being said, there was nothing wrong with 53.Kxh5 e4 54.Kg4 Ke5 55.Kg3= either.]

53...Rb5 54.Rxe5+ Kc4 55.Rxb5 Kxb5 56.Kg5 Ka5 57.Kxh5 1/2

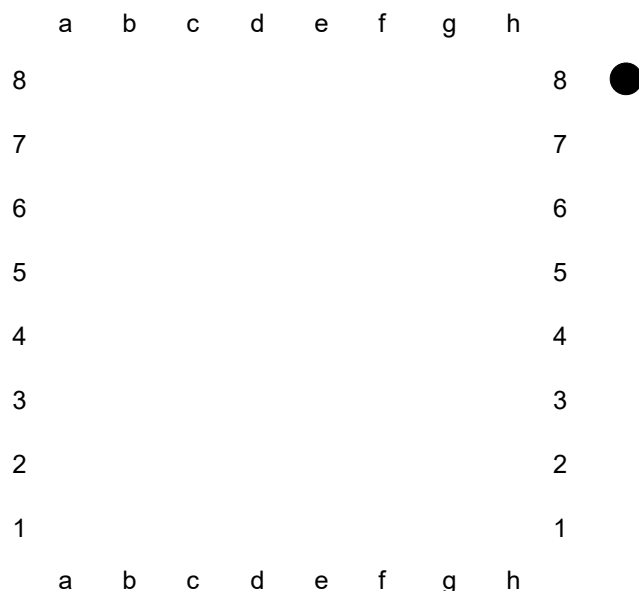
□ Rubinstein,Akiba
 ■ Alekhine,Alexander
 London it

The example below can serve as a good training exercise. White to move and draw!

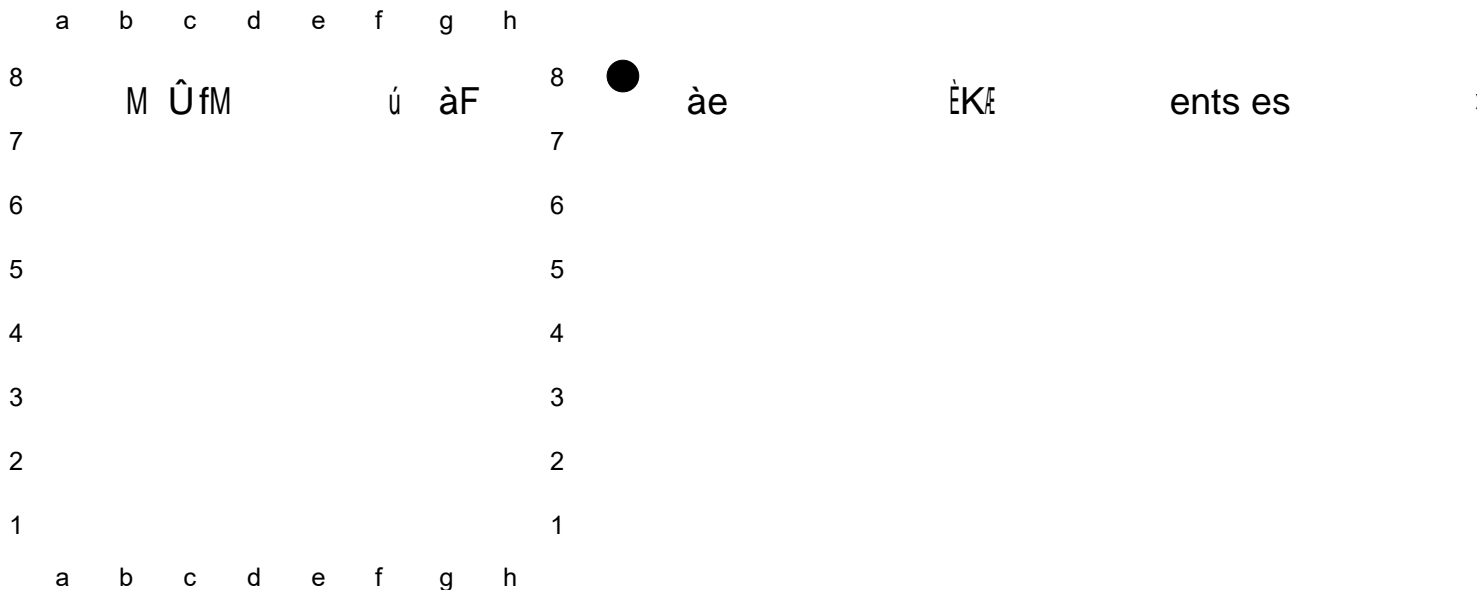


In this minor piece endgame, White has to play carefully because his king is cut off from the center and he has pawn weaknesses on b3 and f5. Nevertheless, he can achieve a draw with a series of pawn sacrifices: **50.g4!** This is the first one.

[50.f4? was Rubinstein's choice in the game, but after e3! his king remained cut off on the kingside and Alekhine won the endgame convincingly after: 51.Kg1 Kf8 52.Kg2 Ke7 53.Bg8 Kd6 54.Bf7 Kc5 55.Bxh5 Nxb3 56.Kf3 Kd4 57.Bf7



50.Kh3!? Kh6 51.Kh4 Nf3+ 52.Kh3 Nd4 53.Kg2! White needs to bring his king back urgently.) 64 C f 5 loses after: O c4 65 L h3 Oe3 66 Ce4 c4. 53...Kg5 54.Bxe4 Nxb3 and now White recentralizes his king with a tempo - 55.f4+! although he still needs to show precision after: Kg4) 66 L i 7 67 L g Od6 68 Cc2 c4 69 L f 4 c3 6 Le3 56.Bf3+ Kxf5 57.Bxh5 Nd2 58.Kf2 b3 59.Ke3!



Only like this can White draw the game. The key is in defending the f-pawn, which can be seen from the following sequence: b2 60.g4+ Ke6 61.Bg6 White prevents the promotion and further reduces material by sacrificing his bishop. b1Q 62.Bxb1 Nxb1 63.Kd4

51.Kh3 Nf3



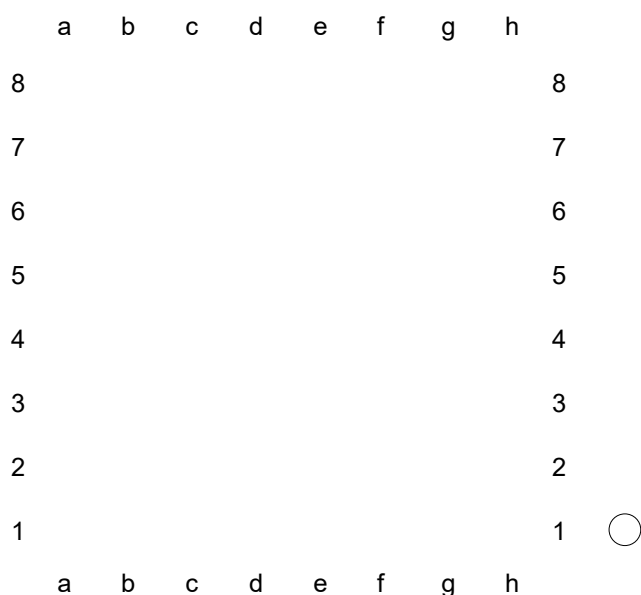
And here comes the second one. ...

52.g5! fxg5 53.Bxe4 Nd4 ...and

the third one: **54.f4! gxf4**

55.Kxh4 White managed to trade two pairs of pawns and the situation has simplified significantly. The rest is easy.

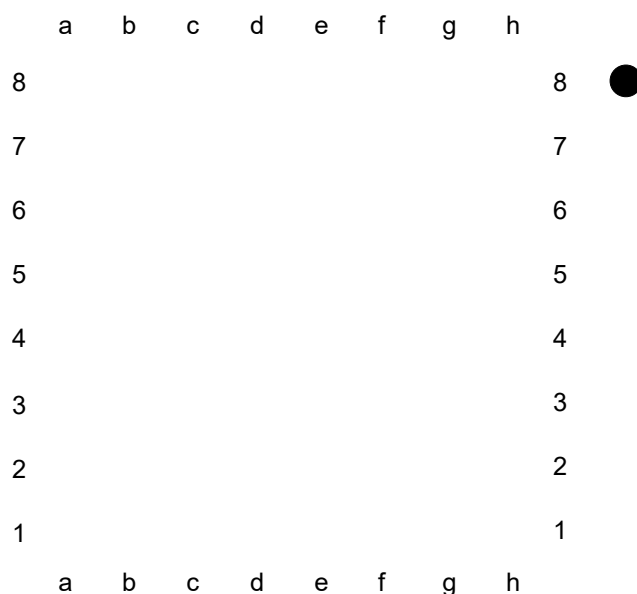
55...Kf6 56.Kg4 Ke5 57.Bd3 Nxb3



and now he can simplify even further with **58.f6! Kxf6 59.Kxf4=** and draw can be agreed because the advantage of one pawn in this position is not enough to win the game.

Theoretical and positional draw
Knowledge of basic theoretical and positional draws is essential for every aspiring chess player because it allows us to foresee favorable simplifications in positions which seem difficult or tiresome to defend. One of such cases is the following endgame:

□ **Pashikian, Arman** 2647
 ■ **Malakhov, Vladimir** 2716
 WchT 7th Bursa (7.4) 11.01.2010



Vladimir Malakhov defended a joyless endgame, being down a full pawn, for a long time. His opponent, GM Pashikian somehow failed to act decisively in previous stages of the conversion phase, and this position was reached on move 39. White still enjoys a big positional advantage, but not many pawns have remained on the board, which is always a good circumstance for the defending side. Malakhov played: **39...f4!** forcing a trade of another pair of pawns and, thereby, reducing White's winning chances.

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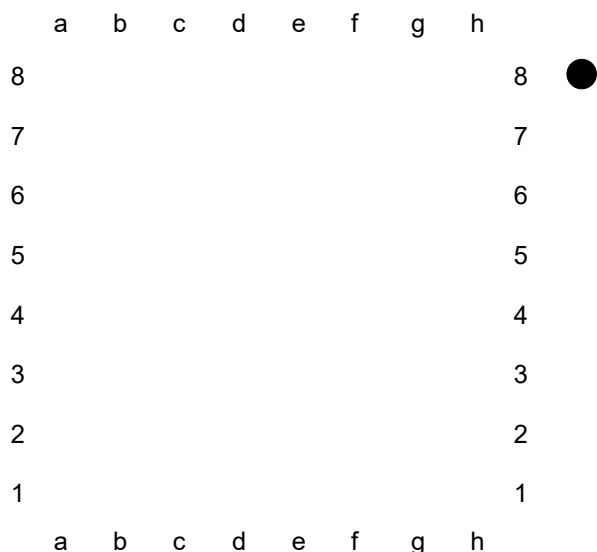
After Nxd4 43.Bd2



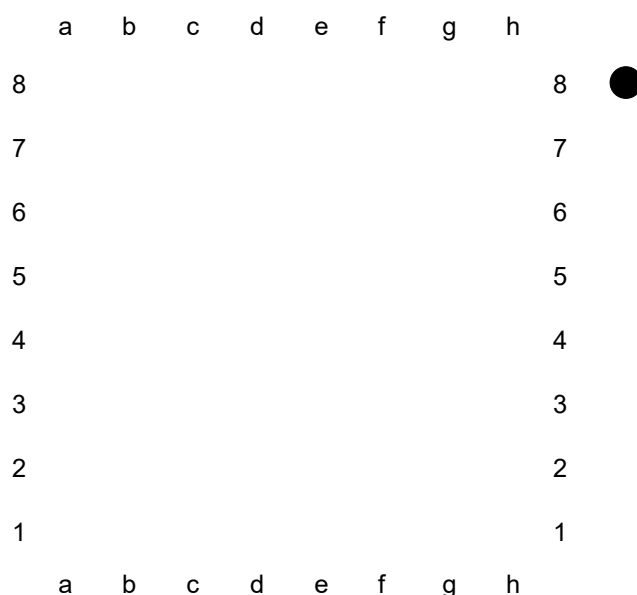
Black would not have the simplifying combination with 43...Nbc6 any more. This would keep the tension in the position. Even though the material would have been significantly reduced, there would be no forced ways for him to simplify the position further. White would still keep some initiative and, consequently, winning chances alive.]

42...Kxf5 43.Rf7+ Rf6 A usual sign that a position gravitates toward a draw is when piece exchanges increase defender's drawing chances significantly.

44.Rb7 Nc6 45.Bd2 Rg6 46.Rc7 Rf6 47.Rd7 Ke6 48.Rb7 Kf5 49.b5



White hardly had any choice in the matter since his b4-pawn was becoming a burden. Yet, the exchange of another pair of pawns can only satisfy his opponent. The arising position is very drawish. **49...axb5 50.Rxb5 Ke6 51.Rb6 Kf5 52.Rb5 Ke6 53.Rb7 Kf5 54.Rh7 Ke6 55.Be1 Rf7 56.Rh5 Rf5 57.Rh6+ Rf6 58.Rh7 Rf7 59.Rh6+ Rf6 60.Rh5 Rf5 61.Rh8**



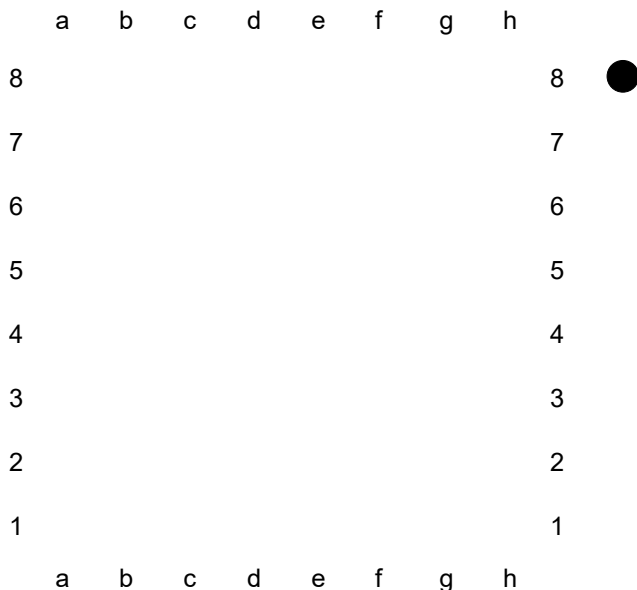
Nxd4!? This simplification is the most practical solution. Malakhov uses his knowledge of the theoretical endgame: R+B vs R, in which draw can be obtained by using one of two correct methods of defense.

[Black could also hold the position with: 61...Rf7 62.Bh4 and now it would be necessary to activate the

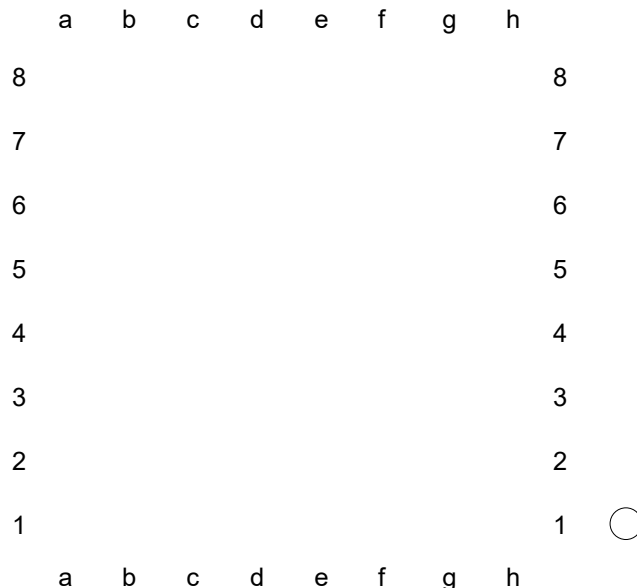
rook with Ra7! which gives Black sufficient counterplay against the d4-pawn.)On the other hand, continuing passive defense with 73 Sg6 would does not work anymore because of 74 Si7 Le8 75 Cg7 and by planting his bishop on e5, White most likely obtains a winning position, as we can see in the following variation: Lf9 76 g5 Le8 77 Cf6 Of8 78 Lg4 .

This is probably the reason why Malakhov forced the issue by sacrificing the knight on d4. 63.Rh6+ Kd7 64.Bf6)75 Si8 Lf7 64...Ra3+ 65.Kf4 Rd3=]

62.Rh6+ Kd7 63.Kxd4 Rxf3 64.Kxd5

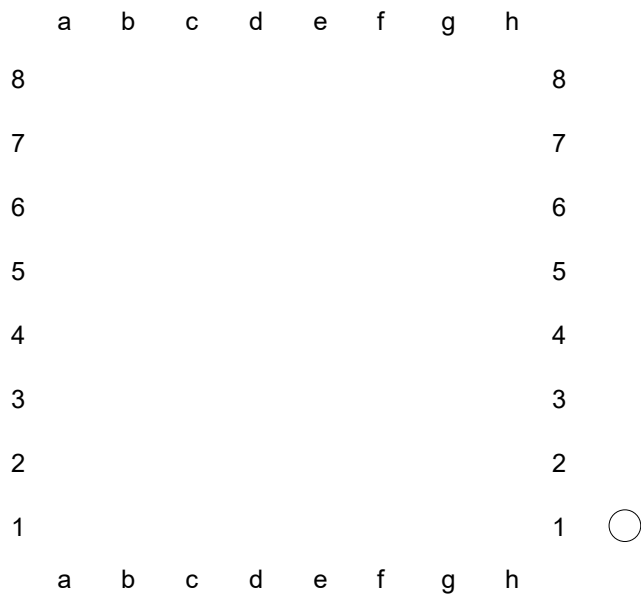


From this position, White should try to checkmate Black in the next 50 moves, or otherwise Black can claim a draw due to the 50-move rule. In this game, Malakhov demonstrates the correct defensive method for Black, the so-called Cochrane defense. **64...Rd3+ 65.Kc5 Ke7 66.Bf2 Rd1 67.Bd4 Rc1+ 68.Kd5 Rd1 69.Rh7+ Kd8**



This is the basic setup of Cochrane defense. It is easy to remember since all pieces besides white rook (which cuts off Black king along the seventh rank) are lined up on the same file. It is very important to remember that this defense is correct only if the kings are not in opposition, i.e. if the White king was on d6 instead of d5 and the bishop was on d5, we would have the so-called Philidor position which is theoretically winning for White. When king is two files apart, there is no immediate mating threat, so Black can avoid the Philidor position with precise play. **70.Ke5 Kc8!**

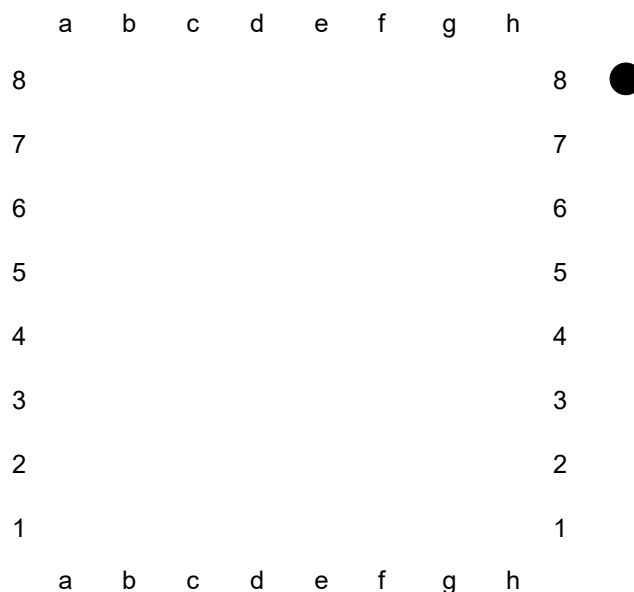
This is the best reply, methodically. When White king goes to one side, Black king moves the other way. By the same token, 70.Kc5 is best answered by 70...Ke8. **71.Bc5 Rd7!** This is the most efficient method of defense at this point because it allows Black king to escape from the last rank and gets Black closer to claiming a draw by 50-th move rule. **72.Rh8+ Kb7 73.Bd6 Rg7 74.Rb8+ Kc6 75.Rc8+ Kb5 76.Kd5 Rg5+ 77.Be5 Rh5 78.Rb8+ Ka5**



After some maneuvering, Malakhov constructed Cochrane defense again, only turned 90 degrees counter-clockwise. **79.Kd4 Ka6! 80.Bd6 Rb5** Black used the same method all over again, proving that his knowledge of this theoretical endgame is solid. White tried to win for another 30 or so moves, but couldn't even manage to push black king to the edge of the board, so Malakhov saved the game after a valiant defensive effort on move 113. The key defensive method that facilitated it was a simplification. **81.Rf8 Kb7 82.Kc4 Rh5 83.Rf6 Rg5 84.Re6 Kc6 85.Bc5+ Kd7 86.Rd6+ Ke8 87.Rf6 Kd7 88.Kb5 Rd5 89.Rf7+ Ke6 90.Re7+ Kf6 91.Re2 Kf5 92.Kc4 Re5 93.Rf2+ Ke4 94.Bd6 Re6 95.Rd2 Rg6 96.Rd4+ Ke3 97.Bc5 Kf3 98.Kd3 Rg5 99.Bd6 Rf5 100.Bc7 Rf7 101.Be5 Rf8 102.Rd7 Rf5 103.Re7 Rf8 104.Bd4 Ra8 105.Rf7+ Kg4 106.Ba7 Rd8+ 107.Ke2 Kg5 108.Kf3 Kg6 109.Rf4 Rd7 110.Ra4 Kf5 111.Ra5+ Ke6 112.Ke4 Rd1 113.Bf2**
1/2

Shengelia,Davit **2512**
Brkic,Ante **2565**
 Olympiad-43 Batumi (9.3) 03.10.2018

In the following game, we have a very common endgame motif - simplification into the elementary drawn 'wrong bishop' endgame.



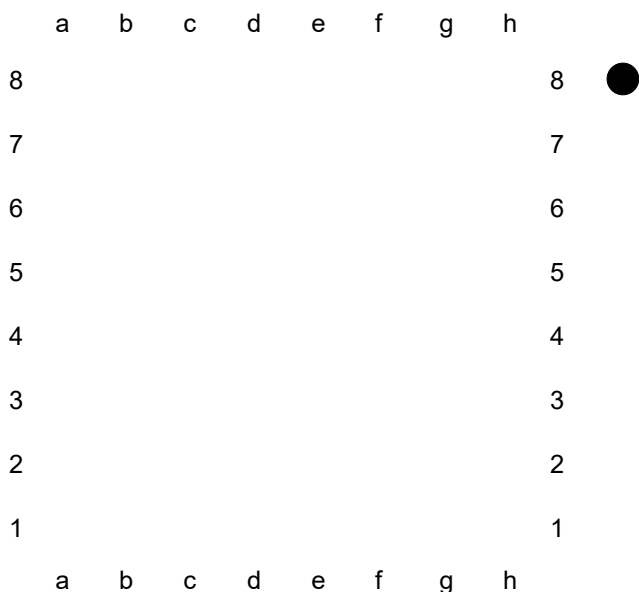
Despite equal and reduced material, Black's defensive task does not appear to be trivial. His d-pawn is all but lost, while white pawns are impressively defended by the bishop on e1. What is he to do? GM Brkic's solution is very instructive: **49...g5!** The idea is to force a trade of pair of pawns in order to facilitate transposition into the famous positional 'wrong bishop' draw.

[On the other hand, other moves would lead to a difficult endgame for Black. For example: 49...Nf5+ 50.Ke4 Rf1 51.Kxd3 and now he can not take advantage of the pin on the bishop with Nxg3?? because 52.Bxg3+ is a check.]

50.h5 White plays the most principled move.

[Black's idea can be seen in variations: 50.hxg5 hxg5 51.Rxd3 Nf5+ 52.Ke4 Rxd3 53.Kxd3 Nxg3! 54.Bxg3+=]

[and: 50.Rxd3 Nf5+ 51.Ke4 Rxd3 52.Kxd3 Nxh4 53.gxh4 gxh4 54.Bxh4=



when White's material advantage is not enough to win the game if Black parks his king on a8.]

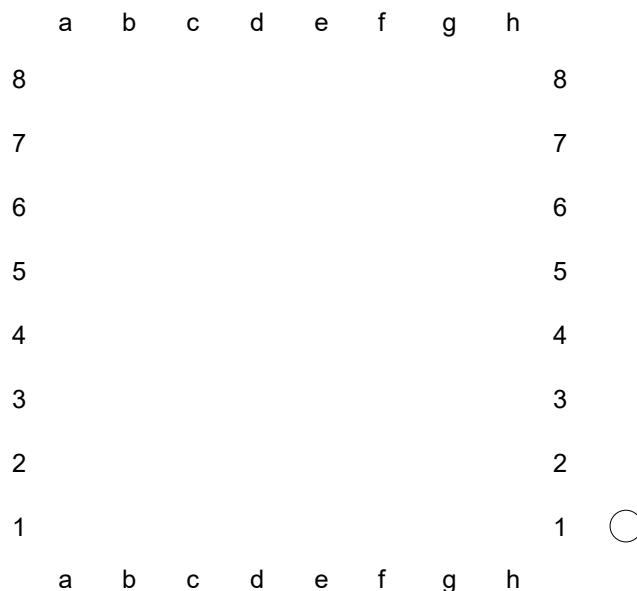
50...Nf5+ 51.Ke4 g4!



This move is the point of Black's simplification combination. It not only protects the rook, ensuring that it will be exchanged for White rook on d3, but also fixes white pawns on h5 and g3, so that the knight can snatch them both easily. **52.Rxd3 Nd6+** Black would like to draw by a perpetual check,

[although simple: 52...Rxd3 53.Kxd3 Ng7 54.Ke4 Nxh5 55.Kf5 Nxg3+ 56.Bxg3+ Kb7= would have done the job just as well.]

53.Kd4 Nb5+ 54.Kc4 Nd6+ 55.Kc3 Ne4+ 56.Kd4 Finally, Black swaps the rooks: **56...Rxd3+ 57.Kxd3 Nf6**



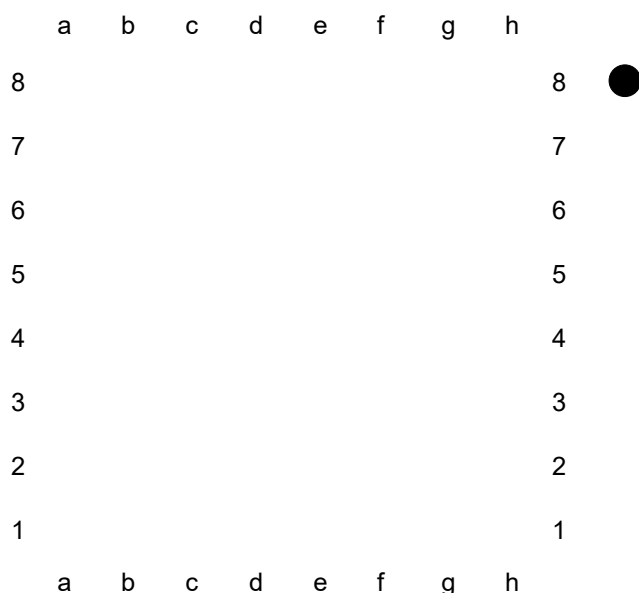
and the draw is inevitable as the knight captures both white pawns, forcing the wrong bishop endgame. **58.Bd2 Nxh5 59.Bxh6 Kb7 60.Ke4 1/2**

When your opponent has a dangerous passed pawn, your main goal should be to eliminate it, even if it costs some extra material. The following encounter between two ex-world champions is instructive in that respect.

□ **Fischer, Robert James**

■ **Petrosian, Tigran V**

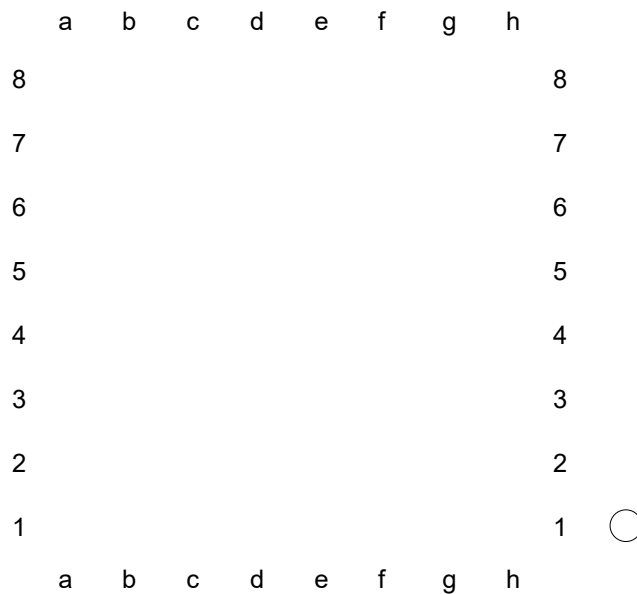
Candidates f Fischer-Petrosian +5-1=3 (1)



This position arose in the first game of the 1971 Candidates final between Bobby Fischer and Tigran Petrosian. Petrosian had an excellent position in the middlegame, but he slowly drifted into an unpleasant endgame. Fischer's h-pawn looks very dangerous, but Black still has defensive resources.

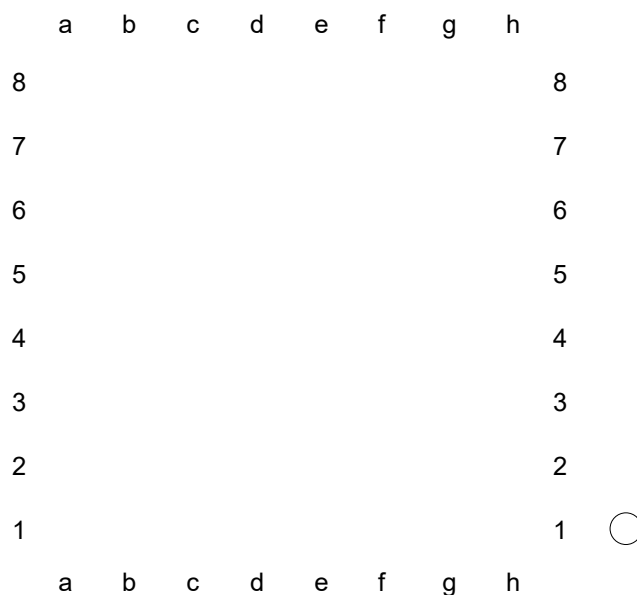
Unfortunately, Petrosian missed the point by playing 36...f4? and he lost the game in short order. The right move was **36...Rxa2**

[After 36...f4? 37.Rxf4 Rxa2



Petrosian probably thought that he could force a draw by winning the g2-pawn and catching the h-pawn with his rook. However, after the simple:

A) Maybe Petrosian counted only on the forced line: **38.h6 Rxc2+ 39.Kh3 Rg8 40.h7 Rh8 41.Ng5 a5! 42.Rh4 a4 43.Nf7 Rxc7 44.Rxc7 a3**



when White already has to force a draw with: **45.Rh8+ Ka7 46.Nd6**



If White takes the knight, the h-pawn falls, with a draw. However, the fight is not over yet... **41.Kg3!** White preserves his strongest asset - the h-pawn. The question is: can black stop the h-pawn after the rook trade?

[41.Rxg2 Rxb5=]

41...Rxb5+ 42.Nxb5 Ne3 43.Kf4



The answer is: Yes, he can - but only with the study-like: **43...Kd6!!**
This diagonal king movement (also

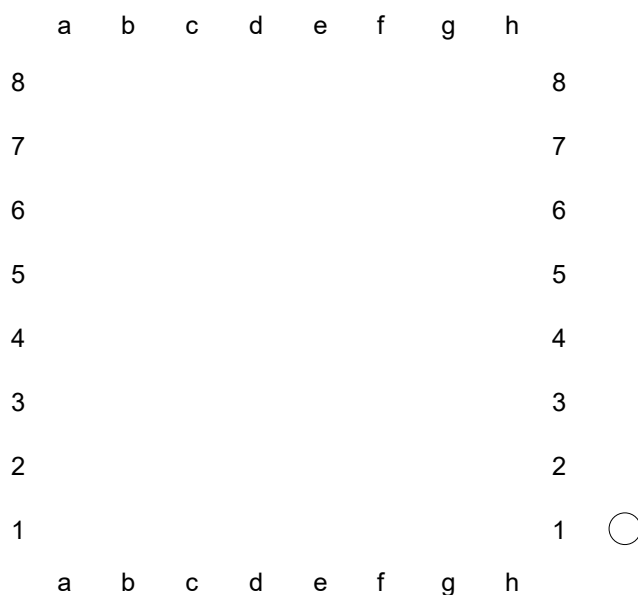
discussed in previous issues of Endgame series) to get inside the square of the h-pawn, is very reminiscent of Reti's famous study.

[Instead, 43...Nd5+ does not save Black because the knight is a notoriously inefficient piece when it comes to stopping rook's pawn.

44.Ke5

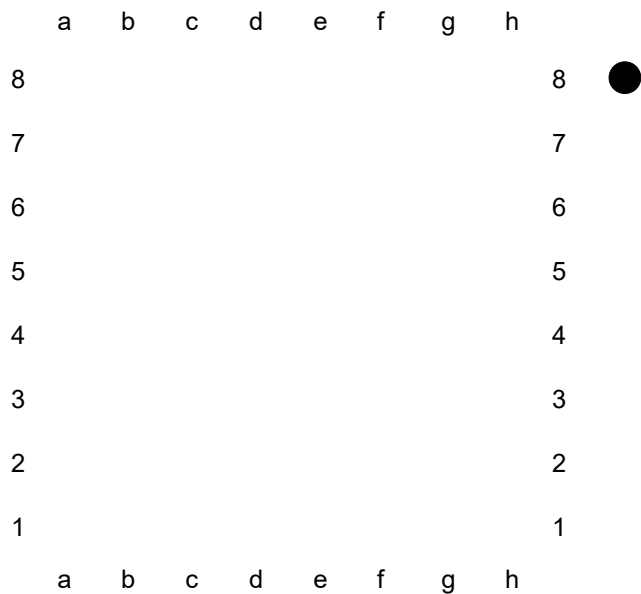
A) In case of a more passive:

44...Ne7 45.h6 Kd7 46.h7 Ng6+ 47.Kf6 Nh8



White just needs to make sure not to fall for the last trick and play: **48.Nf7! 49.Lh8** leads to a well-known positional draw after: **Lf8 5.Li9 Lg8 48...Nxf7 49.Kxf7+-;**

B) **44...Ne3 45.Ke6! Ng4 46.Kf5**
A little triangulation can not hurt White's chances! **Nh6+ 47.Kg6**



]In case of 58 Oh5 it is the e5-square. Thus: 59 Og4 b6 5 Lh6 b5 61 L h5 b4 62 Oe5 . 48.Kg7 while after Ne7 it is the f5-square, so here: 49.Ne6+ Kd6 50.Nd4! does the trick! Ke5 51.h6 Kxd4 52.h7+-]

44.Kxe3

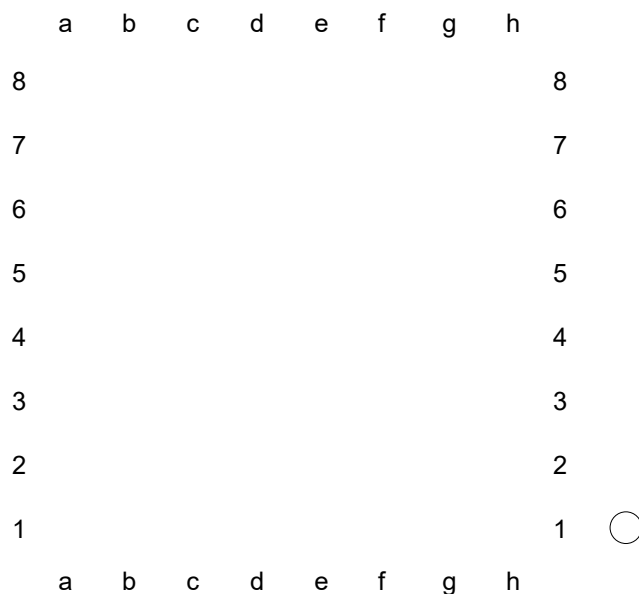
[In case of 44.h6 Black gets his knight back just in time: Nd5+ The key is that White does not have 45.Ke5 any more. 45.Kf5 Ne7+ 46.Kg4)57 Lg7 Oh9 58 Lh8 O i 7 59 L i 7 46...Ng6 47.h7 Ke5=]

44...Ke5=

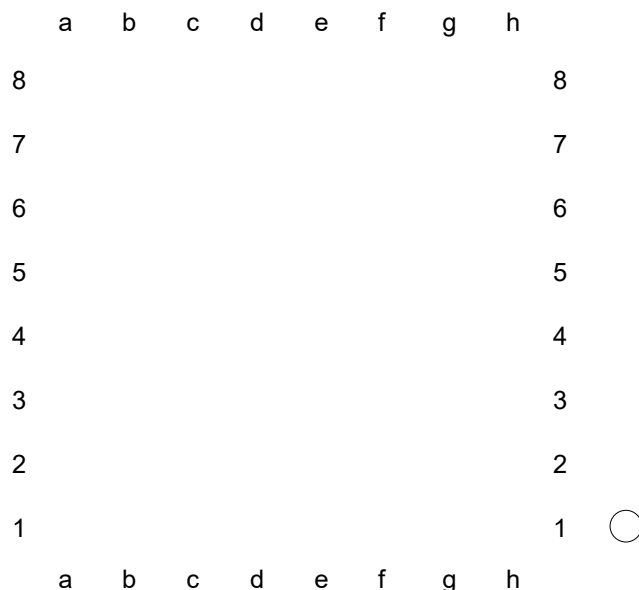
Black king is in the square of the h-pawn, but what is more interesting is that White can not win this endgame with an extra piece and passed pawn. The position that arises by force after: **45.Kf3**

[By the way, 45.h6 Kf6 46.h7 Kg7= is a well-known positional draw even without black pawns.]

45...Kf5 46.Ne4 a5 47.Kg3 a4 48.Kh4





a3 49.Nc3 Kf6 50.Kg4 b5 51.Nd5+ Kg7 52.Nb4 Kh6 53.Kh4 Kg7 54.Kg5 Kh7 55.h6 Kg8 56.Kg6 Kh8=

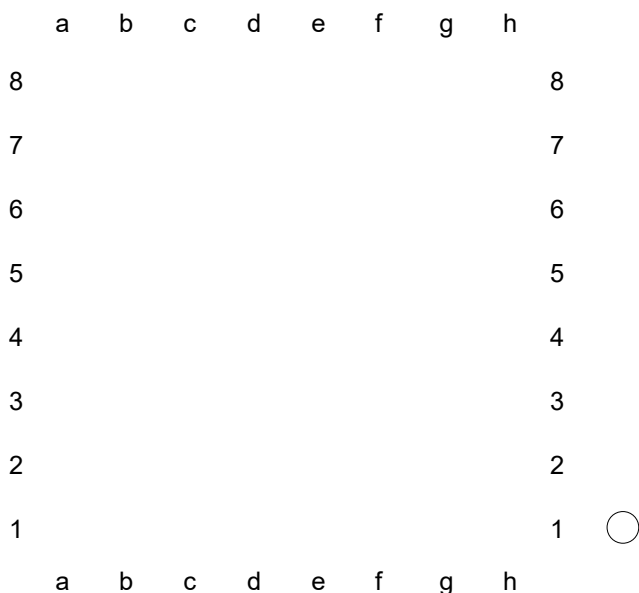


has been analyzed by Yuri Averbakh in Comprehensive Chess Endings. The predecessor was the game Smorodski - Breitmann, 1933. Averbakh concludes that we have a positional draw on the board because White's attack with the knight: **57.Nc6?? a2 58.Ne5 a1Q 59.Nf7+ Kg8 60.h7+ Kf8** does not

work since the newly-promoted queen attacks the h8-square, so after **61.h8Q+ Qxh8 62.Nxh8 b4-+** White may even lose!

 **Xiong, Jeffery** **2618**
 **Robson, Ray** **2663**
 USA-ch Saint Louis (3) 16.04.2016

Finally, let us see how the stronger side needs to be careful not to allow unnecessary simplification that may lead to a positional draw.

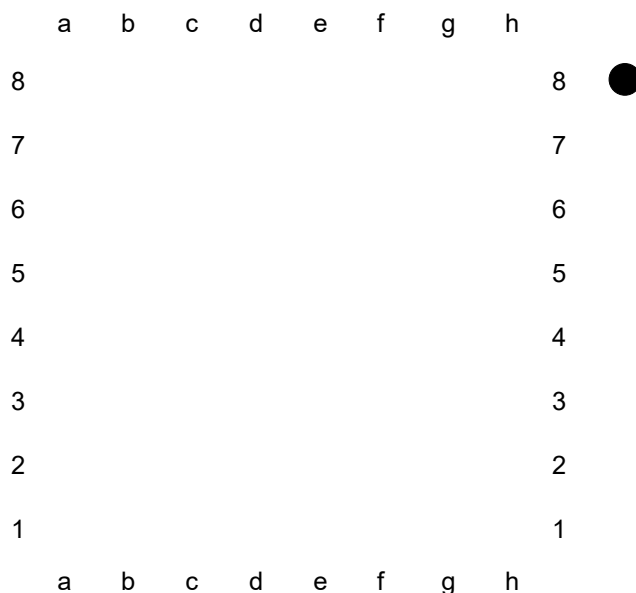


Similar endgames with 4 vs 3 pawns on the same flank offer winning chances in the long run, but they require patience. Young Jeffery Xiong forced the issue with: **37.g4?!** allowing simplifications.

[Instead, it was required to obey 'do not hurry' principle and play a modest move 37.h3 There is no guarantee that White would win this endgame, but Black's defense would be far from easy.]

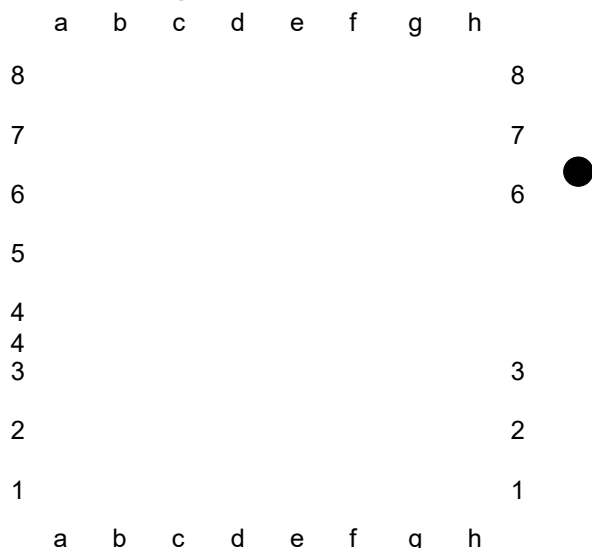
37...Rxb2+ 38.Kg1?! Xiong insists on winning a piece. However, this leads to loss of his e-pawn and, as we will see, an endgame which is a positional draw despite White's extra piece.

[White would keep some winning chances with: 38.Kg3 avoiding simplification that occurred in the game since the e3-pawn would remain alive. Rc2 39.g5 Ne4+ 40.Kf3 Nd2+ 41.Kg4 Black saved the knight, but he will have to give up his e-pawn to defend against the mating attack. Kg7 42.Rb7!) 53.Sc9 i 6 42...h5+ 43.gxh6+ Kxh6 44.Rxe7 Rc1 45.Kg3 Ne4+ 46.Kf3 Nf6 47.Rf7



and the arising endgame still gives White, at least practical, chances to fight for a full point.]

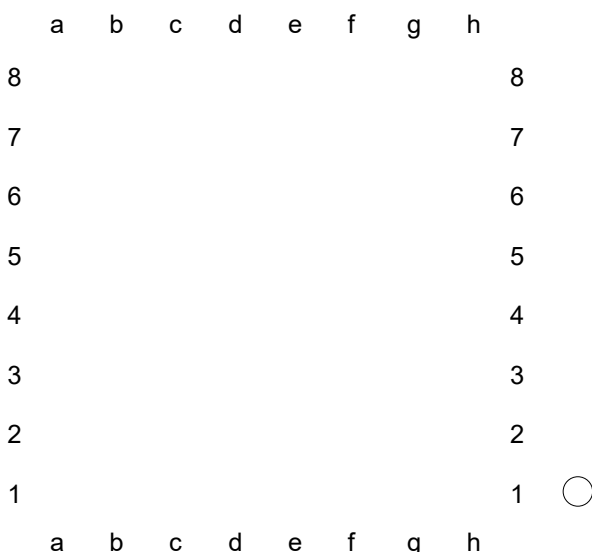
38...Re2 39.g5



The knight can not move due to the mating threat $Rb8+$, $Rg8\#$, so Black is forced to give up the piece. However, this also reduces the number of white pawns that could potentially become a new queen. **39...Rxe3**

[I should add that in case of $39...Ne8$ $40.Rb3!$ puts Black in some sort of zugzwang because he can not force the favorable simplification any more. For example: $Kg7$ $51.Sd3$ $52.Sc9$ $Se3$ $53.Cd5$ $51.Oe7$ $52.Sc9$ $Of9$ $53.Ce8$ $41.Kf1$ $Ra2$ $42.Rb8$ $Ra6$ $43.Bc4$ $Rc6$ $44.Bd5$ $Rd6$ $45.Bb3+-$]

40.gxf6 exf6 41.Kf2 Re4 42.Kf3 f5



This is a positional draw. Black just keeps his king on g7 and rook on the seventh rank. White can not organize a successful attack with his three remaining pieces due to a permanent threat of simplification with $...Re4$ or $...h6$, g5. Xiong tried for another 28 moves but to no avail. The black position proved to be a simple fortress.

43.Rb8+ Kg7 44.Rb7+ Kf6 45.Bd5 Re7 46.Rb6+ Kg7 47.Rd6 Kf8 48.Be6 Kg7 49.Rc6 Kf6 50.Bc4+ Kg7 51.Rd6 Rc7 52.Be2 Re7 53.Rc6 Kf8 54.Kf2 Kg7 55.Bf3

[White king can not cross over to the other side of the board: $55.Rc4$ $Kf6$ $56.Ke1$ because Black liquidates everything with: $Re4!$ $57.Rxe4$ $fxe4$ $58.Kf2$ $g5=$]

55...Kf8 56.Kg3 Kg7 57.Kh4 h6 58.Kg3 Kh7 59.Bd5 Kg7 60.Kf3 Kh7 61.Kf2 Kg7 62.Bc4 Kh7 63.Be2 Kg7 64.Rc4 Kf6 65.Rc8 Kg7 66.Rd8 Kh7 67.Bf3 Kg7 68.Bd5 Kh7 69.Rd6 Kg7 70.Be6 Kf6 71.Bd5+

1/2

More complex examples In this section, we will examine slightly more complex examples in which decisions that involve simplification are not so straightforward because it is may not be easy to foresee drawing resources or accurately assess the arising positions.

□ **Kuljasevic,Davorin** **2555**
 ■ **Sulava,N.** **2453**
 2nd Krunoslav Hulak Mem (5.6) 03.12.17

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
8									8
7									7
6									6
5									5
4									4
3									3
2									2
1									1 ○

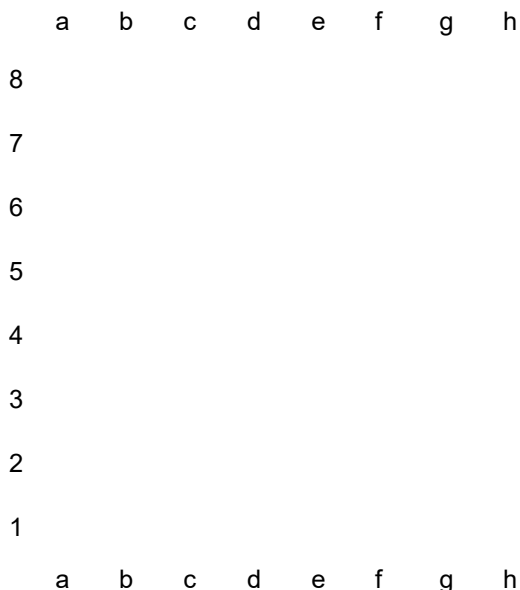
This endgame with unusual material balance is not easy to evaluate accurately. Black's drawing chances are considerable in the view of the firm blockade on light squares, which allows him to easily maneuver his knights and activate his king. On the other hand, if White could centralize his own king and activate the rook, he may be able to gradually push black pieces back and start attacking his e- and h-pawns. The most immediate question for White is: how to deal with the threat to h2- pawn? In the game, I played **42.Bc1?!** which, in hindsight, is not a principled decision because the trade of h-pawns favors Black. My reasoning was that the rook would be a passive piece in case I defended the h-pawn, and the game move allows me to activate it. Here, we see two important endgame principles clashing against each other - what is more important: rook activity or preventing simplification? It is often difficult to weigh such factors against

each other and come up with the correct decision based only on logical reasoning. Careful calculation of possible variations is crucial.

[In this particular case, it was more important to keep the pawns on the board and thus 42.h3 is the most natural candidate. I was bothered with the following variation: Nge3 43.Rf2 Kc6

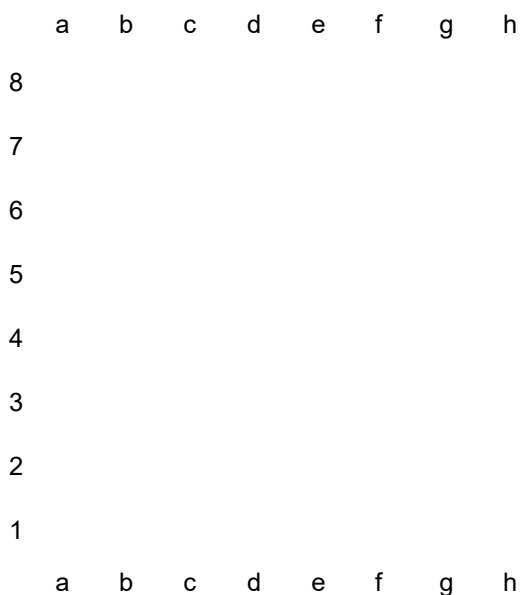
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
8									8
7									7
6									6
5									5
4									4
3									3
2									2
1									1 ○
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

when black king invades via b5-c4 route while white pieces are extremely passive. Still, White could consolidate and try to play for a win even without the d4-pawn after: 44.Bc1 Kb5 45.Bxe3 Nxe3 46.Kc1 Kc4 47.Kd2 Nd5 48.Ke1 Kxd4 49.Ra2±] [Another, much less obvious (at least to me) way to avoid simplification was: 42.Rh1!? This seems even more passive, but actually if one looks a bit deeper, there is no reason why White should refrain from playing this way. For example: Nf4 43.g3 Nh3 44.Re1 Ng5 45.Re2±



and here Black can continue his counterplay on the light squares in several ways: *Nf3*) *56 Of 5* or *56 Ld7* keeping drawing chances. However, the point is that there is still a lot to play for in this position and Black does not have an easy or forced way to hold a draw, so the fight continues.]

42...Nxh2 43.Rh1 Ng4 44.Rxh5 Kc6!☞



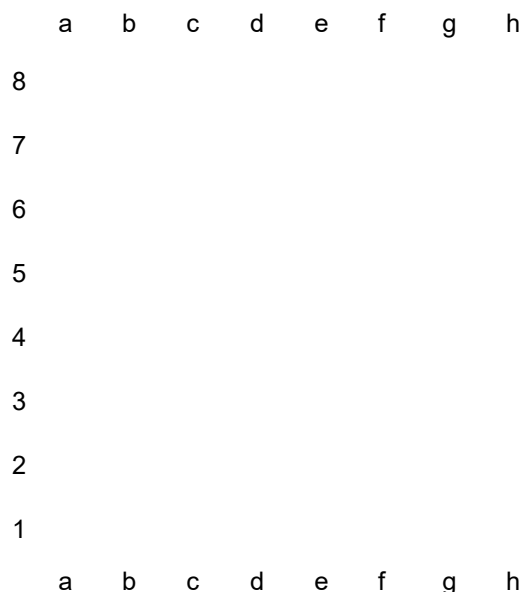
Black will use his king as an attacking

piece to target white pawns. This would not be an issue for White if his king was already somewhere on e2 or d3, but as it is, he is too slow getting it to the center.

45.Rh8

[It made more sense to activate the king at once *45.Kb2!?* and after: *Ndf6 46.Rh4! Kd5 47.Kc3 Ke4!*

)The cunning point behind putting the rook on h4 can be seen in a tempting variation: *58 Of 5 59 Le4 Of g3 5 Lf 3* and d-pawn is indirectly defended on the account of *L e5 61 Cf 4 . 48.Kc4 Nd5 49.Kc5*



Here, at the very least, White would have obtained practical counterplay against the e6-pawn, which would force Black to find the best moves to hold the balance in a tricky position: *Nc3! 50.Bg5 Ne2 51.Rh1! Nf2!=]*

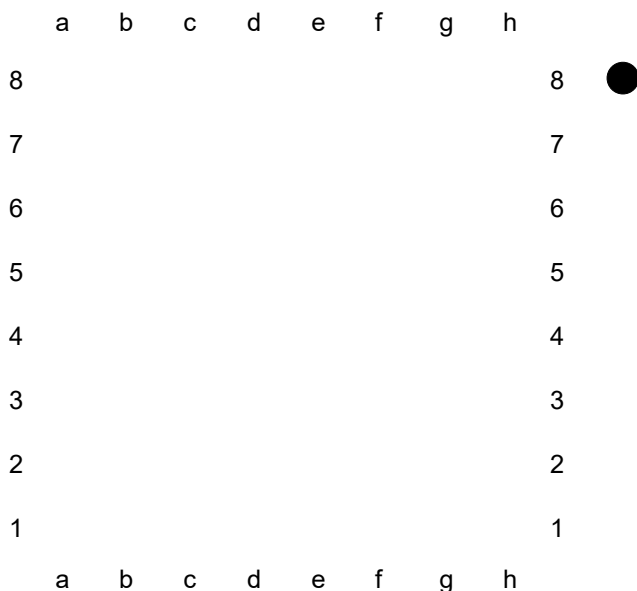
45...Nde3 46.g3 Kd5 47.Rd8+ Ke4 48.Rd6

[*48.Re8 Kxd4 49.Rxe6 Kd3* is similar. White plays without the king, so Black has no obstacles getting his king toward the g3-pawn.]

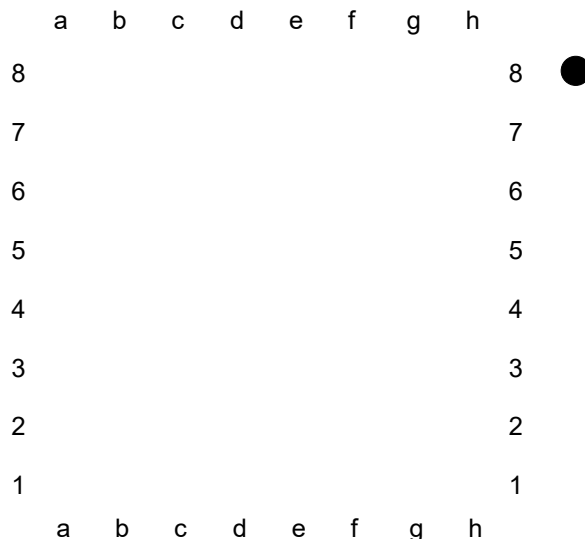
48...Nd5

[During the game, I thought that Black would have gotten an easy draw by simplifying the position further: 48...e5 49.dxe5 Kxe5 50.Ra6 Ke4 51.Ra3 Kf3 52.Rd3 Kf2= and White can not strengthen his position.]

49.Rxe6+ Kxd4 50.Kc2



This gave me a little bit of hope that I can still play for something as I finally get to centralize my king. This comes at the cost of the g-pawn, but I thought that simplification of the position could actually work against Black to some degree because his knights become a bit lose on an open board. **50...Nge3+ 51.Kd2 Nf1+ 52.Ke2 Nxg3+ 53.Kf3 Ne4 54.Bh6** Finally, the bishop is active, too. **54...Nc5 55.Bg7+ Kc4 56.Rc6 Kb5 57.Rc8**



A very interesting endgame. It should be a draw, of course, but when you play on 30-second increments as we did at this point, anything can happen in a real game. Black would like to keep his knights centralized and keep the pawn on f5, but there are also some tricks to watch for. **57...Nd3**

[57...Kc4?? 58.Bf8+-]

[57...Kb6?? 58.Bd4+-]

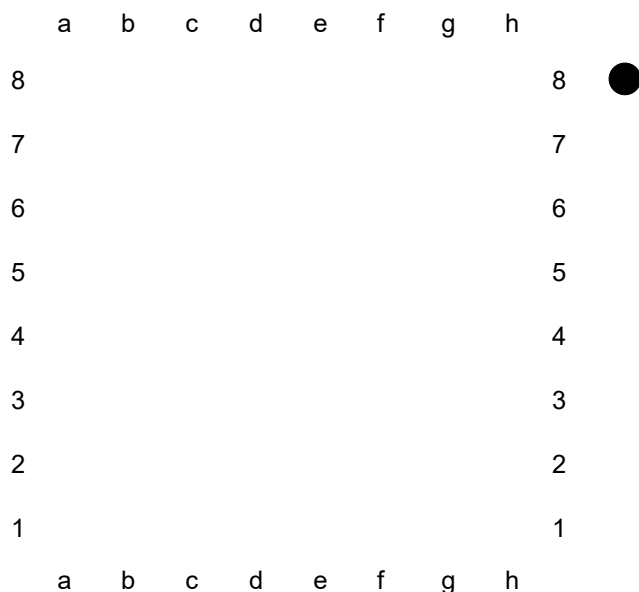
[57...Ne7!? 58.Rc7 Nc6 was also interesting. The geometry of the knights proves to be very tricky in variations like this one: 59.Ba1 Nb3 60.Bh8 Nbd4+ 61.Ke3 Ne6=]

58.Bd4 Kb4 59.Bg7 Kb3 60.Rf8 f4



White made some progress by forcing the pawn to f4. His king can join the attack now: **61.Ke4 N3b4** Black knights defend each other well enough and any further simplification leads to an immediate draw, so White's only chance is to force a zugzwang by paralyzing the knights. In that case, Black would have to push his pawn to f3 and White could simply pick it up. The resulting pawnless endgame: R+B vs N+N is a win according to the endgame tablebase; however, depending on the starting position, the conversion process can take up to 170 moves with the best play by both sides! **62.Rc8 Nb6 63.Rc3+ Ka4 64.Bf8 N6d5 65.Rc8 Nb6 66.Rb8 N4d5!** My opponent decided to switch up the position of his knights. This was the most practical decision

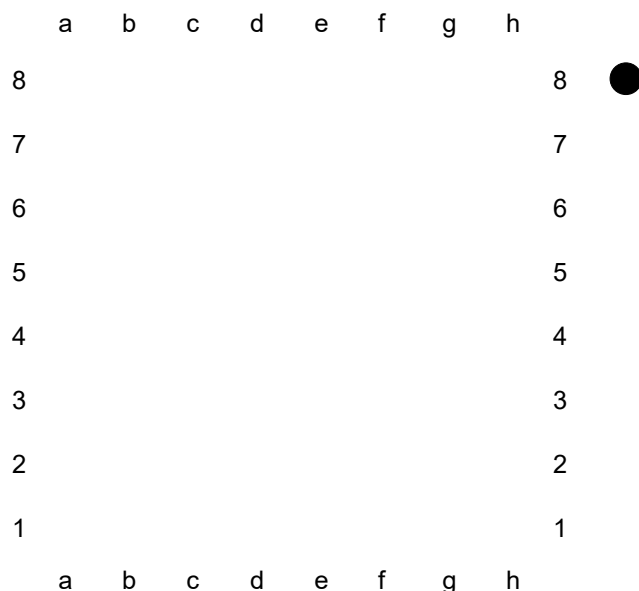
[since in case of 66...N6d5 67.Rb7 Ka5 68.Kd4



he would have to find the only move: Ka6!)Passive defense 79 Lb5 loses to 7 Cd6 Lb6 81 Ld5 . while in case of 79 g4 7 Sg6 Lc6 81 S g4 Tablebase announces

checkmate in 43 moves! 69.Rh7 Kb5 70.Rh5 Ka4 71.Bd6 Kb3=] **67.Bg7 Kb5 68.Bd4 Kc6 69.Rh8 Kb5 70.Rh6 Ka5 71.Be5 Kb5 72.Bd4 Ka5 73.Rg6 Kb5 74.Bf2 Ka5 75.Bh4 Kb5 76.Bf2 Ka5 77.Kd4 Kb5 78.Ke5 Ka5 79.Bd4 Kb5 80.Rg1**

[80.Rh6 Ka5 81.Ke4 Kb5 would not lead to any progress for White, so it would remain a positional draw.]



Tired of passive defense, Sulava uses the first possible opportunity to defend actively: **80...Kc4! 81.Rg7**

[81.Ke4 would be met by Nc3+!=] **81...Kd3!** With only several seconds on the clock, Black decides to go all-in. His knights lose protection, but he banks on the power of his passed pawn. **82.Rb7 f3 83.Rf7**

[Alternatively, 83.Ra7 Ke2 84.Ra2+ Kd3 85.Ra3+ Ke2 86.Ke4

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a b c d e f g h



With this move, Black forces further simplifications and draw is inevitable.

85.Bxe3

[or 85.Rxf2 Ng4+ 86.Kf5 Nxf2
87.Bxf2=]

85...Kxe3 86.Rxf2 Kxf2

1/2



Khalifman,Alexander

2628



Leko,Peter

2701

Budapest m (3)

05.01.2000

runs into a very nice tactic: Nf6+!

87.Bxf6) 98.Lg5 O-O 87...Nc4
88.Ra2+ Nd2+ 89.Kd5 f2 90.Ra1
f1Q 91.Rxf1 Nxf1=]

83...Ne3!? I was impressed with
Sulava's handling of knights in this
endgame,

[although Black could also simplify
matters with: 83...Ke2 84.Ke4 Nc3+
85.Bxc3 f2=]

84.Bxb6

[84.Rxf3 Nbc4+=]

84...f2!

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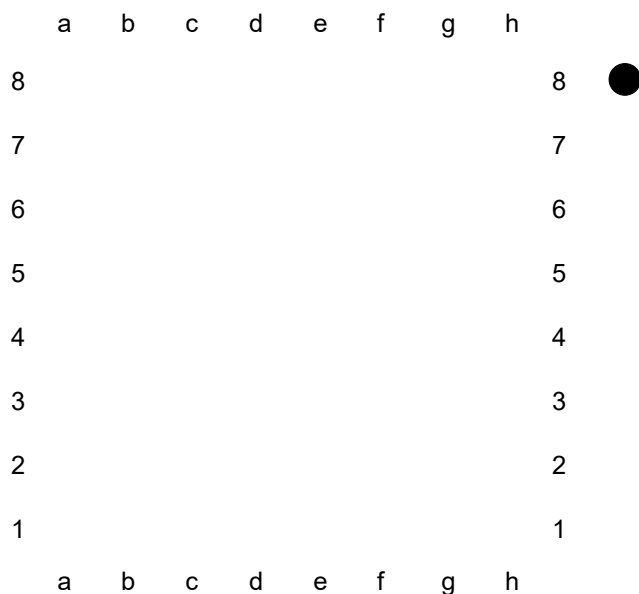


The next game is very interesting not
only from a practical, but also theoretical
point of view. It was not easy to make
correct endgame decisions involving
simplification even for a world-class
player and resilient defender like Peter
Leko.

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a b c d e f g h



A) Direct attack with 32.Rb8 Kg7 33.Rxf8 gives Black an opportunity to liquidate into a drawn endgame with: Ne4+ 34.Kf3 Kxf8 35.Kxg4

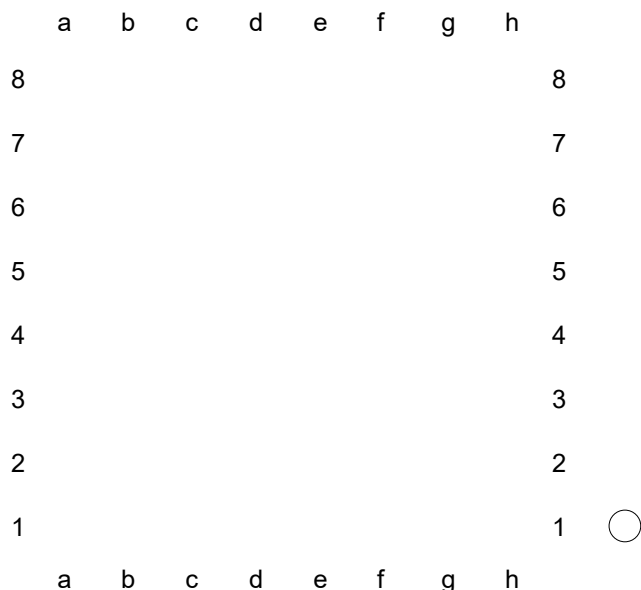


Nxd2 Interestingly, even a piece
down endgame after: 46 Og3
47 Lg4 O i 2 48 Lh3 Lg8 49 L i 2

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4									4
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	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

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though. 34.Re1! This is the critical attempt.) 45.Sc9 Lh8 45.Cf2 Sg5 and 45.Lh4 Sf5 are all harmless. 34...Rh3+! This intermediate check allows Black to interfere with the rook on the e-file.) 45.Cc5 on the other hand, loses after: 46.Sf7 e4 47.Sc8 . 35.Kg4 Re3

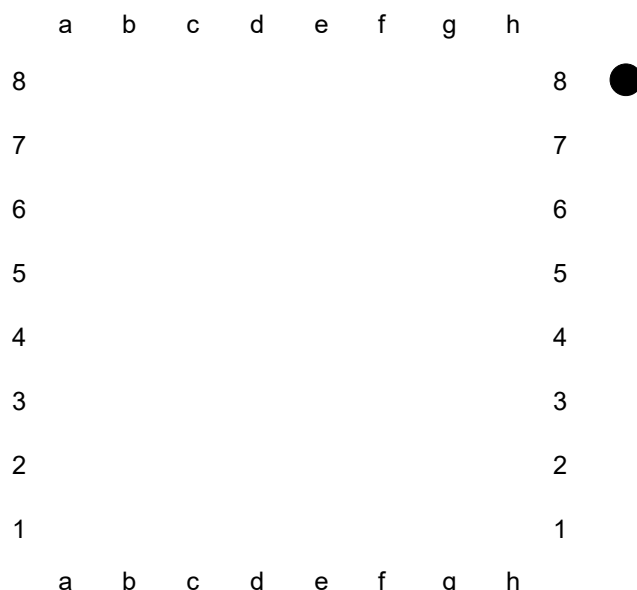


and after the exchange of rooks, Black's drawing chances increase significantly. 36.Rxe3 dxe3

B1) White can avoid the bishop trade with: 37.Bc3+ Kg8 but he would have difficulties trying to win the e3-pawn in that case: 38.Kf3)or 49.Sf6 Od8 4.Sf4 Oe6 simplifying into an easily drawn R+p vs B+2p endgame. 51.Se4 O d4 52.S d4 38...Bc5=;
B2) 37.Bxf8 Nxf8 38.Rb7 Ne6 39.Kf3 Ng5+ 40.Kxe3 Kg8 41.Kf4 Nf7= and this endgame is a draw, as we have seen before.]

The following sequence, while not completely forced, is quite logical:

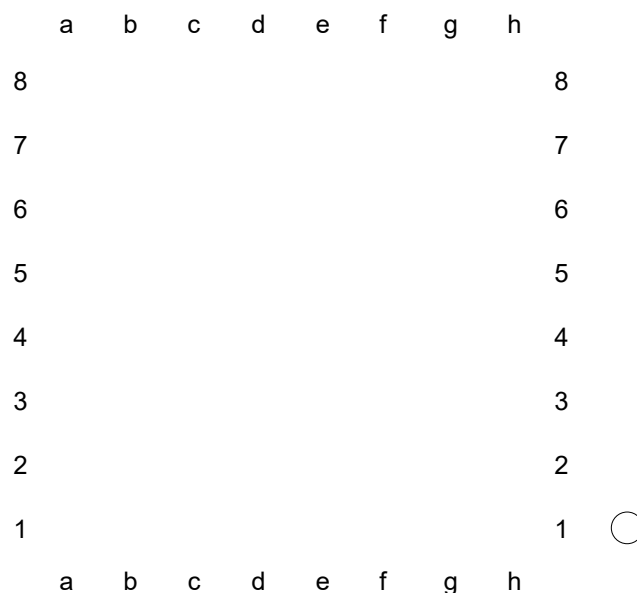
32.Kf3 Nd3 33.Rd5 Bg7 34.Rf1 Ne5+ 35.Kg3 Nc4 36.Re1!



This time around, trade of rooks is in White's favor. Leko's response is quite human: **36...Ne3** - he aims to simplify the position by sacrificing a pawn, counting that the resulting R+2p vs B+2p endgame with pawns on the same flank is a theoretical draw.

[Avoiding simplifications with 36...Ra8 hardly brings Black any benefits. After 37.Bf4 Ra3+ 38.Kf2 Ra2+ 39.Re2 all white pieces are active and he should be gradually winning.]

37.Bxe3 dxe3 38.Kf3 Bh6 39.g5 Bg7 40.Rxe3 Rxe3+ 41.Kxe3 Kg8



By force, we reached a slightly controversial endgame. I believe that a brief exposition of historical facts is required to explain it. Firstly, it is well-known and documented that a similar endgame where black pawns are on g6 and h5 is a theoretical draw. However, the endgame with white pawn on g5 has not been properly analyzed in some of the more popular endgame manuals in the past. It was either omitted (Averbakh) or incorrectly assessed as a theoretical draw (Portisch & Sarkozy). Perhaps some of the 'blame' for this goes to the game Ljubojevic-Keene, 1971, in which Keene (the stronger side) failed to achieve progress (he never pushed h4-h5) and draw was agreed. However, in the meantime, the plan with h4-h5 has been implemented successfully in two games: Estevez -Zaichik, 1987, 1-0 and a more high-profile game Wolff - Browne, 1992, 1-0. These developments may have enticed American-Israeli composer and problemist Noam Elkies to revisit the well-known R vs B endgame with g5 vs h7 pawn (to be discussed below) in 1993. He proved that this endgame is winning for White, contrary to the previous conclusion by Paul Keres that it is a draw. The game between Khalifman and Leko was played 7 years after Elkies' discovery and it might be possible that both players were not aware of it at the time

because it hasn't been referenced in endgame books until 'Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual' in 2006. There, Dvoretsky links the basic Elkies position with Khalifman-Leko game and makes the final verdict for this endgame: White is winning! **42.Rd8+ Kf7 43.Rd7+ Kg8 44.h4 Bb2 45.Kf3 Bg7!** Leko defends the best way, keeping the option to simplify with ...h7-h6.

[In practice, most people would just leave the bishop on the long diagonal 45...Bc3, allowing White to simply transpose into Elkies position after: 46.Kg4 Bb2 47.h5 gxh5+ 48.Kxh5 Ba3 You can see the full analysis of this theoretical position in the line: 46.Kf4 Bf8 47.Kg4 Bb4.]

46.Kf4 Bf8

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4									4
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1									1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

White should push h4-h5, but the ex-FIDE World champion rushes it: **47.h5?** which allows Black to set up a fortress, as we will see shortly.

[It was necessary to prepare the pawn push with 47.Kg4



and now we have a critical position. Black can either allow 48.h5 or prevent it by pushing his own h-pawn.

A) The least critical choice is 47...Bg7 when 48.h5 gxh5+ 49.Kxh5



leads to a simply winning position because the bishop is not placed well on g7. Bf8)5 Cc3 61 Li7 . 50.g6! h6)61 i h7 62 L h7 . and the king can not run

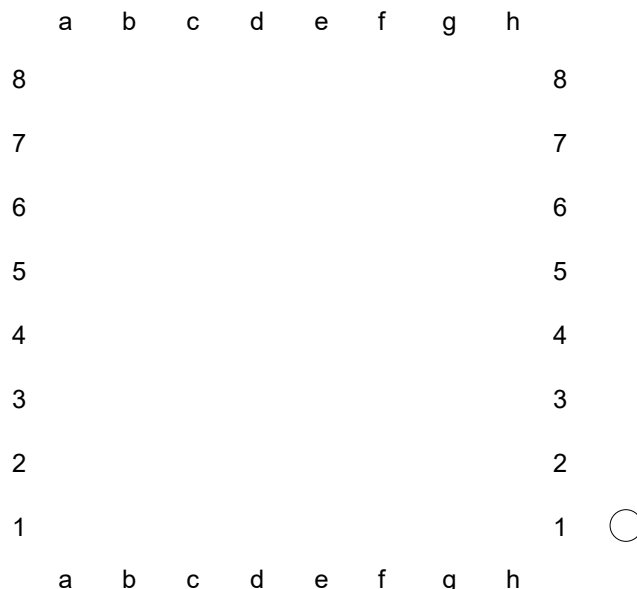
toward the center because his own bishop is in the way. 51.Rd8 Kg7 52.Rxf8 Kxf8 53.Kxh6 Kg8 54.g7+-;

B) 47...h6 weakens g6-pawn and White can immediately take advantage of it with: 48.Kf4 Ba3)59 Ch8 allows favorable transposition into pawn endgame with: 5 S h8 L h8 61 Lf6 . 49.gxh6 Bc1+ 50.Ke5 Bxh6 51.Kf6 Bc1 52.Kxg6+-;

C) A more challenging h-pawn move is 47...h5+!? when White has to be careful as only

C1) 48.gxh6? is obviously a draw after Bxh6 49.h5 gxh5+ 50.Kxh5 Bc1 51.Kg6 Kf8= and black king escapes from the wrong corner.;

C2) However, the most natural continuation 48.Kf4? does not work because after Ba3! 49.Rb7)5 Lf5 would allow Black to set up the well-known fortress with Cc3 Black has a check: 49...Bd6+!



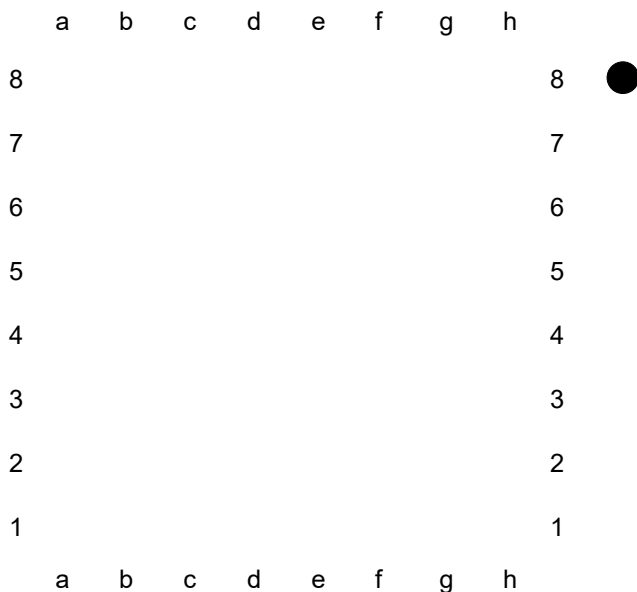
which forces White to allow access to a1-h8 diagonal, or else he loses the h4-pawn: 50.Kf3) 61 Lf5 Ch4 50...Be5=; **C3)** 48.Kf3! as pointed out by GM Sergey Shipov, works for White. 48...Bb4 Black has to stretch his bishop to reach the long diagonal.)The point is that he can not put his bishop on the desired a1-h8 diagonal immediately because White wins the pawn endgame after:

59 Ch8 5 S h8 L h8
61 Lf5 Lg8 62Le6 .

due to diagonal opposition.

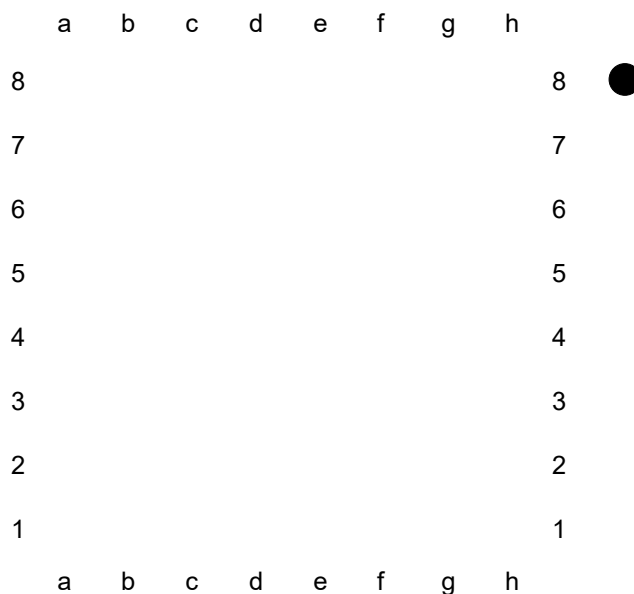
In case of 59 Cb4 5 Sc8 Ce7 is not a check, so White wins with 61 Sc7 . 49.Rd3!!

)Shipov's suggestion 5 Sd8 Cf 2 61 Sd5 works, too, although it is a bit time-consuming to defend the h4-pawn. With 49. Rd3, White can make progress without having to defend it.



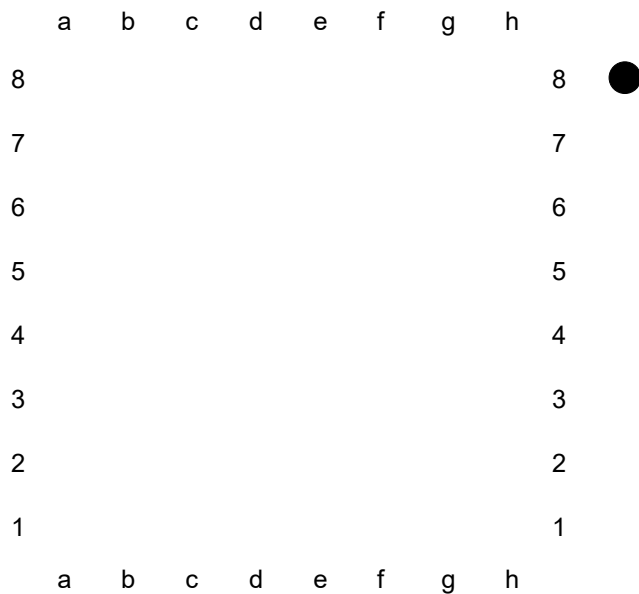
This strong move allows the rook to dominate black bishop so that

it can not reach the long diagonal. We will see this key domination motif in Elkies's study, as well. 49...Be1) 5 Cg9 61 Lf5 Ch8 62 Se9 Li 8 63 Se8 Lh9 64 S h8 L h8 65 Lf6 . 50.Kf4! White can afford to give up the h-pawn because the bishop will be misplaced on h4. Bxh4 51.Rh3 Be1 52.Ke5 Kf7 53.Rb3!



Rook dominates the bishop along the third rank, similar to the Philidor position in R+B vs R endgame. Black can not prevent decisive intrusion of white king to f6 any more: h4 54.Rb7+ Kg8 55.Kf6 h3 56.Kxg6 Kf8 57.Rh7+-;

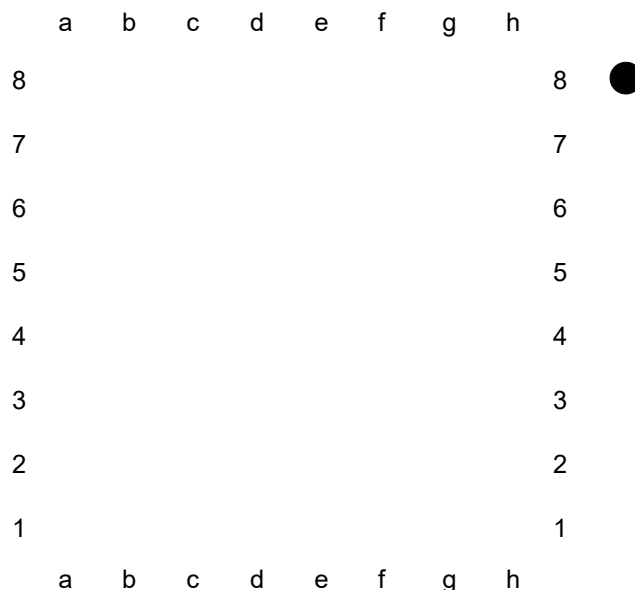
D) 47...Bb4 48.h5 gxh5+ 49.Kxh5



After the trade of g- for h-pawn, we have reached an important endgame position that has been considered to be a draw by Keres and, a bit later, also by Panchenko in his 'Theory and Practice of Chess Endings'. The position seems deceptively simple because it appears like Black can easily hold a fortress by keeping his bishop on a3-f8 diagonal if white king threatens to penetrate via h6, and on a1-h8 diagonal if it tries to penetrate via f6. However, Elkies has proved that by a combination of: 1. leaving the king on g4 to threaten both Kf5-f6 and Kh5-h6 and 2. wise rook maneuvering on the 3rd, 5th and 7th rank, White can methodically take away useful squares from black bishop. Basically, White will use the well-known 'two weaknesses' endgame strategy in a sophisticated way. Let us see the proof: Ba3 This is the most flexible square for the bishop. It should stay away from f8 and g7 because in that case g5-g6 break leads to an elementary winning R vs B endgame. 50.Rd3.

D1) because 50...Bb2

would allow White to take control of the seventh rank by force: 51.Rd8+! Kg7 52.Rd7+



and here White wins after: Kh8)or 63 Lh9 64 Li7 . 53.g6!)64 Li7 Ch8 53...h6 54.Kxh6 Bg7+ 55.Kh5 Bb2 56.g7+ Kh7 57.Rf7! This is an elementary winning method in this endgame. Bc3 58.g8Q+ Kxg8 59.Kg6+-;

D2) 50...Bb4 Black needs to remain flexible with his bishop, 51.Rb3 Bd6)It is also important to have in mind the winning sequence in case of: 62 Cg9 63 Sc9 Lh8 64 Sc8 Lh9 65 h7 i7 66 Sc9 Lh8 67 S g9 L g9 68 L i7 Lh9 69 h8 . 62 Cd6 63 Lh5 Ce7 64 Sc6 Cd8 65 Se6 transposes to the main line of analysis below.



a b c d e f g h

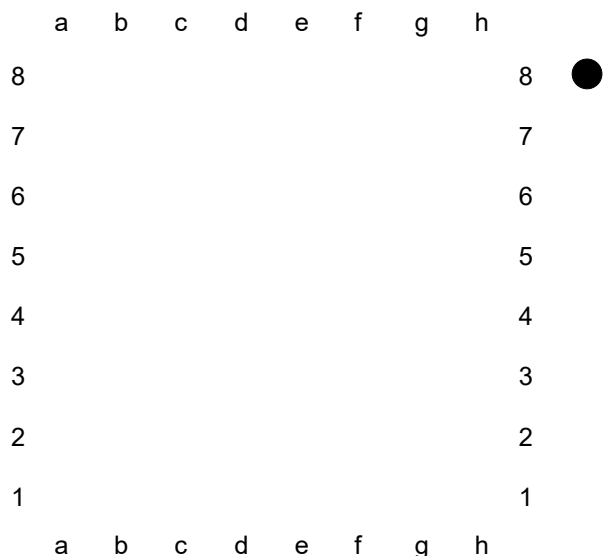
We have reached the original position from Elkies's study. I provide his analysis (via Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual) below for readers to explore. 52.Kg4 White king assumes the most flexible position.

D2a) 52...Bc5 53.Rb5! Taking away useful squares b2 and c5 from the bishop. Bd4

) 64 Cb4 65 Lg6 . 64 Ce7 65 Lg6 Cd8

66 Se6 . 54.Kh5 Bg7 55.Rb8+ Kf7 56.Rb7+ Kg8 57.g6+-;

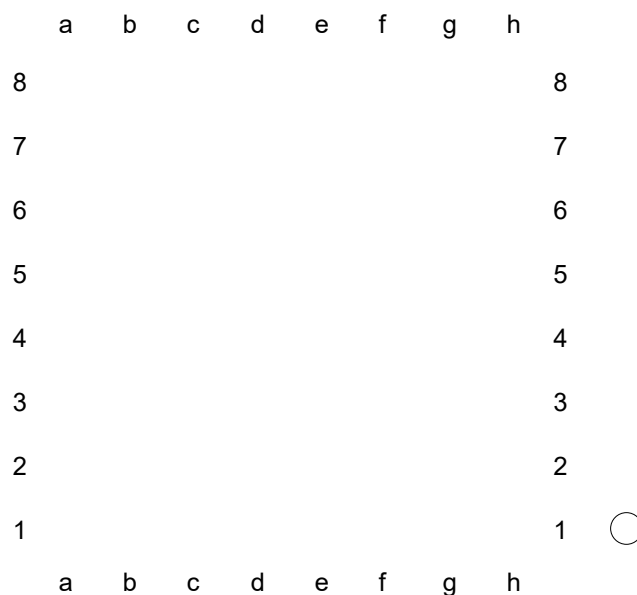
D2b) 52...Bf8 53.Kf5 Bc5 54.Rd3!



a b c d e f g h

This is the key move. White rook is perfectly placed on d3 as it takes away virtually all active squares from the bishop: a3, c3, d4, d6. In order to defend against 55.Kf6, Black needs to resort to passivity, which is usually equivalent to signing a death sentence in R vs B endgames. Bb4)Alternatively, after 65 Cf8 White wins with:

66 Sd4 Cc5 67 Sd9 Lg8 68 Sd8 Cf8 69 Sc8 Lg8 6 Lh5 . 55.Kf6 Ba5 56.Rb3! Bd8+) 67 Cd8 68 Sc6 Ce9 69 Lf7 Lh8 6 Le8 . is a fantastic example of domination of White pieces over black bishop. 57.Kf5 Ba5) 68 Cd8 69 Sc6 puts Black in zugzwang.



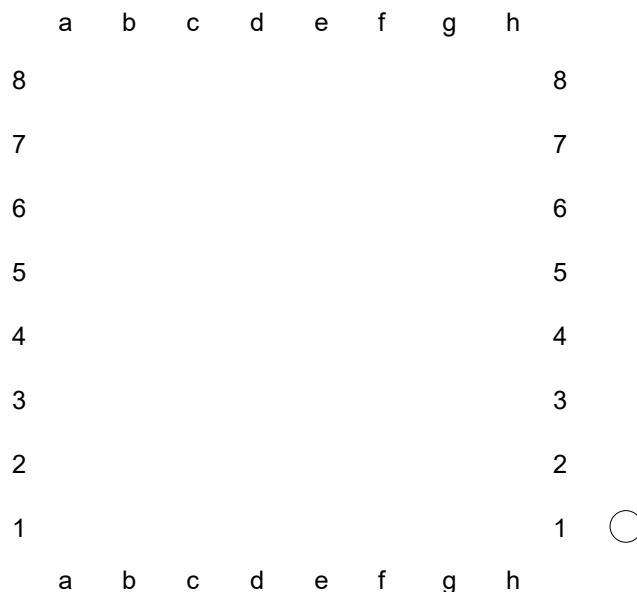
a b c d e f g h

and now that the bishop has been sidelined, White attacks the 'second weakness' - the h6-square: 58.Kg4 Bc7 (58...Bd2 allows: 59.Kh5 Bf4 60.Rd3 Be5 61.Rd7 Kh8 62.g6!+-) 59.Rb5! Once again, the bishop is being completely dominated. (59.Kh5?! Bd6) 59...Bd6 60.Kf5! The bishop can not control both h6 and f6, so White sends his king back to f6. Bc7 61.Rd5!



This is the final move of the study. There is no way to prevent Kf5-f6 any more! We can take it a few moves further: Bb6 62.Kf6 Bc7 63.Rd7 Bb6 64.Rg7+! Kh8 65.Kf7+-]

47...gxh5 48.Kg3 White will get his pawn back, but the problem is that Black can now play: **48...h6! 49.g6 Ba3 50.Kh4 Bc1 51.Kxh5 Bg5**



and this position is a theoretical draw! At first, it seems like White has made progress by pushing the pawn to g6, compared to Elkies position. However, there are two downsides to this: 1. it is not possible to play for two weaknesses any more as f6 is the only penetration route now; and 2. Black has a 'safe' square for the bishop on g5, which is extremely important in R vs B endgames.

□ **Bg5**

54.Ke6 Bh4 55.R 7

[In case of 55.g7 Black holds the

7

) **68.Lf7 Lh9**

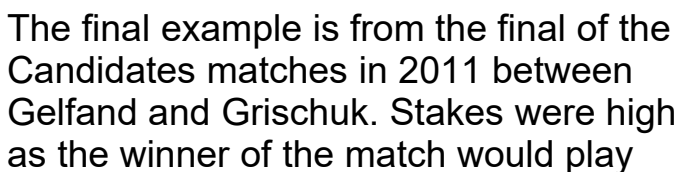
Kxg8 59.Kg6 Bg5=]

White tries his last chance:

56.g7!? h5!

[56. .Kxh7?? 57

57.Rxh5

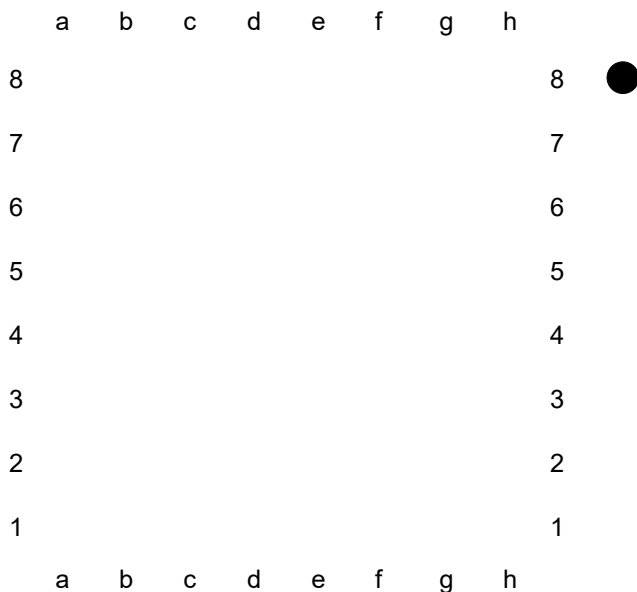


We have another complex endgame with imbalanced material on the board. Black is clearly playing for a win because two centralized and well-coordinated pieces usually trump a rook. An exciting facet of this position is that both sides have relatively far advanced outside passed pawns. All this makes the position very tactically rich, so even one mistake by either side could have serious consequences. White's chances for successful defense definitely lie in simplification of position. If he could somehow trade his h- for black a-pawn and sacrifice an exchange for one of black minor pieces and a pawn, he would reach a theoretically drawn

endgame R+minor piece vs R. Grischuk played **43...Nd4+** which has been criticized with a '?' mark by Mikhalchishin and Stetsko in 'Mastering Complex Endgames'. However, I do not think that this move is so bad in itself because Black still keeps some winning chances with it, but only if he follows it up with a precise sequence that prevents the liquidation of his minor pieces.

[It was suggested that Black should have continued: 43...a3!? which indeed puts White under a serious test. The best move is far from obvious

A) In case of the straightforward 44.h6 a2 45.Ra1) 56 i 8 loses to Oh6 57 Lg5 O i 8 58 Si 7 Cf 7 59 Sb5 Oo. 45...Bb5 46.h7 as analyzed by Sergey Shipov, Black wins thanks to the knight fork: Ng5+ 47.Ke3 Nxh7 which is the reason why White should play 44. Kg3 in the first place. Now the line continues: 48.Rc3 Ng5 49.Ra3

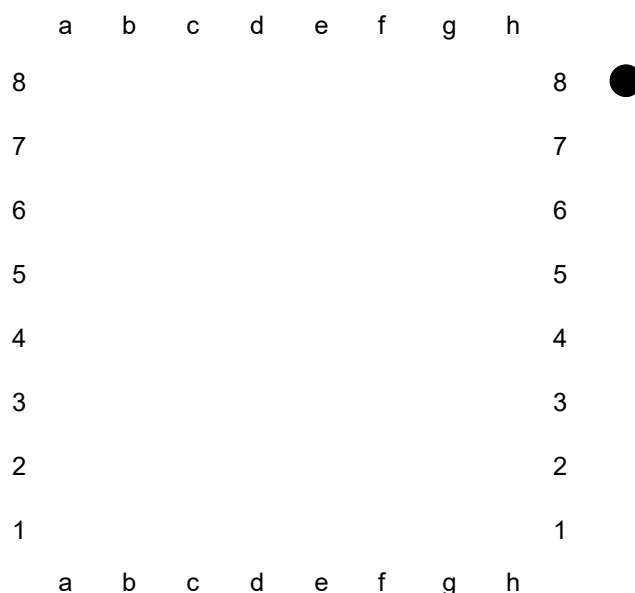


when White threatens to eliminate the a-pawn, while also defending

his vulnerable d-pawn. However, Black demonstrates the power of united minor pieces with the following sequence: Rh2! 50.R1xa2 Rh3+ 51.Kf4)or 62 Le3 Og4 63 Ld4 Of 6. and d-pawn falls. 51...Ne6+ 52.Kg4 Re3!

Black avoids simplification)which would give White excellent drawing chances in case of:

63 S e4 64 S e4 C e4 65 Lg5 53.Rd2



and Black achieves complete positional domination by including his king in the action: Ke5-+ and the fall of d3-pawn is only a matter of time.;

B) 44.Kg3!



The idea is to prevent ...Ng5+ fork when white pawn reaches h7. Sometimes, the king can also be useful on g3 to prevent Black from putting his rook behind the h-pawn.

B1) Additionally, 44...Ng5!?



is another serious attempt to play for a win. White should continue pushing the pawn: 45.h6

)because 56 Sb2 fails to Sc4 57 Lg5 Oi4 58 Lf4 Cc6.

and Black is winning. One entertaining variation is: 59 i7 C d5 5 i8 S e4 61 Lf3



Oh6 62 i9R Si4 . 45...a2 46.Rcc1 Bb5 and here White needs to thread very carefully:

B1a) Instead, 47.h7 Nxh7 48.Rh6+



is met by a spectacular knight interference: Nf6!!)59 Lf6 allows White to escape after:

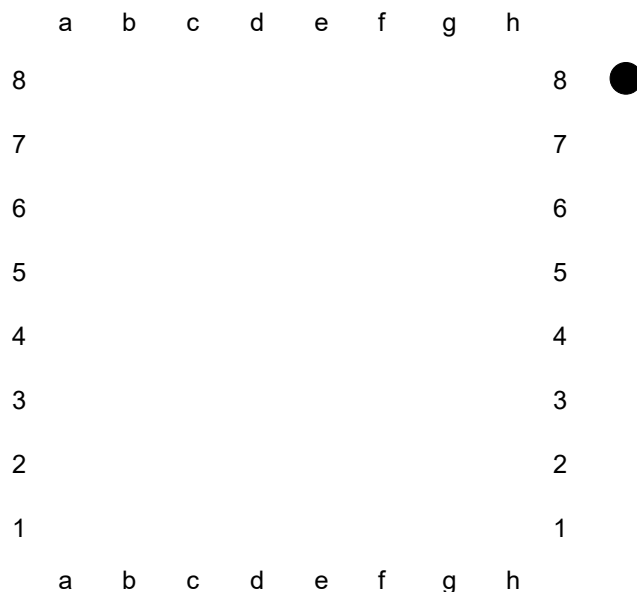
5 S i8 Sc2 61 S d6 Le5 62 Se6 Lf4 63 Sb8 49.Rxf6+ Ke7 50.Rff1

with the king: 56 *Lf6* 57 *i7*
Lg7 58 *Sd4* *Lh7* is too slow as
 White has time to capture the a-
 passer. 59 *Sb4* 46.*Rc3* *Nf8*
 47.*h6* *Be6*



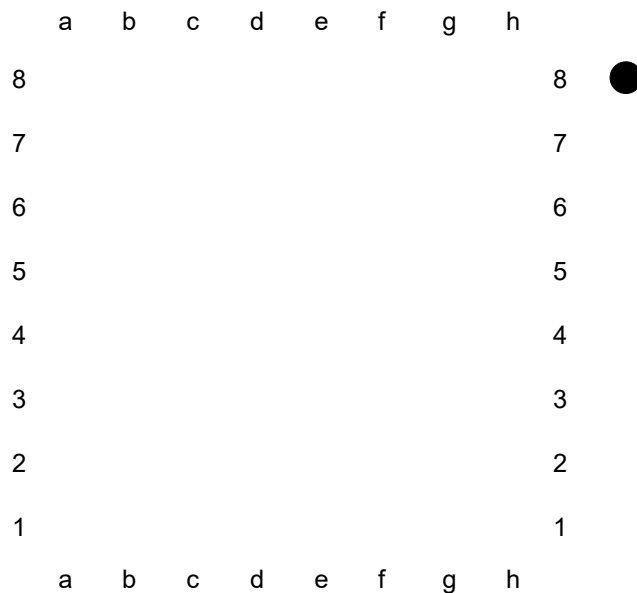
This is probably the maximum that Black can achieve in this variation. He prevented simplification, secured his strong a-pawn and blocked opponent's passed pawn. Yet, it is still very unclear whether he can actually win this position. For example, after: 48.*Ra3* *Ke5* 49.*Rc1!* *Kd4* 50.*Ra4+* *Kxd3* 51.*Rxc5* the rook breaks free and the most likely result is a draw because White should be able to simplify the position in one way or another.]

44.Ke3



However, Grischuk's next move **44...Be6?** is definitely a mistake because it allows White to favorably simplify the position in more than one way.

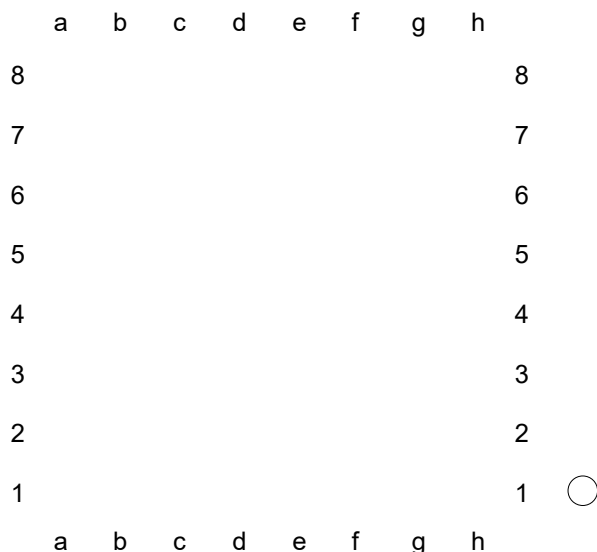
[44...Bb5 would have been similarly ineffective due to 45.*Rxd4+!*? *cxtd4+* 46.*Kxd4*



and White just needs to eliminate last black pawn to get into the safety zone. This is not difficult to do with the well-supported h-passer. For example: *Rb3*)or 57 *b4* 58 *i7* *b3* 59 *Sb2* *Si3* 5 *i8* *Si4* 61 *f6* *Lf7*

62.S b3 47.e5+ Kc6 48.h6 Rxd3+
49.Ke4 Rd7 50.e6! Rh7 51.Kf5 a3
52.Ra1=]

[However, Black had a way to prolong
the fight for full point: 44...Re2+!

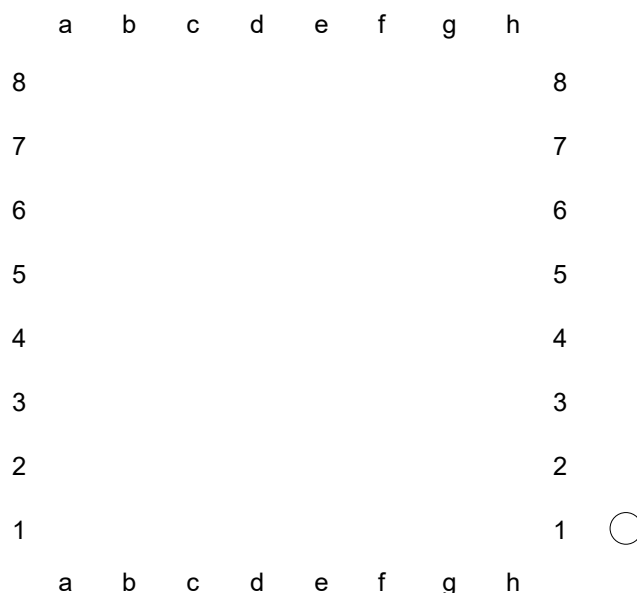


45.Kf4 Rf2+ 46.Ke3 White should
keep his king close to the vulnerable d-
pawn)because in case of 57.Lh4 Sg
58.i7 Black wins with Cc6 59.i8 C d5
5 e d5 Si 9. 46...Rf3+ Now the
White king has to back off from the d4-
knight, which eliminates the possibility
of simplification combinations. 47.Kd2
a3 The pawn race can start! 48.h6 a2
49.h7 Rf8



This is the critical position. The
only move that keeps White in the
game is

A) White would go wrong by
playing another apparently
sensible move 50.Rc3 when Black
has a beautiful winning
combination: Rf2+ 51.Ke3 Rf3+
52.Kd2 Rh3!!



Stunning. White is lost now
whatever he does. The
most beautiful variation
arises after:

53.Rxh3) 64.Sdd2 is met by: S i 8
65.S i 8 Oc4 66.Ld3 O d2
67.Lc3 Cf7. 53...a1Q
54.h8Q and Black launches a
mating attack: Qb2+ 55.Ke3 Qe2+
56.Kf4 Qf2+ 57.Kg5 Ne6+
58.Kh6 Qf4+ 59.Kh7



a b c d e f g h

which culminates with a quiet move:
Ke7!!-+ and White has no good
defense against 60...Nf8+, followed
by 61...Qf7 checkmate!;

B) 50.Rh6+! Ke5 51.Ra6
and after the forced line: Rf2+
52.Ke1 Rh2 53.Rxa2 Rxh7
54.Rxc5+ Kf4↑



a b c d e f g h

White should still sweat a lot to
achieve a draw because his king
may run into a mating net.]

45.e5+! This is probably the simplest (no
pun intended!) way to simplify into a
basically drawn endgame,

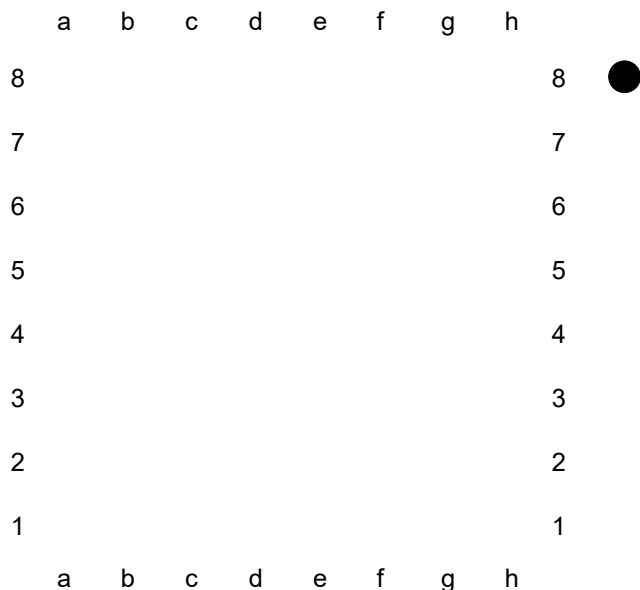
[although 45.Rxa4!? Ke5 46.Rxd4
cxd4+ 47.Kf3



a b c d e f g h

would also get the job done. Black has
no convenient way to stop the h-pawn
and prevent simplification, as we can
see in following variations: Rb8)and:
58 Se3 59 i 7 S e4 5 Lg8 Ch9
61 i 8 C i 8 62 S i 8 L f 5
63 L f 3 48.h6 Rf8+ 49.Ke2 Bg4+
50.Kd2 Rh8 51.h7 Kf6 52.Rh6+
Kg7 53.Rd6=]

**45...Kxe5 46.Rxc5+ Bd5 47.Rxd5+
Kxd5 48.h6**



a b c d e f g h

Like in the 45.Rxa4 line, Black can not simultaneously stop the h-pawn and keep his last pawn on the board.

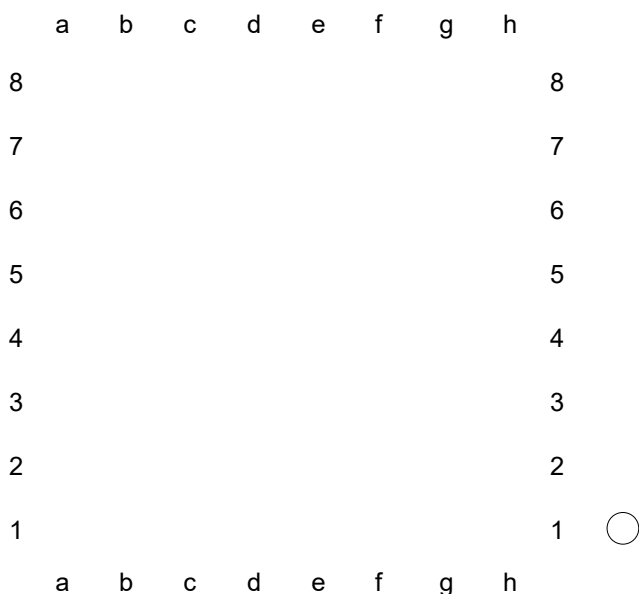
Simplification is imminent. **48...Re2+**

[48...Nf5+ 49.Kf3 Rb8 50.h7 Rh8 51.Rh5 Ke6 52.Kf4 Ng7 53.Ra5 Rxh7 54.Kg4!=]

49.Kf4 Ne6+

[49...Re8 50.Rh5+ Kc6 51.Ra5 Ne2+ 52.Kf5 Nc3 53.h7 Rh8 54.Kg6 Kb6 55.Rxa4 Nxa4 56.Kg7=]

50.Kg3 Nf8



Gelfand decided to go for a drawn rook endgame with **51.h7**

[which is much more practical than playing a R+N vs R endgame after 51.Ra1 Re6 52.Rxa4 Rxh6=]

51...Nxb7 52.Rxb7 a3 53.Kf3 Re1

54.Ra7 Ra1 55.Ke3 a2 56.Ra5+!

making some space for the king on d4.

56...Kc6 57.Kd4 Kb6 58.Ra8 Kb7

Conclusion: · Simplification is a method of reducing the number of pieces on the board with a specific purpose, that can be used both as a defensive and winning strategy. · Goal of simplification

as a defensive strategy is to reduce the number of opponent's fighting units, and thus his winning chances. · Considering the importance of pawns in endgames, the defender is usually well-advised to reduce the number of opponent's pawns, whether through exchange or sacrifice. ·

The defender should welcome simplification because many pawnless endgames are drawn, either due to insufficient mating material (K+N/B vs K) or theoretically drawn (e.g. R+B/N vs R).

· Besides draw to insufficient mating material and theoretical draw, there are several other drawing scenarios that facilitate defense in endgames: positional draw, 50 move-rule, and stalemate. · Knowledge of basic theoretical and positional draws is essential for every aspiring chess player because it allows us to foresee favorable simplifications in positions which seem difficult or tiresome to defend. · A usual sign that a position gravitates toward a draw is when piece exchanges increase defender's drawing chances significantly. · When your opponent has a dangerous passed pawn, your main goal should be to eliminate it, even if it costs some extra material. ·

For the stronger side, it is sometimes better to allow material concessions in order to avoid forced simplifications, and thus keep some winning chances. ·

Some decisions that involve simplification are not so straightforward because it is may not be easy to foresee drawing resources or accurately assess the arising positions. In such cases, it is not enough to rely just on basic guidelines; precise calculation of variations is the key.

1/2

Understand the English Hedgehog - Part 1

<input type="checkbox"/>	Velikov, Petar	2470
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ribli, Zoltan	2590

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.g3 b6
5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 Be7 7.d4 cxd4
8.Qxd4 d6 9.Rd1 a6 10.b3 Nbd7 11.e4
Qb8 The reasons why the more natural
11...Qc7 is not the

12.Bb2 0-0
13.Qe3 Re8 14.Nd4 Bf8 15.Qd2
Qa7 16.Re1 Rad8 17.Rad1 Nc5
18.h3 Qa8



19.Qc2 g6

20.f3

20...Bg7!?

21.Kh2 h5 22.h4 Qb8

23.Qd2 Ncd7!

24.Nc2

24...Ne5

25.Ne3



b5!

27.Nxb5

26.cxb5 axb5

**36.Qc3 Qa7 37.Qc2 Qd7
38.Re2 Rd1 39.Qe4 Qa7 40.Rg2
41.Qc5 Qxg4?**

27...Bxe4

**28.Qe2
Nxf3+ 29.Bxf3 Bxf3 30.Qxf3 Ng4+!**

**31.Nxg4 hxg4 32.Qe2 Bxb2 33.Nxd6
Rxd6 34.Qxb2 Red8 35.Rxd6 Rxd6**

41...Qc1

**42.Rf2 Rh1+ 43.Kg2 Qg1+
44.Kf3 Qd1+ 45.Kf4?**



45...e5+ 46.Kg5 Qc1+ 47.Kf6 Qc6+
48.Kg5 Kg7 49.Qc4 f6+

0-1

<input type="checkbox"/>	Miles,Anthony J	2560
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adorjan,Andras	2525

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.g3 b6 4.Bg2
Bb7 5.0-0 e6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.d4 cxd4
8.Qxd4 d6 9.b3 0-0 10.Ba3 Na6!
11.Rfd1 Nc5 12.Rac1 a6 13.b4 Ncd7
14.Bb2 Qb8 15.Nd2

15...Bxg2 16.Kxg2 Rc8
17.f3

17...b5!

18.cxb5

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18...axb5 19.Qd3

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♞

21.e4

21...Qe3

22.Qf1



19...Ne5! 20.Qxb5 Qa7

♞

♞

22...g5!?

26...g4! 27.f4

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27...Nxe4 28.Nef1 Nxd2

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29.Rxd2 Rxd2 30.Nxd2 Nf3 31.Qc4
Rxd2+ 32.Kf1 Bf6

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Skembris,Spyridon	2525
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marin,Mihail	2520

○

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5
3.g3 b6 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0-0 e6 6.Nc3
a6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 d6 9.b3 Nbd7
10.Bb2 Be7 11.Rfd1 0-0 12.Nd2 Bxg2
13.Kxg2 Qc7 14.f3 Rfd8 15.e4 Qb7

23.Rc2?

23...Rxa2!-+ 24.Nd5

24...Rxc2! 25.Nxe3 Rcxb2 26.Qe2

○

16.a4

21...b5!!

18.Nf1 Ne5!
16...Bf8 17.Rab1 Rac8

knight closer to White's
kingside weaknesses on the light
squares.]

19.Ne3 g6 20.h3 Bg7

22.axb5 axb5
23.Nxb5

21.Qd2



23...Nxe4?

24.Qe2!

24...Nc5

25.Bxe5!?

**25...Bxe5 26.Ng4 Ra8 27.b4 Na4
28.Nxe5 dxe5 29.Qxe5+-**

**29...Nb6
30.Rxd8+ Rxd8 31.Nd6 Qa6 32.c5
Nd5 33.Rb2 Ra8 34.h4 h5 35.Ne4
Qb5 36.Nf6+ Nxf6 37.Qxf6 Ra1
38.Rf2 Rc1 39.Qd8+ Kh7 40.Qf8 Qd7
41.Ra2 e5 42.Re2 Qd1 43.Qxf7+ Kh6
44.Qf8+ Kh7 45.Qe7+ Kh6 46.Qg5+
Kh7
1/2**

 Uhlmann,Wolfgang
 Ljubojevic,Ljubomir

2535 33.Bc4 Rc2 34.Bb3 Rb2 35.Kg2
 2615 Rdd2 36.Nd3 Rxb3 37.Nxc5 Rxf3
 0-1

 Espig,Lutz 2415
 Shipov,Sergei 2510



20.Bf1

20...Nbc4!

21.Nxc4

♣

34...Nde5! 35.Qb1

21...Bg5!♣

35...Nc4♣

22.Nxe5 Bxf4 23.Nxc6 Bxc1 24.Nxb8
 Bxb2 25.Nxb5 Rcx8 26.Rb1 Bxa3
 27.Rb3 Bc1 28.Nxd6 Ra4 29.b5 Ba3
 30.Nc4 Bc5 31.Ne5 Ra2 32.Rf3 Rd8

36.Nxc6 Nxb2 37.e5 Nxd1 38.Qxd1

38...Rxc6 39.exf6 Qc8 40.Bxc6
Qxc6+ 41.Ne4 Qxe4+!
0-1

<input type="checkbox"/>	Spiridonov,Nikola	2420
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shipov,Sergei	2510

<input type="checkbox"/>	Gorshkov,Yury S	2320
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Suba,Mihai	2379

0-1

0-1

Kortschnoj, Viktor Lvovich **2635**

Adorjan, Andras **2555**

d5!

23.e5

23...Nd7 24.Qe2

21...b5!

22.cxb5

24...Rc5! 25.a4

25...Rdc8 26.Qe3 Qb8! 27.f4 Qb6!

28.Kg2 axb5

29.Kh3

29...R5c6! 30.Qxb6 Nxb6 31.a5

Rxc3 32.axb6?

32...b4!-+ 33.Kg4

33...Kh7! 34.Rxc3

34...bxc3 35.Rc1

35...d4 36.Kf3 d3 37.b7 d2!

38.bxc8Q dxc1Q 39.Qc4 Qd1+ 0-1

Understand the Najdorf Structures - Part 2

Structure 1

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□ Maryasin,Boris Feliksovich 2340

■ Szabo,Krisztian 2508

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8...b5!

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Bf2! 19.Rxf2 Qxh4-+

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Qd7!

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18...Qe6 19.Nd5?!

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23.Rad1 ♣) 874
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24...Nf4 25.Bg5 Ng6 26.Qh5 Ng3+!

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Exercise

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+ Kxf8 22.Nxe4±) 7 4 ;

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Structure 2

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□ Janosevic,Dragoljub

■ Polugaevsky,Lev

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1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5
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Nxf6 13.Qd3 Rc8 14.0-0 0-0

15.Ng3 Qb6+ 16.Kh1 a5!↑

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7: 4: (14.Bxf6

Nxf6 15.Qd3 Qb6+ 16.Kh1 Rxc3!

17.bxc3 h4 18.Ne2 Bxe4 19.Qh3

Rh5!)

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Qxc5+ 19.Kh1 a4) 7 44 7?4 9

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6? 7??7 . /537

14...Bc6 15.Be3 Qc7

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16.c3 a5!

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4 18...Rac8

19.Rac1

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19...h6

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7?44 = 864 ; 874 :
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20.Qe2
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 : ' 8 4 8 8=4 7 9
 8 4 9 : 8?4 : : '
 964 : : 974 : ;
 984 8 : 994 : :
 9: 4 7 731
21...Bxa4! 22.bxa4 2
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 2
 way.

22...Qc6 23.Qd1 Rd8 24.Re1 Nc5
25.Bf2 Rdd7 26.h3 Rc8! 27.Kh2 Bd8!

= =
 ; ;
 : :
 9 9
 8 8
 7 7 ○
 -
 3 2 2
 2 4 -
28.Bxc5?
 2
 3 4
 2
 2
 4
 8 4 7 8?4 ; '
 (29...Nxb5 30. Qxb5 Nd3!
 31.Bxd3 Bxf2 32.Re2 Bd4
 33.Rf1) 30.Nxf6+ Bxf6
 31. Rb1]

28...dxc5 29.Qe2 Rd4-+

=
=
;
:
9
8
7

=
=
;
:
9
8
7

30.Rcd1 Qa6 31.Rxd4?

974 9
2
984 9 = 994 7
9: 4 7

0-1
Exercise

2
: 3; 4

31...cxd4

; 3
: 4 32.Bb3 Qb6 33.Rd1 Nd7 34.Nh1
Nc5 35.Nf2 Qc6 36.Qc2 Bg5!
4 37.g3 Be3
38.Nd3 Nxb3 39.axb3 Qxe4 40.Nxb4
Qf3 41.Nd3 e4 42.Ne5 Qxf5 43.Ng4
d3 44.Qg2 Bc5

=
=
;
:
9
8
7

14...Ncxe4! 15.Bxe4
7; 4 = 1
15...d5! 16.Bd3 e4!

4 17.Qg3 exd3 18.Qxd3
 2 .88?; /3 2 .8; 6/5
 7??7 .: /537 18...d4!
 4 19.Qxd4
 7?4 : ; 864 9 874 7
 : 884 8 894 9 31
 19...Qc7 2
 20.Kh1 Rad8 21.Qf2 Rfe8
 22.Bf4 Qc8↑

Structure 3

=3 =3 : 3 4 2
 4 4
 2 4
 - 4
 □ Rezan,Sasa 2430
 ■ Palac,Mladen 2571
 3 7 .8/ 874; 466?

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Be7
 8.Bb3 0-0 9.f4 b5 10.e5 dxe5
 11.fxe5 Nfd7 12.Bf4
 784 9'
 2 4 2
 ; 7; 4 9
 794 ; 7: 4
 (15...g6!?)
) 7 4 9
 17. ; 1' 7 4 ; ; 1
 7?4 9 91 864 9 ♣A
 2 .88?: /3 2 .8; ; /5
 3 866;
 . /537 ; 3
 2 2 9
 - 3
 ; 4
 2

13...b4 14.Nce2 Bb7 15.Rh3 Be4!

www.modern-chess.com

874 : 2
 884: ; ' 894 : =
 8: 4; ; ♣
19...Bxg2
 2 4 **20.Rh5**
 864: =31
20...Be4 21.Nxe4 Qxe4-+
 = =
 ; ;
 : :
 9 9
 8 8
 7 7 ○

22.Qb1 Qxb1+ 23.Rxb1 Bc5 24.Be3
Nd7 25.b4 Ba7 26.c4 a5 27.b5 Rfc8
28.Nc2 Rxc4 29.Bxa7 Rxa7 30.Ne3
Rc5 31.Rh4 Nxe5 32.Kf1 Rb7 33.Rd4
f6
0-1

Exercise

= ● =
 ; ;
 : :
 9 9
 8 8
 7 7

16...Bb4!
 93 82 2
 4 **17.Qe3**
 7=4; 9 7 4 9 ; ♣
17...Bxc3 18.bxc3
 7 4 9 ; 7?4: : '↑
18...Na5 19.Qf3 Rac8♣
 4

Structure 4

= =
 ; ;
 : :
 9 9
 8 8
 7 7 ○

4
 ; 3
 4 -
 83: 3; 4
 : 3 92
 4
 2 2
 4

Tissir, Mohamed **2388**
 Giri, Anish **2755**
 . /: 8 .747/ 684?467

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5
 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qf3 Qc7 10.Qg3 0-0
 11.Bh6 Ne8 12.Rfe1
 784 7
12...Bf6!

=
 ;
 :
 9
 8
 7

13.Nf3

794 7 ; '
 7: 4 : (14.f4 Bxd4+ 15.Rxd4
 Qa7-+; 14.Bf4 Bxf4 15.Qxf4 b4!
 16.Nce2 e5-+) 7: 44 : ' 7; 4 :
 ; 31
 794 9 2
 =
 = 7: 4 9 7; 4
 7 4 : ; 7=4 9 =fA
 2 .89=7/3 2 .8: 87/5 3
 8679 .; /537

13...Nc6 14.Rad1 Bb7

=
 ;
 :
 9
 8
 7

2
4 15.Bf4

Rd8 16.h4

2
 4 **16...Kh8! 17.Rd3**
 7=4 ; - 2
 ' 7 4

2
 7?4 9 (19.e5? dxe5
 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.Nxe5 Nxe5
 22.Qxe5 Qxe5 23.Rxe5 b4! 24.Ne2
 Rd1+ 25.Kh2 Ng4+-+) 7?44 =
 864 8 (20.e5? Nf5 21.exd6 Rxd6
 22.Qf4 Bxf3 23.Qxf3 Rfd8+)
 8644 ; (20...Ng6? 21.Bxe6!)
 874 9 884 9 ; f
17...Ne5! 2

-
 4 **18.Bxe5**
 7 4 ; ; 7?4 ; 2

18...dxe5 19.Rxd8

2
 3 2 2
 4

27?49 2
 (19...Nd6 20.Nxe5)
 864 7 9 874 9
19...Qxd8 20.Rd1
 864 ; : 874 9 ; 884 9
 (22.f4 Be7) 884 894 7
 =
20...Qc7 21.a3 g6!

=
 ;
 :
 9
 8
 7
 4

22.Ng5
 884 8
 ; (22...Ng7)
 23.g4!) 894 9
 ;

22...Bc8!
 2
 4
 884 894 ' -
 ; 8: 4 = 8; 4 =
 8 4 =

23.Qd3
 2 - 2
 4
 894: ' 2
 8: 4 9 : 8; 4 7 ; 8 4 8 ≠

23...Be7
 4 24.Qe2 Nf6 25.Rd3 h6 26.Nf3
Kg7

=3 ; 2 ;
 : 2
 2
 4
 2
 4 27.Nb1
 2
 4 27...Bc5!

=
 ;
 :
 9
 8
 7
 4
 8
 7
 9
 8
 7

28.Nh2
 8 4 8 : 31
28...a5
 8 4 ;
29.c3 Ba6 -
 4 30.Rf3 Qc6 31.Nd2?
 974 8 : 984 7 9 994 9
 31
31...a4!

974: 984 : : 994 :
32.Bc2 b4!

4 33.Qe1
 994 9 9 9: 4 9 9
 9; 4 9 931
33...bxa3 34.bxa3 Rd8 35.Ndf1

9; 4 7 ; 31

35...Bxa3-+ 36.Qa1 Bc5 37.Bxa4
Qxe4 38.Ng3 Qxh4 39.Bc6

=

;

:

9

8

7

=

;

:

9

8

7

4

0-1

Exercise

=

;

:

9

8

7

=

;

:

9

8

7

21...Rg8!

2

87444

3

4

-

=

;

:

9

8

7

2

-

=

;

:

9

8

7

4

4

884: = 894;

8: 4 9

22.f3

2 .89 6/3

2

.8: 6; /5

7?? . /537

-

884: ; '

-

894 9 (23.Qh6?? Rg6-+)

89444 =31

-

2

22...a4! 23.Ba2 b4! 24.axb4 Qb6+

25.Qf2 Qxb4 26.Nd1 a3! 27.bxa3

Rxa3 28.Bb3 Ra1-+

2

2

9

4

Structure 5 - without queens

- : 3; 2
4 2
4 3
- ; 3 : 4
: 3; 2 ; 3
2 3
4 3: 3 ; 4
- 4

□ Opocensky, Karel

■ Kavalek, Lubomir

3 96 .76/ 7=4684? 7

1.d4 c5 2.e4 cxd4 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qf3 h6
8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Qxf6 gxf6

=
;
:
9
8
7 ○

4 10.Be2

764:
- ; 774; 784 7
= 794 : = ' 7: 4 9
7; 4 7 : 7 4 : ±
; 3 4 ; 3= 5
867
3
7643636 = 774: 784; ;
794 8 ; 7: 4 9 : 7; 4 9 1
7 4 7 : '
=
;
:
9 9
8 8
7 7 ○

A 2 .8768/3 2
.8997/5 866= .?/5637

10...h5!

;
; 3 : 4
76444 = 774 ; '
=
; 3 2
7843636 : 794 : = 7: 4:
7; 4 7±

11.h4!?

; 3 2

4 3

: 94

4 11...b5! 12.a3

Bb7 13.f4 Nd7 14.f5 Ke7!

=

=

;

;

:

:

9

9

8

8

7

7 ○

=

4

15.Nb3 Rc8

; 2

4 16.Na5 Ba8

17.0-0-0 Bh6+ 18.Kb1 Bf4!

=

=

;

;

:

:

9

9

8

8

7

7 ○

; 2

4

4 19.fxe6

4

7?4 9 ; 864 8 ; 31

19...fxe6 20.Bf3 Be5 21.Na2 Nc5

22.Rhe1?

△884 7⌘

22...Bg3-+

=

=

;

;

:

:

9

9

8

8

7

7 ○

-

4 23.Re2

Bxh4 24.c4 Rcd8 25.b4 Na4

26.Rh1 Bg5 27.Rxh5 Rxh5

28.Bxh5 bxc4 29.Nxc4 d5 30.exd5

Bxd5 31.Na5 Rh8

2

-

40-1

2 4
2 4
4
2594
2559
3 .76/ 784: 466

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6

=444 =

4 8
8.Qd2 Qxb2

= =
;
:
9 9
8 8
7 7 ○

9.Nb3?!

4
?4 7 9 764
:
774 8 ; ' 78436
; 794 7
7: 4 7; 4 : = 7 4 : ∞;

2 .8 6 / 3 2 .8 ?7/5 3
867 867 .94/575

83758
9...Qa3
?444 =
764 913
10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Be2 h5!

= =
;
:
9 9
8 8
7 7 ○

3
; 4 12.0-0 2 2

4
- 2

4 12...Nd7 13.f5

794 7 : '
14. 9 (14.Rad1 h3! 15.g3 b5
A 2 .8 8; /3 2 .8; 7/5
3 = 866 .=/537
=

3) 7: 444 =
15. 7 ; ' 7 4 9 = 7=4; ; ;
2 .88 7/3 2

.8: =/5 2 866; .8/537
 13...Be7
 14.Qd4 4
 7: 4 7
 7: 4 7 : ' (14...Qb2 15.Nc3
 Qa3 16.Nb1=) 7; 4: ; 7 4 9
 7=4 7'
 14...b5!

15.Kh1
 7; 4 7
 7; 4 9 A 2 .8: ?/ 3
 2 .896 /5
 97 8667 .; /573373
 3
 ; 7 4 9 : 7=4 7 '
 7 4 : ' 7?4 7 864 7
 = 874 : : 884 : :
 894 7 831
 15...Ne5! 2

2
 4 16.Rf4 h4! 17.Raf1 Bd7+
 =
 ;
 :
 9
 8
 7
 18.Nd1
 4
 7 4 9
 2 7?4
 864 9 : 874 7 831
 18...Rc8 19.Ne3 Qa4!
 - 4 20.fxe6 fxe6 21.Qd1
 874 : : 884 : 9 894 :
 : 8: 4 : ; 8; 4 ; 8
 8 4 831
 21...h3! 22.g3 Qxa2-+
 =
 ;
 :
 9
 8
 7

2
423.Nd4 Rc5 24.R4f2 Qa3
25.Nb3 Rc7 26.Ng4 Nxg4 27.Bxg4
Rc4 28.Rf4 Qb4 29.Nd2 Rd4
30.R1f2 Qb2 31.Qf3 Ra4 32.c3 Qc1
+ 33.Nf1 Rc4 34.Rxf6 Rxc3
0-1

22...Bg7
8844 ; 894 =1
23.Re1 Kf8! 2
8: 4 = =31 4 24.a4
24...f5! 2
4 25.Rdd1 exd5 26.exd5
Bf6-+ A 2 .8 8; /3 2
.8; 7/5 3 = 866 .=/5637

Structure 7

Exercise

21...Qb7!! 2
- 4
8744 = 884 : 13
8744 884 ; ±
22.Bb5? 2
4
884 7 ; 894 ; 1 ; '
is also better for Black]

2
?49
4
2
2

; 4 -

4

4 2 4

; 3 4

9 : 2 =4

2 2 2 4

□ Karjakin, Sergey 2760
 ■ Vachier Lagrave, M.. 2789
 ? 867= . =4 / 6? 47847=

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 h6
 8.Bh4 Qb6

=
 ;
 :
 9
 8
 7

2
 Be7 10.Bf2

4 3 2
 4 9.a3

2
 764 9'
 2 .8 6=/3 2
 .8=?7/5 ; 867= . /575
 83758 -

4
 10...Qc7 11.Qf3 Nbd7 12.0-0-0 b5
 13.g4 Bb7

=
 ;
 :
 9
 8
 7

4 14.Bg2

4 14...g5

7 4 9' ; (7: 44 7; 4 7 ;
 2
 16...Nh7!?

) 7=4 7

; (17...gxf4 18.g5 Nfd7 19.g6!→)
 7 4 ; ' A 2 .8==?/3
 2 .8 6: /5
 867 .=/5736 -
 3

7: 44; 4
 7; 4 ; ; 7 4 ; '
 7: 4 8
15.h4
 2
 4
 7; 4; 2 2 -
 4 ; 7 4 9
 ; ' 7=4 9 7 4 7
 2 .8; 7=/3 2 .8 ; /5
 867 . /573373
 : 7?4 : ; '7
 7; 4 9 3
 2
 6336'
 2
 2 .8; ?=/3 867=.9/5
 .8: =9/5 3 7
 637 2
 -
15...gxf4 16.g5
 2
 4
16...Ne5! =
 4 17.Qxf4
hxg5N 18.hxg5 Rxh1 19.Rxh1 Nfd7
20.Kb1 0-0-0=
 =
 =
 ;
 ;
 :
 :
 9
 9
 8
 8
 7
 7 ○

2
 -
 4
 2
 ; 2
 4 2 : ;
421.Rh3
 4
 874 9'
 ; 2
 2
A) 8744 9 884 9 ;
894 ; ' 8: 4 : '
 8; 4 8
 A
B) 8744 884 = ; 3
 2
 894 = 8: 4 9
 8; 4 ; ; 8 4 : ↑
 A
C) 8744 ;
 884 : '
 (22...Nxf3? 23.Qxf3) 894 ;
 ; 8: 4 ; ' ; 8; 4 =
 ; 8 4 7 8=4 = ±
 2
 2
 A
D) 8744

884 = '
 - 894 9
 (23.Nxe5 Nxe5 24.Be3 Rg8
 25.Rh5)
 894 9 (23...Kb8 24.Nxe5
 Nxe5) 8: 4 9 ; 8; 4 ; '
 (25...Bxg5?
 26.Nd5! Nd7 27.Bg3! exd5
 28.Bxd6→) 8 4 9
 ;
 8=4 ; ; 8 4 =
 (28...Rxf7!?
 29.Qxf7 Bxe4!
 30.Qxe6! Bb7 31.Qxe5+ Ka8±
 2
 2
) 8?4 :
 964 7' = 974 9 ±
 -
 2
 4
 874 ' 4 '
 2
 884 =
 8 894 : ' 8: 4 1'
 (24.f8Q+? Nxf8 25.Nxf8 Qf7!!
 26.Qxf7 Nxf7-+) 8: 4 8; 4
 71 8 4 7' (26.Ka2 Rxf2-+)
 8 4 : (26...Qxe1+ 27.Ka2 Rf2
 28.Qh6! Rxf7 29.Qe6+ Kc7
 30.Ng6!) 8=4 1 = 8 4 : 7
 8?4 71 964 8 974
 : 984 : :
 21...Kb8 22.Be3 Rg8 23.Rg3 Rg7
 2 -
 2

=
 ; 2
 2
 4 24.Bh3
 Rh7
 8: 4 '
 25.Qf2 Nc5 - :
 4 26.Bg2 Qc8!
 = =
 ; ;
 : :
 9 9
 8 8
 7 7 ○
 2
 2
 3
 3 = 4 27.Bc1 2
 8=4 9'
 2
 27...Bd8 28.Nf3 Ng6!
 9 2
 ; 4
 29.Nd4 Ne5 30.Nf3 Ng6 31.Nd4
 31...Bb6
 4 32.Be3 Ne5 33.b3
 -
 4 -
 4

=

=

;

;

:

:

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2

2

2

2

42.Rxg2 Rh3+ 43.Kd2

4

: 9 4 9 ; :: 4 8 : 1 3 1

43...Ne5 44.Nde2

4

:: 4 8 9

:: 4 7

2

= ' : ; 4 8

±

:: 4 '

: ; 4 8 (45.Nxe6 Nf3+

46.Ke2 Nh4!-+) : ; 4 ±

44...Nf3+ 45.Kc1 Nh4 46.Rg1 Ng6

-

2

2

-

4

2

2

4 47.Kd2

Kc7 2
 =3 4 48.Nd4
 Kd7 49.Rf1 Ke7 50.Rg1 Ne5 51.Rg2
 Ba8 52.Nde2 2
 4
 ; 84 7
 52...Nf3+ 53.Kc1 Rh1+!
 2
 - 4 54.Kb2 Nh4
 55.Rg4 Ng6 56.Nf4 2
 - -
 4
 ; 4 9 9 ; =4 8 ; ; 4 8
 (58.Rg3 Rxc3 59.Nxc3 Nf3)
 ; 44 :
 ; 4 9 : ; =4 : (57.Re3 Rg4)
 ; =44 ; ' (57...Bxe4 58.Nxe4 Rxe4
 59.Nc6+) ; 4 9
 9 ; ?4 9 : ♣
 56...Nxf4 57.Rxf4 Rg1 58.Rh4 Rxc5
 59.Kc1 d5

=

;

:

9

8

7

3

2

2

4

0-1

Exercise

=

;

:

9

8

7

=

;

:

9

8

7

20...Nf8!

8644636 ' 874 ' 4

; ' 884 7 894 =

21.Kb1 0-0-0 22.Bf1 Nfg6 23.Qg3
 Rh8= 4

Structure 8

Belousov, Danila 2340
 Antipov, Mikhail Al 2457
86 .?/ 6: 4774678



=
 ;
 :
 9
 8
 7

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Rg1 e5 7.Nb3 Be6
8.g4 d5 9.exd5

?4;

2

-

2

: 764 :
 774 1 784 8 =
 794 :

9...Nxd5 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.Be3 Nc6
12.Qxd5 Bxd5 13.0-0-0 0-0-0

4 74

4

2

4

: 3

2

4

2

: 3

4

2

; 3

4

=3

; 2

=3

3

4

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=

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7



14.g5?!

4

2

3 4

7: 4

7: 4 8

14...Kc7!

4 15.Bh3?!

4

7; 4 8

7 4: 7=4 9

; 7 4 ; :

7?4 8

864

874 ;

=

=

;

;

:

:

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7



⁸
Kc7 24.Nd3?!

3

²
4 23.Nc5

; 8849

7; 4:

7 4

7=4;

7 4

1

7?4 8

15...g6!

4

7; 44 7 4 '

16.f4?

7 4 :

7=4:

; 7 4

;

:

2

40.Kg7 Rc8 41.h5 Ke3
0-1

Exercise

=

;

:

9

8

7

4 33.Rc2

994 131

33...Rf8!

3 2

4 34.Re2+

9: 4: ' -

' 9: 4 : □ (35.Re2+ Kf7-+)

9: 44

A) 9 4 1 9=4 =

(37.Kh5 Kf6) 9=44 : '31 A

B) 9 4 : ; 9=4: 8 9 4 ;

81 9?4 ; : 64 ; : 31

34...Kd5 35.Kxg6 f4-+

=

;

:

9

8

7

3

4 36.Kg7

Rf5 37.Kg6 f3! 38.Rf2 Ke4 39.h4 Rf8

=

;

:

9

8

7

9

8

7

4

13...h6! 14.gxh6

△7: 4: ; 7: 4 ; : 7 4 8

7=4 : : 7 4 : : 7

14...g6!

4

15.Bxe4 Nd7 16.0-0-0 Bxh6 17.Rg3

2 .8: ; /3 2 .8; ?/5

3 9? 8668 .: /537

17...Bxe3+ 18.Rxe3 Rac8

4