WCCI 2019-2021

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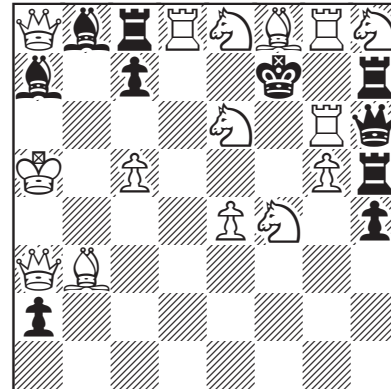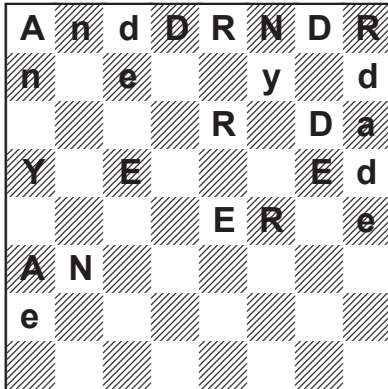
1. rebus/last 8 moves   *FIDE World Cup* 2021
2. PG 8.0   *FIDE World Cup* 2019
3. PG quadruplets   *Puzzling Side of Chess 175*, 2019
4. PG 9.5   *Puzzling Side of Chess 203*, 2021
5. last 3 moves (G & N)   *Problemas 33,* 2021
6. last 6 moves (G & N)   *Problemas 33,* 2021

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FIDE World Cup 2021
3rd Prize
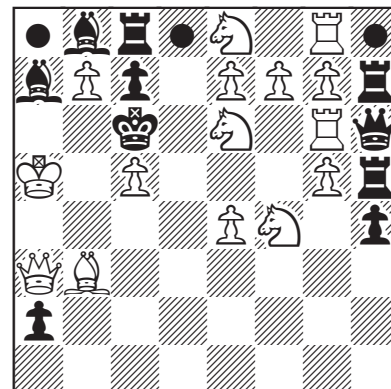

(15 + 10)

REBUS
Each letter represents a different type of piece.
Uppercase is one colour. Lowercase is the other.
Determine the position and last 8 moves.

-1.g7xSh8=S+ Ke7-f7 -2.f7-f8=B+ Kd7-e7 -3.e7xSd8=R+ Kc6-d7 -4.b7xBa8=Q+ Kd7-c6

Allumwandlung on <u>White's last four moves</u>. The only other last mover to achieve this task with exactly determined moves is Kornilov-Frolkin 1981 (P0000545). Their problem has no captures. In this problem, three promotions are captures.

Y is king. Letter with one uppercase, one lowercase.

E is pawn. Remaining letter not on 8th rank.

D is not queen or bishop. Impossible double check.

R is not queen or bishop. Impossible double check.

N is not queen. Both kings in check.

A is queen. N is bishop.

If D is knight and R is rook. Impossible double check.

D is rook. R is knight. See solution diagram above.

Check h8. Last move: -1.g7xh8=S+. Caps are white.

Previous moves: -1...Ke7-f7 -2.f7-f8=B+ Kd7-e7 -3.e7xd8=R+. Black's moves were not captures because white pawns were on f7 and e7. -3...Kc6-d7 -4.b7xa8=Q+. Black's move was not a capture. The only missing white piece is a dark bishop. No other black retractions are possible, regardless of which pieces were captured on h8 and d8. The diagram below shows the position before -4.b7xa8=Q+.

White has 7 pawns and a promoted knight. The only missing white piece is a dark bishop.

Black has at least 2 promoted pieces (rook and dark bishop). Black is missing 3 pieces.

The pawn formation and promoted pieces could only occur by the following pawn play:
White: axPb, b8=S, dxPe, hxPg
Black: ...d1=R, ...fxBg, ...g1=B (or *...fxBe, ...e1=B*)

Three black pawns (b,e,g) were captured by White. Therefore the 3 black pieces awaiting capture on the 8th rank are a light bishop and 2 knights. The bishop is on light square a8. The knights are on d8 and h8.

earlier position   (15 + 13)
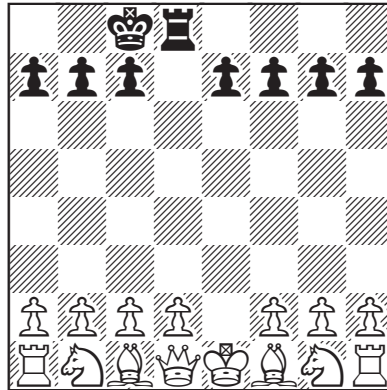black officers on a8 d8 h8

Previous move: -4...Kd7-c6

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1st Commendation

C+   (15 + 9)

Proof Game in 8.0

	1. e4	d5
	2. exd5	Sc6
	3. dxc6	Qd7
	4. cxd7+	Kd8
	5. dxc8=R+	Kd7
	6. Rxf8	Rd8
	7. Rxg8	Kc8
	8. Rxd8+	Rxd8

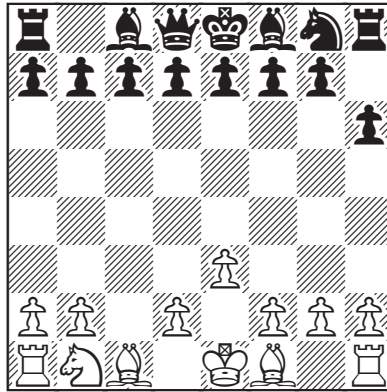Scandinavian Defence, Excelsior Variation.

Ceriani-Frolkin: capture of promoted rook.

Artificial castling after moves 7 and 8, with different rooks.

Try: With last move ...0-0-0, the position requires 10.0 moves.
For example, 1.Sf3 Sh6 2.Se5 Sf5 3.Sxd7 Sg3 4.Sxf8 Sd7 5.Sxd7 Rf8
6.Sxf8 Be6 7.Sxe6 Qd4 8.Sxd4 Sxe2 9.Sf3 Sg1 10.Sxg1 0-0-0.

From the judge's comments: *A proof game that kept waiting*
for years "up in a chess composition cloud" to be discovered.

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Puzzling Side of Chess 175, 2019

C+   (13 + 15)

Proof Game

a) PG 5.5

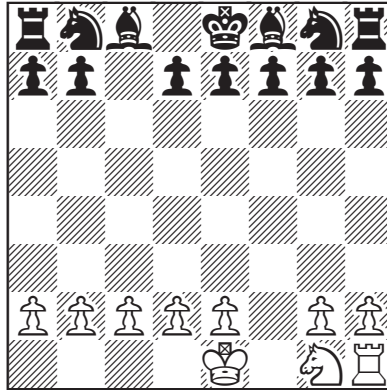b) PG 6.0

c) e3→e4 PG 6.0

d) -b2 (with e3) PG 6.5

a   1.Sf3 Sc6 2.Sd4 Sxd4 3.e3 Sxc2+ 4.Ke2 h6 5.Qe1 Sxe1 6.Kxe1
Switchbacking king, with *Orbán effect* (capture on original square).

b   1.Sf3 Sc6 2.Sd4 Sxd4 3.e3 Sxc2+ 4.Qxc2 h6 5.Qh7 Sf6 6.Qg8 Sxg8
Switchbacking knight, with *Orbán effect*.

c   1.Sf3 Sc6 2.Sd4 Sxd4 3.e3 Sxc2+ 4.Qxc2 h6 5.Qh7 Rxh7 6.e4 Rh8
Switchbacking rook, e-pawn tempo.

d   1.Sf3 Sc6 2.Se5 Sxe5 3.c4 Sxc4 4.e3 Sxb2 5.Ke2 Sxd1 6.Kxd1 h6 7.Ke1
Tempo move by switchbacking king.

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Puzzling Side of Chess 197, 2021

C+   (10 + 14)
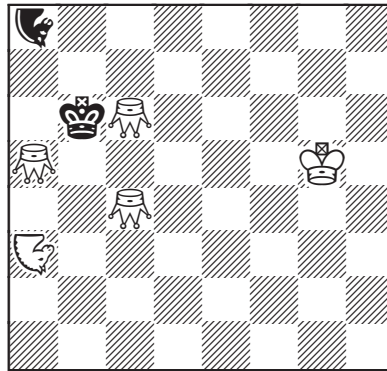
Proof Game in 9.5

1.	f4	c5
2.	Kf2	Qc7
3.	Ke3	Qxf4+
4.	Kd3	Qxf1
5.	Kc4	Qxd1
6.	Kxc5	Qxc1
7.	Kd4	Qxb1
8.	Ke3	Qxa1
9.	Kf2	Qe1+
10.	Kxe1	

White king shuffles his way to c5 before returning
home to capture the marauding black queen.

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Problemas 33, 2021

(5 + 2)

Last 3 moves?

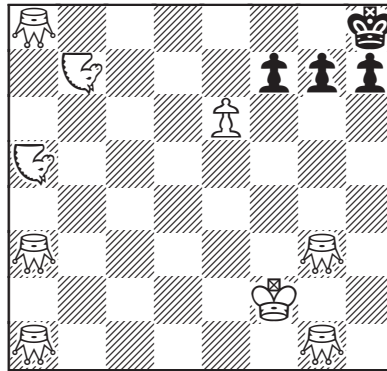-1...Kc7xPb6+ -2.c5xb6 ep++++ b7-b5 (-3.N>a3+).

White is in check by the nightrider on a8 which could only occur by the discovery -1...Kc7>b6+. If the black king retracts to c7 without uncapturing, there is an impossible double check (Na3 Gc4). If Black uncaptures a rook or knight, there is an impossible triple check (Na3 Ga5 Gc4). If Black uncaptures a queen or bishop, there is an impossible quadruple check. But uncapturing a pawn leaves Black in a legal quadruple check! The magic of en passant.

Quadruple check with grasshopper and nightrider is not a new idea. It has been used twice previously. By Karl Fabel in a mate in 1 (*Funkschach* 1924) and by Niels Høeg in a retractor helpmate (*Chess Amateur* 1928). But this is evidently the first time in a last move problem.

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Problemas 33, 2021

(9 + 4)

Last 6 moves?

-1.d5xe6 e.p.+ e7-e5 -2.d4-d5+ Kg8xSh8 -3.Sg6-h8+ Kh8-g8
(then -4.Se5-g6+ Kg8>h8 5.Sg4-e5+)

Black is in check by the grasshopper on a1. The last move was not -1.e5-e6+? because of retrostalemate. Black's preceding move could not be -1...Kg8>h8 because the king would be in an impossible double check on g8 (Na5 Gg3). So the last move must be the en passant capture -1.d5xe6 e.p.+. After the retraction -1...e7-e5, the black pawn on e7 blocks the nightrider on a5. So when White unchecks by -2.d4-d5+, the black king can retract -2...Kg8>h8. Then he is in check by the grasshopper on g3. White's previous move was not the non-capture -3.Ge1-g3+ because it would already be check from Gg1. It was also not the capture -3.Ge1xg3+ because there are not enough missing black pieces. White has a pawn and 7 promoted pieces (5G 2N). [The accepted convention being that *unorthodox pieces are promoted pawns.*] Promoting the four efgh-pawns on d8 required 10 captures. With a pawn on e7, Black is missing 11 pieces, but the dark-square bishop was captured on f8 (pawns e7 g7). Thus, all missing black pieces are accounted for. So the check had to be the old disappearing knight trick -2...Kg8xSh8 -3.Sg6-h8+, first pulled by Jan Mortensen in 1956, *Fairy Chess Review 9*. Black's previous move was not -3...Kf8>g8? because of an impossible double check (Ga3 Sg6). It was not the capture -3...Kh8xg8? because of the double check by Ga8 Sg6, when Black would have no move on the preceding turn before -4.Sf8-g6++. Therefore Black's move was -3...Kh8-g8. The position can then untangle by -4.Se5-g6+ Kg8>h8 5.Sg4-e5+.