



THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

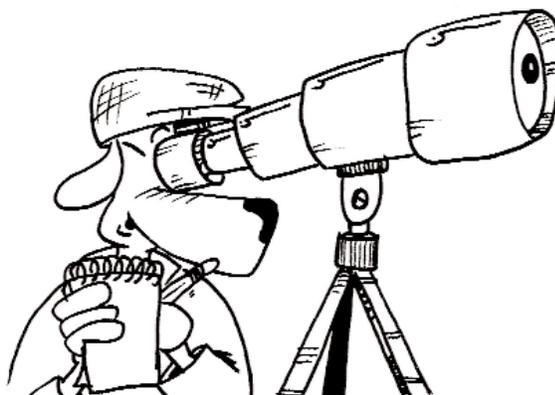
Jeff Coakley

DOG DAYS: Smorgasbord XXII

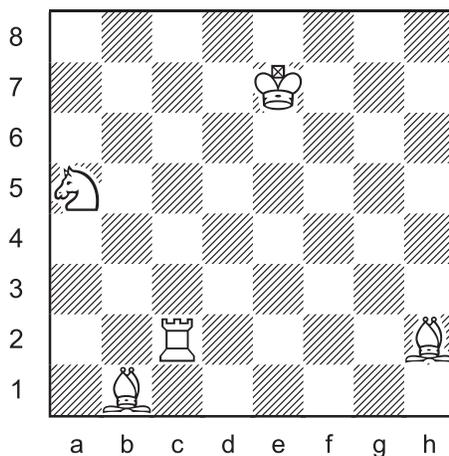
number 161

July 28, 2018

The early morning sky, in the heat of late July.
On the southern far horizon, a dog star bright is rising.



Triple Loyd 75

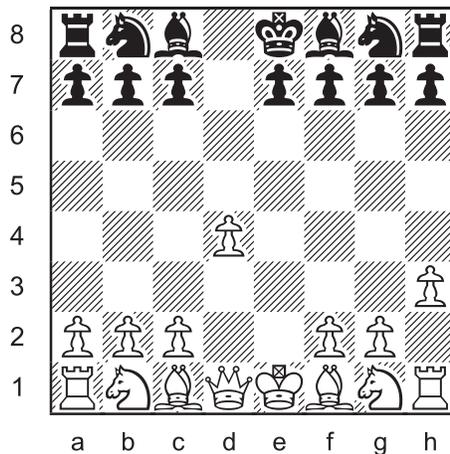


Place the black king on the board so that:

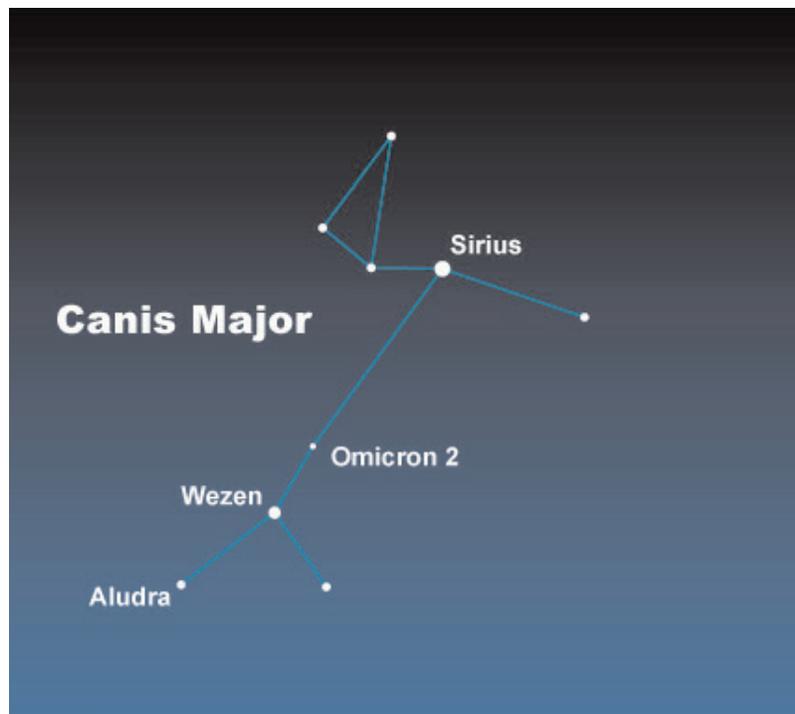
- Black is in checkmate.
- Black is in stalemate.
- White has mate in 1.

Longer Proof Game 59

(4.5 moves)

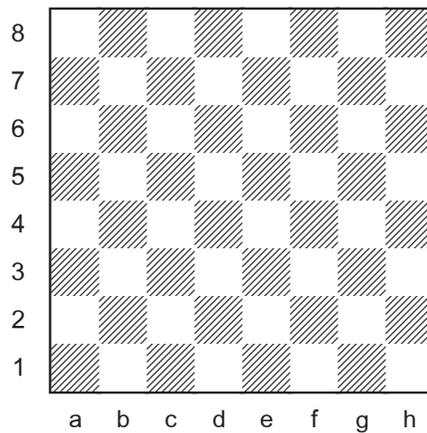


This position was reached after White's fifth turn. No sooner, no later. What were the moves?



The brightest star in the earthly heavens is Sirius, visible from the northern hemisphere nine months of the year. Known as the “Dog Star” because of its prominent place in the constellation *Canis Major*, its annual return to the night sky marks the arrival of “dog days”, the midsummer weeks of oppressive heat. The ancient Greeks and Romans believed that the star was directly responsible for the change in the weather, and ceremoniously sacrificed dogs to counter its influence.

Knight Mate Maximizer



Construct a legal position in which White has the most knight moves that mate in 1.

part a. Discovered checks are not allowed.

part b. Discovered checks are allowed.

“Legal” means reachable in an actual game. In part b, each move by a piece that uncovers mate is counted separately.



Dog stars on holidays.

The final dish on this week's smorgasbord is a *full board* rebus. Can you convert the "dog days" into a legal chess position?

Rebus 19

"Dog Days"

8	D			o		G	
7	a		G			a	d
6	Y	s		a		a	a
5		a		a	D		g
4		Y	a	A	A	y	
3		A	A				g
2	A					A	A
1		d	S	O		y	
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g

Each letter represents a different type of piece.
 Uppercase is one colour, lowercase is the other.
 Determine the position and the last move.

For more explanation on this type of puzzle, see column 133.



"Dies canicularis."

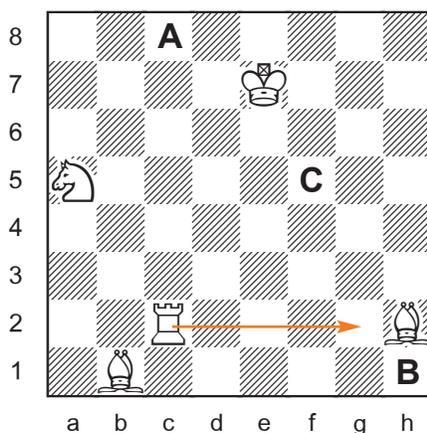
SOLUTIONS

All problems by J. Coakley, *Puzzling Side of Chess* (2018). Rebus 19 is a joint composition with Andrey Frolikin.

PDF hyperlinks. You can advance to the solution of any puzzle by clicking on the underlined title above the diagram. To return to the puzzle, click on the title above the solution diagram.

Archives. Past columns and a detailed index of problem-types and composers are available in the *Puzzling Side of Chess* archives.

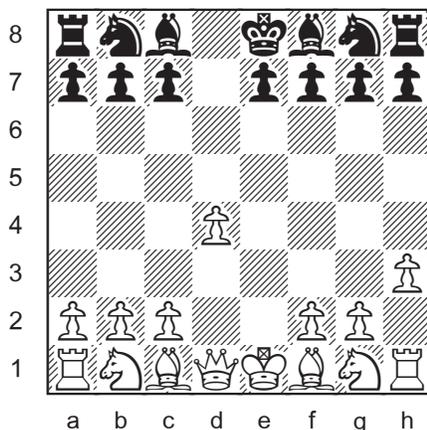
Triple Loyd 75



- A. Kc8#
- B. Kh1=
- C. Kf5 (Rg2#)

The disco-checking rook covers the flight squares g4 and g5.

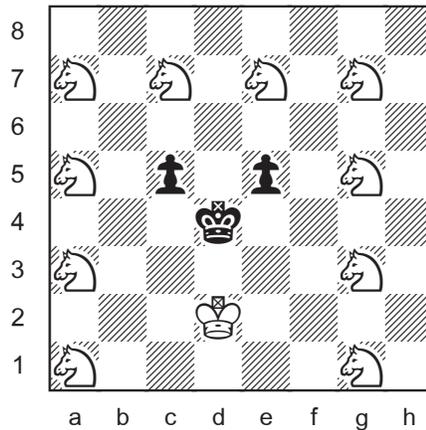
Longer Proof Game 59 (4.5 moves)



1.e3 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.h3 e3 4.dxe3 Qd4 5.exd4
Pawn play trickery.

Knight Mate Maximizer

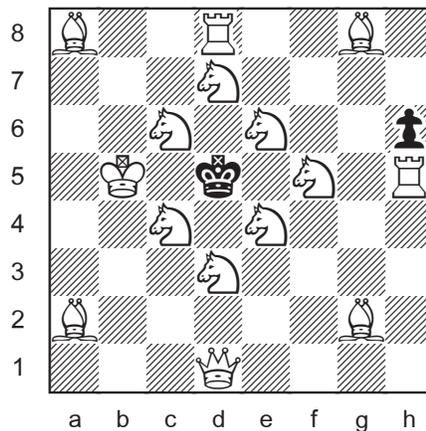
a. no discovered checks



20 mates in one

Twenty is the theoretical maximum, ten knights with two mates each.

b. with discovered checks



52 mates in one with a knight move

$$(8 + 7 + 8 + 6 + 8 + 7 + 8)$$

The black pawn legalizes the position. Last move 1.... h7-h6.

The theoretical maximum for this task is 56 mates, with seven knights and three promoted bishops (7 x 8 discoveries). However, this is evidently impossible. Can you break the record of 52?

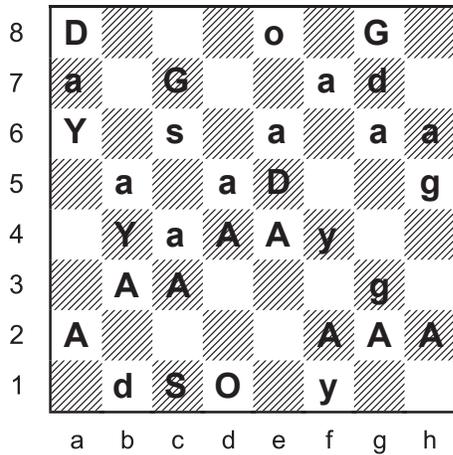
Serious fact. The dog star Sirius is actually a binary star-system. Two stars revolving around each other, the larger brighter Sirius A and its fainter companion, the white dwarf Sirius B.

Rebus 19

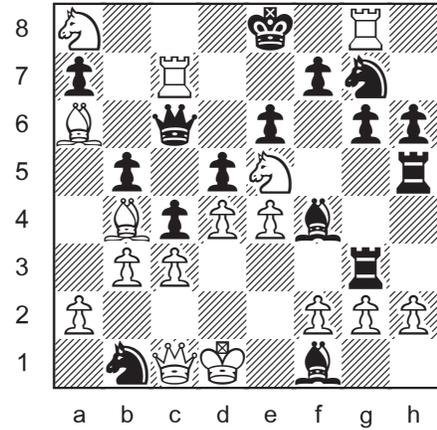
Andrey Frolkin & Jeff Coakley 2018

Puzzling Side of Chess

“Dog Days”



D = knight
 O = king
 G = rook
 S = queen
 A = pawn
 Y = bishop
 caps = white
 last move
 1.Bf8-b4+



A = ♙

All 32 pieces are on the board. So of course, the pawns are the A's and the capital letters are white.

♔♚ = (OS)

The two letters with one uppercase, one lowercase.

♖♗♘ = (DGY)

The three letters with two uppercase, two lowercase.

S ≠ ♚

If S = ♚

Y ≠ ♖

If Y = ♖ (a6+) Check.

D ≠ ♗ (a8+) Impossible double check.

D ≠ ♘ (e5+) Impossible double check.

D = ∅? No piece can be assigned to D.

Y ≠ ♗

If Y = ♗ (f4+) Check.

D ≠ ♖ (b1+) Impossible double check.

D ≠ ♘ (e5+) Both kings in check.

D = ∅? No piece can be assigned to D.

Y ≠ ♘

If Y = ♘ (b4+) Check.

D ≠ ♖ (b1+) Both kings in check.

D ≠ ♗ (a8+) Impossible double check.

D = ∅? No piece can be assigned to D.

Y = ∅?

No piece can be assigned to Y.

O = ♔

S = ♚

Rebus 19 continued. O = ♔ S = ♚ A = ♖

♖♗♘ = (DGY)

Y ≠ ♖ (f1+) Impossible check.

The king was already in check if the rook moved from g1 or h1. The last move was not a capture by 1.Rh1xf1+ because all pieces are on the board. No discovered check was possible.

8	D			o		G			
7	a		G			a	d		
6	Y		s		a	a	a		
5		a		a	D			g	
4		Y	a	A	A	y			
3		A	A					g	
2	A					A	A	A	
1		d	S	O		y			
		a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

D ≠ ♖ If D = ♖ (a8+) Check.

G ≠ ♘ (c7+) Impossible double check.

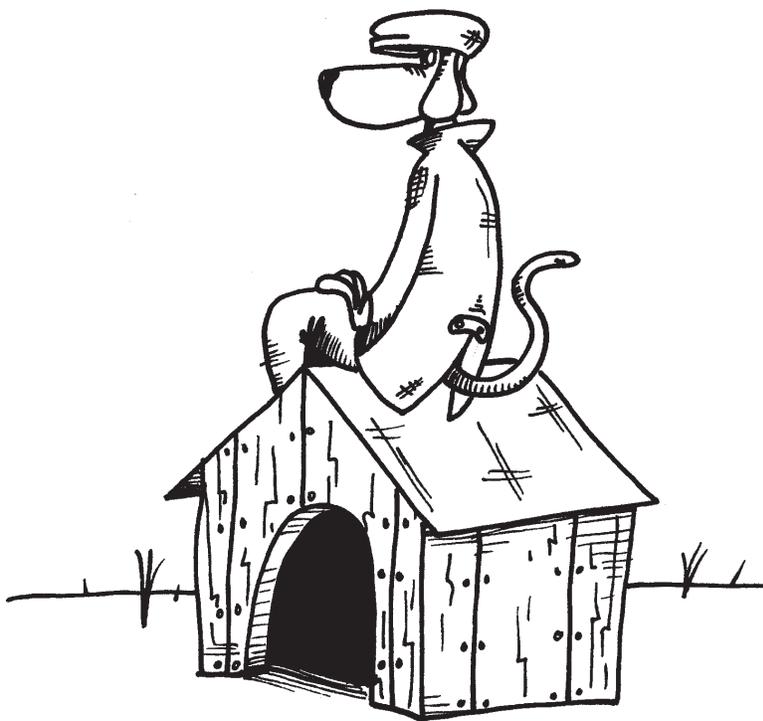
G ≠ ♗ (h5+) Both kings in check.

G = ∅? No piece can be assigned to G.

G = ♖ (g8+) Check.

Y = ♗ The discovered check 1.Bf8-b4+ is the only way to explain a check from the rook on g8.

D = ♘ The last piece of the puzzle is always the easiest.



Until next time!

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