



THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

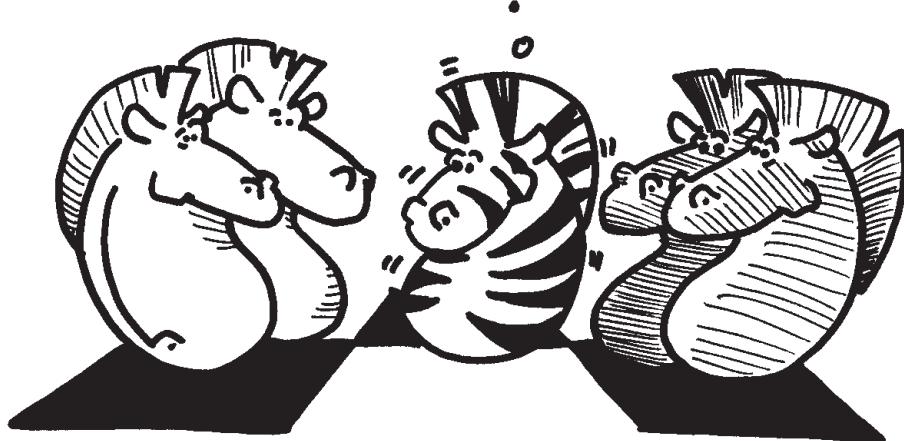
Jeff Coakley

LOYDS, VOIDS, and ZEBROIDS

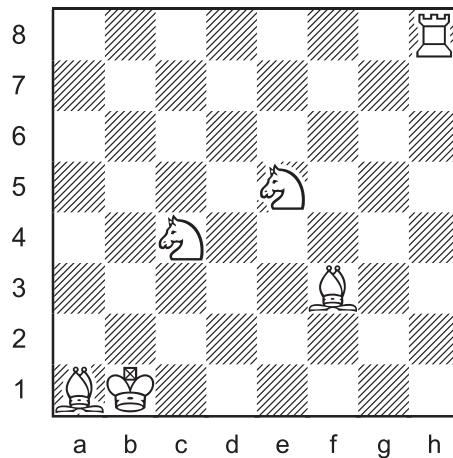
number 171

October 6, 2018

Some things in this world are black and white. Newspapers, chess pieces, and zebras. Only shades of grey to lead us astray.



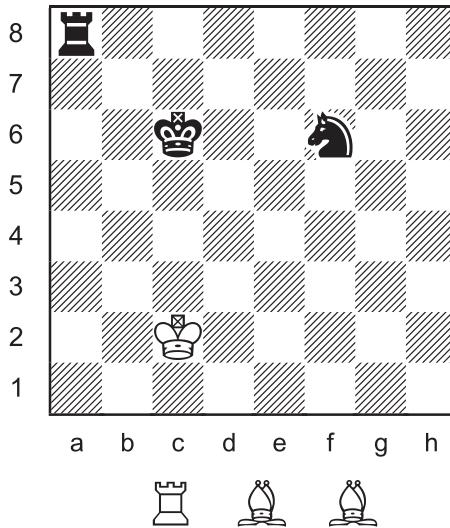
Triple Loyd 77



Place the black king on the board so that:

- A. Black is in checkmate.
- B. Black is in stalemate.
- C. White has mate in 1.

Inverted Loyd 54



Place a white rook and two bishops
on the board so that White has mate in 1.



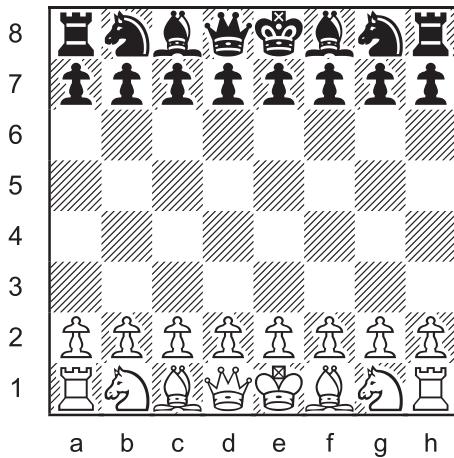
Zebras

Victor Vasarely, 1950

Zebras are a species of the genus *Equus*, along with horses and donkeys. Like chess pieces from the same set, these animals are able to mate. The resulting crossbreeds have their own names. For example, the offspring of a male donkey and a female horse is a *mule*. Any child with one zebra parent is called a *zebroid*. Depending on the gender of the other parent, the various subtypes include *zonkey*, *zorse*, *zedonk*, *zebrula*, *zony*, *zebrass*, *horbra*, and *hinny*.

The next puzzle leads us into a *void*. Space without matter, the absence of colour. No light, no white. Absolute black.

Synthetic Game 42



Compose a game in which the d-file and e-file
are empty after Black's 6th turn.

Six moves by each side, both central files clear.

For an extra challenge, clear the central files
and capture both queens.



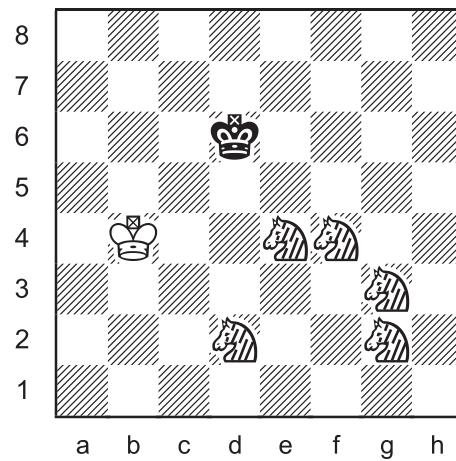
Eclyse the Zorse

Most zebroids look like their non-zebra parent, but with some stripes. They are usually sterile and relatively small. The famous zorse Eclyse had a zebra father named Ulysses and horse mother named Eclipse.

You won't find them in your normal set of pieces, but there is a chess piece called a **zebra**. Used in unorthodox problems, its move is similar to a knight. But instead of going 2 squares and 1 over, a zebra goes 3 squares and 2 over. For example, a zebra on e4 could jump to b2, b6, c1, c7, g1, g7, h2, or h7.

The long range of the "striped 3 by 2 leaper" is demonstrated in the following position. A king and five zebras versus a lone black king.

Zebra Mate



Mate in 1



Zebra Crossing

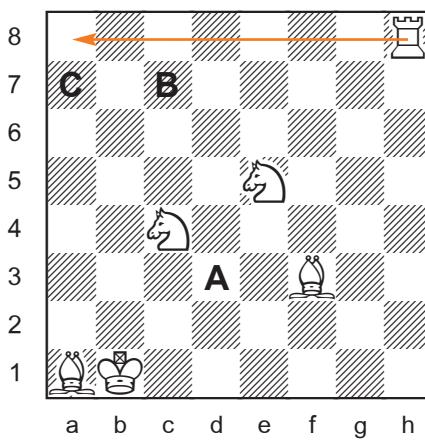
SOLUTIONS

All problems by J. Coakley, *Puzzling Side of Chess* (2018).

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 77



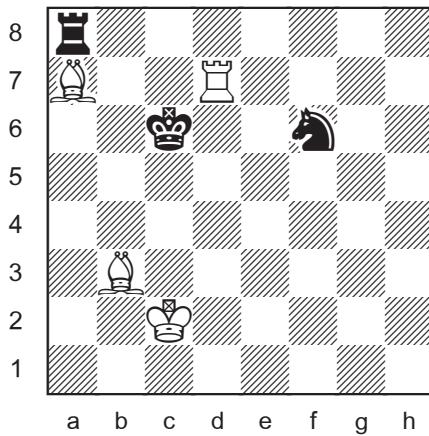
- A. Kd3#
- B. Kc7=
- C. Ka7 (Ra8#)

Perhaps a surprising stalemate.



Zebroid Stockings

Inverted Loyd 54



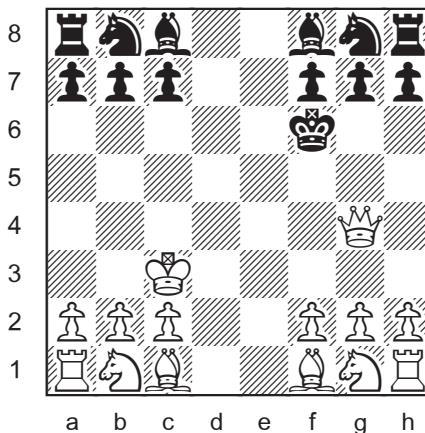
Rd7, Ba7, Bb3 were added.

1.Ba4#



Zonkey with mommy zebra and daddy donkey.

Synthetic Game 42

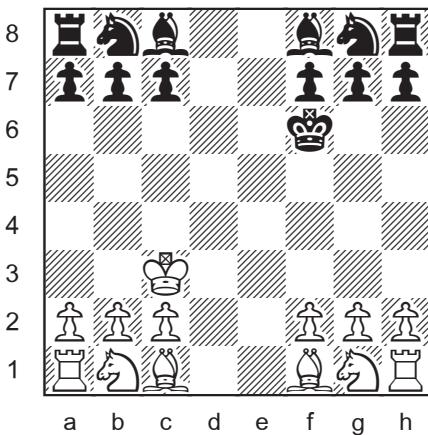


1.e4 d5 2.exd5 e6 3.dxe6 Qxd2+
4.Kxd2 Ke7 5.Kc3 Kxe6 6.Qg4 Kf6

Six turns each, central files cleared.

A similar pseudo-reflected game with the black queen remaining is
1.d4 e5 2.e3 exd4 3.Ke2 dxe3 4.Qxd7+ Kxd7 5.Kxe3 Kc6 6.Kf3 Qg5

And here is the extra challenge solution.



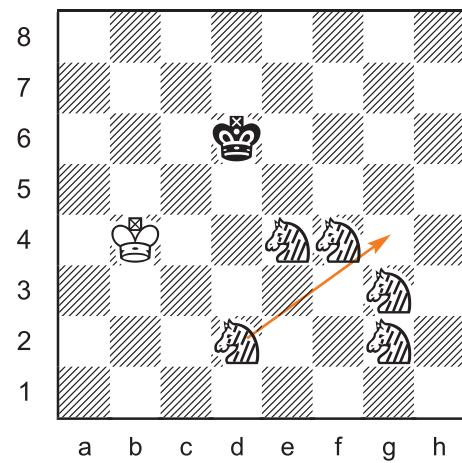
1.e4 d5 2.Qe2 dxe4 3.Qxe4 Qxd2+
4.Kxd2 Kd8 5.Qxe7+ Kxe7 6.Kc3 Kf6

Six turns each, central files cleared, queens captured.

The black king tempo 4...Kd8 avoids moving a piece from other files.
4...Kd7 also works.

[August 2023: Another solution by Yakov Konoval is 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5
3.Qf3 Qxd2+ 4.Kxd2 Kd7 5.Qf6 exf6 6.Kc3 Kc6.]

Zebra Mate



1.Zg4#



Iconic Zebra Crossing

Until next time!

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