

Checkmate

(July 2024)

Chess programs running on commercially available desktop computers won decisive victories against human players in matches in 2005 and 2006. The second of these, against then world champion Vladimir Kramnik is the last major human–computer match.

Nowadays, chess programs running on commercial hardware—more recently including mobile phones—have been able to defeat even the strongest human chess players.¹

Still, after they gave up trying to beat the machine about two decades ago, Grand Masters of Chess continue to play among themselves, most probably for fun, and their benign hobby does little to bankrupt whole countries and certainly does not incur a risk of nuclear annihilation

Meanwhile, novel automatic data acquisition and computing methods, which are hereby described by the acronym **B.A.D.A.S.S.**² (Ctrl click to [link](#)) are making the analysis and prediction of human interactions quite superior to customary methods, especially regarding very intricate subjects, but no Grand Master of Politics seems prepared to measure himself against the machine.

Quiz:

A. The Grand Masters

On a scale from zero to infinite, if the intellect of a Grand Master of Chess is **100**, how would you rate the intellect of a Grand Master of Politics of the highest class, such as the 45th or the 46th Presidents of the United States of America?

A = _____

B. The machines

On a scale from zero to infinite, if the artificial reasoning power of a cell phone is **100**, how would you rate that of a modern 2024 computer capable of running the most elaborate versions of **B.A.D.A.S.S.**?

B = _____

¹ First two paragraphs from Wikipedia

² For "*Buhlsheet Automated Detector And Speedy Smasher*" also known as A.I. (Artificial Intelligence)

C. Quantification

Calculate **Q** so that $Q = B / A$

$$Q = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

For example, if **A = 70**, which would be quite generous, and **B = 10,000**, which is quite conservative, then:

$$Q = 142.86$$

Which would mean that a **B.A.D.A.S.S.** system applied to the Game of Politics would be **142.86** times more proficient than a cell phone applied to the Game of Chess, that cell phone having the ability to defeat the 21st century successor to the great 18th century Philidor³.

However, while Grand Masters of Chess recognized with good humour the superiority of a tiny hand-held cell phone over their Art, and chose to continue playing among themselves in an innocuous fashion, chances are that the Grand Masters of Politics will not be willing to acknowledge graciously the superiority of the machine, and will do everything in their power to ban, prohibit, outlaw, proscribe, and put behind bars the new technology, for fear of losing the lucrative occupations that bring them an almost infinite power over the common man and his savings.

Unlike that of the Grand Masters of Chess, the hobby of the Grand Masters of Politics is not benign and does much to bankrupt whole countries and certainly does incur a risk of nuclear annihilation.

To be sure, suffice it to read the history of large scale murderous wars, such as the American Civil War or the First and Second World Wars, to cite a few, to realize that all wars without exception result from silly human misunderstanding on at least one side of the battlefield, and sometimes both.

In international conflicts, despite each party seeing itself as the Epitome of Virtue, and the other as the Epitome of Evil (two propositions which can hardly be compatible), reality and historical analysis would rather suggest that of the two parties one at least was a Fool, when not both.

The remedy to Political Foolishness is the machine, which alas (for them) will displace the recalcitrant Grand Masters of Politics, in the same fashion that the washing machine displaced the washerwoman of lore, although this time only after savage resistance.

³ Considered the best chess player of his time. Beside playing chess everywhere in Europe he was also a composer and wrote as many as thirty operas. Quite a character, he was rewarded by the Grand Masters of the French Revolution with banishment for life and exile.