

# Intrinsic Ratings Compendium

## (WORKING DRAFT)

Kenneth W. Regan  
Department of CSE  
University at Buffalo  
Amherst, NY 14260 USA  
[regan@buffalo.edu](mailto:regan@buffalo.edu)

September 29, 2012

### Abstract

This paper keeps a running compendium of Intrinsic Performance Ratings (IPR's) for selected events and player performances in the recorded history of chess. The IPR methodology is based on [RH11, RMH11] and updated here.

## 1 Introduction

The idea of Intrinsic Performance Ratings (IPR's) is to judge skill based on the quality of decisions made rather than the outcomes of contests. Aside from the issue that the outcome depends on the skill of opponents and on factors variously called “luck,” there is a simple sample-size motivation. A chess professional may play 50 games in a given year and call that a lot, but as a statistical sample this is scant. However, those games may average 30 important move decisions, yielding a healthy sample of 1,500 *moves*. Analysis of those moves by computer programs to sufficient depth to be stronger than the player can then provide both an objective measure of skill, and reasonably informative confidence intervals on the assessment.

A common feature of chess magazines or columns, one long called “Solitaire Chess” in magazines of the US Chess Federation, involves pausing before each move (usually those by the winning side) of a selected game, and choosing from several plausible alternatives. A strong player composing the puzzle has provided point values for each choice. At the end the reader adds up the points for all of his/her choices, and there is a table giving corresponding skill levels. The levels are often given as ratings on the international Elo scale, where for instance 2200 is commonly the threshold for “master,” or it may give prose names master, expert, amateur, etc. for those levels. We do not know of any attempt to make this correspondence scientific.

The IPR model is basically “Solitaire Chess” done scientifically, using suitably-scaled differences in values given to moves by authoritative chess programs as the “points.” Although the differences are negative, the model would be unchanged if we declared that the best move is always worth 5 points and differences in the usual pawn/centipawn units of chess engines were subtracted

from it. The correspondence between points and Elo rating is first established by training the model on large sets of games by players with established Elo ratings. The model generates projections of how many points a player with a given Elo rating would score on a standardized “Solitaire Set.”

To generate an IPR for a player’s performance in an event, or for a whole event, or for any set of games, we run the training process in reverse: First we train the model on that set of games. Then we take the parameter values that were fitted in the training, and use them to generate a projected points value on the Solitaire Set. The corresponding Elo value is then read off. We do not go directly from the parameters to Elo because there is more than one dependent parameter in the model, and the tradeoff between the two parameters called  $s$  and  $c$  in the current simple form already seems difficult to assess. The “Solitaire” step also affords a reasonable way to project confidence intervals that currently seem to be no worse than about 30% too narrow—i.e., modeling error requires no more than a 1.4 multiplier on them.

Full details are in the papers [RH11, RMH11], after earlier work [DHR09, HRD10] that built on [Haw03, Haw07]. The main differences from work by Guid and Bratko [GB06, GPB08, GB11] are the use of Multi-PV analysis to obtain authoritative values for all reasonable options, not just the top move(s) and the move played, and the discovery that human players behave as though relative values are scaled in proportion to the overall value of a position. The latter means that a value difference of, say, 20 centipawns between moves  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  as judged by an engine yields a greater incidence of human players selecting the better move  $m_1$  when the position is (say) within 20 centipawns of being equal, as when one side is (say) 100 centipawns ahead. Indeed a “marginal centipawn” seems to have  $5x$  impact when the engine’s evaluation is +20 to one side as when it is +100. This is like the idea that price movements in stocks or bonds should be plotted in proportion to the current price, i.e. on log-log paper rather than standard axes.

To reprise some details from [RMH11, RMH11], the defining equation of the particular model used there and here is the following, which relates the probability  $p_i$  of the  $i$ -th alternative move to  $p_0$  for the best move and its difference in value:

$$\frac{\log(1/p_i)}{\log(1/p_0)} = e^{-(\frac{\delta}{s})^c}, \quad \text{where} \quad \delta_i = \int_{v_i}^{v_0} \frac{1}{1+|z|} dz. \quad (1)$$

Here when the value  $v_0$  of the best move and  $v_i$  of the  $i$ -th move have the same sign, the integral giving the scaled difference simplifies to  $|\log(1+v_0) - \log(1+v_i)|$ . This employs the empirically-determined logarithmic scaling law.

The skill parameters are called  $s$  for “sensitivity” and  $c$  for “consistency” because  $s$  when small can enlarge small differences in value, while  $c$  when large sharply cuts down the probability of poor moves. The equation solved directly for  $p_i$  becomes

$$p_i = p_0^\alpha \quad \text{where} \quad \alpha = e^{-(\frac{\delta}{s})^c}. \quad (2)$$

The constraint  $\sum_i p_i = 1$  thus determines all values. By fitting these derived probabilities to actual frequencies of move choice in training data, we can find values of  $s$  and  $c$  corresponding to the training set.

Once we have  $s$  and  $c$ , these equations give us *projected probabilities*  $p_{i,t}$  for every legal move  $m_i$  in the position at every relevant game turn  $t$ . Per arbitrary choice we *omit*: game turns 1–8, turns involved in repetitions of the position, and turns where the program judges an advantage

greater than 300 centipawns for either side. These and some other modeling decisions are given detail and justification in [RH11].

To set up the correspondence to Elo rating, we define the *expected average error* statistic  $AE_e$ . For comparison we also define the *expected move-matching* statistic  $MM_e$ , which is the projected number of agreement's with the computer program's first choice of move. The following definitions tacitly assume that all move decisions are independent, which although violated by the idea of multi-move “plans,” is arguably close enough when one has a large set of moves in various games. Note that they also give projected standard deviations for these two quantities.

$$\begin{aligned} MM_e &= \sum_{t=1}^T p_{0,t}, & \sigma_{MM_e} &= \sqrt{\sum_{t=1}^T p_{0,t}(1 - p_{0,t})} \\ AE_e &= \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i \geq 1} p_{i,t} \delta_{i,t}, & \sigma_{AE_e} &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i \geq 1} p_{i,t}(1 - p_{i,t}) \delta_{i,t}}. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Table 1 gives the values of  $AE_e$  that were obtained by first fitting the training data for 2006–09, to obtain  $s, c$ , then computing the expectation for the union of the training sets. It was found that a smaller set  $S$  of moves comprising the games of the 2005 and 2007 world championship tournaments and the 2006 world championship match gave identical results to the fourth decimal place, so  $S$  was used as the fixed “Solitaire Set.”

Elo	2700	2600	2500	2400	2300	2200
$AE_e$	.0572	.0624	.0689	.0749	.0843	.0883

Table 1: Correspondence between Elo rating from 2006–2009 and projected Average Error.

A simple linear fit then yields the rule to produce the Elo rating for any  $(s, c)$ , which we call an “Intrinsic Performance Rating” (IPR) when the  $(s, c)$  are obtained by analyzing the games of a particular event and player(s).

$$IPR = 3571 - 15413 \cdot AE_e. \quad (4)$$

This expresses, incidentally, that at least from the vantage of RYBKA 3 run to reported depth 13, perfect play has a rating under 3600. This is reasonable when one considers that if a 2800 player such as Vladimir Kramnik is able to draw one game in fifty, the opponent can never have a higher rating than that. The fitted  $s, c$  values obtained in [RH11], including those forming a “central artery” of values  $s_{fit}, c_{fit}$  in a single fitted line, became the following table of Elo values in [RMH11]:

2006–2009

Elo	$s$	$c$	IPR	$2\sigma_e$ range	$2\sigma_a$ range	#moves	$c_{fit}$	$s_{fit}$	$IPR_{fit}$
2700	.078	.502	2690	2648–2731	2632–2748	7,032	.513	.080	2698
2600	.092	.523	2611	2570–2652	2553–2668	7,807	.506	.089	2589
2500	.092	.491	2510	2480–2541	2468–2553	16,773	.499	.093	2528
2400	.098	.483	2422	2393–2452	2381–2464	20,277	.492	.100	2435
2300	.108	.475	2293	2257–2328	2243–2342	17,632	.485	.111	2304
2200	.123	.490	2213	2170–2257	2153–2274	11,386	.478	.120	2192
2100	.134	.486	2099	2048–2150	2028–2170	9,728	.471	.130	2072

2000	.139	.454	1909	1853–1966	1830–1989	9,471	.464	.143	1922
1900	.159	.474	1834	1790–1878	1769–1893	16,195	.457	.153	1802
1800	.146	.442	1785	1741–1830	1723–1848	15,930	.450	.149	1801
1700	.153	.439	1707	1642–1772	1616–1798	8,429	.443	.155	1712
1600	.165	.431	1561	1496–1625	1470–1651	9,050	.436	.168	1565
1991–1994									
2700	.079	.487	2630	2576–2683	2555–2704	4,954	.513	.084	2659
2600	.092	.533	2639	2608–2670	2596–2682	13,425	.506	.087	2609
2500	.098	.500	2482	2453–2512	2441–2524	18,124	.499	.092	2537
2400	.101	.484	2396	2365–2426	2353–2438	19,968	.492	.103	2406
2300	.116	.480	2237	2204–2270	2191–2284	20,717	.485	.117	2248
2200	.122	.477	2169	2136–2202	2123–2215	21,637	.478	.122	2173
1976–1979									
2600	.094	.543	2647	2615–2678	2602–2691	11,457	.506	.087	2609
2500	.094	.512	2559	2524–2594	2509–2609	11,220	.499	.091	2547
2400	.099	.479	2397	2363–2431	2350–2444	16,635	.492	.103	2406
2300	.121	.502	2277	2240–2313	2226–2328	15,284	.485	.116	2257

Table 2: Elo correspondence in three four-year intervals.

Note that the fitted Elo values don't say exactly 2700, 2600, 2500, etc. This is the natural result of doing a linear fit. Some points in the 1600–2100 range are anomalous, and this may owe to various factors pertaining to the quality of the games and gamescores. Only the Elo 2200 through 2700 data for 2006–2009 were used in the linear fit for the ratings.

The procedure for generating an IPR for a given set  $T$  of positions and chosen moves is the following—where  $S$  is the fixed “Solitaire Set” defined above.

1. Do a regression on the test set  $T$  to fit  $s_T, c_T$ .
2. Use  $s_T, c_T$  to project  $AE_e$  on the reference set  $S$  (not on  $T$ ).
3. Derive IPR from  $AE_e$  via equation (4).
4. Use  $s_T, c_T$  on the test set  $T$  (not on  $S$ ) only to project  $\sigma_T = \sigma_{AE_e}$ .
5. Output  $[IPR - 2\sigma_T, IPR + 2\sigma_T]$  as the proposed “95%” confidence interval.

As noted toward the start of this section, early testing suggests replacing  $\sigma_T$  by  $\sigma_a = 1.4\sigma_T$  to get an “actual” 95% confidence interval given the model as it stands. Hence we show both ranges in the tables. These fits and confidence intervals underlie teh following results.

## 2 IPRs of Tournaments

Since the IPR is based only on game analysis and has no functional component from Elo, it extends before the adoption of Elo to the beginning of chess. Hence we include some tournaments before 1971, while noting the correspondence bewteen IPR and tournament category after that.

Event	IPR	$2\sigma_e$ range	$2\sigma_a$ range
St. Petersburg 1896 quadrangular	2390	2342–2438	2323–2458
Cambridge Springs 1904, top 9	2432	2385–2479	2366–2497
St. Petersburg 1914 prelims	2332	2281–2382	2261–2402
St. Petersburg 1914 finals	2575	2534–2617	2517–2633
New York 1927	2579	2536–2622	2518–2639
AVRO 1938	2605	2564–2646	2547–2663
The Hague 1948	2510	2444–2576	2417–2602
Curacao 1962 Candidates'	2538	2494–2582	2476–2600

Table 3: Intrinsic Ratings of some pre-1971 events

Player, player in event, or entire event IPR	
Howard Staunton, versus P. de Saint-Amant	1899
Staunton, all major matches	1940
Adolf Anderssen, London 1851	2004
Anderssen, versus Paul Morphy	2112
Morphy, versus Anderssen	2124
Morphy, 59 most important games overall	2344
Anderssen, 1860 onward	2100
Wilhelm Steinitz, up to 1870	1937
Steinitz, 1871–1882	2320
Steinitz, London 1883	2486
Steinitz, all games versus Zukertort	2352
Steinitz, all games versus Chigorin	2146
Steinitz, all games versus Gunsberg	2495
Steinitz, all games versus Lasker	2334
Johannes Zukertort, all games	2188
Zukertort, London 1883	2445
Zukertort, all games with Steinitz	2199
Emanuel Lasker, all games with Steinitz	2471
Jose Raúl Capablanca at New York, 1927	2936
Capablanca, AVRO 1938	2680
Capablanca, Buenos Aires Olympiad finals, 1939	2709
Paul Keres at The Hague 1948	2657

Table 4: Some historical player IPR's

Event	cat: Elo	IPR	$2\sigma_e$ range	$2\sigma_a$ range	IPR-Elo	#moves
Las Palmas 1996	21: 2756	2697	2612–2781	2579–2815	-59	1,760
Linares 1998	21: 2752	2715	2651–2780	2625–2805	-37	2,717
Linares 2000	21: 2751	2728	2645–2810	2612–2843	-23	1,636
Dortmund 2001	21: 2755	2752	2760–2834	2637–2866	-3	1,593

Mexico 2007	21: 2751	2708	2647–2769	2623–2793	-43	3,213
Morelia-Linares 2008	21: 2755	2855	2808–2903	2789–2922	+100	3,453
Nanjing 2008	21: 2751	2766	2691–2842	2660–2873	+15	1,936
Bilbao GSF 2008	21: 2768	2801	2731–2872	2702–2900	+33	2,013
Linares 2009	21: 2755	2750	2696–2803	2675–2825	-5	3,830
Sofia M-Tel 2009	21: 2754	2711	2626–2795	2592–2829	-51	1,937
Nanjing 2009	21: 2763	2715	2644–2785	2616–2814	-48	2,192
Moscow Tal Mem. 2009	21: 2763	2731	2663–2800	2635–2827	-32	2,706
Linares 2010	21: 2757	2681	2607–2756	2577–2786	-76	2,135
Nanjing 2010	21: 2766	2748	2674–2821	2645–2850	-18	1,988
Shanghai 2010	21: 2759	2829	2727–2931	2686–2972	+70	920
Bilbao 2010	22: 2789	2904	2822–2987	2788–3020	+115	1,060
Moscow Tal Mem. 2010	21: 2757	2690	2629–2750	2604–2775	-67	3,493
Bazna 2011	21: 2757	2750	2675–2825	2645–2855	-7	1,885
Sao Paulo/Bilbao 2011	22: 2780	2626	2539–2713	2504–2748	-154	1,998
Moscow Tal Mem. 2011	22: 2776	2807	2755–2860	2734–2881	+31	3,401
Wijk aan Zee Tata A 2012	21: 2755	2723	2681–2765	2664–2782	-32	6,092
Averages	21: 2760	2747			-13	2,474
Weighted by moves	21: 2760	2742			-17.2	
Aggregate run, all moves	21: 2760	2742	2727–2756	2721–2762	-18	51,962

Table 5: Intrinsic Ratings of Category 21 and higher standard tournaments, through January 2012 (Tata 2012 not yet in averages).

Event	cat: Elo	IPR	$2\sigma_e$ range	$2\sigma_a$ range	IPR-Elo	#moves
Linares 1999	20: 2735	2717	2652–2782	2627–2808	-18	3,134
Astana 2001	20: 2733	2771	2691–2850	2660–2882	+38	1,713
Linares 2002	20: 2732	2702	2631–2773	2603–2801	-30	2,270
Dortmund 2002 B	20: 2727	2669	2539–2800	2487–2852	-58	780
Linares 2003	20: 2733	2695	2628–2762	2601–2789	-38	2,549
Linares 2004	20: 2731	2739	2673–2805	2647–2831	+8	2,251
Linares 2005	20: 2743	2699	2628–2771	2599–2800	-44	2,418
San Luis 2005	20: 2738	2657	2597–2716	2574–2740	-81	3,694
Morelia-Linares 2006	20: 2732	2628	2563–2692	2538–2718	-104	3,621
Sofia M-Tel 2006	20: 2744	2744	2678–2810	2651–2836	0	2,197
Hoogeveen Essent 2006	20: 2730	2485	2343–2628	2286–2685	-245	844
Moscow Tal Memorial 2006	20: 2727	2732	2667–2796	2642–2822	+5	2,767
Morelia-Linares 2007	20: 2746	2717	2659–2775	2636–2798	-29	3,284
Dortmund 2007	20: 2727	2815	2744–2885	2715–2914	+88	1,812
Moscow Tal Memorial 2007	20: 2741	2748	2685–2811	2660–2836	+7	2,579
Wijk aan Zee Corus A 2008	20: 2742	2730	2687–2773	2670–2790	-12	5,774
Sofia M-Tel 2008	20: 2737	2690	2605–2775	2571–2809	-47	1,869
Moscow Tal Memorial 2008	20: 2745	2664	2587–2741	2556–2772	-81	2,764

Bazna Kings 2009	20: 2729	2664	2577–2751	2542–2785	-65	1,897
Dortmund 2009	20: 2744	2803	2728–2879	2697–2909	+59	1, 597
Bilbao GSF 2009	20: 2739	2613	2474–2752	2418–2807	-126	806
Astrakhan GP 2010	20: 2730	2796	2759–2833	2744–2848	+66	6,090
Bazna Kings 2010	20: 2742	2718	2642–2793	2612–2823	-24	1,904
London Classic 2010	20: 2725	2668	2594–2742	2565–2771	-57	2,312
Wijk aan Zee Tata 2011	20: 2740	2751	2707–2795	2690–2812	11	5,576
Dortmund 2011	20: 2731	2704	2638–2770	2612–2796	-27	2,521
Hoogeveen Unive 2011	20: 2732	2662	2533–2791	2482–2843	-70	829
London Classic 2011	20: 2748	2709	2650–2768	2626–2792	-39	2,594
Reggio Emilia 2011-12	20: 2744	2554	2463–2645	2426–2681	-190	1,834
Averages	20: 2736	2698			-38	2,561
Weighted by moves	20: 2736	2711			-25.3	
Aggregate run	20: 2736	2712	2700–2725	2695–2730	-24	74,280

Table 6: IPR's of all Category 20 events through January 2012

Event	cat: Elo	IPR	$2\sigma_e$ range	$2\sigma_a$ range	IPR-Elo	#moves
Montreal 1979	15: 2622	2588	2534–2642	2513–2663	-34	4,732
Linares 1993	18: 2676	2522	2469–2574	2449–2595	-154	6,129
Linares 1994	18: 2685	2517	2461–2574	2438–2596	-168	5,536
Dortmund 1995	17: 2657	2680	2615–2744	2589–2770	+23	2,459
Dortmund 1996	18: 2676	2593	2518–2667	2489–2697	-83	2,796
Dortmund 1997	18: 2699	2639	2569–2709	2541–2737	-60	2,583
Dortmund 1998	18: 2699	2655	2579–2732	2548–2762	-44	2,284
Dortmund 1999	19: 2705	2749	2655–2844	2617–2882	+44	1,364
Sarajevo 1999	19: 2703	2664	2592–2737	2563–2766	+19	2,755
Corus 2006	19: 2715	2736	2693–2779	2676–2797	+21	5,800
Corus 2007	19: 2717	2763	2716–2811	2697–2829	+46	5,095
Sofia M-Tel 2007	19: 2725	2576	2482–2670	2445–2708	-149	2,184
London 2009	18: 2696	2700	2630–2770	2602–2798	+4	2,360

Table 7: Some other events, for comparison to Tables 5 and 6.

The IPR's are on-balance below the tournament average ratings, but the latter's aggregate is just within the narrower confidence interval of the aggregate IPR. The regressions are *not* linear, so the parity of the aggregate run with the weighted average is notable. The comparison events are selective but still show no inflationary trend.

### 3 IPR's of Matches

Again we begin with some historical matches and their results. We distinguish the following under a more-liberal definition of world championship besides the standard one: Andressen earned the title by unofficial but fairly general understanding from London 1851, and then lost it in 1858 to Paul Morphy, who vacated it back to Anderssen before 1866. See <http://www.worldchesslinks.net/ezc08.html> for our inclusion of the 1866–1876 Steinitz matches, while we consider Karpov-Korchnoi 1974 to have been known as a likely championship match at the time of its playing.

Event/Player	IPR	$2\sigma_e$ range	$2\sigma_a$ range	#moves
Morphy, New York 1857	2289	2077–2502	1992–2587	368
Opponents, all games	1859	1589–2129	1481–2237	384
Combined	2065	1891–2240	1821–2310	752
Morphy-Paulsen final	2196	1984–2408	1900–2492	397
Morphy	2265	1978–2663	1863–2668	195
Paulsen	2116	1805–2427	1681–2551	202
Morphy-Loewenthal 1858	2252	2074–2429	2003–2500	802
Loewenthal	1965	1675–2255	1559–2371	403
Morphy	2561	2365–2758	2286–2837	399
Morphy-Harrwitz 1858	2443	2247–2640	2168–2719	472
Harrwitz	2496	2253–2739	2156–2836	240
Morphy	2433	2130–2735	2009–2856	232
Harrwitz from game 3	2433	2167–2698	2061–2804	173
Morphy from game 3	2582	2259–2905	2129–3035	165
Morphy-Mongredien 1859	1825	1457–2193	1310–2340	262
Mongredien	1194	557–1831	302–2086	133
Morphy	2304	1931–2677	1782–2827	129

Table 8: 19th-Century early matches.

Event/Player	IPR	$2\sigma_e$ range	$2\sigma_a$ range	#moves
Wch 1858	2121	1903–2339	1816–2426	633
Anderssen	2122	1811–2433	1686–2557	318
Morphy	2124	1820–2428	1698–2550	315
Wch 1866	2091	1908–2274	1834–2347	797
Anderssen	2137	1886–2387	1785–2488	402
Steinitz	2063	1798–2328	1692–2433	395
Wch 1866B	2263	2077–2449	2002–2523	666
Steinitz	2306	2053–2559	1951–2660	332
Bird	2245	1981–2508	1876–2613	334
Wch 1872	2191	1978–2403	1893–2489	635
Steinitz	2388	2139–2638	2039–2738	315
Zukertort	1911	1555–2266	1413–2408	320

Wch 1876	2088	1834–2341	1733–2443		405
Blackburne	1927	1547–2306	1396–2458		206
Steinitz	2266	1935–2596	1803–2728		199
Wch 1886	2338	2206–2470	2154–2523		1,189
Steinitz	2352	2150–2553	2070–2634		593
Zukertort	2320	2148–2493	2079–2562		596
Wch 1889	2257	2099–2414	2036–2477		978
Chigorin	2188	1957–2420	1864–2512		493
Steinitz	2322	2112–2532	2028–2616		485
Wch 1890	2397	2269–2526	2218–2577		1,020
Gunsberg	2302	2106–2499	2027–2578		509
Steinitz	2493	2327–2660	2260–2727		511
Wch 1892	2045	1868–2221	1798–2291		1,000
Chigorin	2073	1846–2300	1756–2390		498
Steinitz	2039	1769–2309	1661–2417		502
Wch 1894	2424	2315–2533	2271–2576		1,390
Lasker	2570	2432–2708	2377–2763		691
Steinitz	2269	2100–2438	2032–2506		699
Wch 1896	2361	2236–2485	2187–2535		1,249
Lasker	2317	2143–2490	2074–2560		618
Steinitz	2414	2238–2590	2167–2661		631

Table 9: 19th-Century world championship matches.

Event/Player	IPR	$2\sigma_e$ range	$2\sigma_a$ range	#moves
Wch 1907	2676	2565–2786	2521–2830	889
Lasker	2869	2734–3004	2680–3058	440
Marshall	2438	2268–2607	2201–2675	449
Wch 1908	2451	2337–2564	2292–2610	1190
Lasker	2603	2462–2743	2406–2799	595
Tarrasch	2300	2122–2479	2050–2551	595
Wch 1909	2675	2561–2788	2516–2833	640
Janowski	2537	2379–2696	2315–2759	322
Lasker	2811	2660–2962	2599–3023	318
Wch 1910A	2701	2586–2816	2541–2862	845
Lasker	2735	2577–2892	2514–2955	422
Schlechter	2703	2544–2861	2481–2925	423
Wch 1910B	2411	2259–2563	2199–2624	815
Janowski	2357	2141–2573	2055–2660	409
Lasker	2467	2255–2680	2169–2765	406
Wch 1921	2667	2566–2768	2525–2809	869
Capablanca	2808	2683–2932	2633–2982	431
Lasker	2525	2364–2686	2300–2750	438

Wch 1927	2770	2705–2835	2678–2861		2,069
Alekhine	2812	2731–2893	2699–2925		1,035
Capablanca	2730	2626–2834	2585–2876		1,034
Wch 1929	2521	2440–2601	2408–2633		1792
Alekhine	2567	2460–2675	2418–2717		896
Bogolyubov	2462	2341–2582	2293–2631		896
Wch 1934	2417	2346–2488	2317–2517		1927
Alekhine	2451	2352–2549	2313–2588		964
Bogolyubov	2364	2259–2469	2217–2511		963
Wch 1935	2559	2481–2638	2449–2670		1878
Alekhine	2595	2486–2703	2443–2747		936
Euwe	2521	2407–2635	2361–2681		942
Wch 1937	2400	2293–2508	2251–2550		1626
Alekhine	2427	2265–2588	2200–2653		816
Euwe	2359	2217–2502	2160–2559		810

Table 10: 20th-Century world championship matches before WW II.

Event/Player	IPR	$2\sigma_e$ range	$2\sigma_a$ range	#moves
Wch 1951	2555	2498–2611	2476–2633	1848
Botvinnik	2517	2427–2606	2391–2642	922
Bronstein	2583	2511–2654	2483–2682	926
Wch 1954	2715	2643–2786	2614–2815	1516
Botvinnik	2706	2597–2814	2554–2857	757
Smyslov	2717	2620–2813	2581–2852	759
Wch 1957	2668	2601–2735	2575–2762	1352
Botvinnik	2713	2627–2799	2593–2833	676
Smyslov	2611	2504–2719	2461–2762	676
Wch 1958	2626	2562–2690	2537–2716	1596
Botvinnik	2792	2714–2871	2683–2902	799
Smyslov	2438	2336–2540	2295–2581	797
Wch 1960	2693	2614–2772	2582–2804	1432
Botvinnik	2690	2585–2795	2543–2837	715
Tal	2683	2561–2805	2512–2854	717
Wch 1961	2570	2490–2649	2459–2681	1726
Botvinnik	2665	2559–2771	2517–2813	864
Tal	2466	2348–2584	2301–2631	862
Wch 1963	2744	2686–2802	2663–2826	1565
Botvinnik	2730	2649–2811	2617–2844	782
Petrosian	2762	2679–2845	2645–2878	783
Wch 1966	2681	2629–2733	2608–2754	1645
Petrosian	2631	2556–2706	2526–2736	824

Spassky	2724	2652–2797	2623–2826		821
Wch 1969	2547	2489–2604	2466–2628		1517
Petrosian	2552	2472–2631	2440–2663		758
Spassky	2530	2446–2615	2412–2649		759

Table 11: World Championship Matches in Moscow before the Elo System. (**Note:** these use a revised methodology to which the whole paper will be converted.)

Event/Player	Elo [avg]	IPR	$2\sigma_e$ range	$2\sigma_a$ range	IPR-Elo	#moves
Wch 1972	2723	2646	2546–2747	2505–2787	-77	1,367
Fischer	2785	2650	2496–2805	2434–2867		680
Spassky	2660	2643	2512–2775	2459–2827		687
Wch 1974	2685	2662	2575–2744	2541–2778	-23	1,787
Karpov	2700	2652	2529–2775	2480–2824	-48	889
Korchnoi	2670	2667	2551–2783	2505–2829	-3	898
Wch 1978	2695	2708	2640–2775	2613–2802	+13	2,278
Karpov	2725	2722	2632–2812	2596–2848		1,141
Korchnoi	2665	2697	2598–2796	2558–2836		1,137
Wch 1981	2698	2749	2659–2839	2623–2875	+51	1,176
Karpov	2700	2852	2731–2972	2683–3020		587
Korchnoi	2695	2651	2520–2782	2486–2835		589
Wch 1984 g1-9	2710	2588	2442–2735	2382–2793		589
Karpov	2705	2669	2484–2854	2409–2928		293
Kasparov	2715	2487	2251–2723	2157–2817		296
Wch 1984 g10-29	2710	3002	2924–3080	2892–3111		828
Karpov	2705	2957	2826–3087	2774–3139		411
Kasparov	2715	3042	2949–3135	2912–3172		417
Wch 1984 g30-48	2710	2771	2674–2868	2635–2907		1,029
Karpov	2705	2678	2532–2824	2473–2883		515
Kasparov	2715	2863	2736–2990	2686–3041		514
Wch 1984 all	2710	2810	2751–2870	2727–2894	+100	2,446
Karpov	2705	2761	2672–2851	2636–2887		1,219
Kasparov	2715	2859	2781–2937	2750–2969		1,227
Wch 1985	2710	2720	2636–2805	2602–2838	+10	1,420
Karpov	2720	2701	2583–2819	2536–2866		712
Kasparov	2700	2734	2612–2856	2564–2905		708
Wch 1986	2723	2841	2763–2919	2732–2951	+118	1,343
Karpov	2705	2807	2700–2914	2657–2957		670
Kasparov	2740	2907	2801–3014	2758–3057		673
Wch 1987	2720	2742	2660–2824	2627–2857	+22	1,490
Karpov	2700	2838	2730–2946	2687–2989		742
Kasparov	2740	2659	2540–2779	2492–2826		748
Wch 1990	2765	2620	2527–2712	2491–2749	-145	1,622

Karpov	2730	2547	2403–2692	2345–2749		812
Kasparov	2800	2674	2554–2794	2507–2841		810
Wch 1993	2730	2683	2578–2787	2537–2829	-47	1,187
Kasparov	2805	2631	2477–2786	2415–2847		593
Short	2655	2734	2594–2875	2538–2931		594
Wch 1995	2760	2702	2557–2847	2499–2905	-58	767
Anand	2725	2617	2400–2834	2313–2921		382
Kasparov	2795	2807	2625–2989	2552–3062		385
Wch 2000	2810	2918	2829–3008	2794–3043	+108	867
Kasparov	2849	2851	2706–2997	2648–3055		435
Kramnik	2770	2969	2858–3080	2814–3125		432
Wch 2004	2756	2871	2763–2978	2721–3020	+115	726
Kramnik	2770	2945	2815–3074	2764–3126		363
Leko	2741	2785	2605–2695	2533–3037		363
Wch 2006	2778	2802	2709–2895	2672–2933	+24	911
Kramnik	2743	2791	2660–2922	2608–2974		453
Topalov	2813	2832	2705–2958	2655–3009		458
Wch 2008	2778	2679	2528–2830	2468–2890	-99	562
Anand	2783	2723	2506–2940	2419–3026		279
Kramnik	2772	2610	2393–2827	2306–2914		283
Wch 2010	2796	2720	2613–2826	2571–2869	-76	985
Anand	2787	2737	2572–2903	2506–2969		491
Topalov	2805	2703	2566–2839	2512–2894		494
Averages	2740	2742			+2.25	19,147
Weighted by moves	2730	2736			+6.03	
Aggregate run	2734	2735	2712–2758	2703–2767	+1	20,934

Table 12: World Championship matches since 1972.

Event/Player		IPR	$2\sigma_e$ range	$2\sigma_a$ range		#moves
Capablanca-Kostic 1919		2545	2355–2734	2280–2810		372
Capablanca		3001	2818–3184	2744–3257		185
Kostic		2005	1704–2305	1584–2425		187
Fischer-Taimanov CM 1971	2680	2765	2625–2905	2569–2961	+85	528
Fischer	2740	2923	2752–3095	2683–3164	+183	263
Taimanov	2620	2616	2402–2829	2317–2914	-4	265
Fischer-Larsen CM 1971	2710	2478	2183–2773	2066–2890	-232	359
Fischer	2760	2830	2468–3192	2323–3336	+70	178
Larsen	2660	2187	1772–2602	1606–2768	-473	181
Fischer-Petrosian CM 1971	2700	2814	2689–2939	2639–2989	+114	496
Fischer	2760	2969	2828–3111	2771–3167	+209	247
Petrosian	2640	2646	2435–2858	2350–2942	+6	249
Fischer, all 1971 matches	2754	2921	2808–3034	2763–3079	+157	688
Karpov-Polugayevsky CM 1974	2665	2651	2505–2798	2446–2857	-14	461

Karpov Polugaevsky	2700 2630	2754 2472	2580–2928 2210–2734	2511–2998 2105–2839	+54 -158	229 232
Karpov-Spassky CM 1974	2675	2748	2642–2854	2600–2896	+73	737
Karpov Spassky	2700 2650	2692 2810	2519–2866 2685–2935	2449–2935 2635–2985	-8 +160	368 369
Karpov-Portisch Milan 1975 final	2670	2620	2448–2791	2380–2860	-50	321
Karpov Portisch	2705 2635	2731 2388	2552–2909 2066–2709	2480–2981 1937–2838	+26 -247	159 162
Fischer-Spassky 1992	2673	2698	2626–2770	2597–2799	+25	2,077
Fischer Spassky	2785 2560	2724 2659	2622–2825 2554–2764	2582–2866 2512–2806	-61 +99	1,037 1,040
WWch 1996	2540	2591	2474–2708	2427–2755	+51	657
Susan Polgar	2550	2728	2558–2898	2490–2966	+178	329
Xie Jun	2530	2478	2322–2634	2260–2697	-52	328
WWch 2011	2589	2828	2713–2943	2667–2989	+239	570
Hou Yifan	2578	2971	2849–3093	2801–3142	+393	283
Humpy Koneru	2600	2680	2479–2881	2398–2961	+80	287

Table 13: Some other post-1900 matches.

## 4 IPRs of Big Swiss Event(s)

We analyzed all 624 available games from 647 played at the 2011 Canadian Open, including all by players with FIDE ratings 2400 and above, which form an unbiased sample. Table 14 shows the IPR’s and compares them to Chess Federation of Canada ratings before and after the event, FIDE ratings before, and the tournament performance ratings (TPR’s) based on the CFC ratings. The final two columns are the confidence intervals for the IPR alone. The final rows summarize the sample, the whole event (152 players minus 3 early withdrawals leaving 149), and the whole event weighted by number of games played and number of analyzed moves. The bottom-right restricts to the 115 players who had FIDE ratings before the event. All players with 2400+ *Canadian* ratings are named. While the IPR’s for tournaments with average ratings over 2700 are by-and-large low, these are markedly high especially relative to these players’ FIDE ratings. The time control was 40 moves in 90 minutes plus 30 second increment, then G/30 plus the same increment.

Name	Can R	FIDE R	TPR	IPR	IPR-TPR	$2\sigma_e$ range	$2\sigma_a$ range	#moves
Arencibia	2537	2476	2745	2723	-22	2491–2956	2398–3049	273
Benjamin	2641	2553	2688	2412	-276	2196–2629	2110–2715	373
Bluvshstein	2634	2611	2622	2533	-89	2323–2744	2239–2828	316
Bojkov	2544	2544	2595	2154	-441	1765–2543	1610–2698	219
Calugar	2437	2247	2144	2301	+157	2091–2512	2007–2596	327
Cheng	2500	2385	2661	2728	+67	2502–2954	2411–3044	297
Cummings	2459	2350	2473	2833	+360	2683–2983	2623–3043	322
Fedorowicz	2508	2454	2422	2390	-32	2088–2692	1967–2813	199
Gerzhoy	2647	2483	2622	2963	+341	2802–3124	2738–3189	211

Golod	2576	2582	2582	2638	+56	2376–2899	2272–3003	218
Hebert	2486	2414	2519	2789	+270	2598–2979	2522–3055	285
Krnan	2470	2390	2651	2694	+43	2488–2900	2405–2982	266
Krush	2578	2487	2539	2497	-42	2217–2717	2189–2805	316
Meszaros	2409	2418	2278	2413	+133	2219–2607	2141–2684	337
Mikhalevski	2664	2569	2519	2616	+96	2412–2820	2330–2902	248
Milicevic	2400	2288	2352	2113	-240	1799–2426	1674–2552	214
Mulyar	2422	2410	2412	2636	+224	2483–2788	2422–2849	378
Noritsyn	2597	2425	2563	2394	-171	2166–2621	2075–2713	286
Pechenkin	2408	2297	2309	2648	+339	2439–2857	2355–2940	311
Perelshteyn	2532	2534	2650	2629	-21	2425–2833	2343–2915	258
Perez Rod'z	2467	2467	2676	2627	-49	2321–2933	2198–3056	195
Plotkin	2411	2243	2260	2715	+455	2570–2861	2512–2919	330
Regan	2422	2409	2268	2525	+257	2323–2728	2242–2809	356
Rozentalis	2614	2571	2666	2721	+55	2528–2913	2452–2990	291
Sambuev	2739	2528	2571	2677	+106	2499–2855	2428–2926	400
Samsonkin	2532	2378	2707	2535	-172	2267–2802	2159–2910	233
Sapozhnikov	2424	2295	2480	2404	-76	2203–2605	2122–2685	341
Shabalov	2618	2577	2549	2639	+90	2417–2861	2328–2590	262
Thavandiran	2447	2320	2607	2622	+15	2360–2884	2255–2989	254
Yoos	2439	2373	2289	1939	-350	1607–2271	1474–2404	268
Zenyuk	2429	2222	2342	2790	+448	2606–2975	2532–3049	229
Averages	2516	2429	2508	2558	+50			
Std. Dev.	92		157	218				
Whole event:	149					Restricted to FIDE-rated players: 115		
Average	2144		2142	2117		2203	2211	2139
Std. Dev.	258		261	379		345	229	220
Wtd. avg.						IPR	CanR	FIDE R
By games	2156		2154	2134		2219	2221	2147
By moves	2173		2172	2161		2242	2236	2161

Table 14: Comparison of FIDE and CFC ratings, TPR's, and IPR's for 2011 Canadian Open

1. The IPR's have similar overall average to the Canadian ratings, especially under weighting by games or moves.
2. FIDE ratings of Canadian players are deflated relative to apparent skill. This is commonly believed to be due to a lack of playing opportunities in FIDE-rated events.
3. The IPR's have higher deviations from their own mean than the TPR's.
4. The IPR's have large deviation, and yet several TPR's fall outside even the 2.8-sigma range. This may constrain the usefulness of the IPR as an estimator of the TPR.

Event/Player	Elo	IPR	$2\sigma_e$ range	$2\sigma_a$ range	IPR-Elo	#moves
--------------	-----	-----	-------------------	-------------------	---------	--------

---

Table 15: Other results by 2012 Canadian Open high performers.

---

## 5 Conclusions

**Acknowledgments.** Foremost we thank the programmers of the Arena chess GUI for full scripting and recording of computer analysis, and those of TOGA II and RYBKA 3 for their engines and advice. Tamal Biswas collected data and prepared graphics. Support was provided by the UB Department of CSE and the University of Montreal for Jan.–June, 2009. Finally we thank David Cohen and Hugh Brodie for providing gamescores of the entire 2011 Canadian Open, and the referees for helpful comments.

## References

- [DHR09] G. DiFatta, G.M<sup>c</sup>C. Haworth, and K. Regan. Skill rating by Bayesian inference. In *Proceedings, 2009 IEEE Symposium on Computational Intelligence and Data Mining (CIDM'09), Nashville, TN, March 30–April 2, 2009*, pages 89–94, 2009.
- [GB06] M. Guid and I. Bratko. Computer analysis of world chess champions. *ICGA Journal*, 29(2):65–73, 2006.
- [GB11] M. Guid and I. Bratko. Using heuristic-search based engines for estimating human skill at chess. *ICGA Journal*, 34(2):71–81, 2011.
- [GPB08] M. Guid, A Pérez, and I. Bratko. How trustworthy is Crafty’s analysis of world chess champions? *ICGA Journal*, 31(3):131–144, 2008.
- [Haw03] G.M<sup>c</sup>C. Haworth. Reference fallible endgame play. *ICGA Journal*, 26:81–91, 2003.
- [Haw07] Guy Haworth. Gentlemen, Stop Your Engines! *ICGA Journal*, 30:150–156, 2007.
- [HRD10] G.M<sup>c</sup>C. Haworth, K. Regan, and G. DiFatta. Performance and prediction: Bayesian modelling of fallible choice in chess. In *Proceedings, 12th ICGA Conference on Advances in Computer Games, Pamplona, Spain, May 11–13, 2009*, volume 6048 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 99–110. Springer-Verlag, 2010.
- [RH11] K. Regan and G.M<sup>c</sup>C. Haworth. Intrinsic chess ratings. In *Proceedings of AAAI 2011, San Francisco*, 2011.
- [RMH11] K. Regan, B. Macieja, and G.M<sup>c</sup>C. Haworth. Understanding distributions of chess performances. In *Proceedings of ACG 13, Tilburg, NED, Lect. Notes. Comp. Sci.* Springer-Verlag, 2011.