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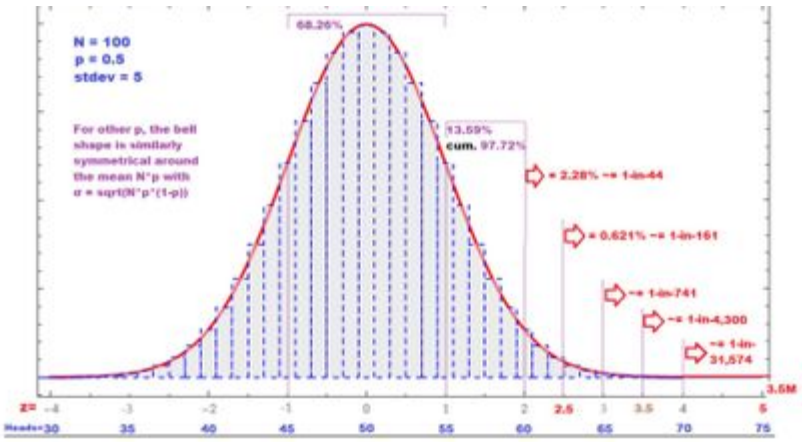
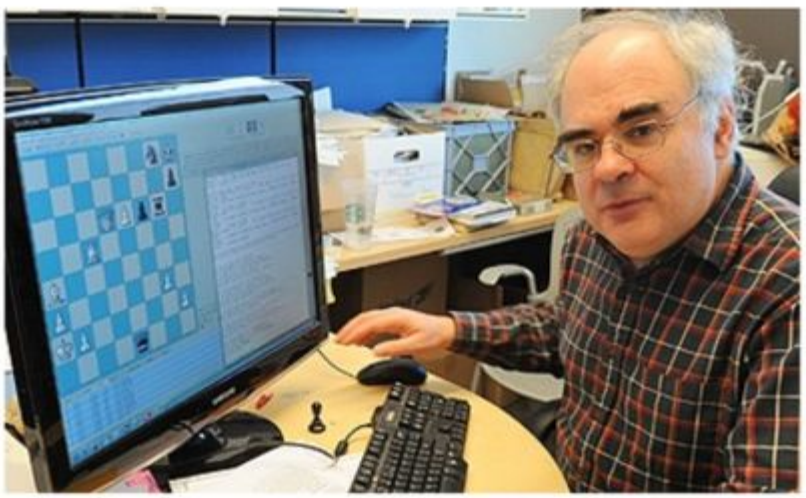
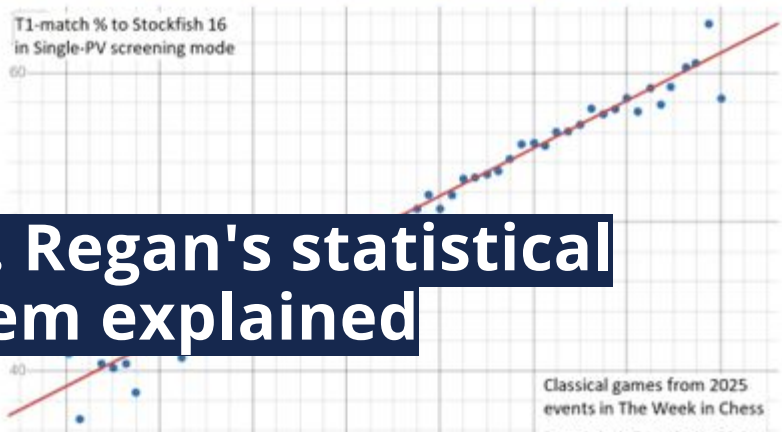
ECU E-Magazine April 2025

The second quarterly ECU Board Meeting took place on Friday, 25th of April, in Pristina, Kosovo. Main information, decisions of the ECU Board, updates on the ECU's activities and projects and information about the upcoming Championship were published on the ECU Website.

In this edition of the ECU E-Magazine you may read about second quarterly ECU Board Meeting, invitations for the ECU events, ECU Commissions' activities.







Prof. Regan's statistical system explained

Chess Makes You Smarter.

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In April 2025 edition of the ECU E-Magazine you may read about:

In brief...

• The second quarterly **ECU Board Meeting** took place on Friday, 25th of April, in Pristina, Kosovo. Main information, decisions of the ECU Board, updates on the ECU's activities and projects and information about the upcoming Championship were published on the ECU Website.

• **European Youth Chess Championship 2025** will take place from 28 October -8h November in Budva, Montenegro and will be played in 6 age categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 &U18, open &girls separately. Invitation is published on the ECU website.

• **European Teams Chess Championship 2025** will be held from 4-15 October in Batumi, Georgia. The event will be played in two sections: Open and Women, with 9-swiss rounds in each Championship.

• The **annual ECU General Assembly and ECU 40 years anniversary Gala** will take place on Saturday 11th of October, in Batumi, Georgia, simultaneously with the European Team Chess Championship 2025.

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland,.
European Chess Union is an independent association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria. European Chess Union has 54 National federations members, and each year organises more than 20 prestigious events.
Website: europechess.org

ECU Board Meeting
Pristina, Kosovo

The second quarterly meeting of the Board of the European Chess Union took place on Friday 25 April in Pristina, Kosovo.
The meeting was hosted by the Chess Federation of Kosovo with excellent hospitality.

Communique of the ECU Board Meeting

Main information and decisions:

- Mr. Moshe Slav was appointed as the Commercial Chief Adviser of the ECU. With his extensive experience in commercial strategy and business development, Mr. Slav joins the ECU at a pivotal time as we continue to expand our presence across Europe and enhance our commercial initiatives.
- The Board was informed about the projects submitted to the 2025 FIDE European Development Fund, aligned with the renewed FIDE guidelines.
- The strategic cooperation with SenseRobot and the future steps were discussed.
- The launch and the first month results of the ECU Training Hub were presented.
- The ECU Training Hub had an excellent start with 100 placed orders and 205 webinars spots we were booked.
- ECU Board decided to create a framework for associated members in order the ECU organs to accept and discuss applications from interest parties.
- The ECU 40-Year Anniversary Gala will take place in Batumi, Georgia on 11th October 2025 same day with the ECU annual General Assembly

European Chess Championships

- The European Women's Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2025 is awarded to Monaco Chess Federation to be held from 8-12 January 2026 with 46,500 eur prize fund.
- The proposal by PAOK Sports Club of Thessaloniki to host the European Fischer Random Chess Championship 2026 was warmly welcomed. The Championship will take place at PAOK SPORTS ARENA in Thessaloniki in the second half June and coincides with PAOK's centennial celebration in 2026.
- Georgian Chess Federation was awarded the European Individual Chess Championship 2027 and European Youth Championship 2028.

The second quarterly meeting of the Board of the European Chess Union took place on Friday 25 April in Pristina, Kosovo. The meeting was hosted by the Chess Federation of Kosovo with excellent hospitality.

Board activities and meetings

Following the Board meeting, ECU representatives inspected the venue for the 2025 European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship. The Emerald Hotel Congress Centre, offering 2,500 m^2 of space, was deemed highly suitable. The championship, which will take place from 27 November to 1 December 2025, will feature a €65,000 prize fund, a 50% increase from previous years.

ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili and President of Montenegro Chess Federation Mr. Jovan Milovic signed the contract for the 2025 European Youth Chess Championship, which will be held in Budva, Montenegro from 28 October to 8 November 2025. The championship will feature six age categories (U8-U18) in both open and girls' sections.

The President of the European Chess Union Zurab Azmaiparashvili, the CEO of the European Chess Union and President of the Mediterranean Chess Federation Erald Dervishi and the President of the Kosovo Chess Federation Armed Budina met with the Minister of Kosovo for Culture, Youth and Sports Hajrulla Çeku and discussed the possibility of including chess in the Mediterranean Games 2030, which will be organised in Pristina, among other chess matters.

Detailed information about the second quarterly ECU Board Meeting held in Pristina, Kosovo, can be found on the ECU Website.

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Kosovo Chess Federation Armed Budina met with the Minister of Kosovo for Culture, Youth and Sports Hajrulla Çeku.

European Team Chess Championship 2025

Batumi, Georgia

European Chess Union and the Georgian Chess Federation invite ECU member federations to participate in European team Chess Championship 2025. The event will be held in Batumi, Georgia, from 4 of October (arrival day) to 15 of October (departure day).

The event will be played in Open and Women's sections separately, with 9 swiss rounds in each competition and time control of 90 minutes for 40 moves + 30 minutes for rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds for every move starting from move 1.

Each national federation member of the ECU has the right to enter with one team of four players and one reserve in the Open competition and one team of four female players and one reserve in the Women's competition. The deadline for the registration is August 10th, 2025. Registration form can be downloaded from the official tournament website.

Detailed information about the event, official regulations and contact information can be found on the ECU Website.

The official hotel of the event is 5***** Grand Bellagio Convention and the playing venue of the championships is located within the Hotel complex.

Prizes

The first three teams in the Open and Women's sections will each receive cups. Each member of the winning team (players, reserves and captain) shall receive gold medals and diplomas. Members of the second and third-placed teams shall each receive silver and bronze medals and diplomas respectively.

The best – performing players in the Open and Women's sections on each board (10 players in total) will receive gold medals. Performance shall be calculated as per ECU tournament rules. Second and third placed players in both sections will receive silver and bronze medals.

ECU General Assembly and ECU 40 years anniversary GALA

The annual ECU General Assembly and ECU 40 years anniversary Gala will take place on Saturday 11th of October. Additional information about the delegates and rest participants will be published by ECU.

European Chess Club Cup 2025 - Invitation

*The event will be played at *****Rodos Palace Conference Hall*

European Chess Union invites all European Chess Federations affiliated to ECU to participate in the 40th European Chess Club Cup and the 29th European Women's Chess Club Cup. The events will be held in Rhodes, Greece, from 18 October (arrival day) to 26 October 2025 (departure day).

The 40th European Chess Club Cup and the 29th European Women's Chess Club Cup will be played in *****Rodos Palace Conference Hall, in 7 rounds played according to the swiss system, with the time control of 90 minutes for 40 moves + 30 minutes until the end of the game, with 30-second increment for each move, starting from the move one.

The event is open to:

- Five clubs per federation in which a national team chess championship is organised or four clubs per federation in which no national team is organised. There is no restriction how the clubs will be selected by the National Federations
- Additional participation requests will be examined by the ECU Board
- There are no restrictions for participation in the European Women's Chess Club Cup, and all the club members of the ECU Federations are allowed to participate.
- Clubs shall be registered through the National Chess Federations or directly if there is no objection from the National Chess Federation

The open teams shall be composed of six (6) players plus two (2) reserves all of whom must be members of the club and were entitled to play for the club in the national team championship of the federation, which was organized within one year before the start of the current European Club Cup. However, players who are foreigners to the federation in which the national team championship is organized, must have played at least two games in this championship.

The women teams shall be composed of four (4) players plus one (1) reserve player. There is no restriction on the composition and all female player's license fees are waived for 2025.

The total prize fund of the Championship is 40.000 EUR, with 26.000 EUR prize pool in the 40th European Chess Club Cup, and 14.000 EUR prize pool in the 29th European Women's Chess Club Cup. The best-ranked three teams in each section will receive trophies and medals, and the best individual players for each board will receive a prize.

Detailed information, registration details, registration form and contact information can be found on the ECU Website.

European Youth Chess Championship 2025

European Youth Chess Championship 2025 will take place in Budva, Montenegro between 28th October (arrival day) – 8th November (departure day), 2025.

Montenegro Chess Federation and the European Chess Union have the honour to invite all the National Federations members of the European Chess Union to participate in the European Youth Chess Championship 2025 organized in Budva, Montenegro between 28th October (arrival day) – 8th November (departure day), 2025.

The event will be played in 6 age categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18, open and girls sections separately. Each Championship will be played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with the time control of 90 minutes for 40 moves + 30 minutes until the end of the game, with 30-second increment for each move starting from the move one.

Each federation can register one (1) invited player in each of the categories – under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 (open and girls sections), and the maximum number of twelve (12) players ("invited players"). Federations can register unlimited number of extra players. The players placed 1-3 in the European Youth Chess Championship 2024 will have the personal right to participate in the championship in the corresponding age-category or a higher age-category if they fulfil the conditions that they have not reached the age of 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 or 18 years, respectively, by January 1st, 2025. All players must register through their national federations before the 8th of August (registration deadline).

The first three players in each group will be awarded medals; the first five players in each group will be awarded cups, diplomas and valuable prizes. Each participant will receive presents. The Winners of each section will receive the title of the European Youth Chess Champions 2025 for the respective age category.

The Championships will be played at "Jadranski sajam" Budva which is located 100m from the official tournament hotels: ****Slovenska Plaza and ****Aleksandar – Slovenska Plaza.

Detailed information about the event and official regulations can be found on the ECU Website.

SenseRobot Chess at the Greek Schools Championship

AI Chess Robot - SenseRobot was shown at the Greek Schools Chess Championship 2025 which was played in Thessaloniki. The event gathered 1400 players and more than 4000 participants including spectators, coaches and accompanying persons!

Children had fun playing chess with SenseRobot, or watching Greek best Grandmasters - GM Ioannidis Evgenios and GM Stamatis Kourkoulos-Arditis playing chess games against SenseRobot.

Detailed information about SenseRobot and its partnership with ECU can be found on the ECU website.

SenseRobot - Official website

ECU Education Commission

Registration is open for the next Academic Course starting on the 1st of September

Course objective
The teaching objective of the course is to provide a comprehensive overview of the different aspects of Chess in Education. We combine theory and practice to equip educators with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to deliver effective lessons using chess as an educational tool. The course is divided into 6 Units, each of them contributing towards a better understanding of the possibilities what chess can offer in the classroom and beyond.

The 20-week course is conducted in English, using the online Moodle platform. Students are expected to work independently, learn the course material at their own pace and time.

Read more

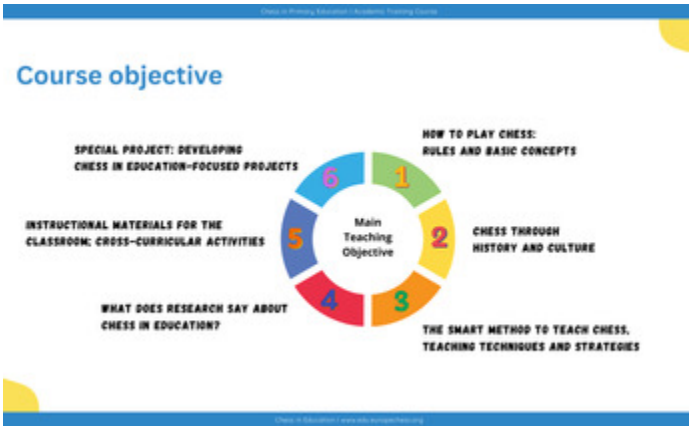
ECU Education Commission

One of the feedback question we asked from participants of the previous courses was about the assignments:

How have the Assignments impacted your knowledge and skills in the subject area? Which Assignment was the most useful for you and why?

Feedback

The most useful Assignment? Hard to choose, I would say the SMART method, because it touches directly my work.



Feedback

All assignments were engaging. Most particularly those that had practical application and implementation like Unit 6.

Feedback

All of the assignments were great, i kind of enjoyed the unit 3 and unit 4 the most, they were rather tough and helped me get locked into the course, from that moment on, everything was easier.

Feedback

Unit 4 has the greatest impact because I was forced to read the research works of various people and understand better the current situation. However, it is the SMART method which is most useful for me as it gives me many ideas for planning lessons.

ECU Education Commission

ECU Chess in Education Ambassador – Romania

The European Chess Union has launched the ECU Chess in Education Partnership with National Chess Federations to help promote chess as an educational tool in schools and institutions across Europe and beyond, strengthening the connection amongst National Federations and the broader educational community.
ECU EDU's goal is to increase the visibility of the National Chess in Education initiatives through our dedicated online platforms to create opportunities for knowledge sharing, networking and collaboration to inspire each other. National Ambassadors will play a key role in supporting the ECU Education Commission's mission.

[Read more]

ECU Education Commission

Enrich your lessons and generate discussions with these lovely educational chess videos

Did you know that Walter Rädler is the mastermind behind these video series?

Chairman I German School Chess Foundation

Councillor I ECU Education Commission

Walter always comes up with creative ideas and has produced many videos to promote chess and show the game from various viewpoints.
Whether these stories introduce the history of chess or make you think about women's chess, there is always food for thought, which adds many educational values to these videos.
See also a collection of silent videos, dedicated to Women's chess.

[Read more]

ECU Ecucation Commission

El método SMART para enseñar ajedrez

Start SMART with Chess in Education and support your Professional Development!

Breaking down educational objectives into SMART goals creates effective strategies for using Chess in Education. The ECU101 - The SMART Method to Teach Chess training course comprises two days of interactive presentations, group discussions and practical exercises. It supports educators in improving their instructional skills, including how to structure lessons, provide feedback, and create a supportive learning environment to maintain students' motivation. It also introduces various teaching techniques and strategies...

More info and Registration:

ECU Education Commission

Upcoming Discussion Group Meeting Wednesday, 28 May 2025, at 19:00 CET

Join the Global Conversation!

This month, the presentation will share the experience of the Peruvian project Pequeños Maestros (Little Masters), a social project focused on children, families and schools in vulnerable contexts. Following our motto “We shake hands to start the game”, our project seeks to contribute to the socio-emotional and cognitive development of girls and boys in communities facing diverse social challenges. Through a journey through its history, educational proposals, learning, challenges and future perspectives, we will show how chess can become an educational tool to develop life skills.

[More info and Registration]

Prof. Regan's statistical system explained

The Arbiters' Council asked Prof. Kenneth W. Regan to write a dissemination article about his system, to let every arbiter to get acquainted with this very important tool. It has been written with the purpose to make the system understandable without any particular mathematical skill, in order to have the concept behind known to every arbiter. The Arbiters' Council warmly thanks Prof. Regan for his precious job for the Chess community and for his kind cooperation with us!

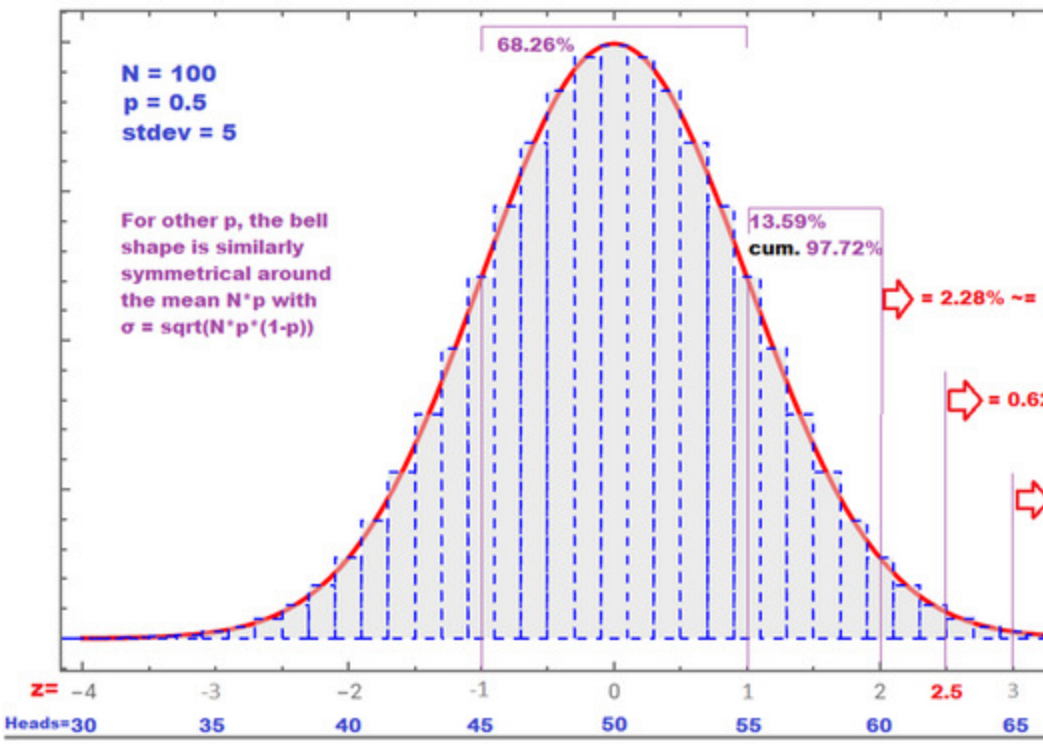
FIDE recognizes a two-stage system for fair-play assurance and cheating detection, called "screening" and "full test." The regulations actually do not specify that these must be filled by the formulas and software I designed. But they do specify two stages. Here I will try to explain why and what problems this structure tries to solve---from an arbiter's rather than mathematician's point of view.

1. How can we tell a legitimate upset win by a lower-rated player apart from cheating?
2. How can we gain information to answer an accusation of cheating during a tournament?
3. How can we get a picture of the overall state of a tournament?
4. How can we best allocate attention by our staff, especially in a large Open?
5. How can we know what (if any) further steps are appropriate to take in coordination with FIDE and/or a national federation?

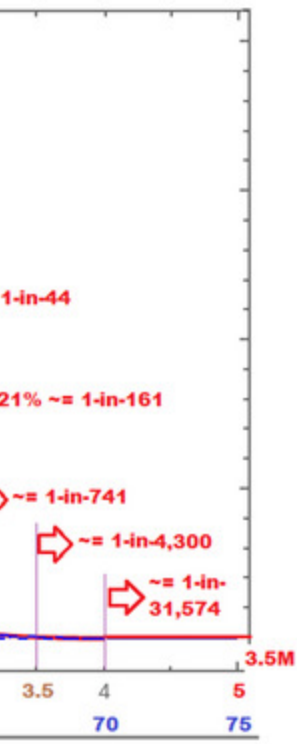
These questions do not have easy answers. Far from mathematics being an instant savior, instead it causes troubles that were already bedeviling scientists in the 1700s. Why does repeating an experiment---or what seems to be the same life experience---often give different results? The surprising fact is that the differences and their frequencies most often fall into the same common pattern called the bell curve.

The red line is the bell curve itself. It has a natural abstract scale called "z" that is centered on 0, meaning no deviation from the expected truth. The blue shows possible outcomes of an experiment that seems silly at first: Flip a coin 100 times and count how many "heads" you get. Given that the coin is fair, you expect to get 50 heads---versus 50 tails.

The bell curve



Text and illustrations by Prof. Kenneth W. Regan

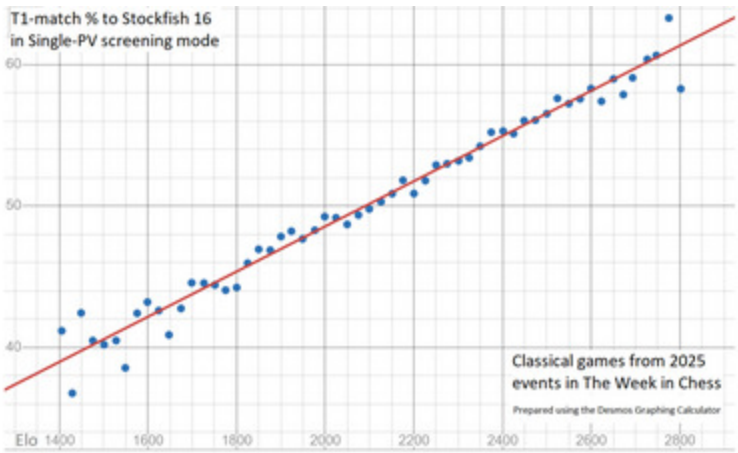


The blue bars show that getting exactly 50 heads is the most likely outcome, but getting 51 heads, or 49 heads, or 52-or-48-or-so, are individually almost as likely. The scales align when getting 55 heads is under z=1 and 45 heads is under -1, which says that plus-or-minus 5 heads is the standard deviation. The picture shows that when you have (at least) N=100 items, the bell curve approximates the coin's true distribution very well.

Chess falls right into this pattern. Finding the move that a computer engine considers best is like getting a "heads". In some positions the best move is obvious, in others hard to find, but over a series of games these cases even out. The following chart shows that if you are rated near 2100, your expected matches to Stockfish 16 (run to a certain depth and node count) over 100 moves are right near 50.

If you have any FIDE rating from 1400 to 2800, your expected frequency goes only from 39% to 61%. If you figure that 20% of positions have a forced or otherwise obvious best move, then the range on the other 80% of more-challenging positions goes from almost 25% to only a hair over 50% for the elite. However this is figured, if we take actual percentages by players in a large tournament---or a bunch of tournaments---and plot them by % over or under their expectation based on rating, we get a bell pattern.

Similar happens for expected versus actual centipawn loss, or for "top 3" moves, or other metrics. The reason is that they are all averages over a series of moves. The Central Limit Theorem states that averages of N independent draws from a numerical distribution---any one distribution---show the bell pattern more and more as N grows.



The Arbiters' Council asked Prof. Kenneth W. Regan to write a dissemination article about his system, to let every arbiter to get acquainted with this very important tool. The article has been written with the purpose to make the system understandable without any particular mathematical skill, in order to have the concept behind known to every arbiter.

Arbiters Corner

Exactly what the screening test's "Raw Outlier Index" (ROI) formula does is "normalize" every player, every rating, every metric onto the same coin-flip scale, with expectation 50 and standard deviation 5. The formula automatically accounts for the lumpiness of the distribution of positions (some having forced moves, other many reasonable choices, and in different stages of games), different characteristics of players---though only in a broad sense trained on 100,000s of games.

This puts every player on the same scale as the bell picture above. Given quick server access for the software, the ROI scores and other vital statistics for each player can be compiled within an hour of games finishing. The reports enable comparing players on the same footing and give instant positive feedback on the tournament's competitive makeup. Here are some example scenarios:

I. We see a player with ROI score 65. In the diagram this has about a 1-in-750 natural frequency. If it is a huge event like the Olympiad or World Rapid and Blitz, we should not be surprised---we expect to see one or two such scores. The same if it is a youth event with multiple sections. In a small event we should not be alarmed, because there are many more players in comparable tournaments elsewhere the same weekend or week or month... But we can be vigilant and apportion arbiter attention---to spectators as well as players---accordingly.

II. We receive a tournament complaint about the player. If the complaint is based on going over games with engines, then we can first use the ROI to gauge whether there is bias in the complaint. Engines change their preferred move especially in the early stages of their run, and a complainer may regard a move as a "T1-match" if it appears at any time. This is a form of confirmation bias. The screening test avoids this by using a fixed and regular procedure to tally matches and centipawn loss---running the engine long enough to settle down but not too much longer than plausible cheating durations. There also may be selection bias in fixating after-the-fact on a sequence of moves that happens to match the engine often. The ROI score avoids this by using the whole game, by default from turn 9 through turn 60, though there are ways to adjust this range and also isolate games in a series of rounds.
a. If the ROI score is under 60, then by social convention it is in the "completely normal" range within two standard deviations. We might judge to dismiss the complaint, unless there is more specific evidence.
b. If the ROI score is over 60, then we may judge to investigate the complaint further. If there is evidence of a non-engine nature, this may warrant calling for a full test.

III. We see a player score a series of 300+ Elo upset wins. Even without a complaint, there are often whispers. The screening reports show the metrics for each player's opponents lumped together, and also the move-by-move trace of both sides of every game in a long final section. Often it is possible to judge that the player's opponents made more than usual mistakes. This is apart from the player's own ROI score, which may be "completely normal"---or not, leading into the next case.

IV. We see an ROI score above 70. From the bell diagram, this is a one-in-30,000 event. It is still relevant to realize that the number of player data points in FIDE prize-giving events approaches 100,000 in any given year, so such outliers do happen naturally. In 2023 my omnibus screening from Chessbase and issues of The Week in Chess turned up an ROI score of 75 from a 1400s player---who scored only 4.0 from 9. But OK, let's say the player is among the tournament leaders. Then we can request the full test.

Exactly what the full test does is judge the particular characteristics of the positions a player faced. It compares against pinpoint expectations, rather than against broad averages as in the screening test.

The full test uses a predictive analytic model, which means that it not only projects probabilities for every move in every position by a player of a given rating (and particular skill profile), it also puts confidence intervals on those projections. Put informally, the full test is designed to depth and precision that could enable a bookmaker to set accurate betting lines on chess moves. The analysis needed takes hours per game, however. I will stop short of its technicalities in this article, but besides my published papers with Guy Haworth and Tamal Biswas in 2011—2015, my recent presentation to the 2025 MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference (www.youtube.com/watch?v=6w89JIKRcNg) gives some detail and design motivation and examples. The most common outcome is not one of guilt but where the full test discerns that the player faced positions that were more forcing or clear-cut than usual. The model reflects that by giving higher probabilities for matching moves, thus projecting higher optimal move rate (and lower centipawn loss) than the broad averages used in the screening test. This results in a lower score on the z-scale, often landing in the completely normal range when the screening score was above 65.

The point to emphasize here is that only the full test is suitable to render statistical judgments. It states outputs on the z-scale. A main reason the screening test speaks the 100-coinflips scale rather than the z-scale is to remind that it is only the first stage and not for judgment. The screening test shows outliers only in "raw" form. This also reflects a larger separation of concerns. Sometimes onsite evidence may be so clear as to warrant immediate disqualification---with statistical results limited to confirmation and quantifying that-and-how-much "gain of function" occurred. All other cases require more reflection and communication---including with bodies FIDE set up to handle judgments well before the computer era descended.

Arbiters Corner

The system is designed to retard a “rush to judgment”, and I in particular have resisted technology that could enable full-test results to be available more promptly on-site, on-demand. Screening results can be more freely available. The intent since 2014 has been to mount the screening software on a server accessible to any registered arbiter, but the IT commitment needed to maintain such a server has not yet been established by FIDE.

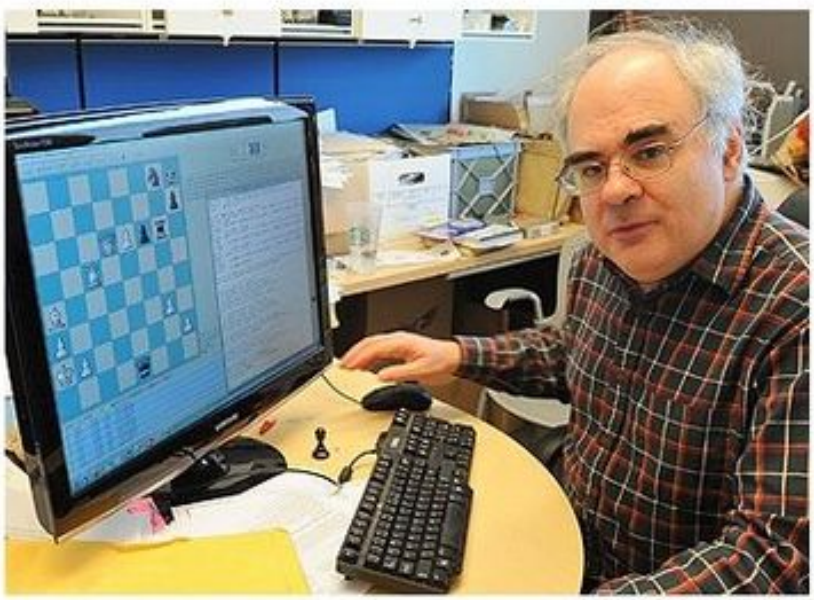
Life might be easier if we could “push a button and get a number” that renders a simple decision. Such a mode would tend to sideline rather than empower the arbiters. But here the main retardant comes not from me or FIDE but from the mathematics itself. The bell curve does not have sharp phases. When we speak of “E-doping”, we may have the image of a physical drug test that would either render a red line for guilt, or not. Never mind that drug tests have their own statistical vicissitudes, there are nothing like “chemical antibodies” to detect in chess games. Between linchpins of a z=2.50 floor for strong statistical impact amid other evidence, to z=5.00 as countenancing judgment by statistics alone, there is a spectrum of unlikelihood (of the “null hypothesis” of fair play) to weigh amid all known factors.

There is one final factor I’ll mention that explains why z-results cannot be taken apart from context. It is completely general in medical practice. Suppose you take a test that is 99.9% accurate for a cancer that affects 1-in-10,000 people, and get a positive. What are the odds that you have the cancer? The impulse is to say “over 99%” but wait. Let’s give the test to 10,000 people, one of whom has the cancer. We can presume that person will give a positive, but based on the accuracy statement, we can expect to get about 10 false positives from the others. Hence all you know is being one of about eleven positives, only one of whom has the cancer. The odds are still about 10-1 against your being “guilty of” the c-word. Thus, knowledge of the Bayesian prior probability of one-in-10,000 is vital.

This is indeed the most commonly spoken estimate of the cheating rate for in-person chess, and it (maybe shaded toward one-in-5,000) is consistent with my experience and broad data.

But now suppose the test is for Covid rather than cancer, with a rate north of 1% even in dormant times. Then the same sample has 100 true positives beside the same 10 false positives, and---we are broadly right to keep you off the airplane. Make the test 30 times more accurate---thus corresponding to the z=4 threshold---and we would have 300-to-1 final judged confidence of “the c-word”. This is the situation in online chess, again shaded toward 2%, i.e., one-in-50. Thus, the playing context is needed to interpret a particular z-score. This also says that although my model is a simple frequentist one, Bayesian reasoning is needed for the interpretation---as well as attention to the number-of-players issue noted above (buzzword: the “Look-Elsewhere Effect”). Knowledge of the mathematics provides guidance and clarity but does not eliminate the mess in life. Fraud detection and medical triage have been wicked problems (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wicked_problem) ever since Florence Nightengale and Francis Galton developed foundational statistical methods to address the latter, and the ancient wisdom of knowing one’s limitations is just as important as applying the numbers.

Prof. Kenneth Regan
Photo by Douglas Levere



ECU Commission for Women in Chess

ECU Safe Play Policy

The European Chess Union has taken the next important step to ensure a safer and more respectful environment for all players by updating its Fair Play Guidelines to include Safer Play.

This initiative was led by the ECU Women's Commission, in collaboration with the Women in Chess Foundation, and was endorsed by the ECU Board in January 2025.

Key updates include:
• Clear Definition of Violations: Sexual harassment, assault and stalking are now explicitly defined as violations of Fair Play.
• Established Complaint Procedures: The guidelines introduce clearly defined complaint pathways, procedures, and sanctions to address incidents effectively.
• Support from Trained Advocates: In cases involving sexual harassment or assault, a trained and certified Safer Play Advocate can be consulted by the Ad-Hoc Ethics Tribunal as support trained on the topic of harassment.

These updates are part of the broader work of the ECU Women's Commission to create a safe and inclusive environment in chess, including training of Safer Play Advocates in collaboration with the Women in Chess Foundation.

Updated European Fair-Play Rules and Safe Play Policy can be found here.

Information on the full ECU Women's Commission Fair Safer Play Initiative can be found here.

FUN ZONE

Back in time...
About 9th World Chess Champion - **Tigran Petrosian**

Tigran Petrosian (17 June, 1929 - 13 Avgust, 1984) was a Soviet Grandmaster, widely nicknamed "Iron Tigran" due to his defensive playing style which emphasized safety. Tigran Petrosian was a candidate for the World Chess Championship on eight occasions. He won the World Championship in 1963 (against Mikhail Botvinnik), successfully defended it in 1966 (against Boris Spassky), and lost it to Spassky in 1969.

Petrosian was born in Tbilisi, and started playing chess at the young age. By 1946, Petrosian had earned the title of Candidate Master. In that year alone, he drew against Grandmaster Paul Keres at the Georgian Chess Championship, then moved to Yerevan where he won the Armenian Chess Championship and the USSR Junior Chess Championship. Petrosian earned the title of Master during the 1947 USSR Chess Championship. In 1949 he moved to Moscow and rapidly advanced his chess career. He won the Soviet Championship four times (1959, 1961, 1969, and 1975).

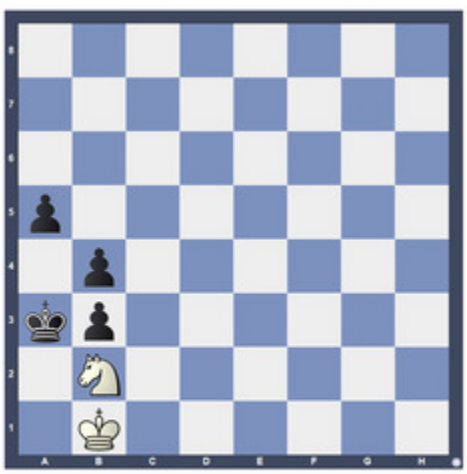
Petrosian won the Candidates Tournament 1962, qualifying for the World Chess Championship Match 1963 against Botvinnik. He won the Match with the score of 12.5 - 9.5 and defended the title against Boris Spassky in 1966. He lost the title in 1969 against Spassky.

Tigran Petrosian said about chess:

- Chess is a game by its form, an art by its content and a science by the difficulty of gaining mastery in it. Chess can convey as much happiness as a good book or work of music can.
- Some consider that when I play I am excessively cautious, but it seems to me that the question may be a different one. I try to avoid chance. Those who rely on chance should play cards or roulette. Chess is something quite different.

In this edition of the ECU E-Magazine we prepared three positions where white mates in two. Solutions will be published in the next edition.

Solutions from ECU E-Magazine February 2025
#Puzzle 1: 1.f7+!! Kxf7/Kf8 2.Qg7#
#Puzzle 2: 1.Rh8+!! Kxh8 2.Qh7#
#Puzzle 3: 1.Ng5+!! Kh8 2.Nf7#



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