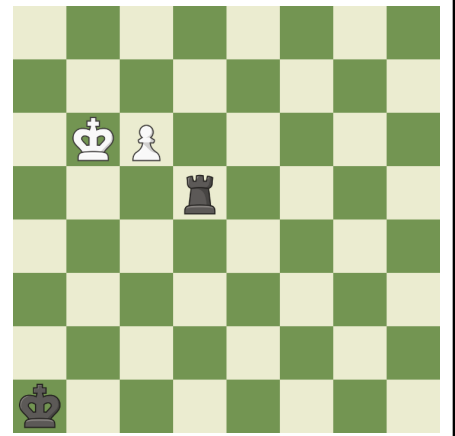


36. The Saavedra Position

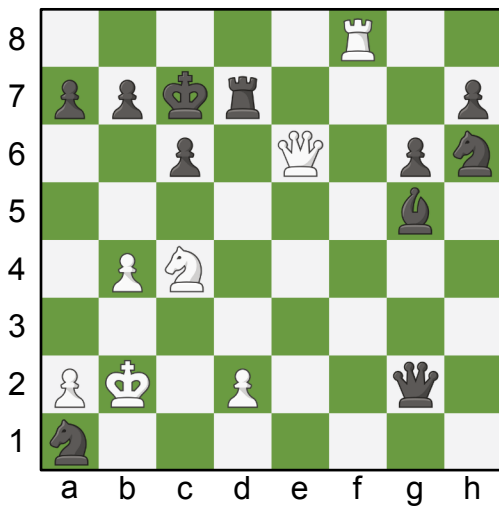
The Saavedra position is a famous endgame study in chess, showcasing a remarkable and counterintuitive solution in a king and pawn versus king and rook scenario. Named after the Spanish priest Fernando Saavedra, who discovered the solution in the late 19th century, this position demonstrates the power of strategically promoting a pawn.

How should white proceed?

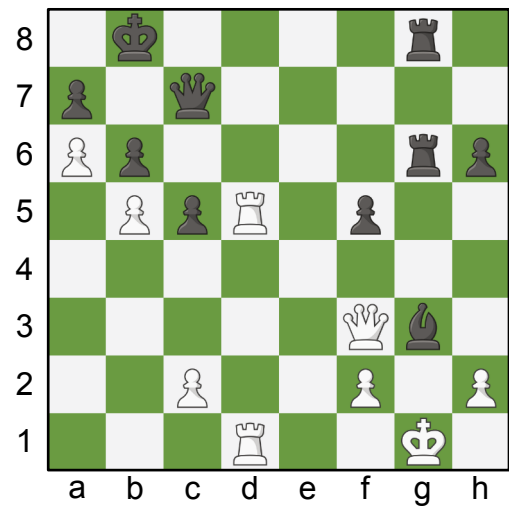


Challenge Puzzles

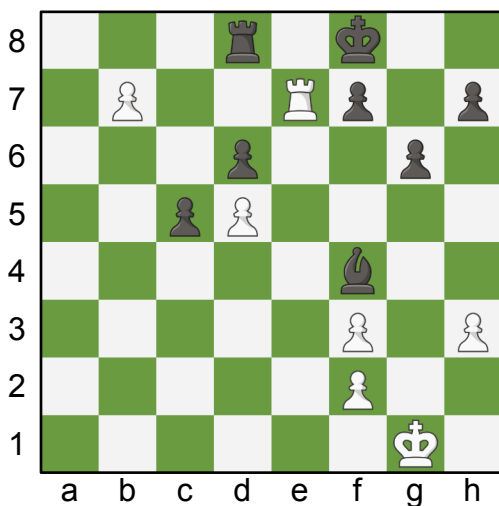
① White to play - mate in 2.



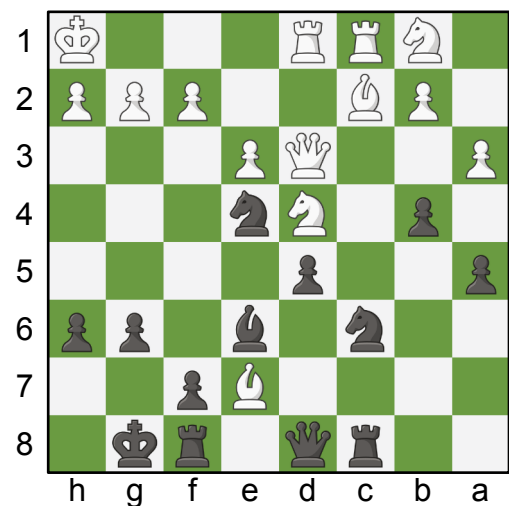
② White to play - mate in 3.



③ White to play - Find best move.



④ Black to play - Find best move.



Hints.

- ① Start with the queen.
- ② Start with a rook.
- ③ Start with the rook.
- ④ Start the knight.

Answers.

- ① 1. ♔e5+ ♖d6 2. ♔xd6#
- ② 1. ♖d8+ ♗xd8 2. ♖xd8+ ♕xd8 3. ♕b7#
- ③ 1. ♖cx7 ♔g7 2. ♖c8 ♗xc8 3. ♖bxc8=♕
- ④ 1. ... ♘xf2+ 2. ♔g1 ♘xd3 3. ♙xd8 ♘xc1 4. ♙xc6

