

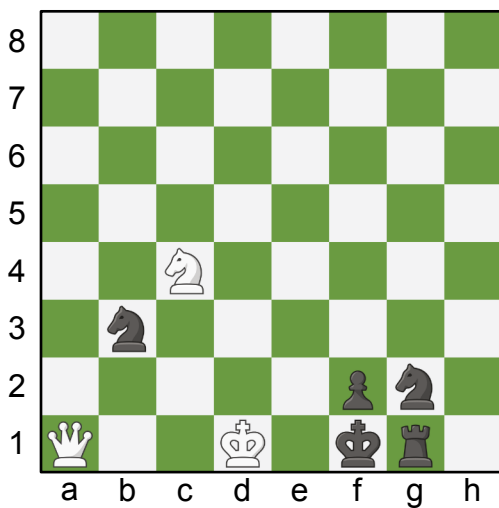
56. Atomic Chess

Atomic Chess is a variant where captures cause an "explosion," removing the captured piece, the capturing piece, and all adjacent non-pawn pieces. Kings cannot capture, as they would explode. Checkmate occurs if the opponent's king is doomed to explode with no escape.

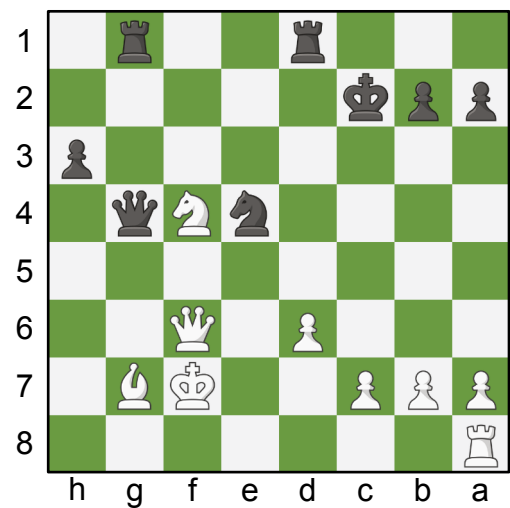
Key strategies include using pawns as shields (since they survive explosions), leveraging powerful sacrifices, and setting up forced mates. The queen is especially dangerous due to its range and ability to trigger chain reactions.

Challenge Puzzles

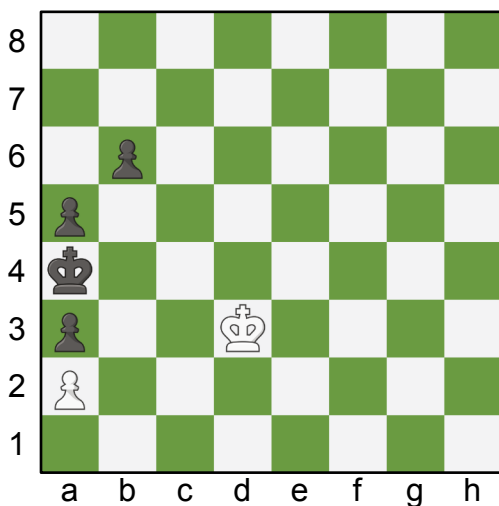
① White to play - mate in 2.



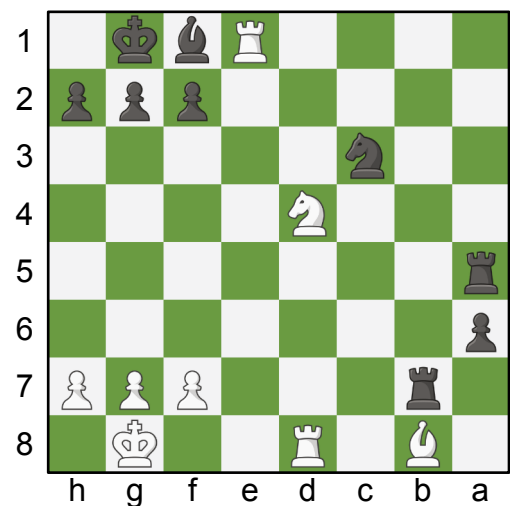
② White to play - Find best move.



③ White to play - Find best move.



④ White to play - Find best move.



Hints.

- ① Start with the queen.
- ② Start with the queen.
- ③ Start with the king.
- ④ Start with the knight.

Answers.

- ① 1. ♔h8 ♚d4 2. ♘d2# (Other moves by black lead to mate.)
- ② 1. ♕xg7#
- ③ 1. ♔c4 ♚b5+ 2. ♔c3 ♚b4+ 3. ♔c4 ♚b3 4. ♖axb3#
- ④ 1. ♘d7+ ♚xd7 2. ♖xc8+ ♔xc8 3. ♖e8#

