

Fairy Chess

RW144 - Project Specification

Revision 1

July 25, 2019

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Fairy Chess is the name given to variations on standard chess¹ where non-standard boards and pieces are used. For this project, you will implement a system that will allow for such a game of chess to be played, first by textual descriptions of a board configuration and a set of moves, and then by a graphical interface.

1.2 The Board

Our variation of chess is played on a **10×10 board**. Rows are called *ranks* and are numbered from 1 to 10. Columns are called *files* and are “numbered” from a to j. Indexing into the board is done with a combination of a file and a rank, so **d6** refers to the square at the intersection of the 4th column and the 6th row. **This indexing notation will be referred to as chess notation throughout this specification.** Figure 1 shows a chess board with the ranks and files labeled, and a White Pawn at d6.

1.2.1 Player Sides

As with standard chess, Black starts on the top two ranks (10th and 9th on the 10×10 board), whereas White starts on the bottom two ranks (1st and 2nd). Direction of play also remains the same, with Black Pawns only being allowed to move and capture in the direction of decreasing rank (*downwards*), and White Pawns in the direction of increasing rank (*upwards*).

For the purposes of the Elephant piece, Black’s half of the board includes ranks 6 through 10, and White’s half includes ranks 1 through 5.

¹If you would like a quick chess refresher, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess> is a good place to start.

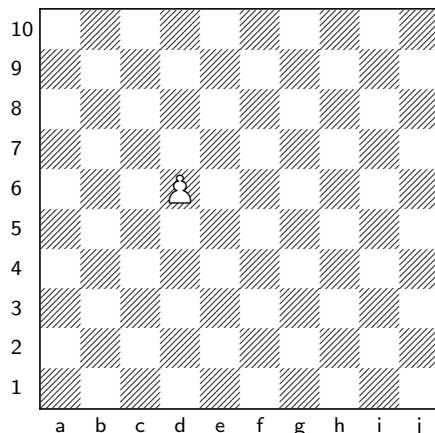


Figure 1: The 10x10 chessboard used in our variation of chess

1.3 The Pieces

Standard chess has six pieces (Pawn, Bishop, Knight, Rook, Queen, and King), and our variation introduces **five new pieces** (Drunken Soldier, Flying Dragon, Elephant, Amazon, and Princess).

1.4 The Moves

In general, pieces can move any number of steps along their trajectory, as long as the squares are not occupied by another piece. A move must end at the latest on the square *before* any own piece, or *on* the square occupied by an opposite piece; in the latter case, the opposite piece is *captured* and removed from the board. The main exception is the Knight, which can jump over occupied squares.

1.4.1 The Pawn

Unlike the other pieces, Pawns cannot move backwards. Normally a Pawn moves by advancing a single square, but the first time a Pawn moves, it has the option of advancing two squares. Pawns may not use the initial two-square advance to jump over an occupied square, or to capture. Any piece immediately in front of a Pawn, friend or foe, blocks its advance. Upon reaching the opposing color's base rank, a Pawn can be promoted to any Officer, given that at least one Officer of that type was allocated in during piece allocation (see 2.4.1).

1.4.2 The Bishop

The Bishop has no restrictions in distance for each move, but is limited to diagonal movement. Bishops, like all other pieces except the Knight, cannot

jump over other pieces. A Bishop captures by occupying the square on which an enemy piece sits.

1.4.3 The Rook

The Rook moves horizontally or vertically, through any number of unoccupied squares. As with captures by other pieces, the Rook captures by occupying the square on which the enemy piece sits. The rook also participates, with the King, in a special move called castling (see 1.4.7).

1.4.4 The Knight

The Knight moves to a square that is two squares away horizontally and one square vertically, or two squares vertically and one square horizontally. The complete move therefore looks like the letter "L". Unlike all other standard chess pieces, the Knight can "jump over" all other pieces (of either color) to its destination square. It captures an enemy piece by replacing it on its square.

1.4.5 The Queen

The Queen can be moved any number of unoccupied squares in a straight line vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, thus combining the moves of the Rook and Bishop. The Queen captures by occupying the square on which an enemy piece sits.

1.4.6 The King

A King can move one square in any direction (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally) unless the square is already occupied by a friendly piece or the move would place the King in check.

1.4.7 Castling

Castling is a move that can be performed by a King and one of the two Rooks, given that neither the chosen Rook nor the King have moved since the start of the game. Castling is either *queenside*, where the King moves a distance of three squares to the left, or *kingside*, where the King moves a distance of three squares to the right. The move is completed by the Rook then jumping over the King, landing adjacent to the King. Castling may only be done if the King has never moved, the Rook involved has never moved, the squares between the King and the Rook involved are unoccupied, the King is not in check, and the King does not cross over or end on a square in check. Figure 2 illustrates the castling opportunities.

1.4.8 The Drunken Soldier

A Drunken Soldier can move one square forward (like a Pawn) or a one square to the side. Capturing can be done one square diagonally (like a Pawn). Upon

reaching the opposing color's base rank, a Drunken Soldier can be promoted to any Officer, given that at least one Officer of that type was allocated in during piece allocation (see 2.4.1).

1.4.9 The Elephant

An Elephant moves and captures like a Rook, but is restricted to its half of the board.

1.4.10 The Flying Dragon

A Flying Dragon moves and captures like a Bishop, but is restricted to a distance of two squares per move.

1.4.11 The Princess

The Princess moves and captures like a Bishop or a Knight.

1.4.12 The Amazon

The Amazon moves and captures like a Queen or a Knight.

2 The Board File Format

2.1 Overview

The first step in creating a system that can facilitate the playing of any variation of chess is **being able to read some description of a chessboard, along with some metadata, and then validating that the description is correct**. In our variation of chess, we differ from standard chess in that we do not have a fixed configuration of pieces. Instead, **the board file specifies how many pieces of each type each player begins with**. The only fixed configuration is the initial position of the Rooks, and the King (see 2.2). Pawns are also subject to some constraints (see 2.3).

2.2 Initial Position of King and Rooks

In order to allow *castling* (see 1.4.7) in our variation, we need to fix the initial positions of the Rooks and the Kings. Rooks start in their respective colors' corners, so White's Rooks start on **a1** and **j1** and Black's on **a10** and **j10**. White's King starts on **f1** and Black's King starts on **f10**.

2.3 Initial Position of Pawns

Black Pawns start on the 9th rank, whereas White Pawns start on the 2nd rank. **Note that the Drunken Soldier is also classified as a Pawn**, and therefore also starts on the same rank as other Pawns of its color.

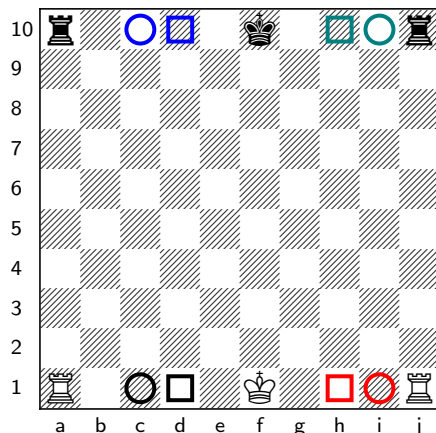


Figure 2: Initial positions of the King and the Rooks. Castling positions for each pair indicated by a different color, with the King's destination indicated by a circle and the Rook's by a square.

2.4 The File Format

The **board file** is divided into three sections: piece allocations, board configuration, and the status line. Sections are separated by five dashes (-----). Lines that start with the % character (modulo, percent) are called *comment lines*, and they must be ignored. Figure 3 shows an example of a valid board file.

2.4.1 Piece Allocations

The first section describes how many pieces of each type every player starts the game with. Each row is a pair of the format **<piece>:<count>**, where **piece** is a character representing the type of piece (see Table 4 for the mapping from pieces to characters), and **count** is the number of pieces of that type that each player start the game with. Each piece allocation must include exactly one King and at least two Rooks (see 2.2). Omitted allocations default to zero.

So, in Figure 3, each player starts with four Knights, two Bishops, eight Pawns, two Drunken Soldiers, one Queen, two Rooks, and one King.

2.4.2 Board Configuration

The second section describes piece positions. Each row is a sequence of 10 characters, separated by spaces. Lowercase characters indicate Black's pieces, while uppercase characters are White's pieces. The period character indicates an empty square on the board.

```

n:4
b:2
q:1
p:8
d:2
k:1
r:2
-----
r n n b q k b n n r
p p d p p p d p p
. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .
P P D P P P D P P
R N N B Q K B N N R
-----
w:++++:0:0

```

Figure 3: An example of a valid board file.

2.4.3 Status Line

The third section describes some metadata surrounding the state of the game represented by the board file, with each piece of metadata separated by a colon. **The first character indicates the player who must move next**, with **w** representing White and **b** representing Black. The **second set of characters represent the available castling opportunities**, in the order Black Queenside, Black Kingside, White Queenside, White Kingside, with a **+** indicating that the maneuver is still available, while a **-** indicates that it is no longer available. **The third set of characters represent the Halfmove Clock**. This is an integer between 0 and 50 that is incremented after each move that is not a capture or a pawn move. Upon reaching 50, the game is considered drawn. **The last set of characters represent the move counter**. This is an integer that begins at zero, and is incremented every time black Black makes a move.

3 Validating the Board File

3.1 Overview

When a board file is read, it should be validated to ensure that it represents a legal chessboard and game state. Each section of the board file is subject

Piece	Character
k / K	King
r / R	Rook
q / Q	Queen
n / N	Knight
b / B	Bishop
p / P	Pawn
d / D	Drunken Pawn
f / F	Flying Dragon
e / E	Elephant
a / A	Amazon
w / W	Princess

Figure 4: Piece to character mappings. Uppercase characters for White pieces, lowercase for Black pieces.

to its own set of validation criteria, and each section provides context for the validation of subsequent sections. A helper class, `BoardValidationErrors`, is provided. **Upon detecting that a board file is invalid, your system must report the validation error by calling the appropriate method from the helper class.**

3.2 Validation of Piece Allocations

Each player always starts with one King, and two Rooks. This leaves seven open squares on the base rank for each player, and ten open squares for the Pawn rank. Piece allocations use the lowercase representation of the piece, as given in Table 4.

3.2.1 Pawn Allocations

The sum of the number of Pawn and Drunken Soldiers allocated must equal ten. Examples of legal Pawn allocations include:

- p:10
- p:8 and d:2
- p:5 and d:5
- d:10

Examples of illegal Pawn allocations include:

- p:11
- p:8 and d:4

- d:5
- No Pawn allocations

Upon detecting that the number of Pawn pieces allocated constitute an invalid board file, the method `illegalPieceAllocation` must be called with the current line number of the board file. In the case that no Pawn are allocated, the line number to be used must be the line number of the first section divider.

3.2.2 Officer Allocations

An Officer is any piece that is not a Pawn or a Drunken Soldier. **The sum of the number of Officer allocations must equal ten, including the two Rooks and the King.** Examples of legal Officer allocations include:

- n:4, b:2, q:1, k:1, and r:2
- b:2, n:2, q:2, f:1, k:1, and r:2
- e:6, r:3, and k:1

Examples of illegal Officer allocations include:

- n:4 and b:4
- b:2, n:2, q:2, and f:2
- e:10
- No Officer allocations

Upon detecting that the number of Officer pieces allocated constitute an invalid board file, the method `illegalPieceAllocation` must be called with the current line number of the board file. In the case that no Officers are allocated, or there is not one King and at least two Rooks allocated, the line number to be used must be the line number of the first section divider.

3.3 Validation of Board Configuration

The board configuration describes the state of the chessboard at some point in time. There are ten ranks, where each rank should have ten characters, each separated by a space character. Each non-space character represents a piece or an empty square, as per Table 4. **Your system must use the specified methods to report the first violation it encounters, stating from position a10, going left to right (a → j), then top to bottom (10 → 1).**

3.3.1 Illegal Pieces

When a character is encountered that does not appear in Table 4, and / or has not been allocated in the piece allocation section, the method `illegalPiece` must be called with the position of the illegal piece in chess notation.

3.3.2 Exceeding Pawn Allocation

When a Pawn or Drunken Soldier is detected that exceeds the allocation as per the Piece allocation section, the method `pawnAllocationExceeded` must be called with the location of the offending Piece in chess notation.

3.3.3 Exceeding Officer Allocation

The maximum number of Officers that may be present on the chessboard for each color is given by:

$$n = i + 10 - (p + d) \quad (1)$$

where n is the maximum of the number Officers, i is the sum of the Officers allocated during piece allocation, p is the number of Pawns of that color present on the board, and d is the number of Drunken Soldiers of that color present on the board. This is to account for Pawns or Drunken Soldiers that have been promoted to Officers during the course of the game. Note that Pawns may not be promoted into Officers that were not allocated during piece allocation.

When a Piece is detected that causes an Officer to exceed its legal count as per (1), the method `officerAllocationExceeded` must be called with the location of the offending Piece in chess notation.

3.3.4 Illegal Board Dimension

If the board configuration does not describe a 10×10 board, the method `illegalBoardDimension` must be called. Examples of such boards would include a board where one of the ranks only has eight Pieces, or a board that only has five ranks.

3.3.5 Illegal Pawn Position

If a Pawn or a Drunken Soldier is located behind the Pawn rank, the method `illegalPawnPosition` must be called with the position of the Piece in chess notation. An example of such an illegal position would be a Black Pawn on `a10`, or a White Drunken Soldier on `i1`.

3.3.6 Illegal Elephant Position

If an Elephant is located on the opposing player's side of the board, the method `illegalElephantPosition` must be called with the position of the Elephant in chess notation. An example of such an illegal position would be a Black Elephant on `a3`, or a White Elephant on `j10`.

3.4 Validation of Status Line

3.4.1 Illegal Next Player

If the next player marker is not `w` or `b`, the method `illegalNextPlayerMarker` must be called with the current line of the board configuration file.

```

1 #!/bin/bash
2
3 # Compile all the files
4 javac ./*.java
5
6 # Run the test boards
7 for testBoard in ./testBoards/*.board; do
8     echo "-----"
9     echo "Running $testBoard"
10
11     # Capture output
12     OUTPUT="$(java FairyChess "$testBoard")"
13
14     # Compare output with expected output
15     EXPECTED="$(cat "$testBoard.out")"
16
17     if [ "$OUTPUT" == "$EXPECTED" ]; then
18         echo "Correct! :)"
19     else
20         echo "Incorrect! :("
21     fi
22
23     echo
24 done

```

Figure 5: An example of a stripped down marking script.

3.4.2 Illegal Castling Opportunities

If a castling opportunity is listed as available, but the King or the Rook are not in their respective correct positions (as per 1.4.7) for the given opportunity, the method `illegalCastlingOpportunity` must be called with the current line of the board configuration file, and the index of the violating opportunity (0 for the first, 3 for the last).

3.4.3 Illegal Halfmove Clock

If the Halfmove clock is not a non-negative integer between 0 and 50, the method `illegalHalfmoveClock` must be called with the current line of the board configuration file. Examples of illegal Halfmove clocks are 99, -25, or `foobar`.

3.4.4 Illegal Move Counter

If the move counter is not a non-negative integer, the method `illegalMoveCounter` must be called with the current line of the board configuration file. Examples of illegal move counters are 99, -25, or `foobar`.

4 Submission and Marking

4.1 Format of Submission

You have been assigned a Git repository hosted on the University's GitLab system. All the code you write for this assignment must be committed and pushed into that repository's **master** branch. We expect a class file called **FairyChess.java** to be in the root of your repository. This class must contain your main method, which will be used to run your program against our board file test suite, as per the script in Figure 5.

Your program must take one argument (a path to a board file), and validate that board. The script in Figure 5 illustrates how your program will be called, with line 4 showing the compilation, and line 12 showing the invocation of your program.

4.2 Mark Allocation

There will be three project submissions in total. The first submission, which covers the Board Validation, has a **submission date of the 5th of September, 2019, 17:00, and counts 25% of the project mark.**

4.3 How We Mark

We mark by means of an automated marking script. The script will first clone your repository, and compile all of the Java files. **Submissions that do not compile will receive zero marks.** Then, for each of our test board configuration files, the script will execute your program with the board file as input, and compare the output your program produces with our expected output. Figure 5 should give you a fairly representative idea of how the marking script will work. We will set up a Continuous Integration system that runs similar tests every time you push a commit into the GitLab repository.