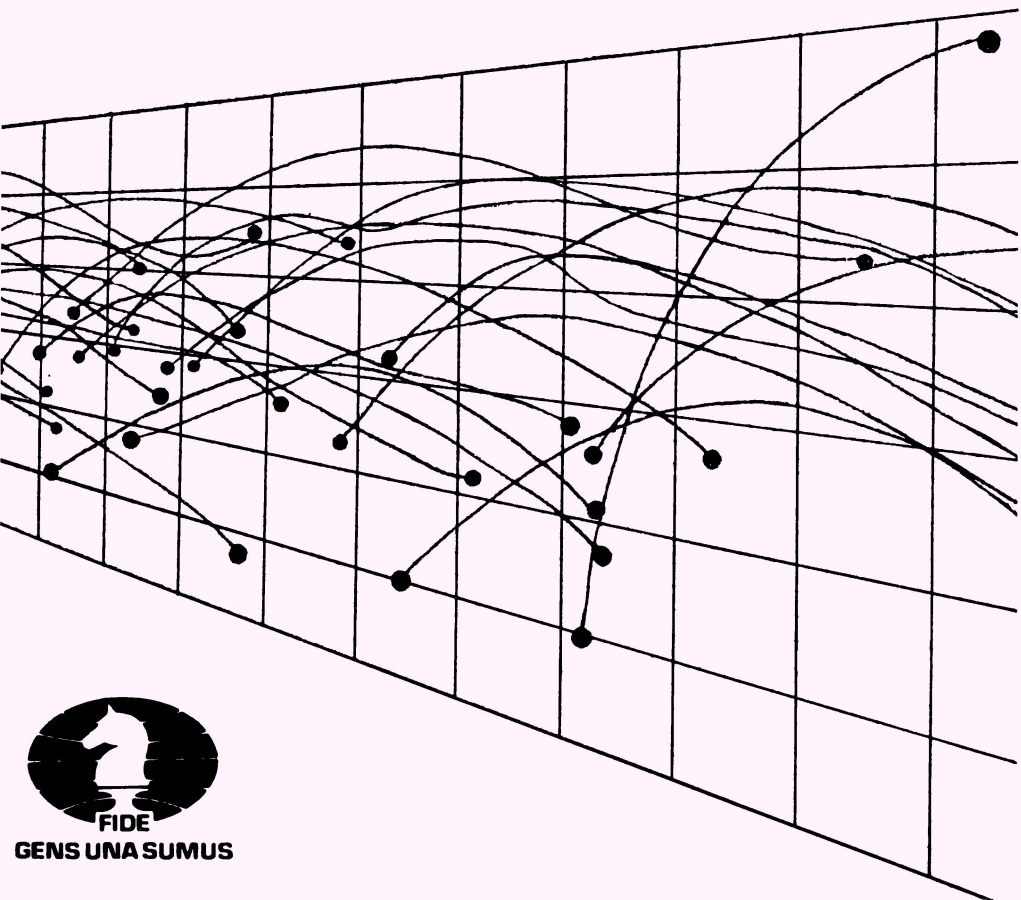


THE RATING OF CHESSPLAYERS PAST & PRESENT

Second Edition

ARPAD E. ELO



FIDE

GENS UNA SUMUS

The Book

One of the most extraordinary books ever written about chess and chessplayers, this authoritative study goes well beyond a lucid explanation of how today's chessmasters and tournament players are rated. Twenty years' research and practice produce a wealth of thought-provoking and hitherto unpublished material on the nature and development of high-level talent:

Just what constitutes an 'exceptional performance' at the chessboard? Can you really profit from chess lessons? What is the lifetime pattern of Grandmaster development? Where are the masters born? Does your child have master potential?

The step-by-step rating system exposition should enable any reader to become an expert on it. For some it may suggest fresh approaches to performance measurement and handicapping in bowling, bridge, golf and elsewhere. 43 charts, diagrams and maps supplement the text.

How and why are chessmasters statistically remarkable? How much will your rating rise if you work with the devotion of a Steinitz? At what age should study begin? What toll does age take, and when does it begin?

Development of the performance data, covering hundreds of years and thousands of players, has revealed a fresh and exciting version of chess history. Two of the many tables identify more than 500 all-time chess greats, with personal data and top lifetime performance ratings.

Just what does government assistance do for chess? What is the Soviet secret? What can we learn from the Icelanders? Why did the small city of Plovdiv produce three Grandmasters in only ten years? Who are the untitled dead? Did Euwe take the championship from Alekhine on a fluke? How would Fischer fare against Morphy in a ten-wins match?

'It was inevitable that this fascinating story be written,' asserts FIDE President Max Euwe, who introduces the book and recognises the major part played by ratings in today's burgeoning international activity. Although this is the definitive ratings work, with statistics alone sufficient to place it in every reference library, it was written by a gentle scientist for pleasurable reading — for the enjoyment of the truths, the questions, and the opportunities it reveals.

The second edition of this brilliant and invaluable reference work contains the current FIDE Titles Regulations and the Administrative Rules of the FIDE Rating System. The list of FIDE titleholders has likewise been brought up to the date of the 1985 FIDE Congress. More significantly, the book has been expanded to include a new section on application of the Rating System to handicap tournaments, a section on historical perspective and more examples to reinforce the empirical evidence for the efficacy of the system.

THE RATING OF CHESSPLAYERS, PAST AND PRESENT

Second Edition

published under the CACDEC Program of FIDE



GENS UNA SUMUS

THE RATING OF CHESSPLAYERS, PAST AND PRESENT

Second Edition

By ARPAD E. ELO

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World Chess Federation (FIDE)**

**Chairman, Rating Committee
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Editor's Foreword

The first edition of this book, published in 1978, has admirably achieved its objective — to provide an intelligent appreciation of the theory, application and significance of the Elo Rating System. The technical competence of Professor Arpad E. Elo and his exceptional expository ability were undoubtedly responsible for its success.

Eight years have elapsed since the publication of the first edition during which time chess activity was swiftly expanding and the FIDE Titles Regulations and Rating System Administrative Rules were changing. The demands of contemporary chess praxis have made an updated edition both desirable and inevitable. In bringing his book up to date, the author has also enriched it with fresh material — the product of his untiring search for new applications of the rating system.

The world chess community acknowledges with profound gratitude the great amount of work and talent contributed by Professor Elo towards the rapid growth and development of chess knowledge. The excellent quality of contemporary chess games and the very high level of technical skill with which the game of chess is currently being played are certainly attributable in no small measure to the strong competitive spirit engendered by the knowledgeable employment of the Elo Rating System.

ELMER D. SANGALANG
Associate Editor

Manila, Philippines
February, 1986

Introductory Note to the Second Edition

Today, the rating system is an inseparable partner to high-level chess. The holding of competitions without the benefit of the system is unthinkable. The system provides the individual chessplayer with a reliable means for monitoring his progress in chess. It measures for the organizer the strength of his tournament. It gives the spectator a sound basis for predicting the score of his favorite player. And FIDE has an objective criterion for awarding titles.

Professor Arpad E. Elo refined the rating system to its nearly ideal form and the chess world owes him no less than the enjoyment chessplayers derive from chasing and earning the Elo numbers. The rapid and continuing growth of chess activity is a natural benefit from the system.

As President of FIDE I am privileged to express, in behalf of the organization, the chess world's appreciation to Professor Elo for his immeasurable contribution to chess. With his rating system, Professor Elo has provided impetus for chess growth. With this book, he documents the system for posterity and, in the process, enriches chess literature. As if these were not enough, he assigns to FIDE his royalties and the publication and distribution rights to the second edition of his book.

In keeping with this noble and generous gesture, FIDE in turn is distributing the book, under the CACDEC Program, to the developing federations where its impact should be in largest measure.

FLORENCIO CAMPOMANES
FIDE President

Manila, Philippines
February, 1986

Introductory Note to the First Edition

It became my privilege, as incoming President of the World Chess Federation, to supervise the installation of the Elo Rating System into a game which already had centuries of tradition. Some considered a rating system unneeded, or inappropriate for chess, or even impossible to devise. And indeed its development had been by no means simple, but presented challenges as subtle and elusive as the game itself.

But the rating system groundwork was scientific, and the timing ideal. The international chess community was poised and ready for the vigorous expansion soon to come. In our efforts over the following eight years, the rating system provided an invaluable administrative tool and an attractive publicity instrument. Tournament activity and federation membership burgeoned. The end to growth is not in sight. Ratings have become universally accepted, as an international common denominator of proficiency.

In general chessplayers have energy and ambition. They do their best and wish their performances to be measured, and they certainly wish their successes to be rewarded in the right manner. Therefore it is important that the players have confidence in the system, and the best guarantee to insure confidence is that the system is scientifically based and objectively applied.

A good working rating system means a great stimulus and propaganda for chess.

Even more than growth in numbers has come from this application of scientific measurement to our old and extraordinary game. The competitions and players of history have been brought to life in a new dimension. The matches and tournaments of today, and the masters who play in them, take on added meaning for the

millions who enjoy them as spectators and followers. The development of chess talent is no longer a total mystery. A voluminous cultural heritage has been further enriched.

It was inevitable that this book be written, and I am delighted that Professor Elo has chosen to do it. The rating system and the light it sheds on so many facets of our game provides a fascinating story, and certainly no one is better qualified to write the story than the man whose name has become synonymous for it.

M. EUWE
FIDE President

Amsterdam, April 1978

Preface to the Second Edition

Since publication of the first edition many changes have taken place in the chess world. An increase in activity has permeated the traditional chess centers of Europe and spilled over onto all the continents of the world. This is most evident in the number of tournaments reported annually to FIDE; the expansion of the International Rating List; and the increase in the numbers of FIDE titleholders. Over the same period the FIDE Titles Regulations and the Rating System Administrative Rules have undergone certain changes which became expedient in the changing chess world. Major changes in this edition appear in the chapter on FIDE applications, international titles and ratings. The text has been expanded by a new section on application of the Rating System in handicap tournaments, a section on historical perspective and more examples to reinforce the empirical evidence for the efficacy of the system. Lastly, the list of FIDE titleholders has been brought up to the date of the 1985 FIDE Congress. The maintenance of this list will henceforth be left to the FIDE Secretariat.

ARPAD E. ELO

Brookfield, Wisconsin
February, 1986

Preface to the First Edition

In 1959 the late Jerry Spann, then president of the United States Chess Federation (USCF) named a committee to review the federation's rating system and to revise and improve its technical and administrative features. It fell upon the writer, as chairman, to examine the basic theory and rationale of the rating systems of the chess world and the sports world in general. It quickly became evident that rating individual performances in any competitive activity is basically a measurement problem, yet no rating system then in use attempted to solve the problem on the basis of measurement theory which had already existed for well over a century. Consequently the writer undertook to develop a rating system based entirely on established measurement theory.

Although the system herein described was originally developed for rating chessplayers, its application is by no means limited to chess. It is in fact a universal system, applicable to any type of competitive activity in which individuals or teams engage in pairwise competition.

The outline and working principles of the new system have been presented in a number of papers (Elo 1961, 1966, 1967, 1973). Since 1960 the system has been used by the USCF for rating its entire membership, now numbering some fifty thousand. In 1970 the system was adopted by the World Chess Federation (FIDE) for rating master chess players over the entire world and as a basis for the award of international titles (Kühnle-Woods 1971, FIDE 1971-76). Subsequently many national chess federations have adopted the system for their own purposes. These federations are FIDE members and some of their players participate in FIDE rated

tournaments, making it possible to extend the rating system to the entire world community of chessplayers.

In the papers cited and in many others, the author has described the system as *The USCF Rating System* or *The International Rating System*. The system is recognized world-wide, but rarely by those titles. In this book for the first time we bow to seventeen years of pervasive usage and accept *The Elo System* as the title. The equally pervasive *Elo points* is a useful term, and it too is adopted here.

Since institution of the Elo system by USCF and FIDE, much experience has been gained in its practical applications. Many people have contributed to this experience and many refinements in the practice of the system have resulted. The present work replaces all the earlier papers and presents previously unpublished theoretical and applied aspects of the Elo system. To make the work more accessible to non-technical readers, it is presented with a minimum of formal mathematics. Mathematical developments are assigned to the last chapter to preserve the continuity and easier reading of the main text.

The general structures of the USCF and FIDE rating systems have pretty well matured, and no significant changes are expected in the immediate future. Both systems are treated in this book as they stand on January 1, 1978, but as with everything subject to legislative control, trimming and adjusting may occur from time to time. The basic principles, however, are scientific principles and enjoy a rather greater durability.

ARPAD E. ELO

Brookfield, Wisconsin
January, 1978

Acknowledgements

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the members of the original USCF rating committee, Dr. Eric Marchand and Guthrie McClain, who, as a professional mathematician and statistician respectively, furnished noteworthy constructive criticism, doubly valuable because they, as active tournament chessplayers, were well situated to observe the system in practice.

Our thanks go to James Warren, a committee member who devised the computer program for calculation of self-consistent ratings, making possible the first FIDE rating list, to Hanon Russell and Peter Cook for valuable Russian and German translations, to Dr. Lindsay Phillips, Henrietta Elo and Elmer Dumlao Sangalang for very careful reviews of the drafts, and to Warren McClintock, the writer's successor as Chairman of the USCF Rating Committee, for many surveys and experimental tests of the system which have been of significant assistance in evaluating its efficacy.

To Fred Cramer, USCF President and FIDE delegate in the sixties, for his recognition of the soundness of the system and his tireless efforts in promoting its acceptance by FIDE, as well as for his valuable help in editing this work, the author owes a very special debt of gratitude.

AEE

To Henrietta

1. THE ELO RATING SYSTEM

1.1 Measurement of Chess Performance

- 1.11 There is an old saying that horse races are caused by differences in opinion. The same thing could be said for almost any kind of competition, and definitely it can be said for rating systems. The familiar opinion poll is, in fact, the most common rating system. It may be used to rate individual competitors, teams, or even commercial products.

The obvious purpose of any rating system is to provide a ranking list of whatever is being rated. In a competitive activity such as chess, tournament standings provide tentative rankings, but because individual performances vary from time to time, a ranking list based on a single event is not always reliable. Furthermore, it may be necessary to compare performances of players or teams who never met in direct competition.

A rating system therefor attempts to evaluate all the performances of an individual or a team on some sort of scale, so that at any given time the competitors may be listed in the probable order of their strength. Furthermore a proper rating system should go a step beyond mere ranking and should provide some estimate of the relative strengths of the competitors, however strength may be defined.

- 1.12 From a general scientific viewpoint, a rating system is essentially a scheme for pairwise comparison of individual players or teams. Pairwise comparison forms the basis of all scientific measurements, whether physical, biological, or behavioral. Whatever we measure, be it weights, temperature, or strength of chessplayers, we compare two items, one of which is regarded as the standard. The general theory of measurement thus applies to rating systems and to rating scales.

- 1.13 In the chess world, rating systems have been used with varying degrees of success for over twenty-five years. Those which have survived share a common principle in that they combine the percentage score achieved by a player with the rating of his competition. They use similar formulae for the evaluation of performances and differ mainly in the elaboration of the scales. The most notable are the Ingo (Hoesslinger 1948), the Harkness (Harkness 1956), and the British Chess Federation (Clarke 1957) systems. These received acceptance because they produced ranking lists which generally agreed with the personal estimates made by knowledgeable chessplayers.
- 1.14 The idea of combining a percentage score with the competition rating seems a simple and appealing approach to the design of a rating system. However, a working formula presented without development from first principles is likely to contain hidden assumptions which may not conform to reality. It was with this thought in mind that the writer in 1959 undertook to examine the logic and rationale of the rating systems then in use and to develop a system based on statistical and probability theory. Quite independently and almost at the same time, György Karoly and Roger Cook developed a system based on the same principles for the New South Wales Chess Association (Cook and Hooper 1969).
- 1.15 Simply stated, the Elo Rating System is a numerical system in which differences in rating may be converted into scoring or winning probabilities. And conversely, scoring percentages can be converted into rating differences. It is a scientific approach to the evaluation of chess performances. An outline of the basic assumptions and development follow. The full development is given in chapter 8.

1.2 The Rating Scale

- 1.21 Measurement or rating scales classify into four types, nominal, ordinal, interval, and ratio (Stevens 1946). Nominal scales merely distinguish one item from another, as numbers on football players. Ordinal scales place items in an order with respect to some property. The familiar weekly rating polls for college football and basketball teams, where opinions of various experts are statistically combined to give an order of rank, are examples of rating systems based on an ordinal scale. Interval scales can express either equality

or a difference between items, as in the measurement of temperatures on the Fahrenheit or Celsius scales, or the measurement of distances between cities. Ratio scales can express equality or the ratio of the measured items, as in weighing objects, in measurement of temperatures on the absolute or Kelvin scale, or in the measurement of the relative brightness of the stars.

- 1.22 For a meaningful rating system for any competitive sport, a nominal scale is obviously inadequate. An ordinal scale might suffice, but so that one may say *how much* or *how many times* one player exceeds another, an interval or a ratio scale is desirable. The interval scale is the common one in chess and most competitive sports, for considerations elaborated at 8.71. An *interval scale* is used in the Elo system.
- 1.23 On most measuring scales the intervals are defined arbitrarily. Thus such intervals as the yard, the meter, or the degree Fahrenheit or Celsius are all arbitrary units. On some scales the interval is related to reproducible fixed points, such as the ice point and steam point. On others it is measured by a standard unit, such as the kilogram mass deposited with the International Bureau of Standards at Sevres, France. But many scientific scales contain neither reproducible fixed points nor depositable standard units. Among these are the Richter scale for measuring earthquake intensity and the decibel scale for measuring differences in sound levels and, of course, the rating scale for chess. The *major interval* on the Elo system rating scale is taken from statistical and probability theory.
- 1.24 The term *class interval* or *category interval* is well recognized in the chess world. Although it has been rather loosely used to distinguish the various classes of proficiency such as master, candidate master, and expert, the class interval is just the rating difference between the top and bottom of a class. When all the participants in a tournament fall in the range of one class, good all-around competition results. No one is badly outclassed, and no one badly outclasses the field. In such a class the poorest player on a good day will play about as well as the best player on an off day. Each player has his *range of performances*, and during a reasonable portion of the time these should overlap.
- 1.25 Statistical and probability theory provides a widely used measure of these performance spreads, a measure which has worked quite well for many other natural phenomena which vary on a measurable basis. This well known concept is *standard deviation*, a measurement of spread which encompasses the central bulk—

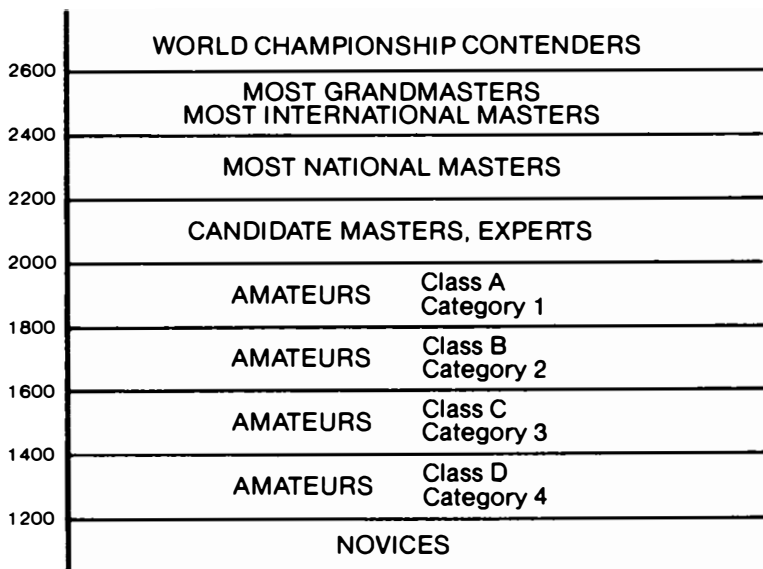
about two-thirds—of an individual's performances. It is shown graphically at 1.35 and its derivation is explained at 9.3. It provides almost the ideal major interval for the rating scale, to define the class described and desired. In the Elo system, the class interval C is quantitatively defined at

$$C = 1 \sigma \quad (0)$$

σ is the Greek letter sigma, the usual symbol for the unit of a standard deviation.

- 1.26 The rating scale itself—its range of numbers—is, like any scale without reproducible fixed points, necessarily an open-ended floating scale. Application of the rating system to the entire membership of a national federation requires a range wide enough to cover all proficiencies, perhaps as many as ten categories from novice to Grandmaster, and enough ballast numbers so no rating ever goes negative. The present range originally took 2000 as the upper level for the strong amateur or club player and arranged the other categories above and below, as follows.

Rating Scale Categories



- 1.27 Category designations and proficiencies among federations have become generally more comparable with the adoption of the Elo system by FIDE and by many of its member federations, but the numbers assigned to any given level of chess proficiency remain entirely arbitrary. Both the class subdivision into 200 points and the choice of 2000 as the reference point were already steeped in tradition when this author arrived on the scene. So too was the expression of ratings in four-digit numbers, although four-digit accuracy was not present. These features were retained for their general acceptance by the players. Other numbers could have been used. It is only *differences* on the scale that have real significance in terms of probabilities.
- 1.28 Preservation of the integrity of the rating scale, so that the rating numbers represent approximately the same level of proficiency from one era to the next, is an essential part of the rating system. Just how this can be achieved to a good degree is shown at 3.5.

1.3 The Normal Distribution Function

- 1.31 From general experience in sports we know that the stronger player does not invariably outperform the weaker. A player has good days and bad, good tournaments and bad. By and large at any point in his career, a player will perform around some average level. Deviations from this level occur, large deviations less frequently than small ones. These facts suggest the basic assumption of the Elo system. It is best stated in the formal terms of statistics:

The many performances of an individual will be *normally distributed*, when evaluated on an appropriate scale.

Extensive investigation (Elo 1965, McClintock 1977) bore out the validity of the assumption. Alternative assumptions are discussed in 8.72.

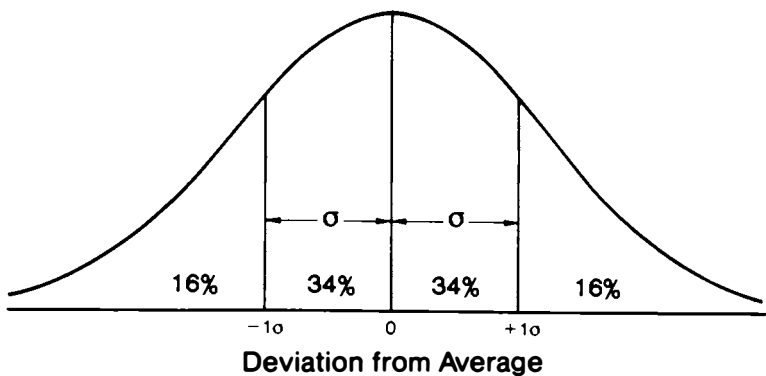
- 1.32 As applied to a single game, performance is an abstraction which cannot be measured objectively. It consists of all the judgments, decisions, and action of the contestant in the course of a game. Perhaps a panel of experts in the art of the game could evaluate each move on some arbitrary scale and crudely express the total performance numerically, even as is done in boxing and gymnastics. However, from the abstract concept of performance in a single encounter, it is possible to derive an objectively measurable

concept, the *performance rating*, in a large number of encounters, such as a tournament or match. As it turns out, the performance rating of many encounters does indeed consist of some combination of the average rating of the competition and the percent score achieved, regardless of the type of rating scale used.

- 1.33 We must recognize, of course, the variability of individual performances. A performance rating even in a long series may not accurately reflect the strength of a player relative to his competition. A well designed rating system then further combines performance ratings so as to provide the best possible estimate of the current relative strength of the player. This combination is termed the *player rating*, or just *rating*. The player rating will also exhibit some random variability, but not to the degree shown in the performance rating.
- 1.34 Construction of a histogram of the deviations of performances from the mean score expresses the concept visually. If a sufficiently large number of scores is used, the histogram may be enveloped by a smooth curve, the familiar *normal distribution curve*. This is a symmetrical curve around the mean, and approximately two-thirds (actually .682) of all scores fall within a range of one sigma on either side of the mean. The remaining third are found outside of the range, equally divided at the tails of the curve.

1.35

THE NORMAL DISTRIBUTION OF MEASUREMENTS



- 1.36 This is the normal distribution curve, or function, as it is usually called. The mathematics associated with it were developed by the great mathematicians Laplace (1749-1827) and Gauss (1777-1855), who first applied it in the theory of errors of physical or astronomical measurements. Since then the function has become the foundation of much of statistical probability theory.
- 1.37 A common denominator to measurements in astronomy and chess performances may seem strange to the non-technical reader. However, just as there are an uncountable number of random circumstances that in some way influence a performance in chess, so also astronomical measurements are influenced by random circumstances, such as atmospheric disturbances, random temperature changes due to the very presence of observers, or random fluctuations of visual acuity.
- 1.38 The scientist, however, cannot dogmatically accept or apply any theory. Even our "laws" of physics apply only to the models of the physical world, models constructed from our current, but always limited, knowledge. In this sense, the normal distribution function is by no means a perfect representation, albeit a very good one, of the distribution of errors of measurement. It was recognized, almost a century ago, that in an extended series of measurements, large errors seem to occur with greater frequency than expected from the normal distribution function (Edgeworth 1902). The distribution of errors over an extended series is better represented by another function, one almost indistinguishable from the normal for most cases, and deviating from it slightly for large deviations. The two functions are compared at 8.72.
- 1.39 Eminent mathematicians have tried many times to deduce the normal distribution curve from pure theory, with little notable success. "Everybody firmly believes it," the great mathematician Henri Poincare remarked, "because mathematicians imagine that it is a fact of observation, and observers that it is a theorem of mathematics." (Poincare 1892).

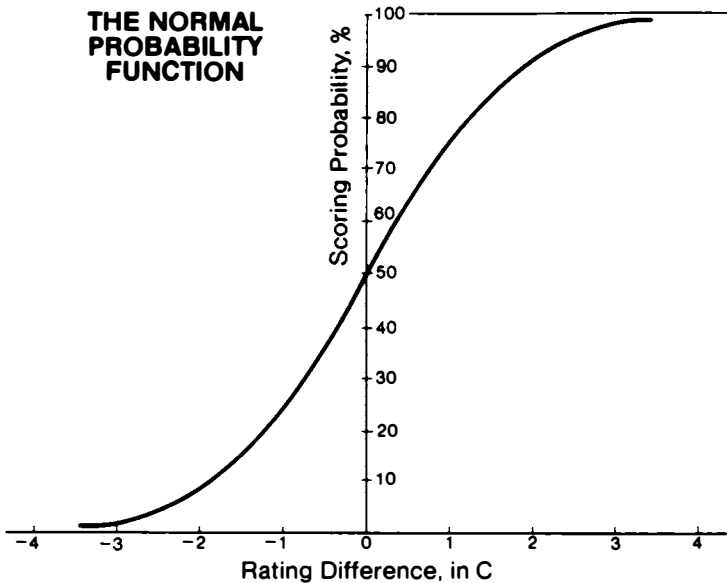
1.4 The Normal Probability Function

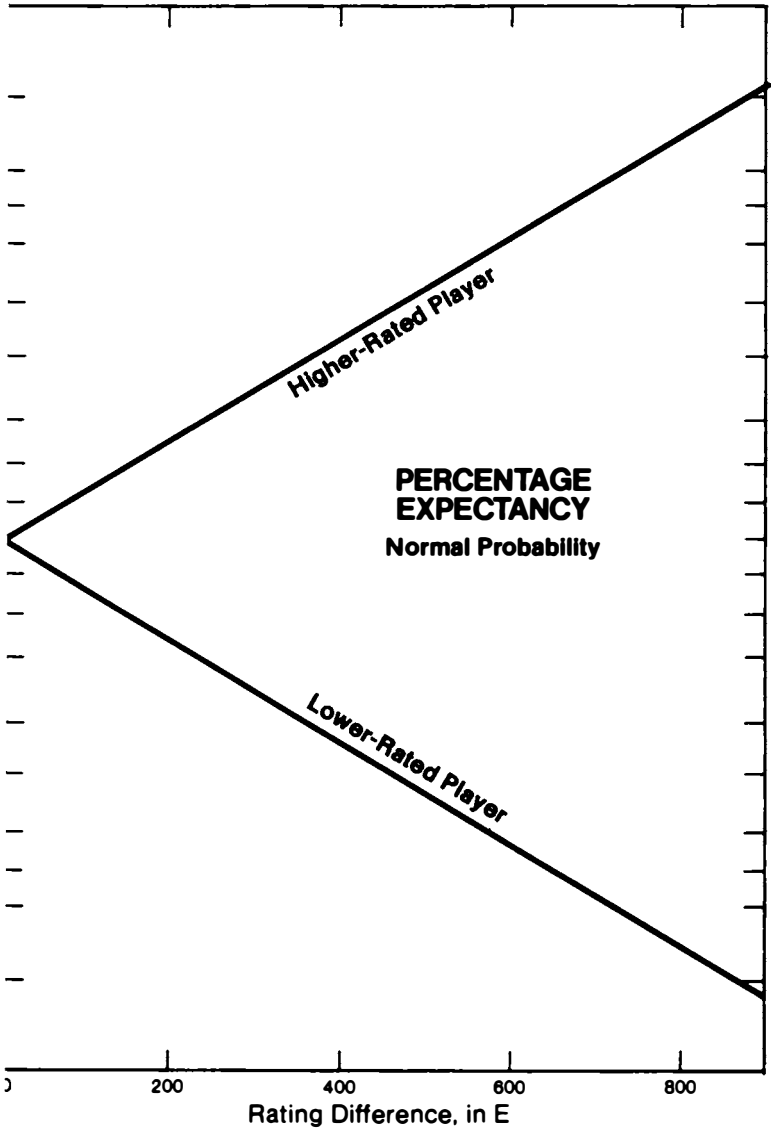
- 1.41 Chess performances, unlike performances in other games, permit of no absolute method of evaluation. In a single game only three possible scores exist: 1, $\frac{1}{2}$, and 0. Even in a tournament, the total score of a player reflects only his performance against the particu-

lar competition he encounters. Thus another method of evaluating performance, which takes into account the strength of the competition, must be sought. The mathematical form by which this evaluation may be expressed is not information of an *a priori* nature, but can be deduced from the basic assumptions stated earlier, using the calculus of statistical probability theory. By this process one can derive the relation between the probability of a player outperforming (outscore) an opponent in a match (opponents in a tournament) and the difference in their ratings. This relation is central to the rating system and provides its structural cornerstone.

1.42 The relation so derived is a form of the *normal probability function*, and that term will describe it in this book. Its tabular expression appears in most works on statistical methods. The general form is best expressed graphically, often called the Gauss error curve, or the standard sigmoid. It is shown below on ordinary graph paper. The vertical axis represents percentage expectancy score, and the horizontal axis represents differences in rating, in units of standard deviation.

1.43





- 1.45 For rating purposes, the tabular expression of the normal distribution function becomes the percentage expectancy table at 2.11, and the graphic expression is the *percentage expectancy curve* on the preceding page. This curve is presented on normal probability paper, with its two segments one above the other.
- 1.46 It is then the probability function which furnishes the key to the proper combination of percentage score and competition rating. The curve or table may be used to determine differences in ratings from match or tournament results or to determine expected scores from known rating differences. It serves as the basis of the working formulae of the Elo Rating System.

1.5 The Performance Rating Formula— Periodic Measurement

- 1.51 The *performance rating formula* is the first equation of the Elo system. It follows immediately from the normal probability curve:

$$R_P = R_C + D_P \quad (1)$$

R_P is the performance rating.

R_C is the (average) competition rating.

D_P is to be read as the difference based on the percentage score P , which is obtained from the curve or table.

- 1.52 Equation (1) may be used to determine ratings on a *periodic basis*. In rating systems administered on a periodic basis, such as that of the British Chess Federation, ratings are calculated at finite intervals (BCF uses one year) for all players, using the previous ratings of the opponents as R_C . Theoretically the interval may be any time period, but good statistical practice requires that it include at least thirty games to determine the player rating with reasonable confidence.
- 1.53 Equation (1) may also be used to determine provisional ratings in systems not on a periodic basis, such as that of the USCF, where it is used to rate players having less than twenty-five games experience against rated players. A more precise formula for R_P based on very few games is given at 8.85.
- 1.54 Equation (1) quite logically produces an indeterminate rating for a 100% score, or for a zero score. Hence it is applicable only when the number of games is sufficient to include a variety of results.

1.55 Equation (1) will yield tolerable values when the range of competition ratings is no greater than about three class intervals. Because R_C is a simple linear average and the probability function is non-linear, the exact value for R_P when the range of R_C exceeds 600 rating points should be obtained by the method of successive approximations described at 3.4. The exact value for R_P is simply that value for which the expected game score is equal to the actual game score.

1.6 The Current Rating Formula— Continuous Measurement

1.61 When a rating system is conducted on the *continuous basis*, new ratings are computed after each event by the *current rating formula*:

$$R_n = R_o + K(W - W_e) \quad (2)$$

R_n is the new rating after the event.

R_o is the pre-event rating.

K is the rating point value of a single game score.

W is the actual game score, each win counting 1, each draw $\frac{1}{2}$.

W_e is the expected game score based on R_o .

1.62 This equation performs the arithmetical operation of averaging the latest performance into the prior rating so as to diminish smoothly the effect of the earlier performances, while retaining the full contribution of the latest performance. The logic of the equation is evident without algebraic demonstration: a player performing above his expectancy gains points, and a player performing below his expectancy loses points.

For the smooth blending of the new into the old, the number of games to be newly rated should not exceed the number of games on which R_o is based. Longer events should be divided into rateable segments for each application of equation (2).

1.63 The *coefficient* K reflects the relative weights selected for the pre-event rating and the event performance rating. A high K gives high weight to the most recent performance. A low K gives more weight to the earlier performances. Thus K may be used as a sort of player development coefficient to recognize the varying rates at which change occurs in a player's performance. In actual practice, K may range between 10 and 32. The lower value 10 is used in FIDE, where rated events are longer and player proficiencies are

more stable. USCF uses the higher value 32, since over 80% of the tournaments rated are weekend events of six rounds or less, and player proficiencies vary widely.

1.64 The *game score* W consists of the number of wins plus half the number of draws. This is the long-standing tradition in chess. A theoretical examination appears at 8.91.

1.65 The *expected score* W_e in a group of games is obviously the sum of the expected scores for each game of the group. For each opponent the winning probability P_D is taken from the percentage expectancy table, and the values are totalled:

$$W_e = \Sigma P_i \quad (3)$$

P_i is the individual probable percentage scores.

Σ is the symbol for the summation of, or total of.

1.66 At a slight sacrifice in accuracy, one may use the expected score against the average opponent, as indicated by the average rating difference $D_c = (R - R_c)$.

$$W_e = N \times P_{D_c} \quad (4)$$

N is the number of rounds.

P_{D_c} is the percentage expectancy based on the average difference in rating.

1.67 In a rating system administered on the continuous basis, the ratings of all players in the rating pool are continually readjusted by equation (2). Eventually differences in ratings will be generated which conform to the percentage expectancy curve on which the system is based. In a sense, the system is self-correcting. New players who enter the rating pool are processed by equation (1) for a provisional period. When sufficient data accrues on their performances against rated players, subsequent calculations are taken over by equation (2). When unrated players are paired, as frequently happens in tournaments, the results may be used in a second cycle of calculations which serves to improve the reliability of the ratings.

1.7 Rating a Round Robin

- 1.71 A *round robin* is an all-play-all tournament. No player, of course, encounters himself. Thus the competition rating R_C is different for each player. Separate computations, however, may be avoided by using the simple relation between R_C and the tournament average rating R_a .

$$D_a = D_p (M - 1)/M \quad (5)$$

D_a is the difference based on P between the player's rating R and the average rating of all the participants R_a .
 D_p is the difference indicated by P between the player's rating R and the average rating of his opponents R_C .
 M is the number of participants in a round robin.

D_a is called the *adjusted difference*. It is useful to note that it is less than the difference D_p by the fraction $1/M$.

- 1.72 Now the performance rating formula (1) may be restated in terms of R_a for purposes of rating a round robin. The modification is slight.

$$R_p = R_a + D_a \quad (6)$$

R_p is the performance rating in a round robin.
 R_a is the average rating of all the participants.

- 1.73 When a round robin includes unrated players, R_a may be determined from the ratings and performances of the rated players.

$$R_a = R_O - D_p (M - 1)/M \quad (7)$$

R_O is the average rating of the rated players.
 D_p is the average of the differences for the percentage scores of the rated players, as indicated by the table.

Of course, it is possible that the rated players may not all perform as assumed, so the more rated players in the group, the better the estimate of R_a . Less than three could provide a poor estimate. FIDE rates an event only when at least one-third of the players carry FIDE ratings. If the event has less than ten players, at least four players must be rated.

Formula (7) in effect enters the R_p of the unrated players into R_a , and thus the rated players *as a group* are not affected by these performances.

- 1.74 When equation (2) is used to find R_n in a round robin, arithmetic can be saved in finding the expected scores W_e .

$$W_e = P_{D_a} M - \frac{1}{2} \quad (8)$$

W_e is the expected score in a round robin.

P_{D_a} is the percentage expectancy based on the average difference.

- 1.75 The single round robin, in which each player meets each opponent only once, is most common, but multiple round robins do occur. The FIDE candidates tournament, for example, was for some years a quadruple round robin between eight players. The round robin equations apply in all cases.

A *match* is a multiple round robin between two players. Thus $M = 2$ and formula (6) becomes

$$R_p = R_a + D_p/2 \quad (9)$$

R_a is the average rating of the two players in a match.

Equation (9) precludes inconsistencies which could otherwise result from a close match between two players with a substantial difference in initial ratings, as in the example at 2.49.

Application of equation (9) presumes both players are already rated. When only one player in a match is rated, formula (1) is used, and he becomes the standard R_c for the initial rating of his opponent.

1.8 Linear Approximation Formulae

- 1.81 Examination of the percentage expectancy curve as expressed at 1.43 shows that between $-1.5C$ and $+1.5C$, which is the most used portion of the curve, it may be approximated by a straight line. With this *linear approximation*, the performance rating formula (1) may be expressed

$$R_p = R_c + 400(W - L)/N \quad (10)$$

L is the number of losses, draws counting $\frac{1}{2}$ each.

- 1.82 Similarly, the current rating formula (2) in its general form for the Elo system becomes

$$R_n = R_o + K(W - L)/2 - (K/4C) \sum D_i \quad (11)$$

D_i is the difference between the player's rating and the rating R_i of an individual opponent. $D_i = R - R_i$.

- 1.83 In USCF application, K is normally set at 32 and rating differences are taken with respect to the player, not the opponent, thus changing the sign for D . $C = 200$, and formula (11) becomes

$$R_n = R_o + 16(W - L) + .04\Sigma D_i \quad (12)$$

D_i is the rating difference with respect to the player. $D_i = R_i - R$.

The change of sign for D will be observed in this book wherever equation (12) is applied.

- 1.84 Equations (10) and (12) were formerly used by USCF in manual computations with desk calculators. The equations actually hide the basic principles of the system, but they do have the advantage that probability tables are not needed for calculations. Differences greater than 350 points are entered into the summation as though they were just 350 points. This introduces what statisticians call a bias in the ratings, but for most applications it is tolerable. Comparative curves and tables are at 8.73.

1.9 Diverse Newer Applications

- 1.91 Equations (1) and (2) are the basic formulae of the Elo system. They may be modified, as in 1.7 and 1.8, to deal with specific conditions or to facilitate calculation without tables. They may also be applied in areas broader than chess ratings, broader even than the full panoply of competitive sports.
- 1.92 Application of the two equations is not limited to use with the normal probability function. They are equally valid with other probability functions, which may apply to scores in various types of competitions, or to measurements in various fields of scientific investigation. Both golf and bowling, for example, have for some time utilized various adaptations of the Elo system for a variety of purposes. Their national organizations retain the writer for projects such as analyses of scores, measurements of competitive conditions, and preparation of historical rating lists.
- 1.93 Serious measurement difficulties, described in a note at 9.3, have long plagued paired comparison in quantitative psychology, but a workable solution is indicated by the Elo system (Batchelder and Burshad 1977). Although the methodology is central to their field, the authors remark rather pointedly that its largest application is

elsewhere, in chess ratings. Their University of California monograph presents a formalized paired-comparison model, with static and sequential estimators, extending formulae (1) and (2) to permit psychological applications in areas such as developmental psychology, testing, aging, and learning.

The two psychologists credit the chessplayer rating system with a unique efficiency in data assimilation, even as computer designers credit the human mind while playing chess with a special efficiency in identification of productive choices. Both efficiencies have stimulated serious investigation.

2. TOOLS AND TESTS OF THE ELO SYSTEM

2.1 The Percentage Expectancy Table

2.11 For each rating difference D, the normal probabilities of scoring P are given in the following table. H is the probability for the higher-rated player, and L is for the lower-rated player. Derivation of the table is at 8.94.

D			D			D		
Rtg. Dif.	H	L	Rtg. Dif.	H	L	Rtg. Dif.	H	L
0-3	.50	.50	122-129	.67	.33	279-290	.84	.16
4-10	.51	.49	130-137	.68	.32	291-302	.85	.15
11-17	.52	.48	138-145	.69	.31	303-315	.86	.14
18-25	.53	.47	146-153	.70	.30	316-328	.87	.13
26-32	.54	.46	154-162	.71	.29	329-344	.88	.12
33-39	.55	.45	163-170	.72	.28	345-357	.89	.11
40-46	.56	.44	171-179	.73	.27	358-374	.90	.10
47-53	.57	.43	180-188	.74	.26	375-391	.91	.09
54-61	.58	.42	189-197	.75	.25	392-411	.92	.08
62-68	.59	.41	198-206	.76	.24	412-432	.93	.07
69-76	.60	.40	207-215	.77	.23	433-456	.94	.06
77-83	.61	.39	216-225	.78	.22	457-484	.95	.05
84-91	.62	.38	226-235	.79	.21	485-517	.96	.04
92-98	.63	.37	236-245	.80	.20	518-559	.97	.03
99-106	.64	.36	246-256	.81	.19	560-619	.98	.02
107-113	.65	.35	257-267	.82	.18	620-735	.99	.01
114-121	.66	.34	268-278	.83	.17	over735	1.00	.00

2.12 Conversion of rating point differences into percentage expectancies of winning and the converse—determination of rating point differences indicated by percentage scores—are basic processes in the Elo Rating System, and the basic tool is the *percentage expectancy table* above. From the tabulation of rating point differences D and percentage scores P, one may read directly the

percentage expected for a given difference, namely P_D , or the difference D_P indicated by a given percentage score. Two examples follow.

- 2.13 Conversion of percentage scores into rating differences may be illustrated by the results of the Fischer-Spassky match at Reykjavik, 1972, in which twenty games were played.

Player	Game Score	P	D_P
Robert Fischer	12.5	.625	?
Boris Spassky	7.5	.375	?

Fischer's .625 score indicates a $D_P = 90$ points. The same D_P appears for Spassky's .375 score. Thus at Reykjavik the two world champions performed at levels 90 points apart or, in other terms, .45 of a class interval apart.

The second match game was not played and was awarded administratively to Spassky. It is not included in the scores or calculations shown here. Ratings are based only on actually played games.

- 2.14 Conversion of a rating difference into a percentage expectancy may be illustrated by the Karpov-Korchnoi match at Moscow, 1974. Before the match, the situation was:

Player	Rating	D	P_D
Anatoly Karpov	2715	70	?
Viktor Korchnoi	2645	-70	?

For the differences D shown, the table gives a percentage expectancy of .60 for the higher-rated player and .40 for the lower-rated. The respective percentage expectancies, multiplied by the number of games to be played, indicate the expected game scores. Thus one should expect Karpov $14\frac{1}{2}$ —Korchnoi $9\frac{1}{2}$ in a simple series of 24 games.

The match, however, was to terminate if the winner emerged earlier. The length of such a match—the number of games needed by the higher-rated player to accumulate enough points to win—may be forecast from his percentage expectancy. By dividing Karpov's .60 expectancy into the required 12.5 points, a match length of 21 games was to be expected.

Karpov actually required all 24 games to win the match $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $11\frac{1}{2}$. He won 3 of the first 17 games and lost 2 of the final 6. The remaining 19 games were drawn.

2.2 Symbols and Nomenclature

R	= a player's rating
R_p	= a performance rating
R_o	= a player's rating before a performance
R_n	= a player's current rating, after a performance
R_t	= a provisional rating
R_a	= the average rating of a group of players
R_c	= the average rating of a player's opponents
R_f	= a tournament average rating for FIDE title purposes
R_u	= a nominal value for an unrated player
R_F	= a modified performance rating based on a small sample
D	= a rating difference
D_c	= the rating difference ($R - R_c$)
D_a	= the average difference ($R - R_a$)
D_a	= the adjusted difference based on P
D_i	= a rating difference with an individual opponent
P	= a percentage score, a winning probability
P_D	= the percentage score indicated by D
D_P	= the rating difference indicated by P
P_i	= the percentage against an individual opponent
W	= number of wins, draws counting $\frac{1}{2}$
W_e	= the expected score W
L	= number of losses, draws counting $\frac{1}{2}$
M	= number of players
N	= number of games
N_o	= number of games upon which R_o is based
K	= the rating point value of a single game
C	= a class interval
E	= 1 Elo rating point; $200E = C$
USCF	= United States Chess Federation
FIDE	= World Chess Federation, <i>Fédération Internationale des Echecs</i> (fee-day)
σ	= sigma, the standard deviation
Σ	= Sigma, the total, or algebraic summation, of . . .
Δ	= delta, the change in . . .

Other symbols are defined at point of use, and a number of symbols used only in chapters 8 and 9 are defined in 9.3. The following terms are interchangeable, as used in this work:

average and mean
class and category
curve and function
rating and grading
summation and total

2.3 The Working Formulae of the Elo System

The performance rating, in terms of the competition rating:

$$R_p = R_c + D_p \quad (1)$$

The current rating:

$$R_n = R_o + K(W - W_e) \quad (2)$$

Formulae to calculate the expected score:

$$W_e = \sum P_i \quad (3)$$

$$W_e = N \times P_{Dc} \quad (4)$$

The *adjusted difference* between a player's rating and the average rating of all the participants in a round robin:

$$D_a = D_p(M - 1)/M \quad (5)$$

The performance rating, in terms of the average rating of all the participants in a round robin:

$$R_p = R_a + D_a \quad (6)$$

The average rating in a round robin, in terms of the ratings and performances of the rated players:

$$R_a = R_o - D_p(M - 1)/M \quad (7)$$

The expected score, in a round robin:

$$W_e = P_{Dc}M - \frac{1}{2} \quad (8)$$

The performance rating in a match:

$$R_p = R_a + D_p/2 \quad (9)$$

The linear approximation of the performance rating formula:

$$R_p = R_c + 400(W - L)/N \quad (10)$$

The linear approximation of the current rating formula:

$$R_n = R_o + K(W - L)/2 - (K/4C)\sum D_i \quad (11)$$

These equations were introduced at 1.5 through 1.8. The full mathematical developments are in 8.2.

2.4 Examples of Calculations

2.41

The Hoogoven International Tournament

Wijk aan Zee, 1975

Player	R Rating	W Score	P Pct. Score
Lajos Portisch	2635	10.5	.70
Vlastimil Hort	2600	10	.67
Jan Smejkal	2600	9.5	.63
Lubomir Kavalek	2555	9	.60
Svetozar Gligoric	2575	8.5	.57
Robert Hübner	2615	8.5	.57
Gennadi Sosonko	2470	8.5	.57
Walter Browne	2550	8	.53
Efim Geller	2600	8	.53
Jan Timman	2510	8	.53
Semyon Furman	2560	7	.47
Kristiaan Langeweg	2410	6.5	.43
Hans Ree	2470	5.5	.37
Jan Donner	2485	5	.33
Franciscus Kuijpers	2445	4	.27
Luben Popov	2460	3.5	.23
Player average R_a	2534		
Number of players M	16		

Example 1: Calculation of a performance rating R_p in terms of the competition rating R_c .

Before Wijk aan Zee, Portisch's 15 opponents had an average rating $R_c = 2527$. He won 10.5 games, a percentage score $P = .70$, for which the table indicates the rating point difference $D_p = 149$. Formula (1) gives his performance rating:

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_p &= R_c + D_p \\
 &= 2527 + 149 \\
 &= 2676
 \end{aligned}$$

2.42 **Example 2:** Calculation of a performance rating R_p in terms of the tournament average rating R_a .

Wijk aan Zee was a round robin, and one may calculate from R_a and avoid a separate computation of the competition rating for each player. First the indicated difference between Portisch and his competition $D_p = 149$ must be converted into the difference D_a between him and R_a . Formula (5) gives this adjusted difference.

$$\begin{aligned}D_a &= D_p(M - 1)/M \\&= 149(15) / 16 \\&= 140\end{aligned}$$

Formula (6) now gives his performance rating:

$$\begin{aligned}R_p &= R_a + D_a \\&= 2534 + 140 \\&= 2674\end{aligned}$$

2.43 **Example 3:** Calculation of a new rating R_n in terms of the competition rating R_c .

Before Wijk aan Zee Portisch had a rating $R = 2635$, and his 15 opponents had an average rating $R_c = 2527$, an average difference $D_c = 108$, for which the table indicates the percentage expectancy $P_{D_c} = .65$. The number of games scheduled was $N = 15$. Formula (4) gives Portisch's expected score:

$$\begin{aligned}W_e &= N \times P_{D_c} \\&= 15 \times .65 \\&= 9.75\end{aligned}$$

The new rating will also depend on the value of K . In international competition the basic rating point value of an individual game is $K = 10$. Formula (2) gives Portisch's rating after incorporation of his performance at Wijk aan Zee:

$$\begin{aligned}R_n &= R_o + K(W - W_e) \\&= 2635 + 10(10.5 - 9.75) \\&= 2635 + 7.5 \\&= 2642.5\end{aligned}$$

The fraction may be rounded off as desired, with no significant effect on the accuracy of the rating.

2.44 **Example 4:** Calculation of a new rating R_n in terms of the individual percentage expectancies P_i against each opponent.

For each of his opponents the rating R_i and the difference D_i from Portisch's 2635 rating are tabulated here. A positive value for D_i indicated that Portisch was the higher-rated player. Since all D_i are positive, all P_{D_i} come from column H of the table. Had any other player served as our example, some D_i would have been negative, indicating some use of column L, the expectancy for a lower-rated player.

Opponent	R_i	D_i	P_{D_i}
Hort	2600	35	.55
Smejkal	2600	35	.55
Kavalek	2555	80	.61
Gligoric	2575	60	.58
Hübner	2615	20	.53
Sosonko	2470	165	.72
Browne	2550	85	.62
Geller	2600	35	.55
Timman	2510	125	.67
Furman	2560	75	.60
Langeweg	2410	225	.78
Ree	2470	165	.72
Donner	2485	150	.70
Kuijpers	2445	190	.75
Popov	2460	175	.73
Total		1620	9.66

Portisch's expected score W_e may now be computed more precisely by formula (3), which summarizes the individual expectancies:

$$\begin{aligned} W_e &= \sum P_i \\ &= 9.66 \end{aligned}$$

Again, formula (2), with K at 10, gives his current rating after Wijk aan Zee:

$$\begin{aligned} R_n &= R_o + K(W - W_e) \\ &= 2635 + 10(10.5 - 9.66) \\ &= 2635 + 8.4 \\ &= 2643.4 \end{aligned}$$

2.45 **Example 5:** Calculation of the expected score W_e for each player in a round robin in terms of the average rating of all the participants R_a .

Player	R	D_a	P_{D_a}	W_e
Portisch	2635	101	.64	9.74
Hort	2600	66	.59	8.95
Smejkal	2600	66	.59	8.95
Kavalek	2555	21	.53	8.00
Gligoric	2575	41	.56	8.45
Hübner	2615	81	.61	9.25
Sosonko	2470	-64	.41	6.06
Browne	2550	16	.52	7.82
Geller	2600	66	.59	8.95
Timman	2510	-24	.47	7.02
Furman	2560	26	.54	8.15
Langeweg	2410	-124	.33	4.78
Ree	2470	-64	.41	6.06
Donner	2485	-49	.43	6.38
Kuijpers	2445	-89	.38	5.58
Popov	2460	-74	.40	5.90
Average R_a	2534			

Each column represents a step in the process. D_a is found by subtracting $R_a = 2534$ from R , and P_{D_a} is then taken from the table. Finally, W_e is found by formula (8) with $M = 16$. Note that the process does not require an individual computation of R_c for each player.

A comparison of the expected scores with the actual scores obtained appears at 2.64.

2.46 **Example 6:** Calculation of a performance rating R_p by the linear approximation.

Counting draws as $\frac{1}{2}$ a win and $\frac{1}{2}$ a loss, Portisch has wins $W = 10.5$ and losses $L = 4.5$, a total $N = 15$. Formula (10) gives his performance rating.

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_p &= R_c + 400(W - L)/N \\
 &= 2527 + 400(6) / 15 \\
 &= 2687
 \end{aligned}$$

The result is in fair agreement with $R_p = 2676$ and 2674 in examples 1 and 2.

2.47 **Example 7:** Calculation of a new rating R_N by the linear approximation.

Formula (11) is used. The class interval $C = 200$. Again Portisch is the subject. All other values have been given in preceding examples.

$$\begin{aligned} R_N &= R_O + K(W - L)/2 - (K/4C) \sum D_i \\ &= 2635 + 5 \times 6 - (10/800)1620 = 2644.75 \end{aligned}$$

Thus Portisch gains 9.75 points, in fair agreement with gains of 7.5 and 8.4 in examples 3 and 4. Had K been twice as large, his gain would have been twice as large.

2.48 **Example 8:** Calculation of a tournament average rating R_a from the results of a few rated players in a round robin.

If only three rated players participate in a round robin of twenty, the table shows their ratings R_O , wins scored W , percentage scores P , and the rating point differences indicated D_P taken from the table at 2.11.

Player	R_O	W	P	D_P
A	2350	15	.79	230
B	2205	12	.63	95
C	2165	9	.47	-21
Averages	2240			101

Formula (7) is used. $M = 20$.

$$\begin{aligned} R_a &= R_O - D_P(M - 1)/M \\ &= 2240 - 101 \times 19 / 20 = 2144 \end{aligned}$$

2.49

Karpov-Korchnoi Match Moscow, 1974

Player	R_O Rating	W Score	P Pct. Score
Anatoly Karpov	2715	12.5	.52
Viktor Korchnoi	2645	11.5	.48
Average R_a	2680		
Total games N		24	

Example 9: Calculation of a performance rating R_P in a match.

For the percentage scores of Karpov and Korchnoi in their match, one obtains from the table $D_P = 14$. Formula (9) gives the performance ratings.

$$R_P = R_a + \frac{1}{2} D_P$$

$$\text{For Karpov: } = 2680 + \frac{1}{2} (14) = 2687$$

$$\text{For Korchnoi: } = 2680 + \frac{1}{2} (-14) = 2673$$

If equation (1) were used in this example, the results would be $2645 + 14 = 2659$ for Karpov and $2715 - 14 = 2701$ for Korchnoi. This is an inconsistency. The winner of a match outperforms the loser, regardless of initial rating differences.

2.5 Reliability of the Ratings

2.51 In some of the preceding examples, results obtained by different methods did not agree. The differences are understandable when results obtained by exact and by approximate methods are compared. Differences also appeared in rating gains when the score expectancies were figured from the average rating of the opponents and from the individual differences. These too are understandable, since simple averaging is a linear process but the percentage expectancy curve is non-linear.

These small differences may disturb those with an exaggerated confidence in mathematical methods. Actually, the mathematical formulation of the rating system, or of any process or phenomenon, is *only an idealized model* of an elusive reality.

2.52 In the real world of measurements, uncertainties confront us constantly. By the *principle of uncertainty*, any measurement of a condition disturbs the very condition being measured, even in the most precise of physical measurements. To measure electric current in a wire, we break the circuit to insert an ammeter, but the presence of the meter upsets the condition which existed before. If we measure the temperature of water in a small container, we change the temperature we wish to measure by insertion of the thermometer. In the behavioral fields, including measurement of chess proficiencies, the uncertainties manifest themselves to their fullest.

2.53 In ratings, we are measuring a quantity undergoing *continual change* from day to day, even from game to game, in both a random and possibly a systematic fashion. Furthermore, this measurement is just a comparison to the performances of the opponents, which are also changing in these manners. The process may be compared to using a meter stick waving in the wind to measure the position of a cork bobbing on the surface of waving water. The exact position of the cork cannot be stated, but one can give the *probable range* in which it may be found. The same can be said of ratings.

Horace Lamb's remarks on measurements in general apply most appropriately to chess ratings in particular: "The more refined the methods employed, the more vague and elusive does the supposed magnitude become; the judgment flickers and waves, until at last, in a sort of despair, *some* result is put down, not in the belief that it is exact, but with a feeling that it is the best we can make of the matter." (Lamb 1904)

- 2.54 The precision of measurements is usually expressed by specifying a recognized standard. The *standard deviation*, introduced to the reader at 1.25, gives the range within which one expects to find 68.2% of the measurements. The *probable error* is the range within which there is a 50% chance of finding the "true" value of what is being measured. Tripling the probable error (or doubling the standard deviation) extends the range to 95%, as a standard for the inevitable small number of large deviations. The *confidence level* is the probability that the "true" value is within the range of plus and minus one-half a class interval of the measurement. These standards vary with the number of games, as shown in the following table.

2.55

Expressions of Reliability

Number of Games	Standard Deviation		Probable Error		Confidence Level
	in W	in E	in W	in E	
5	1.12	126.5	.76	85.3	.57
7	1.32	106.9	.89	72.1	.65
9	1.50	94.3	1.01	63.6	.71
10	1.58	89.4	1.07	60.3	.74
12	1.73	81.6	1.17	55.0	.78
15	1.94	73.0	1.31	49.2	.83
20	2.24	63.2	1.51	42.6	.89
25	2.50	56.6	1.69	38.2	.92
30	2.74	51.6	1.85	34.8	.95
40	3.16	44.7	2.13	30.2	.975
50	3.53	40.0	2.38	27.0	.988
60	3.87	36.5	2.61	25.3	.994
80	4.47	31.6	3.02	21.3	.997
100	5.00	28.3	3.37	19.1	.998

2.56 The probable error and standard deviation of the game score also depend on the scoring probabilities of the two contestants. The table assumes their respective probabilities as 50-50, which produces the maximum error values, but it remains a fair approximation even for widely separated scoring probabilities. In the Fischer-Spassky match, for example, with the chances at $62\frac{1}{2} - 37\frac{1}{2}$, the probable error in twenty games is 1.46, not much different from the 1.51 in the table.

The mathematical expressions for probable error and standard deviation are at 8.95, where the table is developed. The standard deviation is about half again as large as the probable error in all cases, and the choice between them is little more than custom—physicists prefer one, statisticians the other. Whichever is used, it must be borne in mind that measurements falling outside the limits are not at all unexpected; it is only when too many fall there that questions arise.

2.57 In a fifteen-round tournament such as Wijk aan Zee, the confidence level is 83% and the probable error is 49 rating points. Obviously the small differences of 13 points and 2 points, noted at 2.46 and 2.47 in R_p and R_n when worked out by different methods, are comfortably tolerable.

2.58 In the final analysis the acceptance of any experimental result, whether obtained by statistical or other means, rests with the reproducibility of that result. In statistical measurements the standard deviation of the measurements shows acceptable reproducibility when the number of measurements exceeds thirty, or in other words surpasses the 95% confidence level. In statistical practice the 95% confidence level is often used as a criterion for accepting or rejecting hypotheses based upon statistical measurements.

2.59 The above general criterion applies to ratings. It is the basis for the thirty-game requirement, expressed at 1.52, to determine an *established rating* R with reasonable confidence. A rating based on fewer games is considered a *provisional rating* R_t . Although little confidence can be placed in such ratings, the usual new player is impatient to see his name on the rating list, and such ratings are published. But the difference between R and R_t is too fundamental to be safely ignored, and good practice includes certain special processes:

Special Calculation: When a player rating is to be calculated on performances including less than thirty games, factor F from 8.85 should be applied to the D_p for each performance.

Identification: R_t should carry an asterisk (*) on all lists, reports, and records.

Limited Application: Special treatment should be accorded R_t in processes affecting other players' ratings or titles, as described at 3.72 and in 4.5.

2.6 Tests of the Rating System

- 2.61 Chessplayers tend to accept a rating system to the degree that its rankings agree with their own subjective estimates. Subjective estimates may have their place in ranking but are hardly proper tests of a rating system. The valid test of a rating system, as of any theory, lies in its success in quantitative prediction, in forecasts of the scores of tournaments or matches.

Evaluation of this success must consider three basic premises of the system. Obviously, because of the nature and variability of human performances, certainty in prediction of scores cannot be expected, and if ever a result agrees exactly with a prediction, it must be considered only as a fortuitous event.

Various processes are available for testing the success of rankings on a statistical and objective basis. When the number of observations is relatively small, a simple comparison with the standards described in 2.54 is most appropriate. That process is applied below to the examples worked out earlier in this chapter.

- 2.62 *The Fischer-Spassky Match:* (See 2.13.) The FIDE rating list for July 1972 rated Fischer 125 points above Spassky, for an indicated scoring expectancy of 67%, or 13.4 games of the 20 played. He actually scored 12.5. The .9 difference is well within the standard deviation of 2.17 and even the probable error of 1.46.

Many people attempted to predict the outcome of this match, offering all sorts of theories, and a number of individuals did in fact succeed. The number of games was limited, and the number of guessers large. The exact outcome was, of course, quite certain to appear among the forecasts, and with some noticeable frequency.

- 2.63 *The Karpov-Korchnoi Match:* (See 2.14) At the time of the match the rating difference was 70 points, giving a 60% expectancy, or a 14.4 game point expectancy, for Karpov. He scored 12.5 points, 1.9 points under expectations. This difference, though somewhat larger

than the probable error in the 24 game match, was well within the standard deviation of 2.4 game points.

- 2.64 *The Hoogoven International Tournament*: A superficial comparison of the actual scores W with the expected scores W_e computed at 2.45 might suggest that some players did not perform closely to their expectations.

Player	W	W_e	$W - W_e$
Portisch	10.5	9.74	.76
Hort	10.0	8.95	1.05
Smejkal	9.5	8.95	.55
Kavalek	9.0	8.00	1.00
Gligoric	8.5	8.45	0.5
Hübner	8.5	9.25	-.75
Sosonko	8.5	6.06	2.44
Browne	8.0	7.82	.20
Geller	8.0	8.95	-.95
Timman	8.0	7.02	.98
Furman	7.0	8.15	-1.15
Langeweg	6.5	4.78	1.72
Ree	5.5	6.06	-.56
Donner	5.0	6.38	-1.38
Kuijpers	4.0	5.58	-1.58
Popov	3.5	5.90	-2.40

For a fifteen-round tournament among players as much as 175 points apart, the probable error is 1.27 game points. Statistical tolerance expects 8 of the differences ($W - W_e$) to exceed 1.27, yet only 5 do so. It is also expected that 5% of the differences exceed 3×1.27 , yet none do so. The standard deviation for the tournament is 1.91, and 5 differences are expected to exceed it, yet only two do so. The scores at Wijk aan Zee fall well within the range of statistical tolerance.

- 2.65 These tests have been described to suggest some of the testing processes, not in an effort to "prove" the validity of the system. Testing continues on an annual basis with the operation of the system, and many results have been reported in the references cited earlier. Vast masses of data have accumulated at several information banks. When data becomes more extensive, more elaborate testing processes are employed. The distribution of the data by frequency and size may be examined and compared with the normal distribution function, as is done in a large test described at 2.7.

2.66 The apparatus of statistical methods includes a well established test to determine goodness of fit of data observed to data forecast, to measure the success of predictions. It is the *chi-square test*, which provides a single numerical expression of the over-all goodness of fit for the entire range of observations. Again, the test requires a minimum of thirty observations or measurements. It is described at 8.96 and applied there to forecasts for a large open tournament and to a sample of almost 5000 pairings.

2.7 The U.S. Open Tournaments Test

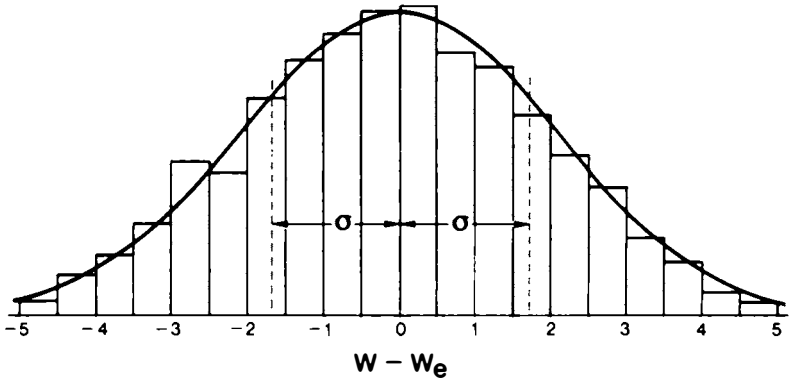
2.71

Deviations In Game Points $W - W_e$		Number of Players	Cumula- tive Number	Cumula- tive Percent
Below	-4.5	4	4	.26
-4.5 -	-4.01	8	12	.79
-4.0 -	-3.51	15	27	1.78
-3.5 -	-3.01	27	54	3.56
-3.0 -	-2.51	55	109	7.20
-2.5 -	-2.01	49	158	10.4
-2.0 -	-1.51	100	258	17.2
-1.5 -	-1.01	144	402	26.5
-1.0 -	-.51	174	576	38.0
-.5 -	.0	198	774	51.0
.0 -	.5	202	976	64.5
.51 -	1.0	147	1123	74.2
1.01 -	1.5	126	1249	82.4
1.51 -	2.0	90	1339	88.4
2.01 -	2.5	68	1407	92.8
2.51 -	3.0	43	1450	95.7
3.01 -	3.5	30	1480	97.7
3.51 -	4.0	16	1496	98.7
4.01 -	4.5	10	1506	99.4
Over	4.5	8	1514	100.0

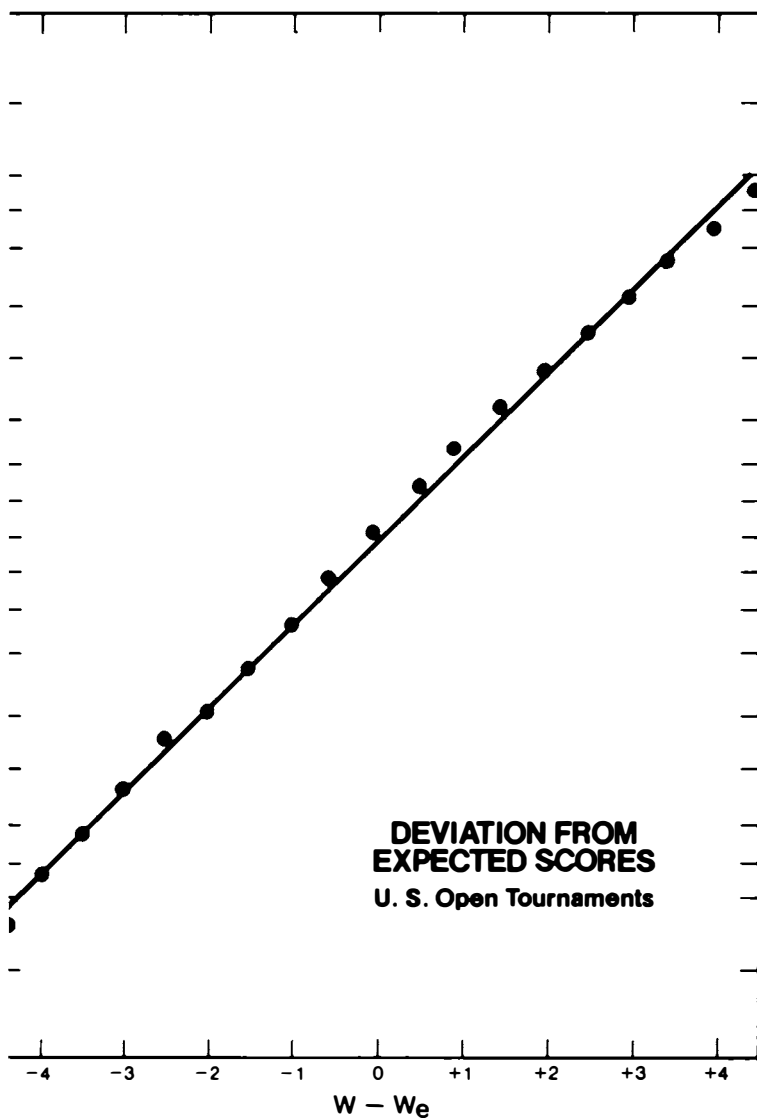
- 2.72 The large annual tournaments of USCF are twelve-round events open to all categories, paired on the Swiss basis. Participation is very heavy, well distributed among all categories, and largely by rated players. These events make excellent laboratory tests of the rating system. Data for 1514 participants in the 1973, 1974, and 1975 U.S. Opens are tabulated above, pooled into one batch, since the standard deviations in each event were the same.
- 2.73 The standard deviation for a twelve-round tournament of this makeup should be somewhat less than 1.73, and the actual standard deviation in the above data is 1.65. Both sigma derivations are given in 9.3. The value 1.65 was used to determine the normal distribution curve superimposed below on the histogram of the $(W - W_e)$ data.

2.74

**DEVIATIONS FROM EXPECTED SCORES
U.S. Open Tournaments**



- 2.75 The fit of performances to normal distribution is remarkably close for a sample of the size in this test. An even better view of the goodness of fit is obtained by plotting the cumulative percentages on normal probability paper, as is done at the right. On such paper, the curve should turn out to be a straight line.
- 2.76 Careful examination discerns a slight systematic departure from the straight line, just above what one might expect from calculations made by the linear approximation formulae. The raw data for 2.72 did in fact consist of rating changes computed by formula (12) and converted to game points on the basis $K = 32$.



- 2.78 The standard deviation for the data in 2.71 is 1.65 game points, and one would expect to find 68.2% of the deviations within the range -1.65 to $+1.65$ game points. Actually 1040, or 68.7% of the deviations, were found there. The probable error of the deviations is 1.11 game points, and 50% should fall between -1.11 and $+1.11$. Actually, 746, or 49.2%, fell there. The conformance of the findings to the expectations is excellent and supports the soundness of the premises very strongly.

2.8 The Test of Time

- 2.81 Perhaps the most crucial test of the rating system depends on its ability to indicate proper differences of ratings between players of different epochs as effectively as it indicates differences among contemporaries. Graphs were constructed, in a test described at 5.4, of ratings over time for some ninety masters, based on the complete record of their play from the first international tournament, London 1851, to the present, a period of just about four generations. The common long career among chessmasters provided remarkably good data, and the ratings used were fully tested for internal self-consistency.

Similar patterns of development for many masters appear in the graphs. Convergence and divergence do not appear; there is no indication of a breakdown in the integrity of the scale. Although the evidence may be circumstantial, the results of the test strongly indicate that the system can operate satisfactorily over time, over at least as much as 125 years.

3. RATING SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Ratings and Chess Activity

- 3.11 A national or regional rating system carries great potential to stimulate player and public. It can become very personal and very important to those it lists and to those who read the lists. The effectiveness of its application depends on the respect and support accorded by the chess administrators, beginning at the top, and upon the caliber of the individuals charged with its administration.

The desirable administrator, whether individual or committee, will possess (a) technical competence, (b) dependability to assure keeping reasonably up-to-date and to assure long-term continuity, (c) the respect and confidence of the players, and (d) reasonable administrative and instructional abilities.

- 3.12 Stimulation of chess activity and measurement of player proficiencies are commendable and compatible objectives. But they remain separate objectives, and the distinction between them is important. The objective of the rating system administrator is the production of objective best-possible measurements. The objective of the chess organizer should include the use of these ratings for the effective development of competitive chess activity.

Few chessplayers are totally objective about their positions on the board, and even fewer can be objective about their personal capacities and ratings. Most of them believe they are playing "in form" only when far above normal form, and they tend to forget that an outstanding tournament success is just as likely the result of off form performances by opponents as superior play by themselves. There is truth in the paradox that "every chessplayer believes himself better than his equal."

The juniors have high ambitions which the organizer would like to see confirmed by the ratings, even as he may be dismayed

by the slowly declining ratings of the older players, who often provide him major organizational support. Pressures to revise rating processes, to delay declines and to accelerate rises, are natural and never-ending, often arising in high places, often very well intentioned.

Specific proposals abound, to raise ratings through processes other than improved chess play. Unsophisticated proposals such as bribery are rare, but new regulations, say to base ratings on fewer games, or to inflate the bonus points, without regard for probabilistic considerations, can produce undesirable results. Subordination of the rating system to political purposes is ultimately counterproductive, leading to vitiation of the integrity of the system and consequently loss of confidence in it.

Ratings which do not objectively reflect playing abilities inevitably become ineffective for any other purposes as well.

- 3.13 Non-scientific distinctions serve no purpose in a scientific rating system. Rating data must be legitimate and valid, based on bona fide contests which observe the rules and ideals of the game. But the game is the thing, not the player, not his race, sex, age, or federation membership, not even his infirmities. Rating pools for only the unsighted or only the deaf could be of interest if sufficient group interplay existed, but their play against others is legitimate rating data. Unscientific data restrictions serve only to reduce the significance of the ratings.

3.2 Rating System Regulations

- 3.21 The quality of ratings from any system will vary with the quality of the data and their treatment, which should be governed by formal regulations. Well prepared regulations, written for the players as well as for the organizers and administrators, contribute to the understanding, confidence, and support a system will enjoy in the chess community.

The regulations used by FIDE are at 4.4, and a practical set of national rules may be found in *Official Chess Handbook* (Harkness 1967). As a suggested starting point for the national or regional federation planning to organize a rating system, an outline of the minimum essentials follows, together with remarks on each topic.

Minimum Regulations for a National System

- (A) Responsibility for the system
- (B) Standards for *rateable events*—for the system INPUT
 - (a) Minimum number of encounters
 - (b) Permissible character of play
 - (c) Reporting requirements
- (C) The rating process
- (D) The *rating list*—the system OUTPUT
 - (a) Frequency and schedule of publication
 - Closing date
 - Publication date
 - Effective date
 - (b) Criteria for listing a player
 - Player activity
 - Minimum rating
 - Administrative requirements
 - (c) Information to be listed
 - Player identification
 - Current rating
 - Special aspects of the rating

Remarks on the Minimum Regulations

(A) **Responsibility** may rest with an individual or a committee, which should be identified by title and address. Provisions governing its composition, selection, and term may be included.

(B) **Rateable event standards** are established for practical purposes. Theoretically, any game of chess may be rated, however it be grouped into tournament or match. The following points should be covered:

(a) *Number of encounters*: Problems occur in rating events with very few games or very few players. The problems tend to diminish when there are more than three players and more than nine games.

(b) *Character of play*: Theoretically the Elo system is applicable to any paired competition, but since the game is chess, play should conform to the FIDE Laws 1-10 (Kazic, Keene and Lim 1985). The FIDE rules 11-19 for tournaments and competitions,

however, should be replaced by the applicable national rules, the rules actually observed in the play to be rated.

Very fast chess, such as five-minute games, or ten-seconds-per-move games, is often considered insufficiently serious to be rated. Investigation by the writer, however, indicates good correlation between results in this play and in the slower "serious" play.

Correspondence chess is often rated separately from over-the-board play because of its special character and leisurely data flow.

(c) *Reporting regulations* should seek quantity, accuracy, and recency of data. Reporting is often a weak link in the system. FIDE permits reporting by the player, the arbiter, or the federation of any player—by any or all of them—and requires a full crosstable of the results of all games in the event.

Inspection for quality of the data received is good practice. FIDE requires that the data reported be found bona fide and suitable for rating purposes by its Qualification Committee.

(C) **The rating process** formulae and periodicity should be specified, so that organizers and players may calculate ratings if they wish. Discretion must remain with the administrator, however, to apply the adjusting devices, as outlined in 3.7 to maintain system integrity.

(D) **The rating list** should incorporate all system output in a single publication. Some principal considerations follow.

(a) *Publication frequency* may be any period, theoretically. USCF uses three or four months, BCF uses one year. Both seem satisfied. *Publication schedule* is built around three dates:

Cutoff date: Play completed after the cutoff date is not normally rated for the list in question.

Publication date: Between cutoff and publication, time must be allowed for list preparation.

Effective date: Between publication and effective date, time must permit organizer review of the new list. Play in events completed after the effective date is rated on the basis of the newly published ratings.

(b) *Standards of listing* are required, although national federations often prefer to keep them liberal, to list as many players as possible. The standards may cover:

Player activity: Reliability of ratings varies with the number of games and, to some extent, with the recency of play. FIDE currently lists only players who have played at least nine games against rated players, some of them within the current three-year period.

USCF lists any player who has played over three rated games, but those with less than twenty-five are specially identified.

Minimum rating: Any reliable rating should normally be listed, whatever its value. FIDE uses minimums because the lower ratings are not required for awarding titles. Moreover, international play is predominantly between the higher-rated players.

Administrative requirements: Federation membership or rating fee payment, for examples, may be made listing requirements, even though they are not scientific criteria. To avoid disadvantage to innocent third parties, a player may be *rated but not listed*. This is the FIDE practice for players who are not members of a FIDE federation. Play against these players is rated but not recognized for FIDE title purposes. The plan serves both the administrative objectives and the interests of scientific measurement.

(c) *Information to be listed* should include the following:

Player identification may show his address and federation, as well as his name. The player's sex, age (or age group, as junior, or senior) and title may be useful to organizers.

His current rating: The published rating is the official current rating from effective date to effective date.

Special aspects which make a rating essentially different should be indicated by an asterisk or other mark. Provisional ratings should be so marked, as should ratings based on play only in women's tournaments, or ratings based on postal play.

3.3 Rating a Group of Unrated Players

- 3.31 The working formulae of the Elo system presume an existing pool of rated players, or at least a few available rated players for standards of comparison. A special problem arises when an isolated group of players is to be rated for the first time, or when a national federation initiates a rating system. If tournament records are available for the players to be newly rated, ratings may be computed from those data by the *method of successive approximations* described at 3.4. If no data are available, then the data must be developed in normal play, supplemented, perhaps, by special rating tournaments.
- 3.32 To develop ratings by the *normal play process*, with no previous data available, an identical rating is assigned each player, and ratings are adjusted after subsequent encounters by equation (2)

with K set at some large value, say 32 or up to 50. Normal play continues, and the R_n after each event becomes R_o for the next. In time, *proper relative ratings will be generated automatically*, provided statistically adequate interplay occurs within the pool, with no sub-group isolated. Several factors affect the time required, but most players who have met thirty different opponents should have fairly good relative ratings.

- 3.33 The process may be greatly shortened by a large round robin *special rating tournament*. If the group to be newly rated is geographically dispersed, one rating tournament at each principal center of play is advisable. An arbitrary average tournament rating R_a is set, and R_p for each participant is determined by equation (6). Subsequent interplay with players who did not participate will extend the relative ratings on a sound basis to the balance of the group.
- 3.34 If there exists a small pool of rated players, even as few as three, national or regional ratings may be brought into conformity with FIDE ratings through a single round robin rating tournament. Formula (6) is applicable when solved for the average rating of the participants as: $R_a = R_p - D_a$. Thus if R_{ar} is the average rating of just the rated players and D_{ar} is the average adjusted difference D_p for the same rated players, then assuming that on the average the rated players perform according to their expected results, the average rating for the tournament takes the form:

$$R_a = R_{ar} - D_{ar} \quad (6a)$$

Once R_a is thus determined, the rating of every participant may be found by equation (7).

- 3.35 The 1972 Brazilian Championship demonstrates the method. Nineteen players took part, six rated and thirteen unrated.

Player	Rating	W	L	%	D_p	D_a
German, E.	2340	14	4	.78	220	208
Trois, F.	2295	13½	4½	.75	193	183
Nobrega, W.	U	13½	4½	.75	193	183
Toth, P.	2300	13½	4½	.75	193	183
van Riemsdyk	2345	12½	5½	.69	141	134
Dos Santos	U	11½	6½	.64	102	97
Rocha, A.	U	11	7	.61	80	76
Pinto Paiva	U	10½	7½	.58	57	54
Azevedo	U	10½	7½	.58	57	54
Tavares, L.	U	9	9	.50	0	0

Belem	U	9	9	.50	0	0
Camara, H.	2405	9	9	.50	0	0
Araujo, R.	U	7	11	.39	- 80	- 76
Chemin	2220	6½	11½	.36	-102	- 97
Asfora	U	6	12	.33	-125	-118
Goncalves, A.	U	3½	14½	.19	-251	-238
Guerra	U	3½	14½	.19	-251	-238
Macedo, M.	U	3½	14½	.19	-251	-238
Russowsky	U	3½	14½	.19	-251	-238

For the six rated players $R_{ar} = 2317.5$ and $D_{ar} = 101.8$. Therefore $R_a = 2317.5 - 101.8 = 2216$ when rounded. Thus the performance ratings, R_p , of the participants are:

Player	D_a	R_p	ΔR
German, E.	208	2424	30
Trois, F.	183	2399	37
Nobrega, W.	183	2399	
Toth, P.	183	2399	36
Van Riemsdyk	134	2350	2
Dos Santos	97	2313	
Rocha, A.	76	2292	
Pinto Paiva	54	2270	
Azevedo	54	2270	
Tavares, L.	0	2216	
Belem	0	2216	
Camara, H.	0	2216	-68
Araujo, R.	- 76	2140	
Chemin	- 97	2119	-36
Asfora	-118	2098	
Goncalves, A.	-238	1978	
Guerra	-238	1978	
Macedo, M.	-238	1978	
Russowsky	-238	1978	

For the rated players the changes in rating, ΔR , have been calculated by equation (15), namely, $\Delta R = (R_p - R_o) N/N_o$. These are shown in column four as calculated with N_o set at 50.

Further interplay between these players could produce more reliable rating differences. Even so, the previously unrated players who have received a rating (i.e. their performance rating) could serve as standards for still other unrated players. By these means the pool of rated players could be expanded without limit, albeit with limited reliability.

- 3.36 The Elo system determines only *differences* in the ratings, or the relative ratings, of the individuals in the pool. These relative ratings may be expressed on any arbitrary scale with any divisions, but if the divisions conform to the FIDE class interval of 200 points, subsequent conversion to FIDE ratings is simpler. Such conversion requires a good set of relative ratings plus some interplay with FIDE-rated players.

3.4 The Method of Successive Approximations

- 3.41 When previous tournament records are available, they may be used to determine relative ratings even though each player in the group has not encountered every other member of the group. The following steps are taken for each player:

1. Assign an initial rating R_i , identical for all players, high enough so no rating will go negative.
2. Find D_p for each player, indicated by the percentage expectancy table, for his percentage score on the available records of play.
3. Calculate the first approximation of his rating R_1 using formula (1), with $R_C = R_i$.
4. Compute the first correction of his competition rating R_{C1} by averaging R_1 for the other players.
5. Calculate the second approximation of his rating R_2 using formula (1), with $R_C = R_{C1}$.
6. Continue the calculation cycles until successive values for R show little or no change, indicating that a set of self-consistent differences in ratings has been produced for all members of the group.

The method lends itself readily to programmed computerization. An electronic desk calculator with sufficient memory bank to make summations of products serves very conveniently. For groups of less than thirty players, a simple desk calculator will suffice.

- 3.42 To illustrate the method, it will be carried through for an interesting group of players of Morphy's era, including his four major opponents. Three of the players (Anderssen, Louis Paulsen, and Kolisch) form the important links with the following generation and its eminent Grandmasters Steinitz, Mackenzie, Winawer, Blackburne, Zukertort, and others. Three players (Horwitz, Staunton, and Williams) are included to provide additional intragroup connections.

The data consists of 342 games, all the match, tournament, and exhibition encounters of record for these players between 1846 and 1862, excepting games at odds and unplayed games won by forfeit. The time period spanned, unfortunately, is too long to give this particular study a clear significance, but the figures do indicate something of the stature of Morphy among his contemporaries, while providing an interesting illustration of our method. A crosstable of the play follows.

	A	Ha	Ho	K	L	M	P	S	W	W Wins	P
3.43 Player											
Anderssen	—	10½	1½	10½	5	4	5	4		40½	.513
Harrwitz	7½	—	14½	1½	16	3½			21	64	.542
Horwitz	½	11½	—	1	1			11	7½	32½	.378
Kolisch	9½	2½	3	—			17			32	.500
Löwenthal	3	11	5		—	4½		2	11	36½	.474
Morphy	13	5½			10½	—	9½			38½	.726
Paulsen	4			19		2½	—			25½	.447
Staunton	1	7	20					—	11	39	.591
Williams		6	9½		8			10	—	33½	.399
Losses: L	38½	54	53½	32	40½	14½	31½	27	50½	342	

For each player, $P = W/(W + L)$. The number of games per player varies.

3.44 The data are now processed through successive approximations, step by step, following 3.41. The initial arbitrary rating is set $R_1 = 500$ and used to find D_p for each player. R_c and its successive corrections are weighted for the number of encounters with each opponent. The successive computations of ratings R and of R_c are tabulated below.

3.45 Player	D_p	R_1	R_{c1}	R_2	R_{c2}	R_3	R_{c3}	R_4	R_{c4}	R_5
Anderssen	10	510	539	549	530	540	545	555	542	552
Harrwitz	30	530	480	510	492	522	485	515	488	518
Horwitz	-90	410	519	429	494	404	501	411	496	406
Kolisch	0	500	495	475	508	508	498	498	516	516
Löwenthal	-18	482	524	506	521	503	524	506	523	505
Morphy	171	671	493	664	518	689	514	685	524	695
Paulsen	-44	456	538	494	527	483	551	509	546	502
Staunton	66	566	441	507	453	519	438	504	442	508
Williams	-72	428	504	432	492	420	493	421	489	417

3.46 The beginnings of convergence appear after only the third cycle of calculations, as the ratings become more stable in relation to

one another. Successive iterations will eventually produce a set of self-consistent ratings.

The convergence is somewhat remarkable in this case, because the careers of the nine players differed in length, parallel in some cases, overlapping only at the ends in others. The ratings are just a sort of fuzzy measure of performance differences over the period studied. They are not lifetime ratings for the participants, nor even career ratings for a particular period.

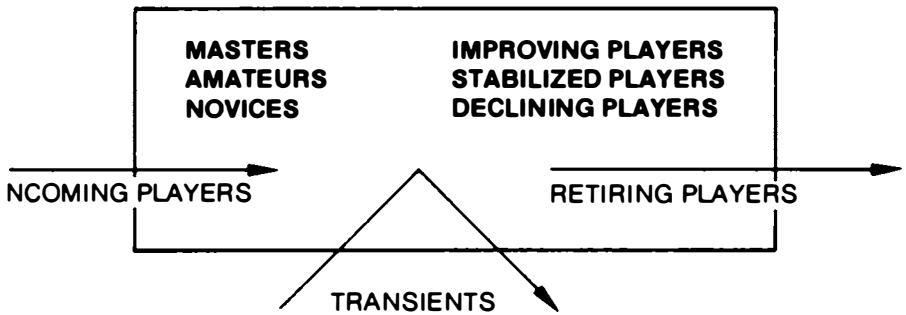
To estimate the position of these ratings on the current FIDE scale, 2000 points should be added to each one. A further footnote to the crosstable is at 9.3.

- 3.47 The method of successive approximations was used to establish the first International Rating List, and in the calculation of the ratings for almost one hundred chessmasters over more than a century of time, a study reported at 5.4.

3.5 Integrity of the Ratings

- 3.51 The administration of a rating system does not consist solely of making calculations and publishing rating lists. However well he may carry out those tasks, the rating system administrator will face a more subtle problem, one which will manifest itself only with the passage of considerable time and the accumulation of a great mass of calculations. His true challenge is maintenance of the *integrity of the ratings* in his pool, so that from one year to the next, or from one decade to the next, a given rating will represent essentially the same level of chess proficiency. The challenge must be met if the system is to succeed, if it is to produce ratings that will satisfy the players and the users of the rating list.
- 3.52 Each federation is likely to have a pool of unique character, which will require particular treatment. The rating administrator should understand the general composition of his *rating pool* and the rate and direction of its movements.

A rating pool is a very complex statistical ensemble which includes, in a national federation, players of every level of proficiency from novice to Grandmaster, with various durations of stay in the pool. The pool could be represented by a box diagram:



The rating pool is thus in a constant state of flux, or fluxes, which require full understanding in each case. The FIDE pool, discussed at 4.6, is a very special case.

- 3.53 Chess organizers, whether clubs or national federations, generally find that people who learn to play chess but show only limited aptitude tend to drop out of competitive activity, while those with more aptitude stay for many years. Thus in any rating pool the population of players at the higher levels is comparatively stable, while at lower levels there is greater turnover. These transients probably have little effect on the pool as a whole. It is the new and improving players who have the most significant effect on all ratings.

Players with aptitude who enter competition early in life improve rapidly and at various rates during their youthful years. They may remain relatively stable in their middle years, and they will decline slowly in later years. (Development of chess proficiency is the subject of chapter 6.) However, proficiency in later years seldom sinks to the level at which the player entered the pool. Even in an equilibrium situation, in which the number of players entering equals the number retiring, the declining players alone could not supply the points to be gained by the improving players.

A player whose proficiency improves while he is in the pool is entitled to additional rating points, but they may not properly be taken from players whose proficiency is not changing.

- 3.54 The above may be put crudely into quantitative form thus:

Let R_i = initial rating assigned to a player upon entry into the pool;

Let R_m = maximum proficiency achieved by the player during his stay in the pool;

Let R_q = final proficiency upon quitting the pool, at retirement or death.

During the phase R_i to R_m the player ordinarily takes points from the pool, and during the phase R_m to R_q he returns points. As a net result, he takes out of the pool $(R_q - R_i)$ points. Thus, to maintain pool integrity, a mechanism must be built into the rating system to feed in $(R_q - R_i)$ points for each and every player who enters the pool. If this is not done, the result will be *systemic deflation*, a gradual downward trend of all ratings, including those of players whose proficiency remains stable.

Although R_i is always known, R_q cannot, of course, be anticipated. Therefore, the point feeding mechanism will be statistical in nature and based on probabilistic considerations. In this way the points fed into the pool are more likely to reach those entitled to them.

Deflation becomes more acute with a greater percentage of new and improving players in the pool and with their entry into rated competition earlier in their careers. The junior players, who can improve dramatically even between two tournaments, are principally responsible for the deflation generally found in national applications of the rating system.

- 3.55 The *self-correction* characteristics of equation (2), when applied continually with sufficient interplay within a pool, were indicated at 3.32. Proper rating *differences* will develop, after sufficient *time*. This does not, however, preclude temporary inequities, which may accumulate and continue in an undesirable degree, nor does it prevent the general downward drift of all ratings — deflation. Treatment of these problems follows.

3.6 The Management of Deflation

- 3.51 There are two immediate manifestations of deflation. One concerns the improving player whose indicated rating at any time might be less than his actual proficiency. The other concerns his opponents, his “victims,” in a sense. An underrated player truly victimizes his opponents regardless of the outcome of the game, as the expectancy table shows. A 50-point difference between actual strength and indicated rating, for example, can make as much as a 7% difference in expectancy, and each opponent of the underrated player could lose .07K, undeservedly. The loss may not be great at any one time, but small losses could accumulate into significant amounts.

Accordingly, the control of deflation requires mechanisms to accelerate the adjustment of the ratings of rapidly improving players, and to protect their opponents from undue loss. But first it is necessary to identify the points at which to apply the controls.

3.62 In the usual tournament, one may identify several broad groups whose ratings may be generally suspect, with potential to contribute to deflation and to victimization of opponents. These groups are:

The unrated players. Obviously the complete absence of data must be recognized.

The provisionally rated players. The level of confidence in these ratings, as defined at 2.54 is too low for complete reliance in them when rating others.

The juniors, under age eighteen.

The novices. When the rating is very low, the chance for an overly-large increase is greatest.

The exceptional performers. A performance exceptionally above the expected performance may be identified by the statistical significance test, known as the *z-M test*.

3.63 The *z-M test* is a commonsense criterion expressed in probabilistic terms. In general, a performance may be regarded as exceptional if the probability of its occurrence is less than 10% or, better yet, less than 5%. Each administrator may set a percentage based on his judgment of the requirement in his case. The following table shows how these criteria work out in terms of the excess score, that is ($W - W_e$).

3.64

Exceptional Performances

Number of games	Probable occurrence less than:		
	10%	5%	1%
5	1.43	1.84	2.61
7	1.69	2.16	3.08
9	1.92	2.46	3.50
12	2.21	2.84	4.03
15	2.48	3.18	4.52
19	2.79	3.58	5.08

As an example: If the excess game score in a 9-round tournament is 2.46 or more, the probability of this occurring by chance is less than .05. Or if in a 12-round tournament the excess is 4.03 or greater, the probability of occurrence is less than .01, etc. These excess scores may also be converted to changes in rating by multiplying them by the appropriate coefficient K.

3.65 Control of deflation is essential to the successful operation of any rating system. A variety of devices is available, but the adminis-

trator must select those appropriate to his particular pool and within the practical computational abilities available to him. He should review his selections from time to time, for changes in pool characteristics as well as for efficacy. No single process may suffice, and combinations of parts of several may be best. Some practical processes are described below.

3.7 Deflation Control Processes

3.71 *Appropriate treatment of unrated players:* In rating a tournament, compute the performance ratings of the new players first, and use those ratings when calculating the ratings for the other players. In this way the opponents of the new player are not affected *as a group*, though individually they may gain or lose points depending on the results of their individual encounters with the new player. Use of the player's post-event R_p in effect isolates him as a potential cause of deflation.

3.72 *Modified processing of provisionally rated players:* In rating a tournament, compute the provisional ratings after the new players have been rated, and use the post-event provisional ratings when calculating the ratings for the other players. This maximizes the data base for the new ratings, and the isolationary effect lessens as the confidence level increases.

The novices, the juniors, or any other group may similarly be rated early in the sequence, and their post-event ratings used when rating the remaining players, with similar effect. This process is often advisable when juniors are competing with established adult players.

3.73 *Adjustment of K:* Use K as a development coefficient, setting a high value early in a player's career, and reducing it as he stabilizes with time and play. Or use a graduated schedule for K based on player ratings, a high K for the lower-rated and a lower K for the high-rated. Besides providing partial protection for the established players, this also stabilizes their ratings by reducing statistical fluctuations.

3.74 *Corrective additions for exceptional performances:* When the z-M test detects an exceptional performance, award *bonus rating points* to the player or, alternatively, use *an elevated K* when computing his rating for the event. The objective of this procedure is to bring his new rating within the range of the standard deviation of the performance rating.

3.75 *Feedback processes:* When working with a programmed computer, use the output from a first cycle of calculations—that is, the rating of the exceptional performer—as input in a second cycle for the calculation of the rating changes of his opponents. Alternatively, find the difference between the exceptional performer's percentage expectancy and his actual percentage score. This difference, multiplied by K , will indicate the feedback points to add to the post-event rating of each opponent.

- 3.76 *Treatment of new players:* When the rating pool is somewhat stabilized, new players may be entered at the median rating of the pool. Then with K set at the maximum value for at least 30 games, these players will quickly reach their appropriate levels. Eventually equal numbers of players will stabilize below and above the median rating, with little effect on the pool as a whole.

FIDE uses a variant of the method. New players, who in their first rated tournament score 50% or more, are entered at the average rating of the tournament and are then treated as other rated players. New players with less than 50% score are entered at their performance ratings. These provisions safeguard against eccentric results often found in short tournaments.

3.8 Monitoring the Rating Pool

- 3.81 With any method of deflation control, it is essential to survey and monitor the pool on a periodic basis. These surveys may take various forms. One simple method is to select a sample of well established players from the 25-40 years age group and determine the average rating each year. Systematic change in the average could indicate deflationary or inflationary trends. The change itself should be tested for significance by the usual statistical tests of significance for this type of test.
- 3.82 The entire well established portion of the rating pool may also be monitored. Such a pool portion has a unique character as to distribution, standard deviation, and other features. Comparison of the characteristics of the pool, say at two-year intervals, can show fundamental changes in the pool.
- 3.83 Analysis of results from large open tournaments, in which every segment of the pool is represented, provides a quick demonstration of the deflation or bias that may exist within the rating pool. The large U. S. Open tournaments described at 2.72 are events of just this sort, and data from them were analyzed for rating point exchanges between pool segments. All the players with established ratings were grouped into junior and adult groups, and into those rated above 1700 points and those below. A test note is at 9.3.

The normal rating point gains by these groups are tabulated below, as are the portions of each group exhibiting sufficiently exceptional performances to entitle it to bonus points. A careful examination of this tabulation clearly shows that in general the juniors were underrated with respect to the adults, and that those below 1700 were underrated with respect to those above. Such analysis provides valuable insight into the state and condition of a rating pool.

Description of Group	Rating Point Exchanges U.S. Open Tournaments			Average Normal Point Gain
	Number of Players	Players Receiving Bonus Points		
		No.	Pct.	
Juniors rated under 1700	127	47	37.0	30.8
All juniors	246	78	31.7	18.3
All players under 1700	492	138	28.0	13.7
Adults under 1700	365	91	24.9	7.8
Juniors over 1700	119	31	26.1	5.0
All players	1172	248	21.2	1.1
All adults	926	170	18.4	-3.4
All players over 1700	680	110	16.2	-8.0
Adults over 1700	561	79	14.1	-10.7

3.85 Thus the rating system administrator faces a fine-tuning function not unlike that facing administrators of a monetary system. The analogy is of considerable interest, although the problem is deflation in ratings and inflation in money.

In a closed pool with an inflexible point supply, the natural and normal growth of proficiencies during chess careers will produce deflation, a steady drop in ratings, in the "price" in points for the same proficiency. The drop is akin to the course of money prices under the gold standard, in the earlier days of monetary systems. As economic injustices developed, corrective processes were initiated to pump more money into the systems. Some of those processes had such political appeal that they have survived and thrived for their own sake, pushing economies toward the opposite extreme, so that inflation has become the prevalent condition in most economies today.

The rating system is just an infant compared with monetary systems, but its problems are less intricate and its principles are better understood than were monetary principles in the infancy phase. Perhaps too its users are more sophisticated and its administrators more dedicated. Perhaps it will withstand political pressures and continue service to chess as an international measurement standard in which all federations have a common high degree of confidence.

3.9 The Rating System in Handicap Competition

3.91 In the early 19th century most master competition consisted of

matches between individuals. This form of competition has steadily declined with the proliferation of tournaments and until now is virtually limited to the candidate matches in the cycle of the World Championship.

Match play, to be interesting, must be competitive; that is, there must be equal or nearly equal chances of success for the participants. Thus the participants should be within the same category, and if not, the superior player should give some form of odds, or assume a handicap, which in effect will bring the contestants within the same category. In the past odds have taken the form of a material handicap to the superior player, such as a pawn, a knight or even a rook and less commonly in the form of game points to be added to the score of the inferior player.

- 3.92 With the advent of the rating system on the chess scene match play and even tournament play with handicaps becomes a definite possibility. In this connection the natural question arises as to what difference in rating between players would justify any specific material odds. Unfortunately, theory does not provide an answer to this question. Rather, it would require most extensive and controlled experimental matches to determine the equivalence of rating point differences and material differences. There would have to be matches between equally-rated players on level terms and then with first one and then the other player giving odds. And there would have to be matches between diversely-rated players with and without odds. The data needed would necessarily be huge since statistically reliable results from matches would require at least 30 games. There are, however, other methods of handicapping.
- 3.93 The American master Curt Brasket has proposed a handicapping method, intended primarily for Swiss type tournaments, and which is based on performance rating. In this method, at the outset of a tournament, each player is assigned "handicap rating points" which are determined on the basis of the difference between the players' ratings and an arbitrary high rating called "Scratch" (to use the term from bowling and golf). The scratch may be the rating of the highest-rated player or in proximity thereof. The handicap points may be some fraction, usually 80%, of the difference between scratch and the player's rating. At the conclusion of the tournament the handicap points are then added to the performance rating to determine the handicap performance score. As an example: Assume that in a tournament scratch is set as 2200 and a player's rating is 1900 and his performance rating is 2050. His difference is 300 points and 80% of this is 240. Thus his handicap score is $2050 + 240$ or 2290, which would certainly make him

competitive for high handicap prizes. In this plan two sets of prizes are envisioned, one on the basis of normal standings in the tournament and one on the basis of standings in handicap points. The drawback of this system is the need for the calculations of performance ratings and the necessary waiting period for this at the end of a tournament. With the ready availability of programmable calculators, however, this drawback may not be significant.

- 3.94 An alternative method for handicapping is through game points. This method is adaptable to matches and tournaments as well. In a match of a specified number of games it is possible to determine the expected score, by equation (4) for either player, from the difference in rating of the players. The handicap can be a fraction of the difference between the expected scores, to be added to that of the lower-rated player, or subtracted from the score of the higher-rated. Better yet, the handicap points should be such as to bring the handicap scores within the range of the standard deviation of the scores. This last would insure the competitive aspect of the match which is the intent of the handicap system. As an example: Assume that a 20-game match ($N = 20$) is to be played between two players with a rating difference of 200 points ($D = 200$). The respective percentage expectancies are .76 for the higher and .24 for the lower-rated. Thus the score expectancies will be 15.2 and 4.8, respectively. Now the standard deviation of the game scores in a 20-game match is given by the well-known Bernoulli formula: $\sigma = \sqrt{Npq}$ (see section 8.95) which in this case is $\sqrt{20(.76)(.24)}$ or 1.91. The difference in game score expectancies is 10.4 and subtracting 1.91 from this we obtain 8.49 which is the appropriate handicap score to be added to the game score of the lower-rated player.
- 3.95 The same general principle may be applied to tournament play. In a round robin, or all-play-all tournament, the participants are generally selected from the same category, or nearly so, assuring good competition between all the players. However, if the rating range of the participants greatly exceeds the class interval a handicap type tournament could be an attractive alternative.

For a round robin tournament the expected score of the participants may be calculated from the average rating by means of equation (8). If the expected score of the low-rated players differs from that of the top-rated players by an amount greater than the standard deviation of the game scores, then handicapping might be considered. As a practical matter, a scratch rating may be set for the tournament, which could be either the rating of the top player or the average rating of the top three players. Then for the

remaining players their rating level, measured from scratch can be used to determine their respective handicap points in advance of actual play. A table of handicap points has been worked out for various rating differences and for various number of participants which follows. This table is designed for the range of ratings usually found in international play. It is intended primarily as a guide with the option of revision of the handicap points up or down, depending on the generosity of the handicappers. The handicap points given are for the lower limit for each interval. Interpolations should be used for intermediate levels. The handicap points are given to the nearest tenth of a game point so that in some instances may serve as tie-breaking points.

3.96 **Handicap Points for Round Robin Tournaments**

Rating Level	Number of Participants												
	Below Scratch	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	22
101-125		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.1	.2	.2	.3
126-150		.1	.2	.3	.4	.4	.5	.6	.7	.8	.9	1.0	1.2
151-175		.5	.6	.7	.9	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.8	2.1
176-200		.9	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.6	3.0
201-225		1.2	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.6
226-250		1.5	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.9	4.4
251-275		1.8	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.7	4.0	4.3	4.6	5.2
276-300		2.1	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.8	4.1	4.5	4.8	5.1	5.4	6.1
301-325		2.5	2.9	3.2	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.7	5.0	5.4	5.8	6.2	7.0
326-350		2.8	3.3	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.7	5.1	5.5	5.9	6.3	6.8	7.8

3.97 Just how this particular schedule of handicap points could work out can be illustrated by applying it to a tournament already analysed at 2.4ff in another connection, that is, the 1975 Hoogoven International Tournament. Assume that this event was conducted as a handicap tournament with Portisch as the top-rated player with 2635 and whose rating will now be considered as scratch. Listing the players in order of finish with their ratings, scores, level below scratch and handicap points there is obtained:

Player	Rating	Score	Level Below Scratch	Handicap Points	Handicap Score
Portisch	2635	10.5	0	0	10.5
Hort	2600	10.0	35	0	10.0
Smejkal	2600	9.5	35	0	9.5
Kavalek	2555	9.0	80	0	9.0

Gligoric	2575	8.5	60	0	8.5
Hübner	2615	8.5	20	0	8.5
Sosonko	2470	8.5	165	1.6	10.1
Browne	2550	8.0	85	0	8.0
Geller	2600	8.0	35	0	8.0
Timman	2510	8.0	125	.6	8.6
Furman	2560	7.0	75	.0	7.0
Langeweg	2410	6.5	225	2.9	9.4
Ree	2470	5.5	165	1.6	7.1
Donner	2485	5.0	150	1.3	6.3
Kuijpers	2445	4.0	190	2.1	6.1
Popov	2460	3.5	175	1.9	5.4

Actually to benefit substantially from handicap points a player must perform above his expectations in terms of game points by at least a standard deviation or in terms of performance rating, by a class interval. In the example given, actually only two players, Sosonko and Langeweg, qualified for high positions.

- 3.98 In Swiss type tournaments the situation with respect to the rating of the opponents is quite different as it is subject to the vagaries of the pairing system used. In most pairing systems, initially the participants are divided into halves with the top half matched against the lower half. In subsequent rounds players with the same score are, in so far as possible, paired against one another. The result is that the greatest difference in rating between contestants is found in the first round after which the differences approach zero, a condition seldom achieved in the limited number of rounds played. And as a general rule the range of ratings found in Swiss events, especially in the large "open" tournaments, are far greater than in round robin tournaments, being as much as a thousand points or more. It is also a characteristic of Swiss tournaments that players with positive scores (greater than 50%) generally encounter opponents rated below themselves, whereas the reverse is true for players with scores below 50%. Thus the range of the *differences* in the ratings of the opponents will be less than half of the range of the ratings of the participants.

It is shown at 8.96 that the performances in large Swiss tournaments are normally distributed. Actually even the raw scores in such tournaments appear to be normally distributed, although this is not readily evident from actual examples because of the distortions produced by the large number of drop-outs that invariably occur in large tournaments. Nevertheless by assuming the ideal situation of no drop-outs and normal distribution of scores, handicap points can be worked out for scores in Swiss type tournaments as well.

These appear in tabular form in Table 3.99. Again the table is intended as a guide only and the numbers may be shifted up or down according to the norms set by the handicappers. Scratch is taken here as the average of the three top-rated players so that no single rating shall have an undue influence.

3.99

Handicap Points for Swiss Tournaments

Rating Level Below Scratch	Number of Rounds							
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Under 200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
201 – 250	0	0	0	0	0	.1	.1	.2
251 – 300	.1	.2	.3	.4	.5	.6	.7	.7
301 – 350	.4	.6	.7	.8	.9	1.0	1.1	1.2
351 – 400	.6	.8	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6
401 – 450	.8	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0
451 – 500	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.4
501 – 550	1.2	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.8
551 – 600	1.3	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.1
601 – 650	1.4	1.9	2.3	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.4
651 – 700	1.5	2.0	2.4	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.5	3.7
701 – 750	1.6	2.1	2.5	2.9	3.3	3.6	3.8	4.0
751 – 800	1.7	2.2	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.0	4.2
801 – 850	1.8	2.3	2.7	3.1	3.5	3.9	4.2	4.4
851 – 900	1.9	2.4	2.8	3.2	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.6
901 – 950	2.0	2.5	2.9	3.3	3.7	4.1	4.5	4.8
951 – 1000	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.2	4.6	5.0
Over 1000	2.0	2.6	3.1	3.5	3.9	4.3	4.7	5.1

4. INTERNATIONAL TITLES AND INTERNATIONAL RATINGS

4.1 The Concept of Titles

- 4.11 The concept of titles is as old as human society. Probably the first were *head man* or *chief* of a village or tribe. As societies became more complex, titles were invented to define functions in government, the military, in commerce, and in industry. Some hereditary titles of nobility linger on, though they reflect no particular achievement, and the original bases for the awards are long forgotten. In the modern world, the academic degrees, obtained through formal training and examination, may be considered a form of title, as in turn they become stepping stones to the professional titles of doctor, professor, and others.

The chess titles Grandmaster (GM) and International Master (IM) bear some analogy to academic degrees, in that they are awarded by an institution, FIDE, and they may serve toward qualification as a professional chessplayer. However, there is no prescribed curriculum to complete. The only requirement is demonstrated skill at chess in open competition, which is now objectively measurable. Thus chess titles have a singular purity of meaning and imply an honesty not always found in other titles. It is understandable that untitled chessplayers often consider Grandmasters as the nobility of the chess world.

4.2 International Recognition of Chessplayers

- 4.21 Subjective judgment and informal consensus by the students of the game provided the early basis for chess titles. No official recognition attached to them prior to 1950. Strong practitioners of some regional or national prominence were referred to as masters,

as in many fields. Those invited regularly to international events were thus international masters. Early in the century the grandmaster description appeared, usually reserved for prominent masters in contention for top places in international events. An historical note is at 9.3.

- 4.22 Twenty-seven players were formally inscribed as Grandmasters in the *Golden Book of FIDE* in 1950 when the international federation, twenty-six years after its founding, assumed control of titles. Selections were limited to players then living, but not necessarily currently active, and were based on subjective and, to a certain extent, political considerations. The reader may make his own evaluation of the rather impressive list, given below, with the age and nationality of each player at time of award.

Osip Bernstein, 68, France
Isaak Boleslavsky, 31, Soviet Union
Igor Bondarevsky, 37, Soviet Union
Mikhail Botvinnik, 39, Soviet Union
David Bronstein, 26, Soviet Union
Oldrich Duras, 68, Czechoslovakia
Machgielis Euwe, 49, Holland
Reuben Fine, 36, United States
Salo Flohr, 42, Soviet Union
Ernst Grünfeld, 57, Austria
Paul Keres, 34, Soviet Union
Boris Kostic, 63, Yugoslavia
Alexander Kotov, 37, Soviet Union
Grigory Levenfish, 61, Soviet Union
Andor Lilienthal, 39, Soviet Union
Geza Maroczy, 80, Hungary
Jacques Mieses, 85, Great Britain
Miguel Najdorf, 40, Argentina
Viacheslav Ragozin, 42, Soviet Union
Samuel Reshevsky, 39, United States
Akiba Rubinstein, 68, Belgium
Friedrich Sämisch, 54, West Germany
Vasily Smyslov, 29, Soviet Union
Gideon Stahlberg, 42, Sweden
Laszlo Szabo, 33, Hungary
Savely Tartakower, 63, France
Milan Vidmar, 64, Yugoslavia

The initial list also included 94 IM and 17 International Woman Masters (IWM). Before the criteria were revised in 1957, the roster had expanded by another 16 GM, 95 IM, and 23 IWM. A complete list of all 1053 GM and IM titles awarded through 1985, with ratings and dates, is given at 9.4. A similar list for the IWM titles awaits assembly of biographical data and pre-1970 performance reports.

- 4.23 Death came too soon for some of the strongest chessplayers in history, who remain unrecognized by the international titles carried by other players, often weaker, sometimes even older as well. But objective data were not available in 1950 for any titling, normal or posthumous. Subsequently, however, the data have been developed, in the study reported at 5.4, and the reader may now examine the roster of the untitled dead. Listed below are twenty-four great players, contemporaries of those on the first GM roster, who surely would carry GM titles had the current regulations been effective during their careers.

Wilhelm Steinitz 1836-1900 Bohemia/United States
Rudolph Charousek 1873-1900 Bohemia/Hungary
Carl Walbrodt 1871-1902 Holland/Germany
James Mason 1849-1905 Ireland/United States
Harry Nelson Pillsbury 1872-1906 United States
Mikhail Chigorin 1850-1908 Russia
Carl Schlechter 1874-1918 Austria
Georg Marco 1863-1923 Austria
Joseph Blackburne 1841-1924 England
Amos Burn 1848-1925 England
Richard Teichmann 1868-1925 Germany
David Janowski 1868-1927 Poland/France
Richard Reti 1889-1929 Hungary/Czechoslovakia
Isidor Gunsberg 1854-1930 Hungary/England
Siegbert Tarrasch 1862-1934 Germany
Aaron Nimzovitch 1886-1935 Russia/Denmark
Emanuel Lasker 1868-1941 Germany/England
Jose Raul Capablanca 1888-1942 Cuba
Ilya Rabinovitch 1891-1942 Russia/Soviet Union
Rudolph Spielmann 1883-1942 Austria
Frank Marshall 1877-1944 United States
Vladimir Petrov 1907-1945 Latvia/Soviet Union
Alexander Alekhine 1892-1946 Russia/France
Mir Sultan Khan 1905-1966 Pakistan

An all-time list of 197 untitled greats appears at 9.5. It includes 39 players who held five-year averages over 2500 and another 87 over 2400, meeting today's GM and IM requirements.

- 4.24 Objective criteria to evaluate the merits of performances of title candidates were introduced in 1957, on a two-tier basis. The Qualification Committee was obligated to recommend titles for candidates who met the higher set of criteria and forbidden to do so for those below the lower set. The subjective judgment area between the two sets of criteria was eliminated in 1965 by new regulations. Only the higher criteria, somewhat stiffened, were retained.

Under these criteria, titles were awarded for single performances in certain championships, a continuing practice described at 4.35, and for one or two achievements of *title norms* in other events meeting certain minimums, including a requirement that almost half the players come from foreign federations. These *international tournaments* were round robins and were classified by length and strength as follows:

Category	1a	1b	2a	2b
Minimums:				
Number of players	16	10	15	10
Percent who were GM	50	33		
Percent titled (GM + IM)	70	70	50	50

The *GM norm* called for a 55% score against the GM, 75% against the IM, and 85% against the untitled participants. The *IM norm* required 35%, 55%, and 75% respectively. The candidate's score, regardless of its distribution, had to exceed the summation of the requirements. In a tournament with 5 GM, 7 IM, and 3 untitled players for example, the applicant had to score 11 points for a GM norm and 8 for an IM norm, computed thus:

For a GM norm:	For an IM norm:
$5 \times .55 = 2.75$	$5 \times .35 = 1.75$
$7 \times .75 = 5.25$	$7 \times .55 = 3.85$
$3 \times .85 = 2.55$	$3 \times .75 = 2.25$
<u>Total 10.55</u>	<u>Total 7.85</u>

The method recognized only three player groups, the GM, the IM, and the others, and within each group it treated all players as equals, of equivalent strength. As time wore on, the need for better differentiation of strengths of participants was recognized,

leading to adoption of the Elo system by FIDE in 1970. The official International Rating List (IRL) was established, and ratings, in addition to numbers of titleholders, entered into the definition of title norms.

A background note on these regulations is at 9.3. Objective criteria for the women's titles were not introduced until 1975.

- 4.25 The first IRL carried the 208 most active participants in international tournaments during the 1966-68 period. The complete interplay of these masters was compiled in a giant 208×208 crosstable or matrix, similar to the table at 3.43 but much larger. The entire group was given an arbitrary average rating and processed by the method of successive approximations described at 3.41 for a set of self-consistent ratings. Calculations for so large a matrix required a programmable computer, which yielded acceptable results after just eight iterations.

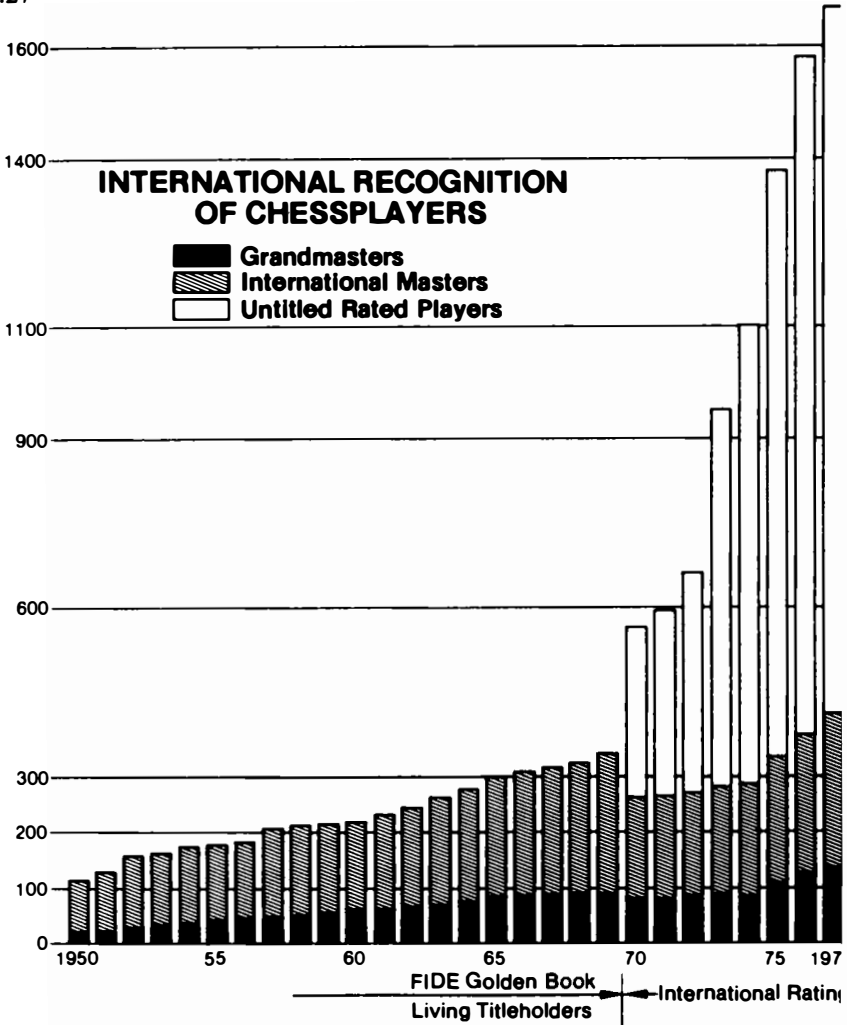
The 208 players included about a dozen who already carried USCF ratings, making it possible to bring FIDE and USCF ratings into conformity. Continued interplay in 1969 and 1970 helped readjust the initial ratings, to produce, in 1971, the first official IRL and the beginning of the current titles process.

- 4.26 On a few occasions, FIDE has used ratings for purposes other than titling, such as the equalization of strength between the two sections when the Interzonal was divided into two parts. But the principal contribution of the rating system to international chess may lie in the expansion of formal international recognition to many players, tournaments, and areas of the world formerly not well known in the chess mainstream.

Both title awards and rating lists find their way regularly into the chess press and other media around the world. Although a title award is far more significant than a rating calculation, it has news value only once, when made, in the eyes of the journalists, while a periodic rating list is considered news each time it appears.

Official FIDE recognition initially included all titleholders living and dead, and their names were listed annually in the *Golden Book*. In 1970 the rating list expanded recognition to all active players in the general range of international title competition, but inactive and deceased players are not carried on the list. The dramatic expansion of international recognition of chessplayers by titles and ratings is evident in the following graph.

4.27



4.28 Since 1978, statistics for FIDE have been compiled by Carlos Encinas-Ferrer of Mexico (Encinas 1980-1982). These indicate the continuation of the trends shown in the foregoing graph. In fact if the graph were extended, it could not be contained on a page of this book without an entire change of the scale. Since the inception

of the rating system in FIDE, the most noteworthy result has been the increase in tournament activity all over the world. In 1970 the number of rated tournaments used to prepare the 1971 rating list was approximately 70. In the year period from July 1981 to July 1982 the number of rated tournaments was 544. This increased activity was also reflected in both the number of rated players and number of titled players:

	Year: 1979	1980	1981	1982
Grandmasters	182	183	193	208
International Masters	402	439	497	531
Rated Players	2625	3202	3471	4020

As to the future, further growth may be expected just based on the normal population growth in the so-called "chess developed" countries. But even more spectacular growth can be expected in view of the renaissance of chess interest in the Arab world and in the awakening of interest in western style chess in the orient. In fact the Philippines, with two Grandmasters and 8 International Masters can hardly be considered any more as a "chess developing" country and Indonesia is not far behind. If in the next generation the pattern of growth in the orient anywhere approaches the growth displayed in these two countries, the center of gravity of the chess population could well move to the Asian zones.

4.3 International Titles and the Current Regulations

4.31 Simplified regulations for the award of international titles and for the FIDE rating system were adopted by the Congress at Haifa (FIDE 1976). An updated outline follows.

International Titles Regulations of FIDE

¶0.0 Introduction

¶1.0 International Titles

¶1.1 The titles of FIDE are:

¶1.11 Titles for over-the-board chess:

Grandmaster
 International Master
 FIDE Master*
 Woman Grandmaster
 International Woman Master
 Woman FIDE Master
 International Arbiter

- ¶1.12 Titles for chess composition:
 Grandmaster of Chess Composition
 International Master of Chess Composition
 International Judge of Chess Composition
- ¶1.13 Titles for correspondence chess:
 Grandmaster of Correspondence Chess
 International Master of Correspondence Chess
 International Arbiter for Correspondence Chess
- ¶1.2 Titles . . . are valid for life.
- ¶1.3 Titles are awarded by the Congress . . .

- ¶2.0 Requirements
- ¶3.0 Measurement of Over-the-Board Play
- ¶4.0 International Title Tournaments
- ¶5.0 Application Procedure

Titles for chess composition and for correspondence chess are judged by independent organizations, and no application of the rating system has been proposed. The FIDE regulations are concerned almost entirely with over-the-board play. They are treated in the following sections as they stood prior to the 1986 Congress.

**The FIDE Master (Woman FIDE Master) title is automatically acquired by winning in certain competitions such as the World Championship for Under-16. Normally, though, this title is awarded to a chessplayer for achieving, in at least 24 games, a rating of about half a class interval below that required for the IM(IWM) title. Details of the requirements for attaining FIDE Master (Woman FIDE Master) norms are not given in this manual.*

- 4.32 For award of GM and IM titles, FIDE has traditionally recognized *exceptional performances*, and essentially this policy is retained under the rating system. Most simply stated, to earn the GM title the candidate must achieve two or three performances above 2600 in events which qualify as *International Title Tournaments* and which include at least twenty-four games within a five-year period. For the IM title he must score over 2450. For the new Woman Grandmaster (WGM) title it is 2300, and for the International Woman Master (IWM), 2150.

Assuming average activity of four tournaments per year, a player whose basic proficiency is 2500 will, in the course of five years, probably score two or three tournament performances above 2600, meeting the GM title requirements. On the initial IRL the preponderance of GM were rated over 2500, and the IM about 100 points less. Thus the current *norms for title awards* were set to preserve substantially the same norms effectively existing at the time.

- 4.33 The percentage score required to meet a performance rating norm varies, of course, with the strength of the competition. Since most International Title Tournaments are round robins, FIDE has been able to tabulate the percentage and game score *result* required for a title norm on the basis of the average strength of the participants in the tournament, a great convenience for the organizer, for whom it is important to know in advance just what score will earn just which titles in his proposed event.

The special requirements for a title tournament, the percentage scoring for title results, and some incidental titling restrictions are set forth in ¶4.0 of the FIDE regulations, which follows.

4.34 ¶4.0 International Title Tournaments

- ¶4.1 An International Title Tournament shall meet the following requirements:

At least 9 rounds;

not more than 20% of the players shall be unrated;

at least one-half of the players shall be titleholders or players with a current rating of over 2300 (over 2000 for women in exclusively women's tournaments);

at least three federations shall be represented;

at least one-third of the players shall not come from one and the same federation;

no more than one round per day shall be played; however, on one or two days two rounds per day may be allowed, though not during the last three rounds of the event;

play must conform to the Laws of Chess;

speed of play may not exceed 46 moves in two hours at any stage of the game;

games decided by forfeit or adjudication are not counted;

the event should be played within a period of 90 days.

¶4.11 Scheveningen-type tournaments with two federations represented may be recognized.

¶4.12 A Zonal Tournament for the World Championship in a one-federation zone shall be considered an International Tournament by waiver of the regulation on participating federations, on prior application to the President.

¶4.13 The limit of 20% unrated participants in a title tournament is waived in respect of Zonal tournaments in the 1985-86 World Championship cycle, and unrated participants shall each be entered at 2200 (1900) for the purpose of Title Regulation 4.4 (to calculate the tournament category).

¶4.14 In any one year, one national championship for men, and one for women, can be counted as an international tournament by the waiver of the regulation requiring participation

of different federations, provided the championship is registered in advance.

- ¶4.2 The tournament should, if possible, be conducted by an International Arbiter. The requirements for rated play must be met.
- ¶4.3 Tournaments are classified according to the strength of the participants, as indicated by the average rating. The categories of International Title Tournaments and the minimum gamescores for title results are by virtue of the following charts of percentages and points:

Average Rating	Tournament Category	GM Result	IM Result	WGM Result	IWM Result
(p e r c e n t a g e s c o r e)					
1951-1975	1W				76
1976-2000	2W				73
2001-2025	3W				70
2026-2050	4W				67
2051-2075	5W				64
2076-2100	6W				60
2101-2125	7W			76	57
2126-2150	8W			73	53
2151-2175	9W			70	50
2176-2200	10W			67	47
2201-2225	11W			64	43
2226-2250	12W			60	40
2251-2275	1		76	57	36
2276-2300	2		73	53	33
2301-2325	3		70	50	30
2326-2350	4		67	47	
2351-2375	5		64	43	
2376-2400	6		60	40	
2401-2425	7	76	57	36	
2426-2450	8	73	53	33	
2451-2475	9	70	50	30	
2476-2500	10	67	47		
2501-2525	11	64	43		
2526-2550	12	60	40		
2551-2575	13	57	36		
2576-2600	14	53	33		
2601-2625	15	50	30		
2626-2650	16	47			

The average rating consists of a rating figure [from specified sources] for each player, which have been totalled and then divided by the number of players.

CHART OF POINTS REQUIRED FOR FIDE INTERNATIONAL TITLE RESULTS

Nr. of Part.	Required minimum number of		CATEGORIES AND AVERAGE RATINGS															
	Players not from one and the same feder.	Rated players	Titleholders	FIDE TITLE														
Games	All	Inclusive	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI
			RE-SULT															
10	9	4	8	5														
			GM															
			IM	7	7	6†	6	6	5†	5	4†	4†	4	4	3†	3	3	
			GM															
			IM	8	7†	7	7	6†	6	5†	5	5	4†	4	4	3†	3	5
			GM															
			IM	8†	8	8	7†	7	6†	8	8	7†	7	7	6†	6	5†	5†
			GM															
			IM	9†	9	8†	8	7†	7	6†	6	6	5†	5	4†	4	4	6
			GM															
			IM	10	9†	9	8†	8	7†	7	6†	6	6	5†	5	4†	4	7
			GM															
			IM	11	10†	10	9†	8†	8	7†	7	7	6	6	5	5	4†	7
			GM															
			IM	11†	11	10†	10	10	9	8†	8	7†	7	6†	6	5†	5	4†
			GM															
			IM	12†	12	11†	11	10†	10	9†	8†	8	7†	7	6†	6	5†	8
			GM															
			IM	13	12†	12	11†	11	10†	10	9	8†	8	7†	7	6†	6	5†
			GM															
			IM	14	13†	13	12†	11†	11	10†	10	9	8†	8	7†	7	6†	9
			GM															
			IM	14†	14	13†	13	12†	11†	11	10†	10	9	8†	8	7	6†	6

The average rating consists of a rating figure (from specified sources) for each player, which have been totalled and then

Nr. of	Required minimum number of		FIDE		CATEGORIES AND AVERAGE RATINGS																XVI-w (4)	
	Part. Games	Players not from one and the same feder.	Rated players	Titleholders	TITLE RE- SULT	I-w	II-w	III-w	IV-w	V-w	VI-w	VII-w	VIII-w	IX-w	X-w	XI-w	XII-w	XIII-w	XIV-w	XV-w		
		All	Inclusive																			
10	9	4	8	5	WGM							7	7	6½	6	6	5½	5½	5	4½	4½	
					IWM	7	6½		6	6	5½	5½	5	4½	4	4	3½	3	3	3	3	
11	10	4	9	6	WGM							8	7½	7	7	6½	6	6	5½	5	5	5
					IWM	8	7½		7	6½	6	6	5½	5	4½	4	4	3½	3	3	3	
12	11	4	10	6	WGM							8½	8	8	7½	7	7	6½	6	5½	5½	5½
					IWM	8½	8		7	7	6½	6	5½	5	4½	4	4	3½	3	3	3	
13	12	5	11	7	WGM							9	9	8½	8	8	7½	7	6½	6	6	6
					IWM	9	8½		8	8	7½	7	6½	6	6	5½	5	4½	4	4	4	4
14	13	5	12	7	WGM							10	9½	9	8½	8	7½	7	6½	6	6	6
					IWM	10	9½		9	8½	8	7½	7	6½	6	5½	5	4½	4	4	4	4
15	14	5	12	8	WGM							11	10½	10	9½	9	8½	8	7½	7	7	7
					IWM	11	10½		10	9½	8	7½	7	6½	6	5½	5	4½	4	4	4	4
16	15	6	13	8	WGM							11½	11	10½	10	10	9	8½	8	7½	7	7
					IWM	11½	11		10	10	9	8½	8	7½	7	6½	6	5½	5	4½	4½	4½
17	16	6	14	9	WGM							12½	12	11½	11	10½	10	9½	8½	8	8	7½
					IWM	12½	12		11	10½	10	9½	8½	8	7½	7	6½	6	5½	5	5	5
18	17	6	15	9	WGM							13	12½	12	11½	11	10½	10	9	8½	8	8
					IWM	13	12½		11½	11	10½	10	9	8½	8	7½	7	6½	6	5½	5	5
19	18	7	16	10	WGM							14	13½	13	12½	11½	11	10½	9½	9	9	8½
					IWM	14	13½		12½	11½	11	10½	9½	8½	8	7½	7	6½	6	5½	5	5
20	19	7	16	10	WGM							14½	14	13½	13	12½	11½	11	10½	9½	9	9
					IWM	14½	13½		13	12½	11½	11	10½	9½	8½	8	7	6½	6	5½	5	6

The average rating consists of a rating figure (from specified sources) for each player, which have been totalled and then divided by the number of players. Roundings of the average ratings are made to the nearest whole number. The fraction 0.5 is rounded off upward.

¶4.4 The rating average for title purposes is determined before the beginning of the tournament. In determining this average in men's or mixed tournaments, unrated men and women with a rating under 2205 are entered at the nominal figure 2200; players rated above 2200 are entered at their current rating. In exclusively women's tournaments, unrated women are entered at the nominal figure 1900.

Furthermore, for all titles a minimum rating requirement applies as follows:

Grandmasters	2450
International Masters	2350
Women Grandmasters	2200
International Women Masters	2100

For the FIDE Master title only the rating requirement applies, and for a span of at least 24 games. These are 2300 for men and 2050 for women.

A number of additional provisions apply to the application of title results. These concern not the basic norms, but rather the circumstances under which the norms may be applied. These provisions appear under ¶4.5 of the FIDE Titles Regulations in the FIDE Handbook. Since the publication of the first edition of this work the provisions have undergone revisions almost on an annual basis, hence are not reproduced here.

As alternate requirements, the FIDE regulations designate certain championship tournaments where a single performance will earn a title, irrespective of the rating of the performance.

Championship	Performance	Title
Men's Interzonal	Qualification for Men's Candidates Competition	GM
World Junior	First place	One statutory GM result
Women's World	First place	IM
Any Continental Junior Ch.	First place	IM
Any Men's Zonal	Qualification for Men's Interzonal	IM
Women's Interzonal	Qualification for Women's Candidates Competition	WGM

Players who qualify for the Candidates Competition invariably already hold the GM title, and players who win the various junior championships, if not already IM, are usually playing at master strength. Here the norms are met, and use of the title as a tournament prize lends meaning to it for the winner and a bit of glamour to the event. In the remaining events, particularly the zonals, the effective title standards range at times somewhat below the usual norms. The degree of chess development varies widely among the zones of FIDE.

In 1975 FIDE awarded 69 titles, 22 of which were for single performances in zonals, and 3 for single performances in other events. In the following two years, when there were no zonals, FIDE awarded 117 GM and IM titles, only 5 of which were for single performances.

- 4.36 The 1977 FIDE Congress at Caracas expressed renewed concern over proliferation of titles, and several specific proposals were selected for study and consideration by the 1978 Congress. Among them were restoration of the number of games required at norm level for a title to 30 (from 24), raising the percentage of rated players required in an International Title Tournament to 85% (from 75%), and limiting the use of short-event performances in title applications. The Caracas Congress also took a rather drastic step to curb a budding abuse of short-event performance ratings by discontinuing their publication and validity for setting title norms.

That same Congress, however, may have opened an entirely new avenue to titles when it awarded the GM title to four inactive IM who were very strong players but who had not met the requirements of the existing regulations. Included were the two highest rated IM alive, based on the best lifetime five-year averages, Carlos Torre 2560 and Julio Bolbochan 2545. The other two players held averages of 2510 and 2500, no higher than perhaps an additional dozen living IM listed in 9.4.

4.4 The FIDE Rating System

- 4.41 Most of the limitations surrounding play for titles do not apply to play simply for rating. Policy and requirements for the *input data* for the rating system make up ¶3.1 of the FIDE regulations, which follows:

Internationally Rated Play: The basic data for measurement of chess performances must be broad and ample. Play shall be rated by FIDE when it meets all of the following requirements:

In a round robin type tournament at least one-third of the players must be rated. If the event has less than ten players, at least four players must be rated.

In a double round robin type tournament in which unrated players participated, at least six players of whom four must be rated is required.

National championships played as round robin type tournaments shall be rated if at least three (men) or two (women) participants had an official FIDE Rating before the beginning of the tournament.

In Swiss or team events only the games against rated opponents are counted. In mixed tournaments women are entered at their current rating if this is over 2200 or otherwise equal to unrated men at 2200. For rated players, all results against rated opponents are rated; for unrated players, only results against at least four rated opponents in one event can be rated. In any case, at least four games in the event should be against opponents with pre-tournament ratings.

Play must conform to the Laws of Chess. Speed of play must not exceed 46 moves in two hours at any stage of the game. Games decided by adjudication are not counted. Not more than two rounds per day, excepting sessions for adjourned games, are played.

The tournament should be played within a period of ninety days.

Unplayed games, whether because of forfeiture or any other reasons are not counted for either rating or titling purposes.

In the event that an unrated player has a zero score in a tournament the scores of his opponents against him are disregarded for rating and titling purposes.

In events involving preliminaries and finals or play-offs for ties results may be pooled. Similarly, results from Swiss events, Scheveningen-type tournaments, short matches and other team tournaments may be pooled for rating purposes.

A proper report, including a cross table authenticated by the Chief Arbiter of the tournament in question and confirmed by the national federation of the country where the tournament was held, is sent by airmail to the FIDE Secretariat within four weeks after the end of the event. The Secretariat will have the discretion not to rate in the same rating period tournaments sent in after that date.

Reports sent in more than one rating period late will not be calculated.

The event and report . . . must be found bona fide [by the Qualification Committee].

The required crosstable, if it is to provide the data required for the rating list, must include complete names, including the former names of recently married women, federation memberships, ages, which points were forfeits, and other details. It should list the players in order of finish, with titles and ratings. Each national federation is expected to appoint an officer responsible for reports of rated play, applications for titles, and other qualification matters.

- 4.42 The official rating list is described in ¶3.2 of the FIDE regulations. It carries the *output* of the system, particularly the information required by the organizers of title tournaments. It is published twice a year in July and January. The July list incorporates all rated play completed before June 1 and is effective from July 1 through December 31. The January list incorporates rated play completed before December 1 of the previous year and is effective from January 1 through June 30. The lists contain the name, federation, title, birthday, the number of games rated and current rating for each player whose rating exceeded 2200 (1900 for women, who are listed separately) on the closing date.
- 4.43 *Responsibility* for maintenance of the rating list rests with the Secretary of the Qualification Committee, who is also required to perform monitoring operations described at 3.5 and 3.6 and a variety of investigations and reports on matters under FIDE consideration. The task is both technical and theoretical. The Committee reviews all work and projects carefully. Legislative approval authority lies with the General Assembly of FIDE.
- 4.44 The *rating process* specified in the FIDE regulations is “the unique rating system formula based on the percentage expectancy curve derived from the normal distribution function of statistical and probability theory.” The reader will recognize it as the system presented in chapter 1.

The process, of course, includes many details of administration beyond the simple statement in the regulations, particularly in the monitoring function, necessary to assure that equivalent titles are awarded on the basis of equivalent qualifications. Thus the titles regulations are supplemented by administrative regulations used by the Secretary and reviewed annually by the Qualification Committee. Excerpts from these regulations are given below.

4.5 Calculation Procedures

- 4.51 For some FIDE purposes, a *nominal value* R_U is used for a player without an established rating, that is, one who has not appeared on the IRL. R_U is 2200 for a man, 2200 for a woman in mixed tournaments and 1900 for a woman in exclusively women's tournaments. For other purposes the unrated player has been valued at his R_P in the event being rated, or as described at 4.53.
- 4.52 The tournament *average for FIDE title purposes* R_f is calculated for each International Title Tournament. Non-FIDE players and unrated players who fail to score are excluded. Each rated player is entered at his published rating and each unrated player is entered at R_U . R_f then determines the category number and the title norms for the event.
- 4.53 The tournament *average for rating purposes* R_a is calculated for each rateable event. Unrated players who fail to score are excluded. Each rated player is entered at his published rating. Unrated players, if they comprise 20% or less of the participants are entered at the nominal value of 2200 for men and 1900 for women. Thus R_a will be identical with R_f . If, however, the number of unrated players comprise more than 20% of the participants, the average rating of the tournament is determined by the method described at 2.48. Thereafter the unrated players who score 50% or better in game points are entered at the average rating as calculated while those unrated with below 50% game score are entered at their performance ratings. Changes in ratings are finally calculated for all players by equation (15).

To enter the unrated at R_U , so that R_a would become virtually identical with R_f , should have only minimal effect on the rating pool. An unrated player is just as likely to perform below R_U as above it.

- 4.54 All reported rateable play is entered on the player's record form, excluding any play against an unrated player who fails to score and excluding samples having less than four games against rated players. Each player's new rating is calculated as of the IRL closing date, after all play concluded prior thereto has been entered. No rating is published for a player with less than 9 rated games, or with no R_P higher than R_U .

No calculations of ratings or changes in rating are made on less than four games. However, results from short events may be pooled to make up the required minimum of nine games for the publication of a rating.

- 4.55 The calculation of the new IRL rating for a player previously listed consists of the summation of his former rating R_O and all the subsequent changes. For each rated event the change is $K(W - W_e)$. W_e is found by (8), with $D_a = R_a - R_O$.

The same process applies to an unrated player if R_U is used as R_O . Otherwise his first published rating consists simply of his R_P on all his play as of the list closing date, calculated by formula (1), or as in 4.53.

Actually it makes little difference which process is used. With K set at 25, the rating achieved after 30 games is just about equal to the R_P for those games. Both processes assure an adequate statistical base for the fully established ratings.

- 4.56 For the first three events or 30 games in which a rating change is calculated, the player's coefficient K is set at 25. Thereafter it drops to 15 until his first published rating over 2400, after which it becomes 10 permanently.
- 4.57 The concept of *provisional rating* was explored by the 1977 FIDE meeting at Caracas. Publication of ratings based on as few as 9 games was authorized, but only for the January 1978 list, with normal standards to be resumed thereafter.

Since 1977 the rules for ratings have been relaxed in as much as other safeguards have been introduced to preclude publication of eccentric or improperly elevated ratings.

- 4.58 Performances in Swiss events may be offered for title norms under ¶4.51 of the regulations and may also be rated, in a Swiss or team event not otherwise rateable, provided a request accompanies the tournament report. Only games against rated players are considered.
- 4.59 For a trial period of one year commencing 01 September 1985, games played in Swiss events or team tournaments under rules for (Sixty-Minute) Rapid Chess can be rated.

4.6 The Special Character of the FIDE Pool

- 4.61 The FIDE pool differs significantly from most national pools, which may include as many as ten class intervals, from the novices of the scholastic tournaments to Grandmasters. The FIDE pool includes only players rated over 2200, just about two and one-half class intervals, a range which in a national pool might represent

only the upper one percent of the chessplaying community. The FIDE pool consists mainly of players performing close to their ultimate capabilities. Very few of them are juniors. Dramatic rating changes are quite infrequent.

Most FIDE players compete regularly. Both the single event samples and the annual performance samples are larger than in a national pool, where activity is sporadic and player turnover high, especially at the lower rating levels. The FIDE pool is more stable than any national pool is likely to be.

- 4.62 Because of the slower rate of change and the larger annual performance samples, the low values of K —that is, 10 and 15—in equation (2) are appropriate for the FIDE ratings. Actually, if the annual sample for a player exceeds fifty games, then with K set at 15 the new rating would naturally turn out to be his performance rating for the year. With K set at 10, the sample would need to approach eighty games for a similar effect.
- 4.63 The stability of the FIDE pool renders its deflation and deflation control problems far less acute than in a national pool. Only two rating processes have been applied to deflation control. Use of R_p of new players in R_a for their first several events effectively prevents deflating the ratings of the established players as a group. Use of a higher K value for younger players and players below 2400 and a lower value for the others provides a mild control. The player development curves in chapter 6 indicate that players at the lower level, who are still improving, gain at a greater rate than those who have already reached higher levels. Thus with the K factor differential, an improving player need not entirely victimize his higher-rated opponent.

For a player whose proficiency has stabilized, it matters little what value of K is used. Higher or lower values merely accentuate or diminish the statistical fluctuation in his ratings.

- 4.64 Although the FIDE pool expanded tenfold in the 1970-76 period, careful monitoring has revealed no significant deflation of ratings thus far. Apparently the deflationary measures have been adequate. Thus the FIDE pool can serve, with a good degree of confidence, as a common basis of comparison for national pools, as a true international common standard.

4.7 Titles in Practice—The First 32 Years

- 4.71 International titling, as the 4.2 survey showed, was largely subjective from 1950 to 1958, modifiedly objective from 1958 to 1970,

and, with certain exceptions, almost entirely objective since 1970. A tabulation of the awards in each period follows.

	1950-57	1958-70	1971-77	1978-82
Grandmasters				
Titles Awarded	56	49	67	43
Average Rating	2594	2538	2518	2510
International Masters				
Titles Awarded	139	96	136	270
Average Rating	2458	2424	2438	2414

Current ratings, from the 1978 IRL, form the averages, except for awards prior to 1958 and for some awards in the 58-70 bracket, where the best five-year averages from 9.4 were used because no current ratings were available. Certain IM titles not related to the rating system are not included in the table.

The large increase in the number of IM titles awarded is due to a number of factors:

1. The general increase in tournament activity, from 70 to over 300 per year since 1970.
2. The proliferation of short tournaments of 9 to 11 rounds, in which norms are more easily met.
3. The extension to five years of the period during which a tournament remains valid for title purposes.

- 4.72 The number of awards per year has grown and the ratings have tended to decline. Perhaps subjective peer evaluation is a more severe process than objective performance measurement. But there are other reasons to consider. Use of the best five-year average may favor the older titles over those reported from the current IRL. The available untitled players were a far stronger group in 1950 than later, and the selections would tend to be stronger. Currently, for various reasons, tournaments tend to be shorter than in 1970 and before; norms are easier to score in shorter events, and when events are shorter, a candidate can enter more of them during his five-year span. The number of games at norm level required for a title was reduced from 30 to 24, materially improving the chances for players of all proficiencies to achieve the required number of title results during five years. Cumulatively, these explanations are significant, but still another factor may be even more important, in accounting for whatever proliferation may be observable in the table above.

Activity in the international arena has expanded dramatically. The indexes graphed at 4.27 could be repeated for number of tournaments and events of all kinds, perhaps also for number of events per player, certainly for opportunities to score title norms. The 1970 titles regulations and the accompanying expansion of participation have made titles accessible to many players richly deserving them but formerly unrecognized. It is just such players that account for the increase since 1970 in the ratings of newly titled IM.

4.73 The 1970 titles and rating regulations were designed for an average rating of 2520 for GM and 2420 for IM, just about what the system is currently delivering. FIDE has chosen the norms, and the rating system is selecting the players who meet them. Should FIDE wish to adjust the norms, or to establish a new title, such as the FIDE Master, the rating system provides the mechanism to do so conveniently and confidently. The rating system has functioned faithfully, so far as the titles system has chosen to apply it.

4.74 Certain biases remain in the titles system. Recognition of exceptional performances favors the more active player: for the IM title, those who play only once a year require a proficiency of 2450, but those who play eight times a year will probably earn it with 2370. The requirements for titleholder and visiting player participation in title events favor candidates from areas such as western Europe where titleholders and foreigners are plentiful. A bias which favors candidates in certain zonal championships was mentioned at 4.35.

Theoretically these biases are unfair, yet certain values do perhaps attach to them. It may well be more important at the present time, as the FIDE Congress assumes, to preserve the traditional safeguards from which these restrictions stem. Titles, after all, do have a certain special character, something not always precisely expressible through numbers on a scale.

4.75 Each year, as the new class of Grandmasters is named, the inevitable comparison with the first class at 4.22 leads some critics to question the current standards. Chess devotees tend to think of the old masters in terms of their finest days, but the newly titled are measured by their current ratings. Given time, many of the new will rise, both on the objective scale and in the subjective appraisals of their followers.

Comparison of past and present is one of the most fascinating applications of the rating system. The reader is invited to examine it more deeply, in the next chapter.

5. PAST AND PRESENT— HISTORICAL RATINGS

5.1 Past vs Present

- 5.11 In every sport, at one time or another, the provocative question is raised: would the great performers of one era surpass those of another? Could John L. Sullivan have beaten Joe Louis? Could “Home Run” Baker have equalled modern home run production? How would Anderssen or Morphy fare against modern chess-masters?
- 5.12 Such questions assume a common ground for comparison of the performances of individuals who lived in different eras. If the Anderssen of 1864 were matched with a modern master who figuratively has at his fingertips the chess analysis of the intervening century, he would be at a huge disadvantage. In over-the-board play with a time limit, no player living or dead could find his way through the mazes of opening play without an opportunity to catch up on developments in this department of the game.
- It must be assumed, in comparing performances of different eras, that the performers have access to the same collateral art.
- 5.13 Such questions also require a common perspective of evaluation. To devalue Anderssen because he “knew no theory” would be as ridiculous as to devalue Galileo because he knew no gravitational theory. To criticise an Anderssen combination on the grounds of positional play would be as to criticise a Renaissance painting on the basis of the values of the impressionists. The performance of an individual should be evaluated by the standards of his own milieu, and not of a later one.

- 5.14 The usual criteria upon which past vs present comparisons are based are those of *creativity* and of *evolution*. Those who see the past as the golden age of chess point to the high levels of creativity in combinational play, in opening innovations, problem construction, and the like, demonstrated by the masters and experts a century and more ago.

Those who hold no brief for the past claim the evolution of chess—the accumulation of knowledge—during the past century has brought about such a great improvement in modern master play that there can be no comparison with the classical masters. These people belittle the combinational efforts of the classical masters by pointing to the weaknesses of their opponents, which permitted such combinations. They further point out that the early masters knew no theory, alluding to the theory of positional play expounded in Nimzovitch's definitive works.

Actually these points of view are not mutually exclusive, and each may be supported by some facts. No one period in human history has had a corner on *creative minds* in any discipline, and the classical chess masters certainly should be comparable to the moderns as creative thinkers.

Indisputably a great improvement in master play has resulted from *accumulated knowledge* through the succeeding generations of masters. However, even modern masters are not born with this knowledge full blown and must acquire it within their early period of development. Furthermore, to remain in serious competition, they must continue to accumulate new knowledge throughout their active careers. There is no reason to believe that the classical masters could not have acquired the same knowledge, given the time to do so, and quite conceivably a player who was a first class master in the 1850s could be one today.

5.2 Chess and Physics

- 5.21 Pertinent and interesting analogies between the histories of chess and other disciplines may help clarify the issues of past vs present. The physics discipline seems far removed from chess, yet in logical processes and in development may have much in common with it.

After an observational and speculative period lasting some two thousand years, physics entered the experimental period of

development with Galileo at the turn of the sixteenth century, and the beginnings of modern physics date from this period. In the following centuries the giant intellects of Newton, Laplace, Maxwell, and many others developed the subject into such a well-organized body of knowledge that by the end of the nineteenth century some physicists actually believed the subject already exhausted. Then in the 1890s came a host of discoveries in radiation and atomic physics, giving the science a new impetus still not abated.

- 5.22 In the past the entrance of students into physics was left to chance. Those of great aptitude pursued the discipline, the others abandoned it. Nowadays there exist everywhere so many inducements to study physics that more individuals now practice the profession than practiced it in all its previous history.

The very preparation of students for the profession has undergone a marked improvement. Experiments which Galileo performed are now routine experiments in the first year college course, and the average graduate student of physics knows more theory than Newton ever did. However, it would be absurd to claim that all this puts a college freshman on the level of Galileo or a graduate student on the level of Newton as a scientist.

- 5.23 Similarly in chess there was a long period in which the game was looked upon as a pastime for nobles. During this era the game did undergo changes in some of the moves and piece values, but by the late Renaissance it had evolved into the form we know today. A scholarly approach followed, so that by mid-nineteenth century a vast amount of organized knowledge existed in the form of opening variations, end game theory, and the like. In over-the-board play Morphy demonstrated some principles of positional play, and Steinitz later formulated these principles in his writings. There is even the parallel of Capablanca, near the end of the classical period of chess, suggesting that master chess was finally exhausted.

- 5.24 Today in some societies one actually finds chess used as a pawn in the larger political chess game and prestige sought in the chess world as eagerly as in the academic world. The development of chess talent is no longer left to chance. The inducement of professional standing is offered to chessmasters. The net result of this, together with the increase in world population, is more living chessmasters now than in the entire past history of chess.

The average club player today knows more openings than Philidor, and the average expert more of the motifs of positional play than Anderssen, but here again it would surely be absurd to suggest that such club player or expert ranks with those masters.

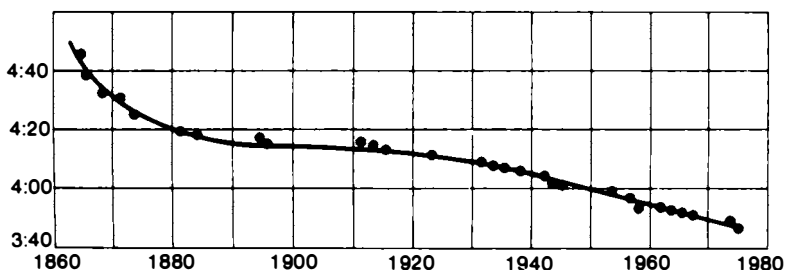
5.3 Footracing and Chess

5.31 A comparison of the development of chess skill in human society with the development of skills in other sports may also serve to delineate the issues. Omitting sports where apparatus may play a role in performance, consider a simple footrace, where it is only man against time.

In the mile race the records extend back a little over a century, the initial record being set in 1865 at 4:44.3. In the ensuing nine years succeeding runners lowered the record by twenty seconds, but it took another seventy years before the record was again reduced by an equal amount. A graph of records vs time follows.

5.32

Records in the Mile Run



5.33 The interesting book *Chance, Luck, and Statistics* (Levinson 1963) discusses this particular race extensively and subjects the data to statistical analysis. Other footracing records have also been similarly examined (Ryder *et al* 1976). Levinson discounts the idea of a psychological barrier to breaking the four-minute mile; in fact he predicted earlier (1947), on the basis of past data, the very year in which this particular record would be broken! He points out that the early rapid improvement is characteristic of any new activity and represents the improvement while people are just getting "the hang of things."

The subsequent systematic albeit slower betterment in the record could be accounted for on the basis of advancement in training methods (accumulated knowledge), while the apparent world-wide increase in body stature may account for the accelerated rate of improvement in recent years. What a modern runner with his longer legs but trained by 1860 methods would do is an unknown quantity, and the same might be said of an 1860 runner trained by modern methods.

- 5.34 One might wonder what all this has to do with the development of chess skill when chess is after all a mental sport. Chess performance is not altogether free of the physical capacities of the body, but this is not our point here. The connection between footracing and chess lies in a basic human pattern in the evolution of skill in any activity, charted at 5.32.

As in racing, so in chess, each generation learned from the preceding one so that improvement resulted rapidly at first and at a decreasing rate thereafter. Certainly in the development of modern chess there was a period of very rapid improvement in play, which could be compared to the period during which footracers "got the hang of things." This period might be the sixteenth century, when openings such as the Ruy Lopez, Guioco Piano, and the King's Gambit complexes were invented. Intensive scholarship was devoted to chess in the next three centuries, and even allowing for the longer period required to develop chess skill than racing skill, it is not unreasonable to assume that the curve of chess development analogous to 5.32 would have flattened out considerably by the time of the first international tournament in 1851.

Chess records are meager and fragmentary prior to the nineteenth century. It would be difficult or impossible to construct the development curve for chess. Quite likely, however, the general improvement in master play since Morphy's days is substantially less than many modern players are wont to think.

- 5.35 Arguments based upon evolutionary considerations or creativity criteria could be continued endlessly. In the final analysis, any comparison of objective validity must be based upon the performance records of the individuals involved. The rating system described in chapters 1 and 2 provides rather remarkable means to make just such comparisons.

5.4 The Crosstables of 120 Years

5.41 Important considerations indicate that the rating system can provide much of the answer to the question of past vs present. The confidence that it may be used over an extended period, such as an entire century, is based on the fact that long chess careers, lasting twenty-five years or more, are the rule among masters rather than the exception. Furthermore, over a considerable portion of a career, say ten to fifteen years, the performance average is quite stable and shows little systematic change due to age.

Comparisons of individuals who never encountered one another is possible when cross references exist between them. Such comparisons require caution. The triangles are frequent in competitive sport, where A beats B, B beats C, and then C beats A. Such single datum obviously is inconclusive. If however A performs better against a large group in a large number of encounters than does B against the same or a similar group, then there is some probability that A is stronger than B. This is the basic premise of the long range comparisons between individuals living in different generations.

The problem becomes complicated because the comparison group must include individuals whose careers overlapped those of the players being compared. Here also the difficulties resolve if several links exist between the periods, and if appropriate adjustments are made for the age factors involved. These comparisons resemble those in surveying two widely separated peaks of terrain that are out of sight of one another: the surveyor uses intermediate levels for reference measurements. However, while a single reference may suffice in surveying, the measurement of chess performances requires a statistical approach, utilizing many references.

5.42 Basically the historical study used the method of successive approximations, described in 3.4, to obtain self-consistent ratings for the limited periods, and the familiar method of least squares to link these periods together. Indeterminacy and open endedness inevitably exist in this type of measurement. The curves which are in a sense tied together could, for any one decade, be manipulated to inflate or deflate the ratings to some extent; however, considerations of self-consistency or compatibility severely limit such manipulations. Indeterminacy and open endedness are actually common to all types of measurements, including the most precise in the

physics lab. It is only in trying to measure individual qualities that these features of the measurements become more apparent.

- 5.43 Much time and effort have been devoted to the collection of every bit of published data, every master tournament crosstable and match result (Kuiper 1964, 1967, Gaige 1969-74). The broadest possible base for performance evaluation has been obtained.

Tables were compiled on each master similar to those in *Around the Chess World in Eighty Years* (Divinsky 1961). Dr. Divinsky's tables covering the period 1870-1958 included only 38 players and gave only the lifetime results between them. The present study expands the list to about 100 masters and furthermore breaks down the cross performances into half decades. For each such interval the tables included about 20 players for the early years to over 70 for the 1950s and 60s, a giant crosstable for each half decade. An interval shorter than five years would have been preferable, but the volume of data on some players would not have been statistically significant.

As it developed, to obtain adequate data for the Morphy era, it was necessary to lump the entire period from 1846 to 1862. Matches played at odds and tournaments played under the knock-out system severely limited the useful early data. For this reason, recorded exhibition games were included with the tournament and match games. This particular period has been reported in detail at 3.42.

In 1862 at the second great international tournament at London, two new names, Steinitz and Blackburne, appeared, along with Anderssen and Louis Paulsen. This was the first tournament with a round robin schedule and, although pockmarked by forfeitures and withdrawals, set the pattern for future masters tournaments. The newcomers' careers extended up to and, for Blackburne, into the twentieth century.

The ensuing two decades saw only a small increase in the frequency of tournaments and matches. With extended and wider cross play, however, ratings from here on can be determined with greater confidence. After 1880 international tournaments were so frequent that compilation of adequate data is no longer a problem.

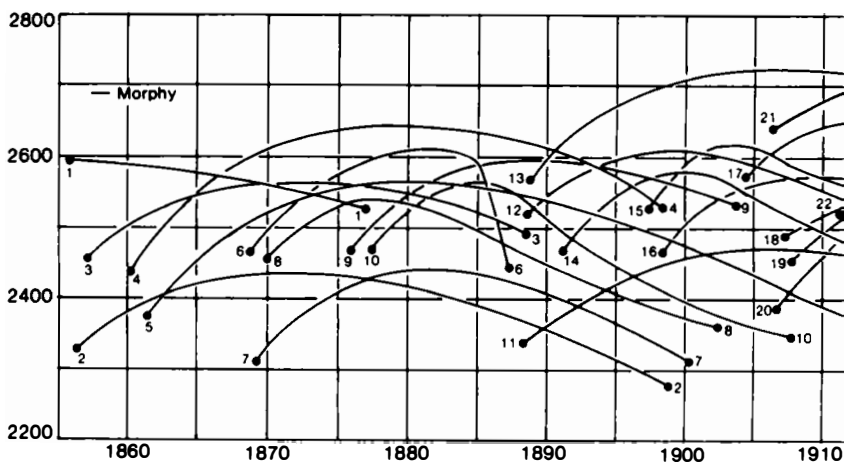
The ratings represented on the curves at 5.52 were obtained using all data available from matches and tournaments. Prior to World War II the sampling is better than 95% in all cases and is

100% in most. Since 1954 the proliferation of tournaments has adversely affected the regularity of crosstable reporting, but nonetheless the more recent data consist of better than 90% sampling in all cases. The data from a few missed minor tournaments would not materially change the results.

5.5 The 500 Best Five-Year Averages

5.51 The final results obtained on some representative masters are graphically presented here. The curves, of course, are smoothed to average out statistical fluctuations, using the method of least squares to provide the best fit to the data (Worthington 1943). To preserve some discrimination between the curves, the number is necessarily limited. A list of 130 historical ratings appeared earlier (Elo 1964), and a more extensive set of more than 500 results is incorporated in tables 9.4 and 9.5.

5.52 Lifetime Ratings, Selected Chessmasters



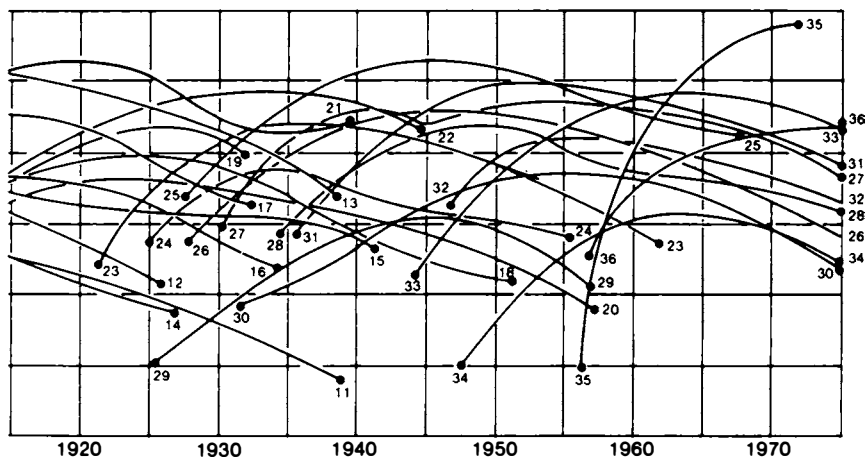
1 Anderssen
2 Bird
3 Paulsen
4 Steinitz
5 Blackburne
6 Zukertort

7 Schallopp
8 Mason
9 Chigorin
10 Gunsberg
11 Mieses
12 Tarrasch

13 Lasker
14 Janowski
15 Maroczy
16 Marshall
17 Rubinstein
18 Vidmar

5.53 The most meaningful measure of a player's top strength may perhaps be the sustained peak. Often a player may achieve a phenomenal result in a single tournament, as did Pillsbury, or may even perform at a high level for a year or two, as did Morphy and Tal. It then becomes difficult to separate the impact of a new style of play and the inherent playing strength of the individual. The lists at 9.4 and 9.5 give, for the most active and well-known masters, their sustained peak performances or their average performances over the best five years and their current FIDE ratings, for all those whose activity has generated sufficient data.

5.54 Matches between individual masters of a dozen games or more within a couple of years are statistically significant and provide a cross-check of the ratings at points on the curves, perhaps the most severe test of the efficacy of the rating system. In matches, factors such as personality and style of play might be expected to upset the neat results predicted from the lumped statistics of tournaments, where such factors tend to balance out.



19 Nimzovitch
 20 Tartakower
 21 Capablanca
 22 Alekhine
 23 Euwe
 24 Kashdan

25 Botvinnik
 26 Reshevsky
 27 Keres
 28 Najdorf
 29 Stoltz
 30 Barcza

31 Smyslov
 32 Averbakh
 33 Petrosian
 34 Pomar
 35 Fischer
 36 Portisch

The following table includes the results of all matches of record of eleven or more games between masters, both historical and contemporary. A statistical note on the table is at 9.3. Considering the standard deviations, which vary between 1.5 and 4 game points depending on the sample size, the agreement between predicted and actual results is good and indicates self-consistency in the lifetime ratings obtained over the course of a century. In only 9 of the 114 matches does the difference ($W - W_e$) exceed the standard deviation σ .

The discrepancy between the expected and actual scores may, of course, be either positive or negative. In fact these discrepancies themselves could be expected to have a normal distribution. Thus it is not remarkable that in 13 of the 114 matches the lower-rated player won the match while in 20 matches the result was a draw. It could be said that these matches ended at a fortuitous moment for the lower-rated players. What is, however, remarkable is that in no case did any discrepancy have a magnitude even approaching two standard deviations. The discrepancies in every case are tolerable by whatever statistical standards are applied.

For each match the table gives the pre-match rating difference D , the number of games N , the higher-rated player's expected score as a percentage P and in game points W_e , and his actual score W . The difference ($W - W_e$) may be compared with the calculated standard deviation σ based on N and P .

5.55

Expected Scores vs Actual Scores

Year	Players (Higher-Rated First)	Higher-Rated Player						
		D	N	P	W_e	W	$W - W_e$	σ
1860-61	Anderssen-Kolisch	20	21	.53	11.1	11.0	-0.1	2.3
1861	Kolisch-Paulsen	20	31	.53	16.4	15.0	-1.4	2.8
1866	Steinitz-Anderssen	0	14	.50	7.0	8.0	+1.0	1.9
1866	Steinitz-Bird	140	17	.69	11.7	10.5	-1.2	1.9
1868	Anderssen-Zukertort	100	12	.64	7.7	8.5	+0.8	1.7
1872	Steinitz-Zukertort	100	12	.64	7.7	9.0	+1.3	1.7
1873	Bird-Wisker	20	54	.53	28.6	28.0	-0.6	3.7
1876	Mason-Bird	100	19	.64	12.2	13.0	+0.8	2.1
1876-77	Paulsen-Anderssen	30	21	.54	11.3	11.5	+0.2	2.3
1878	Chigorin-Schiffers	40	14	.56	7.8	6.5	-1.3	1.9
1879-80	Chigorin-Schiffers	90	23	.62	14.3	16.5	+2.2	2.3
1880	Zukertort-Rosenthal	140	19	.69	13.1	12.5	-0.6	2.0
1881	Blackburne-Gunsberg	60	14	.58	8.1	8.5	+0.4	1.8
1881-83	Zukertort-Blackburne	50	14	.57	8.0	9.5	+1.5	1.9
1882-83	Steinitz-Martinez	170	25	.72	18.0	21.5	+3.5	2.2

1886	Burn-Bird	80	18	.61	11.0	9.0	-2.0	2.1
1886	Steinitz-Zukertort	60	20	.58	11.6	12.5	+0.9	2.2
1886	Mackenzie-Lipschuetz	50	13	.57	7.4	7.5	+0.1	1.8
1887	Gunsberg-Blackburne	0	13	.50	6.5	8.0	+1.5	1.8
1889	Steinitz-Chigorin	40	17	.56	9.5	10.5	+1.0	2.0
1890	Chigorin-Gunsberg	20	23	.53	12.2	11.5	-0.7	2.4
1890	Lipschuetz-Delmar	90	13	.62	8.1	8.5	+0.4	1.8
1890	Lasker-Bird	250	12	.81	9.7	8.5	-1.2	1.4
1891	Steinitz-Gunsberg	40	19	.56	10.6	10.5	-0.1	2.2
1892	Steinitz-Chigorin	0	25	.50	12.5	12.5	0	2.5
1892	Lipschuetz-Showalter	40	15	.56	8.4	10.5	+2.1	1.9
1893	Tarrasch-Chigorin	0	22	.50	11.0	11.0	0	2.3
1893-94	Schlechter-Marco	80	21	.61	12.8	10.5	-2.3	2.2
1894	Walbrodt-Mieses	50	13	.57	7.4	6.5	-0.9	1.8
1894	Lasker-Steinitz	90	19	.62	11.8	12.0	+0.2	2.1
1895	Janowski-Mieses	100	14	.64	9.0	7.0	-2.0	1.8
1896	Maroczy-Charousek	50	14	.57	8.0	9.0	+1.0	1.9
1896	Steinitz-Schiffers	70	11	.60	6.6	6.5	-0.1	1.6
1896-97	Lasker-Steinitz	150	17	.70	11.9	12.5	+0.6	1.9
1897	Chigorin-Schiffers	110	14	.65	9.1	10.0	+0.9	1.8
1897-98	Pillsbury-Showalter	130	33	.68	22.4	19.5	-2.9	2.7
1899	Janowski-Showalter	100	13	.64	8.3	8.0	-0.3	1.7
1903	Rubinstein-Salwe	50	20	.57	11.4	11.0	-0.4	2.2
1905	Janowski-Marshall	25	17	.53	9.0	10.0	+1.0	2.1
1905	Nimzovitch-Spielmann	20	13	.53	6.9	6.5	-0.4	1.8
1905	Tarrasch-Marshall	50	17	.57	9.7	12.0	+2.3	2.0
1906	Spielmann-Leonhardt	60	15	.58	8.7	8.5	-0.2	1.9
1907	Lasker-Marshall	150	15	.70	10.5	11.5	+1.0	1.8
1908	Lasker-Tarrasch	100	16	.64	10.2	10.5	+0.3	1.9
1909	Capablanca-Marshall	90	23	.62	14.3	15.0	+0.7	2.3
1909-10	Lasker-Janowski	220	25	.78	19.5	19.5	0	2.1
1911	Schlechter-Tarrasch	0	16	.50	8.0	8.0	0	2.0
1912	Treybal-Hromadka	50	11	.57	6.3	7.0	+0.7	1.6
1910-13	Tartakower-Spielmann	0	15	.50	7.5	8.5	+1.0	1.9
1915	Capablanca-Kostic	220	14	.78	10.9	12.0	+1.1	1.5
1916	Janowski-Showalter	80	11	.61	6.7	8.0	+1.3	1.6
1916	Kostic-Showalter	60	14	.58	8.1	8.0	-0.1	1.8
1916	Tarrasch-Mieses	120	14	.66	9.2	9.0	-0.2	1.8
1919-20	Tartakower-Reti	30	22	.54	11.9	13.0	+1.1	2.3
1920	Rubinstein-Bogoljubow	60	12	.58	7.0	7.0	0	1.7
1921	Maroczy-Euwe	60	12	.58	7.0	6.0	-1.0	1.7
1921	Capablanca-Lasker	30	14	.54	7.6	9.0	+1.4	1.9
1923	Marshall-Ed. Lasker	70	18	.60	10.8	9.5	-1.3	2.1
1927	Alekhine-Capablanca	20	34	.53	18.0	18.5	+0.5	2.9
1928-29	Bogoljubow-Euwe	20	20	.53	10.6	11.0	+0.4	2.2

Year	Players (Higher-Rated First)	Higher-Rated Player						
		D	N	P	W _e	W	W-W _e	o
1929	Monticelli-Rosselli	40	14	.56	7.8	8.0	+0.2	1.9
1929	Alekhine-Bogoljubow	80	25	.61	15.3	15.5	+0.2	2.4
1931	Tartakower-Sultan Khan	10	12	.51	6.1	5.5	-0.6	1.7
1932	Flohr-Euwe	0	16	.50	8.0	8.0	0	2.0
1933	Botvinnik-Flohr	30	12	.54	6.5	6.0	-0.5	1.7
1934	Alekhine-Bogoljubow	120	26	.66	17.2	15.5	+1.7	2.4
1935	Alekhine-Euwe	50	30	.57	17.1	14.5	-2.6	2.7
1937	Alekhine-Euwe	40	30	.56	16.8	17.5	+0.7	2.7
1937	Botvinnik-Levenfish	120	13	.66	8.6	6.5	-2.1	1.7
1938	Eliskases-Bogoljubow	30	20	.54	10.8	11.5	+0.7	2.2
1939	Keres-Euwe	20	14	.53	7.4	7.5	+0.1	1.9
1940	Botvinnik-Ragosin	150	12	.70	8.4	8.5	+0.1	1.6
1940	Lilienthal-Alatorsev	60	12	.58	7.0	6.0	-1.0	1.7
1941	Reshevsky-Horowitz	120	16	.66	10.6	9.5	-1.1	1.9
1942	Reshevsky-Kashdan	110	11	.65	7.2	7.5	+0.3	1.6
1949	Gligoric-Stahlberg	30	11	.54	5.9	6.5	+0.6	1.7
1949	Bronstein-Boleslavsky	30	14	.54	7.6	7.5	-0.1	1.9
1951	Botvinnik-Bronstein	30	24	.54	13.0	12.0	-1.0	2.4
1952-53	Reshevsky-Najdorf	30	36	.54	19.4	20.5	+1.1	3.0
1954	Botvinnik-Smyslov	10	24	.51	12.2	12.0	-0.2	2.4
1957	Botvinnik-Smyslov	0	23	.50	11.5	9.5	-2.0	2.4
1958	Botvinnik-Smyslov	0	23	.50	11.5	12.5	+1.0	2.4
1960	Tal-Botvinnik	50	21	.57	12.0	12.5	+0.5	2.3
1961	Botvinnik-Tal	50	21	.57	12.0	13.0	+1.0	2.3
1963	Petrosian-Botvinnik	50	22	.57	12.5	12.5	0	2.3
1966	Petrosian-Spassky	20	24	.53	12.7	12.5	-0.2	2.4
1969	Spassky-Petrosian	0	23	.50	11.5	12.5	+1.0	2.4
1972	Fischer-Spassky	110	20	.65	13.0	12.5	-0.5	2.1
1974	Karpov-Korchnoi	70	24	.60	14.4	12.5	-1.9	2.4
1977	Korchnoi-Petrosian	0	12	.50	6.0	6.5	+0.5	1.7
1977	Mecking-Polugaevsky	15	12	.52	6.2	5.5	-0.7	1.7
1977	Hort-Spassky	5	13	.51	6.6	6.0	-0.6	1.8
1977	Korchnoi-Polugaevsky	25	13	.53	6.9	8.5	+1.6	1.8
1977	Portisch-Spassky	15	15	.52	7.8	6.5	-1.3	1.9
1977	Korchnoi-Spassky	35	18	.55	9.9	10.5	+0.6	2.1
1977	Chiburdanidze- Ahmilovskaia	60	12	.58	7.0	6.5	-0.5	1.7
1978	Gaprindashvili- Chiburdanidze	25	15	.53	8.0	6.5	-1.5	1.9
1978	Kushnir-Chiburdanidze	5	14	.51	7.1	6.5	-0.6	1.9
1978	Karpov-Korchnoi	45	32	.56	17.9	16.5	-1.4	2.8
1980	Alexandria-Litinskaja	55	12	.58	7.0	7.0	0	1.7

1980	Gaprindashvili-Ioseliani	65	14	.59	8.3	7.0	-1.3	1.8
1980	Korchnoi-Polugaevsky	60	14	.58	8.1	7.5	-0.6	1.8
1980	Portisch-Spassky	40	14	.56	7.8	7.0	-0.8	1.9
1980	Portisch-Hübner	55	11	.58	6.4	4.5	-1.9	1.6
1981	Chiburdanidze-Alexandria	70	16	.60	9.6	8.0	-1.6	2.0
1981	Karpov-Korchnoi	5	18	.51	9.2	11.0	+1.8	2.1
1983	Hübner-Smyslov	20	14	.53	7.4	7.0	-0.4	1.9
1983	Alexandria-Levitina	110	14	.65	9.1	6.5	-2.6	1.8
1983	Ribli-Smyslov	15	11	.52	5.7	4.5	-1.2	1.7
1983	Kasparov-Korchnoi	80	11	.61	6.7	7.0	+0.3	1.6
1984	Kasparov-Smyslov	110	13	.65	8.5	8.5	0	1.7
1984	Chiburdanidze-Levitina	80	14	.61	8.5	8.5	0	1.8
1984-85	Kasparov-Karpov*	10	48	.51	24.5	23.0	-1.5	3.5
1985	Karpov-Kasparov	20	24	.53	12.7	11.0	-1.7	2.4

*This match was halted, with neither player being declared the winner.

5.6 Some Incidental Discoveries

- 5.61 The vast available store of tournament and match results of the chessmasters of history provides a natural and unique field for testing, into which only occasional and partial probes have been made. As free research often does, this search for the answer to past vs present in chess produced a wealth of fascinating by-products, several sufficiently substantial to merit separate chapters.
- 5.62 The old theory that some players are particularly good match players and others, weaker in matches, are good tournament players appears without foundation. The statistical facts at 5.55 are that players are likely to perform equally in either match or tournament competition.
- 5.63 The sequence of wins and losses in a match between closely rated players may follow almost any pattern as, for example, the occurrence of heads and tails when tossing a coin. The principles of probability state that *in a large number* of tosses we expect equal occurrence of heads and tails. Similarly we expect a chess player to realize his expected percentage score in a large number of games more closely than in a few games. In the large sixty-game sample with Euwe, Alekhine realized his expected score quite closely, even though the outcome of one match was contrary to expectations.
- 5.64 Natural longevity generally tends to prolong the period over which peak performance can be maintained. Blackburne, Mieses, Lasker, and Tartakower are prime examples.

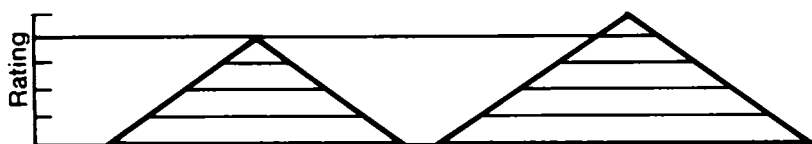
- 5.65 The integrity of the rating scale was confirmed, as indicated at 2.8, with the application of the Elo system over an extended period of time.
- 5.66 The old adage, that a player not a master by age twenty-one never will be, appears neither entirely reliable nor too far from the truth. Conclusions on the development of chessmaster proficiency are reported in chapter 6.
- 5.67 There is a clear relationship between performance and age. For players in continuous competition, performance at about age 63 is comparable to that at age 21. Peak performance is attained around age 36, and the average peak is about 120 points higher than the level at ages 21 and 63. The decline is slower than the rise, but it is steady and unremitting, in most cases. The age factor is the universal leveller of all chessmasters and explains the successes by the new generation over the old more frequently than any spectacular development in the quality of play.
- 5.68 The names of the great players of bygone days who would qualify as Grandmasters and International Masters under the present regulations have been identified objectively. The untitled greats may be picked off the list at 9.5
- 5.69 The rating curves often reveal personal circumstances of significant influence on a chess career. Several striking examples are given in 6.5.

Not only personal circumstances, but the entire economic and cultural environment affect chess in a systematic way. The evolution of the Soviet school of chess, for example, may be followed in the rating curves, as is done in 7.2.

5.7 A Century of Improvement

- 5.71 Let us now look at our opening question of *past vs present* as measured by the rating system. What if any has been the improvement in master play in the past century? How do the masters' ratings compare, from one generation to the next?
- 5.72 One statistical consideration, based simply on the *number* of living masters, supports the view that the best chess minds might be found in modern times. The various grades of players may be compared to the horizontal layers of a pyramid. As each layer is broadened, the layer above may also be broadened, and if the very

top layer is broadened, then it is possible to raise the peak of the pyramid even higher, as shown below.



In Morphy's days the players of Grandmaster grade could be counted on the fingers, but now, even without counting all FIDE titleholders, the number is an order of magnitude greater. If Steinitz' rating is taken as a criterion for world championship candidates, there are more such candidates alive today than in all previous chess history. A survey of the modern chess scene indicates a great depth of talent, suggesting a good probability, under the pyramid hypothesis, that the peak of the chess pyramid is now higher than ever.

- 5.73 Thus a quantitative comparison requires sampling of the field in relation to the population changes. In the chessplaying societies—Europe and the Americas—population increased about threefold from 1860 to 1960. The table below consists of samples of the top players at twenty-five-year intervals, in quantities proportional to the population at the time. The method is crude; there is no certainty that the ratio remained constant; it could well have increased, requiring larger samples during the later periods. Nevertheless, the table indicates a significant trend.

Year	1860	1885	1910	1935	1960
Number of top players	15	20	27	35	50
Average rating	2485	2505	2520	2535	2575

- 5.74 The average improvement over the century has been somewhat less than half a class interval, about half of it during the last quarter century, with the surge of Soviet Union chess activity. The improvement in master play over the century has been significant, but not overwhelming. The great masters of the past showed self-development during their lifetimes just as modern masters do. Given access to the accumulated knowledge, they could be expected to hold their own in modern master play.

A similar historical study of Grandmasters, by the late Richard Clarke, is described at 9.3.

- 5.75 Paul Morphy and Robert Fischer were born approximately a century (106 years) apart. Each surpassed the average of the top ten players of his epoch by just about a full class interval, 200 Elo points, and his nearest competitor by about half a class interval, 100 points. And the Fischer of 1972 surpassed the Morphy of 1859 by half a class interval—about the gain registered by the top players a century apart.

Data for Morphy stop at age 22 and for Fischer at 29. If the two are compared at age 22, the ratings are almost identical, leaving the nagging question of whether Morphy, given comparable activity and opposition, could have equalled Fischer's performance levels.

- 5.76 It is an interesting speculation whether the improvement in modern master play results entirely from additional chess knowledge and better preparation, or whether inherently better chess minds now engage in the sport. It is not inconceivable that improved nutrition and living conditions produce better minds as well as better bodies. Perhaps continued statistical study of chess performances by the masters will tell us.
- 5.77 The implications of an historical study such as this can go beyond the realm of chess. The study of master chess affords an unique opportunity to measure the development of the human intellect in the individual and within the human family. By its very nature chess provides an objective method for performance measurement seldom possible in other disciplines. To be sure, cultural changes influence these measurements, but not even the long-established standard intelligence tests are free of this. Psychologists, for example, are currently concerned about the validity of these tests as applied from one generation to the next to indicate trends in intelligence (Newcomb 1963, Wolfensberger 1963).

Continued research into master chess performances and the refinement of evaluation techniques merit attention. Such studies could open hitherto unexplored areas for investigation of human mental capacities. A genetic study of master chess players might be particularly rewarding.

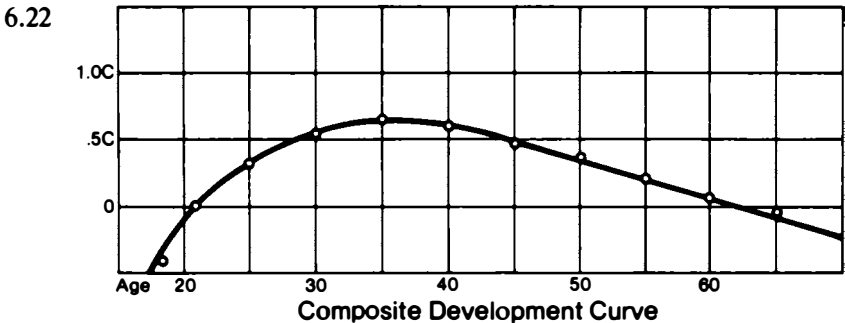
6. THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHESSMASTER PROFICIENCY

6.1 A Tool For Gerontology

6.11 Untrammelled investigation of one subject sometimes opens fresh vistas into another. Such was the case for the study reported at 5.4. Originally intended to test the integrity of the rating scale over an extended period of time, it produced, among other things, a quantitative measure of changes in chess proficiency due to ageing, actually a full-fledged gerontological study. The description follows.

6.2 The Composite Player Development Curve

6.21 The curves of proficiency over time for thirty-six masters appear at 5.52. A composite curve was also constructed, for the players of highest proficiency, covering about 1.3 class intervals, that is, all the players from Lasker and Capablanca down to Bird and Schalopp. This curve follows, with zero representing the rating at age twenty-one. The average advance from that age to peak rating is about 120 Elo points, or .6C as plotted on the curve.



- 6.23 Significant individual differences exist. Steinitz and Chigorin advanced over 200 points, a full class interval, while Capablanca, Fine, and Bronstein advanced only about 65 points, one-third of an interval. The curves are not unlike others found elsewhere in physics, some of which are presented in 9.2.

6.3 Chessmaster Ideal Development Curves

- 6.31 Chess journals of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries reported only master tournaments, and the performances of the historical masters were first observed in the *hauptturniers* or reserve tournaments, when they were already masters. The formative period of the players could not be studied simply because little or no data existed. Better data exist, however, on the development of young American masters since 1960, when USCF adopted the Elo Rating System. From these data, details of which are given at 9.3, the average progress of twenty-seven American masters during their formative periods has been tabulated below. The twelve-player group includes Browne, Tarjan, and Rogoff, already titled. All the others are considered potential title candidates.

6.32

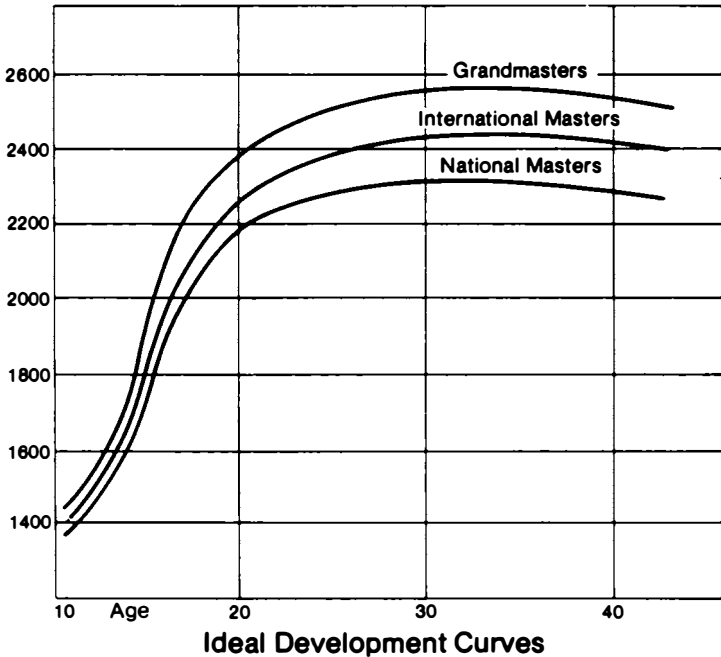
Average Ratings at Various Ages
Players Who Ultimately Achieved 2300 or Better

Age	12 early achievers	15 late achievers
12	1640	—
13	1785	1610
14	1930	1765
15	2120	1975
16	2255	2035
17	2315	2125
18	2350	2180
19	2405	2225
20	2425	2295
21	2445	2325
22	2445	2325

- 6.33 From such data composite curves have been constructed for ages 12 to 25 and spliced directly into the composite curve at 6.22 to form the complete development curve of masters of various

potential proficiencies. Three such curves, somewhat idealized, follow, for individuals who might attain the GM level, the IM level, or the national master level. The most spectacular advance in proficiency appears between the ages 12 and 18 when, on the average, a player may gain as much as 150 points per year.

6.34



6.35 The studies on which the ideal curves are based did not include amateur players of intermittent activity or players who achieved the master level but discontinued chess play there. The general pattern of development might apply to amateurs who study the game persistently and engage in regular competition all their lives.

6.4 Effect of Age at Introduction to the Game

6.41 When players are introduced to the game at the same age, differences in aptitude show very early, and the differences in proficiency persist and even widen in later life. The preceding curves confirm this phenomenon, which was also observed by the writer during the 1930s, when he organized and taught pilot chess

classes on City of Milwaukee playgrounds. There boys and girls of elementary school age were exposed to chess in a series of ten lessons, followed by opportunity to compete in supervised play. After only two weeks, marked individual differences in proficiency appeared. Apparently this is the case for young masters as well, as the following study of 280 titleholders indicates.

6.42 Average Titleholder Ages at Three Attainment Levels

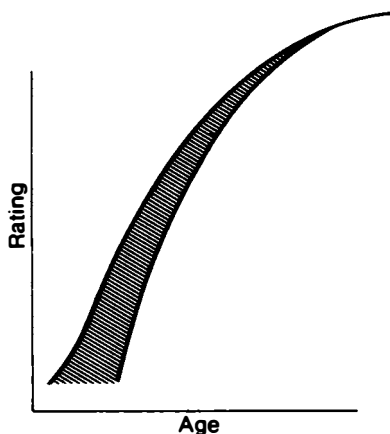
Attainment Level	160	120	23 GM	65 GM	32 GM
	IMs	GMs	peaks under 2560	peaks 2560- 2625	peaks over 2625
Master level 2300	21.0	17.8	18.5	17.5	16.0
IM level 2400	26.5	20.2	22.0	19.9	16.9
GM level 2500		24.6	27.4	23.0	19.0

6.43 Early introduction to the game and to organized competition is a prerequisite to the attainment of mastery, a finding supported by information supplied by sixty contemporary masters:

	Range of Ages	Average Age
Player learned the moves	5 - 16	9.6
Player began organized competition	10 - 18	14.8

Early introduction is not, of course, an assurance of mastery. Curves for individuals who start to study the game at different ages and attain the same ultimate level appear at the right. The curves, of course, will not be identical. They may start anywhere within the shaded portion, eventually to merge as shown.

No great master nor, for that matter, any international master of record learned the game late in life, or even in adulthood. "What Johnny does not study, John will never know," is an old Hungarian saying.

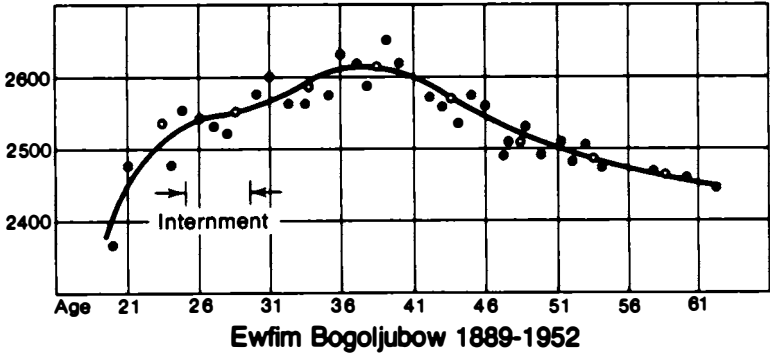


- 6.44 On the other hand, the old adage, that a player not a master by age 21 never will be, appears not entirely reliable, although at 21 the future master should be near that level. The greatest development after 21 was shown by Steinitz, who increased his rating by more than a full class interval, and the least was shown by Capablanca, who rose only one-third as much. These figures reflect *personal characteristics* of the two masters. Steinitz was the deep student and fierce competitor to the end of his career. Capablanca was the gifted natural player who reached heights so early and so effortlessly that he probably felt little need for further self-development. Only after the Alekhine match did his attitude change, and he did make a remarkable comeback, but it was already too late. Time had passed him by. A new wave of players from a different school of chess was already in formation.
- 6.45 From the Steinitz and Capablanca extremes, it appears that individual differences in attitude toward the game brought about almost 200 points difference in progress after age 21, and this difference was in the very highest reaches of the rating scale, where further progress is most difficult and least likely. An amateur with the tenacity and devotion of Steinitz should be rewarded by a rating gain of at least 200 points more than if he takes things easy. It is not inconceivable, nor does any study indicate it impossible, that the difference in his gain could be much more than that.

6.5 Effect of Individual Circumstances

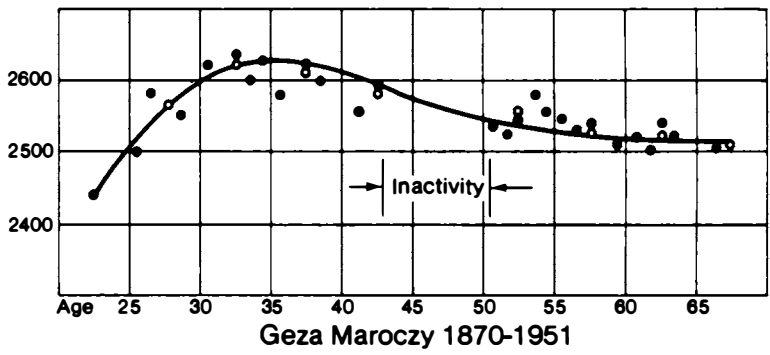
- 6.51 The long chess career of Ewfim Bogoljubow, spanning two world wars, provides a fine study of the effect of individual circumstances. His lifetime rating curve appears below. Each dot represents his performance for a year, and the open circles represent the five-year averages which formed part of the self-consistent set used in the study at 5.4. Note in particular the retardation in development as a result of his internment during World War I, although even then he engaged in competition, in the Triberg tournaments.

6.52



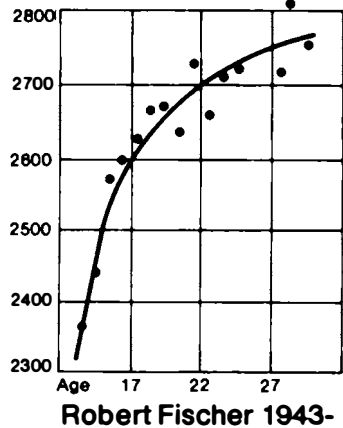
6.53 Peculiar individual circumstances are manifest in the curve of Geza Maroczy, who reached his peak rating just after the turn of the century only to retire from competition from 1907 to 1911. Then World War I further interrupted his chess activity, just when Reti, Nimzovitch, and a new generation of young masters were developing a new chess style. When Maroczy resumed regular competition after the war, he was already fifty years old. With the interruptions after 1907, he did not sustain the high plateau of performance characteristic of long-lived individuals. On the other hand, after the war he managed to sustain a plateau for many years, and at age sixty-five he maintained a rating only 100 points below his peak at age thirty-five.

6.54



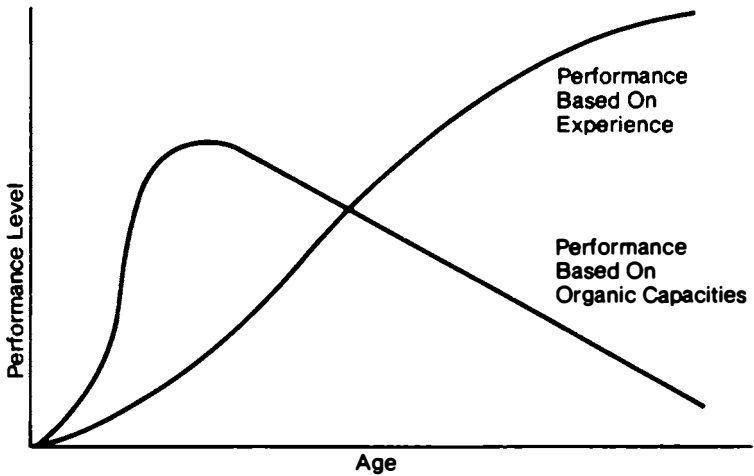
6.55 The curves for the entire generation including Alekhine, Bogoljubow, and Nimzovitch, whose formative peaks would have coincided with World War I have in common a slower rise to peak than would be expected from the age factor curve. Similar curves are obtained for central European players whose careers were interrupted during the formative period by World War II, such as Szabo and Trifunovic.

6.56 More recently, personal circumstances interrupted perhaps the most promising career of all chess history, at a point well in advance of its normal peak. Even at age 29, Robert Fischer in 1972 had won the Men's World Championship and pushed his rating to 2780, higher than any other player, living or dead. Normal data are of little help in attempting to project the very remarkable curve at the right from its tragic interruption point, and the shape of the projection is left to the judgment of the reader.



6.6 Effect of Age and Experience

6.61 The subject of ageing and human skills has been studied extensively by many investigators (Guilford 1954, Welford 1958). Welford has drawn hypothetical curves of performance vs age in activities which depend either on *organic capacity* alone or on *experience* alone. The curves follow.



6.62 Chess performance depends, of course, on both organic capacity and experience. Thus the development curve at 6.22 can be expected to be a modified form of the Welford experience curve, and indeed it is. The decline after age 40 is readily understandable when one considers the decline in basic organic capacities in humans due to ageing. Recently, A. Leaf (Leaf 1973) provided the results of various gerontological studies of these organic capacities, and those which might affect chess are given here. Using capacity at age 30 as a reference, the capacities at 65 will have declined as follows:

- Brain weight to 94%
- Nerve conduction velocity to 92%
- Metabolic rate to 88%
- Cardiac output to 72%
- Breathing capacity to 58%

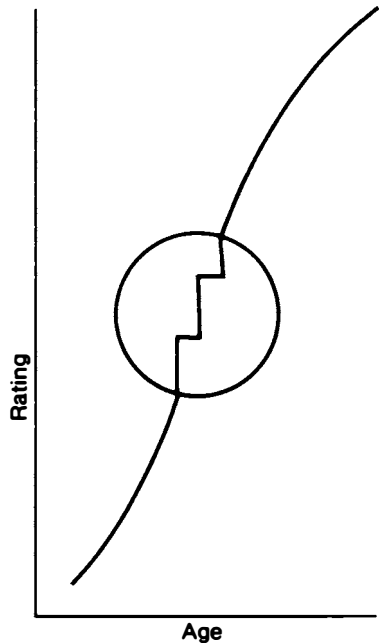
These values, of course, represent averages. There can be great individual variations due to heredity, life style, and environmental conditions.

A rather striking analogy in physics appears at 9.22.

6.7 The Serrated Nature of Development

6.71 In all the curves of chess careers, the sections between ages 12 and 18 appear continuous, because a smoothing results from combination of many curves into one. When any one curve is constructed from data after each tournament as played, the random statistical fluctuations become evident, and even after these are smoothed, there remain what may be called *quantum jumps* in proficiency. If one were to examine a small portion of the curve with a magnifying glass, they would appear as the saw-tooth pattern in the diagram.

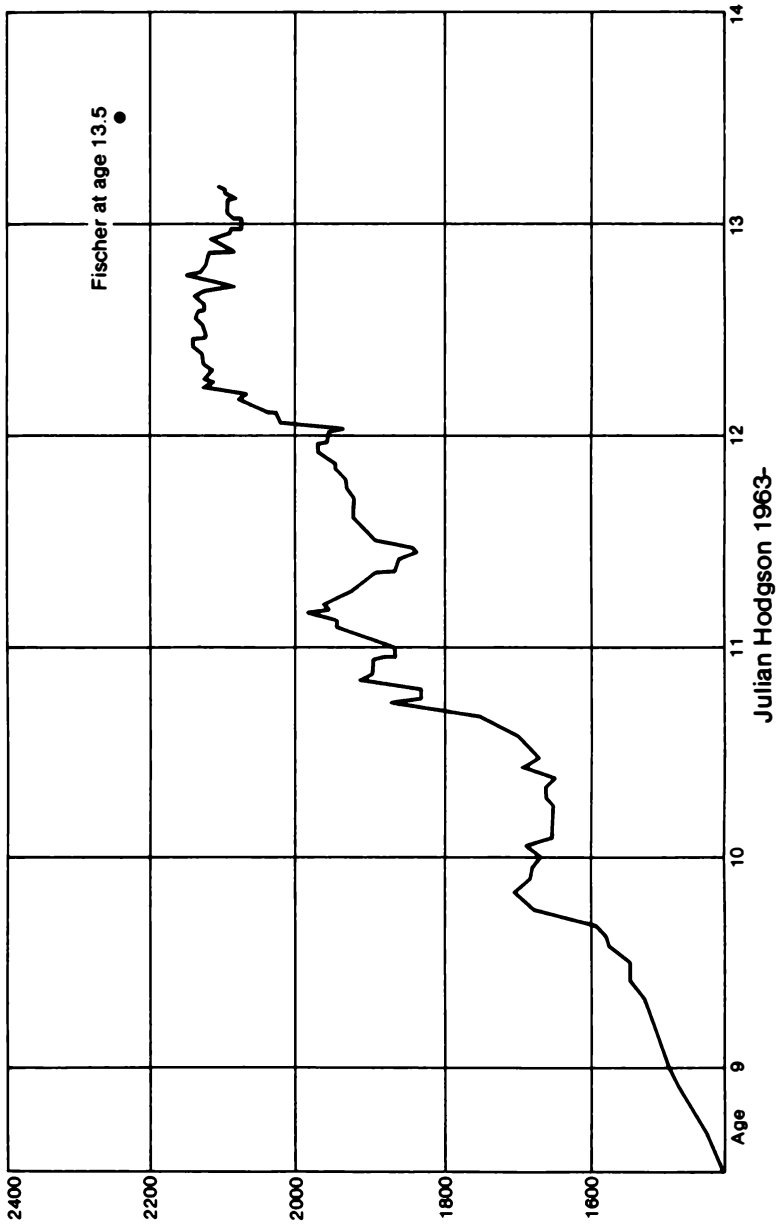
Comprehension of the technical aspects of chess does in fact progress in a saw-tooth pattern. When a novice, for example, masters the technique of checkmate with rook and king against king, or when he grasps the concept of the square of progression, his comprehension jumps to a higher level, without any intermediate stages.



A non-chess example of quantum jumps is graphed at 9.23.

6.72 Controlled and continuous performance data on a single individual is rarely available in sufficient detail to discern the quantum jumps, even when not masked by statistical fluctuations. Recently, however, Leonard Barden has carefully followed the development of Britain's new crop of chess prodigies. The study has already covered five years, and the data points in most cases are not more than two weeks apart. His curve for Julian Hodgson over the ages 8.5 to 13 is given below, a typical curve for the age period, showing both random fluctuations and quantum jumps. Note the three distinct plateaus, approximately a class interval apart, between ages 9.7 and 10.5, 10.8 and 12, and 12.2 and 13.2, with each plateau preceded by a sharp rise. With the time scale constricted and the data points farther apart, these details of the curve would be lost.

6.73



7. SOME DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS

7.1 Statistical Densities of Players and Talent

- 7.11 Chess had its beginnings, as did music and mathematics, in the culture of the Orient. And like those disciplines, with which it has certain kinships, its highest development parallels the rise of the younger urban and industrialized western cultures. Yet even there its appeal is limited to a small fraction of the population. The highest chessplayer density—that reported for the Soviet Union—is less than two percent of the population.

Chess interest and activity depend on the cultural orientation of the society, on economic conditions and the status of the professional chessplayers, on government support, the presence of distracting activities, tradition, and other factors. Great successes of individual heroes, such as Paul Morphy in the nineteenth century or Bobby Fischer recently, provide important stimuli nationally and internationally. Examination of the statistics of chessplayers and populations may lend some insight.

- 7.12 Measurement of chess activity and interest is hardly simple. For example, in the United States, national federation membership is .0002 of the population, and only a portion of that membership is active tournament players, yet newspaper readership of chess columns is measured at .01 of the population, and the annual sales of chess sets at .05.

The raw statistics indicate that the bases for the number of chessplayers or for chessplayer densities are by no means the same, not only in the chess developing countries, but in the chess developed countries as well. There is no way to determine what the numbers of players reported represent. Are they, for example, all federation members, members of chess clubs, readers of chess journals, or do they include estimates of people who know the moves and engage only in casual social play with friends and family? An American master remarked, not altogether facetiously, that to be regarded as a chessplayer, a person must at least be able to checkmate a lone king with just a rook and a king. Unfortunately, no statistics on this point are available.

FIDE seeks membership statistics annually from its one hundred twenty plus member federations, partly to set monetary dues for each federation. Much of the data is missing or plainly not comparable to the same data for other years or from other federations. Nonetheless, the data are worth looking at, particularly from the federations of more advanced development. The 1982 data for the federations of all titleholders and for all federations reporting five or more FIDE rated chessplayers are tabulated here.

7.13

Chessplayers and Titleholders by Country

CHESS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Chess Developing Countries	Population Millions	Chessplayers Thousands	Chessplayers per Thousand Population	FIDE Rated Chessplayers	Rated Players per Million Population	Rated Players per Thousand Chessplayers	Titled Grandmasters	International Masters	Total Titled* Chessplayers
Mexico	73.0	4.5	.062	80	1.10	17.78	-	4	4
Colombia	30.0	6.0	.20	36	1.20	6.00	-	9	9
Brasil	95.3	3.5	.037	39	.41	11.14	1	8	9
Ecuador	6.5	.50	.077	15	2.31	30.00	-	2	2
Venezuela	16.5	3.25	.197	12	.73	3.69	-	3	3
Uruguay	2.9	.75	.26	8	2.76	10.67	-	-	-
Peru	18.0	5.2	.29	7	.39	1.35	1	1	2
Paraguay	3.5	.20	.057	5	1.43	25.00	-	1	1
Nicaragua	2.33	.90	.39	13	5.58	14.44	-	-	-
Guatemala	6.0	1.25	.21	12	2.0	9.60	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	5.2	1.20	.23	9	1.73	7.50	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	3.03	1.28	.42	6	1.98	4.69	-	-	-
Albania	2.64	-	-	6	2.27	-	-	1	1
Turkey	45.0	1.97	.044	19	.42	9.64	-	2	2
Lebanon	3.0	.70	.23	2	.67	2.86	-	1	1
Syria	9.5	.985	.104	6	.63	6.09	-	-	-
Tunisia	6.0	4.0	.67	3	.50	.75	-	3	3
Iran	34.9	-	-	7	.20	-	-	3	3
Pakistan	80.0	1.5	.019	6	.075	4.00	-	-	-
India	780.	9.0	.012	32	.041	3.56	-	5	5
Bangladesh	85.0	1.10	.013	9	.106	8.18	-	1	1
Thailand	45.0	.375	.008	9	.20	24.00	-	-	-
P.R. China	1000.	7.0	.007	15	.015	2.14	-	5	5
Hong Kong	5.0	.25	.050	9	1.80	36.00	-	-	-
Indonesia	142.	5.1	.036	21	.148	4.12	1	3	4
Philippines	45.0	27.0	.60	42	.93	1.56	2	8	10
Japan	115.0	.42	.004	7	.061	16.67	-	-	-
Total	2660.3	87.93	.033	435	.16	4.95	5	60	65

* Titleholders are listed by federation membership, not necessarily by country of birth.

CHESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

	Chess Developed Countries	Population Millions	Chessplayers Thousands	Chessplayers per Thousand Population	FIDE Rated Chessplayers	Rated Players per Million Population	Rated Players per Thousand Chessplayers	Titled Grandmasters	International Masters	Total Titled* Chessplayers
EUROPE	England	46.4	12.0	.26	139	3.00	11.58	6	16	22
	German Fed. Republic	62.0	74.1	1.20	248	4.00	3.35	8	13	21
	Holland	14.2	32.0	2.25	83	5.85	2.59	6	15	21
	Denmark	5.1	5.1	1.00	65	12.75	12.75	1	9	10
	Norway	4.1	5.7	1.39	59	14.39	10.35	-	7	7
	Sweden	8.3	33.1	3.99	63	7.59	1.90	3	13	16
	Austria	7.7	5.7	.74	48	6.23	8.42	1	5	6
	Switzerland	6.3	6.6	1.05	42	6.67	6.36	1	7	8
	Finland	4.8	3.85	.80	33	6.88	8.57	2	2	4
	France	54.0	13.2	.24	46	.85	3.48	-	6	6
	Spain	36.9	13.5	.37	69	1.87	5.11	3	9	12
	Italy	56.0	6.9	.12	51	.91	7.39	1	6	7
	Greece	9.8	6.5	.66	68	6.94	10.46	-	5	5
	Portugal	9.8	2.8	.29	15	1.53	5.36	-	2	2
	Belgium	9.5	4.2	.44	12	1.26	2.86	-	1	1
	Scotland	5.2	3.0	.58	23	4.42	7.67	-	2	2
	Ireland	3.2	3.2	1.00	17	5.31	5.31	-	-	-
Wales	3.5	.82	.23	8	2.29	9.76	-	1	1	
Total	346.8	232.27	.67	1089	3.14	4.69	32	119	151	
THE NEW WORLDS	Israel	3.7	5.35	1.45	69	18.65	12.90	3	9	12
	U.S.A.	216.5	50.8	.23	260	1.20	5.12	21	45	66
	Canada	24.0	3.7	.15	57	2.38	15.41	2	11	13
	Argentina	26.0	18.4	.71	106	4.08	5.76	6	18	24
	Chile	10.9	8.4	.77	28	2.57	3.33	-	4	4
	Australia	14.6	4.7	.32	31	2.12	6.60	-	2	2
	New Zealand	3.2	1.8	.56	12	3.75	6.67	-	2	2
	Total	298.9	93.15	.312	563	1.88	6.04	32	91	123
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES	German Dem. Republic	17.3	39.0	2.25	63	3.64	1.62	4	6	10
	C.S.S.R.	15.1	34.2	2.26	104	6.89	3.04	7	17	24
	Hungary	10.7	41.0	3.83	189	17.66	4.61	16	26	42
	Yugoslavia	22.4	100.0	4.46	487	21.74	4.87	31	57	88
	Bulgaria	9.0	6.0	.67	124	13.78	20.67	10	30	40
	Romania	22.0	5.6	.25	102	4.64	18.21	3	12	15
	Poland	35.3	25.9	.73	213	6.03	8.22	2	22	24
	Cuba	10.0	6.0	.60	79	7.90	13.17	5	21	26
Total	141.8	257.7	1.82	1361	9.60	5.28	78	191	269	
SPECIAL CASES	Iceland	.24	2.2	9.17	46	191.67	20.91	2	5	7
	U.S.S.R.	268.7	4000.	14.89	450	1.67	.11	46	53	99
	Singapore	2.14	5.55	2.59	15	7.01	2.70	-	4	4
	Malta	.34	.38	1.12	4	11.76	10.53	-	-	-
	Mongolia	1.48	4.0	2.70	4	2.70	1.00	-	2	2
	U.A.E.	.20	2.03	10.15	4	20.00	1.97	-	1	1
	Luxembourg	.36	.67	1.86	8	22.22	11.94	-	-	-
Total	273.46	4014.83	14.68	531	1.94	0.13	48	65	113	

7.14 The statistics also provide an interesting comparison between federations which receive state support and those which do not. For this we may take the seven European Socialist countries (Yugoslavia, Hungary, C.S.S.R., German Democratic Republic, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania) and compare them with the nine non-Socialist countries which have the highest rated players to total chessplayer ratio (Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Austria, Greece, and Switzerland). These sixteen countries represent a contiguous area of Europe and share many similarities of cultural heritage, and the population is almost equally divided between the two groups of countries. A comparison between the old countries of Europe and the chess developed countries of the new world provides another study.

	7 Socialist Countries	Top 9 Europe	All 18 Europe	7 New World Countries
Population (Millions)	131.8	122.3	346.8	298.9
Chessplayers (Thousands)	251.7	172.7	232.3	93.15
Chessplayers per Thousand Population	1.91	1.41	.67	.312
FIDE Rated Chessplayers	1282	709	1089	563
Rated Players per Million Population	9.73	5.80	3.14	1.88
Rated Players per Thousand Chessplayers	5.1	4.11	4.69	6.04
Total Titled Chessplayers	243	98	151	123
Titled Players per Million Population	1.84	.80	.44	.41
Titled Players per Thousand Chessplayers	.97	.57	.65	1.32

Chess receives state support in the Socialist countries, and between the groups in the first two columns, that is the principal difference of relevance here. The figures demonstrate the effectiveness of government leadership and assistance. Chessplayer density is greatly increased and high level talent, as reflected in titled players, is more than doubled. The data support the pyramid hypothesis of 5.72, but the shape of the pyramid has been sharpened by the influence of state support.

Comparison of the last two columns indicates that the new-World countries still have to catch up to old-World Europe, at least, in chess development. Only in the ratio of titled and rated players to all players are the new-World countries leading. This is attributable in a large measure to immigration of talented players from the old-World countries, especially the Soviet Union, and to the upsurge of tournament activity in the new-Worlds, especially in the United States and Cuba. The list which follows gives the countries which held ten or more rated events during the July 1981 to July 1982 year. In all, during this year 544 rated tournaments were held throughout the chess world, in contrast with about 70 held in 1970/71, the first year in which the rating system was in effect in FIDE.

Country	Rated Tournaments
U.S.A.	93
Yugoslavia	71
Poland	34
USSR	30
Hungary	25
Cuba	19
Mexico	19
Fed. Republic Germany	18
Argentina	17
Bulgaria	15
Romania	15
France	14
Greece	14
Holland	14
CSSR	13
England	13
Switzerland	11
Canada	10

- 7.15 Incidence of high-level chess proficiency is related, in some way, to the active chess population in a society. There seems to be a mutually stimulating effect: general chess activity provides incentives for development of high talent—the social and economic status accorded Grandmasters, for example—and realized high talent in turn promotes general chess activity. An examination of the distribution of chess proficiencies among large chess populations is indicated, and such an examination is made in 7.3.

- 7.16 Little of a general nature appears to date in the statistics for the developing countries except for the upsurge of chess interest in the Philippines. In some four years the chessplaying population has increased almost six-fold, under intensive promotional efforts by dedicated organizers, with some governmental support. Two new Grandmasters, a realization of high-level talent, have contributed to the growth of interest.

The very interesting story of chess development in the Soviet Union is presented in some detail below. Iceland seems to be a statistical anomaly, but important special circumstances, which are described in 9.3, may largely account for it. Mongolia is not grouped with the Socialist countries because of its isolation and lack of recent statistics. Singapore is a modern city state with a large cosmopolitan population, set quite apart from the surrounding countries, a somewhat special case. Also grouped with these are Luxembourg, Malta and the United Arab Emirates.

7.2 The Soviet School of Chess

- 7.21 A long Russian tradition of master chess extends back to Alexander Petrov (1794-1867) and Major Jaenisch (1813-1872), contemporaries of Staunton, and to Schiffers, Alapin, Chigorin, and Salwe, names prominent in the international scene during the second half of the nineteenth century. From these beginnings the evolution of a Soviet school of chess may be followed in the rating curves.

Development of chess talent in Russia, as in all western Europe, was left to chance until after the first World War, when a new order took over. A concerted effort to develop Soviet talent began in the 1920s, and numerous international tournaments were held. After a lull in the second half of the 20s, international tournaments were resumed, and in the late 30s the forerunners of a coming wave of players appeared on the international scene. World War II saw several Soviet masters lost, despite a concerted effort, as state policy, to preserve talented individuals in all fields, including chess. Development of new talent continued, as did tournament activity, although considerably curtailed.

The effects of a quarter century of intensive promotion were dramatically demonstrated upon resumption of international competition in the late 40s. From then on, the top positions in international events were invariably occupied by Soviet masters. Today about one-third of all FIDE Grandmasters are Soviets, and the fraction would be even larger if more Soviet masters competed outside the Soviet Union.

- 7.22 In the Soviet Union, as the data at 7.13 indicate, there is great mass participation in chess and a substantial production of Grandmasters. However, the production of International Masters may seem smaller than might be expected. The geography and organization of the Soviet Union are such that many hundreds of players of IM strength rarely have the opportunity to play in international title tournaments, and a statistical analysis is difficult. As with the Grandmasters, the Soviet portion of the world total would be much larger if greater opportunity to compete were available.
- 7.23 The causes of the present Soviet superiority appear fourfold: 1. The lead gained during World War II while chess activity elsewhere was more severely curtailed. 2. Intensive schooling and training: in one tough tournament after another, the Soviet players develop talents to the fullest, just as Steinitz did. 3. The statistical fact that every bit of talent is developed, an example of a higher pyramid peak when the pyramid base is broadened. 4. A persistent governmental policy of excellence in all fields of competition, for national pride, and to demonstrate a superiority of the social ideology. Possibly other factors, discussed in 7.4, may have also contributed.
- 7.24 Just how great is this Soviet superiority? What does it measure to, in Elo rating points?

The average Soviet Grandmasters encounter competition about 50 points stronger than that encountered by other Grandmasters. This is a very significant figure, about twice the probable error of the measurements, but it is not insurmountable. With comparable efforts, the gap might be closed in a generation or so.

A player's competitive environment tends to determine his ultimate performance level. The best possible chess player could never develop his skills in a player vacuum, and the best player within a group plays no better than needed to demonstrate his superiority. This very definitely appears in the career of Paul Keres, who in 1938 as co-winner of the very strong AVRO tournament was already a World Championship candidate. During the early 40s he competed in central and western Europe, but his performances tended to stabilize at a level just below the ceiling performances of the declining Alekhine. During the late 40s Keres began competing regularly in the very demanding Soviet Union tournaments. His initial performances there actually dropped below his former level, but by the 50s his performances rose again and eventually levelled off at a new plateau, about 40 points above his earlier plateau of the 40s.

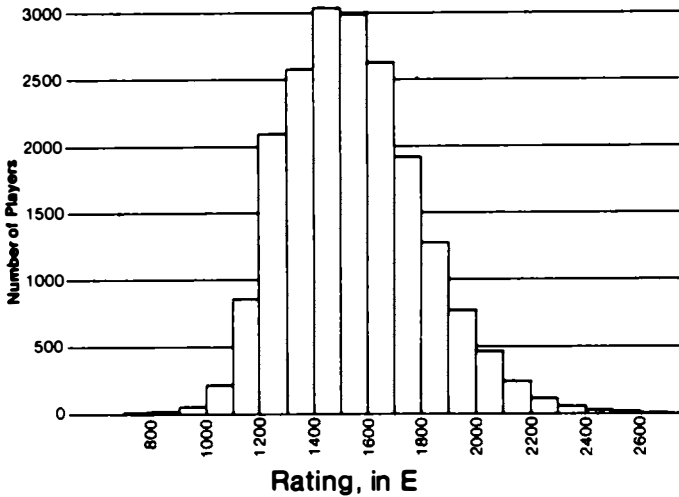
As in every scholarly discipline so also in master chess: the individual must continually engage in self-development to keep abreast of his competition.

7.3 The Distribution of Chess Proficiencies

- 7.31 Unlike the distribution of player performances, the distribution of player proficiencies is not described by the normal probability function. The nature of proficiency distribution, if it were clearly established, might indicate the potential number of masters in a given chess population. Even more importantly, it might indicate the distribution of proficiencies in other disciplines, since it is reasonable to assume similar patterns in similar mental pursuits.
- 7.32 A worldwide comparison of sorts is provided by the data in table 7.14. A more detailed examination of the ratings may reveal whether a general pattern is at all discernible. Such a study should include many ratings, of reasonable statistical confidence, over a wide range of proficiencies. The USCF established players are almost an ideal pool to study, and the data are conveniently available. The rating list is from 1977 at which time a conformity existed between FIDE and USCF ratings. Rating lists have also been reaching the writer from other federations which have adopted the Elo System. Three groups of players, described at 9.3 were studied for the distribution of their ratings, which are tabulated below, showing the percentage of each group falling within each rating interval, and the accumulated percentage interval.

Distributions of Proficiencies

Rating Interval	USCF All Players		USCF Established Players		Belgian CF Established Players	
	Pct	Cumulative	Pct	Cumulative	Pct	Cumulative
100- 199	.06	.06				
200- 299	.08	.14				
300- 399	.11	.25				
400- 499	.27	.52				
500- 599	.39	.91				
600- 699	.80	1.71	.01	.01		
700- 799	1.51	3.22	.04	.05	.05	.05
800- 899	2.60	5.82	.08	.13	.64	.69
900- 999	3.88	9.70	.34	.47	2.15	2.84
1000-1099	5.96	15.66	1.14	1.61	4.79	7.63
1100-1199	8.74	24.40	4.40	6.01	8.40	16.03
1200-1299	14.18	36.58	10.80	16.81	9.75	25.78
1300-1399	13.74	52.32	13.38	30.19	15.03	40.81
1400-1499	12.76	65.08	15.62	45.81	15.90	56.71
1500-1599	11.02	76.10	15.40	61.21	13.68	70.39
1600-1699	8.71	84.81	13.45	74.66	10.07	80.46
1700-1799	6.05	90.86	9.82	84.48	7.38	87.84
1800-1899	3.90	94.76	6.51	90.99	5.22	93.06
1900-1999	2.39	97.15	4.06	95.05	3.12	96.18
2000-2099	1.41	98.56	2.43	97.48	2.15	98.33
2100-2199	.78	99.34	1.37	98.85	1.08	99.41
2200-2299	.34	99.68	.59	99.44	.43	99.84
2300-2399	.21	99.89	.36	99.80	.16	100.00
2400-2499	.06	99.95	.11	99.91		
2500-2599	.04	99.99	.08	99.99		
2600-2699	.01	100.00	.01	100.00		
Number of players		34,403		19,405		1,857
Average rating		1390		1547		1474
Standard deviation		311.9		251.6		271
Most probable rating				1475		1410

Histogram of 1977 USCF Established Pool

- 7.35 The chi-square test, described at 8.96, was applied for normal distribution to both USCF pools. In both cases, the test required a critical index below 33.4 for reasonable assurance that the differences between the data and the normal are chance, but the indexes found were 990 for the established pool and 734 for the all-players pool, making it quite certain that the differences are meaningful. The test very definitely rejects the normal distribution hypothesis.
- 7.36 Nonetheless, it is a distinct possibility that the distribution of proficiencies of the entire chessplaying population is normal. The rating system is applied under controlled conditions only to a special portion of the entire population, to tournament chessplayers who have made some effort to develop proficiency. In general, players who show little aptitude tend to drop from tournament competition, so that among those who remain there is a preponderance of higher rated players. Therefore the distribution of proficiencies of established players cannot in all likelihood be expected to be normal. This, however, does not preclude the possibility that the distribution is represented by some other analytical function. For description of the distribution of these proficiencies, the reader will find a rather more attractive hypothesis in subchapter 9.1.

7.37 In the USCF, since 1977, the Rating Committee has undertaken an attempt to adjust U.S. ratings to compensate for the deflation caused by the great influx of unrated players, particularly juniors, into the rating pool during the early years of the 1970 decade. Part of the attempt involved a procedure intended to bring the ratings into conformity with the normal distribution function. During the two years, 1981/1983, there have been no changes in the administrative regulations and it is claimed that the ratings have stabilized and that the normal rating processes will maintain the stability. Just how successful these attempts have been in achieving their objectives can be seen from an examination of the USCF rating list, as of October 1983, and comparison of the ratings on this list with those of 1977, at 7.33. The following table gives the rating distribution for the entire membership and for the so-called established players who have played at least 20 rated games. The test for the normal distribution is given at 8.96.

7.38 **Distribution of Ratings on the 1983 USCF Rating List**

Rating Interval	All Players			Established Players		
	Number	Percent	Cumulative %	Number	Percent	Cumulative %
Below 600	9	.02	.02	3	.01	.01
600- 699	150	.31	.33	1	.003	.01
700- 799	422	.86	1.19	13	.04	.05
800- 899	932	1.90	3.09	50	.17	.22
900- 999	1557	3.18	6.27	146	.50	.72
1000-1099	2553	5.22	11.49	408	1.41	2.13
1100-1199	3591	7.34	18.83	908	3.13	5.26
1200-1299	4642	9.48	28.31	1646	5.68	10.94
1300-1399	5158	10.54	38.85	2380	8.21	19.15
1400-1499	5540	11.32	50.17	3266	11.27	30.42
1500-1599	5524	11.28	61.45	3841	13.25	43.67
1600-1699	5117	10.45	71.90	4004	13.81	57.48
1700-1799	4246	8.67	80.57	3622	12.49	69.97
1800-1899	3284	6.71	87.28	2921	10.08	80.05
1900-1999	2462	5.03	92.31	2252	7.77	87.82
2000-2099	1707	3.49	95.80	1582	5.46	93.28
2100-2199	1112	2.27	98.07	1049	3.62	96.90
2200-2299	565	1.15	99.22	530	1.83	98.73
2300-2399	227	.46	99.68	216	.75	99.48
2400-2499	99	.20	99.88	95	.33	99.81
2500-2599	45	.09	99.97	44	.15	99.96
2600 & Over	12	.02	99.99	11	.04	100.00
Total Number	48,954			28,988		
Average Rating	1505			1649		
Standard Deviation	335			288		

7.39 This section (7.3) started out originally with the question as to what number of masters and potential titleholders may be expected from a pool of active chessplayers. At 7.33 it was indicated that the number of masters (above 2200) in the 1977 pools to be 1.15% and the number of potential titleholders to be .20% of the pool. The 1983 USCF list may be used as well, if allowance is made for the inflation of ratings. Thus for masters the 2300 level is more appropriate than 2200, and for potential titleholders the 2450 level rather than 2400. With this correction for inflation there is obtained for the established list:

Masters above 2300: 366 or 1.26%
Masters above 2450: 92 or .32%

The order of magnitude of these figures is in good agreement with those from the 1977 lists.

7.4 The Effect of Genetics

7.41 It would be interesting to speculate on the influence of genetics in the systematic improvement in proficiencies reported at 5.73. Harry Shapiro of the American Museum of Natural History advances the hypothesis that nutritional factors and the like do not completely account for the increased body stature (touched upon at 5.33), but that these changes are partly the effects of exogamy (Shapiro 1963). Exogamy is the term applied to marrying outside the social group, a prevalent feature of modern society.

Shapiro cites plant and animal experiments of inbred strains crossed to produce hybrids taller and more vigorous than either parent. If this be true for the physical characteristics of man, it could be true for his mental capacities, and production of great chess minds could be a by-product of human hybridization.

Almost all living Grandmasters were born in the Soviet Union, central Europe, the United States, or Argentina, significantly the world areas of greatest social ferment, social mixing, and hybridization during the past sixty years. It is likewise significant that less than ten players who achieved ratings over 2500 were born in western Europe, including Great Britain, during the century 1850-

1950, an area and period of great stability and little mingling of peoples.

- 7.42 The occurrence of great talent is more likely in populations of diverse distributions of traits and talents. If exogamy or any other factor increases the dispersion of traits within a population, even though the average trait remains unchanged, great variation can result in the production of exceptional individuals. For very great talent, even a small increase in the standard deviation will reflect a very large increase in the probability of occurrence.

Height and weight vary among men, as do aptitude and talent for music and arts, and for chess. Nature does not create all men equal, she only creates them with some of their characteristics normally distributed, in any population. But for such characteristics, when the average and the standard deviation of the distribution are known, one may predict the probability of finding individuals who vary from the average by any specified amount. Moreover, the probability of finding individuals with large deviations is extremely sensitive to the standard deviation of the group. A numerical example will illustrate this point.

Human body stature is normally distributed around the average within a given age group. Assume that groups A and B have the same average height, say 70 inches, but that A has a standard deviation of 2.5 inches while B has 2.63 inches, just 5% higher. What then is the relative probability, within the two groups, of finding a very tall individual, say someone 10 or more inches over the mean?

The 10-inch deviation is just 4 standard deviations in group A and 3.8 in B. From standard tables the probabilities for such deviations are .0000317 and .0000725 respectively. The chances of finding a giant of 80 inches or more are one in 31,500 in group A and one in 13,800 in B. Thus a mere 5% change in standard deviation produces a 130% change in probabilities. For larger deviations from the mean, the differences are even more marked.

If there is normal distribution of the talent that makes for chess geniuses, then even now the probability of their appearance is expanding with the same high sensitivity to increases in diversity within peoples, however great it may be, and wherever it may be located.

- 7.43 Of course great chess talent can occur by chance anywhere in the world and without any planned program of promotion or subsidy of chess. This in fact is how chess talent occurred before modern times, before any systematic effort to search out and develop

talent existing within the population. But chess talent, however great, does not develop in a chess vacuum. For the development of a potential master there must be an environment in which to develop and realize the potential. He must be born at the right time in the right place. It was indeed fortunate for the chess world that Morphy and Capablanca were born into chessplaying families. But for one Morphy or Capablanca, who can say how many peasant boys of comparable potential, born in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, never saw a set of chessmen or a chess book! As sang the poet in *Elegy in a Country Churchyard*:

Full many a gem of purest ray serene,
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear;
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

Thomas Gray 1751

7.5 Where The Masters Were Born

7.51 The occurrence of chess talent in any one geographical area has not been uniform in time, nor does it seem related in any direct fashion to population density. Viewing Europe only, where chess history can be traced back over 400 years, one may plot the birthplaces of eminent chessplayers on a series of maps from the late Renaissance to the present era. The seven such maps which follow represent a small atlas of chess history and illustrate the rise and decline of chess activity on the continent over the centuries.



Chessplayer Birthplaces Prior to 1800

The birthplaces of those born before 1800 appear on the first map. These were chessplayers who left behind some record of achievement, as players, writers, or problemists. Little is known about these men, not even the given name in one case. Some birth and death dates are unknown, as are exact location of several birthplaces. No measure of relative chess proficiencies is possible for want of data, and only one player, Petrov, appears in the informational roster in 9.5. Their achievements, however, stand high on the basis of inventiveness and creativity. Almost half the thirty-one players are credited for openings which still bear their names. This was the period of the invention of complex openings, the Evans Gambit, the Muzio, and other King's gambits, and these were masterly achievements.

The data for the map divide at the year 1700. Prior thereto the birthplaces, with one exception, were found on the Iberian and Italian peninsulas, and Madrid and Naples were the main centers of chess activity. Then, during the eighteenth century, the centers of activity moved to northern Italy and to France, and then to England.

Players Born Before 1700

Vincenti, Francesco	Spain	15th century
Lucena, Juan	Spain	15th century
Guarino, Paolo	Bologna	1460-1520
Lopez de Segura, Ruy	Spain	16th century
Xerone, Alfonso	Spain	16th century
Damiano,	Portugal	16th century
Gianutio, Horatio	Turin	16th century
Boi, Paolo	Syracuse	1528-1598
Leonardo, Giovanni	Calabria	1542-1587
Polerio, Giulio	Abruzzi	1548-1612
Salvio, Alessandro	Naples	1570-1640
Carrera, Pietro	Sicily	1573-1647
Greco, Giachino	Calabria	1600-1634
Muzio, Don Alessandro	Naples	17th century
Cunningham, Alexander	Scotland	1650-1730
Lolli, Giovanni	Modena	1698-1769

All places, except Spain, Portugal, and Scotland, are in modern Italy.

Players Born During the 18th Century

Ponziani, Domenico	Modena	1719-1796
delRio, Ercole	Modena	1720-1800
Cozio, Carlo	Turin	18th century
Giacometti, Francesco	Corsica	18th century
Stamma, Phillip	Aleppo	18th century
Philidor, Francois-Andre	Dreux	1726-1795
Deschappelles, Alexandre	Ville-d'Avray	1780-1847
Bourdonnais, Louis de la	Saint-Malo	1797-1840
Evans, William	Pembrokeshire	1790-1872
Macdonnell, Alexander	Belfast	1798-1835
Lewis, William	Birmingham	1787-1870
Cochrane, John	London	1798-1878
Allgaier, Johann	Wurtemberg	1763-1823
Bledow, Ludwig	Berlin	1795-1846
Petrov, Alexander	Bicerovo	1794-1867

Aleppo is in Syria (Ottoman Empire); Dreux, Ville-d'Avray, and Saint-Malo are in France; and Bicerovo is in Russia. Pembrokeshire and Wurtemberg are provinces in Wales and Germany, respectively.



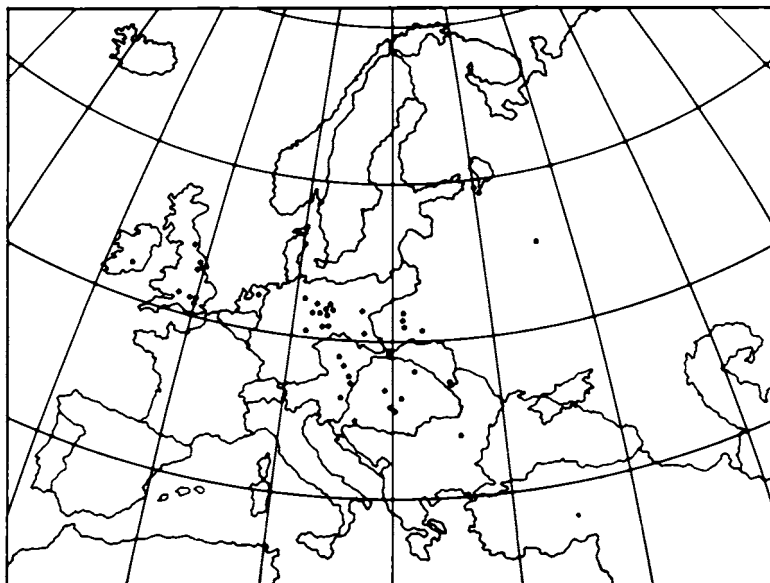
Chessplayer Birthplaces 1800-1840

Spain: Golmayo; *France:* Saint-Amant, de Riviere; *England:* Walker, Staunton, Wyvill, Williams, Stanley, Buckle, Barnes, Boden, Owen, Bird, Potter; *Ireland:* MacDonnell; *Scotland:* Mackenzie; *Italy:* Dubois; *Germany:* Anderssen, Harrwitz, Horwitz, Hanstein, von der Lasa, Dufresne, Lange, L. Paulsen, Suhle, G. Neumann, Hirschfeld; *Austria:* Hamppe; *Bohemia (Austria):* Falkbeer, Steinitz; *Hungary:* Szen, Löwenthal, Kolisch, A. Schwarz; *Poland:* Rosenthal, Winawer; *Russia:* Kieseritzky, Jaenisch, Shumov, Urusov.

As chess activity spread through Europe during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, more and more players engaged in recorded match and tournament competition. Information is far more complete on players born after 1800, and full names, countries, birth and death dates, and estimates of relative proficiencies for all of them will be found in 9.4 or 9.5. Some remaining informational problems are touched upon in a note at 9.3.

A new professional chessmaster class was emerging, players whose main occupation was chess and who sought a precarious source of living through writings, club activity, and match and tournament patronage.

Most of the players on the map above would qualify as International Masters or Grandmasters by present standards.



Chessplayer Birthplaces 1841-1870

Ireland: Mason; *England*: Blackburne, Wisker, Burn, DeVere, Lee, Pollock, Caro; *Holland*: Olland; *Germany*: Minckwitz, Schalopp, von Scheve, Schöttlander, Riemann, W. Cohn, Bardeleben, Tarrasch, Gottschall, Mieses, Em. Lasker, Teichmann, Lipke; *Austria*: Berger, Bauer, Englisch, Hruby, Judd, Marco, J. Schwarz; *Hungary*: Gunsberg, Noa, Lipschuetz. Weiss, Maroczy; *Croatia (Hungary)*: Wittek; *Romania (Ottoman Empire)*: Albin; *Poland (Russia)*: Taubenhaus, Salwe, Janowski, Zukertort; *Russia*: Chigorin, Schiffers, Alapin.

By the early nineteenth century (see map 7.52), Paris and London had become the great chess centers, and throughout the century, like magnets, they attracted talented chess players from the entire continent of Europe, and even from America.

England itself was a great producer of talent, especially during the first two-thirds of the century. Although Paris attracted as many foreign masters as London, it is a curious fact that the activity failed to develop very many outstanding players from France itself.

Eventually other centers developed, in Berlin and Vienna (map above), and Vienna became the magnet which attracted talent from the vast Hapsburg empire. All players on the above map would qualify for titles today.



Chessplayer Birthplaces 1871-1900

England: Thomas, Atkins, Napier, Yates, Winter; *Holland:* Walbrodt; *Belgium:* Colle; *Switzerland:* Johner; *Germany:* Leonhardt, Swiderski, John, Post, Ahues, E. Cohn, Ed Lasker, Wagner, Brinckmann, Sämisch, K. Richter; *Austria:* Schlechter, H. Wolf, A. Neumann, Spielmann, Hromadka, Grünfeld, Kmoch, Becker, Lokvenc, Vidmar; *Bohemia (Austria):* Charousek, Fahrni, Duras, Treybal; *Hungary:* Reti, Havasi, Forgacs, Asztalos, Takacs, Nagy, Breyer, Vajda, Kostic; *Romania:* Kaufmann, *Poland (Russia):* Przepiorka, Rubinstein, Flamberg, Perlis, Kupchik, Rotlevi; *Russia:* Nimzovitch, Mattison, Levenfish, Rabinovitch, Romanovsky, Ilyin-Genevsky, Selesniev, Znosko-Borovsky, Alekhine, Bernstein, Bogoljubow, Verlinsky, Bohatirchuk, Tartakower.

All the players on maps 7.54 & 7.55 would qualify as International Masters or Grandmasters by present standards. Those on the map above maintained five-year averages over 2450. Those on the map at next page maintained five-year averages over 2470, putting them among the strongest players of all time.

The great wealth of chess talent born during the last third of the nineteenth century appears on the map above. The productivity of outstanding individuals shifted to north Germany and eventually to the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, with Berlin and Vienna assuming the leading roles as chess centers.



Chessplayer Birthplaces 1901-1920

Ireland: Alexander; *Holland:* Euwe, Prins; *Belgium:* O'Kelly; *Germany:* Michel, Rellstab, Kieninger, Rödl, Pilnik; *Austria:* Eliskases, Pirc; *Bohemia (Austria):* Foltys, Rejfir; *Slovenia (Austria):* Udovcic; *Hungary:* E. Steiner, L. Steiner, Barcza, Szabo; *Croatia (Hungary):* Rabar, Trifunovic; *Poland (Russia):* Frydman, Najdorf, Reshevsky, Flohr; *Sweden:* Lundin, Stoltz, Stahlberg; *Finland (Russia):* Böök; *Baltic provinces (Russia):* V. Petrov, Mikenas, P. Schmidt, Keres; *Russia:* Alatorzev, Lisitsin, Ragozin, Botvinnik, Tolush, Konstantinopolsky, Rossolimo, Boleslavsky, Bondarevsky, Makogonov, Chekhover, Ryumin, Kan, Lilienthal, Kotov, Simagin, Aronin, Furman.

The twentieth century is characterized by the sharp decline in the talent productivity of the western European countries, countries which in preceding centuries were indeed prolific of talent. The shift in productivity to central and eastern Europe is also marked. Vienna continued to be a great chess center, even after the breakup of the Hapsburg empire, and until World War II. In the meantime, other centers ascended, in Prague, Budapest, Warsaw, Riga, St. Petersburg, and Moscow.

The period represented by the map above may be considered the closing one of the classical era. Government support had not yet begun, nor was there even the beginnings of the worldwide organization that was in time to be FIDE.



Chessplayer Birthplaces 1921-1940

Spain: Pomar, Diez del Corral; *Holland:* Donner; *Germany:* Unzicker, L. Schmid, Pietzsch, Darga, Uhlmann, Malich, Hecht; *Austria:* Robatsch; *Czechoslovakia:* Pachman, Filip, Sajtar; *Hungary:* Benko, Bilek, Lengyel, Forintos, Barczay, L. Portisch, Csom, Flesch; *Yugoslavia:* Janosevic, Gligoric, Milic, Damjanovic, Matanovic, Fuderer, Ivkov, Matulovic, Ciric, Knezevic, Bukic, Ostojic, Marovic, J. Nikolac, S. Nikolic, Puc, Sahovic; *Bulgaria:* Bobotsov, Padevsky, Tringov, Radulov, Spiridonov; *Poland:* Yanofsky; *Denmark:* Larsen; *Iceland:* F. Olafsson; *Latvia:* Tal, Gipslis, Mednis; *Soviet Union:* Kholmov, Taimanov, Korchnoi, Lein, Osnos, Spassky, Smyslov, Averbakh, Shamkovich, Suetin, Antoshin, Krogus, Lutikov, Vasiukov, Polugaevsky, A. Zaitsev, I. Zaitsev, Liberzon, Savon, Bronstein, Stein, Geller, T. Petrosian, Gurgenzidze, Gufeld, Bagirov, Nei; *Romania:* Cioaltea.

The two maps 7.56 & 7.57, depict the present chess scene and indicate activity centers principally in the Socialist countries of central and eastern Europe. The full decline of Vienna and Austria as a center is now evident.

All players on these two maps are titled Grandmasters, or carry five-year average ratings over 2500. The last map is incomplete, of course. Other players—and who can say how many?—born before 1960 have Grandmaster potential, and some of them will realize it in the coming decade.



Grandmaster Birthplaces 1941-1960

England: Keene, Stean, Miles, Mestel, Nunn, Plaskett, Speelman; *Holland:* Timman, Ree, van der Wiel; *Italy:* Mariotti; *Germany:* Hübner, Knaak, Vogt, Pflieger, Espig; *Czechoslovakia:* Jansa, Kavalek, Hort, Smejkal, Ftacnik; *Lechtynsky, Platchetka, Mokry;* *Hungary:* Farago, Vadasz, Adorjan, Ribli, Sax, Pinter; *Yugoslavia:* Parma, Vukic, Velimirovic, Rajkovic, Kovacevic, Planinc, Kurajica, Raicevic, Ljubojevic, Hulak, Ivanovic, Klaric, Marjanovic, Martinovic, Nemet, P. Popovic, Cebalo, Duric, P. Nikolic, Simic; *Bulgaria:* Spasov, Kirov, Ermenkov, Inkirov, Velikov; *Romania:* Gheorghiu, Suba; *Poland:* W. Schmidt, Gruenfeld, Kuligowski; *Iceland:* Sigurjonsson, H. Olafsson; *Sweden:* Andersson, Karlsson; *Finland:* Westerinen, Rantanen; *Soviet Union:* Romanishin, Beliavsky, Sosonko, Karpov, Kochiev, Tukmakov, Makarichev, Alburt, Kuzmin, Georgadze, Dzhindzichasvili, Vaganian, Balashov, Sveshnikov, Tsheshkovsky, Gulko, Dolmatov, Dorfman, Kupreichik, Mikhailchishin, Panchenko, Psakhis, Rashkovsky, Timoshchenko, Yusopov, Agzamov, Chekhov, Chernin, Gaprindashvili, Gavrikov, D. Gurevich, Kudrin, Lputian, Palatnik, A. Petrosian, Razuvaev, Vaiser, Zaichik; *Spain:* Bellon; *Greece:* Biyiasas; *Syria:* Seirewan.

Within the Soviet Union, the map above indicates a wider dispersion of birthplaces than the preceding map. This perhaps reflects the population dispersion which accompanied the intensive industrialization of the country.

The map above may also indicate a closing of the gap between

the Soviets and the rest of Europe in the production of high-level chess talent. Soviets accounted for 38% of the births on the map at 7.56 but for only 34% on the map at left. The other Socialist countries have intensified chess promotion and activity subsequent to World War II, but recent years have also seen eight new Grandmasters in England, one in Italy, and twelve International Masters born in France in the twentieth century.

It is difficult to assess historic trends still in progress, but the possibility of a rebirth of chess activity in western Europe, suggested by these forerunners, is a phenomenon well worth watching for.

- 7.58 The maps show a clustering within the large urban centers. Large cultural centers, especially capital cities, attract people with a variety of talents. It is in these centers that exogamy is most probable, and hence the probability of high talent among offsprings becomes greater.

Actually chess has always been basically an urban phenomenon. The necessary ingredient in the development of play of high quality or any sort of scholarship in chess is the chess center or chess club where players can congregate and develop their natural talents through training and competition. Witness, for example, the great chess centers of the 19th century: the Cafe de la Regence in Paris, Simpson's and the St. George's of London, etc.

There are interesting anomalies, such as the remarkable city of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, where, from about 100,000 population in 1935 there were produced, in less than a ten-year span, three grandmasters (Bobotsov, Padevsky, and Tringov) and at least two IMs (Popov and Peev)—a production far surpassing that of all France over the past two hundred years!

In this connection Mr. Andrei Malchev of the Bulgarian Chess Federation and member of the FIDE Qualification Committee has made a most interesting comment as follows: "In the last century after the liberation from Turkish rule there has been an intensive migration in our country from the villages to the towns. And after World War II this migration has had the dimensions of a demographic explosion. But what is also very important for the development of chess in Bulgaria are the positive changes in our social conditions and the social support of chess."

By way of summary: in the 19th century there were altogether 94 births of chess masters who either received the grandmaster title or who could have achieved such a title had the present title

regulations been in effect during their active careers. Of these only five were born in the new worlds and the remaining 89 in Europe. By contrast during the first 60 years of the 20th century 266 births of chess masters of grandmaster stature have already been recorded, with 41 in the new worlds. Population increase alone does not account for these numbers and other factors, such as state support, increased opportunity for the development of chess talent, cultural changes, etc. are, no doubt, responsible. At the same times there were many more births of eminent chessplayers, not necessarily of grandmaster stature, but certainly of International Master level. Unfortunately, their records are less well reported from the 19th century than they are currently. The distribution of births of eminent chessplayers is given in the following tables. The interpretation of the numbers is left to the students of chess history. The most notable fact gathered from these tables is the role of the chess organization which makes possible the development of high level chess talent as well as its recognition. The brief sketch of European chess history which follows in 7.6 may indicate the trends which may be expected in the progress of chess within the new worlds during the remainder of this century and the next.

Distribution of Births of Eminent Chessplayers In Europe

Country	19th Century	20th Century 1901-1940	20th Century 1941-1960
Russia/Soviet Union	28	73#	84#
Germany/FRG/DDR	51	28	16
Yugoslavia*	3	43	56
Hungary	25	42	29
Bohemia/Czechoslovakia*	9	13	28
Romania	—	11	15
Bulgaria	—	15	20
Austria	25	6	6
Poland	16	21	27
British Isles	30	4	31
Baltic States	3	11	3
Denmark	1	4	9
Norway	—	2	7
Sweden	1	4	15
Holland	4	12	16
Finland	—	3	5
Belgium	2	2	2
France	3	—	10
Switzerland	3	4	2
Italy	3	8	2

Spain	1	7	9
Greece	—	3	5
Iceland	—	2	7
Rest of Europe	—	3	2

**Neither Yugoslavia nor Czechoslovakia existed as separate states prior to 1920; however, births within parts of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire which became parts of these states are recorded here according to the declared nationality of the individual players.*

Not truly representative numbers since many players in the Soviet Union, of International Master level, have no opportunity to compete in international tournaments.

Distribution of Births of Eminent Chessplayers Outside of Europe

Country	19th Century	20th Century	20th Century
		1901–1940	1941–1960
United States	11	14	39
Canada	—	1	8
Cuba	2	3	24
Argentina	2	13	13
Peru	1	—	2
Brasil	—	2	8
Colombia	—	3	7
Chile	—	2	4
Mexico	—	1	3
Other South & Central American States	—	1	8
Australia & New Zealand	—	—	6
Israel	—	1	5
Syria	—	—	3
Pakistan	—	1	1
India	—	1	5
China	—	1	4
Philippines	—	1	11
Indonesia	—	3	4
Rest of Asia	—	3	9
Africa	—	2	7

There are, of course, still many other chessplayers born during the last period included here, but still not recognized as “eminent”. Time will tell what revisions of these tables are to be made.

- 7.59 In the urban centers of Europe and the Americas, the Jewish communities have produced a wealth of talent in every field, and particularly in chess. Perhaps exogamy may have been more prevalent in a population with centuries of mobile heritage. Perhaps the eastern European custom of marriage partner selection by the parents, often with the aid of marriage brokers, may have pyramided biological gains. In any event, chess has been remarkably and happily free from discrimination experienced in many professions, perhaps because the financial rewards were, until recently, not large enough to be envied, or perhaps because real talent will show instantly over the chessboard, and cannot be suppressed.

7.6 An Historical Perspective

- 7.61 In 1978, at the Conference on Chess and the Humanities at the University of Nebraska, the writer presented a paper on some historical and demographic aspects of chess (Elo 1978). In this paper only the European chess scene was reviewed and the history and development of the game was divided roughly into four phases. The first phase lasting some 800 years (8th to 16th centuries) consisted of the introduction, dissemination and refinement of the game into the form known today. The second phase lasting some 300 years into the early 19th century was marked by the emergence of a class of professional chessplayers, namely, the chess masters (Map 7.51). The third, lasting some one hundred years, to the end of World War I was truly the international phase wherein the International Tournament came into being and in which players participated on an individual basis, more as citizens of the chess community rather than as citizens of any particular country (Maps 7.52-7.55). The fourth phase is the present which now lasted over 60 years (Maps 7.56-7.57). It is characterized by the organization of the game by national and international federations.
- 7.62 As the centers of chess activity or ascendancy seem to move about the map of Europe, some questions naturally arise. Why do chess centers rise and decline? Why are some regions, so productive in the past, now virtual chess deserts? Are there some genetic factors which determine the incidence of exceptional chess talent? And so on—. Perhaps some answers to these questions may be obtained by searching for some common conditions existing in the societies at the time or just before chess ascendancy. A tabulation of the period of ascendancy against the background of the main historical events during the period follows.

7.63 Period of Ascendancy	Region	Major Historical Events
Fifteenth & Sixteenth Centuries	Iberia	The age of exploration and colonial expansion. The unification of Spain.
Sixteenth & Seventeenth Centuries	Italy	Middle & late Renaissance. Urbanization of Italy.
Late Eighteenth & Early Nineteenth Centuries	France	French Revolution; The age of reason; Napoleonic expansion.
Late Eighteenth & Nineteenth Centuries	Great Britain	The Industrial Revolution; Colonial expansion; Mass movement to the cities.
Nineteenth Century	Germany	Unification of Germany; Industrialization; Mass movement to the cities.
Nineteenth Century	East and Central Europe	Ascendance of the Jewish peoples into the middle class and their migration into the cities.
Late Nineteenth & Early Twentieth Centuries	Austria-Hungary	Cultural flowering of the Hapsburg Empire. Mass movement into the large urban centers; Industrialization.
Post World War I & World War II	Central Europe & Balkans	Emergence of a new national consciousness within the successor states; Beginnings of industrialization in the Balkans.
Post World War I & World War II	Soviet Union	The Russian revolution; Industrialization; Mass movement of the population into both the old and new urban centers.

7.64 Chess interest and activity, of course, depend on a great variety of factors: cultural orientation of the society, economic conditions, tradition, status of the professional chessplayer, presence of distracting activities, etc. Great success of individual heroes, such as Paul Morphy in the 19th century and Robert Fischer recently,

provided important stimuli nationally and internationally, but these effects tend to be transients. Somewhat more lasting is the stimulus of the chess hero in a small country where national pride in the success can maintain interest for a longer time. Cases in point are Capablanca in Cuba, Maroczy in Hungary and Euwe in Holland.

- 7.65 From the above evidence one could make out a good case for the thesis that the same cultural ferments that brought about the larger social and cultural changes, indicated in the table, also were instrumental in shaping the course of chess activities in the societies. There are two factors which are common to each case cited: First, the existing societies could be characterized as young and dynamic. Second, mass movement and mingling of the populations took place in every case. Just what bearing the latter can have on the birth of eminent chessplayers has been considered at 7.4 The Effect of Genetics.

7.7 A Chessmaster Profile

- 7.71 The rare incidence of high-level talent naturally raises the question: What qualities, mental or other, set the chessmaster apart from other talented individuals? Could a chessmaster, if he diverted his efforts into other fields, attain mastery there? Are certain specific components of intelligence necessary in the making of a chessmaster?

Answers to these questions are beyond the scope of this book, but some light may be shed on the nature of today's titleholders from the following tabulation of non-chess data in the personal histories submitted by 190 contemporary Grandmasters and International Masters.

7.72 Non-Chess Qualities of 190 Titleholders

Educational Level:	percent
Some education at the university level	63
Education at the high school or gymnasium level	34
Grammar or elementary education	3
Educational Environment:	percent
One or both parents with university education	38
One or both parents with high school education	31
Parents with elementary education	14
Unknown	17

Professions stated:	number
Professional chessplayer	50
Journalist (chess)	25
Science and engineering	19
Mathematics and computer science	16
Law	12
Trade and commerce	12
Education (teacher or professor) (other than science or mathematics)	12
Student	11
Clerk	9
Civil servant	6
Economics	5
Finance	4
Medical	4
Social science	2
Architecture	1
Linguistics	1
Musician	1
Language Proficiency:	percent
One language	4
Two languages	21
Three languages	31
Four languages	19
Five or more languages	25
General Interests:	percent
Sports of various kinds	84
Music	56
The arts	36
Literature	33
Science and mathematics (including professional)	32

7.73 Although these chessmasters have some characteristics in common, the spectrums of their interests, their backgrounds, and their occupations are fully as broad as those of the general public in the chessplaying countries.

A high level of education appears common. The percentage of chessmasters with university level education is three times that of the general public. Moreover, the percentage for their parents is more than twice that of the general public a generation ago.

Language proficiency is particularly notable, and among the European chessmasters, as among educated Europeans generally, the proficiency is somewhat higher than for those living elsewhere.

All kinds of competitive sport form their greatest interest outside of chess. More than half of the masters expressed at least an interest in music, although only one of the 190 reported he was a professional musician. An affinity for the arts, literature, and the sciences, including those with professions in these fields, was about equally divided among those surveyed.

8. RATING SYSTEM THEORY

8.1 Rating System Methodology

- 8.11 Pairwise comparisons, as observed at 1.12, form the basis of all measurements, as well as the basis for chess rating systems. Pairwise comparison has received considerable attention from statistical and probability theorists (Good 1955, David 1959, Trawinski and David 1963, Buhlman and Huber 1963). These papers, however, stop short of practical rating system methodology, leaving that to the rating system practitioners.
- 8.12 A workable rating system, fully developed from basic theory, includes certain principal components:
1. Rating scale
 2. Performance distribution function
 3. Percentage expectancy function
 4. Performance rating formula
 5. Continuous rating formula
 6. Appropriate numerical coefficients and ancillary formulae
- 8.13 The system components are interrelated and interdependent in varying degree. The distribution function is the derivative of the probability function, which in turn is the integral of the distribution function. The performance formula is a simple algebraic statement of the probability function. All parts mesh, and system development or description could be begun at several points. The listed order was used in development of the Elo Rating System because it seemed the most natural order, and it is observed in the following presentation. Mathematical symbols are defined at 9.3.

8.2 Development of the Elo System

8.21 The Rating Scale

An interval scale was selected for the Elo system, and the traditional class interval for chessplayers was designated C and defined as σ , for reasons described at 1.2. This class interval may also be defined as the *standard error of performance differences* when $N = 1$, expressed by $S.E.\delta = \sigma_p/\sqrt{2N}$ (Garrett 1966). The sub-division $C = 200E$, the scale midpoint at 2000, and the use of four-digit numbers were adapted from usage and are entirely arbitrary.

8.22 The Distribution Function

The basis for selecting the normal distribution function is given at 1.31. This function and the associated concept of standard deviation provide appropriate apparatus for measurements on an interval scale (Churchman and Ratoosh 1959).

The normal distribution function is treated in all works on statistical and probability theory, and its properties essential to rating systems were described at 1.3. The graphic representation at 1.35 is adequate for rating purposes. Its equation is

$$Y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}z^2} \quad (13)$$

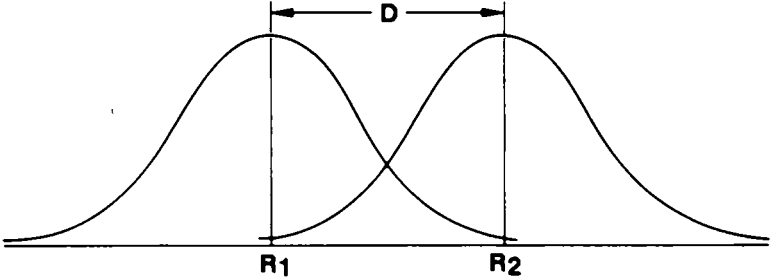
where Y represents the ordinate, e is the base of the natural logarithms, and z is the measure of the deviation from the mean in terms of standard deviation.

The assumption of normal distribution of individual performances could be open to some question, as it is theoretically possible that the distribution could be skewed one way or another. In this eventuality we fall back on the important central limit theorem (Gnedenko and Khinchin 1962), which indicates that *differences* in performances will tend to be normally distributed over the long run. A performance rating R_p is developed from game scores, usually several games, and therefore it can be considered a mean. By the same token a rating is developed from several performances and is also a mean. Thus the central limit theorem applies. Since on an interval scale only differences in ratings have significance, the assumption of normal distribution is appropriate. Alternate distribution patterns are examined at 8.3 and 8.5.

8.23 The Probability Function

The normal distribution function leads to the normal probability function, or standard sigmoid. Consider two individuals whose performances are normally distributed: let R_1 and R_2 be the average performances

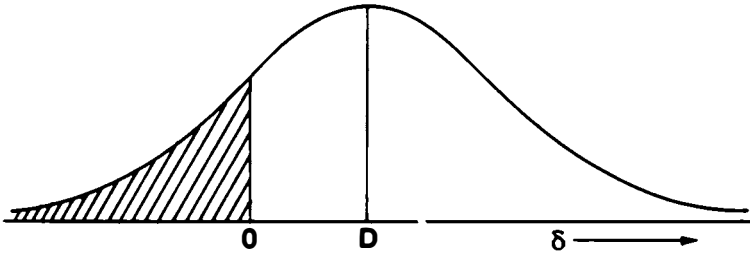
with $R_2 > R_1$, let σ_1 and σ_2 be the standard deviations of their respective performances in single encounters, and designate $(R_2 - R_1)$ by D , as in the following graph, illustrating the distributions of their individual performances.



Now if these individuals engage in a large number of contests, then δ the differences in the individual performances will also be normally distributed around the value D , with a standard deviation of $\sigma' = \sqrt{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2}$. Furthermore, if $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2$, then $\sigma' = \sigma\sqrt{2}$. Even if σ_1 and σ_2 differ widely, the ratio of the resulting σ' to σ , the standard deviation of performances of all members of the pool, does not change significantly. If $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2$, then σ'/σ is $\sqrt{2}$ or 1.41, whereas if $\sigma_1 = \text{say } 2\sigma_2$, then σ'/σ is $\sqrt{5}/1.5$ or 1.49.

This consideration recommends the selection $C = \sigma$, where σ is the average σ for all pool members. Whatever bias this may introduce is small since M , the number of pool members, is large enough so that $\sqrt{M/(M-1)}$ does not differ significantly from unity (Parratt 1961).

The following graph illustrates the distribution of δ .



Since δ are normally distributed around D , some portion of the area under the curve will fall on the negative side of zero. This portion is shaded in the graph and represents the probability that the lower rated player will outperform the higher. The unshaded portion represents the probability that the higher will outperform the lower. These areas under the normal distribution curves and the theorems underlying the preceding arguments

appear in most standard works on statistical theory (Edwards 1956, Parratt 1961). When the shaded area is plotted against D , one obtains the standard sigmoid with a standard deviation of $\sigma\sqrt{2}$. The equation of this curve may be expressed as an infinite series, but not as a simple analytical function. Its graph is at 1.43.

8.24 The Performance Rating Formula

The performance rating formula follows directly from the percentage expectancy curve:

$$R_p = R_c + D_p \quad (1)$$

Its rating application, including certain limitations to its use, is treated in 1.5.

8.25 The Continuous Rating Formula

Assume that an individual achieves a rating R_o on the basis of N_o games, with N_o large enough for reasonable confidence. Assume that he then engages in a subsequent event which provides a new sample of N games. The performance rating R_p in the new sample might well differ from R_o , and the difference could result from a real change in his ability or simply a random statistical fluctuation in his performance. The question becomes which is the more likely, or rather, what is the best way to combine R_o and R_p to obtain the best new rating R_n .

There are several combination processes. One might simply average the results from N and N_o , obtaining a new average rating for the entire sample $N_o + N$, but this preserves fully the rating contribution of the earlier samples and produces, if real changes in ability have occurred, a false statement of the current rating.

The proper method to combine R_p with R_o should attenuate the earlier performances in favor of the later ones, and at the same time it should yield results within the range of the standard deviations of both R_p and R_o . An appropriate weighting of R_o and R_p in the averaging process happily produces this result, with working formulae that are both simple and practical. If R_p is weighted by the size of its own sample N , and R_o is weighted by $(N_o - N)$, and the total sample is treated as if it were just equal to N_o , then the expressions for R_n and for ΔR become

$$R_n = \frac{R_o(N_o - N) + R_p N}{N_o} = R_o + (R_p - R_o)N/N_o \quad (14)$$

$$\Delta R = R_n - R_o = (R_p - R_o)N/N_o \quad (15)$$

Since $R_P = R_C + D_P$ and $R_O = R_C + D_{P_O}$, where P_O is the percentage scored on the sample N_O , then ΔR may be written

$$= [D_P - D_{P_O}]N/N_O \quad (16)$$

by making the simplifying assumption that R_C is the same for both samples. Now, if the percentage scores P and P_O do not differ greatly, they may be expressed in (16) as read from the percentage expectancy curve, with slope S :

$$= \frac{N}{N_O} \left[\frac{1}{S} (P - P_O) \right] \quad (17)$$

S varies, of course, but its average value for the most used portion of the curve may be taken as $1/4\sigma$, giving

$$= 4\sigma(P - P_O)N/N_O = 4\sigma(NP - NP_O)/N_O \quad (18)$$

Now NP is W , the score achieved in sample N , and NP_O is W_e , the expected score on the basis of the earlier percentage P_O . Thus, finally

$$\Delta R = K(W - W_e) \quad (19)$$

where the coefficient K is just $4\sigma/N_O$. The continuous or current rating formula becomes

$$R_n = R_O + K(W - W_e) \quad (2)$$

where $W_e = \sum P_i$ (3)

or $W_e = N \times P_{D_e}$ (4)

The rating applications of (2), (3), and (4) are at 1.6.

8.26 Formulae for a Round Robin

In a round robin, the average rating of the players is

$$R_a = \frac{(M - 1)R_C + R}{M} \quad (20)$$

Forming the difference $(R - R_a)$ gives

$$(R - R_a) = R - \frac{(M - 1)R_C + R}{M} \quad (21)$$

$$= \frac{MR - MR_C + R_C - R}{M} = \frac{R(M - 1) - R_C(M - 1)}{M}$$

$$= (R - R_C)(M - 1)/M \quad (22)$$

If the symbol D is used for the rating differences, then

$$D_a = D_c(M - 1)/M \quad (23)$$

Furthermore, D_a may be defined as the *adjusted difference based on P* , and it is the difference with respect to R_a , not R_c . It is less than D_p based on R_c by the fraction $1/M$, as follows from (23):

$$D_a = D_p(M - 1)/M \quad (5)$$

The performance rating formula (1) may, for a round robin, be stated

$$R_p = R_a + D_a \quad (6)$$

Substituting for D_a from (23) and solving for R_a produces

$$R_a = R_p - D_c(M - 1)/M \quad (24)$$

In a round robin in which some players are unrated, assume $R_p = R_o$ for the rated players. Then D_p for the rated players is the D_c and

$$R_a = R_o - D_p(M - 1)/M \quad (7)$$

Formula (4) for the expected score may be restated for a round robin as

$$W_e = P_{D_a} M - \frac{1}{2} \quad (8)$$

Use of M is appropriate to use of D_a , but in effect it introduces into W_e an additional and unplayed game, the game with the player himself as his competition. The expected $\frac{1}{2}$ point from this game is accordingly deducted in the formula.

A match is a round robin with $M = 2$. In a match

$$R_p = R_a + \frac{1}{2} D_p \quad (9)$$

Other aspects of round robin formulae are amplified in 1.7.

8.27 The Linear Approximation Formulae

The percentage expectancy curve, as indicated at 1.81, may be approximated by a straight line over its most used portion, between $-1.5C$ and $+1.5C$. The quality of the approximation may be judged from the graph and table at 8.73. The slope of the line in the graph is 1 in $4C$, and

the intercept on the vertical axis is at .5. Thus, over the acceptable range, P in terms of D may be read from the graph as

$$P = \frac{1}{2} + D/4C \quad (25)$$

$$\text{and also } D_p = 2C(2P - 1) \quad (26)$$

and, since $P = W/N$ and $N = W + L$,

$$D_p = 2C(W - L)/N \quad (27)$$

Thus, with $C = 200$, the performance rating formula (1) becomes

$$R_p = R_c + 400(W - L)/N \quad (10)$$

Next, consider the formula for W_e using $P_i = \frac{1}{2} + D_i/4C$ from (25) and taking the summation over a new sample of N games:

$$W_e = \sum P_i \quad (3)$$

$$= \sum (\frac{1}{2} + D_i/4C)$$

$$= N/2 + \sum D_i/4C \quad (28)$$

Consequently the current rating formula (2) becomes

$$R_n = R_o + K(W - N/2 - \sum D_i/4C) \quad (29)$$

$$= R_o + \frac{1}{2} K(W - L) - (K/4C)\sum D_i \quad (11)$$

The coefficient K depends on N_o and its value is $4C/N_o$. In USCF, N_o is 25 and thus $K = 32$. This value, with the sign change explained at 1.83, produces the USCF linear rating formula:

$$R_n = R_o + 16(W - L) + .04\sum D \quad (12)$$

8.28 Selection of the Coefficient K

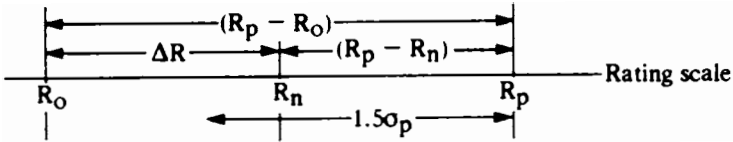
The unique averaging process of formula (2) produces a change in rating which depends on the old and new performances and on the number of games entering into each. The relationship is:

$$R_n - R_o = \Delta R = (R_p - R_o)N/N_o \quad (15)$$

and in (2) the rating change is expressed

$$\Delta R = K(W - W_e) \quad (19)$$

Thus K is the rating point value of a single game in the new sample N, and accordingly the value assigned K will determine the sensitivity of (2) to changes in a player's performance as reflected in each new sample. The relationships may be diagrammed as follows:



The selection of K obviously affects the location on the rating scale of R_N , which ideally should fall within the range of statistical tolerance for R_P . The tolerance can be taken as 1.5 times the standard deviation of R_P in N performances and designated $1.5\sigma_p$. From the diagram, for the desired result, the absolute value of $|R_P - R_N|$ must be less than this tolerance:

$$|R_P - R_N| < 1.5\sigma_p \quad (30)$$

But
$$R_P - R_N = (R_P - R_O) - (R_P - R_O)N/N_O$$

$$= (N_O - N)(R_P - R_O)/N_O \quad (31)$$

Thus the condition becomes:

$$|R_P - R_O| < 1.5\sigma_p N_O / (N_O - N) \quad (32)$$

and since $(R_P - R_O)N/N_O = \Delta R$, it follows that

$$|\Delta R| < 1.5\sigma_p N / (N_O - N) \quad (33)$$

where σ_p is determined from $C\sqrt{2}/\sqrt{N}$.

With the limits developed at (32) and (33), a test may be made of K, at common settings in usual sample sizes, for success in positioning R_N within the desired range:

K	N	N _O	σ _p	$ R_P - R_O $ Limit	$ \Delta R $ Limit	$ R_P - R_O $ σ _p	P
32	5	25	126	236	47	1.87	.94
32	9	25	94	220	79	2.34	.98
16	10	50	89	167	33	1.88	.94
16	19	50	65	157	60	2.42	.98

where P is the probability, found from normal tables, of finding ΔR or R_P below the given limits. Thus the selections for K are satisfactory in 94% to 98% of the cases, more than ample for the purposes.

Another method of combining R_O and R_P to obtain R_N is to average the two by weighting each by its *precision modulus*, a figure inversely proportional to its σ . Since σ is inversely proportional to \sqrt{N} in each sample, the weighting factors for R_O and R_P are $\sqrt{N_O}$ and \sqrt{N} respectively. Using these weights, the expressions for R_N and for ΔR become

$$R_N = \frac{R_O\sqrt{N_O} + R_P\sqrt{N}}{\sqrt{N_O} + \sqrt{N}} \quad (34)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta R &= \sqrt{N} (R_P - R_O)/(\sqrt{N_O} + \sqrt{N}) \\ &= N (R_P - R_O)/(\sqrt{N_O N} + N) \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

With the same adjustments as made at 8.25, K becomes

$$K = 4\sigma/(\sqrt{N_O N} + N) \quad (36)$$

In equation (19) K depended on N_O , but here K depends on both N_O and N . If N_O is set at 30, a figure accepted generally in statistical practice, then for different values of N , K is:

N:	5	7	9	12	15	19	24	30	40	60
K:	46	37	31	26	22	19	16	13	11	8

In practice, K is set for ranges of N . Thus, for two important systems:

Range of N:	5-12	11-20	30-60
K, USCF	32		
K, FIDE		15	10

Few USCF events exceed 7 rounds, and ratings are computed by formula (2) after each event. Most FIDE events range between 12 and 20 rounds, but ratings are computed on larger samples, as described at 4.55. In both cases, the settings for K are appropriate and practical.

Practice also utilizes the sensitivity of (2) by setting K to recognize variations in the volatility of performances expected from certain classes of players, as suggested at 3.73. Proper adjustment of K is advantageous to the player, for his opponents, and for the integrity of the entire pool.

8.3 Verhulst Distribution and the Logistic Function

- 8.31 Various distribution functions were examined and compared during development of the Elo system, including the distribution patterns assumed in other rating systems and found in other competitive sports and in the measurement of similar physical phenomena (Elo 1966). Among these, the *Verhulst distribution* is pertinent and extremely interesting. It resembles the normal, but the tails of its curve are higher. The two are compared graphically at 8.72.

The logistic curve associated with the Verhulst is better known in biology, as the familiar growth curve describing the expansion of a population with time, but its use as a probability function in biological assay has been developed, within the last fifty years, by a number of investigators (Berkson 1929, 1940). It merits serious consideration as a probability function for rating chessplayers.

Individual bowling scores, in an interesting example, conform to the Verhulst distribution, according to extensive investigation by the writer for the American Bowling Congress. The popular American variety of the game uses a unique scoring method which rewards consistency in performances. The bowler's average score is taken as the measure of his skill. The probability function is the logistic, and the standard deviation depends on the player's average. The volume of data examined was huge.

- 8.32 The integral of the Verhulst distribution is the *logistic probability curve*, for which a *ratio scale* is appropriate. The scale class interval C is initially set at that rating difference D for which the odds are just e , the base of the natural logarithms. The logarithmic nature of the scale appears during the following development of the probability function.
- 8.33 Assume three chessplayers, x , who has a certain chance—odds in his favor—of scoring over y , who in turn has some other odds of scoring over the third player z . The odds of x to score over z are

$$(P_{xy}/P_{yx})(P_{yz}/P_{zy}) = P_{xz}/P_{zx} \quad (37)$$

where P_{xy} is the probability of x scoring over y , etc. (Good 1955).

Take now the logarithms of both sides of the equation:

$$\ln(P_{xy}/P_{yx}) + \ln(P_{yz}/P_{zy}) = \ln(P_{xz}/P_{zx}) \quad (38)$$

If now the rating difference between x and y is defined by

$$C \ln(P_{xy}/P_{yx}) = D_{xy} \quad (39)$$

then, as expected,

$$D_{xy} + D_{yz} = D_{xz} \quad (40)$$

Thus the ratio scale is a *logarithmic interval scale*.

8.34 Equation (39) may be expressed in exponential form:

$$P_{xy}/P_{yx} = e^{D_{xy}/C} \quad (41)$$

Substitution of $1 - P_{xy}$ for P_{yx} allows dropping subscripts:

$$P/(1 - P) = e^{D/C} \quad (42)$$

Solving for P gives

$$P_D = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-D/C}} \quad (43)$$

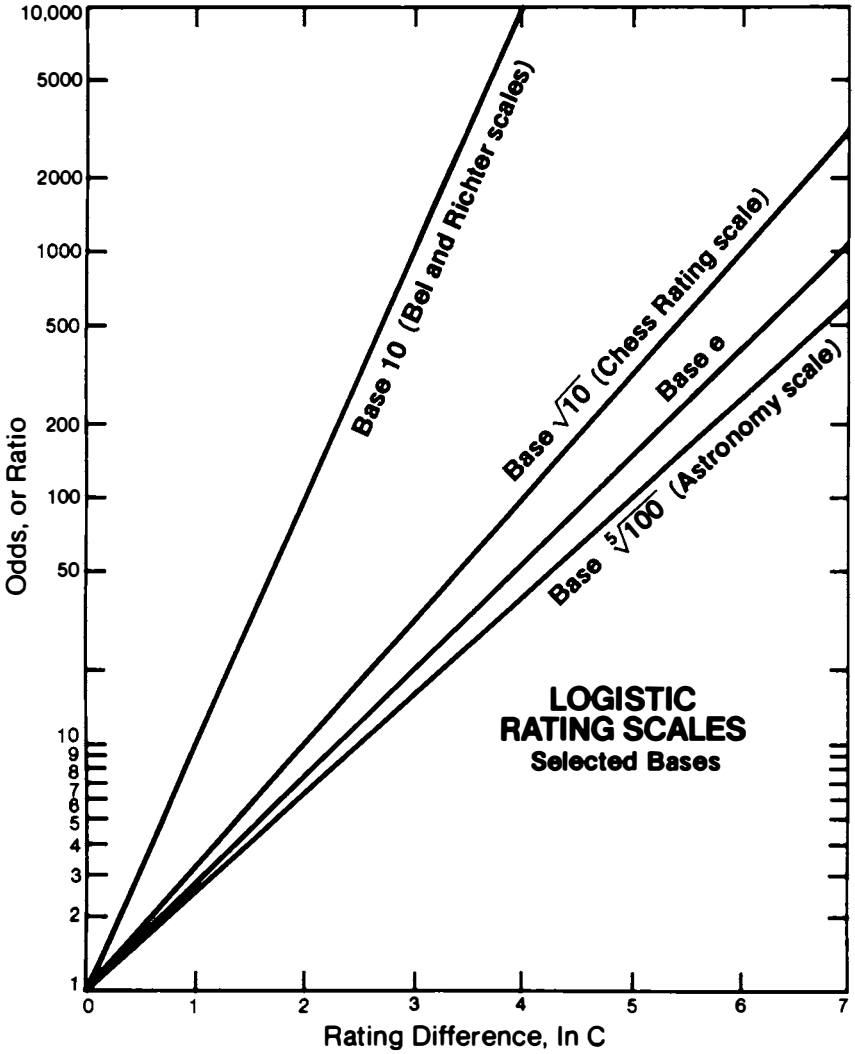
which is the *logistic function*. It is the percentage expectancy curve for a ratio or logarithmic interval scale.

8.35 When equation (43) is differentiated, there results

$$\frac{dP}{dD} = \frac{e^{-D/C}}{C(1 + e^{-D/C})^2} \quad (44)$$

which is the Verhulst distribution.

8.36 Ratio scales using the logistic function appear in physical and psychophysical measurements, such as the familiar stellar brightness magnitudes of astronomy and the bel and decibel of sound level measurement (Elo and Talacko 1966). Both scales are described in 9.3. An entire family of rating scales can thus be based on the logistic curve, each with a base appropriate to its particular application. A group of curves for the odds for various bases follows. The curve for base e is the logistic function (43). The curve for base $\sqrt{10}$ is considered, in the following sub-chapter, as a basis for chess ratings. All such scales necessarily have a known zero point.



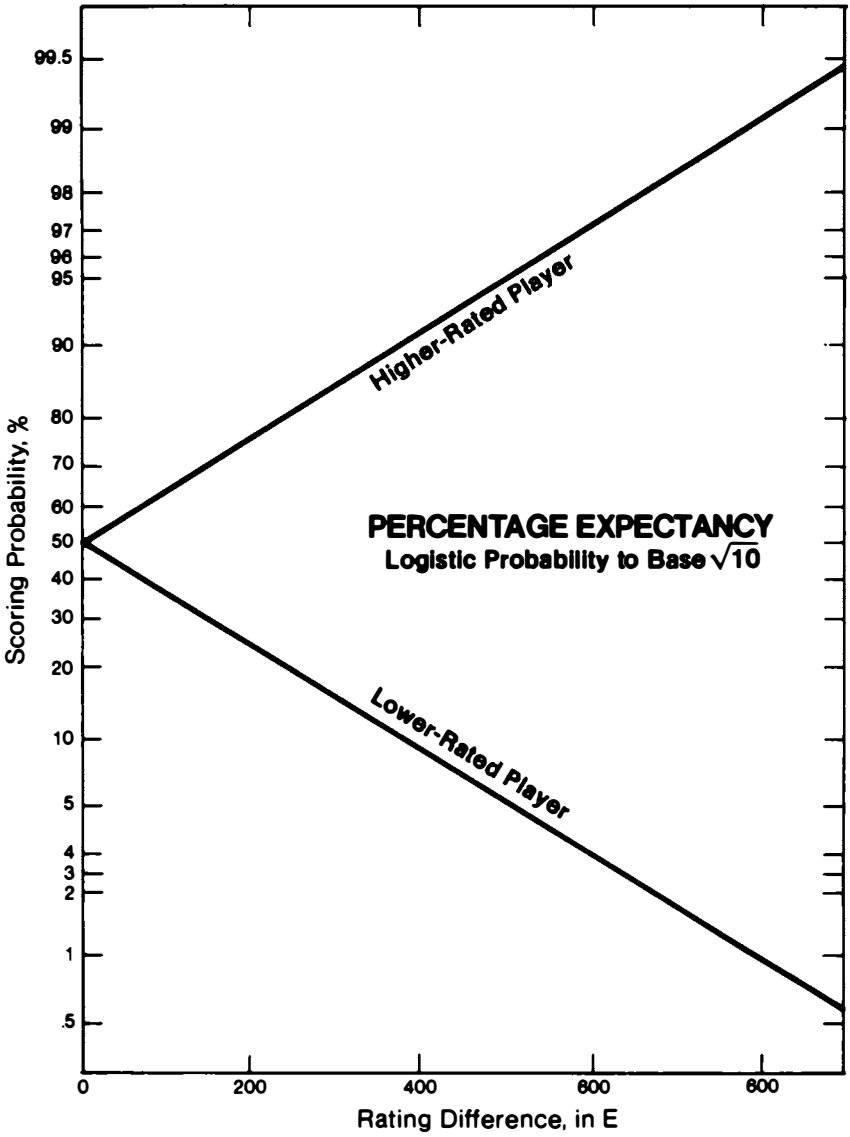
8.4 Logistic Probability as a Ratings Basis

- 8.41 In an extended series of measurements, the normal distribution function, as suggested at 1.38, does not perfectly represent the distribution of large deviations of measurements, because such measurements may be arranged *in groups* having different standard deviations, and hence different precisions. This is exactly the case in the measurement of chess performances from tournaments, which usually provide different sized samples of a player's performances. Such measurements are better represented by the less familiar family of Perks' distribution (Perks 1932, Talacko 1958) and in particular by the Verhulst distribution and its associated probability function, the logistic curve.
- 8.42 The Verhulst and logistic functions were presented in 8.3 to the base e , the base of the natural logarithms. Thus *the class interval is defined* as that difference for which the odds are just 2.718. It is possible, of course, to express the logarithms of the odds to any other base, and so to define a different value for the class interval. In a fortuitous numerical relation, the base $\sqrt{10} = 3.1623$ is very close to 3.1701, the odds for a rating difference of one class interval in a system based on the normal distribution. Thus the two probability functions can be compared most directly. They are plotted on appropriate probability paper at 1.44 and 8.45 and given in tabular form at 2.11 and 8.46. Direct comparison is made at 8.73 and a possible test is outlined at 8.74.
- 8.43 When the logarithms in equation (38) are taken to the base $\sqrt{10}$, then the Verhulst and the logistic take the following forms:

$$\frac{dP}{dD} = \frac{(10^{-D/2C}) \ln 10}{2C(1 + 10^{-D/2C})^2} \quad (45)$$

$$P_D = \frac{1}{1 + 10^{-D/2C}} \quad (46)$$

- 8.44 Rating formulae (1) and (2) are appropriate for this system, except that D_p and W_e are determined from the logistic curve rather than from the standard sigmoid. Graphic and tabular expressions of the logistic follow.



8.46 Percentage Expectancy Table

Logistic Probabilities to Base $\sqrt{10}$

D		P		D		P		D		P	
Rtg.	Diff	H	L	Rtg.	Diff.	H	L	Rtg.	Diff.	H	L
0-3		.50	.50	120-127		.67	.33	282-294		.84	.16
4-10		.51	.49	128-135		.68	.32	295-308		.85	.15
11-17		.52	.48	136-143		.69	.31	309-323		.86	.14
18-24		.53	.47	144-151		.70	.30	324-338		.87	.13
25-31		.54	.46	152-159		.71	.29	339-354		.88	.12
32-38		.55	.45	160-168		.72	.28	355-372		.89	.11
39-45		.56	.44	169-177		.73	.27	373-391		.90	.10
46-52		.57	.43	178-186		.74	.26	392-412		.91	.09
53-59		.58	.42	187-195		.75	.25	413-436		.92	.08
60-66		.59	.41	196-205		.76	.24	437-463		.93	.07
67-74		.60	.40	206-214		.77	.23	464-494		.94	.06
75-81		.61	.39	215-224		.78	.22	495-530		.95	.05
82-88		.62	.38	225-235		.79	.21	531-576		.96	.04
89-96		.63	.37	236-246		.80	.20	577-636		.97	.03
97-103		.64	.36	247-257		.81	.19	637-726		.98	.02
104-111		.65	.35	258-269		.82	.18	727-920		.99	.01
112-119		.66	.34	270-281		.83	.17	Over 920		1.00	00

H is the probability of scoring for the higher rated player, and L for the lower.

8.5 Rectangular Distribution as a Ratings Basis

- 8.51 Rating of chessplayers began in the nineteenth century (Brumfitt 1891), although no system fully developed from basic theory has ever come to the writer's attention. All systems of any prominence have been examined, and the underlying assumptions have been determined by analysis of the working formulae. It appears that rating system practitioners in the first century of effort almost invariably selected *rectangular distribution* and *linear probability functions*, albeit the selections were indirect and unsuspecting. The more significant of these systems are described below.
- 8.52 The *Ingo System*, designed by Anton Hoesslinger of Ingolstadt, Germany, was described in *Bayerische Schach*, 1948, and by

Herbert Englehardt (Englehardt 1951). The working formulae are:

$$R_p = R_c - (P - 50) \quad (47)$$

$$R_n = (3R_o + R_p)/4 \quad (48)$$

The interval scale ran upwards from zero, with the strongest players receiving the smallest numbers. Ratings were normally computed after each tournament. The system has operated in West Germany since 1948 and had some influence on early systems elsewhere.

- 8.53 The formulae and rationale of the *Harkness System* are fully described in two widely sold books by its inventor (Harkness 1956 and 1967). It used three working formulae:

$$R_p = R_c + 10(P - 50) \quad (49)$$

$$R_p = R_c + 50(W - L) \quad (50)$$

$$R_n = (R_{p_1} + R_{p_2} + R_{p_3} + R_{p_4})/4 \quad (51)$$

Formula (49) reflects the Ingo formula (47) with a change of sign to accommodate to the scale, which ran downwards from 2600, as do the existing USCF and FIDE scales, of which it was the forerunner. This formula, however, was used only for events of over nine games, and (50) was the principal working formula. At first glance it seems appealingly simple, but thoughtful examination reveals that a strong player can lose points even with a perfect score and a weak player can gain by losing all his games, circumstances not at all unlikely. The equation yielded invalid results, and continued application of the formulae developed uncertainties in the ratings which became disturbingly larger than could be expected from common statistical variation. Although the system had been broadly used, covering many thousands of players in USCF between 1950 and 1960, and adopted by a number of federations elsewhere, the results never lived up to the hoped-for objectives, and it has since been replaced by the Elo system almost universally.

- 8.54 A *British Chess Federation Rating System* was described in the *BCF Yearbook* (Clarke 1958). The system uses formula (49) on a periodic basis, performance ratings being calculated over a two-year period, with a thirty-game minimum required. Ratings are grouped by *grades*, as follows:

248-241 Grade 1a 240-233 Grade 1b 232-225 Grade 2a etc.

8.55 Empirical application of existing data injected a measure of soundness, in terms of probability considerations, into the *CCLA Rating System* of the Correspondence Chess League of America. Each win, loss, or draw changes the ratings of the two contestants according to an arbitrary points schedule for each rating difference between them. The table was developed by Prof. H. B. Hotchkiss of New York University from analysis of a vast mass of data accumulated under an earlier system, according to private communication from William Wilcock, who designed the earlier system. Although the schedule produces a discontinuity in the linear function, a formula in the pattern of (12) has been offered (Williams 1969):

$$R_n = R_o \pm 16 + .06D \quad (52)$$

The formula is applied after each game, a process practical only in correspondence competition. The + or - sign is used, of course, for the winner or the loser, respectively. The .06D goes from the higher-rated player to the lower, win, lose, or draw.

In the earlier system, players were grouped into classes and moved up one class upon winning 7 out of 10 games and dropped down a class for losing 7 out of 10. With sufficient activity, such a system is self-regulatory and satisfactory, if only class designations are sufficient.

8.56 A determination of the basic assumptions implicit in these rating systems begins with a general form of the equations:

$$R_p = R_c \pm k(P - .5) \quad (53)$$

where k is an arbitrary constant depending on the scale used, and the plus or minus sign is used according to the direction in which the scale runs.

Inspection of (53) indicates that the difference $(R_p - R_c)$ is a linear function of P , with an intercept of $1/2$; that is, when $(R_p - R_c) = 0$, then $P = .5$. however, P is limited in that it cannot exceed unity or fall below zero. Therefor $(R_p - R_c)$ is limited to just that range of k , that is, from $-1/2 k$ to $+1/2 k$. Writing $(R_p - R_c)$ as D , one gets $D = k(P - .5)$, and differentiating this one obtains:

$$dP/dD = 1/k \quad (54)$$

which is the distribution function. This tells us that the rate of change of P is a constant, that is, $1/k$. This function when plotted becomes a straight line parallel to the difference axis and extends over the range $-1/2 k$ to $+1/2 k$. Obviously k can be chosen arbitrarily, and the area under the

curve is $k \times 1/k$, or unity. This shape means that *all performances within the specified range have equal probability* of happening, and that the *probability of performance outside the range is zero*. The distribution function (54) and its integral, the probability function, are graphed at 8.72 and 8.73. If k is set at $4C$, as was a general practice, then the probability function is

$$D = (R_p - R_c) = \pm 4C(P - .5) \quad (55)$$

- 8.57 A rating system based on (55) produces statistically biased ratings, as a general characteristic, favoring the lower rated player. Prolonged use of the formula draws the players in the pool together, eventually into a $4C$ range, filling out the rectangular pattern illustrated at 8.72. There is, however, a tendency which counters the rectangular effect. Since ratings produced by this method are also averages, the central limit theorem comes into effect, with a trend toward normal distribution. Nevertheless, an assumption so unrealistic is likely to produce unrealistic measurements of chess performances.

8.6 Valued Game Points in Rating System Design

- 8.61 Rating system proposals grew more sophisticated during the 1960s, as USCF ratings spread over increasing thousands of players and FIDE began to consider international ratings. The surge of interest produced schemes inherently sounder than those based on rectangular distribution, but even the better ones still came forth unaccompanied by the basic development and rationale. The missing elements were worked out, in the course of the writer's continuing rating systems analysis, so that the proposals could be properly examined.

Systems beginning with *valued game points* were proposed to FIDE (Berkin 1965 and 1969, Waldstein 1970). In these systems, a game score is valued by some factor which depends on the strength of the opponent against whom the point is scored.

- 8.62 The fundamentals of a typical valued game points system (Berkin 1965) are stated in the match formula. The points won are weighted by the strength of the opponent, and the points lost are weighted by the strength of the player:

$$\Delta R = (R_c W - R_L) / N_o \quad (56)$$

8.63 To develop the formula, assume that ratings may be expressed on a ratio scale such that the ratio of the ratings of two players shall be equal to their respective percentage expectancies in a match between them. When the match is played, a rating ratio is established:

$$R/R_C = W/L \quad (57)$$

Then R_C may be assigned any numerical value, and R may be determined. By successive pairwise comparisons and tournaments, the ratings for other players are established.

Assume further that in all subsequent play between rated players, the net change in ratings is zero. Now the two players play a new match, with new results. The new sample is combined with the original sample by the blending process of formula (2) described at 8.25. The original sample is weighted by a factor $(N_O - N)$, while the total of the two samples is still treated as N_O . The ratio of the new ratings is

$$\frac{R + \Delta R}{R_C - \Delta R} = \frac{W_O(N_O - N)/N_O + W}{L_O(N_O - N)/N_O + L} \quad (58)$$

which reduces to

$$\frac{R + \Delta R}{R_C - \Delta R} = \frac{W_O(N_O - N) + WN_O}{L_O(N_O - N) + LN_O} \quad (59)$$

Clearing the fractions and collecting terms containing ΔR results in the cumbersome expression

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta R[L_O(N_O - N) + LN_O + W_O(N_O - N) + WN_O] = \\ R_C W_O(N_O - N) + R_C WN_O - RL_O(N_O - N) - RLN_O \end{aligned} \quad (60)$$

Now, since $W_O + L_O = N_O$ and $W + L = N$, the terms within the bracket on the left side reduce to just N_O^2 . And (57) gives $W_O = L_O R/R_C$ which, when substituted into (60), reduces the right side to $(R_C W - RL)/N_O$. Whereupon the expression becomes (56).

8.64 Thus the new rating formulae after a match and after a round robin are

$$R_n = R_O + (R_C W - RL)/N_O \quad (61)$$

$$R_n = R_O + (R_a W - RL)/N_O \quad (62)$$

To find R_a , the process (Berkin 1969) begins with the expressions for expected scores

$$\text{in a single game } W_e = R/(R + R_C) \quad (63)$$

$$\text{in a match } W_e = NR/(R + R_C) \quad (64)$$

$$\text{and in a tournament } W_e = NR/(R + R_a) \quad (65)$$

Since a tournament consists of a series of isolated games where

$$W_e = \Sigma P_i \quad (3)$$

and since P for a single game is $R/(R + R_C)$, then

$$\Sigma R/(R + R_i) = NR/(R + R_a) \quad (66)$$

which, if the reader solves it for R_a , produces a very cumbersome expression. Equally cumbersome results follow the direct process of averaging the pre-event ratings. Since the ratings are expressed on a ratio scale, the average must be the *geometric average*, and the equation is either

$$R_a = \sqrt[M]{(R_1)(R_2) \dots (R_M)} \quad (67)$$

$$\text{or } R_a = \text{antilog } [(\log R_1 + \log R_2 + \dots \log R_M)/M] \quad (68)$$

- 8.65 The system requires a ratio scale, and the probability function is a form of the logistic function. Comparisons of some ratings made under the system suggest a class interval of approximately 3.2, and thus the theoretical basis of this system is much like that of the system described in 8.4. However, the first assumption in 8.63 leads to the cumbersome ratings of the direct ratio scale, discussed at 8.71, with serious practical disadvantages. Additional practical difficulties stem from the second assumption above, since the specter of deflation outlined at 3.85 looms over any conservative point bank based on $\Sigma \Delta R = 0$. No control processes have been presented, nor does the mechanical framework of ratios lend itself easily to simple control devices.

8.7 Comparative Summations

8.71 Rating Scales

Both the interval and the ratio scales are suitable for measurement of performances in competitive sports, provided that the ratio scale, at least for the range of proficiencies encountered in chess, be logarithmic. When applied to the same data, the scales indicate the same results, presented in different forms. The differences are seen in the following table.

	Inter- val Scale, FIDE	Ratio Scales			
		Direct ratio	Logarithmic, to base		
			10	$\sqrt{10}$	e
Novice	1000	1,000	3	6	6.91
Expert	2000	316,200	5.5	11	12.66
World Champion	2700	17,780,000	7.25	14.5	16.69

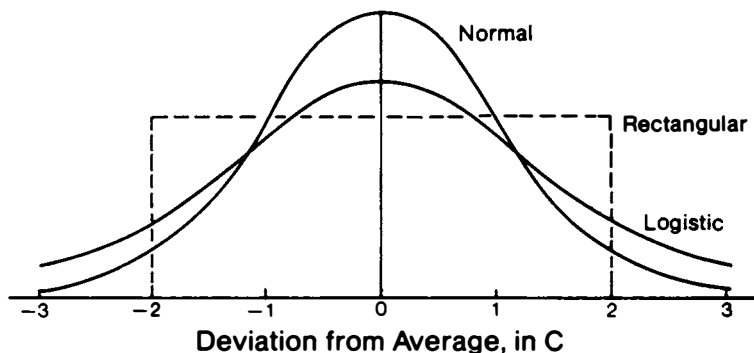
On the interval scale, D is the measure of competitive strength, when converted into normal P by the table at 2.11 or into logistic P by the table at 8.46. On the direct ratio scale the ratio of two ratings gives the odds ρ , which may be converted into P for either player by dividing his R by the sum of both R . On a logarithmic scale it is again D which are significant; however D now leads to ρ and not directly to P . To find ρ , the base of the selected scale is raised to the power D . For example, on the base 10 scale, $D = 2.5$ between expert and novice, and thus ρ in favor of the expert is $10^{2.5}$, which is just 316.2.

If larger rating numbers are desired, to avoid decimals, the numbers for any logarithmic scale may be multiplied by any desired constant. The ratios remain the same.

Ratings on the interval scale have been preferred in chess and in most sports, although ratings on a logarithmic scale would be equally convenient for tabular listings and equally acceptable to the great majority of chess players, whose relative strength is certainly not flattered by the direct ratios.

8.72 Distribution Functions

Underlying any rating system is some sort of assumption, stated or implied, of the distribution of performances of the rating pool members, and the degree of realism in the assumption bears directly on the possibilities for success of the system. The three basic distribution patterns which have figured importantly in rating system theory and practice are illustrated below. Each is given in the particular form treated in this book, specified by equations (13), (44), and (54). Each pattern may be varied in form, of course, by varying the constants in its equation. The total area under each curve is unity.

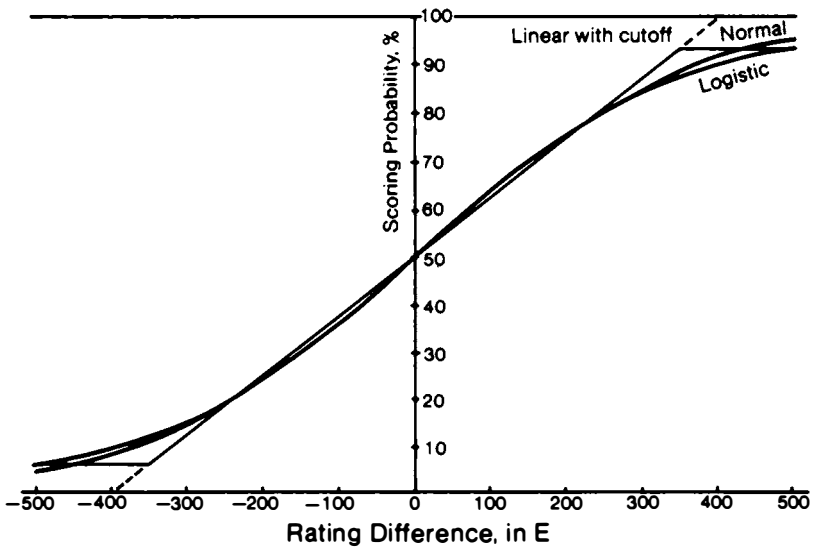


Rectangular distribution describes no natural phenomenon, and certainly not chess performances, but both the normal and the Verhulst distributions occur frequently in nature and have, in all the data over more than a hundred years, provided reasonably serviceable descriptions

of the distribution of chess performances in pools where no artificial influence was effective. Which of these is closer to reality? What would a statistical investigation show? No such test has ever been made, but the theoretical requirements for a truly definitive examination are explored at 8.74.

8.73 Probability Functions

The probability function of a rating system determines the working formulae, and now practical considerations begin to demand attention. The three probability functions integrated from the preceding distribution functions are illustrated below, together with comparative tables of the resulting P and ρ . For the linear function, D is limited to 350E, as in the application of formula (12) described at 1.84.



A short comparative tabulation of P and ρ for the higher-rated player resulting from the three functions follows at the top of the next page. (The values of the Odds ρ are obtained from the Percentage Expectancies P using the relationship $\rho = \frac{P}{1-P}$.)

For small differences the results are indistinguishable. Some theoretical considerations in 8.41 support the Verhulst as a better representation of that elusive reality, but the difference is slight. If all three functions are acceptably realistic, practical considerations become decisive. The *linear function* may be expressed by a simple formula for R_p or R_n , readily usable by players and organizers, but the advantage is superficial, because the formula lacks the sophistication and flexibility to express the limitation on D and the deflation controls required for integrity of the ratings. The *normal function* requires use of tables, an inconvenience to both the

Rating Differ- ence D	Pct. Expectancy P			Odds p		
	normal	log.	linear	normal	log.	linear
0	.500	.500	.500	1.00	1.00	1.00
50	.570	.571	.563	1.33	1.33	1.29
100	.638	.640	.625	1.76	1.78	1.67
150	.702	.703	.688	2.36	2.37	2.21
200	.760	.760	.750	3.17	3.17	3.00
250	.812	.808	.812	4.32	4.21	4.32
300	.856	.849	.875	5.94	5.62	7.00
350	.893	.882	.938	8.35	7.47	15.13
400	.923	.909	.938	11.99	9.99	15.13
450	.945	.930	.938	17.2	13.3	15.1
500	.961	.947	.938	24.6	17.9	15.1
600	.983	.969	.938	57.8	31.3	15.1

paper-and-pencil statistician and the electronic computer, but the normal probability tables are readily available everywhere, and the normal distribution and probability curves are familiar statistical concepts of long and respected standing. Both the normal and the logistic naturally adapt to control processes and conform to statistical and probability laws. The *logistic function* better reflects large deviations in an extended series and, since it is expressible by an equation, may be computer programmed without memorizing a table or using numerical methods for evaluating numerous definite integrals.

Since the first edition of this book both USCF and FIDE have gone to a computerization of the ratings using the logistic formula in the programs. These programs will produce rating changes which differ slightly from those calculated by means of the normal probability tables. It should be kept in mind, however, that for small rating changes the differences computed by the two methods are trivial, while for larger changes the logistic formula may actually be a better representation of "reality".

8.74 Statistical Comparison

In the absence of an independent and absolute method of rating, all that can be done with any set of ratings is to test, as described in chapter 2, for self-consistency or internal consistency of the system. Certainly one cannot use ratings generated by one probability function in a test to detect differences in results expected on the basis of the other functions. Theoretically, however, it is possible to design a chess matches experiment to compare the normal and logistic functions properly.

The experiment requires four players, W, X, Y, and Z, each rated just one class interval below the preceding one, with the differences well established. For the difference $D = C = 200$ the probabilities given in the preceding table are identical for the two functions being compared, and thus it makes no difference which function is used to establish these rating

differences. Now then, between W and Y, and between X and Z, $D = 2C$, and between W and Z, $D = 3C$. The results of sufficiently lengthy matches between these players, assuming no changes in proficiencies during the matches, could possibly indicate which of the two functions gave the better fit. The various expectancies for the higher rated player, and the resulting differences in his W_e as between the two probability functions follow, together with the comparable standard deviations. The standard deviations are based on normal probability, but the comparisons are equally valid if the standard deviations are based on logistic probability.

for D =	C	2C	3C
P, normal probability	.76	.9207	.9830
P, logistic probability	.76	.9091	.9694
For N=100: Difference in W_e	0	1.16	1.36
Standard deviation	4.3	2.7	1.3
For N=1000: Difference in W_e	0	11.6	13.6
Standard deviation	13.5	8.6	4.1

At $N = 100$, the natural uncertainties are large enough to mask the differences to be detected, and the experiment would ground on the *principle of uncertainty*. At $N = 1000$ the differences become more detectable, but because of the length of the match, test subjects W, X, Y, and Z are necessarily composites, developed statistically from data on shorter matches between many players. The volume of reliable data from pairings with large differences is, as yet, insufficient for a definitive test.

8.75 Working Formulae and Rating System Fundamentals

Equations (1) and (2) are the basic formulae of the Elo system, and they are equally serviceable with other scales and other probability functions. They may be used with logistic probability provided D_p and W_e are determined from the logistic curve rather than the standard sigmoid. They may even be used with ratio scales, provided they are logarithmic and D_p and W_e are taken from the appropriate function.

Equation (2) indeed is such a direct statement of such basic fact that it could have been accepted as an axiom. Its logic is evident without derivation. The simplifying assumptions made in the course of its development turn out to be not critical in the final analysis. Even the assumption of normal distribution, the vehicle for the entire derivation, is superfluous. Equation (2) with any reasonable form of the probability function could be taken as the starting point of a rating system, as is done in 8.4, with W_e and D_p calculated from the function. Continued application of (2) eventually generates rating differences conformant to the selected function. The coefficient K need not be related to the slope of the

probability curve, but may be taken simply as a factor to control the sensitivity of (2) to changes in performances from one event to the next.

When two rated players with equal K s meet in a single game, each may gain or lose rating points depending on the result. Player #1 stands to gain $K(1 - P_1)$ should he win, while #2 stands to gain $K(1 - P_2)$ should he win, where P_1 and P_2 are their respective expectancies. Now what one player stands to gain the other must risk to lose: #1 risks $K(1 - P_2)$ and #2 risks $K(1 - P_1)$. And since $(1 - P_1) = P_2$, and $(1 - P_2) = P_1$, it is evident that the *ratio* of points risked by the players is equal to the ratio of their respective scoring probabilities—just as it should be! An individual gains or loses points as results of different encounters, but on the average the gains and losses cancel out unless his playing strength actually changes, relative to the population of the rating pool.

Should a player be misrated, whatever may be the cause, the system automatically tends to correct the rating differences, and the larger the error, the greater will be the correction applied. The system is a hunting system, always seeking the most probable value of the elusive ever-changing player rating.

8.8 Binomial Distribution and Small Samples

8.81 The normal distribution function is not descriptive of small samples, and formulae (1) and (2) contemplate the use of small samples only for continual blending into larger samples in the rating process. For samples of any size, in games with only two possible outcomes, the scoring probabilities are given by the well known Bernoulli binomial distribution equation (Parratt 1961):

$$P = \frac{N!}{W!L!} (p)^W (q)^L \quad (69)$$

where p is the probability of a win and q the probability of a loss. $p + q = 1$, of course, and $W + L = N$.

8.82 To illustrate the equation, consider the relatively simple case of a four-game match between two equal players and calculate the probabilities for each possible outcome. Let $L = N - W$, $N = 4$, and $p = q = \frac{1}{2}$, and calculate P separately for each possible value for W :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{for } W = 4: \quad P &= \frac{4!}{4!0!} (\frac{1}{2})^4 (\frac{1}{2})^0 \\ &= \frac{4!}{4! \cdot 1} (.0625)(1) = .0625 = 1/16 \end{aligned}$$

The solution will remind the reader that $0! = 1$, and any number to 0 power = 1.

$$\text{for } W = 3: P = \frac{4!}{3!1!} (\frac{1}{2})^3 (\frac{1}{2})^1 = .25 = 4/16$$

$$\text{for } W = 2: P = \frac{4!}{2!2!} (\frac{1}{2})^2 (\frac{1}{2})^2 = .375 = 6/16$$

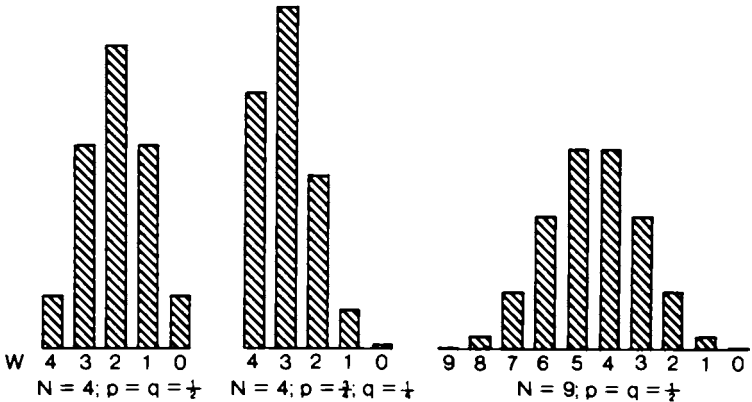
$$\text{for } W = 1: P = \frac{4!}{1!3!} (\frac{1}{2})^1 (\frac{1}{2})^3 = .25 = 4/16$$

$$\text{for } W = 0: P = \frac{4!}{0!4!} (\frac{1}{2})^0 (\frac{1}{2})^4 = \frac{.0625}{1.0} = \frac{1/16}{16/16}$$

Each game has two possible outcomes, which, in four games, may be arranged in 2^4 or 16 ways, and it is convenient here to show P in 16ths. When the chances of the two players are unequal, both the round sixteenths and the balanced distribution disappear. Calculations using $p = .75$ and $q = .25$ follow.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{for } W = 4: P &= .3164 \\ \text{for } W = 3: P &= .4219 \\ \text{for } W = 2: P &= .2109 \\ \text{for } W = 1: P &= .0469 \\ \text{for } W = 0: P &= .0039 \\ &\underline{1.0000} \end{aligned}$$

8.83 Histograms of P in the two preceding examples follow, together with a similar histogram for $N = 9$ and $p = q = .5$.



8.84 The poor fit of the normal distribution in small samples is apparent. The probability of large deviations from the normal increases as the sample size becomes smaller. In the following table, P is calculated for scores 10 or more above W_e - again using $p = q = .5$, which gives a σ of just $\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{N}$, - in the binomial equation (69), for various N.

N	4	9	16	25
σ in W	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5
W_e	2.0	4.5	8.0	12.5
P	.3125	.254	.227	.212

As N increases above 25, P continues to drop, approaching the value .159 found from normal distribution. The discrepancy could become even more serious if $p \neq q$, as seen from the histograms. It is obvious that performance ratings from (1) using small samples have little meaning unless some corrections are applied which take into consideration the sample size.

8.85 The treatment of small samples received considerable attention around the turn of the century from W. S. Gossett, writing under the pseudonym *Student*. For each sample size N a different distribution applies, and these distributions are similar to and approach the normal as N increases (Gossett 1908; Fisher 1950). They are now known as the Student or t-distributions and found in most works on statistical and probability theory (Parratt 1961, Edwards 1956). The usual t-distribution tables are arranged for testing the consistency of sample means and are not readily adapted for rating purposes, but a table derived from them appears below, for use with the small samples most frequent in a single tournament. The table gives the *correction factor* F to apply to the value of D_p taken from the normal probability table 2.11. It should serve, when no better means are available, for organizers who find it absolutely necessary to calculate R_p from a low N, as in giving an initial rating to a new player.

	D_p	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400
N =	5	.96	.91	.85	.78	.71	.64	.57	.51
	7	.96	.92	.86	.80	.73	.66	.59	.53
	9	.97	.93	.87	.82	.75	.68	.61	.55
	11	.97	.94	.89	.84	.77	.71	.64	.57
	13	.98	.94	.89	.85	.78	.72	.65	.59
	15	.99	.95	.90	.85	.80	.73	.67	.60
	17	.99	.95	.90	.86	.81	.74	.68	.61

Thus a *modified performance rating* R_F which is more precise than R_p in formulae (1) and (6) may be expressed

$$R_F = R_C + D_p F \quad (70)$$

$$R_F = R_a + D_a F \quad (71)$$

where F is the factor from the preceding table, and the other factors are as in (1) and (6).

- 8.86 As N increases to very large values, the distribution of probabilities approaches the normal distribution. This is true regardless of the values used for p and q , and even when three possible outcomes are considered for each game. Thus the normal distribution may be considered a special case of the binomial distribution (Parratt 1961).

As N rises past 30, the confidence level in the probabilities obtained by formulae based on normal distribution exceeds 95%, and the operation of the Elo system becomes statistically sound. In the actual operation small samples are continually processed, but *scoring* probabilities rather than win, loss, or draw probabilities are used, and the small samples are continually blended into larger samples. The averaging process, whether on a periodic or continuous basis, tends to equalize discrepancies, and satisfactory results have been found in all the various tests.

- 8.87 Regulations for the ill-fated 1975 men's world championship excluded drawn games from the match score, leaving, for each includable game, only two possible outcomes. Thus, in a chess match that was extraordinary in more ways than one, the binomial distribution applied.

Match negotiations grounded when the champion demanded the customary provisions for a drawn match, in which he retains the title, and the challenger demanded that there be no provision for a drawn match. To the enduring misfortune of chess, bluster and ridicule prevailed over mathematics in the consideration of the probability of occurrence of the hypothetical drawn-match situation.

Since the match was for 10 wins, the drawn match would occur at 9–9. Thus for equation (69), $N = 18$ and $W = L = 9$. The prematch ratings of the contestants indicated $p = .6$ and $q = .4$, in the champion's favor. The probability of a drawn match is:

$$P = \frac{18!}{9! 9!} (.6)^9 (.4)^9 = .128$$

The reader, without assigning blame, may judge for himself whether the probability was worth the price paid.

8.9 Sundry Theoretical Topics

8.91 Treatment of Draws

In chess the draw is not only a third possible outcome, but it occurs with great frequency in master play, and its treatment is a normal question

in rating theory. The Bernoulli binomial distribution (69) may be generalized for any number of possible outcomes. For three in chess it becomes the trinomial:

$$P = \frac{N!}{W!L!D!} (p)^W (q)^L (r)^D \quad (72)$$

where D is the number of draws, r is the probability of a draw, and the remaining symbols are as given for (69).

To illustrate the equation, consider again the simple four-game match between two equal players, and calculate the probabilities of a given outcome at various values for r. The 2-2 score is the most common, as the example at 8.82 shows, and it may be obtained in three different ways: by 4 draws, by 2 draws and 1 win for each player, or by 2 wins each. The 2-2 score probability will be the sum of the three probabilities, and it varies with r as the example shows:

For $r = 0$: $p = q = \frac{1}{2}$

$$W=L=2; D=0; P = \frac{4!}{2!2!} (\frac{1}{2})^4 = 6/16 = .375$$

For $r = \frac{1}{3}$: $p = q = \frac{1}{3}$

$$W=L=0; D=4 P = (\frac{1}{3})^4 = 1/81$$

$$W=L=1; D=2 P = \frac{4!}{2!} (\frac{1}{3})^4 = 12/81$$

$$W=L=2; D=0 P = \frac{4!}{2!2!} (\frac{1}{3})^4 = \underline{6/81}$$

$$\text{Total } 19/81 = .235$$

For $r = \frac{1}{2}$: $p = q = \frac{1}{4}$

$$W=L=0; D=4 P = (\frac{1}{2})^4 = 8/128$$

$$W=L=1; D=2 P = \frac{4!}{2!} (\frac{1}{4})^2 (\frac{1}{2})^2 = 24/128$$

$$W=L=2; D=0 P = \frac{4!}{2!2!} (\frac{1}{4})^4 = \underline{3/128}$$

$$\text{Total } 35/128 = .273$$

Although drawing probabilities do affect scoring probabilities as in the preceding example, the draw is treated by the rating system and in this book as a half win and a half loss, following the conventional chess practice. This may be justified by the consideration that to score an outright win, a player must outperform his opponent by some finite, rather than by some infinitesimal, amount. On the second graph in 8.23 the area under the curve which might represent the probability of a draw could be claimed equally by either player. Some theorists, including those who designed the ill-fated draws-don't-count match described at 8.87, claim that better discrimination between players is obtained by ignoring draws altogether, as was often done in the important matches of a century ago.

All data entering the rating system consist of total points scored in actually played games, and all information producible by the system is in the same units. Discrimination as to how any point score is composed between wins, draws, and losses is beside the point. Any consideration of draws in rating theory requires information on the probabilities of draws, as well as wins and losses, between individual players, information which is not generally available. Its accumulation would be inordinately laborious, and there has been little demand for it.

8.92 Trinomial Distribution

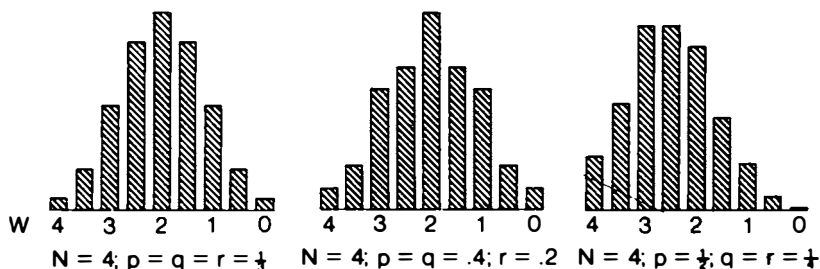
In a match of N games with only two possible outcomes, the number of different outcomes is $N + 1$. If there are three possible outcomes, as in chess, the number of outcomes is $2N + 1$, and these can occur in many different ways, leading to different probabilities. The following table shows in how many ways the scores can occur.

Number of games N	4	9	15	30
Number of outcomes	9	19	31	61
Number of ways of scores	15	55	136	496

The volume of computation, although not its difficulty, grows rapidly with an increasing N . Trinomial distribution, understandably, has not been applied in rating systems. An example of trinomial calculations for $N = 4$ and for three sets of values for p , q , and r follows:

Score	W	L	D	p	q	r	
				1/3	1/3	1/3	.4
0	0	4	0	.0123	.0256	.0039	
½	0	3	1	.0494	.0512	.0156	
1	1	3	0	.0494	.1024	.0313	
1	0	2	2	.0741	.0384	.0234	
1½	1	2	1	.1481	.1536	.0938	
1½	0	1	3	.0494	.0128	.0156	
2	2	2	0	.0741	.1536	.0938	
2	1	1	2	.1481	.0768	.0938	
2	0	0	4	.0123	.0016	.0039	
2½	2	1	1	.1481	.1536	.1875	
2½	1	0	3	.0494	.0128	.0313	
3	3	1	0	.0494	.1024	.1250	
3	2	0	2	.0741	.0384	.0938	
3½	3	0	1	.0494	.0512	.1250	
4	4	0	0	.0123	.0256	.0625	
				<u>.9999</u>	<u>1.0000</u>	<u>1.0002</u>	
				W_e	2.0	2.0	2.5
				P	.1852	.2176	.1875

P is the sum of the probabilities for scores one sigma or more above W_e , and is a fair approximation of the normal probabilities. Histograms of the distributions appear below.



The examples at 8.84 contemplated only two possible outcomes for each game, but if other possible outcomes are considered, as for example draws, the reliability of probabilities taken from the normal curve improves. This logically follows because the discreet distribution is increased by 50% towards a continuous distribution.

8.93 The First Move

The value of the white pieces is a legitimate question in rating theory, since master play statistics show, on the average, that the scoring probability favors white approximately 57 to 43, a ratio equivalent to a rating advantage of just 50 points. In round robins the colors balance, and in double round robins it may be claimed that the effect of colors is eliminated. In Swiss pairings color assignments may contribute significantly to the outcome and can become critical for the final round. Any incorporation of colors into the rating system, however, would again inordinately expand the bookkeeping requirements with small prospect of any utility for it, in the final analysis.

8.94 Development of the Percentage Expectancy Table

The normal probabilities may be taken directly from the standard tables of the areas under the normal curve when the difference in rating is expressed as a z score. Since the standard deviation σ of individual performances is defined as 200 points, the standard deviation σ' of the differences in performances becomes $\sigma\sqrt{2}$ or 282.84. The z value of a difference then is $D/282.84$. This z will then divide the area under the curve into two parts, the larger giving P for the higher rated player and the smaller giving P for the lower rated player.

For example, let $D = 160$. Then $z = 160/282.84 = .566$. The table gives .7143 and .2857 as the areas of the two portions under the curve. These probabilities are rounded to two figures in table 2.11.

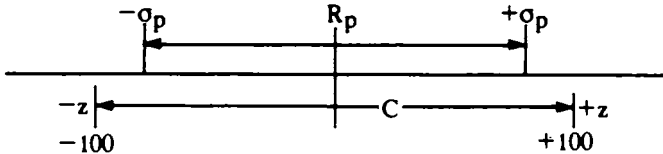
8.95 Development of Reliability Expressions

The *standard deviation* of the game score is determined by the binomial equation (69) and expressed \sqrt{Npq} . Table 2.55 gives sigma at its maximum value, when $p = q = .5$. For other p and q , sigma is less: thus for $p = .75, q = .25$, and $N = 20, \sigma = \sqrt{(20)(.75)(.25)} = 1.94$, while for $p = q, \sigma = 2.24$.

The *standard deviation* of the difference in performance in N games, in terms of rating points, is just σ'/\sqrt{N} . Thus for the 15-game sample frequent in round robins, $\sigma_p = 282.84/\sqrt{15} = 73$.

The *probable error* is just .6745 of the standard deviation. To find this relation, scan the standard table for a z score for which the area under the normal curve, between the limits $+z$ and $-z$, is just .500, or the area from the mean to z is just .250.

For the *confidence level*, or the probability of finding the "true" R_p within a range of $1C$, consider the diagrammed portion of the rating scale:



Thus $z = 100/\sigma_p$. The confidence level is represented by the area under the normal curve between limits $-z$ and $+z$. For example, take a 15-game sample with $\sigma_p = 73$. Thus the z for 100 points becomes $100/73 = 1.37$. From the table the area from the mean to 1.37 is .4147 which, when doubled, becomes .8294, rounded at .83.

8.96 The Chi-Square Test

Statistics uses many types of tests for widely varied purposes. Among the most useful is the *chi-square test* (written χ^2 -test) mentioned at 2.66. This test compares a series or set of observations to the expected observations based on some theoretical model. It is particularly suitable for data which varies in discrete steps. It requires at least 30 observations, in at least 6 intervals or categories, which may vary in size but which must include at least 5 expected observations each. χ^2 is defined

$$\chi^2 = \sum_1^j \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e} \quad (73)$$

where f_o is the observed frequency of measurements.

f_e is the expected frequency,

j is the number of intervals of observations, and

Σ indicates a sum over all intervals from 1 through j .

In general, the agreement between the observations and the theoretical model is said to be good when χ^2 is small and questionable when χ^2 is large. However, even a very small χ^2 may not be construed as proof of the validity of the model, because statistics, including the rating system, deals only with probable, not absolute, truths. This test indicates only the statistical significance of the difference found between f_o and f_e .

For various values of χ^2 , standard tables give the probability P that the difference is due to chance. For P below 1%, the difference is almost certainly significant, with P between 1% and 5% it is probably significant, but for higher P no significant difference is established (Langley 1971).

The tables present P for each value for χ^2 and for each *degree of freedom*. This concept is just the number of independent ways the data may be presented. If for example there are 8 intervals of data but a restriction on the total, then there are only 7 degrees of freedom, because the number of observations in the last interval cannot vary independently.

To test the hypothesis that game scores in a large open tournament are normally distributed, Warren McClintock applied the χ^2 -test to his data for all players who played more than 6 games in the 1976 U.S. Open tournament.

Game Score	z	Pro- por- tion	f_e	f_o	$f_e - f_o$	$\frac{(f_e - f_o)^2}{f_e}$	
						f_e	f_o
0-2.25	below -2.165	.0154	8.4	9	-.6	.043	
2.25-3.75	-2.165 - -1.31	.0797	43.5	51	-7.5	1.293	
3.75-5.25	-1.31 - - .433	.2385	130.2	137	-6.8	.355	
5.25-6.75	- .433 - .433	.3320	181.3	186	-4.7	.122	
6.75-8.25	.433 - 1.31	.2385	130.2	127	3.2	.079	
8.25-9.75	1.31 - 2.17	.0797	43.5	34	9.5	2.075	
9.75-12	over 2.165	<u>.0154</u>	8.4	<u>2</u>	6.4	<u>4.876</u>	
		.9992		546		8.843	$= \chi^2$

There are 7 intervals but, because the proportions must total 1, only 6 degrees of freedom. The critical values for χ^2 from the tables are 16.812 for a 1%, and 12.592 for a 5%, probability that the variation is due to chance, both values well above the 8.843 found. Thus the probability is high that the difference between f_e and f_o is due to chance. No significant difference has been proved. The game score sample is of normal distribution.

In a second test, the writer used data reported earlier (Elo 1965) on 4795 pairings from the annual North Central and Western Opens in Milwaukee, 1961-1964. These pairings were grouped according to rating difference between the paired players, and f_o , the results of the lower-rated player, were tabulated and compared with f_e , his normal expectancies. The lower player was used because a lower f_e produces a higher χ^2 and makes the test more severe.

Rating Difference	Number of Games	Lower Player			f_o	f_e	$f_e - f_o$	$\frac{(f_e - f_o)^2}{f_e}$
		W	L	D				
0-50	327	104	142	81	144.5	151.7	7.2	.34
51-100	509	144	267	98	193.0	200.5	7.5	.28
101-150	862	204	485	173	290.5	281.9	-8.6	.26
151-200	1064	216	651	197	314.5	284.1	-30.4	3.25
201-250	775	109	548	118	168.0	166.6	-1.4	.01
251-300	481	45	387	49	69.0	81.8	12.8	2.00
301-350	462	43	381	38	62.0	61.4	-.6	.01
351-400	176	9	150	17	17.5	18.3	.8	.03
401-500	<u>139</u>	6	127	6	9.0	9.7	.7	<u>.05</u>
	4795							6.23 = χ^2

With 8 degrees of freedom, the critical χ^2 values from the tables are 20.090 for a 1% and 15.507 for a 5% probability that the difference ($f_o - f_e$) is due to chance. The value 6.24 is well under these limits, so the hypothesis may be accepted. The outcomes of games in large open tournaments conform to the normal percentage expectancy function.

Chi-Square Test for Normal Distribution of USCF Established Rating List for 1983

Rating Range	Range in z	Proportion	f_e	f_o	$f_e - f_o$	$\frac{(f_e - f_o)^2}{f_e}$
Under 800	Under -2.95	.0016	46	17	29	18.28
800-899	-2.95 - -2.60	.0031	90	50	40	17.78
900-999	-2.59 - -2.25	.0075	217	146	71	23.23
1000-1099	-2.24 - -1.91	.0159	461	408	53	6.09
1100-1199	-1.90 - -1.56	.0313	907	908	1	.00
1200-1299	-1.55 - -1.21	.0537	1557	1646	-89	5.09
1300-1399	-1.20 - -.86	.0818	2371	2380	-9	.03
1400-1499	-.85 - -.52	.1066	3090	3266	-176	10.02
1500-1599	-.51 - -.17	.1310	3797	3841	-44	.51
1600-1699	-.16 - .18	.1389	4026	4004	22	.12
1700-1799	.19 - .52	.1271	3684	3622	62	1.04
1800-1899	.53 - .87	.1093	3168	2921	247	19.26
1900-1999	.88 - 1.22	.0810	2348	2252	96	3.93
2000-2099	1.23 - 1.57	.0530	1536	1582	-46	1.38
2100-2199	1.58 - 1.91	.0301	873	1049	-176	35.48
2200-2299	1.92 - 2.26	.0162	470	530	-60	7.66
2300-2399	2.27 - 2.61	.0074	215	216	-1	.00
2400-2499	2.62 - 2.95	.0029	84	95	-11	1.44
2500-2599	2.96 - 3.30	.0011	32	44	-12	4.50
Over 2600	3.31 -	.0005	15	11	4	1.07
		<u>1.0000</u>		<u>28988</u>		$\chi^2 = 156.91$

Average Rating = 1649
Standard Deviation = 288
Total Number = 28,988

In this case there are 19 degrees of freedom and the critical values for χ^2 are 30.144 and 36.191 for the 5% and 1% probabilities respectively, that the differences between f_e and f_o are due to chance. In fact even for a .1% probability the value of χ^2 is only 43.82. Thus with a χ^2 value of 156.91 the assumption of normal distribution of the ratings must be rejected.

Another example of the distribution of game scores from large Swiss tournaments is obtained by combining results from three nine-round events, the 1978 "World Open", and the 1978 and 1979 Lloyds Bank tournaments representing a total of 774 scores with an average of 4.32 and a standard deviation of 1.38 game points.

**Chi-Square Test for Normal Distribution of Scores
in Large Swiss Tournaments**

Game Score	z	Pro- por- tion	f_e	f_o	$f_e - f_o$	$\frac{(f_e - f_o)^2}{f_e}$
Over 7.25	Over 2.09	.0183	14.2	8	6.2	2.71
6.75-7.25	1.73 - 2.09	.0235	18.2	16	2.2	.27
6.25-6.75	1.37 - 1.73	.0435	33.7	33	.7	.01
5.75-6.25	1.01 - 1.37	.0709	54.9	59	-4.1	.31
5.25-5.75	.64 - 1.01	.1049	81.2	97	-15.8	3.07
4.75-5.25	.28 - .64	.1280	99.1	95	4.1	.17
4.25-4.75	-.08 - .28	.1422	110.1	121	-10.9	1.08
3.75-4.25	-.44 - -.08	.1381	106.9	109	-2.1	.04
3.25-3.75	-.80 - -.44	.1181	91.4	65	26.4	7.63
2.75-3.25	-1.17 - -.80	.0909	70.4	78	-7.6	.82
2.25-2.75	-1.53 - -1.17	.0580	44.9	36	8.9	1.76
1.75-2.25	-1.89 - -1.53	.0336	26.0	29	-3.0	.35
Below 1.75	Below -1.89	.0294	22.8	28	-5.2	1.19
		<u>.9994</u>		<u>774</u>		$\chi^2 = 19.41$

The 13 intervals here represent 12 degrees of freedom for which the critical values of χ^2 are 21.026 for the 5% and 26.217 for the 1% probability that the variation is due to chance. The value of 19.41 indicates somewhat less than 10% probability. Thus the hypothesis of normal distribution may be accepted, keeping in mind the distortions caused by drop-outs.

More recently Dr. H. Douha of the Belgian Chess Federation provided additional data on the progress within the Belgian rating pool. Since the publication of the data at 7.33 in the first edition, the Belgian pool has been brought into conformity with the FIDE pool without, however, disturbing the differences in ratings. The table below shows the application of the chi-square test to this data, the test being for normal distribution of ratings. The results provide strong evidence for the normal distribution. This is quite in contrast with the similar test for the U.S. pool, despite the application of the so-called "curve adjustment points" in the latter. Moreover, during the six years (1977-1983) of the Belgian administration the standard deviation of the ratings has been reduced from 271 to 210 (close to the theoretical or defined value of 200), quite as expected from the natural operation of the rating system. During the same period the standard deviation within the U.S. pool had risen from 251.6 to 288, clearly a change in the wrong direction. With the test results from the two pools being inconsistent the question concerning the ratings distribution remains unresolved.

**Belgian Rating Pool of Established Players
As of July 1, 1983**

Rating Range	f_e	f_o	$f_e - f_o$	$\frac{(f_e - f_o)^2}{f_e}$
Below 1300	29	23	6	1.24
1300-1399	62	74	-12	2.32
1400-1499	147	141	6	.24
1500-1599	270	247	23	1.96
1600-1699	413	423	-10	.24
1700-1799	485	504	-19	.74
1800-1899	477	499	-22	1.01
1900-1999	360	329	31	2.67
2000-2099	224	226	- 2	.02
2100-2199	110	112	- 2	.04
2200 & Over	63	65	- 2	.06
				$\chi^2 = 10.54$

Total number = 2,643
Average Rating = 1782
Standard Deviation = 210.65

Critical values of chi-square: 18.307 for the 5% level; 23.161 for the 1% level, for 10 degrees of freedom.

9. APPENDIX

9.1 The Maxwell-Boltzmann Distribution and Chess Ratings

- 9.11 A chessplayer rating pool is a statistical ensemble in which individuals are distinguishable, yet any number of them may be alike as to rating. The physical world contains other such ensembles, including the molecules in a gas, and physics uses the *Maxwell-Boltzmann function* to describe the distribution of molecule speeds, or of other individual properties, in such ensembles. One such property may be chess proficiency.

Normal distribution of the proficiencies of chessplayers was clearly rejected by the investigation reported at 7.35. Both the general shape of the histogram and the physical nature of the rating pool ensemble suggested an examination of the Maxwell, and that pattern does indeed appear to be the most promising, of all those studied, to describe proficiency distribution.

- 9.12 The Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution was originally developed for a statistical ensemble in a state of equilibrium, with exchanges between its members but with no changes in number and composition. In this respect, the model has a theoretical deficiency for description of large national pools such as those for which data appear at 7.33. These pools have growth and turnover of considerable proportions. Activity of this sort should disturb an otherwise good M-B fit, and it is quite possible, based on suggestions in the studies reported below, that this may have been just the case.

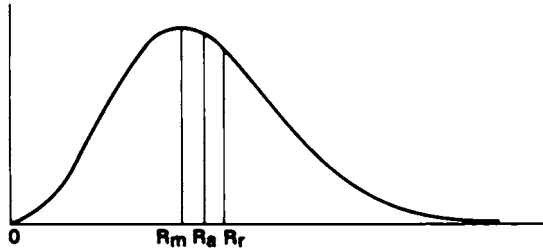
The Maxwell, unlike the normal, has a definite zero point. Conventional rating scales are open-ended, and the *zero rating concept* has not been previously contemplated in rating theory. Yet such a point does in fact exist in performance and proficiency measurement. To engage in tournament competition to any extent, a chessplayer must acquire some minimal comprehension of the game, beyond mere knowledge of the moves. He must have something measurable on a rating scale.

9.13 The Maxwell-Boltzmann function may be described as a curve which results when the ordinates of the normal curve are multiplied by a factor proportional to the square of the variable. Its properties appear in advanced texts (Page 1929, Worthington and Haliday 1948). When applied to rating distribution, its analytic function takes the form:

$$\frac{\Delta N}{N} = \frac{4}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{R}{R_m} \right)^2 e^{-(R/R_m)^2} \left(\frac{\Delta R}{R_m} \right) \quad (74)$$

where $\Delta N/N$ is the fraction or proportion of individuals with ratings between R and ΔR , and R_m is the most probable rating, at the peak of the distribution curve. Ratings are measured from the zero point, which is not known *a priori* on an arbitrary scale.

9.14 Plotted on ordinary graph paper, the Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution presents the skewed curve shown here.



Three specific values of the variable, ratings in this case, are of particular interest:

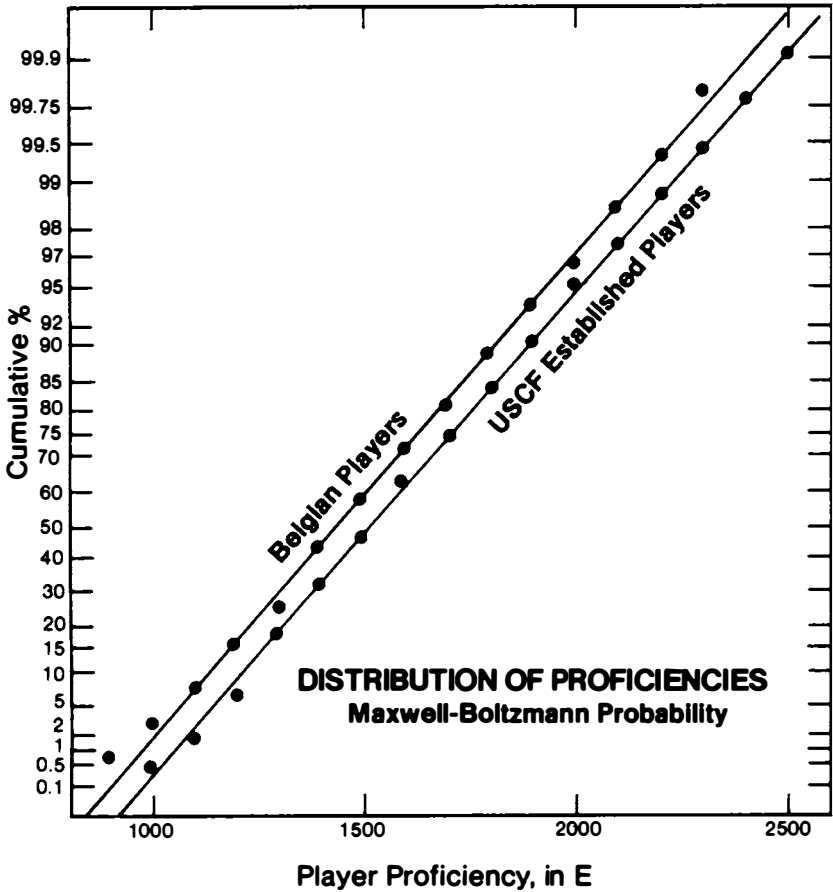
- R_a the average rating,
- R_m the most frequent rating, or mode, and
- R_r the root of the mean square of the ratings.

When measured from the zero point, these values exhibit a definite numerical relationship:

$$R_a = 1.1287R_m = .9213R_r \quad (75)$$

Thus if the zero point and R_a are known, the other values for R are easily found. The zero point may be read from graphs, such as those below, or it may be determined mathematically if any two of the values for R are known.

9.15 Special Maxwell-Boltzmann graph paper on which conforming cumulative distributions plot as straight lines was designed by the writer and computer-ruled by Warren McClintock. The data at 7.33 for the two established pools follow, as they appear on this paper.



Zero for the USCF pool, read from the graph, is about 945, and for the Belgian pool it is 840. This difference in the almost parallel curves could result from a difference in the pools or an unconformity of the scales. The poor fit at the lower end of the USCF pool results from just twenty-six players, less than .007 of the pool, who could easily have been statistically ignored or censored. They could well be scholastic players who, despite twenty-five tournament games, still lack minimal comprehensions. Otherwise, a visual inspection of the curves indicates a good fit, but visual inspections can be deceptive.

- 9.16 To test the visual indication, the theoretically expected values for R_m and R_r were calculated by (75), using the R_a reported at 7.33 and the zero points read above. An observation of R_r , calculated by the second

moment around the zero point, provides a comparison (Parratt 1961), as does an observation of R_m by direct inspection of the data.

	USCF Players	Belgian Players
R_m expected	1478.7	1401
observed	1475.0	1410
R_r expected	1597.0	1525
observed	1598.1	1530

In this test there is good agreement between the data observed and the data expected in a Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution.

- 9.17 The same data were further tested in a Kolmogorov-Smirnov process, which first compares the expected cumulative proportions to those observed and then compares the differences found against certain maximum allowable differences (Whitney 1959). Standard tables give maximums for various levels of probability that the discrepancies are just chance. The following table reports the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for the Belgian pool, together with the maximum allowable differences, in a test for Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution. The expected cumulative proportions were calculated by numerical integration of the function using increments of 25 rating points.

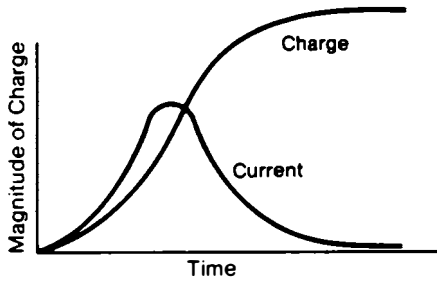
Rating Range	Observed Cumulative Proportion	Expected Cumulative Proportion	Difference
under 800	.0005	.0000	.0005
up to 900	.0070	.0003	.0067
1000	.0285	.0105	.0180
1100	.0765	.0530	.0235
1200	.1605	.1375	.0230
1300	.2579	.2603	.0024
1400	.4082	.4059	.0023
1500	.5670	.5545	.0125
1600	.7038	.6884	.0154
1700	.8045	.7975	.0070
1800	.8783	.8771	.0012
1900	.9305	.9304	.0001
2000	.9618	.9622	.0004
2100	.9833	.9806	.0027
2200	.9941	.9903	.0038
over 2200	1.0000	.9974	.0026
	Allowable maximums,		
	for a 1% level		.0376
	for a 5% level		.0316

None of the differences exceeded the 5% criterion, which strongly supports the Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution for the Belgian pool. In the test of the USCF established players pool, five of the differences exceeded even the 1% maximum, and it must be concluded that the M-B is not a good fit to that pool. It is possible that the Belgian pool, which includes only players with 25 games or more over a two-year period, is more nearly in a state of equilibrium than the USCF pool, giving a better M-B fit.

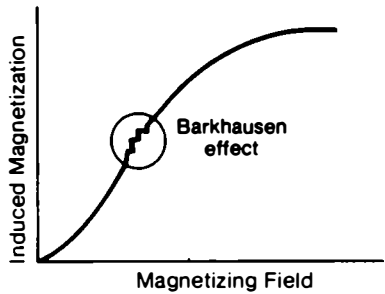
- 9.18 Finally the chi-square test was applied, as it was at 7.35, to the USCF established player pool, but this time to test for M-B distribution. In this case the critical index number was 29.14. A value of 83.09 was found, clearly rejecting the M-B hypothesis. The two tests, however, show that the Maxwell is a far better fit than the normal, in this pool.
- 9.19 Many factors can cause distributions to vary between pools, but the hypothesis of some general underlying pattern remains tenable. The Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution, it appears, may apply in some cases to an individual pool, and should not be finally rejected. Rather, it deserves continuing attention and monitoring in rating pools around the world. A general pattern of distribution may underlie all general pools. Or the patterns reported above may be only chance happenings.

9.2 Some Physical Analogies to Chessmaster Development

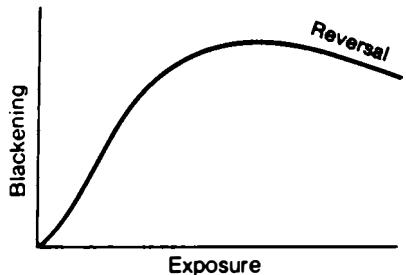
- 9.21 The form of the developmental curve at 6.22 suggests many analogies with physical and biological phenomena. Several are presented below. Perhaps they may furnish some insight into the nature of the learning process or some aid in formulation of physical or mathematical models of the process.
- 9.22 An analogy of very unusual interest is in the charging of a capacitor from a battery through an inductive resistor. The current flowing into the capacitor and the accumulated charge are plotted below. The similarity to the curves at 6.61 is striking. The steepest portion of the charge curve coincides with the peak of the current curve just as the steepest portion of the experience curve at 6.61 coincides with the peak of the organic capacity curve. The declining portion of the development curve could be simulated here with a battery of variable or declining electromotive force, or with an imperfect condenser.



9.23 To a physicist, the magnetization curve for iron comes immediately to mind as another analogy. Induced magnetization is plotted at the left against the magnetizing field. Here even the quantum jumps have their counterpart, in the phenomenon known as the Barkhausen effect. This analogy may be appropriate if the magnetizing field is regarded as increasing linearly with time.



9.24 Another good analogy is found in the blackening of photographic film due to exposure, charted here. Here the declining feature of the development curve in advanced age has its counterpart in the phenomenon of reversal of blackening.



9.3 Editorial Notes

Each note begins with the number of the text section in which the note is mentioned.

1.25: Variability of performances is expressed mathematically in units of *standard deviation*, a concept widely used in statistics. It

is a measure of the spread of performances, though not to be construed as being the spread itself. Consider games such as golf and bowling where the average score provides an absolute method of measuring skill. From game to game, however, the score may fluctuate in a random fashion on either side of the average. Now take the differences between the individual scores and the average, square each of these differences, find the average of these squares, and finally extract the square root of this, to obtain the standard deviation. In other words, the standard deviation is the root of the mean square (r.m.s.) value of the deviations from the mean. (More precisely, the sum of the squares of the deviations is divided not by N , but by $N - 1$, the difference accounting for the one degree of freedom used up in taking the average score.)

1.93: Five problems have greatly diminished the value of paired-comparison systems as research tools in quantitative psychology (Batchelder and Burshad 1977). 1. *Newcomers*: Once data are collected and scaled, there is no efficient way to incorporate a new item, as a new player is incorporated into a rating list. 2. *Ties*: Experiments sometimes yield no choice or preference without artificial forcing, but the systems contemplate no probabilities of ties, such as the probabilities of draws in the rating system. 3. *Unstable Observations*: It is often impossible to collect data equivalent to a multiple round robin, as present processes require. It would be useful if more general techniques existed for treating scanty data, such as the rating techniques for a Swiss event. 4. *Dynamic Changes*: Most work in psychology assumes that the values (ratings) do not change in time. An estimation scheme for sequential updating, something like the issuance of new rating lists, would be valuable. 5. *Non-Analyticity of Estimates*: Most schemes involve complicated implicit equations, and the non-analyticity of the results prevents their incorporation into more complicated advanced work. An approximation method of the practical simplicity and analyticity of the Elo System would increase the range of applicability of experimental psychology.

2.2: For the additional symbols used in chapter 8, see note 8.13 below.

2.73: The U. S. Open tournaments are twelve-round events, and for $N = 12$, assuming $p = q$, $\sigma = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{12} = 1.73$. With $p \neq q$, σ is somewhat less. p and q are the respective probabilities of a win and a loss in a single game. The figure 1.65 was obtained by the short method (Langley 1971).

3.46: The percentages in table 3.43 are for unequal numbers of games, and hence the D_p in table 3.45, which are based on those

percentages, do not summarize to precisely zero. This accounts for an average of the ratings in column R_j , which is slightly higher than the initial average of $R_i = 500$. It is, of course, the *differences* in R_j , which are significant, not the absolute numbers.

3.83: The survey covered only the U. S. Open tournaments of 1973 and 1974. When these events were played, bonus points formed the principal deflation control, with a schedule designed for a 20% probability of achieving a bonus situation.

4.21: The word *Grossmeister* appears in the preface to the 1907 Ostend tournament book (Tarrasch 1907 in German), but the sense is generic and descriptive. All thirty-five entrants were considered masters, and when the committee selected the six presumed strongest to compete in a separate section, some sort of word for these super-masters may have become necessary. No contemporary English reports use *grand master*, and the word does not surface again in any language until the great St. Petersburg tournament of 1914, when the Czar used it to describe the five finalists (Frank Skoff in private correspondence). If this indeed was the first recognized class of Grandmasters, it was a remarkably appropriate selection: Capablanca, Lasker, Alekhine, Tarrasch, and Marshall!

4.24: FIDE proceeds cautiously. Titles regulations originally proposed in 1953 were studied, reported upon, discussed, and amended in four annual Congresses prior to adoption in 1957. The system was designed by delegates Ferrantes, Alexander, and dal Verme, for whom it was dubbed the FAV system (Harkness 1967).

By 1964 titles regulations were again under criticism, and proposals were placed on the agenda for Weisbaden in 1965, where the Elo system was first presented by the USCF delegate Fred Cramer. A fuller formal presentation followed at Havana in 1966, and the USCF offer to operate the rating system on a trial basis was accepted with thanks. Rating lists, system descriptions, and *pro forma* title lists were prepared and distributed in four languages, and by 1968 the USCF delegate obtained another expression of appreciation and the appointment of the sub-committee Dorazil-Gligoric-Elo to make recommendations. The FIDE General Assembly in 1969 decided to ask all member federations to study and comment on the plan, which was ultimately adopted by assembly vote in 1970, over a welter of alternative proposals.

Meanwhile the existing system was undergoing rather anomalous experimental tests in which (a) untitled players were, in some cases, counted as titled in order to judge tournament strength, and, for the same purposes (b) titled players were counted as untitled, and GM counted as IM, in cases where they had not requalified during the previous five years by a performance adequate to have earned the title held. In 1968 the IM title became available to all players who score 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % or better in a zonal tournament (FIDE 1952-1971).

During some twenty important development years, FIDE titles awards were supervised by Dr. Wilfried Dorazil as Secretary and President of the Qualification Committee. An Austrian supreme court judge by occupation, he has been a powerful advocate of integrity and orderly progressive development in FIDE titling affairs.

4.51: An arbitrary value, such as the proposed 2200, could be taken as the standard R_0 for new members of the FIDE pool, but ample valid data is available to provide a better indication of the player's rating, in most cases. For players in the titles candidate range, the FIDE ratings are remarkably conformant to the ratings on national rating lists, including the USCF list and other lists produced on the Elo system. Adequate statistical processes exist for monitoring and testing, to verify such interchangeability of ratings or to develop a formula to produce it in any particular pool where it is not found. The use of much valid data was restricted, unfortunately, at the Haifa meeting, for political considerations.

The pre-Haifa relationship between the FIDE pool and the FIDE member pools, although only in the beginnings of its development, made the philosophy of *Gens Una Sumus** a true fact and practice. It should have great potential, once the political difficulties are resolved.

**We are all one kind.*

5.54: Table 5.55 includes the results of the matches and of other games between the individuals during the match time period. Using these results as a cross-check on curves partly based on this same data may be questioned. The match data, however, provide an insignificant portion of the total data on which the lifetime curves at 5.52 are based. If all match data are completely omitted, the resulting curves show no material change. The dominant statistics—over 80%—are in all cases from tournament results.

5.74: A similar historical study by Richard Clarke reported in *British Chess Magazine* (Clarke 1963) used a Harkness modification

which BCF still uses. Decade by decade there is fairly good correlation between the relative rankings of the Clarke and Elo studies, but there is serious disagreement on the long range basis. The Clarke study exhibits a systematic deflation, so that contemporary masters are rated lower than those of 100 years ago. Botvinnik of 1940-45, for example, is rated 100 Elo points below Steinitz of 1870-79. DeVere, Paulsen 1865-74, and Englisch 1870-79 are rated on a par with Smyslov 1940-45. This deflation may result because Clarke made no attempt to correct for the unconformities between periods, or because the rating system he used is inherently deflationary.

Clarke lists just a dozen players from 1860 to 1884 as Grandmasters, yet they include five of his six top performers of all time, while the sixty-odd contemporary Grandmasters include only one. Such an eventuality is highly improbable; the odds against it are just too great. Obviously Clarke's master and Grandmaster levels were too low for the early decades and too high for the later. In private correspondence with the writer, Sir Richard, prior to his untimely death, recognized this to be indeed the case.

6.31: There is great variation of the ages at which young people are introduced to chess. The formative period is so short that five-year data groupings would have little meaning and one-year batches would be required, but the volume of data is limited and the sources scattered for players in this age bracket. Thus self-consistent ratings for this group have not been obtained, and the data may be less reliable than the lifetime data. Nonetheless, even under these circumstances, a definite development pattern emerges.

7.16: "Iceland is an anomaly and a marvel," wrote Willard Fiske (Fiske 1905), librarian, professor of Scandinavian studies, and a chess devotee, who played in the first American Chess Congress at New York in 1857, edited its book, and co-edited the *American Chess Monthly* with Paul Morphy. A visit to Iceland made him its chess benefactor. His many donations included chess sets and a library for Grimsey, a small islet where even today, Icelanders maintain, every man, woman, and child is a chessplayer! While living in Florence, Italy, 1900-01, he published the *Icelandic Chess Magazine*, one of the finest of the times (Icelandic Chess Federation 1972). The Icelandic National Library received his personal chess library upon his death at 73 in 1904, although Cornell University, where he taught and served as librarian, received his substantial Dante collection, other items, and his collection of Icelandic literature, considered the finest outside Iceland.

Iceland and its culture are isolated and stable. Literacy approaches 100% and intellectual orientation is high. Climate, economics, and socio-cultural circumstances do not favor many of the distracting western activities, but they do favor chess. The combination of a remarkable individual stimulus with a remarkably receptive situation may largely account for the very high chess-player density in Iceland.

7.32: The December 1976 USCF rating list provided the data for the two USCF groups. It was the first complete list prepared by computer, and it provided a complete sampling of the entire pool, a rating breakdown at 100-point intervals, and an analysis between established and provisionally rated players. The established players, with at least 25 rated games, and the provisional players, mainly novices and entrants in scholastic tournaments, with between 5 and 24 rated games, constitute two distinct populations, with a rating difference of just about 1.6C, or 320 points. The Belgian group are players with at least 25 games and two years of competition, taken from the Royal Belgian Chess Federation 1975 rating list, kindly supplied by Drs. G. Heynen and H. Douha of RBCF.

7.52: Elaboration of the complexities of nationality, both for individuals and for particular plots of terrain during the time period of a particular map, has not been incorporated in the birthplaces study. In only five cases is a player listed for a country other than of his actual birthplace shown on the map. England's Sir George Thomas was born at Constantinople (map 4); Germany's Burkhard Malich was born in Poland (map 6); Hungary's Pal Benko was born at Amiens, France (map 6); Germany's Helmut Pflieger was born just across the frontier in Czechoslovakia (map 7); and USSR's Boris Gulko was born in East Germany (map 7).

8.13: In addition to symbols given at 2.2, the following are used in chapters 8 and 9.

- e = the value 2.718, the base of the natural logarithms
- ln = natural logarithm
- π = pi, the value 3.1416
- p q r = the respective probabilities of a first, second, and third possible outcome, such as win, loss, draw
- ! = the factorial product of the number and all lower positive numbers
- D = number of draws, when used with W and L. Otherwise D is a rating difference as defined in 2.2.
- S = the slope of a curve at a given point.
- ρ = rho, the odds, the ratio of the chance of a first possible outcome to the chance of a second
- δ = script delta, the difference in individual performances
- z = deviation from mean in units of sigma
- σ_p = the standard deviation of performances
- χ^2 = chi-square, an index of conformity

8.36 On the familiar astronomical scale for stellar brightness, the base is the fifth root of 100, or about 2.51. On this scale a difference of one magnitude in brightness represents a light intensity ratio of 2.51, a two-magnitude difference is 2.51^2 , or about 6.25, and so on. The scale runs in reverse order: the lower the magnitude number, the brighter the star.

On the audio scale the base is 10. A one bel difference in sound level represents a 10 to 1 ratio in sound intensities. The bel is divided into tenths, which are the more familiar decibels. The base 10 is also used on the Richter scale to measure intensities of earthquakes.

9.4 International Titleholders as of January, 1986



GENS UNA SUMUS

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-86
Aaron, Manuel	India	1935-	IM-61		2375
Abdel, M. Naby	Egypt		IM-85		2295
Abramovic, Bosko	Yugoslavia	1951-	GM-84		2490
Adamski, Andrzej	Poland	1939-	IM-80		2370
Adamski, Jan	Poland	1943-	IM-76	2470	2380
Addison, William	United States	1933-	IM-67	2475	
Adianto, Utut	Indonesia	1965-	IM-85		2400
Adorjan, Andras	Hungary	1950-	GM-73		2555
Afifi, Asim-Abdel R.	Egypt		IM-85		2350
Agdestein, Simen	Norway	1965-	GM-85		2535
Agzamov, Georgy	Soviet Union	1954-	GM-84		2545
Ahues, Carl O.	West Germany	1883-1968	IM-50	2490	
Akesson, Ralf	Sweden	1961-	IM-81		2420
Alatorsev, Vladimir	Soviet Union	1909-	IM-50	2480	
Alburt, Lev	Soviet Union/USA	1945-	GM-77		2515
Alexander, C.H.O.	Ireland/England	1909-1974	IM-50	2475	
Alzate, Dario	Colombia	1955-	IM-84		2365
Ambroz, Jan	Czechoslovakia	1954-	IM-80		2460
Amos, Bruce	Canada	1946-	IM-69	2390	2355
Anand, Viswanathan	India	1969-	IM-85		2405
Andersen, Borge	Denmark	1934-	IM-64	2400	
Anderson, Frank R.	Canada/USA	1928-1980	IM-55	2450	
Andersson, Ulf	Sweden	1951-	GM-72		2585
Andres Mendez, Mig.	Cuba	1952-	IM-84		2400
Andrijevic, Milan	Yugoslavia	1959-	IM-82		2370
Andruet, Gilles	France	1958-	IM-82		2410
Angantysson, Haukur	Iceland	1948-	IM-81		2305
Anikaev, Yury	Soviet Union	1948-	IM-75		2460
Antonov, Vladimir	Bulgaria	1949-	IM-80		2375
Antoshin, Vladimir	Soviet Union	1929-	GM-63	2550	2310

Notes:

A best five-year average rating is not shown where data are insufficient, or where it is lower than the 1-1-86 rating.

In transliterating Slavic (Cyrillic) names and on the rendering of foreign names in English generally, common usage in English-language chess periodicals has been the guiding principle.

Antunac, Goran	Yugoslavia	1945-	IM-75		2400
Antunes, Antonio	Portugal	1962-	IM-85		2455
Arapovic, Vitomir	Yugoslavia	1951-	IM-79		2405
Ardijansjah, H.	Indonesia	1951-	IM-69		2430
Arkell, Keith C.	England	1961-	IM-85		2375
Arkhipov, Sergey	Soviet Union	1954-	IM-85		2545
Armas, Jorge	Cuba	1959-	IM-79		2345
Arnason, Jon L.	Iceland	1960-	IM-79		2500
Aronin, Lev S.	Soviet Union	1920-1982	IM-50	2520	
Asztalos, Lajos	Hungary	1889-1956	IM-50	2480	
Atanasov, Petko	Bulgaria	1948-	IM-83		2375
Atkins, Henry E.	England	1872-1955	IM-50	2540	
Augustin, Josef	Czechoslovakia	1942-	IM-76	2415	2385
Averbakh, Yury L.	Soviet Union	1922-	GM-52	2615	2465
Averkin, Orest N.	Soviet Union	1944-	IM-76		2465
Azmaiparashvili, Zurab	Soviet Union	1960-	IM-84		2465
Babula, Milan	Czechoslovakia	1950-	IM-83		2365
Bachtiar, Arovah	Indonesia	1934-	IM-77	2360	2345
Bagirov, Vladimir K.	Soviet Union	1936-	GM-78	2530	2485
Balanel, Ion	Romania	1926-	IM-54	2420	
Balashov, Yury S.	Soviet Union	1949-	GM-73		2515
Balinas, Rosendo C.	Philippines	1941-	GM-76	2420	2380
Banas, Jan	Czechoslovakia	1947-	IM-79		2395
Bany, Jerzy	Poland	1961-	IM-83		2390
Barbulescu, Dan Cata.	Romania	1964-	IM-84		2450
Barcza, Gedeon	Hungary	1911-	GM-54	2550	
Barczay, Laszlo	Hungary	1936-	GM-67	2480	2365
Baird, Olaf	Norway	1909-1971	IM-52	2420	
Barendregt, Johan	Holland	1924-1982	IM-62	2390	
Barle, Janez	Yugoslavia	1952-	IM-76		2425
Barlov, Dragan	Yugoslavia	1957-	IM-82		2495
Barreras, Alberto	Cuba	1951-	IM-81		2335
Barua, Dibyendu	India	1966-	IM-84		2395
Basman, Michael	England	1946-	IM-80		2395
Bass, Leonid	Soviet Union/USA	1957-	IM-82		2460
Becker, Albert	Austria/Argentina	1896-1984	IM-53	2490	
Bednarski, Boguslaw	Poland	1939-	IM-64	2400	2345
Beil, Zdenek	Czechoslovakia	1953-	IM-85		2380
Beliavsky, Alexander	Soviet Union	1953-	GM-75		2625
Belkadi, Ridha	Tunisia	1925-	IM-74	2350	2330

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-86
Bellin, Robert C.	England	1952-	IM-77		2380
Bellon, Juan M.	Spain	1950-	GM-79		2430
Bely, Miklos	Hungary	1913-1970	IM-56	2470	
Benhadi, Madani	Algeria	1958-	IM-82		2200
Beni, Alfred	Austria	1923-	IM-51	2380	2220
Benjamin, Joel L.	United States	1964-	IM-80		2555
Benko, Pal	Hungary/USA	1928-	GM-58	2570	2460
Berg, Klaus	Denmark	1960-	IM-83		2375
Berger, Bela	Hungary/Australia	1931-	IM-63	2390	
Bernat, Miguel	Argentina	1957-	IM-78		2380
Bernstein, Osip	Russia/France	1882-1962	GM-50	2590	
Bertok, Mario	Yugoslavia	1929-	IM-57	2460	2395
Bhend, Edwin	Switzerland	1931-	IM-60	2400	2365
Bielczyk, Jacek	Poland	1953-	IM-79		2390
Bielicki, Carlos	Argentina	1940-	IM-59	2350	2245
Bikhovsky, Anatoly	Soviet Union	1934-	IM-82	2450	2445
Bilek, Istvan	Hungary	1932-	GM-62	2500	2410
Binham, Timothy	Finland	1956-	IM-83		2370
Biriescu, Ion	Romania	1953-	IM-79		2320
Birnboim, Nathan	Israel	1950-	IM-78		2430
Bischoff, Klaus	West Germany	1961-	IM-82		2475
Bisguier, Arthur	United States	1929-	GM-57	2500	2430
Biyiasas, Peter	Greece/USA	1950-	GM-80		2445
Bjarnason, Saevar	Iceland	1954-	IM-85		2395
Bjelajac, Milan	Yugoslavia	1948-	IM-82		2330
Blau, Max	West Ger./Switz.	1918-1984	IM-53	2430	
Bleiman, Ya'acov	S.U./Israel	1947-	IM-71		2430
Blocker, Calvin B.	United States	1955-	IM-81		2380
Bobotsov, Milko G.	Bulgaria	1931-	GM-61	2500	
Boey, Josef	Belgium	1934-	IM-73	2420	2390
Bogdanovic, Rajko	Yugoslavia	1931-	IM-63	2430	2360
Bogoljubow, Ewfm D.	S.U./Germany	1889-1952	GM-51	2610	
Bohatirchuk, Fedor	Russia/Canada	1892-1984	IM-54	2500	
Bohm, Hans	Holland	1950-	IM-75		2385
Bohosian, Sarkis	Bulgaria	1941-	IM-78		2365

Bolbochan, Jacobo	Argentina	1906-1984	IM-65	2430	
Bolbochan, Julio	Argentina	1920-	GM-77	2545	
Boleslavsky, Isaak	Soviet Union	1919-1977	GM-50	2650	
Bondarevsky, Igor	Soviet Union	1913-1979	GM-50	2570	
Bonin, Jay R.	United States	1955-	IM-85		2385
Bönsch, Uwe	East Germany	1958-	IM-77		2475
Böök, Eero	Finland	1910-	GM-84	2500	
Borik, Otokar	CSSR/West Ger.	1947-	IM-82		2365
Borkowski, Franciszek	Poland	1957-	IM-80		2380
Botterill, George S.	England/Wales	1949-	IM-78		2395
Botvinnik, Mikhail	Soviet Union	1911-	GM-50	2720	
Bouaziz, Slim	Tunisia	1950-	IM-75		2380
Boudy, Julio	Cuba	1951-	IM-75		2325
Bouwmeester, Hans	Holland	1929-	IM-54	2440	2410
Braga, Fernando	Argentina	1958-	IM-83		2470
Brinckmann, Alfred	West Germany	1891-1967	IM-53	2470	
Bronstein, David	Soviet Union	1924-	GM-50	2670	2435
Brosntein, Luis M.	Argentina	1946-	IM-78		2400
Browne, Walter S.	Australia/USA	1949-	GM-70		2510
Bueno Perez, Lazaro	Cuba	1956-	IM-81		2290
Bukal, Vladimir	Yugoslavia	1939-	IM-77		2465
Bukic, Enver	Yugoslavia	1937-	GM-76	2490	2465
Buljovicic, Ivan	Yugoslavia	1936-	IM-74	2440	2390
Burger, Karl	United States	1933-	IM-80	2350	2290
Butnoris, Algimantas	Soviet Union	1946-	IM-83		2410
Bykova, Jelseveta	Soviet Union	1913-	IM-53		
Byrne, Donald	United States	1930-1976	IM-62	2500	
Byrne, Robert E.	United States	1928-	GM-64	2570	2505
Cabrillo, Goran	Yugoslavia	1958-	IM-80		2445
Calvo Minguez, R.	Spain	1943-	IM-73		2410
Camara, Helder	Brasil	1937-	IM-72	2350	2320
Campana, Daniel H.	Argentina	1957-	IM-82		2530
Campos Lopez, Mario	Mexico	1943-	IM-75	2370	2305
Campos Moreno, J.	Chile	1959-	IM-79		2405
Canal, Esteban	Peru/Italy	1896-1981	GM-77	2500	
Capelan, Günter	West Germany	1932-	IM-68	2430	
Cardoso, Rudolfo Tan	Philippines	1937-	IM-57	2350	
Carls, Carl J.M.	West Germany	1880-1958	IM-51	2450	
Casper, Thomas	East Germany	1960-	IM-84		2430
Castaldi, Vincenzo	Italy	1916-1970	IM-50	2450	

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-86
Castro Rojas, Oscar	Colombia	1953-	IM-75		2415
Cebalo, Miso	Yugoslavia	1945-	GM-85		2515
Chandler, Murray G.	N. Zealand/Engl.	1960-	GM-83		2535
Chekhov, Valery A.	Soviet Union	1955-	GM-84		2495
Chekhover, Vitaly A.	Soviet Union	1908-1965	IM-50	2520	
Cherepkov, Alex. V.	Soviet Union	1920-	IM-84		2415
Chernikov, Oleg L.	Soviet Union	1936-	IM-85		2460
Chernin, Alexander M.	Soviet Union	1960-	GM-85		2570
Chevaldonnet, Francois	France	1950-	IM-83		2290
Chiburdanidze, Maya	Soviet Union	1961-	GM-84		2455
Christiansen, Larry	United States	1956-	GM-77		2555
Christoffel, Martin	Switzerland	1922-	IM-52	2320	2205
Cifuentes Parada, Robe.	Chile	1957-	IM-84		2450
Cioaltea, Victor	Romania	1932-1983	GM-79	2470	
Ciric, Dragoljub	Yugoslavia	1935-	GM-65	2530	2400
Cobo Arteaga, Eldis	Cuba	1929-	IM-67	2430	
Commons, Kim S.	United States	1951-	IM-76		2445
Condie, Mark	Scotland	1965-	IM-84		2425
Conquest, Stuart	England	1967-	IM-85		2400
Cooper, John C.	Wales	1954-	IM-84		2395
Cortlever, Nicolaas	Holland	1915-	IM-50	2460	
Coudari, Camille	Syria/Canada	1951-	IM-79		2315
Cramling, Dan	Sweden	1959-	IM-82		2420
Cserna, Laszlo	Hungary	1954-	IM-82		2390
Csom, Istvan	Hungary	1940-	GM-73	2530	2505
Cuartas, Carlos	Colombia	1940-	IM-75	2420	2355
Cuellar Gacharna, M.	Colombia	1916-	IM-57	2470	2280
Cuipers, Frans A.	Holland	1962-	IM-84		2425
Cummings, David H.	England	1961-	IM-84		2415
Cvetkovic, Srđan	Yugoslavia	1946-	IM-80		2360
Cvitan, Ognjen	Yugoslavia	1961-	IM-82		2465
Czerniak, Moshe	Poland/Israel	1910-1984	IM-52	2460	
Dake, Arthur W.	United States	1910-	IM-84	2470	
Damjanovic, Mato	Yugoslavia	1927-	GM-64	2470	2310
Damljanovic, Branko	Yugoslavia	1961-	IM-82		2420

Danailov, Silvio	Bulgaria	1961-	IM-84		2425
Danner, Georg	Austria	1946-	IM-80		2385
Darga, Klaus V.	East Germany/FRG	1934-	GM-64	2540	2470
Davies, Nigel R.	England	1960-	IM-82		2410
Day, Lawrence A.	Canada	1949-	IM-72		2365
Debarnot, Roberto	Argentina	1957-	IM-77		2375
De Firmian, Nicholas	United States	1957-	GM-85		2520
De Greiff, Boris	Colombia	1930-	IM-57	2380	
De Guzman, Ricardo	Philippines	1961-	IM-82		2385
Dely, Peter	Hungary	1934-	IM-62	2470	
Denker, Arnold S.	United States	1914-	GM-81	2470	2285
Despotovic, Momcilo	Yugoslavia	1948-	IM-82		2350
Deze, Anton	Yugoslavia	1940-	IM-76		2425
Diaz, Joaquin C.	Cuba	1948-	IM-75		2365
Didishko, Viacheslav	Soviet Union	1949-	IM-82		2485
Diesen, Mark	United States	1957-	IM-77		2410
Diez del Corral, J.	Spain	1933-	GM-74	2490	2420
Dizdar, Goran	Yugoslavia	1958-	IM-80		2465
Dizdarevic, Emir	Yugoslavia	1958-	IM-82		2465
Drugy, Maxim	Soviet Union/USA	1966-	IM-82		2545
Dobosz, Henryk	Poland	1953-	IM-78		2385
Dobrovolski, Ladislav	Poland /CSSR	1950-	IM-82		2400
Doda, Zbigniew	Poland	1931-	IM-64	2420	2350
Dolmatov, Sergey V.	Soviet Union	1959-	GM-82		2515
Donaldson, John	United States	1958-	IM-83		2420
Donchev, Dimitar I.	Bulgaria	1958-	IM-80		2440
Donnely, B.	Zimbabwe		IM-82		2205
Donner, Jan H.	Holland	1927-	GM-59	2500	2420
Dorfman, Iosif D.	Soviet Union	1952-	GM-78		2520
Drasko, Milan	Yugoslavia	1962-	IM-84		2460
Drimer, Dolfi	Romania	1934-	IM-61	2400	
Dubinin, Peter V.	Soviet Union	1909-1983	IM-50	2450	
Dückstein, Andreas	Hungary/Austria	1927-	IM-56	2450	2350
Dueball, Jurgen E.	West Germany	1943-	IM-73		2445
Dumpor, Atif	Yugoslavia	1958-	IM-84		2285
Dunkelblum, Arthur	Poland/Belgium	1906-1979	IM-57	2400	
Dur, Arne	Austria	1959-	IM-82		2380
Durao, Joaquim	Portugal	1938-	IM-75	2350	2220
Duras, Oldrich	Bohemia/CSSR	1882-1957	GM-50	2580	
Durasevic, Bozidar	Yugoslavia	1933-	IM-57	2485	

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average
Duric, Stefan	Yugoslavia	1955-	GM-82	
Dus-Chotimirsky, F.	Soviet Union	1879-1965	IM-50	2440
Dvoirys, Semyon	Soviet Union	1958-	IM-83	
Dvoretzky, Mark I.	Soviet Union	1947-	IM-75	
Dzhindzhikhasvili, R.	Soviet Union/USA	1944-	GM-77	
Ehlvest, Jaan	Soviet Union	1962-	IM-82	
Eingorn, Vyacheslav S.	Soviet Union	1956-	IM-84	
Ekström, Folke	Sweden	1906-	IM-50	2470
Ekström, Roland	Sweden	1956-	IM-82	
Eliskases, Erich G.	Austria/Argentina	1913-	GM-52	2560
Emma, Jaime J.	Argentina	1938-	IM-78	
Enevoldsen, Jens	Denmark	1907-1980	IM-50	2430
Eng, Holger	West Germany	1961-	IM-84	
Enklaar, Bertus F.	Holland	1943-	IM-73	
Eolian, Levon	Soviet Union	1959-	IM-84	
Eperjesi, Laszlo	Hungary	1943-	IM-81	
Erdelyi, Stefan	Hungary/Romania	1905-1968	IM-50	2430
Erdeus, Gheorghe A.	Romania	1938-	IM-84	
Ermenkov, Evgeny P.	Bulgaria	1949-	GM-77	
Ernst, Thomas	Sweden	1960-	IM-84	
Eslon, Jaan	Sweden	1952-	IM-77	
Espig, Lutz	East Germany	1949-	GM-83	
Estevez Morales, G.	Cuba	1947-	IM-72	
Estrin, Yakov B.	Soviet Union	1923-	IM-75	2450
Euwe, Machgielis	Holland	1901-1981	GM-50	2650
Evans, Larry D.	United States	1952-	IM-80	
Evans, Larry M.	United States	1932-	GM-57	2560
Fairhurst, William A.	England/N. Zealand	1903-1982	IM-51	2440
Farago, Ivan	Hungary	1946-	GM-76	
Farre Mallofre, M.	Spain	1936-	IM-59	2440
Fazekas, Stefan	Hungary/England	1898-1967	IM-53	2380
Fedder, Stean	Denmark	1951-	IM-82	
Fedorewicz, John P.	United States	1958-	IM-78	
Fernandes, Antonio M.	Portugal	1962-	IM-85	
Fernandez, Antonio	Venezuela		IM-78	

Fernandez, Ciro A.	Cuba	1947-	IM-75		2275
Fernandez Garcia, J.	Spain	1954-	IM-80		2455
Fernandez, Juan C.	Cuba	1951-	IM-75		2390
Fichtl, Jiri	Czechoslovakia	1922-	IM-59	2450	2250
Filguth, Rubens A.	Brasil	1956-	IM-83		2405
Filip, Miroslav	Czechoslovakia	1928-	GM-55	2560	2485
Filipovic, Branko	Yugoslavia	1957-	IM-84		2430
Filipowicz, Andrzej	Poland	1938-	IM-75	2390	2370
Fine, Reuben	United States	1914-	GM-50	2660	
Fischer, Robert J.	United States	1943-	GM-58	2740	
Flear, Glenn C.	England	1959-	IM-83		2485
Flesch, Janos	Hungary	1933-1983	GM-80	2460	
Flohr, Salo M.	Poland/S.U.	1908-1983	GM-50	2620	
Florian, Tibor	Hungary	1919-	IM-50	2430	
Foguelman, Alberto	Argentina	1923-	IM-63	2400	2320
Foisor, Ovidiu	Romania	1959-	IM-82		2420
Foltys, Jan	Czechoslovakia	1908-1952	IM-50	2530	
Forgacs, Gyula	Hungary	1958-	IM-84		2335
Forintos, Gyözö	Hungary	1935-	GM-74	2480	2395
Formanek, Edward W.	United States	1942-	IM-77	2400	2350
Fraguela Gil, J.M.	Spain	1953-	IM-77		2295
Franco, Zenon	Paraguay	1956-	IM-82		2460
Franzen, Josef	Czechoslovakia	1946-	IM-84		2380
Frey, Kenneth	France/Mexico	1950-	IM-75		2390
Frias Apablaza, V.J.	Chile	1956-	IM-82		2440
Fries-Nielsen, Jens O.	Denmark	1960-	IM-84		2385
Frydman, Paulino	Poland/Argentina	1905-1982	IM-55	2500	
Ftacnik, Lubomir	Czechoslovakia	1957-	GM-80		2515
Fuchs, Reinhart	Ger./East Germany	1934-	IM-62	2460	
Fuderer, Andreas	Yugoslavia/Switz.	1931-	IM-52	2540	
Furman, Semyon A.	Soviet Union	1920-1978	GM-66	2610	
Füster, Geza	Hungary/Canada	1910-	IM-69	2370	
Gaprindashvili, Nona	Soviet Union	1941-	GM-80	2420	2330
Garbarino, Rodolfo	Argentina	1963-	IM-82		2250
Garcia, Gildardo	Colombia	1954-	IM-79		2400
Garcia, Raimundo	Argentina	1936-	IM-64	2450	2410
Garcia Gonzales, G.	Cuba	1953-	GM-76		2495
Garcia Martinez, S.	Cuba	1944-	GM-75		2455
Garcia Padron, Jose	Spain	1958-	IM-81		2375
Garcia Palermo, C.	Argentina	1953-	GM-85		2550

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-86
Gavrikov, Viktor	Soviet Union	1957-	GM-84		2550
Gazik, Igor	Czechoslovakia	1960-	IM-85		2415
Geller, Efim P.	Soviet Union	1925-	GM-52	2655	2525
Georgadze, Tamaz V.	Soviet Union	1947-	GM-77		2505
Georgiev, Kiril	Bulgaria	1965-	GM-85		2545
Georgiev, Krum I.	Bulgaria	1958-	IM-77		2460
Gereben, Ernő	Hungary/Switz.	1907-	IM-50	2460	2245
German, Eugenio M.	Brasil	1930-	IM-52	2410	
Gerusel, Mathias	Poland/Germany	1938-	IM-68	2420	2390
Gesos, Pavlos	Greece	1945-	IM-80		2395
Gheorghiu, Florin	Romania	1944-	GM-65	2540	2525
Ghinda, Mihail	Romania	1949-	IM-77		2430
Ghitescu, Teodor	Romania	1934-	IM-61	2450	2440
Ghizdavu, Dumitru	Romania/USA	1949-	IM-72	2430	
Giam, Choo Kwee	Singapore	1942-	IM-76	2320	2260
Giffard, Nicolas	France	1950-	IM-80		2385
Gilg, Karl	Austria	1901-1981	IM-53	2470	
Ginsburg, Mark	Belgium/USA	1959-	IM-81		2405
Gipslis, Aivars	Latvia/S.U.	1937-	GM-67	2580	2495
Giustolisi, Alberto	Italy	1927-	IM-62	2330	
Gligoric, Svetozar	Yugoslavia	1923-	GM-51	2620	2515
Gliksman, Darko	Yugoslavia	1937-	IM-70	2390	2290
Gobet, Fernand	Switzerland	1962-	IM-85		2360
Goglidze, Victor A.	Soviet Union	1905-1964	IM-50	2430	
Golombek, Harry	England	1911-	GM-85	2450	
Gomez, Mario	Spain	1958-	IM-84		2405
Gonzales, Jorge A.	Colombia	1953-	IM-77	2370	2275
Goodman, David S.	England	1958-	IM-82		2410
Govedarica, Radovan	Yugoslavia	1948-	IM-80		2405
Grabczewski, Romuald	Poland	1932-	IM-72	2400	2300
Granda Zuniga, Julio	Peru	1967-	IM-84		2420
Greenfeld, Alon	USA/Israel	1964-	IM-83		2505
Grefe, John A.	United States	1947-	IM-75		2420
Grigorian, Katen A.	Soviet Union	1947-	IM-82		2405
Grigoriou, Miltiadis	Greece	1935-	IM-75	2240	

Grigorov, Iordan N.	Bulgaria	1953-	IM-79		2410
Grivas, Efstratios	Greece	1966-	IM-84		2395
Grob, Henry	Austria/Switz.	1904-1974	IM-50	2440	
Gross, Stefan	Czechoslovakia	1949-	IM-80		2410
Groszpeter, Attila	Hungary	1960-	IM-79		2470
Gruchacz, Robert S.	United States	1953-	IM-80		2335
Gruenfeld, Yehuda	Poland/Israel	1956-	GM-80		2535
Grünberg, Hans U.	East Germany	1956-	IM-81		2460
Grunberg, Sergiu H.	Romania	1947-	IM-85		2410
Grünfeld, Ernst	Austria	1893-1962	GM-50	2550	
Gufeld, Eduard E.	Soviet Union	1936-	GM-67	2530	2480
Guimard, Carlos E.	Argentina	1913-	GM-60	2480	2385
Gulbrandsen, Arne V.	Norway	1943-	IM-81		2320
Gulko, Boris F.	East Germany/S.U.	1947-	GM-76		2505
Gunawan, Ronny	Indonesia	1960-	IM-84		2440
Gurevich, Dmitri	Soviet Union/USA	1956-	GM-83		2475
Gurevich, Mikhail	Soviet Union	1959-	IM-85		2510
Gurgenidze, Bukhuti	Soviet Union	1933-	GM-70	2530	2455
Gutierrez, Jose A.	Colombia	1943-	IM-72		2340
Gutman, Lev	Latvia/S.U.	1945-	IM-80		2445
Haag, Ervin	Hungary	1933-	IM-61	2470	
Haik, Aldo	Tunisia/France	1952-	IM-77		2475
Hamann, Svend	Denmark	1940-	IM-65	2475	2385
Handoko, Edhi	Indonesia	1960-	IM-83		2440
Hansen, Curt	Denmark	1964-	GM-85		2510
Harandi, Khosrow	Iran	1950-	IM-75		2415
Hartoch, Robert G.	Holland	1947-	IM-71	2400	2365
Hartston, William R.	England	1947-	IM-73	2470	2435
Hase, Juan C.	Argentina	1948-	IM-82		2375
Hausner, Ivan	Czechoslovakia	1952-	IM-79		2400
Hawelko, Marek	Poland	1959-	IM-84		2440
Hazai, Laszlo	Hungary	1953-	IM-77		2470
Hebden, Mark	England	1958-	IM-82		2445
Hebert, Jean	Canada	1957-	IM-78		2400
Hecht, Hans J.	Ger./West Ger.	1939-	GM-73	2490	2455
Heinicke, Herbert T.	Brasil/Germany	1905-	IM-53	2480	2335
Hellers, Ferdinand	Sweden	1969-	IM-85		2435
Helmers, Knut J.	Norway	1957-	IM-79		2455
Henley, Ronald W.	United States	1956-	GM-82		2505
Henneberke, Franciscus	Holland	1925-	IM-62	2420	

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-86
Hennings, Arthur	East Germany	1940-	IM-65	2450	2375
Hernandez, Jose de Jes.	Cuba	1951-	IM-77		2325
Hernandez, Fierro R.	Colombia		IM-83		2215
Hernandez, Roman	Cuba	1949-	GM-78		2450
Hertneck, Gerald	West Germany		IM-85		2445
Hess, Ralf	Luxembourg/FRG	1943-	IM-80		2345
Hjartarson, Johann	Iceland	1963-	GM-85		2505
Hjorth, Gregory	Australia	1963-	IM-84		2405
Hmadi, Slaheddine	Tunisia		IM-82		2240
Hodgson, Julian	England	1963-	IM-83		2480
Hoelzl, Franz	Austria	1946-	IM-85		2370
Hoi, Carsten	Denmark	1957-	IM-79		2405
Honfi, Karoly	Hungary	1930-	IM-62	2480	2405
Horowitz, Israel A.	United States	1907-1973	IM-50	2510	
Hort, Vlastimil	Czechoslovakia	1944-	GM-65		2545
Horvath, Jozsef	Hungary	1964-	IM-84		2475
Horvath, Tamas	Hungary	1951-	IM-82		2395
Howell, James C.	England	1967-	IM-85		2395
Hresc, Vladimir	Yugoslavia	1951-	IM-85		2410
Hübner, Robert	West Germany	1948-	GM-71		2625
Huerta Soria, Ramon	Cuba	1951-	IM-84		2355
Hug, Werner	Switzerland	1952-	IM-71		2455
Hulak, Krunoslav	Yugoslavia	1951-	GM-76		2505
Ilic, Zoran	Yugoslavia	1955-	IM-80		2385
Ilijin, Neboisa	Romania	1942-	IM-80		2215
Ilivitsky, Georgy A.	Soviet Union	1921-	IM-55	2490	
Indjic, Dusan	Yugoslavia	1960-	IM-84		2350
Inkirov, Vencislav	Bulgaria	1956-	GM-82		2465
Ionescu, Constantin	Romania	1958-	IM-83		2465
Iskov, Gert	Denmark	1948-	IM-79		2325
Ivanov, Igor V.	S.U./Canada	1947-	IM-81		2485
Ivanov, Spiridon	Bulgaria	1946-	IM-82		2375
Ivanovic, Bozidar	Yugoslavia	1946-	GM-77		2490
Ivkov, Borislav	Yugoslavia	1933-	GM-55	2570	2525
Izeta, Felix	Spain	1961-	IM-85		2400

Jakobsen, Ole	Denmark	1942-	IM-73		2385
Jamieson, Robert M.	Australia	1952-	IM-75		2455
Janosevic, Dragoljub	Yugoslavia	1923-	GM-65	2470	2365
Jansa, Vlastimil	Czechoslovakia	1942-	GM-74	2500	2485
Jasnikowski, Zbigniew	Poland	1955-	IM-80		2405
Jelen, Istok	Yugoslavia	1947-	IM-80		2430
Jimenez Zerquera, E.	Cuba	1928-	IM-63	2420	
Johannessen, Svein	Norway	1937-	IM-61	2415	
Johannsson, Ingi R.	Iceland	1936-	IM-63	2450	2410
Johansen, Darryl K.	Australia	1959-	IM-82		2440
Johner, Hans	Switzerland	1889-1975	IM-50	2430	
Joksic, Sinisa	Yugoslavia	1940-	IM-80		2330
Kaabi, M.	Tunisia		IM-82		2300
Kagan, Shimon	Israel	1942-	IM-69		2415
Kaila, Osmo	Finland	1916-	IM-52	2440	
Kaiszauri, Konstanty	S.U./Sweden	1952-	IM-77		2335
Kaldor, Avram	Israel	1947-	IM-75		2375
Kallai, Gabor	Hungary	1959-	IM-82		2400
Kan, Ilia A.	Soviet Union	1909-1978	IM-50	2510	
Kaplan, Julio	Argentina/USA	1950-	IM-67		2475
Kaposztas, Miklos	Hungary	1939-	IM-82		2355
Karaklajic, Nikola	Yugoslavia	1926-	IM-55	2490	2395
Karasev, Vladimir I.	Soviet Union	1938-	IM-76	2470	2350
Karlsson, Lars K.	Sweden	1955-	GM-82		2520
Karner, Hillar	Estonia/S.U.	1935-	IM-80	2450	2390
Karolyi, Tibor	Hungary	1961-	IM-83		2410
Karpov, Anatoly E.	Soviet Union	1951-	GM-70		2700
Karsa, Laszlo	Hungary	1955-	IM-82		2410
Kashdan, Isaac	United States	1905-1985	GM-54	2570	
Kasparian, Genrikh M.	Soviet Union	1910-	IM-50	2430	
Kasparov, Garri K.	Soviet Union	1963-	GM-80		2720
Katetov, Miroslav	Czechoslovakia	1918-	IM-51	2440	
Kaufman, Lawrence C.	United States	1947-	IM-80		2430
Kavalek, Lubomir	Czechoslov./USA	1943-	GM-65		2560
Keene, Raymond D.	England	1948-	GM-76		2455
Kelecevic, Nedeljko	Yugoslavia	1947-	IM-77		2330
Keller, Dieter	Switzerland	1936-	IM-61	2420	2420
Keller, Rudolf	Ger./East Ger.	1917-	IM-50	2420	
Kengis, Edvins	Latvia/S.U.	1959-	IM-82		2475
Keres, Paul	Estonia/S.U.	1916-1975	GM-50	2670	

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-86
Kestler, Hans G.	West Germany	1939-	IM-76	2440	2390
Kharitonov, Andrey V.	Soviet Union	1959-	IM-80		2460
Khasin, Abram D.	Soviet Union	1923-	IM-64	2450	2390
Kholmov, Ratmir D.	Soviet Union	1925-	GM-60	2620	2440
Kieninger, Georg-	West Germany	1902-1975	IM-50	2490	
Kindermann, Stefan	Austria/West Ger.	1959-	IM-80		2495
King, Daniel J.	England	1963-	IM-82		2435
Kirov Avananov, Nino	Bulgaria	1945-	GM-75		2485
Klaric, Zlatko	Yugoslavia	1956-	GM-82		2410
Klinger, Josef	Austria	1967-	IM-85		2445
Klovans, Janis	Latvia/S.U.	1935-	IM-76	2490	2420
Kluger, Gyula	Hungary	1914-	IM-54	2460	2250
Kmoch, Hans	Austria/USA	1894-1973	IM-50	2475	
Knaak, Rainer F.A.	East Germany	1953-	GM-75		2510
Knezevic, Milorad	Yugoslavia	1936-	GM-76	2510	2425
Koch, Berthold	Ger./East Ger.	1899-	IM-50	2440	
Kochiev, Alexander V.	Soviet Union	1956-	GM-77		2445
Kogan, Boris M.	Soviet Union/USA	1940-	IM-82		2495
Kojder, Konrad	Poland	1956-	IM-84		2340
Kolarov, Atanas S.	Bulgaria	1934-	IM-57	2460	2400
Koltanowski, George	Belgium/USA	1903-	IM-50	2450	
Komljenovic, Davorin	Yugoslavia	1944-	IM-84		2405
König, Imre	Hungary/USA	1901-	IM-51	2440	
Konstantinopolsky, A.	Soviet Union	1910-	GM-83	2520	
Kopec, Danny	Canada	1954-	IM-85		2415
Korchnoi, Viktor L.	Soviet Union/Switz.	1931-	GM-56	2670	2635
Kosanski, Stanko	Yugoslavia	1940-	IM-79		2410
Kosten, Anthony C.	England	1958-	IM-84		2405
Kostic, Boris	Yugoslavia	1887-1963	GM-50	2520	
Kostro, Jerzy	Poland	1937-	IM-68	2420	2305
Kotov, Alexander A.	Soviet Union	1913-1981	GM-50	2620	
Kottnauer, Cenek	Bohemia/England	1910-	IM-50	2450	
Kouatly, Bachar	Syria/France	1958-	IM-75		2445
Kovacevic, Vladimir	Yugoslavia	1942-	GM-76		2500
Kovacs, Laszlo M.	Hungary	1938-	IM-65	2420	2330

Kozlov, Vladimir N.	Soviet Union	1950-	IM-80		2390
Kozma, Julius	Czechoslovakia	1929-1975	IM-57	2410	
Kozomara, Vladimir	Yugoslavia	1922-1975	IM-64	2390	
Kraidman, Yair	Israel	1932-	GM-76	2460	2445
Kramer, Haje	Holland	1917-	IM-54	2410	
Kristiansen, Jens	Denmark	1952-	IM-79		2395
Krnic, Zdenko	Yugoslavia	1947-	IM-76	2430	2390
Krogus, Nikolay V.	Soviet Union	1930-	GM-64	2560	
Kruszynski, Wlodzi.	Poland	1951-	IM-82		2360
Ksieski, Zbigniew	Poland	1954-	IM-85		2385
Kudrin, Sergey	Soviet Union/USA	1959-	GM-84		2460
Kuijf, Marinas	Holland	1960-	IM-83		2420
Kuijpers, Franciscus	Holland	1941-	IM-64		2405
Kuligowski, Adam	Poland	1955-	GM-80		2390
Kupper, Josef	Switzerland	1932-	IM-55	2380	
Kupreichik, Viktor D.	Soviet Union	1949-	GM-80		2490
Kuprejanov, George	Yugoslavia/Canada	1936-	IM-72	2370	
Kurajca, Bojan	Yugoslavia	1947-	GM-74		2500
Kurtenkov, Atanas	Bulgaria	1963-	IM-85		2455
Kuzmin, Gennady P.	Soviet Union	1946-	GM-73		2495
Lalic, Bogdan	Yugoslavia		IM-85		2450
Lanc, Alois	Czechoslovakia	1948-	IM-77		2385
Langeweg, Kristiaan	Holland	1937-	IM-62	2450	2400
Larsen, Bent	Denmark	1935-	GM-56	2640	2575
Lasker, Edward	Poland/USA	1885-1981	IM-53	2470	
Lau, Ralf	East Germany	1959-	IM-82		2465
Lawton, Geoffrey W.	England	1960-	IM-84		2365
Lazic, Miroљjub	Yugoslavia	1966-	IM-85		2380
Lebreudo, Gerardo	Cuba	1950-	IM-77		2390
Lechtynsky, Jiri	Czechoslovakia	1947-	GM-82		2445
Lederman, Leon	Soviet Union/Israel	1947-	IM-76		2405
Lehmann, Heinz G.	Ger./West Ger.	1921-	IM-61	2450	2275
Lein, Anatoly Y.	Soviet Union/USA	1931-	GM-68	2540	2535
Lengyel, Bela	Hungary	1949-	IM-85		2390
Lengyel, Levente	Hungary	1933-	GM-64	2480	2385
Leow, Leslie	Singapore	1956-	IM-83		2440
Lerner, Konstantin	Soviet Union	1950-	IM-77		2530
Letelier, Martner R.	Chile	1915-	IM-60	2410	2225
Levenfish, Grigory	Poland/S.U.	1889-1961	GM-50	2540	
Levitt, Jonathan	England	1963-	IM-84		2395

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-86
Levy, David N.	England	1945-	IM-69	2310	
Li, Zunian	P.R. China	1958-	IM-83		2450
Liang, Jimrong	P.R. China	1960-	IM-80		2425
Liberzon, Vladimir	S.U./Israel	1937-	GM-65	2550	2450
Liebert, Heinz	East Germany	1936-	IM-66	2470	2405
Liew, Jim. Chee Meng	Malaysia	1958-	IM-84		2385
Ligterink, Henrik G.	Holland	1949-	IM-77		2470
Lilienthal, Andor	S.U./Hungary	1911-	GM-50	2570	
Liptay, Laszlo	Hungary	1937-	IM-83		2395
Lisitsin, Georgy M.	Soviet Union	1909-	IM-50	2520	
Littlewood, Paul E.	England	1956-	IM-81		2445
Liu, Wenze	P.R. China	1940-	IM-80		2405
Ljubisavljevic, Zivojin	Yugoslavia	1941-	IM-84		2340
Ljubojevic, Ljubomir	Yugoslavia	1950-	GM-71		2605
Lobron, Eric	USA/West Germany	1960-	GM-82		2485
Lokvenc, Josef	Austria	1899-1974	IM-51	2460	
Lombard, Andre	Austria/Switz.	1950-	IM-76		2395
Lombardy, William J.	United States	1937-	GM-60	2540	2470
Lputian, Smbat G.	Soviet Union	1958-	GM-84		2545
Luczak, Andrzej	Poland	1948-	IM-77		2370
Lukacs, Peter	Hungary	1950-	IM-76		2460
Lukin, Andrey M.	Soviet Union	1948-	IM-82		2445
Lukov, Valentin	Bulgaria	1955-	IM-77		2410
Lundin, Erik R.	Sweden	1904-	GM-83	2530	2330
Lutikov, Anatoly S.	Soviet Union	1933-	GM-74	2550	2365
Magerramov, Elmar S.	Soviet Union	1953-	IM-81		2445
Makarczyk, Kazimierz	Poland	1901-1972	IM-50	2460	
Makarichev, Sergey Y.	Soviet Union	1953-	GM-76		2495
Makogonov, Vladimir A.	Soviet Union	1904-	IM-50	2530	
Makropoulos, Georgios	Greece	1953-	IM-79		2425
Malanjuk, Vladimir P.	Soviet Union	1957-	IM-84		2495
Malich, Burkhard	Poland/East Ger.	1936-	GM-75	2515	2430
Maninang, Rafael	Philippines	1950-	IM-81		2330
Manouck, Thierry	France	1957-	IM-84		2340
Marangunic, Srdan	Yugoslavia	1943-	IM-71		2435

Marasescu, Ioan	Romania	1958-	IM-84		2295
Maric, Rudolf	Yugoslavia	1927-	IM-64	2450	2365
Mariotti, Sergio	Italy	1946-	GM-74		2445
Marjanovic, Slavoljub	Yugoslavia	1955-	GM-78		2490
Maroczy, Geza	Hungary	1870-1951	GM-50	2620	
Marovic, Drazen	Yugoslavia	1938-	GM-75	2470	2470
Martin, Andrew D.	England	1957-	IM-84		2390
Martin Gonzales, Angel	Spain	1953-	IM-81		2420
Martinovic, Slobodan	Yugoslavia	1945-	GM-79		2430
Martz, William E.	United States	1945-1983	IM-75	2410	
Marcariñas, Rico	Philippines	1953-	IM-78		2405
Masic, Ljubomir	Yugoslavia	1936-	IM-69	2420	2290
Matanovic Aleksandar	Yugoslavia	1930-	GM-55	2570	2495
Mateo, Ramon A.	Dominican Rep.	1958-	IM-82		2395
Matera, Salvatore J.	United States	1951-	IM-76		2420
Matulovic, Milan	Yugoslavia	1935-	GM-65	2550	2485
McCambridge, Vincent	United States	1960-	IM-82		2450
McNab, Colin	Scotland	1961-	IM-84		2415
Mecking, Enrique	Brasil	1952-	GM-72		2630
Medina Garcia, Ant.	Spain	1919-	IM-50	2440	2360
Mednis, Edmar J.	Latvia/USA	1937-	GM-80	2460	2455
Meduna, Eduard	Czechoslovakia	1950-	IM-77		2425
Meleghegyi, Csaba	Hungary	1941-	IM-84		2395
Merdinian, Agop P.	Bulgaria	1949-	IM-79		2245
Messa, Roberto	Italy	1957-	IM-85		2410
Messing, Hrvoje	Yugoslavia	1940-	IM-72		2440
Mestel, Andrew J.	England	1957-	GM-82		2525
Mestrovic, Zvonimir	Yugoslavia	1944-	IM-66		2410
Meyer, Eugene B.	United States	1952-	IM-80		2455
Miagmasuren, Lhamsur.	Mongolia	1938-	IM-66	2410	2335
Micayabas, Marlo	Philippines	1963-	IM-83		2345
Michel, Pablo	Germany/Argentina	1905-1977	IM-56	2480	
Mieses, Jacques	Germany/England	1865-1954	GM-50	2490	
Mihaljcisin, Mihajlo	Yugoslavia	1933-	IM-65	2400	2290
Mikenas, Vladas	Estonia/S.U.	1910-	IM-50	2540	
Mikhailchishin, Adrian	Soviet Union	1954-	GM-78		2510
Miles, Anthony J.	England	1955-	GM-76		2610
Milev, Zdravko A.	Bulgaria	1929-	IM-52	2470	
Milic, Borislav	Yugoslavia	1925-	GM-77	2510	
Milos, Roberto	Brasil	1963-	IM-84		2430

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-86
Minev, Nikolay N.	Bulgaria/USA	1931-	IM-60	2440	2380
Minic, Dragoljub	Yugoslavia	1937-	IM-64	2480	2405
Miralles, Gilles	France	1966-	IM-85		2360
Mirkovic, Slobodan	Yugoslavia	1958-	IM-84		2390
Mirza, Shahzad	Pakistan	1952-	IM-85		2315
Mista, Ladislav	Czechoslovakia	1943-	IM-71		2345
Mnatsakanian, Eduard	Soviet Union	1938-	IM-78		2430
Möhring, Günter	East Germany	1936-	IM-76	2440	2375
Mohrlock, Dieter A.	West Germany	1938-	IM-69	2460	
Moiseev, Oleg L.	Soviet Union	1925-	IM-70	2470	
Mokry, Karel	Czechoslovakia	1959-	GM-84		2490
Monticelli, Mario	Italy	1902-	GM-85	2440	
Morovic Fernandez, I.	Chile	1963-	IM-80		2495
Morris, Walter D.	United States	1958-	IM-79		2365
Mortensen, Erling	Denmark	1955-	IM-80		2420
Mozes, Ervin	Romania	1946-	IM-85		2440
Muco, Fatos	Albania	1949-	IM-82		2435
Muffang, Andre	France	1897-	IM-51	2430	
Muhring, Willem J.	Holland	1913-	IM-51	2440	
Mukhin, Mikhail A.	Soviet Union	1948-1977	IM-75	2470	
Müller, Hans	Austria	1896-1971	IM-50	2440	
Murey, Ya'acov	S.U./Israel	1941-	IM-80		2460
Murshed, Niaz	Bangladesh	1966-	IM-82		2415
Musil, Vojko	Yugoslavia	1945-	IM-67		2365
Nagy, Geza	Hungary	1892-1953	IM-50	2470	
Najdorf, Miguel	Poland/Argentina	1910-	GM-50	2635	2495
Naranja, Renato	Philippines	1940-	IM-69	2390	
Navarovszky, Laszlo	Hungary	1933-	IM-65	2405	2360
Neckar, Lubomir	Czechoslovakia	1950-	IM-83		2375
Nedeljkovic, Srecko	Yugoslavia	1923-	IM-50	2490	
Negulescu, Adrian	Romania	1961-	IM-81		2380
Nei, Ivo	Soviet Union	1931-	IM-64	2530	2450
Neikirkh, Oleg N.	Bulgaria	1914-	IM-57	2460	
Nemet, Ivan	Yugoslavia	1943-	GM-78	2460	2415
Nenarokov, Vladimir	Soviet Union	1880-1953	IM-50	2430	

Nezhmetdinov, Rashid	Soviet Union	1912-1974	IM-54	2480	
Nicevski, Risto	Yugoslavia	1945-	IM-75		2365
Nickoloff, Bryon	Canada	1956-	IM-81		2415
Niklasson, Christer	Sweden	1953-	IM-77		2375
Nikolac, Juraj	Yugoslavia	1932-	GM-79	2500	2440
Nikolic, Predrag	Yugoslavia	1960-	GM-83		2565
Nikolic, Stanimir	Yugoslavia	1935-	GM-77	2450	2340
Nikolic, Zivoslav	Yugoslavia	1953-	IM-82		2445
Nogueiras, Jose de J.	Cuba	1959-	GM-79		2570
Norwood, David	England	1968-	IM-85		2460
Novoselski, Zoran	Yugoslavia	1955-	IM-83		2315
Novotelnov, Nikolay	Soviet Union	1911-	IM-51	2420	
Nun, Jiri	Czechoslovakia	1957-	IM-82		2405
Nun, Josef	Czechoslovakia	1933-	IM-76	2420	2395
Nunn, Jonathan D.	England	1955-	GM-77		2585
Ochoa de Echaguen, F.	Spain	1954-	IM-81		2415
Odendahl, Steven	United States	1959-	IM-80		2395
Øgaard, Leif	Norway	1952-	IM-74		2430
Ojanen, Kaarle S.	Finland	1918-	IM-52	2450	2340
O'Kelly de Galway A.	Belgium	1911-1980	GM-56	2530	
Olafsson, Fridrik	Iceland	1935-	GM-58	2570	2485
Olafsson, Helgi	Iceland	1956-	GM-85		2545
Oll, Lembit	Soviet Union	1964-	IM-83		2405
Oltean, Dorel	Romania	1957-	IM-85		2330
Onat, Ilhan	Turkey	1929-	IM-75	2380	2360
Opocensky, Karel	Bohemia/CSSR	1892-1975	IM-50	2460	
Ornstein, Axel O.	Sweden	1952-	IM-75		2455
Orso, Miklos	Hungary	1956-	IM-81		2390
Ortega, Lexys	Cuba	1960-	IM-80		2440
Osmanovic, Kemal	Yugoslavia	1941-	IM-79		2380
Osnos, Viacheslav	Soviet Union	1935-	IM-65	2540	2435
Ostermeyer, Peter U.	West Germany	1943-	IM-81		2475
Ostojic, Predrag	Yugoslavia	1938-	GM-75	2480	2385
Ostos, Julio	Venezuela		IM-78		2365
Pachman, Ludek	CSSR/West Ger.	1924-	GM-54	2560	2405
Padevsky, Nikola B.	Bulgaria	1933-	GM-64	2470	2460
Paetz, Thomas	East Germany	1956-	IM-84		2395
Palacios, Antonio	Venezuela	1952-	IM-78		2335
Palatnik, Semyon	Soviet Union	1950-	GM-77		2460
Palau, Luis A.	Argentina	1896-1971	IM-65	2340	

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-86
Palos, Osman	Yugoslavia	1949-	IM-85		2425
Panchenko, Alexander N.	Soviet Union	1953-	GM-80		2435
Panczyk, Krzysztof	Poland	1958-	IM-84		2375
Panno, Oscar R.	Argentina	1935-	GM-55	2580	2515
Panov, Vasily N.	Soviet Union	1906-1973	IM-50	2470	
Paoli, Enrico	Italy	1908-	IM-51	2350	
Paolozzi, Marcos	Brasil	1960-	IM-84		2410
Parameswaran, Tiruchy	India	1955-	IM-82		2335
Parma, Bruno	Yugoslavia	1941-	GM-63	2540	2490
Partos, Carol	Romania/Switz.	1932-	IM-75	2420	2405
Paunovic, Dragan	Yugoslavia	1961-	IM-84		2430
Pavlov, Mircea	Romania	1937-	IM-77	2410	2410
Pecorelli Garcia, Humber.	Cuba	1963-	IM-85		2420
Peev, Peicho C.	Bulgaria	1940-	IM-73	2450	2340
Pekarek, Ales	Czechoslovakia	1961-	IM-85		2440
Pelikan, Jorge	Bohemia/Argentina	1906-	IM-65	2440	
Penrose, Jonathan	England	1933-	IM-61	2470	
Pereira, Renato	Portugal	1945-	IM-84		
Perenyi, Bela	Hungary	1953-	IM-81		2415
Perez Perez, Francisco	Spain/Cuba	1920-	IM-59	2430	2235
Peters, John A.	United States	1951-	IM-79		2500
Petkievics, Jozefs	Latvia/S.U.	1940-	IM-80		2440
Petran, Pal	Hungary	1946-	IM-76		2420
Petrosian, Arshak B.	Soviet Union	1953-	GM-84		2495
Petrosian, Tigran V.	Soviet Union	1929-1984	GM-52	2680	
Petursson, Margeir	Iceland	1960-	IM-78		2520
Pfeiffer, Gerhard	Ger./East Ger.	1923-	IM-57	2480	
Pfleger, Helmut	CSSR/W. Germany	1943-	GM-75	2530	2480
Piaseski, Leon	Canada	1951-	IM-75		2395
Pietzsch, Wolfgang	East Germany	1930-	GM-65	2440	
Pigusov, Evgeny	Soviet Union	1961-	IM-83		2495
Pilnik, Hermann	Germany/Argentina	1914-1981	GM-52	2520	
Pils, Walter	Austria	1948-	IM-83		2360
Pinal, Nelson B.	Cuba	1955-	IM-82		2390
Pinter, Jozsef	Hungary	1953-	GM-80		2555

Pirc, Vasja	Yugoslavia	1907-1980	GM-53	2540	
Pirisi, Gabor	Hungary	1958-	IM-85		2385
Plachetka, Jan	Czechoslovakia	1945-	GM-78		2430
Planinc, Albin	Yugoslavia	1944-	GM-72		2415
Plaskett, Harold J.	England	1960-	GM-85		2435
Plater, Kazimierz	Poland	1915-1982	IM-50	2410	
Pleci, Isaias	Argentina	1907-1979	IM-65	2460	
Pliester, Leon R.	Holland	1954-	IM-82		2365
Podgaets, Mikhail Y.	Soviet Union	1947-	IM-72		2455
Pokojewczyk, Jerzy	Poland	1949-	IM-77		2380
Polgar, Zsuzsa	Hungary	1969-	IM-84		2400
Polovdin, Igor	Soviet Union	1955-	IM-84		2435
Polugaevsky, Lev A.	Soviet Union	1934-	GM-62	2630	2575
Pomar Salamanca, Art.	Spain	1931-	GM-62	2490	2350
Popov, Luben S.	Bulgaria	1936-	IM-65	2470	2410
Popov, Nikolay S.	Soviet Union	1950-	IM-77		2425
Popov, Petar	Bulgaria	1939-	IM-80		2330
Popovic, Petar	Yugoslavia	1959-	GM-81		2545
Porat, Yosef	Poland/Israel	1909-	IM-52	2415	
Porreca, Giorgio	Italy	1927-	IM-57	2400	
Portisch, Ferenc	Hungary	1939-	IM-75	2440	2420
Portisch, Lajos	Hungary	1937-	GM-61	2640	2610
Poutiainen, Pertti K.	Finland	1952-1981	IM-76	2425	
Povah, Nigel E.	England	1952-	IM-83		2375
Prandstetter, Eduard	Czechoslovakia	1948-	IM-79		2450
Pribyl, Josef	Czechoslovakia	1947-	IM-72		2415
Prins, Lodewijk	Holland	1913-	GM-82	2480	
Pritchett, Craig	Scotland	1949-	IM-76		2400
Prodanov, Dimitar	Bulgaria	1952-	IM-80		2340
Przewoznik, Jan	Poland	1957-	IM-85		2420
Psakhis, Lev B.	Soviet Union	1958-	GM-82		2555
Puc, Stojan	Yugoslavia	1921-	GM-84	2490	2255
Purdy, Cecil J.	Egypt/Australia	1906-1979	IM-51	2400	
Pytel, Krzysztof	Poland	1945-	IM-75		2420
Qi, Jingzuan	P.R. China	1947-	IM-81		2490
Quinones, Oscar C.	Peru	1941-	IM-63		2345
Quinteros, Miguel A.	Argentina	1947-	GM-73		2510
Rabar, Braslav	Yugoslavia	1919-1973	IM-50	2510	
Radashkovich, Itzak	S.U./Israel	1947-	IM-76		2395
Radev, Nikolay I.	Bulgaria	1938-	IM-76	2405	2370

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-86
Radovici, Corvin	Romania	1931-	IM-68	2400	2360
Radulescu, Constantin	Romania	1940-	IM-84		2385
Radulov, Ivan	Bulgaria	1939-	GM-72	2510	2405
Ragozin, Viacheslav V.	Soviet Union	1908-1962	GM-50	2550	
Raicevic, Vladimir	Yugoslavia	1949-	GM-76		2485
Rajkovic, Dusan	Yugoslavia	1942-	GM-77		2410
Rajna, György	Hungary	1947-	IM-77		2335
Racic, Tomislav	Yugoslavia	1934-	IM-78		2405
Ramayrat, Cris	Philippines	1958-	IM-85		2430
Ramos, Domingo	Philippines	1960-	IM-80		2310
Rantanen, Yrjo	Finland	1950-	GM-81		2395
Rashkovsky, Nukhim	Soviet Union	1946-	GM-80		2420
Ravikumar, Vaidyanthan	India	1959-	IM-78		2370
Ravi Sekhar, Raja	India	1954-	IM-81		2390
Razuvaev, Yury S.	Soviet Union	1945-	GM-76		2525
Ree, Hans	Holland	1944-	GM-80		2455
Reefschlaeger, Helmut	West Germany	1944-	IM-85		2390
Regan, Kenneth W.	United States	1959-	IM-81		2405
Rejfir, Josef	Czechoslovakia	1908-1962	IM-56	2480	
Rellstab, Ludwig A.	Ger./East Germany	1904-1983	IM-50	2490	
Remon, Adelquis	Cuba	1949-	IM-78		2395
Renet, Olivier	France	1964-	IM-85		2395
Renman, Nils G.	Sweden	1950-	IM-80		2450
Reshevsky, Samuel H.	Poland/USA	1911-	GM-50	2680	2485
Reyes, Juan	Peru		IM-85		2425
Ribli, Zoltan	Hungary	1951-	GM-73		2585
Richter, Emil	Czechoslovakia	1894-1971	IM-51	2450	
Richter, Kurt	East Germany	1900-1969	IM-50	2480	
Rigo, Janos	Hungary	1948-	IM-84		2380
Rind, Bruce L.	United States	1953-	IM-79		2375
Rivas Pastor, Manuel	Spain	1960-	IM-80		2470
Rizzitano, James	United States	1961-	IM-85		2420
Robatsch, Karl	Austria	1928-	GM-61	2470	2405
Rocha, Antonio	Brasil	1944-	IM-79		2375
Rödl, Ludwig	West Germany	1907-1970	IM-53	2480	

Rodriguez, Amador	Cuba	1957-	GM-77		2505
Rodriguez, Ruben	Philippines	1946-	IM-78		2410
Rodriguez Cordoba, J.	Cuba	1949-	IM-82		2295
Rodriguez Gonzales, J.	Cuba	1939-	IM-72	2380	
Rodriguez Pineda, Mau.	Colombia		IM-84		2465
Rodriguez Vargas, O.	Peru	1943-	GM-77	2480	2440
Rogers, Ian	Australia	1960-	GM-85		2515
Rogoff, Kenneth S.	United States	1953-	GM-77		2500
Rogulj, Branko	Yugoslavia	1951-	IM-77		2380
Rohde, Michael A.	United States	1959-	IM-77		2445
Romanishin, Oleg M.	Soviet Union	1952-	GM-76		2560
Romanovsky, Peter A.	Soviet Union	1892-1964	IM-50	2480	
Romero Holmes, Alfonso	Spain	1965-	IM-85		2455
Roos, Daniel	France	1959-	IM-82		2350
Roos, Louis	France	1957-	IM-82		2390
Rossetto, Hector D.	Argentina	1922-	GM-60	2500	2310
Rossolimo, Nicolas	Russia/USA	1910-1975	GM-53	2540	
Rubcova, Olga	Soviet Union	1909-	IM-56		
Rubinetti, Jorge	Argentina	1945-	IM-69		2440
Rubinstein, Akiba K.	Poland/Belgium	1882-1961	GM-50	2640	
Rudenko, Ludmila	Soviet Union	1904-	IM-53		
Rukavina, Josip	Yugoslavia	1942-	IM-72		2475
Sacconi, Antonio	Italy	1895-1968	IM-51	2420	
Sacharov, Alexander	Soviet Union	1946-	IM-77	2470	
Sadiku, Bedrija	Yugoslavia		IM-85		2360
Saeed, Nasser S.	United Arab Emir.	1965-	IM-84		2350
Saeed, Saeed A.	United Arab Emir.	1967-	IM-82		2435
Sahovic, Dragutin	Yugoslavia	1940-	GM-77	2450	2405
Saidy, Anthony F.	United States	1937-	IM-69	2430	2420
Sajtar, Jaroslav	Czechoslovakia	1921-	GM-85	2470	
Salov, Valery	Soviet Union	1964-	IM-84		2525
Sämisch, Friedrich	Germany	1896-1975	GM-50	2490	
Sanchez, Luis A.	Colombia	1917-	IM-51	2430	
Sandor, Bela	Hungary	1919-1978	IM-64	2465	
Sanguineti, Raul C.	Argentina	1933-	GM-82	2520	
Santo-Roman, Marc	France	1960-	IM-84		2360
Sanz Alonso, F. J.	Spain	1952-	IM-77		2320
Sapi, Laszlo	Hungary	1935-	IM-80	2400	2380
Sarapu, Ortvin	Estonia/N. Zealand	1924-	IM-66	2410	2335
Savon, Vladimir A.	Soviet Union	1940-	GM-73	2560	2445

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-86
Sax, Gyula	Hungary	1951-	GM-74		2545
Scafarelli, Francesco	Italy	1933-	IM-57	2430	
Scheeren, Peter M.J.	Holland	1955-	IM-82		2455
Schinzel, Wladyslav	Poland	1943-	IM-77		2380
Schmid, Lothar M.	Ger./West Ger.	1928-	GM-59	2550	2530
Schmidt, Paul F.	Estonia/USA	1916-1984	IM-50	2500	
Schmidt, Wlodzimiers	Poland	1943-	GM-76	2500	2450
Schneider, Attila	Hungary	1955-	IM-84		2440
Schneider, Lars A.	Sweden	1955-	IM-76		2430
Schroer, Jonathan	United States	1963-	IM-84		2370
Schussler, Harry	Sweden	1957-	IM-77		2455
Schweber, Samuel	Argentina	1936-	IM-62	2450	2405
Segal, Alexandru S.	Romania/Brasil	1947-	IM-77		2355
Seirewan, Yasser	Syria/USA	1960-	GM-80		2605
Sellos, Didier	France	1957-	IM-82		2340
Semkov, Semko	Bulgaria	1960-	IM-82		2410
Seret, Jean L.	France	1951-	IM-82		2450
Sergievsy, Vladimir	Soviet Union	1936-	IM-66	2440	2440
Shamkovich, Leonid A.	Soviet Union/USA	1923-	GM-65	2520	2435
Sharif, Mehrshad	Iran/ France	1952-	IM-75		2430
Shaw, Terry I.	Australia	1946-	IM-81		2305
Sherwin, James T.	United States	1933-	IM-58	2455	
Shipman, Walter	United States	1929-	IM-82		2400
Shirazi, Kamran	Iran/USA	1952-	IM-78		2430
Short, Nigel D.	England	1965-	GM-84		2585
Shvidler, Eliahu	Israel	1959-	IM-85		2435
Siaperas, Trianatafyllou	Greece	1932-	IM-68	2350	
Sieiro Gonzales, Luis	Cuba	1955-	IM-84		2365
Sigurjonsson, Gudmun.	Iceland	1947-	GM-75		2495
Sikora, Jan	Czechoslovakia	1942-	IM-81		2390
Silva, Fernando	Portugal	1950-	IM-75		2335
Simagin, Vladimir P.	Soviet Union	1919-1968	GM-62	2530	
Simic, Radoslav	Yugoslavia	1948-	GM-84		2455
Sindik, Ervin	Yugoslavia	1953-	IM-84		2350
Sinkovics, Peter	Hungary	1949-	IM-85		2415

Sisniega, Marcel	USA/Mexico	1959-	IM-78		2470
Skalkotas, Nikolaos	Greece	1949-	IM-84		2335
Skalli, Kamul	Morocco	1952-	IM-85		
Skembris, Spyros S.	Greece	1958-	IM-81		2400
Skrobek, Ryszard	Poland	1951-	IM-77		2365
Sliwa, Bogdan	Poland	1922-	IM-53	2440	2280
Smagin, Sergey	Soviet Union		IM-85		2500
Smederevac, Petar	Yugoslavia	1922-	IM-65	2450	2280
Smejkal, Jan	Czechoslovakia	1946-	GM-72		2550
Smyslov, Vasily V.	Soviet Union	1921-	GM-50	2690	2575
Sofrevski, Jovan	Yugoslavia	1935-	IM-72	2440	2390
Sokolov, Andrey	Soviet Union	1963-	GM-84		2595
Soltis, Andrew	United States	1947-	GM-80		2440
Soos, Bela	Romania/FRG	1930-	IM-67	2430	2380
Sosonko, Gennadi	S. U./Holland	1943-	GM-76		2525
Spacek, Peter	Czechoslovakia	1964-	IM-84		2410
Spasov, Luben	Bulgaria	1943-	GM-76		2400
Spassky, Boris V.	S. U./France	1937-	GM-55	2680	2610
Speelman, Jonathan S.	England	1956-	GM-80		2560
Spiridonov, Nikola	Bulgaria	1938-	GM-79	2450	2420
Spraggett, Kevin B.	Canada	1954-	GM-85		2535
Stahlberg, Gideon	Sweden	1908-1967	GM-50	2590	
Staniszewski, Piotr	Poland	1966-	IM-85		2405
Stean, Michael F.	England	1953-	GM-76		2500
Steczowski, Kazimierz	Poland	1947-	IM-84		2320
Stefanov, Parik	Romania	1954-	IM-83		2335
Stein, Bernd	West Germany	1955-	IM-85		2405
Stein, Leonid Z.	Soviet Union	1934-1973	GM-62	2620	
Steiner, Herman	Hungary/USA	1905-1955	IM-50	2450	
Steiner, Lajos	Hungary/Australia	1903-1975	IM-50	2480	
Stempin, Pawel	Poland	1959-	IM-84		2400
Stohl, Igor	Czechoslovakia	1964-	IM-84		2465
Stoica, Valentin	Romania	1950-	IM-77		2430
Stoltz, Gösta	Sweden	1904-1963	GM-54	2520	
Strauss, David J.	England/USA	1946-	IM-82		2355
Sturua, Zurab	Soviet Union	1959-	IM-82		2425
Suba, Mihai	Romania	1947-	GM-77		2545
Suer, Nevzat	Turkey	1925-	IM-75	2350	
Suetin, Alexey S.	Soviet Union	1926-	GM-65	2560	2400
Sunie Neto, Jaime	Brasil	1957-	IM-80		2480

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-84
Suradiradja, Herman	Indonesia	1947-	GM-77		2280
Suttles, Duncan	USA/Canada	1945-	GM-73	2470	2420
Sveshnikov, Evgeny E.	Soviet Union	1950-	GM-77		2560
Sydor, Andrzej	Poland	1937-	IM-70	2385	2325
Sygulski, Artur	Poland	1960-	IM-84		2440
Szabados, Eugenio	Hungary/Italy	1898-1974	IM-51	2350	
Szabo, Laszlo	Hungary	1917-	GM-50	2610	2465
Szekely, Peter	Hungary	1955-	IM-76		2430
Szilagyi, György	Hungary	1921-	IM-56	2420	2270
Szilagyi, Peter	Hungary	1937-	IM-82	2450	2445
Szily, Jozsef	Hungary	1913-1976	IM-50	2450	
Szmetan, Jorge G.	Argentina	1950-	IM-76		2370
Sznepik, Aleksander	Poland	1951-	IM-77		2425
Szymczak, Zbigniew	Poland	1952-	IM-76		2415
Tabor, Jozsef	Hungary	1936-	IM-84		2350
Taimanov, Mark E.	Soviet Union	1926-	GM-52	2600	2500
Tal, Mikhail	Latvia/S.U.	1936-	GM-57	2700	2600
Tan, Hoang L.	Indonesia	1938-	IM-63		
Tan, Lian Ann	Singapore	1947-	IM-73		2365
Tarjan, James E.	United States	1952-	GM-76		2525
Tartakower, Savely G.	Russia/France	1887-1956	GM-50	2560	
Tatai, Stefano	Italy	1938-	IM-66	2470	2405
Taulbut, Shaun M.	England	1958-	IM-78		2440
Taylor, Timothy W.	United States	1953-	IM-82		2440
Tempone, Marcelo J.	Argentina	1962-	IM-80		2385
Teschner, Rudolf	Ger./West Ger.	1922-	IM-57	2480	2330
Thipsay, Praveen	India	1959-	IM-83		2485
Thomas, George A.	Turkey/England	1881-1972	IM-50	2470	
Thorsteins, Karl	Iceland	1964-	IM-85		2445
Tiller, Bjorn	Norway	1959-	IM-82		2400
Timman, Jan H.	Holland	1951-	GM-74		2645
Timoshchenko, Gennady	Soviet Union	1949-	GM-80		2475
Tischbirek, Raj	East Germany	1962-	IM-82		2465
Tisdall, Jonathan D.	United States	1958-	IM-81		2455
Todorovic, Miodrag	Yugoslavia	1940-	IM-77	2480	2415

Tolush, Alexander K.	Soviet Union	1910-1969	GM-53	2560	
Tomaszewski, Roman	Poland	1960-	IM-84		2390
Tompa, Janos	Hungary	1947-	IM-79		2350
Tonchev, Miroslav	Bulgaria	1951-	IM-79		2285
Toran Albero, Roman	Spain	1931-	IM-54	2460	
Torre, Eugenio	Philippines	1951-	GM-74		2540
Torre Repetto, Carlos	Mexico	1905-1978	GM-77	2560	
Toshkov, Tikhomir	Bulgaria	1956-	IM-82		2430
Toth, Bela	Hungary/Italy	1943-	IM-74		2440
Trapl, Jindrich	Czechoslovakia	1942-	IM-77		2340
Trepp, Markus	Switzerland	1961-	IM-85		2390
Trifunovic, Petar	Yugoslavia	1910-1980	GM-53	2550	
Trindale, Sandro	Brasil	1965-	IM-82		2325
Tringov, Georgy P.	Bulgaria	1937-	GM-63	2480	2475
Troianescu, Octav	Romania	1916-1980	IM-50	2420	
Trois, Francisco R.	Brasil	1946-	IM-80		2405
Tseitlin, Mark D.	Soviet Union	1943-	IM-82		2445
Tseitlin, Mikhail S.	Soviet Union	1947-	IM-77		2455
Tseshkovsky, Vitaly V.	Soviet Union	1944-	GM-75		2455
Tsvetkov, Alexander K.	Bulgaria	1914-	IM-50	2410	2280
Tukmakov, Vladimir B.	Soviet Union	1946-	GM-72		2570
Ubilava, Elizbar E.	Soviet Union	1950-	IM-77		2515
Udovcic, Mijo	Yugoslavia	1920-1984	GM-62	2500	
Uhlmann, Wolfgang	East Germany	1935-	GM-59	2570	2505
Uitumen, Tudev	Mongolia	1939-	IM-65	2380	2330
Ujtelky, Maximilian	Hungary/CSSR	1915-1979	IM-61	2440	
Ungureanu, Emil	Romania	1936-	IM-77		2285
Unzicker, Wolfgang	West Germany	1925-	GM-54	2590	2470
Urzica, Aurel	Romania	1952-	IM-80		2410
Utasi, Thomas	Hungary	1962-	IM-84		2440
Vadasz, Laszlo	Hungary	1948-	GM-76		2370
Vaganian, Rafael A.	Soviet Union	1951-	GM-71		2645
Vaiser, Anatoly V.	Soviet Union	1949-	GM-85		2510
Vaisman, Volodea	Romania/France	1937-	IM-75		2410
Vaitonis, Pavilas	Lithuania/Canada	1911-1983	IM-52	2430	
Vaidya, Arun B.	India	1949-	IM-85		2340
Vajda, Arpad	Hungary	1896-1967	IM-50	2480	
Valvo, Michael J.	United States	1942-	IM-80		2415
Van den Berg, Carel B.	Holland	1924-1971	IM-63	2400	
Van der Sterren, Paul	Holland	1956-	IM-79		2470

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-86
Van der Wiel, John C.	Holland	1959-	GM-82		2555
Van Geet, Dirk D.	Holland	1932-	IM-65	2360	
Van Riemsdyk, Herman	Holland/Brasil	1948-	IM-78		2360
Van Scheltinga, Tjeerd	Holland	1914-	IM-50	2440	2310
Van Wijgerden, Cor	Holland	1950-	IM-77		2430
Varasdy, Imre	Hungary	1952-	IM-82		2350
Vasiukov, Evgeny A.	Soviet Union	1933-	GM-61	2560	2480
Vatnikov, Iosif E.	Soviet Union	1923-	IM-77	2480	2470
Vegh, Endre	Hungary	1937-	IM-84		2365
Veingold, Alexander	Soviet Union	1953-	IM-83		2435
Velez, Nestor	Cuba	1956-	IM-82		2350
Velickovic, Aleksandar	Yugoslavia	1951-	IM-80		2415
Velikov, Petar V.	Bulgaria	1951-	GM-82		2435
Velimirovic, Dragoljub	Yugoslavia	1942-	GM-73		2575
Vera, Reinaldo	Cuba	1961-	IM-79		2455
Verduga, Denis	Ecuador/Mexico	1953-	IM-75		2425
Veresov, Gavriil N.	Soviet Union	1912-1979	IM-50	2470	
Verlinsky, Boris M.	Soviet Union	1888-1950	IM-50	2480	
Vidmar, Milan	Austria/Yugoslavia	1885-1962	GM-50	2600	
Vidmar, Milan Jr.	Austria/Yugoslavia	1909-1980	IM-50	2460	
Vilela, Jose L.	Cuba	1953-	IM-77		2410
Villareal, Jose F.	Mexico	1956-	IM-80		2400
Vitolins, Alvis	Latvia/S.U.	1946-	IM-80		2415
Vizantiades, Lazaros	Romania/Greece	1938-	IM-68	2280	2250
Vladimirov, Boris T.	Soviet Union	1929-	IM-63	2470	2455
Vladimirov, Evgeny Y.	Soviet Union	1957-	IM-82		2490
Vogt, Lothar H.	East Germany	1952-	GM-76		2460
Votrotnikov, Vladislav	Soviet Union	1947-	IM-82		2430
Vranesic, Zvonko	Yugoslavia/Canada	1938-	IM-69	2410	2380
Vujakovic, Branko	Yugoslavia	1949-	IM-85		2375
Vujovic, Milorad	Yugoslavia	1933-	IM-82		2310
Vukic, Milan	Yugoslavia	1942-	GM-75		2465
Vukovic, Vladimir	Yugoslavia	1898-1975	IM-51	2450	
Wade, Robert G.	N. Zealand/Eng.	1921-	IM-50	2380	2305
Wagner, Heinrich	West Germany	1888-1959	IM-53	2490	

Watson, John L.	United States	1951-	IM-82		2420
Watson, William N.	England	1962-	IM-82		2430
Webb, Simon	England	1949-	IM-77		2425
Wedberg, Tom	Sweden	1953-	IM-77		2500
Weinstein, Norman S.	United States	1950-	IM-75		2450
Weinstein, Raymond A.	United States	1941-	IM-62	2480	
Welin, Thomas	Sweden	1959-	IM-84		2445
Westerinen, Heikki M.	Finland	1944-	GM-75	2450	2390
Wexler, Bernardo	Romania/Argentina	1925-	IM-59		2410
Whitaker, Norman T.	United States	1890-1975	IM-65		2420
Wibe, Terje	Norway	1947-	IM-77		2385
Wiedenkiller, Michael	Sweden	1963-	IM-84		2455
Wilder, Michael J.	United States	1962-	IM-80		2445
Winter, William	England	1898-1955	IM-50	2460	
Wirthensohn, Heinz	Switzerland	1951-	IM-77		2445
Witkowski, Stefan	Poland	1931-	IM-77	2350	2260
Witt, Laszlo	Hungary/Canada	1933-	IM-69		2340
Wittmann, Walter	Austria	1948-	IM-81		2410
Wong, Meng Kong	Singapore	1963-	IM-80		2290
Wotulo, Max A.	Indonesia	1932-	IM-69	2320	
Yanofsky, Daniel A.	Poland/Canada	1925-	GM-64	2530	
Yap, Andronico	Philippines	1961-	IM-82		2470
Ye, Jiangchuan	P.R. China	1960-	IM-82		2475
Yepez Obando, O.	Ecuador	1937-	IM-69	2385	
Yrjola, Jouni	Finland	1959-	IM-84		2440
Yudasin, Leonid G.	Soviet Union	1959-	IM-82		2485
Yudovich, Mikhail M.	Soviet Union	1911-	IM-50	2480	
Yusopov, Artur M.	Soviet Union	1960-	GM-80		2645
Zaichik, Gennady L.	Soviet Union	1957-	GM-84		2480
Zaitsev, Alexander N.	Soviet Union	1935-1971	GM-67	2550	
Zaitsev, Igor A.	Soviet Union	1939-	GM-76	2500	2400
Zakharov, Alexander V.	Soviet Union	1943-	IM-77		2385
Zaltsman, Vitaly	Soviet Union/USA	1941-	IM-78		2410
Zapata, Alonso	Colombia	1958-	GM-84		2515
Zarkovic, Jugoslav	Yugoslavia	1947-	IM-85		2360
Zhukovitsky, Samuil M.	Soviet Union	1916-	IM-67	2480	
Zichichi, Alvise	Italy	1938-	IM-77		2405
Zilberman, Nathan R.	Soviet Union	1940-	IM-82		2420
Zilberstein, Valery I.	Soviet Union	1943-	IM-80		2350
Zinn, Lothar	East Germany	1938-1980	IM-65	2420	

9.4 International Titleholders (continued)

Titleholder	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Title and Date	Best 5-yr Average	Rating 1-1-86
Zita, Frantisek	Czechoslovakia	1909-1977	IM-50	2460	
Zivkovic, Ljubomir	Yugoslavia	1938-	IM-80		2410
Zlatilov, Ivailo	Bulgaria	1960-	IM-83		2305
Zlotnikov, Michael	Soviet Union/USA	1949-	IM-80		2350
Zuckerman, Bernard	United States	1943-	IM-70		2490
Zueger, Beat	Switzerland	1961-	IM-84		2435
Zuidema, Coenraad	Holland	1942-	IM-64		2450
Zwaig, Arne	Norway	1947-	IM-75		2450

Notes:

A best five-year average rating is not shown where data are insufficient, or where it is lower than the 1-1-86 rating.

In transliterating Slavic (Cyrillic) names and on the rendering of foreign names in English generally, common usage in English-language chess periodicals has been the guiding principle.

9.5 Untitled Chessmasters

Player	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Best 5-yr Average
Alapin, Simon	Russia/Germany	1856-1923	2500
Alberoni, Edward	United States	u u	2370*
Albin, Adolph	Romania/Austria	1848-1920	2450
Alekhine, Alexander	Russia/France	1892-1946	2690
Anderssen, Adolph	Germany	1818-1879	2600
Andersson, Erik	Denmark	1885-1938	2480
Apscheneek, Franz	Lithuania	1894-1941	2430
Baird, David G.	United States	1854-1913	2350
Balla, Zoltan	Hungary	1883-1945	2450
Barasz, Zsigmond	Hungary	1878-1935	2440
Bardeleben, Curt von	Germany	1861-1924	2510
Barnes, Thomas W.	England	1825-1874	2410*
Bauer, Johann H.	Austria	1861-1891	2460
Berger, Johann H.	Austria	1845-1933	2495
Bird, Henry E.	England	1830-1908	2440
Blackburne, Joseph H.	England	1841-1924	2570
Blumenfeld, Benjamin M.	Russia	1884-1947	2390
Boden, Samuel S.	England	1826-1882	2470*
Breyer, Gyula	Hungary	1894-1921	2500
Brody, Miklos	Hungary	1877-1949	2430
Buckle, Henry T.	England	1821-1862	2480*
Burn, Amos	England	1848-1925	2530
Capablanca, Jose R.	Cuba	1888-1942	2725
Caro, Horatio	England	1862-1920	2470
Chajes, Oscar	Germany/USA	1873-1928	2440
Charousek, Rudolph	Bohemia/Hungary	1873-1900	2570
Chigorin, Mikhail	Russia	1850-1908	2600
Cohn, Erich	Germany	1884-1918	2480
Cohn, Wilhelm	Germany	1859-1913	2450
Colle, Edgar	Belgium	1897-1932	2490
Delmar, Eugene	United States	1841-1909	2420
DeVere, Cecil	England	1845-1875	2450
Dubois, Serafino	Italy	1817-1899	2550*
Dufresne, Jean	Germany	1829-1893	2370*
Engels, Ludwig	Germany/Brazil	1905-1967	2460

* Data covers period of active play.

u Unknown

9.5 Untitled Chessmasters (continued)

Player	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Best 5-yr Average
Englisch, Berthold	Austria	1851-1897	2520
Esser, Johannes	Holland/USA	1877-1946	2320
Exner, Cornel	Hungary	1867-1938	2400
Fahrni, Hans	Bohemia/Switzerland	1874-1939	2480
Falkbeer, Ernst K.	Austria	1819-1885	2410*
Flamberg, Alexander	Poland	1880-1926	2480
Forgacs, Leo	Hungary	1881-1930	2520
Freymann, Sergei	Russia	1882-1946	2420
Fritz, Alexander	Germany	1857-1932	2350
Golmayo, Celso	Spain/Cuba	1820-1898	2380*
Golmayo, Manuel	Cuba/Spain	1883-1973	2390
Gossip, George H.	England	1841-1907	2310
Gottschall, Hermann von	Germany	1862-1933	2400
Grau, Roberto G.	Argentina	1900-1944	2430
Gregory, Bernhard	Estonia/USSR	1883-u	2330
Grigoriev, Nikolai	Soviet Union	1895-1938	2440
Gunsberg, Isidor	Hungary/England	1854-1930	2560
Gygli, Fritz	Germany	1896-	2410
Halprin, Alexander	United States	1868-1921	2380
Hamppe, Carl	Austria	1814-1876	2410*
Hanham, J. Moore	United States	1840-1923	2360
Hanstein, Wilhelm	Germany	1811-1850	2480*
Harmonist, Mac	Germany	1864-1907	2420
Harrwitz, Daniel	Germany/France	1823-1884	2520*
Havasi, Kornel	Hungary	1892-1945	2460
Helling, Karl	Germany	1904-1937	2460
Hirschfeld, Philipp	Germany	1840-1896	2410*
Hodges, Albert B.	United States	1861-1944	2450
Holzhausen, Walther von	Germany	1876-1935	2410
Hönlinger, Baldur	Austria/Germany	1905-	2460
Horwitz, Bernhard	Germany/England	1807-1885	2420*
Hromadka, Karel	Austria/CSSR	1887-1956	2440
Hruby, Vincenz	Austria	1856-1917	2480
Ilyin-Genevsky, Alexander	Soviet Union	1894-1941	2460
Jaenisch, Carl F.	Russia	1813-1872	2360

Jaffe, Charles	/USA	1883-1941	2430
Janowski, David	Poland/France	1868-1927	2570
Jasnogradsky, Nicolai	Russia/USA	1859-1914	2320
John, Walter	Germany/Switzerland	1879-u	2460
Johner, Paul F.	Switzerland/Germany	1887-1938	2480*
Judd, Max	Poland/USA	1852-1906	2450
Junge, Klaus	Chile/Germany	1924-1945	2560*
Kagan, Bernard	Germany	1866-1932	2320
Kaufmann, Arthur	Austria	1872-u	2490
Kieseritzky, Lionel	Germany/France	1806-1853	2480*
Kolisch, Ignatz	Hungary/Austria	1837-1889	2570
Kupchik, Abraham	Poland/USA	1892-1970	2480
Landau, Salo	Poland/Holland	1903-1944	2480
Lange, Max	Germany	1832-1899	2440
Lasa, Tassilo von der	Germany	1818-1899	2600*
Lasker, Emanuel	Germany/England	1868-1941	2720
Lebedev, Sergei	Russia	1868-1942	2440
Lee, Frank	England	1858-1909	2450
Leonhardt, Paul S.	Germany	1877-1934	2500
Levitzky, Stephen M.	Russia	1876-1924	2450
Lipke, Paul	Germany	1870-1955	2520
Lipschuetz, Samuel	Hungary/USA	1863-1905	2510
Löwenthal, Johann J.	Hungary/England	1810-1876	2510*
Lowtzky, Moïshe L.	Poland	1881-1940	2440
MacDonnell, George A.	Ireland/England	1830-1899	2410
Mackenzie, George H.	Scotland/USA	1837-1891	2560
Maderna, Carlos	Argentina	1910-1975	2450
Malutin, Boris E.	Russia	1883-1920	2370
Marchand, Max	Holland	1888-1957	2420
Marco, Georg	Austria	1863-1923	2520
Marshall, Frank J.	United States	1877-1944	2570
Martinez, Aristides	United States	1835-1922	2390*
Mason, James	Ireland/USA	1849-1905	2530
Mattison, Hermann	Latvia	1894-1932	2510
Mayet, Carl	Germany	1810-1868	2330*
Meitner, Philipp	Germany	1838-1910	2380
Menchik, Véra	Russia/England	1906-1944	2350
Merenyi, Lajos	Hungary	1884-1936	2410
Metger, Johannes	Germany	1850-1926	2410
Michell, Reginald P.	England	1873-1938	2420

9.5 Untitled Chessmasters (continued)

Player	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Best 5-yr Average
Minckwitz, Johannes	Germany	1843-1901	2435
Morphy, Paul	United States	1837-1884	2690*
Naegeli, Oskar	Switzerland	1885-1959	2450
Napier, William E.	England/USA	1881-1952	2500
Neumann, Augustin	Austria	1880-1906	2470
Neumann, Gustav R.	Germany	1838-1881	2570
Nimzovitch, Aaron	Russia/Denmark	1886-1935	2615
Noa, Josef	Hungary	1856-1903	2410
Nyholm, Gustav	Sweden	1880-1957	2420
Olland, Adolph, G.	Holland	1867-1933	2450
Owen, John	England	1827-1901	2380
Paulsen, Louis	Germany	1833-1891	2550
Paulsen, Wilfried	Germany	1828-1901	2350
Perlis, Julius	Austria	1880-1913	2500
Petrov, Alexander	Russia	1794-1867	2530*
Petrov, Vladimir	Latvia/USSR	1907-1945	2520
Pillsbury, Harry N.	United States	1872-1906	2630
Pollock, William H.K.	England	1859-1896	2400
Popiel, Ignatz	Austria	1863-1943	2350
Porges, Moritz	Austria	1858-1909	2400
Post, Erhard	Germany	1881-1947	2480
Potter, William N.	England	1840-1895	2480
Prokes, Ladislav	Bohemia	1884-1966	2400
Przepiorka, David	Poland	1880-1942	2470
Rabinovitch, Ilya L.	Russia	1891-1942	2530
Reggio, Arturo	Italy	1863-1917	2400
Rethy, Pal	Hungary	1905-1962	2460
Reti, Richard	Hungary/Czech.	1889-1929	2550
Rey Ardid, Ramon	Spain	1903-	2480
Riemann, Fritz	Germany	1859-1932	2450
Riviere, Jules Arnous de	France	1830-1905	2450
Rosenthal, Samuel	Poland/France	1837-1902	2470
Rosselli del Turco, Stefano	Italy	1877-1947	2400
Rotlevi, G.A.	Poland	1889-1920	2480
Rousseau, Eugene	France/USA	u u	2370*

Ryumin, Nikolai N.	Russia	1908-1942	2510
Saint-Amant, Pierre	France	1800-1873	2400*
Salwe, Georg	Poland	1860-1920	2500
Schalopp, Emil	Germany	1843-1919	2450
Scheve, Theodor von	Germany	1851-1922	2450
Schiffers, Emanuel S.	Russia	1850-1904	2490
Schlechter, Carl	Austria	1874-1918	2600
Schottländer, Arnold	Germany	1854-1909	2410
Schulten, John W.	United States	u -1875	2335*
Schwarz, Adolph	Hungary/Austria	1836-1910	2475
Schwarz, Jaques	Germany/Austria	1856-1921	2440
Seitz, Adolph	Germany	1898-1970	2410
Selesniev, Alexei	Russia	1888-1965	2470
Shories, George	England	1874-1934	2430
Showalter, Jackson W.	United States	1860-1935	2470
Shumov, Ilya	Russia	1819-1881	2390*
Simonson, Albert C.	United States	1915-1965	2430
Soultanbeieff, Victor	Belgium	1895-1972	2370
Spielmann, Rudolph	Austria	1883-1942	2560
Stanley, Charles H.	England/USA	1819-1894	2380*
Staunton, Howard	England	1810-1874	2520*
Steiner, Endre	Hungary	1901-1944	2490
Steinitz, Wilhelm	Bohemia/USA	1836-1900	2650
Sterk, Karoly	Hungary	1881-1946	2410
Süchting, Hugo	Germany	1874-1916	2450
Suhle, Berthold	Germany	1837-1904	2440*
Sultan Khan, Mir	Pakistan	1905-1966	2530
Swiderski, Rudolph	Germany	1878-1909	2490
Szekely, Jenö	Hungary	1886-1946	2385
Szen, Jozsef	Hungary	1800-1857	2450*
Takacs, Sandor	Hungary	1893-1932	2470
Tarrasch, Siegbert	Germany	1862-1934	2610
Taubenhaus, Jean	Poland/France	1850-1919	2480
Teichmann, Richard	Germany	1868-1925	2570
Tinsley, Edward S.	England	1869-1937	2400
Treybal, Karl	Bohemia	1885-1941	2490
Urusov, Sergei S.	Russia	1827-1897	2450*
Vliet, Louis van	Holland	u -1932	2400
Walbrodt, Carl A.	Holland/Germany	1871-1902	2530
Walker, George	England	1803-1879	2360*

9.5 Untitled Chessmasters (continued)

Player	Country of Birth/Residence	Dates	Best 5-yr Average
Weiss, Max	Hungary/Austria	1857-1927	2540
Williams, Elijah	England	u -1854	2450*
Winawer, Simon	Poland	1838-1920	2530
Wisker, John	England	1846-1884	2420
Wittek, Alexander	Austria	1852-1894	2440
Wolf, Heinrich	Austria	1875-1940	2500
Wolf, Siegfried R.	Austria	1867-1951	2330
Wyvill, Marmaduke	England	1814-1896	2460*
Yates, Frederick, D.	England	1884-1932	2470
Zinkl, Adolph J.L.	Austria	1871-u	2430
Znosko-Borovsky, Eugene	Russia/France	1884-1954	2450
Zukertort, Johannes H.	Poland/England	1842-1888	2600

* Data covers period of active play.

u Unknown

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About the Author

Arpad Elo has cultural roots in chess centers of both old and new worlds. He retains fluency in his native Hungarian, although he has been student and teacher in American public schools and universities for more than sixty years.

Elo was born August 25, 1903, near Papa, Hungary, the third child of peasant farmers, but by 1913 the family had relocated in an Hungarian enclave in Cleveland, Ohio. There, in a department store window he saw a set of chessmen that fascinated him into teaching himself the game, using the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in his high school library.

Self-taught chess put him on high school and university chess teams, but he was 32 before he scored importantly, winning the Wisconsin championship. Seven more state titles were to follow—the last at age 58—and a host of lesser championships. His play, at about master-candidate level, reflected a personal enterprise and enthusiasm found in his teaching and organizing. He calculates his best five-year average rating at 2230.

In 1926, after receiving BS and MS degrees from the University of Chicago, he joined the physics faculty of Marquette University in Milwaukee. Incidental to his instructional duties, he ground the reflectors for telescopes used in the local astronomy observatory. In 1943 he was drafted into industry as a research consultant on optics and coatings for aircraft sighting instruments, a five-year assignment, after which he returned to Marquette.

Elo's work with ratings has overshadowed his earlier innovative achievements as an organizer. His pilot programs in the 1930s figured importantly in Milwaukee's widely publicized playground chess activity, which continues to draw many thousands of youngsters each summer. His administrative enterprise moved him into the presidency of the old American Chess Federation, and he joined, as a charter director, in the founding of the present United States Chess Federation in 1939.

Early in the 50s he established one of the first tax-exempt foundations for financial support of chess. In the later 50s he developed the format and helped direct the earliest of the expanded weekend regional Swiss tournaments. These events swept the country during the following decades and vastly broadened participation in organized play.

In combination with the large weekend Swisses, player ratings captivated the American fancy, and by the 1960s many thousands were joining USCF to play and to be rated. But the rating system, for fundamental reasons touched upon in section 8.53 of the book, was producing inconsistencies which threatened this expanded newly found confidence. By 1959, when the matter had become very critical, USCF called upon Professor Elo's unique combination of skills and interests, and he became a volunteer consultant.

His investigation and development of scientific rating theory and practice began then and absorbed increasing portions of his time and attention ever since, as the Elo Rating System, after restoring confidence in ratings, spread first over the United States and then over the international chess scene.

The soundness of the rating system premises brought consulting opportunities in golf and bowling and with equipment manufacturers, and Professor Elo retired, in 1969, from Marquette to part-time teaching at the University of Wisconsin and to lifetime hobbies which his physics have enriched for him.

Professor Elo is at present still actively involved in FIDE as Secretary of the Qualification Committee. He has continued his theoretical investigations of the rating system in search of applications in other fields.

At his quiet suburban home in Brookfield, Wisconsin, with its extensive library of classical music recordings, he mixes writing and consulting with the production of wine and of honey. Many chessmasters, including world champions, have been his guests, and chess and chessplayers remain his primary joy and interest.

Readers who wish to correspond with the author may write to him at 3945 North Fiebrantz Drive, Brookfield, WI 53005. In particular, additional current information on any topic in the book is welcome.

The Author

Arpad Elo has cultural roots in chess centres of both old and new worlds. He retains fluency in his native Hungarian, although his education since age ten has been in American public schools. The University of Chicago conferred his BS and MS degrees, in Physics, which he has taught at university level for the past half century.

His physics and a ranging interest led him into astronomy, horticulture, apiculture, and music, but chess and chessplayers remain his primary joy and interest. As a player, he counts eight Wisconsin championships between his 32nd and 58th birthdays, plus some forty lesser championships and many imaginative published games, including two draws with Reuben Fine.

As an administrator, he joined in the 1939 founding of the United States Chess Federation, after serving as president of its predecessor. His state and local offices have been numerous. Chessplayers too have been very important to him, and a great many masters, including two world champions, have been guests in his suburban home in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

The chess world was fortunate to claim his unique combination of skills and interests just when sorely needed, at a critical juncture in 1959. Ratings had then captivated the fancy of thousands of American players, but were beginning to founder from faults in basic theory. His investigation and development of scientific rating theory and practice began then and have absorbed increasing portions of his time and attention for the better part of twenty years, as the Elo system has been accepted first in the United States and then throughout the world of chess.

The soundness of the rating system premises has brought Professor Elo into consulting positions in other areas of sport, notably golf and bowling. Already, two California psychologists identified major advantages for these processes in applied and investigative psychology. But still Professor Elo has continued his theoretical investigations of the rating system in search of applications in other fields and finds time to be actively involved in FIDE as Secretary of the Qualification Committee.

