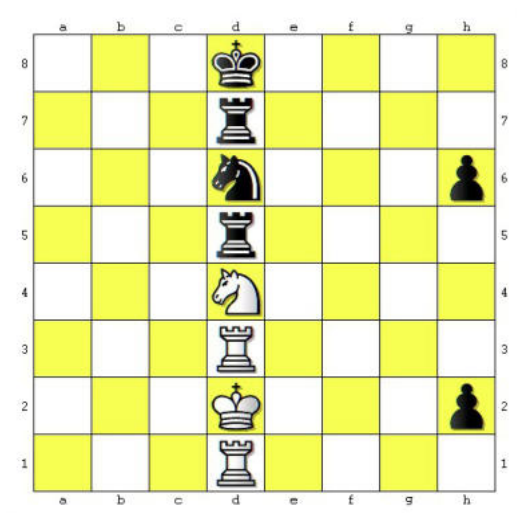




Evgeni Egorov
White to move and draw
Special Commendation

I once composed an helpmate with such a vertical shape, with four solutions. It was funny to solve, as this study is: a perfect interpretation of the humorous and baroque, yet serious and precise, nature of chess. Breaking symmetry just to restore symmetry: a paradox in the paradox.

Raised more than a smile on my face, especially noticing that the Author has marked with a number every cluster of pieces stacked vertically, also sending me the pictures of every position, like a scrambled work of contemporary art.

Solution: **{8!}** 1. Nc6+ **{! 7!}** (1. Ne6+ ? Ke7 2. Rxd5 Ne4+ 3. Ke3 Rxd5 -+)

1. .. Kc7 **{6!}** 2. Rxd5 **{3+2!}** Nc4+!
(2. .. Ne4+ 3. Ke3 Rxd5 4. Rh1 Ng3 5. Rxh2 Nf1+ 6. Ke4 =)

3. Kc3 Rxd5 4. Rh1 Rc5 **{5!}** 5. Nd4
(5. Nb4 ? Ne5+ 6. Kd4 (6. Kb3 Ng4 -+) 6. .. Kd6 7. Nd3 Rd5+ {-+ **4!}**)

5. .. Ne5+ 6. Kd2 Ra5 (6. .. Rd5 **{2!}** 7. Ke3 Ng4+ 8. Ke4 Nf2+ (8. .. Rh5 9. Kf3 =) (8. .. Rd7 9. Ne6+ =) (8. .. Kd6 **{3!}** 9. Nf5+ =) 9. Kxd5 Nxh1 10. Nf3 =)

7. Ke3 (7. Rxh2 ? Ra2+ 8. Nc2 Nf3+ -+)

7. .. Ra4 8. Nf5 h5 9. Nh6 **{! 2+2!}** (9. Ng3 ? Ra3+ 10. Kf4 Ng6+ -+)

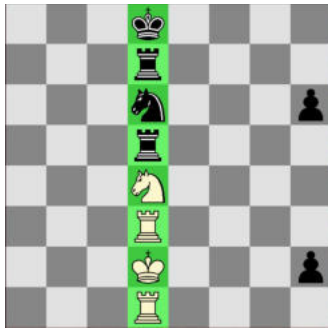
9. .. Ra3+ (9. .. Rh4 10. Kf2 Rf4+ 11. Ke3 (11. Kg3 Rf6 12. Rxh2 Rxh6 -+) 11. .. Rf6 12. Ke4 Nf3 13. Nf5 =) (9. .. Ra2 10. Kf4 =)

10. Kf4! (10. Ke4 ? Nf3 11. Nf5 Nd2+ 12. Ke5 Rh3)

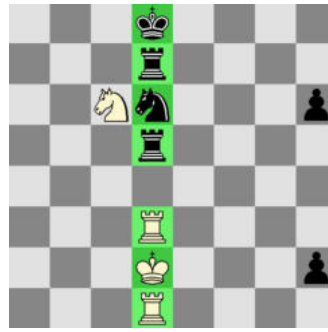
10. .. Nf3 **{2+2+2!}** 11. Nf5 **{! 3+2!}** (11. Kg3 Kd7 **{! -+}**)

11. .. h4 12. Nxh4 Nxh4 (12. .. Ra1 13. Rxa1 Ng1 14. Nf3 =)

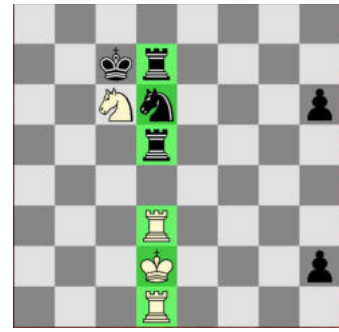
13. Rxh2 **{1!}** Ra8 14. Rxh4 Ra4+ 15. Kg5 Rxh4 16. Kxh4 **{0! Insufficient material}**



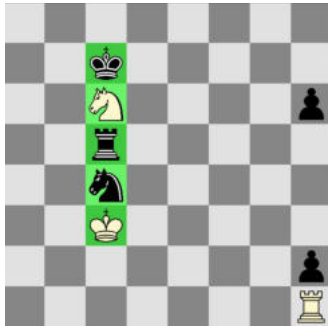
8!



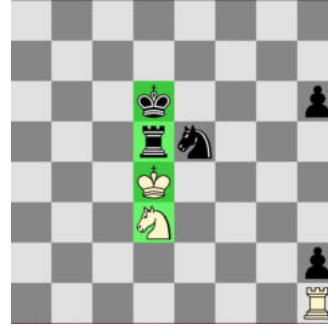
7!



6!



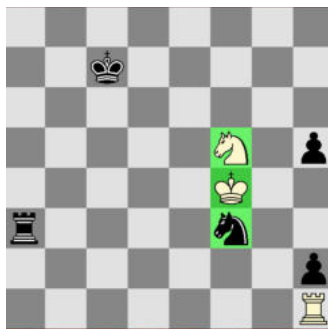
5!



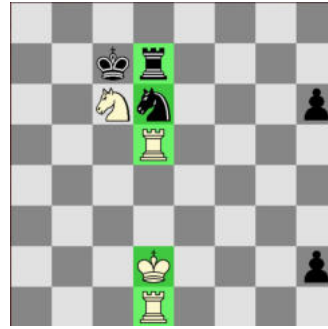
4!



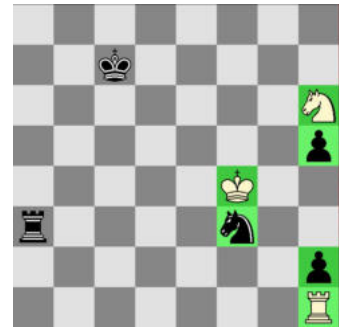
3 + 2!



3!



2+3!



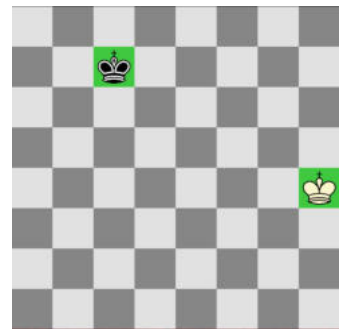
2+2+2!



2+2!



2+1!



0!

The "scrambled work of contemporary art"!