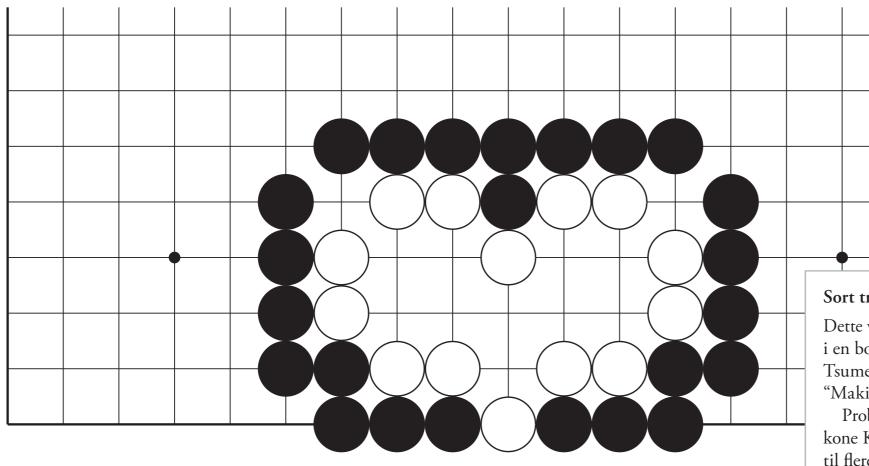
# Nordisk GoBlad

No. 2-07 July 1, 2007



## Sort trekker og dreper

Dette vakre problemet er komponert av Cho U i en bok utkommet i 2006 kalt "Cho U no Tsumego" (Cho U's tsumego), med undertittel "Making hard problems easier".

Problemet er laget som en gave til Cho U's kone Kobayashi Izumi, som selv har bidratt til flere av kapitlene i boken. Løsning følger i neste nummer av Nordisk Goblad.

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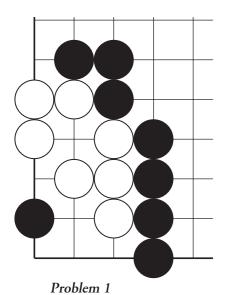
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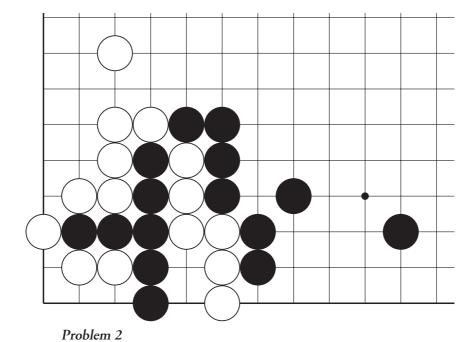
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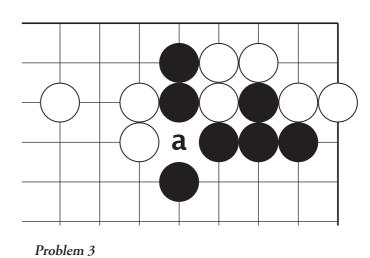
# 7 problemer

Pål Sannes

Sort i trekket i alle problemene.



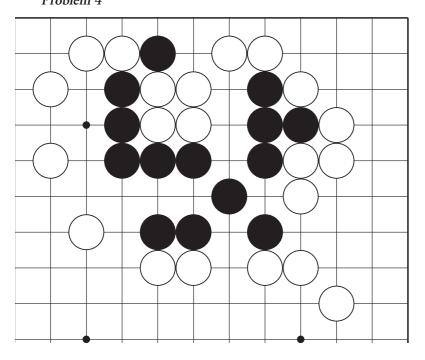




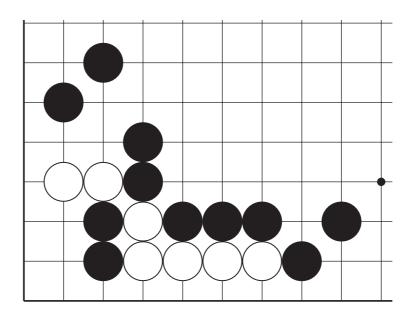
# Hvis problem 3 hadde forekommet i et virkelig parti, ville nok de aller fleste ha spilt A uten en gang å overveie andre muligheter, men det ville være å la en stor

sjanse gå fra seg.

## Problem 4

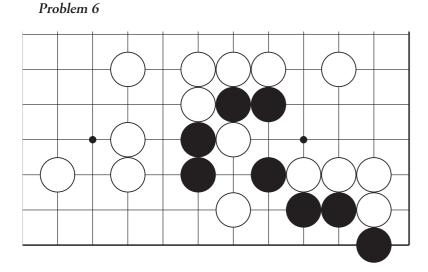


#### Problem 5

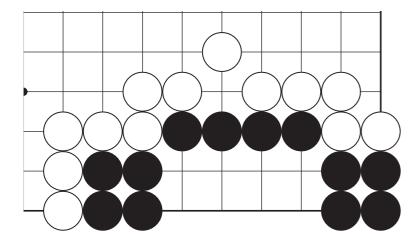


Lösningar på sidan 19

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#### Problem 7



# There and back – a hobbyists tale

Kare Jantunen

When I was chosen to be the Finnish representative for the 1<sup>st</sup> Prime Ministers Cup in Korea, I made big plans to study and be in the shape of my life for the tournament. However time flew faster than usual, and by the time the tournament was at hand I had only managed one of these goals. Having not studied at all I was luckily feeling strong for a change.

In the morning on the day I was supposed to fly, the flightpersonels of Finnair announced a strike. My flight was among the cancelled ones. After spending six hours in line to speak with the people organizing rerouting of passengers I was told that they could not help me because my connecting flight was with Korean airlines not with Finnair. The next day I was able to get a flight to Seoul through Stockholm and Moscow. After some confusion at the airport I was directed to the correct bus and arrived in Jeonju only 52 hours after leaving Jyväskylä. Trip started feeling worth the trouble as soon as I arrived. I visited Korea and Myongi university a year and a half earlier and was happy to see old friends again as they were there to help run the tournament. Many familiar European players had also made the trip, and meeting old friends is a big part of enjoying baduk tournaments.

I was really happy with the tournament schedule. The event lasted for a week with only 4 days of playing. Each day had 2 games with playingtimes of 1 hour and 3 counts of 30 seconds. I feel that koreans see baduk as a much faster game than japanese, and personally I prefer the Korean point of wiev. For example the playing times of European go congress are way too long for my taste, and therefore I'm happy to see that Korea is taking more active role in the badukworld. During the other days and evenings we were introduced to the Korean culture with many different shows and activities.

I was pleased with the way I played in the tournament. I went 4-4 agains a strong set of opponents including a win agains a 6 dan. The only downside was catching some Korean flu in the night before the last games. I was feverish and lost both games without much fight. So morally I feel that my tournament went 4-2. My gain in rating from this tournament was so big, that I was granted the rating of 4 dan when I returned home. Time will tell wether I'll live up to my new rank.

Since I didnt arrive with my original ticket, I needed a new ticket also for the return. This gave me a chance to stay for 2 extra days, which I spent in Seoul with my studentfriends. On the last day we went to a baduk school to play. There is nothing to bring a person back to the ground like losing to ten year old kids. Next to me Diana Köszägi, who is one of the strongest european players, was strugling with 12 year olds. The strength of Korea in baduk is unbelievable. The difference with Europe is truly the difference between amateurs and professionals.

The whole experience with the Prime Ministers Cup was amazing. Koreans are warmhearted peolpe with whom it's easy to make friends. I simply love their culture which is a dunamic mixture of old and new, and cant wait for an excuse to visit the country again. I've never been to WAGC so I cannot compare the events. But I cannot imagine anybody organizing a nicer tournament. Korean Primeministers Cup is truly an event you want to partisipate in.

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# Comments and corrections to an Italian review

Henric Bergsåker

The recent review of the Italian problem [1] has generated a number of reactions. I would like to thank Neil Mitchison, Roberto Morrison, Paolo Montrasio, T Mark Hall, Carlo Tibaldi, Nicoletta Corradi, Tony Atkins, Ales Cieply, Matti Siivola, Franco Pratesi, Raffaella Giardino, Giuseppe di Buoi and Ramon Soletti for comments on the article. There has also been some discussion on the topic in rec.games.go and on the Figg and Agi web sites. The comments have mostly been more or less appreciative of the review, but obviously there are also errata to be corrected, and a couple of objections.

Apart from the inevitable typos

(e.g. on page 18, 2nd column, 2nd paragraph, lines 13-14, it says "September 1999 deadline", but should be should be "September 1998 deadline", while on page 19, 3rd column, 2nd line from the bottom, it says: "Giovanni", where it should be "Gianni") there are a couple of mistakes in the article.

The major mistake is that I have grossly exaggerated the role and responsibilities of Paolo Montrasio in the article. On page 18, 2nd column, bottom, Paolo Montrasio is listed as board member, but in fact he entered the board only in November 1998, so in a formal sense he should not be listed as responsible for proposing the expulsion or for the "clever" deadline. He also resigned from the board already in December 1998. Having consulted a public letter from fall 1998 from Montrasio, which had previously escaped my attention, it now seems clear to me that Montrasio entered the Figg board with good intentions. He did however vote in favor of the expulsions of Giardino and Vajani at the Figg AGM in December 1998. On page 22, column 1, it says "Paolo Montrasio Figg Webmaster and travel officer". In fact, Paolo was appointed travel officer only in March 2002, so he did not have that function when he was himself selected for WAGC 2002.

On page 19 of the article, column 3, it says that the Danish person at the meeting was not allowed to vote because he had no proof that he represented the Danish association. This is wrong, Matti Siivola asked him if he had been appointed by the Danish association and he answered no. My statement that the requirements on delegates were gradually increased from year to year still stands though, this is also the case for the person who had been appointed to the 2003 AGM by the Spanish association, but was not allowed to vote because Matti did not accept his documents as proving that he was a member of the Spanish association.

On page 20, column 2, last paragraph. It says that the board "including Tony Atkins, Zoran Mutabzija and Matti Siivola" had decided... Matti thinks that the whole board should be mentioned as responsible, and I have no problem with that, I mentioned these three names because they were the people who spoke up to motivate the board's suggestion. That would include Oleg Gavrilov and Hans Kostka. There is however an informal practice in the EGF that the treasurer does not participate in "political" decisions, so presumably Hans should be excluded from that list. Neil Mitchison and Aldo Podavini think that my statement in the review that AGI discarded a compromise solution in June 1999 was too blunt. They say that AGI was not able to consult the members properly before the deadline and that the proposal consequently fell.

I state in the review that documents have been removed from the Figg web site. Actually some documents appear to have been removed and put back again, whereas others have been there all the time, albeit without any link to them from the entry page. Knowing where to look, most of the discussion in Italian from 1998 is found in three zipped archive files at [2]. Some of the discussion is also now online at the discussion fora at the Figg website.

Carlo Tibaldi does not like the review. He confirms the specific points where he is mentioned, however he objects to being called "a supporter of Soletti" (he prefers to be called Solettis friend and mentions that Soletti himself has called Tibaldi his faithful groom). I don't see any reason to dwell on any such semantic detail, I quoted Tibaldi as Soletti supporter only to make it clear that Tibaldi is not likely to have made anything up with the intention of harming Soletti. Tibaldi also objects to being called a major campaign leader for punishment. In that case I disagree with him, but I would like to specify that when I list on page 18, column

3 Corradi, Tibaldi and Ramon Soletti as campaign leaders for punishment, the idea is that Corradi was the most active, Tibaldi less and Ramon a lot less.

Nicoletta Corradi does not like the review, she has made it clear that she thinks there is something wrong with it, but that she doesn't have time to point out what. Ramon Soletti is not happy with the review either, he thinks that it's partial and biased. I would like to take the opportunity to underline once more that I personally disapprove very strongly of the way this affair has been handled by the Figg from the very beginning and have been actively trying to solve the problems in ways which are certainly contrary to the official view of the Figg. I have tried to take up a detached position, writing the review, and in particular to be careful with getting the facts right. However, it is inevitable that my focus of attention may have been different from that of a hypothetical reviewer more friendly with the Figg side. Roberto Morrisson is appreciative of my review, but also expressed regret that there is no equivalent synthetic review more from the Figg point of view. I can only agree.

Actually Ramon Soletti recently published an analysis of the affair in two messages on the Figg website on the 27th of April [3]. This is probably the closest to a synthesis from the Figg point of view that I have ever seen. Ramon says that he has also presented the same views to Yuki Shigeno ( secretary of the International Go Federation). Ramon sees the affair, in particular the expulsion, as a cynical struggle for power. He says that the core of the matter was that Gionata Soletti (his brother, Figg secretary) and Raffaella Giardino hated each other, and that the conflict was personal. From this, according to Ramon, a war broke out and as a result Raffaella was expelled. He finds the process democratic and legitimate. With disarming frankness Ramon also states that "maybe"

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what we want? Whence our success". He concludes by saying, presumably addressing the Agi side: "with some patience I'm sure that your turn to be in power will come, we'll see how you are going to use it".

I don't agree with Ramons analysis. Firstly, I don't think that a fierce struggle for power ending in ostracism is appropriate in a national go federation. Secondly, I don't find it acceptable that the secretary of a sports organisation allows a personal conflict with a member to deteriorate into a war and into the breaking up of that organization. Thirdly I don't think that the manoevres that the Figg board employed in 1998 and 1999 in order to succeed ("clever" deadline, keeping the matter off the AGM agenda, shutting 37 players out of the meeting in January 1999) were democratic. Fourthly, I don't believe that the picture of a struggle for power is really accurate. As I interpret the documents and testimonies, the idea of actually removing Soletti from his position as secretary did not come up seriously at all until after the expulsion, and even then the opposition tried to discuss a solution that would entail a mixed board and changing some rules and practices in the Figg. Fifthly I believe it is incorrect to emphasize one particular personal conflict that much, since there were other personal conflicts too, as well as real discontent with how things were run in the Figg. However, since over all descriptions of what has happened from the Figg point of view are so rare, Ramons analysis is interesting and important.

Finally, another topic which deserves further thought is the interpretation of Figure 2 in the paper [1]. The figure shows a kind of block formation and correlation in the manner of voting. Neil Mitchison has proposed a kind of explanation for the way many eastern European countries have blocked any attempt to "interfere" in the affair from the outside. Neil suggests that in many of these countries sports organizations have traditionally been appointed by government or by some other external authority, and that the "official" status acquired in this way has carried more weight than any internal grass root democracy. In Neils view, such a tradition may explain why a group of countries has taken up a more respectful and understanding position vis à vis the Figg. There is probably a lot of truth in these observations, however there is a great need also for an explanation to why things like the Figg chain of events happen in Italy and not much elsewhere.

#### References

- [1] Review of the Italian problem. H. Bergsåker, Nordisk Goblad 1/2007 pp. 16-22.
- [2] <a href="http://www.figg.org/discussioni/index.html">http://www.figg.org/discussioni/index.html</a>
- [4] Ramon Soletti, <a href="http://www.figg.org/mesg/aree/index.html">http://www.figg.org/mesg/aree/index.html</a>,

# Vesa's Ninth Nordic Championship 2007 in Helsinki

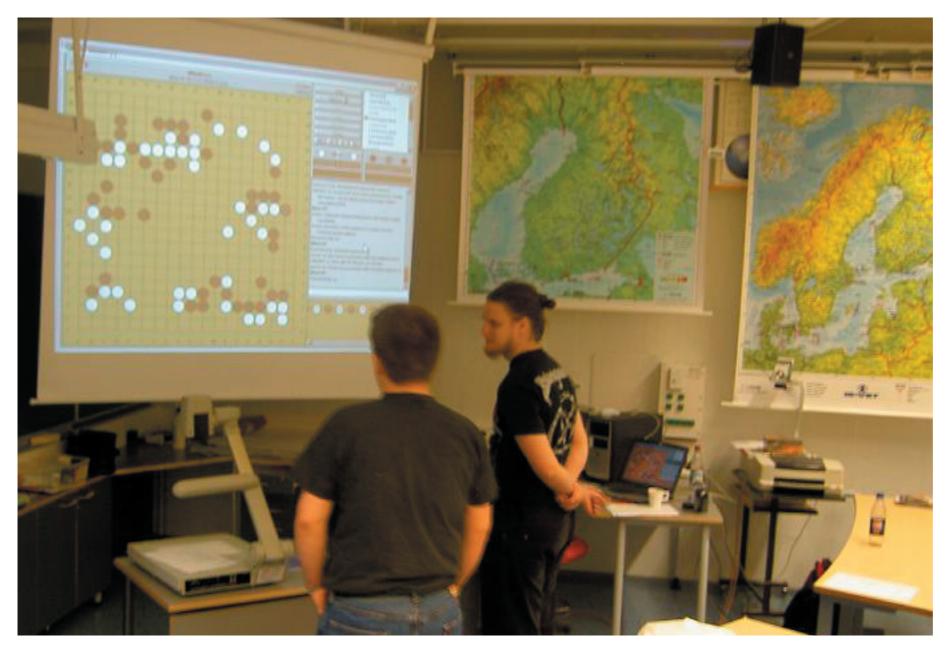
Vesa Laatikainen

This Easter saw the Nordic Championship returning to Helsinki, Finland, after eight years tour elsewhere. The tournament participants were mostly eager Finnish players, while Sweden and Norway sent their respectable representatives Ulf Olsson 4 dan and Pål Sannes 4 dan, both having won the Nordic Championship in the past. Total number of players was 31.



Pål Sannes 4 dan, Norway, and Ulf Olsson 4 dan, Sweden, trying to fight against the Finnish hegemony.

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The tournament was held in the Helsinki New Common School, a familiar place from previous years' local tournaments. There was a lot of space, with two tournament halls, coffee room for commentaries and the auditorium with the video projector showing the next round pairings and then one of the top games broadcasted on KGS.

Round 1 game broadcast in progress. Note the map of the Nordic countries.

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Lauri Paatero 3 dan vs. Vesa Laatikainen 5 dan.

Three days and six rounds ended up with an exciting game between Javier-Aleksi Savolainen 2 dan and Kari Visala 3 dan. The result of this game would decide the SOS or SOSOS tie-breaker for the Nordic Championship, Vesa Laatikainen 5 dan and Antti Holappa 3 dan with an equal 5-1 score at the top. As it happened, Kari's big group was left without two eyes, but a sudden cut enabled him to start a semeai with his opponent's group, and by one liberty, Kari won against Javier-Aleksi. Thus, Vesa won his ninth Nordic Championship by a solid two points SOSOS difference to Antti Holappa, the respectable runner-up.

The rounds started in time, the games were played without disturbance, and the sauna evening on Saturday was entertaining. All in all, the players seemed to enjoy themselves.

#### The Nordic Championship 2007 Results

Pl.	Name	Str Cl.	MMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	Pt	SOS	SOSOS
1	Laatikainen, Vesa	5d Hel	13	5+	7+	9+	6+	3-	8+	5	68	412
2	Holappa, Antti	3d PoG	13	10+	4+	6-	8+	7+	3+	5	68	410
3	Jantunen, Kare	4d Ten	12	15+	6-	5+	9+	1+	2-	4	69	403
4	Urtela, Mika	3d Yli	12	13+	2-	8-	10+	6+	7+	4	67	406
5	Visala, Kari	3d Tam	12	1-	12+	3-	16+	9+	6+	4	66	400
6	Savolainen, Javier-A	2d Hel	11	12+	3+	2+	1-	4-	5-	3	72	402
7	Paatero, Lauri	3d Hel	11	8+	1-	13+	11+	2-	4-	3	70	395
8	Sannes, Pål	4d Osl	11	7-	15+	4+	2-	12+	1-	3	68	399
9	Siukola, Mikko	2d Yli	11	14+	11+	1-	3-	5-	16+	3	67	383
10	Jantunen, Markku	2d Tam	11	2-	13-	16+	4-	14+	12+	3	64	383
11	Määttä, Janne	1d Oul	11	17+	9-	14+	7–	15+	13+	4	60	377
12	Siivola, Matti	5d Hel	10	6-	5-	15+	13+	8-	10-	2	64	396
13	Savo, Jesse	2d Hay	10	4-	10+	7-	12-	17+	11-	2	64	379
14	Rovio, Teemu	2d Tam	10	9-	16-	11-	17+	10-	15+	2	60	367
15	Olsson, Ulf	4d Göt	9	3-	8-	12-	18+	11-	14-	1	62	371
16	Ritakallio, Samuel	1k Got	9	19+	14+	10-	5-	18+	9-	3	60	352
17	Nikula, Janne	1k Yli	9	11-	18+	20+	14-	13-	21+	3	54	325
18	Rantala, Sami	2k Hel	8	21+	17-	19+	15-	16-	20+	3	50	312
19	Leppänen, Suvi	1k Tam	8	16-		18-	21+	20-	22+	2	45	276
20	Pälvi, Konsta	5k Hel	8	28+	21+	17-	23+	19+	18-	4	44	265
21	Hietanen, Ari	3k Yli	7	18-	20-	22+	19-	23+	17-	2	47	270
	Lindell, Juha	5k Hel	7	23-	25+	21-	24+	27+	19-	3	39	231
23	Tamminen, Petteri	4k Yli	7	22+	24+		20-	21-	25+	3	38	222
24	Keipi, Pekka	6k Dan	6	27+	23-	29+	22-	25-	30+	3	34	203
25	Virta, Ilkka	7k Lap	6	31+	22-	26+	28+	24+	23-	4	34	195
26	Lappalainen, Iivari	7k Got	6	free	27-	25-	29+	30+	31+	4	28	179
	Valkonen, Jouni	6k Hay	5	24-	26+	28-	30+	22-	29-	2	33	191
28	Tamminen, Minna	6k Yli	5	20-	30+	27+	25-	29-		2	31	188
29	Salorinne, Juha	7k Got	5	30-	31+	24-	26-	28+	27+	3	29	181
	Piiroinen, Annika	7k Hel	4	29+	28-	31+	27-	26-	24-	2	30	180
31	Siivola, Sinikka	9k Bos	3	25-	29-	30-		free	26-	1	25	158

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# Svenska Mästerskapen i Linköping

Peder Wiklund

SM är verkligen årets turnering i Sverige, hands down. Med 60 deltagare och en fantastisk stämning kan det inte bli annat än bra!

Vi var fem personer från Umeå som bilade ner till Linghem för att spela, plus Christoffer som inte rymdes i bilen, benutrymme prioriterades ;-)

Under helgen spelades det Par-SM, en snabbgoturnering, en slutspelsturnering, huvudturneringen och såklart massor av Go utom tävlan. Par-SM spelades över tre dagar, med många spännande matcher! Till slut var det Liya Sang och Martin Li som knep titeln tätt följda av Charlie Åkerblom och Kjerstin Bergström. Även om jag och min spelpartner hade vitt skilda ingångsranker (2d och 20k) så blev det många givande partier med nerv, rekommenderas!

Det är alltid kul att träffa personer man annars bara ser på nätet, så även nu. SM handlar om så mycket mer än bara ens partier, den sociala biten är det som gör turneringar kul! Maten var strålande bra, med undantag av den starka såsen som gjorde min första lunch till en lång, utdragen pina. Maten som bjöds under helgen var varierad (nåja), god och lite lätt exotisk.

Huvudtemat för årets SM var om Michael Yao skulle kunna ta tillbaka SM-titeln, och det gjorde att huvudturneringen kändes mer laddad än på länge, utan starka gäster och många hungriga 2 dans! En efter en föll dock till föga mot vinstmaskinen Michael, som obesegrad stod överst på pallen. Sista ronden så var hans vinst redan klar, men på bord 3 så var det direkt match om bronspengen mellan mig och Martin Li. Något slags rekord måste ha slagits, då jag fann mig själv vara i byo-yomi när Martin hade 45 minuter kvar av sin tid. Till sist tvingades Martin ge upp, och saken var biff. Ära, berömmelse och pengar väntade på trappan utanför!

Detta var mitt tredje SM, och likt tidigare år så åkte jag hem med en varm känsla i magen. Det kan ha varit den starka såsen, men jag vill gärna tro att det var den härliga stämningen som hängde kvar. Vi ses nästa år!



Michael Yao möter Martin Li. Foto Krister Strand

Huvudturnering, Svenska	Mäste	erska	apen	2007,	Link	öping,	18-2	20 maj	2007	7	
Pl. Name	Str	Cl.	$\mathtt{MMS}$	1	2	3	4	5	6	Pt	
1 Yao, Michael		Sto		7+	6+	2+	3+	4+	5+	-	129
2 Ouchterlony, Erik		Lin		8+	4+	1-	10+	3+	6+	5	129
3 Wiklund, Peder		Ume		5+		9+	1-	2-	4+	4	129
4 Li, Martin		Fal		9+		11+	5+	1-	3-	3	130
5 Sannes, Pål		0sl		3-	10+ 1-	7+ 15+	4 <b>-</b> 7+	17+ 8+	1- 2-	3 4	127 127
Blomback, Fredrik 7 Almroth, Klas		Sto Göt		14+ 1-	15+	5 <b>-</b>	6 <b>-</b>	10+	2 <b>-</b> 9+	3	127
8 Almroth, Leif		Göt		2-	14+	12+	9+	6-	11+	4	123
9 Åkerblom, Charlie		Nor		4-	16+	3-	8-	12+	7-	2	124
10 Boman, Tomas		Lin		11-	5-	18+	2-	7-	16+	2	123
11 Börjesson, Martin		Kun		10+	3-	4-	17-	14+	8-	2	122
12 Jensen, Daniel	1k	Göt	20	20+	27+	8-	15+	9-	17+	4	114
13 Solberg, Robin	2k	Sto	20	21+	18-	23+	22+	20+	14+	5	110
14 Sigvald, Joakim	1d	Lin	19	6-	8-	22+	16+	11-	13-	2	119
15 Strand, Krister		Väs		27+	7–	6-	12-	19-	20+	2	115½
16 Damberg, Victor		Upp		17+	9-	21+	14-	18+	10-	3	115
Karlsson, Peter		Sto		16-	26+	27+	11+	5-	12-	3	115
18 Strömberg, Christoff		Ume		35+	13+	10-	24+	16-	21+	4	110
19 Bergström, Kerstin		Lin	_	25+	22-	26.1	27.	15+	 1 E	2	100
20 Pettersson, Leif		Väs Lul		12 <b>-</b> 13 <b>-</b>	23 <b>-</b> 25+	26+ 16-	27+ 30+	13 <b>-</b> 23+	15 <b>-</b> 18-	2 3	112
21 Åström, Jens 22 Fridh, Olof		Fal		28+	19+	14-	13-	23+ 27+	24-	3	110 109½
23 Eriksson, Mats		Väs		26-	20+	13-	29+	21-	31+	3	107-2
24 Chung, Kenny		Nor		32+	28+	25+	18-	29+	22+	5	105
25 Stoehr, Marc		Sto		19-	21-	24-	35+	28+	27+	3	103½
26 Enqvist, Gabriel		Lun		23+	17-	20-	28+			2	102
27 Bergsåker, Henric		Sto		15-	12-	17-	20-	22-	25-	0	112
28 Eriksson, Anders	2k	Eke	17	22-	24-	30+	26-	25-	38+	2	103
29 Kjellström, David	3k	Lun	17			36+	23-	24-	30+	2	95
30 Gammelli, Joacim	4k	Eke	16	43+	31+	28-	21-	37+	29-	3	96
31 Haraldsson, Eric		Väx		38+	30-	35-	40+	33+	23-	3	94½
32 Böttiger, Harald		Sto		24-	37–	44+	43+	35+	36+	4	89
33 Hjalmarsson, Mats		Sto				43+	36+	31-	37+	3	83
34 Lindström, Björn		Lin	_	36-	41+	37-!		45+	35+	3	84
35 Flystam, Peter		Lin		18-	36-	31+	25-	32-	34-	1	99½
36 Bengtsson, Daniel		Väx Fal		34+ 42+	35+ 32+	29- 34+!	33 <b>-</b> 38+	40+ 30-	32 <b>–</b> 33 <b>–</b>	3 4	94 92⅓
37 Sang, Liya 38 Ekelundh, Andreas		Lun		31-	43+	J4T:	37-		28-	1	92 <sub>2</sub> 87
39 Sörlin, Mattias		Sto		48+	51+	41+	44+	 47+	45+	6	75
40 Danielsson, Jonas		Lun					31-	36-	41+	1	81
41 Persson, Jenny		Ume	_	44+	34-	39-	50+	43+	40-	3	82
42 Majholm, Björn		Eke		37-		45-	46+	44+	43+	3	79
43 Nevstedt, Johan	4k	Lun	13	30-	38-	33-	32-	41-	42-	0	91
44 Li, Dan	6k	Fal	13	41-	46+	32-	39-	42-	47+	2	84
45 Lundin, Erik	7k	Lin	13	46-	49+	42+	47+	34-	39-	3	81½
46 Sandgren, Gustav		Lin		45+	44-	47-	42-	50+	48+	3	75
47 Toss, Fredrik		Ume		50+	42+	46+	45-	39-	44-	3	79
48 Li, Sten		Fal		39-	50-	53+	49+	51+	46-	3	72
49 Gong, Henning		Nor		51-	45-	55+	48-	52+	50+	3	67
50 Steidele, Martina		Väs		47-	48+	51+	41-	46-	49-	2	74
51 Olteanu, Monica		Lun		49+	39 <b>-</b>	50 <b>-</b>	52 <b>-</b>	48-	58+	2	69½
52 Gimsander, Fredrik 53 Ahlström, Mattias		Söd Nor		55+ 56+	53 <b>-</b> 52+	56+ 48-	51+ 55+	49 <b>-</b> 57 <b>-</b>	54+ 60+	4 4	61 55
54 Woodhouse, Alexander				59+	58+	57+	56+	55+	52-	5	52½
55 Nyström, Maria		Ume	9	52-	56+	49-	53-	54-	57 <b>–</b>	1	61
56 Adolfsson, Andreas		Lul	9	53-	55-	52-	54 <b>–</b>	60+	59+	2	51
57 Westin, Emil		Lin	9	58-	60+	54-	59+	53+	55+	4	48½
58 Stavdal, Daniel		Eke	8½	57+	54-		60+	59+	51-	3	46
59 Berglund, Sara-Linn		Väs	6	54-	free	60+	57-	58-	56-	2	46½
60 Erikson, Lisa	20k	Ume	5	free	57-	59-	58-	56-	53-	1	46½

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# SM i pargo 2007

## 17-20 maj, Linköping (Linghem)

Placering	Par	Initialer	Poäng
1	Liya Sang, Martin Li	LS,ML	5
2	Kerstin Bergström, Charlie Åkerblom	KB,CÅ	5
3	Maria Nyström, Christoffer Strömberg	MN,CS	4
4	Jenny Persson, Daniel Jensen	JP,DJ	3
5	Lisa Erikson, Peder Wiklund	LE,PW	2
5	Monica Olteanu, Fredrik Toss	MO,FT	2
7	Martina Steidele, Leif Pettersson	MS,LP	0

## Notering: Vinnare utsågs genom resultat i inbördes möte

	MN,CS	LE,PW	JP,DJ	MO,FT	LS,ML	MS,LP	KB,CÅ	Sammanlagt
MN,CS	X	0	1	1	1	1	0	4
LE,PW	1	X	0	0	0	1	0	2
JP,DJ	0	1	X	1	0	1	0	3
MO,FT	0	1	0	X	0	1	0	2
LS,ML	0	1	1	1	X	1	1	5
MS,LP	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0
KB,CÅ	1	1	1	1	0	1	X	5



Liya och Martin i par-SM. Foto Tomas Boman

Slut	tspelsturnering under	SM 2007					
Pl.	Name	Str Cl.	MMS	1	2	Pt	SOS
1	Almroth, Klas	2d Göt	5	3+	5+	2	8
2	Sigvald, Joakim	1d Lin	4½	7+		1	6½
3	Sannes, Pål	4d Osl	4	1-	9+	1	8
4	Börjesson, Martin	2d Kun	4	10+	6-	1	7
5	Boman, Tomas	2d Lir	1 4	24+	1-	1	5
	Damberg, Victor	1k Upp	4	18+	4+	2	5
7	Bergsåker, Henric	1d Sto	3½	2-		0	7월
8	Blomback, Fredrik	1d Sto	3½	9-		0	6
9	Karlsson, Peter	1k Sto	3	8+	3-	1	7월
10	Almroth, Leif	1d Göt	3	4-	11-	0	7
11	Solberg, Robin	2k Sto	3	17+	10+	2	4½
12	Åström, Jens	2k Lul	3	13+	16+	2	3½
13	Stoehr, Marc	2k Sto	2	12-	18+	1	4
14	Majholm, Björn	6k Eke	2	20+	19+	2	2
15	Gammelli, Joacim	4k Eke	2	23+	21+	2	$1\frac{1}{2}$
16	Bergström, Kerstin	2k Lin	$1\frac{1}{2}$		12-	0	4
	Eriksson, Anders	2k Eke	1½	11-		0	4
18	Fridh, Olof	2k Fal	1	6-	13-	0	6
19	Olteanu, Monica	8k Lun	1	22+	14-	1	3
20	Gong, Henning	8k Nor	1	14-	24+	1	2
	Ahlström, Mattias	14k Nor	1	25+	15-	1	2
22	Woodhouse, Alexander	16k Nor	1	19-	25+	1	1
23	Lindström, Björn	5k Lin	0½	15-		0	2
24	Toss, Fredrik	8k Ume	0	5-	20-	0	5
25	Stavdal, Daniel	16k Eke	0	21-	22-	0	2



Peder Wiklund. Foto Tomas Boman



Erik Ouchterlony, Sveriges representant i årets amatör-VM. Foto Tomas Boman

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# Regional discrepancies in European ratings

Henric Bergsåker

#### 1. Introduction

Ranks and ratings are used in go, for correct seeding and pairings in tournaments, for the selections of players for top groups, to decide which top players to invite to certain tournaments and sometimes to decide which players are entitled to financial support from sponsors. In order to be fair and appropriate for such purposes, obviously ratings and ranks should be comparable and should as faithfully as possible reflect players' strength, or at least their past performances. At the moment, European countries all have their own national systems to decide traditional kyu/dan ranks. Even among the Nordic countries, each country has its own system: in Norway (as well as in Germany) players decide their ranks themselves. Denmark has a numerically elaborate rating system based on winning percentages, which is in use since about 20 years [1,2]. Sweden has a precise rating system for ranks above 2k (originally an adaptation of a British system), while ranks from 2k downwards are informally supervised by the stronger players in the clubs [3]. Finland has a system where stronger players are authorised to promote weaker players, either at club level or at the national level. Besides the national kyu/dan ranks, there is a European rating system [4], developed from the international chess ELO rating system, which ranks the players by a four digit number (GoR).

The EGF rating (GoR) is intended to be convertible to kyu/dan ranks by fixing the rank 1 dan to be equivalent to GoR=2100 and assuming that the separation between ranks different by one stone is equivalent to a rating difference of 100 GoR points. Many European countries, such as Czechia, Spain and Italy award kyu/dan ranks according to GoR ratings.

All these rating and ranking systems aim at comparable ranks/ratings and are based on past performance in actual games. Generally this means that the systems can not work well for players whose strength changes, but who rarely play games that are included in the ranking/rating database. One difficulty is to deal with new players, whose actual strength changes quickly, although they don't play many tournament games. Another difficulty is that there exist sub-populations of players who meet frequently within the population but not outside. Since players mostly meet their countrymen and have relatively much less exchange with other countries, there is an obvious risk that ratings and ranks in separate player populations (countries) may drift apart, even

when they work well within the population. If such discrepancies become large, it may be both unfair and undesired from pairing point of view. The aim of this report is to contribute something towards an estimate of the actual rating and rank discrepancies between European countries, and in particular of how the Nordic ranks and ratings compare with the average European ranks and ratings.

# 2. Estimating rating discrepancies from the average GoR increments in games between players from different regions

Following a course already suggested and tried by Erik Ekholm [5], one plausible method to infer estimates of rating discrepancies between player populations is to study the GoR-increments in encounters between different populations or in particular to use the average GoR increments in the European Go Congress and other European big events.

The GoR increments for players in all tournaments are easily accessible through the historical rating file which can be downloaded from the EGF rating system page, maintained by Ales Cieply [4]. The file which contains the GoR increments of all players in all tournaments since 1996 is called hisgor.zip, while the specifications for all the tournaments are found at the page called Tournament database.

The core of the EGF rating system is the following set of equations [4]. The expected winning probability for a player in a game is modelled as:

$$S_E = \frac{1}{e^{\Delta/\alpha} + 1} \tag{1}$$

where  $\Delta$  is the difference in rating between the player and the opponent and  $\alpha$  is a rating dependent parameter defined by a table. The change in GoR following the game is given by:

$$\Delta R = con \cdot \left[ S_A - S_E(\Delta) \right] \tag{2}$$

where  $S_A$  is the result (1 for win, 0.5 for jigo, 0 for loss). The parameter *con* is rating dependent and defined by a table. For simplicity we neglect the small correction parameter  $\varepsilon$  [4] in

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this calculation. Suppose now that a player is underrated by the amount  $\Delta$  with respect to his opponents, but in actual fact equally strong. Since he is equally strong his average result will be  $S_{\Delta}$  = 0.5. His rating changes per game will on average be:

$$\Delta R = con \cdot \left[ 0.5 - S_E(\Delta) \right] = con \cdot \left[ 0.5 - \frac{1}{e^{\Delta/\alpha} + 1} \right]$$
 (3)

or, rearranging:

$$\Delta = \alpha \cdot \ln \left[ \frac{0.5 + \frac{\Delta R}{con}}{0.5 - \frac{\Delta R}{con}} \right] \tag{4}$$

where both  $\alpha$  and *con* depend on the players actual GoR. This relation is not exactly true when a player meets opponents of different strengths all the time, however the MM system usually results in encounters between equally strong players and it seems reasonable to assume that the relation between  $\Delta$  and  $\Delta R$  is approximately given by the equation, when  $\Delta$  and  $\Delta R$  are averaged over many games. The values of  $\Delta$  for  $\Delta R$ =1,2,4 and 8 at different GoR levels are shown in figure 1.

This derivation ignores the parameter  $\mathcal{E}$  which is used in the rating system in order to counter deflation due to rapidly improving new players [4]. To take  $\mathcal{E}$  into account properly, one needs to access tournament results tables where every individual game result is stored, since  $\mathcal{E}$  should be added to the lower rated player's estimated winning probability. This complication will be avoided in this report, as we want to use just the historical data file with increments per tournament for every player, together with the list of tournaments included, both of which can be downloaded from the GoR webpage [4]. A better approximation, if necessary, would be to add  $0.5 \cdot \mathcal{E} \cdot con$  to all rating increments, however for the purpose of comparing countries this is not necessary.

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# 3. The average GoR increments when players from different countries participate in the EGC and other international European tournaments

In the EGC and other big tournaments abroad, players mostly play people from other countries. The performance of a player in the EGC must be indicative of his strength compared to the average EGC participant. This means that the average number of GoR points the player picks up at the EGC and other similar big tournaments may be an easy measure of how his rating compares with the average European player's rating. Table 1 shows as an example the average GoR increments per game of players in the rating interval 1800-2100 from different countries. The table includes data for all tournaments since 1996 with names beginning in "E" in the EGF tournament database [4]. This includes the EGC, but also tournaments like the European Team Championship or the European Oza.

In Table 2 we see the same kind of data but for players in the rating interval 2100-2400. Typically in this sort of table, the Nordic countries and e.g. Poland, Spain, and a few other appear at the top of the list. Players from those countries gained on average several GoR points per game in the international tournaments, suggesting that they were underrated compared to their opponents in these tournaments. The ordering is different for different rating segments, but some countries, like UK, Japan and Austria often appear in the lower part of the list, showing that players from those countries lost GoR points on average in European tournaments.

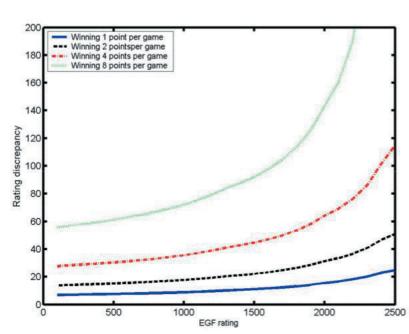


Figure 1. The estimated GoR rating discrepancy between a player and his opponents, in the situation where he consistently wins 1, 2, 4 or 8 GoR points per game.

The third column in the tables shows the number of events (an event being that a player participates in a tournament), while the last column shows the standard error in the estimate of the average win/loss of points. Obviously there is a large scatter in the results at the individual level, but the database is still big enough to give statistically significant estimates of the average wins/losses. For big go countries, like Germany, the statistical conditions are

Country	D(GoR) / game	Number of events	Error +/-				
ES	4,29	26	1,29				
BE	3,6	31	1,38				
SE	2,89	77	0,99				
PL	2,69	121	0,83				
UA	2,34	37	1,38				
FR	2,08	266	0,52				
FI	2,01	42	1,27				
DK	1,79	28	1,25				
SK	1,36	47	0,88				
BY	1,33	15	1,21				
CZ	1,27	125	0,72				
IT	0,57	52	1,25				
DE	0,56	673	0,32				
HU	0,43	38	1,3				
SI	0,07	25	1,76				
RU	-0,15	160	0,71				
NL	-0,2	262	0,47				
RO	-0,62	125	0,83				
HR	-0,87	13	1,88				
CH	-1,35	39	1,33				
UK	-1,82	118	0,58				
YU	-2,41	27	1,14				
AT	-3,64	34	1,58				
JP	-3,98	186	0,6				
KR	-4,39	15	2,11				
NO	-4,59	18	1,73				
TR	-4,98	5	3,74				
BA	-5,83	3	2,37				
IL	-5,85	7	2,41				

Table 1. GoR increments per game in EGC and other major European tournaments. Players with rating 1800 -2100, all events 1996 – March 20

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very good, while for small countries like Norway and Denmark they are poorer. Since the data suggest that players from Nordic countries may be slightly underrated, one way to improve the statistic significance is to study GoR increments not only in E-tournaments but also in all tournaments in and outside of the Nordic countries, respectively.

0	D(C, D) /	NT 1	Г /
Country	D(GoR) /	Number of events	Error +/-
NO	game		0.06
NO	1,99	25	0,96
FI	1,82	43	0,72
SE	1,69	45	0,7
BE	1,6	27	1,3
RO	1,42	149	0,46
DK	1,08	74	0,61
UA	0,73	53	0,51
IT	0,72	43	0,9
FR	0,61	237	0,36
NL	0,56	325	0,27
DE	0,54	578	0,21
RU	0,37	196	0,37
СН	0,07	20	1,58
SI	0,03	40	0,81
PL	-0,15	117	0,45
CZ	-0,26	164	0,37
BA	-0,35	17	0,82
SK	-0,4	66	0,59
RS	-0,48	8	1,1
HU	-0,81	35	0,69
HR	-0,82	10	1,2
UK	-0,97	104	0,48
ES	-0,98	42	0,73
TR	-1,06	9	1,4
IL	-1,42	3	3,1
YU	-2,31	46	0,78
AT	-2,67	49	0,81
JP	-3,16	298	0,34
KR	-6,77	28	1,3
BY		0	

Table 2. GoR increments per game in EGC and other major European tournaments. Players with rating 2100 - 2400, all events 1996- March 20

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Table 3 shows the example of average GoR increments for Nordic players with ratings in the interval 2100-2400, participating in tournaments outside the Nordic countries. Table 4 shows the corresponding GoR increments for non-Nordic players with rating 2100-2400 participating in tournaments in the Nordic countries 1996 – early 2007.

Obviously the Nordic players gained GoR points on average in tournaments outside the Nordic countries, while non-Nordic players (except the French and the Italians) lost points in Nordic tournaments. The result confirms that Nordic players have on average been underrated with respect to the European average.

Country	D(GoR) / game	Number of events	Error +/-
FI	2,39	78	0,51
SE	1,85	68	0,52
NO	1,6	47	0,58
DK	0,87	101	0,48

Table 3. Average GoR increments for Nordic players in the rating interval 2100-2400, participating in tournaments outside the Nordic countries 1996-2007.

Country	D(GoR) /	Number of	Error
	game	events	+/-
FR	2,33	1	
IT	0,25	2	1,75
СН	-0,2	1	
DE	-0,52	35	0,88
PL	-0,83	1	
CZ	-0,89	5	1,16
RU	-1,28	8	1,05
UK	-1,64	6	1,87
RO	-2	1	
NL	-2,85	7	1,15
SI	-3,17	1	
YU	-4,83	1	
JP	-6,38	3	3,19

Table 4. Average GoR increments for non-Nordic players With rating 2100-2400 participating in tournaments in The Nordic countries 1996-2007.

The next step is to derive the rating mismatch which according to equation (4) corresponds to the observed average rating increments.

Figures 2-4 show the derived regional rating discrepancies for a number of countries, based on GoR increments in E-tournaments. Figure 5 shows the similar data for Nordic players, based on their GoR increments in tournaments outside the Nordic countries. In all plots the data are broken down in rating intervals 1200-1500, 1500-1800, 1800-2100, 2100-2400 and 2400-2700, but not in time (all tournaments from the start of the rating system in 1996 until March 2007 are included).

A rating discrepancy larger than zero means that players from the country are on average underrated compared to their oppo-

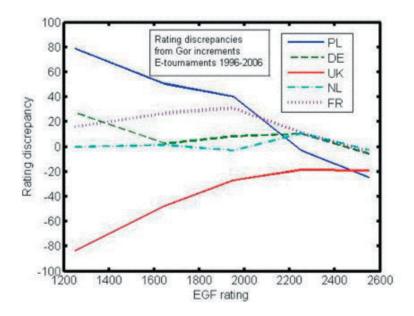
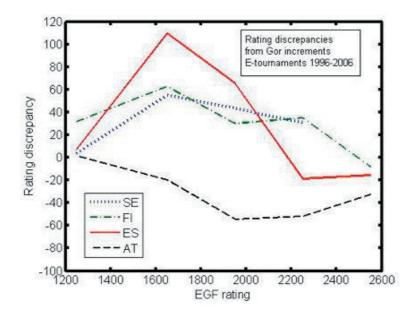


Figure 2 and Figure 3. Rating discrepancies by country based on population averaged GoR increments



nents in tournaments, while a negative discrepancy means that the country's players tend to be overrated with respect to the average European.

There are a couple of problems with this method to estimate the rating discrepancies. Firstly, there may be systematic errors if there is a selection of players from the national population, which goes abroad to play in tournaments. Secondly, if the whole home population is underrated, then the players who go abroad to play frequently will become overrated compared to their nationals at home who don't play often abroad. In order to check for these effects, let us have a look at another method in the following section.

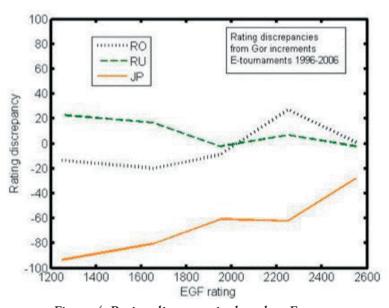


Figure 4. Rating discrepancies based on E-tournaments

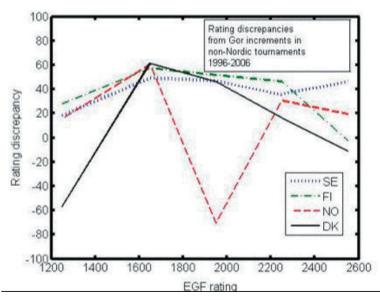


Figure 5. Rating discrepancies based on Nordic players in non-Nordic tournaments

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# 4. Estimating rating discrepancies from the results of specific individual players in different environments.

A slightly different method is to use some players who play often both at home and abroad as probes of the rating levels, at home compared to abroad. This kind of data are easiest to interpret if the selected players are not developing significantly over the selected period.

Table 5 shows a selection of players from countries with different characteristics in the previous analysis. The players have been selected as frequent participants both in their own countries and abroad.

The table shows the average GoR increments for the selected players in tournaments in their home countries (in) and abroad (out), and the standard errors in these averages.

We see that for instance the Swedish or Spanish players on average gain GoR points in tournaments abroad and lose points in tournaments at home, while the reverse is true e.g. for the British and Austrian players.

The tenth and eleventh columns show the number of events which have been included, normally the last five years, but shortened down a bit for those players whose rating development curves levelled out more recently.

The final columns show the inferred rating discrepancy between the player's own country and the average foreign country, once again estimated from the average GoR increments by equation (4).

The estimated regional rating discrepancies, from averages over all players and from the results at home and abroad by selected probe players respectively are compared in figures 6-12 for a number of countries.

The population averaged rating discrepancies and the ones derived from single players agree reasonably well, but not always within the standard error bars. Note however that the two sets of data are not based on the same time period: the population averages are made over the whole period 1996-2007, while the single player data are from the last five years, a bit shorter for some players. Considering that uncertainty and the large statistical errors, it is hardly possible to conclude any systematic error e.g. due to a player selection effect, rather, if there is such an effect it must be small. The error bars and the amount of disagreement do show the statistical limits of the methods based on GoR increments.

Table 5. Average GoR increments in tournaments at home and abroad for selected players. Using these players as probes of the average rating level in their home countries and abroad, the regional rating discrepancies are inferred. Errors are standard errors.

Name	Surname	Country	GoR	+ / -	D(Gor)	+ / -	D(GoR)	+ / -	N	N	Dout	GoR	+ / -
_					in		out		in	out	- Din	discr	
Gert	Schnider	AT	2499	11	0,49	0,8	-0,2	0,57	15	8	-0,69	-17	24
David	Hilbert	AT	2214	30	0,49	0,95	-1,26	0,82	21	9	-1,75	-32	23
Alfred	Effenberg	AT	2123	43	0,76	1,1	-0,63	0,33	24	47	-1,39	-24	19
Kurt	Paar	AT	1749	89	0,99	2,1	-3,06	0,52	24	41	-4,05	-52	26
Vladimir	Danek	CZ	2569	19	-0,38	0,25	0,12	0,17	38	50	0,5	13	8
Ivan	Kostka	CZ	2401	45	-0,62	0,54	0,53	0,34	39	25	1,14	26	14
Ivo	Pavlik	CZ	2024	53	-0,76	0,93	-0,74	1,14	34	6	0,027	0	23
Jana	Hricova	CZ	2008	35	-3,1	2,4	-0,22	0,65	11	10	2,88	46	39
Ondrej	Jurasek	CZ	559	173	1,07	2,8	0,15	0,96	65	17	-0,92	-7 24	22
Michael	Marz	DE	2259	31	-0,69	0,68	0,55	0,49	43	18	1,24	24	16
Harald Steffi	Kroll Hebsacker	DE DE	2215	29 65	-0,62	0,55	0,74	0,4	61 40	29	1,36	25 -40	13 22
Andre	Weiher	DE	1803 1708	74	-0,23	1,53	-3,21	0,7	49	10	-2,98	-40 -42	21
Karl-H'z		DE	1502	78	0,88 0,65	1,32 2,5	-2,47 -0,07	1	25	11 7	-3,35 -0,72	-42	29
Thomas	Sarges Heshe	DE	2428	14	0,65	0,97	-0,07	0,41	9	17	-0,/2	-8 -29	25
Torben	Pedersen	DK	2321	32	0,48	0,97	0	0,41	19	10	-0,69	-14	20
Kjeld	Petersen	DK	1700	87	4,45	2,52	3,29	1,1	9	7	-1,16	-14	34
Cesar	Sanchez	ES	2380	13	-0,79	0,52	0,39	0,52	15	11	1,18	26	16
Dimas	Cabre	ES	2308	35	0,74	0,73	0,9	0,6	23	15	0,15	3	19
Joan	Pons	ES	2261	35	-0,07	0,79	0,47	0,65	24	10	0,19	10	23
Marc	Gonzalez	ES	1694	59	-3,81	2,8	9,31	1,43	13	7	13,1	195	39
Isabel	Barros	ES	1384	75	-5,54	2,8	6,58	1,36	16	9	12,1	138	32
Matti	Siivola	FI	2407	23	-0,83	0,53	0,61	0,3	29	28	1,44	33	14
Lauri	Paatero	FI	2346	19	-0,79	0,91	1,88	0,52	26	5	2,67	58	22
Kare	Jantunen	FI	2256	87	0,63	0,86	3,1	0,72	23	9	2,47	48	21
Markku	Jantunen	FI	2116	70	-1,1	0,75	4,19	0,72	33	12	5,29	96	17
Jaakko	Virtanen	FI	1966	81	-0,07	0,87	0,25	1	28	11	0,32	5	20
Thomas	Gaebler	FI	1398	161	-1,29	2,6	1,03	0,78	12	18	2,33	25	28
Sinikka	Siivola	FI	874	78	-0,31	2,9	-0,64	1,2	15	14	-0,33	-3	27
Pierre	Colmez	FR	2568	19	-1,1	0,47	-0,19	0,41	16	12	0,9	24	16
Lionel	Fischer	FR	2323	44	-0,72	0,54	1,31	0,5	43	15	2,02	42	15
Arnaud	Knippel	FR	2125	44	-0,32	0,8	0,51	0,53	29	18	0,83	14	16
Eric	Warkentin	FR	2100	33	0,59	1,9	-1,66	0,8	6	11	-2,25	-38	34
Jean	Souchay	FR	1553	103	0,41	2,2	11	2	29	4	10,6	130	34
Robert	Rehm	NL	2489	17	0,32	0,27	-0,88	0,49	42	11	-1,2	-30	13
Rudi	Verhagen	NL	2457	21	-0,35	0,34	-0,34	0,37	53	18	0,01	0	12
Arend van	Oosten	NL	2130	45	-0,53	0,66	1,08	0,55	49	19	1,61	28	14
Paul van	Galen	NL	1627	83	0,96	1,9	-0,97	0,43	30	54	-1,9	-23	23
Paal	Sannes	NO	2368	36	0,53	0,91	-0,17	0,29	11	39	-0,7	-15	20
Morten	Ofstad	NO	2325	55	2,11	1,6	0,81	0,55	8	12	-1,31	-27	35
Terje	Christoffersen	NO	1919	20	0,14	3,7	2,83	0,92	4	3	2,69	39	55
Leszek	Soldan	PL	2529	16	0,25	0,49	-0,94	0,44	17	10	-1,19	-30	16
Roman	Pszonka	PL	2343	18	-0,91	0,92	0,53	0,59	21	11	1,44	31	23
Leszek	Gabrysiak	PL	1895	96	-2,03	1,5	5,4	1	28	3	7,4	114	26
Krzysztof	Podbiol	PL	1618	110	-1,68	1	0,08	0,5	52	57	1,76	21	13
Martin	Li	SE	2412	32	-1,11	0,5	1,38	0,4	25	20	2,48	59	15
Paal	Sannes	SE	2368	36	-0,25	0,61	0,13	0,34	19	31	0,38	8	15
Ulf	Olsson	SE	2333	30	-0,65	0,79	-0,62	0,42	20	19	0,03	0	18
Henric	Bergsaker	SE	1985	42	-2,15	1,2	1,7	0,66	31	11	3,85	61	21
Krister	Strand	SE	1930	59	-1,81	1,1	3,09	0,87	36	12	4,9	74	21
Matthew	Macfadyen	UK	2635	4	-0,06	0,5	-0,3	0,5	14	7	-0,24	-7	20
Piers	Shepperson	UK	2402	22	0,39	0,46	-1,3	0,6	30	8	-1,69	-39	17
T_Mark	Hall	UK	2379	23	-0,74	0,8	-0,57	0,68	22	8	0,18	4	23
David	Ward	UK	2341	19	0,07	0,38	-0,47	0,49	38	11	-0,53	-11	13
Francis	Roads	UK	2290	33	-0,46	0,43	-0,1	0,65	65	6	0,36	7	15
Philip	Beck	UK	2051	37	0,15	0,85	-0,46	1,2	33	5	-0,61	-10	23
Stephen	Bailey	UK	1712	67	0,33	1,2	-3,43	1,2	58	8	-3,76	-47	21
Pauline	Bailey	UK	618	129	1,68	2,7	-11,6	1,2	55	8	-13,3	-107	23

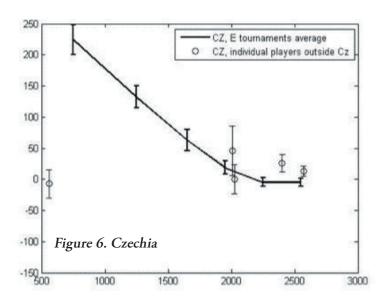
Nordisk GoBlad 2 / 2007

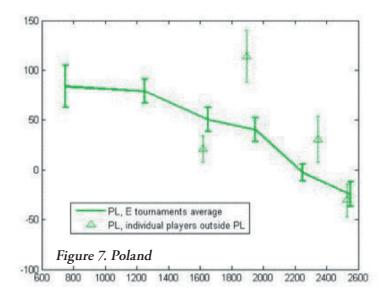
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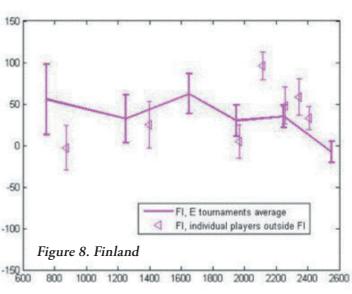
Significant results are that the players in some countries, including Finland, Sweden, Spain, Poland Czechia and others are underrated by a few tens of GoR points with respect to European average, while the players from e.g. UK, Austria and Japan are generally overrated by a few tens of points. Except for Austria, these discrepancies decrease towards higher rating levels. The players from many of the big go countries, like Germany, Netherlands, Romania and Russia gain and lose very few GoR points on average in European tournaments, svo we can conclude that their ratings are well compatible, and compatible with the European average.

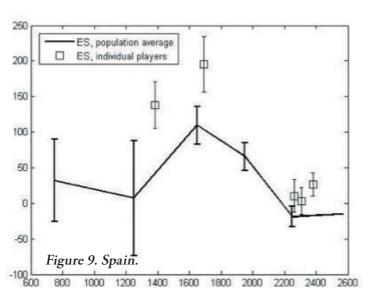
## 5. Performance GoR and performance rank

A slightly more sophisticated and elegant method of analysis is the "performance rating", which Markku Jantunen has used to study regional discrepancies [6]. This means to use the complete list of games for a player's results in a number of tournaments and calculate which rating that player should have entered with, in order for the rating not to have changed at all as a result of the games played. This method requires access to the database which includes all games results, not just the tournament wise GoR increments. Therefore, for this paper only a small example will be shown, for a couple of Nordic players. Actually, the method can easily be adapted to study the compatibility of the kyu/dan ranks as well, if we first translate the ranks of a player and his opponents into ratings, using the prescription 1d equivalent to 2100 et cetera, then calculate the performance GoR and finaly convert back to ranks again. Table 6 shows performance GoR and performance rank for some Nordic players, based on their results in the last five years in tournaments outside the Nordic countries. Note the difference between the two measures: performance GoR is calculated from the GoR ratings of the opponents, while performance rank is calculated from the kyu/dan ranks of the opponents. In this example calculation, the E parameter has still been ignored.

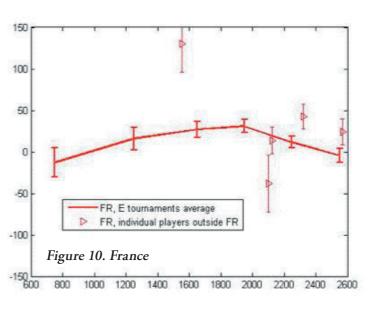


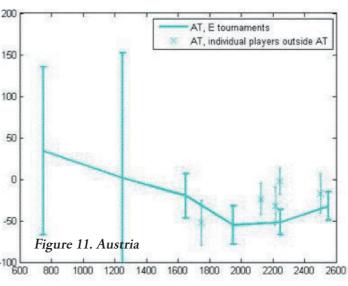


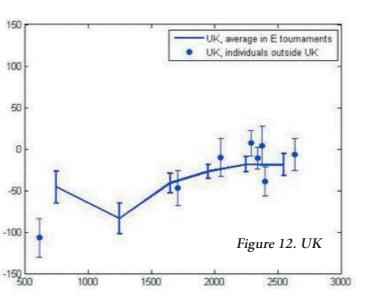




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The ranks of the players appear reasonable compared to the ranks of their opponents outside the Nordic countries, considering the performance ranks.

When applied to whole sets of tournaments, the measures performance GoR and performance rank suffer from the same statistical problems and the same dangers of systematic error due to selection as the population average method based on equation (4).

#### 6. Discussion and conclusions

The statistical accuracy of this investigation is not very good. Some factors contributing to error are easy to see. For example, when separating tournaments in Nordic and non-Nordic, some of the Nordic tournaments actually have had many non-Nordic participants, which surely blurs the average GoR increments. Likewise, when the EGC is held in a big go country, many of the games will in fact be between players from the hosting nation. It would be more statistically favourable to study results game by game and sort the results according to the nationalities of both players. Such a measure would also reduce any selection effect. This applies equally both to the methods using population averaged GoR increments and to the performance GoR and performance rank methods. The method using results by a single player abroad and at home (which could also be used with performance GoR and performance rank) avoids the danger of systematic selection ( as could occur if it is e.g. the most young, eager and underrated players who travel abroad to big tournaments) and does not show evidence of strong selection effects. It too suffers from the problem of a small statistical sample, in combination with the probably varying strengths of the players.

It appears clear that there are statistically significant regional rating discrepancies, and that they are of the order of tens of GoR points in the lower dan region, maybe up to around 100. The most

Number of Player Rank Country Performance Performance GoR rank games 4.2d Thomas Heshe 5d DK 2406 66 Ulf Olsson SE 3.7d 4d 2351 64 Pål Sannes 4d NO 2359 3.8d 96 Markku Jantunen FΙ 2215 2.4d 62 2d SE 2072 1.1d 31 Krister Strand 1d

Table 6. Performance GoR and performance rank, calculated for a couple of Nordic players. Results for the past five years in tournaments outside the Nordic countries are used, except for Krister Strand, for whom only the past three years are used.a

underrated countries appear to be Finland, Sweden, at kyu levels also Poland and Spain. This is not difficult to explain, since these countries had very high growth rate in 2000-2004, approaching 30% per year [7], compared to the European average around 8% per year [7]. When a sizeable fraction of the population is improving rapidly, it is obvious that the EGF rating system (or indeed any rating system using just games results) can not keep up.

The reason why the British and Japanese players are overrated with respect to European average must surely be that they were inserted into the system at relatively too high ratings. For these countries, the discrepancies are larger at lower ratings and tend towards zero at the higher dan levels. This is intuitively to be expected, since there is more exchange between countries at the top of the rating list. Austria interestingly shows a different pattern, with small rating discrepancy at ratings below 1500, but an increasing trend towards the dan levels. Possibly this pattern is due to the development trend in Austria, which was negative, with decreasing numbers of active players over a number of years [7]. In that situation a rating inflation may be expected for a number of reasons, such as the  $\varepsilon$  parameter or possibly a slow deterioration of the actual strength of older players, without the rapid progress of more recently arrived younger players. One may also speculate that the ratings in a static population may reflect an earlier situation in Europe, if there has been a slow general rating deflation over the past decades (players getting stronger in absolute terms at every rank).

It is a matter of opinion if regional rating discrepancies of 20-100 points are acceptable or not. I tend to say that they are. Firstly, the players' strengths probably fluctuate by similar amounts from time to time, particularly some way down in the rating list. Secondly, the distance between MM groups etc are typically 100 points anyway, so if GoR is used for pairing a player who is underrated by 100 points may

get a slightly too weak opponent in the first round, but will then, if he wins, advance quickly to the correct level. The most difficult to judge is if there are selections for sponsored events and the like which become unfair to underrated players. In encounter between kyu players from underrated and overrated countries

the likely rating discrepancy may actually be larger than 100 points, but on the other hand the rating is of less consequence in that rating segment. Still, it appears to the present author

that it is wise to keep monitoring the regional discrepancies, such as with the different methods discussed in this paper, in order to be able to take action to reduce them, if they tend to grow further.

A number of possible ways to act on the regional effects have been discussed in the past few years in the EGF rating commission [8]. To make an ad hoc alignment of the ratings in different countries is unappealing. Among the other suggestions which have been made are to give higher weight in the rating system to encounters between players from different countries/regions, in order to compensate for the relatively few such encounters. Another suggestion is to adjust the  $\,\epsilon\,$ parameter to the actual growth rate of the country, or to introduce an automatic reset of the rating in cases when a player makes an "improbable" tournament result. So far the only control method which has been used systematically, at least in Finland, is to make frequent use of the reset feature which exists in the rating system: when a player enters a tournament with a rank at least two stones higher than ever before, the rating is reset to the value corresponding to the new rank. Whatever methods are used, it is necessary to have some ways of assessing the result, and the methods discussed here may be helpful. It is not trivial to define a global figure of merit of the rating system with respect to regional differences however, since it has to take into account an evaluation of how much damage a discrepancy is doing at different rating levels.

#### References

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- [2] <a href="http://www.kgok.dk/go-nyt/gonyt069/gonyt069p15b.html">http://www.kgok.dk/go-nyt/gonyt069/gonyt069p15b.html</a> (in Danish).
- [3] <a href="http://web.comhem.se/~u37600781/go/rk/index.html">http://web.comhem.se/~u37600781/go/rk/index.html</a> (in Swedish).
- [4] http://gemma.ujf.cas.cz/~cieply/GO/gor.html
- [5] Erik Ekholm, private communications in spring 2002.
- [6] Markku Jantunen, private communication 2006. See also: http://senseis.xmp.net/?MaximumLikelihood
- [7] Henric Bergsåker, "The progress of Nordic and European Go in recent years", Nordic Go Journal 2/2005, pp. 25-30, http://homepage.mac.com/bjornwendsjo/go/index.html
- [8] Markku Jantunen and Ales Cieply, private communications 2007.

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# My first game in the world amateur go championships.

### Erik Ouchterlony

When I was drawn against a top player in the first round I was quite happy. No pressure at all and even if the chances of winning were tiny I would at least get a lot of SOS which could be important later on.

Black: Erik Ouchterlony, Sweden, 3 dan. White: Victor Chow, South Africa, 7 dan. Comments by Omori Yasushi, professional 8 dan.

Move 2: When Victor played at 3-3 on his first move I felt the first glimpse of hope. I didn't know at the time that he was famous for playing a cosmic opening style with 6-4 and 5-5, but still, I got the feeling that he might be underestimating me, which, if I played a good game, could make the game much more interesting. He also started at a high speed, which he maintained during the whole game. In fact, he only used 30 minutes for the entire game.

Move 6: White chooses the small nadare (avalanche) joseki and both players follow the main variation.

Move 23: Finishing the joseki by playing at A is of course possible, but since the stone in the lower left corner is at the 3-3 point, I didn't mind letting white get some influence. Omori didn't criticise this choice.

Move 30: Bad exchange, white should play directly at 32. As Michael Yao so wisely said: "Absolute sente should absolutely not be played".

Move 33: This move felt really great to play. Whites first move has now become a burden for him and he will have some trouble making efficient use of all the influence he created above.

Move 37: The joseki move is at 38, but in this situation I wanted to build a framework on the right and treat 33 and 35 lightly. I was a bit surprised that Omori did agree on this idea.

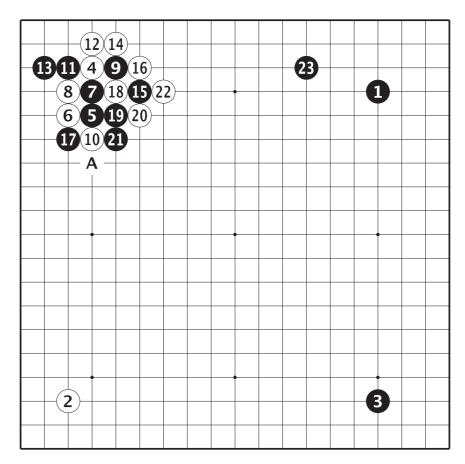


Figure 1. 1 - 23

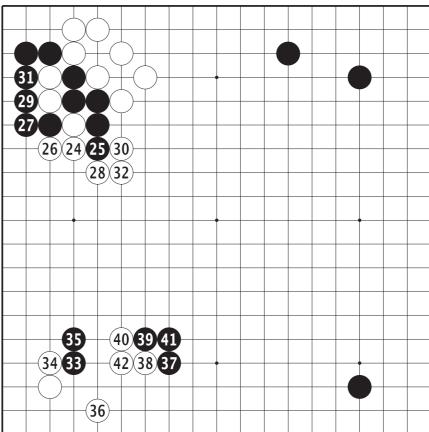


Figure 2. 24 - 42

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Move 43: The first mistake, the marked stones are not important, so this is rather small. Black should instead play the hane at A.

Move 44: White B would be better, making miai between C and an attacking move around D.

Move 47: Black should sacrifice 43 instead.

Move 51: Surprisingly effective move, white had no choice but to answer both 51 and 53.

Move 55: I am aiming at the cut at E. However, a more solid move at B would be better. Since the ladder is good for black the cut is still dangerous for white and more difficult to protect against in an efficient way.

Move 59: Good move. Blacks shape is very resilient.

Move 75: Bad shape. Black should play at F or, even better, play 71 directly at G.

Move 85: Hane at 96 is better.

Move 94: A "tesuji", which doesn't really work. Victor probably wanted me to answer at 102, which, after white 96, would be problematic for black.

Move 96: Bad move, simply doesn't work. White is now forced to live on a small scale and black gets a nice piece of territory at the top.

Move 113: I could have played much more aggressively here, but I was running a bit short on time and felt that I had a good game, so I didn't want to start complications.

Move 127: A move at A is probably bigger.

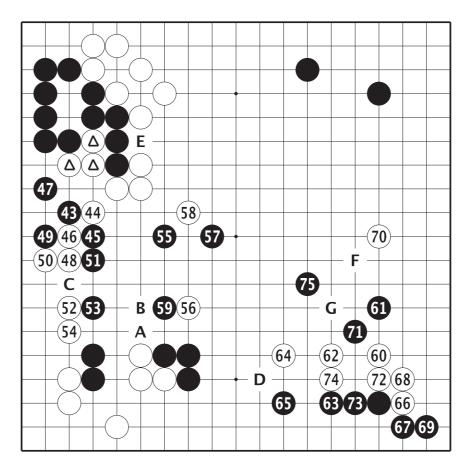


Figure 3. 43 - 75

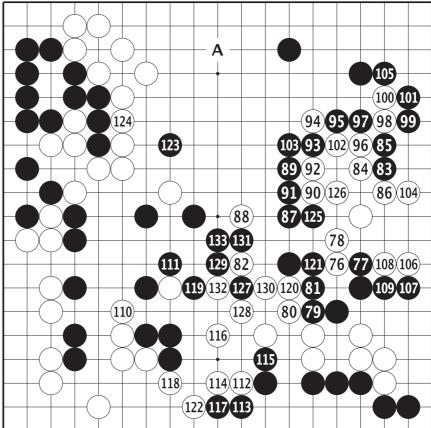


Figure 4. 76 – 133

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Move 135: The shoulder hit at A is normal in this situation to reduce white and enlarge the central territory. My thinking was that if he would answer at B and then connect, I would be ahead. But, of course, he didn't.

Move 149: I could have tried to kill, but again I thought playing safe was enough.

Move 163: Very bad move. I ended up in gote here and lost many points. If I had just played C instead, the victory would be quite secure. Instead the game suddenly became very close and during the game I actually thought this move lost me the game.

After an exciting endgame, which I unfortunately don't remember so well since I had entered byo-yomi, it turned out that I had won the game with the smallest possible margin, 0.5 points! The go gods were certainly on my side during this game!

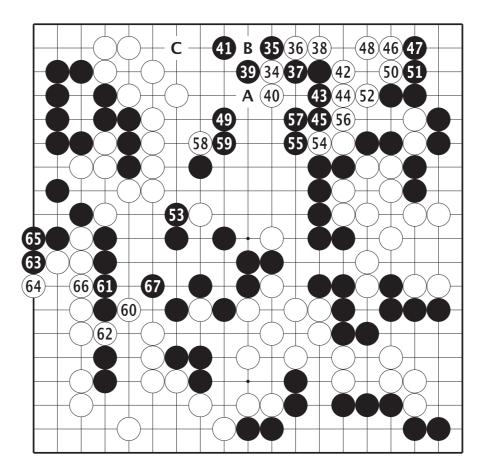
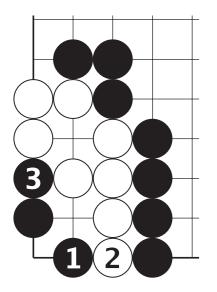
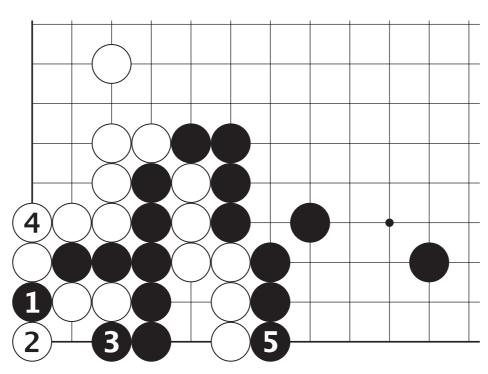


Figure 5. 134 – 167

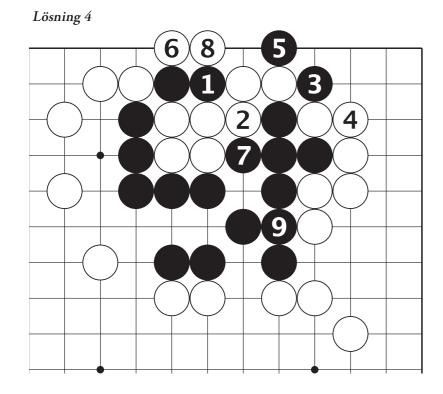
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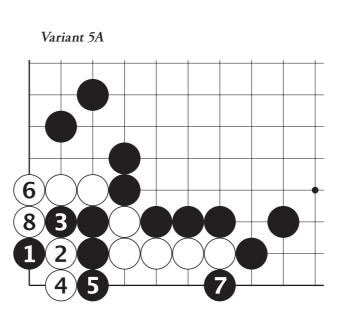


Lösning 1

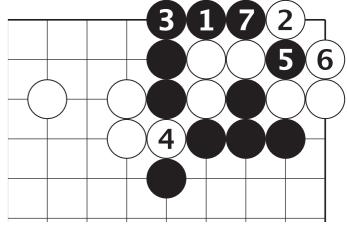


Lösning 2



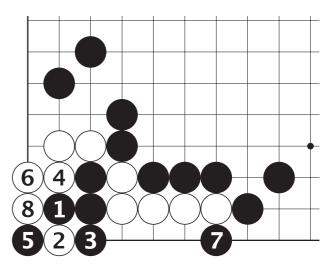


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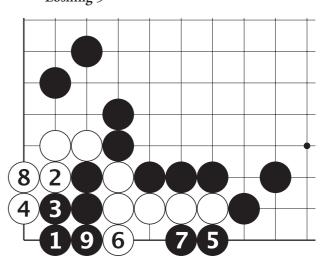


Lösning 3

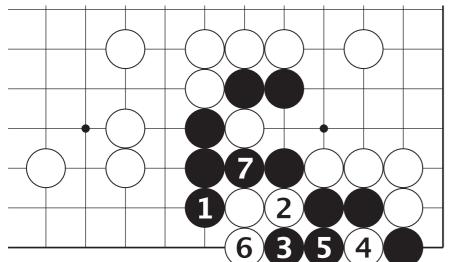
Variant 5B



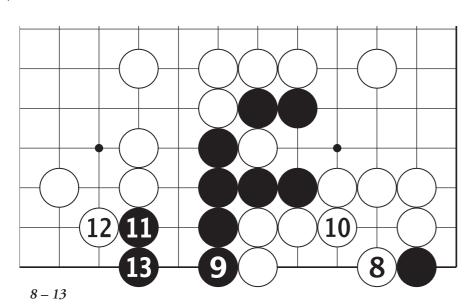
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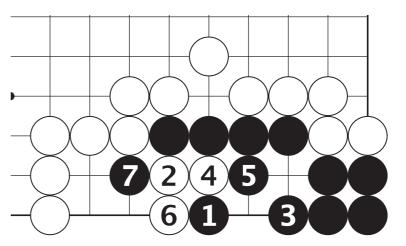
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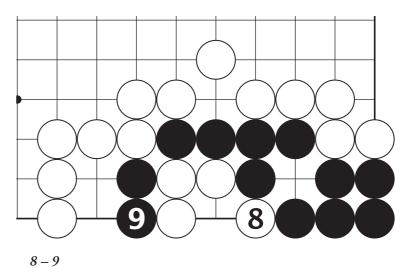
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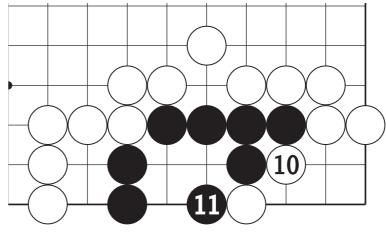


### Lösning 7



1 – 7





10 – 11

# Goförbund i Norden

Nordisk Mästare: Vesa Laatikainen 5d (2007)

#### Dansk Goforbund

Formand: Frank Hansen (frank.hansen@econ.ku.dk),

sekretær: Lene Jakobsen, kasserer Per Marquadsen,

Bestyrelsesmedlem Kjeld Pedersen

Dansk Mester: (2007): Ulrik Bro-Jørgensen 4D

#### Go i Norge

http://norway.european-go.org/

President: Terje Christoffersen (terch2@online.no)

Kasserer: Christian O'Cadiz Gustad Norsk mester (2006): Pål Sannes 4d

#### Suomen go-liitto (Finska Goförbundet)

http://finland.european-go.org/ Styrelse: Ordförande: Suvi Leppänen (suvi.m.leppanen@tut.fi)

Suomen Mestari (2006): Vesa Laatikainen 5 dan

#### Svenska Goförbundet

http:/www.goforbundet.se

 $Ordf\"{o}rande: Tomas\ Boman\ (\ tomas.boman@bredband.net\ )$ 

Sekretereare: Henric Bergsåker (henricb@telia.com)

Kassör: Leif Pettersson

Koordinator: Mats Hjalmarsson ( mohsart@gmail.com )

Webmaster: Peter Lundquist

Ledamöter: Andreas Ekelundh och Krister Strand

Svensk Mästare (2007): Michael Yao 5d, juniormästare Fredrik Blomback, snabbgomästare Peder Wiklund och pargomästare Liva

Sang och Martin Li.

# Antal på EGF:s rankinglista

	Juni 2007	Förändringar sedan Februari	Totalt antal sedan 1996
Danmark	43	+13	105
Norge	39	+5	90
Finland	210	-27	496
Sverige	139	+22	451

# Nordiska goklubbar

## Danske goklubber

#### Edo Go Club

Kontakt: Lene Jacobsen, lene@jakobsen.dyndns.dk , +4545814895 Antal medlemmer: Juniorer 4, Voksne 15 Antal medlemmer på EGF rankingliste: 7.

Hemsida: http://www.danskgoforbund.dk/edo

Spiller hver onsdag 19.30-23.00 på Henrik Thomsens Vej 12, 3460 Birkerød

#### Københavns Go Klub

Kontaktpersoner: Brian Poulsen, brian@kgok.dk Torben Peder-

sen, torben@kgok.dk

Antal medlemmer: 20 Antal på EGF:s rankinglista: 16.

Hemsida: http://www.kgok.dk

Spiller hver mandag aften på Mellemtoftevej 11 i Valby.

#### Odense Goklub

Kontaktperson: Michael Steffensen, tlf 66 12 62 16, Spiller hver mandag kl. 18.30-22, fredag 15.00 - 18.00

i Bolbro Brugerhus, Stadionsvej 50, Odense.

Desuden spilles der handicapturnering ca. en søndag om måneden.

Antal medlemmer på EGF:s rankingliste: 7 Hemsida: http://www.OdenseGoKlub.dk/ Mail: formand@OdenseGoKlub.dk

#### Ringsted Goklub

Kontaktperson: Peter Andersen, 5752 7292

#### Sønderborg Go Klub

Kontaktperson: Kjeld Petersen, 7442 4138, dsl222888a@post.cybercity.dk

#### Studentergaarden Go-klub

Kontaktperson: Theodor Harbsmeier, Kasper Moth (tourist@studentergaarden.dk), Andreas S Habsmeier (harbsmeier@studentergaarden.dk).

#### Århus Go Klub

Kontaktperson: Peter Brouwer, 82505793, brouwer@worldonline.dk Antal medlemmer på EGF:s rankingliste: 2 Hemsida: http://home.worldonline.dk/brouwer/go/

## Finska goklubbar

#### Helsingin Go-kerho ry. (Helsingfors)

Kontaktperson: Vesa Laatikainen, +358-9-5482852, vesa.laatikainen@teamware.com Antal medlemmar på EGF:s rankinglista: 100

Hemsida: http://finland.european-go.org/helsinki

#### Helsingin yliopistollinen go-seura

Kontaktperson: Deni Seitz, jrj\_ylig@helsinki.fi Antal medlemmar på EGF:s rankinglista: 62 Hemsida: http://www.helsinki.fi/jarj/yligo/

#### Tengen (Jyväskylä)

Kontaktpersoner: Einari Niskanen Antal medlemmar på EGF:s rankinglista: 31

Hemsida: http://www.suomigo.net/wiki/Tengen

#### Kuopio Go Ballei

Antal medlemmar: 3

Hemsida: http://www.cs.uku.fi/~vaisala/KGB.htm

Antal spelare på EGF:s rankinglista: 5

Totalt antal från Kuopio på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 10

#### Oulun Goonpellaajat (Uleåborg)

Kontaktperson: Tiia Kekkonen, +358-44-5573440,

tii@iki.fi

Antal medlemmar på EGF:s rankinglista: 82 http://www.suomigo.net/wiki/OulunGoonpellaajat

#### PoGo, Otaniemi

Kontaktperson: Esa Seuranen, pogo@tky.hut.fi Antal medlemmar på EGF:s rankinglista: 50

Hemsida: http://www.tky.hut.fi/~pogo/english/index.html

#### Kanpai, Tampere (Tammerfors)

Kontaktperson: Markku Jantunen, 040-5214206, markku\_jantunen@yahoo.com Antal medlemmar på EGF:s rankinglista: 67 http://www.suomigo.net/wiki/Kanpai

#### Turku Hayashi (Åbo)

Kontaktperson: Jaakko Virtanen, 050-360 36 49,

jaolvi@utu.fi

Antal medlemmar på EGF:s rankinglista: 69 Hemsida: http://vco.ett.utu.fi/hayashi/

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## Norske go-klubber

#### Oslo Goklubb

Kontaktperson: Pål Sannes, pal.sannes@met.no

Antall medlemmer: 20,

Antall spillere på EGF:s rankingliste: 34

Totalt antal från Oslo på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 75

Hjemmeside: http://foreninger.uio.no/go/

#### Trondheim Goklubb

Kontakt: Robert Biegler, robert.biegler@svt.ntnu.no

Antall spillere på EGF:s rankingliste: 1 Totalt antal på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 5

Hjemmeside: http://www.pvv.org/~vlarsen/trhm-go/

## Svenska goklubbar

Ekebyholms Goklubb VV

Antal Medlemmar: 12

Kontaktperson: Anders Eriksson,

sea0@hotmail.com, mob. 076 2005014

#### Falun/Borlänge Goklubb

Kontakt: Johan Jacob Sporrong, Nedregruvrisvägen 23, 791 56 Falun 073-531 53 11 jsporrong@hotmail.com Hemsida: http://www.go.glory.eu.org

Antal medlemmar: 12.

Antal spelare på EGF:s rankinglista: 8 Totalt antal på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 16

#### Göteborgs goklubb

Kontaktperson: Urban Nilsson d7urban@gmail.com

Hemsida: http://www.gbgo.nu/index.html

Antal medlemmar: 14. Antal på EGF:s rankinglista: 29.

Totalt antal på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 59

Klubbmästare: Ulf Olsson 4d.

#### Härnösands go-klubb

Kontaktperson: Mats Wiklund, Artillerigatan 43, 871 52 Härnö-

sand, Mobil: 073-998 58 48 Antal medlemmar: 13

Klubbens e-postadress: Harnosandgo@gmail.com

Hemsida: www.harnogo.com

#### Lidköpings goklubb

Kontakt: Johannes Karlsson, johannes.karlsson3@comhem.se, 0510-21654 Antal medlemmar: 5 Antal på EGF:s rankinglista: 4 Totalt antal på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 4

#### Linköpings goklubb

Kontaktperson: : Tomas Boman, tomas.boman@bredband.net 013-261223, 0702-562378

http://www.lysator.liu.se/~ejlo/lingo/index.html

Antal medlemmar: 38 Antal på EGF:s rankinglista:16.

Totalt antal på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 32

Spel: Torsd. 18.00 Zenithuset (alt. Café Java, ingång B.27), på universitetsområdet. Söndagar från kl 12.00 utanför Zenithuset, eller

om vädret är dåligt, i Café Java. Klubbmästare: Tomas Boman 2d

#### Luleå gosällskap

Kontaktperson: Basti Weidemyr, 070-5806460,

basti@weidemyr.com

Hemsida: www.lulego.org/

Antal medlemmar: 7. Antal på EGF:s rankinglista: 11.

Totalt antal på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 11.

#### Malmö / Lund goklubb

Kontaktperson: Carl Johan Ragnarsson, cjr@gongames.com

eller Daniel: coderboy@hotmail.com

Hemsida: http://www.ekstrand.org/MalmoeGo/

Antal medlemmar: 21. Antal på EGF:s rankinglista: 14

Totalt antal på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 18

#### Norrköpings Go-klubb

Kontaktperson: Charlie Åkerblom,

charlie\_post@hotmail.com

Antal medlemmar: 10. Antal på EGF:s rankinglista: 4.

Totalt antal på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 6

#### Stockholms goklubb

Kontaktperson: Henric Bergsåker, henricb@telia.com,

6421713, 073-9850300.

Hemsida: http://klubbar.goforbundet.se/stockholm/ Antal medlemmar: 28. Antal på EGF:s rankinglista: 49

Totalt antal på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 111.

Spel: Onsd. 18.00-22.00,

Dragons Lair, Kungsholms Torg 8.

Spel: Sön. 14.00-18.00,

Dragons Lair, Kungsholms Torg 8. Klubbmästare: Fredrik Blomback 2d

#### Tibro goklubb

Kontakt: Mattias Aronsson, Nyholmsgatan 1A, 54332 Tibro, woboloko@hotmail.com,

Tel. 0504-12781, mob. 0702986958.

Antal Medlemmar: 8. Antal på EGF:s rankinglista: 2

Totalt antal på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 5

#### Uppsala goklubb

Kontaktperson: Per-Erik Martin, pem@pem.nu

http://www.pem.nu/uppgo/ Uppsala go-klubb WAP-sida: http://

www.pem.nu/uppgo/index.wml

Antal medlemmar: 37. Antal på EGF:s rankinglista: 9

Totalt antal på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 23

#### Västerås goklubb

Kontaktperson: Leif Pettersson,

pettersson\_leif@bredband.net

http://www.vgo.se

Antal medlemmar: 17. Antal på EGF:s rankinglista: 10.

Totalt antal på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 17

Speldagar: tis. 18.00 och lörd. 14.00

Klubbmästare: Krister Strand 1d.

#### Umeå goklubb

Kontakt: Albin Karlsson, 073-5739648

info@umego.se

Hemsida: http://www.umego.se/

Antal medlemmar: 13.

#### Östersunds goklubb

Kontaktperson: Johan Ternström,

johan\_ternstrom@yahoo.com

Antal medlemmar: 13.

Antal medlemmar på EGF:s rankinglista: 6.

Totalt antal på EGF:s lista sedan 1996: 8

Redaktör är Björn Wendsjö [bj@wend.cc] Medredaktörer är Pål Sannes [pal.sannes@met.no] och Matti Siivola [matti.siivola@helsinki.fi].

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