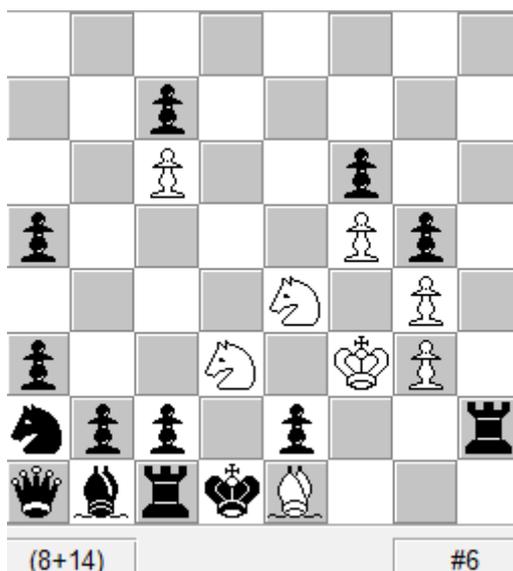


Federico Pruneri #41



This semi orthodox problem revolves on having the rook lose a tempo by the means of triangulation on c4-c5 of wK, this involves a waiting move made by a pawn on 'a' file. The squares of 'a' file are forbidden by knight discovery checks and D5 also fails to Nb4+, so the king cant capture pawns.

the board will eventually end like this after 35 king moves.



Here if one where to continue the manouver as is the problem would end in 51 moves: $7 \cdot 7 + 2$. But the a5 pawn is now to be taken. If the king does it it ends in $7 \cdot 6 + 4 + 2$. But better is the unexpected Bxa5, that ends in:

```

-♘ Be1*a5
cmt: !
-♚ e2-e1=Q
  -♘ Ba5*e1
    -♘ Be1-a5 [T]
      -♚ Sa2-c3
        -♘ Ba5*c3
          -♚ Qa1-a2 ▲
            >♚ Se4-f2
            >♚ Sd3-f2
          -♘ Bb1-a2 ▲
            >♚ Se4-f2
            >♚ Sd3-f2
          -♚ Rh2-d2 ▲
            >♚ Se4-f2
            >♘ Bc3*d2

```

Here after Bxa5 e1=Q Bxe1 ... any. Ba5 threatening mate on Nf2 with both knights is unstoppable. (Be1 to Ba5-Be1-Ba5 in a row is somehow aesthetic)

To capture Bxa5 in this situation would fail



Due to ..Nb4 . Bxb4 ...Qa3. Bxa3 ... Ba2. Bb4... Bd5! If Nc3+ ... Kd2!

The stockfish output goes like this:

```
info depth 84 seldepth 82 multipv 1 score mate 41 nodes 129027356 nps 2539658 hashfull 1000
tbhits 0 time 50805 pv f3e3 h2g2 e3d4 g2h2 d4c5 h2g2 c5c4 g2h2 c4d4 h2g2 d4e3 g2h2 e3f3
a6a5 f3e3 h2g2 e3d4 g2h2 d4c4 h2g2 c4c5 g2h2 c5d4 h2g2 d4e3 g2h2 e3f3 a5a4 f3e3 h2g2
e3d4 g2h2 d4c5 h2g2 c5c4 g2h2 c4d4 h2g2 d4e3 g2h2 e3f3 a7a6 f3e3 h2g2 e3d4 g2h2 d4c4
h2g2 c4c5 g2h2 c5d4 h2g2 d4e3 g2h2 e3f3 a6a5 f3e3 h2g2 e3d4 g2h2 d4c5 h2g2 c5c4 g2h2
c4d4 h2g2 d4e3 g2h2 e3f3 a4a3 e1a5 e2e1q a5e1 h2e2 e1a5 a2c3 a5c3 e2e3 f3e3 b1a2 d3f2
```

The flaws in this composition are the duality of the triangulation (c4-c5) that can be done in any given order and the finalization of the threat Nf2+ Nf2# that can be initiated by both knights.

It may be of interest as a study and it does provide some sort of challenge due to the interruption of the triangulation pattern (if spotted) by the means of capturing by either king or better bishop, so the statement white to play and win in the fewer moves might be more accurate, the answer would be 51,48 or 41 depending on the depth of the positional understanding.