AN EXAMPLE OF QPvQ

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[The following contribution by Ken Thompson illustrates chess database results obtainable for various initial positions, of which one has been selected. The initial position is not, it should be noted, the maximin for this configuration (cf. Vol. 9, No. 3, p.136), though it is most illuminating. The text arrangement is as follows. Any indented line represents optimal play, for which the number of moves yet to be made decreases by unity for each complete (two-ply) move. Variations below these indicate the consequences of non-optimal moves, where, e.g., (-19) denotes that Black’s response listed has shortened White’s winning path by 19 full moves. Occasionally, (0) will occur to state this variation to be equi-optimal (e.g., see Black’s 35th move). Conversely, a parenthesised positive number, e.g. (+2), means that White has responded non-optimally, prolonging his own winning path by 2 moves in the example given. Zeroes in this case also represent equi-optimal continuations. — Eds.]

\[ Initial Position \]

1 \( g2 \) (56) \( a8t \) (56)
2 ... \( b2t \) (-19) \( d4 \) (-40) \( c3 \) (-43) \( h7 \) (-53) \( e8 \) (-54) \( c8 \) (-54) \( b8 \) (-54)
3 \( gh2 \) (55)
4 ... \( d4t \) (53)
5 \( c4t \) (-36) \( c8t \) (-43) \( b4t \) (-49) \( h8 \) (-50) \( b2 \) (-50) \( e1 \) (-50) \( c6 \) (-50) \( c2 \) (-50) \( b3 \) (-51) \( a3 \) (-51) \( d3 \) (-51) \( b2 \) (-51) \( a2 \) (-51) \( b1 \) (-51)
6 \( f5 \) (51)
7 ... \( e3 \) (49)
8 \( d4 \) (49)
9 \( e3 \) (49)
10 ... \( w3t \) (48)
11 ... \( e3 \) (46) \( b3t \) (46)

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