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Chess endgame news

Article

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CHESS ENDGAME NEWS

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For nearly a year, just 16 endgames at the top of the 3-3p mountain had not had their Nalimov DTM 'EGT' endgame tables promulgated, despite the fact (Haworth, 2005, 2006) that Nalimov himself completed them by 9th August 2005. Bourzutschky (2006a) repaired this lacuna by 18th July 2006, converting his FEG EGTs for these endgames to the Nalimov format: he verified them by 27th July with Nalimov's code and distributed the MD5SUM file-signatures, Nalimov-style statistics and files. On 8th August 2006, Hernandez (2006) received the 'last 16' EGTs from Nalimov, also verified and with statistics: he in turn ftp'd them to Diepeveen in Holland and Price in the USA[2]. Clearly, the two sources had to be seen to confirm each other.

Bourzutschky (2006b) detected that, as suspected from the v20.14 CRAFTY code and shown by smaller EGT file sets, Nalimov had reverted to 8-bit cells for the KQPK(B/R)P EGTs so he converted these EGTs again[3], issuing new MD5SUM data. Price (2006) manifestly verified all the Nalimov EGT files against Bourzutschky's revised MD5SUM data and triggered the confident promulgation of both sources' EGT files.

With two offerings rather than one compensating for the delay, a scenario familiar to London bus queues, it has been possible to validate Nalimov's own EGTs with the independent technology of J de Koning's FEG. Fortunately, the simple MD5SUM file-comparison sufficed because neither author had optimised compression by changing the EGT values for *broken*, i.e., obviously illegal, positions. A major milestone has assuredly been reached: congratulations to all parties, especially Eugene and Marc.

Participants in the *EGTs Online* initiative (Kryukov, 2006) have been sharing the EGTs by 'snail' mail, ftp and p2p in decreasing order of speed. All EGTs now appear to be at least triple-sourced on the web. It is worth noting that the ftp-transfer of 360GB of data required the resend of some 6 EGT files. The wary EGT curator will have a persistent and convenient way of checking their files' file-signatures against, e.g., MD5SUM certificates. Andrist (2006) has updated WILHELM with the latest MD5SUM data.

The ICGA website[4] now sports more complete sets of 6-man statistics. The 6-man P-ful DTM record stands as before: KRPKNN and KRRPKQ, wtm 1-0, 253m. The deepest of the 16 endgames is KRBKPP with maxDTM = 216m (btm, 1-0) and KPPKPP's maxDTM = 141m. There are 1.12TB of Nalimov DTM EGTs.

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[2] By 10th September, Eiko Bleicher (2006) had also received the files: they can be queried via his website.

[3] Not without, at the last, detecting and rapidly correcting a bug in the software for '16-bit to 8-bit' conversion

[4] www.icga.org … Game-specific information – Western Chess – Endgame