

Tablebases

Chess

What perfect endgame knowledge showed, and what it changed.

Databases containing the perfect result and best move for every legal position with a small number of pieces, computed by exhaustive backward analysis from mate.

SOLVED
7 pieces

LONGEST WIN
500+ moves

POSITIONS
trillions

- All 7-piece endgames are fully solved.
- Some winning lines exceed 500 moves against best defence.
- They revealed wins previously believed to be draws.
- The fifty-move rule makes some theoretical wins drawn in practice.
- Engines consult them for perfect endgame play.
- 8-piece tablebases remain computationally out of reach for now.

LOOK FOR IT

Some tablebase wins take so long they cannot be completed under the fifty-move rule, so they are drawn in a real game.

Practically, tablebases confirm the classical rules. Human endgame technique is mostly correct; it is simply less precise.