

The Najdorf g5

Revisited

Volume 2

First edition 2021 by Thinkers Publishing
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All sales or enquiries should be directed to Thinkers Publishing, 9850 Landegem, Belgium.

Email: info@thinkerspublishing.com
Website: www.thinkerspublishing.com

Managing Editor: Romain Edouard

Assistant Editor: Daniël Vanheirzeele

Typesetting: Mark Haast/Petra Schuurman

Proofreading: Daniel Fernandez

Software: Hub van de Laar

Cover Design: Iwan Kerkhof

Graphic Artist: Philippe Tonnard

Production: BESTinGraphics

ISBN: 9789464201352

D/2021/13731/47

The Najdorf

g5 Revisited

Volume 2

Lukasz Jarmula

Thinkers Publishing 2021



Key to Symbols

!	a good move	±	White stands slightly better
?	a weak move	∓	Black stands slightly better
!!	an excellent move	±	White has a serious advantage
??	a blunder	∓	Black has a serious advantage
!?	an interesting move	+—	White has a decisive advantage
?!	a dubious move	—+	Black has a decisive advantage
□	only move	→	with an attack
N	novelty	↑	with initiative
⊙	lead in development	↔	with counterplay
⊖	zugzwang	Δ	with the idea of
=	equality	△	better is
∞	unclear position	≤	worse is
∞	with compensation for the sacrificed material	+	check
		#	mate

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Preface

The Najdorf Variation of the Sicilian Defence, named after the great Polish-Argentine grandmaster, is one of the most popular chess openings at all levels. It has been championed by many elite players, the three most notable being the world champions Robert Fischer, Garry Kasparov and Viswanathan Anand. It enjoys a reputation as a very theoretically sound and uncompromising weapon. The positions that arise in the Najdorf are among the most complex and double-edged positions you can get out of any opening, making it a very interesting, but also demanding choice. The Najdorf has been a part of my repertoire for many years, bringing me many good results.

This book is an ambitious project. I decided to thoroughly investigate the sharpest line of the Najdorf Variation, namely 6.♗g5, and produce a master repository of the current state of its theory. The book you hold is the result of many months of research and analysis. It is one step ahead of the presently established theory, because I based a lot of my analysis on new correspondence and computer games. During my work, I discovered many subtle nuances as well as spectacular shots. The material can be challenging in its complexity, but also rewarding in its beauty.

The book is intended mainly for advanced and expert players. It is surely worth studying even for very strong grandmasters. In general, the higher your level, the more benefit you will gain from memorizing the lines from the book. However, weaker players can also benefit from studying the material and trying to understand the complex variations. It will certainly improve their tactical intuition. I included a large number of exercises (using critical positions from all the chapters), in which the reader is required to find the best continuation. I believe the process of solving these will greatly help the reader not only to memorize the lines, but also to enhance their tactical and positional skills.

My three most important sources were: Hiarcs 14zb Opening Book, an invaluable tool which provided a tree of the variations based on high-level correspondence and computer games; Parimarjan Negi's *1.e4 vs The Sicilian I* – a modern classic which hardly needs any introduction; and David Vigorito's *Playing the Najdorf: A Practical Repertoire*, which is (in my opinion) the best book on the Najdorf to date. For other sources see the bibliography.

Armed with this book's knowledge, you can enter the tactical jungle of the 6.♗g5 Najdorf with both colors with confidence. I wish you great success in this most exciting of chess variations!

Lukasz Jarmula,
Warsaw, September 2021

Part I

The Poisoned Pawn Variation



8. ♔d3

- 1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4
- 4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6
- 6. ♙g5 e6 7. f4 ♚b6 8. ♔d3!?



Chapter Guide

Chapter 1 – 8. ♔d3

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 6. ♙g5 e6 7. f4 ♚b6 8. ♔d3!?	
♜xb2 9. ♜b1 ♜a3 10. f5	
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a) 10... ♖a5! 11. ♔d2 ♖c7

- 1. e4 c5 2. ♔f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♔xd4 ♔f6 5. ♔c3 a6 6. ♔g5 e6 7. f4 ♖b6



Position after: 7... ♖b6

The Poisoned Pawn Variation, which has the reputation of being the most bulletproof defence against 6.♔g5.

8. ♖d3!?

An interesting alternative to the 8.♖d2 main line. As we will see, in the main lines Black doesn't face too many problems, but White has a promising practical try in the form of 15.e5!?

8... ♖xb2 9. ♔b1 ♖a3 10. f5 ♖a5!?

(see diagram next column)

A very interesting alternative to the main line. Its lack of popularity is surprising, because Black doesn't face too many theoretical problems.

11. ♔d2



Position after: 10... ♖a5!

A) 11. ♔xf6 gxf6 12. ♖c4



Position after: 12. ♖c4

12... ♔d8 [12... ♔c6! A good recommendation of Andriasyan. 13. ♔xc6 bxc6 14. ♖xc6+ ♔d8 15. ♔d3 ♔a7 16. ♖b6+ ♖xb6 17. ♔xb6- Black is slightly behind in development, but he has the bishop pair and the good structure.] 13. ♔e2 ♔d7 14. fxe6 ♔e5 15. e7+ ♔xe7 16. ♖b3 ♖c5 17. ♔d1 ♔c6 18. ♖c4 ♖xc4 19. ♔xc4 ♔xd4 20. ♔xd4 ♔e6- White's control over the d5-square offsets Black's extra pawn.

B) 11. ♖c4 ♔bd7! 12. fxe6 ♖g5 13. exf7+ ♔e7 14. ♖e6+ ♔d8 15. ♖e8+

- ♔xe8 16. ♔e6+ ♔e7 17. fxe8= ♖+ ♔xe8 18. ♔xg5



Position after: 18. ♔xg5

B1) 18... ♔e5 This is a fully viable alternative. 19. ♔d5 ♔a7 20. ♔b6 ♔d7 21. ♔f3 ♔e7 22. ♔xe5 dxe5 23. ♔c4 ♔f8 24. ♔f1 ♔xf1+ 25. ♔xf1 ♔c5 26. ♔e2 ♔d8 27. ♔xd7 ♔xd7± White has a nominal edge thanks to their better bishop, but it is impossible to exploit it due to opposite-coloured bishops.

B2) 18... ♔a7 19. ♔d5 ♔e5 transposes to B1 above.

B3) 18... ♔c5 19. ♔d5 ♔e7 20. ♔c7+ ♔d8 21. ♔xa8 ♔xg5 22. ♔b6 ♔xe4



Position after: 22... ♔xe4

23. ♔xc8 [Not 23. ♔d3? ♔d2+! 24. ♔d1 ♔g4+ 25. ♔e2 ♔g5! 26. ♔xg4 ♔c3+ 27. ♔e1 ♔xb1± when Black is simply a pawn up.] 23... ♔xc8 24. ♔d3 ♔e8 25. ♔xe4 ♔xe4+ 26. ♔d1



Position after: 26. ♔d1

Now Black has to show some precision. 26... ♔d4+! 27. ♔e2 ♔e4+! 28. ♔d3 ♔e3+! 29. ♔c4 ♔e2! 30. ♔b3 ♔f6! 31. ♔bd1 ♔d7 Black should take one pawn back and achieve equality, e.g. 32. ♔hg1 b5 33. h3 ♔c6 34. a4 bx4+ 35. ♔xa4 ♔xc2=

11... ♖c7 12. fxe6 fxe6 13. ♔e2 ♔c6

13... ♔e7 transposes to the main line.

14. ♔xc6



Position after: 14. ♔xc6

14... ♖xc6

14... bxc6? Here Andriasyan missed a strong resource: 15. e5! dxe5 16. ♔e4! and White crashes through with a series of powerful moves. 16... ♔e7 17. ♔xf6+ ♔xf6 18. ♔h5+! g6 19. 0-0! 0-0



Position after: 19... 0-0

20. ♔xg6! hxg6 21. ♔h6! ♔g7 22. ♔xf8+ ♔xf8 23. ♔f1+ ♔g8 24. ♖xg6 ♖b6+ 25. ♔h1 ♔a7 26. h4! e4 27. ♔xg7 ♔xg7 28. ♖e8+ ♔h7 29. ♖xc8 ♔d4 30. ♖xe6 e3 31. ♖f5+ ♔g8 32. ♔f4! ♔d1+ 33. ♔h2 ♖d6 34. ♖f6- Black can't avoid a lost rook endgame.

15. 0-0 ♔e7 16. e5



Position after: 16. e5

16... ♖c5+

16... dxe5? 17. ♔xf6! ♔xf6 18. ♔h5+ g6 19. ♔xg6+ hxg6 20. ♖xg6+ ♔d7 21. ♖xf6 ♖c5+ 22. ♔h1 ♔f8 23. ♖g7+ ♖e7



Position after: 23... ♖e7

Here instead of Andriasyan's 24. ♖xe5, White should rather play 24. ♖g3! b5 25. ♔d1 ♔c6 26. ♖xe5 ♖f6 27. ♖e4+ ♔c7 28. ♖d3!+- with threats of ♔e4 and a decisive attack.

17. ♔e3 ♖xe5 18. ♔d4 ♖g5



Position after: 18... ♖g5

19. ♔xf6!?

A challenging exchange sacrifice.

19. ♔a4 b5 20. ♔b6 ♔b7 21. ♔h3 ♔b8



Position after: 21... ♔b8

We are way past established theory, so we should just conclude with a few sample lines: 22. ♔b3 [22. a4 0-0 23. axb5 axb5 24. ♖xe6+ ♔h8 25. ♔f3 ♔xf3 26. ♔xf3 ♔fe8-] 22... ♔d2 23. ♔d3 ♖g5



Position after: 23... ♖g5

24. ♔e2= [24. a4 ♖g4 25. ♖xg4 ♔xg4 26. axb5 a5-; 24. c4 b4 25. ♔c2 ♖d2 26. ♔d3 ♖g5-]

19... ♔xf6

19... gxf6? 20. ♔e4 ♖g6 21. ♔xf6 d5 22. ♔xe7 ♖xe4 23. ♔a3 ♖e5 [23... ♖xe2 24. ♔g5 ♔d7 25. ♖e7+ ♔c6 26. ♔f4-] 24. ♔f1+-

20. ♔xf6



Position after: 20. ♔xf6

20... ♖xf6

20... gxf6? 21. ♔e4 ♖e5 22. ♔xd6+ ♔f8 23. ♔a3! Andriasyan missed this winning move. 23... ♔g7 24. ♔b3 ♔f8 25. ♔c4! ♖d4+ 26. ♔f1 ♖a1+ 27. ♔f2 ♖d4+ 28. ♔e1 ♖a1+ 29. ♔d2 ♔d8+ 30. ♔d3 ♔xd3+ 31. ♔xd3



Position after: 31. ♔xd3

It turns out that even exchanging the rooks doesn't fix Black's issues: 31... ♔d4 32. ♖e7+ ♔g8 33. c3 ♖f2+ 34. ♔c1 f5 35. ♖d8+ ♔g7 36. ♔b6+- with decisive material gains for White.

21. ♔e4 ♖e5 22. ♔xd6+ ♔e7



Position after: 22... ♖e7

White has quite a few tries, but after each Black has ways to reach safety.

23. ♖c4

A) 23. ♖d1 b5 24. ♖a3 ♖xe2 25. ♖xc8+ ♖f6 26. ♖c3+ ♖g6



Position after: 26... ♖g6

27. ♖e1 [27. ♖e7+ ♖f7 28. ♖f1+ ♖xf1+ 29. ♖xf1 ♖xe7 30. ♖xg7+ ♖d6-] 27... ♖xe1+ 28. ♖xe1 ♖hxc8 29. ♖xe6+ ♖g5= White has no way to utilise Black's exposed king position.

B) 23. ♖xb7 ♖xb7 24. ♖xb7+ ♖f8 25. ♖d7 ♖a1+ 26. ♖f1 ♖f6 27. ♖d6+ ♖g8 28. ♖c4 ♖a1+ 29. ♖f1 ♖f6=



Position after: 29... ♖f6=

Black saves himself by means of a switchback.

23... ♖c5+ 24. ♖h1 b5 25. ♖e4



Position after: 25. ♖e4

25... bxc4

25... ♖a7 is also possible: 26. ♖e5 ♖e8 27. ♖h5+ g6 28. ♖xg6+ hxg6 29. ♖xg6+ ♖d8 30. ♖f6+ ♖c7 31. ♖xh8 ♖xc2=.

26. ♖xa8 g6 27. ♖e4 ♖f6 28. ♖xc4 ♖g7=

The complications end in a pretty dry and equal position.

b) 10... ♖a5!? 11. ♖d2 e5

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖f6 5. ♖c3 a6 6. ♖g5 e6 7. f4 ♖b6 8. ♖d3!? ♖xb2 9. ♖b1 ♖a3 10. f5 ♖a5!? 11. ♖d2 e5



Position after: 11... e5

12. ♖de2!

The best move, and one not mentioned by Andriasyan.

A) 12. ♖b3?! ♖c7



Position after: 12... ♖c7

A1) 13. ♖e2 Andriasyan mentions only 13...b6, but stronger is 13... ♖bd7 14. a4 [14. g4?! b5! ♣] 14... b6 15. g4 h6 16. h4 ♖b7 ♣ White will

have a hard time trying to demonstrate compensation for the pawn.

A2) 13. g4 h6! [13... b5 also gives some advantage, but not as much!] 14. g5 b4 15. gxf6 bxc3 16. ♖xc3 g6 17. ♖a5 ♖c6 ♣ 14. h4 [14. ♖g2 b5 15. h4 transposes] 14... b5 15. ♖g2 b4 16. ♖d5 ♖xd5 17. ♖xd5 ♖c6 18. ♖a5 ♖d7 19. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 20. ♖c4 a5 21. c3 ♖e7 ♣



Position after: 21... ♖e7 ♣

White can take back the pawn; but remains overextended on the kingside, and can't castle because of the hanging h4-pawn.

B) 12. ♖d5?! ♖xa2 13. ♖c3 ♖a5 14. ♖d5



Position after: 14. ♖d5

14... ♖d8! [There is no need to repeat the position with 14... ♖a2.] 15. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 16. ♖e2 ♖d8 17. ♖c3 ♖e7 18. ♖d5 b5 ♣ White lacks sufficient compensation for the two pawns.



Position after: 12. ♖de2!

12... ♖d8 13. g4!

Sacrificing another pawn in order not to let the flame of the initiative flicker.

13... ♖xg4 14. ♖d5



Position after: 14. ♖d5

14... ♖d7!

This non-obvious choice is the only fully satisfactory one.

A) 14... b5?! 15. ♖g1



Position after: 15. ♖g1

A1) 15... ♖f6 16. ♖xf6+ gxf6



Position after: 16... gxf6

17. a4! [17. c4 d5! 18. exd5 ♖d7 19. ♖c2 b4 20. ♖xb4 ♖xb4+ 21. ♖xb4 ♖c5-] 17... d5 18. exd5 ♖d7 19. axb5 axb5 20. ♖c3±



Position after: 20. ♖c3±

White regains the pawn and presses the initiative.

A2) 15... h5 16. ♖ec3 ♖e7 17. ♖xe7 ♖xe7 18. ♖h3 ♖f8 19. a4±



Position after: 19. a4±

White has a big initiative for the pawn.

B) 14... ♖e7?! 15. ♖xe7! [15. ♖b6?! ♖d7! 16. ♖xa8 b5 17. a4 ♖c5 18. ♖h3 h5 19. ♖g2 ♖b7 20. axb5 axb5 21. 0-0 ♖xa8 22. ♖c3 ♖c6= Black has great compensation for the exchange.] 15... ♖xe7 16. ♖g1!



Position after: 16. ♖g1!

B1) 16... ♖h4+? 17. ♖g3 ♖d7 [17... ♖c6 18. ♖g2! ♖d4 19. ♖xd4 exd4 20. ♖xd4 0-0 21. ♖xd6+!] 18. ♖c3! (see analysis diagram next column)

B1.1) 18... 0-0 19. h3+ Black loses material.



Position after: 18. ♖c3!

B1.2) 18... b5 19. ♖xd6 ♖b7 [19... ♖hx2 20. ♖d5!+ The threat of f6 is irresistible.] 20. ♖d1! ♖d8 21. ♖xb5!+

B2) 16... ♖f6 17. ♖b4± White takes back the pawn and has the bishop pair and is ahead in development.

15. ♖c3 ♖a7 16. ♖c7+ ♖e7 17. ♖g5+ ♖g6



Position after: 17... ♖g6

Black is ready for ...b5, so White has nothing better than a repetition of position.

18. ♖d5+ ♖e8 19. ♖c7+=

c) 10... ♖a5!? 11... ♗e2

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 6. ♗g5 e6 7. f4 ♖b6 8. ♖d3!? ♗xb2 9. ♖b1 ♖a3 10. f5 ♖a5!? 11. ♗e2



Position after: 11... ♗e2

11... ♘bd7

11... ♗e7 12. ♗d2 transposes to 10... ♗e7 11. ♗e2.

The main alternative is: 11... ♘c6 12. ♘xc6 bxc6 and now:

A) 13. 0-0 ♗e7 14. ♗e3



Position after: 14... ♗e3

A1) 14... d5 (as given by Andriasyan) is quite risky because of 15. e5! ♗d7 16. fxe6 fxe6 17. ♗d2! White sacrifices another pawn, but gets a huge initiative in return.

A1.1) 17... ♗xe5 18. ♖g3 ♖c7 19. ♘a4! ♗d6 [19... ♖f8 20. c4!±] 20. ♘b6 ♖b8 21. ♘xc8 ♖xc8 22. ♗xa6 ♖b8 23. ♖xb8+ ♖xb8 24. ♖xg7 ♖f8 25. ♗e3± White has the bishop pair, the safer king and the passed a-pawn.

A1.2) 17... ♖c7 18. ♘a4!



Position after: 18... ♘a4!

Now Black should make a strong prophylactic move: 18... g6! [18... ♖xe5 19. ♖be1 ♖c7 20. ♗h5+ g6 21. ♖h3 ♖f8 22. ♗g4 ♖xf1+ 23. ♖xf1 ♖e5 24. ♗xe6 ♖d4+ 25. ♗e3 ♖h4 26. ♖xh4 ♗xh4 27. c4± White retains the initiative in the endgame.] 19. c4 ♖f8 20. ♗c3 ♘c5! 21. ♘xc5 ♗xc5+ 22. ♖h1 ♗a7!-

♖g5+ ♖f8 26. ♖d8+ ♖g7 27. ♖g5+! 21... ♖xc8 22. ♗g4 [22. ♖h6 ♖c5 23. c3 ♖g5 24. ♖xg5 fxe6 25. ♖f1 0-0 26. ♘xe6 ♗e5 27. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 28. ♘xf8 ♖xf8= The endgame is drawish, but Black is more comfortable due to the powerful knight.] 22... ♘d8 23. ♗h5+



Position after: 23... ♗h5+

23... ♘d7 [Black can also just repeat the position with 23... ♘f7.] 24. ♖h6 ♖c5 25. ♖g7+ ♖c8 26. c3 ♖xh5 27. ♖xh8 ♖e5 28. ♖xh7 b5 29. ♘f3 ♖c5+ 30. ♖h1 ♖b7 31. ♖h6 ♖c7 32. ♖xf6 ♖xc3=

12... fxe6



Position after: 12... fxe6

13. ♖e3

A) 13. ♗d2

A1) 13... ♘c5 is also possible, with the following lengthy forcing variation: 14. ♖h3 ♗e7 15. ♗h5+ ♘xh5 16. ♖xh5+ g6 17. ♖h6 ♗f6 18. ♘d5 ♖d8 19. ♘f6+ ♖xf6 20. ♘f3 ♘xe4 21. 0-0 g5 22. ♖xf6 ♘xf6 23. ♘g5 ♖e7 24. ♗c3 ♖f8 25. ♘e6 ♖xe6 26. ♖be1+ ♖d5 27. ♗xf6 ♖f7 28. ♖e8 b5 29. ♗b2 ♖xf1+ 30. ♖xf1 b4= It all ends in an equal opposite-colored bishop endgame.

A2) 13... ♖e5 14. ♘f3 ♖c5 15. ♘g5 ♘e5 16. ♖h3 ♗d7 17. ♖xb7 ♖c8 18. ♖xd7 ♖xd7



Position after: 18... ♖xd7

A2.1) 19. ♘xe6 ♖f7 20. ♘g5+ ♖g8 21. ♖g3 [21. ♖xd7 ♘fd7=] 21... ♗e7= The position remains highly complicated, with White having just enough compensation for the exchange.

A2.2) 19. 0-0 ♗e7 20. ♘xe6 ♖f7 21. ♘g5+ ♖g8 22. ♘e6 [22. ♖xd7 ♘fd7 23. ♘d5 ♗xg5 24. ♗xg5 h6 25. ♗e7 ♖c8=] 22... ♖f7 23. ♘g5+ =



Position after: 22... ♗a7! =

After a series of precise moves Black has stayed in the game, although White has nice compensation for the pawn.

A2) 14... ♖c7 15. ♗b6 ♖d7 16. ♗d4 0-0 17. ♘a4 ♖c7 18. ♗b6 ♖d7 19. ♗d4



Position after: 19... ♗d4

19... ♖d8 [Or 19... ♖c7, with an immediate repetition.] 20. ♘b6 ♖b8 21. ♘xc8 ♖xc8 22. ♖xb8 ♖xb8 23. fxe6 fxe6 24. ♖xa6= The position is completely equal, as Black's better structure compensates for White's bishop pair.

B) 13. ♗xf6 gxf6 14. 0-0 ♗e7 15. ♖h1 h5= White has the initiative for the pawn, but Black's position is solid.

12. fxe6

12. 0-0 ♘e5 This is analysed in detail by Andriasyan and most of his analysis is correct. [12... e5 13. ♘b3 ♖c7 14. a4 ♗e7 15. ♘d2= White plans the typical ♘c4-e3 manoeuvre, and keeps just enough play for the pawn.] 13. ♖h3 ♗e7



Position after: 13... ♗e7

14. fxe6 [14. ♖b3? Andriasyan attaches an exclamation mark to this move, which I don't understand. After 14... 0-0 15. ♖h1 b5? White has absolutely nothing for the pawn.] 14... ♖c5 15. ♖e3 fxe6 16. ♗xf6 ♗xf6 17. ♗xf6 gxf6 18. ♘a4 ♖c7 19. ♘b6 ♖b8 20. ♗h5+ ♖f7



Position after: 20... ♖f7

21. ♘xc8 [21. ♖h6 ♖c5 22. ♖xf6 0-0 23. ♘d5 exd5 24. ♗xf7+ ♖xf7 25.

B) 13. 0-0? A highly dangerous piece sacrifice. 13... ♖xg5 14. ♘xe6 ♖a5 15. ♖g3



Position after: 15... ♖g3

B1) 15... ♖e7? 16. ♗c4!

B1.1) 16... ♘e5? 17. ♘d5+! ♘xd5 [After 17... ♗e6 18. ♘xf6+ ♘xc4 19. ♘d5 ♖d7 20. ♖f7+ ♖e8 21. ♖xg7!- Black gets killed.] 18. ♗xd5 h6 19. ♘f8 ♖c5+ 20. ♖h1 g5 21. h4! ♖b8



Position after: 21... ♖b8

22. ♖f7+! ♘xf7 23. ♘g6+ ♖d8 24. ♖f3! b5 25. ♖f6+ ♖c7 26. ♖b3! b4 27. a3! a5 28. axb4 axb4 29. ♖xf7+ ♗d7 30. ♘xh8 ♖xh8 31. e5! ♖d4 32. e6 ♖a1+ 33. ♖h2 ♖e5+ 34. g3 ♖e2+ 35. ♗g2 ♖xe6 36. ♖f2+ =

B1.2) 16... ♖e5 17. ♖h3 ♘c5 18. ♖f5 ♖xe6 19. ♗xe6 ♗xe6 20. e5 ♖d8 21. exf6

B2) 15... ♖f7! This counter-intuitive move is the best. 16. ♘f4 [16. ♗c4 ♖e5 17. ♖f4 g6 18. ♘c7+ ♖g7 19. ♘e6+ ♖f7=] 16... ♖e5 17. ♘cd5 b5 18. ♗h5+ ♘h5 19. ♘d3+ ♖g8 20. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 21. ♖f3+ ♘h6 22. ♘xe5 ♘xe5 23. ♖f2 ♖f7 24. ♖f1 ♖e8 25. ♘f6 gxf6 26. ♖xf6+ ♖g8 27. ♖g5+ ♖h8 28. ♖f6+ =

13... ♘e5 14. ♗xf6 gxf6 15. 0-0 ♗g7 16. ♗h5+ ♘g6 17. ♘f5 0-0 18. ♗xg6 hxg6 19. ♘xd6 =



Position after: 19... ♘xd6 =

The position is dynamically balanced. A possible follow-up is:

19... ♖g5 20. ♖b6 ♗d7 21. ♖f3 ♗c6 22. ♖g3 ♖e5 23. ♘c4 ♖h5 24. ♖h3 ♖g5 25. ♖g3 =

With a move repetition.

d) 10... ♖e7 11.fxe6 ♗xe6!?

1. e4 c5 2. ♟f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♞xd4 ♟f6 5. ♟c3 a6 6. ♟g5 e6 7. f4 ♖b6 8. ♜d3! ♟xb2 9. ♖b1 ♖a3 10. f5 ♖e7



Position after: 10... ♖e7

11. fxe6

11. ♖e2 This continuation fails to impress. 11... ♖a5 12. ♖d2 [12. 0-0 0-0 13. ♖d2 ♖c7 14. fxe6 fxe6 transposes to 14. 0-0 in the main line.] 12... e5! [12... ♖c7 13. fxe6 fxe6 transposes to the main line, but Black can play ♞99or more with 12...e5!.] 13. ♟d5 ♖d8 14. ♟xe7 ♖xe7 15. ♟b3



Position after: 15. ♟b3

A) 15... ♖c6 16. a4 0-0 17. g4

A1) Importantly, 17... h6? is wrong because of 18. g5! hxg5 19. ♟xg5 d5 20. c3 ♖d6 [Or 20... dxe4 21. ♖h3!± with a strong attack after ♖g1.] 21. ♟d2!±



Position after: 21. ♟d2!±

White is ready for ♖g1 and ♖g3 with a powerful attack.

A2) 17... ♟d4! Counterattacking in the centre. 18. ♟xd4 [The point is 18. g5? ♟xe4! 19. f6 ♖c7±.] 18... exd4 19. 0-0 ♟xe4 20. ♖xd4 ♟xd2 21. ♖xd2 ♖e5 22. ♖f3



Position after: 22. ♖f3

22... ♖b8 White has to be more precise to keep equality here: [It is less strong to force matters with 22... h5

23. f6 hxg4 24. fxg7 ♖e8 25. ♖d5 ♖e6 26. ♖xb7 ♖ab8 27. ♖h6 ♖xg7 28. ♖xg7+ ♟xg7 29. ♖xa6=] 23. ♖d5 ♖d7 24. c4! ♖c6 25. f6! ♖xd5 26. ♖be1 ♖e4 27. ♖f5 ♖xf5 28. ♖xe5 dxe5 29. gx f5 gx f6 30. ♖h6= when Black's king is too exposed to possible perpetuals for Black to be better.



Position after: 30. ♖h6=

B) 15... ♟bd7 16. g4 h6 17. ♖b4 ♟c5 18. ♟xc5 dxc5 19. ♖a5 ♖d7 20. ♖xd7+ ♖xd7 21. ♖xb7 0-0 22. ♖c7 ♖fc8 23. h4 ♖c6=



Position after: 23... ♖c6=

In Trofimov – Leeman, email 2018 a draw was agreed. A possible continuation is 24. ♖h3 ♖xe4 25. ♖e3 ♖xc2 26. ♖xe5 c4 27. ♖xc4 ♖xc7 28. ♖xc7 ♟xg4 29. ♖e7 ♖xf5 30. ♖xf7 ♟e3 31.

♖b3 ♖c2 32. ♖e6 ♖e8 33. ♖e7+ ♟f8=.

C) 15... 0-0 A simple way to achieve a slight edge. 16. ♖b4 [After 16. g4? Black has a nice tactical retort: 16... b5!± with the idea 17. g5? ♟xe4! 18. f6 ♟c7→] 16... ♖d8 17. ♖d1 b6 18. ♖xd6 ♖e8 19. ♖e3 ♖b7 20. ♖f3 a5 21. 0-0 h6 22. c4 ♟bd7±



Position after: 22... ♟bd7±

Black has a better structure, and White's bishop-pair is not much use.



Position after 11.fxe6

11... ♖xe6!

According to my databases, this game was played only in one correspondence

game. I find this surprising, because the move is fully playable!

12. ♖xb7 ♖c5



Position after: 12... ♖c5

13. ♖e3

13. ♟d5 ♖xd5 14. exd5 h6! The point is to have the ... ♖a5+ not allowing ♖d2. 15. ♖e3 ♖a5+ 16. ♟d1 0-0 17. ♟f5 ♟xd5 18. ♟xe7+ ♟xe7 19. ♖xe7 ♖xg5 20. ♖xg5 hxg5= White's activity is enough to compensate for the pawn, but that is all.

13... ♖c8 14. ♖xe7+ ♟xe7 15. ♟d5+! ♖xd5 16. ♟f5+



Position after: 16. ♟f5+

Two king retreats are playable now.

16... ♟d7

16... ♟f8 17. exd5 ♟bd7 18. ♖a3 ♖c7 19. ♖d3

A) 19... ♟xd5 20. ♖d4 ♖e8+ 21. ♟d2



Position after: 21. ♟d2

21... ♟e5! [After 21... ♟7f6? 22. ♖b1 ♟g8 23. ♖xa6 h5 24. a4± White has massive play for the exchange.] 22. ♖e1 f6 23. ♟xd6 ♖e7

A1) 24. ♖xe5 ♖xe5!



There is no dangerous discovered check. 25. ♖xe5 [25. ♖b1 ♖e6! 26. ♖b7 ♖xd6 27. ♖xd6+ ♖xd6 28. ♖b8+ ♟f7 29. ♖xh8=] 25... fxe5 26. ♖c4 ♖b6! 27. ♖xd5 ♖d4+ 28. ♟c1 ♖a1+ 29. ♟d2 ♖d4+=

A2) 24. ♟f5 ♟xd3 25. ♟xe7 ♟xe7 26. ♟xd3 ♟f7 27. ♖xa6 ♟f5 28. ♖c4+ ♖xc4+ 29. ♟xc4 ♖a8=



Position after: 29... ♖a8=

Black takes back the pawn, reaching an equal endgame.

B) 19... ♖e8 20. 0-0 ♖xe3!



Position after: 20... ♖xe3!

Removing the powerful dark-squared bishop. 21. ♟xe3 ♖b6 22. ♖e1 g6 23. ♖xa6 ♖b4 24. ♟f1 ♖f4+ 25. ♟g1 ♖b4=



Position after: 25... ♖b4=

17. exd5 ♖b7



Position after: 17... ♖b7

18. ♖e2

18. c4 This is potentially dangerous unless Black plays the exchange sacrifice: 18... ♖e8! 19. ♖e2 ♖xe3! 20. ♟xe3 ♖b4+ 21. ♖d2 ♖xd2+ 22. ♟xd2 ♟c7= Black is on the more pleasant side of equality thanks to their dark-square supremacy.

18... ♖xd5 19. ♟xg7 ♖xd3 20. ♖xd3



Position after: 20. ♖xd3

Now Black has two options to simplify the position and an option to keep things unclear.