

BSAN 179 – CHESS HOMEWORK #3

Review questions:

R1) What are the three basic guiding principles for good opening moves in a game of chess?

R2) What are the two best (most common) opening moves for White?

R3) Suppose White opens 1. e4. What are some reasonable responses for Black? Why?

R4) Suppose White opens 1. d4. What are some reasonable responses for Black? Why?

Chessplaying activities:

C1) There are several excellent online platforms for playing chess. The two largest and most commonly used are chess.com and lichess . Both offer excellent resources for playing and learning the game. Both can be used free of charge. (The chess.com site does have some features behind a paywall, but much can be accessed without paying.)

We'll be using the chess.com site for some course activities. As part of your homework for this week, you are asked to (1) create an account on chess.com , and (2) play at least one game against one of the “bot” playing programs.

If you're just getting started in chess, then I recommend you play a game against the easiest of the “Beginner” bots, named “Martin.” If you're a bit more skilled, you may wish to play a higher-rated bot. If you find that you can regularly beat a particular bot, then it's time to move up to the next higher option. (You improve by playing opponents as good or better than yourself.)

For this homework: Give your chess.com username, and write a short (one-paragraph) summary of what happened in your game and what you learned from it.

C2) I am also asking you to play me a game of chess. This should happen sometime before the end of Week 5 (that is, on/before Friday, February 13). This game could happen during Chess Club (Tuesdays and Fridays, 2:30 to ??, LBC lobby). Or it could happen during office hours or a scheduled appointment. This way I'll get a good sense of your playing ability, and can make recommendations based upon your playing strength.

P1) Moves so far:

1. f4 e5. 2. g4 ...

What's Black's best move and why?



P2) Moves so far:

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Bc5 3. Qh5

Why is 3. ... g6 a bad move for Black?



P3) The following position (or something similar) can arise in many openings.

What's Black's best move and why?



P4) Moves so far:

1. e4 c6. 2. d4 d5 3. Bd3 Nf6

What's White's best move and why?



P5) 1. e4 e5. 2. Nf3 Nc6. 3. Bc4 Nd4

4. Nxe5 Qg5 5. Nxf7 Qxg2 6. Rf1

What's Black's best move and why?



P6) Moves so far: 1. e4 e5. 2. Nf3 Nc6

3. Bc4 e6 4. Nc3 Bg4 5. h3 Bh5

What's White's best move and why?

