

Czyzewski Variation, forgotten hypermodern chess opening

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Abstract

This document describes forgotten chess variation, it also provides examples, comments and analysis. The idea came as a result of finding old notes from 1883 of my great-grandfather, who has been analyzing two different positions with curious concept - "Delayed Fianchetto Opening". Practice has shown that it is a great position for playing Blitz and Bullets games.

"In chess, knowledge is a very transient thing. It changes so fast that even a single mouse-slip sometimes changes the evaluation."

— Viswanathan Anand

1. Introduction

Czyzewski Variation is easy to learn — white attacks with many unerring movements, black have to worry about handling fire, additionally only a few types of structures can arise.

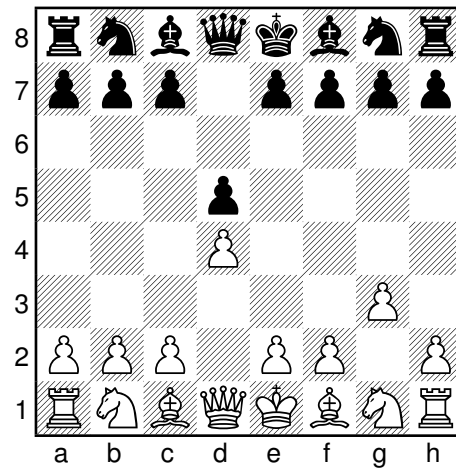
It may be a good tool for avoiding book variations, for Blitz play, or for forcing opponents to think for themselves early on.

- Possibility of early castling.
- Bishop and knight can be easy developed.
- Rapid acquisition of center.
- Solid and flexible structure.

This document describes omitted variation. *The Oxford Companion to Chess*, Oxford University Press, David Hooper & Kenneth Whyld, 1984. ISBN 978-0-19-280049-7

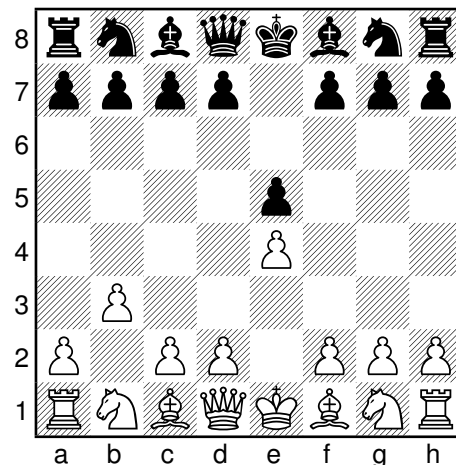
Queen's Pawn Game, Czyzewski Variation

1 d4 d5 2 g3 Right Delayed Queen's Fianchetto Opening



King's Pawn Game, Czyzewski Variation

1 e4 e5 2 b3 Left Delayed King's Fianchetto Opening



2. History

Some time ago my family had found a very old notebook of our great-grandfather, the old box was from 1883. This man was an amateur player and passionate about chess.

One of the pages contained the notes about unusual structure (Czyzewski, 1883). There are two drawings and structures described as (org. pol. spozniony laufer przy otwarciu) which can be translated as "Delayed Fianchetto Opening".

Nowadays, this opening is not popular and moreover not even analyzed. What got us thinking about this strange position.

3. Analysis

The fianchetto is a staple of many "hypermodern" openings, which philosophy is to delay direct occupation of the center with the plan of undermining and destroying the opponent's central outpost.

One of the major benefits of the fianchetto is that it often allows the fianchettoed bishop to become more active. This position creates many opportunities with equal chances for both players. (Nimzowitsch, 1987)

What elements of chess strategy you should consider:

1. Play aggressive.
2. Develop your pieces quickly.
3. Try to develop your knights towards the center.
4. Make your bishop to become more active.
5. Castle to protect your king and develop your rook.

3.1. Queen's pawn game

1. d4 d5

The move 1.d4 offers the same benefits to development and center control as does 1.e4, but unlike with the King Pawn Openings where the e4 pawn is undefended after the first move, the d4 pawn is protected by White's queen.

2. g3

The White's pawn is safe, it's better move than 2.g4, where player simply loses a pawn. In addition, this position allows the development of White king's bishop, later it can occupy Black's pawn on d5.

Figure 1. The most common movements played by Black. (2015)

NEXT MOVE	GAMES	WHITE WINS	ADVANTAGE
2... ♘f6	689	34.8 %	-0.03
2... c6	182	41.8 %	0.25
2... e6	146	41.1 %	0.00
2... ♗f5	83	34.9 %	±0.05
2... g6	54	42.6 %	0.32
2... ♘c6	53	47.2 %	0.13
2... c5	51	34.1 %	-0.12

3.1.1. STATISTICS

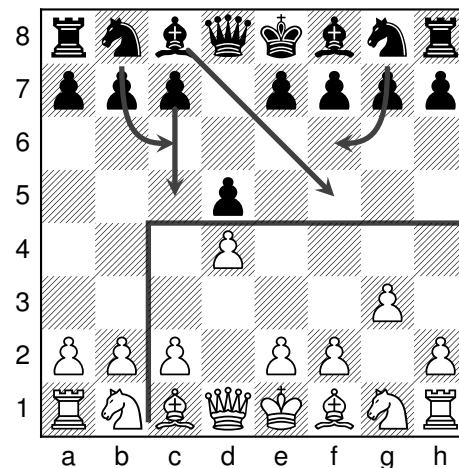
39.9 % white win 29.5 % draw 30.7 % black win

Chess engine	Advantage
Stockfish	0.00
Komodo	±0.05
Rybka	0.11

Computer considers this move as run of the mill. However, for 700 parties played, statistically White wins more often.

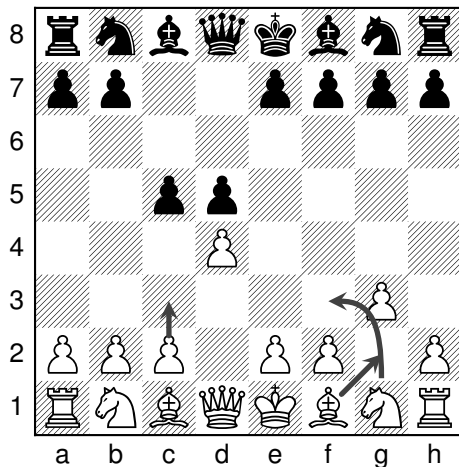
In the Blitz and Bullet chess, players use well-known schemes at the beginning of game. Playing this variation can confuse your opponent. This increase the chances of mistake at the opening. (de Firmian, 1999)

3.1.2. CONTINUATIONS

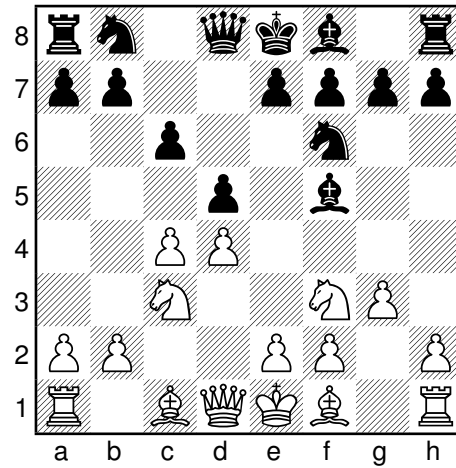


The most dangerous and aggressive move that Black can perform is 2... c5.

White can reply with a passive move 2... c5 3 c3. Then we have an effective gambit 2... c5 3 c3 cxd4 4 cxd4, Black in this position has quite poor defence.



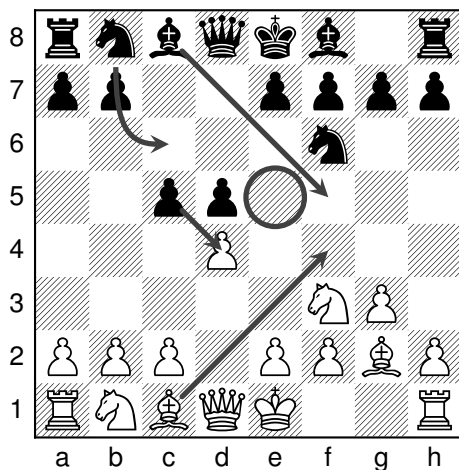
But much better is to play 2...c5 3 ♖f2 or 3 ♜f3. Black does not have too much replies 3... ♜f6 4 ♖g2.



In some cases it can evolve into Neo-Gruenfeld Defence or Indian Game (Tartakower Attack).

It is a perfectly solid scheme of development, but, inflexibly applied, it cannot offer more than equality against a vigorous black response. However, in this position white can easily derive first strong attack.

Solid structure, can be built also in a different way 1 d4 d5 2 g3 ♜f6 3 ♖g2 c6 4 ♜f3 ♖f5 5 O-O e6. White can focus on the development of a queen side 6 c4 ♜bd7 7 b3 ♖e7 8 ♜c3 h6 9 ♖b2 O-O.

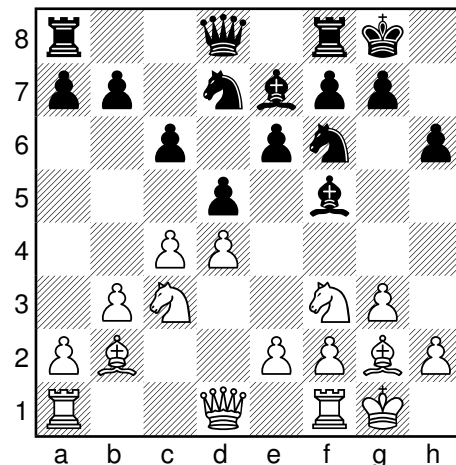


White in this position can castle and have good opportunities to attack. Black has blocked king's bishop and weak e5 square, that is needed to develop pieces. White may strengthen further this position by moving queen's bishop.

The strategic plan behind the Czyzewski Variation is to aim for a kingside attack. The black king's knight will be either exchanged off on e4, or driven away by the advance e4-e5.

The same position is achieved by playing 1 d4 d5 2 g3 ♜f6 3 ♜f3 c5 4 ♖g2 or 1 d4 d5 2 g3 ♜f6 3 ♖g2 c5 4 ♜f3. Most of the variations is repeated or similar.

Black by playing different formations slows down own development, for example 1 d4 d5 2 g3 ♜f6 3 ♜f3 ♖f5 4 c4 c6 5 ♜c3.



Some previous schemes are used again. Therefore, I enclose below the most common systems that occurs in Czyzewski Variation.

Figure 2. The most effective system for White.

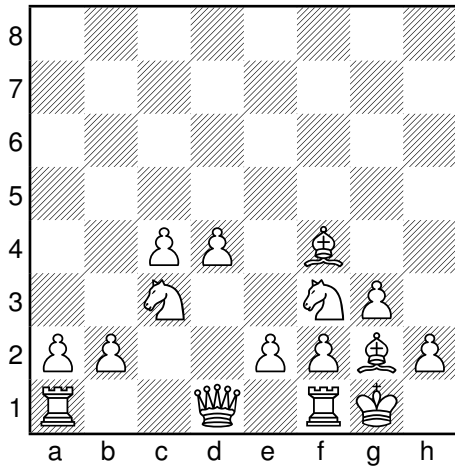
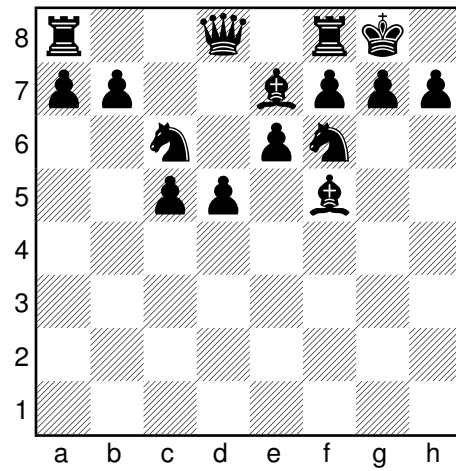
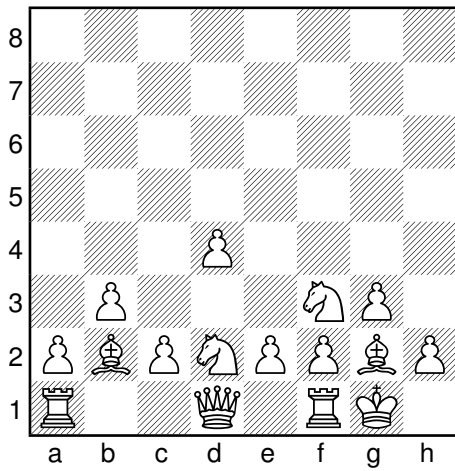
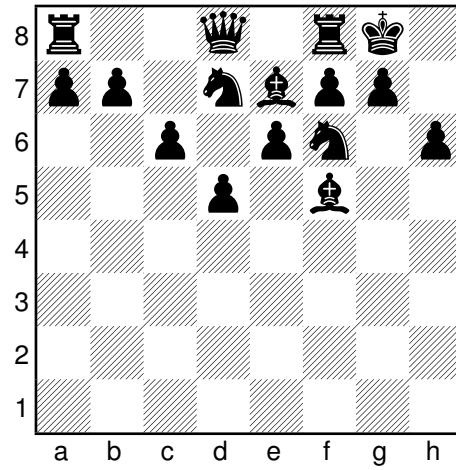
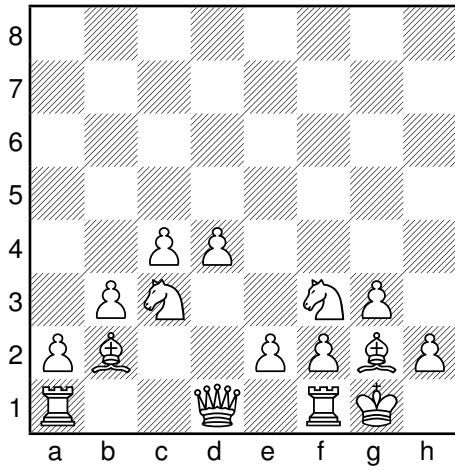
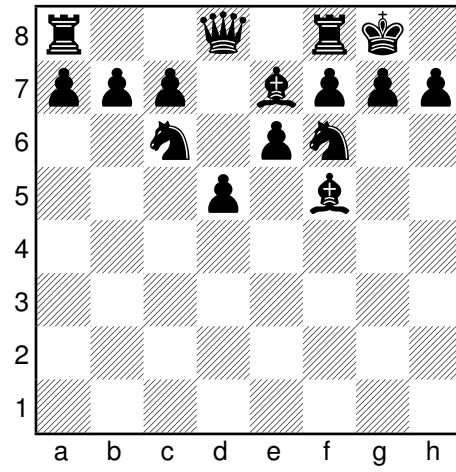


Figure 3. The most common defense system for Black.



3.2. King's pawn game

1. e4 e5

Advancing the king's pawn two squares is highly useful because it occupies a center square, attacks the center square d5, and allows the development of White king's bishop and queen.

2. b3

The White's pawn is safe, it's better move than 2. b4, where player simply loses a pawn. In addition, this position allows the development of White queen's bishop, which later it can occupy Black's pawn on e5 (at the same time doing "Polish Trap").

Figure 4. The most common movements played by Black. (2015)

NEXT MOVE	GAMES	WHITE WINS	ADVANTAGE
2... ♖f6	45	28.9 %	-0.21
2... ♖c6	18	61.2 % (DRAWS)	±0.09
2... ♗c5	10	30.1 %	-0.28
2... D6	8	37.5 %	0.10

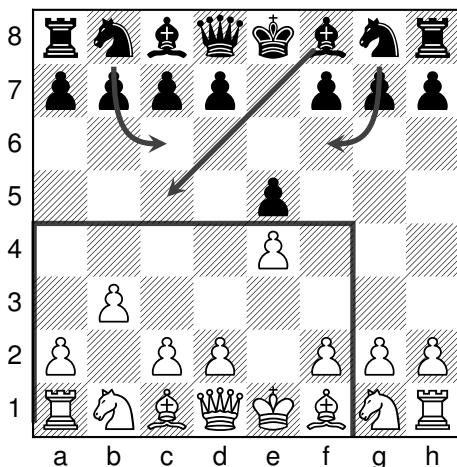
3.2.1. STATISTICS

37.1 % white win 27.4 % draw 35.5 % black win

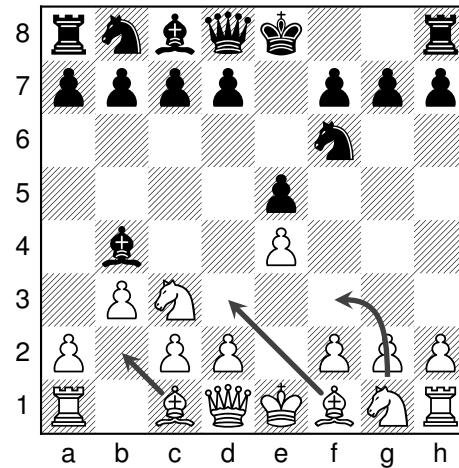
Chess engine	Advantage
Stockfish	-0.22
Komodo	-0.18
Rybka	-0.35

Computer considers this move as faint and passive. Personally, we recommend passage from this position to those that arose later in Vienna Game.

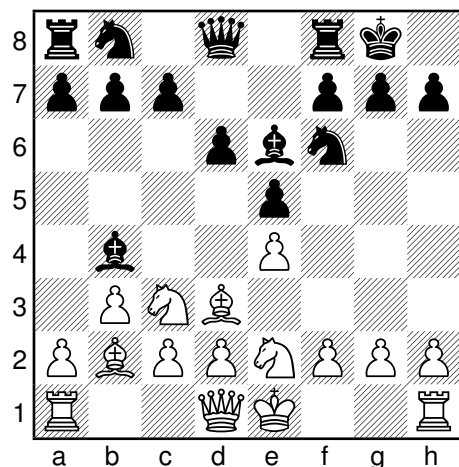
3.2.2. CONTINUATIONS



The most dangerous and aggressive move that Black can perform is 2... ♖f6. White must respond by moving his knight 3 ♘c3. Black has a great movement 3... ♗b4.



Both sides now have time develop their pieces 4 ♗d3 O-O 5 ♗b2 d6 6 ♘ge2 ♗e6.



White now have a chance to mount an attack 7 a3 ♗a5 8 f4 exf4 9 ♖xf4 ♗g4 10 ♖ce2.

This variant is extremely passive and risky. This approach can be sometimes impractical, as it requires a player to consider many chess principles and knowledge of long variations making it's easy to make a mistake or blunder.

Personally we do not recommend this position at master level or above. In incurs several problems for white. Game is getting complicated.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all people who submitted their suggestions and concerns. This document sheds new light on this unpopular opening. We believe that it is some kind of honoring the memory of my great-grandfather.

May your opponents sigh in frustration upon seeing you play the Czyzewski Variation.

Name *Czyzewski Variation* we propose as unofficial.

References

Czyzewski. Private notebook and writings, 1883.

de Firmian, Nicholas Ernest. *Modern Chess Openings*.
David McKay Company Inc., 1999.

Nimzowitsch, Aron. *My System*. B.T Batsford Ltd., 1987.