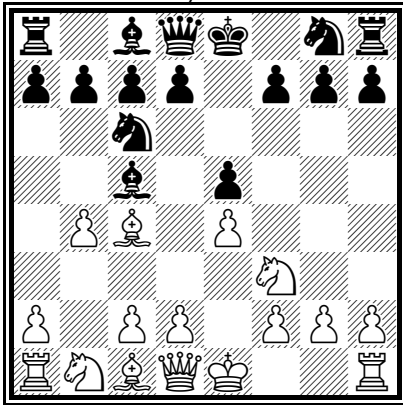
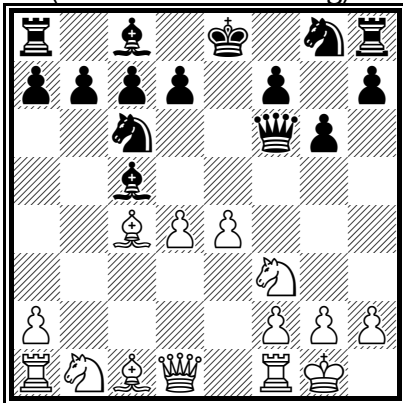


During the height of the dot-com boom, Jeff Mallet and Mark Lefler worked together to create a game called "Zillions of Games" (ZoG). Not only could ZoG play Chess, it could play pretty much any variant of Chess as well as a lot of other abstract strategy games. Here, I play ZoG at its lowest "pushover" difficulty level to demonstrate a basic winning strategy.

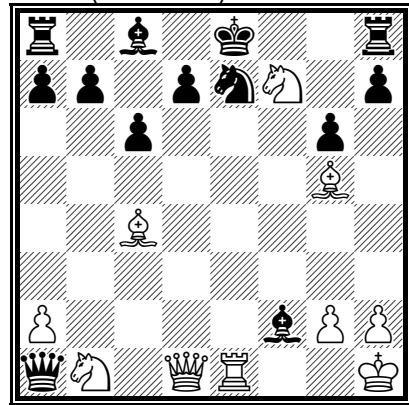
1. e4 e5
2. ♘f3 ♞c6 (Zillions is really passive and wants to play the Philidor: 2. ... d6)
3. ♙c4 ♜c5 (Zillions wants to play 3. g6?!)
4. b4 (The Evans Gambit)



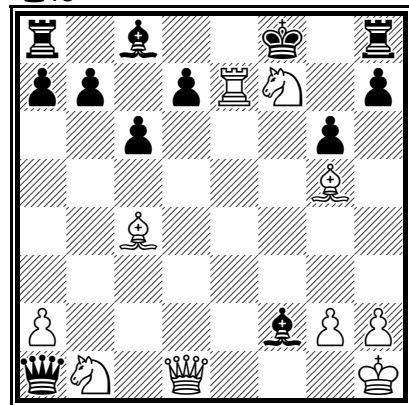
4. ... ♜xb4 (At this point, I am playing Zillions at level 1 using a variant of Mats' .zrf)
5. c3 ♜c5 (Logical move, but ♜a5 or ♜e7 are probably better)
6. O-O (d4 is even sharper) g6? (Even Mats' .zrf can't teach Zillions real FIDE strategy)
7. d4 exd4
8. cxd4 ♞f6? (White is now winning)



9. e5 ♞xe5
10. ♘xe5 c6
11. ♘xf7 ♜xd4 (Zillions is looking at that a1 rook with too much greed in his eyes)
12. ♚e1+ ♞e7
13. ♜g5 ♜xf2+?!
14. ♔h1 ♞xa1? (Mate in 5)



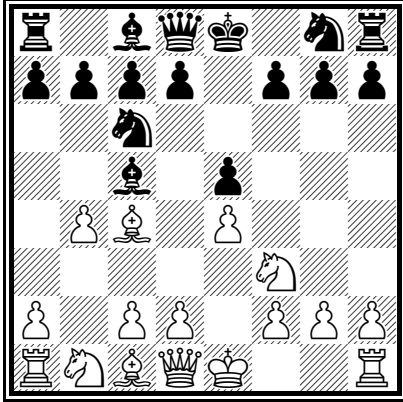
15. ♚xe7+ ♔f8



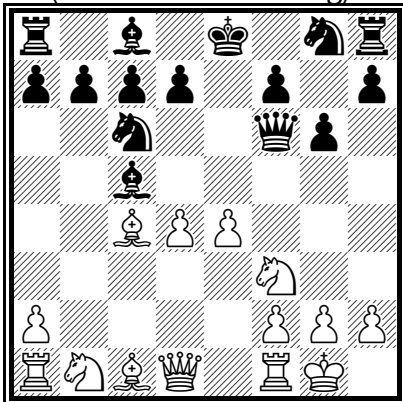
16. ♚e8 ♞xe8
17. ♘d6+ ♔f8
18. ♞f3 ♔g7
19. ♞f7#

OK, that was easy. Here is a winning line for “Level 2”—the second-easiest difficulty level in Zillions.

1. e4 e5
2. ♖f3 ♜c6 (Zillions is really passive and wants to play the Philidor: 2. ... d6)
3. ♙c4 ♙c5 (Zillions wants to play 3. g6?!)
4. b4 (The Evans Gambit)

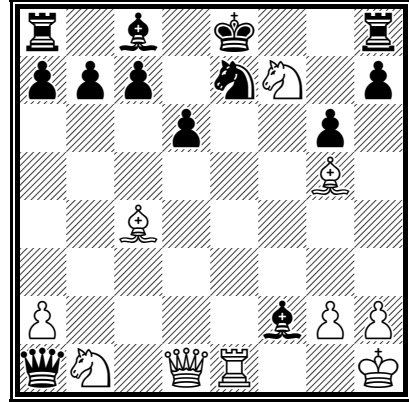


4. ... ♙xb4 (At this point, I am playing Zillions at level 2 using a variant of Mats' .zrf)
5. c3 ♙c5 (Logical move, but ♙e7 is more popular at master play right now, probably because Watson/Schiller's “The Big Book of Busts” recommended it in 1995; now-world champion Anand played ♙e7 against Kasparov that same year)
6. O-O (d4 is even sharper) g6? (Even Mats' .zrf can't teach Zillions real FIDE strategy)
7. d4 exd4
8. cxd4 ♞f6? (White is now winning)

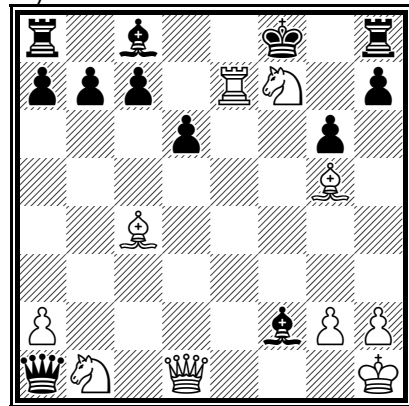


9. e5 ♞xe5
10. ♞xe5 d6
11. ♞xf7 ♙xd4 (Zillions is looking at that a1

12. ♞e1+ ♞e7
13. ♙g5 ♙xf2?!
14. ♔h1 ♞xa1? (Greed is the root of all kinds of evil, as well as bad chess moves)



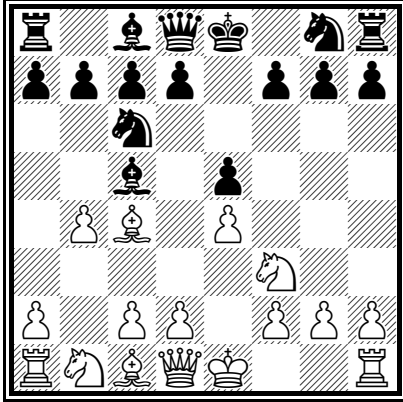
15. ♞xe7+ ♔f8 (Even better: 15. ♞xd6!! cxd6
16. ♞xe7+ ♔f8 [16. ♔d8 17. ♞xd6+ ♙d7
18. ♞xd7#] 17. ♞f7+ ♔e8 18. ♞a4+ b5 19.
- ♞xb5+ ♙d7 20. ♞xd7#; if 15 ... ♔f8 then 16.
- ♙h6+ ♞g7 17. ♞d5 ♙e6 18. ♞xe6 ♙xe1
19. ♞f7#)



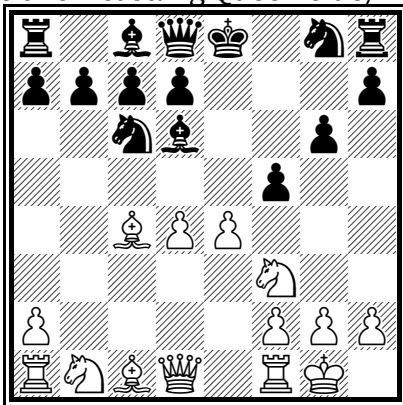
16. ♞e8+ ♔xe8
17. ♞e2+ ♔d7? (Black can delay mate with ruinous loss of material: 17. ... ♞e5 18. ♞xe5 etc.)
18. ♞e7+? (Much better: 18. ♙b5+ c6 19 ♞e7#) ♔c6
19. ♞e4+ ♔c5
20. ♞d5+ ♔b4
21. ♞b5#

It is only a little harder to defeat Zillions at level 3:

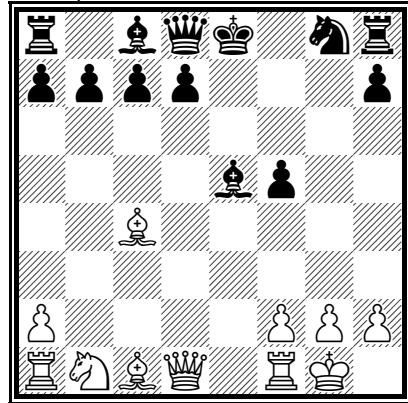
1. e4 e5
2. ♖f3 ♜c6 (Zillions is really passive and wants to play the Philidor: 2. ... d6)
3. ♙c4 ♙c5 (Zillions wants to play 3. g6?!)
4. b4 (The Evans Gambit)



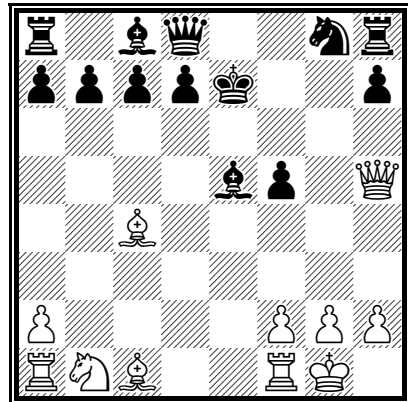
4. ... ♙xb4 (At this point, I am playing Zillions at level 3 using a variant of Mats' .zrf)
5. c3 ♙d6 (Called the Stoneware or Stone-ware defense, this line protects the e5 square but hinders Black's development)
6. d4 exd4
7. cxd4 (White now has two pawns dominating the center) g6?
8. O-O f5?? (Black should only expose his king-side like this if castling Queen-side)



9. exf5 gxf5
10. ♖e5 ♜xe5
11. dxe5 ♙xe5 (White to move and mate in 6)



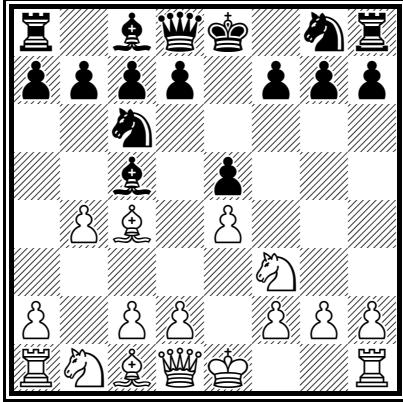
12. ♜h5+ ♔e7



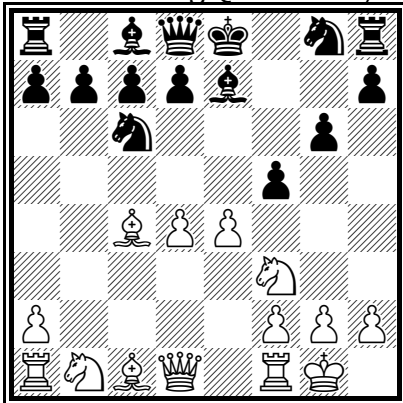
13. ♙a3+ ♜f6 (Faster: 13. ♜f7+ ♔d6 14. ♜d5+ ♔e7 15. ♙g5+ ♙f6 [if 15... ♜f6 16. ♜xe5+ ♜f8 17. ♙h6#] 16. ♜e1+ ♔f8 17. ♜f7#)
14. ♜f7+ ♔g5
15. ♙c1+ ♔h4
16. g3+ ♔g4
17. ♙e2+ ♔h3
18. ♜h5+ ♜h4
19. ♜xh4#

By level 4, Zillions is a fairly strong club-level player, albeit one who still makes strategic blunders

1. e4 e5
2. ♘f3 ♝c6 (Zillions is really passive and wants to play the Philidor: 2. ... d6)
3. ♙c4 ♚c5 (Zillions wants to play 3. g6?!)
4. b4 (The Evans Gambit)

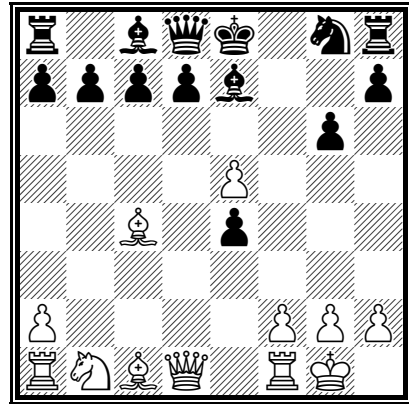


4. ... ♙xb4 (At this point, I am playing Zillions at level 4 using a variant of Mats' .zrf)
5. c3 ♙e7 (This is currently the most commonly used defense to the Evans in master-level play. It was used famously by now-world champion Anand in Kasparov-Anand 1995)
6. d4 exd4
7. cxd4 (White now has two pawns dominating the center) g6?
8. O-O f5?? (Black should only expose his king-side like this if castling Queen-side)

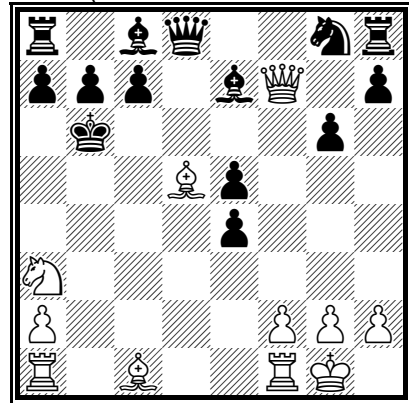


9. ♘e5 ♝xe5

10. dxe5 fxe4?



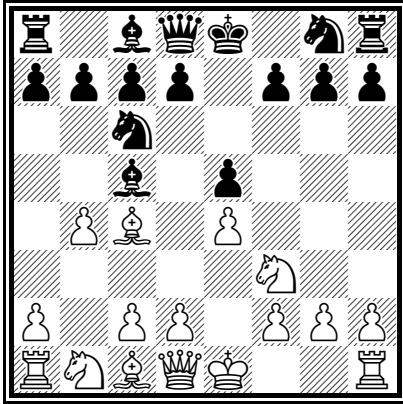
11. ♙d5! d6
12. ♙f7+ ♚d7
13. ♙e6+ ♙c6
14. ♙d5+ ♙b6
15. ♘a3 dxe5?? (White can now force mate)



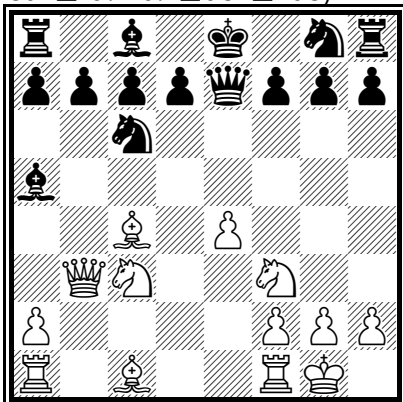
16. ♖b1+ ♙c5
17. ♙e3+ ♙d6
18. ♘b5+ ♙d7
19. ♙e6+ ♙c6
20. ♖fc1+ ♙c5
21. ♖xc5+ ♙b6
22. ♘a3+ (Discovered check) ♙a6
23. ♙c4+ b5
24. ♙xb5+ ♙a5
25. ♘c4#

While not vulnerable to “cheap shots”, ZoG at its highest skill level (three minutes per move) still makes strategic blunders and can not effectively play against the Evans Gambit

1. e4 e5
2. ♘f3 ♞c6 (Zillions is really passive and wants to play the Philidor: 2. ... d6)
3. ♙c4 ♚c5 (Zillions wants to play 3. g6?!)
 4. b4 (The Evans Gambit)

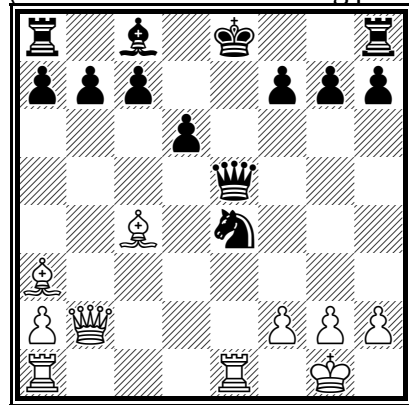


4. ... ♚xb4
5. c3 ♚a5 (This is probably White's best move)
6. d4 exd4
7. O-O dxc3 (The Compromised Defense)
8. ♞b3 ♞e7!?
9. ♘xc3 (as played by Bobby Fischer in a 1963 casual game against Reuben Fine, which continued ♞f6? 10. ♘d5 ♞xd5)



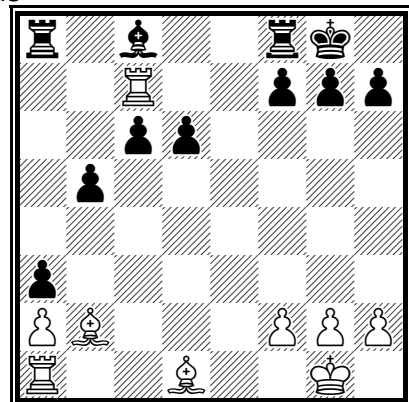
9. ... ♚xc3
10. ♞xc3 ♞f6 (The winning line for White comes [without notes nor commentary] from pages 198-199 of the seventh [1891] edition of the classic German-language *Handbuch des Schachspiels*)
11. ♙a3 d6
12. e5 ♞e4
13. ♞b2 ♞xe5

14. ♞xe5 ♞xe5
15. ♞fe1! (White now has a winning position)



Because of the pin, Black can not hold on to his knight. Attempts to defend the knight, such as f5 or ♚f3, are refuted with f3. While Black is three pawns ahead, with White's lead in development, it is not sufficient compensation for the lost piece.

15. ... ♞xb2 (It's probably not best to exchange down the queens when behind material, but, then again, Black really doesn't have counterplay)
16. ♙xb2 O-O
17. ♞xe4 c6
18. ♞e7 b5
19. ♙b3 a5
20. ♞c7 a4
21. ♙d1 a3



The game is now lost for Black. In a continuation where Zillions plays itself with three minutes per move for each side, after fifty more moves, White checkmates Black.