CHINOOK The World Man-Machine Checkers Champion

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Abstract

In 1992, the seemingly unbeatable World Checker Champion Marion Tinsley defended his title against the computer program CHINOOK. After an intense, tightly contested match, Tinsley fought back from behind to win the match by scoring four wins to CHINOOK's two, with 33 draws. This match was the first time in history that a human world champion defended his title against a computer. This article reports on the progress of the checkers (8x8 draughts) program CHINOOK since 1992. Two years of research and development on the program culminated in a rematch with Tinsley in August 1994. In this match, after six games (all draws), Tinsley withdrew from the match and relinquished the world championship title to CHINOOK, citing health concerns. CHINOOK has since defended its title in two subsequent matches. It is the first time in history that a computer has won a human-world championship.
ABSTRACT In 1992, the seemingly unbeatable World Checker Champion, Dr. Marion Tinsley, defended his title against the computer program Chinook. After an intense, tightly-contested match, Tinsley fought back from behind to win the match by scoring four wins to Chinook’s two, with 33 draws. This was the first time in history that a human World Champion defended his title against a computer. This article reports on the progress of the checkers (8×8 draughts) program Chinook since 1992. Two years of research and development on the program culminated in a rematch with Tinsley in August 1994. In the man versus man or man versus machine. Several things were done to keep CHINOOK’s true strength hidden from Tinsley. A test match was played in April 1994 against the official world champion, Derek Oldbury (Oldbury took over the title when Tinsley resigned it in 1991). The nal score was three wins for CHINOOK, no losses, and nine draws. Interestingly, in all three wins, CHINOOK announced the game as drawn.