

The merit to exchange the pawn of the front of rook

Generally to say, we have three merit to do that. I explain such merits. They are black player who exchange rook pawn and use static rook strategy in this article.

First, You can have one pawn.

Basically, after black player finish exchanging the pawn, he can have one pawn one-sided because white player normally have to defend the head of their bishop or his weak point made by pawn exchange except special situations like side pawn piker. In shogi, captured pieces is one of the advantages because they can drop the piece at the square they want. Look at the following partial view.

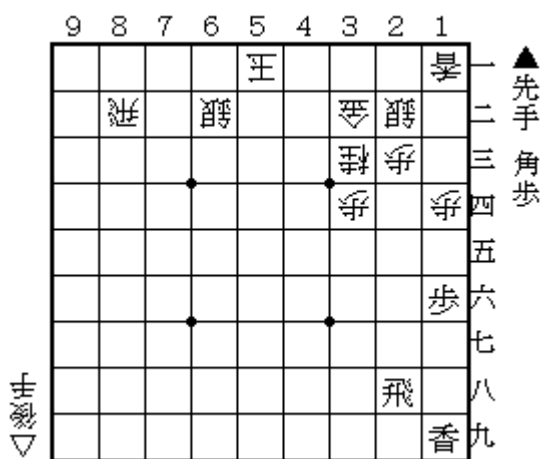


Fig.1 Black has effective attack  
In this situation, black has effective attack.

1.P-1e Px1e 2.P\*1b Lx1b 3.B\*2a

White player cannot avoid taking both piece gold and lancer at one time. This attack use captured pawn at rook file successful. So if you capture rook pawn, you get a possibility you can use the pawn at another place effectively.

Second, You can advance the pieces at the square of pawn

Please think about two positions, first, white player prevent exchanging rook pawn. Second, black player success to exchange rook pawn. What's the difference of theirs except captured piece?

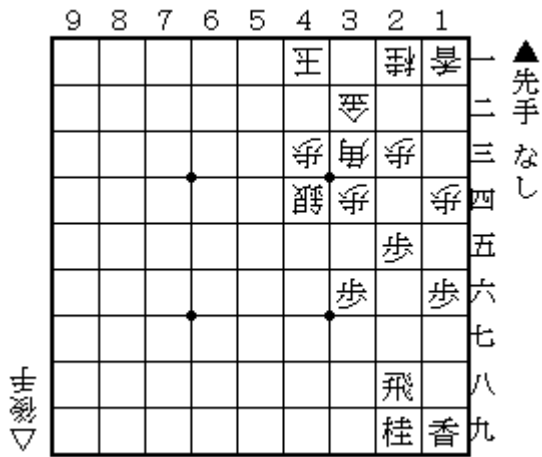


Fig.2 No exchange situation

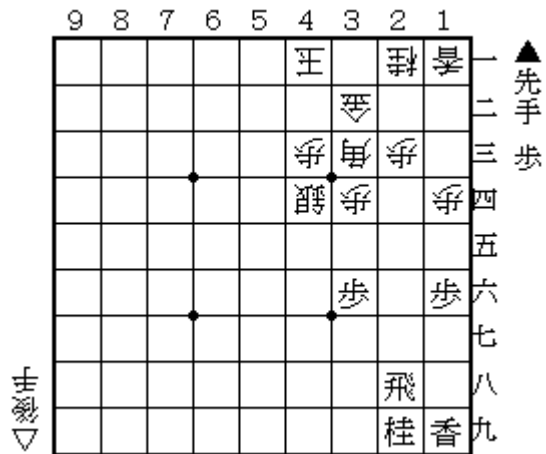


Fig.3 After exchange situation

Pay attention at the 2e square. The pawn is disappeared. Most of people probably think "That's totally oblivious!" Certainly, it is elementary and oblivious. But it's very important. It mean you can advance silver and knight at 2e square. For example climbing silver case,

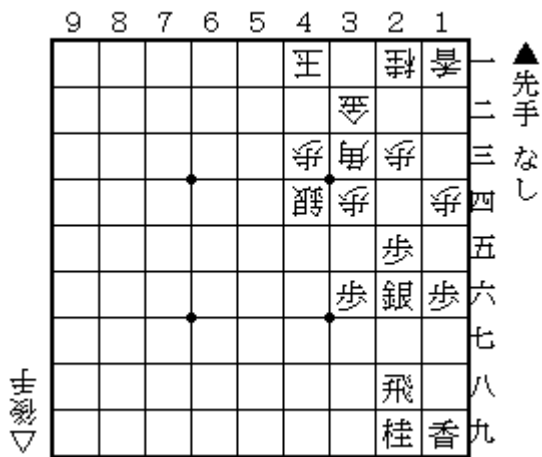


Fig.4 Climbing silver case after fig2

In first situation, silver cannot move on the front no longer without a plan because 1e square is defended by the pawn, lancer and bishop, in addition, 3e square defended by the pawn and silver. But if 2e pawn is not there?

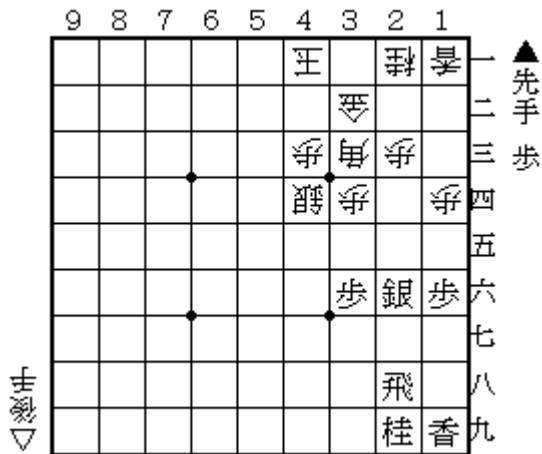


Fig.5 Climbing silver case after fig3

black's silver can move further on the front. And it attack the pawn of the head of white's bishop. So 2e pawn prevented developing black pieces. If 2e pawn goes in hand by exchange, you move on pieces at there.

Third, Rook goes directly to enemy's territory.

You know rook is a very strong piece in shogi. Not to mention, promoted rook, dragon. So opponent need to defend at aimed square by black rook. This trend is particularly remarkable in double wing attack opening. Following view is about the opening.



Fig.6 Double wing attack opening

So it is clear both side's gold defend 2c and 8g square from above figure. It prevent promoting rook. If a gold move to anywhere isn't relationship of these squares, the opponent can make dragon. So one of black player's aim is removing gold to promote rook. So you can pressure on the point of the front of your rook.