Niel’s Chess - Puzzles

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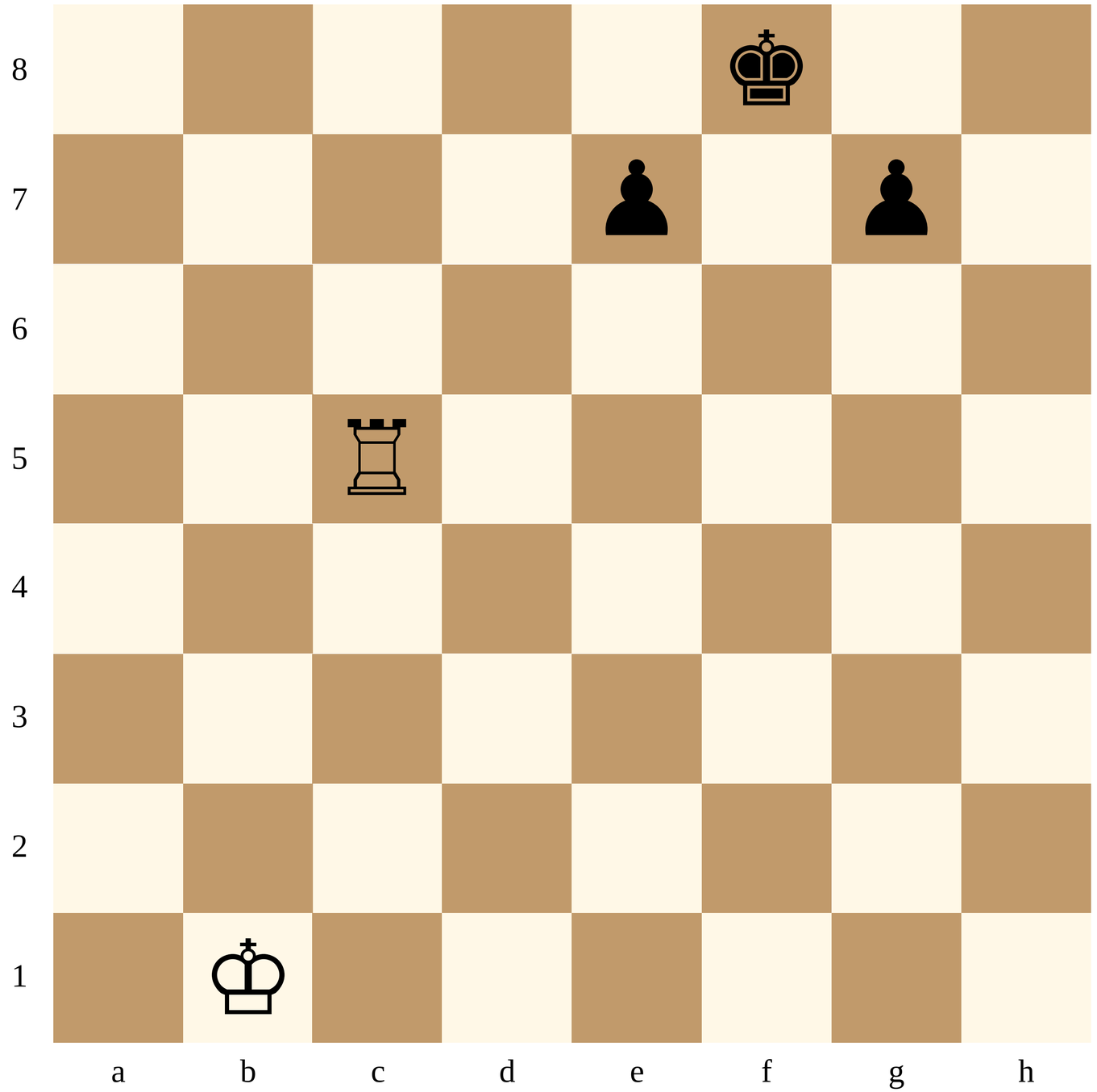
White to move - Checkmate in 1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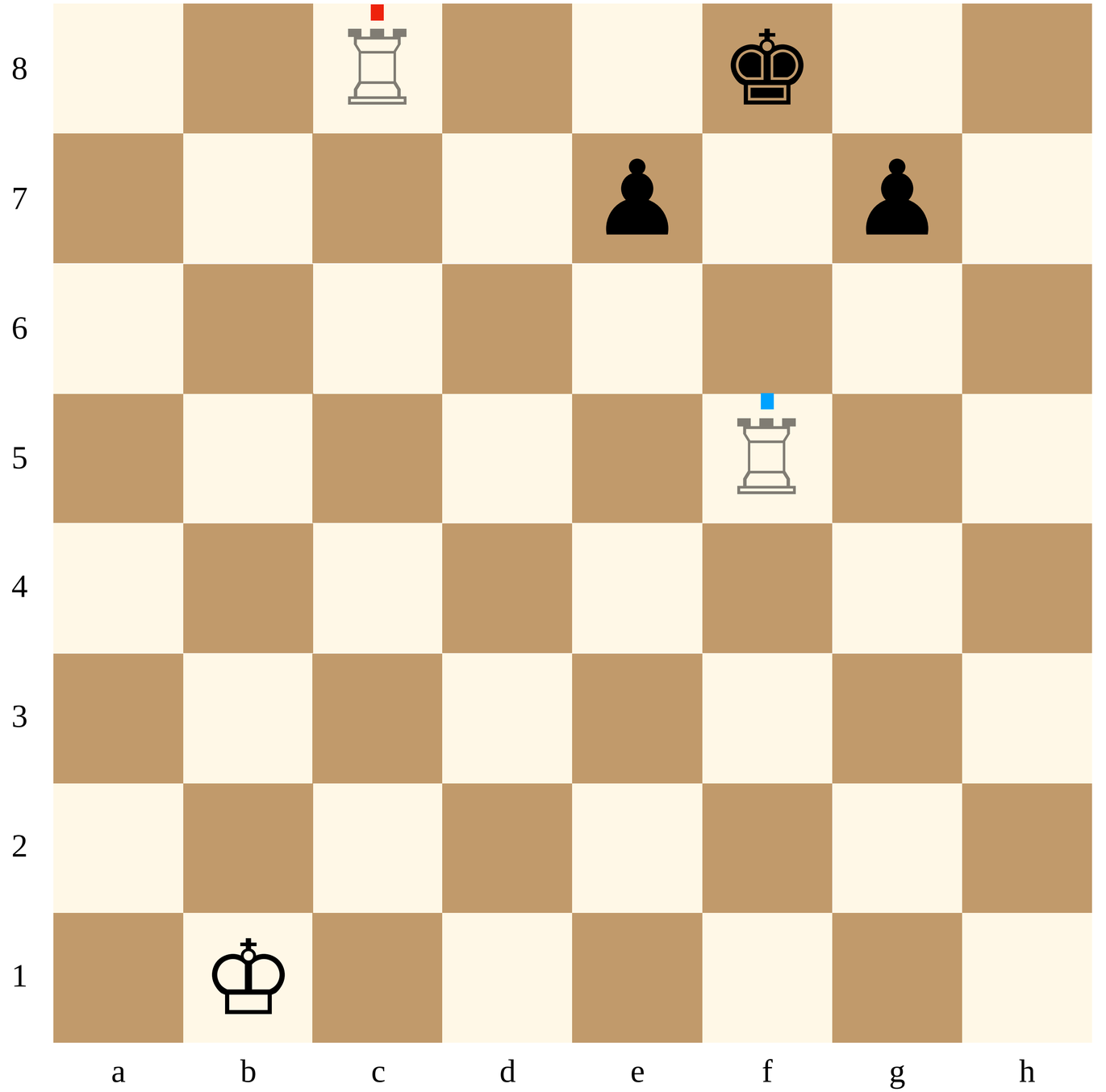
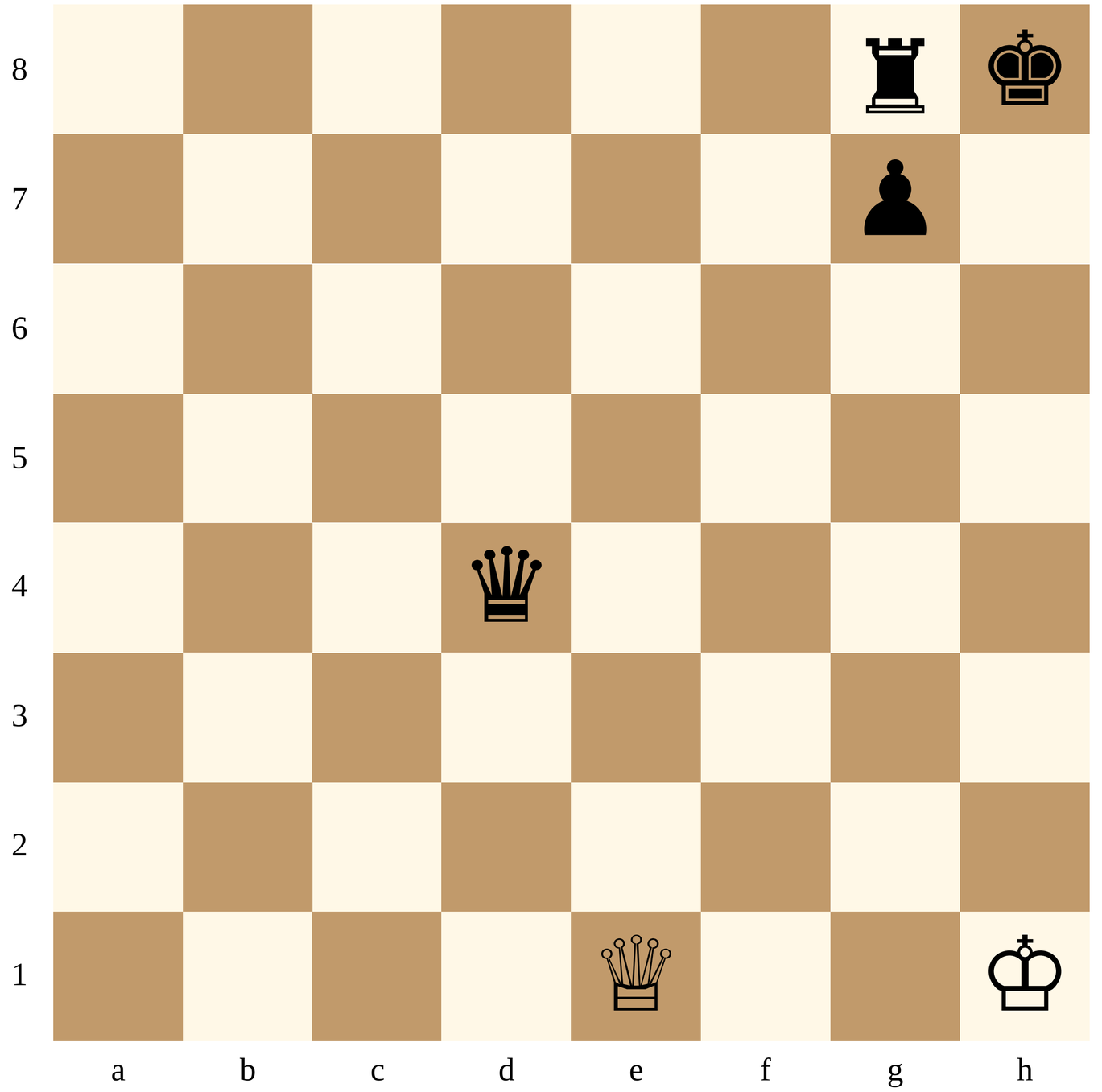


Black’s king cannot get out of this check.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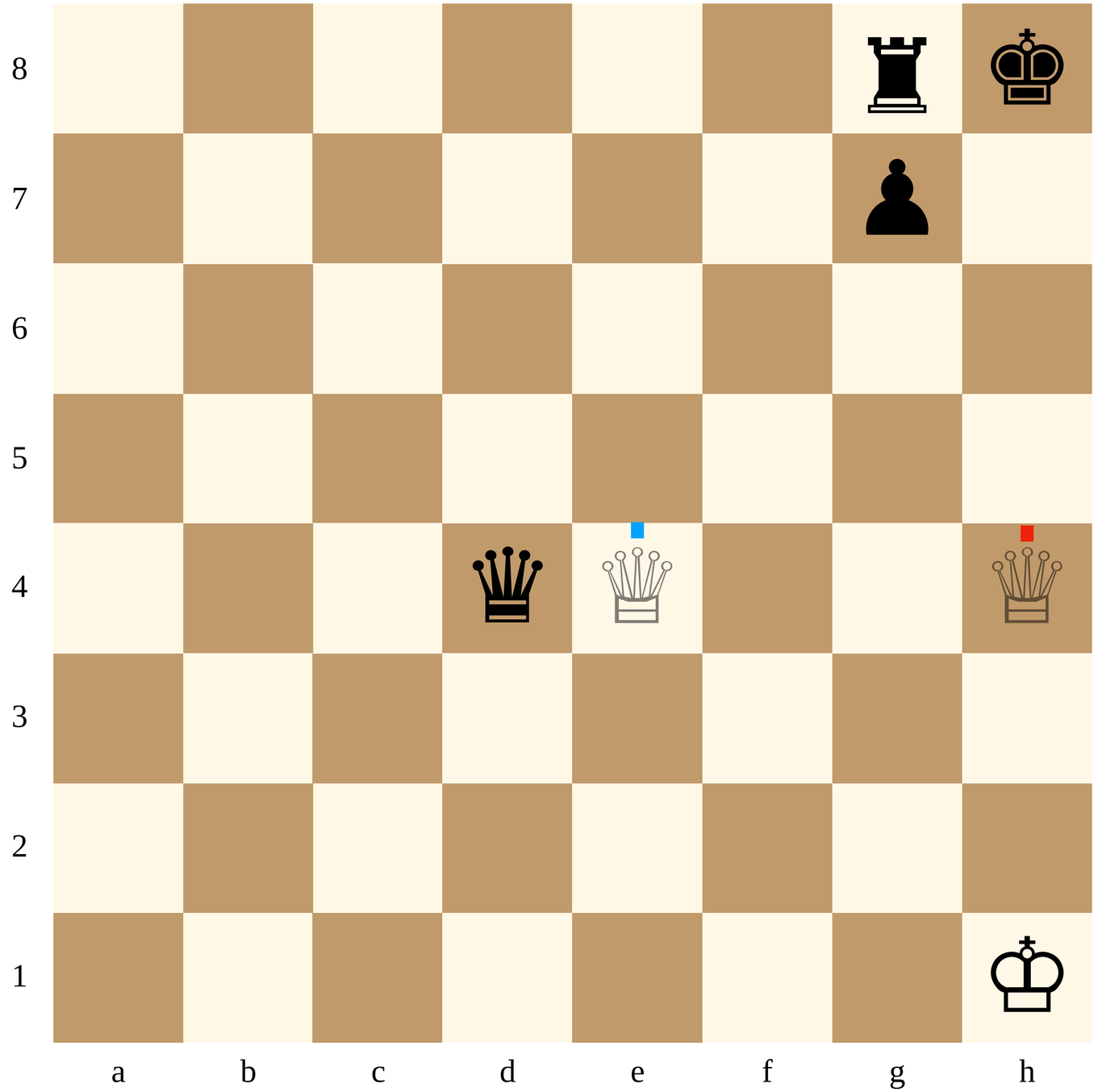
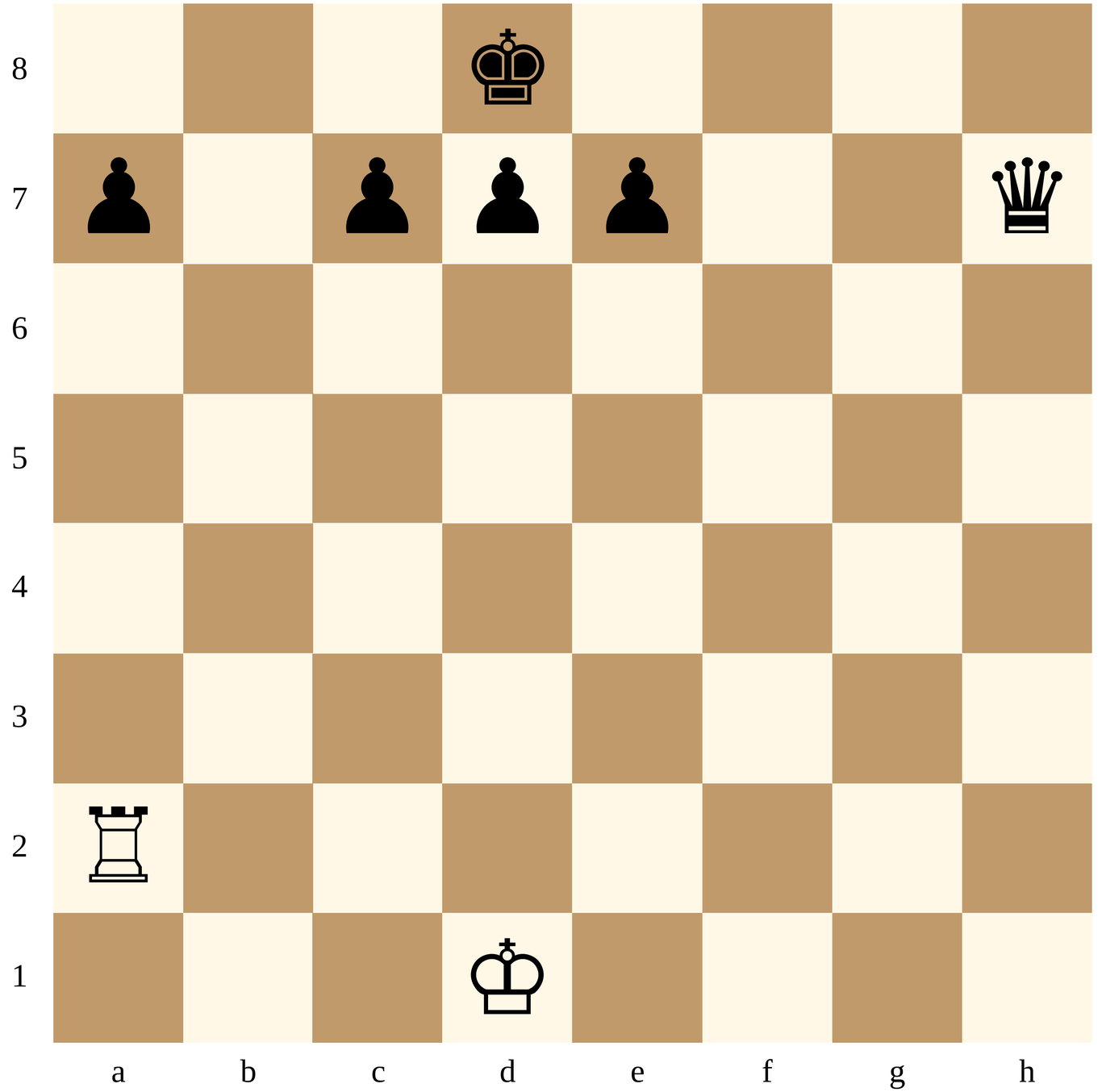
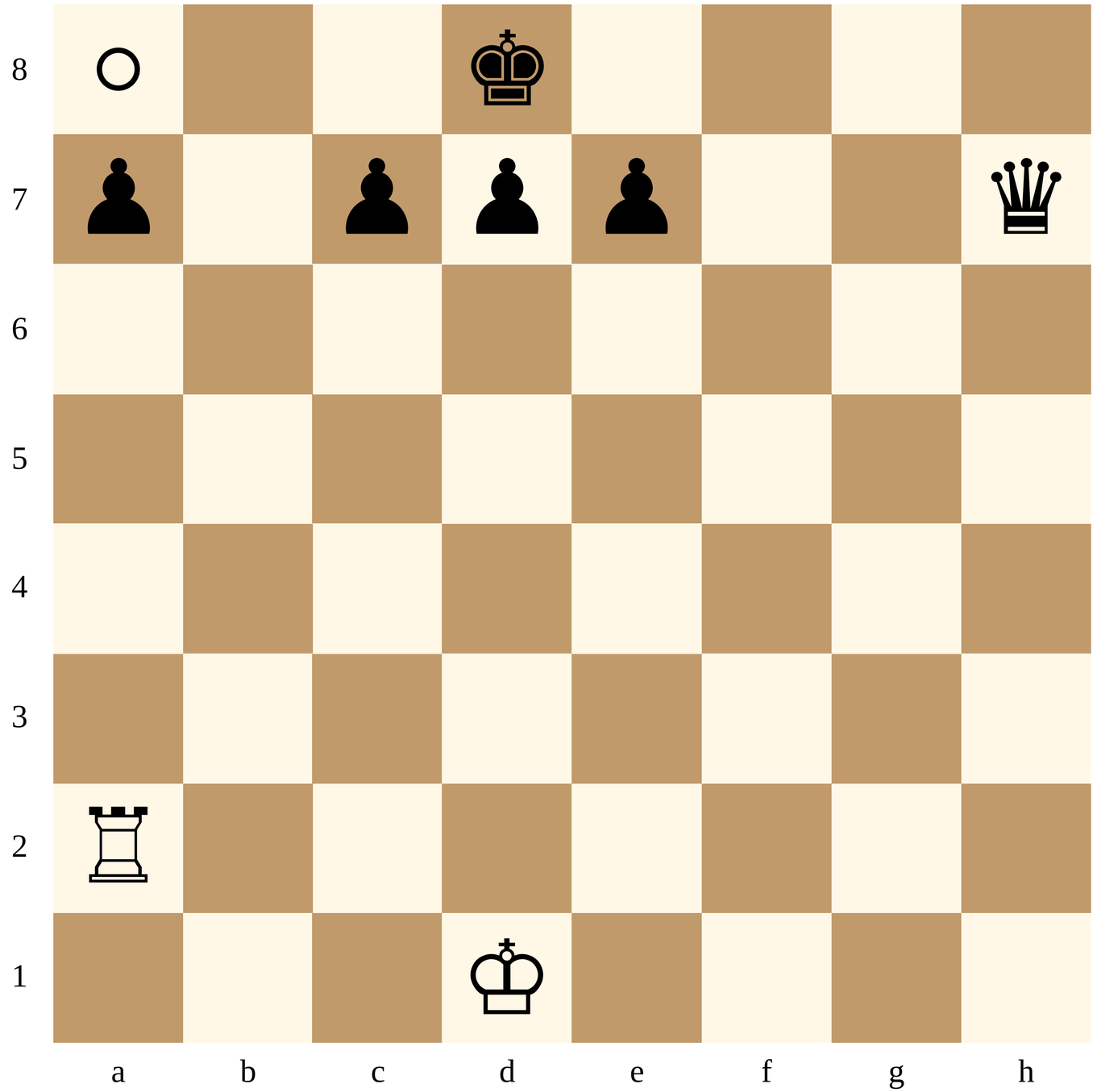


Black’s queen isn’t allowed to e4, as White’s queen may collapse to h4, leaving Black’s king in check.



White has a 16.7% chance of success.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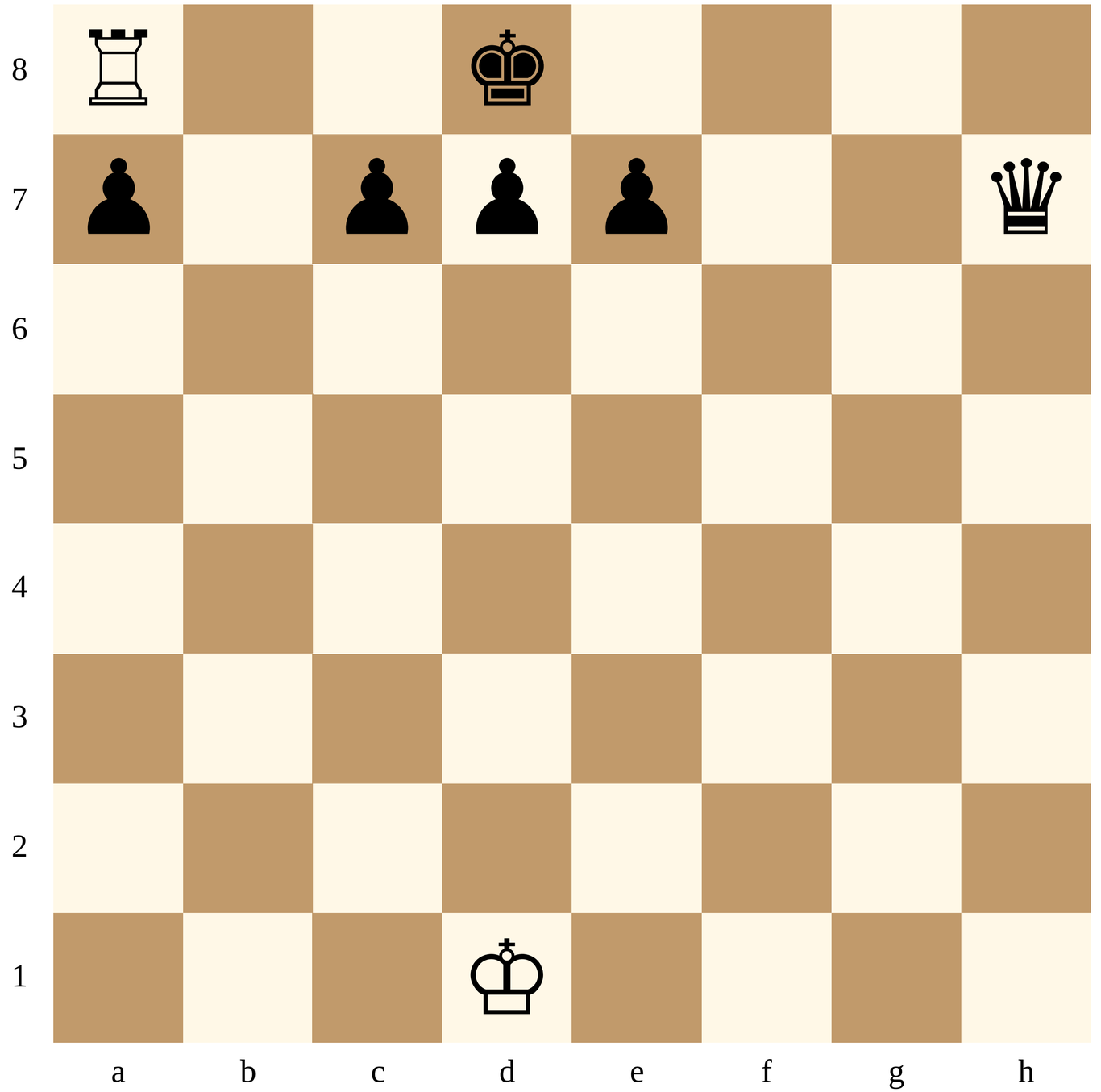
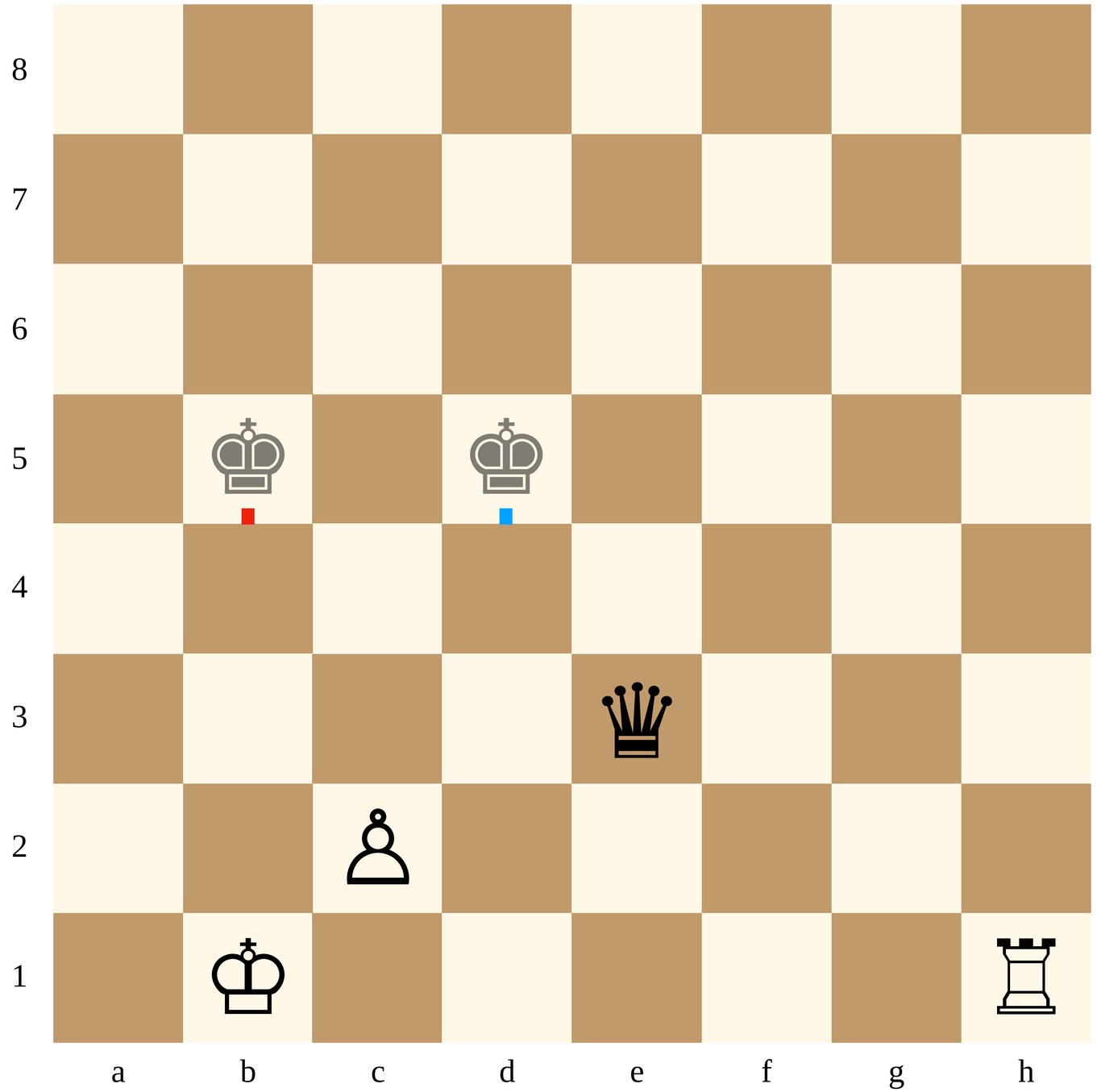


White has rolled a 6.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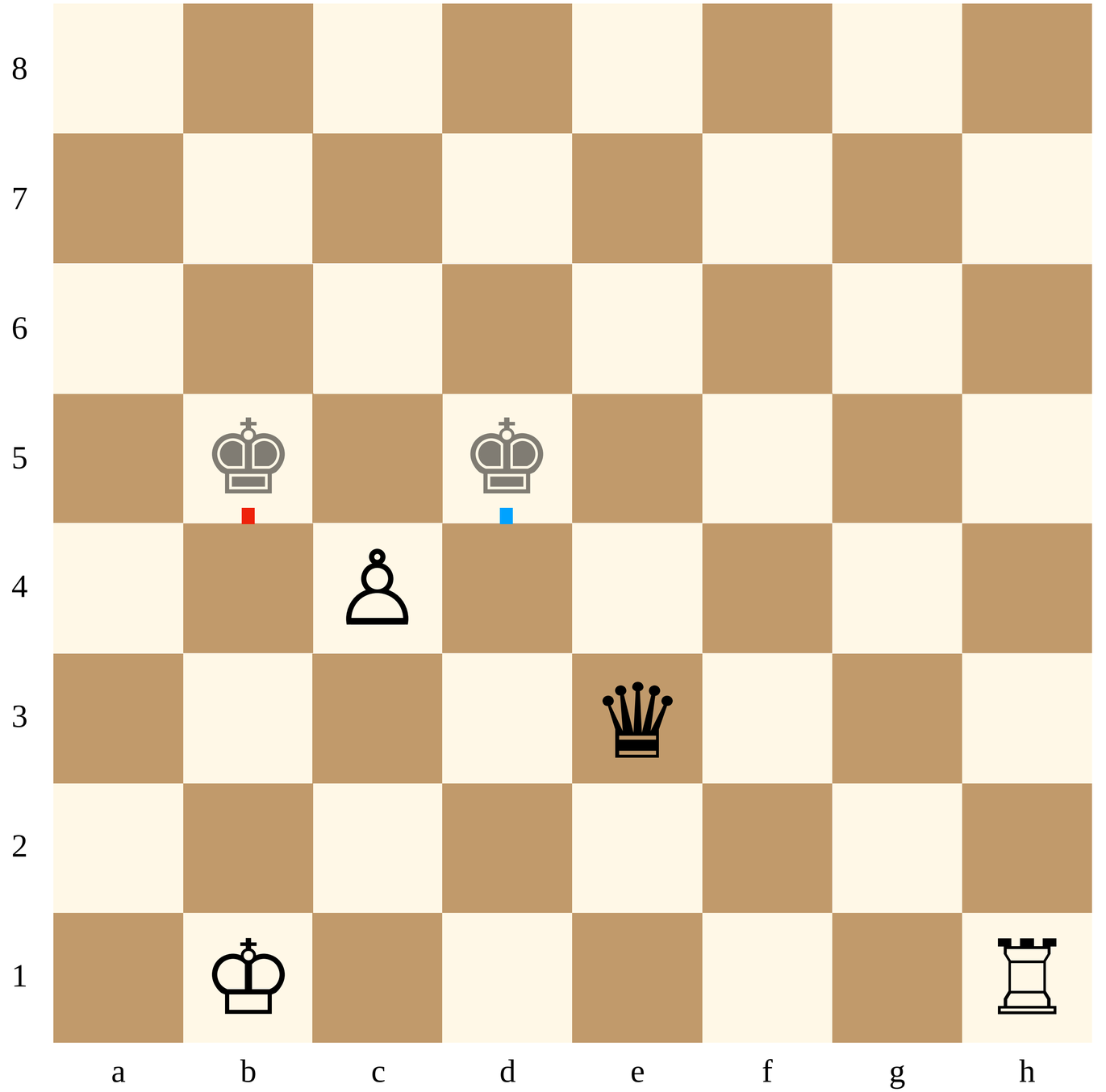
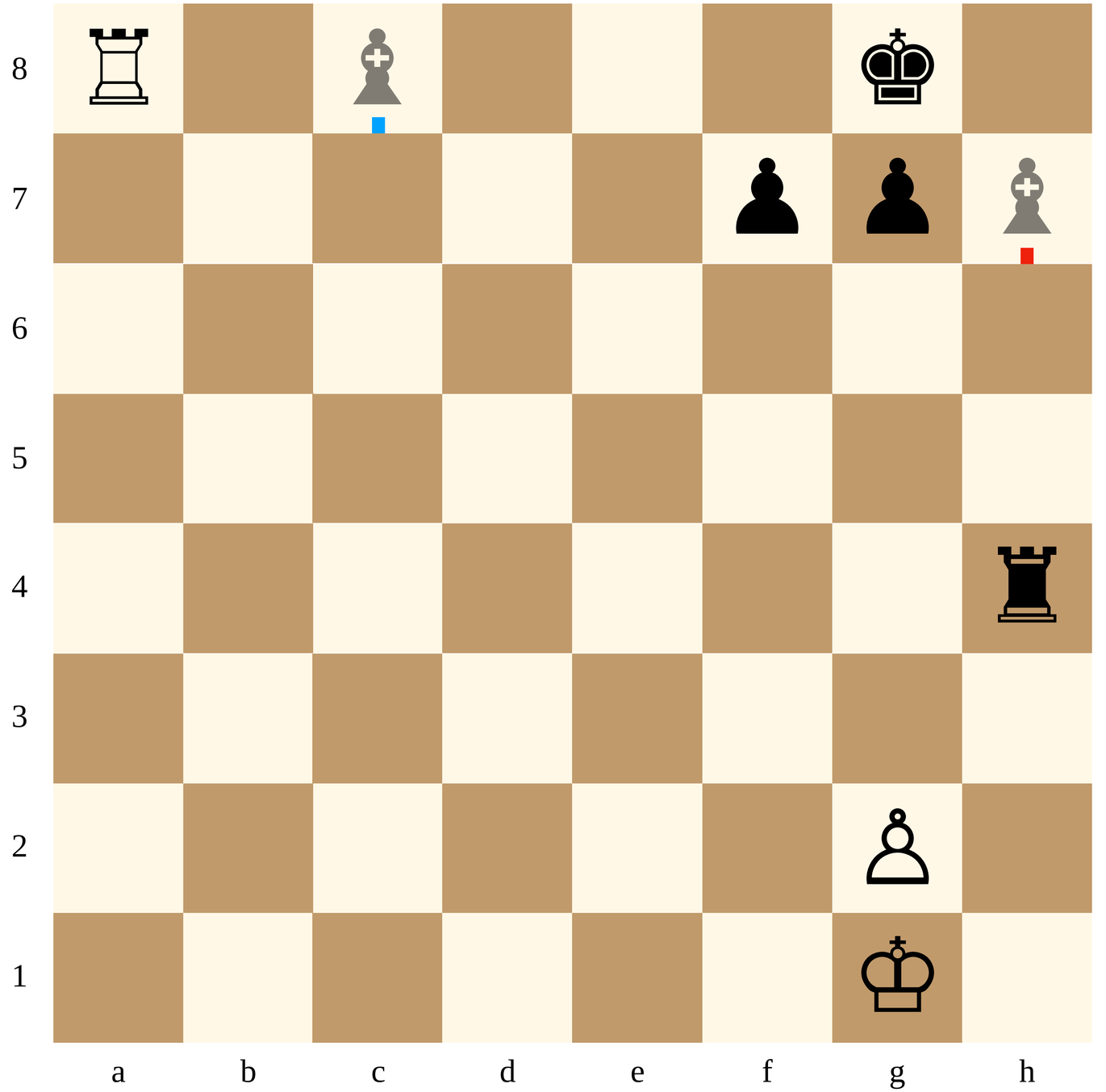
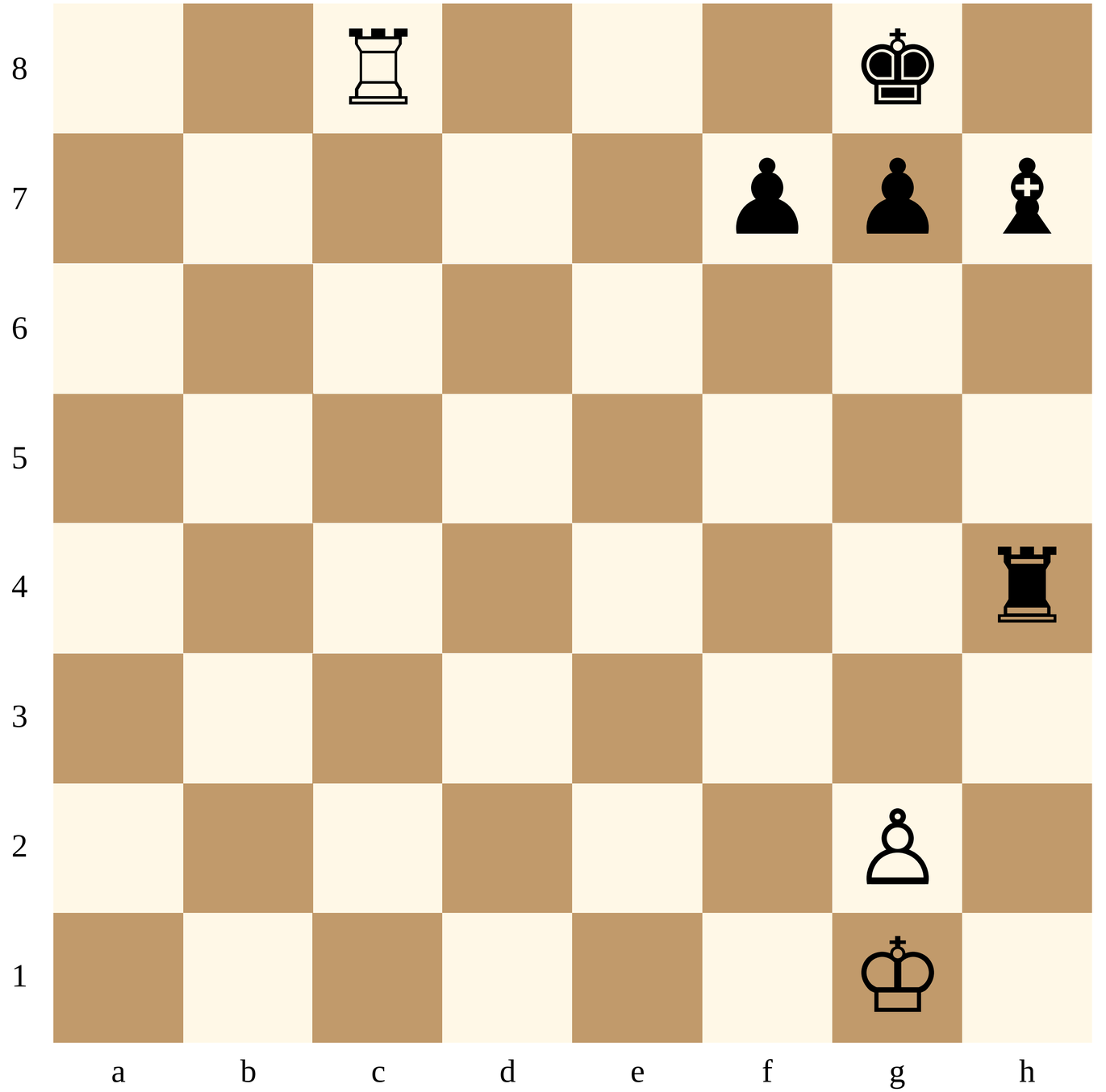


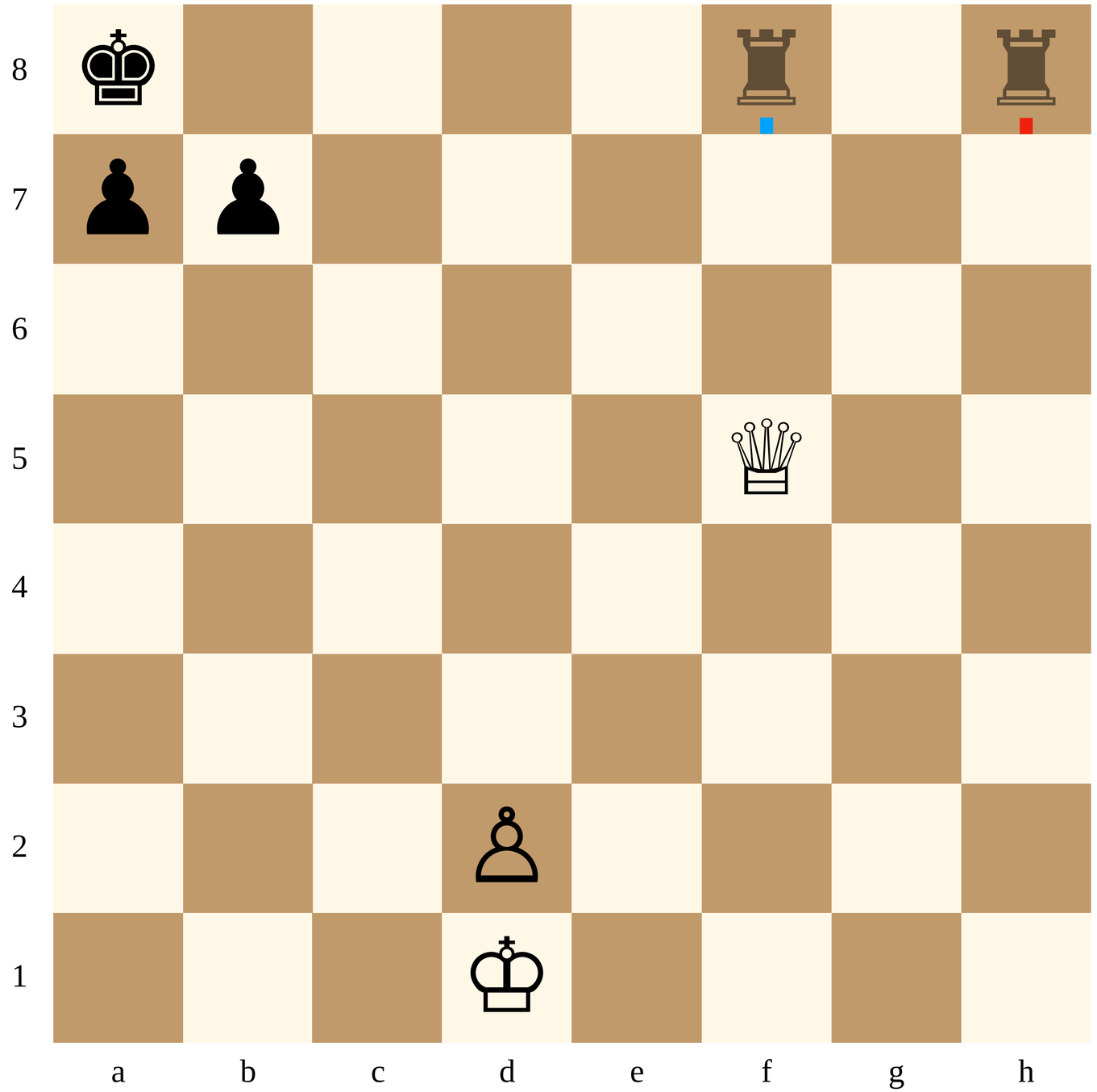
King isn’t allowed to c4, as it may then collapse **not to c4** and be left in check.



White has a 50% chance of success.



Black has rolled an even number (red).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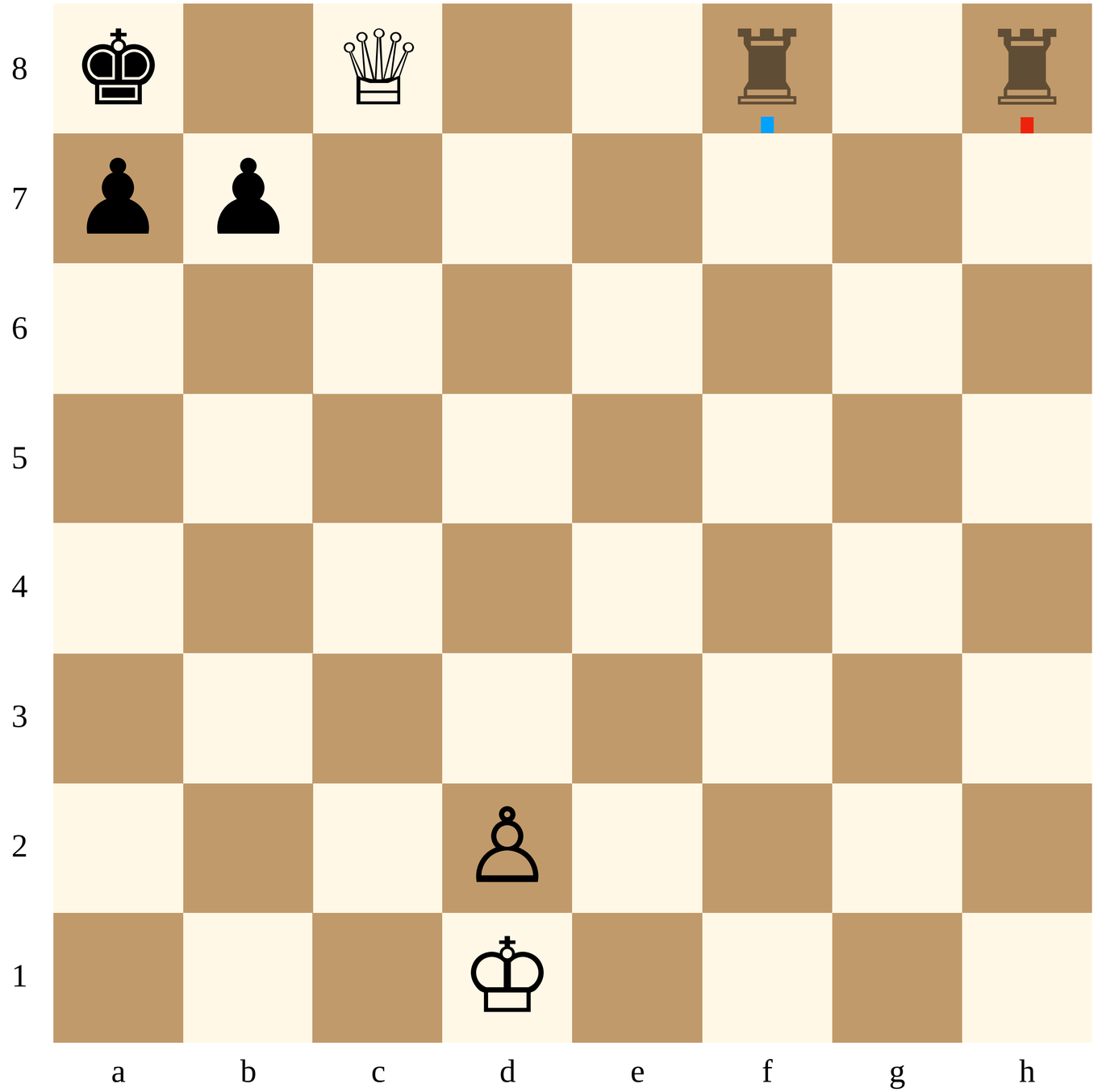
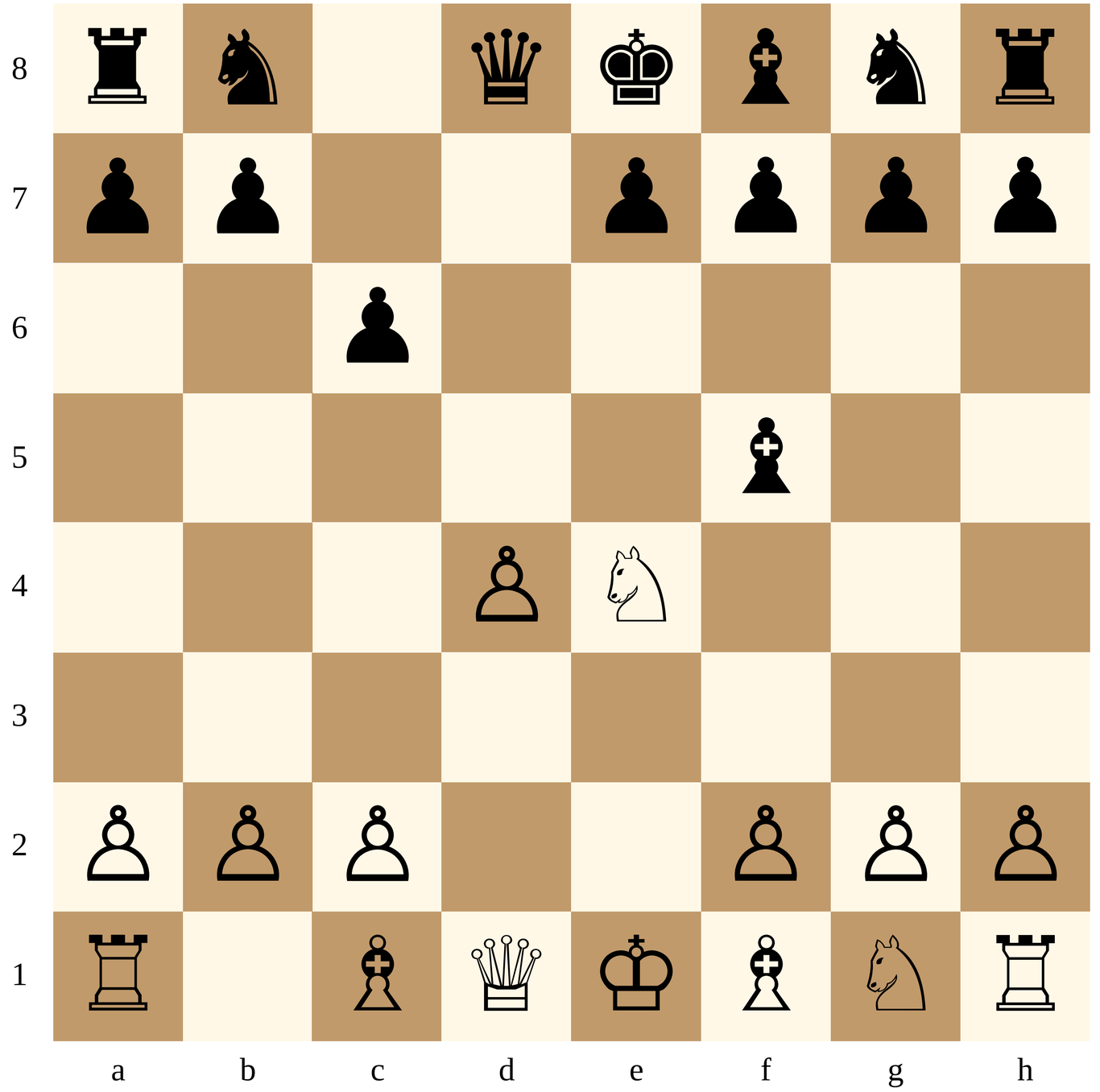
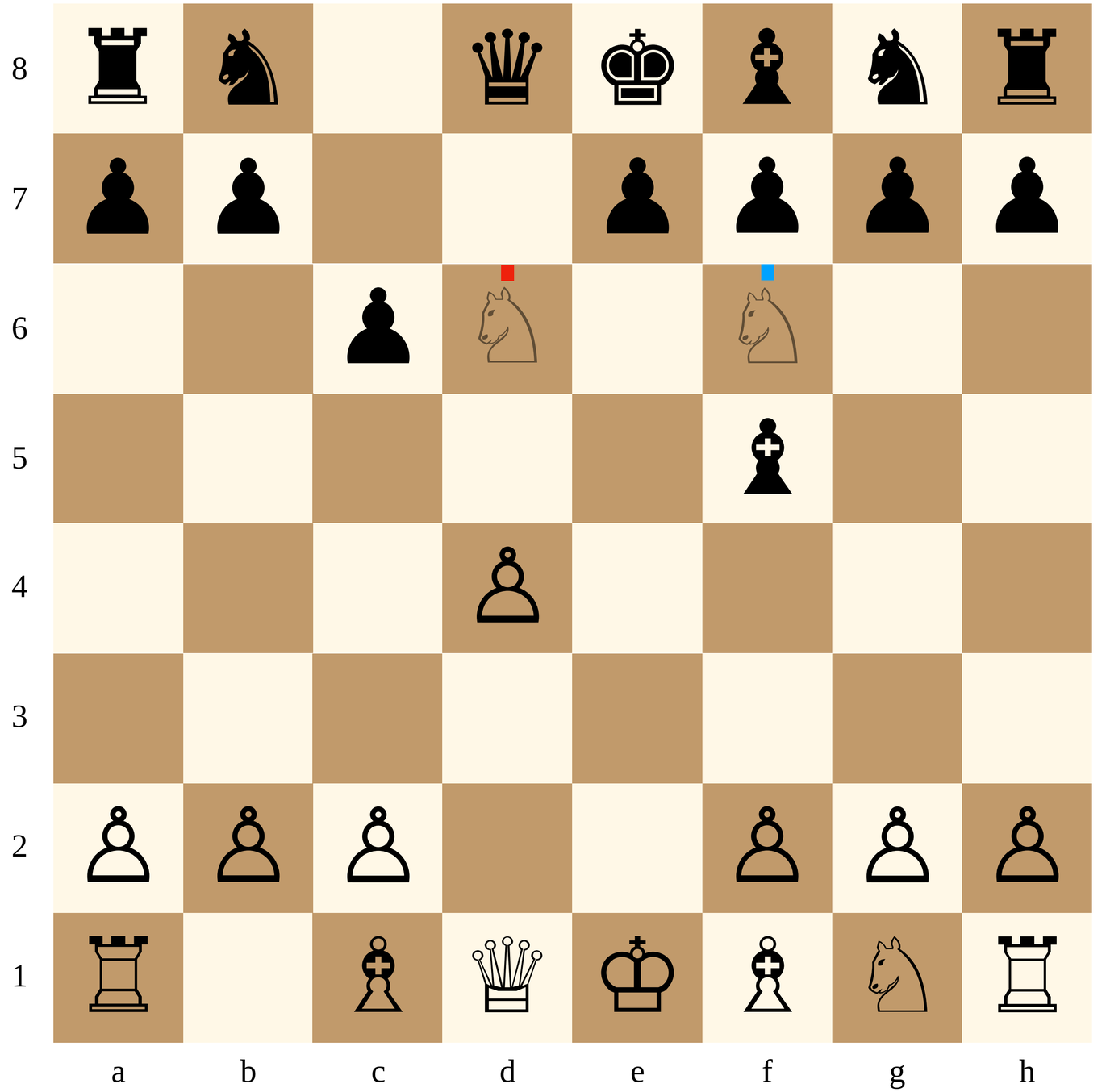


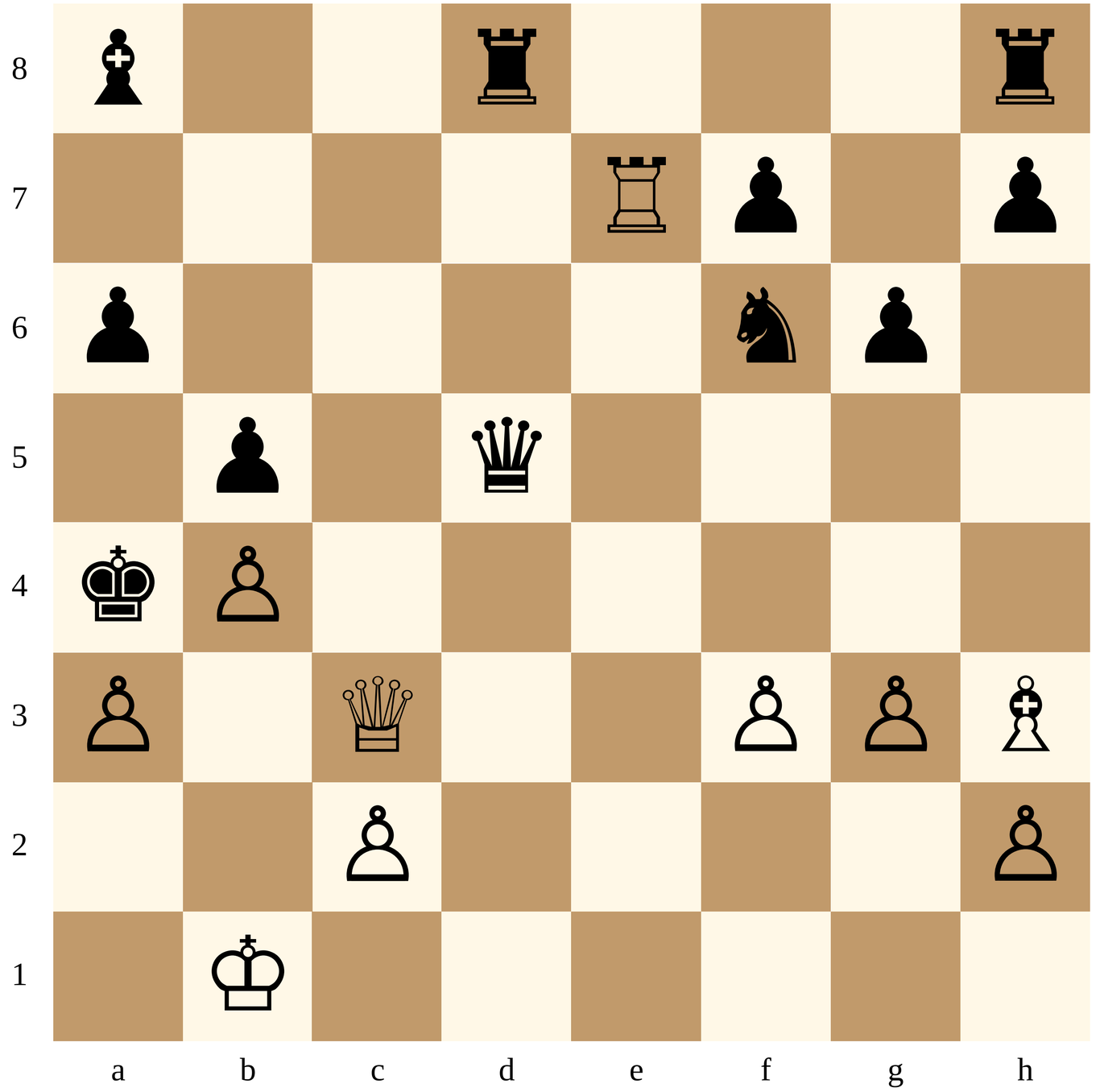
Rook isn’t allowed to c8, as it may then collapse to h8.



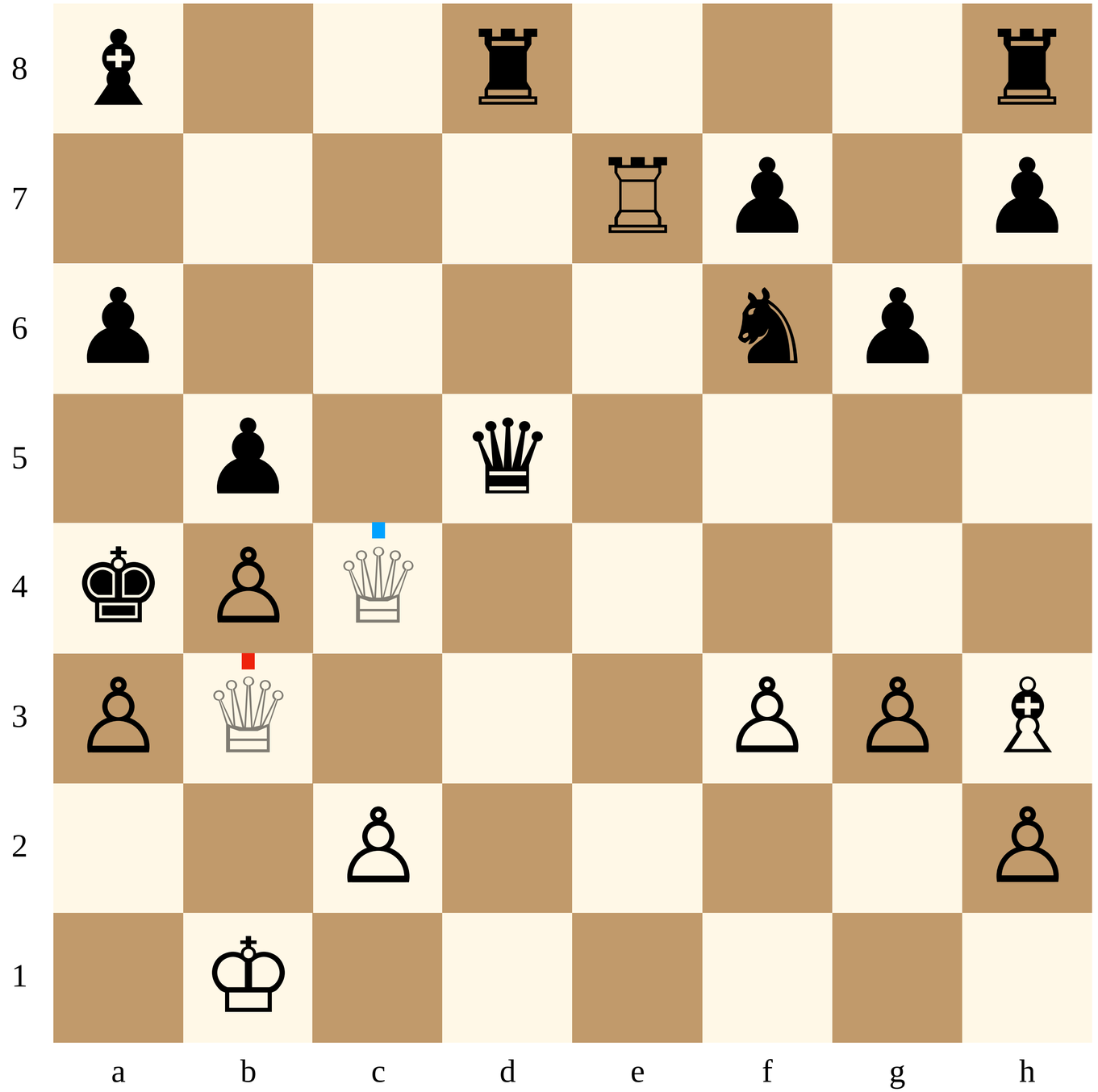
“The Magnus Effect”
Carlsen vs. Ernst
2004, #5w



King cannot entangle with knight, as e8 is attacked by **both** indefinite pieces, so the king would be left in check.



“Kasparov’s Immortal”
Kasparov vs. Topalov
1999, #29w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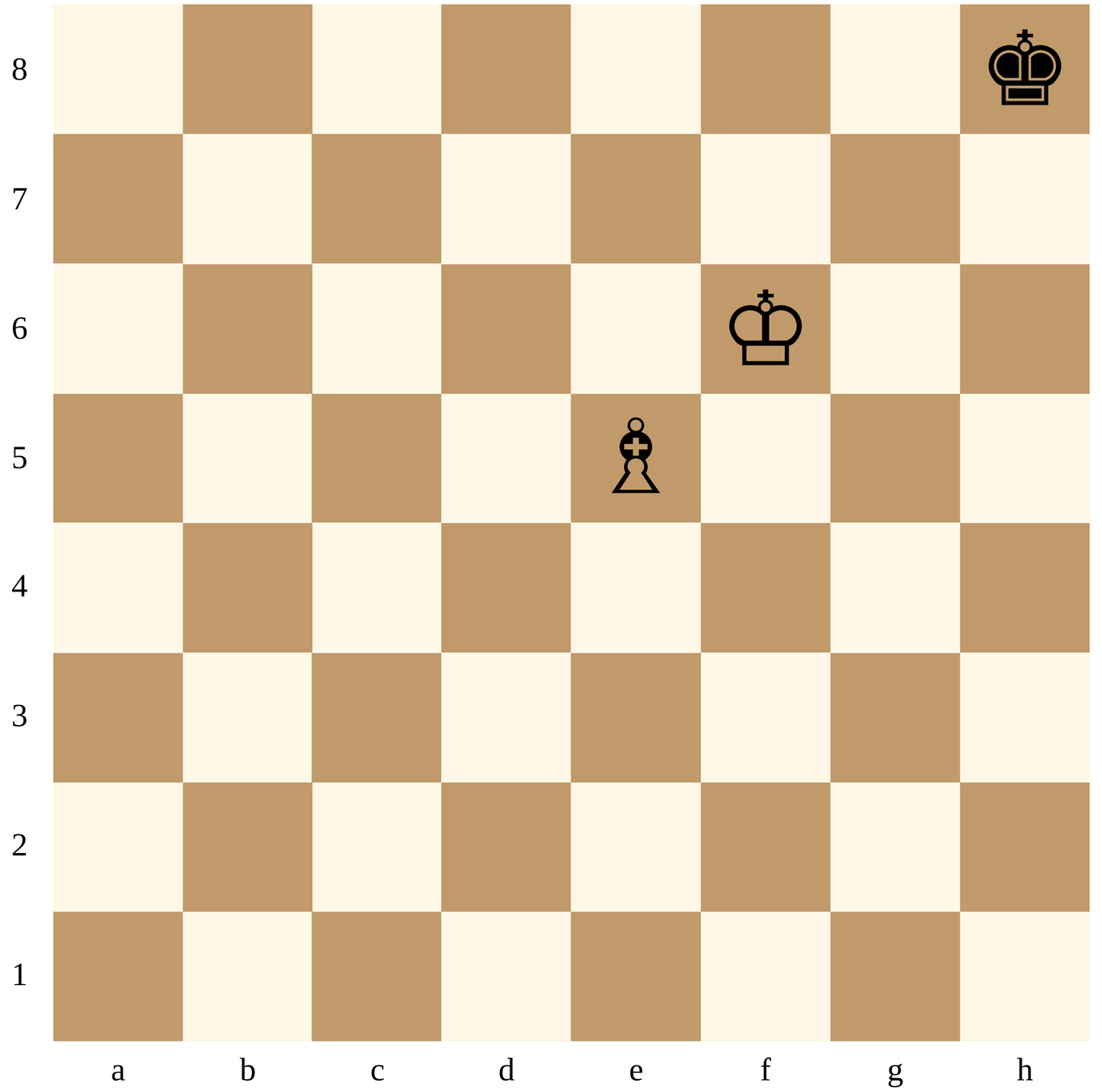
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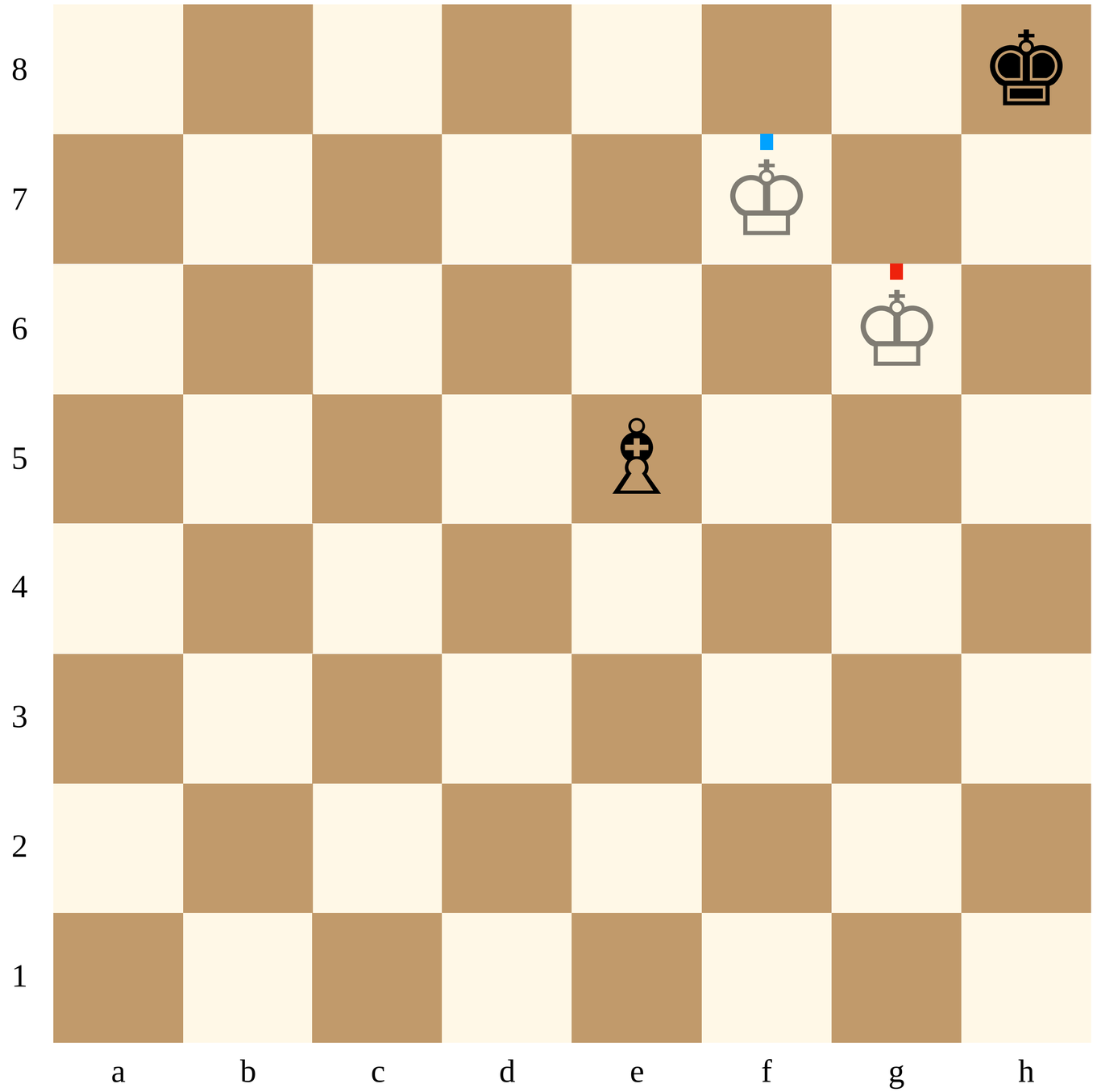
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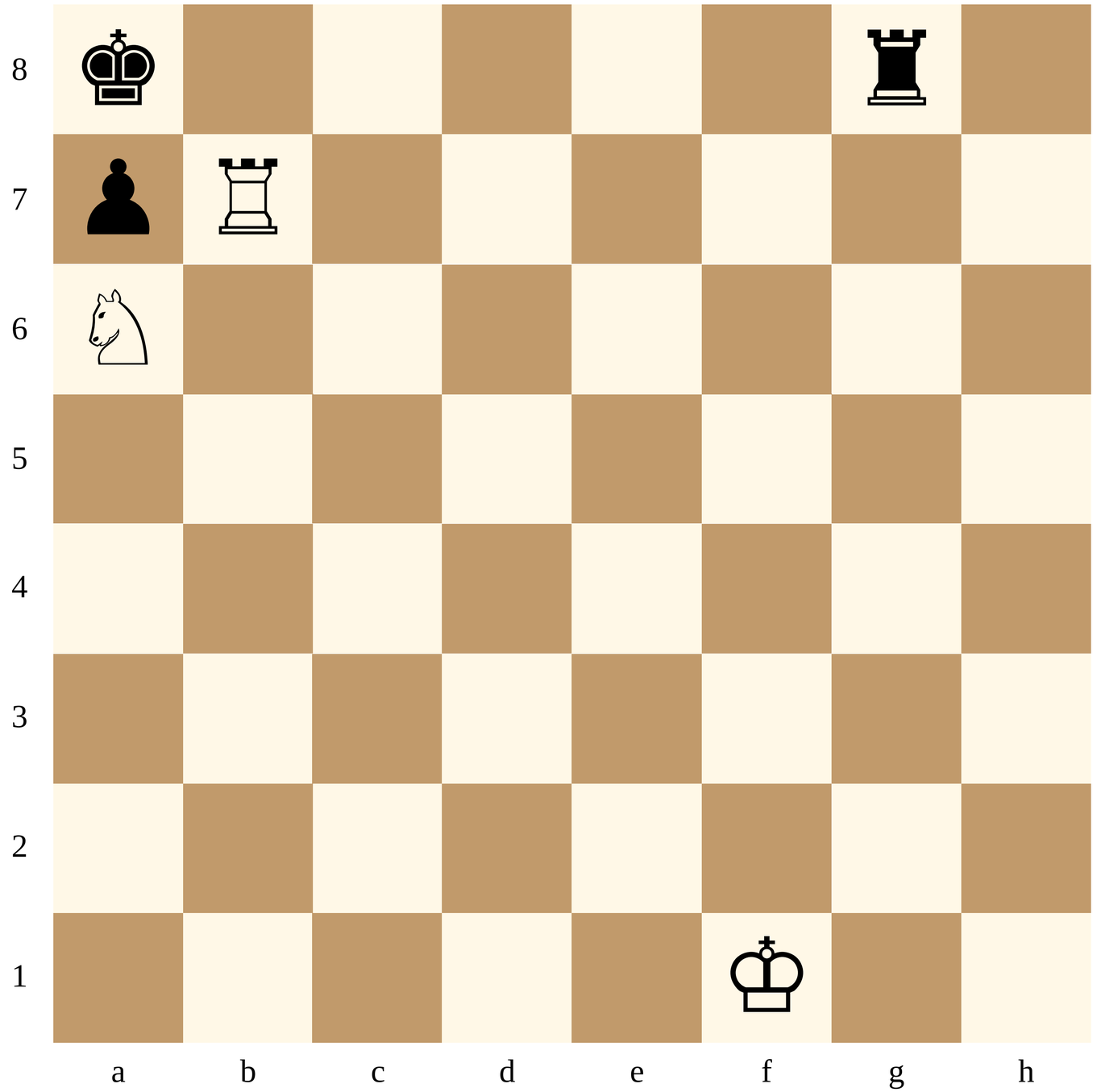
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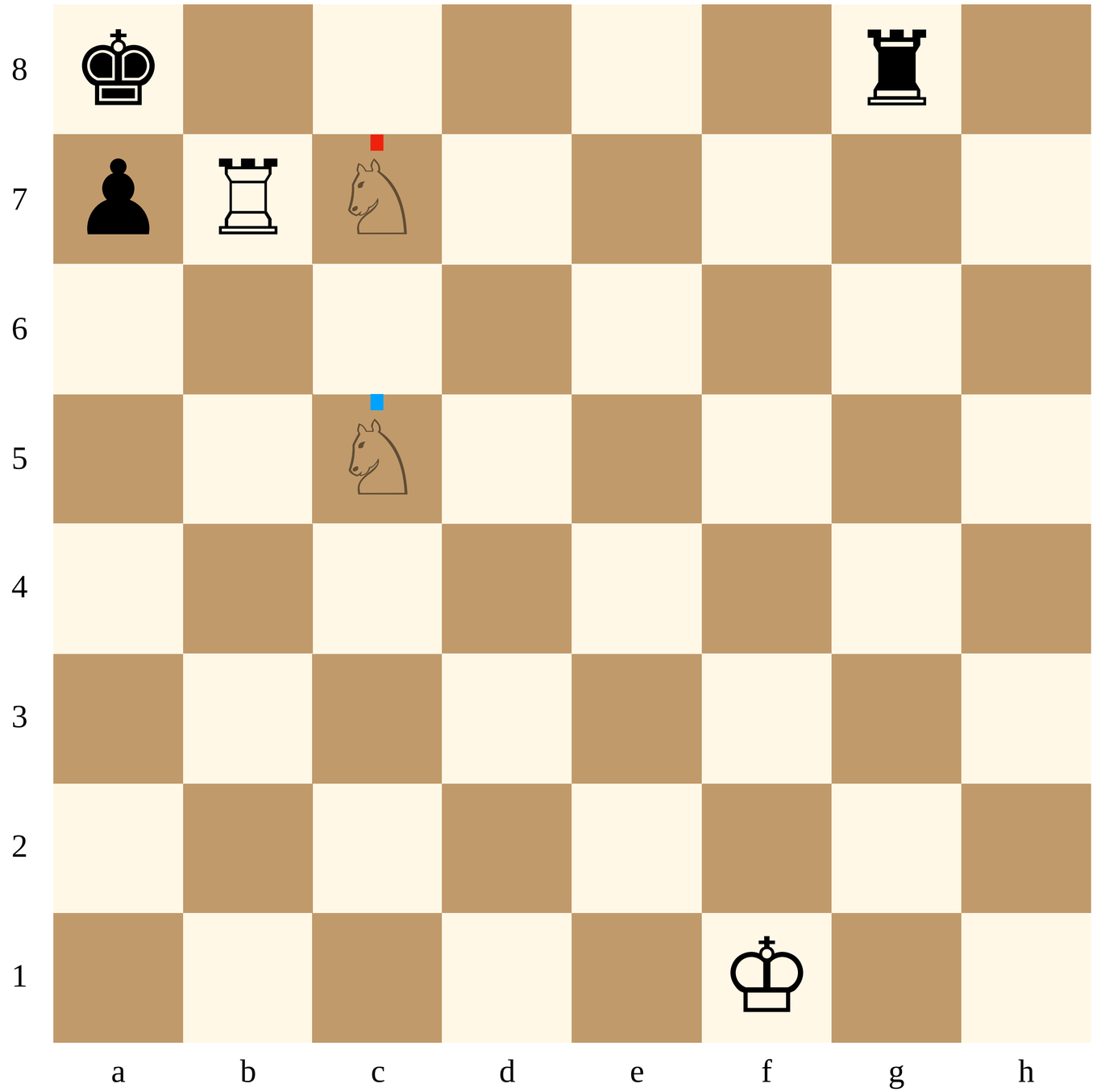
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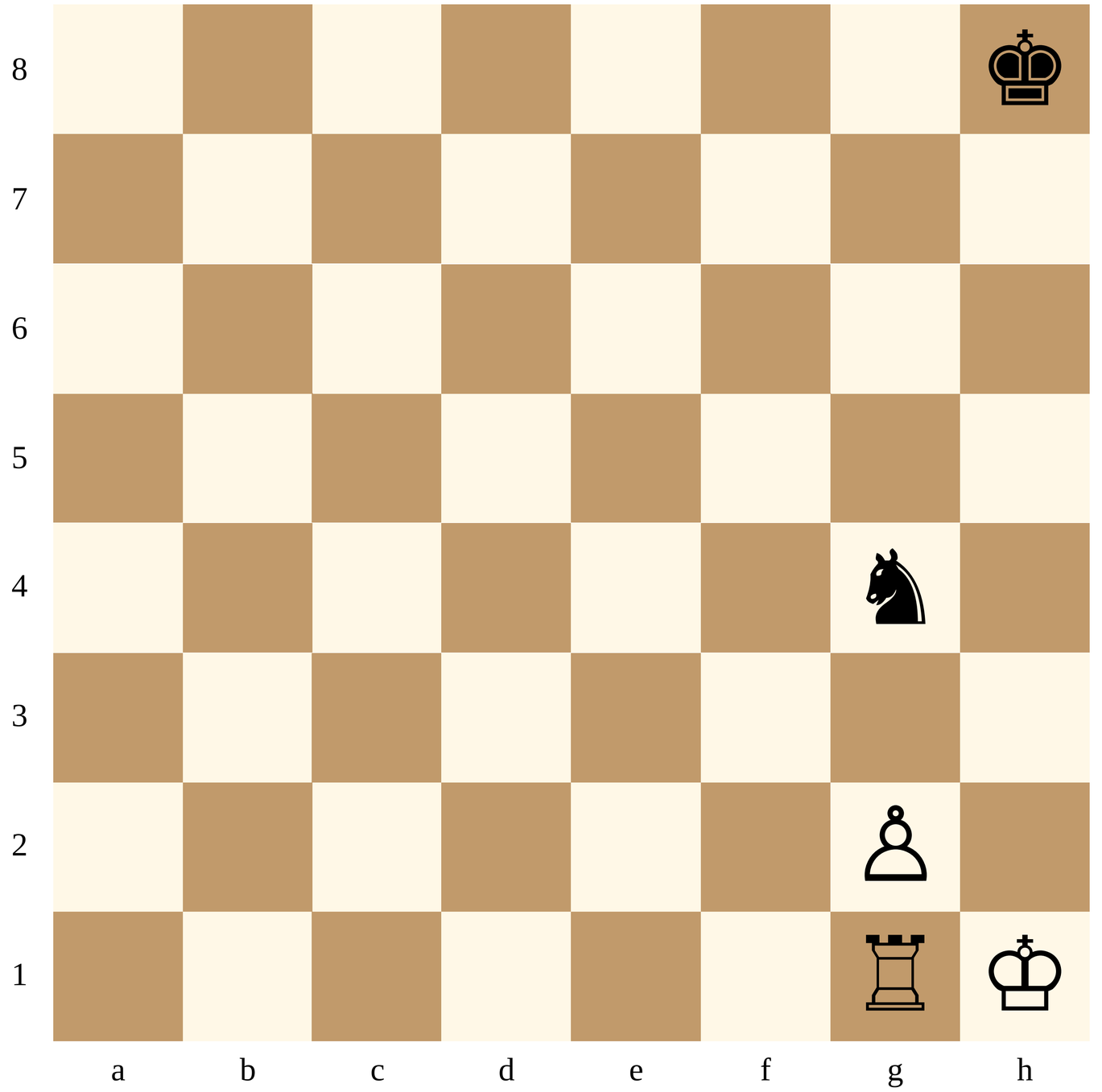
Black to move - Checkmate in 1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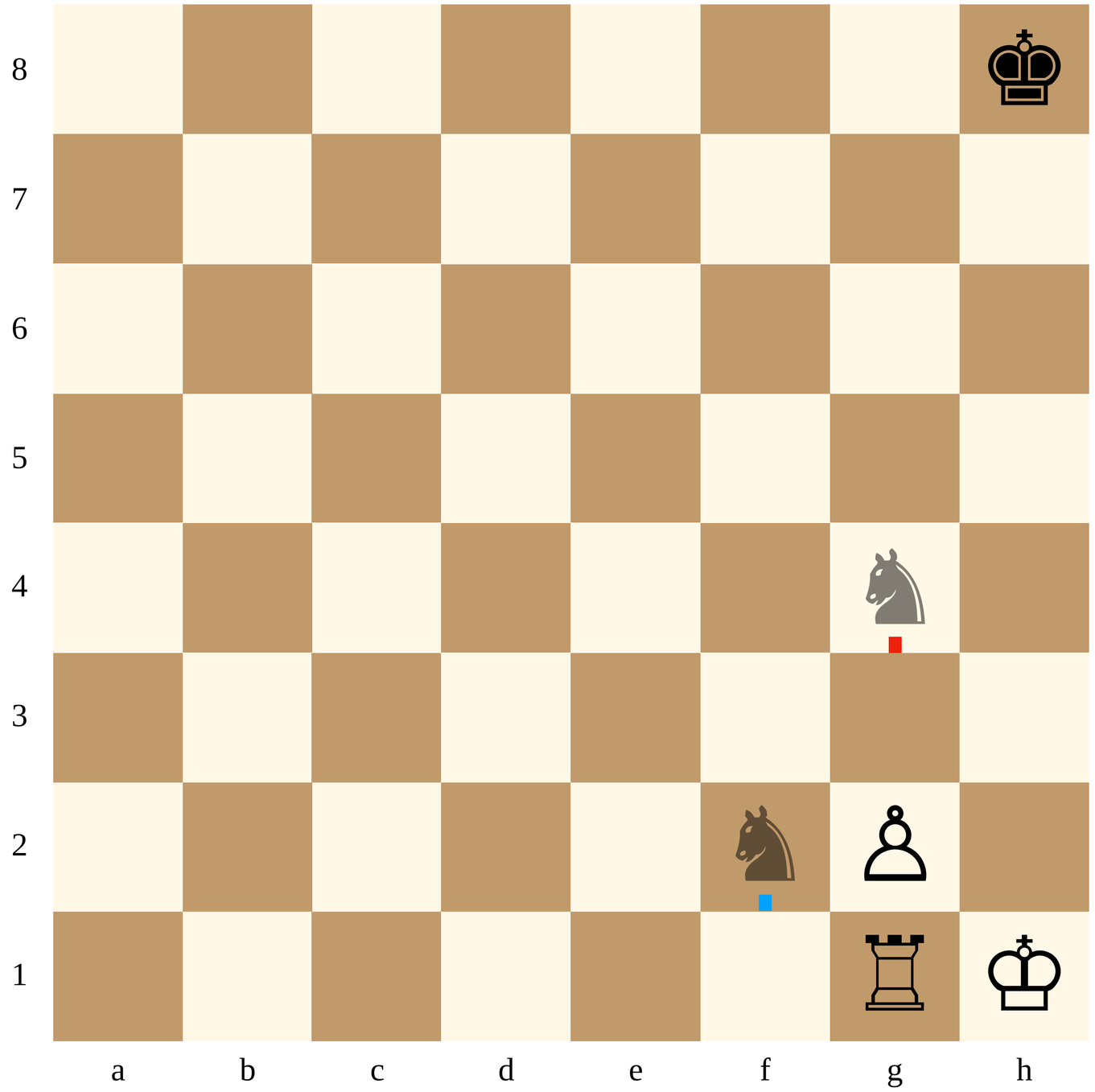
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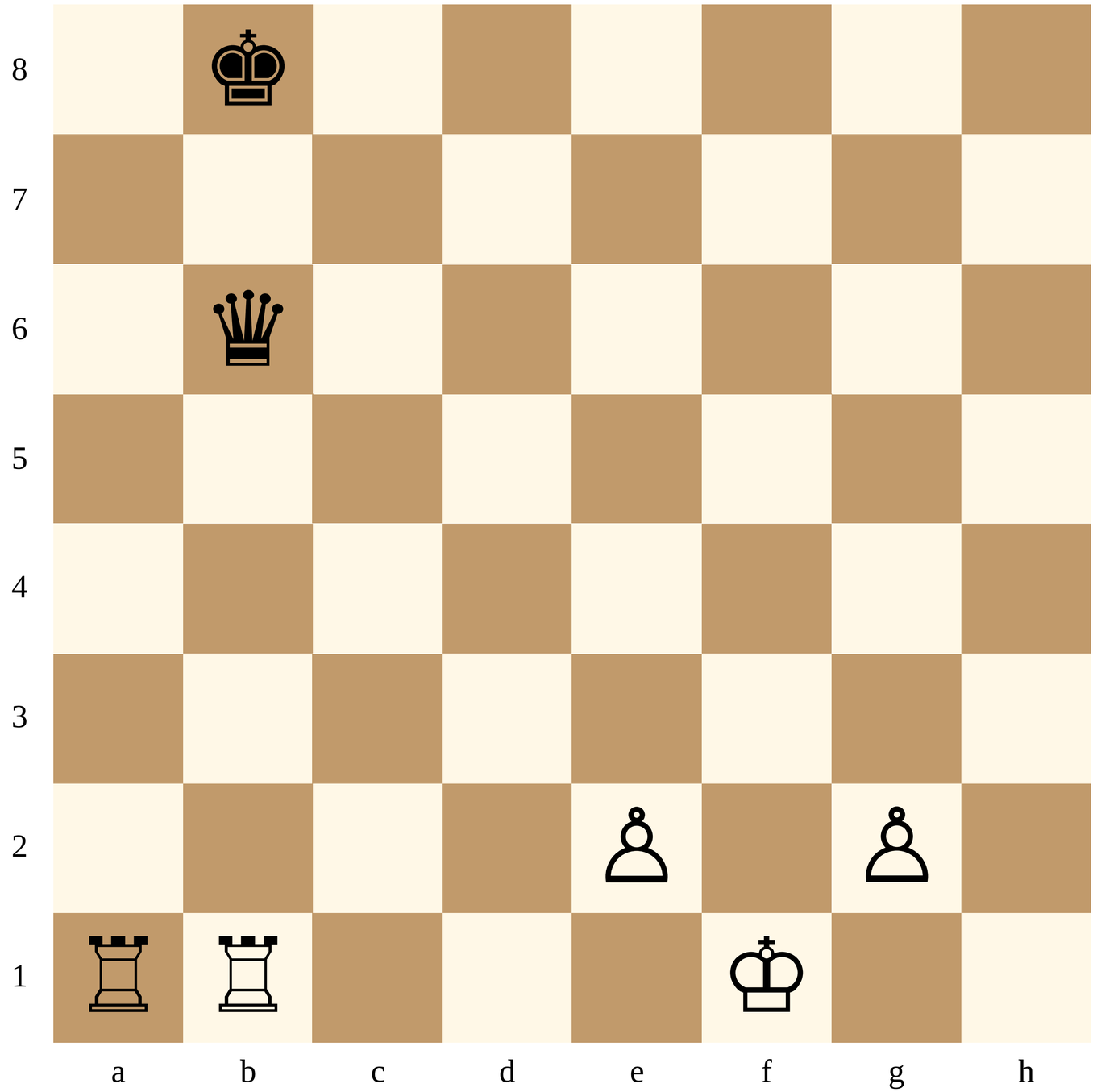
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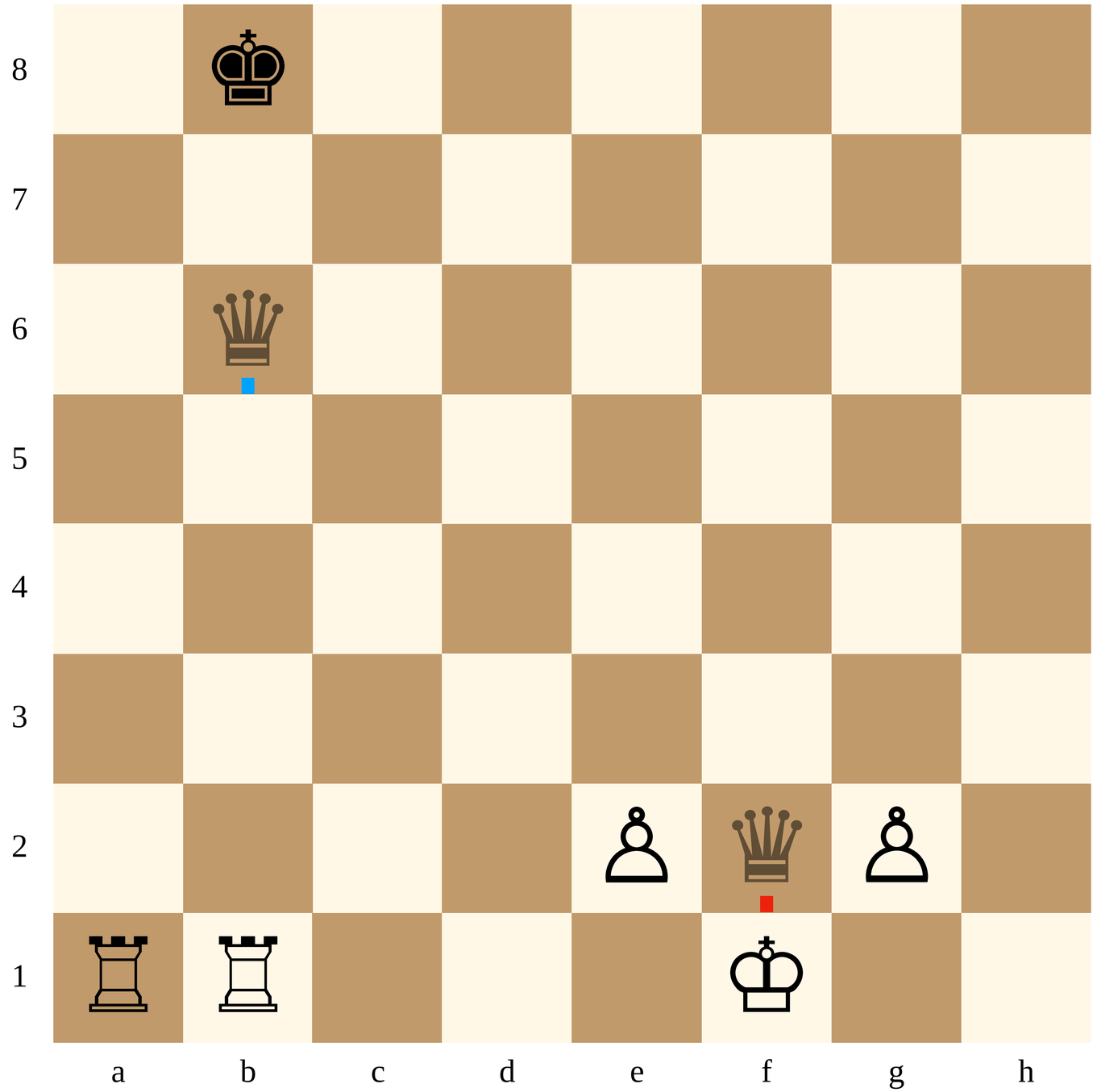
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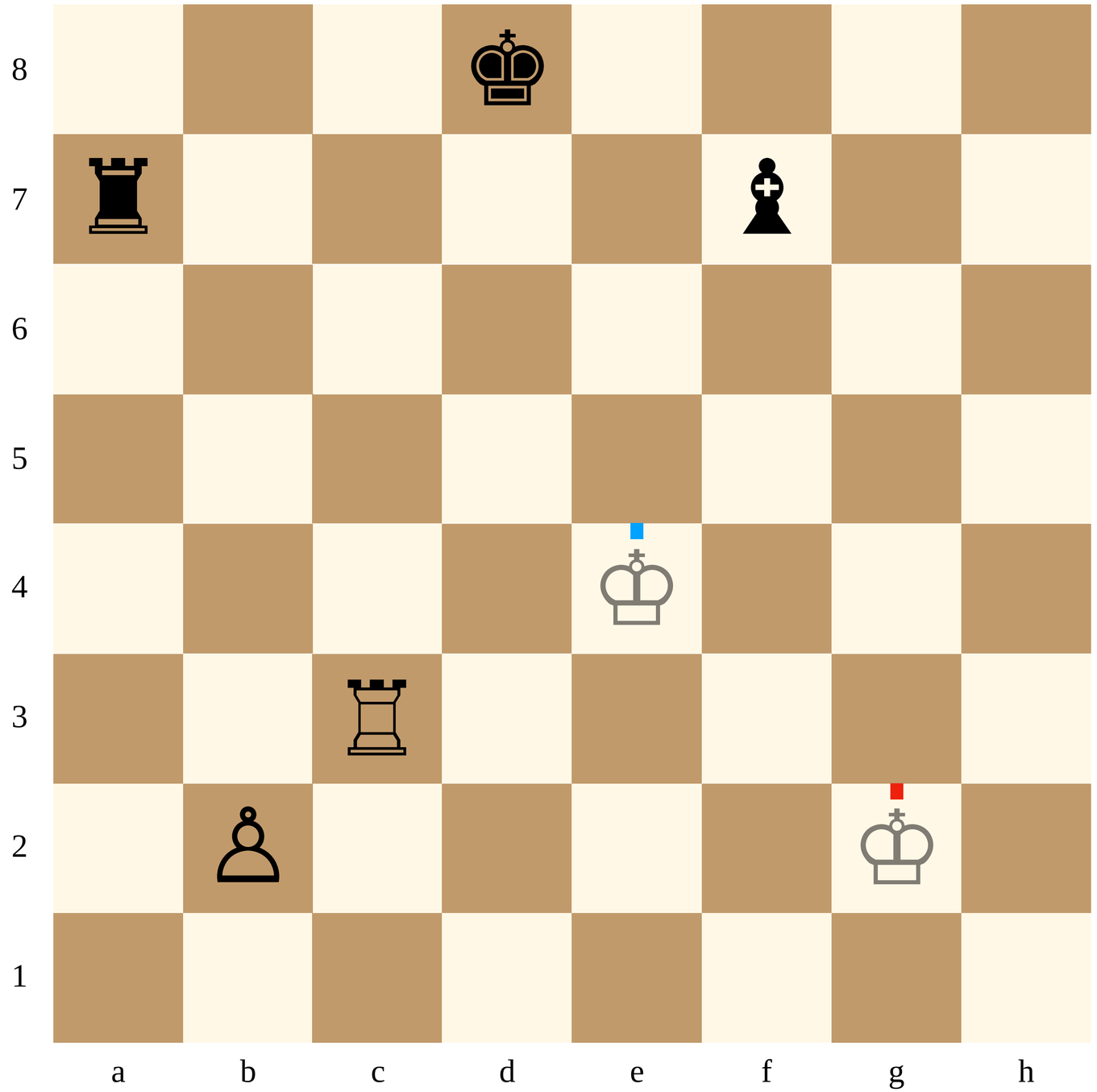
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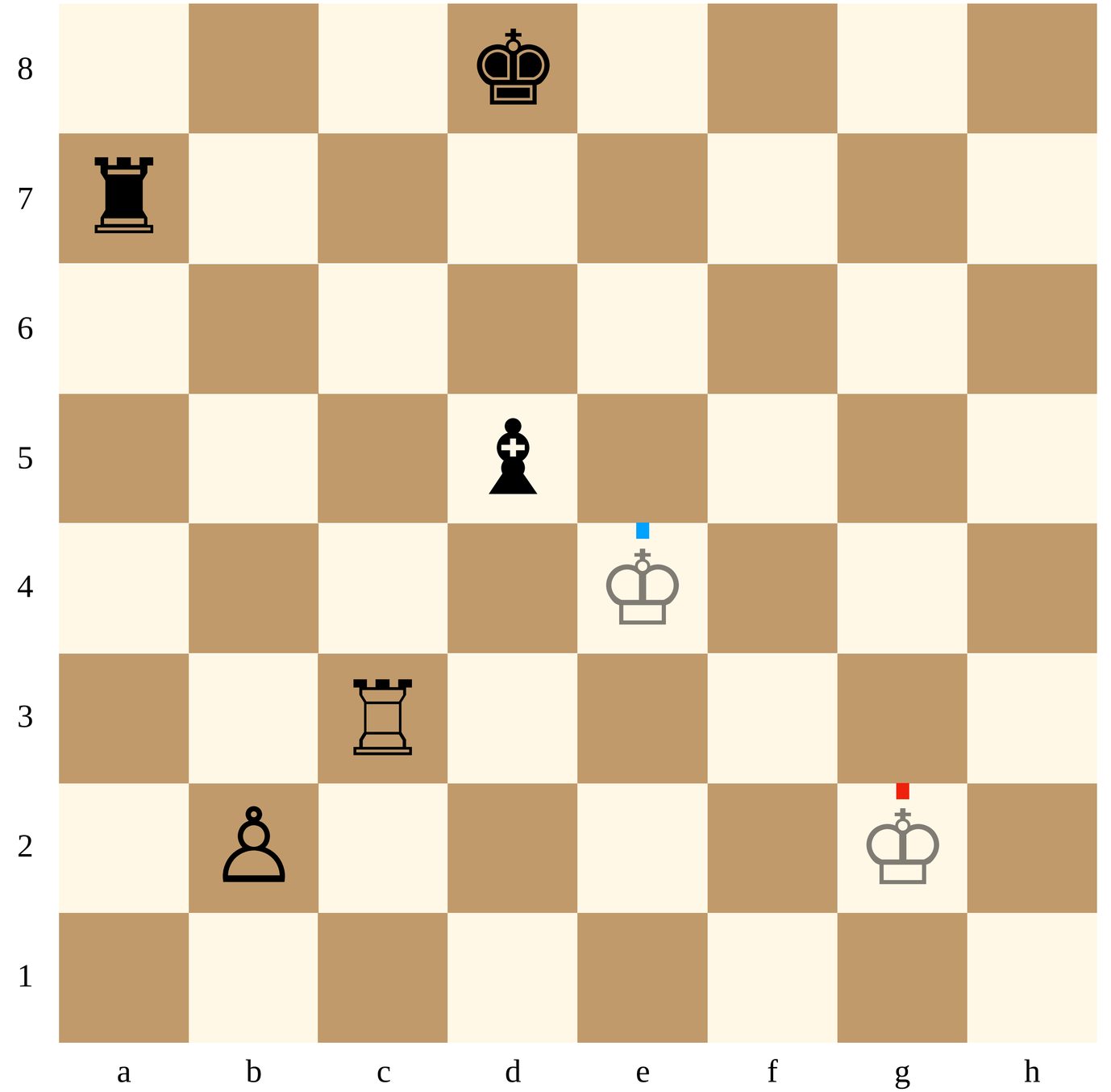
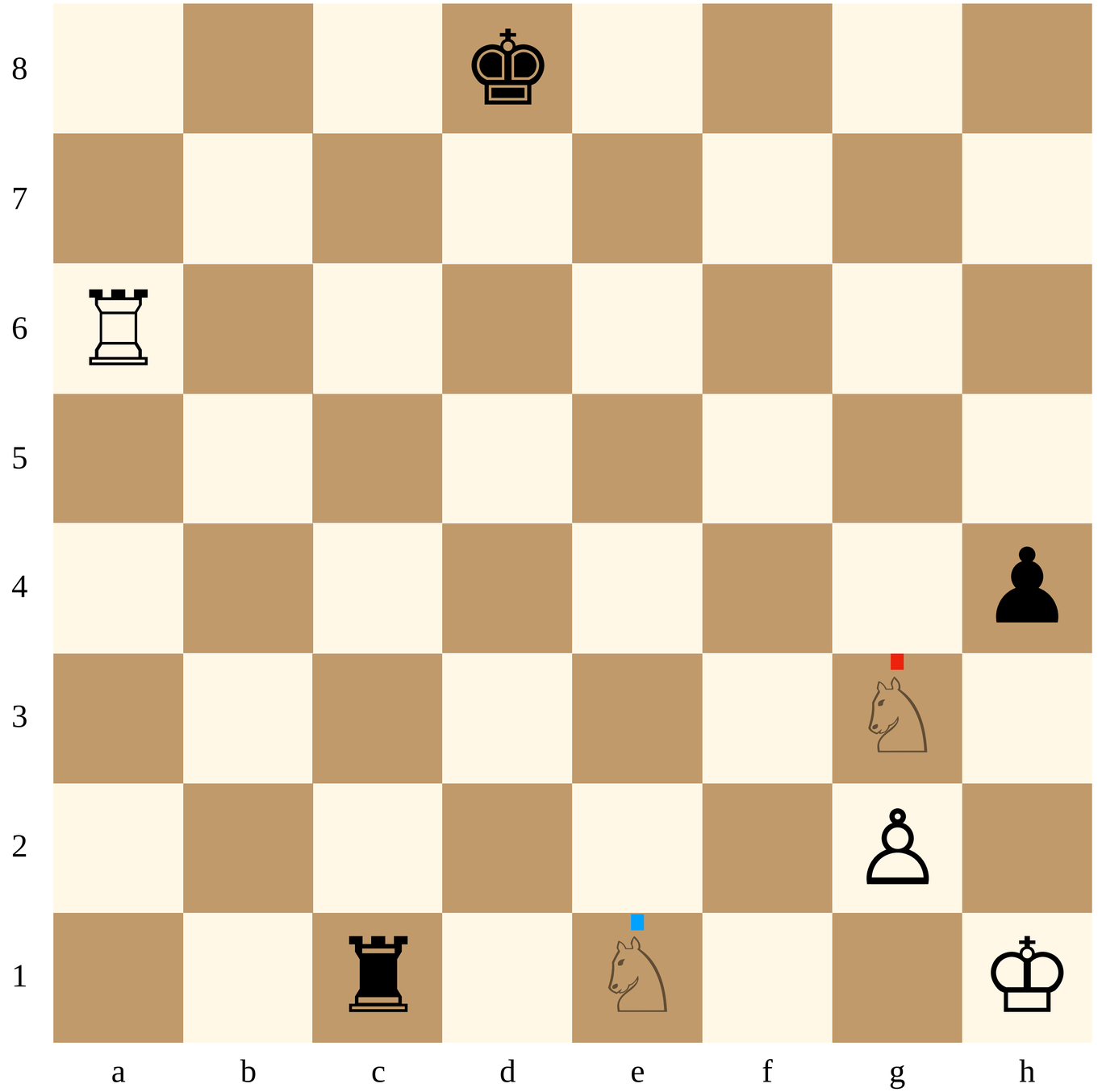
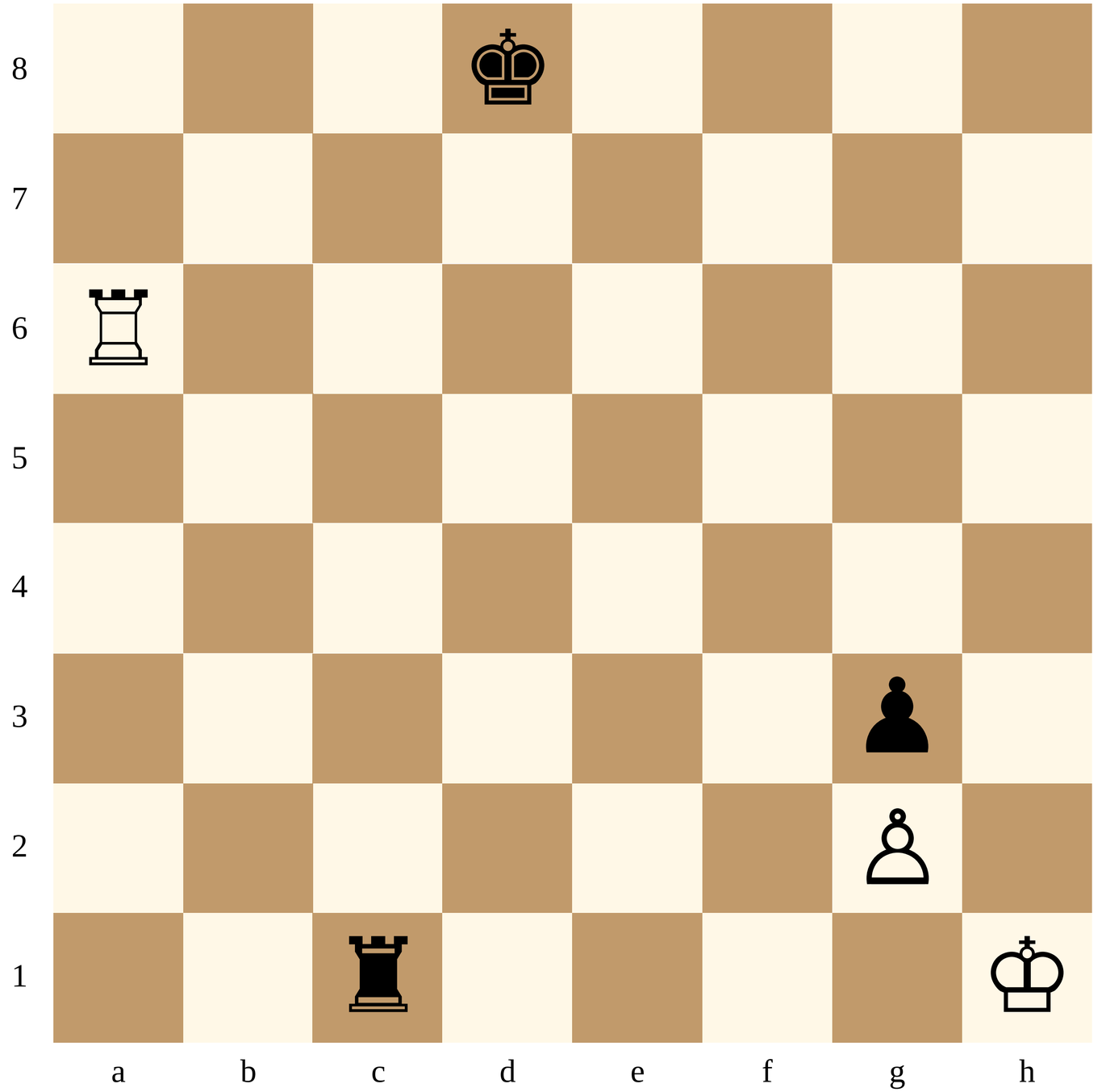


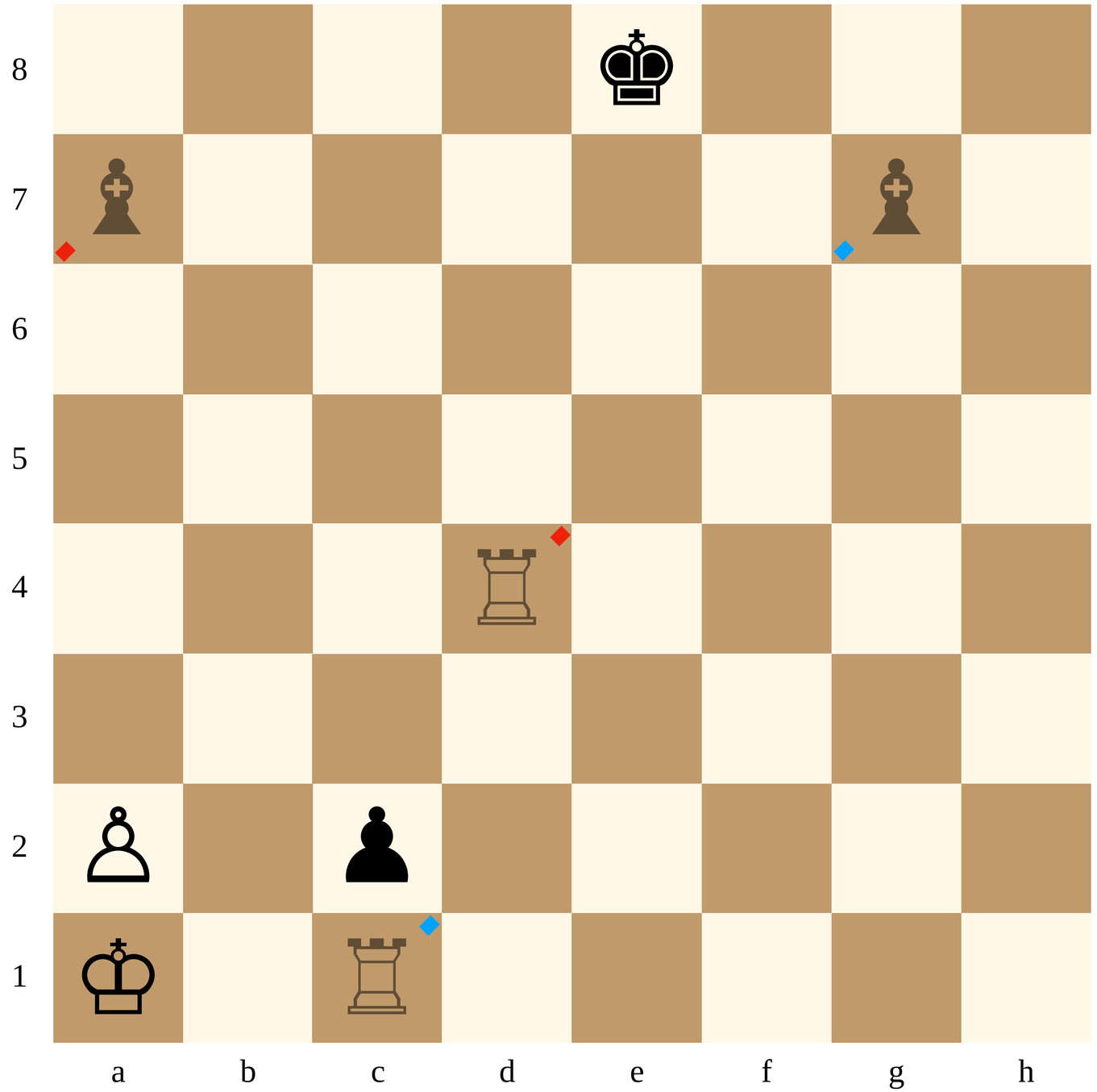
King isn’t allowed to d5, as it may then collapse to g2 and be left in check.



Black has a 50% chance of success.



White has rolled an even number (red).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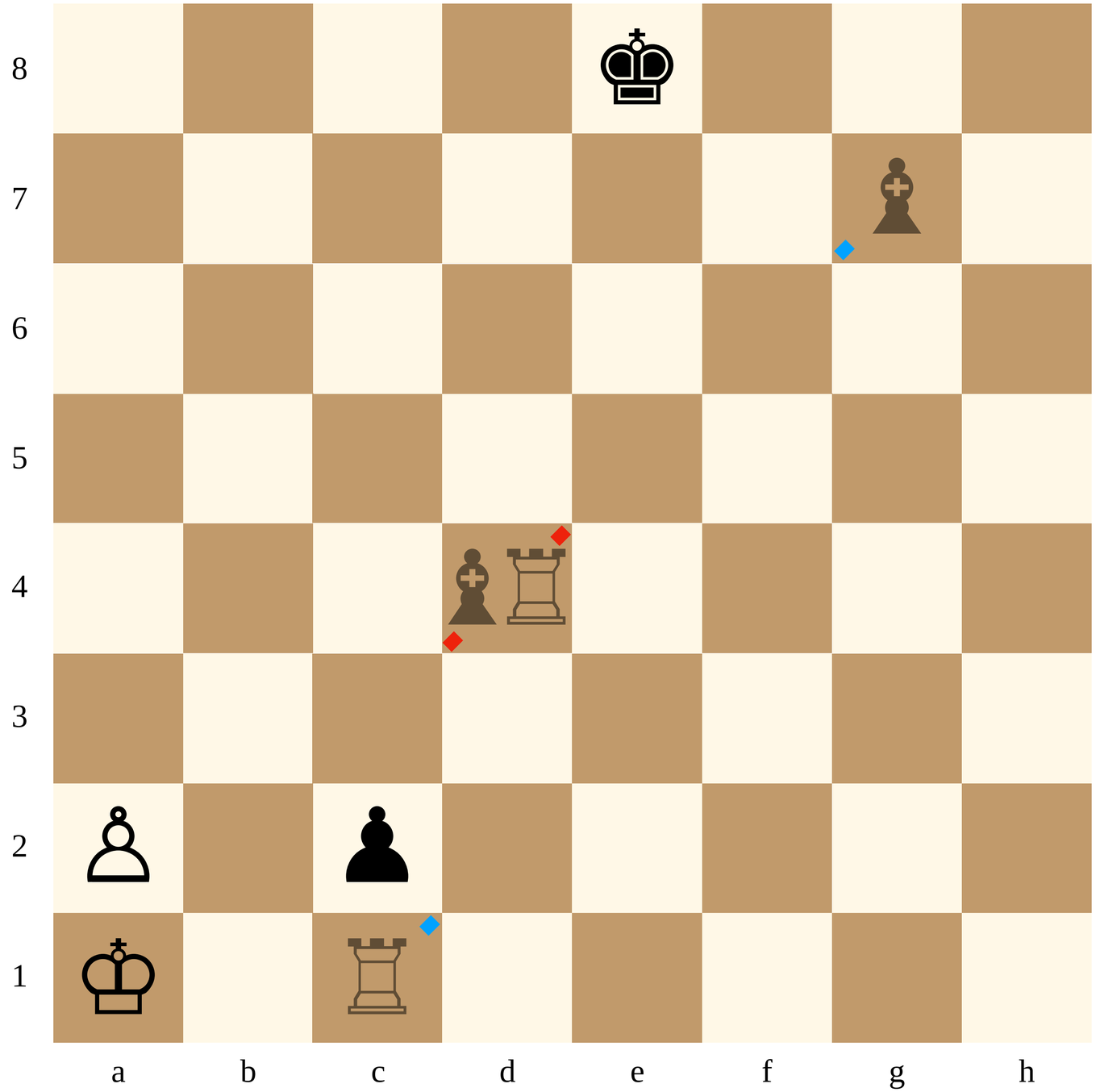
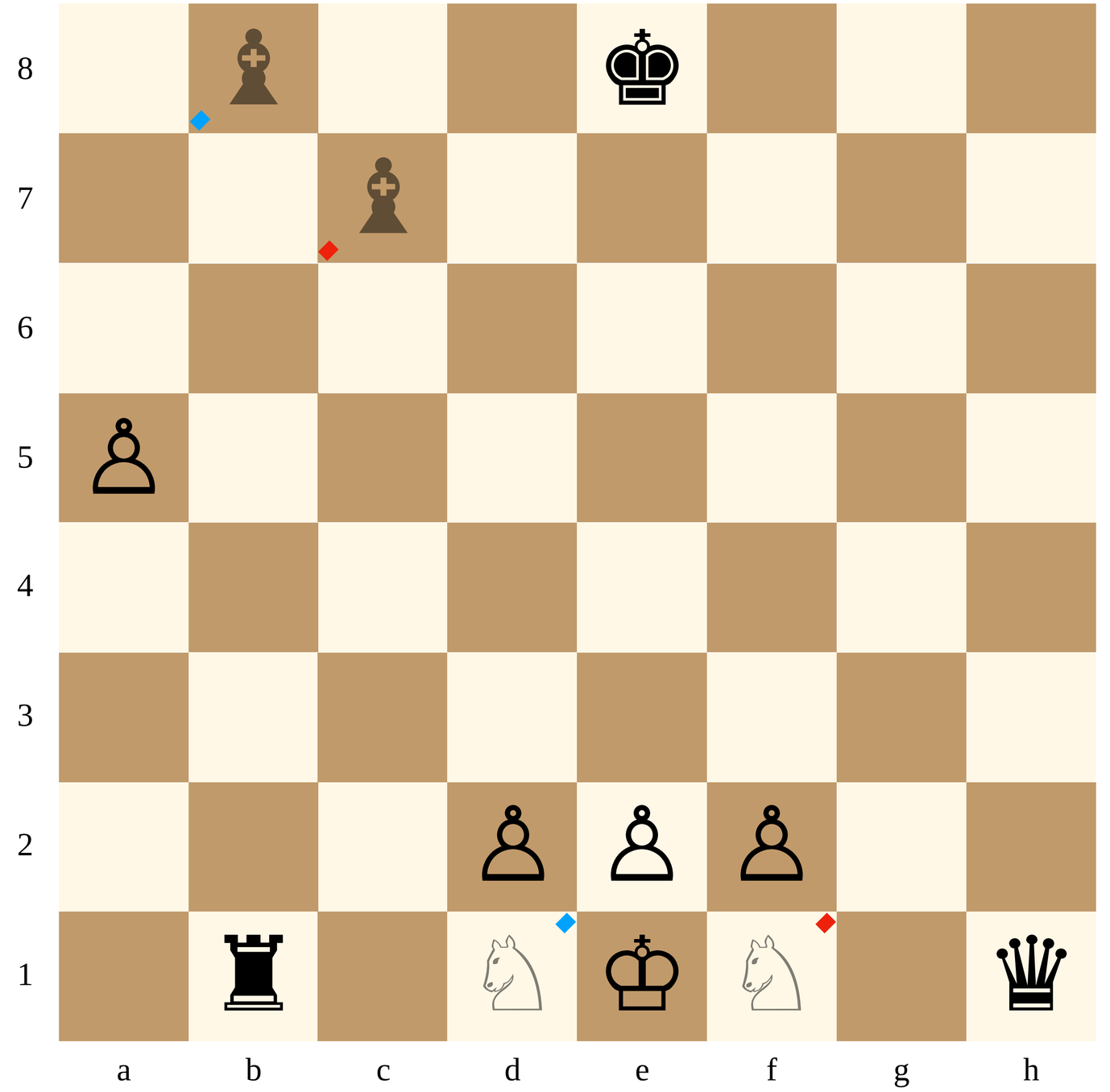
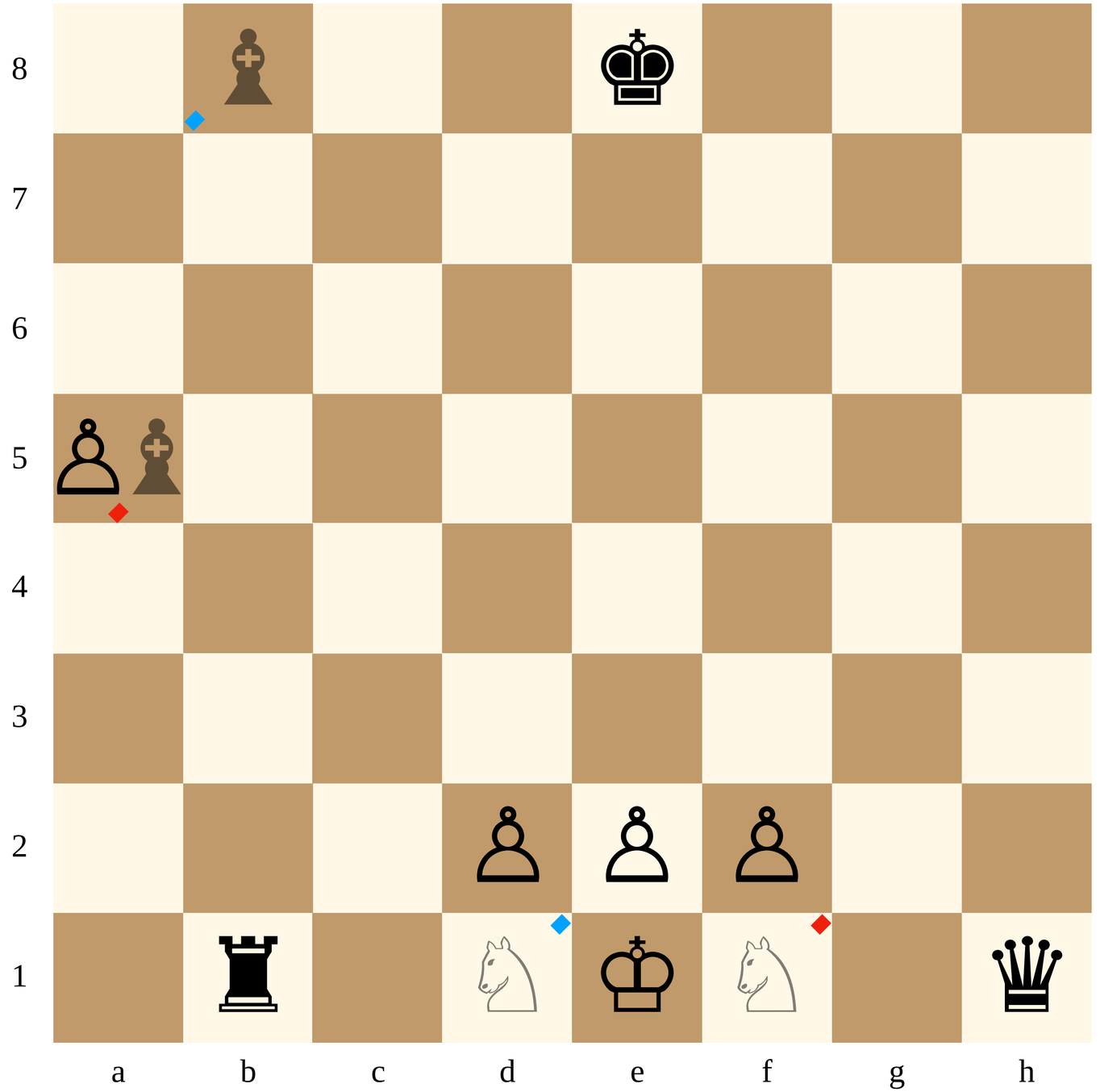


Both red-red and blue-blue result in checkmate.



“Remote control.”



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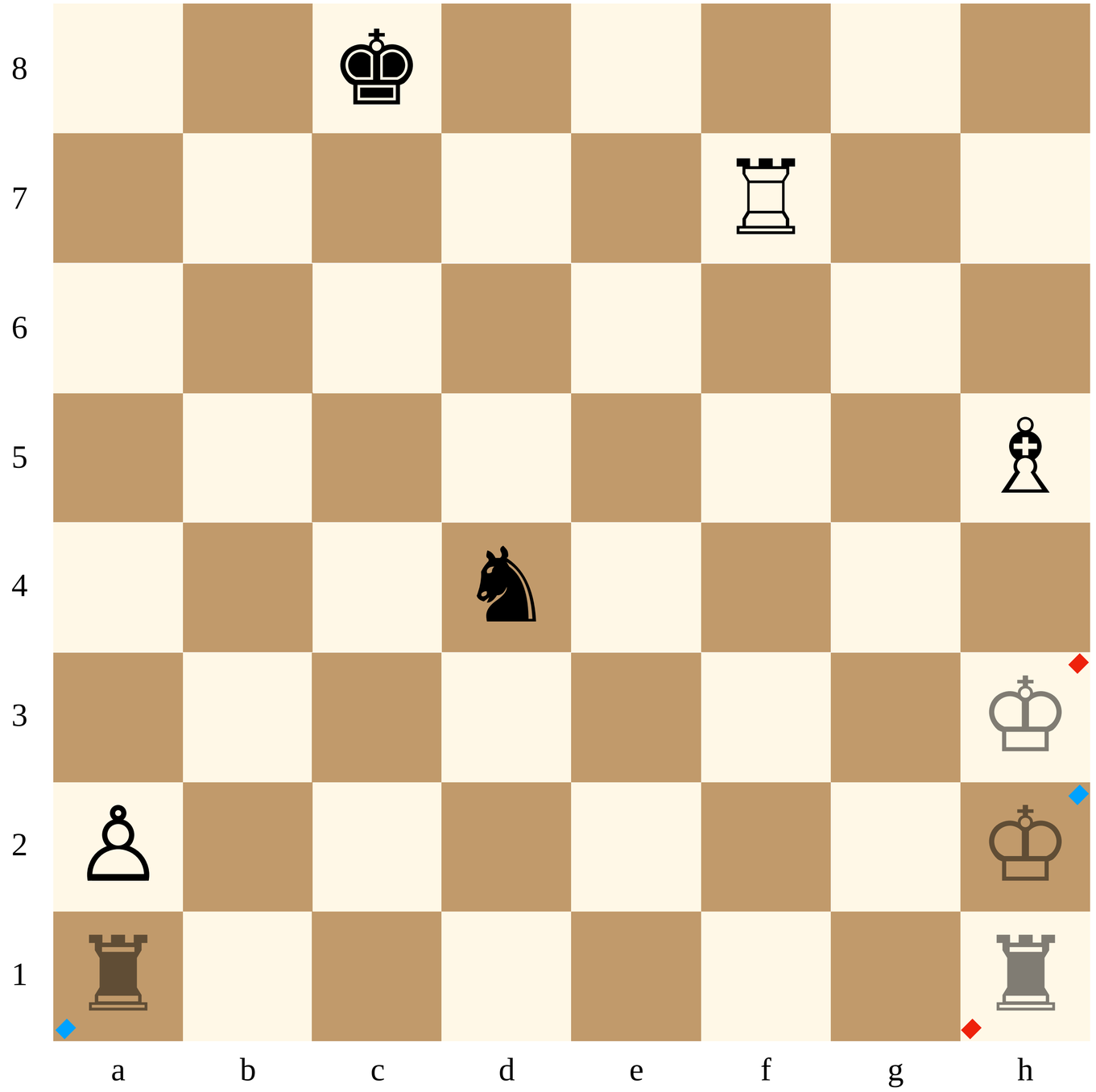
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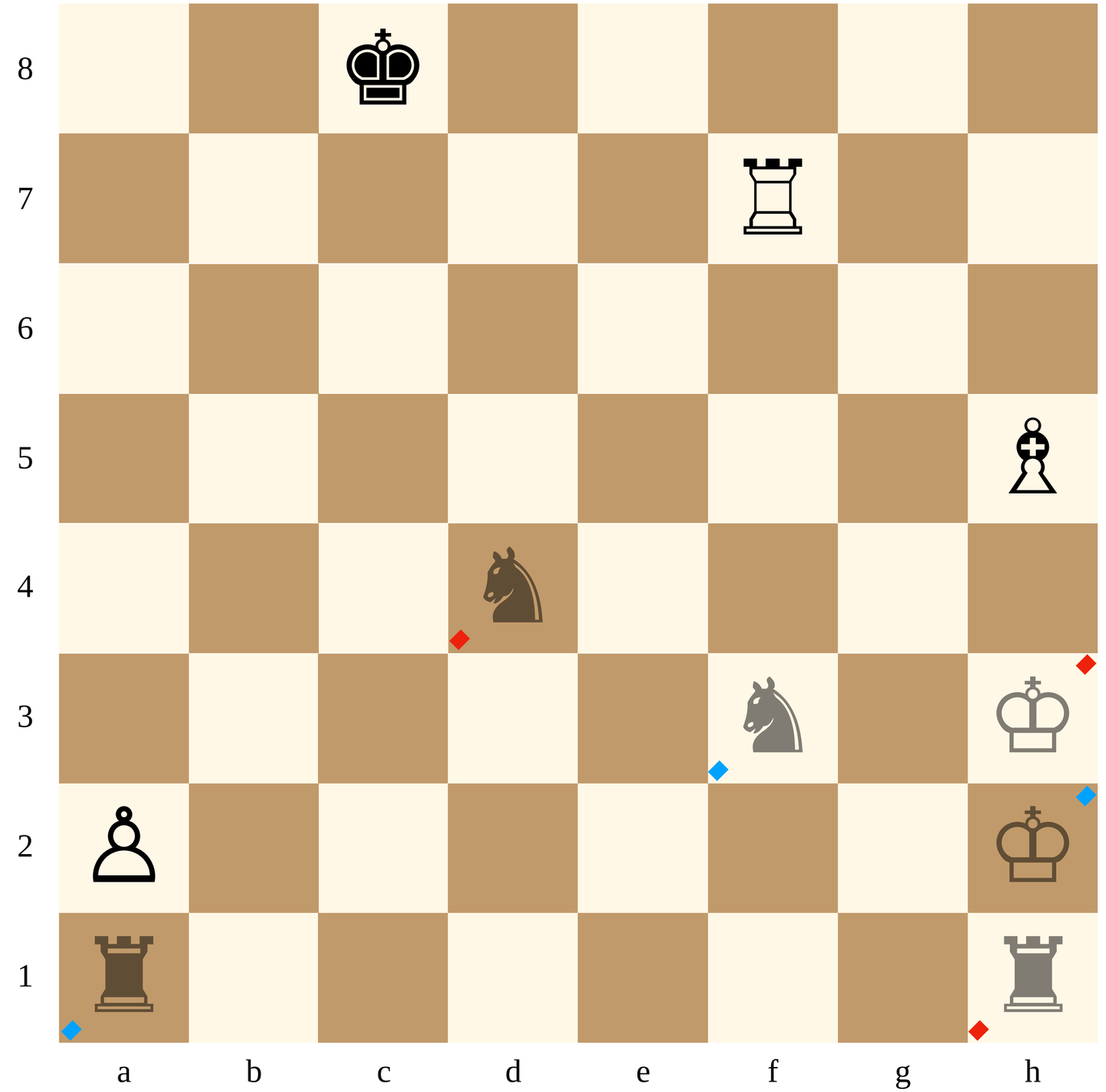
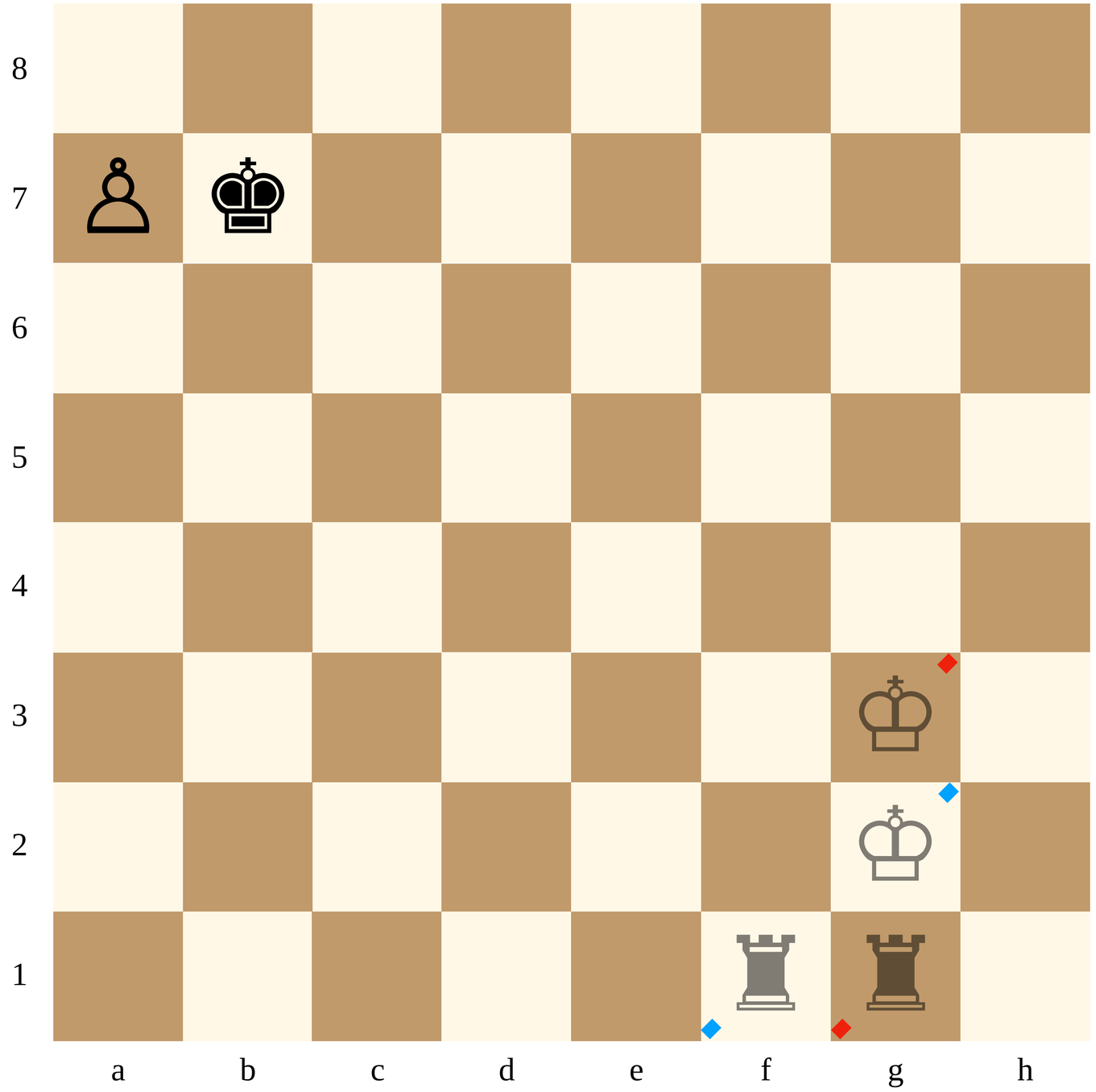


Without entanglement, rook or bishop to f3 would eliminate the check.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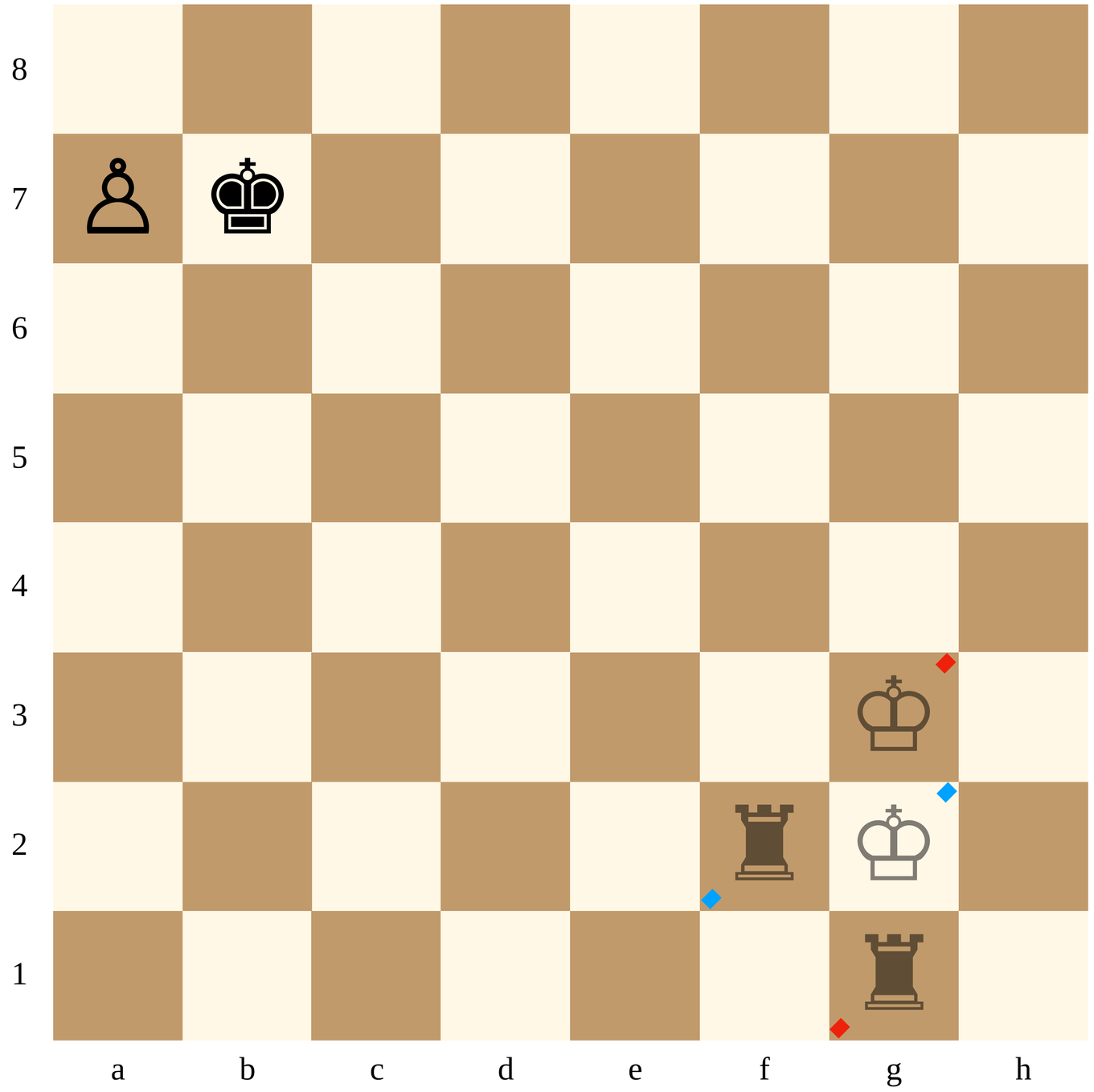
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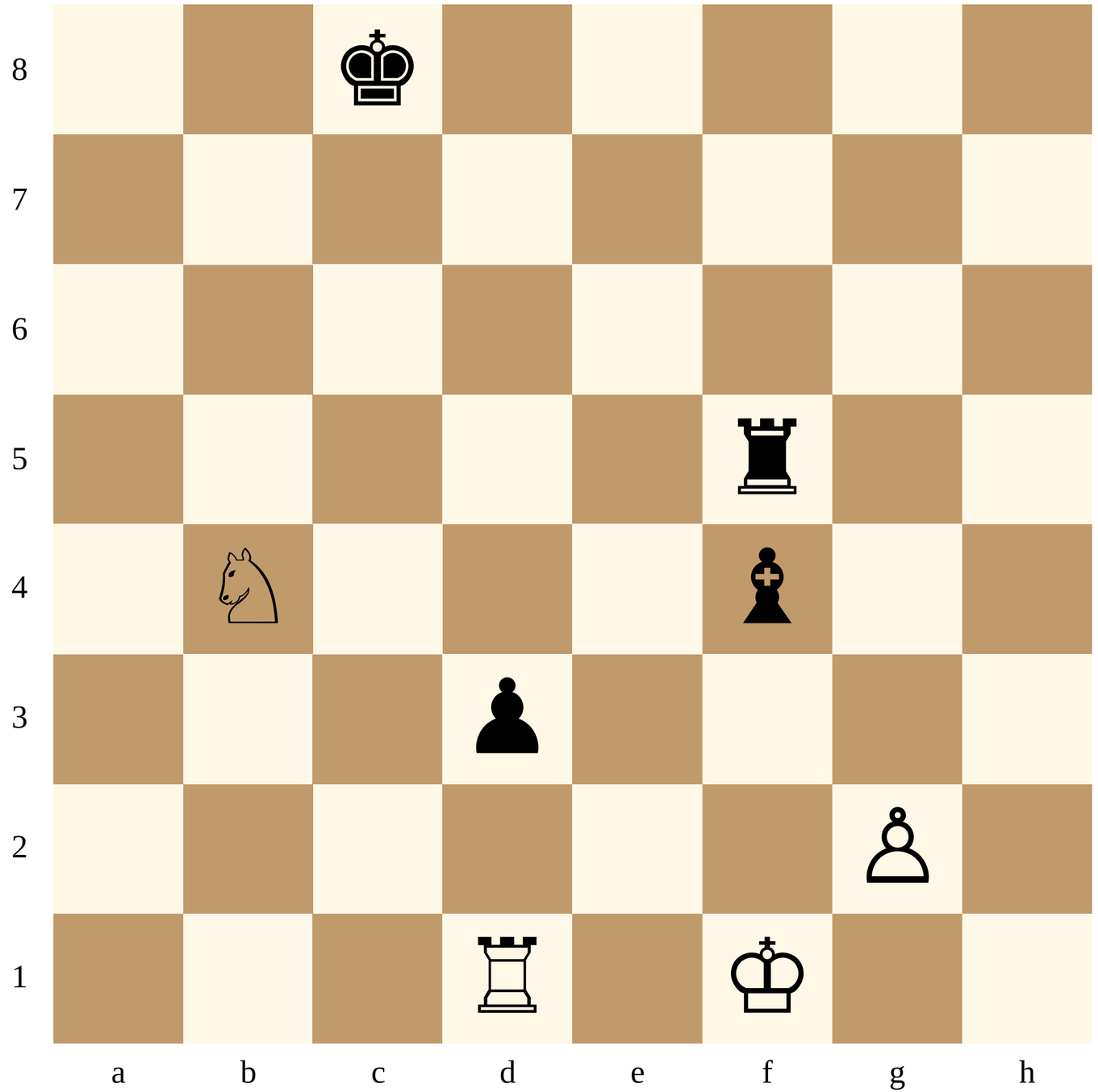
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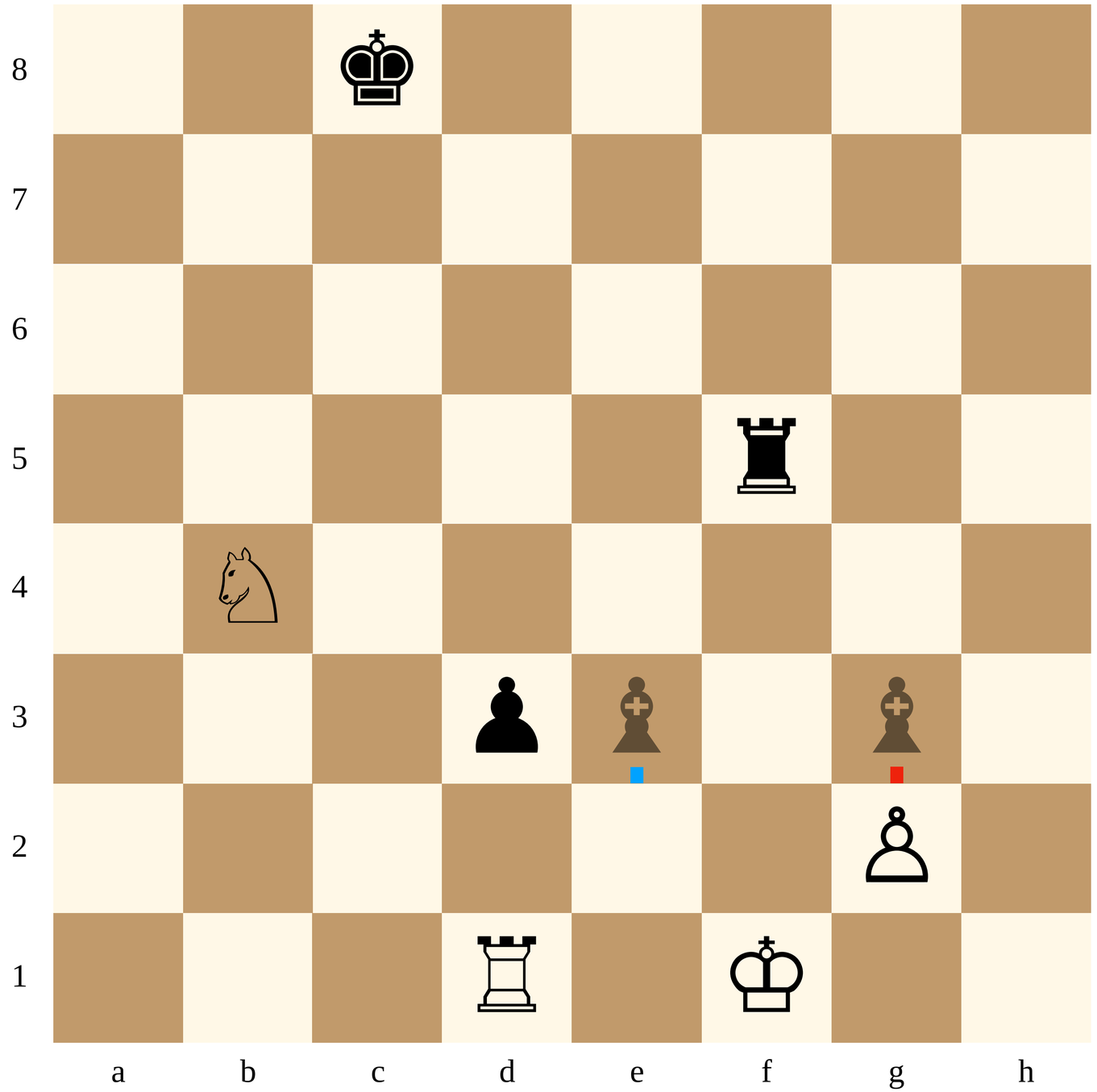
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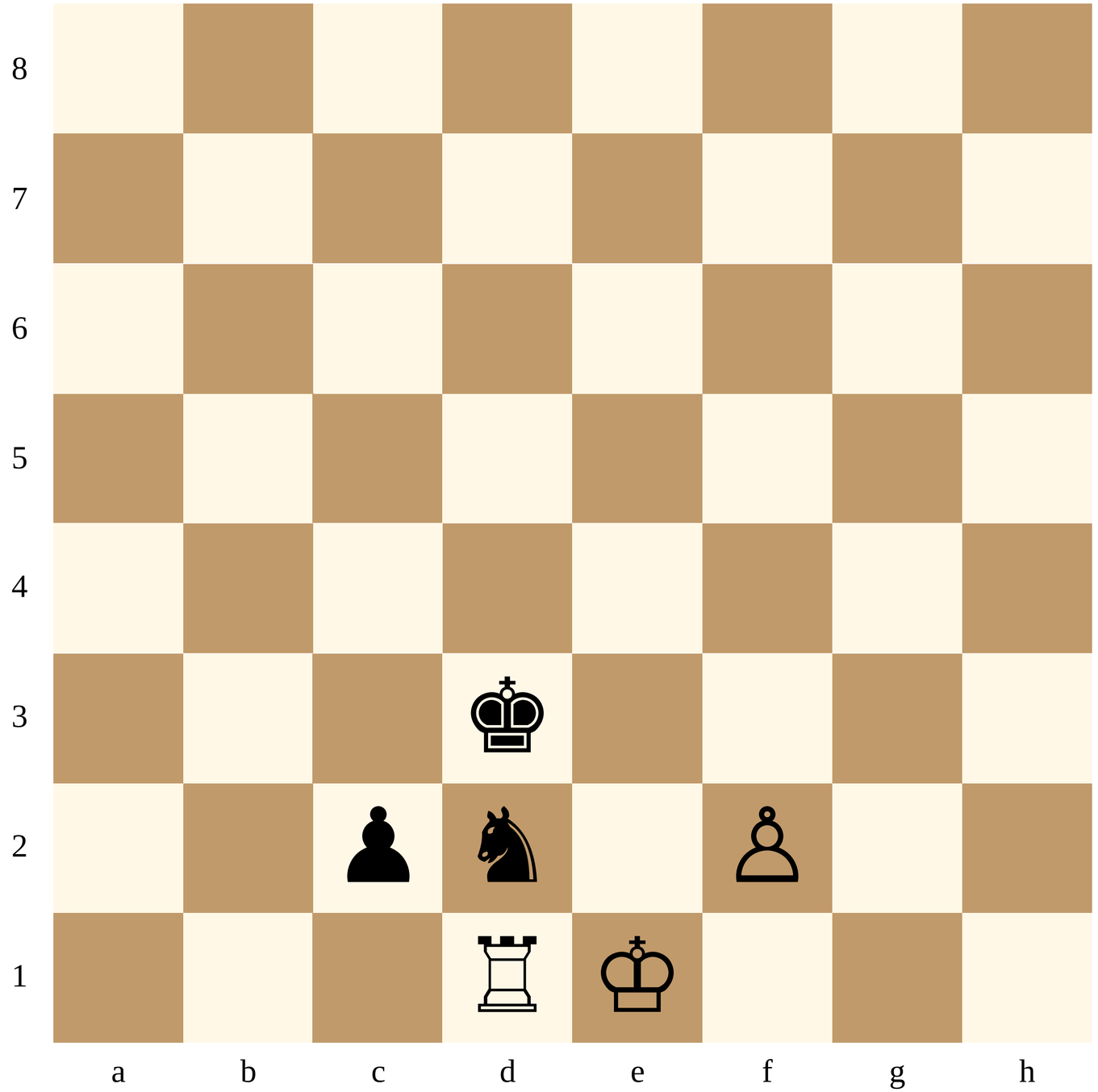
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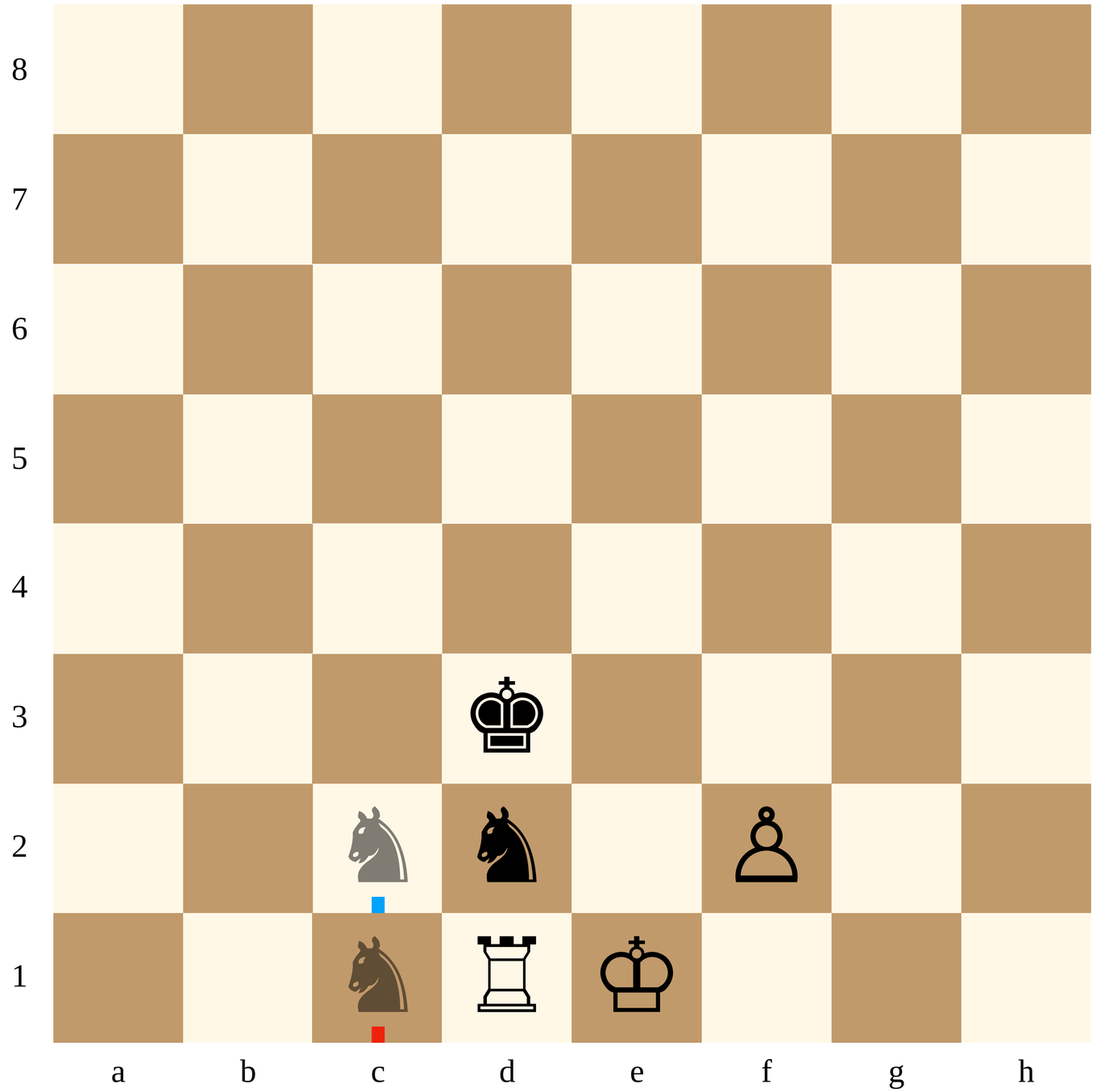
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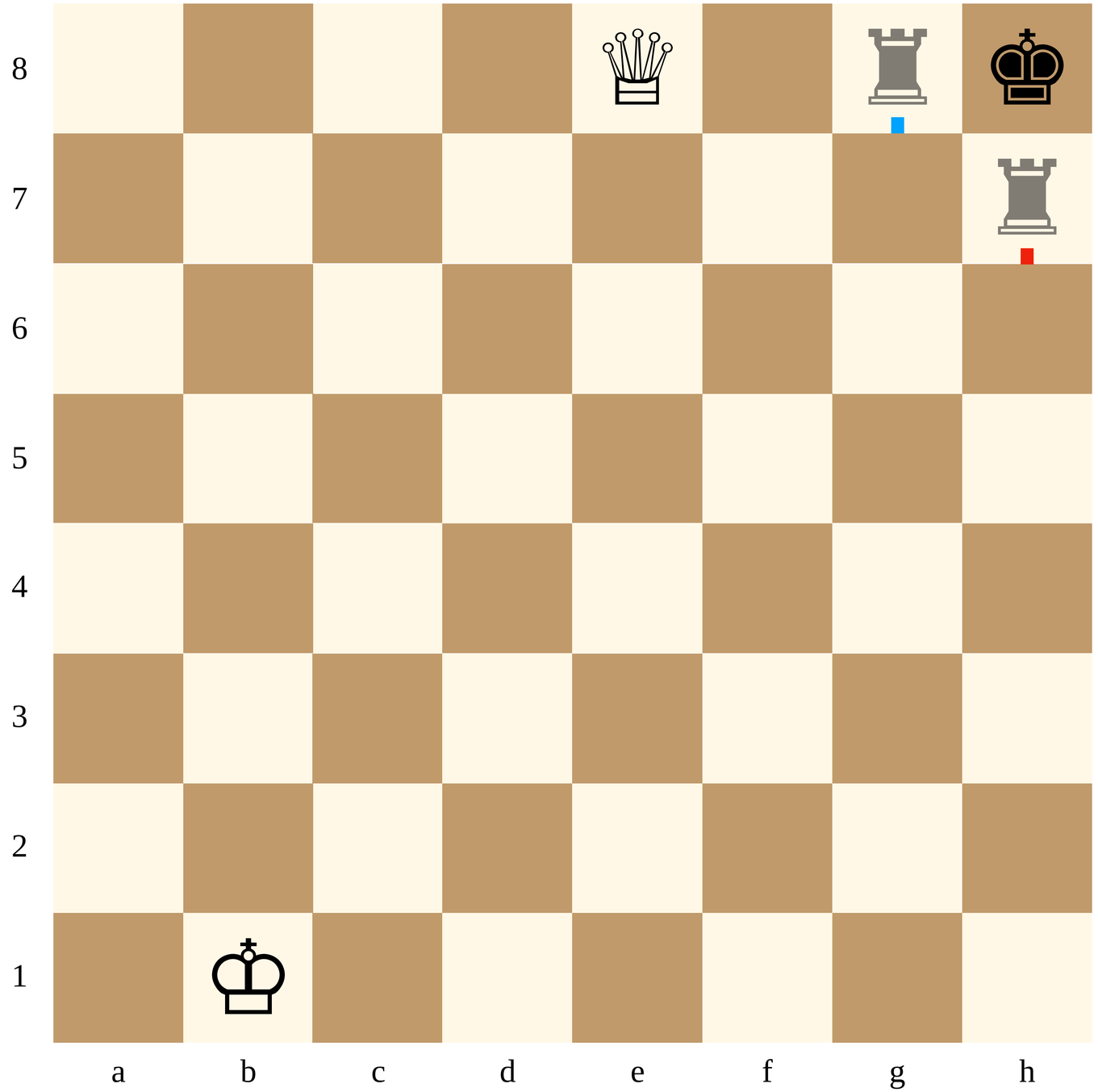
White to move - Checkmate in 2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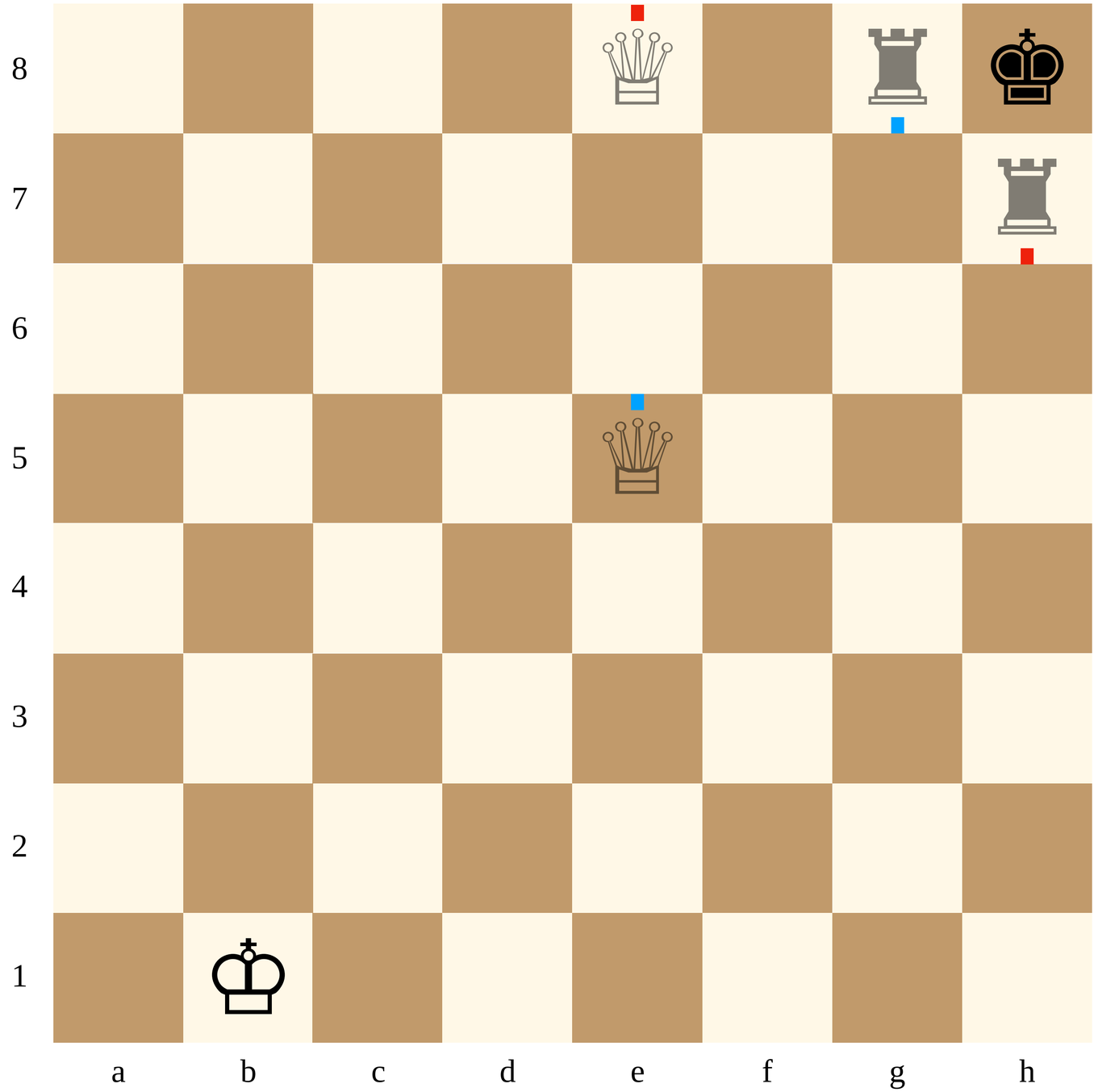
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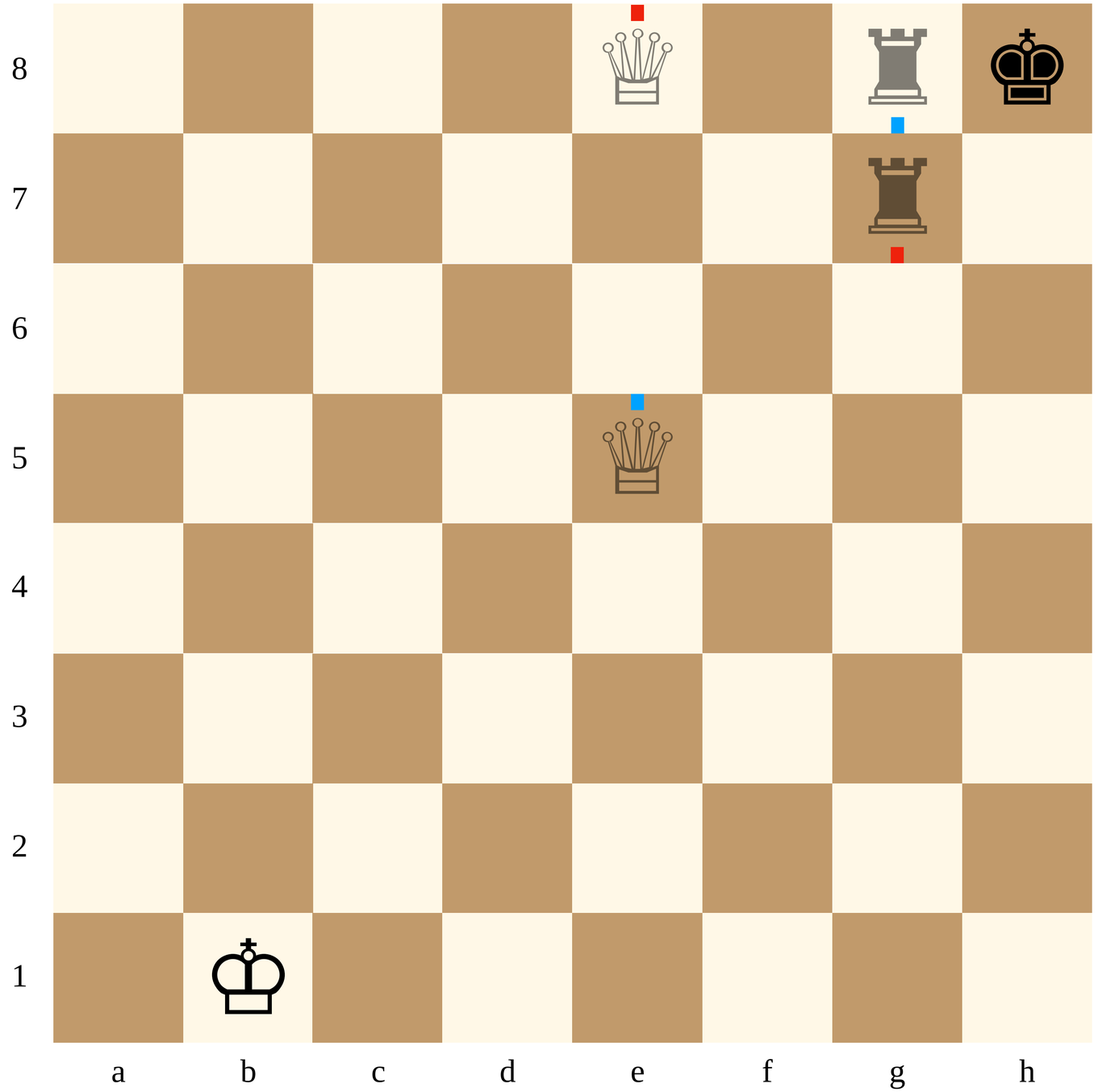
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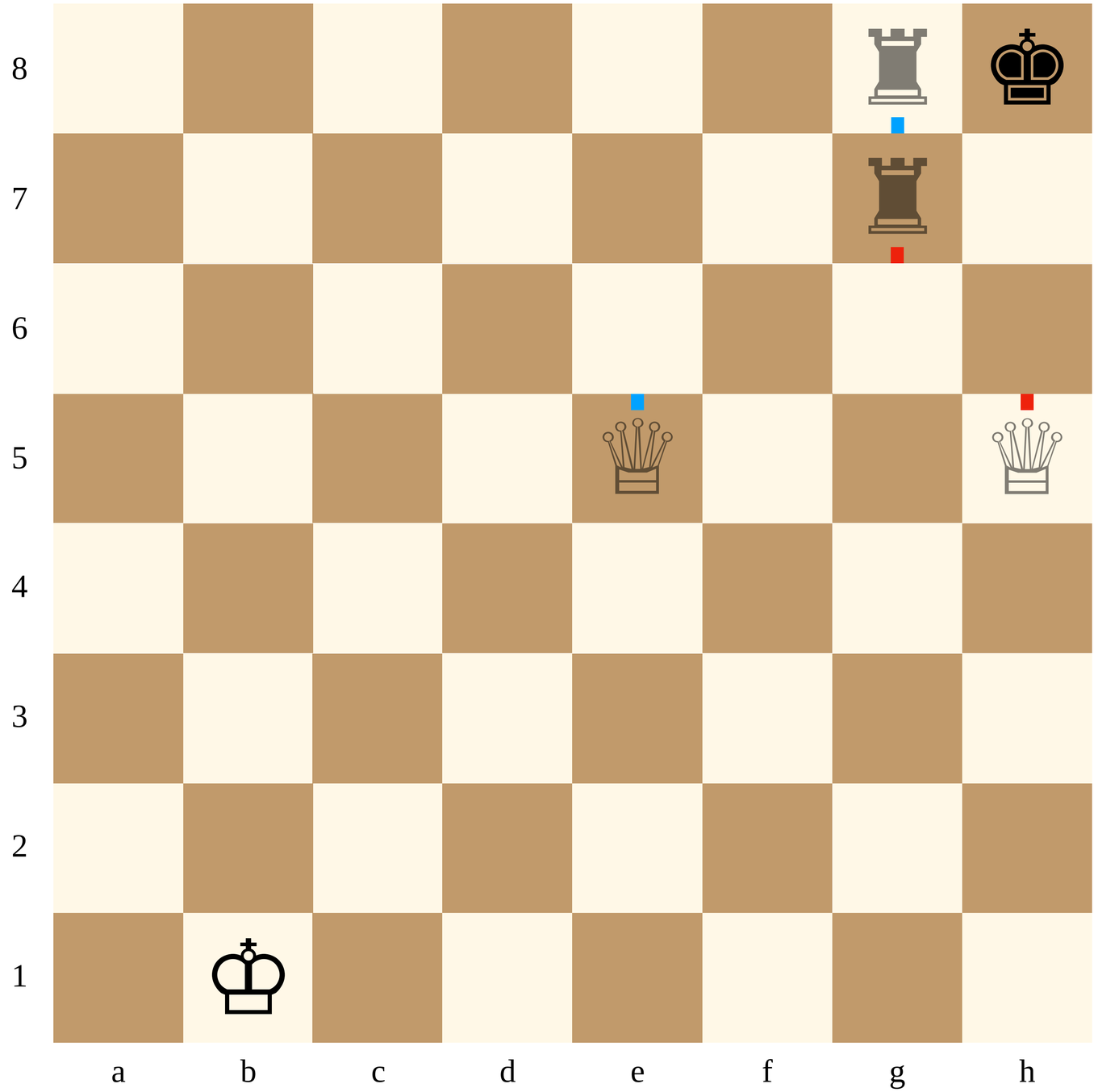
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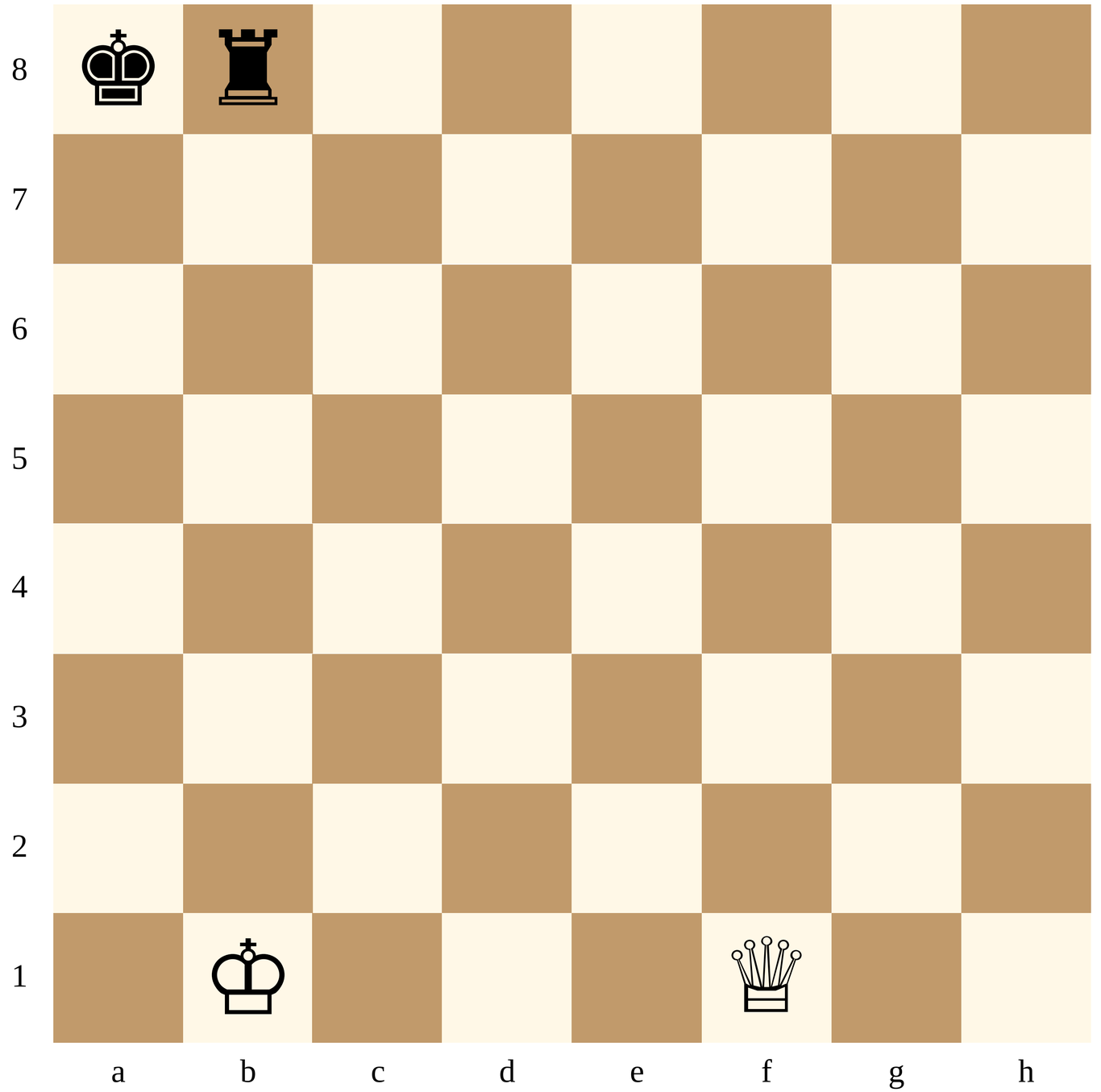
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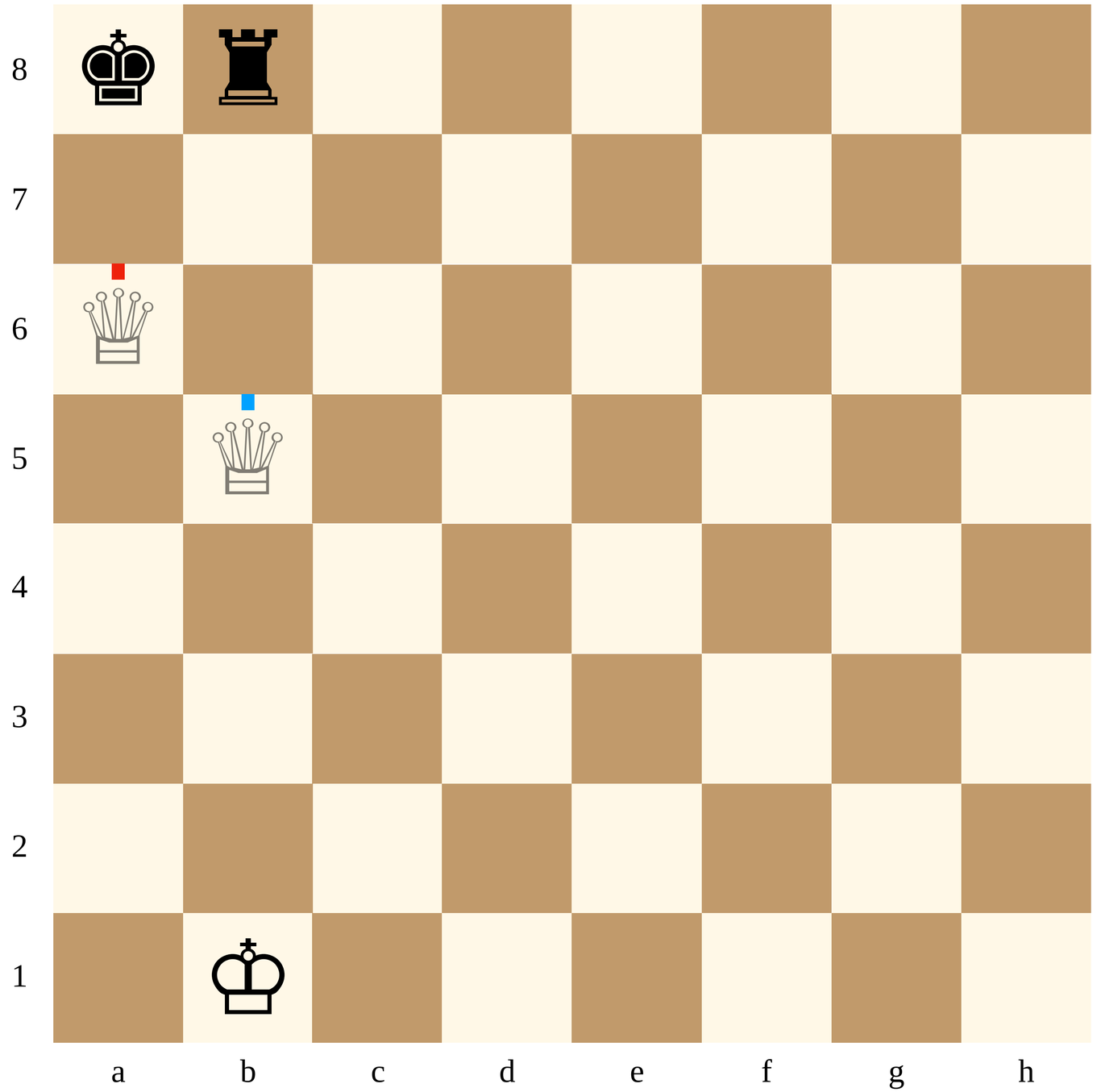
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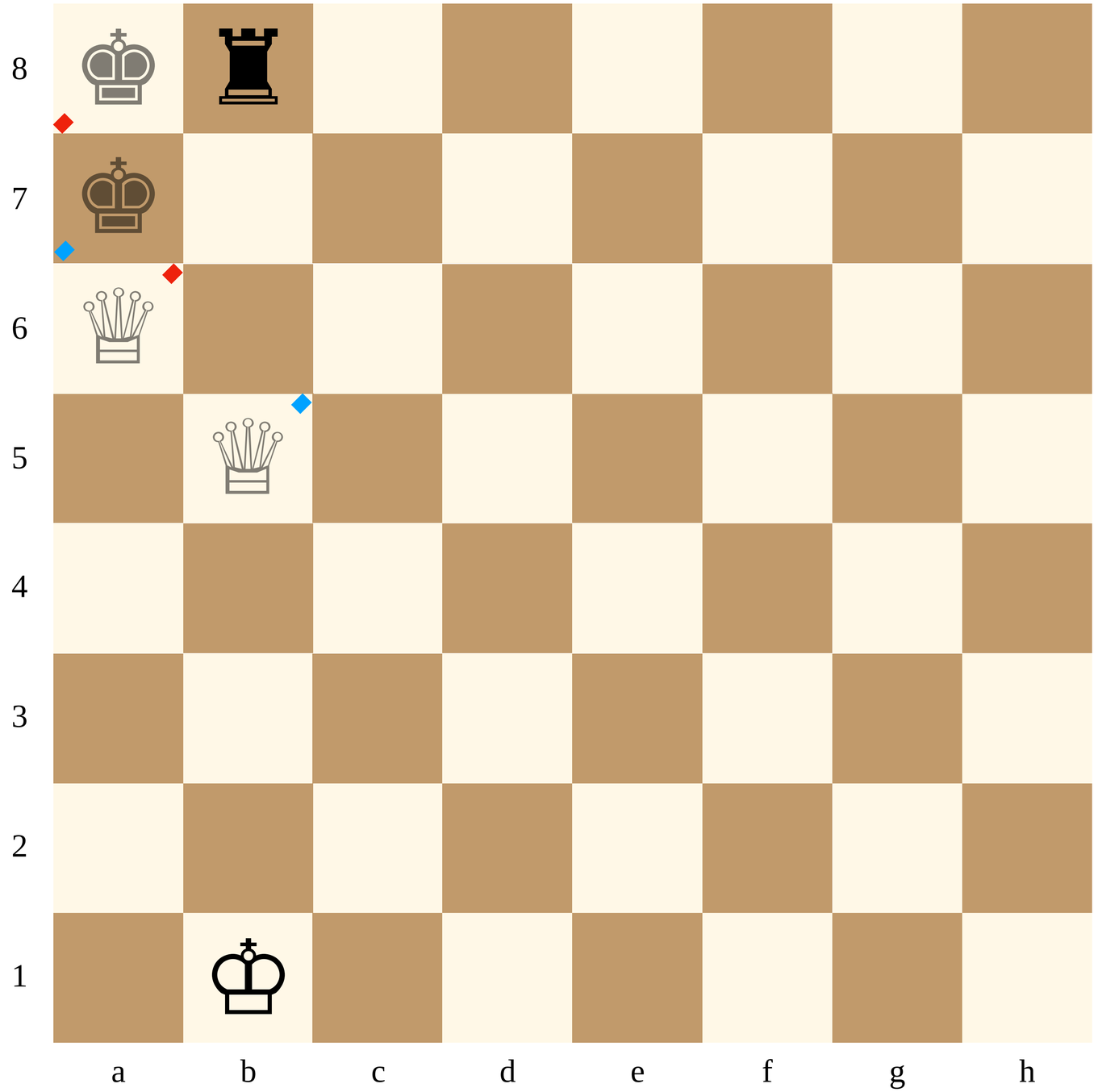
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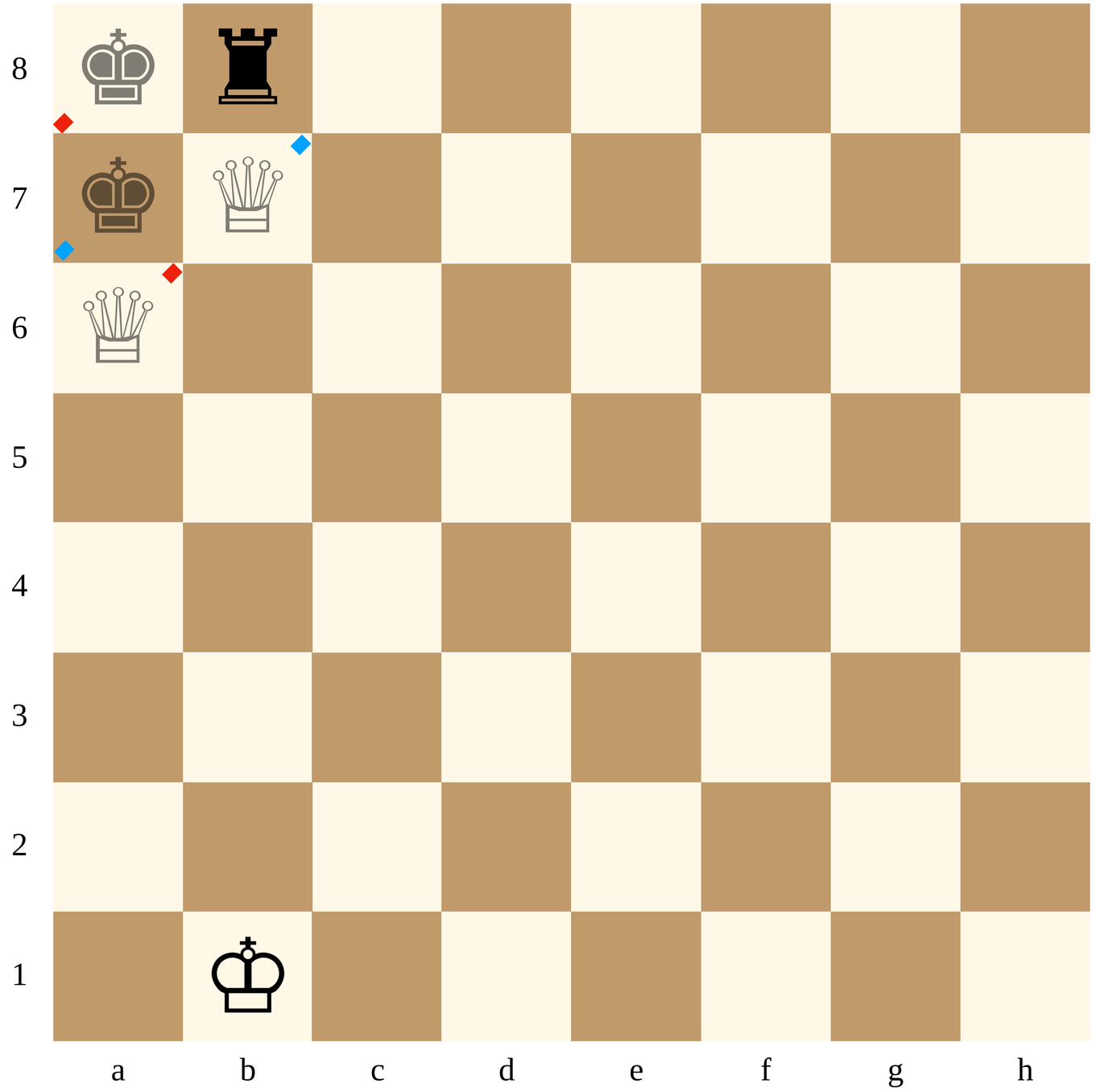
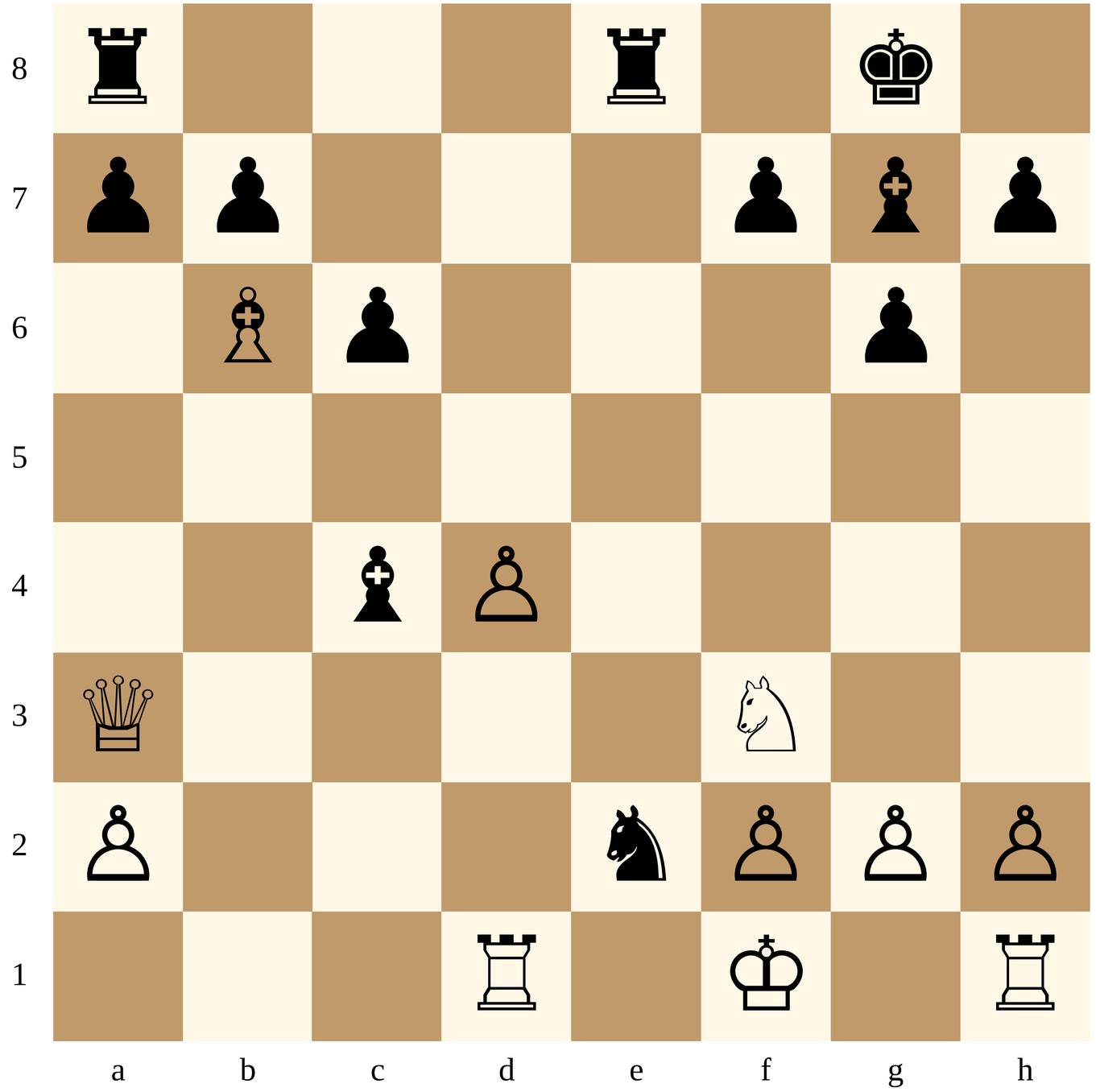
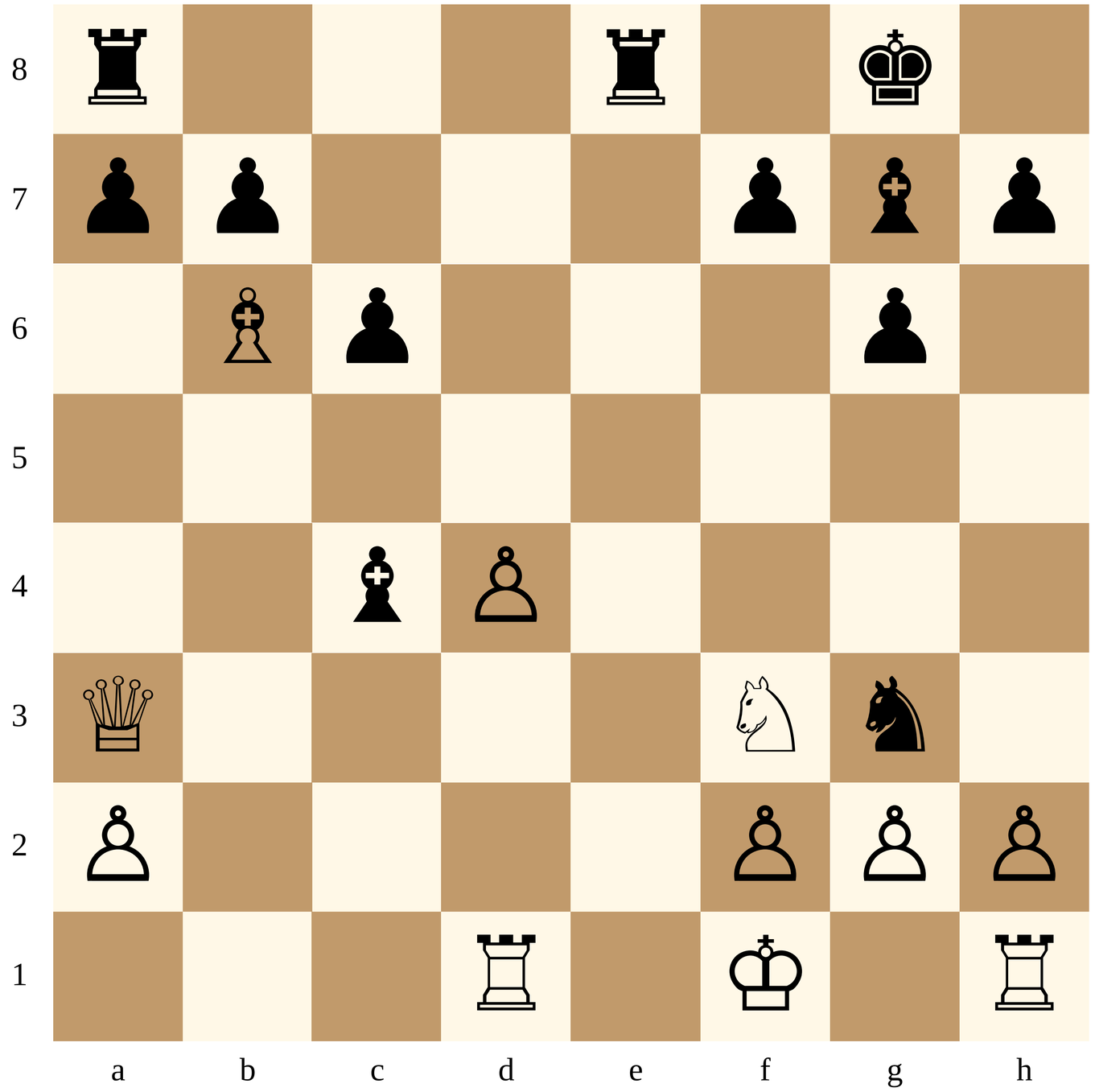


Rook isn’t allowed to b7, as entanglement may then collapse to red-red. King isn’t allowed to a6 or b7 for similar reasons.

Black to move - Checkmate in 2



“Game of the Century”
Byrne vs. Fischer
1956, #20b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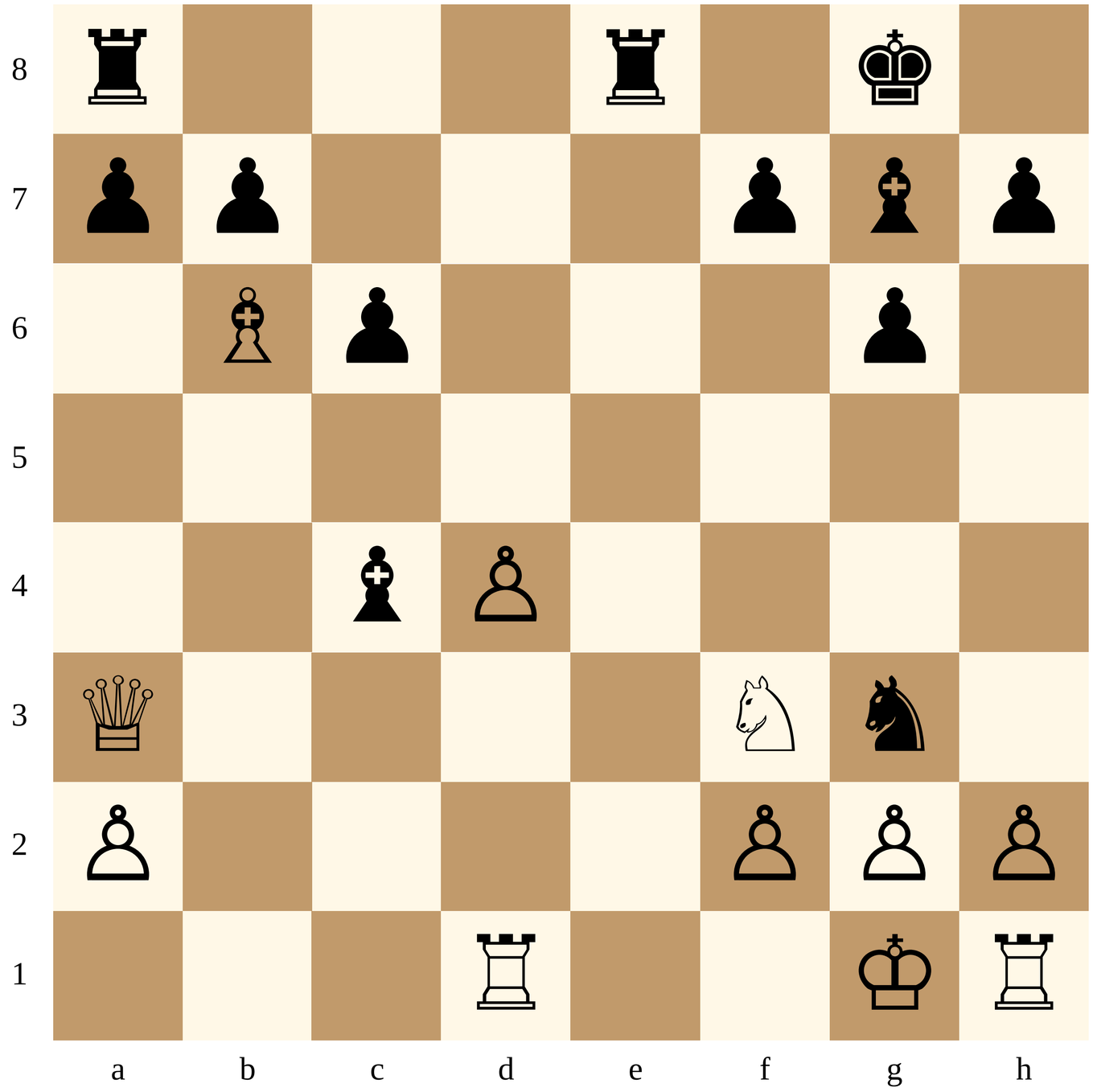
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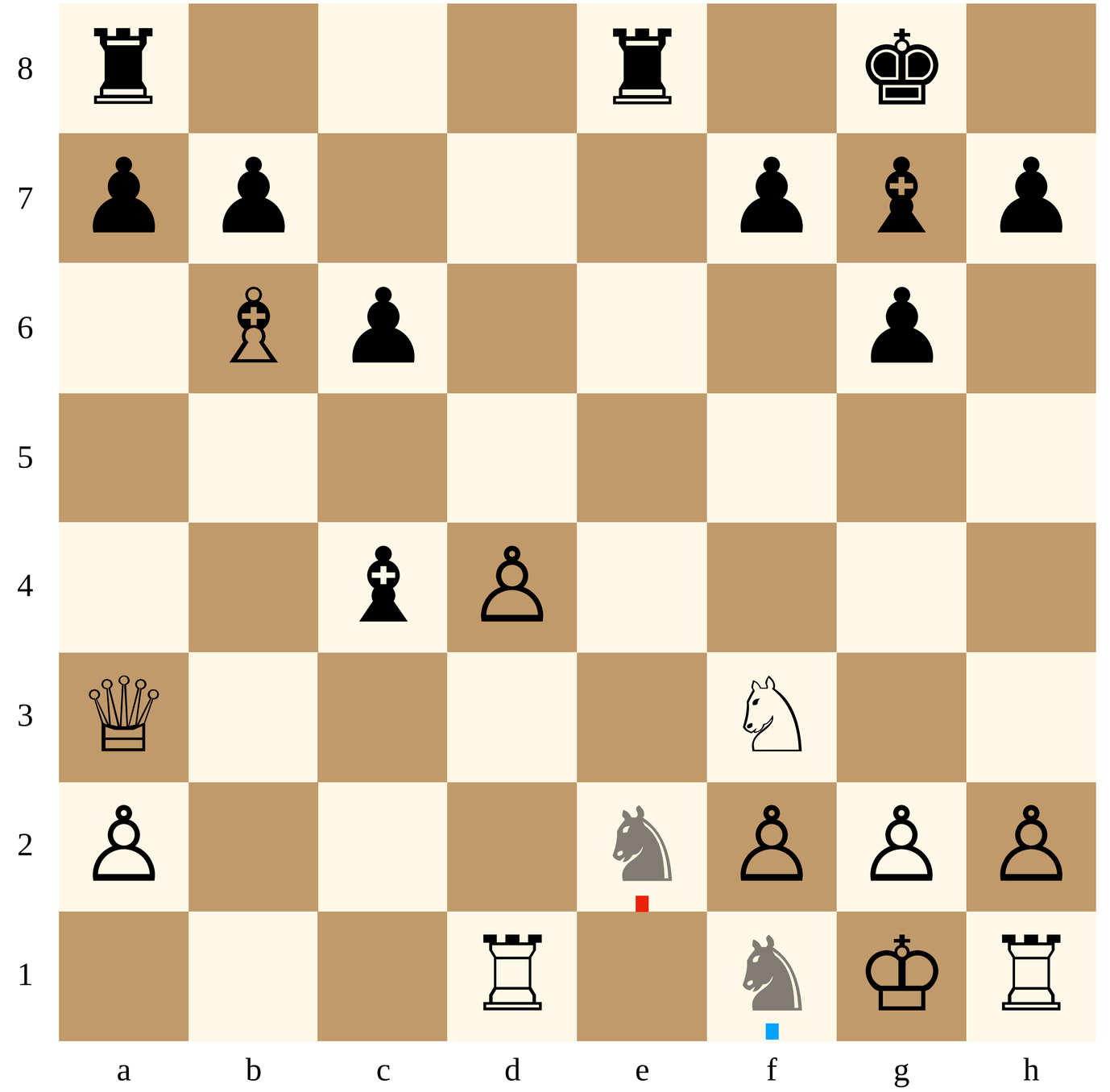
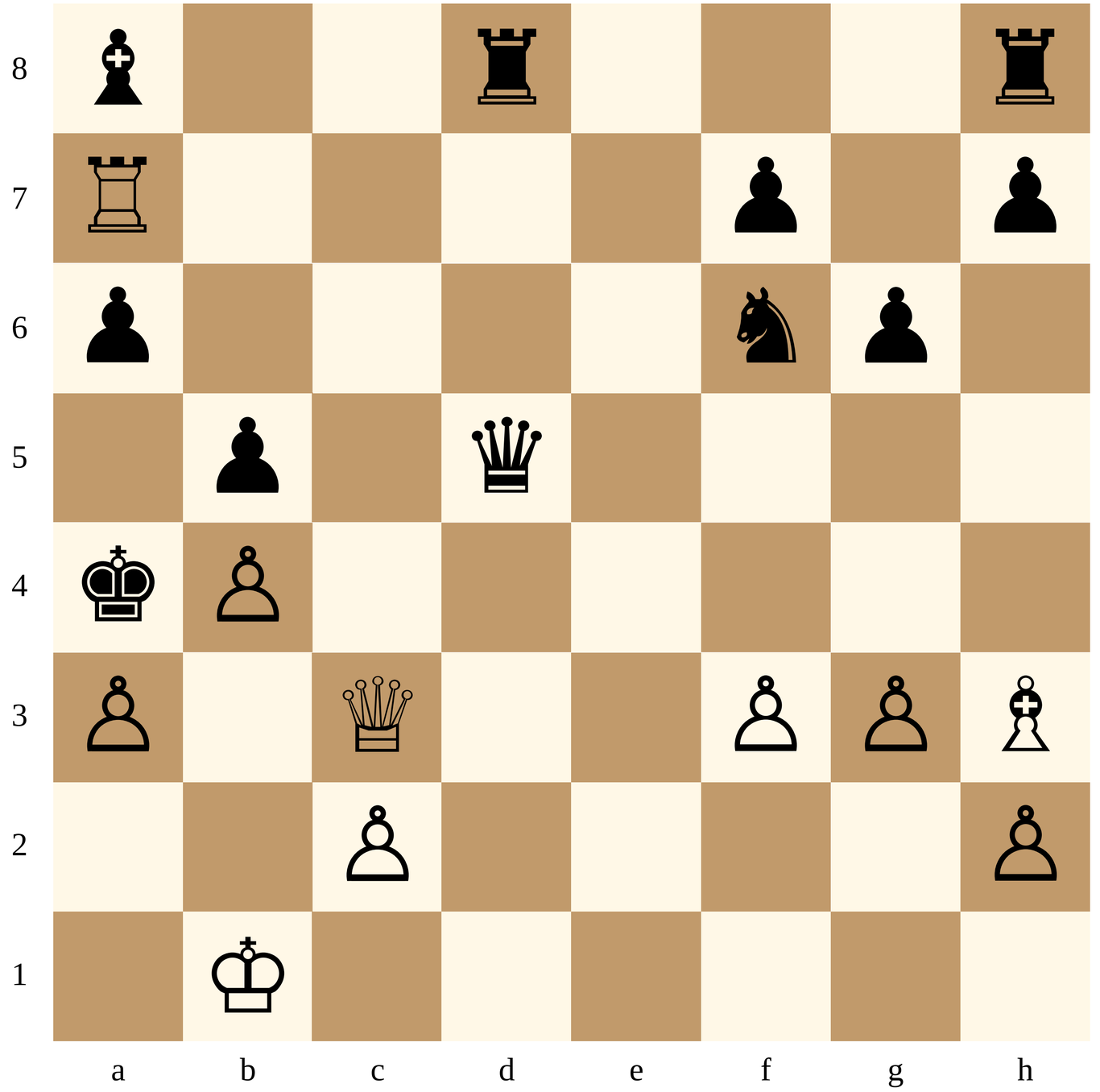
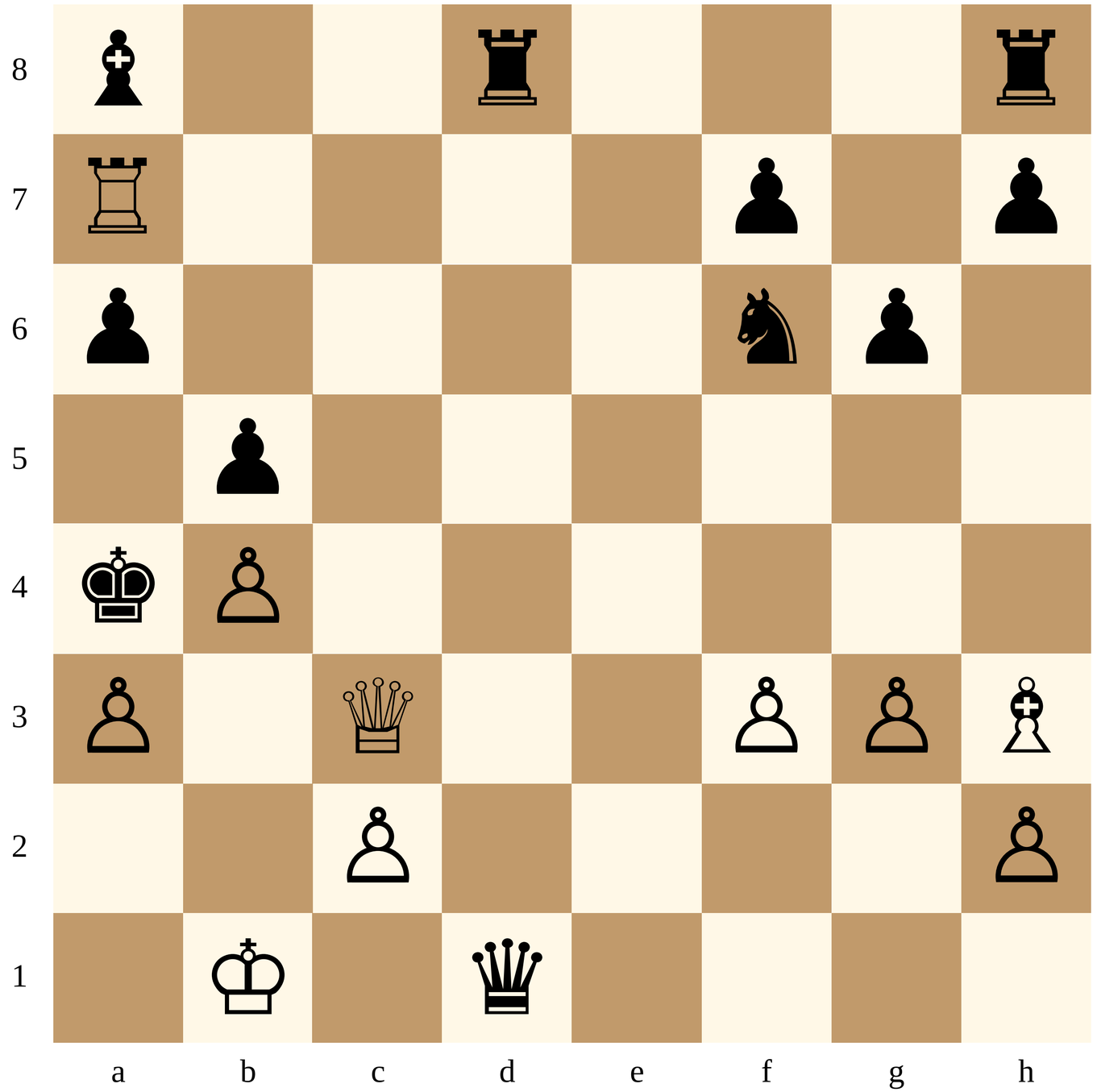


King isn’t allowed to f1, as the knight may then collapse to f1, leaving the king in check by bishop on c4.



“Kasparov’s Immortal”
Kasparov vs. Topalov
1999, #29b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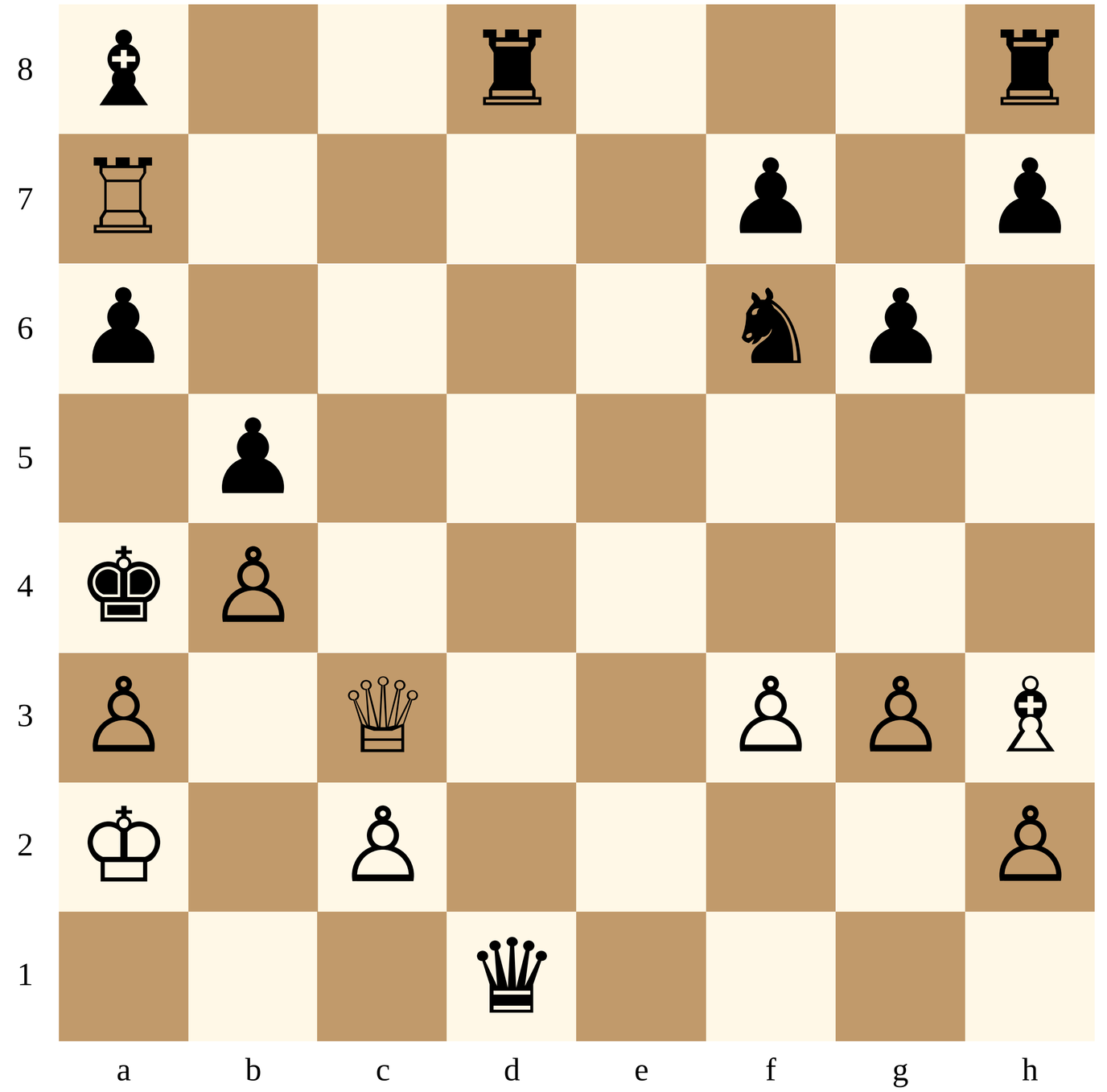
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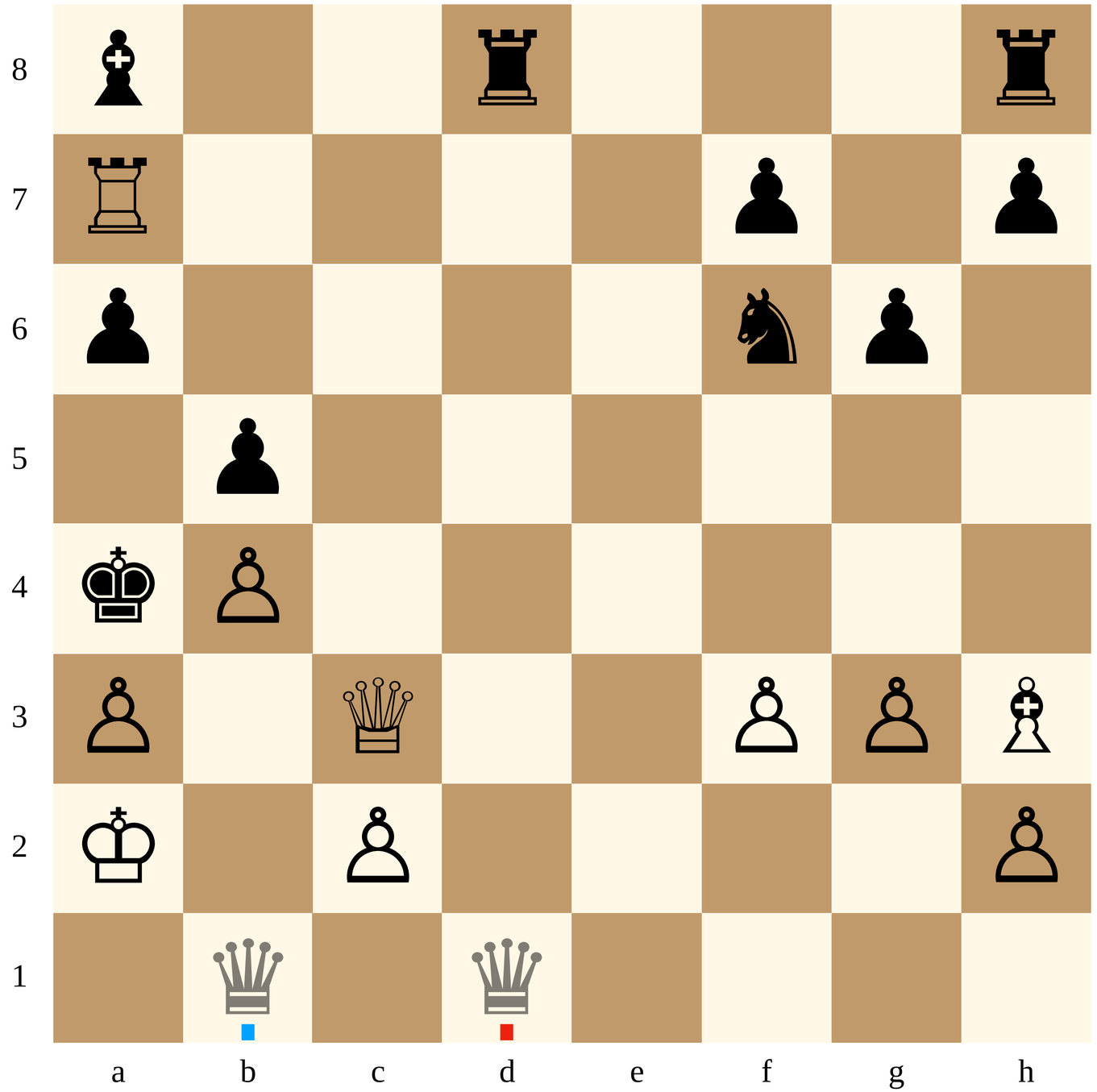
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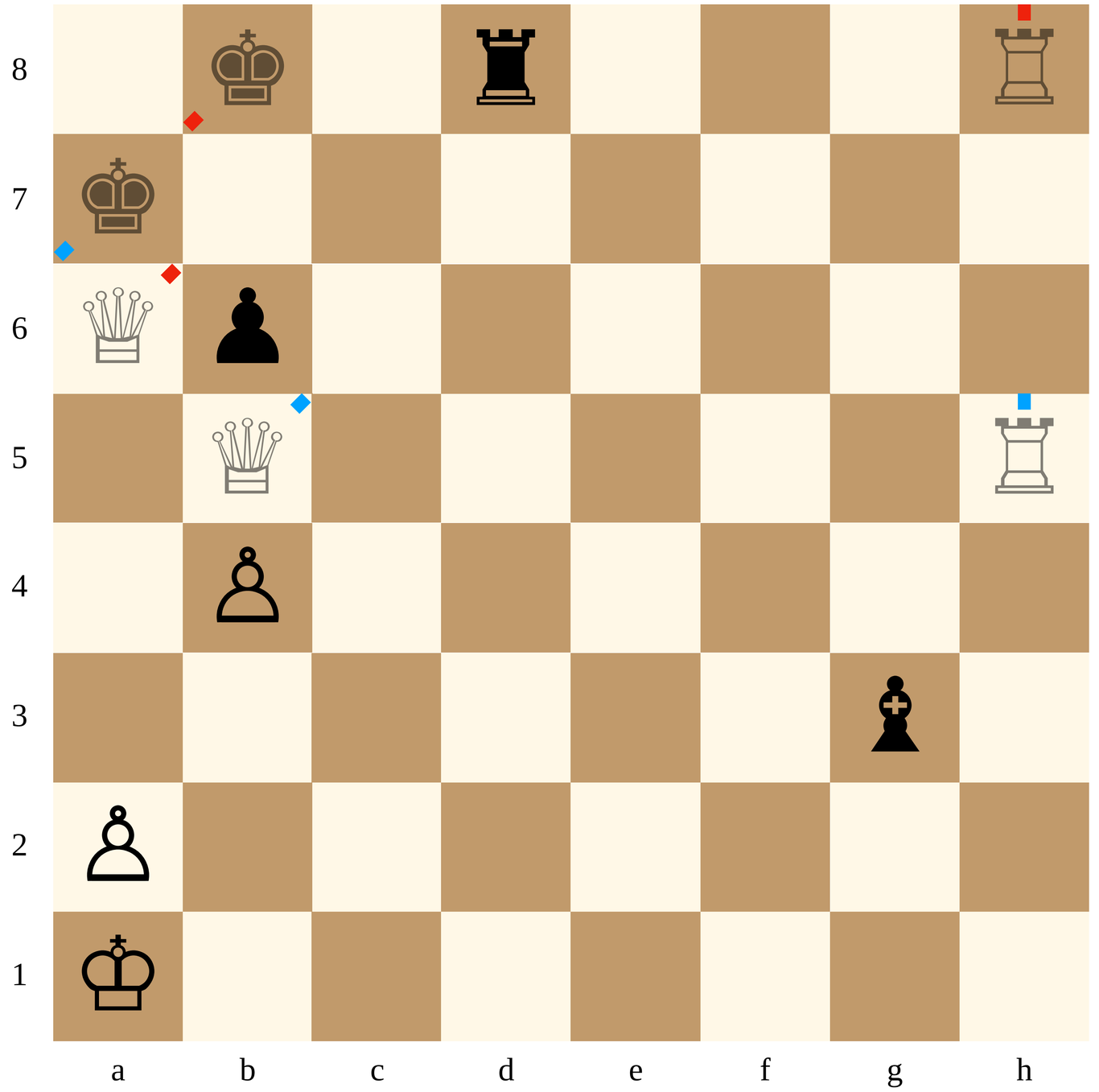
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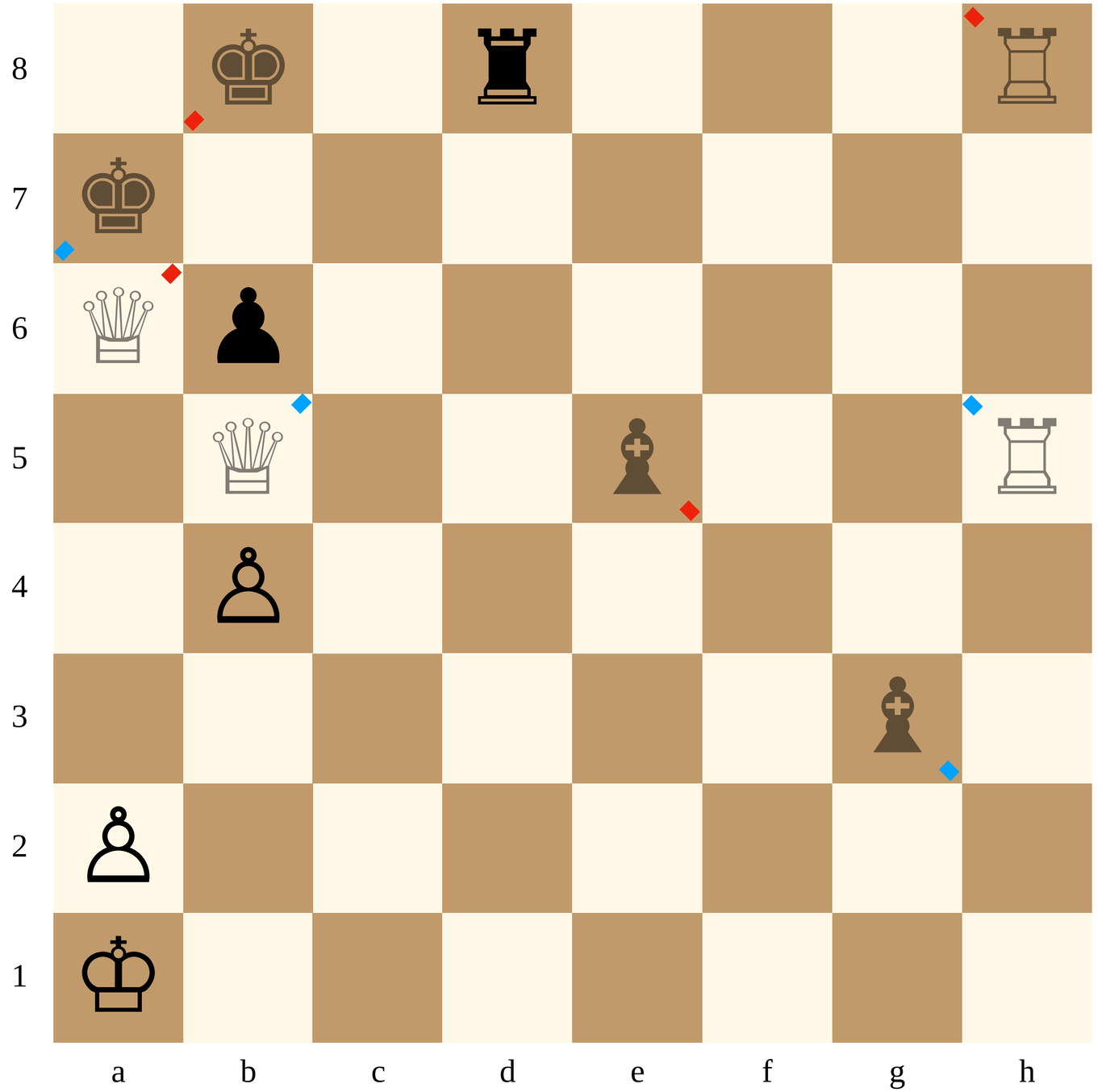
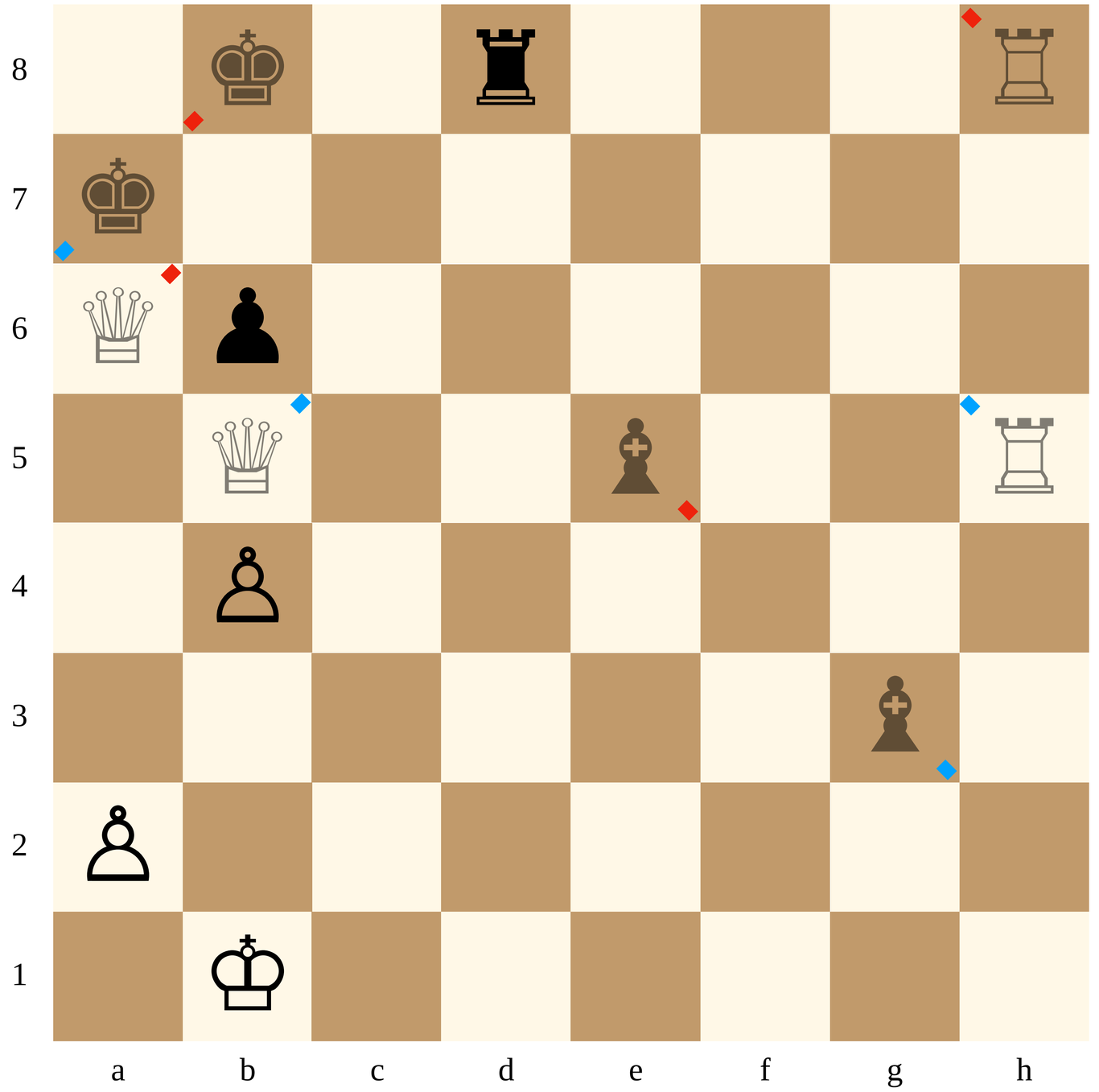


Entangle to make sure White’s king cannot entangle later…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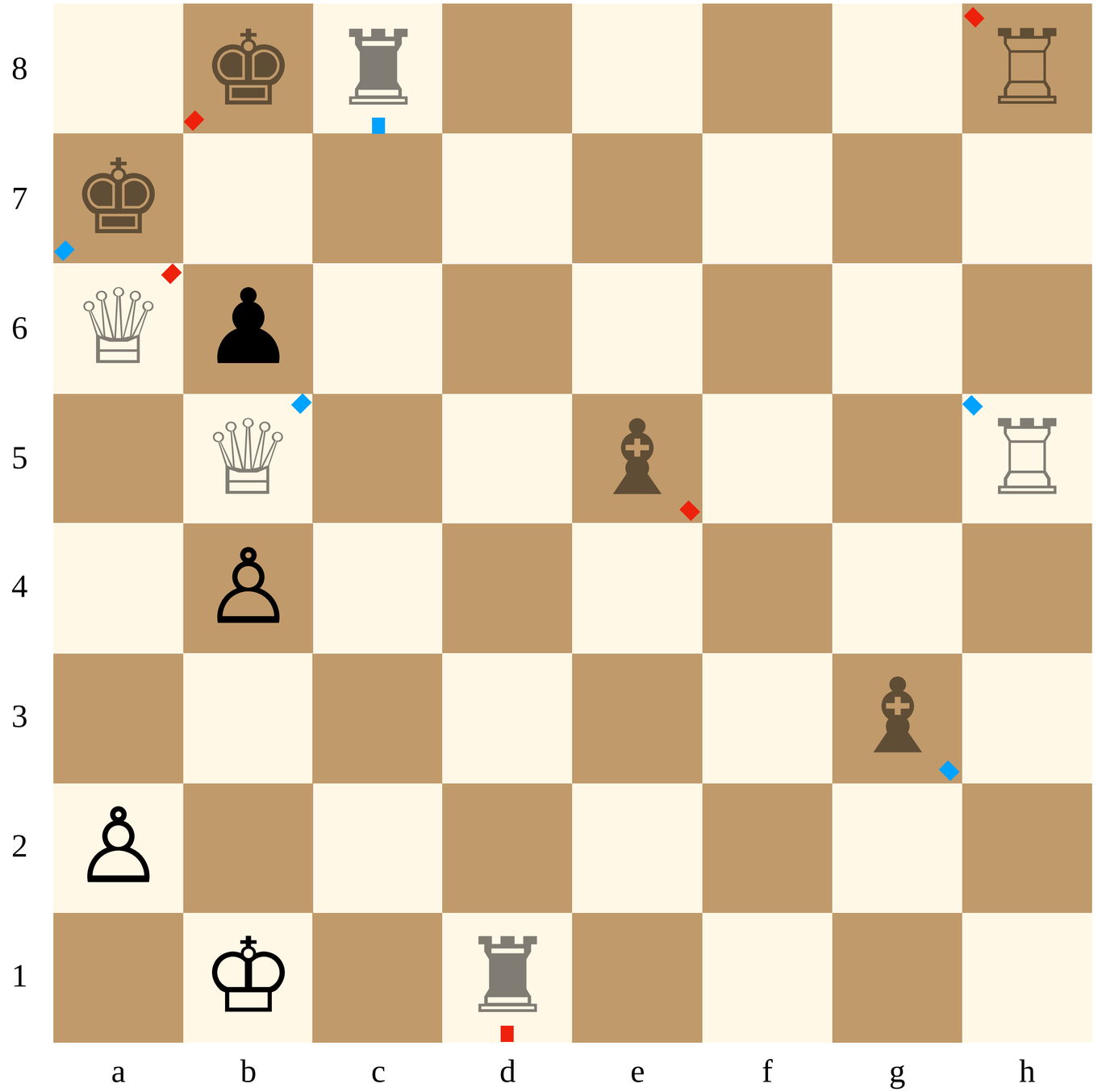
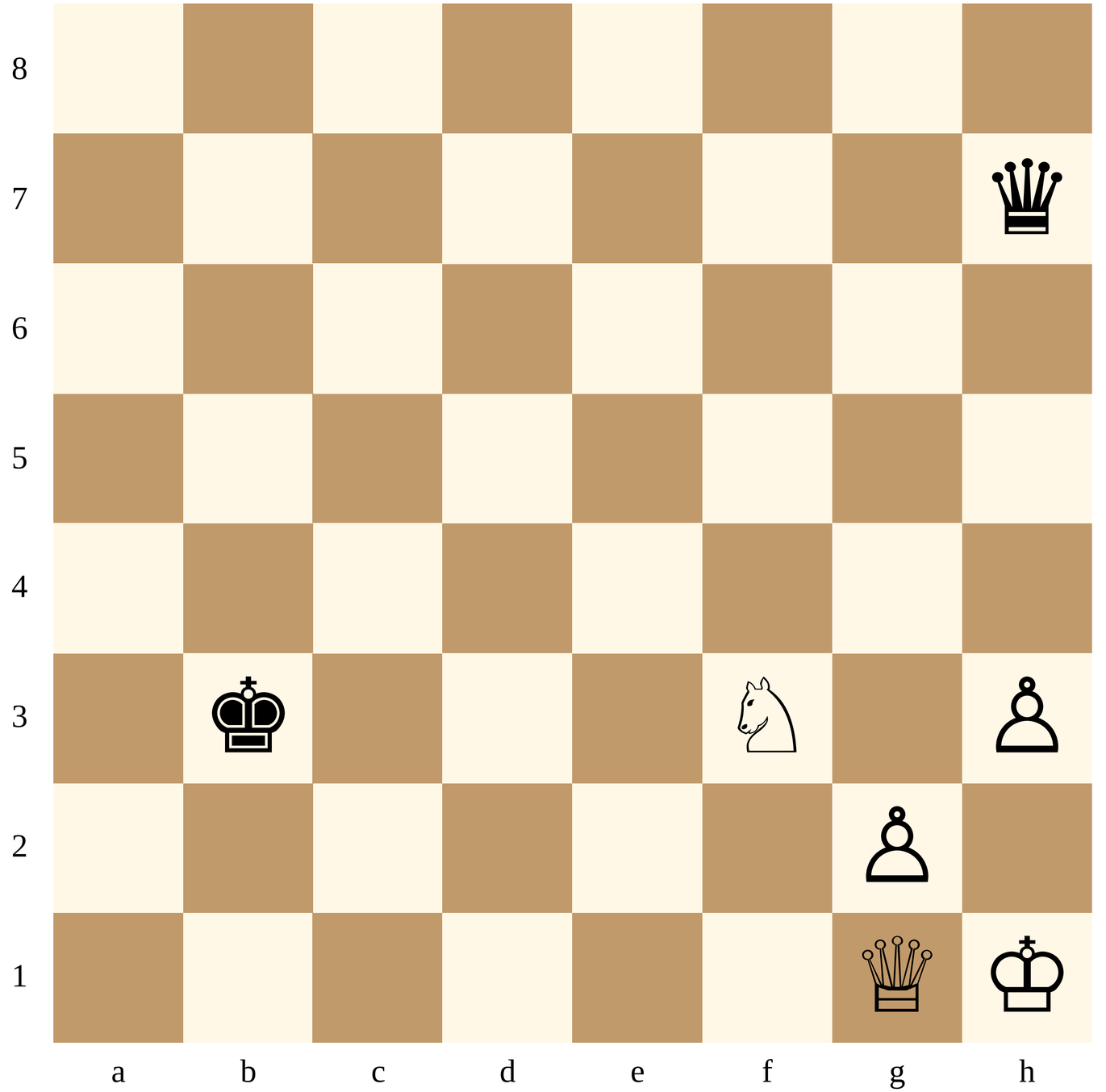
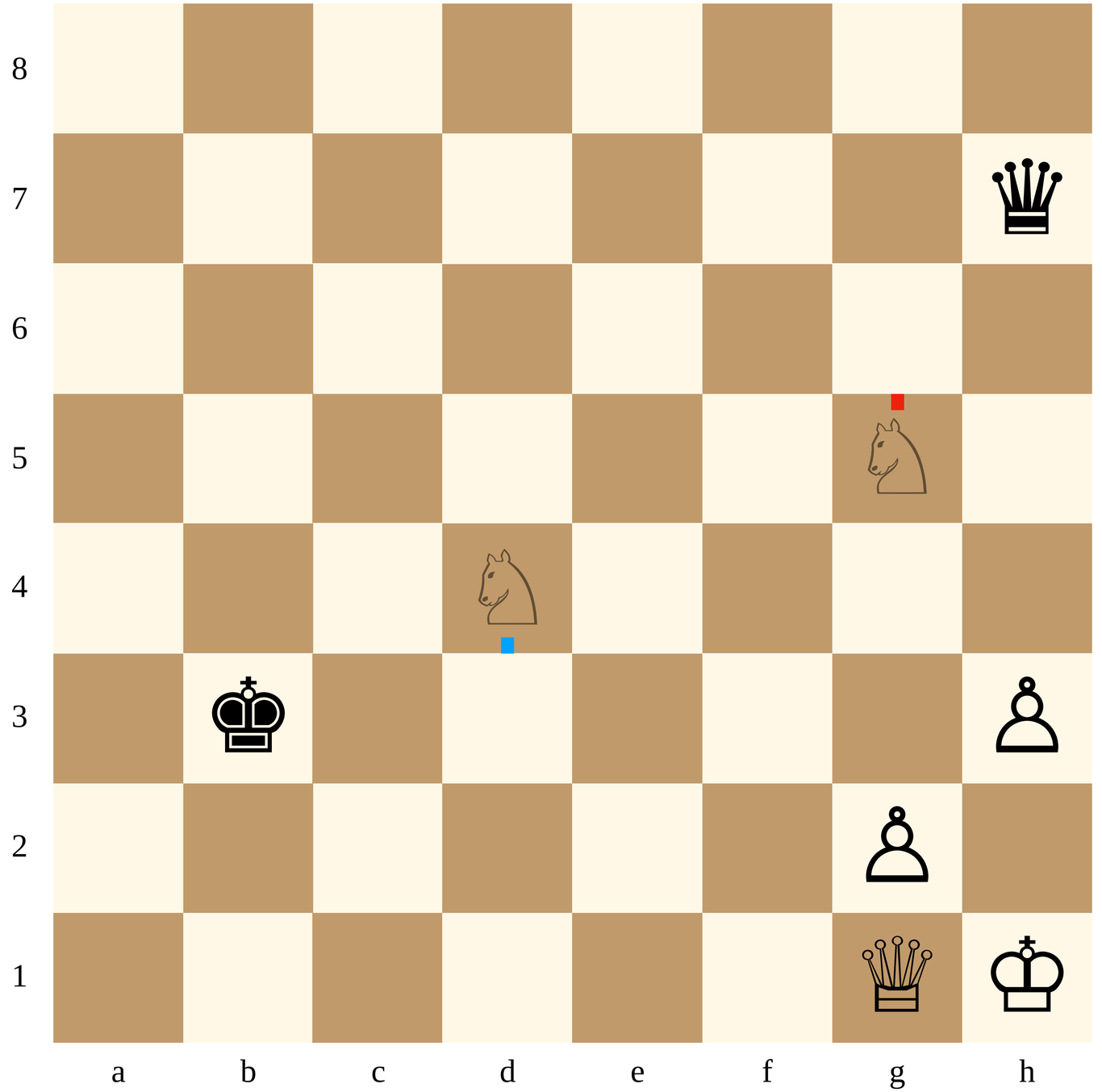


White’s king cannot entangle with the rook (on b1-c2), as both diagonals are already used up.

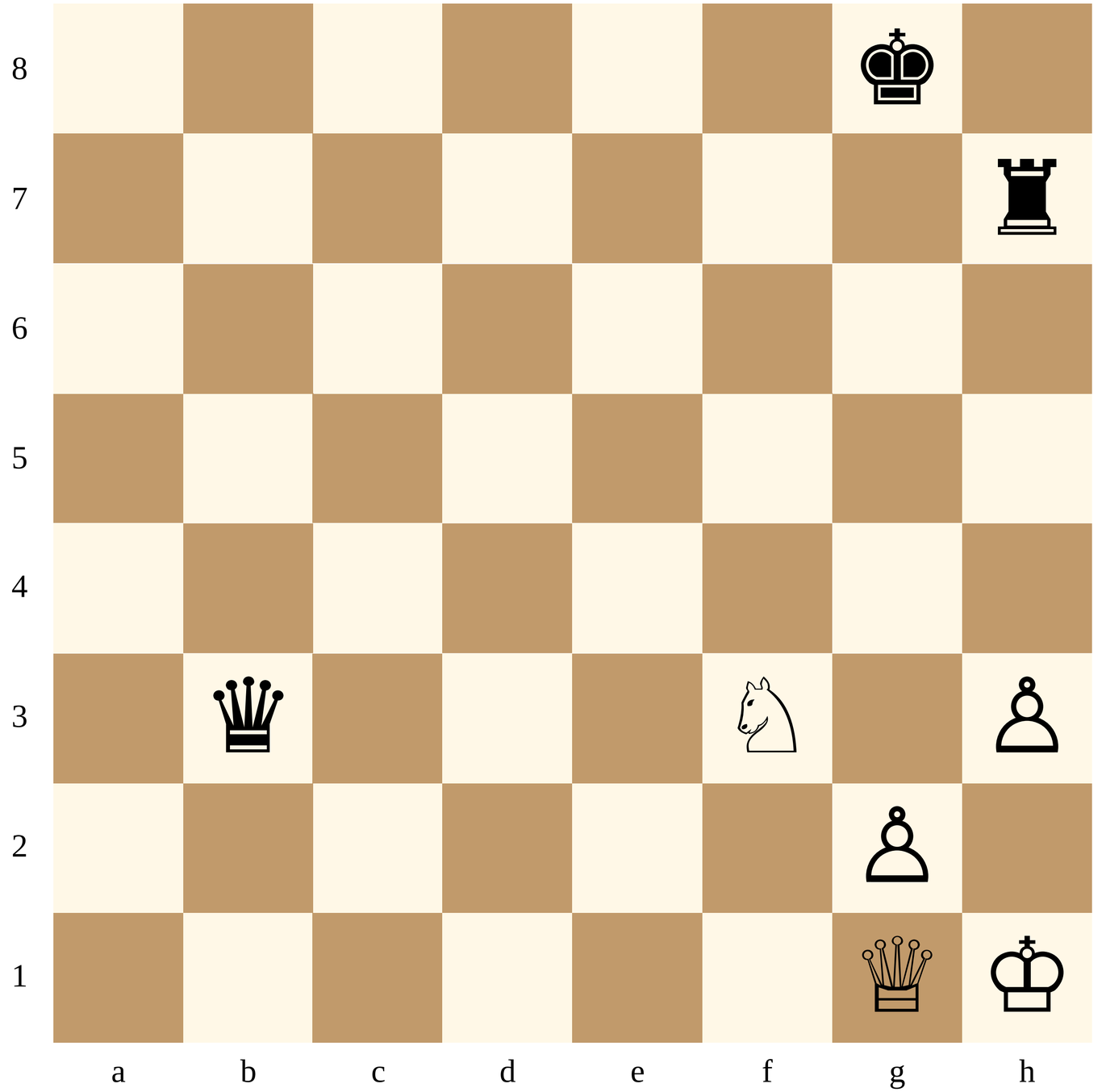
Optimize by unequal



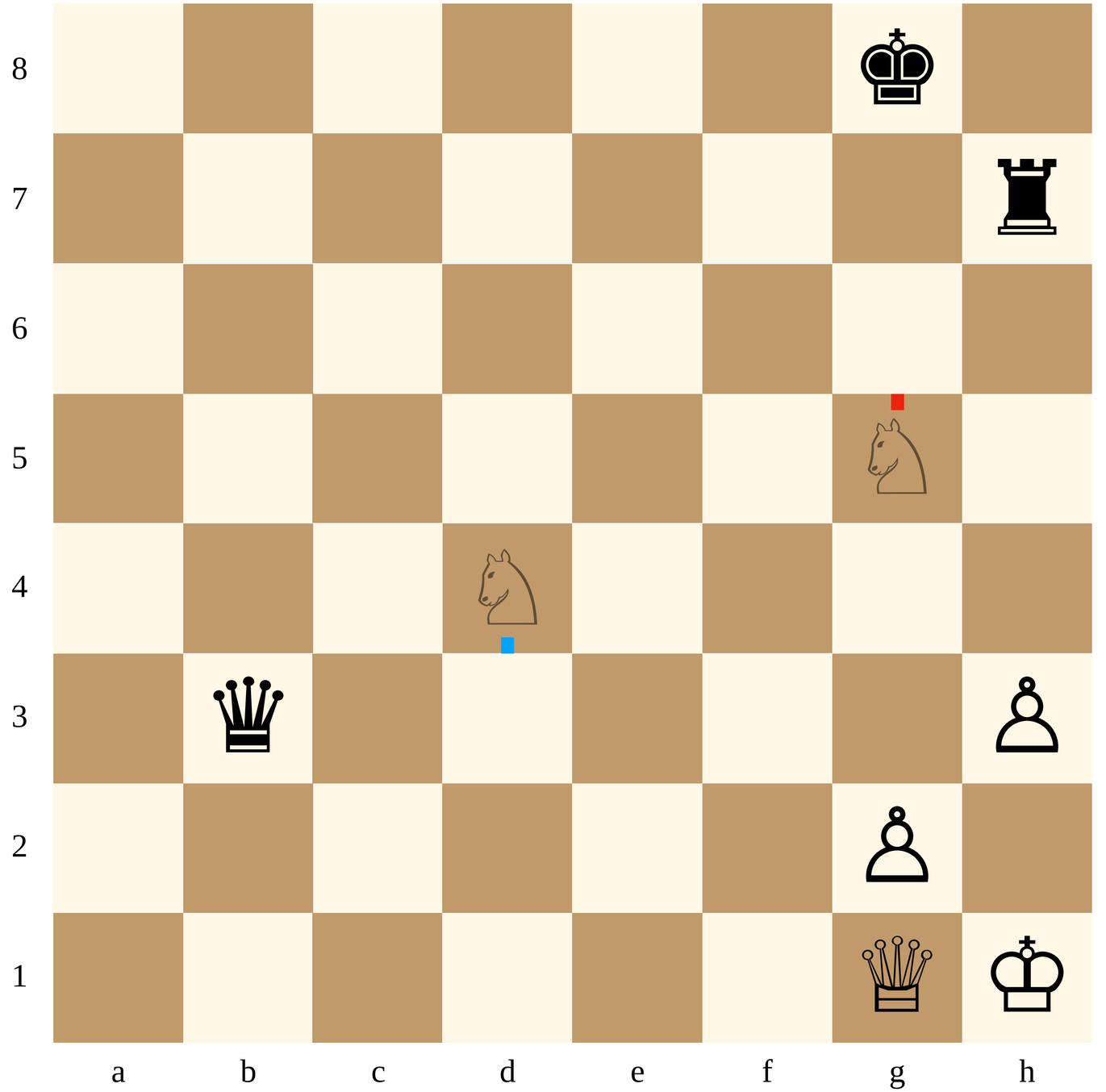
White to have a 66.7% chance of capturing the queen.



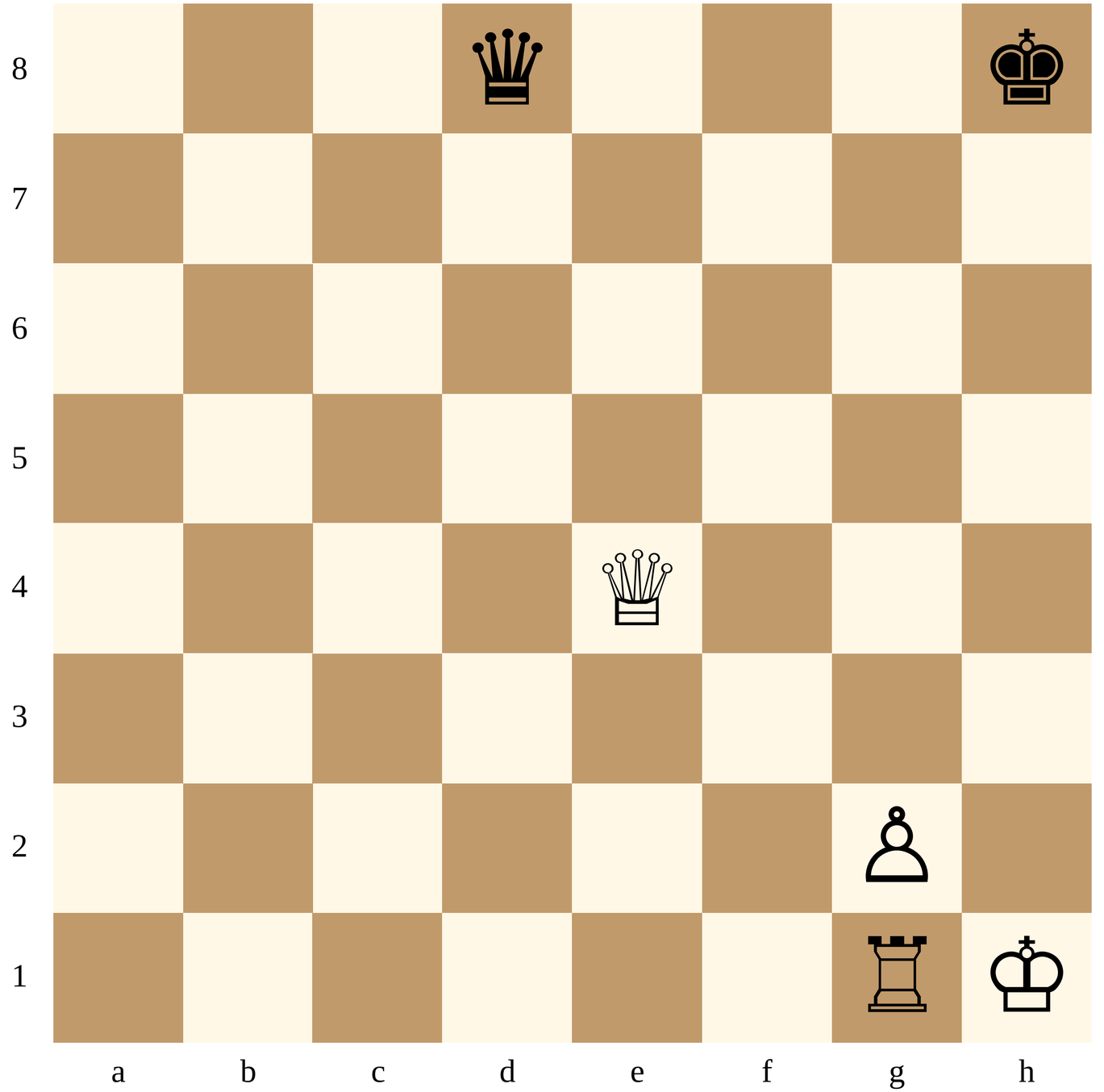
Better than 50%.



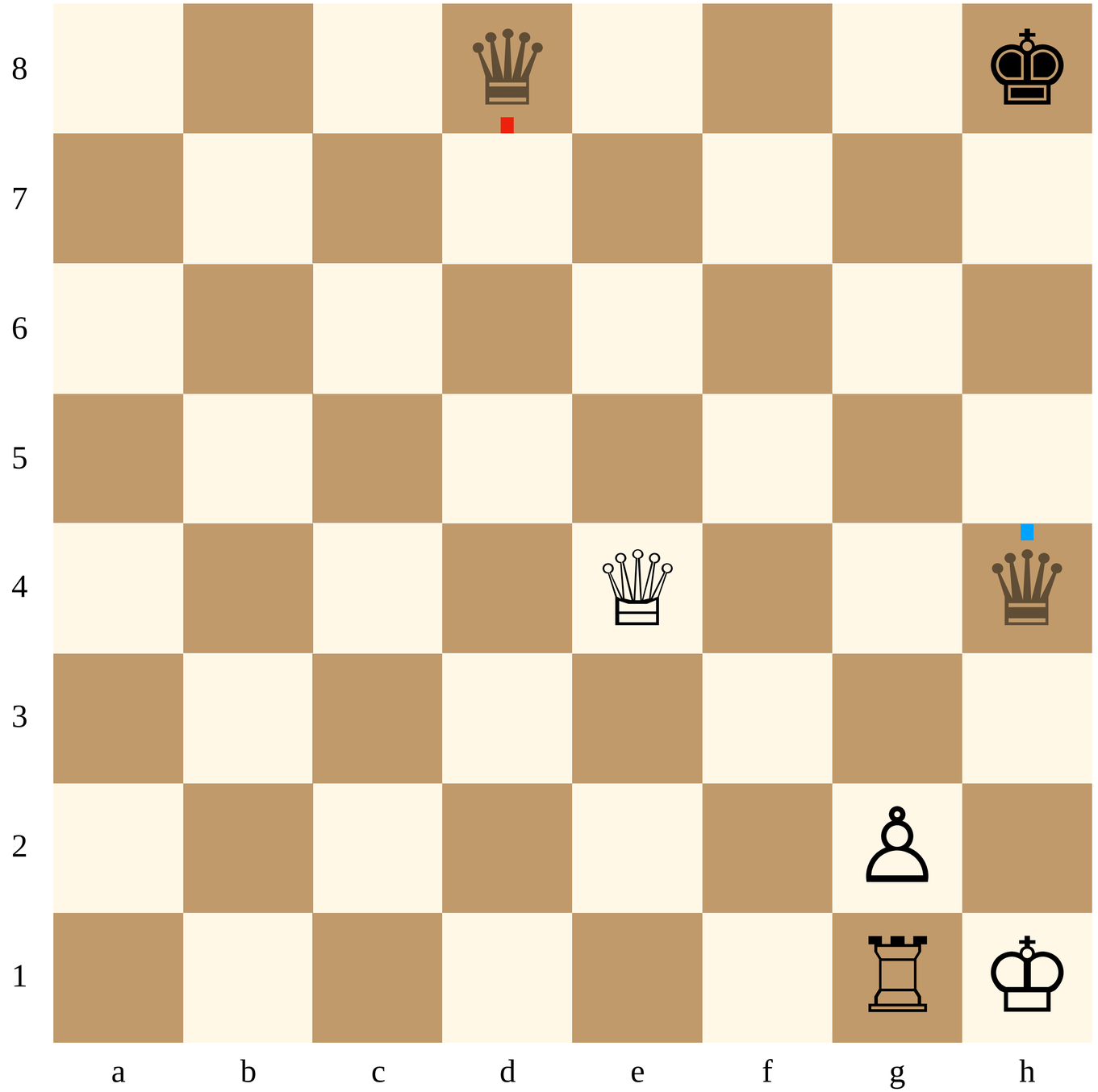
White to have a 66.7% chance of capturing the rook.



Assuming Black will save its queen.



Black to have a 66.7% chance of winning (seems to be a good risk to take in this situation).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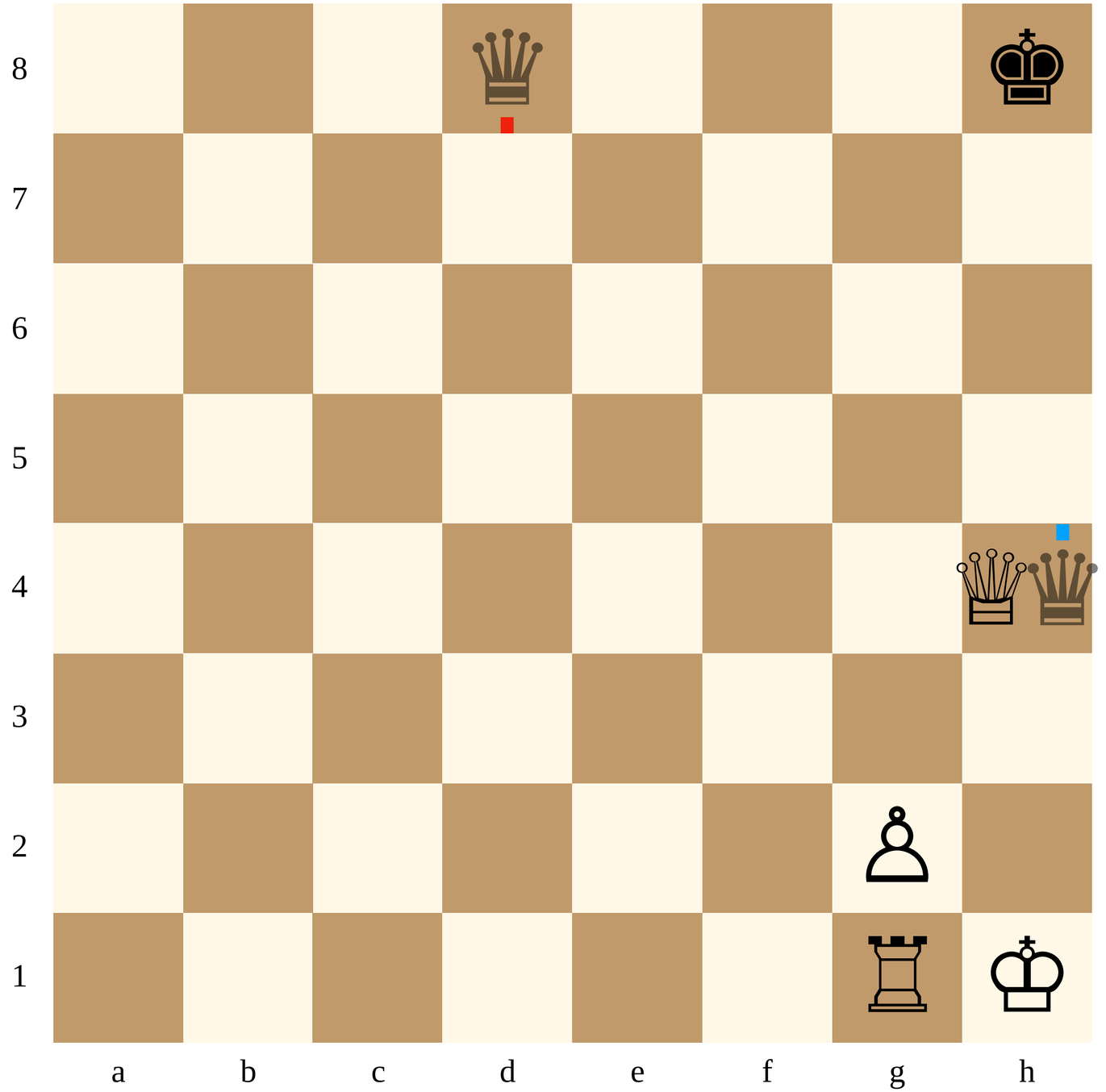
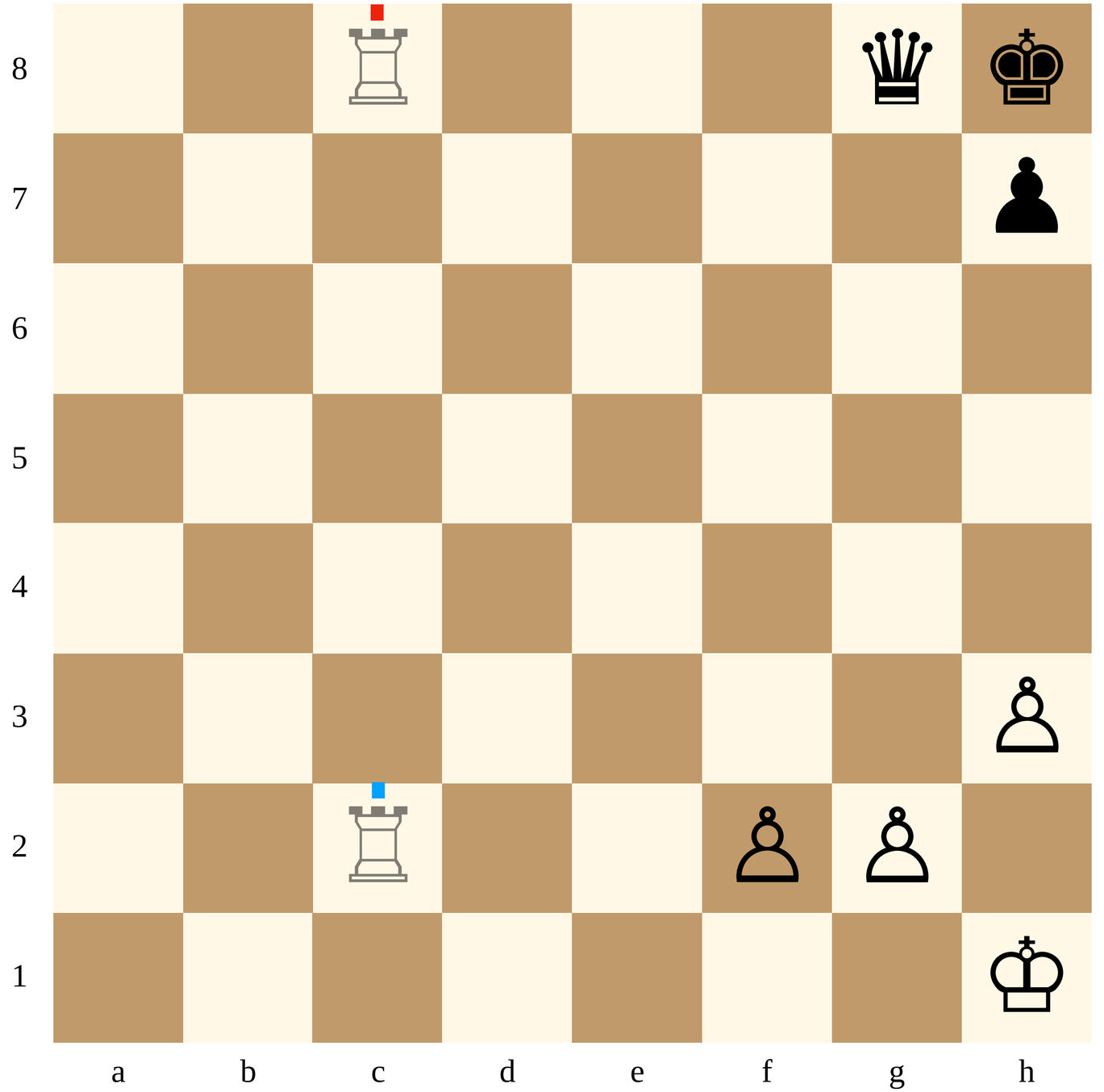
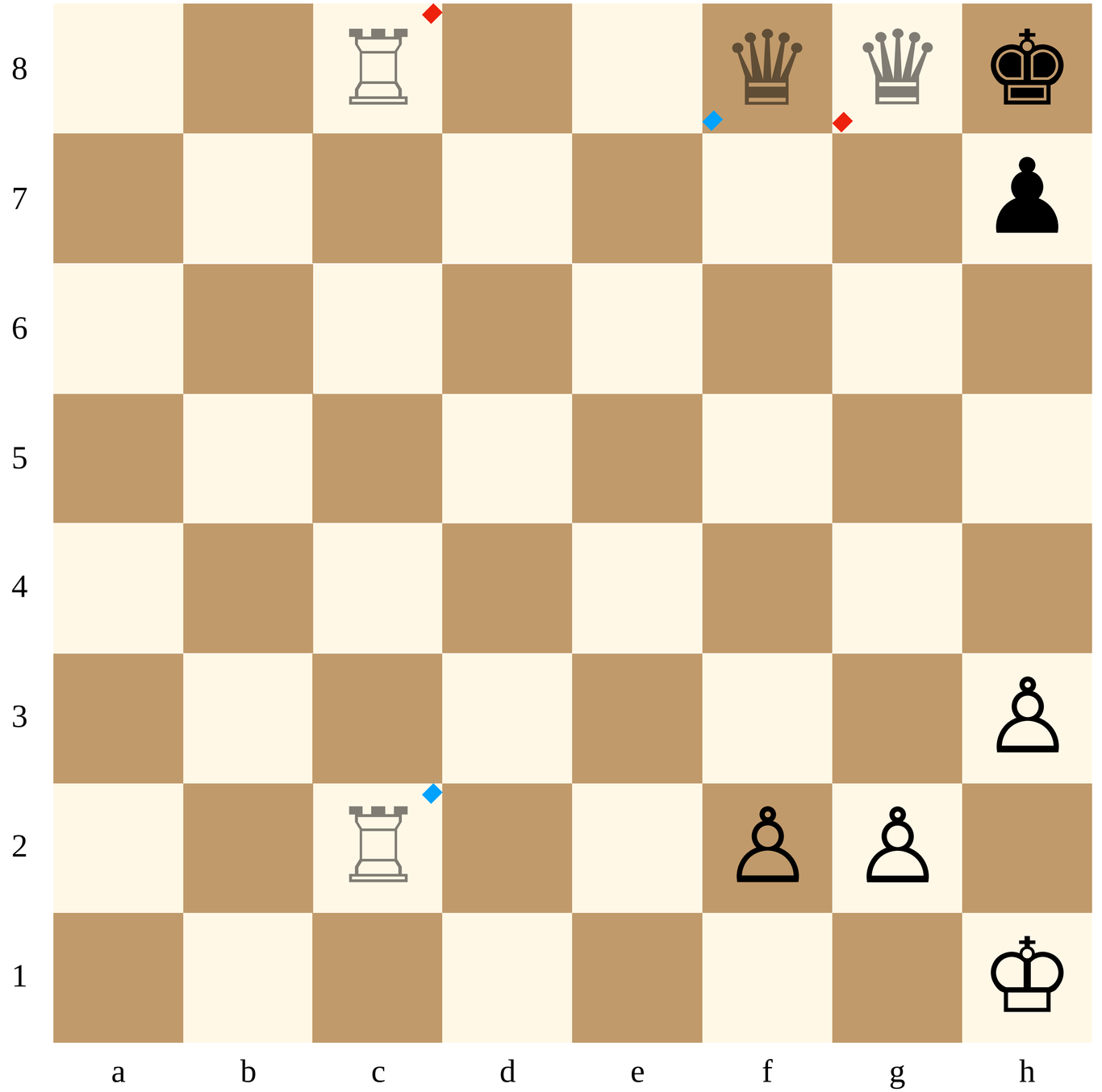


Black’s queen has a 66.7% chance of collapsing to d8, by which Black would win the game.

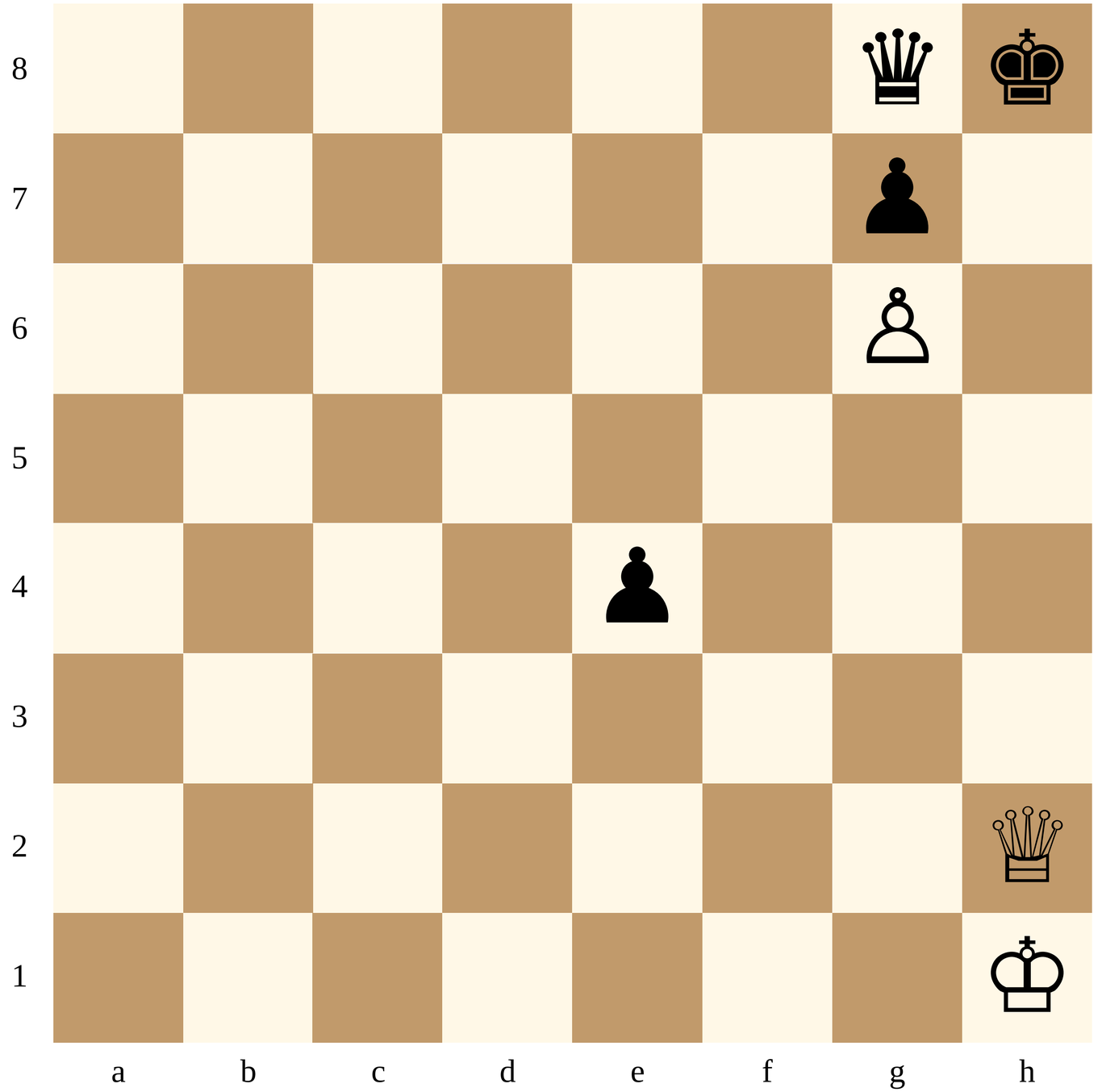
Defense



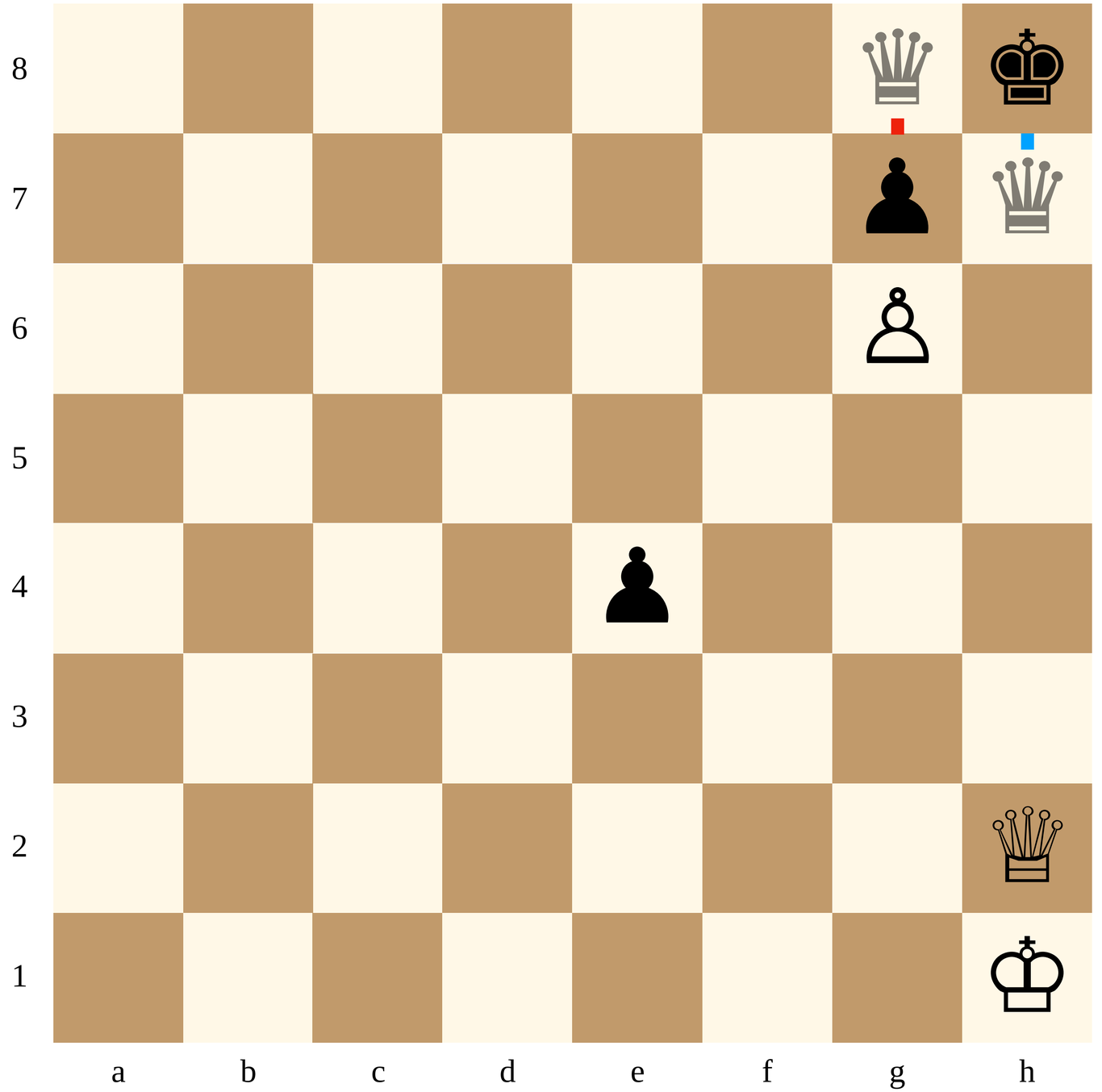
Black to get the queen out of danger.



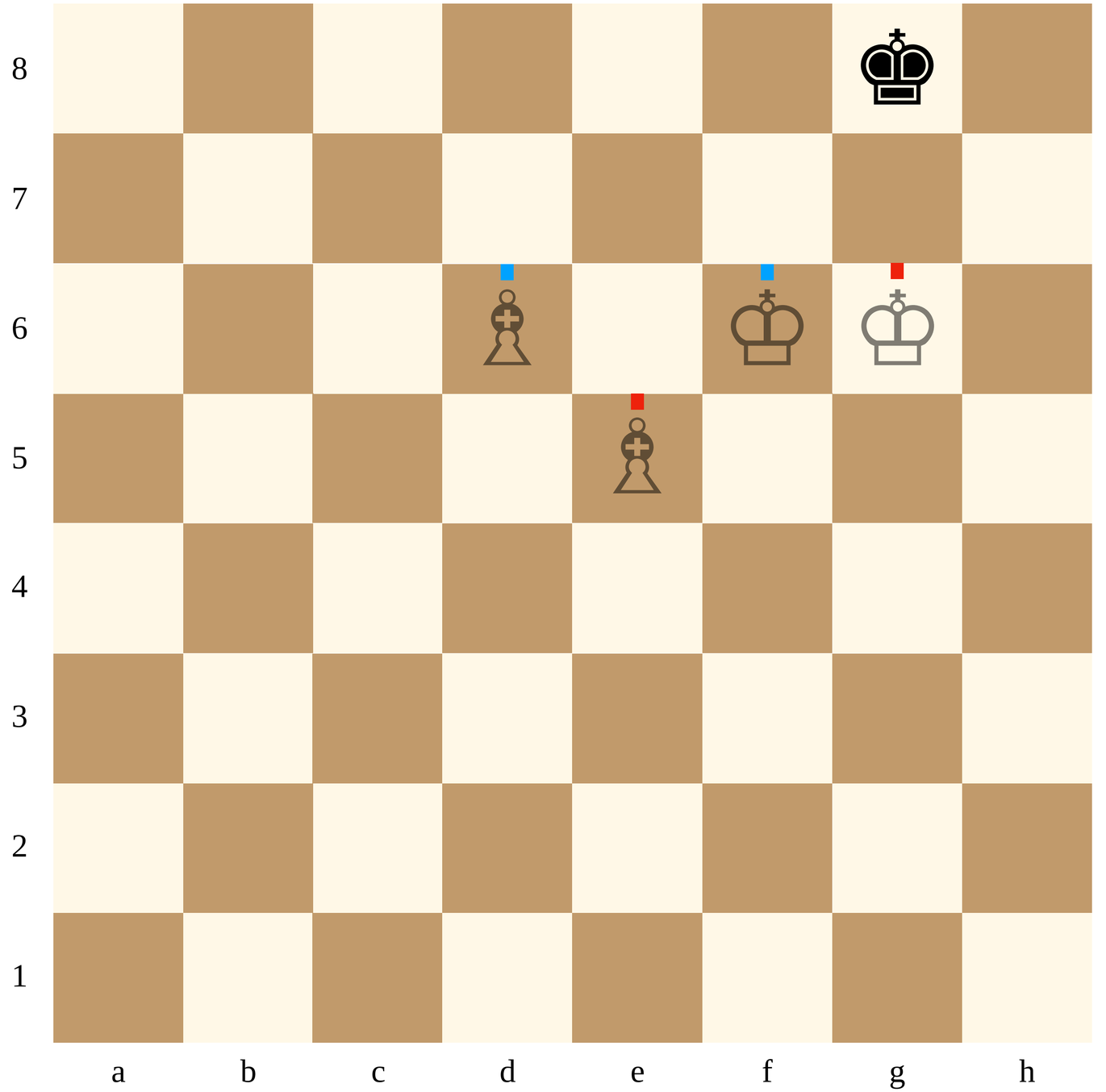
The queen is safe now.



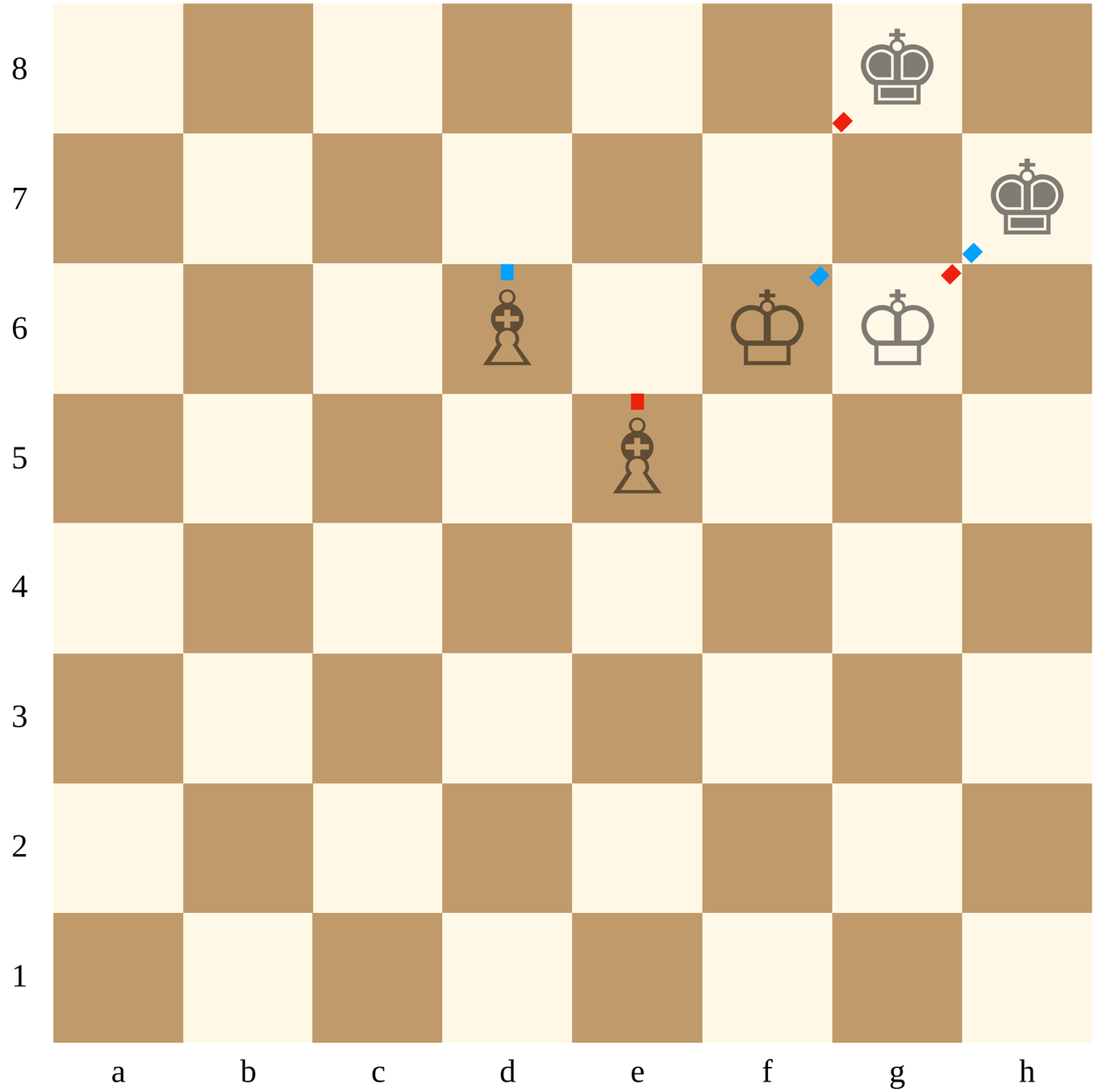
Black to reduce chances of being checkmated on next move.



33.3% chance of checkmate on next move.

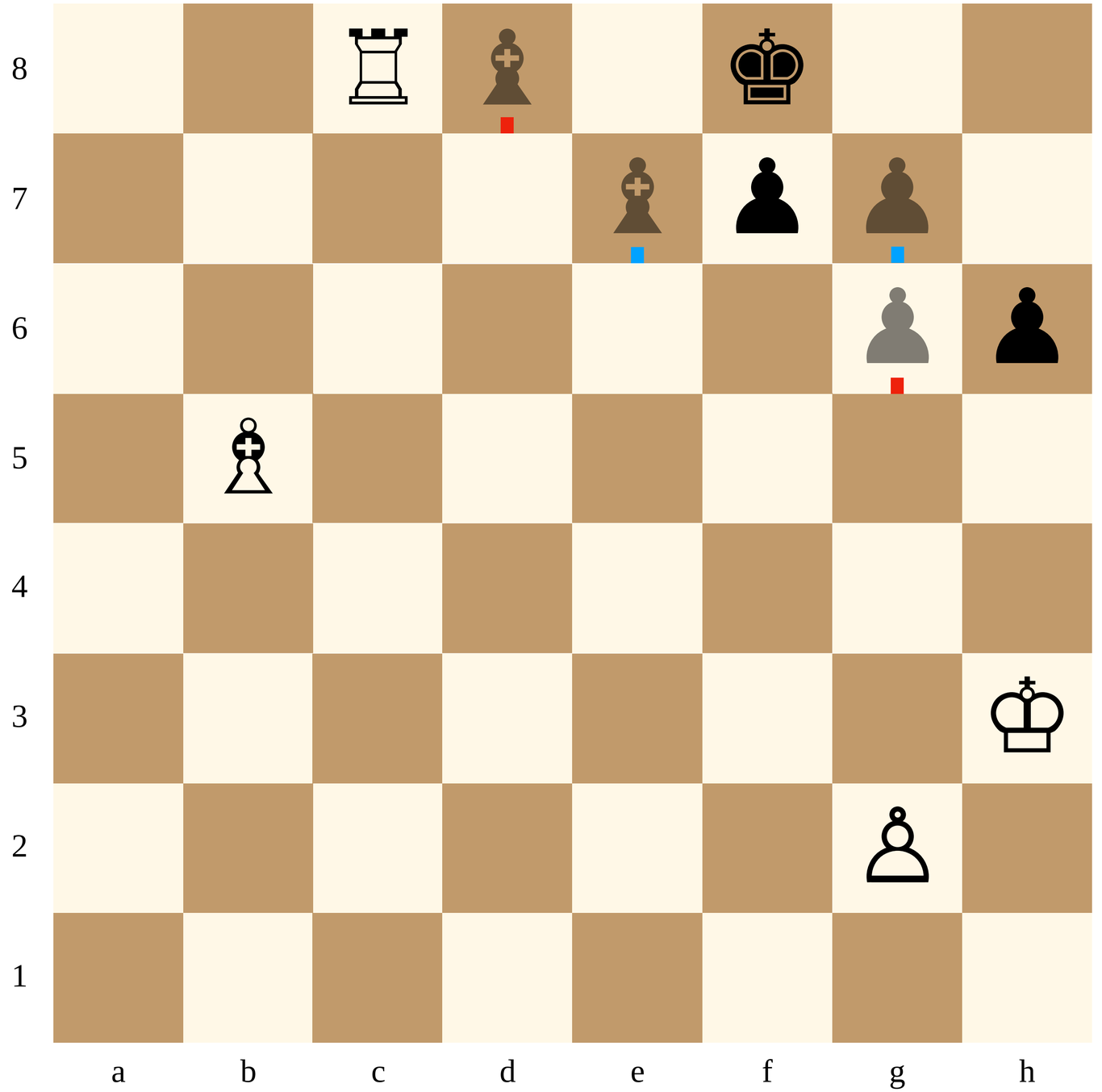


Black to avoid checkmate in next move.

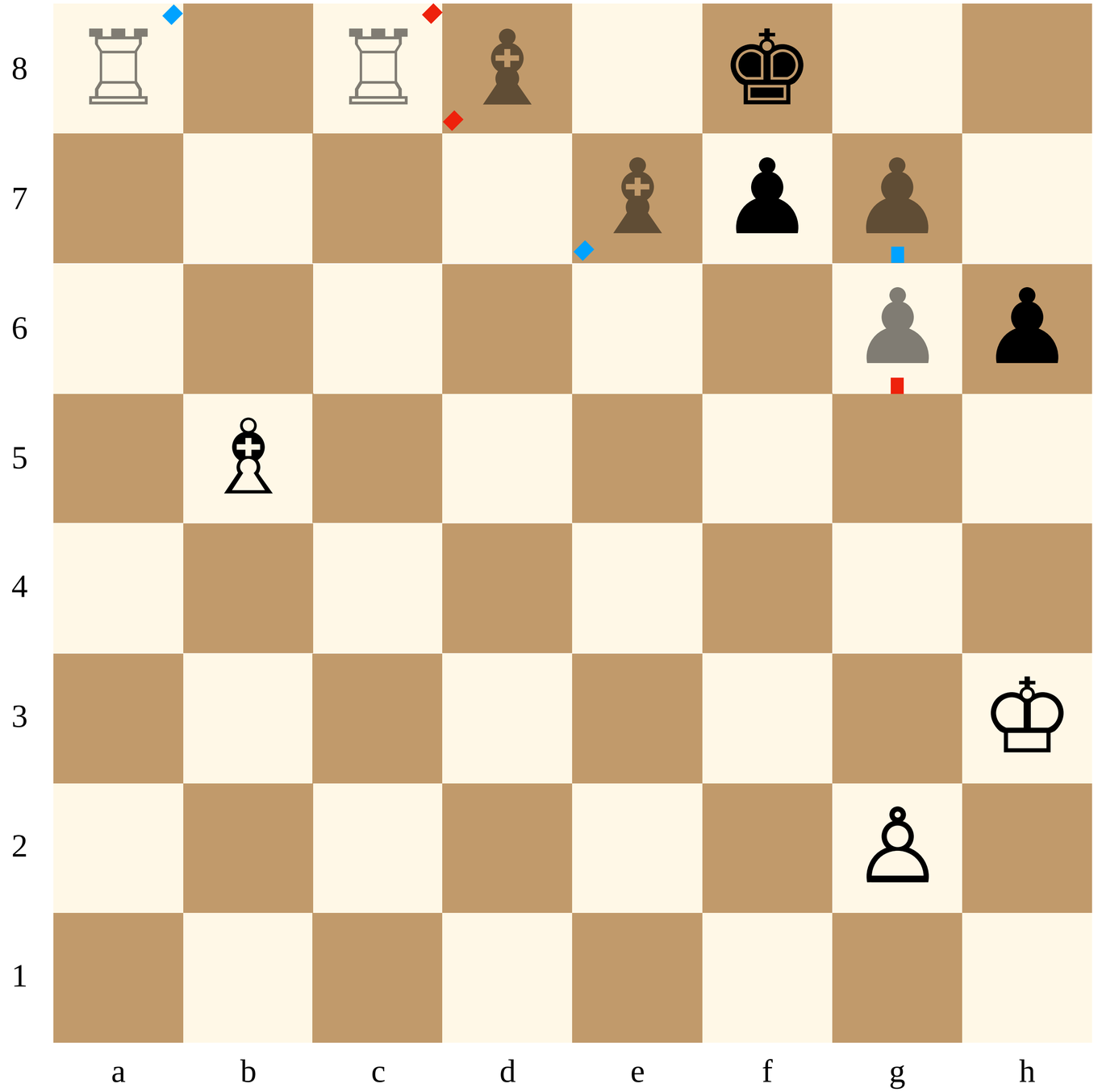


This is OK. It’s a “zero-risk attack.”

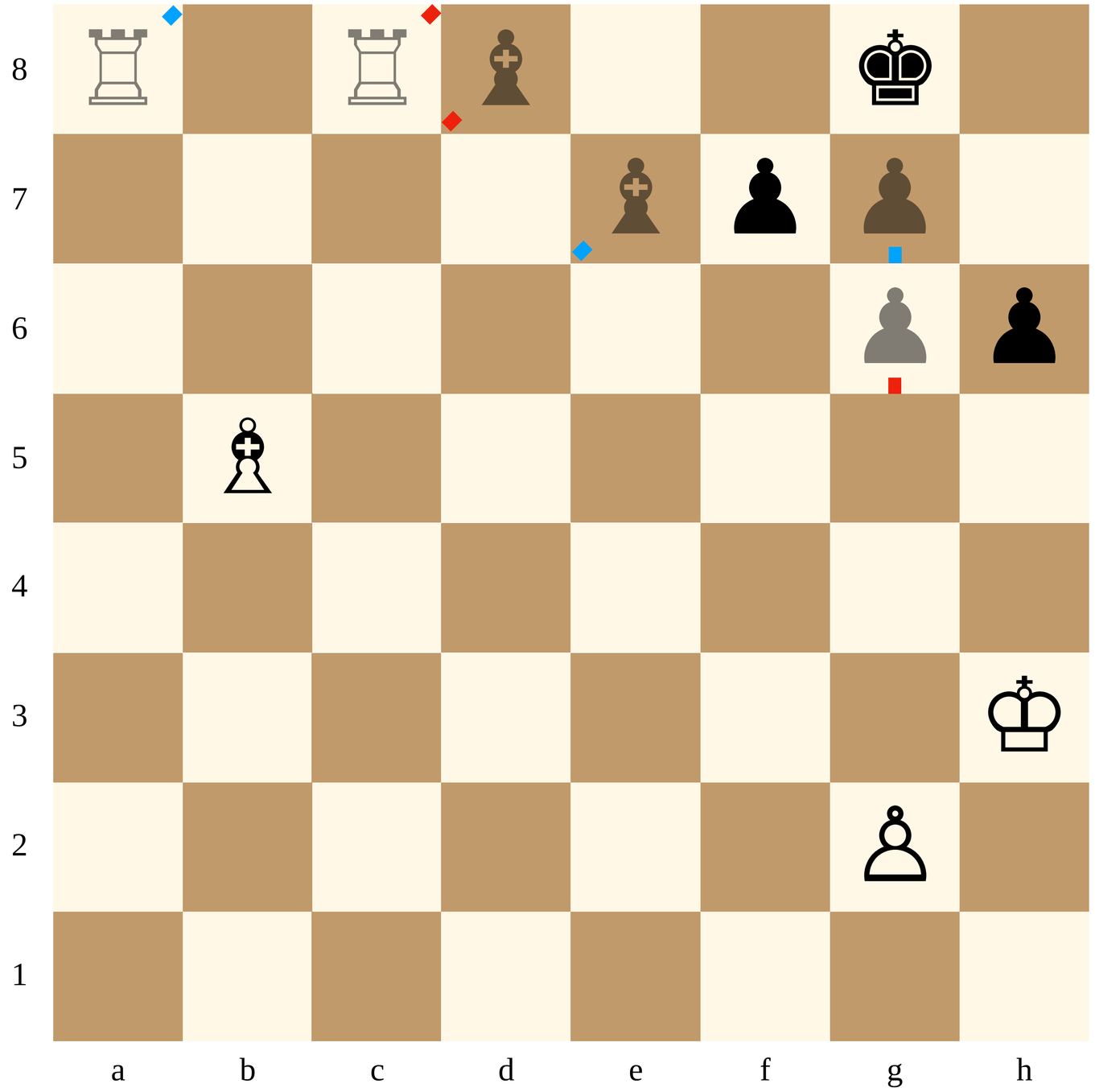
Attack



Rook to d8 is risky, as the bishop may then collapse to e7 and White would lose its rook.



Entanglement makes White’s prospects look better.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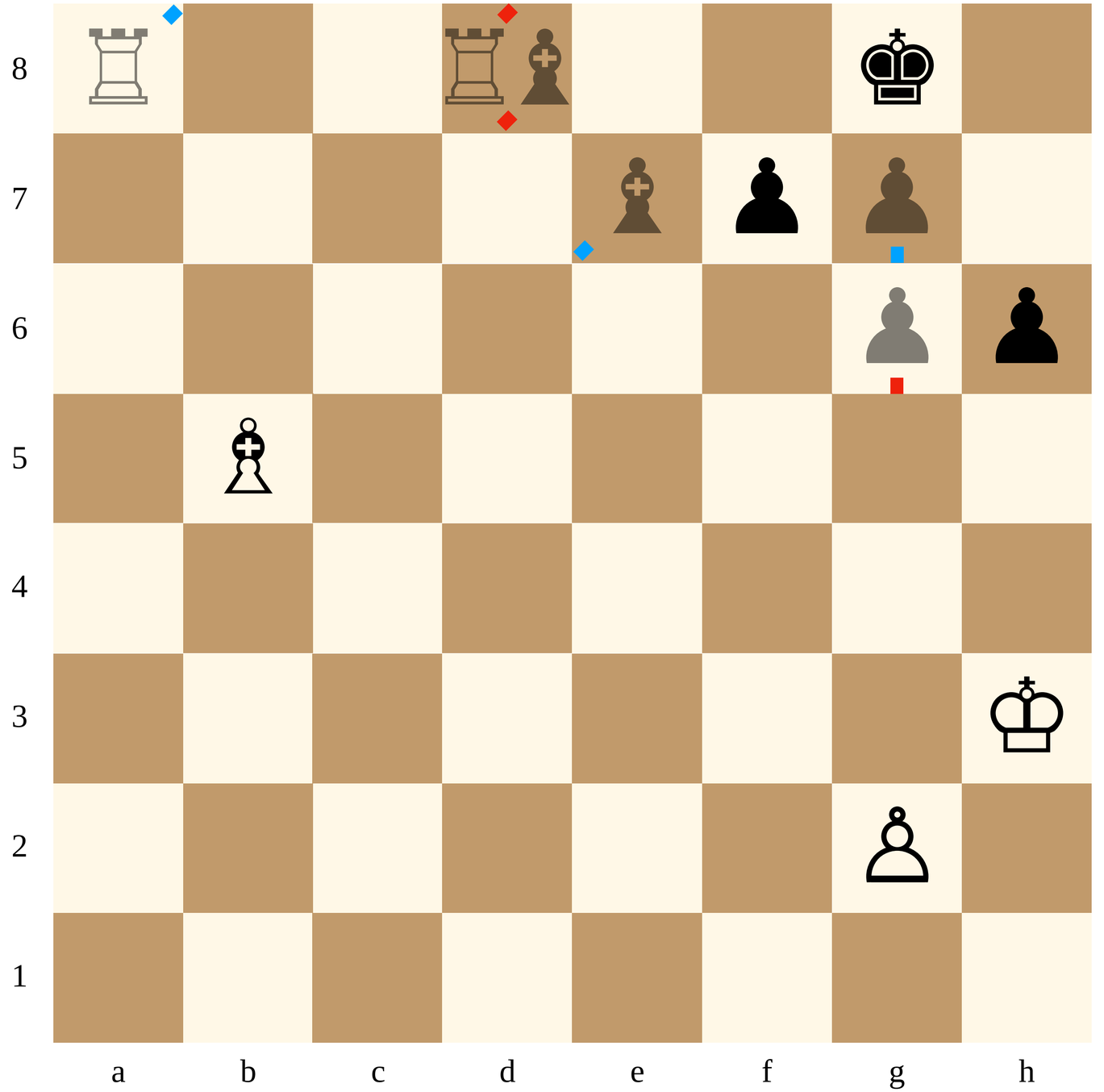
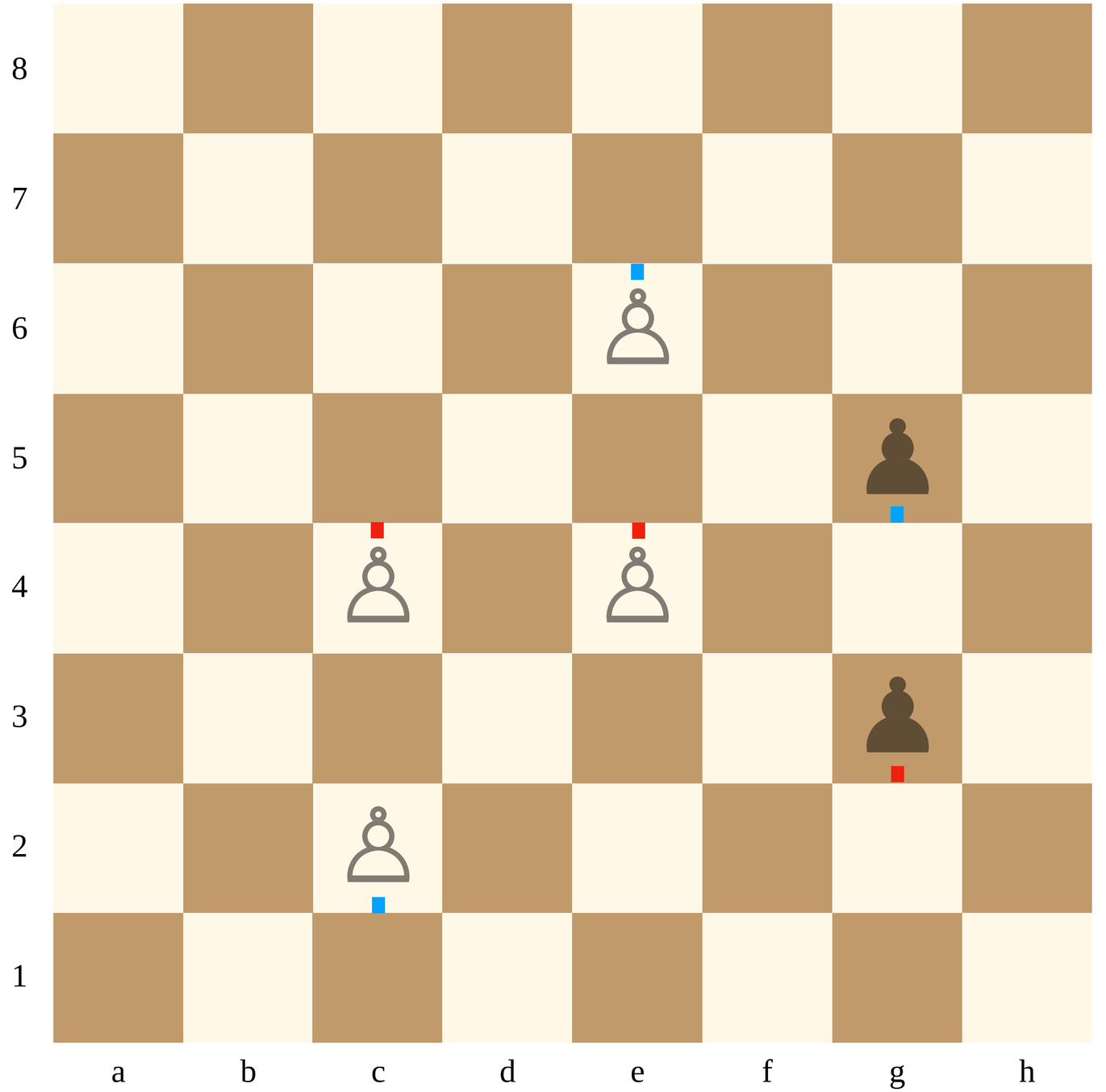
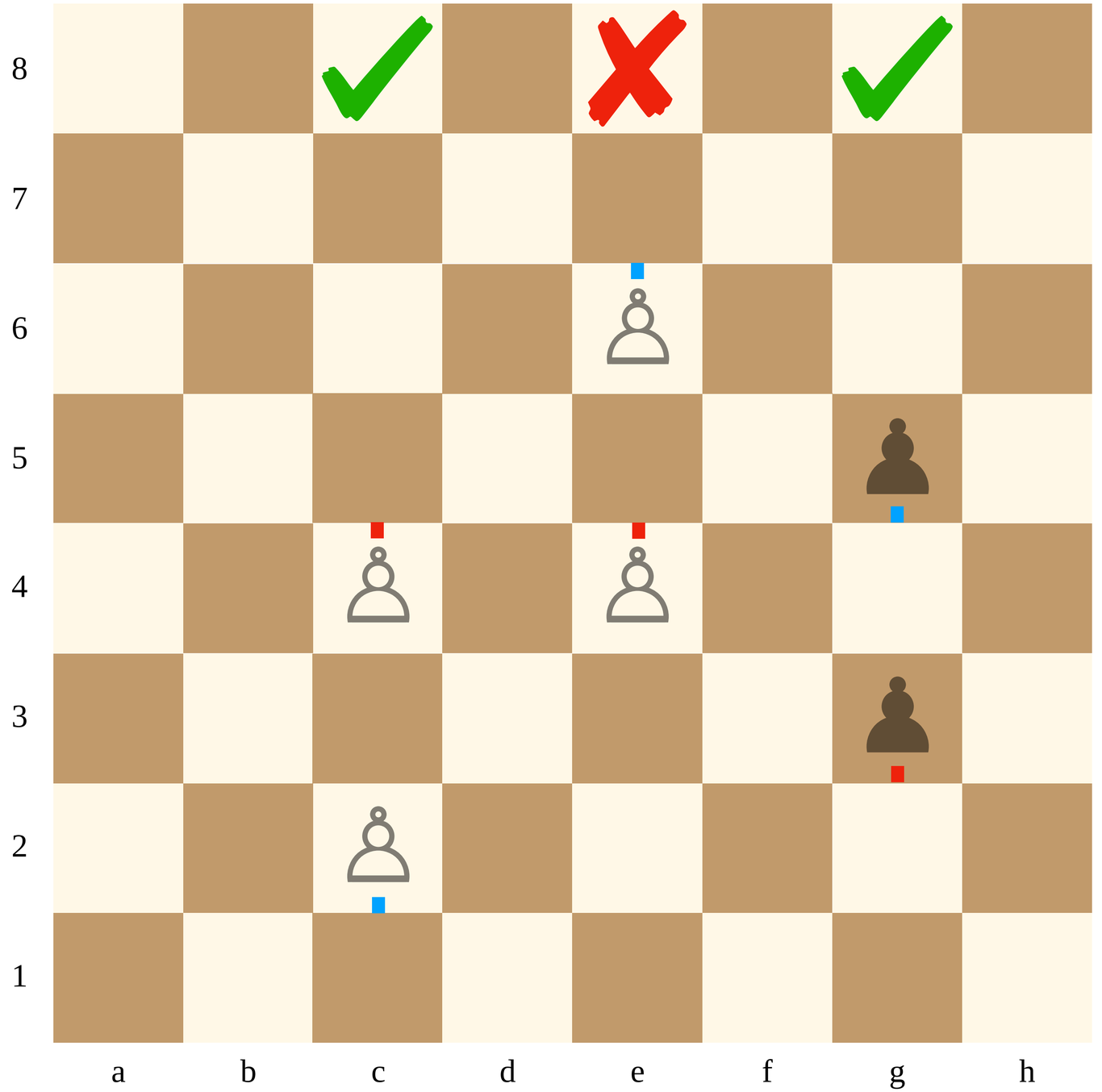


White has a 50% chance of capturing the bishop (red-red), and a 0% chance of losing its rook (blue-blue).

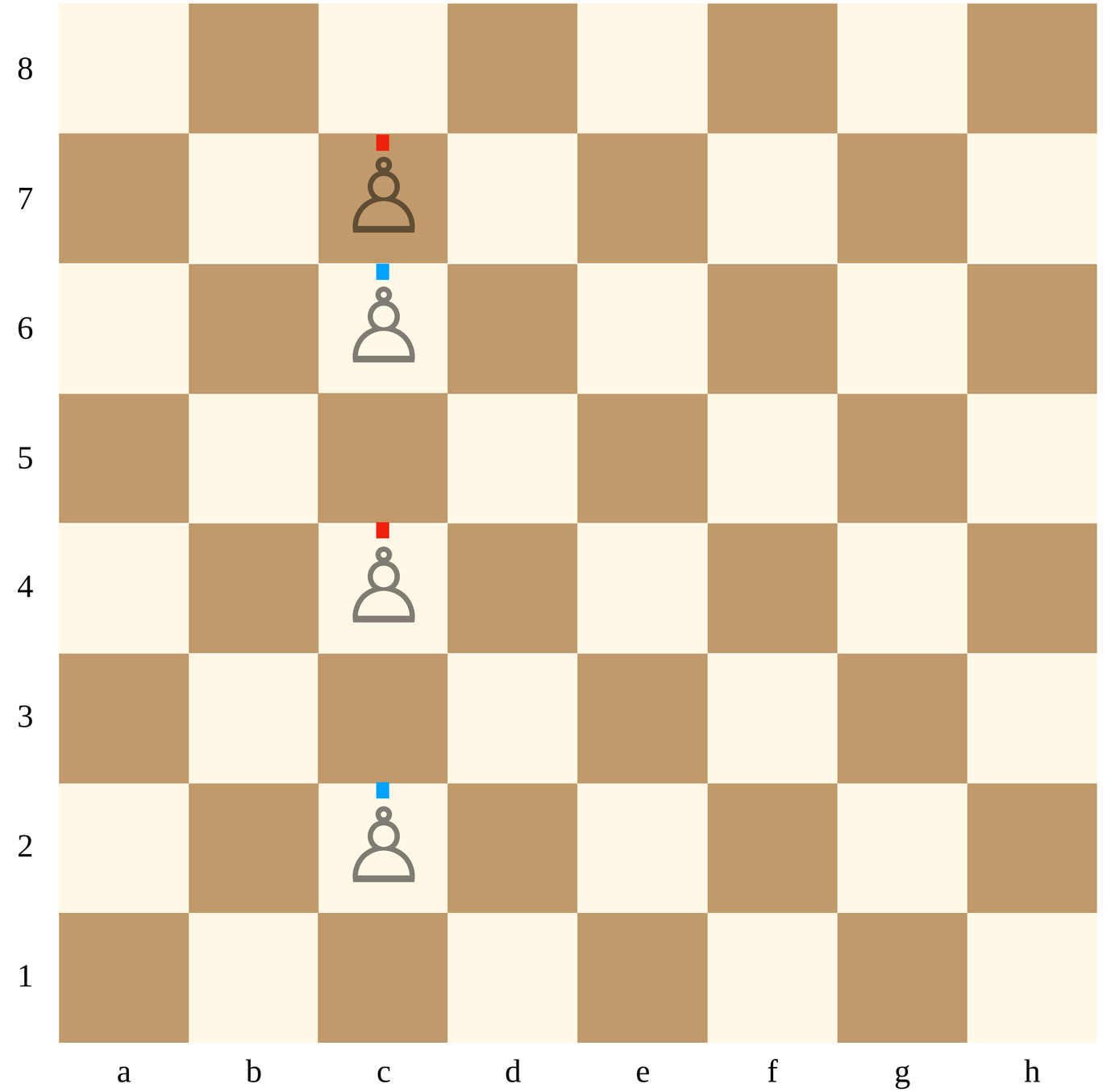
Miscellaneous



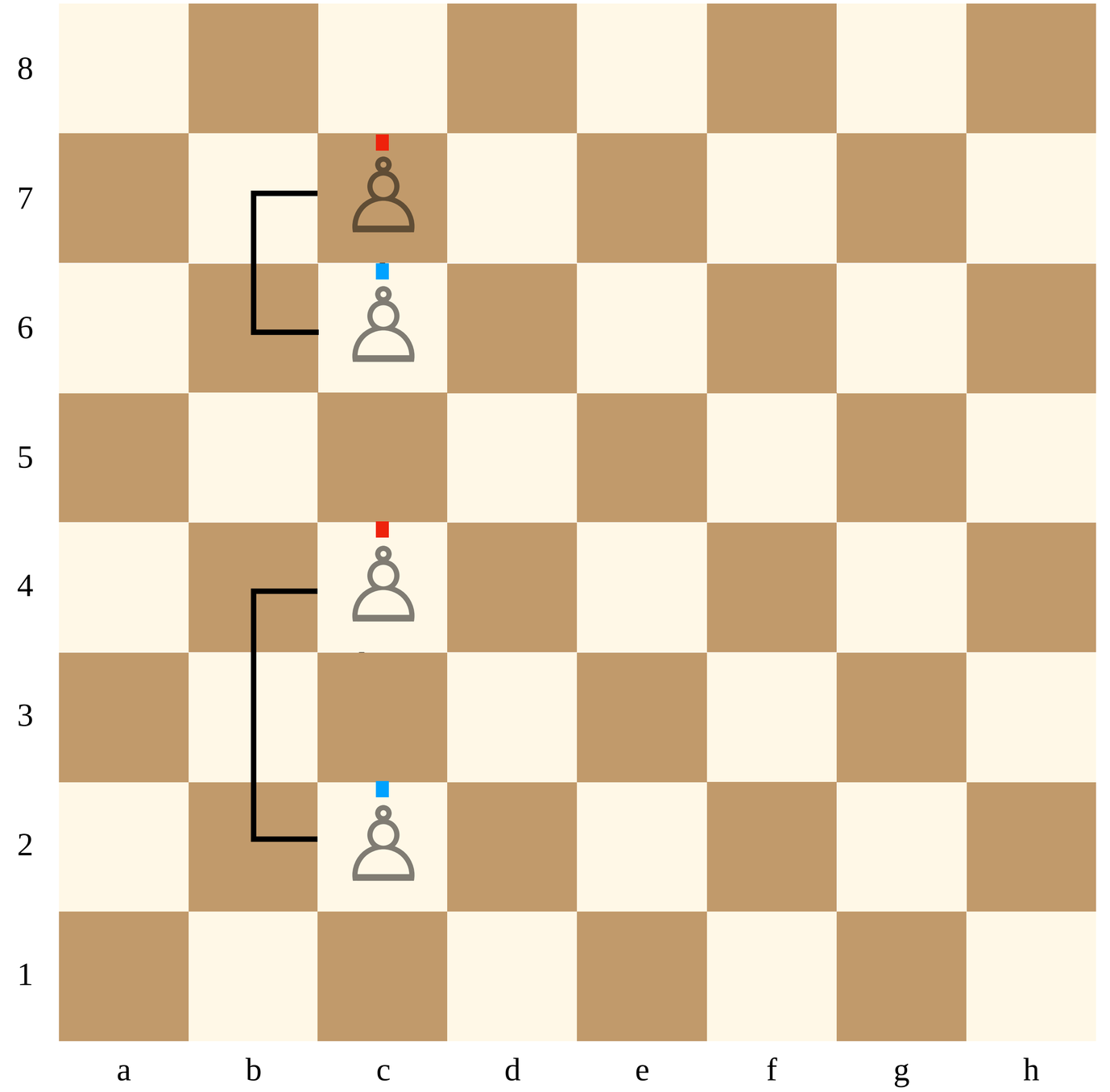
Which pair(s) must have been the result of an illegal move?



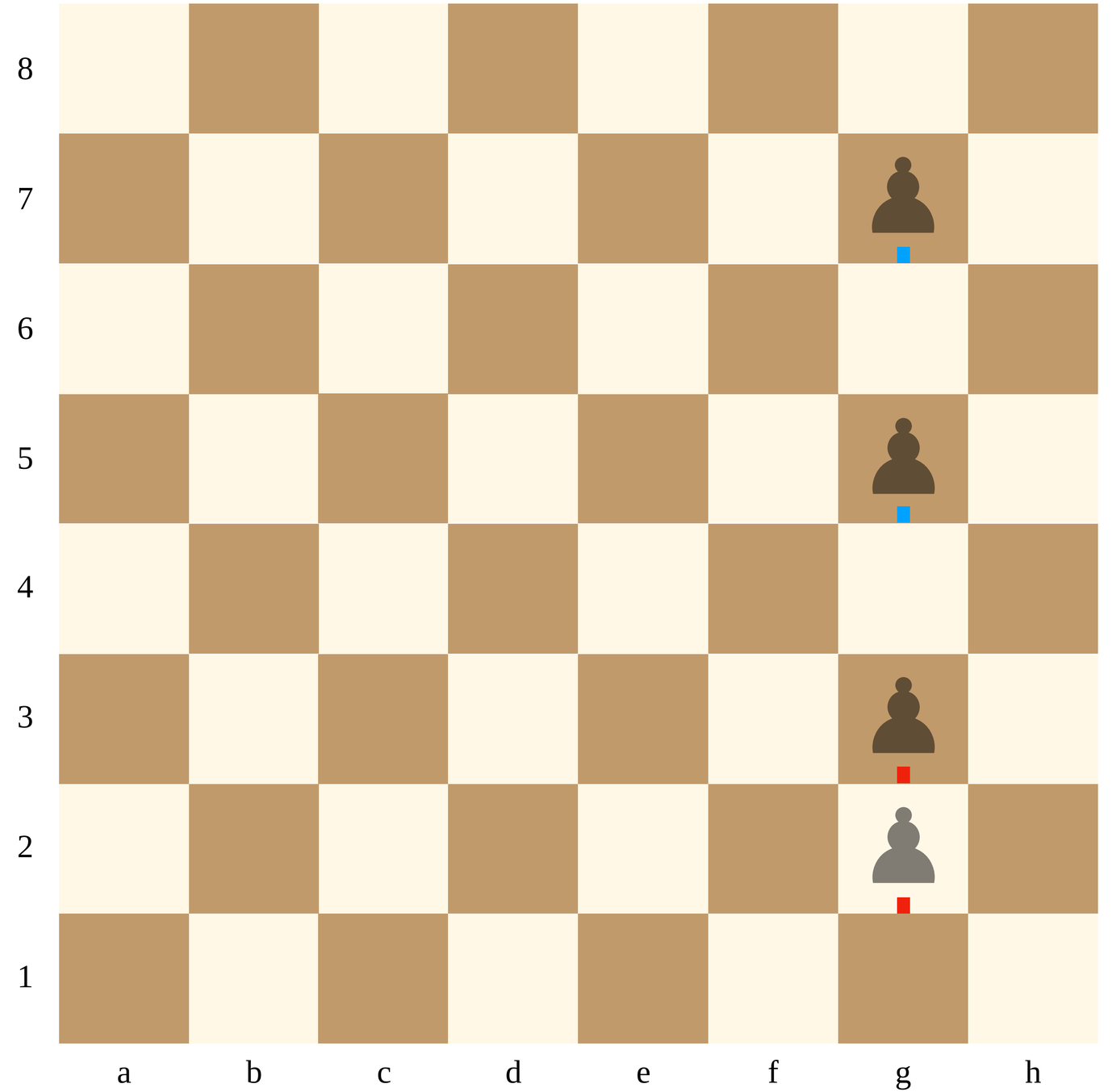
The red-marked piece must always be in front!



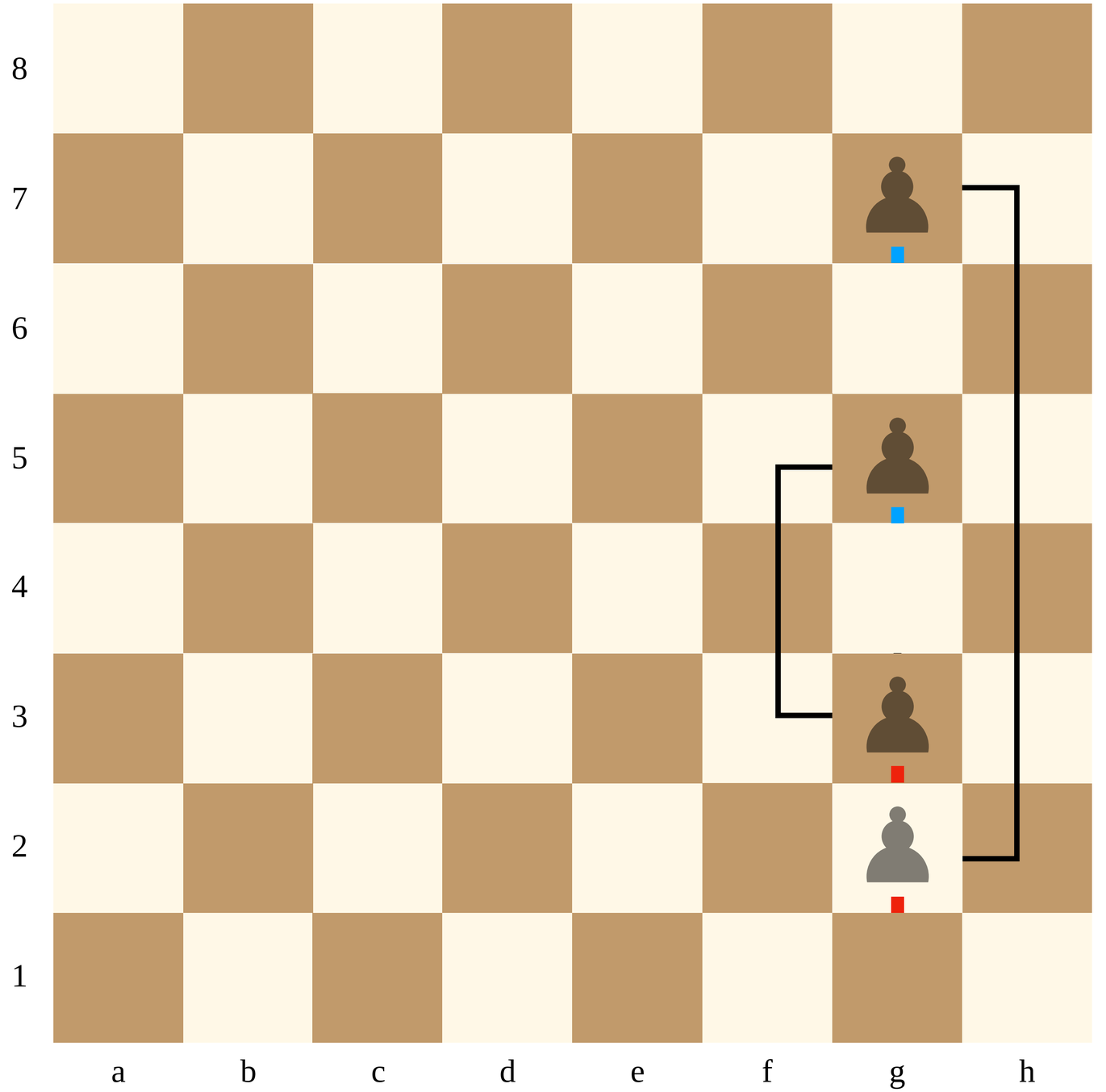
Pair up the pawns!



The nearest red- and blue-marked pawns in the same file belong together (red is in front). So c7-c6 is one pair, and c4-c2 is a pair too.



Pair up the pawns!



The nearest red- and blue-marked pawns in the same file belong together. So g3-g5 is one pair. Then ignore these, and you'll see g2-g7 must be a pair too.