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[GNU](#) ^[4]

GNU Chess,

an [open source chess program](#) from the [Free Software Foundation](#).

GNU Chess was initially written by [Stuart Cracraft](#) in the mid 80s, joined by [John Stanback](#) who contributed his [own code](#) to GNU Chess 2 and 3 which was laboriously and meticulously well-written ^[1]. Dozens of developers have enhanced GNU Chess over the times. Version 5 was a complete rewrite by [Chua Kong Sian](#), incorporating his chess program [Cobalt](#) and Cracraft's [Gazebo](#) ^[2]. [Fabien Letouzey](#) is the primary author of GNU Chess 6, based on [Fruit 2.1](#) ^[3].

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Fidelity Match

In 1990, GNU Chess 1.55 with [Hans Eric Sandström's](#) fast [move generator](#) defeats [Fidelity](#) in a 10 game match [\[5\]](#) [\[6\]](#).

A 10 game match was conducted between GNU Chess 1.55 running on a [Sun SPARCstation-1](#) and the strong commercial chess machine Fidelity Mach 3. Fidelity Mach 3 is officially rated USCF 2265 (2200 is master). Most observers acknowledge it is a true master. The match result was 7-3 in GNU's favor. After various corrections, we arrive at a putative rating of around 2330 (strong master) for GNU Chess 1.55 on this machine. This result was most unexpected since prior versions of GNU Chess had scored no more than 3 points out of 10 against the Mach 3. The big leap appears to come from: (1) the inclusion of Hans Eric Sandstrom's fast move generator and (2) the Sparcstation-1, which is (apparently) particularly suited to speedy chess processing. Minor modifications to the book, draw factor, and thinking on opponent's time have also helped. Please remember this rating is based on a short match result. Certain moves GNU Chess plays are clearly non-master in quality. Computer masters generally achieve their strength through accuracy of [tactics](#), not subtle positional moves.

Authors

Primary

- [Stuart Cracraft](#), Versions 1, 2, 5
- [John Stanback](#), Versions 2, 3, 4
- [Chua Kong Sian](#), Version 5
- [Fabien Letouzey](#), Version 6

Contributors

- [Jim Aspnes](#) » [ACM 1987](#)
- [Antonio Ceballos](#)
- [Lukas Geyer](#)
- [Hans Eric Sandström](#)
- [Jay Scott](#) » [ACM 1987](#)
- [Michel Van den Bergh](#)
- [Simon Waters](#)

See also

- [Chess Engine Communication Protocol](#)
- [Cobalt](#)
- [Free Software Foundation](#)
- [Gazebo](#)
- [GNOME Chess](#)
- [NeuroChess](#)
- [SCP](#)
- [Table-driven Move Generation](#)
- [WinBoard](#)
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- Tomohiko Mitsuta, [Lothar M. Schmitt](#) (2010). [Optimizing the Performance of GNU-chess with a Genetic Algorithm](#). [HC 2010](#), pdf » [Genetic Algorithms](#)

Forum Posts

1989

- [Changes to gnuchess1.52](#) by [Tom Vijlbrief](#), [gnu.chess](#), December 8, 1989

1990 ...

- [GNU Chess 1.55 ready](#) by [Stuart Cracraft](#), [gnu.chess](#), January 2, 1990
- [GNU Chess 1.55 vs. Fidelity Mach 3](#) by [Stuart Cracraft](#), [gnu.chess](#), January 3, 1990
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- [Help needed -- can't compile xchess](#) by [Heinz Herbeck](#), [gnu.chess](#), March 17, 1992
- [Post information from Gnuchess 4.0](#) by [Chua Kong Sian](#), [gnu.chess](#), June 12, 1992
- [GNU Chess wins London computer chess tourney](#) by [Stuart Cracraft](#), [gnu.chess](#), August 17, 1992 » [UPCCC 1992](#)
- [Gnuchess 4.0 for DOS](#) by [Chua Kong Sian](#), [gnu.chess](#), January 29, 1993
- [Re: Gnu Chess for the Mac](#) by [Urban Koistinen](#), [gnu.chess](#), April 16, 1993 » [Macintosh](#)
- [QMW computer chess](#) by [Don Beal](#), [rec.games.chess](#), August 19, 1993 » [UPCCC 1993](#)
- [gnu.chess FAQ](#) by [Tim Mann](#), [rgcc](#), January 4, 1994
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- [Search extensions on recaptures](#) by [Chua Kong Sian](#), [gnu.chess](#), March 22, 1994
- [Bug fixes for PawnValue\(\)](#) by [Chua Kong Sian](#), [gnu.chess](#), March 24, 1994
- [Speed up Gnuchess](#) by [Vincent Diepeveen](#), [gnu.chess](#), April 18, 1994
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- [Patches for eval.c](#) by [Chua Kong Sian](#), [gnu.chess](#), May 28, 1994
- [Pawn ram code in gnuchess](#) by [Chua Kong Sian](#), [gnu.chess](#), June 18, 1994

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- [Re: request...](#) by [Stuart Cracraft](#), [gnu.chess](#), June 16, 1995
- [Re: The KISS Chess Program Project - Overview - ABSEARCH.TXT \(0/1\)](#) by [Tom Kerrigan](#), [rgcc](#), August 12, 1997
- [GNU move generation](#) by [Jan Willem de Kort](#), [rgcc](#), March 18, 1998 » [Move Generation](#)
- [Sever Clutter with Clones of GnuChess/Crafty](#) by [Stuart Cracraft](#), [CCC](#), January 27, 1999
- [GNU Chess 5](#) by [Stuart Cracraft](#), [gnu.chess](#), October 10, 1999

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- [GNUChess 5.0.. or later... if there is later...](#) by [Peter Skinner](#), [CCC](#), January 03, 2001
- [The marvelous showing of GnuChess at CCT3](#) by [Dann Corbit](#), [CCC](#), May 28, 2001 » [CCT3](#)
- [Wb2UCI and Problems with ExChess4.03a and GnuChess4.0.8](#) by [Arturo Ochoa](#), [Winboard Forum](#), July 24, 2003 » [Wb2UCI](#), [InBetween](#)
- [First draw against GnuChess](#) by [Sven Reichard](#), [CCC](#), November 26, 2003
- [Who started GNUChess?](#) by [Jamie Stegner](#), [CCC](#), March 26, 2004
- [Controversy about who's 1st author of Gnuchess.....John? or Stuart?](#) by [Jamie Stegner](#), [CCC](#), March 29, 2004

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- [Re: gnuchess/xboard protocol](#) by [Hans Eric Sandström](#), [gnu.org](#), May 19, 2006
- [GNU 5.07](#) by [Fernando Villegas](#), [CCC](#), July 17, 2007
- [Did someone mention the GNUChess move Generator?](#) by [Michael Sherwin](#), [CCC](#), November 12, 2007 » [Move Generation](#)
- [PSP GNU CHESS: Chess game for PSP v1.0.3](#) by zx-81 in Chess-Game, November 17, 2007

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- [GNUChess for Android](#) by [Michel Van den Bergh](#), [CCC](#), December 24, 2010

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- [GNU Chess 6 \(= Fruit\)](#) by [Harm Geert Muller](#), [CCC](#), January 25, 2011 » [Fruit](#)
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- [GNU Chess release 6.0.1](#) by [Antonio Ceballos](#), [info-gnu Archives](#), September 08, 2011
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- [GNU Chess 6.2.3](#) by [Antonio Ceballos](#), [info-gnu Archives](#), September 20, 2016
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External Links

Chess Engine

- [GNU Chess - Free Software Foundation](#)
- [GNU Chess](#) on [Tim Mann's](#) Chess Pages
- [GNU Chess from Wikipedia](#)
- [GNU Chess](#), [MobyGames](#)
- [Classic Computer Chess - ... The programs of yesteryear](#) by [Carey](#), hosted by the [Internet Archive](#)
- [rec.games.chess.computer GNU Chess and XBoard: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [GitHub - heisencoder/gnuchess: Git fork of GNU Chess 5](#)
- [Index of /Toga/gnuchess-release](#) by [Michel Van den Bergh](#)
- [Index of /GnuCheese](#) by [Michel Van den Bergh](#)

Rating

- [GNU Chess 5.50 64-bit](#) in [CCRL 40/40](#)
- [GNU Chess 5.50 64-bit](#) in [CCRL 40/4 FRC](#)

News Group

- [gnu.chess](#) (early years have less spam)

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6. [^ GNU Chess 1.55 vs. Fidelity Mach 3](#) by [Stuart Cracraft](#), [gnu.chess](#), January 3, 1990
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