



Pin in chess

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Chapter 1

Pin in chess

The [term](#) pin in chess is used to define a constraint that a piece can not move. If the piece moves, it will lead to loss of [piece](#) or [check](#) or at a weaker [board](#) position.

1.1 Piece that is pinning

A piece that makes a [move](#) that will force a pin on opponents piece is called pinning piece. For example, the [bishop](#) at [d5 square](#) will move to c6. This forces the [queen](#) to stay at its present square of d7, since moving the queen will lead to [check](#) on the king by bishop. This is called [pinning](#).

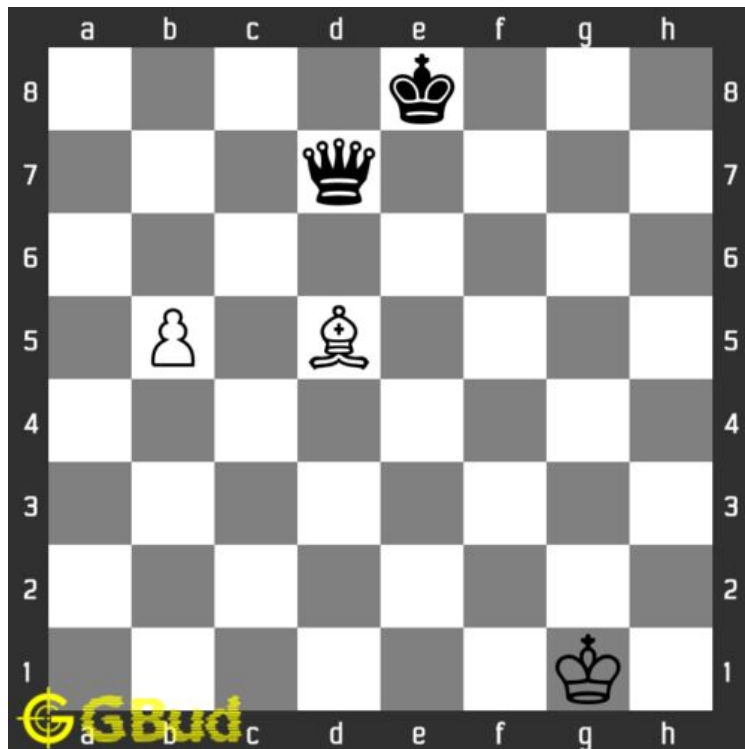


Figure 1.1: Board position before pinning

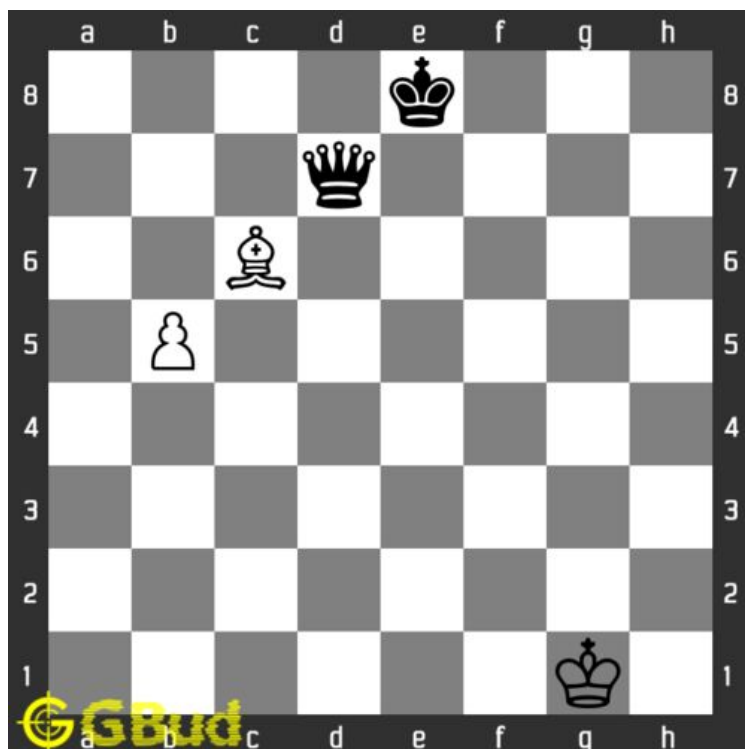


Figure 1.2: Queen is pinned to king by bishop

1.2 Piece that is pinned

In the [example](#) given above the queen is pinned to king and it is the pinned piece.

1.3 Types of Pin

There different type of pins are available. Those are

1. [Absolute Pin](#)
2. [Relative Pin](#)
3. [Partial Pin](#)
4. [Situational Pin](#)

1.4 Absolute Pin

Absolute pin is the case where the piece blocked is [king](#). Since a piece cannot move if the move exposes king to a check, it is pinned at the present position and it is called absolute pin. See the example of [absolute pin](#).

1.4.1 Partial Pin

Partial pin is a sub category of absolute pin where the pinned pice can move in the same file, same rank or one of the diagonals.

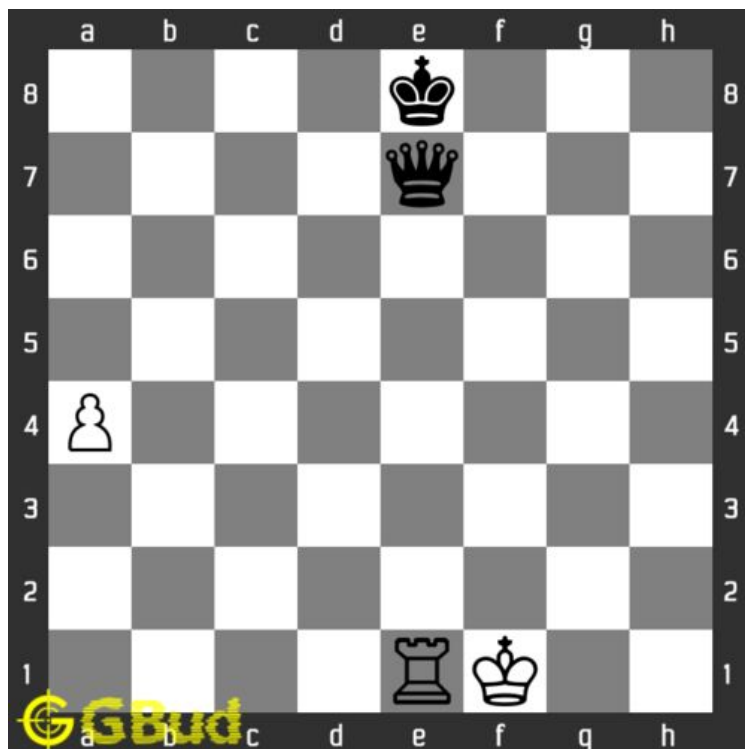


Figure 1.3: Black queen pinned to e file

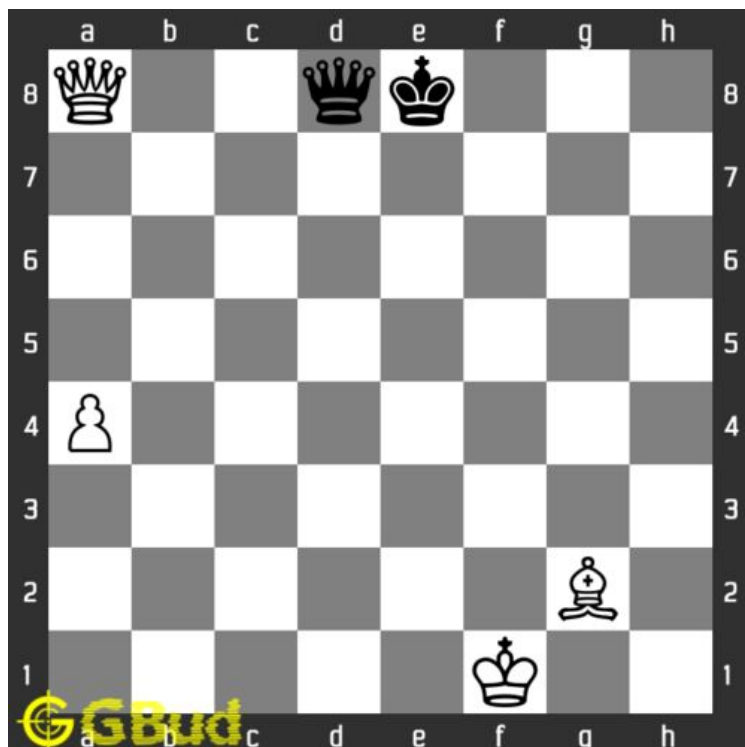


Figure 1.4: Black queen pinned to eighth rank

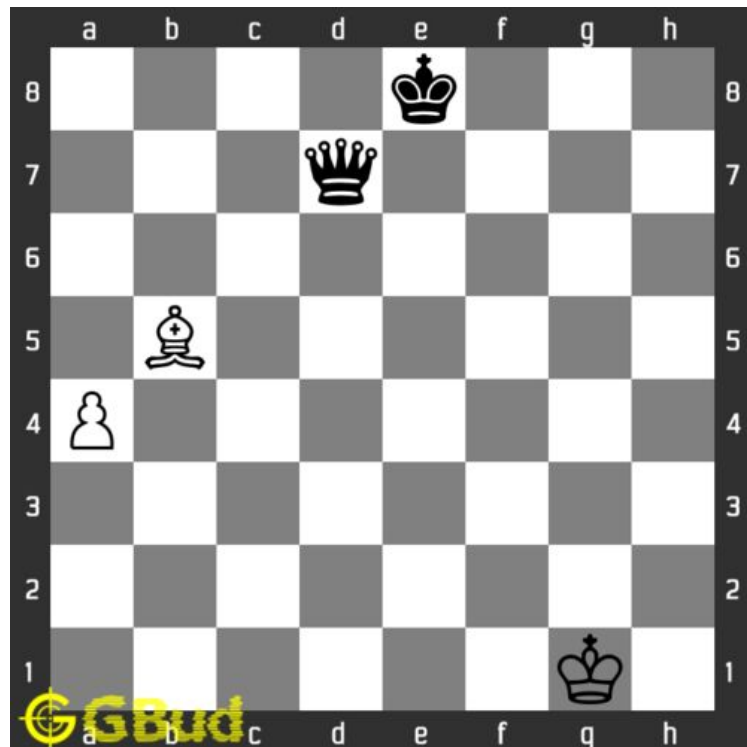


Figure 1.5: Black queen pinned to light square diagonal to her right

The queen in [figure](#), can not move in outside of e [file](#) since it is [pinned](#) to king. However, it can move along the e file. This is how the queen is pinned at e file.

The queen can not move in outside of eighth [rank](#) in [figure](#), since it is [pinned](#) to king. However, it can move along the eighth rank. This is how the queen is pinned at eighth rank.

The queen can move only in the white squares diagonally to her right in the [example](#) since moving outside this square range will expose its king to check. This is how queen is pinned diagonally.

1.5 Relative pin

Relative pin does not put any constraint on the [pinned piece](#). However, if the pinned piece is moved, it will lead to a loss of high value piece.

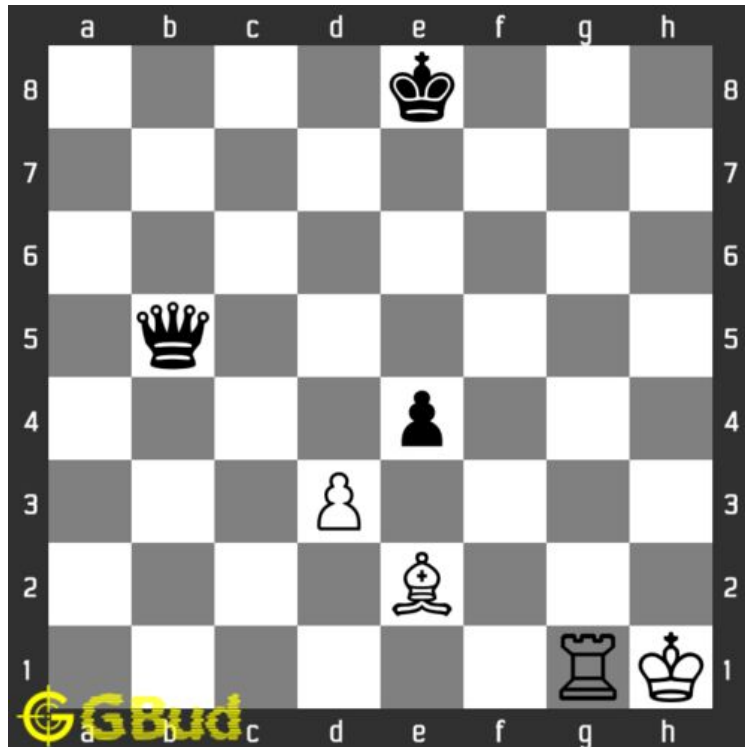


Figure 1.6: Relative pin

In the [example](#) given above, the [white pawn](#) at [d3](#) can capture the [black pawn](#) at [e4](#). However, this move exposes the white [bishop](#) to black queen. Since the white bishop is not supported, the black queen can capture the white bishop without any loss. Hence the pawn at [d3](#) is relatively pinned to the bishop.

1.6 Situational pin

Situational pin is the condition in which the movement if a piece is allowed. However, the movement may lead to a strategically disadvantage.

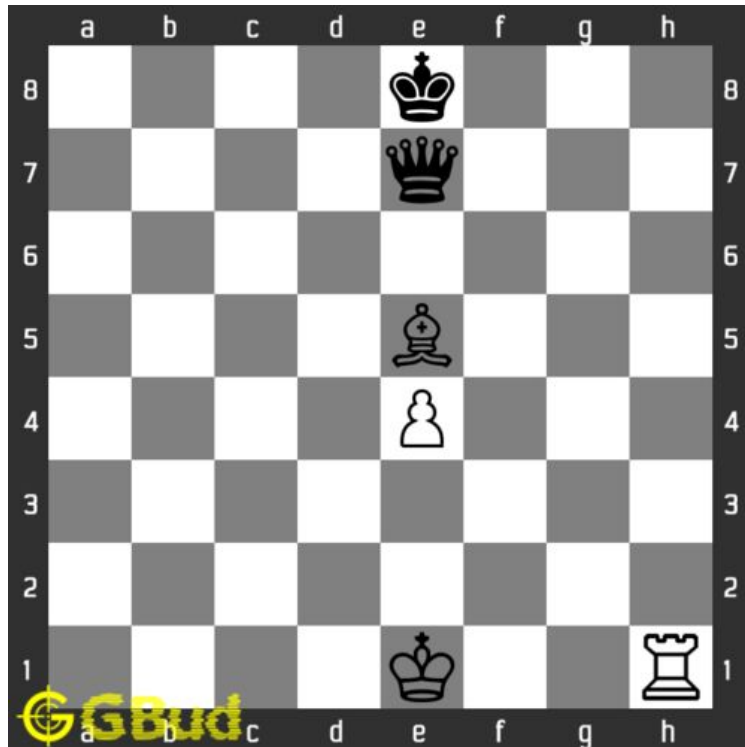


Figure 1.7: Board position before bishop movement

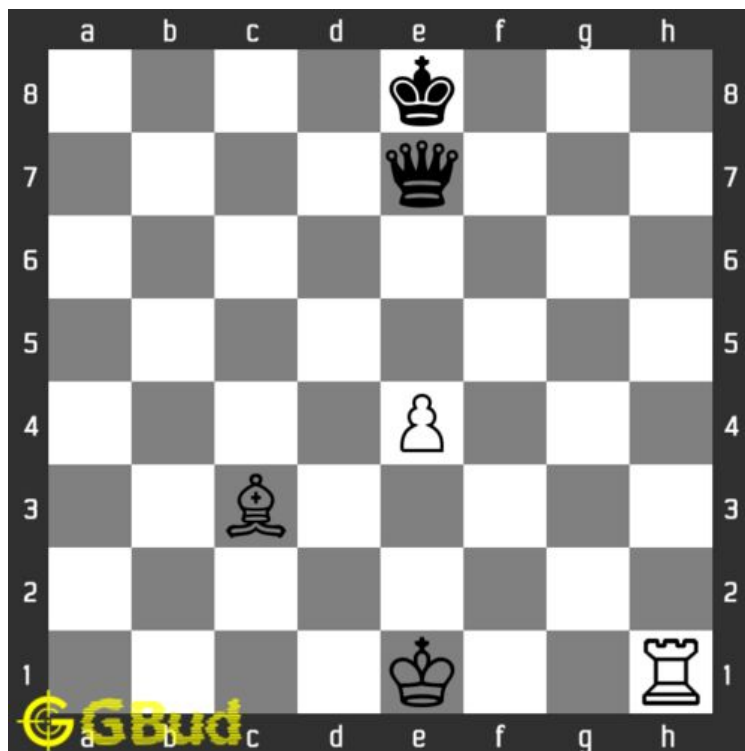


Figure 1.8: Board position after bishop movement

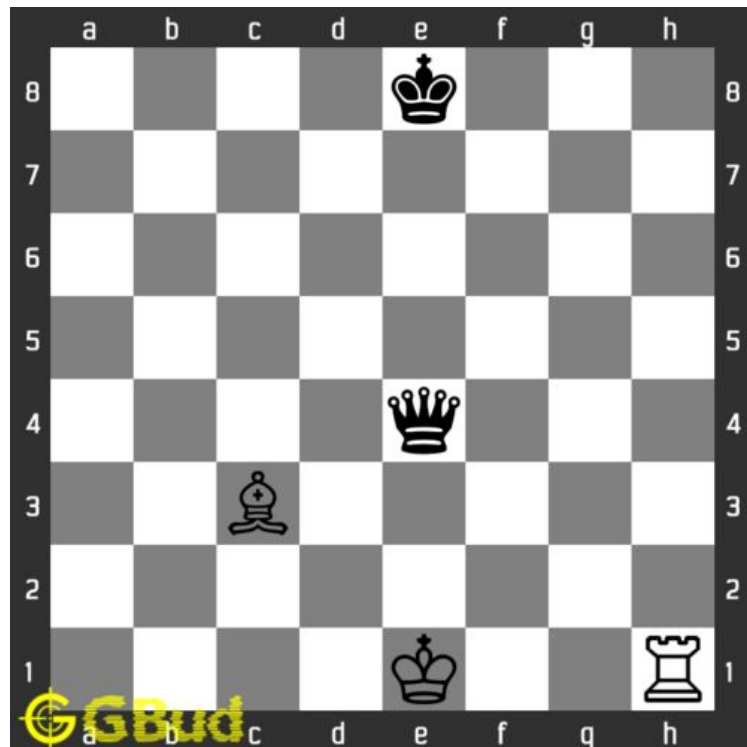


Figure 1.9: Check by black queen

For example, the [bishop at e5](#) has no constraints to move. However, if it [moves from e5](#), the pawn at e4 is exposed. The black queen then [captures the pawn](#) and give a [check](#) to the white king. Upon the white king's move, the queen then captures the [rook](#) at h1. This is a weaker board position for white. Hence the bishop is situational pinned.

1.7 How to un pin

To remove pinning on a piece, three steps can be taken. They are

1. Capture the [pinning piece](#)
2. Block the pinning piece by bringing another piece in between the pinning piece and [pinned piece](#).
3. Move the higher value piece that is shielded by the pinned piece

1.8 Pieces that can not pin

Not all the pieces can pin. There are pieces that can not pin. They are

1. [King](#)
2. [Knight](#)

3. Pawn

1.9 Play chess for free



Figure 1.10: [Play chess online for free](#). [Solve puzzles](#) and [play with friends](#)

Play chess for free at <https://gbud.in/chs>

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Figure 1.11: Learn about chess pin

<https://gbud.in/blog/game/chess/chess-terms/pin.html>

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