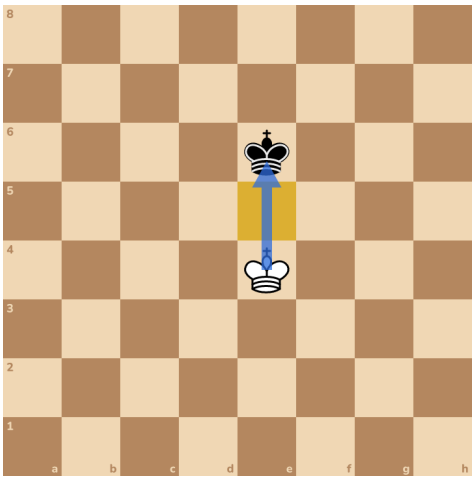
My Chess Family

What is the opposition in chess?

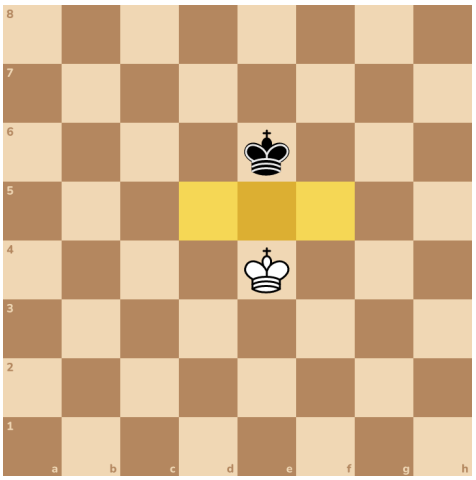
Try each question on a real board, then check the answers at the end of the sheet.

The opposition

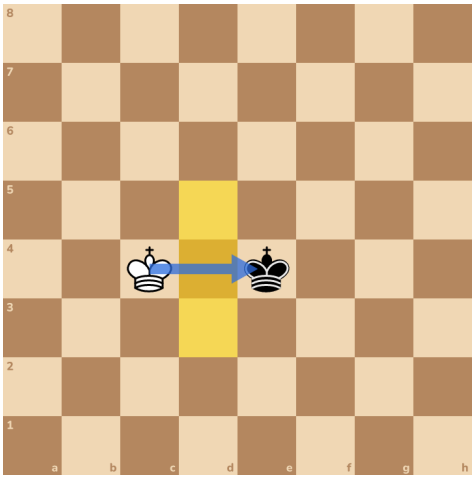
You met the opposition in King first. Two kings face each other, with one square between them.



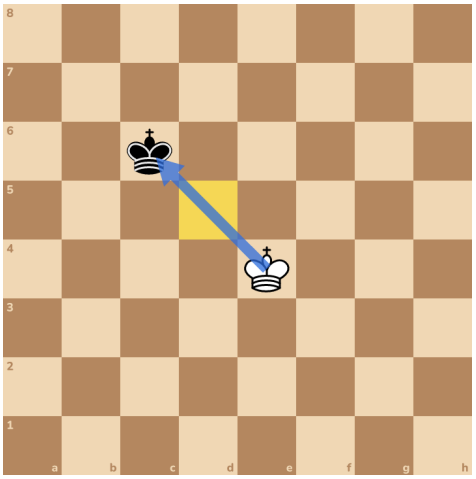
Neither king can step onto these three squares. So whoever has to move must give way.



Here's a new position. Kings can face each other along a row too, with one square between.

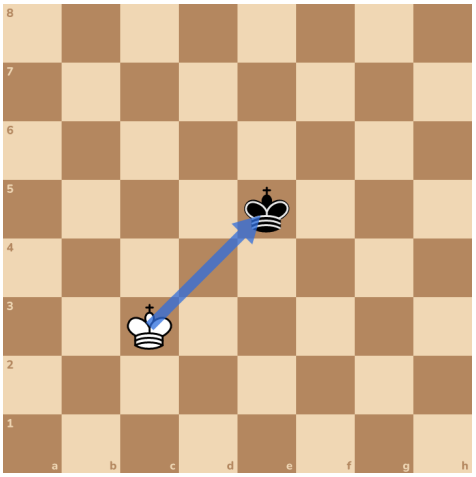


Here's another new position. Kings can face each other corner to corner too. Only d5 is between them.

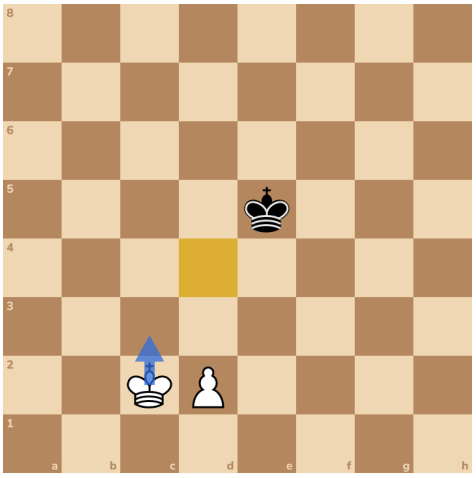


Try it 1. Here's a new position. Black to move. Who has the opposition?

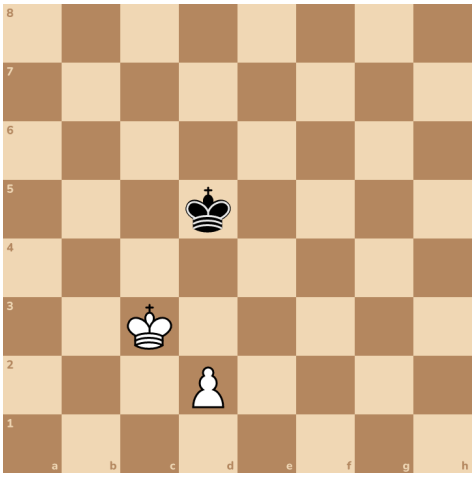
A: White **B: Black**



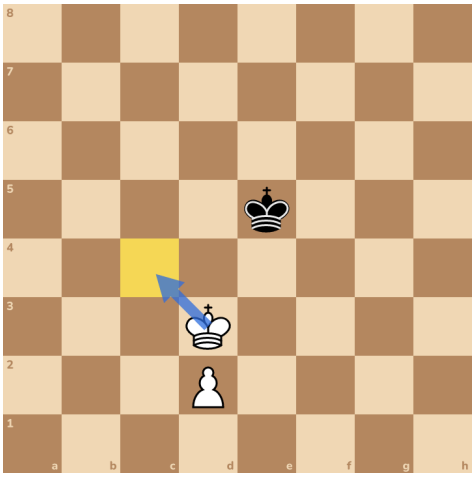
Try it 2. Here's a new position. Take the opposition, corner to corner!



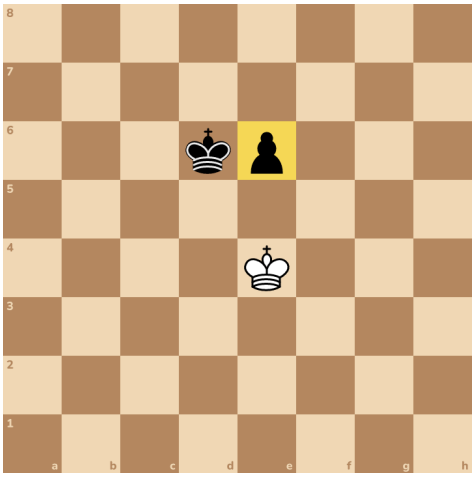
Try it 3. He stepped in front of you. Face him again, on the same column.



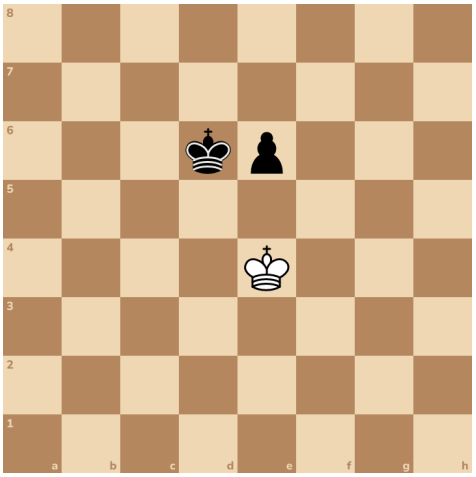
He had to give way. Next, your king can step up to c4, ahead of the pawn.



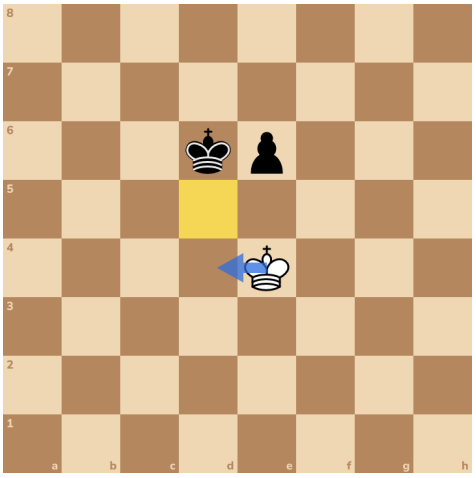
Now the opposition helps you stop a pawn. Here's a new position. Black has a pawn, and you only have your king.



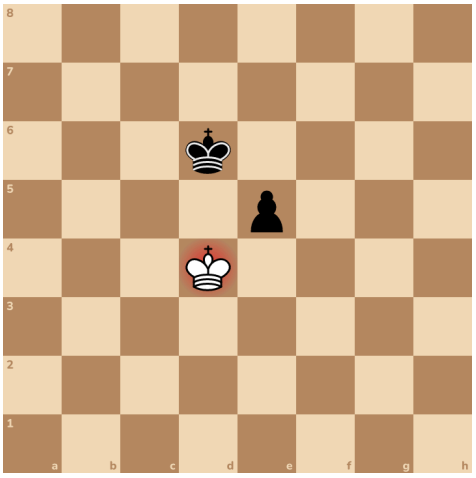
His king wants to push yours aside, so the pawn can walk up. To stop it, stay in front of the pawn and face his king.



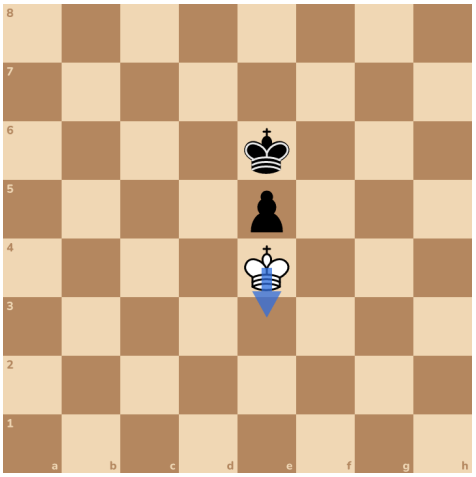
Try it 4. His king is on d6. Face it on the same column, with one square between.



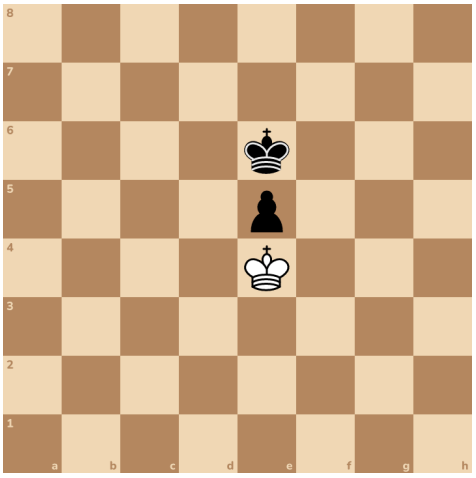
Try it 5. You're in check from the pawn. Step in front of it.



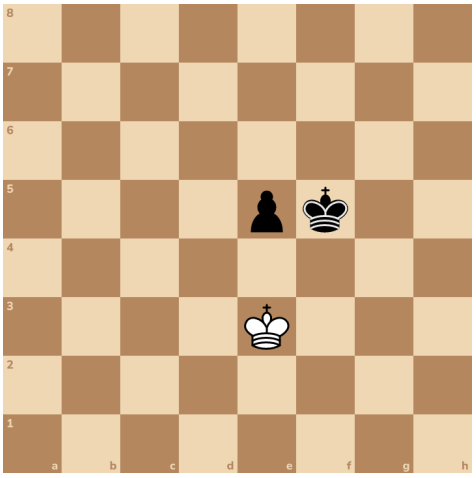
Now he faces you, and it's your move. Step straight back. Then you're ready to face him next, on any side.



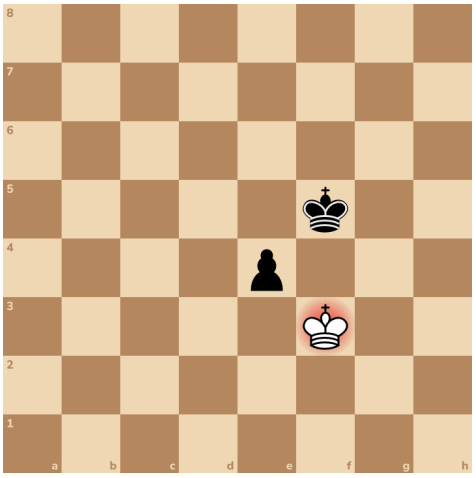
Try it 6. Step straight back.



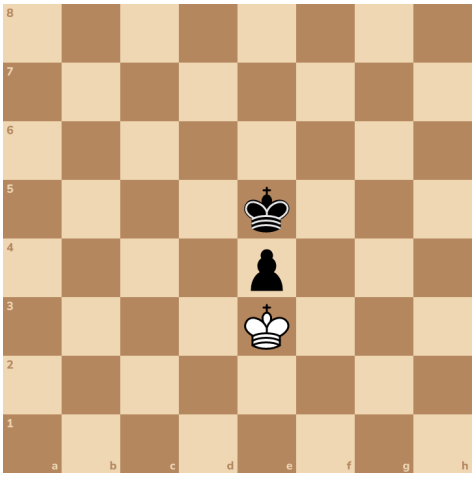
Try it 7. He stepped to the side. Face him again!



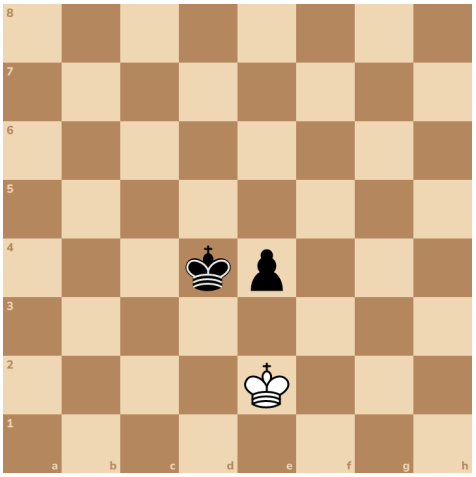
Try it 8. You're in check again. Step in front of the pawn.



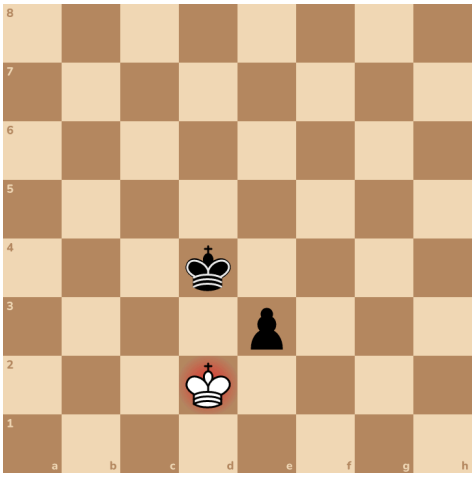
Try it 9. He faces you again, and it's your move. Step straight back.



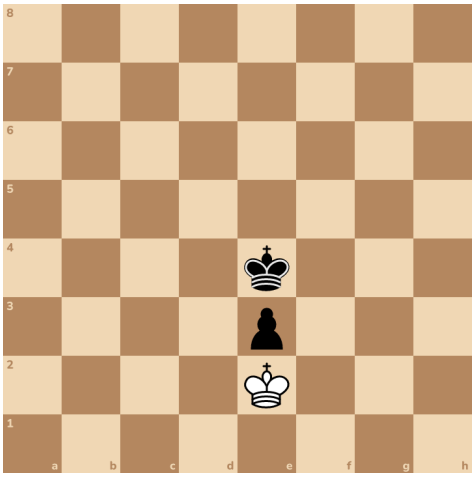
Try it 10. Your turn.



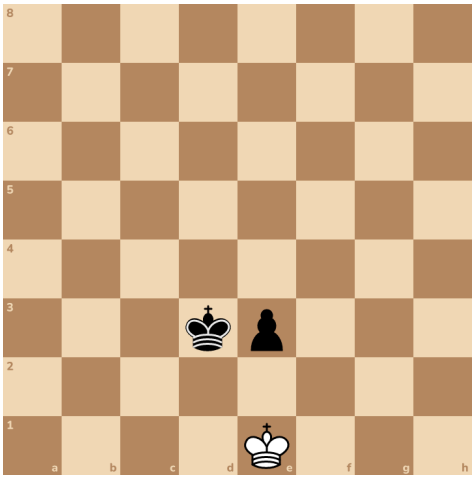
Try it 11. You're in check. Step to e2.



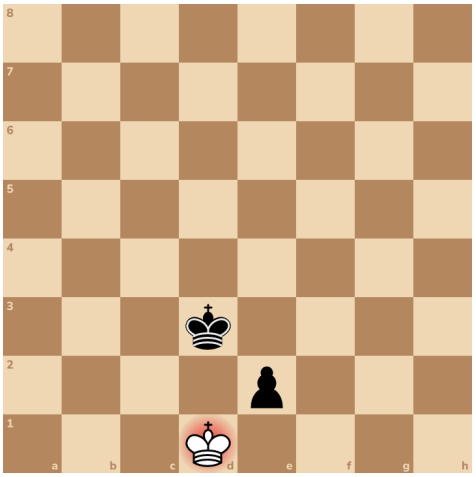
Try it 12. Your turn.



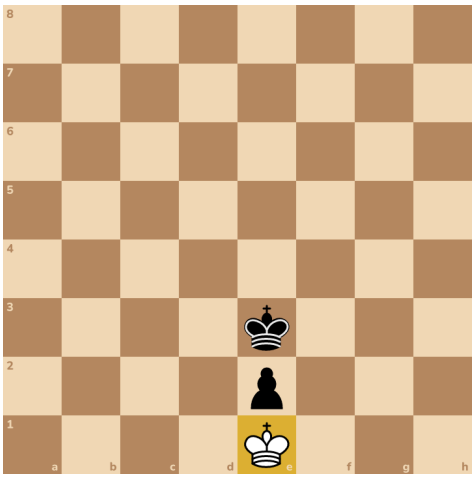
Try it 13. Your turn.



Try it 14. One more step in front of the pawn!



Your king can't move, and it isn't in check. That's stalemate, so it's a draw. You saved the game!

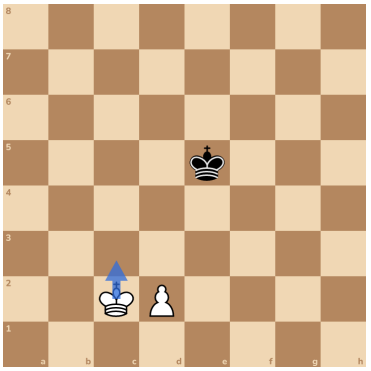


Answers

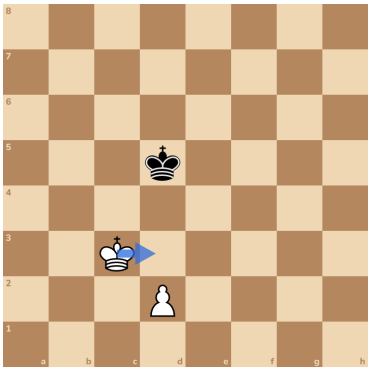
1. A: White

White has it. The kings face each other corner to corner, and Black has to move.

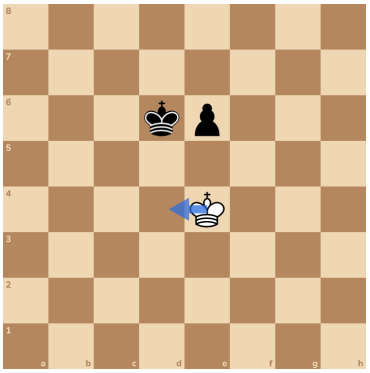
2. Kc3



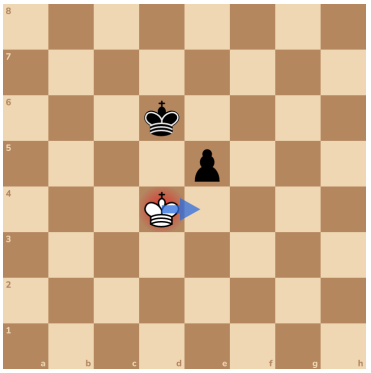
3. Kd3



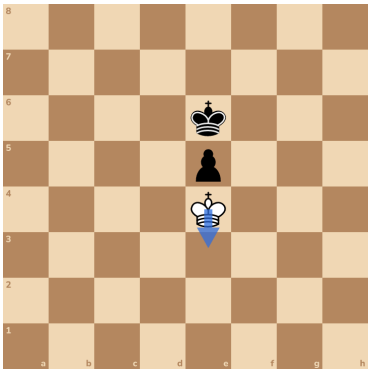
4. Kd4



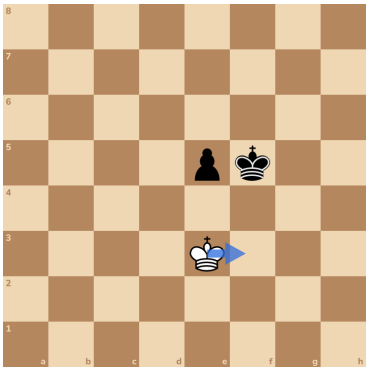
5. Ke4



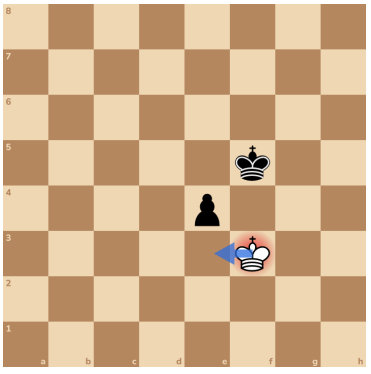
6. Ke3



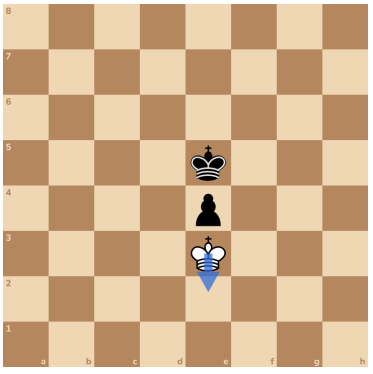
7. Kf3



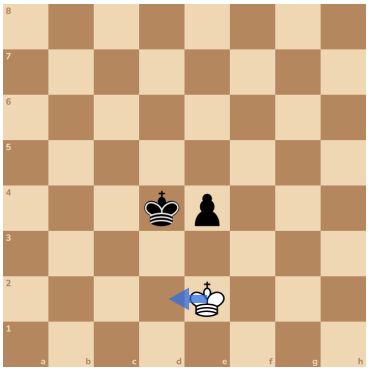
8. Ke3



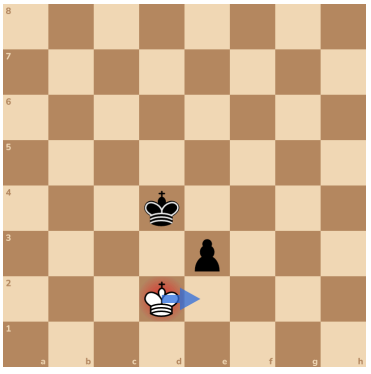
9. Ke2



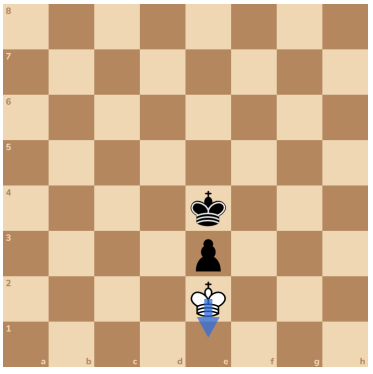
10. Kd2



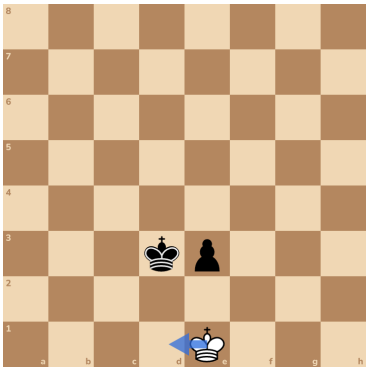
11. Ke2



12. Ke1



13. Kd1



14. Ke1

