

Basic Concepts - Level 1 - 21

End Game Lesson - the diagonal move

	<p>To estimate the territory of white and black on the left draw boundaries to the edge and count the points inside the boundaries. Note that the point M-3 is not counted as white territory because white does not have a stone at M-4. Therefore black has 15 and white has 11. Black has 4 more than white.</p>
	<p>What is the value of a play at the point “a”?</p> <p>Consider first a gote sequence by white starting at “a”. We then compare to same play by black and compare the end results.</p>
	<p>If black blocks with 2 white hanes and connects with 3 and 5 in gote. Later the endgame sequence from 7 to 12 is white's sente. Black has 9 points (triangles) and white has 15 points (x's). White has 6 more than black. White has gained 10 points.</p>
	<p>This time black plays the diagonal move first and continues to 5 in gote. Later the exchange on 7 and 8 is black's privilege. The net score now is black - 19, white - 7. Black has 12 more than white.</p> <p>Conclusion: The diagonal move at “a” is worth 18 points in gote for white. Because it also prevents a large gote move by black it is equivalent to a sente move.</p>