

# Kasparov versus Turing (w/ Video)

June 27 2012

---

(Phys.org) -- For the first time in public, Mr. Kasparov played a match against Turing's chess program live on stage at The University of Manchester's Alan Turing Centenary Conference.

Although he won in just 16 moves, Mr. Kasparov praised the prototype program called Turochamp, which was created by Turing without using a [computer](#).

Turing, who would have celebrated his 100th birthday last Saturday, is considered to be the father of the modern computer. The [conference](#) was held as a celebration of his life and to show how his legacy has endured in the fields of computing and computer science.

As part of his lecture at the conference, Mr. Kasparov, playing in black, took on the program that Turing had painstakingly written out by hand more than 60 years ago.

Turing designed his program to play semi-intelligently using rules of thumb to pick smart moves. He tried to implement his program in 1950 as soon as the Manchester Ferranti Mark 1 computer was constructed at the University, but never managed to finish the work.

Turochamp was designed to play two moves ahead, calculating the hundreds of potential moves available, whereas Mr Kasparov is more used to thinking at least ten moves ahead – which explains his simple victory.

Nevertheless, the Russian grandmaster was full of praise for Turing's research. He said: "I suppose you might call it primitive, but I would compare it to an early car – you might laugh at them but it is still an incredible achievement.

"He wrote algorithms without having a computer – many young scientists would never believe that was possible. It was an outstanding accomplishment.

"Although it's only thinking two moves ahead, I would have thought it would give the amateur player some serious problems.

"Alan Turing is one of the very few people about who you could say that if he had lived longer the world would be a different place."

On Saturday, Mr Kasparov unveiled a plaque commemorating Turing on the building at the University where he used to work.

The four-day conference, which finished yesterday, [MON] featured speakers from all over the world, including Vint Cerf, Vice-President of Google, and David Ferrucci of IBM.

In total Nine ACM Turing Award winners and one Templeton Prize winner spoke at the conference. The Turing Award is recognized as the highest distinction in Computer science and the Nobel Prize of computing.

**More information:** Further information about the Alan Turing Centenary Conference can be found at [www.turing100.manchester.ac.uk/](http://www.turing100.manchester.ac.uk/)

Provided by University of Manchester

Citation: Kasparov versus Turing (w/ Video) (2012, June 27) retrieved 21 July 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-06-kasparov-turing-video.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.