Evidence of cheating by Daralagalleta (aka Fudjin and Alexander Miroshnichenko) in the White Meijin series of online tournaments in 2016

1. Game against puma1600

http://www.playok.com/en/game.phtml/120409823?gm

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[Event "8020206"]
[Site "kurnik"]
[Date "2016.08.26"]
[Round "4"]
[Black "puma1600"]
[White "daralagalleta"]
[Result "0-1"]
[Time "20:52:42"]
[TimeControl "420"]
[GameType "61,15"]
[BlackElo "1965"]
[WhiteElo "1649"]

1. g12 h5 2. l9 k10 3. l12 -- 4. white -- 5. j8 k11 6. j10 l10 7. l11 j9 8. m9
h11 9. k8 i10 10. f13 i11 11. i8 l8 12. h6 h9 13. g8 h8 14. h10 g11 15. f11 j11
0-1
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As almost all Daralagalleta's moves in this game coincided with Yixin, I performed an experiment: I asked a few strong players who had not seen that game before to play for Daralagalleta. When a player made a move different from how Fudjin played, I asked the player to undo the move, to make the move Fudjin played, and play further. Then I compared how many moves coincided with Yixin for each of the players and for Fudjin. I considered a move coinciding with Yixin if it coincided with the move Yixin considers the best move at at least one depth between 5 and 12.

Here are the results of the experiment:

Daralagalleta	Yixin	Denis Osipov	Zoltan Laszlo	Stepan Tesarik	Lukas Soucek	Matiss Riherts
K11	F12 (depth 5), F11 (depth 6), K11 (depths 7-9), L10 (depths 10-12)	M11	I9	J9	K9	K11
L10	L10 (depths 5-12)	L10	L10	I10	L10	L10
J9	J9 (depths 5-12)	M9	J9	J9	J9	J9
H11	G11 (depth 5), G10 (depths 6-7), H11 (depths 8-12)	I10	H11	G11	I10	H11
I10	I8 (depth 5), G11 (depths 6-12)	I11	I10	I11	H9	I10
I11	G11 (depths 5-7), I11 (depths 8-12)	N/A*	I8	I11	I11	I8
L8	G11	L8	L8	L8	L8	L8
H9	H9	J11	H9	H9	H9	H9
H8	H8	H8	H8	H8	H8	H8
G11	G11	I9	I9	I9	I9	I9

* This move was accidentally skipped in the experiment.

The number of moves **<u>not</u>** coinciding with Yixin:
Daralagalleta: 2
Denis Osipov: 7 (plus one more potential non-coincidence as one move was skipped)
Zoltan Laszlo: 5
Stepan Tesarik: 5
Lukas Soucek: 5
Matiss Riherts: 4

Thus, Daralagalleta made twice or more as fewer moves not coinciding with Yixin as any other player made.

These statistics need to be considered in conjunction with particular moves made by Daralagalleta.

In the end of the game, Daralagalleta played a VCF exactly how Yixin suggests (G11), not how all five participants of my experiment played it (I9). Here is Denis Osipov's comment on that:

"Да, отыгрыш в конце очень подозрителен. Потмоу что человек считая эту позу, в уме неизбежно прикидывает вариант закрытия не в г8 а в дж11, ну я уверен все так же думают. и при таком закрытии напрашивается вин через и12 ф9, и в голове все равно останется этот вин, даже при закрытии г8. Зачем отыгрывать какой то альтернативный вин, когда ничто не мешает сыграть как и планировалось."

(Translation: Yeah, it is very suspicious how he played a win in the end of the game. The reason is that when a human performs calculations here, he considers the blocking move j11, not g8. Well, I am sure everyone thinks this way. Then, the win via i12 and f9 comes to mind and remains there, even if the block g8 is played. I do not see any reason to play an alternative win if nothing prevents me from playing the win I planned to play.)

Denis Osipov also publicly expressed his opinion on this game in a series of messages on vk.com, and below I quote them:

"Если кому-то интересно, сугубо мое мнение, что, вероятность применения программы той партии с пумой - 90%. Даже 99%. Там такое палево, что ппц)."

(Translation: "If anyone is interested to know my opinion, the probability of that a program was used in that game is 90%. Even 99%. There is such exposure (of cheating) in there that I am really astonished by it.")

"При первом просмотре, даже несмотря на все статистики совпадений, четкой уверенности что это прога не было. Она появилась, только когда я стал думать над каждым ходом и в каждый момент оценивать позицию"

(Translation: When I briefly looked at the game, I did not come to a firm conviction that a program was used, even despite the statistics of coincidences. I came to such a conviction only after I started thinking on each move and contemplating the position at each point of the game.)

"Илья, посмотри например первую игру Олега и Герго. Начиная с хода белых и10 и до хода черных л9 - постоянно висят довольно простые вины. И это Герго! И это на длинном контроле! И он до этого все правильно делал! И каждый раз он неоптимальную ветку выбирает, и в конце концов теряет все шансы.

А здесь, на 7 минутах выбор сильнейших в принципе ходов, безошибочно, точно, с отыгрышем победы именно по варианту проги. Все люди участвовавшие в эксперименте сандры (и я в том числе), по ее словам выбирали другой вариант победы на 4ках, который напрашивается если играть самому. Но отыграно было именно по иксину. Как будто поза каждый раз оценивалась заново, как и делает прога.

Есть еще куча мелких признаков, котоыре все становятся очевидными если задумываться над ходами и позициями в каждый момент, а не тупо считать кол-во совпадений.

Мне вообще пофиг на все баны. И на Мирошниченко мне тоже пофиг. И глобально на турнир насрать).
Играет там и пусть играет.

Но очевидную истину считаю своим долгом в некоторой степени осветить. "

(Translation:

Ilya, have a look at the first game between Oleg and Gergo. From i10 by white to L9 by black, there always were relatively easy wins. And it was Gergo himself! And it was a long time control! And he had been doing everything right before that! And each time he chose a suboptimal branch and finally lost all chances (to successfully accomplish building a win).

And here, in a 7 min game, we observe choosing the strongest moves, flawlessly, precisely, and playing a win exactly as the program suggests. According to Sandra, all players who participated in her experiment (including me) chose another VCF, which naturally comes to your mind if you play on your own. But Fudjin played exactly as Yixin suggests. Just like if the position was evaluated each time from scratch, which is how a program works.

There are many other small signs, all of which become evident if you think on each move and position rather than just count coincidences.

I don't care about bans at all. I don't care about Miroshnichenko, too. And, globally speaking, I don't care about the tournament. If he plays there, he plays there.

But I consider it my duty to shed some light on the obvious truth.)

2. Game against rtpolina

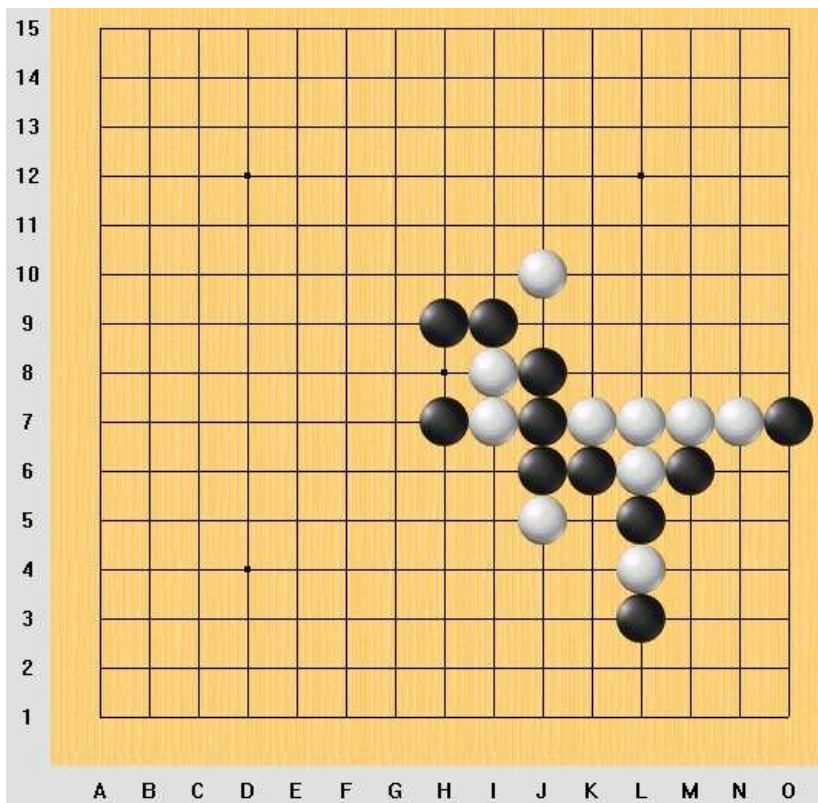http://www.playok.com/en/game.phtml/120506990?gm

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[Site "kurnik"]
[Date "2016.09.02"]
[Round "4"]
[Black "rtpolina"]
[White "daralagalleta"]
[Result "0-1"]
[Time "20:56:06"]
[TimeControl "420"]
[GameType "61,15"]
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[BlackElo "1878"]
[WhiteElo "1787"]

1. l3 l4 2. m6 white 3. -- j5 4. j6 k7 5. k6 l6 6. j8 i7 7. h7 l7 8. l5 m7 9.
j7 n7 10. o7 i8 11. i9 j10 12. h9 l9 13. l10 n8 14. o9 k9 15. l8 n9 16. n10 k10
17. o6 k11 18. o8 k8 0-1

When I looked at this game, I immediately found Daralagalleta's move L9 suspicious. Here is the position immediately before that move:

(Daralagalleta is white here.)

I immediately suspected that
(1) this move is the beginning of a very "narrow," hard-to-find win and
(2) the only reasonable explanation of why Daralagalleta made this move is that he calculated very far ahead, which is impossible to do in a 7 min game without using a program.

My analysis in Yixin confirmed suspicion (1) and strongly supported suspicion (2):

- Up to depth 9, Yixin suggests other moves, L10 (depth 5 and 6) and N8 (depth 7, 8, and 9).
- It is only at depth 10 that Yixin starts considering L9 the best move.
- At depth 13, Yixin finds that L9 is a winning move.
- The win is a VCT that is too long and complicated to be found in a 7 min game. There are some quite long branches that black can choose if white continues making direct threats after L9, e.g.,
  a) L9 (white), L8 (black), K10, M8, N8, O9, N9, N10, then there are options to create a VCF threat (e.g., K9 and J9), and it is hard to calculate up to that point, let alone further,
  b) L9, L8, K10, J11, N8, O9, M10, N10, then, again, there are options to create a VCF

> threat.
- The analysis with the command nbest shows that L9 is the only winning move (unless there is a much longer and much more complicated win).

It is no wonder that Rtpolina played H9 immediately before Daragalleta played L9 – Rtpolina obviously did not expect Daralagalleta to find and play a "narrow" win on the right side.

The fact that it is only at depth 10 that Yixin starts considering L9 the best move suggests that a human must calculate really far ahead in order to see why L9 is a better choice than any other move.

It takes only about 8 seconds to calculate to depth 10, so Daralagalleta indeed could find L9 by using a program.

To further support or refute suspicion (2), I showed the picture above to ten strong players and asked them how they would play in that position in a 7 min game. Here are their answers:

Łukasz Majksner: L10
Martin Muzika: N8
Lukáš Souček: L8
Denis Kachaev: G9
Ilya Katsev: L10
Daria Petrenko: L10 or N8
Kjetil Nossum: L10 or N8
Denis Osipov: L10
Bogdan Brachaczek: N8
Player with the nickname "okcthunder": N8

No one played L9, Daralagalleta's move.

Finally, I asked opinions of two top players, Denis Kachaev and Denis Osipov, about the move L9. Here is what they said:

Denis Osipov: "Это точно прога. Я увидел почему правильно ходить л9, но это очень сложно для 7 минут. Пришлось реально задуматься над позой, в реальной игре я бы так не пошел. Если только на 30мин+. Просто человеку на таком контроле не придет даже в голову считать эту ветку."

(Translation: "It is definitely a program. I realised why L9 is the correct move, but it is very difficult to see in a 7 min game. I had to really contemplate the position and would not play this move unless it was a 30+ min game. In a 7 min game, no human would even come to the idea of calculating this branch.")

Denis Kachaev: "На 7 мин это, конечно, сильно." "L9, конечно, выглядит нетривиально для 7 мин".

(Translation: "Of course, it is very strong for a 7 min game." "L9, of course, looks not obvious for a 7 min game.")

Denis Osipov added the following comment on how Fudjin plays in general: "Иногда в игре с ним у него прям чередуются просто откровенный дибилизм и супер проссчеты выбиывающие из

колеи). И это запутывает сильно, потому что ну ок, он делает первые 5-6 дибильных ходов и я расслабляюсь, играю на позу, берегу время, не заморачиваюсь. Естественно оставляю какие то сложные вины. И вдруг он за один из этих хвостов хватается и безошибочно отгрывает труднейший вин, как будето встал, вышел из-за стола и пустил демьяна)"

(Translation: "Sometimes he plays clearly stupid and then starts making exceptionally well-thought moves that really disorient me. That's really misleading: He makes five or six stupid moves in a row, so I get relaxed and do not care much about leaving an opportunity for him to play an extremely difficult win, and then, all of a sudden, he perfectly plays one as if Demjan replaced him at some point.")

Just before playing L9, Daralagalleta played J10, Yixin's move. After L9, he perfectly played a win.

3. Game against wmzoli (Zoltan Laszlo aka Zoli)

http://www.playok.com/en/game.phtml/120795901?gm

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[Event "8034968"]
[Site "kurnik"]
[Date "2016.09.23"]
[Round "5"]
[Black "daralagalleta"]
[White "wmzoli"]
[Result "0-1"]
[Time "21:09:18"]
[TimeControl "420"]
[GameType "61,15"]
[BlackElo "1988"]
[WhiteElo "2125"]

1. l3 l4 2. k5 black 3. j5 i4 4. i3 k7 5. j6 j7 6. k6 l7 7. m7 h6 8. h7 g5 9.
f4 g6 10. g7 j8 11. i6 g8 12. m6 l6 13. m5 m4 14. j3 k3 15. f7 e7 16. f6 f5 17.
k4 l5 18. k9 e5 19. d5 h8 20. f8 j10 21. h10 f10 22. e9 d10 23. e11 e10 24. g10
c8 25. d7 l9 26. l8 d9 27. n6 o5 28. f11 k10 29. m8 m9 30. j9 i8 31. e12 k8 0-1
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Zoli complained after this game. He said he felt his opponent used a program during a period of time.

Four moves in a row – I6, M6, M5 and J3 – coincide with what Yixin suggests.
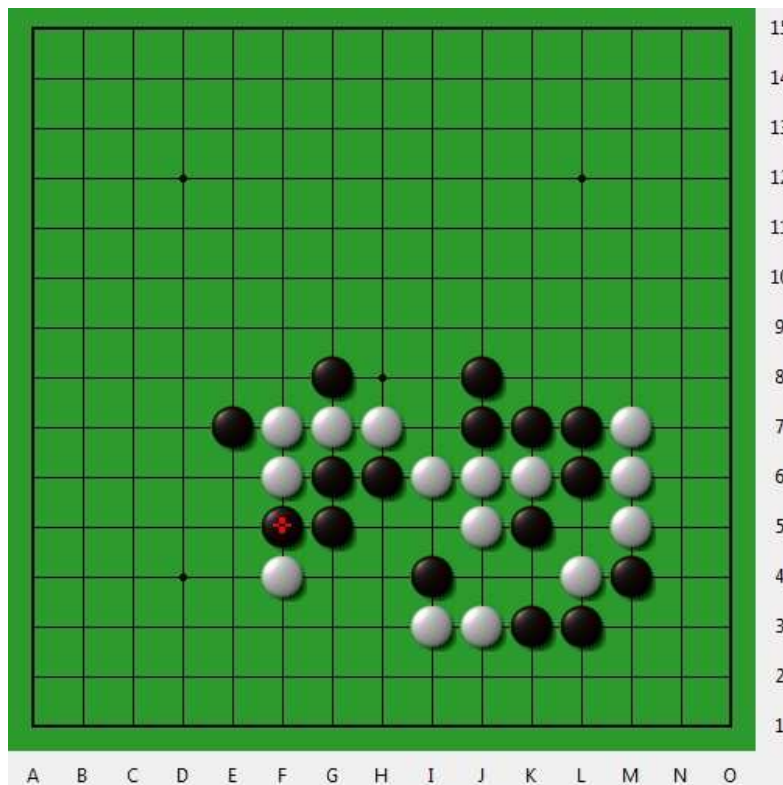
Denis Kachaev's opinion: "С Золи да, были подозрительные места. Например, начиная с M6 и до K4".

(Translation: "In the game against Zoli, yes, there were suspicious parts. For example, the moves from M6 to K4.")

Denis Osipov's opinion on the moves from M6 to K4: "Да, это очень похоже на программу и мало похоже на человека. Человек, боле-мене вменяемого уровня отыгрывая ресурсы идет обычно к какой то определенной цели (атака/единственный вариант заблочить и т.д.) А тут похоже на прогу, которая выбрала ветку по какому то коэффициенту. Логику в этих ходах очень трудно проследить."

(Translation: "Yeah, it looks very much like a program and does not look like a human. A well-skilled player usually pursues an aim when he uses his resources (e.g., an attack or the only way to defend.) Here, it looks like a program, which chose a branch based on a coefficient. It is very difficult to find a logic behind these moves.")

The move K4 looks especially suspicious. Here is the position immediately before that move:

Daralagalleta is white here.

Yixin considers K4 the best move at depth 6 and higher.

Zoli's comment on K4: "Surely prog. Dumb prog move."

Łukasz Majksner's comment on k4: "I would never play such a move. Not a human move. Imo."

Konstantin Nikonov asked Fudjin on the Russian gomoku discussion board what his idea behind his move K4 was, and it is only after I repeated Nikonov's question when Fudjin made a couple of public statements on that. Here they are:

"Решил я так заблочить вот и все"

(Translation: "I decided to block in this way, and that's it.")

"Можно было его и не ставить наверное, но он вроде не особо портит все. перекрывает пару пассивных возможных направлений атаки, а после него все равно играется блочащий ход, так что к4 погоду не портит. вот и все рассуждения. в более детальный анализ вдаваться не буду"

(Translation: "Perhaps it was not necessary to play this move, but it does not significantly worsen

the position. It blocks two passive potential attack directions. After this move, a blocking move has to be played, so K4 does not do any harm. That's all. I will not go into further details.")

A concluding remark

I would like to answer here a frequently asked question, "Where is the proof that Daralagalleta cheated? All I see is just some indirect evidence and opinions."

Strictly speaking, a strict proof is impossible to find. Even if a player makes, say, 40 out of 40 moves in a single game as Yixin suggests, almost each time having many equally good moves to choose from, it may be just a coincidence. Even if a player confesses cheating, it is not a strict proof, for he may be lying.

Generally, we can only talk about the probability of that someone cheated.

Denis Osipov, a well-known top player, publicly said that based on the game against puma1600 alone, he finds the probability of that Daralagalleta cheated 99%.

In English-speaking countries, there is a special legal term – "beyond a reasonable doubt." It is different from "absolute certainty," but sufficient to return a verdict of "guilty."