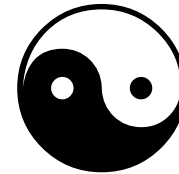


*To know the strongest player in the history of Go, just
read this book and try to proof for yourselves.*



Superhuman Performance Analysis



The Strongest Player in
the History of Go

Monteo da Westi

SUPERHUMAN PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

monteodawesti@gmail.com



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WHO IS THE STRONGEST HUMAN PLAYER IN THE HISTORY OF GO? The list of top title holders in Go gives no conclusion on the world’s strongest Go players in history, as it lacks the names of other great players such as Honinbo Dosaku, Honinbo Shusaku, and Go Seigen. Besides, these players had never played the game against one another when they were all at peaks. The strongest player might be one of them, but it has long been hard to know for sure.

Fortunately, I discovered a new way to identifying the strongest human player in the history of Go, called *Superhuman Performance Analysis*. Results can improve your knowledge of Go performance and may cause a paradigm shift in Go rating, from the result-based systems (Elo and Dan) to the move quality-based system—a more accurate and faster way to Go rating.

Now I can compare the strength of any Go players, whether they are superhuman AIs, world-class champions, or amateur players.

Monteo da Westi

Overview

Superhuman performance analysis (SPA) can be conducted in five steps:

1. Top Professionals and Benchmarks Selection
2. Performance Analysis
3. Strongest Go Players in History Listing, and
4. Multiple Tests for Building Confidence

Information on the players were taken from both Wikipedia and Sensei's Library.

Top Professionals and Benchmarks

First, the strongest Go professionals were selected from Wikipedia's list of top title holders in Go. That is, the top four international title holders and the first top domestic title holder of China, Japan and Korea were selected for SAP. Second, the four classic players were included for more coverage, and the three benchmarks players added for validation purpose:

Category	Strong Players
International	Lee Changho
	Lee Sedol
	Cho Hunhyun
	Ke Jie
China	Ma Xiochun
Japan	Cho Chikun
Korea	Cho Hunyhun
Classic	Honinbo Dosaku
	Honinbo Shuwa
	Honinbo Shusaku
	Go Seigen
Benchmarks	AlphaGo Zero
	AlphaGo Master
	Michael Redmond

Third, the peak years of the selected top players were identified, based on the peak years of Go players' Elo scores at the Rémi Coulom's Go Rating website:

Strong Player	Peak Year
Honinbo Dosaku	1667
Honinbo Shusaku	1861
Go Seigen	1962
Cho Chikun	1982
Cho Hunhyun	1989
Lee Changho	1995
Lee Sedol	2008
Ke Jie	2016

Fourth, Ma Xiochun from China was excluded because when being at his peak, he was defeated by Cho Chikun. So, Ma was considered not the strongest player in the history of Go.

Fifth, SPA was conducted. Results showed that Cho Chikun is the strongest player among the top title holders. But Cho Chikun's game had been taken from the domestic group. Hence, the top international title holder is NOT the strongest player in history. Domestic titles in Japan during Cho's peak time (20th Century) are indeed more prestigious and harder to achieve than the international titles at that time. Therefore, the 'Six Supers' Japanese players before 1988 were selected for further analysis, which include

Sakata Eio, Otake Hideo, Cho Chikun, Kato Masao, Takemiya Masaki, and Koichi Kobayashi. Yuta Iyama was also added for further analysis because his peak performance looks superb.

The new hypothesis is that the strongest player among the Six Supers Japanese players is the strongest player in the history of Go. Who is he? See next pages.