I. Determine if either or both parties are surprised.

A. Normally, a d6 is rolled for each party. A roll of 1 or 2 indicates surprise.\(^1\)

1. Some individuals, notably rangers, are surprised less often — 1 in 6 (16\(^2/3\)%) less often, in the case of rangers. This benefit accrues to the entire party.\(^2\)

   - Tenser the Arch-Mage and Otis the Ranger are traveling through the Gnarley Forest when a band of really stupid orcs attacks them. Our heroes have only a 1 in 6 chance to be surprised. Had Tenser been alone, he would have had the standard 2 in 6 chance of surprise.

2. Some individuals, notably rangers, surprise others more often — 1 in 6 (16\(^2/3\)%) more often, in the case of rangers.\(^3\) This benefit, however, does not accrue to the entire party.

   - After soundly thrashing the orcs, Tenser and Otis track them to their lair. They have only the standard 2 in 6 chance to surprise the orcs. Had Otis been by himself, he would have received his improved 3 in 6 chance to surprise them.

3. Where either side uses a die other than d6 to determine surprise, convert to percentages (e.g., 1 in 8 equals 12\(^2/3\)%, 9 in 10 equals 90%, etc.).\(^4\)

   - While Otis is investigating the orcs’ underground lair (alone), he spots a group of duergar. Normally, the duergar are only surprised on a 1 in 10 (10%).\(^5\) However, the ranger surprises others 1 in 6 (16\(^2/3\)%) more often than normal. There is a 26\(^2/3\)% (or 27%) chance that Otis will surprise the duergar.

B. If neither party is surprised, proceed to step II.

C. If either or both parties are surprised, use the result of that side’s d6 roll to determine for how long they are surprised.

1. Each pip on the d6 equals one segment of inactivity due to surprise.\(^6\)

   - The duergar surprise others 1 in 6 more often,\(^7\) so Tenser and Otis will be surprised on a roll of 1 or 2 on d6. They roll a 2, and thus will be surprised for two segments.

2. In cases where percentages were used, divide the result of the d\% roll by 16\(^2/3\) (rounding all fractions up) to determine the number of segments lost.\(^8\)

   - The duergar roll a 12 on d\%, so they will be surprised for one segment.

3. If only one side was surprised, then it will be inactive for the indicated number of segments.

4. If both sides are surprised, subtract the lesser result from the greater to determine the net amount of segments lost to the more-surprised side.\(^9\)

   - Since Tenser and Otis are surprised for two segments, and the duergar are surprised for only one segment, the net result is one segment of action lost to Tenser and Otis.

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\(^2\) ibid.


\(^8\) Krehmeyer, 74.

5. Characters with Dexterity reaction adjustments are individually surprised for more or less segments than the rest of their side, depending on the amount of the penalty or bonus.\textsuperscript{10}
   a. This only applies when the character’s side is already surprised. A reaction penalty does not create surprise in an unsurprised individual.\textsuperscript{11}
   b. Reaction bonuses do not apply to characters carrying more than "light gear" (12" base movement), although reaction penalties always do.\textsuperscript{12}

\emph{Since Tenser has a 16 Dexterity,\textsuperscript{13} he is able to negate his one segment of surprise.\textsuperscript{14}} Otis has a 17 Dexterity,\textsuperscript{15} which would normally offset two segments of surprise.\textsuperscript{16} However, on this trip, he is wearing non-magical chain mail (his chain mail +2 having been left in Nulb).\textsuperscript{17} This drops his movement rate to 9",\textsuperscript{18} and negates his reaction adjustment.

6. A surprised character armed with a \textit{crossbow of speed} can fire it in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} segment of surprise, if he is surprised for more than one segment.\textsuperscript{19}

D. During each segment of surprise, members of the non-surprised side can perform one of the following actions.

1. Make a full round of melee attacks in one segment.\textsuperscript{20}
   
   For the one segment that he is surprised, any duergar near enough can make their full number of melee attacks against Otis.

2. Make a full round of missile attacks in one segment (or three times that rate if the missiles are ready).\textsuperscript{21}
   
   If, instead, the duergar have their light crossbows cocked and loaded, they can each fire three bolts at poor Otis. If the crossbows were not at the ready, they can still fire one bolt each.

3. Take one segment of movement (1" per 1" of movement rate).\textsuperscript{22}
   
   The duergar are wearing plate mail, and thus move at 6".\textsuperscript{23} Several of them decide to advance, covering 6' distance in the one segment of surprise.

4. Cast a one-segment spell, or begin casting a longer spell.\textsuperscript{24}
   
   One of the duergar happens to be a cleric. He can cast a \textit{command} spell at Otis in the one segment of surprise.\textsuperscript{25} If he chooses to cast \textit{hold person} instead, the spell will go off four segments into the first full round of combat.\textsuperscript{26}

5. Spend one segment performing any other action that can normally be completed in six seconds (e.g., drawing a weapon, drinking a potion, activating certain wands, etc.).

E. An individual who, due to a reaction bonus, is surprised for fewer segments than the rest of his side can only perform actions D 3-5, above, during the segments that he is no longer surprised.

\emph{For the one segment that Otis is surprised, Tenser (who is not) could choose to move up to 12’,\textsuperscript{27} or perhaps let loose a volley of magic missiles instead.\textsuperscript{28}} He could also choose to get a head start on casting a longer spell, such as death spell, which would then take effect five segments into the first full round.\textsuperscript{29}

F. Similarly, an individual who, due to a reaction bonus, is surprised for fewer segments than the rest of his side cannot be targeted by actions D 1-2, above, during the segments that he is no longer surprised.\textsuperscript{30}

\emph{Since Tenser is up and on his guard (i.e., not surprised), the duergar cannot target him with their missile or melee weapons. The cleric, however, could choose to cast command on him, instead of on Otis.}

\textsuperscript{10}Gygax, \textit{Dungeon Masters Guide}, 62.
\textsuperscript{11}ibid.
\textsuperscript{13}Brian Blume et al., \textit{The Rogues Gallery} (U.S.A.: TSR Games, 1980), 47.
\textsuperscript{14}Gygax, \textit{Players Handbook}, 11.
\textsuperscript{15}Gary Gygax with Frank Mentzer, \textit{The Temple of Elemental Evil} (U.S.A.: TSR, Inc., 1985), 32-34.
\textsuperscript{17}Gygax and Mentzer, 32-34.
\textsuperscript{18}Gygax, \textit{Dungeon Masters Guide}, 27.
\textsuperscript{19}Gygax, \textit{Dungeon Masters Guide}, 168.
\textsuperscript{21}ibid.
\textsuperscript{22}Gygax, \textit{Players Handbook}, 102-103.
\textsuperscript{23}Gygax, \textit{Dungeon Masters Guide}, 27.
\textsuperscript{24}Gygax, \textit{Dungeon Masters Guide}, 61.
\textsuperscript{25}Gygax, \textit{Players Handbook}, 43.
\textsuperscript{26}Gygax, \textit{Players Handbook}, 45.
\textsuperscript{27}Gygax, \textit{Players Handbook}, 102.
\textsuperscript{29}Gygax, \textit{Players Handbook}, 83.
II. Determine distance, if unknown, between the parties.

A. Outdoors, base encounter distance is 6” to 24” (6d4).31
   1. If either party is surprised, subtract the larger number of surprise segments from the distance.32
   2. Terrain may further modify the encounter distance.
      a. Scrub — 1 per die on all 3’s and 4’s.
      b. Forest — 1 per die on all numbers (0’s are possible).
      c. Marsh — 1 per die on all 2’s, 3’s, and 4’s.33

On another day, in another place, Lord Robilar is wandering through the swamps to the northeast of his castle with Quij, his orcish hero.34 They are spotted (surprised on a roll of 1) by a group of lizard men. 6d4 are rolled to determine the encounter distance. The results are 1, 1, 4, 4, 1, and 3. These are adjusted to 1, 1, 3, 3, 1, and 2, for a total of 11. The surprise roll further reduces this total by -1, so the lizard men sight them at 10”, or 100 yards.35 They will keep their distance if they know what is good for them.

B. Indoors, base encounter distance is 5” to 10” (d6 + 4).36
   1. Line of Sight: If this is unobstructed and light is involved, the distance possible for determination of another party present is virtually infinite. It could likewise be sharply restricted due to obstructions.37
   The lizard men did not know what was good for them, so now Robilar and Quij have to trudge down into their lair to exterminate the rest of them. As they proceed along the 200’ long entrance tunnel, they gleefully note that the lizard men have been kind enough to light torches along its length, thus making surprise impossible.

   2. Noise: If one party is making considerable noise which is discernible by the other party, the latter will have the options of fleeing or concealment; the former negating the encounter, the latter allowing distance to be 1” to 4” before discovery by the noisy party.38

Robilar and Quij are congratulating each other on their fortune so loudly that they fail to notice the ten lizard men sneaking up behind them. The lizard men have the option of fleeing undetected, but, foolishly, they close to (d4) 3” (30’) before they are noticed.

3. Actual Area: If the encountered party is in a small area, distance between the two can be no greater than the maximum distance possible for discovery of the one by the other, i.e. opening a door into a 20’ X 20’ room will mean the distance between the two parties can be under 10’, 10’ or thereabouts, or 20’ (d6, 1-2 = striking distance, 3-4 = 10’ distance, 5-6 = 20’ distance).39
After cleaning off their weapons, Robilar and Quij make their way into a cave, which measures roughly 30’ across. According to a d4 roll, the lizard men in the cave are: 1 = in striking range, 2 = 10’ away, 3 = 20’ away, or 4 = 30’ away. The warriors’ luck continues, as a roll of 1 shows that the lizard men are within striking distance.

4. Planned or Unplanned Appearance: The sudden precipitation of one party upon the other due to any of a number of factors (teleportation, dimension door spell, other magical means, a chute, etc.) will cause distance similar to that found when actual area is a factor.40

31 Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 49.
32 ibid.
33 ibid.
37 ibid.
38 ibid.
39 ibid.
5. **Surprise**: Surprise can only be a factor in close encounter situations. If either or both parties are surprised, the distance must be either 1” to 3” or it must be less as determined under the actual area modifier. Thus if the actual area were a 40’ X 60’ room, if surprise exists the distance between the parties will be 1” to 3”.42

In the next cave, Robilar and Quij surprise another group of lizard men. Encounter distance would normally be 1” to 3”, but, since this cave is only 20’ wide, 2” is the maximum distance possible.

6. **Light**: The illumination factor or visual capability of the concerned parties will affect encounter distance as follows.
   
a. A light source reliance limits the encounter distance to twice the normal vision radius of the source (2 X radius of the light source).
   
b. Infravision and/or ultravision operate only to the stated limit of their range and limit encounter distance accordingly.45

In the last tunnel, which is dark, Robilar uses his long sword +3 for light.44 It sheds light in a 20’ radius,45 so the maximum distance for any encounter is 40’. If Quij looks up ahead with his infravision,44 though, then the maximum encounter distance will be 60’.47

III. Both parties declare their intentions.

A. The DM should mentally note what actions the “monsters” plan to take, prior to knowing what the PC’s will do.

B. Each player should describe what his character will do this round.48
   1. Spell casters must note what spell they intend to cast at the beginning of each round.49
   2. Other intentions may be declared in a more general manner (e.g., “I fire my bow” or “I attack with my sword”).
   3. Any delay on the part of a player to declare intentions should be considered as a like delay in the character’s actions, on a six second to one segment basis.50

Decisions, decisions... Poor Otto cannot decide whether to cast his irresistible dance or geas on the evil cleric. After about 20 seconds of hemming and hawing, he finally decides to go with the dance. The DM rules that the spell will go off three segments later than usual — in segment 8 instead of segment 5.51

IV. Pre-initiative actions are resolved.

A. A bow specialist who begins the round with arrow nocked, shaft drawn, and target in sight is entitled to loose that arrow prior to any initiative check.52

  Yrag eyed his elven companion skeptically. “Specialists? Bah! In my day, we didn’t have no stinkin’ specialists. All weapons did the same amount of damage.53 You either knew how to use one, or you didn’t.” Just then, a group of gnolls rounded a bend up ahead. Neither side was surprised, but the elf had an arrow nocked and readied, and loosed it before Yrag even knew what was happening. To Yrag’s astonishment, the elf fired two more arrows thereafter,54 hitting and killing three gnolls. “Gee, I only got two with my sword.55 Tell me about this specialization thing again...”

B. A crossbow specialist who begins the round with crossbow cocked and aimed, and target in range, also gets a free shot before initiative is rolled.56

C. Any other exceptional actions that occur prior to initiative should be resolved here.

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43 Ibid.
44 Kuntz and Behringer, 41.
54 Gygax, *Unearthed Arcana*, 18.
56 Gygax, *Unearthed Arcana*, 18.
V. Resolve psionic combat on a segment-by-segment basis.  

A. Compare each psionic’s chosen attack mode to his opponent’s chosen defense mode. ALL ATTACKS AND DEFENSES ARE SIMULTANEOUS.  

B. Adjust attack and defense strength totals to reflect that segment’s expenditures, as well as any points lost due to attack.  

C. Repeat steps A & B until the psionic combat has ended, one or both psionics are affected by a more mundane attack form during the round, or ten segments have passed.  

The young apprentice stared down the illithid. “Are you sure about this?” asked Mordenkainen. “Hey, trust me,” the youth replied. “Them mind flayers aren’t the only ones with psionic powers.” In segment 1, the illithid attacked with its psionic blast, which the apprentice defended against with thought shield. Mordenkainen, too, was in the area of effect, and needed to make a saving throw of 5 or better. He passed easily. Then, the apprentice retaliated with a psychic crush, which the illithid defended against with mind blank. The psionic matrix gave a 9% chance of instant death. A roll of 05 killed the illithid instantly. The smug apprentice looked back to his master. “See, I told you!” Mordenkainen fumed quietly. “I hate psionics. Who on Oerth came up with THAT idea?”  

VI. Determine initiative for the round by rolling a d6 for each side. The higher of the two rolls is said to possess the initiative for that melee round.  

A. Each participant does not make a separate initiative roll. However, the Dexterity Attacking adjustment is added to (or subtracted from) the initiative roll for each missile-firing combatant on an individual basis.  

1. Initiative bonuses do not apply to characters carrying more than “light gear” (12” base movement),.  

2. Initiative penalties always apply.  

B. One exceptional monster, the spectator, rolls d8 for initiative, rather than d6. Leomund faces off against the spectators beneath Bone Hill. The spectators score a 5 (on d8) for initiative. Poor Leomund can only roll a d6, but he, too, manages to roll a 5 — a tie! However, since Leomund is throwing his dagger +2, he is able to add his reaction bonus to the die roll. His 16 Dexterity gives him a +1 bonus, so his 5 becomes a 6, and he wins initiative.  

C. Certain magic items, notably the crossbow of speed, short sword of quickness, and scimitar of speed, allow the wielder to strike first regardless of the initiative result.  

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57 Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 76-78.  
58 ibid.  
59 ibid.  
60 Gygax, Players Handbook, 39.  
61 Gygax, Monster Manual, 70.  
63 Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 76.  
64 Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 62.  
65 Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 64.  
70 ibid.  
71 Gygax, Players Handbook, 11.  
73 Gygax, Unearthed Arcana, 104.  
74 Gygax, Unearthed Arcana, 106.
VII. Generally, the results of whatever actions are decided upon by the party with initiative are determined first, followed by the results of whatever actions are decided upon by the party which lost the initiative. Ties usually indicate that attacks occur simultaneously. Special cases are listed below.

A. **Multiple Attack Routines**: When one or more creatures involved in combat are permitted to use their attack routines twice or more often during the round, then the following initiative determinants are employed.

1. When the attack routine may be used twice, then allow the side with this advantage to attack FIRST and LAST with those members of its group who have this advantage. If it is possessed by both parties, the initiative roll determines which group strikes FIRST and THIRD, which group strikes SECOND and LAST. If one or both groups have members allowed only one attack routine, it will always fall in the middle of the other attacks, the order determined by dicing for initiative, when necessary.

Erac’s Cousin squares off against Serten the cleric. As a 7th level fighter, Erac’s Cousin has an attack rate of 3/2, so he can attack twice in the first round. Serten has but one attack, so it will come between the two attacks of his opponent. If Tenser were to drop in and cast haste on Serten, then they would both have two attacks and would need to dice for initiative.

2. If one party has the ability to employ its attack routines thrice, then the other party dices for initiative to see if it, or the multi-routine group, strikes first in the mid-point of the round.

If, on the other hand, Erac’s Cousin (being a 16th level magic-user) cast haste on himself, then he could attack three times per round and Serten only one. They would need to roll for initiative to determine who struck first in the middle of the round, but Erac’s Cousin would always attack first and last.

3. Extrapolate for routines which occur four or more times in a round by following the method above.

4. Note that a routine is the attack or attacks usual to the creature concerned, i.e. a weapon (or weapons) for a character, a claw/claw/bite routine for a bear (with incidental damage assessed as it occurs — the hug, for example). A 12th level fighter is allowed attack routines twice in every odd numbered melee round, for example, and this moves up to three per round if a haste spell is cast upon the fighter.

5. This rule applies to multiple missile attacks as well as to multiple melee attacks; thus, a longbow (rate of fire 2) will generally fire FIRST and LAST in the round.

B. **Charge**: Normal melee is not possible when the opponents begin the round over 1” distant. A round must be spent closing. Alternatively, the attacker may choose to charge. This action brings the charging party into combat on the charge round, provided movement rate (plus bonus) allows this.

1. **Movement Rate of Charging Creatures**:
   a. Outdoors, charging bipeds receive a 1/3 movement bonus. Charging quadrupeds receive a 1/2 movement bonus.
   b. Indoors, movement rate for all charging creatures is doubled.
   c. Encumbered creatures may not charge.

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78 ibid.
79 ibid.
80 ibid.
81 Blume et al., 42.
88 ibid.
90 ibid.
91 ibid.
92 ibid.
93 ibid.
94 ibid.
2. Armor Class of Charging Creatures:
   a. There is no dexterity bonus allowed for charging creatures.  
   b. Creatures with no dexterity bonus become one armor class worse. 
   c. There is no penalty to AC 10 creatures for charging, however.  

3. Melee at End of Charge:
   a. Initiative is NOT checked at the end of charge movement. 
   b. The opponent with the longer weapon/reach attacks first. 
   c. Charging creatures gain +2 on their “to hit” dice if they survive any opponent attacks which occur first. 

4. To determine the timing of a charge attack vs. an opposing spell caster, compare the segments of movement required to the casting time of the spell.

Bigby nervously tries to complete his grasping hand spell as the giant charges at him. The spell requires seven segments to cast. The giant moves at 12”, which is doubled to 24”, or 24' per segment, indoors. He has 200’ to close, and will do so in (200 ÷ 24) nine segments. Bigby will get his spell off after all.

C. Spell Casting: Even when a spell caster has won the initiative, it is possible for an opponent’s attack to occur before the completion of (and thus disrupt) the spell.

1. If combat is spell vs. spell, the spell with the shorter casting time will be completed first, with the initiative result breaking ties in casting times.

Bigby and Riggby just cannot take the name jokes anymore. They decide to settle the matter with a magical duel. (The winner will deal with Diggby and the others afterwards.) Bigby decides to get it over with quickly, and starts casting meteor swarm (nine segments). Riggby, on the other hand, opens with flame strike (eight segments). Initiative is irrelevant; Riggby’s spell will go off before Bigby’s. If Bigby had been using his clenched fist spell (also eight segments), then initiative would have decided which spell was completed first.

2. If the spell caster is being attacked by a melee weapon with a speed factor rating, use the following procedure to determine when the weapon strikes.

   a. When the attacker wins initiative, the weapon will always strike prior to spell completion. 
   b. When initiative is tied, a straight comparison of weapon speed factor to spell casting time will determine which occurs first. Simultaneous results are possible. 
   c. When the attacker loses initiative, subtract the attacker’s losing initiative die from the weapon speed factor (treating negative numbers as positive), and compare the result to the spell casting time to determine which occurs first. Again, simultaneous results are possible. 

The two spell casters have closed to melee range. Bigby starts casting power word, kill (one segment). Riggby attacks with his staff of the serpent. If Riggby wins initiative, he will strike first. If initiative is tied, the one-segment spell will beat the speed factor 4 staff. As it turns out, Bigby wins initiative 6-4. Riggby’s speed factor (4) minus his losing die roll (4) equals 0, so he actually beats the one-segment spell. (He still needs to score a hit, though.)

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96 ibid. 
97 ibid. 
98 ibid. 
99 ibid. 
100 ibid. 
102 ibid. 
103 ibid. 
105 ibid. 
106 ibid. 
107 ibid. 
109 ibid. 
110 ibid. 
111 Kuntz and Gygax, 32.
3. If the spell caster is being attacked by missile weapons, or by natural weaponry without a speed factor rating (such as a monster’s claw/claw/bite), use the following procedure to determine when the attack strikes.
   a. When the attacker wins initiative, the attack will always strike prior to spell completion.
   b. When the attacker loses initiative, or when initiative is tied, the attack will occur on the segment indicated by the caster’s initiative die. Compare this to the spell casting time to determine which occurs first. Simultaneous results are possible.

   The duel comes to a grinding halt when an out-of-control air elemental turns on Bigby. It starts to attack, while Bigby tries to cast protection from evil, 10’ radius (three segments) to keep it away from him. Bigby wins initiative 4-1, so the elemental’s attack will come on segment 4, after the spell is completed. Bigby is safe — for the moment.

4. When the attacker has multiple attack routines, only the first attack has an opportunity to disrupt a spell (unless the spell requires a full round to cast).
   While Riggby takes the opportunity to cast cure light wounds on himself (five segments), Bigby’s loyal archers begin firing on him. The timing of their first volley will be determined by initiative. Riggby wins initiative 3-2, but that means that the first volley of arrows arrives in segment 3, before the completion of the spell. If the spell is not disrupted, his spell will take effect in segment 5. The second volley of arrows will strike thereafter.

5. A magic-user may cast two cantrips in a single round. In such a case, the timing of the first cantrip is determined as above. The second cantrip will be cast 1-4 segments later.
   Having exhausted all of his more useful spells, Bigby must now resort to casting cantrips. Meanwhile, Riggby is preparing a light spell with which to blind Bigby. The light spell will be completed in four segments.
   Bigby’s first cantrip, spider, will be cast in the first segment. (No cantrip has a casting time longer than 1/2 segment.) His second cantrip, yawn, will be completed d4 segments later. Bigby rolls a 3, so his second cantrip will take effect in segment 4 — the same time as Riggby’s light spell, so an initiative roll is needed to determine which spell will go off first in that segment.

6. The spell caster cannot use his or her dexterity bonus to avoid being hit during spell casting; doing so interrupts the spell.

7. Any successful attack, or non-saved-against attack, upon the spell caster interrupts the spell.

8. The above procedures for resolving the timing of attacks against spell casters also apply to opponents using magical devices with specific activation times (such as rods, staves, and wands). These functions, however, will not be automatically disrupted by a successful attack (unless the wielder is slain or otherwise incapacitated).
   Completely out of spells at this point, and low on hit points, Bigby resorts to his wand of cold frost. He uses two charges to create a cone of cold. This function has an activation time of only two segments.
   Riggby tries to hit Bigby with his hammer +2. Initiative is tied, so the weapon speed factor (4) is compared to the activation time of the wand (2). The cone of cold will go off before Riggby can try to hit Bigby. Even if Riggby had won initiative and struck first, the cone of cold would take effect unless the blow incapacitated Bigby.

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113 Gygax, Monster Manual, 37.
114 Gygax, Players Handbook, 75.
115 Gygax, Players Handbook, 43.
116 Gygax, “From the Sorcerer’s Scroll,” 11.
117 Gygax, Unearthed Arcana, 45.
118 ibid.
119 Gygax, Players Handbook, 44.
120 ibid.
121 Gygax, Unearthed Arcana, 45.
123 ibid.
124 ibid.
125 Kuntz and Gygax, 31.
127 ibid.
D. **Weapon Speed Factor:** When initiative is tied, weapon speed factors are used to determine who strikes the first blow.\(^{129}\)

1. The opponent with the weapon which has the lower speed factor will strike first,\(^{130}\) subject to the following conditions.
   a. The initiative roll must be tied.\(^{131}\)
   b. Both combatants must be using melee weapons with speed factors.\(^{132}\)
   c. Both combatants must have an odd or even number of attacks in the round (as per VII A, above).

   Otis has finally caught up with Robilar, after the latter’s reckless freeing of Zuggtmoy.\(^{133}\) The two come to blows. Otis is fighting with a battle-axe, while Robilar wields his long sword +3.\(^{134}\) Otis, as a 10th level ranger,\(^{135}\) is allowed three attacks every two rounds.\(^{136}\) Robilar, as a 19th level fighter,\(^{137}\) is entitled to two attacks every round.\(^{138}\) Therefore, in the first round, they will each have two attacks.\(^{139}\)

   Initiative dice are rolled, and tied 3-3. Speed factors are then consulted. Robilar’s long sword (speed factor 5)\(^{140}\) is faster than Otis’ battle-axe (speed factor 7),\(^{141}\) so Robilar will strike FIRST and THIRD, while Otis strikes SECOND and LAST.\(^{142}\) In the second round, however, Otis will have but one attack, so initiative and speed factors will be irrelevant — Robilar will strike FIRST and LAST, with Otis attacking in the middle.\(^{143}\)

2. When weapon speed factor is the determinant of which opponent strikes first in a melee round, there is a chance that one opponent will be entitled to multiple attacks.\(^{144}\)
   a. Compare the score of the lower-factored weapon with that of the higher.
   b. If the difference is at least twice the factor of the lower, or five or more factors in any case, the opponent with the lower-factored weapon is entitled to two attacks before the opponent with the higher weapon factor is entitled to any attack whatsoever.\(^{145}\)
   c. If the difference is ten or greater, the opponent with the lower-factored weapon is entitled to two attacks before the opponent with the higher weapon factor is allowed to attack, and one further attack at the same time the opponent with the higher-speed-factored weapon finally is allowed to attack.\(^{146}\)

\(^{130}\) ibid.
\(^{131}\) ibid.
\(^{132}\) ibid.
\(^{133}\) Gygax and Mentzer, 28.
\(^{134}\) Kuntz and Behringer, 41.
\(^{135}\) Gygax and Mentzer, 32-34.
\(^{137}\) Kuntz and Behringer, 41.
\(^{139}\) Gygax, *Dungeon Masters Guide*, 63.
\(^{141}\) ibid.
\(^{142}\) Gygax, *Dungeon Masters Guide*, 63.
\(^{143}\) ibid.
\(^{145}\) ibid.
\(^{146}\) ibid.
3. Note that such speed factor considerations are not applicable when either closing or charging to melee, but after an initial round of combat, or in cases where closing/charging was not necessary, the speed factor considerations are applicable.\footnote{Gygax, \textit{Dungeon Masters Guide}, 66.} Zagyg, amused by all this pointless bickering, plucks Tenser, Otis, and Robilar out of the space-time continuum, and drops them into a demi-plane of his own devising at a time in their pasts when they were all 1st level. He gives Tenser a dagger, Otis a club, and Robilar an awl pike. (Zagyg always did have a soft spot for ol’ Robilar.) Zagyg also loads the mystical dice of fate such that the three always tie for initiative. Then he sits back to watch. In the 1st round, the reluctant combatants close to striking distance, so no melee takes place.\footnote{ibid.} In the 2nd round, a comparison of weapon lengths determines who strikes when. Robilar’s pike (18") is first, followed by Otis’ club (3’), and, finally, Tenser’s dagger (15").\footnote{Gygax, \textit{Players Handbook}, 38.} Speed factors are not considered (per 1 & 2, above) as this was their first round of combat after closing. In round 3, however (with initiative tied), the speed factor rules apply. Because there is a ten-point difference in speed factors between Tenser’s dagger and Robilar’s pike, Tenser is allowed to attack twice before Robilar, and once more at the same time as Robilar. The difference between Robilar’s pike and Otis’ club is nine. Because the difference (9) is at least twice the lower factor (4) — or five or more in any case — Otis can also attack twice before Robilar, although without the benefit of a third attack as Tenser has. Thus, the attack sequence this round is Tenser/Otis, Tenser/Otis, Tenser/Robilar. At the end of the round, Zagyg loses interest in the whole thing, sends everyone back to his respective place and time, and takes it upon himself to start designing a completely new game system from scratch. \textbf{THE END.}
EXAMPLE OF MELEE

A party of good and neutral adventurers is exploring a dungeon. The party includes a cavalier, a paladin, a cleric, a druid, a fighter, a barbarian, and a ranger (all human). They round a corner and encounter a party of evil marauders, including a human magic-user, a human illusionist, a dwarven thief, a human acrobat, a dwarven assassin, a human monk, and a human bard.

Surprise dice are rolled. The barbarian — and, by association, his party — only has a 10% chance to be surprised.\(^{152}\) (The dungeon does not qualify as "familiar" terrain.) He rolls a 69 on d%, and thus is not surprised. On the evil side, the monk, being 7th level, (and thus the whole red party) is normally surprised 22% of the time.\(^{153}\) However, the clever cleric had previously cast silence 15' radius on his torch. The DM rules that the thus-silenced blue party will increase their surprise chances by 1 in 6 (16\(^{1/2}\)%). This modifier is added to the monk's base 22%, yielding a net 38\(^{1/2}\)% (or 39%) chance of surprise. The monk rolls 38 on d%; therefore, his side will be surprised.

Dividing the monk's result of 38 by 16\(^{1/2}\) (and rounding up), we find that his party will be surprised for three segments. Several members of the red party have reaction adjustments from high Dexterity, though, and thus will not be surprised for the full three segments. The illusionist, the thief, and the bard each have a 17 Dexterity, so they will only be surprised for one segment.\(^{154}\) The acrobat has a 16 Dexterity, and so will only be surprised for two segments.\(^{155}\)

A d3 is rolled to determine the distance between the parties. This is found to be 20'. The blue party swings into action. The cavalier and the paladin declare that they will charge the magic-user and illusionist, respectively. They are both wearing plate mail, and move at 6'.\(^{156}\) Their doubled charge movement is 12", or 12' per segment. It will take them two of their surprise segments to complete the charge. The barbarian also decides to charge the magic-user. His movement rate is 15", doubled to 30" for charging. He can complete the charge and strike in one segment.

The cleric tosses away his silenced torch and begins casting another silence 15' radius spell at the magic-user. The casting time is five segments,\(^{158}\) only three of which can be completed during surprise. The spell will take effect two segments into the first full round of combat. The druid decides to throw his spear +2 at the illusionist. The fighter will sip from his potion of invisibility in the first segment. A result of 2 on d4 + 1 indicates that the potion will take effect two segments later.\(^{159}\) The ranger, meanwhile, decides to let loose with her light crossbow. She did not have it cocked and loaded, but is still entitled to take her normal rate of fire (3/2, as she is a specialist)\(^{160}\) in each segment of surprise. She fires at the acrobat.

Now we begin to resolve these actions. First, in surprise segment 1, the ranger makes her first attack with her light crossbow. She is firing at the acrobat, who is AC 8 (but AC type 10). The ranger rolls on 11. Since she is a specialist firing at point blank range, she gets a +2 bonus.\(^{161}\) She also gets another +2 bonus because she is firing bolts +2.\(^{162}\) Finally, a light crossbow vs. AC type 10 receives an additional +3 bonus.\(^{163}\) This makes the final result an 18. As the ranger is 8th level, an 18 hits AC -4, thus hitting the acrobat easily.\(^{164}\) Damage is 2(d4 + 2),\(^{165}\) + 2 for magic.\(^{166}\) The ranger rolls a 4, and inflicts 14hp of damage.

The druid then throws his spear +2 at the illusionist, who is AC 7 (AC type 10). The druid rolls a 5. The +2 magic bonus makes this a 7,\(^{167}\) but the -2 penalty for medium range drops it to a 5 again.\(^{168}\) (There is no adjustment for a thrown spear vs. AC type 10.)\(^{169}\) As the druid is 12th level, this hits AC 9 — not quite good enough.\(^{170}\)

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\(^{152}\) Gygax, Unearthed Arcana, 19.
\(^{154}\) Gygax, Players Handbook, 11.
\(^{155}\) ibid.
\(^{156}\) Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 27.
\(^{157}\) Gygax, Unearthed Arcana, 18.
\(^{158}\) Gygax, Players Handbook, 45.
\(^{159}\) Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 119.
\(^{160}\) Gygax, Unearthed Arcana, 18.
\(^{161}\) ibid.
\(^{162}\) Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 168.
\(^{163}\) Gygax, Players Handbook, 38.
\(^{164}\) Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 74.
\(^{165}\) Gygax, Unearthed Arcana, 18.
\(^{166}\) Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 168.
\(^{167}\) ibid.
\(^{168}\) Gygax, Players Handbook, 38.
\(^{169}\) ibid.
\(^{170}\) Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 74.
The barbarian completes his charge at the magic-user, who is AC 10. He is wielding a long sword +1, with a hand axe in his off hand. He gets to make two attack rolls — one for each weapon. With the sword, he rolls a 17, hitting easily. Damage is d8 +1 for his 17 Strength, +1 for magic. He inflicts 7 hp of damage with the sword. For his axe attack, he rolls even better — a 19! This causes d6 +1 damage, for 4 hp. The magic-user sustains 11 hp of damage.

Now, the ranger fires his second crossbow bolt, again at the acrobat. A roll of 15 hits, causing another 8 hp of damage. At the end of the first segment of surprise, the cavalier and paladin are halfway through their charge, and the cleric is in the midst of casting a spell. We proceed to the second surprise segment.

As noted earlier, the illusionist, the thief, and the bard were only surprised for one segment, so they are on their guard now. In addition, the monk has a heavy crossbow of speed, which he can fire in this segment (despite still being surprised). He targets the paladin. The DM decides that the illusionist, who sees the paladin barreling down on him, will start to cast improved invisibility on himself. The casting time is four segments, so the invisibility will take effect two segments into the first full round of combat.

The dwarf von chief, who has been hidden from view in the second rank, will attempt to hide in shadows. The bard, meanwhile, begins casting heat metal on the entire blue party, save the druid. The casting time is also four segments, thus, the spell will be completed two segments into the first full round.

On the blue side, the cavalier and paladin will complete their charge movement. The cleric is still casting silence 15' radius. The druid begins casting barkskin on himself. The casting time is three segments, so it will be completed one segment into the first full round. The fighter slowly advances while waiting for his potion to take effect. The barbarian continues to attack the still-surprised magic-user, and the ranger continues firing his light crossbow.

Due to his magic heavy crossbow of speed, the still-surprised monk fires first in this segment. He rolls a 7. The +1 bonus for the magic crossbow, together with his bolts +2, makes this a 10. However, the paladin is AC type 2, so the heavy crossbow takes a -1 penalty. The net result is 9, which, for a 7th level monk, hits AC 7. The bolt glances harmlessly off the paladin’s plate mail.

The barbarian’s attack rate is 3/2, so he will attack twice this segment. As his “attack routine” is with two weapons, he gets to strike twice with each. His first attack rolls are 13 (for his long sword +1) and 8 (for his hand axe). Both hit the AC 10 magic-user, for a total of 10 hp. The ranger also has a rate of fire of 3/2, but, as she fired twice last segment, she can only fire once this segment. She rolls a 14, hitting the acrobat for 12 hp this time. The acrobat only had 10 hp left, so he is now unconscious.

The cavalier completes her charge against the magic-user, rolling a 4. She is 9th level, and receives a +2 “weapon of choice” bonus, +1 bonus for her magic long sword +1, and a +2 bonus for charging. The cavalier also receives a +2 bonus with a long sword vs. AC type 10. This makes her net result 11, which hits AC 1 — more than enough to hit the magic-user. She rolls d8 for damage, +1 for her 16 Strength, +1 for magic. The magic-user takes 7 hp of damage. She had only 4 hp left, so she, too, is now unconscious.

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171 Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 70.
175 Gygax, Players Handbook, 97.
176 Gygax, Players Handbook, 56.
177 Gygax, Players Handbook, 55.
180 Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 74.
182 Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 82.
183 Gygax, Unearthed Arcana, 14.
185 Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 74.
At the same time, the **paladin** completes his charge against the **illusionist**. He rolls a 3. The **paladin**, however, receives +3 for his 18/00 Strength,\(^{188}\) +2 for "weapon of choice", +1 for his magic **long sword**\(^{189}\) +1, +2 for charging, and +2 for long sword vs. AC type 10. This totals 13, which, for an 11th level paladin, hits AC -3!\(^{190}\) (The paladin could not miss.) Damage is d8, +6 for Strength,\(^{191}\) +1 for magic. A roll of 5 equals 12 hp of damage to the **illusionist**, which also ruins his spell.

Since the **magic-user** has fallen, the **barbarian** wants to make his second attack routine against the adjacent **illusionist**. However, since the **illusionist** is no longer surprised, he is not vulnerable to "free" attacks anymore. The **barbarian** can engage him, but will not have an opportunity to score damage until the first full round of combat.

At the end of two surprise segments, the **cleric** and **druid** are still casting spells. The **cavalier**, **paladin**, and **barbarian** are engaged in melee. The soon-to-be invisible fighter is closing to striking distance, and the ranger has been firing her light crossbow.

On the red side, the **magic-user** and **acrobat** have been incapacitated, the **illusionist** is in melee with the **paladin** and **barbarian**, the thief is hiding in shadows, and the bard is casting a spell. The **assassin** and the **monk** are still surprised. The third and final surprise segment now begins.

The **illusionist**, who will not likely survive the first full round of combat (what with the **paladin** and the **barbarian** both wailing away at him), decides to start casting **mass suggestion**. The casting time is six segments,\(^{193}\) so it will take effect five segments into the first round. He hopes that the dice let him get this spell off in time. The bard, meanwhile, is continuing the **heat metal** spell that she started last segment.

In the blue party, the **cavalier** will attack the still-surprised **assassin**. The **paladin** and **barbarian** are still engaged with the **illusionist**, but do not get an opportunity to strike for damage until the first full round (since the **illusionist** is up and on his guard). The **cleric** and **druid** are still occupied with their spells. The **fighter** continues closing (at 9", he moves a total of 18' in the second and third segments), while the ranger fires her light crossbow at the monk.

The ranger again is entitled to two shots this segment. For her first attack, she rolls a 17. This should hit the monk without question; however, being a monk, he is allowed a save vs. petrification to dodge the missile.\(^{192}\) The monk rolls a 3, failing the save.\(^{193}\) The ranger’s crossbow bolt hits for the maximum of 14 hp. At the same time, the cavalier takes the first of her two attacks against the **assassin**. She rolls an 18, undoubtedly enough to hit the AC 10 **assassin**. The damage is only 5 hp, though — barely a scratch.

For her second attack, the ranger rolls a 13. The monk again fails his save vs. petrification, and suffers another 8 hp of damage. The **cavalier** also hits the **assassin** again, for another 5 hp. At the end of this, the third surprise segment, the fighter’s potion takes effect. He is now invisible.\(^{194}\) Surprise is over, and the first full round of combat begins.

Both sides declare actions. The DM decides that, while the **illusionist** continues casting his spell, the hidden thief will attempt to **backstab** the **paladin**.\(^{195}\) The **assassin** will strike at the **cavalier**, the **monk** will return fire on the ranger, and the **bard** will finish her **heat metal** spell. The players announce that the cavalier, paladin, and barbarian will continue attacking their respective opponents, as the cleric and druid complete their spells. The ranger will again fire at the monk, while the invisible fighter moves into position to strike at the bard next round. For the first time in this encounter, initiative is rolled. Also for the first time in this encounter, the dice favor the red party, which wins initiative 6-5. Now, the timing of everyone’s actions is determined.

The monk, with his heavy crossbow of speed, automatically fires first. He rolls a 4. This is increased to 7 with magic bonuses. The ranger is AC type 5, which grants another +2 bonus, for a 9 total.\(^{196}\) This only hits AC 7.\(^{197}\) The ranger is AC 4, so the bolt again glances off harmlessly.

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\(^{189}\) Gygax, *Dungeon Masters Guide*, 74.
\(^{193}\) Gygax, *Dungeon Masters Guide*, 79.
\(^{194}\) Gygax, *Dungeon Masters Guide*, 126.
\(^{197}\) Gygax, *Dungeon Masters Guide*, 74.
The druid’s barkskin spell takes effect now, improving his AC from 6 to 5. Next, the cleric’s silence 15’ radius spell goes off (without a saving throw) against the unconscious magic-user. While this enhances the fighter’s invisibility (and, unfortunately, the thief’s hide in shadows), it is not quick enough to silence the bard. Having won initiative, the bard’s heat metal spell takes effect just slightly earlier in segment 2 than the cleric’s spell.

Since the fighter became invisible, he can no longer be targeted, but the cavalier and paladin (both of whom are wearing plate mail) are affected, as is the barbarian (who is unarmored, but wielding metal weapons). On this, the first round of the spell, their metal items become uncomfortably warm. Both the cleric and ranger are wearing magical chain mail +1, which is entitled to a save vs. magical fire. They both pass the save, and their armor is unaffected by the spell (although they will be unable to draw any metallic weapons).

It was determined earlier that the illusionist’s spell would be completed in segment 5. He is being attacked by both the paladin (with a long sword +1) and the barbarian (with a long sword +1 and a hand axe). Substituting the blue party’s losing initiative roll of 5 from the weapon speed factors (5 and 4, respectively), and treating negative numbers as positive, it is seen that the weapons will strike in segment “0” (the very beginning of the round) and segment 1, both before the spell is completed. (The poor illusionist did not make out so well after all.)

The paladin rolls a 1. Unbelievably, this is sufficient to hit AC 1. (No official AD&D® rule states that a “to hit” roll of 1 always misses.) The illusionist suffers 10 hp of damage, and loses his spell (again). The barbarian, for his part, rolls a 5 with his long sword +1. He receives +1 for his 17 Strength, +1 for magic, and +2 vs. AC type 10, giving him a total of 9. For an 8th level barbarian, this hits AC 5, and so causes 6 hp of damage. The barbarian’s hand axe attack (another 19!) inflicts 4 hp more, killing the illusionist.

Now the hidden thief can make his backstab attack against the paladin. (Despite the fact that the thief’s side won the initiative, the paladin is entitled to two attacks per round, while the thief has but one; thus, the paladin will always strike first.) The red party’s luck being what it is, the thief rolls a 3. Even with a +4 bonus for striking from behind, he still suffers a -1 penalty for using a long sword vs. AC type 3. (The paladin’s shield is negated.) This totals a 6, which, for an 8th level thief, doesn’t even hit AC 10. He misses horribly, and is now plainly visible (and a likely target for the paladin’s second attack routine).

The cavalier now makes her first attack against the assassin. (Again, since she receives two attacks per round and the assassin only one, the cavalier will always strike first, regardless of initiative.) She rolls an 11, and hits again, this time for a full 10 hp.

The assassin returns the attack, rolling a 17. This is modified by -2 for long sword vs. AC type 2. The net result of 15, for a 9th level assassin, hits AC 1. The cavalier is in plate mail and shield, with a 16 Dexterity, and so has AC 0. The assassin’s sword barely misses. She will need to roll an 18 or better to hit.

The ranger, who is entitled to only one shot this round, fires at the monk. This time she rolls a 5, +2 for specialization, +2 for magic, and +3 vs. AC type 10, for a net result of 12. This hits the AC 5 monk, who yet again fails his save vs. petrification, and suffers 14 hp of damage. The monk is now unconscious.

The paladin, as predicted, makes his second attack against the foolish thief who attempted to backstab him. As was illustrated earlier, the paladin cannot miss AC 1 or worse, and thus does not even bother to roll. He hits the thief for 11 hp of damage. The cavalier, meanwhile, makes her second attack on the assassin. She rolls a 17, and inflicts 9 hp more.
At the end of the first full round of combat, the illusionist is dead. The cavalier is engaged with the assassin, while the paladin and barbarian are similarly engaged with the thief. Except for the cleric, druid, and ranger (who never advanced forward), everyone is silenced. The cavalier, paladin, barbarian, cleric, and ranger are under the effects of the bard’s heat metal spell. The invisible fighter is in striking distance of the bard. The monk is unconscious at -1 hp, while the acrobat and magic-user each suffer 1 hp of bleeding damage (leaving them at -3 and -4, respectively).215

Actions are now declared for round 2. The DM decides that the magic-user, acrobat, and monk will all lay on the ground bleeding (not that they have much choice). The thief and assassin will continue attacking their opponents, while the bard (who is unaware of the invisible fighter) will drink half of her potion of super-heroism. The DM rules that she will need one segment to take it from her pouch,216 one segment to drink it, and a further d4 + 1 = three segments before it takes effect.

The players declare that the cavalier, paladin, and barbarian will continue attacking their respective opponents. The cleric, who is outside the silenced area, will cast light on the bard’s eyes. The casting time is four segments.217 The druid will cast flame blade (three segments),218 while the ranger (also unaware of the invisible fighter’s position) will fire on the bard. Initiative dice are rolled, and the blue party wins 4-3.

The cavalier, paladin, fighter, barbarian, and ranger are each allowed two attacks this round.219 Initiative is irrelevant for them, even though they won. The cavalier hits the assassin with a roll of 8, causing 4 hp of damage. The paladin automatically hits the thief, for 11 hp. The barbarian hits with his long sword +1, doing another 3 hp of damage, but misses with his hand axe on a roll of 2.

The now-visible220 fighter strikes the bard for a whopping 17 hp (d8, +6 for 18/00 Strength, +3 for double specialization,221 +1 for magic long sword +1)! Unfortunately, this puts him in the line of fire of the ranger. Since the fighter and bard are both humans (and thus about the same size), the ranger has a 50/50 chance of hitting either of them.222 The DM’s secret die roll indicates that the fighter will be the target. The blue party’s luck continues, however, as the ranger rolls a 1 and misses her ally. The druid’s flame blade spell now takes effect, followed by the cleric’s light spell. The bard, however, easily makes her saving throw with a 16, so the light spell goes off immediately behind her.223

It is now the red party’s turn to act. The bard’s potion of super-heroism kicks in. She is a 7th level fighter, and so gains three levels and 2d10 + 3 = 17 hit points.224 A roll of 5d4 indicates that the effects will last for eleven rounds,225 but this is divided by two (six rounds), as she drank only half of the potion.226

Meanwhile, the thief attacks the barbarian (figuring he is less likely to hit the plate-armored paladin). He rolls a 10. As the barbarian is AC type 10, this is modified to a 12, which hits AC 7.227 The unarmored barbarian, however, with his 18 Dexterity, is AC 228 — not much worse than the paladin after all! The thief does not feel at all good about this. On the other side of the melee, the assassin again swings at the cavalier. As was determined earlier, she needs to roll an 18 or better to hit. She rolls a 15, and misses again.

Now, the blue fighter-types get their second attacks. The ranger, seeing that she no longer has a clear shot, will hold her fire. The cavalier hits the assassin for 4 hp more. The paladin and barbarian kill the thief. The fighter hits the bard again, this time for 14 hp (which is subtracted from the temporary 17 hp the bard gained from her potion of super-heroism).229

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215 Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 82.
217 Gygax, Player’s Handbook, 44.
218 Gygax, Unearthed Arcana, 42.
219 Gygax, Unearthed Arcana, 18, 22.
221 Gygax, Unearthed Arcana, 18.
222 Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 63.
223 Gygax, Player’s Handbook, 44.
225 Ibid.
226 Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 125.
227 Gygax, Dungeon Masters Guide, 74.
228 Gygax, Unearthed Arcana, 18.
At the end of round 2, the arms and armor of the cavalier, paladin, and barbarian are now “hot”, and they each suffer d4 damage from the *heat metal* spell.239 The damage rolls are 3, 1, and 3, respectively (this being the only damage they have sustained thus far). The illusionist and thief are dead. The magic-user, acrobat, and monk each lose another hit point to bleeding, leaving them at -5, -4, and -2, respectively. The assassin is still engaged with the cavalier, and the bard with the fighter. Spells in effect are the aforementioned *heat metal* on most of the blue party, *silence* 15’ radius on all the melee combatants, and *barkskin* and *flame blade* on the druid. The bard will have the benefit of her *potion of super-heroism* for five more rounds.

Actions are now declared for round 3. The assassin continues fighting the cavalier, while the bard will attack the fighter with her *broadsword* +3. The cavalier will continue to attack the assassin, as the fighter will the bard. The barbarian will drop his hot weapons and pick up the unconscious magic-user’s staff. The paladin will drop his sword and shield, and begin removing his hot armor. The cleric and the ranger will move up behind the cavalier and paladin, respectively. The druid will charge the assassin.

Initiative dice are again rolled, and tied 5-5. The DM rules that the barbarian can easily retrieve the magic-user’s staff in one round. The paladin, however, will need four rounds to remove his plate mail.231 The cleric and ranger each take their movement (which is of little consequence to the timing of attacks).

The fighter and bard are each entitled to two attacks this round. Since initiative was tied, weapon speeds are used to determine the order of attack. However, both swords have the same speed factor (5),232 so the attacks will be truly simultaneous. The fighter hits the bard with a 13, causing 13 hp of damage. The bard hits the fighter with a 19, causing 10 hp of damage.

The cavalier is also entitled to two attacks this round, and thus she strikes before the assassin. She rolls an 8, and hits for 6 hp of damage. The assassin only had 6 hp left, so she is unconscious. The DM allows the druid, who was charging the assassin, to continue on to the bard. He will strike last in the round.

The fighter and bard now make their second attacks against each other. The fighter hits with a 12, causing 14 hp of damage. The bard also hits with a 12, causing 9 hp of damage. As she is less than 10’ away, the cavalier may also take her second attack on the bard.233 She rolls a 13, and hits for 9 hp.

Now the druid completes his charge. Unfortunately, he rolls a 3. The +2 bonus for charging makes this a 5. However, the *flame blade* is treated as a scimitar,234 which has a -1 penalty against the bard’s AC type 5.235 The druid’s net result of 4 misses.

The arms and armor of the cavalier and paladin are now “searing”, and they each suffer 2d4 damage from the *heat metal* spell.236 The rolls are 8 and 6. The cavalier, who is still in her helmet, passes out.237 The paladin, who would have removed his helmet first, does not pass out, but they will both be disabled for 1-4 days from the burns.238 (“Finally,” thinks the bard.)

At the end of round 3, only the bard remains active on the red side. She is engaged with the fighter and the druid. The unconscious magic-user, acrobat, and monk each lose another hit point, bringing them down to -6, -5, and -3, respectively. The cavalier and paladin are down on the blue side, with the cleric, ranger, and barbarian standing nearby.

Actions are declared for round 4. The bard will fight on. The cleric will help the fallen cavalier out of her armor, while the ranger does the same for the paladin. The barbarian will close with the bard, while the fighter and druid continue to attack.

Initiative is rolled, and the bard wins 3-2. However, the bard’s attack rate is 3/2,239 and she only has one attack this round. Therefore the fighter, with 2/1, is allowed to strike first. He rolls a 17, and hits for 15 hp. The bard returns the attack. She hits with an 18, but only does 5 hp of damage. Then the druid attacks, but, alas, he rolls a 1 and misses completely. The fighter’s second attack roll, though, is a 10, which hits for 17 hp and kills the bard. The melee is over.

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234 Gygax, *Unearthed Arcana*, 42.
237 *ibid*.
238 *ibid*.
What follows on the next two pages are a pair of charts, useful as a graphic tool for comparing which of two actions occurs first in a round. (Thanks to Dragonsfoot members Link and WSmith for their early work with this format!)

**TIED D6 ROLL**

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<td>Same Time</td>
<td>Higher #AT, then Same Time</td>
<td>Missile</td>
<td>Same Time</td>
<td>Higher #AT, then Same Time</td>
<td>Caster’s d6 vs. Casting Time</td>
<td>Same Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISSILE MULTI</td>
<td>Higher #AT, then Same Time</td>
<td>Higher #AT, then Same Time</td>
<td>Higher #AT, then Same Time</td>
<td>Missile</td>
<td>Higher #AT, then Same Time</td>
<td>Higher #AT, then Same Time</td>
<td>Caster’s d6 vs. Casting Time</td>
<td>Same Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPELL</td>
<td>Casting Time vs. Caster’s d6</td>
<td>Casting Time vs. Speed Factor</td>
<td>As MELEE or MELEE W/ SF</td>
<td>Casting Time vs. Caster’s d6</td>
<td>Casting Time vs. Caster’s d6</td>
<td>Shorter Casting Time, then Same Time</td>
<td>Casting Time vs. Caster’s d6</td>
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<tr>
<td>TURN</td>
<td>Same Time</td>
<td>Same Time</td>
<td>Same Time</td>
<td>Turn</td>
<td>Same Time</td>
<td>Same Time</td>
<td>Caster’s d6 vs. Casting Time</td>
<td>Same Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MELEE**: Natural attack forms without speed factor ratings.

**MELEE W/ SF**: Attacks with melee weapons; speed factor is used to break ties in 2nd & subsequent rounds.

**MELEE MULTI**: Combatant with more attacks strikes first & last; use d6 or SF when both have odd or even # of attacks.

**CHARGE**: Initiative not checked; weapon length / reach determines who strikes first.

**MISSILE**: Dexterity Reaction/Attacking Adjustment added to (or subtracted from) individual’s d6 roll; “Tied d6” includes this.

**MISSILE MULTI**: Missile rate of fire greater than 1; treated the same as MELEE MULTI, but also includes DEX adjustment.

**SPELL**: Completed after # of segments casting time; includes scrolls, potions, & other magic devices with activation times.

**TURN**: Subject to initiative determination, but cannot be interrupted unless cleric is incapacitated.
### High D6 Roll vs. Low D6 Roll

| MELEE vs. MELEE W/ SF vs. MELEE MULTI vs. CHARGE vs. MISSILE vs. MISSILE MULTI vs. SPELL vs. TURN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MELEE** | High d6 | High d6 | Higher #AT, then High d6 | Longer Reach | High d6 (+ DEX) | Higher #AT, then High d6 (+ DEX) | High d6 | High d6 |
| **MELEE W/ SF** | High d6 | High d6 | Higher #AT, then High d6 | Longer Reach | High d6 (+ DEX) | Higher #AT, then High d6 (+ DEX) | High d6 | High d6 |
| **MELEE MULTI** | Higher #AT, then High d6 | Higher #AT, then High d6 | Higher #AT, then High d6 | Longer Reach | Higher #AT, then High d6 (+ DEX) | Higher #AT, then High d6 (+ DEX) | High d6 | High d6 |
| **CHARGE** | Longer Reach | Longer Reach | Higher #AT, then Longer Reach | Longer Reach | Missile | Missile | Move vs. Casting Time | Turn |
| **MISSILE** | High d6 (+ DEX) | High d6 (+ DEX) | Higher #AT, then High d6 (+ DEX) | Missile | High d6 (+ DEX) | Higher #AT, then High d6 (+ DEX) | High d6 (+ DEX) | High d6 (+ DEX) |
| **MISSILE MULTI** | Higher #AT, then High d6 (+ DEX) | Higher #AT, then High d6 (+ DEX) | Higher #AT, then High d6 (+ DEX) | Missile | Higher #AT, then High d6 (+ DEX) | Higher #AT, then High d6 (+ DEX) | High d6 (+ DEX) | High d6 (+ DEX) |
| **SPELL** | Casting Time vs. Caster’s d6 | Casting Time vs. (Speed Factor - Low d6) | As MELEE or MELEE W/ SF | Casting Time vs. Caster’s d6 | Casting Time vs. Caster’s d6 | Shorter Casting Time, then High d6 | Casting Time vs. Caster’s d6 |
| **TURN** | High D6 | High D6 | High D6 | Turn | High D6 | High D6 | High D6 | High D6 |

**Caster’s d6 vs. Casting Time:** Compare segment indicated by caster’s initiative die to casting time.

**Casting Time vs. Caster’s d6:** Compare casting time to segment indicated by caster’s initiative die.

**Casting Time vs. (Speed Factor - Low d6):** Compare casting time to absolute value of (speed factor minus losing d6).

**Casting Time vs. Move:** Compare casting time of spell to segments of movement.

**Casting Time vs. Speed Factor:** Compare spell casting time to weapon speed factor.

**High d6:** Party with higher initiative roll acts first.

**High d6 (+ DEX):** Missile-user adjusts d6 roll according to Dexterity before comparing.

**Higher #AT:** Individual with most attacks acts first.

**Longer Reach:** Individual with longer weapon/reach strikes first.

**Low Speed Factor (after round 1):** Speed factor is used to break ties after 1st round of melee (unless no charging/closing).

**Missile:** Initial missile fire will always beat a charge, as the “reach” of a missile weapon is greater than any melee weapon.

**Move vs. Casting Time:** Compare segments of movement to casting time of spell.

**Same Time:** Both parties act simultaneously; damage accrues to each.

**Shorter Casting Time:** When combat is spell vs. spell, the faster spell will be completed first; initiative is used to break ties.

**Speed Factor vs. Casting Time:** Compare weapon speed factor to spell casting time.

**Turn:** Turning undead will always beat a charge, as the “reach” of the turning cleric is greater than any melee weapon.
This chart (also first developed by Dragonsfoot members Link and WSmith) illustrates the sequence of attacks between combatants with multiple attack routines. The timing of spells (and similar actions) is always keyed to the opponent’s first attack, regardless of how many he is permitted. When two or more opponents have attacks in the same row, initiative (or weapon speed, where applicable) determines the order of attacks for that row.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 attack</th>
<th>2 attacks</th>
<th>3 attacks</th>
<th>4 attacks</th>
<th>5 attacks</th>
<th>6 attacks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1st</td>
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</table>

Cartoon by the late David C. Sutherland III, originally published in The Strategic Preview c. 1976. (Thanks to Paul J. Stormberg for posting this on EN World.)
LIST OF SOURCES


Thanks also to the dozens of [Dragonsfoot](http://www.dragonsfoot.org) users who took the time to vote and post in the various A.D.D.I.C.T. polls. It’s done!