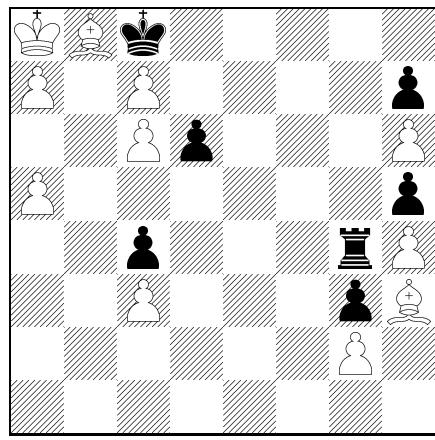


55 Merrick Way, #734
Coral Gables, FL 33134
December 31, 2014

Dear Mr. Gottlieb,

I have a comment concerning the helplessmate problem in the November-December *MIT Technology Review*. Such problems have been considered before. In 1994 Noam Elkies composed the position below, which requires seven moves to mate. Elkies also constructed a position (which I cannot recall) with many promoted men on the board that requires ten moves.

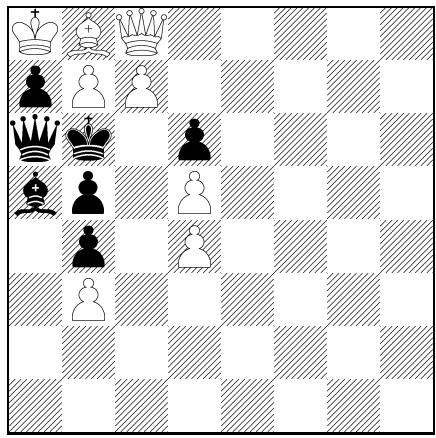
Noam Elkies
unpublished, 1994



Mate in 7

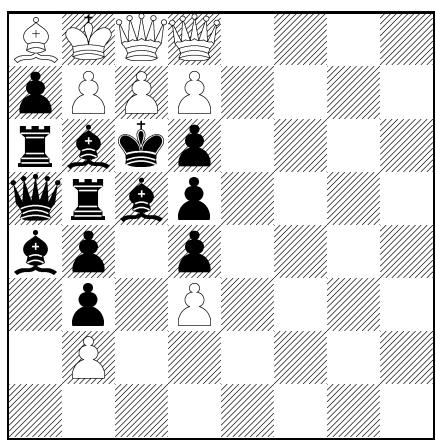
An interesting variant is *ultimate mutual Zugzwang*: whoever moves *must* be eventually checkmated regardless of what either player does. It is not so easy to find any positions with this property. Two examples are given below.

H. Hünerkopf
feenschach, 1972



Whoever moves must be mated in one

Noam D. Elkies
original, 2000



Whoever moves must be mated in two

Sincerely, and Happy New Year!

Richard Stanley