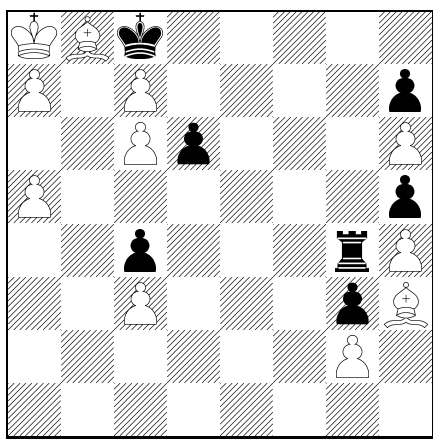


55 Merrick Way, #734  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
December 31, 2014

Dear Mr. Gottlieb,

I have a comment concerning the helplessnessmate 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.

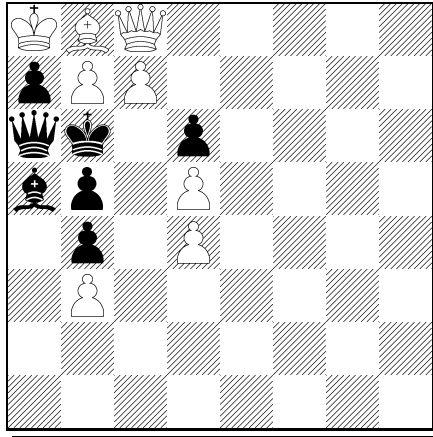
**Noam Elkies**  
unpublished, 1994



Mate in 7

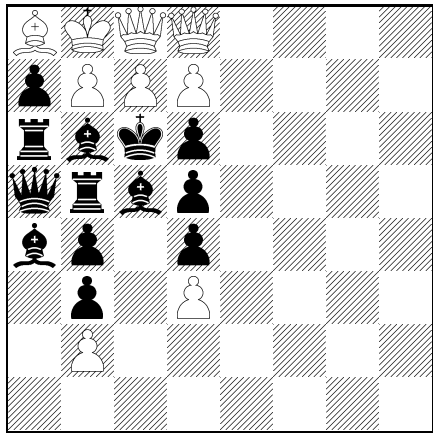
An interesting variant is *ultimate mutual Zugzwang*: whoever moves *must* be eventually checkmated regardless of what either player does. It is not so easy to find any positions with this property. Two examples are given below.

**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