

Go Game with AI and GUI Using Python

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- **Project Idea:**

Develop a functional Python-based desktop Go game with AI and a user-friendly GUI.

- **Main functionalities:**

- 1) provide an interactive gaming experience
- 2) customize the interactive board sizes (9x9 , 13x13 , 19x19)
- 3) determine AI difficulty levels
- 4) Real-time Score updates
- 5) Save and Load game

- **Academic Context :**

combines :

- 1) Game Development
- 2) AI Optimization
- 3) Python Libraries

- **Similar Applications :**

- 1) KGS Go Server : Online Platform for Go Players
- 2) SmartGO : AI-based Go game for IOS and Android

- **Literature Review:**

- 1) “ The Elements of Go Strategy ” (by Bozulich and Davies) :
Offers insights into strategic approaches in Go.
- 2) “ AlphaGo Zero : Mastering the game of Go ” (by Silver etal) :
Highlights AI advancements in playing Go with deep reinforcement learning.
- 3) “ Minimax Algorithm with Alpha-Beta Pruning ” (AI-focused papers) :
Discusses optimization techniques for decision-making algorithms.
- 4) “ Tkinter GUI Development ” (official Python documentation) :
Explains best practices for building user-friendly interfaces in Python.
- 5) “ Heuristic Evaluation in AI ” (Practical guide to heuristics) :
Guides the design of evaluation functions for AI decision making.

These resources guided the design of this game

- **Applied Algorithms:**

- 1) Minimax Algorithms :**

- A) evaluates all possible moves

- B) chooses the move with highest score for the player

- 2) Alpha-Beta Pruning :**

- A) Optimizes Minimax by ignoring branches that don't affect the outcome.

- B) Improves computational efficiency.

- C) reduces computation time

- 3) Heuristic Evaluation :**

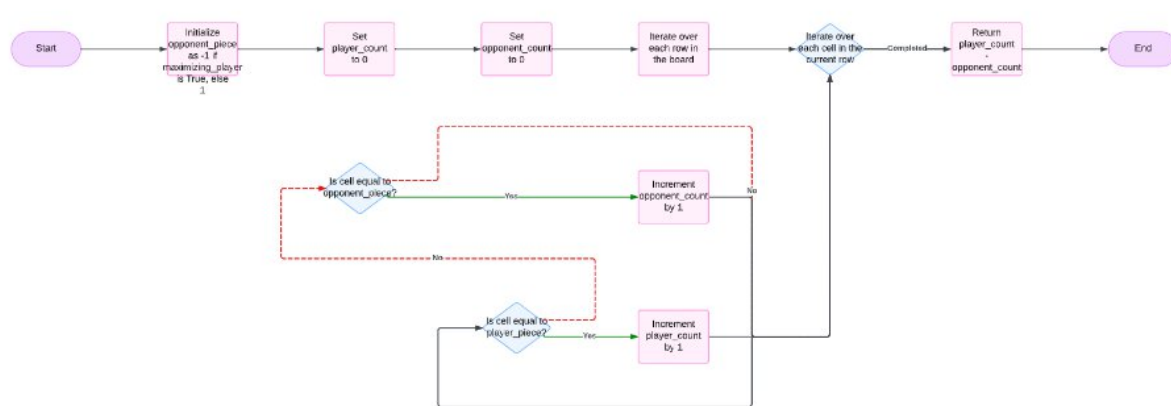
- A) Scores board states based on territory, captured stones, and potential moves.

- B) ensures The AI selects optimal moves without exhaustive search.

```

125 ✓ def heuristic_func_1(self, board, maximizing_player):
126     """
127     First heuristic function: Counts the difference in the number of pieces
128     between the current player (maximizing_player) and the opponent.
129     maximizing_player = 1 for Black, -1 for White.
130     """
131     player_piece = maximizing_player
132     opponent_piece = -maximizing_player
133
134     player_count = 0
135     opponent_count = 0
136
137     for row in board:
138         for cell in row:
139             if cell == player_piece:
140                 player_count += 1
141             elif cell == opponent_piece:
142                 opponent_count += 1
143
144     return player_count - opponent_count

```



• Heuristic Function 1 :

- This function calculates a score by comparing the number of pieces for the current player (maximizing_player) with the opponent.
- It determines how advantageous the board position is for the maximizing_player.

Time Complexity $O(m * n)$. = $O(n^2)$

• Outer Loop:

Iterates over each row in the board

→ $O(m)$ (where m is the number of rows).

• Inner Loop:

Iterates over each cell in a row

→ $O(n)$ (where n is the number of columns per row).

• Total Complexity:

- The function processes all cells in the board, resulting in $m * n$ iterations. = $O(n^2)$

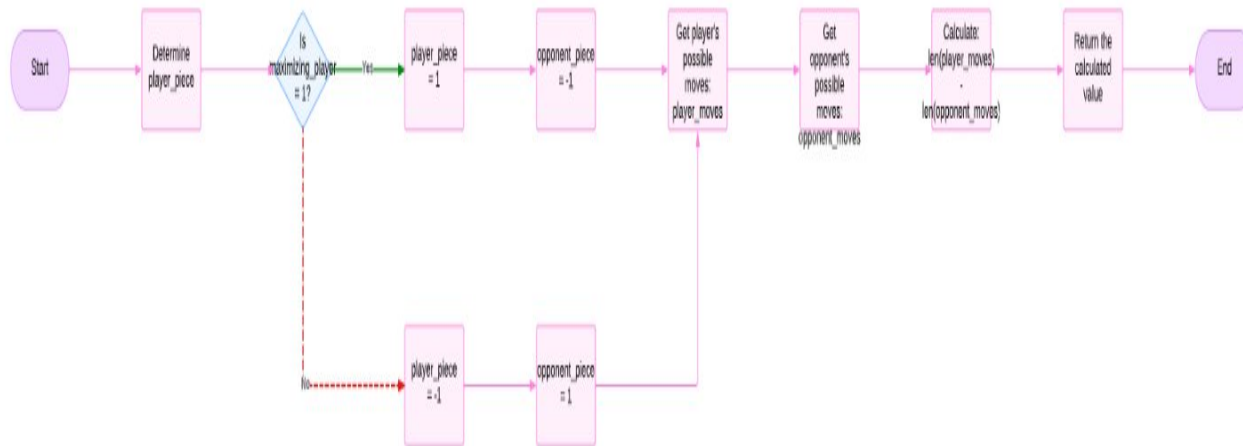
Space Complexity = $O(1)$

- The function uses a constant amount of memory for:
- Integer variables (player_piece, opponent_piece, player_count, opponent_count).
- It does not allocate extra space dependent on the size of the board.

```

147  def heuristic_func_2(self, board, maximizing_player):
148      """
149      Second heuristic function: Count the number of possible moves for the player.
150      (maximizing_player = 1 for the maximizing player, -1 for the minimizing player).
151      """
152
153      possible_moves = self.get_possible_moves()
154
155      player_moves = [(x, y) for x, y in possible_moves if board[x, y] == maximizing_player]
156      opponent_moves = [(x, y) for x, y in possible_moves if board[x, y] == -maximizing_player]
157
158      return len(player_moves) - len(opponent_moves)

```



• Heuristic Function 2 :

This function evaluates the board state by calculating the difference in the number of possible moves for the current player (maximizing_player) and their opponent

Time Complexity

▪ self.get_possible_moves ():

$O(m * n)$ operations, where m and n are the dimensions.

• Filtering

Checking the condition $board[x, y] == maximizing_player$ or $-maximizing_player$ is a constant time operation for each move. Let the number of possible moves be k ($k \leq m * n$).

• Total Complexity:

Assuming $k \approx m * n$ in the worst case:
Time Complexity = $O(m * n)$.

Space Complexity = $O(k)$

- $O(k)$, where k is the number of possible moves

- **minimax :**

evaluate the optimal move by
simulating all possible outcomes up to a specified depth.

Time Complexity

- **Base Case**

$O(n^2)$..

- **Recursive Calls.**

Each level evaluates $O(b^d)$ board states in total.

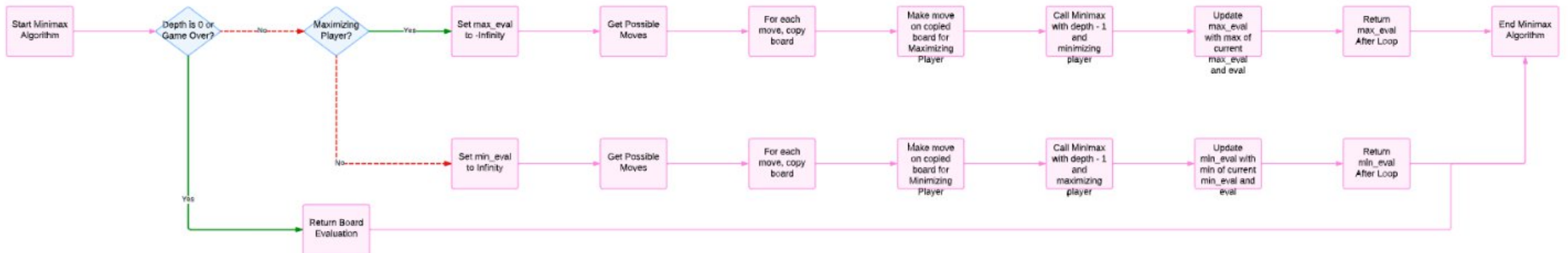
- **Total Complexity:**

Time Complexity = $O(b^d \times n^2)$.

Space Complexity

- Recursive Call Stack : $O(n)$
- Board Copies : $O(b \times n^2)$.
- Total Space Complexity : $O(d + b \times n^2)$.

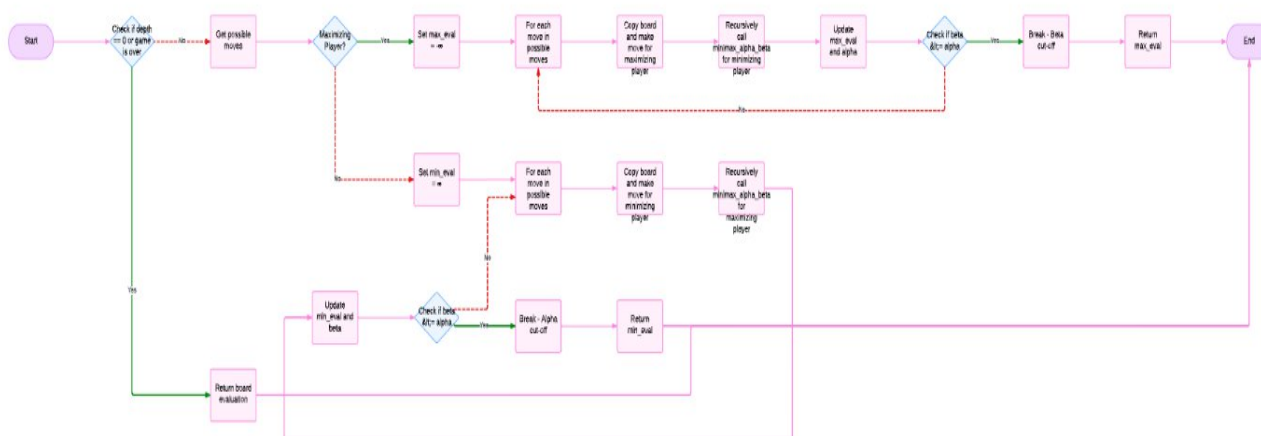
```
161 ✓ def minimax(self, board, depth, maximizing_player):  
162     """Basic Minimax algorithm without pruning."""  
163     if depth == 0 or self.game.is_game_over(board):  
164         return self.evaluate_board(board)
```



```

184 ✓ def minimax_alpha_beta(self, board, depth, alpha, beta, maximizing_player):
185     """Minimax algorithm with Alpha-Beta Pruning."""
186     if depth == 0 or self.game.is_game_over(board):
187         return self.evaluate_board(board)
188
189     possible_moves = self.game.get_possible_moves(board)
190     if maximizing_player:
191         max_eval = -float('inf')
192         for move in possible_moves:
193             board_copy = board.copy()
194             self.game.make_move(board_copy, move, 1) # 1 for maximizing player
195             eval = self.minimax_alpha_beta(board_copy, depth - 1, alpha, beta, False)
196             max_eval = max(max_eval, eval)
197             alpha = max(alpha, eval)
198             if beta <= alpha:
199                 break # Beta cut-off
200         return max_eval

```



• minimax_alpha_beta :

Alpha (best value for the maximizing player so far).

Beta (best value for the minimizing player so far).

If **beta <= alpha**, stop further exploration (cut-off).

Time Complexity:

- **Best Case:** $O(b^{d/2} \times n)$ (effective pruning).
- **Worst Case:** $O(b^d \times n)$ (no pruning).

Space Complexity: $O(d + b \times n)$.

- Depends on recursion depth **d** and memory for board copies

Why Alpha-Beta Pruning is Faster

Prunes Redundant Moves: Cuts off branches that cannot affect the final outcome.

Efficient Search: Reduces the effective branching factor, making it faster than standard minimax.

Same Result: Produces the same outcome as minimax but with fewer evaluations.


```

213 ✓ def minimax_with_heuristic_1_alpha_beta(self, board, depth, alpha, beta, maximizing_player):
214     """Minimax with Heuristic 1 and Alpha-Beta Pruning."""
215     if depth == 0 or self.is_game_over():
216         return self.heuristic_func_1(board, maximizing_player)
217
218     possible_moves = self.get_possible_moves()
219     if maximizing_player:
220         max_eval = -float('inf')
221         for move in possible_moves:
222             board_copy = board.copy()
223             self.make_move(board_copy, move)
224             eval = self.minimax_with_heuristic_1_alpha_beta(board_copy, depth - 1, alpha, beta, False)
225             max_eval = max(max_eval, eval)
226             alpha = max(alpha, eval)
227             if beta <= alpha:
228                 break # Beta cut-off
229     return max_eval

```

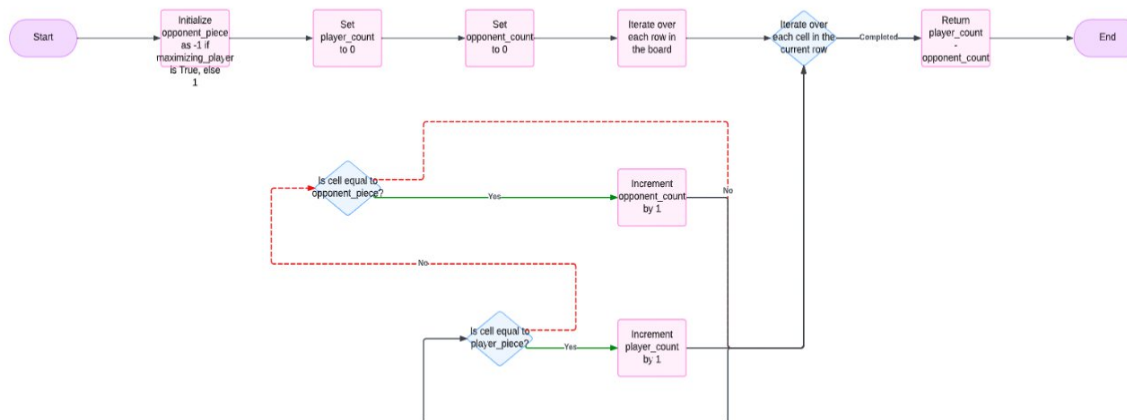
- **minimax_with_Heuristic 1 _alpha_beta :**

evaluates board states efficiently by using pruning to skip unnecessary computations and employs Heuristic 1 for intermediate evaluations when the maximum depth is reached..

Time Complexity:

- **Best Case** effective pruning: $O(b^{(d/2)} \times n)$.
- **Worst Case** no pruning: $O(b^d \times n)$.

Space Complexity: $O(d + b \times n)$.



```

242 ✓ def minimax_with_heuristic_2_alpha_beta(self, board, depth, alpha, beta, maximizing_player):
243     """Minimax with Heuristic 2 and Alpha-Beta Pruning."""
244     if depth == 0 or self.is_game_over():
245         return self.heuristic_func_2(board, maximizing_player)
246
247     possible_moves = self.get_possible_moves()
248     if maximizing_player:
249         max_eval = -float('inf')
250         for move in possible_moves:
251             board_copy = board.copy()
252             self.make_move(board_copy, move)
253             eval = self.minimax_with_heuristic_2_alpha_beta(board_copy, depth - 1, alpha, beta, False)
254             max_eval = max(max_eval, eval)
255             alpha = max(alpha, eval)
256             if beta <= alpha:
257                 break
258         return max_eval
259     else:
260         min_eval = float('inf')
261         for move in possible_moves:
262             board_copy = board.copy()
263             self.make_move(board_copy, move)
264             eval = self.minimax_with_heuristic_2_alpha_beta(board_copy, depth - 1, alpha, beta, True)
265             min_eval = min(min_eval, eval)
266             beta = min(beta, eval)
267             if beta <= alpha:
268                 break
269         return min_eval
270

```

• minimax_with_Heuristic 2 _alpha_beta :

evaluate the board state instead of heuristic_func_1. Heuristic 2 counts the number of possible moves for the player and opponent, making the search more dynamic. Alpha-Beta Pruning is used to cut off branches that do not need to be explored, improving efficiency.

Time Complexity:

- **Best Case:** $O(b^{(d/2)} \times n)$.
- **Worst Case:** $O(b^d \times n)$.

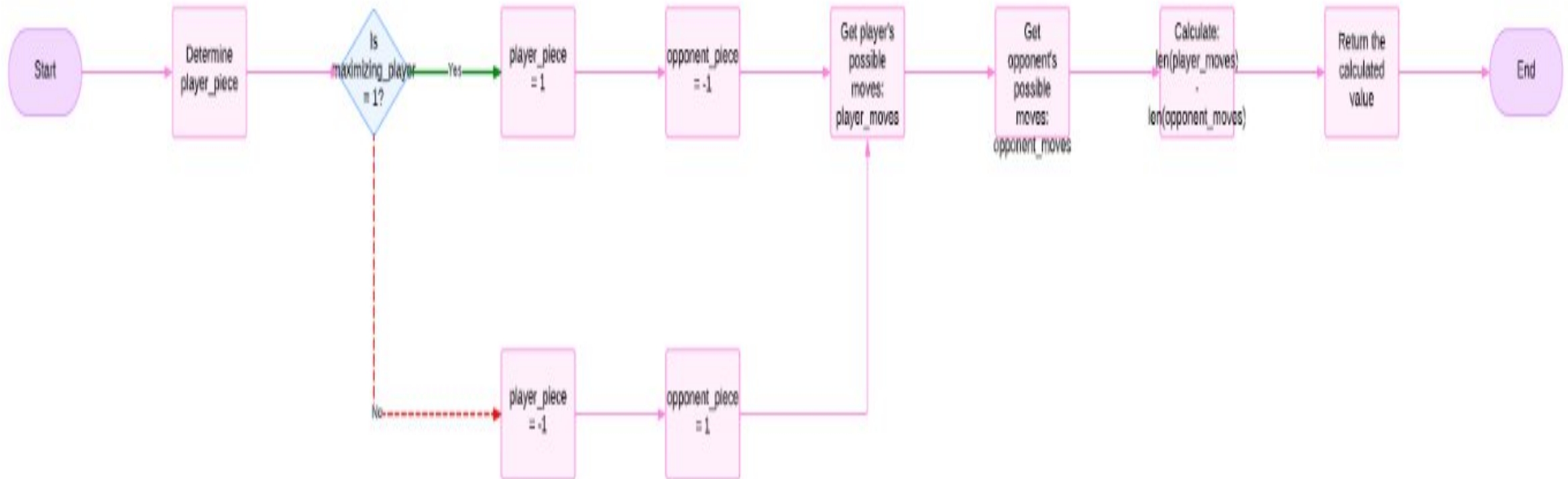
Space Complexity: $O(d + b \times n)$.

Pruning Saves Time: Alpha-Beta pruning significantly reduces the number of states explored compared to standard minimax.

Heuristic Reduces Depth: Using heuristic_func_2 reduces the need to explore every possible outcome, as it gives a useful intermediate evaluation based on the number of possible moves.

Same Result: The algorithm will still find the optimal solution, but it does so more efficiently than regular minimax.

- minimax_with_Heuristic 2 _alpha_beta :



- **Board Representation :**

2D Array implemented using NumPy for Efficient StateTracking.

- **State Tracking :**

- 1) Current Board State
- 2) Captured Stones (dynamic score updates)

- **State Storage :** Uses JSON Serialization.

- **User Guide :**

- 1) install Python and required libraries
- 2) run main.py to start the application
- 3) use menu options to :
 - A) Start a new game
 - B) change board size
 - c) save or load game states
- 4) choose AI difficulty Level and interact with the board by Clicking intersections

- **Developer Guide (Code Structure):**

- 1) game_logic.py : (handles rules , scoring and move validation) .
- 2) ai.py : (implements Minimax and Alpha-Beta Pruning).
- 3) gui.py : (manages the tkinter interface)
- 4) utils.py : includes helper functions for state management).

- **Future Work :**

- 1) implement monte carlo tree search (MCTS) for improved AI
- 2) add online multiplayer functionality
- 3) enhance gui design using advanced frameworks like PyQt or Kivy