

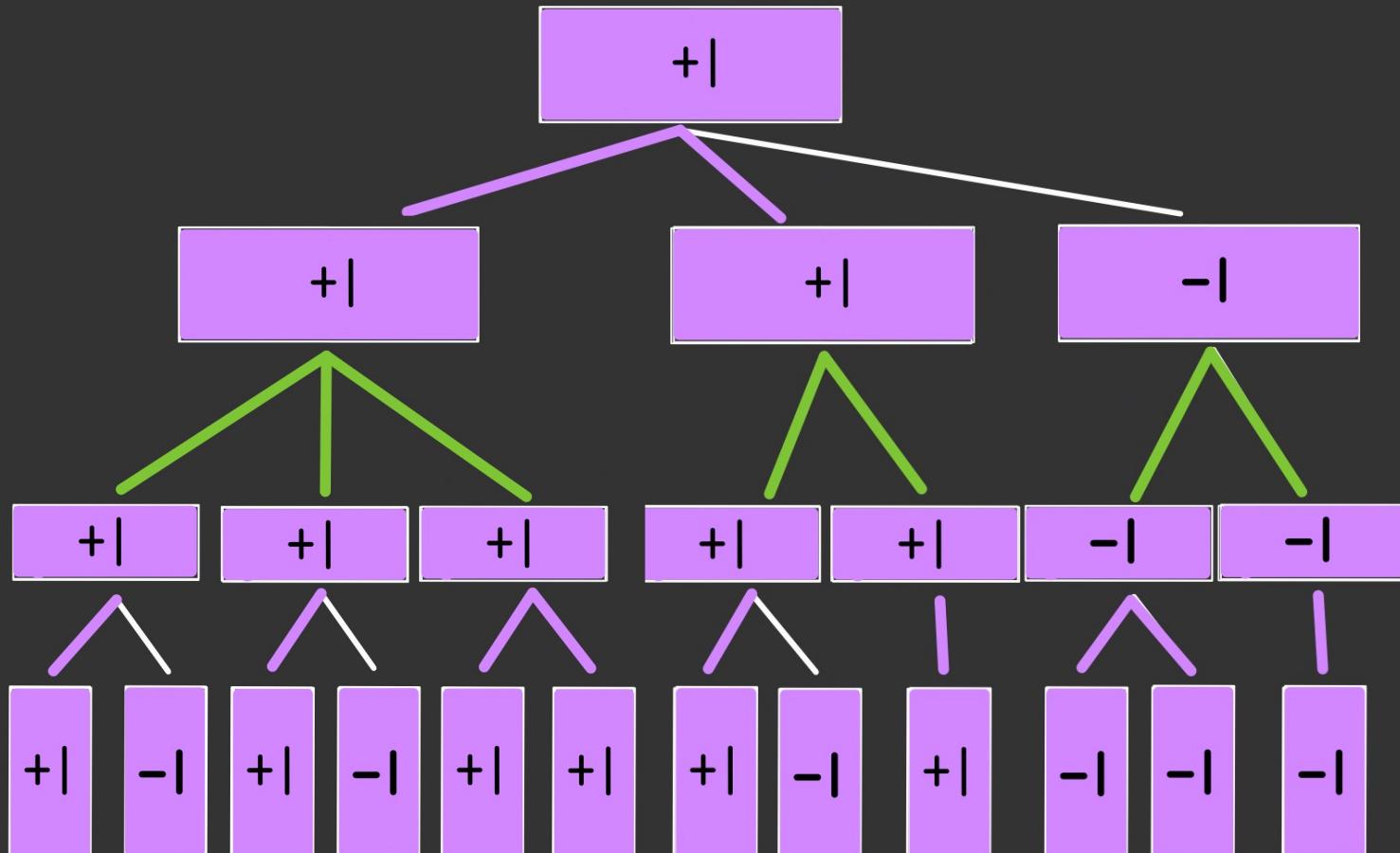
alpha-beta
pruning
21 sept
2022

CSCI
373

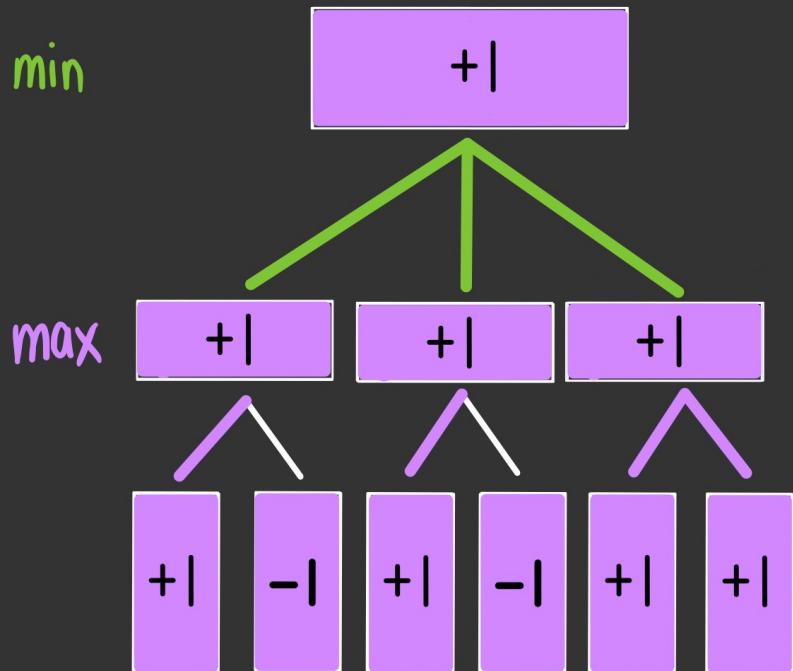
max

min

max

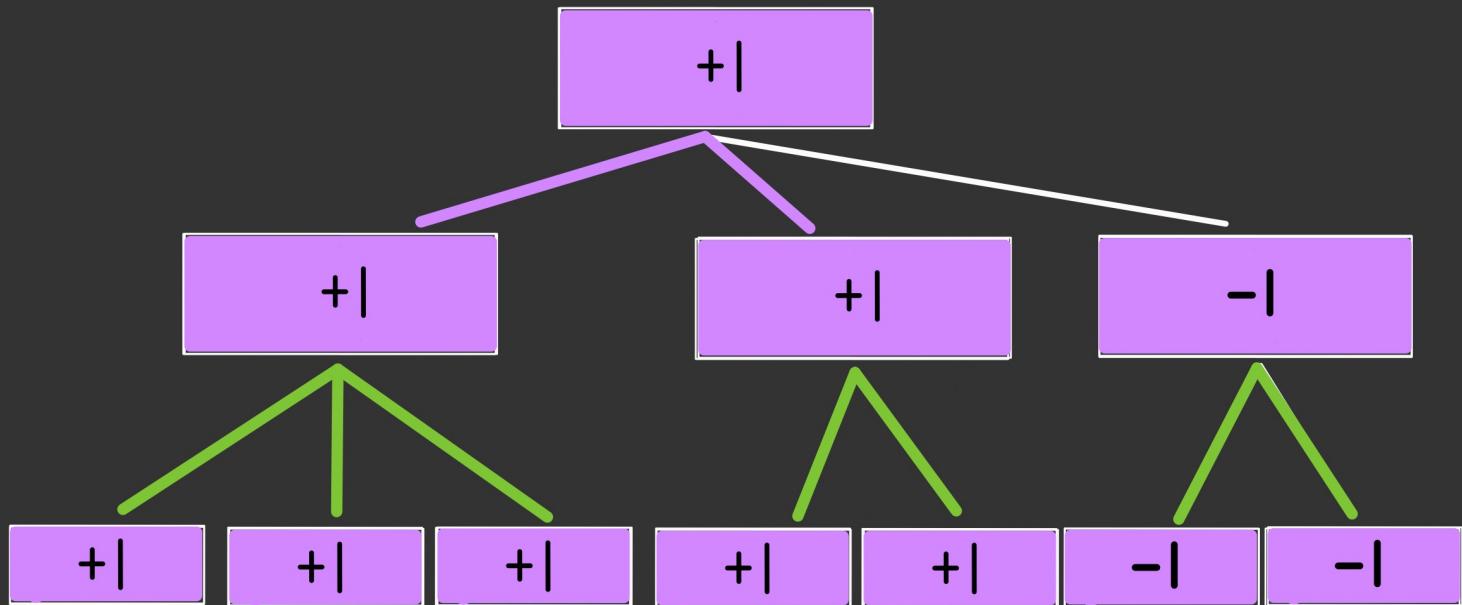


Consider a
min layer
followed by
a max layer



max

min

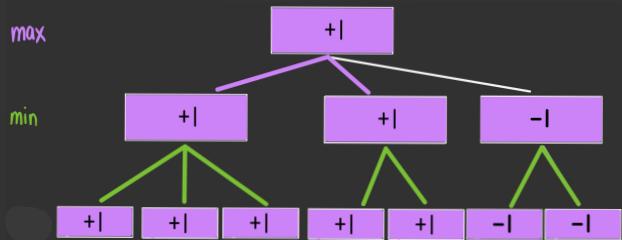


or a max layer followed by min layer

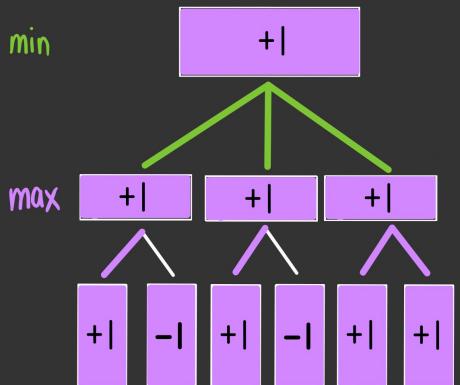
Are People Naturally Inclined to Cooperate or Be Selfish?

By Matthew Robison on September 1, 2014

It seems that human nature supports both prosocial and selfish traits. Genetic studies have made some progress toward identifying their biological roots. By comparing identical twins, who share nearly 100 percent of their genes, and fraternal twins, who share about half, researchers have found overwhelming evidence for genetic effects on behaviors such as sharing and empathy. In these twin studies, identical and fraternal twins are placed in hypothetical scenarios and asked, for example, to split a sum of money with a peer. Such studies often also rely on careful psychological assessments and DNA analysis.



max followed by min:
people are fundamentally
selfish



min followed by max:
people are fundamentally
selfless

max followed by min:
people are fundamentally
selfish

an edict comes down:
Someone in the room
must give me a coin



max



people are fundamentally
Selfish

min





people are fundamentally
Selfish

max

min



min



people are fundamentally
Selfless

max



min



people are fundamentally
Selfless

max



max



people are fundamentally
Selfish

min



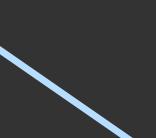
did we need to see these?

max



people are fundamentally
Selfish

min



no



min



people are fundamentally
Selfless

max

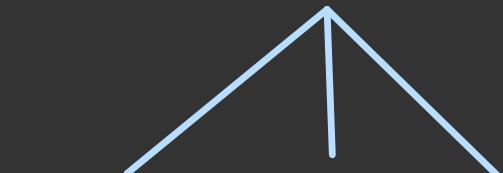


min



people are fundamentally
Selfless

max



no

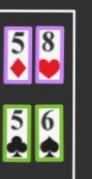
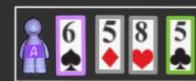
max



min



max



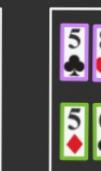
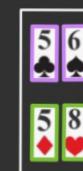
max



min



max



max



min

$\leq \leq + |$



max

$+ |$

$\leq \leq + |$



$+ |$

$- |$



max



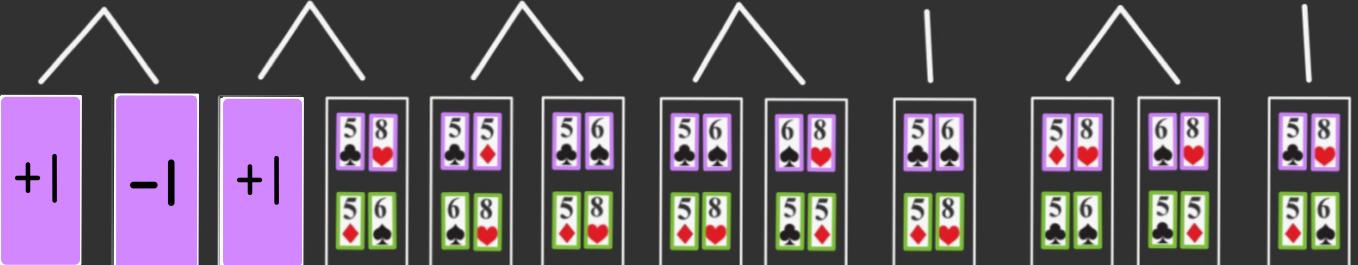
min

$\leq \leq + |$



max

$+ | + | \leq \leq + |$



max



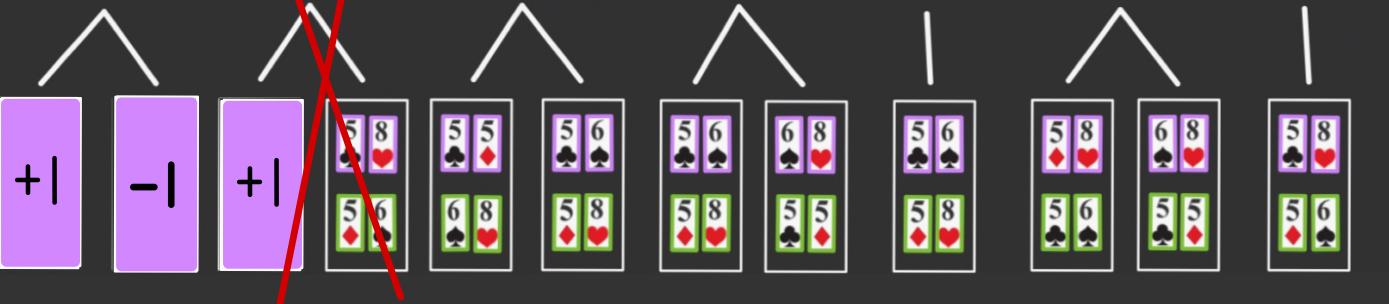
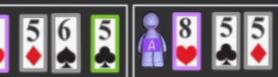
min

$\leq \leq + |$



max

$+ | + | \leq \leq + |$



max



min

$\leq \leq + |$



max

$+ |$

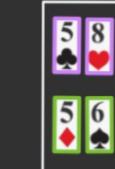
$+ | \leq \leq + |$

$\leq \leq + |$



$\leq \leq + | \leq \leq + |$

$+ | - | + |$



~~$+ | \leq \leq + |$~~

max



min

$\leq \leq + |$

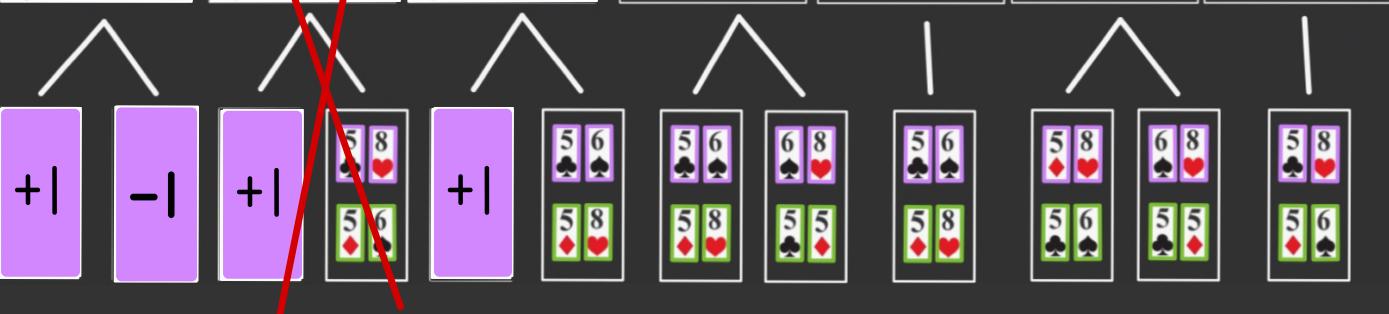


max

$+ |$

$+ | \leq \leq + |$

$+ | \leq \leq + |$



max



min

$\leq \leq + |$



max

$+ |$

$+ | \leq \leq + |$

$+ | \leq \leq + |$



$[6, 5, 8, 5] [6, 5, 5, 8] [8, 5, 6, 5] [8, 5, 5, 6]$

$+ |$

$- |$

$+ |$

$+ |$

$[5, 8]$

$[5, 6]$

$[5, 6]$

$[6, 8]$

$[5, 6]$

$[5, 8]$

$[6, 8]$

$[5, 8]$

Iteration 1

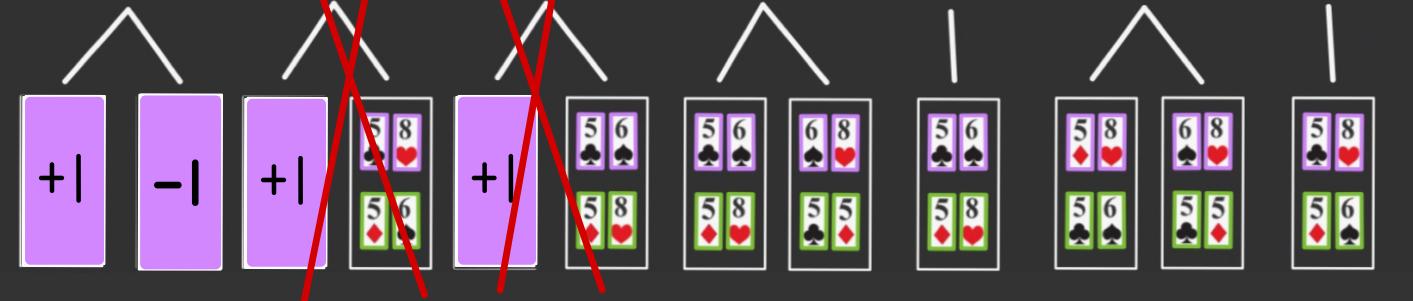
max



min



max



max



min



max

+ | <= <=

+ |



+ |

+ | <= <= + |

+ | <= <= + |



+ |

- |

+ |

+ |

5 8
5 6
hearts

5 6
spades

5 6
spades

6 8
hearts

5 6
spades

5 8
diamonds
5 6
clubs

6 8
hearts
5 5
clubs

5 8
spades
5 6
clubs

Red X marks indicate that the first two branches of the second level were pruned.

Red X marks indicate that the first two branches of the third level were pruned.

max



min



max

+ |

+ | ≤ ≤

+ | ≤ ≤

+ | ≤ ≤

+ |

+ | ≤ ≤ + |

+ | ≤ ≤ + |

+ | ≤ ≤

+ | ≤ ≤

+ | ≤ ≤

+ | ≤ ≤

+ |

- |

+ |

+ |

5 8
◆ ♦

5 6
◆ ♦

5 6
◆ ♦

6 8
◆ ♦

5 6
◆ ♦

5 8
◆ ♦

6 8
◆ ♦

5 8
◆ ♦

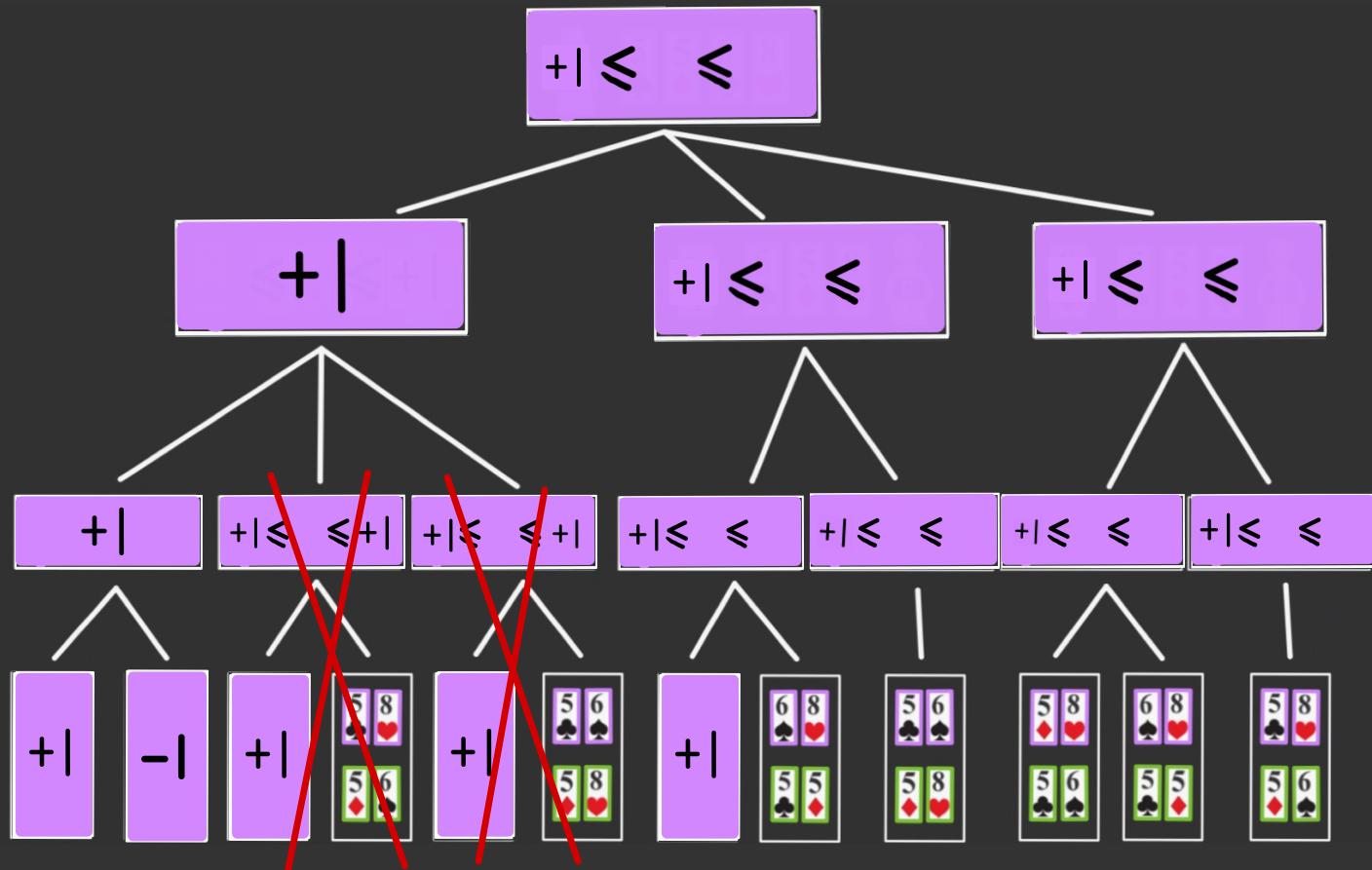
max



min



max



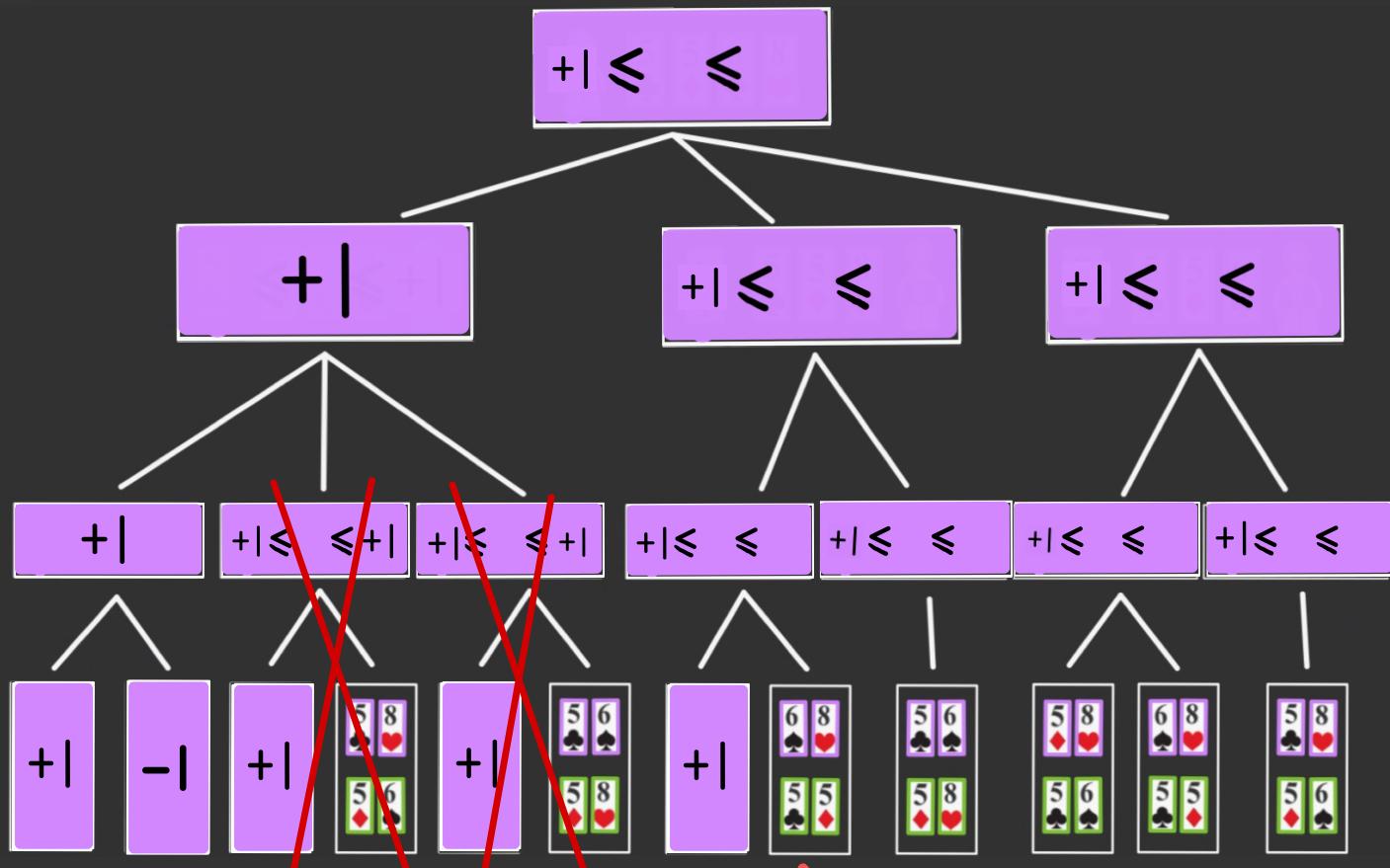
max



min



max



max



min



max

+ |

+ | <= <=

+ | <= <=

+ | <= <=

+ |

+ | <= <= + |

+ | <= <= + |

+ | <= <=

+ | <= <=

+ | <= <=

+ | <= <=

+ |

- |

+ |

5

8

◆

5

6

◆

5

8

◆

5

6

◆

+ |

+ |

5

6

◆

5

8

◆

5

8

◆

5

6

◆

5

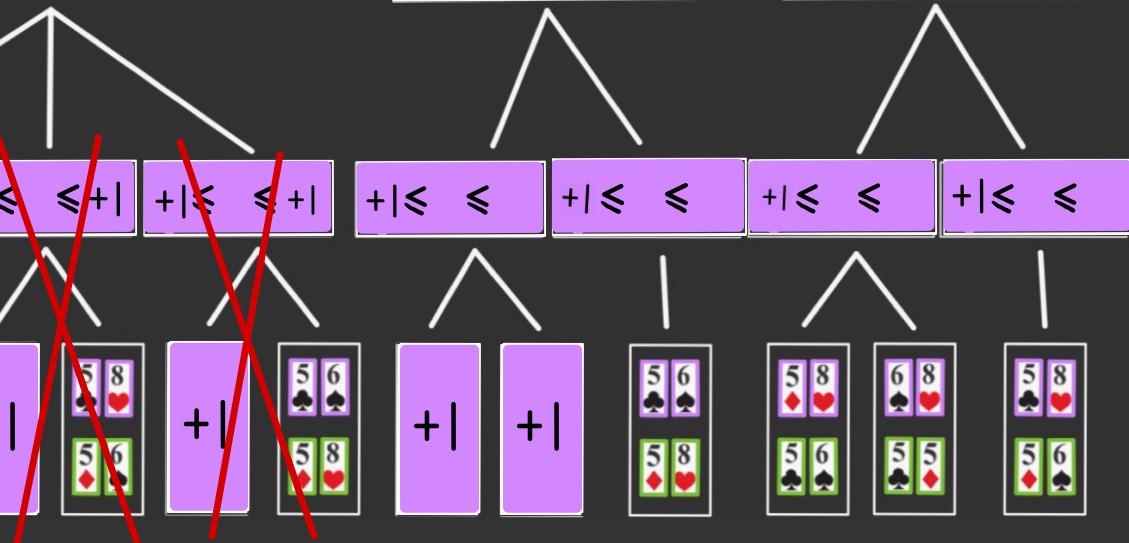
8

◆

5

6

◆



max



min



max

+ |

+ | ≤ ≤

+ | ≤ ≤

+ | ≤ ≤

+ |

+ | ≤ ≤ + |

+ | ≤ ≤ + |

+ |

+ | ≤ ≤

+ | ≤ ≤

+ | ≤ ≤

+ |

- |

+ |

+ |

5 8

5 6

◆

+ |

5 6

5 8

◆

+ |

+ |

5 6

5 8

◆

5 8

5 6

◆

6 8

5 5

◆

5 8

5 6

◆



max



min



max

+ |

+ | ≤ ≤

+ | ≤ ≤

+ | ≤ ≤

+ |

+ | ≤ ≤ + |

+ | ≤ ≤ + |

+ |

+ | ≤ ≤

+ | ≤ ≤

+ | ≤ ≤

+ |

- |

+ |

+ |

5 8

5 6

◆

+ |

5 6

5 8

◆

+ |

+ |

5 6

5 8

◆

5 8

5 6

◆

6 8

5 5

◆

5 8

5 6

◆

Can we prune?

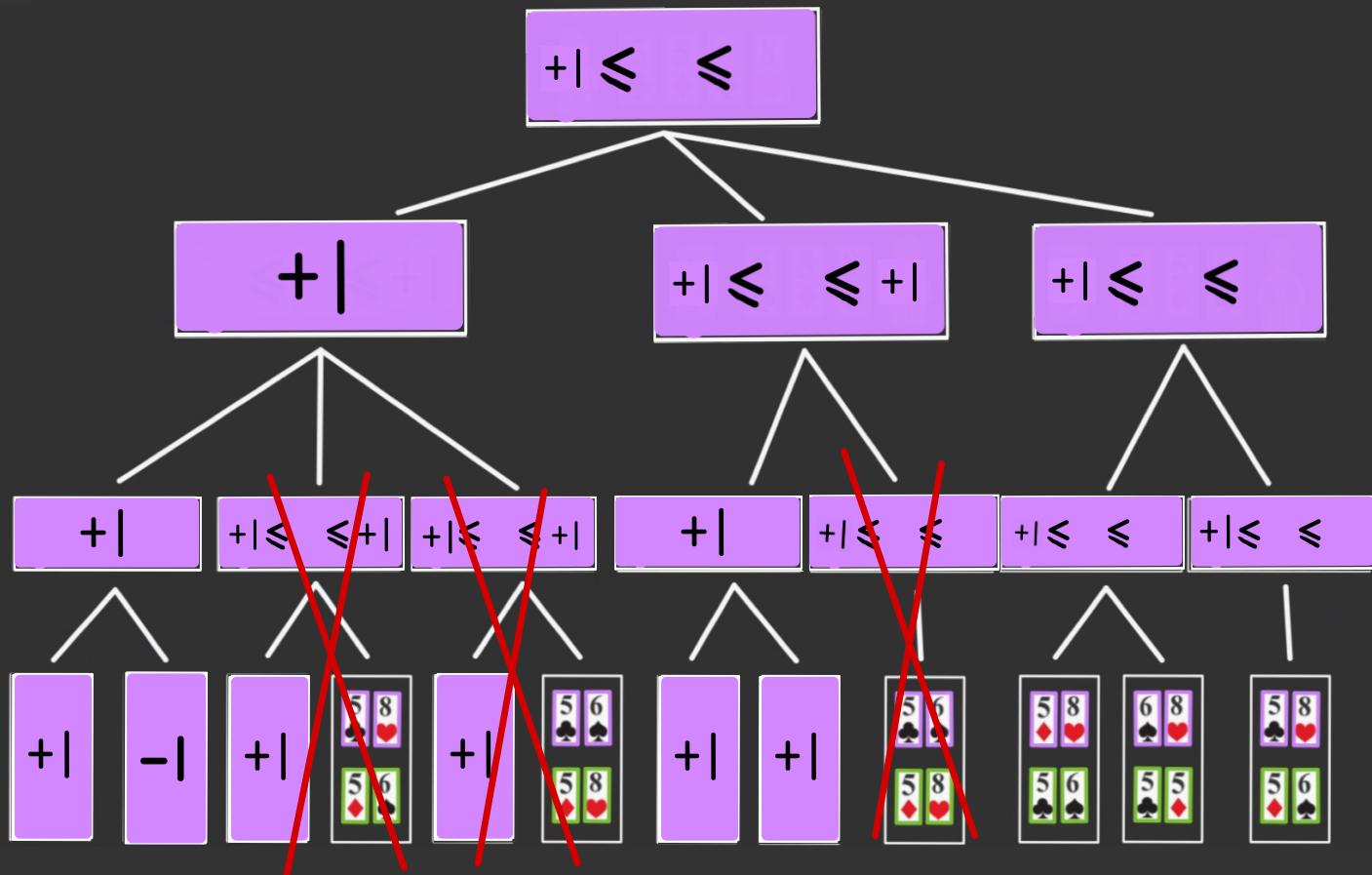
max



min



max



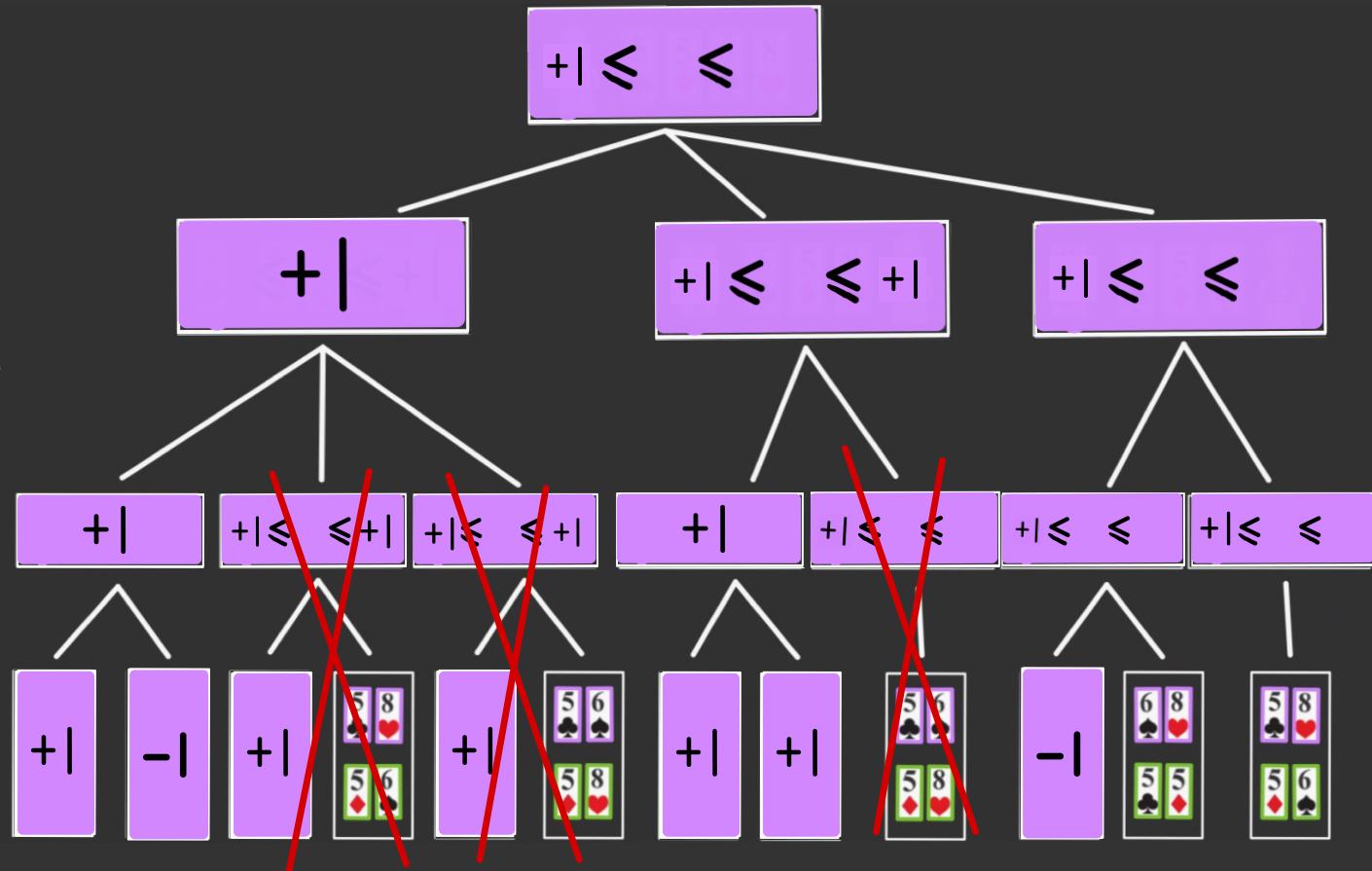
max



min



max



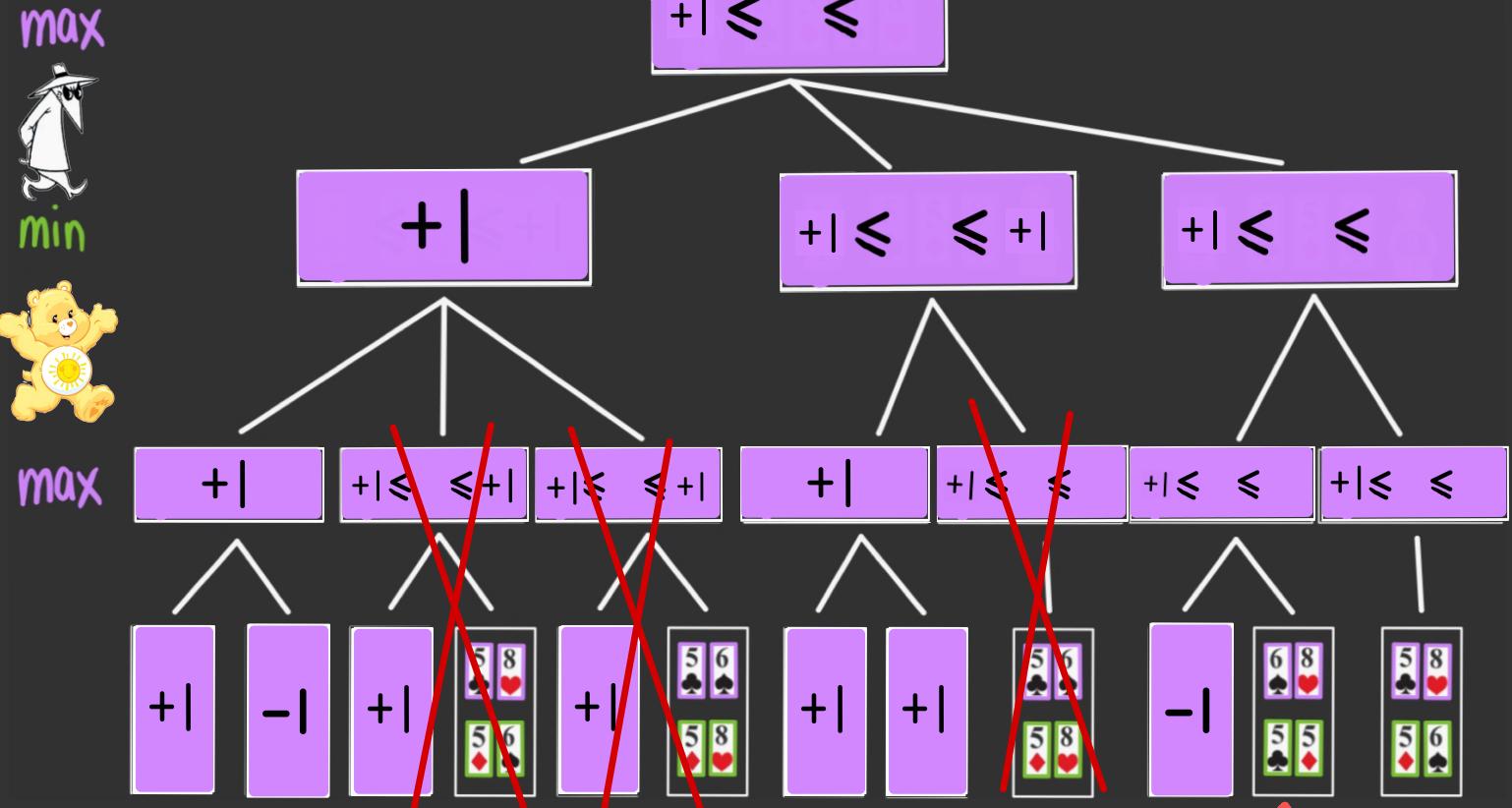
max



min



max



can we prune this node?

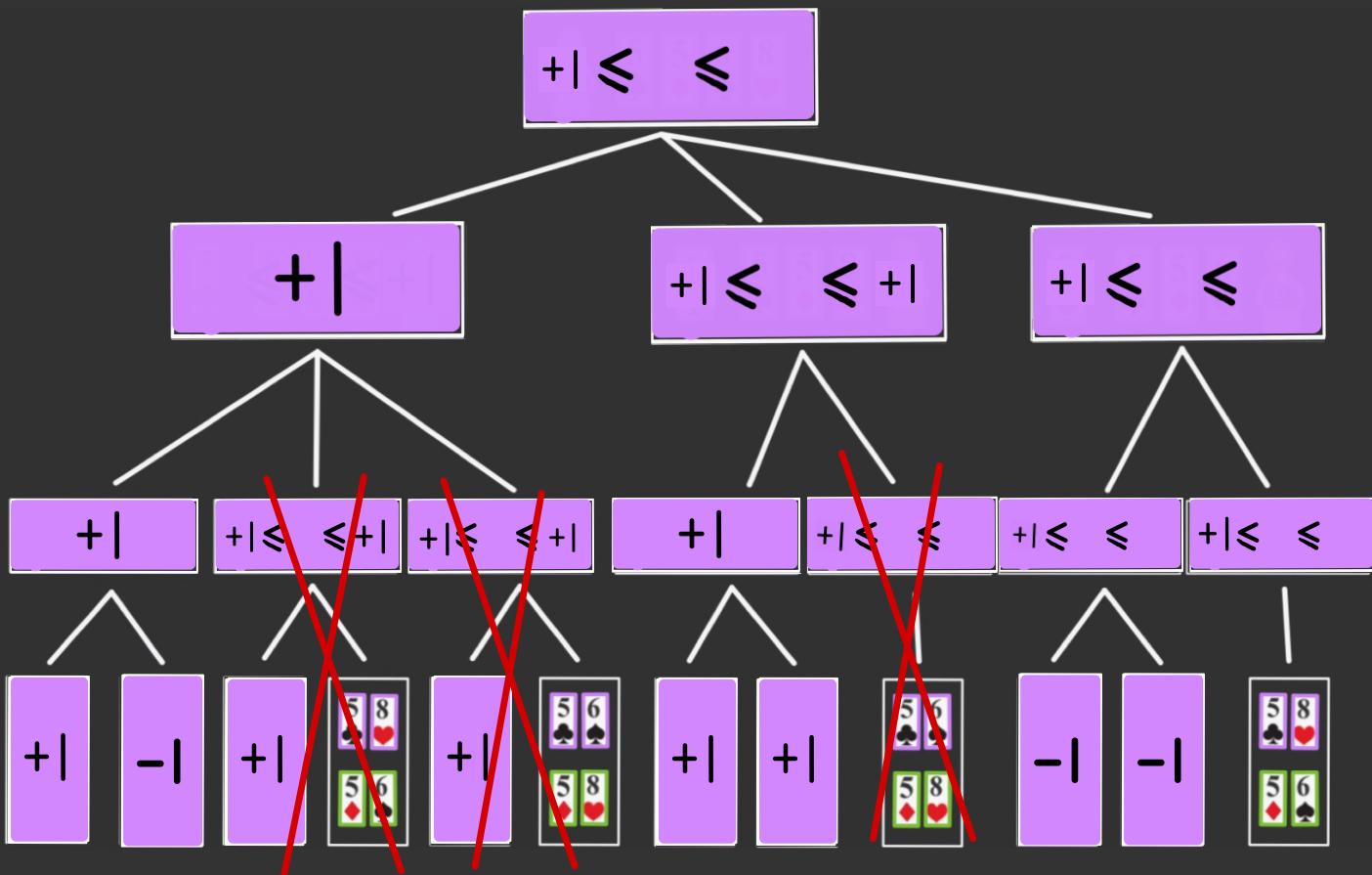
max



min



max



max



min



max

+ | <= <

+ |

+ | <= <= + |

+ | <= <

+ |

+ | <= <= + |

+ | <= <= + |

+ |

+ | <= <

- |

+ | <= <

+ |

- |

+ |

5 8

5 8

5 8

+ |

5 6

5 6

+ |

+ |

5 6

5 6

5 6

- |

- |

5 8

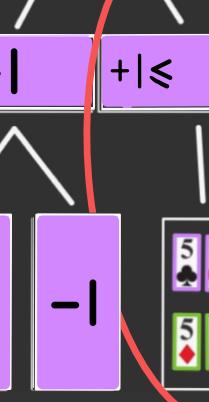
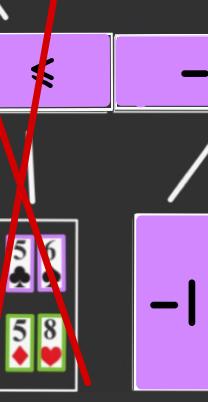
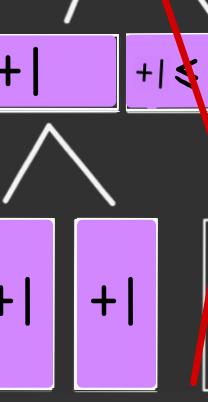
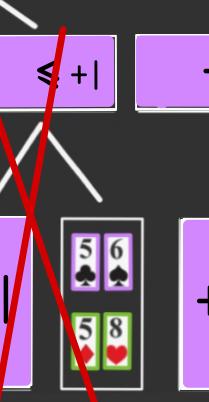
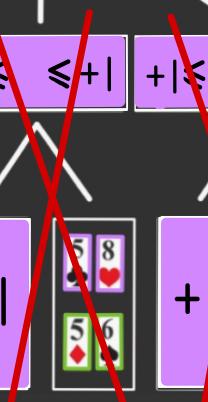
5 6

5 8

5 6

5 8

5 6



Can we prune?

max



min



max

+ | ≤ ≤

+ |

+ | ≤ ≤ + |

+ | ≤ ≤ - |

+ |

+ | ≤ ≤ + |

+ | ≤ ≤ + |

+ |

+ | ≤ ≤

- |

+ | ≤ ≤

+ |

- |

+ |



+ |



+ |

+ |



- |

- |



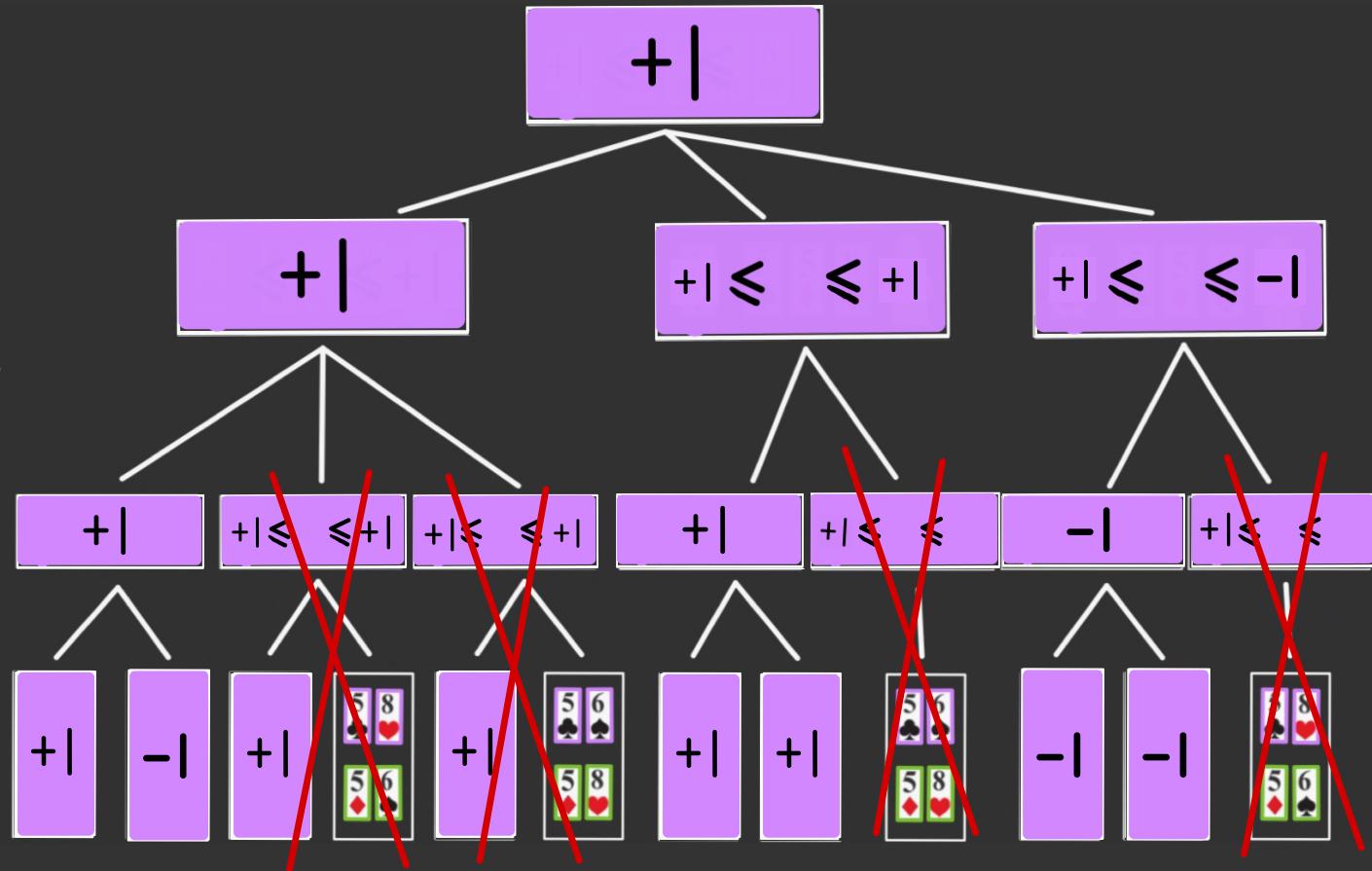
max



min



max



these bounds we maintain
are called α and β , and
therefore this optimization
to minimax is called
alpha-beta pruning

$$\alpha \downarrow \quad \beta \downarrow$$
$$+1 \leq \leq -1$$

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (m, u))$: # $m = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- ▶ if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- ▶ bestvalue = ? if $p(q) = p$ else ?
- ▶ for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - ▶ childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (m, u))$
 - ▶ if $p(q) = p$:
 - ▶ bestvalue = ? ($\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue}$)
 - ▶ else
 - ▶ bestvalue = ? ($\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue}$)
- ▶ return bestvalue

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (m, u))$: # $m = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- ▶ if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- ▶ bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- ▶ for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - ▶ childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (m, u))$
 - ▶ if $p(q) = p$:
 - ▶ bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ else
 - ▶ bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
- ▶ return bestvalue

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (m, U), \alpha, \beta) : \# m = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- ▶ if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- ▶ bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- ▶ for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - ▶ ?
 - ▶ childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (m, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - ▶ if $p(q) = p$:
 - ▶ bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ ?
 - ▶ else:
 - ▶ bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ ?
- ▶ return bestvalue

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (m, U), \alpha, \beta) : \# m = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- ▶ if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- ▶ bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- ▶ for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - ▶ ?
 - ▶ childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (m, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - ▶ if $p(q) = p$:
 - ▶ bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ else:
 - ▶ bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- ▶ return bestvalue



$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (m, U), \alpha, \beta) \colon \# m = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- ▶ if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- ▶ bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- ▶ for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - ▶ if $\alpha \geq \beta$: return bestvalue
 - ▶ childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (m, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - ▶ if $p(q) = p$:
 - ▶ bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ else:
 - ▶ bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- ▶ return bestvalue

try alpha-beta yourself

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (m, U), \alpha, \beta)$: # $m = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- ▶ if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- ▶ bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- ▶ for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - ▶ if $\alpha \geq \beta$: return bestvalue
 - ▶ childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (m, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - ▶ if $p(q) = p$:
 - ▶ bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ else:
 - ▶ bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- ▶ return bestvalue

MAX

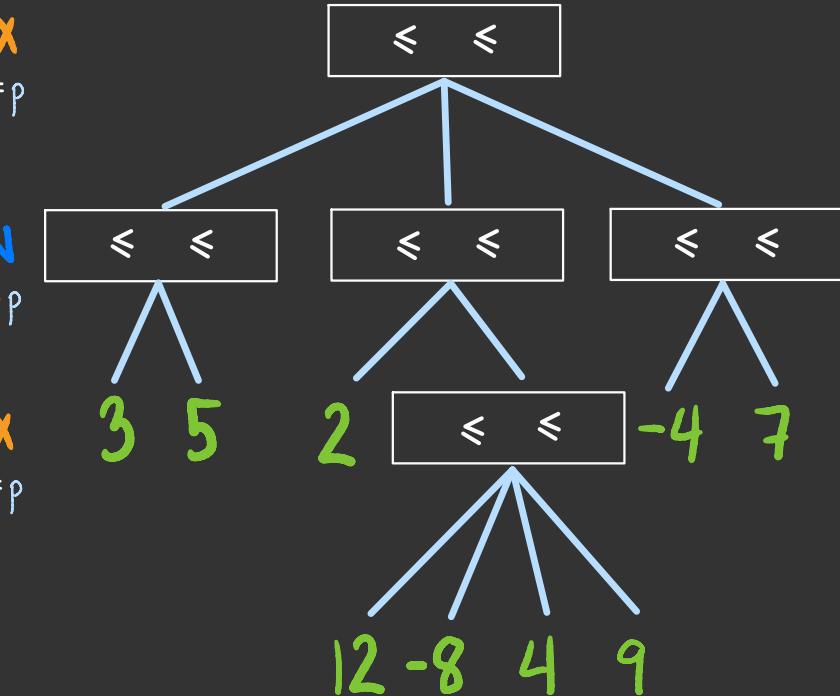
$p(q) = p$

MIN

$p(q) \neq p$

MAX

$p(q) = p$



MINIMAX($q, p, (m, U), \alpha, \beta$): # $m = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - if $\alpha \geq \beta$: return bestvalue
 - childvalue = **MINIMAX**($q', p, (m, U), \alpha, \beta$)
 - if $p(q) = p$:
 - bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - else:
 - bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- return bestvalue

MAX

$p(q) = p$

MIN

$p(q) \neq p$

MAX

$p(q) = p$

$-\infty \leq \leq \infty$

$\leq \leq$

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta) : \# M = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - if $\alpha \geq \beta$: return bestvalue
 - childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - if $p(q) = p$:
 - bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - else:
 - bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- return bestvalue

MAX

$p(q) = p$

MIN

$p(q) \neq p$

MAX

$p(q) = p$

$-\infty \leq \leq \infty$

$\leq \leq$

$\leq \leq$

$\leq \leq$

$12 -8 4 9$

$3 5$

2

$\leq \leq$

$-4 7$

$\leq \leq$

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta) : \# M = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - if $\alpha \geq \beta$: return bestvalue
 - childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - if $p(q) = p$:
 - bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - else:
 - bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- return bestvalue

MAX

$p(q) = p$

MIN

$p(q) \neq p$

MAX

$p(q) = p$

$-\infty \leq \leq \infty$

$\leq \leq$

$\leq \leq$

3 5

2 -4 7

12 -8 4 9

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta) : \# M = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- ▶ if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- ▶ bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- ▶ for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - ▶ if $\alpha \geq \beta$: return bestvalue
 - ▶ childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - ▶ if $p(q) = p$:
 - ▶ bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ else:
 - ▶ bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - ▶ $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- ▶ return bestvalue

MAX

$p(q) = p$

MIN

$p(q) \neq p$

MAX

$p(q) = p$

3 \leq $\leq \infty$

$-\infty \leq 3 \leq 3$

$\leq \leq$

$\leq \leq$

3 **5**

2 **-4** **7**

12 **-8** **4** **9**

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta) : \# M = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - if $\alpha \geq \beta$: return bestvalue
 - childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - if $p(q) = p$:
 - bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - else:
 - bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- return bestvalue

MAX

$p(q) = p$

MIN

$p(q) \neq p$

MAX

$p(q) = p$

3 $\leq \leq \infty$

3 $\leq \leq \infty$

2 $\leq \leq$

12 -8 4 9

-∞ ≤ 3 ≤ 3

3 5

2 $\leq \leq$

-4 7

MAX

$p(q) = p$

MIN

$p(q) \neq p$

MAX

$p(q) = p$

3 $\leq \leq \infty$

3 $\leq \leq \infty$

2 $\leq \leq$

12 -8 4 9

-∞ ≤ 3 ≤ 3

3 5

2 $\leq \leq$

-4 7

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta) : \# M = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - if $\alpha \geq \beta$: return bestvalue
 - childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - if $p(q) = p$:
 - bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - else:
 - bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- return bestvalue

MAX

$p(q) = p$

MIN

$p(q) \neq p$

MAX

$p(q) = p$

3 $\leq \leq \infty$

3 $\leq \leq 2$

2 $\leq \leq$

$\leq \leq$

-4 **7**

3 **5**

12 **-8** **4** **9**

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta) : \# M = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - if $\alpha \geq \beta$: return bestvalue
 - childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - if $p(q) = p$:
 - bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - else:
 - bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- return bestvalue

MAX

$p(q) = p$

MIN

$p(q) \neq p$

MAX

$p(q) = p$

3 \leq $\leq \infty$

3 \leq ≤ 2

2 \leq \leq

\leq \leq

-4 \leq ≤ 7

3 **5**

2

-4 **7**

12 **-8** **4** **9**

12 **-8** **4** **9**

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta) : \# M = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - if $\alpha \geq \beta$: return bestvalue
 - childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - if $p(q) = p$:
 - bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - else:
 - bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- return bestvalue

MAX

$p(q) = p$

MIN

$p(q) \neq p$

MAX

$p(q) = p$

3 $\leq \leq \infty$

3 $\leq \leq 2$

3 $\leq \leq \infty$

3 **5**

2 **-4** **7**

12 **-8** **4** **9**

~~**12** **-8** **4** **9**~~

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta) : \# M = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - if $\alpha \geq \beta$: return bestvalue
 - childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - if $p(q) = p$:
 - bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - else:
 - bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- return bestvalue

MAX

$p(q) = p$

MIN

$p(q) \neq p$

MAX

$p(q) = p$

3 \leq $\leq \infty$

3 \leq ≤ 2

3 \leq ≤ -4

3 **5**

2

\leq \leq

-4 **7**

12 **-8** **4** **9**

~~12~~ ~~-8~~ ~~4~~ ~~9~~

$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta) : \# M = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - if $\alpha \geq \beta$: return bestvalue
 - childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - if $p(q) = p$:
 - bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - else:
 - bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- return bestvalue

MAX

$p(q) = p$

MIN

$p(q) \neq p$

MAX

$p(q) = p$

3 \leq $\leq \infty$

3 \leq ≤ 2

3 \leq ≤ -4

3 **5**

2

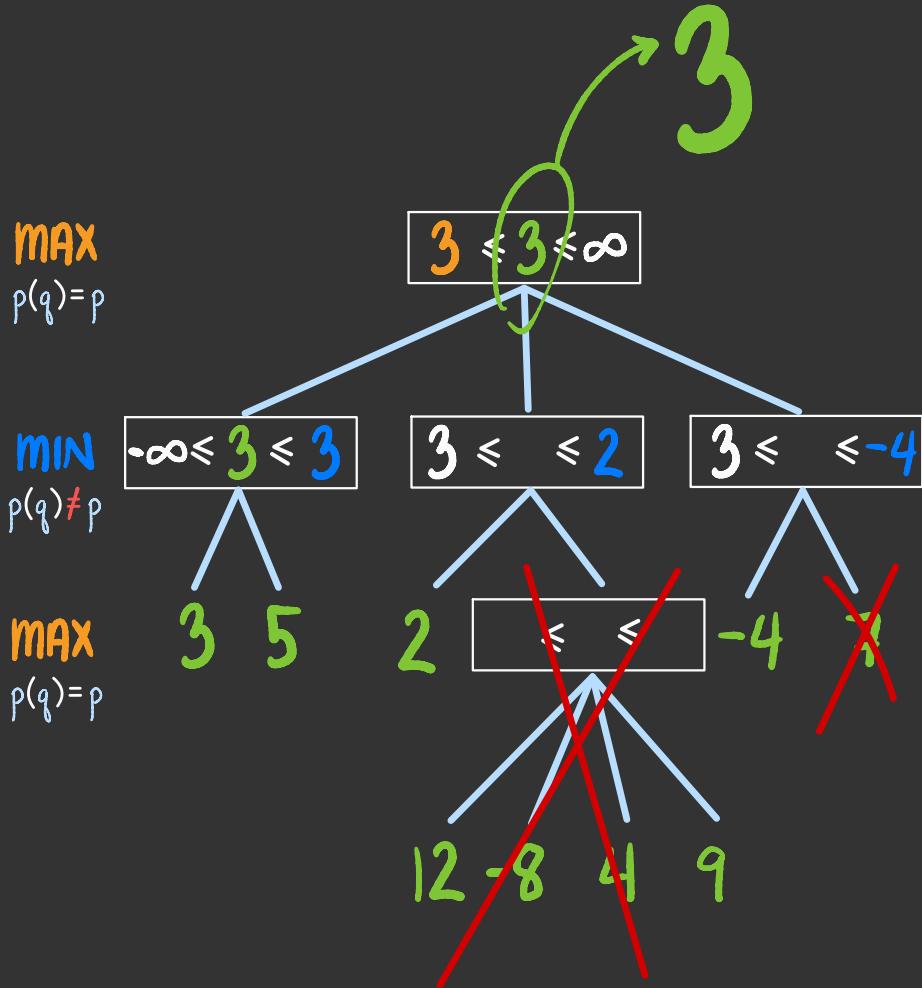
\leq \leq

-4 **?**

12 **-8** **4** **9**

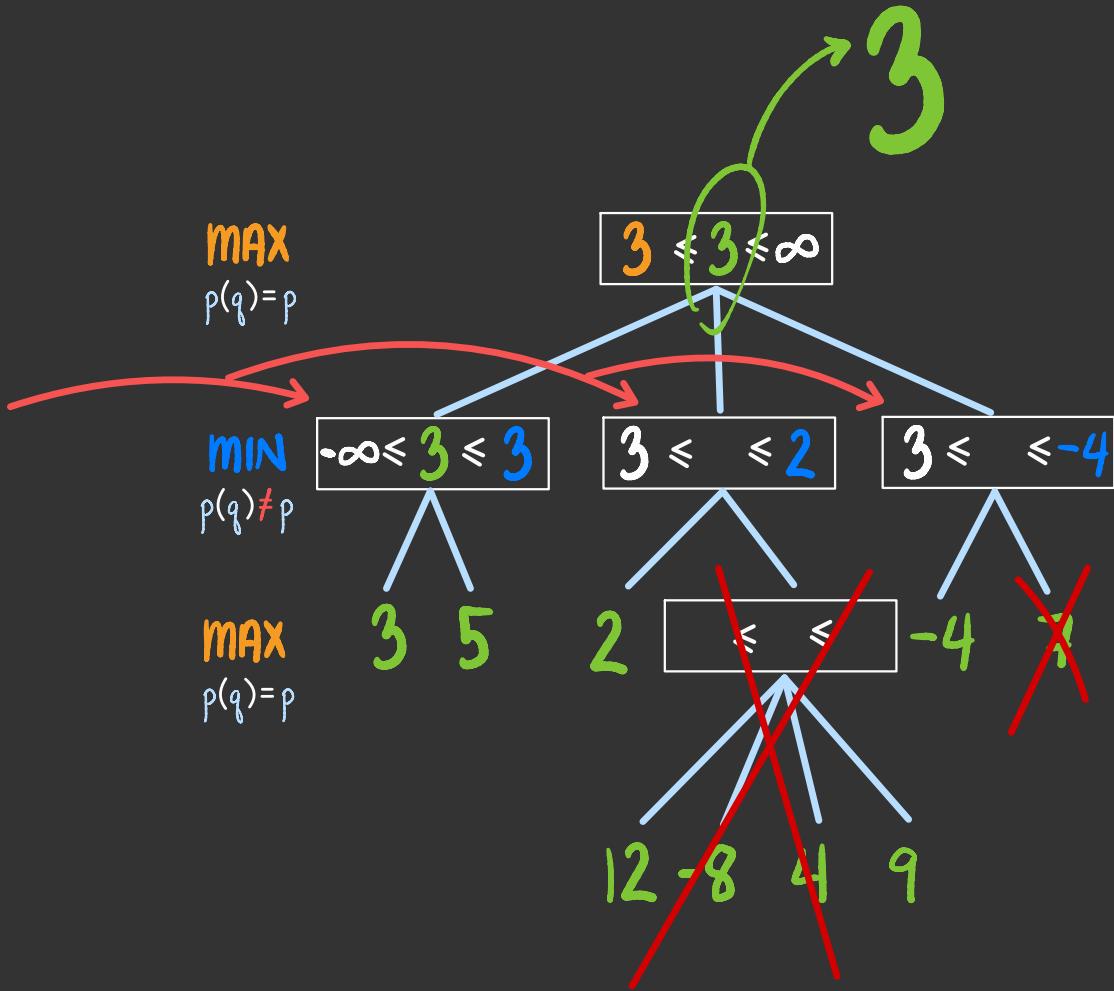
$\text{MINIMAX}(q, p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta) : \# M = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$

- if $q \in F$: return $U(q, p)$
- bestvalue = $-\infty$ if $p(q) = p$ else ∞
- for $\langle q, \sigma, q' \rangle \in \Delta$:
 - if $\alpha \geq \beta$: return bestvalue
 - childvalue = $\text{MINIMAX}(q', p, (M, U), \alpha, \beta)$
 - if $p(q) = p$:
 - bestvalue = $\max(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\alpha = \max(\alpha, \text{childvalue})$
 - else:
 - bestvalue = $\min(\text{bestvalue}, \text{childvalue})$
 - $\beta = \min(\beta, \text{childvalue})$
- return bestvalue



what do these
bounds
describe?

your answer
here



what do these
bounds
describe?

conditions under which
this subtree can affect
the value of its parent

