Connect Four is a two-player connection game in which the players first take turns dropping marked discs (Marked X disc for computer player and Marked O disc for human player) from the top into a seven-column, six-row vertically suspended grid. The pieces fall straight down, occupying the next available space within the column. The objective of the game is to connect four discs of the same mark next to each other vertically, horizontally, or diagonally before your opponent.

After taking the exciting course of AI at FAST some of our students intend to implement an auto-player of connect-4 that uses MINIMAX algorithm with alpha-beta pruning. While playing the game the auto-player (marking X) reached the following board position and it is his turn to make a move.

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7	0	X	0	Χ		
6	Χ	0	χ	Χ		
5	Х	0	Χ	0	X	
4	Χ	X	Х	0	Х	0
3	0	X	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	Х	Х	0	0
1	Χ	0	0	0	X	Х
•	1	2	3	4	5	6
Column No						

Part a) [4 Points] Draw a complete game tree that will be used by the auto-player to make the move. You don't have to show the whole grid at every node of the tree, just show the mark and position being filled.

Part b) [6 Points] Use the MINIMAX algorithm to determine the move of auto-player.

Part c) [5 **Points**] Which part of the tree will be pruned by the auto-player if he always expand the nodes from left to right in your game tree.

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Х 7 О 0 Х 0 Х Х 6 Χ Row Number Х 5 Х 0 Х 0 0 Х 4 Х Х 0 Х 3 0 Х 0 О 0 O 2 0 0 Х Х 0 0 0 Х 0 O Х Х 1 2 3 5 6 Column No

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