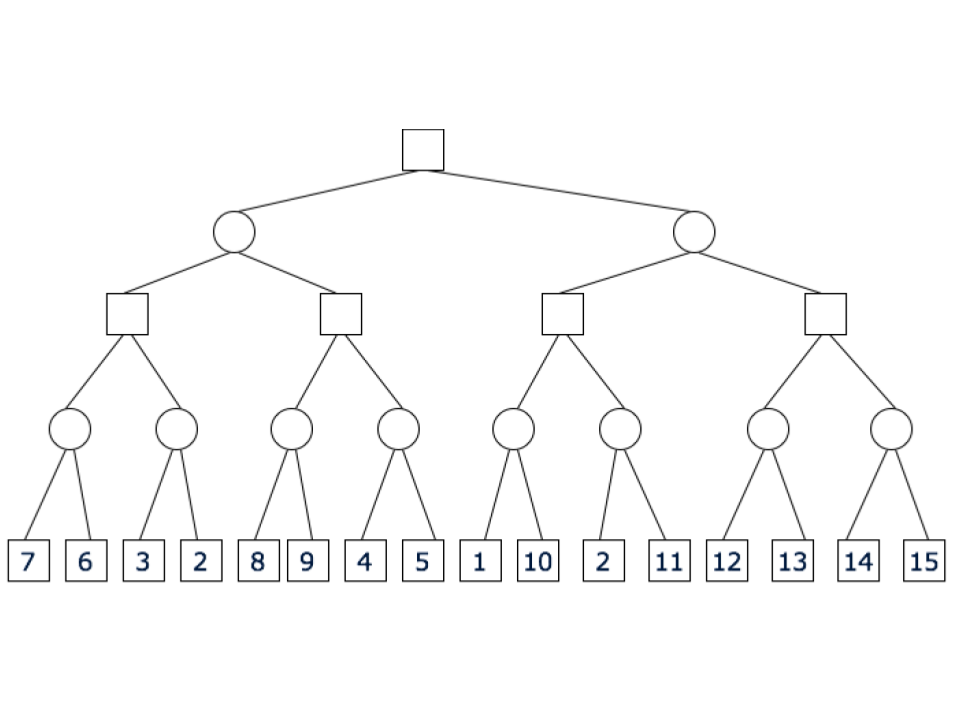
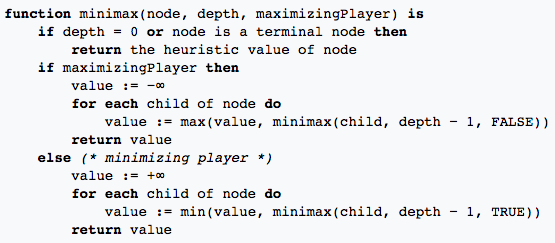
This report describes the implementation and intuition of Negamax alpha beta with transposition table lookups. In order to get to the implementation of this algorithm, several in between steps were conducted. This report first starts with minimax alpha beta pruning and continues to minimax alpha beta pruning with transposition table lookup. Next this reports progresses to negamax with alpha beta pruning and, lastly, it end with negamax with alpha beta pruning and transposition table lookup.

Minimax

Minimax is a depth first algorithm in which the starting player (max) always chooses the move with the highest possibility to win, i.e. aims to maximise its own score. The second player (min) aims to minimize the score of the max player and therefore always selects the move that provides the lowest score to the max player. In negamax both players aim to maximise their own score without considering the impact on the opponent. In theory, it could be seen as there being no min players. Finally, when looking at alpha beta pruning the focus lies on the benefit of reducing the size of the Representation of the state space of a game (game tree) in order to optimise the search for the best moves.





The general search flow (see~/ref{appendix} of each algorithm is conducted in a depth first manner. Meaning, that for each node (read: move) the algorithm generates a pair of moves based on the coordinates of the hex board. A pair consist of two coordinates; one coordinate for the white stone and one coordinate for the black stone. In total there are 3660 permutation pairs of moves, from which the algorithm randomly selects one of its children. Amongst those children the algorithm selects the child that yields the highest value. This child with the highest value is considered to be the best next move. All the implemented algorithms follow these first same steps. The difference lies in how the highest value is determined. The following sections elaborate more on this determination of the highest value.

## Minimax with alpha beta pruning

## In the first variation of minimax an alpha beta pruning is applied. This variation is a search algorithm that aims to reduce the size of a search tree by decreasing the number of nodes that are evaluated. Alpha beta pruning is generally used in adversarial search algorithms where there are two players. Each game has a max and a min player. The max player seeks to maximise his score whilst the min player aims to minimise the score. The search stops when there is at least one possibility found that proves a move to be worse than a previously examined move. When alpha beta pruning is applied to a minimax tree, the same move is return as a standard minimax algorithm would. The difference is that the alpha beta pruning returns this move with less nodes investigated. It can be seen in the pseudo code in figure~\ref{fig:pseudoAB} that, for each child the max or min value is selected depending on whether or not the next move is for the min or max player, respectively. In case of the max player, if the upper bound of an investigated child node appears to be smaller than the lower of a parent node, the remaining child nodes are not further investigated and a pruning occurs. In case of a min player, if the lower bound of an investigated child node appears to be higher than the upperbound of a parent node, the remaining child nodes are not further investigated and a pruning occurs.

## ../../../../Downloads/alphabetatree.png

## ../../../../Desktop/Screen%20Shot%202018-10-28%20at%2007.44.10.p

## Minimax with alpha beta pruning and transposition table lookup

## Negamax with Alpha beta pruning

## In order for the reader to understand the gist of this report it is important to provide the basic understanding of the negamax algorithm. In essence, negamax is a variation on the minimax algorithm\*\*\*(add image).

## ../../../../Downloads/negamaxAB.png../../../../Downloads/negamax.png

## ../../../../Desktop/Screen%20Shot%202018-10-28%20at%2007.43.13.p

## Negamax with alpha beta pruning and transposition table lookup

## ../../../../Desktop/Screen%20Shot%202018-10-28%20at%2007.42.47.p