Chess-AI Parallel Programing

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孔憲文(找不到人)

Layout

Introduction

Chess Program Layout

Problem

Costs Exponential growth as depth increase

Method

Alpha-Beta Pruning
Nega search
PVS search

Correctness

Game with Stockfish

Evaluation

With(out) Alpha-Beta Pruning
Threads and Performance
Nega search vs PVS search

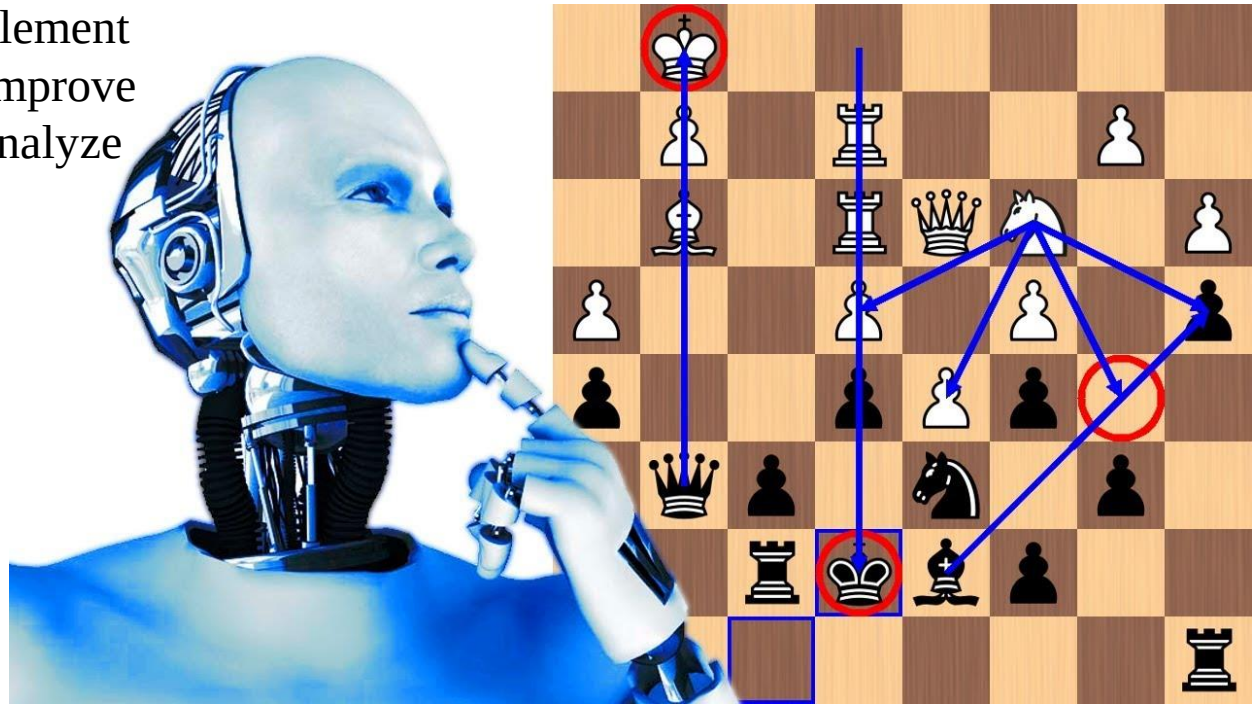
Conclusion

Introduction

In a chess match in 1997, the parallel chess supercomputer Deep Blue defeated the world champion Garry Kasparov making a milestone in the history of computer science.

Introduction

We would like to study the secret behind Deep Blue and implement different parallel ways to improve the Chess AI engine, and analyze the performance by time, scalability and portability.

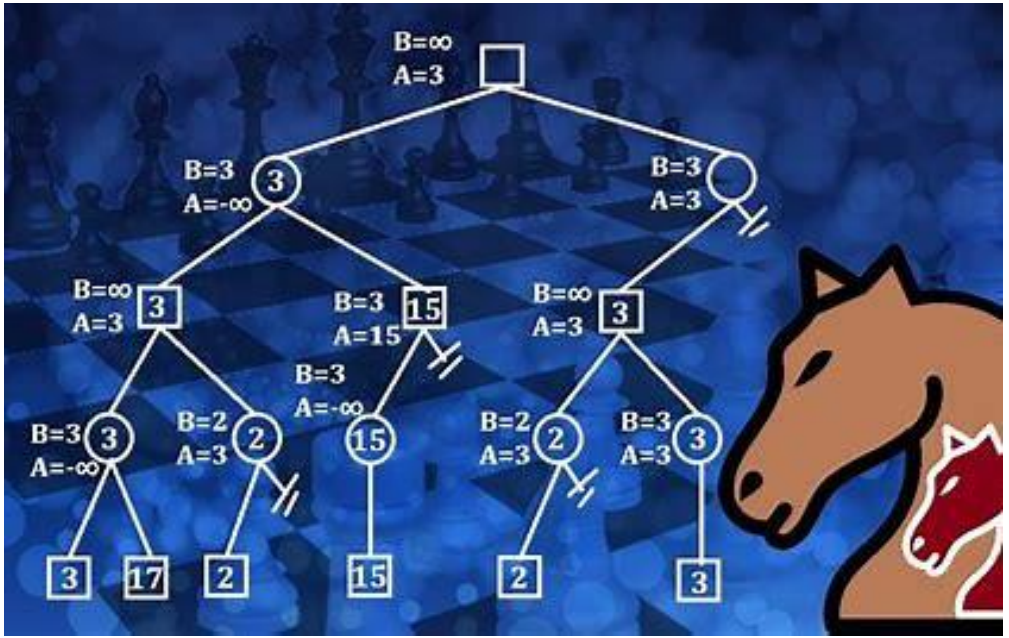


Introduction

We use **Alpha-Beta Pruning** to eliminate the need to search for meaningless branches.

And our biggest goal is to use Alpha-Beta Pruning as our search method, and use OpenMP to parallelize and improve performance.

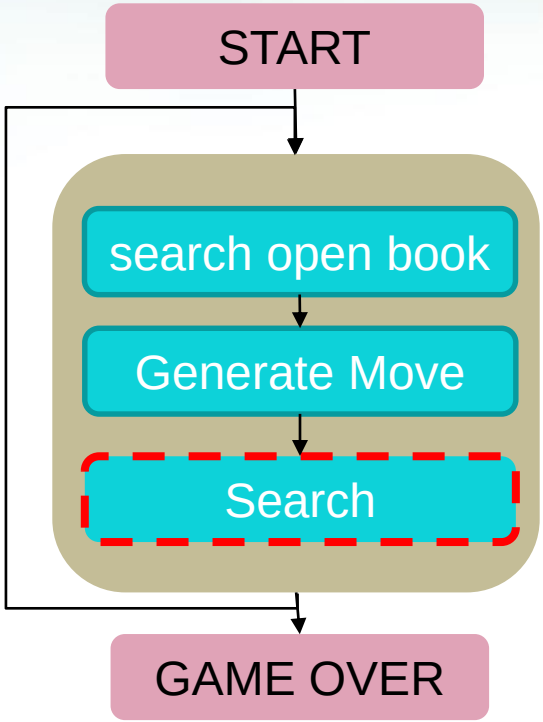
The algorithms that implement parallelization are, only use Alpha-Beta Pruning's algorithm and the algorithm designed for parallelization, PVS Search.



Problem

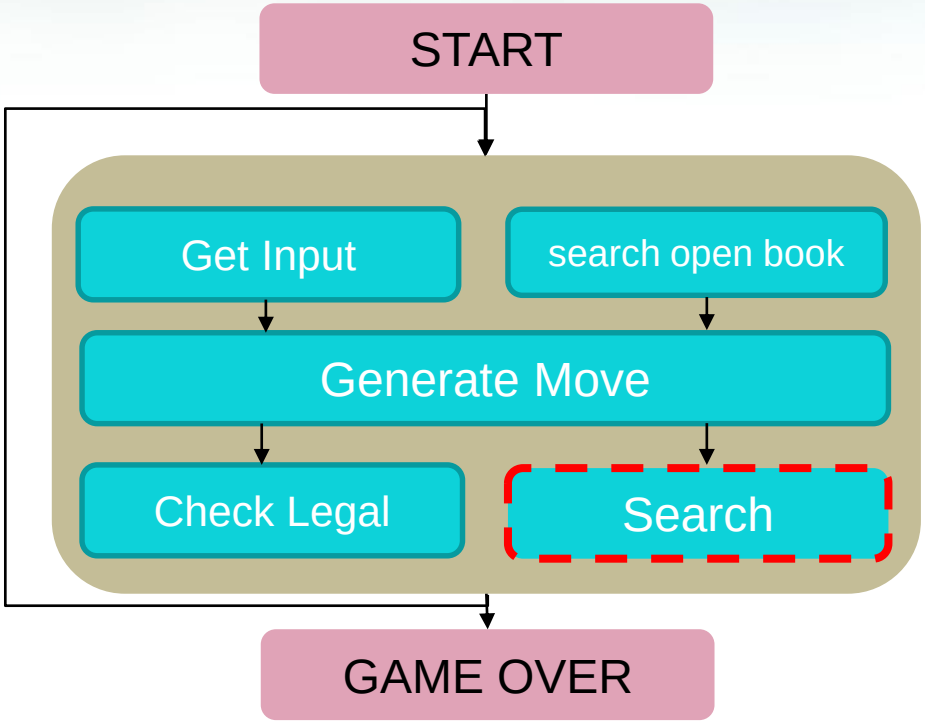
- The difference between whether to use Alpha-Beta pruning .
- Does Alpha-Beta pruning seriously lose scalability?
- Only use Alpha-Beta Pruning's algorithm (Method I) or PVS Search, which is better?
- Are there other ways to make performance better

Method



(If both are computers)

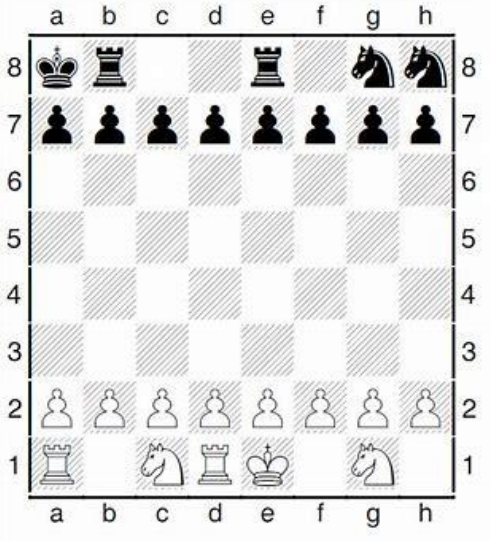
hply++
side ^= 1



(If both are player & computer)

Method – Search Open Book

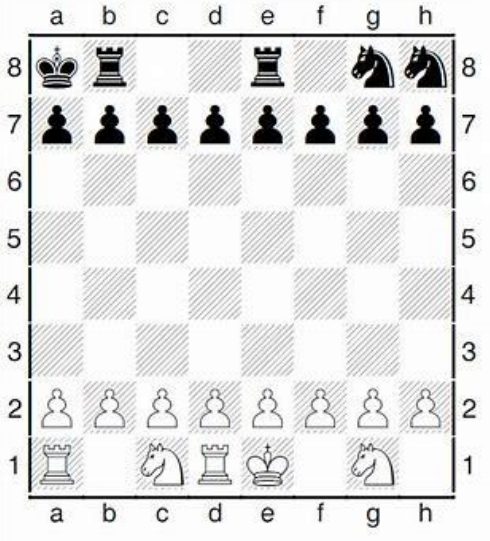
1. **g1f3 g8f6 c2c4 b7b6 g2g3**
2. **g1f3 g8f6 c2c4 c7c5 b1c3 b8c6**
3. **g1f3 c7c5 c2c4 b8c6**
4. **c2c4 g8f6 b1c3 c7c5**
5. **d2d4 g8f6 g1f3 c7c5**



Assuming this is the content of the whole book.

Method – Search Open Book

1. **g1f3 g8f6 c2c4 b7b6 g2g3**
2. **g1f3 g8f6 c2c4 c7c5 b1c3 b8c6**
3. **g1f3 c7c5 c2c4 b8c6**
4. ~~**c2c4 g8f6 b1c3 c7c5**~~
5. ~~**d2d4 g8f6 g1f3 c7c5**~~



We choose randomly, suppose we choose **g1f3** in the first step from the whole book

Method – Search Open Book

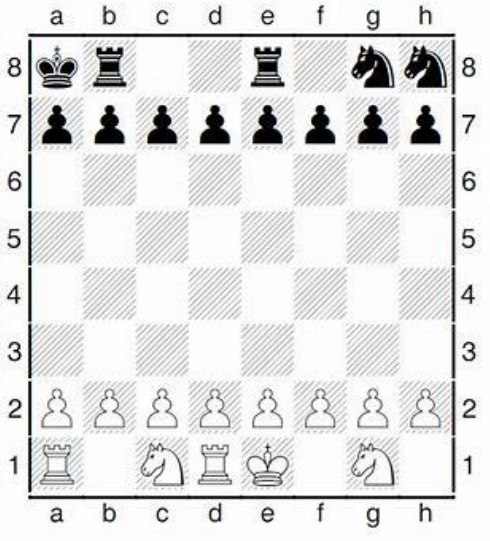
~~1. g1f3 g8f6 c2c4 b7b6 g2g3~~

~~2. g1f3 g8f6 c2c4 c7c5 b1c3 b8c6~~

3. g1f3 c7c5 c2c4 b8c6

~~4. c2c4 g8f6 b1c3 c7c5~~

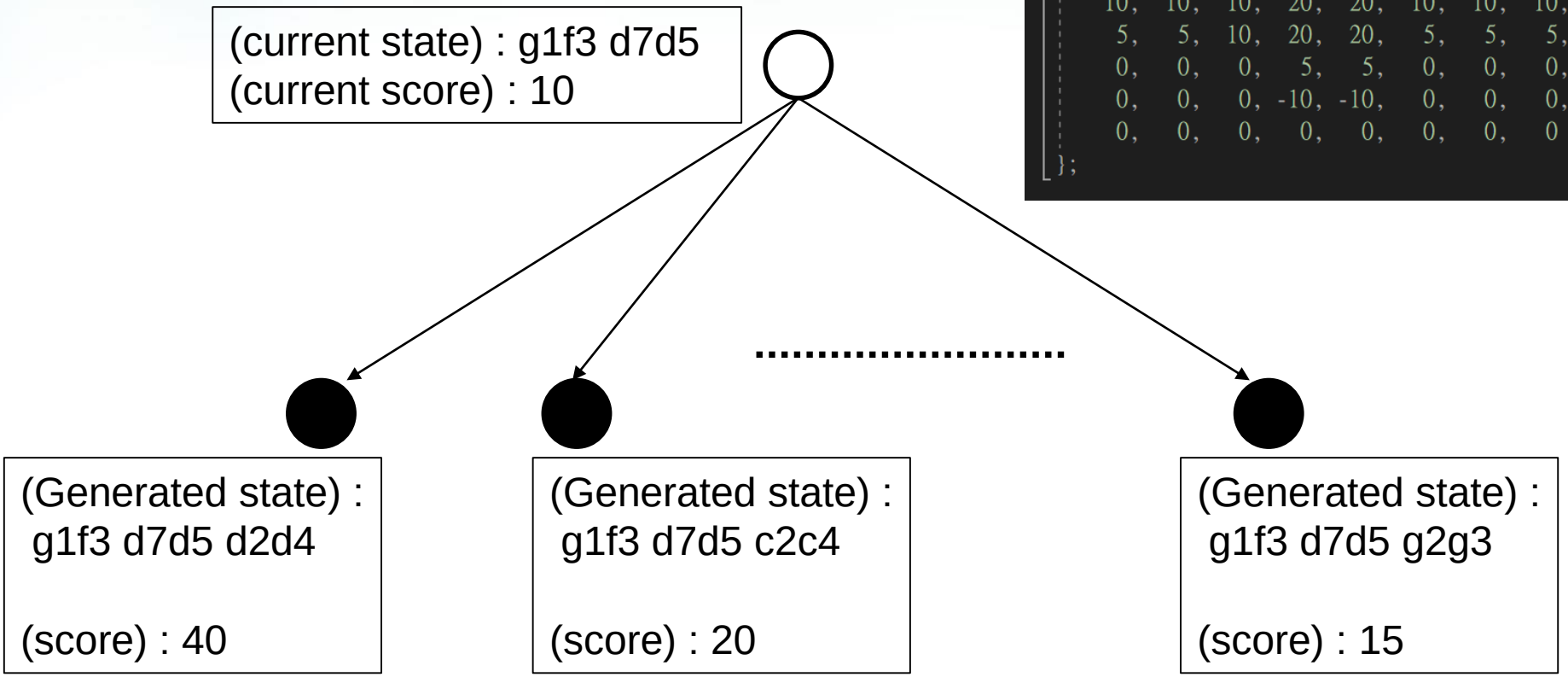
~~5. d2d4 g8f6 g1f3 c7c5~~



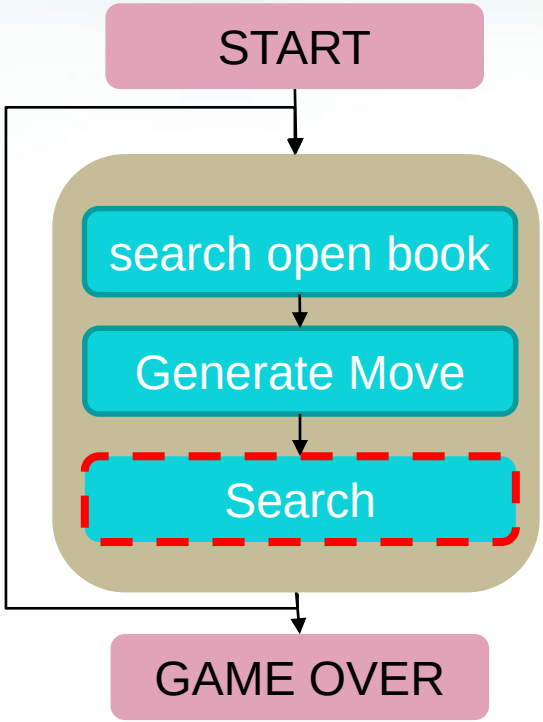
We choose randomly, suppose we choose **c7c5** in the second step in the range 1 to 3

Method – Generate Move

```
const int pawn_score[64] =
{
    90,  90,  90,  90,  90,  90,  90,  90,
    30,  30,  30,  40,  40,  30,  30,  30,
    20,  20,  20,  30,  30,  30,  20,  20,
    10,  10,  10,  20,  20,  10,  10,  10,
     5,   5,  10,  20,  20,   5,   5,   5,
     0,   0,   0,   5,   5,   0,   0,   0,
     0,   0,   0, -10, -10,   0,   0,   0,
     0,   0,   0,   0,   0,   0,   0,   0
};
```

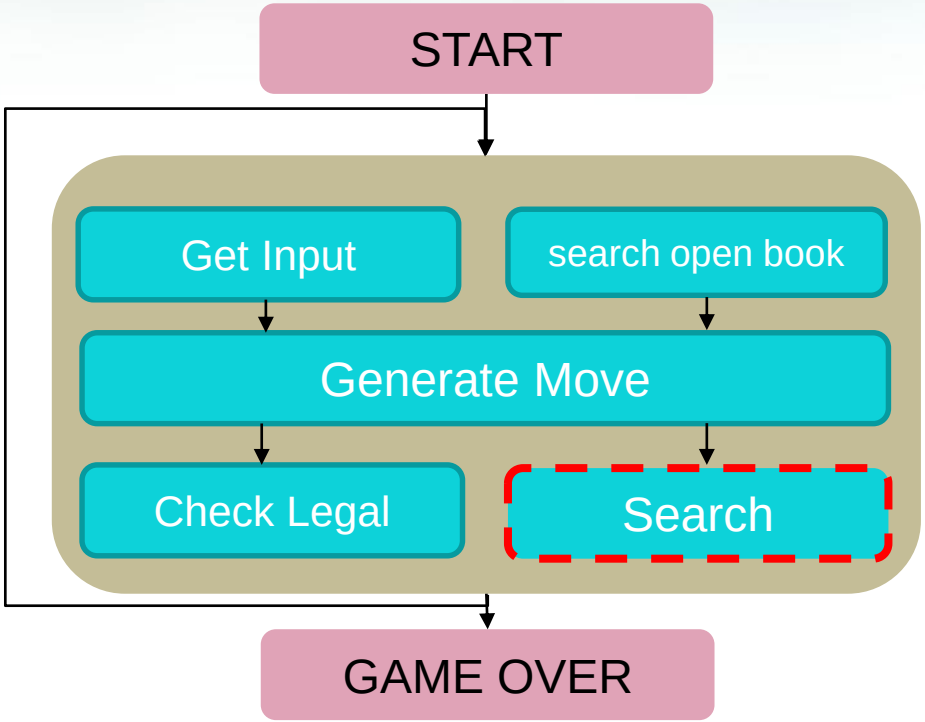


Method



(If both are computers)

hply++
side ^= 1

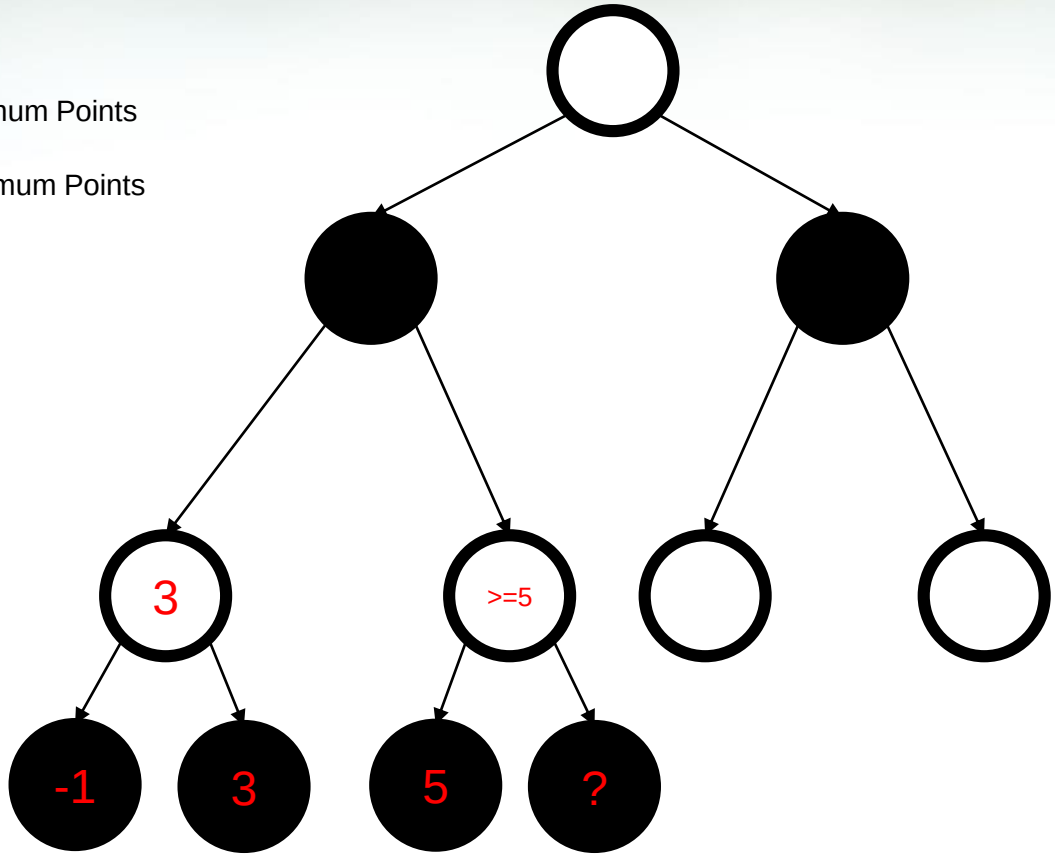


(If both are player & computer)

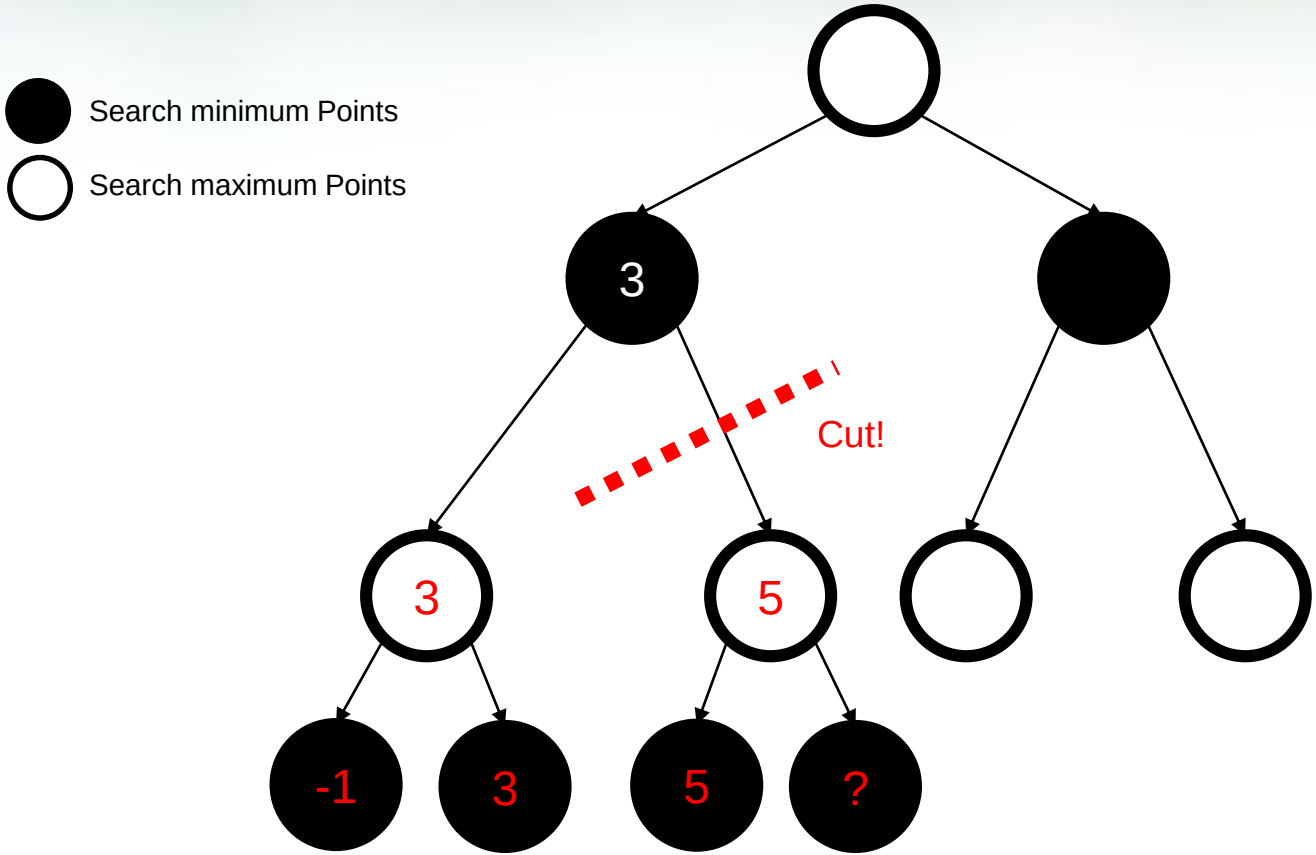
Method - Cutoff

Search minimum Points

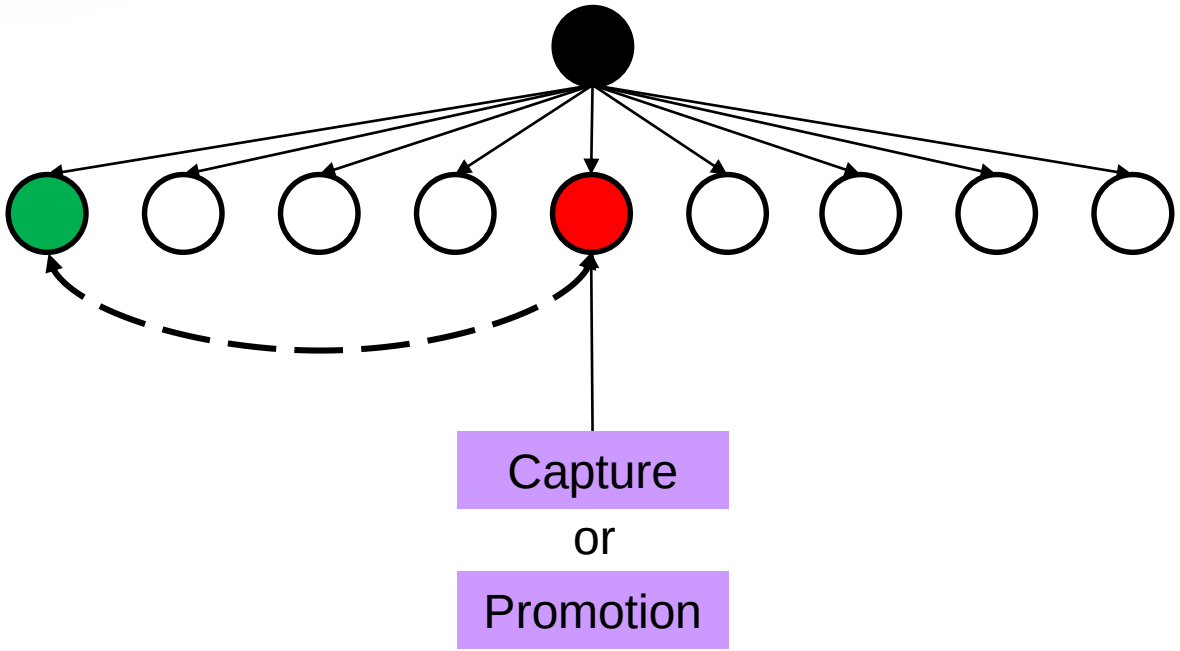
Search maximum Points



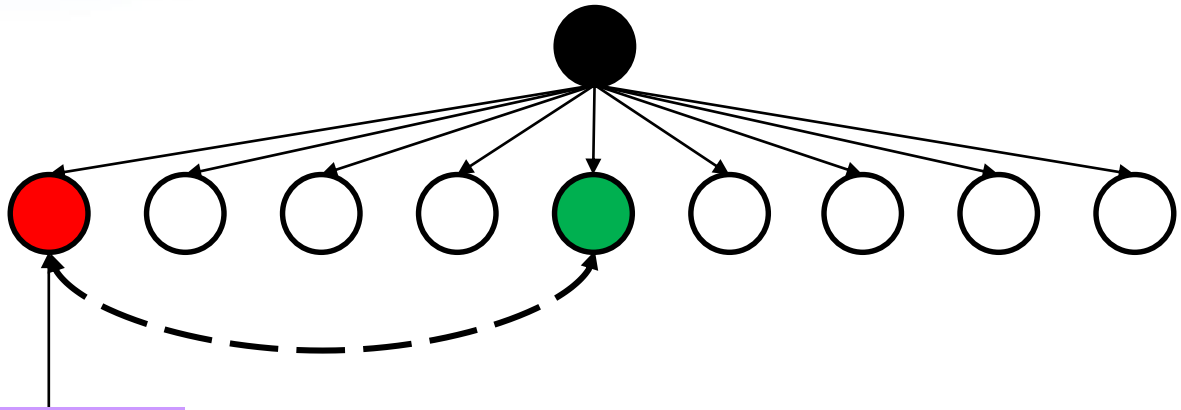
Method - Cutoff



Method - Sort



Method - Sort



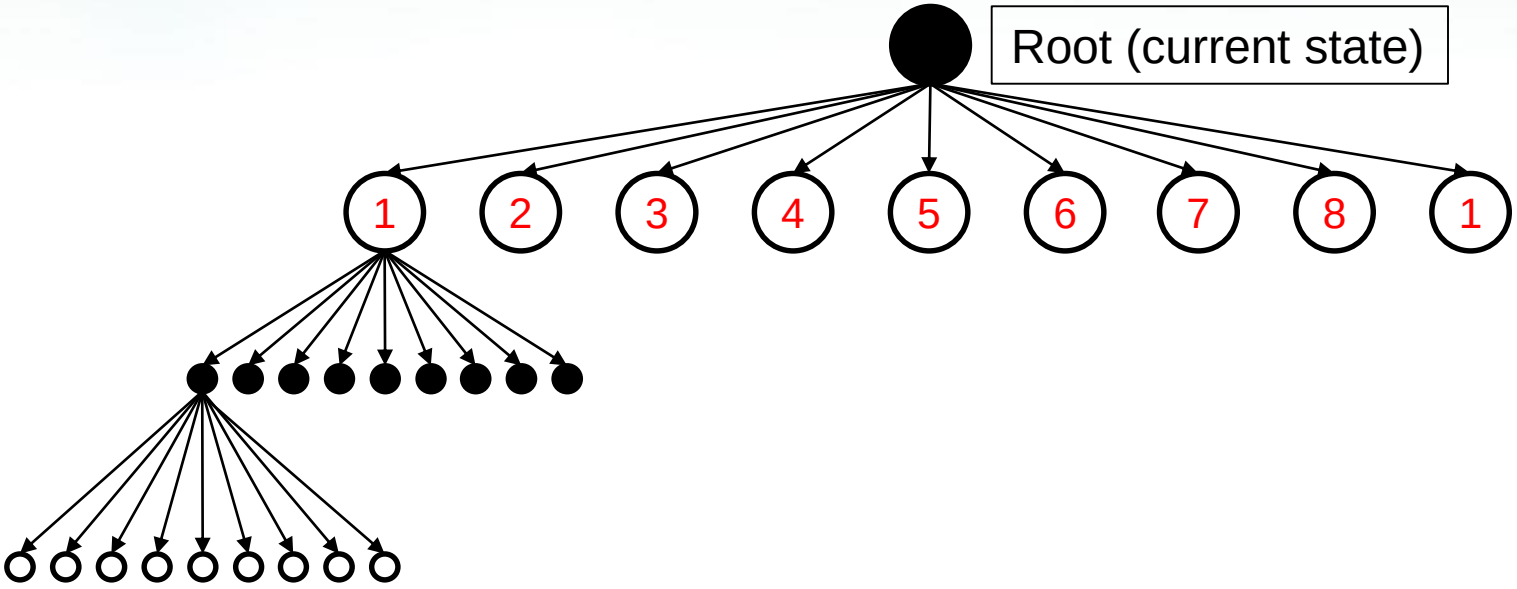
Capture

or

Promotion

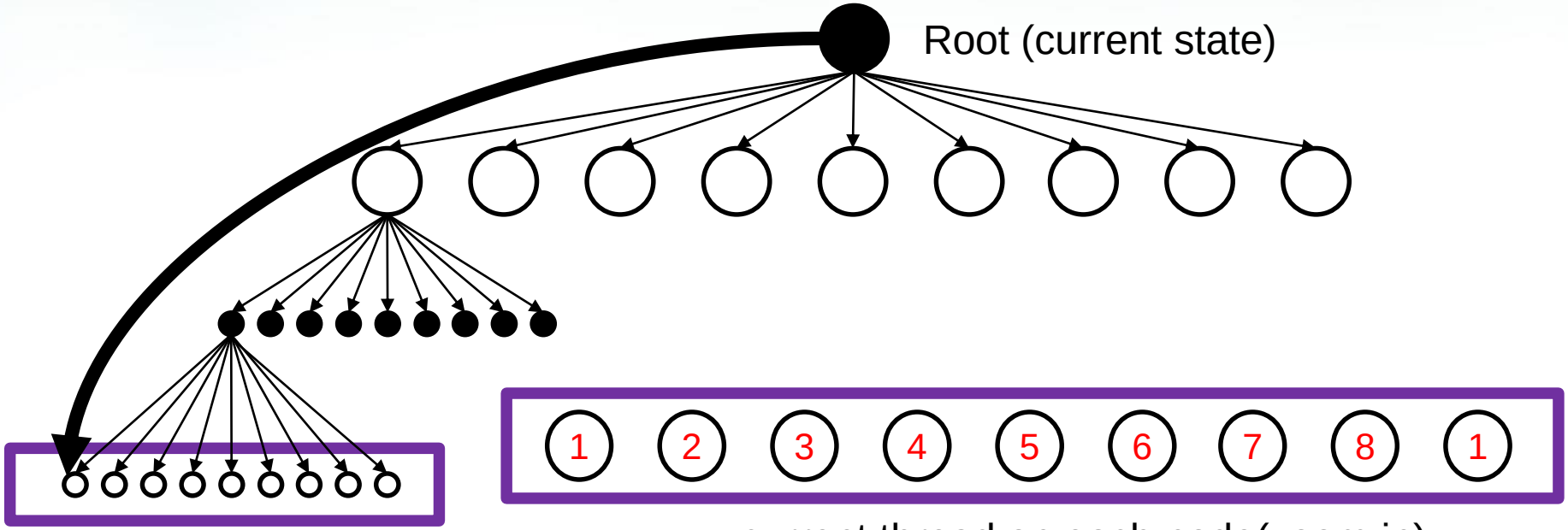
High Possibility would cut off

Method I



Each node present one board state

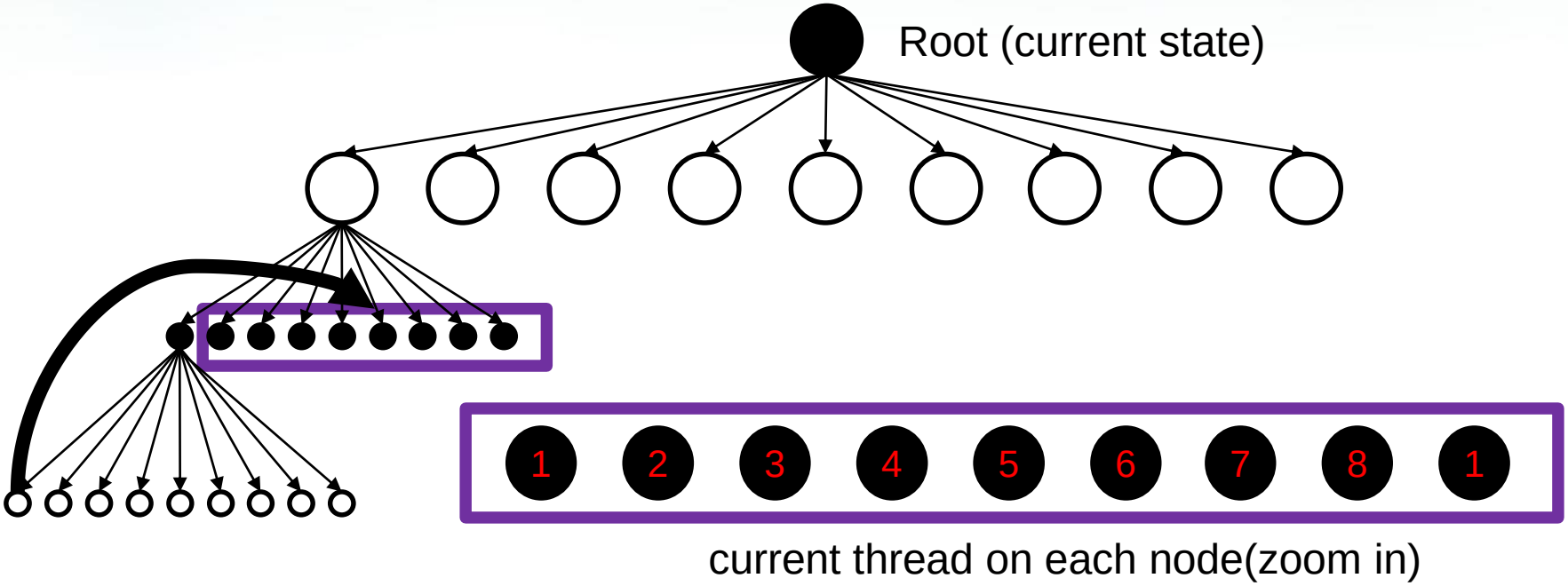
Method II– PVS Search (alpha-beta)



current thread on each node(zoom in)

Each node present one board state

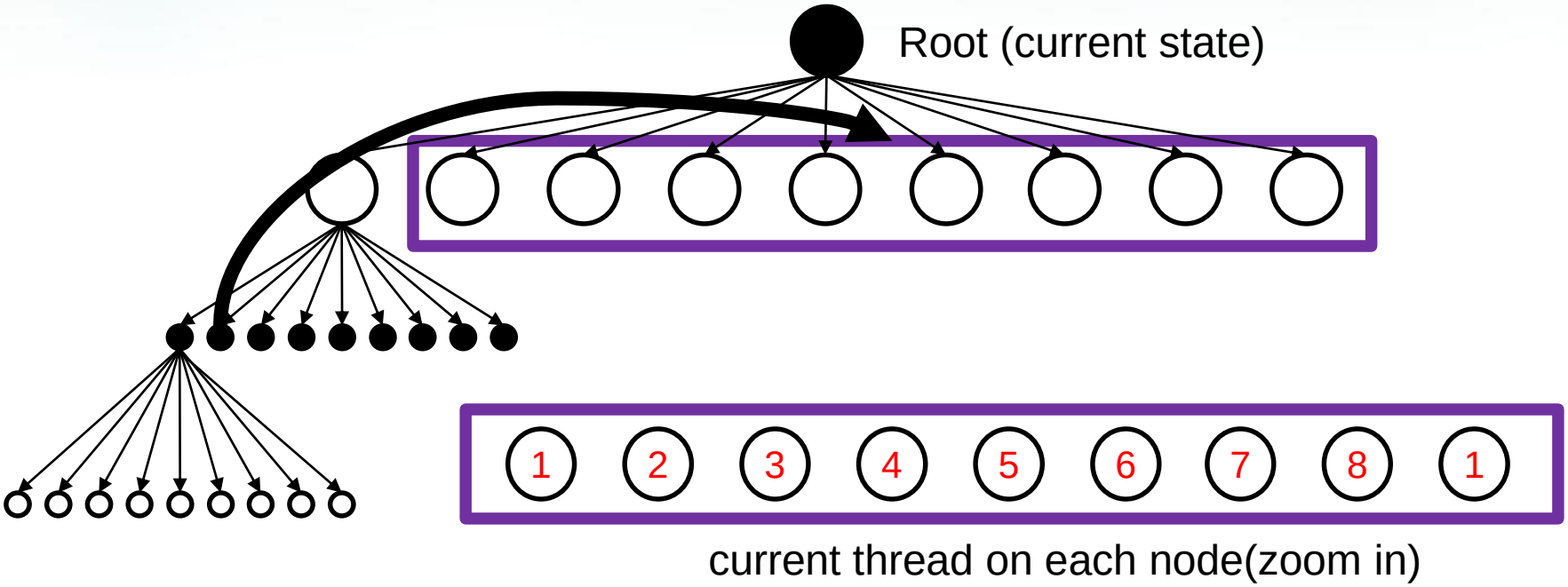
Method – PVS Search (alpha-beta)



current thread on each node(zoom in)

Each node present one board state

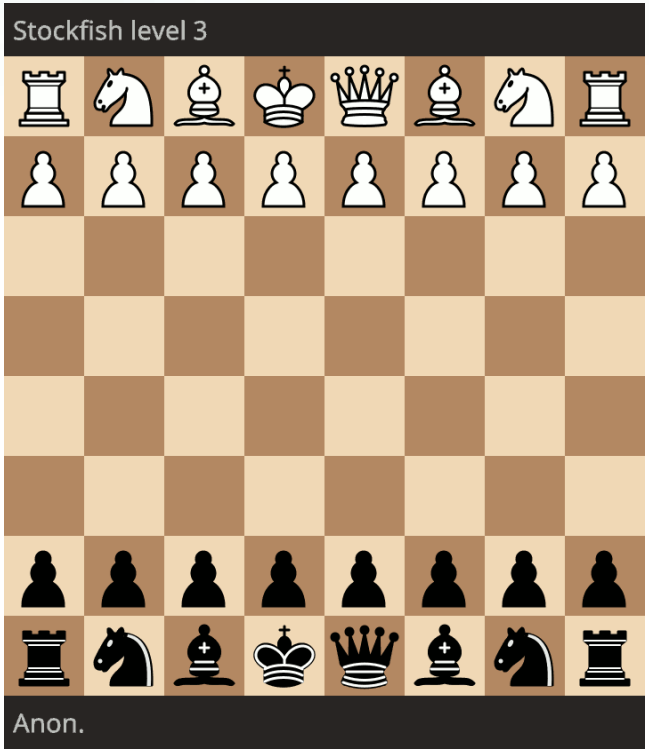
Method – PVS Search (alpha-beta)



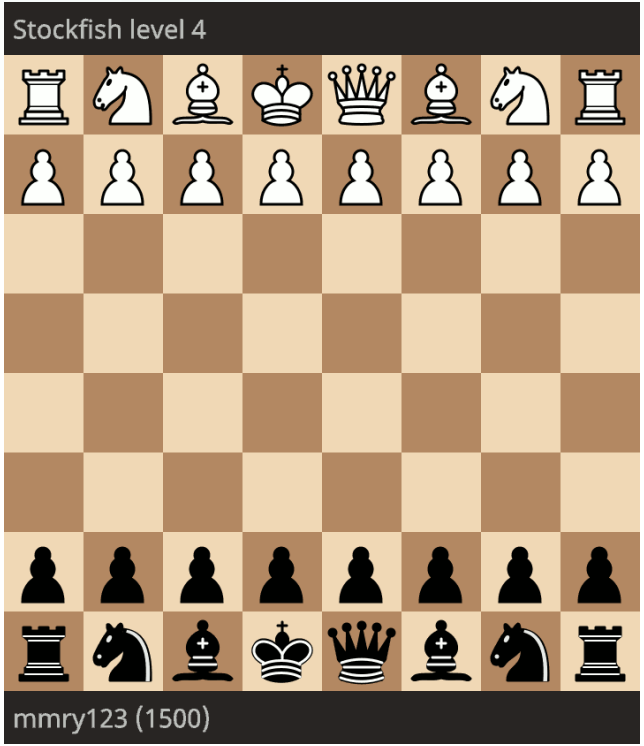
current thread on each node(zoom in)

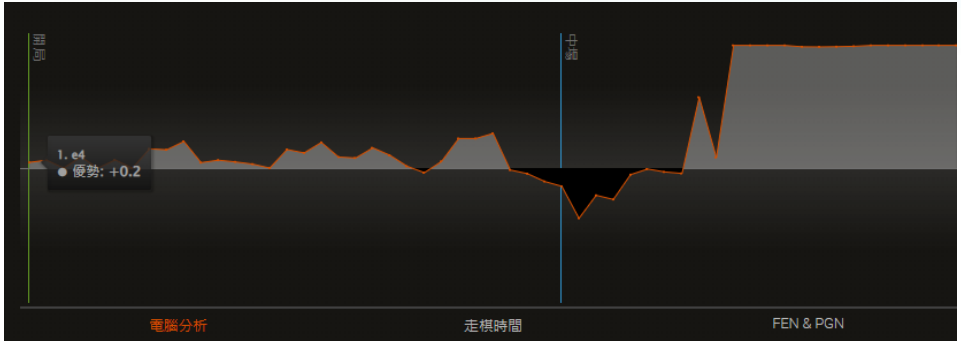
Each node present one board state

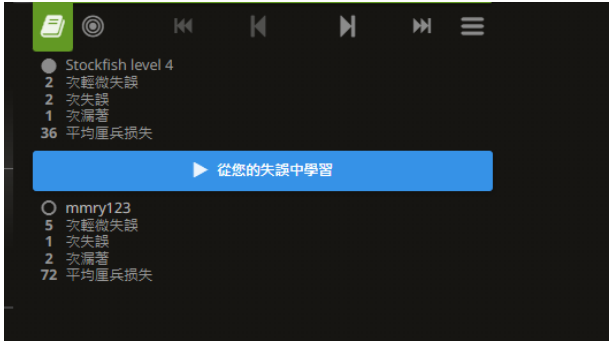
Correctness



Correctness







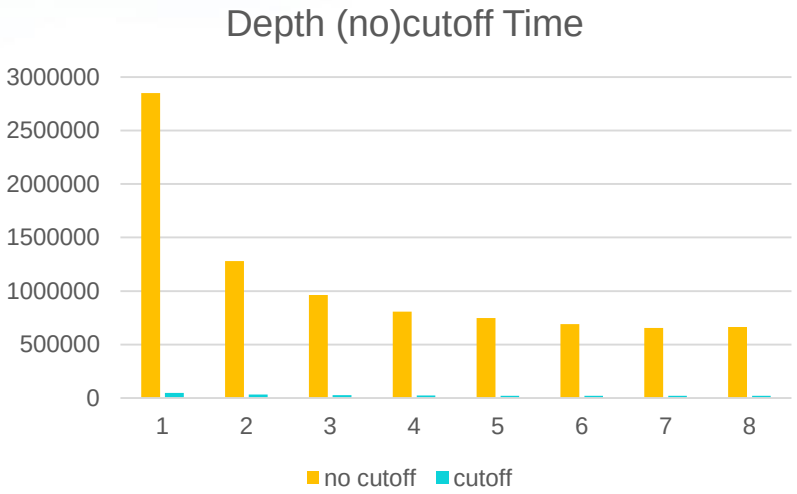
Platform & Device

Window 10, 64bits

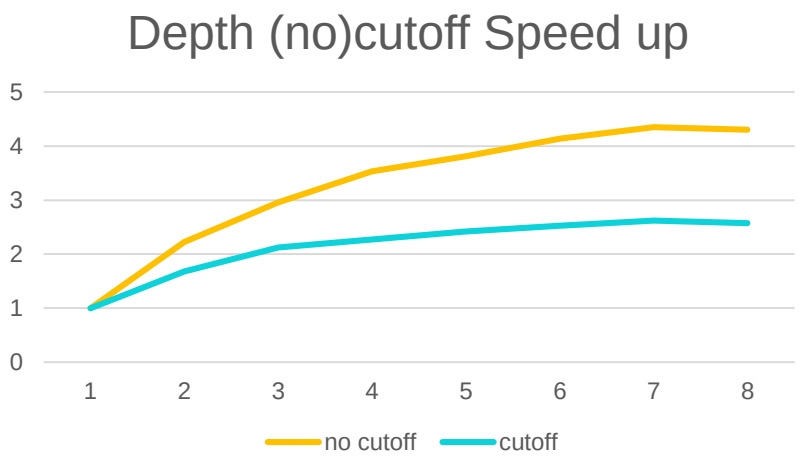
Intel® Core™ I7-6700 CPU @ 3.40GHz (4CPUs 8Threads)

RAM 16GB

Evaluation

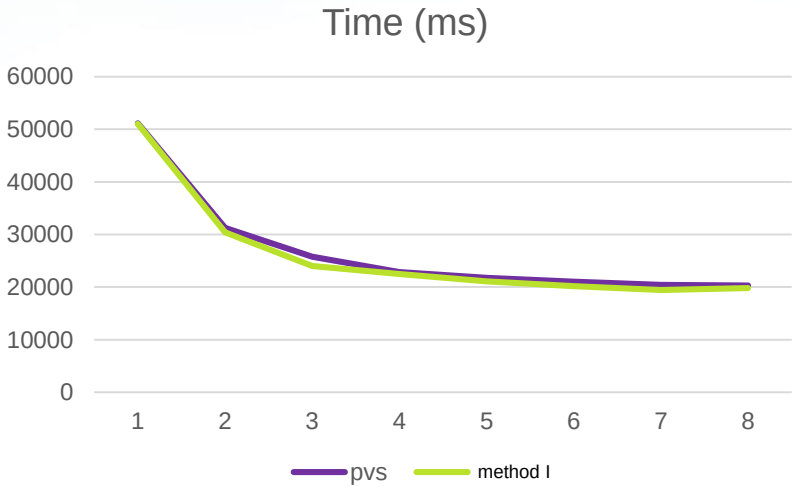


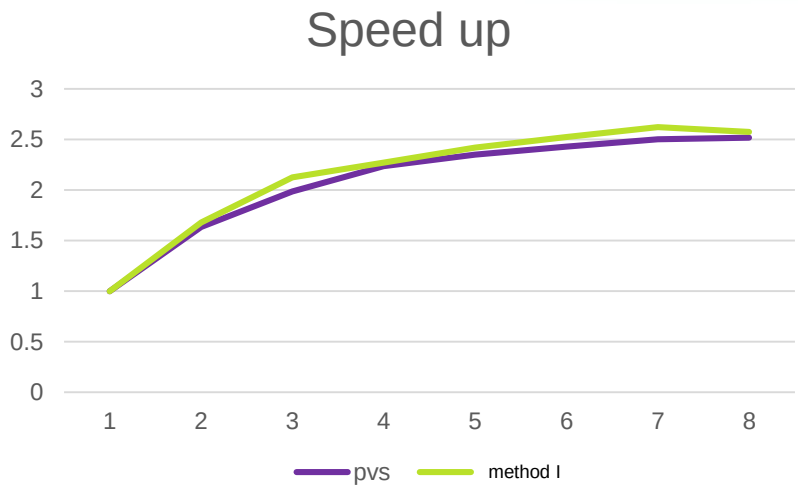
Time



Scalability

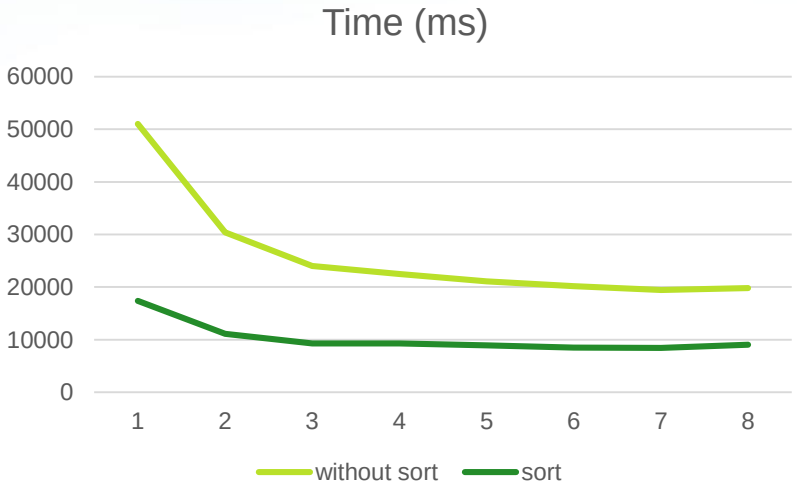
Evaluation Depth = 6, hply = 5

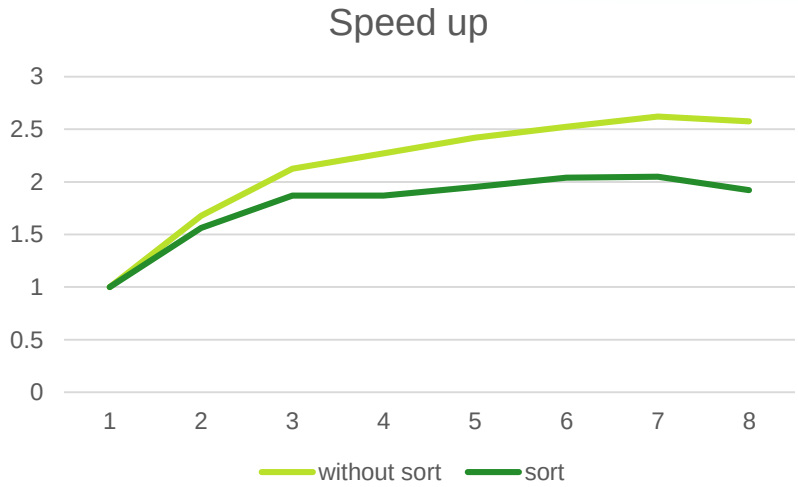




without sort

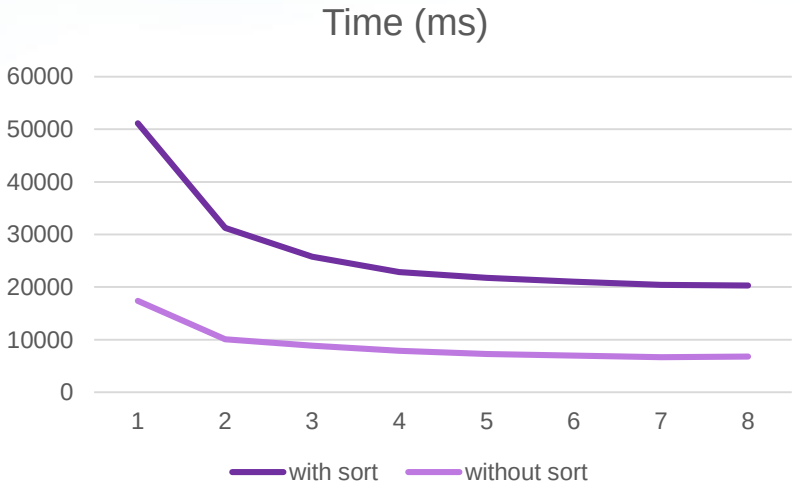
Evaluation Depth = 6, hply = 5

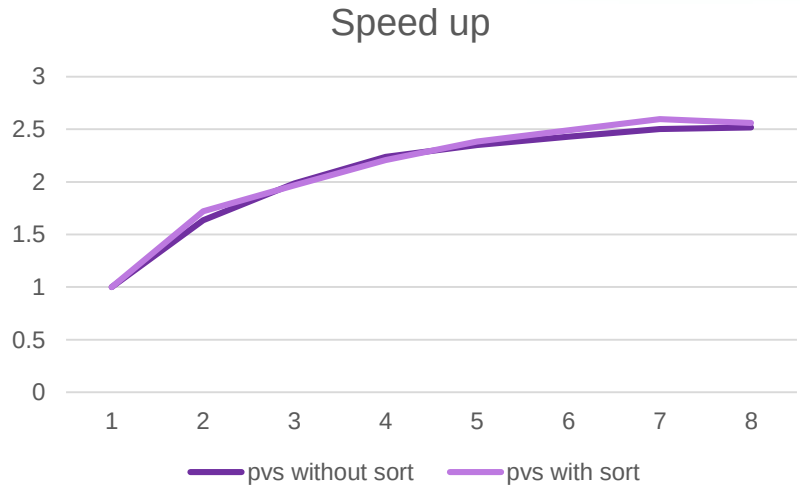




Method I

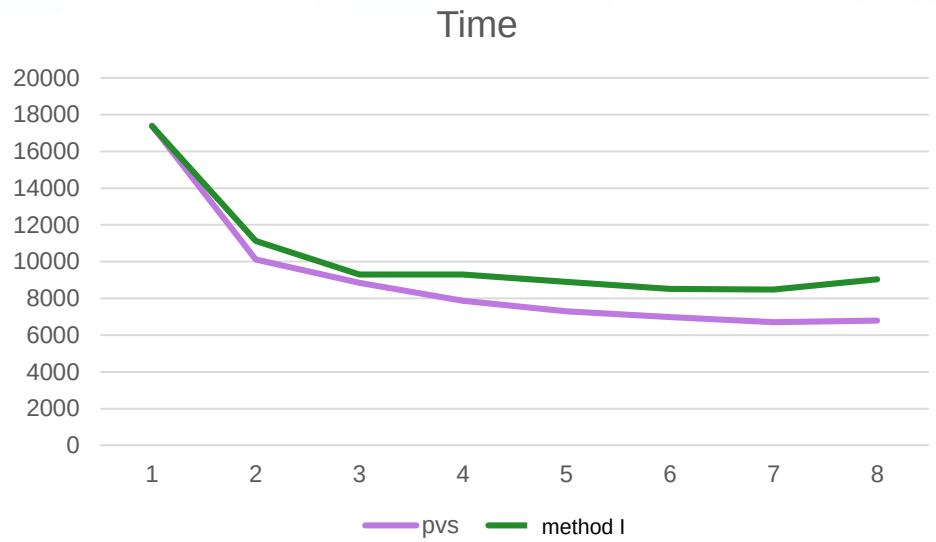
Evaluation Depth = 6, hply = 5





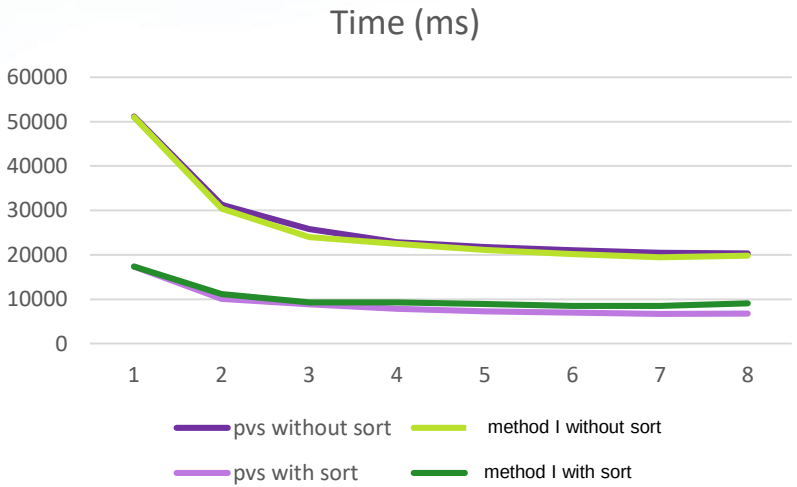
PVS search

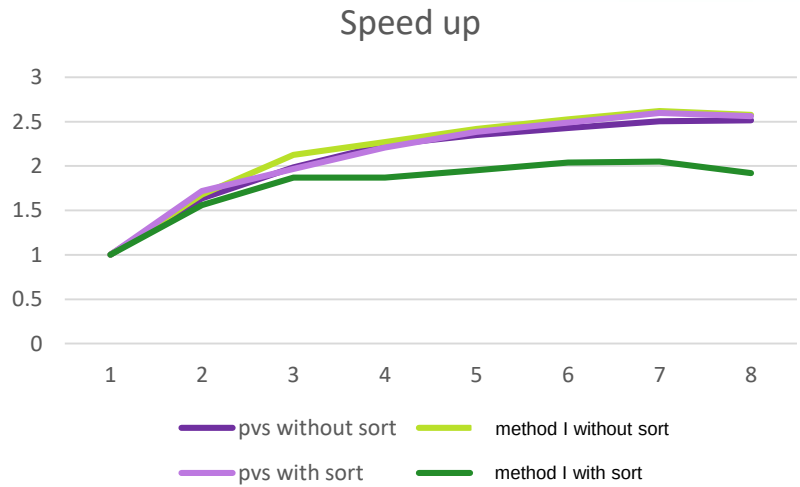
Evaluation Depth = 6, hply = 5



With sort

Evaluation Depth = 6, hply = 5





Evaluation

Thread	performance
1	1
2	0.86
3	0.66
4	0.55
5	0.48
6	0.42
7	0.37
8	0.32

#Procs Algorithm	1	2	4	8	16
PVS	1.0	1.8	3.0	4.1	4.6

Thread	performance
1	1
2	0.9
4	0.75

Performance :
(Speed up) / threads number

Conclusion

- Q : **The difference between whether to use Alpha-Beta pruning .**
  - The time required to use Alpha-Beta Pruning varies greatly.

- Q : **Only use Alpha-Beta Pruning's algorithm (Method I) or PVS Search, which is better?**
  - When we compare PVS Search and Method I, we find that there is no significant difference in the time spent and performance improvement between the two. We guess that because PVS Search allocates threads, it will need to wait until all threads have completed the calculation of the current layer. The next distribution will be carried out, which will offset its advantage of evenly distributed cut-off.

Conclusion

- Q : **Does Alpha-Beta pruning seriously lose scalability?**
  - We found that SpeedUp also increased significantly as the thread increased from 1 to 4, but when the thread was increased from 5, the increase was not so obvious.
  - We only have 4 cores, but one core can generate two threads. When the second thread is performing certain calculations, it can only be used when the first thread is idle, so the acceleration effect is limited.
  - We feel that if we look at threads1~4, the scalability when using Alpha-Beta Pruning is as we expected.

Conclusion

- Q : **Performance improvement after sorting**?
  - After nodes in Method I was sorted, the search speed was much faster than without the sort, but the speed up did not increase according to the number of threads (performance decreased).
  - After nodes in PVS Search was sorted, the time spent is significantly reduced due to the earlier truncation, and the performance is still the same as the untruncated due to the increase in threads.

Thanks for Listening~