



CS 540 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Games I

Josiah Hanna
University of Wisconsin-Madison

November 23, 2021

Announcements

- **Homeworks:**
 - Homework 9 due December 2
- Instructor absence
- Final Exam survey
- Class roadmap:

Tuesday, Nov 23	Games - Part I		HW8 Due; HW9 Released
Thursday, Nov 25	Happy Thanksgiving! (No class)		
Tuesday, Nov 30	Games - Part II		
Thursday, Dec 2	Reinforcement Learning I		HW9 Due; HW10 Released
Tuesday, Dec 7	Reinforcement Learning II		
Thursday, Dec 9	Review on Games and Reinforcement Learning		
Tuesday, Dec 14	Ethics and Trust in AI		HW10 Due

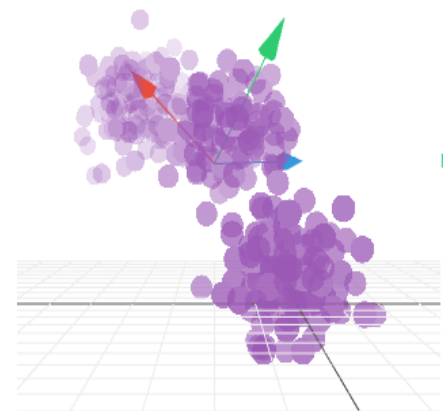
Outline

- Introduction to game theory
 - Properties of games, mathematical formulation
- Simultaneous Games
 - Normal form, strategies, dominance, Nash equilibrium
- Sequential Games
 - Game trees, minimax, search approaches

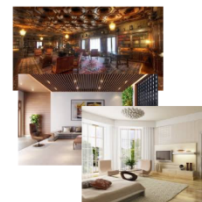
So Far in The Course

We looked at techniques:

- **Unsupervised:** See data, do something with it.
Unstructured.
- **Supervised:** Train a model to make predictions.
More structure.
 - Training: as taking actions to get a reward
- **Planning:** One agent taking actions. Even more structure
- **Games:** Much more structure.



Victor Powell



indoor

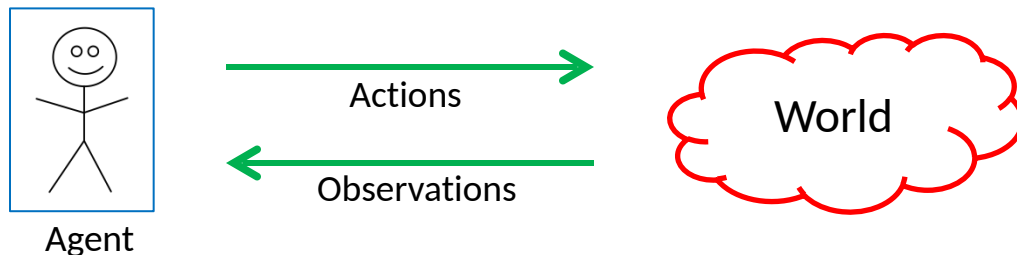


outdoor



More General Model

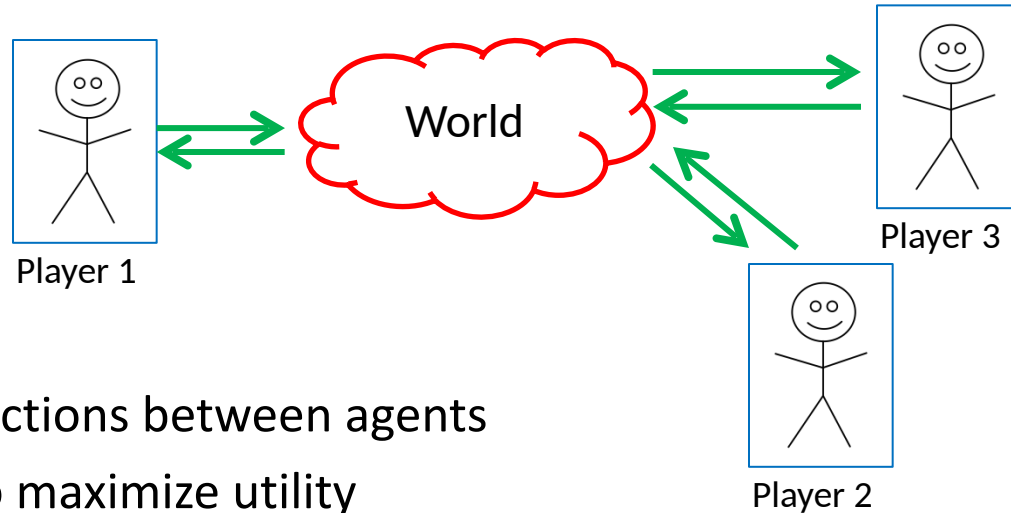
Suppose we have an **agent interacting** with the **world**



- Agent receives a reward based on state of the world
 - **Goal:** maximize reward / utility (\$\$\$)
 - Note: now **data** consists of actions & observations
 - Setup for decision theory, reinforcement learning, planning

Games: Multiple Agents

Games setup: **multiple** agents

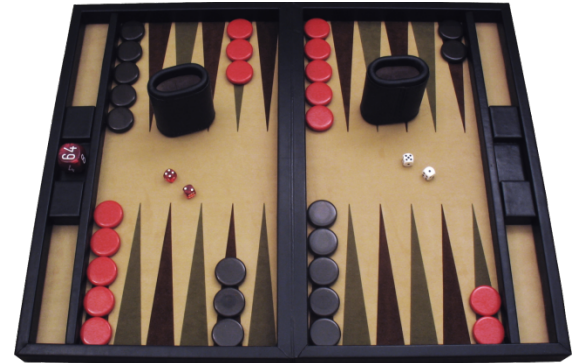


- Now: interactions between agents
- Still want to maximize utility
- **Strategic** decision making.

Modeling Games: Properties

Let's work through **properties** of games

- **Number** of agents/players
- State & action spaces: **discrete** or **continuous**
- **Finite** or **infinite**
- **Deterministic** or **random**
- **Sum**: zero or positive or negative
- **Sequential** or **simultaneous**

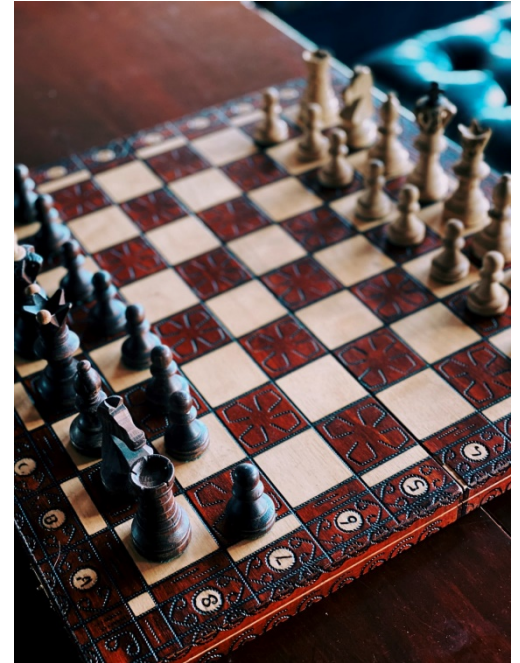


Wiki

Property 1: **Number** of players

Pretty clear idea: 1 or more players

- Usually interested in ≥ 2 players
- Typically a finite number of players



Property 2: **Discrete** or **Continuous**

Let's work through **properties** of games

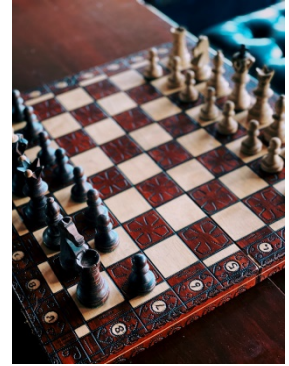
- Recall the **world**. It is in a particular state, from a set of states
- Similarly, the actions the player takes are from an action space
- How big are these spaces? Finite, countable, uncountable?



Property 3: **Finite** or **Infinite**

Let's work through **properties** of games

- Most real-world games **finite**
- Lots of single-turn games; end immediately
 - Ex: rock/paper/scissors
- Other games' rules (state & action spaces) enforce termination
 - Ex: chess under FIDE rules ends in at most 8848 moves
- **Infinite example:** pick integers. First player to play a 5 loses



Property 4: **Deterministic** or **Random**

Let's work through **properties** of games

- Is there **chance** in the game?
- Note: randomness enters in different ways



Property 5: Sums

Let's work through **properties** of games

- **Sum**: zero or positive or negative
- Zero sum: for one player to win, the other has to lose
 - No “value” created

		Blue		
		A	B	C
Red	1	30	-10	20
	2	-10	20	-20
		-30	10	-20
		10	-20	20

- Can have other types of games: positive sum, negative sum.
 - Example: prisoner's dilemma

Property 6: Sequential or Simultaneous

Let's work through **properties** of games

- **Sequential** or **simultaneous**
- Simultaneous: all players take action at the same time
- Sequential: take turns

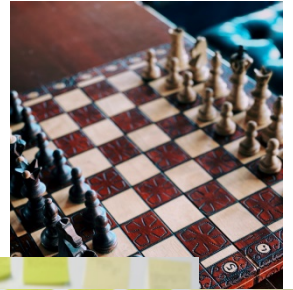
- Simultaneous: players do not have information of others' moves. Ex: **RPS**
- Sequential: may or may not have **perfect information** (knowledge of all moves so far)



Examples

Let's apply this to examples:

1. Chess: **2-player**, **discrete**, **finite**, **deterministic**, **zero-sum**, sequential (perfect information)
2. RPS: **2-player**, **discrete**, **finite**, **deterministic**, **zero-sum**, simultaneous
3. Mario Kart: **4-player**, **continuous**, **infinite** (?), **random**, **zero-sum**, simultaneous



Another Example: Prisoner's Dilemma

Famous example from the '50s.

Two prisoners A & B. Can choose to betray the other or not.

- A and B both betray, each of them serves two years in prison
- One betrays, the other doesn't: betrayer free, other three years
- Both do not betray: one year each

Properties: **2-player**, **discrete**, **finite**,
deterministic, **negative-sum**, **simultaneous**



Why Do These Properties Matter?

Categorize games in different groups

- Can focus on understanding/analyzing/“solving” particular groups
- **Abstract** away details and see common patterns
- Understand how to produce a “good” overall outcome



How Does it Connect To Learning?

Obviously, learn how to play effectively

Also: suppose the players don't know something

- **Ex:** the reward / utility function is not known
- Common for real-world situations
 - How do we choose actions?
- Model the reward function and **learn it**
 - Try out actions and observe the rewards



Break & Quiz

Q 1.1: Which of these are zero-sum games?

(i) Rock, Paper, Scissors

(ii) Prisoner's Dilemma

- A. Neither
- B. (i) but not (ii)
- C. (ii) but not (i)
- D. Both

Break & Quiz

Q 1.1: Which of these are zero-sum games?

- (i) Rock, Paper, Scissors
- (ii) Prisoner's Dilemma

- A. Neither
- **B. (i) but not (ii)**
- C. (ii) but not (i)
- D. Both

Break & Quiz

Q 1.1: Which of these are zero-sum games?

- (i) Rock, Paper, Scissors
- (ii) Prisoner's Dilemma

- A. Neither (Rock, Paper, Scissors is, clearly)
- **B. (i) but not (ii)**
- C. (ii) but not (i) (Rock, Paper, Scissors is, clearly)
- D. Both (Prisoner's Dilemma is not, recall the normal form matrix)

Break & Quiz

Q 1.2: Which of these is false?

- A. Monopoly is not deterministic.
- B. A game can be sequential but not have perfect information.
- C. Battleship has perfect information.
- D. Prisoner's dilemma is a simultaneous game.

Break & Quiz

Q 1.2: Which of these is false?

- A. Monopoly is not deterministic.
- B. A game can be sequential but not have perfect information.
- **C. Battleship has perfect information.**
- D. Prisoner's dilemma is a simultaneous game.

Break & Quiz

Q 1.2: Which of these is false?

- A. Monopoly is not deterministic. (True: you roll dice.)
- B. A game can be sequential but not have perfect information. (True, and in fact Battleship is an example.)
- **C. Battleship has perfect information.**
- D. Prisoner's dilemma is a simultaneous game. (Also true: single round, no turns.)

Simultaneous Games

Simpler setting, easier to analyze

- Can express reward with a simple diagram
- Ex: for prisoner's dilemma

		Player 2	
		<i>Stay silent</i>	<i>Betray</i>
Player 1	<i>Stay silent</i>	-1, -1	-3, 0
	<i>Betray</i>	0, -3	-2, -2

Normal Form

Mathematical description of simult. games. Has:

- n players $\{1,2,\dots,n\}$
- Player i strategy a_i from A_i . **All:** $a = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$
- Player i gets rewards $u_i(a)$ for any outcome
 - **Note:** reward depends on other players!
- Setting: all of these spaces, rewards are **known**

Example of Normal Form

Ex: Prisoner's Dilemma

- 2 players, 2 actions: yields 2x2 matrix
- Strategies: {Stay silent, betray} (i.e, binary)
- Rewards: {0,-1,-2,-3}

		Player 2	
		<i>Stay silent</i>	<i>Betray</i>
Player 1	<i>Stay silent</i>	-1, -1	-3, 0
	<i>Betray</i>	0, -3	-2, -2

Dominant Strategies

Let's analyze such games. Some strategies are better

- Dominant strategy: if a_i better than a_i' *regardless* of what other players do, a_i is **dominant**

- I.e.,

$$u_i(a_i, a_{-i}) \geq u_i(a_i', a_{-i}) \forall a_i' \neq a_i \text{ and } \forall a_{-i}$$



All of the other entries
of a excluding i

- Doesn't always exist!

Dominant Strategies Example

Back to Prisoner's Dilemma

- Examine all the entries: betray dominates
- Check:

		Player 2	
		<i>Stay silent</i>	<i>Betray</i>
Player 1	<i>Stay silent</i>	-1, -1	-3, 0
	<i>Betray</i>	0, -3	-2, -2

- Note: normal form helps **locate** dominant/dominated strategies.

Equilibrium

a^* is an equilibrium if all the players do not have an incentive to **unilaterally deviate**

$$u_i(a_i^*, a_{-i}^*) \geq u_i(a_i, a_{-i}^*) \quad \forall a_i \in A_i$$

- All players dominant strategies \rightarrow equilibrium
- Converse doesn't hold (don't need dominant strategies to get an equilibrium)

Pure and Mixed Strategies

So far, all our strategies are deterministic: “**pure**”

- Take a particular action, no randomness

Can also randomize actions: “**mixed**”

- Assign probabilities x_i to each action

$$x_i(a_i), \text{ where } \sum_{a_i \in A_i} x_i(a_i) = 1, x_i(a_i) \geq 0$$

- Note: have to now consider **expected rewards**

Nash Equilibrium

Consider the mixed strategy $x^* = (x_1^*, \dots, x_n^*)$

- This is a **Nash equilibrium** if

$$u_i(x_i^*, x_{-i}^*) \geq u_i(x_i, x_{-i}^*) \quad \forall x_i \in \Delta_{A_i}, \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$$



Better than doing
anything else,
“**best response**”



Space of
probability
distributions

- Intuition: nobody can **increase expected reward** by changing only their own strategy. A type of solution!

Properties of Nash Equilibrium

Major result: (Nash '51)

- Every finite game has at least one Nash equilibrium
 - But not necessarily **pure** (i.e., deterministic strategy)
- Could be more than one!
- Searching for Nash equilibria: computationally **hard!**

Example: rock/paper/scissors has
($1/3, 1/3, 1/3$) as a mixed strategy NE.



Break & Quiz

Q 2.1: Which of the following is **false**?

- (i) Rock/paper/scissors has a dominant pure strategy
 - (ii) There is no Nash equilibrium for rock/paper/scissors
-
- A. Neither
 - B. (i) but not (ii)
 - C. (ii) but not (i)
 - D. Both

Break & Quiz

Q 2.1: Which of the following is **false**?

- (i) Rock/paper/scissors has a dominant pure strategy
 - (ii) There is no Nash equilibrium for rock/paper/scissors
-
- A. Neither
 - **B. (i) but not (ii)**
 - C. (ii) but not (i)
 - D. Both

Break & Quiz

Q 2.1: Which of the following is **false**?

(i) Rock/paper/scissors has a dominant pure strategy

(ii) There is no Nash equilibrium for rock/paper/scissors

- A. Neither (There is a mixed strategy Nash equilibrium)
- **B. (i) but not (ii)**
- C. (ii) but not (i) (i is indeed false: easy to check that there's no deterministic dominant strategy)
- D. Both (Same as A)

Break & Quiz

Q 2.2: Which of the following is **true**?

- (i) Nash equilibria require each player to know other players' strategies
- (ii) Nash equilibria require rational play

- A. Neither
- B. (i) but not (ii)
- C. (ii) but not (i)
- D. Both

Break & Quiz

Q 2.2: Which of the following is **true**?

- (i) Nash equilibria require each player to know other players' strategies
- (ii) Nash equilibria require rational play

- A. Neither
- B. (i) but not (ii)
- C. (ii) but not (i)
- **D. Both**

Break & Quiz

Q 2.2: Which of the following is **true**?

- (i) Nash equilibria require each player to know other players' strategies
 - (ii) Nash equilibria require rational play
-
- A. Neither (See below)
 - B. (i) but not (ii) (Rational play required: i.e., what if prisoners desire longer jail sentences?)
 - C. (ii) but not (i) (The basic assumption of Nash equilibria is knowing all of the strategies involved)
 - D. **Both**

Break & Quiz

Q 2.3: Teams 1 and 2 are playing football; team 1 is on offense and team 2 is on defense. Team 1 know that team 2 uses strategy $[2/3, 1/3]$ meaning they defend against run-plays $2/3$ of the time and defend against pass-plays $1/3$ of the time. What is the optimal strategy for team 1 and its expected pay-off?

		Team 2	
		<i>Defend run</i>	<i>Defend pass</i>
Team 1	<i>Run</i>	-2, 2	5,-5
	<i>Pass</i>	10,-10	-5, 5

Break & Quiz

Q 2.3: Teams 1 and 2 are playing football; team 1 is on offense and team 2 is on defense. Team 1 know that team 2 uses strategy $[2/3, 1/3]$ meaning they defend against run-plays $2/3$ of the time and defend against pass-plays $1/3$ of the time. What is the optimal strategy for team 1 and its expected pay-off?

$$u(\text{pass}) = 2/3 * 10 + 1/3 * (-5)$$

$$u(\text{run}) = 2/3 * (-2) + 1/3 * 5 = 1/3$$

Team 1 should pass and is expected to receive a pay-off of 5.

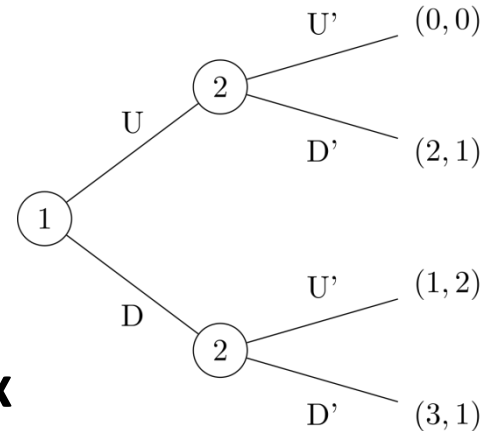
	Team 2		
		<i>Defend run</i>	<i>Defend pass</i>
Team 1			
	<i>Run</i>	-2, 2	5,-5
	<i>Pass</i>	10,-10	-5, 5

Sequential Games

More complex games with multiple moves

- Instead of normal form, **extensive form**
- Represent with a **tree**
- Perform search over the tree

- Can still look for Nash equilibrium
 - Or, other criteria like **maximin / minimax**



II-Nim: Example Sequential Game

2 piles of sticks, each with 2 sticks.

- Each player takes one or more sticks from pile
- Take last stick: lose

(ii, ii)

- Two players: **Max** and **Min**
- If **Max** wins, the score is **+1**; otherwise **-1**
- **Min**'s score is $-\text{Max's}$
- Use **Max**'s as the score of the game

Game Trajectory

(ii, ii)

Game Trajectory

(ii, ii)

Max takes one stick from one pile

(i, ii)

Game Trajectory

(ii, ii)

Max takes one stick from one pile

(i, ii)

Min takes two sticks from the other pile

(i, -)

Game Trajectory

(ii, ii)

Max takes one stick from one pile

(i, ii)

Min takes two sticks from the other pile

(i, -)

Max takes the last stick

(-, -)

Max gets score **-1**

Game tree for II-Nim

Two players:
Max and **Min**

(ii ii) **Max**

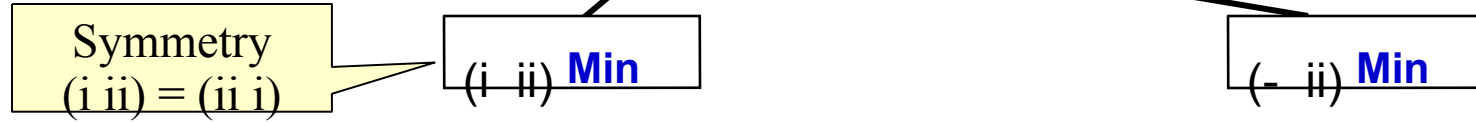
who is to move
at this state

Convention: score is w.r.t. the first
player Max. Min's score = - Max

Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

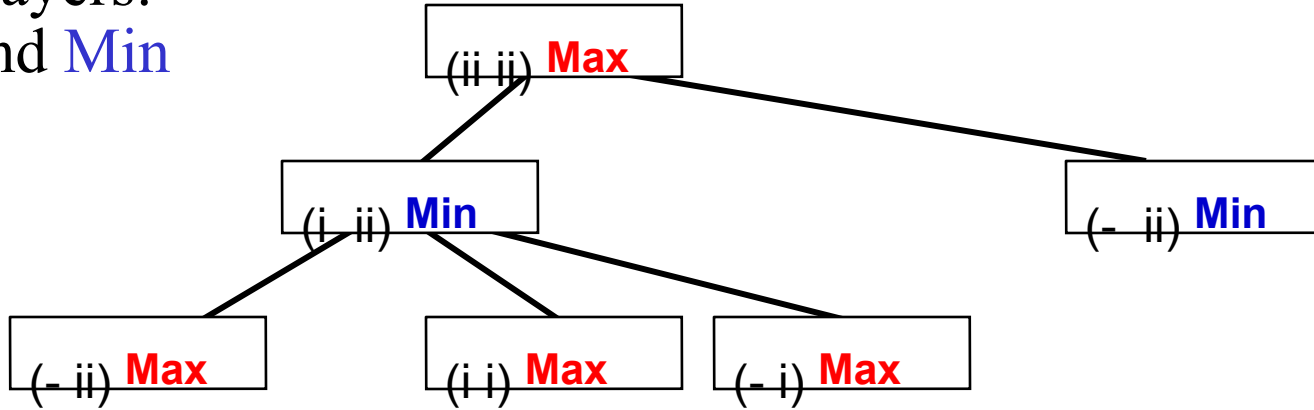
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

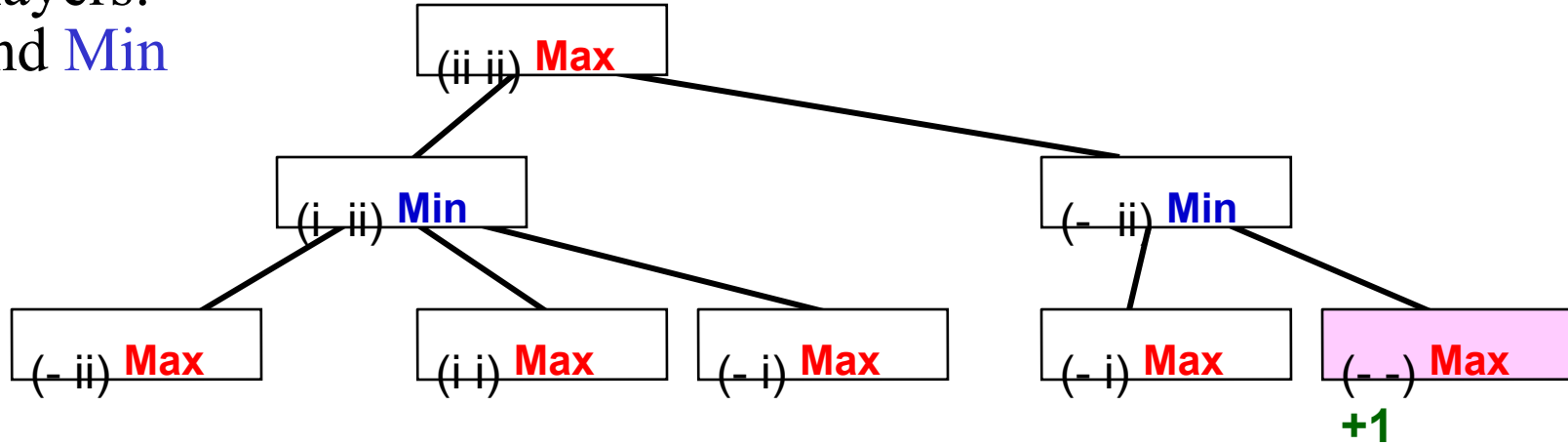
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

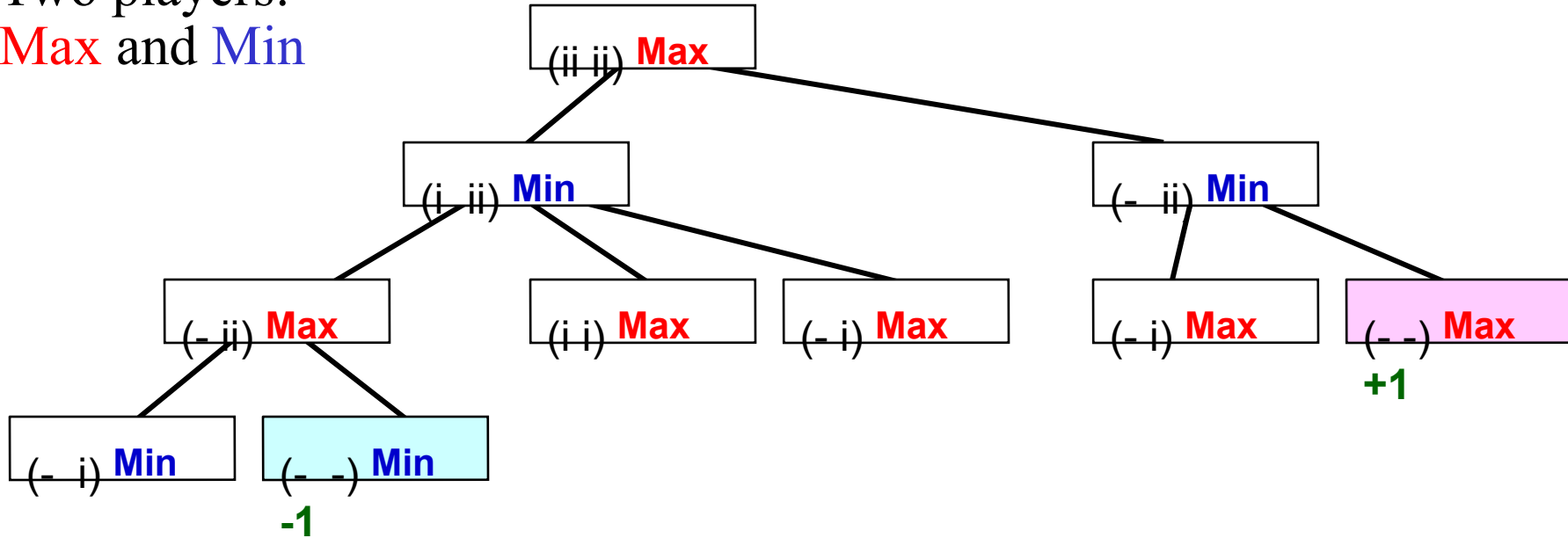
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

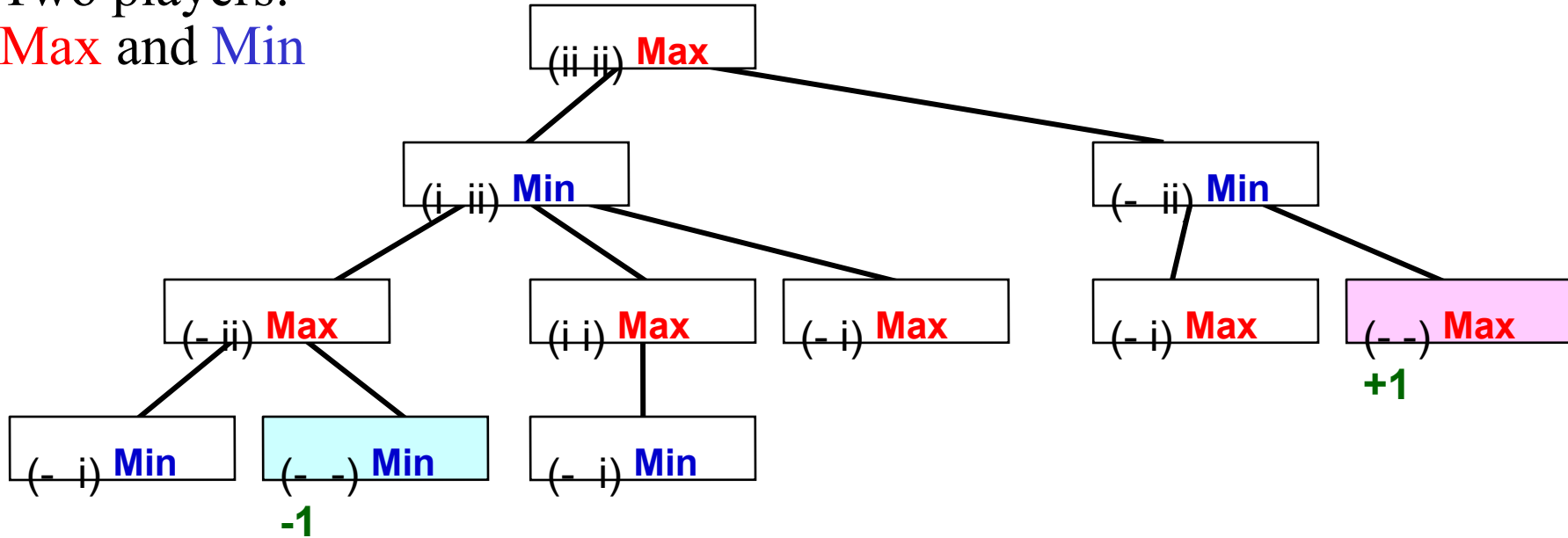
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

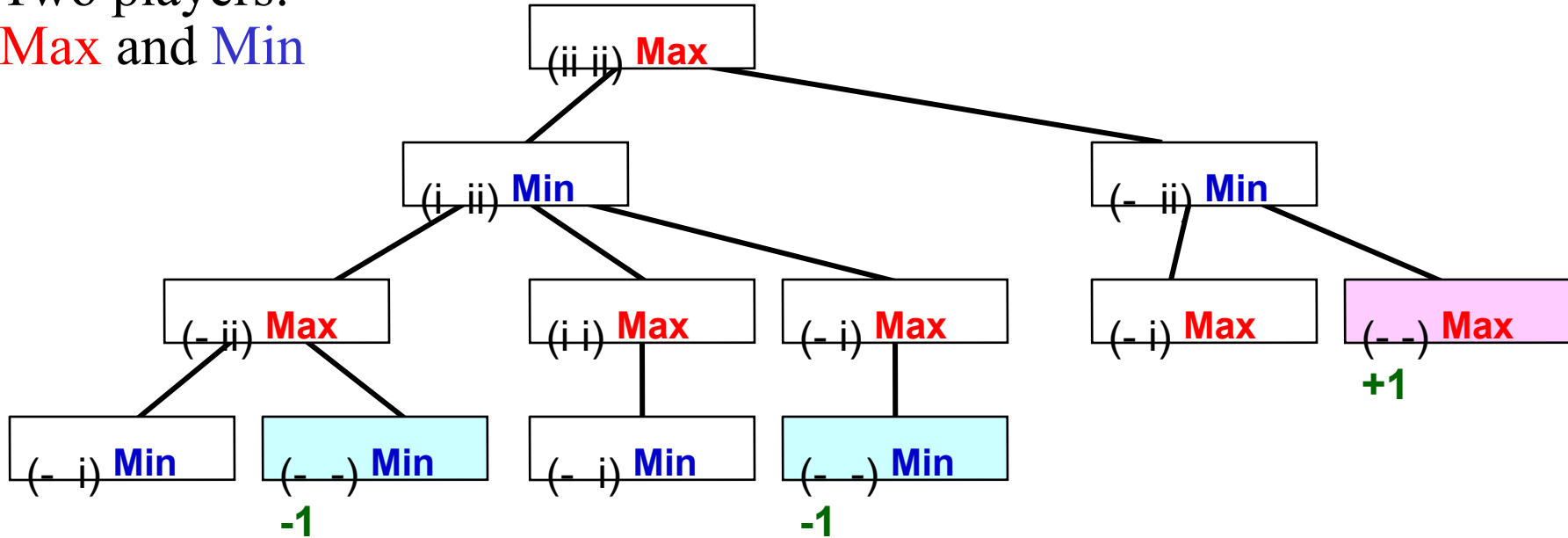
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

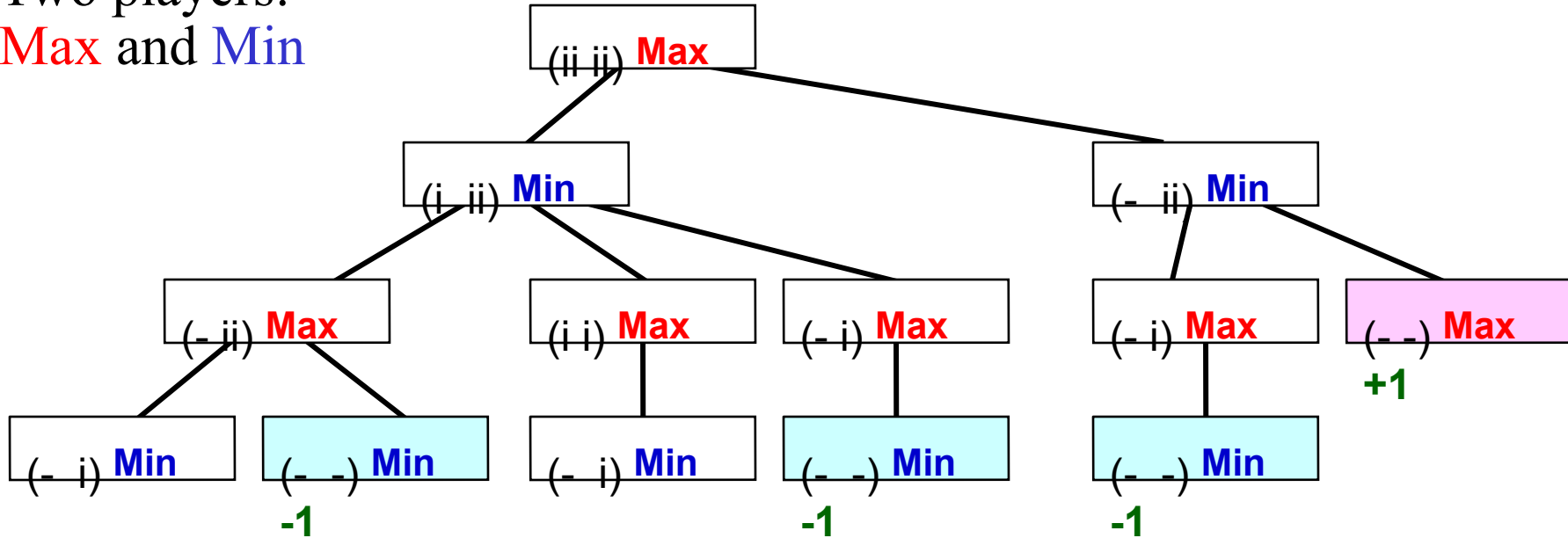
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

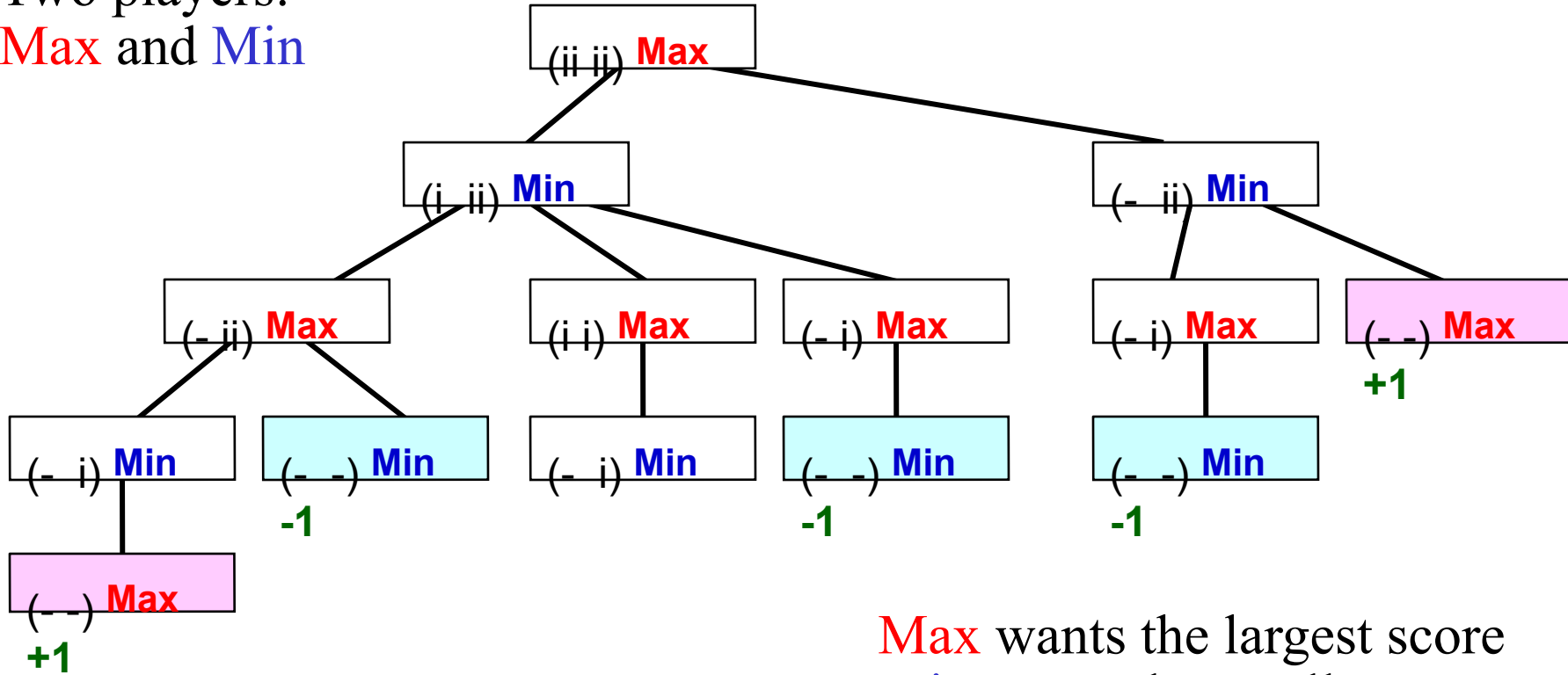
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

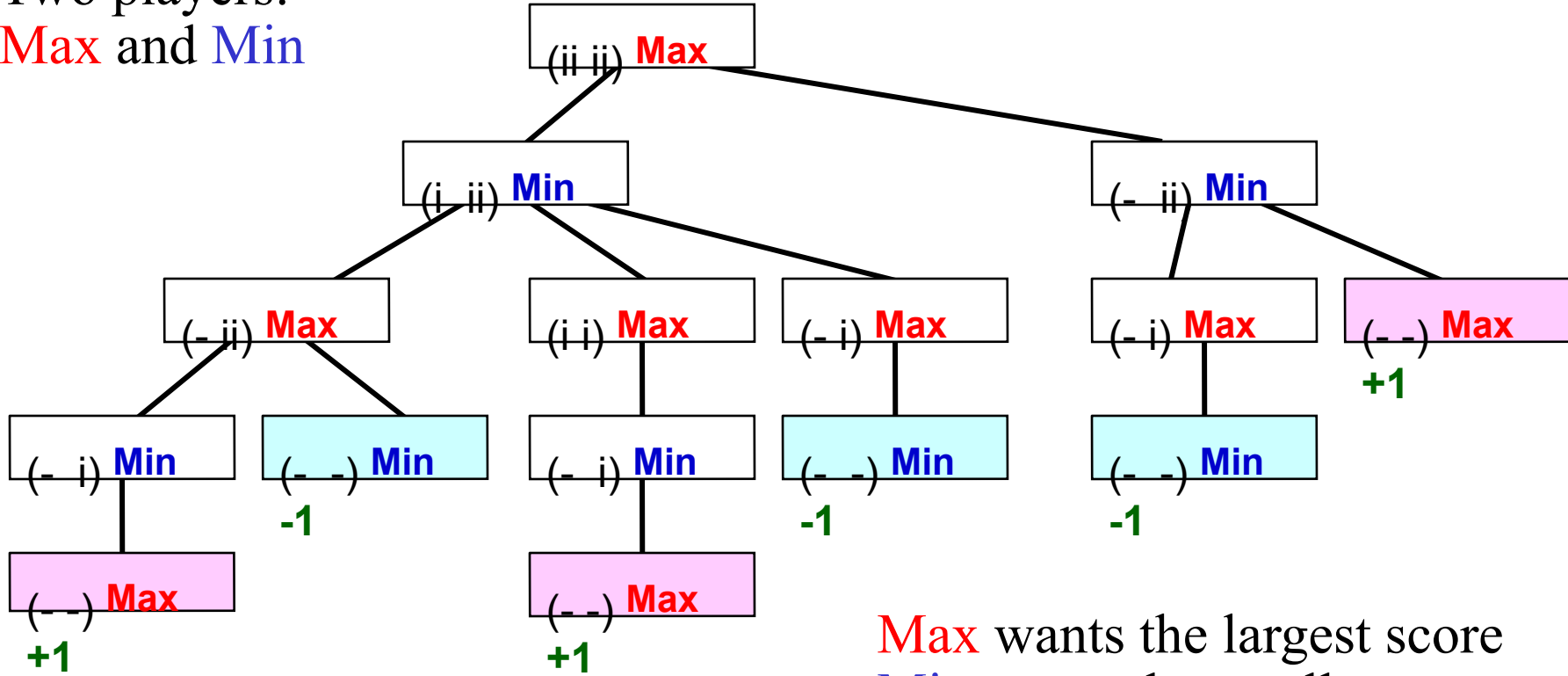
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Minimax Value

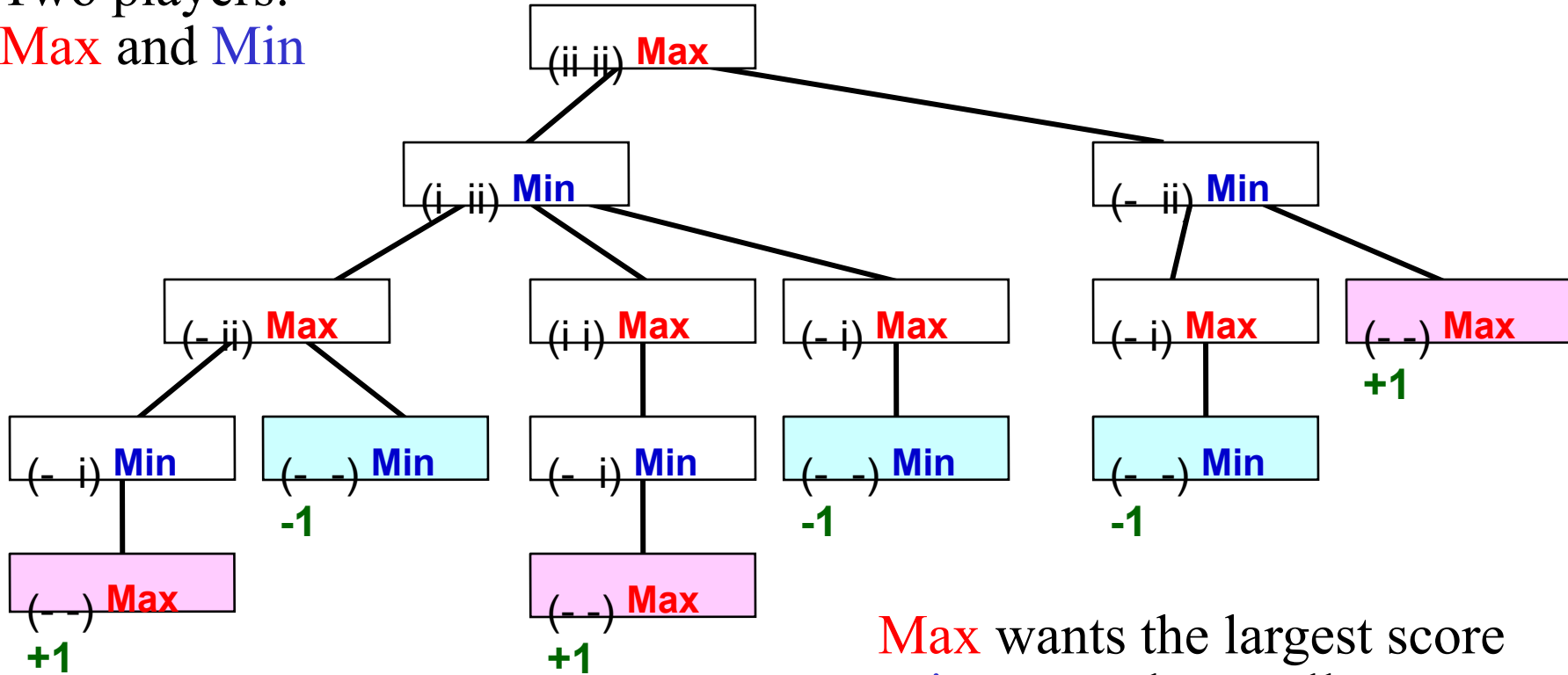
Also called **game-theoretic value**.

- Score of terminal node if both players play optimally.
- Computed bottom up; basically search
- Let's see this for example game



Game tree for II-Nim

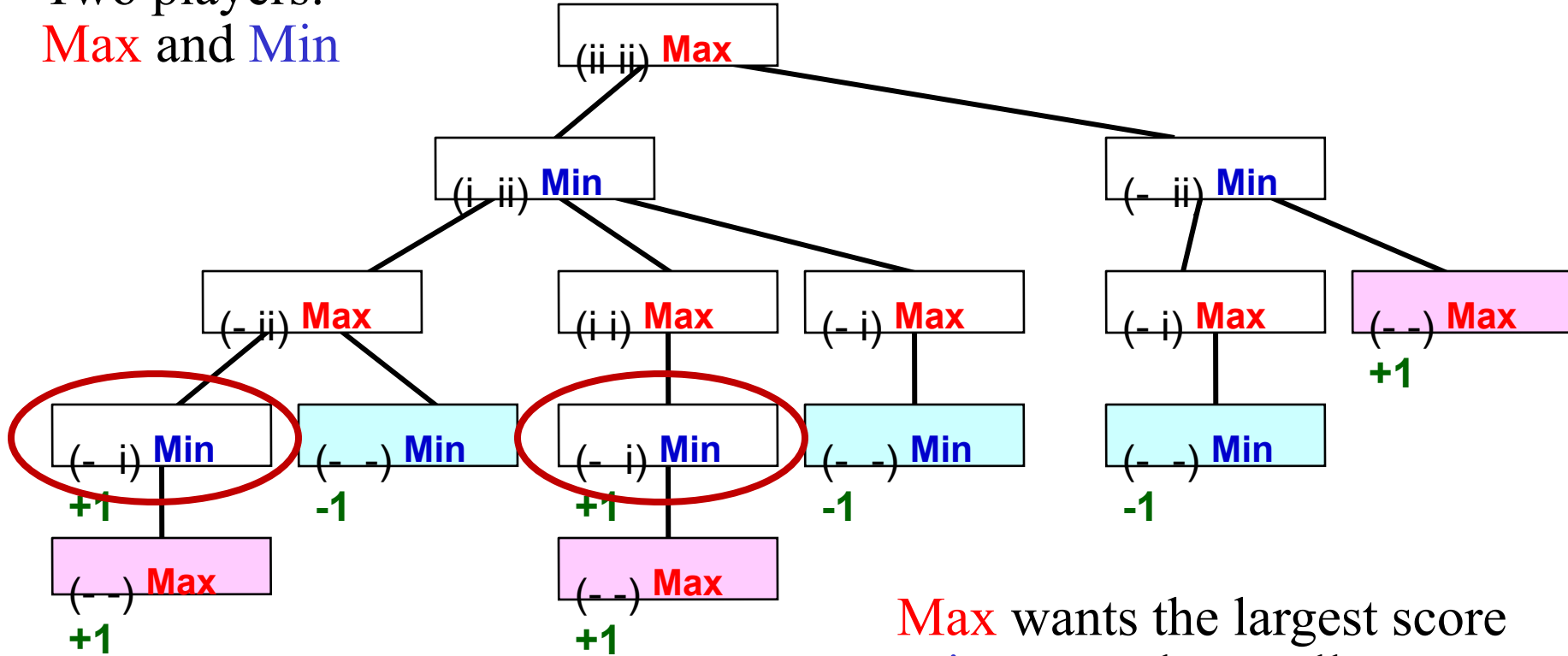
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

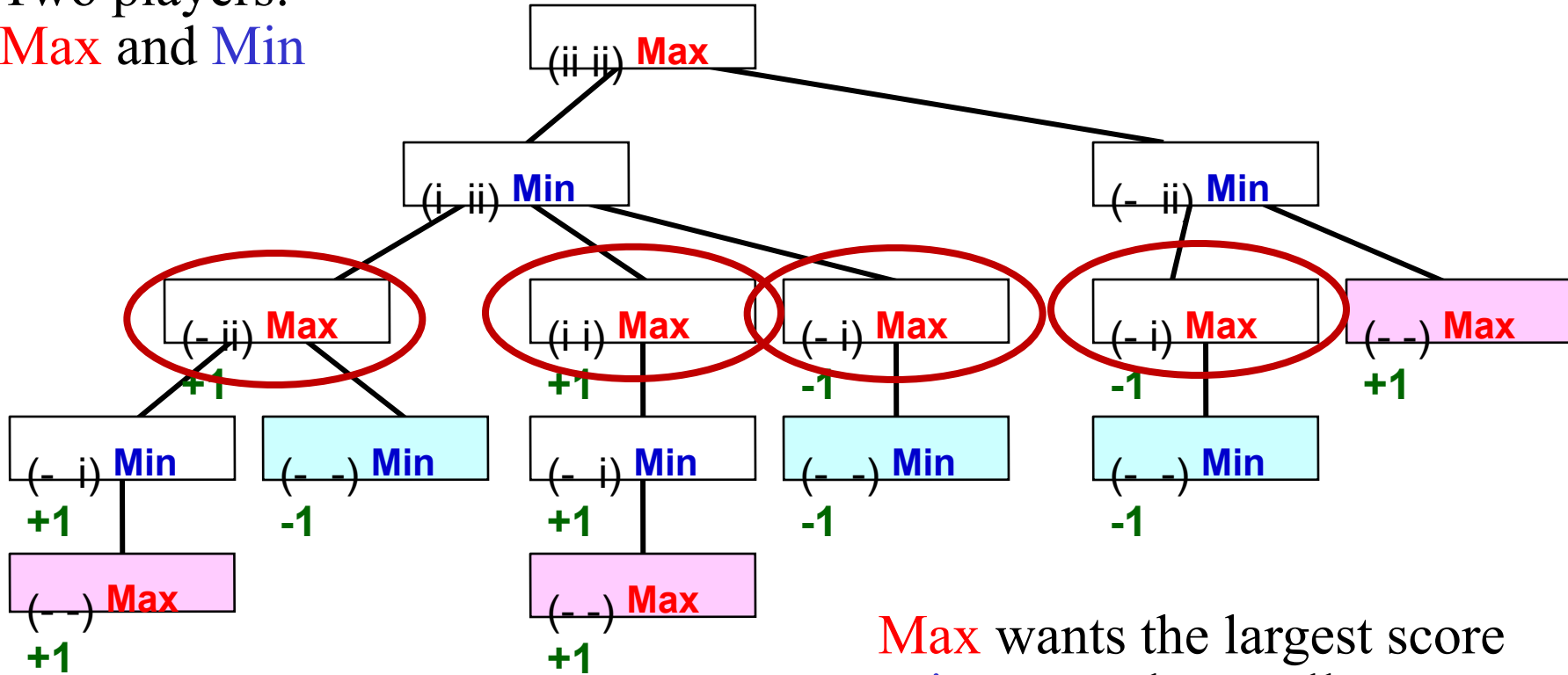
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

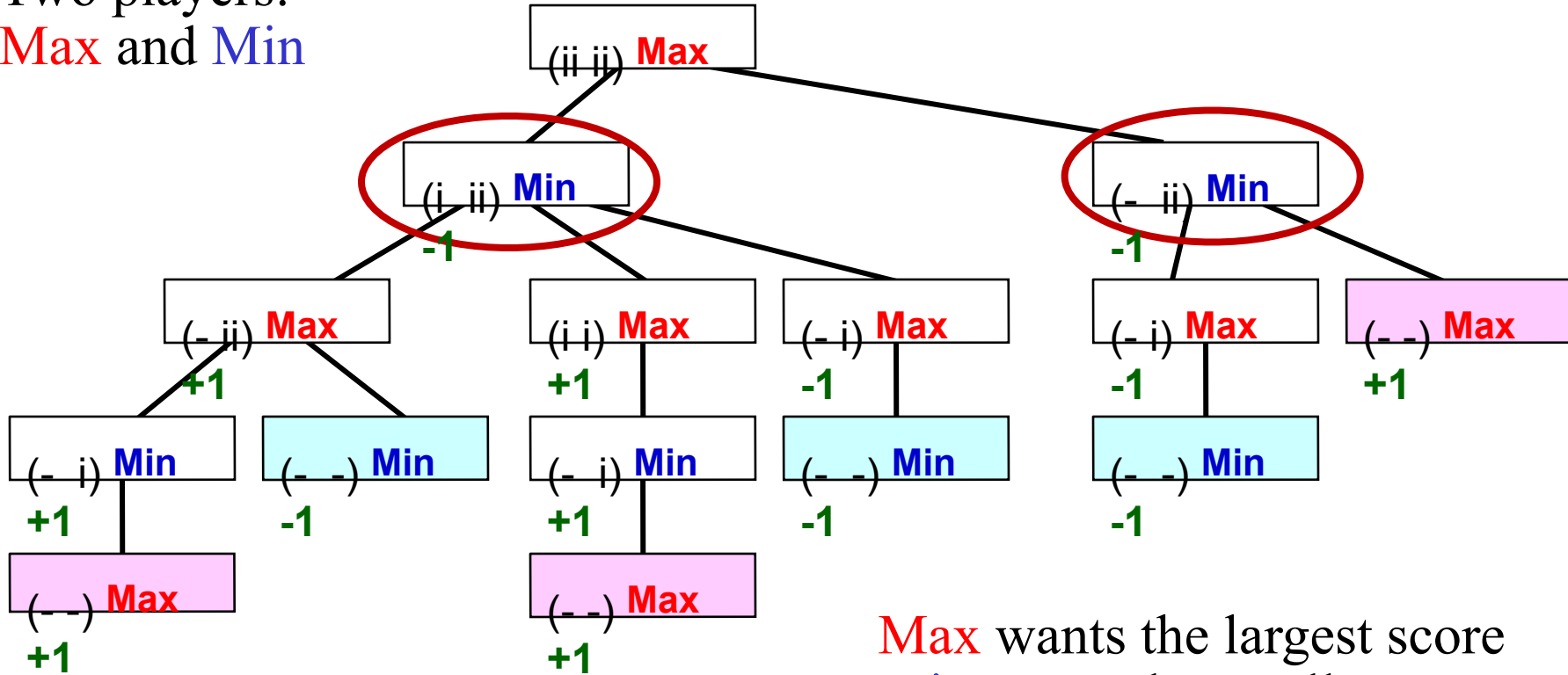
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

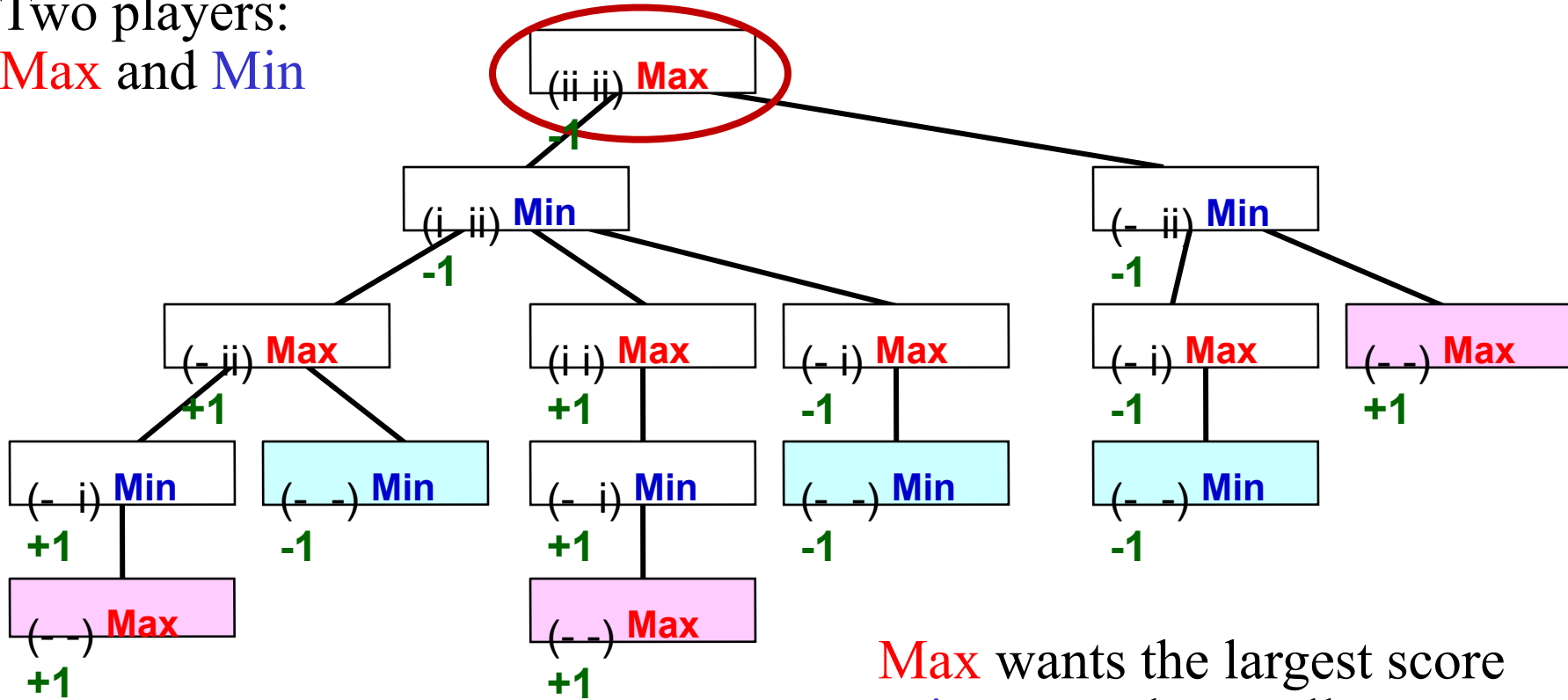
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

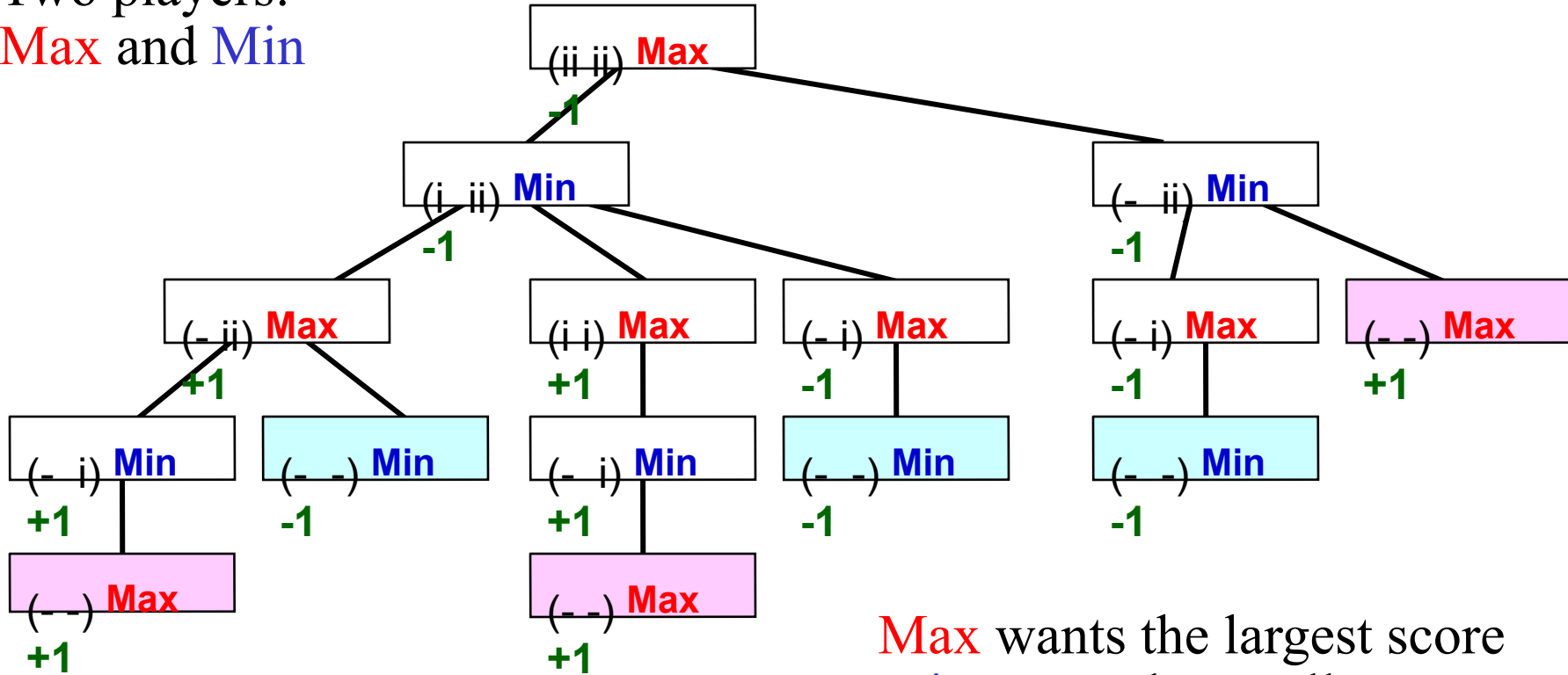
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

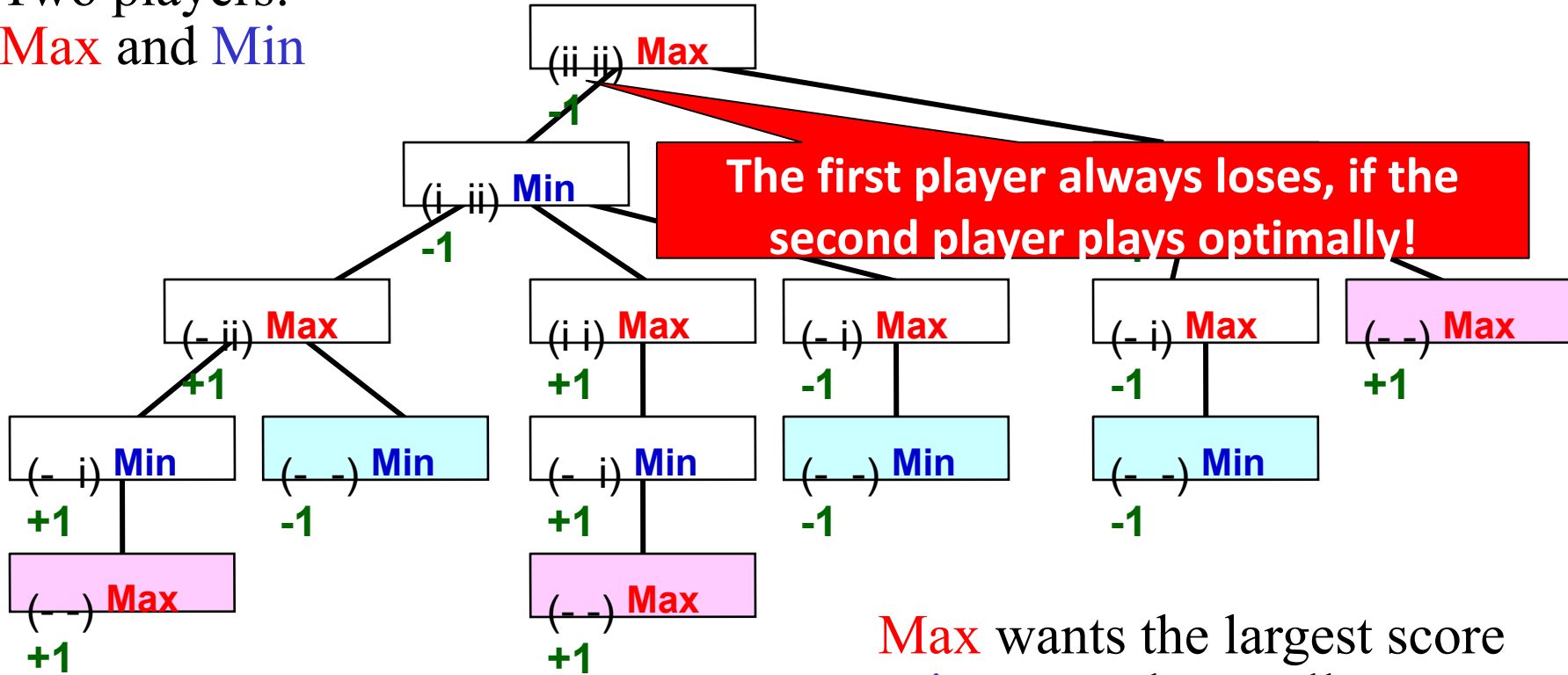
Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Game tree for II-Nim

Two players:
Max and **Min**



Max wants the largest score
Min wants the smallest score

Summary

- Intro to game theory
 - Characterize games by various properties
- Mathematical formulation for simultaneous games
 - Normal form, dominance, equilibria, mixed vs pure
- Sequential games
 - Game trees, game-theoretic/minimax value



Acknowledgements: Developed from materials by Yingyu Liang, Fred Sala (University of Wisconsin), inspired by Haifeng Xu (UVA).