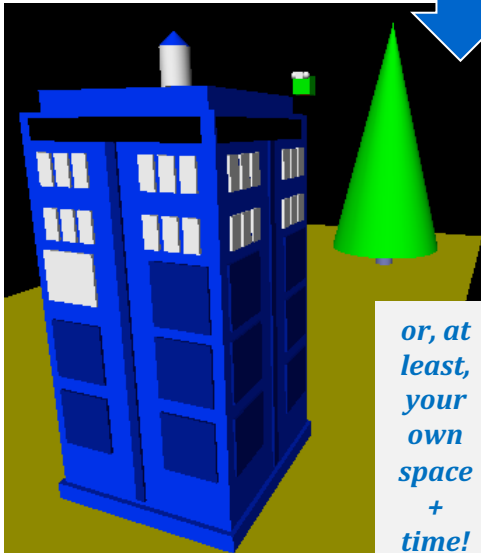


# Intelligent CS?!

Final project option #1

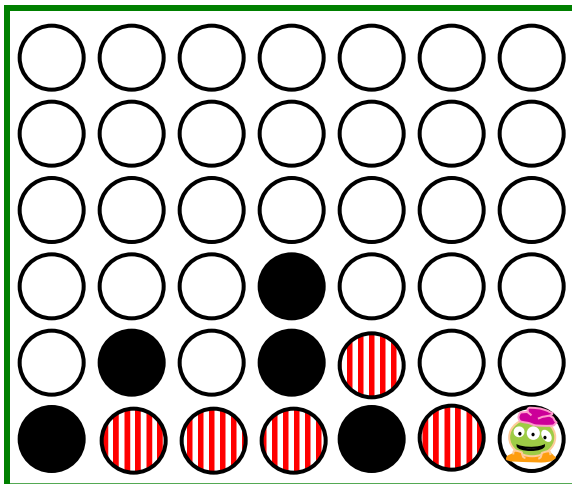


Final project option #2



vPython + 2-ply AI!

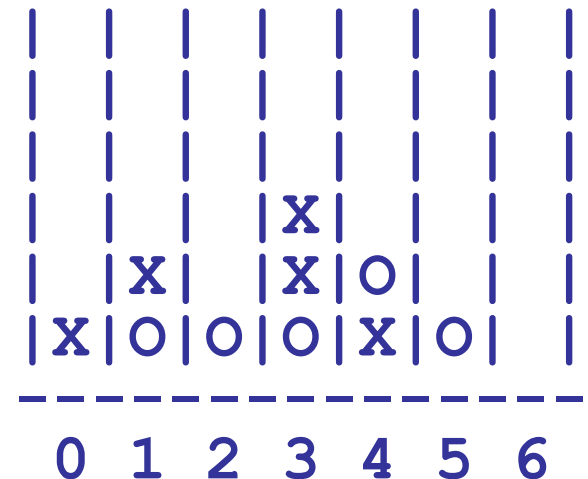
Hw11 due **Tuesday** @ 22:22:22



● X to move.

Is there a way to ensure a win?

If so, *how far ahead?*



# Connect 4 AI ~ how could it work?

X X
X O     O   X
O O X O X O O
X X X O O X X
O O O X O O X
O X X X O X O
-----
0 1 2 3 4 5 6

randomC4(ply=0)

**Who won?!**

Oh, I won!



It could just play randomly... *Let's try!*

# C4 AI ~ how *could* it work?

```
|X|X| | | | | |
|X|O| | |O| |X|
|O|O|X|O|X|O|O|
|X|X|X|O|O|X|X|
|O|O|O|X|O|O|X|
|O|X|X|X|O|X|O|
-----
 0  1  2  3  4  5  6
```

**Who won?!**

Oh, I won!



`while True:`

```
col = -1
while b.allowsMove(col) == False:
    col = random.choice(range(7))
```

```
b.addMove(ox, col)
```

```
if ox == 'O':    ox = 'X'
else:            ox = 'O'
```

```
# check if game is over!
```

It could just play randomly... *Let's try!*

Or, it could always play as far left as possible... *Let's try that, too!*

# C4 AI ~ how *could* it work?

X X
X O     O   X
O O X O X O O
X X X O O X X
O O O X O O X
O X X X O X O
-----
0 1 2 3 4 5 6

tiebreaking to the **LEFT**  
when possible...

O O O
X X X
O O O
X X X
O O O
X X X X
-----
0 1 2 3 4 5 6

leftC4(ply=0)

not Qverly strategic...

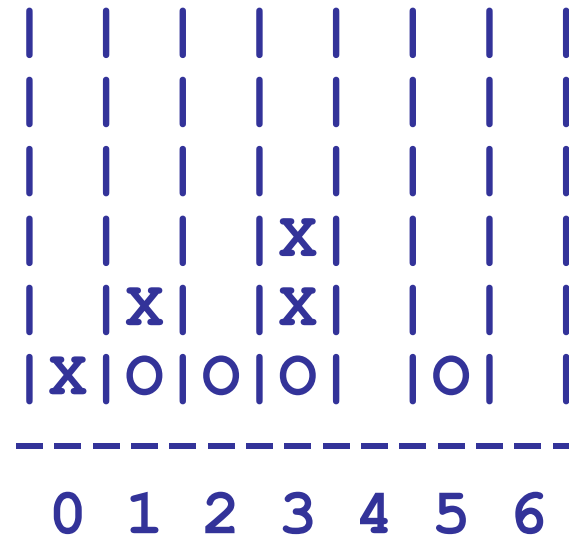
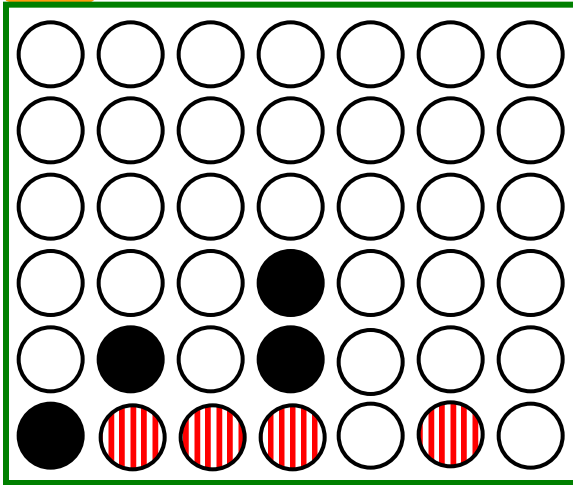


Or, it could always play as far left as possible... *Let's try that, too!*



# C4 AI ~ how *should* it work?

I feel ahead  
of the game  
here...



b12

b12.aiMove('O')

b12.aiMove('X')

It should **(1)** win and **(2)** *block* wins, if possible.

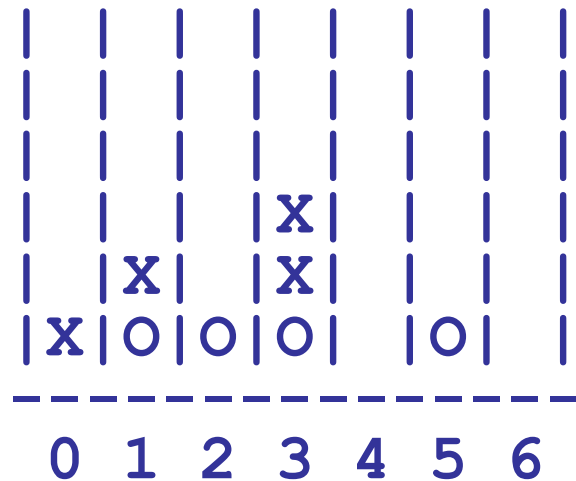
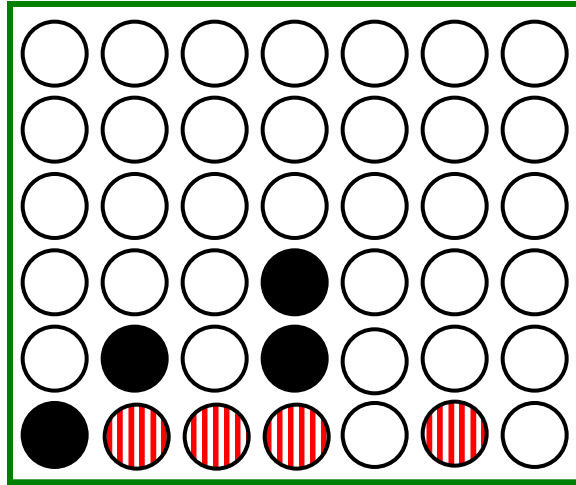
hw11pr2

*Otherwise it should just play as well as it can... ?!*

EC +  
C4 tourney

# Connect 4, Part 2

hw11pr2.py



1 "ply"



```
colsToWin( self, ox )
```

```
b.colsToWin('O')
```

```
b.colsToWin('X')
```

2 "ply" + intuition-based tiebreaking



```
aiMove( self, ox )
```

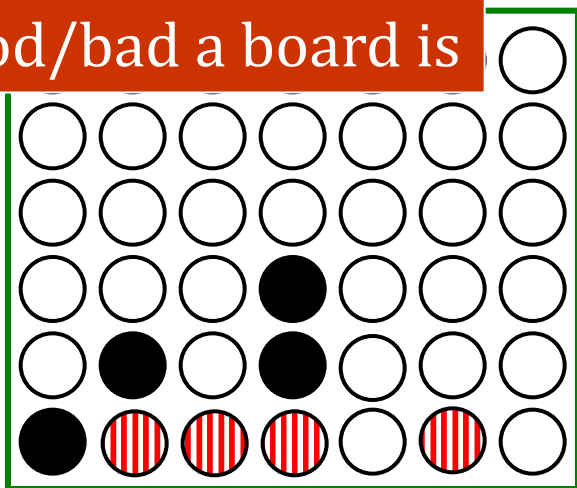
```
b.aiMove('O')
```

```
b.aiMove('X')
```

```
hostGame( self )
```

# C4 AI ~ how *should* it work?

Human-style game AI:  
"intuitive" evaluation of  
how good/bad a board is



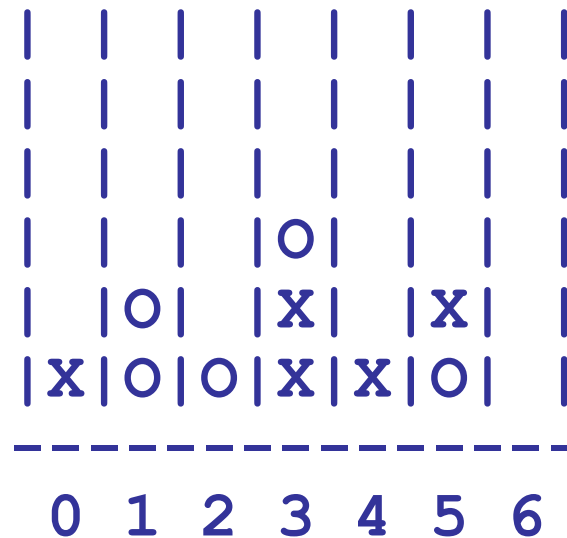
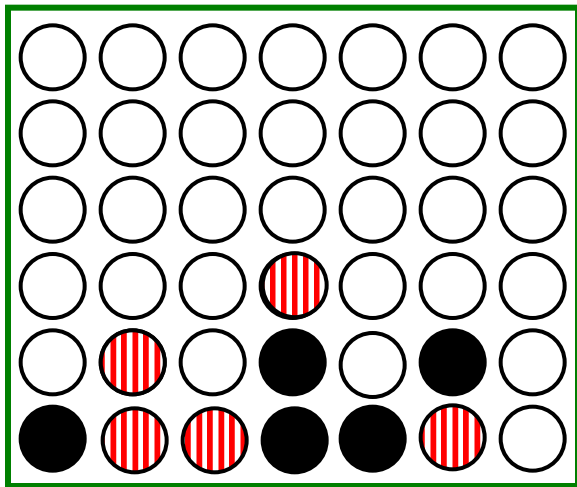
Machine-style game AI:  
looking ahead at possible  
future moves (*plies!*)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

It should **(1)** win and **(2)** *block* wins, if possible.

*Otherwise it should just play as well as it can... ?!*

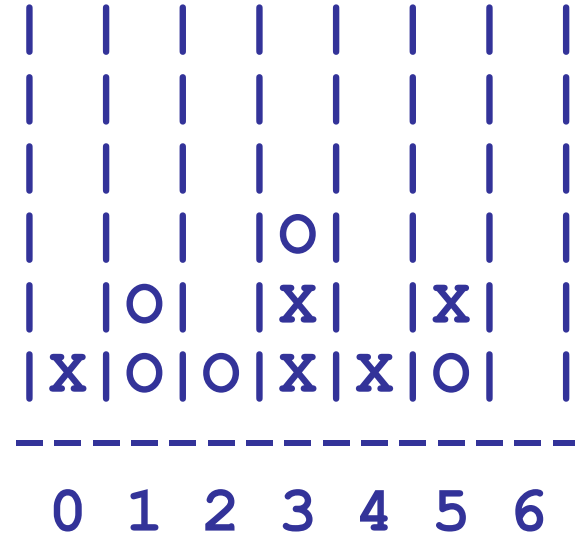
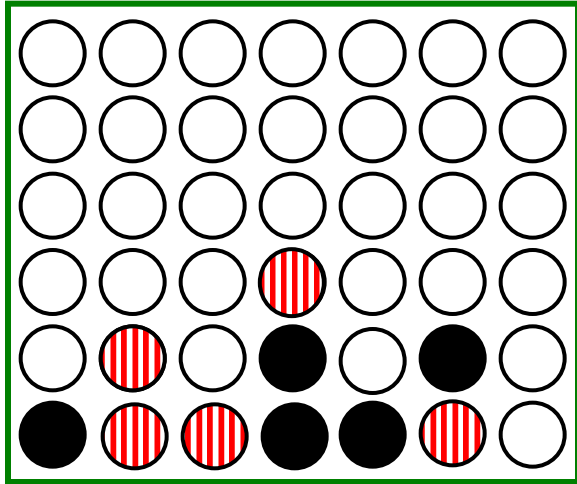
# C4 AI ~ "intuitive" moves?



*If there isn't a win or loss... where should you go? Why?*



# C4 AI ~ "intuitive" moves?

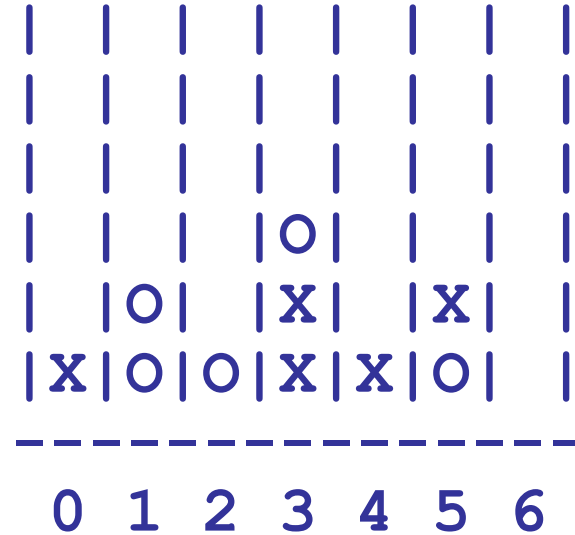
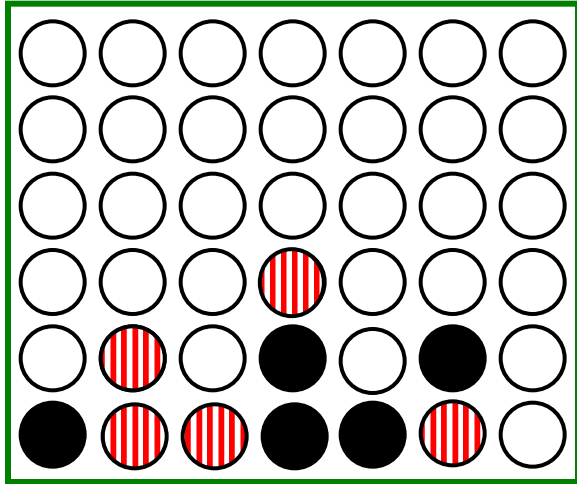


*Is there difference between these two?*

```
for col in range(W):  
    if b.allowsMove(col):  
        return col
```

```
for col in [3,4,2,5,1,6,0]:  
    if b.allowsMove(col):  
        return col
```

# C4 AI ~ "intuitive" moves?



*Difference: tie-breaking!*

```
[0,1,2,3,4,5,6]
```

```
for col in range(W):  
    if b.allowsMove(col):  
        return col
```

```
for col in [3,4,2,5,1,6,0]:  
    if b.allowsMove(col):  
        return col
```

# C4 AI ~ "intuitive" moves?

We'll run a C4 tournament with  
all of the **aiMoves** submitted...

- (ex. cr.) better than random? +5
- also, a round-robin!



	O	X	X			
X	O	O	X	X	O	
-----						
0	1	2	3	4	5	6

*If there isn't a win or loss... maybe we just  
haven't looked **far enough ahead**!?!*

**Machine-style** game AI:  
looking ahead at possible  
future moves (**plies**!)

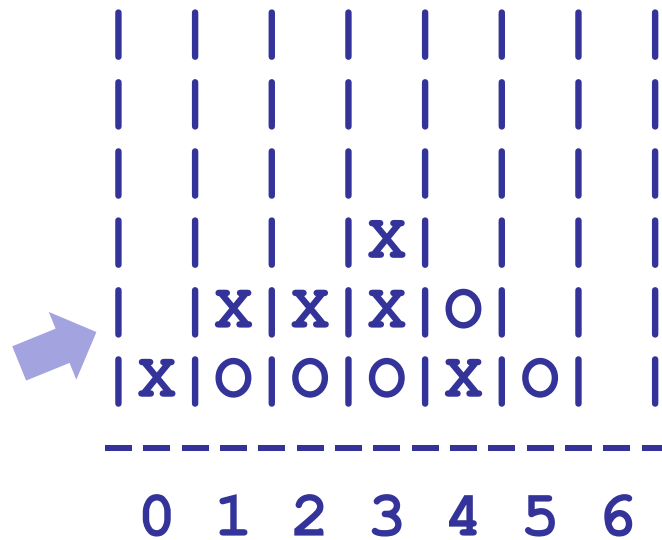
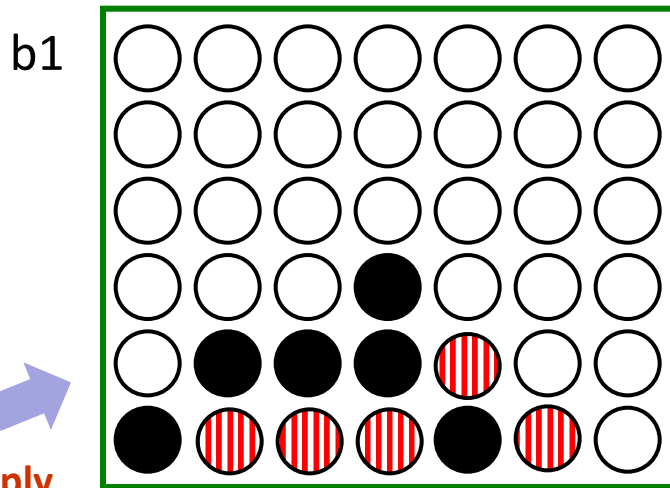
# "Plies" ~ turns of "lookahead"

Machine-style game AI:  
looking ahead at possible  
future moves (*plies*!)

Zero ply is no lookahead at all!

At ZERO ply, every allowable  
move looks the same!

legal but random moves...



b1  
x0.scoresFor(b1)  
zero\_ply.scoresFor(b1)

At zero ply,  
a player  
will NOT  
see this  
win!!

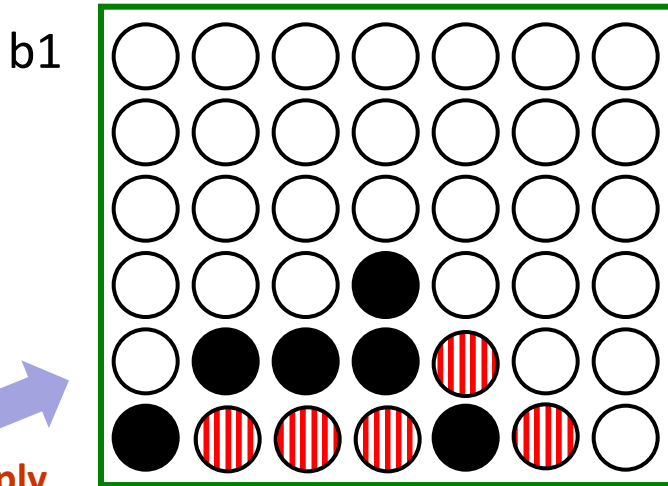
# One ply: check for win

Imagine 'X' ● at ONE ply...

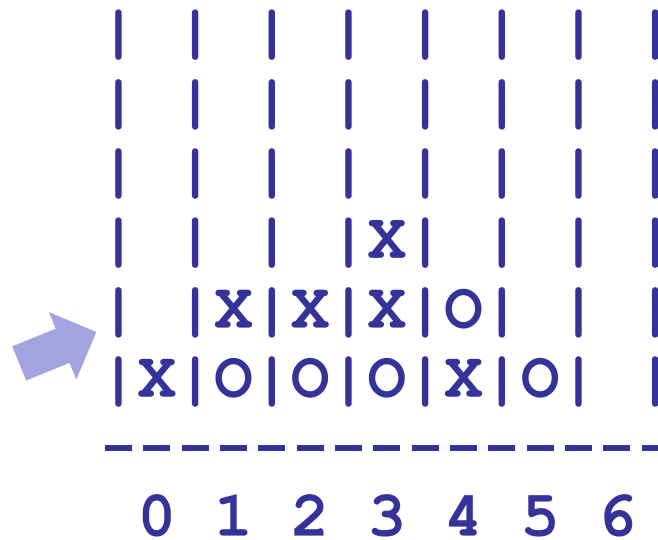
Machine-style game AI:  
looking ahead at possible  
future moves (*plies*!)

At ONE ply, the machine can  
detect its own wins!

*wins when possible...*



At one ply,  
a player  
WILL see  
this win!!



b1  
x0.scoresFor(b1)  
zero\_ply.scoresFor(b1)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

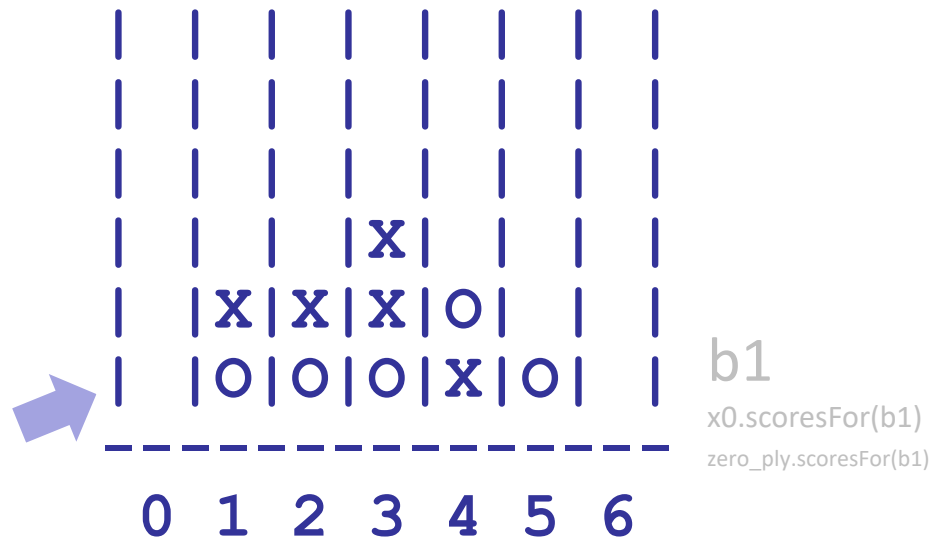
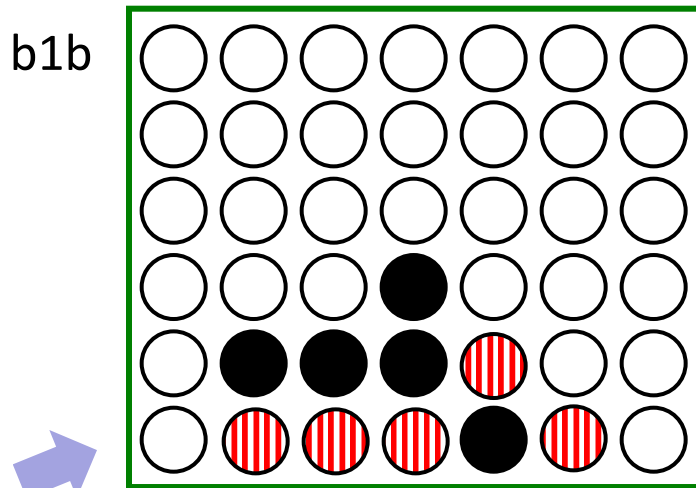
# Two plies: look to block

Machine-style game AI:  
looking ahead at possible  
future moves (*plies*!)

At TWO ply, the machine can  
detect opponent threats!

Imagine 'X' ● at TWO ply...

*blocks when possible...*



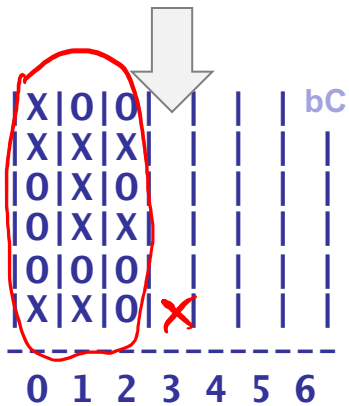
At **two** ply,  
a player  
WILL see  
this threat!

# Plying our intuitions...

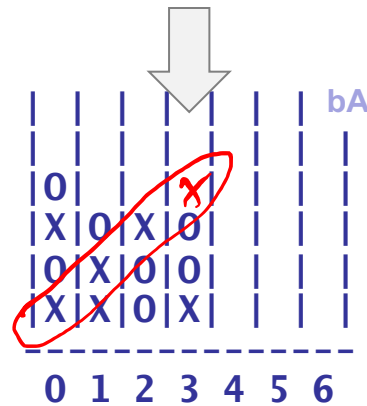
In all 4 of these boards, X will move to col 3, even if both players tiebreak to the LEFT Why?

Find + circle the reason why X moves to col. #3 for each...

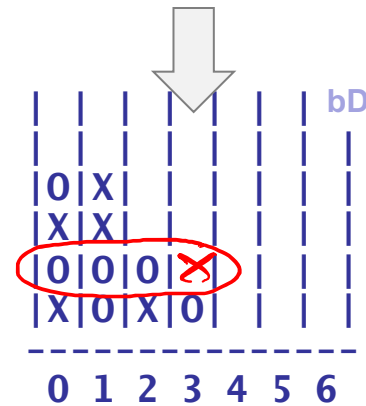
Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_



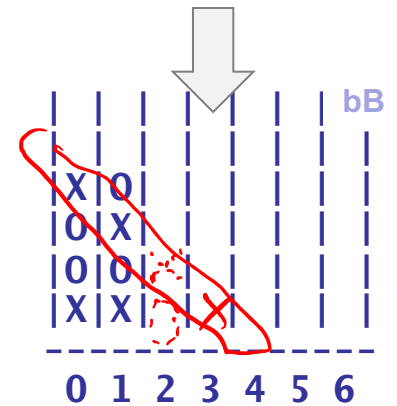
ply == 0



ply == 1



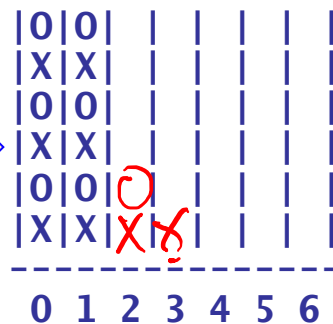
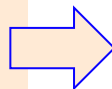
ply == 2



ply == 3

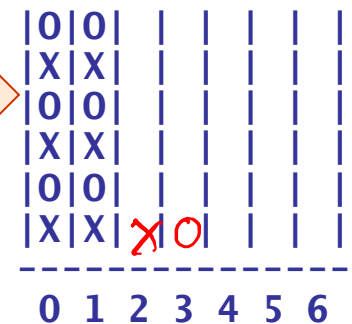
Plus: full-game challenges...

**Challenge #1:** What are the next three moves? It's X's turn, and both X and O are playing at **1 ply**, tiebreaking LEFT?



next to move: X

**Challenge #2:** What are the next three moves? It's X's turn, both X and O are at **2 ply**, tiebreaking to the LEFT? Who wins?



next to move: X

# Plying our intuitions...

In all 4 of these boards, **X** will move to col 3, even if both players tiebreak to the LEFT

**Find + circle** the reason why 'X' moves to col. #3 for each...

Try this on the back page first...

**No lookahead!**

X	0	0									
X	X	X									
0	X	0									
0	X	X									
0	0	0									
X	X	0	X								

bC

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

**ply == 0**

**win, if possible**

0			X								
X	0	X	0								
0	X	0	0								
X	X	0	X								

bA

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

**ply == 1**

**block, if possible**

0	X										
X	X										
0	0	0	X								
X	0	X	0								

bD

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

**ply == 2**

**set up a "checkmate"!**

X	0										
0	X										
0	0										
X	X		X								

bB

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

**ply == 3**

**Challenge:** What will happen if you run **X** at 1 ply and **O** at 1 ply, each tiebreaking LEFT?

0	0										
X	X										
0	0										
X	X										
0	0	0									
X	X	X	X								

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

next to move: X

**Challenge #2:** What about 2-ply for each of X and O?

0	0	X	X	0	0						
X	X	0	0	X	X						
0	0	X	X	0	0						
X	X	0	0	X	X						
0	0	X	0	0	0	0					
X	X	X	0	X	X	X					

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

next to move: X



# Plying our intuitions...

In all 4 of these boards, X will move to col 3, even if both players tiebreak to the LEFT

Find + circle the reason why 'X' moves to col. #3 for each...

Try this on the back page first...

No lookahead!

X	O	O
X	X	X
O	X	O
O	X	X

bC

b0

bA

bD

b3

# PLY THESE NORTHWARD...

Cl  
w  
ru  
O at 1 ply, each tiebreaking LEFT?

X	X						
O	O						
X	X						

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

Challenge #2:  
What about 2-ply for each of X and O?

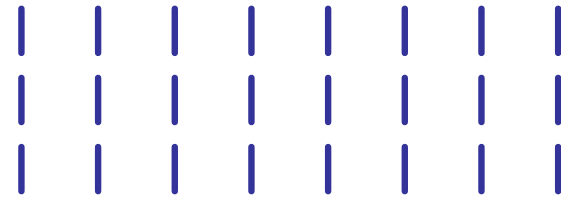
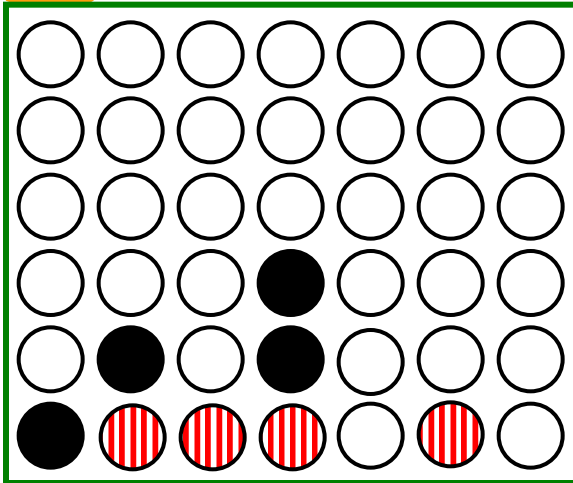
O	O						
X	X						
O	O						
X	X						

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

Let's try these!

# C4 AI ~ *lookahead* moves...

I feel ahead  
of the game  
here...



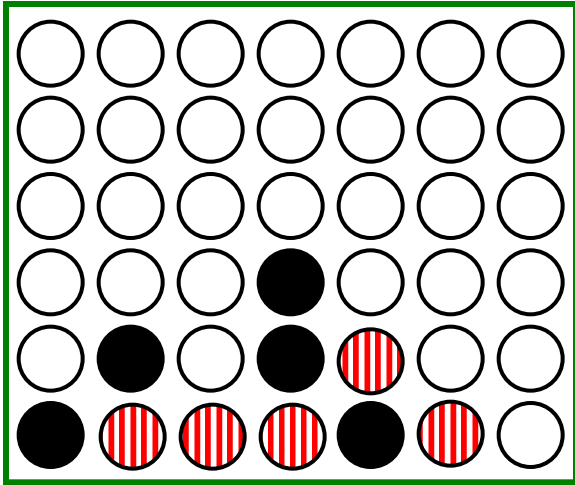
Both we – and machines  
– can look ahead *much*  
further than this!

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

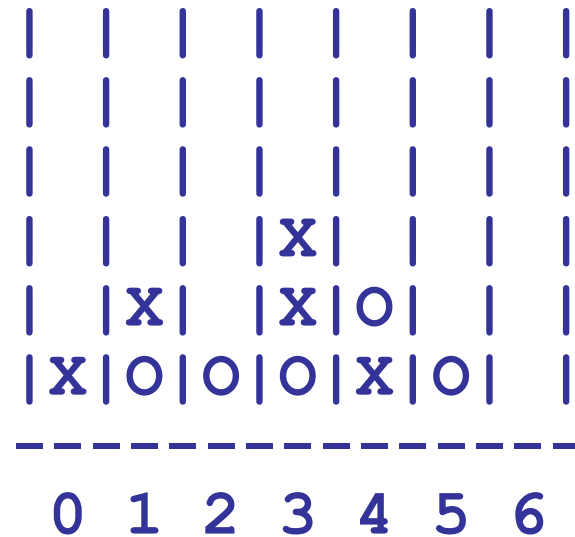
It should **(1)** win and **(2)** *block* wins, when it can.

*Otherwise it should just play as well as it can... ?!*

# How many ply?



How many moves ahead might we have to look?



b0

x5.scoresFor( b0 )



let run!

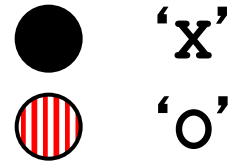
# *Looking further ahead... !!!*

How many ply of lookahead would we need to play a *perfect* game of Connect Four?



And how is it going to “really work”?

# Arithmetizing C4...

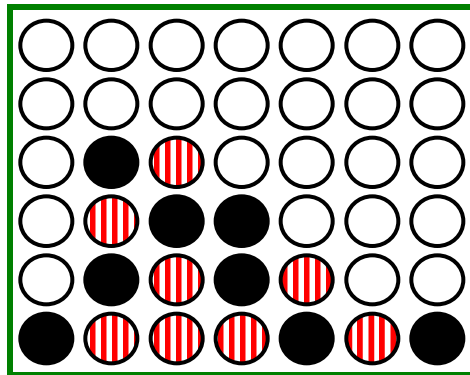


A simple system:

**100.0**  
for a win

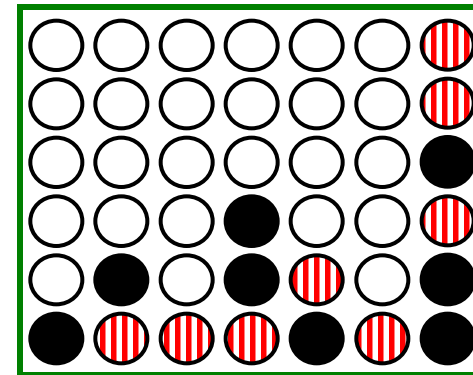
**50.0**  
for anything else

**0.0**  
for a loss



Score for ●

Score for ○



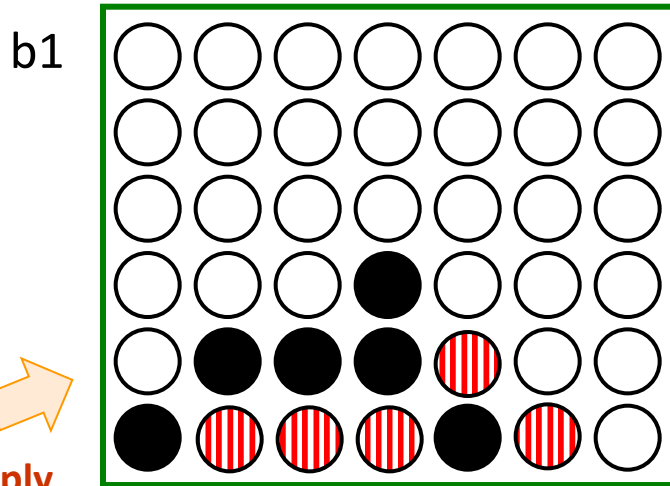
Score for ●

Score for ○

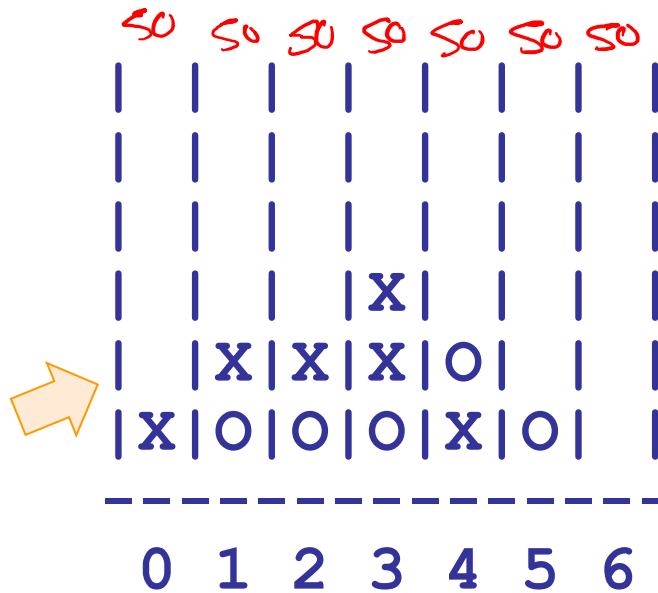
# "Plies" ~ turns of "lookahead"

zero\_ply is playing 'X' (black)

Every possible move  
will score a 50!



At zero ply,  
a player  
will NOT  
see this  
win!!

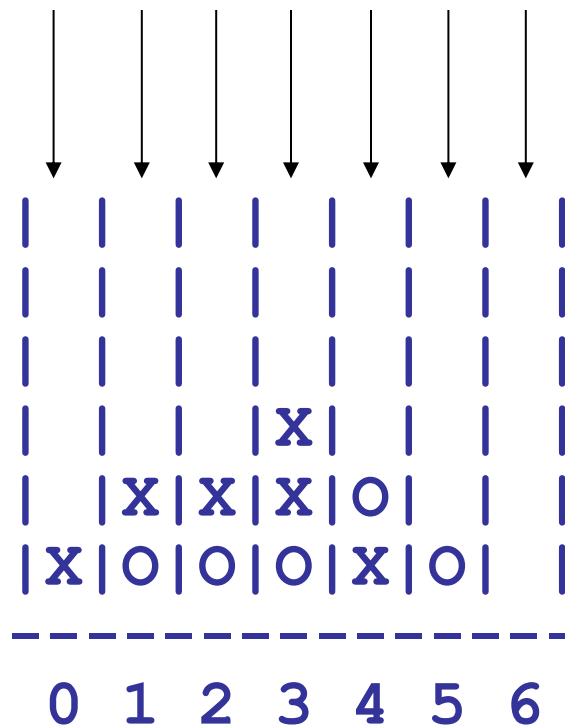
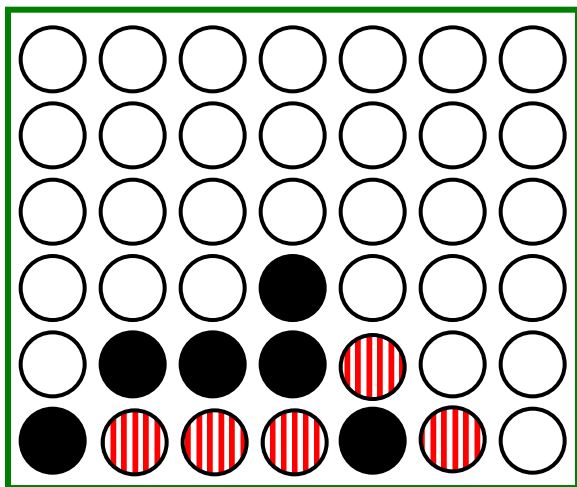


# Zero Ply

zero\_ply is playing 'X' (black)

`zero_ply.scoresFor( b1 )`  $\rightarrow$  `[50,50,50,50,50,50,50]`

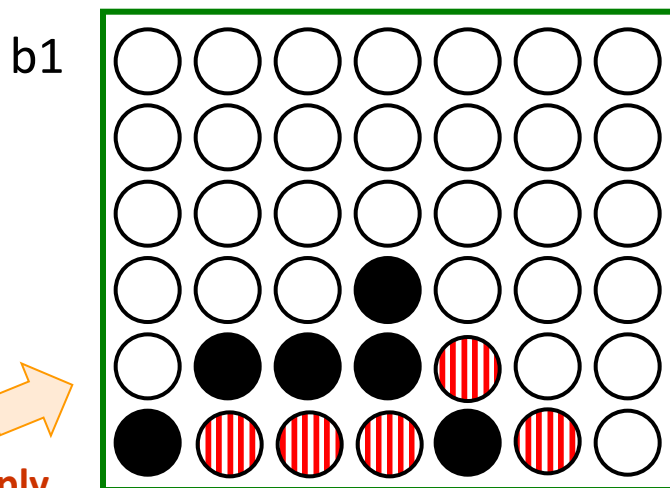
b1



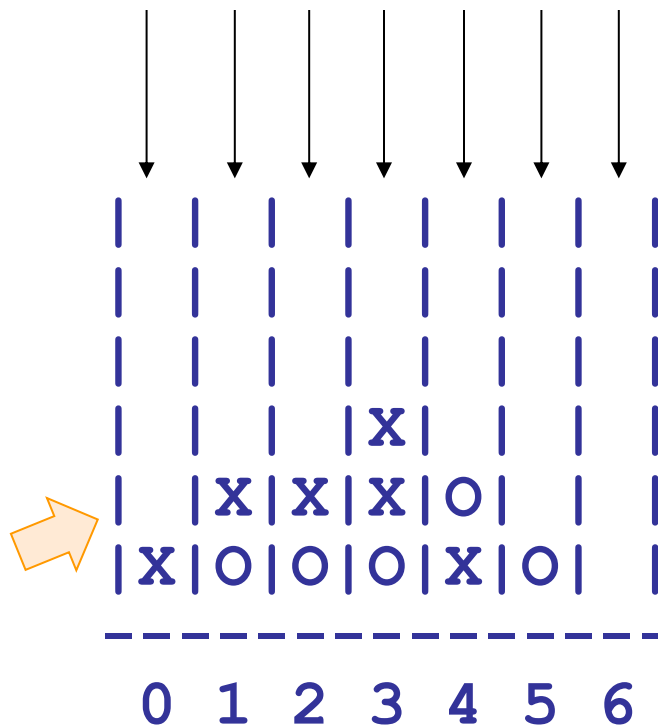
# One Ply

one\_ply is playing 'X' (black)

```
one_ply.scoresFor( b1 ) → [100, 50, 50, 50, 50, 50, 50]
```



At one ply,  
a player  
WILL see  
this win!!

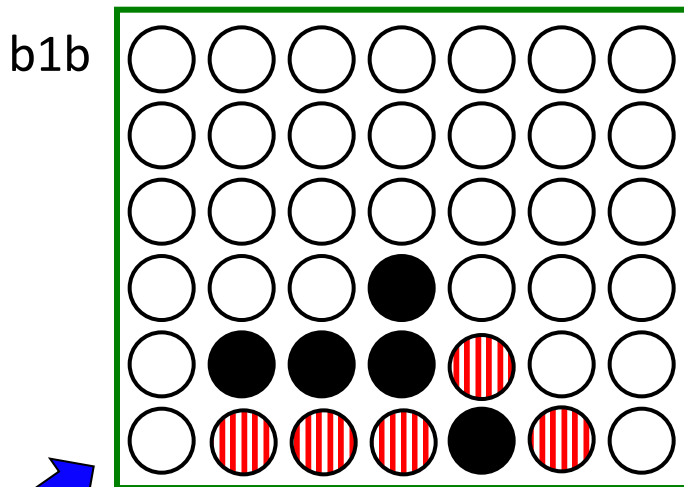




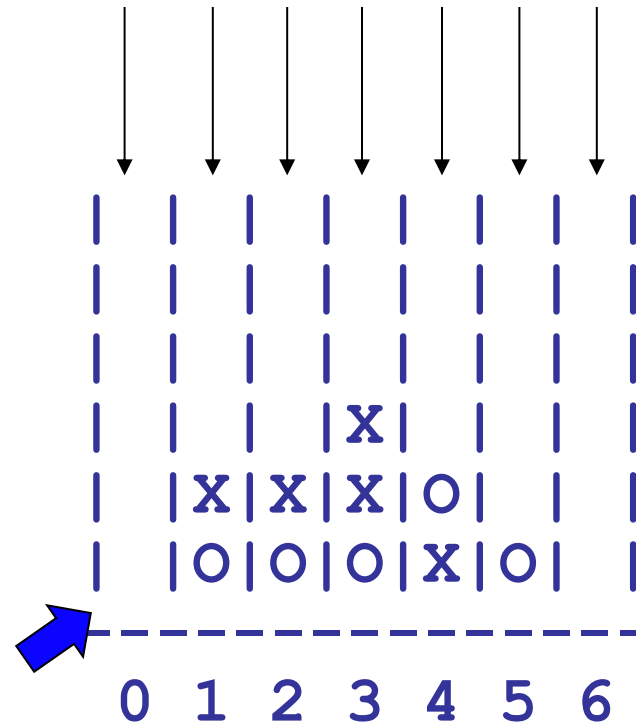
# Two Ply

two\_ply is playing 'X' (black)

```
two_ply.scoresFor( b1b ) → [50, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
```



At two ply, a player will see the chance for the OPPONENT ('O') to win



I want 3-ply!



# Deep Blue (chess computer)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Deep Blue** was a [chess-playing computer](#) developed by IBM. On May 11, 1997, the machine, with human intervention between games, won the second six-game match against [world champion Garry Kasparov](#) by two wins to one with three draws.<sup>[1]</sup> Kasparov accused IBM of cheating and demanded a rematch, but IBM refused and dismantled Deep Blue.<sup>[2]</sup> Kasparov had beaten a previous version of Deep Blue in 1996.

## Contents [\[hide\]](#)

- 1 Origins
- 2 Deep Blue versus Kasparov
- 3 Aftermath
- 4 See also
- 5 Notes
- 6 References
- 7 Further reading
- 8 External links



## Origins

[\[edit\]](#)

# Deep Blue (chess computer)

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Deep Blue, with its capability of **evaluating 200 million positions per second**, was the fastest computer to face a world chess champion. Today, in computer chess research and matches of world class players against computers, the focus of play has often shifted to software [chess programs](#), rather than using dedicated chess hardware. Modern chess programs like [Houdini](#), [Rybka](#), [Deep Fritz](#) or [Deep Junior](#) are more efficient than the programs during Deep Blue's era. In a November 2006 match between Deep Fritz and world chess champion [Vladimir Kramnik](#), the program ran on a computer system containing a dual-core [Intel Xeon 5160 CPU](#), capable of evaluating only 8 million positions per second, but searching to an **average depth of 17 to 18 plies** in the [middlegame](#) thanks to [heuristics](#); it won 4–2.<sup>[26][27]</sup>

One of the cultural impacts of Deep Blue was the creation of a new game called [Arimaa](#) designed to be much more difficult for computers than chess.<sup>[2]</sup>

**Origins**

[\[edit\]](#)

*After* Deep Blue...

# After Deep Blue...

## **You lose, man** - World chess champion falls to super computer

Boston Herald - Monday, May 12, 1997

*Author: Bill Hutchinson*

Watch out humans, the world will never be the same.

IBM's super-calculating computer Deep Blue made a statement for oppressed machines everywhere when it thundered to victory over mankind's greatest chess player, Garry Kasparov.

Deep Blue? Heck, call it Mr. Blue from now on.

In the New York City chess duel of Man vs. Machine, Deep Blue puzzled its human counterpart to a blood-boiling breakdown.

"I have to apologize for today's performance," the 34-year-old Russian Kasparov said after suffering the first chess defeat of his professional career. "I had no real energy to fight."

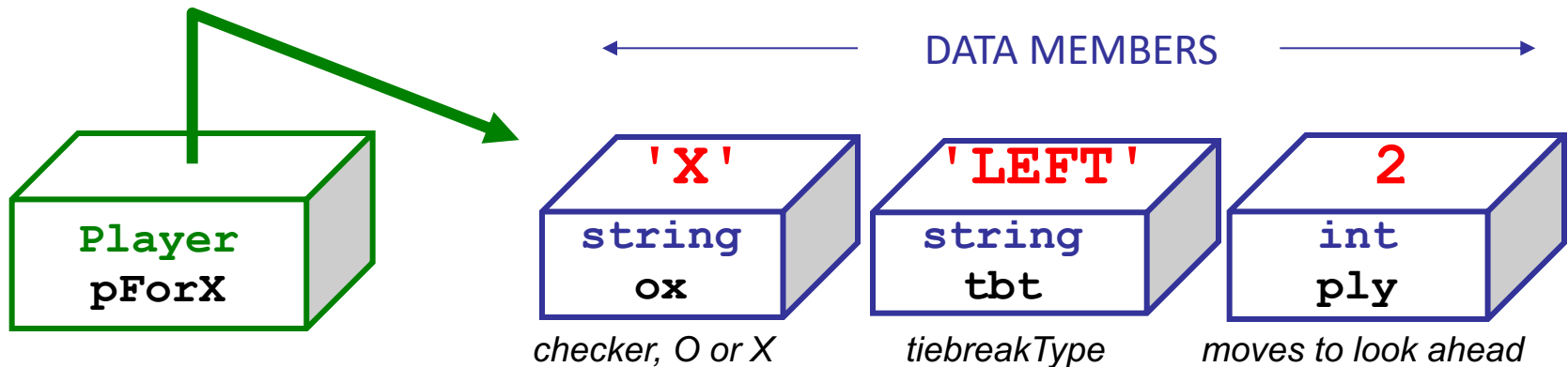
Deep Blue scored its 3 1/2 point to 2 1/2 point triumph in an astonishing 88-minutes. Kasparov shocked the chess world by resigning after only 19 moves with the black pieces.

*Would human  
chess fade away?*

# The **Player** class

(EC for hw11 ~ by April 18)

What **data** does a computer AI player need?



ox? tbt? ply?



```
x = Player('X', 'LEFT', 42)
x0rn
o0rn
b.playGame( x0rn, o0rn )
```

... perhaps *surprisingly*, not so much.

# Player's algorithms...

## Board

`__init__( self, width, height )`

`allowsMove( self, col )`

`addMove( self, col, ox )`

`delMove( self, col )`

`__repr__( self )`

`isFull( self )`

`winsFor( self, ox )`

`hostGame( self )`

`playGame( self, pForX, pForO )`

## Player

`__init__(self, ox, tbt, ply)`

`__repr__(self)`

`oppCh(self)`

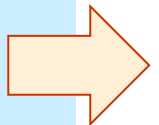
`scoreBoard(self, b)`

★ `scoresFor(self, b)` ←

`tiebreakMove(self, scores)`

`nextMove(self, b)`

Demos?



So many ply!

Fill in the list of scores returned by `scoresFor`

*The same move is evaluated at each ply...* it's just evaluated farther into the future!

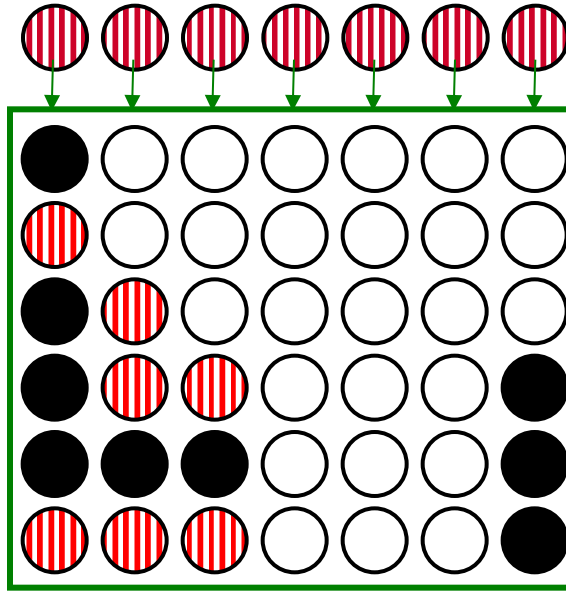
Each row is different in at least 1 score...

# Quiz



you are playing 'O'

**b**



b42

'X'

`scoresFor (b)`  
ox == 'O' and ply == 0

col 0	col 1	col 2	col 3	col 4	col 5	col 6
-1	50	50	50	50	50	50

`scoresFor (b)`  
ox == 'O' and ply == 1

col 0	col 1	col 2	col 3	col 4	col 5	col 6
-1	50	50	100	50	50	50

`scoresFor (b)`  
ox == 'O' and ply == 2

col 0	col 1	col 2	col 3	col 4	col 5	col 6
-1	0	0	100	0	0	50

`scoresFor (b)`  
ox == 'O' and ply == 3

col 0	col 1	col 2	col 3	col 4	col 5	col 6
-1	0	0	100	0	0	100



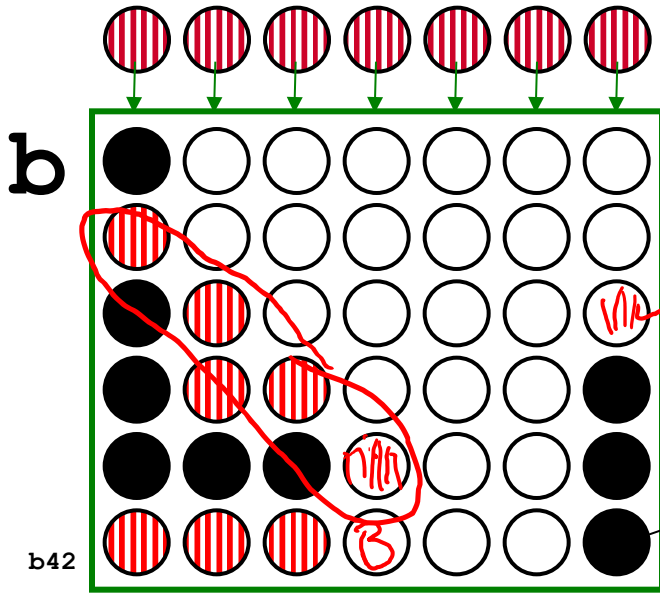
So many ply!

Fill in the list of scores returned by `scoresFor`

*The same move is evaluated at each ply... it's just evaluated farther into the future!*

Each row is different in at least 1 score...

# Quiz



'O'

you are playing 'O'

`scoresFor (b)`  
 ox == 'O' and ply == 0

col 0	col 1	col 2	col 3	col 4	col 5	col 6
-1	50	50	50	50	50	50

`scoresFor (b)`  
 ox == 'O' and ply == 1

col 0	col 1	col 2	col 3	col 4	col 5	col 6
-1	50	50	100	50	50	50

`scoresFor (b)`  
 ox == 'O' and ply == 2

col 0	col 1	col 2	col 3	col 4	col 5	col 6
-1	0	0	100	0	0	50

`scoresFor (b)`  
 ox == 'O' and ply == 3

col 0	col 1	col 2	col 3	col 4	col 5	col 6
-1	0	0	100	0	0	100

So many ply!

Fill in the list of scores returned by `scoresFor`

*The same move is evaluated at each ply... it's just evaluated farther into the future!*

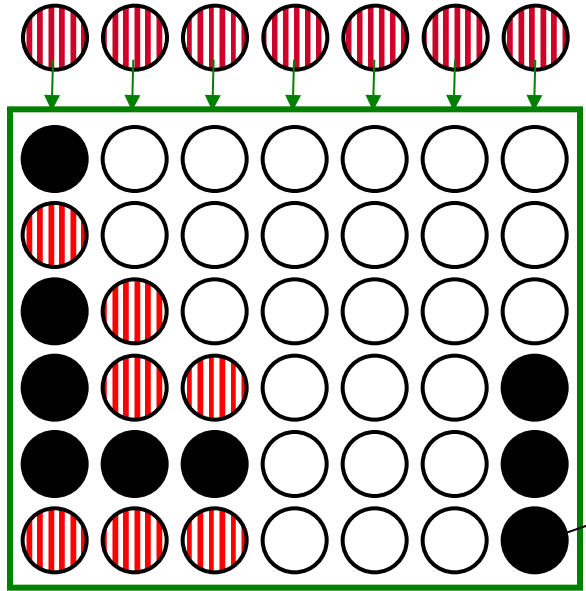
Each row is different in at least 1 score...

# Quiz



you are playing 'O'

**b**



`scoresFor (b)`  
ox == 'O' and ply == 0

col 0	col 1	col 2	col 3	col 4	col 5	col 6
-1	50	50	50	50	50	50

`scoresFor (b)`  
ox == 'O' and ply == 1

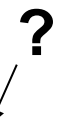
col 0	col 1	col 2	col 3	col 4	col 5	col 6
-1	50	50	100	50	50	50

`scoresFor (b)`  
ox == 'O' and ply == 2

col 0	col 1	col 2	col 3	col 4	col 5	col 6
-1	0	0	100	0	0	50

`scoresFor (b)`  
ox == 'O' and ply == 3

col 0	col 1	col 2	col 3	col 4	col 5	col 6
-1	0	0	100	0	0	



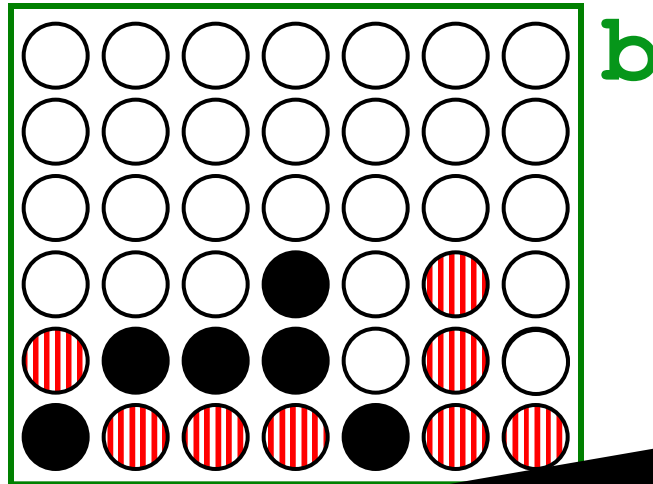
scoresFor

Minimax!

(self) 'X' ●  
new 'X' ●

Opponent's scores  
for each col

Opponent's scores  
for each col

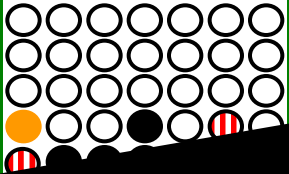


[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]

50]

Col 0

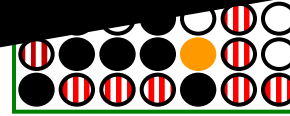
Here, imagine we're playing for 'X' (black)



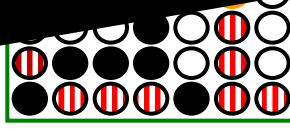
[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]



[50,50,50,50,50,50,50]

# scoresFor

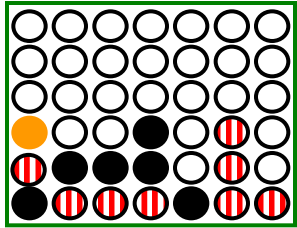
## Minimax!

(self) 'X' ●  
new 'X' ●

Opponent's scores  
for each col



[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



Col 0

Col 1

Col 2

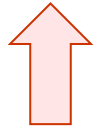
Col 3

Col 4

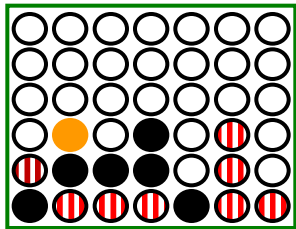
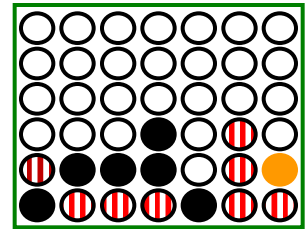
Col 6

Col 5

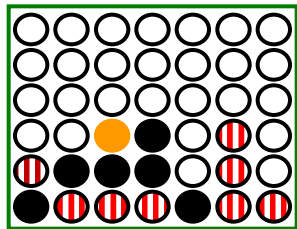
Opponent's scores  
for each col



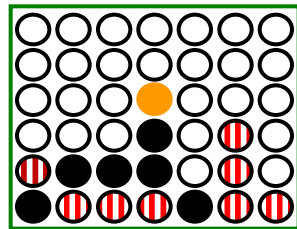
[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



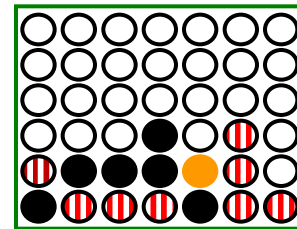
[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



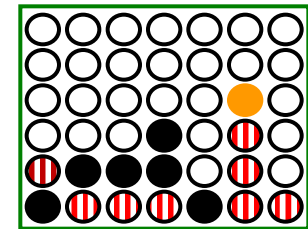
[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



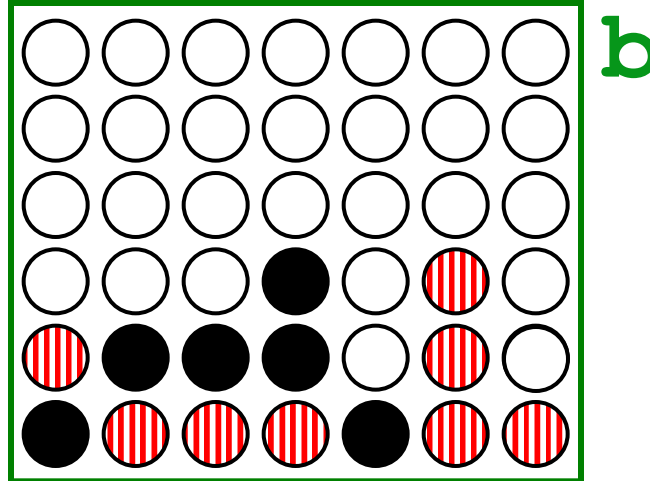
[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]



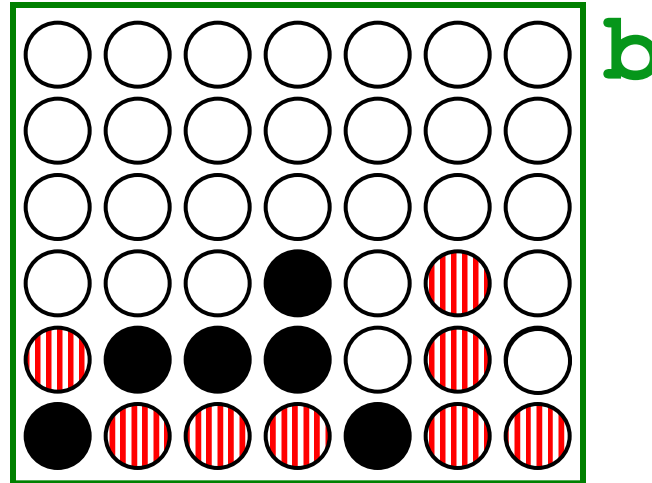
[50,50,50,50,50,50,50]



# scoresFor

## Minimax!

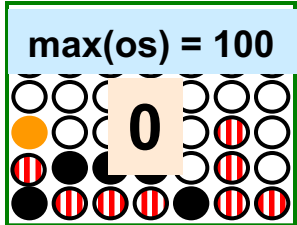
(self) 'X' ●  
new 'X' ●



Which score will the opponent choose?

self gets the **OPPOSITE** score as a result!

[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



Col 0

Col 1

Col 2

Col 3

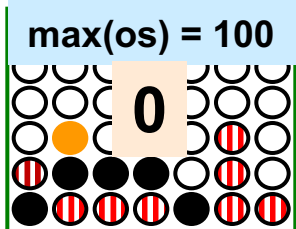
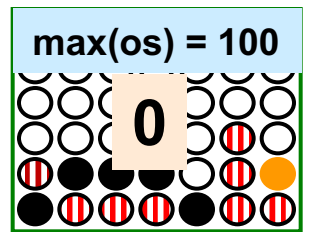
Col 4

Col 5

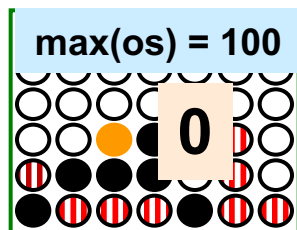
Col 6

Opponent's scoresFor

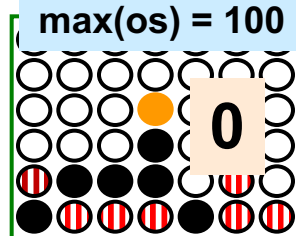
[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



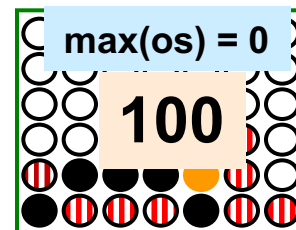
[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



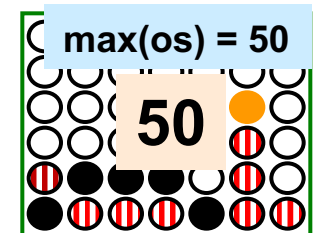
[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]



[50,50,50,50,50,50,50]

(0) Suppose you're playing at 2 ply...

(1) Make ALL moves!

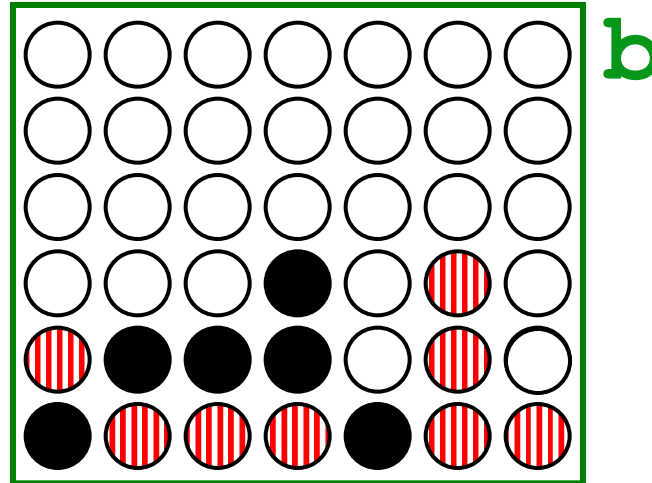
(2) Ask **OPPONENT** its scoresFor at ply-1

(3) Compute which score the opp. will take

(4) Compute what score you get...

# scoresFor

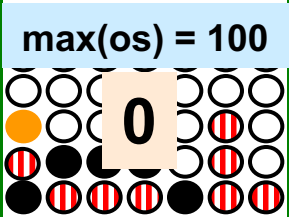
(self) 'X' ●  
new 'X' ●



Which score will the opponent choose?

self gets the **OPPOSITE** score as a result!

[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



Col 0

Col 1

Col 2

Col 3

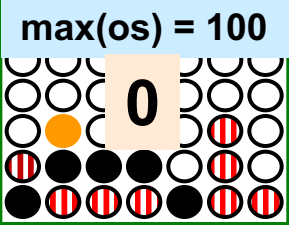
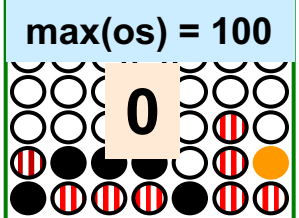
Col 4

Col 6

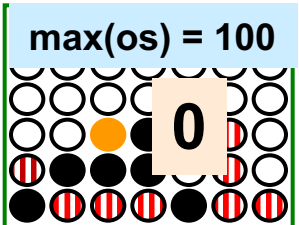
Col 5

Opponent's scoresFor

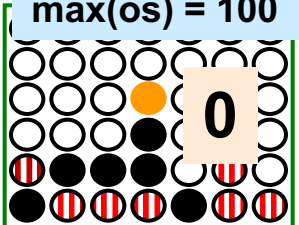
[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



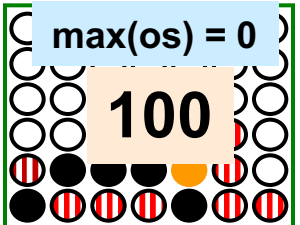
[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



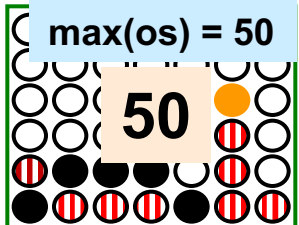
[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



[50,50,50,50,50,100,50]



[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]



[50,50,50,50,50,50,50]

# Strategic thinking $\stackrel{?}{=} \text{intelligence}$

Two-player games have been a key focus of AI  
as long as computers have been around...



Alan Turing memorial  
Manchester, England

In **1945**, Alan Turing  
predicted that computers  
would be better chess  
players than people in  
**~ 50 years...**

*and thus would have  
achieved intelligence.*

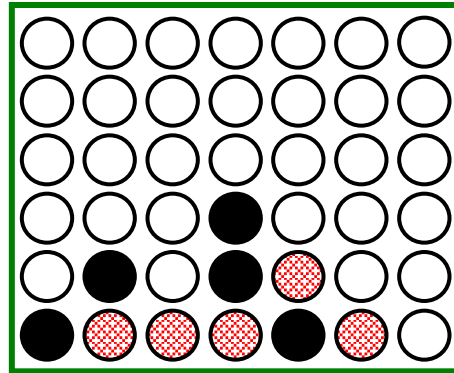
Remarkable **timing!**

and even more remarkable **premise!!!**

# Strategic thinking $\neq$ intelligence

computers

good at looking to find  
winning combinations  
of moves



humans

good at evaluating  
the strength of a  
board for a player



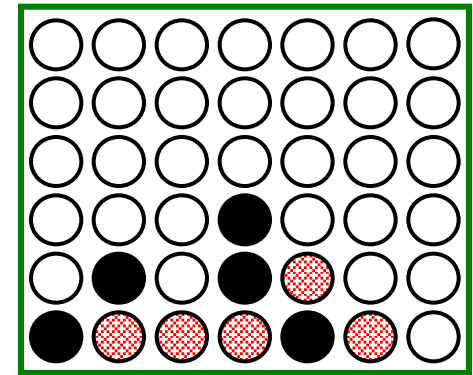
... humans and computers have different  
relative strengths in these games.



# Humans play via "look-up table"

A. deGroot, a psychologist & chess player, experimented:  
Chess-game positions were shown to **chess novices** and  
**chess experts** ... each for a couple of seconds...

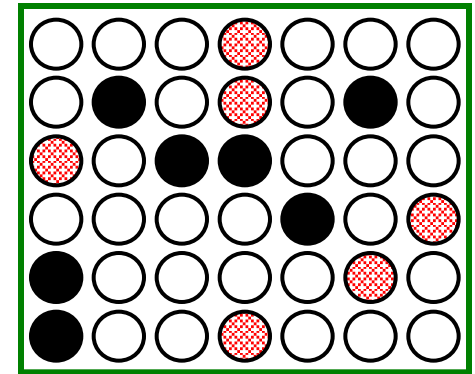
- experts reconstructed these (near) perfectly
- novice players did far worse...



# Humans play via "look-up table"

A. deGroot, a psychologist & chess player, experimented:  
Chess-game positions were shown to chess **novices** and  
chess **experts** ... each for a couple of seconds...

- experts reconstructed these (near) perfectly
- novice players did far worse...



**Random** chess-piece positions, not from a game, were also shown to the two groups:

- experts and novices did ***equally badly*** reconstructing them!



# Connecting Connect Four ...

Connect 4



How complex are these  
games? *Least? Most?*

... to other strategy games.

# Connecting Connect Four ...



checkers

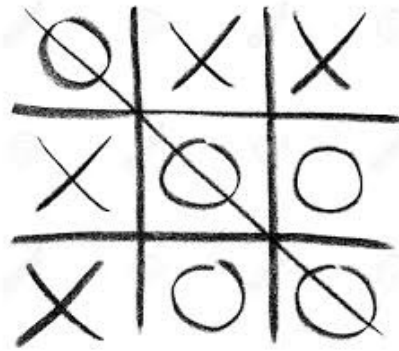
chess



Connect 4



reversi



tic-tac-toe



Go

Rank these six games from least complex (1) to most complex (6)

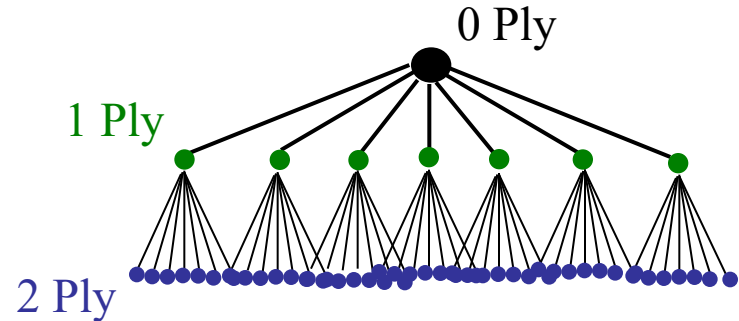
... to other strategy games.

# Games' Branching Factors



On average, Connect 4 players have **seven choices** per ply.

Chess players have more, **around 40 choices** per ply (on average, not every time)



Boundaries for *qualitatively* different games...

“solved” games

computer-dominated

human-dominated

**Branching Factors**  
for different two-player games

Tic-tac-toe 4

Connect Four 7

Checkers 10

Reversi 30

Chess 40

Go 300

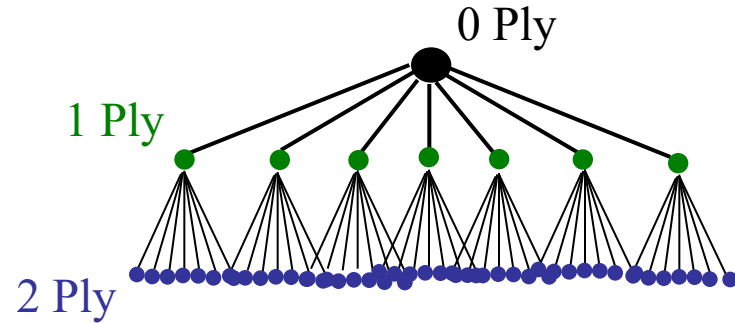
Arimaa 17,000

# Games' Branching Factors



On average, Connect 4 players have **seven choices** per ply.

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Boundaries for *qualitatively* different games...

“solved” games

computer-dominated

only until 2016

human-dominated

Branching Factors for different two-player games	
Tic-tac-toe	4
Connect Four	7
Checkers	10
Reversi	30
Chess	40
Go	300
Armaa	17,000

EASY

# DIFFICULTY OF VARIOUS GAMES FOR COMPUTERS

(Games' Branching Factors)

SOLVED COMPUTERS CAN PLAY PERFECTLY	SOLVED FOR ALL POSSIBLE POSITIONS
	SOLVED FOR STARTING POSITIONS

COMPUTERS CAN  
BEAT TOP HUMANS

- TIC-TAC-TOE
- NIM
- GHOST (1989)
- CONNECT FOUR (1995)
- GOMOKU
- CHECKERS (2007)
- SCRABBLE
- COUNTERSTRIKE
- REVERSI
- BEER PONG (UIUC ROBOT)
- CHESS  
FEBRUARY 10, 1996:  
FIRST WIN BY COMPUTER  
AGAINST TOP HUMAN  
NOVEMBER 21, 2005  
LAST WIN BY HUMAN

# A Knowledge-based Approach of Connect-Four

The Game is Solved: White Wins

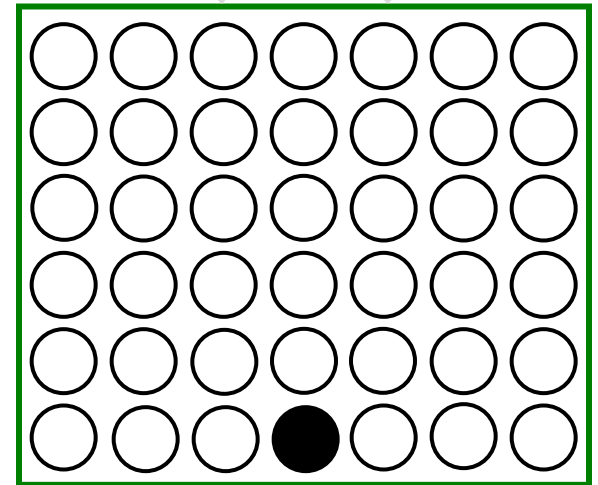
*Victor Allis*

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

Vrije Universiteit

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Masters Thesis, October 1988 †



first-player loses  
(with perfect play)

first-player wins  
(with perfect play)

Connect 4 was solved in **1988**.






CS5 - Homework11Gold x Edit Problem x Connect Four Solver x

connect4.gamesolver.org/?pos=

Apps CS5 SubSite

# Connect four perfect solver


Share this position:


  

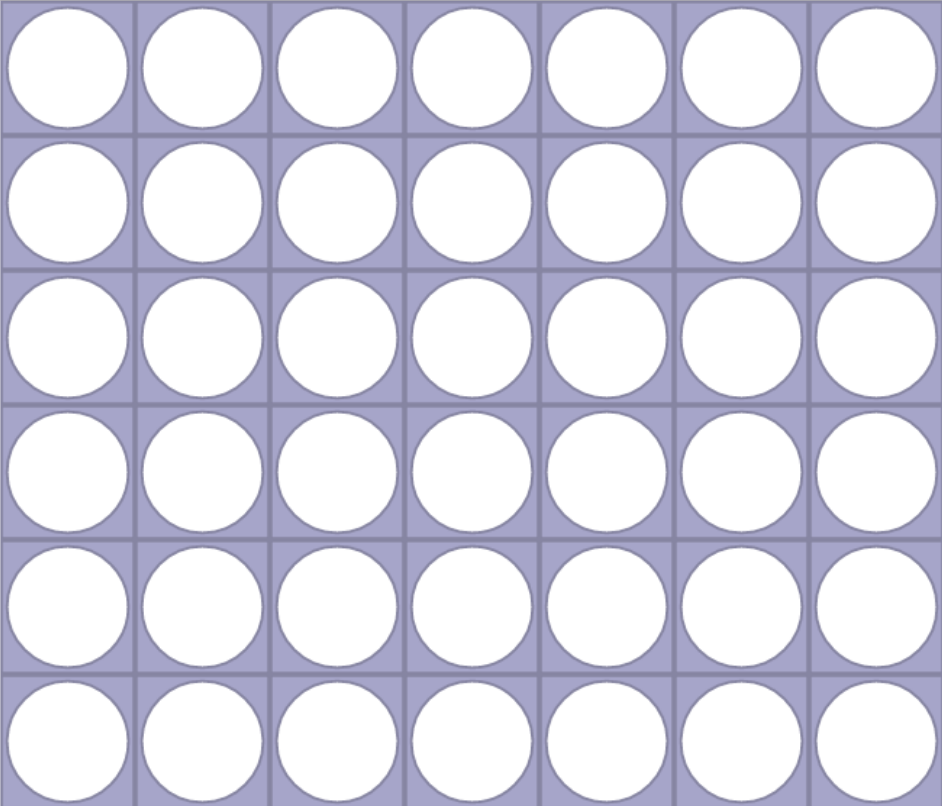
**about**

**new**

**back**

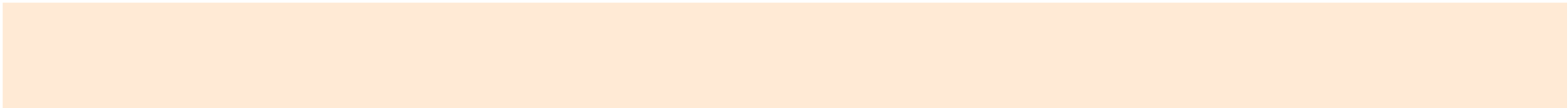
 **manual**

 **manual**



Red can win in 21 moves (1 winning move)

[Show solution](#)



*Science* 14 September 2007:  
Vol. 317, no. 5844, pp. 1518 – 1522  
DOI: 10.1126/science.1144079

## RESEARCH ARTICLES

### Checkers Is Solved

Jonathan Schaeffer,<sup>\*</sup> Neil Burch, Yngvi Björnsson,<sup>†</sup> Akihiro Kishimoto,<sup>‡</sup>  
Martin Müller, Robert Lake, Paul Lu, Steve Sutphen

The game of checkers has roughly 500 billion billion possible positions ( $5 \times 10^{20}$ ). The task of solving the game, determining the final result in a game with no mistakes made by either player, is daunting. Since 1989, almost continuously, dozens of computers have been working on solving checkers, applying state-of-the-art artificial intelligence techniques to the proving process. This paper announces that checkers is now solved: Perfect play by both sides leads to a draw. This is the most challenging popular game to be solved to date, roughly one million times as complex as Connect Four. Artificial intelligence technology has been used to generate strong heuristic-based game-playing programs, such as Deep Blue for chess. Solving a game takes this to the next level by replacing the heuristics with perfection.

Checkers was solved in **2007.**