

# 5 ADVERSARIAL SEARCH

```
function MINIMAX-DECISION(state) returns an action
    return arg maxa ∈ ACTIONS(s) MIN-VALUE(RESULT(state, a))

function MAX-VALUE(state) returns a utility value
    if TERMINAL-TEST(state) then return UTILITY(state)
    v ← −∞
    for each a in ACTIONS(state) do
        v ← MAX(v, MIN-VALUE(RESULT(s, a)))
    return v

function MIN-VALUE(state) returns a utility value
    if TERMINAL-TEST(state) then return UTILITY(state)
    v ← ∞
    for each a in ACTIONS(state) do
        v ← MIN(v, MAX-VALUE(RESULT(s, a)))
    return v
```

**Figure 5.3** An algorithm for calculating minimax decisions. It returns the action corresponding to the best possible move, that is, the move that leads to the outcome with the best utility, under the assumption that the opponent plays to minimize utility. The functions MAX-VALUE and MIN-VALUE go through the whole game tree, all the way to the leaves, to determine the backed-up value of a state. The notation  $\operatorname{argmax}_{a \in S} f(a)$  computes the element *a* of set *S* that has the maximum value of *f(a)*.