PURDUE CS47100
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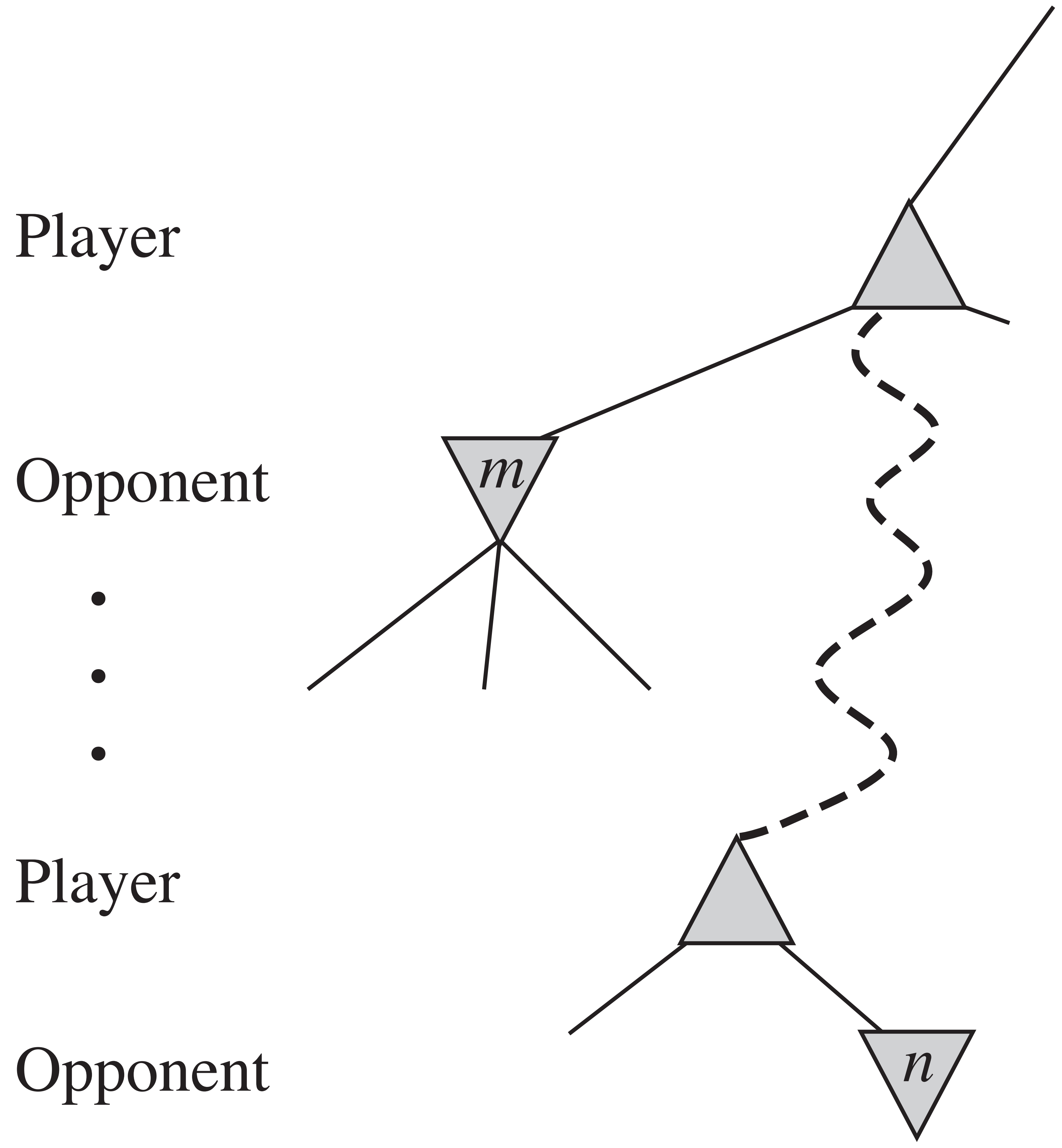
PROF. JENNIFER NEVILLE

INTRODUCTION TO AI

RECAP: ADVERSARIAL SEARCH

- Minimax search is a way of finding an optimal move in a zero-sum two player game
- Alpha-beta pruning is a way of finding the optimal minimax solution while avoiding searching subtrees of moves which won't be selected
  - Some branches will never be played by rational players since they include sub-optimal decisions (for either player)
  - Pruning produces results that are exactly equivalent to complete (unpruned) search
  - Node *ordering* can improve effectiveness; Perfect ordering gives time complexity $O(b^{m/2})$, thus, can search twice as far as ordinary minimax in equal time



RESOURCE LIMITS

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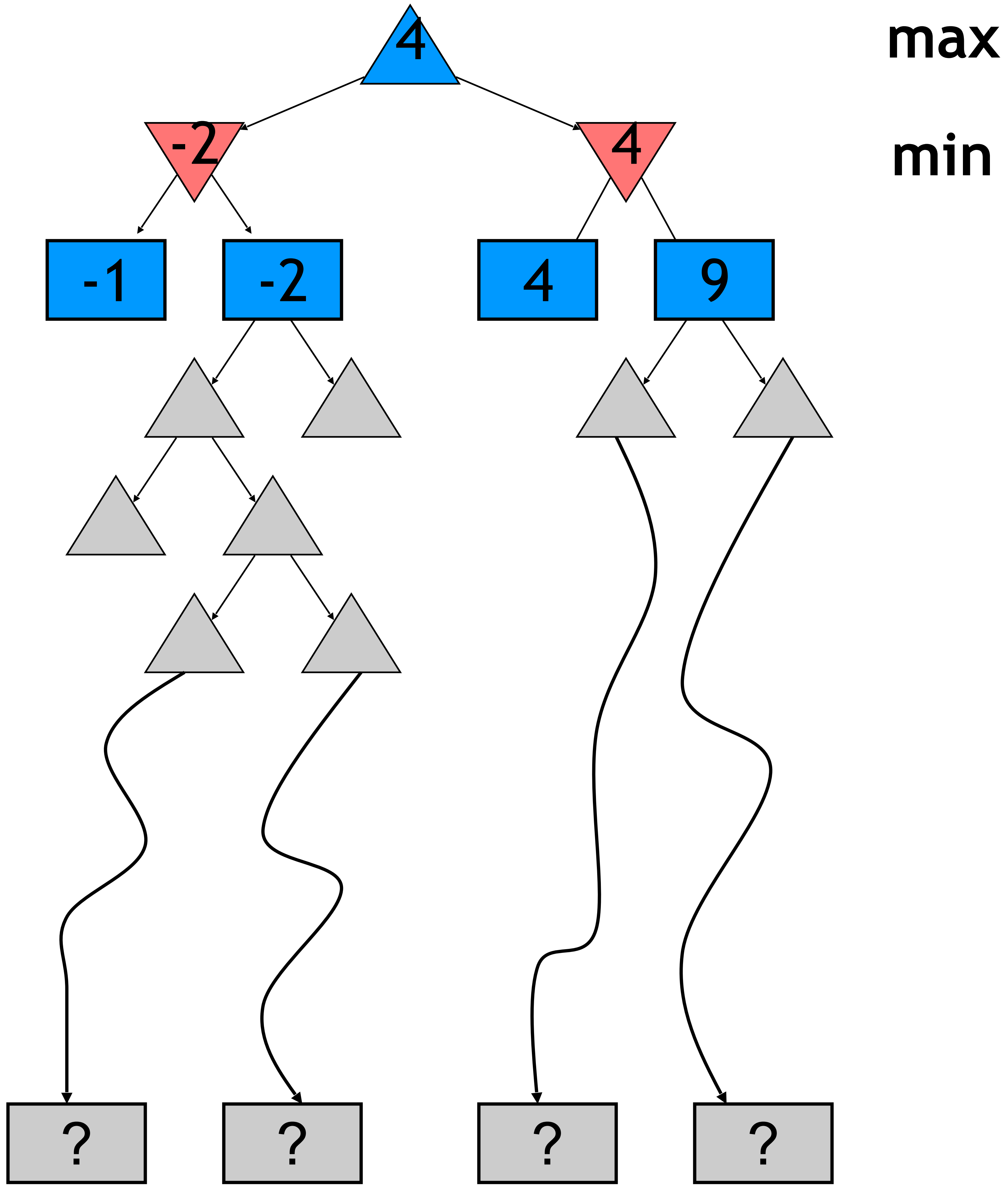
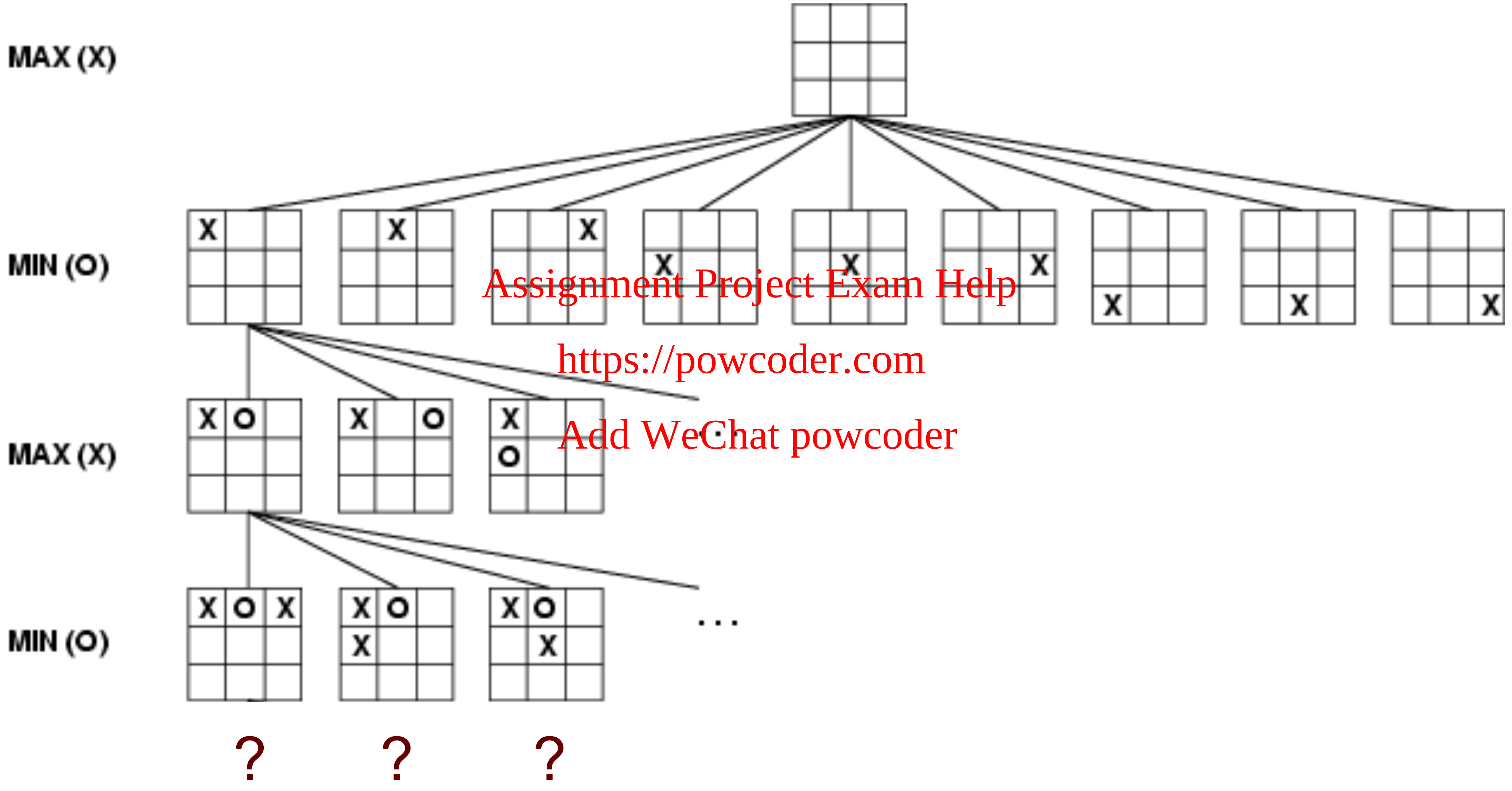
- **Problem**: In realistic games, cannot search to leaves
- Example:
  - Suppose we have 100 seconds, can explore 10K nodes / sec
  - So can check 1M nodes per move
  - α-β reaches about depth 8 – decent chess program
- Guarantee of optimal play is gone; More plies makes a BIG difference
- **Solution**: Depth-limited search
  - Instead, search only to a limited depth in the tree
  - Replace terminal utilities with an **evaluation function** for non-terminal positions



WHAT TO DO WHEN SEARCH IS INTRACTABLE



- Stop the search before you reach terminal states (using depth cutoff)
- Evaluate nodes using an evaluation function – What properties should the evaluation function have?

EVALUATION FUNCTIONS

EVALUATION FUNCTIONS

- Desirable properties
  - Order terminal states in same way as true utility function
  - Strongly correlated with the actual minimax value of the states
  - Efficient to calculate
- Typically use **features** – simple characteristics of the game state that are correlated with the *probability of winning*
- The evaluation function combines feature values to produce a score:

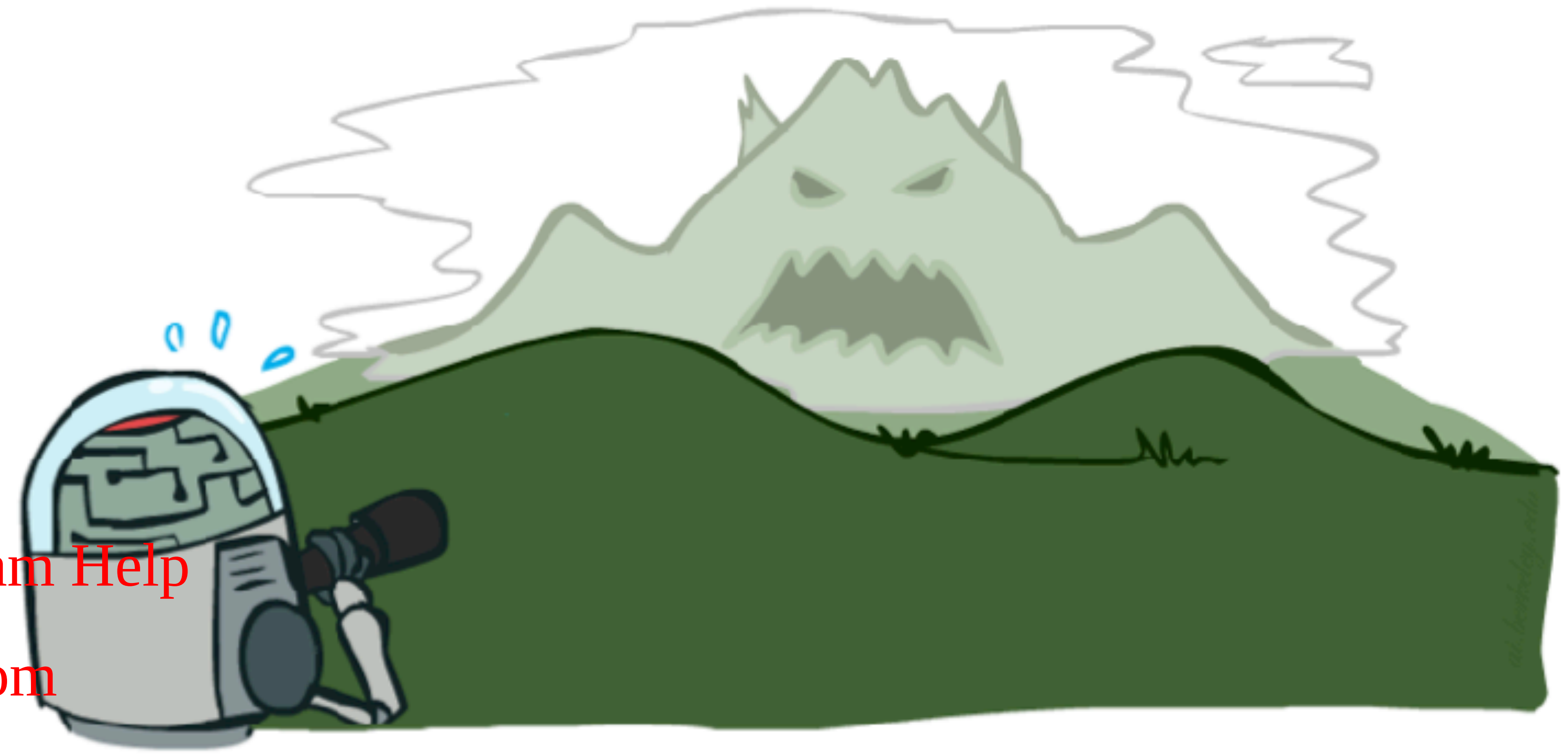
$$Eval(x) = w_1 f_1(s) + w_2 f_2(s) + \ldots + w_n f_n(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i f_i(s)$$

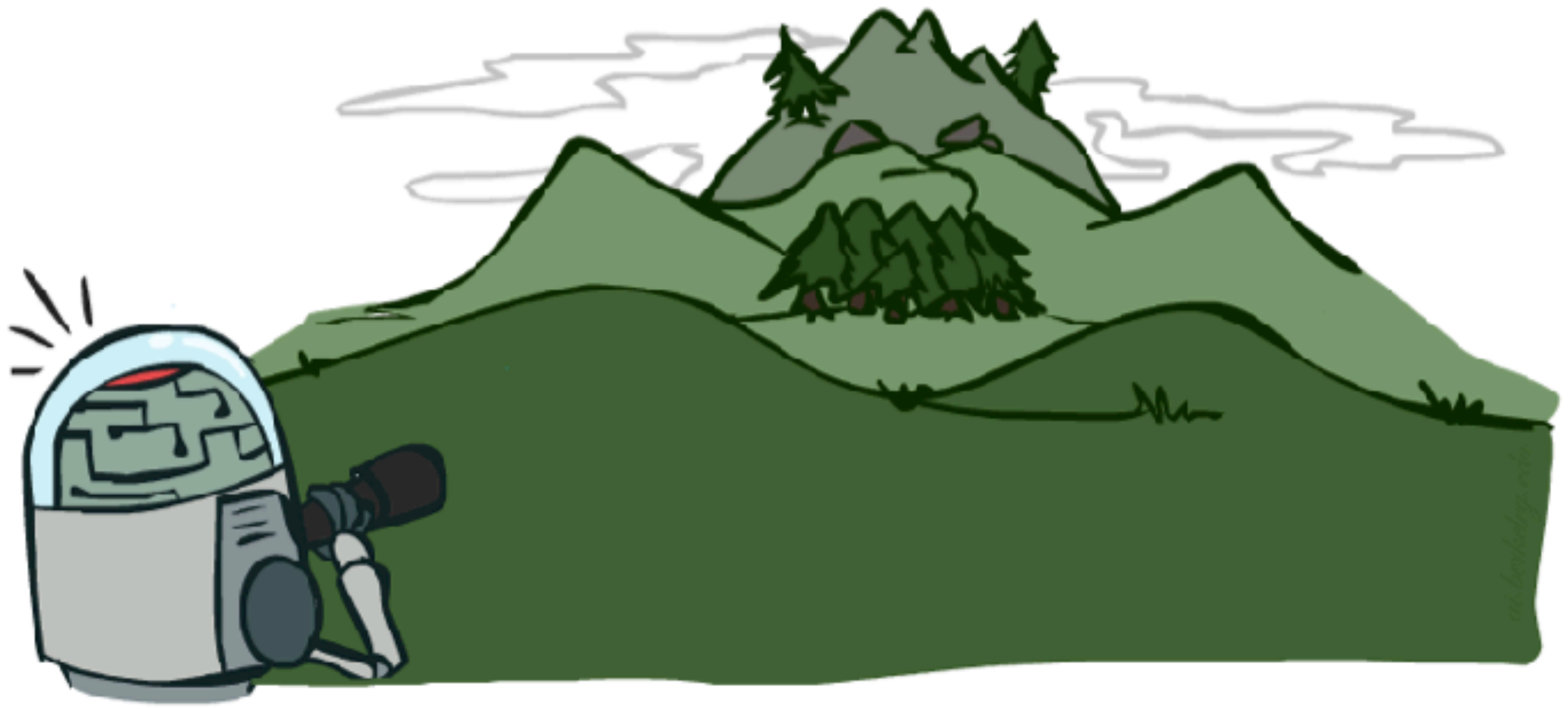
EXAMPLE FEATURES

- What would be some useful features for chess?
  - Relative number of Bishops; Knights; Rooks; Pawns
  - Total number of pieces
  - Has queen?
  - Castled?
  - In check?
  - Distance of furthest pawn from start
  - Relative freedom (relative total number of possible moves)
  - etc.

DEPTH MATTERS

- Evaluation functions are always imperfect
- The deeper in the tree the evaluation function is buried, the less the quality of the evaluation function matters
- An important example of the tradeoff between complexity of features and complexity of computation

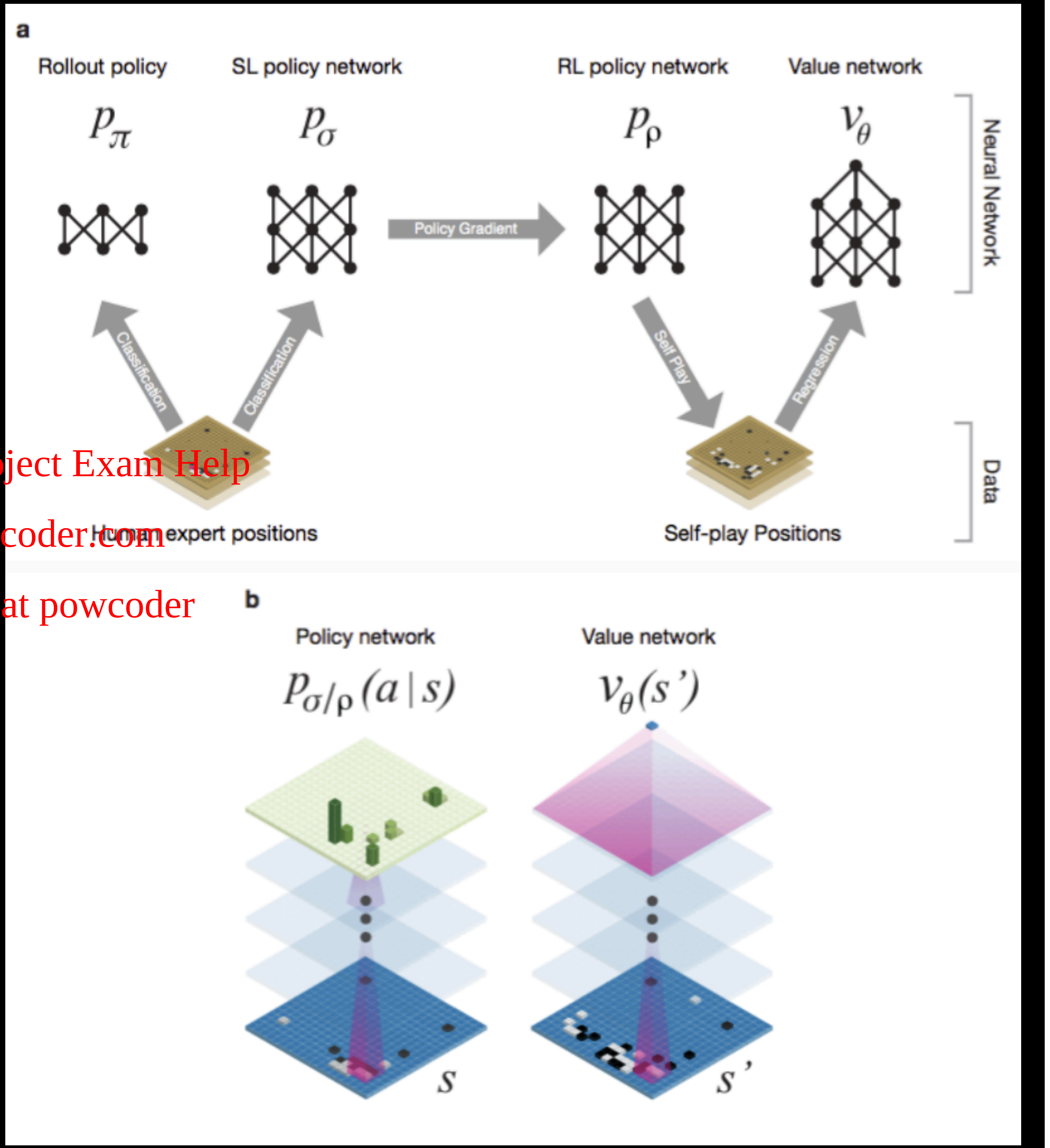




HOW COULD YOU LEARN A GOOD EVALUATION FUNCTION?

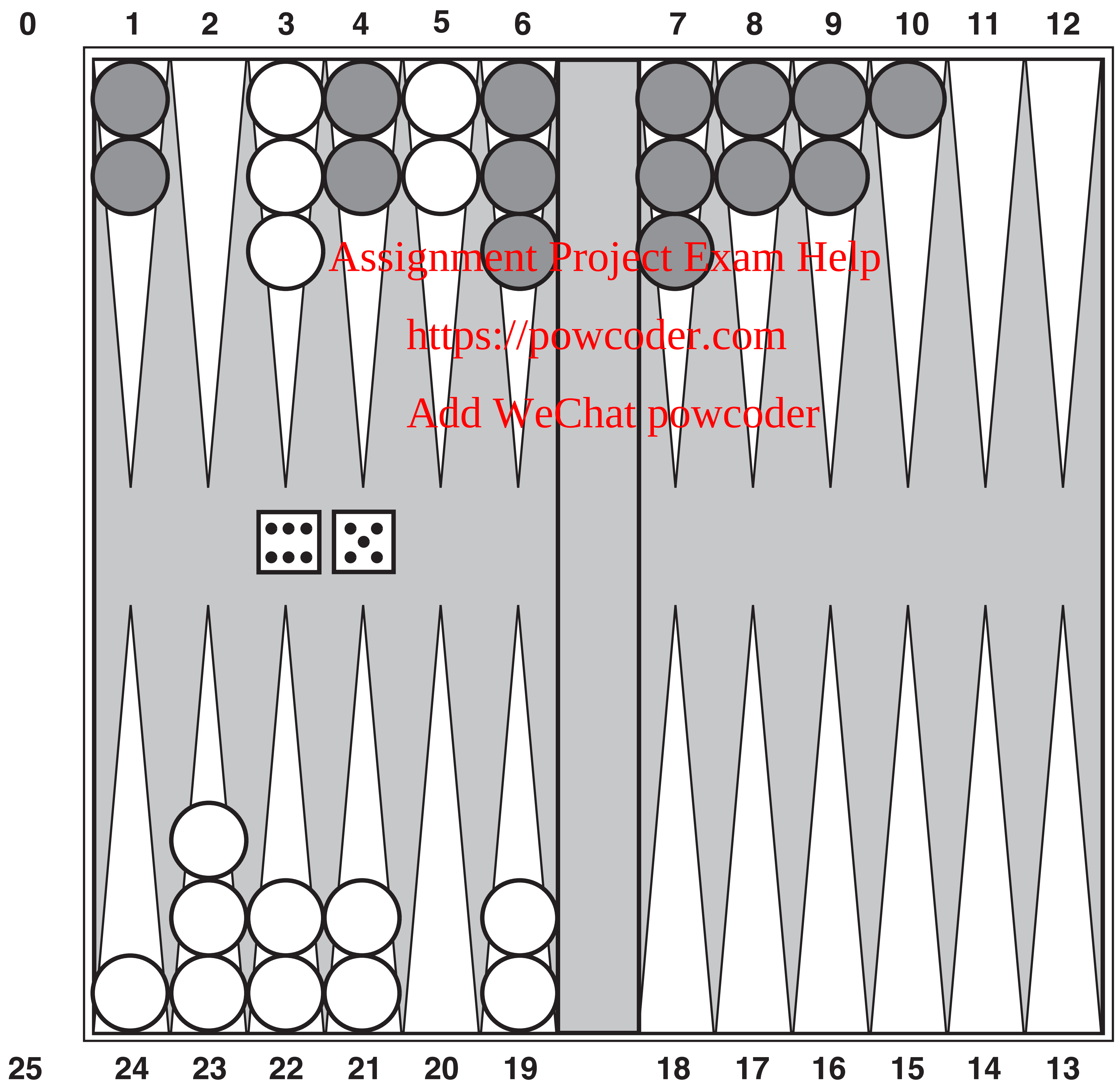
ALPHAGO SYSTEM

- **Deep learning + Reinforcement learning**
- One model predicts next move, given current state of board, *trained on **30 million positions** from human games*
- Another model predicts likelihood of winning given current state, *trained on **30 million positions** from self-play*
- **System** combines two models using Monte Carlo search

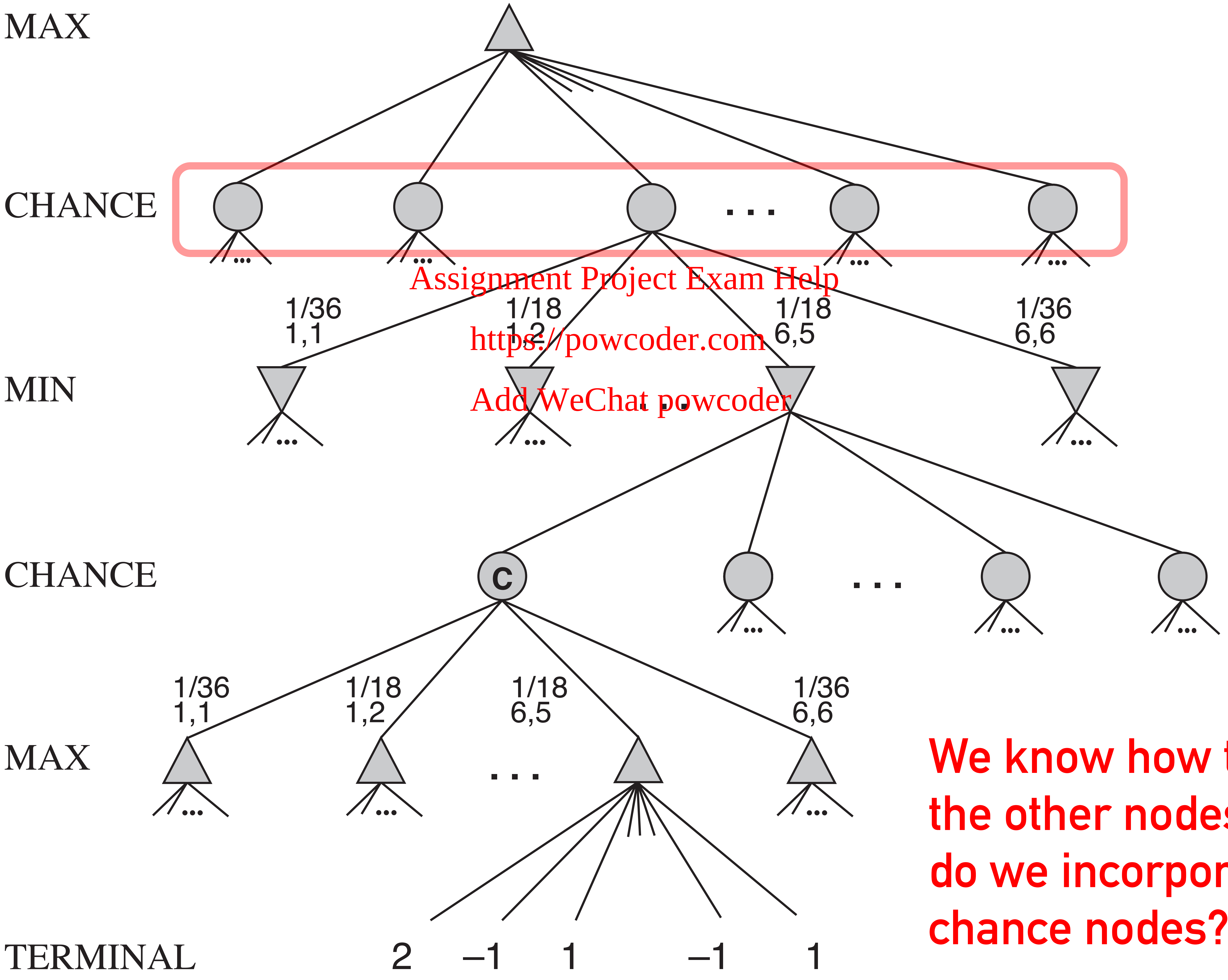


Silver, David, et al. "Mastering the game of Go with deep neural networks and tree search." *Nature* 529.7587 (2016): 484-489.

WHAT IF A GAME HAS A "CHANCE ELEMENT"?



GAME TREE WITH CHANCE ELEMENT



We know how to value the other nodes. How do we incorporate chance nodes?

EXPECTED VALUE

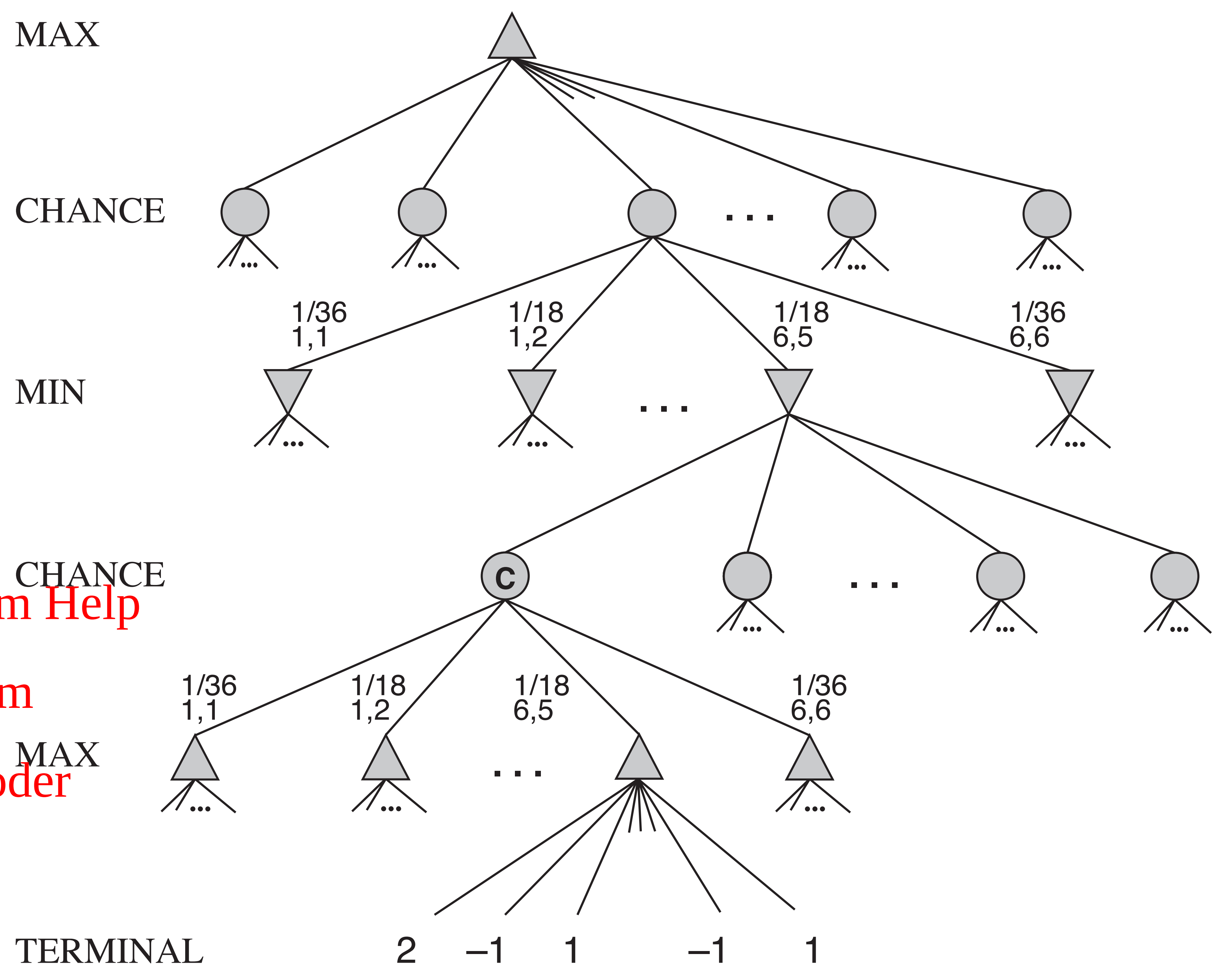
- The sum of the probability of each possible outcome multiplied by its value:

$$E(X) = \sum_i p_i x_i$$

- Are there pathological cases where this statistic could do something strange
  - Extreme values (“outliers”)
  - Functions that are a non-linear transformation of the probability of winning

EXPECTED MINIMAX VALUE

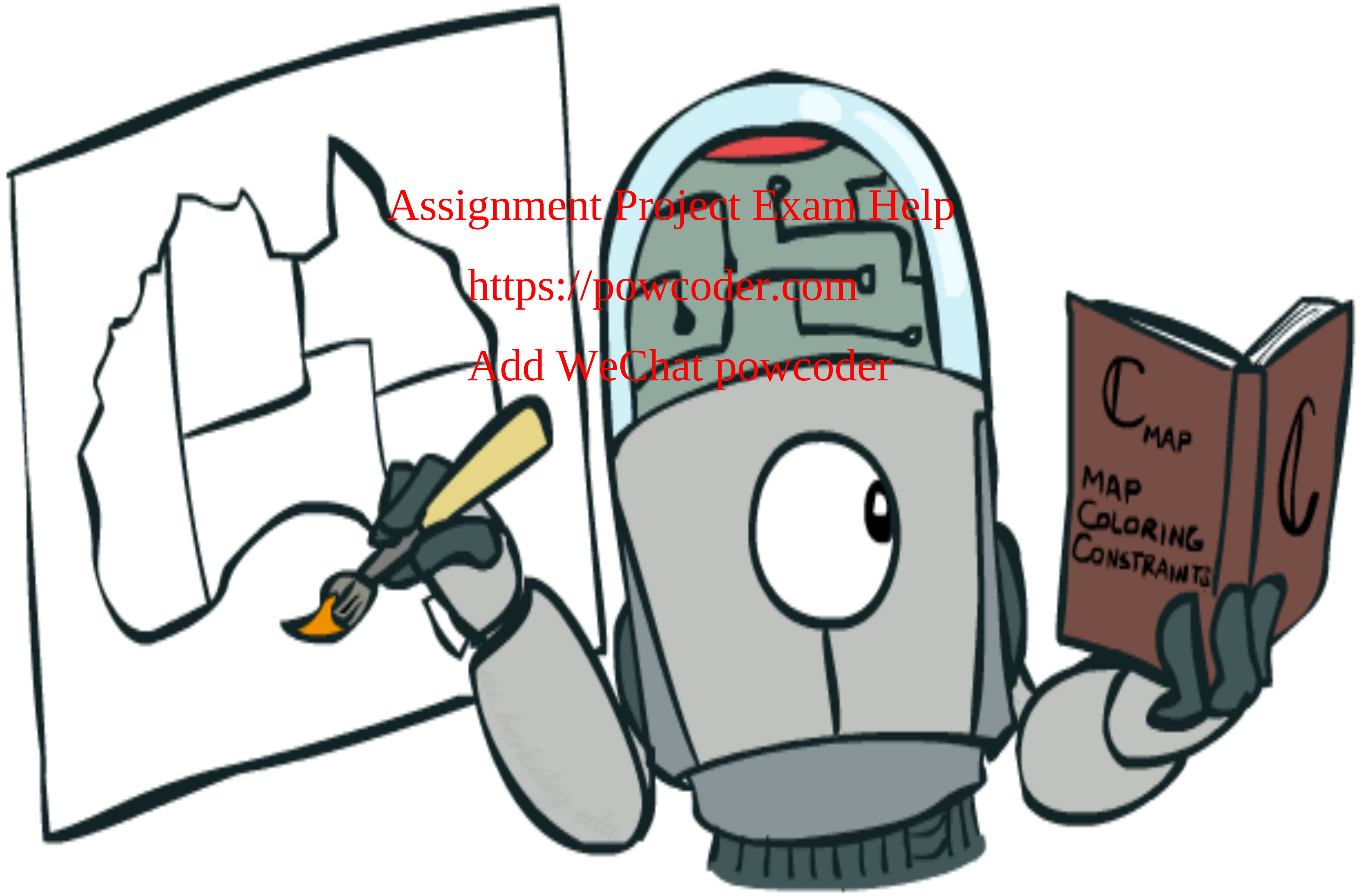
- Now three different cases to evaluate, rather than just two.
  - MAX, MIN, CHANCE



- EXPECTED-MINIMAX-VALUE(n) =

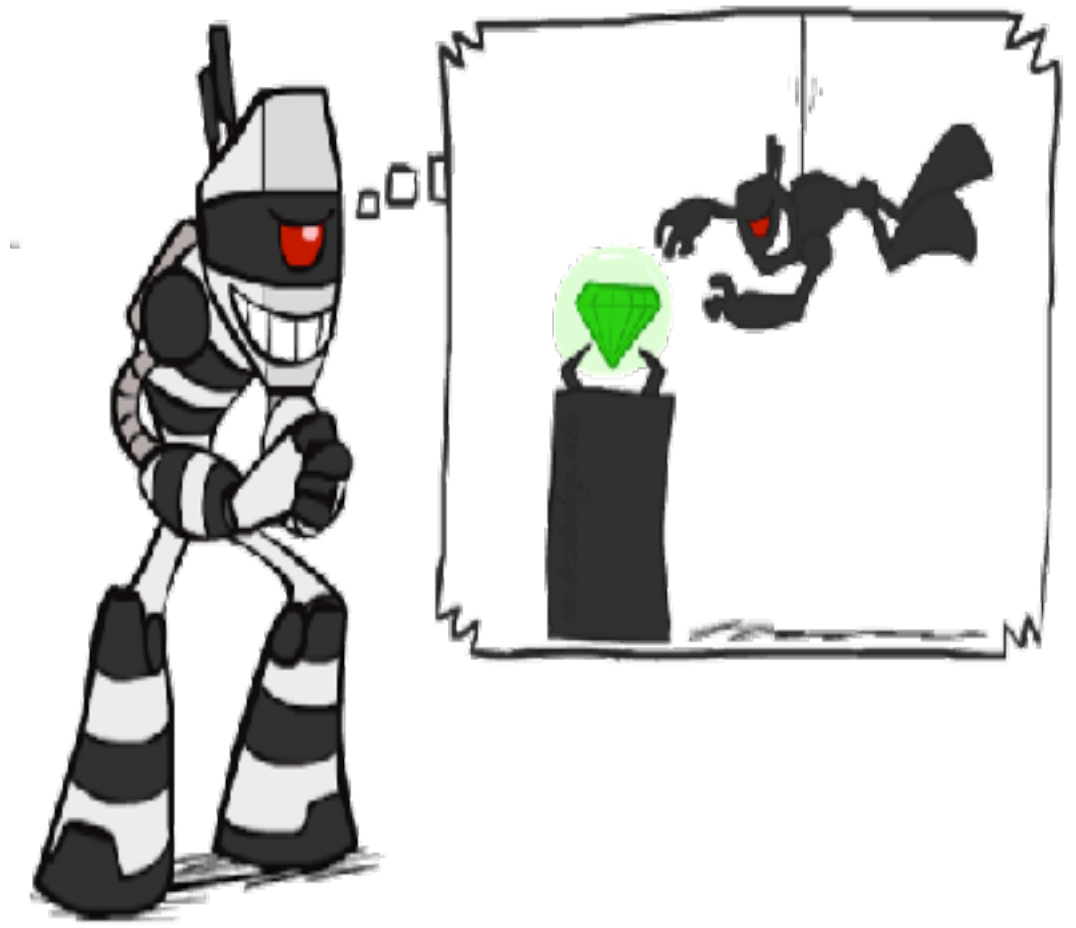
$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{UTILITY}(n) & \text{if terminal node} \\
\max_{s \in \text{successors}(n)} \text{MINIMAX-VALUE}(s) & \text{if MAX node} \\
\min_{s \in \text{successors}(n)} \text{MINIMAX-VALUE}(s) & \text{if MIN node} \\
\sum_{s \in \text{successors}(n)} P(s) \times \text{EXPECTEDMINIMAX}(s) & \text{if CHANCE node}
\end{array}
$$

CONSTRAINT SATISFACTION PROBLEMS



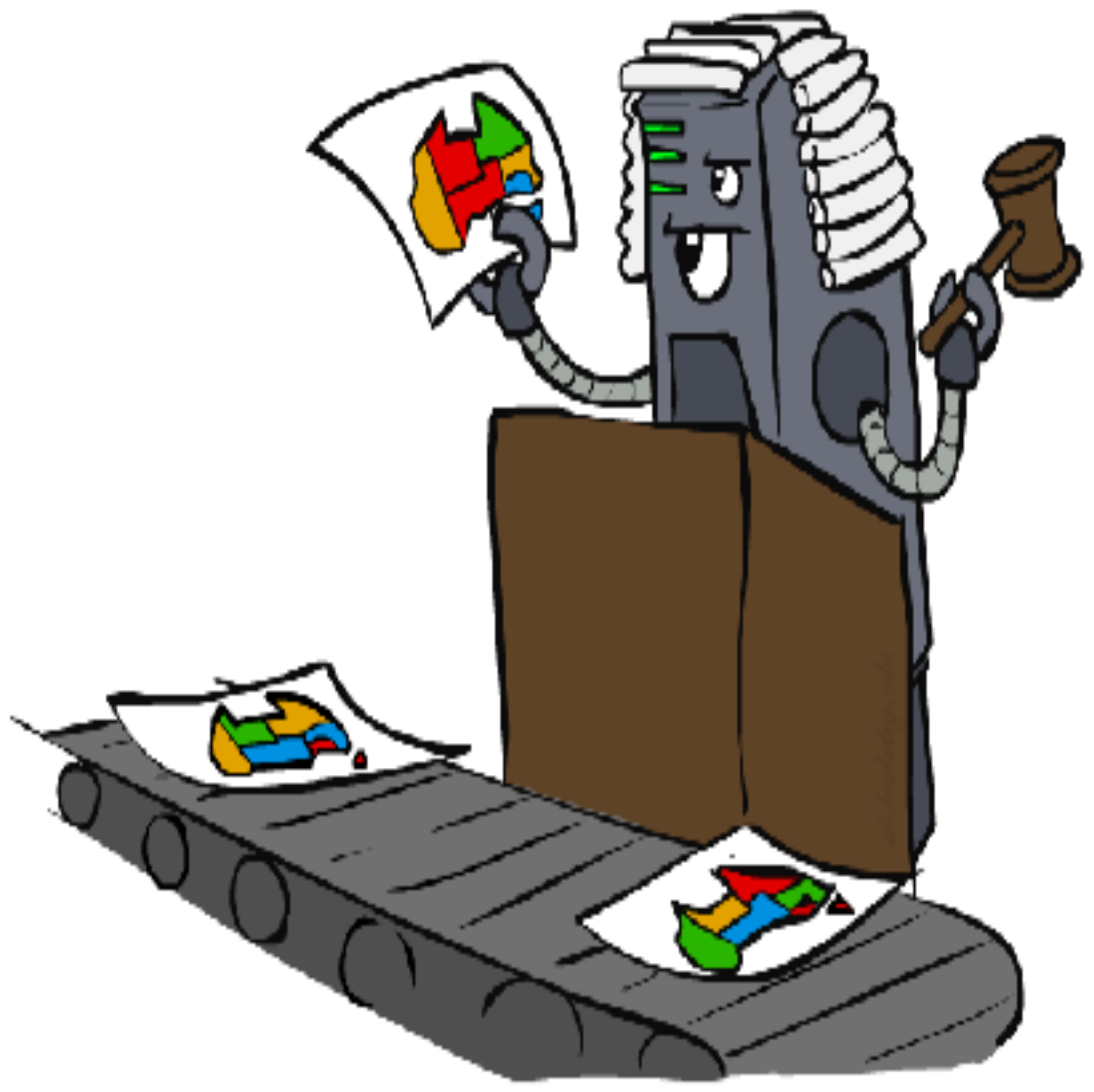
WHAT IS SEARCH FOR?

- **Planning**: sequences of actions
  - The path to the goal is the important thing
  - Paths have various costs, depths
  - Heuristics give problem-specific guidance



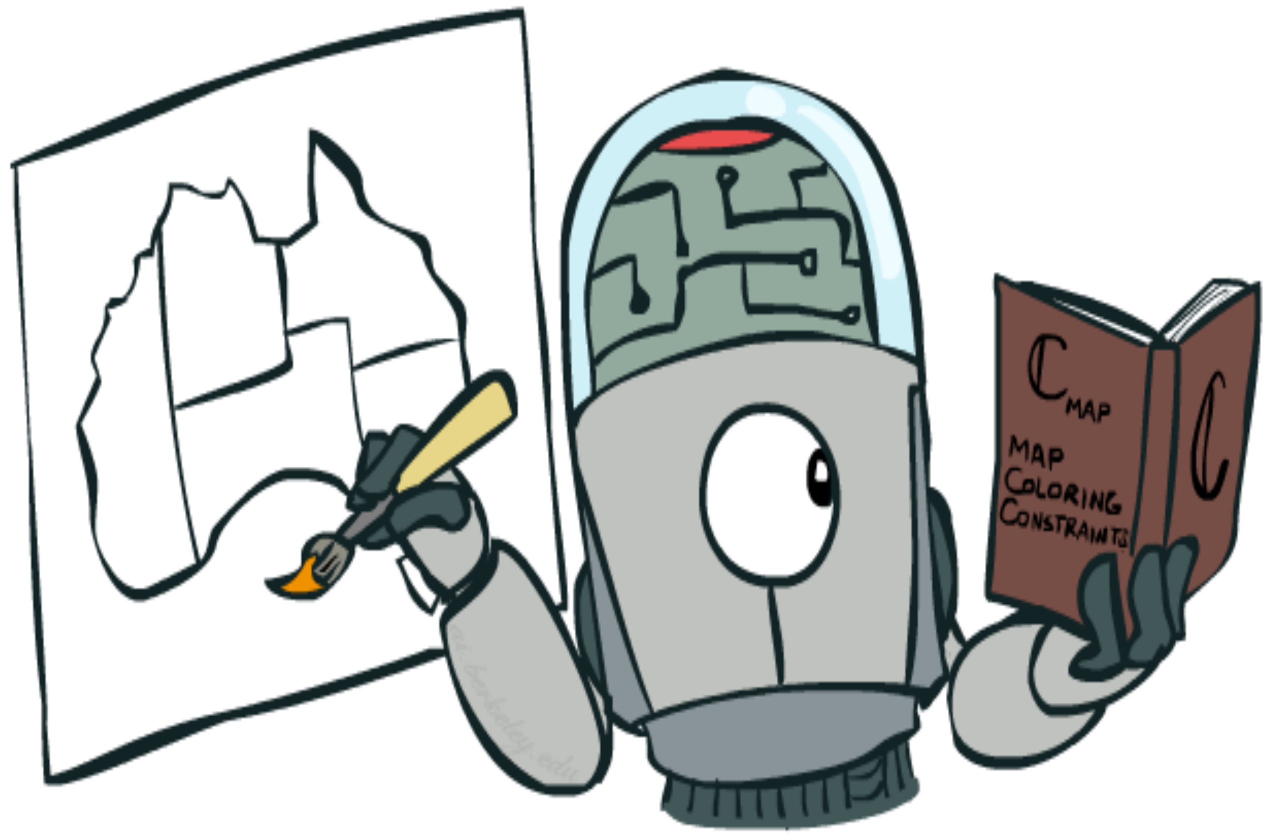
- **Identification**: assignments to variables
  - The goal itself is important, not the path
  - All paths at the same depth (for some formulations)

CONSTRAINT SATISFACTION PROBLEMS

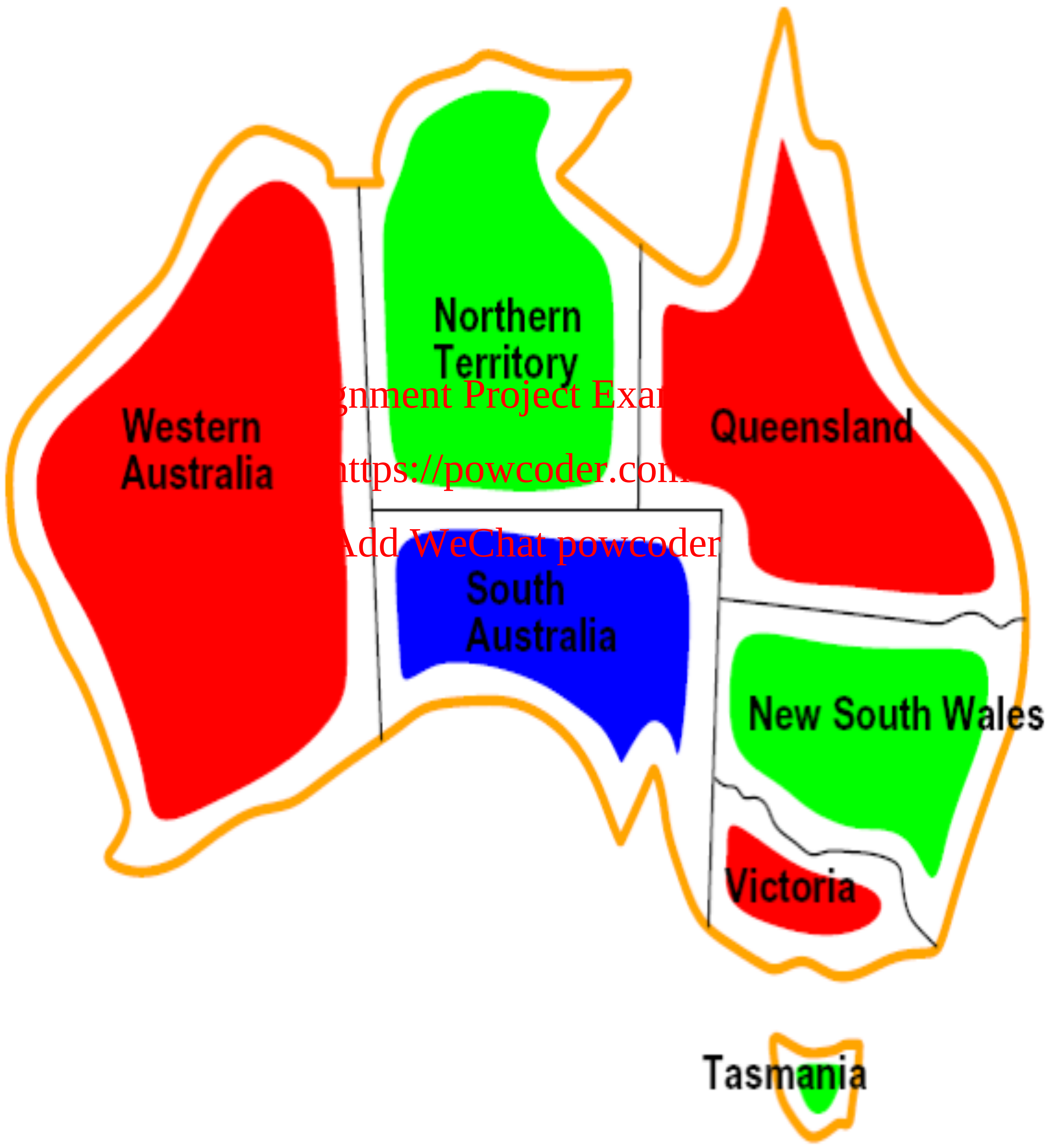


- Standard search problems:
  - State is a “black box”: arbitrary data structure
  - Goal test can be any function over states

- Constraint satisfaction problems (CSPs) – a special subset of search problems
  - State is defined by **variables X_i** with values from a **domain D**
  - Goal test is a set of constraints specifying allowable combinations of values for subsets of variables
- Simple example of a formal representation language
- Allows useful general-purpose algorithms with more power than standard search algorithms



CSP EXAMPLES



EXAMPLE: MAP COLORING

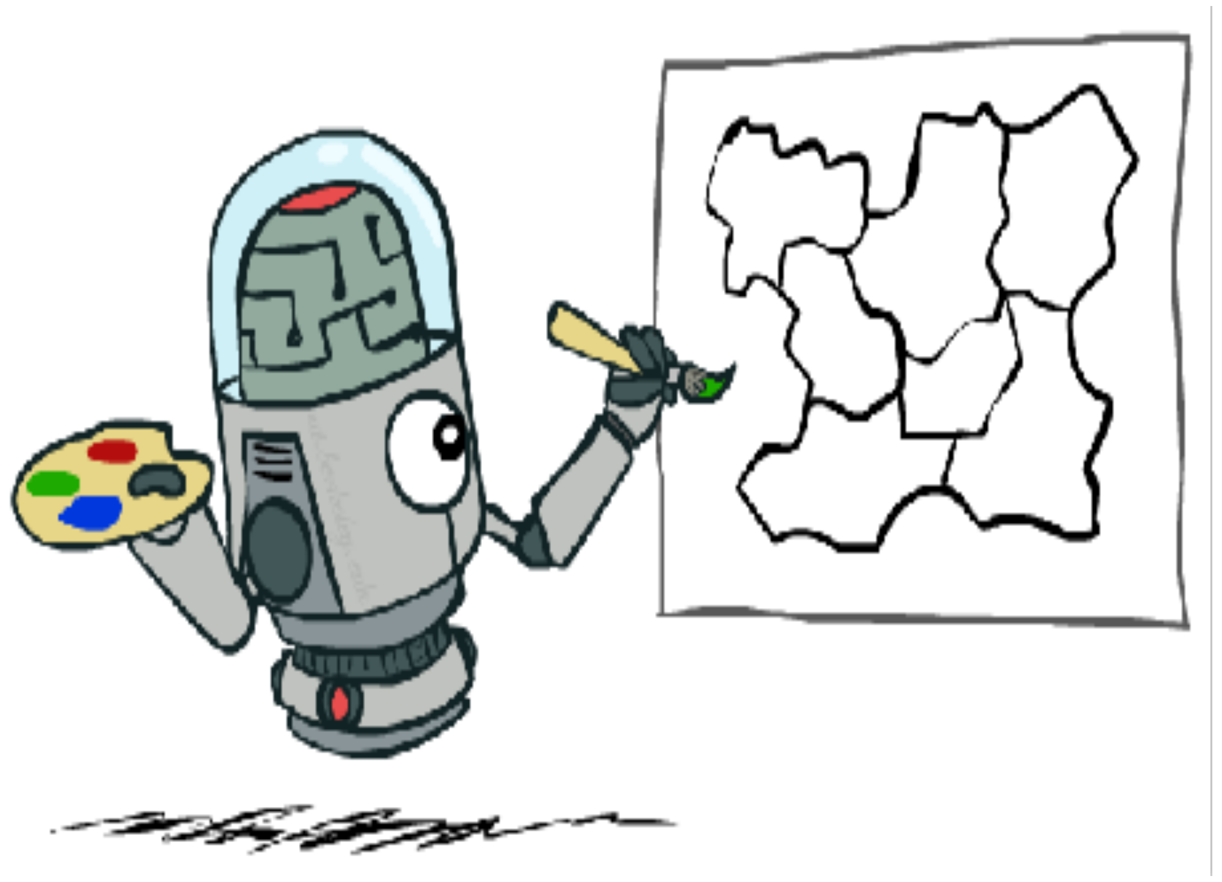
- Variables: WA, NT, Q, NSW, V, SA, T
- Domains: $D = \{red, green, blue\}$
- Constraints: adjacent regions must have different colors

Implicit: $WA \neq NT$

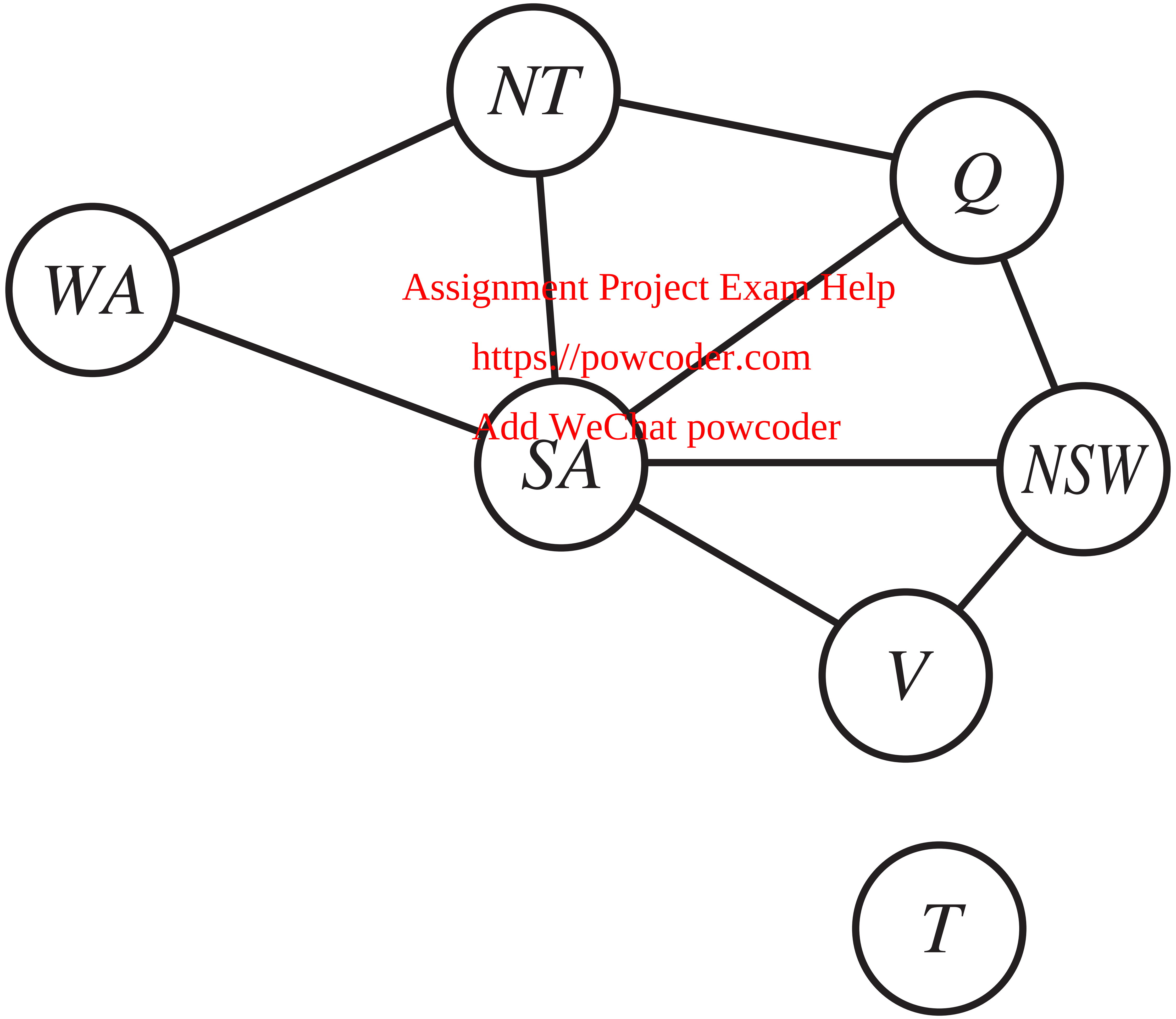
Explicit: $(WA, NT) \in \{(red, green), (red, blue), \ldots\}$

- Solutions are assignments satisfying all constraints, e.g.:

$\{WA=red, NT=green, Q=red, NSW=green, V=red, SA=blue, T=green\}$



CONSTRAINT GRAPHS

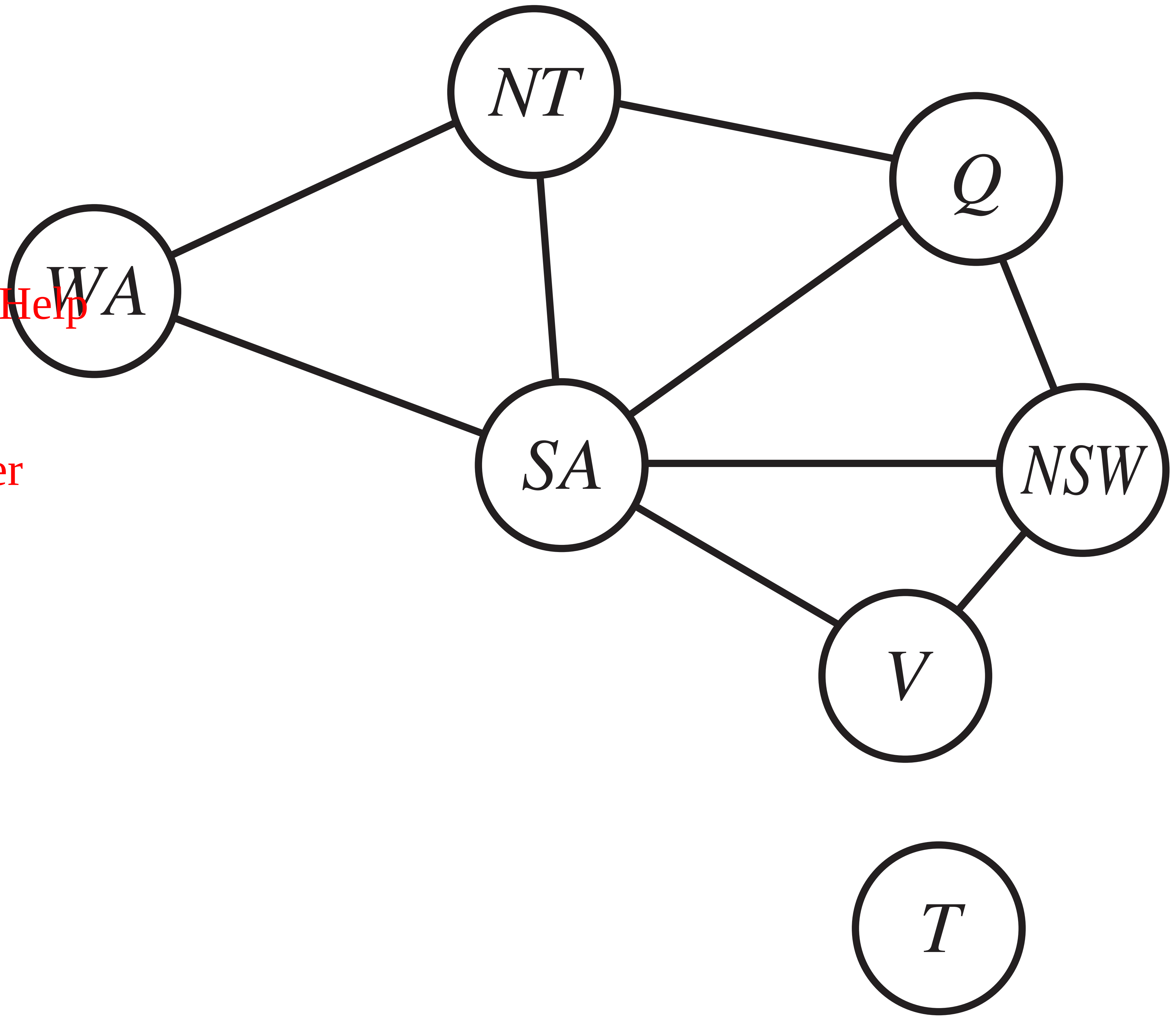


CONSTRAINT GRAPHS

- Binary CSP: each constraint relates (at most) two variables

- Binary constraint graph: nodes are variables, arcs show constraints

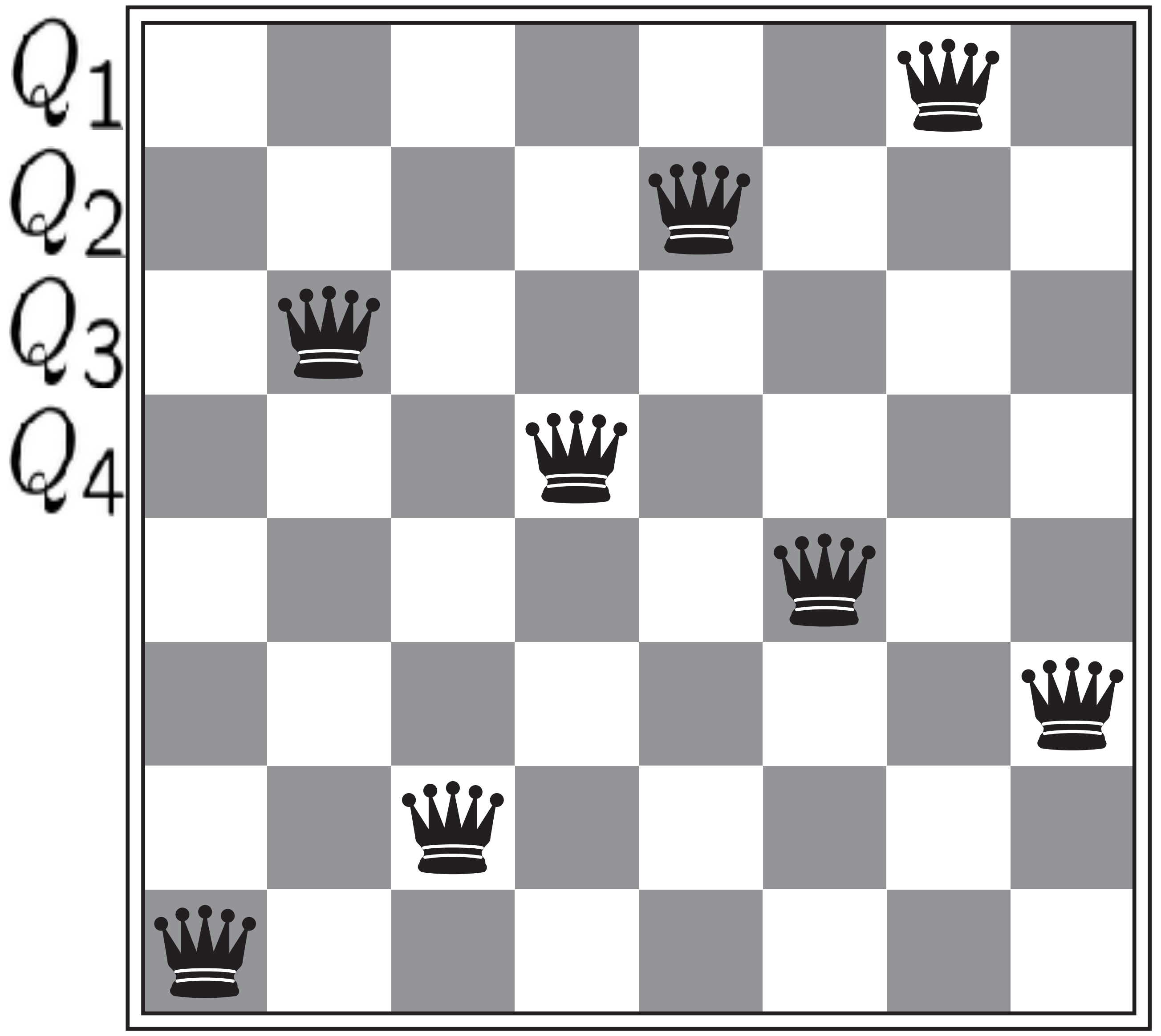
- General-purpose CSP algorithms use the graph structure to speed up search.
E.g., Tasmania is an independent subproblem



EXAMPLE: N-QUEENS

- Variables: Q_k

- Domains: $\{1, 2, 3, \ldots N\}$



- Constraints:

Implicit: $\forall i, j$ non-threatening(Q_i, Q_j)

Explicit: $(Q_1, Q_2) \in \{(1,3), (1,4), \ldots\}$

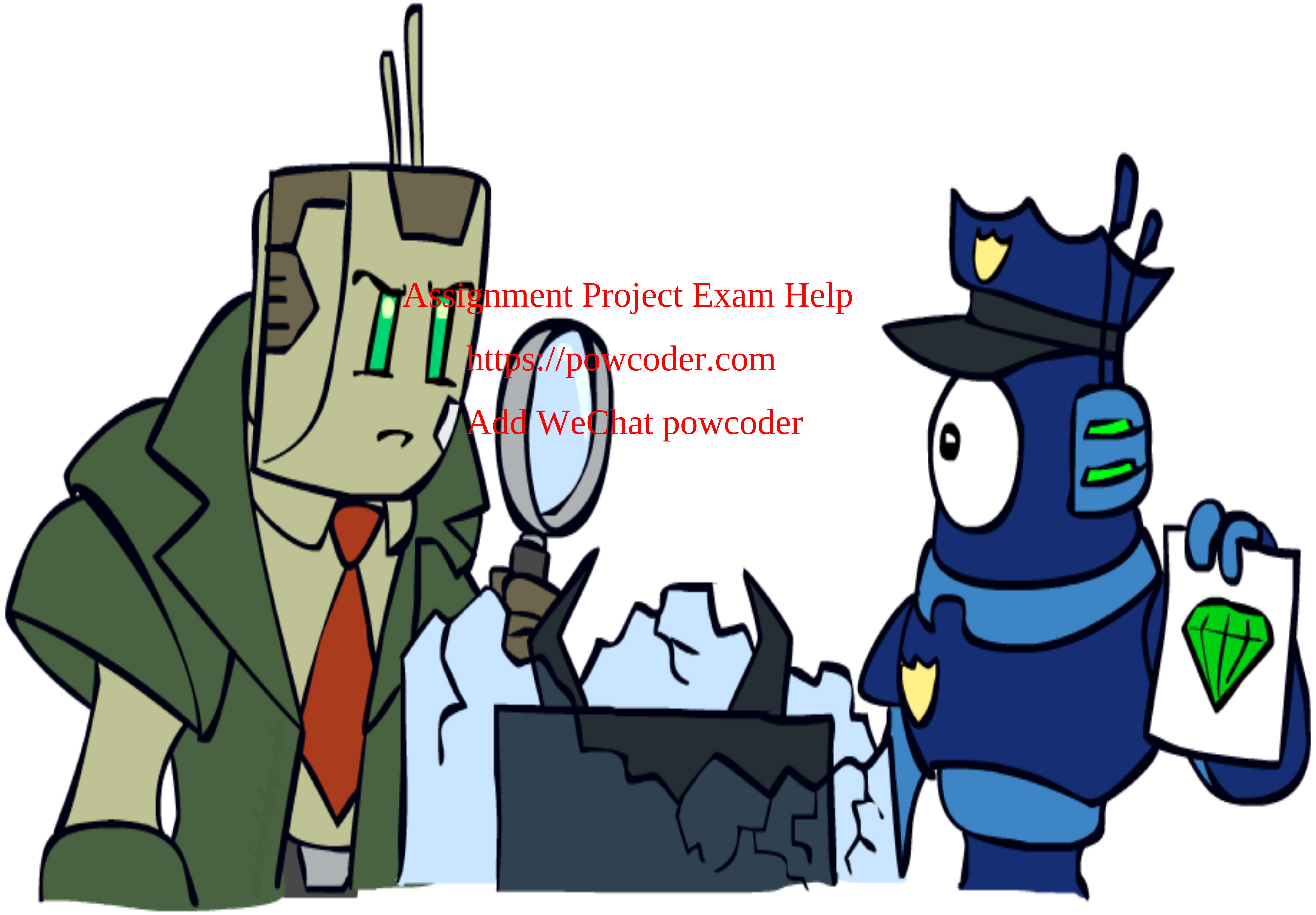
$\ldots$

EXAMPLE: SUDOKU

- Objective
  - Fill the empty cells with numbers between 1 and 9
- Rules
  - Numbers can appear only once on each row
  - Numbers can appear only once on each column
  - Numbers can appear only once on each region
- Variables? Domain?
- Constraints?

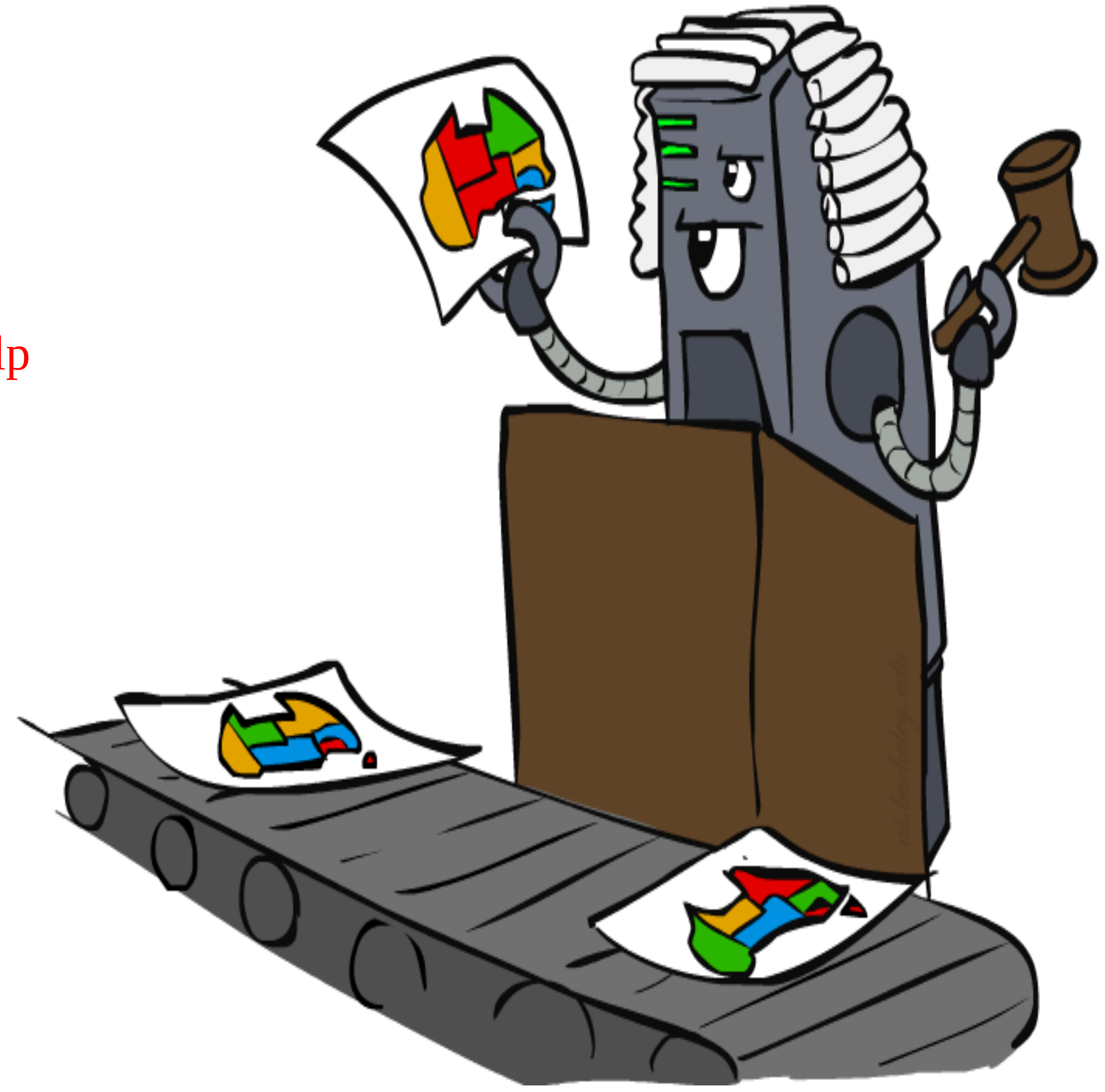
8			4		6			7
						4		
	1					6	5	
5		9		3		7	8	
				7				
	4	8		2		1		3
	5	2					9	
		1						
3			9		2			5

SOLVING CSPS



STANDARD SEARCH FORMULATION

- Standard search formulation of CSPs
- States defined by the values assigned so far (ie. partial assignments)
  - Initial state: the empty assignment, {}
  - Successor function: assign a value to an unassigned variable
  - Goal test: the current assignment is complete and satisfies all constraints

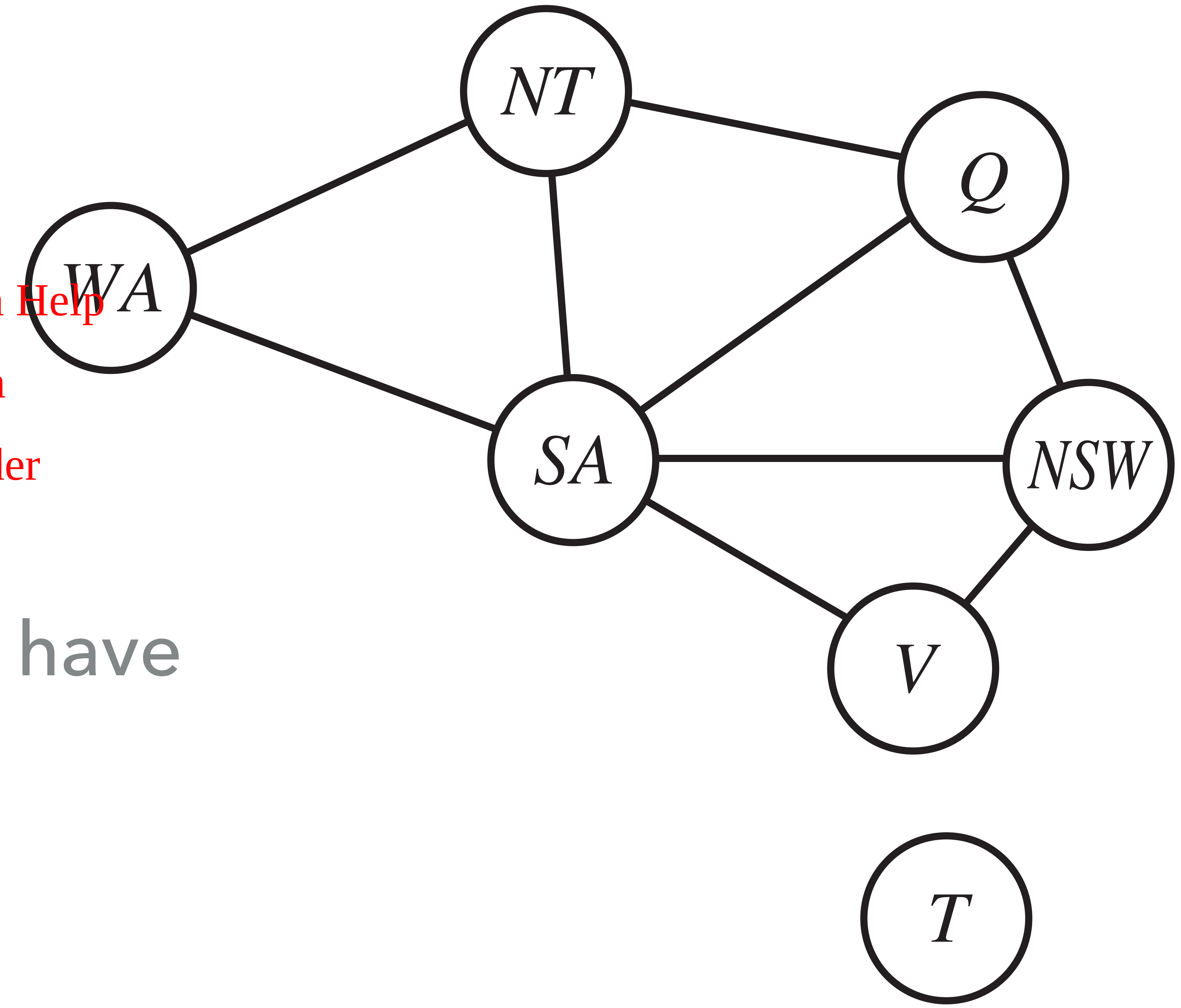


SEARCH METHODS

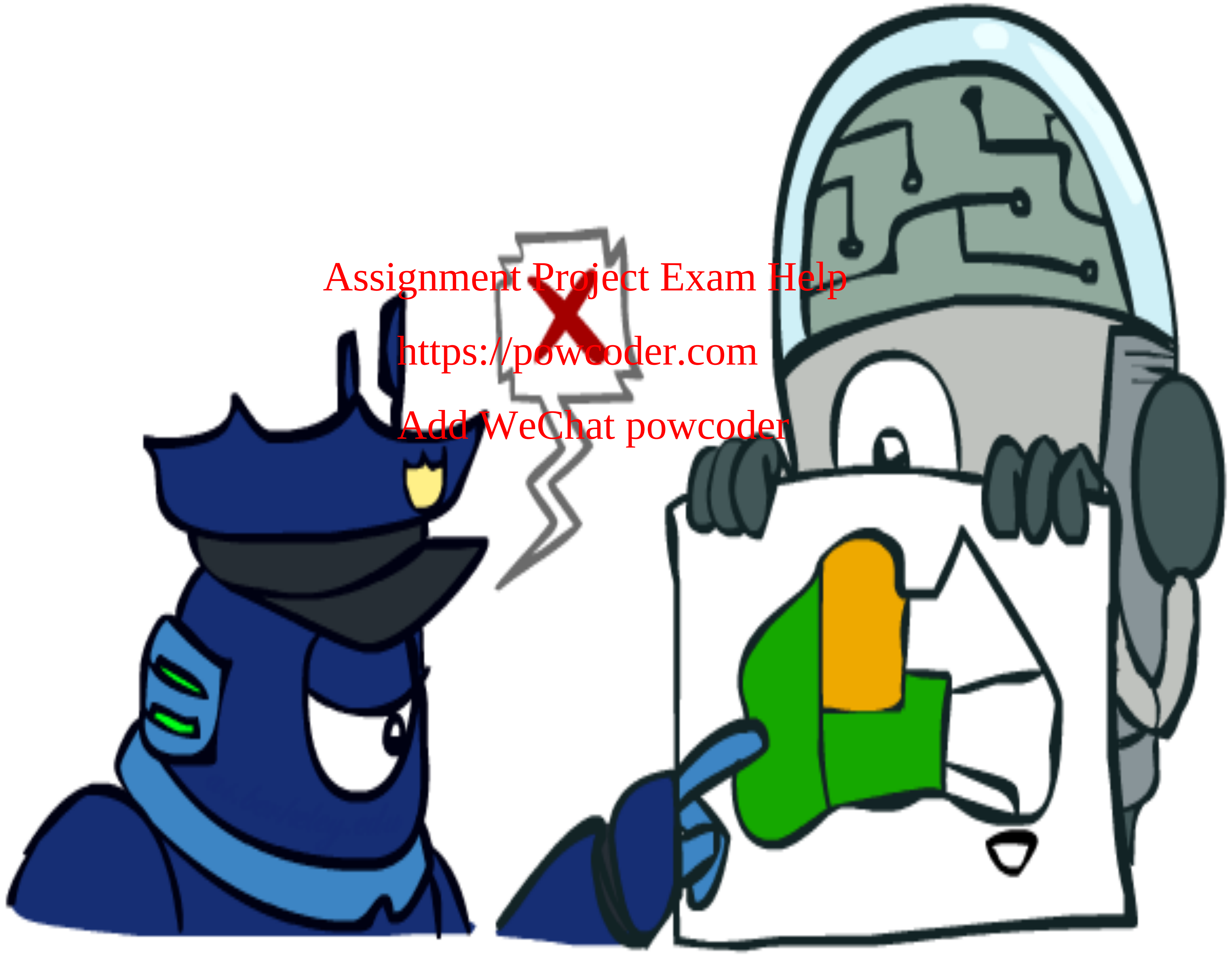
- What would BFS do?

- What would DFS do?

- What problems does naive state space search have in this setting?

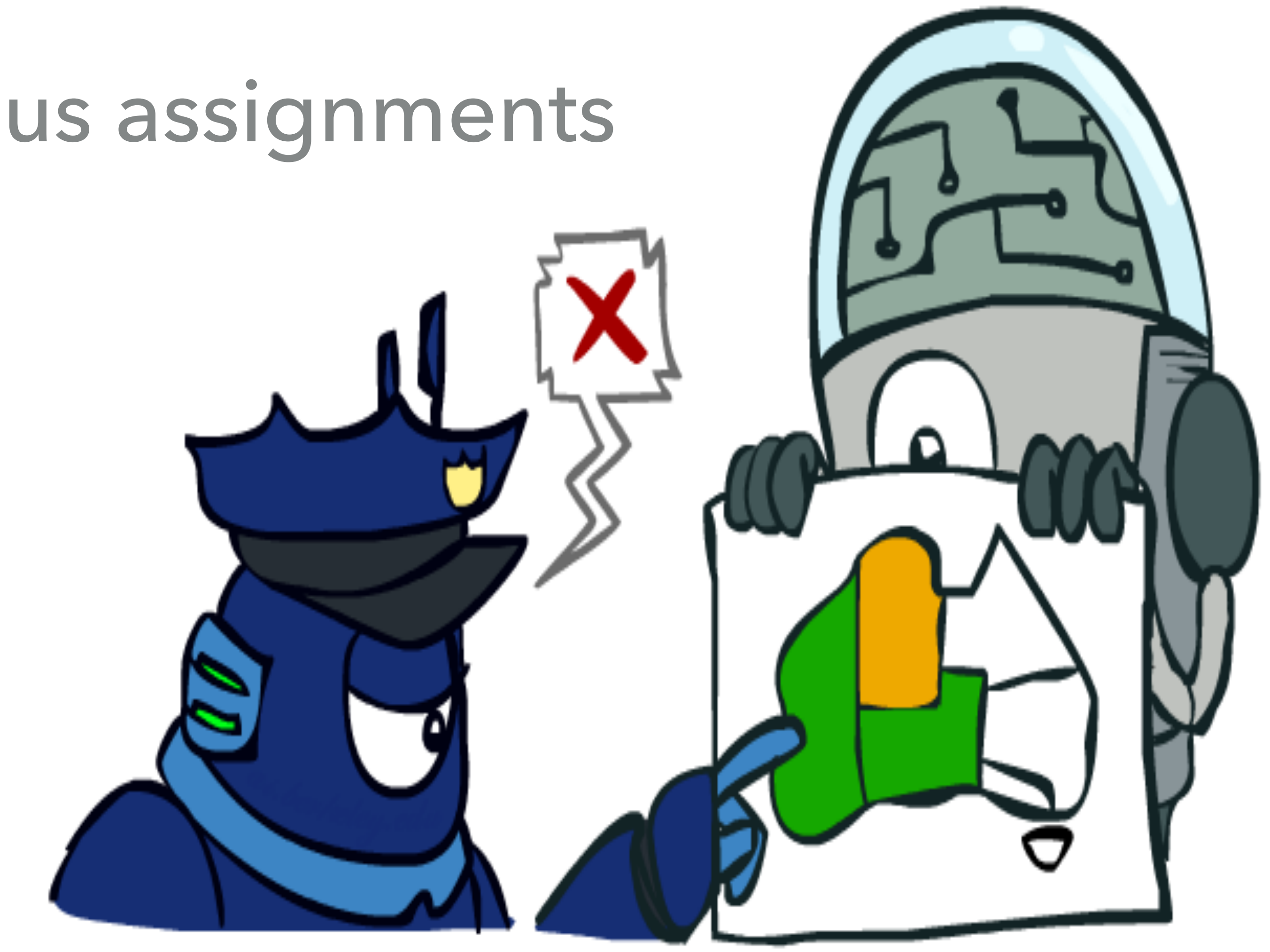


BACKTRACKING SEARCH



BACKTRACKING SEARCH

- Backtracking search is the basic uninformed algorithm for solving CSPs
- Idea 1: One variable at a time
  - Variable assignments are commutative, so fix ordering and only consider assignments to a single variable at each step
  - I.e., [WA = red then NT = green] same as [NT = green then WA = red]
- Idea 2: Check constraints as you go
  - "Incremental goal test" i.e. consider only values which do not conflict previous assignments
  - Might have to do some computation to check the constraints
- Depth-first search with these two improvements is called **backtracking search** (not the best name)
- Can solve n-queens for n ≈ 25



BACKTRACKING EXAMPLE