

REACTO

(Whiteboard) Problem Solving Technique

LOGISTICS

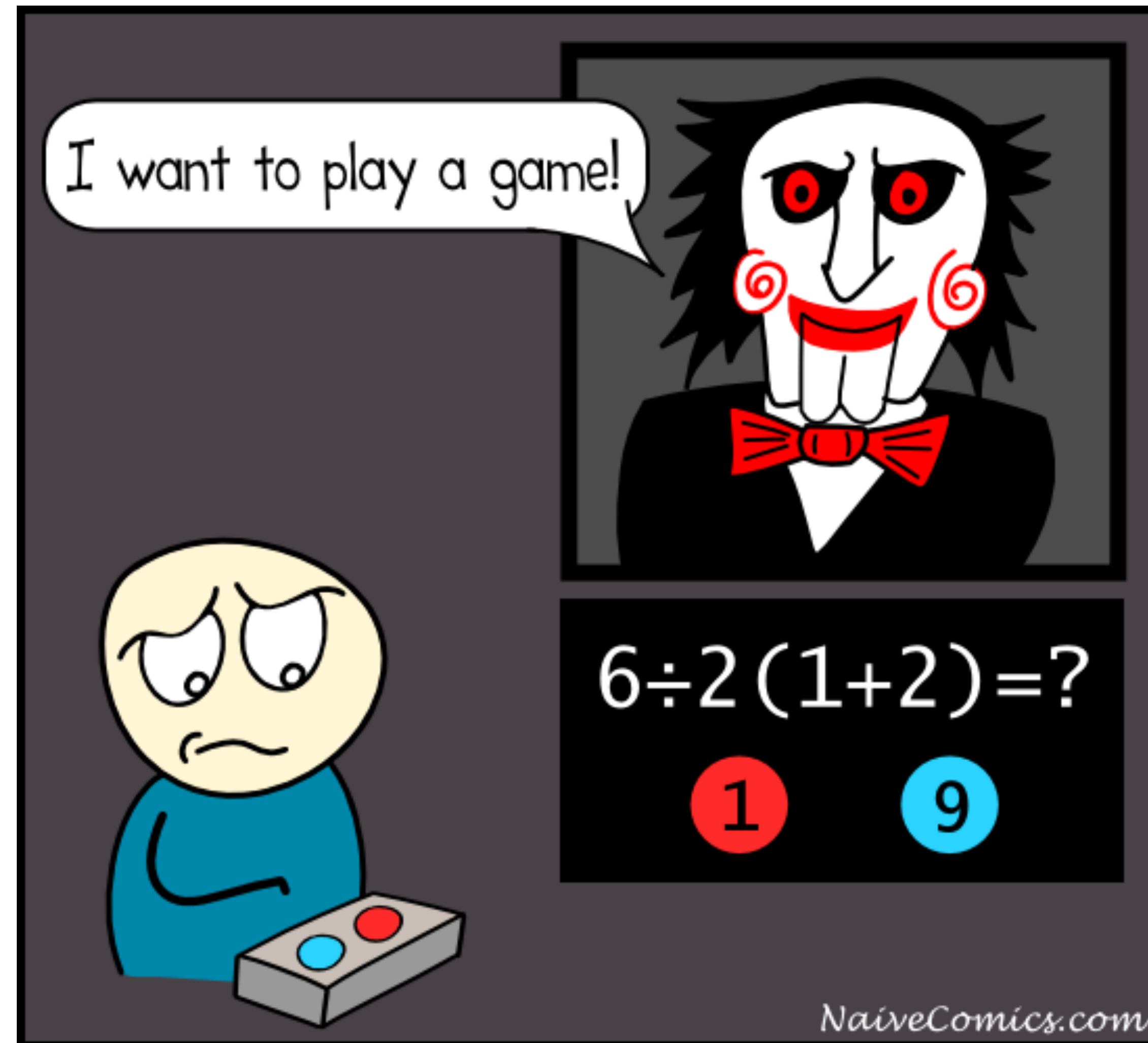
(every morning 09:30–10:30am EST)

- ◉ Random weekly pairs of ‘interviewer’ and ‘candidate’
- ◉ Interviewers study the problem the night before
- ◉ Fellows go over problem with interviewer 15 min
- ◉ Mock interview 30 min
- ◉ Optional review 15 min

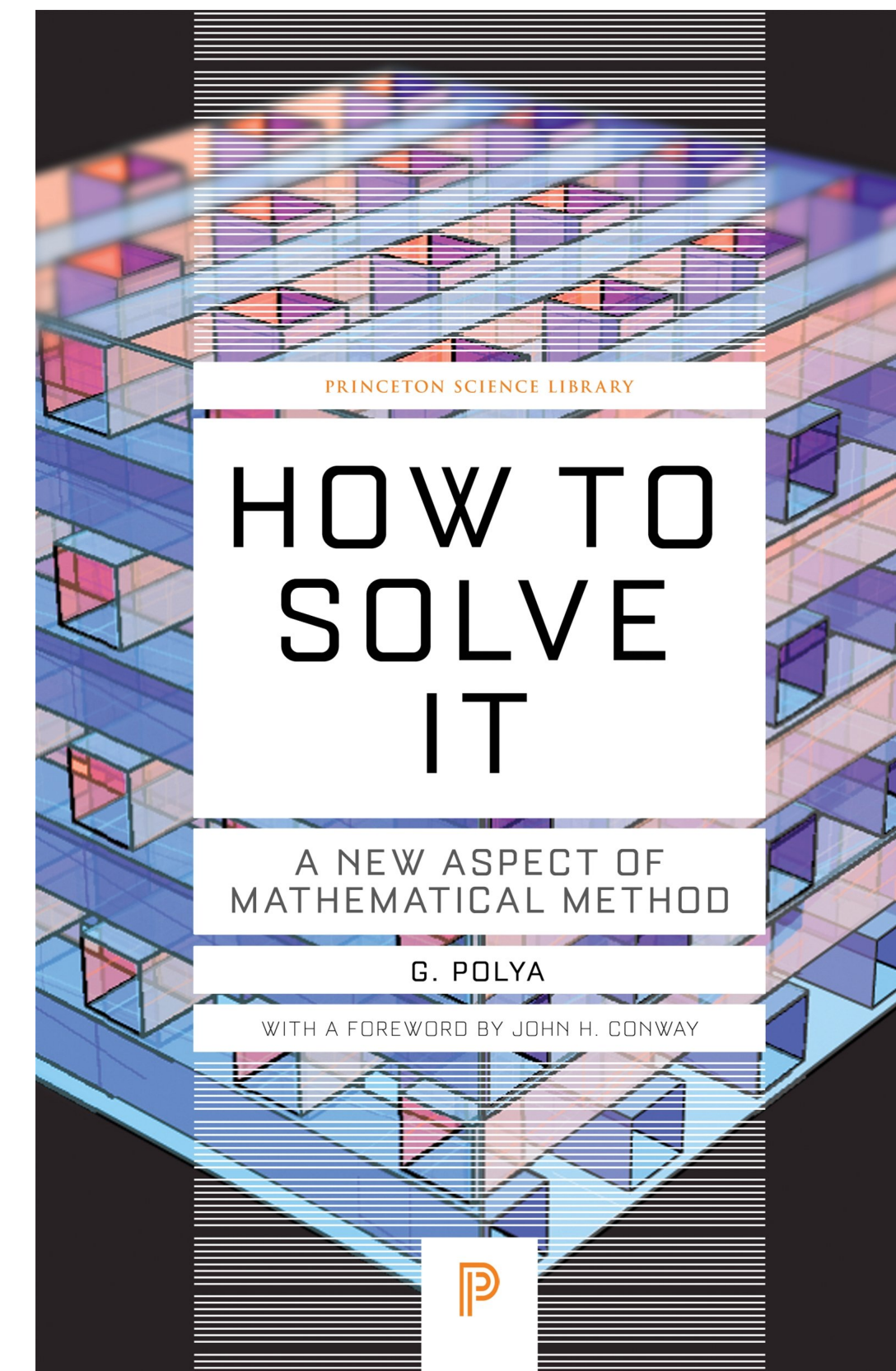
CODE WITHOUT TOOLS

- No internet
- No syntax highlighting
- No linting
- No copy-pasting
- ...Why?

CODE WITHOUT TOOLS

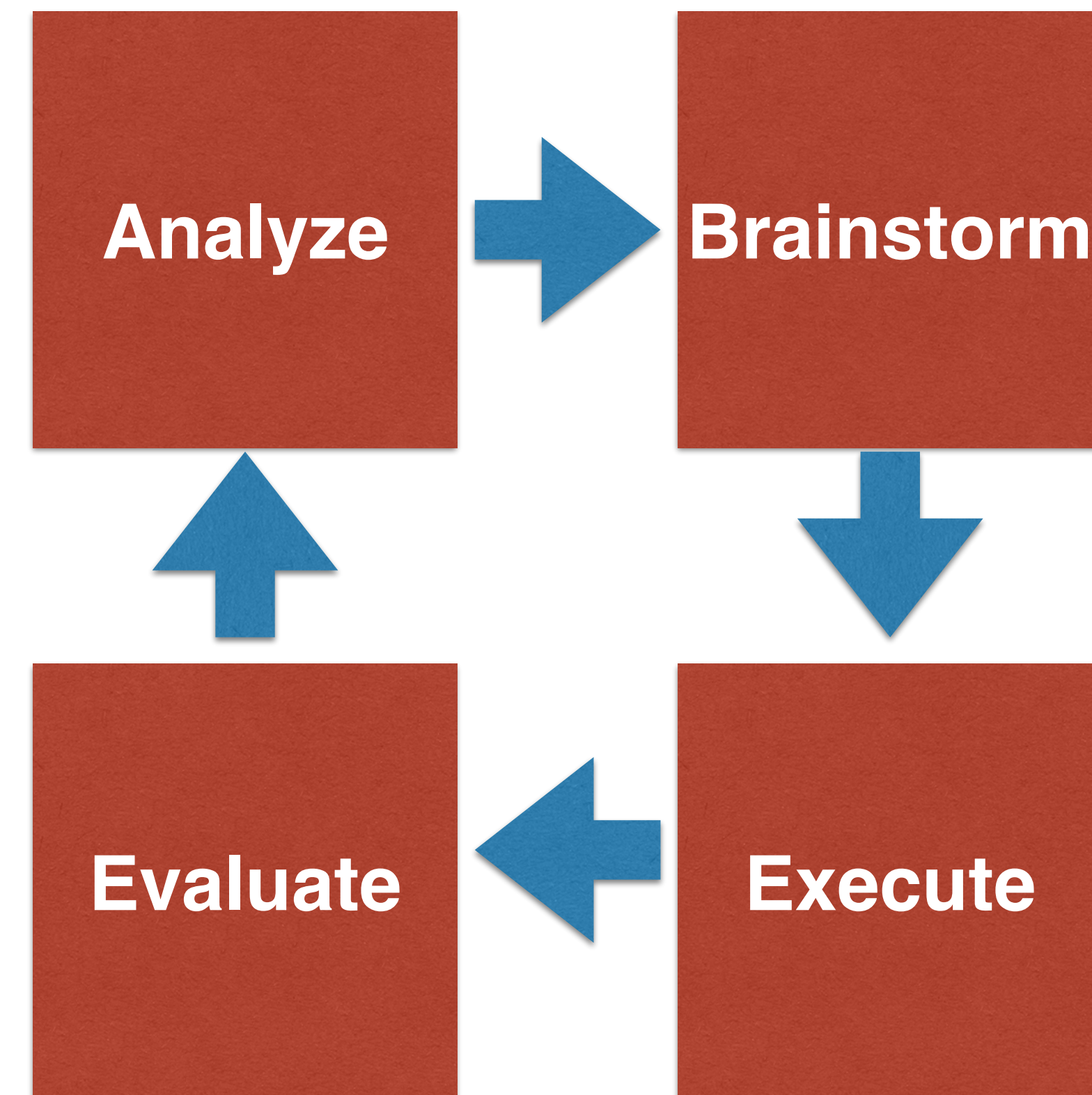


PROBLEM SOLVING



PROBLEM SOLVING

- ◉ Analyze (Understand the Problem)
- ◉ Brainstorm (Devise a Plan)
- ◉ Execute (Carry Out the Plan)
- ◉ Evaluate (Look Back) and
- ◉ (Reflect)



R e s t a t e

E x a m p l e s

A p p r o a c h

Notice how far down this is

C o d e

T e s t

O p t i m i z e

RESTATE

- Restate in your own words (diagram if useful)
- Or ask questions
- Keep going until you understand the problem
- Leads very naturally into...

EXAMPLES

- Representative input and output
- Consider edge cases
- Consider errors
- Write them down

APPROACH

- Don't code!
- Show you can communicate
- Use this time to plan (crucial)
- Really plan...really
- Discuss it before moving on
- Interviewer might want you to outline optimal solution before coding

CODE

- Carefully! (hard to undo/move stuff)
- Write small
- “Breadth first”
- Minimal indenting and line spacing

TEST

- Use Examples
- Be the machine
- Try to prove your code doesn't work
- Leads into...

OPTIMIZE

- How is it now?
- Count the steps (maybe during Tests)
- Count the “space”
- Convert to big O
- How could it be more optimal?

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Think of the interviewer as a collaborator
- Really role play—this is your chance to practice
- Challenge yourself—this is your chance to practice
- Don't cheat—this is your chance to practice
- Enjoy it!