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# *Planning, Execution & Learning*

## *1. Linear & Non-Linear Planning*

Reid Simmons

# *Linear Planning*

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- Basic Idea
  - *Work on one goal until completely solved before moving on to the next goal*
- Planning Algorithm Maintains Goal *Stack*
- Implications
  - No interleaving of goal achievement
  - Efficient search if goals do not interact (much)

# *Means-Ends Analysis*

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- Basic Idea
  - *Search only relevant aspects of problem*
  - What *means* (operators) are available to achieve the desired *ends* (goal)
- Find *difference* between goal and current state
- Find *operator* to reduce difference
- Perform means-ends analysis on new subgoals

# GPS

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- **General Problem Solver** [Newell, Simon, Ernst, 1960's]
  - Introduced concept of means-ends analysis
  - Essentially linear planning using recursive procedure calls as the goal-stack mechanism
- GPS Algorithm (*initial-state, goals*)
  - If  $goals \subseteq initial-state$  then return (*initial-state*, [])
  - **Choose** a difference  $d$  between *initial-state* and *goals*
  - **Choose** an operator  $o$  to reduce the difference  $d$
  - If no applicable operators, then return ( $\emptyset$ , [])
  - $(state, plan) = GPS(initial-state, preconditions(o))$
  - If  $state \neq \emptyset$  then
    - $(state, rest-plan) = GPS(apply(o, state), goals)$
    - $plan = [plan; o; rest-plan]$
  - Return (*state, plan*)

# STRIPS

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- *Stanford Research Institute Problem Solver*  
[Fikes, Nilsson, 1971]
  - Same basic idea as GPS, *but*
  - Solved the frame problem (“STRIPS assumption”)
  - Introduced operator representation
  - Operationalized notion of *difference*, *subgoals*, and operator *application*
  - Dealt (somewhat) with plan execution and learning

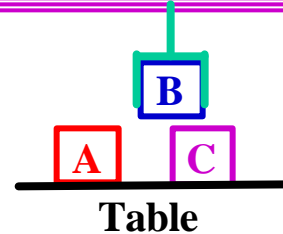
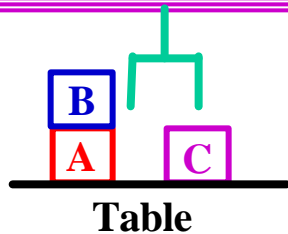
# STRIPS Algorithm

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- STRIPS (*initial-state, goals*)
  - $state = initial-state; plan = []; stack = []$
  - Push *goals* on *stack*
  - Repeat until *stack* is empty
    - If top of *stack* is **goal** that matches *state*, then pop *stack*
    - Else if top of *stack* is a **conjunctive goal**  $g$ , then
      - **Select** an ordering for the subgoals of  $g$ , and push them on *stack*
    - Else if top of *stack* is a **simple goal**  $sg$ , then
      - **Choose** an operator  $o$  whose add-list matches goal  $sg$
      - Replace goal  $sg$  with operator  $o$
      - Push the preconditions of  $o$  on the *stack*
    - Else if top of *stack* is an **operator**  $o$ , then
      - $state = apply(o, state)$
      - $plan = [plan; o]$

# *STRIPS Meets the Blocks World*



Pickup\_from\_table(b)

Pre: Block(b), Handempty  
Clear(b), On(b, Table)

Add: Holding(b)

Delete: Handempty,  
On(b, Table)

Putdown\_on\_table(b)

Pre: Block(b), Holding(b)

Add: Handempty,  
On(b, Table)

Delete: Holding(b)

Pickup\_from\_block(b, c)

Pre: Block(b), Handempty  
Clear(b), On(b, c), Block(c)

Add: Holding(b), Clear(c)

Delete: Handempty,  
On(b, c)

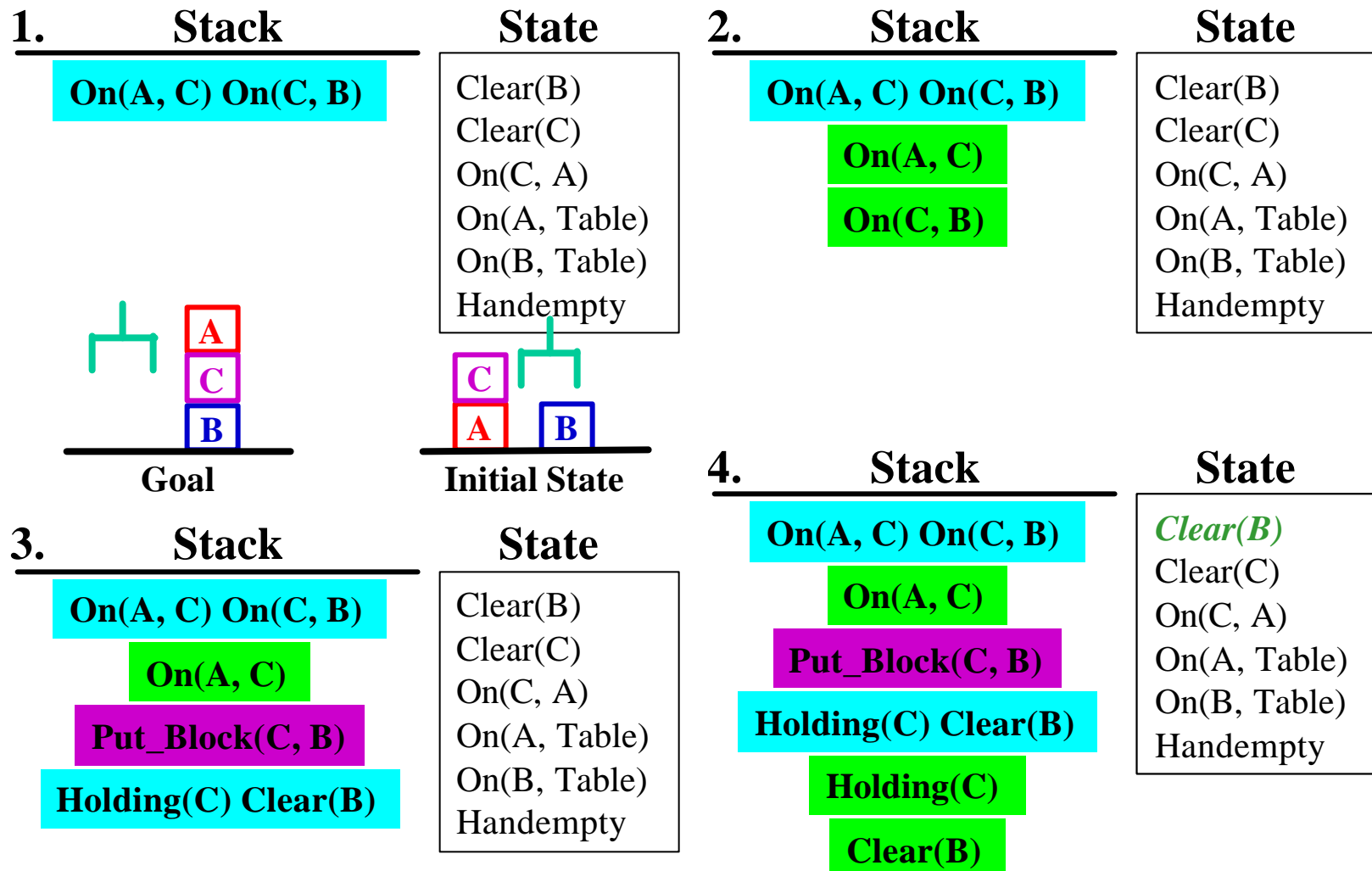
Putdown\_on\_block(b, c)

Pre: Block(b), Holding(b)  
Block(c), Clear(c), b <sup>1</sup> c

Add: Handempty, On(b, c)

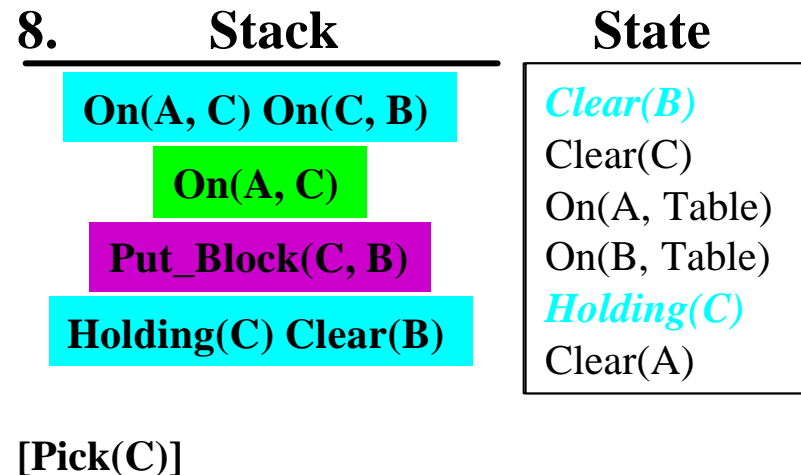
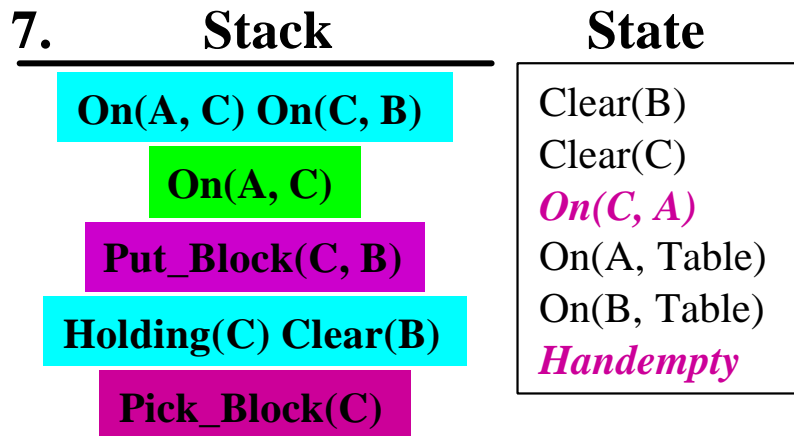
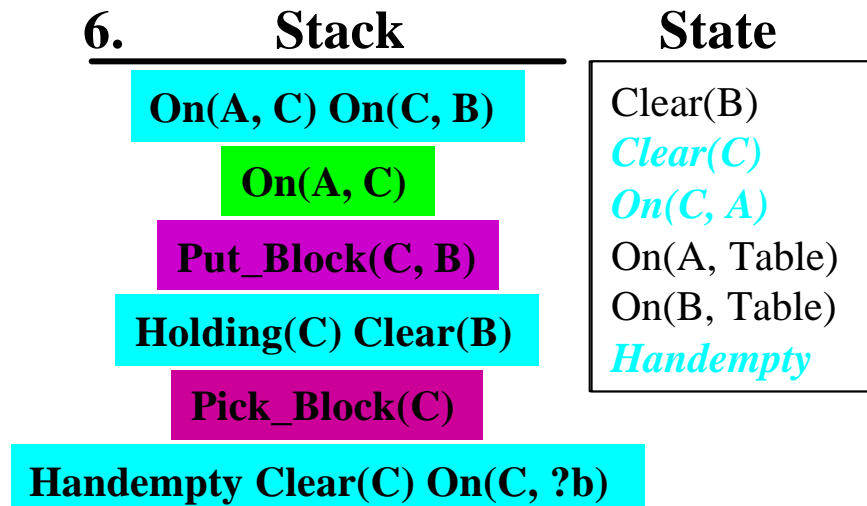
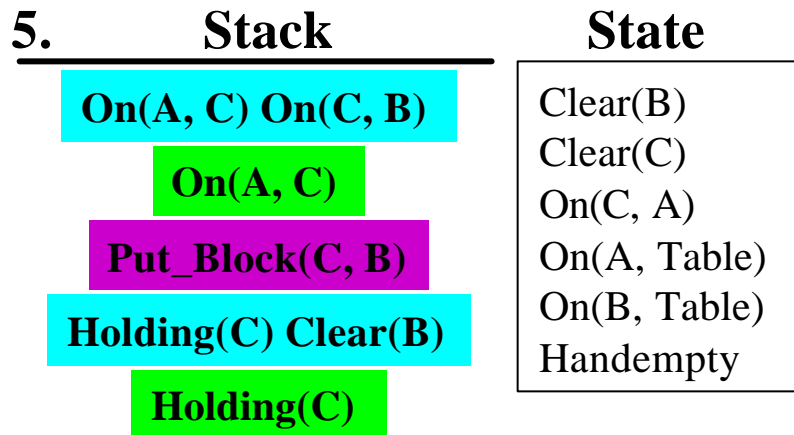
Delete: Holding(b), Clear(c)

# STRIPS Blocks-World Example





# *STRIPS Blocks-World Example*



# *STRIPS Blocks-World Example*

**9.**

Stack	State
On(A, C) On(C, B)	<i>Clear(B)</i> Clear(C) On(A, Table) On(B, Table) <i>Holding(C)</i> Clear(A)
On(A, C)	
Put_Block(C, B)	

[Pick(C)]

**10.**

Stack	State
On(A, C) On(C, B)	Clear(C) On(A, Table) On(B, Table) Clear(A) Handempty On(C, B)
On(A, C)	

[Pick(C); Put(C, B)]

**11.**

Stack	State
On(A, C) On(C, B)	Clear(C) On(A, Table) On(B, Table) Clear(A) Handempty On(C, B)
Put_Block(A, C)	
Holding(A) Clear(C)	

[Pick(C); Put(C, B)]

**12.**

Stack	State
On(A, C) On(C, B)	<i>Clear(C)</i> On(A, Table) On(B, Table) Clear(A) Handempty On(C, B)
Put_Block(A, C)	
Holding(A) Clear(C)	
Holding(A)	
Clear(C)	

[Pick(C); Put(C, B)]

# *STRIPS Blocks-World Example*

**13. Stack**

**On(A, C) On(C, B)**

**Put\_Block(A, C)**

**Holding(A) Clear(C)**

**Holding(A)**

**State**

Clear(C)  
On(A, Table)  
On(B, Table)  
Clear(A)  
Handempty  
On(C, B)

[Pick(C); Put(C, B)]

**15. Stack**

**On(A, C) On(C, B)**

**Put\_Block(A, C)**

**Holding(A) Clear(C)**

**Pick\_Table(A)**

**State**

Clear(C)  
*On(A, Table)*  
On(B, Table)  
Clear(A)  
*Handempty*  
On(C, B)

[Pick(C); Put(C, B)]

**14. Stack**

**On(A, C) On(C, B)**

**Put\_Block(A, C)**

**Holding(A) Clear(C)**

**Pick\_Table(A)**

**Handempty Clear(A)  
On(A, Table)**

**State**

Clear(C)  
*On(A, Table)*  
On(B, Table)  
*Clear(A)*  
*Handempty*  
On(C, B)

[Pick(C); Put(C, B)]

**16. Stack**

**On(A, C) On(C, B)**

**Put\_Block(A, C)**

**Holding(A) Clear(C)**

**State**

*Clear(C)*  
On(B, Table)  
Clear(A)  
On(C, B)  
*Holding(A)*

[Pick(C); Put(C, B); PickT(A)]

# *STRIPS Blocks-World Example*

17. Stack

On(A, C) On(C, B)

Put\_Block(A, C)

State

*Clear(C)*  
On(B, Table)  
Clear(A)  
On(C, B)  
*Holding(A)*

18. Stack

On(A, C) On(C, B)

State

On(B, Table)  
Clear(A)  
*On(C, B)*  
Handempty  
*On(A, C)*

[Pick(C); Put(C, B); PickT(A)]

[Pick(C); Put(C, B); PickT(A); Put(A, C)]

19. Stack

State

On(B, Table)  
Clear(A)  
On(C, B)  
Handempty  
On(A, C)

[Pick(C); Put(C, B); PickT(A); Put(A, C)]

# Properties of Planning Algorithms

- **Soundness**
  - A planning algorithm is *sound* if all solutions found are legal plans
    - All preconditions and goals are satisfied
    - No constraints are violated (temporal, variable binding)
- **Completeness**
  - A planning algorithm is *complete* if a solution can be found whenever one actually exists
  - A planning algorithm is *strictly complete* if all solutions are included in the search space
- **Optimality**
  - A planning algorithm is *optimal* if the order in which solutions are found is consistent with some measure of plan quality

# *Linear Planning: Discussion*

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- **Advantages**

- Reduced search space, since goals are solved one at a time
- Advantageous if goals are (mainly) independent
- Linear planning is *sound*

- **Disadvantages**

- Linear planning may produce *suboptimal* solutions (based on the number of operators in the plan)
- Linear planning is *incomplete*

## *Suboptimal Plans*

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- Result of linearity, *goal interactions* and poor *goal ordering*

Load(o, p, loc)

Pre: At(o, loc), At(p, loc)

Add: Inside(o, p)

Delete: At(o, loc)

Unload(o, p, loc)

Pre: Inside(o, p), At(p, loc)

Add: At(o, loc)

Delete: Inside(o, p)

Fly(p, from, to)

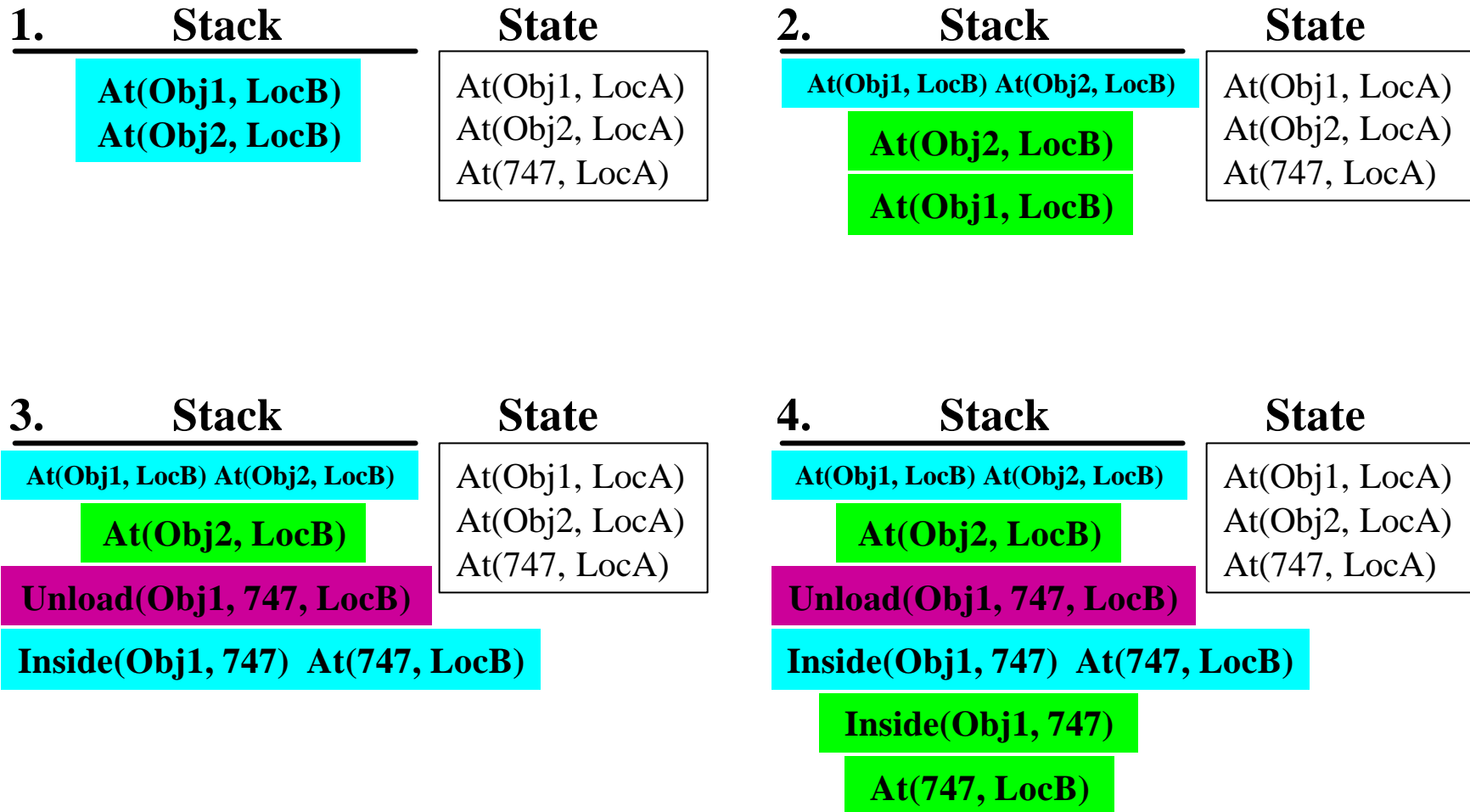
Pre: At(p, from)

Add: At(p, to)

Delete: At(p, from)

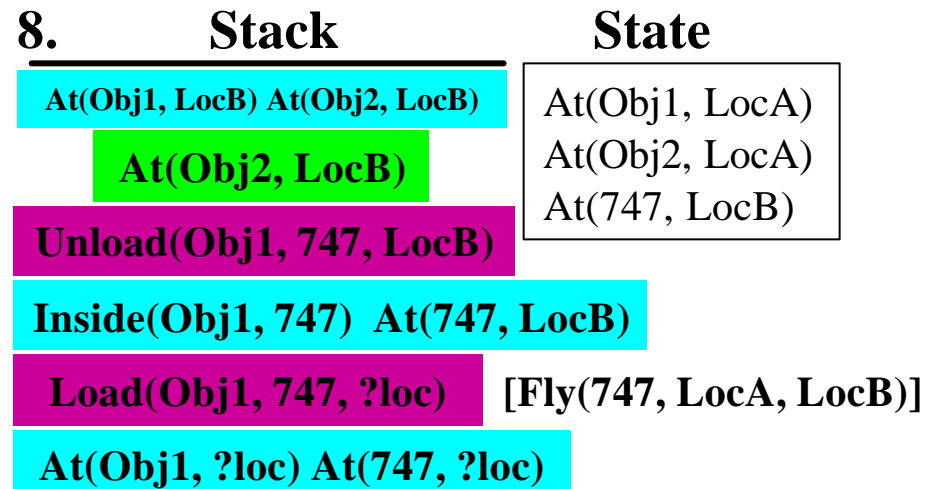
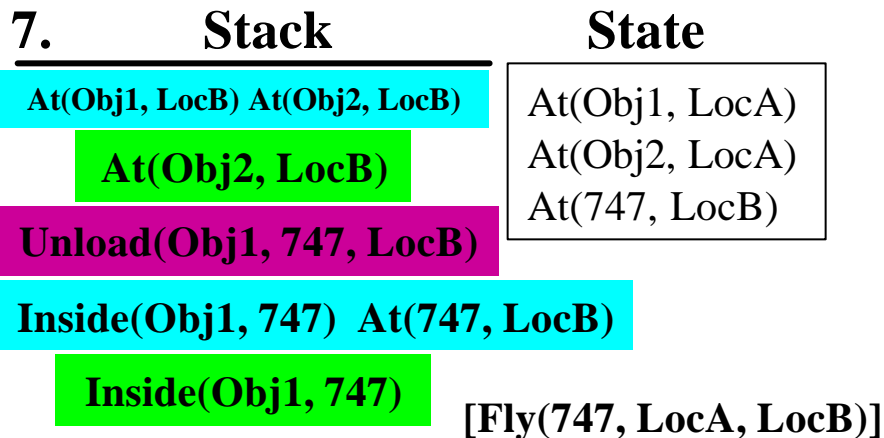
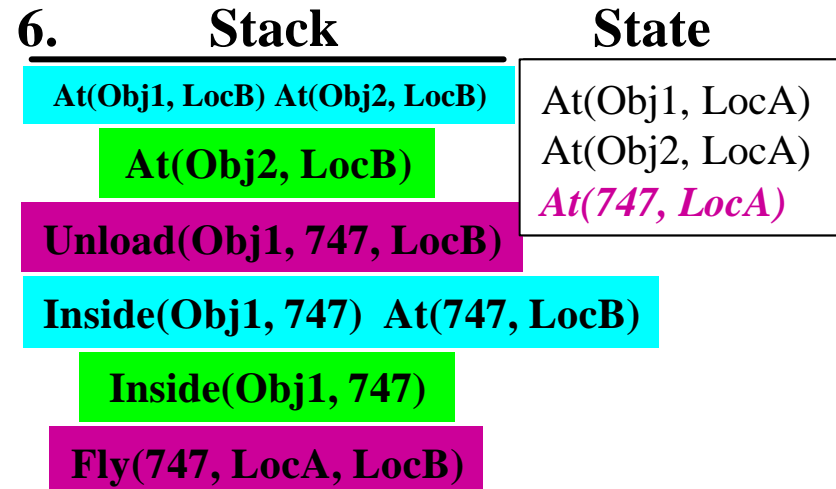
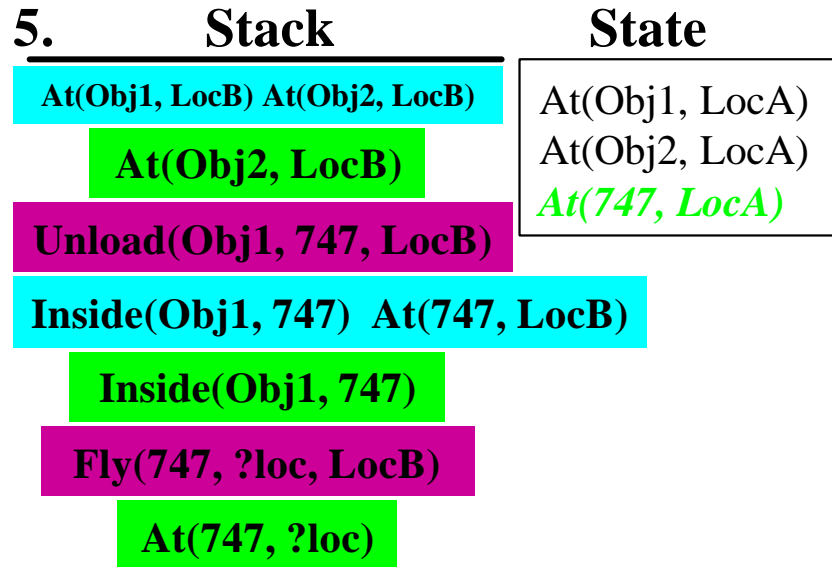
- Initial State: At(Obj1, LocA), At(Obj2, LocA), At(747, LocA)
- Goals: At(Obj1, LocB), At(Obj2, LocB)
- Plan: [**Load(Obj1, 747, LocA); Fly(747, LocA, LocB);**  
**Unload(Obj1, 747, LocB); Fly(747, LocB, LocA);**  
**Load(Obj2, 747, LocA); Fly(747, LocA, LocB); Unload(Obj2, 747, LocB)**]

# *STRIPS and the FedEx World*





# STRIPS and the FedEx World



# *STRIPS and the FedEx World*

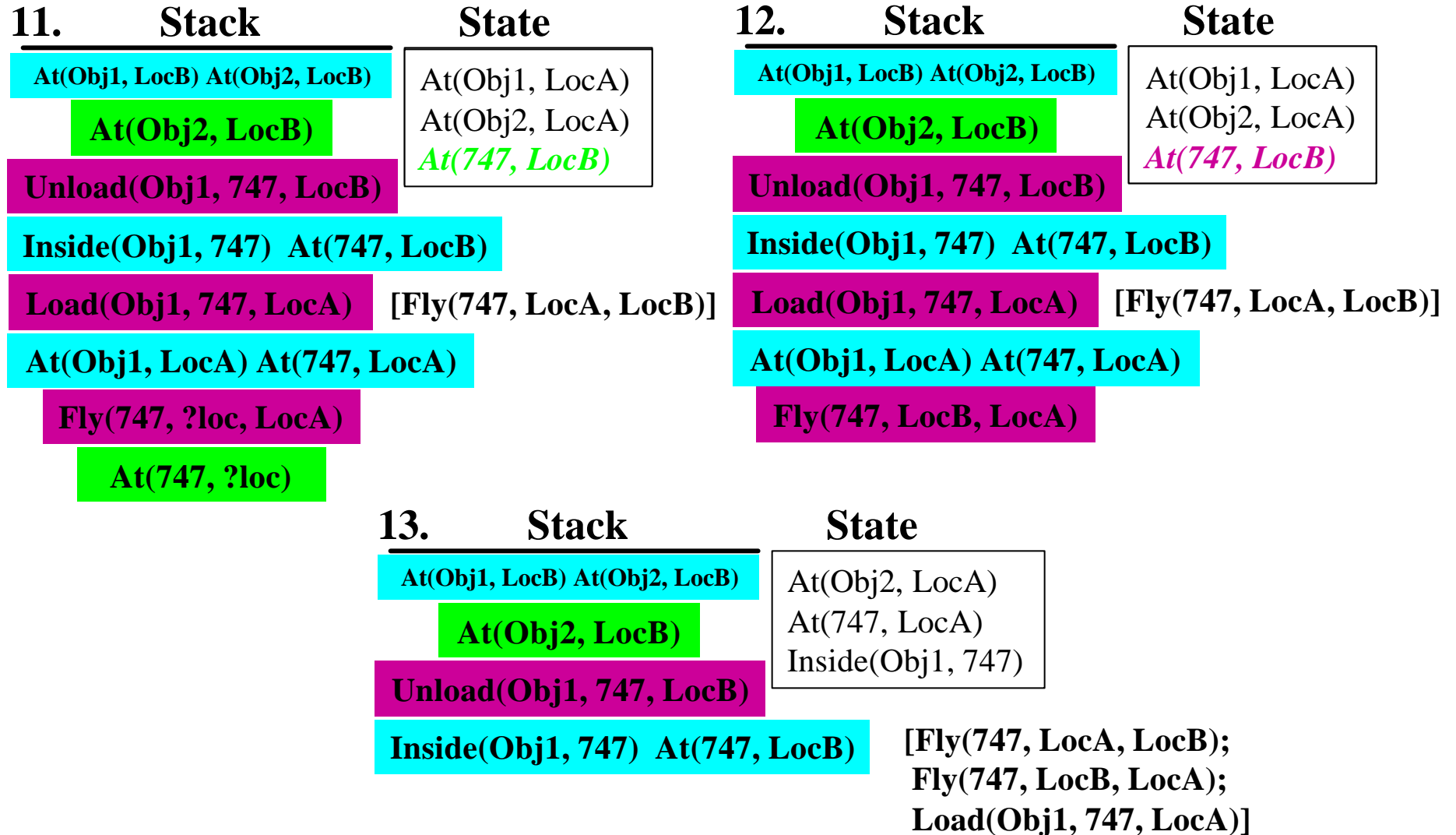
**9. Stack State**

At(Obj1, LocB) At(Obj2, LocB)	<i>At(Obj1, LocA)</i> At(Obj2, LocA) At(747, LocA)
At(Obj2, LocB)	
Unload(Obj1, 747, LocB)	
Inside(Obj1, 747) At(747, LocB)	
Load(Obj1, 747, ?loc)	[Fly(747, LocA, LocB)]
At(Obj1, ?loc) At(747, ?loc)	
At(747, ?loc)	
At(Obj1, ?loc)	

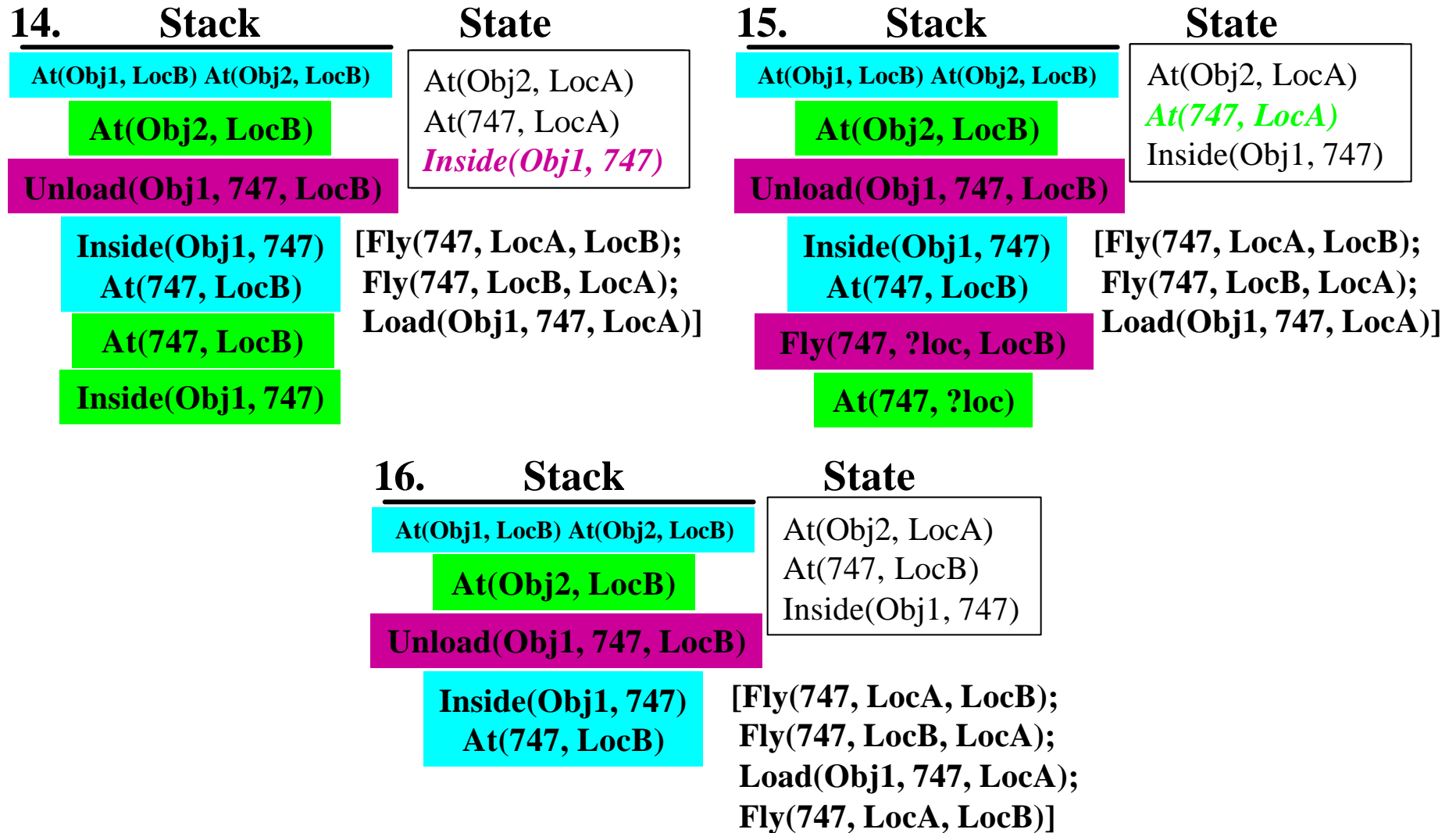
**10. Stack State**

At(Obj1, LocB) At(Obj2, LocB)	At(Obj1, LocA) At(Obj2, LocA) At(747, LocB)
At(Obj2, LocB)	
Unload(Obj1, 747, LocB)	
Inside(Obj1, 747) At(747, LocB)	
Load(Obj1, 747, LocA)	[Fly(747, LocA, LocB)]
At(Obj1, LocA) At(747, LocA)	
At(747, LocA)	

# *STRIPS and the FedEx World*



# STRIPS and the FedEx World



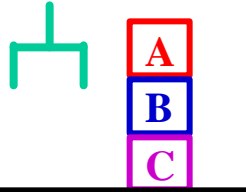
# The “Sussman Anomaly”

## 1. Stack

On(A, B) On(B, C)

On(A, B)

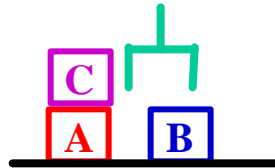
On(B, C)



Goal

## State

Clear(B)  
Clear(C)  
On(C, A)  
On(A, Table)  
On(B, Table)  
Handempty



Initial State

## 2. Stack

On(A, B) On(B, C)

On(B, C)

Put\_Block(A, B)

Holding(A) Clear(B)

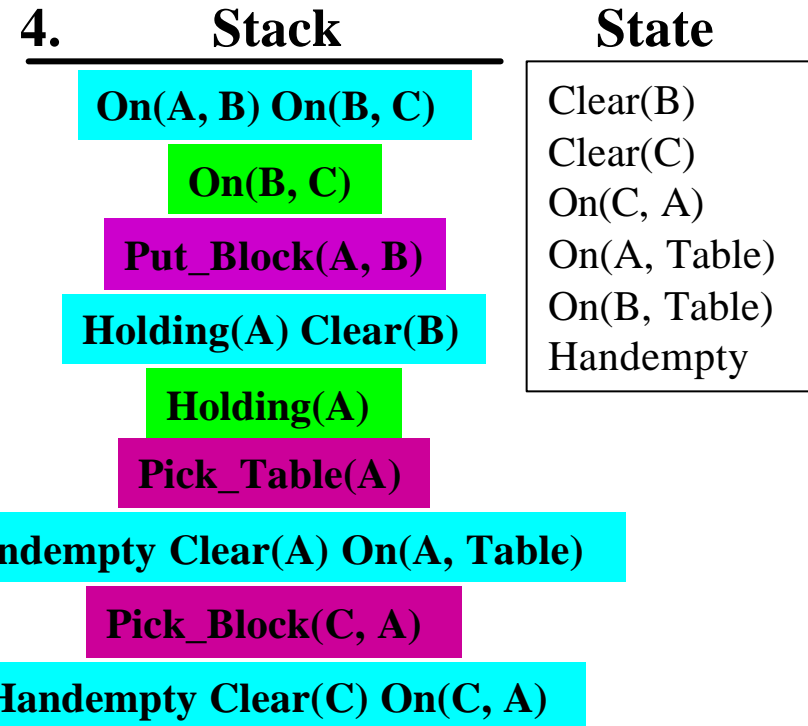
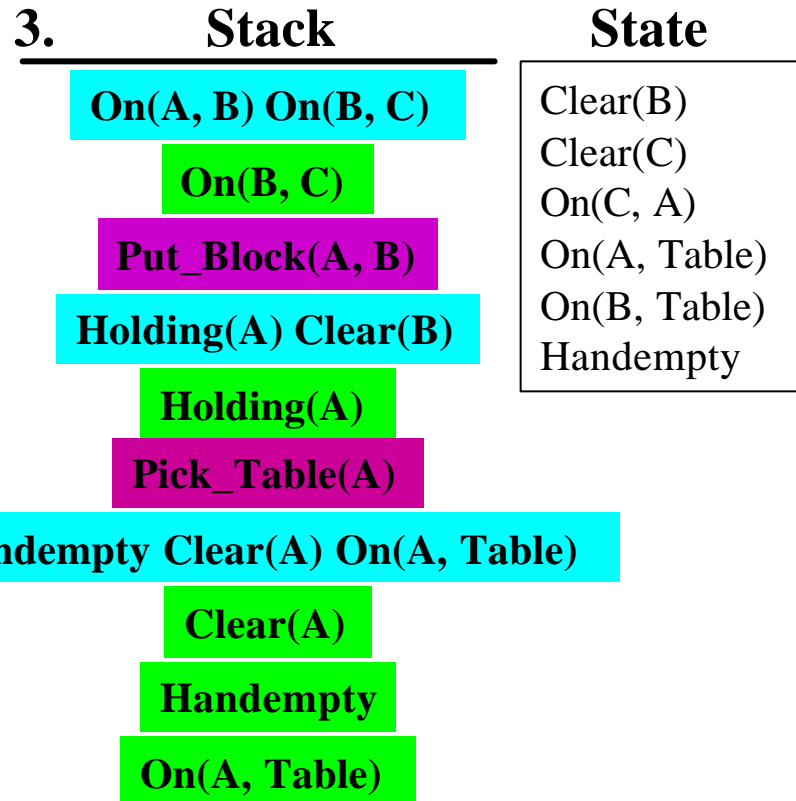
Holding(A)

Clear(B)

## State

Clear(B)  
Clear(C)  
On(C, A)  
On(A, Table)  
On(B, Table)  
Handempty

# The “Sussman Anomaly”



# The “Sussman Anomaly”

5. **Stack**

On(A, B) On(B, C)

On(B, C)

Put\_Block(A, B)

Holding(A) Clear(B)

Holding(A)

Pick\_Table(A)

Handempty Clear(A) On(A, Table)

[Pick(C,A)]

**State**

Clear(B)  
Clear(C)  
On(A, Table)  
On(B, Table)  
Holding(C)

6. **Stack**

On(A, B) On(B, C)

On(B, C)

Put\_Block(A, B)

Holding(A) Clear(B)

Holding(A)

Pick\_Table(A)

Handempty Clear(A) On(A, Table)

Put\_Table(C)

Holding(C)

[Pick(C,A)]

**State**

Clear(B)  
Clear(C)  
On(A, Table)  
On(B, Table)  
Holding(C)

# The “Sussman Anomaly”

**7. Stack**

**On(A, B) On(B, C)**

**On(B, C)**

[Pick(C,A); PutT(C);  
PickT(A); Put(A, B)]

**State**

Clear(C)  
On(B, Table)  
On(C, Table)  
Clear(A)  
On(A, B)  
Handempty

**8. Stack**

**On(A, B) On(B, C)**

[Pick(C,A); PutT(C);  
PickT(A); Put(A, B);  
Pick(A, B); PutT(A);  
PickT(B); Put(B, C)]

**State**

On(C, Table)  
Clear(B)  
Clear(A)  
On(A, Table)  
On(B, C)  
Handempty

**9. Stack**

**On(A, B) On(B, C)**

**On(A, B)**

**On(B, C)**

[Pick(C,A); PutT(C);  
PickT(A); Put(A, B);  
Pick(A, B); PutT(A);  
PickT(B); Put(B, C)]

**State**

On(C, Table)  
Clear(B)  
Clear(A)  
On(A, Table)  
On(B, C)  
Handempty

**10. Stack**

**On(A, B) On(B, C)**

[Pick(C,A); PutT(C);  
PickT(A); Put(A, B);  
Pick(A, B); PutT(A);  
PickT(B); Put(B, C);  
PickT(A); Put(A, B)]

**State**

On(C, Table)  
Clear(A)  
On(B, C)  
On(A, B)  
Handempty



# *Unsolvable Problems*

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- Result of linearity and poor *irreversible actions*

Load(o, p, loc)

Pre: At(o, loc), At(p, loc)

Add: Inside(o, p)

Delete: At(o, loc)

Unload(o, p, loc)

Pre: Inside(o, p), At(p, loc)

Add: At(o, loc)

Delete: Inside(o, p)

Fly(p, from, to)

Pre: At(p, from), **Have-Fuel(p)**

Add: At(p, to)

Delete: At(p, from), **Have-Fuel(p)**

- Initial State: At(Obj1, LocA), At(Obj2, LocA), At(747, LocA),  
Have-Fuel(747)
- Goals: At(Obj1, LocB), At(Obj2, LocB)

# *STRIPS and the UPS World*

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- I: Try Achieving Goal *At(Obj1, LocB)* First
  - [Load(Obj1, LocA, 747); Fly(747, LocA, LocB);  
Unload(Obj1, 747, LocB)]
  - But, now cannot achieve Fly(747, LocB, LocA), since no fuel!
- II: Try Achieving Goal *At(Obj2, LocB)* First
  - [Load(Obj2, LocA, 747); Fly(747, LocA, LocB);  
Unload(Obj2, 747, LocB)]
  - But, now cannot achieve Fly(747, LocB, LocA), since no fuel!
- *Either way, the problem is unsolvable by STRIPS*

# *Non-Linear Planning*

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- Basic Idea
  - Use goal *set* instead of goal stack
  - Include in the search space all possible subgoal orderings
    - Handles goal interactions by *interleaving*
- Advantages
  - Non-linear planning is *sound*
  - Non-linear planning is *complete*
  - Non-linear planning may be *optimal* with respect to plan length (depending on search strategy employed)
- Disadvantages
  - Larger search space, since all possible goal orderings may have to be considered
  - Somewhat more complex algorithm; More bookkeeping

# Non-Linear Planning Algorithm

- NLP (*initial-state*, *goals*)
  - $state = initial-state$ ;  $plan = []$ ;  $goalset = goals$ ;  $opstack = []$
  - Repeat until *goalset* is empty
    - **Choose** a goal *g* from the *goalset*
    - If *g* does not match *state*, then
      - **Choose** an operator *o* whose add-list matches goal *g*
      - Push *o* on the *opstack*
      - Add the preconditions of *o* to the *goalset*
    - While all preconditions of operator on top of *opstack* are met in *state*
      - Pop operator *o* from top of *opstack*
      - $state = apply(o, state)$
      - $plan = [plan; o]$

# *Non-Linear FedEx World*

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	<b>Goals</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Ops</b>	<b>Plan</b>
<b>1.</b>	At(Obj1, LocB) <i>At(Obj2, LocB)</i>	At(Obj1, LocA) At(Obj2, LocA) At(747, LocA)		[]
<b>2.</b>	At(Obj1, LocB) <i>Inside(Obj2, 747)</i> At(747, LocB)	At(Obj1, LocA) At(Obj2, LocA) At(747, LocA)	Unload(Obj2, 747, LocB)	[]
<b>3.</b>	At(Obj1, LocB) At(747, LocB) <i>At(747, ?loc1)</i> <i>At(Obj1, ?loc1)</i>	At(Obj1, LocA) At(Obj2, LocA) At(747, LocA)	Load(Obj2, 747, ?loc1) Unload(Obj2, 747, LocB)	[]
<b>4.</b>	At(Obj1, LocB) At(747, LocB)	At(Obj1, LocA) At(747, LocA) Inside(Obj2, 747)	Unload(Obj2, 747, LocB)	[Load(Obj2, 747, LocA)]

# *Non-Linear FedEx World*

	<b>Goals</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Ops</b>	<b>Plan</b>
<b>5.</b>	<i>At(Obj1, LocB)</i> At(747, LocB)	At(Obj1, LocA) At(747, LocA) Inside(Obj2, 747)	Unload(Obj2, 747, LocB)	[Load(Obj2, 747, LocA)]
<b>6.</b>	At(747, LocB) <i>Inside(Obj1, 747)</i>	At(Obj1, LocA) At(747, LocA) Inside(Obj2, 747)	Unload(Obj1, 747, LocB) Unload(Obj2, 747, LocB)	[Load(Obj2, 747, LocA)]
<b>7.</b>	At(747, LocB) <i>At(747, ?loc2)</i> <i>At(Obj1, ?loc2)</i>	At(Obj1, LocA) At(747, LocA) Inside(Obj2, 747)	Load(Obj1, 747, ?loc2) Unload(Obj1, 747, LocB) Unload(Obj2, 747, LocB)	[Load(Obj2, 747, LocA)]
<b>8.</b>	<i>At(747, LocB)</i>	At(747, LocA) Inside(Obj2, 747) Inside(Obj1, 747)	Unload(Obj1, 747, LocB) Unload(Obj2, 747, LocB)	[Load(Obj2, 747, LocA); Load(Obj1, 747, LocA)]

# *Non-Linear FedEx World*

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	<b>Goals</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Ops</b>	<b>Plan</b>
<b>9.</b>	<i>At(747, LocA)</i>	At(747, LocA) Inside(Obj2, 747) Inside(Obj1, 747)	Fly(747, LocA, LocB) Unload(Obj1, 747, LocB) Unload(Obj2, 747, LocB)	[Load(Obj2, 747, LocA); Load(Obj1, 747, LocA)]
<b>10.</b>		At(747, LocB) Inside(Obj2, 747) Inside(Obj1, 747)	Unload(Obj1, 747, LocB) Unload(Obj2, 747, LocB)	[Load(Obj2, 747, LocA); Load(Obj1, 747, LocA); Fly(747, LocA, LocB)]
<b>11.</b>		At(747, LocB) At(Obj2, LocB) At(Obj1, LocB)		[Load(Obj2, 747, LocA); Load(Obj1, 747, LocA); Fly(747, LocA, LocB); Unload(Obj1, 747, LocB); Unload(Obj2, 747, LocB)]