

## Overview of Ch 6: Behavioral Views of Learning

- Understanding Learning
- The ABC's of Behavior
- Classical Conditioning
- Operant Conditioning
- Classroom Behavioral Interventions
- Problems & Issues
- Social Learning Theory



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## What is behavioral Learning?

- Definition of Learning: Relatively permanent change in behavior or knowledge as a result of experience
- The ABC's of Behavior:  
Antecedents → Behavior → Consequences  
So, can control B by manipulating A's & C's

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## Respondent (Classical) Conditioning

- Respondents: Involuntary responses
  - Conditioning involves pairing 2 stimuli.
  - Behavior is elicited
  - Control by antecedents
- Conditioned reflexes: Pavlov's dilemma
- Conditioned Emotional Responses: Watson's experiment
- Extinction & spontaneous recovery
- Generalization, Discrimination



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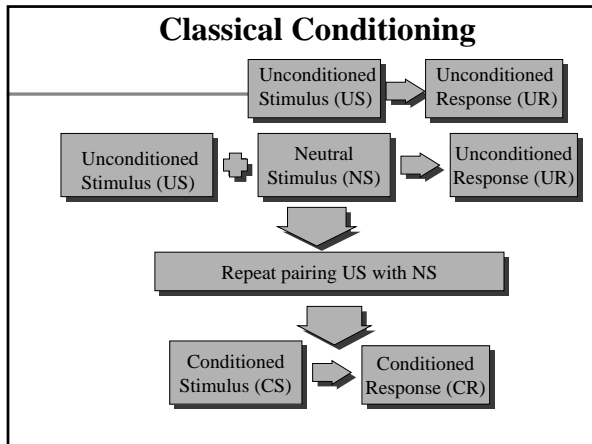
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- ### Factors Influencing Classical Conditioning
- Number of pairings
  - Consistency
  - Timing of the CS & US: Trace, delay, simultaneous, or backward conditioning

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- ### Operant Conditioning
- Operants: deliberate actions
    - Involves response contingent consequences
    - Behavior is emitted
    - Control by consequences
  - Thorndike's Law of Effect 

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## Skinner's Research

- Skinner's Box (Operant Conditioning Chamber)
- Reinforcement: Consequence that immediately follows the behavior & results in behavior being more likely to occur in the future
  - Positive reinforcement: desirable stimulus presented
  - Negative reinforcement: aversive stimulus removed
- Punishment: Consequence that immediately follows the behavior & results in behavior being less likely to occur in the future
  - Positive punishment: aversive stimulus presented
  - Negative punishment: desirable stimulus removed
- Conditioned (secondary) reinforcers & punishers
- Premack principle

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## Kinds of Reinforcement & Punishment

	Behavior encouraged	Behavior suppressed
Stimulus presented	Positive (presentation) Reinforcement	Positive (Presentation) Punishment
Stimulus removed or withheld	Negative (Removal) Reinforcement	Negative (Removal) Punishment

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## Some Commonly Confused Terms

- Punishment vs. retribution for wrongdoing
- Negative punishment vs. extinction
- Ignoring the behavior and extinction

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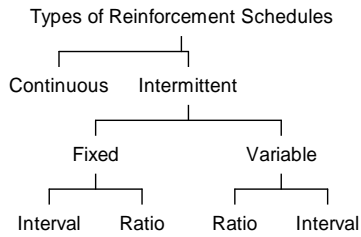
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## Reinforcement Schedules



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## Factors Influencing Operant Conditioning

- Immediacy
- Consistency
- Schedules of reinforcement
- Which schedules of reinforcement are best for
  - Establishing the behavior?
  - Building persistence?
  - increasing rate of performance?

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## Notes

- Note #1: Positive & negative reinforcement often occur in the same situation. Ex. Tantrum in a grocery store
- Note #2: Operant & respondent behavior often occur together. Ex. Running from a dog.

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## Behavioral Interventions in the classroom

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- Antecedents control
  - Provide info about expected behaviors
  - Cueing: used to signal when a behavior should be emitted
  - Prompting: used to get the right behavior to occur at the right time.
- Consequences control: Shaping, token economy, time out, response cost, & positive practice

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## Shaping

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- Reinforcement of successive approximations of a target behavior that does not currently exist.
  - Used when instructions & modeling not applicable or not effective
  - Sometimes used accidentally to develop problem behaviors

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## Token Economy

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- Involves systematic use of conditioned reinforcers (tokens) to increase desirable behaviors.
  - Tokens easy to deliver & accumulate & not readily accessible
  - Present tokens immediately after behavior & pair token delivery with descriptive praise
  - Tokens exchanged for back-up reinforcers. Best to have a variety
  - Begin with a continuous schedule of reinforcement & a generous exchange rate
  - Fade tokens gradually & let natural reinforcers maintain target behavior

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## Time Out

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- Following problem behavior, child immediately removed from all reinforcement
  - Provide no attention when taking child to time out
  - Time out must be brief, practical, & safe
  - Child must be calm before release
  - Time-in environment must be reinforcing

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## Response Cost

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- Contingent on the problem behavior a reinforcer is immediately removed
  - Reinforcer lost must be large & important
  - Symbolize the reinforcer loss if not immediate
  - Use reinforcement of desirable behavior with response cost
  - Consider ethical issues

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## Positive Practice

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- Contingent on problem behavior, the individual has to engage in correct forms of relevant behavior for a period of time.
  - Caution

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## Problems & Issues

- Side Effects of Punishment
  - Escape/avoidance behaviors negatively reinforced
  - Modeling the use of punishment
  - Use of punishment negatively reinforced
  - User established as a conditioned punisher
  - Ethical issues
- Effects of use of extrinsic rewards
- Effect of satiation on motivation



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## Social Learning Theory

- Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory:
  - Reciprocal determinism: behavior is influenced by & also influences both internal factors (observations & expectations) & external factors (conditioning)
  - Observational learning (modeling)
    - » Attention: affected by competence, popularity, & similarity of model
    - » Analysis & Retention: affected by one's developmental status & rehearsal
    - » decision making: affected by one's goals, motivation level & vicarious conditioning (leads to strengthening/weakening of inhibitions)
    - » reproduction

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