

Pavlov's Classical Conditioning

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BY:-MRS.RINKI KUMARI
DEPTT.OF EDUCATION
MMHA&PU,PATNA

Behavioral Learning Theory

According to the behaviorists, learning can be defined as “the relatively permanent change in behavior brought about as a result of experience or practice.”

Behaviorists recognize that learning is an internal event.

Behavioral Learning Theory

- **The term "learning theory" is often associated with the behavioral view.**
- **The focus of the behavioral approach is on how the environment impacts overt behavior.**

Behavioral Learning Theory

The behavioral learning theory is represented as an S-R paradigm. The organism is treated as a “black box.” We only know what is going on inside the box by the organism’s response.



Behavioral Learning Theory

There are three types of behavioral learning theories:

- Contiguity theory**
- Classical or respondent conditioning theory**
- Operant or instrumental conditioning theory**

Classical Conditioning Theory

Classical conditioning was the first type of learning to be discovered and studied within the behaviorist tradition. Conditioning is a kind of response build up through repeated exposure.

The major theorist in the development of classical conditioning is Ivan Pavlov, a Russian scientist trained in biology and medicine .

Classical Conditioning Theory

Pavlov was studying the digestive system of dogs and became intrigued with his observation that dogs deprived of food began to salivate when one of his assistants walked into the room.

He began to investigate this phenomena and established the laws of classical conditioning.

Classical Conditioning Theory

- **General model: Stimulus (S) elicits
>Response (R)**
- **Classical conditioning starts with a reflex (R):
an innate, involuntary behavior.**
- **This involuntary behavior is elicited or caused
by an antecedent environmental event.**

Classical Conditioning Theory

The specific model for classical conditioning is:

- **A stimulus will naturally (without learning) elicit or bring about a reflexive response**
- **Unconditioned Stimulus (US) elicits > Unconditioned Response (UR)**

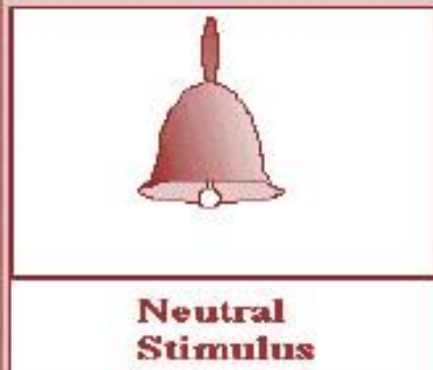
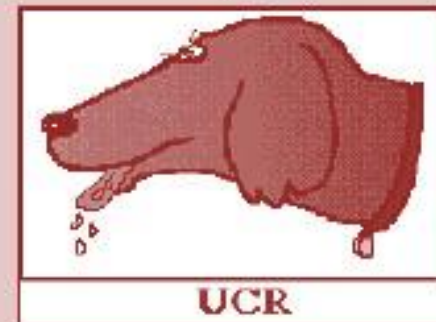
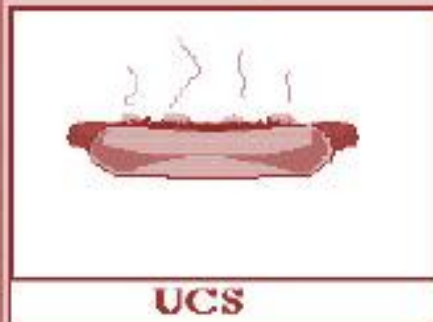
Classical Conditioning Theory

The specific model for classical conditioning is:

- **Neutral Stimulus (NS) --- does not elicit the response of interest**
- **This stimulus is a neutral stimulus since it does not elicit the Unconditioned (or reflexive) Response.**

Classical Conditioning

Before Conditioning



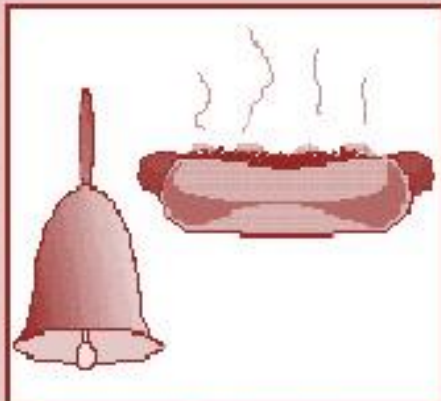
UCS automatically produces UCR.
Neutral stimulus does not produce salivation.

Classical Conditioning Theory

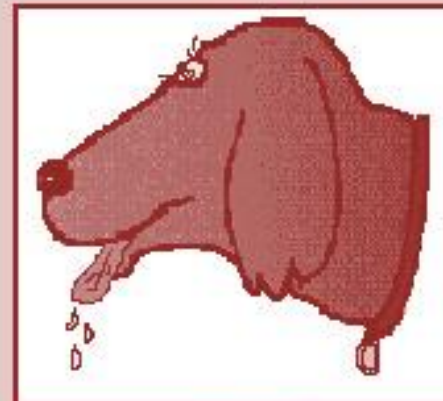
The Neutral/Orienting Stimulus (NS) is repeatedly paired with the Unconditioned/Natural Stimulus (US).

Classical Conditioning

During Conditioning



**UCS Paired
with neutral
stimulus**



UCR

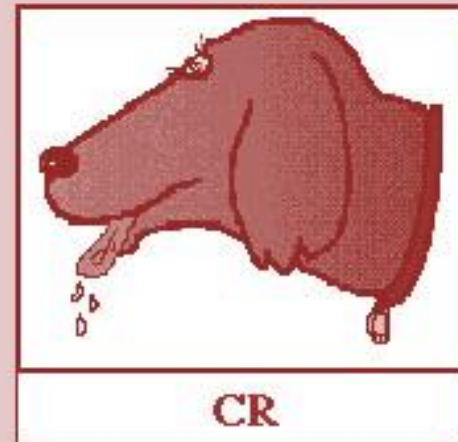
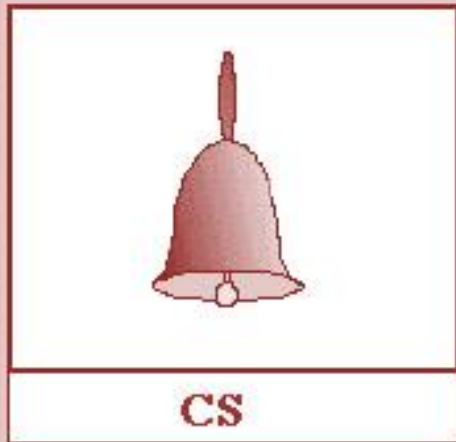
**UCS is paired with neutral stimulus.
UCS produces UCR.**

Classical Conditioning Theory

- **The Neutral Stimulus (NS) is transformed into a Conditioned Stimulus (CS).**
- **That is, when the CS is presented by itself, it elicits or causes the CR .**

Classical Conditioning

After Conditioning



Neutral stimulus is now the conditioned stimulus.
It produces CR, salivation, which is similar to the
UCR produced by the Hot Dog.