

Background

Background: Skinner believed classical conditioning was far too simplistic to explain something as complex as human behaviour. He was interested in the causes and consequences of actions. He called this approach operant conditioning.

Definition

Learning by consequences of actions.

Main categories:

Reinforcement
Punishment

Subcategories:

Positive
Negative

Explanation

In operant conditioning, the stimuli present when behaviour is rewarded, controls that behaviour.

In theory, any behaviour which isn't reinforced dies out while reinforced behaviour continues.



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