

## Lectorial 6 - Learning II (Cognitive Learning)

### Beyond Radical Behaviourism

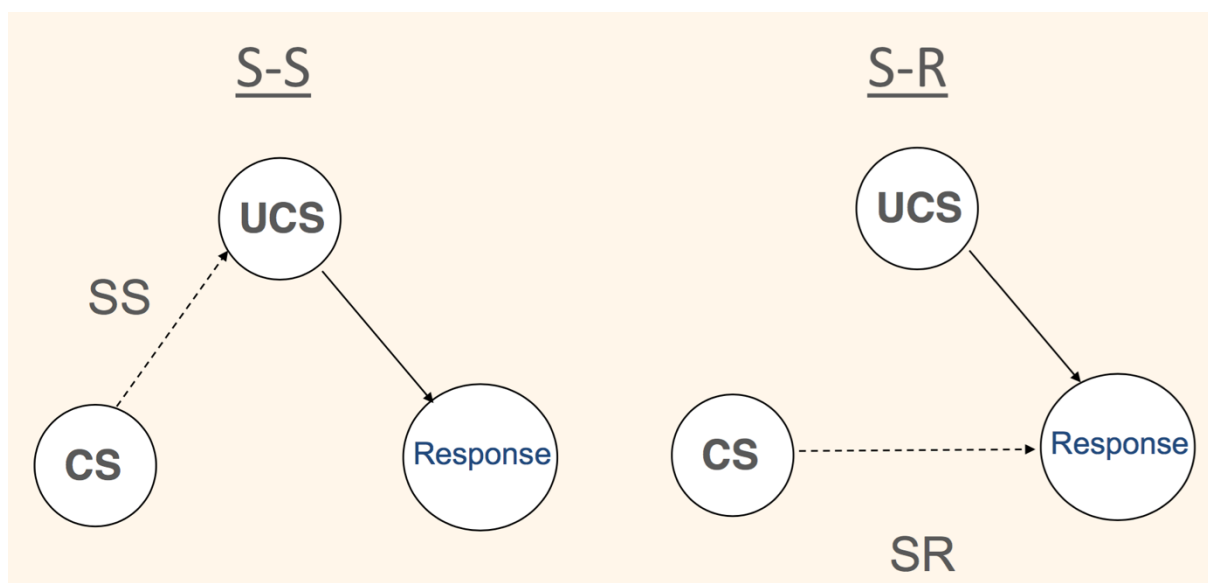
- **Neobehaviourism**: Putting the organism in S-R learning

### S.R vs. S.O.R

- Black box approach → S.R (stimulus response)
- Neobehaviourism → S.O.R (stimulus organism response)
- **Neobehaviourists**: Behaviourists who do not accept that behaviour is only based on stimulus and response and who factor an organism's internal processes into the behaviourist model

### Theories of Classical Conditioning

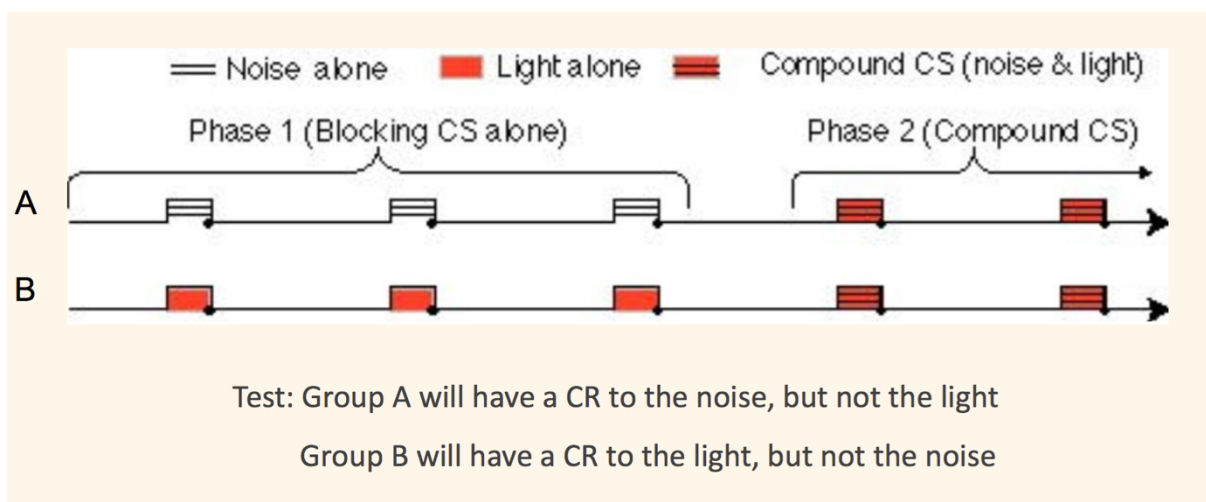
- Stimulus (tone) --- Response (salivation) (S-R)  
OR
- Stimulus (tone) --- Stimulus (food) (S-S)



- Rescorla (1973) underwent an experiment which **supported S-S theory**
- What is learning in classical conditioning is an association between a CS and the mental representation of UCS
- Rescorla focused on **contingency**
- Pavlov focused on **contiguity**

## Contingency

- **Contingency**: A stimulus must provide the subject information about the **likelihood that certain events will occur**
- If CS comes simultaneously or after the US, it does not predict the US - no contingency
- CS needs to reliably predict UCS - CS ineffective if presented often without UCS
- **Blocking**: Conditioning is difficult to achieve when the organism already has a good predictor of the UCS (ignore 2<sup>nd</sup> stimulus "blocks" anything new as they already had a CR)
- **Insight**: Sudden perception of a relationship that helps to solve a problem



## Learning Without Reinforcement (Tolman)

- Proves that learning is there but not expressing learning unless reinforcement is there

## Observational Learning

- **Observational Learning**: Learning that occurs by observing the behaviour of a model
- Children observing aggressive behaviours modelled those behaviours

## Biology in Learning

- **Conditioned taste aversion**
  - An avoidance reaction to the taste of food
  - CS = taste (eg. saccharin)
  - US = drug (LiCl)
  - CR = nausea (animals will choose other flavours in a choice test)
  - Special features of CTA (one-trial learning, long-delay learning and highly specific)
- **Instinctive drift**
  - During operant learning the tendency for an organism to revert to instinctive behaviour
- **"Autoshaping"**
  - After classical conditioning where a light predicts a reward, pigeons will attempt to consume to CS
  - During autoshaping, food comes irrespective of the behaviour of the animal
  - They will continue to do so even when the result is to removal of the reward

## Innate Biases (Discussion)

- Are we biologically predisposed to fear some stimuli more than others?
- Preparedness and phobias

## Lectorial 7 - Personality I

### Personality

- Allows us to try to understand the person as a whole such that individuals can be seen as; integrated, coherent and unique
- Fairly consistent and predictable
- Related to behaviour
- "Psychological qualities that contribute to an individual's enduring and distinctive patterns of feeling, thinking and behaving"