



Analysis of Behavior Using Operant Conditioning Methods

INSTRUCTOR RESUME



Dr. Dworkin has established international recognition for his research on the neuropsychopharmacology of abused substances. He has received both private and NIH funding and has published extensively in several areas including behavior analysis, behavior pharmacology and the neuroscience of addiction. Dr. Dworkin is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and a member of ASPET, CPDD, the Society for Neuroscience and ABA International. He has reviewed manuscripts for the major journals in the field and served on NIH and NIDA study sections.

Professor Steven Dworkin, Western Illinois University, USA



Mr. Zurn has a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from Villanova University. He founded Med Associates in 1971, and the company has since become one of the leading suppliers of instrumentation, including software and hardware, for behavioral researchers all over the world.

Mr. Karl R. Zurn, Med Associates, Inc., St. Albans, USA

BENEFITS OF THE TUTORIAL

In this tutorial, participants will gain an understanding of basic considerations and applications using operant conditioning methods for examining mechanisms of learning and memory. State-of-the-art behavioral analysis methods and instrumentation will be addressed. Participants will be exposed to MED-PC® behavioral analysis software and the associated experimental control state language, Med State Notation™, from Med Associates, Inc.

FEATURES

Basic theories of learning and memory will be discussed, with a focus on how operant conditioning methods can be utilized to gain in depth understanding of underlying cognitive processes, as pioneered by B.F. Skinner. Particular emphasis will be given to the use of the MED-PC® behavioral analysis software, and the use of various stimulus-response contingencies in the experimental analysis of behavior. The basics of behavioral pharmacology including drug discrimination and drug self-administration will also be discussed. Moreover suggestions for integrating behavior and neurobiology will be presented.

AUDIENCE

This workshop is aimed at basic scientists desiring more exposure to current methodologies employed in the experimental analysis of behavior. No prior knowledge of MED-PC® is required. There is no implicit limit to the number of participants.