

Exercise 1 : Discussion Questions

1. Compare the differences in Sniffy's responding pre-punishment and post-punishment.

Pressing the lever for Sniffy is consistent and increasing, then it drops and starts over at the same speed until the punishment. Post punishment what happens is that it briefly stops, then he goes back to the bar pressing at the same speed and pattern as before.

2. What short-term affect (within that epoch) did the single, mild punishment have on Sniffy's lever pressing behavior? What was the long-term affect (the rest of the trial)?

The short term effect is that the behavior was paused within that epoch. The long term effect of the single mild punishment was minimal on his overall behavior with bar pressing. It did not happen consistently or with enough intensity for Sniffy to incline to change his behavior.

3. Did Sniffy successfully extinguish the lever pressing association?

No, Sniffy did not successfully extinguish the lever pressing association. The long term and short term effects indicated that a singular mild punishment did not extinguish the behavior overall.

Exercise 2 Discussion Questions

1. Compare the differences in Sniffy's responding pre-punishment and post-punishment.

Sniffy presses the lever with the intensity needed to get to the goal of obtaining sustenance. This is the same as the earlier experiment. However, post punishment it appears that he does not increase the rate of the behavior from the moment he received the severe punishment.

2. What short-term effect (within that epoch) did the single, mild punishment have on Sniffy's lever pressing behavior? What was the long-term affect (the rest of the trial)?

The short term effect is that he did not press it after the punishment. The long term effect also appears to be the same because the line is flat, thus indicating that the rate of lever pressing did not change since that moment.

3. Did Sniffy successfully extinguish the lever pressing association?

In this case, Sniffy successfully extinguished the lever pressing association because the immediate and long term response was that the behavior stopped. This was the case despite the lack of reinforcement because in some bases where it is not present, the punishment is enough to stop behavior if it is immediate and has intensity.

Exercise 3: Discussion Questions

1. Compare the differences in Sniffy's responding pre-first punishment and post-first punishment.

The intensity of bar pressing is increased according to the ratio until he receives the shock. In this case he stops post punishment and there is a delay between the punishment and the time he presses the bar again so the speed and intensity are lowered even though the behavior is resumed.

2. What short-term affect (within that epoch) did the single, mild punishment have on Sniffy's lever pressing behavior? What was the long-term affect (the rest of the trial)?

The short term effect was that the punishment did deter his behavior and suppress it, but only to a certain extent. The long term is that the behavior returned but was expressed at a slower rate in comparison to the pre-punishment phase.

3. Did Sniffy successfully extinguish the lever pressing association?

Sniffy did not successfully extinguish the lever pressing association. The punishment was not intense enough for him to completely stop the behavior.

Overall Discussion Questions

1. How did Sniffy's post-punishment responding change with each type of punishment (single mild, single severe, repeated mild)?

With each type of punishment, the way Sniffy responded would vary. In one case, he would go back to it as if nothing had happened. In contrast to that first scenario, in the last two it led to Sniffy either giving up the behavior entirely or resuming it at a much slower rate than pre-punishment. The shock was predictable so it suppressed the instinct to push the lever.

2. Looking at the differences in the association window between the 3 exercises, how is punishment different from extinction?

The difference between punishment and extinction is that punishment serves as the precipitating factor or stimulus, while extinction would be a response to punishment, reinforcement, or stimuli. Another key difference is that punishment can cause an immediate end to a behavior irrespective of severity, but with extinction it takes time. Extinction of a behavior takes time, but it is more sustainable than punishment in regards to behavior management.

3. What makes punishment effective, not just here in this experiment but in general?

To make a punishment effective it must be immediate and intense. If it starts off with a mild consequence it is more difficult to reinforce with a more severe punishment. There must also be no delay between the undesirable behavior occurring and the punishment. The longer there is a delay, the less impact it will have on reducing undesirable behavior.