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Author: C.R. Gallistel Andrew R. Craig Timothy A. Shahan

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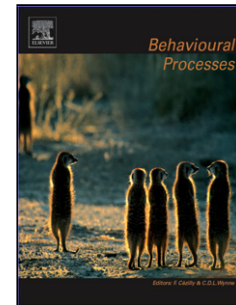
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Temporal Contingency

C.R. Gallistel*

Andrew R. Craig‡

Timothy A. Shahan‡

*Department of Psychology and Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science
152 Frelinghuysen Rd
Piscataway, NJ 08854
galliste@ruccs.rutgers.edu

‡ Department of Psychology, Utah State University
2810 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322
Craig: andrew.craig@aggiemail.usu.edu
Shahan: tim.shahan@usu.edu

Abstract

Contingency, and more particularly temporal contingency, has often figured in thinking about the nature of learning. However, it has never been formally defined in such a way as to make it a measure that can be applied to most animal learning protocols. We use elementary information theory to define contingency in such a way as to make it a measurable property of almost any conditioning protocol. We discuss how making it a measurable construct enables the exploration of the role of different contingencies in the acquisition and performance of classically and operantly conditioned behavior.

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