

10 Jan 1980. JOURNAL 24 m...12 lines

1. Question: What do "cycles" look like on SCC? Action: Checked out two books on cycles and two on business forecasting. Looked up "sines" in TRS-80 manual. Discussion. A sine curve on +/- would look like straight lines on x/. Cycles would best be fitted as "periodic" accelerations, based on Lindsley's acceleration classifications of "1-overall 2-most recent 3-periodic 4-trend following 5-event following". (Why are moving averages used in cycle research?)

2. Heroes and cue control. Use the Lone Ranger as example.

3. John Silbur, President, Boston U. How's he really doing?

4. Problem terminology. "Unlearned" rewards and punishers. A common reaction is that unlearning is sort of synonymous with extinction. Suggestions? Biological or Natural seems a better adjective, but is still untested. Shall try it in 560 this quarter.

5. Zero and ratio scales. Tracing this, Smitty Stevens may be responsible but this should be checked. Amazing how pervasive a wrong idea can become.

1. (idea) Moving averages are used because of a lack of 'knowledge' about Bounce. Specifically, I haven't seen any references to "up bounce = down bounce, total bounce remains the same" in the 4 books mentioned above. Seems to me you're losing info when you use moving avg. You're looking at one line, rather than the whole picture. Try some cycle stuff with bounces included, to see how it looks.

4lines/7 minutes

29 Jan 1980 M Notes of Another Radical Behaviorist

Malott has the right idea: this is my imitation. The aim is increased writing behavior. Even at a minute a day, I'd be improving on my current frequency of writing behavior. A little at a time - not too much to read, maybe nothing very significant said, but building and building.... At least it's on the chart - not out on the zero line.

TPdauy's note: How book salesmen no longer beat down my door. I think I'm out of the closet as a radical behaviorist. How do I know? Well, I used to have all sorts of book salesmen rapping on my door, asking "Got a minute?" and then rapping on me. Rewards flowed both ways, don't get me wrong, but I never seemed to get done what should have been done. Then, a couple of years ago, I got out of the Intro. Psych rut. I ordered Malott and Whaley's Psychology. Now when the salesmen come in and ask how I like the intro. text, I tell them the truth (as I see it). "It's the greatest Intro. Psych. book ever written." Salesmen aren't used to this type of response. In the usual case, the more one uses a text, the more disenchanted one becomes with it; the inadequacies are brought into focus the fifth time around. 14lines/ 13.2min (wow)

30 Jan 1980 Notes of a Radical Behaviorist

Today running into work, I had a number of ideas that bear elaboration. Thinking of Malott's Detroit Marathon description, it occurs that Seetreeon Robinson, a black Olympic hopeful Marathoner (2:21:--), would be a useful critic. Seetreeon, raised in Harlem, is taking the Psychology 560 course and reading Malott and Whaley. Get his reaction to Malott's comments by having him read aloud and then give some reactions. He might need a remedial reading course based on some early performances in the course.

The Lone Ranger, wears a mask, it is often claimed, to disguise his identity. After much consideration, I doubt that that is the controlling variable. More likely, he wears a mask so that he will be identified; the mask is a trademark, as is the silver bullet, Silver, and Tonto. A similar case could be made for wearing short ties. Sure, I know. It's good to prepare oneself for the aversives that surround important new discoveries, but after a while, the tie is actually a trademark by which one is recognized - apart from one's face, etc.

The Lone Ranger is a more appropriate model than the current Superheroes, for this reason: He's human. For this reason he's capable of imitation. Any of us could be the masked man. In fact, many of us probably are, to a degree. I think Clayton Moore is. He portrayed the role for so long that the character became the man. Small wonder his disappointment at being turned out to pasture because he's 65.

Which brings up another point. Wrather Corporation should be cultivating Moore, rather than trying to can him. I visualize a Lone Ranger show which serves as a hero model for old people. The Ranger grows old. He has to make adjustments; he has less difficulty playing the character of the old-timer that he's used so effectively in past episodes. Moore is still an excellent choice for this role. In fact, one format would be to have the Ranger introduce, narrate, and comment on old TV or radio episodes, in a manner similar to Isis and Shazam. It wouldn't take too much ~~besides~~ some editing of the old shows.

A runner running the same way every day, on a rarely used street, with a lingering snow, is prone to the Winnie the Pooh, Piglet, and the Heffalump routine. Tracks, tracks, and more tracks. By golly, runners are increasing -- and they're increasing by adding!

Hey! How about a female Lone Ranger? Joann Cameron (Isis/Andrea Thomas) gets my vote. Buck Rogers is okay because he can't do anything super. In fact, he's a little behind the rest of the 25th century folks.

31 lines/28.5 minutes

1 Feb 1980 Notes of Another kRadical behaviorist

Today was the second of two seminars on CMS-780 at the Terminal room in CAST with Rich Molnar and Rfred Ullom. Rich Rolland was there to learn something, also. Rick Frye and I both attended.

Several ideas seem possible as I look to the future of TIPS. First, set up BR11 as a DR that will print out a small 'c' or something if the student masters entrance, survey, ext/final. There would be easier to count than what we do now, which is do a visual scan and actual count. I might be able to write a simple counting program to get this done. In fact, if I write to Allen Kelley, he might see an appropriate need to do this on the source program for TIPS.A

Another idea I had was to set up what is now on the Gragomat on a Minidisk. Include a time and error count for each student using it, so I would have frequency data to chart of a student's learning. This would be nothing more than a MC question for every study question in the Malott and Whaley text. Student logs on, timer starts, and he/she answers questions. A summary of each student's performance and of class performance is available to me whenever I want to see it. Student would call up the chapter requested and try it. Have to make sure that no hard copies would be possible.

That's it for now.

17 lines in 13.9min

14 Feb 1980 614am-621

Towards more Precise Behavioral Language

One of the words I tend to use a lot is purpose. Even with an awareness of the purposivism trap, the word still frequently enters my conversational vocabulary. What are some alternatives? I think "value" and "values" may be one. The value of doing this is.... rather than "the purpose of this exercise..." "purpose" still smacks of the future controlling the present, whereas, "value", defined as a person's rewards and punishers, and the strength of those rewards and punishers- is consistent with a cause-effect deterministic orientation.