

# Cognitive Science & Psychology: Mind, Brain and Behavior

## Philosophical and historical roots I (Week 5)



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# Outline

- Lecture 1 Introduction - robot future
- Lecture 2 The Mind, Brain, behaviour Cycle
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- Lecture 12 (Now-Future) Flux and Synthesis

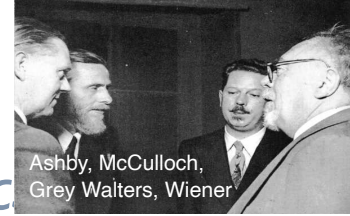
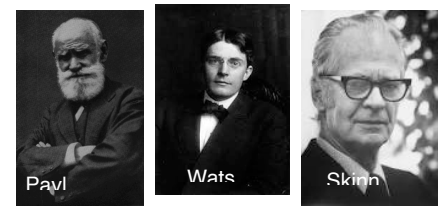


# Realising a science of mind

# 5 big ideas

1. Mechanical Universe; Laws of motion
2. Mind in the Physical World; Dualism
3. Mechanics of Life; Evolution
4. Dual Process Mind; ID/EGO/S\_EGO
5. Mind as Computation; Turing Machines

# Mind/Brain/Behavior Cycle



Behaviorism

Cybernetic

Behavior;  
the *empty organism*

Control;  
*embodied action*



Structuralism

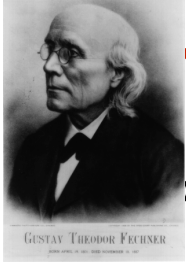
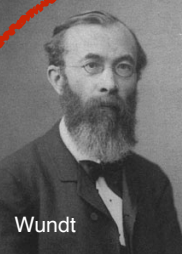
1915

1945



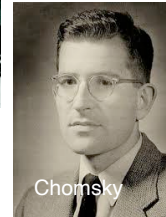
Cognitivism

Reason;  
the *disembodied mind*



consciousness

1880



1950

Metaphorical Biology;  
the *mindless body*



1850

1990

NOW

1990

Connectionism  
New AI  
Artificia



Big Data  
DL/ML

Brain



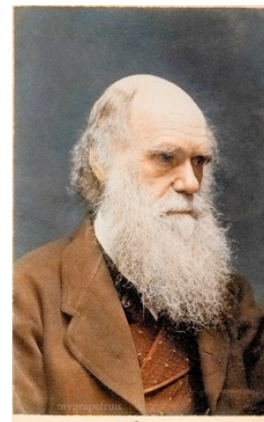
(2016, In Press) IEEE Expert; ESF; Conn. Sci.

# From evolution by selection to the comparative study of learning and adaptation

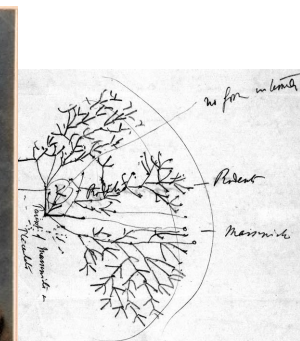
”The question at once arises how these superior adaptive responses are selected from the multiplicity of responses of which an organism is capable, and then fixated and perpetuated. To those who tried to answer this question, hedonism and the pleasure-pain principle provided the principle of selection, and the laws of association the mechanism of fixation”

(Postman 1947, pp.491)

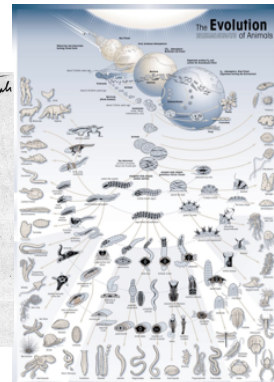
The Darwinian (R)Evolution



Charles Robert Darwin  
1809-1882

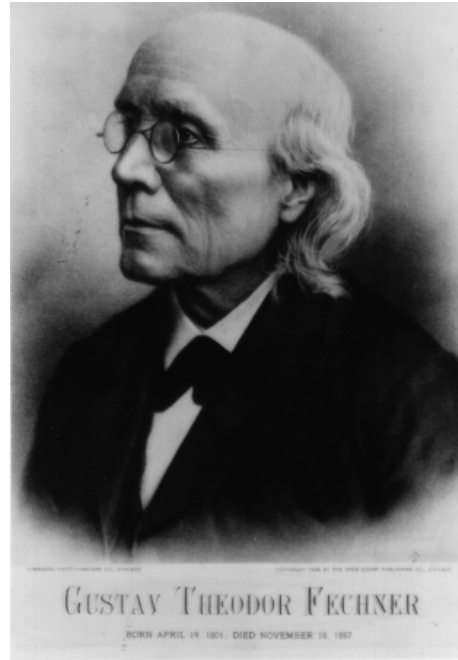


Darwin's notebook



# The experimental study of psychology

Fechner started the first laboratory of psychology in Leipzig



Gustav Theodor Fechner (1801-1887)

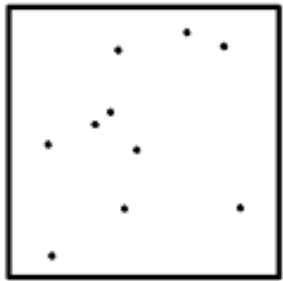


Fechner (October 22, 1850) : the connection between the mind and the body can be understood by establishing the relation between mental sensation and properties of the material stimulus

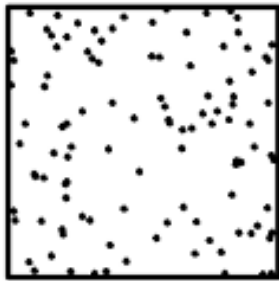
= Psychophysics

# The Weber-Fechner law

"Simple differential sensitivity is inversely proportional to the size of the components of the difference; relative differential sensitivity remains the same regardless of size."



10



110



20



120

Weber's law

just-noticeable difference (JND)  $dS$

$$dS = K * S$$

constant    reference stimulus

Fechner's law:

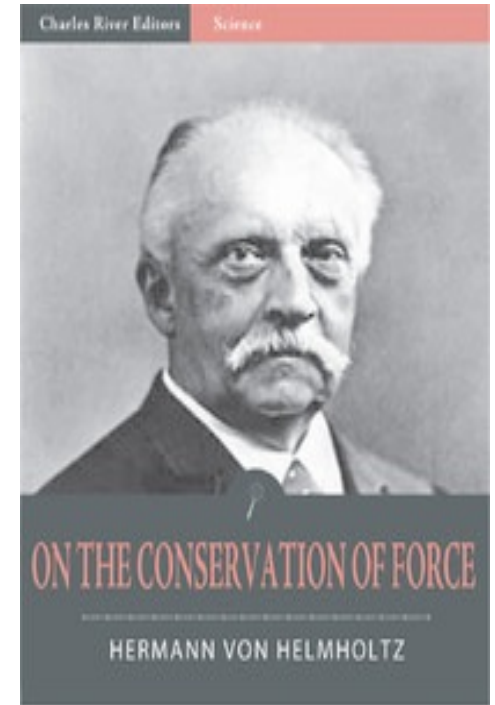
Subjective sensation is proportional to the logarithm of stimulus intensity

$$p = k \ln \frac{S}{S_0}$$



# Hermann von Helmholtz

- Physiologist and physicist
- Student of Johannes Muller
- Teacher of Wilhelm Wundt
- Rejection of **Naturephilosophie**: Kantian view that time, space and causation are not products of sense experiences but mental attributes by which we perceive the world
- **All knowledge comes through senses**
- All science could and should be reduced to the laws of **classical mechanics**
- Principle of conservation of energy (1847): **“On the conservation of force”**



(Germany, b. 1821 - d.1894)

# Nerve's conduction rate and Reaction Time

## In 1852 he measured the speed of a frog's nerve impulse

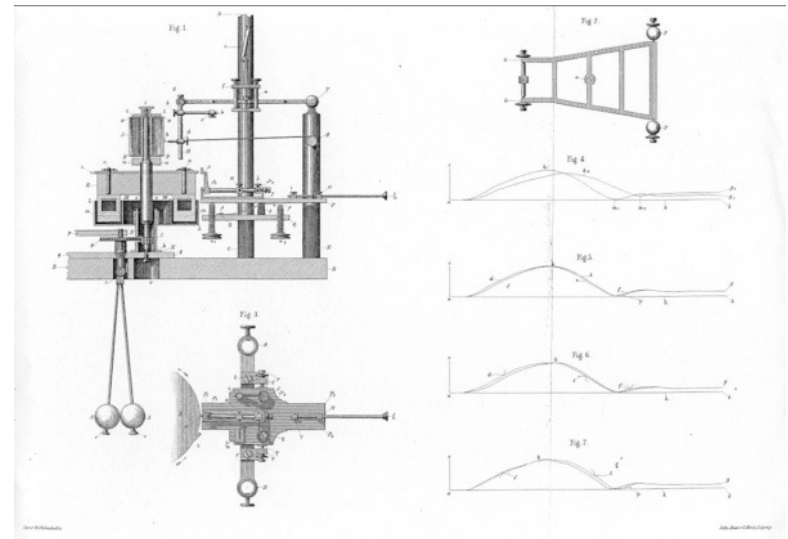
Impulse velocity within the nervous system was calculated at 26 m/s (much slower than previously believed)

## Reaction Time experiments of unexpected events with humans

Touched the shoulder or the wrist of subjects and noted the difference in reaction times

Pioneer of theory of measurement

→ experimental psychology



# S

“Sign theory” (1848-1868):

- Sensations symbolize their stimuli but are not direct copies of those stimuli
- We construct that correspondence by means of learned, “unconscious inferences”
- The more we know about the physiology of perception the more accurate our inferences about our experiences will be.

“Objects are always imagined as being present in the field of vision as would have to be there in order to produce the same impression on the nervous mechanism”

Hermann Ludwig Ferdinand von Helmholtz



# The stage model of Donders

Time = mental complexity

Subtraction method

Discrete Stage Model



F.C. Donders 1818-1889



"The idea occurred to me to interpose into the process of physiological time some new components of mental action. If I investigated how much this would lengthen the physiological time, this would, I judged, reveal the time required for the interposed term" (Donders, 1868).

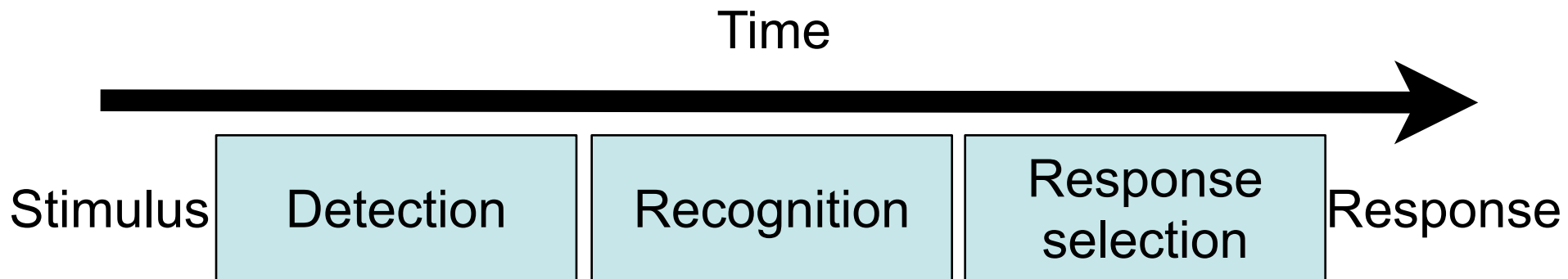
# Example Donders task

- Subject is presented with a vowel than:
  - A (recognition):
    - repeat vowel
  - B (recognition, detection):
    - repeat one of two vowels
  - C (recognition, detection, response selection):
    - repeat one ignore second vowel

# Results

A: 201 msec, B: 237 msec, C: 287 msec

- recognition: 201 msec
- detection: 36 msec
- response selection: 50 msec



# Wundt's Structural Psychology



Wilhelm Wundt (1832-1920)

The data of the psychologist consists of the objective description of the elements of conscious experience and their relationship



# The “HARD” problem of consciousness

Chalmers

## The explanatory GAP

Levine

“What conceivable connection exists between definite movements of definite atoms in my brain on the one hand, and on the other hand such primordial, indefinable, undeniable facts as these: I feel pain or pleasure; I taste something sweet, or smell a rose, or hear an organ, or see something red, and the certainty that immediately follows: Therefore I am?”.

Emil Du Bois-Reymond, “The Limits of Science” keynote address to the Congress of German Scientists and Physicians in Leipzig (14 August 1872)



# Peripheralism vs Externalism

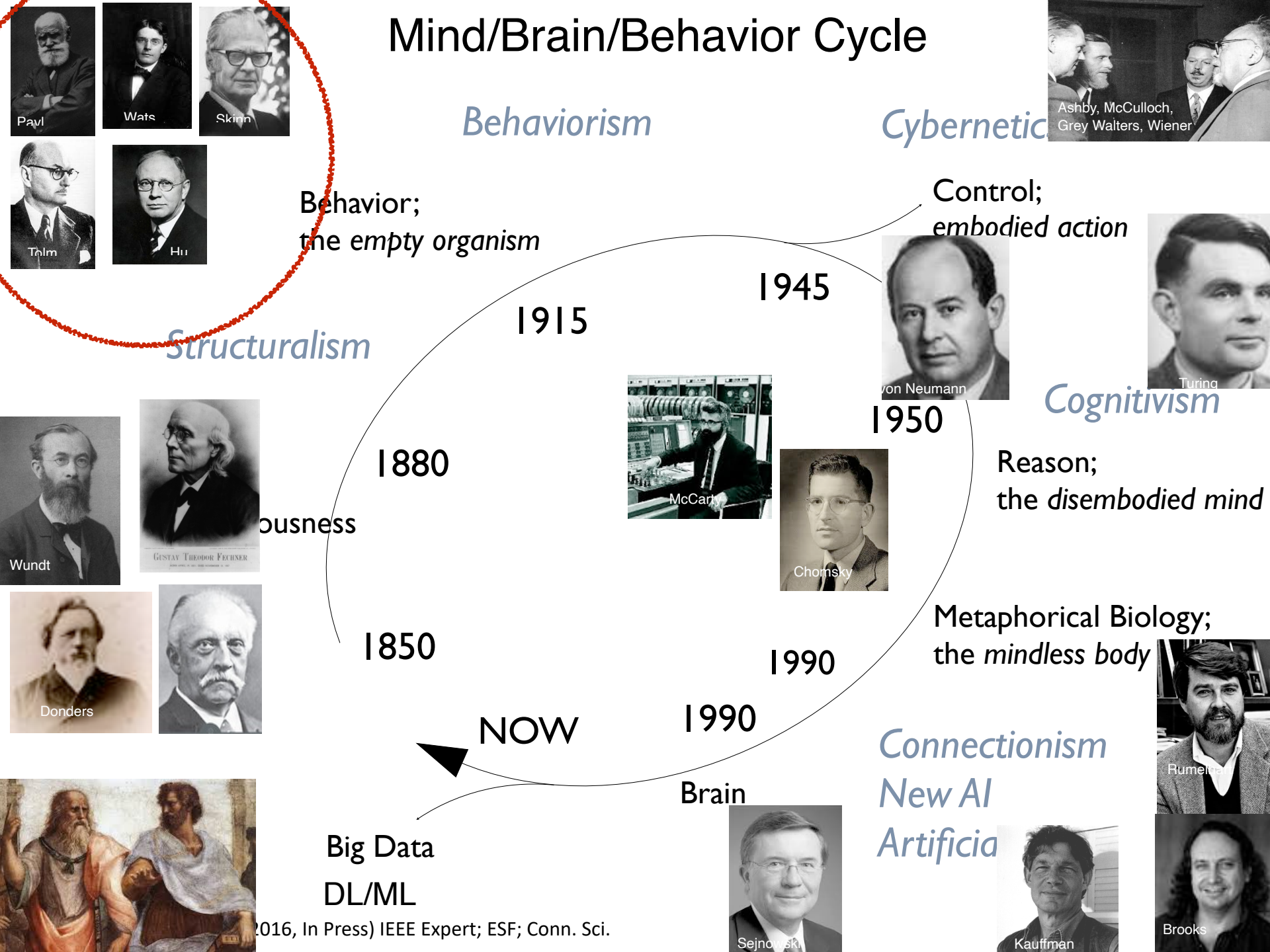


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# Mind/Brain/Behavior Cycle



# Mind/Brain/Behavior Cycle

*Behaviorism*

*Cybernetics*

*Structuralism*

*Cognitivism*

*Connectionism  
New AI  
Artificial*

Behavior;  
*the empty organism*

Control;  
*embodied action*

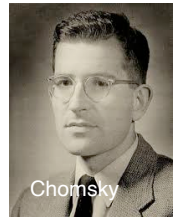
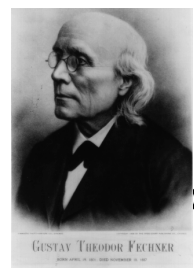
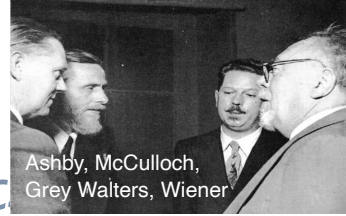
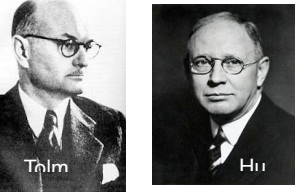
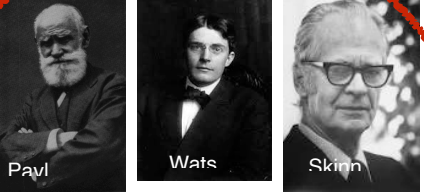
Reason;  
*the disembodied mind*

Metaphorical Biology;  
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Big Data  
DL/ML

Brain

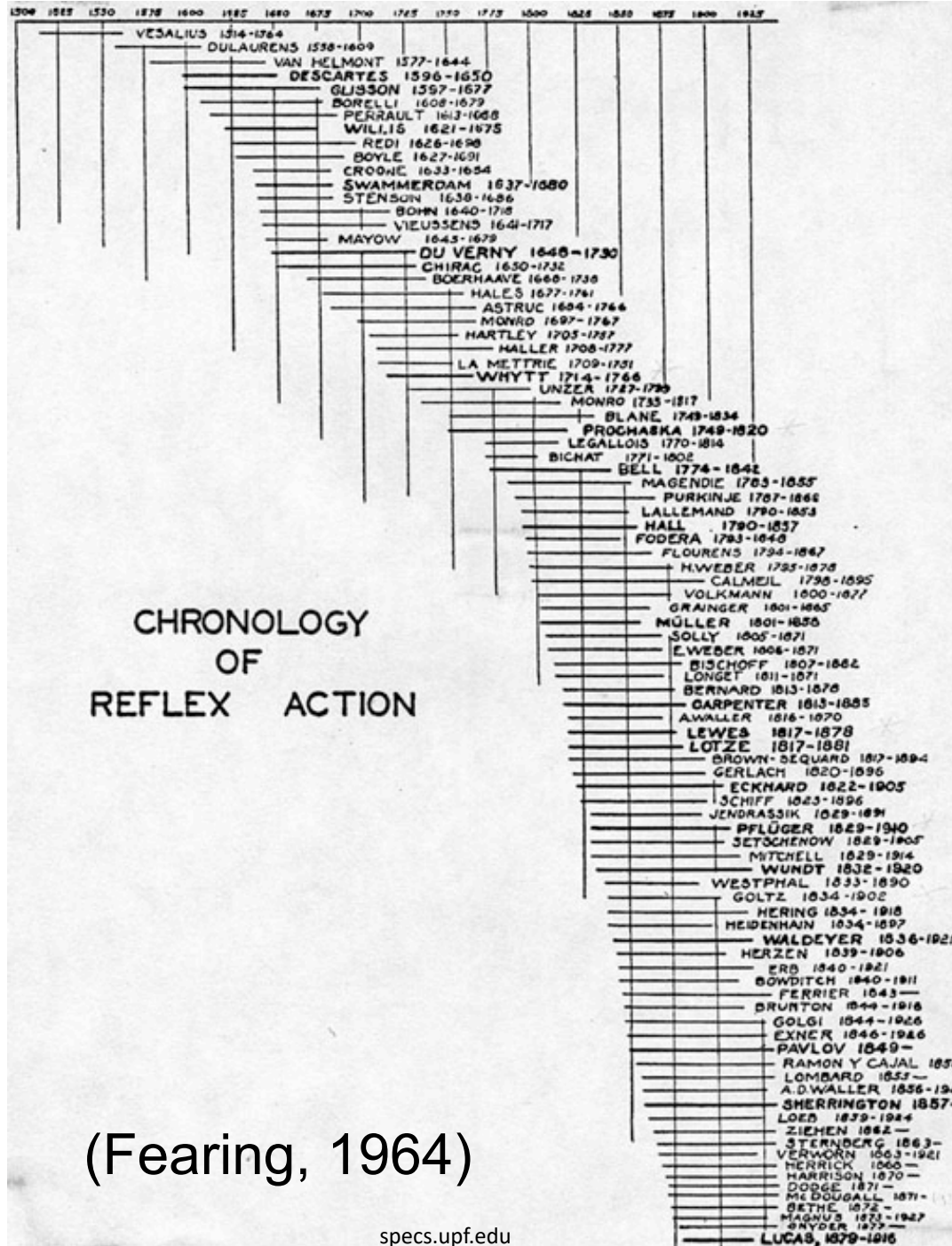
NOW



(2016, In Press) IEEE Expert; ESF; Conn. Sci.

# The reflex as the atom of mind and behavior

- From Whytt (18<sup>th</sup> century-frog scratch reflex, animal electricity) to Sherrington (early 20<sup>th</sup> century) reflexes were studied using the spinal cord.
- Sechenov (19<sup>th</sup> century) innate and acquired reflexes.
- Sherrington:
  - Reflex=reception->conduction->end-effect
  - Reflex=“like a penny in the slot machine, physical, and not psychical.”
  - Basic unit of neural organization is the reflex-arc

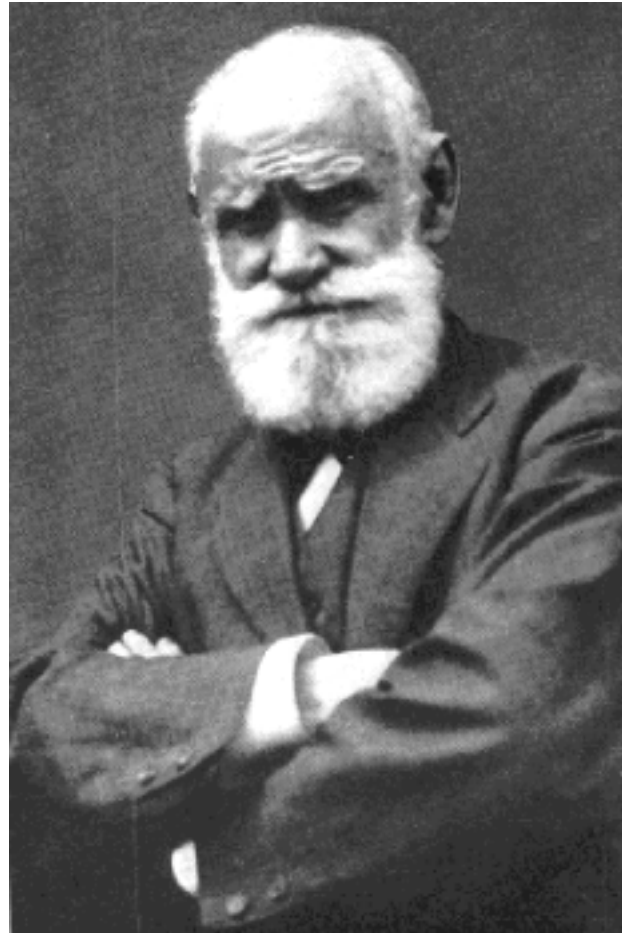


CHRONOLOGY  
OF  
REFLEX ACTION

(Fearing, 1964)

# reflexes, taxes & behavioral patterns

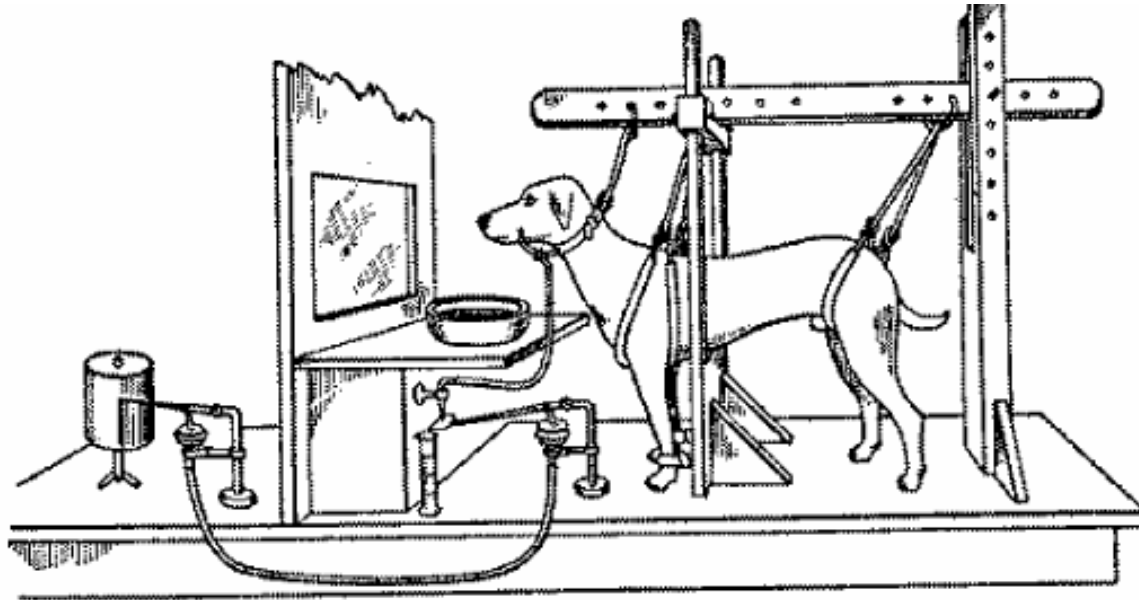
# The physiological study of learning & memory starts here



I. Pavlov (1849-1936)



# Study of the digestive system

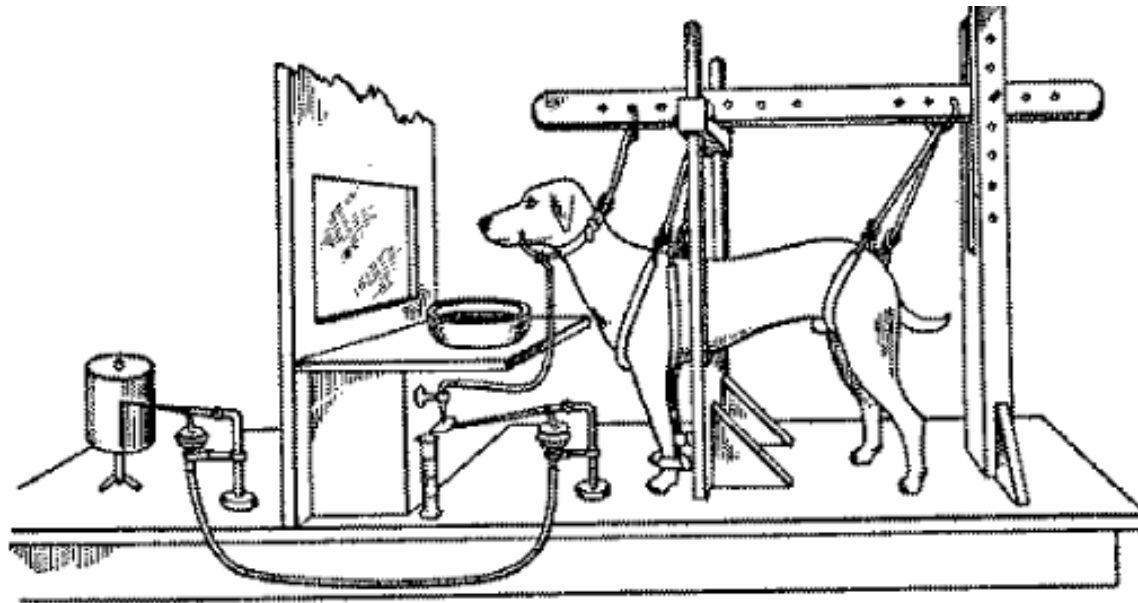


# The study of the psychic reflex

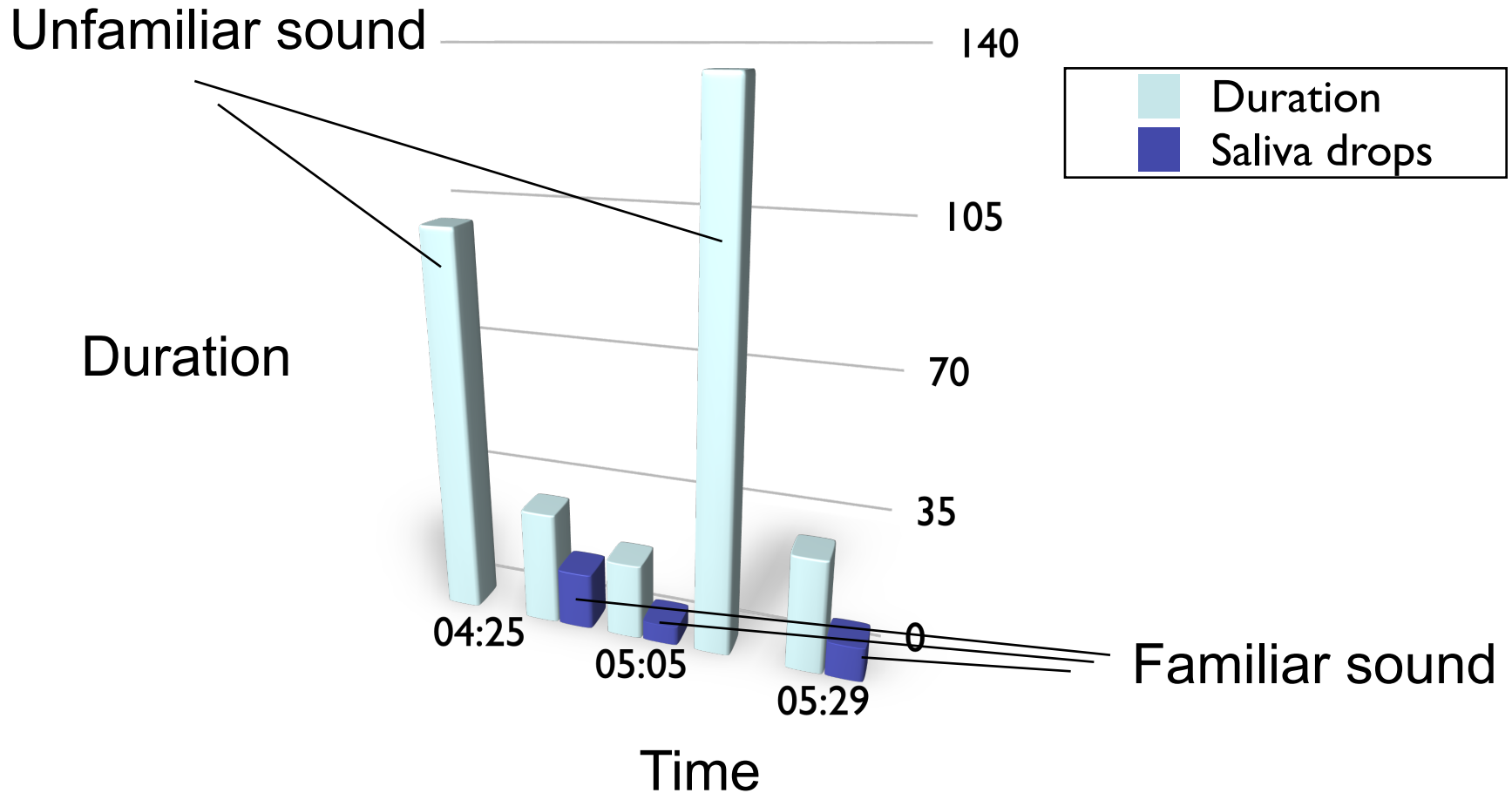
**“The dog sees, hears and sniffs all these things, directs his attention to them, tries to obtain them if they are eatable or agreeable, but turns away from them and evades their introduction into the mouth if they are undesired or disagreeable. Every one would say that this is a psychical reaction of the animal, a psychical excitation of the salivary glands. How should the physiologist treat such facts? How can he state them, how analyze them? What are their common and what their individual characteristics? To understand these phenomena, are we obliged to enter into the inner state of the animal, and to fancy his feelings and wishes as based on our own? For the investigator, I believe there is only one possible answer to the last question - an absolute “No”.”**

**Pavlov (1928) Lectures on Conditioned Reflexes, pp. 50**

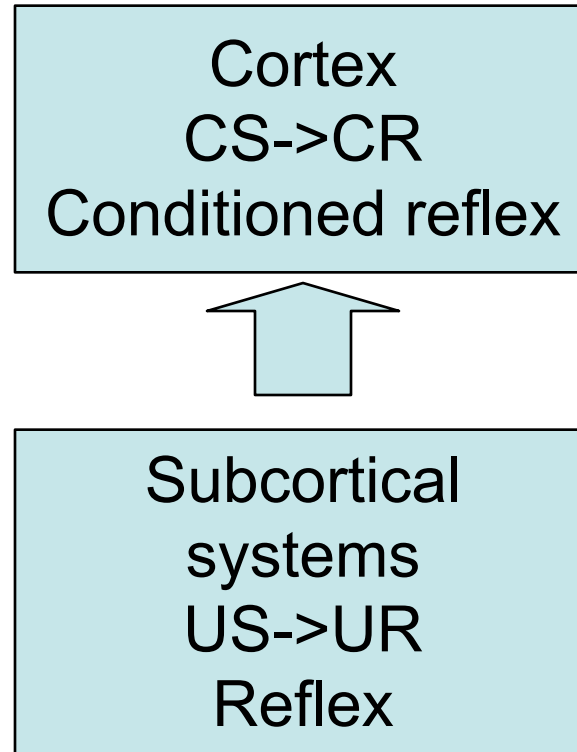
# Pavlovian/Classical conditioning



# Experiment 54 'Margaret'



# The Cortical Analyzer as the substrate of learning:

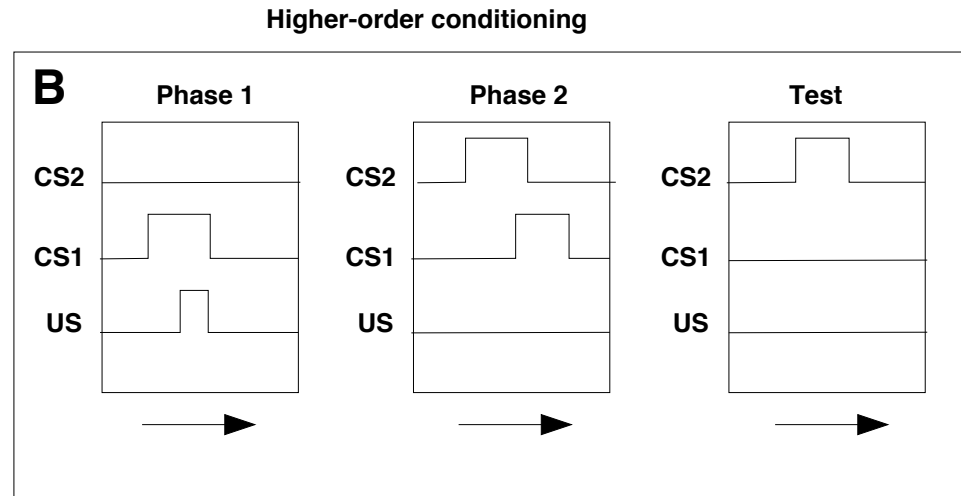
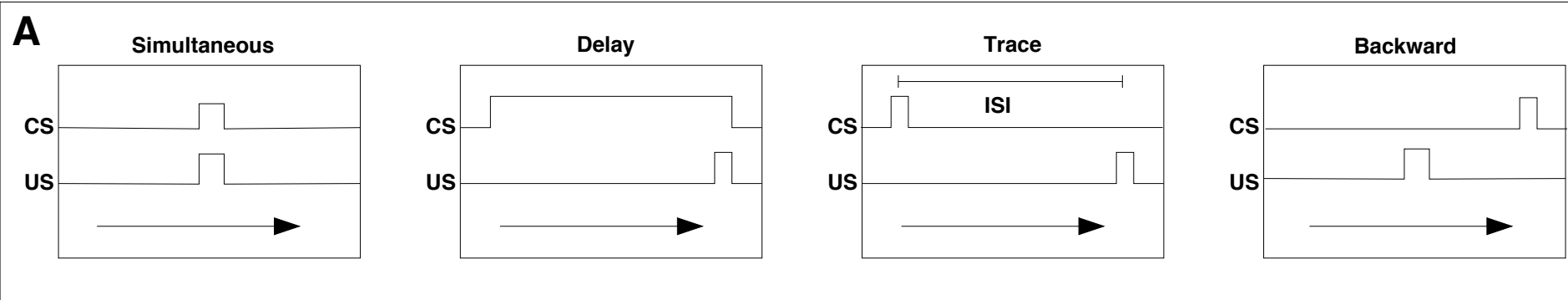


Cortical analyzer:

convergence of CS (sound) and US (food)  
synthesize behavior  
generalize via irradiation  
allow differentiation

Cortex as a dynamic mosaic of excitatory and inhibitory foci

# variations on classical conditioning



Pavlov reported the best conditioning results when the CS preceded the US with a relatively short time interval or Inter Stimulus Interval (ISI)