

Re: death of the mind.

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patty <pattyNO@SPAMicyberspace.net> wrote in message news:<L3tYc.112623\$TI1.103642@attbi_s52>...

> Alex Green wrote:

>

>> Wolf Kirchmeir <wwolfkir@sympatico.ca> wrote in message news:<500Yc.26145\$_H5.1005269@news20.bellglobal.com>...

>>

[snip]

>> "In short the behaviorists tried to explain learning without referring to mental processes"

>> http://www.uib.no/People/sinia/CSCCL/web_struktur-832.htm

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> A better summary article delineating the various factions and evolution of behaviorism is <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Behaviorism>>.

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>> Behaviourism, in collecting data about the entire output of a set of actions, is attempting to recreate the internal state that gave rise to these actions (strangely without the admission that this is what it is doing).

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> But there are no "internal states" in a behaviorist data. You are inventing for them variables which they explicitly claim are irrelevant to their control and prediction of behavior.

The claim that the input and output data sets can be used to predict behaviour is not absurd. The output set contains both the simple action of the animal AND the consequence of this action. When a paw moves to kill a mouse all that exists in the signal that is the moving paw is a direction, a momentum etc. The killing of the mouse is present as an intention in the cat. When the behaviourist sees the paw strike the mouse he is able to gain an insight into the cat's intention even though the signal that is the moving paw does not reveal this. So the behaviourist is able to form a crude model of the inner state of the cat by observing the effects of its actions (its overall behaviour).

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The idealistic behaviourist who denies internal states in the cat fails to realise that he is observing the cat's intention in the form of the ad