Fieldwork

- Everyone should have identified their FBA case study by today.
  - Teacher/Student should have been identified

Conducting the Functional Assessment:

Three general approaches

- Indirect Assessment
  - Ask/Examine

- Direct/Descriptive Assessment
  - Observe

- Functional or Experimental Analysis
  - Test
Conducting the Functional Assessment:
Three general approaches

- Direct/Descriptive Assessment (Observe)
  - Should improve accuracy of data, but requires significant professional time and resources (requires the observer to be present when the behavior occurs in order to observe/record the antecedents and consequences).
  - Often done by “familiar” observers
  - Must not interfere with normal daily events.
  - Allows for discovery of behavioral patterns
    - What problems occur at the same time?
    - Where, when, with whom are the problems most likely to occur?
    - What consequences appear to be maintaining the behavior?

- Indirect Assessment
  - Ask/Examine
  - Direct/Descriptive Assessment
  - Observe

- Functional or Experimental Analysis
  - Test
Conducting the Functional Assessment:
Three general approaches

- Functional (or Experimental) Analysis Assessment (Test, FAA)
  - The most precise, rigorous, and controlled functional assessment method.
  - Expensive and time consuming.
    - Should be employed only when it is truly needed.

Systematic Observation:
Determining What to Observe

- Which behavior do you measure; the problem or replacement behavior?
- Select the behavior that is most visible, occurs least frequently, and is judged to give you the best indication of the desired changes.
- Use common sense!

Systematic Observation:
Determining When to Observe

- Direct/Descriptive Assessment (Observe)
  - Event Frequency x Time Scatter plot
  - AKA: Behavior Contingency Assessment (Time)
Systematic Observation:
Determining How Long to Observe

Duration of Observations
- Generally speaking, 5 days worth of carefully selected 30-minute observations will be sufficient to obtain accurate functional assessment data.
  - In a functional analysis assessment (FAA) data collection procedures are more ridged, but here also 5 days worth of carefully selected 30-minute observations will be sufficient.

Systematic Observation:
Data Collection as Part of a FAA

- In an FAA, be sure to observe at the same time each day or during the same activity.
  - Student behavior can change from one activity to another, so it is best to always “sample” their reaction to the same activity for a period of five days.
- In an FAA, do not skip successive days when observing as a student’s behavior may change over the course of the week.
- Regardless of the type of assessment (FBA or FAA), make sure the behavioral data collection strategy is feasible.

Systematic Observation:
Data Collection Strategies

1. Severity/Intensity*
2. Permanent Product Data
3. Event Frequency Data*
4. Duration Data*
5. Interval Data
   a) Whole-interval time sampling
   b) Partial-interval time sampling
   c) Momentary-interval time sampling

*These are the types of baseline data specifically specified in the California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Article 5, Sec. 3052
Severity of Disruptive Behavior Rating Rubric

1. Behavior is confined only to the observed student. May include such behaviors as: refusal to follow directions, scowling, crossing arms, pouting, or muttering under his/her breath.

2. Behavior disrupts others in the student’s immediate area. May include: slamming textbook closed, dropping book on floor, name calling, or using inappropriate language.

3. Behavior disrupts everyone in the class. May include: throwing objects, yelling, open defiance of teacher directions, or leaving the classroom.

4. Behavior disrupts other classrooms or common areas of the school. May include: throwing objects, yelling, open defiance of school personnel’s directions, or leaving the school campus.

5. Behavior causes or threatens to cause physical injury to student or others. May include: display of weapons, assault on others.

Source: Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice

Systematic Observation: Data Collection

Permanent Product Data

- Definition: The enduring outcome of the behavior.
- Example of behaviors measured: Number of problems or number of assignments completed, windows broken. Activities with discrete, countable segments.
- Advantages: Reliability. Can be collected after the fact in some cases (e.g., by looking at a teacher’s grade books).

Systematic Observation: Data Collection

- **Event Frequency Data**
  - **Definition:** Number of occurrences of behavior that has a clear beginning and end, measured over a specified time period.
  - **Example of behaviors measured:** Picking at lip, a punch, runs from room; shouts out response, words read per minute, hand raises, number of problems completed, eye blinks, questions answered correctly, self-injurious acts with a clear beginning and ending.
  - **Advantages:** Easy to record. A small golf counter is often used to collect this type of data.


- **Event Frequency x Activity Data**
  - Activity Scatter Plot
  - Helps to identify if the frequency of a given behavior is greater during specific activities.

- **Event Frequency x Time Data**
  - Time Scatter Plot
  - Helps to identify if the frequency of a given behavior is greater during specific times of the day.
Systematic Observation: Data Collection

Duration Data

- **Definition**: Length of time from beginning to end of a response. If a behavior lasts several minutes and/or does not occur very frequently, then this is a preferred data source.
- **Example of behaviors measured**: Temper tantrums, time spent on task, amount of time out of seat, length of time to sit down, following teacher request to do so, or any behaviors where duration is an important variable.
- **Disadvantages**: Required the use of a clock or stop watch.


Systematic Observation: Data Collection

- Can also be used to collect frequency data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Stop</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<td>Date 1</td>
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<td>Duration 4</td>
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Systematic Observation: Data Collection Practice

- A student by the name of Dr. Evil and his clone have a variety of problem behaviors that need to be addressed. According to his teacher (Mr. Powers), Dr. Evil (and his clone) pick their lips, “flip people off,” and get into fights. In addition, they are frequently out of their seat.
- Operationalize these behaviors so that they can be measured.
Systematic Observation: Data Collection Practice

- **“Picks lips”**
  - Brings little finger to mouth and touches the corner of his mouth.
  - What type of data would best capture this behavior?
    - Frequency count as this behavior has a very clear beginning and end and lasts for a very short time.

- **“Flips people off”**
  - Raises his middle finger and points it in the direction of another person.
  - What type of data would best capture this behavior?
    - Frequency count as this behavior has a very clear beginning and end and lasts for a very short time.

- **“Fights”**
  - Raises voice (“yells” but sometimes only slightly). Becomes sarcastic (typically resulting in others getting mad). Doesn’t let other people talk.
  - What type of data would best capture this behavior?
    - Duration data as this behavior can last for varying amounts of time and does not happen with a high degree of frequency.

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Systematic Observation: Data Collection Practice

- Observe Dr. Evil (and his clone) and collect frequency and duration data for these three behaviors.

- **Observation of Dr. Evil and his clone**

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Systematic Observation: Data Collection

- **Interval Data**
  - **Definition**: Number of time intervals in which the behavior occurs. Total observation time is divided into equal intervals and recording the behavior’s presence or absence during that time. If the behavior occurs frequently (at least once every 15 minutes), then this is the preferred data source.
  - **Example of behaviors measured**: Thumb sucking, on/off-task, gestures, stereotypical behavior
  - **Advantages**: Records behaviors that are not clearly discrete (don’t have real clear beginnings and endings).

Systematic Observation: 
Time Sampling Techniques

Whole-interval time sampling. Records the response when displayed throughout the entire interval. Can be used to measure on-task behavior. Tends to underestimate occurrences of behavior. Useful when it is important to know that the behavior has not been interrupted.

Partial-interval time sampling. Records the response when a single instance is displayed at any time during the interval. Can be used to measure swearing or bizarre gestures. Tends to overestimate occurrences of behavior. Used to record behaviors that are fleeting.

Momentary-interval time sampling. Records the response if it is displayed at the end (or beginning) of a specific interval. Can be used to measure in-seat behavior or frequent stereotypic behavior. Useful to record behaviors that are apt to persist for a while.


Systematic Observation: 
Data Collection

Interval Data (whole, partial, momentary)

Systematic Observation: 
Data Collection Practice

“Out of Seat”
• Dr. Evil and/or his clone’s bottom is not on a chair.
• What type of data would best capture this behavior?
  • Momentary interval data could be used as the behavior can persist for a period of time
  • Whole interval data could be used as it is helpful to know how often the behavior lasts without being interrupted.
  • Partial interval data could be used as it sometimes can be fleeting in occurrence.
• Observe Dr. Evil (and his clone) and collect interval data for this behavior.

Observation of Dr. Evil and his clone
• Write behavior at top of coding sheet
• Use 30 second intervals
• Begin at 13:00 and end at 18:30
Systematic Observation: Data Collection Practice/Setup

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Moment Interval</th>
<th>Whole Interval</th>
<th>Partial Interval</th>
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Systematic Observation: Data Collection Practice/Results

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Other Functional Assessment Observation Strategies

- Anecdotal Behavioral Observation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antecedents</th>
<th>Behaviors</th>
<th>Consequences</th>
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Functional Assessment Observation Form
Behavioral Observation Practice

- Make use of the Functional Assessment Observation Form when responding to observational data from the following case study.
- Jimmy is an 8-year-old, 2nd grade boy currently enrolled in a special day class designed for children with severe communication difficulties. Jimmy has normal intelligence (as measured by nonverbal tests of intelligence). Jimmy’s articulation skills are extremely poor. Despite his well-developed cognitive abilities, he has significant learning difficulties. Reading is a particular weakness and math a relative strength. Jimmy’s classroom is highly structured and follows a very predictable routine.

Behavioral Observation Practice

1. Write in name and start date
2. Write in behaviors (name calling & noncompliance)
3. Write in observation times (also include schedule)
4. Assign first behavior an event # (cross out 1) and date (write in 9-25)
5. Event #1, 9-25, 8:30 (what row?)
6. Place a 1 under name calling
7. Place a 1 under the appropriate predictors (will need to write in Suzie’s name)
   - Asked to read = demand/request
   - Reading is hard = difficult task
   - Swears at Suzie = Suzie
8. Place a 1 under the perceived functions
9. Place a 1 under the actual consequence (will need to write in time out).
**Common Problems in Behavior Measurement**

- A vague definition of the behavior (e.g., Charles sometimes gets upset).
- Untrained or inexperienced observers.
- Difficulty observing multiple student behaviors (e.g., out of seat, off task, and rude gestures).
- Potential observer bias regarding the student’s behavior (e.g., the observer is subjected to repeated teacher complaints about the severity of the student’s classroom conduct).
- Difficulty precisely capturing classroom interactions (e.g., observing a group learning activity in which students move about the classroom).

**Functional Analysis Assessment**

- Experimental manipulation of antecedents and/or consequences to demonstrate a functional relationship between one or more of the antecedents and consequences and the occurrence of the challenging behavior.
- Employs a Behavior Rate Tabulation Chart.
- Three steps:
  1. Objective measurement of the challenging behavior.
  2. Demonstration of a change in the level of the challenging behavior following the manipulation of contingencies.
  3. Replication.
Behavior Rate Tabulation Chart

Creating Report Graphs

- Carr & Burkholder
- Sample Excel™ chart and graph

Next Week

- Topics
  - Writing the FBA
  - Case Staffing
- Assignments
  - Fieldwork: Complete teacher interview and begin behavioral observations and establish a baseline.
  - Prepare for case staffing by completing Staffing Template
  - Review Grading Rubric