

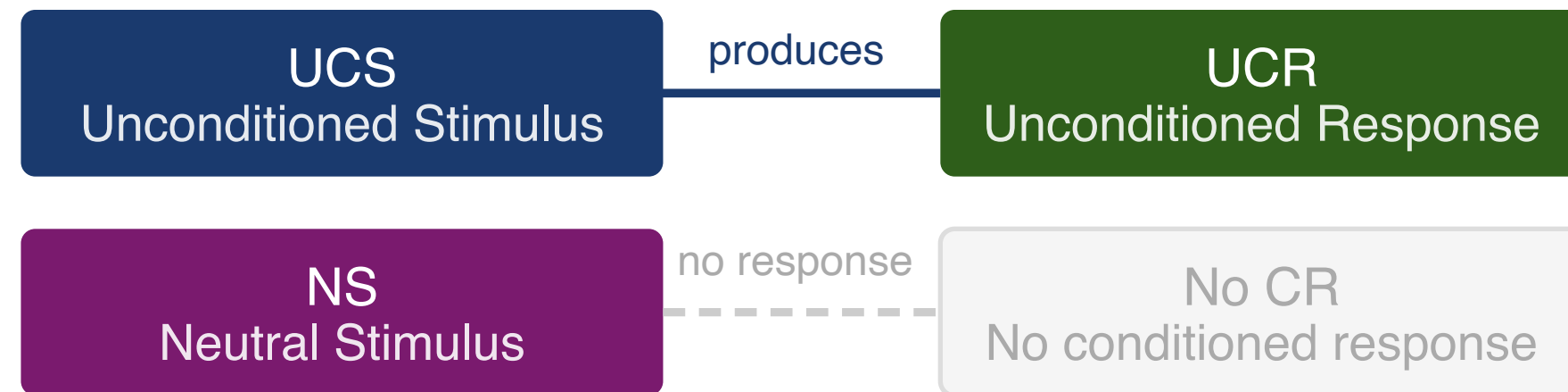
Classical Conditioning: The 3-Phase Process

How a neutral stimulus becomes a conditioned stimulus through association

■ Unconditioned (natural, unlearned) ■ Neutral / Conditioned (learned) ■ Response — Produces response - - - - No response yet

PHASE 1 — BEFORE CONDITIONING

Two stimuli exist independently



Pavlov example:
Food (UCS) → Salivation (UCR) [automatic, no learning needed]

Pavlov example:
Bell (NS) → No salivation [bell means nothing yet]

Conditioning begins

PHASE 2 — DURING CONDITIONING

NS and UCS are repeatedly paired together



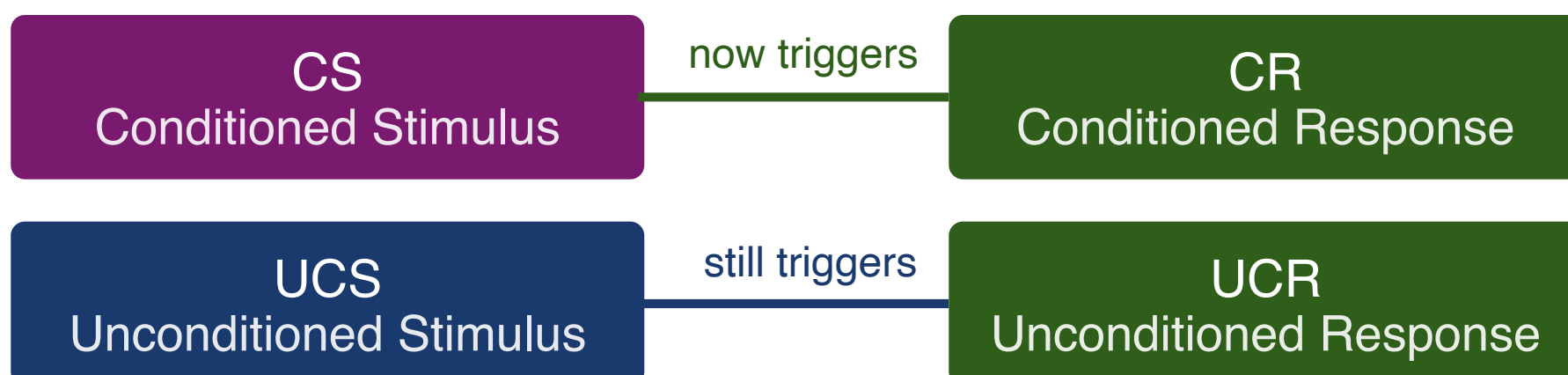
Pavlov example:
Bell + Food presented together → Salivation

This pairing is repeated many times. Each repetition strengthens the association between the NS and the UCS.

NS becomes CS through learning

PHASE 3 — AFTER CONDITIONING

NS is now a CS — it triggers the CR alone



Pavlov example:
Bell alone (CS) → Salivation (CR) [no food needed]

Note:
Food (UCS) still automatically causes salivation — this never changes

The key transformation:
The NS (bell) became a CS through repeated pairing.
Now it triggers a CR (salivation) on its own — without any food present.

Note: The CR is similar to the UCR but typically weaker in intensity.
UCR is unlearned and automatic. CR is acquired through repeated conditioning.

UCS = Unconditioned Stimulus | UCR = Unconditioned Response | NS = Neutral Stimulus | CS = Conditioned Stimulus | CR = Conditioned Response