Feynman lawfulness in human pleasure and aversion, and its implications for a quantitative model of emotion

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Multiple constructs have been developed to describe how animals and humans value experience and objects (i.e., reward vs. sanction, pleasure vs. aversion). Except for a recently discovered construct called relative preference theory (RPT), all of these constructs carry major caveats, including that none of them have been tested for Feynman’s four criteria of “lawfulness”. In this talk, I will discuss the discovery of RPT, its evaluation regarding Feynman’s criteria, the work with the late Dale Mortensen about using it for mechanistic insight, and future prospects for using it at the core of a mathematical model of human emotion. I will also touch on some studies using it with big data.