Reading / EN

When an effect changes the next condition.

Distinguishing feedback from mere repetition.

When an effect changes the next condition.

Not every recurring error is already explained by feedback. An invented process makes the difference between repetition, a returning effect, and verifiable correction visible.

An error occurs again

An invented working group sends out an outdated schedule several times. After each error, another reminder is sent. Nevertheless, incorrect dates appear again the next week. It would be natural to draw the process as a cycle immediately. But repetition alone does not yet explain what produces it.

Perhaps several people use the same old download. Perhaps, independently, there is an incorrect source. Perhaps the reminder actually changes subsequent behavior. The possibilities must be separated. A vivid circular shape is not yet evidence that the earlier effect returns into the later process.

AdL Architektur des Lebens · überarbeitete Gesamtausgabe 2.0 · First work, chapters 11.2–11.4, 26.7, 27.8–27.9, and 36; clarifications in edition 2.0.

The return path must be named

Feedback, in the sense used here, occurs when an effect changes the conditions of later effects. For example, the group might respond to every error with additional messages. If that makes valid changes harder to identify, the response could help shape the conditions of the next error.

Initially, this explanation is a hypothesis. It includes observable intermediate steps: messages increase, the valid version is confused more often, and the wrong selection precedes another error. If this path is missing or its chronological sequence does not fit, the alleged feedback must be corrected.

AdL Architektur des Lebens · überarbeitete Gesamtausgabe 2.0 · First work, chapters 11.2–11.4, 26.7, 27.8–27.9, and 36; clarifications in edition 2.0.

Reinforcing and balancing

Reinforcing feedback carries a change further in the same direction. Balancing feedback counteracts a deviation. In technical language, these directions are also called positive and negative. At this point, the words do not mean good and bad.

In the group example, a clear version number with confirmation might limit a faulty handover. Helpful feedback then changes the prerequisite of the next step. Whether that actually succeeds depends on

implementation. A measure intended as correction can arrive too late, remain unclear, or create new difficulties elsewhere.

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Delay is part of the course of events

An intervention is not ineffective merely because nothing changes at the same instant. Some consequences become visible only later. Conversely, immediate calm is not yet evidence that the underlying difficulty has been solved. Evaluation requires it to be established beforehand what change is expected over what period.

The mathematical form is a separate question, too. A linear update can feed one state back into the next. A nonlinear function can do without such a return path. “Linear” must therefore not be used as merely another word for “without feedback.” The course of events and the form of the function must be determined separately.

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Observe a limited correction

For an editorial exercise, the invented group chooses exactly one change: a single location holds the valid schedule, and each update receives a recognizable version number. It is recorded beforehand which kind of error should become less frequent and how an error is counted. The old situation is not measured differently after the fact.

During the next process, results that fit and do not fit are recorded. Perhaps the number of mix-ups falls while missing information persists. Then the measure has addressed a limited part of the difficulty. Perhaps nothing changes; then the suspected relationship is reexamined. An unsuccessful correction must not be replaced by a more favorable story.

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A loop remains a claim open to examination

AdL helps formulate explicitly the connection between an effect and later conditions. The terms do not supply that connection themselves. It can be observed, suspected, or represented by a suitable model. That status belongs to the individual statement.

A null case is permissible. If the new message

mentions the same subject but does not change the next action at all, no relevant returning effect has been shown. The representation can then remain a simple sequence of events. The model becomes more precise when it explicitly leaves an unfound relationship undrawn.

The question is therefore not only: what repeats? It is also: what changes the next situation by returning? Sometimes feedback is found, sometimes a shared source, and sometimes no sufficient explanation yet. The distinction makes later correction more precise.

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Questions

What specific path connects the earlier effect with the later condition?

What observation about timing would contradict your explanation?

What simpler explanation must be examined alongside feedback?

About this edition

Adapted from AdL, collected edition 2.0 of 14 October

2026, chapters 11.2–11.4, 26.7, 27.8–27.9, and 36, and the review volume's distinction between linearity and feedback. The account of group work and the exercise are new, invented editorial applications. The reading claims no diagnostic certainty about real people.

Explains the actual return path of an effect in ordinary language.

Separates reinforcing and balancing feedback from moral assessment.

Adds delays, possible counterevidence, and a limited exercise; does not adopt the older equation of the absence of feedback with linearity.

An independent adaptation of selected passages with new examples and context. This is not a complete reprint of the source texts. Examples are fictional; ADL interpretations are editorial applications. External sources do not establish ADL’s effectiveness.

Sources

AdL Architektur des Lebens · überarbeitete Gesamtausgabe 2.0
First work, chapters 11.2–11.4, 26.7, 27.8–27.9, and 36; clarifications in edition 2.0.