Abstract

An examination of the aversive and reinforcing effects of time-out from positive reinforcement was conducted in a 3-part experiment. In Experiment 1, fixed ratio requirements were increased across daily sessions. Rats were given the opportunity to press a lever which shut off the discriminative stimulus and programmed contingency associated with the current schedule. In Experiment 2, the same rats were exposed to a progressive ratio schedule whereby ratios were increased after each food delivery. Experiment 3, the rats were exposed to a multiple FR25 FR 100 in which the availability of time-out was still available throughout both ratios. This experiment was included to control for the unidirectional increase in effort inherent to the progressive ratio. Experiment 1 showed that fewer time-outs presses occurred at the lower ratios than the higher ratios. Experiment 2, showed a similar, albeit diminished results as Experiment 1. Experiment 3 showed…

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