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Operant Discrimination in the Pigeon under Different Training on Two Stimuli

Takashi Ogawa

12 experimentally naive pigeons were divided into experimental groups and control groups. The procedure used in this experiment was similar to that of my previous study. Pigeons were trained to peck at a key in an experimental box. The key was a disc of translucent plastic which was illuminated through a monochromatic filter. In each group, the Ss were successively presented to two light stimuli in random order, and pecking responses of experimental groups were continuously reinforced in the presence of one stimulus and intermittently of the other one. Continuous reinforcements were given for one half of control groups with respect to both stimuli and intermittent reinforcements for the other half to them.

The rate of responding under different training and extinction trials was examined. Under experimental training, the rate of responding in the continuous reinforcing stimulus increased to a stable value, and this change may be considered a function of induction of the intermittent reinforcing stimulus. But the difference between two stimuli in extinction trials was not significant statistically. In control groups, the rate of responding to the intermittent reinforcing stimuli in extinction trials was less than to the continuous reinforcing stimuli.