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THE ROLE OF STIMULI DEPENDENT COMPONENT DURATION ON WITHIN-SESSION RESPONDING

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Previous research in the area of within-session responding has shown that responding varies within a given session. Results have specifically shown increasing, decreasing, and bitonic function in which bitonic is predominant. The present experiments examined the effects of altering stimuli dependent component durations on responding within sessions. Six female rats pressed a bar for food reinforcers on a multiple VI 30 VI 30 schedule in daily one hour sessions. Components, consisting of alternations between an illuminated and a non-illuminated stimulus light, served as the independent variables. After taking a baseline with a component length of five minutes, the subjects were assigned to one of two experimental groups. The first group was exposed to a component length of four minutes, and the second group was exposed to a component length of six minutes. It was found that the alternating stimulus light did have an effect on within-session responding.