

Avian Visual Cognition Editor: Robert G. Cook

Entire Set of Printable Figures For Motion Discrimination and Recognition

Dittrich & Lea

Link to external motion illusion

Link to Illusionworks

Link to animated demonstration



Link to external demonstration



CONCEPTS: THE FEATURE-POSITIVE EFFECT

The feature-positive effect is a very robust phenomenon described first in discrimination learning by Sainsbury and Jenkins (1967). In concept discrimination, the "feature", the stimulus element that defines the concept, may be present (feature-positive) or absent (feature-negative)

In the following little lab-class example on concept discrimination, two series of trials are provided with identical pairs of number stimuli. Students must decide which is the "correct" choice, with immediate feedback given. When the feature is positive, the vast majority of students will learn the concept in ten trials. When the feature is negative, it is a near certainty that the concept will not be learned within 20 trials.

Unknown to the subject we are testing a Feature Positive condition and the correct feature is "4", therefore, selecting "A" is the correct choice. Subjects soon learn the correct response in the Feature Positive condition (criterion: 5 consecutive correct responses). In the Feature Negative condition, "B" would be the correct choice because the feature "4" is absent. Under this condition few subjects learn the correct choice.

Find out what a group of numbers have in common. Select in each trial either group A or group B for your choice to find the solution! Below is an example of six responses on a record sheet, although 20 trials are presented in total.

| Stimulus group: | А | В |
|-----------------|-----|-----|
| 1. B | 147 | 239 |
| 2. A | 724 | 639 |
| 3. A | 947 | 865 |
| 4. A | 421 | 795 |
| 5. A | 843 | 261 |
| 6. A | 394 | 756 |
| 7 | | |

For more information on the term 'concept discrimination' in birds see Lea 1984; for an interesting approach to the feature-positive effect in pigeons see also Lindenblatt and Delius 1988.





Links to several videos that can't be printed

Link to external demonstration of Lissajous figures

Results from Experiment 3 of Emmerton (1986)



Links to several videos that can't be printed

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In one experiment, Cerella (1980) trained pigeons to discriminate intact drawings of Charlie Brown from normal drawings of other Peanuts characters. Then, Cerella reorganized Charlie Brown by altering the relations between the head, torso, and legs. He discovered that the pigeons responded to scrambled versions of Charlie Brown in the same manner as the original, intact drawings. Therefore, he concluded that the pigeon must be insensitive to global organizational properties of objects. Insensitivity to global object properties is one attribute of a particulate perceiver.



Example stimulus from Lea, Slater, and Ryan 1996)

