

FOUR KINDS OF INTERMITTENT REINFORCEMENT SCHEDULES

From: TEACHING 1: CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT
Wesly C. Becker, Siegfried Engelmann, & Don R. Thomas

Name of Schedule	Definition of Schedule	Effects on Behavior	
		Schedule In Effect	Schedule Terminated (Extinction)
Fixed Ratio (FR)	Reinforcer is given after each X response.	High response rate.	Irregular burst of responding. More responses than in continuous reinforcement, less than in variable ratio
Fixed Interval (FI)	Reinforcer is for first response to occur after each X minutes.	Stops working after reinforcement. Works hard just prior to time for next reinforcement	Slow gradual decrease in responding.
Variable Ratio (VR)	Reinforcer is given after X responses on the average.	Very high response rates. The higher the ratio, the higher the rate.	Very resistant to extinction. Maximum number of responses before extinction.
Variable Interval (VI)	Reinforcer is given for first response after each X minutes on the average.	Steady rate of responding.	Very resistant to extinction. Maximum time to extinction