Concurrent-chain schedule A schedule of reinforcement that consists of two components arranged in sequence. During the *choice link*, the participant has two alternatives available simultaneously. Selection of the one of those options provides that alternative (the *terminal link*) but makes the other one unavailable until the end of the trial.

Concurrent schedule A reinforcement procedure in which the participant can choose to respond on one of two or more simple reinforcement schedules that are available simultaneously. Concurrent schedules allow for the measurement of choice between simple schedule alternatives.

Cumulative record A graphical representation of the cumulative number of occurrences of a particular response as a function of the passage of time. The horizontal distance on the record represents time, the vertical distance represents the total number of responses that have occurred up to a particular point in time, and the slope represents the rate of responding.

Delay discounting function The loss in the value of a reward as a function of how long one has to wait to obtain the reward.

Feedback function The relation between rates of responding and rates of reinforcement allowed by a particular reinforcement schedule.

Fixed-interval schedule A reinforcement schedule in which reinforcement is delivered for the first response that occurs after a fixed amount of time following the last reinforce or the start of the trial.

Fixed-ratio schedule A reinforcement schedule in which a fixed number of responses have to be performed for the next response to be reinforced.

Interval schedule A reinforcement schedule in which a response is reinforced only if it occurs more than a set amount of time after the last delivery of the reinforcer.

Matching law A rule for instrumental behavior, proposed by Herrnstein, according to which the relative rate of response on a particular response alternative equals the relative rate of reinforcement for that response alternative.

Postreinforcement pause A pause in responding that typically occurs after the delivery of the reinforcer or at the start of a trial on fixed-ratio and fixed-interval schedules of reinforcement.

Ratio run The high and invariant rate of responding observed after the postreinforcement pause on fixed-ratio reinforcement schedules. The ratio run ends when the necessary number of responses has been performed, resulting in delivery of the reinforcer.

Ratio schedule A reinforcement schedule in which reinforcement depends only on the number of responses the participant performs, irrespective of when these responses occur.

Schedule of reinforcement A program or rule that determines which occurrence of an instrumental or operant response is followed by delivery of the reinforcer.

Self-control The choice of a delayed large reward over an immediate but smaller reward.

Variable-interval schedule A schedule of reinforcement in which the reinforcer is provided for the first response that occurs after a variable amount of time since the last reinforcer.

Variable-ratio schedule A schedule of reinforcement in which the number of responses necessary to obtain the reinforcer varies from trial to trial. The value of the schedule refers to the average number of responses required for reinforcement.