

RELATIONSHIPS STUDIED IN PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH EXPRESSED AS "*FUNCTION FORMULAS*"


The generic function formula expression is: **$Y = f(X)$**

Y stands for some observable behavior, *e.g.*, speed of reaction to a visual stimulus
f should be read using the phrase "occurring as a function of..."


X is a variable specified uniquely in each case below

The whole formula reads: *Some behavior Y occurs as a function of some variable X*

Examples

B = f(S) How is behavior affected by some stimulus (S)? For Example: Does having background music (S) piped into a study area improve learning (B)? or, Does a new tranquilizer code-named "relaxomite" (S) affect a person's ability to drive a car(B)? 

B = f(O) How is behavior affected by organismic variables (O)? For example: Do chemical imbalances in the frontal lobes (O) cause shyness (B)? Is there a genetic basis (O) for the condition called depression (B)?

B2 = f(B1) How is a behavior observed on one occasion (B1) related or correlated with a behavior occurring on another (B2)? For example: Do SAT scores (B1) predict college success (B2)? Does a child's IQ Score at age 5(B1) allow us to predict her score at age 13(B2)? 

Most psychological research can be found to involve one or another of these three relationships.