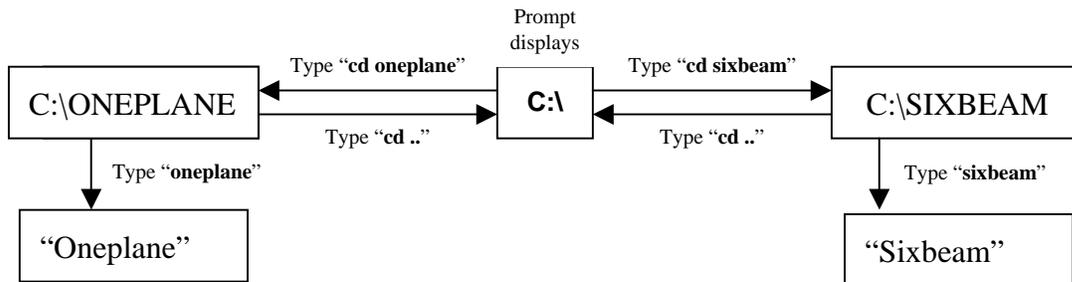


## Locomotor Activity

Check the working condition of the system (This must be done prior to animal tests)

Setup:

- 1) Turn on the computer and monitor. The computer should boot into the DOS prompt.
- 2) Navigate to the directory where the program you wish to use is stored, using the following diagram as a guide:



- 3) At the setup screen, you may make any of the following changes: make a comment about the session, change the session duration, or change the block time. The start date, start time, and session number are all automatically entered and cannot be changed. The Summary File Dir should be "C:\xxxx\data", where "xxxx" is the name of the program you are using. To select the next or previous field, press the **tab** key or **shift+tab**.

**NOTE:** You should write down the session number. Your data will be saved to a file with the session number as the filename.

For the system checkup, set the "Duration" to 2 minutes and the "Block" time to 1 minute.

- 4) Once you have the desired settings press the **F5** key to proceed to the next screen.
- 5) To activate a single box that you have selected, press the **F1** key. To select a different box, press **tab** or **shift+tab**. To activate all boxes, press the **F2** key. Once activated, the timer will start and a series of characters will appear below the rat ID section that represents whether the photobeams are broken or not. An "x" means that the photobeam is not broken while a "." means that the photobeam is currently broken. Here are two examples:

**Unbroken Photobeams:** xxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxx

**Some Broken Photobeams:** xxx . . . .x  
xxxxxxx

- 6) Press F2 to activate all boxes and wave your hand or other object in the box and observe whether or not the photobeams are being broken. Once you have checked all the boxes about to be used, press ctrl+D to deactivate all boxes or—if the boxes have already deactivated—press Y to start a new session.
- 7) Type each rat's ID number in the respective text field. Each ID number should start from the right side of the field.
- 8) Once the session is over, the data is saved automatically. Press **Y** to begin another session or **N** to quit the program.

*Data extraction:*

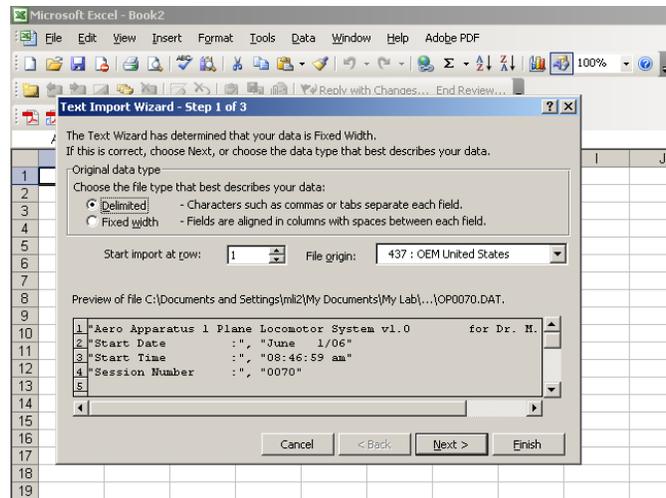
- 1) At the end of the test, press “**N**” to exit the program.
- 2) Type “**win**” and press Enter to start Windows.
- 3) To locate the data for transfer onto a floppy diskette<sup>1</sup>, double-click *My Computer*.
  - a. Double-click “C:/”, then go to the folder with the same name as the program you used.
  - b. Open the “Data” folder and find the data file for your test. It should be in the format: OPxxxx.dat, where “xxxx” is the serial number of your test session. (i.e. “OP0071.dat”)
- 4) To extract the data, use Microsoft Excel to open your data file. Since the file format is not automatically recognized by Excel, you must access it via one of the following ways:
  - a. Open the file directly and specify that you want to open it with Excel.
  - b. Open Excel, select *File* → *Open...*, and locate the directory under which the file is stored. You must set “Files of type:” to “**All Files**”.



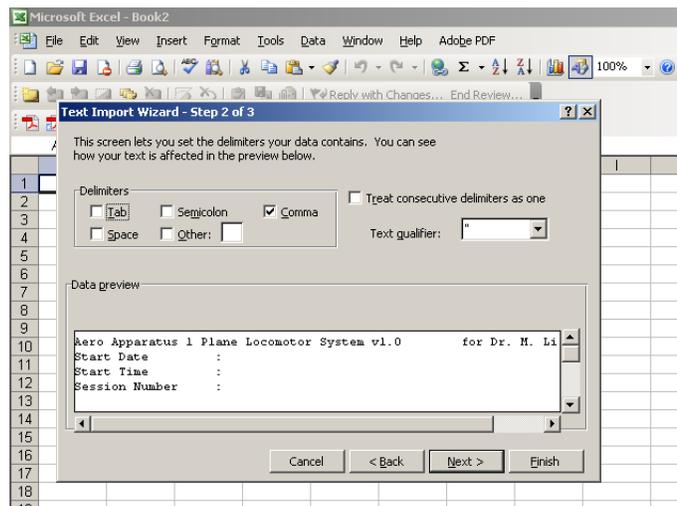
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<sup>1</sup> The computer that controls the photobeam boxes is not connected to the Internet and uses an outdated USB port. Therefore, you must transfer the data to a different computer via a floppy diskette and then to your own USB drive if you wish to use the data outside of the lab. See above for what a floppy diskette looks like.

- 5) Locate your data file. At the “Text Import Wizard” window, choose “Delimited”.



- 6) Click “Next” and choose only “Comma” as a delimiter.
- 7) Click “Finish”. If you wish to use the data in Excel, you should save it as an .xls file.



*Clean-up:*

- 1) Use a paper towel to wipe away any urine or feces.
- 2) Spray the cage with 30% alcohol and use paper towels to wipe it clean. **Do not use cloth towels.**
- 3) At the end of the day, leave each cage open or at least ajar so that odors may dissipate.