FearCond

A Whisker client

by Rudolf Cardinal

www.whiskercontrol.com

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Foreword

WARNING

Whisker is a system designed for research purposes only, and should never be used to control medical apparatus or other devices that could endanger human life.

DISCLAIMER

The authors, copyright holders, and distributors disclaim all responsibility for any adverse effects that may occur as a result of a user disregarding the above warning.
1 FearCond

1.1 About FearCond

Purpose

Fear conditioning (shock US).

Software requirements

Requires Whisker v2.0 or greater.

Data storage

Text-based output to disk.

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1.2 Required devices

The program requires to claim devices in groups named box0, box1, box2... with device names as follows:

```
CSLIGHT      // output
HOU$ELIGHT   // output
CLlCKER      // output
TONE         // output
SHOCK        // dangerous output
```

Please ensure that these devices are available and listed in the device definition file in use by the server.
1.3 Using the task

When you run the task, you will see the following warning. Read and acknowledge it:

![Fear conditioning: WARNING]

This program is designed to deliver electric shocks to experimental subjects.
You are responsible for ensuring:
A. that the shock duration (specified in the parameter dialogue) and the intensity (set on the shock generator) are safe and appropriate;
B. that the computer controlling the shock generator has fail-safe hardware installed so that computer resets (e.g. following mains power failure) cannot lead to inappropriate shock delivery (see Whisker user guide for details of how to implement this).

FAILURE TO HEED THIS WARNING MIGHT LEAD TO YOUR PROSECUTION.

Press ‘OK’ if you have understood the above, or ‘Cancel’ to exit.

The main screen looks as follows:

![Fear conditioning (FearCond)]

1. Connect to a Whisker server named loopback on port 3233
2. Claim box number
3. Choose (or view) the task parameters
4. Start the task

State of the box
Status messages

You must connect to a Whisker server, claim an operant chamber (box), and set up the parameters for your task. Once that's done, the traffic lights will turn amber. When you are ready, press Start to begin the task.
1.4 Parameters

The parameters dialogue box looks like this:
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