[Phase 1](http://docs.google.com/phase1.html)][ [Phase 2](http://docs.google.com/phase2.html)

Phase 1

There were two phases in my experiment. The first began with 8 mice: four males and four females. The mice were probably not from the same litter but had been born at the same time and were about 4 weeks old. I had two identical cages, waterbottles, food dishes and exercise wheels. I brought the little critters home and divided them into two groups, each with two males and two females.

I put a black dot on the tails of the male mice. I put a colored dot on one male and one female per cage so that I would be able to tell them apart. I used red in the first cage and green in the second so that, if they escaped (which we sincerely hoped they wouldn't), I would know which mouse was which. I also wanted to weigh the mice but they weighed less than any scale we had at my house could register. So I tried to measure the mice (the length of their bodies) with a ruler to the best of my ability so that I could, at the end of the experiment, look at their growth. The mice in the first cage were petted and played with on a daily basis and the mice in the other cage were given only food, water and a clean cage.

For a month and a half, I watched the mice and played with the "chosen ones." A tragedy occured in the first week and I lost a mouse. A female mouse in the first cage, the smallest of my group and probably the runt of her litter, died one morning, apparently of natural causes in that there were no marks of injury on her body. I think she might not have eaten enough or perhaps she just couldn't survive. That left the first cage with only one female and two males. I wasn't sure what to do now that my numbers were not perfect but I decided to just continue the experiment with seven mice instead of eight.

So I played with and petted the mice nearly every day for a month and a half. At that time, the female mouse in the "loved" group gave birth to 11 little mice. While we weren't watching, a male came up and devoured one. We promtly removed him and the other male from the cage. With that, the cages were separated and all the males were put in a cage by themselves and the females in another cage. The new mother got a cage all to herself. Other than the testing, phase one was essentially complete.

I had planned on measuring the lenght of the mice's bodies but my initial measurement was not very accurate so I decided that was a bad idea. So I chose to build a maze to test the mice. A book I read said that a T-Maze is a simple but effective maze often used in experiments. I made such a maze out of a cardboard box. I cut a hole in the place where I wanted the mice to exit the maze. I even put a top on the maze so that the mice could see the light at the end of the tunnel, if you will. Then I raced the mice through the maze--the data is recorded in the DATA section, in the column labeled "time."