

# A meta-analysis of mental rotation ability in the first years of life

Alexander Enge, Shreya Kapoor, Anne-Sophie Kieslinger & Michael A. Skeide

Commit 1d82f49

```
gender %>%
  mutate(
    experiment = str_c(year, article, group, seq = ", "),
    # Convert mean sample age from days to months and center
    age_months = age_mean / 30.417,
    age_months_c = age_months - mean(age_months, na.rm = TRUE),
    # Add d_z from paired t test of condition means (Rosenthal, 1991)
    d_s_t = t * sqrt(1 / female_n + 1 / male_n),
    # Add d_z from ANOVA F value via conversion to a t value
    d_s_f = sqrt(as.numeric(f)) * sqrt(1 / female_n + 1 / male_n),
    # Add d_z from mean and standard deviation of the difference
    d_s_diff = (mean_diff_males_mean - mean_diff_females_mean) / sqrt(((male_n - 1) * (mean_diff_males_
    # Add d_av from mean difference and standard deviations (assumes r = 0.5)
    # (Cumming, 2012)
    # Add d from one-sample t test of novelty preference scores
    d_s_nov_pref = (novelty_pref_males_mean - novelty_pref_females_mean) / sqrt(((male_n - 1) * (novelt

    # Choose one type of outcome variable for each experiment
    di = case_when(
      # 1. If d was reported directed
      !is.na(d) ~ d,
      # 2. If a paired sample t test was reported
      !is.na(d_s_t) ~ d_s_t,
      # 3. If ANOVA was reported
      !is.na(d_s_f) ~ d_s_f,
      # 4. If the difference between means and its SD were reported
      !is.na(d_s_diff) ~ d_s_diff,
      # 6. If a novelty preference score and its SD were reported
      !is.na(d_s_nov_pref) ~ d_s_nov_pref
    ),
    # Keep track which type of outcome measure was chosen for each article
    di_type = case_when(
      # 1. If d was reported directly
      !is.na(d) ~ "d",
      # 2. If a paired sample t test was reported
      !is.na(d_s_t) ~ "d_s_t",
      # 3. If ANOVA was reported
      !is.na(d_s_f) ~ "d_s_f",
      # 4. If the difference between means and its SD were reported
      !is.na(d_s_diff) ~ "d_s_diff",
      # 6. If a novelty preference score and its SD were reported
      !is.na(d_s_nov_pref) ~ "d_s_nov_pref"
```

```

) %>%
  factor(levels = c("d", "d_s_t", "d_s_f", "d_s_diff", "d_s_nov_pref")),
# As per Lankens et. al. 2013, the formula for Hedge's is as follows, is this even correct? Can we
#  $g = d_i * (1 - (3 / (4 * (female\_n + male\_n) - 9)))$ ,
# Apply small sample correction using Hedges' exact method
# See http://dx.doi.org/10.20982/tqmp.14.4.p242
df = (male_n + female_n - 2),
j = exp(lgamma(df / 2) - log(sqrt(df / 2)) - lgamma((df - 1) / 2)),
gi = di * j,
# Compute empirical correlation based on sd_z and condition SDs
d_s = case_when(
  !is.na(d_s_t) ~ d_s_t,
  !is.na(d_s_f) ~ d_s_f,
  !is.na(d_s_diff) ~ d_s_diff,
  !is.na(d_s_nov_pref) ~ d_s_nov_pref
),
# harmonic mean of the sample sizes has to be taken hear
n_h = (female_n * male_n) / (female_n + male_n),
sei = sqrt((df * 2 * (1 + (gi^2 * n_h * 0.5))) / ((df - 2) * n_h) - (gi^2 / j^2))
) -> dat

```

```

dat %>%
  select(
    article,
    group,
    experiment,
    gi,
    di,
    di_type,
    d,
    d_s_t,
    d_s_f,
    d_s_diff,
    sei
  ) %>%
  print(n = Inf)

```

```
## # A tibble: 44 x 11
##   article      group experiment      gi      di di_type      d      d_s_t      d_s_f
##   <chr>      <chr> <chr>      <dbl> <dbl> <fct>      <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
## 1 Antrilli & ~ All    "2016Antr~ 0        0      d_s_f    NA     NA        0
## 2 Christodoul~ All    "2016Chri~ 0        0      d_s_f    NA     NA        0
## 3 Constantine~ All    "2016Cons~ 0.631    0.64    d        0.64    0.643    NA
## 4 Erdmann 2015 5 mo. "2015Erdm~ 0.00996  0.01    d        0.01    0.0693    0
## 5 Erdmann 2015 9 mo. "2015Erdm~ 0.0299   0.03    d        0.03    0.0262    0.0345
## 6 Erdmann et ~ 5 mo. "2018Erdm~ 0.0498   0.05    d        0.05    0.00416    0.0519
## 7 Erdmann et ~ 9 mo. "2018Erdm~ 0.0154   0.0154  d_s_f    NA     NA        0.0154
## 8 Erdmann et ~ All    "2019Erdm~ 0.0498   0.05    d        0.05    0.0510    NA
## 9 Frick & Möh~ All    "2013Fric~ 0.472    0.482  d_s_f    NA     NA        0.482
## 10 Frick & Wan~ Exp.~ "2014Fric~ 0        0      d_s_f    NA     NA        0
## 11 Frick & Wan~ Exp.~ "2014Fric~ 0        0      d_s_f    NA     NA        0
## 12 Frick & Wan~ Exp.~ "2014Fric~ 0        0      d_s_f    NA     NA        0
## 13 Gerhard & S~ All    "2018Gerh~ 0        0      d_s_f    NA     NA        0
## 14 Gerhard-Sam~ All    "2021Gerh~ 0        0      d_s_f    NA     NA        0

```

```
## 15 Hespos & Ro~ Exp~ "1997Hesp~ 0 0 d_s_f NA NA 0
## 16 Hespos & Ro~ Exp~ "1997Hesp~ 0 0 d_s_f NA NA 0
## 17 Hespos & Ro~ Exp~ "1997Hesp~ 0 0 d_s_f NA NA 0
## 18 Hespos & Ro~ Exp~ "1997Hesp~ 0 0 d_s_f NA NA 0
## 19 Hespos & Ro~ Exp~ "1997Hesp~ 0 0 d_s_f NA NA 0
## 20 Hespos & Ro~ Exp~ "1997Hesp~ 0 0 d_s_f NA NA 0
## 21 Kaaz & Heil~ Exp~ "2020Kaaz~ -0.149 -0.15 d -0.15 -0.153 NA
## 22 Kaaz & Heil~ Exp~ "2020Kaaz~ 0.0992 0.1 d 0.1 0.0980 NA
## 23 Kaaz & Heil~ Exp~ "2020Kaaz~ 0.109 0.11 d 0.11 0.108 NA
## 24 Kaaz & Heil~ Exp~ "2020Kaaz~ 0.0199 0.02 d 0.02 0.0177 NA
## 25 Kaaz & Heil~ Exp~ "2020Kaaz~ 0.446 0.45 d 0.45 0.449 NA
## 26 Kelch et al~ Exp~ "2021Kelc~ 0.425 0.440 d_s_f NA NA 0.440
## 27 Kelch et al~ Exp~ "2021Kelc~ NA NA <NA> NA NA NA
## 28 Kelch et al~ Craw~ "2021Kelc~ 0.520 0.539 d_s_f NA NA 0.539
## 29 Lauer et al~ All "2015Laue~ 0.537 0.545 d_s_f NA NA 0.545
## 30 Lauer & Lou~ All "2016Laue~ NA NA <NA> NA NA NA
## 31 Möhring & F~ All "2013Möhr~ NA NA <NA> NA NA NA
## 32 Moore & Joh~ All "2008Moor~ 0.647 0.66 d 0.66 0.655 NA
## 33 Moore & Joh~ All "2011Moor~ 0.797 0.813 d_s_f NA NA 0.813
## 34 Quinn & Lib~ All "2008Quin~ 1.28 1.32 d_s_t NA 1.32 NA
## 35 Quinn & Lib~ Exp~ "2014Quin~ 1.21 1.23 d_s_f NA NA 1.23
## 36 Quinn & Lib~ Exp~ "2014Quin~ 1.48 1.54 d_s_no~ NA NA NA
## 37 Quinn & Lib~ Exp~ "2014Quin~ 0.918 0.951 d_s_no~ NA NA NA
## 38 Rochat & He~ Exp~ "1996Roch~ 0 0 d_s_f NA NA 0
## 39 Rochat & He~ Exp~ "1996Roch~ 0 0 d_s_f NA NA 0
## 40 Schwarzer e~ All "2013Schw~ 0 0 d_s_f NA NA 0
## 41 Schwarzer e~ All "2013Schw~ NA NA <NA> NA NA NA
## 42 Slone et al~ All "2018Slon~ 0 0 d_s_f NA NA 0
## 43 Slone et al~ Mitt~ "2018Slon~ 0 0 d_s_f NA NA 0
## 44 Slone et al~ Mitt~ "2018Slon~ 0 0 d_s_f NA NA 0
## # ... with 2 more variables: d_s_diff <dbl>, sei <dbl>
```

```
dat$sei
```

```
## [1] 0.5185630 0.4174236 0.3979975 0.1970758 0.2195507 0.1970907 0.2195461
## [8] 0.1970907 0.4629853 0.5621141 0.5695794 0.5621141 0.3299480 0.4574746
## [15] 0.8976553 0.6592727 0.6995670 0.7319251 0.6741999 0.7032108 0.2920061
## [22] 0.2918894 0.2919090 0.1672546 0.2936809 0.6292969 NA 0.6715999
## [29] 0.3888732 NA NA 0.4660499 0.4694193 0.6410455 0.4377461
## [36] 0.6529254 0.6241374 0.5560256 0.7032108 0.4188805 NA 0.3203616
## [43] 0.4594683 0.4594683
```

```
dat %>%
  mutate(
    ni = sample_size,
    vi = sei^2
  ) %>%
  filter(!is.na(gi)) %>%
  select(
    article, group, experiment, gi, ni, vi, sei, age_months_c, female_n, sample_size
  ) -> dat_r
```

```
# Three-level model
```

```
res_ml <- rma.mv(
  gi, vi,
```

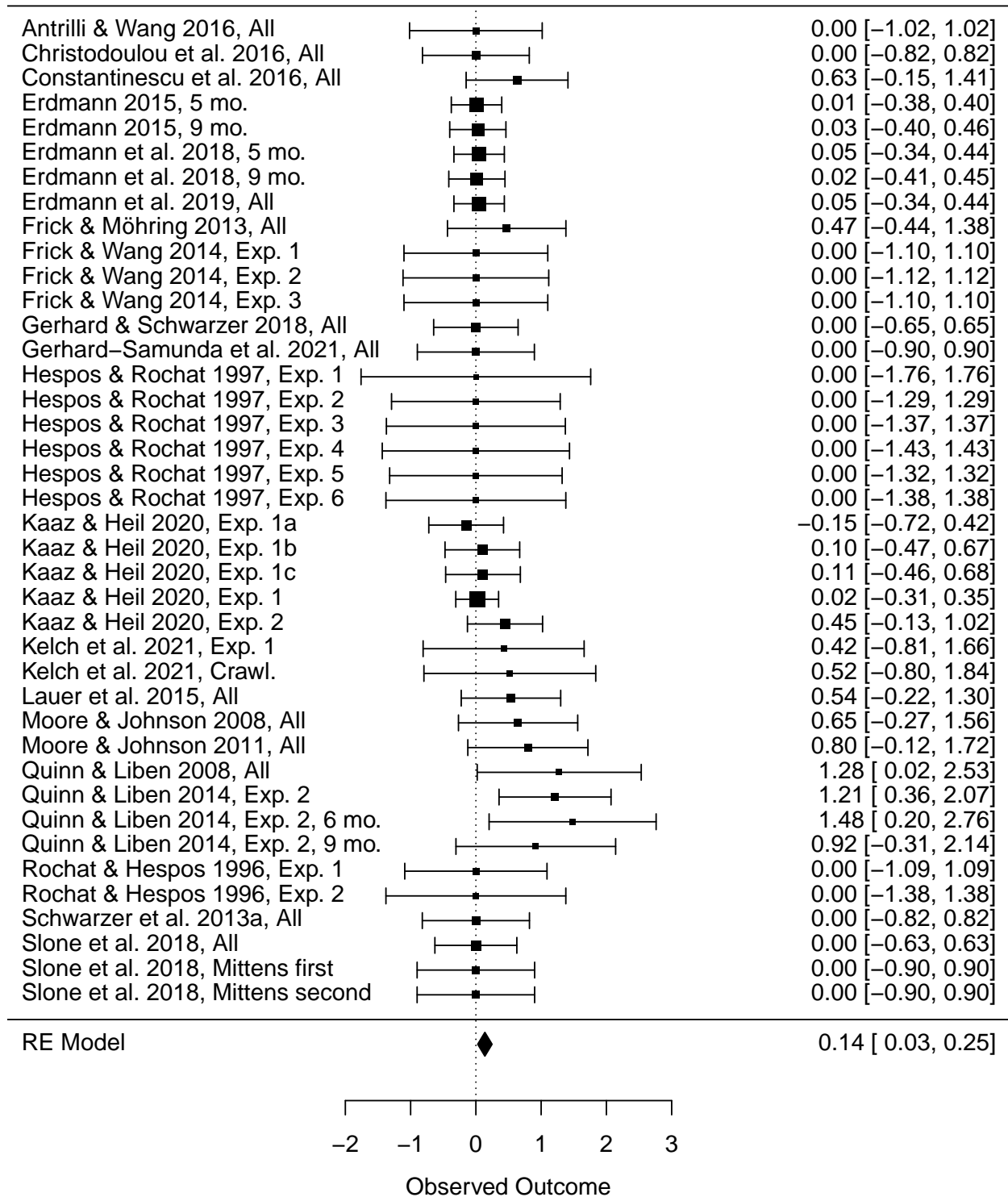
```

random = ~ 1 | article / experiment,
data = dat_r,
slab = paste(article, group, sep = ", ")
)
print(res_ml)

##
## Multivariate Meta-Analysis Model (k = 40; method: REML)
##
## Variance Components:
##
##      estim      sqrt  nlvls  fixed      factor
## sigma^2.1  0.0000  0.0000    21    no      article
## sigma^2.2  0.0000  0.0000    40    no  article/experiment
##
## Test for Heterogeneity:
## Q(df = 39) = 27.1835, p-val = 0.9230
##
## Model Results:
##
## estimate      se      zval      pval      ci.lb      ci.ub
##  0.1381  0.0559  2.4697  0.0135  0.0285  0.2476  *
##
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

# jpeg("forest_between_three_level.jpg")
forest(res_ml)

```



# dev.off()