Supplement to "Interaction structure constrains the emergence of conventions in group communication"

Contents

Number of games	1
More on matcher utterances	3
Additional measure of convergence	5
Distinctiveness of tangrams	6
Summaries of model outputs	7
Accuracy models	7
Reduction models Primary reduction model Extra reduction model Matcher reduction models Initial utterance reduction model	8 8 9 9
Linguistic content models Convergence within games: comparison to last round Divergence across games Divergence across tangrams Convergence to next Divergence from first	11 11 12 13 15 16
Exploratory Mega-analytic models	17
Log reduction	18

Number of games

In experiment 3, the 6* player games did not all have 6 players, both because games continued as participants dropped out and because if there weren't enough players after 5 minutes of waiting, the game would start with whoever was there. All analyses use "intent to treat" and call these 6 player games.

The number of games goes up in some cases because only complete blocks (where the describer said something every trial) are analysed. If there was initial confusion and a desciber missed a trial, that block was excluded.

Table 1: The number of games in each experiment and condition. Complete games finished all 6 blocks; partial games ended early due to disconnections, but contributed at least one complete block of data. 6* indicates that some games started with fewer than 6 players or continued with fewer than 6 players after participants disconnected.

Experiment	Players	Complete	Partial	Total Participants
1: baseline	2	15	4	38
1: baseline	3	18	2	60
1: baseline	4	19	2	84
1: baseline	5	17	3	100
1: baseline	6	12	6	108
2: same describer	6	15	3	108
2: full feedback	6	13	4	102
2: thin	6	10	6	96
3: thin	2	35	3	76
3: thin	6*	44	0	235
3: thick	2	39	3	84
3: thick	6*	38	2	222

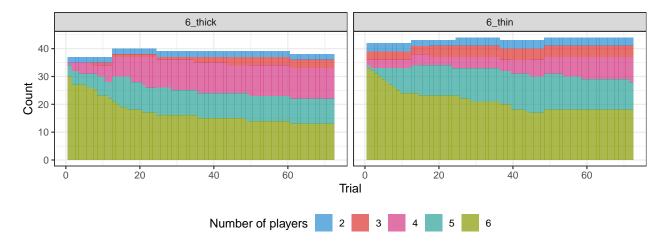


Figure 1: Number of players during 6 thin and 6 thick games in experiment 3. Blocks that were incomplete were excluded, so if a describer said nothing during a trial, that block was excluded.

More on matcher utterances

Matchers' use of backchannel declined over the course of the game. The use of emoji in the thin games is not directly comparable to matcher language use in thick games, since some emoji usage (such as the green checkmark) are most likely equivalent to non-referential matcher language ("got it" etc.) that was excluded. The higher rate of emoji use versus referential language thus could be due to its non-equivalence, a lower level of accuracy in thin games, or matchers having a lower threshold for sending emojis compared to writing out clarifications.

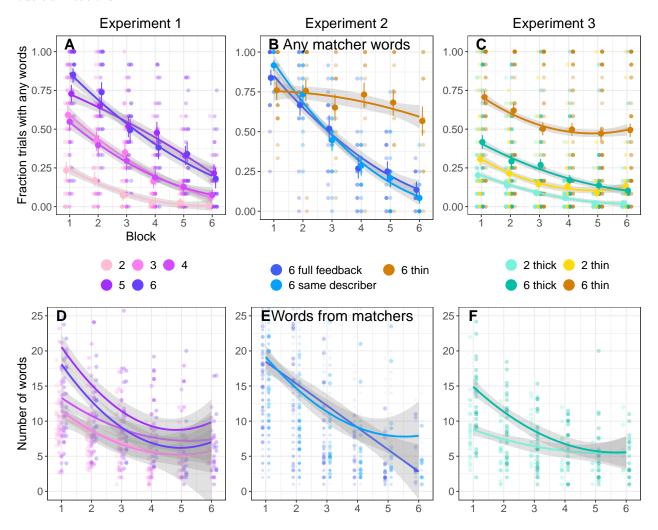


Figure 2: Matcher contributions. A-C: Fraction of trials where any matcher said anything that was referential. Dots are per game averages. Smooths are binomial fit lines. D-F: On trials where at least one matcher contributed, the number of words of referential language produced by matchers. Dots are per game averages. Smooths are quadratic fit lines. Y-axis is truncated, and a few outliers points are not visible.

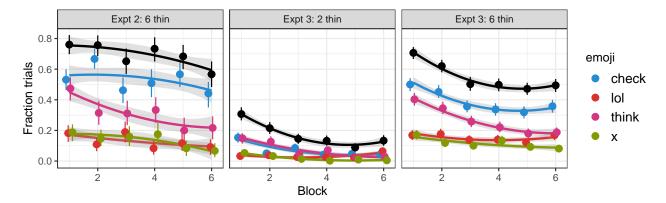


Figure 3: Fraction of trials on which at least one matcher produced the labelled emoji. Fraction of trials when any emoji was produced are shown in black. Dots are per condition, per block estimates with 95% bootstrapped CIs. Smooths are binomial fit lines.

We note a deviation from the pre-registration here in the analysis of the emojis. In the pre-registration we said we would "analyse the distribution of emoji's produced as a function of block and its relation to accuracy and speaker utterance length." We did not do this beyond the visualization shown here.

Additional measure of convergence

The main text included the graph for convergence comparing utterances from blocks 1-5 to the utterance from block 6. Here we show two other measures of semantic shifts for descriptions for the same tangram in the same game: similarity to the first utterance and similarity to the next utterance.

Similarity to the first utterance is not very informative (but we pre-registered it). Similarity to the next utterance is what actually drives the convergence phenomena: pairs of utterances from adjacent blocks become closer together over time.

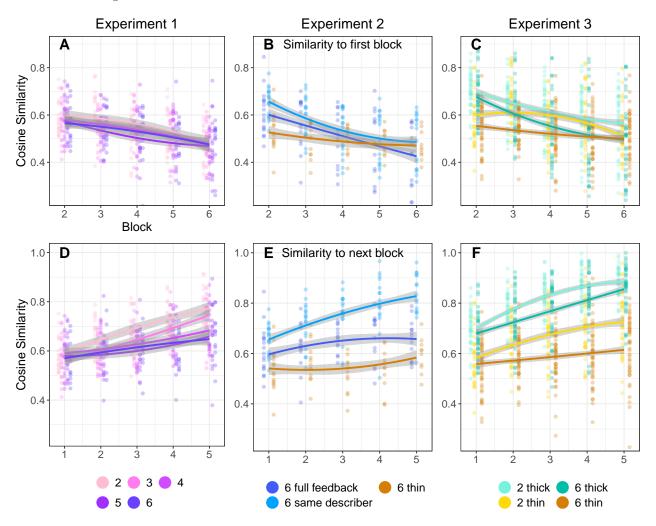


Figure 4: Additional measures of convergence and divergence. A-C is the similarity between utterances on a given block to the first block utterance for the same image, in the same game. Dots are per-game averages, smooths are quadratic. D-F is the similarity between utterances on a given block to the corresponding utterances in the next block. Dots are per-game averages, smooths are quadratic.

Distinctiveness of tangrams

An additional measure of convergence/divergence patterns is how different tangrams get described in the same game – as nicknames evolve, different tangrams get more different descriptions.

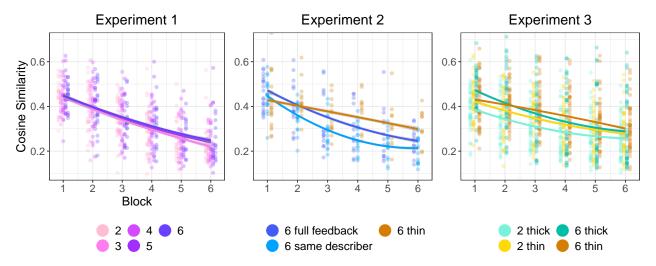


Figure 5: Divergence in descriptions of different tangrams. Cosine similarity between the descriptions of two different tangrams in the same block and group are shown. Dots are per-game averages, smooths are quadratic.

Summaries of model outputs

The following sections contain model outputs. All models were run using BRMS. We report the priors and pre-registration status for each group of models. Tables provide the individual model formulae and the point estimates and 95% credible intervals for the fixed effects.

Note that for all models, block was 0 indexed, so intercepts are what happened during the first block.

Accuracy models

Accuracy models were all run as logistic models with normal(0,1) priors for both betas and sd. This model was not explicitly included in the experiment 1 and 2 pre-registrations; it was included with more ambitious mixed effects (which did not run in a timely manner) in the experiment 3 pre-registration.

Table 2: Experiment 1 logistic model of matcher accuracy: correct.num \sim block \times numPlayers + (1|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	2.10	[1.57, 2.65]
block	0.44	[0.31, 0.58]
block:numPlayers	-0.02	[-0.05, 0.01]
numPlayers	-0.07	[-0.2, 0.05]

Table 3: Experiment 2: 6 same describer logistic model of matcher accuracy: correct.num \sim block + (1|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept block	$1.78 \\ 0.45$	[1.4, 2.19] [0.39, 0.52]

Table 4: Experiment 2: 6 full feedback logistic model of matcher accuracy: correct.num \sim block + (1|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	1.35	[0.59, 2.06]
block	0.47	[0.39, 0.54]

Table 5: Experiment 2: 6 thin logistic model of matcher accuracy: correct.num \sim block + (1|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept block	$0.88 \\ 0.23$	[0.64, 1.12] [0.19, 0.28]

Table 6: Experiment 3 logistic model of matcher accuracy: correct.num \sim block \times gameSize \times channel + (1|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	1.69	[1.39, 1.99]
block	0.41	[0.32, 0.5]
block:channelthin	-0.07	[-0.18, 0.04]
block:gameSize6	-0.34	[-0.43, -0.25]
block:gameSize6:channelthin	0.07	[-0.05, 0.19]
channelthin	-0.36	[-0.78, 0.05]
gameSize6	-0.64	[-1.05, -0.25]
gameSize6:channelthin	0.31	[-0.22, 0.87]

Reduction models

Primary reduction model

Reduction models were run as linear models with an intercept prior of normal (12,20), a beta prior of normal (0,10), an sd prior of normal (0,5) and a correlation prior of lkj(1). This model was pre-registered for each experiment and run with the mixed effects structure as pre-specified.

Table 7: Experiment 1: words \sim block \times numPlayers + (block|tangram) + (1|playerId) + (1|tangram:gameId) + (block|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	16.87	[11.63, 21.89]
block	-3.36	[-4.56, -2.18]
block:numPlayers	-0.09	[-0.37, 0.18]
numPlayers	1.60	[0.62, 2.6]

Table 8: Experiment 2: 6 same describer: words \sim block + (block|tangram) + (1|tangram:gameId) + (block|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	29.65	[24.82, 34.49]
block	-5.31	[-6.35, -4.3]

Table 9: Experiment 2: 6 full feedback: words \sim block + (block|tangram) + (1|tangram:gameId) + (block|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	25.79	[20.97, 30.29]
block	-4.64	[-5.81, -3.53]

Table 10: Experiment 2: 6 thin: words ~ block + (block|tangram) + (1|tangram:gameId) + (block|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	20.3	[17.37, 23.53]
block	-2.1	[-3.37, -1.12]

Table 11: Experiment 3: words \sim block \times channel \times gameSize + (block \times channel \times gameSize|tangram) + (1|tangram:gameId) + (block|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	14.74	[11.68, 17.72]
block	-2.24	[-2.92, -1.57]
block:channelthin	0.29	[-0.56, 1.23]
block:channelthin:gameSize6	0.64	[-0.59, 1.81]
block:gameSize6	-1.22	[-2.06, -0.29]
channelthin	0.80	[-2.85, 4.26]
channelthin:gameSize6	-2.21	[-7.16, 3.08]
gameSize6	7.51	[3.63, 11.3]

Extra reduction model

For experiment 1, we also pre-specified a model about whether the describer's correctness on the prior block (when they were a matcher) had an effect on how many words of description they produced. Priors were the same as for primary reduction model.

Table 12: Experiment 1: words \sim block \times numPlayers + block \times wasINcorrect + (block|tangram) + (1|playerId) + (1|tangram:gameId) + (block|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	12.16	[6.48, 18.07]
block	-2.17	[-3.39, -1]
block:numPlayers	-0.22	[-0.5, 0.06]
block:wasINcorrect	0.24	[-0.24, 0.72]
numPlayers	2.09	[0.88, 3.3]
wasINcorrect	3.07	[1.67, 4.45]

Matcher reduction models

These models were not pre-registered.

For the model of how often any matchers used the backchannel, the priors were normal(0,1) for both beta and sd.

For the model of how much was said on trials when matchers talked, the priors were the same as for the primary (describer) reduction model.

Table 13: Experiment 1: words \sim block \times numPlayers + (block|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	4.72	[0.09, 9.44]
block	-0.17	[-1.53, 1.3]
block:numPlayers	-0.41	[-0.72, -0.11]
numPlayers	2.07	[1, 3.12]

Table 14: Experiment 1: is.words \sim block \times numPlayers + (1|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	-2.67	[-3.54, -1.79]
block	-0.80	[-0.97, -0.62]
block:numPlayers	0.03	[-0.01, 0.07]
numPlayers	0.79	[0.58, 0.98]

Initial utterance reduction model

These models were not pre-registered. They looked at describer reduction only on words that were produced prior to the first matcher message each trial. These models were only run on experimental conditions where matchers could contribute textual responses.

Reduction models were run as linear models with the same priors as the primary reduction model.

Table 15: Experiment 1: words \sim block \times numPlayers + (block|tangram) + (1|tangram:gameId) + (block|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	18.66	[14.58, 22.71]
block	-3.56	[-4.54, -2.55]
block:numPlayers	0.27	[0.03, 0.5]
numPlayers	-0.33	[-1.14, 0.53]

Table 16: Experiment 2: 6 same describer: words \sim block + (block|tangram) + (1|tangram:gameId) + (block|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	18.06	[14.76, 21.44]
block	-2.49	[-3.19, -1.79]

Table 17: Experiment 2: 6 full feedback: words \sim block + (block|tangram) + (1|tangram:gameId) + (block|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	16.69	[13.41, 20.02]
block	-2.49	[-3.34, -1.62]

Table 18: Experiment 3: words \sim block \times gameSize + (block \times gameSize|tangram) + (1|tangram:gameId) + (block|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	13.88	[11.62, 16.2]
block	-2.08	[-2.66, -1.47]
block:gameSize6	-0.65	[-1.43, 0.14]
gameSize6	5.13	[2, 7.95]

Linguistic content models

We ran a number of models predicting the cosine similarity between pairs of S-BERT embeddings of utterances. For all of these models, we used linear models with the priors normal(.5,.2) for intercept, normal(0,.1) for beta, and normal(0,.05) for sd.

These models were verbally described (but not formally specified) in the pre-registrations for experiment 2 in the full feedback and thin conditions and for experiment 3, for looking at divergence between games, convergence within games (compared to first block, next block, and last block utterances), and divergence between tangrams within games.

Convergence within games: comparison to last round

This is the primary convergence metric presented in the main paper.

Table 19: Experiment 1: $sim \sim earlier \times condition + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept condition	0.517 -0.008	[0.458, 0.573] [-0.021, 0.005]
earlier earlier:condition	0.089 -0.008	[0.076, 0.102] [-0.011, -0.005]

Table 20: Experiment 2: 6 same describer: $sim \sim earlier + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept earlier	$0.499 \\ 0.086$	[0.444, 0.556] [0.078, 0.094]

Table 21: Experiment 2: 6 full feedback: $sim \sim earlier + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept earlier	$0.438 \\ 0.062$	[0.389, 0.487] [0.051, 0.072]

Table 22: Experiment 2: 6 thin: $sim \sim earlier + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept earlier	$0.498 \\ 0.023$	[0.453, 0.54] [0.013, 0.033]

Table 23: Experiment 3: $sim \sim earlier \times channel \times gameSize + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept channelthin channelthin:gameSize6 earlier earlier:channelthin earlier:channelthin:gameSize6 earlier:gameSize6	0.581 -0.034 0.039 0.080 -0.025 -0.035 0.009	[0.542, 0.62] [-0.08, 0.011] [-0.021, 0.097] [0.074, 0.086] [-0.033, -0.017] [-0.047, -0.025] [0.001, 0.017]
gameSize6	-0.069	[-0.113, -0.025]

Divergence across games

This is the divergence metric presented in the paper.

Table 24: Experiment 1: $sim \sim block \times condition + (1|tangram)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.468	[0.429, 0.507]
block	-0.035	[-0.038, -0.032]
block:condition	0.001	[0.001, 0.002]
condition	0.002	[0, 0.004]

Table 25: Experiment 2: 6 same describer: $sim \sim block + (1|tangram)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.484	[0.442, 0.526]
block	-0.041	[-0.043, -0.039]

Table 26: Experiment 2: 6 full feedback: $sim \sim block + (1|tangram)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.502	[0.46, 0.546]
block	-0.038	[-0.04, -0.035]

Table 27: Experiment 2: 6 thin: $sim \sim block + (1|tangram)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept block	0.434 -0.004	[0.406, 0.465] [-0.006, -0.001]

Table 28: Experiment 3: $sim \sim block \times channel \times gameSize + (1|tangram)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.411	[0.368, 0.453]
block	-0.024	[-0.025, -0.023]
block:channelthin	0.004	[0.002, 0.005]
block:channelthin:gameSize6	0.017	[0.015, 0.019]
block:gameSize6	-0.008	[-0.01, -0.007]
channelthin	0.014	[0.01, 0.018]
channelthin:gameSize6	-0.030	[-0.035, -0.024]
gameSize6	0.051	[0.047, 0.055]

Divergence across tangrams

This is an additional metric comparing the similiarities between descriptions for different tangrams within a game. It measures how distinct the descriptions for different tangram images are.

Table 29: Experiment 1: $sim \sim block \times condition + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.429	[0.382, 0.473]
block	-0.043	[-0.046, -0.039]
block:condition	0.000	[-0.001, 0.001]
condition	0.003	[-0.008, 0.014]

Table 30: Experiment 2: 6 same describer: sim \sim block + (1|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.416	[0.389, 0.443]
block	-0.046	[-0.048, -0.044]

Table 31: Experiment 2: 6 full feedback: $sim \sim block + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.459	[0.422, 0.496]
block	-0.047	[-0.049, -0.044]

Table 32: Experiment 2: 6 thin: $sim \sim block + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.432	[0.393, 0.471]
block	-0.025	[-0.028, -0.022]

Table 33: Experiment 3: sim \sim block \times channel \times gameSize + (1|gameId)

		0.4
Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.378	[0.352, 0.404]
block	-0.027	[-0.029, -0.025]
block:channelthin	-0.001	[-0.003, 0.002]
block:channelthin:gameSize6	0.011	[0.008, 0.015]
block:gameSize6	-0.010	[-0.013, -0.008]
channelthin	0.038	[-0.001, 0.082]
channelthin:gameSize6	-0.053	[-0.115, 0]
gameSize6	0.073	[0.035, 0.113]

Convergence to next

We also looked at how similar an utterance was to the next block utterance for the same image in the same group: this can be thought of as the derivative of the to-last comparison. (Although cosine similarities are not actually additive in the same way integrals are).

Table 34: Experiment 1: $sim \sim earlier \times condition + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.591	[0.541, 0.641]
condition	-0.004	[-0.014, 0.006]
earlier	0.063	[0.051, 0.075]
earlier:condition	-0.008	[-0.011, -0.006]

Table 35: Experiment 2: 6 same describer: $sim \sim earlier + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept earlier	$0.660 \\ 0.043$	[0.619, 0.702] [0.037, 0.05]

Table 36: Experiment 2: 6 full feedback: $sim \sim earlier + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept earlier	$0.605 \\ 0.015$	[0.569, 0.643] [0.006, 0.024]

Table 37: Experiment 2: 6 thin: $sim \sim earlier + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept earlier	$0.533 \\ 0.010$	[0.49, 0.578] [0, 0.019]

Table 38: Experiment 3: $sim \sim earlier \times channel \times gameSize + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.714	[0.682, 0.746]
channelthin	-0.124	[-0.159, -0.088]
channelthin:gameSize6	0.000	[-0.051, 0.049]
earlier	0.046	[0.041, 0.052]
earlier:channelthin	-0.010	[-0.018, -0.002]
earlier:channelthin:gameSize6	-0.018	[-0.029, -0.007]
earlier:gameSize6	-0.003	[-0.011, 0.004]
gameSize6	-0.034	[-0.069, 0.003]

Divergence from first

We also looked at how similar an utterance was to the first block utterance for the same image. This is not very informative because first round utterances tend to be pretty noisy with lots of hedges and filler words.

Table 39: Experiment 1: $sim \sim later \times condition + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.647	[0.591, 0.705]
condition	-0.010	[-0.022, 0.003]
later	-0.030	[-0.041, -0.019]
later:condition	0.001	[-0.002, 0.004]

Table 40: Experiment 2: 6 same describer: $sim \sim later + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.680	[0.628, 0.728]
later	-0.042	[-0.049, -0.035]

Table 41: Experiment 2: 6 full feedback: $sim \sim later + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept later	0.644 -0.044	[0.584, 0.706] [-0.052, -0.037]

Table 42: Experiment 2: 6 thin: $sim \sim later + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.537	[0.49, 0.584]
later	-0.014	[-0.023, -0.004]

Table 43: Experiment 3: $sim \sim later \times channel \times gameSize + (1|tangram) + (1|gameId)$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept channelthin	0.721 -0.076	[0.681, 0.76] [-0.123, -0.026]
$channel thin: {\tt game Size 6}$	-0.062	[-0.127, 0.001]
gameSize6 later	-0.017 -0.034	[-0.062, 0.03] [-0.039, -0.028]
later:channelthin	0.011	[0.003, 0.019]
later:channelthin:gameSize6 later:gameSize6	0.021 -0.011	[0.01, 0.032] [-0.019, -0.004]

Exploratory Mega-analytic models

For the mega-analytic models:

- thin and emoji conditions are coded as thin; everything else is thick
- group size is coded as intent to treat
- the intercept condition is 2 player, thick, first block
- "thinner" is thin condition instead
- "larger" is per addiitonal player
- "block" is per later block

Table 44: Mega-analytic on accuracy: correct.num \sim block \times thinner \times larger + (1|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	1.83	[1.6, 2.07]
block	0.46	[0.4, 0.52]
block:larger	-0.07	[-0.09, -0.05]
block:thinner	-0.12	[-0.21, -0.02]
block:thinner:larger	0.01	[-0.02, 0.04]
larger	-0.07	[-0.15, 0]
thinner	-0.50	[-0.89, -0.08]
thinner:larger	-0.02	[-0.14, 0.11]

Table 45: Mega-analytic of reduction: words \sim block \times thinner \times larger + (block|gameId)

. 95% CrI
38 [15.59, 19.21]
[-3.24, -2.36]
[-0.51, -0.2]
[0.04, 1.52]
[0, 0.51]
[1.5, 2.75]
9 [-4.61, 1.55]
0 [-1.92, 0.11]

Table 46: Mega-analytic on divergence between groups: $\sin \sim \operatorname{block} \times \operatorname{thinner} \times \operatorname{larger}$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.428	[0.426, 0.431]
block	-0.026	[-0.026, -0.025]
block:larger	-0.002	[-0.002, -0.002]
block:thinner	0.005	[0.004, 0.007]
block:thinner:larger	0.004	[0.004, 0.005]
larger	0.012	[0.011, 0.013]
thinner	-0.003	[-0.007, 0.001]
thinner:larger	-0.007	[-0.008, -0.006]

Table 47: Mega-analytic on convergence to last: $sim \sim earlier \times larger \times thinner$

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	0.546	[0.534, 0.558]
earlier	0.072	[0.067, 0.077]
earlier:larger	0.000	[-0.002, 0.002]
earlier:larger:thinner	-0.007	[-0.01, -0.004]
earlier:thinner	-0.016	[-0.025, -0.008]
larger	-0.016	[-0.021, -0.012]
larger:thinner	0.009	[0.002, 0.016]
thinner	0.001	[-0.021, 0.021]

Log reduction

Reduction models re-run using log-words as DV; these are the same as reduction models except for this change.

Table 48: Experiment 1 log reduction: logwords \sim block \times numPlayers + (block|tangram) + (1|playerId) + (1|tangram:gameId) + (block|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	2.75	[2.48, 3.01]
block	-0.38	[-0.47, -0.29]
block:numPlayers	0.01	[-0.01, 0.03]
numPlayers	0.07	[0.02, 0.12]

Table 49: Experiment 3 log reduction: logwords \sim block \times channel \times gameSize + (block \times channel \times gameSize|tangram) + (1|tangram:gameId) + (block|gameId)

Term	Est.	95% CrI
Intercept	2.50	[2.32, 2.69]
block	-0.27	[-0.32, -0.22]
block:channelthin	0.06	[0, 0.14]
block:channelthin:gameSize6	0.03	[-0.06, 0.13]
block:gameSize6	-0.02	[-0.09, 0.04]
channelthin	0.06	[-0.17, 0.29]
channelthin:gameSize6	-0.13	[-0.44, 0.18]
gameSize6	0.45	[0.23, 0.67]