

# Merging Clinical Neuropsychology and Functional Neuroimaging to Evaluate the Construct Validity and Neural Network Engagement of the *n*-Back Task

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## Abstract

The *n*-back task is a widely used neuroimaging paradigm for studying the neural basis of working memory (WM); however, its neuropsychometric properties have received little empirical investigation. The present study merged clinical neuropsychology and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to explore the construct validity of the letter variant of the *n*-back task (LNB) and to further identify the task-evoked networks involved in WM. Construct validity of the LNB task was investigated using a bootstrapping approach to correlate LNB task performance across clinically validated neuropsychological measures of WM to establish convergent validity, as well as measures of related but distinct cognitive constructs (i.e., attention and short-term memory) to establish discriminant validity. Independent component analysis (ICA) identified brain networks active during the LNB task in 34 healthy control participants, and general linear modeling determined task-relatedness of these networks. Bootstrap correlation analyses revealed moderate to high correlations among measures expected to converge with LNB ( $|\rho| \geq 0.37$ ) and weak correlations among measures expected to discriminate ( $|\rho| \leq 0.29$ ), controlling for age and education. ICA identified 35 independent networks, 17 of which demonstrated engagement significantly related to task condition, controlling for reaction time variability. Of these, the bilateral frontoparietal networks, bilateral dorsolateral prefrontal cortices, bilateral superior parietal lobules including precuneus, and frontoinsula network were preferentially recruited by the 2-back condition compared to 0-back control condition, indicating WM involvement. These results support the use of the LNB as a measure of WM and confirm its use in probing the network-level neural correlates of WM processing. (*JINS*, 2014, 20, 736–750)

**Keywords:** Working memory, Convergent validity, Discriminant validity, Divergent validity, Reliability and validity, Bootstrap, fMRI, Independent component analysis, Frontoparietal, Lag task

## INTRODUCTION

Working memory (WM) is the set of mental processes that enables manipulation of information stored within short-term memory, and provides an interface between sensory perception, long-term memory, and active interaction with one's environment (Baddeley, 2012; Conway, Jarrold, Kane, Miyake, & Towse, 2007; Miyake & Shah, 1999). This transient storage and active manipulation of goal-relevant information facilitates higher-order cognitive processes, such

as reasoning, comprehension, planning and learning (Baddeley, 1986; D'Esposito, 2007; Just & Carpenter, 1992; Was, Dunlosky, Bailey, & Rawson, 2012). The prominent role of WM in diverse cognitive processes has motivated research investigating WM dysfunction across a range of psychiatric and neurologic disorders, including schizophrenia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dementia, and traumatic brain injury (Gagnon & Belleville, 2011; Gorman, Barnes, Swank, Prasad, & Ewing-Cobbs, 2012; Kim et al., 2009; Schweitzer et al., 2000). However, disparate WM theories and approaches to its study have resulted in incongruities in our understanding of its components, functions and dynamics (Baddeley, Banse, Huang, & Page, 2012; Conway et al., 2007; Miyake & Shah, 1999). Thus, we must first improve our characterization of the neural encoding of normative

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population variance in WM to provide a framework by which we may define the neural processing variance associated with cognitive and behavioral dysfunction in clinical groups.

Functional neuroimaging has played a pivotal role in refining the cognitive construct and neural representation of WM (Champod & Petrides, 2010; Smith & Jonides, 1997). The *n*-back task is arguably the most widely used functional neuroimaging paradigm for investigating the neural basis of WM due to its ability to produce robust and consistent neuroactivations and to parametrically vary memory load demands (Braver et al., 1997; Cohen et al., 1997; Jonides et al., 1997; Kane & Engle, 2002). However, despite the *n*-back task's strong face validity as a measure of WM, its construct validity as a WM measure has been inconsistently established. Some studies report strong convergent validity between *n*-back performance and WM-related processes such as WM capacity (Schmiedek, Hildebrandt, Lövdén, Wilhelm, & Lindenberger, 2009; Shamosh et al., 2008; Shelton, Elliott, Hill, Calamia, & Gouvier, 2009; Shelton, Metzger, & Elliott, 2007), various executive functions (Ciesielski, Lesnik, Savoy, Grant, & Ahlfors, 2006), and/or general and fluid intelligence (Colom, Abad, Quiroga, Shih, & Flores-Mendoza, 2008; Gevins & Smith, 2000; Gray, Chabris, & Braver, 2003; Jaeggi, Buschkuhl, Perrig, & Meier, 2010). However, others have reported weak or negligible correlations between *n*-back performance and WM-related measures (Friedman et al., 2006; Jaeggi et al., 2010; Kane, Conway, Miura, & Colflesh, 2007), instead associating *n*-back with simple short-term memory (Oberauer, 2005; Roberts & Gibson, 2002), or concluding that the complexity of *n*-back tasks requires a combination of processes not easily disentangled or characterized through comparison of performance on existing cognitive tests (Jaeggi et al., 2010).

The inconsistency of these findings limits the interpretability of the *n*-back as a reliable probe of WM (as mentioned by Conway et al., 2005; Miller, Price, Okun, Montijo, & Bowers, 2009). Thus, the present study sought to validate the *n*-back as a reliable WM probe by demonstrating its cognitive-behavioral specificity for a domain-general WM construct. We use the letter variant of the *n*-back task (LNB), generally considered a measure of verbal WM (Cohen et al., 1997; Owen, McMillan, Laird, & Bullmore, 2005). To establish LNB's construct validity, we correlate LNB task performance with a diverse battery of (1) clinically validated neuropsychological (NP) measures of WM (i.e., auditory, verbal, and visuospatial), to establish convergent validity, and (2) measures related to but conceptually distinct from WM, to establish discriminant validity. We sought to control for the effects of paradigm design-specific variance on the validity relationships by administering NP instruments that included separate subtests which did and did *not* measure WM, thereby allowing within-instrument measures of convergent and discriminant validity with the *n*-back.

Furthermore, while several brain regions have been shown to be consistently recruited by the LNB task, it remains unclear how these regions are integrated into larger functional networks. In a 2005 quantitative meta-analysis, 24 normative functional neuroimaging studies of several *n*-back task variants differing

in WM process (i.e., location *vs.* identity monitoring) and content (i.e., verbal *vs.* non-verbal material) were compiled to investigate the neuroanatomic representation of WM (Owen et al., 2005). Seven brain regions were identified as consistently activated across all studies, regardless of task variant, including six cortical regions: (1) bilateral and medial posterior parietal cortex; (2) bilateral premotor cortex; (3) dorsal cingulate/medial premotor cortex; (4) bilateral rostral prefrontal cortex; (5) bilateral dorsolateral prefrontal cortex; (6) bilateral mid-ventrolateral prefrontal cortex, and (7) the medial cerebellum. Owen *et al.* provided strong evidence for the consistent involvement of core frontal and parietal cortical regions across variants of the *n*-back task, as well as identifying differential subregional and lateralized activation patterns for process- and content-specific task differences.

We sought to expand upon Owen et al.'s findings by identifying the LNB's network-level neural correlates of WM using independent component analysis (ICA), a data-driven statistical method for identifying functionally connected networks of brain regions (Calhoun, Adali, Pearlson, & Pekar, 2002; McKeown et al., 1998). While previous studies have sought to establish the neural correlates of this task using ICA-based approaches, all have either studied dysfunctional network organization in patients (Cousijn et al., 2014; Nejad et al., 2013; Palacios et al., 2012; Penadés et al., 2013), the organization of the default mode network (DMN) (Esposito et al., 2009, 2006; Sambataro et al., 2010), or focused on neuroimaging method development (Haller, Homola, Scheffler, Beckmann, & Bartsch, 2009; Missonnier et al., 2003). The present study aims to characterize normative neural networks recruited by the LNB task and their relationships to task demand, thereby testing the hypothesis that the LNB and its neural processing networks fulfill convergent and discriminant validity as a WM demand.

## METHODS

### Subjects

Fifty-two participants [29 female; mean (SD) age = 32 (10) years] were recruited *via* community advertisements in accordance with University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Institutional Review Board approval and oversight. We strove to recruit a demographically diverse sample of participants by posting flyers and banners on city buses, at local eateries, and in community centers, in addition to posting at the university. Inclusion criteria for the study were native English-speaking adults ages 18–50 without history of psychiatric or neurologic illness. Exclusion criteria included the presence of any DSM-IV psychiatric disorders (except nicotine dependence) as determined by structured clinical interview (SCID-NP) (First, Spitzer, Gibbon, & Williams, 2002), ferromagnetic implants and other contraindications to the high-field MRI environment (determined through medical history), and pregnancy (determined through urinalysis). Eighteen participants were excluded from analyses due to incomplete fMRI or NP data ( $n = 11$ ) or

**Table 1.** Participant Demographics

Number of Participants	34
Age (years)	
mean	32
SD	10
range	19-50
Sex	
Female	22 (65%)
Male	12 (35%)
Ethnicity	
African-American <sup>†</sup>	13 (38%)
Caucasian <sup>†</sup>	21 (62%)
Hispanic / Latino	1 (3%)
Education (years)	
mean	16
SD	1.9
range	12-19
Handedness	
Left	3 (9%)
Right	31 (91%)

<sup>†</sup>Includes one participant self-reporting as both African-American and Caucasian

excessive head motion artifact ( $n = 7$ ; see the METHODS, Image Acquisition and Processing, for details). Analyses were conducted on the remaining 34 participants [22 female; mean (SD) age = 32 (10) years; range 19–50 years; 31 right-handed; see Table 1 for full demographic information].

## Procedures

The data included in the present study were collected as a subset of a larger, multifaceted initiative known as the “Cognitive Connectome (Cognectome)” which seeks to comprehensively map the brain’s functional and structural encoding of individual variation in cognitive and behavioral abilities across cognitive modalities. All procedures were conducted at the Brain Imaging Research Center (BIRC) in the Psychiatric Research Institute at UAMS. Participants first underwent a telephone interview to establish inclusion criteria. Eligible participants were invited to the BIRC for an intake session where they provided written informed consent and underwent SCID-NP assessment and medical evaluation to assess exclusion criteria. Eligible participants underwent two MRI sessions (1 hr each), a battery of computerized assessments (1 hr), and comprehensive NP assessment (3–4 hr). Intakes were conducted in the morning, fMRI sessions in the afternoon (between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.), and NP assessment (due to length) in morning or afternoon at participants’ convenience. Participants were compensated \$25 for completion of each of the four sessions (Intake, one NP, two fMRI), in addition to compensation for parking or bus fare.

## Neuropsychological (NP) Assessments

NP instruments were administered per standardized instructions. Administrators were trained by a board-certified clinical

neuropsychologist. The following tests were selected from the larger Cognectome test battery for having at least one subscale accepted as a measure of WM and at least one subscale that was not, thus permitting exploration of convergent and discriminant validity. Two additional tests, the Halstead-Reitan Finger Tapping Test and the Boston Naming Test, were included as stand-alone measures of discriminant validity.

### Digit Span Test (WAIS-IV)

The Digit Span Test of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scales-Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV) was designed to measure span of auditory attention and verbal WM and was administered and scored per standardized instructions (Wechsler, 2008). This version of the Digit Span Test includes: Digit Span Forward (DSF), Digit Span Backward (DSB), and Digit Span Sequencing (DSS) which requires oral repetition, reversal, and sequencing of number strings, respectively.

### Spatial Span Test (WMS-III)

The Wechsler Memory Scale-Third Edition (WMS-III) Spatial Span Test was designed to measure span of visuospatial attention and visuospatial WM and was administered and scored per standardized instructions (Wechsler, 1997). The Spatial Span Test includes: Spatial Span Forward (SSF) and Spatial Span Reverse (SSR), which requires manual repetition and reversal of visuospatial sequences, respectively.

### Test of Everyday Attention (TEA)

The Test of Everyday Attention (TEA) consists of eight subtests designed to measure three major features of attention—selective attention, sustained attention and attentional switching—as well as auditory-verbal WM (Robertson, Ward, Ridgeway, & Nimmo-Smith, 1994, 1996). Five of the eight subtests were included in the Cognectome test battery and were administered and scored per standardized instructions (Robertson et al., 1994). These included: [TEA 1] Map Search (selective visual attention), [TEA 2-3] Elevator Counting and Elevator Counting with Distraction (sustained attention and auditory-verbal WM, respectively) and [TEA 4-5] Elevator Counting with Reversal using visual or auditory stimuli (attentional switching and auditory-verbal WM, respectively).

### D-KEFS Trail-Making Test (TMT)

The Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System (D-KEFS) Trail-Making Test (TMT) was administered and scored per standardized instructions and included five self-paced subtests designed to measure cognitive flexibility/set-shifting (an executive subprocess of WM) while also allowing for the disambiguation of constituent processes embedded in the higher-level task performances (i.e., visuomotor speed, selective visual attention, and temporal sequencing; Delis, Kaplan, & Kramer, 2001). The five self-paced TMT subtests included: [1] Visual Scanning (visuomotor speed, selective visual attention), [2-3] Number Sequencing and Letter

Sequencing (visuomotor speed, selective visual attention, temporal sequencing of numerical or alphabetical stimuli, respectively), [4] Number-Letter Sequencing (visuomotor speed, selective visual attention, complex temporal sequencing, cognitive flexibility/set shifting), and [5] Motor Speed (visuomotor speed/agility).

### Halstead-Reitan Finger Tapping Test (FTT)

The Halstead-Reitan Finger Tapping Test (FTT) was designed to provide a measure of simple motor speed and was administered and scored per standardized instructions (Reitan & Wolfson, 1985).

### Boston Naming Test-2 (BNT)

The Boston Naming Test-2 (BNT) is a picture naming task designed to measure visual confrontational naming—which involves processes such as semantic fluency, lexical retrieval, and speech production—and was administered and scored per standardized instructions (Kaplan, Goodglass, & Weintraub, 2001).

### Letter *n*-back (LNB) fMRI Task

The LNB task was conducted as a block design using Presentation 14.4 (Neurobehavioral Systems, Inc.) and consisted of alternating blocks of 0-back (sensorimotor and sustained attention control) and 2-back (WM) conditions. Task blocks involved the random sequential presentation of uppercase letter stimuli (A-E), with each trial lasting a total of 1500 ms (letter presentation for 1200 ms or until participant made a response, followed by fixation cross presented for remainder of the trial). During 0-back blocks, participants were instructed to respond whenever the letter “A” was shown. For 2-back blocks, participants were instructed to respond if the currently presented letter matched the letter presented two letters prior. Twenty-five percent of trials from each condition were coded as target trials warranting a response. Before fMRI scanning, all participants practiced the task outside the MRI scanner to ensure task comprehension.

The first five participants underwent alternating 90 s blocks of 0-back and 2-back conditions (three blocks each; six total). Each block was preceded by a 6 s Instruction block indicating task condition (“0-back” or “2-back”) and followed by a 20 s Rest (baseline) block consisting of a static fixation cross, for total duration of 11.1 min. Interim analysis showed comparable neural responses when each task condition was reduced to blocks with shorter total durations, prompting a task redesign to reduce participant fatigue. Subsequent participants underwent alternating 40 s blocks of 0-back and 2-back trials (four blocks each; eight total), which were now preceded by a 5 s Instruction block and followed by a 15 s Rest block for a total task time of 7.3 min.

Performance on the LNB was computed using the Critical Success Index (CSI), a modified estimate of percent accuracy given by: the number of hits (correct intentional responses) divided by the sum of hits, false alarms (incorrect intentional responses), and misses (incorrect intentional non-responses)

(Wilks, 2011). CSI was preferred over standard percent accuracy due to the fact that correct intentional non-responses (“rejections”) cannot be discriminated from correct unintentional non-responses when using standard percent accuracy calculations, which results in overinflated accuracy estimates, especially for designs with a high percentage of non-response trials, such as the present study (~75% of trials). Thus, the CSI provided a performance measure less biased by the ambiguity of non-response trials (Wilks, 2011). However, for simplicity, we will still refer to the performance scores as “accuracy” or “percent accuracy” throughout the manuscript.

### Construct Validity Analysis of the LNB Task

LNB construct validity was determined using bootstrapping to estimate correlations of LNB performance with each NP assessment. Considering our relatively small sample compared to other behavioral and/or construct validation studies, bootstrapping provided a statistical approach more robust against small sample size than simple correlations alone (Cumming, 2008; Efron & Tibshirani, 1993; Gardner & Altman, 1986; Young & Lewis, 1997). This is because it involves the simulation of an empirical distribution of correlation estimates that represents the true (population) distribution, followed by the evaluation of the stability of these approximations using confidence intervals (CI), a more interpretable (i.e., generalizable) statistical measure of significance than *p*-values (Cumming, 2008; Efron & Tibshirani, 1993; Gardner & Altman, 1986; Young & Lewis, 1997). Bootstrapping provided estimates of the means, standard deviations (SE) and 95% CI for correlations between LNB performance and each NP assessment, as follows. First, 34 subjects were randomly selected with replacement from the observed sample to form a bootstrap resample; this process was repeated 1000 times to form 1000 34-subject resamples. Partial correlations were calculated (controlling for age and education) between LNB accuracy and the raw scores on each NP subscale for each of the 1000 resamples, forming an empirical distribution of the correlation estimates, from which a mean, SE, and 95% CI were calculated. LNB was interpreted as having discriminant or convergent validity with a NP test if the 95% CI of its bootstrapped correlation did or did not include zero, respectively. All analyses of behavioral performance were conducted using Matlab 7.10 (The MathWorks, Inc.).

### Image Acquisition and Processing

Participants were scanned using a Philips 3T Achieva X-series MRI scanner (Philips Healthcare, USA). Anatomic images were acquired with a magnetization prepared gradient echo (MPRAGE) sequence (matrix = 256 × 256, 160 sagittal slices, repetition time/echo time/flip angle [TR/TE/FA] = 2600 ms/3.05 ms/8°, final resolution = 1 × 1 × 1 mm<sup>3</sup>). Functional images were acquired for 23 participants using an 8-channel head coil with an echo planar imaging sequence [TR/TE/FA = 2000 ms/30 ms/90°, field of view = 240 × 240 mm, matrix = 80 × 80, 37 oblique slices (parallel to orbitofrontal

cortex to reduce sinus artifact), slice thickness = 4 mm, interleaved slice acquisition, final resolution  $3 \times 3 \times 4 \text{ mm}^3$ ]. Following an equipment upgrade, functional data for the 11 remaining participants were acquired with a Phillips 32-channel head coil (Philips Healthcare, USA). The same image acquisition parameters were used, except with thinner slices (slice thickness = 2.5 mm with 0.5 mm gap) and a sequential ascending slice acquisition. The thinner slices were selected to reduce orbitofrontal signal loss caused by sinus cavity artifact.

MRI data preprocessing was performed using AFNI version 2011\_12\_21\_1014 (Cox, 1996). Anatomic data underwent skull stripping, spatial normalization to the ICBM 452 brain atlas and segmentation into white matter, gray matter, and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) using FSL v5.0.4 (Jenkinson, Beckmann, Behrens, Woolrich, & Smith, 2012). The functional data underwent despiking; slice time correction; deobliquing (to  $3 \times 3 \times 3 \text{ mm}^3$  voxels); head motion correction; transformation to the spatially normalized anatomic image; regression of motion parameters, mean timecourse of white matter voxels, and mean timecourse of CSF voxels; spatial smoothing with a 6 mm FWHM Gaussian kernel; and scaling to percent signal change.

After preprocessing, ICA was conducted using the Group ICA of fMRI Toolbox (GIFT v1.3) for Matlab (Calhoun, Adali, Pearlson, & Pekar, 2001) to identify and remove sources of signal caused by head motion (Tohka et al., 2008; see METHODS, Independent Component Analysis and General Linear Modeling for detailed ICA procedure). Head motion artifact manifests in the functional data as alternating “bands” or “stripes” of activity corresponding to the order of slice acquisition. For each subject, ICA solved for the optimal number of components as determined by GIFT’s MDL algorithm (typically 150–200 components). Because the pattern of slice acquisition (e.g., all even slices or all odd slices) does not represent biologically relevant brain activity, a liberal threshold ( $r > 0.05$ ) was used to identify components that correlated with slice acquisition. These components were removed from the preprocessed functional data using the “icatb\_removeArtifact.m” command in Matlab. Motion artifact was assessed before and after ICA “stripe” removal using single voxel seed-based correlation analyses *via* AFNI’s “InstaCorr” function. Seven subjects still demonstrated “striping” after ICA removal and were thus excluded from further analysis. Two additional subjects were excluded because excessive signal loss in the orbitofrontal cortex resulted in poor normalization of the functional data to the ICBM 452 template.

## Independent Component Analysis and General Linear Modeling

### *Independent Component Analysis (ICA)*

ICA was performed on the LNB fMRI data using Matlab’s GIFT. GIFT uses a two-step data-reduction ICA approach. The first step of the GIFT ICA procedure performs a principal

component analysis (PCA) on each individual participant to reduce the dimensionality of each fMRI dataset into subject-specific principal components. The second step performs ICA upon these subjects’ principal components by first concatenating the subject-specific components into a group and then identifying group-level independent components (i.e., components that are consistently represented across all subjects). For the first step, PCAs were performed using GIFT’s expectation maximization and stacked datasets options. For the second step, GIFT’s ICASSO3 toolbox was used to determine the reliability of the ICA components across iterations. ICASSO3 was repeated 20 times using the Infomax algorithm to calculate the stability index (iq) of each component, a measure of how reliably each component was reproduced in the sample across ICASSO iterations.

The GIFT ICA procedure defines components by their spatial independence, which requires that the spatial distributions of the components be independent of one another (Beckmann, 2012; McKeown et al., 1998). Thus, any given brain region is capable of contributing to multiple components—for instance, when the same brain region is transiently recruited by several discrete neural processes throughout the course of the task—as long as the overall spatiotemporal maps are statistically spatially distinct (Calhoun et al., 2001; Xu, Potenza, & Calhoun, 2013). However, ICA model order selection (i.e., the number of components solved for) can greatly impact the extent of segregation and/or overlap of the components’ spatiotemporal maps by altering the stringency of their spatial independence (Calhoun et al., 2001; Ray et al., 2013). Yet methods for determining the optimal number of components for a given sample are either still in debate or in active development (Li, Adali, & Calhoun, 2007; Ray et al., 2013). Thus, the selection of the present study’s ICA model order was motivated by an empirical evaluation of the component quality across several different ICA procedures within our sample, as follows. Four separate ICAs were conducted (solving for the following combinations of PCA/ICA components: 40/20, 50/25, 60/30, and 70/35) to find the model with, both, the best component stability (given by the iq estimate) and the best replication of well-supported (“canonical”) functional networks (Ray et al., 2013; Smith et al., 2009). Of the four models, solving for 35 components produced the best balance between component stability ( $iq \geq .90$ ) and the partitioning of components into well-validated canonical functional networks (Ray et al., 2013; Smith et al., 2009). Because the group ICA approach identifies components common to all individuals, this also ensured the generalizability (and interpretation) of the ICA results across subjects (Calhoun et al., 2001).

In the final step of the GIFT ICA procedure, a back-reconstruction was performed using the GICA3 algorithm to identify the subject-specific neuroanatomical and timecourse representations of every component, followed by the normalization of all data to Z-scores to enable the comparison of subject-specific component maps across subjects. (Note: additional software parameters included full storage of covariance matrix to double precision and usage of selective eigenvariate solvers, as detailed in the GIFT v1.3 User Manual).

### General Linear Modeling (GLM)

The GLM analysis assessed task-dependent recruitment of each component. Each subject-specific ICA timecourse underwent GLM using AFNI's 3dDeconvolve program (code available upon request). The GLM modeled nine parameters: three task conditions (Instructions, 0-back, and 2-back) as parameters of interest, and six head motion parameters (x, y, z, roll, pitch, yaw) included into the baseline model as parameters of no interest. Because trials were terminated by participant responses, we accounted for the effect of trial duration variability upon brain activity using amplitude modulation, which models participants' brain activity for each task block as varying proportionally to the participants' mean reaction time (RT) for that block. Beta values ( $\beta$ ) were estimated describing the magnitude of component recruitment across each of the task conditions for the following general linear test (GLT) contrasts (controlling for age and education): 0-back vs. Rest, 2-back vs. Rest, and 2-back vs. 0-back. Group-level *t* tests then identified the components whose  $\beta$  contrasts significantly differed from zero across subjects within the sample [i.e., with  $p \leq .05$  after false-discovery rate (FDR) correction for the 105 contrasts (35 components  $\times$  3 GLT contrasts)].

A *post hoc* analysis was also conducted to determine if the mid-study equipment upgrade from the 8- to 32-channel head coil represented a confounding factor for the GLM analysis. For each ICA component, a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) tested whether subjects scanned on either head coil (8 vs. 32) had significantly different GLT  $\beta$ s for the 2-back vs. 0-back contrast. ANOVA results demonstrated no

significant effect of head coil on GLT results for any of the components (all  $p > .05$  after FDR correction), supporting the exclusion of head coil as a covariate.

## RESULTS

### Behavioral Results

Table 2 provides descriptive statistics for participants' LNB and NP performances. Mean (SD) LNB accuracy was 0.97 (0.09) for 0-back trials and 0.61 (0.21) for 2-back trials. Accuracy was significantly lower for 2-back vs. 0-back trials [paired *t* test<sub>(33)</sub> = 12.13,  $p < 1 \times 10^{-12}$ ], consistent with expected diminishes in performance resulting from 2-back's greater task difficulty. Increased task difficulty was also conveyed by parallel increases in RT for 2-back relative to 0-back conditions, with a mean (SD) RT of 0.45 (0.06) and 0.63 (0.07) seconds for 0-back and 2-back trials, respectively (paired *t* test<sub>(33)</sub> = 13.77;  $p < 1 \times 10^{-14}$ ).

As an initial step of the construct validity analysis, a Lilliefors' test determined LNB 2-back accuracy to have a non-normal distribution ( $K = 0.155$ ;  $p < .05$ ), warranting the use of Spearman's correlations for the bootstrapping procedure. Table 3 and Figure 1 illustrate the 95% CIs calculated from the bootstrapped correlations between LNB and each NP assessment. The following assessments had 95% CIs that did *not* include zero, indicating convergent validity with the LNB: DSS, SSF, SSR, TEA 4 (accuracy and timing), TEA 5, and TMT 2-4. Conversely, the following tests' 95% CIs *did* include zero, indicating discriminant validity with the

**Table 2.** Descriptive statistics for group performance

Measure	mean	SD	range
0-back accuracy	0.97	0.08	0.65–1.00
0-back RT (s)	0.451	0.061	0.334–0.593
2-back accuracy	0.61	0.21	0.15–0.93
2-back RT (s)	0.632	0.068	0.480–0.798
Spatial Span Forward (SSF)	9.0	1.6	5–12
Spatial Span Reverse (SSR)	8.3	1.6	5–11
Digit Span Forward (DSF)	10.8	2.4	7–16
Digit Span Backward (DSB)	9.0	2.7	5–15
Digit Span Sequencing (DSS)	8.7	2.3	4–15
TEA subtest 1 (TEA 1)	42.1	10.7	20–63
TEA subtest 2 (TEA 2)	6.7	0.7	4–7
TEA subtest 3 (TEA 3)	8.5	2.1	2–10
TEA subtest 4 (accuracy; TEA 4 Acc)	8.1	1.8	2–10
TEA subtest 4 (timing; TEA 4 Time)	3.92	1.04	2.46–6.43
TEA subtest 5	7.3	2.9	0–10
DKEFS Trails 1 (TMT 1)	22.4	6.8	13–40
DKEFS Trails 2 (TMT 2)	28.9	8.7	14–51
DKEFS Trails 3 (TMT 3)	30.1	8.4	16–53
DKEFS Trails 4 (TMT 4)	77.8	37.7	34–214
DKEFS Trails 5 (TMT 5)	24.4	7.0	11–45
Halstead-Reitan Finger Tapping Test (FTT)	49.9	6.2	39.43–68.57
Boston Naming Test-2 (BNT)	53.0	4.9	40–60

**Table 3.** Bootstrap correlation statistics for LNB construct validity analysis

	Mean	SE	-95% CI	+95% CI		Mean	SE	-95% CI	+95% CI
SSF	0.53	0.14	0.26	0.80	TMT 1	0.01	0.19	-0.37	0.38
SSR	0.49	0.15	0.19	0.78	TMT 2	-0.41	0.17	-0.75	-0.08
DSF	0.06	0.20	-0.32	0.45	TMT 3	-0.41	0.18	-0.76	-0.06
DSB	0.29	0.18	-0.06	0.65	TMT 4	-0.56	0.15	-0.85	-0.27
DSS	0.48	0.14	0.21	0.76	TMT 5	-0.27	0.18	-0.63	0.08
TEA 1	0.12	0.20	-0.26	0.51	FTT	0.05	0.19	-0.32	0.41
TEA 2	0.16	0.17	-0.18	0.49	BNT	0.27	0.20	-0.12	0.67
TEA 3	0.37	0.18	0.02	0.73					
TEA 4 Acc	0.52	0.14	0.25	0.80					
TEA 4 Time	-0.52	0.14	-0.80	-0.25					
TEA 5	0.61	0.13	0.35	0.86					

Abbreviations: SSF = Spatial Span Forward, SSR = Spatial Span Reverse, DSF = Digit Span Forward, DSB = Digit Span Backward, DSS = Digit Span Sequencing, TEA = Test of Everyday Attention, TMT = Trail Making Test, FTT = Finger Tapping Test, BNT = Boston Naming Test-2.

LNB: DSF, DSB, TEA 1-3, TMT 1 and 5, FTT, and BNT. As described in Table 3, the NP assessments that significantly converged with LNB had mean bootstrapped  $|r|$  ranging from 0.37 to 0.60, while assessments that discriminated from LNB had mean bootstrapped  $|r|$  ranging from 0.007 to 0.29.

## Neuroimaging Results

Of the 35 ICA components identified, 14 were classified as noise artifact components according to the criteria delineated in METHODS, Image Acquisition and Processing, and omitted from subsequent analysis (see Supplementary Table S1 for full descriptions of all 35 components, including noise components). Table 4 GLM statistics show that, of the 21 non-noise components, 17 demonstrated significant task-dependent activity. Eight components were significantly more active during 2-back than 0-back: cerebellum (IC10), superior parietal lobule (SPL)/precuneus (IC12), right frontoparietal (RFP; IC21), supplementary motor area/lateral premotor (SMA/LPM;

IC22), left frontoparietal (LFP; IC23), dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC; IC25), frontoinsula (IC29), and bilateral primary motor (M1; IC30) (all FDR  $p < .0005$ ; see Figure 2 for images of these components). Nine components were significantly less active during 2-back than 0-back; bilateral anterior insulae (IC4), left primary motor (LM1; IC6), right primary motor (RM1; IC14), anterior DMN (IC17), bilateral amygdalae/hippocampi (IC18), posterior DMN (IC19), dorsomedial prefrontal cortex (DMPFC; IC20), auditory (IC28), and ventromedial prefrontal cortex (VMPFC; IC35) (all FDR  $p < .05$ ; see Supplementary Figure S2 for images of these components).

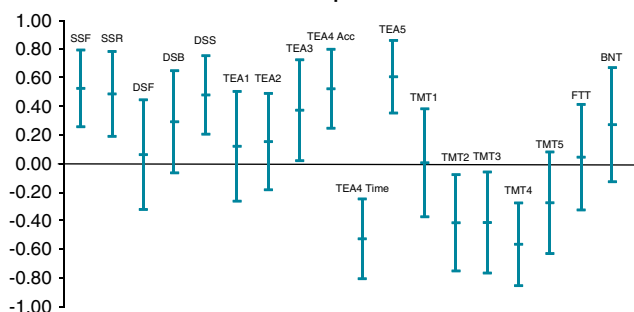
## DISCUSSION

The current study sought to empirically validate the LNB as a WM probe by assessing both its behavioral construct validity and characterizing its specificity for network-level recruitment of WM-related neural processing correlates.

### LNB Demonstrates Strong Measurement Specificity for WM Constructs

LNB demonstrated broad convergence with NP tasks assessing auditory and verbal WM. LNB was most strongly convergent with TEA 5, which measures auditory-verbal WM and attentional switching, and was slightly less convergent with TEA 3, which measures auditory-verbal WM and inhibitory control. While LNB has been proposed to involve both attentional switching and inhibitory control processes (Bledowski, Kaiser, & Rahm, 2010; Owen et al., 2005; Wager & Smith, 2003), LNB's stronger correlation with TEA 5 than TEA 3 suggests a greater involvement of attentional switching during the LNB. LNB also exhibited strong convergence with DSS, which requires maintenance and manipulation of auditory-verbal stimuli within WM. Unexpectedly, LNB did not converge with DSB, despite DSB reportedly tapping much the same cognitive abilities as DSS. This finding may reflect the greater WM demands required of DSS's more complex ordinal sequencing manipulation vs. DSB's stimulus reversal (Sattler & Ryan, 2009; Wechsler, 2008). Furthermore, the

95% Confidence Intervals for Bootstrapped Correlations with LNB performance



**Fig. 1.** Graph of 95% CIs for bootstrapped distributions of LNB performance correlations with NP test scores. The means and upper and lower confidence limits are depicted for each of the bootstrap distributions. LNB demonstrated discriminant or convergent validity with NP measures exhibiting 95% CIs that *did* (DSF, DSB, TEA 1-3, TMT 1, TMT 5, FTT, and BNT) or *did not* include zero (SSF, SSR, DSS, TEA 4 Acc and Time, TEA 5, and TMT 2-4), respectively. See Table 3 for detailed statistics.

**Table 4.** GLT and group-level *t* test statistics describing task-relatedness of ICA networks (n components = 21)

IC #	IC Label	t-score: 2B - 0B	FDR p-val	t-score: 0B - R	FDR p-val	t-score: 2B - R	FDR p-val
IC2	Primary visual	-0.47	0.6440	-5.64	<0.0001	-8.18	<0.0001
IC4	Bilateral anterior insulae	-3.45	0.0025	-1.12	0.3310	-4.31	0.0002
IC5	Ventral visual	0.58	0.5945	-9.18	<0.0001	-11.90	<0.0001
IC6	Left primary motor	-3.97	0.0009	4.19	0.0006	0.44	0.6606
IC10	Cerebellum	4.86	<0.0001	3.38	0.0042	7.00	<0.0001
IC11	Bilateral striatum	-1.31	0.2189	3.58	0.0027	2.02	0.0595
IC12	Bilateral SPL/precuneus	11.18	<0.0001	-9.06	<0.0001	3.67	0.0011
IC14	Right primary motor	-3.17	0.0048	-0.25	0.8016	-3.82	0.0009
IC16	Bilateral fusiform gyri	-1.95	0.0689	3.03	0.0094	1.95	0.0660
IC17	Anterior DMN	-2.30	0.0340	1.15	0.3310	-0.68	0.5253
IC18	Bilateral amygdalae/hippocampi	-5.78	<0.0001	0.77	0.5183	-4.24	0.0003
IC19	Posterior DMN	-2.35	0.0325	-5.74	<0.0001	-9.31	<0.0001
IC20	DMPFC	-7.12	<0.0001	-1.63	0.1660	-9.98	<0.0001
IC21	Right frontoparietal	6.35	<0.0001	0.42	0.7427	8.80	<0.0001
IC22	SMA/LPM	4.04	0.0007	5.37	<0.0001	10.13	<0.0001
IC23	Left frontoparietal	3.70	0.0015	1.93	0.1135	6.36	<0.0001
IC25	Bilateral DLPFC	6.31	<0.0001	0.34	0.7735	6.85	<0.0001
IC28	Auditory	-11.91	<0.0001	-1.69	0.1660	-13.60	<0.0001
IC29	Frontoinsulae	4.23	0.0006	-1.65	0.1660	2.43	0.0254
IC30	Bilateral primary motor	3.21	0.0047	7.01	<0.0001	12.10	<0.0001
IC35	VMPFC	-3.85	0.0010	-1.58	0.1689	-6.48	<0.0001

Abbreviations: GLT = General Linear Test, IC = independent component, 2B = 2-back, 0B = 0-back, R = Rest, FDR p-val = False Discovery Rate corrected p-value, SPL = superior parietal lobule, DMN = default mode network, DMPFC = dorsomedial prefrontal cortex, SMA = supplementary motor area, LPM = lateral premotor, DLPFC = dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, VMPFC = ventromedial prefrontal cortex

95% CIs for LNB's correlation with TEA 5 and DSS (Figure 1) are distinctly different from zero (i.e., robust), suggesting a high probability of replicating this finding in an independent sample. Conversely, the 95% CIs for LNB's correlation with DSB and TEA 3 are marginally distinct from zero, indicating that these findings are less statistically robust, that is, more likely to differ in an independent replication.

LNB also demonstrated convergence with tasks engaging visual and visuospatial WM processes. LNB was strongly convergent with both SSF and SSR. This finding corroborates previous reports that forward and reverse conditions of the Spatial Span (and the homologous Corsi Block Tapping Task) have comparable WM demands (Kessels, van den Berg, Ruis, & Brands, 2008; Li & Lewandowsky, 1995; Smyth & Scholey, 1992; Wilde & Strauss, 2002). LNB performance also converged with TEA 4 timing and accuracy, measures of visual attentional switching. Lastly, LNB exhibited strong convergence with TMT 4 and weaker but significant convergence with TMT 2 and 3. We expected convergence with TMT 4 given its temporal sequencing and set shifting demands; however, LNB convergence with TMT 2 and 3 was unanticipated. Similarities in task design may explain this unexpected convergence, as LNB, TMT 2 and TMT 3 all require maintenance of a continuous alphabetical or numerical sequence.

In establishing discriminant validity, we expected LNB performance to be unrelated to both verbal and visual/visuospatial measures of short-term memory, simple sustained attention, vigilance, visuomotor speed, simple motor speed, and language processing. This was demonstrated in

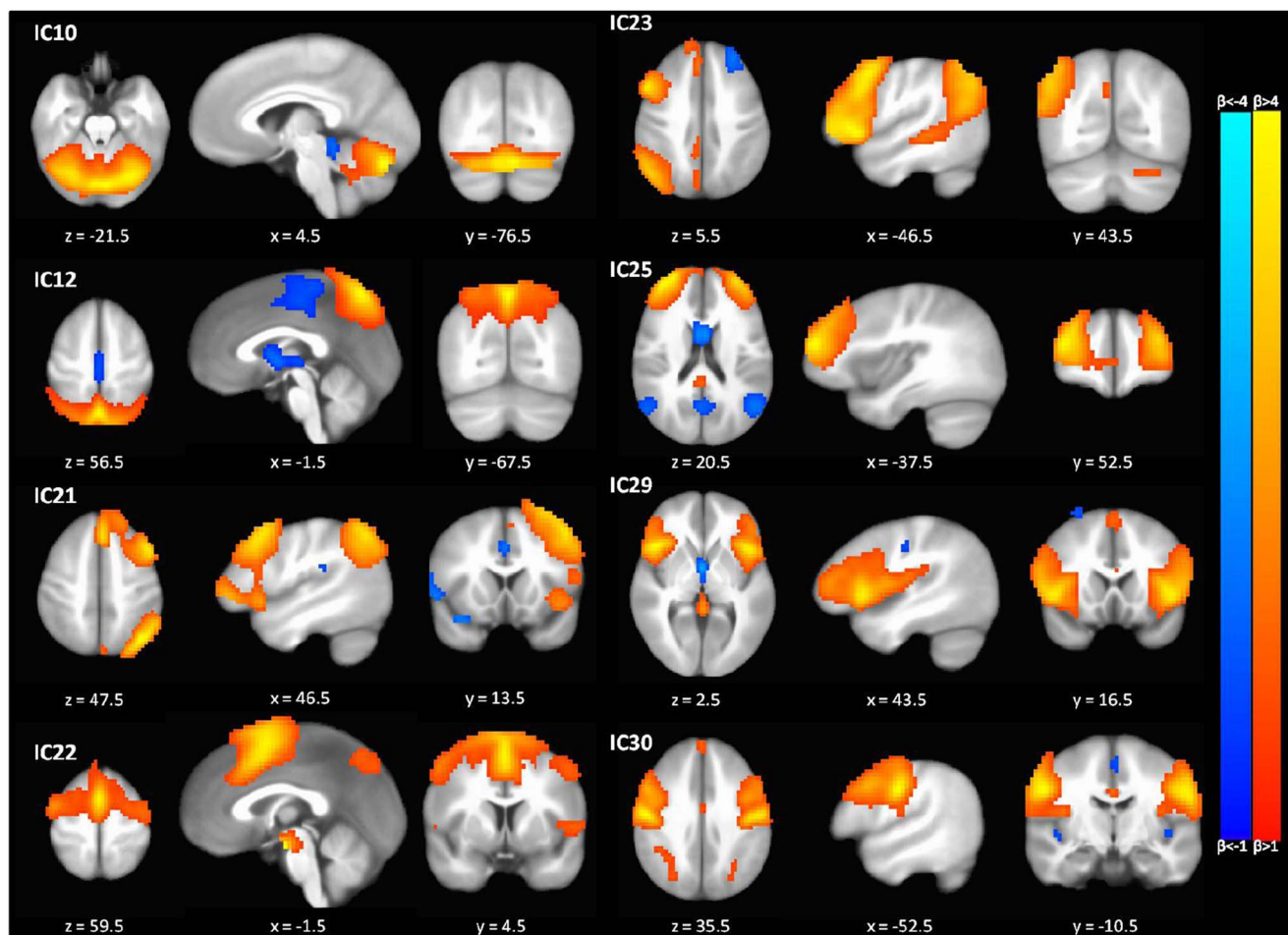
the lack of correlation between the LNB and DSF, TEA 2, TMT 1, TMT 5, FTT, and BNT, respectively.

In summary, we report moderate to high convergence of LNB performance with WM measures across sensory modality (i.e., auditory-verbal, visuospatial, visual) and discrimination from measures of short-term memory, attention, vigilance, visuomotor speed, and general language processing (Table 3). Although LNB is generally considered a verbal WM task, we report convergence with both verbal and visual/visuospatial WM measures. Thus, LNB's assessment of the underlying domain-general WM construct transcended the modality-specific differences that exist across differing WM validity tests. These findings support the LNB as a processing load for the same core cognitive construct measured by canonical WM tasks despite task-specific differences, and demonstrate that their relationships are not mediated by general attentional or perceptual task demands alone. As such, these collective results corroborate the use of the LNB as a robust, domain-general cognitive-behavioral probe of WM.

### LNB Demonstrates Specificity for WM-Related Recruitment of Neural Networks

Our combined ICA and GLM approach identified eight task-positive networks (Table 4; Figure 2), which included all seven task-related regions described by previous meta-analysis of *n*-back tasks (Owen et al., 2005). In addition to replicating these past univariate findings, ICA informs how these regions actively interact during task. Four of these





**Fig. 2.** Eight ICA-derived networks demonstrated greater activity during 2-back vs. 0-back task conditions. Axial, sagittal, and coronal planes are shown (respectively) for each independent component (IC). Activations are depicted in neurological convention (left = left) with minimum cluster size = 50 voxels (allowing voxels connected by edge to constitute a cluster). IC10 = cerebellum, IC12 = SPL/precuneus, IC21 = RFP, IC22 = SMA/LPM, IC23 = LFP, IC25 = DLPFC, IC29 = frontoinsular, IC30 = Bilateral Primary Motor. (See Supplementary Table S1 and Figure S1 for detailed IC subcluster composition).

previously reported regions (bilateral DLPFC, mid-VLPFC, rostral PFC, and posterior parietal/precuneus regions) were captured within our left and right frontoparietal networks [LFP (IC23) and RFP (IC21)]. These networks were more active during 2-back vs. Rest and 2-back vs. 0-back contrasts but not 0-back vs. Rest, indicating WM-related recruitment specificity. These networks have been implicated in a broad range of cognitive processes, including language, reasoning, attention, and explicit memory (Fox et al., 2005; Smith et al., 2009). LFP is often portrayed as having greater domain-general task involvement than RFP (Smith et al., 2009), but is particularly identified in tasks involving verbal WM (Owen et al., 2005; Wager & Smith, 2003), as supported by our present findings. Of interest, ICA also identified bilateral DLPFC (IC25) and bilateral SPL/precuneus (IC12) components independent of the LFP and RFP networks, possibly reflecting the intrinsic inter-hemispheric connectivity of these regions.

ICA revealed Owen *et al.*'s bilateral premotor, dorsal cingulate/SMA, and medial cerebellar neuroactivations as three separate motor-related components: bilateral M1 (IC30), SMA/LPM (IC22), and cerebellum (IC10). These networks

were positively activated across all three *n*-back GLT contrasts, suggesting a general role in executing motor responses independent of WM load. The premotor cortex has also been associated with updating and maintenance of the temporal order of stimuli encoded during *n*-back task performance (Wager & Smith, 2003). Of note, the medial cerebellar cluster identified by Owen et al. was represented in both our cerebellar and LFP networks, indicating a possible role in cognitive aspects of LNB performance. Given the known role of the cerebellum in cognition, (Desmond & Fiez, 1998; Koziol, Budding, & Chidekel, 2012; Leiner, Leiner, & Dow, 1986; Marien, Engelborghs, & De Deyn, 2001; Strick, Dum, & Fiez, 2009), and, more specifically, in WM (Desmond, Gabrieli, Wagner, Ginier, & Glover, 1997; Durisko & Fiez, 2010; Hautzel, Mottaghy, Specht, Müller, & Krause, 2009) this is not completely unexpected, although additional research tracking cerebellar recruitment in WM may prove informative to better understanding the interplay of cerebellar and frontal networks. Our ICA also identified a frontoinsular network (IC29) that included Owen et al.'s WM-related precuneus, dorsal cingulate/SMA, and bilateral mid-VLPFC activations.

Studies have implicated this network in domain-independent, externally directed task modes in opposition to the DMN that initiate transitions between engagement and disengagement of the frontoparietal and DMN across tasks and stimulus modalities (Dosenbach et al., 2007; Sridharan, Levitin, & Menon, 2008; Tang, Rothbart, & Posner, 2012). This dynamic switching function has been proposed to permit access to attentional and WM resources following a task-salient event to facilitate goal-directed behavior (Menon & Uddin, 2010).

Our task-active ICA-derived networks overlapped in their recruitment of the regions identified by Owen et al., suggesting that these common regions subserve multiple, differing functional roles (Xu, Zhang, et al., 2013). Whereas, traditional univariate approaches identify which brain regions are involved in a task, ICA complements such findings by also informing how these regions are co-recruited to form distinct functional networks. The ability of ICA to map the functional organization of these regions into discrete neural processing networks underscores its power for exploring individual differences in the brain's capacity to dynamically organize cognitive resources in response to task demands (Congdon et al., 2010; Xu, Zhang, et al., 2013).

The ICA and GLM analysis also identified nine "task-negative" networks, that is, networks less engaged during 2-back than 0-back conditions (Table 4 for GLM statistics; Supplementary Figure S2 for images of task-negative components). Because Owen *et al.* only included task-positive activations, it is unclear whether our "deactivations" are specific to this *n*-back task variant or generally applicable to *n*-back tasks. Also, although we identified many of the same networks as Esposito *et al.* (2006), their reporting of only magnitude (not direction) of network activity prevents a comparison of task-negative networks between our studies. Consequently, we discuss these findings in brief.

Although we report *activation* of bilateral M1 (IC30) across task conditions, ICA also identified separate LM1 (IC6) and RM1 (IC14) components that were *deactivated* by task. LM1 showed less activity during 2-back vs. 0-back, but more activity for 0-back vs. Rest and no difference in activity between 2-back vs. Rest. RM1 exhibited less activity during 2-back vs. 0-back and 2-back vs. Rest but no significant differences in activity for 0-back vs. Rest. Since participants responded with only their right hand (corresponding to LM1), the lesser RM1 engagement during the 2-back conditions may reflect task-induced deactivation (TID), a relative decrease in neural activity within an uninvolved region in response to increased task demand elsewhere (Allison, Meader, Loring, Figueroa, & Wright, 2000; Liu, Shen, Zhou, & Hu, 2011; Zeharia, Hertz, Flash, & Amedi, 2012). The task-deactivation of LM1, however, is harder to interpret. Future work should explore the task-dependent interactions among these motor networks at varying levels of cognitive and psychomotor processing loads, for instance, using motor response-based paradigms with parametric and/or dual-task designs, as is the case in several variants of the *n*-back.

The bilateral anterior insulae (IC4), amygdalae/hippocampi (IC18), DMPFC (IC20), auditory (IC28), and VMPFC (IC35)

networks also exhibited patterns of activity that seemed to reflect TID. However, the current task design was unable to determine whether these TID patterns represented a facilitatory process (i.e., processing resources were redistributed from task-irrelevant regions to support regions involved in task performance) (Arsalidou, Pascal-Leone, Johnson, Morris, & Taylor, 2013; Jackson, Morgan, Shapiro, Mohr, & Linden, 2011; Leech, Kamourieh, Beckmann, & Sharp, 2011), or reflected the attenuation of internally focused mentation (i.e., activity in self-referential regions was suspended during the externally focused, goal-directed task) (Gusnard & Raichle, 2001; McKiernan, Kaufman, Kucera-Thompson, & Binder, 2003; Spreng & Grady, 2010). Future research should explore the involvement of differing cognitive strategies resulting in both task-induced activation and deactivation as it relates to performance of WM tasks, such as the *n*-back.

Finally, components representing anterior [VMPFC and PCC (IC17)] and posterior [PCC and bilateral inferior parietal (IC19)] elements of the DMN were identified as independent networks. These regions are typically represented as a single network consistently deactivated across demanding task conditions, indicating greater activity during Rest than during effortful cognition (Greicius, Krasnow, Reiss, & Menon, 2003; Greicius, Srivastava, Reiss, & Menon, 2004) as a result of their involvement in internally derived, self-referential thought processes, such as daydreaming, introspection, and theory of mind (Buckner, Andrews-Hanna, Schacter, Kingstone, & Miller, 2008; Raichle et al., 2001; Spreng & Grady, 2010). We report task-dependent activity for both posterior DMN and anterior DMN. Of interest, however, only posterior DMN significantly differs across all 3 contrasts, whereas anterior DMN differs only for 2-back vs. 0-back. While the segregation of DMN into anterior and posterior networks may be attributed to network fragmentation when solving for a higher number of components ( $n = 35$ ), increasing evidence suggests the DMN to be inherently modular in its organization and represented by multiple interacting subsystems with differential functional specializations (Andrews-Hanna, Reidler, Huang, & Buckner, 2010; Buckner et al., 2008; Laird et al., 2009; Mayer, Roebrock, Maurer, & Linden, 2010; Uddin, Kelly, Biswal, Castellanos, & Milham, 2009). Future studies should explore the functional relevance of these individual (sub)networks, especially in the context of WM tasks (Ray et al., 2013). Given past studies' usage of the LNB to characterize DMN function, the present study provides an important step toward characterizing both the engagement and disengagement of functional networks in service of LNB task performance by illustrating the emergence of WM function through the concerted efforts of functionally diverse networks.

## Limitations

One limitation of ICA is that the number of components estimated defines the neuroanatomical representation of the identified networks (Abou-Elseoud et al., 2010; Pamilo et al., 2012). While our 35-component ICA produced predominantly stable and functionally relevant networks, some

components (i.e., IC27 and IC31) appeared to merge noise artifact with the functional networks, while other networks (i.e., DMN) appeared fragmented across multiple components (IC17 and IC19). Solving for fewer components (i.e., 20, 25, 30), however, led to components with a greater merging of distinct functional networks, thus limiting their interpretability. We, thus, chose the 35-component ICA as a better representation of canonical functional networks and task-relevant cognitive processing.

The present study sought to determine the convergent/discriminant relationships of the *n*-back task with clinically validated NP assessments that have previously undergone construct validation. While our sample size is suitably large for a neuroimaging study, psychometric validation studies are typically conducted in much larger samples (Robertson et al., 1996; Burton, Ryan, Axlerod, Schellenberger, & Richards, 2003); thus, replication of our analyses in a larger sample is suggested to confirm the generalizability of these behavioral findings. Additionally, we could not feasibly control for time of NP administration in this study. While between-subject diurnal variance in performance has been reported for some measures of executive function (i.e., Wisconsin Card Sorting Task; Bennett, Petros, Johnson, & Ferraro, 2008), measures of WM (specifically, the Digit Span Test) appear resilient to such effects. To further explore diurnal variance in these measures, these effects should be assessed in a larger within-subject test–retest study design.

Finally, our LNB task was designed to quickly map brain regions subserving WM in healthy and clinical adult populations, and was thus not optimized to assess other factors of interest such as varying network recruitment with parametric load manipulation, error processing, or differential network involvement in WM subprocesses. Thus, our neuroimaging findings may be specific to the LNB task, and should be replicated using other *n*-back variants and neuroimaging tasks of WM. However, we present these neuroimaging and NP findings with hopes of laying the groundwork for future investigations into these areas.

## CONCLUSIONS

To our knowledge, the present study is the first to comprehensively investigate the construct validity of the LNB task as a WM probe and to identify the task-related neural network representation of healthy WM function. Future work will characterize normative WM brain-behavior relationships by assessing how WM network functional organization reflects individual differences in WM ability. By modeling the neural encoding of cognitive and behavioral WM—in both healthy subjects (as described here) and in future clinical populations—we aim to differentiate normative neural processing variance from the specific disparities associated with disrupted brain function in individual patients, thereby extending this neuroimaging model into the personalized treatment of various disorders related to WM dysfunction.

As functional neuroimaging begins to play a larger role in clinical assessment, we need to better understand the

relationships between neuroimaging and clinical neuropsychology, and remain receptive to questioning and modifying each in the face of evidence derived from studies such as this. As such, the present study exemplifies the value of merging functional neuroimaging and clinical neuropsychology so that these disparate fields may mutually inform one another, and thus provide a framework to further translate functional neuroimaging into clinical care.

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## Supplementary material

To view supplementary material for this article, please visit <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S135561771400054X>

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