

**Figure S1:** A plot showing the average inter-item distance of elements (cm) in set 1 (equal overall surface area of elements) shown in blue (triangles), set 2 (equal element area) shown in orange (squares), and set 3 (test set) shown in black (circles). The data shown here is the average inter-item distance of neighbouring elements for each set  $\pm$  the standard error of the mean. Data was collected by measuring the shortest distance between all neighbouring elements in each stimulus using the program ImageJ. Two elements were considered neighbours if less than 50 % of the element was occluded by another element.

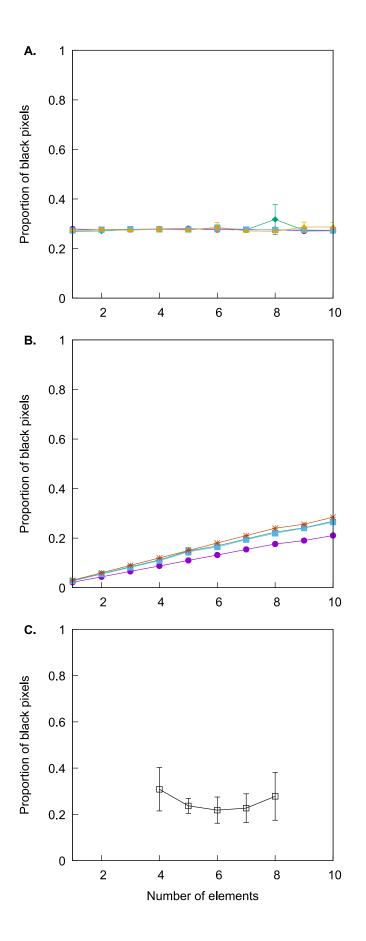


Figure S2: Mean proportion of black pixels of each element shape in stimuli sets with different number of elements with same surface area (panel A, top), same element size (panel B, middle), and the test stimuli (panel C, bottom). For each stimulus, the proportion of black pixels was calculated as the number of black pixels (points) making up the various elements present on each stimulus divided over the total number of pixels making each image (29,241 pixels). In panel A and panel B, purple circles represent the stimuli containing circle-shaped elements, green diamonds represent stimuli containing diamond-shaped elements, and the blue squares represent stimuli containing square-shaped elements. Yellow triangles in panel A represent stimuli containing triangle-shaped elements, and red asterisks in panel B represent stimuli containing star-shaped elements. Panel C shows the mean proportion of black pixels for the test stimuli (black line with open square markers). Error bars represents one standard deviation from the mean in all cases.