What's your type? Psychophysics of variable fonts: Reading speed and comprehension measures Silvia Guidi, Zainab Haseeb, Anna Kosovicheva, Benjamin Wolfe **APPLY LAB**



Introduction

Variable fonts allow designers to manipulate how text appears along many continuous axes. This produces text that looks very different, from a single font file, and these continuous axes lend themselves to researchers using psychophysical techniques to study them.

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Research Question

Which axes within a variable font have the largest effects on reading speed and comprehension? Does this vary by task?



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Conclusions

The effects of axis manipulations within a variable font **depend on** task and age

Consistent with previous work^{2,3}, extreme manipulations of font weight decrease reading speed

What's next? Examining individual differences in optimal font settings and the combined effects of manipulations across multiple axes

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References: [1] Wallace, S. et al., ACM Trans. Comput. Interact. 29 (2022). [2] Dobres, J., Reimer, B., Chahine, N., AutoUI, (2016). [3] Bernard, J. B., Kumar, G., Junge, J., Chung, S. T. L. Vision *Res.* 84, 33–42 (2013).