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A new method to generate automatically highly standardized reading chart text in multiple languages: the case of MNREAD

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Background

- Measuring reading performance using reading charts requires highly standardized reading material.
- · Such material is hard to produce and most charts are limited by their relatively small number of texts or sentences.



How to generate a large number of standardized sentences?



Mansfield JS, Atilgan N, Lewis AM, Legge GE. Extending the MNREAD sentence corpus: Computer-generated sentences for measuring visual performance in reading. Vision Res. 2019 May;158:11-18.





Declarative Simple structure **Syntax** - No punctuation 60 characters Length - 9 to 15 words Display - Three lines Proportional font - Left-right justification - Strict inter-word spacing **Results Generated sentences** Good score (Low PPL) No one will be able Score to get in and out of the room right now Ses parents ne sont Score pas au courant de la maladie de sa mère **Bad score (high PPL)** She hesitated at the door to the back of 189 her nose and mouth Une hache reposait près de lui et de ne Generated 241 pas jouer aux héros Bad score Conclusions

- Our method provides valid standardized sentences that follow the MNREAD rules and yield similar performance, at least in French.
- This method is flexible and allows to customise the rules easily.
- This method is applicable to other languages and remains to be validated in English, Spanish, Italian, etc.

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Objective

method to generate highly constrained short sentences, following the strict rules of MNREAD and applicable to different languages. Methods 1- Creating the sentences My friend The sky is blue. The sky is blue. sky is friend is friend is My friend is sad. My friend is sad. is blue. is sad She is not here is not She is not here. Step 1 : Corpus Step 2: Set of n-grams **Step 3: Recombination** (He (white (black Syntax Displa exicor Lenat • Each MNREAD rule is modeled using a Multi-valued Decision Diagram (MDD). • The intersection of all diagrams results in MNREAD-like sentences \rightarrow 7,000 in 72 sec. 2- Scoring the sentences

- GPT-2 was used to assign a perplexity score (PPL) to each sentence.
- The lower the score, the most "natural" the sentence.

3- Validating the sentences

→ Normally sighted subject read French sentences at fixed print size (1.2 logMAR at 40 cm)

Experiment 1

- N = 14
- Mean age = 33 ± 14
- VR headset
- 38 + 30 + 30

Experiment 2 • N = 24

- Mean age = 40 ± 14
- Computer screen
- 38 + 30 + 30

Experiment 3

- N = 12
- Mean age = 24 ± 6
- Computer screen + eye tracker
- 38 + 100 + 100

