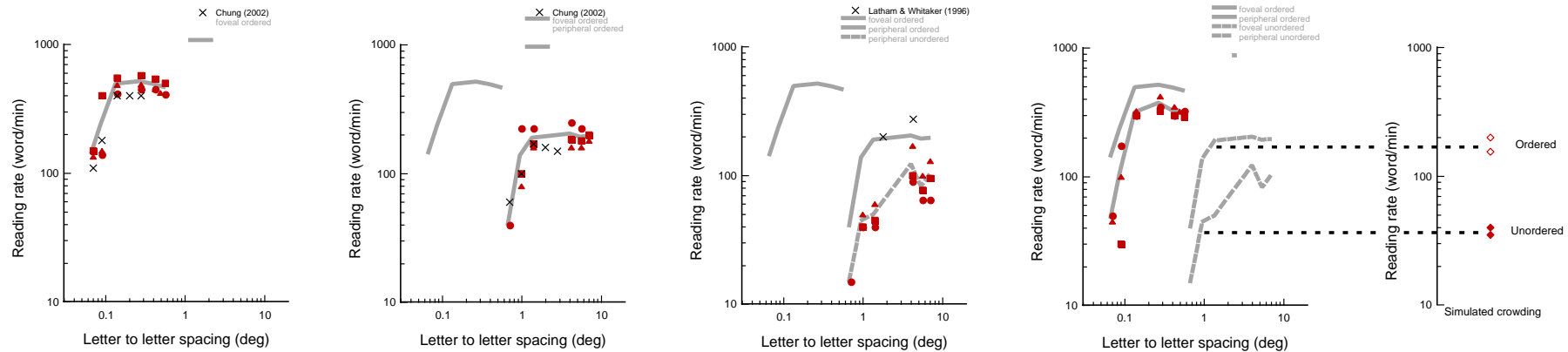


# Reading quickly in the periphery

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We presented readers with short text passages one word at a time, using Rapid Serial Visual Presentation (RSVP). We find that when words are ordered, reading rate is independent of letter spacing; when words are unordered, reading rate falls at the small letter spacings at which crowding is expected. Readers can either use word content or word order to read quickly. When both sources of information are unavailable, reading rate drops dramatically.



reading in the fovea is very easy with ordered words

+

reading in the lower visual field is not impossible with ordered words

+

lower the with hard in words visual is unordered very reading field

not words the unordered hard fovea reading too is with in

rxxdxxg sxxxlxtxd  
cxxxdxxg is  
pxxxxble wxth  
oxdxxd wxds

Reading ordered text in the fovea is unaffected by spacing unless the letters overlap.

Reading ordered text in the periphery is also unaffected by spacing unless the letters overlap, but is roughly half as fast.

Reading unordered text in the periphery reveals crowding. Rate falls when letters are spaced more closely than half of the viewing eccentricity.

In the fovea reading unordered text is only slightly slower than reading ordered text.

We can model peripheral reading in the fovea by simulating crowding.