SPACING?

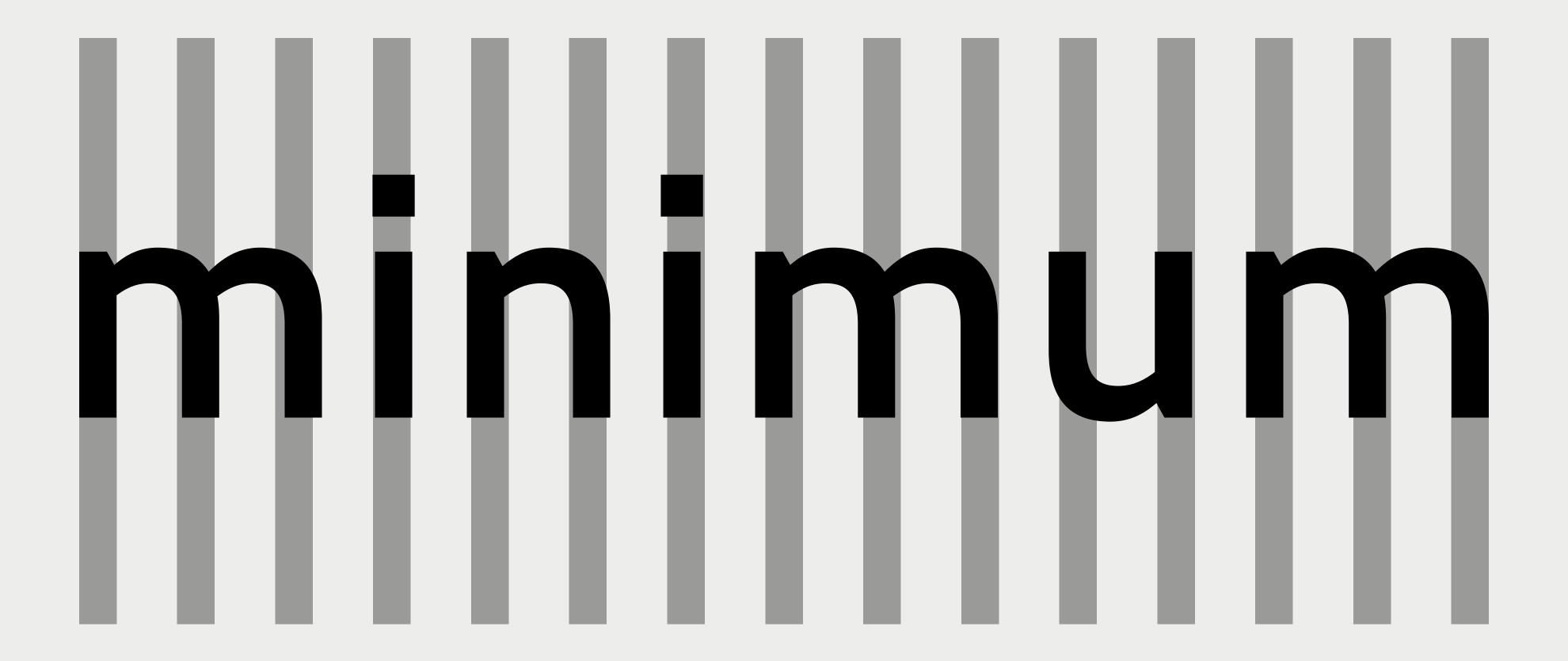
"A poorly drawn, well-spaced font is much more useful that a well-drawn, badly spaced font."

-Paul van der Laan, Bold Monday

minimum

Zeitung Pro, by Underware

minimum



Good Spacing ≠ Evenly-Spaced Strokes

minimum

Harmony of volumes, between and within



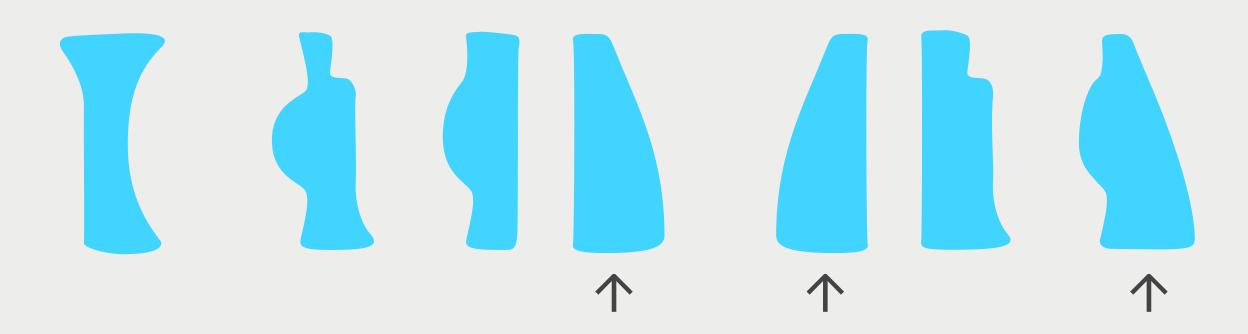
Approximately-equal "Mass"

minaum minimum minmum

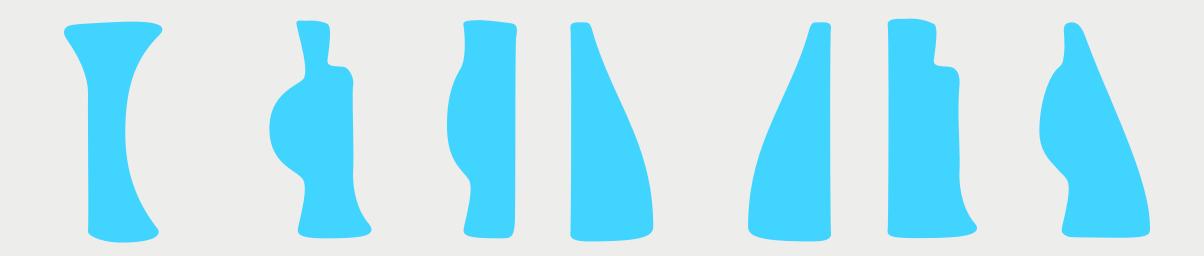
minum

activity

activity



These are a bit big...



This is whitespace is more even, volume-wise. Question: is it better?

activity

Answer: no, because proximity matters, too.

activity/

Looking at each trio, does the middle glyph look centered? ("Three at a time" Test, from OHno Type)

activity/

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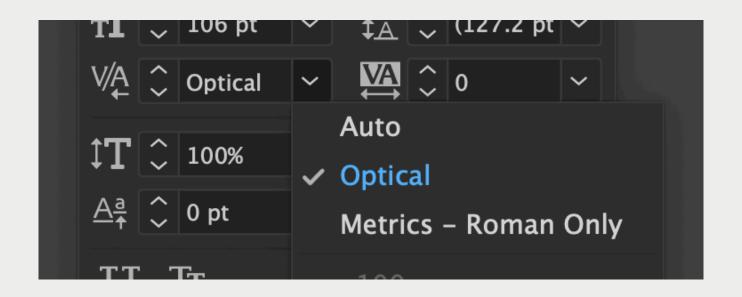
activity/

activity

Sidenote: Kerning

SAVANNA

SAVANNA



SAVANNA

"Optical Kerning" ≠ Intended Kerning

Tomorrow

DISPLAY

HEADINGS TOMOTTOW

TEXT

Tomorrow

The right spacing & kerning depends on font size & graphic style!

DISPLAY

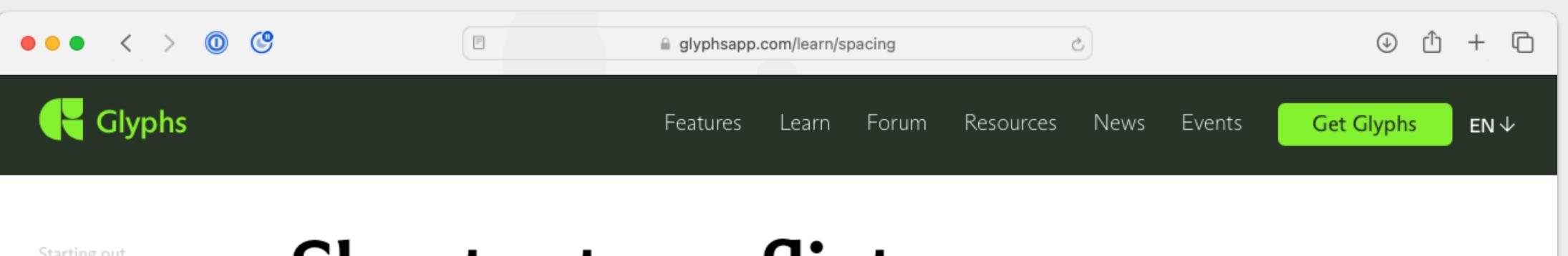
Tomorrow Tomorrow Tomorrow

HEADINGS

TEXT

The right spacing & kerning depends on font size & graphic style!

How to work on spacing



Starting out

Shortcut conflict

Placeholders

Sidebearing arithmetics

Uppercase spacing

Automatic alignment

Batch-processing

No kerning yet

Useful scripts and plug-ins

Plug-ins

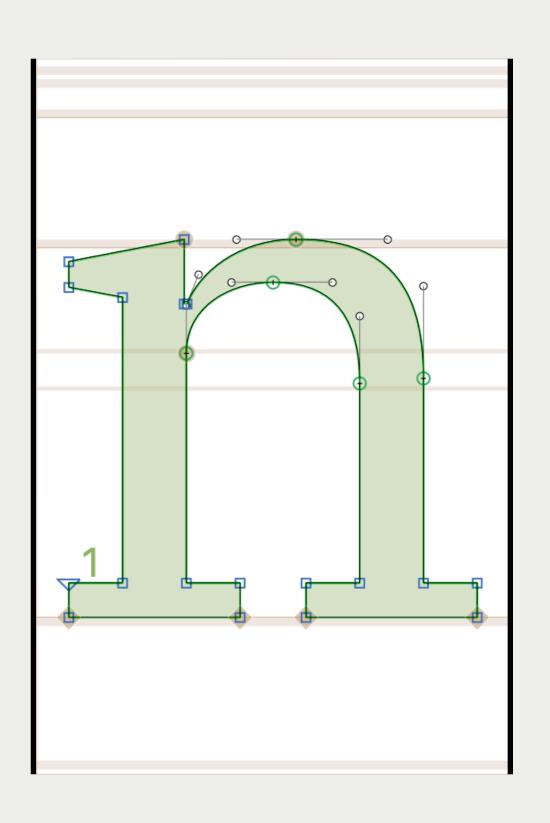
Shortcut conflict

Careful: by default, Ctrl-arrows is reserved for switching between Spaces in macOS. Thus, you need to disable the Spaces shortcut or set it to something else, so you can free up Ctrl-arrows for Glyphs. To do that in macOS Mountain Lion and above, go to *System* Preferences > Keyboard > Shortcuts, pick Mission Control from the list on the left and double click Move left a space and Move right a space to enter new shortcuts. Personally, I disable the shortcuts altogether because you can still move through Spaces with a fourfinger swipe gesture:



Know your shortcuts!

cntl ←/→
adjust
left side



cmd ←/→
adjust
right side

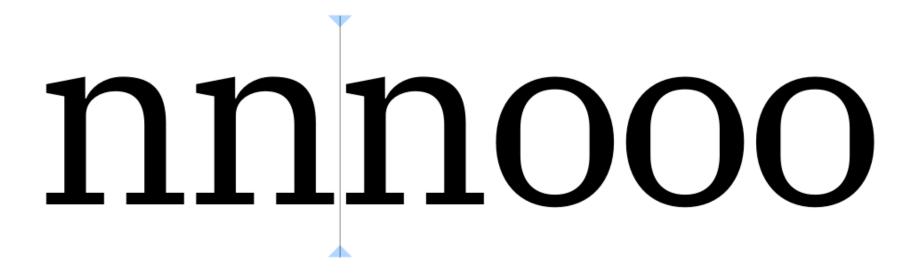
ctrl+cmd ←/→ move letter

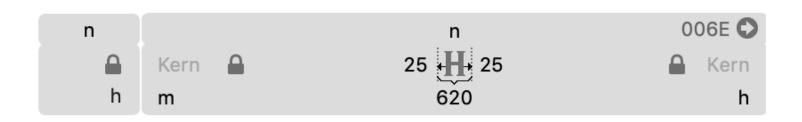




IBM Plex Serif, by IBM & Bold Monday

AVATAR





```
Macro
font = Glyphs.font
 font.kerning = {}
 for glyph in font.glyphs:
   for layer in glyph.layers:
     layer.LSB = 25
     layer.RSB = 25
+
                             Clear
```

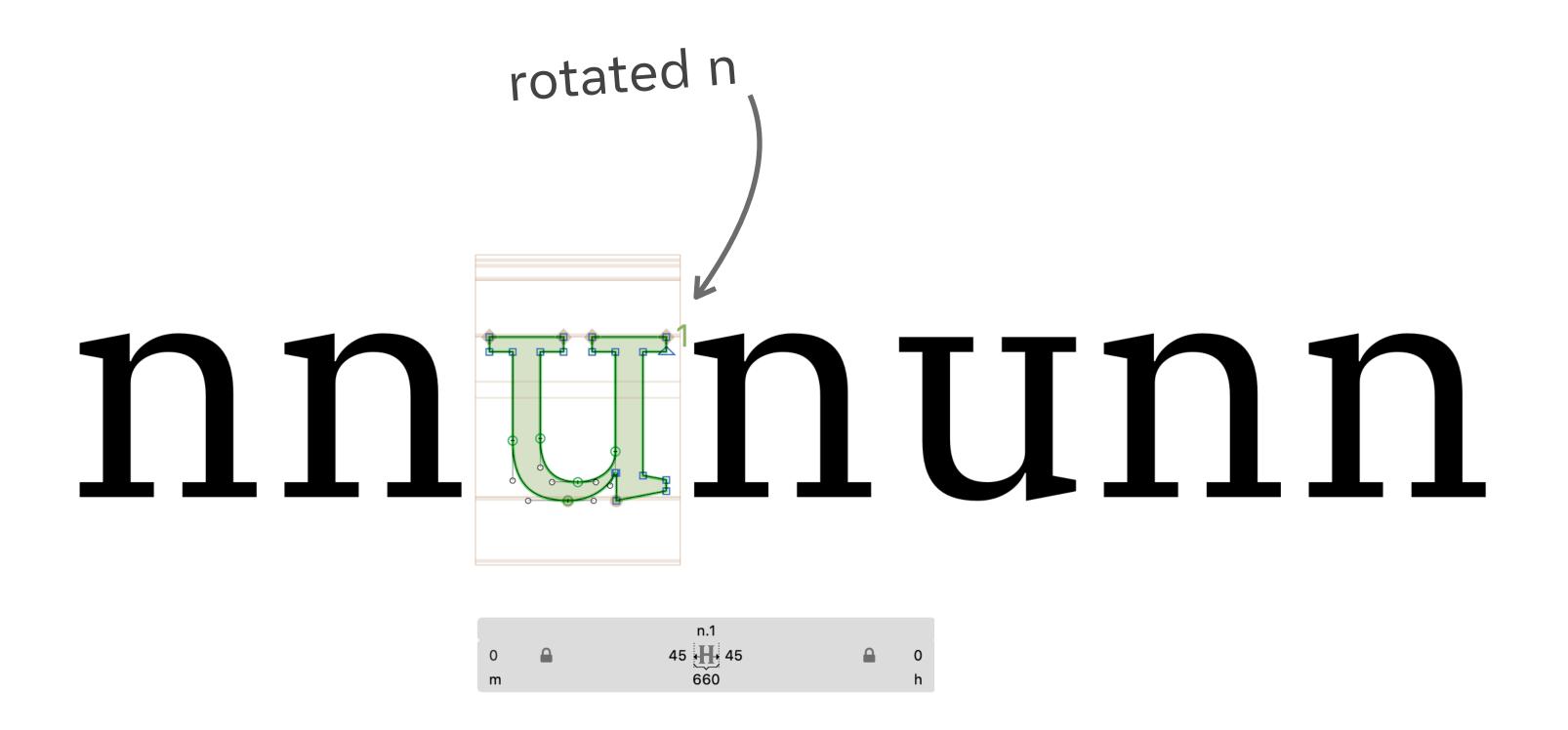
(a quick spacing reset)

nnnn

nnnn

nnnnnn

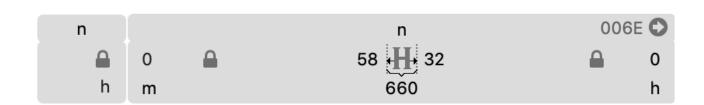
Goal 1: space the /n generally



Goal 1b: offset the /n

Keep these in sync!





Goal 1b: offset the /n

nunununun

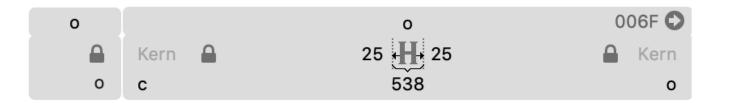
n u 0075 ♪

Kern A 32 H 45 A Kern

h u 647 a.alt01

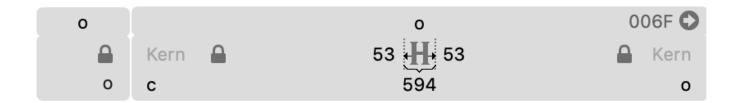
Then copy to the real /u

1110000

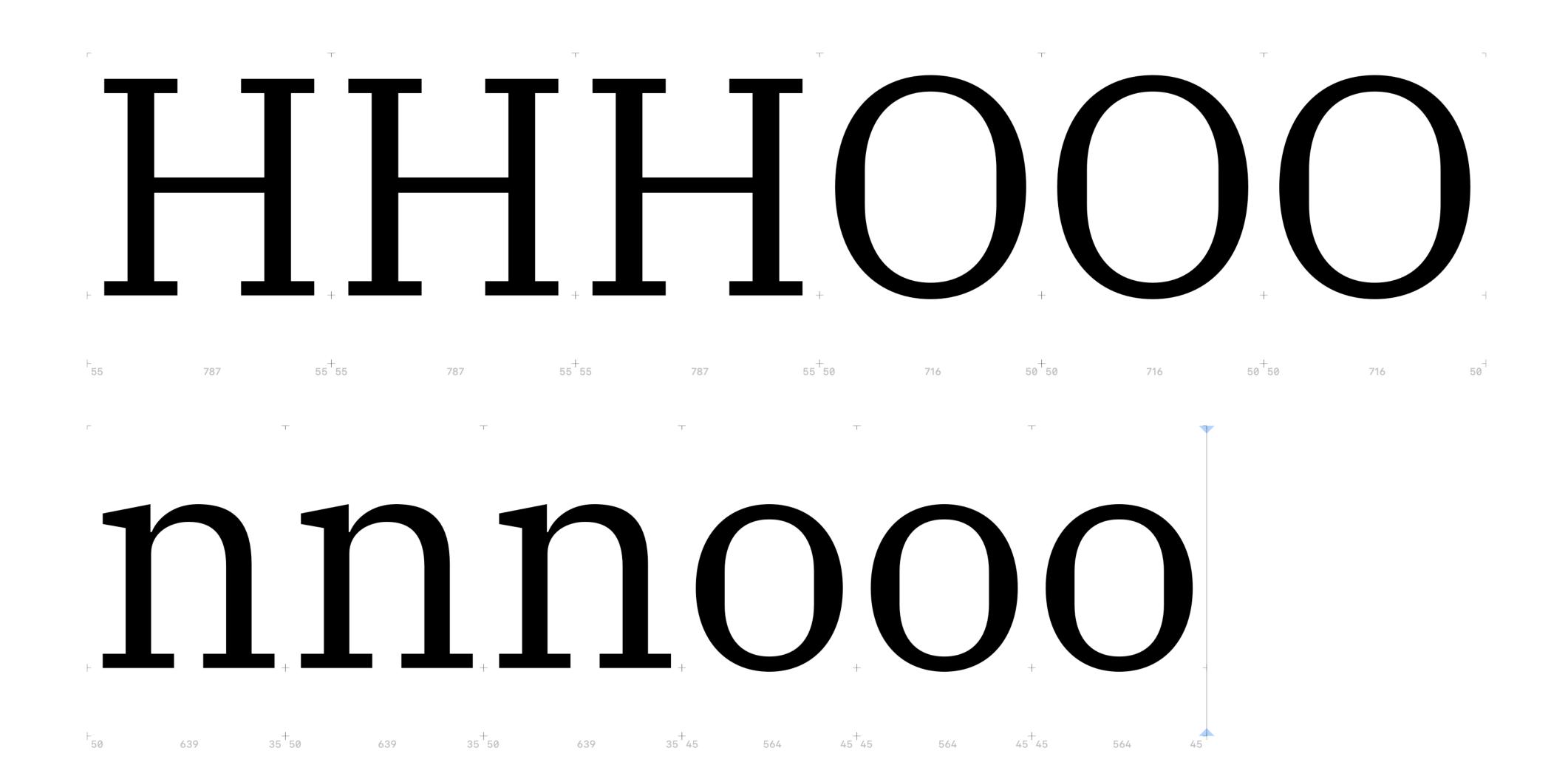


Goal 2: space the /o

nnooo



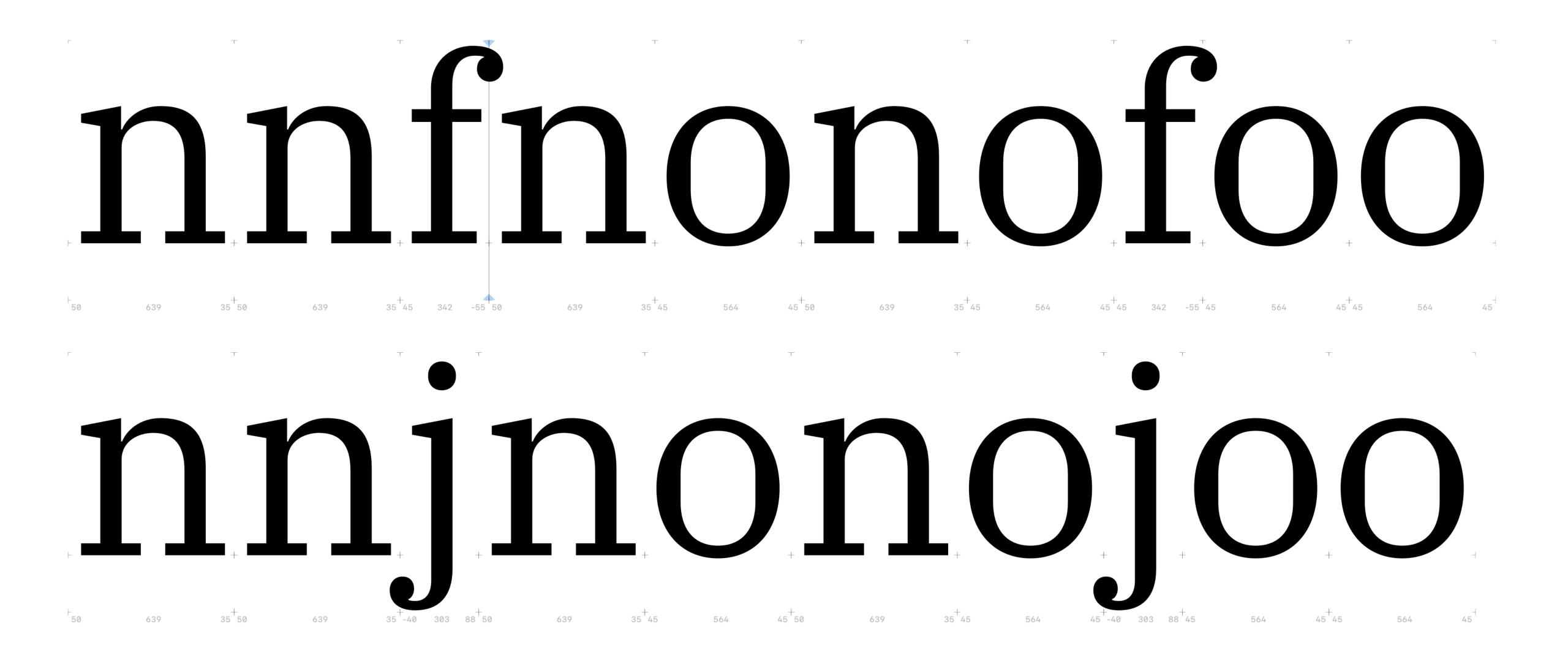
Goal 2: space the /o



Goal 3: space the uppercase controls (H & O)

nnanono nnbnonoboo nncnon nndnondoo

Goal 4: space the rest!



Note: a few margins are negative

Spacing takes time!

More resources at github.com/arrowtype/spacing