Problem & Motivation
✦ Music learners are often demotivated by the complexity of music notation.
✦ Alternative notation systems might be easier to learn. One such alternative, called Klavarskribo, is described below.
✦ While hundreds of alternative music notation systems have been proposed, we have no way to objectively evaluate them.

Klavarskribo
✦ Developed by Cornelis Pot of the Netherlands in 1931
✦ Especially intuitive for pianists; layout of staff mirrors a piano
✦ No need to read sharps or flats
✦ Easily extends left or right to represent lower or higher notes
✦ Notation is still concise and can be used for complex music

What is BetterNote?
✦ A tool for evaluating and comparing music notation systems, particularly for individuals learning to play piano.
✦ Tests users on sight-reading of single notes and chords in traditional and Klavarskribo notation. Records data on reading speed and accuracy.

Test Methodology
✦ Ask about prior experience with music notation.
✦ For both traditional notation and Klavarskribo (with the order randomized for each participant):
  ✦ Give participant up to 15 minutes to study a document describing the notation, ask clarifying questions, and do practice tests.
  ✦ Have participant complete three short tests in which they identify single notes and chords.

Test Results
✦ A score for each test is calculated as: 
  \[
  \text{Score} = \frac{\text{fraction of notes identified correctly}}{\text{median time (s) required to identify a note/chord}}
  \]
✦ Tested with ten participants, with varying levels of prior experience
✦ For each participant, we calculate a score for each notation by averaging their scores across the three tests.

Future Work
✦ Assess reading lengthier passages, and reading rhythm.
✦ Add additional alternative notation systems to BetterNote, and evaluate their efficacy.
✦ Conduct similar tests using an electric keyboard as input rather than a virtual keyboard, in order to more closely emulate the process of sight-reading in the real world.
✦ Develop test systems and methodologies for instruments other than the piano.