# Investigating Emotion-label and Emotion-laden Words in a Semantic Satiation Paradigm

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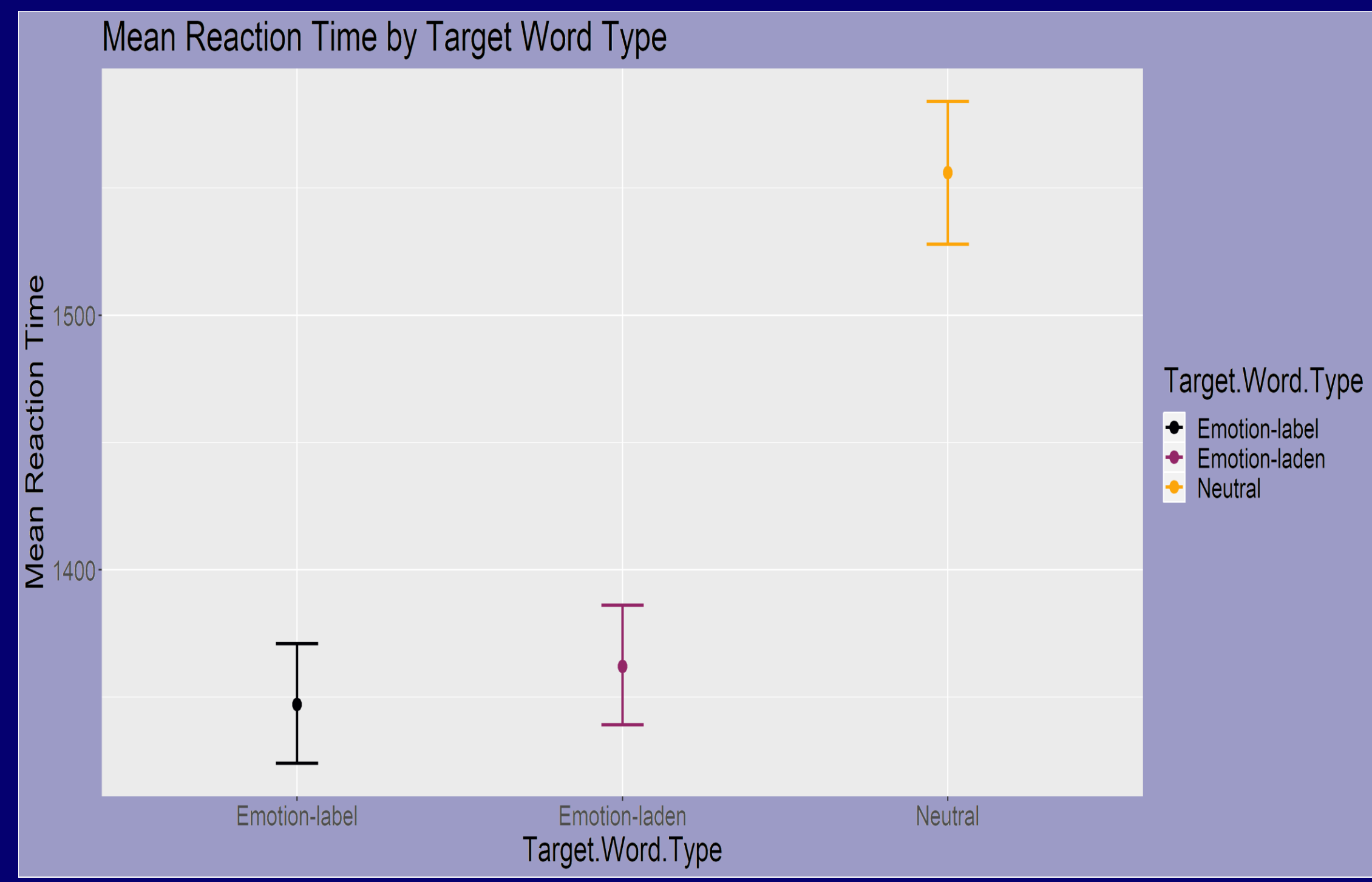
## INTRODUCTION

- Emotion-label words (e.g., sad) and emotion-laden words (e.g., funeral) are processed differently, emotion laden words often exhibit smaller processing effects [1]
- Negative words are attended to and hold attention for longer than positive words [2]
- Semantic satiation can make a word's meaning less accessible, and has been applied to emotion words and faces [3]
- **The goal of the current study was to characterize the role of word type and valence in word processing**

## METHODS & ANALYSES

- Undergraduate RIT students (n=71, mean age= 19.3 , 27 male, 43 female, 1 non-binary)
- Satiation paradigm [4][5]
  - Positive, negative, neutral words, controlled for arousal
  - Emotion-label, emotion-laden, neutral words
  - Target words repeated 3 (primed) or 30 (satiated) times
  - Task: evaluate if the valence of two paired words matched or differed
- SAM scale word ratings on valence and arousal [6]
- BDI-II & STAI inventories[7][8]
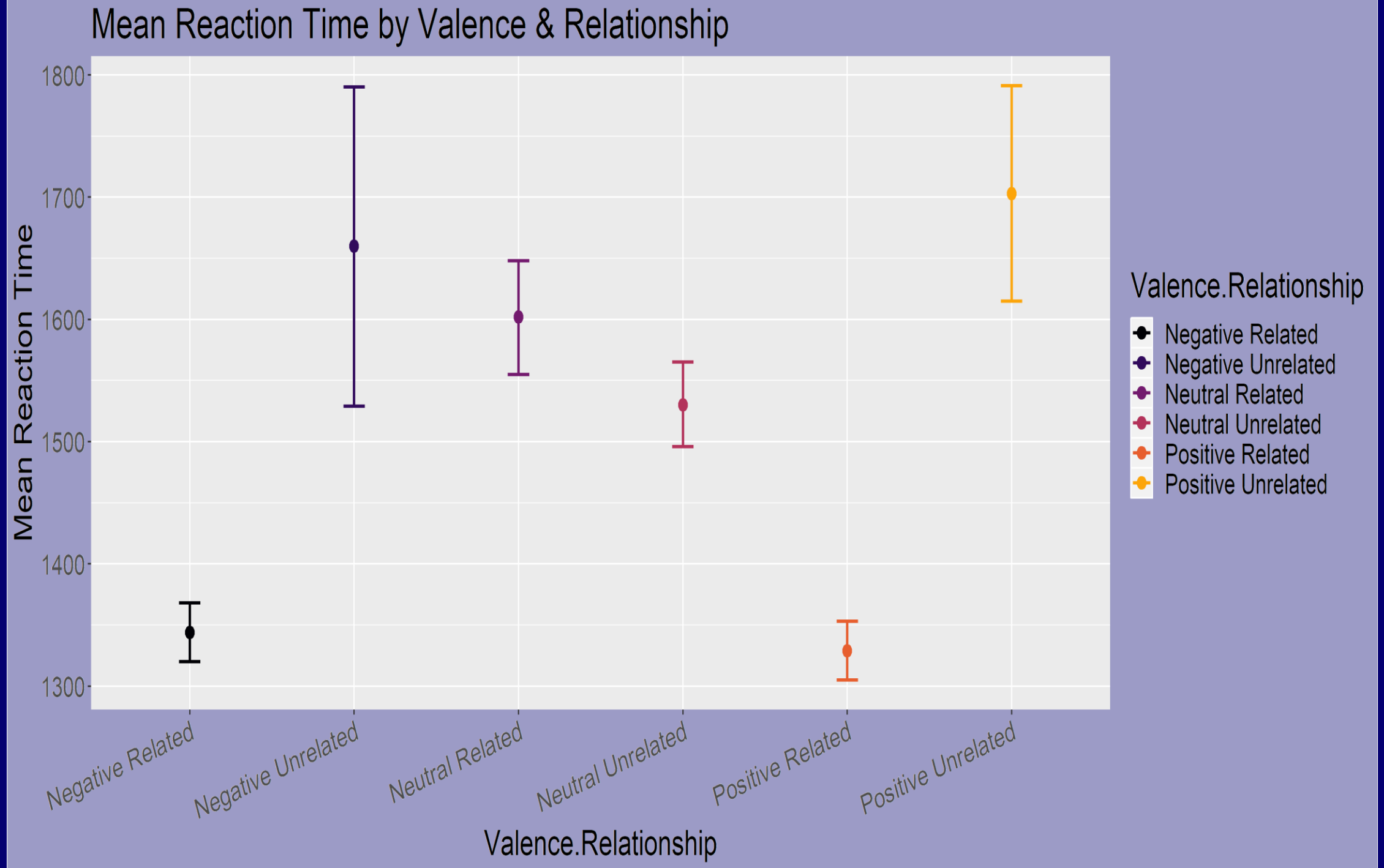- **4-way ANOVA for the effects of IV's on task**



SCAN ME

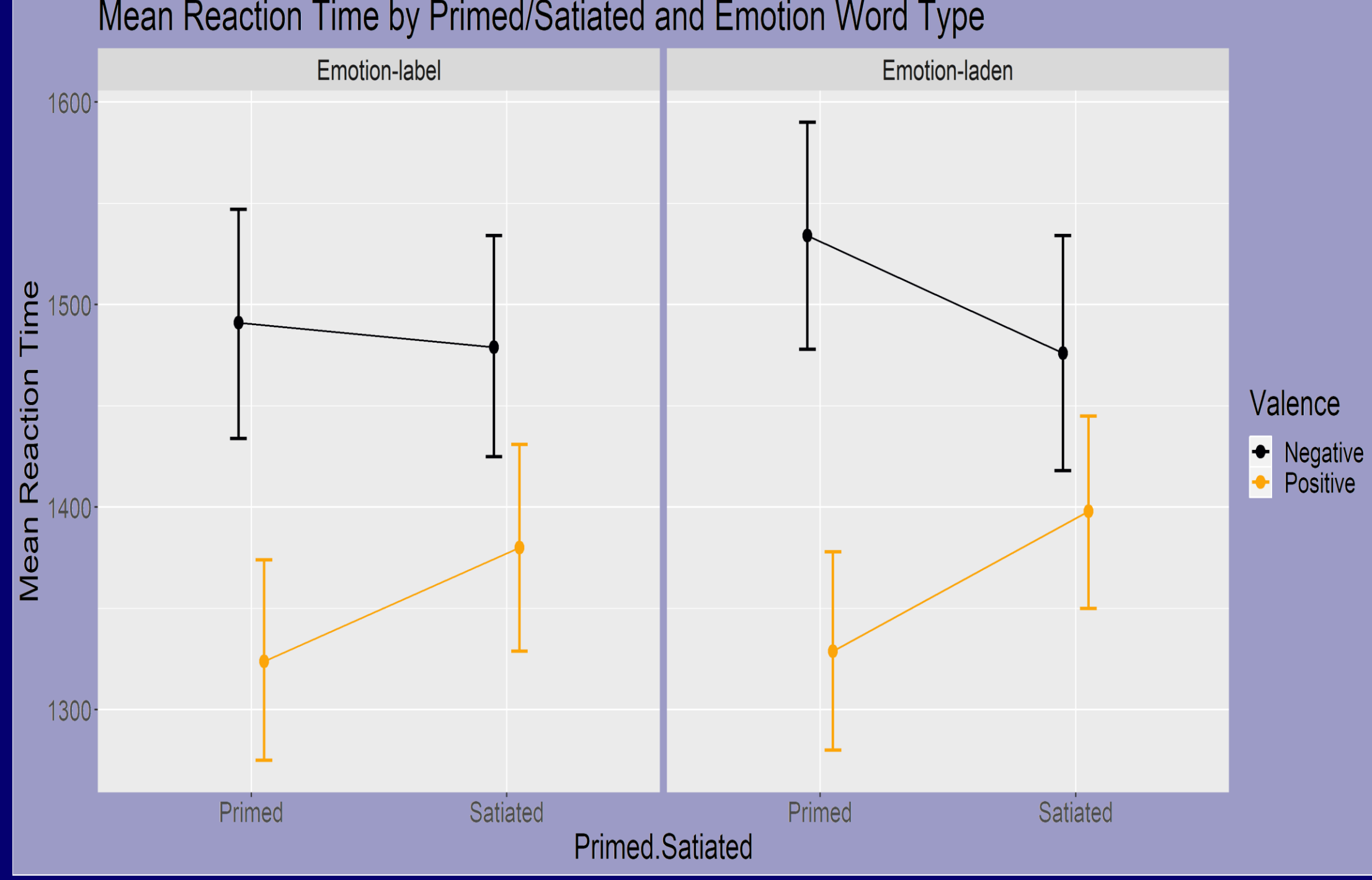Take a picture for supplementary materials



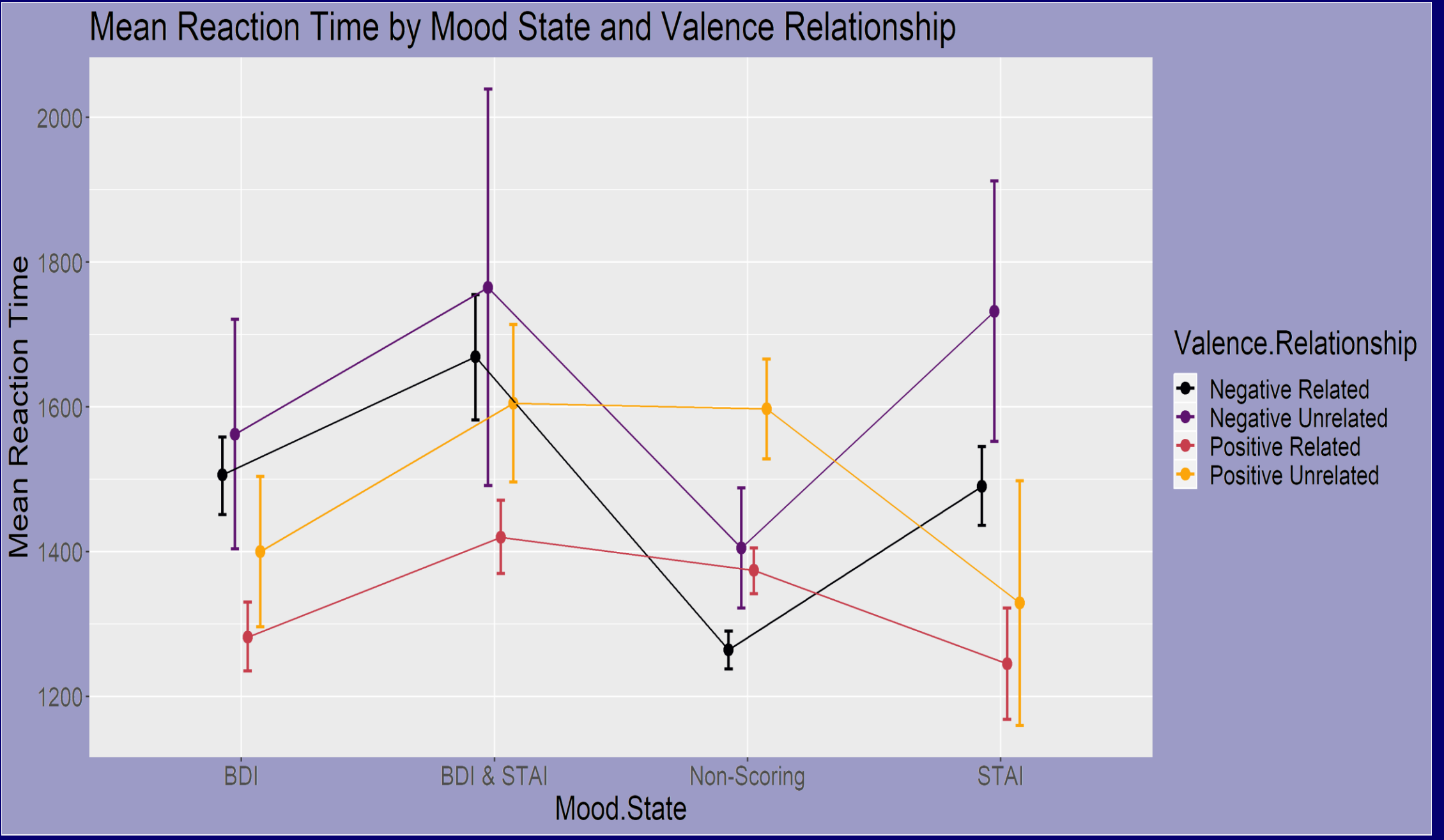**<- Neutral** words had the **slowest RT's**, emotion-label and emotion-laden **did not differ**

**Related** trials (target & pair valence) and **positive** trials had **fastest** RT's





**<-Positive** targets showed **satiation effects, negative** targets showed **no satiation effects**

**Participants scoring ->on BDI and/or STAI** had especially slow RT's for **negative** targets



## DISCUSSION

- Slower RT's for negative targets may be a result of negative words' increased attention capture [2], impairing disengagement from the target in order to complete subsequent task
- Conversely, the lack of observed satiation for negative emotion-label targets may relate to the salience of negative stimuli, making their meanings more difficult to satiate in the first place [9]
- While neutral targets also elicited slower RT's, this may instead be due to the ambiguity inherent in categorizing their valence, as they are not immediately recognized as positive or negatively valenced
- Compared to tasks commonly used in the semantic satiation literature, the task in the current study resulted in lower accuracy rates, potentially indicating that the present task was exceptionally difficult. This may have obscured expected effects from the IVs.

### References

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