Let's see what sort of spaces ConTEXt puts before interrogation marks in french-punctuation character spacing mode:

a? aa? aaa? abba?

If we hardcode the thin space, it's a bit shorter:

a? aa? abba?

Here we use the font's glyph for U+202F NARROW NO-BREAK SPACE and we see nothing: Latin Modern doesn't have a glyph for it.

a? aa? abba?

Now we override Mark IV's default settings, see core-spa.mkiv a? aa? aaa? abba?