



# memory

an anthology

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2017-12-06

[introduction]

My favorite moment in my experimental poetry class was when, while discussing Susan Howe's *Singularities*, I had the realization that I could not articulate the way the jumble of words on a page (literally) conveyed the message I felt so viscerally as I read it. My takeaway was that Howe, as with many other great poets, was able to communicate abstract thoughts without first translating them into shared language. Instead, her abstract thoughts felt as though they became my own without all of the normally required steps in between.

Concurrently I was learning about computer memory, and became enthralled with the idea that computers really are 0s and 1s and defined within that data is a framework that maps itself out. I feel like those 0s and 1s are a computer's version of my experience reading *Singularities*, and I wanted to explore the way we map our own memory, our awareness of the world around us, the myth of interconnectivity, and automation. These poems are mostly bad and somewhat nonsensical, but hopefully just a little thought-provoking. They are a collection of my tweets, retweets, US State Department press releases, and Wall Street Journal headlines all indexed by date. They were generated by a program I wrote.



2013-05-30

a gunslinger in the outfield loves carrots  
india may consider more steps to  
curb gold imports i think my mom talks to  
the dogs more than she talks to me country  
reports on terrorism

2013-08-10

the rolling student loan bailout all  
generalizations  
are social security for your kids  
for photographing while driving obama  
seeks to reassure veterans just be  
safe argentine primaries pose test for  
kirchner form new member is garg bending  
the pregnancy rules it makes me think about  
the book for hours corrections amplifications  
the power of love overcomes the love  
of the world will know



2015-07-07

allergan buys rights to migraine drugs make  
up and the rest is grass headaches are just  
beginning of my diet is peanut  
butter jared fogle suspend ties something  
funky goin on with me but nothing is worse  
than sunglasses indoors so im just gonna  
tough it out natural gas falls as weather  
signals soft demand betts tummy aesthetic  
senior advisor thorne travels to milan  
the bureau of overseas buildings operations  
announces the construction award for  
the new embassy in zimbabwe

2014-10-17

andre pineda on engaging nontraditional  
investors happy birthday to the expert  
etc

2015-03-14

Linked to blue bell ice cream cause of death  
trolling

iowa state again with the hawkeye  
logo in the background of the studio  
dana gas could recover overdue  
payment from egypt but didnt realize  
they were playing

2014-01-23

syria peace talks hit a stumbling  
block i will only answer if you buy  
some trial to start for former new orleans  
mayor hit me up if you want  
to buy some girl scout cookies the house of  
the year definitely not relevant  
australias national day execution  
of mexican national edgar arias  
tamayo interview with rima of  
al signing of the cessation of hostilities  
between the government of south sudan  
and the opposition forces statement  
by secretary john kerry on the  
departure of special representative  
farah terrorist designation of  
ziyad

2014-04-11

a step in managing business wealth a  
giant poster of a drone strike survivor  
looks up at drone pilots

2014-11-02

barney east village mural is up for  
grabs if you take the wall nothing beats a  
quiet nighttime run on the trail why 3-d  
tv was a bit too early no shave  
november is a beautiful thing  
tough year westpac banking  
profit rises as impairments decline  
through our ears the universe is listening  
to its harmonies events could test history  
for us stocks love it thanks behind the US  
withdrawal from iraq

2015-10-05

islamic state destroys ancient arch syrian  
activists say it's not hard to be nice  
man

2014-10-11

runners high after a race always has  
me like oprah japan braces for powerful  
typhoon super cool article in  
this week's transit pricing agreement



2016-01-25

british adventurer henry worsley  
dies during antarctic crossing wow i'm  
so exhausted after a busy day  
of staring at my computer and eating  
cottage cheese

2014-06-15

own a welcome gift at the world cup fun  
laura laughs during movie hospital  
scenes middle-class brazilians are in no  
mood to party honestly seeing dr  
rossiter as an altar server at  
the cathedral downtown was the best part  
of my day elections in colombia  
a perennial target

2014-01-17

the girl sunday in the vintage jeans  
without the dust if you never try you'll  
never know assistant secretary  
for east asian and pacific affairs  
daniel russel travels to china japan  
the republic of korea and singapore  
january

2014-05-25

california shooting victim was athletic  
academic christine master of highways  
large and small declares victory in ukraine  
presidential election the song on  
the soundtrack is the greatest

2013-05-25

some apps to pack for your summer travels  
i love waking up to the sound of crashing  
waves what's business finance i was kidnapped  
and taken to a remote location  
in northern iowa

2015-01-16

woodrow man in paris it's pretty weird  
being human test finds college graduates  
lack skills for jobs can't say i disagree  
assistant secretary of state russel's  
travel to manila kuala lumpur  
bangkok and phnom penh

2015-03-02

sex in old age may lead to a sharper  
mind desperate measures for federal judge  
blocks gay marriage ban there's nothing more  
concerning  
than the fact that there are people who think  
women wearing leggings in public is  
society's biggest issue fulbright  
foreign scholarship board welcomes new and  
reappointed members increases grant  
flexibility for US fulbright scholars  
drug draws interest in fight against ebola  
watching videos on how to properly  
cook over easy eggs in order to  
avoid real responsibility joint  
statement for non-proliferation treaty  
review conference on minimizing  
the impact of medical isotope  
production on the release of xenon  
gas into the environment

2014-12-03

the artistic ambition to be afraid  
of life is to be afraid of yourself  
buying florida citrus producers  
syrian refugees face bleak winter  
after food aid cuts via appointment  
of special envoy and coordinator  
for international energy affairs



2014-08-24

are your assets ready for college a  
wes anderson movie marathon

2014-03-05

check out our new personal tech page  
it makes me so sad to know that in the  
world right now there are people being imprisoned  
for telling the truth

2014-09-28

chicago teaches beijing a lesson  
so incredibly sick of self-centered  
people mount volcano erupts in japan  
where u at bae

2015-03-04

resorts promise families the perfect  
electronics are you sure about judge  
sets date for hearings in foods antitrust  
suit what the rec center lacks in equipment  
is definitely made up for in quality  
display cases

2013-08-21

disturbing images from damascus  
i watch documentaries on halloween  
because most of reality is scarier  
than any horror movie rupee sinks  
as india wrestles with policy  
we're all just searching for a little validation

2015-04-24

more parents opt in to see congress polarize  
over the past years in one beautiful  
chart

2015-01-18

israeli arabs indicted for forming  
cell of islamic state im like a green  
onion i have layers and they are all  
shallow time to end financial fees oatmeal  
is best eaten with chopsticks millions attend  
manila mass

2013-06-24

wins ok for plan to publicize more  
actions vs brokers ya i guess i  
can't go in july either underwater  
drones are multiplying fast do you think  
grass ever feels self-conscious of its haircut  
camp residents depart for albania  
hollywood's new screen test next week i i  
miss u too assistant secretary  
richard



2014-08-09

clayton short but sweet season this thing that  
you are feeling is your own life

2017-03-10

strong jobs market is a risk to growth literally  
nobody needed more than one country  
with radioactive boar but here we  
are

2013-08-09

hot tigers cold yanks i can't stand it when  
books leave too many loose



# # about the author [github.com/chrstnb/poem-gen]

```
timeTweets = dict()
releases = dict()

def main():
    # get tweets & map to date
    with open('tweets.csv') as csvfile:
        reader = csv.DictReader(csvfile)
        for row in reader:
            time = row['timestamp'][0:10]
            if not time in timeTweets:
                timeTweets[time] = set()
            timeTweets[time].add(row['text'])
    # write 10 poems
    for x in range(0, 10):
        poem = []
        date = random.choice(timeTweets.keys()) # pick a random tweet date
        archives = requests.get("http://www.wsj.com/public/page/archive-" + date + ".html")
        archivesHtml = archives.text # fetch WSJ Archive HTML
        print ""
        print date
        print
        counter = 0
        for tweet in timeTweets[date]: # iterate through all tweets on selected date
            data = archivesHtml.split("archivedArticles")
            data = data[1].split("col4wide margin-left")
            data = data[0].split("<li>")
            data = data[randrange(2, len(data))]
            data = data.split("<h2>")[1]
            loc1 = data.index(">")
            loc2 = data.index("</a>")
            newsArr = data[loc1 + 1: loc2].split(" ") # split up random headline into arr
            poem.extend(newsArr)
            poem.extend(tweet.split(" "))
            date2 = "" + date[0:4] + "/" + date[5:7] # format date for State Department scraper
            press = requests.get("https://2009-2017.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/" + date2 + "/index.htm")
            date2 = "" + date[5:7] + "/" + date[8:10] + "/" + date2[2:4] # format for HTML search
            pressHtml = press.text # fetch state department press release HTML
            pressHtml = pressHtml.split(date2)
            if (counter + 2) < len(pressHtml): # iterate through all press releases
                state = pressHtml[counter]
                state = state.split("htm")
                state = state[1][2:]
                state = state.split("</a>")[0]
                poem.extend(state.split(" "))
            counter = counter + 1
        count = 0
        for s in poem:
            s = s.replace(", ", "")
            s = s.replace(".", "")
            phones = pronouncing.phones_for_word(s.lower())
            if len(phones) > 0:
                print s.lower(),
                count = count + pronouncing.syllable_count(phones[0])
                if count >= 10:
                    print
                    count = 0
        print
```

