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 *Singulari-
ties*, I had the realization that I could not artic-
ulate the way the jumble of words on a page (liter-
ally) 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 nor-
mally 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 ex-
perience reading *Singularities,* and I wanted to ex-
plore the way we map our own memory, our awareness
of the world around us, the myth of interconnec-
tivity, and automation. These poems are mostly bad
and somewhat nonsensical, but hopefully just a lit-
tle thought-provoking. They are a collection of my
tweets, retweets, US State Department press releas-
es, and Wall Street Journal headlines all indexed
by date. They were generated by a program I wrote.

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

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

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

2014-08-09

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

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]

```python
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
```