

# DESTRALE OF THE PANDEMBER CHARD AND THE ALLEGED

A POSSIBLE FUTURE - OR A GAP IN THE PAST - IS RENDERED AS LOW-FIDELITY LANGUAGE IN THIS HEADLINE. As the author Stanislaw Lem has a character in 'The Futurological Congress' observe: "By examining future stages in the evolution of language we come to learn what discovers, changes and social revolutions the language will be capable, some day, of reflecting." If and only of the future - (the past - the present) "entropy, then might the neologism be a time machine, an active agent of transformation? Or perhaps as language falls apart, it falls into unspoken moments of the past?"

IF AND ONLY IF works with a recursive neural network (RNN) to exaggerate and accelerate the falling-apart/recombining-churning process that language undergoes in today's increasingly rapid post-industrial culture. As with any object that is far-distant, the view this headline affords us of the future, is impoverished and blurry. A vision that demands your imagination. Rather than "big data" the IF & ONLY IF headline generator is trained on a small set of data which you can read and digest for yourself on this page. Starting out with a small British Library archive of C19th headlines, a RNN was taught the statistical likelihood that one letter follows

another. Each day we re-train IF AND ONLY IF's RNN on its own outputs, adding by hand some contemporary and possible-future examples. You can add your own suggestions below to help us train the model over the coming weeks. Though the form of its historical sources still shape the outputs you see, their content will become an increasingly distant memory over the coming weeks, distorted by the likelihood of letter-combinations such as "con", "tran", "bre", "a" that dominate today's headlines. Because there is no corrective mechanism, the process does not result in increasing accuracy, but rather opens up the field of possibility and disorder in a way

that is akin to the entropy that characterises our experience of time passing. 'MARKETS', 'HIGHOUT COULD MECHICTER', 'BULLIONING', 'AUSTRALIAN HAVE FIVELAND MONETARY', 'CORRET', 'BUYNOUNIA THE SEAKS WORLD ORDER RULLES', 'NEWSWAVE DEAL', 'ANNALISTONNESS AND THE BRITS', 'ALL AND TELEGRAPHIC NEWS', 'TOTS ITS POINE IN CORRESPONDENCE', 'LATEST AND TRADE LANG THE PARRESTALLY INDEFINITE CALLS TO PRESIDENT TRUMP AND THE BRITISH ASSASSIN PRESIDENT TO HELOCKENSE.

PROTEST AID OF THE SALE OF AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS', 'BRING TOTALLY IN RESPLOAN AND THE CORRESPONDENCE', 'LATEST AND TRADE REPORT AND OBITUARIES', 'KENTLER', 'MANCE', 'DOLLING TOWND THE EARTHIS AND THE REPOLICE', 'LATEST AND THE REPOLIST TO MORNING ASSAULT EAGLED BY THE BOOK, CONCERNATIONS TO AMERKAS', 'COMBISH ASSASSING THE WORKER OF THE SPECTRUS CLOSIDMENT TO FAIL', 'ARTS AND OBITUARIES', 'LATEST AND TRACE JODER DEMOCTING STOVREY HAS IN HOW BASHBOT PUBLIC AND MONETARY.



## YOUR HEADLINE HERE

Help us to train our RNN by typing in your own speculations on the headlines of the future. Who and what will dominate our news in the decades to come? What new conglomerations of politics, technologies and events will we come to know? How might the language of headlines and the news change? What neologisms will be commonplace?

## CONFUSION CAUSED BY CRASH BLOSSOMS

Here's a further sample of some of the suggestions made by you, our readers, helping to train the IF & ONLY IF RNN to look into the future and combine with headlines from the past and the present to create the top headlines. Your own contribution could be published here, alongside these: 'DAILY MAIL FORMS ARMY', 'SWANS UNDER ATTACK', 'PARAGIE SINKS', 'COVID 19 GIVEN PIERAGE', 'SCHOOLS REOPEN UNDERMATE', 'PM SLAMS', 'SLAMMING', 'SPECULATION ABOUT CRASH BLOSSOMS', 'ZOMBIES LAND', 'SOURRENS AITACK', 'FAKE DEGREE CLAIMS DOG PROMINENT SPANISH POLITICIANS', 'MAN WHO URNATED ON WOMAN AT DRAKE CONCERT BEFORE DRINK-DRIVE', 'KILLER GILFRIEND STARTED BRAWL OVER AVOIDS JAIL', 'DECAPITATED MEMBERS ARRESTED ON ALLEGED KIDNAPPING CHARGES', 'QUEEN MOTHER TRIED TO HELP ARSUE.



IN LATENT SPACE NO-ONE CAN SEE YOU! TYPO. The notion of latent space is integral to forms of machine learning where items in a data-set are used to produce a mathematical 'spatial' representation of the set as a whole. The only language IF AND ONLY IF knows is headlines that exist within the archive. Each example headline from the corpus is a co-ordinate from which the AI constructs a continuous world. You can yourself in the columns below, read the material from which the AI draws its coordinates. That we can ask the generator to 'explore' its archive-world and show us what language possibilities exist "between the (headlines)". The letter combinations that you see above are locations possibilities within the latent space of the archive. The neologisms (new-words, new-logos) that the generator spits out are therefore not only intended as speculations on the future, but of the gaps in the archive. What has been left unsaid. As well as synthesising the statistical possibilities of historical sets of headlines with more contemporary examples, we also train IF & ONLY IF

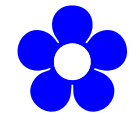
## "MACHINE MISBEHAVIOUR" IS CLICK BAIT TO-COME

on its own errors. We also introduce our own vernacular examples. This is what is called 'poisoning' the set, but we might also think about it as bringing the archive back to life. This human intervention in the symbolic set is a "pharmakon" both poison and antidote. It obscures and distorts the "truth" of the archive, by presenting a range of possibilities that is between it, and beyond. In When making becomes division, (uncertainty and contingency in computational glitch-events. Bent Marekko observes similar potentials perhaps even necessities, "in contemporary design practice Marekko asserts that a glitch is an event that "reveals the potential of the digital in processes of computational making". The IF & ONLY IF algorithm is trained on such moments in its own language glitches, it is encouraged to make errors that articulate its own potential. The glitch poetics are pharmacological moments in language, where broken, impoverished and corrupted words are imbued with literary potential. The era of the digital means that errors increasingly reveal the entanglement

of our language with computational means, a process that is accelerating us into the future. "Ambiguity is difference engine of the eternal return." "No 'syntax directive', just grams stirred in a certain way." "Error is divination." "Glitch the tangible evidence of autonomous agencies of digital matter." "True picture of the past whizes by." "History repeats itself in different codices." "Crash Blossoms. Post truth, Linguistic futurology." "Splinters of error shot through present moment show light." "Each line of headline to a lie as a possibility." "Digital recognized as manufacturing ongoing differentiation." "Cracked oracle. Synthetic projection. Gibberish machine." "Storm drives language irresistibly into the future." "I've got out open the present the future leaks out." "Return of the same to be played on a different statistical array." "Open the archive to find new semantic ground." "Machine misbehaviour" is click bait to-come." "We trained an AI on 1000 headlines from the C19th, and made it break." "First time as truth, second as improbability."

## HOW TO OVERLOAD INFORMATION OVERLOAD IN ACTS OF RECUPERATION?

This project explores headline- or the string pipeline of headlines - and broader contexts, including the migration of news from paper to radio to screens, and today's news has become increasingly participatory and autonomous. Forwarding, commenting, hashtags and memes have collectively produced a news that is in a constant process of mutation and self replication. How we experience and share news today is inherently open to revision, so much so that we are all variously working or lurking in a global nooman, that in this new world of citizen journalists and freedom to publish in an instant, misinformation can spread online like wildfire, breeding and legitimating cognitive theories, and culchre in a post-truth age. Within the history and culture of headline writing lies the seeds of the hyperbolic language that defines so much online news and communication today. Whitney Phillips has written that algorithms act as editors, which "incivite" certain types of semi-automated content... [and] it is simply not the case that all voices carry equally on social media, or that all information carries equally." Furthermore, in working with a news archive as we have done with this project, it should be noted how the archive, like the news, prioritises certain voices. As Michael Foreault wrote, the archive, "defines at the outset the system of its communicability." This project seeks to put the news archive of the post into dialogue with its present and future, using the peculiar characteristics of AI text generation software as a tool to mediate relations, and create an experience for readers that is at once familiar and strange. The artist Steve McQueen once said in an interview that "artists develop a freedom in response to a crisis in language?" As artists we are not interested in 'knowledge navigation tools' that assert 'control and mastery' of the informational and cognitive excesses of today. Rather, we seek to produce 'artefacts and encounters which both level in and delevelinate, the infosphere. John Cage once wrote: "I am trying to be unfamiliar with what I'm doing" and we attempt this too, asking what role does the imaginary have within the evolution of media and technology, from post-truth filter bubbles to how we might converse with AI. We ask what is the inner life of language, as it twists between the web and the web and the archive, how do words create worlds, how can we overload information overload with acts of recuperation, and how might we learn to crash Blossom?



## FAKE DEGREE CLAIMS DOG PROMINENT SPANISH POLITICIAN

A crash blossom is a syntactical error-ambiguity in a headline, for example: "Violated linked to JAIL crash blossoms" or "Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge". These errors are often the result of the tendency in "headline" to use a noun as a verb. As in "Fake degree claims dog prominent Spanish politicians".

The crash blossom opens up a latent space in language, in which multiple interpretations are true of a single headline. Such headlines also spiral into the space of the irrational, producing cartoonish visions of a world in which subjects hover in a mist of dramatic action. "Man who urinated on woman at Drake concert before drink-drive

killer girlfriend started brawl over avoid's jail", "Decapitated Members Arrested on Alleged Kidnapping Charges", "Queen Mother tried to help about jail", "Chinese Cooking Fat Leads for Holland", "Woman Abandoned as Newborn Searches for Birth Mother".

## THE TRIAL OF DR JAMESON AND HIS OFFICERS

The above headline is taken from The British Library archive of 19th century newspaper headlines. The archive has been newly digitised, which means that IF AND ONLY IF's RNN was trained on over 100 examples from this data-set, in conjunction with contemporary and speculative future. Each one of the headlines from the over 100 million searchable pages from national news story, with regular feature news in "British", "Manchester and Drake" predominating in the

First iterations of our trained model. Unlike with "big data" AI models, our original set is provided here at a human-digestible scale. It is of note that the 'sensationalist' language of contemporary headlines - is a later invention which is rarely present in the 1850 headlines we have used. The British Newspaper Archive holds over 100 million searchable pages from more than 700 newspaper titles: <https://www.britainlive.gov.uk/press-photos/british-newspaper-archives>

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POLITICAL  
AND  
BEST THE NEW**

**POTENTIAL AMPHIBIAN.** ASTRONOMICAL...  
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Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

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on—

## THE ONLY WAY TO MORE AND CHEAPER HOUSES

Build in terraces  
Cut down on size

Cut out the frills

### GOLFING DANCES ON THE COURSE

IT was a sociological study, Andrew's tour to assess the course. From a practice round for the Amateur golf championship. There were 2,000 of them. Today they will be behind rose barriers, but yesterday, as he put down a bit put at the 15th hole, they cheered wildly.

"What did you expect," said Bing, and was promptly mobbed. Moving with the crowd he was "rescued" by a walking stick—Royce and driven to his by a crowd of admirers.

Did he tell him today—most sought after golfer in the country yesterday—by sheer force of numbers, 38 over from the 100 hole course at St. Andrews.

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Bing, in his black and white coat, followed round the course.

### 'Tornado' leaves a trail of roofless houses

TWO men were killed by a single flash of lightning and a whirlwind ripped roofs from houses in freak storms that swept over England yesterday, which was also the hottest day of the year.

The whirlwind—it was described as a minor tornado—left a trail of havoc in which 100 houses were destroyed.

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Here's what the town was swamped in the violent flood. Strong from a gale by black and white can be seen in the flood water. The children have their bicycles to use as rafts.

A few of Walsley's 110,000 evacuees returned to their homes yesterday, despite a warning that the danger was not yet over.

DRASTIC measures to cut the high cost of building council houses and to speed-up the numbers that can be built are suggested in a Government report issued today.

The measures slash the "frills" which, says the report, are the only way to lower rents to enable more working families can afford to buy and to cut the number of council houses to be built, bringing every town in Britain.

The report suggests slashing the size of every three-bedroom house by 100 sq. ft., which could save £200 a house, or 1s.3d. a week rent, building more terraced houses instead of semi-detached, and building more two-bedroom houses.

It suggests cutting out all trimmings and luxuries such as leaded glass doors, no stained glass, no hand-draped tables in the kitchen, no garden fences or gates, no outbuildings for the house-end garden.

The report also says that council space should be cut down and public roads widened to 21 ft. dim.

These drastic measures are the argument in every town in Britain. But by coupling them the country could save millions of pounds on council house building.

Higher costs of building materials have raised the cost of every house built in 1949 over three years. The average unit cost was £1,700 a week on a 100 sq. ft. house.

The Government's economy drive in the building industry is the subject of the report. The savings are estimated at £25 to £30.

A 10 per cent saving in paper can be made by using a smaller size of paper for building contracts, where only four houses are built at a time.

And in the advice to compile the report, the report says that the Government should be made to wait, rather than build.

The report is the second published by the Oldwood Committee, sponsored by Mr. Bevan, Minister of Health, to review house building.

There is good news in the report: that although productivity is still 20 per cent below pre-war in the building trade, the average house is taking 40 per cent less time to complete than in 1947.

Technical schemes, such as output bonuses, are praised for this—and the report recommends that they be extended over the whole industry.

YOUR NEW HOUSE: WHAT YOU HAVE TO DECIDE—Page 2

'QUAKE WRECKS A MOUNTAIN CITY OF 46,000 PEOPLE

THE Peruvian city of Arequipa, 114,000 people in population, is reported to have been wrecked by an earthquake yesterday.

Thousands of people are reported to have been killed and injured and troops are being sent to help.

The first tremors were felt at 11.15 a.m. and the streets were soon littered with panic-stricken people.

Quito, which was once capital of the great Inca civilization, has a population of 45,000.

It is now the commercial centre of a large area of South-Eastern Peru.

### Housewives' Choice is new Labour plan

By HAROLD HUTCHINSON  
THE outline of Labour's new housing programme, which will be based on the idea that "a little is what they do not get," was outlined last night at a meeting of the Labour Party in the country house near Dunblane, Scotland.

With the Prime Minister's sixty members of the Labour Party and trade union leaders.

Purpose of the conference was to analyse the results of the last election.

Continued on Back Page

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# HOUR OF

## FIRE AND FLOOD

DISASTERS involving flooding and fire dominate the news at times during the Post War era.

Flooding followed heavy snow in Lincoln in 1847 (see Page 9) and in 1953 came the great East Coast floods (Echo front page illustrated here and see Page 5).

Fire struck for the second time within a few years at Lincoln Co-op. Our picture left is from the damaging February 1969 blaze.

Priority and civil engineering stay in the memory from the era. In 1953 the new six-lane Conington Bypass (see Page 5) and in 1958 the Gaele and Pripps By-pass opened Pelham Bridge (see Page 6). Wigton Way was opened in 1972 (see Page 6).

Back to the disaster theme — Pelham Bridge was the scene of a rail crash in 1962 (see Page 7).

**ALSO INSIDE:** MORE PICTURES, ARCHIVE CUTTINGS, GOSSIP, SPORTS SPECIAL