reading between the lines
Original motivation

A father had a family of sons who were perpetually quarreling among themselves. When he failed to heal their disputes by his exhortations, he determined to give them a practical illustration of the evils of disunion; and for this purpose he one day told them to bring him a bundle of sticks. When they had done so, he placed the faggot into the hands of each of them in succession, and ordered them to break it in pieces. They tried with all their strength, and were not able to do it. He next opened the faggot, took the sticks separately, one by one, and again put them into his sons’ hands, upon which they broke them easily. He then addressed them in these words: “My sons, if you are of one mind, and unite to assist each other, you will be as this faggot, uninjured by all the attempts of your enemies; but if you are divided among yourselves, you will be broken as easily as these sticks.”
(s1) A father had a family of sons who were perpetually quarreling among themselves. (s2) When he failed to heal their disputes by his exhortations, he determined to give them a practical illustration of the evils of disunion; and for this purpose he one day told them to bring him a bundle of sticks. (s3) When they had done so, he placed the faggot into the hands of each of them in succession, and ordered them to break it in pieces. (s4) They tried with all their strength, and were not able to do it. (s5) He next opened the faggot, took the sticks separately, one by one, and again put them into his sons’ hands, upon which they broke them easily. (s6) He then addressed them in these words: “My sons, if you are of one mind, and unite to assist each other, you will be as this faggot, uninjured by all the attempts of your enemies; but if you are divided among yourselves, you will be broken as easily as these sticks.”

[Lehnert, 1981; Goyal, Riloff & D, 2010]
What (didn't) work?

• Works or should work:
  • Affect state detection
    – Emotion, sentiment, etc.
    – Patient polarity verbs, +/- effect, connotation frames

[Choi & Wiebe, 2014; Rashkin, Singh & Choi, 2016]

• Really hard/didn't work
  • Desires/motivations
  • Actualization of those desires
Why can we make it work now?

• Collected a bunch of data on desire fulfillment
  [Chaturvedi, Goldwasser & D, 2016]

• Much more flexible machine learning models that don't need to “point” somewhere in the input

Alyssa Daniels was an 11 year old girl who wanted to make a website but had problems remembering the HTML codes.

She saved the codes on a webpage. Many people who saw her website asked her how she made it. Lissa gave them the address to the webpage she put the codes on. As more and more people went on the page, Lissa added more codes and information, and made the URL public. A year later, so many people went on Lissa Explains that Lissa decided she needed a domain name for her website.

Source: Wikipedia::Lissa Explains it All