DECLARATIVE, EPISODIC, AND SEMANTIC MEMORY

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NB209: Behavioral Neuroscience

MULTIPLE MEMORY SYSTEMS DIFFERENT BRAIN SYSTEMS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF MEMORIES



DECLARATIVE MEMORY

- Memories that can be "declared" or made "explicit"
- Characterized by flexible expression
- Depends on the medial temporal lobes (hippocampus + parahippocampal region)



DECLARATIVE MEMORY PATIENT H.M.

J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiat., 1957, 20, 11.





Squire & Wixted (2011)

DECLARATIVE MEMORY PATIENT H.M.

Henry Gustav Molaison (1926-2008)



In 1953, before his surgery



In the 1970s

Damage to the medial temporal lobe impairs declarative memory, but not non-declarative memories (see properties next)

Limitations: Brain damage includes hippocampus, entorhinal cortex, perirhinal cortex, and parahippocampal cortex. Which region is doing what? That's where the animal models come in...

- Property #1: Sensory, motor, motivational and cognitive processes are intact
- Property #2: Short-term memory (STM) is intact
- Property #3: Beyond STM, memory declines rapidly
 - "Faster forgetting"
- Property #4: Memory deficit is global
 - Not limited to one modality or type of stimulus
- Property #5: Graded retrograde impairment
 - Recent memories are more impaired than remote memories

DECLARATIVE MEMOP ANIMAL MODELS

Hippocampus damage impairs spatial memory tasks in animals (rapid acquisition, flexible expression)



Figure 3 Performance of rats with hippocampal damage in the Morris water maze.

a | An illustration of the Morris water maze and typical environmental cues⁷⁴. The escape platform, submerged just below the surface of the water, cannot be seen by the rat. **b** | In the conventional version of the task (left), the rat begins each trial from one of four starting locations, and the time required for it to locate the escape platform is measured. In the constant start position version of the task (right), one start location is used consistently. **c** | In the conventional version of the task (left), normal rats (blue) rapidly improve their swim latencies to find the platform across trials, whereas rats with hippocampal damage (red) do not. In the constant start position version of the task (right), rats with hippocampal damage are slightly impaired in acquisition rate, but successfully learn to locate the platform. **d** | During probe testing, normal rats (blue) rapidly locate the escape platform both on repetitions of the original instruction trials and on probe trials that begin at new start positions. Rats with hippocampal damage (red). Normal rats swim plates in new probe trials by normal rats (blue) and rats with hippocampal damage (red). Normal rats swim directly to the platform, but rats with hippocampal damage are severely impaired.

from Eichenbaum (2000)

DECLARATIVE MEMORY ANIMAL MODELS

Hippocampus damage impairs expression of (non-spatial) memory for a single experience in social learning of food odors

Social transmission of food preference paradigm



Figure 4 | **The social transmission of food preferences task. a** | Initially a 'demonstrator' rat eats food containing a new odour. Then, during a social encounter, the demonstrator exchanges information about the food odour with the subject rat⁷⁶. Subsequently the subject is given a preference test for the new food odour versus another food odour. **b** | Preference test results. Normal rats (blue) show a strong preference for the demonstrated food odour both immediately and one day following the social encounter. Rats with hippocampal lesions (red) shown intact performance on the immediate test but forget within one day.

DECLARATIVE MEMORY ANIMAL MODELS

Hippocampus damage impairs the flexible expression of relationships among (non-spatial) experiences





Figure 1 Odor paired associate learning and inferential expression of odor-odor associations. (A) Training on odor-odor paired associates. Each training trial consisted of two phases. In the sample phase, the subject was presented with a cup containing a scented mixture of sand and ground rat chow with a buried reward. In the subsequent choice phase, two scented choices were presented. Both choice items involved odors that were different from the sample odor, and which item was baited depended on the identity of the sample. (B) Schematic diagram of paired associate training and probe testing. Letters represent odor stimulus items; arrows without question marks indicate trained pairings, whereas arrows with question marks indicate expected transitive and symmetrical choices. Rats are first trained on two overlapping sets of paired associates (left). Then (right) they are tested for inferential expression in two ways. In the test for transitivity, they are presented with one of two sample cues from the first training set and are required to select between the choice cues from the second set, based on the shared associates of these items. In the test for symmetry or reversibility of the associations, they are presented with one of two choice cues from the second set and required to select the appropriate sample cue from that set. (C) Errors to criterion on acquisition of the two sets of paired associates for sham operated and hippocampal subjects. (D) Preferences on the test for transitive inference. For these probe trials a preference score was calculated as (X – Y/(X + Y), where X and Y were the digging times in the transitive and alternate choices, respectively. (E) Preferences on the test for symmetrical expression.

MULTIPLE MEMORY SYSTEMS DECLARATIVE, EPISODIC AND SEMANTIC MEMORY



DECLARATIVE MEMORY SYSTEM EPISODIC VS SEMANTIC MEMORY

Declarative memory:

- Memories that can be "declared" or made "explicit"
- Flexible expression
- Two types
 - Episodic (autobiographical) memory
 - Memory for events, personal experiences
 - Memory of the event is tied to the <u>spatial and</u> <u>temporal context</u> in which it occurs
 - Semantic memory
 - Memory for facts, general knowledge of the world
 - Context-independent

DECLARATIVE MEMORY SYSTEM EPISODIC VS SEMANTIC MEMORY

Patient K.C. (interviewed by Endel Tulving)

Episodic memory

Semantic memory





<u>What we learned</u>: brain damage can selectively impair episodic memory but spare semantic memory

Limitations: Because his brain damage is extensive, we do not know which regions are important. Again, that's where animal models come in...

First strong evidence that the hippocampus may be primarily important for episodic memory

Differential Effects of Early Hippocampal Pathology on Episodic and Semantic Memory

F. Vargha-Khadem,* D. G. Gadian, K. E. Watkins, A. Connelly, W. Van Paesschen, M. Mishkin

Global anterograde amnesia is described in three patients with brain injuries that occurred in one case at birth, in another by age 4, and in the third at age 9. Magnetic resonance techniques revealed bilateral hippocampal pathology in all three cases. Remarkably, despite their pronounced amnesia for the episodes of everyday life, all three patients attended mainstream schools and attained levels of speech and language competence, literacy, and factual knowledge that are within the low average to average range. The findings provide support for the view that the episodic and semantic components of cognitive memory are partly dissociable, with only the episodic component being fully dependent on the hippocampus.

SCIENCE • VOL. 277 • 18 JULY 1997 • www.sciencemag.org

<u>Limitations</u>: Brain damage occurred early in development, so the brain may have reorganized. Effects may be different in adults.





Different definitions of episodic memory

Episodic memory refers to the capacity to "<u>mentally time travel</u>" to re-experience specific events (Tulving, 2002)

Episodic memory involves the capacity to recall information about specific events, along with the <u>spatial</u> and <u>temporal</u> contexts in which they occurred (Tulving, 1972)





Box 2 | Behavioural criteria for episodic-like memory in animals

Content: recollecting what happened, where and when on the basis of a specific past experience. *Structure:* forming an integrated 'what–where–when' representation. *Flexibility:* episodic memory is set within a declarative framework and so involves the flexible deployment of information.

EPISODIC MEMORY CAPACITY ACROSS SPECIES MEMORY FOR "WHAT-WHERE-WHEN"

• First animal model of episodic(-like) memory (Clayton & Dickinson, 1998)

"What-Where-When" memory in scrub jays

"What": Worm or peanut? "Where": Which location? "When": 4h or 124h ago?



Experimental design



Clayton & Dickinson (1998)

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Number of inspections directed to worms vs peanuts locations



Degrade group Inspected the peanut side more than worm side at 124h

Replenish group Inspected the worm side more than the peanut side at 124h

(Pilfer group not shown)

EPISODIC MEMORY CAPACITY ACROSS SPECIES MEMORY FOR "WHAT-WHERE-WHEN"

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 Also evidence in magpies (Zinkivskay et al., 2009), black-capped chickadees (Feeney et al., 2009), and pigeons (Zentall et al., 2008)

This approach was subsequently adapted for mammals

Rats (e.g., Babb & Crystal, 2005, 2006; Eacott et al., 2005; Kart-Teke et al., 2006; Ergorul & Eichenbaum, 2004)



Babb & Crystal (2006)

MEMORY FOR "WHAT-WHERE-WHEN"

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- Rats (e.g., Babb & Crystal, 2005, 2006; Eacott et al., 2005; Kart-Teke et al., 2006; Ergorul & Eichenbaum, 2004)
- Mice (e.g., Dere et al., 2005; DeVito & Eichenbaum, 2010; Davis et al., 2012)
- Meadow voles (Ferkin et al., 2008)
- Monkeys (e.g., Hoffman et al., 2009)
- Humans (e.g., Holland & Smulders, 2011; Hayne & Imuta, 2011)

Limitations of What-Where-When model

- Very stringent criterion
- Difficult to investigate its neurobiological basis (e.g., role of hippocampus)



<u>Updated</u> behavioral criteria for episodic memory in animals

- Content: The individual remembers information about the event and its context of occurrence (e.g., memory for "what", "where" and/or "when")
- Structure: Information about the event and its context is integrated in a single representation

Flexibility: The memory can be expressed to support adaptive behavior in novel situations

Allen & Fortin (2013)

So... what's the role of the hippocampus in episodic memory?

Integration of What-Where-When, What-Where or What-When



Integration of What-Where-When, What-Where or What-When



The hippocampus is critical for remembering <u>"what-where"</u> associations



The hippocampus is critical for remembering <u>"what-when"</u> associations



Fortin, Agster & Eichenbaum (2002) Nature Neuroscience: 5, 458-462.

Integration of What-Where-When, What-Where or What-When



Eichenbaum & Fortin (2009) [Adapted from Wood et al. (1999)]

ROLE OF THE HIPPOCAMPUS IN EPISODIC MEMORY SPATIAL MEMORY ("WHERE") ≠ EPISODIC MEMORY

The hippocampus is critical for forming a "spatial map" (O'Keefe & Nadel, 1978)

Rodents:	O'Keefe & Nadel, 1978; Morris et al., 1996;
	Kesner et al., 2004

Monkeys: Smith & Milner, 1981; Buckley & Gaffan, 2000; Lavenex & Lavenex, 2009

Humans: Burgess et al., 2002

Birds: Colombo et al.; 1997 (pigeons); Gagliardo et al., 1999 (pigeons); Hampton & Shettleworth, 1996a,b (Juncos & Chickadees)
Reptiles: Rodriguez et al., 2002 (turtles)
Teleost fishes: Rodriguez et al., 2002 (goldfish)

Spatial coding

Evidence for hippocampal "place cells"



Rodents: O'Keefe & Nadel, 1978

Monkeys: Nishijo et al., 1997; Matsumura et al., 1999; Rolls et al., 2005;

Bats: Yartsev, Witter & Ulanovsky, 2012

Birds: Bingman & Sharp, 2006, Kahn et al., 2008 (pigeons)

Humans: ???

Evidence for entorhinal "grid cells"



Rodents:Fyhn et al., 2004; Hafting et al., 2005;
Fyhn et al., 2007; Moser et al., 2008;Monkeys:Killian, Jutras & Buffalo, 2012

Humans: Doeller, Barry & Burgess, 2010

Bats: Yartsev, Witter & Ulanovsky, 2012

Birds: Bingman & Sharp, 2006, Kahn et al., 2008 (pigeons)

Episodic memory requires memory for specific event and its context