

# Forgetting

What is it good for?

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  - Overwriting existing memories
  - Suppressing existing memories  
(memories get harder to retrieve)

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~~PACO~~  
BEER

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- The forgetting process, as talked about here, is about *long term memory*

- Q1: What is forgetting useful for?
  - Resources and efficiency
  - Forgetting is a part of learning

- Resources and efficiency
  - Too much information makes it difficult to retrieve specific memories
  - It might not be possible to store “all” information
  - Compare for instance the continuous flow of visual information to the number of neurons and connections

- Forgetting is a part of learning
  - Strong memory means a strong bias, and that bias might need to be decreased over time.
  - Walking robot breaking its knee
  - Contradictions

- Q2: What does the forgetting curve look like?

- Declarative memory
  - Episodic: Recall the performance in the hump-curve (according to Meeter)
  - Semantic: We forget as a power function (according to Anderson-Schooler)
  - The choice of the shape of forgetting function is a result of the occurrence rate and the time of the last observation (Anderson-Schooler)

- Non-Declarative Memory
  - We don't know, but we have questions:
  - Conditioning?
  - Priming?
  - Skills?

- Forgetting takes part at different stages in the entire information processing chain.

- Questions?
- Forget that, let's have beer!