

# **Memory: An approach from digital culture and art activism in Chile**

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# Summary

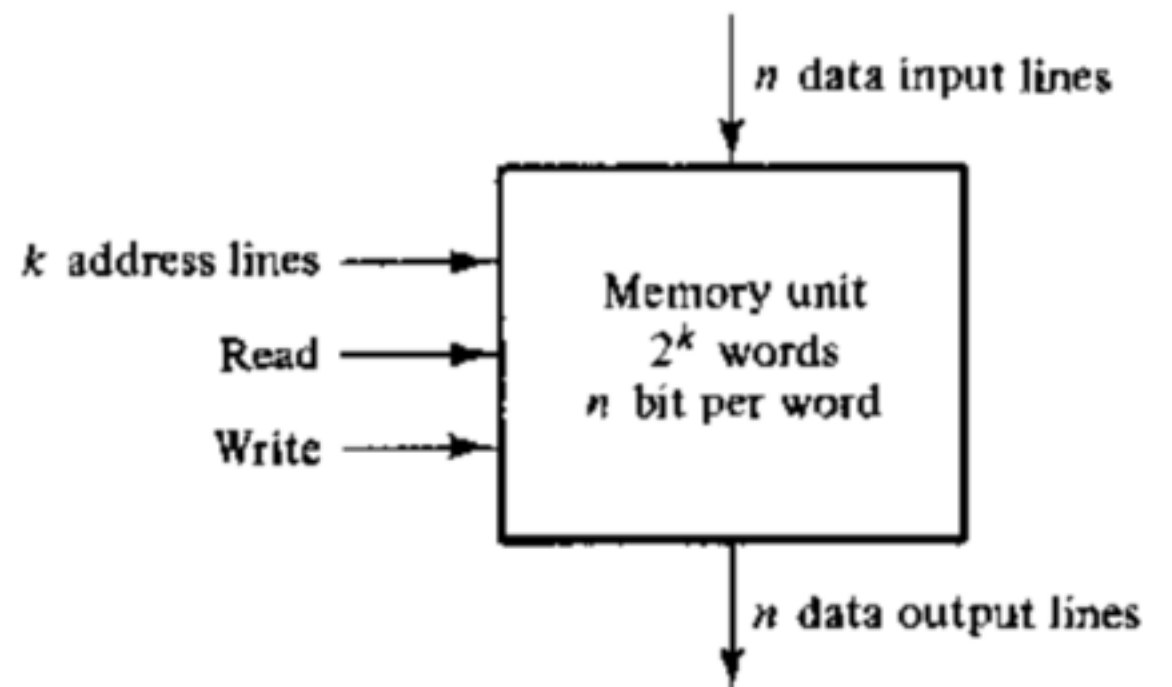
1. Memory in digital culture
2. Memory and art activism in Chile

# What is memory?



# What is a RAM?

- RAM: Random Access Memory
- Memory unit - group of storage cells
- Information transfer to/  
from any random location



**So...**

**are we RAM?**

# What is memory?

- Collective Memory is the shared pool of knowledge and information in the memories of two or more members of a social group. (1)
- Related with history in a reciprocally relationship. History provides a means by which memory can be critically tested. (2)
- In history, events of the past are seen as verifiable and situated within logical framework of time and space. Memory is not necessarily bound to collective interests, logic or the precise chronology or location of ideas and events. (2)

# Memory and archiving on Internet era

- Memory, like history, can be storaged or archived
- New media ‘archives’ ( e.g. YouTube, Flickr, Wiki)  
changed the notion of the bureaucratic archive from  
centrally governed to distributed and software-based.

(3)

# Memory and archiving on Internet era: Wikipedia

- Wiki's control procedure <sup>(3)</sup>
- Decentralization? Search a concept in Google or ask something to Siri on your iPhone <sup>(4)</sup>
- Misrepresentation of information: its entries on Pokemon and female porn stars are comprehensive, but its pages on female novelists or places in sub-Saharan Africa are sketchy. <sup>(4)</sup>
- Wikipedia edit-a-thon <sup>(4)</sup>



- Power resides in the archive - now in architectures of software - and the political economy of social media platforms. (5)
- Revenues based on gathering data on user patterns, preferences and consumer desires, for further evaluation, reuse and reselling purposes. (5)
- Social media becomes into personal-social memory archives.
- Selective memory process ('book of faces')

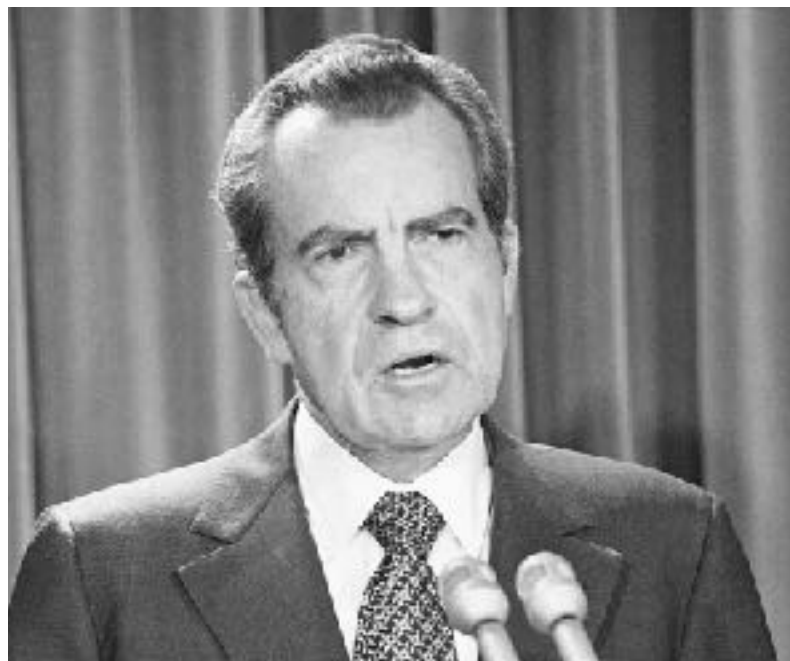
# Is this a memory? Is it mine or Facebook's?



- Social media is based on fake ephemeral processes. Posts are first in the timeline for a while. But actually they are in servers for ever (?).
- What about Instagram?
- Is Twitter's # a type of memory?

# **Art, politics, resistance and memory in Chile**

# Chile, memory



Salvador Allende/  
Augusto Pinochet/  
Richard Nixon/  
Henry Kissinger/  
CIA/ITT



# Chile, memory



**30k tortured**  
**1.2k disappeared** <sup>(6)</sup>  
**Physical / virtual**

# Canto a su amor desaparecido <sup>(9)</sup> (Song to the disappeared love) November 1985 by Raúl Zurita



- Third poem, dedicated to the families of disappeared prisoners and to those who made them disappear
- Written and published during the Dictatorship
- Poetics from own pain in a painful context



# #quererNoVer (wanting to not see)

## September 10th 2017

by María José Contreras



- A 'human scar' of 1,210 people lying on the main avenue of Santiago
- Each person represents a disappeared prisoner of Pinochet's dictatorship



# 2054, Desclasificación Popular <sup>(7)</sup> (Popular Declassifying) by Francisco Papas Fritas



- Valech Report, committed by the Government on 2003 to clarify cases of imprisonment and torture during Dictatorship. <sup>(9)</sup>
- Testimonials under secret until 2054

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