TIME PERCEPTION

What is “Time perception”? 

Two sorts of time perception:

Question: What part of the body or brain is responsible for the perception of time?

1. Biological Basis of Time Perception
   There must be something, some organ or body/brain structure responsible for time perception. (Why?)

   a) Circadian rhythms
      a. Retinal stimulation

   b. Supra-chiasmatic nucleus (of hypothalamus)

   c. Pineal gland (at top of brain stem)

   d. “Atomic clock” explanation

Protensity: The subjective experience of time, as distinguished from physical (clock) time.

Fact: Blind people still secrete melatonin…
b) Temperature effects on time perception
e.g. Hoagland (1933, 1935)

c) Drugs effect on time perception

2. Cognitive Theories of Time Perception
e.g., Ornstein (1969) “memory approach theory”

a) Number of events

b) Filled vs. unfilled intervals

c) Stimulus complexity

d) Organization and memory
3. Cognitive-Attention Theory

Two processes:
   a) information processor

   b) clock, or cognitive timer

4. Age Effects on Time Perception

   a) Short-term time: result of physiological changes??

   b) Longer-term time

5. Size of Spatial Environments on Time Perception
   e.g. Bobko et al (1986); Mitchell & Davis (1987)

6. Time and Distance

   a) Tau effect

   b) Kappa effect
7. Long-term Clocks, Seasonal Rhythms, etc.