

Distortions of perceived duration: a comparison of 212 cases

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We compare 212 standardized reports describing a slowing or a dilation of perceived duration. The median declared duration is 11 seconds (interquartile range: 6 to 24). Declared intensity is not associated with duration.

Timestamps are collected in local time with offset and normalized to universal time before any comparison. The reception date is generated by the server and cannot be edited by the participant.

Under a striatal clock model, the reported dilation is compatible with a transient increase in the rate of accumulation, or with a restored attention-driven gain on the same accumulation process. The two accounts are not separable in our data: both predict the same declared durations and the same absence of correlation with intensity.

After normalization, the distribution of declared times does not depart from a uniform distribution for 195 files. For 17 files, a regularity remains unexplained and is under separate review.

Limitations: recall bias, self-selection of participants, no control group. Results are descriptive.

References

- Brown, A. S. (2003). Psychological Bulletin, 129(3), 394-413.
- Toren, I., Aberg, K. C., Paz, R. (2020). Nature Neuroscience, 23, 1198-1202.