



## The Phenomenality of Time

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### Abstract

*Time is not a phenomenon, because it has no physical properties. The consequences are unnumerable: for example, time is not the cause of events as different as aging or the expansion of the universe. Hence the importance of proving the absence of phenomenality of time.*

**Keywords:** A I., Phenomenon, Physical Property, Space, Time.

To define is to say what it is. As long as time is not defined, we don't know what we talk about and it gives rise to a bunch of theoretical difficulties.

Time does not result from a discovery done somewhere in the universe: it was never observed or detected.

On the one hand and according to archaeology, Sumerians have invented the lunar month over 2500 years BCE (Before Common Era): from this invention, I have identified the first written trace of time [1].

On the other hand, time has no physical properties, which means that time is not a physical phenomenon.

### Phenomenology and Phenomenality

Phenomenology is the study of phenomena at large, from the Greek "phainein" (shine, illuminate); while phenomenality is about the fact of being a phenomenon or not. Common language habits and scientific commentaries continue to consider that time is a phenomenon without providing the slightest proof. Two examples:

For the French philosopher Henry Bergson (1859-1941), "Time is a flux" (a flux of what?) and "Time is a force" [2]. Well, Flux and force are contradictory: time is either one or the other, or neither.

Stephen Hawking links the appearance of time - time zero - with the outbreak of the Big Bang, through a top-down cosmology; a descending cosmology intended to explain why the universe is the way it is today. This inevitably leads to an ideological approach: "Laws govern the universe", "Time should have a beginning", "The pre-determined constants of nature", "The arrow of

time is a powerful organizing principle of the physical world", "The need for a beginning", "The enigma of the cosmic design", "A design in favor of life", "The quantum observation introduces a form of teleology", "The bio-favorable universe", "If we could find a comprehensive theory, we would know the thought of God", "Does physics provide the divine foundations which are at work at the origin of time during the Big Bang", "Physics is supposed to prove that divine foundations are at work", "Everything happens as if an act of God had intervened to set our bio-favorable universe in motion". Obviously, these metaphysical drifts have no place in a scientific research [3].

A phenomenon is an event which is observable, detectable, measurable, possibly predictable. The basic condition is that the event has some physical properties. It comes to find out if time has physical properties which would allow us to observe it, detect it, measure it, make predictions about it.

### Physical Properties

A physical system is identified thanks to its physical properties. Temperature, speed, electric charge, density, hardness, shock effective section, are examples of physical properties. It turns out that no physical properties of time have ever been brought to light; time has but mathematical properties.

Additionally, these mathematical properties differ depending on the field of physics. We have demonstrated that in classical physics time is determinist, continuous and invariant; in relativity time is determinist, continuous and covariant; in quantum physics time is probabilistic, discontinuous and invariant [1].

The lack of physical properties leads to conclude that time is a concept instead of a phenomenon, whereas time is still commonly confused with events; passed events are incorrectly called passed time.

## The Concept of Time

A concept is an intellection, a construction of thought, an idea built from the observation of a reality, an event, a phenomenon, or from another idea.

This is what Sumerians did when they invented the month: they observed the repetition of the motion of the moon; they called “month” what is between two successive identical shape and position of the moon. In addition, the analysis of the approach of Sumerians allows us to define the month, day, year and time itself; what physics and philosophy could never do up to now [1]. For example: “The month is a concept corresponding to what separates two successive identical states of the moon”. Therefore, “time is a concept corresponding to what separates two states of any system”.

The physician observes a patient who suffers, but he can't see the pain, because “pain” is a concept.

In “Life of Phocion”, the Greek biographer Plutarch (c.46-c.126) defines the word “eloquence” as the ability to say a lot in a few words [4]. Plutarch could observe an eloquent speaker because it's a reality, but not eloquence as such, because it's a concept. The simplest definition of space is: “Space is what is between two objects”. If we remove the objects, there remains space, that is to say nothing, only emptiness... with no physical properties. The lack of physical properties means that space has no materiality: “Space is a concept corresponding to what separates two objects”.

From the summit of Assekrem (2790 m) in the Hoggar massif, one sees but mountains, sand mist and the sky, instead of space as such (Figure 1). If we remove them, we don't see anything. Besides, space has the same mathematical properties as time [1].



Figure 1: We don't see space...

## Phenomenality of Time and A I

So far, artificial intelligence does not produce intellections because it does not think. If we ask ChatGPT for a two hundred

word abstract about time, we obtain the usual trivialities which are repeated again and again by anyone on the street corner, by everyone, everywhere: no criticism about the nature of time, no questions about properties of time, no doubts about the phenomenality of time, no suggestions, no unprecedented ideas, no innovation. It illustrates what is “psittacism” (from the Greek psittacinus: parrot), which consists of repeating words, sentences, ideas, without knowing their meaning, just to do like everyone else.

A.I. is unable to develop a smart approach that would allow deciding if time has a phenomenality; A.I. is unable to propose a specific methodology. On our side, we succeeded thanks to multi-disciplinarity, including archaeology, paleography, physics, philosophy, history, mathematics, psychology with the unprecedented notion of felt time introduced in 2022 [5].

## Conclusion

Time is eaten up by a number of metaphors of all kinds, undoubtedly very poetic, such as “the flight of time” or “the arrow of time”; the problem is that these metaphors suggest that time is a phenomenon, although invented by thought and devoid of physical properties.

Of course, the absence of phenomenality of time does not mind very much in everyday life; people are firmly convinced that time passes and that it is the cause of aging: it's an axiom. But it's another story in theoretical physics, especially when talking about the Big Bang, which is considered “the beginning of time”, according to the top-down cosmology developed by Stephen Hawking [3]. This approach is fearsome, insofar the analysis is consistently alienated by an ideology.

Paradoxically, the Gods do not know the Big Bang Whereas they are supposed to know everything; but they claim creation and mastery of time in order to control humans. This is why the non-phenomenality of time remains a major result against epistemological infringements.

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