# Orders of Magnitudes of Times

| Time (s) | Associated Event |
|---|---|
| $10^{18}$ | Expected life of the Sun as a normal star |
| $10^{17}$ | Age of the oldest rocks |
| $10^{16}$ | Age of the Appalachian Mountains |
| $10^{15}$ | ? |
| $10^{13}$ | Time elapsed since earliest men |
| $10^{9}$ | Human life span |
| $10^{8}$ | ? |
| $10^{7}$ | Time for the Earth to revolve around the Sun |
| $10^{4}$ | ? |
| $10^{3}$ | Time for light from the Sun to reach the Earth |
| $10^{0}$ | ? |
| $10^{-2}$ | Time for an electric fan to complete one rotation |
| $10^{-3}$ | ? |
| $10^{-7}$ | Time for the electron beam to go from the source to the screen of a television receiver |
| $10^{-9}$ | ? |
| $10^{-20}$ | Time for an innermost electron to revolve around the nucleus in the most massive atom. |

Note that our own experience of time covers about ten orders of magnitude: $10^{-1}$ s, the smallest interval we can comprehend directly, to some $10^9$ s, our life span.

What is your concentration span in the most interesting of a school lesson? Between 1200 s and 1800 s? More? Less?

DF
2005, Feb. 21