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`\time`   [⟨*number*⟩ parameter]

TEX sets this parameter to the number of minutes that have elapsed since midnight (of the current day). At noon, for instance, `\time` is 720. This command and the next three make use of the time and date as recorded in your computer. TEX retrieves them just once, at the beginning of your run, so `\time` at the end of the run always has the same value as `\time` at the beginning of the run (unless you've explicitly changed it).