

Entropy and the Second Law of Thermodynamics

This week: Learn concepts of thermodynamics and entropy that point to a single creation event and information-rich creator

1. Laws of thermodynamics
 - a. **Zeroth law of thermodynamics:** If two systems are in thermal equilibrium with a third system, they are in thermal equilibrium with each other.
 - b. **First law of thermodynamics:** When energy passes into or out from a system, the system's internal energy changes in accord with the law of conservation of energy.
 - c. **Second law of thermodynamics:** In a natural thermodynamic process, the sum of the entropies of the interacting thermodynamic systems increases.
 - d. **Third law of thermodynamics:** The entropy of a system approaches a constant (usually zero) value as the temperature approaches absolute zero.
2. Energy and Entropy
 - a. Energy of motion of atoms and molecules is high
 - b. Not useful for doing “work” as it is disordered motion
 - c. Example of a penny
 - i. Contains atoms moving at 700+ mph
 - ii. If “coherent” motion, penny could leap into the air without violating energy conservation
 - iii. Need a different concept to explain why this doesn’t happen
3. Discussion of Entropy and the Second Law of Thermodynamics
 - a. Heads/tails counting
 - b. Molecules in a box can be counted like coin flips
 - c. For even moderate numbers of particles, probabilities dictate **all behavior**
 - d. Entropy is a measure of **likelihood**
 - e. Extracting “work” or useful energy requires increasing entropy of a system
4. Take-aways from the Second Law of Thermodynamics
 - a. Laws of probability ensure entropy of a closed system always increases
 - b. The universe is the quintessential “closed system”
 - c. Entropy of the universe is **always increasing**
 - d. Quantity of useful work in the universe is **always decreasing**
5. Conclusion
 - a. God created a **useful, energetic, low-entropy** universe
 - b. Increasing entropy is **ensured** by laws of mathematics
 - c. Increase of entropy is irreversible. One creation, one death
 - d. Entropy informs our discussion of information and biological evolution...