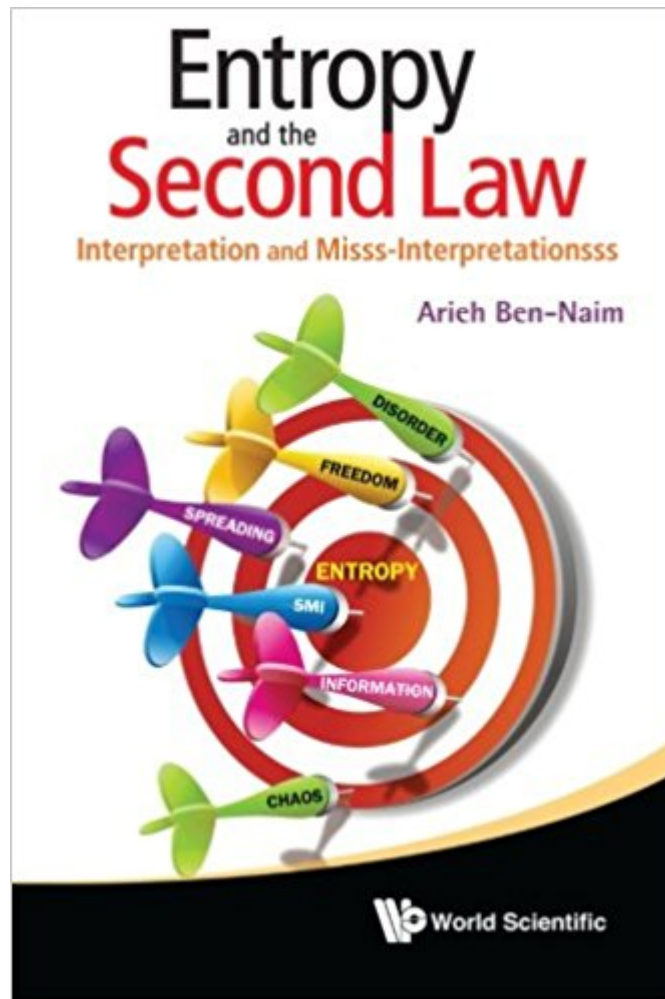


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Entropy And The Second Law: Interpretation And Miss-Interpretations



Synopsis

This book presents a clear and readable description of one of the most mysterious concepts of physics: Entropy. It contains a self-learning kit that guides the reader in understanding the concepts of entropy. In the first part, the reader is asked to play the familiar twenty-Question game. Once the reader feels comfortable with playing this game and acquires proficiency in playing the game effectively (intelligently), he or she will be able to capture the elusive and used-to-be mysterious concept of entropy. There will be no more speculative or arbitrary interpretations, nor 'older' or 'modern' views of entropy. This book will guide readers in choosing their own interpretation of entropy. Readership: Undergraduate and graduate students in chemistry and physics, academics and lay persons.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a very good book on Entropy and the second Law of Thermodynamics. Here are a few points which stood out in the book: Some important questions on entropy are studied in chapter 5. This includes: (i) "What is entropy?" (ii) "Why does it increase in one direction?" (iii) "How does a thermodynamic system move from one state to another?" I completely agreed with the author regarding his replies to these questions. I very much enjoyed the way he talked about mixing, assimilation and deassimilation and how the idea of disorder (one of the approaches used to understand entropy) cannot be used to resolve the issues raised when discussing these standard problems. I think that the names used to describe these processes should be changed to take into account what actually happens in the same way that entropy should be dimensionless and so make

it far more amenable to an understanding in terms of information. I also found the added sections in chapter five: sections 5.5 and 5.6 extremely valuable. I have found too many scientists willing to make assertions which appear to be true but in fact are really somewhat fanciful ideas without a solid basis in science. I also liked the author's comment on the second law and life and do not think that entropy can be used to study life given it's highly non-equilibrium character unless entropy could be defined in a new way such that it makes sense for processes in non-equilibrium states. I liked how the author stuck to the rigorous definition of entropy and made very good arguments to make sure the concept is not used outside of its range of applicability.

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