

On the statistical viewpoint concerning the 2nd law of thermodynamics - OR - A reminder on the Ehrenfests' urn model

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Abstract

In statistical thermodynamics the 2nd law is properly spelled out in terms of conditioned probabilities. As such it makes the statement, that 'entropy increases with time' without preferring a time direction. In this paper we try to explain this statement---which is well known since the time of the Ehrenfests---in some detail within a systematic Bayesian approach.

Keywords: Ehrenfest, urn model, 2nd law of thermodynamics, direction of time, thermodynamic arrow of time

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