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From Disorder to Order: The Universal Dance of Entropy, Attraction, and Complexity

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Abstract

This paper presents a conceptual and interdisciplinary examination of how ordered structures emerge in physical, chemical, and biological systems despite the constraints imposed by the Second Law of Thermodynamics. Drawing on examples from atomic interactions, molecular bonding, biological organization, and gravitational systems, the study explores how local decreases in entropy can arise in open systems through energy exchange and dynamic interactions.

Rather than proposing a single unifying force, the paper analyzes how different types of interactions—such as electromagnetic forces, chemical bonding, natural selection, and gravity—contribute to the formation of stable and complex structures across scales. The concept of “attraction” is used descriptively to compare interaction-driven organization in different domains, while acknowledging the distinct mechanisms governing each system.

In addition, the paper examines philosophical interpretations of order, emergence, and complexity, including perspectives that attribute purposive structure to the universe. These interpretations are presented separately from empirical scientific explanations and are discussed as part of broader metaphysical inquiry.

Overall, the paper aims to provide a structured synthesis of how complexity and organization arise in nature, emphasizing the compatibility between entropy-driven processes and the emergence of ordered systems within non-equilibrium conditions.

Keywords: Entropy, Quantum Mechanics, Attraction, Cosmos, Universe.

Introduction

Understanding how order emerges in the universe is a central question across multiple scientific disciplines, including Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. A key principle governing natural processes is the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which states that the total entropy of an isolated system tends to increase over time. Entropy, often associated with the number of possible microstates of a system, provides a statistical description of energy distribution rather than a simple measure of disorder.

At first glance, the existence of highly organized structures—such as atoms, living organisms, ecosystems, and galaxies—appears to contradict this principle. However, modern science explains this apparent paradox by recognizing that most real-world systems are not isolated but open. These systems exchange energy and matter with their surroundings, allowing local decreases in entropy to occur while the total entropy of the broader system still increases.

In physical systems, order emerges through fundamental interactions such as electromagnetic forces, which govern atomic and molecular structure, and gravitational forces, which shape astronomical systems. In chemical systems, self-organization arises through reaction dynamics, energy minimization, and bonding mechanisms. In biological systems, complexity is further enhanced by evolutionary processes such as natural selection, adaptation, and genetic variation.

This paper adopts a conceptual and comparative approach to examine how interaction-driven processes contribute to the emergence of order across different scales. The term “attraction” is used in a descriptive sense to refer to interactions that lead to stable configurations, including electrostatic forces, chemical bonding, and gravitational dynamics. Importantly, these phenomena are governed by distinct physical laws and should not be conflated into a single universal mechanism.

In addition to scientific perspectives, the paper also considers philosophical interpretations of order and complexity. Throughout history, some frameworks have interpreted the structured nature of the universe as indicative of underlying purpose or design. While such views fall outside the domain of empirical science, they remain relevant within philosophical and metaphysical discourse. This paper treats these interpretations separately, aiming to maintain clarity between scientific explanation and philosophical reflection.

The objective of this work is therefore not to propose a new physical theory, but to synthesize existing knowledge and highlight how complexity can arise naturally from well-established principles operating under non-equilibrium conditions.

Section 1: Likeness Between Species

This is an exciting and multidisciplinary study that combines biology, chemistry, and philosophy. To approach this study effectively, we can classify the "likeness" between species — human, animals, plants, and chemical species — into various categories, each exploring different dimensions of similarity. These categories will include:

1. **Biological Likeness** (Humans, Animals, Plants).
2. **Molecular and Genetic Likeness** (DNA, RNA, Proteins).
3. **Chemical Likeness** (Chemical Species, Elements, and Compounds).
4. **Philosophical Likeness** (Ethical, Consciousness, and Cognitive Parallels).
5. **Ecological and Environmental Likeness** (Symbiotic, Evolutionary, and Interdependent Likeness).
6. **Evolutionary Likeness** (Natural Selection, Common Ancestors).
7. **Physiological and Structural Likeness** (Organ systems, biological functions).

Let's dive into each one with detailed explanations and references.

1.1. Biological Likeness

This category explores the similarities between humans, animals, and plants based on their biological structures and functions. At the fundamental level, all living organisms share a cellular structure and some key biochemical processes such as respiration, reproduction, and metabolism.

- **Cellular Structure:** All living beings, whether humans, animals, or plants, are made up of cells. In both animals and humans, cells contain a nucleus and organelles, such as mitochondria, which play a key role in energy production through ATP. In plants, cells contain additional organelles such as chloroplasts, which allow them to photosynthesize [1].
- **Reproduction and Growth:** Similarities can also be seen in reproduction and growth. Humans, animals, and plants reproduce through the passing of genetic material via DNA. In both plants and animals, mitosis ensures the growth of organisms from a single fertilized cell [2].

1.2. Molecular and Genetic Likeness

At a deeper level, all organisms, including humans, animals, and plants, share genetic similarities. DNA is the common thread that ties together all living organisms, with only small variations accounting for the diversity of life. This section also relates to the chemical species, as genes are composed of chemical compounds.

- **DNA and RNA:** DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is the molecule that carries genetic information in all living beings. This likeness is profound; for example, humans share about 98% of their DNA with chimpanzees and even 60% with bananas. RNA (ribonucleic acid), a related molecule, plays essential roles in protein synthesis and gene expression [3].
- **Proteins:** Proteins are made of amino acids, which are encoded by genes. The same set of 20 amino acids is used to build proteins across all species. The shared metabolic pathways, such as glycolysis, further highlight molecular likeness [4].

1.3. Chemical and Physical Likeness

The likeness between species is not limited to biological or behavioral aspects but extends to both chemical and physical realms, reflecting universal patterns in nature. Living organisms and non-living chemical species share fundamental chemical components and exhibit similar physical properties, which highlight a broader concept of likeness across different scales of existence.

- **Chemical Likeness:** Many biological processes rely on chemical reactions, and fundamental chemical elements such as carbon (C), oxygen (O), nitrogen (N), and hydrogen (H) are shared across all forms of matter, whether living or non-living. These elements form the backbone of complex biological molecules and drive vital biochemical processes.
 - *Chemical Species in Organisms:* Essential chemicals like water (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), and glucose (C₆H₁₂O₆) are found universally across plants, animals, and humans. These molecules act as basic building blocks that sustain life by enabling respiration, photosynthesis, and energy production [5].
 - *Similarity in Metabolism:* The metabolic pathways in humans, animals, and plants show remarkable chemical likeness. Processes like glycolysis and the citric acid cycle, central to energy production, occur similarly in different organisms, reinforcing the shared biochemical foundations of life [6].

- **Physical Likeness:** On the physical level, species and chemical systems exhibit similar properties governed by natural laws. These include principles of symmetry, structure, and interactions that apply to both living organisms and chemical species.
 - *Symmetry in Structure:* Just as living organisms display symmetrical patterns (e.g., bilateral symmetry in animals), many chemical compounds also exhibit symmetry in their molecular structures. This likeness points to an inherent order in nature, where physical structures are arranged to optimize stability and function.
 - *Phase Transitions and States of Matter:* Physical processes like phase transitions (e.g., solid to liquid) occur in both living organisms and non-living matter. The transformation of water from liquid to gas in plants during transpiration is analogous to the vaporization of water in non-living systems, highlighting shared physical properties across different contexts [7].
 - *Forces and Interactions:* The physical forces that govern atomic and molecular interactions, such as electromagnetic forces, are also at play in biological systems. For instance, the attraction and repulsion between ions in chemical species is akin to the electrostatic interactions within living cells, underscoring the interconnectedness of physical laws across domains.

1.4. Philosophical Likeness

This section touches on the deeper philosophical likenesses that explore questions of consciousness, sentience, and cognition, both in humans and animals, and even extends into the realm of plant intelligence and chemical interactions.

- **Ethical Parallels:** Philosophical discussions often examine the ethical dimensions of human-animal relations and the moral status of living beings. The concept of likeness here addresses whether animals have similar rights as humans, considering shared capacities for suffering [8].
- **Plant Intelligence:** The likeness between humans and plants can extend to the idea of plant cognition. Some studies suggest that plants exhibit problem-solving behaviours and memory, although these processes are not driven by a brain [9].
- **Chemical Communication:** Chemical species in nature exhibit "likeness" through molecular signalling and communication. For instance, pheromones are chemical signals used by animals, while plants use volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to communicate with each other [10].

1.5. Ecological and Environmental Likeness

Species, including plants, animals, and humans, exhibit profound likenesses in the roles they play within ecosystems. These likenesses are part of the broader web of life, where interdependence and cooperation ensure the survival and balance of ecological systems. Chemical species also participate in maintaining ecological balance through processes like nutrient cycling and energy flow.

- **Interconnectedness and Dependencies:**
Every organism, whether plant, animal, or human, has a role in maintaining the ecological equilibrium. This interconnectedness mirrors the relationships seen among chemical species within the environment, where elements and compounds undergo transformations to sustain life. For instance, the carbon cycle involves plants converting carbon dioxide into organic matter, which is then used by animals and humans.
- **Symbiosis and Mutualism:**
Ecological likeness is further highlighted through symbiotic relationships, where different species interact for mutual benefit. One of the most notable examples is the mutualistic association between mycorrhizal fungi and plant roots. In this relationship, the fungi provide plants with essential nutrients like phosphorus, while the plants supply the fungi with carbohydrates necessary for their growth. This exchange enhances both the survival of the species and the stability of the ecosystem [11].
- **Chemical Species and Ecological Processes:**
Beyond living organisms, chemical species such as carbon dioxide, water, and various nutrients play vital roles in maintaining ecological balance. For example, carbon dioxide is cycled through respiration and photosynthesis, maintaining atmospheric equilibrium and supporting the energy needs of plants, animals, and humans alike.
- **Energy Flow and Nutrient Cycling:**
Similarities between species are also evident in how energy flows through ecosystems. Producers, such as plants, capture solar energy and convert it into chemical energy, which is passed on to herbivores, carnivores, and eventually decomposers. This flow of energy is paralleled by the cycling of chemical elements (like nitrogen and phosphorus) through the ecosystem, ensuring that essential nutrients are available for all forms of life.

Section 2: Behavioural, Ecological and Environmental Likeness between Species: Humans, Animals, Plants, and Chemical Species

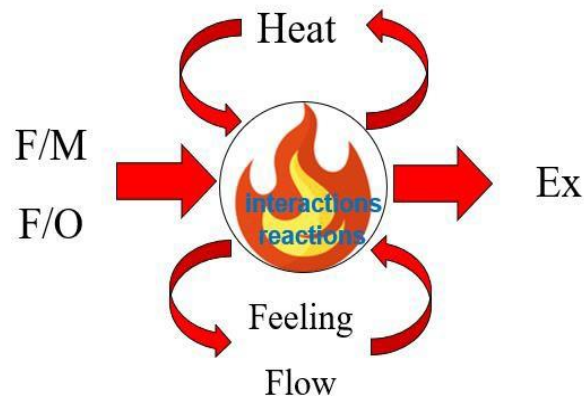
Behavior is often thought of in terms of animals or humans, but plants and even chemical species exhibit behavioral patterns that can be surprisingly analogous to living organisms. By examining interactions, hierarchies, responses to stimuli, and life tendencies, we can draw deep connections across these categories.

2.1. Interactions and Social Behavior

Across species — humans, animals, plants, and even chemical species — interactions play a pivotal role in survival and development. In humans and animals, social behavior is manifested through communication, cooperation, competition, and reproduction, which also parallels the behavior of chemical species in reaction networks [12].

- **Human and Animal Social Networks:** Both humans and animals form social groups that interact for mutual benefit, survival, or dominance. Social hierarchies, group dynamics, and cooperative behaviors in animals, such as the pack behavior in wolves or the social structures of primates, are mirrored in human societies. Network analysis of human and animal social behavior shows similar interaction patterns, such as hierarchies and dependencies [13, 14].

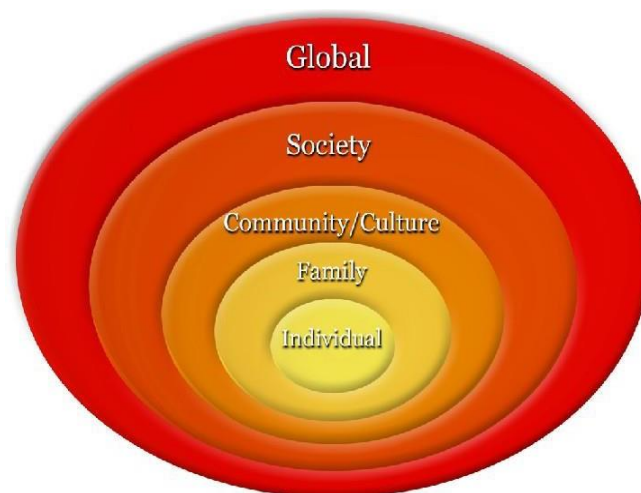
- **Plant Communication:** Plants, while seemingly static, interact with their environment and each other through chemical signaling. For example, when a plant is attacked by herbivores, it releases volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to signal neighboring plants to activate their defenses [15].
- **Chemical Interactions:** Chemical species, like human and animal (Feminine and Masculine) communities, engage in reactions that can be seen as "behavioral" in a molecular sense. In combustion reactions, for instance, Fuel and Oxidants react to produce energy and new products, which is not dissimilar to the concept of cooperation in social species [16].



2.2. Hierarchical Structures and Behavior

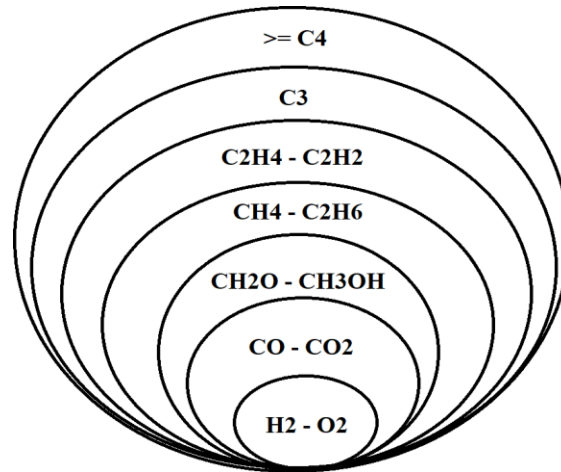
Both biological species and chemical systems demonstrate hierarchies in their behavior, where simpler units combine to form more complex systems, each with its own rules of interaction.

- **Human and Animal Hierarchies:** In humans, social hierarchies can be seen in organizations, political systems, and family structures. Similarly, in animal species, hierarchies such as the alpha system in wolves or pecking orders in birds control group behavior. This hierarchical structuring governs resource allocation, reproduction, and survival strategies [17].



R. Smith, O. Dale, Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Social Systems Theory, Book (2013)

- Chemical Reaction Hierarchies:** In chemical species, hierarchical behaviors can be found in reaction mechanisms, where primary reactions (e.g., hydrogen oxidation) lead to secondary reactions that build complexity, such as the formation of larger hydrocarbons. These reaction networks resemble social hierarchies in that they rely on foundational behaviors to create more advanced processes [18].

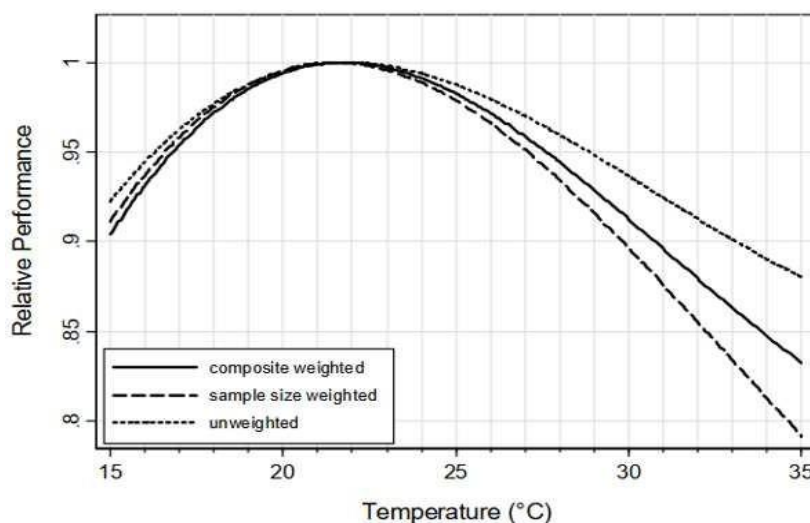


Dagaut P., "Formation et réduction des polluants en combustion", Ecole de combustion (2004)

2.3. Responses to External Stimuli (Temperature, Pressure, Equivalence)

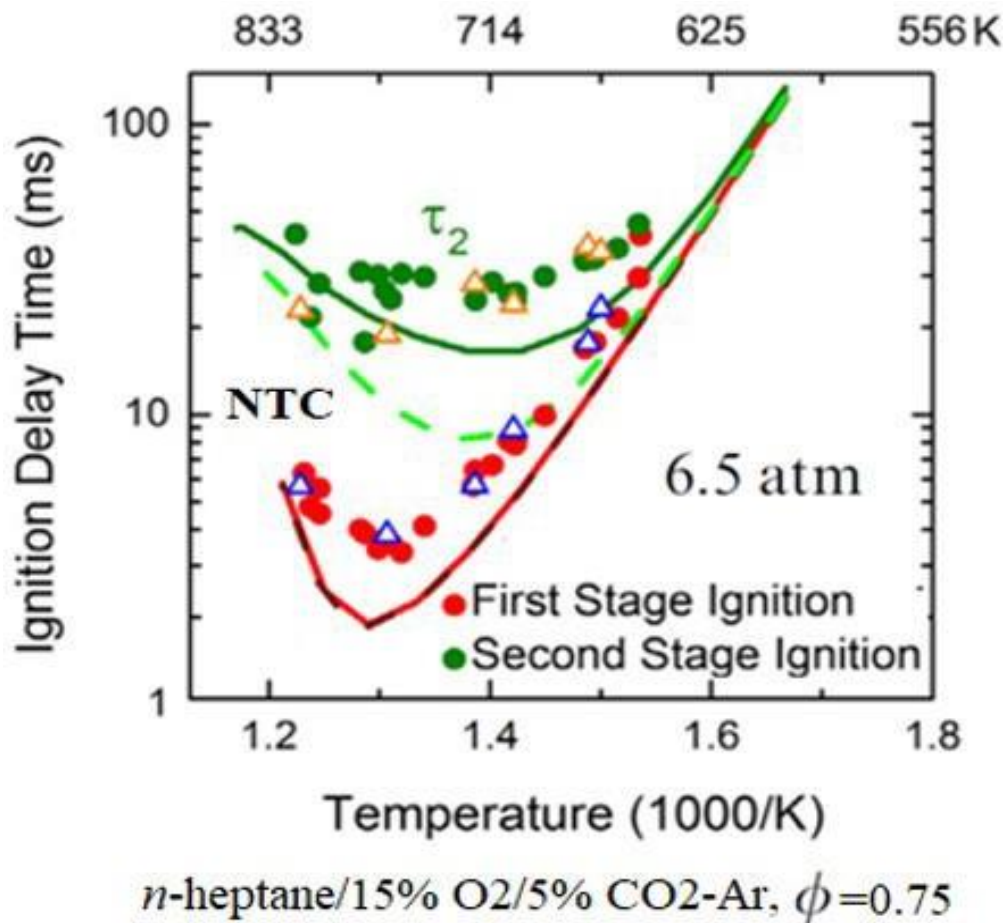
All living beings and even chemical systems respond to changes in their environment, such as temperature and pressure, which affect behavior, performance, and survival.

- Human Behavioral Responses:** Human behavior is highly sensitive to environmental conditions, particularly temperature. Studies have shown that cognitive performance and work productivity in humans peak at moderate temperatures (around 22°C) but drop significantly in either extreme [19].



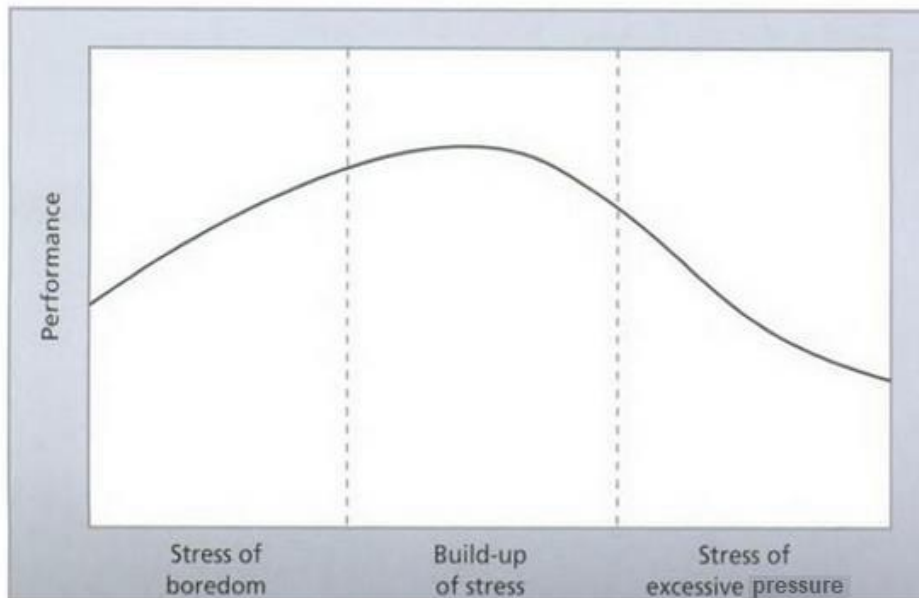
L. Jones and P. de Wilde, A case study into the relation between temperature and work productivity in offices in the UK, 27th Conference on Passive and low Energy Architecture, Belgium (2011)

- Combustion and Temperature:** In chemical species, combustion reactions exhibit similar temperature dependencies. For example, hydrocarbons like *n*-heptane show optimal combustion performance at specific temperature ranges, beyond which performance degrades [20].



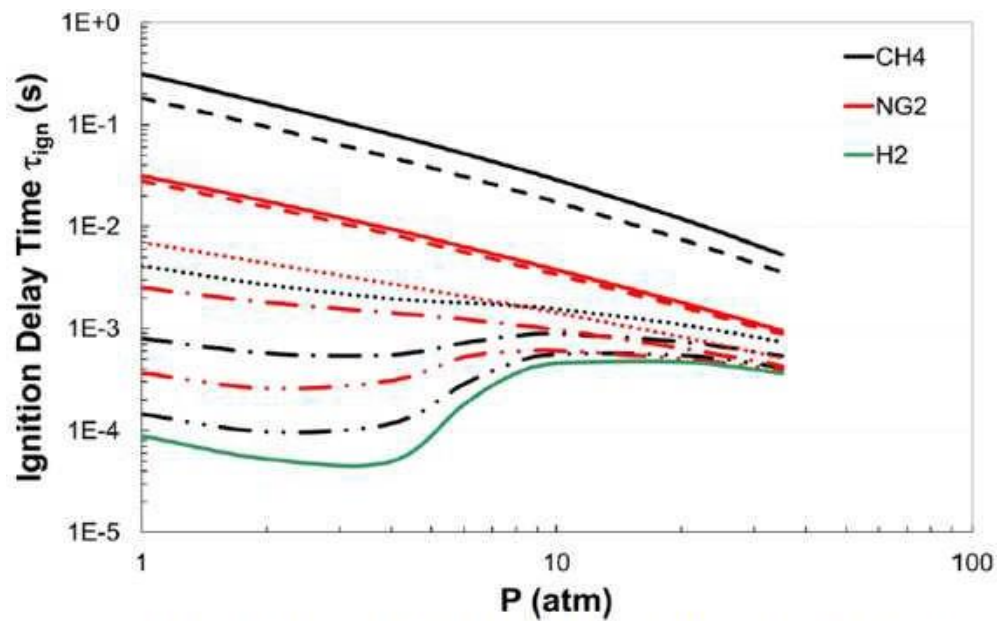
Campbell M. F, et al., Constrained reaction volume shock tube study of *n*-heptane oxidation: Ignition delay times and time-histories of multiple species and temperature, *Proceedings of the Combustion Institute* 35 (2015) 231–239

- Pressure and Behavioral Performance:** Humans perform best under moderate pressure (mental or organizational), but extreme pressure causes stress and reduces efficiency. In combustion, pressure affects ignition delays and flame speeds, with similar effects on performance [16].



Relationship between pressure and performance

J. Cranwell-Ward, A. Bacon and Rosie Mackie, Inspiring Leadership: Staying Afloat in Turbulent Times, (2002).



Effect of H₂ addition to CH₄ and NG as a function of initial pressure

Campbell M. F., et al., Constrained reaction volume shock tube study of n-heptane oxidation: Ignition delay times and time-histories of multiple species and temperature, Proceedings of the Combustion Institute 35 231–239 (2015).

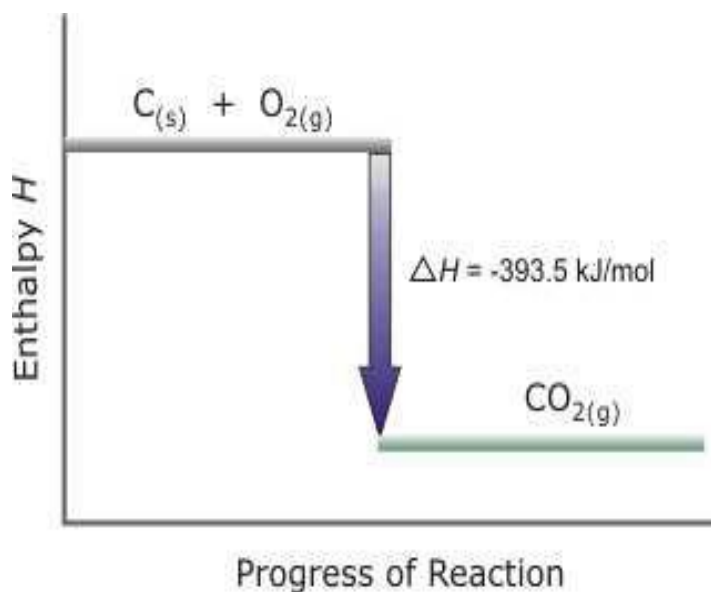
2.4. Life Tendency and Energy

At the most fundamental level, all species, including humans, animals, plants, and chemical species, strive for energy efficiency and survival. This tendency to move towards lower energy states is observed both in biological evolution and in chemical reactions.

- **Energy in Humans and Animals:** Human and animal behavior is often driven by the need for food, shelter, and security, which are all forms of energy acquisition. The evolutionary drive for efficiency can be observed in the way species adapt to their environments to maximize survival with minimal energy expenditure [21].



- **Chemical Energy:** In combustion, chemical species seek lower energy states. The exothermic nature of combustion — where reactants with higher energy transform into products with lower energy, releasing energy in the process — is a perfect analogy to biological tendencies to seek energy and stability [18].



Section 3: Natural and Spontaneous Attractivity in Species and Systems

Across physical systems, interactions between components can be broadly categorized into attractive and repulsive forces, both of which are essential for stability. In atomic systems, electrostatic attraction between opposite charges enables the formation of stable structures, while repulsion between like charges prevents collapse and defines spatial organization.

In biological systems, interactions are more complex and cannot be reduced to simple physical analogies. Cooperation, competition, and reproductive strategies all contribute to species survival and diversity. While competition among similar organisms may regulate population dynamics, these processes are governed by evolutionary and ecological principles rather than direct analogues of physical forces.

Therefore, comparisons between physical and biological systems should be understood as conceptual parallels rather than equivalent mechanisms

3.1. Constructive Attractivity: Positive and Negative Charges

Atomic Level

At the atomic scale, the attraction between positively charged protons and negatively charged electrons is a fundamental bond, one that creates stable atoms and enables the formation of molecules. This attractive force keeps electrons bound to the nucleus, forming the essential units of matter that make up the diversity of elements around us. Without this natural draw between opposites, atoms would lack the stability needed to exist, underscoring how the universe's design is rooted in oppositional harmony.

Ionic Interactions

Similarly, in ionic compounds, oppositely charged ions are naturally drawn together to create bonds that are critical for life. Positively charged cations and negatively charged anions combine to form compounds essential to biological and environmental processes. This attraction forms salts, minerals, and other compounds fundamental to cellular functions, underscoring the necessity of opposite charges coming together in natural and life-sustaining ways.

3.2. Attraction Between Male and Female Species

Biological Context

In the biological realm, attraction between male and female is one of nature's most spontaneous and essential mechanisms for species survival. Across plants, animals, and humans, this natural attraction between sexes fosters reproduction, genetic diversity, and adaptation. In plants, pollinators are drawn by scents and colors, facilitating cross-pollination, while animals and humans rely on complex behavioral cues to attract mates, ensuring the continuation and evolution of species.

Reproductive Strategies

Sexual selection has driven the development of traits that enhance this attraction. From bright colors and distinctive scents to behaviors and displays, these traits naturally appeal to potential mates and encourage reproduction. This spontaneous attraction between opposite sexes serves as a natural design for promoting life's continuity, driving species adaptation and diversity across generations.

3.3. Gravitational Attraction in Celestial Bodies

Stars and Planets

Gravitational attraction is the foundational force that orders the cosmos. Between stars and planets, gravity acts as a stabilizing influence, creating orbital paths that allow for the formation of solar systems. This gravitational pull is essential for the balance and stability of planets around stars, as in Earth's orbit around the Sun, which creates conditions suitable for life.

Formation of Galaxies

On a grander scale, gravitational attraction organizes stars into galaxies, centering them around black holes or galactic cores. This cosmic order is maintained through gravitational pull, drawing celestial bodies together into vast, organized systems, a testament to the universe's inherent order through attraction. This gravitational dance shapes the observable universe, guiding the paths of planets, stars, and galaxies.

3.4. Destructive Effects of Like Charges or Same-Sex Approaches

Atomic Level

In the atomic realm, like charges repel each other, which is essential for stability within atoms. Protons within an atomic nucleus naturally repel each other, while the nuclear strong force selectively binds them to maintain the atom's integrity. This repulsion prevents similar charges from clumping together, highlighting how nature discourages like-for-like pairing in favor of oppositional harmony, balancing attractive and repulsive forces to preserve atomic stability.

Biological Implications

In biological systems, same-sex competition can result in rivalry and conflict over resources or territory. This competition serves as a natural regulator, enforcing limits and social structures that promote survival and harmony within populations. This dynamic highlights how competition among similar entities reinforces the natural balance within species, discouraging non-constructive pairings and ensuring the diversity needed for ecological resilience.

Cosmic Context

In the cosmic domain, celestial bodies with like charges or magnetic properties repel each other, preventing the merging or clustering that would disrupt cosmic order. In planetary formation and cosmic magnetism, repulsive forces maintain necessary distances between like-charged bodies, preserving balanced orbits and preventing potential collisions. This cosmic repulsion upholds the universe's structured and harmonious order, demonstrating how repulsive forces work to safeguard the organization and flow of the cosmos.

Across all scales—from atoms and organisms to stars and galaxies—attractive forces between opposites play a constructive role, while repulsive forces among similar entities act as boundaries that maintain order. Together, these complementary forces create a balanced structure that allows complexity, harmony, and life to emerge in the universe. By understanding the principles of attraction and repulsion, we gain insight into the unity and purposeful order woven into the fabric of existence, reflecting a profound natural wisdom in creation.

Section 4: Order from Chaos: Entropy and the Paradox of Complexity in Universal Creation

In science, entropy is commonly understood as a measure of disorder or randomness in a system. The Second Law of Thermodynamics dictates that entropy increases over time in isolated systems, moving the universe inexorably toward disorder. However, this scientific principle seems at odds with the existence of complex, highly organized systems. From the formation of stars and galaxies to the emergence of life, creation appears to follow a path toward order rather than chaos. This observation invites us to consider whether an external, purposeful force might counterbalance entropy's drive toward disorder.

The concept of *creation ex nihilo*—the idea that God created the universe from nothing—is central to many religious beliefs. In traditional thermodynamics, matter cannot be created or destroyed; it simply changes forms. Yet, quantum mechanics suggests that particles can appear and disappear in a vacuum, hinting at a reality where matter emerges from apparent nothingness. Could these spontaneous quantum events reflect the divine will, shaping the universe at its most fundamental level? This phenomenon aligns with the belief that God's power transcends natural laws, allowing for the creation of matter, energy, and life itself from a state of nothingness.

The emergence of complex life forms further demonstrates the presence of an ordering force. In biological evolution, spontaneous changes give rise to intricate systems, organisms, and ecosystems, each adapted to its environment. The concept of *emergent properties*—where complex patterns and structures arise from simpler interactions—mirrors the idea of divine influence as a guiding hand. Under God's direction, even chaotic and random elements find their place within a higher order, evolving toward the "perfection" seen in various species. This process, though seemingly bound by natural laws, hints at a divine intelligence orchestrating life's diversity and unity.

On a cosmic scale, the force of gravity gathers dust and particles into planets, stars, and galaxies, imposing order within an otherwise chaotic universe. Just as gravity shapes the cosmos, God's influence is seen as shaping the grand design, drawing diverse materials together to create order from chaos. This idea resonates with the belief that divine will operates throughout the universe, manifesting as natural laws that govern the behavior of physical, chemical, and biological entities. Under God's guidance, the universe follows a path where entropy's increase coexists with a higher order, leading to the harmonious arrangement of stars, planets, and life itself.

Life on Earth is made possible by the Sun's continuous energy input, which allows complex ecosystems to develop and persist despite the overall tendency toward increasing entropy. This continuous energy flow sustains the organized structures of plants, animals, and humans, reflecting God's provision for life. In this way, localized decreases in entropy, where disorder is offset by external energy, represent not just physical processes but also divine care for creation. God's sustaining power provides the accurate energy needed to maintain life, countering entropy's drive toward disorder and allowing organized complexity to thrive.

In quantum field theory, fluctuations in vacuum states can give rise to transient particle–antiparticle pairs. These processes occur within well-defined physical laws and do not violate conservation principles, but rather reflect the probabilistic nature of quantum systems. This phenomenon echoes the mystery of creation, where God's power allows matter to emerge from nothing and, at times, to disappear. The uncertainty inherent in quantum events may reflect the boundless potential of divine will, revealing that what science deems "random" is an expression of

God's creative force. Through this lens, the quantum realm becomes a space where God's influence is continuously active, shaping existence at the most fundamental level.

The contrast between entropy's tendency toward disorder and the emergence of organized systems prompts philosophical and theological reflections. If the universe's natural course leads to chaos, how is it that order, beauty, and life arise from it? This paradox invites contemplation of God's role as the ultimate source of order, imbuing the universe with purpose and harmony. Through divine will, entropy becomes not a barrier to creation but a channel through which God's intent unfolds, revealing that what appears chaotic is, in fact, a pathway to perfect design.

Conclusion

This work has examined the emergence of order and complexity across physical, chemical, and biological systems within the framework of established scientific principles. By analyzing interactions at multiple scales—from atomic bonding and molecular organization to biological evolution and gravitational structure—it becomes evident that the formation of ordered systems does not contradict the Second Law of Thermodynamics. Instead, such structures arise naturally in open systems that exchange energy and matter with their environment.

The concept of interaction-driven organization provides a useful lens for understanding how stability and complexity emerge. However, it is important to emphasize that the mechanisms underlying these processes differ significantly across domains. Electromagnetic forces, chemical reactions, evolutionary dynamics, and gravitational interactions each operate according to distinct and well-defined laws. Any apparent similarities between them should therefore be understood as analogical rather than indicative of a single unifying force.

The discussion also addressed philosophical perspectives on order and purpose in the universe. While some interpretations attribute the emergence of complexity to underlying intentionality or design, such claims extend beyond the scope of empirical verification. In this paper, these perspectives have been presented as philosophical viewpoints rather than scientific conclusions.

In summary, the coexistence of entropy increase and local order formation reflects the fundamental nature of non-equilibrium systems. Complexity arises not in opposition to thermodynamic laws, but as a consequence of them under specific conditions. Future work may further explore these dynamics using formal models from complexity science, non-equilibrium thermodynamics, and systems theory to deepen the understanding of how structure and organization emerge in the natural world.

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