

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

1: Basic Concepts

Thermodynamics is the description of thermal properties of matter in bulk. The study of phenomena involving the transfer of heat energy and allied processes form the subject matter. The fundamental description of the properties of matter in bulk, such as temperature, heat energy, etc., are given by statistical mechanics. For equilibrium states of a system the results of statistical mechanics give us the laws of thermodynamics. These laws were empirically enunciated before the development of statistical mechanics. Taking these laws as axioms, a logical buildup of the subject of thermodynamics is possible.

[1.1: Definitions](#)

[1.2: The Zeroth Law of Thermodynamics](#)

[1.3: Equation of State](#)

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