

Entropy question

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I remember reading an account of the fact that when a gas expands in a container entropy goes up, but when gas and dust clouds in space do the opposite and condense, entropy increases as well. (I think it was in a Roger Penrose book.)

Why exactly is this? From a statistical POV, I don't see how N number of particles know which kind of system they are participating in or if they are behaving in the most likely way.

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- *Follow-Ups:*
 - ◆ **[Re: Entropy question](#)**
 - ◇ *From:* carlip-nospam
 - ◆ **[Re: Entropy question](#)**
 - ◇ *From:* Edward Green
 - ◆ **[Re: Entropy question](#)**
 - ◇ *From:* Gregory L. Hansen
 - ◆ **[Re: Entropy question](#)**
 - ◇ *From:* Sam Wormley
 - Prev by Date: **[Re: bound vs unbound system mass & binding energy](#)**
 - Next by Date: **[Superconductivity and Coulomb Interaction 2: Gossamer Superconductor Properties](#)**
 - Previous by thread: **[Clarification on diode terms: 'electrostatic potential' and 'built-in potential'](#)**
 - Next by thread: **[Re: Entropy question](#)**
 - Index(es):
 - ◆ **[Date](#)**
 - ◆ **[Thread](#)**