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A system is a group of interacting of interrelated entities that form a unified whole. A system is described by its spatial and temporal boundaries, surrounded and influenced by its environment, described by its structure and purpose and expressed in its functioning. systems are the subjects of study of systems theory.

Ludwig Bertalanffy describes two types of systems: Open systems and closed systems. The open systems that we know of are systems that allow interactions between their internal elements and the environment. An open system is defined as a "system in exchange of matter with its environment. Presenting import and export, building-up and breaking-down of its material components. closed systems, on the other hand, are held to be isolated from their environment. Equilibrium thermodynamic for example, is a field of study that applies to closed systems.