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## Information, Entropy, Life and the Universe

Guest Editor:

### **Prof. Dr. Arieh Ben-Naim**

Department of Physical  
Chemistry, The Hebrew University  
of Jerusalem, Givat Ram,  
Jerusalem 91904, Israel

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submissions:

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### **Message from the Guest Editor**

Dear Colleagues,

Shannon's (1948) work "A Mathematical Theory of Communication", has generated a great deal of confusion between Shannon's measure of information (SMI) and entropy. As Shannon emphasized, the measure of information is not a measure of any information, but rather a measure of information belonging to, or contained within, a probability distribution. Entropy, on the other hand, has a similar mathematical form as SMI. Therefore, Entropy can be said to be a special case of SMI. However, the SMI as defined by Shannon is, in general, not Entropy.

It is our hope that this issue will help to dissolve this confusion that is quite common in recently published articles and books, particularly the two most difficult concepts in science: life and the universe. Both of these are fascinating fields of research, yet far from being understood. The main question that we wish to raise in this issue is whether these two concepts can, or cannot, be applied to either an entire living system or to the entire universe.

Prof. Dr. Arieh Ben-Naim  
Guest Editor



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# Special Issue



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## Editor-in-Chief

### Prof. Dr. Kevin H. Knuth

Department of Physics, University  
at Albany, 1400 Washington  
Avenue, Albany, NY 12222, USA

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The concept of entropy is traditionally a quantity in physics that has to do with temperature. However, it is now clear that entropy is deeply related to information theory and the process of inference. As such, entropic techniques have found broad application in the sciences.

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*Entropy* Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
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