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Thermodynamics and Self-Organization in Living Systems

Guest Editor:

Prof. Dr. Yasar Demirel
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588, USA

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Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue emphasizes the crucial role that thermodynamics can play in understanding the thermodynamic coupling between chemical reactions and the transport of substances in bioenergetics that may lead to self-organization. Thermodynamics has the advantages of identifying possible pathways, providing a measure of the efficiency of energy conversion, and of the thermodynamic coupling between various processes without requiring a detailed knowledge of the underlying mechanisms for such coupling. Through thermodynamic coupling, a flow can occur without or against its conjugate force if the cross coefficients do not vanish. As living systems grow and develop, supply of material, energy, and information (in addition to inherited information) are necessary for establishing organized structures for the ability of reproduction and surviving in changing conditions. Maintaining a state of organization requires a number of coupled metabolic reactions and transport processes with mechanisms controlling the rate in space and time of the living systems.

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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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Contact Us

Entropy Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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mdpi.com/journal/entropy
entropy@mdpi.com
𝕏@Entropy_MDPI