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The Ubiquity of Entropy

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Message from the Guest Editor

Entropy is one of the most important concepts in physics. Its prominent role in the description of macroscopic systems was first recognized by Clausius, Maxwell, Kelvin, Boltzmann, and many others when the foundations of Statistical Mechanics have been laid. Since then, the domain of application of the concept of entropy has been greatly extended, and nowadays entropy is regarded as a paradigm with which the most intriguing challenges of modern physics are faced.

Among these, we find the description of finite classical and quantum systems, at the nanoscopic scale, that are nowadays considered an essential part of forthcoming (bio-)technologies. To name just a few emblematic problems whose solution still remain elusive, we mention the quantitative characterization of the complexity of classical and quantum systems and the qualification and quantification of entanglement in quantum systems.



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Special Issue



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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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