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Physical Information and the Physical Foundations of Computation

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Message from the Guest Editor

Nearly six decades have passed since Landauer declared that “information is physical” and proposed a fundamental thermodynamic link between information erasure and heat generation in computing processes. At present, deep in this information age, we have highly sophisticated and widely used models of computing machines as physical systems. Yet, we remain without a comprehensive and widely accepted fundamental understanding of computation as a distinct physical process with information as its physical currency.

This Special Issue aims to clarify and advance the physical understanding of information and computation. We invite a broad range of original, high-quality contributions from a variety of disciplinary perspectives—including but not limited to engineering, physics, computer science, neuroscience, information science, biological physics, and the philosophy of science—that explicitly address fundamental links between physics, information, and computation.



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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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