

Special Issue

Complexity, Chaos and Computation in Living Systems

Message from the Guest Editor

Complexity, chaos and computation in biology may be characterised in terms of entropy, but is this most closely related to the criterion of order, or more correctly to the concept of 'unification' of an entity? Clausius' description of entropy in terms of 'disgregation', or disassociation of parts, suggests that the latter would be more relevant to biology, in the sense that a viable and, therefore, 'highly unified' organism, exhibiting comparatively low entropy, could be compared to one suffering from a degree of disorganisation (sickness?), exhibiting comparatively higher entropy. It is notable that the holistic concept of 'unification', integrating both reductive top-down character and non-reductive (partially emergent) bottom-up character, is completely absent from conventional science.

Guest Editor

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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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