

Special Issue

Dissipative Structuring in Life

Message from the Guest Editor

The entropy of a system provides a measure of missing information (or randomness) in the system. The concept of entropy was introduced by Clausius in 1865 to reformulate the second law of thermodynamics in a more elegant way. In a revolutionary stroke, in 1870 Boltzmann explained how entropy can indeed be used to understand the macroscopic world via the underlying molecular dynamics. In general, fluid flows are out of equilibrium, so it is not formally possible to ascribe the concept of entropy to fluid flows. However, one typically circumvents this issue by assuming the fluid to be locally close to equilibrium. In the same vein, fully developed turbulence (FDT) in fluids is a dissipative dynamical system with enormous strongly interacting degrees of freedom in a state of strong departure from absolute statistical equilibrium. So, equilibrium statistical mechanics is not formally applicable to FDT, and equilibrium states are not realizable in FDT.

Guest Editor

Dr. Karo Michaelian

Instituto de Física, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City 01000, Mexico

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Entropy
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
entropy@mdpi.com

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About the Journal

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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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Kevin H. Knuth

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

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