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Entropy Method for Decision Making

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Message from the Guest Editor

The source of risk is usually a lack of reliable information, in other words, an uncertainty. Some measure of uncertainty is explicitly or implicitly part of decision making. It is important to note that in the most decision making techniques, the criterion of uncertainty minimization is used, but implicitly, without strict mathematical formalization. Although such methods usually provide good results, it seems to be more justified from a methodological point of view to use formalized measures of uncertainty, especially entropy, which plays a key role in the theory of information and has already been successfully used in decision making. Entropy was originally intended to operate with probabilistic uncertainty, but today, in decision making, we deal with a wide spectrum of uncertainties: interval, fuzzy, type 2 fuzzy, interval-valued fuzzy, intuitionistic fuzzy, hesitant fuzzy, evidential (Dempster–Shafer theory of evidence), etc. and their different combinations. In some cases, the basic definition of entropy is adapted to process such types of uncertainty, but generally, there are many new challenges in this field.

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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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