

Fuzzy-Based Risk Analysis for IT-Systems and Their Infrastructure

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Abstract—This paper introduces a procedural method based on the fuzzy logic and set theory, which analyzes the risk of an IT-System in a facility and its surrounding area. The method analyzes the susceptibility of an electronic system with respect to intentional electromagnetic interferences and classifies the intentional electromagnetic environment (IEME). It extends the well-known statistical-based models fault tree analysis, electromagnetic topology and Bayesian networks (BN) with imprecise data, uncertainty with linguistic terms, and opinions of experts. In a final step, the critical scenarios and the elements and the location that contribute most to the risk are identified, which can be used to enhance the protection level.

Index Terms—Decision making under risk, electromagnetic (EM) effects, fuzzy logic, fuzzy rules, fuzzy sets, intentional electromagnetic environment (IEME), intentional electromagnetic interference (IEMI), probabilistic risk analysis.

I. INTRODUCTION

THE vulnerability of failures of modern electronic systems has increased in the last decades by intentional electromagnetic interference (IEMI). One reason is the increasing dependence on computer networks, wireless communications, microelectronics, other sensitive electronic systems, and the strong interconnection between these different electronic devices. Partial failures of a system are able to lead to a malfunction of the total function based on that strong interconnection. Another reason is the growing risk of occurring of such high-power electromagnetic (HPEM) sources that range from simple homemade devices to advanced military sources.

The hazard of such IEMI scenarios is adopted by the “Resolution on criminal activities using electromagnetic tools” in 1999 by the URSI [1]. Later the scenario of IEMI is investigated in several scientific reports [2], [3]. Due to this

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situation, a protection from IEMI threats is necessary and therefore a systematic protection concept is needed.

To handle the risk assessment with its complexity and the strong interconnection of the IT infrastructure a statistical mathematical approach is needed for the risk analysis. Probabilistic risk analysis is a well-known method from the aerospace, chemical, and nuclear industries [4]. In 2013, a concept of stochastic modeling for HPEM risk at system level was introduced by Sabath [5] and Genender [6]. Therein, a procedural method for systematic analysis of these risks is presented.

The used statistical mathematical approaches to calculate the risk susceptibility of electronic systems under the condition of electromagnetic radiation are the fault tree analysis (FTA) by Genender [6], the electromagnetic topology (EMT), and the Bayesian networks (BN) by Mao [7].

These methods are limited by processing crisp data, which have to be set exactly and the probabilities have to be known. The risk analysis are often specified only vaguely and their probabilities are based on experts estimations. According to the complexity of IT-Systems and their dependent interconnection and the inherent uncertainty of all possibilities, the fuzzy numbers are an appropriate mathematical description of nonprecise data. Often only linguistic terms are used to describe the risk of systems, such as the HPEM risk assessment cube from Sabath [8], which is defined by the threat level, mobility (ML), and technological challenge. These terms could be transformed into fuzzy sets with different kinds of boundaries and membership functions. These soft or crossing boundaries are an advantage of the fuzzy probability theory. The fuzzy logic and set theory is used to determine the risk of a target system in a facility and its surrounding area. The approach (see Section II) turns every data into a computational mathematic. For that, the failure propagation is estimated for series and parallel circuits (see Section III) and the fuzzy rules (see Section IV) to combine the linguistic terms. The risk analysis based on the fuzzy theory (see Section V) divides the complexity in three parts: the breakdown failure probability of the victim system, the hazard of IEMI sources in zones of accessibility and a classification of the whole environment. An exemplary scenario (see Section VI) is used to discuss the approach to improve the protection against IEMI threats.

II. FUZZY APPROACH

The approach [9] is based on the set theory and the Boolean algebra. In 1965, Zadeh [10] introduced the fuzzy set as a model to deal with imprecise, inconsistent, and inexact information.

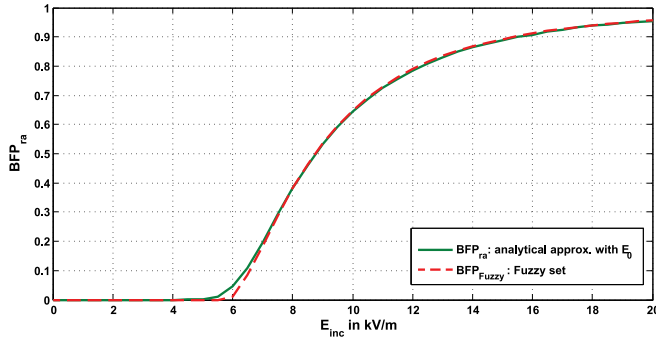


Fig. 1. Breakdown failure probability with fuzzy sets [9].

A fuzzy set is a class of objects with a continuum of grades of membership. Zadeh [10] defines that a set \tilde{A} of X is characterized by a membership function $\mu_A(x)$ that associates with each point in X a real number in the interval $[0, 1]$, with the values of $\mu_A(x)$ at x representing the grade of membership of x in \tilde{A} . The degree of x belonging to A is expressed with the following equation:

$$\tilde{A} = \{(x, \mu_A(x)) | x \in X\} \text{ with } \mu_A : X \rightarrow [0, 1]. \quad (1)$$

Typical membership shapes are triangle, trapezoid, sigmoidal, or Gaussian bell. Further, more flexible classes of membership functions are possible [9], for example, the distribution density functions to describe the breakdown failure probability (BFP) or destruction failure probability [11] (DFP) of electronic systems. For example, the beta density function is used to estimate the BFP with a random angle of incident of a system and is written as follows:

$$\mu_{\text{BFP}}(x; \alpha, \beta) = \begin{cases} 0 & x \leq 0, \\ \int_0^x f(t; \alpha, \beta) dt & 0 < x \leq 1 \\ 1 & x > 1 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where $f(t; \alpha, \beta)$ is the standard beta probability density function (PDF)

$$f(t; \alpha, \beta) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{B(\alpha, \beta)} t^{\alpha-1} (1-t)^{\beta-1} & 0 \leq t \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

and $B(\alpha, \beta)$ is the beta function with both the shape factors α and β , which defines the form of the shape, and x is the electromagnetic field strength normalized on the maximum (20 kV in Fig. 1), which is shown in Fig. 1.

The fuzzy logic is a multivalued logic and the known operator from the typical Boolean operations from the two-valued logic is not directly transferable, as similar aggregation operators, the union (maximum), intersection (minimum), and complement (negation) from the classical set theory, are used to combine the different fuzzy sets. Based on the Takagi and Sugeno model [12], the typically aggregation operators of two sets A as $\mu_A(x)$ and B as $\mu_B(x)$ are defined as follows:

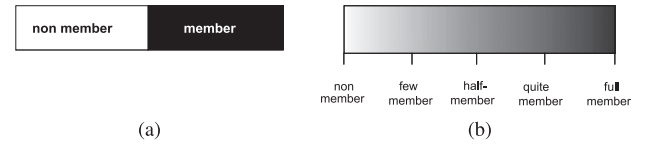


Fig. 2. Comparison of the membership for an element in the (a) classical (b) and fuzzy set theory.

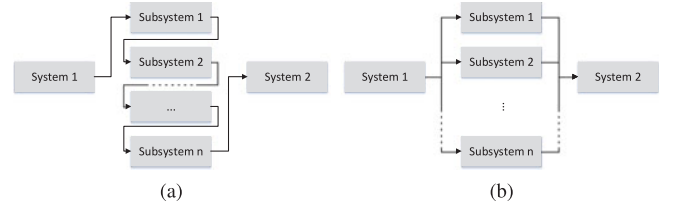


Fig. 3. (a) Serial and (b) parallel compound of a system.

$$\text{union : } A \cup B \Leftrightarrow \mu_{A \cup B}(x) = \mu_A(x) \cup \mu_B(x) = \max \{ \mu_A(x), \mu_B(x) \}$$

$$\text{intersection : } A \cap B \Leftrightarrow \mu_{A \cap B}(x) = \mu_A(x) \cap \mu_B(x) = \min \{ \mu_A(x), \mu_B(x) \}$$

$$\text{complement : } \hat{A} \Leftrightarrow \mu_{\hat{A}}(x) = 1 - \mu_A(x).$$

The membership for an element differs between the classic and the fuzzy set theory. In Fig. 2, both types of membership of an element to a set are presented. In the classic set theory [Fig. 2(a)], an element is a member or not a member of the set. Instead the fuzzy set theory [Fig. 2(b)] defines a degree of membership to that set.

III. FAILURE PROPAGATION

The BFP of a single device is shown in Fig. 1, in which the breakdown depends on the magnitude of the electric field and for a typical waveform adopted from Genender [11]. Typical waveforms are damped sine wave pulse, double exponential pulse, burst, and continuous wave. Each of them leads to a different BFP and has to be considered for the estimation.

The failure of this system can propagate in a network to another device and can lead to a misbehavior or its malfunction. To estimate this effect of the failure propagation from one to another system, the different membership functions have to be combined.

Two different kinds of interconnection between two or more systems are possible. The first one is the serial circuit shown in Fig. 3 (a) and the second one is the parallel circuit shown in Fig. 3(b). The BFP of a compound of series interconnected systems is estimated with the maximum operator as follows:

$$\mu_{\text{series}}(x) = \max \{ \mu_1(x), \mu_2(x), \dots, \mu(x)_n | x \in X \}. \quad (4)$$

A failure of one subsystem leads to the breakdown of the entire system. The BFP for a parallel circuits of two or more

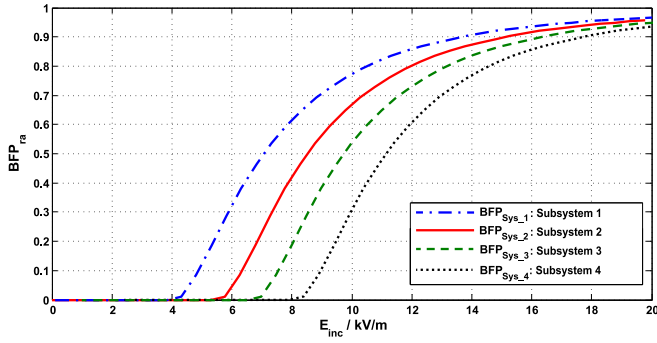


Fig. 4. Four different BFPs.

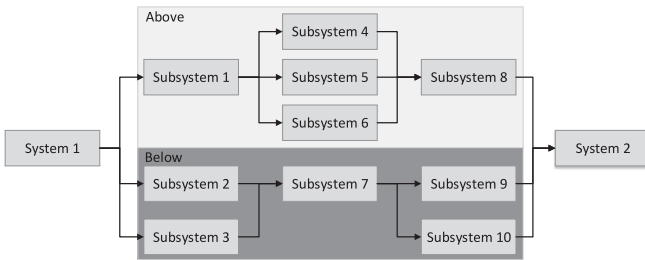


Fig. 5. Parallel compounds of a system.

subsystems is estimated with the minimum operator

$$\mu_{\text{parallel}}(x) = \min \{ \mu_1(x), \mu_2(x), \dots, \mu_n(x) | x \in X \}. \quad (5)$$

The entire system still works without any errors until every subsystem is disturbed. In Fig. 4, four different BFP functions are shown, with the result for the maximum operator $\text{BFP}_{\text{Sys}-1}$ and the minimum operator $\text{BFP}_{\text{Sys}-4}$. With the combination of serial and parallel elements, it is possible to estimate the failure propagation and its effect to complex systems composed of different subsystems, which are shown in Fig. 5.

The propagation path is divided into the above and below path and both are combined with the minimum operator (8). The first path (6) is composed of three serial elements, where one element is a parallel subsystem consisting of three devices. The below path in Fig. 5 is also composed of three elements connected in series in which the first and the last one is a parallel subsystem consisting of two elements

$$\mu_{\text{Above}}(x) = \max \{ \mu_{\text{Sub1}}(x), (\min \{ \mu_{\text{Sub4}}(x), \mu_{\text{Sub5}}(x), \mu_{\text{Sub6}}(x) \}), \mu_{\text{Sub8}} | x \in X \} \quad (6)$$

$$\mu_{\text{Below}}(x) = \max \{ (\min \{ \mu_{\text{Sub2}}(x), \mu_{\text{Sub3}}(x) \}), \mu_{\text{Sub7}}(x), (\min \{ \mu_{\text{Sub9}}(x), \mu_{\text{Sub10}}(x) \}) | x \in X \} \quad (7)$$

$$\mu_{\text{System}}(x) = \min \{ \mu_{\text{Above}}(x), \mu_{\text{Below}}(x) | x \in X \}. \quad (8)$$

IV. FUZZY RULES

The combination of measurement data, PDFs and expert opinions defined in linguistic terms are achieved with the fuzzy rules. It is possible to combine these different kinds of input data in one mathematical model. This rules can be considered

TABLE I
EXAMPLE OF TWO RULES WITH THE MAMDANI METHOD [13]

No.	Rule
R ₁	IF x is A ₁ AND y is B ₁ THEN z is C ₁
R ₂	IF x is A ₂ AND y is B ₂ THEN z is C ₂

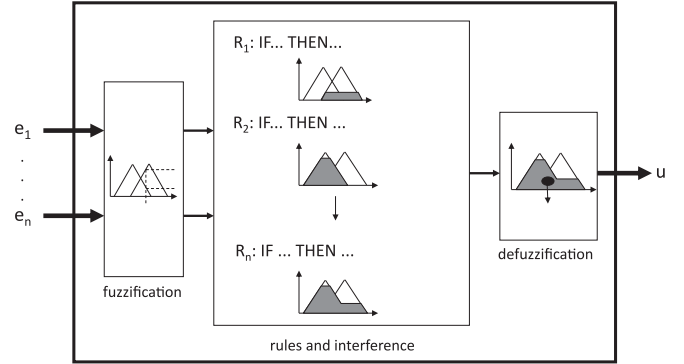


Fig. 6. Fuzzy rules with fuzzification and defuzzification [14].

as the knowledge of an expert who knows exactly the system behavior. These rules are represented by a sequence of the form IF-THEN and they associate a condition described by linguistic variables and/or fuzzy sets with a conclusion or an output. More than one input could be combined by the mentioned operators of Section II. The IF part is used to capture the knowledge by using the input conditions and the THEN part can be utilized to obtain the conclusion or output in linguistic variable form. An example for two typical fuzzy rules with two inputs is shown in Table I.

An example of using the rules to estimate risk with different inputs is shown in Fig. 6. The inputs (e_1 to e_n) are mapped on membership functions (fuzzification), the rules estimate the dependencies, and the defuzzification mapped, for example, the results on a risk-level metric.

V. RISK ANALYSIS BASED ON FUZZY

The expression “risk” has different and misleading meanings; Genender [6] defines the risk as the probability of a hazardous and severity event. Sabath [15] categorizes the criticality of the IEMI effect in five linguistic categories that are as follows:

- 1) no effect or no consequence (undisturbed);
- 2) interference (limited);
- 3) degradation (severe);
- 4) loss of main function/mission kill (very severe); and
- 5) loss of system (catastrophically).

To analyze the risk of an IEMI scenario we need information about the victim system, the area plan of the infrastructure, and the possible IEMI sources that can harm the investigated system. For the last point, many data are published, for example by Mora [16] and Sabath [17]. The last one is mostly bonded to their places and is highly improbable to disturb the victim system. Sabath [8] classifies the sources in ML, technology challenge

TABLE II
 HL OF SOURCES AND ML LEVEL [9]

HL	Description	Amplitude	ML	Description
XL	low	< 0,1 kV/m	1	stationary
L	little	0,1–1 kV/m	2	transportable
M	middle	1–10 kV/m	3	mobile
H	high	10–100 kV/m	4	very mobile
XH	very high	> 100 kV/m	5	highly mobile

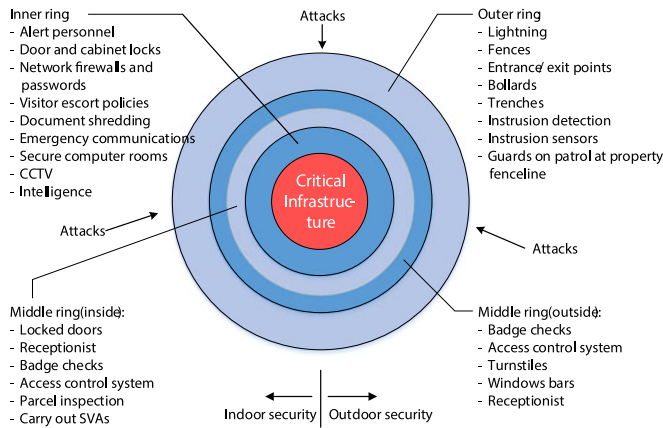


Fig. 7. Security rings of protection [9].

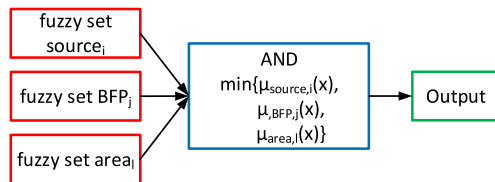


Fig. 8. Combination of the three main fuzzy sets [14].

(TC), availability, and its hazard level (HL). The classification for the ML and the HL is shown in Table II.

The ML of an IEMI source is described as the capability of that source to come close to the victim system. Genender [6] defined the aspect ML as the compiled aspects such as dimensions, weight, need of special supplies, integrability into platforms systems or shelters, and the ability to operate in motion.

The area plan of the infrastructure with the surrounding area and the buildings have to be studied and divided into zones of accessibility. The security rings of protection in Fig. 7 by Peikert [9] are used for the zoning of the area.

The last important point is the breakdown failure behavior of the desired system. Therefore, measurements (see Fig. 1) and expert opinions are needed to classify the BFP of the system.

If every data and terms are obtained, everything has to be turned into fuzzy membership functions. In the beginning, the three categories, the area plan, the intentional electromagnetic environment (IEME) sources, and the BFP of the whole system are calculated and everything is combined at the end with the intersection operator, as shown in Fig. 8. The susceptibility of the whole system has to be estimated. Therefore, the victim

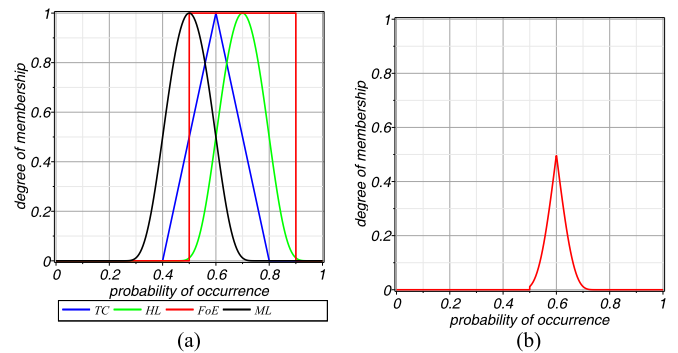
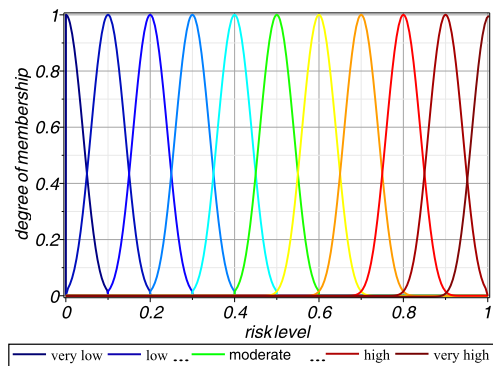

 Fig. 9. Fuzzy Sets for the probability of occurrence for IEMI sources [9]: (a) membership function and (b) $\min\{\mu_{TC}, \mu_{HL}, \mu_{FoE}, \mu_{ML}\}$.


Fig. 10. Fuzzy set for the risk-level membership functions [14].

system is divided into subsystems and the dependencies between each subsystem have to be determined. The result for the whole system is obtained with the union of each subsystem BFP, n and is expressed as follows:

$$\mu_{BFP, total} = \max\{\mu_{BFP,1}, \mu_{BFP,2}, \dots, \mu_{BFP,n}\}. \quad (9)$$

The probability of occurrence of an IEMI source is determined by the TC of such sources, the availability, the ML, its HL, and the frequency of event (FoE). The estimation with the fuzzy theory approach is shown by Peikert [9] and in Fig. 9, where one combination of the each membership function and its intersection result is presented.

Finally, an outline of the surrounding area with its buildings is required. The location of the system under consideration has to be determined and the zones of accessibility have to be integrated into the plan. At the end, each result has to be mapped onto the risk-level membership function. The risk level, shown in Fig. 10, is divided into 11 parts, it starts with no risk, passes in the middle the moderate risk, and ends with very high risk.

VI. SCENARIO FOR THE FUZZY APPROACH

A map with accessibility zones and classified ML levels [Fig. 11(a)] for these zones by Genender [6] are used as a scenario for the risk analysis approach. The analysis of the scenario is divided into the analysis of the target system, the sources of disturbance and the environment.

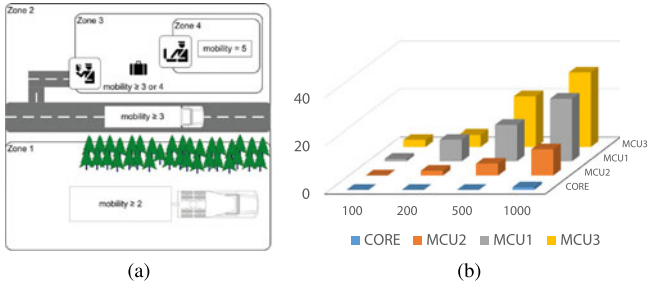


Fig. 11. (a) Accessibility zones and classified ML levels for these zones needed by Genender [6] and (b) failure rate of an MCU compound by Peikert [14].

A. Target System

As a victim system, a complex compound of microcontroller (MCU) are used, in which breakdown failure probability is studied by Peikert [14]. In Fig. 11(b), the number of failures are shown for the compound after exposing with a double exponential pulse. As a pulse generator, the PBG7 from the company Kentech is used as an IEMI source. The compound in Fig. 11(b) is exposed in a GTEM cell for one minute with 100, 200, 500, or 1000 pulses and the level of each column stands for the number of breakdowns. This measurement setup is used to determine the BFP for the MCU compound. The setup comprises a core unit, which communicates and analyzes every other unit (MCU1, MCU2, and MCU3). MCU1 is used as a system of three in series, which needs the calculation result from the unit before. MCU2 is designed as a redundant system and MCU3 works with different communication protocols (twi, spi, and ethernet). BFP of the whole system is calculated from the measurements of each subsystem and every result is combined with the union operator:

$$\mu_{\text{BFP,MCU1}} = \max\{\mu_{\text{BFP,MCU1-1}}, \mu_{\text{BFP,MCU1-2}}, \mu_{\text{BFP,MCU1-3}}\} \quad (10)$$

$$\mu_{\text{BFP,MCU2}} = \max\{\mu_{\text{BFP,MCU2-1}}, \mu_{\text{BFP,MCU2-2}}, \mu_{\text{BFP,MCU3-3}}\} \quad (11)$$

$$\mu_{\text{BFP,MCU3}} = \max\{\mu_{\text{BFP,MCU3-1}}, \mu_{\text{BFP,MCU3-2}}, \mu_{\text{BFP,MCU3-3}}\} \quad (12)$$

$$\mu_{\text{BFP,total}} = \max\{\mu_{\text{BFP,core}}, \mu_{\text{BFP,MCU1}}, \mu_{\text{BFP,MCU2}}, \mu_{\text{BFP,MCU3}}\}. \quad (13)$$

B. Classification of the IEMI Source

Mora [16] published a list of existing IEMI sources and gathered the information of peak field, rise-time, technology level by Giri [18], the cost level by Sabath [8], the probability level of ITU [19], and more for the most available sources. The fuzzy theory approach to classify the probability of occurrence and the risk level is shown in the work of Peikert [9]. These classifications consider the four categories of HL, ML level, availability, and TC. Sabath [20] discusses a technique that enables the assessment of key parameters of various IEMEs. With his

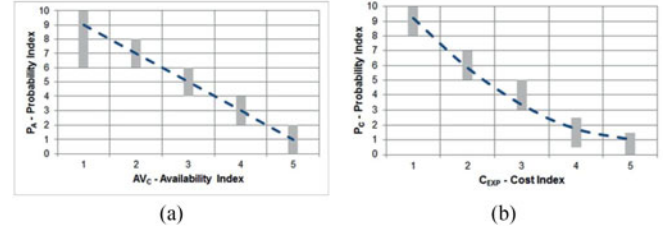


Fig. 12. (a) Mapping of the availability on the probability of occurrence and (b) the mapping of the cost on the probability of occurrence by Sabath [20] (gray bar: expert valuation; dashed line: approximated function).

TABLE III
SCALE FOR AVAILABILITY (SfA) (COMPONENTS AND/OR SOURCE) BY SABATH [20]

AV _c ^a	Availability category	Description
1	Off-the-shelf	Available in the commercial marketplace (e.g., department stores); can be bought by anyone
2	Commercially available	Available in specialty stores; can be bought by anyone
3	Specialized trade	Available only in specialized trading companies; acquisition is limited to commercial customer
4	Limited acquisition	Limited acquisition under conditions or to registered buyer, special designed components
5	Restricted acquisition	Trade or acquisition prohibited by law

technique, Sabath estimates the likelihood that an offender has access to such an IEMI source. Some of the experts' opinions for the availability are shown in Fig. 12 (a) and the costs are shown in Fig. 12(b). The used categories and the meanings of the availability are shown in Table III.

Extending the approach of Peikert [9], with the additional experts opinion from Sabath [20], delivers a new rate of the risk level of an IEMI source. Therefore, the fuzzy sets for the kind of sources that are possible (14) are combined with the achievable values of field magnitude next to the target system (15) and the sets for the expert opinions (16)

$$\tilde{A}_{\text{field}} = \{(x, \mu_{\text{field}}(x)) | x \in X\} \quad (14)$$

$$\tilde{A}_{\text{source}} = \{(x, \mu_{\text{source}}(x)) | x \in X\} \quad (15)$$

$$\tilde{A}_{\text{expert}} = \{(x, \mu_{\text{expert}}(x)) | x \in X\}. \quad (16)$$

As an example, the combination of the SfA, scale for required knowledge (SfrK), cost scale (CS), and the level of sophistication (LoS) lead to the TC of an IEMI source shown in Fig. 13. The results are the linguistic terms low tech., medium tech., high tech., and highly sophisticated systems according to Sabath [5] and are used to estimate the HL of this combination for such source. An example for the used fuzzy rules to combine the inputs are shown in Table IV.

With the different fuzzy systems of the TC, IEMI sources, and some more according to the published characteristics of Sabath [5], Mansson [21], [22], and Giri [18], the type of the IEMI source and its possible output power range can be estimated. The used MATLAB-Simulink model is shown in Fig. 14. This model combined the results of the three fuzzy systems: ML and

TABLE V
VALUES FOR a AND b FOR THE AREA MEMBERSHIP FUNCTION

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
$a =$	1	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.1
$b =$	–	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.2

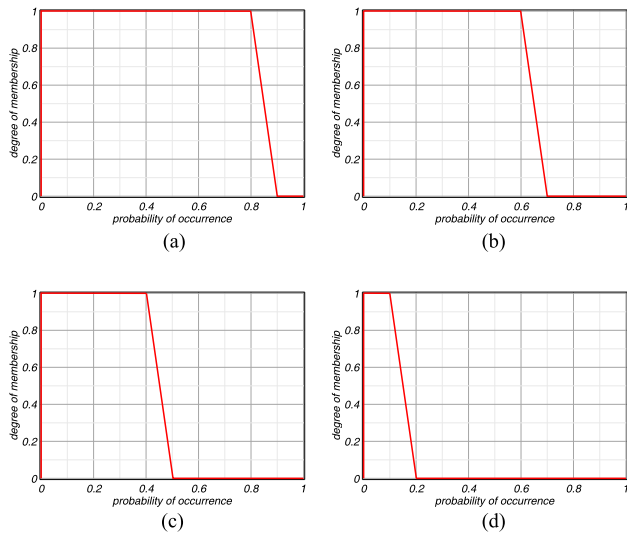


Fig. 16. Four limitation fuzzy membership functions for the zones of the map. (a) Zone 1. (b) Zone 1. (c) Zone 1. (d) Zone 1.

The used boundary factors a and b for the membership function are shown in Table V. The resulting fuzzy sets for the zone number 1–4 are shown in Fig. 16. In the following step, a grid of squares is added as a layer on the map of the area. For every square, the distance from its center to the center of the target system is estimated. The size of the squares is chosen in order to cover the area well and establish transitions between the accessibility zones as a boundary between two squares. Each square obtained the following data:

- 1) zone number;
- 2) boundary to another zone;
- 3) HL;
- 4) ML level;
- 5) distance to target system;
- 6) resulting field magnitude.

These data are used to assess the field magnitude with the far-field condition that leads to an attenuation of the field strength by a factor of $1/r$, in which r is the distance from the center of the square to the center of the victim system. The result is a matrix of values for the maximum possible peak amplitude which might radiate from a square to the target system. The magnitude values of every square are compared with the breakdown failure probability of the system and are mapped on the risk-level membership function in Fig. 10.

D. Fuzzy Approach Result

From the results of Sections VI-A–VI-B, with the field strength and breakdown failure behavior of the target system, a

TABLE VI
RISK ESTIMATION OF AN EVENT [9]

Risk level	Probability of Damage	Criteria
0–1	No risk	Occurrence of the damage is unlikely
2–4	Low	Occurrence of the damage is low
5–7	Moderate	Occasionally occurring damage
8–9	High	Damage occurs in more than half of the exposure
10–11	Very high	Occurs in almost every exposure

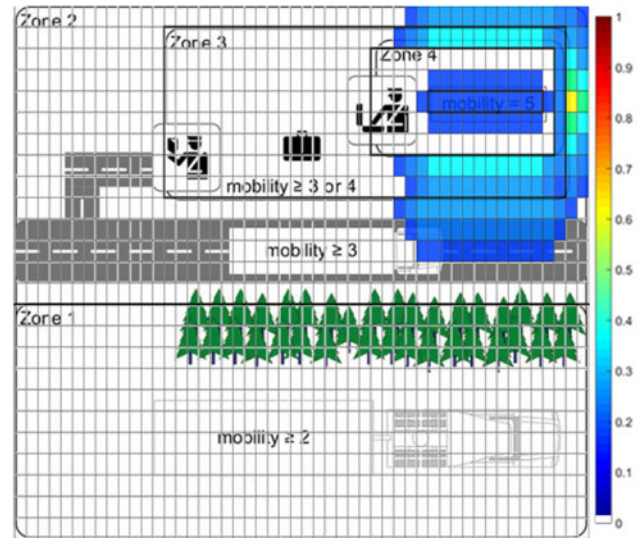


Fig. 17. Layer of the risk-level metric overlaid on the area map [14].

risk-level metric is created. The risk-level metric is divided into 11 subregions from zero to one. Zero is the lowest risk level, what represents the IEMI sources that are not able to harm the victim system. The highest rate of the level, specified with one, leads to a damage of the system in almost every exposure. A detailed list is shown in Table VI.

In means of the risk-level metric, a colored square mesh is created. The colorbar starts with white or no color (no risk), it follows blue as low risk, moves to yellow (moderate risk), and ends with dark red (very high risk). This mesh is added as a layer on the area map of the zone of accessibility [Fig. 11(a)] and shown in Fig. 17. This map shows locations in which an IEMI source can harm the victim system. In this example, the victim system is located in the upper right corner of the area and an IEMI source in zone number two, on the right-hand side of the victim system, has a risk level of 0.6 to harm the system. This location is a point of interest for a high protection level of the system and it has to be considered in the EMC shielding of the system.

VII. CONCLUSION

An approach based on fuzzy logic and set theory, which extends the well-known risk analysis method, EMT, FTA, and BN to handle nonprecise data and uncertainty of linguistic terms with the fuzzy set theory, is introduced. The method adds subjective information, uncertain data, nonphysical quantities,

crossing boundaries, and the opinion of experts to the assessment of risk, which can still be simulated with a numerical or analytical math program. The approach divides an IEMI scenario into the breakdown behavior of the target system, categorizes the IEMI sources regarding to the zone of accessibility, and classifies the IEME with its surrounding area and buildings. The combination of these three parts leads to the end of a risk-level metric, which defines locations for sources that can harm the victim system. This information can be used to increase the protection level of the investigated system.

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