





bership values into the required scalar variables by defuzzifying.

Linguistic Variables

As shown in Fig. 5, the developed fuzzy logic system works mainly with the PDDs and CFDs, which can be represented as n-dimensional vectors on discrete working computers. For the PDD of welding voltage, the whole range of voltage (0.125–60.125 V) is discretized into 121 classes, and the class width is 0.5 V. For the PDD of welding current, the whole range of current (0–451.172 A) is classified as 232 classes, and the class width is 1.95 A. For the CFD of short-circuiting time  $T_1$  and arc-burning time  $T_2$ , the whole range of 0–19.75 ms is divided into 40 classes and the class width is 0.5 ms. If all values are used, the total number of input variables will be 433. Because each variable has 5–7 terms and a membership function, too many input variables would be prohibitively time-consuming and cause great difficulty in rule-generation and inference, making the problem unsolvable. Thus, additional data processing is necessary to reduce the values of PDDs and CFDs further.

After careful examination of the PDD and CFD curves, it was found that process disturbances affect the PDD curves of both welding voltage and current more markedly in some ranges. For the PDD of welding voltage, there are four sections with this characteristic, and two sections for the PDD of welding current. Thus, the voltage PDD values of every class are added together for the following four ranges of welding voltage: 0.125–4.625 V, 12.125–20.125 V, 20.625–35.125 V and 35.625–60.125 V, respectively. Then four sums SU1, SU2, SU3 and SU4 are obtained. Similarly, the current PDD values of every class are summarized within the following two ranges of welding current, 21.484–99.609 A and 234.375–351.563 A, respectively, and two sums SI1 and SI2 are obtained. For the CFD of short-circuiting time, all CFD values of every class are added together within the range 0–19.75 ms to produce a sum ST1. Therefore, seven values, *i.e.*, SU1, SU2, SU3, SU4, SI1, SI2 and ST1, are available. These values contain the essential information on the PDDs and CFDs in a definite integral way. Each specific welding process should be characterized by seven values of its own. They are the input variables for further processing.

In this research, seven disturbances were made intentionally during GMAW processes. The developed fuzzy logic system should be capable of recognizing and distinguishing them. The output vari-

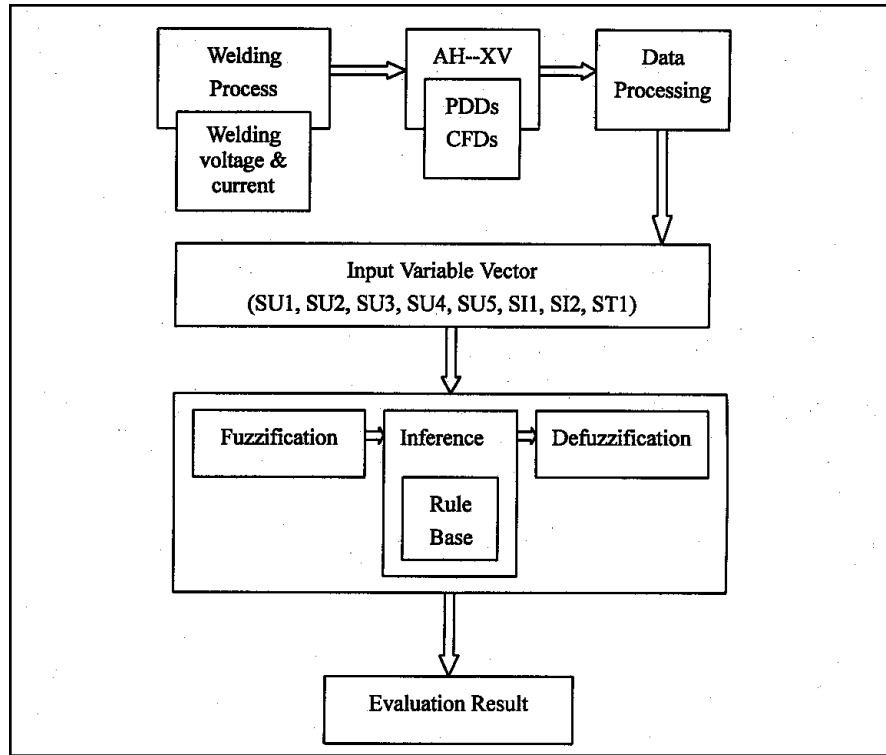


Fig. 5 — Block diagram of the fuzzy logic system.

Table 1 — The Linguistic Variables and Their Terms

Linguistic variables	Input/output	Terms
SU1	input	(E_Low, V_Low, Low, Mid, High, V_High, E_High)
SU2	input	(E_Low, V_Low, Low, Mid, High, V_High, E_High)
SU3	input	(E_Low, V_Low, Low, Mid, High, V_High, E_High)
SU4	input	(E_Low, V_Low, Low, Mid, High, V_High, E_High)
SI1	input	(E_Low, V_Low, Low, Mid, High, V_High, E_High)
SI2	input	(E_Low, V_Low, Low, Mid, High, V_High, E_High)
ST1	input	(E_Low, V_Low, Low, Mid, High, V_High, E_High)
ER	output	(Norm, DT_1, DT_2, DT_3, DT_4, DT_5, DT_6, DT_7)

Notes: 1) E\_Low = extremely low, V\_Low = very low, Low = low, Mid = medium, High = high, V\_High = very high, E\_High = extremely high. 2) Norm = normal welding condition without any disturbance, DT\_1 = disturbance No. 1, and so on.

able is the evaluation result that is abbreviated to ER. Table 1 gives the terms of input and output linguistic variables.

Rule Base

The rule base includes “If-Then” rules, where the premise is a function of the input variables, and in the conclusion there are only terms referring to the output variable. Generalizing rules were used here, which means that not all input variables are necessarily combined in one premise. In this research, the software package WINROSA (Ref. 6) was applied for automatic generation of relevant fuzzy rules on the basis of measured and processed data. This method needs to define the linguistic values for the “If” clause, as well as for the “Then” clause. For input variables, a data file can be es-

tablished after a series of GMAW experiments. Since this is a diagnosis problem, the evaluation result is whether a GMAW process is normal or disturbed. Moreover, it also indicates the type of disturbance in the case of the disturbed condition. The output variable has no definite values, so different digits are attributed to the output variable ER. For example, a value 1 of ER is related with the normal welding condition without any disturbance. If the evaluation result ER is 2, it means the process is disturbed and the disturbance type is No.1, and so on. Now both the input variables and output variable have values so that a data file is set up. Table 2 is such a data file used for automatic determination of membership functions for input and output variables and rule generation.

Figure 6 illustrates the rule-generation



derived (*i.e.*, the rule conclusion terms). An inference step (the evaluation of a rule) consists of three steps.

1) *Aggregation*. Aggregation is the calculation of the fulfillment of the whole rule, based on the fulfillments of the individual premises. This process generally corresponds to the logic and operator of the individual premise expressions. This connection can, in principal, be carried out using any of the following operators: Minimum, Maximum, Algebraic product, Algebraic sum, and Gamma-operator. In this research, the test results demonstrate that the evaluation result is of higher accuracy if the algebraic product  $\mu_A(x) \cdot \mu_B(x)$  is employed as the aggregation operator.

2) *Implication*. Implication based on the certainty factors calculates the corresponding degree of certainty for the conclusion. This is called the degree of fulfillment. This step represents the conclusion of the logic statement, "If A, then B." Implication is the connection between the certainty factor and the degree of fulfillment, the results being the degree of fulfillment of each of the conclusions. The algebraic product is used here as the implication operator.

3) *Accumulation*. In knowledge-based systems, often more than one rule leads to the same conclusion. If the conclusion of a rule has a degree of fulfillment of 0.7, but 0.3 with another rule, then the different degrees of fulfillment need to be summarized in just the one. This is achieved by a process of accumulation, which corresponds to unifying individual results with the logical "Or" operator. In the developed fuzzy logic system, the algebraic sum  $\mu_A(x) + \mu_B(x) - \mu_A(x) \cdot \mu_B(x)$  is used as the accumulation operator.

**Defuzzifying**

The results of the inference process must be translated from fuzzy logic (membership of terms of the linguistic variables) into (crisp) values, in other words, a concrete evaluation result. This is done by defuzzifying. Seen mathematically, the result of the inference process is a fuzzy set for the output variable. This set of fuzzy output has a membership function calculated from membership functions and the degree of membership of the different terms. The task of the actual defuzzifier is to transform the membership function of the fuzzy output set into a crisp result. In this work, the mean of maxima is used as the defuzzifying method.

**Results and Discussion**

GMAW experiments were conducted under eight conditions, *i.e.*, one normal

Table 3 — Evaluation Results

Experiment Run No.	Welding Conditions	Attributed Code	The System Output	Is the Evaluation Results Correct?
1-4	Normal welding	1	0.98	Yes
1-5		1	6.00	No
1-6		1	0.98	Yes
2-4	Welding over two sheets	2	2.00	Yes
2-5		2	2.00	Yes
2-6		2	2.00	Yes
3-4	Welding over two sheets with a gap between two sheets	3	3.01	Yes
3-5		3	3.01	Yes
3-6		3	3.01	Yes
4-4	Workpiece surface with some oil	4	3.97	Yes
4-5		4	3.97	Yes
4-6		4	3.97	Yes
5-4	Welding over an overlapped joint with the upper sheet having a cut	5	4.99	Yes
5-5		5	7.02	No
5-6		5	4.99	Yes
6-4	Increasing wire feed rate	6	6.00	Yes
6-5		6	6.00	Yes
6-6		6	6.00	Yes
7-4	Decreasing wire feed rate	7	7.02	Yes
7-5		7	7.02	Yes
7-6		7	7.02	Yes
8-4	Increasing gas nozzle diameter	8	7.98	Yes
8-5		8	7.98	Yes
8-6		8	7.98	Yes

condition without any disturbance and seven conditions with intentional disturbances. For each condition, six welding experiments were carried out. The first three experiments were used to generate fuzzy rules, and three additional experiments were used to test the system. As shown in Table 3, for all 24 experiments tested, the developed fuzzy logic system can automatically recognize 22 cases. The correct recognition rate is 92%.

It should be pointed out that this work is only the initial step for weld process monitoring using the welding voltage and current signals. The so-called 92% correct recognition rate only corresponded to the available 48 GMAW experiments (24 for training, 24 for testing). Greater efforts are being made for further research and improvement of the fuzzy system. For one thing, the system will be modified to improve the fuzzy system. Also, the system will be modified to distinguish the process signal's variation caused by disturbances from that caused by an intentional weld schedule. For example, as a robot welds around a corner, the travel speed and the wire feed rate are often intentionally decreased. This changing of process signals is usually known in advance during the welding robot's programming phase so relevant information can be provided to the fuzzy system. Moreover, a large amount of GMA welding trials will be carried out to

obtain more data for sufficiently training the fuzzy system.

**Conclusions**

The AH XV, fuzzy logic system for process monitoring and quality evaluation in GMAW has been developed. It is used to measure transient welding voltage and current and to process them into PDDs and CFDs during GMAW experiments. The PDDs of welding voltage and current, as well as the CFD of short-circuiting time, are decomposed into several ranges within which the corresponding PDD values or CFD value of every class are summarized in a way that seven input variables are obtained. The measured data are further reduced, but the essential process characteristics remain. The WINROSA method is applied for automatic generation of linguistic terms, membership functions and relevant fuzzy rules on the basis of the processed experiment data. The rule base containing 399 "If-Then" rules with certainty factors are imported to an intelligent data analysis tool named DataEngine, which conducts inference and defuzzification processes so the evaluation results can be obtained.

The system is able to recognize and classify disturbed and undisturbed GMAW experiments. The entire evaluation process can be carried out automat-

