

Article

# Infrared Thermography Based Defects Testing of Solar Photovoltaic Panel with Fuzzy Rule-Based Evaluation

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**Abstract:** Infrared Thermography has been used as a tool for predictive and preventive maintenance of Photovoltaic panels. International Electrotechnical Commission provides some guidelines for using thermography to detect defects in Photovoltaic panels. However, the proposed guidelines focus only on the location of the hot spot than diagnosing the types of faults. The long-term reliability and efficiency of panels can be affected by progressive defects such as discolouring and delamination. This paper proposed the new Thermal Pixel Counting algorithm to detect the above faults based on three thermal profile index values. The real-time experimental testing was carried out using FLIR T420bx<sup>®</sup> thermal imager and results have been provided to validate the proposed method. In this work, the fuzzy rule-based classification system is proposed to automate the classification process. Fuzzy reasoning method based on a single winner rule fuzzy classifier is designed with modified rule weights by particular grade. The performance of the proposed classifier is compared with the conventional fuzzy classifier and neural network model.

**Keywords:** infrared thermography; photovoltaic panels, discoloring; delamination; defect diagnosis; fuzzy classifier

## 1. Introduction

A Photovoltaic (PV) panel defects reduce the panel power and long-term reliability that is not recovered during regular operation. The defects may be initiated during the manufacturing process, transportation, installation and real operating environmental condition [1]. As long as the defect is not much relevant to safety issues and power degradation, that defect is not considered as a failure or series defect. The investment cost of PV based power generation system is high, and it is payback time mainly depends on electrical performance and panels operating lifetime. The major PV panel defects are delamination, Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA) discoloring and cell part isolation due to cell cracks. These defects will initiate safety issues, reliability problems and power loss in the power system

(~15%) [2,3]. Condition monitoring methods are developed to detect such issues for increasing the lifetime of the PV panel [4].

Commonly Current-Voltage (I-V) characteristics measurement is used for faults diagnosis on solar PV panels. Nevertheless, it is a time-consuming process as well as inability to classify the defects such as delamination, EVA discolouring and cell part isolation due to cell cracks. Ref. [5] provides a comprehensive literature review report of faults detection methods developed in the earlier research work.

Infrared Thermography (IRT) usages in preventive maintenance and condition monitoring of electrical types of equipment are increased in recent years due to its user-friendly operation and accuracy in fault diagnosis with an exact spot. Ref. [6] reviewed the IRT image-based fault detection methods used for electrical apparatus maintenances, with thermal image measurement technique and its features extraction, the impact of environmental factors and real-time operating conditions in image measurement. Operating temperature of PV panels/cells creates a negative effect on the power efficiency of the panel, and it is considered as an essential reference value for detecting the hot spot location of the panel. Ref. [7,8] provide the current and voltage based faulty indicator to detect the faults in the PV system. [9] heightened the value of the mounting variable of commercial-grade PV panel used in a building-integrated PV system for operating with its designed efficiency.

Electroluminescent (EL) method is used for diagnosing the solar PV modules and strings as a non-invasive method; it can be effectively used for diagnosing the cell cracks and shunt fault, inactive modules with reasonable accuracy. However, it is inefficient for detecting progressive faults such as discolouring, delamination and optical degradation. IRT imaging technique can be used as non-destructive testing for inspecting the PV panels working conditions, and it has many advantages over EL imaging [10]. A hot-spot appears in PV panels due to imbalance current between the affected cell and healthy cell, and it will increase the reverse biasing, thus dissipating power as heat. Hot spot inspection is a well-known procedure for diagnosing the faults in the PV panels. The temperature difference index values for non-defective, defective and defective with power losses PV panels were reported in Ref. [11]. However, these index values mainly depend on the operating conditions such as climatic irradiation values, and there are no temperature index values derived for progressive defects classification.

Thermal image pre-processing provides the preliminary inputs for assessing the condition of the panels. The line profile analysis and image histogram analysis method has been implemented in a condition monitoring system of PV panels [12]. In Ref. [13] different PV modules have studied the reliability of the IR imaging technique with different defects such as cell fracture, deficient solder joints, short-circuited cells and bypassed substring. The interrelationship between the junction and surface temperature of the PV panel has been measured for improving the measurement accuracy of the IR image [14]. The relationship between the I-V characteristics and thermal image of PV panels under healthy, minor fault, massive fault, open circuit and short circuit fault conditions are presented in [15]. Thermal mapping with defects characterization and classification has been reported in [16,17]. Canny edge detection algorithm [18,19] and digital colour conversion algorithm [20,21] have been successfully implanted for identifying the hot spot regions and defects of the PV panels. Tsanakas [22] has developed a new thermal image characterization algorithm based on aerial triangulation and terrestrial georeferencing of thermal images. Vergura [23] has developed a new algorithm for quantifying thermal image features via computer-aided thermography for diagnosing PV panel defects.

The available literature work does not provide a solution to detect and distinguish progressive faults such as discolouring, delamination and optical degradation. Therefore, this paper provides a digital thermal image pixel counting technique with fuzzy classifier for diagnosing and distinguishing the EVA discolouring and delamination defects of PV panels. The proposed diagnosis technique is developed based on the method have been proposed in [24] for faults classification of induction motor. This algorithm can be easily implantable in the digital processor, which is used in automated condition monitoring and defect diagnosis system.

This research work mainly investigates the real-time surface faults occur in PV panel due to environmental stress and proposed novel diagnosis solution for the fault's detection through IR image analysis, and it is required detailed investigation for detecting the internal PV faults such as short circuit string, bypass diode problem, etc.

The fuzzy rule-based classification system is used in many engineering application and pattern classification problems [25,26]. In this work, the fuzzy rule-based classifier is developed, based on the input pattern database collected from the proposed diagnostic algorithm. It is designed for implementation of Internet of Think (IoT) based fault classification system, which requires less calculation time and fast response. Fuzzy rule-based classifier is one of the simple systems for uncertainly condition problems with least calculation memory [27]. The monitoring the complete solar PV panels in one power system involves a high volume of the data, the fuzzy rule-based classifier can handle this kind of high dimensional database and gives the accurate classification results [28].

The paper is structured as follows. A defect in the PV panel is studied in Section 2. In Section 3, the practical testing experimental setup is explained. In Section 4, the proposed digital image temperature pixels analysis algorithm is described. Section 5 presents the experimental testing results and discussion. Section 6 describes the fuzzy classifier system and Section 7 reports the classification performance of the classifier. Finally, the conclusion of this paper is given in Section 8.

## 2. Defects in PV Panels

The failures of any product can be categorized into three stages such as infant-failure, midlife-failures and wear-out failures. Graphical view of the PV panel failure is shown in Figure 1. In this, EVA discolouring, delamination and cracked cell isolation are considered as progressive faults because it started at an infant stage and progressed beyond the warranty period to reach the wear-out time. Other than these faults, some defects may be happened due to external causes like clamping, transport and installation, connector failure and lightning.

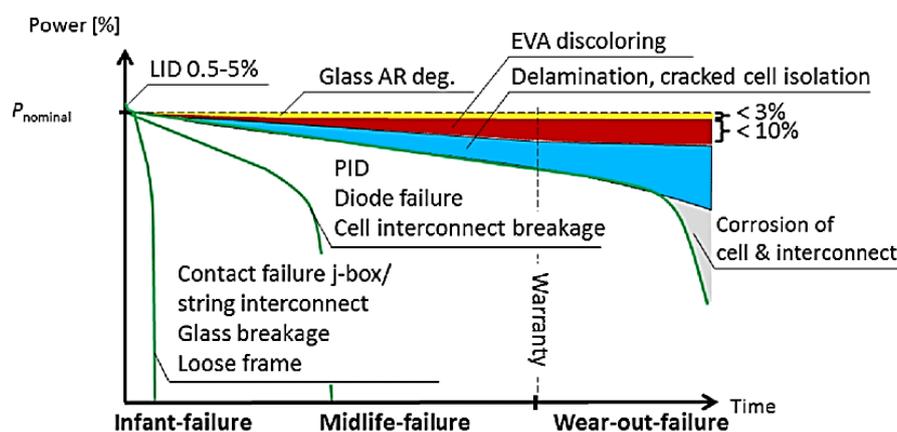


Figure 1. Power loss due to delamination and corrosion.

In a PV module, EVA guards the solar cells against climate factors such as humidity, UV, pollution and fog. It is essential to laminate the panel composite under an accurately defined temperature (T), pressure (P) and time to confirm that the EVA cures appropriately. Due to the improper process limit settings or deprived quality material usage, the EVA layer becomes melted, and it changes into milky yellow colour in its lifetime. It is named as the discolouring defect. It leads to safety issues and power losses. International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) categorizes the defects under different classes based on the impact in safety issues and power losses as given in Tables 1 and 2 [29,30].

**Table 1.** Types of safety classes.

Safety Class	Description
A	Defects do not lead to safety issues
B(f,e,m)	Defects can cause fire(f), electrical accident (e), physical danger(m) and consecutive defects may occur
C(f,e,m)	Defects lead to saviour's safety issues

**Table 2.** Definition of power loss classes.

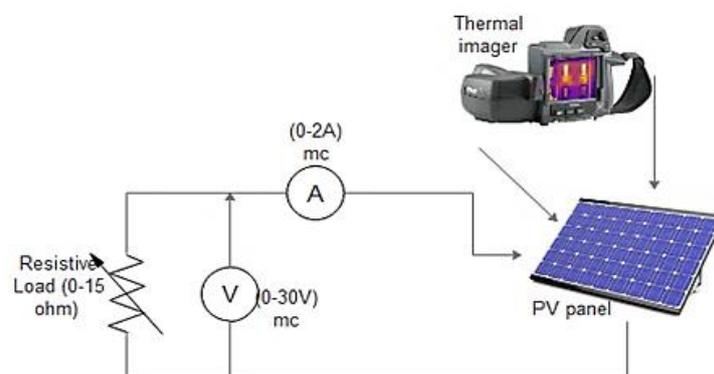
Power Loss Class	Description
A	Power loss is <3% (unable to measure)
B	Power loss degradation over time by exponentially
C	Power loss degradation over time by linearly
D	Power loss degradation saturates over time
E	Power loss degradation over time by step by step
F	Power loss degradation over time by unknown shaped

EVA discolouring defect comes under B(f) safety class and C power losses class and delamination defect come under C(e) and D/E power losses class. It is very much essential to figure out such defects in the early-stage to avoid power loss and ensure safety.

### 3. Thermal Image Measurement Setup

#### 3.1. Hardware and Software

The defected PV panels such as EVA discolouring and delamination were procured from KCP Solar industry. The PV panels are fitted on the rooftop of the Electrical Engineering Department building at KSRCT (11.362°N, 77.8279°E), India. The PV panels are polycrystalline type, and its technical specifications are used as maximum power  $P_{max}$  of 18 Wp, short circuit current ( $I_{SC}$ ) of 2.62 A, rated current  $I_{MP}$  of 2.32 A, open-circuit voltage ( $V_{OC}$ ) of 9.4 V and rated voltage ( $V_{MPP}$ ) of 7.2 V, under Standard operating condition (STOC). The  $I_{SC}$  was measured combined with the voltage  $V_{OC}$ . The maximum current ( $I_{MAX}$ ) and the maximum voltage ( $V_{MAX}$ ) produced by the panel were also measured with an Ammeter (0–2 A) and Voltmeter (0–30 V). An adjustable rheostat is used as a variable (0 to 15  $\Omega$ ) to investigate  $I_{MAX}$  and  $V_{MAX}$ . Figure 2 shows the schematic connection diagram of the experimental model setup to acquire the IR image and measure the electrical characteristics of the PV panel.

**Figure 2.** Schematic diagram of the experimental setup.

T420bx Portable thermal camera is used for the measurement of IR image. Features of the imager are 320 × 240 pixels of Focal Plane Array (FPA) uncooled microbolometer sensor with a spectral range

of 7.5–13 $\mu$ m extended. The model has a temperature range of  $-20$  to  $+350$  °C with measurement accuracy calibrated within  $\pm 2$  °C or  $\pm 2\%$  of reading. The recorded IR images are further treated in the thermal image processing method.

### 3.2. IR Image Capture Method

The IR image has been taken in the city of Tiruchengode, Tamil Nadu, southern India (Latitude:  $11.36^\circ$ , Longitude:  $77.56^\circ$ , mean elevation: 246 m), a set of data taken on July 2018 and another set on March 2017, in clear-sky conditions. This set has three instant capture, according to the time 06:00 (transient conditions—sunrise), 13:00 (steady-state conditions) and 18:00 (transient conditions—sunset) for each module. Before each capture, the climatic conditions, such as air temperature, humidity, and the average value of solar irradiance and wind velocity were accounted for the primary set-up of the thermal camera and the emissivity. From the local weather station, the wind velocity, ambient air temperature and humidity data were obtained and recorded by a temperature/humidity meter. Pyrometer (solarimeter) is used to measure solar irradiance values. The recorded climatic conditions for experimental data are tabulated in Table 3. Five faulted modules are used for investigation.

**Table 3.** The environmental conditions for the field thermographic measurements.

Date	10.07.2018			23.03.2017		
Time	6:00	13:00	18:00	6:00	13:00	18:00
Air temperature (°C)	23	34	27	25	36	28
RH-Relative humidity (%)	67	29	58	62	25	57
Wind speed (m/s)	0.8	2.8	3.7	0.6	1.2	3.8
Solar irradiance (W/m <sup>2</sup> )	34	890	182	31	742	154

According to the Indian solar resource maps, the approximate and optimum inclination angle of PV panels has to be set at  $13^\circ$  for Tiruchengode/Tamilnadu. During the performance measurements, whether the panels operate within optimum inclination or not, the aim is to reveal only the possible defects on the panels' surface that occur, so the difference between the module inclinations did not affect the results of the complete experimental procedure. The distance between the thermal imager and the PV module was kept at about 1–2 m. In order to get an accurate temperature measurement, the specific factors were also considered during the initial set-up of the imager.

## 4. TPC Algorithm

The proposed Thermal Pixel Counting TPC algorithm is described in this session. The sample PV panel photograph and its thermal image for three different conditions are shown in Figure 3. The defected PV panel may be identified from visual observation of the photograph. The yellow colour shading appeared in the EVA defect panel, surface structure distortion in the delamination defect panel. The thermal image also clearly exposes the defected regions based on the intensity of the thermal pixel values. In the initial condition, the mean and standard deviation (std) of the thermal matrix has been calculated based on the Equations (1) and (2), and its values are tabulated in Table 4. The mean and std values of the healthy and defected panels have been compared with the IEC standards. This value has a less significant difference for different conditions, and it may help to classify the severity of the defects based on safety and power loss classes as per IEC standard. Even though defects are identified based on the above-said factors, still more detailed investigations are required, due to environmental temperature conditions and thermal camera noise. The captured thermal image underwent further analysis in the TPC algorithm. The temperature pixels matrix database of the solar PV panels has been collected from FLIR tool. A developed TPC algorithm works under while and if loop conditions. It checks and counts the temperature pixels values more than that the set,  $\Delta T^\circ\text{C}$  plus minimum

temperature. The flow chart of the TPC algorithm is shown in Figure 4, while Table 5 describes the pseudocode of the TPC algorithm. The coding of the algorithm has been developed in MATLAB.

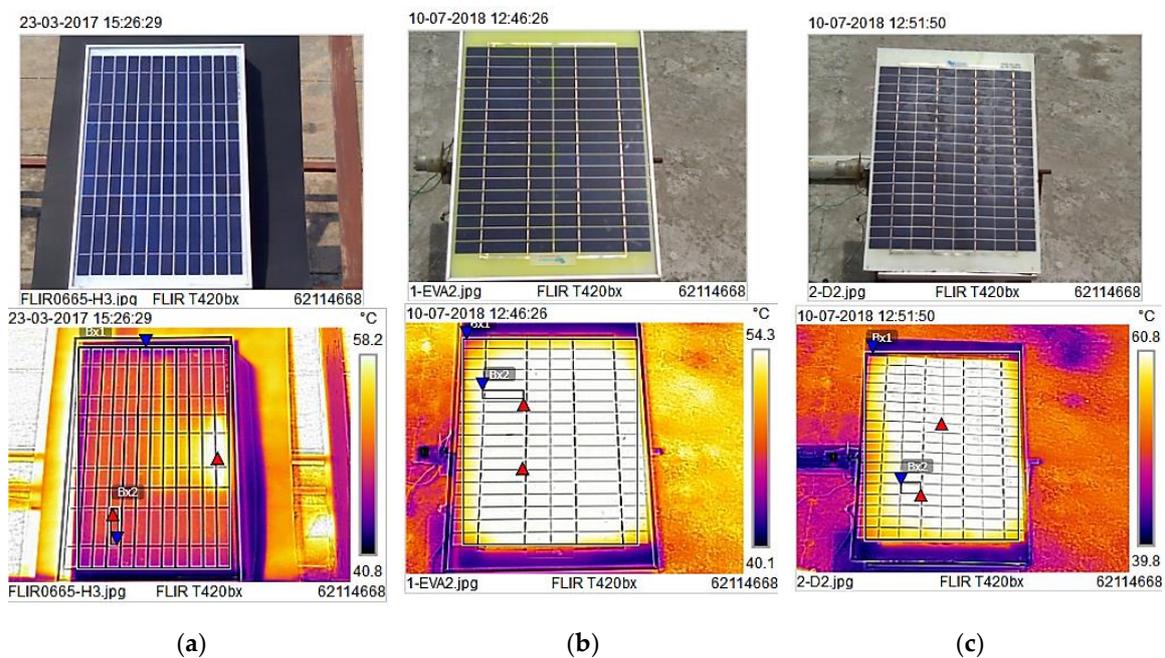
$$T_{mean} = \frac{\sum_{q=1}^{q=m*n} [T]}{m \times n} \quad (1)$$

$$T_{std} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{(m \times n) - 1} \sum_{q=1}^{q=m*n} |[T] - [T_{mean}]|} \quad (2)$$

$$T_{n\ average} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{j=m} \sum_{i=1}^{j=n} [T_{-n}]}{count\_n} \quad (3)$$

$$T_n = \frac{count\_n}{m \times n} \quad (4)$$

$$T_{nfh} = (T_n - (T_n)_{healthy}) \quad (5)$$



**Figure 3.** Photograph and thermal image of the Photovoltaic (PV) panel: (a) healthy, (b) Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA) discolouring defect, (c) delamination defect.

**Table 4.** Mean and std of the temperature matrix of the PV panel and cell.

Defects	Temperature (°C)		IEC Standard	
	Mean	Std	Safety Class	Power Loss Class
Healthy-Panel	48.5	1.24	A	A
EVA discolor-panel	55.4	1.82	B(f)	C
Delaminated-panel	60.72	3.32	B(e)	D/E
Healthy-cell	58.7	0.13		
EVA discolor-cell	55.87	0.65		
Delaminated-cell	61.92	0.76		

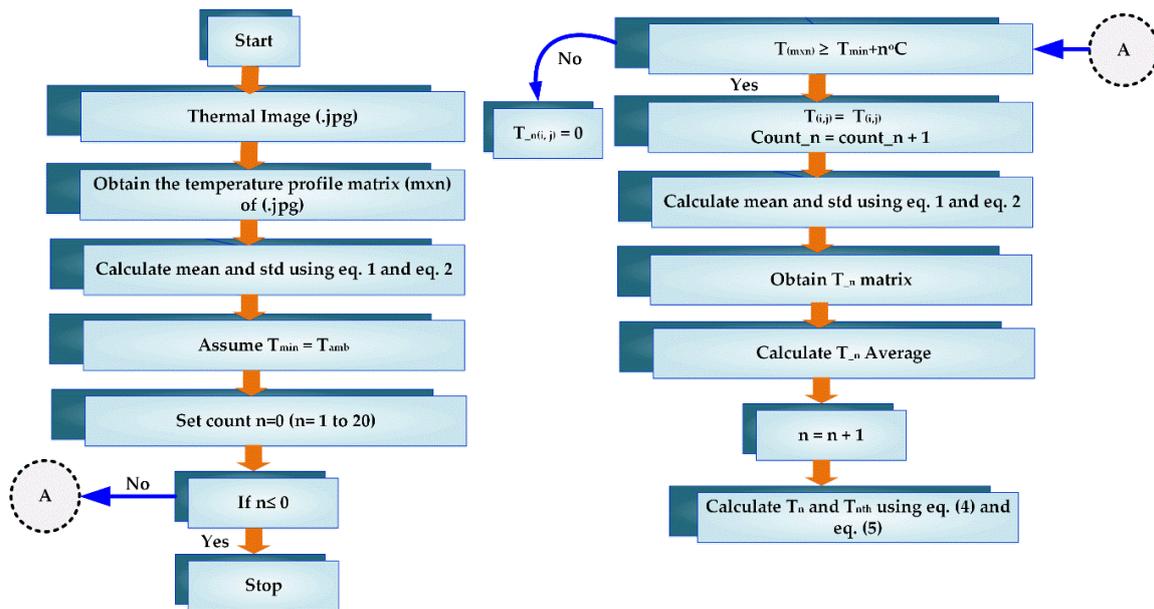


Figure 4. Flow chart for the proposed TPC algorithm.

Table 5. Pseudocode for TPC algorithm.

Pseudocode for TPC Algorithm
<b>Procedure: TPC(S)</b>
<b>Initialization:</b>
$T_{(mxn)} \leftarrow$ Thermal pixel matrix
$T_{mean} \leftarrow$ mean value of the thermal pixel matrix
$T_{std} \leftarrow$ standard deviation of the thermal pixel matrix
$T_n \leftarrow$ n degree variation of thermal pixel index value
$T_{nth} \leftarrow$ Temperature index value for defect classification
$count\_n \leftarrow 0$
$T_{min} \leftarrow T_{amp}$ , assume that minimum temperature values be the ambient temperature
<b>Initial Finding:</b>
$T_{mean} \leftarrow$ based on the Equation (1)
$T_{std} \leftarrow$ based on the Equation (2)
<b>WHILE</b>
$n \leq (Q = PV \text{ panel temperature difference}(\Delta T^\circ C))$
<b>IF</b> $T_{(mxn)} \geq T_{min} + \Delta T^\circ C$
$T_n(i,j) = T(i,j)$
$count\_n = count\_n + 1$
<b>ELSE</b>
$T_n(i,j) = 0$
$count\_n \leftarrow$ pixels matrix
<b>End IF</b>
$T_n \text{ average} \leftarrow$ calculated from Equation (3)
$Q = N + 1$
<b>go to WHILE</b>
$T_n \leftarrow$ calculated from the Equation (4)
$T_{nth} \leftarrow$ calculated from the Equation (5)
<b>End WHILE</b>
<b>End Procedure</b>

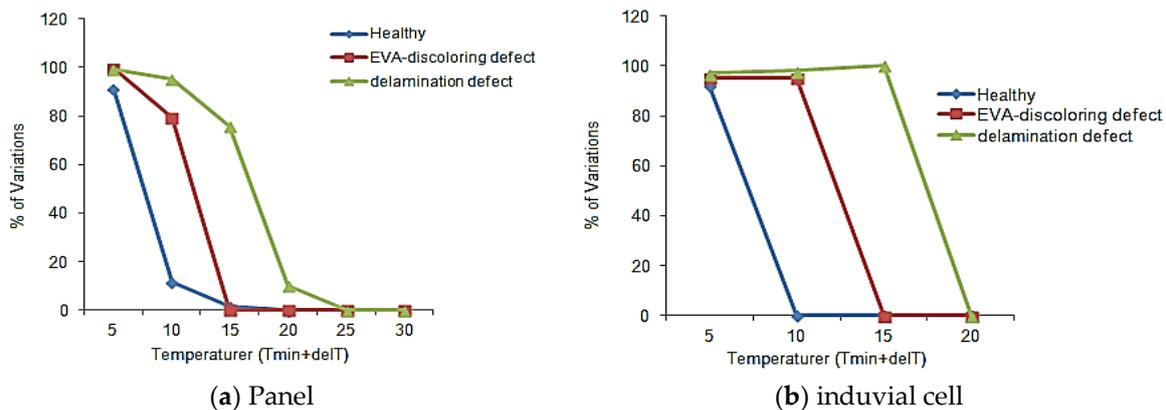
## 5. Testing Results and Discussion

The thermal image of the PV panel for different defect and healthy conditions are captured in the experimental setup described in Section 3. The captured image has been analyzed in FLIR Tools, and its thermal pixels matrix database is collected. The thermal pixels matrix of three different samples of

PV panels under three conditions such as healthy, EVA discolouring defect and delamination defect are stored in MATLAB database. A TPC algorithm has been executed by using a thermal pixel matrix stored in the MATLAB database as an input pattern. The temperature variation of the panel and individual cell under defected conditions for different  $\Delta T^\circ$  has been compared with healthy panel and cell. Table 6 shows the average temperature matrix of the panel and cell. The percentage of thermal pixels variation of the panel and cell is shown in Figure 5a,b.

**Table 6.** Average temperature matrix of the thermal image of the panel and cell.

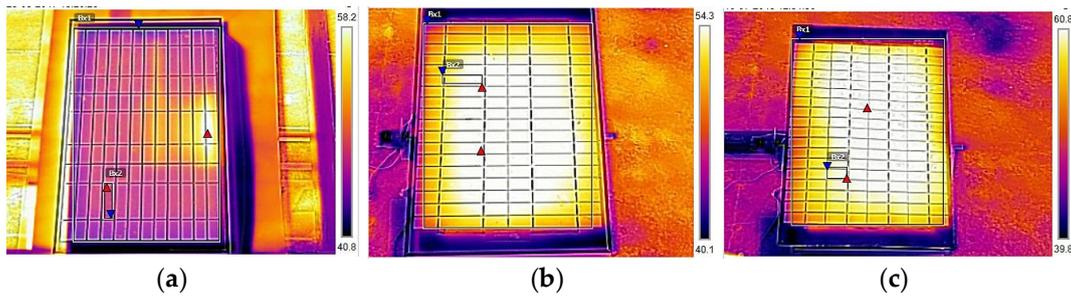
Panel	Temperature Variation ( $T_{min} + \Delta T^\circ C$ )					
	5	10	15	20	25	30
Healthy	51.7	56.3	60.3	-	-	-
EVA-discoloring defect	55.5	56.2	59.2	-	-	-
delamination defect	60.9	61.2	62.5	64.4	-	-
Cell						
Healthy	50.5	-	-	-	-	-
EVA-discoloring defect	55.9	55.9	-	-	-	-
delamination defect	61.9	61.9	61.9	-	-	-



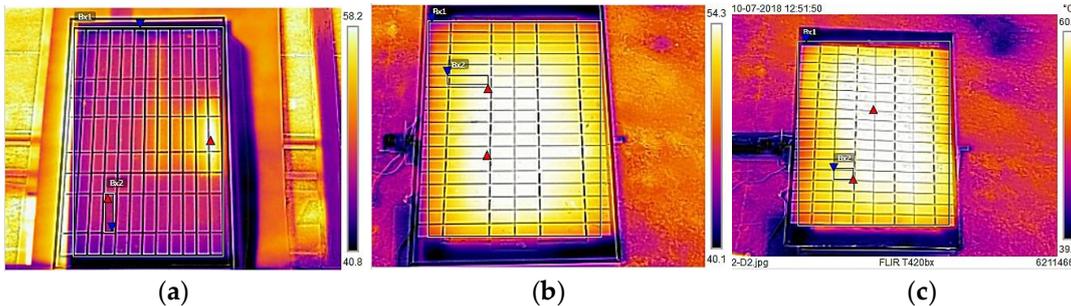
**Figure 5.** Percentage of thermal pixels variation of PV panel under different  $\Delta T^\circ C$  conditions.

The EVA discolouring defect increases the thermal pixel of the panel and cell in the band of  $T_{15} C$  compared than healthy condition. The delamination defect increases the thermal pixel of the panel and cell in the band of  $T_{20} C$ . The percentage variation of the thermal pixel gives the accurate identification and classification of the EVA discolouring and delaminated defects from the healthy panel.

Figures 6 and 7 show the modified thermal image for  $T_{min} + 15^\circ C$  and  $T_{min} + 20^\circ C$ . From the figure, the defects of the panel and cell-based on the temperature pixel intensity are observed. The performance of the proposed TPC algorithm can be verified by quantifying the results observed in the analysis. The two percentage indicators such as  $T_{15}$  and  $T_{20}$  are proposed for defect diagnosis of the PV panel, and their values are compared with the healthy panel and derived new index values  $T_{15fh}$  and  $T_{20fh}$ , and the values for three different samples are tabulated in Table 7. The  $T_{15}$  index percentage is varied significantly for delamination defect compared than EVA discolouring defect.  $T_{20}$  index percentage also is increased significantly for delamination defect. There is no such observation observed in EVA discolouring defected panels.



**Figure 6.** Modified thermal image of the PV panel under  $\Delta T^{\circ}C = 15^{\circ}C$ : (a) healthy, (b) EVA discolouring defect, (c) delamination defect.



**Figure 7.** Modified thermal image of the PV panel under  $\Delta T^{\circ}C = 20^{\circ}C$ : (a) healthy, (b) EVA discolouring defect, (c) delamination defect.

**Table 7.** Comparative analysis of defected panels with the healthy panel.

Index	Sample	EVA-Discoloring Defect	Delamination Defect
$T_{10th} = (T_{10} - T_{10\_healthy})$	1	67.80%	83.63%
	2	60.23%	82.12%
	3	61.23%	84.54%
$T_{15th} = (T_{15} - T_{15\_healthy})$	1	1.23%	74.02%
	2	2.12%	73.56%
	3	1.35%	74.24%
$T_{20th} = (T_{20} - T_{20\_healthy})$	1	0	10.24%
	2	0	11.26%
	3	0	10.46%

### 6. Fuzzy Rule-Based Classification

Fuzzy rule-based classification approach has been successfully implemented to various fault prediction and classification problems [31–33]. It is developed based on the fuzzy relation method. The rule weight plays a critical role to decide the performance of the classifier [26]. In this paper, the certainty grade based fuzzy classification system is used for classifying EVA and delamination faults of the solar PV panel. Certainty grade leads the fuzzy membership function to learn and adopt a new input pattern vector without modifying the shape of the membership function.

The Certainty Factor CF values of each fuzzy rule are modified based on Table 8.

Fuzzy IF-THEN rules for pattern classification problem can be written as

$$\text{Rule } R_j : x_1 \text{ is } A_{j1} \text{ and } \dots x_n \text{ is } A_{jn} \text{ then output } C_j, j = 1, 2, \dots, N \tag{6}$$

where

$x = \{x_1 \dots x_n\}$ —n-dimensional input vector

$A_{j1}$  to  $A_{jn}$ —Linguistic variables  
 $C_j$ —output fault class  
 $N$ —Number of Rules

**Table 8.** Certainty grade values of the fuzzy rule for a different case.

Case	CF1	CF2	CF3	CF4	CF5	CF6	CF7	CF8	CF9
Case 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Case 2	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	1
Case 3	0.6	0.8	1	1	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.2
Case 4	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.35	0.8	0.4
Case 5	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	0	0.6	1	0.7

The certainty grade factor is introduced in the Equation (6), and it can be rewritten as

$$\text{Rule } R_j : x_1 \text{ is } A_{j1} \text{ and } \dots x_n \text{ is } A_{jn} \text{ then output } C_j \text{ with } CF_j, j = 1, 2, \dots, N \tag{7}$$

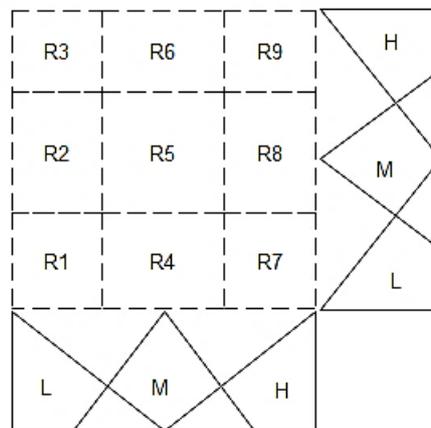
where

$CF_j$ —certainty grade of the Rule  $R_j$  ( $0 \leq CF_j \leq 1$ )

The winner rule of the new input vector  $X_p$  is defined by

$$\mu_j * (X_p) * CF_j = \max\{\mu_j(X_p) \bullet CF_j ; j = 1, 2, \dots, N\} \tag{8}$$

The  $CF$  determines the size of the decision region of each rule without modifying the membership function area. The decision region of each rule in three linguistic variable models is shown in Figure 8.



**Figure 8.** Decision region of the fuzzy rule without CF.

In this PV fault classification system, two fault classes such as delamination and EVA fault are considered. The following three IF THAN rules are considered to explain the adjustment of the classification boundaries. The membership function of the above-defined rules is shown in Figure 9a,b.

- IF  $x(T_{10th})$  is **Low(L)** THAN Class 1 (Healthy condition)
- IF  $x(T_{10th})$  is **Medium(M)** THAN Class 2 (EVA Fault)
- IF  $x(T_{10th})$  is **High(H)** THAN Class 3 (Delamination Fault)

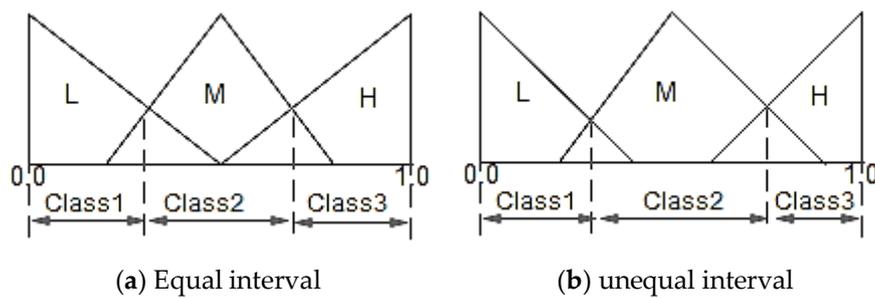


Figure 9. Membership linguistic variables boundaries without CF.

The boundaries values of the membership function are modified using *CF* values, which are shown in Figure 10. The dotted line is drawn by the product of values of *CF* and the compatibility grade values. The formula to determine the certainty grade values for *C* class classification problems is

$$CF_j = \frac{\beta_{Class C_j}(R_j) - \bar{\beta}}{\sum_{k=1}^C \beta_{Class k}(R_j)} \tag{9}$$

where *C<sub>j</sub>* is the consequent class and

$$\bar{\beta} = \frac{\sum_{k \neq C_j} \beta_{Class k}(R_j)}{(C - 1)} \tag{10}$$

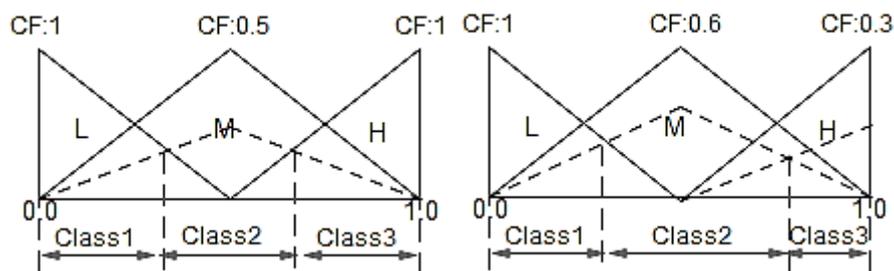


Figure 10. Membership linguistic variables boundaries with different CF.

### 7. Performance Evaluation

The PV panel fault information database is collected from 25 sample panels. It has three index attributes [diagnosis index values: *T*<sub>10</sub>, *T*<sub>15</sub>, *T*<sub>20</sub>] for three different classes such as Healthy condition, EVA fault and delamination fault. The real number values are normalized into the unit interval of (0,1). In this work, three numbers of triangular fuzzy membership functions are used with total possible IF-THAN fuzzy rules ( $3^3 = 27$ ). The *CF* value of each fuzzy rule was determined by the procedure described in the above section. The confusion matrix evaluates the classification performance.

The comparative analysis of the different performance classifier is given in Table 9. The fuzzy classifier with *CF* gives better classification accuracy compared with other methods due to its learning ability of the new input pattern.

Table 9. PV panels classification test results.

Method	TP	FN	FP	TN	% of Accuracy	% of Sensitivity
Fuzzy classifier	22	03	21	04	86	88
Fuzzy classifier with CF	24	01	23	02	94	96
Neural Network	20	05	21	04	82	80

## 8. Conclusions

The defects in the solar PV panels lead to power loss and safety issues. The detecting and classifying the progressive defects such as EVA-discoloring and delamination through thermal imaging technique is challenging one due to atmospheric temperature variations and camera noise. In this paper proposed the TPC algorithm to detect the EVA discolouring and delamination defects. In this work, we proposed  $T_{15}$  and  $T_{20}$  temperature index values that will highlight the temperature pixel distribution at  $\Delta T^{\circ}\text{C}$  equal to  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . As per IEC standard, the panel surface temperature higher than above said degree leads to power loss and safety issues. These index values are compared with healthy panel for validating the proposed algorithm efficiency. The classification process is automated with the help of the proposed fuzzy classifier. The classification boundaries are adjusted by modifying the certainty grade of each fuzzy IF-THEN rule without changing the membership function parameter values. The fuzzy classifier with CF gives better classification accuracy compared to other methods and average classification accuracy increased by 10%.

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## Nomenclatures

$T(m*n)$	Thermal pixel matrix
$T_{\text{mean}}$	Mean value of the thermal pixel matrix
$T_{\text{std}}$	The standard deviation of the thermal pixel matrix
$T_n$	n degree variation of the thermal pixel index value
$T_{\text{nth}}$	Temperature index value for defect classification
$N$	Temperature degree variation
$Q$	Number of iteration per degree
$\Delta T^{\circ}\text{C}$	The small variation in temperature
$V_{\text{oc}}$	Open circuit voltage
$V_{\text{mpp}}$	Rated voltage
$I_{\text{SC}}$	Short circuit current
$V_{\text{MAX}}$	Maximum voltage
$I_{\text{MAX}}$	Maximum current
$P_{\text{MAX}}$	Maximum power
$X$	Input variables vector
$N$	Number of rules
$C_j$	$j^{\text{th}}$ output fault class
$CF_j$	$j^{\text{th}}$ certainty grade
$\mu_j$	$j^{\text{th}}$ membership function
$X_p$	Input variable
$B$	Optimal boundary
$R_j$	$j^{\text{th}}$ rule
$A_j$	$j^{\text{th}}$ Fuzzy variable

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