

DISA SEMINAR

THEORY AND APPLICATIONS OF *FUZZY SETS AND SYSTEMS*: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

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In 1965, Lotfi Zadeh, a professor of electrical engineering with the University of California at Berkeley, published the first papers on his new theory of Fuzzy Sets and Systems.

Since the 1980s, this mathematical theory of “un-sharp amounts” has been applied with great success in many different fields.

Thanks to extensive advertising campaigns for fuzzy-controlled household appliances and to their prominent presence in the media, first in Japan and then in other countries, the word “fuzzy” has also become very well-known among non-scientists. On the other hand, the story of how Fuzzy Set Theory and its earliest applications originated have remained largely unknown.

In this lecture, the history of the theory of Fuzzy Sets and Systems and the ways it was first used are incorporated into the history of 20th century science and technology. Influences from system theory and cybernetics stemming from the earliest part of the 20th century are considered alongside those of communication and control theory from mid-century.