

## Integrated decision making model for urban disaster management: A multi-objective genetic algorithm approach

V. Esmaili and F. Barzinpour\*

*Department of Industrial Engineering, Iran University of Science and Technology, Tehran, Iran*

**CHRONICLE**

**ABSTRACT**

*Article history:*

Received June 2 2013  
Received in revised format  
August 15 2013  
Accepted August 15 2013  
Available online  
August 31 2013

*Keywords:*

*Urban disaster management*  
*Relief chain management*  
*Damage estimation*  
*Location and distribution model*  
*Multi-objective*  
*Hybrid Meta-heuristic approach*

In recent decades, there has been an extensive improvement in technology and knowledge; hence, human societies have started to fortify their urban environment against the natural disasters in order to diminish the context of vulnerability. Local administrators as well as government officials are thinking about new options for disaster management programs within their territories. Planning to set up local disaster management facilities and stock pre-positioning of relief items can keep an urban area prepared for a natural disaster. In this paper, based on a real-world case study for a municipal district in Tehran, a multi-objective mathematical model is developed for the location-distribution problem. The proposed model considers the role of demand in an urban area, which might be affected by neighbor wards. Integrating decision-making process for a disaster helps to improve a better relief operation during response phase of disaster management cycle. In the proposed approach, a proactive damage estimation method is used to estimate demands for the district based on worst-case scenario of earthquake in Tehran. Since such model is designed for an entire urban district, it is considered to be a large-scale mixed integer problem and hence, a genetic algorithm is developed to solve the model.

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### 1. Introduction

Natural disasters are outcomes of environmental forces, which endanger urban societies all around the world. Despite the progresses made in science and technological aspect of life, human has been unable to protect his life from the treats of these events, completely. Recent casualties all around the world, even in the developed countries, have provided enough evidences that we are vulnerable to calamities created by nature and there is still a necessity to study preventive and responding methods for these casualties. Whilst some of these disasters such as hurricanes and Tsunami are predictable, others might happen quite out of the blue, like earthquakes and landslides. Recent fatal earthquakes in Italy, Japan, and Haiti, floods in Pakistan, hurricanes and Tsunamis have left thousands of casualties, billions of dollars in terms of damages in assets and lots of homelessness.

\* Corresponding author. Tel: +98-21-7724-0000  
E-mail: barzinpourf@gmail.com (F. Barzinpour)

Emergencies and disasters pose extraordinary demands on the logistical and organizational capabilities of an affected region. Providing sufficient relief items and equipment is considered as not only a decision problem but also managing these supplies is another important issue. Deliveries may be accumulating at some echelons of relief chains while lack of emergency supplies might happen at the final customers' level i.e. the people of the affected regions. Other problems in transportation and distribution of relief supplies as well as inappropriate donation and storage of undesirable goods might occur during the response period (De Ville De Goyet, 2001). So the issue of using Operations Research in disaster management programs in recent decades has been raised (Ergun et al., 2009) to optimize efforts in this area of humanitarian activities.

Disasters are created either naturally or by human being and they have sudden onsets. Disasters may create enormous catastrophes around the world and relief chain management has emerged as an important and global matter (Sheu, 2007). In order to attain an effective and efficient response, it is necessary to plan and to operate elements from an appropriate relief chain, but only in recent years, humanitarian organizations have paid special attention on these issues (Van Wassenhove, 2006). Providing quick relief to minimize casualties and sufferings people is the primary objective of humanitarian disaster response (Beamon & Kotleba, 2006a).

In many studies and researches, a four-stage disaster management cycle with mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery phases has been developed and proposed in order to manage strategic, tactical and operational decisions about a certain catastrophic event. Earthquake is one of the major threats in urban regions, especially near or on the natural faults among different plates, which might cause significant amount of financial losses and casualties. Hence, national and local authorities have to think about solutions in order to minimize the consequences of such disasters. Usually, such considerations are combination of strategic and tactical decisions, which would be provided during preparation phase and include emergency shelters and their locations, inventory warehouses for relief items, evacuation routes for people and emergency vehicles and so on. So, as a local authority point of view, the problem of locating regional or local emergency bases and warehouses and the amount of relief items that must be gathered and distributed in the region should be noticed as an important decision problem.

In this paper, a multi-objective mathematical modeling problem is developed to locate local emergency management bases and to allocate affected people to them. Since each hypothetical region cannot be considered without the effect of neighbor areas and their unidentified demand on the response activities of local authorities, a mechanism for considering the effects of neighbors has been provided for the mathematical model. The proposed approach uses proactive damage estimation information of an urban region for earthquake as an input for a location-distribution model. The distribution of relief supplies for emergency bases and coverage of the demand points, both inside the district and neighbors outside the boundaries of the urban areas are decisions made using this model. In order to examine the application of the proposed model for a real-world problem, necessary data is gathered from a municipal district in Tehran and computational results are shown for this case study.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 describes a brief literature review on this topic. Section 3 reviews the problem description. Mathematical model and solution procedure are described at Sections 4 and 5 and computational results are presented at Section 6. The rest of the paper is formed of conclusions and references which are regarded in the following sections

## **2. Literature review**

First studies in the literature of emergency or disaster management models are based on traditional set covering problems, which have been applied to locate optimized serving units in a geographical area (Daskin, 1995). Gradually, researchers began to use distribution and logistics modeling techniques for disaster management problems. Similarly, many researchers have been studying transportation and distribution modeling problems. Rathi et al. (1992) developed three linear models to allocate a limited

number of transportation vehicles to generate the minimum penalty of inefficiency for distribution services. Barbarosoglu et al. (2001) developed a mathematical model for a tactical-operational decision problem based on helicopter mission planning for relief operations. The interactions among these decisions and conflicts are mirrored in different objective functions, which are used in a two-level hierarchical model. Ozdamar et al. (2004) studied the vehicle routing problem for distribution of relief items, Beamon and Kotleba (2006b) adopted an inventory control model for food demand in disasters. Sheu (2007) developed a hybrid fuzzy model for a logistics distribution problem in emergency events to respond to demands in a certain period. Tzeng et al. (2007) developed a multi-objective supply distribution model for to devastated areas.

Doerner and Hartl (2008) investigated different transportation problems in health care logistics and disaster relief including warehouse locations, inventory and vehicle routing problems and so on with special focus on Austrian situation. Balcik and Beamon (2008) considered the facility location problem in order to respond to quick onset disasters. Mete and Zabinsky (2009) provided stochastic optimization approach for storage and distribution of medical. Ortuno et al. (2010) developed a lexicography goal programming model for supply distribution. Ng and Waller (2010) developed an evacuation route planning model to determine the relationship between uncertain demand and supply variations. Van Duin et al. (2010) described the conditions in which the city municipality under their study might need to use urban consolidation centers. Rosenthal et al. (2011) proposed a network problem with a single source for disaster relief problem. Qin et al. (2012) presented a single-period resource model for solving optimal order quantity in order to recover resources of the response equipment. Bretschneider and Kimms (2011) also developed a mixed-integer evacuation model to minimize evacuation time of a traffic routing in an area considering a safe evacuation process using network modeling approach. Chales and Lauras (2011) developed a quantitative modeling approach and a business process modeling approach in order to understand and to analyze humanitarian supply chains. Chakravarty (2011) considered a hybrid reactive proactive response system based on a threshold value for disaster intensity, which might affect costs and capacities in contingent planning.

Last mile distribution is the final stage of a humanitarian relief chain; it refers to delivery of relief supplies from local distribution centers to beneficiaries affected by disasters (Balcik et al., 2008). Knott (1987) developed a linear model for Last Mile Distribution problem in order to minimize the total transportation costs or to maximize the delivered food. Balcik et al. (2008) created a last mile distribution system based on vehicles to allocate relief items of local distributors to demand points. The distribution of goods by vehicles and selection of routes based on a schedule for vehicles in a specific planning horizon is their main concern. Rath and Gutjahr (2011) considered an international aid problem, which consists of location-allocation and routing model after a natural disaster to establish warehouses to provide relief commodities. Tricoire et al. (2011) formulated a bi-objective covering model with stochastic demand for a two-stage humanitarian logistics problem. Rottkemper et al. (2011) developed a planning method to optimize supply chain operations in humanitarian operations after occurrence of a sudden disaster. They considered inventory relocating problem in an uncertain demand situation after a disruption. Bozorgi-Amiri et al. (2011a, 2011b) investigated uncertainty in many parameters of a relief operation like demand, supply and operational costs associated with it. Location of relief centers and allocation of affected area to these centers can be determined under situation described in their model. Ben-Tal et al. (2011) developed a robust logistic planning method with uncertain demand for evacuation traffic flow and dynamic emergency response problems. Ozdamar and Demir (2012) provided a network flow model in coordinate vehicle routing for evacuation and delivery activities in response phase of a disaster. Since they used both distribution and evacuation, last mile delivery and evacuation are considered in their hierarchical optimization problem. Yazdian and Shahanaghi (2011) presented a multi-objective possibilistic programming approach for locating distribution centers and allocating customers' demands in supply chains.

The applications of operations research and mathematical modeling in the area of humanitarian relief have been improved recently by applying logistics and supply chain concepts. To the best of our knowledge, there are few studies with decision integrity for both before and after a disaster occurs mirrored as preparation and response phases for disaster management cycle. On the other hand, uncertainty of some parameters in real-world problems, which might not be controllable or knowledgeable by local or regional authorities, is another important issue, which affects demand predictions and relief operations significantly (Roghalian & Foroughi, 2010).

This research tries to formulate a new mathematical model for the integration of preparation and response phases of disaster management cycle. Determining the location of local emergency bases and their inventory level and allocating affected areas to these bases are considered as the main problems, which have been considered in the proposed model. In order to test the applicability of the mathematical model, a real-world urban district of Tehran is considered. For a certain scenario of earthquake, proactive damages has been estimated for the urban area while due to lack of knowledge about neighbor areas, uncertain demands of outside wards have been regarded as an affecting parameter for the model. For large-scale real-world problems, the proposed mixed-integer model cannot be solved through conventional optimization algorithms; hence, a genetic algorithm is designed as a solution approach to the proposed model. This meta-heuristic solution is supposed to establish a near optimum answer to the following terms:

- Number and location of emergency bases,
- Coverage of urban wards inside district and exterior area,
- Amount of storage for relief items in each emergency base and distribution of these goods within urban district and exterior areas.

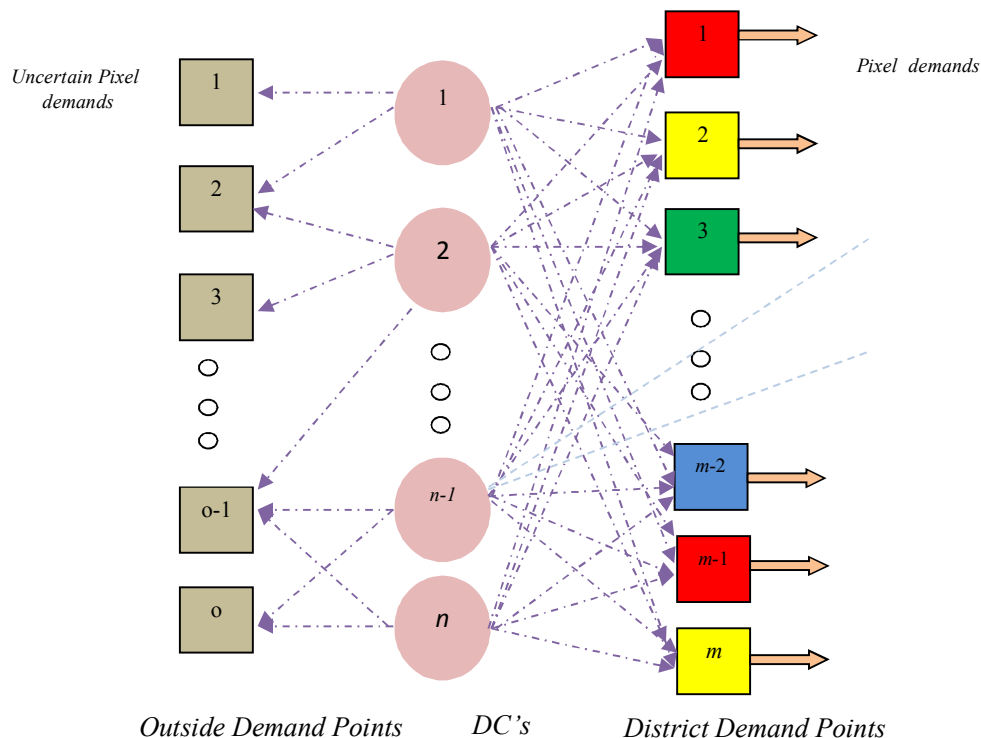
### **3. Problem description**

Humanitarian supply chain management or relief chain management is a scientific approach to deliver the proper amount of relief items in the right places and at the right time. In disaster relief operations, logistics are required to implement response operations and to ensure their timeliness and efficiency. Distribution of the equipment and goods of humanitarian relief, the evacuation of the injured or the resettlement of those directly affected by the disaster requires a logistics system to maximize effectiveness (De Ville de Goyet, 2001). Storage and distribution of relief items from bases and warehouses located in an urban area is a significant research topic to maximize or, at least, to improve efficiency and effectiveness of efforts in the area of humanitarian relief chain management. Literature of supply chain management indicates that using location-allocation/distribution models in commercial area can optimize many strategic, tactical or operational decisions but there is still a lack of sufficient models in the literature of relief chains. To the best of our knowledge in this area, although there have been some researches on proactive damage estimation results for natural disasters like earthquakes, there is no connection between these kinds of studies and mathematical models, which are used for relief operations in urban districts.

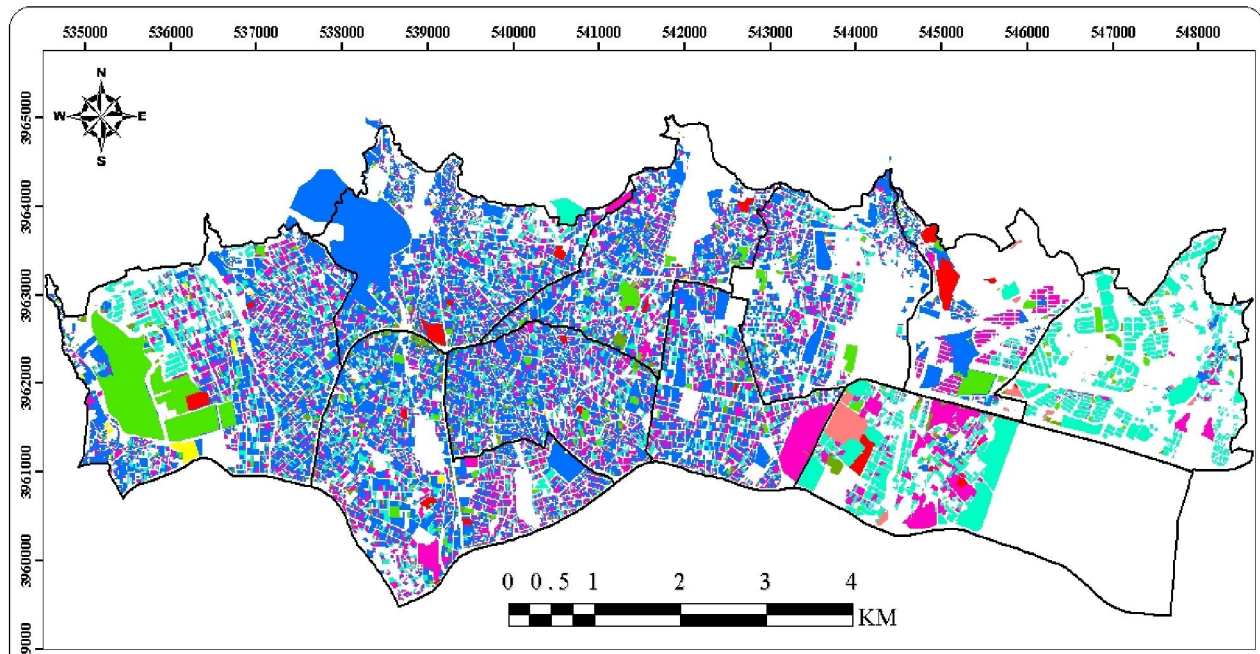
In this paper, urban disaster management for a municipal district of Tehran City is considered. This district consists of 10 sub-regional areas and more than 350000 inhabitants. The main probable natural disaster in Tehran is earthquake and its consequences create major faults inside or near Tehran. Damage caused by a hypothetical earthquake has been estimated via an international software called RADIUS, which stands for Risk Assessment tool for Diagnosis of Urban Areas against Seismic Disaster. This earthquake-damage-estimation software has been developed as an international program to give a better understanding of the seismic vulnerability of cities. Total population and ward areas, building type distribution in each ward, a scenario for earthquake, ground conditions and soil types and lifeline facilities beside some modifiable damage estimation functions gives an estimation of damages for each area. In order to use this software, the whole district has been divided into equal blocks (or

pixels) and information requirements such as each block population or the number of buildings and width of streets and other factors has been imported to software using geographic information system (GIS). Damage estimation functions of the software have been modified based on historical results of earthquake in the urban areas of Iran. The results of the software demonstrated the worst-case scenario of an earthquake with magnitude of 7.2 in scale of Richter at midnight by a fault located in north of Tehran. A two-echelon relief chain location-allocation distribution model is shown in Fig. 1. The relief chain in this figure consists of local bases as distribution centers, which should be located in urban pixels and regional and non-regional wards, which form the demand pixels or blocks. They are equal rectangular areas considered as unified neighborhoods for damage estimation software. Regional pixels have been considered in the damage estimation process and demand characteristics have been identified for them. Non-regional pixels shown on the left of the figure are considered for areas outside the urban district and due to lack of information about them, their demands and damage estimation results are unknown.

Demands for regional and sub-regional wards depend on their population and damage severity estimated for each pixel. Based on the damage estimation for the urban area, there are four kinds of demand pixels which are sorted by a range of four colors; Red, yellow, green and blue. Red color shows the most vulnerable urban areas to earthquake and pixels distinguished with blue color show safest wards in the whole district. The main issue for this problem is to determine the number of local bases and their locations in the whole district. These bases are used to cover demand pixels, although this operation is affected by non-urban pixels. Therefore, there is a kind of trade-off between coverage of the whole urban area and partial coverage of the outside demands. Outside demand can also be interpreted as unknown demands from a neighbor area, which is not under the same municipal authority but cannot be ignored completely due to humanitarian goals of a relief operation. Therefore, percent of coverage for these pixels can be considered as a policy for disaster management authorities in the municipal organizations. Since all pixels are regarded as discrete units, the location problem is considered in a discrete space and center of each pixel would represent its characteristics in the model. Fig. 2 shows a picture of this district.



**Fig. 1.** Relief chain configuration



**Fig. 2.** The municipal district used for case study divided into 10 sub-regional areas

#### 4. Mathematical modeling

In this section, based on pro-active damage estimation results for a hypothetical earthquake in an urban area, a location-distribution mathematical model is developed considering the effect of neighboring areas on relief demand.

##### 4.1 Assumptions

1. Damage estimation results are provided in preparation phase using pro-active methods and GIS data for the urban region.
2. Since adjacent areas are out of the municipal authority, their relief demand is estimated based on probabilistic parameters.
3. Relief distribution items considered in this model consists of food and water, medical and hygienic items, primary rescue equipment and blanket and cloths. These items are only regular daily commodities and do not need any special holding equipment.
4. Since the whole district is divided into 10 municipal sub-regions, it is assumed that a base located in a block can only serve other blocks in its own sub-region. This assumption helps to ignore unnecessary travels between sub-regions after an urban disaster and it also helps people to stay in a reasonable distance from their own residencies.

##### 4.2 Indices

$l = 1, 2 \dots L$  (the whole district should be divided to a defined number of municipal sub-regions),

$m = 1, 2 \dots M$  (commodities and equipment that should be stored in emergency management bases can be defined by this index),

$i = 1, 2 \dots I, j = 1, 2 \dots J$  (coordinates  $(i, j)$  show blocks location in the district),

$k = 1, 2 \dots K$  (damage severity priority for the region shown by colors: Red, yellow, Green, Blue...),

$o = 1, 2 \dots O$  (neighboring areas outside urban region are divided into  $O$  pixels)

### 4.3 Parameters

$a_{k,(i,j)}^{damage}$	If a pixel with coordinates $(i, j)$ belongs to level $k$ of damage severity, this equals one; zero, otherwise,
$a_{l,(i,j)}^{region}$	If a pixel with coordinates $(i, j)$ belongs to region $l$ , this equals one and zero, otherwise,
$t_{l,(i,j),(i',j')}$	If a facility in $(i, j) \in l$ is allowed to serve a demand point $(i', j')$ , this equals one; otherwise this equals zero.

In other words, each base can serve demand points in its own municipal section:

$$t_{l,(i,j),(i',j')} = a_{l,(i',j')}^{region} \cdot a_{l,(i,j)}^{region} \quad ; \forall l, (i, j) \in l, (i', j') \in l, \quad (1)$$

$f_{(i,j)}$	Average set-up cost for facility at coordinates $(i, j)$ ,
$D_{(i,j),(i',j')}$	Average distance between coordinates $(i, j)$ and $(i', j')$ ,
$tc_m$	Average transportation cost of equipment $m$ in distance unit,
$Pen_{m,(i,j)}$	Average Penalty cost for equipment type $m$ shortage at $(i, j)$ ,
$v_m$	Spatial volume of equipment type $m$ ,
$\bar{Q}$	Maximum storage space of facility,
$hold_{m,(i,j)}$	Average maintenance cost for equipment type $m$ shortage at $(i, j)$ ,
$Pop_{(i,j)}$	People population at coordinates $(i, j)$ ,
$OutCost_{m,(i,j),o}$	Average cost of meeting demand for commodity type $m$ of an outside pixel $o$ from a facility located at coordinates $(i, j)$ ,
$Dout_{m,o}$	Demand for equipment type $m$ from an adjacent pixel $o$ outside urban region,
$Dem_{m,k}$	Demand for equipment type $m$ at level $k$ of damage severity,
$DEQ_{m,(i,j)}$	Demand for equipment type $m$ of damage severity in coordinates $(i, j)$ ,

In other words:

$$DEQ_{m,(i,j)} = Pop_{(i,j)} \cdot \left( \sum_k a_{k,(i,j)}^{damage} \cdot Dem_{m,k} \right) ; \forall (i, j), m \quad (2)$$

### 4.4. Decision variables

$Z_{(i,j)}$	If population of coordinates $(i, j)$ is covered by a facility, this equals one; otherwise this equals zero.
$Y_{(i,j)}$	If a facility is located at coordinates $(i, j)$ , this equals one; zero, otherwise.
$X_{m,(i,j),(i',j')}$	Amount of equipment type $m$ transported from facility at coordinates $(i, j)$ to demand point at coordinates $(i', j')$ ,
$X_{m,(i,j),o}$	Amount of equipment type $m$ transported from facility at coordinates $(i, j)$ to outside pixel $o$ ,
$S_{m,(i,j)}$	Amount of equipment type $m$ stored in a facility at coordinates $(i, j)$ ,
$\gamma_{m,(i,j)}$	Amount of equipment type $m$ shortage at demand point $(i', j')$ ,
$OutZ_o$	If outside pixel $o$ is covered by a facility, this equals one; otherwise this equals zero,
$\alpha_o$	Percentage of demand coverage for an outside pixel.

### 4.5 Primary model

$$Max f_1(x) = \sum_{(i,j)} (Pop_{(i,j)} \cdot Z_{(i,j)}) \quad (3)$$

$$Min f_2(x) = \sum_{m,(i,j),(i',j')} tc_m \cdot D_{(i,j),(i',j')} \cdot X_{m,(i,j),(i',j')} + \sum_{m,(i,j),o} OutCost_{m,(i,j),o} X_{m,(i,j),o} \\ + \sum_{m,(i,j)} ((hold_{m,(i,j)} \cdot S_{m,(i,j)}) + (Pen_{m,(i,j)} \cdot \gamma_{m,(i,j)})) + \sum_{(i,j)} f_{(i,j)} \cdot Y_{(i,j)} \quad (4)$$

$$max f_3(x) = \sum_o \alpha_o \quad (5)$$

subject to

$$Z_{(i',j')} \leq \sum_{(i,j) \in l} t_{l,(i,j),(i',j')} \cdot Y_{(i,j)} ; \forall l ; \forall (i',j') \in l \quad (6)$$

$$\sum_{(i',j')} t_{l,(i,j),(i',j')} \cdot X_{m,(i,j),(i',j')} + \sum_o X_{m,(i,j),o} \leq S_{m,(i,j)} ; \forall l, m, (i,j) \in l \quad (7)$$

$$\sum_o X_{m,(i,j),o} = \text{Dout}_o \cdot \alpha_o ; \forall o \quad (8)$$

$$\alpha_o \leq \text{OutZ}_o \quad (9)$$

$$M \cdot \alpha_o \geq \text{OutZ}_o \quad (10)$$

$$\sum_{m,o} X_{m,(i,j),o} \leq M \cdot Y_{(i,j)} ; \forall (i,j) \quad (11)$$

$$\sum_{m,(i',j')} X_{m,(i,j),(i',j')} \leq M \cdot Y_{(i,j)} ; \forall (i,j) \quad (12)$$

$$\sum_{(i,j)} X_{m,(i,j),(i',j')} = \sum_k \text{DEQ}_{m,(i',j')} \cdot Z_{(i',j')} ; \forall (i',j'), m \quad (13)$$

$$\sum_m S_{m,(i,j)} \cdot v_m \leq \bar{Q} \cdot Y_{(i,j)} ; \forall (i,j) \quad (14)$$

$$Y_{m,(i',j')} = \text{DEQ}_{m,(i',j')} - \sum_{(i,j)} t_{l,(i,j),(i',j')} \cdot X_{m,(i,j),(i',j')} ; \forall (i',j') \quad (15)$$

$$Y_{m,(i,j)}, X_{m,(i,j),(i',j')}, S_{m,(i,j)}, \alpha_o \geq 0, X_{m,(i,j),o} ; \forall (i,j), (i',j'), m, o \quad (16)$$

$$Y_{(i,j)}, Z_{(i,j)}, \text{OutZ}_o = 0 \text{ Or } 1 ; \forall (i,j) \quad (17)$$

First objective function ( $f_1(x)$ ) maximizes the coverage of pixels inside the municipal region. Second objective function ( $f_2(x)$ ) is related to costs associated to facility set-up and costs associated to tactical and operational level such as transportation, shortage and inventory holding. The third objective function ( $f_3(x)$ ) tries to maximize the percentage of coverage for pixels outside the municipal region.

First constraint in this shown by Eq. (6) is the maximal covering constraint used to ensure whether a facility is installed at  $(i,j) \in l$  coordinates; it can cover the population of a demand point at  $(i',j') \in l$ . Eq. (7) defines that the total amount of commodities assigned from a facility to demand pixels cannot exceed the amount of goods stored in its warehouse. Eq. (8) describes the amount of relief items assigned to pixels outside the municipal region. Eq. (9) and Eq. (10) show the relationships between two variable, i.e. coverage percentage for outside pixels ( $\alpha$ ) and the binary variable related to its coverage (i.e. if a pixel is covered, it might receive enough supplies to cover  $\alpha$  percent of its population). Next four constraints are almost associated with relationship between binary and continuous variables for the proposed model. Eq. (11) and Eq. (12) bind the model to assign goods to demand pixels only from installed bases. Eq. (13) defines that quantity of relief items allocated to a demand pixel equals its demand if it is supposed to be covered. Eq. (14) defines the volumetric limit for storage areas in each base. Finally, Eq. (15) describes the amount of shortage as the difference between demand and supply for each facility.

## 5. Solution approach

Solving the proposed model for a large-scale problem in the simplest form, without considering multi-objective functions and other constraints that are added to the original problem because of the relief chain condition, is identical to solving a maximal covering problem (Eq. (3) & Eq. (6)) which is NP-hard (Jia et al., 2007). Conventional optimization algorithms cannot provide optimized solution to this model in a reasonable amount of time. Therefore, this is the reason that using heuristic and meta-heuristic algorithms becomes important to provide good-quality solutions for the problem. Among meta-heuristic methods, genetic algorithm (GA) is one of the most popular methodologies, because of



its applicability and quality of solutions and therefore, it is used to a wide range of location and set covering problems.

In order to use genetic algorithm as a solution approach for the proposed model, distinctiveness of the model must be identified and necessary modifications must be determined for GA's operators and representations like chromosomes, fitness function, population and parental selection, crossover and mutation operators and survival rules. The basic components of the solution approach are described in the following sub-sections.

### 5.1 Representation of chromosomes

In order to start initial steps of GA algorithm, representation of each solution, known as a member of population, is needed to be accomplished using proper chromosomes and genes in Genotype space. Each of these chromosomes can represent a solution for the main problem. Therefore, it can be compared with other fitness function used for the proposed model. Best fitted of each population usually has better chance of survival through the next generation and even there is usually more chance for them to be chosen as parents for the next generation. To encode our mixed-integer location-distribution problem to a genotype space, each chromosome in the proposed GA should represent a solution, which is combined of all decision variables for the mathematical model. For each decision variable, a relative matrix is considered and an initial solution is formed by these matrixes.

### 5.2 Fitness function

According to Coello et al. (2007) multi-objective evolutionary algorithms (MOEAs) is capable of encoding individual solutions in various representations, chromosome data structures, as well as directly computing related objective values. They also have some robust advantage compared with traditional multi-objective search techniques. MOEA approaches attempt to detect acceptable but approximate Pareto fronts and Pareto optimal solutions within limited computational time.

In our solution procedure, fitness function is designed as a barrier function, containing both normalized values of objective functions as well as quantities that have been regarded as penalties for violating each constraint. This fitness function (or barrier function) can be shown by Eq. (18) and Eq. (19):

$$Fitness = w_1 \left( \frac{f_1}{f_1^*} \right) - w_2 \left( \frac{f_2^*}{f_2} \right) + w_3 \left( \frac{f_3}{f_3^*} \right) - w_4 \cdot B(x), \quad (18)$$

where  $B(x)$  is a conventional Barrier function that can be described by Eq. (19) and  $w_1$  to  $w_4$  are weighting factors for each normalized term in the fitness function.

$$B(x) = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{b_i - g_i(x)} + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{x_j} \quad (19)$$

$$X_{m,(i,j),(i',j')}: \quad X_{2,(i,j),(1,1)} = 1.0e + 003 \times \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 2.2152 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 2.2152 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$X_{m,(i,j),o}: \quad X_{m,(1,1),7} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 221.5911 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 136.5001 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 73.3410 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 46.9773 & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

**Table 1**  
Sample representation matrix for coverage of exterior pixels

OutZ	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	
	Z								$\alpha$	Y				
0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	
1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0.52	0	0	0	0	
0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	
0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0.46	0	0	0	1	
0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	
0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	
0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0.84	0	0	0	1	
0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	
0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0.29	0	0	1	0	
0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.33	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

### 5.3 Initial population

The first generation is created by initializing the population of chromosomes, randomly. For each binary variable, a randomly 0-1 array is developed and based on these binary arrays, array for continuous variables acquire their values in order to have the least violating constraints. This process continues until the number of solutions reaches the population size for the algorithm. Then, fitness function is determined for each chromosome. Containing both good and diverse chromosomes in the initial population is an important factor for computational performance of genetic algorithm. Therefore, it is important to have some chromosomes with good fitness functions in the initial population.

### 5.4 Genetic operators

Parental selection is a mechanism to move from one generation of solutions to another one. There is always a chance that GA selects the most fitted solution chromosomes as a parent, but there should also be some diverse solutions in order to avoid pre-mature convergence to the final answer. Once parents are selected using their fitness and randomness, appropriate methods should be applied to generate new population.

In order to have a proper strategy for generating both diverse set of solutions and near optimal solutions, it is important to use GA's operators, properly. Recombination (crossover) and mutation are two operators used for the proposed solution approach, each with a probability of occurrence.

In our solution approach, the traditional crossover technique is used, randomly, sets cut-points in a pair of chromosomes and then exchanges the genes in two chromosomes. So, by merging two parent chromosomes, two legal offspring chromosomes can be generated. Mutation is less probable to happen and is aimed at generating only one offspring from a single parent. A part of simulated annealing process is chosen as mutation strategy for a single chromosome, i.e. a cooling mechanism occurs for a chromosome using Boltzmann distribution until it gets to an equilibrium state. The result is a more intensified solution with a chance of better fitness and is accepted as an offspring for its parent. Fig. 3 shows the cooling process for the mutation operator.

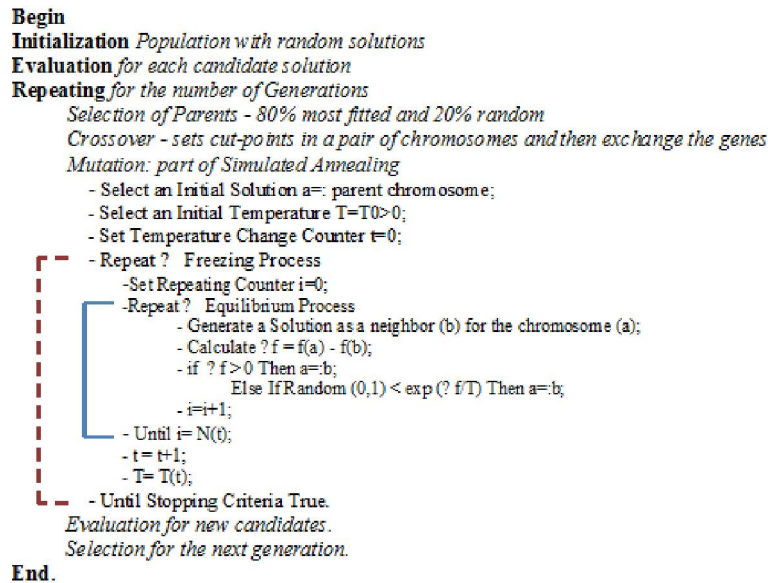


Fig. 3. Mutation operator as a part of SA algorithm adopted from (Coello et al., 2007)

### 5.5 Termination Condition

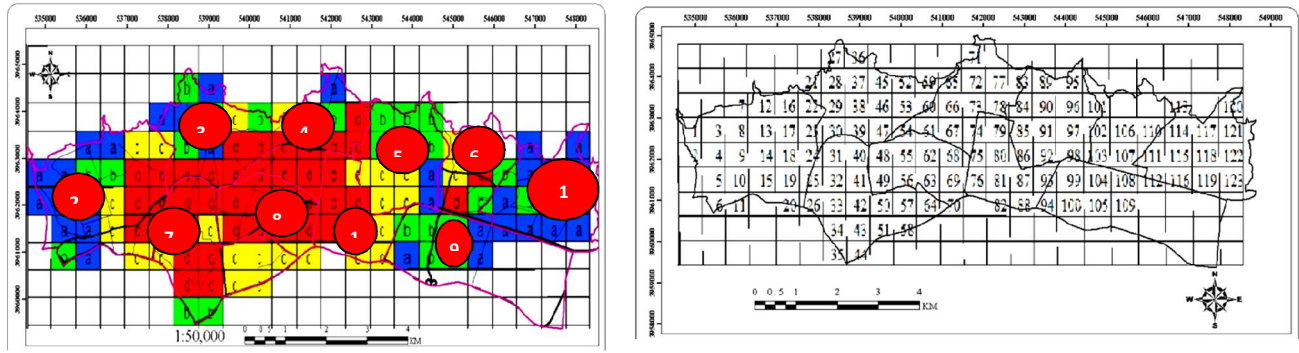
During each generation, a pool of parents and offspring chromosomes is formed, a percent of the best fitted between parents and offspring chromosomes and a percent of random chromosomes are chosen for the next generation. This process continues until the stopping criterion of the GA, which is considered as the number of generations.

## 6. Computational Results

A numerical example for the proposed multi-objective model is presented for an urban district in Tehran to observe the decision results of the proposed approach for municipal authorities. The numerical example is used to show the effect of optimal decision-making process on population covering, operational and tactical costs and demand satisfaction in an urban area after a natural disaster. The real-world case study is based on a probable earthquake that can be caused by major faults in north of Tehran and its consequences are estimated by RADIUS. Total population and ward areas, building type's distribution in each ward, a scenario for earthquake, ground conditions and soil types and lifeline facilities in addition to some modifiable damage estimation functions gives an estimation of damages for each area via RADIUS. Hence, regional and local municipal authorities are responsible for the first relief operations and they can cooperate for a better preparation in their own district.

In order to use this software, the whole district has been divided into 207 equal  $600 \times 600$  ( $m^2$ ) pixels (or blocks), but only 136 pixels are urban blocks and considered for the study. The rest of the pixels are not within the territory of the urban district. Information requirements such as population of each pixel, total number of buildings in each ward, lifeline facilities, soil type, width of the routes and other parameters have been imported to software using GIS information. The worst-case scenario for earthquake in Tehran can be a 7.2 magnitude 2 in scale of Richter at midnight and the outputs are shown as four levels of devastation shown as red, yellow, green and blue in Fig. 4.

Pixels shown with red color are the ones predicted to have more than 202 devastated buildings in the aftermath of the earthquake. Pixels with yellow color might have 139-202 destroyed buildings, the green colored pixels are predicted to have 75-139 ruined buildings, the blue color pixels represent the safest wards and from 12 to 75 buildings might be destroyed in them.



**Fig.4.** Damage estimation output for the urban district and its municipal wards

A brief introduction of municipal district based on the parameters used in the mathematical model is provided here: The whole district is divided into 10 municipal wards ( $L=1 \dots 10$ ). Damage severity priority for the district is shown by 4 colors; Red, yellow, Green and Blue ( $K=1, 2, 3, 4$ ). Goods and relief items that should be supplied and stored in local emergency bases are divided into 4 categories which are: 1) response equipment, 2) medical and sanitary care, 3) food and water supply and finally 4) clothes and blanket ( $m=1, 2, 3, \text{ and } 4$ ). The whole area which is considered in this model is 23 blocks length and 9 blocks width ( $i=1, 2 \dots 23, j=1, 2 \dots 9$ ), but some parts of this area is not considered in the under-study urban district, so damage estimation result has not determined for these pixels because of insufficient information, etc. These pixels affect demand characteristics in the urban area and should be considered as an outside parameter for the under-study district. This is modeled through using of outside pixels in the mathematical model, which have their own parameters and decision variables. Demand parameter in these pixels is uncertain and follows a probability distribution described in Eq. (20). Mean value for this parameter is used in the model as the demand parameter for exterior pixels.

$$Dout_{m,o} = \begin{cases} 4.5.Pop_o & \text{if damage severity} = \text{red} \\ 3.5.Pop_o & \text{if damage severity} = \text{yellow} \\ 2.Pop_o & \text{if damage severity} = \text{green} \\ 1.5.Pop_o & \text{if damage severity} = \text{blue} \end{cases} \quad m = 1, \dots, M \text{ and } o = 1, \dots, O, \quad (20)$$

where  $Pop_o$  is population of an outside pixel at  $o$ .

Data collection for this case was mostly from GIS information gathered by the district municipal authorities and updated through the years. Experts' knowledge and Tehran municipal laws and standards have estimated some parameters. The following figures and tables describe the parameters used in this model. Parameters like  $a_{k,(i,j)}^{\text{damage}}$  and  $a_{1,(i,j)}^{\text{region}}$  can be determined from Fig. 4 from municipal sub-regions and the damage estimation results for the pixels. Table 2 through Table 4 show the rest of parameters used in the model.

**Table 2**  
Parameters related to type of commodity

M	Dem <sub>(m,k)</sub>				Parameter		hold <sub>m</sub>	pen <sub>m</sub>	
	K=1	K=2	K=3	K=4	tc <sub>m</sub>	Cost <sub>m</sub>			
					cost unit/unit	V <sub>m</sub> m <sup>3</sup>	cost/unit		
M=1 (medical and sanitary)	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.2	1500	3500	0.3	15000	20000
M=2 (rescue equipment)	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.2	1000	4125	0.8	7000	15000
M=3 (food and water)	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.2	1200	2900	0.5	10000	20000
M=4 (blanket and cloths)	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.2	800	3200	0.5	3000	15000



**Table 5**

Summary of results for different GA runs

Runs	No. of GA generations	Computational time	District Coverage	Exterior Coverage	Total cost	Total No. of Bases
1	5	834.62	108	3	1.12e+12	59
2	5	789.57	103	4	1.003e+11	47
3	5	812.09	105	6	1.24e+12	63
4	10	1.538e+003	112	5	10.003e+11	46
5	10	1.679e+003	112	5	1.012e+11	49
6	10	1.714e+003	115	4	1.18e+12	54
7	12	7.6722e+003	119	5	9.47e+10	39
8	12	7.3415e+003	120	7	9.44e+10	38
9	12	7.4906e+003	118	8	9.98e+10	45
10	12	7.2114e+003	118	5	9.33e+10	35

**Table 6**

Computational results for the two solution approaches for the proposed model

Algorithm	Computational time	Total number of bases	Number of covered pixels in the region	Number of covered pixels outside the region	Total cost
GA	7.3415e+003	38	120 (97.561%)	7 (70%)	9.44e+10
LP-Relaxed	8.463e+007	53	116 (94.30%)	5 (50%)	5.68e+12

The results show that the applied weighting for fitness function and proper number of generation for the genetic algorithm to run (in a proper amount of time) can result into solutions with good qualities representing better solution than lower bound techniques.

## 7. Conclusion

In this paper, the problem of urban disaster management in the preparation phase has been considered as a decision aid for municipal authorities. A multi-objective mixed-integer location-distribution mathematical model has been proposed based on proactive damage estimation results for interior boundaries of an urban district. Since exterior wards have an uncertain effect on demand for relief items, a mechanism for regarding these neighbor areas has been considered for the proposed model and certain decision variables and parameters has been added to the model. Since such real-world problems are supposed to be large-scale problems, a genetic algorithm meta-heuristic approach has been developed in order to reach near optimal solutions in a reasonable amount of time. Computational results have shown that the suggested genetic algorithm has provided better solutions than lower bound technique when the number of generations increases for the algorithm. The proposed approach can be applied to a large numbers of urban disaster management situations when an urban district or city might be affected by demands opposed to the municipal authorities from exterior neighboring wards. Although, there must be enough knowledge about urban areas in order to run proactive damage estimation before any disaster occurs.

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