



NATURAL HAZARD DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM

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An Australian Government Initiative





TODAY'S PRESENTATION

The problem that the research is addressing

Objectives of the research program

0

Methodology and deliverables

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Mitigation Investment Ratio



Predisaster Mitigation spend

Reduces present value of postdisaster recovery spend by factor of about 4

| | | Μ | itig | gat | ior | n Investment Ratio |
|---------------------|----------|--------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| | | | 1-12 004m | |)55m | |
| | | | 201 \$30 | | 4 \$20 | <u>_</u> |
| | | 83m | \$ | | 013-1 | ł \$17 |
| 90m | 71m | 11 \$9 | \$ | 96m | a 20 | 08-14 |
|)9 \$3 ⁽ | 0 \$3 | 010- | \$ | 3 \$3(| | ₹ 50 |
| 008-C | 009-1 | 2 | 9 \$ | 12-1 | • \$ | |
| 5 | S | \$ | \$ | % 20 | \$ | |

Response and Relief (NDRRA payments) Mitigation (NDRP payments)

NEVERTHELESS, OBSTACLES ARE PRESENT WITH REGARD TO MITIGATION PLANNING...





TODAY'S PRESENTATION

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Methodology and deliverables

We are developing

A Decision Support System for the Assessment of **Policy & Planning Investment Options For Optimal** Natural Hazard Mitigation



OBJECTIVES

1) To develop a <u>systematic and transparent</u> <u>approach</u> to sifting through, evaluating and ranking disaster and natural hazard mitigation options using analytical processes and tools.

2) To develop user-friendly **prototype software tools** that implement the above approach

3) To <u>test the software</u> across three end-user defined case studies.

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An integrated modelling system is used to evaluate decision criteria for options

Source: Landcare Research 2004





Due to the large number of mitigation portfolios evaluating each is computationally intractable

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Objectives functions are evaluated using the complex, nonlinear, dynamic integrated modelling system

EVOLUTIONARY ALGORITHMS

- 1) Use value of **objective function** directly (can link with simulation models)
- 2) Robust in large decision spaces
- 3) Search using a **population of decision variable sets** simultaneously
- Use probabilistic rules to understand why some decision variable sets performed better
- 5) Uses these rules to improve the population of decision variable sets
- 6) Uses this process, in an iterative fashion, to improve decision variable set over time

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Cost





AN ITERATIVE AND INTERACTIVE PROCESS



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BUILT USING GEONAMICA: A MODULAR WAY OF MODELLING

GEONAMICA



Land use local level

Earthquake risk model

Flooding risk model

Bushfire risk model

Climate

Demographics







Policy Support System

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GREATER ADELAIDE CASE STUDY

Work has started on a South Australian case study

- Hazards:
 - Flooding (land and sea),
 - bushfire,
 - earthquake,
 - storms,
 - heatwaves
- Workshop on the 18th of September to obtain feedback on prototype system, and refine models, data and policy/project options.



Two more case studies yet to be decided...

MAJOR OUTCOMES (1)

1) Utilisation of a <u>systematic</u> and <u>transparent</u> approach to evaluating disaster and natural hazard mitigation options (e.g. infrastructure, land use, policy).

2) The ability to make <u>more strategic</u> and <u>less</u> <u>responsive</u> decisions in relation to mitigating the impact of disasters and natural hazards as a result of the availability of better information.

MAJOR OUTCOMES (2)

- 3) The availability of <u>prototype decision support</u> <u>software tools</u> for <u>three</u> end-user defined <u>case</u> <u>studies</u> to enable recommended options to be identified by sifting through and evaluating and ranking a large number of options).
- 4) A better understanding of the <u>trade-offs</u>
 <u>between economic, environmental and/or</u>
 <u>social objectives</u> for different mitigation options for three end-user defined case studies.
ADVANTAGES OF OUR APPROACH

- 1) Focuses on mitigation
- 2) Integrated approach
- 3) Considers nonstationarity in landuse and climate
- 4) Deals with uncertainty in a risk-based approach
- 5) incorporates optimization in combination with simulation.
- 6) Uses what we know today, and uses advanced computational techniques to make the most of this





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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 1) Prof Holger Maier (U of A Project Leader)
- 2) A/Prof Hedwig van Delden (U of A / RIKS)
- 3) Ed Pikusa (SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission)

MITIGATION VS RELIEF SPENDING



Relief/Recovery: \$27,364m in 13 years Mitigation: \$480m in 13 years

PROJECT TEAM - RESEARCHERS

- 1) Prof Holger Maier (U of A Project Leader)
- 2) A/Prof Hedwig van Delden (U of A / RIKS)
- 3) Dr Aaron Zecchin (U of A)
- 4) Prof Graeme Dandy (U of A)
- 5) Dr Ariella Helfgott (U of A)
- 6) Jeff Newman (U of A)
- 7) Graeme Riddell (U of A PhD Student)8) Charles Newland (U of A PhD Student)

PROJECT TEAM – END-USERS

- 1) Ed Pikusa(SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission)
- 2) Alen Slijepcevic (Country Fire Authority, VIC)
- 3) Samantha Ward (Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department)
- 4) Sandra Wight (State Fire Management Council, TAS)
- 5) Stuart Midgley(NSW Rural Fire Service)
- 6) David Launder (Metropolitan Fire Service, SA)

OVERVIEW OF DSS PROJECT

- 1) Motivation
- 2) Conceptual Approach
- 3) Methodology
- 4) Milestones
- 5) Personnel



'A WICKED PROBLEM'

- Complex, highly interlinked system
- Non-stationary, spatially explicit problem
- Decision maker has no 'right to be wrong'
- Too many policy/project options to consider



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WE ALL KNOW MITIGATION IS COST EFFECTIVE

'It is generally accepted in the emergency management community that. one dollar spent on mitigation can save at least two dollars in recovery costs

Figures from overseas experience, particularly in the UK, have indicated that, **as much as eight recovery dollars may be saved for every one mitigation dollar spent**.'

Robert McLelland Commonwealth Attorney General 25 March 2011















OVERVIEW OF DSS PROJECT

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- 3) Methodology



5) Personnel





Year 2 (2015)



















OVERVIEW OF DSS PROJECT

1) Motivation

2) Conceptual Approach

3) Methodology

4) Milestones







PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- 1) Structure of CRC
- 2) Overview of DSS Project
- 3) Overview of Evolutionary Algorithms
- 4) Evolutionary Algorithm Research Challenges







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EVOLUTIONARY ALGORITHMS

1) Search from a **population of decision variable sets** simultaneously

- 2) Use **probabilistic**, rather than deterministic, rules
- 3) Use value of **objective function** directly (can link with simulation models)







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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- 1) Structure of CRC
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- 3) Overview of Evolutionary Algorithms
- 4) Evolutionary Algorithm Research Challenge









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| Solution pool | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Solution | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| Total cost (\$ million) | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.4 | |
| Velocity threshold (v) (m/s) | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 1 I I |
| Pipe 1 (mm) | 40 | 30 | 30 | 30 | Approximate |
| Pipe 2 (mm) | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | I optimal |
| Pipe 3 (mm) | 30 | 20 | 20 | 20 | Solution |
| Pipe 4 (mm) | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | |
| Pipe 5 (mm) | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | i l |
| Pipe 6 (mm) | 20 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 1 |
| Pipe 7 (mm) | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | |
| Pipe 8 (mm) | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | |





(X axes: Available diameters (mm), Y axes: Probability density)

Generate initial population

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Dynamic Adjustment of Decision Space







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Incorporation of Heuristic Knowledge





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