# USAR simulation system: presenting spatial strategies in <u>for</u> agents' task allocation <u>under uncertain conditions</u>

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## ABSTRACT

Task allocation in <u>under</u> uncertainty conditions is a key problem for agents attempting to achieve harmony in disaster environments. This paper presents an agent based simulation to investigate tasks allocation through the consideration of appropriate spatial strategies to deal with uncertainty in urban search and rescue (USAR)

- 20 operations. This paper presents an agent-based simulation to investigate task allocation considering appropriate spatial strategies to manage uncertainty in urban search and rescue (USAR) operations. The proposed method is based on the contract net protocol (CNP) and implemented is presented in over five phases: ordering existing tasks considering intrinsic interval uncertainty, finding a coordinating agent, holding an auction, applying allocation strategies (four strategies), and implementing implementation and observation of observing the real
- 25 environmen<u>tal uncertainties. Applying allocation strategies is the main innovation of the method.</u> –The methodology was evaluated in Tehran's District 1 for 6.6, 6.9, and 7.2 magnitude earthquakes. The simulation started began by calculating the numbers of injured individuals, which was were 28,856, 73,19528856, 73195, and <u>111,463111463</u> people for each earthquake, respectively. The Simulations were performed for each scenario for a variety of rescuers (1000, 1500, and 2000 rescuers). In comparison with <u>the contract net protocol (CNP)</u>, the
- 30 standard <u>duration time</u> of rescue operations <u>in-with</u> the proposed approach <u>exhibited includes</u> at least 13% of improvement-<u>, with a maximal improvement and the best percentage</u> of recovery was 21%. Interval uncertainty analysis and the comparison of the proposed strategies showed that <u>an increase inincreased</u> uncertainty <u>has</u> leads to <u>increased an increase isd</u> rescue time for the CNP of 67.7 hours, and for strategies <u>one-1</u> to four<u>4</u> an increased <u>rescue time of 63.4, 63.2, 63.7, and 56.5 hours, respectively</u>. The time increase was less with <u>in-</u>the uniform
- 35 distribution <u>strategy</u> (<u>Sstrategy 4</u>) <u>was less than with the other strategies</u>. <u>The Considering consideration of</u> strategies in the task allocation process, especially spatial strategies, <u>resulted facilitated both resulting in the</u> optimization and increased flexibility of the allocation. <u>It also improved as well as</u> conditions for fault tolerance and agent-based cooperation stability in the USAR simulation system.
- 40 **Keywords:** USAR operations; Agent-based simulation; Disaster Environments; Task allocation; Interval uncertainty; Spatial strategies.

## 1. Introduction

Preparation to <u>manage deal with an earthquake crisis requires by an optimal and appropriate correct management</u> is absolutely necessary. Agent <u>b</u> ased modeling of search and rescue (SAR) operations after an earthquake is a

- 45 good choice-model for decision making, compared to with traditional computational approaches (Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2018). <u>Multi-Multi-agent systems (MASs)</u> consist of several automatic and autonomous agents which that coordinate their activities to achieve a target (Crooks and Wise, 2013;Sabar et al., 2009). <u>Multi-agent systems</u>MASs are suitable for the modeling and simulation of complex systems (Mustapha et al., 2013). They allow the division of divide-the system into subdivisions (agents) and the modelling of the relationships among
- 50 <u>these agentsmodel the relationship between them</u> (Uno and Kashiyama, 2008). The <u>utilization use</u> of multi-agent systems is necessary <u>in\_for</u> disaster management (Hawe et al., 2015;Grinberger and Felsenstein, 2016). <u>Importantly, multi-agent systems</u>MASs can be used to implement various scenarios of <u>search and rescue</u> SAR operations, as well as distributions of <u>and</u>-facilities, <u>distribution</u>-in the crisis area (Crooks and Wise, 2013).
- Task allocation is one of the main <u>coordination challenges issues in coordinating</u> among <u>a set ofsets of</u> agents in a multi-agent system (MAS) (Liu and Shell, 2012;Nourjou et al., 2011;Chen and Sun, 2012). Agents fail to reach their ultimate goal without <del>the</del> proper assignment of tasks (Reis and Mamede, 2002). In disaster environments, urban search and rescue (USAR) and the assignment of tasks are dynamic processes <u>occurring</u> under <u>uncertain conditions</u> <u>uncertainty</u> (Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2017). Generally, task allocation on a large scale is influenced by uncertainties and various factors (Cai et al., 2014). Uncertain <u>conditions eircumstances</u> have a major impact on the initial planning and pupelts of accurs planning (Heaphengi and Alesheilth, 2018). Despite the findings of
- 60 initial planning and results of rescue operations planning (Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2018). Despite the findings of various investigations, an optimal task allocation solution has not been established projects, these projects could not find an optimal solution (Olteanu et al., 2012).

In many <u>instances</u>cases, the initial allocation may <u>result in face</u>-problems, or new tasks may be added to the work-list; therefore, <u>replanning and</u>-reallocation is <u>necessary</u>required. Reallocation is an effective reaction to

- 65 <u>environmental</u> uncertainties and changes-in the environments, and it has an-important roles in <u>both</u> reducing the wasted time during an operation and increasing operation profitability (Zhang et al., 2014). Presenting strategies for allocation is one of the approaches to improve flexibility against disorder in natural disaster environments. Reallocation after <u>an</u>-instantaneous disruption is very important, especially in <u>large-scale</u> distributed systems on large scales (such as<u>e.g.</u>, USAR operations) (Olteanu et al., 2012). Therefore, it is better to plan for the process.
- 70 and plan strategies to deal with future situations from the beginning. <u>Presenting strategies for allocation is one of</u> the approaches to improve flexibility against disorder in natural disaster environments. Task allocation does not take place in only one stage of USAR operations [9]. <u>In natural disaster conditions</u>, <u>uncertainties should be taken into account while making decisions about the assignment of tasks, just as planners</u> <u>should be prepared to deal with task non compliance.</u> An effective task allocation approach in USAR operations
- 75 should include strategies for replanning to manage deal with-future situations. In natural disaster conditions, uncertainties should be taken into account while making decisions about the assignment of tasks, just as planners should be prepared to deal with task non-compliance. In other words In natural disaster conditions, the results of the initial task allocation should be changed through by applying uncertainties to reassign tasks in crisis driven conditions. Because Since tasks might may not be performed well for various reasons, strategies (e.g., such as
- 80 minimum location displacement) should be applied to initial responses in order to morepreserve additional save more-time in-during reallocation or future task allocation. It is not enough to only consider the uncertainty in the initial decision-making process, since the working environment is completely dynamic and there may be problems in assigning tasks. This approach to task allocation optimizes planning performance in order to achieve better performance time <u>providingand provides as well as providing</u>-conditions for fault tolerance.

- 85 The present article is the final part of a research project in Iran. This research project inwas carried out over three phases. In the first phase, uncertainty in task allocation among agents was considered and task allocation donewas performed only by considering the proximity (spatial distance) to the tasks. The developed method was evaluated in a square-shaped random environment nowithout a sensitivity analysis (Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2017). In the second phase, the feasibility of the developed method was investigated in a simulated environment using real
- 90 regional data. In this phase, the operational environment of a crisis was simulated and the developed method was examined in a real environment. In the simulated system, thedamage for a 6.8 Richtermagnitude earthquake damage was calculated for District 3 of Tehran, and rescue operations were modeled (Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2018). In the third phase using the concepts of previous articles (Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2018), strategies were included in task allocation among agents and simulated with real-environment data. The present
- 95 paper is the output of the third phase of the research project, which aimed The present study aims to improve task allocation in crisis-ridden conditions for agent-based groups by considering proper strategies to manage deal with the available uncertainties. This paper firstly develops an agentbased simulation system for USAR operations, then applies uncertainties in agents<sup>2</sup> decision-making phase by improving an interval VIKOR method in order to perform task allocation, and also defines strategies for conditions
- in-<u>under</u> which the initial assignment has <u>encountered faced</u> a problem and requires reallocation (<u>i.e., managing availability dealing with available</u> uncertainty <u>in-during</u> implementation). The main innovation of the study is that it the establishment of presents an approach to improve conditions during reallocations, or future allocations; when initial allocations <u>faceencounter face</u> problems due either to <u>availableavailability</u> <u>available</u> uncertainties, or the addition of a new task. In general, strategies are selected in such a <u>waymanner way</u> that the final cost of the system will not increase abnormally if <u>the</u> initial allocations <u>encounter problems</u>, <u>face a problem</u>.

The paper is organized in the following way.-literature review and background are provided in Section 2. The characteristics of the study area are described in Section 3. Section 4 is dedicated to the description of the research scenario and explains the proposed method in five sub steps. In section 5, some tests are developed and also the results of the simulations of USAR operation are presented. Finally, in section 6, the conclusions of this research along with future directions are summarized.

## 4.2. Literature review and background

## 4.12.1 Agent-Agent-based USAR simulation

An agent-based model is a class\_of computational models for simulating the actions and interactions of autonomous agents. Simulation has been used in various sciences including disaster management, emergency supply chains, and tsunami. Table 1 presents some of\_the aAgent-based simulations performed in previous researches.have been used in various investigations including crisis-management/disaster management (Wang et al., 2012;Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2018), emergency supply chains (Ben Othman et al., 2017), tsunamis (Erick et al., 2012), and collective behavior (Welch et al., 2014). These simulations can be effective in both planning and policymaking (Fecht et al., 2014). Simulation of the operating system involves a simplified real environment, which is used to model a wide range of agents in complex systems. Various researchers have modeled a partportion of the behavior of agents in environmentsimulated environments -(Erick et al., 2012;Wang et al., 2012;Matarić et al., 2003) and demonstrated collaboration among agents. However, agent cooperation in catastrophic environments has been less extensively studied, such that uncertainty in collaboration among agents has generally not been considered. In previous researchersstudies, a geospatial information system platform was used when

preparing the environment and creating a simulation base map (Welch et al., 2014). Spatial analysis and tools related are used in most research endeavors in USAR operations after an earthquake.

Simulation has been used in various sciences including disaster management, emergency supply chains, and tsunami.

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Application area	Obvious point	<b>Objective</b>	Result	Re
<del>Disaster -</del>	Developed a dynamic agent-based - model (ABM) in USAR operations	propose an approach for dynamic collaboration among agents	Considering uncertainty in – collaboration among agents can be_ a highly advantageous in	<del>[1]</del>
management	An agent based model to simulate the emergency medical response to a mass casualty incident was built	Modeling an emergency medical response	Simulated model builds intuition and understanding in advance of facing actual incidents that are rare in operating experiences.	[16]
Emergency- supply- chains	An architecture based on zoning for the management of emergency supply chains is proposed.	Resources scheduling	Considering agents' cooperation, the DSS provides a scheduling plan that guarantees an effective response to emergencies.	[17]
<del>Tsunami</del>	By analyzing images of <u>the real-world-</u> video, the proposed model provides the ability to examine people and output	Combined evacuation model with a tsunami- simulation model	An agent based model was created to define specific features for each of the agents and observe individuals' behavior in the complex process of a tsunami evacuation.	[18]
<del>Collective-</del> <del>behavior</del>	Combining General Purpose Computing on Graphics Processing Units (GPCPU) and Geospatial information system (GIS) computing in the form of expanding agent simulation	A better understanding of the old-world screwworm- risks	A tool was created for decision– support for policy makers in order to– analyze the spatial distribution of– OWS and its effects on livestock.	[19]
Distribution of seeds	Investigating the effect of diffusion factors on different species and different competitive societies with and without destructive factors	Simulation of the - distribution of seeds	A GIS prototype was created to - simulate the distribution of seeds, - which are modified by various factors.	[22]

Agent based systems have been used as simulation tools in various studies. <u>Agent based simulation models can</u> <u>be used as an effective approach in planning and policy making [20]. Simulation of the operating system involves</u> a simplified real environment, which is used to model a wide range of agents in complex systems. Simulation models can be used as an effective approach in planning and policy making [20]. In the studies presented in Table 1, researchers modeled a part of the behavior of agents in the simulation environment and collaboration among agents. However, the agent's cooperation in catastrophic environments has been less studied, generally,

uncertainty in collaboration among agents has not been taken into account. In previous researches, a Geospatial information system (GIS) platform were <u>was</u>used when preparing the environment and creating a base map. Spatial analysis and tools are used in most research endeavors in USAR operations after an earthquake.

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#### 4.462.2 Approaches to applying uncertainties in task allocation

Multi robot task allocation (MRTA) is a type of general task allocation problem (TAP) in which resources and tasks are distributed in pre-defined areas [10]. Agents should include environmental uncertainties in their performance with respect to regarding planning goals. There are four common approaches to considering uncertainty; including: probabilistic, fuzzy logic, rough set and interval set (Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2017). U=+)

- 145 Probabilistic, this method uses different probability distribution functions and statistical parameters such as the mean and standard deviation for modeling. 2) Fuzzy logic, this theory is based on imprecise and non numerical information (linguistic ambiguities) concepts. 3) Rough set, which is an approximation of a crisp set by lower and the upper approximation of the original set. It completes fuzzy logic. 4) Interval set, in this method, due to the uncertainty in the value of a parameter, that parameter is specified in an interval regardless of the probabilistic
- 150 distribution (unlike probabilistic theory) or membership function (unlike fuzzy logic)-[12].-Uncertainty in tasks allocation has been investigated in various studies that can be categorized as follows:

Ssensors' noise\_: In this category, uncertainty in the input information of tasks such as noise in operating sensor, agent's location, and noise in measurement sensor has been considered using auction\_auction\_based, Hungarian interval algorithm (Liu and Shell, 2011;Bertuccelli et al., 2009;Matarić et al., 2003), and consensus based bundle algorithm\_(CBBA) methods, -

155 algorithm\_(CBBA) methods, .

<u>Aan Accidental accidental event induring in execution</u> : In this class, a random event prevents the execution of tasks, so while assigning tasks, the uncertainty of not performing tasks must be taken into account. Hill climbing algorithm <u>CNP</u> (Lee and al-yafi, 2010;Li and Cruz Jr, 2005)and two level hierarchical algorithm have been used to consider this.

160 <u>Tthe Occurrence occurrence</u> of new tasks <u>: In these studies, the environment is dynamic and a new task may be</u> created at any time. Therefore, the assignment of tasks is always done with the possibility of entering a new job. The predominant method used in these studies is Q learning [27]-(Xiao et al., 2009;Kayır and Parlaktuna, 2014).

<u>Tthe Number number of groups: In this category, the number of individuals or groups whom tasks are assigned</u> between them is not known. The methods used in these studies are machine learning and probabilistic algorithm 165 based on learning automata (Quiñonez et al., 2011;Dahl et al., 2009).--

<u>Tthe Relationship relationship</u> among the agents\_: This group of studies has been conducted in assigning tasks that require several groups to work together to perform the tasks. CBBA (Choi et al., 2009;Su et al., 2016)and dynamic weighted task allocation are the methods used in this field., and

Ddecision parameters\_(Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2017).÷

170 <u>In this category, which are is suitable for MASs, uncertainties are included in the decision parameters for assigning tasks. Therefore, all the information needed to for tasks allocation is considered uncertain. Various methods such as CNP [12], stochastic scheduling [33], and genetic algorithm [34] have been used.</u>

The mentioned methods have been used in various applications such as multi-<u>UAVunmanned aerial</u> <u>vehiclesUAV</u> (Bertuccelli et al., 2009), supply chains (Dahl et al., 2009), moving plants (Tan and Barton, 2016), and disaster environments (Su et al., 2016). There is no dominant <u>wayapproach way</u> to model uncertainty for all phenomena. The appropriate method is determined based on the characteristics of the phenomenon and the purpose of the study. In crisis environments, there is uncertainty in all decision parameters. In the uncertainty in decision parameters category, which is suitable for <u>MASsmulti-agent systems</u>, uncertainties are <del>in</del>associated with the decision parameters for assigning tasks. Therefore, all information needed for task allocation is considered

- 180 <u>uncertain. Various methods such as the contract net protocol (CNP) (Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2017), stochastic scheduling (Tan and Barton, 2016), and genetic algorithms (He et al., 2014) have been used. We in these contexts. Here, we This studyWe presentspresent an approach that includes uncertainty uncertainties uncertainty-in decision parameters, also and includes strategies in the contract net protocol (CNP). The CNP produces local optimal solutions which that are abundantly used in multi-agent systems (Choi et al., 2009). This method is simple,</u>
- 185 practical, and popularpopularly used popular in agent-based modeling.\_

In USAR operations, <u>the\_complete\_individual\_expertise</u> of the individuals\_is impossible due to a lack of environmental knowledge; therefore, determining membership function and <u>the</u> probability distribution is a complex and <u>time\_consumingtime-consuming</u> step. In this study, We used interval analysis has been taken into account in order to <u>overcomemanage\_overcome</u> these shortcomings and to consider the intervallic nature of available data within the <u>a</u> rescue operations.

- 1) Probabilistic, this method uses different probability distribution functions and statistical parameters such as the mean and standard deviation for modeling. 2) Fuzzy logic, this theory is based on imprecise and non-numerical information (linguistic ambiguities) concepts. 3) Rough set, which is an approximation of a crisp set by lower and the upper approximation of the original set. It completes fuzzy logic. 4) Interval set, iIn the interval set this-method,
- 195 <u>due to the uncertainty in thea parameter's value of a parameter, that parameter is specified in as an interval regardless</u> of the probabilistic distribution (unlike in probabilistic theory) or membership function (unlike in fuzzy logic) (Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2017). In order to deal with interval data in CNP, different multi-criteria decision making (MCDM) methods are proposed. The interval based VIKOR method was used extensively to coordinate agents for the assignment of tasks with interval data [12]. The interval VIKOR method is described in [35].

## 200 4.472.3 Reallocation and reassigning methods

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<u>DifferentDistinct Different-algorithms have been proposed for scheduling and task reallocation in accordance</u> with the <u>required</u>-tasks and available conditions within <u>the an</u> environment (Gokilavani et al., 2013). Some reallocation methods (e.g., data envelopment analysis (Barnum and Gleason, 2010)) and exact algorithms (e.g., a branch-and-bound algorithm with column generation) resolve problems on a smaller scale (e.g., 10 jobs and three vehicles). are applied to the reassignment of individuals in organizations-[37]. In such methods, the solution's run time is not important process is time-consuming and slow for resolving large-scale problems (Cai et al., 2014). Therefore, they are not suitable for the allocation of tasks that should be performed dynamically and instantaneously in large-scale problems.

; therefore, they are mostly used in concepts of industries and for the assignment of resources such as the re engineering of the organization in order to rearrange organization members. They do not assign tasks which that should be performed dynamically and instantaneously.

In some research, such as <u>addressingthe investigation of those addressing</u> gate reassignment problems (GAP), initial assignment tables <u>were have been</u> created using heuristic methods in such a <u>waymanner way</u> that a succession delay is minimized (Cheng, 1997). The incidence of adverse events may disrupt the original table. <u>areNotably, this method is These methods are not responsivesuitable responsive</u> for a <u>greatlarge great</u> number of tasks. <u>Some other task allocation methods are interdependent with the plan's ongoing tasks, such as is the case in construction operations (Olteanu et al., 2012). In <u>suchthose mathematical calculations, when a task fails, all other</u> tasks <u>whichthat</u> were based on theits correct implementation of that task shouldmust be replanned.</u>

In USAR, any rescue process is generally independent of any other rescue processes.

- 220 Creating the initial table and revising it for any disruption or new input is impossible in disaster environments, considering the scale of space and the nature of the assignment, and because the input task rate and uncertainty are not specified at all and the time table needs to be constantly edited. On the other hand, i In disaster environments, only some parts of the workflow are ready to be implemented and assigned. Maximizing the number of survivors in the possible shortest time is the purpose of rescue operations. Therefore, there exists
- 225 nothing like the concept of delay, but only the implementation or non-implementation of a specified task. The concept of prioritizing the tasks is the most important in USAR operations and the concept of delay is not acceptable.

Some task allocation methods are interdependent with the plan's ongoing tasks, as is the case in construction operations-[14]. In such mathematical calculations, when a task fails, all other tasks which were based on the correct implementation of that task should be replanned. In USAR, any rescue process is generally independent of any other rescue processes.

Methods such as simulated annealing (SA) and the ant colony optimization algorithm cannot find a global optimization of the problem and provide local solutions instead\_[13]. In contrast, the exact algorithms like the branch-and-bound with column generation (BBCG) algorithm resolve the problems on a smaller scale (e.g., 10 jobs and three vehicles) but it is very time consuming and slow in resolving large scale problems [13]. Therefore, an <u>An</u> appropriate reallocation method must be applied <u>with respect to regarding</u> the nature and scale of the problem. In USAR, a rescue process generally independent occurs independently of any other rescue processes, and only parts a portion of the workflow is ready to be implemented and assigned. <u>a</u>Moreover, because of the

Due to the <u>a</u>-large number of rescue groups in USAR operations, <u>as well as</u> the available uncertainties and the dynamic nature of multi-agent systems in disaster environments, the concept of general planning is <u>commonuncommon not very common and it planappropriate plans the plan should be</u> better that the plan is produced <u>both</u> locally and cross-sectionally. Planning is appropriate for cases in which the number of initial tasks is fixed and the changes are minimal. There are several methods to resolve the problem of assigning tasks, but most of these algorithms cannot be developed for uncertain conditions and restrictions, as is the case for USAR operations. Despite the application of reallocation methods in other studies, this issue has been rarely applied to critical rescue environments (such as USAR in earthquakes). Most available methods to resolve the problem of assigning tasks cannot be developed for uncertain conditions and restrictions such as in critical rescue

<u>RegardingWith respect to Regarding-</u>USAR operations, task allocation methods <u>should must</u>include different
 strategies for all conditions and be dynamically generated in a real-time environment. <u>Despite the application of</u>
 <u>reallocation methods in other studies, this issue has been rarely applied to critical rescue environments (such as</u>
 <u>USAR in carthquakes).-UnlikeIn contrast to Unlike</u>-previous studies, we define an approach based on spatial strategies-<u>so, such that so that</u> the results of the initial task allocation are used <u>in thefor</u> future for other task allocations, and are appropriate in the rescue environment. Time limitations <u>areconstitute are</u> another issue in <u>the</u>
 <u>replanningreallocation</u> and <u>inreassignment of reassigning regarding reallocation in</u>-rescue teams. Therefore, the present study aims to expand the CNP method as afor rapid method for resolving the problem resolution.

## 260 6.3. Case study and data

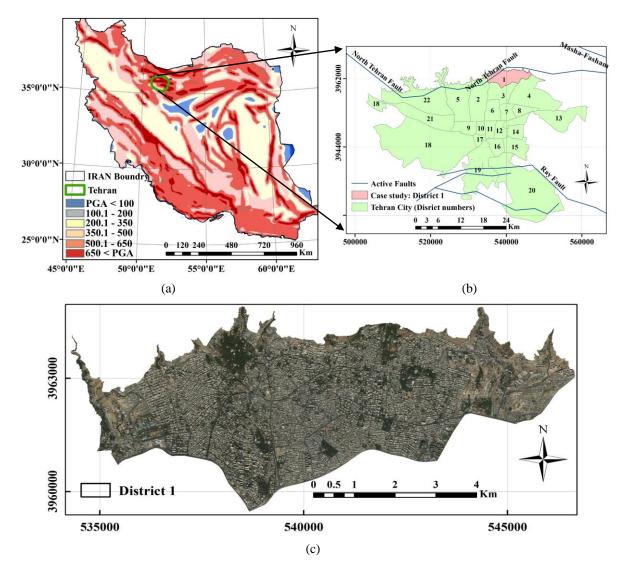
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environments (e.g., USAR after earthquakes).

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The proposed approach can be implemented in <u>differentvarious\_different</u>-study areas. In t<u>T</u>his study<u>- used a part</u> of Tehran (District 1 in the capital of Iran), in order to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed method and according toon the basis of available data, a part of Tehran (District One in the capital of Iran) was selected. District One-1 is one of 22 central districts of <u>Tehran Province</u>, Iran<u>Tehran Province</u>, Iran. The <u>dD</u>istrict One-1 has <u>aan area ofa</u> 210 <u>square km (km<sup>2</sup>) area</u>, which and <u>square km (km<sup>2</sup>) area</u>, which is located in the northernmost part of <u>the</u> city of Tehran (Figure 1). Its population is 433,500.



**Figure 1** Location of case study: (a) peak ground acceleration map of Iran for a return period of 2475 years and approximate location of Tehran, (b) location of District 1 and active faults in Tehran (c) Map of District <u>One-1</u> (study area) and active faults, Tehran.

The Recent\_recent\_Tehran earthquake (5.2 RichtermagnitudeRichter) on in December 2017 attracted the attention of many urban planning organizations. This metropolis is one of the vulnerable areas to earthquakes. The rapid growth of urbanization and the vulnerability of structures have increased the potential risk of the city
 [39]--Tehran is a highly seismic area asbecauseas it is surrounded by the Ray, Masha-Fasham, and North Tehran faults (Figure 1(b)). Seismologists have stated reported stated that a severe\_earthquake expected may occur could be expected in Tehran in the future (Hosseini et al., 2009). The North Tehran fault is the city's biggest largest biggest fault and is aboutapproximately about 35 km long. It and has the potential for a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. For this purpose, the North Tehran fault scenario, with the capacity to cause the most destructive potential earthquake in Tehran, is-was selected.-- in the present study. Various scenarios can be implemented. toIn accordance with According to the suggestions of theseismologist the experts, we simulated the magnitude -6.6, 6.9, and 7.2 magnitude earthquakes. The basic data used in environment simulation arewere block maps, population, distance from the fault, building material, agent<sup>2</sup> location, <sup>2</sup>-year of building construction, and building height.

#### 8.4. Materials and Methods

In this section, the simulated scenario and the proposed method are described.

#### 8.14.1 The sS cenario of proposed agent-based USAR simulation

- The proposed methodology is a general approach to various phenomena. In this study, it is assumed that there is a disaster environment, and detailed information on the characteristics of the environment is not available-(in the environment, events are uncertain). We assume the presence of a disaster environment in which events are uncertain. In this scenario, athea crisis is assumed to be an earthquake. The injured individuals are trapped under the rubbles and the number of themsuch individuals them in each building block is uncertain. Rescuing injured people is the main goal. Saving each person is a task that must be performed through the cooperation of rescue
- <u>agents. After an earthquake, the numbers of injured and deaddeceased dead people can be estimated by using different formulas by determining the magnitude and the location of the earthquake, as well as the urban context data of the buildings (Kang and Kim, 2016). <u>alsoFurthermorealso, Saving each person is a task that must be done.</u>
   <u>Tthe possible locations of injured individuals can be predicted using buildings damage assessment models.</u>
   Therefore, the simulation inputs are <u>the injured individualsindividuals</u> locations and their characteristics, which
  </u>
- are <u>available with some uncertainty</u>. <u>uncertainly accessible</u>. The rescue agents are <u>tryingattempting trying</u> to save the injured <u>onesindividuals ones</u> by moving <u>up-toward</u> to the task location. Given the <u>results of</u> previous studies (He et al., 2014;Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2017;Sang, 2013;Chen et al., 2012) and <u>expertsin accordance with</u> <u>expert opinion according to experts</u> on USAR operations, the uncertainties include the number of injuries, <u>the</u> severity of the victims' injuries, duration of the operation, infrastructure priorities, agent energy, route status, task
- 300 runtime by an agent, and risk level for <u>theeach</u> agent. These are important uncertainties in task allocation. All these-parameters are specified <u>intervalas intervals</u> by an interval during the task allocation process. After <u>taskstask identification</u>determining the tasks, an agent is assigned a task and pursues it. Then, iI f an agent fails to complete his-an assigned task to because of due to any existing disruptions, the task is updated with respect to <u>concerning</u> uncertainties and reported to the central agent, resulting in the <u>restartingre-initiation</u> restarting of the task allocation process. In this process, task allocation strategies are applied to minimize the cost
  - of the system.

In this <u>studyscenariostudy</u>, there is a central agent-<u>, as well as and several coordinators</u>, rescuer<u>s</u>, and injured agents in the environment. These independent agents are rational and can communicate with each other. <u>has The</u> agents have Each of which has the following roles and characteristics:

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**Central agent:** This agent is responsible for sorting the tasks, specifying the coordinators, determining the results, and announcing rescuers, and applying allocation strategies.

- <u>Coordinator Coordinating Coordinator agent: Coordinator The coordinator</u> is a rescue agent who is responsible for sending the characteristic of work <u>details</u> to rescuers, receiving their proposalse (bids), holding auctions, and submitting the results and <u>rescuers'rescuer rescuers'</u> prioritization <u>data</u> to the central agent.
- **Rescue agent:** <u>Rescuer This agent Rescuer</u>-identifies and moves to the task location, searches for the injured individuals, <u>and</u> sends the tasks uncertainty to the central agent, <u>and</u> rescues <u>injuries</u>injured <u>individualsinjuries</u> from the debris.
- Injured agent: This agent exists in the environment and <u>hishas a his</u>-critical condition that changes continuously. <u>HeThis agentHe</u> has no activity or communication with other agents.
- 4.2 USAR simulation
- 320

<u>In preparingpreparation for the</u> USAR operation simulation, there are three main parts: 1) calculating the damage rate of the area and people (simulating an earthquake-damaged environment), 2) defining agents and their characteristics, and 3) implementing the suggested method for task allocation between agents.

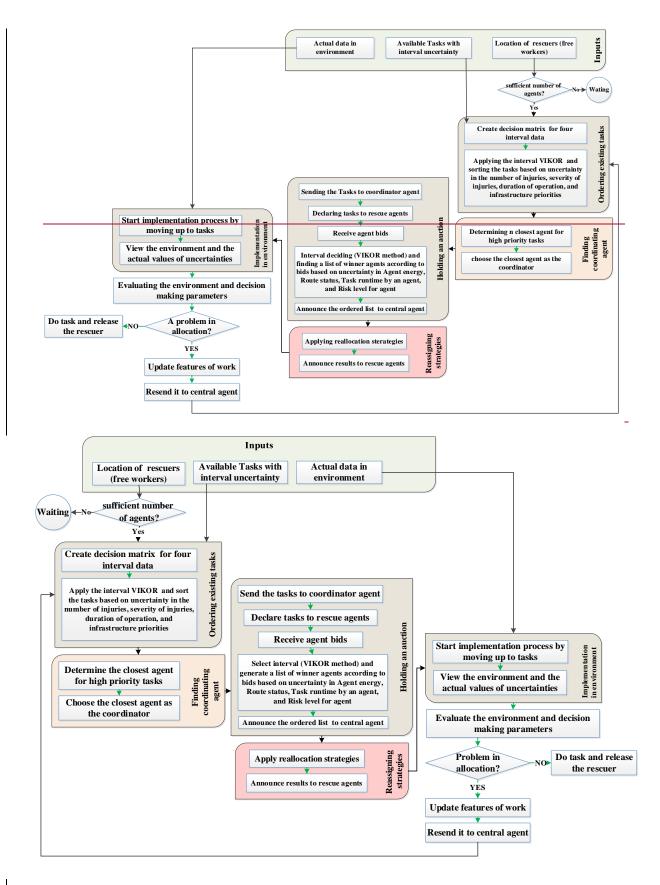
- 325 To simulate an earthquake-damaged environment, an earthquake risk assessment model was developed based upon the Japan International Cooperative Agency (JICA) model. The JICA model is the output of cooperation between the Center for Earthquake and Environmental Studies of Tehran and the JICA. The results of this project and how to implement it areits implementation have been presented inpreviously (Mansouri et al., 2008) and used in various researchesstudies (Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2018;Vafaeinezhad et al., 2009). This model can calculate the buildings' level of destruction and the number of injured people based on the earthquake intensity, earthquake
  - location, building vulnerability, and the population in them these buildings.

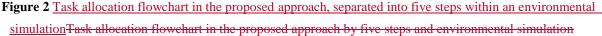
In <u>this studyour scenariothis study</u>, we <u>haveincluded have</u>-four <u>types of agents</u>: injured <u>individual</u>, rescuer, coordinator, and central agent. The tasks described in the previous section <u>arewere are</u>-implemented for each agent. <u>The initial locations of injured agents were based on building damage and the locations of rescue groups</u> waswere randomly generated in the environment. The definitions of agents and their characteristics of agents arewere described in detail in our previous article (Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2018).

#### **8.24.3** The proposed method

The proposed model for task allocation with uncertainties in earthquake USAR operation is <u>given-shown</u> in Figure 2.

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The five steps of <u>the</u> proposed approach are the ordering of existing <u>workswork</u>works, specifying the coordinators, holding an auction, applying <u>reassigningreassignment</u> reassigning-strategies (the innovation of this paper), and implementing and observing environmental uncertainties (<u>performed by thean agent-</u>).by the agent. The proposed method is presented <u>below.as follows:</u>

#### 345

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## 8.2.14.3.1 Ordering existing tasks

In crisis-ridden areas, there are <u>differentvarying always different</u> degrees of urgency (Chen et al., 2012). Tasks with a higher priority <u>tomust need to be doneperformed done</u>-first. Four parameters <u>were-are</u> used to prioritize tasks: <u>the</u>\_(number of victims, <u>the</u>\_severity of <u>the</u>-injuries, <u>the</u>\_time required for <u>a</u>\_rescue operation, <u>and</u> infrastructure priorities). The initial tasks with their uncertainties in the environment (four priority parameters) are available to the central agent. <u>The interval VIKOR method is described in [35].</u> Therefore, for each task feature, an interval such as that expressed in Table <u>2-1</u> is specified.

Task <del>NO<u>no</u>.</del>	X <del>Coordinate</del> <u>coordinate</u>	Y <del>Coordinate</del> <u>coordinate</u>	Infrastructure priorities	Number of injuries	The <u>Severity</u> everity of victim injuries	Duration of operation					
1	$\mathbf{X}_1$	$\mathbf{Y}_1$	$[I_{11}, I_{u1}]$	$[N_{l1}, N_{u1}]$	[S11, Su1]	$[D_{l1}, D_{u1}]$					
2	$X_2$	Y2	$[I_{12}, I_{u2}]$	$[N_{12}, N_{u2}]$	$[S_{12}, S_{u2}]$	$[D_{12}, D_{u2}]$					
i	$X_i$	$\mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{i}}$	[I <sub>li</sub> , I <sub>ui</sub> ]	[Nli, Nui]	[Sli, Sui]	$[D_{li}, D_{ui}]$					
n	$X_n$	$\mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{n}}$	$[I_{ln}, I_{un}]$	$[N_{ln}, N_{un}]$	$[S_{ln}, S_{un}]$	$[D_{ln}, D_{un}]$					

#### Table 2-1 Tasks characteristics based on intervals

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To withmanage deal with interval data in the CNP, different multi-criteria decision making (MCDM) multi-criteria decision making (MCDM) methods are proposed. The interval-based VIKOR method wasis used extensively to coordinate agents for the assignment of tasks with interval data (Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2017). The interval-based VIKOR method ishas been previously is-described in (Sayadi et al., 2009). Ordering is performed by the central agent.

#### 360 **8.2.24.3.2 Finding the coordinating agent**

For each task <u>indefined by in-</u>the central agent, the most appropriate agent <u>will be determined is identified will</u> be determined as the coordinating agent. The coordinating agent is an agent <u>that who</u> is <u>close tolocated near close</u> to-that task and is not currently working. <u>ChoosingThe selection ofChoosing</u> a coordinating agent and creating groups to execute any task can be achieved through different methods and <u>is</u> based on various criteria (Chen and Sun, 2012;Su et al., 2018). In this study, <u>in order</u> to simplify the calculations, only the criterion of proximity (spatial distance) <u>has beenis</u> used to <u>determineidentify determine</u> the coordinating agent. Therefore, the nearest agent to <u>the</u> task is selected as the coordinator and is responsible for the auction. <u>Selection of a Choosing</u> the coordinating agent le<u>ads</u> to the <u>performance of</u> calculations <u>being performed</u> at a distributed point. By selecting the coordinating agents, the computational overhead of the central agent <u>will beis</u> reduced.

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## 8.2.34.3.3 Holding an auction

Coordinating agents hold auctions after receiving the task characteristics and the list of agents in the subgroup. In <u>the CNP</u>, agents bid for tasks, and the <u>person-agent</u> who offers the highest value for the task is the winner. During the auction, rescue agents offer <u>intervalintervals (rather than values) an interval</u> for the rout<u>e</u> conditions, the time <u>needed required for the agent needed</u> to execute the task-<u>by the agent</u>, the <u>agent's</u> possible risk level, and their energy, instead of a value. AccordinglyFor this, the agent calculates numbers for each of the four decision-making criteria, such as a-variable X, based on the following eEquations 1. In Equations 1, the distance is measured in meters, the severity of victimsthe victims' injuries victims, and task priority isare based on the-values declared by the central agent. Based on the rate of uncertainty presumed that is considered for thea given the environment (for example, 30%), an interval for this number is estimated. The first number of this interval will beis in the range between [X, X + 30% X] and the second number is in the range [X - 30X - 30% X, X].

Agent energy (<u>Energy\_energy\_Level[evel</u>, <u>Distancedistance</u>, <u>Number\_number\_of</u> people) = Energy <u>Level\_level</u> -- Distance/500 -- Number of \_-people <u>rescued</u>\*0.3 Task runtime by an agent (<u>Distancedistance</u>, <u>Number\_number\_of</u> people, <u>Severityseverity</u>) = Distance/150 + <u>Number of people rescued number of people</u>\*15 + <u>severitySeverity</u>\*2 (1) <u>The Risk rRisk</u> level for <u>an agent</u> (<u>Energy energy Level[evel</u>, <u>Prioritypriority</u>) = Priority \_- Energy Level Route status (<u>Distancedistance</u>) = Distance

In the real world, each person can introduce intervals according to their experience and their knowledge of the environment. In this <u>researchstudy</u>research, we used the above equations <u>thebased on with respect to the</u> expert opinions to simulate the real environment. The coordinating agent applies the interval-based VIKOR method to order the agents' bid<u>s</u>. The coordinating agent sends the results to the central agent after ordering the agents. The use of a central agent in this phase provides the opportunity to make the best decision considering the task priorities <u>capacityand capacities as well as the capacity</u> of other agents.

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## 8.2.44.3.4 Applying allocation strategies

In operations where there is uncertainty, it is not possible to definitively resolve the issue of task allocation. <u>-cannot be definitively resolved</u>. In this phase, the initial allocation should be it is better for the initial allocation to be done in such a <u>waymanner way</u> that if a potential reallocation <u>wasteswould waste</u> is needed, it wastes the <u>leastsmallest least</u> amount of time. Based on different strategies in-at this stage, the central agent begins to assign tasks after obtaining all lists from coordinating agents. In each strategy, a priority is <u>givenassigned given</u> to specific tasks. In this section, four different strategy-based approaches are described, as follows:

*Task allocation* <u>higheraccording to with higher priority</u> (strategy 1): In this strategy, task allocation begins with <u>tasks</u>the assignment assigning tasks of higher-priority once tasks, following establishment of higher priority once the task order and the priorities of the rescue team have been established in the previous stage (prioritizingprioritization prioritizing and auction). Therefore, the agent with the best performance is selected for high priority tasks and is <u>thensubsequently</u> then excluded from the lists of agents with no tasks. <u>theSubsequentlyLater</u>, the tasks of lower priority are assigned in the same order. The <u>tolimitation of problem</u> related to this strategy is that <u>it may cause</u> some agents may be left with no tasks to do in the last stages of this process.may be left with not on treceive tasks to do in the last stages of this process.

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Assigning tasks to all agents, preferably <u>agentto specific agents</u> the <u>agent</u> with <u>outcomeoptimal outcomes</u> the best outcome (strategy 2): This strategy is based on <u>optimally using</u>the optimal use of optimally using all rescue teams. In this strategy, all agents are assigned a task. For this purpose, the <u>a</u> task is first assigned to an agent who has applied for the minimum number of tasks. <u>Then, tThe</u> agent and the task are then eliminated from the agent and task lists, and the allocation continues with the next agent who has made few requests. <u>onUsing</u> <u>Based on</u> this strategy, a task will be assigned to all agents. <u>Task allocation on Allocation by keeping a strategic spatial agentbasis agent (strategy 3): onUsing Based</u> on this strategy, the strategic agents who play an-important and strategic roles in the task allocation process are excluded in order to help withensure their availability for help with the implementation of the tasks if there are problems are encountered during the task allocation process. Agents with strategic roles may be defined differently. Agents who participatedparticipate participated in the <u>auctionauctions auction</u> of more tasks are the agents with strategic locations. In <u>agent issuch instances, these agents are this situation, this agent is</u> close to many tasks (has have strategic spatial locations) and can be used if when these tasks are not implemented. Figure 3 shows the difference between the task allocation results for strategy strategies 2 and strategy 3. In Figure 3, a the rescue agent located partcentrallyin the central part has a strategic position and will try to maintain this position. Although the total movement may increase, if there problemare problems is a problem in performing other tasks, this agent can help all other groups.

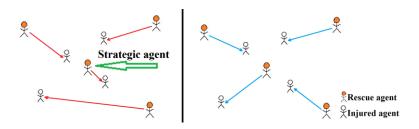


Figure 3 <u>strategic</u>Strategic agent, the blue arrow shows illustration. Blue arrows show the final <u>result</u> results for strategy 2, and the red arrow indicating arrows show the <u>winning</u>successful rescuers in <u>strategy</u> Shows the strategic agent, the blue arrow shows the final result for strategy 2 the red arrow indicating the winning searchers in strategy 2, and the red arrow indicating the winning rescuers in strategy 3 and the blue arrow shows the final result for strategy 3.

- Assigning tasks by creating the best density in the environment (strategy 4): This strategy is based on the 425 optimal density of rescue agents. With-Using this strategy, the assignments of the tasks-are made in such a manner that ensures the way as to ensure a uniform distribution of the agents in the environment. Generally, no exact information is available about concerning about the conditions of the tasks; therefore, this strategy aims to ensure the a uniform distribution of rescue teams within the environment if the uncertainty is high. In disaster environments likesuch as like earthquakes, the incident placeoccurs takes place over a wide area-and, such that 430 and the damage and injured population distributionare uniformly distributed have uniform distribution due to the texture of the area. Therefore, the highest number of injured people is not accumulated in any one spot. BesidesFurthermoreBesides, In addition, applying this strategy prevents the convergence of rescue teams. To apply this strategy, the tasks of the highest priority in the task lists should be given to the available agents and where and the environmental density should be is the highest. The issue of the optimal density can be solved 435 through innovative algorithms. In our study, the simulated annealing-(SA) -method was used to finddetermine find uniform density. The implementation stages of simulated annealing SA-have been described inpreviously are
  - described in (Sabar et al., 2009). Figure 4 shows the difference between task allocation outcomes for strategy 2 and strategy 4.

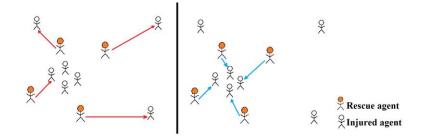


Figure 4 <u>tBest density strategy</u>, the blue arrow indicating the winning illustration. Blue arrows indicate the successful rescuers in strategy 2 and the red arrow shows arrows indicate the final result for strategy <u>4</u>. Shows the best density strategy, the blue arrow indicating the winning rescuers\_in strategy 2 and the redarrow shows the final result for strategy 4.

## 8.2.54.3.5 Implementation and observation of real values in the environment

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<u>TheDuring the The</u>-implementation phase, <u>of the tasks is are</u> implemented by the agents in a dynamic environment where there are always uncertainties during the <u>task</u> execution of the tasks. The rescuer observes the difference between <u>his</u>-predicted values and the actual environment after <u>working.the work beginshe starts</u> working. In this research, to model the real environmentstudy, a random number in the [X - 30% X, X + 30% X] interval is working chosen. to model the real environment. In the real world, the difference between the predicted environment (through building vulnerability estimation models) and the real environment will determine the agent's performance of the agent.

If the agent observes a <u>biglarge big</u> difference between the auction information and the real environment, <u>he</u> <u>the agent</u> abandons <u>the that</u> task. In this <u>caseinstance</u> <u>case</u>, <u>the agent</u> <u>he</u>-updates the task's values and uncertainties and <u>sendsreturns</u> <u>sends</u> the work to the central agent. The new uncertainty interval will be 80% smaller than the

450 <u>original interval.</u> There <u>differentare various can be different</u> conditions <u>in-under</u> which agents will reallocate a task if the environment <u>differentdiffers is different</u> from the expected <u>onescenarioone</u>. For example, the agent can abandon the task if three <u>out</u> of eight decision-making parameters are out of range by 5%. Otherwise, the <u>rescueragent rescuer</u> finishes the <u>rescuer</u> work by accepting the new conditions.

455 The central agent assigns newly added tasks within the reallocation framework. When a new task is assigned, 455 the task allocation is <u>mixed mixed combined with that of both new tasks as well as and incomplete onestasks.</u> <u>mixed</u> with new tasks as well as incomplete ones.

## 8.34.4 Evaluation Method method

AssessingAssessment of Assessing a task allocation algorithm is <u>usually donetypically performed usually done</u> in the first phase through modeling and simulation due to the dynamic and heterogeneous nature of different environments (Olteanu et al., 2012). <u>Simulating Simulation</u> is a suitable approach for the implementation and validation of a proposed method (Nourjou et al., 2011). In a real testing situation, the situations and conditions of the implementation scenario are <u>very</u> difficult to reproduce. <u>In thisthe present studyIn this study</u>, we simulated three scenarios for <u>the earthquakes</u> in Tehran's District 1 with magnitudes <u>of</u> 6.6, 6.9, and 7.2. We also estimated the numbers of <u>deaddeceased dead</u> and injured individuals who <u>were are</u> distributed <u>in</u> in the centers of <u>the</u> relevant

building blocks and <u>need to be</u> rescued by 1000, 1500, and <u>or</u> 2000 rescue agents. <u>Also, iIn the</u> <u>uncertainuncertainty uncertain</u> analysis of <u>the</u> suggested method, the lower and upper bounds of uncertain values <u>arewere also are</u>-calculated. The proposed method was compared with <u>the</u> traditional CNP. The intended task allocation <u>iswas considered is</u> efficient if profitability parameters <u>are-were</u> maximized. <u>toIn accordance with</u> <u>According-to a number of several</u> recent studies (Liu and Shell, 2012;Sang, 2013;Hooshangi and Alesheikh,

470 2017), three criteria were used to evaluate the performance of the proposed method. These criteria are: the number of deceased victims, the-number of incorrect allocations, and the rescue time. Results were achieved with 1000 randomized runs.

Some of the major problems in replanningreallocation and in the task allocation environment include scalability, reliability, performance, and the dynamic resource reallocation of resources (Gokilavani et al., 2013). In this study, the results of the two analyses (scalability of the proposed method and interval uncertainty analysis) were are presented.

The first analysis focused on the evaluation of the proposed approach <u>on-at</u> different scales and for different criteria. Comparison and assessment were carried out <u>on at</u> different scales <u>in order to recognizemeasure recognize</u> the effectiveness of the proposed approaches in USAR operations. Nine scenarios were applied in this study and compared with traditional <u>the CNP</u>.

The second analysis focused on interval uncertainty analysis and <u>studyingstudied studying</u> the rescue operation <u>timeduration time in the</u> 6.9 <u>Richtermagnitude Richter</u> earthquake <u>for at</u> different levels of uncertainty. In this analysis, time changes <u>of in</u> rescue operations <u>onwere investigated according to based on different levels of uncertainties are investigated</u>. The duration of <u>the a</u> rescue operation in the <u>simulated simulated simulated</u> model <u>depends depended</u> on two main components: <u>1</u> Pprioritization of tasks and, <u>outputs 2</u> Outputs of each operation <u>at in</u> each phase (Hooshangi and Alesheikh, 2018). Equation <u>1 32</u> defines the final model for calculating the operation <u>time-based on these two components</u>.

 $T(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8) = \sum_{n=1}^{n+1} \alpha_n(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) + \sum_{w=t}^{n+t} \beta_w(x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8)$ (132)

490 The vV ariables x1 to x8 areconstitute are-the number of injuries, the severity of the victims' injuries, duration of the operation, <u>-and</u>-infrastructure priorities, energy, route status, task runtime by agents, and risk level for agents, respectively.  $\alpha_n$  is the function of tasks' prioritization and  $\beta_w$  is the function of bidding.

IntervalTo our knowledge, interval Interval uncertainty analysis has rarely been employed investigated in previous researches. The method used in this research is was adapted from research previous literature research (Lan and Peng, 2016). In researchour analysisthis research, Chebyshev points are used. Equation 2-43 is depicts a is Chebyshev formula to generate for generating m collocation points on in the interval [0, 1] (Lan and Peng, 2016):

$$number_{i} = \begin{cases} 0.5 \times \left[1 - \cos\left(\frac{\pi(i-1)}{m-1}\right)\right] & for \ j = 1, if \ m = 1 \\ 0.5 & for \ j = 1, if \ m = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$(243)$$

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Equation 2-3\_is-was\_used to create different numbers for the decision-making parameters. The output of the model is-was\_then calculated for <u>various</u> numbers <u>inwithin in</u> the intervals. This technique <u>createscreated</u> creates different values for the output of the model.

## 9.<u>5.</u> Results

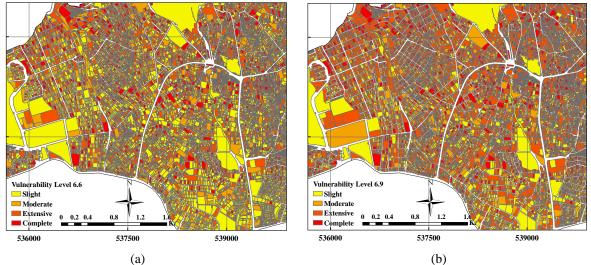
<u>DifferentMultiple</u> <u>Different</u>-scenarios and experiments were designed in order to evaluate the proposed methods and strategies. The results are presented in this section.

#### **5.1 Simulation**

Simulation of the agent based USAR operation includes calculating the damage rate of the area, specifying the initial location of agents, specifying the agents' characteristics, and, finally, implementing the suggested

method for task allocation. It is necessary to know the seismic resistance and vulnerability of existing buildings. 510 The most obvious use of earthquake risk assessments with different scenarios is to help in planning, preparedness, and providing response instructions to the public. An earthquake risk assessment model has been developed based upon the JICA model. The JICA model is the output of cooperation between the Center for Earthquake and Environmental Studies of Tehran (CEST) and the Japan International Cooperative Agency (JICA). The results of this project is are presented in [43], And and has have been used in various researches-[1, 44]. In accordance with

515 According to expert opinions, three probable earthquakes were simulated with magnitudes of 6.6, 6.9, and 7.2. Figure 5 shows the vulnerabilityvulnerabilities vulnerability of buildings in these scenarios in the ArcGIS environment.





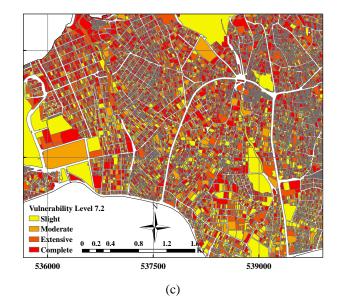


Figure 5 Vulnerability maps infor District 1, an earthquake based on earthquakes with magnitude: magnitude: of a) 6.6-on the Richter scale, b) 6.9-on the Richter scale, and c) 7.2 on the Richter scale. Vulnerability mapsin District 1, an earthquake with magnitude: a) 6.6 on the Richter scale, b) 6.9 on the Richter scale, c) 7.2 on the Richter scale

<u>Based on buildings</u>the level of building destruction, the <u>number</u>numbers of injured and <u>dead</u>deceased people <u>can be calculated by</u>using the JICA model. The numbers of injured and <u>dead</u>deceased people in scenarios with 6.6, 6.9, and 7.2 magnitude earthquakes are <u>demonstrated</u>listed in Table 2.

Based on buildings destruction, the number of injured and dead people can be calculated. Equation 1 <u>2</u> is the output of the JICA model for calculating the human vulnerability in earthquakes [47]:

[ <del>Uninjured</del> ]	(Denvilation)	[ <del>-0.073</del>	<u>    1.040                               </u>		ן <del>Slight</del> ן	
<u> Injured</u>	$=\left(\frac{Population}{D_{ij}}\right)$	0.071	0.047	0.062	<u>Moderate</u>	- <del>(1<u>2</u>)</del>
L Dead	\ Buildings )	[ <u>1.001</u>	<del>-0.087</del> ·	0.289	Extensive + Complete	

JICA model calculations were performed in ArcGIS software. The number of injured and dead people in scenarios 6.6, 6.9, and 7.2 earthquakes are demonstrated in Table 3.-

525 **Table 3-2** Results from implementing a 6.6 Richter scale of earthquake simulations Results from implementing a 6.6 Richter scale earthquake

0.0 Richter scale earthquake								
	NumberNumbers of affected							
a <b>.</b>	populationsindividualsNumber of							
Severity level	affected populations							
	6.6 Richter	6.9 Richter	7.2 Richter					
Uninjured	374 <u>.</u> 295	270 <u>,</u> 455	182 <u>,</u> 340					
Injured	28 <u>.</u> 856	73 <u>,</u> 195	111 <u>,</u> 463					
Deceased	30 <u>.</u> 349	89 <u>.</u> 850	139 <u>,</u> 697					

The computational scale of the JICA model <u>isuses is</u>-urban blocks. Therefore, the number<u>s</u> of <u>deaddeceased</u> <u>dead</u>-and injured <u>individuals</u> in each urban block <u>was were</u> calculated. The <u>locationlocations location</u> of the injured individuals <u>considered were presumed to be was considered</u> in the center<u>s</u> of the <u>blockrespective blocks</u>block.

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The <u>environmental</u> simulation of the environment and the proposed method were <u>performedimplemented</u> performed in AnyLogic software. This software <u>has the ability to enter GIScan process geospatial information</u> <u>system data.</u> has the ability to enter GIS data. To simplify the environment and reduce the <u>calculation</u> volume of <u>calculations</u>, each agent was <u>considered regarded</u> considered as a group in the real world. Figure 6 shows the simulated environment.

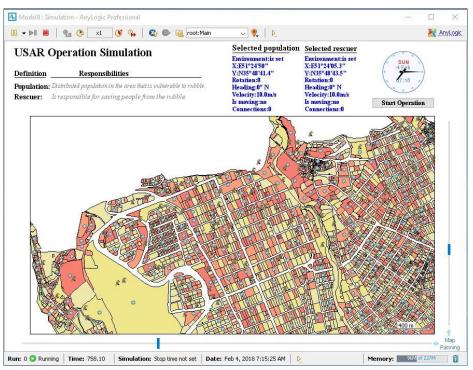


Figure 6 An oOverview of the USAR simulator.

There are many injuries in the environment. The central agent first sorts the tasks according to their <u>priority</u> and after determiningpriorities. After the coordinating agent, has been determined, the central agent priority and after determining the coordinating agent, sends the task properties to the coordinating agent. The coordinator holds an auction. Rescue agents are-bidding in accordance with their environmental and working conditions. Rescuers are in a ready state at the start of the operation. Each <u>winningsuccessful winning</u>-rescue agent moves to the task's location. After reaching the task position, <u>startsthe rescue agent begins he starts</u>-rescuing the injured agents. During the execution of <u>thetheir assigned the-work</u> the agents may find <u>differenceconsiderable differences a significant</u> difference between the real-world information and the <u>expressed</u>-information\_<u>expressed</u> in the auction. In <u>situationsuch instancesthis situation</u>, the <u>agentagents agent</u>-may stop performing <u>tasktheir tasks</u> and report the <u>disputediscrepancies existing dispute</u>-to the central agent.

Table 4-<u>3</u> shows the <u>timedurations time</u> of the USAR operations <u>inas estimated using in</u>-scalability analysis of <u>with</u> the proposed method. In creating this table, an uncertainty of 30% was considered. For this purpose, the range of tasks characteristics <u>inused was made in</u> the intervals [X, X + 30%X] and [X\_-30%X, X]. <u>AlsoAt</u>, at each stage, that a given agent <u>participatesparticipated participates</u> in the auction, <u>for For that agent's his</u> decision-making parameters, the <u>numbernumbers were agent converts its number</u> randomly <u>converted</u> into an interval. The average range of agent tasks and decision-making was used for the implementation of <u>the CNP-, rather than instead</u> of interval values.

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 Table 4-3 comparison
 Comparison of operation duration in hours between the suggested
 suggested
 proposed method

 withand the CNP (based on 30% uncertainty)
 comparison of the suggested method with CNP (based on 30% - 10%)
 comparison
 com

uncertainty)

No. of agents	1000			1500			2000		
Simulated earthquake									
<u>magnitude</u> Simulated	6.6 <u></u> R	6.9 <mark>R</mark>	7.2 <u>R</u>	6.6 <u></u> R	6.9 <u></u> R	7.2 <u>R</u>	6.6 <u></u> R	6.9 <mark>_</mark> R	7.2 <u>R</u>
<del>earthquake</del> -									

<u>No. of tasks</u> Tasks	28 <mark>3</mark> 856	73 <mark>,</mark> 195	111 <mark>,</mark> 463	28 <mark>,</mark> 856	73 <mark>,</mark> 195	111 <mark>_</mark> 463	28 <mark>1</mark> 856	73 <mark>,</mark> 195	111 <u>,</u> 463
CNP	53.16	169.03	282.76	32.83	94.24	174.19	22.6	68.95	127.47
Strategy 1	45.37	142.47	241.81	25.22	74.91	135.75	19.643	59.36	108.56
Strategy 2	44.87	137.30	234.92	26.02	76.41	138.52	19.097	58.21	105.58
Strategy 3	43.75	133.76	230.12	25.75	74.33	132.75	18.332	56.33	101.77
Strategy 4	41.63	130.41	222.18	23.89	71.14	127.87	17.013	53.91	97.73

The operational time decreasesdecreased decreases when the number of agents in rescue operations increased with increase but the number of tasks remainsremaining remains fixed. The reduction rate between ranged from ranges between 54% and to 60% when the number of agents is was doubled. The timeduration time of a USAR 560 operation increases increases when the number of tasks increases increases for a certain given number of agents. Therefore, the timeduration time of the rescue operation is was related to the number of rescue agents and the number of available tasks in a scenario. There iswas is an inverse relationship between the timeduration time of the USAR operation and the number of rescuerescue rescuer agents, and a direct relationship between the timeduration time of the operation and the number of tasks.

565 The inclusion of uncertainty in any allocation strategy provide rovide could provide better results, as compared to-with the CNP method. Using the proposed strategies, the The-smallest improvement in the-results with uncertainty using the proposed strategies was 2.9 h (13%) hours for a scenario with 2000 agents and 28,856 tasks (6.6 Richtermagnitude Richter earthquake). The maximum improvement was 60.6 h (21%) hours for 1000 agents and 111,463 tasks. The worst improvement was found for 2000 agents with 28856 tasks (13%), the best

570 for 1000 agents, and 111463 tasks (21%).

> Among the task allocation strategies, Strategy in this study, strategy 1 presented produced the worst response. OnAt each scale offor the discussed scenarios, Strategystrategy 1 presented the highest time for resulted in USAR operations with the longest durations, compared towith other strategies. StrategyStrategies 1 and Strategy-2 indicated provided similar results on at different scales, although strategy 2 achieved better results-were obtained

- 575 for Strategy 2. Strategy 4, involving which involved spatial information in task allocation, indicated produced better results on at all scales and presents an improvement including improvements of 21%, 24%, and 23% on the scale of with 1000 agents for a 6.6 magnitude earthquake measuring 6.6 on Richter Scale, 1500 agents for a 6.9 Richtermagnitude earthquake, and 2000 agents for a 7.2 Richtermagnitude earthquake, respectively, as-compared towith the CNP. The average improvement for Strategy strategy 4 was 26.6 hoursh in rescue operations. The use
- 580 of Strategiesstrategies 3 and 4 is more evidentsuitable in a larger environment in which the distribution of with high numbers of both injured people and rescue agents-is high, since, because controlling the agent distribution with respect to the expansion of the environment and the uncertainty uncertain environmental conditions in the environment-can be effective in future task allocations of the tasks. In a real-world crisis-ridden environment, the wholeoverall environment is damaged and the injured people are well- distributed. This is why
- 585 controllingTherefore, the spatial distribution of the agents plays is an important roleparameter to control in USAR operations. Among the task allocation strategies, Strategy 1 presented the worst response. On each scale of the discussed scenarios, Strategy 1 presented the highest time for USAR operations compared to other strategies. Strategy 1 and Strategy 2 indicated similar results on different scales, although better results were obtained for Strategy 2. Strategy 4, involving spatial information in task allocation, indicated better results on all scales and 590 presents an improvement of 21%, 24%, and 23% on the scale of 1000 agents for earthquake measuring 6.6 on Richter Scale, 1500 agents for 6.9 Richter and 2000 agents for 7.2 Richter, respectively, as compared to CNP. The average improvement for Strategy 4 was 26.6 hours in rescue operations. The use of Strategies 3 and 4 is

more evident in a larger environment in which the distribution of injured people and rescue agents is high, since controlling the agent distribution with respect to the expansion of the environment and the uncertainty conditions in the environment can be effective in future allocations of the tasks. In a real world crisis ridden environment, the whole environment is damaged and the injured people are well distributed. This is why controlling the spatial distribution of the agents plays an important role in USAR operations.

The simulation results in terms of deceased people for 1000, 1500, and 2000 agents with different numbers of tasks are shown in Figure 7. In these figures, for each of the four priority parameters and decision parameters the associated with of the agents, a 30% uncertainty level was considered.

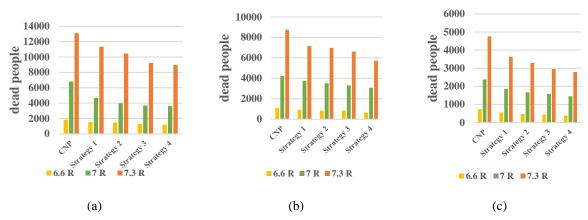


Figure 7 <u>The numberNumbers of deceased people: a)</u> with a) 1000-rescue agents, b) with 1500-rescue agents, and c) with 2000 rescue agents. The number of deceased people: a) with 1000 rescue agents, b) with 1500 rescue agents, c) with 2000 rescue agents.

Figure 7 illustrates the numbernumbers of deceased people in the rescue process with different numbers of agents and tasks. Based on Figure 7, an increase in theincreased number of tasks leadsled to an increase in theincreased number of tasks leadsled to an increase in theincreased number of deceased people, while increasing thebut an increased number of rescue agents results in decreasing theled to a decreased number of deceased people. Regarding the numbernumbers of deceased people onat all three scales, the CNP method presentedproduced the worst response. TheAn average number of 7253 people were deceased people in the CNP model on a scale of with 1000 agents is 7253. Conversely, 5853 people. The number of were deceased people in the model employing Strategystrategy 1 on a scale of with 1000 agents equals 5853 people. On the whole, with respect to-. Overall, when all strategies, Strategy were considered, strategies 4 and Strategy-1 presented resulted in the best and worst response, respectively. As illustrated in Figure 7, the numbernumbers of deceased people is were approximately equivalent in Strategystrategies 1 and Strategy-2.

Figure 7 illustrates the number of deceased people in the rescue process with different numbers of agents and tasks. Based on Figure 7, an increase in the number of tasks leads to an increase in the number of deceased people,
while increasing the number of rescue agents results in decreasing the number of deceased people. Regarding the number of deceased people on all three scales, the CNP method presented the worst response. The average number of the deceased people in the CNP model on a scale of 1000 agents is 7253 people. The number of deceased people in the model employing Strategy 1 on a scale of 1000 agents equals 5853 people. On the whole, with respect to all strategies, Strategy 4 and Strategy 1 presented the best and worst response, respectively. As illustrated in Figure 7, the number of deceased people is approximately equivalent in Strategy 1 and Strategy 2.

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Figure 8 illustrates the simulation results for <u>the</u> incorrect allocation of <u>the</u>-1000, 1500, and 2000 agents with <u>number ofseveral</u> different tasks.

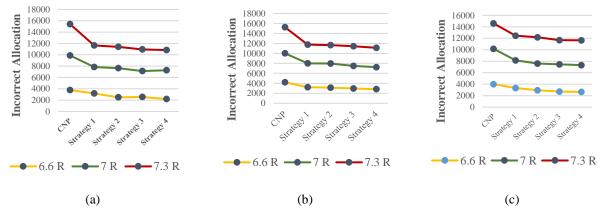


Figure 8 <u>The number</u>Numbers of incorrect allocations: a) with a) 1000-rescue agents, b) with 1500-rescue agents, and c) with 2000 rescue agents. The number of incorrect allocations: a) with 1000 rescue agents, b) with 1500-

rescue agents, c) with 2000 rescue agents.

- The overall trend in <u>iseach chart was the figures is</u> approximately <u>samesimilar the same</u> if all <u>arecharts were</u> figures are considered simultaneously. <u>TheAny The</u>-incorrect allocation <u>is not related</u>was <u>unrelated</u> is not related to the number of rescue agents, <u>because since</u> there <u>are-were</u> no changes <u>when in increasing</u> the number of agents was increased. The number of incorrect allocations <u>changeschanged changes</u> with the number of tasks, <u>increasessuch that it increased and increases</u> with <u>the</u> an increasing <u>the</u> number of tasks. This increase is <u>observedevident observed</u> in all <u>of the above figures. The incorrect panels in Figure 8. Incorrect of the above</u> figures. The incorrect allocations usually <u>placeoccurred</u> take place with <u>at a nearly an almost</u> fixed rate.
- Based on the figuresresults, the traditional CNP model presentsproduced the worst response. The total incorrect allocations in the CNP on the scale of model with 1000 agents for 28856 and 28,856 tasks, 1500 agents for 73195 and 73,195 tasks, and 2000 agents for 111463 and 111,463 tasks arewere 3780, 1002710,027, and 1460414,604 tasks, respectively. The numbernumbers of incorrect allocations assigned by Strategystrategy 1 iswere 3174, 8014, and 1245512,455 tasks, respectively. FurtherFurthermore, the evaluation eriterion does showcriteria showed the advantages of including uncertainty in task allocation. Therefore, the proposed approaches for all three evaluation parameters indicated aresulted in better performance when, compared to with the traditional CNP method-of-CNP. The results indicated indicate that the reallocation of tasks through the proposed approaches and strategies offersoffered a better response, which is better observed usingbased on the scale development since of the event, because their differenced ifferences from the CNP increases with-model increased at a larger scale-development.

Based on the figures, the traditional CNP model presents the worst response. The total incorrect allocations in CNP on the scale of 1000 agents for 28856 tasks, 1500 agents for 73195 tasks, and 2000 agents for 111463 tasks are 3780, 10027, and 14604 tasks, respectively. The number of incorrect allocations assigned by Strategy 1 is 3174, 8014, and 12455 tasks, respectively. Further, the evaluation criterion does show the advantages of including uncertainty in task allocation. Therefore, the proposed approaches for all three evaluation parameters indicated a

645 uncertainty in task allocation. Therefore, the proposed approaches for all three evaluation parameters indicated a better performance when compared to the traditional method of CNP. The results indicated that reallocation of tasks through the proposed approaches and strategies offers a better response, which is better observed using scale development since their difference from CNP increases with scale development.

The results of interval uncertainty analysis were achieved with 1000 randomized runs of each scenario (Figure

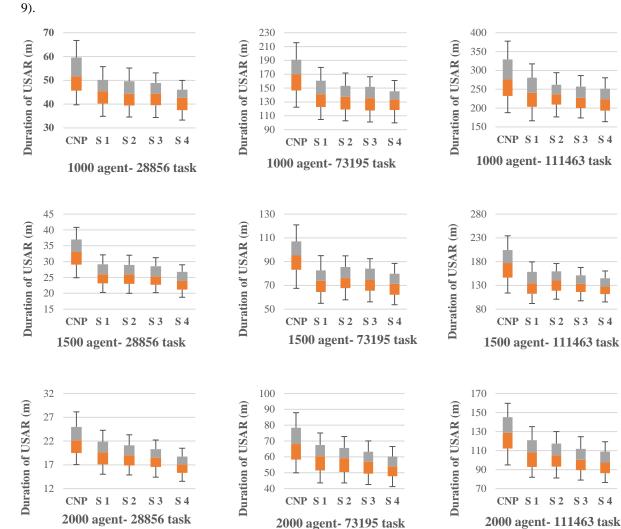


Figure 9 Uncertainty analysis of the proposed method in <u>for</u> USAR operations, for <u>9-nine</u> simulated scenarios As shown in Figure 9, there is a direct <u>relationrelationship</u> <u>relation</u> between interval length and operational time. <u>accordingAccording to FormulaEquation 2</u>Because according to Formula <u>13</u>, assigning fewer tasks leads to less operating time; and as well as causes less uncertainty in the simulated environment.

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As mentioned in section 4.3.3, the rescuers use [X, X + 30% X] and  $[X_{---}-30\% X, X]$  to determine the intervals. Another analysis was performed for different—values <u>ofother than instead of</u> 30% in the <u>estimatingestimations</u>. The results are shown in Figure 10. An average <u>theevent of the</u>-scale studies (1500 agents and 73,195 tasks) was used and a set of different levels of uncertainty (uncertainty between 5% and 55% at five-unit intervals) were randomly generated, investigated, and evaluated. This realistic test aimsaimed to <u>provide an assessment of assess</u>. This realistic test aims to provide an assessment of the proposed scenarios for each

660 uncertainty value.



**Figure Figure 10** Uncertainty analysis <u>forwhen for different values were used in determining intervals</u> Figure 10 indicates a relationship between <u>inincreased an increase</u> in uncertainty (from 5% to 55%) and an increase<u>d in the</u> rescue time. The <u>differentincreases differed among increase is different for different strategies</u>. The increase is <u>was</u> 67.7 hours <u>h</u> for the CNP (from 66.8 hoursh to 134.4 hours) hours) while it ish), whereas increases of 63.4, 63.2, 61.7, and 56.5 hoursh were obtained for <u>Strategiesstrategies</u> 1, 2, 3, and 4, while it is 63.4, 63.2, 61.7, and 56.5 hours for the Strategies 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively. Based on the evaluation results, the proposed methods are more efficient and present better responses in the presence of <u>differentvarious</u> <u>different</u> uncertainties. Therefore, <u>inincreased an increase of in</u> uncertainty leads to a delay in USAR operations and <u>topossible</u> even to task elimination. <u>resultAccordingly</u>, As a result, delaying rescue operations or removing tasks from the rescue list will increase USAR time.

#### 670 **<u>10.6.</u>** Conclusion

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Providing a suitable method for assigning tasks <u>inunder in-</u>uncertain conditions <u>anis plays an</u> important <u>role in</u> <u>role in-</u>, according to the results of simulated the-USAR operations <u>simulation result</u>. This study presented a task allocation approach that aimed to better assign the initial tasks<u>in order have</u>, thus ensuring to have better conditions for potential reallocations of <u>the the tasks</u>; and to-wastinge the <u>shortestleast shortest</u> time possible for the rescue teams if <u>problems were encountered during</u> the initial allocations face a problem or a new task emerges. Some of the characteristics and advantages of the study include <u>thed</u> focusing on the necessity of task reallocation in disaster environments, <u>providing the provision of providing</u> an innovative approach <u>withfor managing</u> to deal with-uncertainties that cause non-performance of the tasks in the CNP method (the most widely used task allocation method in <u>MASsmulti-agent systemsMASs</u>), and <u>defining</u> the definition of <u>defining</u> spatial strategies

680 for better tasks reallocation. The proposed approach can be used in combination with a wide range of algorithms for assigning tasks in accordance with the structure of the system.

The results obtained from the simulation of simulations with the proposed approach indicated revealed indicated that the timeduration time of rescue operations in when the proposed strategies were implemented was always lessshorter less than the time required in using the CNP method. The worst improvement was foundidentified found for 2000 agents with 28,856 tasks (13%) and, the best for 1000 agents, and with 111,463 tasks (21%). In addition BesidesFurthermoreBesides, the results for at different scales showed that the application of applying uncertainty in the task allocation could improve the timeduration time of the USAR operations. There is a relationship between an increased in uncertainty and an increased in the rescue operation Furtherduration time. The increase is 67.7 hours for CNP while it is 63.4, 63.2, 61.7, and 56.5 hours for the Strategies 1, 2, 3, and 4,

690 respectively. <u>Furthermore</u>Further, the results <u>indicated</u> indicated a significant decrease in the numbers of deceased people and wrong allocations due to uncertainties, which <u>anddemonstrated</u> demonstrates the significance of <u>incertainty and</u> the importance of <u>itsuncertainty</u> <u>its</u>-inclusion in task allocation. The implemented method can

be used for cooperation differentamong between different agents. In an earthquake-stricken environment, rescuers can use assistant agents (devices such as mobile phones and tablets) to implement this methodology.

- 695 <u>handHowever,On the other hand</u>, regarding <u>comparisoncomparisons</u> the <u>comparison</u> of the proposed strategies, <u>it is insufficient to consider only</u> uncertainty <u>is not enough</u> in initial decision-making concerning task allocation <u>sincebecause since</u> the working environment is quite dynamic and the assigned tasks may <u>forencounter</u> face problems for various <u>reasonsproblems</u> approach should consider both uncertainties in decision-making and strategies for <u>replanningreallocation</u> <u>in order</u> to waste the least
- 700 time during system disruptions. This optimizes planning to achieve better implementation time and <u>forallows</u> provides conditions for fault tolerance. The strategies for applying uncertainty <u>induring</u> in the implementation process of task allocation improve the efficiency, performance, and stability of agent-based cooperation. Task allocation strategies lead to flexibility in decision-making and decrease the system's overall costs. Furthermore, spatial task allocation strategies <u>can</u> propose a specific arrangement of the rescue team within the <u>an</u> environment
- 705

5 in order to prevent time waste when faced with wasting in the event of waste when faced with environmental uncertainties or task reallocation.

<u>Additional research It</u> is recommended that further research could be undertaken to provide new strategies and combine the proposed task allocation strategies of the present study with the a coalition—forming coalition forming method to select thean appropriate the coordinating agent in the our proposed approach. <u>futureFuture In future</u> studies <u>couldshould could</u> also consider the other groups, and, other uncertainties <u>different</u> within a range of in different\_dynamic simulations.

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#### **11.7.** Acknowledgments

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