

Safety Evaluation Method of Evacuation Routes in Areas in Case of Earthquake Disasters Using Ant Optimization Algorithm and Geographic Information Systems

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Abstract: The present study aims to propose the method for the quantitative evaluation of safety concerning evacuation routes in case of earthquake disasters in urban areas using ACO (Ant Colony Optimization) algorithm and GIS (Geographic Information Systems). Regarding the safety evaluation method, firstly, the similarity in safety was focused on while taking into consideration road blockage probability, and after classifying roads by means of the hierarchical cluster analysis, the congestion rates of evacuation routes using ACO simulations were estimated. Based on these results, the multiple evacuation routes extracted were visualized on digital maps by means of GIS, and its safety was evaluated. Furthermore, the selection of safe evacuation routes between evacuation sites, for cases when the possibility of large-scale evacuation after an earthquake disaster is high, is made possible. As the safety evaluation method is based on public information, by obtaining the same geographic information as the present study, it is effective in other areas regardless of whether the information is of the past and future. Therefore, in addition to spatial reproducibility, the safety evaluation method also has high temporal reproducibility. Because safety evaluations are conducted on evacuation routes based on quantified data, highly safe evacuation routes that are selected have been quantitatively evaluated, and thus serve as an effective indicator when selecting evacuation routes.

Key words: Large-scale evacuation, evacuation route, safety evaluation, earthquake disaster, ACO (Ant Colony Optimization), GIS (Geographic Information Systems).

1. Introduction

From the experiences gained through the Great Hanshin earthquake (1995) as well as the Great East Japan earthquake (2011), in recent years, Japan has been focusing on disaster reduction by means of self and mutual help. In case of earthquake disasters, especially in crowded urban areas, many road blockages are likely to occur due to secondary disasters which include the collapse and combustion of buildings. Additionally, if an earthquake disaster occurs during a big event such as the Tokyo Olympics

and Paralympics, which will be held in Japan in 2020, busy urban areas especially around the stadiums are expected to be crowded with evacuees. Therefore, in such cases, it is necessary to put emphasis on how to reduce damage for risk management in central Tokyo.

In order to make a quick and safe “escape” from disasters, a clear evacuation plan, or more specifically, an evacuation route must be developed. Current efforts to develop such evacuation plans by means of self and mutual help include activities such as walking the streets for disaster prevention in addition to disaster drills using maps, and an example of the latter is DIG (Disaster Imagination Game) which was created by Komura, T. and Hirano, A. [1]. However, as the main purpose to create evacuation routes using

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such activities is the promotion of disaster prevention awareness and disaster prevention education, they are not quantitatively evaluated. As a result, the evacuation plans developed in the way described may be influenced by the developers' subjective thinking, and its practicability is left uncertain.

Based on the backdrop mentioned before, assuming a large-scale evacuation in case of an earthquake disaster, the present study aims to propose the method for the quantitative evaluation of safety concerning evacuation routes in urban areas using ACO (Ant Colony Optimization) algorithm and GIS (Geographic Information Systems). More specifically, the multiple evacuation routes extracted using ACO algorithm will be visualized on digital maps by means of GIS, and its safety will be evaluated. Based on the evaluation results, the present study will provide effective information concerning disaster reduction through self and mutual help, namely, the development of evacuation plans by individuals and voluntary disaster prevention organizations in regional communities.

2. Related Work

The present study is related to (1) evacuation routes; (2) road blockages; (3) Spatial analysis using geographic information; and (4) application of ACO algorithm for route searches. Regarding studies related to (1), Liu, Y., et al. [2] developed an adaptive evacuation route algorithm which can respond to condition changes by the time course of flood disasters, using Dijkstra's algorithm, which is the shortest route search method, as well as the flood disaster simulation by the DiMSIS (Disaster Management Spatial Information System). Alcada-Almeida, L., et al. [3] proposed a GIS-based decision support system which incorporates multi-objective approach to locate emergency shelters and identify evacuation routes in urban areas. Onorati, T., et al. [4] proposed a semi-automatic technique for knowledge acquisition and modeling on accessible evacuation routes using ontology. Shimura, Y. and

Yamamoto, K. [5] proposed an evacuation route search method using a multi-objective GA (Genetic Algorithm).

Regarding studies related to (2), with Higashinada Ward of Kobe City, Japan as an example case, Imaizumi, K. and Asami, Y. [6] extracted an estimation model of road blockage probability and proposed a method for evaluation of urban area structure including road networks focusing on blocked intersections. Takeuchi, T. and Kondou, A. [7] assumed evacuation from a tsunami in an earthquake disaster and analyzed evacuation routes which took into account road blockage caused by the collapse of buildings and overall evacuation distance. Additionally, Ichikawa, F., et al. [8] indicated that road blockages due to building collapses greatly hinder evacuation, as it may not only create areas isolated from any evacuation sites, but extend the evacuation distance as well as cause changes in evacuation sites. Moreover, they demonstrated that road blockage conditions and the distance distribution to the nearest evacuation site greatly differed even among the same town and block, and that not only road width but adjacent building conditions can also affect road blockage conditions.

Regarding studies related to (3), Koarai, M., et al. [9] demonstrated the effectiveness of spatial analysis using GIS by analyzing a land condition map superimposed with information of past building damage caused by earthquakes on GIS, in addition to examining the relationship between foundation disasters caused by earthquakes and land conditions. By means of GA using geographic information, Asou, T., et al. [10] extracted the optimum location for evacuation sites in case of a disaster, while Inoue, M. and Yamamoto, K. [11] extracted the optimum location for tourism related facilities in urban tourist areas.

Regarding studies related to (4), Nakamichi, Y. and Arita, T. [12] introduced stochastic choices in the ASrank method, which is the latest extension of ACO, as an operation to adjust the circuit diversity, and

examined the obtained results. Mochio, T. and Kitahara, Y. [13] reproduced the ever-changing disaster conditions using information of the great earthquake obtained from the rescue simulator, and by reducing the amount of calculations by means of ACO, real-time searches for the optimum evacuation route was conducted.

The present study comes under the first category of studies, and proposes the safety evaluation method of evacuation routes referring to the results of studies related to (2) (3) (4). In studies related to (1), though evacuation routes were extracted, its safety was not yet evaluated. Additionally, comparing the related studies as shown, the present study particularly targets crowded urban areas as well as densely populated areas, and in order to provide effective information concerning the development of evacuation plans for earthquake disasters, originality and usefulness will be displayed when proposing the method for the quantitative evaluation of safety concerning evacuation routes. More specifically, assuming a large-scale evacuation in case of an earthquake disaster, the present study will propose the method for the quantitative evaluation of safety concerning evacuation routes in urban areas using ACO algorithm for risk management, in order to provide effective information for the development of evacuation plans using self-help and mutual help methods, which are more direct forms of natural disaster reduction help.

3. Safety Evaluation Method of Evacuation Routes

3.1 Evaluation Method and Framework

In the present study, firstly in section 3.2, ACO algorithm, which is the most important factor for the safety evaluation method of evacuation routes in the present study, will be briefly introduced. In section 4, in addition to selecting the target area of the present study, road network data using GIS will be made. In section 5, road blockage probability per road and the number of estimated evacuees in roads will be calculated, a hierarchy cluster analysis using the

former will be conducted, and roads will be classified by focusing on the similarity in safety. In section 6, an evaluation experiment of ACO algorithm concerning the target area will be conducted. More specifically, a simulation of congestion conditions of evacuation routes in the target area will be conducted, the parameter of the most valid evaluation results will be applied to ACO, and the congestion rate of each evacuation route will be calculated. As the present study assumes a large-scale evacuation, in section 7, evacuation routes with high congestion rates will be extracted and visualized on a digital map by means of GIS, and its safety will also be evaluated. In the present study, the ArcGIS Ver.10.1 of ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.) will be used as GIS, and making of road network data, spatial analysis and the visualization of evacuation route choices will be conducted.

3.2 ACO Principles and Basic Model

In this section, ACO algorithm will be briefly introduced. ACO is a search method which mimics the path generation process when the ant is on the hunt for food, and it has been applied to combinatorial optimization problems such as the TSP (Travelling Salesman Problem), and has had many effective research results. Ants use pheromones to communicate while they move as a group, resulting in a type of organized system. ACO uses this system formation process for searches.

ACO basic model has been represented by an algorithm called the AS (Ant System) by Dorigo, M., et al. [14], and its original model dates back to the 1990's to their earlier studies [14]. Based on AS which is the basics of ACO, ACO algorithm, stochastic route selection methods, and the numerical modelling of pheromones will be explained.

3.2.1 ACO Algorithm

The ACO flowchart is as shown in Fig. 1, and each step shown will be explained. In the present study, "ant" will hereinafter be called "agent".

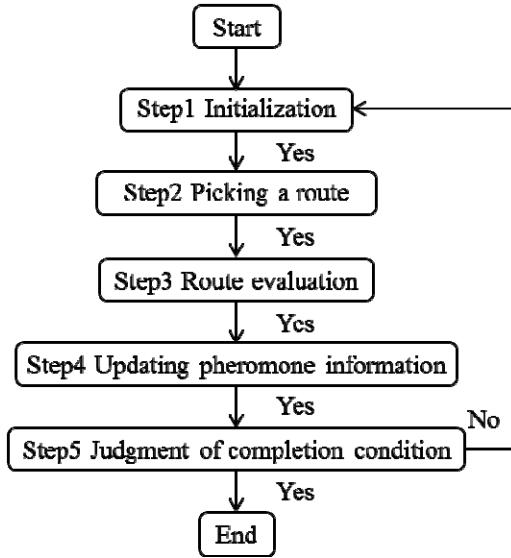


Fig. 1 ACO flowchart.

Step 1: Initial pheromone information will be attached to all routes, and the initial location of each agent will be set at random;

Step 2: Each agent will randomly pick a route based on pheromone information and heuristic information;

Step 3: The total distance of the collection of routes (circuit) selected by each agent in Step 2 will be calculated;

Step 4: Based on the total distance of the circuit mentioned in Step 3, pheromone information will be attached to each route in the circuit. At the same time, a certain amount of pheromone put on all routes will be vaporized;

Step 5: The process will go back to Step 2, if the number of searches is below the maximum amount, and if it goes over the maximum number, the process will end here.

As shown, ACO algorithm is simple, and all that is needed is a stochastic route selection method, heuristic information and pheromone information. This will be explained in more detail.

3.2.2 Stochastic Selection Method of Routes

Stochastic route selection by ACO is determined by the pheromone information accumulated on the routes as well as heuristic information. The probability P_{ij}^k of agent number k selecting the route from i to j is

calculated by means of Eq. (1):

$$P_{ij}^k(t) = \frac{\tau_{ij}(t)^\alpha \cdot \eta_{ij}^\beta}{\sum_{l \in C} \tau_{il}(t)^\alpha \cdot \eta_{il}^\beta} \quad (1)$$

Here, pheromone information is $\tau_{ij}(t)$; time is t , heuristic information is η_{ij} ; α is a multiplier of pheromone information; β is a multiplier of heuristic information; and C is a collection of routes which can be selected from routes starting from i .

3.2.3 Heuristic Information

Heuristic information η_{ij} generally uses the reciprocal number of the route's distance. Therefore, if the route distance is d_{ij} , η_{ij} can be defined by Eq. (2):

$$\eta_{ij} = 1/d_{ij} \quad (2)$$

When an agent is selecting a route, heuristic information selects a shorter route ahead without any connection with the total distance of the circuit.

3.2.4 Pheromone Information

Pheromone information is the one that is accumulated on routes and it is attached to each route of the circuit selected by an agent. The shorter the total distance of the circuit is, the higher the pheromone information value becomes. Additionally, the attached pheromone information decreases with the passing of time. Therefore, ACO takes into consideration the characteristics of the pheromone information, as well as the time variation as mentioned.

The pheromone information $\tau_{ij}(t)$ accumulated on route $(i-j)$ at a certain time t evaporates at a rate of ρ concerning $t + 1$. Additionally, suppose more pheromone information is added by all agents. In other words, pheromone information $\tau_{ij}(t + 1)$ for $t + 1$ can be calculated using Eq. (3):

$$\tau_{ij}(t + 1) = (1 - \rho) \cdot \tau_{ij}(t) + \sum_{k=1}^n \Delta \tau_{ij}^k(t) \quad (3)$$

Here, the number of agents is n , the added pheromone information by agent number k is (t) , and regarding the latter, the value becomes higher when

the total distance of the circuit is shorter. Therefore, the added pheromone information from the total distance of the circuit selected by the agent can be calculated using Eq. (4):

$$\Delta\tau_{ij}^k(t) = \frac{1}{L^k} \quad (4)$$

Here, L^k is the total distance of the circuit selected by agent number k . As the pheromone information evaporates with the passing of time, this prevents focusing on recent activities and getting localized solutions, and makes searches for a wide range of solutions possible.

4. Selection of Target Area and Creating Road Network Data

4.1 Selection of Target Area

Large-scale evacuations are when many people around venues of large events have to evacuate. As the Olympics and Paralympics will be held in Tokyo Metropolis in 2020, an increase in tourists around the stadiums and other venues is expected. Therefore, if an earthquake disaster occurs in such areas, the probability of a large-scale evacuation is high. Consequently, as shown in Fig. 2, Hongo district of Bunkyo Ward, an area close to the Tokyo Dome Stadium where a lot of sports games and

entertainment events are frequently held, is chosen as the target area.

4.2 Evacuation Rules

4.2.1 Order of Evacuation

If an earthquake disaster occurs in Tokyo Metropolis, especially in crowded urban areas, many road blockages are likely to occur due to secondary disasters which include the collapse and combustion of buildings. Therefore, in Tokyo Metropolis, the principal of a two-step evacuation on foot must be kept as an evacuation rule in case of an earthquake disaster. In this two-step evacuation, as a first step in the evacuation from the occurrence of a disaster, evacuees will evacuate to a temporary gathering sites and the damage situation will be confirmed. Elementary and junior high schools and parks are assigned as temporary gathering sites according to each neighborhood association. After checking the damage situation, if the temporary gathering site is seen as dangerous, an evacuation to a wide-area evacuation site will be made as part of the second step. Sites that are more than 10 hectares and cannot be affected by the radiant heat from fires are assigned as wide-area evacuation sites by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government [15]. On the other hand, if the damage caused by fires following

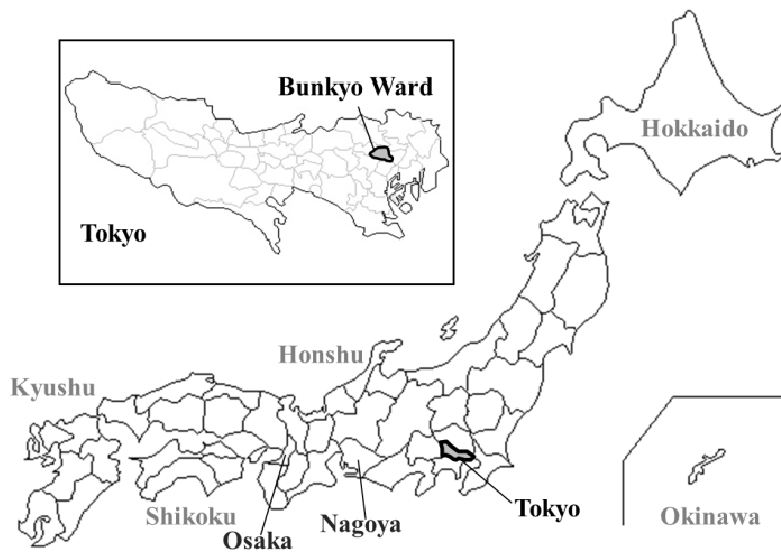


Fig. 2 The location of the target area.

the disaster extends significantly and the evacuation to temporary evacuation site is seen as dangerous, evacuees will be instructed to go directly to wide-area evacuation sites (direct evacuation).

In the present study, in order to evaluate the safety of evacuation route assuming a large-scale evacuation, the travel between evacuation sites will be assumed and the safety of route between evacuation sites will be evaluated. This is because damage from fires are to be little as the target area is a fireproofed area, and the probability of direct evacuation cases to wide-area evacuation sites are estimated to be low. Additionally, in case of a large-scale evacuation, there may be a need for evacuees to move to other evacuation sites, when certain evacuation sites become overcrowded.

4.2.2 Assignment of Evacuation Sites

As with the target area in the present study, University of Tokyo and an open space near the Dome Stadium are assigned as a wide-area evacuation site by Bunkyo Ward [16]. Additionally, nine locations are also assigned as temporary evacuation sites. Therefore, in the present study, a total of ten evacuation sites have been set as both the evacuation starting points as well as destination points, and searches for evacuation routes will be conducted.

4.2.3 Evacuation Distance and Time for Evacuation Routes

Based on material from the Urban Disaster Prevention Office of the City Bureau of the Ministry of Construction [17] and the Director-General for Disaster Management in the Cabinet Office [18], taking into consideration walking speed and evacuation time in times of a disaster, locations that are within 2 km of walking distance are assigned as wide-area evacuation sites. Regarding walking speed, although it is generally said to be about 4 km/h, taking into consideration the elderly and children as well as the fact that this is in case of a disaster, walking speed is considered to be 2 km/h which is half the normal speed (speed can drop to 1 km/h if in the dark).

Regarding evacuation time, from the fatality occurrences according to the cause in the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, it became evident that the fatalities caused by fire rapidly increased 3 hours after the earthquake, and that the first hour after earthquake quickly passed by with the transportation of injured people, first-aid firefighting, and situation grasping. Therefore, although this leaves 2 hours for evacuation, if another hour is allowed as a margin, only an hour is left for the actual evacuation time. Hence, the evacuation distance for an hour of evacuation time is around 2 km. This shows that for evacuation route in case of wide-area evacuation, the evacuation distance must be within 2 km and a route that is within an hour of evacuation time is desirable. As mentioned in the previous section, because the present study sets all evacuation sites including temporary evacuation sites as targets, evacuation routes within 1 km of evacuation distance and 0.5 hours of evacuation time are considered desirable.

4.3 Creation of Road Information Using GIS

4.3.1 Collection and Processing of Data Used

According to “District-based Assessment of Vulnerability to Earthquake Disaster (No. 7)” [19] published by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, it is necessary to consider the road blockage caused by building collapses on the evacuation routes in the target area. Table 1 shows the data used in the present study and how the data was processed. In the present study, the same kinds of data were used and processed in the same method as Shimura, Y. and Yamamoto, K. [5] and Yamamoto, K. and Li, X. [20]. Information on the probability of total building collapse, sorted by ground area and building type, from “District-based Assessment of Vulnerability to Earthquake Disaster (No. 7)” [19] was used in calculating the road blockage probability and adding it to the road network. However, data on the year each building was constructed is fixed asset tax roll data which falls into the category of personal information, and it is difficult

Table 1 Use data and processing method.

Use data	Data processing method
2012 current situation of land use [21]	Making of road network; Measurement of road width
2012 current situation of building use [21]; Probability of total building collapse sorted by ground area and building type [19]	Calculation of road blockage probability and its addition to the road network
Daytime and nighttime populations by the daytime and nighttime populations according to District [22]; 2012 current situation of building use [21]	Calculation of estimated population in roads and its addition to the road network

for individuals to obtain. Therefore, in the present study, the case of the worst damage possible was imagined, and it was assumed that all wooden buildings were constructed prior to 1970. Further, based on “District-based Assessment of Vulnerability to Earthquake Disaster (No. 7)” [19], a uniform probability of total building collapse of 50.99% was used.

Further, in the present study, crowding in roads due to population concentration is taken into account as a chief cause of obstacles to evacuation. The nighttime and daytime populations sorted by administrative address units such as block, subdivision and aza (the smallest administrative unit in Japan) were considered (Table 1). The estimated populations in roads in both cases of daytime and nighttime were calculated.

4.3.2 Making of Road Network Data

In the present study, the road blockage probability will be calculated from the relationship between the debris width buffer of wooden buildings along the road and the road’s centerline located in front of the buildings. Therefore, the road centerlines will be extracted from land use data, and using the data obtained, node data with intersection and junctions as well as link data with roads connecting the intersections and junctions will be made. Additionally, by integrating the node data and link data, a road network data will be made. Fig. 3 shows the road network made with the process mentioned in the target area, and road information will be added to the data in the next section.

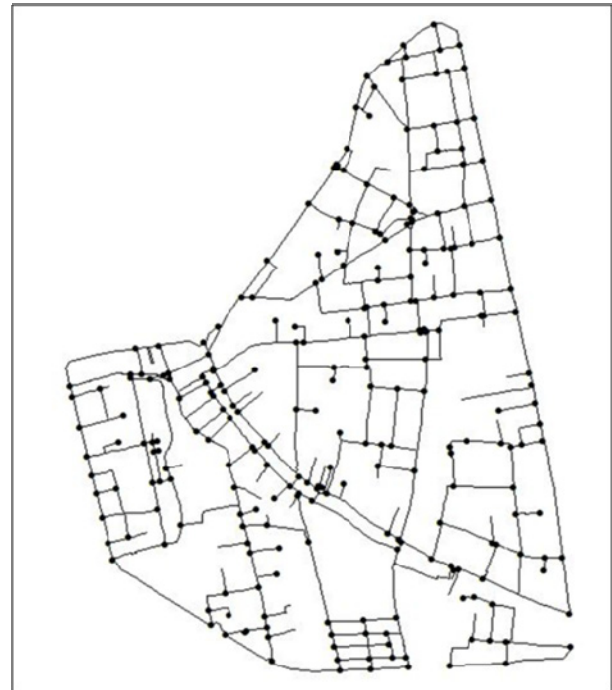


Fig. 3 Road network in the target area.

5. Road Classification Using Hierarchy Cluster Analysis

5.1 Generating of Road Network Information Using GIS

In the present study, the road network information was generated in the same method as Shimura, Y. and Yamamoto, K. [5] and Yamamoto, K. and Li, X. [20].

5.1.1 Calculation of Road Blockage Probability and Its Addition to the Road Network

Road blockage probability was added to the road network data shown in Fig. 3 as an attribute. The present study takes into account two types of blockage: (1) Single blockage, defined as being when a road is blocked by the collapse of a wooden building on only one side of a road; and (2) Combined blockage, defined as being when a road is blocked by the collapse of wooden buildings on both sides of a road. Here, in the case of (1) single blockage, when the debris width produced by a collapsed building intersects with a building shape located on the other side of the road, the road located between these buildings is regarded as being blocked. Further, in the

case of (2) combined blockage, when the debris widths produced by collapsed buildings on both sides of the road intersect, the road located between these collapsed buildings is regarded as being blocked.

Regarding road blockage probability for the case of (1) single blockage, since the road will be blocked by the collapse of one wooden building on one side of the road, the blockage probability is regarded as being the same as the probability that a wooden building will collapse. Meanwhile, in the case of (2) combined blockage, since the road is blocked when buildings on both the left and right sides of the road collapse, the blockage probability is found by multiplying the collapse probabilities for buildings on the left and right sides of the road. Below, methods for calculating road blockage probability and adding it to the road network are described.

5.1.1.1 Roadside Building Extraction and Classification

Roadside buildings, which are a primary factor in road blockage, were extracted. First, a buffer from the road centerline was created on the right side only, and the spatial search function of GIS was used to extract buildings which intersected with the buffer. Similarly, next a buffer from the road centerline was created only on the left side, and buildings which intersected with the buffer were extracted. By following these steps, buildings were classified into those located on the right side of the road and those located on the left side of the road.

5.1.1.2 Extraction of Roadside Wooden Buildings and Addition of Collapse Probability

Using the attribute search function of GIS, wooden buildings were extracted from both the buildings on the right side and the buildings on the left side. Further, probability of collapse was added as an attribute to each of the wooden buildings.

5.1.1.3 Extraction of Pairs of Buildings Which Would Cause Blockage

(1) Case of single blockage

A buffer with a radius equal to the debris width

which would be produced from a wooden building on the right side of the road if it collapsed was created, and the spatial search function of GIS was used to extract any building on the left side of the road which intersected with the buffer. The same was done for the left side of the road, and pairs of buildings which would cause single blockage were extracted. Regarding the outflow of debris that occurs when a building collapses, the case of maximum damage was imagined, and it was assumed that debris would flow out evenly in all directions. Further, regarding the debris width, with reference to Ichikawa, F., et al. [8], the debris width was found using Eq. (5). Regarding the number of floors in buildings, reference was made to data on the present building use situation. As the average floor height, a uniform average floor height of 3 meters was used:

$$(\text{Debris width}) = (\text{Number of floors}) \times (\text{Average floor height}) \quad (5)$$

(2) Case of combined blockage

Debris width buffers were created for wooden buildings on both the left and right sides of the road. The spatial search function of GIS was used to extract left-side debris buffers which intersected with right-side debris buffers and right-side debris buffers which intersected with left-side debris buffers. These steps were performed to extract buildings on the right side and buildings on the left side which would cause combined blockage.

5.1.1.4 Generation of Road Section Lines

With reference to Yoshikawa, T., et al. [23], section lines (lines which connected the center points of buildings which would cause road blockage) were created. Using the XY To Line tool of GIS, line data was generated for lines which connected the center points of buildings which would cause road blockage (which were extracted in section 5.1.1.3), and this data was used as section lines. XY coordinates which were the center points of buildings were found using the geometry arithmetic function of GIS. Section lines were generated to suit three types of case—the case of

single blockage caused by the collapse of wooden buildings on the right side of the road, the case of single blockage caused by the collapse of wooden buildings on the left side of the road, and the case of combined blockage. Further, blockage probability which suited the type of blockage was added for each case.

5.1.1.5 Addition of Blockage Probability to Road Network

Using the spatial coupling tool of GIS, to each road link which intersected with the three types of section line generated in section 5.1.1.4, blockage probability (indicated by p_k) for each of the points on section lines (indicated by k) was added.

5.1.1.6 Calculation of Road Blockage Probability

Through a series of the operations in this section, to each road link, blockage probabilities (indicated by p_k) for points on section lines (these points were indicated by k) were added. The probability P_s that all points k on the section lines of each road link would be passable was calculated using the blockage probability p_k , and is expressed by Eq. (6) [7]:

$$P_s = \prod (1 - p_k) \quad (6)$$

Therefore, the road link blockage probability P_b was found using the Eq. (7):

$$P_b = 1 - P_s = 1 - \prod (1 - p_k) \quad (7)$$

Using the field arithmetic function of GIS, the calculations of Eqs. (6) and (7) were performed on the attribute table of road link data, and blockage

probability was calculated for each road link.

5.1.2 Calculation of Estimated Evacuation Population in Road and Its Addition to the Road Network

The estimated population of evacuees which would occur in each road at the time of a disaster outbreak was calculated, and was added to road links as an attribute. Estimated population is used in the ACO when calculating evacuation time for a route. In this section, methods for calculating the estimated population within a road and adding it to the road network are described. In the present study, populations in both cases of daytime (AM 7:00-PM 6:00) and nighttime (PM 6:00-AM 7:00) evacuations were used to calculate the estimated population in roads.

(1) Using the spatial search function of GIS, based on data on present use of buildings which intersected with block (called as chome in Japan) polygon data taken from data on the present land use situation, for each block, the buildings in the block were extracted;

(2) Using the attribute search function of GIS, from the data on buildings extracted in step (1), only the single or detached houses and apartment buildings or housing complexes with many evacuees were extracted;

(3) Using Eq. (8), estimated populations which matched the total floor space of each residence were assigned. Calculation for Eq. (8) was performed using the field arithmetic function of GIS in attribute fields for building data;

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{(Estimated evacuation population in Building i)} \\ &= \text{(Daytime and nighttime populations of relevant block)} \\ & \times \frac{\text{(Total floor space of Building i)}}{\text{(Total combined floor space of residential sections in relevant block)}} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

(4) Using the spatial coupling tool of GIS, the estimated evacuation population of each residence was assigned to the road link closest to the residence.

5.2 Road Classification

Focusing on the similarity in safety and setting the

road blockage probability calculated on the basis of building collapse risk in section 5.1 as a variable, all roads in the target area were classified by the hierarchy cluster analysis using MATLAB. The Euclidean distance as the distance between objectives, and Ward's method for calculation of the distance

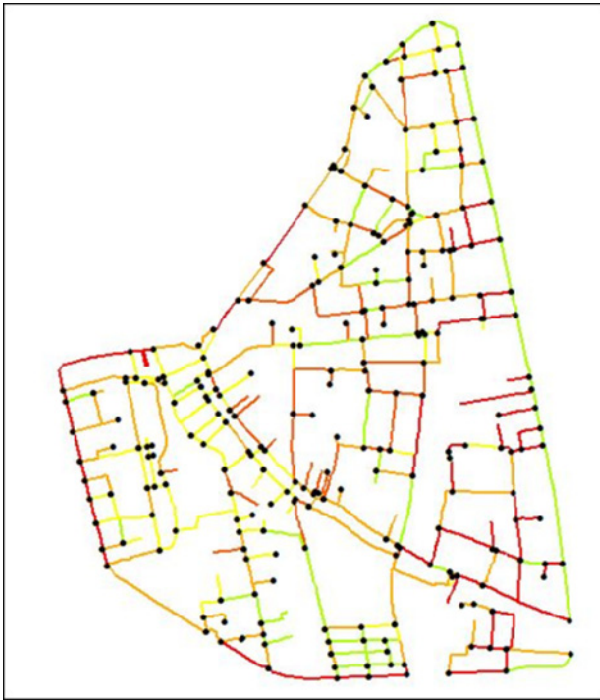


Fig. 4 Road classification based on the similarity in safety.

between clusters are used. The result from road classification is shown in Fig. 4. In Fig. 4, cluster 1 has the lowest safety, and safety levels are classified into 5 levels. The road classification results will be referred to when estimating the congestion rate using ACO.

6. Evaluation Experiment of the ACO Algorithm

In this section, an evaluation experiment will be conducted to demonstrate the effectiveness of the ACO algorithm. Using the information of large earthquakes obtained from a rescue simulator, the ever-changing disaster conditions will be replayed. Additionally, route searches using ACO, which is a crowd flow model and metaheuristic solution, will be conducted to reduce the amount of calculations and to estimate real-time congestion in evacuation routes. In the evaluation experiment in this section, as described in section 4.2.2, evacuation starting points and destination points are all considered as evacuation sites, and the congestion condition of evacuation route between evacuation sites will be estimated.

6.1 Method

6.1.1 Congestion Estimation Using the Back-Track Method

In the present study, when trying to obtain the number of evacuation routes from geographical information, a simulation by the back-track method using MATLAB will be conducted. The back-track method is a type of search that prioritizes depth, and when searching for a solution using this method, a potential process will be tested according to order. If it becomes evident that a solution cannot be found in a certain process, it will go back to the previous step and a different process will be tested. Therefore, this method thoroughly covers all possibilities. However, as it stops calculating and goes back to the previous step as soon as it becomes evident that a solution cannot be found, it is more efficient than the dialled estimation.

6.1.2 Simulation Process

According to the two-step procedures, the simulation will be conducted:

(1) 1st tour

1. All ants will select an evacuation route at random with the same probability;
2. The evaluation function of the evacuation routes selected by each ant will be calculated;
3. Based on the evaluation function value selected in ii), pheromones will be attached to the evacuation routes;

(2) From the 2nd tour on

4. All ants will select evacuation routes following the pheromones;
5. The evaluation function of the evacuation routes selected by each ant will be calculated;
6. Based on the evaluation function value of each ant, the pheromones on the evacuation routes will be updated.

6.2 Simulation and Evaluation Experiments Concerning the Target Area

In order to verify the effectiveness of the original

simulation of the present study, a comparison of three different simulation results will be conducted, by changing the number of ants in correspondence with the number of evacuees and the amount of pheromones adjusted according to the process in the section 6.1.2. By doing these, the congestion rate of each road will be estimated.

6.2.1 ACO Parameter

The ACO parameter for simulations concerning the target area is as shown in Table 2. In order to compare the difference in results depending on the number of ants, all parameters except for the number of ants is made the same, and simulations for three different cases were conducted. As mentioned in section 4.2.2, because there are ten evacuation sites within the target area, the number of solutions where pheromones can be updated is also seven. Additionally, the number of evacuees is represented in the number of ants. Taking into consideration the daytime and nighttime populations within the target area, the number of ants is 300 for daytime population and 100 for nighttime population.

6.2.2 Results and Considerations Concerning the Simulations

Simulations for cases 1-3 shown in Table 2 were conducted. According to Table 2, Figs. 5-10 present the simulation results for the 3 cases. For example, in case 1 as shown in Fig. 5, evacuation routes between evacuation sites were selected by 300 ants. According to the simulation of the present study, the ants selected routes with high congestion rates as evacuation routes. Fig. 10 presents the convergence situation of the time cost by 300 ants selecting an evacuation route.

Table 2 ACO parameter concerning the simulation.

Case	1	2	3
Solution options in which pheromones can be updated (evacuation sites)	7	7	7
Number of search ants (number of evacuees)	300	200	100
Volatilization rate (%)	100	100	100
Size of option list (convergence speed)	110	110	110
Number of occurrences	200	200	200

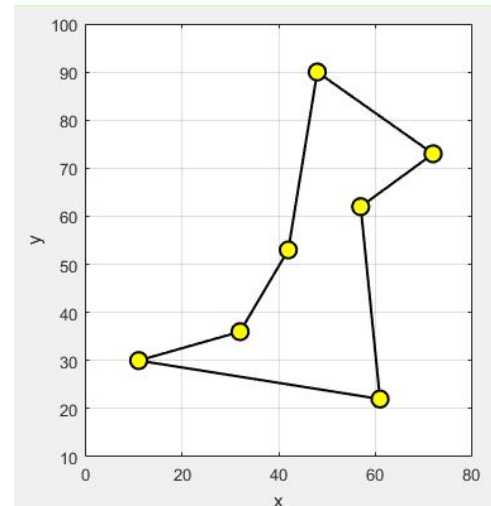


Fig. 5 Evacuation routes between each evacuation site (When the number of ants is 300).

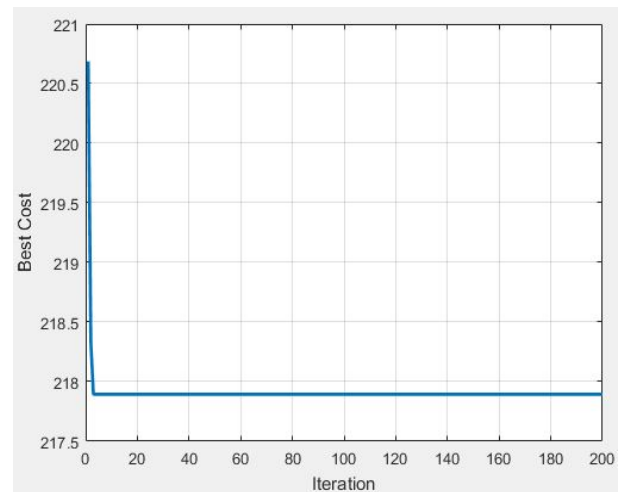


Fig. 6 Convergence situation of evacuation time cost (When the number of ants is 300).

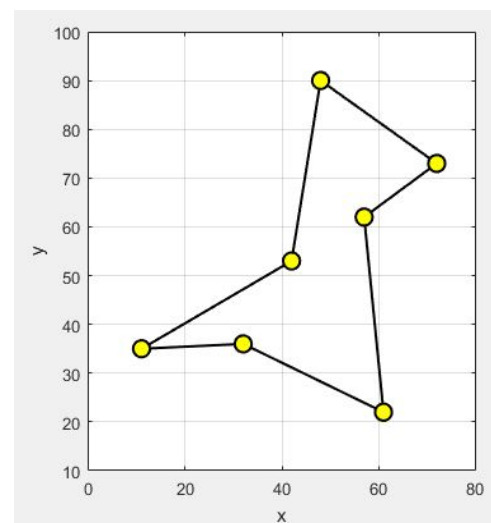


Fig. 7 Evacuation routes between each evacuation site (When the number of ants is 200).

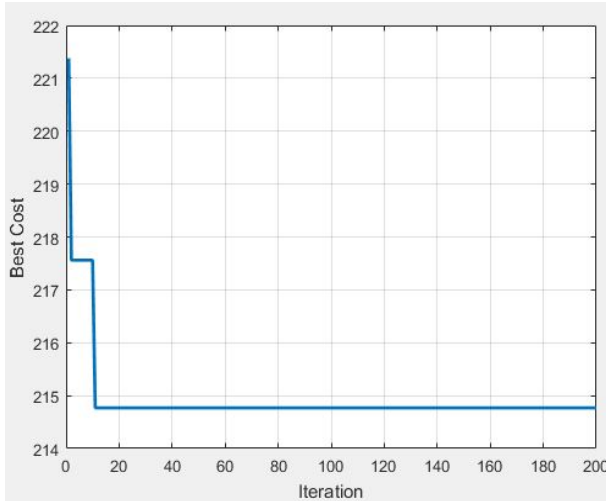


Fig. 8 Convergence situation of evacuation time cost (When the number of ants is 200).

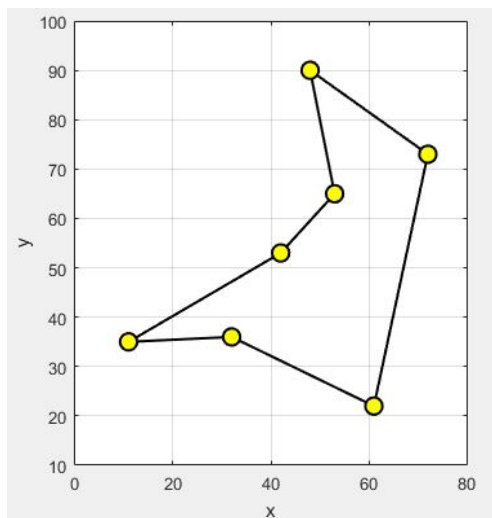


Fig. 9 Evacuation routes between each evacuation site (When the number of ants is 100).

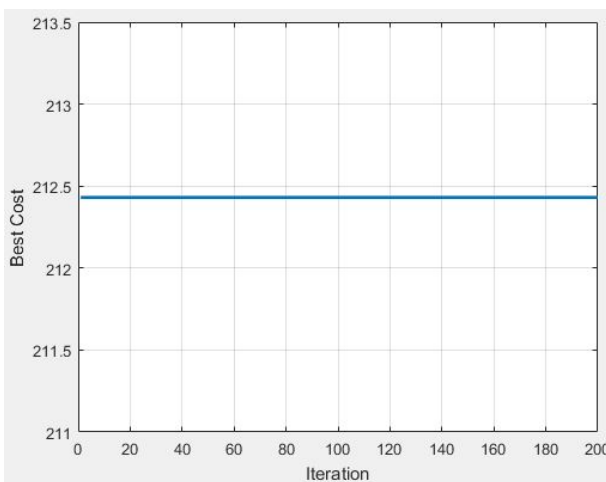


Fig. 10 Convergence situation of evacuation time cost (When the number of ants is 100).

7. Safety Evaluation of Evacuation Routes Assuming a Large-scale Evacuation

7.1 Extraction Conditions of Evacuation Routes with a High Congestion Rate

In this section, the simulation results of section 6 will be applied to the target area, and evacuation routes with high congestion rates will be extracted. From these evacuation routes, those that meet the three conditions will be extracted with reference to section 4.2.3. The extracted route will be visualized on digital maps by means of GIS and its safety will be evaluated:

- (i) Distance between evacuation sites is less than 1 km;
- (ii) Evacuation time between evacuation sites is under 0.5 hours;
- (iii) Congestion rate is more than 80%.

Considering the congestion rate that represents the difficulty in activity in times of a disaster, each evacuation site will be selected as evacuation starting points. In the present study, in order to estimate the congestion rate of evacuation route between evacuation sites, the closest evacuation site to each evacuation site will be selected as evacuation destinations.

7.2 Safety Evaluation of Evacuation Routes

7.2.1 Extraction of Evacuation Routes with High Congestion Rates

The ACO parameters set in order to conduct the simulations are as shown in Table 3 (daytime evacuation) and Table 4 (nighttime evacuation). Additionally, the results of the simulations conducted in section 6.2.2 (Figs. 5 and 9) were superimposed with the road map classified by the hierarchy cluster analysis (Fig. 4), and the evacuation routes with high congestion rates between evacuation sites are shown in Fig. 11 (daytime evacuation) and Fig. 12 (nighttime evacuation). In Figs. 11 and 12, evacuation sites 1-7 are evacuation starting points as well as destination

Table 3 ACO parameters used for simulations (daytime evacuations).

Solution options in which pheromones can be updated (evacuation sites)	7
Number of search ants (number of evacuees)	300
Volatilization rate (%)	100
Size of option list (convergence speed)	110
Number of occurrences	200

Table 4 ACO parameters used for simulations (nighttime evacuations).

Solution options in which pheromones can be updated (evacuation sites)	7
Number of search ants (number of evacuees)	100
Volatilization rate (%)	100
Size of option list (convergence speed)	110
Number of occurrences	200

points. Additionally, as Evacuation Sites 5 and 6 are close to the Tokyo Dome Stadium, areas around these sites require attention especially when large-scale

events are being held. When comparing Figs. 11 and 12, it is evident that evacuation routes with high congestion rates differ according to whether it is daytime or nighttime.

7.2.2 Situation of Evacuation Route with High Congestion Rates

Each evaluation value of evacuation routes shown in Figs. 11 and 12 are summarized into Tables 5 (daytime evacuation) and 6 (nighttime evacuation). In Tables 5 and 6, each evaluation value that matched the extraction conditions in section 7.1 is colored red. As shown in Tables 5 and 6, it is clear that evacuation routes with evaluation values which include high congestion rates that exceed the extraction conditions are routes 2-4 and 5-6 in addition to route 5-4 for daytime evacuations, and routes 2-4 and 3-4 in case of nighttime evacuations.

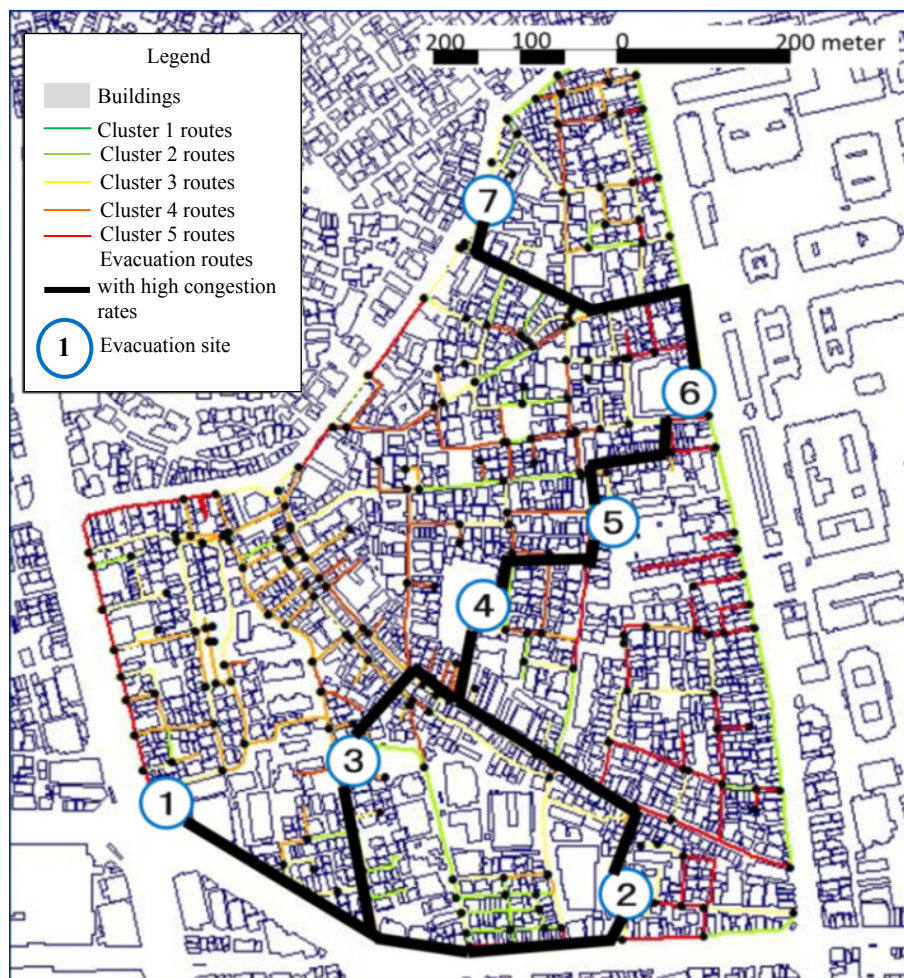


Fig. 11 Evacuation routes between each evacuation site (daytime evacuation).

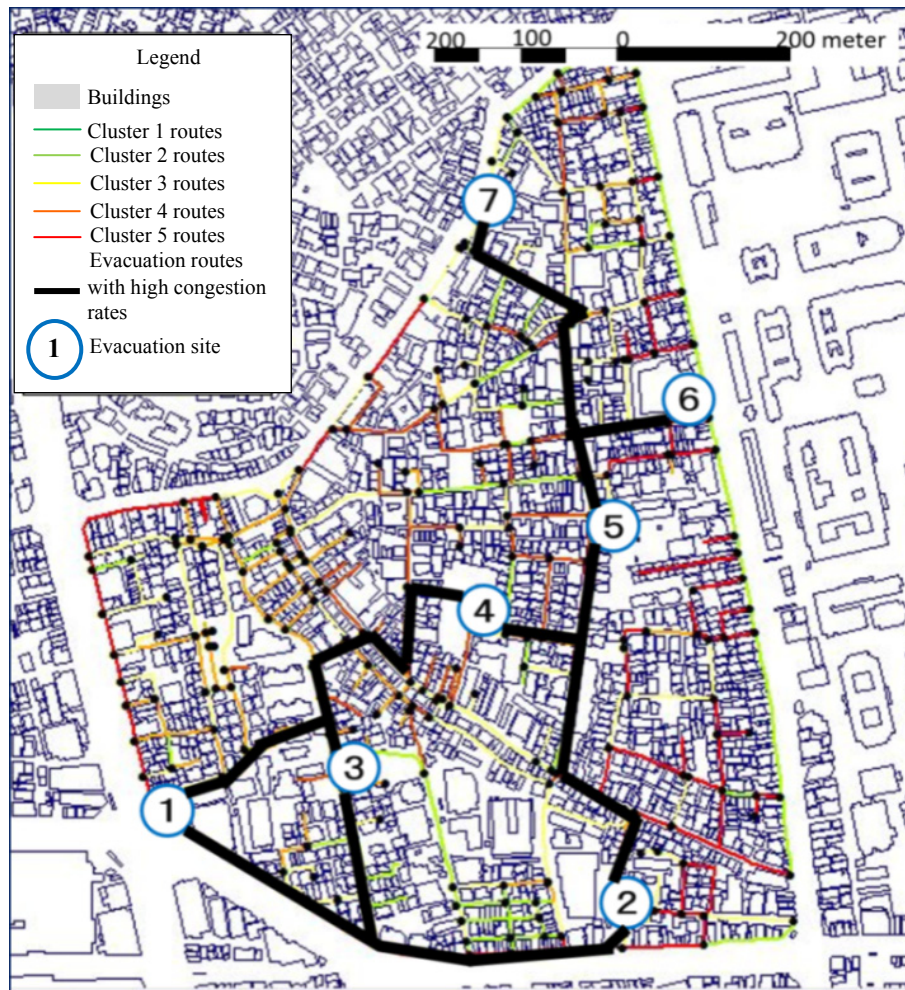


Fig. 12 Evacuation routes between each evacuation site (nighttime evacuation).

7.3 Safety Evaluation of Evacuation Route

From Tables 5 and 6, route 3-2 for daytime evacuations and route 5-7 for nighttime evacuations have long evacuation distance and time. Additionally, it can be confirmed that these evacuation routes are dangerous as both the congestion rates and building collapse risk are high. As all evaluation values are high for these evacuation routes, use of these routes must be prohibited when developing evacuation plans. Additionally, regarding routes 2-3, 5-4 and 5-6 for daytime evacuations, and routes 2-5, 3-4 and 6-7 for nighttime evacuations, as some of these routes also have high evaluation values, there is a need to avoid them if possible. Routes 1-2 and 1-3 for daytime and nighttime evacuations are evacuation routes with relatively low evaluation values within the target area.

Therefore, if the possibility of a large-scale evacuation in case of an earthquake is high, safe evacuation routes such as routes 1-2 and 1-3 can be selected.

7.4 Discussion

In this section, the multiple evacuation routes extracted were visualized on digital maps by means of GIS, and its safety was evaluated. Furthermore, the selection of safe evacuation routes between evacuation sites, for cases when the possibility of large-scale evacuation after an earthquake disaster is high, is made possible. Additionally, using the safety evaluation method in the present study, if all data and research information is updated with the future technology developments and advances in related fields, it will be possible to update and provide even

Table 5 Evaluation values of evacuation routes with high congestion rates (daytime evacuation).

Evacuation routes with high congestion rates	Evacuation distance [m]	Evacuation time [h]	Congestion rate [%]	Building collapse risk
Route 1-2	452.3	312.1	46	0.440
Route 1-3	412.2	412.1	62	0.424
Route 2-3	388.1	727.1	83	0.412
Route 2-4	345.1	621.9	90	0.390
Route 3-2	421.4	421.7	63	0.431
Route 3-4	203.4	637.2	84	0.285
Route 5-4	182.7	789.5	88	0.194
Route 5-6	191.3	762.3	92	0.200
Route 6-7	294.9	711.3	79	0.319

Table 6 Evaluation values of evacuation routes with high congestion rates (nighttime evacuation).

Evacuation routes with high congestion rates	Evacuation distance [m]	Evacuation time [h]	Congestion rate [%]	Building collapse risk
Route 1-2	452.3	312.1	46	0.440
Route 1-3	412.2	412.1	62	0.424
Route 1-4	443.0	671.2	78	0.436
Route 2-4	469.6	639.1	87	0.518
Route 2-5	471.3	713.8	82	0.519
Route 3-1	221.1	527.0	73	0.282
Route 3-2	421.4	421.7	63	0.431
Route 3-4	323.6	791.5	88	0.385
Route 4-5	172.8	697.1	69	0.199
Route 5-6	171.9	669.5	67	0.200
Route 5-7	473.3	723.8	81	0.522
Route 6-7	472.1	721.1	68	0.521

more accurate information. From data of current conditions including building and land use data, road network information which would be an evacuation hindrance in disasters situations was created in the present study. Because the safety evaluation of evacuation routes based on current building and road layout conditions is made possible by estimating evacuation routes with high congestion rates based on such information, it can be said that the safety evaluation method has high spatial reproducibility. Furthermore, as the safety evaluation method is based on public information, by obtaining the same geographic information as the present study, it is effective in other areas regardless of whether the information is of the past and future. Therefore, in addition to spatial reproducibility, the safety evaluation method also has high temporal reproducibility.

However, regarding spatial reproducibility, it is

essential to modify the safety evaluation method, paying attention to the differences concerning types of disasters and secondary disasters between regions. In the present study, assuming a large-scale evacuation in case of an earthquake disaster and targeting a fireproofed area to conduct the safety evaluation of evacuation routes, it is required to just consider building collapse risks. On the other hand, on the same assumption as the present study in the area has a high concentration of wooden dwellings, it is necessary to consider fire risk in addition to building collapse risk.

8. Conclusions

The conclusion of the present study can be summarized into three points:

(1) In the present study, the safety evaluation method of evacuation routes in urban areas, which

uses ACO algorithm and GIS, was proposed. Regarding the method, the similarity in safety was focused on while taking into consideration road blockage probability, and after classifying roads by means of the hierarchical cluster analysis, the congestion rates of evacuation routes using ACO simulations were estimated. Based on these results, considering the evaluation values of evacuation distance, evacuation time, congestion rates, as well as building collapse risks, the multiple evacuation routes extracted were visualized on digital maps by means of GIS, and its safety was evaluated. Furthermore, the selection of safe evacuation routes between evacuation sites, for cases when the possibility of large-scale evacuation after an earthquake disaster is high, is made possible;

(2) Using the safety evaluation method in the present study, if all data and research information is updated with the future technology developments and advances in the related fields, it will be possible to update and provide even more accurate information. Additionally, as the evaluation method is based on public information, by obtaining the same geographic information as the present study, it is effective in other areas regardless of whether the information is of the past and future. Therefore, in addition to spatial reproducibility, the evaluation method also has high temporal reproducibility;

(3) Because safety evaluations are conducted on evacuation routes based on quantified data, highly safe evacuation routes that are selected have been quantitatively evaluated, and thus serve as an effective indicator when selecting evacuation routes. Additionally, if more detailed information can be used as data, the derivation of evacuation routes that more accurately reflect real conditions can be possible.

As for further research tasks, improvement of evaluation precision and additional refinement of road information can be considered.

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