Effect of Correlations of Component Failures and Cross-Connections of EDGs on Seismically Induced Core Damages of a Multi-Unit Site*

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Abstract

Aiming at proposing effective applications of seismic probabilistic safety assessment (PSA) for design and risk management of nuclear facilities, we conducted a preliminary seismic PSA study for a multi-unit site to examine core damage frequency (CDF) and core damage sequences with consideration of the effect of correlations of component failures. In addition, we also examined the effectiveness of an accident management measure, namely, cross-connections of emergency diesel generators (EDGs) between adjacent units in this study. Twin BWR-5 units of the same design were hypothesized to be located at the same site in this study and the CDF as well as the accident sequences of this two-unit site were analyzed by using SECOM2, a system reliability analysis code for seismic PSA. The results showed that the calculated CDF was dependent on the assumptions on the correlations of component failures. When the rules for assigning correlation coefficients of component responses defined in the NUREG-1150 program were adopted, the CDF of a single unit, the CDF of this two-unit site (the frequency of core damages of at least one unit at this site) and the frequency of simultaneous core damages of both units increased by factors of about 1.3, 1.2 and 2.3, respectively. In addition, it might be possible that the simultaneous core damages of both units are caused by different accident sequence pairs as well as the same sequence pairs. When cross-connections of EDGs between two units were available, the CDF of a single unit, the CDF of this two-unit site as well as the frequency of simultaneous core damages of both units decreased. In addition, the CDF of this two-unit site was smaller than the CDF of a single unit site. These results show that cross-connections of EDGs might be beneficial for a multi-unit site if the rules for assigning correlation coefficients defined in NUREG-1150 program are reasonable.

Key words: Seismic PSA, Correlations of Component Failures, Core Damage Frequency, Core Damage Sequence

1. Introduction

Seismic probabilistic safety assessment (PSA) of Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) has been widely conducted since early 1980s to evaluate core damage frequency (CDF) due to earthquakes and to identify the vulnerability of NPPs¹⁻⁶. Since Japan is an earthquake-ridden country, the safety concern of NPPs against earthquake is high. To

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investigate the possibility of the CD of a NPP due to earthquakes, Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA, formerly Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (JAERI)) has been conducting methodology development of seismic PSA since 1986. The SHEAT (Seismic Hazard Evaluation for Assessing the Threat to a Facility Site) code was developed to perform seismic hazard analysis⁷. In addition, the SECOM2 (Seismic Core Melt Frequency Evaluation Code, version 2) code was developed to perform system reliability analysis⁸⁻⁹. This seismic PSA method has been applied to a hypothetical BWR plant and the applicability of this methodology has been confirmed ¹⁰.

Since there are generally more than one NPP units at a site in Japan, it is desirable to perform seismic PSA on multiple units at the same site to understand the effect of earthquake on CDF and core damage sequences of these multiple units. As for internal event, it is natural to expect that if two units are completely independent from each other, the CDF of this two-unit site (the frequency of core damages of at least one unit at this site) will be 2 times of the CDF of a single unit site. However, in the case of earthquake, the CDF of the two-unit site will be less than 2 times of the CDF of a single unit site because earthquake is a common cause event that might cause simultaneous core damages of both units. In addition, correlations of component failures have an important effect on CDF in seismic PSA. In an earlier study it was pointed out that the difference between assuming complete correlations and complete independence could lead to an order of magnitude difference in CDF ¹¹. Though the effect of correlations of components on the CDF of a multi-unit site needs to be investigated.

Further, cross-connections of emergency diesel generators (EDGs) between adjacent units have been shown to be an effective accident management (AM) measure by PSAs for internal events. However, the effectiveness of this AM measure in case of earthquake needs to be examined.

In this study, twin hypothetical units located at the same site are taken as an example and the effect of correlations of component failures and cross-connections of EDGs on CDF and core damage sequences of this site are analyzed by using SECOM2. In Section 2, the seismic PSA procedures of JAEA are briefly introduced. Then the information of the models of the twin units as well as the cases to be analyzed is described in Section 3. The effect of correlations of component failures as well as cross-connections of EDGs on CDF and core damage sequences is discussed in Section 4. Finally, conclusions are given in Section 5.

2. Seismic PSA Methodology of JAEA

As shown in Fig.1, the seismic PSA procedures developed in JAEA includes the following five steps ¹⁵⁻¹⁶:

(1) Evaluation of seismic hazard. The seismic hazard of a given site is defined as the frequency plot of earthquake motion exceeding different levels of intensity (expressed by peak acceleration) at bedrock and is evaluated based on historical earthquake data and active fault data.

(2) Evaluation of component responses and capacities. The responses of components are calculated with the use of the response factor method ¹⁴. The capacities of components are determined by detailed analysis, test data and generic fragility data. The responses (as well as capacities) of components can be correlated or be independent.

(3) Evaluation of component failure probabilities. Component failure probabilities are calculated as a function of the peak acceleration at bedrock by comparing the realistic responses with the capacities of components.

(4) Evaluation of conditional probability of core damage. The conditional probability of core damage on every level of earthquake motion is evaluated using a system model such as FT.

(5) Evaluation of CDF. The CDF is calculated based on the conditional probability of core damage on each level of earthquake motion and the seismic hazard curve.

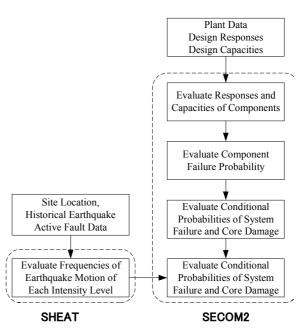


Fig. 1 Seismic PSA procedures developed at JAEA.

In Fig. 1 the SHEAT code is used to evaluate seismic hazard and the SECOM2 code is used to perform system reliability analysis. Details of SECOM2 could be referred to Ref. 8.

3. Model Description

The objective of this study was to examine the effect of correlations of component failures and cross-connections of EDGs on CDF and core damage sequences of a multi-unit site. Two units at the same site were taken as the subject of this study since the results from studying this two-unit site could also be applicable to a multi-unit site.

Twin hypothetical plants, each of which was a 1100Mwe BWR/5 plant with Mark-II type containment, were taken as an example. These twin units were located at an actual site of NPPs on the Pacific coast of the northeastern area of Japan, which was the same as that used for seismic PSA study of the model plant¹⁰. Therefore, the seismic hazard curve made for the model plant can be used in this study, too.

These two units shared the startup transformer and the EPS (Emergency Power Supply) of each unit was composed of two separate systems, EPS1 and EPS2, each of which had one EDG. When cross-connections of EDGs were taken into consideration, it was supposed that the EPS1 of one unit was connected to the EPS1 of the other unit, and the EPS2 of one unit was connected to the EPS1 of the other unit, it was supposed that there were not cross-connections of power between HPCS (High Pressure Core Spray) of the two units, which have dedicated EDGs. The system model of these two units (fault trees, event trees) was constructed based on the system model of the model plant ¹⁰. Necessary corrections, such as cross-connections of EPS between two units, had been added to reflect the difference from that of the model plant. In addition, the design responses and capacities of components used in the Model plant were also adopted in this study.

Four initiating events, i.e., small LOCA (Loss of Coolant Accident), medium LOCA, large LOCA, LOSP (Loss of offsite power) were studied. The accident sequences beginning with these initiating events are shown through Fig. 2-5. The explanation of the characters used for these sequences is shown in Table 1.

Init. Event Large LOCA	EPS		ictor down SLCS	High Press. Injection HPCS	Low I Injec LPCS		Decay Heat Removal RHR	-
А	В	(C	U ₂	V	/	W	-
								· OK
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Fig. 2 Event trees initiated by large LOCA.

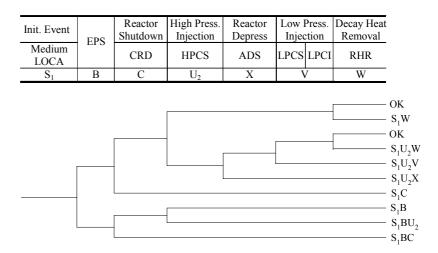


Fig. 3 Event trees initiated by medium LOCA.

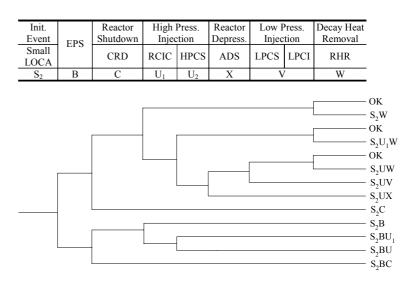
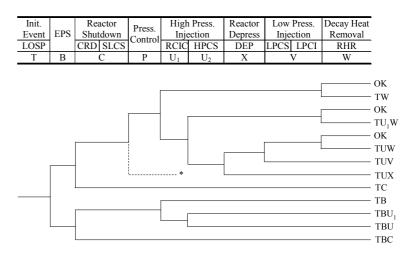


Fig. 4 Event trees initiated by small LOCA.



* It is assumed that reactor pressure control always succeeds.

Fig. 5 Event trees initiated by LOSP.

Table 1 Meanings of the characters used in Fig.2 - Fig.5.

Characters	Abbrev.	Full Name
А	L-LOCA	Large Loss of Coolant Accident
В	EPS	Emergency Power Supply
0	CRD	Control Rod Drive System
C -	SLCS	Standby Liquid Control System
S1	M-LOCA	Medium Loss of Coolant Accident
82	S-LOCA	Small Loss of Coolant Accident
Т	LOSP	Loss of Offsite Power
U1	RCIC	Reactor Core Isolation Cooling System
U2	HPCS	High Pressure Core Spray
N	LPCI	Low Pressure Coolant Injection
V -	LPCS	Low Pressure Core Spray System
W	RHR	Residual Heal Removal System
x -	DEP	Manual Depressurization
л -	ADS	Automatic Depressurization System

In seismic PSA, one important issue that can not be ignored is the effect of the correlations of component failure, which includes correlations of component responses and the correlations of component capacities. Because of lack of information, correlations of component capacities were assumed to be completely independent. Therefore, only correlations of component responses were considered. The correlation coefficients of component responses were determined based on the rules developed in the seismic risk assessment of the Surry and Peach Bottom NPPs¹⁷⁻¹⁹, which is a part of the NUREG-1150

program²⁰. The rules for assigning the correlation coefficients of component responses are as shown in Table 2. One thing that should be noted here is that correlations of component responses in different buildings are assumed to be 0 in the NUREG-1150 rules. However, based on the seismic study of NUPEC (Nuclear Power Engineering Corporation, Japan)²¹, even if the components are located in different buildings, if their natural frequencies were similar, the response correlations of these components will be strong. To be conservative, the correlation coefficients of component responses in the same building were also applied to those components in different buildings in this study.

Table 2 Rules for assigning response correlation coefficients in NUREG-1150 program¹⁷⁻¹⁹

- Components on the same floor slab, and sensitive to the same spectral frequency range (i.e., zero period accelaration (ZPA), 5-10 Hz, or 10-15 Hz) will be assigned response correlation coefficient 1.0
- 2. Components on the same floor slab, sensitive to different ranges of spectral acceleration will be assigned response correlation coefficient 0.5.
- 3. Components on different floor slabs (but in the same building) and sensitive to the same spectral frequency range (ZPA, 5-10Hz or 10-15Hz) will be assigned response correlation coefficient 0.75.
- 4. Components on the ground surface (outside tanks, etc) shall be treated as if they were on the grade floor of an adjacent building.
- 5. "Ganged" value configurations (either parallel or series) will have response correlation coefficient 1.0
- 6. All other configurations will have response correlation equal to zero.

To study the effect of correlations as well as the effect of cross-connections of EDSs on seismically induced CDF and core damage sequences, three cases were designed, as shown in Table 3.

	Condition of Re	Whether cross-	
	For Components in the Same Building	For Components in Different Buildings	connections of EDGs are available or not?
Case 1a	Independent	Independent	No
Case 2a	Rules of NUREG-1150	Rules of NUREG-1150	No
Case 2b	Rules of NUREG-1150	Rules of NUREG-1150	Yes

Table 3 Three cases to be analyzed in this study

4. Results

4.1 Effect of Correlations of Component Failures on CDF and Core Damage Sequences The calculated seismically induced CDF is shown in Table 4. When correlations of

component responses was not considered, the CDF of a single unit was 2.29×10^{-5} /(Reactor · Year). The CDF of this two-unit site was 4.07×10^{-5} /(Reactor · Year) and the frequency of simultaneous core damages of both units was 5.51×10^{-6} /(Reactor · Year), respectively. The CDF of this two-unit site was about 1.77 times higher than that of a single unit instead of 2 times because earthquake was a common cause event that it caused simultaneous core damages of both units.

When correlations of component responses were considered, the CDF of a single unit increased to 2.99×10^{-5} /(Reactor Year). The CDF of this two-unit site and the frequency of simultaneous core damages of both units increased to 4.76×10^{-5} /(Reactor · Year) and 1.27×10^{-5} /(Reactor · Year), respectively.

It is shown that when correlations of component responses were considered, there was a significant increase of the frequency of simultaneous core damages of both units, which was about 2.3 times higher than that with correlations of component responses not considered.

	CDF of a Single Unit (/Reactor · Year)	CDF of This Two-Unit Site* (/Reactor · Year)	Frequency of Simultaneous Core Damages of Both Units (/Reactor · Year)
Case 1a	2.29×10 ⁻⁵	4.07×10 ⁻⁵	5.51×10 ⁻⁶
Case 2a	2.99×10 ⁻⁵	4.76×10 ⁻⁵	1.27×10 ⁻⁵

Table 4 Frequency of core damage

* Frequency of core damages of at least one unit at the same site.

Table 5 and Table 6 show the top 20 sequences that caused the core damage at this two-unit site in the cases of correlations of component responses being considered or not considered, respectively. The blank items in these tables mean that no core damage happened. It could be observed that when correlations of component responses were considered, the number of the sequence pairs that caused the simultaneous core damages of both units increased. Among the top 20 sequences that caused the core damages at this two-unit site, there were four sequence pairs contributing to the simultaneous core damages in Case 2a. On the contrary, there were no sequence pairs contributing to the simultaneous core damages core damages among the top 20 sequences in Case 1a.

In addition, no matter correlations of component responses were considered or not, there were different sequence pairs contributing to the simultaneous core damages of both units. It seemed that even though the two units had the same design and were located at the same site, the seismically induced simultaneous core damages of both units might be caused by different sequence pairs as well as the same sequence pairs.

Further, it is known from Table 5 that in the sequences such as TB, TBU₁, TBU, S₂B, S₂BU that caused the core damage of only one unit, if emergency power of the damaged unit could be supplied from the intact one, these sequences would not occur. Therefore, it is suggested to examine the effectiveness of cross-connections of EDGs between these two units in seismic conditions.

	UnitA	UnitB	Freq.	Ratio
1	TB		4.5E-06	11.00%
2		TB	4.4E-06	10.90%
3	TW		4.4E-06	10.70%
4		TW	4.1E-06	10.10%
5	TBU1		2.2E-06	5.43%
6		TBU ₁	2.2E-06	5.39%
7	TBU		1.1E-06	2.68%
8		TBU	1.1E-06	2.66%
9	TU_1W		1.1E-06	2.58%
10		TU_1W	1.0E-06	2.45%
11	S_2B		8.0E-07	1.97%
12		S_2B	8.0E-07	1.96%
13	S_2W		5.8E-07	1.43%
14		S_2W	5.7E-07	1.40%
15	S_2BU_1		3.8E-07	0.92%
16		S_2BU_1	3.7E-07	0.90%
17		S ₁ B	3.1E-07	0.75%
18		S ₂ BU	3.0E-07	0.74%
19	S ₁ B		3.0E-07	0.74%
20		TUX	3.0E-07	0.74%

Table 5 Top 20 accident sequences (Case 1a)

Table 6 Top 20 accident sequences (Case 2a)

	UnitA	UnitB	Freq.	Ratio
1	TB		5.1E-06	10.80%
2		TB	5.1E-06	10.70%
3	TW		3.9E-06	8.09%
4		TW	3.8E-06	7.88%
5	TBU ₁		2.7E-06	5.61%
6		TBU_1	2.5E-06	5.27%
7	TB	TB	2.1E-06	4.49%
8	TBU		1.1E-06	2.31%
9		TBU	1.1E-06	2.29%
10	S_2B		8.5E-07	1.79%
11	TBU	TBU	8.4E-07	1.76%
12		S_2B	8.3E-07	1.73%
13	TU_1W		7.9E-07	1.67%
14		TU_1W	7.0E-07	1.47%
15	TB	TBU	6.0E-07	1.27%
16	TBU	TB	5.9E-07	1.24%
17	S_2W		4.1E-07	0.87%
18		S_2W	4.0E-07	0.85%
19	S_2BU_1		4.0E-07	0.83%
20		S_2BU_1	3.9E-07	0.83%

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4.2 Effect of Cross-Connections of EDGs on CDF and Core Damage Sequences

When cross-connections of EDGs were considered, the calculated CDF is shown in Table 7 and the top 20 sequences causing the core damages at this site are shown in Table 8.

When cross-connections of EDGs between the two units were available, the CDF of a single unit was 1.97×10^{-5} /(Reactor \cdot Year). The CDF of this two-unit site and the frequency of simultaneous core damages of both units were 2.78×10^{-5} /(Reactor \cdot Year), and 1.13×10^{-5} /(Reactor \cdot Year), respectively.

	CDF of a Single Unit (/Reactor · Year)	CDF of This Two-Unit Site (/Reactor · Year)	Frequency of Simultaneous Core Damages of Both Units (/Reactor · Year)
Case 2a	2.99×10 ⁻⁵	4.76×10 ⁻⁵	1.27×10 ⁻⁵
Case 2b	1.97×10 ⁻⁵	2.78×10 ⁻⁵	1.13×10 ⁻⁵

Table 7 Frequency of core damage

Table 8 Top 20 accident sequences (Case 2b)

	UnitA	UnitB	Freq.	Ratio
1	TW		4.52E-06	16.30%
2		TW	4.45E-06	16.00%
3	TB	TB	2.39E-06	8.62%
4	TBU	TBU	8.05E-07	2.90%
5	TU_1W		7.39E-07	2.66%
6	S_2W		6.32E-07	2.28%
7		TU_1W	6.23E-07	2.24%
8	TUX		5.96E-07	2.15%
9	TB	TBU	5.92E-07	2.13%
10		S_2W	5.85E-07	2.11%
11	TBU	TB	5.56E-07	2.00%
12		TUX	5.05E-07	1.82%
13	TUW		4.36E-07	1.57%
14		TUW	4.21E-07	1.52%
15	TW	TW	3.64E-07	1.31%
16	TBU ₁	TBU_1	2.86E-07	1.03%
17	S ₂ B	TB	2.79E-07	1.00%
18	TB	S_2B	2.73E-07	0.98%
19	TBU	S_2BU	2.05E-07	0.74%
20	S_1W		1.97E-07	0.71%

By comparing Table 6 and Table 8, it is known that when cross-connections of EDGs were available, because emergency power could be provided from the other unit in case of the EPS failure of one unit, the sequences such as TB, TBU1, TBU and so on that caused

the core damage of a single unit in the case of cross-connections of EDGs being not available would not occur. That was why the CDF of a single unit and the CDF of this two-unit site decreased greatly when cross-connections of EDGs between these two units were available.

Further, when cross-connections of EDGs were considered, the CDF of this two-unit site was lower than the CDF of a single unit site. It suggested that the cross-connection of EDGs was an effective way to decrease the frequency of core damages of a multi-unit site.

5. Conclusions

This study was performed for seismic PSA study of a multi-unit site to examine the CDF, the potential combination of core damage sequences and the effectiveness of an accident management measure, i.e., the cross-connection of EDGs between adjacent units. SECOM2, which was developed in JAEA for carrying out Level 1 seismic PSA, was used for this analysis. Twin hypothetical units (BWR5 with Mark-II Containment) at the same site were taken as the example. The two units shared the startup transformer and the EPS (Emergency Power Supply) of each unit was composed of two separate systems.

The results showed that the calculated CDF was dependent on the assumptions on the correlations of component failures. When the rules for assigning the correlation coefficients of component responses defined in NUREG-1150 program was adopted, the CDF of a single unit, the CDF of this two-unit site (the frequency of core damages of at least one unit at this site) and the frequency of simultaneous core damages of both units increased by factors of about 1.3, 1.2 and 2.3, respectively. In addition, no matter correlations of component failures was considered or not, it might be possible for the two units to have different accident sequence pairs in addition to the same sequence pairs to cause the simultaneous core damages of both units.

When cross-connections of EDGs were available, the CDF of a single unit, the CDF of this two-unit site and the frequency of simultaneous core damages of both units decreased. In addition, the CDF of this two-unit site was smaller than the CDF of a single unit site. It suggests that cross-connections of EDGs will be beneficial and are worthy of detailed examination for a multi-unit site.

The actual implementation of cross-connection of EDGs will need further examinations such as likelihood of success of manual connections with consideration of available time for operators in TB sequence and cost-benefit comparisons with alternative improvements. Improvements for other dominant sequences such as TW also need to be considered. This paper has shown that the sensitivity study by seismic PSA is an effective tool for identification of candidates for such detailed and practical examinations.

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