



Overview of NRC Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment Research Program

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Outline

- Objectives
- Key Challenges
- Main Themes
- Current Projects

PFHA Research Objectives

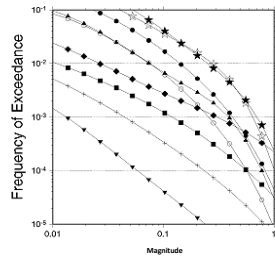
- Support development of risk-informed licensing and oversight guidance and tools for assessing flooding hazards and consequences
 - *Addresses significant gap in probabilistic basis for external hazards*
 - Seismic and wind hazard assessments currently have probabilistic basis
- Support both new reactor licensing and oversight of operating reactors
 - *Design basis flood hazard assessments for new facilities*
 - 10 CFR Part 50 - traditional construction permits and operating licenses
 - 10 CFR Part 52 - early site permits (ESPs), combined operating licenses (COLs)
 - *Operating reactor oversight program (ROP)*
 - Significance determination process (SDP) analyses for evaluating deficiencies related to flood protection at operating facilities

Implementation

- Phased Approach
 - *Phase 1 (Technical basis, draft guidance)*
 - *Phase 2 (Pilot studies)*
 - *Phase 3 (Finalize guidance)*
- Implementation time-frame
 - *~5 years for Phase 1*
 - ***now into 4th year of implementation***
 - *~2 years for Phases 2+3*
 - ***need to begin discussion of pilot studies***
- Contract technical support
 - *Interagency Agreements*
 - *DOE Laboratories, USACE, USBR, USGS*
 - *Commercial contracts*
- External Collaborations
 - *Federal Working Groups (e.g., ACWI/SOH)*
 - *EPRI (MOU in place)*
 - *International (e.g., IRSN)*

Risk-informed Assessment of Flooding Hazards and Consequences

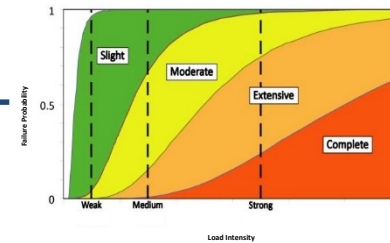
$$L_1(\vec{x}, t) \quad L_2(\vec{x}, t) \quad \dots \quad L_N(\vec{x}, t)$$



Hazard Curves :
Quantitative probabilistic
assessment
of flood hazard(s)

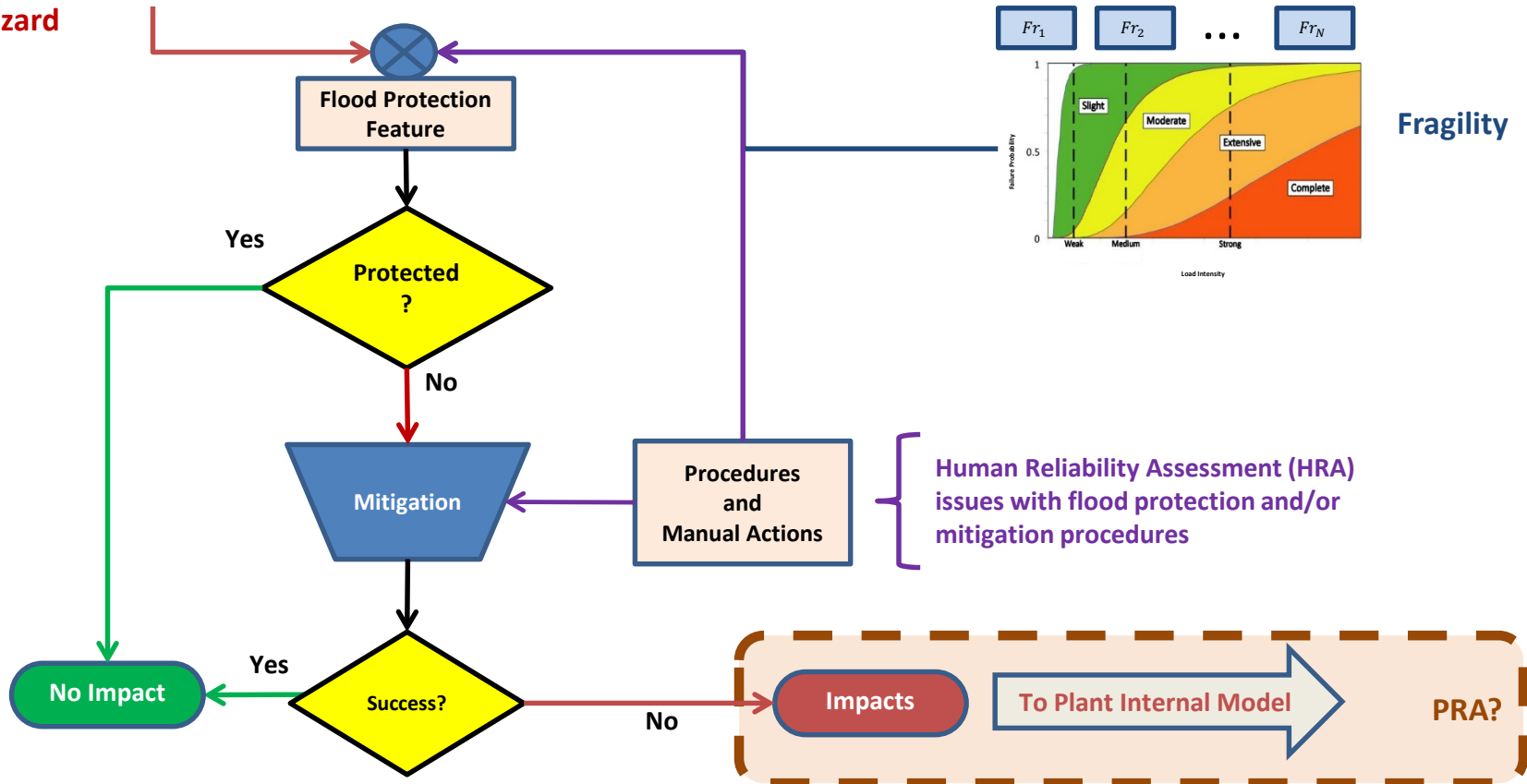
Fragility Curves :
Quantitative Reliability of Passive and
Active Flood Protection Features

$$Fr_1 \quad Fr_2 \quad \dots \quad Fr_N$$



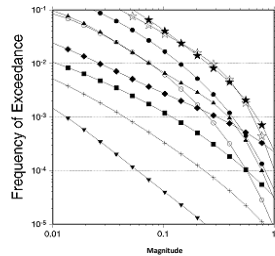
Fragility

Hazard



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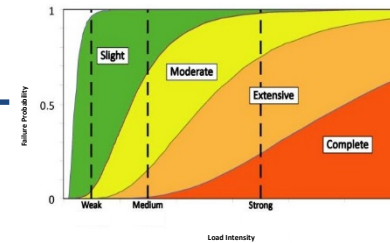
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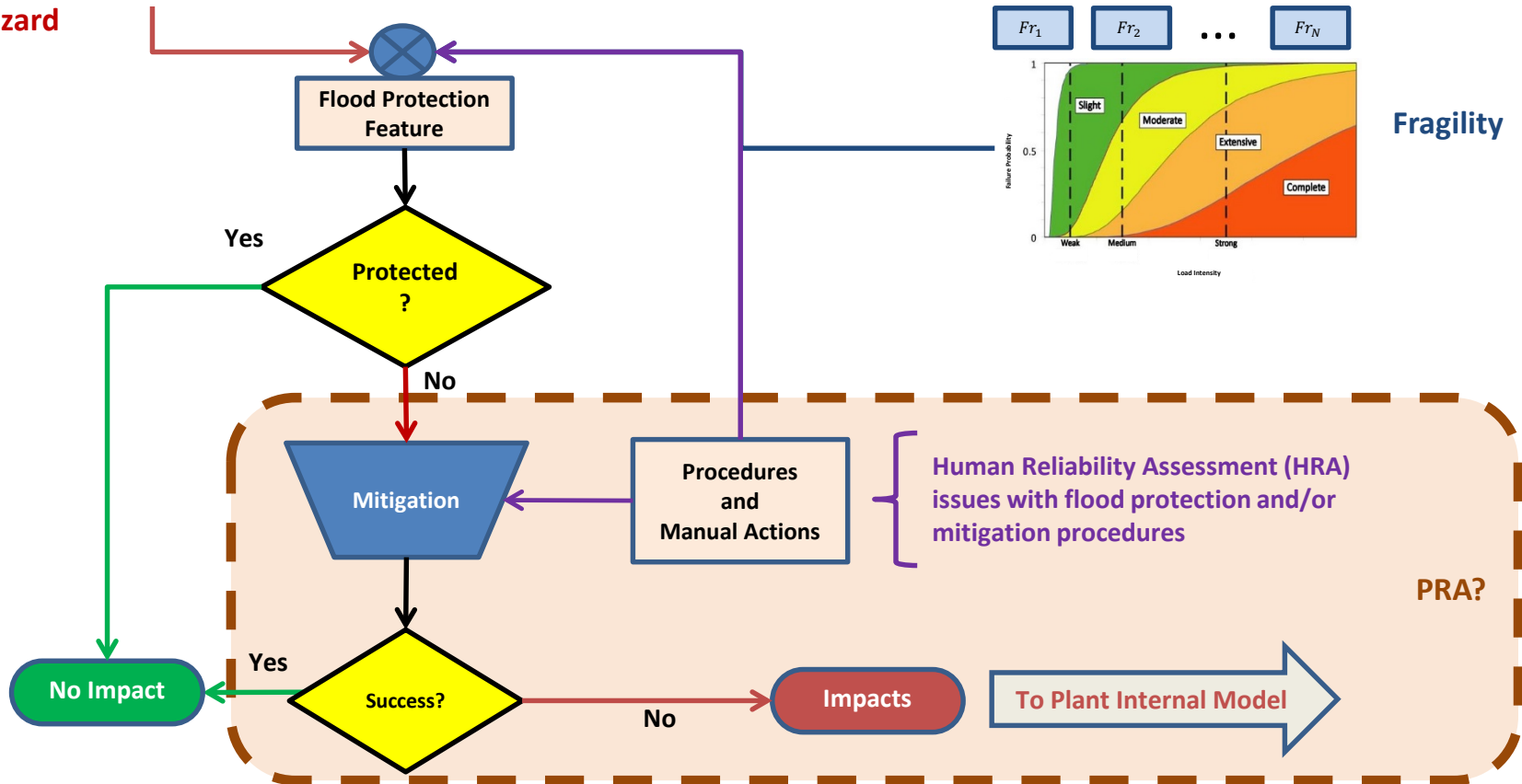
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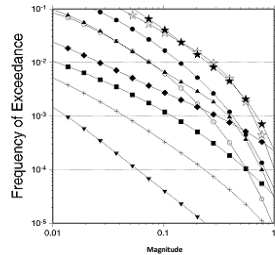
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Hazard



Risk-informed Assessment of Flooding Hazards and Consequences

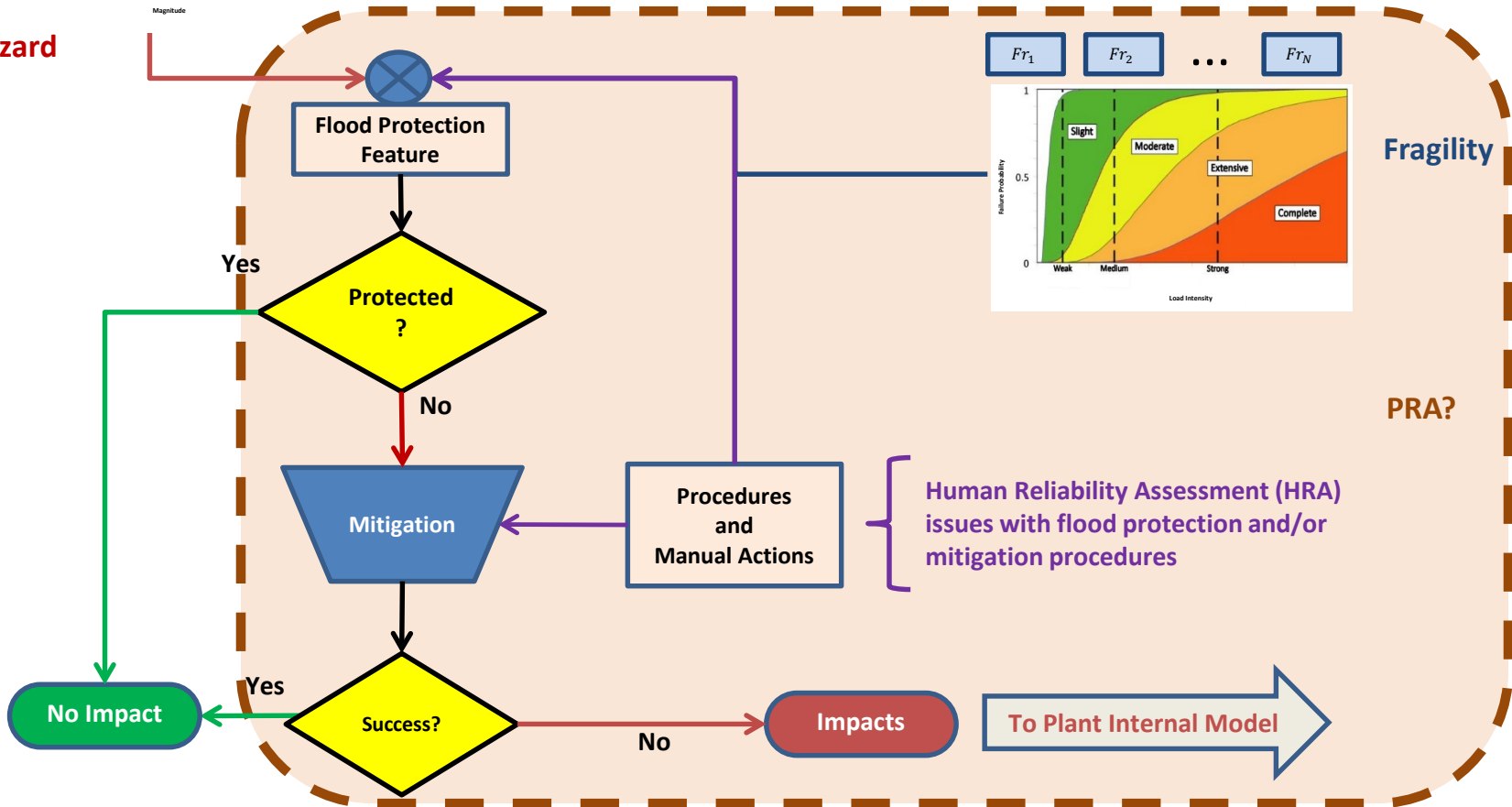
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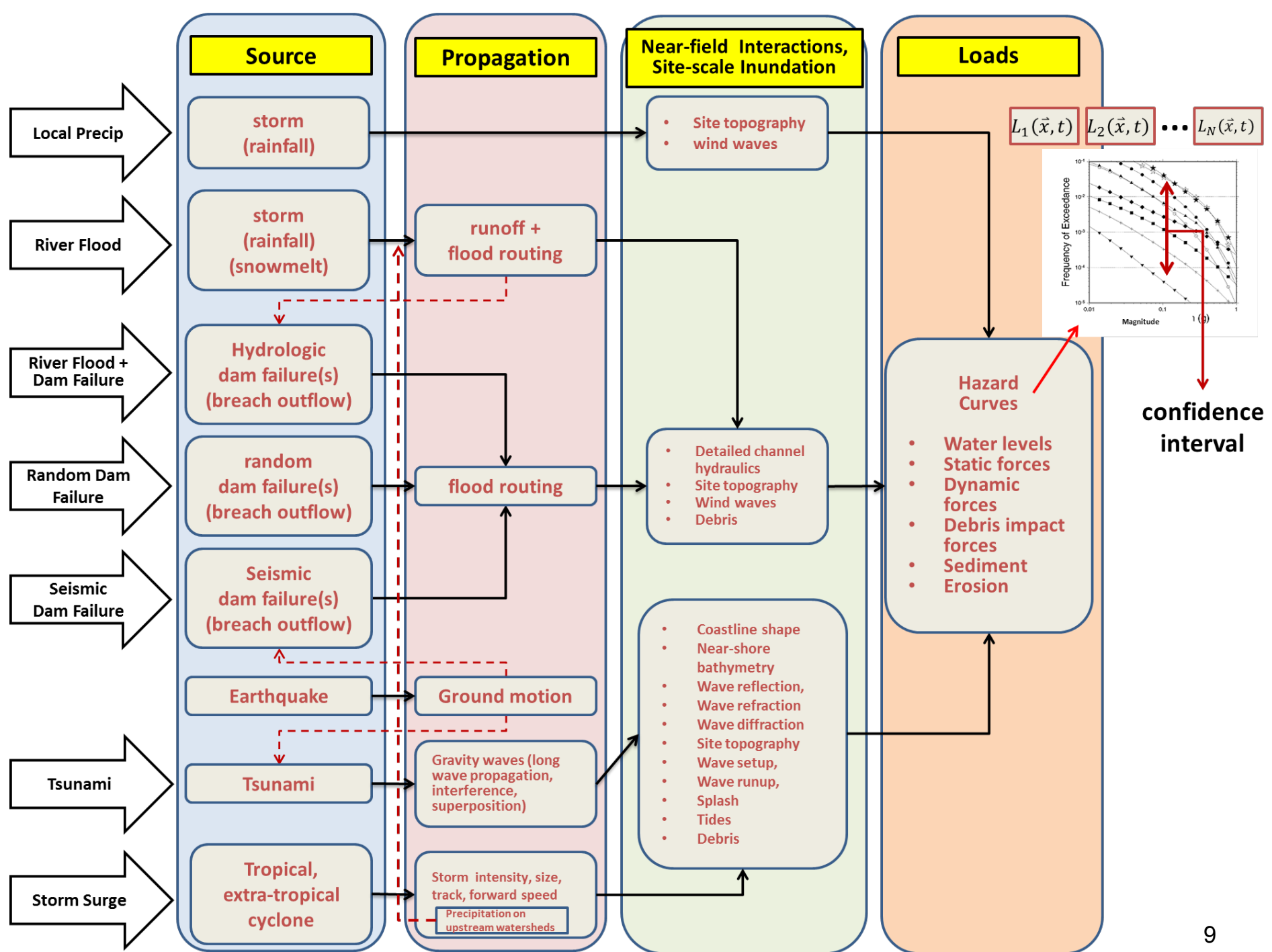
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Hazard



Key Challenges

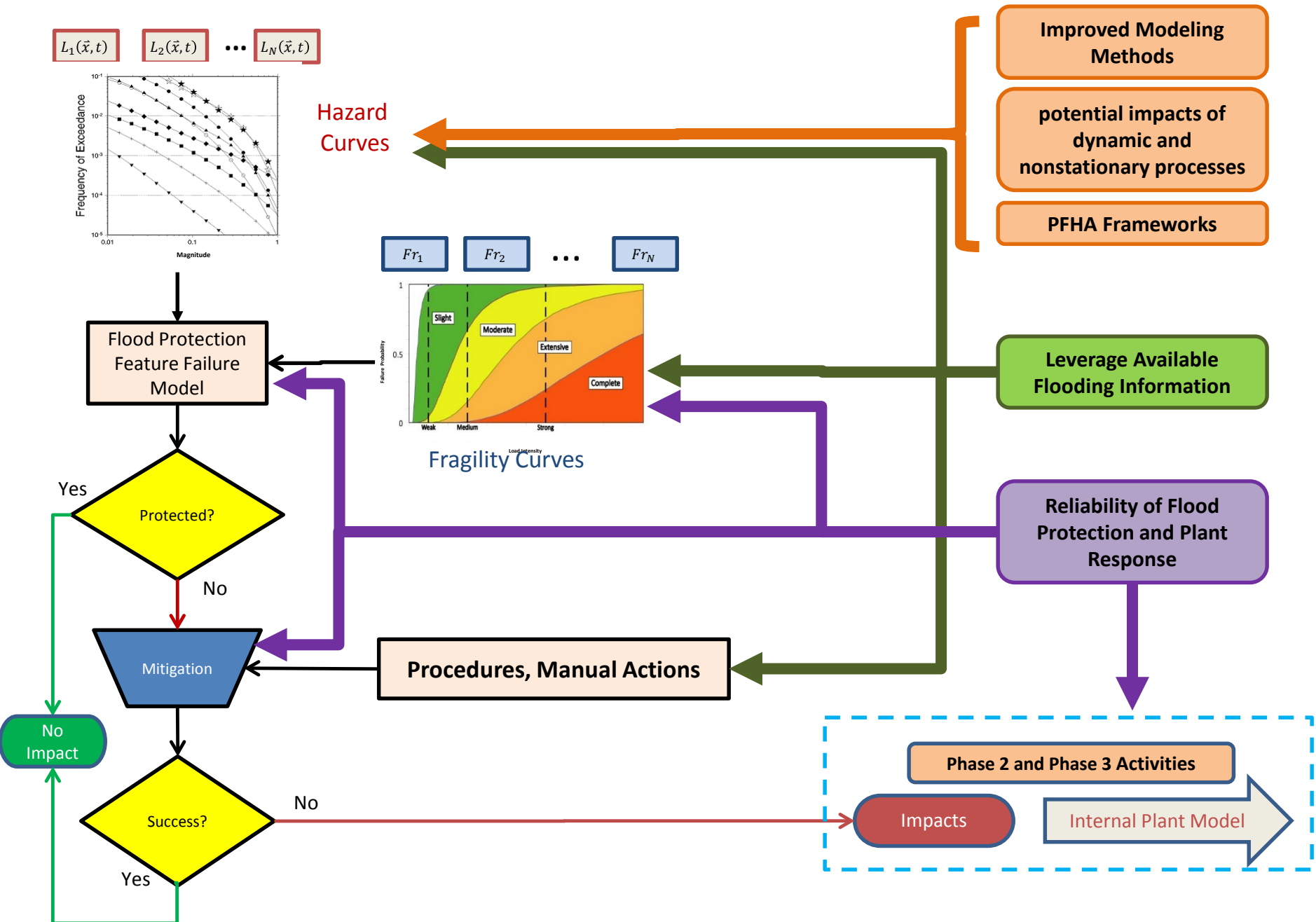
- Interested in range of annual exceedance probabilities (AEPs) from moderately rare to extreme floods
 - *Full hazard curves needed*
 - Aleatory and epistemic uncertainties
 - *AEPs in the range $1e-4$ to $1e-6$ desired*
- Large uncertainties
- Component fragility and human reliability information is sparse
- Flooding impacts exhibit cliff-edge effects
- Complexity
 - Coincident and correlated mechanisms
 - Associated effects



Main Research Themes

- Approaches and methods to leverage available flood hazard information
- Application of improved modeling techniques for processes and mechanisms associated with flooding
- PFHA modeling framework(s) for range of flooding scenarios and range of AEPs
- Methods to assess potential impacts of dynamic and nonstationary processes on flood hazard assessments and flood protection
- Methods to assess reliability of flood protection, mitigation, and plant response to flooding events

Research Themes



Current Projects

Leverage Available Flooding Information

- **Development of Flood Hazard Information Digests for Operating NPP Sites**
 - *Contractor: Idaho National Laboratory (INL)*
 - *NRC PM: Meredith Carr*
- **Guidance on Application of State-of-Practice Flood Frequency Analysis Methods and Tools**
 - *Contractor: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)*
 - *NRC PM: Meredith Carr*

Leverage Available Flooding Information

- **Technical Basis for Extending Frequency Analysis Beyond Current Consensus Limits**
 - *Contractor: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)*
 - *NRC PM: Joseph Kanney*
- **Research to Develop Guidance on Extreme Precipitation Frequency in Orographic Regions**
 - *Contractor: USBR*
 - *NRC PM: Joseph Kanney*
- **Detailed TN River Paleoflood Study**
 - *Contractor: USGS*
 - *NRC PM: Mark Fuhrmann*

PFHA Frameworks

- **Technical Basis for Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment – Riverine Flooding**
 - *Contractor: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)*
 - *NRC PM: Joseph Kanney*
- **Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment Framework Development**
 - *Contractor: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)*
 - *NRC PM: Joseph Kanney*
- **Structured Hazard Assessment Committee Process for Flooding**
 - *Contractor: PNNL*
 - *NRC PM: Joseph Kanney*

Improved Process Modeling

- **Numerical Modeling of Local Intense Precipitation Processes**
 - *Contractor: University of California Davis/USGS*
 - *NRC PM: Elena Yegorova*
- **Quantifying Uncertainties in Probabilistic Storm Surge Models**
 - *Contractor: USACE*
 - *NRC PM: Joseph Kanney*
- **Erosion Processes in Embankment Dams**
 - *Contractor: USBR*
 - *NRC PM: Jacob Philip*

Reliability of Flood Protection and Plant Response to Flooding Events

- **Performance of Flood Penetration Seals at NPPs**
 - *Contractor: Fire Risk Management (FRM)*
 - *NRC PM: Tom Aird*
- **Effects of Environmental Factors on Manual Actions for Flood Protection and Mitigation at NPPs**
 - *Contractor: PNNL*
 - *NRC PM: Meredith Carr*
- **Modeling Plant Response to Flooding Events**
 - *Contractor: INL*
 - *NRC PM: Joseph Kanney*

Dynamic and Nonstationary Processes

- **Regional Climate Change Projections: Potential Impacts to Nuclear Facilities**
 - *Contractor: PNNL*
 - *NRC PM: Elena Yegorova*