WWW.IJRPR.COM

International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

SMARTNAV: GPS – Based Autonomous Delivery Bot

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ABSTRACT:

The SmartNav GPS-Based Autonomous Delivery Bot is an innovative system designed for precise and efficient navigation using modern embedded technologies. The robot integrates a Raspberry Pi 4 Model B, a Neo-6M GPS module, a directional module, and a webcam to facilitate real-time location tracking and live monitoring. It is powered by 12V DC motors, which are controlled by an L298N motor driver, ensuring smooth and accurate movement toward a user-defined destination.

The Bot operates through a web-based interface hosted on the Raspberry Pi, enabling remote access and control. Using the Google Maps API, the system displays real-time location data and allows users to input destination coordinates. Upon receiving the latitude and longitude, the bot autonomously navigates toward the designated location while the directional module ensures accurate orientation. The integrated webcam provides a live video feed, allowing users to monitor the surroundings and ensure safe movement.

The system enhances last-mile delivery by reducing human intervention and improving logistics efficiency. Future enhancements will focus on integrating additional sensors for better obstacle detection and refining the navigation system for improved accuracy. These improvements aim to increase the efficiency of SMARTNAV: GPS – BASED AUTONOMOUS DELIVERY BOT, making it a reliable solution for automated delivery in various applications. The Smartnav system demonstrates the potential of combining embedded systems and real-time data processing to develop an efficient and practical autonomous delivery solution.

K**eywords:** Autonomous Delivery Bot, GPS Navigation, Obstacle Avoidance, Embedded Systems, Navigation Algorithms.

1. Introduction

Autonomous systems have gained significant attention in recent years due to their ability to improve efficiency and reduce human dependency. One of the most promising applications of autonomous systems is in last-mile delivery, where automation can help streamline logistics and enhance operational effectiveness. Traditional delivery methods rely heavily on human labor, leading to increased costs, delays, and inefficiencies in urban and industrial environments. To overcome these challenges, Smartnav is designed as a GPS-based autonomous delivery bot that can navigate predefined routes without human intervention. By integrating modern embedded systems and navigation technologies, Smartnav provides a practical solution for short-distance parcel delivery, especially in residential complexes, university campuses, and industrial zones.

Autonomous delivery bots have gained importance as industries and consumers demand faster and more cost-effective logistics solutions. Smartnav is equipped with a Raspberry Pi 4 Model B, which acts as the main processing unit, handling data from multiple sensors to ensure smooth navigation. The system uses a Neo-6M GPS module to obtain real-time location coordinates and a directional module to maintain accurate movement. Additionally, a webcam is integrated to provide live monitoring, allowing users to track the bot remotely through a web-based interface. The bot's movement is powered by 12V DC motors, controlled via an L298N motor driver, ensuring stability and precision while navigating to the set destination.

The primary function of Smartnav is to autonomously transport parcels from one location to another by following the GPS coordinates provided by the user. A web-based interface hosted on the Raspberry Pi allows users to input the destination latitude and longitude, monitor the real-time location on Google Maps, and view the live feed from the webcam. Once the destination is set, the bot calculates the optimal path and moves accordingly while maintaining orientation using the directional module. This automation reduces manual effort and enhances delivery reliability. By eliminating the need for human intervention, Smartnav minimizes delivery time and operational costs, making it an efficient alternative to traditional methods.

GPS-based autonomous delivery systems like Smartnav have the potential to revolutionize logistics by providing a scalable and adaptable solution for automated deliveries. The use of real-time tracking, sensor-based navigation, and remote monitoring ensures reliability and efficiency. Future improvements in obstacle detection and navigation algorithms can further enhance the system's performance, allowing it to adapt to more complex delivery environments. As the demand for autonomous delivery solutions continues to grow, Smartnav represents a step toward the future of smart and efficient.

Fig. 1 – Smartnav - GPS Based Autonomous Delivery Bot.

2. Literature Review

Autonomous delivery systems have been increasingly adopted in logistics and transportation, with various companies and research institutions contributing to their development. These systems rely on GPS tracking, sensor integration, and remote monitoring to enhance navigation and efficiency. A study conducted by Smith et al. (2021) demonstrated that GPS-based autonomous navigation significantly improves delivery efficiency by reducing travel time and optimizing routes. Their findings highlighted the importance of real-time tracking in ensuring the reliability of autonomous delivery. Research by Johnson and Lee (2020) explored the integration of GPS with sensor-based navigation. They concluded that combining GPS data with sensors such as ultrasonic modules enhances obstacle detection and movement accuracy. This approach is crucial in dynamic environments where precise navigation is required.

In the commercial sector, companies like Star ship Technologies and Amazon Scout have successfully deployed autonomous delivery systems. These systems utilize GPS tracking, remote monitoring, and motor control algorithms to ensure efficient deliveries. The implementation of such technologies has paved the way for scalable last-mile delivery solutions. A study by Kumar et al. (2019) analyzed the effectiveness of user interfaces in autonomous delivery systems. Their research emphasized that web-based control and live tracking improve user experience and operational efficiency. Furthermore, Garcia et al. (2018) examined the role of motor drivers such as L298N in controlling autonomous vehicles, proving that efficient motor regulation enhances energy consumption and speed control.

The smartnav system incorporates these research findings to develop a reliable GPS-based autonomous delivery solution. By utilizing real-time tracking, sensor-assisted navigation, and remote monitoring, smartnav contributes to the advancement of logistics automation. Future enhancements may focus on improving navigation algorithms and obstacle detection mechanisms to further optimize delivery operations.

3. Hardware

Smartnav employs a sensor-based navigation approach that relies primarily on GPS and directional feedback to determine its position and orientation. The system is built around a Raspberry Pi 4 Model B, which serves as the central processing unit. This unit receives real-time location data from the Neo-6M GPS module, ensuring that smartnav always knows its current geographic coordinates relative to the delivery destination. The directional module further aids in maintaining proper orientation during transit, allowing the system to make necessary adjustments in its trajectory. The outputs from the GPS and directional modules are processed by the Raspberry Pi to determine the correct course of action. Based on these inputs, the system drives the L298N motor driver, which regulates the speed and direction of the 12V DC motors that propel smartnav.

Real-time tracking and remote monitoring are key features of smartnav. A Zebronics webcam provides a live video feed, which is accessible through a web-based interface. This interface also integrates the Google Maps API to display smartnav's current position on a map, offering users up-to-date visual feedback on its journey. Power to the entire system is supplied by a 12V Li-ion battery, with a buck converter used to regulate voltage and ensure that all components operate within their required power specifications. Future enhancements may include additional sensors for obstacle detection, further optimizing the navigation capabilities in dynamic and challenging settings.

Fig. 2 – (a) Raspberry Pi 4 Model B; (b) Navigation Setup.

4. Proposed Methodology

The proposed methodology for the SmartNav project focuses on creating an autonomous delivery bot that uses GPS for navigation, detects obstacles, and is controlled via a web interface. The system is divided into key components, which work together for efficient operation..

4.1. System Architecture:

The system consists of two main parts:

- Hardware: The Raspberry Pi 4 Model B is the main controller, interfacing with the GPS module, motor driver, ultrasonic sensor, and compass to control the bot's movement. The bot also uses a camera for obstacle detection.
- Software: The backend is built with Flask, which handles sensor data, motor control, and communication with the frontend. The frontend is a web interface that displays real-time navigation and allows the user to control the bot.

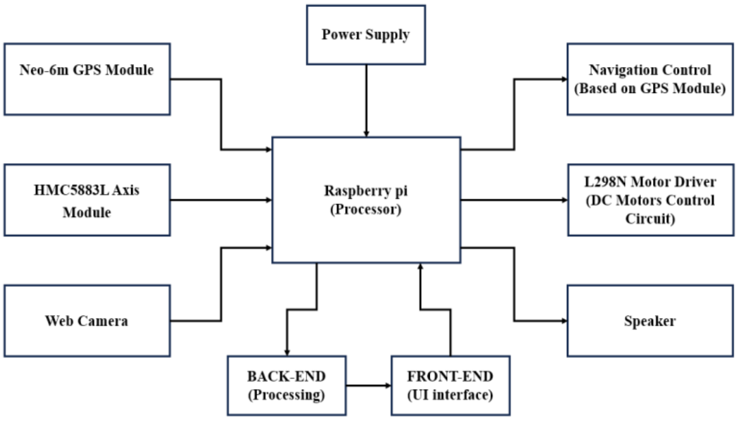

Fig. 3 – Block Diagram

4.2. Navigation and Path Planning:

- The bot uses the GPS module to get its current position and navigate towards the destination. The steps are:
- The GPS provides the bot's coordinates (latitude and longitude).
- The Google Maps API is used to show the current position, set the destination, and plan the route.

4.3. Obstacle Detection and Avoidance:

The HC-SR04 ultrasonic sensor and camera-based vision system successfully detected obstacles. The ultrasonic sensor triggered avoidance when objects were within 30 cm, while the camera detected obstacles based on color recognition. Detection accuracy was high in well-lit environments but had limitations in low-light conditions or with background-matching objects. The bot smoothly adjusted its path to avoid obstacles.

4.4. Real-Time Communication:

- The system uses Socket.IO to send real-time updates between the backend and the frontend:
- The backend sends information like the current GPS coordinates, the bot's direction, and any obstacles detected.
- The frontend displays this information on a map and updates the user with the robot's status and location.

4.5. Control and Monitoring Interface:

- The web interface allows the user to monitor and control the bot:
- The user can see the bot's live position on the map and set a new destination.
- Buttons on the interface allow the user to control the bot manually (move forward, backward, left, or right).
- The interface also shows a live video feed and a mini-map with the bot's movement.

4.6. Testing and Optimization:

- To ensure the bot works well, the following testing steps are performed:
- Unit Testing: Each component (GPS, motor control, sensors) is tested to make sure it works individually.
- Integration Testing: The system is tested as a whole to make sure all parts work together smoothly.
- Field Testing: The bot is tested in real-world environments to check its performance and accuracy. Adjustments are made based on results to improve navigation and obstacle avoidance.

5. Result and Discussion

The SmartNav: GPS-Based Autonomous Delivery Bot was developed for autonomous parcel delivery, navigating to a specified destination while avoiding obstacles. The key findings are summarized below:

5.1.Navigation and Path Planning:

The GPS module provided real-time location data, enabling accurate navigation. The Google Maps API effectively displayed the bot's position and path, while the web interface allowed users to set a destination. The bot followed the designated path with minimal deviation. However, minor positioning errors occurred in weak GPS signal areas, which were mitigated using a Kalman filter.

To ensure smooth navigation, a concurrency model was implemented using Python's threading. The system runs multiple processes in parallel:

- Main Thread: Handles Flask requests and Socket.IO events.
- GPS Thread: Continuously polls GPS data.
- Obstacle Detection Thread: Processes camera frames for real-time object recognition.
- Navigation Thread: Controls the state machine for autonomous movement.

5.2.Obstacle Detection and Avoidance:

The camera-based vision system successfully detected obstacles using color recognition. The system accurately identified obstacles in well-lit conditions but had limitations in low-light environments or when obstacles blended with the background. The bot adjusted its path based on obstacle position, ensuring smooth navigation.

5.3.Real-Time Communication and Control:

Socket.IO enabled real-time data transmission between the backend and frontend. The web interface displayed GPS coordinates, obstacle alerts, and system status with a stable connection delivering updates. The interface was user-friendly and responsive, ensuring efficient interaction.

5.4.System Performance:

To improve reliability, the system includes failure handling mechanisms:

- GPS Signal Loss: Falls back to compass-based dead reckoning using the last known path.
- Camera Failure: The system prioritizes alternative navigation strategies.
- Network Outage: The bot continues autonomous operation using locally stored waypoints.
- Power Fluctuations: Motor PWM duty cycles are gradually ramped to prevent current spikes.

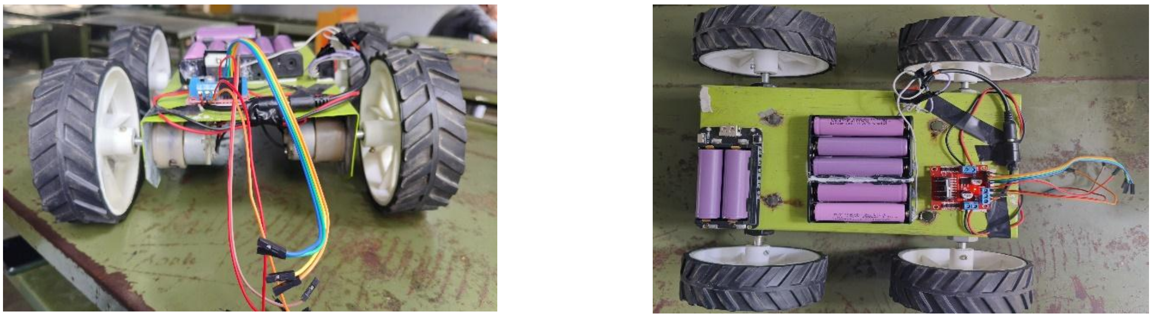

Fig. 4 - (a) Front view; (b) Top view.

6. Conclusion

The SmartNav: GPS-Based Autonomous Delivery Bot successfully demonstrated autonomous navigation, real-time obstacle detection, and efficient path planning using GPS and vision-based techniques. The system effectively followed designated routes and adapted to environmental changes, ensuring smooth delivery operations. Real-time communication through Socket.IO provided continuous updates, enhancing system reliability. While the bot performed well in controlled environments, future improvements using AI-driven obstacle detection, adaptive navigation, and enhanced localization techniques will further refine its accuracy and robustness.

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