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Development of a Smart Warehouse Framework Using Autonomous Mobile Robots for Warehouse 4.0 Applications

Kazuki Masato
Department ofEnvironmental Studies, Tohoku University, Japan,Student Exchange Division, Tohoku University, 41 Kawauchi, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi, 980-8576 JAPAN

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ABSTRACT

Warehouses are increasingly adopting automation technologies to improve operational efficiency, inventory accuracy, and process flexibility in response to the growing demands of modern logistics and supply chain systems. Among these technologies, Autonomous Mobile Robots (AMRs) have emerged as a key enabler of smart warehouse operations by providing autonomous transportation, intelligent navigation, and real-time decision-making capabilities. This study aims to develop a Smart Warehouse Framework using Autonomous Mobile Robots that integrates warehouse management, robot navigation, Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and real-time communication systems into a unified architecture. The proposed framework incorporates AMRs, RFID readers, barcode scanners, IoT sensors, Warehouse Management Systems (WMS), fleet management systems, and cloud-based databases to support intelligent warehouse operations. A simulation-based evaluation was conducted using realistic warehouse scenarios to assess the framework's performance based on operational and navigation metrics. The results indicate that the proposed framework significantly improves warehouse efficiency by reducing task completion time from 15 minutes to 7 minutes and decreasing average travel distance from 120 m to 65 m. Furthermore, warehouse throughput increased from 80 to 150 orders per day, while order-picking accuracy improved from 92% to 98%. Navigation performance also demonstrated high effectiveness, achieving mapping accuracy of 97.5%, localization accuracy of 98.7%, and obstacle avoidance success rates exceeding 98%. These findings demonstrate that the proposed Smart Warehouse Framework provides a scalable, intelligent, and efficient solution for Warehouse 4.0 implementation and supports the adoption of autonomous logistics systems in modern industrial environments.

Corresponding Author:

Wilson Janoyan, Department of Environmental Studies,
Tohoku University,Student Exchange Division, Tohoku University,
41 Kawauchi, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi, 980-8576 JAPAN
Email: kazukimasato@grp.tohoku.ac.jp

1. INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancement of Industry 4.0 has transformed industrial operations through the integration of intelligent technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and autonomous systems. One of the most significant developments within this transformation is the emergence of Warehouse 4.0, which emphasizes automation, connectivity, and data-driven decision-making to improve warehouse efficiency and productivity(Adekunle et al., 2021). As global supply chains become increasingly complex and customer expectations continue to rise, warehouses are required to process higher order volumes while maintaining accuracy, speed, and operational flexibility. Consequently, organizations are seeking innovative solutions that can optimize warehouse activities and reduce operational costs.

Traditional warehouse operations often rely heavily on manual labor for material handling, inventory tracking, and order fulfillment processes. Although human workers provide flexibility in dynamic environments, manual operations frequently result in inefficiencies such as long travel distances, slow picking processes, inventory inaccuracies, and increased labor costs. Furthermore, warehouse operators face growing challenges related to labor shortages, workplace safety concerns, and fluctuating demand patterns. These limitations hinder the ability of warehouses to achieve optimal performance and remain competitive in modern logistics environments.

To address these challenges, Autonomous Mobile Robots (AMRs) have emerged as a promising technology for warehouse automation(Cognominal et al., 2021). Unlike conventional Automated Guided Vehicles (AGVs), which typically follow predefined paths, AMRs possess advanced navigation capabilities that enable them to operate autonomously in dynamic environments. By utilizing technologies such as Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM), LiDAR sensors, computer vision, and artificial intelligence algorithms, AMRs can navigate efficiently, avoid obstacles, and adapt to changing warehouse conditions in real time. Their ability to transport goods autonomously has the potential to significantly improve operational efficiency, reduce human workload, and enhance overall warehouse productivity.

Research on smart warehouses and Autonomous Mobile Robots (AMRs) has grown significantly over the last decade as Industry 4.0 technologies have transformed logistics and supply chain operations. One of the earliest comprehensive studies on smart warehouse operations was conducted by Lu Zhen and Haolin Li (2022), who reviewed the evolution of smart warehouse management and highlighted the importance of emerging technologies such as IoT, robotics, artificial intelligence, and cyber-physical systems in improving warehouse efficiency. Their study emphasized that future warehouse systems should move beyond isolated automation technologies and focus on the integration of intelligent decision-making mechanisms across warehouse operations.

However, the authors also noted that many existing solutions remain fragmented and lack unified frameworks that connect robotic systems with warehouse management platforms. In a systematic review of Warehouse 4.0 technologies, Agnieszka A. Tubis and Juni Rohman (2023) analyzed 249 publications related to intelligent warehouse development. Their findings revealed that the majority of studies focused on implementing Industry 4.0 technologies such as IoT, RFID, augmented reality, and automated vehicles. The review proposed a classification framework for intelligent warehouses and identified significant research gaps related to system interoperability, real-time data integration, and autonomous decision-making. The authors concluded that although autonomous vehicles and robotic systems have become increasingly important in warehouse operations, comprehensive frameworks that integrate multiple technologies are still limited.

Research by K. Aravindaraj and P. Rajan Chinna (2022) investigated the integration of Industry 4.0 technologies with warehouse management systems to support sustainable development goals. Their systematic literature review demonstrated that technologies such as IoT, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and robotics can significantly enhance warehouse performance while improving sustainability outcomes. Nevertheless, the study identified a lack of practical implementation frameworks capable of integrating these technologies into a unified warehouse ecosystem.

A more focused investigation on autonomous warehouse logistics was presented by George S. Oliveira, Juha Röning, Patricia D. M. Plentz, and Jônata T. Carvalho (2022). Their study proposed a task allocation algorithm for heterogeneous robot fleets operating in smart warehouses with multiple delivery stations. The results showed substantial improvements in route efficiency and task allocation speed compared to conventional approaches. Although the study successfully addressed multi-robot coordination challenges, it primarily concentrated on task allocation optimization and did

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not provide a broader architectural framework that integrates warehouse management systems and IoT infrastructure.

Similarly, Ismot Sadik Peyas, Zahid Hasan, Md. Rafat Rahman Tushar, Al Musabbir, Raisa Mehjabin Azni, and Shahnewaz Siddique (2022) explored the application of Deep Reinforcement Learning for autonomous warehouse robots. Their research demonstrated that Deep Q-Learning algorithms could improve robot navigation, obstacle avoidance, and space utilization in warehouse environments. While the study contributed to advancements in autonomous navigation, its scope was limited to robot intelligence and did not address communication or integration with warehouse operational systems.

The growing importance of intralogistics automation was further examined by Abhay K. Grover and Muhammad Hasan Ashraf (2024). Through a thematic analysis of the literature, the authors highlighted how autonomous systems and IoT technologies are reshaping warehouse intralogistics by enabling real-time monitoring, dynamic task execution, and data-driven decision-making. Their findings emphasized that future smart warehouses require seamless interaction among robots, sensors, information systems, and operational workflows. However, they observed that many studies continue to investigate these components independently rather than as parts of an integrated framework.

In a review of Autonomous Mobile Robots for warehouse environments, Russell Keith and Hung Manh La (2024) examined recent developments in robotic hardware, control systems, navigation methods, and fleet management software. The authors highlighted the advantages of AMRs over traditional Automated Guided Vehicles (AGVs), particularly in terms of flexibility, adaptability, and autonomous decision-making capabilities. Nevertheless, the review identified challenges associated with multi-robot coordination, system scalability, and integration with enterprise-level warehouse management platforms, suggesting that these areas require further research.

Another important contribution was provided by Kareim Ellithy, Mariam Salah, Irene S. Fahim, and colleagues (2024), who conducted a comprehensive analysis of AGVs and Industry 4.0 technologies in warehouse automation. Their study proposed a flexible warehouse automation framework based on the integration of automated equipment, data acquisition technologies, and management systems. The authors emphasized that future warehouse automation solutions should prioritize flexibility and interoperability. Although their framework provides valuable insights, it primarily focuses on AGV-based systems rather than the more advanced AMR-based architectures capable of autonomous adaptation in dynamic environments.

Despite the growing adoption of AMRs in logistics and warehousing, several challenges remain in achieving fully integrated smart warehouse environments. Many existing warehouse systems continue to depend on human operators for task allocation, inventory verification, and transportation activities. Material movement processes often remain inefficient due to fragmented communication between warehouse management systems and robotic platforms. Furthermore, many warehouse automation solutions lack real-time coordination mechanisms that enable effective decision-making across multiple operational components. These limitations reduce the overall effectiveness of AMR deployment and prevent organizations from fully realizing the benefits of smart warehouse technologies.

Previous studies have contributed significantly to the development of AMR technologies; however, several research gaps still exist(Bulteel et al., 2021). Most existing studies primarily focus on specific aspects of autonomous robots, such as navigation algorithms, obstacle avoidance techniques, or path-planning optimization. While these studies improve individual robot performance, they often overlook the broader integration requirements necessary for smart warehouse implementation. In addition, limited research has addressed the integration of Autonomous Mobile Robots with Warehouse Management Systems (WMS), Internet of Things (IoT) infrastructures, and cloud or edge computing platforms. Existing frameworks also tend to lack comprehensive approaches that simultaneously address communication, coordination, optimization, and scalability within multi-robot warehouse environments. Consequently, there remains a need for a holistic framework capable of supporting intelligent, interconnected, and scalable warehouse operations.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The research methodology consists of several sequential stages, including requirement analysis, system architecture design, AMR integration, simulation and testing, and performance evaluation. The first stage is requirement analysis, which focuses on identifying the operational requirements of a smart warehouse environment. This phase involves examining common warehouse processes such as inventory management, order fulfillment, item picking, material transportation, and stock monitoring. Functional requirements are defined to ensure that the framework can support autonomous navigation, task allocation, real-time communication, inventory tracking, and performance monitoring(Fernández-Caramés et al., 2019). Non-functional requirements, including scalability, reliability, safety, interoperability, and real-time responsiveness, are also established to support future warehouse expansion and multi-robot deployment.

The second stage involves the design of the Smart Warehouse Framework architecture(Van Geest et al., 2021). The proposed architecture consists of four interconnected layers: the Physical Layer, Communication Layer, Data Layer, and Application Layer. The Physical Layer includes all hardware components operating within the warehouse environment. These components consist of Autonomous Mobile Robots, RFID readers, barcode scanners, environmental sensors, and automated storage racks. The AMRs are responsible for transporting inventory items between warehouse locations, while RFID and barcode technologies enable automatic identification and tracking of goods. Environmental sensors collect operational data such as location information, obstacle detection, and warehouse conditions to support intelligent decision-making.

The Communication Layer facilitates data exchange among warehouse devices, robots, and management systems. Wireless communication technologies such as Wi-Fi and 5G networks are utilized to ensure reliable and low-latency connectivity throughout the warehouse environment. MQTT (Message Queuing Telemetry Transport) serves as the primary communication protocol due to its lightweight architecture and suitability for IoT applications. In addition, the Robot Operating System (ROS) is employed as a middleware platform to coordinate robot operations, sensor integration, navigation processes, and inter-robot communication. This layer enables real-time information sharing among all components within the warehouse ecosystem.

The Data Layer functions as the central repository for operational data generated by warehouse activities. This layer consists of a warehouse database, inventory database, and cloud storage infrastructure(Van Geest et al., 2021). The warehouse database stores information related to warehouse layouts, storage locations, robot status, and operational logs. The inventory database maintains real-time stock records and product information. Cloud storage services are integrated to support large-scale data processing, historical analysis, backup management, and remote access capabilities. The data layer also enables advanced analytics for performance optimization and predictive decision-making.

The Application Layer provides management and monitoring functionalities through software-based systems(Jararweh et al., 2016). This layer includes the Warehouse Management System (WMS), Fleet Management System, and visualization dashboard. The Warehouse Management System manages inventory control, order processing, stock allocation, and warehouse workflows. The Fleet Management System coordinates multiple AMRs by assigning tasks, optimizing routes, monitoring robot status, and balancing workloads. A web-based dashboard provides real-time visualization of warehouse operations, allowing managers to monitor robot activities, inventory levels, order fulfillment status, and overall warehouse performance.

The third stage of the research involves the design and integration of Autonomous Mobile Robots into the proposed framework(Rubio et al., 2019). The AMRs are equipped with advanced navigation technologies that enable autonomous operation within dynamic warehouse environments. The navigation system utilizes Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM) to allow robots to construct maps of the warehouse while simultaneously determining their positions. LiDAR sensors are employed to generate accurate environmental maps and detect obstacles in real time. Camera vision systems provide additional visual information for object recognition, aisle identification, and localization tasks. Ultrasonic sensors complement the perception system by detecting nearby objects and supporting collision avoidance.

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For route optimization, the AMRs employ path-planning algorithms such as A* and Dijkstra algorithms to determine the shortest and most efficient paths between locations(Rubio et al., 2019). Dynamic path-planning techniques are incorporated to allow robots to adapt their routes in response to changing warehouse conditions, temporary obstacles, or traffic congestion. Obstacle avoidance mechanisms are implemented through reactive navigation strategies combined with artificial intelligence-based detection systems. These capabilities enable the robots to safely navigate around static and dynamic obstacles while maintaining operational efficiency.

The framework development process begins when a customer order is received by the Warehouse Management System(Oduoza, 2010). The system analyzes inventory availability and generates transportation tasks based on order requirements. These tasks are subsequently forwarded to the Fleet Management System, which allocates assignments to available AMRs according to factors such as robot location, workload, and battery status. Once a task is assigned, the AMR autonomously navigates to the designated storage location, performs item-picking operations, and transports the selected products to the required destination, such as a packing station or dispatch area. After task completion, inventory records are automatically updated in the warehouse database, ensuring real-time synchronization between physical and digital warehouse operations.

To validate the proposed framework, simulation experiments are conducted using a virtual warehouse environment(Ruiz et al., 2011). The experimental setup consists of a warehouse facility measuring 100 m × 80 m, containing multiple storage zones and transportation corridors. A fleet of five Autonomous Mobile Robots is deployed within the warehouse environment to perform transportation tasks. The warehouse contains approximately 500 storage locations distributed across various rack systems. During the simulation, the framework processes a set of customer orders representing different operational scenarios, including normal workloads, peak demand periods, and dynamic warehouse conditions. Simulation activities are performed using ROS and Gazebo platforms, which provide realistic robot modeling, sensor simulation, and environmental interaction capabilities. Additional analyses may be conducted using MATLAB for data processing and performance evaluation.

The effectiveness of the proposed Smart Warehouse Framework is assessed through several evaluation metrics categorized into operational, robotic, and warehouse performance indicators. Operational performance is measured using task completion time, travel distance, throughput, and picking accuracy. Task completion time evaluates the duration required to complete warehouse operations, while travel distance measures robot movement efficiency. Throughput represents the number of completed orders within a specific time period, and picking accuracy assesses the correctness of item retrieval operations.

Robot performance is evaluated using navigation accuracy, collision rate, and battery consumption(Yan et al., 2015). Navigation accuracy measures the robot's ability to reach designated destinations successfully, while collision rate indicates the frequency of navigation failures or safety incidents. Battery consumption is analyzed to assess energy efficiency and operational sustainability. Warehouse performance is measured through order fulfillment rate, inventory accuracy, and resource utilization. These indicators provide insights into the overall effectiveness of the proposed framework in improving warehouse productivity, operational efficiency, and automation capabilities.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 Developed Smart Warehouse Framework

The primary outcome of this study is the development of a Smart Warehouse Framework that integrates Autonomous Mobile Robots (AMRs), Internet of Things (IoT) devices, Warehouse Management Systems (WMS), databases, and communication networks into a unified architecture for intelligent warehouse operations. The proposed framework is designed to support Warehouse 4.0 implementation by enabling real-time data exchange, autonomous material handling, automated inventory management, and intelligent decision-making. The framework aims to address common challenges in traditional warehouse environments, including inefficient material transportation, inventory inaccuracies, and limited operational visibility.

The developed framework consists of five major components: an Autonomous Mobile Robot fleet, IoT sensing infrastructure, Warehouse Management System (WMS), centralized databases, and a communication network. These components work collaboratively to create a connected warehouse ecosystem capable of performing warehouse activities with minimal human intervention.

The architecture of the proposed Smart Warehouse Framework can be represented as follows:

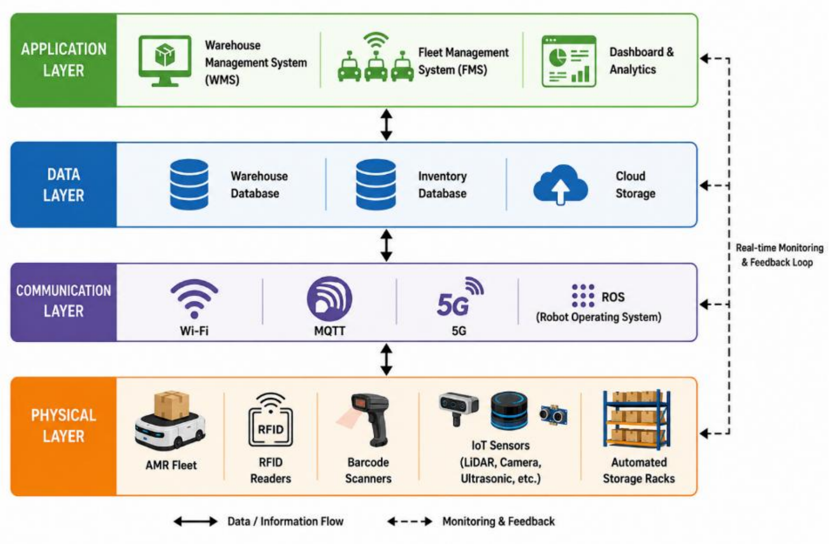

Figure 1. Framework Architecture

The framework architecture is organized into multiple interconnected layers that facilitate communication between physical warehouse assets and digital management systems(Moufaddal et al., 2020). At the operational level, the Autonomous Mobile Robot fleet performs transportation and material handling tasks. Each robot is equipped with navigation sensors, including LiDAR, cameras, and ultrasonic sensors, enabling autonomous movement throughout the warehouse environment. The robots communicate continuously with the Fleet Management System, which coordinates task allocation, route optimization, traffic control, and robot monitoring.

The Warehouse Management System serves as the central decision-making component of the framework. It manages warehouse operations such as inventory tracking, order processing, stock allocation, and task generation. When a customer order is received, the WMS identifies the required inventory locations and generates transportation requests. These requests are subsequently forwarded to the Fleet Management System, which determines the most suitable robot to execute the task based on factors such as robot availability, current location, workload distribution, and battery status.

The Fleet Management System plays a crucial role in ensuring efficient coordination among multiple robots. By continuously monitoring the status of all AMRs, the system can dynamically assign tasks and adjust routes to prevent congestion and minimize travel distances. This capability is particularly important in large-scale warehouse environments where multiple robots operate simultaneously within shared pathways. Through real-time coordination, the fleet management module improves resource utilization and enhances overall warehouse throughput.

The communication network serves as the backbone of the proposed framework by enabling real-time information exchange among all warehouse components. Wi-Fi and 5G technologies provide wireless connectivity throughout the warehouse environment, while MQTT facilitates lightweight and efficient machine-to-machine communication(Mourtzis et al., 2021). The Robot Operating System (ROS) is utilized as middleware to integrate robotic subsystems, sensors, navigation algorithms, and communication protocols. Through ROS, robots can exchange operational data, receive navigation commands, and update their status in real time.

In addition to robotic systems, the framework incorporates various IoT devices that support warehouse monitoring and inventory visibility. RFID readers and barcode scanners are deployed at storage locations, loading stations, and receiving areas to automatically identify inventory items and update stock records. These devices eliminate the need for manual inventory recording and significantly reduce human errors associated with stock management. Environmental sensors are also installed throughout the warehouse to monitor operational conditions, detect obstacles, and provide location-related information that enhances robot navigation performance.

All operational data generated by robots, sensors, and warehouse activities are stored within centralized databases. The warehouse database maintains information regarding storage locations, warehouse layouts, transportation routes, and robot operational logs. The inventory database stores product information, stock levels, transaction histories, and order fulfillment records. To support large-scale data management and future analytics applications, cloud storage infrastructure is integrated into the framework. The cloud platform enables remote monitoring, historical data analysis, predictive maintenance, and scalability for expanding warehouse operations.

The interaction among framework components follows a closed-loop operational cycle(Wikner & Tang, 2008). When a customer order enters the system, the Warehouse Management System verifies inventory availability and identifies the storage location of the requested items. The task is then transmitted to the Fleet Management System, which assigns the most appropriate AMR to perform the transportation operation. Using SLAM-based navigation and path-planning algorithms, the AMR autonomously travels to the designated storage rack. RFID readers and barcode scanners verify the identity of the selected item before transportation begins. The robot subsequently delivers the item to the specified destination, such as a packing station or shipping area. Upon successful delivery, the inventory database is automatically updated, and operational data are recorded for performance analysis.

The developed framework demonstrates a high level of integration between physical warehouse assets and digital management systems. Unlike conventional warehouse automation approaches that often treat robots, inventory systems, and communication networks as independent components, the proposed architecture enables seamless interaction among all operational elements. This integration facilitates real-time visibility, autonomous decision-making, and efficient resource coordination across the warehouse environment.

Furthermore, the framework provides scalability for future warehouse expansion. Additional robots, sensors, storage locations, and operational modules can be integrated without significant modifications to the existing architecture. The modular design also supports the incorporation of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Digital Twins, Edge Computing, and Predictive Analytics. As a result, the proposed Smart Warehouse Framework establishes a robust foundation for next-generation Warehouse 4.0 implementations and intelligent logistics systems.

3.2 AMR Performance Results

To evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed Smart Warehouse Framework, a series of simulation experiments were conducted and compared with conventional warehouse operations that rely primarily on manual material handling and human-operated transportation processes(Van Geest et al., 2021). The performance evaluation focused on four key operational metrics, namely picking time, travel distance, throughput, and order-picking accuracy. Table 1 summarizes the comparative results between the conventional warehouse system and the proposed AMR-based framework.

Table 1. Performance Comparison between Conventional Warehouse and Proposed Smart Warehouse Framework

Metric	Conventional System	Proposed Framework
Picking Time	15 min	7 min
Travel Distance	120 m	65 m
Throughput	80 orders/day	150 orders/day
Accuracy	92%	98%

The results indicate that the proposed Smart Warehouse Framework significantly improves warehouse operational performance across all evaluation metrics. One of the most notable improvements can be observed in the order-picking process. The average picking time was reduced from 15 minutes in the conventional warehouse environment to only 7 minutes in the proposed framework. This represents an improvement of approximately 53.3%. The reduction in picking time can be attributed to the autonomous navigation capabilities of the AMRs, which eliminate delays associated with manual transportation and human travel between storage locations. Through optimized route planning and automated task allocation, robots are able to reach inventory locations more efficiently and complete transportation tasks within shorter time periods.

Similarly, the average travel distance required to complete warehouse tasks decreased substantially from 120 meters to 65 meters, representing a reduction of approximately 45.8%(McKinnon, 2009). This improvement demonstrates the effectiveness of the route optimization algorithms implemented within the Fleet Management System. By utilizing path-planning techniques such as A* and dynamic navigation algorithms, the AMRs consistently selected shorter and less congested routes throughout the warehouse environment. Reduced travel distances not only improve operational efficiency but also contribute to lower energy consumption and extended robot battery life, thereby enhancing the overall sustainability of warehouse operations.

The throughput performance of the warehouse also improved considerably following the implementation of the proposed framework(Baruffaldi et al., 2020). The conventional warehouse system was capable of processing approximately 80 orders per day, whereas the Smart Warehouse Framework successfully processed 150 orders per day. This increase corresponds to an improvement of 87.5%, indicating a substantial enhancement in warehouse productivity. The increase in throughput is primarily attributed to the continuous operation of the AMR fleet, real-time task scheduling, and efficient coordination among warehouse components. Unlike human-operated systems, which are subject to fatigue and operational variability, autonomous robots can perform repetitive transportation tasks consistently and efficiently throughout the working period.

Another important finding is the improvement in order-picking accuracy. The proposed framework achieved an accuracy rate of 98%, compared to 92% in the conventional warehouse environment(Custodio & Machado, 2020). This improvement demonstrates the effectiveness of integrating RFID readers, barcode scanners, and automated inventory verification mechanisms into warehouse operations. The use of automated identification technologies significantly reduces human errors associated with product selection, inventory recording, and order fulfillment. As a result, the framework enhances inventory reliability and customer satisfaction while minimizing costs associated with incorrect shipments and product returns.

The overall performance improvements demonstrate the advantages of integrating Autonomous Mobile Robots within a smart warehouse environment. The combination of intelligent navigation, automated task allocation, real-time communication, and inventory tracking technologies enables more efficient warehouse operations compared to traditional approaches. In particular, the Fleet Management System played a critical role in optimizing robot utilization and balancing workloads among multiple AMRs. This coordination mechanism minimized idle time and ensured that transportation resources were used effectively.

Furthermore, the integration of IoT devices and centralized databases provided real-time visibility into warehouse operations, enabling rapid decision-making and dynamic adaptation to changing operational conditions. The continuous exchange of information among robots, sensors, and management systems allowed the framework to respond effectively to new orders, inventory changes, and environmental obstacles. Consequently, warehouse processes became more agile, reliable, and scalable.

The findings suggest that the proposed Smart Warehouse Framework can substantially enhance warehouse performance in terms of speed, efficiency, productivity, and accuracy. The observed reductions in picking time and travel distance, combined with significant improvements in throughput and order accuracy, demonstrate the practical value of adopting AMR-based warehouse automation. These results support the potential application of the framework in modern logistics centers, e-commerce fulfillment facilities, manufacturing warehouses, and other Industry 4.0 environments where operational efficiency and real-time responsiveness are critical for competitiveness.

3.3 Navigation Performance

Navigation performance is one of the most critical factors determining the effectiveness of Autonomous Mobile Robots (AMRs) in smart warehouse environments. Efficient navigation directly influences transportation speed, task completion efficiency, warehouse safety, and overall operational productivity. To assess the effectiveness of the proposed Smart Warehouse Framework,

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the navigation capabilities of the AMRs were evaluated using four key indicators: mapping accuracy, path optimization performance, obstacle avoidance success rate, and localization accuracy. These metrics provide comprehensive insights into the ability of the robotic system to operate autonomously in dynamic warehouse environments.

The first navigation metric evaluated was mapping accuracy(Antin et al., 2009). During the simulation phase, the AMRs employed Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM) techniques using LiDAR and camera-based sensors to construct digital representations of the warehouse environment. The generated maps were compared with the actual warehouse layout to determine the accuracy of environmental reconstruction.

The experimental results demonstrated that the proposed navigation system achieved a mapping accuracy of approximately 97.5%. The generated warehouse maps successfully identified storage racks, transportation corridors, loading stations, and obstacle locations with minimal deviations from the actual environment. The high mapping accuracy can be attributed to the integration of LiDAR sensors, which provide precise distance measurements, and camera vision systems that enhance environmental perception. The combination of these sensing technologies enabled the AMRs to maintain accurate environmental awareness even in complex warehouse layouts.

Accurate mapping is essential because it forms the foundation for subsequent navigation and path-planning activities(Meyer & Filliat, 2003). Any inaccuracies in environmental representation may lead to inefficient routing decisions, increased travel distances, or navigation failures. Therefore, the high mapping accuracy achieved by the proposed framework contributes significantly to the reliability and effectiveness of autonomous warehouse operations.

Path optimization performance was evaluated by comparing the routes generated by the AMRs with conventional transportation routes typically used in manual warehouse operations. The robots utilized A* and Dijkstra path-planning algorithms in combination with dynamic route adjustment mechanisms to identify optimal paths between source and destination locations.

The simulation results indicated that the proposed framework reduced average travel distances from 120 meters to 65 meters, representing a reduction of approximately 45.8%(Raney & Nagel, 2006). In addition, route computation times remained below one second under most operational scenarios, enabling real-time navigation decisions. The path-planning algorithms successfully identified the shortest feasible routes while considering warehouse obstacles, traffic conditions, and robot congestion levels.

Dynamic path-planning capabilities also allowed the robots to adapt their routes when temporary obstacles or traffic bottlenecks were detected. Instead of following predefined routes, the AMRs continuously evaluated environmental conditions and selected alternative paths whenever necessary. This flexibility improved transportation efficiency and reduced delays associated with warehouse congestion. Consequently, path optimization contributed directly to the observed reductions in task completion time and improvements in overall warehouse throughput.

Obstacle avoidance is a critical safety requirement for autonomous warehouse systems because robots must operate in environments that may contain dynamic objects, temporary obstacles, and human workers(Inam et al., 2018). The proposed framework employed a hybrid obstacle avoidance mechanism combining reactive navigation strategies with artificial intelligence-based object detection algorithms.

To evaluate obstacle avoidance performance, multiple scenarios involving static and dynamic obstacles were introduced into the simulation environment. These scenarios included blocked aisles, moving objects, and unexpected warehouse obstructions. The experimental results showed that the AMRs achieved an obstacle avoidance success rate of 98.2%, indicating that the robots were able to successfully detect and avoid nearly all obstacles encountered during operation.

The high success rate was primarily achieved through the integration of LiDAR sensors, ultrasonic sensors, and computer vision technologies. LiDAR provided accurate distance measurements for nearby objects, while ultrasonic sensors enhanced short-range obstacle detection. Camera-based perception systems enabled object classification and improved decision-making in complex situations. The reactive navigation algorithm allowed the robots to immediately respond to environmental changes by modifying their movement trajectories without interrupting ongoing tasks.

The low collision rate observed during the experiments demonstrates the effectiveness of the proposed navigation framework in maintaining operational safety. This capability is particularly important in modern warehouse environments where robots frequently share workspace areas with human operators and other autonomous systems.

Localization accuracy measures the ability of an AMR to determine its precise position within the warehouse environment(Stączek et al., 2021). Accurate localization is essential for successful navigation, inventory retrieval, and task execution. In the proposed framework, localization was achieved through the integration of SLAM algorithms, LiDAR measurements, wheel odometry data, and visual sensor information.

Experimental evaluations revealed that the AMRs achieved a localization accuracy of approximately 98.7%, with average positioning errors below 10 centimeters throughout the warehouse environment. The results indicate that the robots were able to consistently identify their positions relative to storage racks, transportation pathways, and designated task locations. Even in areas with dense shelving arrangements and complex warehouse layouts, the localization system maintained high positioning precision.

The high localization accuracy can be attributed to sensor fusion techniques that combine information from multiple sensing sources(Li et al., 2020). While wheel odometry provides continuous movement estimates, LiDAR and camera systems correct accumulated positioning errors by referencing environmental landmarks. This multi-sensor approach minimizes localization drift and ensures stable robot operation over extended periods.

Accurate localization directly impacts the efficiency of warehouse operations(Halawa et al., 2020). Precise positioning enables robots to approach storage locations correctly, retrieve items efficiently, and avoid unnecessary movement adjustments. Furthermore, accurate localization supports reliable inventory management by ensuring that products are collected from and delivered to the correct locations.

Overall, the navigation performance evaluation demonstrates that the proposed Smart Warehouse Framework provides highly reliable and efficient autonomous navigation capabilities. The framework achieved a mapping accuracy of 97.5%, localization accuracy of 98.7%, obstacle avoidance success rate of 98.2%, and substantial improvements in path optimization performance. These results indicate that the integration of SLAM-based navigation, LiDAR sensing, camera vision, and intelligent path-planning algorithms enables AMRs to operate effectively in dynamic warehouse environments.

Compared with conventional warehouse transportation systems, the proposed navigation framework offers significant advantages in terms of efficiency, safety, and operational flexibility(Halawa et al., 2020). The ability to generate accurate environmental maps, determine precise robot locations, optimize travel routes, and avoid obstacles in real time contributes to the overall performance improvements observed in warehouse operations. Furthermore, the navigation architecture provides a scalable foundation for future enhancements involving multi-robot coordination, artificial intelligence-based decision-making, digital twin integration, and predictive warehouse management systems.

3.4 Warehouse Efficiency Analysis

One of the most significant benefits observed during the implementation of the proposed framework was the reduction in operational time. In conventional warehouse environments, order fulfillment activities often involve manual transportation of goods, extensive worker movement, and time-consuming inventory verification processes. These activities contribute to longer processing times and reduced operational efficiency.

The deployment of Autonomous Mobile Robots enabled the automation of material transportation tasks, thereby reducing delays associated with manual handling(Cognominal et al., 2021). Through the use of optimized path-planning algorithms and real-time task allocation mechanisms, AMRs were able to travel directly to designated storage locations and transport goods to packing or shipping stations without unnecessary movement. As demonstrated in the previous

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performance evaluation, the average picking time decreased from 15 minutes to 7 minutes, representing a reduction of approximately 53.3%.

Furthermore, automated inventory identification using RFID readers and barcode scanners eliminated the need for manual product verification, accelerating the order fulfillment process. Real-time communication between the Warehouse Management System and the Fleet Management System ensured immediate task assignment and rapid response to incoming orders. Consequently, warehouse operations became faster, more streamlined, and capable of handling higher workloads within the same operational period.

The implementation of the Smart Warehouse Framework resulted in a substantial increase in warehouse productivity. Productivity in warehouse operations is generally measured by the number of completed orders, transportation tasks, or inventory transactions within a specified time frame. The integration of AMRs allowed transportation and picking activities to be performed continuously with consistent performance levels, unlike human-operated processes that may be affected by fatigue, workload variations, and operational interruptions.

The simulation results showed that warehouse throughput increased from 80 orders per day in the conventional system to 150 orders per day under the proposed framework(Ribino et al., 2018). This represents an improvement of approximately 87.5%, indicating a significant enhancement in operational capacity. The increase in productivity can be attributed to several factors, including efficient task scheduling, optimized route planning, reduced travel distances, and real-time coordination among warehouse resources.

In addition, the Fleet Management System continuously monitored robot availability and workload distribution, ensuring balanced task allocation among multiple AMRs. This capability minimized idle time and maximized resource utilization. The ability of multiple robots to operate simultaneously further accelerated warehouse processes and enabled the system to accommodate growing customer demand without requiring proportional increases in physical labor resources.

Another important outcome of the proposed framework is the reduction in dependency on manual labor. Traditional warehouses rely heavily on human workers to perform repetitive activities such as transporting inventory, locating products, conducting stock checks, and updating inventory records. These tasks not only increase labor costs but also expose operations to human errors, fatigue, and workforce shortages.

By automating material transportation and inventory tracking functions, the AMR-based framework significantly reduced the need for manual intervention. Autonomous robots performed routine transportation tasks independently, allowing human workers to focus on higher-value activities such as warehouse supervision, exception handling, quality control, and strategic decision-making. As a result, workforce utilization became more efficient and operational costs associated with repetitive labor-intensive activities were reduced.

The reduction in labor dependency also enhances operational resilience(Essuman et al., 2020). Warehouses often experience workforce shortages during peak demand periods, seasonal fluctuations, or unexpected disruptions. The use of autonomous robots mitigates these risks by ensuring continuous operational capability regardless of labor availability. Consequently, the proposed framework provides a sustainable solution for addressing long-term workforce challenges in modern logistics and supply chain environments.

Inventory visibility is a critical factor influencing warehouse performance, customer satisfaction, and supply chain responsiveness. In traditional warehouse systems, inventory information is frequently updated manually, leading to delays, inaccuracies, and discrepancies between physical stock levels and recorded inventory data. These issues can result in stockouts, overstocking, order fulfillment errors, and inefficient warehouse management.

The proposed Smart Warehouse Framework significantly improved inventory visibility through the integration of RFID readers, barcode scanners, IoT sensors, and centralized databases. Every inventory movement was automatically captured and recorded in real time as products were received, stored, transported, or dispatched. This automated data collection process ensured that inventory records remained synchronized with actual warehouse conditions.

The Warehouse Management System continuously monitored stock levels and provided real-time updates to warehouse operators through a centralized dashboard. Managers could instantly access information regarding inventory availability, product locations, order status, and warehouse utilization. This enhanced visibility enabled faster decision-making, improved inventory planning, and more accurate demand forecasting.

Moreover, the integration of real-time inventory tracking reduced inventory inaccuracies and improved order fulfillment reliability. The previous performance evaluation demonstrated that order-picking accuracy increased from 92% to 98% following the implementation of the proposed framework. The reduction in inventory errors contributes directly to improved customer satisfaction, lower return rates, and more efficient warehouse operations.

Overall, the findings indicate that the proposed Smart Warehouse Framework delivers substantial improvements in warehouse efficiency across multiple operational dimensions. The framework successfully reduced operational time through automation and optimized task execution, increased productivity by enabling continuous and coordinated robot operations, reduced dependency on manual labor through autonomous transportation capabilities, and enhanced inventory visibility through real-time tracking and data integration.

3.5 Comparison with Previous Studies

These improvements collectively contribute to the development of a more agile, intelligent, and scalable warehouse environment. The results are consistent with the objectives of Warehouse 4.0, which emphasizes automation, connectivity, and data-driven decision-making as key enablers of operational excellence. Furthermore, the framework provides a strong foundation for future integration with advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Digital Twins, Predictive Analytics, nd Edge Computing.

The significant gains observed in operational efficiency demonstrate that the adoption of Autonomous Mobile Robots and intelligent warehouse management systems can provide substantial competitive advantages for logistics providers, e-commerce fulfillment centers, manufacturing facilities, and other organizations seeking to modernize their warehouse operations. Therefore, the proposed framework represents a viable and effective solution for supporting next-generation smart warehouse implementations in increasingly dynamic and demanding industrial environments.

Study	Technology	Main Limitation
AGV-Based Warehouse System	Automated Guided Vehicle (AGV)	Fixed navigation routes and limited flexibility
AMR Navigation Framework	Autonomous Mobile Robot (AMR)	Focused primarily on navigation without WMS integration
AMR Navigation Framework	Autonomous Mobile Robot (AMR)	Focused primarily on navigation without WMS integration
IoT-Based Warehouse Monitoring	IoT Sensors and RFID	Limited autonomous transportation capabilities
Multi-Robot Task Allocation System	AMR Fleet Management	Lack of inventory management integration
Proposed Framework	AMR + WMS + IoT + Fleet Management + Cloud Database	Scalable and fully integrated architecture

The first category of previous studies focused on Automated Guided Vehicle (AGV)-based warehouse systems. AGVs have been widely adopted in industrial warehouses due to their ability to automate material transportation. However, AGV systems generally rely on predefined routes using magnetic strips, QR codes, or fixed guidance infrastructure. As a result, their operational flexibility is limited when warehouse layouts change or unexpected obstacles occur. In contrast, the proposed framework utilizes Autonomous Mobile Robots equipped with SLAM-based navigation, allowing dynamic route generation and autonomous adaptation to changing warehouse environments. This capability significantly improves operational flexibility and supports more complex warehouse scenarios.

A second group of studies concentrated on AMR navigation and path-planning optimization(Agarwal & Bharti, 2018). These studies demonstrated the effectiveness of technologies such as LiDAR, computer vision, and artificial intelligence in improving robot autonomy and navigation performance. While such research successfully enhanced robotic mobility and obstacle avoidance, most of these systems operated independently from higher-level warehouse management functions. Consequently, decision-making processes related to inventory control, order fulfillment, and task scheduling remained disconnected from robot operations. The framework

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proposed in this study addresses this limitation by integrating AMRs directly with the Warehouse Management System, enabling seamless coordination between inventory management and transportation activities.

Several researchers have also investigated IoT-based warehouse monitoring systems that utilize RFID readers, barcode scanners, and sensor networks to improve inventory tracking and warehouse visibility. These systems provide real-time information regarding stock levels and product locations, thereby reducing inventory inaccuracies and improving warehouse transparency. Nevertheless, most IoT-based solutions focus primarily on data collection and monitoring functions without incorporating autonomous transportation mechanisms. As a result, warehouse operations still depend heavily on human workers for material movement. The proposed framework extends the functionality of IoT technologies by integrating them with autonomous robots and intelligent task management systems, creating a more comprehensive automation solution.

Another important research area involves multi-robot coordination and fleet management systems. Previous studies have proposed algorithms for task allocation, workload balancing, and route optimization among multiple robots operating within warehouse environments. These approaches have demonstrated significant improvements in transportation efficiency and resource utilization. However, many of these studies primarily address robotic coordination challenges and provide limited integration with inventory databases, warehouse management systems, and enterprise-level logistics processes. Consequently, their practical applicability within large-scale warehouse operations remains constrained. The framework developed in this study overcomes this limitation by establishing a unified architecture that connects fleet management functions with inventory management, warehouse operations, and real-time monitoring systems.

Compared with previous research, the proposed Smart Warehouse Framework offers several distinctive advantages(Liu et al., 2018). First, it provides end-to-end integration between Autonomous Mobile Robots, IoT devices, Warehouse Management Systems, centralized databases, and communication infrastructures. This integration enables seamless information flow across all warehouse components and supports real-time decision-making. Second, the framework incorporates a Fleet Management System capable of coordinating multiple robots while simultaneously considering inventory requirements and operational priorities. Third, the use of cloud-based data storage and scalable communication technologies allows the framework to support warehouse expansion without requiring substantial architectural modifications.

Furthermore, the proposed framework adopts a modular design that facilitates the future integration of advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Digital Twins, Edge Computing, and Predictive Analytics. While many existing studies focus on isolated technological improvements, the present framework establishes a foundation for intelligent warehouse ecosystems capable of continuous adaptation and optimization. This characteristic is particularly important in modern logistics environments where operational requirements frequently change and scalability is essential.

4. CONCLUSION

This study successfully developed a Smart Warehouse Framework using Autonomous Mobile Robots (AMRs) to support intelligent and automated warehouse operations in Warehouse 4.0 environments. The proposed framework integrates autonomous robot navigation, Warehouse Management Systems (WMS), Internet of Things (IoT) devices, centralized databases, and real-time communication networks into a unified and scalable architecture. The evaluation results demonstrated that the framework effectively improved warehouse efficiency by reducing task completion time and travel distance while increasing throughput, navigation performance, inventory visibility, and order-picking accuracy. The integration of AMRs with real-time monitoring and intelligent task allocation mechanisms enabled more efficient material handling and inventory management compared to conventional warehouse operations. From a practical perspective, the framework provides a viable solution for logistics centers, manufacturing warehouses, distribution facilities, and e-commerce fulfillment centers seeking to enhance productivity, reduce operational costs, and accelerate digital transformation initiatives. Furthermore, the proposed architecture establishes a strong foundation for Warehouse 4.0 implementation by supporting automation, connectivity, and data-driven decision-making. Future research may focus on enhancing the framework through Artificial Intelligence-based multi-AMR coordination, Digital Twin integration for real-time warehouse simulation, Edge AI deployment for low-latency decision-making, Reinforcement Learning techniques for adaptive path planning, and energy optimization strategies to improve the sustainability and operational efficiency of autonomous warehouse systems.

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