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Integrating Artificial Intelligence with Robotics to Accelerate Industry 4.0 - a Literature Review

Mrs.N.Kokila

Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Applications, K.S.Rangasamy College of Arts and Science (Autonomous), Tiruchengode-637215, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced robotics are no longer mere futuristic concepts, but the central pillars of the industrial revolution underway, Factory 4.0. As we witness an unprecedented digital transformation, these technologies are redefining the manufacturing landscape through intelligent automation and connectivity. They are the brains and arms of an industry of the future that promises unrivalled efficiency and flexibility. The implementation of AI industry and robotics 4.0 leads to advanced automation, where machines no longer simply repeat tasks, but learn and adapt in real time. The intersection of robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a driving force in the creation of new industries, cutting-edge technologies and increased productivity and efficiency in existing sectors. As the field of AI in robotics continues to evolve, its applications in the real world are becoming increasingly apparent. This review exploresthe impact of AI on Industry 4.0 is reshaping not just production methods, but also the roles of engineers themselves. Mechanical expertise is no longer enough. Data fluency and algorithmic thinking are fast becoming the new must-haves

KEYWORDS: Artificial Intelligence, Automation, Digital transformation, Industry 4.0, robotics..

I.INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence (AI) is technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, perception, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy.It enables machines to learn from experience, adapt to new information, anduses data, algorithms and computational power to interpret complex situations and makedecisions with minimal human input. A robot is a machine-especially one programmable by a computer-capable of carrying out a complex series of actions automatically [1-2].

A robot can be guided by an external control device, or the control may be embedded within. Robots may be constructed to evoke human form, a device that automatically performs complicated, often repetitive tasks (as in an industrial assembly line). AI-powered robots have the ability to collect, analyze, and act on information about their surroundings in near real-time to complete tasks, often autonomously [3]. Robots use cameras, accelerometers, and sensors for vibration, proximity, and other conditions to collect information about their environment. Depending on the use case, that data is then analyzed using onboard, edge, or cloud computing-or some combination-and machine learning or deep learning algorithms. The robot then uses insights from that analysis to take action. To better understand what AI-enabled robots are, it’s important to understand what makes them intelligent [4].

Artificial intelligence refers to a broad class of systems that enable machines to mimic advanced human capabilities. Machine learning enables machines to learn from data to make predictions or decisions. Deep learning enables machines to use data to determine actions and perform tasks independently. The combination of AI and robotics has the potential to bring out the very best in robot development. AI robots augmented with a variety of instruments, including 2D/3D cameras and a host of sensors; allow them to take in data that is then analyzed by AI in real-time processing. Before AI, these sensors would have, at best, allowed a robot to cease operations when it detected anomalies or anything in its path. This causes a slowdown and interrupts operations in large factories. With AI programs analyzing and utilizing the data, it now makes it possible for robots to make decisions based on their surroundings, adjust rather than stop operations, and work around their human coworkers. This is particularly important in sectors such as hospitality where humans are active in close proximity to robotic workers. While robotics and AI are closely linked, they are distinct fields with separate objectives and methodologies. Robotics focuses on the physical aspects of machines, designing and building hardware that performs specific tasks, such as a robotic arm assembling products or a drone delivering packages. These systems often rely on pre-programmed instructions to function [5-6].

Figure No: 1

Automate with robots

II. AI INTEGRATION IN SMART MANUFACTURING

Artificial intelligence refers to a broad class of systems that enable machines to mimic advanced human capabilities. Machine learning enables machines to learn from data to make predictions or decisions. Deep learning enables machines to use data to determine actions and perform tasks independently. The combination of AI and robotics has the potential to bring out the very best in robot development. AI robots augmented with a variety of instruments, including 2D/3D cameras and a host of sensors; allow them to take in data that is then analyzed by AI in real-time processing. Before AI, these sensors would have, at best, allowed a robot to cease operations when it detected anomalies or anything in its path. This causes a slowdown and interrupts operations in large factories. With AI programs analyzing and

utilizing the data, it now makes it possible for robots to make decisions based on their surroundings, adjust rather than stop operations, and work around their human coworkers. This is particularly important in sectors such as hospitality where humans are active in close proximity to robotic workers. While robotics and AI are closely linked, they are distinct fields with separate objectives and methodologies. Robotics focuses on the physical aspects of machines, designing and building hardware that performs specific tasks, such as a robotic arm assembling products or a drone delivering packages. These systems often rely on pre-programmed instructions to function [8].

Artificial intelligence has brought about a change in the pattern of the operation of industry, driven by a new form of interaction between man and machine. This industrial revolution, which has given rise to Industry 4.0, is characterised by intelligent factories where humans and cyber-physical systems interact in the cloud. Intelligent factories absorb automated structures and include digital enablers that allow machinery to communicate with each other and with the factory systems as a whole, through a IoT configuration [9]. These skills are increasingly in demand by factories in all sectors, seeking to ensure the competitiveness of their production plants in an increasingly technological context.

Artificial intelligence has become the most disruptive technology called to revolutionise themanagement and business models of organisations. Its main applications in the 4.0 industry are:

- OEE optimization through predictive repair and maintenance.
- Quality 4.0 through operational excellence, which continuously improves production quality.
- Generative design through AI and automation algorithms, which simultaneously generate multiple design solutions valid for the same objective.
- Robotics through robotic and collaborative machines that support the operators to free them from methodical and/or extremely precise tasks.

III. INTEGRATING AI IN ROBOTICS

Although there are quite a few differences between robotics and Artificial Intelligence, they are two branches that benefit from each other. Primarily, AI is used to improve skills such as movement, adapting to the environment, optimizing performance, diagnosing errors and performing autonomous tasks of machines, i.e. it improves the learning and application capabilities of robots.Both robotics and AI aim to automate tasks and facilitate processes for humans, and use data collected by input and output sensors to facilitate decision-making [10].

In this sense, it is increasingly common to see work environments where machines collaborate with people to improve different tasks. This human-machine collaboration is embodied in cobots or collaborative robots, which are specifically designed to perform tedious tasks that require greater effort. Their applications are useful in almost any sector, and they are gradually being adapted to different environments. Both technological fields require specific knowledge for their correct manipulation, which is why experts working in these areas have studied computer science, physics or engineering.

On the other hand, AI allows robots to communicate intelligently, not only with human operators, but also with other robots. Thus, machines can understand needs and work collaboratively to solve problems. It is also important to note that the application of artificial intelligence in robotics is still challenging, both technologically and ethically. For example,

the safety of autonomous decision-making by robots has not been guaranteed. To this end, the involvement of a human capable of supervising the tasks is necessary [11]. Although machines do not usually make mistakes, there is always a certain margin of error.

IV. THE IMPACT OF AI ON MODERN SYSTEMS

Increased Productivity and Efficiency

Companies today are juggling more demands than ever before. Customers want faster delivery. Stakeholders want higher productivity and increased efficiency. And workers want to contribute without fatigue or injury. AI robots are helping on all fronts. In retail environments, for example, robots perform repetitive or time-consuming tasks, such as checking inventory and alerting staff to out-of-stock or misplaced items. This expedites product delivery, improves productivity, and frees human workers to spend more time supporting customers.

Improved Quality and Accuracy

AI robots can see and understand their environments, which enables them to complete complex tasks such as quality-control inspections on assembly lines. In industrial applications, AI robots can check the quality of goods in line instead of delaying the task until the end of the process, saving the manufacturer time and money.

Enhanced Worker Safety

AI robots play a major role in improving workplace safety. Companies in the oil and gas sector often use robots to perform data collection or safety inspection tasks in dangerous environments to reduce risk to humans. Additionally, because AI-enabled robots can learn from human gestures and speech, they can continuously improve their ability to complete tasks while safely working alongside employees.

AI Robot Capabilities

A common misconception about robots augmented with AI is that they will begin to act freely or in a way that is beyond the scope of their original task. However, robot intelligence is not the same as human intelligence. Robots cannot create new abilities outside the scope of what they were programmed to do.Another popular misconception is that AI-powered robots will replace humans in all jobs. Robots augmented with AI will likely transform jobs by improving efficiency, productivity, and safety. As a result, humans can focus on higher-value, strategic, or relationship-building activities.

Robotics and Machine Learning

Machine learning is critical to an AI-enabled robot’s ability to learn and progressively improve task execution. Machine learning enables robots to use real-time data and contextual information acquired through their experiences to develop new learning pathways and capabilities. This allows these robots to solve new and unique problems as they encounter them in their environments.

V. CONVERSATIONAL AI

Conversational AI, or generative AI (GenAI), uses data, NLP, and machine learning to take an AI robot’s interaction capabilities with humans to the next level. Using conversational AI with AMRs or humanoid robots aims to offer more human-like interactions between people and computers. With every interaction, the robot will capture dialogue, process it, respond,

and learn in anticipation of the next interaction. For example, SM Supermalls, a chain of shopping malls in the Philippines, is streamlining and improving the visitor experience with a fleet of voice-interactive, smart service robots [12].

VI. INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS OF AI-POWERED ROBOTICS

Industrial robots' use in collaborative environments is developing considerably. Industrial robotics technology is quickly adopting machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities to increase productivity; manufacturers are striving to improve upon the rigid, inflexible capabilities of ordinary industrial robots. AI robots increase efficiency and precision to prevent costly downtime as they can perform dangerous or repetitive activities required for manufacturing operations with a high degree of accuracy.Industrial robots are replacing human labor in the manufacturing sector. This has lowered hazards and enhanced quality associated with risky tasks and decreased operational costs overall. Automation technologies are becoming essential due to an increase in higher labor costs. Robots assist in completing repetitive activities faster and more consistently than humans [13].

The integration of AI in robotics is revolutionizing industries worldwide, enabling smarter systems and more streamlined operations. From agriculture to aerospace, smart robots are solving complex challenges and opening new opportunities for innovation.

Agriculture

AI-powered robots are optimizing farming practices by automating labor-intensive tasks and improving efficiency.

Precision weeding: Robots like Ecorobotix use AI to identify and spray weeds with pinpoint accuracy, reducing chemical usage and promoting sustainable farming.

Harvest automation: Robots equipped with computer vision, such as the Burro autonomous platform, assist in harvesting crops like fruits and vegetables, addressing labor shortages in the agriculture sector.

Aerospace

The aerospace industry leverages intelligent robotics for precision and safety in environments beyond human reach.

Space exploration: NASA employs robotic arms with AI to assemble spacecraft and conduct maintenance in space.

Autonomous inspection: Drones and robotic systems with AI capabilities inspect aircraft and monitor for structural issues, ensuring safety and reducing downtime.

Automotive

The automotive industry is at the forefront of adopting AI and robotics for manufacturing and innovation.

Assembly line automation: Tesla’s AI-powered robots improve performance and precision in electric vehicle production.

Self-driving technology: Self-driving tech is progressing, with AI enabling navigation, obstacle detection and decision-making. Innovations such as improved vision transformers enhance the vehicle’s ability to map and interpret their surroundings, moving closer to full autonomy.

Food Service

AI in robotics is automating food preparation and improving efficiency in the hospitality industry.

Cooking assistance: Robots like Miso Robotics' Flippy automate cooking tasks, including flipping burgers and frying chicken, ensuring consistency and reducing labor costs.

Order fulfillment: AI-enabled robot waiters streamline the food service process by transporting meals directly to customers.

Healthcare

Smart robots are bettering patient care, improving precision in surgeries and easing workloads for medical professionals.

Surgical assistance: Robots like the da Vinci Surgical System utilize AI for enhanced precision during minimally invasive procedures, which could reduce patient recovery times.

Rehabilitation support: AI-powered robotic exoskeletons assist patients recovering from injuries or surgeries by providing physical support and real-time feedback.

Household Products

Robotics integrated with AI is making everyday life more convenient and effective.

Home cleaning: The Roborock Saros Z70 features an AI-driven folding arm that can detect and remove small obstructions like socks or towels, setting a new standard for intelligent and adaptable household cleaning robots.

Manufacturing

AI and robotics are driving advancements in smart factories and Industry 4.0 initiatives.

Predictive maintenance: Robots equipped with AI perform inspections and repairs in hazardous areas. For example, robots like the Metalspray PipeID Rover apply protective coatings inside pipelines, reducing corrosion and minimizing maintenance-related downtime.

Quality control: Intelligent vision systems inspect products for defects, improving product reliability and reducing waste.

Military

The military uses AI robotics for reconnaissance, logistics and operational efficiency in challenging environments.

Autonomous vehicles: AI-driven drones and ground robots — some of which have been used recently to combat the Russian invasion of Ukraine — conduct surveillance and assist in supply delivery in dangerous or remote areas.

Explosive ordnance disposal: Robots with AI capabilities safely handle and neutralize explosive devices, protecting human operators.

Postal and Supply Chain

AI robotics is streamlining logistics and delivery processes to meet the growing demands of e-commerce.

Automated sorting: Robots like Boston Dynamics' Stretch use AI to sort and move packages within warehouses.

Last-mile delivery: Autonomous delivery robots transport packages to customers, reducing delivery times and costs.

VII. THE FUTURE LANDSCAPE OF AI IN ROBOTICS

The future of AI in robotics is vast and exciting. The next stage of AI, known as AGI or Artificial General Intelligence, holds the potential to reach levels of true human understanding. The key to this is integrating the computational system of AI with a robot. The robot must possess mobility, senses (such as touch, vision and hearing) and the ability to interact with physical objects, which will enable the system to experience immediate sensory feedback from every action it takes. This feedback loop enables the system to learn and comprehend, bringing it closer to achieving true AGI.The current focus on AI in robotics is shifting from the question of what tasks robots can perform for people, to what type of input a robot can provide the AI's "mind." By allowing AI to explore and experiment with real objects, it will be possible for it to approach a deeper understanding, much like a human child. With this integration of AI and robotics, we can expect to see significant advancements in a wide range of industries, from manufacturing and healthcare to security and space exploration [14-15].

The future of AI in robotics is bright and holds the potential for tremendous progress in how we understand and interact with the world. By combining the computational power of AI with the physical capabilities of robots, we are opening up new doors for exploration and innovation, and the potential for true AGI is within reach.

VIII.CONCLUSION

Artificial Intelligence in Industry 4.0 is not just improving machines; it's transforming the role of engineers, redefining how factories function and shaping the future of global competitiveness. AI is transforming every layer of manufacturing, from predictive maintenance to autonomous production systems, pushing the boundaries of efficiency, agility and innovation.In its 2023 report, McKinsey found that nearly 60% of the top use cases implemented by the 21 newest Lighthouses now involve Artificial Intelligence. The report also says, "AI-based use cases in this latest cohort alone have seen remarkable results, including a two to three times increase in productivity, a 50% improvement in service levels, a 99% reduction in defects and a 30% decrease in energy consumption." These aren't experimental labs; they're high-performing plants in China, Germany and India delivering faster, smarter outcomes at scale.From self-driving cars, customer service and healthcare, to industrial and service robots, AI plays a critical role in transforming industries and daily life. While there are concerns about job displacement due to AI and robotics, the World Economic Forum predicts that technological advancements, including AI, will contribute significantly to global employment, with an estimated 78 million net new jobs created across industries by 2030. This growth highlights the importance of reskilling and education to prepare workers for the evolving demands of a technology-driven future. Hence, we can conclude that automation of industries through the adoption of robots is going to shape the future of work environments in every prominent sector.

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