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OPINION ARTICLE

A Bird's Eye View of Nanorobotics and Assembly Automations: A Revolutionary Convergence

Rajib Biswas*

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Abstract

This short communication explores the convergence of nanotechnology and robotics in the emerging field of nanorobotics, and its synergistic relationship with assembly automation. It gives a glimpse of types of nanorobots along with their technical specifics. Apart from this, the assembly automation has also been outlined driven by industrial demands for precision and efficiency. Accordingly, the convergence of nanorobots with assembly automation is briefly detailed. With inclusions of plausible ethical considerations, the communication concisely provides a comprehensive overview of these technologies, including their potential applications, challenges, and future prospects.

Key Words: *Nanorobotics; Assembly automation; Synergy; AI; ML*

Introduction

Over the past few decades, technology has advanced quickly, leading to amazing advances in a wide range of sectors. A new and exciting area called nanorobotics has emerged from the combination of nanotechnology and robotics. The development of tiny devices with nanoscale performance is the goal of this field. Among these, assembly automation and nanorobotics stand out as cutting-edge fields with enormous promise to revolutionize business, healthcare, and daily living. The development and control of robots at the nanoscale, usually between 1 and 100 nanometers, is known as nanorobotics. Conversely, assembly automations describe the employment of robots and automated systems to build things with little to no human involvement. Due to the growing need for accuracy and efficiency in industrial processes, assembly automation has advanced significantly at the same time as robotics. This article delves into the complexities of nanorobotics and assembly automation, along with their synergies, applications, problems, and prospects.

Nanorobotics

Definition and scope

The field of nanorobotics deals with the creation, manipulation, and use of robots on a nanoscale. Often called nanobots or nanomachines, these robots work at the molecular and atomic levels, completing tasks with extreme efficiency and

Department of Physics, Tezpur University, India

Corresponding author: Rajib Biswas, Professor, Department of Physics, Tezpur University, India, Email: rajib@tezu.ernet.in

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precision. Nanorobotics is an interdisciplinary field that combines concepts from engineering, physics, biology, robotics, and nanotechnology.

Physicist Richard Feynman first proposed the idea of nanorobotics in his well-known 1959 speech, “There’s Plenty of Room at the Bottom,” where he discussed the potential for manipulating individual atoms and molecules. This concept served as a springboard for the advancement of nanotechnology and, eventually, nanorobotics. The field advanced when scanning tunnelling microscopes (STMs) and atomic force microscopes (AFMs) were introduced in the 1980s. These instruments gave researchers the ability to manipulate matter at the nanoscale. There are several types of nanorobots [1-4].

Nanorobots can be classified based on their structure and functionality

Biohybrid nanorobots: They develop functional nanomachines by fusing synthetic materials with biological components like proteins or cells. Some of them with their technical specifics are detailed below.

Respirocytes: This nanorobot refers to artificial red blood cells which are devised to transport O_2 and CO_2. They are composed of pumps, rotors and molecular rotors which can effectively impersonate the function of hemoglobin. It has a mammoth capacity of enduring 236 times more O_2 as compared to red blood cells [5].

Microbivores: Like the recipicrocytes, these function as white blood cells that combat pathogens. Initially, they detect the potential pathogens and subsequently, they devour these pathogens via disintegration into molecular fragments. The overall process includes binding, ingestion, digestion and finally waste disposal [6,7].

Clottocytes: Just like important blood constituents, the artificial platelet known as clottocytes speed up clotting. When activated, they engage a fiber mesh within a short span of time. Even though mimicking the clotting function, their response time is remarkable [5].

Neurobots: In essence, this kind interacts with neurological tissue to provide diagnostic and therapeutic benefits. Neurobots can communicate with neurons to record neural activity, provide therapies, and fix damage. They can be used to treat neurological conditions by modifying electrical signals or delivering neurotransmitters, such as Parkinson’s disease.

DNA nanobots: For applications such as gene therapy or medication administration, these nanorobots use DNA origami techniques. DNA nanobots are incredibly accurate for targeting diseases at the genetic level since they are self-assembling from DNA strands and can be programmed to change shape or release cargo in response to particular chemical signals. [5-6].

Synthetic nanorobots: These robots are completely man-made and are built from nanomaterials such as graphene, carbon nanotubes, and nanoparticles. For movement and control, they frequently rely on chemical processes or outside stimuli (such magnetic fields). A few of them are appended below.

Magnetically controlled nanorobots: They are utilized to target precise areas of the human body. Since magnetic nanoparticles are often used to create these nanorobots, precise control over external magnetic fields is possible. They are frequently covered in biocompatible materials and can easily pass through blood arteries to carry medications to targeted areas, such tumors.

Bacteria powered hybrid nanorobots: These types are intended for environmental sensing and tailored delivery. These nanorobots are hybrid devices that blend artificial and live microorganisms. Targeted cargo delivery is made possible by synthetic attachments, but the bacteria themselves provide natural propulsion. They can be manipulated externally by chemical or magnetic stimuli.

Catalytic nanomotors: Their implementations include micro-scale surgery and environmental cleanup. These nanorobots are propelled by chemical processes, most frequently via the breakdown of hydrogen peroxide under the influence of platinum. The oxygen bubbles that are produced power the nanomotor, enabling it to move and carry out operations like eliminating water contaminants.

Swarm nanorobots: These function as a vast collective, imitating the actions of swarms of ants or bees in the wild. Swarm nanorobots can carry out intricate tasks with straightforward individual movements and interactions.

Magnetically controlled swarm nanobots: Their goal is to carry out planned medication delivery. It is done by using external magnetic fields. Technical Details A few micrometers is the average size of a nanobot, which is made of magnetic materials such as iron oxide. They could deconstruct to release medications at the desired location, travel via blood arteries, and aggregate to create larger structures.

Biohybrid swarm nanorobots: These nanobots are employed in medication delivery or precision surgery. These robots use biological components for mobility and sensing by fusing living cells with artificial nanostructures. By using magnetic nanoparticles, bacteria can be steered around the body and their inherent propulsion mechanisms can be utilized.

Self-Propelled chemical swarm nanobots: Their applications include cleaning and environmental monitoring. Chemical reactions between these nanobots and their surroundings provide their electricity. They usually comprise of platinum and other catalytic materials reacting with hydrogen peroxide to provide thrust. They can swarm in big groups to identify and neutralize pollutants over vast distances.

Understanding Nanorobotics

Designing, building, and using robots with dimensions in the nanometer range is known as nanorobotics. These tiny devices have the power to completely transform several industries, including electronics, materials research, and medicine. Important aspects of nanorobotics science include fabrication, nanomanipulation, locomotion, nanorobot sensing and actuation along with power supply.

Advancements in Nanorobotics

Significant progress has been made in nanorobotics in the last several years. Many kinds of nanorobots, such as those based on DNA, proteins, and magnetic guidance, have been created by researchers:

1. These nanorobots are capable of a variety of tasks, including single-cell manipulation, targeted medicine delivery, environmental sensing, and space applications.

2. Nanoscale matter manipulation gives potentially new avenues for medical treatments, including unparalleled accuracy in tumor combat and cell repair.

Assembly Automation and its Evolution

With the advent of mechanized production techniques during the Industrial Revolution, assembly automation first emerged. An important turning point was the creation of programmable logic controllers (PLCs) in the 1960s, which made automation more advanced and adaptable [8,9]. The 1980s saw the introduction of computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) and computer-aided design (CAD), which further transformed assembly procedures. These days, smart, networked assembly systems are being driven by developments in artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and the Internet of Things (IoT).

Assembly automation refers to the application of robotic systems and advanced control techniques to automate the manufacturing process. It has evolved from simple pick-and-place operations to intricate tasks involving precision and flexibility. Assembly automation involves the use of automated systems, including robotic arms, conveyors, and control systems, to assemble products with minimal human intervention. This technology has been widely adopted in industries such as automotive, electronics, and consumer goods. This technology aims to improve efficiency, accuracy, and consistency in manufacturing processes. Automated assembly lines increase production speed, reduce errors, and lower labor costs. Assembly automation spans various industries, from automotive and electronics to pharmaceuticals and food production. Some important assembly automations include

Fixed automation: Being known as hard automation also, these systems are designed for high-volume production of a single product or a limited range of products. They offer high throughput but lack flexibility.

Programmable automation: They match for batch production which can be reprogrammed to accommodate different product configurations. They offer greater flexibility than fixed automation.

Flexible automation: As the name goes, these soft automation systems can handle a variety of products with minimal reconfiguration. They are ideal for low to medium production volumes and offer high adaptability.

Key Advancements in Assembly Automation Include

Robotic manipulators: The development of high-precision, articulated robots capable of handling delicate components.

Vision systems: Integration of advanced vision systems for object recognition, pose estimation, and quality inspection.

Sensor technology: Utilization of various sensors to monitor assembly processes and detect anomalies.

Simulation and Modeling: Employing virtual environments to optimize assembly sequences and robot performance.

The Convergence of Nanorobotics and Assembly Automation

These advantages can be increased by incorporating nanorobotics into assembly automation, which makes it possible to assemble nanoscale components with extreme uniformity and precision.3. The amalgamation of nanorobotics and assembly automation has great potential to revolutionize manufacturing procedures.

Possible uses consist of:

Nanomanufacturing: Assembling complex nanostructures and devices with unprecedented precision.

Microelectronics: Manufacturing highly integrated electronic components and systems.

Biomedical engineering: Developing nanorobotic systems for drug delivery, tissue engineering, and surgical procedures.

Materials science: Creating novel materials with tailored properties through atomic-level assembly.

Ethical Consideration

There are various ethical concerns associated with the use of nanorobots along with assembly automation, particularly in medical settings. For instance, concerns of informed consent and privacy are brought up by the possibility that nanorobots will monitor interior biological processes or administer therapies without the patient's continuous awareness. Likewise, it is critical to guarantee nanorobot safety and avoid unforeseen outcomes like malfunction or abuse. Unauthorized control or hacking is another possibility.

Apart from this, cutting-edge technology such as nanorobots have the potential to create healthcare disparities by increasing the wealth gap between those who can afford state-of-the-art treatments and those who cannot. In the long run, there may arise consequences for nanorobots in the body, raise worries about unanticipated health repercussions.

Challenges and Future Prospects

Even with these encouraging developments, there are still several obstacles in the way of assembly automation and nanorobotics. These encompass concerns with precise control, biocompatibility, and ethical considerations. Furthermore, there are substantial technological obstacles in the creation and operation of nanorobots. Ongoing R&D initiatives, however, are tackling these problems and opening the door for more widespread use and commercialization. However, the application of assembly automation and nanorobotics has significant societal ramifications, particularly about privacy, monitoring, and possible abuse: Nanorobots have the potential to be utilized for surreptitious monitoring of people, gathering private biological data without permission. Significant privacy and autonomy problems are brought up by this. Medical nanorobots gather enormous amounts of personal health data, which requires strong security against misuse and illegal access. The potential for military applications of nanotechnology, such as focused biological strikes, raises moral and security issues. Public safety could be seriously threatened by the potential for nanorobots to be used as vectors for dangerous materials or illnesses. Significant job losses in manufacturing and other industries could result from assembly automation and nanorobotics, calling for the implementation of workforce retraining programs and financial assistance. Meanwhile, opulent people may only have access to cutting-edge nanotechnologies, which would exacerbate already-existing healthcare disparities. To ensure the responsible development and application of nanorobotics and related technologies, technologists, ethicists, policymakers, and the public must collaborate in order to address these societal repercussions.

Although assembly automation and nanorobotics have many potential advantages, there are a few issues that need to be resolved which are appended below [4-5].

Scaling issues: Transitioning from laboratory-scale demonstrations to large-scale manufacturing remains a significant hurdle. As such, scalability remains a major challenge.

Power and communication: Developing efficient power sources and reliable communication channels for nanorobots is crucial.

Control and programming: Creating effective control algorithms and programming environments for nanorobot swarms is complex.

Safety and environmental impact: Ensuring the safe operation of nanorobots and mitigating potential environmental risks is essential. The disposal and environmental effects of nanomaterials used in nanorobots should be considered, as they may introduce new pollutants.

Conclusion

Assembly automation and nanorobotics are a formidable combo that could transform considerable industries. These technologies have the potential to significantly advance medical research, environmental monitoring, and other fields by enabling accurate and effective production processes. It appears that nanorobotics and assembly automation have a very bright future if research can continue to overcome current obstacles. The amalgamation of automated assembly methods and nanoscale precision has the potential to augment productivity, precision, and sustainability in multiple fields. Even while there are still many obstacles to overcome, continuous research and development is setting the stage for a time when automation and nanotechnology will combine to produce previously unimaginable opportunities. Although there are several ethical, legal, and technical issues that need to be resolved, nanorobotics and assembly automation have bright futures. Research, innovation, and cooperation will all need to continue to unlock the full potential of these groundbreaking technologies and shaping a better future for humanity.

Glossary Terms

AI: Artificial intelligence

AFM: and atomic force microscopes

CAM: Computer-aided manufacturing

CAD: Computer-aided design

IoT: Internet of Things

MioT: Medical Internet of Things

PLC: programmable logic controllers

STM: Scanning tunnelling microscopes

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