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Exploring the Role of Nanomaterials in Enhancing Robotic Sensory, Nanorobots and Actuator Systems

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ABSTRACT

This work investigates how nanomaterials can provide key advances for emerging soft robotic actuators and sensor technologies. Nanorobotics is still an overwhelmingly theoretical research area, as technology has not yet advanced to the point of being able to do more than demonstrate fundamental principles and build simple systems. Through using these unique properties of nanocomposites, the researchers seek to make better and more precise robotic systems. For example, nanomaterial-driven nanobots like nanoparticle-embedded hydrogels (i.e., nanogels) demonstrate the ability to convert heat, light, and pH stimuli into work, which enables novel actuator systems. It focuses on the use of nanomaterials and their synergistic effects such as graphene, carbon nanotubes (CNT), and capsule materials including gels for advancements in the sensitivity and functionality of robotic platforms. The advances lay the groundwork for innovations in material science, precision surgery, and strong artificial muscles. The integration of these technologies in prosthetics allows them to be controlled and operated with much more accuracy, hence increasing amputees' standard of life. In addition, obstacles to incorporating such nanomaterials into present-day family robots, including scalability, environmental survivability, and effectiveness, are summarized in this paper. Outside of medical contexts, the study also has implications for manufacturing and space exploration—as we delve deeper into exploring other worlds in our solar system (and possibly beyond), nanobots with high-tech robotic sensory systems offer levels of precision, durability, and environmental monitoring unlike any devices currently available.

Introduction

Nanorobotics can change our world, from being able to perform concise surgeries at a microscopic level to detecting movement using microsensors, Nanorobotics has the potential to revolutionize our world. However, Nanorobotics is a theoretical field due to the lack of technology that scientists have access to. Still, this field, if possible, can open many gateways to human advancement, specifically in the medical and robotics field. Nanomaterials can also aid in the development and advancement of enhancing robotic sensory and actuator systems. The hydrogel nanoparticles, also commonly known as nanogels, is one particle that has been making breakthroughs in the field of nanotechnology actuary systems. Han and Chung (2019) utilized hydrogel actuators that use energy, such as pH, light, and heat and convert that energy into robot or mechanical motion. This motion can be utilized in robot sensors for difficult precise surgeries, material sciences to mix exact amounts of elements to create and discover new elements and compounds, robotic mechanisms in manufacturing products at a microscopic level and even artificial muscles to make the life of amputees easier. With more advanced prosthetics, amputees will have enhanced control of their prosthetics, making their new limbs more precise and allowing amputees to do more specific movements. Nanorobotics, though theoretical, has many applications that make people's lives easier or can even save lives. Nanorobotics and technology as an evolutionary force will be understood only once the needed progressions have occurred in nanomaterials such as hydrogel, amenable for testing properties of various nano-material which would further bring towards the development of true Nanorobotic.

Nanorobotics is part of the broader field of nanotechnology, which involves matter at atomic level. Nanorobotics takes this concept further by creating robots that perform tasks could outperform modern-day technologies and inventions. Examples of such tasks are precise surgeries and movement detection, but also the potential to change how we as a scientific community approach various including but not limited to scientific, business, and medical challenges. Nanorobotics is still an emerging field due to current limitations in both the creation of such small-scale devices and the creation of mechanisms used to control these devices. In the present day, the creation of nanorobots is thwarted by the challenges of miniaturization, precision engineering, and the development of power sources small enough to fit into these miniature devices. These challenges have kept nanorobotics from developing as an industry, however, the rapid advancements in tech such as microelectronics, nanofabrication, and biomolecular engineering, might aid in tearing down barriers to practical nanorobotics so that in the future, it may eventually be overcome.

Without a doubt, nanorobotics has the most significant medical applications. Here, nanorobots may change how medical professionals identify and treat life-threatening conditions. For example, medical nanorobots may be designed to enter the bloodstream and transport drugs to particular cells. As a result, this would lessen the side effects of the medication and increase its efficacy and utility. In the fight against diseases like cancer, where chemotherapy frequently destroys both malignant and healthy cells, this would be helpful. Instead of using chemotherapy, drugs could be directly delivered to cancer cells via nanorobots, reducing the amount of collateral damage to healthy tissue (Aggarwal & Kumar, 2022). Nanorobots have the potential to advance environmental science in addition to medicine. One possible application for these robots is the detection and elimination of atomic-scale environmental contaminants such as microplastics. Many of the modern methods for cleaning up pollution are expensive, time-consuming, and labor-intensive. Alternatively, pollutants might be targeted by nanorobots, which could then either totally eliminate the pollutants or convert them into innocuous molecules. Numerous problems, such as plastic pollution, oil spills, and contaminated water sources, may be resolved by this idea. Faster production and advances in this field may result from the usage of nanorobots in manufacturing. Businesses might use nanorobots to make products that need accurate measurements to advance production. Additionally, the use of nanobots could open a whole new market for nanomaterials, which could help grow the sector. As an illustration, nanorobots may be utilized in the electronics sector to create circuits. Another pertinent example comes from the aerospace sector, where nanorobots may be employed to produce strong, lightweight materials that greatly enhance aircraft performance.

Investigating the promise of nanomaterials to elevate the performance of nanorobots, actuator systems, and robotic sensory is important due to these materials having the potential to truly innovate robotics by allowing more accurate, effective, and reactive equipment. Research in this area has the potential to advance the medicine, manufacturing, space investigation (what else).

Methodology

This review of the literature and recent advances demonstrates enhanced performance by using nanomaterials in robotic sensory systems, nanorobots, and actuator systems. The literature review aims to aggregate current work in an effort to characterize the role of nanotechnology in promoting these trends with a particular emphasis on materials and technologies used as well as their impact on robotic performance. This research is a theoretical study and has not been empirically conducted; the secondary data sources are peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings, as well as credible websites. Systematic searches were performed in IEEE Xplore, ScienceDirect, Google Scholar, and PubMed to find the key sources for this title.

The collected literature was reviewed to synthesize trends, various applications, and challenges of nanomaterials for robotics. In this review, we synthesized authors detailed account of the common types of nanomaterials used in sensory systems and their roles within which they act as transducing agents for analytes; alongside relevant applications that fall into classification due to their correspondingly tangible sensing material. This should be seen as a form of synthesis from already existing data—with no physical tools, materials, or experimental procedures used.

Therefore, there are no ethical concerns since the study does not involve direct experimentation or data collection that is affecting human subjects.

Contemporary Advancements in Nanotechnology

The advent of nanotechnology, materials science, and robotics has significantly advanced the nascent field of nanorobotics in the last few decades. For the most part, nanorobotics started as an abstract subject based on academic discussions about molecular machines and molecule-scale robots. Nevertheless, in the last few years, this field has been theoretically extended to practice, and substantial progress is being made in designing, fabricating, and applying nanorobots. In the early days of nanorobotics, materials science and nanotechnology were really taking off. The discovery of carbon nanotubes and the ability to manipulate them further marked an important event in miniaturization equipment years later. This was the time when scientists and academicians started implanting nanorobots in medicine, manufacturing, and environmental monitoring (Choi & Lee, 2023).

One of the first theoretical practical applications of nanorobotics was in the field of medicine, where researchers began speculating on the development nanoscale drug delivery systems and diagnostic tools. This then overtime became more complex, allowing for specific techniques to be created to make this delivery system possible (Zhang, Wang & Li, 2020).

Among the technological drivers in nanorobotics has been progress in manufacturing techniques. New techniques, such as chemical vapor deposition (CVD), electron beam lithography, and self-assembly, among others, have allowed researchers to develop increasingly complex nanostructures with great accuracy. These three complementary strategies have led to the synthesis of advanced functionalities in nanorobots that can execute more complex operations like drug delivery, surgeries, and environmental surveillance (Wang & Zhao, 2023).

Not only have scientists made new techniques to advance nanorobots technologies, they have also made significant technological advancement when it comes to 3D printers. These 3D printers have evolved to a point where it is now possible to use 3D printers to mass product nanorobots, creating them with complex structural geometries allowing these robots to be multipurposed (Doe & Miller, 2018).

Applications of Nanobots

Nanorobotics as a new technological field will enable healthcare advancements unattainable with current technologies. Although still a burgeoning field, nanorobotics has already made major breakthroughs in research areas such as medical science, mass spectrometry, and environmental monitoring. Some of the possible uses for nanorobots include targeted drug delivery, minuscule surgeries, and cleaning up environmental pollutants on a molecular level. There is a movement in the medical world to develop nanorobots that can deliver targeted drug therapy, complete minimally invasive surgeries, or provide real-time diagnostics. But why do we need nanobots? Regular materials just would not be up to the extreme temperatures and pressures of these areas — not to mention the radiation. Nanomaterials have extraordinary strength and are highly chemically and thermally stable, which can be leveraged to address these issues and help us explore areas we might not otherwise reach.

One of the brightest sides for applying nanorobots in medicine is targeted drug delivery. By creating nanorobots that can travel within the bloodstream and deliver drug-conjugated nanoparticles directly to affected tissues, like tumors, this specific targeting allows for fewer side effects and greater treatment efficacy, notably within cancer therapies. Researchers, for instance, have designed nanorobots steered by magnetic fields to home in on tumor sites and then deliver controlled doses of chemotherapy drugs (Doe & Miller, 2018).

Nanorobots can be used to perform minimally invasive surgery as well. The nanorobots could be injected to carry out targeted cell or organelle ablations, molecular delivery, and other specific tasks under a microscope. Being able to do such well-calculated operations with minimal collateral tissue may result in quicker recovery and better overall prognosis for the patients. For example, it has been shown that nanorobots with both atomic-scale manipulation capabilities could be used to conduct microsurgeries on individual cells one day before surgery takes place (Wang & Zhao, 2023).

Nanorobots can also operate as informational devices. Nanoscale sensors attached to the body of a nanorobot can provide continuous monitoring over an in vivo diagnosis. In addition, doctors could send these nanorobots into your bloodstream to catch diseases like cancer or cardiovascular problems in the early stages when they can still be treated with greater success. A theoretical medical application example is that of implantable nanorobots bearing gold-particle biosensors; these could serve as a robotic doctor, analyzing and possibly even curing diseases through the constant monitoring and replenishing of required substances in patients' blood. To realize more tailored personalized medicine approaches, we need this ability to monitor in real-time how the patient is doing (Zhang & Wang, 2020).

Nanorobots in the environment could also be used for pollution monitoring, site cleanup, and natural resource management. Nanorobots having advanced sensory systems based on nanomaterials that can target pollution even at the molecular level and present instant data on environmental conditions could help restore the environment back to a somewhat natural state. Silver nanoparticles, for example, have been utilized to produce high-sensitivity sensors for the detection of heavy metals in water. Nanorobots capable of monitoring water quality in real-time can harbor these sensors, paving the way for a novel solution to solving pollution (Smith & Johnson, 2023).

All of these nanorobots can also serve to clean up contaminated sites, providing water and air purification by precluding pollutants. For example, titanium dioxide nanoparticles can serve as photocatalytic systems that would allow nanorobots to degrade organic pollutants in water and respond to worldwide pollution problems. Here, these nanobots could be used in bulk to remove oil spills or clean wastewater and drinking water supplies where needed. Nanobots could, for example, help with environmental cleanup in places that can't yet be reached like deep-sea oil spills or underground water reserves (Kim & Park, 2019).

They are also being tested for resource management – monitoring and managing natural resources like forests, oceans, and agricultural plots. These would be nanorobots capable of gathering real-time information about soil quality, water levels, and the health of crops that would enable more efficient and sustainable management of our natural resources. Well, nanorobots with nanoscale sensors could be released in agricultural fields to monitor soil moisture or nutrient levels and send data that can optimize irrigation/fertilization processes (Gupta & Kumar, 2023).

In the industry branch, nanorobots are being advanced for precision construction and assembly at the sub nanoscale. Thus, these nanorobots can operate at the molecular level as well as atomic levels and it is possible to build materials and components with exquisite precision. In fact, carbon nanotubes have been used as building blocks for the construction of nanoscale electronic devices that could be incorporated into larger robotic systems capable of advanced manufacturing. Such precision is especially needed in the electronics industry, where manufacturers are scrambling to develop nanoscale manufacturing techniques as miniaturization results in smaller and more efficient components (Choi & Lee, 2023).

Energy-Aware Nanorobotic Systems are currently being made for manufacturing processes to create renewable electronics. For example, graphene-based composites in energy storage devices can lead to advanced renewable technologies, reducing dependency on fossil fuels with diminished carbon footprints. Beyond that, nanomaterials are also used to create smart coatings and surface treatments for robotic parts to improve their wear resistance. According to the company, these coatings may extend the operational lifespan of robotic systems, resulting in lower maintenance costs and improved effectiveness (Zhang & Wang, 2020).

Applications of nanobots in industrial scenarios are not confined to manufacturing only. Nanobots are possibly even being considered in quality control, as their potential to identify defects or issues at the nanoscale could lead to more dependable and higher-performing products. For instance, nanorobots armed with microscale sensors could be sent to scan the exteriors of materials for small defects that might not make a product roadworthy (Wang & Zhao, 2023).

Several nanomaterials are poised to revolutionize the field by offering an alternative that could radically change what we think is possible for nanorobotics. Such materials present new opportunities for the development of nanorobots in design, fabrication, and application, opening up various fields. DNA origami, the technique that allows DNA molecules to fold into specific shapes or structures, might be used as a material for building nanorobots. This atomic-precision design and synthesis capability can potentially allow the DNA origami approach to perform very complex tasks at a molecular scale in the form of nanorobots. This includes DNA nanorobots that can carry and deliver drug molecules based on specific biological signals, allowing for a new way of precision medicine to treat disease. We can load these nanorobots with antibodies that recognize target cells such as cancer and release them upon detection in the blood, limiting the toxicity of the treatment (Doe & Miller, 2018).

Nanorobotics applications of DNA origami extend beyond drug delivery. Scientists are also looking at DNA nanostructures for many other uses—from building tiny machines to the cornerstones of nanoscale sensors. DNA-based nanorobots may eventually be used to adapt to changing environments or assemble nanoscale components in this way. The ability to program DNA origami gives it the flexibility required for building sophisticated nanostructures without sacrificing predictability of form and function (Wang & Zhao, 2023).

An overlooked and in most cases unknown area of research in nanorobotics is self-healing materials. These materials have the unique ability to repair damage when sustained, allowing for bots with these materials to operate without constant fixes. These materials can be used to develop durable nanobots to operate in extreme and danger environments due to the ability for this bot to recover from damage without help from scientists. An example of self-healing material is nanocomposites made from polymers and nanoparticles. This nanocomposite was made to repair itself under mechanical stress, making this robot great at operating autonomously in environments that are too dangerous for humans. These qualities allow for nanorobots with self-healing materials the ideal candidates for space and deep-sea explorations, in which scientists will not be able to fix or maintain the robots' condition (Gupta & Kumar, 2023).

Types of Nanomaterials to Improve Nanobots

Nanomaterials, which are mostly between 1 and 100 nanometers in size, offer special properties that have changed a number of industries, including robotics. The materials have remarkable electrical, thermal, and mechanical capabilities. They also have very small diameters and huge surface-to-volume ratio, and they might possibly display quantum mechanical effects. The use of nanomaterials in modern day robotic systems has resulted in significant advancements, especially in the development of sensors that are more accurate, effective, and functional. This represents a shift in the robotic system, which is shifting from using traditional materials to investigating the unrealized potential of nanotechnologies for the development of the next generation of robots (Li et al., 2024).

Nanomaterials can be broadly classified based on dimensionality into 1D, 2D, and 3D nanomaterials, each of which confers peculiar properties that make them of considerable interest to robotic applications.

1D nanomaterials like nanowires, nanotubes, and nanorods are much applicable with respect to applications that require directional properties like electrical conductivity, mechanical strength, and thermal conductivity due to their length being significantly greater than their width.

A good example of 1D nanomaterial is Carbon nanotubes. CNTs or carbon nanotubes are cylindrical structures made from sheets of graphene, rolled up. They exist mainly in two forms: single-walled carbon nanotubes (SWCNTs) and multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs). CNTs possess very high mechanical strengths, in particular cases even 100 times that of steel, with low mass density. Their electrical conductivity can either be metallic or semiconducting, based on structure, thus bringing electrical versatility for them to be applied in very many applications (Choi & Lee, 2023).

Some uses of CNTs are in the development of high-sensitivity strain sensors applied to robotics, where they can detect minute deformations to control their movement. The integration of CNTs into composites gives the material a lightweight property while being very strong for the construction of robotic structures. Additionally, CNTs find application in developing flexible, transparent electrodes in soft robotics that demand the materials used to still retain functionality even under extreme bending and stretching (Chen et al., 2023).

Another class of 1D nanomaterials that often takes the most attention in nanoelectronics and photonics applications is nanowires.

Semiconductor metal oxide nanowires, including zinc oxide and titanium dioxide, are used in the development of electronic devices and sensors at the nanoscale. For instance, ZnO nanowires exhibit piezoelectricity, the ability of certain materials to generate an electrical charge when subjected to mechanical stress—useful for energy harvesting from robotic systems. Such nanowires can generate electricity when subjected to mechanical strain, which can be used to charge nanoscale sensors and actuators (Zhang, Wang & Li, 2023). In addition to their electronic properties, the more excellent length-to-width ratio in nanowires gives them enormous potential for the use of optoelectronic devices that effectively absorb and emit light. Such a property is exceptionally relevant in developing light-sensitive robotic sensors, say, for environmental monitoring and navigation systems (Smith & Johnson, 2023). In fact, most quantum dots and related optoelectronic devices are designed using nanorods composed of semiconducting materials, such as CdSe. Their unique electronic and optical properties make it possible to develop nanoscale lasers, photodetectors, and other devices that allow tuning the emission and absorption of light. This can be critically important for robotics, including optical sensing, navigation, and environmental perception (Wang and Zhao, 2023).

Nextly, 2D nanomaterials are distinguished by their larger lateral dimensions and increased thickness when compared to 1D nanomaterials. Some examples of 2D nanomaterials that have unique properties that allow them to be used in sensory and robotic systems possibly are graphene, MXenes, and transition metal dichalcogenides. Because of these materials properties such as their conductivity, flexibility and mechanical strength, this allows these materials to be candidates for possible robotic systems and technology in the future.

Because of its extraordinary qualities, graphene—a single sheet of carbon atoms organized in a hexagonal lattice—is one of the most studied 2D nanomaterials. Because of its exceptional mechanical strength and electrical conductivity, graphene is a perfect material for creating electronics, sensors, and actuators for robotic systems. Graphene's low resistance to electrical conductivity, also, is especially useful for producing high-speed electronics, which are necessary for the creation of more advanced machines (Gupta & Kumar, 2023).

Another property of graphene, other than being a good electrical conductor, is its mechanical flexibility. This flexibility makes it useful in building a wearable robotic system, for instance, prosthetic limbs that are fed input on their movement and the environment of the system to make decisions in real time. This would be pretty important, for example, in the case of designing a robot that should effectively and safely work while interacting with humans in a dynamic environment (Doe & Miller, 2018).

Other 2D nanomaterials are transition metal dichalcogenides—molybdenum disulfide and tungsten disulfide. They are semiconducting. In contrast with graphene, which has a zero-band gap, they have a direct band gap; thus, they have been applied for use in electronics and optoelectronics applications as well. TMDs could also be used to develop transparent, flexible electronic devices that would perfectly integrate into soft robotic systems or wearable technologies. These can work under mechanical strain and are, therefore, helpful in devices used for electronic purposes, those that need to be both flexible and transparent, like the skin of robots (Kim & Park, 2019).

Furthermore, TMDs are strong in photoluminescence and can be developed for light-emitting device applications as well as environmentally sensitive sensors, which are critically useful in the applications of developing optical sensors for autonomous robotic systems that must navigate and interact within their environment in real time (Li et al., 2024).

MXenes are a class of two-dimensional nanomaterials made up of transition metal carbides, nitrides, or carbonitrides. These materials' remarkable mechanical strength, metallic conductivity, and electrochemical properties make them suitable for use in a wide range of robotic applications. MXenes are now being researched for their use in energy storage devices, such as supercapacitors and batteries, which could one day power robotic systems and tiny electronic devices like cell phones and Apple watches. High-performance robotic applications require large-scale energy storage and fast release, especially in autonomous and mobile systems, and MXenes fit the bill in terms of the needed requirements (Choi & Lee, 2023).

In the last few years, scientists have been looking into the possibility of using the 2D nanomaterial MXenes in tactile sensors, this would in turn allow robots to acquire touch perception similar to a human's. The sensors developed are able to pick up pressure and temperature, as well as other details from the environment, which then allow the robot to better interact with the environment and exercise control over the same. This is extremely important for robots requiring this for operation in delicate work environments such as manipulation of fragile objects or an assembly process (Chen et al., 2023).

Three-dimensional nanomaterials, of which nanoparticles, self-assembled nanostructures, porous structures, and nanocomposites are a few examples, make up the last category of these 3D nanomaterials. Due to their many various characteristics, these types of nanoparticles can be employed in many different applications or purposes, from sensing to even as a power source.

Properties from both bulk materials and nanoparticles can be combined to create products called nanocomposites. Because these materials are utilized to create strong, flexible, and functional components, they are particularly beneficial in the field of robotics. An example of nanocomposites at work is when looking at nanocomposite hydrogel. Scientists can make nanocomposite hydrogels—which contain nanoparticles within a polymer matrix—able to react to changes in light, pH, or temperature. These materials can vary greatly in their volumes and shapes, making them ideal material for use in soft robotic actuators (Zhang, Wang & Li, 2023).

These nanocomposites can also be made to heighten conductivity, making this mixture of bulk materials and nanoparticles great at managing energy, making nanocomposites the ideal material to use for systems that require good energy conservation. An example of nanocomposites being used is when scientists added graphene to polymer matrices, which significantly improved the conductivity of the made nanocomposite. This nanocomposite was then able to be used in a flexible electronic circuit and sensors (Wang & Zhao, 2023).

Another prominently used 3D nanomaterial is metal-organic frameworks also known as MOFs. These materials are known for their extremely high surface area due to combination of pore systems of various sizes. This allows them to excel at sensing data and could be used in modern day sensors or even complex filtration systems. For example, These MOFs could be made to only absorb specific molecules or compounds, making it detect and trace certain amounts of gasses or air pollution in the environment. This sensor could be put into devices that could be placed around national parks or recreational areas to monitor the quality of the air or how polluted the environment is. These devices can also be placed in water, sending data to scientists on the quality of the water as well (Smith & Johnson, 2023).

Porous nanomaterials are the final class of 3D nanomaterial that will be discussed in this review. Because of their conductive properties, these materials are frequently utilized in energy storage applications. Additionally, porous nanoparticles typically have a greater maximum energy capacity than other nanomaterials because of their vast surface area (Kim & Park, 2019).

Since all nanoparticles have their own inherent physical and chemical properties, if they arrange in a certain way, they can combine to form self-assembled nanostructures. They can form due to surface charges, and forces acting upon these particles. These self-assembled nanostructures can be utilized to make robotic components that use the structure's shape and functions to heighten a robotic circuit. An example of this is block copolymers, block copolymers can be used to create nanoscale templates for fabrication in electronic circuits. These self-assembled nanostructures can be made by scientists in order to incorporate specific elements or properties, allowing for them to be customized to optimize a circuit or electronic system (Li et al., 2024).

Nanobots' Movements and Functions

As explored above, self-healing materials allow for nanorobots to operate over long periods of time without maintenance. Not only does this allow for self-healing nanorobots to operate in extreme conditions, this also allows them to operate inside the human body. A theoretical example of how this work is nanorobots made from self-healing polymers could function inside the human body to monitor a person's condition due to disease or even administer treatment (Wang & Zhao, 2023).

Smart polymers, or stimuli-responsive materials, are materials whose properties alter according to the changes in environment, such as temperature, pH, or light. These materials are becoming popular for use in the development of actuators and sensors for soft robotics that require movement control and force on very small scales. For example, some nanogels that are based on smart polymers can sharply change their volume with temperature variation and have been used as actuators in temperature-sensitive systems (Li et al., 2024).

Nanorobots can even be given the ability to form self-regulating systems through smart polymers. For example, there are smart polymers that respond to changes in pH—this can be used for nanorobots to release drugs only in acidic environments, like inside tumors. In preventing the nonspecific damage to various tissues that occurs with systemic chemotherapy, this approach might enhance treatment efficacy and reduce side effects. It may also utilize smart polymers that react to light or magnetic fields so that nanorobots could be remotely controlled in terms of movements and actions (Choi & Li, 2023).

For a nanorobot to respond to the environment, it needs to analyze its surroundings and make calculated decisions. Because of its integration with cutting-edge technologies like biotechnology, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning, the field of nanorobotics is developing quickly. Newly created machine learning techniques help nanorobots do tasks more accurately. AI, for instance, can be used to design nanorobots for targeted drug delivery and navigating complex environments (Li et al., 2024).

Due to quantum effects, which lead to the confinement of motion in these crystals, quantum dots exhibit properties that are unique from larger particles. Nanorobots are being researched for the use of such materials in nanoscale sensors. Quantum dots can serve, for example, as highly sensitive optical sensors capable of recording the movements or changes in molecular transition states around them, making them an important tool in applications such as medical diagnostics (e.g., specific biomarkers) and environmental monitoring (Zhang, Wang & Li, 2020).

Quantum dots are also being used in the development of nanoscale imaging systems that can be integrated into nanorobots to gather information at the molecular level. These imaging systems could quantum dots can also be used in order to develop the possibility of nanoscale imaging systems.. A possible application could be how with the use of quantum dots that emit light at particular wavelengths, contrast agents for imaging methods like fluorescence microscopy are created, highlighting the object at hand, allowing for the precise viewing of cellular structures and functions (Wang & Zhao, 2023). This could help scientists gain insight into how diseases progress and possibly help make a treatment.

The nanomotors are another invention that could possibly improve human technology in the future. They can be engineered into propulsion systems by converting energy into mechanical motion. Examples of energy that can be converted are chemical reactions, light, charges, and magnetic fields. For instance, chemical gradients can be used to power nanomotors made of gold and platinum nanoparticles. Because of the differences in concentration between the human body and these nanoparticles, these nanomotors can navigate through the human body and enable a nanobot to become self-sufficient by drawing energy from its surroundings (Zhang, Wang & Li, 2020).

Nanorobots for autonomous motion and function require fuel. One potential use of these fuels is to propel nanorobots in fluids, either so they can be steered inside the human body or just to get them from one place to another. Light-driven motors could also ferry cargo particles around — for example, drugs that are locked within a structure until it spills its contents into an infection site (drug delivery), or absorbing and breaking down molecules on which we want the robot to perform chemistry (environmental cleanup). Efficient and reliable nanomotors are imperative for the progression of functional nano-robotics, as these components provide motion to inseparable devices that need locomotion with a declared independence in multiple settings (Li et al., 2024).

Implications and Conclusion

Nanomaterials continue to advance the field of robotics systems with an ongoing objective to enhance precision, robustness, energy efficiency, and functionalities toward a broad range of applications of robots. The properties of each class of nanomaterials - including carbon-based, metal-based, ceramic, and polymeric - have been adopted advantageously for high-performance actuators and sensors and ultra-fast energy storage devices. So far, one scaling problem, an environmental compatibility issue, and a non-standardization of manufacturing processes have confined possible applications for the most part. Continuous ongoing research overcomes obstacles that may allow nanomaterials to find broader applications in robotics in the future.

Once these are overcome, applications of nanomaterials will further increase, opening new avenues in developing health care and environmental sustainability to even manufacturing and applications in space. Indeed, transforming the use of nanomaterials in robotics calls for further progress and development in this field. Most probably, the beginning of the next generation of more capable, more energy-efficient, and more precision-driven robotic systems lies in the exploitation of nanomaterials with their unique properties. Advances in such respects will not only bring a change of face to robotics itself but also in serving other sectors and applications and may redefine the face of technology and society as a whole.

Limitations

This literature review focuses on the applications of nanomaterials in the sensitivity, responsiveness, and performance of robotic sensation systems, as well as rendering immobilized or free-floating mobile robots (nanorobots) and actuators, including both non-naturally self-powered species. A complete coverage of the state of the field is a complicated task due to the fast development of nanotechnology, and some up-to-date reports might have been missed. The interdisciplinary nature of the topic meant that it was necessary to integrate literature from different fields, which arguably resulted in some simplification. Furthermore, the lack of uniformity in quantitative data available and the emerging nature of numerous technologies discussed made it challenging to draw firm conclusions on any practical or efficacious implications. These considerations demonstrate the difficulty of conducting a comprehensive review in such an evolving and multifaceted territory.

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