

Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence in Pharmaceutical Industry and Development

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Abstract

Machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) are transforming many industries by enabling systems to learn from data and perform tasks without the need for explicit instructions. In the pharmaceutical industry, these technologies are being used to overcome major challenges such as high research and development (R&D) costs, long drug development times, and complex regulations. AI and ML can help analyze large amounts of data, predict drug interactions, and improve trial design, reducing costs and speeding up the process of bringing new drugs to market. Although AI has great potential, it has only been used to a limited extent in the pharmaceutical industry due to strict regulations and, especially, the need for human oversight to ensure patient safety. However, there are significant challenges, including ethical concerns, privacy issues, and the need to train experts. There are different types of ML techniques, such as supervised learning, semi-supervised learning, unsupervised learning and reinforcement learning, that help in pattern recognition and decision-making. AI aims to solve problems, understand and use knowledge, plan, continuously learn, interact socially, promote creativity, and work well with people. AI has many advantages, such as reduced errors and technological advancements, but also disadvantages, such as high costs and possible job losses. AI is increasingly integrated into the pharmaceutical industry. Partnerships between pharmaceutical companies and AI technology providers can help improve drug discovery, streamline clinical trials.

Keywords: Machine learning (ML), Artificial intelligence (AI), Pharmaceutical industry, Clinical Trials, Drug discovery, Health care, Drug development, Medication

1. Introduction

Machine learning (ML) is a field of artificial intelligence that deals with the development and study of statistical algorithms that can learn from data, generalize to unknown data, and perform tasks without explicit instructions. Recently, artificial neural networks have been able to outperform many previous approaches. ML has applications in many fields, including natural language processing, computer vision, speech recognition, email filtering, agriculture, and medicine. When applied to business problems, it is called predictive analytics. While not all machine learning is based on statistics, computational statistics is an important source of methodology in the field. Over the past decade, artificial intelligence and machine learning have grown exponentially with advances in computer technology. Here, the ability to collect and process large amounts of data has improved significantly. As a result, gene and cell therapies have all become more expensive than previous generations of medicines. At the same time, the costs of developing medicines and making them available to patients have increased dramatically and are now

prohibitive. Machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) are driving transformation across various industries, with the pharmaceutical sector in particular standing out as its primary beneficiary. These technologies use advanced algorithms and data-driven approaches to improve efficiency, innovation and precision in drug development and healthcare. (10)

2. Definition and Scope

Artificial Intelligence (AI): AI is a broader field that includes ML. It refers to the creation of systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as problem solving, pattern recognition, and decision-making. (11)

3. Scope

3.1 Increasing Adoption:

ML and AI are being widely adopted across the pharmaceutical industry, leading to increased efficiency and innovation.

3.2 Personalized Medicine:

ML and AI enable personalized treatment plans and targeted therapies for individual patients.

3.3 Drug Discovery:

AI-powered drug discovery is becoming the norm, leading to faster and more effective drug discovery.

3.4 Clinical Trials:

ML and AI optimize clinical trial design, patient enrollment, and data analysis.

3.5 Real-World Evidence:

ML and AI analyze real-world data to support drug development and increase patient outcomes.

3.6 Digital Therapeutics:

AI-powered digital therapeutics are becoming increasingly common.

3.7 Synthetic Biology:

ML and AI design and optimize biological systems and pathways to produce novel drugs.

3.8 Genome Editing:

AI-powered genome editing technologies are revolutionizing drug development and treatment.

3.9 Point-of-care diagnostics:

ML and AI enable fast and accurate point-of-care diagnostics.

3.10 Healthcare analytics:

ML and AI enable insights and improvements to the healthcare system and patient outcomes.

3.11 Collaboration and Data Sharing:

There is increasing collaboration and data sharing between industry, university and regulators.

3.12 Regulatory Framework:

Further development of regulatory framework taking into account ML and AI driven innovation.

3.13 Talent Development:

Growing demand for ML, AI and data science experts in the pharmaceutical industry.

3.14 Ethics and Transparency:

Ongoing discussion and development around ethics and transparency in ML and AI applications.

3.15 Global Impact:

ML and AI will lead to improved healthcare access and outcomes globally. (11)

4. Relevance to the Pharmaceutical Industry

The pharmaceutical industry faces numerous challenges including high R&D costs, long development timelines and complex regulatory requirements. There are so many role profiles, so many steps and so many fundamental changes within the industry. When Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning can be integrated. Machine learning, data analytics and artificial intelligence are already widely used in the software industry. However, in the pharmaceutical industry, where human lives and patient safety are at stake, human intervention cannot be completely replaced by machines or automation. Therefore, human intervention will always be necessary, especially in areas where patient safety is a concern. (3)

5. Role AI drug discovery

These are released to the market after going through rigorous clinical trials. In this, pharmaceutical companies first discover molecules that have the potential to become future drugs, then develop the drug and produce a blockbuster drug that may enter the market after successful clinical trials. Hence, there have been notable advancements in artificial technologies, AI and machine learning, providing transformational opportunities in the formulation and testing of pharmaceutical dosage forms in drug discovery. Drug Discovery MI and AI help in identifying potential drug candidates, predicting drug target interactions and optimizing drug properties. (12)

6. Uses

AI, algorithms that analyze a wide range of biological data including genomics and proteomics, allows researchers to identify disease-related targets and predict their interactions with potential drug candidates. AI algorithms enable predictions that allow for a more efficient and targeted approach to drug discovery, thereby increasing the chances of successful drug approval in a shorter and more timely manner. AI algorithms may result in more drugs being brought to market, and more drugs being approved. Reduce development costs and development times by optimizing the R&D process. This can shorten the time to market for a drug, as well as reduce costs. Overall, however, automation always comes with costs, which can now be reduced. For example, if the job is done by 10 people, the company will definitely spend money to pay these 10 people. With automation, only 2-3% is needed. Labor costs are also reduced, which reduces overall costs. Machine learning algorithms support experimental design and can predict the pharmacokinetics and toxicity of drug molecules. This adaptability allows upfront conception and optimization of lead compounds, reducing the need for extensive and expensive animal testing. So, as you all know, we are starting human clinical trials. To bring a drug to the market, pharmaceutical companies test it on animals. These so-called preclinical trials can be completely eliminated and, with the help of artificial intelligence, it is very likely that animal testing at this stage can also be avoided. We save time and money and protect animals from unnecessary suffering. Fossil (personalized) medicine approaches can be facilitated by AI algorithms that analyze final patient data. This is because medicines can be brought to the market in a shorter time, more effective treatment outcomes are achieved and patients can better adjust their drug intake. AI algorithms (analysis of extensive pharmaceutical data) are used to analyze vast amounts of data on drugs, metabolism and excretion in a shorter time. These models help predict drug concentrations in the body, allowing artificial intelligence algorithms to analyze large amounts of data in a shorter time. These helps optimize drug dosage, identify potential drug interactions and contribute to the development of safer and more effective medicines. (11)

7. Medications

Moreover, AI models allow researchers and pharmaceutical companies to prioritize drug candidates based on predicted metabolic and excretion profiles, which in turn makes the drug development process more efficient. In other words, this can be said to reduce the time to market and also reduce costs. That is why there is so much excitement around AI, chat GPT and machine learning in the market. The pharmaceutical industry is a vital sector that plays a key role in saving lives. Considering this, AI will not take full control of pharmacovigilance or the pharmaceutical industry. However, there are some routine procedures that can be replaced by automation, but that too is very time-consuming and will not happen anytime soon. At least it will happen in the next phase. It will take 5 to 10 years to achieve the kind of automation that companies are looking for. (1)

8. Different Types of machine learning

8.1 Supervised learning

Supervised learning is a type of machine learning that uses examples to train a machine. An operator provides a machine learning algorithm with a known dataset. This dataset contains both the input data and the corresponding desired outputs. The algorithm's job is to figure out how to map the inputs to the correct outputs. The operator knows the correct answer, but the algorithm must recognize patterns in the data. It learns from these patterns and observations to make predictions. The algorithm makes a prediction, and then the operator makes a correction. This feedback loop continues until the algorithm reaches a high level of accuracy or efficiency. (28)

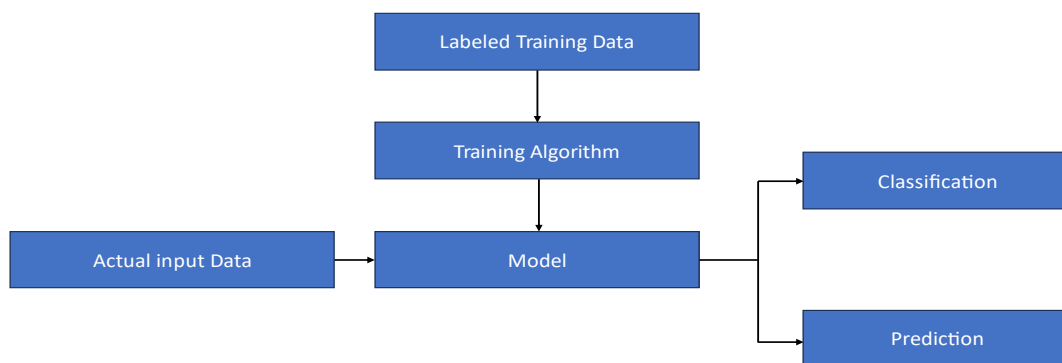


Figure 1: Supervised learning

8.2 Semi-supervised learning

Semi-supervised learning is similar to supervised learning, except that it uses a combination of labeled and unlabeled data. Labeled data is accompanied by meaningful tags that help the algorithm understand the data. Unlabeled data, on the other hand, does not have these tags and does not provide direct guidance to the algorithm. By using both labeled and unlabeled data, machine learning algorithms can improve their ability to label the unlabeled data. This approach uses labeled data to better interpret and classify the unlabeled data, allowing the algorithm to learn more effectively.

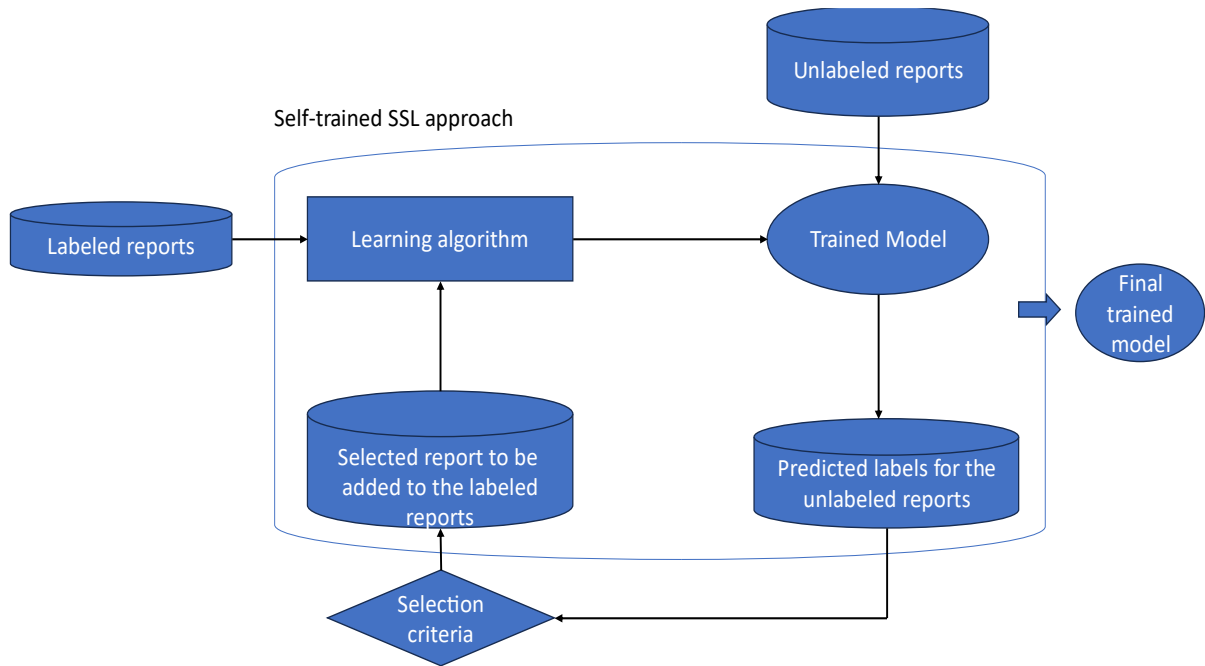


Figure 2: Semi- Supervised learning

8.3 Unsupervised learning

In unsupervised learning, machine learning algorithms analyze data to recognize patterns without an answer key or instructions from a human operator. Instead of receiving instructions, the algorithm autonomously determines correlations and relationships by examining the available data. During this process, the algorithm is tasked with interpreting large datasets and organizing the data to describe its structure. This organization might involve grouping the data into clusters or a more structured arrangement. The more data an algorithm processes, the better and more accurate it becomes at making decisions based on that data.

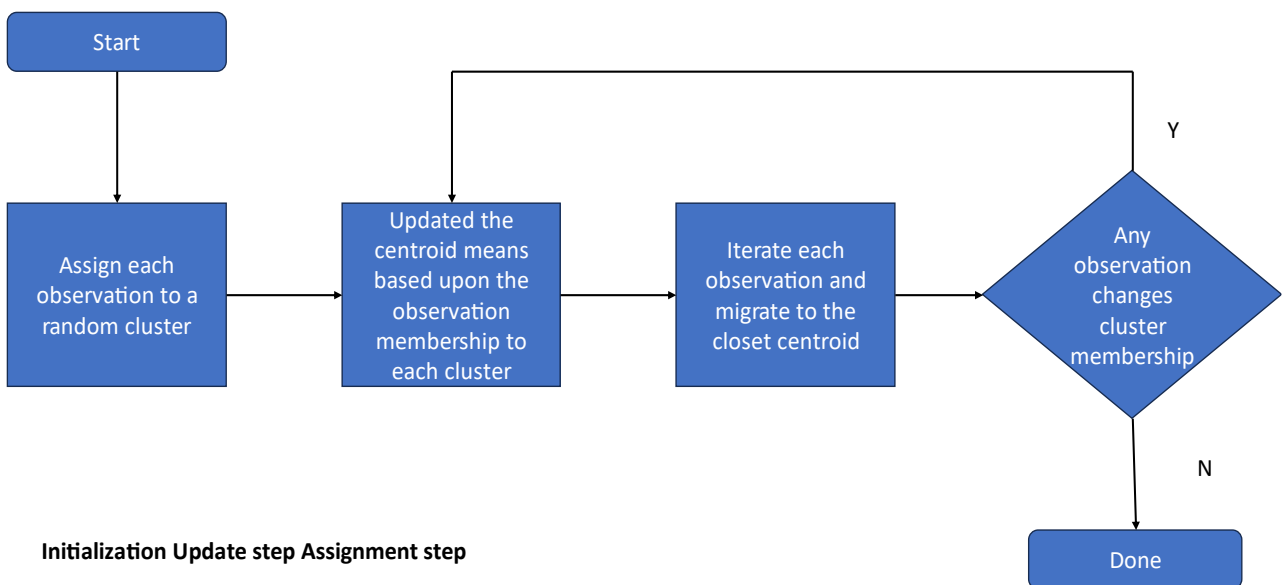


Figure 3: Unsupervised learning

8.4 Reinforcement learning

Reinforcement learning focuses on a deliberate learning process, where a set of actions, parameters, and final values are provided to a machine learning algorithm. After the rules are defined, the machine learning algorithm explores different options and possibilities, inspecting and evaluating the results of each to determine which one is optimal. A machine using reinforcement learning learns through trial and error. She learns from past experiences and begins to adapt her approach depending on the situation to achieve the best results. (28,31)

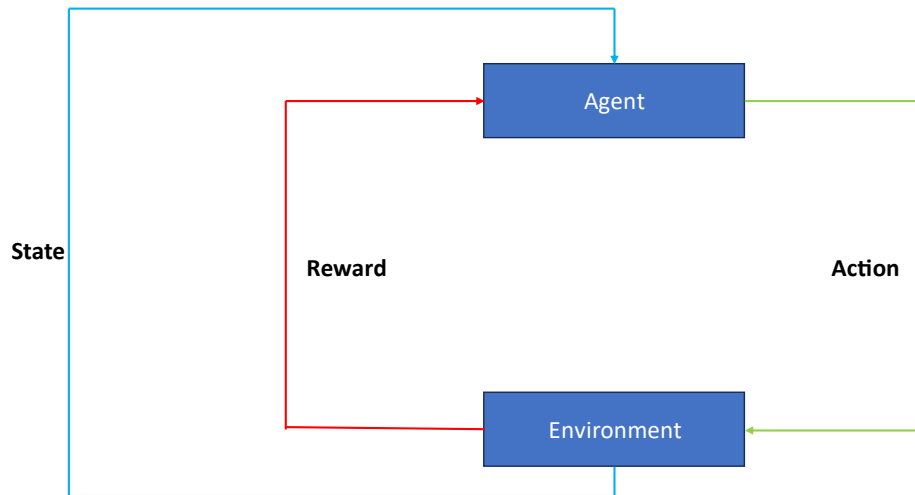


Figure 4: Reinforcement Learning

9. Goals of AI Plagiarism: -

9.1 Developing problem-solving skills

AI aims to create systems that can solve difficult problems and make decisions in the same way that humans do. For example, they can predict stock market trends by analyzing data, making complex tasks easier. (29)

9.2 Integrating knowledge representation

AI focuses on teaching machines to understand and use real-world information, such as diagnosing diseases or interacting with people in natural language. This helps AI solve problems and improve over time.

9.3 Facilitating planning

AI aids in planning by predicting future outcomes and making decisions based on data. It is improve performance and achieve goals in areas such as robotics and security.

9.4 Enable continuous learning

AI systems improve over time by learning from past experiences and data. They can process information and make better predictions with little human input. This includes learning methods that use labeled and unlabeled data.

9.5 Promote social intelligence

AI can respond to human emotions by understanding facial expressions and tone of voice. This allows AI systems to better interact with people in a natural way.

9.6 Fostering creativity

AI can process big amounts of data to develop new ideas and solutions. For example, it can suggest different design options to foster human creativity.

9.7 Achieving general intelligence

AI researchers hope to develop machines that can perform any task that humans can perform, and even do it better, making them more efficient and able to handle dangerous tasks safely.

9.8 Promoting synergy between humans and AI

AI aims to collaborate with humans to improve each other’s capabilities. The goal is for AI and humans to complement each other and achieve better results together. (27,28,30)

10. Challenges

10.1 Current State of AI Adoption

The pharmaceutical industry is carefully starting to use AI for specific tasks. While there’s excitement about what AI can do, companies are being cautious because of strict regulations. They need to make sure AI is clear, understandable, and truly useful. (4)

10.2 Potential Applications

AI could make many processes in pharmaceuticals better. It can help find new drug targets, predict how well drugs will work, and improve drug development. In clinical trials, AI can help analyze medical images, spot patients at risk, and assist in decision-making. It can also create personalized educational materials for patients.

10.3 Challenges and Considerations

Using AI in healthcare means dealing with issues like ethics, data privacy, and transparency. Collaboration between industry experts, regulators, and healthcare providers is key. It’s important to make sure AI decisions are clear and well-regulated to avoid problems.

10.4 Re-skilling and Cultural Shift

To make AI work, the industry needs to train people and shift their mind set. Teams need to collaborate and understand each other’s roles. While not everyone needs to be an AI expert, having a basic knowledge of what AI can and can’t do, and its ethical concerns, is important for using AI effectively. (26)

11. Table 1: Pharma company collaboration with AI (13,14)

Sr. No.	Pharmaceutical company	AI Company/technology provider	Collaboration Scope
1	Pfizer[12]	IBM Watson	Precision and efficiency in solid drug research. Use of artificial intelligence and real time data in oncology. The main objective of this collaboration is to use artificial intelligence to

			better understand the clinical course of patients.
2	Novartis	Google Deepmind	Clinical trials: Applying AI algorithms to optimize patient selection, treatment protocols, and data analysis during clinical trials.
3	Johnson	Exscientia	High-throughput screening: Using AI to accelerate compound screening and identify potential drug candidates.
4	Merk	Berg Health	Biomarker research: Using AI to identify and validate biomarkers that are helpful for disease.
5	Roche	BenevolentAI	Drug development: Using AI to discover new drug targets and validate potential drug compounds.
6	GSK (GlaxoSmithKline)	Insilico Medicine	AI-driven drug design: Uses AI to develop and optimize drug molecules to improve efficacy and safety.
7	Bayer	Atomwise	Developing the best AI platform & leveraging it to transform small-molecule drug discovery.
8	Sanofi	ORKIN	AI is being used to stratify patient groups to deliver more targeted and effective treatments.

9	AstraZeneca	BenevolentAI	AI Using machine learning and artificial intelligence to discover potential new drugs for chronic kidney disease and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.
10	Abbvie	icure	Use of AI-based patient monitoring technology improved treatment adherence in an AbbVie phase 2 schizophrenia trial.

12. Advantage of AI

12.1 Medical Applications

Currently, 4,444 doctors use artificial intelligence to examine patients and analyze their health problems. AI programs inform doctors about numerous medicines and their side effects.

12.2 Reducing Errors

AI plays a major role in improving the efficiency of various processes by minimizing errors and increasing accuracy. Smart robots are equipped with sturdy metal bodies that can withstand the harsh conditions of space, which is why they are chosen for space exploration missions.

12.3 Challenging Exploration

AI has proven valuable applications in mining and is proving to be equally useful in the search for fuel. Moreover, AI systems play a major role in ocean exploration by effectively mitigating errors caused by human intervention.

12.4 Daily Applications

AI is very useful in our daily actions and activities. For example, GPS is often used for long distance travel. Installing AI on Android can help predict what a person will type. It can also help correct spelling mistakes. To former Lady SIRI. AI systems are mostly used in financial and banking institutions to efficiently process and organize data to detect fraudulent activities.

12.5 Digital Assistants

Modern organizations are using AI systems such as digital assistants ("avatars") to minimize dependency on humans. Unlike humans, emotions do not influence their judgment, leading to more efficient decision-making and problem-solving. Machine intelligence helps overcome the limitations of human emotions and increases overall efficiency.

12.6 No Breaks

Unlike humans, who typically work 8 hours a day with breaks, machines are programmed to work continuously for long periods of time without getting confused or bored.

12.7 Increased growth rate of technology

AI technology is being used in cutting edge technological achievements around the world. She is able to develop various computer modeling programs and is trying to invent newer compounds. AI is also being utilized in the development of drug delivery formulations. (15)

13. Disadvantages of AI

13.1 Don't imitate humans

AI controlled robots can simulate human thinking, but they lack moral principles and emotions. Therefore, they will carry out the tasks given to them as planned without using their judgement. This can cause big problems in some cases. If the situation is unknown to the robot, it cannot make a judgement. At that point they either misreport or collapse.

13.2 No Improvement through Experience

AI-controlled machines, unlike humans, do not have the ability to improve through experience. They do not demonstrate interest, belonging, compassion, and are unable to distinguish individuals based on work ethic.

13.3 High Cost

The introduction of AI requires large investments due to complex machine design and the associated repair and maintenance work. The machines need to update their software frequently. The process of reinstalling and restoring the system requires a lot of effort and financial investment. In addition, R&D departments invest a lot of time in designing a single AI machine, leading to increased costs.

13.4 Unemployment

The widespread use of machines to replace humans in many areas could lead to a significant increase in unemployment. People who often rely heavily on technology may become complacent and lose their creativity. (16,17)

14. Conclusion

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are fundamentally changing the pharmaceutical industry. They help accelerate drug discovery, reduce R&D costs, improve clinical trials, and personalize medicine. These technologies analyze large amounts of data to find new drug targets, predict drug interactions, and design better experiments to bring drugs to market faster. However, the use of AI in the pharmaceutical industry still requires caution; it is subject to strict regulations and requires human oversight, especially to ensure patient safety. Other challenges include ethics, data protection, and the need to train experts. In short, AI and ML offer great benefits, but their integration into the pharmaceutical industry requires careful handling of rules, ethical issues, and human-AI collaboration. Ongoing partnerships between pharmaceutical companies and AI technology providers will continue to drive progress and improve drug discovery development and patient healthcare.

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