From Language to Action: Employing Foundation Models in Autonomous Robots

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Abstract

 Foundation models have demonstrated remark- able capabilities in natural language processing tasks, generating interest in their potential for robotic applications. However, the existing lit- erature lacks a transparent and comprehensive synthesis of these advancements. This paper utilizes the PRISMA framework to systemati- cally review and explore the integration of foun- dation models in robotic applications. Through an in-depth analysis of 76 studies, we investi- gate current trends in models, modalities, and experimental methods. Additionally, this study maps the state-of-the-art applications of foun- dation models in robotics tasks, and illustrate how these tasks are interconnected. Synthesiz- ing these findings, we identified key challenges and future direction. This study establishes a benchmark and offers insights into future re- search directions for developing safe and au- tonomous embodied foundation models. All data, and findings are available on the project **repository**^{[1](#page-0-0)}.

⁰²³ 1 Introduction

 Foundation models are defined as large-scale Arti- ficial Intelligence (AI) models trained on an exten- sive and internet-scale dataset, capable of generaliz- ing knowledge across a wide range of tasks. These models utilize massive datasets in a self-supervised manner to learn from unannoted data, allowing them to be adapted to various downstream tasks [\(Bommasani et al.,](#page-11-0) [2021\)](#page-11-0). Generalizing across diverse tasks without tasks-specific fine-tunning in models, such as GPT-4 [\(Achiam et al.,](#page-8-0) [2023\)](#page-8-0) Llama-2 [\(Touvron et al.,](#page-13-0) [2023\)](#page-13-0) Gemini [\(Anil et al.,](#page-8-1) [2023\)](#page-8-1) Claude [\(Anthropic,](#page-11-1) [2023\)](#page-11-1), have significantly advanced the natural language processing (NLP) field. Such strengths along with their adaptability and ability to process multi-modal data (text, im-age, sound) have drawn the attention of researchers

in various domains, ranging from the medical field **040** [\(Cho et al.,](#page-11-2) [2023\)](#page-11-2) to robotics [\(Xiao et al.,](#page-14-0) [2023\)](#page-14-0) **041** to bring cognitive capabilities of these models to **042** physical world applications. **043**

To achieve a degree of autonomy in physi- **044** cal world, embodied agents or robots have been **045** utilized from many years ago [\(Smithers,](#page-13-1) [1997\)](#page-13-1). **046** There are generally two broad solution categories **047** for automating these embodied agents: (1) pre- **048** programming robots for specific scenarios; (2) tele- **049** operating robots to leverage human cognitive abili- **050** ties [\(Saidi et al.,](#page-13-2) [2016\)](#page-13-2). The first category already **051** employed AI paradigms, such as reinforcement **052** learning [\(Delgado and Oyedele,](#page-11-3) [2022\)](#page-11-3) and deep **053** learning [\(Karoly et al.,](#page-12-0) [2021\)](#page-12-0), to automate specific **054** labor-intensive and repetitive tasks [\(Bruun et al.,](#page-11-4) **055** [2022;](#page-11-4) [Yu et al.,](#page-14-1) [2009\)](#page-14-1). While these robots can **056** deliver satisfactory precision in designated tasks, **057** their adaptability and generalizability are often lim- **058** ited due to training on narrowly focused datasets **059** designed for specific tasks. Consequently, man- **060** ual adjustments may be necessary to accommodate **061** even minor task variations in physical world appli- **062** cations [\(Cully et al.,](#page-11-5) [2015\)](#page-11-5). In contrast, the second **063** category involves tele-operated robots, which can **064** be remotely operated by experts, allowing them to **065** adapt to various tasks without the need for manual **066** reprogramming. However, their dependency on hu- **067** man operators has limited their performance and **068** productivity. For example, even slight connection **069** delays can significantly impede robot performance **070** in extraterrestrial physical worlds [\(Seo et al.,](#page-13-3) [2024\)](#page-13-3). **071**

On the other hand, foundation models are trained **072** on vast amounts of data to exhibit adaptability, **073** generalizability, and overall performance across **074** a variety of domains [\(Chang et al.,](#page-11-6) [2023\)](#page-11-6). This **075** intrinsic feature can be seen as a solution to move **076** embodied agents and robots to a higher level of **077** autonomy for physical world applications. Conse- **078** quently, this study aims to: (1) systematically ex- **079** plore the current state of the art of tools, methods, **080**

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 and applications of foundation models in robotic applications; (2) investigate how foundation mod- els have impacted the cooperation of cognitive and acting tasks in physical environments; (3) identify current challenges and provide future directions **for future embodied foundation models. Therefore,** this study can serve as a benchmark for other re- searchers to track progress toward future safe and fully autonomous embodied agents.

⁰⁹⁰ 2 Autonomous Robot Components

 Figure [1](#page-1-0) illustrates essential components of a robot operating within a physical world. Autonomous robots are comprised of two main platforms: (1) the deliberation platform; and (2) the execution plat- form. The execution platform, which is influenced by the robot's morphology, includes various actua- tors, motors, sensors, end effectors, and manipula- tors. Developments in this platform are beyond the scope of this study, as our primary focus is on the deliberation platform. This platform is responsible for receiving objectives and percepts (mostly from various sensors), processing them, and generating actionable commands or communication signals.

 The deliberation platform employs two main modules: (1) the cognitive module, which is respon- sible for all cognitive processes in robots; and (2) the acting module, which translates cognitive out- puts into fine-grained actionable commands. Rea- soning is the highest-level cognitive process, infer- ring new information from existing signals. Mid- level processes include planning, which involves decision sequences to achieve goals, and decision- making, which selects actions based on percepts and predefined criteria. Human-robot interaction enables communication through speech recogni- tion, natural language processing, and understand- ing gestures or facial expressions. Perception in- volves processing environmental information, in- cluding object recognition, scene understanding, SLAM, and gesture recognition. The acting mod- ule controls actuators for executing actions, nav- igating through environments with path planning and obstacle avoidance, and manipulating objects.

124 2.1 Related Studies

 To date of drafting this manuscript, three studies have surveyed the application of foundation mod- [e](#page-12-1)ls in robotics. The first review paper by [Firoozi](#page-12-1) [et al.](#page-12-1) [2023](#page-12-1) surveyed the application of foundation models in robotics with an emphasis on future chal-

Figure 1: Conceptual view of robot in physical world applications

lenges and opportunities. The second review paper **130** by [Xiao et al.](#page-14-0) [2023](#page-14-0) explored existing studies fo- **131** cused on robot learning using foundation models to **132** identify potential future areas. In the third review, **133** [Hu et al.](#page-12-2) [2023](#page-12-2) examined different studies relevant **134** to foundation models and investigated how their **135** application could be adapted to the robotics field. **136**

These studies lack a transparent and reproducible **137** approach for categorizing their findings and pro- **138** viding insights for future research. While they do **139** categorize studies, they fail to accurately highlight **140** the significance of each field, making it difficult **141** to compare and analyze which applications need **142** more attention from researchers. This method also **143** falls short in identifying subtle research gaps that **144** are not apparent through narrative categorization. **145** Consequently, there is a lack of an objective bench- **146** mark in the field to track progress and ensure that 147 studies are advancing safely and aligning with our **148** goals. This study is distinguished from previous **149** ones for the following reasons: (1) Our study builds **150** an objective picture of the current state-of-the-art **151** in employing foundation models for robotic appli- **152** cations. We map the impact of these models across **153** different cognitive and acting tasks and explore the **154** correlations between them. (2) The provided cur- **155** rent state-of-the-art are synthesized to identify new **156** challenges and potential future research directions, **157** paving the way for a safe and autonomous future in **158** the field. (3) Our study employs a transparent and **159**

160 reproducible methodology, aiming to establish a **161** clear and objective benchmark for future research.

¹⁶² 3 Methodology

 A systematic review approach has been selected [f](#page-13-4)or this study based on PRISMA framework [\(Page](#page-13-4) [et al.,](#page-13-4) [2021\)](#page-13-4) to explore the embodiment of founda-tion models in physical worlds through robots.

167 3.1 Databases

 Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus are two compre- hensive databases serving as major tools for sys- tematic review in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) [\(Kandall,](#page-12-3) [2017;](#page-12-3) [Visser et al.,](#page-14-2) [2020\)](#page-14-2). In addition to these, ArXiv is selected as the main source for preprint studies within the scope of our study because: (1) it serves as one of the main sources of studies re- lated to foundation models from 2018 up to now [\(Gusenbauer and Haddaway,](#page-12-4) [2020\)](#page-12-4); (2) it helps us to cover emerging ideas that are not yet published in journals due to the long process of publishing [\(Movva et al.,](#page-13-5) [2023\)](#page-13-5).

181 3.2 Search query

 Query-based search is one of the most fundamen- tal methods for identifying relevant studies in a field of research [\(Chen and Song,](#page-11-7) [2019\)](#page-11-7). To max- imize the potential of identifying relevant studies within our scope, we constructed two word-family blocks, containing keywords relevant to our tar- geted studies (see Figure [2\)](#page-3-0). Within these blocks, keywords are connected with "OR" command to maximize the likelihood of retrieving relevant stud- ies. Among these blocks, the word-family block for foundation models (left block) is connected with "AND" command to the word-family block for robotics (right block). Linking the left block with the right block generates a search query suit- able for exploring the application of foundation models in robotics for physical world applications.

199 3.3 Screening

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 Figure [3](#page-3-1) illustrates the process of identifying rel- evant studies for this survey. It should be noted that the number of studies at each step is depen- dent on the date of drafting this manuscript was drafted (March 2024). Initially, the search query was applied to identified databases, followed by the exclusion of duplicate studies. Subsequently, sev-eral eligibility refinements, such as language, date,

and study types were made to the search outputs **208** to align them more closely with the study's scope. **209** Noting that the first versions of foundation models **210** emerged in 2018, we restricted the identified stud- **211** ies to the time frame of 2018 to 2024. In the next **212** step, we established two set of screening criteria to **213** ensure that the identified studies are relevant to our **214** scope. **215**

4 Results **²¹⁶**

This section aims to provide an objective picture **217** of the current state-of-the-art in the applicability of **218** foundation models for automating tasks in physical **219** world using robots. To achieve this goal, all iden- **220** tified studies were subjected to a comprehensive **221** whole-text content analysis. We extract a set of 20 222 features to have a detailed and complete overview **223** of the recent trend. **224**

These features can be categorized to two 10 fea- **225** ture groups: (1) general features: authors, title, **226** published year, source title, DOI, link to paper, **227** author affiliations, abstract, author and index key- **228** words; (2) specific features: applications, founda- **229** tion model use, applied tasks, domain, study objec- **230** tive, robot morphology, evaluation method, modal- **231** ities, transformer architecture, and open source sta- **232** tus. Due to the limited space, we present a subset **233** of the features in the main paper while description **234** and details of all other features are available under **235** the open source licence 2 . . **236**

4.1 Foundation model usage trends **237**

This section investigates the frequency of utilizing **238** foundation models for robotic and physical world **239** applications. As seen in Figure [4,](#page-3-2) the integration **240** of foundation models into robotics is dominated by **241** GPT-Based models, which account for over 44% **242** of foundation model usage. GPT-3.5 is the most **243** frequently used LLM, highlighting its applicability **244** and ease of use. Although GPT-4 is located in third **245** usage place, it should be noted that the usage of **246** GPT-4 is rapidly growing. **247**

Another interesting finding is that CLIP model is **248** the most frequent used models among Visual Lan- **249** guage Models (VLMs) and second place among all **250** foundation model usages in robotic applications. **251** CLIP is primarily utilized for bridging similari- **252** ties between text, as the first source of receiving **253** language instructions, and images, as the primary **254** means of understanding environments. It has been **255**

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Figure 2: Process of building search queries

Figure 3: Process of identifying relevant records (PRISMA)

Figure 4: Frequency of using different foundation models in robotic field

used in various studies to perform Vision-Language **256** Navigation (VLN) related tasks [\(Lan et al.,](#page-12-5) [2023;](#page-12-5) **257** [Lin et al.,](#page-12-6) [2022\)](#page-12-6), as well as other manipulation **258** [t](#page-13-6)asks [\(Cui et al.,](#page-11-8) [2022;](#page-11-8) [Liao et al.,](#page-12-7) [2023;](#page-12-7) [Shridhar](#page-13-6) **259** [et al.,](#page-13-6) [2021\)](#page-13-6), and even high-level recognition tasks, **260** such as reasoning [\(Kamath et al.,](#page-12-8) [2023\)](#page-12-8). As seen 261 in Figure [4,](#page-3-2) the frequency of remaining models is **262** five or fewer, **263**

4.2 Modalities **264**

As mentioned in Table [1,](#page-4-0) more than half of the iden- **265** tified studies utilize only text for developing their **266** use cases. Although it indicates the early stages **267** of studies in this field, 31% multimodal text and **268** image models indicate the move toward more mul- **269** timodal models. However, the number of studies **270** using other modalities such as 3d and audio data **271** is very limited. This lack of diversity in modalities **272** may hinder the development of more comprehen- **273** sive and robust robotic systems capable of perceiv- **274** ing and interacting with the real world, which is **275** inherently multimodal. **276**

4.3 Experiment method **277**

Within the final records, %42 studies tested their **278** findings through implementation in real-world ex- **279** periments (see Table [2.](#page-4-1) However, this amount for **280**

Status		Number Percentage
Text	39	%51
Image	5	%6
Image and text	24	%31
3D data		$\%1$
Audio	1	$\%1$
Not available		%10

Table 1: Modalities of foundation models utilized in identified studies.

Experiment method Number		Percentage
Real-world	32	%42
Simulation	10	%13
Dataset		$\%9$
Not available	27	%36

Table 2: Experiment methods of foundation models utilized in identified studies.

 simulation and dataset experiments are respectively %13 and %9. This indicates a gap that there is still a need for more comprehensive and diverse evalu- ation methods. Moreover, a considerable amount of studies (%36) are conceptual and doesn't vali- date their findings through experiments. Therefore, more studies are needed in this field to bridge the gap between theory and practice, and to thoroughly evaluate the performance and limitations of foun-dation models in realistic robotic applications.

291 4.4 Current State of the Art: Application of **292** Foundation Models in Robotics

 This section aims to provide a map of the current state of the use of different foundation models in robotic tasks. To achieve this, the identified records were labeled based on the foundation models used and the specific tasks to which these models were applied (foundation model use and applied tasks features). Figure [5](#page-5-0) illustrates the flow of applying different foundation models for robotic tasks. This figure is organized across four analytical layers: foundation models, their categories, and categories of robotic tasks, and the specific robotic tasks.

 Foundation model categories: Within the foun- dation model categories, Large Language Models (LLMs) contributed to 69% of foundation mod- els utilized for robotic applications, indicating that most studies are exploring the text modalities and capabilities of this category for addressing classic challenges in robotic domains. For example, some studies utilize the capabilities of these foundation

models in understanding language and coding to **312** [g](#page-12-9)enerate robotics execution codes in industries [\(Fan](#page-12-9) **313** [et al.,](#page-12-9) [2024;](#page-12-9) [Yoshikawa et al.,](#page-14-3) [2023\)](#page-14-3). VLMs also **314** contributed another 20% of foundation model ap- **315** plications in robotic tasks, helping to bridge lan- **316** guage instructions with vision perception in vari- **317** ous studies [\(Kawaharazuka et al.,](#page-12-10) [2023\)](#page-12-10). However, **318** less attention has been given to the application of **319** LVMs (%7) in the robotic domain, where further **320** studies are needed. Moreover, a few studies have **321** gone beyond text or image-based foundation mod- **322** els by creating robot transformers [\(Brohan et al.,](#page-11-9) **323** [2023;](#page-11-9) [Stone et al.,](#page-13-7) [2023\)](#page-13-7), yet more studies, such **324** as MiniGPT-3D [\(Tang et al.,](#page-13-8) [2024\)](#page-13-8), are felt nec- **325** essary to build 3D foundation models as they can **326** contribute more significantly to robot-specific tasks **327** that require direct interaction with the 3D world. **328**

Planning and perception tasks: When it comes **329** to robotic tasks, foundation models are primarily **330** (72%) utilized for cognitive tasks rather than acting **331** tasks (28%). Within the cognitive domain, percep- **332** tion and planning are most common goal of us- **333** ing foundation models in many identified records. **334** For example, studies utilized capabilities of Chat- **335** GPT in understanding text to change the traditional **336** method of robot planning, by generating behavior- **337** tree [\(Cao and Lee,](#page-11-10) [2023\)](#page-11-10) or considering the current **338** state of robots in plan generation [\(Xie et al.,](#page-14-4) [2023\)](#page-14-4). 339 Furthermore, some studies focused on providing **340** robots with better perception by utilizing founda- **341** tion models in complex robotic tasks, such as scene **342** anomaly detection [\(Obinata et al.,](#page-13-9) [2023\)](#page-13-9). **343**

Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) is another **344** important use case of foundation models in the **345** robotics field. The use of foundation models in HRI **346** can be categorized into three main streams. First, **347** some studies utilize LLMs to improve HRI through **348** better extraction of machine-understandable infor- **349** mation from human instructions [\(Bimbatti et al.,](#page-11-11) **350** [2023;](#page-11-11) [Tabone and Winter,](#page-13-10) [2023\)](#page-13-10). Another group **351** of studies uses foundation models to understand **352** public perceptions toward robots [\(Brandtzaeg et al.,](#page-11-12) **353** [2023;](#page-11-12) [Jangjarat et al.,](#page-12-11) [2023;](#page-12-11) ?). The last group ap- **354** plies the capabilities of LLMs to generate human- **355** like text to respond to humans and improve trust **356** between humans and robots [\(Mishra et al.,](#page-13-11) [2023;](#page-13-11) **357** [Ye et al.,](#page-14-5) [2023;](#page-14-5) [Sevilla-Salcedo et al.,](#page-13-12) [2023\)](#page-13-12). **358**

Reasoning and decision-making tasks: In **359** terms of reasoning, one mainstream application **360** is the use of foundation models for providing com- **361** monsense knowledge to robots [\(Jain et al.,](#page-12-12) [2023;](#page-12-12) 362 [Zhou et al.,](#page-14-6) [2023b\)](#page-14-6). Commonsense reasoning is **363**

Figure 5: Flow diagram of foundation model applications in robotic tasks

 a hard task for machines but it is crucial in many tasks. For example, [Krause and Stolzenburg](#page-12-13) [2024](#page-12-13) utilized LLM commonsense reasoning capabilities in the field of question answering (QA), which is [o](#page-13-13)ne of the most important tasks of NLP. [Ocker](#page-13-13) [et al.](#page-13-13) [2023](#page-13-13) found that LLMs are not sufficient enough on their own to provide commonsense rea- soning but they are effective in synergy with formal knowledge representations. On the other hand, few studies investigate the decision-making abilities of LLMs in connection with different robotic tasks, such as planning [\(Ouyang and Li\)](#page-13-14) and manipula-tion [\(Lew et al.,](#page-12-14) [2023\)](#page-12-14).

 Control, manipulation, and navigation: Be- yond cognitive tasks, the capabilities of foundation models in acting tasks are less explored. For exam- ple, some studies use language understanding of LLMs as a translation module between human and robot for controlling the simple motion of robots [\(Tanaka and Katsura,](#page-13-15) [2023;](#page-13-15) [Kawaharazuka et al.,](#page-12-10) [2023\)](#page-12-10). Some other studies are providing innova- tive frameworks for improving spatial reasoning required in LLMs for robotic manipulation tasks [\(Shridhar et al.,](#page-13-6) [2021;](#page-13-6) [Jin et al.,](#page-12-15) [2023\)](#page-12-15). Navigation is another challenging tasks that recent foundation models are used to allow researchers to have se-mantic reasoning and go beyond conventional mapbased systems [\(Gadre et al.,](#page-12-16) [2022;](#page-12-16) [Yu et al.,](#page-14-7) [2023\)](#page-14-7). **391** Despite these examples, acting tasks are usually **392** come with other cognitive tasks such as planning, **393** and perception. As a result, a network of connec- **394** tion between these tasks help us to achieve better **395** interpretation of foundation model capabilities. **396**

4.5 Robotic Task Integration **397**

Robotic cognitive and acting tasks are utilized in **398** studies in an interconnected manner to automate **399** specific tasks. Accordingly, most identified records 400 employ foundation models across a variety of cog- **401** nitive and acting tasks in a interconnected man- **402** ner to evaluate and validate their research. Con- **403** sequently, there is a need for a network diagram 404 that shows how foundation models are used to in- **405** terconnect different robotic tasks. Figure [6](#page-6-0) illus- **406** trates the co-occurrence network of robotic tasks, **407** where cognitive and acting tasks are represented 408 as nodes. The edges between nodes represent the **409** co-occurrence of two tasks within a single study. **410** The size of each node is proportionate to the num- **411** ber of its connections, indicating that larger nodes **412** are more frequently utilized in conjunction with **413** other tasks in studies. The thickness of the edges **414** indicates the frequency of concurrent task usage in **415** the studies. **416**

Figure 6: Co-occurrence network of robotic tasks using foundation models

 As illustrated in Figure [6,](#page-6-0) the most significant connection is the use of foundation models for HRI and Perception. This finding, coupled with the dominance of LLMs in foundation models, indi- cates that most studies leverage the text analytical capabilities of foundation models to extract both defined and undefined information for other sig- nificant robotics tasks, including planning, control, and manipulation.

 The navigation node is smaller than other nodes, indicating that navigation tasks less frequently co- occur with other robotic tasks. This suggests that the majority of the field is interested in validating the capabilities of foundation models in cognitive tasks, and some acting tasks such as control and manipulation, rather than incorporating the com- plexity of moving in a 3D environment into their studies. Another interesting finding is that all edges leading to the decision-making node are thin, which indicates that this task is also overlooked in many studies. Despite the small size of the reasoning task node, there is a considerable connection between this node and the perception node. This represents a major category within this field, which involves utilizing reasoning capabilities to perceive situa- tions where only a small amount of information is available, such as unseen scenes and undefined [e](#page-14-8)vents [\(Ocker et al.,](#page-13-13) [2023;](#page-13-13) [Ren et al.,](#page-13-16) [2023;](#page-13-16) [Zhang](#page-14-8) [et al.,](#page-14-8) [2024\)](#page-14-8)

5 Discussion: Challenges and future **⁴⁴⁶** prospects **⁴⁴⁷**

5.1 Situated Reasoning **448**

Currently, more studies are focused on robotic cog- **449** nitive tasks (see Figure [5\)](#page-5-0), which can be attributed **450** to the fact that the current architecture of most **451** foundation models is designed for sequential to- **452** kens, making them better suited for cognitive tasks **453** rather than acting tasks that require extensive situ- **454** ated reasoning and direct interaction with 3D data. **455** One of the main challenges in utilizing foundation **456** models for acting tasks is the scarcity of 3D data **457** compared to text and image data. A potential so- **458** lution to this challenge can be the use of Digital **459** Twins as a source for training foundation models **460** on 3D data. **461**

5.2 Physical Laws **462**

Furthermore, the generative models, such as Sora **463** [\(Liu et al.,](#page-12-17) [2024\)](#page-12-17), can be leveraged to create simula- **464** tions of real-world environments, providing a rich **465** source of data for training and testing. However, a 466 significant obstacle in expanding generative models 467 for creating simulations is their current limitation **468** in accurately modeling physical laws, such as grav- **469** ity, collisions, and other laws that are crucial for **470** realistic simulations and interactions with the phys- **471** ical world. Addressing this challenge is pivotal for **472** enabling foundation models to reason effectively **473** about the complex dynamics and constraints of the **474** physical world. **475**

5.3 Hallucination **476**

A primary issue toward effective integration of **477** robots and foundation models is the tendency **478** of these models to "hallucinate," meaning they **479** sometime generate outputs that are factually incor- **480** rect, logically inconsistent, or physically infeasible. **481** This uncertainty becomes particularly critical when **482** robots are expected to perform a broader range of **483** general tasks in 3D environments, especially those **484** rarely encountered in their mostly textual and im- **485** age data. Despite retrieval-based and other related **486** path toward addressing this issue, some studies **487** seek methods that enable LLMs to ask for help in **488** uncertain situations [\(Ren et al.,](#page-13-16) [2023\)](#page-13-16). **489**

5.4 Error Handling 490

Furthermore, this uncertainty challenge can lead **491** to error handling due to various potential to robot **492** action failures. These failures include: (1) execu- tion failures, where the model understands the task and environment correctly but fails to achieve the expected outcome; (2) planning failures, where the model generates an incorrect or infeasible sequence of actions despite comprehending the task and en- vironment; and (3) comprehension failures, where the model misinterprets the context of the environ- ment or task. To address these issues, several ap- proaches have been proposed. Prompt engineering methods allows the model to prompt itself with the output plan and the latest environment observations for potential corrections. Additionally, incorporat- ing models with enhanced situated reasoning can provide more accurate predictions of robot capabil- ities in complex environments. Another effective strategy is leveraging human feedback, which can resolve various types of errors.

511 5.5 Model Biases

 Recent studies highlight different biases in GPT- family models [\(Rutinowski et al.,](#page-13-17) [2023;](#page-13-17) [Sinha,](#page-13-18) [2023;](#page-13-18) [Toro,](#page-13-19) [2023\)](#page-13-19). Considering that currently most studies use GPT-based models (refer to Section 4.1), further research is needed to investigate the biases of using single models or a combination of different agents in more sensitive tasks, such as human-robot interaction or decision-making. Iden- tifying these biases is a critical challenge that is crucial to tackle to ensure the safe and reliable inte- gration of foundation models into robotic systems, especially in applications involving direct interac-tion with humans or decision-making processes.

525 5.6 Ethical considerations

 While a comprehensive discussion of ethics goes beyond the scope of this study and requires exten- sive exploration of various ethical frameworks, it is essential to encourage more researchers to en- gage with this sensitive area. Key ethical considera- tions include privacy, safety, responsibility, and the moral behavior of robots, each of which warrants thorough examination. As a potential approach to addressing these issues, [\(Zhou et al.,](#page-14-9) [2023a\)](#page-14-9) have proposed a framework that equips foundation mod- els with the capability for moral reasoning, drawing on diverse ethical theories. Such research is appro- priate first-step as it advances the preparation of robots for deeper integration into human-centric environments, ensuring their actions are guided by sound ethical principles.

5.7 Toward unstructured environment **542**

Most studies have tested the integration of founda- **543** tion models in organized and structured environ- **544** ments, such as housing settings. However, unstruc- **545** tured environments are in greater need of founda- **546** tion model capabilities due to the limitations of **547** traditional hard-coded approaches that are unsuit- **548** able for these settings. The flexibility and general- **549** izability inherent in foundation models can signifi- **550** cantly enhance performance and adoption in such **551** complex environments. Nonetheless, there are chal- **552** lenges in this endeavor. Unstructured environments **553** are difficult for real-world testing applications, and **554** we currently lack a simulation solution that accu- **555** rately represents the dynamic events and unpre- **556** dictability of these settings. A crucial first step is 557 to systematically identify inherent features in un- **558** structured environment tasks that hinder robotic **559** adoption. For instance, future studies can explore **560** how commonsense reasoning in foundation models **561** can aid robot decision-making in situations where **562** information is highly dynamic or scarce. **563**

6 Conclusion **⁵⁶⁴**

The integration of foundation models into robotics **565** is an emerging field with significant potential for **566** enabling advanced cognitive and acting capabilities **567** in physical world applications. While the current **568** research landscape is dominated by leveraging the **569** language understanding abilities of LLMs, there is 570 a growing interest in exploring multimodal and 3D **571** foundation models for more comprehensive scene **572** understanding and situated reasoning. However, **573** several key challenges need to be addressed, includ- **574** ing scarcity of 3D data, improving the modeling of **575** physical laws in simulations, mitigating hallucina- **576** tions, developing robust error-handling strategies, **577** and addressing ethical concerns surrounding the de- **578** ployment of embodied agents. Overcoming these **579** hurdles will be crucial for realizing the vision of **580** safe and fully autonomous embodied foundation **581** models capable of generalizing across a wide range **582** of unstructured environments and tasks. **583**

7 Limitation **⁵⁸⁴**

Despite the contributions of this study as discussed **585** before; all research studies have limitations, and **586** the present attempt is no exception to this rule. The **587** survey process only considered studies in English, **588** and used a particular set of keywords for search- **589** ing. Besides, the screening process of core studies **590**

 can be considered subjective in nature, although the process was performed three separate times to minimize the error. In addition, all analyses are based on the data retrieved from WoS, Scopus, and Arxiv databases. Therefore, the findings may not fully reflect the entire available efforts and studies in the field.

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