Tracking Scientific Output in Robotic Soccer and AI:
A Bibliometric Overview

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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

There is redundancy in the repetition of the idea that technical aspects dominate current research. For instance, this sentence appears twice with minor variation: "Current research predominantly focuses on technical aspects…" Please consolidate these ideas for clarity and conciseness.

Please clarify how affiliations like "University of Texas System" are distinguished from "University of Texas Austin." There might be overlap, and this should be methodologically addressed.

The paragraph could benefit from a deeper interpretation of each quadrant in the thematic map. For example, what specific themes fall under "emerging or declining" and what implications does this have?

The statement "One of the most striking insights is the non-linear growth pattern…" would benefit from a brief comparison to similar fields. How does this compare with the growth of research in general robotics or AI?

The final sentence "offering both a testbed for cutting-edge algorithms and a mirror reflecting the societal, ethical, and collaborative challenges ahead" is strong but could be more impactful with a brief call to action or policy recommendation.

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The search string used for Web of Science is mentioned, but the rationale for choosing specific keywords like "robot soccer" vs. "soccer robot" could be better justified. Please elaborate on how the keyword strategy ensures comprehensive coverage.

The phrase "Figure 1 shows the steps and method used in this study" is vague and disconnected, especially since the actual figure caption refers to a different topic. Ensure that figures and captions match and revise the text accordingly.

The sentence "AI Magazine with 6 article and, with an h-index of 4…" is grammatically incorrect. Please revise to "AI Magazine, with 6 articles and an h-index of 4…" to improve clarity and correctness.

The authors state, "the relatively low rate of international co-authorship (17.72%) highlights a missed opportunity," but do not provide regional analysis. Consider discussing which regions are underrepresented to enrich this observation.

The thematic imbalance noted (lack of ethics, human-centered AI) is important. The authors should consider adding an example or suggesting how future bibliometric studies might track such sociotechnical themes.

The authors state, "this study excluded conference papers… despite their important role…" Yet RoboCup research is known to be conference-heavy. Please justify this exclusion more clearly or mention how it impacts generalizability.

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2.   Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.