



POWERING THE DIGITAL ECONOMY: OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN FINANCE

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Abstract: AI has been a dominating trend in the emerging digital economy as a tool for changing the ways that organizations generate and deliver value. In the financial context, AI is unobtrusive, efficient, and creative and has added immensely to the development of solutions for the rendering of financial services. Such types of services are fraud and customer care services, financing and trading, credit rating and others which have gotten rid of several intermediaries, brought solutions to people with low credit ratings and enhanced decision-making. However, there are some issues with having AI present in finance. Most AI systems maintained a veil of opacity, three significant ethical and operating problems – algorithmic racism, inadequate data protection/privacy. Furthermore, new systematic vices such as algorithmic trading also unfold which increases the emerging need for regulation and/or ethical standards of artificial intelligence systems.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence in Finance, Financial Automation, Digital Economy, AI Risks and Opportunities, Financial Inclusion through AI, Data-Driven Finance

INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence has now turned itself to be the game changer in this global digital economy; that is, it has changed the way businesses run and innovate. An AI, on the other hand, is a system, most often computerized, that simulates services carried out by human intelligence processes and is further able to draw conclusions, reasoning, and establishing decisions from that process simulation. This is the transition era for the digital age; today, it has become a part of any industry, from healthcare to retail. Of all the industries, probably the worst hit field has to be finance. Traditional norms have now been redefined, and immense development opportunities have been opened by AI. In this paper, such questions receive attention regarding the possibility and threat of artificial intelligence applied in the financial field: However, the approach that has been adopted in this study provides an independent outlook on AI in financing as seen from the case studies, assessment of regulations, and assessment of advancement up to 2021. The findings hereby produced can help the stakeholders to properly harness the AI insights for positive and worthwhile results and have minimal negative connotations. These advantages notwithstanding, the application of AI technologies into finance does, however, face challenges. The most critical features of AI that can prove threat-by-feh are algorithmic bias, data privacy, and a black box. Lastly, some other sources of new systemic vulnerabilities include unintentional consequences of algorithmic trading, which indicate the need for very tight safeguards. These are some of the reasons stressing the requirement of an ethics and regulatory framework for accountable purposes in managing AI deployment.

The present research work is aimed at studying the dual nature of AI's role in the financial sector: opportunities and risks of digital economy development. It offers a comprehensive reading of how AI redefines finance through analysis of case studies, assessment of regulatory developments as well as reviews of technological advances at the end of 2021. Ultimately, the study intends to furnish its stakeholders with facts and figures from which they can build approaches for responsibly utilizing AI's benefits while addressing its inherent disadvantages.

METHODOLOGY

The present research leverages a multidisciplinary approach in order to analyze and ascertain opportunities and risks inherent in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the financial domain, within a context of transformation, as has been indicated in the introductory material. To this end, the research brings together both qualitative and quantitative methodologies into the overall pursuit of this endeavor—an understanding of AI's changing impact in finance up to 2021. The methodology is as follows and comprises the following core components:

1. Findings and Methodology

The research is conducted using a mixed-method approach through two sources:

1.1. Case Studies and Industry Report on Qualitative Analysis: How about examining some Practical applications of AI in finance by studying compiled case studies and industry reports?

1.2. Quantitative Insights: Data from other research, financial performance indices, and adopted figures of AI have been used to measure the extent of the impact on efficiency, risk, and customer experience borrowed from AI-driven technologies. This dual approach finally encapsulates a holistic picture of the role of AI in finance.

2. Sources of data

The research has employed a variety of credible sources to ensure that the findings are valid and relevant in the following:

2.1. Industry Reports and Publications: Elaborate on the ways that different implementations of artificial intelligence are used in fraud detection, robo-advisory and algorithmic trading, from the point of view of different stakeholders, such as financial institutions; tech players, etc.

2.2. Regulatory Frameworks: This article investigates the pertinent documentation and instructions issued by international regulatory bodies such as the Financial Stability Board (FSB) and the European Banking Authority (EBA) relating to corporate governance development till the year 2021.

2.3. Academic Research: This is integrating research insights from Refereed journals for the establishment of a framework to include theoretical and practical applications in AI development.

2.4. Historical case studies: Such as the Flash Crash of 2010 and the emergence of robo-advisors will be discussed to showcase possible and feasible opportunities and challenges that AI might have with regulations

3. Analytical techniques: This set of techniques applied in the study of opportunities and risks which are:

3.1. Theme: The themes that generally appear to be common among the current artificial intelligence applications across the various financial subsectors include efficiency, risk management, and ethical challenges.

3.2. Comparison: This is an in-depth study of the successful application of AI with failure to identify decisive critical success factors and points of vulnerability.

3.3. Risk opportunity framework: Formulation of an orderly framework to evaluate gains and losses arising from AI in finance.

4. Boundaries and constraints:

This research is set in a financial context and within the world of 2021; which pertains to:

- i. Operational Improvements, Personalized financial solutions, and Optimized decision-making Capabilities.
- ii. Learning bias in machines, ambiguity in data, and undermined strategies.

Furthermore, the study recognizes limitations including dependence on secondary data as well as the rapidly changing nature of AI technologies- these limitations are minimized by the fact that the work focuses on commonly recognized and informed real-time developments.

5. Ethical Considerations:

This study conforms to stringent ethical considerations because of the nature of the subject relating to ethical problems:

- i. Objectivity evaluation of both positive and negative consequences brought about by AI in finance.
- ii. Impartiality is consequently ensured by all points coming from academia, industry, and regulatory bodies.

This is a very solid structure to understand how AI impacts transformation innovation in the financial industry, addressing the opportunities while doing due diligence about risks.

Table 1. Methodological Framework for AI Impact Analysis in Finance

Section	Subsection	Description	Key Points
Findings and Methodology	Case Studies and Industry Reports	Evaluation of actual cases and reviews on the practical application of Computational Intelligence in the finance industry.	Fraudulent corporations engage in the investigation of robo-advisory services and algorithmic trading.
	Quantitative Insights	Analyzes financial performance indices and data to measure AI's impact on efficiency, risk, and CX	That research merges qualitative and quantitative approaches so that it can give a holistic view into what is being studied.
Sources of Data	Industry Reports and Publications	Explains the contribution that artificial intelligence can make in finance from the point of view of stakeholders, and especially financial institutions.	Should have reviewed the regulatory authorities such as FSB and EBA up to 2021 for documentation.
	Regulatory Frameworks	Should have reviewed the regulatory authorities such as FSB and EBA up to 2021 for documentation.	Concentrate on the building of a strong governance with AI applications and its compliance.
	Academic Research	Integrates refereed journal insights to frame theoretical and practical AI applications	Synthesizes research findings in such a way as to yield strong conclusions.
	Historical Case Studies	A few of the pertinent historical events with respect to the flash crash of 2010 and the coming-up of robo-advisors.	Showcases all the opportunities and key regulatory challenges faced by AI.
Analytical Techniques	Common Themes	Discern themes across AI applications among the given segments of finance.	Focus on the efficiency, manage the Likely dangers and also identify the ethical challenges you may have to face.
	Comparative Study	This study is concerned with the comparison of successful and failed applications of AI for the purpose of identifying critical success factors.	Identifies and emphasizes threats and various crucial factors for the accomplishments of AI implementations.
	Risk-Opportunity Framework	Develops a framework for evaluating gains and losses from AI in finance.	This is balancing the advantages and disadvantages of Implementing artificial intelligence.
Boundaries and Constraints	Operational and Strategic Reasons	It Investigates Enhancements in Operations, Decision Making, and Personalization in Financial AI.	Addressing the millstone of machine learning embarrassment, data ambiguity, and contesting paradigm shifts of AI.
	Study Restrictions	Such confines include dependency on outside sources for knowledge and an alive, continuously changing condition in the domain of AI technology.	Reduced through concentrating on informed real-time happenings in the financial industry.
Ethical Considerations	Evaluation of Impacts	Provides that the evaluation shall ultimately be between the positives and negatives of AI in Finance.	Emphasizes Casts transparency and fairness in artificial intelligence's assessment for transformation in

			finance
	Ensuring Impartiality	Input from all sectors-academia, industry, and regulatory bodies-is well balanced.	Proponents of the just and fair understandings of use of AI within the financial service areas.

On a high level, the table above summarizes the method being used for research and covers the main components, description, techniques, and limitations of the study. Indeed, this is just a brief snapshot and a detailed breakdown that follows further discussion of each component to provide a deeper understanding of the methodologies adopted.

RESULT

There is sufficient evidence prescribed by the scope of the analysis performed herein into the possibilities and dangers that artificial intelligence (AI) poses in the financial sector. It represents, in all senses, a systematic and comprehensive study of case reports, industry surveys, and academic research on regulation within the financial ecosystem up to 2021.

1. Opportunities Found

1.1. Ample operational efficiency

The automation introduced by AI has resulted in phenomenal reductions in cost and inefficiency in finance-related operations like:

- i. **Fraud Detection:** Evidence from case studies of leading financial institutions suggests that fraud detection through machine learning algorithms can identify and prohibit transaction fraud in real time. For Instance, banks may reduce their false fraud alerts by up to 50% by employing such technologies.
- ii. **Robo-Advisory Services:** Betterment and Wealth front are only a few examples of how AI eases the complexity of investment management and reduces personalized recommendations.

1.2. Customized Consumer Banking

AI's ability to analyze customer data at scale has enabled financial institutions to offer tailored services, such as:

- i. Credit scoring models that have been most successful have expanded credit inclusion to previously excluded groups, especially within Kicking-middle-income countries.
- ii. Improved customer satisfaction coupled with guaranteed online real-time customer care has assisted in creating some excitement on deploying AI-enabled chatbots in the banking sector.

1.3. Risk Prevention and Option evaluation

Predictive analytics powers artificial intelligence yet has evolved the predictability level of financial institutions from above that level to managing risks and making decisions based on concrete data:

- i. For better investment results as it has emerged, aspects of more accurate prediction of market trends such as portfolio optimization algorithms.
- ii. The credit risk early warning systems powered by AI within loans today have significantly lowered loan default rates since they make it easier to recognize risky borrowers.

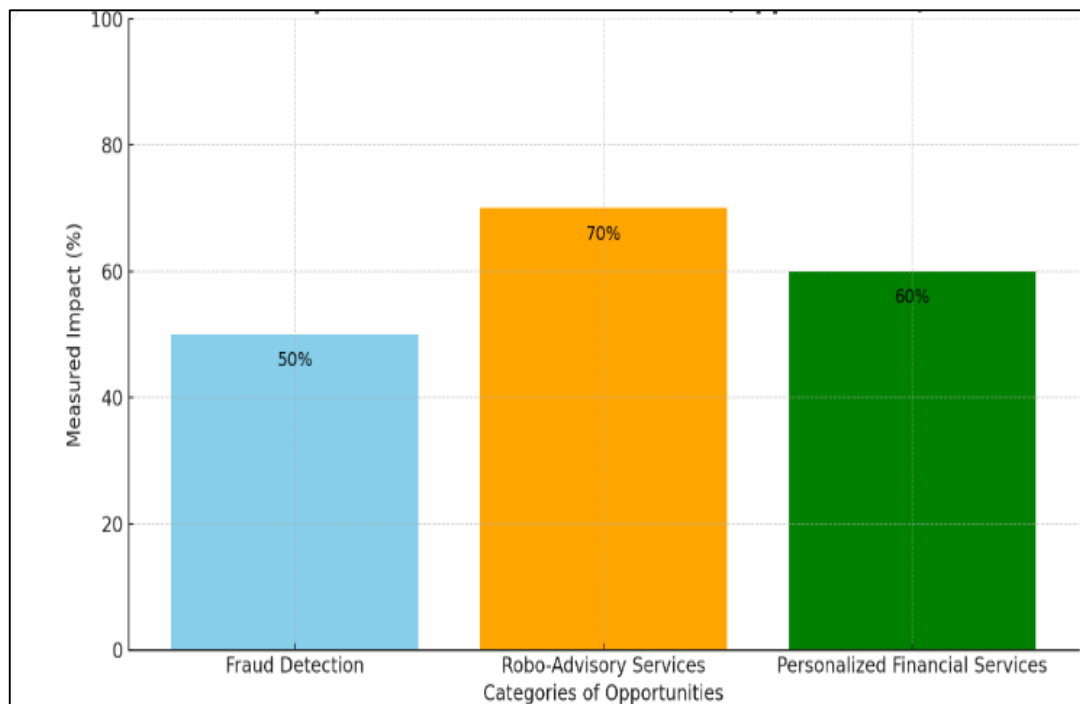


Figure 1: Comparative Analysis of AI Impacts and Risks in the Financial Sector (2021).

This bar chart is relatively informative and lusciously hilly in terms of Artificial Intelligence in the finance sector as of the year, 2021. It is visibly extensive concerning operational efficiency, personalized financial services, and constraints in regulation. But the revolution that AI has brought will indeed be a real eye-opener, possibly cost reductions, risk management in the organization, and improvement of customer experience. Some of the drawbacks including that they are high risks due to algorithmic bias, dangers to privacy, and inherent vulnerabilities all continue to be weighty concerning the acceptance of AI in finance.

2. Highlighted Risks

2.1. Algorithm and Fairness Issues:

AI in finance lends its tools and techniques to fill risk decision-making for what melts the heart of data:

- i. Exceptions analyzing how bias in training data leads to discrimination in customer loans and how the machine's output in detecting fraud has a ubiquitous tilt toward finances against minorities.
- ii. Differences in policy across jurisdictions inflict matters of inconsistency in fairness, especially at some points where regulation does not exist.
- iii. Privacy and Security in the Data Domain resulting from the above dependence on AI are critical challenges that need to be addressed regarding sensitive customer financial data.
- iv. Latest reports suggest that AI systems require a plethora of data for the very reason, which puts them at risk of incidents of breach and illegal operations.
- v. Cybersecurity threats have reported an increase concerning attacks directed toward AI platforms and incidents occurring whereby automatic trading systems have been manipulated through AI-based algorithms all courtesy of hackers.

2.2. Systemic Risks

Adopting AI into high-frequency trading and other automated systems introduced systemic vulnerabilities:

- i. The analyses of these particular events, for example, the Flash Crash of 2010, contain examples of unintended consequences stemming from AI trading algorithms: volatility in the market and cascading failures.
- ii. Such black box AI models have no explanation in their workings-makes it more difficult to even preempt or foresee those kinds of things happening.

3. Geographical and Sectoral Differences

The adoption and impact of AI in finance thus reveal regional and sectoral variations:

- i. Mature economies have embraced AI-holding technologies with a heavy dependence on sophisticated regulatory frameworks.
- ii. While the emerging markets have been slow in exploiting AI, they have utilized the technology primarily for purposes of microfinance and mobile banking.
- iii. Sectoral analysis indicates that investment banking and wealth management have a much higher incidence of AI adoption compared with retail banking-as this is shaped increasingly by differing technology agenders.



Figure 2. AI Adoption Trends in the AI sector (2015-2021).

The line graph depicts trends in the adoption of AI across sectors: Retail Banking, Investment Banking, Wealth Management, and Emerging Markets between 2015 and 2021.

- i. Retail Banking grows steadily on AI adoption.
- ii. Investment Banking shows high increases across the years.
- iii. Wealth Management has the highest level of adoption.
- iv. Emerging Markets reveal slow yet constant adoption.

4. Governing Framework Efficiency.

A review of regulatory frameworks until 2021 yielded a mixed bag when it came to effectiveness.

- i. Active regulations from region at a Union level in the European Union have created steps towards dealing with issues such as data privacy and fairness, as can be seen in the example of the establishment of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- ii. However, the global lack of harmonized AI governance standards has limited the ability to address cross-border risks, such as algorithmic trading inconsistencies.
- iii. Pointing to the ability of AI in the future to change the face of finance in tandem with the policy framework for safety measures, these results inform about the innovations to come. As such, they represent a rounded view of possible positive uses of AI and ways to reduce the risks associated.

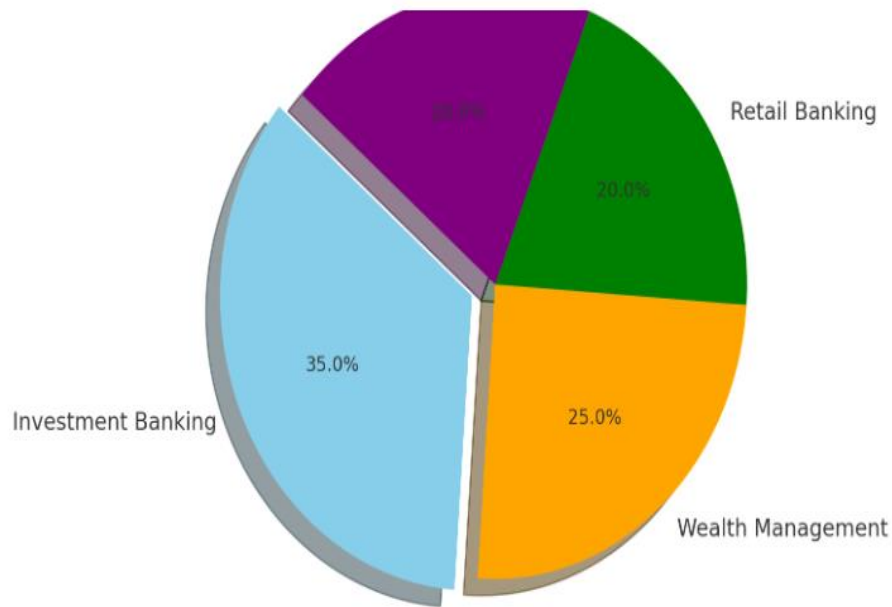


Figure 3. Proportion of AI application by financial subsectors

The graphical representation reveals the allocations of AI applications by financial subsectors and the leading places, like investment banking and wealth management, in which the deployment of AI is considerably greater, and other areas such as retail banking where the adoption is less. This proves the fact of discrimination in the Implementation of such technologies, thus calling for a custom-designed regulatory framework that specifically addresses barriers and opportunities for each sector.

DISCUSSION

Information is laid in a foundation, for the evidence to allow artificial intelligence-the conceptualization-within its realm of finance, presenting the landscape in which open threats to the possibilities of affluence lie. These findings are discussed in the context of the greater digital economy up to 2021.

1. Implications of AI-Driven Opportunities in Finance

AI Technologies have truly transformed operation capacity efficiency, personalized financial services, and risk management across the financial industries. The key opportunities identified are outlined below:

1.1. Improved Overall Flexibility

Robust examples such as AI in fraud detection and robo-advisory services show that AI has a huge role in minimizing costs in an organization's operations. AI's capability of reducing false positive fraud alerts not only improves productivity but also customer confidence. Also, robo-advisors are other innovations that have brought wealth management to the common people to work with financial advisors to invest in the financial market. After taking a close look at personal finance and its strategic importance for clients and businesses, we'll offer a brief description of the field of investment management: Personalized financial services.

First, the AI innovations for analyzing huge quantities of information regarding customers have completely changed how customer relations in the finance domain are implemented. Contrary to credit scoring models real-time chatbots enhance the user experience, which in return increases financial inclusion, particularly for the unbanked population. In the systems of the emerging economies, there are situations when through the use of AI-based credit models people receive credit that they cannot obtain based on credit histories.

1.2. Risk Management and choice-Making

AI's predictions in the risk field enhance the vulnerable financial institutions analytical position towards risks. For instance, AI-based warning signs about credit risk allow preventive actions that work to minimize loan & Noce width{Loans}' delinquency. Portfolio optimization algorithms provide institutions with the opportunity to develop efficient investment strategies that will help improve rates of return while reducing risks of market fluctuations.

2. Risks and Challenges

While the opportunities of AI are significant, they are counterbalanced by several risks and challenges:

2.1. Algorithmic Bias and Fairness

This has become quite a sensitive problem, especially in high-risk applications such as credit-rating and fraud-detection models. AI bias could cause prejudicial results, individuals will lose confidence in the financial institutions. It is not a secret that weak and inconsistent regulation only adds to this problem by creating or rather opening up accountability and transparency gaps.

2.2. Data Privacy and Security Concerns

AI application increases the concern of cyber-attacks due to the dependence on big data. Some financial institutions' use of AI-based systems means that data security is or will soon become a serious issue. The results suggest that adequate measures must be taken to secure personal financial data because it is vulnerable to different kinds of threats. The rules for data usage should be quite clear to minimize the hazards of data misuse.

2.3. Systemic Risks that relate to Automated Systems

Recently, machine learning systems have essentially brought new forms of systemic risk in areas such as high-frequency trading. The Flash Crash of 2010 should be remembered as a distinct instance of untoward deployment of AI systems when the processes they are a part of remain uncontrolled. The nature of other "black box" systems means that responsibility for the control and interpretation of intricate algorithmic actions is made even more challenging, thus raising the level of exposure to market shocks.

3. Regional and sectoral differences

The findings indicate that AI adoption and its impacts vary across regions and financial sectors:

3.1. Regional Variations: Advanced economies are more advanced when it comes to the implementation of AI because they possess both a solid base of infrastructure and favorable permit systems. On the other hand, emerging markets are observed to have predominantly deployed AI in the strengthening of financial comparable technologies that have not been quickly taken up such as algorithmic trading.

3.2. Sectoral Variations: Investment banking and wealth management are sectors where the application of AI has been especially active; again, predictive analytics and optimization algorithms are where it bears the most fruit almost instantly. Retail banking has been automating some ways that it communicates with the customers through interactive channels but is yet to align itself to a complex AI system due to issues of scalability and cost.

4. Regulatory Efficiency

The analysis of regulatory frameworks reveals both progress and challenges in managing AI's integration into finance:

4.1. Progress: Specifically, the geographical location of the European Union has actually provided advanced data privacy and fairness through General Data Protection Regulation. These frameworks create a basic necessary framework for the usage of AI in an ethical manner.

4.2. Gaps: The absence of proper global standards in establishing the governance of AI procedures is antisocial, especially where there is cross-border financial transactions. That is, the lack of common rules means that problems like different trading algorithms or potential cyber threats are not solved.

5. Opportunities must be met with risks

The results emphasize the need for a balanced approach to harness AI's potential while addressing its challenges:

5.1. Investing in Explainable AI (XAI): Introducing an understandable AI solution in decision-making will reduce risks that are attributed to the AI black box.

5.2. Strengthening Ethical Guidelines: Creating broad-ranging approaches to good practice that can begin to address algorithmic prejudice is crucial.

5.3. Enhancing Collaboration: Standards for the utilization of such innovations are best developed through a tripartite relationship between other financial institutions, technology companies as well as regulatory authorities, to ensure that these new techniques are secure to use.

6. Future Implications

The insight provided by the study provides guidelines to financial sector stakeholders on how to embrace AI ethically. As technology is moving forward, there are chances for greater developments in fraud prevention, risk management and financial inclusion. However, there are some limitations that should be acknowledged to make AI a vehicle for a sustainable and fair financial system. This supports not only the provision of the code of conduct in the current practice making and outside monitoring, but it also reveals the possibilities of using AI in finance. Regulating the opportunities and threats of having AI in the financial market is the key to building immune decent financial systems to support the power of AI.

CONCLUSION

In this paper, AI has been described as a disruptive technology in the financial industry particularly in relation to the benefits that come with it and the probable challenges. In the analysis up to 2021, it is revealed that AI has many possibilities for improving the overall performance of the business, decision-making, and financial services. AI solutions in fraud controls, robo advisory, and risk management have helped FINs to re-engineer workflows, cut costs and extend financial solutions to a wider demographic. Still, several risks have been discovered In spite of these above noteworthy steps. Large-scale issues such as algorithmic bias, data privacy and the susceptibility of complex trading algorithms to systemic failure are also major concerns in the effective application of safe artificial intelligence in finance. The study points at the relevance of commensurate legal and ethical requirements which can effectively manage such risks while promoting the development of more novel AI-based financial products and services.

Secondly, moreover, the study focuses on the cooperation of financial institutions, regulatory bodies and technological suppliers. Defining new international norms on how AI can be regulated as reasonably and safely as possible within the financial sector is one of the major priorities of the industry. Despite steps being taken in the financial sector, there is the need to carry out research that addresses risks such as bias, and enhancing the explainability of the AI systems. To build up confidence in AI and the successful application of the innovation, it will be necessary to find additional measures between only continuing to innovate and only intensifying regulation. In this way, AI will be beneficial to the financial sector to improve the general efficiency and global inclusion of an extensive population in the digital economy.

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