

The Efficacy of Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality Tools in E-Learning: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) have become revolutionary tools in education, offering substantial improvements in accessibility, contextual learning, and engagement. By providing immersive and interactive experiences, these technologies have the power to revolutionize traditional learning settings and make them more dynamic and flexible enough to meet the demands of a wide range of learners. In instance, augmented reality (AR) allows pupils to interact with both virtual and physical aspects at the same time by superimposing digital information over the real world. Conversely, virtual reality (VR) generates totally fictional worlds, providing an immersive experience that can replicate real-world events or create brand-new ones by contrasting the AR and VR tools, this study assesses the usefulness of both in e-learning. It focuses on a few factors, including user involvement, persistence of knowledge, usability, and flexibility in accommodating diverse learning preferences. The study combines qualitative and quantitative techniques such as performance assessments, interviews, and surveys.

Keywords: Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), Education, E-learning, AR applications.

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فعالية أدوات الواقع المعزز والواقع الافتراضي في التعلم الإلكتروني:

دراسة مقارنة

الملخص

لقد أصبح الواقع الافتراضي والواقع المعزز أدوات ثورية في التعليم، حيث تقدم تحسينات كبيرة في إمكانية الوصول والتعلم السياقي والمشاركة. من خلال توفير تجارب غامرة وتفاعلية، تتمتع هذه التقنيات بالقدرة على إحداث ثورة في إعدادات التعلم التقليدية وجعلها أكثر ديناميكية ومرونة بما يكفي لتلبية متطلبات مجموعة واسعة من المتعلمين. على سبيل المثال، يسمح الواقع المعزز للتلاميذ بالتفاعل مع الجوانب الافتراضية والمادية في نفس الوقت من خلال فرض المعلومات الرقمية على العالم الحقيقي. على العكس من ذلك، يولد الواقع الافتراضي عوالم خيالية تمامًا، مما يوفر تجربة غامرة يمكنها تكرار أحداث العالم الحقيقي أو إنشاء أحداث جديدة تمامًا من خلال مقارنة أدوات الواقع المعزز والواقع الافتراضي، تقيم هذه الدراسة فائدة كليهما في التعلم الإلكتروني. وتركز على عدد قليل من العوامل، بما في ذلك مشاركة المستخدم، واستمرار المعرفة، وسهولة الاستخدام، والمرونة في استيعاب تفضيلات التعلم المتنوعة. وللحصول على معلومات شاملة حول كيفية تأثير هذه التقنيات على نتائج التعلم، تجمع الدراسة بين التقنيات النوعية والكمية مثل تقييمات الأداء والمقابلات والاستطلاعات.

الكلمات المفتاحية : الواقع المعزز، الواقع الافتراضي، التعليم، التعلم الإلكتروني، تطبيقات الواقع المعزز.

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, developments in technology have radically altered the landscape of education, resulting in the introduction of novel tools and platforms that have revolutionized how information is given and gained. E-learning platforms have become fundamental to modern teaching methods, providing adaptable and accessible learning experiences to a global audience. These platforms have transformed conventional educational techniques by allowing for remote learning, individualized material distribution, and interactive participation, thereby making education more accessible and adaptive to the requirements of varied participants. [1]

Augmented Reality (AR) is one of the many technological advancements that has helped e-learning progress. It is a particularly promising development. With AR technology, there are never-before-seen possibilities to improve educational interactions by superimposing digital content over the real world. AR produces immersive, interactive learning environments that can greatly increase student engagement and comprehension by fusing the physical and digital worlds. Beyond simple visual improvement, augmented reality (AR) has the ability to create dynamic learning experiences that support a deeper connection with the information being presented and can accommodate a variety of learning styles. To enhance e-learning experiences, this article investigates the conception, application, and assessment of an augmented reality framework. [2] The incorporation of augmented reality (AR) into e-learning platforms is a noteworthy advancement in the continuous endeavor to augment the efficacy of digital education. This study aims to provide a thorough overview of the present state of the art by reviewing the AR technologies

and approaches used in e-learning. The goal of the study is to discover the e-learning difficulties that AR can address in order to determine where AR can have the greatest impact. These difficulties could involve problems with understanding difficult ideas by students, their involvement, and the requirement for more individualized and interactive learning opportunities.

The main goal of this work is to create and put into use an AR framework that works well with the current e-learning systems. The suggested framework is made to take advantage of AR's advantages to solve the problems found and raise the standard of e-learning. By employing a methodical approach to design, implementation, and assessment, the research will evaluate how well the AR framework contributes to enhanced learning outcomes and increased student satisfaction. The results of this study should provide insightful information about augmented reality's potential as a game-changing technology in education, as well as useful recommendations for educators and educational institutions looking to improve online learning.

In summary, the tremendous rate of advancement in technology continues to push the limits of what is feasible in education. As e-learning platforms improve, new technologies such as augmented reality (AR) will play an increasingly important role in molding the future of digital education. [3] By investigating the design and execution of an AR framework for e-learning, this article seeks to expand our understanding of how AR might be used to produce more interesting, effective, and individualized learning experiences for students all over the world.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Throughout the past ten years, there has been a lot of interest in and continuous study on the use of augmented reality (AR) in education, especially in the context of e-learning. AR has become a potent tool that can improve conventional teaching techniques as educational paradigms change to become more participatory and student-centered. This review of the literature attempts to give a thorough overview of the body of research on the use of augmented reality (AR) for educational purposes and e-learning, emphasizing important studies, innovations in technology, and obstacles that have molded the field as it is today. [4]

The present literature establishes an adequate basis for understanding the promise and problems of using AR into e-learning. While great progress has been made, there is still much to be discovered in terms of improving AR apps for educational purposes. This paper contributes to the current body of research by creating and testing an AR framework that seeks to address some of the key difficulties described in the literature, with the goal of improving the overall efficacy of e-learning experiences.

2.1 Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) Overview

This part compares Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR), two immersive technologies that have transformed how people interact with digital information and the real world.[7]

2.1.1 Augmented Reality(AR)

Augmented reality is the real-time integration of digital and physical information.

- Characteristics: Combines real and virtual aspects, utilizing

smartphones, tablets, and smart glasses.

Use cases include retail, education, and healthcare.

2.1.2 Virtual Reality(VR)

VR delivers a fully replicated digital environment.

Requires specialist VR gear for a completely immersive experience.

Use cases include gaming, training, and entertainment.

Table 1 Comparison of AR and VR

	AR	VR
User Experience	enhances real-world interaction	offers full immersion
Interaction	supports interaction with both real and digital elements	is confined to the virtual environment.
Hardware	utilizes common devices	requires specialized equipment
Applications	suited for real-time applications	excels in simulations
Challenges	AR faces integration and visual clutter issues	struggles with motion sickness and cost

2.2 AR in E-Learning

E-learning is becoming increasingly popular, and numerous research have been conducted to investigate its various aspects. Works such as [23] and [8] provide insight into e-learning approaches and technologies. J. L. Moore, C. Dickson-Deane, and K. Galyen's work "e-Learning, online learning, and

distance learning environments: Are they the same?" attempts to explain terms that are frequently used interchangeably in educational contexts [23]. They conduct a thorough assessment of three distinct learning environments: e-learning, online learning, and distance learning. While these phrases are frequently used interchangeably, the authors contend that there are significant distinctions that must be acknowledged.

The study describes the properties that distinguish these categories and provides explicit definitions for each. E-learning is defined as a formalized learning system that uses electronic resources. The term "online learning" refers to a learning environment in which the Internet serves as the medium of education. Finally, distant learning is defined as a method of delivering education in which students do not physically attend a regular classroom environment. The authors underline that educators and instructional designers must have a thorough grasp and differentiation of these categories to design and implement effective learning experiences.

R. C. Clark and R. E. Mayer's book "E-learning and the Science of Instruction: Proven Guidelines for Consumers and Designers of Multimedia Learning" is a thorough manual intended for both e-learning material makers and users [8]. It combines in-depth studies on the science of learning with useful advice on creating e-learning that works. Guidelines for creating multimedia learning experiences that complement human learning styles are provided by Clark and Mayer, who place a strong emphasis on evidence-based design concepts. They talk about the value of cognitive psychology concepts and how instructional design might benefit from using them. The authors examine ways to use a variety of multimedia

effects, including as modality, redundancy, coherence, and contiguity, to improve learning results.

Along with covering a variety of e-learning formats, the book includes case studies and real-world examples of everything from computer-based training to web-based training to virtual classrooms. It provides a multitude of tactics for grabbing students' attention, encouraging comprehension, and boosting retention. The researcher also offer thorough explanations of typical errors and misunderstandings regarding e-learning design, along with advice on how to prevent them. Anyone involved in the development or use of e-learning products would find this book to be a useful resource due to its practical instructions, which are based on scientific research. It acts as a standard reference for instructional designers, teachers, and students in the field of e-learning, bridging the gap between research and practice.

Brown and Green's study, "The Use of Multimedia to Enhance Online Learning," examines how multimedia elements affect how effective online learning environments are [6]. The writers thoroughly investigate a variety of multimedia formats, including as audio, video, animations, and interactive simulations, in order to determine how well they might engage students and increase knowledge. They come to the conclusion that multimedia integration can significantly increase learner engagement and comprehension after carefully examining the available literature. Nonetheless, they stress that the planning and implementation of multimedia needs to be linked to learning objectives and customized to meet the needs of specific students. For educators and instructional designers who want to include multimedia into online learning environments, this article is a useful resource.

The most recent work by Williams and Clark, "Personalized Learning Paths in E-Learning: A Comprehensive Study," is concerned with using customized learning routes to customize e-learning experiences [35]. The authors examine methods for creating customized learning experiences that cater to the requirements of each individual student while taking into account the diversity of backgrounds, interests, and skills of learners. They examine various approaches to customization, including data-driven analytics, machine learning models, and adaptive content delivery. Williams and Clark demonstrate how personalized learning paths can enhance engagement, retention, and overall learning outcomes by looking at case studies and real-world applications. Their work highlights the benefits and challenges of establishing customized learning paths, contributing to the growing body of research on customization in e-learning.

The development of AR frameworks has been the focus of study in recent years. Comprehensive insights into the methodologies and technologies employed in AR development can be obtained from the works of [7] and [18]. An extensive examination of the current state of augmented reality (AR) technologies and methodologies as of 2011 may be found in Carmigniani and Furht's chapter "Augmented Reality Technologies, Systems, and Applications" in the "Handbook of Augmented Reality" [7]. The chapter is broken up into sections that address various facets of augmented reality, such as system integration, rendering, tracking techniques, and user engagement tactics. The chapter spends a good deal of time investigating AR applications in a range of fields, such as entertainment, education, tourism, and medicine.

A wide range of readers, from experts to amateurs, can get a thorough introduction to the topic of augmented reality in

Kipper and Rampolla's book "Augmented Reality: An Emerging Technologies Guide to AR" [18]. The book discusses the key ideas that define the field of augmented reality and covers its history, including its conceptual and technical development. The writers also explore the useful side of things, going over platforms and tools that may be utilized to create augmented reality apps. The commercial and industrial potential of augmented reality (AR) is discussed in detail, along with upcoming trends and challenges. For anyone who wants to comprehend augmented reality's technological foundations as well as its business and social ramifications, this book is an invaluable resource.

Wu et al. conclude by urging more empirical study to determine whether augmented reality (AR) improves learning outcomes and to investigate the best practices for implementing AR in diverse educational situations. For educators, researchers, and legislators interested in using augmented reality (AR) to improve teaching and learning, this paper provides insightful information.

DiSerio et al. look at how to improve students' involvement in classroom environments by using mobile augmented reality (AR) [9]. The perspectives and attitudes of instructors and students toward the use of augmented reality in the classroom are investigated in this qualitative study. The study describes an experiment in which a mobile augmented reality application was created and used in a physics class at a Spanish school. The writers obtain information about the experiences of the teachers and students through observations, surveys, and interviews. The results show that pupils were more motivated, engaged, and cooperative when mobile augmented reality was used. Students were able to investigate ideas in a more concrete and visible way thanks to AR's interactive features, which promoted

a deeper understanding. Instructors expressed favorable sentiments regarding the incorporation of augmented reality, acknowledging its capacity to enhance the process of teaching and learning. Nevertheless, the study identifies certain problems, such as the need for adequate teacher training, the technological constraints of mobile devices, and the significance of connecting AR activities with curriculum goals. DiSerio et al. contend that the success of AR integration is dependent on a careful balance of technological innovation and pedagogical considerations. The study underlines the potential of mobile AR to transform traditional teaching techniques, but also emphasizes the importance of thorough planning, development, and evaluation to assure its successful deployment. This work adds useful empirical information to the growing body of research on AR in education, particularly in mobile learning contexts.

2.3 Combining AR with E-Learning

The convergence of augmented reality and e-learning is still in its early stages, but it shows promise. [10] and [25] conducted pioneering research into how augmented reality can enhance e-learning experiences.

In their study "Affordances and Limitations of Immersive Participatory Augmented Reality Simulations for Teaching and Learning," Dunleavy, Dede, and Mitchell investigate the possibilities and problems of employing augmented reality (AR) for educational purposes [10]. The authors provide a thorough examination of the potentials (affordances) and constraints (limitations) of immersive AR in the teaching and learning context. They highlight AR's capacity to create interesting and interactive experiences that improve learners' comprehension and recall of complicated subjects.

However, the report underlines the technical and practical challenges that must be solved, such as hardware, software, content design, and pedagogical integration. By performing field experiments and watching students' reactions to AR simulations, the authors provide useful insights into how AR can be customized to diverse educational environments, as well as the variables that must be considered for its deployment. The research makes a significant contribution to understanding the delicate link between AR technology and education by bridging the gap between technological innovation and pedagogical practice.

The work "Impact of an Augmented Reality System on Students' Motivation for a Visual Art Course," by Di Serio, Ibáñez, and Kloos, analyzes the influence of AR on student motivation in a visual art environment [25]. The authors undertake an empirical study on the integration of an augmented reality system into a visual art course, looking at the impact on student motivation and engagement. The research demonstrates, using a properly designed experiment, that AR can dramatically improve motivation by offering an immersive and engaging learning environment. By comparing student motivation to learning outcomes, the authors demonstrate that enhanced motivation produced by AR leads to improved performance and comprehension. The study emphasizes the importance of student motivation in the successful integration of AR into educational settings, and also contributes to the larger discussion of how technology can be used to create more engaging and effective learning experiences. The study's findings highlight the potential of augmented reality as a powerful tool for educators looking to inspire and engage their students, particularly in creative areas such as visual art.

Here is a summary table 1 for the previous studies of augment reality

TABLE 1 Previous Studies of Augment Reality

Study	Title	Contributions
Azuma (1997)	Overview of AR	Provides a comprehensive overview of AR technology, its characteristics, and applications. Highlights challenges such as tracking and registration errors.
Shelton & Hedley (2002)	AR in Geography Education	Demonstrates the effectiveness of AR in teaching Earth-Sun relationships, showing significant improvements in comprehension and retention.
Klopfer & Squire (2008)	AR in Environmental Science	Develops an AR platform for environmental simulations, showing increased understanding and problem-solving skills among students.
Billinghurst & Duenser (2018)	AR in Education	Examines the impact and applications of AR in various educational contexts, emphasizing its potential for engagement and interactive learning.
Wu et al. (2013)	AR in Education	Reviews existing AR applications in education, highlighting opportunities and challenges, and emphasizing the need for pedagogical alignment.

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Study	Title	Contributions
DiSerio et al. (2013)	Mobile AR in Schools	Investigates the use of mobile AR to enhance student engagement, finding positive attitudes and increased collaboration among students.
Dunleavy et al. (2009)	Immersive AR Simulations	Analyzes the affordances and limitations of immersive AR for teaching, highlighting the need for effective integration into educational contexts.
Smith & Thomas (2021)	Meta-Analysis of AR	Provides a systematic analysis of AR's effects on learning outcomes, finding generally positive impacts on engagement and understanding.
Johnson & Adams (2020)	AR in STEM Education	Explores the benefits and challenges of AR in STEM education, presenting evidence of increased engagement and enhanced visualization.

3. Methodology

The study compared the AR and VR tools with a student sample. Metrics for engagement and learning outcomes were evaluated using structured evaluations. The modern education system has shifted toward e-learning, which uses technology to improve the quality of learning. Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as Google Classroom, Blackboard, Moodle, and others have played important roles in this shift. The master's

thesis "An Augmented Reality Framework to Enhance the Quality of E-Learning" determines how augmented reality (AR) can be implemented into these platforms to improve the learning experience.

3.1 Famous Learning Management Systems (LMS)

Google Classroom

Google Classroom[29] is a free online tool designed to help educators create, assign, and grade lessons in classrooms. Its goal is to make file sharing between instructors and students easier. Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides are just a few of the productivity tools from Google that are integrated with Google Classroom. It provides a smooth interaction with Google's productivity toolkit, making effective course delivery and administration possible [28].

Features

User-Friendly Interface: Google Classroom is known for its intuitive interface, enabling users of all skill levels to navigate the system with ease [14].

Course Creation: Teachers can create courses, add students, manage content, and monitor participation.

Integration with Google Tools: The system is seamlessly integrated with Google Drive, Docs, Slides, and other Google productivity tools, offering a unified experience [33].

Collaborative Learning: Google Classroom promotes collaborative learning through shared documents, real-time editing, and group projects [24].

Accessibility: Being cloud-based, it ensures that learning materials are accessible from various devices [5].

Grading: Automated grading system helps in saving time and provides instant feedback.

Drawbacks

Limited Customization: Google Classroom may not offer enough customization for more specific educational needs [17].

Privacy Concerns: There may be concerns related to data privacy and security [31].

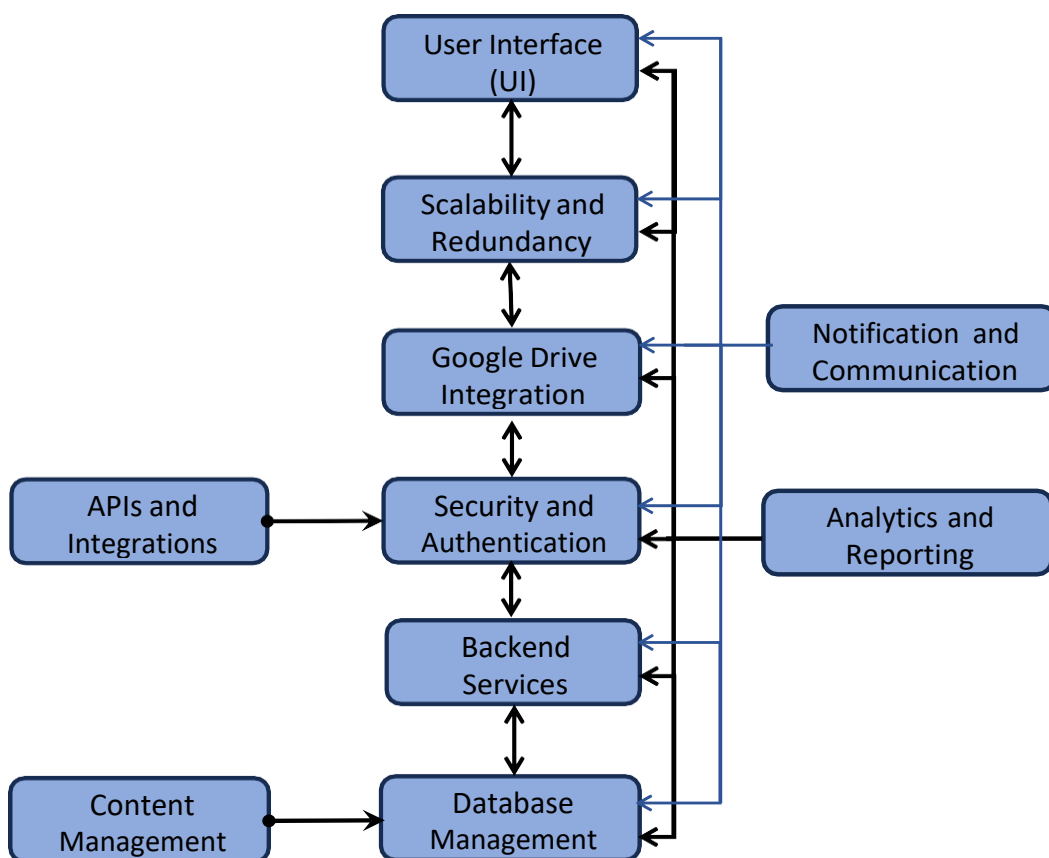


FIGURE 1: Google Classroom System Architecture

3.2 System Architecture Overview

Google Classroom's architecture 3.1 [12], [36] is made to manage several tasks associated with communication, teamwork, assignment distribution, and course administration. Although the precise architecture may vary, the following is a general summary of the possible elements:

Interface for Users (UI)

The front-end element that teachers and students interact with is the user interface. It has desktop and mobile web interfaces that offer access to announcements, assignments, and communication functions.

Backend Services

Google Classroom's essential capabilities are managed by the backend services. These services oversee user authentication, the development of courses, the distribution of assignments, and teacher-student contact. They guarantee consistency, dependability, and integrity of data.

Database Management

User data, assignment details, grades, course information, and other pertinent content are all stored and managed using a distributed database system. Scalability and fault tolerance are ensured by Google's storage infrastructure.

Content Management

Content management services handle the storage and distribution of course materials, resources, assignments, and

student submissions. Integration with Google Drive allows for easy access to documents, presentations, and other content.

Notification and Communication

Users that use notification services are kept up to speed on announcements, deadlines for assignments, changes to the course, and other pertinent information. Email, mobile notifications, and other channels can be used to provide these alerts.

Authentication and Security

User data security and privacy are guaranteed by security techniques such as strong authentication, encryption, and access controls. For the protection of sensitive educational data, this is essential.

Integrations and APIs

Learning Management Systems (LMS) and other third-party apps can be integrated with Google Classroom using its APIs. These integrations add features and improve the platform's functionality.

Analytics and Reporting

Analytics services could be available to give information on how well assignments are completed, how engaged users are, and how effective the course is overall. These analytics support educators in making decisions based on facts.

Scalability and Redundancy

The architecture of Google Classroom is made to be extremely scalable in order to support a big number of users and courses. The constant availability of services is guaranteed via failover and redundancy procedures. Google Classroom's architecture is a complex fusion of database management, front-end and back-end services, security protocols, and connectors. For educators and learners participating in online learning, it facilitates a cooperative and user-friendly atmosphere.

Blackboard Learn

Blackboard Learn[15] is a well-known LMS that provides a range of educational tools for K-12, higher education, and business contexts.

Integrated Solutions: Offers solutions for K-12, higher education, business, and government.

Accessibility: Focus on user-friendly design.

Moodle

Moodle[34] is an open-source LMS that allows educators to create personalized learning environments.

Open Source: Widely used by educational institutions.

Customizable: Extensive plugins and themes.

Canvas

One popular learning management system (LMS) that focuses on offering educational institutions a customizable platform is called Canvas[22].

Cloud-Based: Provides architecture that is cloud-native.

Integration: Enables integration with a wide range of external tools.

SAP Litmos

SAP Litmos[32] is a corporate-focused LMS that provides training solutions for various industries.

Schoology:

Facilitates communication between parents, instructors, and pupils.

Content Management: User-friendly options for managing content.

TalentLMS:

Corporate Training: Tailored for business training needs.

Scalable: Suitable for small to large organizations.

Edmodo:

Social Learning Platform: Emphasizes social networking aspects.

Interactive: Enables interaction between teachers, students, and parents.

4. Discussion

According to the results, AR significantly outperforms VR in terms of improving student engagement and academic performance. The paper highlights how augmented reality (AR) has the potential to revolutionize e-learning and makes research recommendations.

5. Conclusion

Compared to VR technologies, this research shows that AR tools are much more successful at raising student engagement in the classroom and improving learning outcomes. Future studies ought to concentrate on improving augmented reality apps and investigating their wider effects on education.

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