

REGARDING EDUCATION, VIRTUAL REALITY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO HUMAN PERCEPTION

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ABSTRACT

The introduction of virtual reality (VR) has been a game-changer in the classroom, as it has enabled teachers to provide pupils with experiences that are interactive and immersive, and that imitate the way the human senses function. Students are immersed in a realistic environment that they can interact with via sight, hearing, and touch through the use of virtual reality (VR), which contributes to improvements in cognitive skills such as memory, attention, and problem-solving capability. This article explores the link between virtual reality (VR) and human perception as it relates to education. It does so by using visual and spatial simulations. The essay demonstrates how VR has the ability to improve learning results by simplifying concepts that would otherwise be difficult to understand. The ability of virtual reality to transfer users to other worlds makes it an excellent tool for use in the classroom, particularly in instances where more accurate simulations of real-world scenarios would be either difficult or impossible to implement. Students have the opportunity to get hands-on experience in fields such as engineering and medicine via the use of virtual reality (VR), which also enables them to undertake virtual field trips to historical locales. They have a better understanding of theoretical topics as a result of this. These immersive experiences, which cater to numerous learning styles, including kinaesthetic, visual, and auditory learners, make education more customised and inclusive. They also make sure that everyone has the opportunity to participate. Active learning, in which students actively interact with the content rather than just taking it in, is another way that virtual reality may promote learning to pupils.

Keywords: Virtual Reality, Technology, Game-Changing, School

INTRODUCTION

The game-changing technology known as virtual reality, sometimes abbreviated as VR, gives users the ability to interact with virtual environments in real time. In order to do this, it generates digital landscapes that are full of immersive experiences. For the purpose of delivering experiences that are not just substantial but also realistic, this technology takes advantage of human perception, including the senses of sight, hearing, and touch. The entertainment industry, healthcare, and, more recently, education have all been effectively

transformed by virtual reality (VR), which has been successful in revolutionising a broad variety of sectors. This is accomplished by establishing a connection between the actual world and the virtual world.

The link between virtual reality (VR) and human perception is found in the fact that VR has the ability to engage people via sensory inputs that are similar to experiences that they would have in the real world. Through the use of various pieces of hardware, such as virtual reality headsets and haptic feedback tools, individuals are able to manipulate and explore virtual worlds. They are able to effectively avoid the limitations that are connected with traditional learning environments as a result of this. Setting for virtual reality (VR), for example, has the capability to replicate complex scenarios, such as historical events, laboratory research, or architectural designs, which would otherwise be impossible to access or costly to see firsthand. This is because VR settings have the potential to recreate these situations. This is in line with the experiential learning paradigm, which puts a focus on learning via interaction with events that are based on the actual world.

The use of virtual reality in the area of education gives opportunities that cannot be matched in terms of enhancing student engagement, comprehension, and retention of information. Virtual reality has the capacity to suit a broad variety of learning styles, including auditory, visual, and kinaesthetic learners. This is accomplished by immersing students in simulations that are not only realistic but also interesting. The capacity to simulate situations that occur in the actual world is another factor that contributes to the development of abilities in critical thinking and problem-solving. Learners are given the chance to hone their skills and hone their abilities in a situation that is not only secure but also under their control. By way of instance, students of medical are able to carry out operations virtually, while students of engineering are able to construct and test prototypes without the inconvenience of physical risks or constraints on resources. Both of these capabilities are available to students.

OBJECTIVES

1. To improve e-Learning strategies in the field of training by building intelligent VR universes (VLE).
2. To perform similar investigation on the distinctive instructive strategies to concentrate on the adequacy of the created modules.

VIRTUAL REALITY IN EDUCATION

Users are able to engage with a three-dimensional model or virtual environment that has been created by a computer via the use of a technology that is frequently referred to as virtual reality, or VR for short. It is feasible that this world is realistic in the sense that it is known to us on a macroscopic scale. Such a scenario would be considered realistic. It is also feasible that it is realistic in the sense that it depicts the physical world in the way that science is able to describe it, but in a way that is not generally apparent. As an alternative, it may be used to picture a world that is entirely fabricated in one's imagination. In light of this, virtual reality has already been used in a broad variety of educational subjects, including the sciences, archaeology, history, and architecture, among others. It provides a wide range of applications and has previously utilised these applications. The student is given the opportunity to experience subject matter that would be difficult, if not

impossible, to explain or describe using traditional techniques of presentation. This opportunity is presented to the learner. There are several benefits that virtual reality has over more conventional methods of description, and this is one of them. In the context of this essay, we assert that the experiencing component of virtual reality, in combination with its other primary component, interactivity, provides a helpful support to the conventional learning paradigms that are now in use. The purpose of this chapter is to provide you with an understanding of the manner in which a virtual reality experience is presented by providing a brief description of some of the most common virtual reality settings. We also address, from the viewpoints of cognitive and sensory psychology, the reasons why learning may be facilitated by interactive multi-sensory systems, and we provide specific cases of the utilisation of virtual reality in educational contexts.

MULTI-SENSORY INTERACTION – A SOUND BASIS FOR LEARNING

Play is the first step in a child's educational journey, even at a young age. Due to the fact that it has little control over its limbs, it begins to learn about its surroundings by reaching out, touching, staring, smelling, and tasting whatever is in its surroundings. A child is able to retain information and generate categories and concepts out of what at first look seems to be random and fragmented signals because it learns to make sense of the world by employing all of its senses. This helps the toddler to learn to make sense of the environment. Even in old age, perception and action are necessary components of the learning process. This section provides an explanation of how virtual reality (VR) technology may be used to improve learning by providing a high-level overview of sensory perception as well as the link between perception and action.

The Senses

Each of the five senses—sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell—provides information that is distinct from the others for a variety of important reasons. When it comes to virtual reality, the senses of sight, touch, and hearing are the ones that are used the most, thus we will be focussing on those perceptions. Due to the fact that it provides us with a large deal of information about both ourselves and our surroundings, vision is the most versatile sense. In addition to this, it functions as a medium of commerce and is used for the purposes of identification and recognition. The human visual system takes in information from a wide variety of sensory inputs. In order to perceive depth, for example, in spatial perception (the sensation of distances and forms), it makes use of stereopsis, which is the ability to combine images from both eyes. The disparities, also known as horizontal misalignments, that scale with depth in the fused retinal images of the two eyes are how the visual system records the relative depth of things. There is a phenomena known as motion parallax that enables the sensing of relative depth. This phenomenon occurs when objects that are in close proximity to the head of the observer travel across the retina at a faster rate in response to the movement of the head. Additionally, the visual system takes into consideration what are referred to as "pictorial cues," which include things like occlusion, shading, perspective, and other similar elements, in order to get a deeper comprehension of shape and relative depth. We are able to navigate and grasp our surroundings by integrating all of these visual information, which allows us to do so under usual settings.

Multisensory Perception and Sensory Integration

The environment is the source of a significant portion of the sensory information that we utilise on a daily basis. A neurophysiologist named Sherrington differentiated human perceptual experiences into three separate types, which are as follows:

1. Extrasensory perception (exteroception)
2. Perceptions that depict the position and movement of the body (proprioception)
3. Perceptions that originate inside the body (interoception)

We are going to refer to this system of perception and movement as the sensorimotor system, and the first two types of feelings are the ones that are most significant for the accomplishment of our objectives. Exteroception is dependent on the primary senses of sight, touch, taste, and other senses that have been stated before. The vestibular sense, which is responsible for providing you with a sensation of equilibrium, and kinaesthesia are the two components that make up proprioception. Generally speaking, the exteroceptive senses have an effect on these proprioceptive inputs, and they also have an effect on the proprioceptive inputs. The integration of information from the exteroceptive senses is very helpful for understanding input from the outside world and reacting rapidly to stimuli from the outside world.

Perception, Action and Active Learning

Changes in sensory input are linked with future actions by a system known as the perception/action loop, which is shown in Figure 1. This mechanism is widespread in everyday life. By forming expectations about the consequences of inputs and the appropriate reactions to those events, the human brain is built to take advantage of this link. This is accomplished by developing expectancies. This relationship provides the evolutionary benefit of making responses to quickly changing conditions speedier. This is attributable to the fact that it reduces the involvement of cognitive effort, which is fairly sluggish. Additionally, it is beneficial to learning since it enables the generation of more robust ideas, which is a positive aspect. We will now investigate the theoretical foundations upon which this assertion is based.

In times past, people had the misconception that perception was a passive process. An example of this would be the visual impression of an object, which is seen by the eyes, which then transmit a signal to the brain, which then compares it to the information that is stored in memory. There are many who subscribe to this idea who believe that learning is characterised by paying attention to the patterns that are present in the environment, while perception is characterised by the passive recording of sensory data. An alternate view that provides a more comprehensive perspective asserts that perception is not a passive but rather an active process.

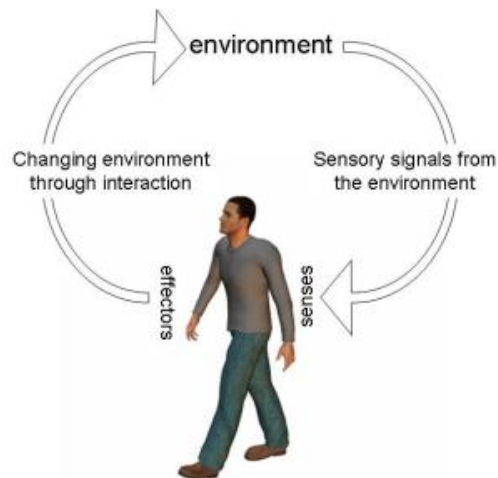


Figure 1. The Perception-Action loop

According to this point of view, the perceiver is seen to be an active participant in the process of perception. This is because the perceiver engages in certain actions in order to collect the information that is necessary for perception to take place. To demonstrate this point, consider what everyone does when they are presented with a view on the world that is very puzzling. It is common practice to swivel our heads to the side in order to observe things with surfaces that are located at different distances from us. This action causes the signals of motion parallax to be induced.

Applications of Vr in Education

The multi-sensory and interactive aspects of virtual reality have caused a significant number of academics working in the domains of cognitive neuroscience, education, and rehabilitation to become interested in the technology. In the field of cognitive psychology, it has shown to be an effective tool for investigating how children with severe disabilities and children with regular development might improve their spatial awareness and cognitive abilities. One of the reasons for this is that it gives youngsters the opportunity to interact with a three-dimensional world that may be shown in a variety of different ways. This is due to the fact that, in comparison to the real world, the virtual world is simpler to comprehend and control. We will solely be concentrating on practical applications in training and fundamental educational programs for the whole of this text. The description that we have provided only touches on a few of these topics since there are so many possible applications of virtual reality (VR) in the classroom, and these applications are constantly expanding. From the start of the previous century to the present day, this article offers a thorough review of the educational uses of virtual reality (VR). There are three possible applications for virtual reality (VR) in educational settings:

1. Implementation in educational institutions to enrich fundamental course offerings.
2. Use in presentation, "edutainment," and museum settings.
3. Application in instruction (for both adults and children).

Application in Schools

Virtual reality (VR) apps that are used in educational contexts may be broken down into two distinct categories. The first form includes teachers using pre-made applications such as Greek Villa, Maxwell World, Atom World, Newton World, and Cell Biology. Other examples are Virtual Gorilla Exhibit and Maxwell World. Students create their own virtual reality settings to test ideas, such as Virtual Stage and Wetland Ecology, while participating in the second form of virtual reality instruction. Students are able to finish an assignment in a virtual environment by using supplemental software and hardware when they use pre-built applications. The three scientific applications that make up Science Space were developed by Dede and her colleagues for children between the ages of nine and fifteen. One of the apps in this collection is called Maxwell World. For the purpose of educating children about electric fields and electrostatic forces, Maxwell World provides them with the opportunity to set charges, observe and modify the electromagnetic field that is produced as a consequence. Maxwell World is a small virtual reality program that takes up a cube of one metre in size and establishes a reference frame via the use of axes. If you have a head-mounted display (HMD), you will be able to observe the world in stereo and control it via the use of menus that appear on the screen. At the same time, Pauling World is used to educate students about the structure of atoms and molecules, and Newton World, which is also a component of Science Space, is utilised to educate students about the forces that are involved in Newtonian mechanics.

Museums and ‘Edutainment’

Virtual reality (VR) systems have been developed for "edutainment" goals by a number of different research projects, making virtual museums possible. One example is that a public scientific institution known as The Exploratorium has just found its way to the virtual world of Second Life. Through the use of interactive displays, it seeks to teach people about science. The online virtual environment known as Second Life (SL) is an example of a massively multiplayer online environment. We refer to it as a collaborative environment due to the fact that it can be accessed via a web browser and offers the capability for several individuals to utilise it simultaneously. When you enter this virtual world, you assume the role of an avatar, which is a representation of yourself. You use the controls on your keyboard to navigate the area and discover its numerous features and locations.

Training

Training is going to be the subject of our last discussion about the use of virtual reality in educational settings. It is possible that training is more comparable to a subset of education than education in general since it emphasises on the transmission of knowledge that is particular to a task rather than on the transmission of universal notions. Through the use of virtual reality (VR) training, individuals are able to practise things that would be either dangerous or impossible to do in the realm of reality. Virtual reality training has been used in a variety of industries, including the transportation industry, the medical field, engineering, the military, and the security industry. On the next page, we will provide a condensed overview of them.

Transportation

The invention of flight simulators was one of the first applications of virtual reality technology. For the purpose of pilot instruction, grounded "simulators" have been around for nearly as long as flying itself. There are six degrees of freedom (rotation and translation) that are included in the most recent virtual reality flight simulators. These simulators also use high-resolution computer graphics to create a field of view that is 180 degrees, accurate instrument panels, and a moving platform. As a result of the fact that these platforms provide vestibular motion signals and that they are coupled to both visual and aural events, the feedback is highly realistic. Modern aircraft simulators are designed to be type-specific, which enables commercial pilots to be taught and retrained for aircraft transfers. Additionally, databases of authentic airports across the globe give realistic takeoff and landing scenarios. The training of pilots is both costly and hazardous, both from a financial and an environmental point of view. There is a safe and practical alternative to real-world flight training that is provided by virtual reality (VR) simulators. These simulators enable pilots to practice in an environment that is as near as possible to the circumstances that they would encounter in the real world while avoiding any potential dangers. One of the most prominent developers of such systems is Evans & Sutherland, which has been a pioneering company in the fields of computer graphics and virtual reality (VR) since 1968.

Medicine

Training in medicine, much like training to become a pilot, is fraught with danger, expensive, and time-consuming. Because of this, students would use cadavers throughout the first stages of their training, for instance in the field of surgery, and then they would spend a significant amount of time seeing more experienced surgeons do a particular operation. The most significant influence on surgical education has been brought about by developments in haptic feedback systems, which are able to imitate the sensation and movement of soft tissues. Virtual reality advances in medicine have mostly focused on training a new range of endoscopic treatments that are either non-invasive or minimally invasive with the goal of improving patient care. There are a number of applications for endoscopy, including hysteroscopy, which involves inspection and surgery within the uterine cavity; thoracoscopic, which involves keyhole surgery on the chest; and laparoscopic, which involves procedures on the abdominal cavity or pelvic cavity. A flexible tube equipped with a camera and other instruments is inserted into the body via the use of an endoscope. This allows for visual examination, the collection of biopsies, and the removal of growths and foreign objects from the body. The method has a number of downsides for the surgeon, including restricted mobility, difficulties with hand-eye coordination, and restricted visibility. Additionally, the approach requires indirect access to the area where the surgery is being performed. A significant amount of education and experience is required for surgeons in order for them to be able to perform surgeries in a way that is both safe and successful. In the context of medical education, the Karlsruhe Endoscopic Surgery Trainer is one of the several virtual reality endoscopic simulators that have been developed with the intention of reducing the risk of surgical problems occurring. Desktop models make up the bulk of these systems. These models make use of genuine endoscopic equipment, but instead of receiving video input from a conventional camera, they use a computer-generated picture. On the screen, simulated portions of the body including organs, membranes, and other structures are shown. Having the capability to link a robot arm that is capable of providing haptic feedback to the endoscopic arm is one of the new features present. When the virtual instrument makes contact with the inside surfaces of the virtual body, the endoscope morphs into a haptic end-effector that provides tactile feedback. The amount of

displayable realism is increased, and learning is improved, thanks to this multi-sensory simulation, which also allows for interactive control.

Military Training

Last but not least, military training is an area that might potentially benefit from it, mostly due to the fact that it paves the way for the development of an application that provides a multi-user 3D environment. Different names for these multi-user systems include distributed interactive simulations and distributed simulations. DIS is a standard for real-time, cross-platform war gaming that is used extensively by the military. It is played on computers that are located in a broad variety of locations. The initial "DIS Workshops" that led to the development of the standard were held at the University of Central Florida's Institute for Simulation and Training (IST), which is now hosting the workshops. The name of the annual conference was the Interactive Networked Simulation for Training Symposium. The SIMNET protocol, which was developed in the middle of the 1980s for the Defence Advanced Research Project Agency, was the foundation upon which the standard was built. Even while high-fidelity pictures were not yet accessible, SIMNET was able to accommodate hundreds of online players, which made it possible for tens or even hundreds of participants to communicate in a realistic manner. Those who use it benefit from a more secure environment for role playing, planning, and operations, which is an excellent feature for military applications.

ISSUES RELATING TO THE USE OF VR

We will now examine some of the most significant problems and drawbacks associated with the use of virtual reality as a teaching tool. According to the findings of our investigation, virtual reality (VR) is subject to a variety of restrictions, the most important of which are the three problems that are being discussed here:

1. The system acquisition expenses might be somewhat significant.
2. Deficits in realism, faithfulness, and skill transmission.
3. The impact on users' bodies.

High Costs of Implementing VR Systems

The first of these problems is the relatively high cost of developing and purchasing a virtual reality (VR) equipment. As we have seen, virtual reality (VR) systems consist of display and interaction technologies, computers that are used to run the program, and software that is used to control the visualisation. As a result of the infancy of the technology in the 1990s, there were only a few pre-made virtual reality systems available. An expert-level expertise of how to buy and integrate equipment, as well as how to write control software, was necessary in order to achieve the goal of creating a virtual reality (VR) setup for a classroom application. In addition, there were not many manufacturers of display devices, such as head-mounted displays, and the cost of these equipment was rather high. However, as a result of the continued use of virtual reality (VR), the prices of some pieces of equipment have decreased as a result of economies of scale. Because they do not need any time or money to be spent on creation, off-the-shelf educational systems provide a more expedient and cost-

effective method of using the technology. In spite of the fact that the technology is very new, it will nonetheless be much more expensive than more conventional types of instruction.

Realism

When it comes to virtual reality, the concept of fidelity and realism refers to the degree to which the simulation is closest to the scenario that is being modelled or visualised. Both visual realism and interactional realism are experiencing difficulties as a result of this issue. It is true that the early efforts at representation in virtual reality were rudimentary and realistic. This was due to two different circumstances. To begin, the techniques that were used to produce visualisations that were photorealistic were badly inadequate in terms of advancement and breadth. If you want to maintain the interaction, the second thing you need to do is make sure that the graphics show changes at the highest possible rate (and certainly at a rate that is higher than 15 frames per second). There is a direct correlation between the degree of realism in the images and the amount of time it takes to render. The vast majority of computer graphics approaches make use of shaded polygonal approximations in order to mimic flat surfaces. Because of this, we need a large number of these polygons in order to produce an approximation of a smooth surface; otherwise, surfaces would seem to be excessively faceted and unnatural. When it comes to visual effects, having a big polygon count is fantastic; but, it slows down the rendering speed of the computer for each frame of the simulation since it requires more work and memory. The sluggishness of the interactive feedback and movement display is also caused by the slow and inconsistent update rates. Realistic considerations were often overlooked in favour of interactivity in the earlier systems, which highlights the difficult balance that exists between the two.

Health Related Issues

Last but not least, we take into consideration the human aspects and the physical impact of the treatment. One of the most frequent environments for these is an immersive environment, particularly one that requires a display to be installed on the head. Because of how unwieldy the initial generation of head-mounted displays (HMDs) were, those who wore them were had to sit down. Modern head-mounted displays (HMDs) are far less obtrusive, invasive, and heavy overall, despite the fact that they are significantly heavier than stereo shutter glasses, for example. A pair of small cathode ray tubes, one for each eye, together with accompanying optics that enhance the visuals are the conventional components of a head-mounted display (HMD). These cathode ray tubes are used to show information. Despite the fact that there may have been improvements in quality, the first systems were cumbersome and had a negative resolution. The research that was gathered by Cobb and his colleagues demonstrates that head-mounted displays are related with a number of health hazards. The helmet-mounted display (HMD) is so large that it offers a danger of head movement inside the device, which might result in eyesight that is not completely aligned. Despite the fact that helmet-mounted displays (HMDs) put the lenses extremely close to the eye, they also have a limited field of view, which requires the user to move their head more than they normally would. This may cause eye strain and fatigue after prolonged use. Another issue that may emerge as a result of incorrect optics settings and other affects, such as screen flicker, is eye strain. This is something that becomes obvious only after prolonged usage, and the only method to remedy it is to minimise the amount of time that the user spends using the head-mounted display (HMD).

THE PROMISE, PROGRESS, AND CHALLENGE

Numerous instructors of foreign languages have contemplated the possibility of adding virtual reality (VR) into their classroom instruction. Virtual reality (VR) is a technology that is fast expanding, with features, applications, and educational affordances that are always evolving. As a consequence, it may be difficult for educators to comprehend the entire breadth of the technology and the potential advantages it might bring to the classroom. When one considers the decade of the 1990s, it seems that the phrase "virtual reality" was associated with an entirely distinct set of meanings in the academic and consumer areas. Within the scholarly publications that dealt with the subject matter, the term "virtual reality" (vr) was used to designate a variety of three-dimensional avatar-based interactive experiences. When it comes to consumer products from the same age, virtual reality is almost usually defined as a head-mounted display (HMD) or headset that enables interaction via movement and/or rotation of the head and body. This is the case when it comes to the same era. Even though the public culture's perception of virtual reality (VR) as an experience that is driven by a headset has been further solidified by the introduction of new high-definition virtual reality (HMD) devices, there are still current research papers that describe VR without the wearing of a headset. Specifically, Linden Labs' Second Life has been the subject of a number of academic publications on virtual reality (VR), despite the fact that it is desktop computer program that requires a keyboard, mouse, and monitor to function. Nevertheless, it seems that the usage of the word virtual reality (VR) in academic circles is moving in the direction of its more common consumer meaning. This might be because of the growing popularity of more recent virtual reality headsets. Therefore, going ahead, the emphasis of this article will be on the significant number of research studies that have surfaced in recent times that are only concerned with virtual reality headsets themselves.

CONCLUSION

Virtual reality (VR) has emerged as a technological component with the potential to radically alter the educational landscape. The learning results are much improved since students are given an experience that is both interesting and immersive. In terms of how students interact with and remember any given piece of material, the interplay between VR and human perception is crucial. With virtual reality (VR), many senses are stimulated at once, making for a more tactile and intuitive learning experience. A learning environment that mimics how people really take in and make sense of data in the actual world is thus born. Virtual reality (VR) has the ability to simulate complex scenarios that are very difficult or even impossible to replicate in traditional classrooms. This is one of the most important advantages that VR has brought to the area of education. Students, for example, are able to explore historical sites, conduct scientific experiments, and perform medical procedures without the risk or cost that is associated with activities that take place in the real world. This is made possible via the use of digital technology. The ability to achieve this level of immersion helps bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, which in turn makes it easier to acquire a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

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