



Review

# A Comprehensive Survey on the Investigation of Machine-Learning-Powered Augmented Reality Applications in Education

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**Abstract:** Machine learning (ML) is enabling augmented reality (AR) to gain popularity in various fields, including gaming, entertainment, healthcare, and education. ML enhances AR applications in education by providing accurate visualizations of objects. For AR systems, ML algorithms facilitate the recognition of objects and gestures from kindergarten through university. The purpose of this survey is to provide an overview of various ways in which ML techniques can be applied within the field of AR within education. The first step is to describe the background of AR. In the next step, we discuss the ML models that are used in AR education applications. Additionally, we discuss how ML is used in AR. Each subgroup's challenges and solutions can be identified by analyzing these frameworks. In addition, we outline several research gaps and future research directions in ML-based AR frameworks for education.

**Keywords:** augmented reality (AR); machine learning (ML); support vector machine (SVM); convolutional neural network (CNN); education



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## 1. Introduction

Adding perceptual information to the real world using computers is AR. As a result of this technology, education is positively impacted. Various educational levels, academic subjects, and learning situations can benefit from AR [1]. AR allows learners to interact with artificial 3D objects to enhance their learning. Through the use of 3D synthetic objects, AR can enhance the visual impression of target systems and environments. Students can use a wide range of perspectives to improve their interpretation of 3D objects [2].

AR has been enhanced by various technologies, including ML, which is still in its infancy. Despite this, it is used for various educational and training purposes, for example, medical education [3]. Following the periods of inference, knowledge, and ML, deep learning (DL) [4,5] represents the next phase in artificial intelligence (AI). In addition to convolutional neural networks (CNNs), DL includes several representative models [4,6,7]. ML and AR are important in medical education and learning [3]. Furthermore, they are used in plant education for precise farming [8]. Surgical education should produce surgeons, clinicians, researchers, and teachers [9–11]. Surgical training and education are becoming increasingly computer-based as the field evolves. The states of patients are also classified using ML algorithms based on their records [12,13]. When the AR module is activated, digital information is displayed first. Based on the previous dataset provided by the system [14], an ML algorithm is then used to identify the affected tissue from the rest.

In sports education, rock climbing and basketball offer the most promising frameworks for AR development. Incorporating basketball AR into practitioners' environments and

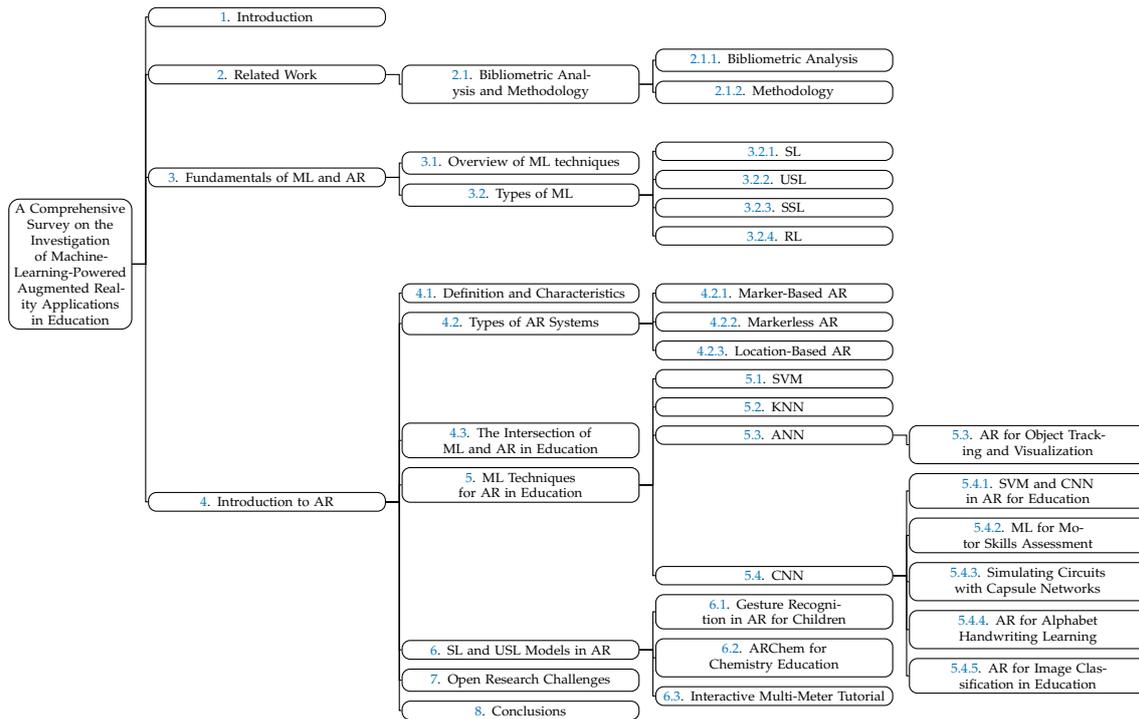
spectators' viewing experiences may be beneficial. The small area of bordering surfaces and the calibration of fixed holds make rock climbing a technical sport. A new AR advancement can also enhance baseball and soccer games and ball directions [15]. AR is more effective than traditional media in performing or preparing an errand. As a result of AR experience, understudies are more likely to transfer their knowledge to actual equipment use.

Content learned from AR experiences is more vividly remembered than from non-AR experiences, e.g., compared to content learned through paper or video media, many weeks after the fact [16]. AI schooling [17,18] utilizing AR can be applied to non-engineering majors, and grown-ups can advance effectively with interest and can ceaselessly adapt to society and technology [19]. AR can be used in the educational system to improve traditional education while reducing old problems. Additionally, it facilitates collaboration between teachers and students. Regarding educational applications, there is no better technology and potential to explore than AR. Due to technological advancements, it is necessary to improve educational domains using efficient methods. A study found that AR may engage, trigger, and stimulate students to consider course materials from a variety of angles [20].

The main contributions of this survey can be summarized as follows.

- ML techniques in AR applications are discussed for several areas of education.
- An analysis of related works is presented in detail.
- ML models for AR applications such as support vector machine (SVM), CNN, artificial neural network (ANN), etc., are discussed.
- A detailed analysis of ML models in the context of AR is presented.
- A set of challenges and possible solutions are presented.
- Research gaps and future directions are discussed in several fields of education involving ML-based AR frameworks.
- Emerging trends and developments in the use of ML and AR are recognized and analyzed in educational settings.
- Insights are provided into areas that need more research or improvement.
- Insights to help guide future research and development activities in the sector are provided.

The remaining article is organized as follows. Section 2 presents the related work. Section 3 explains the fundamentals of ML and AR, their techniques, and types of ML. Section 4 presents an introduction to AR, types of AR, and the intersection of ML and AR in education. Section 5 explains ML techniques for AR in education, its types, and uses. Section 6 presents SL and USL models in AR and their applications. Section 7 discusses open research challenges. Section 8 concludes the survey. Figure 1 shows the organization of the survey.



**Figure 1.** Organization of the survey.

## 2. Related Work

Medical education and learning are the most common applications of ML-based AR. In [1], the authors explore which students AR systems benefit the most and analyze their impact on student learning. However, this study did not focus on ML models for AR in education.

Ren et al., in [3], concentrated on CNN, ANN, and SVM in AR, explaining how AR and DL can be employed in healthcare. Unfortunately, this study had a limitation as it did not include all ML models.

A survey of AR applications in plant education is presented by the authors in [8], with a focus on agriculture, particularly livestock and crops. Notably, the discussion in this paper centered on conventional methods rather than ML models.

In [21], the researchers explore the application of AR in education, providing an overview and describing the three generations of AR in education. However, this study did not delve into ML methods.

Khandelwal et al., in [14], introduced a surgical training system that combines AR, AI, and ML. Throughout the survey, SVM, KNN, and ANN models are discussed along with their applications.

In the domain of e-learning research, hierarchical linear modeling (HLM) was employed as a multilevel modeling technique [22]. Nonetheless, the authors did not provide a detailed explanation of how ML was used.

In [23], the focus was on AR technologies and limitations for neurosurgical training as an educational tool. However, the researchers did not elaborate on the use of ML in their survey.

The ongoing clinical applications of AR in education and surgery are reviewed in [24]. Despite this, the researchers did not mention the utilization of ML models.

In [25], the authors discuss the impact of AR on programming education, the challenges and issues it presents, and how it benefits student learning. Regrettably, this study did not delve into the usage of ML in the survey.

Real-time data collecting, ML-aided processing, and visualization are anticipated goals for using AR technologies in the healthcare sector. The study in [26] focuses on the potential future application of AR in breast surgery education, describing two prospective

applications (surgical remote telementoring and impalpable breast cancer localization using AR) as well as the technical requirements to make it viable.

The purpose of the research in [27] was to look into the impact of AR on student attitudes, engagement, and knowledge of mechanical engineering principles. The creation of an AR app for mobile devices to aid in the comprehension of planar mechanisms by exhibiting models of basic machines is the contribution of this work. The AR simulation provides a three-dimensional representation of planar mechanics, as well as a variety of interactions, charts, and calculations. Students utilized a smartphone app to complete a basic task. In addition, a questionnaire was used to collect their thoughts on using AR in their mechanical engineering lessons. The evaluation of the exercise, as well as the answers to the questions, revealed that the students had a favorable opinion of the usage of AR in the classroom. In addition, AR increased their involvement and grasp of the process components.

Furthermore, “LeARn” [28], a novel network-based collaborative learning environment uses AR to transform a real-world surface into a virtual lab. The system contributes to the replacement of a face-to-face learning environment with an enhanced collaborative setting. A scenario with a virtual chemical lab is shown to showcase the concept. Any real-world surface is supplemented in the demo with virtual lab equipment used in a chemistry experiment. The instructor hosts the virtual lab, and all students can access it solely through their mobile phones or tablets. Each participant can interact with the lab equipment, which the instructor or fellow students can view in real time. The system enables real-time communication, creating a truly collaborative atmosphere. The resulting solution demonstrates that a sophisticated lab experiment may be carried out from a personalized location that incorporates collaborative characteristics. In an uncontrolled user study, the system was implemented and reviewed, and the results demonstrate the effectiveness of an AR-based interactive and collaborative learning environment.

The study in [29] described an ML-augmented, wearable, self-powered, and long-lasting HMI sensor for human hand motion and virtual tasks. The triboelectric friction between the moving object and the specific electrode array was employed to generate a unique and stable electrical signal that regulated the programmable output curve of the instantaneous parameters. It established that the motion of a movable object may be tracked and correctly recreated by the output signal by decoupling it into various motion patterns. Furthermore, with evident visualization performance, the ML method can identify fast and slow finger actions. It also indicated that multiple linear regression (MLR) and PCA+K-means clustering (K-means) exhibited significant efficacy in terms of grouping, visualization, and motion speed interference. This study not only established the viability of designing self-powered HMI sensors but also demonstrated a way to identify ML-augmented motion patterns.

The authors in [30] present the findings of a survey of touchless interaction studies in educational applications and propose the use of ML agents to achieve real-time touchless hand interaction inside kinesthetic learning. This study shows the design of two AR applications with real-time hand contact and ML agents, enabling engaged kinesthetic learning as an alternative learning interface.

Ref. [31] includes a review of the present literature, an investigation of the problems, the identification of prospective study areas, and lastly, reports on the construction of two case studies that can highlight the initial steps needed to address these research areas. The findings of this study, finally, reveal the research gap needed to enable real-time touchless hand interaction, kinesthetic learning, and ML agents using a remote learning methodology.

The research in [32] presents an improved ML approach for evaluating extended reality (XR)-based simulators. Healthcare simulators are being developed for the training and instruction of medical residents and students. Many researchers have utilized machine learning (ML) to evaluate medical simulators. When performing such an examination, however, there is a lack of standardization. Some academics have also looked into utilizing

ML to standardize the assessment process; however, they have only looked into virtual reality (VR). The goal of this study is to create an enhanced framework that includes assessment techniques for virtual, mixed, and AR simulators as well as multiple ML models.

The following are our research questions:

- How advanced are augmented reality applications in education today?
- How is machine learning being integrated into the educational augmented reality applications?
- In comparison with conventional approaches, how successful and efficient are machine-learning-powered augmented reality applications in increasing learning outcomes?
- What are the primary elements influencing student and instructor user experiences with machine-learning-powered augmented reality in education?
- What technical challenges are there when combining machine learning and augmented reality in educational settings?
- What emerging trends in the development and deployment of machine-learning-powered augmented reality applications in education are anticipated?

Based on our analysis of related work, there is a clear need for a comprehensive survey of ML models, including SVM, KNN, ANN, and CNN, for AR in various educational fields. As a result, this survey focuses on ML models in AR for education, providing an in-depth analysis of each model's advantages, disadvantages, challenges, and limitations. Table 1 shows a summary of existing surveys.

**Table 1.** Summary of existing surveys.

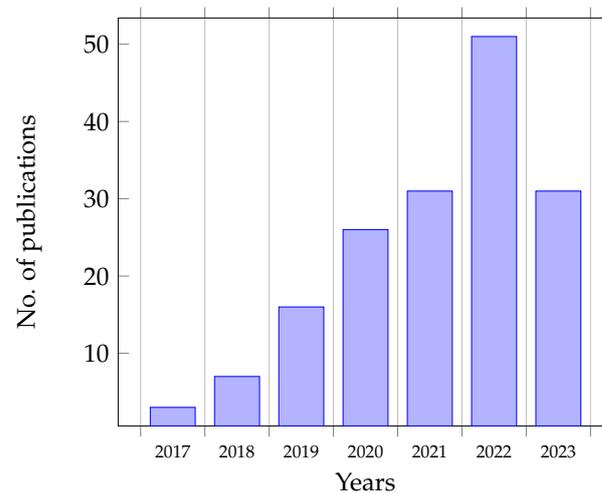
Research	Year	Scope of the Surveys					Contributions and Limitations
		AR	SVM	KNN	ANN	CNN	
[1]	2019	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Study of the medium's effect on student learning gains. ML models for AR were not focused on.
[3]	2022	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Focused on uses of AR and DL in cancer nursing. All ML models were not discussed.
[8]	2021	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Discussed AR in plant education for precise farming. Only conventional methods were discussed, not ML models.
[21]	2021	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Overview of AR; description of three generations of AR in education; challenges of AR applications.
[14]	2019	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	Explored the combination of AR, AI, and ML for surgical education.
[22]	2021	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	Highlighted the application of HLM as a multilevel modeling technique in e-learning research.
[23]	2020	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Surveyed current technologies and limitations in AR for neurosurgical training as an educational tool.
[24]	2021	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Reviewed current clinical applications of AR in spine surgery and education.
[25]	2021	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Studied the impact of AR on programming education, its challenges and benefits for student learning.
This survey	2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Focuses on ML models in AR for different fields of education: pros, and cons of each applications.

### 2.1. Bibliometric Analysis and Methodology

Several databases were employed to select papers, including Google Scholar, Web of Science (WoS), IEEE Xplore, and ScienceDirect.

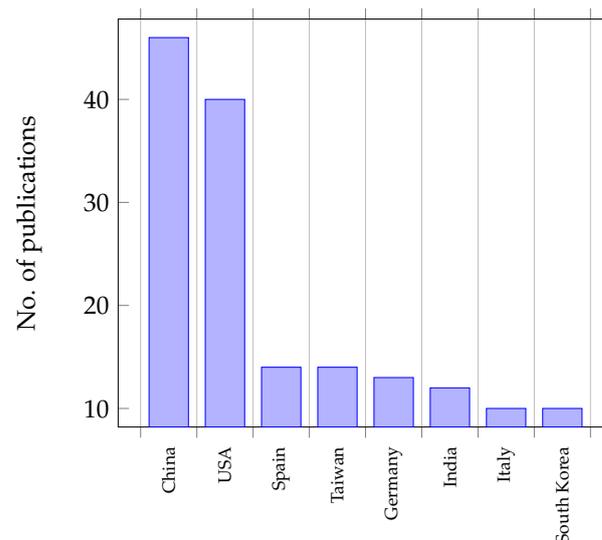
### 2.1.1. Bibliometric Analysis

The papers under consideration were published between 2017 and 2023. A total of 169 publications have been published on ML-assisted AR in education. In 2017, three articles related to ML-assisted AR in education were published, while seven were published in 2018. In total, 16 papers were published in 2019. Additionally, 26, 31, 51, and 31 papers were published in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively. Figure 2 illustrates the number of publications per year.



**Figure 2.** Number of publications in each year from 2017 to 2023 based on Web of Science (data acquired on 30 April 2024).

We present a world map indicating the countries that are most active in working on this topic. Between 2017 and 2023, China published 46 articles, making it the most active country. The United States of America (USA), Spain, Taiwan, Germany, India, Italy, and South Korea published 40, 14, 14, 13, 12, 10, and 10 papers, respectively, during the same period. Figure 3 depicts the leading countries in ML-assisted AR applications in education.



**Figure 3.** Leading countries working on ML-assisted AR applications in education based on Web of Science.

### 2.1.2. Methodology

Based on the selection criteria outlined in Algorithm 1, we selected 50 papers for analysis:

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**Algorithm 1** Article selection criteria
 

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**Require:** Search on databases

**Ensure:** Article from 2017 to 2023

**while** keyword—Augmented Reality Machine Learning Education **do**

**if** Discuss ML-assisted AR application | Evaluate performance | Analyze application in education **then**

    Consider for analysis

**else if** Does not discuss ML **then**

        Exclude from the analysis

**end if**

**end while**

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### 3. Fundamentals of ML and AR

#### 3.1. Overview of ML Techniques

ML has gained immense popularity and plays a crucial role in modern technology. Teaching ML in high school is essential to empower students with responsible and innovative skills. ML is a subset of AI [33]. At its core, ML automates the process of creating and solving analytical models based on training data [34]. It has become an integral component of various applications, such as image recognition [35], speech recognition [36], intelligent assistants [37], autonomous vehicles [38], and many others.

In ML, real-world problems are approached through learning rather than explicit programming. The system learns typical patterns, such as word combinations, from data. For example, in the context of social media analysis, ML systems can learn to identify words or phrases in tweets that indicate customer needs, leading to need classification [39]. ML professionals leverage various open-source ML frameworks available in the market to develop new projects and create impactful ML systems [40].

#### 3.2. Types of ML

ML comprises four primary types: supervised learning (SL), unsupervised learning (UL), semi-supervised learning (SSL), and reinforcement learning (RL) [41,42]. Let us delve into each of these types.

##### 3.2.1. SL

SL is a paradigm where a set of inputs is used to achieve specific target outcomes [43,44]. SL tackles both regression problems, which involve predicting continuous values, and classification problems, which involve categorizing data into distinct classes. In classification, the output variable is divided into various groups or categories, such as ‘red’ or ‘green’, or ‘car’ and ‘cycle’. An example of a regression problem is predicting cardiovascular disease risk. Common algorithms employed in SL include logistic regression, deep neural networks (DNNs), SVM, decision tree (DT), k-nearest neighbors (KNN), and ANN [45].

##### 3.2.2. UL

UL is characterized by its data-driven approach, requiring no human-labeled data. UL techniques excel in identifying underlying trends, structures, and performing exploratory analysis [46]. Tasks within UL encompass density estimation, clustering, association rule mining, feature learning, and anomaly detection. Common algorithms in UL include self-organizing maps (SOMs), generative adversarial networks (GANs), and belief networks (DBNs) [47].

##### 3.2.3. SSL

SSL represents a blend of labeled and unlabeled data. It is particularly advantageous when extracting relevant patterns from data is challenging and labeling examples is time consuming. SSL techniques find utility in labeling data, fraud detection, text translation, and text classification [48].

### 3.2.4. RL

RL stands in contrast to SL, as agents in RL learn by trial and error rather than relying on labeled data [49]. In RL, agents determine how to behave within an environment through interactions and observations of the outcomes. It is particularly relevant in scenarios where agents need to make sequential decisions and learn optimal strategies.

A variety of applications for RL can be found in computer-controlled board games, robotic hands, robotic mazes, and autonomous vehicles. Several RL algorithms are used, including Q-learning, R-learning, deep reinforcement learning (DRL), actor–critic, deep adversarial networks (DANs), temporal difference algorithms (TDAs), and the Sarsa algorithm [50].

## 4. Introduction to AR

### 4.1. Definition and Characteristics

AR seamlessly intertwines the real and virtual worlds [51,52]. By overlaying digital information onto the physical world, AR creates the illusion of digital content being an integral part of the real environment. One of AR's key strengths is its ability to immerse users without isolating them from their physical surroundings [53]. AR experiences are easily accessible through devices like tablets and smartphones equipped with AR applications [54]. These applications can be operated in handheld mode or leveraged with accessories like Google Cardboard to provide immersive 3D experiences. Additionally, there are free applications available, enabling students to create AR content and engage with AR without the need for costly equipment [55]. AR spans a range of viewing devices, from AR headsets like Microsoft HoloLens to VR and gaming headsets such as HTC Vive and Samsung Gear.

AR finds applications across various educational levels, including primary [56] to university education [57]. It caters to diverse learner groups, encompassing K-12 students, kindergarteners, elderly individuals, adult learners, vocational and technical higher education [58], and those with special needs [59]. The integration of AR into education necessitates the development of suitable methods and applications, presenting valuable research opportunities [60]. AR technology empowers users to experience scientific phenomena that would be inaccessible in the real world, such as visualizing complex chemical reactions, providing access to previously unattainable knowledge [2,61]. AR enables users to interact with virtual objects and observe phenomena that may be challenging to visualize in reality, enhancing understanding of abstract or unobservable concepts [2]. AR and VR technology also helps in the surgical training in laparoscopic surgery [62].

### 4.2. Types of AR Systems

AR systems are categorized into three primary types: marker-based AR, markerless AR, and location-based AR [63–65].

#### 4.2.1. Marker-Based AR

Marker-based AR relies on markers, which can take the form of QR codes, 2D barcodes, or distinctive, highly visible images. When a device captures an image with its camera, the AR software identifies the marker, determines the camera's position and orientation, and overlays virtual objects onto the screen [66]. This method has proven to be robust and accurate, and virtually all AR software development kits (SDKs) support marker-based tracking techniques. Marker-based AR provides precise information about the marker's position in the camera's coordinate system, enabling the identification of sequences of markers and their utilization for various control functions [67].

#### 4.2.2. Markerless AR

Markerless AR, also known as markerless tracking, is concerned with determining an object's position and orientation in relation to its surroundings. This capability is crucial in VR and AR, as it allows the virtual world to adapt to the user's perspective and field of view, ensuring that AR content aligns seamlessly with the physical environment [68].

Unlike marker-based approaches, markerless tracking does not require specialized optical markers, offering greater flexibility. It eliminates the need for predefined environments with fiducial markers, allowing users to move freely in various settings while receiving precise positional feedback [69].

#### 4.2.3. Location-Based AR

Location-based AR applications deliver digital content to users as they arrive at specific physical locations or move through the real world. Typically, these applications are presented on mobile devices like smartphones or tablets, and they utilize Global Positioning System (GPS) or wireless network data to track the user's location [70]. While location-based AR has been around for some time, it gained widespread popularity with games like Ingress and Pokemon Go. Another term often used to describe such applications is "location-aware AR". Numerous industries, including tourism, entertainment, marketing, and education, have embraced location-based AR applications. These apps serve multiple purposes, such as entertaining and educating tourists while simultaneously achieving marketing objectives in the tourism sector [71].

#### 4.3. The Intersection of ML and AR in Education

ML models are integrated with AR to enhance educational experiences. This survey explores the utilization of ML models, including SVM, KNN, ANN, CNN, and more, within AR for diverse educational purposes.

### 5. ML Techniques for AR in Education

In the realm of AR for education, various ML techniques play a pivotal role. These techniques empower AR applications to deliver engaging educational experiences.

#### 5.1. SVM

SVM, an SL algorithm, finds applications in classifying data for AR in education. SVM establishes hyperplanes to separate classes, expanding the boundary between them and creating partitions. The algorithm maximizes the margin between classes, minimizing generalization error. In the educational context, SVM in AR enhances students' comprehension, and the combination of ML and AR yields impressive results [72].

#### 5.2. KNN

KNN, another ML method, classifies unseen examples stored in a database. It is a versatile technique, widely used not only in education but also in various fields such as nephropathy prediction in children, fault classification, intrusion detection systems, and AI applications [73,74].

#### 5.3. ANN

ANNs mimic the human brain's learning process, excelling in solving non-linear problems. In the brain, interconnected neurons handle complex tasks. In ANNs, artificial neurons, akin to biological neurons, process information through interconnected nodes. This technology finds utility in addressing intricate problems that defy linear solutions [75].

#### AR for Object Tracking and Visualization

Ref. [76] introduces IVM-CNN which combines the best features of RNN and CNN for object tracking and machine vision tasks. It outperforms previous models in the M2CAI 2016 contest datasets, with a mean average precision (mAP) of 97.1 for device diagnosis and a mean rate of 96.9. It also runs at a rate of 50 frames per second (FPS), ten times faster than region-based CNNs. The paper describes the use of masked R-CNN, which replaces the region proposal network (RPN) with a region proposal module (RPM) to generate more accurate boundary boxes while requiring less labeling. This improves the model's reliability and effectiveness. The paper also presents the development of

Microsoft HoloLens software, which provides an AR-based approach to clinical education and assistance. This technology enhances the visualization and understanding of medical data, thus improving healthcare practices.

#### 5.4. CNN

CNNs are pivotal in AR for education. They possess the ability to identify relevant features without human supervision, making them indispensable in various domains, including speech recognition, face recognition, computer vision, and AR applications [77]. The weight-sharing feature in CNNs reduces overfitting and enhances generalization, setting them apart from conventional neural networks.

##### 5.4.1. SVM and CNN in AR for Education

A study in 2018 explored the use of SVM and CNN in AR to detect English alphabets as markers, enhancing learning experiences for students. The CNN model achieved an impressive accuracy of 96.5%, while SVM reached 92.5%. The research involved the creation of a custom dataset for training and validation, contributing significantly to marker-based AR systems in education [77].

##### 5.4.2. ML for Motor Skills Assessment

In 2022, researchers delved into assessing the motor skills of early education students using SVM, KNN, DT, and CNN image recognition methods. Among these, the CNN model outperformed the others, achieving an accuracy of 82%. This study is a testament to the potential of ML in evaluating students' abilities in various educational contexts [78].

##### 5.4.3. Simulating Circuits with Capsule Networks

The field of electrical engineering education witnessed innovation in 2021 with the introduction of a system that enables students to simulate circuits on mobile devices using image recognition. Capsule networks, a form of DL, played a vital role in recognizing and classifying characters within circuit diagrams. With a remarkable 96% accuracy, capsule networks outperformed traditional CNNs, making circuit simulation more accessible and engaging for students [79].

##### 5.4.4. AR for Alphabet Handwriting Learning

In 2022, a novel AR application named "Learn2Write" emerged, designed to aid children in learning alphabet handwriting. Leveraging ML techniques, including several CNN models like DenseNet, BornoNet, Xception, EkushNet, and MobileNetV2, the application empowers children to practice and perfect their handwriting skills. Among the models, EkushNet stood out due to its efficiency, achieving a test accuracy of 96.71%. The app not only assists with handwriting but also offers a promising avenue for enhancing early education through AR and ML [80].

##### 5.4.5. AR for Image Classification in Education

The authors in [81] describe a technique for automatically generating various 3D views of textbook pages to create a large dataset that is then trained with CNNs like Alexnet, GoogLeNet, VGG, GoogLeNet, or ResNet. The system stores the trained model and returns it to the client for classification on a web browser with TensorFlow.js, allowing book page recognition. It also enables the display of 3D graphics on top of recognized book pages, providing an AR marker generation method that preserves the original images of the books while increasing detection accuracy. The research offers a promising and low-cost AR approach that can be applied in a variety of settings, including education and training.

In the context of chemical experiments, Ref. [82] addresses the use of a transformer-based object detection model called detection transformer (DETR) for object identification in images and its integration into an AR mobile application. AR and computer vision techniques together present a viable method for improving learning applications' user

experiences. The method they used consists of two steps: first, the DETR model is built and trained on the customized dataset; next, it is integrated into the augmented reality application to use a multi-class classification approach to predict the experiment name and detect objects.

## 6. SL and USL Models in AR

### 6.1. Gesture Recognition in AR for Children

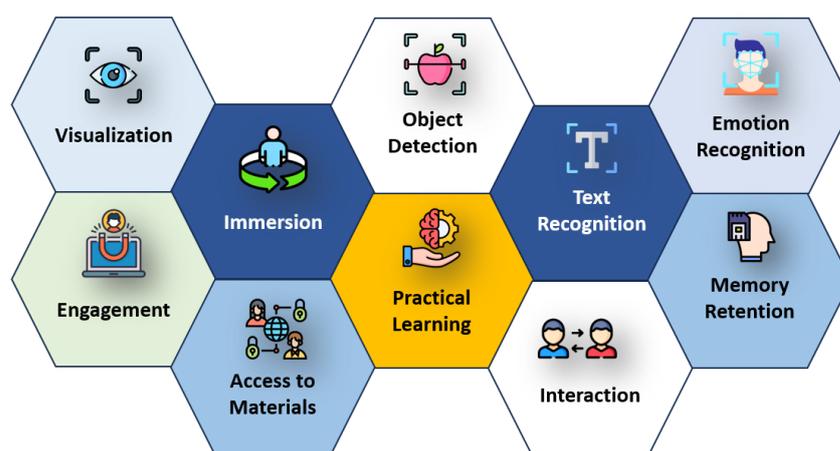
In 2019, researchers ventured into the realm of gesture recognition in children's education through AR. They harnessed SVM for static gestures and hidden Markov models (HMMs) for dynamic gestures, fostering a tangible connection between physical gestures and virtual learning experiences. While static gestures were well modeled, there was room for improvement in handling dynamic gestures in AR for education [83].

### 6.2. ARChem for Chemistry Education

In 2022, ARChem, a cutting-edge mobile application, emerged to revolutionize chemistry education. This app combines AR, AI, and ML to assist students in their chemistry studies. It excels in chemical equation identification and correction, image processing, text summarization, and even sentiment analysis through a Chatbot. The fusion of mobile development techniques, ML, and DL makes ARChem a game-changer in the realm of virtual education, aiming to alleviate the challenges students face in comprehending and applying complex chemistry concepts [84].

### 6.3. Interactive Multi-Meter Tutorial

Another 2022 innovation came in the form of an interactive multi-meter tutorial using AR and DL. By amalgamating TensorFlow's object detection API with Unity 3D and AR Foundation, this project empowers students to learn how to use multi-meters. DL models facilitated real-time recognition of meter components, providing step-by-step guidance. Such applications demonstrate the potential of ML and AR in technical education, simplifying complex topics for students [85]. Figure 4 shows the advantages of ML-driven AR in education as discussed earlier.



**Figure 4.** Benefits of ML-driven AR in education.

## 7. Open Research Challenges

In the realm of using ML and DL techniques to enhance the educational experience with AR, several research challenges have emerged. While these methods offer numerous advantages, there are still gaps in our understanding and implementation. As this is an emerging technology, researchers often find themselves creating their datasets due to the limited availability of relevant datasets [77].

One significant challenge is the removal of multi-media noise from the immersive AR environment, a process that can be time consuming [78]. Additionally, researchers face the

need to conduct experiments with kindergarten students to test the AR devices they have developed. This requires not only technological proficiency but also effective training for young learners on how to use AR devices [77].

Another critical challenge in the combination of ML and AR is the accuracy and speed of object recognition within complex diagrams [79]. Aligning AR objects seamlessly with real-world scenes and training models with a large amount of data are also formidable tasks [79]. To ensure a comfortable visual experience with head-mounted displays (HMDs), ideally, frame rates should reach around 60 frames per second. However, edge-based approaches in low-resolution video transmission can lead to latencies exceeding 16.67 milliseconds [86].

Privacy and data security pose additional challenges. AR devices often transmit data on user's surroundings to the edge for processing. Depending on the context, this information may need to remain confidential or private, necessitating robust data encryption. Furthermore, in industrial settings, the accuracy of information delivered to users via AR applications must be unquestionable [87].

Moreover, AR devices are underutilized in many fields, and both teachers and students may need training to maximize their potential. Additionally, implementing AR in educational settings may require additional resources and equipment [80]. ML models integrated into AR systems sometimes lack precision, hindering effective education. Recognizing objects accurately in AR from a distance, especially from several meters away, remains a challenge [85]. Dynamic motion images also pose difficulties for AR applications that primarily excel with static images. However, researchers have also proposed solutions to these challenges, as follows:

- The accuracy and speed of object recognition have improved through the utilization of DL models and AR target databases [85].
- The Vuforia software v9.8 had been instrumental in tracking and aligning AR objects with real-world scenes, enhancing tracking and alignment [88].
- Developers can create AR applications using ML models and AR technology through platforms like Unity3D [89] and Apple's iOS SDK [90].
- Improving the performance of ML models in AR relies heavily on the quality and quantity of training data.

Exploring the use of ML techniques to incorporate real-time feedback mechanisms within AR applications is a promising route for improving the learning experience. Addressing the ethical issues of using ML in educational AR environments, such as developing effective privacy safeguards and mitigating algorithmic biases, is also critical for ensuring responsible and fair technology use. Implementing real-world ML-powered AR applications in educational institutions is essential to provide educators and policymakers with vital information about student engagement, learning outcomes, and teacher effectiveness.

Future studies should also focus on enhancing the overall user experience of these applications, investigating pedagogical ways for customization, and examining the generalizability of findings across various educational settings. To create a holistic knowledge of the elements influencing the success of AR applications in education, interdisciplinary collaboration between ML scientists, educators, and psychologists is encouraged. In summary, exploring these future research topics has the potential to advance our understanding of the interaction of ML and AR in education. By addressing these research gaps, we can all work together to create more effective and ethical educational tools.

## 8. Conclusions

In today's modern world, technology, including AR, has profoundly impacted various aspects of life, most notably education. Traditional teaching methods are gradually giving way to more immersive and interactive alternatives like AR, which offer a deeper understanding of educational content.

This survey delved into the integration of ML models into AR applications for education, exploring the diverse ML techniques used in this context. CNNs emerged as a popular

choice due to their remarkable accuracy. Throughout our exploration, we discovered numerous applications developed by researchers to provide students with immersive learning experiences, fostering a comprehensive understanding of their subjects and improving overall learning efficiency.

AR technology has found applications across multiple educational domains, and we explored how AR models are implemented using SDKs and platforms. These tools play pivotal roles in the creation and deployment of AR solutions in educational settings.

Finally, we discussed several open research challenges and future directions that warrant further investigation. These directions have been derived from our comprehensive discussions and insights, pointing toward exciting opportunities for future advancements in the field of ML-enhanced AR education.

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## Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

AI	Artificial intelligence
ANN	Artificial neural network
AR	Augmented reality
CNN	Convolutional neural network
DL	Deep learning
KNN	K-nearest neighbors
ML	Machine learning
SVM	Support vector machine
SL	Supervised learning
UL	Unsupervised learning
RL	Reinforcement learning
SSL	Semi-supervised learning
VR	Virtual reality
DT	Decision tree
LSTM	Long short-term memory
SDK	Software development kit
SMILES	Simplified molecular input line entry system
SOMs	Self-organizing maps
GANs	Generative adversarial networks
DBNs	Belief networks
EEG	Electroencephalogram
DAN	Deep Adversarial Networks
TDA	Temporal Difference Algorithms
DRL	Deep reinforcement learning

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