



Exploring the Frontiers: A Comprehensive Review of Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality in Manufacturing and Industry

Himavamshi S¹, Bharath A², Gatta Srikanth³, Dr. K Balaji⁴

^{1,2,3}Dept. of MCA, Surana College (Autonomous), Bangalore, Karnataka, India

⁴HOD of MCA, Surana College (Autonomous), Bangalore, Karnataka, India

ABSTRACT: Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) are revolutionizing manufacturing practices by offering immersive and interactive experiences. This review paper synthesizes current research on AR and VR's applications, benefits, and challenges in manufacturing, covering design, training, maintenance, and quality control. Key findings highlight the applications and positive impact of AR/VR on efficiency, cost management, and quality control in manufacturing processes. Industries are increasingly adopting these technologies to enhance productivity and reduce errors. However, challenges such as cost, technological infrastructure, and integration into existing workflows remain significant barriers. In conclusion, integrating AR and VR in manufacturing holds immense potential to transform traditional methods and improve operational efficiency. This paper advocates for broader implementation and research to harness the full benefits of immersive technologies in manufacturing.

KEYWORDS: AR, VR, manufacturing, immersive technologies, operational efficiency, IOT, Training.

I. INTRODUCTION

Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) technologies have swiftly progressed from specialized applications to widely adopted instruments with profound transformative capabilities across a multitude of industries. AR enhances the physical environment by overlaying digital data, whereas VR immerses users within simulated contexts, frequently wholly supplanting their tangible surroundings. These technologies proffer distinctive opportunities for the creation of immersive, interactive, and experiential environments that transcend conventional manufacturing methodologies.

Within the manufacturing domain, AR and VR embody substantial potential to mitigate the constraints of traditional techniques. They furnish employees with experiential learning and simulations that would otherwise be arduous or unfeasible to replicate. By engaging a multitude of sensory modalities and facilitating interactive experiences, AR and VR have the capacity to augment worker engagement, enhance retention of intricate procedures, and cater to a variety of training requirements.

This review manuscript seeks to examine and rigorously evaluate the contemporary landscape of AR and VR applications within the manufacturing sector. Specifically, it will scrutinize their efficacy in design, training, maintenance, and quality control. The primary objectives encompass the synthesis of extant research, the identification of benefits and challenges, and the formulation of recommendations for the incorporation of AR and VR into manufacturing workflows.

Through the examination of empirical investigations, case studies, and theoretical constructs, this review aspires to enrich the understanding of how AR and VR can transform manufacturing practices. Ultimately, the intention is to enlighten industry leaders, policymakers, and scholars regarding the prospective benefits and strategies for the effective deployment of these technologies to enhance operational efficiency and stimulate innovation within the manufacturing industry.

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Criteria for Selecting Reviewed Papers

The process of selecting scholarly articles for this review was predicated on the following criteria:

- 1) Relevance:** Articles that examine the utilization of Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) within manufacturing environments were incorporated. This includes investigations spanning several domains such as design, training, maintenance, and quality assurance.
- 2) Publication Type:** Only peer-reviewed journal articles and conference proceedings were taken into account to guarantee the incorporation of robust research and a variety of viewpoints.



- 3) **Publication Date:** Preference was given to articles published from the year 2020 to the present in order to encapsulate the latest developments and trends in AR/VR technologies within manufacturing.
- 4) **Methodological Diversity:** The studies considered included a spectrum of methodologies, such as experimental research, qualitative analyses, case studies, and theoretical evaluations, thereby offering a holistic perspective of the domain.
- 5) **Language:** Only articles published in English were considered due to constraints related to language proficiency.
- 6) **Availability:** The full-text availability of the articles was imperative for comprehensive analysis and synthesis of the findings.
- 7) **Exclusion Criteria:** Investigations that concentrated exclusively on AR/VR applications outside the realm of manufacturing (e.g., gaming, entertainment) were omitted to sustain an emphasis on manufacturing-related implications.

B. Sources of Literature

Literature for this review was sourced primarily from the following databases, journals, and conferences:

1) Databases:

- PubMed
- IEEE Xplore
- Google Scholar
- SciSpace

2) Journals:

- Studies focusing on the application of AR and VR in manufacturing contexts.
- Application of AR/VR Technology in Industry 4.0.
- Augmented Reality In Smart Manufacturing: A User Experience Evaluation.
- Augmented Reality for the Manufacturing Industry: The Case of an Assembly Assistant.

C. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

1) Inclusion Criteria:

- Studies focusing on the application of AR and VR in manufacturing contexts.
- Peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers.
- Studies published in English.
- Full-text availability for thorough analysis.

2) Exclusion Criteria:

- Studies focusing solely on AR/VR applications in non-manufacturing contexts (e.g., gaming, entertainment).
- Non-English language papers.
- Editorial articles, opinion pieces, and duplicate studies.
- Research papers before 2020.

III. AR/VR INSIGHTS: TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) technologies offer significant improvements in manufacturing, enhancing productivity, efficiency, and ergonomics. Integrated with the Internet of Things (IoT), these technologies provide real-time data visualization, effective machine monitoring, and immersive training. However, research specific to their manufacturing applications is limited, highlighting a need for further investigation [1], [2].

AR/VR's impact on intelligent manufacturing is notable, offering immersive environments that improve process quality, reduce cycle times, and enhance human-machine interactions. AR is especially effective in product assembly, repair, and maintenance, offering guidance and improving process adaptability. In digital manufacturing, AR, particularly via 3D laser projection, integrates virtual data with the physical world, enhancing procedures in sectors like aviation and shipbuilding [3], [4].

Studies indicate that AR/VR technologies enhance process metrics, productivity, and quality while reducing cycle times. To maximize these benefits, addressing the associated hardware and software challenges is essential [5].



A. AR/VR in Design and Prototyping

Immersive Virtual Reality for Design - VR fosters creativity and innovation through virtual design environments [6].

AR for Product Assembly Guidance - AR provides intuitive assembly guidance and aids in design visualization and maintenance [6].

AR in Digital Manufacturing - AR, especially through 3D laser projection, supports design and prototyping across various industries [6].

B. AR/VR Applications in Training and Simulation

Augmented Reality for Employee Instruction - AR improves employee training, enhancing learning outcomes and operational efficiency [7].

Virtual Reality for Machinery Emulation - VR enables employees to practice machinery operations in simulated environments before real-world application [7].

AR Combined with IoT in Performance Supervision - The integration of AR and IoT facilitates real-time machine performance monitoring and process enhancement [7], [8].

C. AR/VR in Maintenance and Repair

Utilization of Augmented Reality - AR overlays virtual data onto the physical environment, enhancing maintenance and repair processes [9].

Real-Time Monitoring and Fault Diagnosis - AR applications offer real-time monitoring, fault detection, and remote support to optimize maintenance performance [9].

D. AR/VR in Quality Control

Facilitating Product Testing - AR applications provide step-by-step simulations, reducing errors and improving workforce skills [10].

Immediate Feedback Systems - AR-based quality assessment systems offer immediate feedback and additional information for inspections [10].

User Experience Evaluation - The combination of AR, VR, and NLP creates immersive interfaces and detailed feedback, enhancing user engagement and accuracy [10].

IV. LITERATURE REVIEW ON AR/VR IN MANUFACTURING

Title	Author(s)	Year	Summary
Adapting Augmented Reality for Training and Education in Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering	Y. Alahakoon, A. K. Kulatunga	2021	This paper provides an in-depth analysis of the adoption of Augmented Reality (AR) for training and learning purposes in manufacturing and industrial engineering, highlighting global trends and challenges faced.
Supporting Engineering Changes in Manufacturing Through AR/VR Collaboration	C.Siedler <i>et al.</i>	2021	This study examines how Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) technologies can support engineering modifications in manufacturing systems, improving both planning and implementation.
Exploring AR and VR Applications in Manufacturing	R. Dhanalakshmi <i>et al.</i>	2021	This review covers the wide-ranging applications of AR and VR in the manufacturing industry, focusing on their roles in boosting productivity, operational efficiency, and overall process improvements.
Integrating AR/VR Technologies in Industry 4.0	S.Machała, N. Chamier-Gliszczyński, T.Królikowski	2022	This paper investigates how AR and VR technologies are integrated within Industry 4.0, particularly their crucial roles in smart manufacturing and optimizing production processes.
User Experience Evaluation of AR in Smart Manufacturing	T. G. Kukuni <i>et al.</i>	2022	This research evaluates user experiences with AR technologies in smart manufacturing, focusing on user



ing			satisfaction and the practical impact of AR systems on operational activities.
AR and VR's Influence on the Industrial Revolution	B. Bhattacharya	2022	This article explores the impact of AR and VR technologies throughout the Industrial Revolution, highlighting key historical developments and technological advancements.
AR-Based Skill Transfer System for Workpiece Fixturing in Turning Operations	K. Nishida, M. Itoh, K. Nakamoto	2023	This study presents an AR-based system aimed at enhancing skill transfer related to workpiece fixturing in turning operations, improving training and operational accuracy.
Convergence of AR/VR with IoT in Manufacturing: Innovative Applications	-	2023	This research discusses the intersection of AR and VR technologies with the Internet of Things (IoT) in manufacturing, emphasizing novel applications and the synergy between these technological fields [11],[12].
AR And VR Market Size Likely to Grow Exponentially	D. Shukla	2020	Discusses the projected growth of the AR and VR market, highlighting key factors driving market expansion and the implications for various industries.
Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Augmented Reality (AR)-Assisted Manufacturing Applications: A Review	Sahu, Chandan K; Young, Crystal; Rai, Rahul	2021	Reviews the integration of AI with AR in manufacturing applications, focusing on how AI enhances AR capabilities for improved manufacturing processes.
Augmented Reality in Manufacturing: Exploring Workers' Perceptions of Barriers	Schein, Katrin E; Rauschnabel, Philipp A	2021	Investigates barriers to AR adoption in manufacturing from the perspective of workers, identifying challenges and potential solutions for effective implementation.
Immersive Virtual Reality Application for Intelligent Manufacturing: Applications and Art Design	Yuan Lei, Zhi Su, Xiaotong He, Chao Cheng	2023	Examines immersive VR applications in intelligent manufacturing, including their design and application in various manufacturing scenarios.
An Augmented Reality Maintenance Assistant with Real-Time Quality Inspection on Handheld Mobile Devices	Frandsen, James; Tenny, Joseph; James Jr., Walter; Hovanski, Yuri	2023	Discusses an AR maintenance assistant for real-time quality inspection using handheld devices, highlighting its impact on maintenance efficiency and accuracy.
From Lab to Industry: Lessons Learned from the Evaluation of Augmented and Virtual Reality Use Cases in the Austrian Manufacturing Industry	Zigart, Tanja; Kormann-Hainzl, Gerhard; Lovasz-Bukvova, Helena; Ho'zl, Marvin; Moser, Thomas; Schlund, Sebastian	2023	Provides insights into lessons learned from evaluating AR and VR use cases in the Austrian manufacturing industry, focusing on practical experiences and outcomes.
Study of Hardware and Software Resources for Mobile Applications of Immersive Technologies in Manufacturing	Husa' r, Jozef; Knapc' ikova', Lucia; Trojanowska, Justyna	2023	Analyzes the hardware and software resources needed for mobile applications of immersive technologies in manufacturing, addressing resource requirements and challenges.
User Adoption of Augmented Reality and Mixed Reality in the Manufacturing Industry	Friedlander, Nuri	2023	Explores the factors influencing user adoption of AR and MR technologies in manufacturing, including challenges and strategies for successful integration.



V. PHASES AND IMPACTS OF AUGMENTED REALITY IN MANUFACTURING

The table illustrates how AR enhances key manufacturing phases. It improves assembly, maintenance, and quality control with real-time guidance, reduces training costs through simulations, and boosts efficiency in design, prototyping, and supply chain management. AR’s integration drives innovation and operational excellence across the industry.

Table I: Phases and Impacts of Augmented Reality in Manufacturing

Phases	Impact
Assembly	AR provides step-by-step guidance during assembly, improving speed and precision. Workers receive visual instructions directly on the task, reducing errors and reliance on paper guides. [13]
Maintenance	AR overlays diagnostic information onto equipment, aiding technicians in quickly identifying and addressing issues, which reduces downtime and minimizes production delays. [10]
Automation	AR aids in robot programming and simulations, enhancing safety by allowing virtual testing of robotic movements and accelerating system setup. [14]
Quality Control	AR projects digital models onto products for real-time inspection, ensuring adherence to design specifications and improving overall product quality. [15]
Training	AR offers immersive simulations for training, allowing employees to practice in a virtual environment and reducing traditional training costs. [16]
Design and Prototyping	AR enables real-time prototype visualization, speeding up design iterations and reducing the need for physical prototypes. [17]
Supply Chain Management	AR enhances inventory and logistics management with real-time tracking, improving accuracy and operational efficiency. [18]
Remote Collaboration	AR facilitates real-time data sharing and interaction among remote teams, enhancing communication and project efficiency. [19], [20]
Product Customization	AR allows customers to visualize and customize products before purchase, enhancing satisfaction and reducing return rates. [15]
Workplace Safety Training	AR simulates hazardous scenarios for training, improving safety awareness and preparedness without real-world risks. [21]

VI. REFERRED RESEARCH PAPERS ON AR AND VR FOR ANALYSIS ACROSS VARIOUS INDUSTRY DOMAINS

Table II: Industry Types Covered in Ar/Vr Research Papers

Industry Type	References
Aerospace	[1], [4], [6], [11], [16], [18]
Automotive	[1], [2], [4], [8], [12], [23], [24]
Energy	[1], [3], [4], [12], [14], [18]
Defense	[1], [3], [4]
Medical	[1], [4], [11], [16]
Consumer Electronics	[2], [13]
Furniture	[13]
Apparel	[13]
Construction	[4], [7], [22]
Manufacturing Systems	[2], [5], [8], [12], [18], [21], [31]
Smart Factories	[2], [8], [11], [21], [27]
Industrial IoT	[1], [2], [4], [8], [12], [21], [31]

The above table highlights the range of industries where research has focused on integrating Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual



Reality (VR) with the Internet of Things (IoT).

These technologies are increasingly important across sectors, enhancing efficiency and productivity.

Overall, the table underscores the broad potential of AR/VR in transforming various industries within the context of Industry 4.0.

VII. INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTIONS AND TECHNOLOGICAL EVOLUTION IN MANUFACTURING

A. Historical Context

1) *First Industrial Revolution (Industry 1.0)*: Mechanization was introduced through water and steam power, automating processes, and establishing factory systems.

2) *Second Industrial Revolution (Industry 2.0)*: Electricity and assembly lines enabled mass production, standardization, and the rise of industrial giants [17], [22], [23].

3) *Third Industrial Revolution (Industry 3.0)*: Automation and computerization improved precision and customization in manufacturing through digital technology.

4) *Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0)*: Characterized by integrating cyber-physical systems, IoT, AI, big data, and AR. Industry 4.0 aims for intelligent systems that enable real-time data analysis and customized production [15].

B. Role of Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)

1) *Significance of AR in Industry 4.0*: AR bridges the physical and digital worlds, enhancing user engagement and operational efficiency in manufacturing [24]. *Challenges and Opportunities in AR Adoption*: AR adoption faces implementation hurdles but offers substantial benefits for productivity and efficiency [10].

2) *Understanding AR, VR, and Mixed Reality (MR)*: AR overlays digital information on the physical world, VR immerses users in simulated environments, and MR combines elements of both, as per Milgram's Reality-Virtuality Continuum.

C. Long-Term Impact and Emerging Trends

AR/VR technologies are poised to leave a lasting mark on various industries by enhancing efficiency, user engagement, and operational processes. While challenges such as high implementation costs and complex integration remain [25], [26], the growing adoption in sectors like healthcare, education, and manufacturing underscores their significant potential [27], [28]. As these technologies continue to evolve, future trends will likely focus on improving accessibility, reducing costs, and streamlining the integration process [29], [30]. These advancements will enable broader global adoption, driving transformative changes across industries [27], [28].

VIII. USER BASE OF THE AUGMENTED AND VIRTUAL REALITY

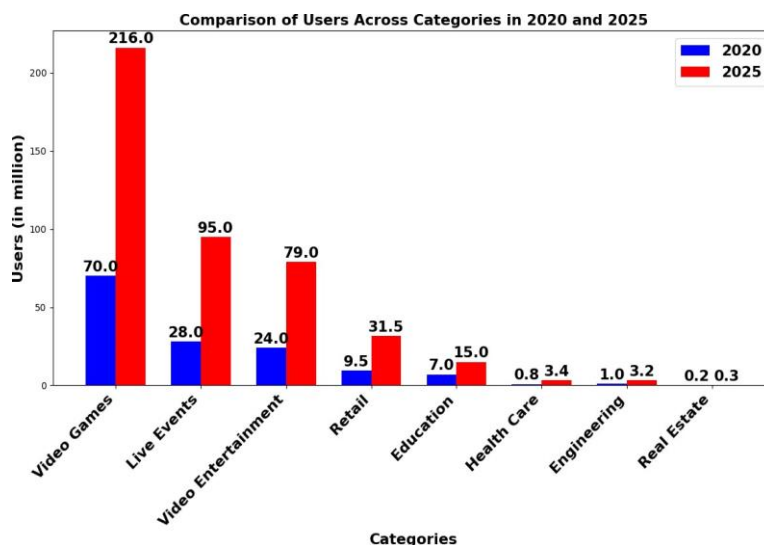


Fig. 1. Forecast user base of the augmented and virtual reality software market worldwide in 2020 and 2025, by segment (in millions) (Source: Goldman Sachs Statista 2018)



The bar graph compares the estimated number of users (in millions) across various sectors in the years 2020 and 2025. Here's a detailed look at each category:

Video Games: The number of users is projected to grow significantly from 70 million in 2020 to 216 million in 2025. This reflects the growing popularity and engagement in video gaming.

Live Events: Users are expected to increase from 28 million in 2020 to 95 million in 2025. This suggests a strong resurgence and growth in live event attendance, likely driven by improvements in technology and experiences.

Video Entertainment: From 24 million in 2020 to 79 million in 2025. The rise indicates a growing interest in immersive video content and streaming services.

Retail: User numbers are projected to rise from 9.5 million in 2020 to 31.5 million in 2025, highlighting the increasing adoption of AR/VR for shopping experiences and virtual try-ons.

Education: The increase from 7 million in 2020 to 15 million in 2025 demonstrates the expanding use of AR/VR in educational settings for immersive learning experiences.

Health Care: Growth from 0.8 million in 2020 to 3.4 million in 2025. This reflects the increasing integration of AR/VR for medical training, diagnostics, and patient care.

Engineering: The user base is set to grow from 1 million in 2020 to 3.2 million in 2025, indicating a rise in the use of AR/VR for design, prototyping, and engineering simulations. **Real Estate:** A slight increase from 0.2 million in 2020 to 0.3 million in 2025. This modest growth suggests a gradual adoption of AR/VR in real estate for virtual property tours and marketing.

This graph provides a visual representation of how various industries are expected to expand their use of AR/VR technologies, reflecting broader trends in technological adoption and user engagement across different sectors.

VR AND AR APPLICATION FIELD AND THEIR MARKET SHARE DETAILED SECTOR ANALYSIS

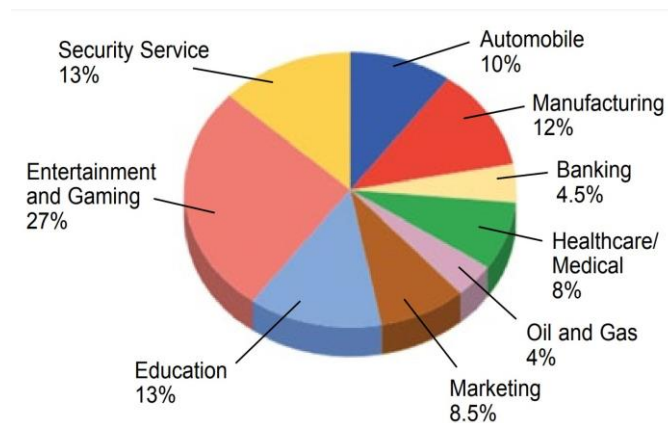


Fig. 2. Market share [31]

The pie chart provides a visual representation of the market distribution among various sectors. Below is a detailed analysis of each sector's contribution:

- **Entertainment and Gaming (27%):** This sector commands the largest market share, highlighting its dominant position in the industry. The significant percentage reflects a high level of consumer engagement and investment in areas such as video games, streaming services, and immersive entertainment technologies. The growth in this sector is driven by technological advancements in virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and interactive content.
- **Automobile (10%):** The automobile industry holds a substantial market share, representing ongoing innovation and development in automotive technology. This includes advancements in electric vehicles (EVs), autonomous driving, and connected car technologies. The 10% share indicates strong interest and investment in the future of transportation and automotive solutions.
- **Manufacturing (12%):** Manufacturing maintains a significant presence in the market, reflecting its role in industrial production and technological advancements. This sector encompasses traditional manufacturing processes as well as emerging trends in



smart manufacturing, automation, and Industry 4.0 technologies. The 12% share underscores the sector's importance in driving economic growth and technological innovation.

- **Banking (4.5%):** The banking sector's market share is relatively modest, yet it represents a crucial aspect of the financial services industry. This includes digital banking solutions, fintech innovations, and technology integration in banking operations. The 4.5% share suggests a steady, albeit less dominant, role compared to other sectors.
- **Healthcare/Medical (8%):** The healthcare and medical sector captures a significant market share, reflecting the growing importance of health technology and services. This includes developments in telemedicine, electronic health records (EHRs), and medical devices. The 8% share highlights the sector's focus on improving health-care delivery and outcomes through technological advancements.
- **Oil and Gas (4%):** The oil and gas sector represents a smaller portion of the market, indicating its steady but less dynamic role. This sector continues to play a fundamental role in global energy supply, but its market presence is less pronounced compared to other rapidly evolving industries. The 4% share reflects ongoing developments in energy extraction and management technologies.
- **Marketing (8.5%):** Marketing holds a notable market share, driven by the increasing importance of digital marketing strategies, data analytics, and advertising technologies. The 8.5% share reflects the sector's emphasis on consumer engagement and brand promotion through various digital platforms and tools.
- **Education (13%):** The education sector has a substantial market share, emphasizing the growing focus on educational technologies and e-learning platforms. This includes online courses, virtual classrooms, and educational software. The 13% share indicates a strong investment in enhancing learning experiences and accessibility through technology.
- **Security Service (13%):** Security services, including cybersecurity and physical security, also capture a significant market share. This reflects the increasing need for protection against cyber threats, data breaches, and physical security challenges. The 13% share highlights the sector's critical role in safeguarding information and assets in a digital and physical environment.

IX. THE GLOBAL MARKET SHARE FOR AUGMENTED REALITY (AR) AND VIRTUAL REALITY (VR) IN MANUFACTURING IS SEGMENTED BY REGION

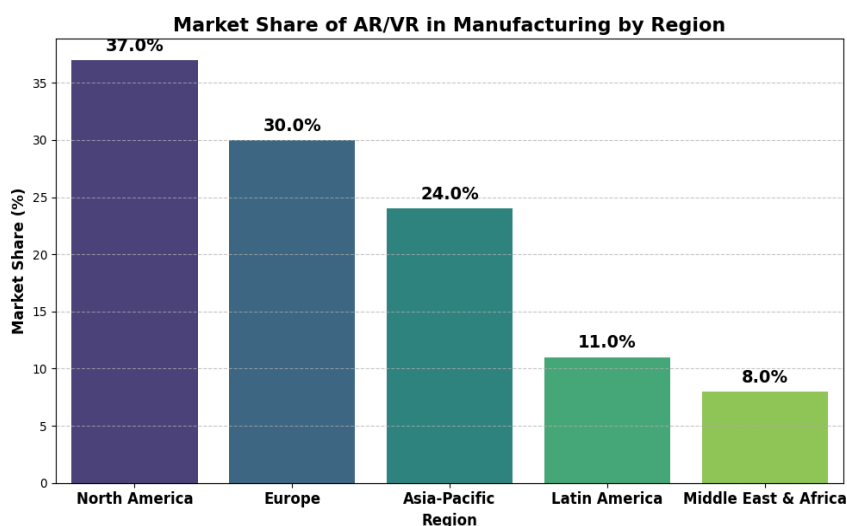


Fig. 3. Global market share [32]–[35]

In the Above Figure, the North America region leads in the AR/VR manufacturing market due to its technological advancements and extensive consumer base. Europe is experiencing rapid growth and could potentially challenge this dominance. Asia-Pacific remains a significant player thanks to its advanced industrial sector while emerging markets such as the Middle East & Africa and Latin America are beginning to explore the potential of AR/VR technologies. For a more comprehensive analysis of these market trends, consider reviewing the latest reports from Cognitive Market Research, Market Research Future,

and Virtue Market Research.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS IN AR/VR FOR MANUFACTURING

Research Focus Areas in AR/VR for Manufacturing

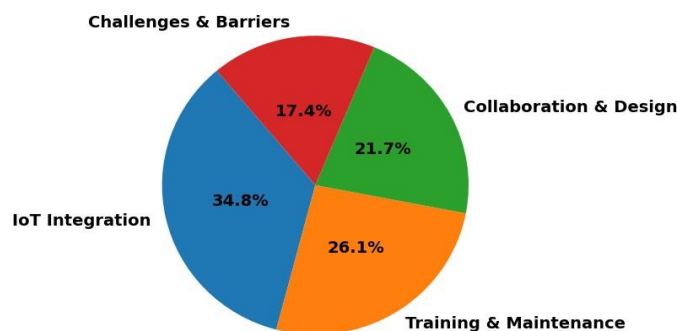


Fig. 4. research review focused areas

The pie Chart above illustrates the distribution of research focus areas in AR/VR for manufacturing. It highlights the number of papers dedicated to each key area:

- **IoT Integration:** This is the most extensively researched area, with 8 papers, making up 34.8% of the total. This demonstrates a strong interest in exploring how AR/VR can be integrated with IoT to develop more interconnected and intelligent manufacturing systems.
- **Training & Maintenance:** There are 6 papers (26.1%) dedicated to this area, reflecting the significant role of AR/VR in enhancing training processes and maintenance procedures, thereby improving operational efficiency and safety in manufacturing environments.
- **Collaboration & Design:** This category encompasses 5 papers (21.7%), focusing on how AR/VR can improve collaborative efforts, especially in design and prototyping, by providing real-time, interactive visualization of models and processes.
- **Challenges & Barriers:** This area has 4 papers (17.4%), addressing the challenges of adopting AR/VR technologies, including cost, technical complexity, and data security issues.

This visualization offers a clear overview of the current research trends in AR/VR for manufacturing, highlighting where the most progress is being made and identifying areas that require further exploration.

X. CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

A. Challenges

1) **Cost and Accessibility:** The high initial costs associated with AR/VR hardware and software present significant financial barriers, particularly for smaller manufacturing firms. This challenge limits the widespread adoption and integration of these technologies [36], [37].

2) **Technical and Infrastructural Issues:** Implementing AR/VR applications requires advanced technical infrastructure, which may not be available in all manufacturing facilities. Ensuring compatibility with existing systems and upgrading infrastructure can be both complex and costly. [26], [38], [39]

3) **Training and Integration:** Successfully integrating AR/VR technologies into manufacturing workflows necessitates specialized training. The complexity of these systems and the need for alignment with existing processes can result in a steep learning curve and resistance from employees, particularly those accustomed to traditional methods.



B. Recommendations and Future Research

- Develop and implement comprehensive training programs to enhance user proficiency and ease the transition to AR/VR technologies.
- Invest in upgrading technical infrastructure and encourage collaborative efforts to build supportive AR/VR integration ecosystems.
- Conduct longitudinal studies to assess the long-term impacts of AR/VR on productivity, operational efficiency, and worker safety.
- Explore strategies to enhance the cost-effectiveness and scalability of AR/VR solutions across various manufacturing contexts to broaden adoption.

XI. CONCLUSION

Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) have demonstrated significant potential to transform manufacturing practices, offering design, training, maintenance, and quality control enhancements. These technologies facilitate real-time data visualization, immersive training, and efficient assembly procedures, improving productivity and operational efficiency. However, widespread adoption is hindered by the high hardware and software costs, technical infrastructure requirements, and the challenges of integrating AR/VR into existing workflows. Small industries, in particular, face barriers related to financial constraints and the difficulty of training employees. Addressing these challenges through targeted investments, comprehensive training programs, and strategic integration plans is crucial for maximizing the benefits of AR/VR in manufacturing and fostering broader industry adoption.

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