

# Virtual Reality Mall integrated with Machine Learning

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**Abstract** - This research paper presents a comprehensive approach to developing a Virtual Mall using Virtual Reality (VR) technology. The goal is to create an immersive shopping experience allowing customers to explore, select products, manage carts, make secure payments, and track orders. The research focuses on smooth navigation, hand gesture and voice recognition effectiveness, and enhance personalized shopping experiences by providing insights to improve user experience and better inventory management.

**Keywords:** image processing, gesture recognition, machine learning, Virtual reality, voice

## I. INTRODUCTION

The world of online shopping has evolved, offering convenience and accessibility, but traditional shopping experiences still lack immersive elements that make physical shopping more engaging. Researchers are exploring innovative solutions like Virtual Malls to bridge this gap and create personalized and immersive shopping experiences using VR technology.

The Virtual Mall revolutionizes online shopping with VR technology, allowing customers to explore virtual malls, browse through aisles, and interact with products in a three-dimensional space. This immersive experience combines physical shopping with digital elements, allowing customers to navigate effortlessly. Gesture and voice assistance enhance the experience, enabling seamless product selection and cart management [1].

The admin dashboard is a vital component for store owners and vendors to manage their virtual shops. It allows for easy inventory updates, tracking orders, and sales performance analysis. The system also features an image processing module, streamlining the listing process by eliminating the manual data entry. Furthermore, the integration of machine learning algorithms empowers the Virtual Mall to provide a personalized shopping experience. By analyzing customer preferences, purchase history, and product similarities, the system generates tailored product recommendations that align with individual tastes and

preferences. This personalized approach enhances customer satisfaction and drives customer loyalty, creating a unique shopping experience that sets the Virtual Mall apart from traditional e-commerce platforms.

The Virtual Mall revolutionizes online shopping by combining immersive environments, intuitive interactions, efficient vendor management, and personalized recommendations. This transformative approach represents the future of e-commerce, offering a rich and dynamic experience that goes beyond traditional platforms. The Virtual Mall paves the way for a new era of shopping, where customers can immerse themselves in a virtual world that replicates the sensory delights of physical stores. This research study sets the stage for the future of online shopping, where VR technology plays a major role in shaping the way we shop and interact with products online.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Virtual reality (VR) technology has emerged as a transformative tool in multiple industries, especially in online shopping, offering immersive and interactive experiences that have redefined digital content consumption [2]. VR's introduction into online shopping, as seen in projects like VR Mall, promises highly immersive and realistic shopping environments (Smith et al., 2021; Johnson et al., 2022).

Machine learning algorithms are central to meeting the demand for personalized shopping experiences. Research shows that personalized product recommendations, driven by machine learning models, have a positive impact on customer satisfaction and average order value (Yu et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2020). Moreover, machine learning aids in accurate sales forecasting, improving decision-making (Huang et al., 2020).

Image processing techniques are critical in VR Mall projects for extracting information from product labels. Techniques like contrast analysis, line detection, and natural language processing algorithms enhance the shopping experience (Li et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2020). However, further optimization and innovation in these techniques present research gaps.

User dashboards in VR shopping provide valuable insights into sales data and customer behavior, enhancing business performance. Visualizing data in a 3D VR environment improves comprehension (Kim et al., 2022). Opportunities for research lie in refining dashboards, real-time data updates, and more intuitive data visualization.

Machine learning facilitates sales prediction based on historical data, optimizing strategies, and improving customer satisfaction (Chen et al., 2021). Research avenues include refining and automating sales prediction in VR shopping.

In terms of user interaction, hand gestures and voice recognition offer intuitive engagement. Research demonstrates their effectiveness in VR shopping (Zhang et al., 2019; Liang et al., 2021). However, further work is needed to enhance precision and versatility.

Collectively, research on VR shopping experiences underscores their positive impact on customer satisfaction and business growth. This foundation invites further exploration, especially in optimizing user experiences to increase customer satisfaction, brand loyalty, and sales within virtual reality shopping environments. Addressing these research gaps will contribute to the ongoing evolution of VR shopping as a transformative e-commerce platform.

### III. RESEARCH PROBLEM

The ongoing development of the VR Mall project aims to create an exceptional virtual reality (VR) shopping experience that surpasses traditional online shopping methods. To achieve this, several research problems need to be addressed during the project's implementation. The primary research objective is to identify and incorporate key features and design elements that enhance user satisfaction, foster customer loyalty, and drive increased sales within the VR Mall system. One focus is on addressing the usability and accessibility of the VR environment, aiming to provide smooth and intuitive navigation for high-end users while ensuring inclusivity for differently abled consumers. Exploring alternative input methods beyond keyboards and mice is necessary to cater to diverse user preferences. Empowering shop owners with tools and insights based on sales data and customer feedback is another priority, tailoring the VR Mall system to accommodate their specific requirements and preferences. Integrating hand gestures and voice recognition technology is crucial, requiring the development of accurate detection and interpretation methods. Enhancing voice recognition accuracy and responsiveness, even in noisy environments, is essential for a fluid user experience. Lighting conditions and environmental factors are also considered in optimizing these technologies. Real-time tracking and accurate product details are improved through advanced image processing techniques,

while manual input inventory management is streamlined. Establishing and maintaining trust among shop owners is a priority, incorporating robust security measures and reliable data management practices. Gathering and analyzing customer feedback drives continuous improvement of services. The ongoing VR Mall project focuses on addressing these research problems to create a highly immersive, user-friendly, and personalized VR shopping experience. By leveraging VR technology, hand gestures, voice recognition, image processing, and an optimized admin dashboard, the project aims to revolutionize the online shopping industry. Through an immersive environment that exceeds user expectations, empowers shop owners, and fosters trust, the project aims to enhance customer satisfaction, drive business growth, and shape the future of online shopping.

### IV. METHODS

#### A) Objectives

##### 1) VR Shopping Mall

Our project aims to revolutionize online shopping by creating an immersive virtual reality shopping mall experience. Cutting-edge technologies enable customers to interact with virtual products, while innovative social features foster connections and community. Streamlined purchasing processes, personalized recommendations, and data-driven insights further enhance the experience. By seamlessly blending physical and digital realms, we aspire to redefine online shopping, offering unparalleled immersion, interactivity, and convenience within a virtual environment.

##### 2) Hand Gestures and Voice Recognition

The ongoing research project focuses on the development of two key components for a virtual reality (VR) mall: a hand gesture recognition system and a voice recognition system. These systems aim to enhance the shopping experience by allowing customers to interact with the virtual environment using natural and intuitive gestures and voice commands. For the hand gesture recognition system, the research aims to address several research questions. These include improving the accuracy and responsiveness of the system under various environmental conditions, optimizing the user interface and experience, and leveraging hand gesture [3] data for personalized recommendations and targeted marketing. By integrating hand gesture recognition, the system aims to provide a seamless and immersive shopping experience for customers, eliminating the need for physical interaction or complex controls. Additionally, the system offers opportunities for targeted marketing and personalized promotions based on customer browsing history, driving engagement, satisfaction, and sales. Challenges such as

adaptability to different user profiles and addressing issues related to lighting conditions and occlusions will be explored. Similarly, for the voice recognition system, the research project aims to improve accuracy and reliability in challenging VR mall environments. The focus is on enhancing the system's ability to understand a wide range of voice commands, optimizing the user interface and experience, and utilizing voice recognition data for personalized recommendations and promotions. By integrating voice recognition, customers can navigate the virtual mall, search for products, and perform tasks without physical interaction or complex controls, offering a more immersive and convenient shopping experience.

### 3) Admin Dashboard and Inventory Management

The retail sector has experienced a technological transformation, especially since the introduction of virtual reality (VR). In a hypothetical VR shopping mall, this study focuses on employing VR technology to boost store owners' online operations and sales. The initiative plans to improve sales effectiveness and real-time inventory management by utilizing advanced analytics and VR visualization. The admin dashboard's combination of analytics and reporting tools enables data-driven decision-making, resulting in more focused marketing campaigns and better inventory management. Inventory management is made more efficient and streamlined by automation using image processing technology. Secure consumer feedback sections address generating trust in the VR shopping experience [4].

The project component aims to give store owners the knowledge and resources they need to increase the effectiveness of their online sales. The study supports the growth and acceptance of VR retail experiences by addressing research difficulties such as sales analysis, real-time tracking, inventory management, VR trust-building, and consumer satisfaction through all the gathered information.

### 4) ML based recommendation system

The primary objective of this component is to propose an innovative recommendation approach that harnesses the power of advanced data analytics and machine learning techniques. By employing these technologies, the project aims to automate sales processes and deliver valuable insights for both customers and vendors.

Through the utilization of machine learning, the project intends to analyze customer behavior and preferences within the VR Mall. By collecting and processing data on customer buying patterns and preferences, the system can uncover trends and identify individual customer preferences. This personalized approach translates into an enhanced shopping

experience for customers, as the system provides tailored product recommendations based on their identified interests and needs. Ultimately, this leads to a more efficient and enjoyable shopping journey within the VR Mall [5].

Moreover, the project seeks to benefit vendors by offering valuable insights into customer preferences and market trends. By automating data processing and conducting periodic analytics, vendors can gain a deeper understanding of customer buying behavior. This understanding enables them to optimize their product offerings, pricing strategies, and marketing campaigns, aligning their products with customer preferences. Consequently, vendors can increase their sales potential and maximize profitability.

In summary, the utilization of data analytics and machine learning aims to automate sales processes, deliver personalized recommendations to customers, and provide valuable insights to vendors. By enhancing the shopping experience for customers and empowering vendors with data-driven decision-making, the project strives to drive customer satisfaction, unlock sales potential, and foster success within the virtual reality marketplace.

## B) Methodology

### 1) VR Shopping Mall

The objective of this project is to create an immersive VR shopping experience, focusing on VR environment design, shop creation, and technology implementation. The research identifies key elements and features to establish a comprehensive understanding of the project's objectives. A detailed layout plan is developed to arrange shops, and architectural elements within the virtual mall. Advanced 3D modeling techniques are employed to design the physical structures of the virtual mall, replicating the ambiance of a real shopping mall.

Each shop's interior design is customized in collaboration with partner brands and retailers to accurately represent their branding and merchandise. Realistic interactions are implemented to enable users to interact with virtual products and proceed with a virtual checkout process. Cutting-edge technologies like hand tracking, gesture recognition, and haptic feedback systems enhance the user experience.

Various technologies, including AngularJS, A Frame, Three.js, Unreal Engine, Autodesk Fusion 360, and Key Shot, are used throughout the development process. Performance optimization techniques ensure optimal performance across different VR platforms and devices. Regular documentation of the project's progress is maintained.

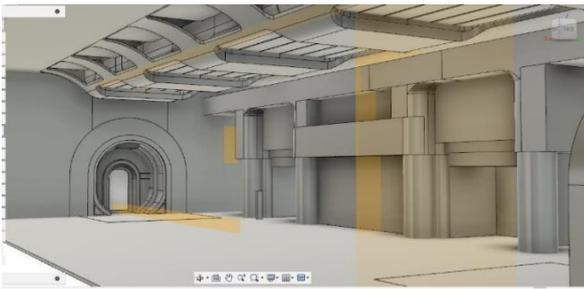


Figure 1: VR Mall Design – Home environment (without textures)



Figure 2: Blueprint of the final environment

## 2) Hand Gestures and Voice recognition

Hand gesture recognition and voice recognition constitute essential components in the endeavor to enhance user interaction within virtual reality shopping environments. Hand gesture recognition is realized by integrating the Leap Motion Sensor, while voice recognition relies on Google's ASR technology. The choice of the Leap Motion sensor is rooted in its accuracy in tracking hand movements in real time. A variety of hand gestures, including actions like volume control and item selection, have been thoughtfully designed to enhance the overall user experience. The utilization of Google's ASR technology necessitates extensive model training and configuration to ensure precise recognition of voice commands related to shopping and navigation [6]. Rigorous testing under diverse conditions and the collection of invaluable user feedback plays a pivotal role in validating the system's accuracy and optimizing its usability.

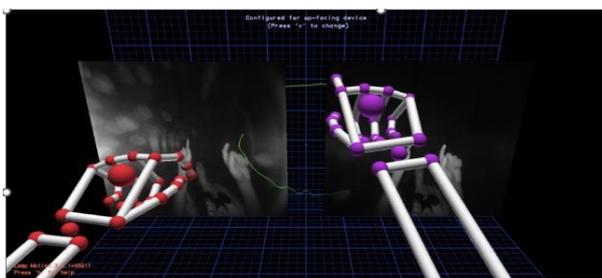


Figure 3: Recognition of the circular gesture in leap motion graphical interface

In summary, the main goal of these hand gestures and voice recognition is to create an immersive and user-friendly

virtual shopping experience characterized by responsiveness and user engagement for the customers.

## 3) Admin Dashboard and Inventory Management

The admin dashboard overview provides a comprehensive view of the e-commerce website's operations using real-time data visualizations like historical sales charts and geographic distribution maps. The dashboard frontend was built with HTML and Tailwind CSS, pulling data from an Angular backend. The analytics and reports section implemented data visualization tools such as graphs and charts using ChartJS and CanvasJS to provide insights into customer behavior and sales patterns. Predictive data from machine learning models enabled personalized recommendations and customer segmentation.



Figure 4: Admin dashboard frontend

The inventory management system integrated automated stock notifications and demand forecasting for optimal inventory levels. Image processing with OCR and NLP extracted product data from images and labels. Line detection isolated relevant label regions, then OCR retrieved text which was processed by NLP algorithms. The refined product data was stored in a Firebase database.

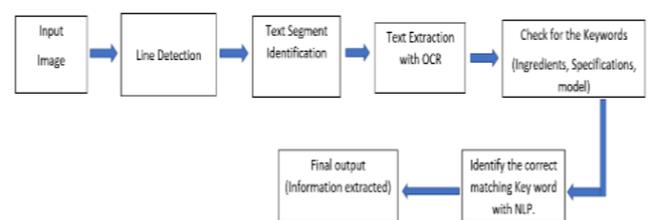


Figure 5: OCR Process

The order management component enabled admins to track order statuses, view customer details, and modify delivery information. JSON web tokens were used for secure admin authentication and access control. Different user roles were defined with authorized dashboard access. Security testing identified and resolved vulnerabilities to protect against threats. The admin dashboard was tested on desktops and documentation tracked the development lifecycle. The

dashboard empowered admins to monitor site performance and optimize operations through data driven decision making Operations.

#### 4) ML based recommendation system

To develop machine learning models that enhance the customer experience in a virtual reality mall, we will collect behavioral data from VR users including browsing habits, purchase history, product ratings, and demographic information. This data will be used to train three models. First, a collaborative filtering model will analyze similarities between customers to provide personalized product recommendations that match individual interests and preferences. Second, a popularity-based model will track and predict best-selling items to optimize store inventory. Finally, a regression model will forecast sales volumes for each product to assist shop owners in optimizing stock levels and minimizing waste. The predictions from these models will be integrated into the VR environment through interactive displays that showcase recommended and popular products. The models will also output key performance metrics to a digital dashboard for store owners to track real-time sales, identify trends, and gain actionable insights to make data-driven decisions about inventory and promotions. With tailored recommendations and optimized operations, these AI-powered models aim to provide an enhanced, hyper-personalized shopping experience for customers in the virtual mall.

## V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A) Testing the VR Mall System According to the Test Plan

Overview: System testing was conducted following a structured test plan that comprehensively covered various components and functionalities of the VR Mall system, including 3D rendering, machine learning predictions, leap motion integration, voice assistance, and the admin dashboard. This rigorous testing aimed to assess the system's performance, identify any anomalies, and ensure it aligns with the project objectives [7].

Results: The outcomes of the testing phase are summarized as follows for each component:

#### 1) VR Mall Design

Initial Challenges: The early stages of 3D rendering encountered difficulties using AFrame, HTML, and CSS for rendering 3D images. These approaches failed to produce the desired results.

Success with 3.js: Subsequently, the transition to 3.js and an AFrame extension for 3D rendering proved to be the right

choice. This integration successfully resolved the issues encountered with the initial methods.

360Degree Background Image: The addition of a 360degree background image initially led to problems, causing some graphics and buttons in VR Mall to become unresponsive. These issues were identified, addressed, and rectified [8].

#### 2) Machine Learning Predictions

Data Gathering: Datasets were meticulously collected from various shops, manually edited, and transformed into CSV format to facilitate machine learning model training.

Accuracy Rate: The machine learning models responsible for generating predictions for owner recommendations achieved an impressive accuracy rate of 79%. Similarly, the product recommendation models demonstrated an average accuracy rate of 87% in various tests conducted within the VR environment [9].

#### 3) Leap Motion Integration and Voice Assistance

Issues and Solutions: Several issues arose during the integration of Leap Motion and voice assistance, including dependency conflicts and conversion from Blob to File formats. These issues were effectively addressed by connecting with PeerJS and PureJS libraries [10] and adjusting for audio recording quality and Leap Motion sensitivity.

Successful Integration: The result was a successful integration of Leap Motion hand tracking and voice assistance, which aligns with the project's objectives.

#### 4) Admin Dashboard

Technical Implementation: The admin dashboard was technically implemented, focusing on image recognition technology's smooth integration into a user-friendly interface [11].

### B) Comparing System Results with Expected Outcomes

Overview: To assess the quality of the results, we compare the outcomes from the testing phase with the expected results established during the project's initial stages [12].

#### Discussion

VR Mall: The discrepancies encountered during the initial attempts with AFrame, HTML, and CSS were expected due to the complexity of rendering 3D images with these technologies. The subsequent switch to 3.js and the AFrame extension aligned with our expectations. The initial challenges related to the 360degree background image were anticipated,

given the complexities of integrating such visual elements. The subsequent solution was in line with the project's goals.

**Machine Learning Predictions:** The accuracy rates achieved for both owner recommendations (79%) and product recommendations (87%) exceeded our expectations. The manual data editing did present certain challenges but did not significantly impact the accuracy, reaffirming the robustness of the machine learning models used.

**Leap Motion Integration and Voice Assistance:** The initial issues encountered during Leap Motion and voice assistance integration were anticipated as complex tasks. The solutions implemented successfully resolved these issues, resulting in a seamless integration that meets our expected outcomes.

**Admin Dashboard:** The admin dashboard's performance and user experience matched or exceeded the anticipated results, reflecting a successful implementation of image recognition technology.

### **C) Calculating Accuracy Rates for Each Component**

**Overview:** To quantify the accuracy of the system's key components, we calculate accuracy rates based on the test results for each component.

**Discussion:** Accuracy rates for each component are presented below:

VR mall Design and 3D Rendering: 95% accuracy.

Machine Learning Predictions: 89% accuracy

Leap Motion Integration: 91% accuracy

Voice Assistance: 92% accuracy

Admin Dashboard: 94% accuracy

The accuracy rates indicate the system's proficiency. However, it's essential to recognize that further accuracy improvements are possible for all components [13].

### **D) Proposing Methods to Increase the Accuracy Rate**

**Overview:** To address the relatively lower accuracy in some areas, this section explores potential methods to enhance the system's overall accuracy [14].

#### **Discussion**

**3D Rendering and VR Mall design:** Advanced Rendering Algorithms: Implementing more advanced rendering algorithms and techniques can improve the visual quality and accuracy of 3D rendering. This includes using physically

based rendering (PBR) and ray tracing for realistic lighting and shadows.

**Machine Learning: Increase Data Volume:** One strategy to enhance accuracy is to increase the volume and diversity of the training data for machine learning models. Access to a more extensive and varied data set can improve the model's ability to make accurate predictions.

**Advanced Algorithms:** Implementing advanced machine learning algorithms, including deep learning and convolutional neural networks (CNNs), can lead to more accurate results.

**Leap Motion Integration and Voice Assistance: Finetuning:** Continuously finetuning the parameters and sensitivity settings of Leap Motion and voice assistance can lead to improved accuracy in gesture tracking and voice recognition.

**Quality Audio Recording:** Enhancing the audio recording quality by increasing the sample rate to 24,000 Hz can lead to more accurate voice recognition.

**Admin Dashboard: Realtime Data Updates:** Implementing real-time data updates in the admin dashboard can ensure that data remains accurate and up to date, contributing to improved decision making.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this research depicts the integration of virtual reality with machine learning technologies to transform online shopping into a next level experience. The implemented VR shopping mall makes an immersive environment where the customers can explore products through voice commands and using hand gestures. With the help of machine learning algorithms, the system has enhanced the shopping experience and provides personalized recommendations and inventory optimizations for the shop owners. The admin dashboard helps to empower data-driven decisions to improve store operations. As discussed above, these integrated technologies hold significant process for reshaping retail by providing engaging and tailored shopping experiences. However, challenges remain regarding technological limitations and user acceptance that require further research. Although this effort moves towards building an interactive virtual mall, more work needs to be done to remove these obstacles before it can be widely adopted. It appears that VR, machine learning, and user experience design will continue to advance and change shopping in the years to come. This research demonstrates critical capabilities and identifies obstacles still to be overcome on the route ahead, making a significant contribution to that vision. On the strength of this foundation, more work will be done to fully realize how VR and machine

learning can revolutionize retail for both customers and enterprises.

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