Virtual Reality Definition

Virtual reality (VR) is a simulated experience that can be similar to or completely different from the real world. Applications of virtual reality can include entertainment (i.e. video games) and educational purposes (i.e. medical or military training). Other, distinct types of VR style technology include augmented reality and mixed reality, sometimes referred to as extended reality or XR.

Currently standard virtual reality systems use either virtual reality headsets or multi-projected environments to generate realistic images, sounds and other sensations that simulate a user's physical presence in a virtual environment. A person using virtual reality equipment is able to look around the artificial world, move around in it, and interact with virtual features or items. The effect is commonly created by VR headsets consisting of a head-mounted display with a small screen in front of the eyes, but can also be created through specially designed rooms with multiple large screens. Virtual reality typically incorporates auditory and video feedback, but may also allow other types of sensory and force feedback through haptic technology.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_reality

Augmented Reality Definition

Augmented reality (AR) is an interactive experience of a real-world environment where the objects that reside in the real world are enhanced by computer-generated perceptual information, sometimes across multiple sensory modalities, including visual, auditory, haptic, somatosensory and olfactory. AR can be defined as a system that fulfills three basic features: a combination of real and virtual worlds, real-time interaction, and accurate 3D registration of virtual and real objects. The overlaid sensory information can be constructive (i.e. additive to the natural environment), or destructive (i.e. masking of the natural environment). This experience is seamlessly interwoven with the physical world such that it is perceived as an immersive aspect of the real environment. In this way, augmented reality alters one's ongoing perception of a real-world environment, whereas virtual reality completely replaces the user's real-world environment with a simulated one.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augmented_reality
The lasers in the HoloLens 2 shine into a set of mirrors that oscillate as quickly as 54,000 times per second so the reflected light can paint a display. Those two pieces together form the basis of a microelectromechanical system (MEMS) display. That’s all tricky to make, but the really tricky part for a MEMS display is getting the image that it paints into your eyeball.

The HoloLens uses waveguides, pieces of glass in front of your eye that are carefully etched so they can reflect the 3D displays. When you put the whole system together — the lasers, the mirrors, and the waveguide — you get a bright display with a wide field of view that doesn’t have to be precisely aimed into your eyes to work.

The internal processor is an ARM-based Qualcomm Snapdragon 850, which is designed to be very battery-efficient.
Extended reality (XR) is a term referring to all real-and-virtual combined environments and human-machine interactions generated by computer technology and wearables, where the "X" represents a variable for any current or future spatial computing technologies. It includes representative forms such as augmented reality (AR), mixed reality (MR), and virtual reality (VR) and the areas interpolated among them. The levels of virtuality range from partially sensory inputs to immersive virtuality, also called VR.

XR is a superset which includes the entire spectrum from "the complete real" to "the complete virtual" in the concept of reality–virtuality continuum... Still, its connotation lies in the extension of human experiences especially relating to the senses of existence (represented by VR) and the acquisition of cognition (represented by AR). With the continuous development in human–computer interactions, this connotation is still evolving.

Mixed reality (MR) is the merging of real and virtual worlds to produce new environments and visualizations, where physical and digital objects co-exist and interact in real time. Mixed reality does not exclusively take place in either the physical or virtual world, but is a hybrid of reality and virtual reality, encompassing both augmented reality and augmented virtuality via immersive technology.

Augmented virtuality (AV) is a subcategory of mixed reality that refers to the merging of real-world objects into virtual worlds. As an intermediate case in the virtuality continuum, it refers to predominantly virtual spaces, where physical elements (such as physical objects or people) are dynamically integrated into and can interact with the virtual world in real-time. This integration is achieved with the use of various techniques, such as streaming video from physical spaces, like through a webcam, or using the 3D digitalization of physical objects. The use of real-world sensor information, such as gyroscopes, to control a virtual environment is an additional form of augmented virtuality, in which external inputs provide context for the virtual view.

VR/AR usually involves Binocular Vision, but Doesn’t Have To

In everyday living, part of our perception of depth comes from the slight difference in how our two eyes see the world around us. This is known as binocular vision. We care about this, and are discussing it, because stereo computer graphics can be a great help in de-cluttering a complex 3D scene. It can also enhance the feeling of being immersed in a movie.

VR with Head Tracking is Good for Walking Through a 3D Scene, Even Without Stereographics

You Can Also Use VR to View a 360° 2D Spherical Image of the Scene

1. Put the eye/camera in the middle of the scene.
2. Render the scene, a vertical strip at a time, onto the inside of a sphere.
3. Save the image, where \( \theta \rightarrow s \) and \( \phi \rightarrow t \).

Track your head and understand the orientation of your head.
It's roughly the same idea as mapping a texture image onto a sphere, but it's the reverse process of mapping a sphere onto an image.

\[ \theta \rightarrow s \]

\[ \phi \rightarrow t \]
OpenXR is a royalty-free, open standard that provides high-performance access to Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)—collectively known as XR—platforms and devices.

OpenXR Provides a Common API Interface for XR the same way that OpenGL does for 3D Graphics

Who was Involved with Creating OpenXR?