

## Can Virtual Worlds be used as Intelligent Tutoring Systems to innovate teaching and learning methods? Future challenges for Metaverse and Artificial Intelligence in education.

Alfonso Filippone<sup>1,2</sup>, Umberto Barbieri<sup>1</sup>, Emanuele Marsico<sup>1</sup>, Antonio Bevilacqua<sup>2</sup>,  
Maria Ermelinda De Carlo<sup>1</sup>, Raffaele Di Fuccio<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology and Education, Pegaso University, Italy

<sup>2</sup>Department of Agriculture, Food, Natural Resources and Engineering, University of Foggia, Italy

### INTRODUCTION & AIM

The rapid evolution of digital technologies is transforming the educational landscape by offering new, sustainable and interactive teaching methodologies.

Virtual Worlds (VW) are emerging as risk-free, immersive environments that foster critical skills such as critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration, while enhancing digital literacy. Similarly, Intelligent Tutoring Systems (ITS), powered by Artificial Intelligence, are providing adaptive, student-centered learning experiences.

This study aims to explore the characteristics of VW and ITS through recent case studies, highlighting their potential synergies and the challenges of combining Metaverse technologies with AI in education

### METHOD

To evaluate the feasibility of VW as ITS, a Literature Review, a Case Study Analysis and a Synthesis of Findings were conducted.

In particular:

- *Literature Review* analyzed recent studies on the educational use of VW and ITS and identified key features, benefits and limitations of both systems;
- *Case Study Analysis* first evaluated case studies involving VW to determine their impact on student engagement and learning outcomes, then compared findings with data on ITS implementations;
- *Synthesis of Findings* mapped overlapping characteristics to identify potential integration pathways.

### RESULTS & DISCUSSION

VW enable risk-free simulations and interactive environments, encouraging collaborative knowledge construction and improving engagement.

Furthermore they support critical life skills development.

Likewise, ITS deliver personalized feedback and adaptive learning paths, enhancing learning efficiency and accommodate diverse learning styles.

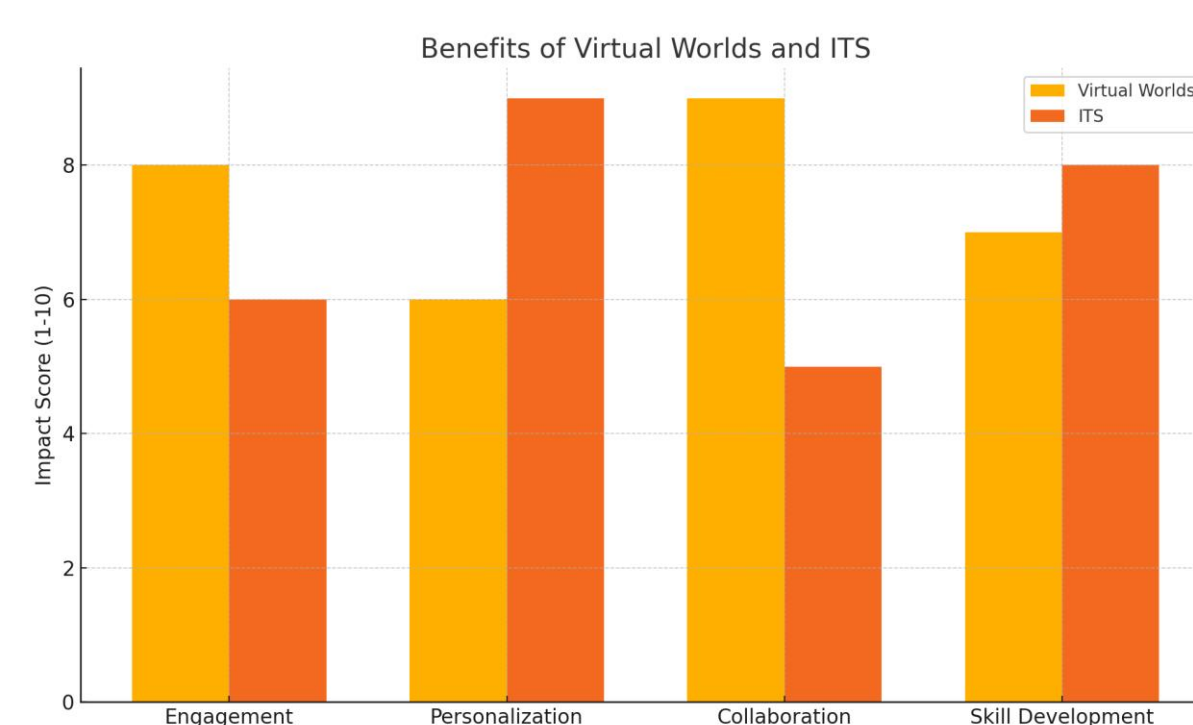


Figure 1. Benefits of VW and ITS.

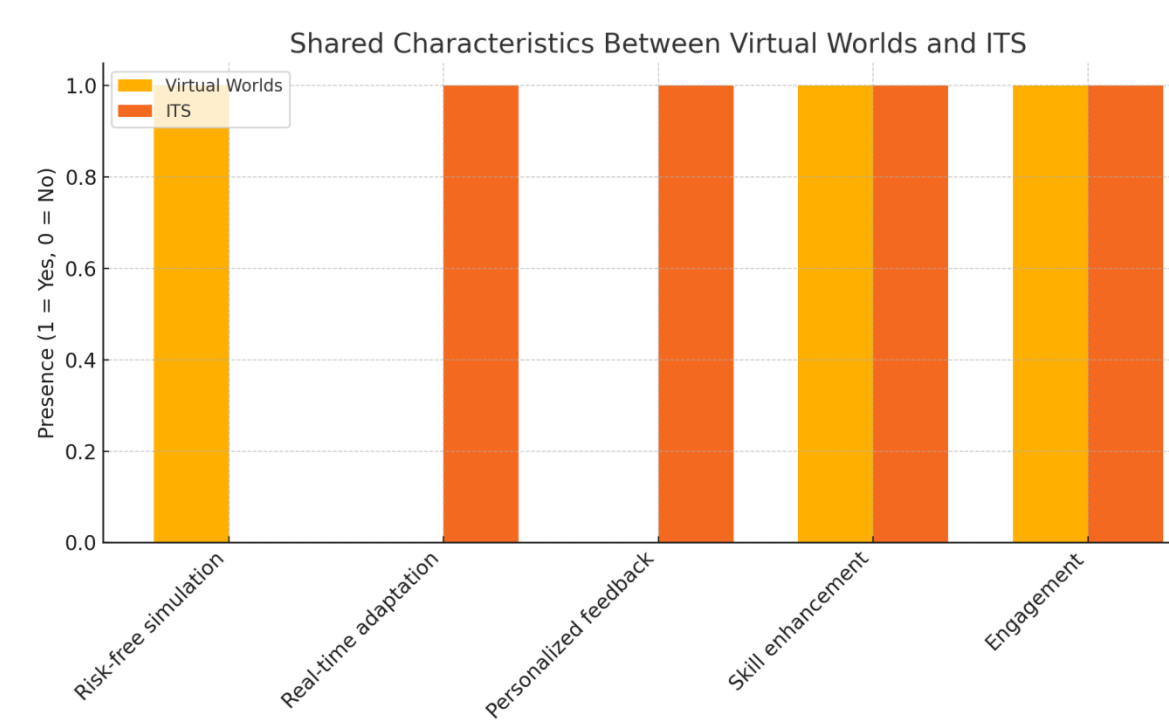


Figure 2. Shared characteristics between VW and ITS.

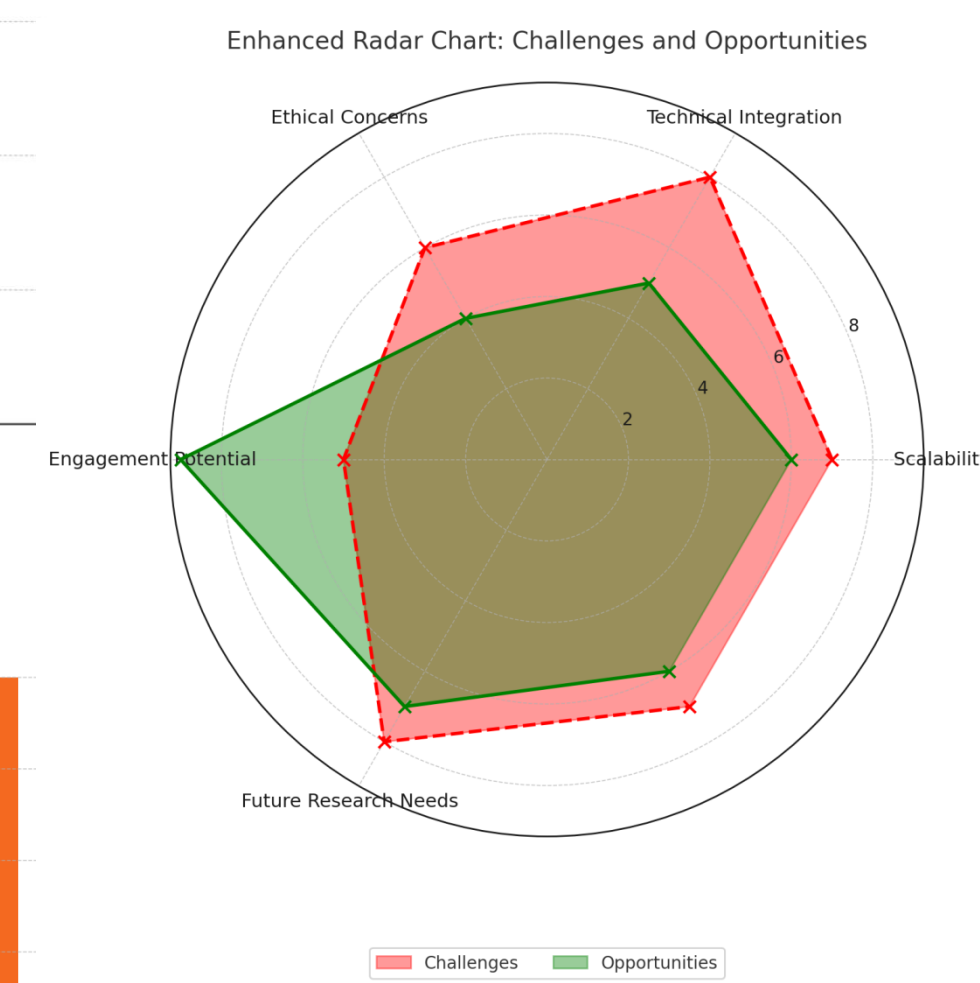


Figure 3. Challenges and Opportunities.

VW could leverage ITS for dynamic, real-time adaptation of content. The combination of these systems could create engaging, personalized and scalable learning experiences capable of meeting the future educational needs.

However, despite the opportunities linked to engagement potential, and the educational advantages linked to accessibility and collaboration, future challenges will concern the technical barriers to favor the integration of AI in VW, and the ethical concerns about data privacy and AI bias in education.

### CONCLUSION

The integration of VW and ITS represents a promising avenue for innovation in education, combining immersive experiences with adaptive intelligence to create personalized, interactive and effective learning systems

### FUTURE WORK / REFERENCES

- Filippone, A., Montepeloso, E. A., Leone, R., & Bevilacqua, A. (2023). Cooperative learning in virtual worlds: An innovative teaching and learning experience for STEAM education. *Italian Journal of Educational Research*, (31), 100-113.
- Filippone, A., Ferulli, M., & Bevilacqua, A. (2023). Virtual Worlds and Eduverse: a reflection on the body, space and learning in the Metaverse. *Italian Journal of Health Education, Sport and Inclusive Didactics*, 7(3).
- Occhioni, M., & Paris, E. (2021). Techland: New Educational Paths Focused on Energy Resources and Sustainability Using Virtual Worlds. In *Handbook of research on teaching with virtual environments and AI* (pp. 316-340). IGI Global.