

## An Evaluation of the “PicsAR” Research Project: An Augmented Reality in Physics Learning

<https://doi.org/10.3991/ijet.v15i10.12703>

Nadi Suprpto <sup>(✉)</sup>, Wisnu Nandyansah, Husni Mubarok  
Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Jawa Timur, Indonesia  
nadisuprpto@unesa.ac.id

**Abstract**—This paper is one of the outcomes of the PicsAR (Physics Augmented Reality) research project that is focusing on the evaluation of students’ abstract thinking skills while utilizing augmented reality (AR) in the atomic model. The sequence of the research has emerged into three steps: developing, validating, and the evaluation of the PicsAR. The research utilized an ADDIE model: “Analysis-Design-Development-Implementation-Evaluation”. In Spring semester 2019, the authors conducted these steps and resulted in a pocket of PicsAR booklet and AR application based on Android. Then, the trial of application was conducted to 33 students in private high school in Surabaya, Indonesia. Parameters of evaluation included the quality of PicsAR, impact on students abstract thinking skills, and the research outcomes. The results indicated (1) the process of developing AR in atomic model fulfil the criteria of product quality: validity, practicality, and effectiveness, (2) performing of students’ abstract thinking skills reached at least 66.67% in the combination of good and very good categories of all reasoning categories, (3) through PicsAR research project resulted in two prior publications and one property right. The atomic model is one of abstract physics concept representative in presenting the use of augmented reality in physics learning; therefore, the recommendation of this research is another abstract physics concepts should address the use of AR as a media for learning.

**Keywords**—Abstract thinking, augmented reality, physics, atomic model

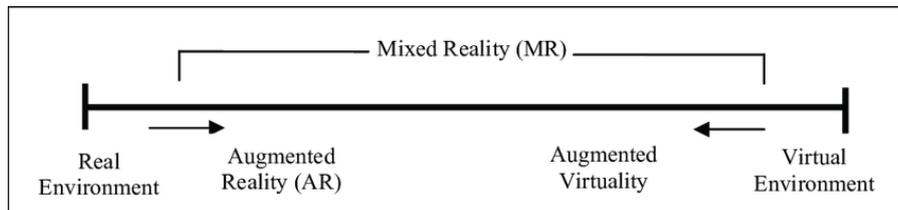
### 1 Introduction

Since industrial revolution 4.0 was issued, there were the displacements of learning from traditional to digitalization. For example, traditional teaching or tutoring began to shift to online learning. The use of technology is spread out in learning process; we recognize the use of online learning via Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), social media (Youtube, Facebook, WhatsApp, Line, Edmodo, etc.), virtual learning, and e-learning [1]. The trend of literacy was also shifted from traditional literacy to digital literacy, such as from paper book to e-book [2]. Consequently, the use of applications and software is necessary to meet the demands of the industrial revolution.

One of them is the use of digital technology such as virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) which are integrated in learning [3-11].

Over time, new technologies emerge in the form of AR or freely translated into additional reality. Augmented Reality (AR) is “a technology that combines two-dimensional and or three-dimensional virtual objects into a real three-dimensional environment and then projects these virtual objects in real-time” [3-5]. Unlike virtual reality which completely replaces reality, Augmented Reality only adds or complements reality. Meanwhile, according to previous researchers, such as [12], Augmented Reality is an effort to combine the real world and virtual world created through a computer so that the boundary between the two becomes very thin. Based on the description that has been explained above, simply AR is an effort to combine 3D animated objects into the real world in real-time.

AR is usually divided into two types. The first is position-based and the second is image-based. Position-based Augmented Reality is based on physical location. The 3-dimensional text, graphics, sound, video and animation models presented depend on GPS coordinates or compass measurements. This type of image-based Augmented Reality uses a camera on a smartphone or tablet to scan QR codes or 2D images; this allows the emergence of 3-dimensional animation above the image [13]. For the type of Augmented Reality that will be developed in this study is based on images by scanning two-dimensional images.



**Fig. 1.** Milgram and Kishino's Mixed Reality on the Reality-Virtuality Continuum [14-15]

Milgram and Kishino defined Milgram's Reality-Virtuality Continuum (Figure 1) [14-15]. They describe a continuum that stretches from the real environment to virtual environments. They concluded that AR is closer to the real situation, while Augmented Virtuality (AV) is closer to the virtual environment [14]. In other words, AR itself is an effort to incorporate the virtual world into a real environment directly, while AV is an effort to organize a real situation into a virtual world.

In the context of education, AR can be used to visualize objects spatially and temporally. Make objects that are very small or far within reach visible. This can be done by increasing the microscopic scale, decreasing the macroscopic scale, or by making the interior exterior of everything made invisible to be visible

In this study, augmented reality was developed using several applications, namely 3D blender which is useful for making 3-dimensional animation, vuforia which is useful for making markers to be used, and unity which is useful for uniting 3-dimensional animation with markers that have been made. This form of augmented

reality output itself is an (apk.) format that can be installed directly into an Android smartphone.

For the operation of AR media is quite easy when opening the application directly directed to the smartphone camera, the marker available on the hand-out will be detected by the camera so that it will bring up an animated 3-dimensional object on the smartphone screen, or can be seen in Figure 2.

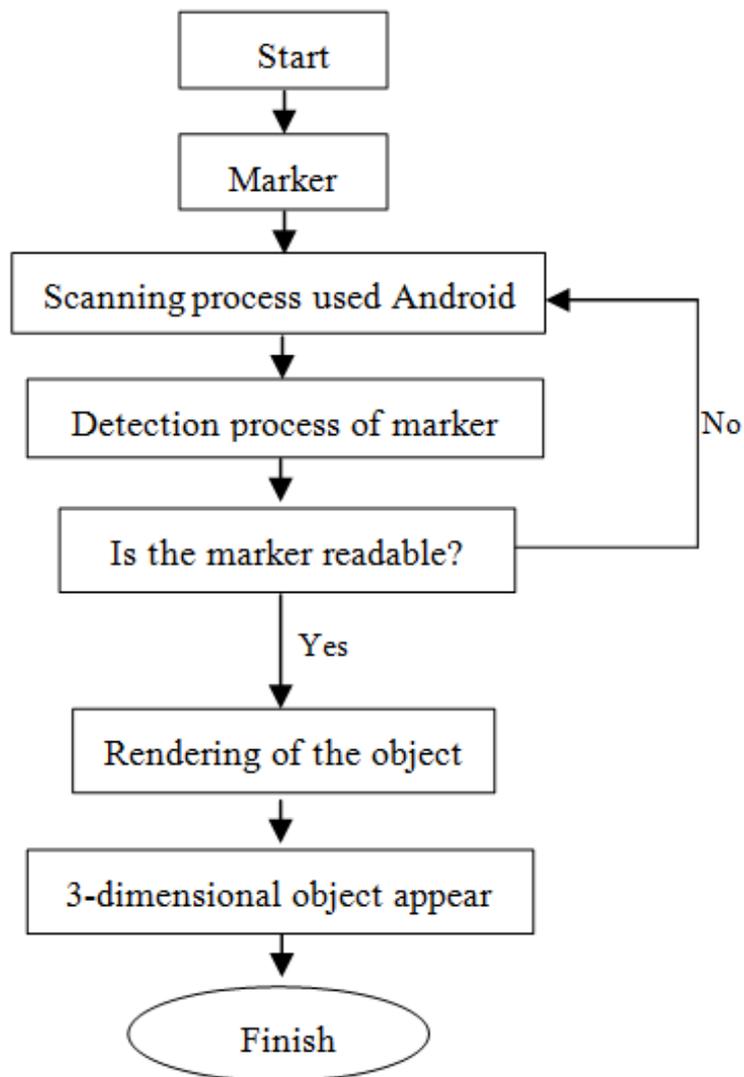


Fig. 2. The mechanism of action of AR [16]

This augmented reality media was developed to provide facilities for students to carry out the learning process, especially with an abstract concept. Learning content in media in the form of 3-dimensional animation is useful to help students understand an abstract concept. In this application can be used in several kinds of images that have been programmed and will produce 3-dimensional animation that is different in each image.

The main research questions (RQs) of this evaluation are threefold: 1) is the PicsAR of atomic model fulfil the criteria of product quality: validity, practicality, and effectiveness? (2) To what extent do the students’ abstract thinking skills after using AR technology? (3) To what extent do the PicsAR research project resulting in the research outcomes? All the three RQs is an elucidation of the evaluation parameters referred to this study.

## 2 Method

The research adopted Research and Development (R & D) paradigm. R & D is “an industry-based development model in which the findings of the research are used to design new products and procedures, which then are systematically field-tested, evaluated, and refined until they meet specified criteria of effectiveness, quality, or similar standards” [17]. The sequence of the research has emerged into three steps: developing, validating, and the evaluation of PicsAR. The developing and validating utilized an ADDIE model: Analysis-Design-Development-Implementation-Evaluation. Parameters of evaluation included the quality of PicsAR, impact on students abstract thinking skills, and publication and property right resulted. In Spring semester 2019, the authors conducted these steps and produced a pocket of PicsAR booklet and PicsAR with an application based on Android (see Figure 3). Then, the trial of application was conducted to 33 students in private high school in Surabaya, Indonesia.

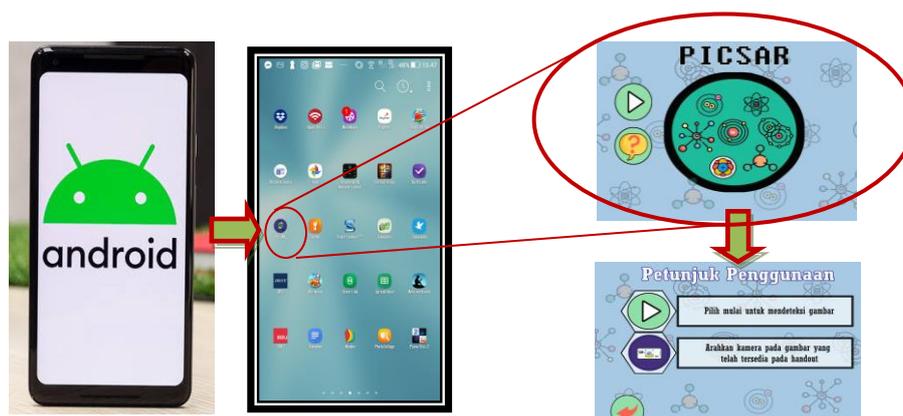


Fig. 3. The PicsAR based on android smartphone

### **3 Results and Discussion**

#### **3.1 The process of developing PicsAR in atomic model**

Based on the explanation in method, the research on the development of learning media based on augmented reality to practice abstract thinking skills has been carried out using the ADDIE research design (Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation, and Evaluation). The following is an explanation of the stages above.

**Analysis:** At this stage an analysis of the gap between expectations and actual facts is carried out. The hope is that there is a hand-out book or booklet that is able to display 3-dimensional objects so students will understand more, and develop learning media based on augmented reality. But in reality, there is currently no hand-out that has not been able to display 3-dimensional objects directly, and the use of augmented reality-based learning media is still rarely used. In addition, the pre-research questionnaire was also completed for 33 students of grade eleven of a private high school in Surabaya, Indonesia. Based on the results of the preliminary study, it was found that as many as 91% of students had difficulty with the concept of atomic models. They argued that atomic model is one of the physical concepts that is difficult to observe directly in physical phenomena. And also, the use of instructional media in classrooms still tends to use blackboards and textbooks.

**Design:** Before making augmented reality application, first the authors make a design and concept of media based on the results of the analysis that has been done. Next, we start making augmented media reality that was approved at seminar process. In addition, at this stage, a learning tool design with Basic Competence (BC 3.10 and BC 4.10) of grade eleven of Indonesian curriculum, includes syllabus, lesson plans, worksheets, and hand-outs which will be validated at a later stage and make research instruments to be used.

**Development:** At this stage the augmented reality media and the learning tools that have been completed still have to go through the validation stage, which later there will still be input or suggestions from two lecturers and one validator teacher before the augmented reality media and learning tools are used during the learning process. The results of the validation of augmented reality media will be discussed in the sub-chapter of the research results, while the results of the validation of the learning tools will be attached to the attachment page.

**Implementation:** During the implementation phase, trials of augmented reality media and validated learning tools were tested. This trial was conducted on students by using a one shot-case study trial design, where students were treated by providing learning using augmented reality media on atomic model’s material. When learning takes place, the learning steps are observed by three observers from a school teacher and two pre-service physics teachers from a public teaching university in Surabaya by using a learning implementation sheet, which later on the results of these observations will be used to determine the practicality of the augmented reality media. After being given treatment then given a test in the form of abstract thinking skills of students to find out whether the media is augmented reality. In addition, students were asked to fill in the questionnaire responses to the use of augmented reality media. The results

of students' abstract thinking skills tests and the results of student responses will be used to find out which augmented reality media is effective or not to be used. The results of the implementation of learning, abstract thinking skills tests, and student responses will be discussed further in the sub-chapter of the practicality and effectiveness discussion.

**Evaluation:** The results of the evaluation phase are to assess the feasibility of augmented reality media in terms of “validity, practicality, and effectiveness” [3,23]. According to Riduwan [18], if the results of validity, practicality, and practicality of the media get a percentage of  $\geq 61\%$  with a good category, then it can be said that augmented reality media is feasible to use [18].

### 3.2 The performance of PicsAR in atomic models

In fact, the researchers developed PicsAR of atomic models included Dalton, Thomson, Rutherford, Bohr, and quantum mechanics models. In this description, the authors sample to the two atomic models: Bohr model and quantum mechanics model due to its accuracy in performing atomic models.

**Atomic model of Bohr with PicsAR:** Bohr supposed that electrons in atoms move in circular orbits around the nucleus, but this assumption poses a problem. According to classical physics, charged particles (such as electrons) that move in a circle continuously will lose energy. Because electrons lose energy, they will move into the positively charged nucleus. But the atom remains stable. Bohr solved this problem in a way that was almost the same as that of Planck on the problem of the nature of radiation emitted by hot objects. Bohr assumed that the applicable physical laws were inadequate to describe all aspects of the atom.

Subsequently, Bohr adopted Planck's idea that energy is quantized. Based on his model, Bohr postulates three essential points:

- a) Only a certain set of orbits is allowed for one electron in a hydrogen atom. This orbit is known as the stationary (fixed) state of the electron and is a circular path around the nucleus.
- b) As long as the electrons are in a stationary path, the electron energy remains so that no energy in the form of radiation is emitted or absorbed.
- c) Electrons can only move from one stationary path to another stationary path. At this transition, a certain amount of energy is involved, the magnitude of which is in accordance with the Planck equation [19].

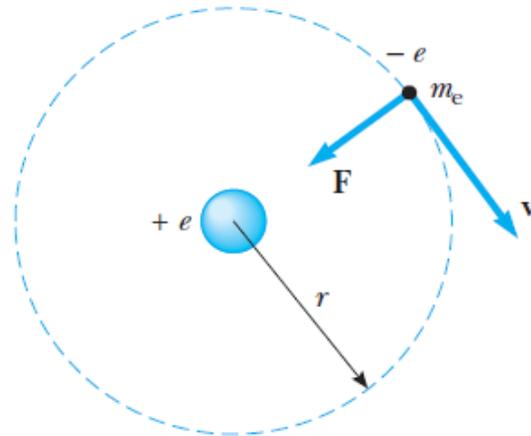


Fig. 4. Atomic model of Bohr [20]

Figure 4 represents the atomic model of Bohr in 2D. The researchers will bring up an animated 3-dimensional (3D) object on the smartphone screen. The following Figure 5 is the result of developing PicsAR application in 3D of atomic model of Bohr.

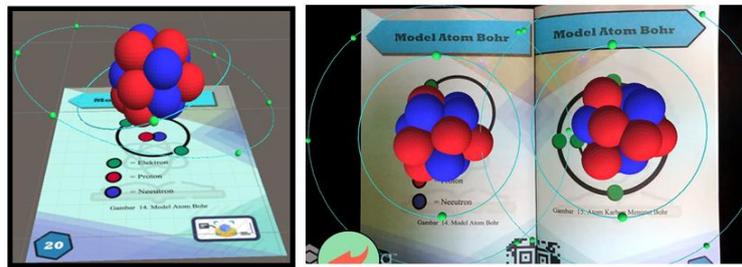


Fig. 5. Atomic model of Bohr with PicsAR

**Atomic model of quantum mechanics with PicsAR:** Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger (1887-1961) proposed an equation known as the Schrödinger wave equation in 1926, which combines wave-like behaviour and particles-like behaviour from electrons. His work opens a new approach known as quantum mechanics or wave mechanics to dealing with subatomic particles. Solving Schrödinger's equation for hydrogen atoms leads to a series of mathematical functions called wave functions that describe electrons in atoms. This function is usually represented by the symbol  $\psi$  (lowercase of Greek psi). Although the wave function has no direct physical meaning, the square of the wave function ( $\psi^2$ ) provides information about the location of the electron when it is in the energy generated state.

According to the uncertainty principle, if we know the momentum of the electron with high accuracy, it will be difficult to determine the position of the electron. In the quantum mechanical model, the location of electrons cannot be explained so simply,

in contrast to the Bohr atomic model where electrons move in orbit around the nucleus.

If talking about the probability that the electron will be in a certain position. As it turns out, the square of the wave function ( $\psi^2$ ) at a certain point in space represents the probability that electrons will be found at that location. For this reason ( $\psi^2$ ) is called “probability density” or “electron density”. One way to represent the probability of finding electrons around the atom is to find where the density of points that represents the probability of finding electrons. Areas with high point densities correspond to relatively large values for ( $\psi^2$ ) and therefore regions where there is a high probability of finding electrons. Based on this representation, the atomic model of quantum mechanics is often depicted with an atom consisting of a nucleus and surrounded by a cloud of electrons [19]. The summary of atomic model of quantum mechanics and its’ AR performance is illustrated in Figure 6.

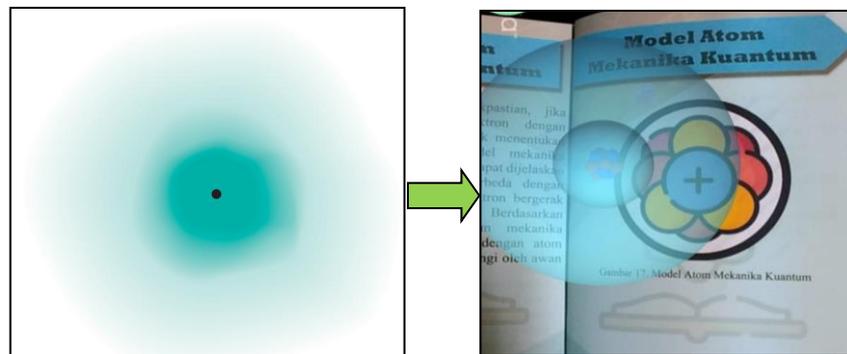


Fig. 6. Atomic model of quantum mechanics and its performance in PicsAR

### 3.3 The performance of the students’ abstract thinking skills

The main target of the use of PicsAR in physics learning is increasing students’ abstract thinking skills. In simple criteria, if the percentage of abstract thinking skills reaches percentage more than 61%, then the PicsAR application can be identified as an effective learning media [3,8]. The indicators abstract thinking skills were assessed including “proportional, probabilistic, combinatorial, and correlational reasoning” [3]. The detail information of students’ performance of their abstract thinking skills is illustrated on Table 1.

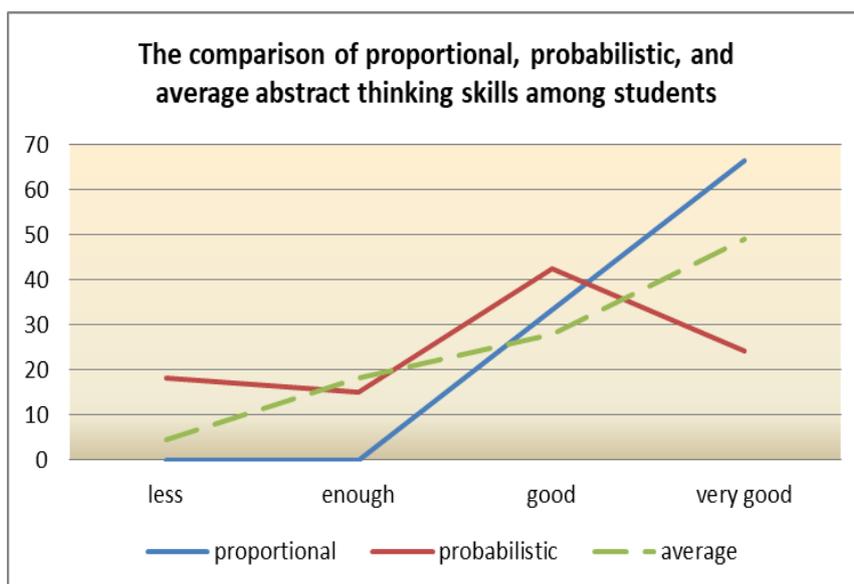
Based on Table 1, the students’ abstract thinking skills indicated six essential points:

1. The students’ proportional thinking skill achieved 100% of good and very good category.
2. The students’ probabilistic thinking skill achieved 66.67% of good and very good category.

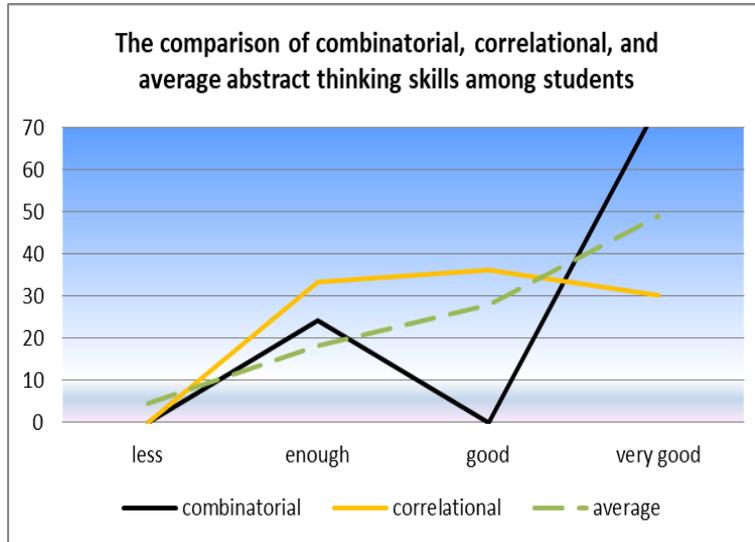
3. The students’ combinatorial thinking skill achieved 75.75% of good and very good category.
4. The students’ correlational thinking skill achieved 66.67% of good and very good category.
5. The order of students’ abstract thinking skill from highest to lowest is proportional, combinatorial, probabilistic, and correlational. The comparison among them is illustrated in Figure 7 and Figure 8.
6. The overall students’ abstract thinking skills reached 77.28% of good and very good category and fulfill the criteria 61% [3,8].

**Table 1.** The performance of students’ abstract thinking skills after using PicsAR

Category	Type of abstract thinking skills				Avg
	Proportional	Probabilistic	Combinatorial	Correlational	
Less	0.00	18.18	0.00	0.00	4.55
Enough	0.00	15.15	24.25	33.33	18.18
Good	33.33	42.42	0.00	36.36	28.03
Very Good	66.67	24.25	75.75	30.31	49.25
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00



**Fig. 7.** The comparison of students’ proportional, probabilistic, and total abstract thinking skills



**Fig. 8.** The comparison of students’ combinatorial, correlational, and total abstract thinking skills

#### 4 Discussion and Conclusion

Parameters of evaluation included the quality of PicsAR, impact on students abstract thinking skills, and publication and property right resulted. The results indicated (1) the process of developing AR in atomic model fulfil the criteria of product quality: validity, practicality, and effectiveness [23], (2) performing of students’ abstract thinking skills (proportional, probabilistic, combinatorial, and correlation reasoning) reached at least 66.67 out of 100 point of all reasoning categories, (3) through PicsAR research project resulted two prior publications and one property right [25-26]. The summary of the evaluation results is illustrated in Table 2.

**Table 2.** The performance of students’ abstract thinking skills after using PicsAR

No	Parameter of evaluation	Criteria	Results
1	Product quality	validity, practicality, and effectiveness [23]	The PicsAR fulfil the criteria of validity, practicality, and effectiveness.
2	Students’ abstract thinking skills	If the percentage of abstract thinking skills reaches percentage of $\geq 61\%$ , then the PicsAR can be said to be effective for use [22,25,26]	Students’ abstract thinking skills (proportional, probabilistic, combinatorial, and correlation reasoning) reached at least 66.67% in the combination of good and very good categories.
3	Outcome of research project	A number of publication and property right	The project resulted 2 journal articles and one property right [25-26].

All types of abstract thinking skills could be trained by the implementation of augmented reality in the atomic model. This study confirms the success of the previous research such as [4,8,9,10,11,13,14,16,21,24], suggesting the use of AR in the learning process, especially of abstract concepts. Proportional thinking skill is the ability to transfer proportional reasoning from two dimensions to three dimensions. Meanwhile, probabilistic thinking skill is the ability to use the information to decide whether a conclusion might be right or likely not correct. On the other hand, correlational thinking skill is the ability to use data to determine the strength of the reciprocal relationship or inverse relationship between the variables reviewed with other variables. Then, combinatorial thinking skill is the ability to use a combination of factor that might be related to the problem.

Based on the three parameters above, the conclusions of the research are:

1. The PicsAR research project of the atomic model was developed fulfil the criteria of product quality: validity, practicality, and effectiveness.
2. The students' abstract thinking skills indicated at least 66.67% of students performing the combination of good and very good categories of all reasoning categories,
3. The PicsAR research project resulted in two kinds of research outcomes: two prior publications and one property right.

The atomic model is one of abstract physics concept representative in presenting the use of augmented reality in physics learning, therefore, the recommendation of this research is another abstract physics concepts should address the use of AR as a media for learning.

## **5 Acknowledgement**

Thanks to teacher and students of IPIEMS Senior High School, Surabaya and validator of PicsAR application, those have contributed to this research.

## **6 References**

- [1] Suprpto, N., & Pai Y.-F. (2015). Promoting science centers by using MOOCs: Model for communicating informal science education. *Man in India*, 95(4), 1005-1012.
- [2] Adam, A. S., & Suprpto, N. (2019). One-stop physics e-book package development for senior high school learning media. *International Journal: Emerging Technologies in Learning*, 14(19), 150-158. <https://doi.org/10.3991/ijet.v14i19.10761>.
- [3] Nandyansah, W., & Suprpto, N. (2019). Pengembangan media pembelajaran berbasis augmented reality untuk melatih keterampilan berpikir abstrak pada materi model atom. *Jurnal Inovasi Pendidikan Fisika*, 8(2), 756-760. <https://doi.org/10.26740/jrpd.v5n2.p986-995>
- [4] Septianita, R. (2014). Pengembangan media pembelajaran fisika berbasis Android dengan teknologi augmented reality pada materi fluida statis untuk siswa kelas X SMA IPA, Universitas Negeri Malang. <https://doi.org/10.24114/inpafi.v5i3.9123>

- [5] Techakosit, S., & Nilsook, P. (2016). The learning process of scientific Imagineering through AR in order to enhance STEM literacy. *International Journal: Emerging Technologies in Learning*, 11(7), 57-63. <https://doi.org/10.3991/ijet.v11i07.5357>.
- [6] Elmqaddem, N. (2019). Augmented reality and virtual reality in education: Myth or reality?. *International Journal: Emerging Technologies in Learning*, 14(3), 234-242. <https://doi.org/10.3991/ijet.v14i03.9289>
- [7] Nuanmeesri, S. (2018). The augmented reality for teaching Thai students about the human heart. *International Journal: Emerging Technologies in Learning*, 13(6), 203-213. <https://doi.org/10.3991/ijet.v13i06.8506>.
- [8] Hafi, N. N. (2018). Pengembangan buku saku fisika dengan teknologi augmented reality berbasis android pada materi pemanasan global, Universitas Negeri Surabaya.
- [9] Sannikov, S., Zhdanov, F., Chebotarev, P., & Rabinovic, P. (2015). Interactive educational content based on augmented reality and 3D visualization. *Procedia Computer Science*, 66, 720-729. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.procs.2015.11.082>.
- [10] Ozdamli, F., & Hursen, C. (2017). An emerging technology: Augmented reality to promote learning. *International Journal: Emerging Technologies in Learning*, 12(11), 121-137. <https://doi.org/10.3991/ijet.v12.i11.7354>.
- [11] Nasongkhla, J., Supadaec, C., & Chiasiriphan, T. (2019). Implementing multiple AR markers in learning science content with junior high school students in Thailand. *International Journal: Emerging Technologies in Learning*, 14(7), 48-60. <https://doi.org/10.3991/ijet.v14i07.9855>.
- [12] Kustijono, R., & Hakim, S. R. (2014). Pengaruh intensitas cahaya dan jarak pada sistem augmented reality objek animasi. *Jurnal Pendidikan Fisika dan Aplikasinya (JPFA)*, 4(2), 8-14. <https://doi.org/10.26740/jpfa.v4n2.p8-14>
- [13] Majgaard, G., Larsen, L. J., Lyk, P., & Lyk, M. (2017). Seeing the unseen—Spatial visualization of the solar system with physical prototypes and augmented reality. *International Journal of Designs for Learning*, 8(2), 95-109. <https://doi.org/10.14434/ijdl.v8i2.22368>.
- [14] Carmigniani, J., Furht, B., Anisetti, M., Ceravolo, P., Damiani, E., & Ivkovic, M. (2011). Augmented reality technologies, systems and applications. *Multimedia Tools and Applications*, 51(1), 341–377. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11042-010-0660-6>.
- [15] Milgram, P., & Kishino, F. (1994). A taxonomy of mixed reality visual displays. *IEICE Transaction Inf. & System*, E77-D (12), 1321-1329.
- [16] Irzain, R. A., Irfansyah, I., & Hindersah, H. (2017). Analisis virtual guide monument kapal selam surabaya (monkasel) melalui penggabungan “google cardboard” dan augmented reality. *Jurnal Komunikasi Visual Wimba*, 8(1), 13-35.
- [17] Gall, M. D., & Gall, J. P. (2003). *Educational research: An introduction*. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.
- [18] Tezer, M., Yıldız, E. P., Masalimova, A. R., Fatkhutdinova, A. M., Zheltukhina, M. R., & Khairullina, E. R. (2019). Trends of augmented reality applications and research throughout the world: Meta-analysis of theses, articles and papers between 2001-2019 Year. *International Journal: Emerging Technologies in Learning*, 14(22), 154-174. <https://doi.org/10.3991/ijet.v14i22.11768>.
- [19] Krane, K. S. (2012). *Modern physics (3rd edition)*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- [20] Serway, R. A., & Jewett, J. W. (2005). *Fisika untuk sains dan teknik buku 1*. Jakarta: Salemba Empat.
- [21] Karagozlu, D., Kosarenko, N. N., Efimova, O. V., & Zubov, V. V. (2019). Identifying students’ attitudes regarding augmented reality applications in science classes. *International Journal: Emerging Technologies in Learning*, 14(22), 45-55. <https://doi.org/10.3991/ijet.v14i22.11750>.

- [22] Riduwan. 2010. *Skala Pengukuran Variabel-Variabel Penelitian*. Bandung: Alfabeta.
- [23] Nieveen N 1999 Prototyping to reach product quality design approach and tools in education and training, University of Utrecht
- [24] Xu, W., & Yao, J. (2016). An online learning system based on panoramic technology for sport psychology. *International Journal of Emerging Technologies in Learning*, 11(9), 59-72. <https://doi.org/10.3991/ijet.v11i09.6115>
- [25] Nandyansah, W., Suprpto, N., & Mubarok, H. (2019). Picsar (Physics Augmented Reality) as a learning media to practice abstract thinking skills in atomic model. *Journal of Physics Conference Series* [in-press].
- [26] Nandyansah, W., & Suprpto, N. (2019). A physics representation with “Picsar” to enhance students’ thinking skills in abstract concepts. *Journal of Physics Conference Series* [in-press].

## 7 Authors

**Nadi Suprpto, Ph.D.**, is an Assistant Professor and Researcher in Physics Department, Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia and graduated from National Dong Hwa University (NDHU), Taiwan. Currently, he is a coordinator of Physics Education Program with the specialty of Philosophy and Physics Education Curriculum. He takes in Philosophy of Science, Analysis of School Curriculum, Physics for School, and Methodology of Research courses. At present, his research projects include photo-voice in physics education, scientific argumentation, place-based science education curriculum, and science centre and Techno Park. (Email: [nadisuprpto@unesa.ac.id](mailto:nadisuprpto@unesa.ac.id))

**Wisnu Nandyansah, B.Ed.**, is a fresh graduate from Physics Education Program, Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia. His research concerns on learning media in physics. (Email: [wisnunandyansah@gmail.com](mailto:wisnunandyansah@gmail.com)).

**Husni Mubarok, B.Ed.**, is a fresh graduate from the Physics Education Program, Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia. Currently, he pursues his Master Degree in Graduate Institute of Digital Learning and Education, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (NTUST), Taipei Taiwan. His research concerns on physics laboratory-based inquiry learning. (Email: [husnimubarok254@gmail.com](mailto:husnimubarok254@gmail.com)).

Article submitted 2019-12-12. Resubmitted 2020-02-13. Final acceptance 2020-02-21. Final version published as submitted by the authors.