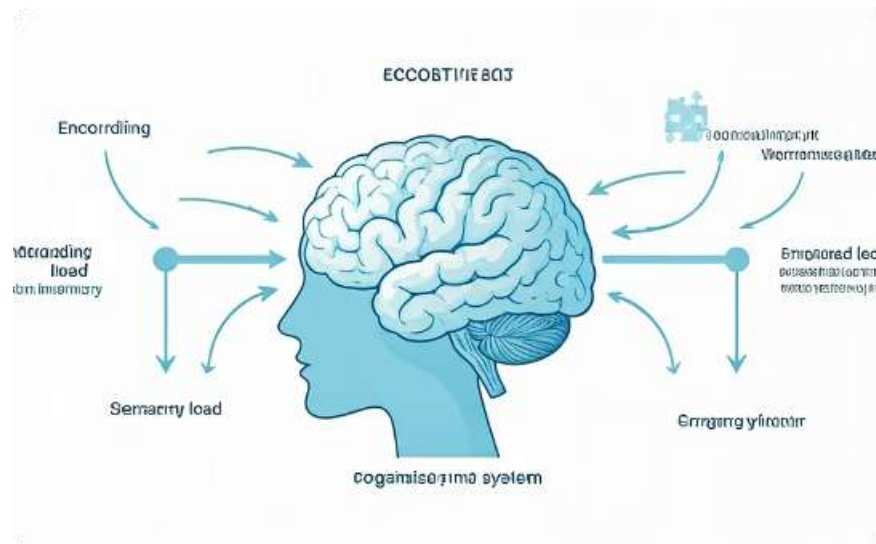


Enhancing Learning through AI: A Cognitive Framework Framework

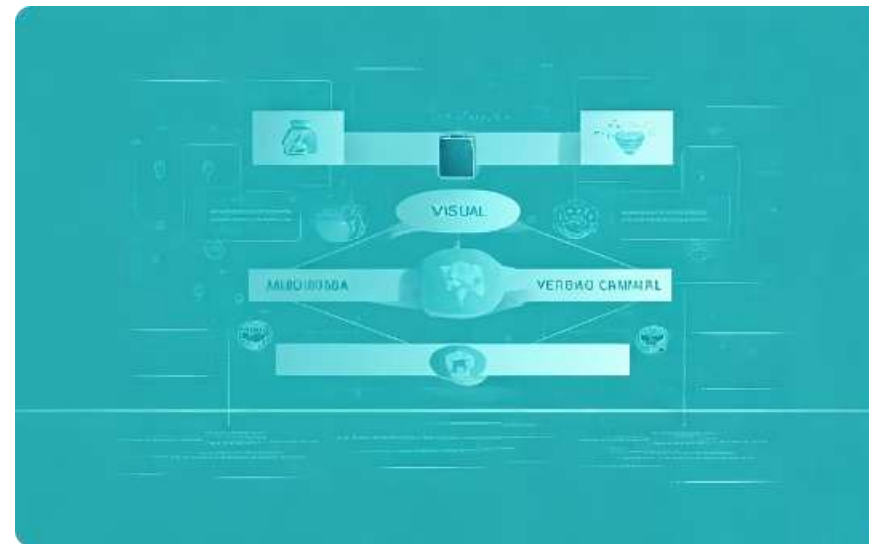
- Khanyisile Twabu
- PhD in Education(Curriculum Studies), University of South Africa
- Presentation for Media and Learning Conference, 18-19 June, LEUVEN, Belgium 2025

Introduction



Cognitive Load Theory (CLT)

Foundational framework in understanding learning design that focuses on working memory limitations.



Cognitive Theory of Multimedia Learning (CTML)

Mayer's theory explaining how people learn more effectively from words and pictures than from words alone.

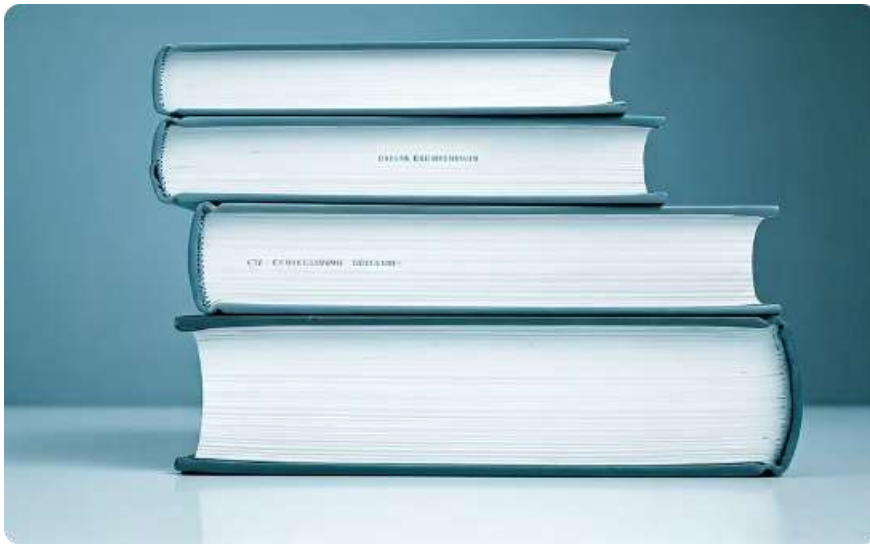


AI Integration in ODeL

My research explores how AI can be integrated into these theories for better learner engagement and cognitive support in support in Open Distance eLearning.

The Research Question

"How can we blend timeless educational theories with emerging AI technologies to make learning more meaningful—especially in ODeL environments?"



Timeless Educational Theories

Foundational frameworks like Cognitive Load Theory and Cognitive Theory of Multimedia Learning



Emerging AI Technologies

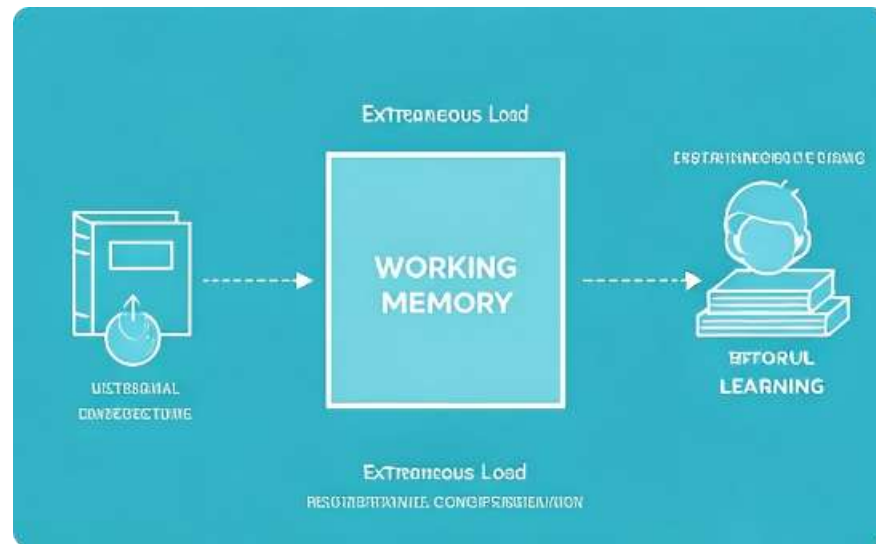
Cutting-edge AI systems designed to enhance enhance educational experiences



ODeL Environments

Open Distance eLearning contexts where AI integration can have significant impact

Why Enhance/Update Traditional Theories?



Frameworks

CLT & CTML are effective frameworks that must adapt/enhance to individual learners.



Dynamic Adaptation

AI enables dynamic adaptation based on real-time learner feedback, creating personalized learning experiences.



Pattern Recognition

Generative AI recognises patterns (like the human brain) – making it ideal for multimedia-based instruction.

Proposed Framework: Three Key Components



1. AI-Enhanced Cognitive Load Management

Intelligent systems that dynamically adjust complexity based on learner capacity, preventing cognitive overload while maximizing engagement.



2. AI-Mediated Schema Creation

AI tools that help learners build robust mental frameworks by identifying patterns and relationships across educational content.

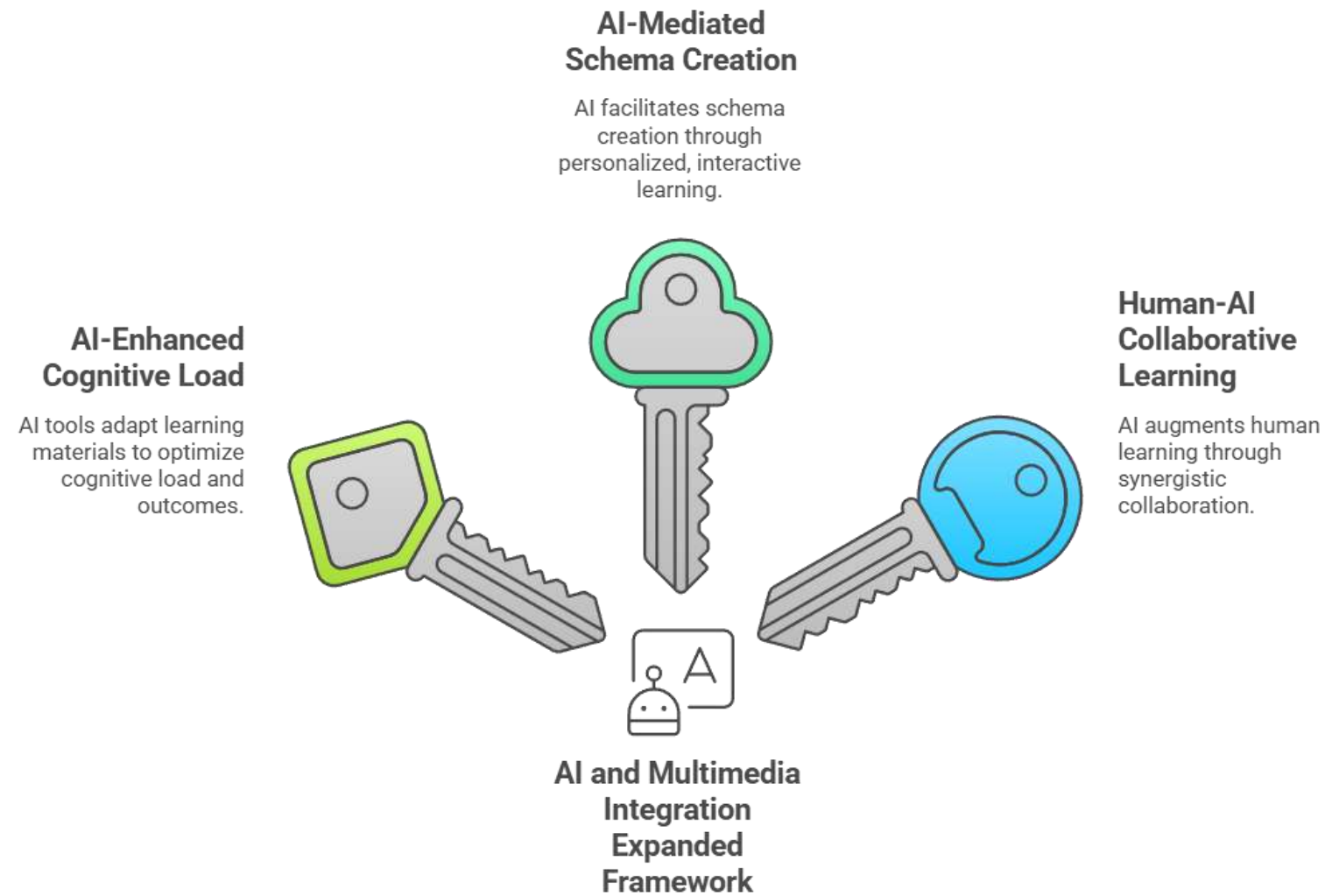


3. Human-AI Collaborative Learning

Interactive partnerships between learners and AI systems that complement human creativity with computational efficiency.

Proposed Framework

Transforming Education with AI and Multimedia Synergy



1. AI-Enhanced Cognitive Load Management

How AI technology helps optimize learning by managing cognitive demands:



Real-time Monitoring

AI monitors learner behavior in real-time to assess cognitive state and engagement levels.



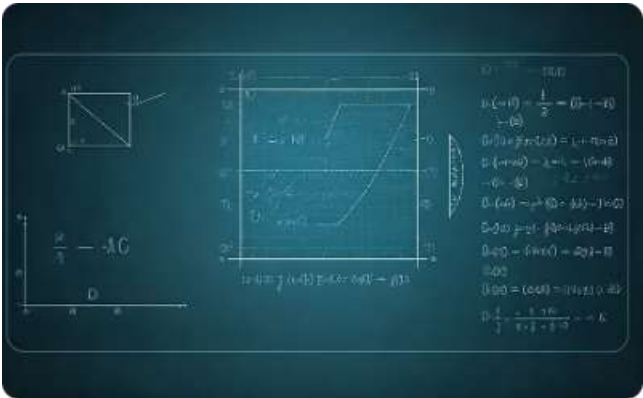
Dynamic Adaptation

Adjusts content complexity, pacing, and format based on learner performance and needs.



Optimal Cognitive Zone

Keeps learners in the 'optimal cognitive zone' between boredom and frustration.



Practical Application

Example: Math tutor simplifying problems when a student repeatedly fails a concept.

2. AI-Mediated Schema Creation

How AI technology helps build meaningful learning connections:



Knowledge Assessment Assessment

AI identifies what the learner already knows, creating a personalized knowledge map.



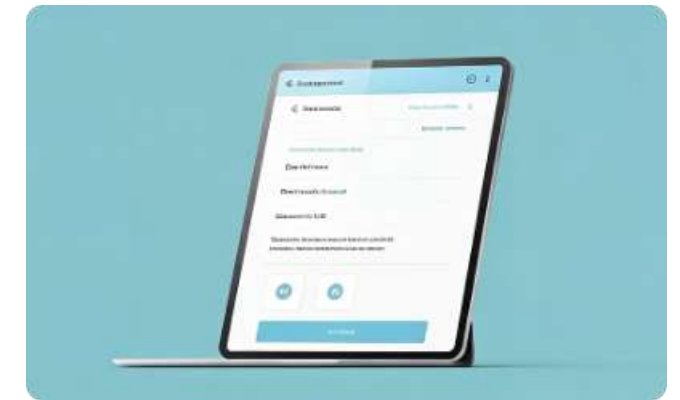
Knowledge Building

Structures new content to build on prior knowledge foundations.



Deep Learning

Promotes deeper retention and effective knowledge transfer to new situations.



Practical Application

Example: Adaptive grammar lessons in language learning tailored to address specific weak areas.

3. Human-AI Collaborative Learning



Partnership, Not Replacement

AI supports instructors, not replaces them, creating a collaborative educational environment.



Administrative Assistance

Automates grading, curates personalized feedback, and analyses learning data to identify patterns.



Enhanced Human Connection

Frees up educators to provide emotional and metacognitive support that only humans can deliver effectively.

Benefits of AI Integration



Personalised learning experiences

AI tailors education to individual needs and learning styles



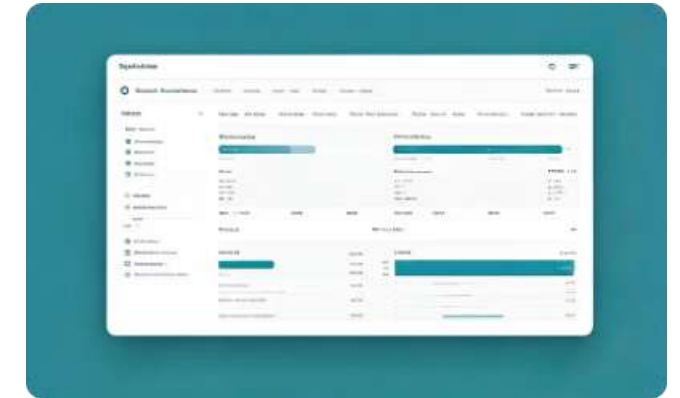
Adaptive content pathways

Content that adjusts based on learner performance and preferences



Improved engagement and retention

Higher student involvement leading to better knowledge retention

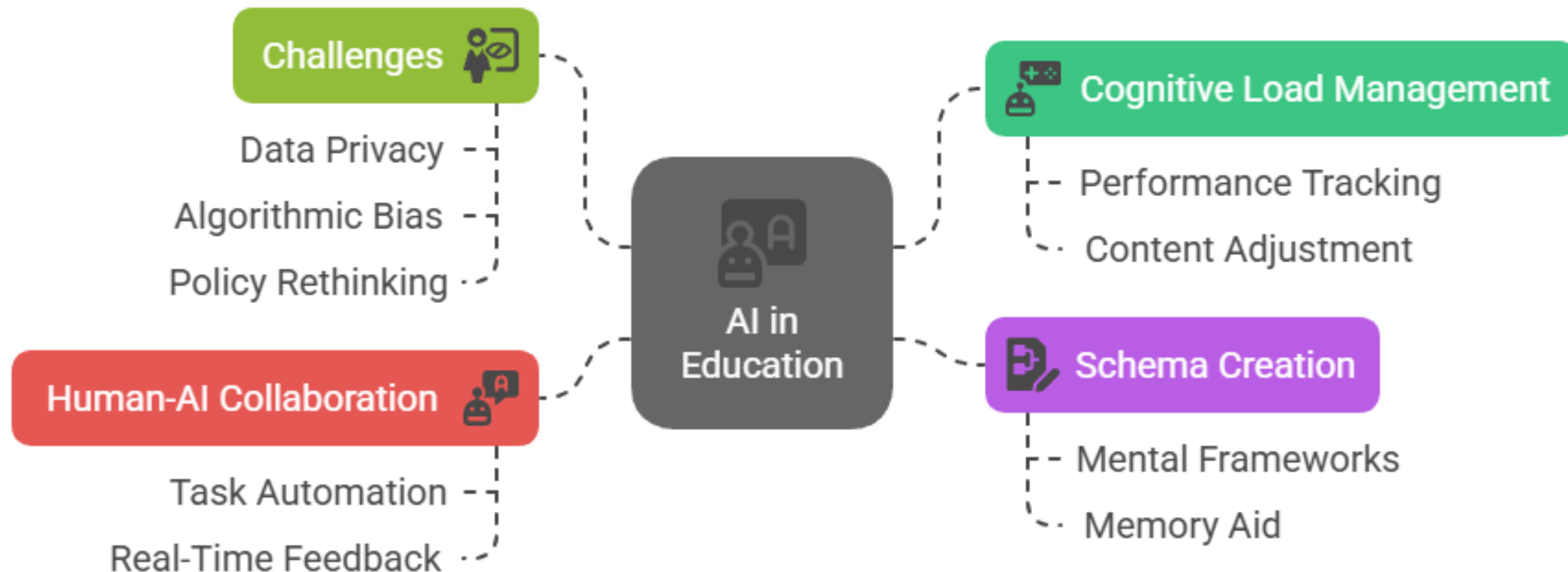


Real-time feedback and analytics

Immediate insights into learning progress and performance

AI Integration with CLT and CTML

AI Integration in Education: Benefits and Challenges



Challenges/Concerns and Ethical Implications



Cognitive Overload

Risk of mental fatigue and reduced learning effectiveness from overuse of AI systems



Reduced Human Interaction

Potential decrease in critical social learning experiences and human connection



Algorithmic Bias

Bias and data privacy risks that that can perpetuate inequalities inequalities (Binns, 2018)



Human-Centered Design

Need for transparent, ethical AI AI systems that prioritize human human values and agency

Policy and Practice Implications



Update curriculum and ODeL policies

Adapting educational frameworks to incorporate AI-enhanced learning approaches



Equitable tuition structures

Supporting AI integration through accessible financial frameworks



Ethical AI guidelines

Establishing standards for responsible data use and algorithmic fairness



Educator training

Fostering skills for effective AI-AI-human collaboration in teaching

Conclusion



Transformative Learning Model

AI-infused CLT/CTML framework offers a transformative approach to education



Theory Meets Technology

Blends proven theories with adaptive technology



Human-AI Partnership

Empowers educators, supports learners



Future-Fit Education

Builds effective, inclusive, and and future-fit ODeL systems

Thank You!



Questions & Discussion



Contact Us



Future Collaboration