

In-depth analysis and implementation strategies of 3D graphics technology for VR animation production

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Abstract: The application of 3D graphics technology has garnered significant attention for its transformative impact across various industries, particularly in virtual reality (VR) animation production. This study investigates the role of 3D graphics in enhancing VR animation by examining its contributions to interactive storytelling, user engagement, and production efficiency. Adopting a qualitative analytical approach, this research explores key technological advancements in VR animation, including real-time rendering, photorealistic modeling, and the integration of Building Information Modeling (BIM) and augmented reality (AR) software. The findings indicate that 3D graphics technology substantially improves the realism and interactivity of virtual environments, facilitating seamless content creation across domains such as film, gaming, and architectural visualization. However, several challenges persist, including performance optimization, user experience refinement, and accessibility considerations, which must be addressed to ensure broader adoption and usability. In conclusion, while the integration of 3D graphics and VR animation presents significant opportunities for artistic and commercial applications, overcoming technological limitations remains crucial for the field's continued advancement. The practical implications suggest that industry professionals should adopt innovative strategies, such as AI-driven automation and globally networked collaboration, to optimize production workflows and improve the accessibility of VR experiences. Future research should focus on refining technological frameworks and best practices to support the sustainable evolution of VR animation and 3D graphics development.

Keywords: 3D Graphics technology, Animation, Artificial intelligence (AI) Automation, Cloud-based production, Real-time collaboration.

1. Introduction

History of 3D graphics technology Early development The origins of 3D graphics technology date back to the 1940s, when early pioneers such as John Whitney experimented with the visual possibilities of computers. The late 1970s saw important advances with the introduction of 3D computer graphics software for home computers, such as 3D Art Graphics in 1978 for the Apple II. This paved the way for the widespread use of 3D graphics in a variety of media.

Milestones in film One of the most notable milestones in the history of 3D graphics was Walt Disney's 1982 film "Tron," directed by Steven Lisberger, which was the first feature film to make extensive use of solid 3D CGI, featuring digital environments and vehicles such as Light Cycles and tanks. Although less than 20 minutes of CGI was used, the film grossed \$33 million on a budget of \$17 million, and was a success in integrating computer-generated imagery into mainstream cinema. In the years that followed, the adoption of CGI became more widespread, and companies began to gradually shift away from traditional animation techniques. By the mid-1990s, the average special effects budget for films released in the U.S. increased dramatically, reflecting the growing importance of special effects

in storytelling¹ [1]. Hutch Parker, head of production at 20th Century Fox, noted that by 2005, “50 percent of feature films have significant special effects, and they're a character in the movie.”

The rise of motion capture and photorealism the 1980s also saw the introduction of motion capture technology to create realistic representations of human movement. Films like 1999's “The Iron Giant” made heavy use of CGI, with the title character being completely computer-generated. The culmination of this development came in 2001 with the release of “Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within,” the first fully computer-generated feature film to use photorealistic CGI characters. Despite its technical achievements, the movie struggled at the box office, partly because the characters fell into the “uncanny valley.”

Software and technology advances in 3D computer graphics software continued to evolve throughout the 1980s and 1990s, resulting in sophisticated rendering techniques and graphics workstations. The introduction of frame buffer technology and the rise of companies like Silicon Graphics, Inc. greatly expanded the possibilities of 3D graphics. In 1977, the 3D Core Graphics System was developed, establishing a graphics standard that would serve as the foundation for later innovations. The system enabled hidden surface determination, which allowed for realistic representation of 3D objects on the screen.

Technical aspects Benefits of augmented reality (AR) software in a business environment, the integration of AR technology offers a number of key benefits that improve customer experience and operational efficiency.

Product viewing AR software allows potential customers to visualize and interact with products before making a purchase. This capability helps consumers make more informed decisions by allowing them to interact with products in a more immersive way rather than relying on traditional marketing techniques [2].

Content augmentation AR can facilitate interactive learning experiences by inserting different perspectives directly into content. Instead of conducting extensive research, users can simply point to real-world objects and receive relevant information, streamlining the training process [3].

Education companies are increasingly utilizing AR for employee training. The technology provides a more effective learning experience by allowing trainees to visualize their responsibilities through realistic simulations rather than relying on text-based documents.

Virtual reality (VR) in architectural design in the context of architectural and engineering collaboration, VR has emerged as a revolutionary tool. A collaboration experiment with CT engineers and architectural firms in Barcelona showed how effective VR can be in improving communication and the design review process.

2. Linking 3D Graphics Technology to the VR Production Process

The initial phase consisted of VR collaboration sessions between CT engineers and the company responsible for the design and installation of the MEP system. In later sessions, members of the architecture discipline performed design reviews, demonstrating the potential for VR to enhance interdisciplinary collaboration in the architecture, engineering, and construction industry.

Educational needs and future directions the evolution of VR technology requires a dual focus on enhancement and education. Future VR software development should aim for increased performance on common computing systems and the ability to efficiently process complex models. Educational programs should also integrate VR and innovative visualization tools into their curricula to prepare students and professionals for new workflows and practices [4].

Historical contributions to 3D graphics the evolution of 3D graphics technology have been heavily influenced by the foundational contributions of early pioneers. Techniques such as Gouraud shading and Blinn-Phong shading, developed by Henri Gouraud, set the standard for portraying depth and realism in 3D models. These innovations played a key role in the evolution of modern graphics rendering techniques and continue to influence the development of advanced visualization methods used in VR and AR applications.

Rendering in 3D modeling technology is the process of creating 2D images from 3D models, which is essential for creating VR animations. The data contained in a scene file includes geometry, lighting, and shading information, which is processed by a rendering program to create a digital image. 3D modeling involves creating a wireframe representation of an object through specialized software. Techniques such as polygon mesh modeling and NURBs play an important role in creating precise, smooth surfaces for realistic animation and interaction in virtual environments [5].

Implementation strategy Integration of advanced technologies the implementation of 3D graphics technologies for VR animation production requires the integration of advanced tools and methodologies. A prime example is the use of building information modeling (BIM), which provides a data-rich modeling approach to support design planning in a variety of disciplines, including the architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) sector. The integration of BIM provides a collaborative environment where multidisciplinary teams can work together more efficiently, minimizing delays and improving project quality [6].

Improved collaboration is a critical factor in the successful deployment of VR technology. As projects become more complex, traditional workflows often result in disconnected teams operating in silos. To address these issues, innovative strategies that emphasize lean design and delivery processes are recommended. These approaches streamline the decision-making process by utilizing BIM tools to enhance communication between stakeholders. Virtual reality can also facilitate multi-user collaboration, where multiple users can participate in the same virtual space, creating a more unified work environment.

Training and development Effective training methods are essential to utilize the full potential of 3D graphics technology in VR production. Companies can leverage augmented reality (AR) software to create interactive training modules that give employees hands-on experience in a controlled virtual environment [7]. This immersive approach not only increases understanding, but also allows trainees to visualize their responsibilities rather than relying solely on theoretical learning. As VR technology matures, the development of robust training programs will be essential to ensure a workforce capable of utilizing these advanced tools [8].

Hardware and software considerations Hardware and software choices play a critical role in the success of implementing VR technology [9]. To support VR applications, you'll need high-performance computers that can handle complex rendering tasks. The selection of hardware and software plays a critical role in the successful implementation of VR technology. To effectively support VR applications, it is essential to utilize high-performance computing systems capable of handling complex rendering tasks. Powerful CPU processors and high-end graphics cards are particularly crucial for ensuring seamless performance in VR environments.

In addition to hardware performance, several other factors must be considered when selecting VR-compatible software. Software compatibility with a range of VR hardware devices, scalability to accommodate increasing project complexity, and real-time interactivity are all essential for optimizing VR production workflows. Ensuring that both hardware and software components are well-integrated will significantly enhance system efficiency and improve user experience in VR applications. Software compatibility with a variety of VR hardware, scalability as project complexity increases, and real-time interactivity should also be evaluated as important features during the selection process.

3. Improving VR-Based Animation Workflow

Virtual reality in architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) A recent case study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of virtual reality (VR) environments for design review, collaboration, and project decision communication in the AEC sector. Participants engaged in VR during two sessions focused on MEP system coordination and architectural design review [10]. The study highlighted that participant quickly adapted to the VR tool and were able to provide immediate feedback on functionality and features. Notably, the top-rated use case for VR was client presentations, followed by internal collaboration and design reviews, reflecting the potential of VR to improve communication and

decision-making, especially on complex projects that utilize building information modeling (BIM) processes.

Virtual reality in game animation companies Game animation companies is increasingly integrating VR solutions into their production workflows, which has led to significant improvements in collaboration and efficiency. One leading company used VR to create complex game environments, which allowed for real-time adjustments to be made, resulting in a more consistent product. This immersive approach not only enhanced the creative process, but also improved coordination between remote team members, accelerating production schedules. As VR technology matures, its role in streamlining the animation process will continue to expand [11].

Future opportunities for VR animation Applying VR to animation presents challenges, such as high-performance graphics requirements and the need to optimize tools for different devices, but it also offers exciting opportunities to bring users a new level of immersive experience. Animators can develop educational and entertainment-focused content that transports viewers into rich virtual worlds.



Figure 1.
Quill application by Meta



Figure 2.
Tilt Brush by Google

As seen in Figures 1 and 2, the rise of specialized tools for creating 3D content for VR, such as Facebook's Quill and Google's Tilt Brush, in particular, shows that VR is increasingly recognized as a valuable medium for artistic expression. However, there is a need for these tools to integrate seamlessly with traditional animation workflows.

Improving workflows with VR As VR technology continues to evolve, it has transformed into a mainstream tool that many artists have begun to utilize in their productions [12]. This shift presents a unique opportunity for 3D artists to reimagine their workflows to increase creativity and efficiency by creating assets in immersive environments. The continued development of VR tools that integrate with existing specialized software will further facilitate this transition, enabling artists to produce high-quality 3D graphics that meet the demands of VR environments.

Challenges and limitations User experience and immersion Creating immersive extended reality (XR) applications poses significant challenges, especially in terms of user experience. User research is essential to align these experiences with audience expectations and preferences, ensuring accessibility and engagement. If XR applications do not consider usability, they risk breaking immersion due to technical inconsistencies or poor design choices. Therefore, developers must identify usability issues in the early stages of development so that timely adjustments can be made to improve the overall user experience [13].

Technical constraints Despite advances in technology, early VR and XR systems were severely limited by insufficient hardware capabilities. Early computers had poor processing power and graphics quality, which limited the complexity and immersion of 3D environments. Low screen resolution and basic software tools hindered the development of fully realized virtual experiences, leading to simplistic graphics that lacked depth and detail. These constraints not only affected user engagement, but also set limits on the potential applications of VR technology.

Accessibility issues One of the main barriers to VR is accessibility for users with disabilities. Many XR experiences require physical movement, which can be difficult or impossible for people with motor limitations or those with low vision. The design of headsets and applications often overlooks these users, who can be excluded from the immersive experiences that VR technology offers. Addressing these accessibility issues is important to promote inclusivity and ensure that diverse audiences can enjoy immersive experiences [14].

Community and social interaction While VR can provide a solitary experience, there is a growing demand for community interaction within these environments. Current VR capabilities often limit users to single-player experiences, reducing the potential for the social engagement that many users seek. With the increase in multiplayer gaming options, the industry is faced with the challenge of creating community-centric experiences that satisfy the interaction between users in virtual space.

Optimize performance The performance of XR applications must be optimized to maintain immersion. Technical issues such as lag or stuttering can disrupt users' experiences and pull them back to reality. Developers must ensure that XR experiences run smoothly, which can be challenging given the resource requirements of high-quality graphics and interactions. Balancing detailed environments with system performance is a major challenge in XR development.

Emotional engagement and narrative Finally, fostering emotional engagement through compelling narrative and character development is essential for enhancing immersion. However, creating compelling stories that resonate with users while accommodating different preferences and comfort levels presents design challenges. Developers must navigate these complexities to create XR experiences that are not only immersive but also emotionally impactful [15].

Recent advances in the evolving landscape of 3D graphics technology, significant advances have been made in generative models and rendering techniques, particularly for creating virtual reality (VR) animations.

Generative models Recent breakthroughs in generative models have revolutionized the approach to image generation and editing. Techniques such as generative adversarial neural networks (GANs), variational autoencoders (VAEs), and autoregressive models have demonstrated remarkable effectiveness in generating high-quality 2D and 3D images. In addition, diffusion models such as stable diffusion and DALL-E 3 have introduced innovative methodologies for image manipulation, bringing a paradigm shift to graphic design and animation workflows [16].

Rendering technologies, the landscape of 3D rendering is rapidly evolving, driven by advances in algorithms and rendering APIs. Techniques like ray tracing and rasterization are now playing an important role in creating photorealistic visuals. Ray tracing is known for simulating the path of light to achieve incredible realism in reflections and refractions. Rasterization, meanwhile, is a fundamental technique for real-time rendering and is widely used in a variety of applications [17].

Industry applications of these advances can be seen in several industries, including film, architecture, and gaming. Software like V-Ray is recognized as an industry standard thanks to its powerful rendering capabilities and compatibility with major 3D modeling tools. In addition, the integration of cloud-based rendering solutions with virtual reality support has opened up new avenues for creators to deliver more immersive experiences.

4. AI Applications in the VR Animation Production Process

The combination of 3D graphics technology and virtual reality (VR) is currently revolutionizing the animation industry by significantly enhancing production workflows, improving creative collaboration, and enabling real-time adjustments within virtual environments. Despite these advancements, there are still notable limitations in the production process that present challenges to both efficiency and quality. In particular, real-time collaboration between globally distributed teams and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance production efficiency are two critical areas requiring further research and technological improvements. Addressing these challenges is essential to ensuring that VR animation production can achieve its full potential in terms of both quality and efficiency [18].

One of the primary obstacles in VR animation production is the lack of an integrated real-time collaboration platform that can seamlessly support multiple teams working simultaneously across different geographic locations. Currently available software, such as Autodesk Maya, Blender, Unity, and Unreal Engine, provides some level of real-time collaboration, but these tools struggle to maintain optimal performance during complex rendering tasks, leading to delays in data processing and synchronization issues. For instance, in the production of *The Mandalorian*, Unreal Engine was utilized to adjust backgrounds in real-time, allowing artists and production teams to receive instant feedback and make immediate adjustments. While this approach significantly improved efficiency, it also revealed limitations in handling large-scale projects, particularly in terms of processing vast amounts of data in real-time.

A similar challenge was observed in the 2019 remake of *The Lion King*, which was filmed entirely in a VR environment. During production, directors and artists wore VR headsets, allowing them to manipulate camera angles and character movements within a fully virtual space. This process facilitated real-time collaboration and improved creative decision-making. However, technical constraints—particularly those related to real-time rendering delays—posed significant challenges. The production team frequently encountered issues where the hardware's ability to process large amounts of data in real-time became a bottleneck, ultimately impacting workflow efficiency. These examples highlight the urgent need for more robust real-time collaboration tools that can support complex VR environments without compromising performance.

Another critical factor in improving VR animation production is the adoption of cloud-based collaboration systems. Given that VR animation involves real-time data generation and immediate feedback, cloud platforms present a promising solution for enhancing remote collaboration and managing large-scale data processing. Platforms such as Amazon Web Services (AWS) provide the necessary infrastructure to store, process, and synchronize large volumes of animation data, enabling distributed teams to work together seamlessly. A notable example of successful cloud-based animation production is *The Mitchells vs. The Machines* (2021), which utilized cloud collaboration to integrate multiple elements of animation production in real-time, facilitating a highly efficient workflow for remote teams.

However, despite the advantages of cloud-based systems, several challenges remain. One of the key issues is network latency and internet reliability, which can lead to delays in data transmission and

synchronization. Since VR animation requires instantaneous updates and real-time rendering, even minor lags in cloud data processing can disrupt workflow continuity. As projects grow in complexity, enhancing the speed and efficiency of cloud synchronization mechanisms becomes crucial. Project management software such as Autodesk Shotgun has been developed to address these issues by offering real-time data management and collaboration tools in the cloud. However, there are still unresolved system load issues when handling highly detailed and intricate VR animation assets, necessitating further technological advancements in cloud infrastructure.

In addition to cloud-based solutions, artificial intelligence (AI) is playing an increasingly vital role in automating animation production processes. AI-driven tools are particularly effective in automating repetitive tasks, such as character movement generation and complex texture creation in 3D modeling. One of the most well-documented uses of AI in animation production can be seen in *Frozen 2* (2019), where Disney Research implemented AI algorithms to automatically calculate and render intricate pleats and folds in character costumes, significantly reducing the time required for manual animation adjustments. This use of AI streamlined the production process while maintaining a high level of realism in animation.

Similarly, AI-powered animation tools by Adobe are advancing the field by enabling automatic generation of character movements and facial expressions, allowing animators to focus on more creative aspects of the production. While AI-based automation has proven to be beneficial, challenges still exist, particularly when AI-generated movements lack natural fluidity or appear unnatural, leading to issues associated with the uncanny valley effect. Since animation often requires human-like expressiveness and nuanced performances, AI-driven systems still require human intervention and refinement to ensure the highest quality of output.

Beyond animation automation, AI is also being leveraged in real-time rendering to enhance performance and efficiency. AI-based rendering technologies such as NVIDIA's Deep Learning Super Sampling (DLSS) are capable of upscaling low-resolution images to higher resolutions while preserving photorealistic quality. This enables real-time work in high-resolution environments, reducing rendering times even for highly complex VR animation projects. By implementing AI in rendering pipelines, production teams can optimize performance and minimize computational load, allowing for a more streamlined workflow.

Nevertheless, AI-driven rendering systems still require further advancements to address unpredictable rendering variables. For example, in animations involving fast-paced movement and dynamic lighting conditions, current AI models often struggle to predict accurate motion trajectories or effectively render intricate light reflections and shadow effects. As a result, further research is needed to develop more sophisticated AI learning models that can adapt to the complexities of VR animation rendering. Continued innovation in AI-powered rendering will be essential to achieving real-time, high-quality rendering that meets the demands of modern animation production.

In conclusion, while VR animation production has benefited significantly from advancements in real-time collaboration tools, cloud-based infrastructure, and AI automation, several challenges remain in ensuring seamless and efficient workflows. To overcome these limitations, enhancements in real-time collaboration platforms are necessary, particularly in reducing data processing delays and optimizing performance for large-scale VR projects. Additionally, further improvements in AI automation techniques will be required to refine animation quality while minimizing the uncanny valley effect. Lastly, advancements in AI-powered real-time rendering will play a crucial role in improving overall production efficiency, enabling faster and more realistic rendering in high-resolution VR environments.

Table 1.
visually structures the VR animation production workflow.

Stage	Key Process	Challenges	Solutions/Technologies
Pre-Production	- Concept development - Storyboarding - Asset creation	- Limited real-time collaboration - File management issues	- Cloud-based collaboration (AWS, Autodesk Shotgun) - VR-based design reviews
Production	- 3D modeling - Animation - Scene development in VR	- Complex rendering tasks - Data processing delays	- AI automation (GANs, machine learning) - Real-time rendering optimization (NVIDIA DLSS)
Real-Time Collaboration	- Multi-user VR environment - Interactive feedback	- Performance degradation in VR workflows - Network latency in cloud systems	- Cloud-based pipelines - AI-assisted real-time rendering
Rendering & Optimization	- Final rendering - Lighting & texturing enhancements	- High computational cost - Rendering delays	- AI-powered automation (Adobe AI tools, NVIDIA DLSS) - AI-driven texture and animation generation
Post-Production	- Editing - Sound design - Final visual adjustments	- Synchronization of large datasets - Integration of AI-generated elements	- Cloud-based storage for final assets - AI-enhanced post-processing tools
Delivery & Distribution	- Exporting final animation - Streaming & distribution	- File size optimization - Maintaining visual quality	- Cloud streaming platforms - AI-based compression and enhancement

This Table 1 visually structures the VR animation production workflow, highlighting challenges and solutions at each stage, based on AI, real-time collaboration, and cloud-based systems.

As the animation industry continues to evolve, the integration of AI, cloud-based collaboration, and real-time VR workflows will become increasingly essential in maintaining global competitiveness and production efficiency. By addressing these technological challenges, VR animation production can reach new levels of innovation and creative expression, ensuring that future animated films and interactive experiences fully utilize the potential of emerging digital technologies.

5. Conclusion

As the animation industry continues to evolve, it is being shaped by technological advancements and shifting consumer demand. Several emerging trends are expected to influence the future of 3D graphics technology and VR animation production, driving innovation and expanding creative possibilities.

One of the most significant trends is the growing demand for 3D animation. While traditional 2D animation has long been the dominant form, there is a noticeable shift toward 3D animation, which provides a more immersive and realistic viewing experience. This transition is particularly relevant due to the rising demand for VR and AR content, where 3D animation plays a pivotal role in enhancing user engagement. Consequently, audiences can anticipate a surge in 3D animated films and TV series, as creators increasingly leverage technological advancements to enhance storytelling and visual depth.

Another key trend shaping the industry is the advancement of artificial intelligence (AI). AI is progressively being integrated into animation production workflows to enhance efficiency. By automating labor-intensive tasks such as rendering and character animation, AI allows artists to focus more on creative development, ultimately streamlining the production process. As AI technology continues to evolve, its role in 3D graphics and VR animation is expected to expand, leading to more sophisticated animation techniques and innovative storytelling approaches.

The rapid growth of virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR) is also transforming the industry. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly accelerated the adoption of VR/AR technologies, enabling remote collaboration among directors, animators, and production teams. As a result, VR animation productions have pioneered the use of virtual environments, and many new projects are now embracing these capabilities to create immersive and interactive storytelling experiences.

In addition to technological advancements, there is an increasing emphasis on automation and efficiency in animation production. As the industry adapts to the post-pandemic era, studios are optimizing production workflows through real-time iteration, virtual production, and the reuse of digital assets. The integration of automation tools into production pipelines enables faster turnaround times, allowing content creators to meet the rising demand for animated content more efficiently.

Finally, the globalization of the animation industry is becoming increasingly evident. Emerging markets, particularly in India and China, are playing a more prominent role in animation production, contributing diverse talent and fresh creative perspectives. This trend is expected to broaden the scope of artistic expression while simultaneously enhancing the cultural value of animated content, making the animation industry more inclusive and globally interconnected.

In conclusion, the future of 3D graphics technology and VR animation will be shaped by technological innovations, the integration of AI, the expansion of VR/AR applications, and global collaboration. These advancements will not only redefine animation production workflows but also enhance storytelling techniques and user engagement, ensuring continued growth and evolution within the industry.

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The authors confirm that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study; that no vital features of the study have been omitted; and that any discrepancies from the study as planned have been explained. This study followed all ethical practices during writing.

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