Computer Graphics 2015: Criteria to Define Animation, a Review of the Definition in the Advent of Digital Moving Images

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Animation has become ubiquitous, from cartoons to computer graphics, from commercials to information visualization; nonetheless, its own definition is more elusive than ever. Digital imaging has blurred the road between what’s animated and what’s a reproduction of recorded movement, rendering previous definitions of frame-by-frame production and non-recorded movement seemingly obsolete. Moreover, digital automation has also contested the authorship of moving images. During this light, can animation be defined? instead of defining animation by what it’s not, because the illusion of motion that’s not recorded, the author reviews constitutive traits common to all or any moving images, like interlacial projection; those absent from animation, like reconstitution of movement; those specific to animation, like artificial change in positions; and notions of the index and digital authorship to differentiate animation as a specific sort of moving image. These considerations are arranged during a set of criteria with which to define animation by what it’s, positively. Additionally, while the stress is on digital moving images, these criteria are applicable to analogue techniques of animation. Ultimately, the author’s examples point to a continuity with old techniques and definitions, a continuity that extends to moving image practices outside of either animation or cinema. The definition of animation has become problematic with the arrival of digital media. The informational character of digital moving images has made it difficult to differentiate between what’s animated and what’s a reproduction of recorded movement. Previous definitions of animation, as a non-recorded (non-live action) illusion of motion and as a frame-by-frame production, don’t encompass the automation of the many digital illusions of motion, nor do they describe the way during which some digital moving images derive from records of movement. During this light, this text contends that animation are often distinguished in digital media by virtue of traits specific to its solely illusory motion which are general to all or any animation production techniques, whether analogue or digital. The article develops a group of criteria to stress animation’s illusion of motion; it also examines which aspects are shared with other moving images and which are exclusive to animation. Additionally, the author deals with the persistence of the index in digital media and therefore the authorship of automatic animations.

Animation may be a technical process that, generally, produces motion illusion within the viewer by sequencing the still images produced within the analogue or digital environment in sequence. As how of manufacturing a movie the maximum amount because it is technically possible, the event of the animation, which is included within the genre film itself, can now transcend the judgment that it’s mainly an entertainment for the mass audience of youngsters. The belief of 3D animated films appealing to people of all ages has been influential in bringing the concept of animation out of the audience perception of traditional animation films by giving them fresh dimensions. This has led to a reconsideration of animation and film definitions. For instance, a replacement theoretical framework treats both film products representing the movement of a man-made way (positive criterion), and works that avoid a correspondence with real-time movement rate of change (negative criterion), as animations. These new restrictions on the definition of animation don’t change the very fact that animation may be a narrative act and, as such, the merchandise of authorship. Animation and live-action video possess different visual characteristics. In simpler terms, animation is icons of movement whereas live-action video replicates a real-time movement. Both sorts of videos are often incorporated as illustrations of conceptual and factual knowledge. Animation is an elusive form that has faced a history of difficulty in determining an overarching definition. The Centre for Animation and Interactive Media at RMIT University makes a crucial note on their “What is animation?” page that “Animation precedes the invention of photography and therefore the cine-camera by several decades.” (“Animation Introduction”) Animation may be a timeless and agile concept which has its roots within the likes of parlor-game toys of the 1800’s, doodlings on the corners of notebooks, also as a number of the foremost popular films of all time. The changing face of technology and shifting perceptions of film, with increasing presence of CGI and visual effects, have made encapsulating animation in just words a challenging task. Believe how you define animation? If you’re just like the majority of the American public you would possibly use phrases like ‘cartoon,’ ‘for children,’ or ‘hand-drawn.’ the matter with these terms is that they limit the medium - whether by restricting it to just one genre, one audience, or one technical means of creation. Paul Wells discusses in his article, “Animation: Genre and Authorship,” the favored notion of animation as a predominantly ‘cartoon’ medium because its dominance during this aspect of the American movie industry has appeared to overshadow other uses, styles, and independent animation within us. A troubling point that has persisted since before Wells wrote about it in 2002 and continues through today - the tendency for the general public to look at animation as a genre instead of a medium for expression. Animation is actually a broad and versatile medium, capable of doing any genre from children’s films to horror to even documentary. Animation is authorial - self-reflexive of its creator - due to the frame-by-frame nature of control the animator exercises. It inherently time-based but also allows for expansion, compression, and transformation of the axis of your time. There’s a narrative, “story-ness” to animation (it is vital to notice that the narrative can occur anywhere on a continuum from mimesis to abstraction) that permits for representation of the planet in ways unlike the other medium.