3D Platformer history
- A chronological timeframe v 1.3-

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Proliferation of 3D Platformers (1990-2019)
Sample size: 365

1990
- Aug 1 – Alpha Waves

1994
- Mar 12 – Geograph Seal

1995
- Apr 28 – Jumping Flash!
- May 15 – Bug!

1996
- Jan 19 – Floating Runner: Quest for the 7 Crystals
- Apr 26 – Jumping Flash! 2
- Jun 23 – Super Mario 64
- Sep 9 – Crash Bandicoot
- Oct 31 – Bubsy 3D
- Nov 30 – Bug Too!
- Nov 30 – Soul Trap

1997

- Mar 21 – Doraemon: Nobita to Mittsu no Seireiseki
- Sep 29 – Croc: Legend of the Gobbos
- Oct 31 – Crash Bandicoot: Cortex Strikes Back
- Nov 30 – Chameleon Twist
- Dec 12 – Jersey Devil
- Dec 18 – Ninpen Manmaru

1998

- Jan 26 – Gex: Enter the Gecko
- Feb 28 – Pitfall 3D: Beyond the Jungle
- Mar 18 – Rascal
- Mar 31 – Blasto
- June 29 – Banjo-Kazooie
- Sep 9 – Spyro the Dragon
- Oct 21 – Space Station Silicon Valley
- Oct 31 – Crash Bandicoot 3: Warped
- Oct 31 – Glover
- Nov 18 – A Bug’s Life
- Dec 4 – Starshot: Space Circus Fever
- Dec 23 – Ganbare Goemon: Kuru Nara Koi! Ayashige Ikka no Kuroi Kage
- Dec 23 – Sonic Adventure
- Dec 25 – Chameleon Twist 2

1999

- Mar 1 – Gex 3: Deep Cover Gecko
- May 31 – Ape Escape
- May 31 – Bugs Bunny: Lost in Time
- Jun 30 – Croc 2
- Aug 31 – Tonic Trouble
- Sep 28 – Kingsley’s Adventure
- Oct 12 – Pac-Man World
- Oct 14 – Robbit Mon Dieu
- Oct 29 – Rayman 2: The Great Escape
- Oct 31 – Earthworm Jim 3D
- Oct 31 – Rocket: Robot on Wheels
- Nov 2 – Spyro 2: Ripto’s Rage!
- Nov 14 – 40 Winks
- Nov 22 – Donkey Kong 64
- Nov 25 – Ling Rise
- Nov 30 – Toy Story 2: Buzz Lightyear to the Rescue

2000
Feb 3 – Super Magnetic Neo
Mar 11 – Hugo: Quest for the Sunstones
Jul 28 – Doraemon 3: Nobita no Machi SOS!
Sep ?? – Bugs Bunny & Taz: Time Busters
Sep 15 – The Land Before Time: Return to the Great Valley
Sep 16 – Duck Dodgers Starring Daffy Duck
Sep 26 – Buzz Lightyear of Star Command
Sep 28 – M&M’s The Lost Formulas
Oct 13 – Blues Brothers 2000
Oct 19 – Donald Duck: Goin’ Quackers
Oct 20 – Muppet Monster Adventure
Oct 24 – Spyro: Year of the Dragon
Nov 8 – 102 Dalmatians: Puppies to the Rescue
Nov 13 – Chicken Run
Nov 19 – Banjo-Tooie
Nov 30 – Mort the Chicken
Dec 1 – Disney’s Aladdin in Nasira’s Revenge
Dec 8 – Kao the Kangaroo
Dec 22 – The Lion King: Simba’s Mighty Adventure

2001
Mar 5 – Conker’s Bad Fur Day
Apr 9 – Barbie: Explorer
Jun 19 – Sonic Adventure 2
Jul 12 – Hugo: Black Diamond Fever
Sep 11 – Portal Runner
Sep 30 – M&M’s Shell Shocked
Oct 4 – Evil Twin: Cyprien’s Chronicles
Oct 19 – Monsters, Inc.
Oct 29 – Crash Bandicoot 4: The Wrath of Cortex
Oct 30 – Monsters, Inc. Scream Team
Nov 14 – Tarzan Untamed
Nov 18 – Frogger: The Great Quest
Dec 3 – Jak and Daxter: The Precursor Legacy
Dec 7 – Woody Woodpecker: Escape from Buzz Buzzard Park

2002
Feb 24 – Pac-Man World 2
May 2 – Hugo: The Evil Mirror
May 20 – Scooby-Doo! Night of 100 Frights
Jun 14 – Lilo & Stitch: Trouble in Paradise
Jul 17 – Stuart Little 2
Jul 18 – Ape Escape 2
Aug 26 – Super Mario Sunshine
Sep 10 – SpongeBob SquarePants: Revenge of the Flying Dutchman
Sep 23 – Sly Cooper and the Thievius Raccoonus
Oct 4 – PK: Out of the Shadows
- Oct 7 – Blinx: The Time Sweeper
- Oct 8 – Ty the Tasmanian Tiger
- Oct 9 – Zapper: One Wicked Cricket
- Oct 23 – ToeJam & Earl III: Mission to Earth
- Nov 4 – Ratchet & Clank (Original)
- Nov 5 – Spyro: Enter the Dragonfly
- Nov 11 – Treasure Planet
- Nov 19 – Dr. Muto
- Dec 13 – Castleween
- Dec 13 – Marble Blast Gold

2003

- Jan 20 – Rayman 3: Hoodlum Havoc
- Jan 31 – Jinx
- Feb 11 – Vexx
- Jun 20 – Wario World
- Sep 9 – I-Ninja
- Sep 16 – The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron Boy Genius: Jet Fusion
- Sep 23 – Billy Hatcher and the Giant Egg
- Sep 23 – Voodoo Vince
- Oct 3 – Wallace & Gromit in Project Zoo
- Oct 14 – Jak II
- Oct 15 – Tak and the Power of Juju
- Oct 31 – SpongeBob SquarePants: Battle for Bikini Bottom
- Nov 11 – Ratchet & Clank: Going Commando
- Nov 18 – Kya: Dark Lineage
- Nov 19 – Looney Tunes: Back in Action
- Dec 30 – Sonic Heroes

2004

- Apr 8 – Malice
- Apr 15 – Kao the Kangaroo: Round 2
- Sep 14 – Sly 2: Band of Thieves
- Sep 28 – Crash Twinsanity
- Oct 1 – Scaler
- Oct 12 – Ty the Tasmanian Tiger 2: Bush Rescue
- Oct 27 – The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie Video Game
- Oct 29 – Gadget & Gadgetinis
- Nov 2 – Ratchet & Clank: Up Your Arsenal
- Nov 3 – Spyro: A Hero’s Tail
- Nov 9 – Jak 3
- Nov 21 – Super Mario 64 DS
- Nov 18 – Blinx 2: Masters of Time and Space

2005

- Jan 12 – Tork: Prehistoric Punk
- Mar 17 – Ape Escape: On the Loose
- Apr 19 – Psychonauts
- Jun 21 – Conker: Live & Reloaded
- Jul 8 – Anubis II
- Jul 13 – Ninjabread Man
- Jul 14 – Ape Escape 3
- Aug 19 – Myth Makers: Trixie in Toyland
- Sep 12 – Scooby-Doo! Unmasked
- Sep 26 – Sly 3: Honor Among Thieves
- Oct 11 – Ty the Tasmanian Tiger 3: Night of the Quinkan
- Oct 18 – Disney's Chicken Little
- Nov 15 – Pac-Man World 3
- Nov 15 – Shadow the Hedgehog
- Dec 2 – Kao the Kangaroo: Mystery of the Volcano
- ???? – Galidor: Defenders of the Outer Dimension

**2006**

- Feb 1 – Curious George
- Mar 14 – Daxter
- May 5 – Over the Hedge
- June 28 – Ruff Trigger: The Vanocore Conspiracy
- Oct 10 – Over the Hedge: Hammy Goes Nuts!
- Oct 10 – The Legend of Spyro: A New Beginning
- Oct 16 – SpongeBob SquarePants: Creature from the Krusty Krab
- Oct 24 – Flushed Away
- Oct 24 – Nicktoons: Battle for Volcano Island
- Nov 14 – Barbie in the 12 Dancing Princesses
- Nov 14 – Sonic the Hedgehog
- Nov 19 – Super Monkey Ball: Banana Blitz

**2007**

- Jun 26 – Ratatouille
- Sep 17 – Rock ‘n’ Roll Adventures
- Oct 2 – The Legend of Spyro: The Eternal Night
- Oct 4 – Crash of the Titans
- Oct 23 – Ratchet & Clank Future: Tools of Destruction
- Nov 1 – Super Mario Galaxy
- Nov 5 – Agent Hugo: Lemoon Twist
- Nov 23 – Mr. Bean's Wacky World

**2008**

- Mar 6 – Dora the Explorer: Dora Saves the Mermaids
- Jun 27 – De Blob 2008
- Jul 15 – Space Chimps
- Aug 21 – Ratchet & Clank Future: Quest for Booty
• Oct 6 – Agent Hugo: Hula Holiday
• Oct 7 – Crash: Mind over Mutant
• Oct 13 – Tak and the Guardians of Gross
• Oct 21 – The Legend of Spyro: Dawn of the Dragon
• Oct 28 – Mushroom Men: The Spore Wars
• Nov 18 – Sonic Unleashed
• Dec 2 – The Tale of Despereaux
• Dec 3 – M&M’s Adventure

2009

• Mar 3 – Sonic and the Black Knight
• Oct 13 – Where the Wild Things Are
• Oct 27 – Ratchet & Clank Future: A Crack in Time
• Nov 3 – Jak and Daxter: The Lost Frontier
• Nov 20 – Crazy Chicken Tales

2010

• May 23 – Super Mario Galaxy 2
• Jun 15 – Toy Story 3: The Video Game
• Jun 28 – Jett Rocket
• Aug 11 – The Kore Gang
• Oct 19 – Flip’s Twisted World
• Nov 11 – Sonic Colors
• Nov 25 – Epic Mickey

2011

• Feb 22 – De Blob 2
• Oct 18 – Ratchet & Clank: All 4 One
• Nov 1 – Sonic Generations
• Nov 3 – Super Mario 3D Land

2012

• Nov 18 – Epic Mickey 2: The Power of Two

2013

• Feb 5 – Sly Cooper: Thieves in Time
• Oct 18 – Sonic Lost World
• Oct 25 – Pac-Man & the Ghostly Adventures
• Nov 20 – Tearaway
• Nov 21 – Super Mario 3D World

2014

• Mar 20 – Cloudbuilt
• May 14 – The Last Tinker: City of Colors
Jun 6 – Woodle Tree Adventures
Oct 14 – Pac-Man and the Ghostly Adventures 2
Nov 11 – Sonic Boom: Rise of Lyric
Dec 30 – Kiwi 64

2015

Feb 3 – SpongeBob HeroPants
Mar 3 – Isaac the Adventurer
Mar 10 – Grapple
Sep 8 – Tearaway Unfolded
Dec 8 – Ben and Ed
Dec 8 – Dexterity Ball 3D
Dec 10 – FreezeME

2016

Mar 28 – Lucky’s Tale
Apr 8 – Warden: Melody of the Undergrowth
Apr 12 – Marble Void
Apr 12 – Ratchet & Clank (Remastered)
May 6 – Scrap Garden
Jul 2 – Gnomes Vs. Fairies: Greckel’s Quest
Aug 16 – Bound
Aug 29 – Zissi’s Island
Sep 5 – Unbox: Newbie’s Adventure
Sep 27 – Dyno Adventure
Oct 25 – Ginger: Beyond the Crystal
Dec 3 – Skyway

2017

Jan 3 – Ziggy’s Chase
Feb 1 – Poi
Feb 14 – Fumiko!
Feb 27 – Schacht
Mar 17 – Macbat 64
Mar 28 – Snake Pass
Mar 31 – Dawn
Apr 11 – Yooka-Laylee
May 19 – Skylar & Plux: Adventure on Clover Island
Jun 10 – Face It-A game to fight inner demons
Jun 17 – Geoid
Jun 30 – Crash Bandicoot N. Sane Trilogy
Jul 21 – Crazy Ball Adventures
Jul 21 – The Dungeon Power
Jul 25 – Super Cloudbuilt
Jul 29 – Super Lovely Planet
Jul 31 – Trundle
- Aug 2 – Snake 3D Adventures
- Aug 25 – Cat vs. Corgis
- Sep 6 – PolyKat
- Sep 14 – Super Perspective
- Sep 28 – Marty Thinks 4D
- Oct 5 – A Hat in Time
- Oct 5 – Splat the Blob
- Oct 13 – Speebot
- Oct 24 – Viaerium
- Oct 27 – Super Mario Odyssey
- Nov 7 – Sonic Forces
- Nov 7 – Super Lucky’s Tale
- Dec 2 – Polyball
- Dec 16 – Marble Skies
- Dec 31 – Celestial Hacker Girl Jessica

2018

- Feb 1 – Candleman
- Feb 13 – Ben and Ed - Blood Party
- Feb 14 – Newt One
- Feb 16 – Fe
- Mar 30 – Nogard
- Apr 4 – A Divided Light
- Apr 27 – Dynamite Bunny: Catch the Carrot
- May 2 – Run Jump Fail
- May 10 – Cosmic Trail
- May 16 – Flynn & Freckles
- May 24 – Funk Unplugged
- Jun 19 – Carly and the Reaperman - Escape from the Underworld
- Jun 19 – Suzy Cube
- Aug 10 – Tiny Hands Adventure
- Aug 20 – Tyler: Model 005
- Aug 30 – Evocation
- Sep 14 – RAZED
- Sep 17 – The Adventures of Mr. Fluffykinds
- Sep 25 – Pitterpot
- Sep 28 – Infinity
- Oct 2 – Astro Bot: Rescue Mission
- Nov 9 – Ascent: Crash Landing
- Nov 13 – Spyro Reignited Trilogy
- Nov 17 – Marble It Up!
- Nov 23 – Heart Chain Kitty
- Dec 1 – Santa’s Story of Christmas
- Dec 21 – Pogo

2019

- Feb 1 – Choconoa
- Feb 8 – Synthrun
- Mar 1 – Bob’s Cat Challenge
What is a 3D Platformer?

Definitions are important, and game genres are no exception. Thanks to technological breakthroughs, three dimensional video games have become extremely commonplace, but of course, not all of them are 3D platformers. Platforming, as described by Wikipedia, refers specifically to the action of jumping onto, between, or across (suspended) ledges — one of the core ingredients in the 3D platformer recipe. Here are nine basic criteria a game should typically fulfil in order to be classified accordingly.

1. Primarily occurs in three dimensions (x, y and z axes)
2. Uses polygonal/3D graphics for both environments and characters
3. General movement and jumping are player controlled
4. Almost always designed in third-person perspective
5. Collectibles are fundamental to gameplay
6. Platforming is at the forefront and isn’t overshadowed by other elements/genres
7. Playable environment is open-world, organised into levels/structured courses
8. There is an end point
9. Mascot or stylised cartoon character is the protagonist

There are many games which, on the surface, bear a very strong resemblance to 3D platformers; **Knack** is a good example because it ticks most of the boxes: True 3D, collectibles galore, distinct levels, endearing cartoon-hero. But, the crucial element differentiating it from something like **Super Mario 64** is its focal point: beat ‘em up gameplay. A game that fuses **Crash Bandicoot**, **Katamari Damacy** and **God of War** is not going to provide the same experience as a pure platformer, especially when it is specifically built around a fighting mechanic that controls progression. Similar precautions must be applied to games that fall
within the (admittedly broader) action-adventure bracket, as well as the narrative simulation and puzzle-platformer bracket. To put it more clearly: Is The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time a 3D platformer? What about Mirror's Edge? Captain Toad's Treasure Tracker? These games, and future games which will display heavy categorical overlap with 3D platformers only encourage definitional exclusivity. That said, I strive to keep an open mind and strongly believe that in order to create the most accurate, authentic list of 3D platformers for the history annals, classification should be contested as much as possible. Fight me. Frequently.

Contact author for 3D platforming debates: katrinafilippidis@gmail.com.