

Metal Feature Set Tables

Feature Availability
This table lists the availability of major Metal features.

OS	iOS 8	iOS 8	iOS 9	iOS 9	iOS 9	iOS 10	iOS 10	iOS 10	iOS 10	iOS 11	iOS 11	iOS 11	iOS 11	iOS 11	tvOS 9	tvOS 10	tvOS 11	tvOS 11	macOS 10.11	macOS 10.12	macOS 10.13
GPU Family	1	2	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Version	1	1	2	2	1	3	3	2	4	4	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	3	3
Feature Set	iOS_ GPUFamily1_v1	iOS_ GPUFamily2_v1	iOS_ GPUFamily1_v2	iOS_ GPUFamily2_v2	iOS_ GPUFamily3_v1	iOS_ GPUFamily1_v3	iOS_ GPUFamily2_v3	iOS_ GPUFamily3_v2	iOS_ GPUFamily1_v4	iOS_ GPUFamily2_v4	iOS_ GPUFamily3_v3	iOS_ GPUFamily4_v1	tvOS_ GPUFamily1_v1	tvOS_ GPUFamily1_v2	tvOS_ GPUFamily1_v3	tvOS_ GPUFamily2_v1	macOS_ GPUFamily1_v1	macOS_ GPUFamily1_v2	macOS_ GPUFamily1_v3		
Features																					
MetalKit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Metal Performance Shaders		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓			✓
Programmable blending	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PVRTC pixel formats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EAC/ETC pixel formats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ASTC pixel formats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Linear textures	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BC pixel formats																			✓	✓	✓
MSAA depth resolve					✓			✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
Counting occlusion query					✓			✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
Base vertex/instance drawing					✓			✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
Indirect buffers					✓			✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
Cube map texture arrays												✓							✓	✓	✓
Texture barriers																			✓	✓	✓
Layered rendering																			✓	✓	✓
Tessellation								✓				✓		✓				✓		✓	✓
Resource heaps						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Memoryless render targets						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Function specialization						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Function buffer read-writes												✓		✓				✓		✓	✓
Function texture read-writes												✓		✓				✓		✓	✓
Array of textures								✓				✓		✓				✓		✓	✓
Array of samplers												✓		✓				✓		✓	✓
Stencil texture views						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Depth-16 pixel format																				✓	✓
Extended range pixel formats												✓		✓				✓		✓	✓
Wide color pixel format									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Combined MSAA store and resolve action									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deferred store action						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MSAA bits								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
sRGB writes					✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16-bit unsigned integer coordinates						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Extract, insert, and reverse bits						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SIMD barrier						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sampler max anisotropy						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sampler LOD clamp						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Border color																				✓	✓
Dual-source blending										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Argument buffers										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Programmable sample positions										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Uniform type										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Imageblocks												✓									✓
Tile shaders												✓									✓
Imageblock sample coverage control												✓									✓
Threadgroup sharing												✓									✓
Post-depth coverage												✓									✓
Quad-scoped permute operations												✓									✓
Raster order groups												✓									✓
Non-uniform threadgroup size												✓									✓
Multiple viewports												✓									✓
Device notifications																					✓

Implementation Limits

This table lists the implementation limits in Metal.

OS	iOS 8	iOS 8	iOS 9	iOS 9	iOS 9	iOS 10	iOS 10	iOS 10	iOS 11	iOS 11	iOS 11	iOS 11	tvOS 9	tvOS 10	tvOS 11	tvOS 11	macOS 10.11	macOS 10.12	macOS 10.13
GPU Family	1	2	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Version	1	1	2	2	1	3	3	2	4	4	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	3
Feature Set	iOS_GPUFamily1_v1	iOS_GPUFamily2_v1	iOS_GPUFamily1_v2	iOS_GPUFamily2_v2	iOS_GPUFamily3_v1	iOS_GPUFamily1_v3	iOS_GPUFamily2_v3	iOS_GPUFamily3_v2	iOS_GPUFamily1_v4	iOS_GPUFamily2_v4	iOS_GPUFamily3_v3	iOS_GPUFamily4_v1	tvOS_GPUFamily1_v1	tvOS_GPUFamily1_v2	tvOS_GPUFamily1_v3	tvOS_GPUFamily2_v1	macOS_GPUFamily1_v1	macOS_GPUFamily1_v2	macOS_GPUFamily1_v3
Function arguments																			
Maximum number of vertex attributes, per vertex descriptor	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
Maximum number of entries in the buffer argument table, per graphics or compute function	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
Maximum number of entries in the texture argument table, per graphics or compute function	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	128	128	128
Maximum number of entries in the sampler state argument table, per graphics or compute function ¹	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Maximum number of entries in the threadgroup memory argument table, per compute function	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
Maximum number of inlined constant data buffers, per graphics or compute function	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	14	14	14
Maximum length of an inlined constant data buffer, per graphics or compute function	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB	4 KB
Maximum threads per threadgroup	512	512	512	512	512	512	512	512	512	512	512	1024	512	512	512	512	1024	1024	1024
Maximum total threadgroup memory allocation ²	16352 B	16352 B	16352 B	16352 B	16 KB	16352 B	16352 B	16 KB	16352 B	16352 B	16 KB	32 KB	16352 B	16352 B	16352 B	16 KB	32 KB	32 KB	32 KB
Maximum total tile memory allocation ³	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible	32 KB	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible	Not accessible
Threadgroup memory length alignment	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B	16 B
No limit function memory allocation for a buffer in the constant address space	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	64 KB	64 KB	64 KB
Maximum number of inputs (scalars or vectors) to a fragment function, declared with the stage_in qualifier ⁴	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	32	32	32
Maximum number of input components to a fragment function, declared with the stage_in qualifier ⁴	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	128	128	128
Maximum number of function constants	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	65536	65536	65536	65536	65536	65536	65536	65536	65536	65536	65536	Not available	65536	65536
Maximum tessellation factor	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	16	Not available	Not available	16	16	Not available	Not available	Not available	16	Not available	64	64
Maximum number of viewports and scissor rectangles, per vertex function	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16
Maximum number of raster order groups, per fragment function	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	8	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	8
Resources																			
Maximum buffer length	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	256 MB	1 GB	1 GB
Minimum buffer offset alignment	4 B	4 B	4 B	4 B	4 B	4 B	4 B	4 B	4 B	4 B	4 B	4 B	4 B	4 B	4 B	4 B	256 B	256 B	256 B
Maximum 1D texture width	4096 px	4096 px	8192 px	8192 px	16384 px	8192 px	8192 px	16384 px	8192 px	8192 px	16384 px	16384 px	8192 px	8192 px	8192 px	16384 px	16384 px	16384 px	16384 px
Maximum 2D texture width and height	4096 px	4096 px	8192 px	8192 px	16384 px	8192 px	8192 px	16384 px	8192 px	8192 px	16384 px	16384 px	8192 px	8192 px	8192 px	16384 px	16384 px	16384 px	16384 px
Maximum cube map texture width and height	4096 px	4096 px	8192 px	8192 px	16384 px	8192 px	8192 px	16384 px	8192 px	8192 px	16384 px	16384 px	8192 px	8192 px	8192 px	16384 px	16384 px	16384 px	16384 px
Maximum 3D texture width, height, and depth	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px	2048 px
Maximum number of layers per 1D texture array, 2D texture array, or 3D texture	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048	2048
Buffer alignment for copying an existing texture to a buffer	64 B	64 B	64 B	64 B	16 B	64 B	64 B	16 B	64 B	64 B	16 B	16 B	64 B	64 B	64 B	16 B	256 B	256 B	256 B
Buffer alignment for creating a new texture from a buffer (i.e. linear texture) ⁵	64 B	64 B	64 B	64 B	16 B	64 B	64 B	16 B	By API query	By API query	By API query	By API query	64 B	64 B	By API query	By API query	Not available	Not available	By API query
Render Targets																			
Maximum number of color render targets per render pass descriptor	4	8	4	8	8	4	8	8	4	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Maximum size of a point primitive	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511
Maximum total render target size, per pixel, when using multiple color render targets	128 bits	256 bits	128 bits	256 bits	256 bits	128 bits	256 bits	256 bits	128 bits	256 bits	256 bits	512 bits	256 bits	256 bits	256 bits	256 bits	No limit	No limit	No limit
Maximum visibility query offset	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B	65528 B

¹ Inline constant samplers, declared in Metal shading language code, also count against this limit. For example, if the feature set limit is 16, you can have 12 API samplers and 4 language samplers (16 total) but you cannot have 12 API samplers and 6 language samplers (18 total).

² In some iOS and tvOS feature sets, the driver may consume up to 32 B of a device's total threadgroup memory. Therefore, the maximum limit is actually 16 KB minus 32 B, which equals 16352 B.

³ Tile memory can be allocated between imageblocks and threadgroup memory, but the sum of these allocations cannot exceed the maximum total tile memory limit. Some feature sets cannot access tile memory directly, but they can access threadgroup memory.

⁴ A vector counts as n scalars, where n is the number of components in the vector. In iOS and tvOS feature sets, you can only reach the maximum number of inputs if you do not exceed the maximum number of input components. For example, you can have 60 float inputs (60 input components) but you cannot have 60 float4 inputs (240 input components).

⁵ In some feature sets, this value is determined by API query. Use the `minimumLinearTextureAlignment(for:)` method to determine the minimum alignment required for creating a linear texture with a given pixel format.

BGR10A2Unorm	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	All	All	All	All	Not available	Not available	All	All	Not available	Not available	Filter Color MSAA Resolve Blend
--------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---------------	---------------	-----	-----	---------------	---------------	---

⁶ Read-write textures are available in some feature sets, where the texture can be both read from and written to by the same function.

⁷ For PVRTC pixel formats, the clamp_to_zero sampler state is supported only in the iOS GPU Family 3 and 4 feature sets.



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