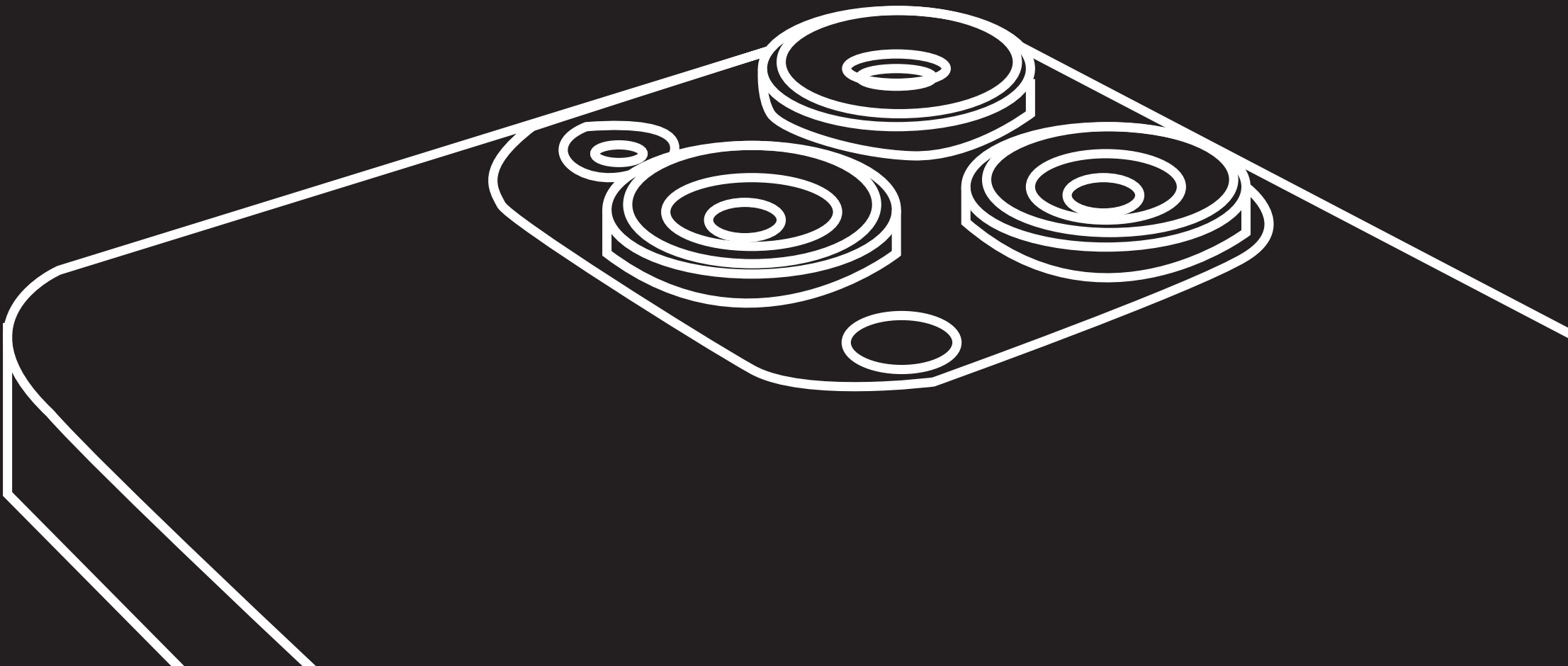


Ned Ashby & Dylan Chung

Capture the moment

Will iPhones eventually replace digital
single-lens reflex DSLR cameras?



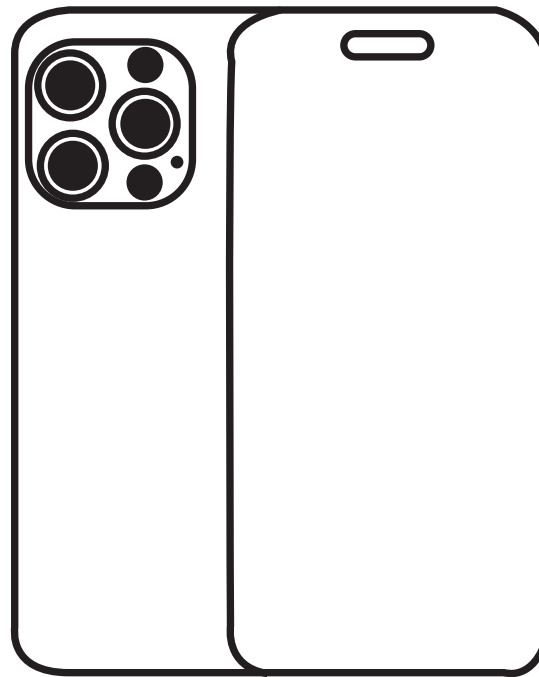
Capture the moment

Ned Ashby and Dylan Chung

Ever since the first iPhone release in 2007, every iPhone has had a camera built into the device. The quality of the first was not very good, with it only being able to capture 2 megapixels. However, over the past fifteen years, the camera quality has constantly increased with every new iPhone release, with the latest having a camera quality of 12 megapixels. This has raised the question of if iPhones will soon replace DSLR cameras. Will the iPhone camera match the quality of a DSLR or even become greater than a DSLR?

The first DSLR was invented in 1991 by Kodak, with a camera quality of 1.3 megapixels. Since then, DSLRs have evolved and depending on the type of DSLR you buy in 2022, the quality could range from 20 megapixels to 30.4. The iPhone still has a long way to go to overtake the camera quality of most DSLRs, but it is not impossible and could slowly but surely happen. Mirrorless cameras came before the existence of the DSLR, being the go-to camera before the existence of DSLRs. However, only few people use them as they have been

replaced by DSLRs in recent years because of the quality and convenience of the camera model. This trend will most likely continue with iPhones replacing DSLRs, as iPhones are more convenient, everyone has some sort of phone with a camera attached to it, so it would make



sense for it to be the go-to camera for most, if not then all situations.

Everyone nowadays has some type of camera at their disposal thanks to large tech brands such as Apple. Because of this, DSLR sales have been lower than ever. According to Statista worldwide camera shipments between 2010 to 2020 have decreased by 86%. The reason being most modern phones available to purchase nowadays include a camera within, making it meaningless for someone to buy a DSLR if they already have a camera accessible to them in their pockets.

Another reason iPhones could replace DSLRs is iPhones are much simpler to use compared to DSLRs. With its simplistic design and automatic settings, it is much easier to use an iPhone to take a photo than it is to use a DSLR, making phones the ideal choice for social photography for most people. iPhones automatically choose the settings for the image depending on lighting; however, it results in less freedom and customisation when taking a photo, making the photos look generic. Another restriction

is that iPhones are restricted to one lens which can not be swapped out for another lens, unlike a DSLR, making it so phone photographers cannot capture photos from further distances. iPhones do have a zoom option, however, when using it, the more zoomed in, the fewer megapixels are captured, resulting in zoomed-in images being blurry. This is because iPhones use a software zoom rather than a mechanical zoom like DSLRs.

DSLRs in general have much more freedom with how the user wants to capture a moment with a photo. They have many more settings that can be configured, such as shutter speed, ISO, Aperture, pre-set camera modes for different situations such as portraits and the ability to switch lenses to capture photos from a long distance.

Based on the data and statistics, it is safe to say that the iPhone has overtaken DSLRs as a more commonly used camera because of its convenience and simplicity. And, although it doesn't match the quality compared to DSLRs,

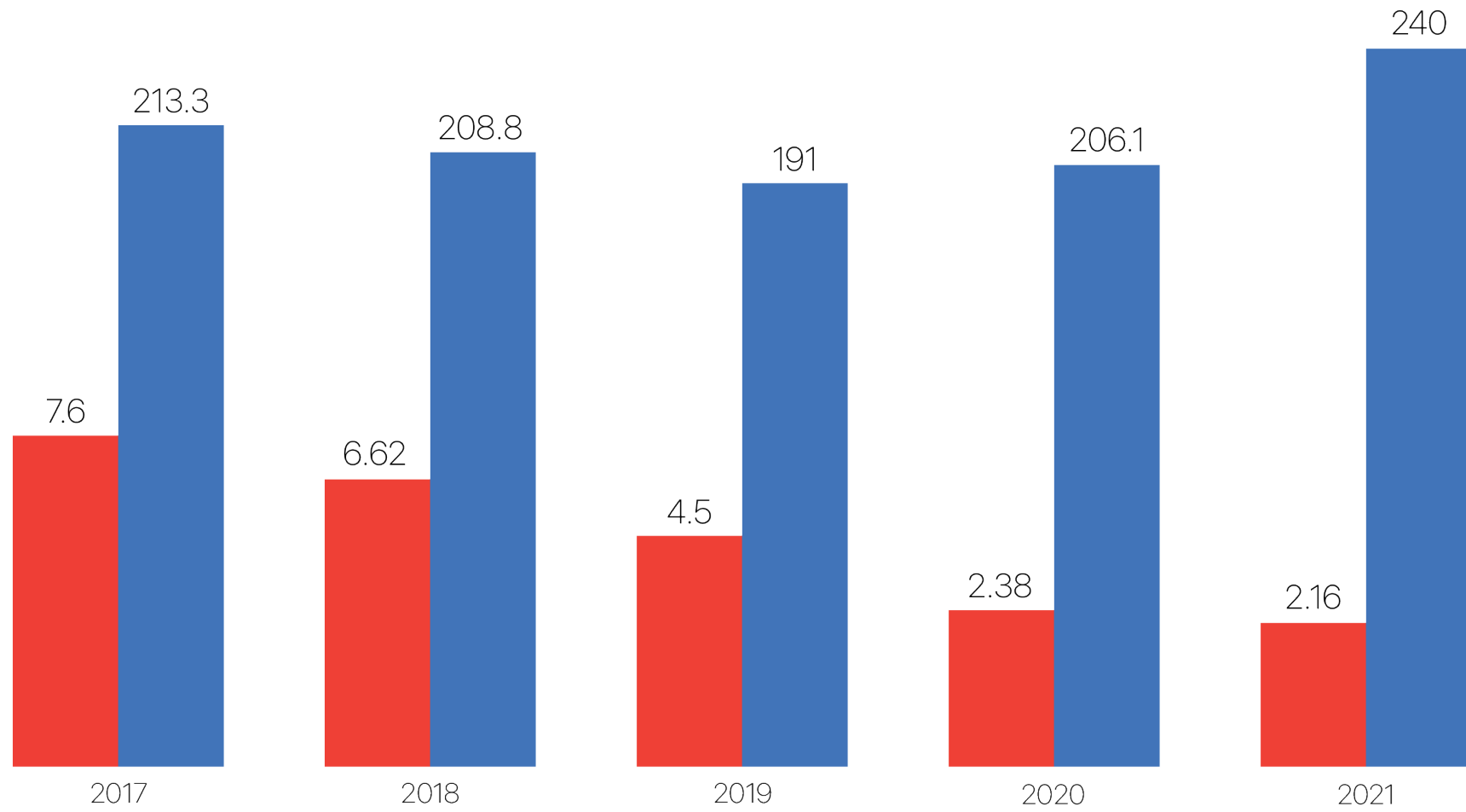
it eventually will as with every new iPhone release, the camera is becoming better and better.



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DSLR vs iPhone Shipments (Millions)



iPhone
Released 2007
Single 2MP lens



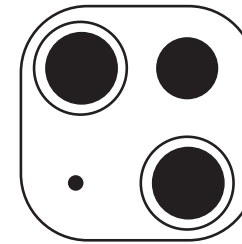
iPhone 6
Released 2014
Single 8MP lens



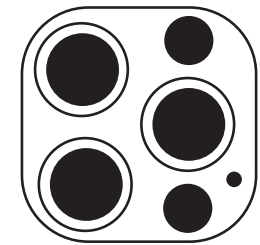
iPhone 7 plus
Release 2016
Dual 12MP wide-angle
and telephoto lens



iPhone X
Release 2017
Dual 12MP wide-angle
and telephoto lens



iPhone 13 mini
Release 2021
Dual 12MP main
and ultra wide lens



iPhone 14 pro
Release 2022
Triple lens
48MP main lens
12MP ultra wide
12MP telephoto

The evolution of iPhone Cameras