

Hints

The 3D-XplorMath Consortium

You should get into the habit of checking the About This Object... menu item (in the Documentation menu) the first time you select a new object. In many cases (including minimal surfaces defined using Weierstrass data) this contains a lot of interesting information about the object, and may suggest one or more interesting morphs.

Holding down the SpaceBar is a signal to 3D-XplorMath to pause any drawing or animation activity. The program will continue from where it left off when the SpaceBar is released. If before releasing the SpaceBar, you press and hold TAB, you will be given a chance to save the contents of the graphics window to disc as a PICT, JPEG or PNG - file.

There are three ways to abort lengthy drawing operations if you become impatient. Typing Command period (i.e., holding down the key marked with a cloverleaf while you type a period (".")) or pressing the Escape key will abort the creation of an object almost instantaneously (leaving it partially drawn). For most purposes, pressing the mouse button will act just like Command period or Escape, but in other cases it is a slower and more careful abort signal. For example, if a filmstrip is being created, then typing Command period or Escape will abort the creation (and initiate playback) immediately, while holding down the mouse button will abort the creation and initiate playback when the next frame is finished. Similarly, if a

filmstrip is being played back, holding down the mouse button will stop the playback the next time the filmstrip reaches its end. In both cases you must continue to hold down the mouse button until the process aborts. When a filmstrip is stopped this way, then typing Command P will restart it from the beginning. (Command period will stop playback at the current frame, and then Command P will continue playback from that frame)

For a nice illustration of the program's capabilities, choose Helicoid-Catenoid from the Minimal Surfaces submenu of the Surfaces Menu, [Stereo Vision from the View menu if you have a color monitor and red/green glasses], and Morph from the Animate Menu.