

MATHTYPE VERSION 3.0

A SOFTWARE REVIEW¹

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ABSTRACT

MathType is a mathematical equation editor in the Windows 3.1 environment. It lets you build up any kind of mathematical expression by using simple point-and-click techniques and then insert them into any Windows 3.1 compatible word processor; for instance, Word Perfect 5.1/5.2 for Windows, Word 2.0 for Windows, and AMI Pro 3.0 for Windows. An expression designed by *MathType* can be transferred into a word processor by using standard Cut and Paste commands or by using Object Linking and Embedding techniques.

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

Installing *MathType* was extremely easy. The installation program, that came with *MathType*, built all necessary directories. Once this was completed, all files were transferred over to the specified drive. After the files were transferred, the installation program created a group, called *MathType*, and all program items within the group.

When we first executed *MathType* we wanted to see how far we could get without reading the instructions on how to use the *MathType* product. After only two hours of playing with the product we reviewed the manual for additional information and help. It was apparent that we knew how to do most of the information explained in the manual. The *MathType* product turned out to be very easy to use.

The OLE environment was tested under AMI Pro 3.0. This function was

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also easy to use. Once a formula was created under MathType, you can transfer that equation to another application through the OLE environment. When the file was transferred to AMI Pro we double-clicked on the equation and the MathType editor was running again ready to edit the equation. Should the user be uncomfortable with this approach we recommend the use of the clipboard to transfer the equation around. Which ever method used, MathType makes it as painless as possible.

2. MINOR ADJUSTMENTS

After reviewing MathType we have found a couple minor adjustments needed in the product:

1. Once macro bar, template bar, or the symbol bar fills the entire row there is no way to scroll the bars over. The macro bar only shows about seven macros. A scroll button is greatly needed.

2. If the user clicks on a macro bar and the box is empty an error message pops up. What might be easier would be to open an edit window for that macro, if the macro is empty instead of popping an error message.

3. CONCLUSION

MathType is undoubtedly the most powerful equation editor in the windows environment. It is extremely easy to use. MathType is capable of building any type of mathematical expression imaginable with little effort by the user's part. There are a lot of special controls and shortcut keys that MathType supplies for you. We feel this helps the building process of the equations to go much faster. In our opinion, MathType is an excellent product and it is worth of its money.

Product Reviewed: *MathType 3.0*
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1-800-827-0685
(Price \$149.00).