

962-C1-256

Thomas E. Leathrum* (leathrum@jsucc.jsu.edu), Dept. of Math, Computing, and Info. Sciences, Jacksonville State Univ., 700 Pelham Road North, Jacksonville, AL 36265. *A Brief Tour of Mathlets: Web Applets for Calculus Visualizations.*

The applets here collectively referred to as *Mathlets* are JavaTM-based applets (viewable on any standard JavaTM-enabled Web browser) which provide small, focused explorations of particular concepts in calculus. These explorations are *neither* turnkey presentations (which allow relatively little room for manipulation and experimentation by students) nor omnibus mathematics systems (such as the large computer algebra systems now available). In fact, the *Mathlets* make no attempt to check users' input for calculus mistakes. They simply take the users' input (in the form of simple text expressions for functions) and use it to generate a corresponding graph, correct or not. This allows students to see not only the visual aspects of correct calculus computations, but also *why* incorrect input is incorrect. Also included in *Mathlets* are more general graphing applets, including applets for generating and manipulating 3-dimensional graphs. The complete *Mathlets* software package can be viewed and used on the Web at the following address: <http://cs.jsu.edu/mcis/faculty/leathrum/Mathlets> (Received September 04, 2000)