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David C Bachman* (bachman@pitzer.edu), Pitzer College, 1050 N. Mills Ave, Claremont, CA 91711. *Normalizing Topologically minimal surfaces*. Preliminary report.

Topologically minimal surfaces arise naturally in a wide variety of 3-manifold settings. We discuss a program to show that any such surface can be isotoped into some normal form with respect to a fixed triangulation. This result opens the door to a large number of problems in Dehn surgery. (Received January 24, 2011)