

**NAME**

**asy** – Asymptote: a script-based vector graphics language

**SYNOPSIS**

**asy** [*options*] [*file* ...]

**DESCRIPTION**

**Asymptote** is a powerful descriptive vector graphics language for technical drawings, inspired by MetaPost but with an improved C++-like syntax. Asymptote provides for figures the same high-quality level of typesetting that LaTeX does for scientific text.

**OPTIONS**

If no arguments are given, Asymptote runs in interactive mode.

If "-" is given as the file argument, Asymptote reads from standard input.

A summary of options is included below. The effect of most options can be negated by prepending **no** to the option name. Default values for most options may also be entered in the file **.asy/config.asy** in the user's home directory using the long form:

```
import settings;
batchView=true;
```

For a complete description, see the Info files.

**-V,-View**

View output; command-line only.

**-a,-align C|B|T|Z**

Center, Bottom, Top, or Zero page alignment [C].

**-antialias n**

Antialiasing width for rasterized output [2].

**-arcballradius pixels**

Arcball radius [750].

**-auto3D**

Automatically activate 3D scene [true].

**-autobillboard**

3D labels always face viewer by default [true].

**-autoimport string**

Module to automatically import.

**-autoplain**

Enable automatic importing of plain [true].

**-autoplay**

Autoplay 3D animations [false].

**-autorotate**

Enable automatic PDF page rotation [false].

**-axes3** Show 3D axes in PDF output [true].

**-batchMask**

Mask fpu exceptions in batch mode [false].

- batchView**  
View output in batch mode [false].
- bw** Convert all colors to black and white [false].
- cd directory**  
Set current directory; command-line only.
- cmyk** Convert rgb colors to cmyk [false].
- c,-command string**  
Command to autoexecute.
- compact**  
Conserve memory at the expense of speed [false].
- d,-debug**  
Enable debugging messages [false].
- divisor n**  
Garbage collect using `purge(divisor=n)` [2].
- doubleclick ms**  
Emulated double-click timeout [200].
- embed**  
Embed rendered preview image [true].
- exitonEOF**  
Exit interactive mode on EOF [true].
- fitscreen**  
Fit rendered image to screen [true].
- framedelay ms**  
Additional frame delay [0].
- framerate frames/s**  
Animation speed [30].
- globalwrite**  
Allow write to other directory [false].
- gray** Convert all colors to grayscale [false].
- h,-help**  
Show summary of options; command-line only.
- historylines n**  
Retain n lines of history [1000].
- iconify**  
Iconify rendering window [false].
- inlineimage**  
Generate inline embedded image [false].
- inlinetex**  
Generate inline TeX code [false].

- interactiveMask**  
Mask fpu exceptions in interactive mode [true].
- interactiveView**  
View output in interactive mode [true].
- interactiveWrite**  
Write expressions entered at the prompt to stdout [true].
- k,-keep**  
Keep intermediate files [false].
- keepaux**  
Keep intermediate LaTeX .aux files [false].
- level n**  
Postscript level [3].
- l,-listvariables**  
List available global functions and variables [false].
- localhistory**  
Use a local interactive history file [false].
- loop** Loop 3D animations [false].
- m,-mask**  
Mask fpu exceptions; command-line only.
- maxtile pair**  
Maximum rendering tile size [(1024,768)].
- maxviewport pair**  
Maximum viewport size [(2048,2048)].
- multiline**  
Input code over multiple lines at the prompt [false].
- multipleView**  
View output from multiple batch-mode files [false].
- multisample n**  
Multisampling width for screen images [4].
- offscreen**  
Use offscreen rendering [false].
- O,-offset pair**  
PostScript offset [(0,0)].
- f,-outformat format**  
Convert each output file to specified format.
- o,-outname name**  
Alternative output directory/filename.
- p,-parseonly**  
Parse file [false].

- pdfreload**  
Automatically reload document in pdfviewer [false].
- pdfreloaddelay usec**  
Delay before attempting initial pdf reload [750000].
- position pair**  
Initial 3D rendering screen position [(0,0)].
- prc** Embed 3D PRC graphics in PDF output [true].
- prompt string**  
Prompt [> ].
- prompt2 string**  
Continuation prompt for multiline input [..].
- q,-quiet**  
Suppress welcome message [false].
- render n**  
Render 3D graphics using n pixels per bp (-1=auto) [-1].
- resizestep step**  
Resize step [1.2].
- reverse**  
reverse 3D animations [false].
- rgb** Convert cmyk colors to rgb [false].
- safe** Disable system call [true].
- scroll n**  
Scroll standard output n lines at a time [0].
- spinstep deg/s**  
Spin speed [60].
- svgemulation**  
Emulate unimplemented SVG shading [false].
- tabcompletion**  
Interactive prompt auto-completion [true].
- tex engine**  
latex|pdflatex|xelatex|tex|pdftex|context|none [latex].
- thick** Render thick 3D lines [true].
- thin** Render thin 3D lines [true].
- threads**  
Use POSIX threads for 3D rendering [true].
- toolbar**  
Show 3D toolbar in PDF output [true].
- s,-translate**  
Show translated virtual machine code [false].

- twice** Run LaTeX twice (to resolve references) [false].
- twosided**  
Use two-sided 3D lighting model for rendering [true].
- u,-user string**  
General purpose user string.
- v,-verbose**  
Increase verbosity level (can specify multiple times) [0].
- version**  
Show version; command-line only.
- wait** Wait for child processes to finish before exiting [false].
- warn string**  
Enable warning; command-line only.
- where**  
Show where listed variables are declared [false].
- zoomfactor factor**  
Zoom step factor [1.05].
- zoomstep step**  
Mouse motion zoom step [0.1].

## SEE ALSO

Asymptote is documented fully in the asymptote Info page. The manual can also be accessed in interactive mode with the "help" command.

## AUTHOR

Asymptote was written by Andy Hammerlindl, John Bowman, and Tom Prince.

This manual page was written by Hubert Chan for the Debian project (but may be used by others).