Appendix F

Tranferring a Maya Curve Flow to Houdini - User Guide

Exporting a Maya curve flow's settings

The *Export Curve Flow* tool allows the user to export key settings of a curve flow created inside Maya and import them in Houdini. The only option among the options in Maya's tool that is not exported is the Goal Weight parameter, since Houdini does not have particle goal weights.

🔞 Create Flow Effect Optio	ns			
Edit Help				
Flow Along Curves Flow group name:	1			
Flow Creation Controls Attach emitter to curve: Num control segments: Num control subsegments:	V 5 4	-j		
Flow Attribute Controls Emission rate: Random motion speed: Particle lifespan: Goal weight:	50.000 0.500 5.000 1.000	-]		
Create	A	pply	Clo	se

The tool is activated by selecting a flow and clicking the xCF icon on the custom shelf MT_tools .



This will display a file dialog window allowing the user to choose a folder and filename where settings should be saved. By default the tool points to Maya's home folder - My Documents/maya on Windows or ~/maya on Linux. If the user does not enter the expected extension (.pref), the tool adds it automatically.

Save As					? 🛛
Savejn:	🗀 maya		• + (£ 💣 🎫	
Recent Desktop My Documents My Computer	maya2008x32	flow			
My Network Places	File <u>n</u> ame: Save as <u>t</u> ype:	maya2008x32_flow Filtered Files [*.pref]		•	<u>S</u> ave Cancel

If the user cancels the Save As dialog, an error message is displayed.



Once the file has been saved, the tool shows a confirmation message.

File save confirmation	×
Settings saved in file C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\My Documents\maya\maya2008x32	_flow.pref.
ОК	

Importing the .pref file in Houdini

The saved preference file can be imported by either of the Houdini particle flow tools (the first 2 icons on the custom Houdini shelf). They read the settings in the .pref file and populate the widgets of the respective dialog window.



File dialog to choose file to import:



Importing the file has updated the widgets' values:

Curve Flow			
Edit Skin Help			
Flow Along Curve			
	Flow Group Name	Flow	
Flow Creation Controls			
	Attach Emitter to Origin:		
	Num Control Segments:	5	
	Num Control Subsegments:	4	
Flow Attribute Controls			
	Emission Rate:	50	
	Random Motion Speed:	0.500	
	Particle Lifespan:	5.000	
	Traverse Time:	5.000	
Create	Appl	y I	Close

The two Houdini particle flow tools use the imported options differently. The curve flow tool uses all options, but the control segments and sub-segments shape the flow only indirectly (via the Point SOP forces). In contrast, the tube flow depends on the control segments and sub-segments to shape the flow surface. See Appendix D and E for more detailed explanation.