

# Forward Kinematics

(aka, Hierarchical Transformations)



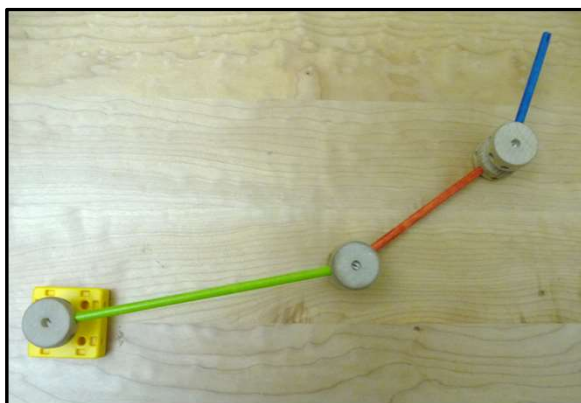
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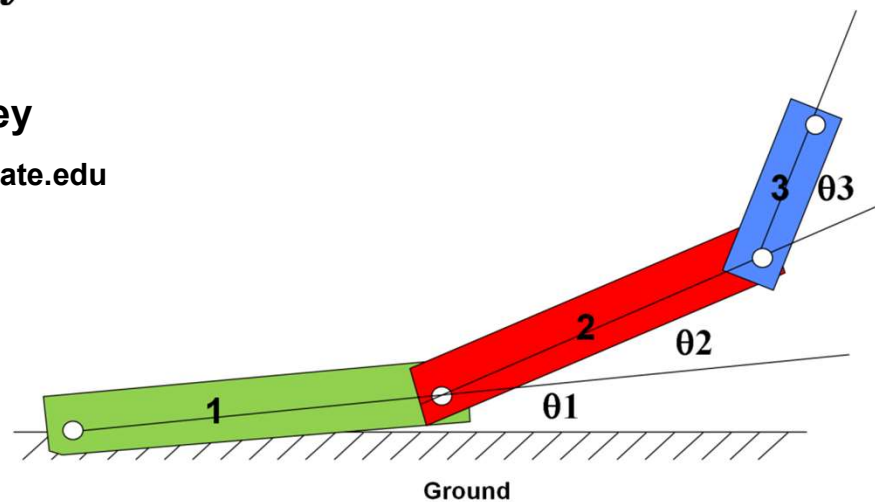
**Mike Bailey**

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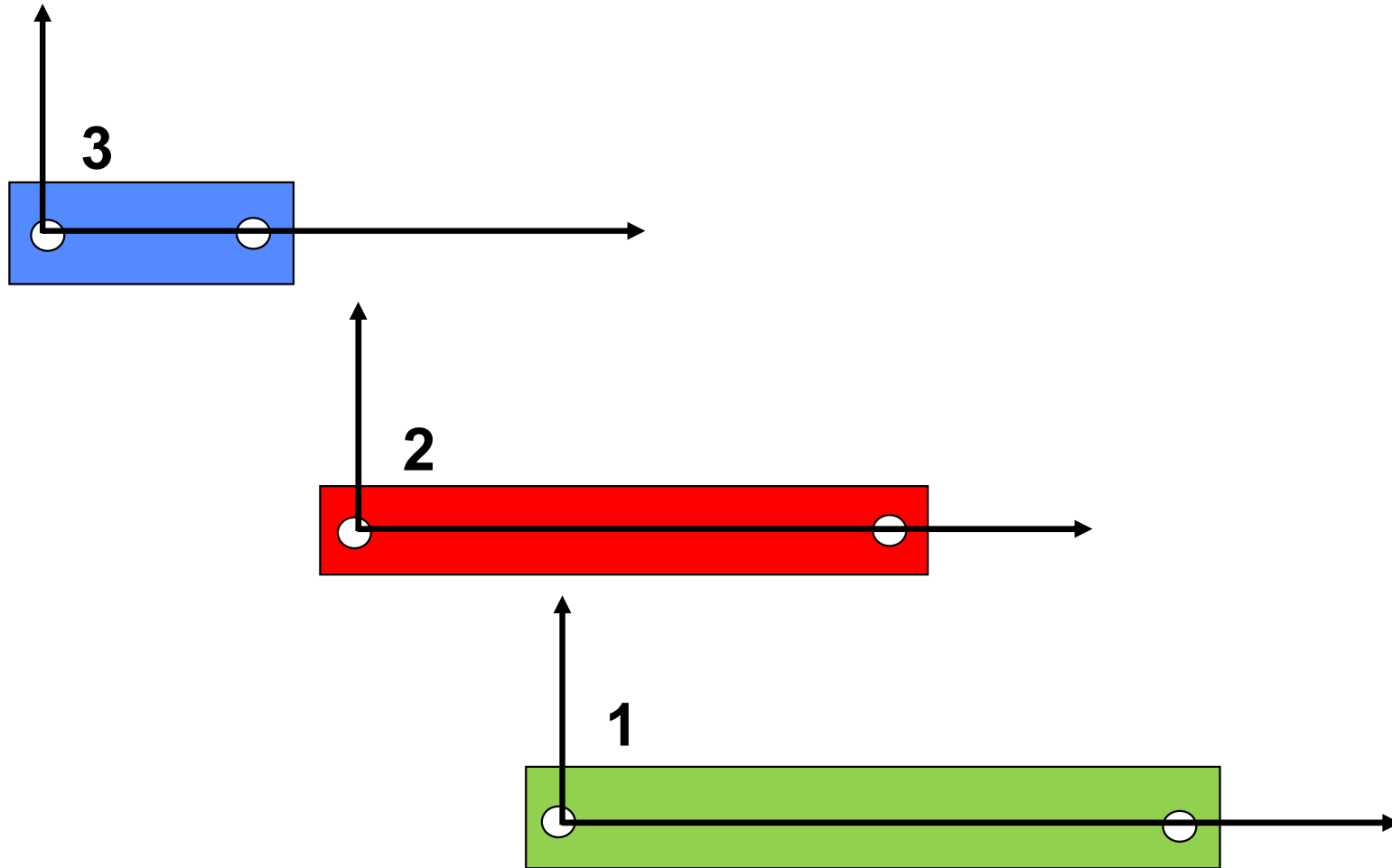


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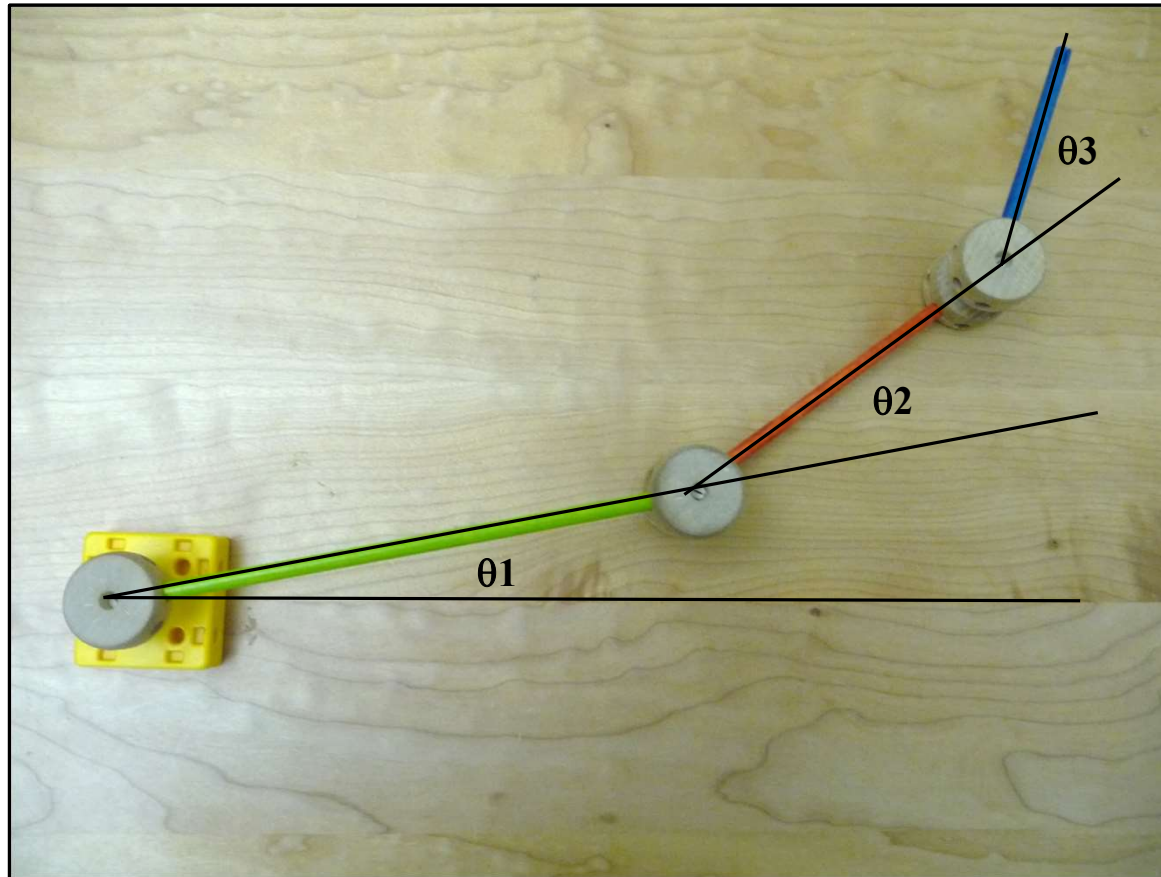
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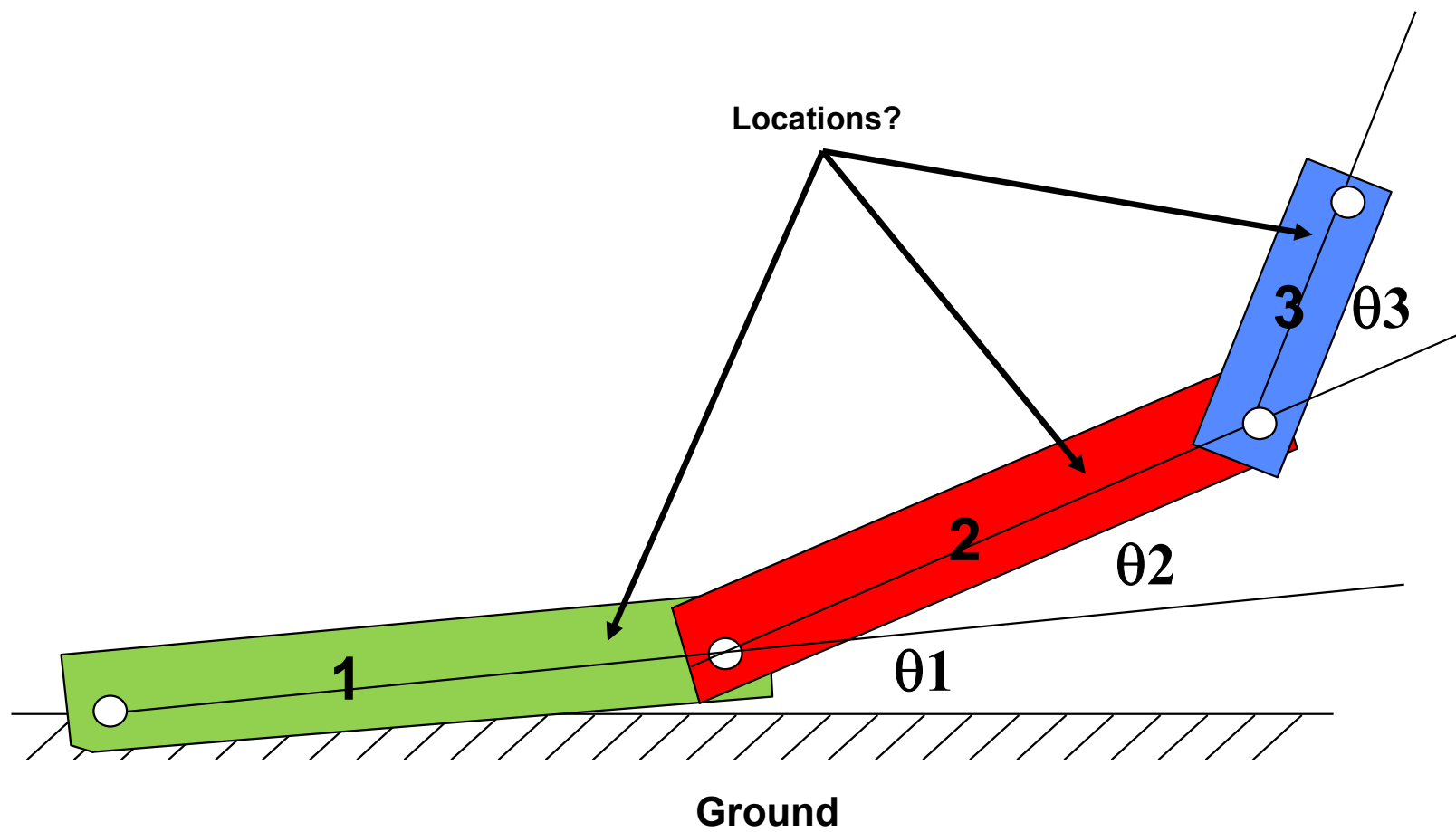
**Forward Kinematics:**  
**You Start with Separate Pieces, all Defined in their Own Local Coordinate System**



**Forward Kinematics:**  
**Hook the Pieces Together, Change Parameters, Things Move**  
**(All Children Understand This)**



## Forward Kinematics: Where do the Pieces Move To?



## Positioning Part #1 With Respect to Ground

1. Rotate by  $\Theta_1$
2. Translate by  $T_{1/G}$

Write it



$$\left[ M_{1/G} \right] = \left[ T_{1/G} \right] * \left[ R_{\theta_1} \right]$$

Say it



## Why Do We Say it Right-to-Left?

$$[\mathbf{M}_{1/G}] = [\mathbf{T}_{1/G}] * [\mathbf{R}_{\theta 1}]$$

Write it  $\rightarrow$

$\leftarrow$  Say it

It's because computer graphics has adopted the convention that the coordinates are multiplied on the right side of the matrix:

$$\begin{Bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \\ 1 \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B & C & D \\ E & F & G & H \\ I & J & K & L \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{Bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{Bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \\ 1 \end{Bmatrix} = [M_{1/G}] \begin{Bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{Bmatrix} = [T_{1/G}] * [R_{\theta 1}] * \begin{Bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{Bmatrix}$$

So the right-most transformation in the sequence multiplies the (x,y,z,1) *first* and the left-most transformation multiplies it *last*



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## Positioning Part #2 With Respect to Ground

1. Rotate by  $\Theta_2$
2. Translate the length of part 1
3. Rotate by  $\Theta_1$
4. Translate by  $T_{1/G}$

Write it

$$[M_{2/G}] = [T_{1/G}] * [R_{\theta_1}] * [T_{2/1}] * [R_{\theta_2}]$$

$$[M_{2/G}] = [M_{1/G}] * [M_{2/1}]$$

Say it



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## Positioning Part #3 With Respect to Ground

1. Rotate by  $\Theta_3$
2. Translate the length of part 2
3. Rotate by  $\Theta_2$
4. Translate the length of part 1
5. Rotate by  $\Theta_1$
6. Translate by  $T_{1/G}$

Write it →

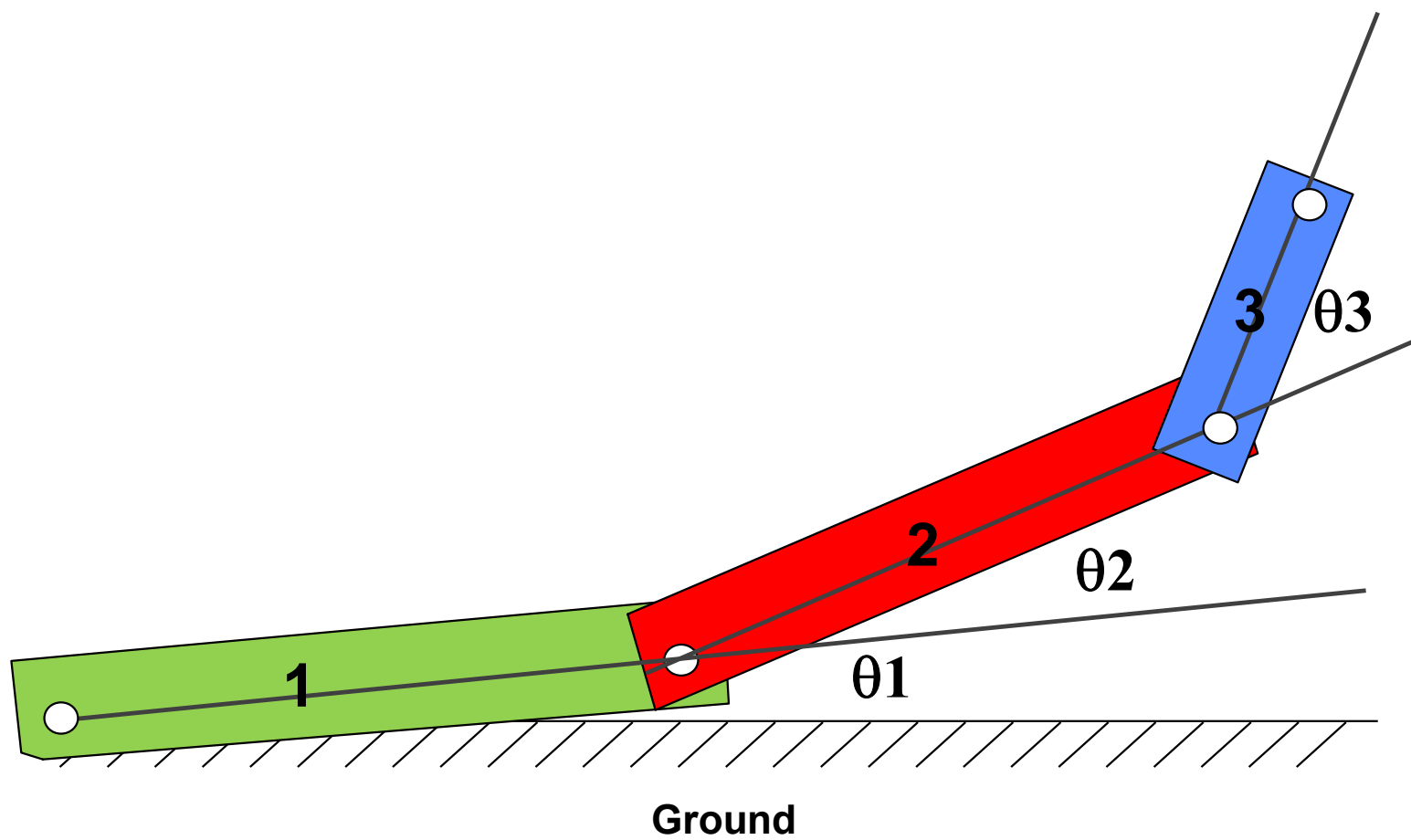
$$[M_{3/G}] = [T_{1/G}] * [R_{\theta_1}] * [T_{2/1}] * [R_{\theta_2}] * [T_{3/2}] * [R_{\theta_3}]$$

$[M_{3/G}] = [M_{1/G}] * [M_{2/1}] * [M_{3/2}]$ 
← Say it

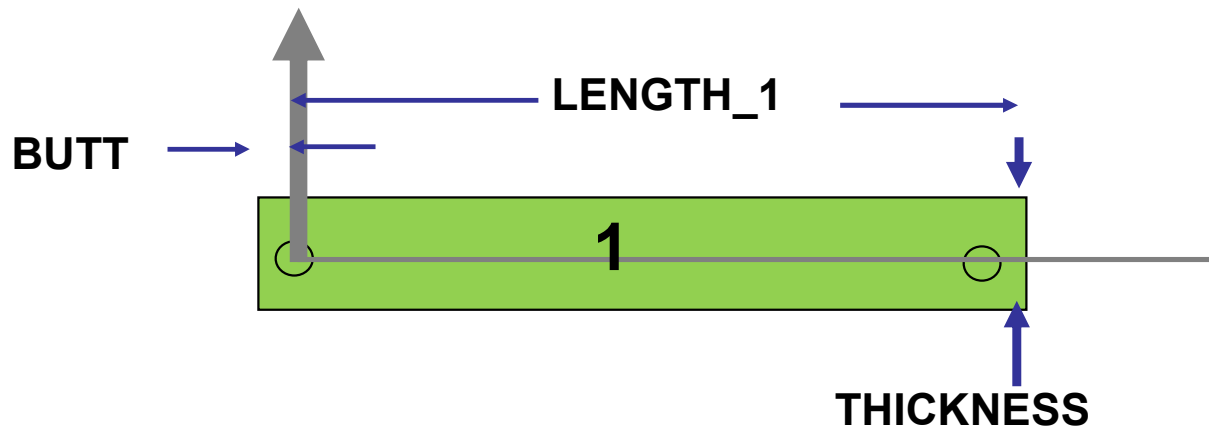




## Sample Program



## Sample Program, using OpenGL's Built-in Transformation Concatenation



```
DrawLinkOne( )
{
    glColor3f( 1., 0., 0. ); // red, green blue
    glBegin( GL_QUADS );
        glVertex2f(    -BUTT, -THICKNESS/2 );
        glVertex2f( LENGTH_1, -THICKNESS/2 );
        glVertex2f( LENGTH_1,  THICKNESS/2 );
        glVertex2f(    -BUTT,  THICKNESS/2 );
    glEnd( );
}
```



## Sample Program

Write it

```
DrawMechanism( float 01, float 02, float 03 )
{
    glPushMatrix( );
        glRotatef( 01,  0., 0., 1. );
        glColor3f( 1., 0., 0. );
        DrawLinkOne( );

        glTranslatef( LENGTH_1, 0., 0. );
        glRotatef( 02,  0., 0., 1. );
        glColor3f( 0., 1., 0. );
        DrawLinkTwo( );

        glTranslatef( LENGTH_2, 0., 0. );
        glRotatef( 03,  0., 0., 1. );
        glColor3f( 0., 0., 1. );
        DrawLinkThree( );
    glPopMatrix( );
}
```

Say it

$$[M_{1/G}] = [T_{1/G}] * [R_{01}]$$

$$[M_{2/G}] = [T_{1/G}] * [R_{01}] * [T_{2/1}] * [R_{02}]$$

$$[M_{3/G}] = [T_{1/G}] * [R_{01}] * [T_{2/1}] * [R_{02}] * [T_{3/2}] * [R_{03}]$$



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## Sample Program

```

DrawMechanism( float  $\theta_1$ , float  $\theta_2$ , float  $\theta_3$  )
{
    glPushMatrix( );
    glRotatef(  $\theta_1$ , 0., 0., 1. );    ←  $[M_{1/G}] = [T_{1/G}] * [R_{\theta_1}]$ 
    glColor3f( 1., 0., 0. );
    DrawLinkOne( );

    glTranslatef( LENGTH_1, 0., 0. );
    glRotatef(  $\theta_2$ , 0., 0., 1. );    ←  $[M_{2/G}] = [T_{1/G}] * [R_{\theta_1}] * [T_{2/1}] * [R_{\theta_2}]$ 
    glColor3f( 0., 1., 0. );
    DrawLinkTwo( );

    glTranslatef( LENGTH_2, 0., 0. );
    glRotatef(  $\theta_3$ , 0., 0., 1. );    ←  $[M_{3/G}] = [T_{1/G}] * [R_{\theta_1}] * [T_{2/1}] * [R_{\theta_2}] * [T_{3/2}] * [R_{\theta_3}]$ 
    glColor3f( 0., 0., 1. );
    DrawLinkThree( );
    glPopMatrix( );
}

```



## Sample Program

Where in the  
window to  
display (pixels)

Viewing Info:  
field of view  
angle, x:y aspect  
ratio, near, far

Set the  
eye position

```
glViewport( 100, 100, 500, 500 );

glMatrixMode( GL_PROJECTION );
glLoadIdentity( );
gluPerspective( 90., 1.0, 1., 10. );

glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );
glLoadIdentity( );

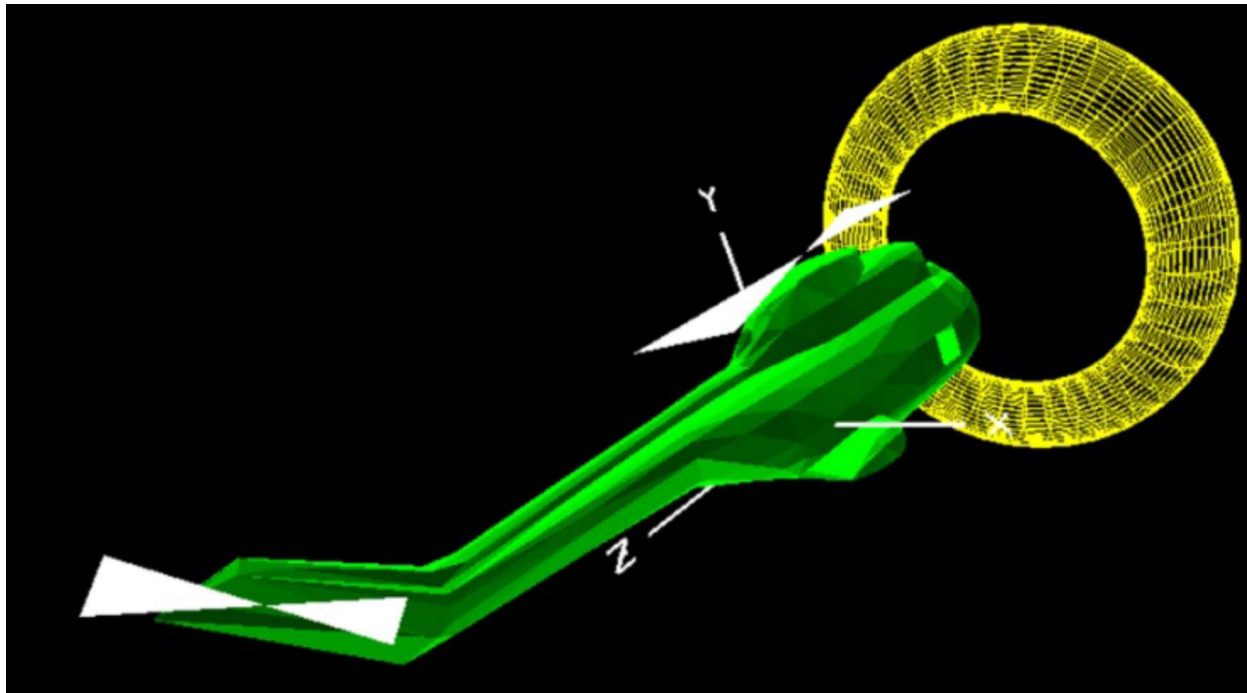
done = FALSE;
while( ! done )
{
    << Determine  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3$  >>
    glPushMatrix();
    gluLookAt( eyex, eyey, eyez,
               centerx, centery, centerz,
               upx, upy, upz );
    DrawMechanism(  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3$  );
    glPopMatrix();
}
```



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## Another Great Example of Hierarchical Transformations



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mjb – July 12, 2021