Timothy P. Chartier* (tichartier@davidson.edu), Davidson College, Department of Mathematics, Box 6908, Davidson, NC 28035-6908, and Dan B Goldman. Putting a Spring in Yoda’s Step.

When the character Yoda first appeared on the silver screen, his movements were due to the efforts of famed muppeteer Frank Oz. In Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones, Yoda returned to the movies but this time the character was not a puppet but a digital image within a computer. This talk will discuss the role, or more aptly the force, of mathematics behind a few aspects of movie special effects. Armed with differential equations, animators can create a believable flow to Yoda’s robe or a convincing digital stunt person. (Received September 03, 2005)