

British mathematician Sir Andrew Wiles gets Abel math prize

March 15 2016

British mathematician Sir Andrew J. Wiles has won the Abel Prize in math for cracking a centuries-old hypothesis.

Norway's Academy of Science and Letters said Tuesday he was given the annual award "for his stunning proof of (French mathematician Pierre de) Fermat's Last Theorem by way of the modularity conjecture for semi-stable elliptic curves, opening a new era in [number theory](#)."

It said in 1994, the 62-year-old cracked the theorem, which was "the most famous, and long-running, [unsolved problem](#) in the subject's history." It was first conjectured by de Fermat in 1637.

Wiles, who has honorary degrees from a string of British and American universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Columbia and Yale, will receive the 6 million kroner (\$710,000) award at a ceremony on May 24 in Oslo.

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: British mathematician Sir Andrew Wiles gets Abel math prize (2016, March 15) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-03-british-mathematician-sir-andrew-wiles.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--