

Texas banker puts up \$1M for tricky math solution

4 June 2013

A Texas banker is upping the ante to \$1 million for whoever solves a tricky problem that's been dogging mathematicians since the 1980s.

The Providence, R.I.-based American Mathematical Society on Tuesday said \$1 million will be awarded for the publication of a solution to the Beal Conjecture [number theory](#) problem.

Dallas banker D. Andrew Beal first offered the Beal Prize in 1997 for \$5,000. Over the years, the amount has grown.

[American Mathematical Society](#) spokesman Michael Breen says a solution is more difficult than the one for a related problem, Fermat's Last Theorem, which didn't have a published solution for hundreds of years.

Beal is a self-taught [mathematician](#) and says he wants to inspire young people to pursue math and science.

More information: Beal Prize: bit.ly/14eTRCC

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APA citation: Texas banker puts up \$1M for tricky math solution (2013, June 4) retrieved 17 June 2019 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-06-texas-banker-1m-tricky-math.html>

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