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Prestigious prize for Imperial mathematician who solved 140 year old maths problem

Darren Crowdy, Professor of Applied Mathematics from the Department of Mathematics at Imperial College London has been awarded the '2009 CMFT Young Researcher Award' at the Computational Methods and Function Theory (CMFT) conference 2009.

Professor Crowdy's conformal mapping research hit the headlines last year when he updated the 140 year old Schwarz-Christoffel formula so it could be used for more complicated shapes and, therefore, in more diverse applications in physics and engineering.

The CMFT Young Researcher Award is given every four years for outstanding scientific contributions in the fields of mathematics associated with the CMFT conference, which include the interaction of complex variables and scientific computation, including related topics from function theory, approximation theory and numerical analysis.

Professor Crowdy specialises in developing mathematical techniques for solving engineering problems involving complicated geometries. One example would be computing the electric current flowing through a conducting metallic region that contains pockets of another metal with differing electrical conductivity.

The heterogeneous nature of such 'mixed' conductors makes them challenging to study, meaning that mathematical techniques must be invented in order to understand their properties. The award consists of a 1,000 euro prize. Professor Crowdy was also selected as one of the plenary speakers at the CMFT 2009 conference held in Ankara, Turkey.

On receiving the award, Professor Crowdy said: "As an applied mathematician, I am especially thrilled to receive this award from the function theory community. My research lies at the interface of pure and applied mathematics and, for me, this award suggests that the exchange of ideas between the two communities of mathematicians is both fruitful and valued."

For more information about Professor Crowdy's work, please send him an email: d.crowdy@imperial.ac.uk or go to: www.ma.ic.ac.uk/~dgcrowdy

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