

## PRESSEINFORMATION

Birkhoff Prize for excellent mathematical research goes to Bernd Sturmfels

Leipzig, January 12, 2018

Bernd Sturmfels, director at the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences in Leipzig, has been awarded the 2018 George David Birkhoff Prize in Applied Mathematics recognizing his instrumental role in creating the field of applied algebraic geometry.

Given every three years, the Birkhoff Prize is awarded jointly by the American Mathematical Society AMS and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics SIAM for an outstanding contribution to applied mathematics in the highest and broadest sense. The prize ceremony took place at the "Joint Mathematics Meeting" on Thursday, January 11 in San Diego, California, U.S.A.

Bernd Sturmfels feels deeply honored to receive this prize dedicated to the American mathematician George David Birkhoff. "Birkhoff is one of my heroes: he embodies the unity of mathematics, scholarship and mentorship. Birkhoff taught us that mathematics can be outward looking and yet remain deep. Connections with the life sciences are especially important. They continue to be a challenge and an opportunity as well. While it is most valuable to apply mathematics to biology, I continued to be intrigued by the converse. My hope is to witness the discovery of new and innovative ways in which biology can contribute to mathematics."

Bernd Sturmfels has made foundational contributions to combinatorics, algebraic geometry, and symbolic computation, and has introduced algebraic techniques to numerous areas of applied mathematics including bioinformatics, computer vision, optimization, and statistics. Like Birkhoff, the intellectual range of his work stretches from pure mathematics to the very applied, and demonstrates the unity of mathematics. In addition to his scientific career, the prize-committee emphasizes his role as an exceptional expositor, wonderful teacher, and dedicated mentor to young mathematicians. Bernd Sturmfels has mentored more than 45 doctoral students and numerous postdocs.

Since 2017 Bernd Sturmfels is a member of the board of directors at the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences in Leipzig, Germany. In addition, he is working as Professor

of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science University of California at Berkeley. His honors include a Sloan Fellowship, a David and Lucile Packard Fellowship, an Alexander von Humboldt Senior Research Prize, and a John von Neumann Professorship at Technical University Munich. Bernd Sturmfels has also served as vice president of the American Mathematical Society AMS. He has been awarded an honorary doctorate degree at Goethe University Frankfurt. Furthermore, he is currently Einstein Visiting Fellow at Technical University Berlin.

Photo of the laureate Bernd Sturmfels

<https://oc.mis.mpg.de/s/wV7urATxghKCMiL>

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Information about the laureate Professor Bernd Sturmfels

<https://math.berkeley.edu/~bernd/>

Informationen about the Georg David Birkhoff Prize for Applied Mathematics

[www.ams.org/profession/prizes-awards/ams-prizes/birkhoff-prize](http://www.ams.org/profession/prizes-awards/ams-prizes/birkhoff-prize)

Information about the American Mathematical Society AMS

[www.ams.org](http://www.ams.org)

Information about the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics SIAM

[www.siam.org](http://www.siam.org)

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