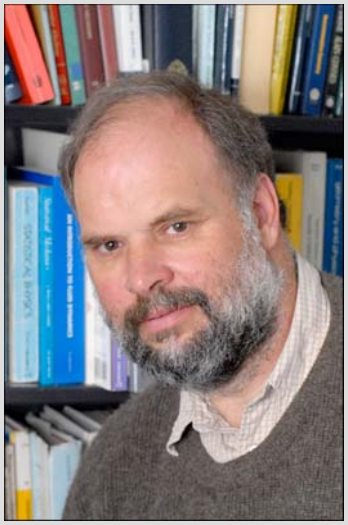
Thursday, 6 December 2007 • 6:30pm Refreshments • 7pm Lecture

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Department of Mathematics

PUBLIC LECTURE

Flatland, a great place to do algebra

Professor Vaughan Jones



Edwin Abbott, an English non-mathematician of the Victorian era, wrote a book called "Flatland" about life in a two dimensional world, and its hero's travels to other dimensions.

I will use this dimensional voyage to relate one of my own which will go from one dimension to infinitely many, then settle solidly in two dimensions. The quantum world in two dimensions is even more bizarre than in three dimensions and the algebra we will encounter is being used in an attempt to build a quantum computer based on these very peculiarities.

"Oh day and night, but this is wondrous strange"

"Fie, fie, how franticly I square my talk!"

Flatland A Romance of Many Dimensions
With Illustrations by the Author, A SQUARE,
[Edwin Abbott Abbott], (1838-1926)

New Zealand Institute of Mathematics & its Applications

Vaughan Jones is Co-director of the NZIMA. He received the Fields Medal (the mathematical equivalent of the Nobel Prize) in 1990, the 2007 Prix Mondial Nessim Habif from the University of Geneva and many other honours for his work. Among these, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1986, and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1990. In 1993 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Science, and in 2002 he was made a Distinguished Companion of the Order of New Zealand.

Lecture Theatre 439 • Engineering School Building 401 • 20 Symonds Street