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2006 Erdős Prize

The **2006 Erdős Prize** Committee has unanimously decided to award the prize to Dr. **Paul Biran**.

Dr. Biran studies symplectic geometry, one of the most important and promising areas of mathematics in recent years. The subject has attracted first-class mathematicians, and the candidate is prominent even when viewed against this background.

Already his Ph.D. thesis (supervised by Prof. L. Polterovich) generated lots of interest and was greeted with wide acclaim (such as a Featured Review in *Mathematical Reviews*). Dr. Biran solved in his thesis the 4-dimensional symplectic packaging problem. This problem was posed by Gromov, and was studied by several of the best mathematical minds.

One of Dr. Biran's major contributions is the use of symplectic geometric tools in order to solve problems of algebraic geometry. The feasibility of this approach is surprising because it was thought that one could proceed only in the opposite direction. This method has led to far-reaching results and a promising research direction.

Dr. Biran's work enjoys wide international recognition, including an invited lecture at the International Congress of Mathematicians in Beijing in 2002 and the Young Mathematicians Prize of the European Mathematical Society for 2004.

In view of the above, the committee finds Dr. Biran most deserving of the Erdős Prize.

Sergiu Hart, IMU President