Michigan Math Club

Thursday at 4pm in the Nesbitt Room

Free Pizza and Pop

The Four Color Theorem

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Abstract for 3 April

The four color theorem states that every map can be colored with four colors so that no two neighboring countries have the same color. It turns out that this straightforward statement is very difficult to prove; the only known proofs rely heavily on computers. In this talk, I will give a simple proof that five colors will always do the job, and then I'll present the first published "proof" of the four color theorem. Time permitting, I will introduce some of the key ideas used in the computer proofs of this theorem.