

How to prove the Four Color Conjecture

Paul C. Kainen, Georgetown University

Current proofs that “settle” the 4CC involve an elaboration of cases, death by a thousand pages. Such a beautiful beast as the 4CC deserves dispatch by a single clear thrust of the matador. These considerations have led to much modern work, both by the French school and the zonal approach. In this talk, I will discuss these approaches and their relation to Whitney’s reduction of the 4CC to the domain of Catalan objects. We outline a procedure to enrich these objects with additional structure, as suggested by R. Brak in 2019, which would provide the elegant proof desired.