

Re: Four color theorem: why this is not a proof and pointer to simple explanations

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In article <[f4sg45\\$30nu\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:f4sg45$30nu$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>, richard@xxxxxxxxxxxx (Richard Tobin) wrote:

In article <1181860364.688539.71120@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Andre <andre.roberge@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

Here's the "proof"; I suspect that the problem is right with the first step.

1. If there is a map where 5 colors are needed, it must be because 5 different countries are touching each other.

You're right. You need to prove this. How can you be sure there aren't other configurations that somehow force 5 colours?

And maybe the easiest way to see that the reasoning is fallacious is to draw yourself a map that needs 4 colors even though there are no 4 different countries each bordering the other 3.

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