Computer “proofs:” Are they rigorous?

Mathematicians have been grappling, since at least the time of Appel and Haken’s famous 1976 computer-assisted proof of the Four Color Theorem, with the role of computers in proving mathematical theorems. At this point, there are many results whose only known proof is something a computer generated and no human can read. We’ll address the question: should we consider such results proven?

Math for Everyone is a series of math-related talks, especially for undergraduates. Everyone, from Field’s medalists to math phones, is welcome to attend.

Joshua Cooper
University of South Carolina

Thursday, October 9, 2014
105 Jordan Hall of Science