Appendix A

Definitions

absolute end point

A point p of a continuum X is called an *absolute end point* of X if $X \setminus \{p\}$ is a composant of X.

absolute retract

An *absolute retract* is a space X such that if X is embedded as a closed subset X' of a space Y, then X' is a retract of Y.

absolutely terminal continuum

A proper subcontinuum K of a continuum X is said to be an *absolutely terminal continuum* of X provided that K is a terminal continuum of each subcontinuum L of X which properly contains K.

acyclic

A continuum X is said to be *acyclic* provided that each mapping from X into the unit circle $\mathbb{S}^1$ is homotopic to a constant mapping, i.e., for all mappings $f : X \to \mathbb{S}^1$ and $c : X \to \{p\} \subset \mathbb{S}^1$ there exists a mapping $h : X \times [0,1] \to \mathbb{S}^1$ such that for each point $x \in X$ we have $h(x,0) = f(x)$ and $h(x,1) = c(x)$.

almost chainable

A continuum M is *almost chainable* if, for each positive number ε, there exists an open cover D of M with mesh ε and a chain C of elements of D and an end