

Contents

1.	Basic concepts and definitions	1
2.	Retracts of graphs	13
3.	Absolute retracts of n -chromatic graphs	32
3.1.	Key results	32
3.2.	Polynomial recognition	44
3.3.	Manual recognition	62
3.4.	Localization and color reduction	72
4.	Reflexive absolute retracts	88
4.1.	Helly type conditions and recursive characterization	91
4.2.	Polynomial recognition algorithms	106
4.3.	The variety generated by all paths	116
5.	Products of absolute retracts	120
6.	Minimal extensions of graphs to absolute retracts	132
6.1.	Embeddable vertices	132
6.2.	Minimal extensions of graphs and injective hulls of metric spaces	136
7.	A construction algorithm for absolute retracts	148
8.	Retracts and location theory	181
9.	Retracts of directed graphs	202
10.	Concluding remarks and further problems	207
	Appendix	211
	References	213
	Subject index	219