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**R. Christian** and **R. B. Richter\*** (brichter@uwaterloo.ca). *Embedding a continuum in a surface.*

It is well-known, but not trivial, that there are only finitely many obstructions to the embeddability of a graph in a particular surface  $S$ . What about embeddability of a metric space in  $S$ ? For this and many related questions, the nicest spaces to consider are continua: compact, locally connected, metric spaces. In this case, we use graph-theoretic methods to show that there are finitely many obstructions to embeddability in  $S$ . In particular, we show that a continuum  $M$  embeds in a surface  $S$  if and only if  $M$  does not contain any of: a surface of smaller genus than  $S$ ; the disjoint union of  $S$  and a point; one particular graph-like space; or a finite graph that does not embed in  $S$ . (Received September 24, 2012)