
Subject: Re: Following a ridgeline

Posted by [Peter Clinch](#) on Tue, 17 Jun 2008 09:01:04 GMT

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Kenneth P. Bowman wrote:

- > You could look for the maximum curvature of the contour lines.
- > It might be necessary to add some non-artificial intelligence to
- > get the final result the way you want.

As a keen hillwalker, orienteer and skier who often needs to do this it got me thinking... I think Ken's idea is probably a good way.

One thing the nAI will particularly have to look for is gullies right next to the ridges which may have sharp contour curves too, but the other way. Perhaps check the direction of successive "arrowheads" against one another and make sure they haven't spun through too big an arc (180 degrees would certainly suggest you've Got It Wrong...). That might also be a way to decide which side of a bifurcation you'd follow.

But I haven't got anything as useful as an algorithm that actually tells you /how/ :-(

Pete.

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