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Subject: Re: Iso-contours at maximum/minimum levels  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 02 Feb 2009 16:54:30 GMT  
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Gianluca Li Causi writes:

- > I thanks you for the interesting discussion and I agree with David
- > that the word "contour" means a line that "encloses something", but
- > still you've not given indications for a working "imprint" function,
- > which is what I need.
- >
- > The best that I've found, when the function derivatives are
- > continuous, is to make the contour at level=0 of the partial
- > derivatives  $dz/dx$  and  $dz/dy$ , which effectively produce a nice
- > "imprint" line BUT also contains some extra lines, corresponding to
- > where one derivative is null but the other is not.
- >
- > So one could take both the zero contours of the two derivatives and
- > say that the "imprint" line is the common curve among these two
- > contours (don't really know how to do this in practice).
- >
- > In any case this does not work with not continuous derivatives, like
- > my first example.
- >
- > How could I search if such an "imprint" function is available anywhere
- > in the IDL library of somebody? Is there an IDL libraries database
- > somewhere in the internet?

I tried this, and I at least get a circle:

```
IDL> TVScale, Sobel(z), /KEEP
```

I think something like that might work, with perhaps some thresholding,  
etc.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming ([www.dfanning.com](http://www.dfanning.com))  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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