

# Contouring IVa: Common problems

Parts I to III of this series explained how to contour data. This page, on contrast, presents some things that should not happen in contouring.

To review, **A contour line should serve two functions:**  
**1) It should represent the best estimate of where field values equal the value of the contour .**

**2) It should divide data *greater* than the contour's value from data *less* than the contour's value. It thereby predicts where unknown/unsampled/unmeasured values should be values between the values of the contours.**

The examples left below are left unresolved as an exercise for the reader. Part Ivb of this series provides solutions.

