

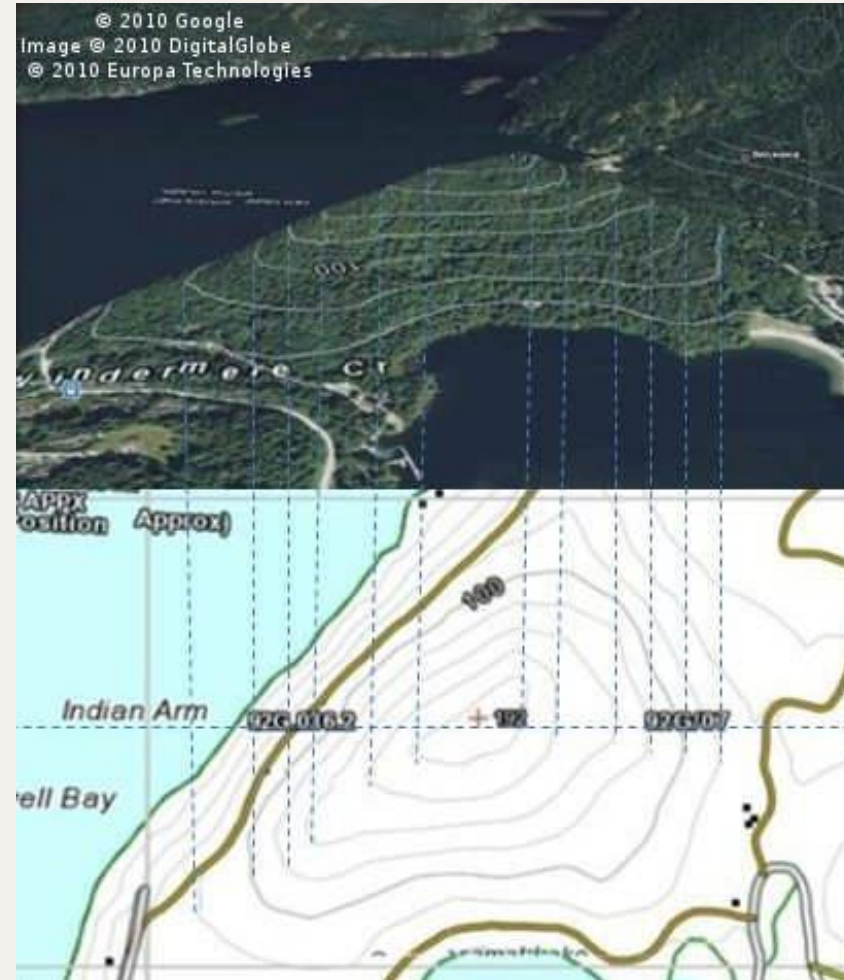
DEPICTION OF RELIEF

Definition, contour features, interpretation...



DEFINITION OF CONTOUR LINES

« Contour lines in topographic maps (*topographic contours*) are imaginary lines that connect points of equal elevation above a reference level (usually mean sea level). Each contour line corresponds to a specific elevation, therefore contour lines never cross each other (with the exception of representing overhanging cliffs or caves). Looking at a flat two-dimensional map with contour lines you can get a sense of the shape of the three-dimensional land surface (*topography*) such as mountains and valleys. »



Geokov.com

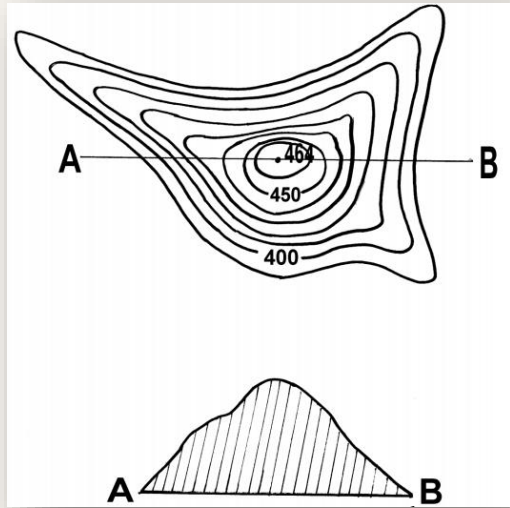
CONTOUR FEATURES

- On a 1:50000 scale maps the contour interval is every 10m, so it means more the contours line are close, more the slope is steep and conversely
- **In the mountains, we use four main features to navigate:**
 - **Top/Summit:** the highest point in a given area. At least one contour line goes all the way around a summit
 - **Spur:** a spur is a piece of land jutting into a river or stream or a ridge descending from mountains into a valley. Spurs are formed from erosion over time and frequently divide tributaries or valleys.
 - **Col/Saddle:** lowest point on a mountain ridge between two peaks (where two spurs meet)
 - **Re-entrant:** a small valley, the centre of which would collect water and funnel it downhill (if it were raining hard). It appears on the map as a U or V shape in the contour lines, pointing back into a hillside rather than sticking out of the hill (as would a spur)

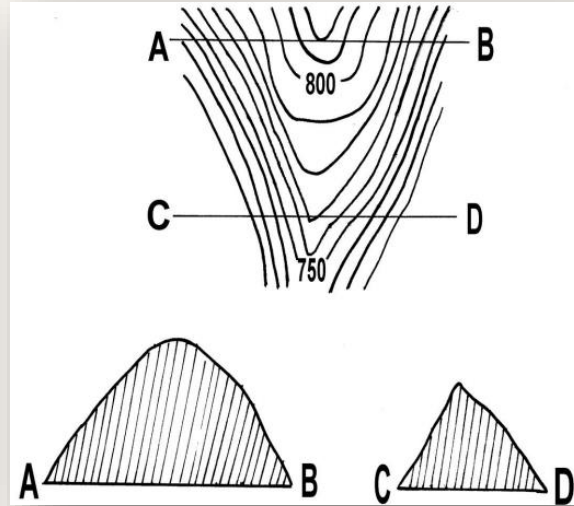


CONTOUR FEATURES

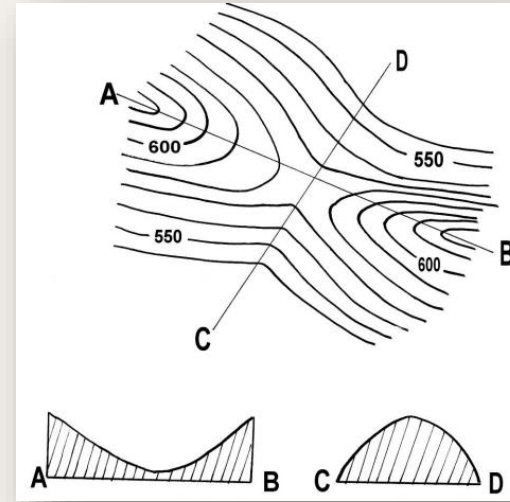
TOP / SUMMIT



SPUR



COL / SADDLE



RE-ENTRANT / VALLEY

