Fault detection and reconstruction from scattered data

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The detection and reconstruction of discontinuities curves for bivariate functions, usually called faults (or gradient faults when gradient discontinuities are considered), is an important issue in several application, including image processing and geophysics (see, e.g., [1, 2, 3]). We present a method to detect and reconstruct a (gradient) fault from a set of scattered data. The scheme first determines a subset of points close to the fault from the full data set. This selection of the data is based on the estimate of the Laplacian, obtained by using numerical differentiation formulas with irregular centers, which can be directly applied to the set of scattered data (see [4]). The local regression lines computation and quadratic least squares approximations for the point cloud surrounding the discontinuity allow us to recover the fault shape (see [5]). More precisely, we obtain a set of points describing the fault, which can be then thinned and ordered, and subsequently used to get the approximation of the fault by applying a suitable curve fitting algorithm.

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