## Contents

1. **Elements of Map-Scale Structure** ......................................................... 1
   1.1 Introduction ......................................................................................... 1
   1.2 Representation of a Structure in Three Dimensions ......................... 1
      1.2.1 Structure Contour Map ............................................................. 3
      1.2.2 Triangulated Irregular Network ............................................... 3
      1.2.3 Cross Section ........................................................................... 3
   1.3 Map Units and Contact Types .............................................................. 4
      1.3.1 Depositional Contacts ................................................................. 5
      1.3.2 Unconformities .......................................................................... 6
      1.3.3 Time-Equivalent Boundaries ..................................................... 6
      1.3.4 Welds ......................................................................................... 7
      1.3.5 Intrusive Contacts and Veins ...................................................... 7
      1.3.6 Other Boundaries ...................................................................... 8
   1.4 Thickness .......................................................................................... 8
   1.5 Folds ................................................................................................ 9
      1.5.1 Styles ......................................................................................... 9
      1.5.2 Three-Dimensional Geometry .................................................... 13
      1.5.3 Mechanical Origins .................................................................. 15
   1.6 Faults ............................................................................................... 18
      1.6.1 Slip ........................................................................................... 19
      1.6.2 Separation ................................................................................. 20
      1.6.3 Geometrical Classifications ...................................................... 20
      1.6.4 Mechanical Origins .................................................................. 22
      1.6.5 Fault-Fold Relationships ............................................................ 24
   1.7 Sources of Structural Data and Related Uncertainties ...................... 26
      1.7.1 Direct Observations .................................................................. 26
      1.7.2 Wells ........................................................................................ 27
      1.7.3 Seismic Reflection Profiles ......................................................... 30

2. **Location and Attitude** ................................................................. 33
   2.1 Introduction ....................................................................................... 33
   2.2 Location ............................................................................................ 33
      2.2.1 Map Coordinate Systems, Scale, Accuracy ................................. 33
      2.2.2 Geologic Mapping in 3-D ............................................................ 36
      2.2.3 Wells ........................................................................................ 37
2.3 Orientations of Lines and Planes .................................................. 41
  2.3.1 Stereogram ................................................................. 44
  2.3.2 Natural Variation of Dip and Measurement Error ..... 46
  2.3.3 Tangent Diagram ....................................................... 47
2.4 Finding the Orientations of Planes ........................................... 49
  2.4.1 Graphical Three-Point Problem ...................................... 50
  2.4.2 Analytical Three-Point Problem ................................. 52
2.5 Apparent Dip ................................................................. 53
2.6 Structure Contours ............................................................ 54
  2.6.1 Structure Contours from Point Elevations .................. 54
  2.6.2 Structure Contours from Attitude ............................... 55
  2.6.3 Dip from Structure Contours ....................................... 55
2.7 Intersecting Contoured Surfaces .......................................... 55
2.8 Derivation: Tangent Diagram on a Spreadsheet ................... 57
2.9 Exercises ................................................................. 57
  2.9.1 Interpretation of Data from an Oil Well ................. 57
  2.9.2 Attitude .............................................................. 58
  2.9.3 Attitude from Map .................................................. 59

3 Structure Contouring .......................................................... 63
  3.1 Introduction .............................................................. 63
  3.2 Structure Contouring ...................................................... 63
  3.3 Structural Style in Contouring .......................................... 65
    3.3.1 Equal Spacing ....................................................... 66
    3.3.2 Parallel ............................................................. 66
    3.3.3 Interpretive ........................................................ 66
    3.3.4 Smooth vs. Angular .............................................. 67
  3.4 Contouring Techniques .................................................... 68
    3.4.1 Choosing the Neighboring Points: TIN or Grid? ....... 69
    3.4.2 Triangulated Irregular Networks ............................. 70
    3.4.3 Interpolation ....................................................... 72
    3.4.4 Adjusting the Surface Shape ................................. 75
  3.5 Mapping from Profiles .................................................... 76
  3.6 Adding Information to the Data Base .................................. 78
    3.6.1 Bedding Attitude .................................................. 78
    3.6.2 Projected and Composite Surfaces ......................... 79
    3.6.3 Fluid-Flow Barriers ............................................. 84
  3.7 Exercises .............................................................. 85
    3.7.1 Contouring Styles ............................................... 85
    3.7.2 Contour Map from Dip and Elevation ...................... 86
    3.7.3 Depth to Contact ............................................... 86
    3.7.4 Projected-Surface Map ....................................... 87

4 Thickness Measurements and Thickness Maps .......................... 89
  4.1 Thickness of Plane Beds ................................................. 89
    4.1.1 Universal Thickness Equation ............................... 89
7 Properties of Faults ................................................................. 181
7.1 Introduction ........................................................................... 181
7.2 Recognition of Faults ............................................................. 181
  7.2.1 Discontinuities in Geological Map Pattern ......................... 181
  7.2.2 Discontinuities on Reflection Profile ................................. 182
  7.2.3 Discontinuities on Structure Contour Map ......................... 186
  7.2.4 Stratigraphic Thickness Anomaly .................................... 187
  7.2.5 Discontinuity in Stratigraphic Sequence ......................... 188
  7.2.6 Rock Type .................................................................. 190
  7.2.7 Fault Drag .................................................................. 191
7.3 Unconformities ..................................................................... 191
7.4 Displacement ........................................................................ 193
  7.4.1 Slip ............................................................................. 194
  7.4.2 Separation .................................................................... 196
  7.4.3 Heave and Throw from Stratigraphic Separation ............. 198
7.5 Geometric Properties of Faults ............................................. 200
  7.5.1 Surface Shape ................................................................ 200
  7.5.2 Displacement Distribution ............................................ 200
7.6 Growth Faults ...................................................................... 204
  7.6.1 Effect on Heave and Throw ........................................ 204
  7.6.2 Expansion Index .......................................................... 205
7.7 Fault-Cut Correlation Criteria ............................................. 206
  7.7.1 Trend and Sense of Throw ............................................ 207
  7.7.2 Shape ........................................................................ 208
8 Faulted Surfaces ............................................................... 219
 8.1 Introduction .................................................................... 219
 8.2 Geometry of a Faulted Surface ......................................... 219
    8.2.1 Heave and Throw on a Structure Contour Map .......... 219
    8.2.2 Stratigraphic Separation from a Structure Contour Map 221
 8.3 Constructing a Faulted Marker Horizon ............................. 222
    8.3.1 Locating the Fault .................................................. 223
    8.3.2 Joining Offset Marker Surfaces to a Fault ................. 225
 8.4 Fault Cutoff Maps and Allan Diagrams ............................. 229
    8.4.1 Construction ......................................................... 229
    8.4.2 Determination of Fluid Migration Pathways ............... 232
    8.4.3 Determination of Fault Slip ..................................... 233
 8.5 Faults on Isopach Maps ................................................ 235
 8.6 Displacement Transfer .................................................. 237
    8.6.1 Relay Overlap ...................................................... 239
    8.6.2 Branching Fault .................................................... 240
    8.6.3 Splay Fault ........................................................... 241
    8.6.4 Fault Horse .......................................................... 243
 8.7 Crossing Faults ............................................................. 243
    8.7.1 Sequential Faults .................................................... 243
    8.7.2 Contemporaneous Faults ......................................... 251
 8.8 Exercises ....................................................................... 252
    8.8.1 Heave and Throw from a Map ................................. 252
    8.8.2 Construct the Fault Trace ....................................... 252
    8.8.3 Construct the Fault Trace ....................................... 254
    8.8.4 Reservoir Structure ............................................... 254
    8.8.5 Normal Fault ........................................................ 255
    8.8.6 Reverse Fault ......................................................... 257
    8.8.7 Faults on an Isopach Map ........................................ 258
    8.8.8 Cutoff Map of Normal Fault .................................... 258
    8.8.9 Cutoff Map of Reverse Fault .................................... 258
    8.8.10 Fluid Migration across a Fault ............................... 258
    8.8.11 Thrust-Faulted Fold ............................................... 258
    8.8.12 Relay Zone .......................................................... 258
8.8.13 Branching Fault ........................................ 262
8.8.14 Splay Faults ........................................ 262
8.8.15 Sequential Faults 1 ................................. 263
8.8.16 Sequential Faults 2 ................................. 263

9  
Dip-Sequence Analysis ...................................... 265
9.1 Introduction .............................................. 265
9.2 Curvature Models ........................................ 267
9.3 Dip Components ........................................ 268
9.4 Analysis of Uniform Dip ................................. 270
9.5 Analysis of Folds ........................................ 270
9.6 Analysis of Faults ....................................... 276
9.7 Exercises .................................................. 282
  9.7.1 SCAT Analysis of the Sequatchie Anticline ........ 282
  9.7.2 SCAT Analysis of Bald Hill Structure .............. 282
  9.7.3 SCAT Analysis of Greasy Cove Anticline .......... 282

10  
Quality Control ............................................. 285
10.1 Introduction ............................................ 285
10.2 Data Errors and Contouring Artifacts ................. 285
  10.2.1 Data Errors .......................................... 285
  10.2.2 Edge Effects ........................................ 287
  10.2.3 Excessive Detail .................................... 288
10.3 Trend Incompatibilities ................................ 289
10.4 Bed Thickness Anomalies ............................... 292
  10.4.1 Compatibility between Structure Contour Maps ... 292
  10.4.2 Compatibility of Thicknesses on Cross Sections ... 294
  10.4.3 Realistic Growth History .......................... 296
10.5 Unlikely or Impossible Fault Geometries ............. 298
  10.5.1 Fault Shape .......................................... 298
  10.5.2 Fault Separation .................................... 299
  10.5.3 Fault Cutoff Geometry ............................. 301
10.6 Exercises .................................................. 302
  10.6.1 Cross-Section Quality .............................. 302
  10.6.2 Map Validation ..................................... 303
  10.6.3 Map and Fault Cut Validation ..................... 304

11  
Structural Validation, Restoration, and Prediction ....... 305
11.1 Introduction ............................................ 305
11.2 Restoration and Balance ................................ 308
  11.2.1 Boundaries .......................................... 308
  11.2.2 Palinspastic vs. Geometric Restoration ........... 309
  11.2.3 Sequential Restoration ............................. 311
11.3 Strain and Strain Partitioning ......................... 314
11.4 Area-Balance Methods .................................. 316
  11.4.1 Area Restoration .................................... 316
12.4 Vector Geometry of Lines and Planes ........................................ 377
12.4.1 Angle between Two Lines or Planes .................................... 378
12.4.2 Line Perpendicular to Two Vectors ....................................... 378
12.4.3 Line of Intersection between Two Planes ............................ 379
12.4.4 Plane Bisecting Two Planes .............................................. 380

References Cited ........................................................................... 383

Index .......................................................................................... 393