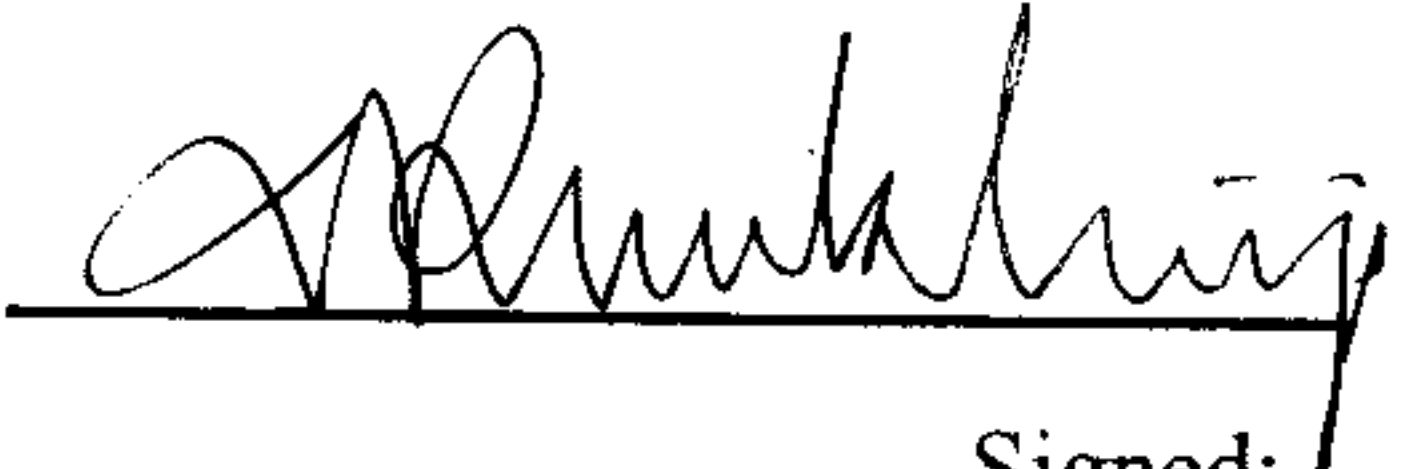


CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

This is to certify that the thesis entitled '**Object Tracking Using Stress Induced Surface Seeking Model**' is an authentic record of dissertation carried by **Sitansu Kumar Das** under my supervision and guidance. The work fulfils the requirements for the award of the M.Tech. degree in Computer Science.

Dated: The 1st of July, 2003.



Signed: _____

(**Dr. Dipti Prasad Mukherjee**)

Supervisor

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Sitansu Kumar Das

OBJECT TRACKING USING STRESS INDUCED SURFACE SEEKING MODEL

Abstract

Detection and tracking of object is one of the basic goals in video image processing. We use a region based active contour model. The proposed model is a modified version of active snake model by Kass et al. (1987) [1]. While the original active contour model relies only on edge gradient force, we have designed stress density model for the image region within the object. The image space is assumed as deformable metal plate. The stress distribution on the plate due to presence of an object on the plate is modeled. The intensity of pixels representing object forms the surface where stress energy is calculated. The performance of the proposed algorithm is attractive as it introduced a range of the external force term in this model. We have applied our technique to segment synthetic and real images. It is also shown that the algorithm can successfully track objects in a real video sequence.

1 Introduction

Detection and tracking of an object in a movie sequence is one of the most interesting and important tasks in image processing and computer vision field. It is basically an image segmentation process. Multitudes of techniques have been proposed in order to approach this problem such as Snake: Active contour model [1][2], Deformable surface spine model [3], Morphological Analysis with Active Nets [4], Anticipating snake model [5]. In general techniques can be classified in two broad categories:

- i) Satisfying homogeneity property in image features over a large region (for example: Anticipating snake model [5]).
- ii) Detecting abrupt changes in image features within a small region (for example: Snake: Active contour model [1][2]).

The first approach extracts the region as a whole within which some measure show the homogeneity of image feature. The second one detects the edge between two regions. A particularly attractive idea consists of obtaining a model of segmentation that integrates the behavior of two image segmentation processes stated above. In the proposed model in this paper, active snake model is improved by modifying the external force terms, which makes the model exploit region and contour property rather than only contour property.

In proposed model, it is assumed that image is an elastic metal plate that is deformed towards important image features. Alternatively it can be explained as follows. Without the tracking object image is assumed to be a plane undeformed elastic metal plate that has no internal stress. Internal stress is induced due to deformity made by external forces on the metal plate. All the points above the plate are situated in a particular constant low elevation resulting lower potential energy at every point of the plate. So without the presence of the object strain energy and potential energy of each point of the plate is negligible. However, when the object comes in the picture it changes the intensity value of the region it represents by a considerable amount than its surrounding region so that viewer can distinguish the object. As a result the metal plate that is assumed to be undeformed becomes distorted due to the introduction of the object. Surrounding region of the object is assumed as mildly stressed region. The region represented by object inside the image plane becomes a high stressed and elevated zone in terms of image intensity compared to its surrounding region. As a result energy density for the object region proportional to the elevation of points therein, is higher than that of its surrounding region.

From the above discussion, it is clear that inside an image a distinct object means a high area consist of high stress energy density and its surrounding area consists of low stress energy density. So if segmentation is performed between the object and its surrounding, homogeneity of energy density can be taken as discriminating feature. The mechanics of this segmentation process is guided by a variable elastic contour capturing the region of the image for which stress energy density is maximum. The high stress region represents object. In case of tracking of object, the contour is approximated by

equilibrium position. This scenario is very much clear if result of minimization of above energy term is taken as the basis of analysis. If above energy term is minimized with the help of calculus of variation following two equations are derived [2]:

$$-\vec{f}_x + \mathbf{A} \vec{X} = 0 \quad \dots(3.2)^*$$

$$-\vec{f}_y + \mathbf{A} \vec{Y} = 0 \quad \dots(4.2)$$

where $\vec{f}_x$ and $\vec{f}_y$ are gradient vector in X and Y direction on the contour points and $\vec{X}$ and $\vec{Y}$ are X co-ordinate vector and Y co-ordinate vector of the points on the contour respectively. $\mathbf{A}$ is the coefficient matrix may be called as rigidity/elasticity matrix [5]. These two equations give the extrema condition of total energy term for a contour position. As differentiation of energy term with respect to distance gives the force so equation (3.2) and (4.2) give the amount of force generated to move contour points in X and Y directions respectively. To find the set of points on the contour for which energy is minimum, gradient descent method used to equations (5.2) and (6.2). The corresponding numerical equations are:

$$\vec{X}^{t+1} = (\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{A})^{-1} \left(\vec{f}_x + \vec{X}^t \right) \Delta t \quad \dots(5.2)$$

$$\vec{Y}^{t+1} = (\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{A})^{-1} \left(\vec{f}_y + \vec{Y}^t \right) \Delta t \quad \dots(6.2)$$

Where $\vec{X}^{t+1}$ and $\vec{Y}^{t+1}$ are the iterated points at (t+1)th iteration while $\vec{X}^t$ and $\vec{Y}^t$ are the previous set of points and $\mathbf{I}$ is an identity matrix. Here Δt is the time step by which amount of movement of contour is controlled for numerical stability. From the above equations it is clear that previous points incremented by gradient vectors give the new sets of points. So if the value of the gradient of intensity in image plane is positive coordinate values of the point are incremented and for the negative gradient this is reversed. This fact is illustrated in figs 1.2 and 2.2.

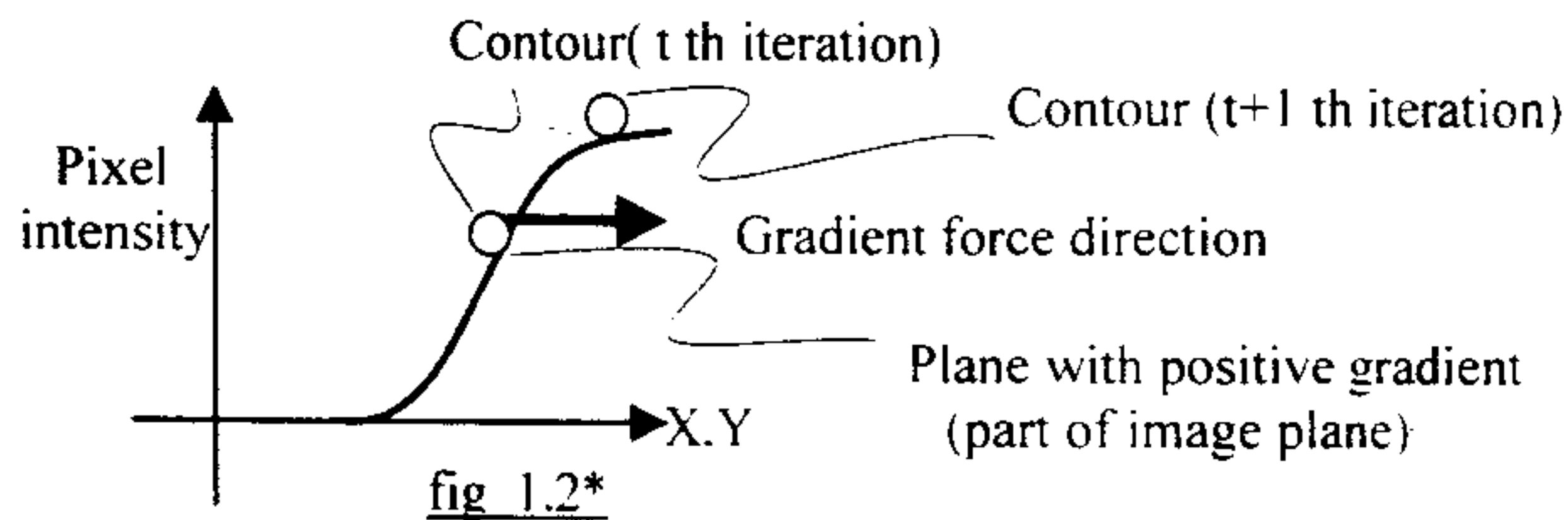


Figure shows the direction of gradient force activated on contour in positive gradient plane.

*First digit in equation number before point denotes serial number of equation in an article and second digit after point denotes the article number. Same convention is also followed for figure number.

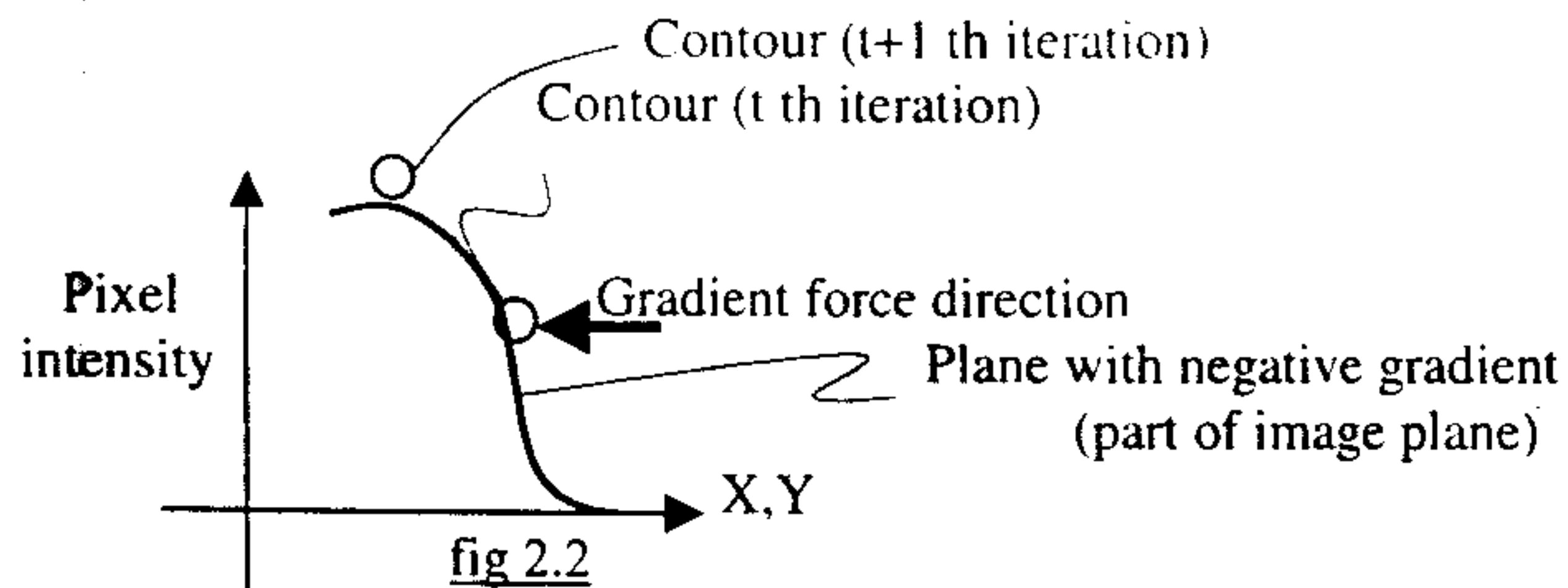


Figure shows the direction of gradient force activated on contour in negative gradient plane.

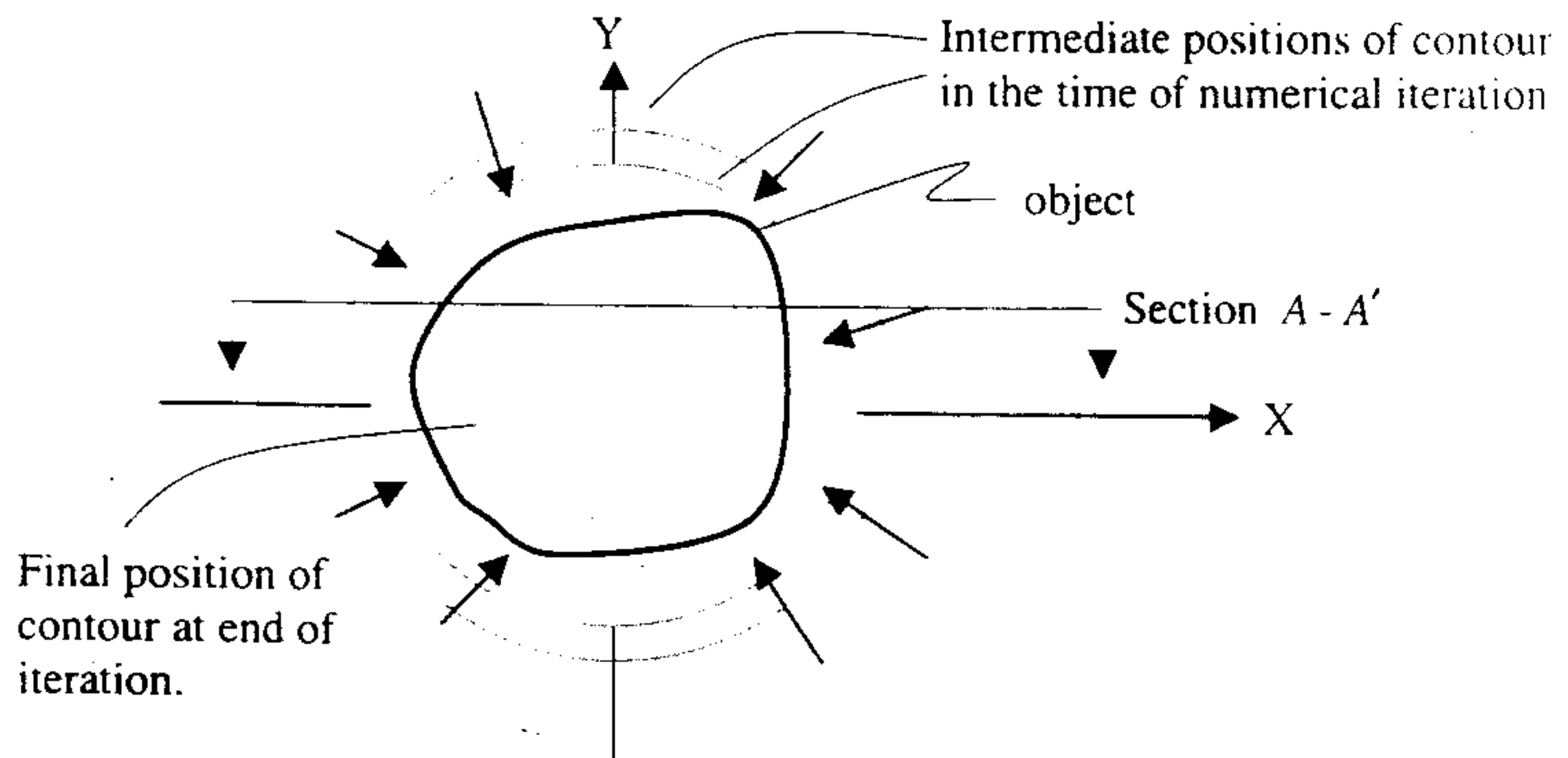


fig 3.2

Figure shows a plan view of contour approximation process. The green colored contours shows the intermediate positions of contour during of numerical iteration. Blue colored contour represents the final position of contour at the end of the iteration. The arrows show the direction of force, which drives contour towards equilibrium position. The sectional (A - A') view is shown by figures fig 4.2, fig 5.2.

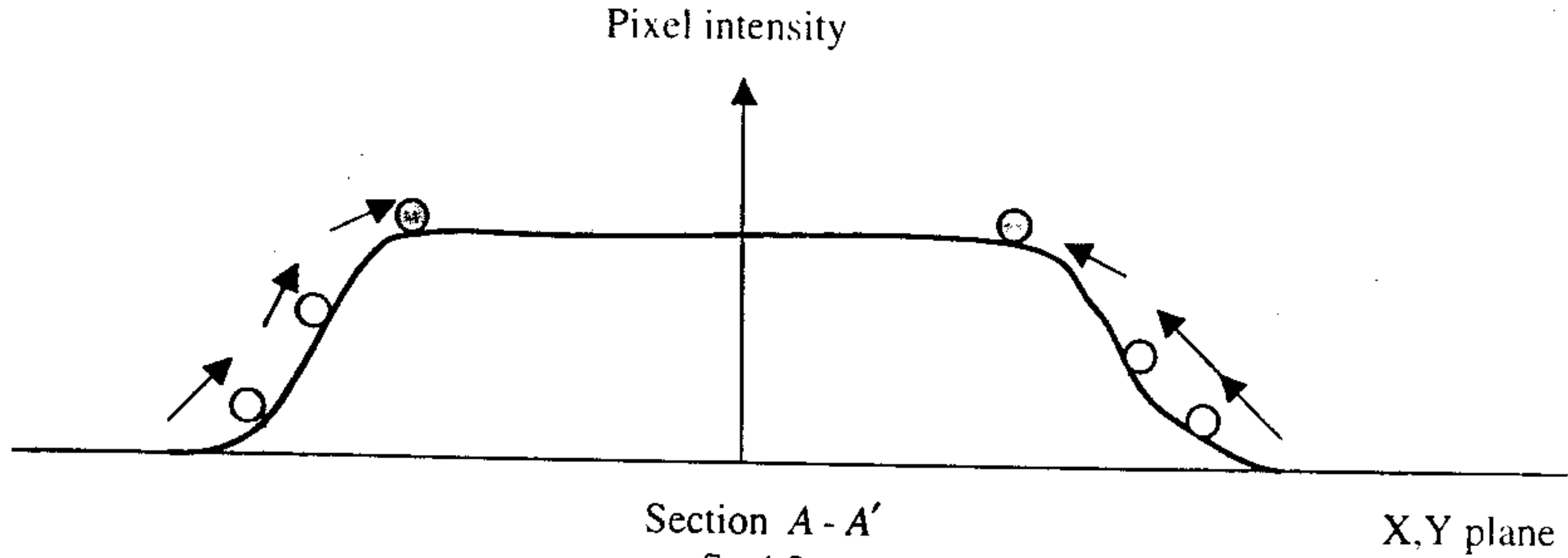


fig 4.2

Figure shows the elevation view of A-A' section of fig 3.2. The color notation of contour is same as in fig 3.2.

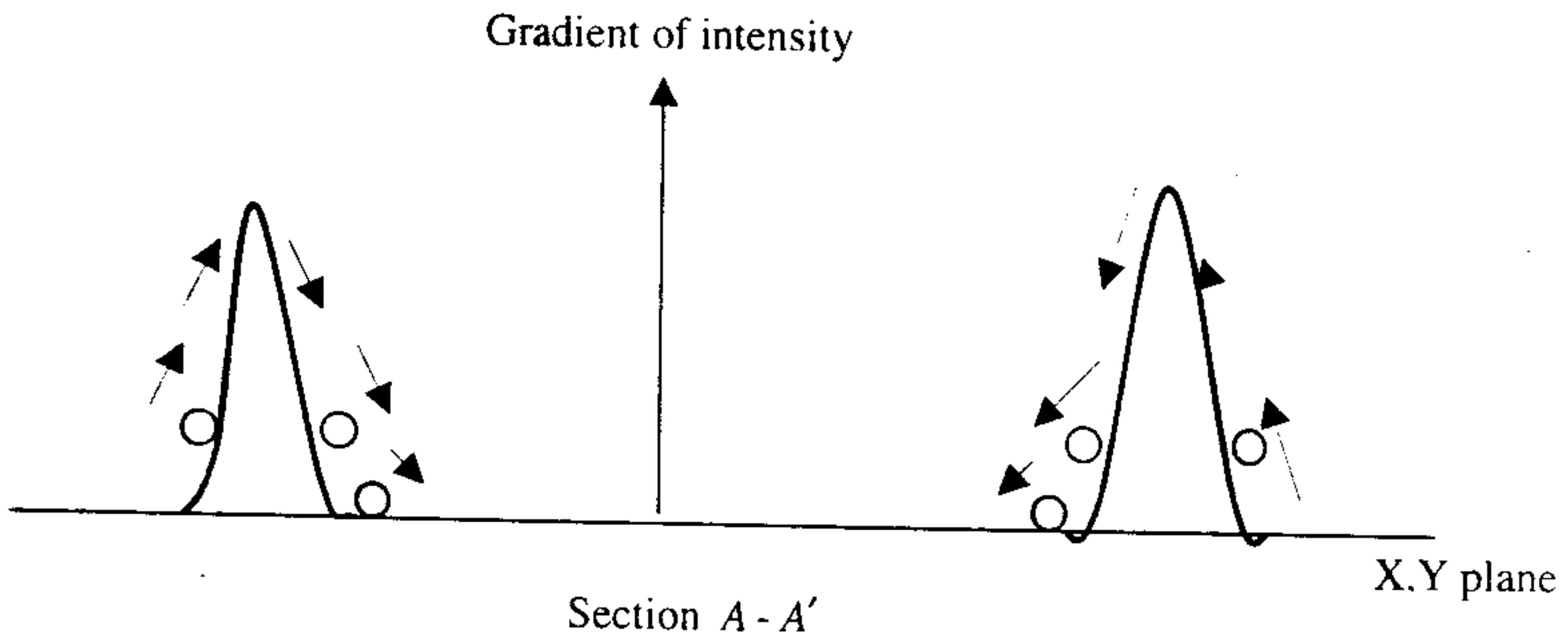


fig 5.2

Figure shows the elevation view of A-A' section of fig 3.2. Y-axis represents the gradient of intensity in image plane. The color notation of contour is same as in fig 3.2. The figure shows that contour gets a equilibrium position where gradient of intensity is zero.

Fig 3.2, 4.2 and 5.2 shows a brief overview of mechanics of snake model. It is noticeable that accuracy depends on strength of the edge. The equilibrium position occurs near the position of the contour where $\frac{\partial F}{\partial X} = 0$ and $\frac{\partial F}{\partial Y} = 0$ (where F is the intensity value of pixel at (X, Y) position).

Energy term represents the amount of work done required to change the shape of the contour from its equilibrium position. Say, for the small change of contour at (t+1)th iteration, the point $P_t(s)$ is shifted to point $P_{t+1}(s)$ in the direction $u(s)$. In this shift amount of displacement is say $l(s)$ and the force activated is $F_p(s)$ then the amount of work done is given by $\partial w = l(s)F_p(s).u(s)$. The process is illustrated in fig 6.2.

energy is proportional to the square of the second order derivatives of F. So assuming metal plate model for image surface external energy at any point on image surface can be defined as [3]:

$$\epsilon_p(X,Y) = w_{10}F + w_{20}\left|\frac{\partial F}{\partial X}\right|^2 + w_{21}\left|\frac{\partial F}{\partial X}\right|\left|\frac{\partial F}{\partial Y}\right| + w_{22}\left|\frac{\partial F}{\partial Y}\right|^2 + w_{30}\left|\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial X^2}\right|^2 + w_{31}\left|\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial X\partial Y}\right|^2 + w_{32}\left|\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial Y^2}\right|^2 \quad \text{..(1.3)}$$

where w_{10} is gravitational parameter, w_{20}, w_{21}, w_{22} are elasticity parameters and w_{30}, w_{31}, w_{32} are rigidity parameters. Subscript p is to denotes energy at point (X,Y). Fig 1.3 shows geometrical structure of the scheme. Actual contour moves in X-Y plane at Z=0. Projection of the contour in image plane encloses the object. From the discussion in section 1 contour moves in a way that the difference between the energy density of region inside the projected contour and region outside the projected contour tends to maximized.

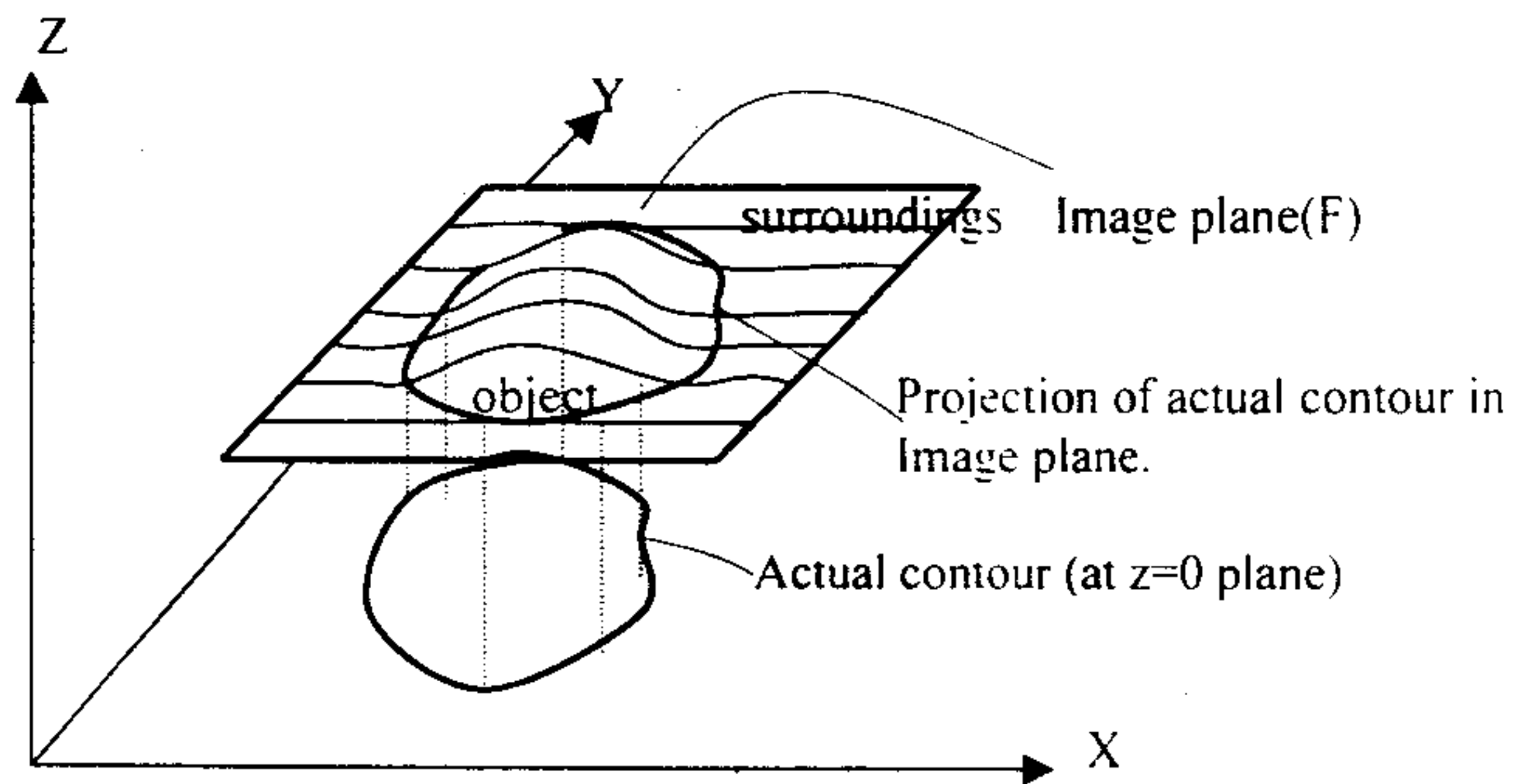


fig 1.3

Figure shows relative position of image plane and contour

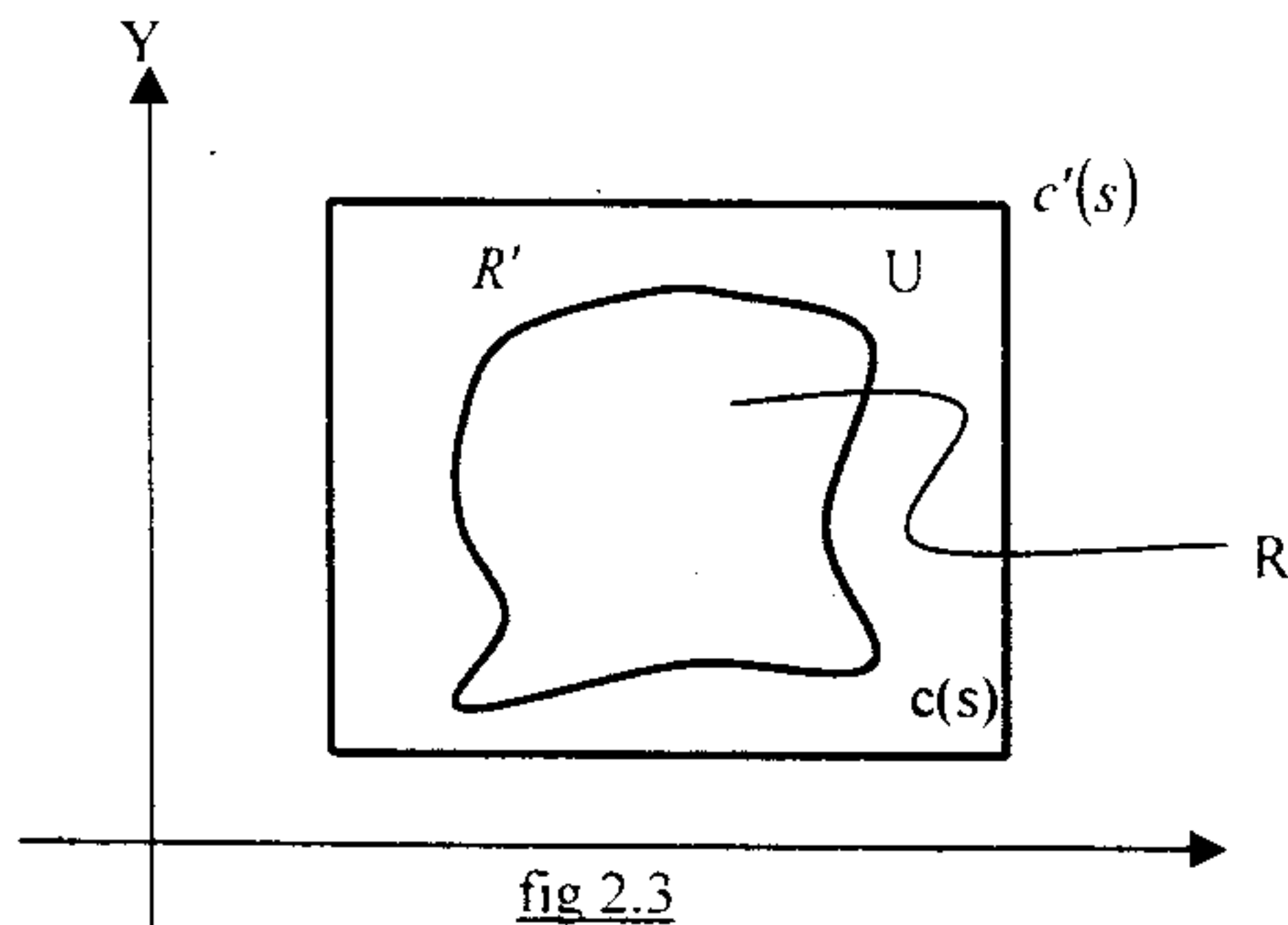


fig 2.3

Figure shows region R enclosed by contour $c(s)$ and region R' is bounded by contour $c(s)$ and $c'(s)$ from inside and outside respectively. U is the total region bounded by $c'(s)$

Applying the change equation (8.3) becomes.

$$\varepsilon = \int_0^1 \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \alpha \left[\left(\frac{\partial X}{\partial s} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial Y}{\partial s} \right)^2 \right] + \frac{1}{2} \beta \left[\left(\frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial s^2} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial s^2} \right)^2 \right] \right\} ds - \left[\oint (P dX + Q dY) - \frac{1}{2} \oint (-Y dX + X dY) \right]$$

Convert the line integral part into parametric form the functional can be expressed as:

$$\varepsilon = \int_0^1 \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \alpha \left[\left(\frac{\partial X}{\partial s} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial Y}{\partial s} \right)^2 \right] + \frac{1}{2} \beta \left[\left(\frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial s^2} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial s^2} \right)^2 \right] \right\} ds - \left[\int_0^1 \left(P \frac{dX}{ds} + Q \frac{dY}{ds} \right) ds - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \left(-Y \frac{dX}{ds} + X \frac{dY}{ds} \right) ds \right]$$

By rearranging the terms, we get

$$\varepsilon = \int_0^1 \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \alpha \left[\left(\frac{\partial X}{\partial s} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial Y}{\partial s} \right)^2 \right] + \frac{1}{2} \beta \left[\left(\frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial s^2} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial s^2} \right)^2 \right] \right\} ds - \left[\int_0^1 \left(P \frac{dX}{ds} + \frac{1}{2} Y \frac{dX}{ds} + Q \frac{dY}{ds} - \frac{1}{2} X \frac{dY}{ds} \right) ds \right] \quad \dots(2.7)$$

Let the $(X(s), Y(s))$ be the the contour which make ε an extremum. Let

$$X(s, \xi_1) = X(s) + \xi_1 h(s) \quad \dots(3.7)$$

$$Y(s, \xi_2) = Y(s) + \xi_2 h(s) \quad \dots(4.7)$$

As $h(s)$ is an arbitrary function, from above equation it can be written as:

$$-\alpha \frac{d^2 X(s)}{ds^2} + \beta \frac{d^4 X(s)}{ds^4} + \frac{\partial P}{\partial Y} \frac{dY(s)}{ds} + \frac{dY(s)}{ds} - \frac{\partial Q}{\partial X} \frac{dY(s)}{ds} = 0 \quad ..(14.7)$$

$$\text{Now } \frac{\partial P}{\partial Y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial Y} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \int_0^Y \epsilon_p(X, t) dt \right)$$

Apply the Leibnitz's rule,

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial Y} = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_p(X, Y)$$

In similar way

$$-\frac{\partial Q}{\partial X} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial X} \left(\frac{1}{2} \int_0^X \epsilon_p(t, Y) dt \right)$$

Apply the Leibnitz's rule.

$$-\frac{\partial Q}{\partial X} = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_p(X, Y)$$

Putting the values of $\frac{\partial P}{\partial Y}$ and $-\frac{\partial Q}{\partial X}$ in equation (14.7)

$$(-\epsilon_p(X, Y) + 1) \frac{dY}{ds} - \alpha \frac{d^2 X(s)}{ds^2} + \beta \frac{d^4 X(s)}{ds^4} = 0 \quad ..(15.7)$$

Writing this in terms of discrete points

$$(-\epsilon_p(X_i, Y_i) + 1)(Y_{i+1} - Y_i) - \alpha(X_{i+1} - 2X_i + X_{i-1}) + \beta(X_{i+2} - 4X_{i+1} + 6X_i - 4X_{i-1} + X_{i-2}) = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (-\epsilon_p(X_i, Y_i) + 1)(Y_{i+1} - Y_i) + \beta X_{i-2} + (-\alpha - 4\beta)X_{i-1} + (2\alpha + 6\beta)Y_i + (-\alpha - 4\beta)X_{i+1} \\ & + \beta X_{i+2} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad ..(16.7)$$

If contour have n number of points, then n no of equations come out putting $i=1,2,...,n$ in (16.7). The equation can expressed in matrix notation as:

$$\left(- \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_p(X_1, Y_1) & 0 & . & . & 0 \\ 0 & \varepsilon_p(X_2, Y_2) & . & . & 0 \\ . & . & . & . & . \\ . & . & . & . & . \\ 0 & 0 & . & . & \varepsilon_p(X_n, Y_n) \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{I} \right) \left(\begin{bmatrix} Y_2 \\ Y_3 \\ . \\ Y_n \\ Y_1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \\ . \\ Y_{n-1} \\ Y_n \end{bmatrix} \right) +$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} (2\alpha + 6\beta) & (-\alpha - 4\beta) & \beta & 0 & 0 & . & . & 0 & \beta & (-\alpha - 4\beta) \\ (-\alpha - 4\beta) & (2\alpha + 6\beta) & (-\alpha - 4\beta) & \beta & 0 & . & . & 0 & 0 & \beta \\ \beta & (-\alpha - 4\beta) & (2\alpha + 6\beta) & (-\alpha - 4\beta) & \beta & . & . & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ . & . & . & . & . & . & . & . & . & . \\ (-\alpha - 4\beta) & \beta & 0 & 0 & 0 & . & . & \beta & (-\alpha - 4\beta) & (2\alpha + 6\beta) \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ . \\ X_{n-1} \\ X_n \end{bmatrix} = 0 \quad \dots(17.7)$$

$\mathbf{I}$ is an identity matrix of same dimensionality with $\mathbf{E}_p$. The equation can be written in a vector notation form:

$$\left(-\mathbf{E}_p + \mathbf{I} \right) (\bar{Y}' - \bar{Y}) - \mathbf{A} \bar{Y} = 0 \quad \dots(18.7)$$

where,

$$\mathbf{E}_p = \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_p(X_1, Y_1) & 0 & . & . & 0 \\ 0 & \varepsilon_p(X_2, Y_2) & . & . & 0 \\ . & . & . & . & . \\ . & . & . & . & . \\ 0 & 0 & . & . & \varepsilon_p(X_n, Y_n) \end{bmatrix}$$

