



**HAL**  
open science

## UK 1-D regional velocity models by analysis of variance of P-wave travel times from local earthquakes

David C. Booth

► **To cite this version:**

David C. Booth. UK 1-D regional velocity models by analysis of variance of P-wave travel times from local earthquakes. *Journal of Seismology*, 2009, 14 (2), pp.197-207. <10.1007/s10950-009-9160-4>. <hal-00535492>

**HAL Id: hal-00535492**

**<https://hal.science/hal-00535492v1>**

Submitted on 11 Nov 2010

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



HAL Authorization

# UK 1-D regional velocity models by analysis of variance of P-wave travel times from local earthquakes

David C. Booth

Received: 15 December 2008 / Accepted: 16 March 2009 / Published online: 21 April 2009  
© Springer Science + Business Media B.V. 2009

**Abstract** A method is presented for deriving 1-D velocity depth models from earthquake bulletin data. The models can be used as initial models for more advanced modelling techniques such as tomographic inversion. The method is useful when there is little or no refraction and long-range reflection survey data. The bulletin travel times are subjected to an analysis of variance, where they are separated into source, distance, and receiving station terms. The distance terms describe the variation of travel time with distance, and the associated trend lines allow 1-D velocity models for the crustal layers to be determined. The velocity models provide an average crustal model for the region derived from local data. This does not include superficial layers which are necessarily poorly determined. Earthquake bulletin P-wave data from propagation paths across three different regions of the UK are employed to illustrate the use of the technique.

**Keywords** P-waves · Velocity models · Statistical methods

## 1 Introduction

The determination of a seismic velocity structure for a region is essential for accurate location of earthquakes and other seismic events, through the estimation of reliable wave travel times, and provides information on structural boundaries for geological and geophysical interpretations, usually with a depth resolution which is not possible for other geophysical exploration methods. Current methods (e.g. Thurber 1983, 1987; Kissling 1988; Kissling et al. 1994) use as much reliable information as possible from seismic bulletins, refraction and reflection profiles and other sources of data to form a tomographic velocity model derived from wavepaths sampling as much of the crust and upper mantle volume under the region as possible. Tomographic inversion techniques require a starting model for the inversion. This is often composed of one or more 1-D velocity–depth models, and for optimum results, the 1-D models should be close approximations to the average local structure in the area of interest. Such models are usually derived from seismic refraction and long-range reflection profiles, where seismic phases are recorded over measured distances with accurate timing of the source event and the arrival time of the seismic waves along the profile. A velocity–depth model can then be constructed to match the observed variation of travel time with distance.

---

D. C. Booth (✉)  
British Geological Survey, Murchison House,  
West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3LA, UK  
e-mail: dcb@bgs.ac.uk

Very few refraction and reflection seismic profiles have been performed on land in the UK, and most of the information on crustal velocity structure in the onshore UK has come from the Lithospheric Seismic Profile in Britain (LISPB) (Bamford et al. 1978; Barton 1992) and the Caledonian Suture Seismic Experiment (Bott et al. 1985). Away from these lines, few models are available, and many of them are only over a shallow depth range. The British Geological Survey (BGS) uses various regional 1-D seismic velocity models for earthquake location, which were derived mainly from the refraction surveys of Bamford et al. (1978), Bott et al. (1985) and Havskov and Bungum (1987). Chadwick and Pharaoh (1998) and Clegg and England (2003) have produced Moho depth maps from reflection and refraction data, although resolution of the depth contours onshore is necessarily poor since little data exists. Refraction profiles onshore are very expensive; timing and charge size problems have not allowed the use of quarry blasts as effective explosion sources to use with the fixed UK seismic monitoring network. Earthquakes provide a high-energy seismic source, but the event origin time and hypocentre are not accurately known to permit the derivation of the velocity structure along the wavepath.

In this work, I employ an analysis of variance (AoV) technique to determine a travel time–distance curve and station corrections for P-wave travel times from a large number of earthquakes recorded at UK short-period seismic stations in the range 0–300 km. The technique was originally applied by Carpenter et al. (1967) to the amplitude attenuation with distance of teleseismic P waves, but the method is equally applicable to the variation with distance of seismic travel times. In contrast to most inversion procedures, a good a priori starting model is not required. It allows a travel-time distance relation to be deduced from earthquake data without the necessity of accurate timing of the event origin time. In this paper, this technique is tested by using travel times measured in different regions of the UK, obtained from P-wave arrival times in the Bulletins of British Earthquakes, for example Galloway (2008), which are published annually by the BGS.

## 2 Method of analysis

Scheffé (1959) defined AoV as ‘a statistical technique for analysing measurements depending on several kinds of effects operating simultaneously to decide which kinds of effects are important and to estimate the effects’. The technique was originally devised by Fisher (1925) and has been further developed since then by Scheffé (1959), Kempthorne (1952), Brownlee (1965) and others. Carpenter et al. (1967) used the AoV method to determine amplitude variation with distance, and source size and station attenuation, from recorded amplitudes of teleseismic P waves. In this paper, the technique of Carpenter et al. (1967) is applied to local P-wave travel times.

If many earthquakes are recorded at different stations at different distances, it is possible to perform an AoV of the travel time data to determine the variation of travel time with distance and source and station terms which correspond to relative contributions to the overall travel times in the vicinity of the source and of the seismometer station. Hence, an average variation of travel time with distance can be derived from which to estimate the average velocity structure for a region.

Following Carpenter et al. (1967), I write the P-wave travel time measured at a station as

$$T = b + s + r + c, \quad (1)$$

where the overall travel time is separated into a distance term  $r$ , associated with the epicentral distance, a source term  $b$  which allows for variation in source depth and inaccuracy in the determination of the origin time, a station term  $s$  which allows for local velocity variation in the immediate vicinity of the station and a constant  $c$ . The reason for introducing the constant term will be made clear below. The full range of distances over which the measurements are made is subdivided into a number of shorter consecutive distance ranges. For convenience, these are made of equal length, though this is not a necessary condition.

To analyse the data, I follow Carpenter et al. (1967) and make the assumption that, if  $T_{ijk}$  is the measured P-wave travel time from the source

of earthquake  $i$  to station  $j$ , whose epicentral distance lies in the  $k$ -th distance range, then

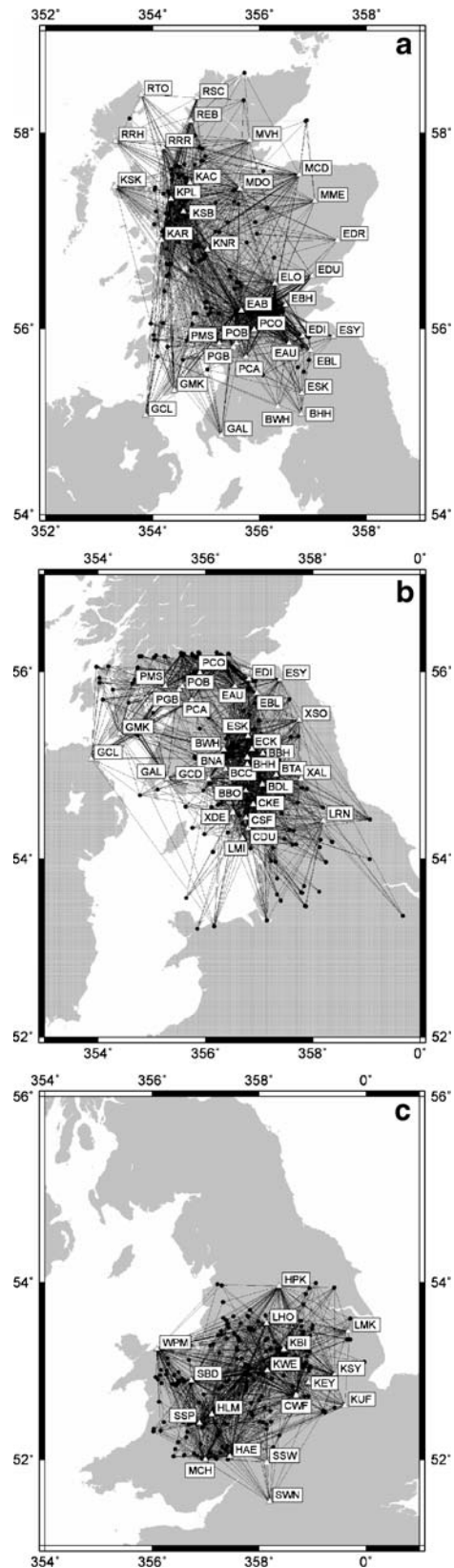
$$T_{ijk} = b_i + s_j + r_k + c + e_{ijk}, \tag{2}$$

where  $b_i$  is the source term for the  $i$ -th earthquake,  $s_j$  is the station term for the  $j$ -th station,  $r_k$  is the distance term for the  $k$ -th distance range,  $c$  is constant and  $e_{ijk}$  is an error. Every measured travel time can be expressed as a summation of the appropriate source, station and distance term values. The values of  $b_i$ ,  $s_j$ ,  $r_k$  and  $c$  can be estimated in the presence of the error  $e_{ijk}$  by the method of least squares (on the assumption that the errors have zero mean) with the conditions

$$\sum b_i = \sum s_j = \sum r_k = 0, \tag{3}$$

where  $b_i$  are summed over all earthquakes,  $s_j$  are summed over all stations, and  $r_k$  are summed over all distance ranges. Condition 3 is applicable due to the linear dependence of the terms in Eq. 2, and introduction of the constant  $c$  permits the application of this condition. The average values of  $b_i$ ,  $s_j$  and  $r_k$  are set to zero and their true values become a matter of definition. The values of  $b_i$ ,  $s_j$  and  $r_k$  are found by matrix inversion, and the elements of the inverse matrix are used to calculate the confidence limits for  $b_i$ ,  $s_j$  and  $r_k$ , through making the additional assumption that the errors  $e_{ijk}$  are normally distributed. The problem corresponds to an AoV of three effects—source, distance and station—on the measured travel times.

To obtain the travel times from the P-wave arrival time data in the bulletins, it is necessary to use a velocity model to derive earthquake origin times and hypocentre locations. A single velocity model was used rather than the different regional velocity models, which are usually used for location, to avoid the results being biased by the



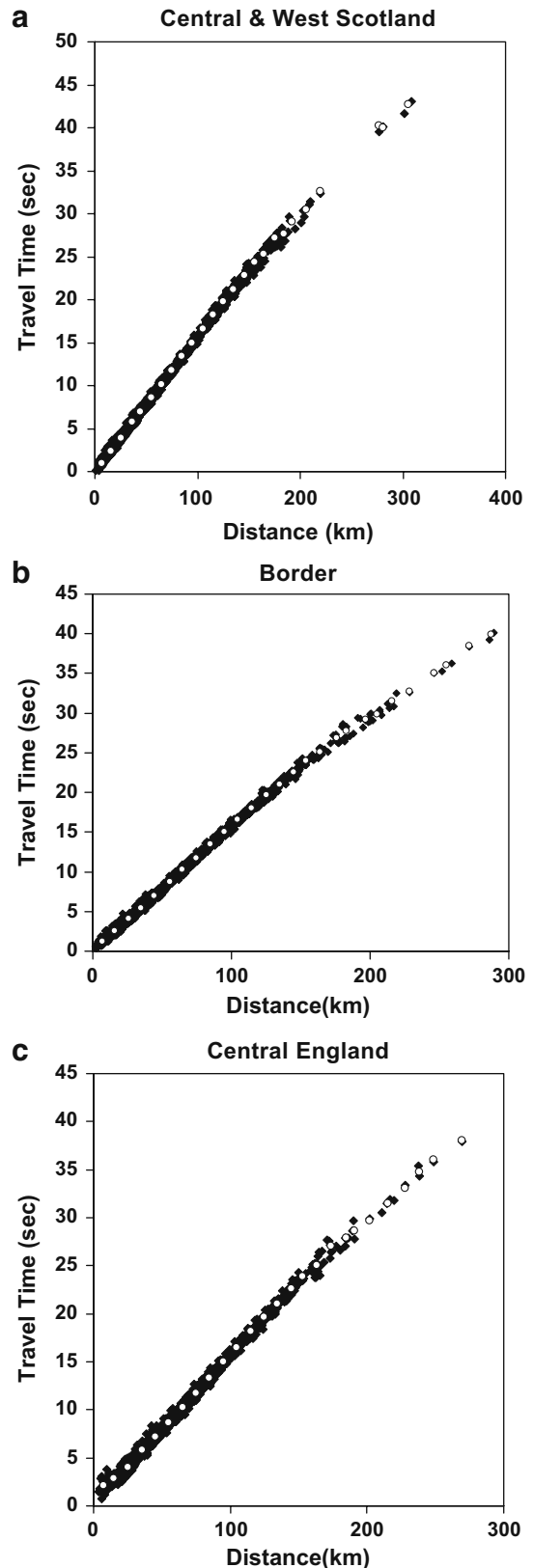
**Fig. 1** **a** Map showing propagation paths between earthquakes (black dots) and UK seismometer stations (triangles), corresponding to the seismograms used in the AoV study for CWS. **b** As **a**, for the Border region. **c** As **a**, for Central England

**Fig. 2** **a** Distance terms (*open circles*) obtained from AoV of observed P-wave travel times from bulletin data (*black diamonds*) for propagation paths in CWS. **b** As **a**, for recorded P-wave travel times in the Border region from earthquakes shown in Fig. 1b. **c** As **a**, for recorded P-wave travel times in Central England from earthquakes shown in Fig. 1c

regional models. The results are compared with the location model to show that the derived 1-D models are different from it.

### 3 Data

The P-wave arrival times were taken from the BGS Bulletins of British Earthquakes 1990–2008, which are published using data primarily from the BGS UK seismic monitoring network, with data from stations in Norway and Ireland sometimes being used for events offshore. The bulletins publish P- and S-wave arrival times measured from station seismograms and the location and origin time of each earthquake, estimated by the HYPO71 earthquake location algorithm, which obtains a best fitting solution in terms of location and origin time for the observed travel times applied to a 1-D velocity–depth model for the region of the earthquake (Lee and Lahr 1975). While BGS normally uses 1-D regional models for locating earthquakes, in the present study, locations and origin times were calculated using a simple two-layer velocity–depth model in case the regional models bias the solution. Only two layers were used in case the introduction of arbitrary crustal layers also introduced a bias. The model consists of a  $6.5\text{-km s}^{-1}$  P-velocity crust of thickness 34.15 km over a lower halfspace of P velocity  $8.0\text{-km s}^{-1}$ . The crustal velocity was chosen as an average value based on the regional velocity models described in Section 1, and the crustal thickness corresponds to the Moho depth of the most commonly used regional model (Galloway 2008). It is possible to grade the location quality of each earthquake according to the number of wave arrival readings used for the solution, the widest gap angle subtended between stations and the root mean square (RMS) residual. Bulletin readings were only used if four or more readings were available, the gap angle was  $180^\circ$  or smaller and



**Table 1** Statistics associated with AoV of the distance and station terms

	CWS	Border	C. England
Variance of a single observation	0.225	0.244	0.266
Total degrees of freedom	2,131	2,005	1,121
Total degrees of freedom for distance ranges	24	26	25
Average square attributable to distance effect	1,442.6	1,136.4	1,086.3
Significance	< 0.1%	< 0.1%	< 0.1%
Total degrees of freedom for stations	34	30	16
Average square attributable to station effect	1.229	1.303	0.773
Significance	< 0.1%	< 0.1%	< 0.1%
Constant	19.88	20.51	19.82

the RMS residual was less than 0.4. The UK station network is relatively dense, and usually only the data from stations within 150 km of the event are used in location determination. The P-wave travel times used here were obtained by subtracting the estimated origin time from the P-wave arrival times for each station. Epicentral distance values are used for the analysis. Data from earthquake swarm sequences (e.g. Stoke on Trent 1995, Newcastle under Lyme 1997, Manchester 2002, Aberfoyle 2003, Eskdalemuir 2004) were limited to one or two representative earthquakes, usually the largest in the sequence. Seismometer stations contributing ten bulletin measurements or more were used for the analysis.

I have analysed P-wave travel times measured in three different areas of the UK. One dataset consists of P-wave travel times measured at stations in Scotland for earthquakes in the Central and West Scotland (CWS) region, and another is derived from earthquakes in Scotland and England recorded by stations in Southern Scotland and Northern England, which is called the Border region. The third dataset contains travel times for events in Central England recorded by stations in England and Wales. The propagation paths for the three datasets are shown in Fig. 1a–c, and the corresponding P-wave travel time–distance variation for all observations in each of the three datasets is plotted in Fig. 2a–c.

In each AoV study, the entire distance range was divided into 10-km sections. The analysis produced source and station terms for each source and station, and distance terms for each section where one or more stations provided travel time data. The derived constant  $c$  in Eq. 1 was added to each distance term to give a distance term equiva-

lent to the average travel time for each range. The statistical values, distance and station terms and 95% confidence limits resulting from the analysis are listed in Tables 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Each average travel time is associated with a distance range, but the distances may not be evenly spread within that range, and so, when plotting the distance term, it can be misleading to associate it with the midpoint of the range. Hence, the mean distance for all observations within each 10-km distance range has been calculated, and the mean distances are shown in Table 2. The distance terms (average travel times) for each region are plotted for mean distance values in Fig. 3a–c, and also in Fig. 2a–c, where they are superimposed on the set of observations from which they are derived.

To estimate crustal velocities, the travel time–distance plots are divided into sections where the variation shows a linear variation with constant slope, and the resulting trend lines associated with a least squares fit to these sections are drawn. If we assume there is a 1-D velocity structure of horizontal homogeneous plane layers of different velocities, standard formulae can be used to calculate the velocity of the lowest layer and the thickness and velocity of each layer above it using the slope and intercept of each trend line (for example Kearey and Brooks 1984). The velocity of the uppermost layer will be poorly constrained as the first few arriving P waves propagate only in that layer. The source term will provide a disproportionately large contribution to the overall travel time at short distances of 30 km and less, and so the distance terms do not provide useful information on the velocity in the superficial layers. Independent information is necessary to constrain the average velocity in the top few kilometres,

**Table 2** Distance terms with 95% confidence limits

Dist. (km)	Term (s)	Error	<i>N</i>
Central & W. Scotland			
6.5	0.94	±0.16	65
15.6	2.37	±0.13	263
25.2	3.93	±0.12	262
36.4	5.71	±0.12	490
44.3	6.96	±0.12	238
54.7	8.58	±0.11	309
64.7	10.12	±0.12	182
75	11.76	±0.12	176
84.9	13.40	±0.14	89
94.8	14.95	±0.13	111
105.2	16.61	±0.15	62
115.4	18.25	±0.14	86
125.1	19.80	±0.15	63
134.9	21.20	±0.17	46
145.6	22.87	±0.16	51
155.3	24.36	±0.21	26
164.3	25.32	±0.23	21
175.8	27.17	±0.24	22
183.8	27.69	±0.31	11
192.5	29.05	±0.67	2
205.5	30.50	±0.45	5
219.6	32.60	±0.93	1
276.4	40.19	±0.96	1
280.4	39.96	±0.98	1
305.1	42.71	±0.71	2
Border			
7.1	1.24	±0.18	83
15.8	2.50	±0.16	170
25.7	4.04	±0.15	256
35	5.46	±0.15	390
44.3	6.96	±0.15	267
55.5	8.73	±0.15	258
64.8	10.26	±0.15	251
74.4	11.74	±0.15	217
84.8	13.49	±0.16	110
95	15.03	±0.17	88
104.6	16.57	±0.17	68
114.8	18.02	±0.18	63
125.1	19.68	±0.19	48
135.1	21.03	±0.21	34
145.1	22.53	±0.22	29
154.1	24.01	±0.26	18
163.9	25.09	±0.29	13
176.2	26.85	±0.34	10
182.8	27.72	±0.33	10
196.6	29.20	±0.37	8
204.9	29.91	±0.47	5
215.8	31.50	±0.52	4
228.3	32.74	±1.01	1
246	35.05	±1.01	1
255.3	36.08	±0.77	2
271.4	38.43	±1.25	1

**Table 2** (continued)

Dist. (km)	Term (s)	Error	<i>N</i>
Border			
287.5	39.88	±0.81	2
Central England			
7.1	2.12	±0.28	19
15	2.87	±0.20	48
25.5	4.10	±0.16	103
36.1	5.81	±0.16	98
45	7.22	±0.15	142
55.2	8.75	±0.15	157
65.3	10.30	±0.14	173
74.8	11.81	±0.15	134
84.6	13.34	±0.16	103
95	15.02	±0.16	95
104.9	16.50	±0.16	99
115.5	18.18	±0.17	75
125.1	19.69	±0.21	35
134.5	21.08	±0.20	35
144.6	22.65	±0.22	29
152.8	23.93	±0.32	12
163.6	25.12	±0.29	15
173.6	26.92	±0.48	5
184.8	27.92	±0.44	6
190.5	28.64	±0.73	2
202	29.67	±1.10	1
215.6	31.56	±0.53	4
228.3	33.05	±1.05	1
238	34.79	±0.74	2
248.8	36.07	±1.03	1
269.6	38.13	±1.03	1

Note that errors depend on the number (*N*) of records available for each distance range

which determines the thickness of the top layer and the depth of the lower layers.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Central and West Scotland

The distance term plots and associated trend lines are shown for the CWS region in Fig. 3a. These indicate that the average crustal velocity structure shows at least two layers over an upper mantle of velocity 8.0 km s<sup>-1</sup> (Fig. 4), and is thus different from the simple two-layer model which was used to provide the earthquake locations. The velocities of the crustal layers are 6.3 and 6.9-km s<sup>-1</sup>. The intercepts on the distance axis indicate layer thicknesses of 13.3 and 16.7 km, respectively,

**Table 3** Station terms with 95% confidence limits

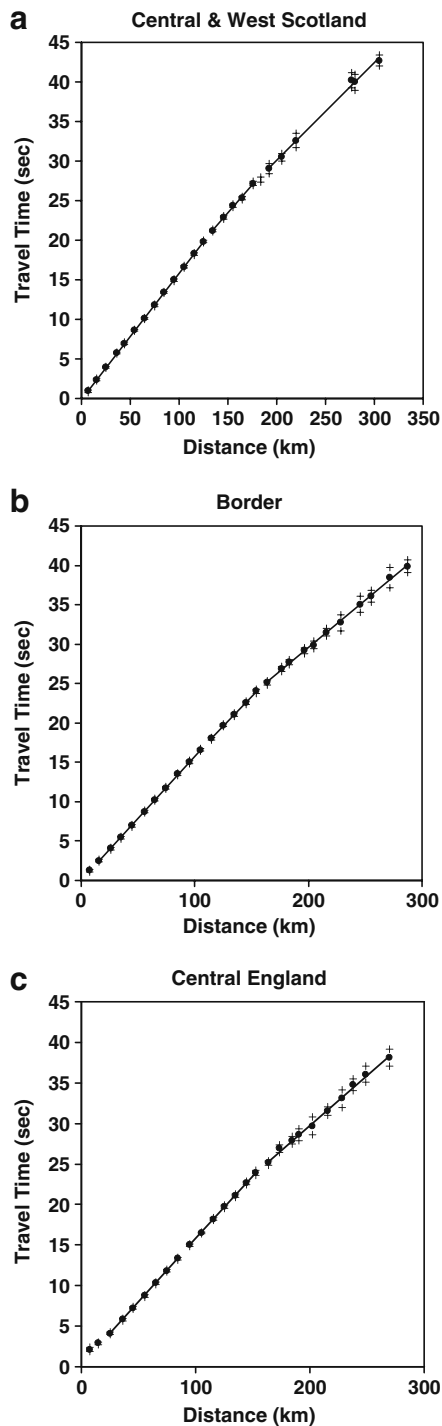
Stn.	Term (s)	Error	<i>N</i>
Central & W. Scotland			
BHH	0.11	±0.27	15
BWH	-0.17	±0.27	13
EAB	0.00	±0.08	241
EAU	-0.06	±0.09	158
EBH	-0.06	±0.10	225
EBL	0.13	±0.12	82
EDI	-0.36	±0.09	175
EDR	0.05	±0.28	12
EDU	0.21	±0.12	74
ELO	-0.03	±0.09	214
ESK	-0.46	±0.25	17
ESY	0.24	±0.17	36
GAL	-0.16	±0.26	17
GCL	-0.16	±0.22	21
GMK	-0.04	±0.18	29
KAC	-0.06	±0.11	101
KAR	0.08	±0.11	102
KNR	-0.06	±0.16	40
KPL	0.14	±0.10	129
KSB	0.02	±0.10	115
KSK	0.36	±0.18	32
MCD	0.07	±0.15	52
MDO	0.05	±0.12	69
MME	-0.13	±0.21	24
MVH	0.16	±0.18	32
PCA	0.07	±0.12	85
PCO	-0.17	±0.09	195
PGB	0.10	±0.13	60
PMS	0.01	±0.11	82
POB	0.13	±0.26	14
REB	-0.02	±0.20	25
RRH	-0.08	±0.21	24
RRR	-0.09	±0.16	42
RSC	-0.02	±0.24	17
RTO	0.19	±0.25	16
Borders			
BBH	-0.10	±0.11	93
BBO	-0.07	±0.10	107
BCC	-0.15	±0.32	10
BDL	0.08	±0.11	83
BHH	-0.05	±0.10	114
BNA	-0.27	±0.12	70
BTA	0.11	±0.11	84
BWH	0.02	±0.11	99
CDU	-0.03	±0.12	73
CKE	-0.11	±0.13	61
CSF	-0.02	±0.13	65
EAU	0.17	±0.10	162
EBL	0.19	±0.10	140
ECK	-0.17	±0.11	89
EDI	-0.08	±0.10	160
ESK	-0.20	±0.10	102

**Table 3** (continued)

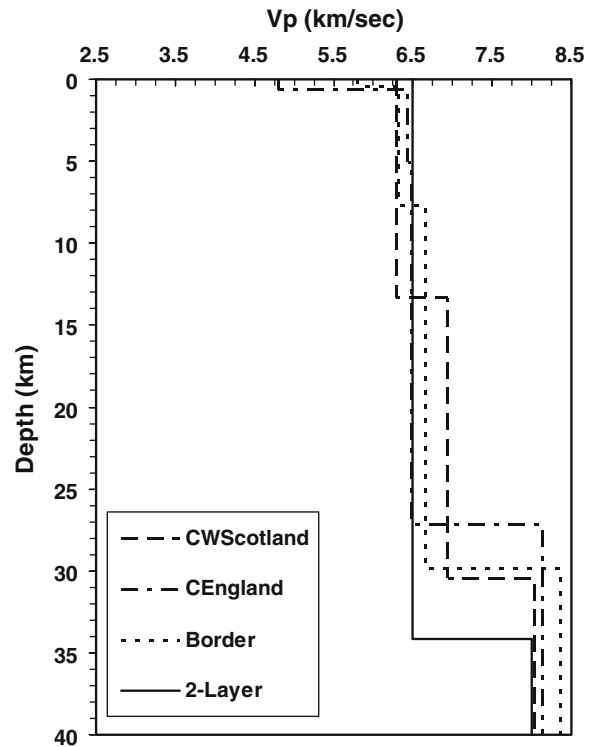
Stn.	Term (s)	Error	<i>N</i>
Borders			
ESY	0.38	±0.14	65
GAL	0.12	±0.13	63
GCD	-0.27	±0.12	76
GCL	-0.08	±0.17	43
GMK	0.16	±0.16	48
LMI	0.11	±0.13	64
LRN	0.08	±0.19	30
PCA	-0.07	±0.13	72
PCO	-0.11	±0.11	128
PGB	-0.07	±0.15	55
PMS	0.08	±0.13	81
POB	0.29	±0.31	11
XAL	-0.01	±0.15	47
XDE	0.00	±0.12	71
XSO	0.08	±0.16	41
Central England			
HPK	-0.02	±0.13	75
LMK	0.12	±0.21	26
LHO	-0.09	±0.12	90
WPM	-0.04	±0.13	81
CFW	-0.06	±0.10	133
KBI	0.00	±0.10	120
KEY	0.13	±0.25	17
KSY	0.08	±0.14	55
KUF	0.09	±0.21	25
KWE	-0.05	±0.09	151
SBD	-0.19	±0.10	136
MCH	-0.16	±0.12	96
HAE	-0.15	±0.12	94
HLM	-0.23	±0.10	120
SSP	-0.09	±0.10	143
SWN	0.48	±0.27	17
SSW	0.18	±0.26	16

Note that errors depend on the number (*N*) of station records available

giving an overall crustal thickness of 30.0 km. The zero intercept of the 6.3-km s<sup>-1</sup> trend line suggests that a low-velocity surface layer is absent or very thin. A recent 3-D model for NW Europe indicates a 30–35-km-thick crust under most of mainland Britain (Kelly et al. 2007). The Moho is deeper than 35 km under east central Scotland, but this area is poorly sampled by the bulletin data due to low seismicity. It is seen in Fig. 2a that there is most scatter in the travel times in the range 160–200 km, where the Pn phase has overtaken the lower crustal phase. This may be partly attributable to the variation in strength of the Pn arrival for different earthquakes over this distance range,



**Fig. 3** **a** Distance terms obtained from AoV of P-wave travel times for propagation paths in CWS, showing 95% confidence limits (*crosses*) and linear trendlines. **b** As **a**, for recorded P-wave travel times in the Border region. **c** As **a**, for recorded P-wave travel times in Central England



**Fig. 4** The resulting 1-D velocity–depth models for Central and West Scotland, Border, and Central England regions, compared with the two-layer model used for earthquake location

due to the variation in focal mechanisms. At larger distance ranges, clear P-wave onsets are few and only available for the largest earthquakes. Bott (2001, personal communication) applied a joint hypocentre-velocity inversion to a smaller dataset covering a slightly wider area than CWS. Using an initial four-layer model, Bott determined a 1-D structure of 6.3 and 6.9 km s<sup>-1</sup> at the depths of 7.5 and 19 km specified in the starting model, with the Moho at 34 km above an 8.1-km s<sup>-1</sup> upper mantle; the results derived here are consistent with these.

Teleseismic receiver function data (Tomlinson et al. 2006) indicate that, over the area in which the stations are located, the Moho depths vary between 25 km at RRR and 36 km at PGB, and there are significant differences between the 1-D receiver function models at RRR, MCD, KPL and KAR. Tomlinson et al. (2006) note that there are

significant differences between the crustal thicknesses derived from the receiver functions and those derived from refraction studies and suggest that, in some places, the phases originally considered to result from Moho conversion correspond rather to conversions from the top of the high velocity layer at the base of the crust. It is more appropriate to compare the AoV results with crustal thicknesses derived from refraction studies rather than receiver function studies.

#### 4.2 Border region

The distance terms and trend lines are shown in Fig. 3b, and the resulting velocity–depth model is shown in Fig. 4. Again, the scatter in the range 160–200 km is associated with the intercept of the Pn and lower crustal phases. Assuming an average top layer velocity of  $5.8 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (Jacob 1969), the model is as shown in Fig. 4. The trend lines indicate a three-layer crust, with layer thicknesses 0.4, 7.3 and 22.2 km and corresponding velocities 5.8, 6.3 and  $6.7 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  over an upper mantle of velocity  $8.4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . The non-zero intercept which the trend line corresponding to  $6.3 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  makes with the travel time axis in Fig. 3b indicates the presence of a shallow, low-velocity surface layer. As described in Section 3, the velocity in shallow surface layers is poorly constrained by the distance terms; independent information is necessary to constrain the average velocity in the top few kilometres. Refraction profiles in the Borders region indicate velocities of from  $5.5$  to  $6.0 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  in the uppermost crust (Jacob 1969; Bamford et al. 1978; Bott et al. 1985; Barton 1992), and a poorly constrained average value of  $5.8 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  has been used for the velocity of the surface layer.

The north–south-oriented LISPB profile (Bamford et al. 1978) and a NE–SW-oriented Caledonian Suture Seismic Project (CSSP) profile in Northern England (Bott et al. 1985) cross the Border region. The LISPB model of Barton (1992) in the Border region indicates a mid-crustal refractor of  $6.8 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , of thickness 13 km under a basement layer of thickness  $\sim 20$  km, which has a velocity gradient from  $5.7$  to  $6.2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ .

The velocities derived for this upper crustal layer by Barton (1992) are lower than the velocity of  $6.3 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  at 4 km depth derived by a Southern Upland Seismic Profile (Hall et al. 1983), which was at right angles to the LISPB profile. The results also differ from the structure deduced by Bott et al. (1985) from the CSSP profile crossing Northern England. Bott et al. (1985) detected a well-defined  $6.15\text{-km s}^{-1}$  basement at 2–4 km with a well-defined mid-crustal refractor of velocity about  $6.6 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  starting at 16–18 km depth. However, the structure deduced in the present study can only be an average, and diversity in structure is clearly indicated from these previous results in the Border area.

#### 4.3 Central England

The variation of the distance terms with distance in Fig. 2c was fitted with linear trend lines as shown in Fig. 3c. Beyond 200 km, there are relatively few data values, resulting in the larger errors seen at this distance range. An average surface layer velocity of  $4.8 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  was taken as the independent assessment required to constrain the depth of the surface layer, based on the laterally heterogeneous structure in this region suggested by Whitcombe and Maguire (1980). The trend lines in Fig. 3c indicate a refractor of velocity  $8.2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , under a 22.4-km-thick layer of velocity  $6.5 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , a 4.7-km-thick layer of velocity  $6.4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and a surface layer 0.5 km thick. Few refraction profiles have been carried out in central and southern England. Whitcombe and Maguire (1980) have tentatively identified a basement refractor at 2-km depth with a P-wave velocity of  $6.4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  near station CWF.

#### 4.4 Station terms

The station terms listed in Table 2 do not show any trends in spatial distribution that can be detected and appear to be due to very local site differences. Where the same stations provide bulletin records that have been used for the CWS region and the Border region, the terms are similar within estimation error, even though the wavepaths are

different. Most stations closer than 10 km show similar terms, allowing for estimation error, but at some nearby stations, station terms can differ significantly even when a large number of wavepaths are averaged (for example, at the stations EDI and ESY, 25 km apart), clearly illustrating the existence of local differences in velocity structure, which is likely to be common throughout the UK.

## 5 Conclusions

The distance terms obtained by AoV of the travel times obtained from bulletin data describe the variation of travel time with distance, and they can be used to derive an average velocity structure for the crustal region through which the waves propagate. The layer velocities, thicknesses and crustal depths are consistent with those derived from refraction surveys. The method produces average 1-D velocity models for the crustal layers.

The AoV of body wave travel times from earthquake bulletin data separates the travel time data into source, distance and receiver contributions, so that inaccuracy in the earthquake origin time is removed from the distance contribution to wave travel times. The distance terms describe the variation of travel time with distance, and they can be used to derive an average velocity structure for the crustal region through which the waves propagate. The layer velocities, thicknesses and crustal depths are reasonably consistent with those derived from refraction surveys. However, it is difficult to compare them with those derived from receiver function analysis, since in some areas it appears that the phases in receiver function data which are thought to result from Moho conversion are likely to be conversions from the top of the high-velocity layer at the base of the crust. The method produces average 1-D velocity models for the crustal layers. However, the velocity of superficial layers must be determined independently, as they rarely provide a quantifiable contribution to the body wave travel times. The method is useful for providing an average velocity structure in areas where long-range refraction survey data are not available. This can be used as a reliable starting model for analysis by more advanced analytical techniques, such as seismic tomography.

**Acknowledgements** I thank Professor Alan Douglas for suggesting that the AoV method be applied to seismic travel times and Alan and his colleague Mr. John Young (both then at AWE) for supplying the AoV programme used in this study. I also thank Brian Baptie and Lars Ottemöller, who supplied the location data and useful advice, and two anonymous reviewers whose suggestions helped to improve the paper. This paper is published with the permission of the Executive Director of the BGS (NERC).

## References

- Barton PJ (1992) LISPB revisited: a new look under the Caledonides of Northern Britain. *Geophys J Int* 110:371–391. doi:[10.1111/j.1365-246X.1992.tb00881.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-246X.1992.tb00881.x)
- Bamford D, Nunn K, Prodehl C, Jacob B (1978) LISPB-IV. Crustal structure of northern Britain. *Geophys J R Astron Soc* 54:43–60
- Bott MHP, Long RE, Green ASP, Lewis AHJ, Sinha MC, Stevenson DL (1985) Crustal structure south of the Iapetus Suture beneath northern England. *Nature* 314:724–727. doi:[10.1038/314724a0](https://doi.org/10.1038/314724a0)
- Brownlee KA (1965) *Statistical theory and methodology in science and engineering*, 2nd edn. Wiley, New York
- Carpenter EW, Marshall PD, Douglas A (1967) The amplitude–distance curve for short period teleseismic *P*-waves. *Geophys J R Astron Soc* 13:61–70
- Chadwick RA, Pharaoh TC (1998) The seismic reflection Moho beneath the United Kingdom and adjacent areas. *Tectonophysics* 299:255–279. doi:[10.1016/S0040-1951\(98\)00193-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0040-1951(98)00193-0)
- Clegg B, England RW (2003) Velocity structure of the UK continental shelf from a compilation of wide-angle and refraction data. *Geol Mag* 140:453–467. doi:[10.1017/S0016756803007866](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0016756803007866)
- Fisher RA (1925) *Statistical methods for research workers*. Hafner, New York
- Hall J, Powell DW, Warner MR, El-Isa ZH, Adesanya O, Bluck BJ (1983) Seismological evidence for shallow crystalline basement in the Southern Uplands of Scotland. *Nature* 305:418–420. doi:[10.1038/305418a0](https://doi.org/10.1038/305418a0)
- Havskov J, Bungum H (1987) Source parameters for earthquakes in the North Sea. *Nor Geol Tidsskr* 67:51–58
- Galloway DD (ed.) (2008) *Bulletin of British earthquakes 2007*. British Geological Survey Technical Report OR/08/048
- Jacob AWB (1969) Crustal phase velocities observed at the Eskdalemuir seismic array. *Geophys J R Astron Soc* 18:189–197
- Kearey P, Brooks M (1984) *An introduction to geophysical exploration*. Blackwell, Oxford
- Kelly A, England RW, Maguire PKH (2007) A crustal seismic velocity model for the UK, Ireland and surrounding seas. *Geophys J Int* 171:1172–1184
- Kemphorne O (1952) *Design of experiments*. Wiley, New York
- Kissling E (1988) Geotomography with local earthquake data. *Rev Geophys* 26:659–698

- Kissling E, Ellsworth WL, Eberhart-Phillips D, Kradolfer U (1994) Initial reference models in local earthquake tomography. *J Geophys Res* 99:19635–19646
- Lee W, Lahr J (1975) HYPO71 (revised). A computer program for determining hypocenter, magnitude and first motion pattern of local earthquakes. *Open File Rep US Geol Surv* 75
- Scheffé H (1959) *The analysis of variance*. Wiley, London
- Thurber CH (1983) Earthquake locations and three-dimensional crustal structure in the Coyote Lake area, central California. *J Geophys Res* 88:8226–8236
- Thurber CH (1987) Analysis methods of kinematic data from local earthquakes. *Rev Geophys* 24:793–805
- Tomlinson JP, Denton P, Maguire PKH, Booth DC (2006) Analysis of the crustal structure of the British Isles using teleseismic receiver functions. *Geophys J Int* 167:223–237
- Whitcombe DN, Maguire PKH (1980) An analysis of velocity structure of the Precambrian rocks of Charnwood Forest. *Geophys J R Astron Soc* 63: 405–416