

versus lithospheric simple shear involving a low-angle decollement. Eight years and more than 10,000 kilometers of deep reflection seismic have failed to resolve this issue directly. The seismic has been interpreted to support both models. Unfortunately, the causes of lower crustal reflectivity are not understood. One approach infers intra-crustal detachment on the basis of asymmetry of the Viking and Central grabens and interpretation of structurally balanced sections from seismic data. Another attempts to show that a uniform stretching model can successfully account for most observations. This is a useful test of admissibility, but otherwise adds little new to the debate. An alternative approach incorporates differing rheological properties of the upper and lower crust in a flexural cantilever model. These authors succeed in matching structural and stratigraphic evolution to observations on seismic sections.

Overall, this collection of papers provides an excellent background for an understanding of the important North Sea petroleum province. The book is not about petroleum geology and is weak on stratigraphy. Nevertheless, it is a valuable source of information, ideas, and current controversies for anyone involved with the study of sedimentary basins.

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