How dusty was the last glacial maximum over Europe?

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ABSTRACT

Our study focuses on European loess sequences, particularly the eolian intervals in between the observed pedogenic units. The classical concept of soil formation from parent material is reformulated to estimate of the duration and the associated sedimentation rate (SR) and mass accumulation rate (MAR) of these paleodust intervals. We show that the Greenland Stadial (GS) duration in European loess deposits includes the thickness of the overlying pedogenic unit, which in fact developed downward into the upper part of the eolian unit. The lower stratigraphical limit of the eolian unit overlying the pedogenic unit corresponds to the restart of the dust sedimentation of the younger GS. We illustrate this interpretation first by computing both SRs and MARs first for the Nussloch key sequence, the most complete European series. The correlation between Nussloch and other European loess sequences, located along a 1800 km longitudinal transect, allows computation of SR and MAR for several identified GS events. Comparing GS from marine and ice core records, our study shows that the two last Bond cycles are preserved in every European eolian record.

Bulk SR and MAR are estimated and compared for these two Bond cycles, showing the highest SRs and MARs in western Europe. These indices also indicate that the last stadials, embedding an Heinrich event, were not the dustiest in every Bond cycle. Our estimated MAR also differ from previously published computations, which did not take into account the various pedogenic units present in the studied loess sequences. The bulk SR and MAR estimates computed for the two last Bond Cycles from Chinese sequences from the Loess Plateau indicate lower atmospheric dust than in Europe during the Last Glacial Maximum. SR and MAR estimates computed from the fine-grained material for European records fit with Earth System model reconstructions.

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1. Introduction

Abrupt climate changes during the last glaciation are expressed as rapid transitions between Greenland stadials (cold stages - GSs) and Greenland interstadials (warm stages - GIs), characterized by large amplitude warming during GIs (Kindler et al., 2014). These abrupt changes were originally marked by iceberg discharges in the North Atlantic named Heinrich events (HE), which impacted the climate and the ocean circulations of the Northern Hemisphere. Some of these massive discharges reached southward to the Iberian

margin with significant cooling the sea surface temperature and reducing salinity (Bard et al., 2000). By correlating the climate records from the Greenland ice-cores with North Atlantic sediments, Bond et al. (1993) identified a particular succession of the Dansgaard-Oeschger cycles (DO), associated with observed GIs and GS. The long-term cooling cycles were later named Bond Cycles by Broecker (1994), which are characterized by an asymmetrical and sawtooth-like pattern, similar in shape to an individual DO cycle with a duration of about 10–15 ka. These long-term cooling cycles start with a long and strong GI and end with the coldest GS embedding an HE. The general cooling trend of these long-term cycles is associated with the regrowth of the Laurentide ice-sheet after every HE (Alley, 1998; Alley et al., 1999; Clark et al., 2007).

The climate in Europe has been strongly influenced by millennial climate changes related to variations in the Atlantic Meridional

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Overtuning Circulation (AMOC), the extent of northern ice shelves and sea-ice, which also affected the moisture sources of precipitation on the Greenland ice sheet, and therefore its growth (Boers et al., 2018). These variations in the extent of the sea ice during the last climatic cycle (LCC, about 130–15 kyr) affected the westerlies and the position of the polar jet stream, and consequently storm track trajectories (Lohmann et al., 2020). The resulting continental records have been mainly interpreted in terms of temperature, precipitation or vegetation changes related to the variation between GIs and GSs (Sanchez-Goni et al., 2008). The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ increases in the Greenland NGRIP ice core record, named Dansgaard-Oeschger events (DOE), correspond to an average temperature difference of about +11.8 °C on the top of the Greenland ice sheet (Kindler et al., 2014), associated with substantial reorganizations of the ecosystems in mid-latitude Europe (Harrison and Sanchez Goñi, 2010; Sanchez Goñi and Harrison, 2010; Sanchez Goñi et al., 2017). Furthermore, the presence of ice sheets and ice caps over Great Britain, Scandinavia and the Alps enhanced the zonal circulation during GS, as supported by numerical experiments (Sima et al., 2009, 2013).

Loess sequences, eolian deposits, are well developed all over Europe, especially between 48° and 52°N, where one or more climate cycles have been recorded (Kukla, 1970) (Fig. 1). During the LCC intensive deposition of dust over Europe was accompanied by a reduction or practically absence of arboreal cover in NW Europe during GSs (Woillard, 1978), and by sea-level lowering exposing large areas of the continental shelf to eolian erosion. Strong increases in fluvial transport and sedimentation by periglacial braided rivers released large amounts of material available for deflation (Lautridou, 1985; Rousseau et al., 2018; Vandenberghe and Maddy, 2001). Geochemical study of LGM samples from European loess sequences located along a longitudinal transect from Brittany to Ukraine shows that these deposits correspond only to a regional (hundreds of kilometers) transport of the available eolian material (Rousseau et al., 2014). Extensive multidisciplinary investigations of European loess deposits along a longitudinal transect at 50°N (Fig. 1) reveal that the millennial-scale climate variations observed in the North-Atlantic marine and Greenland ice-core records of the LCC are well preserved in the succession of paleosol-loess alternations or doublets (Rousseau et al., 2002, 2007). Loess units represent GSs, while GIs correspond to either

paleosols of various types or slightly pedogenic horizons, depending on the GI duration (Rousseau et al., 2017a, 2017b). Loess deposits are interpreted to correspond to coarse paleodust transported at rather low elevations in the atmospheric boundary layer (from about 300 to a maximum 3000 m) at local to regional scales (Rousseau et al., 2014). Finer paleodust may have been transported at much higher elevation by the general circulation, allowing deposition at higher latitudes (Antoine et al., 2009b; Pye, 1995; Pye and Zhou, 1989; Rousseau et al., 2014, 2017b; Ujvari et al., 2015; Vandenberghe, 2013). Along the 50°N transect, the Nussloch profile yields the most-detailed record of the paleosol-loess alternation of the LCC making this record a key European sequence (Antoine et al., 2001, 2009b; Moine et al., 2017; Rousseau et al., 2002, 2007, 2017a, 2017b). The succession of paleosol-loess doublets in Nussloch is characterized by a variable thickness and the different types of paleosols in the sequences, ranging from western Europe eastward to Ukraine (Rousseau et al., 2011). These spatial characteristics help to evaluate the duration of the paleosol formation, and develop a more precise chronology of the eolian deposition over the vast European territory. Although a fundamental element in the definition of loess stratigraphy, is to identify pedogenic units, they are very limited in the construction of reliable timescales for further model-data comparisons (Rousseau et al., 2017a, 2017b).

In this study, we propose new estimates of the sedimentation rate (SR) and mass accumulation rate (MAR) of European loess sequences. First, we reconstruct these parameters for the reference sequence of Nussloch, especially for the various identified GS equivalents during which dust deposition occurred. Next, we expand this study to other European records based on their stratigraphical correlations with Nussloch through observed marker layers and available dates. Finally, our estimates are compared with previous published estimates for other European loess series, and with Chinese loess sequences. A comparison is also made with dust deposition reconstructions in Europe from the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) modeling studies (Kageyama et al., 2018).

2. The Nussloch loess sequence

The Nussloch loess sequence is the key reference for the European LCC (Zöller and Löschner, 1997). It is located on the right bank of

Fig. 1. Map of the European loess deposits with indication of the location of studied records in this paper, of the depth of the last glacial maximum sea level low stand and of the expansion of the Greenland, Iceland, British, and Fennoscandian ice sheets. Map drawn by P. Antoine in Rousseau et al. (2014) modified.

the Rhine River, south of Heidelberg in Germany, on a plateau overhanging a wide floodplain (Fig. 1). The loess deposits are distributed along ridges oriented NW-SE (Antoine et al., 2001) in which a succession of alternating paleosol-loess doublets have been identified (Antoine et al., 2001, 2009b; Bibus et al., 2007; Rousseau et al., 2002, 2007, 2017a, 2017b). These doublets are correlated very precisely with the succession of GI-GS doublets from the Greenland NGRIP ice core through ^{14}C dates on earthworm granules (Moine et al., 2017) supporting previous stratigraphical assignment of the pedogenic units, mostly for the highly dilated sedimentary section covering the 40 ka to 18 ka interval. Erosion is not evident between the pedogenic and the loess units from the sampling profile (see Supplementary figure 2 in (Rousseau et al., 2017a)) except for the occurrence of a large thermokarst erosion gully at the base of the Middle Pleniglacial record (TK2 in (Antoine et al., 2009a)). Timing of paleosol formation is in agreement with the detailed and well-dated records of GI in Turkish cave deposits located at about the same longitude as our easternmost studied loess sequence (Stayky in Ukraine (Rousseau et al., 2011)). In these speleothems, GIs are expressed by the responses of local ecosystems by the expansion of C3 plants and higher soil activity (Fleitmann et al., 2009). Interestingly, the identified pedogenic units in Nussloch range between brown boreal paleosols to tundra gleys to embryonic oxidized horizons. They are characterized by the lowest $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ from the preserved organic matter in the sediment (Hatté et al., 1998), corresponding to GI 17 to GI 2, in addition to the identified interglacial Bt horizon at the base of the sequence (Antoine et al., 2009b) (Fig. 2).

The identification of different types of paleosols and pedogenic horizons in Nussloch, is fundamental. We have used the established correlation to the Greenland records (Moine et al., 2017; Rousseau et al., 2017a, 2017b) to estimate the maximum amount of time needed to reach their different degrees of maturation and development. To identify these time lapses more precisely, we employed two independent NGRIP $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and dust concentration data to indicate variations of atmospheric temperature and dustiness in the Greenland area, respectively. Our correlating strategy slightly differs from the definition of a GI event duration applied in other studies, where the sharp end of the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ decrease alone defines the end of a GI. Our correlation was conducted both visually and algorithmically to both proxy records (i.e., the GIs are defined to last from the beginning of the abrupt $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ increase or the dust concentration decrease until the time when $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ or dust return to their initial value before the GI onset).

Rousseau et al. (2017a) have analyzed the GIs in both $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and dust NGRIP records, showing that the abrupt change in these proxies averages from 50 to 150 years. The proxies have two different origins with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ mostly from the North Atlantic surface water and the dust predominantly from the Chinese northern deserts. From a statistical point of view the lead or lag between the start of the change of these two proxies is negligible (2017a). Therefore, we assume that although a short lag of several decades could exist between the changes in the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in Greenland ice core and the start of the paleosol or tundra gley formation, such a lag cannot be distinguished in the centennial-resolved loess deposits. Similarly, the GIs/GS transitions in the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and the dust records, are rather contemporaneous (2017a). Therefore the paleosol and tundra gley formation ended at the same time, i.e., as indicated in the Rasmussen et al. (2014) chronology. To reduce the uncertainty about this time interval assignment, extremely high-resolution sampling of every paleosol and tundra gley could be performed but age errors between these two records still cannot be well resolved due to their different sensitivity to climate changes. Consequently, we reliably estimate the duration of the GIs as the

maximum time for the development of the paleosols observed in Nussloch, (Rousseau et al., 2017a).

Subsequently, Rousseau et al. (2017b), proposed an alternative way of investigating the Nussloch eolian deposits in order to convert it into terms of a deposition budget. As expected, when taking into account paleosol or pedogenic unit formation, SR and MAR cannot be estimated by assuming a continuous accumulation of eolian deposits between two available dates as is classically performed for marine, ice or lake records. Following the detailed correlations defined between Nussloch and NGRIP stratigraphies (Fig. 2), with one pedogenic unit corresponding to a particular GI, (Moine et al., 2017; Rousseau et al., 2002, 2007, 2017a, 2017b), we applied to the loess sequence the dates obtained for every start and end of a GI, as determined by Rasmussen et al. (2014). This represents a reliable compromise with our estimates described previously, following the acknowledged synchronicity of DO events in numerous worldwide paleoclimate records (Adolphi et al., 2018). We considered that LCC paleosols in European loess sequences at 50°N , were developed from the underlying loess deposits after the eolian sedimentation ceased, and therefore should be considered as the upper part of the eolian deposits (Taylor and Lagroix, 2015; Taylor et al., 2014; Vandenberghe et al., 2014). Moreover, the eolian sequences on top of the developed paleosols can be considered to have restarted after the formation of each pedogenic units. This makes the time evolution of these loess sequences nonlinear and a bit more complex than the classical continuous sedimentation. Therefore, considering that the stratigraphical succession of the identified units was developed on the underlying parent material, the time's arrow, from the bottom to the top of the sequence, always changed direction during the pedogenic development by moving downward in the sequence, and finally moved upward from the top of the paleosols. Such conceptual evolution of the time's arrow completely differs from that happens in Asian loess sequences, and other paleoclimatological records, i.e., lake, marine or ice cores where time only goes upward (Kukla and Koci, 1972; Rousseau et al., 2017a). For that reason, a determined eolian interval, equivalent to a GS, corresponds to both the thickness of the visible loess layer and the thickness of the layer, which underwent soil forming processes (blue arrow in Fig. 2). The pedogenesis itself fits with the GI duration (red arrow in Fig. 2). As a result, the Nussloch stratigraphy can be read as expressed in Table 1, allowing an improved estimate the SRs and the MARs that are required for comparison with other loess records and also with model outputs.

In the 60–23 ka b2k interval, corresponding to four long-term cooling cycles recognized by, Bond et al. (1993) we have labeled “Bond Cycle a” (BCA) the cycle lasting from GI4 to GS3/HE2, “Bond Cycle b” (BCB) the cycle lasting from GI8 to GS5/HE3, “Bond cycle c” (BCC) the cycle lasting from GI12 to GS9/HE4, and “Bond Cycle d” (BCD) the cycle lasting from GI14 to GS13/HE5 in the Nussloch loess sequence (Fig. 2). By reference to Rasmussen et al. (2014) chronology, SR varies in the whole Nussloch sequence between 186 and 22 cm/kyr (Fig. 2, Table 1). More precisely, according to the correlation of the Nussloch loess sequence with NGRIP ice-core record, SR varies between 186 and 111 cm/kyr during BCA, lasting between 28,900 yr and 23,340 yr b2k, 127–46 cm/kyr during BCB, lasting between 38,220 yr and 28,900 yr b2k, 165–22 cm/kyr during BCC, lasting between 46,860 yr and 38,220 yr b2k, and 224–59 cm/kyr during BCD, lasting between 54,220 yr and 46,860 yr b2k. Interestingly, the maximum SR value in every Bond Cycle is not reached at its end, when HE was released in the North Atlantic, but at its penultimate stadial (Table 1). This appears in agreement with reconstructions of wind speed and environmental conditions which show coldest and windiest GSs compared to HEs (Sima et al., 2009, 2013). Such results also agree with the interpretation of the Black Sea temperature response to glacial millennial climate variability

during the LCC, indicating that HE-stadials in this area were cooler than the regular stadials (Wegwerth et al., 2015), as also indicated by Ganopolski and Rahmstorf (2001) and Zhang et al. (2014) modeling experiments.

To convert our SRs into MARs, we applied the equation defined by Kohfeld and Harrison (2003), $MAR = f \cdot SR \cdot BD$ with SR = sedimentation rate, f = fraction of sediment which is eolian, and BD = the bulk density considered as constant with a value of 1.65 g/cm^3 for loess (Pye, 1987). Frechen et al. (2003) previously applied this equation to European loess series, among which are some of the sequences we analyzed in the present study for further comparison. Therefore, the bulk MAR in Nussloch, with $f = 1$, because considering bulk samples, varies between 2578 and $414 \text{ g/m}^2/\text{yr}$ (Fig. 2; Table 1) over the 60–23 ka b2k interval. Similarly to our SR computation, the bulk MAR can be decomposed into $3067\text{--}1825 \text{ g/m}^2/\text{yr}$ during BCA, $2102\text{--}762 \text{ g/m}^2/\text{yr}$ during BCB, $2723\text{--}369 \text{ g/m}^2/\text{yr}$ during BCC, and $3702\text{--}980 \text{ g/m}^2/\text{yr}$ during BCD. These estimates are by far different than those from Frechen et al. (2003), i.e. $6129\text{--}1213 \text{ g/m}^2/\text{yr}$ also for Nussloch. These latter values were, however calculated using a simple accumulation age model without including the soil developments on top of the lower eolian units as applied in our study. Notably, both our new maximum and minimum estimates indicate much lower value by a factor of 2–3 respectively, differences that are not negligible.

From our study, BCA is the time interval showing the highest values in both bulk SR and MAR in Nussloch. This seems to be intuitively evident because this time interval corresponds to the maximum dust concentration in Greenland (Rasmussen et al., 2014). This period was indeed apparently the most favorable for dust emission, transport and deposition in the Northern Hemisphere because of the coldest and driest conditions recorded (Clark et al., 2009) and the largest deflation areas available in relation to the lowest sea level (Grant et al., 2012). BCB also shows high values, but has a much smaller magnitude than that obtained for BCA. However, as this result is only evident in Nussloch, testing with other high-resolution European loess sequences is needed.

3. European loess sequences

Some other high-resolution loess sequences located at 50°N were investigated at high resolution to detect the occurrence of paleosols, markers of millennial scale variations during the LCC (Rousseau et al., 2018). Distributed in the same latitude from the North of France to Ukraine, several representative loess records are selected for comparison with the Nussloch key sequence, such as St. Pierre-lès-Elbeuf and other related sequences (France) (Antoine et al., 1999, 2014, 2016), Harmignies and Remicourt (Belgium) (Antoine et al., 2001), Dolni Vestonice (Czech Republic) (Antoine et al., 2013), Złota (Poland) (Moska et al., 2015, 2018) and Stayky (Ukraine) (Rousseau et al., 2011). We included the Serbian sequence Surduk located in the Carpathian Basin for comparison because this region should have experienced a particular circulation dynamics during the LCC linked to its particular geographical configuration (Antoine et al., 2009a). The basin is almost closed due the presence of the Carpathian arch to the north and the east, the Alpine Ice Cap covers all the Alps to the west and the Dinarides Alps to the south.

Sima et al., 2009, 2013 have demonstrated a similar pattern in dust emission and transport all over Europe during GS and GI conditions showing that with the vegetation development in late Spring, the emission of dust was prevented, and therefore deposited at further distance. A comparison of the modeling results and the geochemical study of sequences along a longitudinal transect from Brittany towards Ukraine, Rousseau et al. (2014) demonstrated that the eolian deposits were mainly originated from various regional sources along this longitudinal transect including the English Channel. While dust pulses may have occurred very locally, the general pattern remains comparable as supported by the numerous dates obtained in the studied sequences.

The correlation of the LCC record among different sequences relies upon the identification of key paleosols horizons, based on the published ^{14}C and luminescence dates and the grain size variations of these loess records. Preliminary correlations have been discussed in the previous papers presenting the studied sites (Antoine et al., 1999, 2001, 2009b, 2013, 2016; Moska et al., 2015, 2018; Rousseau et al., 2011). The resulting correlations between Nussloch and the other sequences has been presented in Rousseau et al. (2017a), see description in the manuscript with references herein and the supplementary figure S1 illustrating the correlations between the identified groups of horizons). The thickness of the identified units and their time assignment according to NGRIP chronology are presented in Tables 1 and 2. By assigning the NGRIP dates to the various units of the Nussloch sequence after considering identified site-specificity, we infer that BCA and BCB, the dustiest intervals of the LCC in Nussloch, are preferably preserved as well in all the sequences, with the exception of Dolni Vestonice where only BCA is best recorded and useable for comparisons. We investigate the variations of both SR and MAR along this longitudinal transect for the time intervals that these two Bond cycles represent (Figs. 3 and 4, S1; Table 2).

3.1. Sedimentation rates (SRs) (Fig. 3)

Along the 50°N and if the values obtained at the site of St Pierre-lès-Elbeuf, which is a composite record, and very different from the other sites, SR ranges between 231 and 104 cm/kyr for the maximum, and between 57 and 14 cm/kyr for the lowest values. When considering the two most recent Bond Cycles, BCA always shows the highest values either for the maximum and the minimum ranges ($231\text{--}104$ and $137\text{--}51 \text{ cm/kyr}$) than BCB ($204\text{--}84$ and $57\text{--}20 \text{ cm/kyr}$) (Table 2, Fig. 3). Although the general circulation was rather controlled by the westerlies, a gradient emerges from the data when considering the bulk sediment with higher SRs westward compared to central and eastern Europe (Fig. 3). No specific pattern seems to be associated to Surduk, either during BCA and BCB.

3.2. Mass accumulation rates (MARs) (Fig. 4)

Along the studied transect, applying the same formula as for Nussloch and keeping St Pierre-lès-Elbeuf aside, MAR ranges between 3803 and $1710 \text{ g/m}^2/\text{yr}$ for the maximum and between 945 and $325 \text{ g/m}^2/\text{yr}$ for the minimums. Considering the Bond cycles,

Fig. 2. Nussloch bulk sedimentation rate (SR) and mass accumulation rate (MAR) over the interval 60 ka to 23 ka b2k (age before 2000 AD). From left to right, stratigraphy with the identification of the loess and paleosol units as discussed in the text (from Antoine et al., 2016) modified). Arrows indicate the direction of the evolution of the time during the dust depositions (in blue), paleosol developments (in red) after the stop in the dust sedimentation (in green) (from Rousseau et al., 2017b) modified). Correlation with NGRIP interstadials. SR and MAR as estimated from NGRIP $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ timescale (Rasmussen et al., 2014). On the right hand side, identification of Bond cycles according to Bond et al. (1993), labels a to d are from the present study. The insert at the bottom of the figure explains how time should be read when considering European loess sequences. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the Web version of this article.)

Table 1

Nussloch data. From left to right, Stratigraphy expressed in terms of thickness of the eolian deposits, including the paleosol development from the top of the loess units. NGRIP correspondence, Nussloch individual GS bulk SR and MAR estimates for the four Bond cycles comprised between 60 and 15ka b2k (Rasmussen et al., 2014).

Eolian sedimentation	Paleosols	Thickness depth (m)	Thickness for MAR/SR	Age end Rasmussen (yr)	Age start Rasmussen (yr)	Duration Rasmussen (yr)	Sedimentation rate Rasmussen (mm/yr)	Age end dust (yr)	MAR Rasmussen (g/m ² /yr)	MAR dust (g/m ² /yr)	SR Rasmussen cm/kyr	sed rate dust cm/kyr	
Top sequece - Top G7 (GI2)		3.589	3.589	15,000	23,220	8220	0.44	15,000	720	723	43.66	43.82	Bond cycle 0
	G7 (GI2)	0.508		23,220	23,340	120		23,190					
Top G7 - Top G4 (GI3)		4137	4.645	23,340	27,540	4200	1.11	23,370	1825	1851	110.60	112.20	Bond cycle a
	G4 (GI3)	0.411		27,540	27,780	240		27,510					
Top G4 - Top G3 (GI4)		1.113	1.524	27,780	28,600	820	1.86	27,800	3067	3445	185.85	208.77	
	G3 (GI4)	0.387		28,600	28,900	300		28,530					
Top G3 - Top G2b (GI5)		2.306	2.694	28,900	32,040	3140	0.86	28,910	1416	1507	85.80	91.32	Bond cycle b
	G2b (GI5)	0.290		32,040	32,500	460		31,860					
Top G2b - Top G2a (GI6)		0.492	0.782	32,500	33,360	860	0.91	32,500	1500	1593	90.93	96.54	
	G2a (GI6)	0.444		33,360	33,740	380		33,310					
Top G2a - Top G1b (GI7)		0.831	1.274	33,740	34,740	1000	1.27	33,750	2102	2416	127.40	146.44	
	G1b (G7)	0.145		34,740	35,480	740		34,620					
Top G1b - Top LB (GI8)		0.363	0.508	35,480	36,580	1100	0.46	35,490	762	798	46.18	48.38	
	LB (GI8)	0.452		36,580	38,220	1640		36,540					
Top LB - Top Gm3 (GI9)		0.831	1.282	38,220	39,900	1680	0.76	38,220	1259	1259	76.31	76.31	Bond cycle c
	Gm3 (GI9)	0.347		39,900	40,160	260		39,900					
Top Gm3 - Top Gm2 (GI10)		0.710	1.056	40,160	40,800	640	1.65	40,180	2723	2904	165.00	176.00	
	Gm2 (GI10)	0.298		40,800	41,460	660		40,780					
?			0.298	41,460	42,240	780		41,490					
	TK1 (GI11)			42,240	43,340	1100		42,200					
unitX - Top GBU (GI12)		0.210	0.210	43,340	44,280	940	0.22	43,360	369	417	22.34	25.30	
	GBU (GI12)	0.508		44,280	46,860	2580		44,190					
Top GBU - Top Gm1 (GI13)		0.371	0.879	46,860	48,340	1480	0.59	46,870	980	936	59.39	56.71	Bond cycle d
	Gm1 (GI13)	0.218		48,340	49,280	940		48,420					
Top Gm1 - Top GBL (GI14)		0.500	0.718	49,280	49,600	320	2.24	49,300	3702	1669	224.38	101.13	
	GBL (GI14)	1.016		49,600	54,220	4620		50,010					
Mean						1508.46	1.03		1702	1627	103.15	98.58	
standard dev						1798.86	0.62		1024	915	62.09	55.44	
Max						8220.00	2.24		3702	3445	224.38	208.77	
Min						120.00	0.22		369	417	22.34	25.30	

Table 2
Individual GS bulk SR and MAR estimates for Bond Cycle a (29-23ka b2k) and Bond Cycle b (38.2-29ka b2k) from European sequences with reference to their original stratigraphy and NGRIP timescale (Rasmussen et al., 2014) as reference.

Reference strati (Nussloch)		NGRIP (Greenland)			Nussloch (Germany)				St Pierre-lès-Elbeuf (France)					Harmignies (Belgium)					Remicourt (Belgium)					Bond Cycle
Eolian sedimentation	Paleosols	Age end (yr)	Age start (yr)	Duration (yr)	Thickness depth (m)	Thickness for MAR/SR	SR (cm/kyr)	MAR (g/m2/yr)	Paleosols	Thickness depth (m)	Thickness for MAR/SR	SR (cm/kyr)	MAR (g/m2/yr)	Paleosols	Thickness depth (m)	Thickness for MAR/SR	SR (cm/kyr)	MAR (g/m2/yr)	Paleosols	Thickness depth (m)	Thickness for MAR/SR	SR (cm/kyr)	MAR (g/m2/yr)	
Top sequece - Top G7 (GI2)		15,000	23,220	8220	3.589	3.589	43.66	720		0.700	0.700	8.52	141		4.450	4.450	54.14	893		0.600	0.600	7.30	120	
	G7 (GI2)	23,220	23,340	120	0.508				unit3 (GI2)	0.200				kc2=G7 (GI2)	0.630				unit4/HLN (GI2)	0.350				
Top G7 - Top G4 (GI3)		23,340	27,540	4200	4.137	4.645	110.60	1825		2.300	2.500	59.52	982		5.130	5.760	137.14	2263		2.100	2.450	58.33	963	a
	G4 (GI3)	27,540	27,780	240	0.411				unit5a (GI3)	0.300				kb2=G4 (GI3)	0.510				unit6 (GI3)	0.300				
Top G4 - Top G3 (GI4)		27,780	28,600	820	1.113	1.524	185.85	3067		0.300	0.600	73.17	1207		1.380	1.890	230.49	3803		0.750	1.050	128.05	2113	
	G3 (GI4)	28,600	28,900	300	0.387				unit5c (GI4)	0.250				ka4=G3 (GI4)	0.480				unit8 (GI4)	0.350				
Top G3 - Top G2b (GI5)		28,900	32,040	3140	2.306	2.694	85.80	1416		0.600	0.850	27.07	447		2.860	3.340	106.37	1755		1.400	1.750	55.73	920	b
	G2b (GI5)	32,040	32,500	460	0.290				unit7=HC6 (GI5)	0.200				hc6=G2b (GI5)	0.360				unit10b (GI5)	1.650				
Top G2b - Top G2a (GI6)		32,500	33,360	860	0.492	0.782	90.93	1500		0.200	0.400	46.51	767		0.610	0.970	112.79	1861		0.100	1.750	203.49	3358	
	G2a (GI6)	33,360	33,740	380	0.444				?					hc4=G2a (GI6)	0.550				unit12 (GI6)	0.050				
Top G2a - Top G1b (GI7)		33,740	34,740	1000	0.831	1.274	127.40	2102							1.030	1.580	158.00	2607		0.350	0.400	40.00	660	
	G1b (G7)	34,740	35,480	740	0.145				?					gley (G7)	0.180				unitX (G7)	0.100				
Top G1b - Top LB (GI8)		35,480	36,580	1100	0.363	0.508	46.18	762							0.450	0.630	57.27	945		0.000				
	LB (GI8)	36,580	38,220	1640	0.452				unit8=LB (GI8)	0.500				vxs=LB (GI8)	0.560				unit14=LB (GI8)	0.650				

Reference strati (Nussloch)		NGRIP (Greenland)			Nussloch (Germany)				Dolni Vestonice (Czech Republic)					Zlota (Poland)					Stayky (Ukraine)					Bond Cycle
Eolian sedimentation	Paleosols	Age end (yr)	Age start (yr)	Duration (yr)	Thickness depth (m)	Thickness for MAR/SR	SR (cm/kyr)	MAR (g/m2/yr)	Paleosols	Thickness depth (m)	Thickness for MAR/SR	SR (cm/kyr)	MAR (g/m2/yr)	Paleosols	Thickness depth (m)	Thickness for MAR/SR	SR (cm/kyr)	MAR (g/m2/yr)	Paleosols	Thickness depth (m)	Thickness for MAR/SR	SR (cm/kyr)	MAR (g/m2/yr)	
Top sequece - Top G7 (GI2)		15,000	23,220	8220	3.589	3.589	43.66	720		0.900	0.900	10.94	181		1.957	1.957	23.81	393		1.500	1.500	18.25	301	
	G7 (GI2)	23,220	23,340	120	0.508				pseudogley =G7 (GI2)	0.150				G7 (GI2)	0.277				"TL2 (GI2)	0.100				
Top G7 - Top G4 (GI3)		23,340	27,540	4200	4.137	4.645	110.60	1825		4.800	4.950	117.85	1945		1.851	2.128	50.66	836		2.900	3.000	71.43	1179	a
	G4 (GI3)	27,540	27,780	240	0.411				unit3 =G4 (GI3)	0.350				G4 (GI3)	0.191				unit3DV (GI3)	0.300				
Top G4 - Top G3 (GI4)		27,780	28,600	820	1.113	1.524	185.85	3067							0.745	0.936	114.17	1884		0.550	0.850	103.66	1710	
	G3 (GI4)	28,600	28,900	300	0.387				G3 (GI4)					G3 (GI4)	0.255				TL4 (GI4)	0.150				
Top G3 - Top G2b (GI5)		28,900	32,040	3140	2.306	2.694	85.80	1416							0.426	0.681	21.68	358		0.475	0.625	19.90	328	b
	G2b (GI5)	32,040	32,500	460	0.290				G2b (GI5)					G2b (GI5)	0.213				paleo6a-6b (GI5)	0.325				
Top G2b - Top G2a (GI6)		32,500	33,360	860	0.492	0.782	90.93	1500							0.489	0.702	81.64	1347		0.400	0.725	84.30	1391	
	G2a (GI6)	33,360	33,740	380	0.444				G2a (GI6)					G2a (GI6)	0.277				paleo6c (GI6)	0.275				
Top G2a - Top G1b (GI7)		33,740	34,740	1000	0.831	1.274	127.40	2102							0.915	1.191	119.15	1966		0.525	0.800	80.00	1320	
	G1b (G7)	34,740	35,480	740	0.145				G1b (G7)					G1b (G7)	0.255				paleo7-8 (G7)	0.350				
Top G1b - Top LB (GI8)		35,480	36,580	1100	0.363	0.508	46.18	762							0.553	0.809	73.50	1213		0.400	0.750	68.18	1125	
	LB (GI8)	36,580	38,220	1640	0.452				unit4=LB (GI8)	0.200				LB (GI8)	0.638				Vytachiv=LB (GI8)	0.300				

Reference strati (Nussloch)	NCRIP (Greenland)			Nussloch (Germany)			Surdutuk (Serbia)			Bond Cycle
	Age end (yr)	Age start (yr)	Duration (yr)	Thickness depth (m)	Thickness for MAR/SR	SR (cm/kyr)	MAR (g/m ² /yr)	Thickness depth (m)	Thickness for MAR/SR	
Top sequence - Top G7 (G12)	15,000	23,220	8220	3.589	3.589	43.66	720	0.563	0.563	113
Top G7 - Top G4 (G13)	23,220	23,340	120	0.508	4.645	110.60	1825	0.313	0.313	2865
Top G4 - Top G3 (G14)	23,340	27,540	4200	4.137	1.524	185.85	3067	1.063	1.063	423
Top G3 - Top G2b (G15)	27,540	27,780	240	0.411	0.387	85.80	1416	0.188	0.188	1067
Top G2b - Top G2a (G16)	27,780	28,600	820	1.113	2.306	90.93	1500	0.125	0.125	283
Top G2a - Top G1b (G17)	28,600	32,040	3140	0.290	0.782	127.40	2102	0.438	0.438	1900
Top G1b - Top LB (G18)	32,040	33,360	860	0.492	1.274	46.18	762	0.625	0.625	350
	33,360	34,740	1000	0.831	0.508			0.313	0.313	806
	34,740	35,480	740	0.145				0.250	0.250	509
	35,480	36,580	1100	0.363				0.438	0.438	1641
	36,580	38,220	1640	0.452				0.125	0.125	593
								0.500	0.500	237
								0.438	0.438	786
								0.438	0.438	430

BCA indicates the highest MAR in maximum and minimum ranges (3803–1710 g/m²/yr and 2263–836 g/m²/yr), than BCB (3358–1391 g/m²/yr and 945–328 g/m²/yr) (Fig. 4; Table 2). The MAR estimated from sequences located at 50°N, especially in central and eastern Europe do have a similar pattern compared to those calculated from the Carpathian Basin, at least in Surduk, Serbia. Reconstructions of bulk MARs are in agreement with former estimates from Dunaszekcső in southern Hungary (Ujvari et al., 2017) indicating average values of 1494 g/m²/yr and 717 g/m²/yr for BCA and BCB respectively. As already reported from our SR estimates, a west-east gradient appears along the longitudinal transect with the highest values from west-European sequences (Fig. 4).

Our finding appears to contradict with previous estimates for LGM MAR in Europe, and in some cases for the same sites. Frechen et al. (2003) indicate 3135–1467 g/m²/yr for Harmignies, 453 g/m²/yr for Remicourt, 6129–1213 g/m²/yr for Nussloch and 1100–754 g/m²/yr for Dolni Vestonice for the 28–18ka interval corresponding to BCA. Although the estimates for Harmignies by Frechen et al. (2003) are close to our reconstructions, this is not at all the case for the other sites. Such differences could be attributed to different age models of these loess records in our case by applying the complex relationship of the paleosol/pedogenic horizon constraint. Albani et al. (2014) estimated bulk flux of 242 g/m²/yr for St. Pierre-lès-Elbeuf, 412 g/m²/yr for Harmignies, 560 g/m²/yr for Remicourt, 2114 g/m²/yr for Nussloch and 758 g/m²/yr for Dolni Vestonice for the 25–12ka interval. Based on a different timescale, a similar conclusion could be proposed for these reconstructions, though these MARs seem underestimated compared to ours.

4. Comparison with Chinese loess sequences

Millennial variations are identified from high-sedimentation-rate loess sequences located on the northwestern Chinese loess Plateau, but without any paleosol identified in the LCC as observed in Europe (Sun et al., 2012). Based on numerous OSL dates of the Gulang and Jingyuan sequences, Sun et al. (2012) suggested that variations of the East Asian winter monsoon as inferred from loess grain size are well correlated with millennial climate changes recorded in the Chinese Hulu/Wulu speleothems and the Greenland ice core. Generally, GSs correspond to coarser loess units whereas, GIs are characterized by increased contribution of finer dust materials originated from northern Chinese deserts, mostly the neighboring Tengger Desert (Fig. 5). This result supports the previous observations performed all over the Chinese Loess Plateau (e.g. Ding et al., 1999; Porter and An, 1995; Yang and Ding, 2014). Therefore, our methodology used for European sequences about the dust deposition does not apply to these records, which are interpreted as having dust deposition also during GIs, as observed also in modern conditions through continental dust storms (Sun et al., 2001).

To compare our results from European sequences with Chinese loess records, we have used the correspondences between the published age model and the measured depth of the Chinese equivalents of the Greenland GSs and GIs in Gulang and Jingyuan loess sequences from Sun et al. (2012), and the time boundaries of the GSs and GIs from the Greenland ice-cores as defined by Rasmussen et al. (2014). Strong similarity in millennial-scale changes in mean grain size variations from the Gulang and Jingyuan loess series and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ record from the Hulu Cave and Greenland ice core yields precise correlation of these DO cycles during the 60–23 ka (Rasmussen et al., 2014; Sun et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2001). Such correlation was lately extended to the last two climatic cycles by a 249 ka stack of eight loess grain size records from northern China (Yang and Ding, 2014), Bulk SR and MAR of

Fig. 3. Maximum and minimum sedimentation rates estimated from our European key reference sequences for: a) “Bond Cycle A” (between GI4 and GS3, i.e., 29–23ka b2k) and “Bond Cycle B” (between GI8 to GS5, 38.2 to 29ka b2k); b) “Bond Cycle A” (between GI4 and GS3, i.e., 29–23 ka b2k); c) “Bond Cycle B” (between GI8 to GS5, 38.2 to 29 ka b2k). Same caption as in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4. Maximum and minimum mass accumulation rates estimated from our key reference sequences for: a) “Bond Cycle A” (between GI4 and GS3, i.e., 29–23 ka b2k) and “Bond Cycle B” (between GI8 to GS5, 38.2 to 29 ka b2k); b) “Bond Cycle A” (between GI4 and GS3, i.e., 29–23 ka b2k); c) “Bond Cycle B” (between GI8 to GS5, 38.2–29 ka b2k).

Fig. 5. Map of the Chinese records. A. Map from Google Earth locating the two loess sequences discussed in the present study. B. Schematic map of the Chinese Loess plateau and the surrounding main deserts. (from (Hao et al., 2010) modified).

these two Chinese sequences are therefore estimated to compare with those from our European sequences, during BCA and BCB (Fig. 6; Table 3).

SRs at Gulang and Jingyuan always show values lower than our European sequences, consistent with those obtained for St. Pierre-lès-Elbeuf which is less than 100 cm/kyr. Interestingly, Jingyuan always shows higher values than Gulang, but also coarser material according to Sun et al. (2012). This result probably relates to the location of the two sites with regard to the dust source. Gulang is protected by the mountain range bordering westwards the Tengger desert while Jingyuan is very close to the Yellow River where coarser material can be easily transported by the East Asian monsoon wind. Estimated MARS at Gulang and Jingyuan are lower by a factor of 2–3 than those computed for the European sequences for BCA and BCB. Jingyuan shows higher values than Gulang, probably because of its downwind location from the proximal dust sources. The Chinese loess plateau is worldwide known as a remarkable record of the Tertiary and Quaternary eolian deposits, yielding a unique continental archive to document changes in East Asian paleomonsoon and dust deposition over the last 25 Ma (Guo et al., 2002; Qiang et al., 2011). Estimated MARS from loess sequences in the central Chinese Loess Plateau, ranging between 111.5

and 758.9 g:m²/yr during the last glacial maximum (An et al., 1991; Liu et al., 2019) are much lower than those from the northern western Chinese Loess Plateau.

Our comparison between European and Chinese loess sequences shows that the dust loading of the atmosphere, was much higher in Europe than in China by a factor of 3, at least during BCA and BCB, and therefore during mostly the LGM, with the dustiest conditions of the last climate cycle. However, this difference in dust loading between the two regions does not imply that the frequency of the dust events, transport and deposition was lower in China. Rather, as continuous dust deposition prevailed in Asia, one could assume that dust storms were more frequent than in Europe, similar to today between the Gobi and Taklamakan deserts showing higher frequencies of dust storm for the former but a high dust amount emitted for the latter (Laurent et al., 2006). The difference in MAR is likely attributed to different source-to-sink dust systems between Europe and East Asia, since Asian dust is mainly transported from distant provisional sources such as the Gobi and sandy deserts in northwest China and southern Mongolia (Sun et al., 2020).

Fig. 6. Map of the maximum extension of the last climate cycle ice sheets in Northern Hemisphere, with indication of maximum and minimum a) Sedimentation Rates (right) b) Mass Accumulation Rates (left) for “Bond Cycle A” (BCA) and “Bond Cycle B” (BCB). Schematic location of the polar jet stream with location of regions or areas (in black) and of sites (in red) discussed in the text. $\delta^{18}O$ (‰, in blue) and the dust concentration (part/μL, in brown) records in the NGRIP ice core over the interval between 60 and 15ka b2k with mention of BCA and BCB (in purple). Dust concentrations are shown on a logarithmic scale. The map was compiled by Jürgen Ehlers available at <http://www.qpg.geog.cam.ac.uk/lgmextent.html>. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the Web version of this article.)

5. Comparison with Earth System model estimates

When modeling the LGM dust deposition worldwide, Mahowald et al., 2006, 2011 indicated much lower values for European loess deposits than our estimates. Indeed, in the region corresponding to Harmignies, Remicourt and St. Pierre-lès-Elbeuf, Mahowald et al. (Mahowald et al., 2006, 2011) indicate MAR of 5–10 g/m²/yr, of 10–20 g/m²/yr for the Nussloch area, 50–100 g/m²/yr for the Zlota area, and finally 100–200 g/m²/yr for the area including Dolni Vestonice, Stayky and Surduk. These estimates fit with other LGM deposition rates for Europe, proposed most recently by Albani et al. (2014) and Lambert et al. (2015) indicating MAR values higher than 50 g/m²/yr (Kageyama et al., 2018). On the contrary, Hopcroft et al. (2015) rather indicated even lower deposition rates of about 1 g/m²/yr for the same region.

The differences between these model estimates and our reconstructions, which could be considered as significant, rely on the fact that models only consider the fine-grained mineral component of the dust deposits, up to about 10 μm. In contrast, our initial reconstructions were based on bulk material, which includes grain size categories coarser than the mineral aerosol size used in climate

models. The assignment of every sample taken from the outcrop into four main grain-size classes allows a slightly different MAR computation, with particle sizes <4.6 μm for clays, between 4.6 μm and 26 μm for fine silts, between 26 μm and 63 μm for coarse silts and >63 μm for sand (Table 4). When taking into account the clay fraction, which is closer to the mineral aerosol size used by the models, Nussloch loess sequence yields, MAR varying between 181 and 126 g/m²/yr for BCA, and between 109 and 66 g/m²/yr for BCB, which are values closer to the estimates from Albani et al. (2014) and Lambert et al. (2015) for the LGM encompassed in BCA. Interestingly, considering the clay fraction, the MAR estimates for BCA in Dolni Vestonice and Stayky are higher than in Nussloch, between 240 and 145 g/m²/yr, in agreement with the average < 10 μm fraction flux estimated for BCA and BCB, 269 and 157 g/m²/yr respectively, from southern Hungary (Ujvari et al., 2017), but also the MAR range for the area grouping these three sites by Albani et al. (2016).

Using the grain size results for Nussloch, Dolni Vestonice and Stayky, the respective contributions of the four main categories to the bulk MARs can be evaluated (Table 4). Although the highest values are obtained for BCA and for the coarse silt fraction,

Table 3
Bulk SR and MAR estimates for “Bond Cycle A” (29–23ka b2k) and “Bond Cycle B” (38.2–29ka b2k) from Gulang and Jingyuan Chinese sequences with reference to their original stratigraphy (Sun et al., 2012) and the NGRIP timescale.

Reference strati (Nussloch)	NGRIP (Greenland)				Nussloch (Germany)				Gulang (China)				Jingyuan (China)				Bond Cycles
	Eolian sedimentation	Paleosols	Age end (yr)	Age start (yr)	Duration (yr)	Thickness depth (m)	Thickness for MAR/SR	SR (cm/kyr)	MAR (g/m ² /yr)	Loess strati	Thickness depth (m)	Thickness for MAR/SR	SR (cm/kyr)	MAR (g/m ² /yr)	Thickness for MAR/SR	SR (cm/kyr)	
Top G7 - Top G4 (G13)		G4 (G13)	23,340	27,540	4200	4.137	4.645	110.60	1825	GS3	1.720	1.720	40.95	676	2.400	57.14	a
			27,540	27,780	240	0.411				G13	0.060	0.060	25.00	413	0.140	58.33	963
Top G4 - Top G3 (G14)		G3 (G14)	27,780	28,600	820	1.113	1.524	185.85	3067	GS4	0.200	0.200	24.39	402	0.500	60.98	1006
			28,600	28,900	300	0.387				G14	0.060	0.060	20.00	330	0.140	46.67	770
Top G3 - Top G2b (G15)		G2b (G15)	28,900	32,040	3140	2.306	2.694	85.80	1416	GS5	0.920	0.920	29.30	483	1.820	57.96	956
			32,040	32,500	460	0.290				G15	0.160	0.160	34.78	574	0.200	43.48	717
Top G2b - Top G2a (G16)		G2a (G16)	32,500	33,360	860	0.492	0.782	90.93	1500	GS6	0.300	0.300	34.88	576	0.400	46.51	767
			33,360	33,740	380	0.444				G16	0.140	0.140	36.84	608	0.160	42.11	695
Top G2a - Top G1b (G17)		G1b (G17)	33,740	34,740	1000	0.831	1.274	127.40	2102	GS7	0.320	0.320	32.00	528	0.440	44.00	726
			34,740	35,480	740	0.145				G17	0.240	0.240	32.43	535	0.320	43.24	714
Top G1b - Top LB (G18)		LB (G18)	35,480	36,580	1100	0.363	0.508	46.18	762	GS8	0.360	0.360	32.73	540	0.400	36.36	600
			36,580	38,220	1640	0.452				G18	0.940	0.940	57.32	946	0.500	30.49	503

26 μm –63 μm , no particular pattern prevails. BCB reveals lower, but still high values for Nussloch compared to the other sequences.

6. Conclusions and outlook

The Greenland Interstadials described in the Last Climate Cycle from ice core records have their equivalent in the European loess sequences as paleosols, tundra gleys or embryonic soils. These loess series also show a complicated evolution in time duration as the pedogenic units developed downward into the top of the eolian units when dust deposition stopped. The observation leads to a reconsideration of the time interval corresponding to the real dust deposition in terms of the thickness of the observed loess units, and that of the overlying paleosols in contrast to other records of continuous deposition.

We applied this new stratigraphical and chronological concept to the Nussloch sequence as a reference record of the LCC, and then compared this record to other European high-resolution loess sequences located at about 50°N. By correlating with the Greenland ice core timescale, we assigned ages to the continental equivalents of GSs and GIs. Doing so, we have grouped GS and GI European equivalents according to the definition of the Bond Cycles, which represent long-term cooling cycles gathering several interstadial cycles. Our study shows that two Bond Cycles are well preserved in the European loess sequences, namely BCA between GI4 and GS3 (i.e., 29–23ka b2k), and BCB between GI8 to GS5 (i.e., 38.2–29ka b2k), BCA shows the highest SRs and MARs in all the studied sequences. Due to the new methodology we applied to the age model, our estimates differ from previous investigations which show relatively lower values. Our study also shows that a longitudinal gradient in the bulk estimates prevailed with the highest values in western European sequences and that the dustiest conditions were not necessarily linked to Heinrich stadials ending all Bond cycles.

Comparison of European loess records with two Chinese loess sequences reveals that while millennial scale variability is evident in these loess profiles, no pedogenic unit is punctuating the rather continuous dust deposition on the Chinese Loess Plateau. The comparison between the Chinese and the European sequences shows that bulk SR and MAR estimates are much higher in Europe than in China, indicating that during the last Glacial Maximum stadials, the atmosphere may have been dustiest in western Eurasia compared to East Asia. However, proposing a dustier Europe does not imply that the dust storm frequencies were higher in Europe but rather the dust amount emitted during one particular dust storm in Europe was higher than in Asia.

A final validation of our study has been performed by a comparison of our estimates with dust deposition rates computed from Earth System models. We assigned grain size results of the loess samples into four main categories for better comparison with the model results. The clay-sized fractions of the loess samples is close to the grain size of mineral aerosol considered by Earth System models. The comparison between our MAR estimations and the model results shows similar values, yielding a promising result for further model-data assimilations.

Table 4
MAR estimates for “Bond Cycle A” (29–23ka b2k) and “Bond Cycle B” (38.2–29ka b2k) from Nussloch, Dolni Vestonice and Stayky after decomposing the bulk value according to the four grain size categories measured in the sediment samples taken on the studied outcrops. Data from Antoine et al. (2009b), Rousseau et al. (2011), Antoine et al. (2013).

Nussloch	MAR bulk (g/m ² /yr)	Mean grain size				MAR by grain size				Eolian sedimentation	Bond Cycle
		M clay (<4.6µm) %	M fine silt (4.6–26µm) %	M coarse silt (26–63µm) %	M sand (>63µm) %	MAR clay (g/m ² /yr)	MAR fine silt (g/m ² /yr)	MAR coarse silt (g/m ² /yr)	MAR sand (g/m ² /yr)		
	720	9.54	27.95	47.81	14.71	69	201	344	106	between GI2 & top	
G7 (GI2)	1625	7.72	27.44	50.59	14.25	126	446	822	232	between GI2 & GI3	a
G4 (GI3)	2239	8.10	26.97	50.77	14.16	181	604	1137	317	between GI3 & GI4	
G3 (GI4)	1212	7.41	26.96	52.39	13.24	90	327	635	160	between GI4 & GI5	b
G2b (GI5)	944	9.12	35.16	47.40	8.33	86	332	447	79	between GI5 & GI6	
G2a (GI6)	1371	7.92	34.16	47.16	10.76	109	468	646	148	between GI6 & GI7	
G1b (G7)	544	12.12	37.64	40.74	9.50	66	205	222	52	between GI7 & GI8	
LB (GI8)											
Stayky											
	321	12.83	29.52	40.39	17.26	41	95	130	55	between GI2 & top	
“TL2” (GI2)	1139	12.75	33.03	40.11	14.11	145	376	457	161	between GI2 & GI3	a
unit3DV (GI3)	1107	15.04	36.36	34.96	13.64	166	402	387	151	between GI3 & GI4	
“TL4” (GI4)	250	17.04	36.70	33.56	12.70	43	92	84	32	between GI4 & GI5	b
paleo6a-6b (GI5)	767	17.05	37.05	34.3	11.6	131	284	263	89	between GI5 & GI6	
paleo6c (GI6)	866	19.26	42.40	28.14	10.20	167	367	244	88	between GI6 & GI7	
paleo7-8 (G7)	600	25.10	43.70	18.50	12.70	151	262	111	76	between GI7 & GI8	
Vytachiv = LB (GI8)											
Dolni Vestonice											
	181	12.83	29.52	40.39	17.26	23	53	73	31	Top seq - Top pseudogley (GI2)	
pseudogley = G7 (GI2)	1886	12.75	33.03	40.11	14.11	240	623	756	266	Top pseudogley - Top unit3 (GI3)	a
unit3 = G4 (GI3)										Top G4 - Top G3 (GI4)	
G3 (GI4)											

Author Contributions

D.-D. R. designed and performed research; D.-D. R., P. A., and Y. S. analyzed data; and D.-D. R. wrote the paper with contributions from P. A. and Y. S.

Data and materials availability

Correspondence and material request should be addressed to D.-D. R.

Declaration of Competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2020.106775>.

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Supplementary material

The European loess sequences correlated in Fig. S1 have been published in the following papers with description of the pedostratigraphy, the grain size variations, ^{14}C and luminescence dates. (Antoine et al., 1999; 2001; 2009a; 2009b; 2013; 2016; Fuchs et al., 2008; 2013; Hatté et al., 1998; Hatté et al., 1999; 2013; Lang et al., 2003; Moine et al., 2017; Moska et al., 2015; 2018; Rousseau et al., 2002; 2007; 2011; 2017a; 2017b; Taylor and Lagroix, 2015; Taylor et al., 2014; Tissoux et al., 2010).

Fig. S1. Correlation of the studied European sequences plotted on the same depth scale. The different colored boxes corresponds to the various Bond Cycles (BCx) discussed in the manuscript with BCA, lasting between 28,900 yr and 23,340 yr b2k, BCB, lasting between 38,220 yr and 28,900 yr b2k, BCC, lasting between 46,860 yr and 38,220 yr b2k, and BCD, lasting between 54,220 yr and 46,860 yr b2k using Rasmussen et al (2014) chronology.

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