

# Estimating post-depositional detrital remanent magnetization (pDRM) effects for several sediment records using a flexible lock-in function approach

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1           **Estimating post-depositional detrital remanent**  
2           **magnetization (pDRM) effects for several sediment**  
3           **records using a flexible lock-in function approach**

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7           **Key Points:**

- 8           • We estimate lock-in functions for several sediment records  
9           • We propose a new method to transform relative declinations to absolute values  
10          • The large variety of estimated lock-in functions indicates the importance of tak-  
11          ing pDRM distortions into account

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**Abstract**

Geomagnetic field models over past millennia rely on two main data sources: archaeomagnetic data provide snapshots of the geomagnetic field at specific locations, and sediment records deliver time series of the geomagnetic field at specific locations. The limited temporal and spatial coverage of archaeomagnetic data necessitates the incorporation of sediment data especially when models go further back in time. When working with sediment data one should consider the post-depositional detrital remanent magnetization (pDRM) process, which can cause delayed and smoothed signals. To address the distortion associated with the pDRM process a new Bayesian modeling technique incorporating archaeomagnetic data and a class of flexible parameterized lock-in functions has been proposed. In this study, we investigate this method in more detail and apply it to several sediment records. Our data-driven results support the hypothesis that the pDRM process can introduce distortions, including offsets and smoothing, in some sediment records. Additionally, we demonstrate an effective correction approach to minimize the distortion caused by the pDRM process and its impact on geomagnetic field reconstructions. The variability in the results observed across the nine records points to a potential dependence on sedimentological characteristics. To explore this further, we plan to systematically apply our novel method to a larger number of records in future studies.

**Plain Language Summary**

Understanding the Earth’s magnetic field changes over the past millennia helps us learn more about the planet’s history. We can use the magnetic field information preserved in different materials to reconstruct the past Earth’s magnetic field evolution: ancient artifacts (archaeomagnetic data), lava flows and sediment records. Archaeomagnetic and lava flow data has limited coverage in time and space, so when modeling longer time scales we have to rely more and more on sediment data. When using sediment data, we need to be careful about a process called post-depositional detrital remanent magnetization (pDRM), which can distort the signals and cause smoothing and delays. To deal with this issue, a new method has been developed using Bayesian modeling, archaeomagnetic data and flexible lock-in functions to correct for the pDRM effect. In this study we explore this method in more detail and test it on several sediment records. We found that the pDRM process indeed introduces distortions in several sediment records.

**1 Introduction**

In recent decades, numerous data-based models of the past geomagnetic field have been developed using various data collections and modeling methods (e.g. Arneitz et al., 2019; Constable et al., 2016; Helliö & Gillet, 2018; Nilsson & Suttie, 2021; Schanner et al., 2022). These models have varying degrees of accuracy and uncertainty and cover different time periods. One valuable data source for models of the geomagnetic field of the past millennia is archaeomagnetic data, but the uneven data coverage limits its usability. Sediment records provide an additional data source that covers larger time periods and improves the spatial coverage.

The magnetization process in sediments is different from that in archaeological materials and lava flows. In archaeological materials and lava flows, thermoremanent magnetization (TRM) occurs when the material cools down from above the Curie temperature (e.g. Stacey, 2012). This is a well-understood process that finishes within hours or weeks, and delivers a valuable snapshot of the geomagnetic field at this point of time.

The magnetization in sediments is called detrital remanent magnetization (DRM), which was first measured by McNish and Johnson (1938). It is affected by various factors, such as the interaction of magnetic particles with the substrate at the sediment-water interface and dewatering of the sediment (Irving, 1957). The terminology and classification of these effects are not consistent in the literature. We will use the terminol-

ogy used in Bohsung et al. (2023) as recommended by Verosub (1977) in a review paper. According to Verosub (1977), DRM refers to the remanent magnetization found in sediments, and depositional DRM (dDRM) describes the magnetization acquired by the interaction of the particles with the substrate at the sediment-water interface. The term post-depositional DRM (pDRM) refers to any magnetization acquired after the particles settled on the sediment-water interface. There are various effects that fall under the term dDRM, such as the inclination error (R. King, 1955) and the distortion of the inclination caused by aligned particles rolling into the nearest depression of the sediment-water interface (Griffiths et al., 1960).

The traditional pDRM model, established through decades of research, initially sees coarse-grained sediments mechanically fixed upon deposition. Smaller particles within water-filled voids or sediment pores remain mobile but gradually become locked as the sediment consolidates (e.g. Irving, 1957; Irving & Major, 1964; Kent, 1973; Hamano, 1980; Otofujii & Sasajima, 1981). However, alternative theories challenge this model, suggesting sediment flocculation limits grain movement (Katari et al., 2000). Bioturbation’s role has also led to alternative sediment mixing models (e.g. Egli & Zhao, 2015). In summary, while the precise pDRM processes remain incompletely understood, consensus has emerged that they result in a delayed and smoothed magnetic signal. This signal is represented as the weighted sum of the geomagnetic field over the lock-in time, characterized by the so-called lock-in functions (Roberts & Winklhofer, 2004; Sugauma et al., 2011).

In Bohsung et al. (2023) a new class of flexible lock-in functions capable of modeling the delay and smoothing related to the pDRM process was presented. Depending on four parameters these lock-in functions can approximate a wide range of possible lock-in behaviors. For the estimation of these four parameters a Bayesian modeling technique based on Gaussian Processes and utilizing archaeomagnetic data as a reference was presented in Bohsung et al. (2023). Synthetic tests outlined in Bohsung et al. (2023) demonstrated the effectivity of the proposed method.

In this paper we apply the proposed method to real world sediment records from various globally distributed locations. We focus on sediment records covering Holocene time periods. The utilization of real sediment data necessitates the comprehensive consideration of factors extending beyond the inherent distortions attributed to the pDRM process. Rigorous and careful data selection and preprocessing procedures are crucial. This includes aspects such as estimation of declination offsets, considering inclination shallowing effects, the formulation of a robust age-depth model and the judicious identification and exclusion of outliers. Within the scope of this study, our primary focus remains centered on the comprehensive examination of the pDRM process effects and the newly proposed methodology. Consequently, we handle declination offsets as well as inclination shallowing as a part of the preprocessing procedure.

In section 2 we summarize the method proposed in Bohsung et al. (2023). A list of nine sediment records is presented in section 2.7. The preprocessing of these records includes a new method for estimating the offset required to transferring relative to absolute declinations, as well as the construction of updated age-depth models, using the most recent radiocarbon calibration curves. In section 3 we apply the method to these sediment records and present the results, which then are discussed and interpreted in section 4.

## 2 Method and Materials

### 2.1 Geomagnetic Field Model

As in Schanner et al. (2022) and Bohsung et al. (2023) we use a Bayesian approach and describe the geomagnetic field as realization of a Gaussian Process

$$\mathbf{B} \sim \mathcal{GP}(\bar{\mathbf{B}}, K_{\mathbf{B}}) \quad (1)$$

with constant (space, time dependent) mean function  $\bar{\mathbf{B}}$  and kernel function  $K_{\mathbf{B}}$ .

The a priori assumptions are the same as in Bohsung et al. (2023), which are consistent with the estimated hyperparameters given in Table 2 of Schanner et al. (2022). This means that, a priori, all Gauss coefficients are uncorrelated at a reference radius  $R = 2800$  km with zero mean except for the axial dipole. For the axial dipole we assume a constant mean value of  $\gamma_1^0 = -38 \mu\text{T}$  (at the Earth’s surface). Further, we assume an a priori variance  $\alpha_{\text{DP}} = 39 \mu\text{T}$  for the dipole and an a priori variance  $\alpha_{\text{ND}} = 118.22 \mu\text{T}$  for all higher degrees (at the reference radius). The temporal correlation of the Gauss coefficients are given by

$$\rho_l(\Delta t) = \left(1 + \frac{|\Delta t|}{\tau_l}\right) e^{-\frac{|\Delta t|}{\tau_l}} \quad (2)$$

110 where the correlation time is given by  $\tau_l = \begin{cases} 171.34 \text{ yrs} & l = 1 \text{ (dipole)} \\ \frac{379.59}{l} \text{ yrs} & l > 1 \text{ (non-dipole)} \end{cases}$ .

111 As mentioned in Bohsung et al. (2023), these parameters reflect statistical char-  
112 acteristics of archaeomagnetic data and a direct physical interpretation is not obvious.  
113 Take, for instance,  $\gamma_1^0 = -38 \mu\text{T}$ ; this represents the optimal value when fitting an ax-  
114 ial dipole to the data. Correlation times, though potentially linked to physical processes,  
115 are essentially derived from variability resolved in the data. Exploring alternative prior  
116 parameters is straightforward, and we anticipate conducting a comprehensive exploration  
117 of their impact in future investigations.

## 118 2.2 Age-Depth Model

119 Many of the age-depth models published together with the original data do not re-  
120 port uncertainties. Further, most of them are constructed using out-dated calibration  
121 curves (i.e. older versions of IntCal, SHCal and/or Marine; see Reimer et al. (2020), Hogg  
122 et al. (2020) and Heaton et al. (2020) for the most recent curves). To incorporate un-  
123 certainties from the age-depth determination into our modeling, we recalibrate all records  
124 based on available radiocarbon ages. Therefore, we pursue an MCMC based approach,  
125 similar to the modification of *bacon* (Blaauw & Christen, 2011) that was proposed by  
126 Nilsson and Suttie (2021). Due to shifts in the Marine20 curve, some age-depth mod-  
127 els deviate by about one hundred years from the originally published ones. However, many  
128 original curves already contained an estimation of the local reservoir effect and there-  
129 fore the shift in Marine20 does not translate to all age-depth models directly. The main  
130 benefit of recalibrating the age-depth models is the resulting availability of dating un-  
131 certainties for all sediment records included in this study.

## 132 2.3 Lock-in Process

133 In this section we summarize the findings of Bohsung et al. (2023).

As discussed in the introduction, the pDRM or lock-in process can result in an off-  
set and smoothed signal of the geomagnetic field. This means that the magnetic moment  
of a layer is given by the weighted average of the geomagnetic field signal over the lock-  
in depth  $\lambda$

$$\mathbf{M}(z) = \int_0^\lambda \mathbf{B}(z - z') F(z') dz' \quad (3)$$

where  $\mathbf{M}(z)$  describes the magnetization of the layer at depth  $z$ . The weights are given  
by a lock-in function  $F$ . To ensure that the lock-in function can be used for every layer  
of a sediment record, we refer to the depth and restrict our analysis to the directional  
components (i.e. declination and inclination). A comprehensive explanation and anal-  
ysis can be found in Bohsung et al. (2023). In addition, a class of flexible lock-in func-  
tions capable of approximating a wide range of possible lock-in behaviors and previously  
suggested lock-in functions was derived in Bohsung et al. (2023). The class of piecewise

linear parameterized lock-in functions is given as

$$F_{b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4}(z) = \frac{2}{-b_1 - b_2 + b_3 + b_4} \begin{cases} 0 & z \leq b_1 \\ \frac{z-b_1}{b_2-b_1} & b_1 < z \leq b_2 \\ 1 & b_2 < z \leq b_3 \\ \frac{b_4-z}{b_4-b_3} & b_3 < z \leq b_4 \\ 0 & b_4 \leq z \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

134 Depending on the four parameters  $b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4 \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  with  $b_1 \leq b_2 \leq b_3 \leq b_4$ , the pa-  
 135 rameterized function  $F_{b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4}$  can model the offset as well as the smoothing associated  
 136 to the lock-in process.

## 137 2.4 Estimation of the Lock-in Function Parameters

138 To estimate the parameters  $b_1, \dots, b_4$ , we use the Kalman filter (Kalman, 1960) based  
 139 method described in Bohsung et al. (2023). In this section we will shortly summarize how  
 140 the method works. For the estimation we perform a type-II maximum likelihood esti-  
 141 mation (Rasmussen, 2004). While closed-form marginal likelihood is available for Gaus-  
 142 sian processes (Rasmussen, 2004), its numerical evaluation becomes impractical given  
 143 the extensive archaeomagnetic dataset used. Therefore, we adopt a sequentialized marginal  
 144 likelihood evaluation inspired by previous works (Baerenzung et al., 2020; Schanner et  
 145 al., 2022). The marginal likelihood is approximated as a sum over values calculated for  
 146 individual Kalman filter steps, providing a measure of how well a set of lock-in function  
 147 parameters describes the post-depositional remanent magnetization (pDRM) process in  
 148 a sediment record. This estimation leverages global archaeomagnetic and volcanic data  
 149 as well as data from a single sediment record, focusing on the last eight thousand years  
 150 due to the temporal distribution of the archaeological dataset.

151 A notable difference from existing implementations is the incorporation of a mod-  
 152 ified observation functional (see Bohsung et al. (2023) for details). This modification ac-  
 153 commodates cross correlations between the Kalman filter steps resulting from the con-  
 154 volutional integral that leads to a delay and smoothing in the measurements.

155 Choosing a spherical harmonics cutoff degree of  $l_{\max} = 8$  and a Kalman filter step  
 156 size of  $\Delta t = 40$  yrs strikes a balance between estimation accuracy and computational  
 157 efficiency. Extensive tests demonstrate that variations in time steps and cutoff degrees  
 158 minimally impact estimation accuracy while significantly increasing computational time.

159 To optimize the log-marginal likelihood (log-ml) we use the methodology includ-  
 160 ing the fifty optimization runs outlined in Bohsung et al. (2023), utilizing dlib's LIPO-  
 161 TR function optimization algorithm (Malherbe & Vayatis, 2017; D. E. King, 2009). How-  
 162 ever, in contrast to the synthetic tests performed in Bohsung et al. (2023), determining  
 163 an appropriate upper bound for the parameter estimation for real sediment records is  
 164 not straightforward a priori. To address this, we initiated the estimation process with  
 165 an upper bound of 100 cm and performed ten estimations. In cases where the maximal  
 166 lock-in depths (values of parameter  $b_4$ ) of these ten estimated lock-in functions are sig-  
 167 nificantly lower than 100 cm, we performed another forty estimations. Conversely, if the  
 168 estimated lock-in depths are too close to the upper bound we increased the upper bound  
 169 by 100 cm. This incremental approach is advised to avoid potential issues where the op-  
 170 timizer converges to local optima.

171 In our parameter estimation process, we are optimizing the log-ml value. Implic-  
 172 itly we derive a global field model based on archaeomagnetic data and data from a sin-  
 173 gle sediment record. For a complete inversion one would need to store intermediate re-  
 174 sults and ideally apply a smoothing algorithm in order to incorporate full correlations  
 175 between the individual steps. However, during the parameter estimation process we do  
 176 not store and develop this model completely as our focus is on finding lock-in function  
 177 parameters that maximize the log-ml value. In the synthetic tests performed in Bohsung  
 178 et al. (2023), we assessed the accuracy of our estimated lock-in function by comparing  
 179 it with the lock-in function used to generate the synthetic data. However, for real data,

an alternative approach is required. To evaluate the effectiveness of the best-estimated lock-in function, we employ these parameters in a full inversion, where intermediate results are stored, and a smoothing algorithm is applied. Subsequently, the smoothing functional is applied to the posterior and the predictions of the smoothed posterior are compared with the sediment observation. This smoothed posterior, referred to as predicted sediment observations, serves as a benchmark, and the closer its alignment with sediment observations, the more accurate the estimated lock-in function.

## 2.5 Estimation of the Declination Offset

In general, declinations of a sediment record are reported as relative values, primarily due to the absence of core orientation during drilling. Different methods have been proposed to estimate the resulting offset (e.g. Nilsson et al., 2014; Panovska et al., 2015). In this paper, we present a new method based on Bayesian statistics, utilizing the global geomagnetic field model ArchKalmag14k (Schanner et al., 2022) as a reference model. In the future, we intend to incorporate the offset parameter for each sediment record as an extra hyperparameter during the inversion process. However, for the current investigation, our primary focus lies in analyzing the lock-in function. Consequently, we have made the decision to estimate the offset parameter as part of the preprocessing phase.

We use the posterior distribution of the ArchKalmag14k model and a Type-II maximum likelihood estimation to estimate the optimal offset. To incorporate prior information about the offset, we assume a univariate normal prior distribution with mean  $\mu_O$  and variance  $\sigma_O^2$ . Under the assumption that the mean field is an axial dipole, we set  $\mu_O$  to the mean distance of the observed relative declinations to zero. This helps to guide the estimation process. In order not to constrain the optimization algorithm too strongly, we set  $\sigma_O^2 = 180$ .

## 2.6 Data Preprocessing

The data preprocessing procedure for each sediment record follows a standardized approach. Initially, the declination and inclination values for each record were plotted. Outliers and segments exhibiting unusual behavior were identified and excluded as a first step. Notably, certain segments displayed significant increases or decreases in declination or inclination at the beginning or end of a core or sub-section. As the reasons behind these phenomena remain unexplained, such segments were discarded from both inclination and declination. An example can be found in Figure 1. The points with lower opacity at the beginning of the sub-core BIR2-1 show an unusual decrease. They were excluded from further analysis. Also, three data points from BIR2-3 are excluded. The reason for their exclusion is that they are obvious outliers in the declination (not shown here).

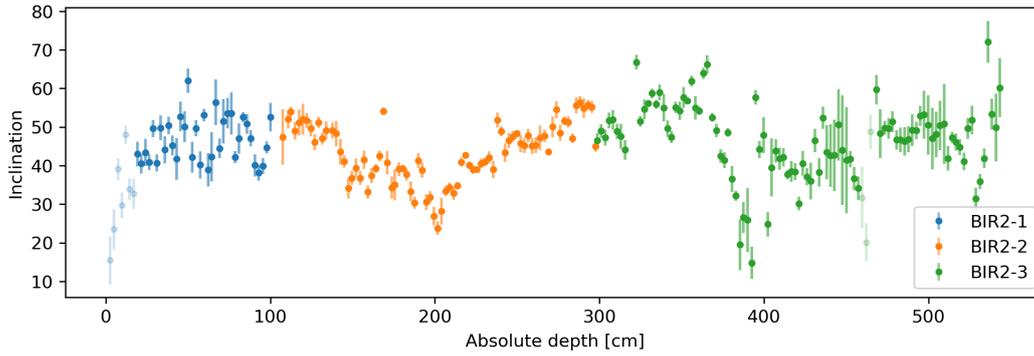
Subsequently, the maximum angular deviation (MAD) values were converted to  $\alpha_{95}$  values using the method outlined in Khokhlov and Hulot (2016). In cases where the number of demagnetization steps for certain sediment records was unavailable in the associated publications, a default value of four steps was used. For data points with missing MAD values, a default  $\alpha_{95}$  value of  $7^\circ$  was assigned. These  $\alpha_{95}$  values were then employed to calculate the measurement errors in declination ( $D$ ) and inclination ( $I$ ) according to the formulas (Lanos et al., 2005; Suttie & Nilsson, 2019)

$$\alpha_I = \frac{57.3^\circ}{140} \alpha_{95} \quad \alpha_D = \frac{1}{\cos(I)} \alpha_I \quad (5)$$

For data points where only declination information was available, but inclination data was missing, an approximation method based on the dominance of the geomagnetic field's dipole nature was utilized. The inclination ( $I$ ) can then be estimated using the formula

$$I \approx \tan^{-1}(2 \tan(\text{lat})) \quad (6)$$

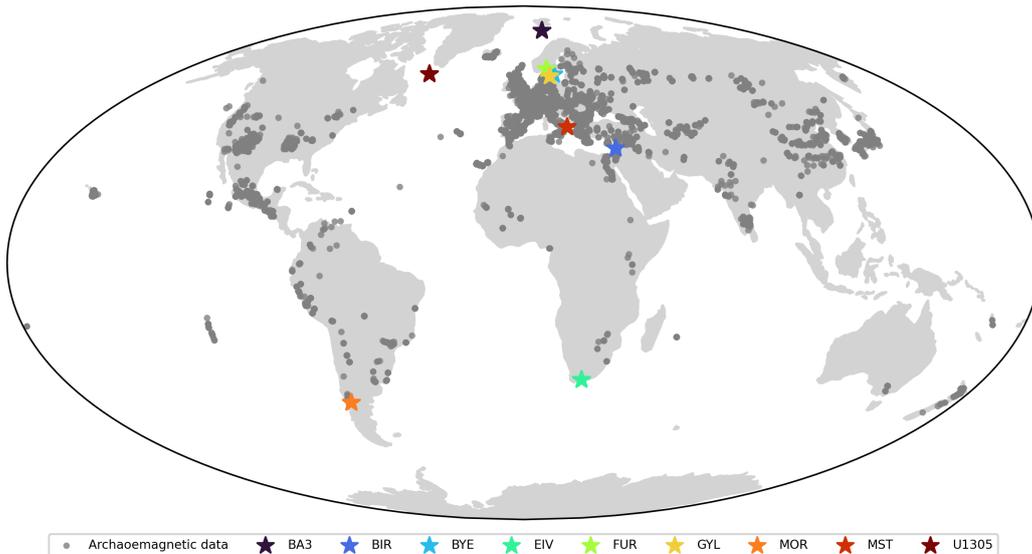
where "lat" represents the latitude at the location of the sediment record.



**Figure 1.** Inclinations of BIR color-coded by its sub-sections. Removed data points are shown with less opacity.

217 Lastly, the offset parameter, necessary for converting relative declinations into ab-  
 218 solute values, was estimated using the methodology proposed in section 2.5.

## 219 2.7 Data



**Figure 2.** Spatial distribution of used data. Light gray dots represent the archaeomagnetic data and the sediment record locations are represented as colored stars.

220 We use the same archaeomagnetic data as in Schanner et al. (2022). The spatial  
 221 distribution is shown in Figure 2 (gray dots).

222 The proposed method is applied to nine sediment records (see Figure 2 and Table 1).  
 223 We focus on high quality records, including a good signal without too much noise and  
 224 reasonable uncertainties. Additionally, we chose sediment records with radiocarbon dat-  
 225 ing to generate independent age-depth models. In this study we focus on directional data  
 226 (declination and inclination) only. See Bohsung et al. (2023) for a discussion of this point.  
 227 In a future study we will investigate the lock-in behavior of intensities and compare it

**Table 1.** Overview of used sediment records.

Core ID	Sub-cores	Lat (deg)	Long (deg)	N	Time coverage	References	Source
BA3	-	74.850	14.802	434	8585 BC - AD 1496	Caricchi et al. (2018) Caricchi et al. (2020)	GFZ Data Services
BIR	-	33.231	35.769	215	4308 BC - AD 1847	Schwab et al. (2004) Frank et al. (2002) Frank et al. (2003)	Geomagia <sup>1</sup>
BYE	ByaP2, ByaP3	57.383	15.343	284	9263 BC - 75 BC	Snowball and Sandgren (2004)	Geomagia <sup>1</sup>
EIL	-	-33.995	22.640	99	AD 938 - AD 1649	Wündsich et al. (2016)	Pangaea <sup>2</sup> Wündsich et al. (2016)
FUR	P2, P3	59.383	12.080	242	6822 BC - AD 1966	L. Zillén et al. (2003)	Geomagia <sup>1</sup>
GYL	GP1, GP2, GP4	56.759	13.177	419	4494 BC - AD 1178	L. M. Zillén et al. (2002) Mellström et al. (2013) Snowball et al. (2013)	Geomagia <sup>1</sup>
MOR	-	-41.000	288.5	147	10298 BC - AD 1329	Gogorza et al. (2000)	Paper
MST	-	39.834	17.801	138	2009 BC - 477 BC	Béguin et al. (2019)	Author
U1305	-	57.475	311.471	147	6049 BC - AD 1135	Stoner et al. (2013a)	Stoner et al. (2013b)

<sup>1</sup>Brown et al. (2015); <sup>2</sup>Felden et al. (2023).

228 to the results for directional data. Detailed information about the individual sediment  
 229 records and especially about their preprocessing is given in section 3.

### 230 3 Results

231 In this section we present the results obtained from estimating the lock-in function  
 232 parameters. Each sediment record is analyzed individually, and the results are separately  
 233 visualized in Figures 3-6 and 8 as well as in Figures S1 - S11. These figures provide the  
 234 following information.

235 The fifty estimated lock-in functions are visualized in (A). The lock-in function with  
 236 the highest (best) log-ml value is highlighted in orange and was used for the inversion.  
 237 The remaining estimated lock-in functions are color-coded, ranging from red (indicat-  
 238 ing a low log-ml value) to blue (indicating a high log-ml value). The distribution of the  
 239 log-ml values is illustrated in (D). To assess the accuracy of our predictions, we present  
 240 the predicted sediment observations (mean and one hundred samples) for declination and  
 241 inclination in the upper and lower panels of (B), respectively. These predictions are de-  
 242 rived from the posterior, generated using the lock-in function highlighted in orange. Fur-  
 243 thermore, the directional palaeomagnetic records are shown along with their respective  
 244 measurement errors. In cases where a sediment record consist of multiple sub-cores or  
 245 sub-segments we distinguish them by different colors. Additionally, the posterior mean  
 246 and uncertainties of ArchKalmag14k.r is visualized in gray. To examine the character-  
 247 istics of the lock-in functions, we employ density plots in (E) to (G), which demonstrate  
 248 the distributions of three parameters: half lock-in depth, lock-in function height, and lock-  
 249 in function width, as described in Bohsung et al. (2023). The density estimation is con-  
 250 ducted using Gaussian kernel density estimation. The parameter associated with the lock-  
 251 in function that yields the best log-ml value is highlighted in orange. Finally, (C) shows  
 252 the mean (red) and fifty samples (gray) of the age-depth model. Radiocarbon ages are  
 253 depicted as violin plots. The color of the violins indicates which type of calibration curve  
 254 was used for the individual ages, blue corresponding to the marine and orange to the re-  
 255 spective land curve. In most cases the decision which type of curve to use for which ra-  
 256 diocarbon sample was guided by the original publication, with bulk sediments being cal-  
 257 ibrated by the marine curve and plant or wood remanents by the land curves.

258 Sediment records BYE, FUR and GYL consist of at least two different sub-cores.  
 259 For each of them we applied the proposed method not only to the combined records but  
 260 also to the individual sub-cores.

261 In the following we will present the results for BA3 and BYE. For the results of  
 262 the remaining records see Supporting Information.

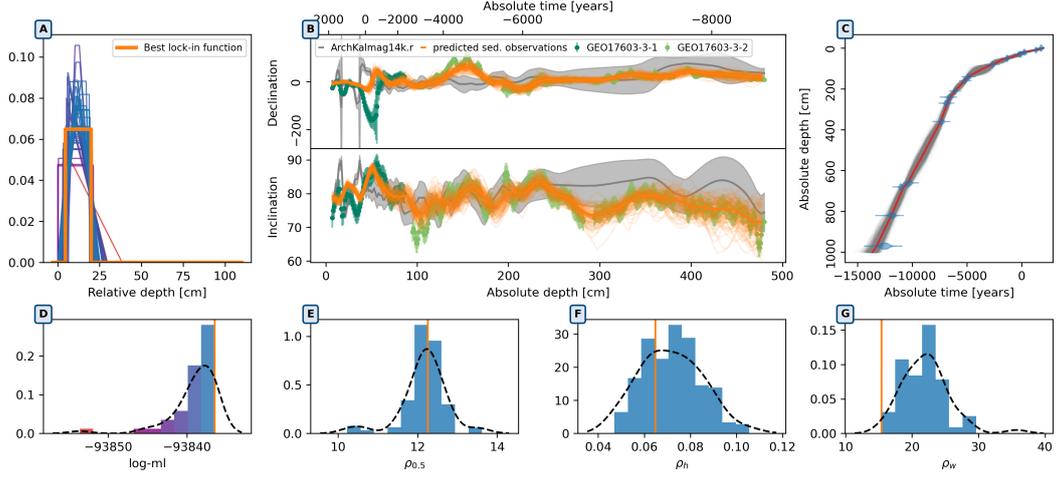
#### 263 3.1 BA3

264 **Removed data points:** Due to an abrupt change observed at a depth of 481 cm, as  
 265 well as unusual variations in the declination, all data points below this depth were  
 266 excluded from further analysis.

267 **Declination offset:** The sediment record was divided into two sub-sections, namely  
 268 GEO17603-3-1, which covers the upper part of the record down to a depth of 83 cm,  
 269 and GEO17603-3-2, which covers the lower part. The estimated declination off-  
 270 set values are  $-2.46 \pm 0.39$  for GEO17603-3-1 and  $-26.04 \pm 0.57$  for GEO17603-  
 271 3-2.

272 **Age-depth model:**  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages were taken from the original publication, table 3. All sam-  
 273 ples were calibrated using Marine20. See Figure 3 plot (C) for the resulting age-  
 274 depth model.

275 **Estimation:** The estimation was performed using an upper bound of 100 cm. Param-  
 276 eter  $b_4$  is significantly lower compared to this upper bound across all fifty estimated  
 277 lock-in functions, indicating that the chosen bound of 100 cm was appropriate. Fur-  
 278 thermore, the predicted sediment observations demonstrated a strong correspon-



**Figure 3.** Results for BA3. (A) Fifty estimated lock-in functions, with the lock-in function yielding the highest log-ml value highlighted in orange and used for inversion. The remaining functions are color-coded, ranging from red (low log-ml value) to blue (high log-ml value), as illustrated in (D). To assess prediction accuracy, we show the mean (thick orange line) and one hundred samples (thin orange lines) of predicted sediment observations for declination and inclination in upper and lower panel of (B), derived from the posterior using the orange lock-in function. The directional palaeomagnetic records, along with their respective measurement errors, are depicted, in shades of green distinguishing sub-cores or sub-segments. The gray visualization shows the posterior mean (solid line) and uncertainties (gray area) of ArchKalmag14k.r. (E) to (G) Density plots of three lock-in function parameters:  $\rho_{0.5}$ ,  $\rho_h$ , and  $\rho_w$ , respectively. The parameter with the best log-ml value is highlighted in orange. (C) Mean (red) and fifty samples (gray) of the age-depth model, with radiocarbon ages depicted as violin plots, color-coded by the type of calibration curve used (blue for marine and orange for land curves).

279 dence with the actual data, indicating a good fit. Results are visualized in Fig-  
 280 ure 3.

281 **3.2 BYE**

282 **Removed data points:** The first 14 data points from the upper part of the sub-core  
 283 ByaP2 have been removed due to an abrupt decrease in declination.

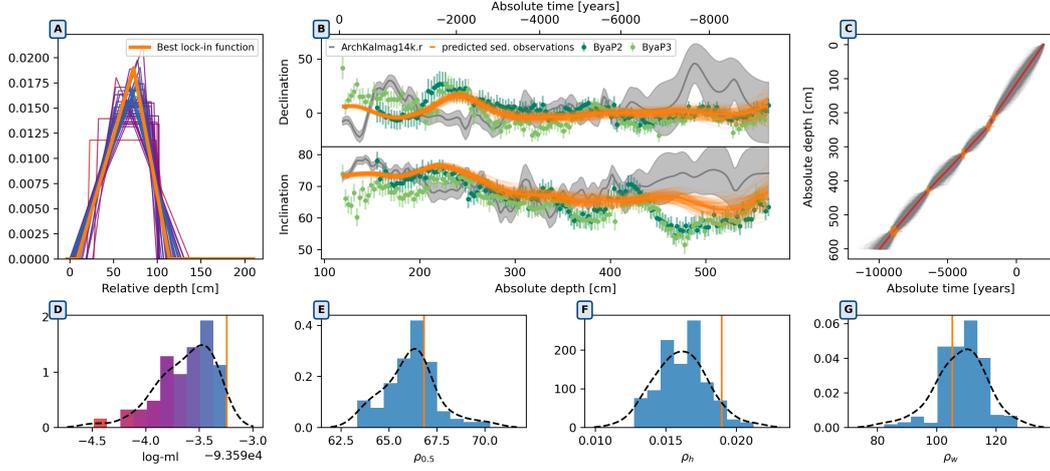
284 **Declination offset:** For the sub-core ByaP2 we estimated an offset of  $-1.18 \pm 0.9$  and  
 285 for ByaP3 an offset of  $-0.08 \pm 1.02$ .

286 **Age-depth model:**  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages were taken from the original publication, table 1. All sam-  
 287 ples were calibrated using IntCal20.

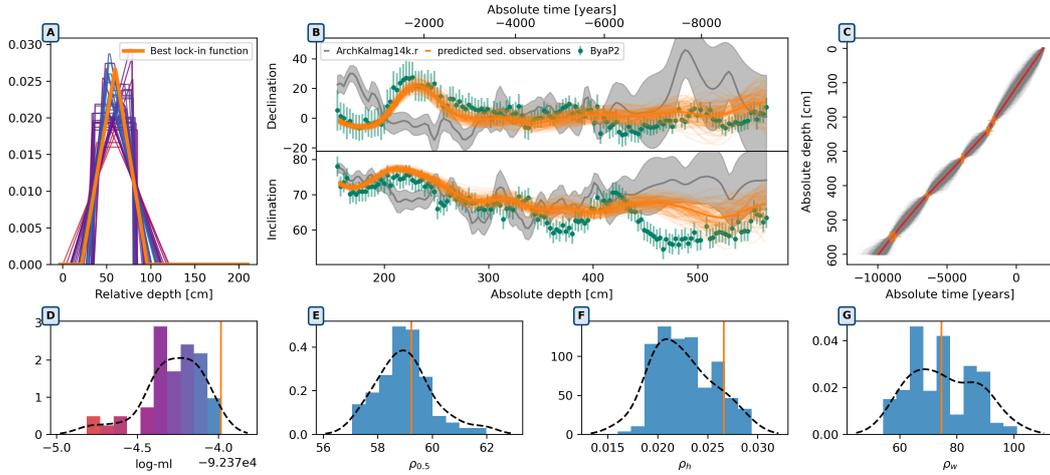
288 **Estimation combined record:** Firstly, we conducted ten estimations using an upper  
 289 bound of 100 cm. Since the parameter values  $b_4$  were too close to this upper bound  
 290 we decided to increase it to 200 cm. With this new upper bound all parameters  
 291  $b_4$  were found to be significantly lower than 200 cm, indicating that this revised  
 292 upper bound was appropriate. The predicted sediment observations demonstrated  
 293 a strong correspondence with the declination. Except for the interval between 450 cm  
 294 and 530 cm, the predicted sediment observations also aligned well with the incli-  
 295 nation.

296 **Estimation sub-cores:** We can observe a strong agreement in the results obtained for  
 297 the two sub-cores (ByaP2 and ByaP3, compare Figure 5 and Figure 6) and the

298 combined data (BYE, see Figure 4). Remarkably, the comparison of the three pa-  
 299 rameters ( $\rho_{0.5}, \rho_h, \rho_w$ ) derived from the best estimated lock-in functions reveals  
 300 that the combined record's values fall within the range delineated by the corre-  
 301 sponding values of the two sub-cores. These observations indicate a consistent sig-  
 302 nal in the individual sub-cores and the combined record.

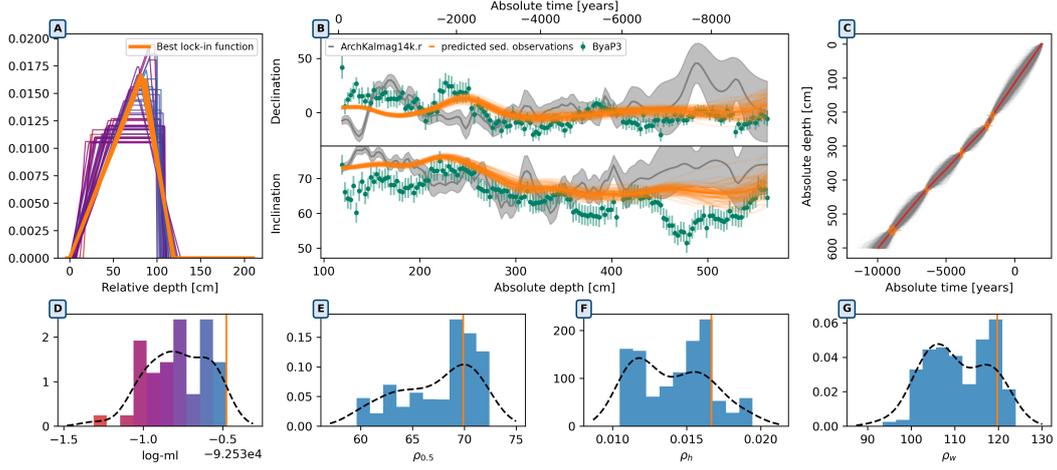


**Figure 4.** Results for BYE.



**Figure 5.** Results for ByaP2.

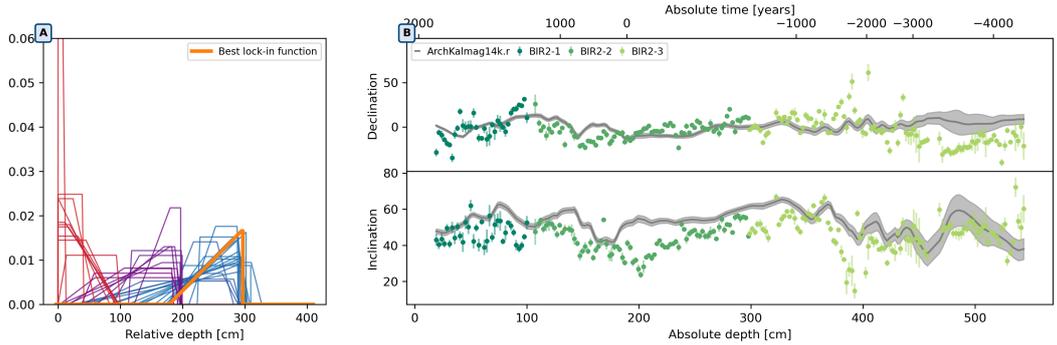
303 For more examples see Supporting Information.  
 304 The comprehensive results for each record are listed in Table 2. This table not only  
 305 details the lock-in function parameters — $\rho_{0.5}, \rho_h,$  and  $\rho_w$ — but also encompasses essen-  
 306 tial sedimentological aspects of each record. These aspects include the nature of the sed-  
 307 iment (freshwater or marine), the water depth at which the sediment was collected, and  
 308 the derived accumulation rates from the newly generated age-depth models. Addition-  
 309 ally, we include some lithostratigraphic information. It's important to note that this sum-  
 310 mary provides a small snapshot of the data; it extracts only a fraction of the informa-  
 311 tion available in the original publications. For a more in-depth understanding and com-



**Figure 6.** Results for ByaP3.

312 prehensive data, readers are encouraged to refer to the original publications associated  
 313 with each record.

314 **3.3 Importance of Data Preprocessing**



**Figure 7.** Results for BIR before accounting for inclination shallowing.

315 In this section we emphasize the importance of proper data preprocessing and data  
 316 quality verification. We demonstrate the importance using the BIR record as an exam-  
 317 ple. Panel one and two in (B) of Figure 7 display declination and inclination of BIR after  
 318 applying our standard preprocessing procedure (see section 2.6). The estimated lock-  
 319 in functions after applying our method to the BIR dataset are presented in panel (A)  
 320 of the same figure. Initially, we set an upper bound of 100 cm. Since the parameter val-  
 321 ues  $b_4$  were close to this upper bound we decided to increase it to 200 cm where we faced  
 322 the same problem. After increasing it two more times to 400 cm the parameters  $b_4$  were  
 323 significantly smaller, indicating a successful estimation. The resulting forty estimated  
 324 lock-in functions are visualized in (A) of Figure 7. However, our optimizer found an opti-  
 325 mal lock-in function with a half lock-in depth of 262.23 cm, corresponding to an off-  
 326 set of  $2745 \pm 339$  years (mean  $\pm$  standard deviation with respect to the age depth model).  
 327 These results are unexpected, as visual inspection of the data suggests a maximum off-  
 328 set of 50 cm.

**Table 2.** Results overview and some lithostratigraphical and sedimentological information extracted from the corresponding publications.

Core	$\rho_{0.5}$	$\rho_h$	$\rho_w$	Type	Water depth (m)	$\mu_{acc} \pm \sigma_{acc}$ <sup>1</sup> (cm/year)	Material <sup>2</sup>
<b>BA3</b>	12.26	0.065	15.43	marine	1431	$0.093 \pm 0.036$	upper part: pervasively bioturbated sediment with a fine-grained texture; lower part: fine-grained, diatom-bearing sediment with coarse bedding
<b>BIR</b>	2.73	1.005	1.14	lacustrine	1.5	$0.107 \pm 0.049$	clay, silty clay
<b>BYE</b>	66.84	0.019	105.31	lacustrine	10.6	$0.052 \pm 0.008$	partly laminated fine detritus gyttja
<b>ByaP2</b>	59.23	0.027	74.58	lacustrine	10.6	$0.052 \pm 0.008$	partly laminated fine detritus gyttja
<b>ByaP3</b>	69.9	0.017	119.76	lacustrine	10.6	$0.052 \pm 0.008$	partly laminated fine detritus gyttja
<b>EIL</b>	1.75	0.728	2.64	lacustrine	6	$0.182 \pm 0.032$	grey to blackish, layered sediments with moderate TIC and TOC contents
<b>FUR</b>	12.23	0.047	41.7	lacustrine	14.2	$0.045 \pm 0.011$	partially laminated fine detritus gyttja/clay gyttja, silt
<b>P2</b>	16.69	0.035	56.98	lacustrine	14.2	$0.045 \pm 0.011$	partially laminated fine detritus gyttja/clay gyttja, silt
<b>P3</b>	0.05	10	0.1	lacustrine	14.2	$0.045 \pm 0.011$	partially laminated fine detritus gyttja/clay gyttja, silt
<b>GYL</b>	38.34	0.015	130.9	lacustrine	17	$0.152 \pm 0.068$	partially laminated brown fine detritus gyttja
<b>GP1</b>	53.45	0.009	106.9	lacustrine	17	$0.152 \pm 0.068$	laminated brown fine detritus gyttja
<b>GP2</b>	28.99	0.059	29.95	lacustrine	17	$0.152 \pm 0.068$	laminated brown fine detritus gyttja
<b>GP4</b>	32.68	0.029	68.01	lacustrine	17	$0.152 \pm 0.068$	laminated brown fine detritus gyttja
<b>MOR</b>	0.15	3.612	0.45	lacustrine	-	$0.036 \pm 0.011$	clay, silty clay
<b>MST</b>	8.45	0.069	28.87	marine	267	$0.107 \pm 0.049$	-
<b>U1305</b>	11.17	0.055	27.79	marine	3459	$0.062 \pm 0.016$	ranges from silty clay with sand and little biogenic material, to homogenous nanofossil ooze with silty clay and common bioturbation

<sup>1</sup>Mean and standard deviation of accumulation rate derived from our age-depth models.<sup>2</sup>Information is taken from publications and shortly summarized.

For more detailed information see the original publications.

To investigate this discrepancy, we tried various approaches, including increasing uncertainties, eliminating more data points as outliers, and testing different age-depth models. Nonetheless, these attempts were leading to similar results. After using the E/I-analysis tool on Palaeomagnetism.org 2.4.0 (Jollyfant & Pastor-Galán, 2022; M. R. Koymans et al., 2016; M. Koymans et al., 2020) to remove possible inclination shallowing we obtain meaningful results that agree with visual interpretation and expectation. The E/I-analysis yielded a flattening factor of  $f = 0.54$ , indicating significant inclination shallowing (see Figure S12, Supporting Information). To remove inclination shallowing we used the following formula proposed by R. King (1955)

$$\tan(I_o) = f \tan(I_f) \quad (7)$$

where  $I_o$  is the observed inclination and  $I_f$  the inclination of the external field.

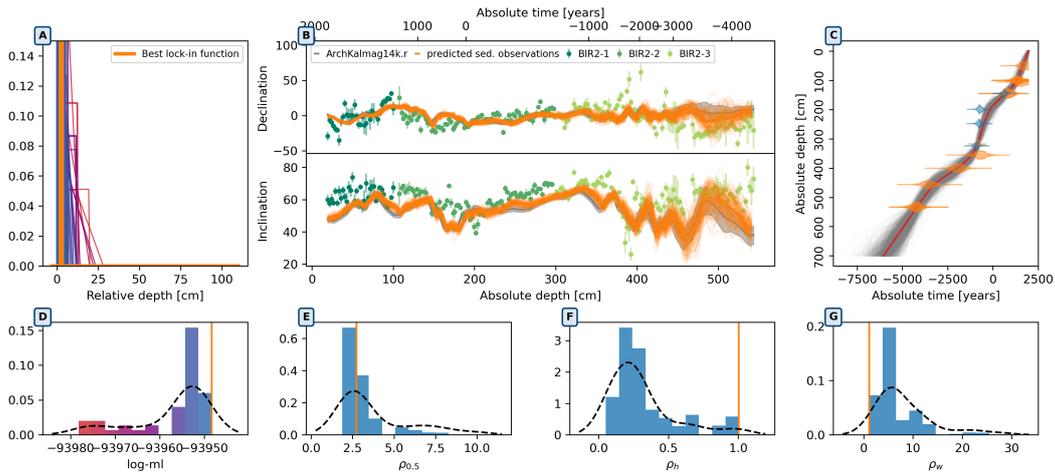
Subsequently, we present the results after applying the flattening factor in Figure 8. The analysis highlights the crucial role of diligent data preprocessing and the importance of considering various factors that can impact the final outcomes of our method.

**Removed data points:** The first 7 data points from the upper part of the record have been removed due to an abrupt decrease in the inclinations. Additionally, three data points at depth 460, 462 and 464 cm were removed as obvious outlier.

**Declination offset:** The palaeomagnetic data is divided into three sub-sections. The estimated declination offset values are  $9.64 \pm 1.36$  for the upper part,  $-2.17 \pm 2.3$  for the middle, and  $1.53 \pm 1$  for the lower part.

**Age-depth model:** Radiocarbon dates above 700cm were taken from the original publication and used to construct the age-depth model. The original publication suggests applying a local reservoir correction of 500-700 years. We decided to employ a correction of 600 years and include an additional error of 200 years to compensate for uncertainty in the reservoir effect estimation. For two depths, both plant remains (orange in Fig. 8) and bulk samples (blue) were taken, allowing to estimate an additional reservoir effect of 500 years for the bulk sediment. See the original publication for a discussion of possible mechanisms causing the local reservoir effects.

**Estimation:** After accounting for inclination shallowing an upper bound of 100 cm turned out to be appropriate. Furthermore, the predicted sediment observations demonstrated a decent correspondence with the actual data, indicating a good fit.



**Figure 8.** Results for BIR after accounting for inclination shallowing.

## 4 Discussion

Applying the proposed method to nine sediment records yields insightful results, demonstrating the general occurrence of offsets and smoothed signals induced by the pDRM process. The range of examples spans from records with almost no distortion (EIL, BIR, MOR) to those with offsets of nearly 70 cm and significant smoothing (see BYE and its sub-cores). While the four parameters  $b_1$  to  $b_4$  are not as precisely determined as the half lock-in depth, the last parameter  $b_4$ , representing the maximal lock-in depth, remains an intriguing parameter to consider. Estimated results of this parameter range from maximum lock-in depths of only a few centimeters to over 130 cm.

While acknowledging that nine examples are insufficient for comprehensive statistical analysis, the observed pDRM effects in six out of the nine sediment records highlight the significance of accounting for this phenomenon. Most of the half lock-in depths of the six records displaying pDRM effects range from 10 to 20 cm. Notably, examples like GYL and BYE demonstrate the potential occurrence of much higher half lock-in depths, reaching 38 cm and 67 cm. However, it appears that half lock-in depths exceeding 30 cm are less common.

The influence of the number of surrounding archaeomagnetic data on the method, was found to be moderate in synthetic tests (Bohsung et al., 2023). In other words, the estimation works even in areas where archaeomagnetic and volcanic data is sparse. Yet, as exemplified by MOR, it does affect the uncertainties in predicted sediment observations. This is not surprising and related to the fact that the uncertainties decrease with the number of data.

Investigating potential distinctions between marine and lacustrine sediment records is an interesting question. However, with only three marine records in our dataset, a more extensive collection is necessary for a conclusive analysis. Similarly, when it comes to correlating lock-in function parameters with sedimentological or lithostratigraphic features, the current data set remains insufficient for comprehensive examination. Looking ahead, we plan a more detailed and methodical study, aimed at thoroughly exploring these relationships. Our primary focus in this study, though, was to concentrate on the practical application of the newly introduced method across a carefully selected list of sediment records. This initial focus provided a foundation for future, more extensive inquiries. To advance our understanding in these areas, collaboration with experts in sedimentology will be pivotal. Their insights will be instrumental in unraveling the complex interactions and variations inherent in different sedimentary environments.

A notable finding emphasizes the necessity for caution when dealing with sediment records composed of multiple sub-cores. Discrepancies between combined records and sub-cores, exemplified by BYE, FUR, and GYL, emphasize the importance of treating them individually. This recommendation becomes particularly pertinent when significant distances between individual cores may lead to slight variations in sedimentation processes. The individual differences in these cases are discussed in the respective sediment record sections.

## 5 Conclusion

In this paper we applied the method presented in Bohsung et al. (2023) to analyze nine sediment records from different locations worldwide. The results reveal the presence of distortions associated with the lock-in or pDRM process in six out of the nine investigated sediment records.

In addition to the investigation of the pDRM process, we propose a new method for estimating the offset required to transferring relative to absolute declinations. Our method uses the ArchKalmag14k.r model (Schanner et al., 2022), which relies solely on archaeomagnetic data. The proposed Bayesian modeling technique is able to take uncertainties into account, making the estimated offset more reliable.

402 The example of BIR underscores the significance of meticulous data preprocess-  
 403 ing and the consideration of distortions beyond pDRM that may impact the data. This  
 404 includes an accurate estimation of absolute declination and the consideration of incli-  
 405 nation shallowing.

406 Motivated by our findings, we will work on involving simultaneous estimation of  
 407 declination offset parameters and the shallowing factor, along with lock-in function pa-  
 408 rameters. In other words, we will estimate all parameters related to these effects simul-  
 409 taneously, resulting in a comprehensive sediment data preprocessing software for gen-  
 410 eral applicability.

411 Furthermore, we will explore the deconvolution and application of the estimated  
 412 parameters to the sediment data. Our goal is to develop a specialized sediment prepro-  
 413 cessing software, enhancing the reliability of sediment data for geomagnetic field mod-  
 414 eling.

## 415 Open Research Section

416 All data (except for MST) used in this study as well as a python implementation  
 417 of the method can be found in the GitLab repository (Bohsung & Schanner, 2023). The  
 418 data for the MST record is not publically available. The author send us the data but did  
 419 not agree to publish the raw data. Therefore, we published our results but you will not  
 420 find it in the repository. To reproduce the results you have to ask the author for the data  
 421 and then use our preprocessing routine. On our website (<https://sec23.git-pages.gfz-potsdam.de/korte/pdrm/>)  
 422 jupyter notebooks have been published that can be used to reconstruct the results pre-  
 423 sented in this paper or to apply the method to additional data. The raw data for records  
 424 from GEOMAGIA can be found on GEOMAGIA (Brown et al., 2015). More results can  
 425 be found in Supporting Information.

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