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To
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*Editor of *Climate of the Past**

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Letter to the editor – Authors' response 2

04. September 2015

Dear Jerry,

Herewith we submit the second revision of the manuscript entitled: “Astronomical Calibration of the Geological Timescale: Closing the Middle Eocene Gap”.

Again we like to thank you for your evaluation of the revised manuscript. We appreciate the comments and have added an extra Section 5.4 that deals with the issues of the correlation and offsets between the bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records of ODP Hole 702B and Site 1263.

We hope that our 2nd revised manuscript meets the requirements to be published in *Climate of the Past*.

Sincerely,

Thomas Westerhold, Ursula Röhl, Thomas Frederichs, Steven M. Bohaty, James C. Zachos

Astronomical Calibration of the Geological Timescale: Closing the Middle Eocene Gap

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Abstract

To explore cause and consequences of past climate change, very accurate age models such as those provided by the Astronomical Time Scale (ATS) are needed. Beyond 40 million years the accuracy of the ATS critically depends on the correctness of orbital models and radio-isotopic dating techniques. Discrepancies in the age dating of sedimentary successions and the lack of suitable records spanning the middle Eocene have prevented development of a continuous astronomically calibrated geological timescale for the entire Cenozoic Era. We now solve this problem by constructing an independent astrochronological stratigraphy based on Earth's stable 405-kyr eccentricity cycle between 41 and 48 million years ago (Ma) with new data from deep-sea sedimentary sequences in the South Atlantic Ocean. This new link completes the Paleogene astronomical time scale and confirms the intercalibration of radio-isotopic and astronomical dating methods back through the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM, 55.930 Ma) and the Cretaceous/Paleogene boundary (66.022 Ma). Coupling of the Paleogene 405-kyr cyclostratigraphic frameworks across the middle Eocene further paves the way for extending the ATS into the Mesozoic.

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40 1. Introduction

41 Accurate absolute age determinations are essential for the geologic study of Earth history.
42 In recent decades the age calibration of the Geological Time Scale was revolutionized by
43 the discovery of astronomically driven cycles in both terrestrial and marine sedimentary
44 archives (Hilgen, 2010). Development of cyclostratigraphic records and application of
45 astronomical tuning (Hinnov, 2013) have evolved into powerful chronostratigraphic tools
46 for highly accurate calibration of the Neogene time scale (Lourens et al., 2004), as well as
47 synchronizing the widely used radio-isotopic $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ and U/Pb absolute dating methods
48 (Kuiper et al., 2008). Limits in the accuracy of astronomically calibrated geological time
49 scale (ATS) are a consequence of uncertainties in astronomical solutions (Laskar et al.,
50 2011a; Laskar et al., 2011b; Laskar et al., 2004). Earth's orbital eccentricity, the deviation
51 of Earth's orbit around the sun from a perfect cycle, is widely used for astronomical
52 calibrations (Hilgen, 2010; Hinnov, 2013). Accurate calculations of Earth's short
53 eccentricity cycle, which has an average period of ~100-kyr, are currently reliable back to
54 50 Ma and most likely will never extend beyond 60 Ma (Laskar et al., 2011b; Westerhold
55 et al., 2012) due to chaotic behavior of large bodies within the asteroid belt. Despite this,
56 the long (405-kyr) eccentricity cycle is stable back to 200 Ma and thus serves as a
57 metronome for basic cyclostratigraphic calibration of time series (Hinnov and Hilgen,
58 2012; Laskar et al., 2004) in Mesozoic and early Cenozoic time. Beyond the 50 Ma limit
59 for short eccentricity multimillion-year-long geological records (Hinnov and Hilgen,
60 2012) with a 405-kyr eccentricity cyclostratigraphic framework have to be anchored in
61 absolute time (Kuiper et al., 2008) by very precise radio-isotopic ages from ash layers.

62 Because controversy exists regarding the accuracy of high-precision radio-isotope dating
63 and astrochronological calibrations in the Paleocene and Eocene (Kuiper et al., 2008;
64 Westerhold et al., 2012) and the exact age of the Fish Canyon Tuff (FCT) standard for
65 $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ dating (Kuiper et al., 2008; Westerhold et al., 2012; Channell et al., 2010;
66 Phillips and Matchan, 2013; Renne et al., 2010; Renne et al., 1998; Rivera et al., 2011;
67 Wotzlaw et al., 2014; Wotzlaw et al., 2013; Zeeden et al., 2014), extension of the highly
68 accurate ATS beyond 50 Ma into the early Cenozoic and Mesozoic time is not possible.
69 What is needed is a calibration of the Geological Time Scale in the Eocene and Paleocene
70 that is independent from radio-isotopic dating uncertainties and unstable components of

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72 astronomical solutions. The best approach is to establish a complete stratigraphic
73 framework for the Cenozoic that is based on the identification of the stable 405-kyr
74 eccentricity cycle and is rooted in the Neogene to late Eocene where all components of
75 the orbital solutions are stable and uncertainties in radio-isotopic ages are negligible. The
76 complete stratigraphic framework will show which published absolute ages within the
77 Eocene and Paleocene epochs, particularly the ages of the Paleocene/Eocene (Westerhold
78 et al., 2012; Charles et al., 2011; Hilgen et al., 2010; Westerhold et al., 2007; Westerhold
79 et al., 2009) and Cretaceous/Paleogene boundaries (Kuiper et al., 2008; Hilgen et al.,
80 2010; Dinarès-Turell et al., 2014; Hilgen et al., 2015; Renne et al., 2013; Westerhold et
81 al., 2008), are correct and consistent with radio-isotopic ages (Kuiper et al., 2008; Renne
82 et al., 2013; Renne et al., 1998; Rivera et al., 2011). To date, a complete stratigraphic
83 framework has not been possible due to the lack of well-defined cyclostratigraphic
84 records spanning the middle Eocene (Pälike and Hilgen, 2008).

85 Herein, we close the middle Eocene gap in orbitally tuned datasets (Aubry, 1995; Pälike
86 and Hilgen, 2008) by developing an integrated stratigraphic framework based on the
87 identification of the stable 405-kyr cycle (Hinnov and Hilgen, 2012) between 41 and 48
88 Ma using new data from Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) Sites 702 (Leg 114, (Shipboard
89 Scientific Party, 1988)) and 1263 (Leg 208, (Shipboard Scientific Party, 2004)) in the
90 South Atlantic Ocean (Fig. 1). This was achieved by establishing a magnetostratigraphy
91 across magnetic polarity chrons C20r and C21n at Site 1263, then combining this with
92 high-resolution bulk carbon isotope ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) records from Sites 702 and 1263. These new
93 data, together with previously available shipboard stratigraphic data allow us to construct
94 a robust 405-kyr cyclostratigraphic framework across a ~7-Myr window of the middle
95 Eocene.

96

97 **2. Material and methods**

98 **2.1 Study sites**

99 For this study we generated new geochemical and paleomagnetic data on carbonate rich
100 sediments from Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) South Atlantic Site 702 (Leg 114,
101 (Shipboard Scientific Party, 1988)) and Site 1263 (Leg 208, (Shipboard Scientific Party,

102 2004)) (Fig. 1). ODP Site 702 is located in the southwestern South Atlantic on the central
103 part of the Islas Orcadas Rise (50°56.79'S, 26°22.12'W) in 3083.4 m water depth. In April
104 1987 only a single hole (Hole 702B) was drilled into Paleogene strata with extended core
105 barrel (XCB) down to 294.3 meters below sea floor (mbsf), recovering a thick sequence
106 of nannofossil ooze and chalk middle Eocene in age (Shipboard Scientific Party, 1988).
107 For this study, samples were analyzed from Hole 702B in the ~90 and 210 mbsf interval
108 (Fig. 2). ODP Site 1263 is located in the southeastern South Atlantic on Walvis Ridge
109 (28°31.97'S, 2°46.77'E) in 2717 m water depth (Shipboard Scientific Party, 2004). At this
110 site, a sequence of Paleogene strata was cored in four adjacent holes that have been
111 combined to a composite record down to 340 meters composite depth (mcd). After
112 revision of the Site 1263 composite record (see below), samples for this study were
113 obtained from the interval between ~150 and 230 revised meters composite depth (rmcd)
114 of 1263 (Fig. 2).

115

116 2.2 Bulk stable isotope data

117 Bulk carbonate $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ measurements were made in two different labs on freeze-dried and
118 pulverized sediment samples from ODP Sites 702 and 1263. A total of 539 samples from
119 Site 702 were analyzed at University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) between Sections
120 702B-11X-1 and 702B-22X-CC at an average sampling resolution of 20 cm (~13 kyr
121 temporal resolution, Table S1, Fig. 2). A total of 1157 samples in total were analyzed
122 from Site 1263 (Table S2, Fig. 2). 668 of these samples spanning mid magnetochron
123 C19r to mid C20r were analyzed at MARUM, University of Bremen, with an average
124 resolution of 4 cm (5 kyr). The remaining 489 samples from Site 1263 spanning mid
125 C20r to base C21r were measured at UCSC with average resolution of 10 cm (10 kyr).
126 All $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data are reported relative to the Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite (VPDB) international
127 standard, determined via adjustment to calibrated in-house standards and NBS-19.
128 Analyses at MARUM were carried out on a Finnigan MAT 251 mass spectrometer
129 equipped with an automated carbonate preparation line (Kiel I). The carbonate was
130 reacted with orthophosphoric acid at 75 °C. Analytical precision based on replicate
131 analyses of in-house standard (Solnhofen Limestone) averages 0.04‰ (1 σ) for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$.
132 Stable isotope analyses at UCSC were performed on VG Prism and Optima dual-inlet

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135 mass spectrometers coupled with Autocarb automated preparation devices in which the
136 samples are reacted using a carousel device and common acid bath maintained at 90 °C.
137 Analytical precision based on replicate analyses of an in-house Carrara Marble standard
138 and NBS-19 averaged 0.05‰ (1σ) for δ¹³C.

139

140 **2.3 Paleomagnetic data Site 1263**

141 We measured natural remanent magnetization (NRM) on 100 discrete cube samples
142 (gauge 2cm×2cm×2cm) to document magnetic polarity boundaries C19r to C21r at ODP
143 Site 1263. Discrete samples were analyzed at the Department of Geosciences, University
144 of Bremen. Paleomagnetic directions and magnetization intensities were measured on a
145 cryogenic magnetometer (model 2G Enterprises 755 HR). NRM was measured on each
146 sample before these were subjected to a systematic alternating field demagnetization
147 treatment involving steps of 7.5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40 and 60 mT. Intensities of
148 orthogonal magnetic components of the remanent magnetization were measured after
149 each step. Raw inclination, declination, and intensity data for each measurement step **are**
150 provided in Table S3, and the magnetostratigraphic interpretations are recorded in Table
151 S4.

152

153 **2.4 Time series analysis**

154 To investigate Milankovitch-paced cyclicity in our datasets, we calculated evolutionary
155 spectra in the depth and time domain to identify the dominant cycle periods and to detect
156 distinct changes in these cycle periods. In order to obtain a first-order age model
157 unaffected by astronomical tuning, we applied the magnetostratigraphy available for Sites
158 702 (Clement and Hailwood, 1991) and 1263 (this study, Table S3) using the
159 Geomagnetic Polarity Time Scale of (Cande and Kent, 1995). Wavelet analysis was used
160 to compute evolutionary spectra using software provided by C. Torrence and G. Compo
161 (available online at <http://paos.colorado.edu/research/wavelets>). Prior to wavelet analysis
162 the data were detrended and normalized. Multitaper Method (MTM) spectra were then
163 calculated with the SSA-MTM Toolkit (Ghil et al., 2002) using 3 tapers and resolution of
164 2. Background estimate and confidence levels (90%, 95%, and 99%) are based on robust
165 red noise estimation (Mann and Lees, 1996). Prior to analysis outliers and the long-term

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167 trend were removed, and the time series was linearly resampled at 4-kyr (Site 702) and 2-
168 kyr (Site 1263) intervals. After identification of the frequency and period of the short and
169 long eccentricity-related cycles in the bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data of both study sites, the 405-kyr
170 cycle was extracted by band-pass filtering.

171

172

173 **3. Results**

174 All data are available online at <http://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.845986>.

175

176 **3.1 Revised composite record for ODP Site 1263**

177 In order to ensure a fully complete stratigraphic record at Site 1263 we checked the
178 shipboard composite record using shipboard magnetic susceptibility data and digital line
179 scan high-resolution core images (Fig. S1). Small changes in the order of cm to a few dm
180 were applied to optimize the splice and avoid coring induced disturbance in the isotope
181 data. A major change had to be made around 120 rmc d which was reported as
182 problematic during shipboard analysis (Shipboard Scientific Party, 2004). Core 1263C-
183 2H was moved downwards by 2.52 m to match the base of Core 1263B-6H. Core 1263B-
184 7H was then re-correlated to Core 1263C-7H by moving the core 3.34 m downward.
185 Although this tie is difficult due to core disturbance the core images provided a good
186 reference. This tie does not affect the record presented in this study because it is located
187 at 125 rmc d and will be re-evaluated by additional bulk isotope data in the future. The
188 composite splice was revised here down to 229.22 rmc d. Below this level, there is strong
189 drilling disturbance across a 3–4-m interval. For completeness we report the full
190 composite splice and offsets applied to adjust each core for Site 1263 in Table S7 and S8.

191

192 **3.2 Magnetostratigraphic results and interpretation**

193 A detailed vector analysis according to the method by Kirschvink (Kirschvink, 1980)
194 without anchoring to the origin of the orthogonal projections was applied to the results of
195 the AF demagnetization of NRM to determine the characteristic remanent magnetization

196 (ChRM). Additionally the maximum angular deviation (MAD) values were computed
197 reflecting the quality of individual magnetic component directions. MAD values are all
198 below 10 degree (Figure 3).

199 Figures 3b and 3c display the demagnetization characteristics of a sample with reversed
200 polarity from C19r and a sample with normal polarity from C21n, respectively. As an
201 example for samples with demagnetization behavior with larger scatter (larger MAD),
202 data from a sample within C21r is plotted in Figure 3d. The larger MADs that a few
203 samples show are not simply related to the intensity of their remanent magnetization as
204 can be seen from the data shown in Figure 3. The median destructive field (MDF) of the
205 NRM demagnetization is comparable low for most of the samples. It ranges from 4 to 24
206 mT (mean 7.1 +/- 4.1 mT) indicating a magnetically soft overprint in many samples. The
207 interpretation of the ChRM in terms of magnetic polarity is focused on the inclination
208 data, which provides a reliable magnetostratigraphy for most intervals. Identification and
209 position of calcareous nannofossil events in 702B (Pea, 2011) and 1263 (Shipboard
210 Scientific Party, 2004) (Fig. 2; Table S5) allow to clearly identify the magnetic chrons as
211 C19r, C20n, C20r, C21n and C21r. Raw inclination, declination, and intensity data for
212 each measurement step for ODP 1263 are given in Table S3. Magnetostratigraphic
213 interpretation is given in Table S4. Processed paleomagnetic data from ODP 1263 basis
214 for the magnetostratigraphic interpretation are provided in Table S9.

215

216 **3.3 Bulk stable isotope results**

217 The bulk carbon stable isotope data of Hole 702B (Fig. 2a) show a long-term increase
218 from 0.8 to 2.0 ‰ in the interval Chron C21r to C18r. Site 1263 data (Fig. 2b) reveal a
219 decrease from 2 to 1.6 ‰ from Chron C21r to C21n, an increase from 1.6 to 2 ‰ across
220 the C20r/C21n boundary, a slight increase to 2.2 ‰ in the interval covering the mid
221 Chron C20r to C20n, a decrease of 0.2 ‰ in Chron C20n, and an increasing trend in the
222 early Chron C19r. The shift in carbon isotope data across the C20r/C21n boundary and
223 the decrease in Chron C20n is very similar in both records pointing to global changes in
224 the global carbon cycle. Both records show pronounced higher frequency variations
225 related to short (100 kyr) and long (405 kyr) eccentricity cycles (see below).

226

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228 **4. Age Model development**

229 The age model for Sites 702 and 1263 was developed in a progressive series of steps.
230 First, time series analysis was applied to the bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data from both Sites 702 and 1263
231 using evolutionary wavelet (Fig. 4) and MTM power spectra (Fig. S2 & S3). The Site 702
232 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record is dominated by 6-8 m and ~ 2 m cycles, whereas Site 1263 is dominated by
233 3.5-4.5 m and ~ 1 m cycles. Conversion to age applying the Geomagnetic Polarity Time
234 Scale (GPTS) CK95 (Cande and Kent, 1995) reveals that these cycles correspond to the
235 short (~ 100 -kyr) and long (405-kyr) eccentricity periods – similar to observations in early
236 (Zachos et al., 2010) and late Eocene (Westerhold et al., 2014) deep-sea sediments.

237 Second, the dominant 405-kyr related cycles were extracted by band-pass filtering at the
238 appropriate interval (Fig. 5; Site 702: 0.16 ± 0.048 cyc/m; Site 1263: 155-180 rmc
239 0.29 ± 0.087 cyc/m, 180-230 rmc 0.23 ± 0.069 cyc/m). After correlating the Site 702 and
240 1263 records via magneto-stratigraphic tie points, a relative floating 405-kyr age model
241 was established by counting cycles starting with 1 in the Site 1263 record at 158.60 rmc
242 (Tab. S6). We determine a 2.6 to 2.7-Myr duration for magnetochron C20r and a 1.4-Myr
243 duration for magnetochron C21n. Our new estimate for the duration of C20r is consistent
244 with estimates from the standard CK95 (Cande and Kent, 1995) and GPTS2004 (Ogg and
245 Smith, 2004) as well as a previous cyclostratigraphic estimate from the Contessa
246 Highway section in Italy (Jovane et al., 2010), but is ~ 400 kyr shorter than that estimated
247 within the GPTS 2012 time scale (Ogg, 2012; Vandenberghe et al., 2012) (Fig. 5, Tables
248 1-2).

249 Third, the floating 405-kyr age model was connected to the astronomical time scale
250 (ATS) by correlation to ODP Site 1260 (Westerhold and Röhl, 2013; Westerhold et al.,
251 2014) over magnetochron C20n (Fig. 6a). Site 1260 is tied to the cyclostratigraphic
252 framework for the late middle Eocene-to-early Oligocene interval (Westerhold et al.,
253 2014) and therefore establishes an independent bridge between the astronomically
254 calibrated time scales of the Neogene to late Eocene and early Paleogene. The correlation
255 and calibration of the cyclostratigraphic records from Sites 702 and 1263 place the

256 boundary of magnetochron C20n/C20r in 405-kyr Cycle 108 (43.5 Ma), the C20r/C21n
257 boundary between 405-kyr Cycle 114 and 115 (~46.2 Ma), and the C21n/C21r boundary
258 in 405-kyr cycle 118 (~47.6 Ma) (Fig. 5; Tables 1-2).

259 Fourth, because the orbital solutions La2010d and La2011 are valid back to ~50 Ma and
260 the pattern of long and very long eccentricity cycle related components in both the Site
261 702 and 1263 bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records are very consistent with the La2010d and La2011 orbital
262 solution for eccentricity, the carbon isotope records were minimally tuned to the La2011
263 eccentricity by correlating lighter (more negative) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ peaks to eccentricity maxima
264 (Fig. 5, (Ma et al., 2011)). This phase relationship has been observed in other deep-sea
265 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ bulk and benthic records (Pälike et al., 2006; Westerhold et al., 2014; Zachos et al.,
266 2010) and thus is used here for the foundation of the tuning method (see supplementary
267 material). The tie points to establish an astronomically tuned age model are shown in Fig.
268 5 and listed in Table S10.

269 A potential issue in establishing a 405-kyr-based cyclostratigraphy is the missing or
270 doubling of a 405-kyr cycle. Because the band-pass filter at Cycle 10 at Site 1263 shows
271 a conspicuous cycle with a double hump (Fig. 5) and a stretched Cycle 9 at Site 702, we
272 also provide an alternative 405-kyr age model with one additional 405-kyr cycle (18
273 instead of 17 for the investigated interval of this study). Sedimentation rates calculated
274 based on the 17 cycles-, the 18 cycles-, the magnetostratigraphic (using CK95) and the
275 astronomical age model show a distinct drop using the 18 cycles model with respect to
276 the other models (Fig. S5). Choosing the 18 cycles model would therefore lead to an
277 unrealistically long duration for Chron C20r of more than 3.0 myr. In addition, the orbital
278 solutions La2010d and La2011 are valid back to ~50 Ma and thus the match between the
279 geological record and the astronomical solution as far as the expression of the 2.4 myr
280 minima provides an important argument for rejecting the presence of a potential extra
281 405-kyr cycle (Fig. 5). Based on these arguments we discarded the 18 405-kyr cycles
282 model as an option.

283 By connecting the astronomically calibrated Site 1263 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record with the geochemical
284 records of ODP Sites 1258 and 1262 we can extend the ATS into the early Paleogene up
285 to the Cretaceous/Paleogene (K/Pg) boundary based on a continuous 405-kyr

287 cyclostratigraphic framework. This not only allows for comparison of the eccentricity
288 related components in the geochemical records to the recent orbital solutions La2010 and
289 La2011, but also provides accurate absolute ages for ash -17, the Paleocene-Eocene
290 Thermal Maximum (PETM) and the K/Pg boundary independent from radio-isotopic
291 dating and uncertainties in the 100-kyr and 2.4 myr eccentricity cycle components. Using
292 bulk and benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records as well as magnetostratigraphy, Site 1258 (Sexton et al.,
293 2011) and Site 1263 (this study) can be tied together at 405-kyr Cycles 118 and 119 over
294 the magnetochron C21n/C21r boundary (Fig. 6b). This establishes the connection of the
295 early Paleogene cyclostratigraphies with the ATS of the Neogene and late Paleogene
296 where all components of the orbital solutions are stable and uncertainties in radio-isotopic
297 ages are very small. Closing the middle Eocene cyclostratigraphic gap establishes a
298 complete and fully astronomically calibrated geological timescale for the Cenozoic and is
299 the basis for extending the ATS into the Mesozoic.

300

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302 **5. Discussion**

303 Integration of new and previously published results from ODP Sites 1258, 1260, 1262,
304 and 1263 allows (i) placement of these records on a common 405-kyr cycle
305 astronomically calibrated time scale across the middle Eocene, and (ii) evaluation of the
306 evolution of Earth's eccentricity in the context of the latest generation of astronomical
307 models for intervals older than 50 Ma.

308

309 **5.1 Consistent absolute ages for the Paleogene**

310 To assemble a complete Eocene GPTS, we combined the GPTS of the Pacific Equatorial
311 Age Transect (PEAT, 31-41 Ma, C12n to C19n, (Westerhold et al., 2014)), of Site 1260
312 | (41-43 Ma, C19n to C20n, (Westerhold and Röhl, 2013)), of Site 1263 (42-48 Ma, C20n-
313 C21n, this study), and of Site 1258 (48-54 Ma, C21n-C24n, (Westerhold and Röhl,
314 2009)) and updated to the age model established in this study (Tab. S11 & S12, Fig. 7).

315 The resulting Eocene GPTS covers magnetochron C12n to C24n and together with the
316 recalibrated early (C29n to C27n, (Dinarès-Turell et al., 2014)) and late Paleocene (C26
317 to C24r, Option 2 in (Westerhold et al., 2008)) as well as Oligocene (C6Cn to C12n,
318 (Pälike et al., 2006)) it provides a full GPTS for the Paleogene period. The new tuned
319 GPTS and the GPTS2012 (Ogg, 2012; Vandenberghe et al., 2012) are nearly consistent.
320 Differences with respect to GPTS2012 are apparent ~~for~~ the duration of C20r, C22r and
321 C23n.2n (Fig. 7A). The 2.634 myr duration for C20r interpreted in this study is consistent
322 with estimates from the standard CK95 GPTS (Cande and Kent, 1995) and GPTS2004
323 (Ogg and Smith, 2004) as well as a previous cyclostratigraphic estimate from the
324 Contessa Highway section in Italy (Jovane et al., 2010). The difference for the duration of
325 C20r to the estimate in GPTS2012 could be related to the selection of tie points for
326 calibration of the GPTS. In GPTS2012 the astronomic age model with 6-order
327 polynomial fit in the Eocene and the radio-isotopic age model give an absolute age for the
328 top of C22n of 49.102 Ma and 48.570 Ma, respectively (Table 28.3 therein
329 (Vandenberghe et al., 2012)). This difference of 536 kyr mirrors the uncertainty in this
330 interval of the time scale GPTS2012. However, the radio-isotopic ages are primarily used
331 for the final age model in GPTS2012 from C16r to the top of C24n.1n (37-53 Ma,
332 (Vandenberghe et al., 2012)). GPTS2012 uses the Mission Valley ash near the base of
333 C20n with $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ age of 43.35 Ma which is consistent with our tuned age of 43.517
334 Ma for the base of C20n. Because of the relatively large error in the next calibration point
335 (an ash horizon in DSDP Hole 516F at C21n.75 with an age of 46.24 ± 0.5 Ma
336 (Vandenberghe et al., 2012)) the duration of C20r in GPTS2012 (2.292 myr) has to be
337 considered with caution. The differences in duration of C22r and C23n.2n (~400-kyr
338 longer C22r; ~400-kyr shorter C23n.2n) could be related to the difficult interpretation of
339 the Site 1258 magnetostratigraphy (Westerhold and Röhl, 2009) and require recovery of
340 additional high-quality records from deep-sea successions in the future for confirmation.
341 This uncertainty in the duration of C22r and C23n.2n at Site 1258 does not affect the
342 number of 405-kyr cycles identified in this record, but is the result of uncertainties in
343 determining the exact position of the magnetic reversal. This is complicated by the rather
344 large error in the width of the magnetic anomaly profiles for C21r (12.8%), C22r (11.9%)
345 and C23 (17.3%) (Cande and Kent, 1992; Tab. 4 therein) which results in very uncertain

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347 chron durations (see Table S13). Combining both the error in absolute age for the
348 calibration tie points (ash layers, boundaries) and the error in the exact placement of
349 boundaries between marine magnetic anomalies in the CK95 model (Table S13) it is
350 obvious that the determination of the exact durations of magnetochrons is much more
351 difficult than assumed in many publications. Once the durations for C21r, C22r and C23
352 based on the ODP Site 1258 cyclostratigraphy are evaluated by an additional high-
353 resolution bio-,magneto- and cyclostratigraphy on another site, the resulting new precise
354 cycle-durations for chrons could help to provide an improved estimate for the deep-seas
355 magnetic anomaly widths as in CK95.

356 Previous correlation of geological data to the La2011 orbital solution led to a discrepancy
357 between astronomical and radio-isotopic $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ ages of ash -17 (Storey et al., 2007)
358 derived from Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP) Site 550 (Knox, 1984) and the age of the
359 Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) (Vandenbergh et al., 2012; Westerhold
360 et al., 2012; Westerhold et al., 2009). Linking the published cyclostratigraphies for the
361 Paleocene (Westerhold et al., 2008) and early to middle Eocene (Westerhold and Röhl,
362 2009; Westerhold et al., 2012; Westerhold et al., 2007) to our ATS across the C21n/C21r
363 boundary in 405-kyr Cycle 118 at ~47.6 Ma (Fig. 6b) clearly shows that only Option 2
364 (Westerhold et al., 2012; Westerhold et al., 2007) of the early-to-middle Eocene floating
365 cyclostratigraphies is consistent with our new astronomically tuned age for C21n/C21r
366 boundary. Our records spanning the middle Eocene cyclostratigraphic gap provide an
367 absolute age estimate of 55.280 Ma for ash -17 and the onset of the PETM in 405-kyr
368 Cycle 139 at 55.930 Ma, as in Option 2 of the astronomically calibrated Paleocene time
369 scale (Westerhold et al., 2008). This age for the onset of the PETM is consistent with a
370 high-precision radio-isotopic U/Pb age of 55.728–55.964 Ma from bentonite layers
371 within the PETM interval at Spitzbergen (Charles et al., 2011). The absolute age for the
372 onset of the PETM confirmed here at 55.930 Ma is also synchronous with the initiation of
373 North Atlantic flood basalt volcanism (Skaergaard intrusion at 55.960 ± 0.064 Ma,
374 (Wotzlaw et al., 2012)).

375 After revision of the Paleocene cyclostratigraphy from deep-sea data (Dinarès-Turell et
376 al., 2014) showing that the Paleocene spans 25 (Hilgen et al., 2010) and not 24
377 (Westerhold et al., 2008) 405-kyr cycles and with the complete stratigraphic framework

378 now at hand we provide absolute astronomical ages for key events in the Eocene and
379 Paleocene for reference (Table 3). Updates for ages of magnetochron boundaries await
380 solving the uncertainties for the durations of Chrons C22n to C23r. Our complete
381 framework confirms the astronomically calibrated age of the K/Pg boundary of $66.022 \pm$
382 0.040 Ma (Dinarès-Turell et al., 2014). This is consistent with a recent high-precision
383 radio-isotopic U/Pb age for the K/Pg boundary of 66.038 Ma (Renne et al., 2013). The
384 major uncertainty in age estimates stems from uncertainties in the exact absolute age
385 assignment of the 405-kyr eccentricity maxima at 56 and 66 Ma. According to (Laskar et
386 al., 2011a; Laskar et al., 2011b) the error at 56 Ma is in the order of 50 kyr and at 66 Ma
387 in the order of 60 kyr.

388 | The astronomically calibrated age for ash -17 of 55.280 Ma is inconsistent with $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$
389 ages using the most recent age calibrations for the FCT dating standard monitor of 28.201
390 (Kuiper et al., 2008), 28.305 (Renne et al., 2010), 27.93 (Channell et al., 2010), 27.89
391 | (27.89) (Westerhold et al., 2012), and 28.172 (Rivera et al., 2011) Ma (Fig. S7). Assuming that
392 the 55.280 Ma age for ash -17 is correct we calculate an absolute age of ~ 28.10 Ma for
393 the FCT monitor which is within the error of the 28.172 (Rivera et al., 2011) Ma
394 estimate. The age of 28.10 Ma for the FCT leads to an age for the highly reproducible
395 inter-laboratory $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ measurements made on the Beloc tektite at the K/Pg boundary
396 that is more than 400 kyr younger than the highly accurate U/Pb age (Renne et al., 2013)
397 contradicting the rock clock synchronization (Kuiper et al., 2008). Independent
398 confirmation of the ~ 28.2 Ma astronomically calibrated age for the FCT (Kuiper et al.,
399 2008; Rivera et al., 2011; Wotzlav et al., 2014) and the absolute age of the K/Pg
400 boundary of 66.022 Ma (Dinarès-Turell et al., 2014; Kuiper et al., 2008; Renne et al.,
401 2013) place doubt on the astronomically calibrated age for ash -17. Both the geochemical
402 identification of ash -17 in ODP Site 550 (Knox, 1984) and the relative distance to the
403 onset of the PETM (Westerhold et al., 2009) need revision before any evaluation can be
404 done.

405

406 **5.2 Terrestrial vs deep-sea GPTS**

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409 High-resolution radio-isotopic dating of Eocene terrestrial strata, from the Green River
410 Formation in particular, has been utilized during the last 20 years towards improving the
411 Eocene GPTS (Clyde et al., 2004; Clyde et al., 2001; Clyde et al., 1997; Machlus et al.,
412 2004; Machlus et al., 2008; Machlus et al., 2015; Shipboard Scientific Party, 1988; Smith
413 et al., 2008a; Smith et al., 2008b; Smith et al., 2010; Smith et al., 2003; Smith et al.,
414 2006; Smith et al., 2004; Tsukui and Clyde, 2012; Westerhold and Röhl, 2009). Although
415 one must state that the correlation of terrestrial sections and accurate age dating of ash
416 layers is highly complex we evaluate our new GPTS in comparison with to the terrestrial
417 calibrations (Fig. 7a). Focusing on the latest Green River Formation GPTS calibrations
418 (all adjusted and reported by Smith et al. (2010) and Tsukui & Clyde (2012) to FCT
419 28.201 Ma of Kuiper et al. (2008)), it becomes very clear that substantial differences in
420 calibration and interpretation exist that are based on very similar data sets.

421 Because most of the radio-isotopic dates for ash layers in the Green River Formation are
422 established on $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ ages, they are directly dependent on the absolute age of the FCT
423 standard (see discussion in Westerhold & Röhl (2009) and Westerhold et al. (2012)).
424 High quality U/Pb ages are also available for some ash layers (Smith et al. 2010 [Analcite
425 and Firehole tuff] and Machlus et al. 2015 [Sixth, Layered, Main, Grey, Second, Firehole
426 and 1448 Tuff]). The Firehole tuff has a consistent U/Pb age of 51.66 ± 0.19 Ma in Smith
427 et al. (2010) and 51.528 ± 0.061 Ma in Machlus et al. (2015). The $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ age of the
428 Firehole Tuff is 51.40 ± 0.25 Ma (FCT 28.201 Ma) (Smith et al. 2010). The Firehole tuff,
429 however, was not included by Smith et al. (2010) for recalibrating the GPTS. According
430 to Tsukui & Clyde (2015) the Firehole tuff is in a paleomagnetic reversal, likely C23r
431 (see Table DR4 in Tsukui & Clyde 2012). Unfortunately, the Analcite Tuff (U/Pb $49.23 \pm$
432 0.12 Ma, Smith et al. 2010) has not clear paleomagnetic polarity (Tsukui & Clyde 2015).
433 Comparing the radioisotopic ages used by Smith et al. (2010) and their paleomagnetic
434 pattern with the astronomically calibrated GPTS (Fig. 7a) shows consistent results for the
435 Mission Valley ash (in C20n), the Montanari ash (in C21n), the Blue Point Marker ash (in
436 C21r), the Continental tuff (in C22n), the Firehole tuff (in C23r) and the Willwood ash
437 (in C24n). Inconsistencies are apparent for the Sixth tuff and Layered tuff which have
438 normal polarity but correlate to C22r in the astronomical GPTS.

439 Tsukui & Clyde (2012) utilized more ash layers for their calibration that has substantial
440 differences to the GPTS by Smith et al. (2010) from C21n to C24n (Fig. 7b). Some ash
441 layers, for example, in C21r and C23n of the GPTS of Tsukui & Clyde (2012), have
442 opposite polarities although they are of similar age. The GPTS of Tsukui & Clyde (2012)
443 is more consistent with the astronomical GPTS for Chron C22 and C23, but the Sixth ash,
444 the Layered tuff and the Main tuff occur in an interval of normal polarity correlate to
445 C22r in the astronomical GPTS. In contrast, the Firehole tuff, located in an interval of
446 reversed polarity, is positioned in C23n according to the GPTS of Tsukui & Clyde
447 (2012). We would argue that the duration of C23n as estimated by Tsukui & Clyde
448 (2012) is probably too long. A detailed comparison of the GPTS for Chrons C22 and C23
449 between terrestrial and deep-sea records is difficult at the moment because the deep-sea
450 and the terrestrial GPTS still need to be examined in detail in the early Eocene, as
451 described above. The error in the mean width of the anomaly profile defined by Cande
452 and Kent (1992, Table 4 therein) for C21r, C22r and C23 is between 12 and 17% (Table
453 S13), which can also help to explain larger differences in durations between the terrestrial
454 and deep-sea records. A new deep-sea magneto-cyclostratigraphic record is needed to test
455 the ODP Site 1258 results in order to validate the duration of magnetochrons C22 and
456 C23. Nevertheless, it seems that these records align for Chron C24n suggesting that both
457 astrochronology and radio-isotopic dating of terrestrial successions are in agreement for
458 at least this time interval. A more detailed comparison between marine and terrestrial
459 records is well beyond the scope of this paper, a more in-depth synthesis and discussion
460 of terrestrial and deep-sea GPTS for the Eocene has to be addressed by a future synthesis
461 similar to the Paleogene chapter in the GTS2012 (Vandenbergh et al., 2012).

462

463 **5.3 Stability of orbital solutions**

464 The new $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records from Sites 702 and 1263 reveal low amplitude variations in 405-
465 kyr cycles 4, 10 and 16 (Fig. 5), which likely coincide with minima in eccentricity
466 amplitude modulation occurring approximately every 2.4 Myr (Laskar et al., 2004). The
467 2.4-Myr cycle in the amplitude modulation of geological data and orbital eccentricity are
468 consistent up to 48–49 Ma (Fig. S6). In older time intervals, the geological data and

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470 orbital solution are out of sync suggesting that the short and very long eccentricity
471 component in orbital solutions are correct only back to 48 Ma, but not to 52-54 Ma as
472 previously thought (Westerhold et al., 2012). This implies that only the stable 405-kyr
473 eccentricity pattern in the La2010 and La2011 solutions can be used for direct
474 astronomical calibration for periods older than 48-50 Ma. Because the orbital solutions
475 La2010d and La2011 (Laskar et al., 2011a; Laskar et al., 2011b) show an excellent fit to
476 the internally-anchored $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records the long-term behavior of the INPOP10a
477 (Intégration Numérique Planétaire de l'Observatoire de Paris, (Fienga et al., 2011))
478 ephemeris used for La2010d and La2011 can be considered more stable than that of the
479 INPOP08 (Fienga et al., 2009) ephemeris.

480 The divergence between geological data and astronomical solutions beyond 48-50 Ma has
481 strong implications for the La2010 (Laskar et al., 2011a) and La2011 (Laskar et al.,
482 2011b) orbital models. Both models propose a transition from libration to circulation
483 appearing around 50 Ma in the resonant argument related to $\theta = (s_4 - s_3) - 2(g_4 - g_3)$,
484 the combination of angles in the precession motion of the orbits of Earth and Mars
485 (Laskar et al., 2004; Pälike et al., 2004). Identifying this transition is of high importance
486 because it would provide direct evidence of the chaotic, not quasiperiodic, nature of the
487 solar system (Laskar, 1989) and set the conditions for the gravitational model of the Solar
488 System (Laskar et al., 2004). In modern planetary ephemeris the initial conditions are
489 obtained by least-squares fittings to large sets of observational data (Fienga et al., 2008)
490 and thus depend on the accuracy of these data. The point in time when the transition from
491 libration to circulation occurs is sensitive to the initial conditions of the planetary
492 ephemeris solutions. In geological records the chaotic diffusion will be expressed as a
493 prominent change from a ~ 2.4 -Myr to a very regular 2.0-Myr periodicity in the very long
494 eccentricity cycle (Laskar et al., 2004; Pälike et al., 2004). Due to irregular spacing from
495 4 to 6 long eccentricity cycles between very long eccentricity minima in the geological
496 data from 50 to 60 Ma the chaotic diffusion of the orbital trajectories as proposed in
497 La2010d and La2011 cannot be verified (Fig. S6). This major discrepancy points to
498 inaccuracy in the planetary ephemeris solutions, which are currently limited due to the
499 chaotic behavior of the large asteroids (Laskar et al., 2011b). The transition from libration
500 to circulation needs to be identified in older geological intervals to help to refine orbital

502 models. A precise calculation of Earth's eccentricity beyond 60 Ma is not possible
503 (Laskar et al., 2011b) but geological data, preferably stable carbon isotope data, from 50
504 to 100 Ma could help to detect this critical transition and provide important information
505 for future orbital models.

506

507 **5.4 Comparing the bulk carbon isotope records from 702B and 1263**

508 One might recognize an interesting aspect of aligning $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ curves at two sites.
509 Given all the factors that influence seawater carbon isotopes and carbonate production
510 and deposition, there is no a priori reason to assume that bulk sediment $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ should co-
511 vary in records across the ocean basins, and yet they often do, and therefore these patterns
512 are used for chemostratigraphy (Cramer et al., 2003; Zachos et al., 2010; Littler et al.
513 2014M; Saltzman and Thomas 2014). However, the observation that mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values
514 deviate between sites and especially on long time scales should not come as a surprise,
515 especially as ocean circulation is shifting and biota are evolving. The challenge is to
516 extract the orbital patterns for stratigraphic purposes from these records, the relative
517 modulation of which should be similar, even as the means deviate. The Oligocene-
518 Miocene records provide good examples where the 405-kyr cycles can be extracted and
519 correlated even as mean values deviate between records (Zachos et al., 2001; Pälike et al.,
520 2006; Holbourn et al., 2013).

521 The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records in our study do correlate between 41.5 and 44.5 Ma with similar
522 absolute bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values and similar trends/orbital-scale cyclicity. Between 44.5 and 47
523 Ma Site 702 is offset relative to Site 1263 by 0.3-0.4‰ (Fig. 5a), but trends and overall
524 patterns of orbitally-paced events are similar. In the 47 to 49 Ma interval offset values
525 and trends are different, but the pattern with a double $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion at ~48 Ma is the
526 same. The mismatch around 47.5 Ma could indicate a potential unidentified hiatus
527 between 47 and 48 Ma in one of the sites. Please note that despite the offset from 44.5 to
528 49 Ma both $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ curves show a very similar trend from 45.5 to 47 Ma including the
529 minimum in amplitude modulation at eccentricity 405-kyr cycle 113. In supplementary
530 Figure S8 both records are plotted on the same as well as on separate $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ axes to

532 demonstrate the coherently corresponding pattern of both records. This clearly exhibits
533 that the chronostratigraphy between sites is consistent and therefore correct. The offset
534 from 44.5 to 48 Ma is only impeding the visual comparison.

535 In contrast, a somehow problematic interval lies between 47 and 48 Ma, where the
536 bulk isotope data exhibit both offset trends and values. The two peaks in Hole 702B bulk
537 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data at 47.39 and 47.55 Ma (see Fig. S8) are based on single measurements and
538 therefore should not be over-interpreted, e.g. as $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursions or even (mis)used for
539 direct value-to-value correlation to 1263. The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion seen at Site 1263 at 47.2
540 Ma is not well expressed in Hole 702B bulk data. But, the cyclostratigraphy for this Site
541 1263 interval is straightforward because the 405-kyr cycles can be clearly identified (Fig.
542 5, cycles 14-16). 405-kyr cycles 14 and 15 are hard to assign in Hole 702B, but cycle 16
543 can and it also correlates to cycle 16 at Site 1263 with the prominent double $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ peaks at
544 48.0 and 48.1 Ma. Cycle 16 is located in C21r in both records and thus we can be
545 confident that there is no major gap in the Hole 702B record.

546 Finally, there might be an interesting divergence in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of surface waters in
547 the south Atlantic during the middle Eocene assuming the bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signal at Hole 702B
548 and Site 1263 mainly comes from coccolith and planktonic foraminiferal carbonate. The
549 stratigraphic pattern seems consistent between Sites 702 and 1263, therefore we interpret
550 the observed divergence and offset in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signal as a result of changes in the surface
551 water at Site 702. Site 1263 is from the middle of the South Atlantic gyre and Site 702
552 from higher latitude on the edge of the gyre. It might be that differences in surface-water
553 nutrient levels or/and stratification existed. Even though both sites are comprised of
554 slowly accumulated pelagic carbonates, Site 702 would likely have been subject to higher
555 nutrient conditions and/or more variability in nutrient supply, as for example indicated by
556 biogenic silica (radiolarians, silicoflagellates) in the upper middle Eocene section of Site
557 702. The lower bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values in the older part of the record at Site 702 could be
558 indicative of higher nutrient levels or a deeper depth of production of calcareous
559 nannoplankton. Given all the variables that control mixed-layer $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -DIC (including also
560 air-sea CO_2 exchange) the two sites should not really be expected to have similar bulk
561 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values. Low-resolution benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data from Hole 702B (Katz and Miller, 1991;

562 Fig. S8) show a possible 0.2‰ shift at ~44.5 Ma pointing towards changes in surface and
563 deep ocean carbon signatures. The similar pattern in bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data of Sites 702 and 1263
564 suggests that both sites are recording the primary signal and it is very unlikely that
565 diagenetic alteration affected the signal at both sites the same way. The shift in bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$
566 data at 44.5 Ma does not influence the stratigraphic interpretation but might be a very
567 interesting feature for further paleoceanographic investigations.

568

569

570 **6 Conclusions**

571 The closing of the middle Eocene gap and the connection of the 405-kyr
572 cyclostratigraphies of the Eocene and Paleocene complete a fully astronomically
573 calibrated geological timescale for the Cenozoic. Derived absolute ages for the PETM
574 and K/Pg boundary are now consistent with the intercalibration of radio-isotopic and
575 astronomical dating methods. Previous discrepancies lie in the uncertainties of orbital
576 solutions beyond 50 Ma and problems in the determination of the absolute age of ash -17
577 in the early Eocene with respect to cyclostratigraphy (Hilgen et al., 2010; Storey et al.,
578 2007; Westerhold et al., 2009). The new accurate stratigraphy is a key to explore why and
579 how Earth's climate shifted from greenhouse to icehouse state throughout the Paleogene
580 in unprecedented detail. Comparison of terrestrial and deep-sea calibrations of the GPTS
581 suggests that ages and durations of Chrons C22 and C23 need to be studied in more detail
582 to solve current discrepancies in the future. The presently observed differences in Chrons
583 C22 and C23 stem from uncertainties in the exact width of the stacked deep-sea anomaly
584 profile of Cande and Kent (1992), the lack of high-quality magnetostratigraphy from
585 deep-sea records, and uncertainties in position as well as in age of some ash layers in the
586 terrestrial Green River Formation. Importantly the comparison between bulk carbonate
587 carbon isotope data and orbital models for Earth's eccentricity reveals inaccuracy in the
588 planetary ephemeris solutions and limits direct astronomical calibration using the short
589 eccentricity cycle to 48 Ma.

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600 **Acknowledgments**

601 We thank Monika Segl and her team for stable isotope analyses at MARUM, Alexander
602 Houben and Dyke Andreasen for stable isotope analyses at UCSC, Roy Wilkens
603 (University of Hawaii) for introducing us into the world of core image analysis, Alex
604 Wülbers and Walter Hale at the IODP Bremen Core Repository (BCR) for core handling,
605 and Vera Lukies (MARUM) for assistance with XRF core scanning. This research used
606 samples and data provided by the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP). IODP
607 is sponsored by the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and participating countries.
608 Financial support for this research was provided by the Deutsche
609 Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). The data reported in this paper are tabulated in the
610 Supporting Online Material and archived at the Pangaea (www.pangaea.de) database.
611 T.W. and U.R. designed the study, generated stable bulk isotope data for ODP Site 1263,
612 and applied time series analysis. T. F. conducted the paleomagnetic analysis. S.B.
613 generated the bulk isotope data for ODP Site 702, and J.Z. generated bulk isotope data for
614 1263. T.W., U.R., T. F., S.B. and J.Z. interpreted the data and wrote the paper.

615

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839

840 **Table 1.** Comparison of absolute magnetochron boundary ages in million years.

Magneto- chron	Standard GPTS			astronomically calibrated		astronomically calibrated – this study*			
	CK95	GPTS 2004	GPTS 2012	PEAT Sites [#]	Contessa Highway	ODP 1260 tuned	ODP 1258 option2	ODP 1263 tuned	ODP 702B tuned
C18n.2n (o)	40.130	39.464	40.145	40.076 ±5	41.120				
C19n (y)	41.257	40.439	41.154	<i>41.075 ±7</i>	41.250	41.061 ±9		41.030 ±13	
C19n (o)	41.521	40.671	41.390	<i>41.306 ±5</i>	41.510	41.261 ±4		41.180 ±11	
C20n (y)	42.536	41.590	42.301	<i>42.188 ±15</i>	42.540	42.151 ±7		42.107 ±13	42.124 ±4
C20n (o)	43.789	42.774	43.432		43.790	43.449 ±18		43.517 ±11	43.426 ±3
C21n (y)	46.264	45.346	45.724		46.310			46.151 ±9	46.080 ±3
C21n (o)	47.906	47.235	47.349				47.723 ±118	47.575 ±18	
C22n (y)	49.037	48.599	48.566				48.954 ±16		

841 * tuned to the orbital solution La2011 (Laskar et al., 2011b)

842 # combined ages based on Pacific Equatorial Age Transect Sites 1218, U1333 and U1334 (Westerhold et al., 2014)

843 **Note: bold ages are the best estimates to be used for developing a future reference time scale for polarity chrons**

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Table 2. Comparison of magnetochron boundary durations in million years.

Magneto- chron	Standard GPTS			Astronomically calibrated			Astronomically calibrated – this Study*		
	CK95	GPTS 2004	GPTS 2012	PEAT Sites [#]	Contessa Highway	ODP 1260 tuned	ODP 1258 option2	ODP 1263 tuned	ODP 702B tuned
C18n.2r	1.127	0.975	1.009	0.999 ±12					
C19n	0.264	0.232	0.236	0.231 ±12	0.260	0.200 ±7		0.150 ±24	
C19r	1.015	0.919	0.911	0.882 ±20	1.030	0.891 ±6		0.927 ±24	
C20n	1.253	1.184	1.131		1.250	1.297 ±13		1.410 ±24	1.302 ±7
C20r	2.475	2.572	2.292		2.520			2.634 ±20	2.654 ±6
C21n	1.642	1.889	1.625					1.424 ±27	
C21r	1.131	1.364	1.214				1.231 ±134		

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* tuned to the orbital solution La2011 (Laskar et al., 2011b)

[#] combined ages based on Pacific Equatorial Age Transect Sites 1218, U1333 and U1334 (Westerhold et al., 2014)

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854 **Table 3.** Astronomically calibrated ages of key events in the Eocene and Paleocene.

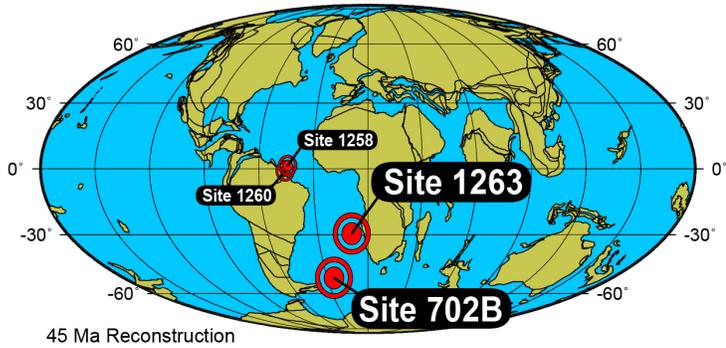
Event	Age (Ma)	Type	Source
EOT	33.89	Onset large scale glaciation of Antarctica	Westerhold et al. 2014
peak-MECO CIE	40.05	Hyperthermal	Westerhold & Röhl 2013
C19r	41.51	Hyperthermal	Westerhold & Röhl 2013
X/K (ETM-3)	52.83	Hyperthermal	Westerhold et al. 2012 Opt2
ELMO (ETM-2)	54.05	Hyperthermal	Westerhold et al. 2007 Opt2
PETM (ETM-1)	55.93	Hyperthermal	Westerhold et al. 2008 Opt2
peak-PCIM event	58.10	Shift in Pacific & Atlantic benthic carbon isotopes	Westerhold et al. 2008 Opt2
ELPE (MPBE)	59.27	Biotic turnover	Westerhold et al. 2008 Opt2
LDE (Chron 27n)	62.18	Hyperthermal	Dinarès-Turell et al. 2014
Dan C2	65.82 - 65.65	Hyperthermal	Dinarès-Turell et al. 2014
K/Pg boundary	66.022 ± 0.04	Impact	Dinarès-Turell et al. 2014

Note: Ages for the events from ELPE to X have been adjusted to La2011

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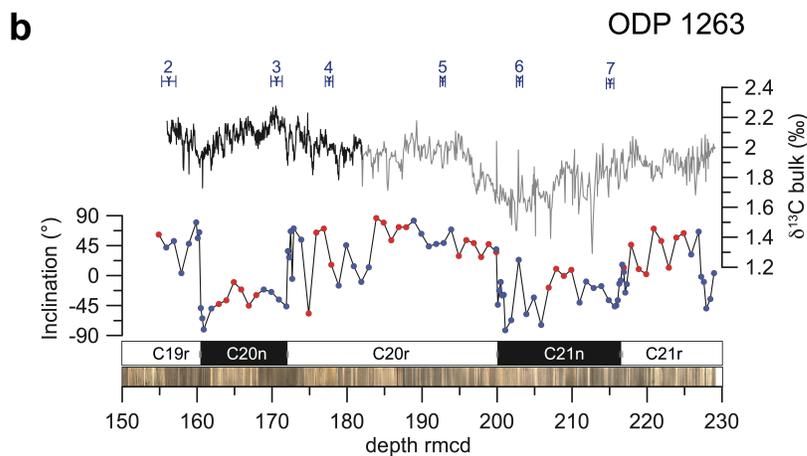
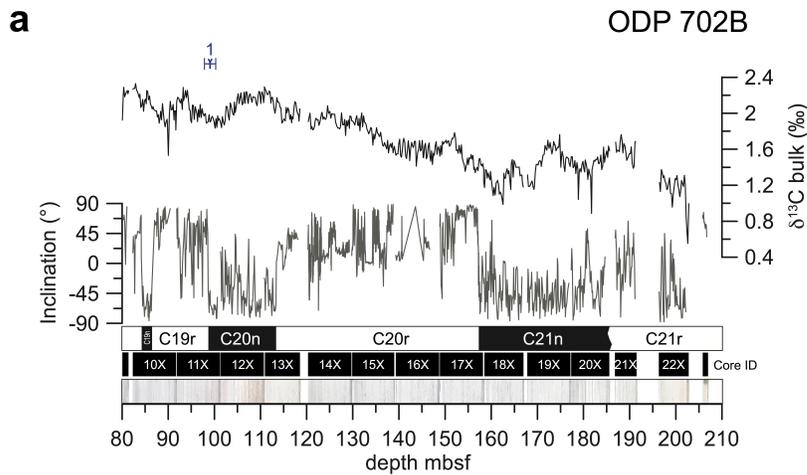
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859 **Figure Legends**



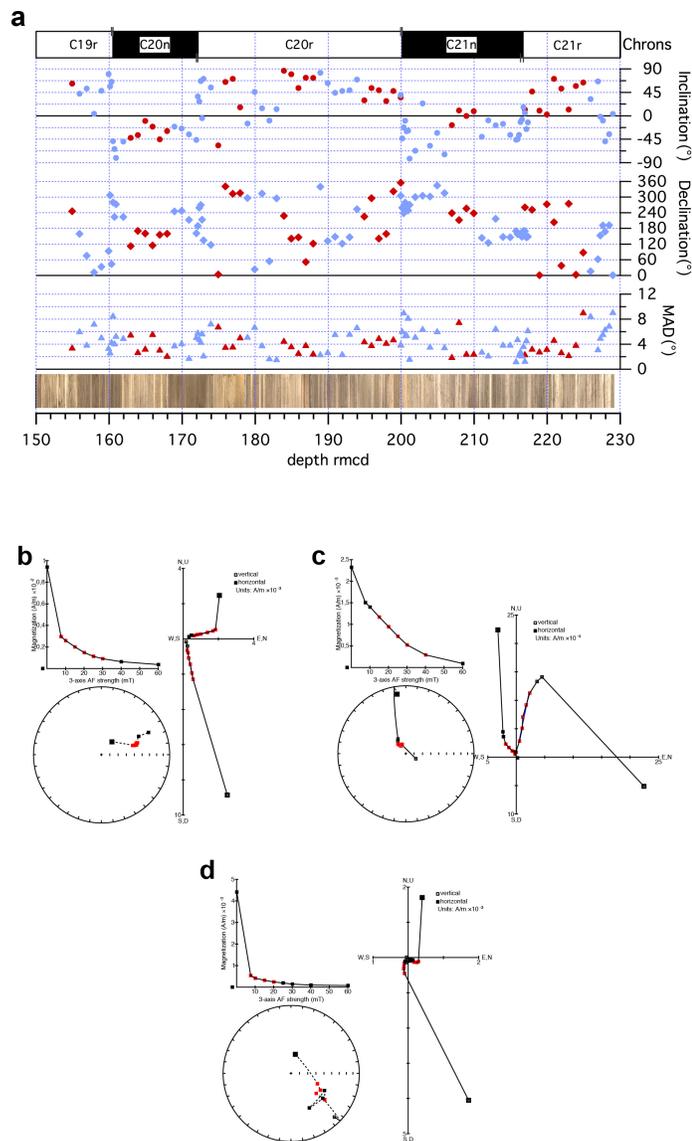
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861 **Figure 1.** Location map for ODP Hole 702B and Site 1263 on a 45 Ma paleogeographic
862 reconstruction in Mollweide projection (from <http://www.odsn.de>); also given location of
863 ODP Sites 1258 and 1260.



864
 865 **Figure 2.** Overview of data from ODP Hole 702B and Site 1263 generated during this
 866 study. **a.** Bulk stable carbon (black) data generated by this study, inclination data (gray,
 867 (Clement and Hailwood, 1991)), magnetostratigraphic interpretation, core ID and core
 868 images vs. depth. **b.** ODP Site 1263 data generated by this study vs. revised composite
 869 depth: bulk stable carbon isotope data (black Bremen lab, gray Santa Cruz lab),
 870 inclination data (red dots 1263A, blue dots 1263B), magnetostratigraphic interpretation
 871 and core images. Numbers with error bars mark calcareous nannofossil events (2, 4): 1.
 872 Base *R. umbilicus* >14µm., 2. Top *Nannotetrina* spp., 3. Top *N. fulgens*, 4. Top *C. gigas*,
 873 5. Base *C. gigas*, 6. Base *N. fulgens*, 7. Top *D. lodoensis*.
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878 **Figure 3.** Magnetic property data and Zijderveld plots for ODP Site 1263. **a.** Inclination
 879 (dots), declination (diamonds) and MAD (triangles) of **characteristic remanent**
 880 **magnetization** obtained from ODP 1263. Red = 1263A, blue = 1263B. **b to d.** Showcase
 881 Zijderveld plots (z-plots) for samples from C19r 1263B10H1, 140 (b); C21n 1263B14H5,
 882 77 (c); C21r 1263A21H6, 81 (d). Zijderveld plots were realized with PuffinPlot software
 883 (Lurcock and Wilson, 2012). For discussion see text.

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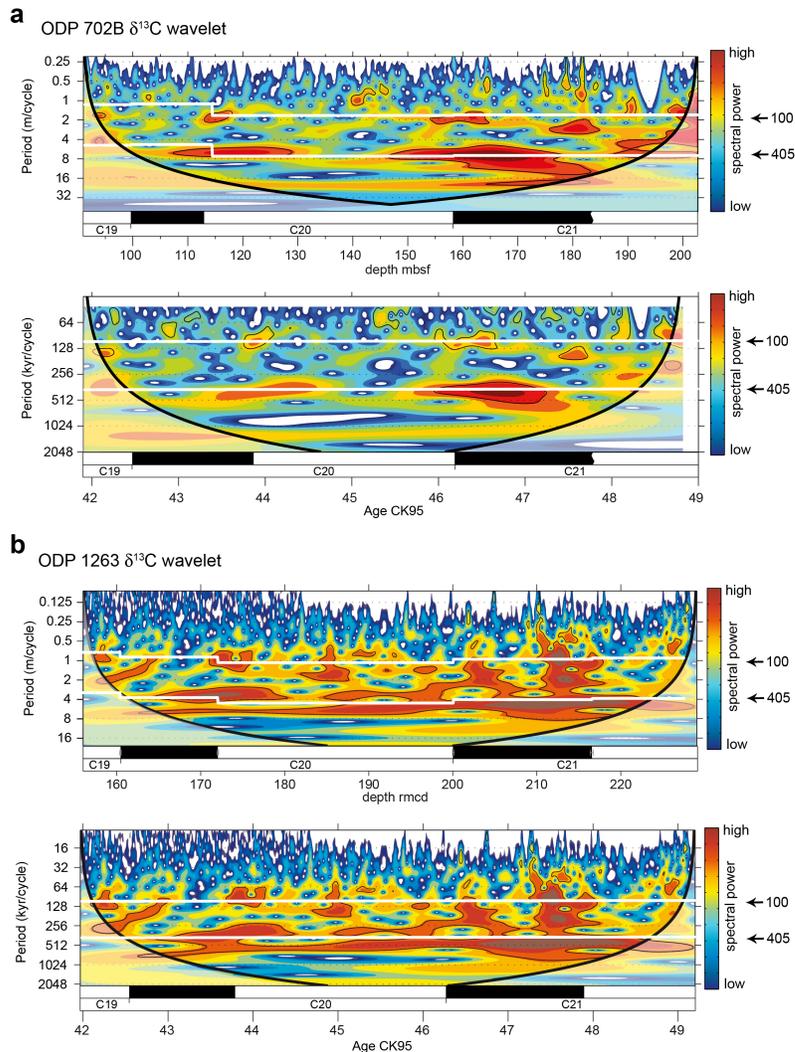
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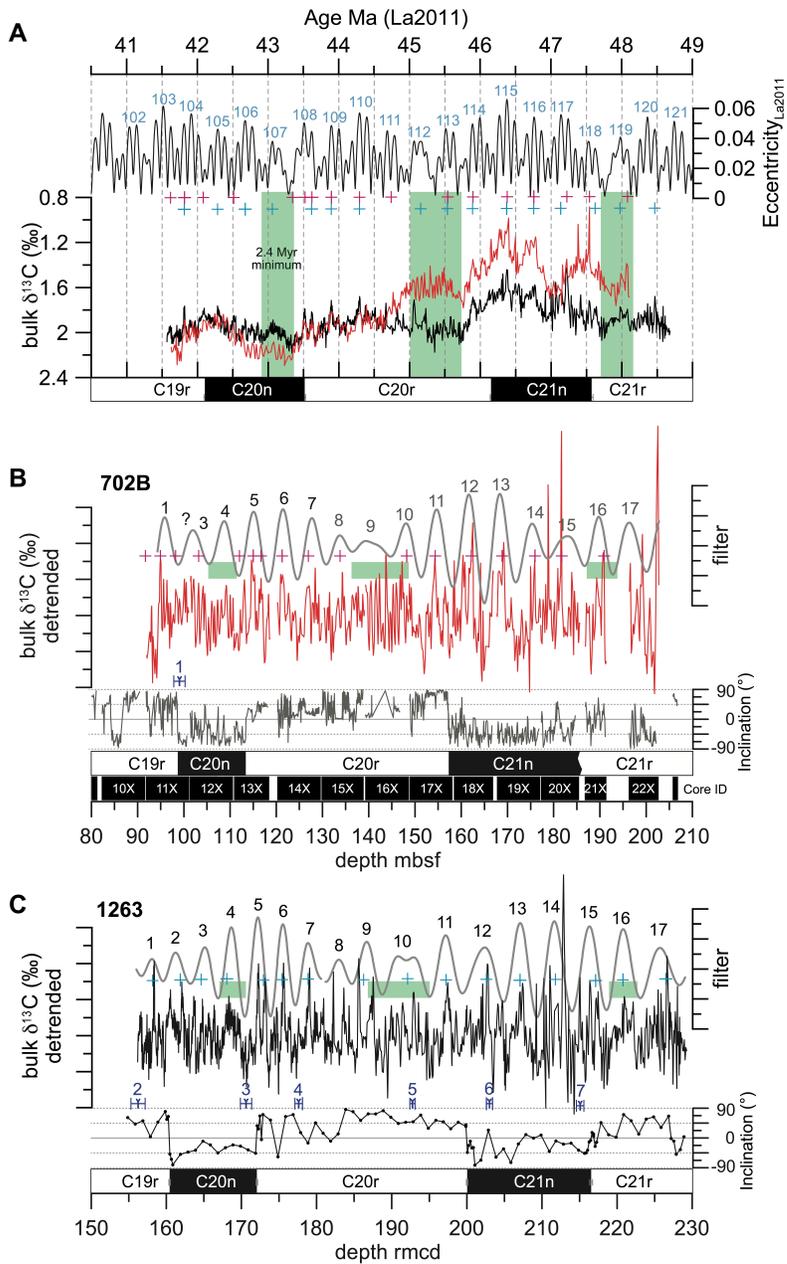
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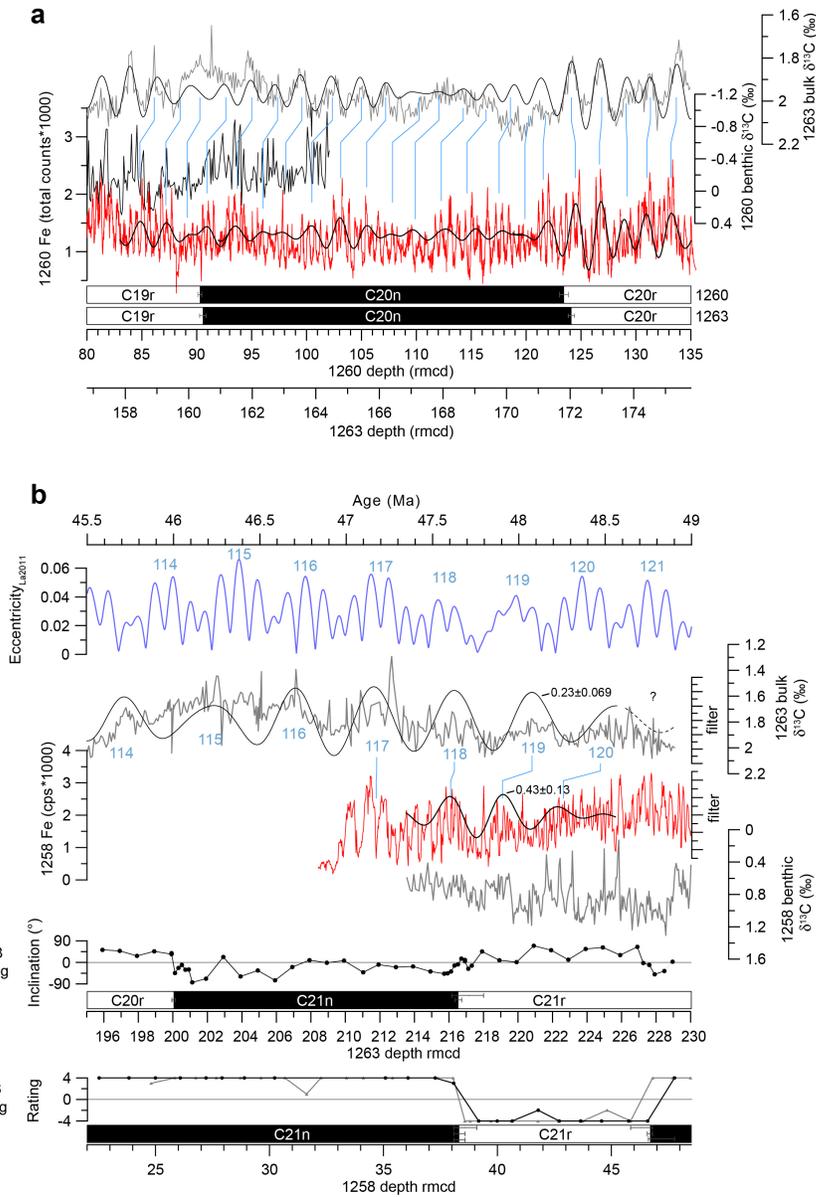
888 **Figure 4.** Evolutionary wavelet power spectra of bulk stable carbon isotope data from
 889 ODP Hole 702B (A) and Site 1263 (B) for magnetochrons C19r to C21r in the depth
 890 domain and versus age. The age model is based on magnetostratigraphy using the time
 891 scale of Cande and Kent (1995, (Cande and Kent, 1995)). The shaded contours in the
 892 evolutionary wavelet power spectra are normalized linear variiances with blue
 893 representing low spectral power, and red representing high spectral power. The black
 894 contour lines enclose regions with more than 95% confidence. Shaded regions on either
 895 end indicate the cone of influence where edge effects become important. Distinct bands
 896 that run across the spectra indicate the dominance of Milankovitch frequencies. Thick
 897 white lines are the projected 100- and 405-kyr cycle path, respectively.



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899 **Figure 5.** Middle Eocene cyclostratigraphic synthesis for ODP Sites 702 and 1263, 41–
900 48.5 Ma. (A) Orbital eccentricity solution La2011 (Laskar et al., 2011b) and respective
901 405-kyr cycle number with new astronomical calibrated ages for magnetic polarity chrons

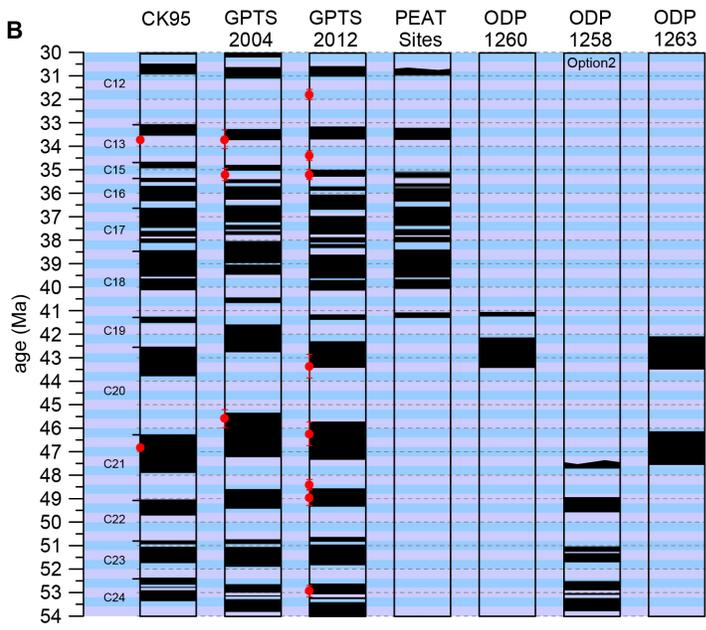
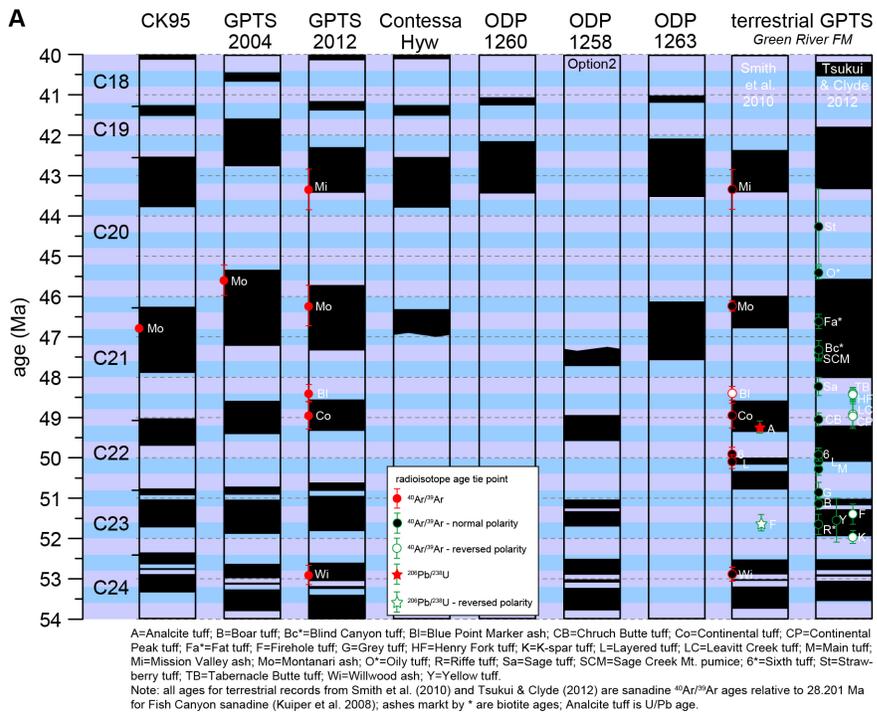
902 C20n, C20r and C21n. Bulk stable isotope data from Sites 702 (red) and 1263 (black) on
903 the new astronomically tuned age model. Green bars show the minima in the amplitude
904 modulation related to the 2.4-Myr cycle in eccentricity. (B) and (C) ODP Site 702 and
905 1263 detrended bulk stable isotope data and band-pass filter of the 405-kyr related
906 eccentricity component (Site 702: 0.16 ± 0.048 cyc/m; Site 1263: 155–180 rmc
907 0.29 ± 0.087 cyc/m, 180–230 rmc 0.23 ± 0.069 cyc/m), paleomagnetic inclination
908 (Clement and Hailwood, 1991), calcareous nannofossil events (Pea, 2011; Shipboard
909 Scientific Party, 2004), core recovery for Site 702. Black numbers indicate individual
910 405-kyr cycles determined by combining records from both sites. Red and blue crosses
911 indicate tuning tie points. Calcareous nannofossil events: 1. Base *R. umbilicus* $>14\mu\text{m}$, 2.
912 Top *Nannotrina* spp., 3. Top *N. fulgens*, 4. Top *C. gigas*, 5. Base *C. gigas*, 6. Base *N.*
913 *fulgens*, 7. Top *D. lodoensis*.
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917 **Figure 6.** Connecting the 405-kyr cyclostratigraphy of ODP Sites 1258 and 1260 with
 918 Site 1263. **A.** Correlation of geochemical and paleomagnetic data from ODP Sites 1263
 919 and 1260. Site 1260: benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in black (25), XRF core scanning Fe intensities in red

920 (5), magnetostratigraphy (Ogg and Bardot, 2001). Site 1263: Bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data in gray,
921 magnetostratigraphy (both this study). For $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and Fe data also the 100-kyr related cycle
922 is filtered in the depth and age domain. Blue lines mark tie points between records. **B.**
923 Tying ODP Site 1258 with the astronomically calibrated Site 1263 record at the
924 magnetochron C21n/C21r boundary. From top to bottom: La2011 eccentricity solution;
925 bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data and 100-kyr filter from 1263 (this study); XRF core scanning Fe
926 intensities (Westerhold and Röhl, 2009) and benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data (Sexton et al., 2011) from
927 1258; inclination data and magnetostratigraphic interpretation of 1263 (this study);
928 polarity rating scheme and magnetostratigraphic interpretation of 1258 (Suganuma and
929 Ogg, 2006; Westerhold and Röhl, 2009). The blue numbers label the 405-kyr cycle
930 counted back in time from today in La2011 and the respective 405-kyr cycle in 1263. The
931 small black numbers are the filter details for 1263 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and 1258 Fe. The correlation of
932 cycle 118 and 119 over the magnetochron C21n/C21r boundary using $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data connects
933 the cyclostratigraphy of the early Paleogene with the ATS of the Neogene and late
934 Paleogene. This closes the mid-Eocene cyclostratigraphic gap and concludes a fully
935 calibrated ATS for the entire Cenozoic.



937 **Figure 7.** Geomagnetic Polarity Time Scale of CK95 (Cande and Kent, 1995),
938 GPTS2004 (Ogg and Smith, 2004) and GPTS2012 (Ogg, 2012; Vandenberghe et al.,
939 2012) compared to astronomical calibrations of magnetochrons from Contessa Highway
940 (Jovane et al., 2010), PEAT sites (Westerhold et al., 2014), Site 1260 (Westerhold and
941 Röhl, 2013), Site 1258 (Westerhold and Röhl, 2009; Westerhold et al., 2012) and 1263
942 (this study) from (A) 40-54 Ma and (B) 30-54 Ma. In (A) the terrestrial calibration of the
943 GPTS from the Green River Formation (Smith et al., 2010; Tsukui & Clyde, 2012) is also
944 shown. Small red dots with error bars mark the radio-isotopic calibration points used for
945 CK95, GPTS2004, GPTS2012, and Smith et al. (2010); green circles show calibration
946 points for the terrestrial sections used by Tsukui & Clyde (2012). The overview
947 demonstrates the consistent Eocene coverage from 30-54 Ma by ODP and IODP (PEAT
948 Sites) derived stratigraphic data, and the discrepancy to as well as in the terrestrial GPTS.
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Gelöscht: Small red dots with error bars mark the radio-isotopic calibration points used for CK95, GPTS2004 and GPTS2012.

Expression of precession and short-eccentricity cycles in core images

To illustrate the possible expression of precession and short-eccentricity cycles in core images we provide two figures on Sites 702 and 1263 core data. The hierarchical expression of cyclicity or bundling of cycles is easy to recognize in the Paleocene and Maastrichtian Zumaia section (Dinarès-Turell et al., 2003; Kuiper et al., 2008; Dinarès-Turell et al., 2013; Batenburg et al., 2014; Dinarès-Turell et al., 2014). Figure S4a displays the 166 to 180 rmc interval at Site 1263 including a 2.4 Myr minimum at approximately 168 rmc to a more pronounced short eccentricity cyclicity below. The figure shows the individual images from two holes, 1263A and 1263B, as well as the combined (spliced) image. Slight color differences between Holes 1263A and 1263B image are related to aperture setting changes during the shipboard image acquisition. These color differences between the two holes are artifacts that cannot easily be corrected for. There is no clear expression of precession although slight changes in color may occur on decimeter level. The short eccentricity cycles appear a bit darker at $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ minima corresponding to eccentricity maxima, similar to the observations of Lourens et al. (2005) for the early Eocene. Core images of Hole 702B (Fig. S4b) are bright white with no apparent expressions of precession or short eccentricity cycles. The figure shows Cores 702B-12X and 702B-13X, time equivalents to the 1263 images of Fig. S4a. In general, core-box images taken during ODP times (“table layout images”) suffer from severe unequal lighting. Because of this most cores are darker in the upper right corner (see 702B-12X in Fig. S4b). Both ODP cores do not show the clear cycle bundling as in some outcrops on land (Zumaia) that can be utilized for astronomical tuning.

Phase relationship between bulk carbon isotopes and eccentricity

For the astronomical tuning of the bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data from 702B and 1263 lighter (more negative) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ peaks are correlated to La2011 eccentricity maxima. The rationale for picking this phase relationship is based on several high profile studies, including modeling of carbon cycle and Earth’s orbit interaction (Zachos et al., 2001a; Cramer et al., 2003; Billups et al., 2004; Lourens et al., 2005; Pälike et al., 2006a; Pälike et al., 2006b; Holbourn et al., 2007; Tian et al., 2008; Russon et al., 2010; Zachos et al., 2010; Lunt et al., 2011; Ma et al., 2011; Sexton et al., 2011; Westerhold et al., 2011; Proistosescu et al., 2012; Holbourn et al., 2013; Kirtland Turner et al., 2014; Littler et al., 2014) dealing with the phase relation of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and the 405-kyr orbital eccentricity cycle. All these studies show that the Pliocene to Cenozoic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values in benthic and bulk deep sea carbonate reveal augmented 405-kyr cycles with minima in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (lighter values) and $\%\text{CaCO}_3$ (i.e. peaks in Fe) corresponding to eccentricity

maxima. This phase relation is also observed in the records from ODP Site 1258 (Kirtland Turner et al., 2014) and 1260 (Edgar et al., 2007) as shown herein. The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ cycles are consistent with a climate-carbon cycle feedback, as indicated by a relative lag in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ relative to $\delta^{18}\text{O}$. [The strong 405-kyr cycle in benthic and bulk \$\delta^{13}\text{C}\$ data as well as simulated \$\delta^{13}\text{C}\$ results from a resonance associated with the long residence time of carbon in the ocean \(Broecker and Peng, 1982; Pälike et al., 2006a; Ma et al., 2011\). Periodic changes in oceanic \$\delta^{13}\text{C}\$ on Milankovitch time scales are likely caused by changes in weathering induced carbon input changing the burial ratio of \$\text{CaCO}_3\$ to organic carbon \(Cramer et al., 2003; Ma et al., 2011\). An increase in weathering intensity and riverine carbon supply will increase the burial ratio of \$\text{CaCO}_3\$ to organic carbon leading to a decrease in \$\delta^{13}\text{C}\$ \(minima, lighter values in bulk \$\delta^{13}\text{C}\$ \). During eccentricity maxima weathering intensity and nutrient supply is enhanced leading via the biosphere productivity feedback to lighter bulk \$\delta^{13}\text{C}\$ values in the stable carbon isotope records.](#) The phase lag of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ to eccentricity has been estimated to be in the order of 50 and 10 kyr for long and short eccentricity (Herbert, 1997; Zachos et al., 2001b; Holbourn et al., 2007; Zachos et al., 2010; Westerhold et al., 2011) in the Neogene and Paleogene. This leads to the assumption that the uncertainty in astronomical tuning presented here is in the order of less than 50 kyr. In fact the main uncertainty derives from the error in the 405-kyr eccentricity cycle in the order of 50 kyr at 56 Ma and 60 kyr at 66 Ma.

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Figure Legends

Figure S1. ODP Site 1263 magnetic susceptibility data (Shipboard Scientific Party, 2004) from Holes A (red), B (blue) and C (green) on the new revised composite depth. Data and core images are plotted for each hole separately. Red vertical lines are the tops and yellow vertical lines are the bases of splice sections. All magnetic susceptibility data are the instrument units raw in 10^{-5} .

Figure S2. MTM power spectra of ODP Hole 702B bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data from various intervals in the depth and age (magnetostratigraphy ages CK95) domain.

Figure S3. MTM power spectra of ODP Site 1263 bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data from various intervals in the depth and age (magnetostratigraphy ages CK95) domain.

Figure S4. Close up of ODP Site 1263 and Hole 702B to illustrate the potential expression of precession and short-eccentricity cycles in core images.

Figure S5. Comparison of sedimentation rates for Site 1263 and Hole 702B records using the tuned, the magnetostratigraphic, the 17 405-kyr cyclo- and 18 405-kyr cyclostratigraphic age model. Bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data (gray) and the magnetostratigraphy are also shown.

Figure S6. Eccentricity solutions La2010a-d (Laskar et al., 2011a) and La2011 (Laskar et al., 2011b) of the Earth (fine black line) compared to geological data to assess the positions of the 2.4 myr eccentricity cycle minima from 41 to 60 Ma. To accentuate successive minima in the eccentricity solution the amplitude modulation (AM) was extracted from the orbital solution (thick gray line). Geochemical data with a dominant eccentricity component are plotted on the stable 405-kyr cyclostratigraphic framework anchored to the ATS. Data: bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ from 1258 in light blue (Kirtland Turner et al., 2014), 1262 in bright blue (Littler et al., 2014; Zachos et al., 2010) and 1263 in dark blue (this study); benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ from 1258 in gray (Sexton et al., 2011); XRF core scanning iron (Fe) intensity data from 1262 in orange (Westerhold et al., 2007; Westerhold et al., 2008) and 1258 in red (Westerhold and Röhl, 2009). Also given is the position of the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) (Westerhold et al., 2007) and ash -17 (Westerhold et al., 2009). Light blue bars mark the 2.4 myr eccentricity minima in the geological data. The comparison shows that none of the orbital solutions matches all of the minima in the geological records back to 60 Ma. La2011 and La2010d reproduce all minima up to 48 Ma. Therefore, for astronomical dating only these two solutions are robust back to 48 Ma. For older times only the stable 405-kyr eccentricity cycle should be utilized.

Figure S7. Comparison of astronomical and radio-isotopic ages for the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) and ash -17. Gray bars mark the absolute age range for the onset of the PETM based on the age and relative distance of ash -17 with respect to the age of the Fish Canyon (FC) radiometric dating $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ standard of 28.02 (Renne et al., 1998), 28.201 (Kuiper et al., 2008), 28.305 (Renne et al., 2010), 27.93 (Channell et al., 2010), 27.89 (Westerhold et al., 2012), 28.172 (Rivera et al., 2011) and 28.10 (this study) Ma. Horizontal black lines mark the three possible options of the age range for the onset of the PETM based on the astronomically calibrated Paleocene time scale (Westerhold et al., 2008). The red bar and arrow as well as light blue bar and arrow mark the astronomically calibrated absolute age for the onset of the PETM and ash -17 consistent with the 2.4 myr minima in the La2011 orbital solution (Westerhold et al., 2012). The green bar and arrow as well as the blue bar and arrow mark the age of the onset of the PETM and ash -17 consistent with the stable 405-kyr cyclostratigraphy established in this study. The black double dot with error bar shows the age of the onset of the PETM based on a high precision radio-isotopic U/Pb age of 55.728 - 55.964 Ma from bentonite layers within the PETM interval at Spitzbergen (Charles et al., 2011). The U/Pb age and the stable 405-kyr cyclostratigraphy age of ~ 55.9 Ma are independent from uncertainties in the 100-kyr and 2.4 myr eccentricity cycle components and therefore the most robust age for the onset of the PETM.

Figure S8. Detailed graph of bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data from 702B (red) and 1263 (black) plotted on the tuned age model. (A) Both records plotted on the same $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ axis. Benthic foraminifers' $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data from Katz and Miller (1991). (B) Zoom of the 46.5 to 48.2 Ma interval plotted on a separate $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ axes. Black lines mark lighter $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values at 702B at 47.23, 47.39, 47.55 and 48.08 Ma that correlate with lighter values in 1263. Note that the 47.39 and 47.55 Ma peaks at 702B are single data points and that due to the sample resolution of 20 cm at 702B in this interval transient $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursions could be missed.

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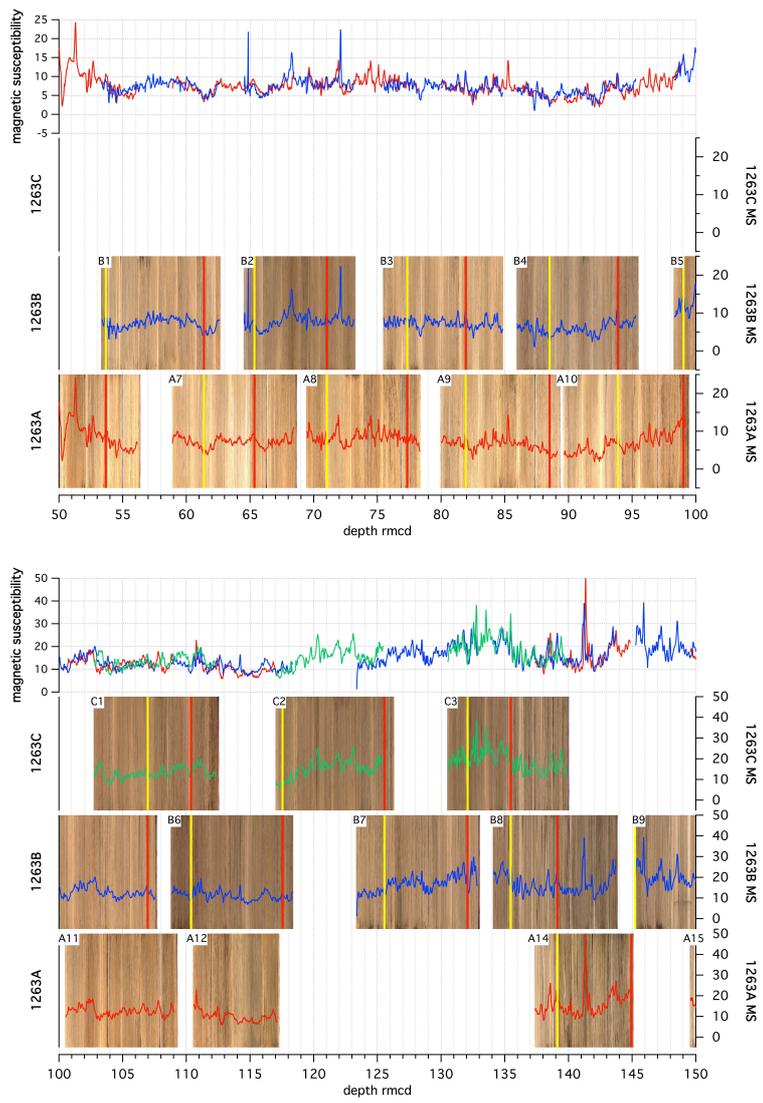


Figure S1

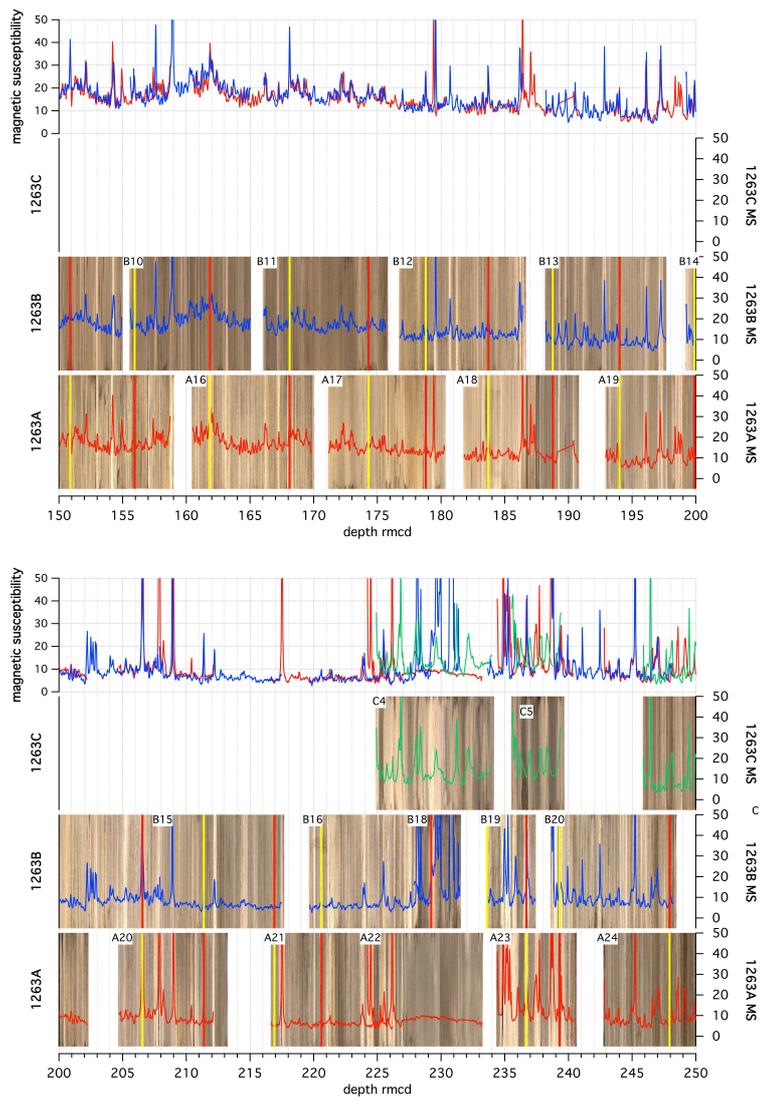


Figure S1 - continued.

702B bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$

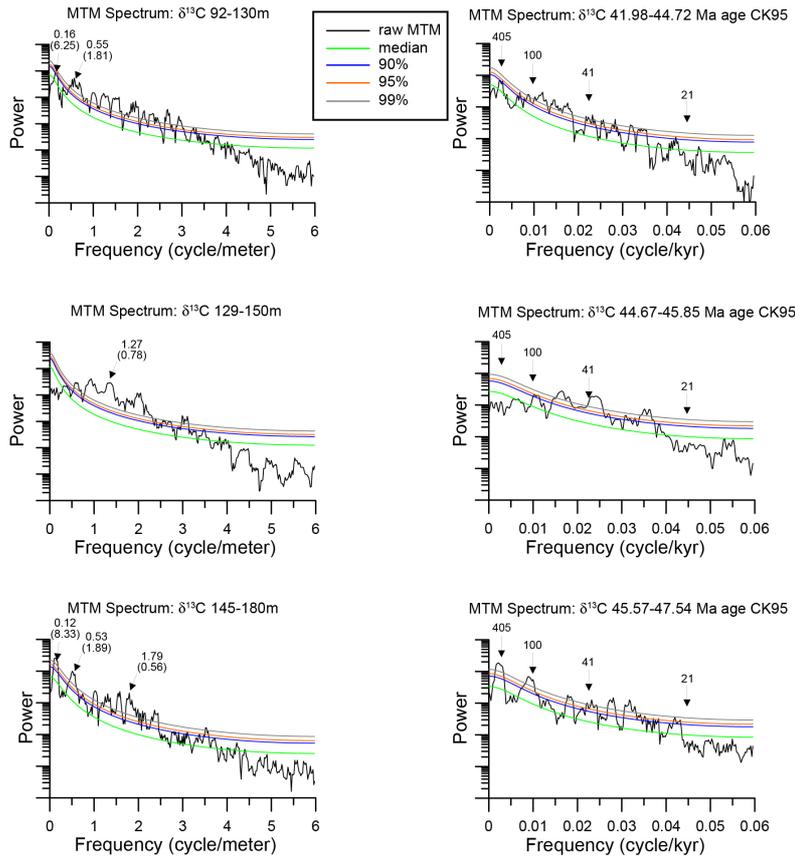


Figure S2

1263 bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$

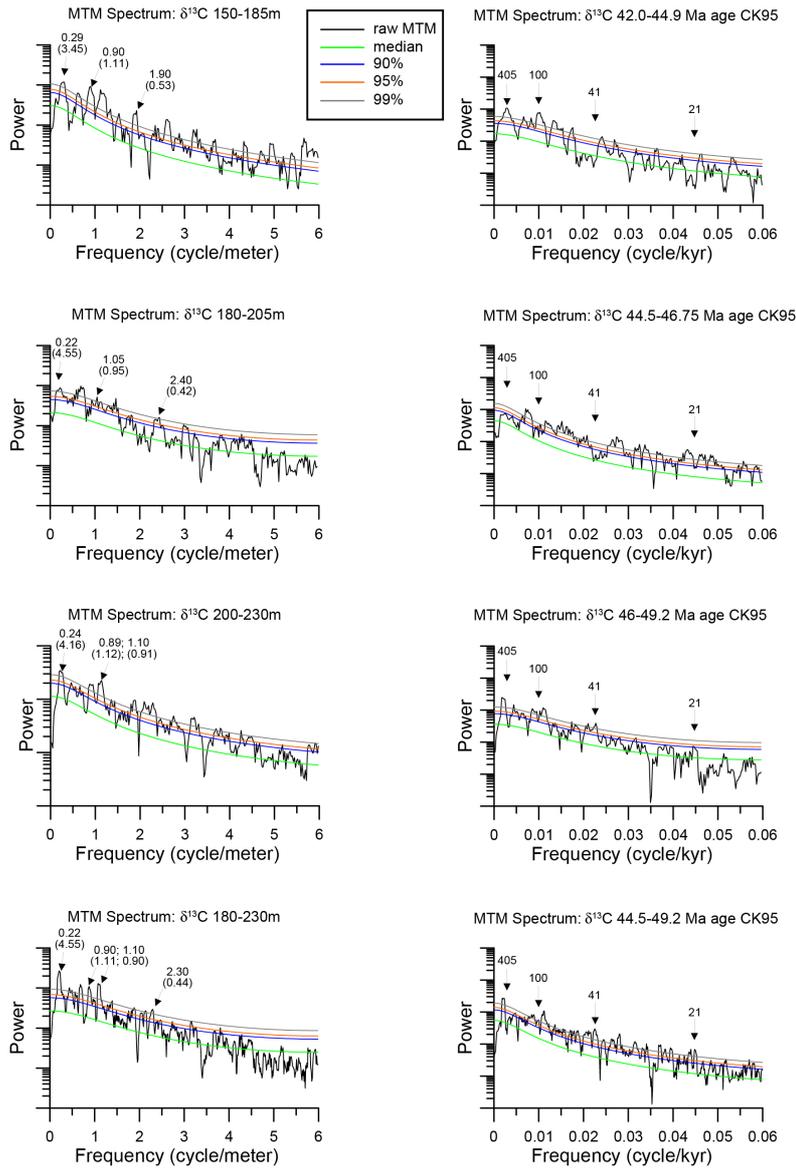
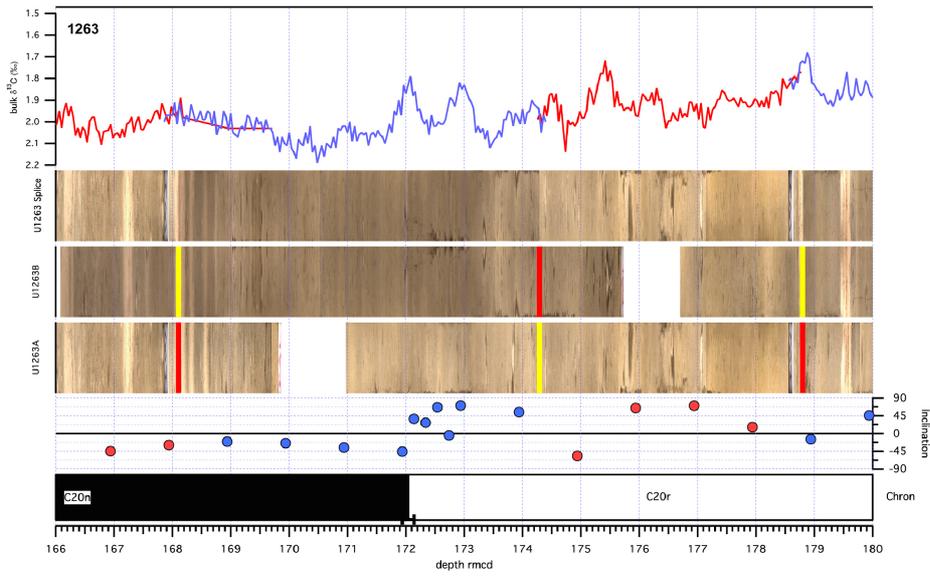


Figure S3

a,



b,

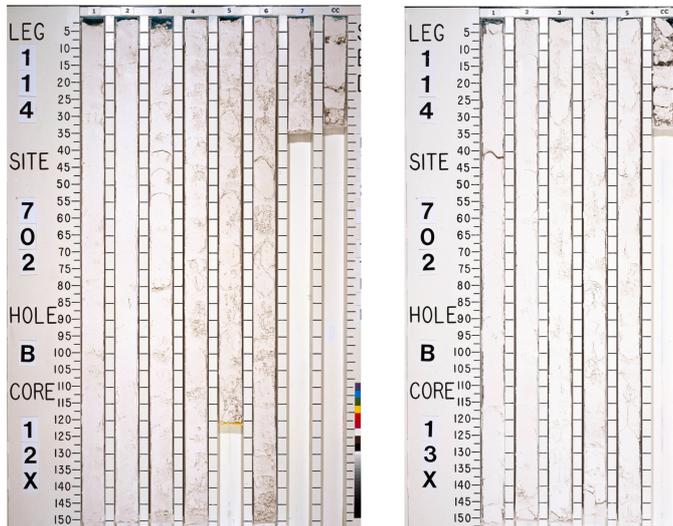


Figure S4

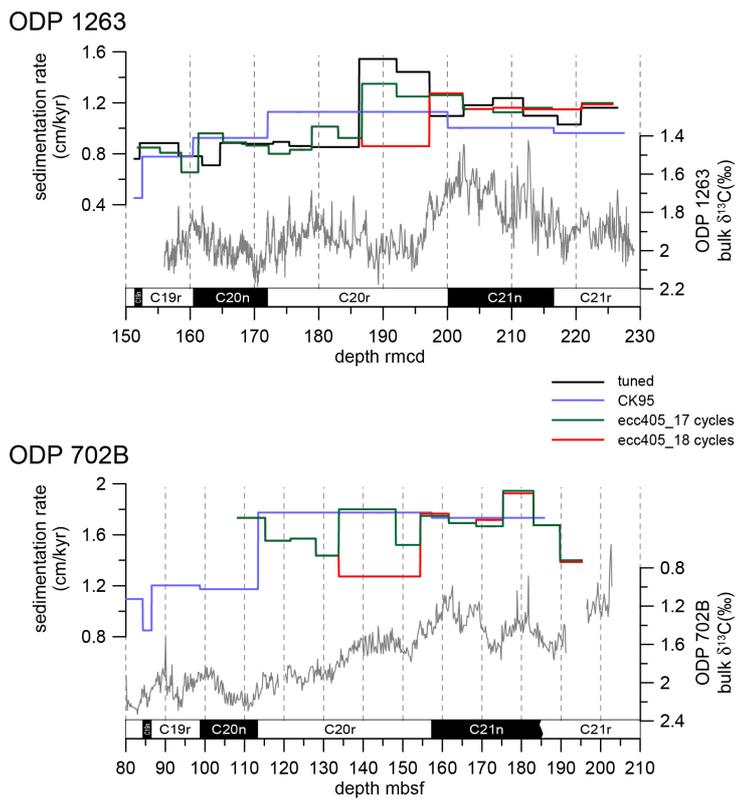


Figure S5

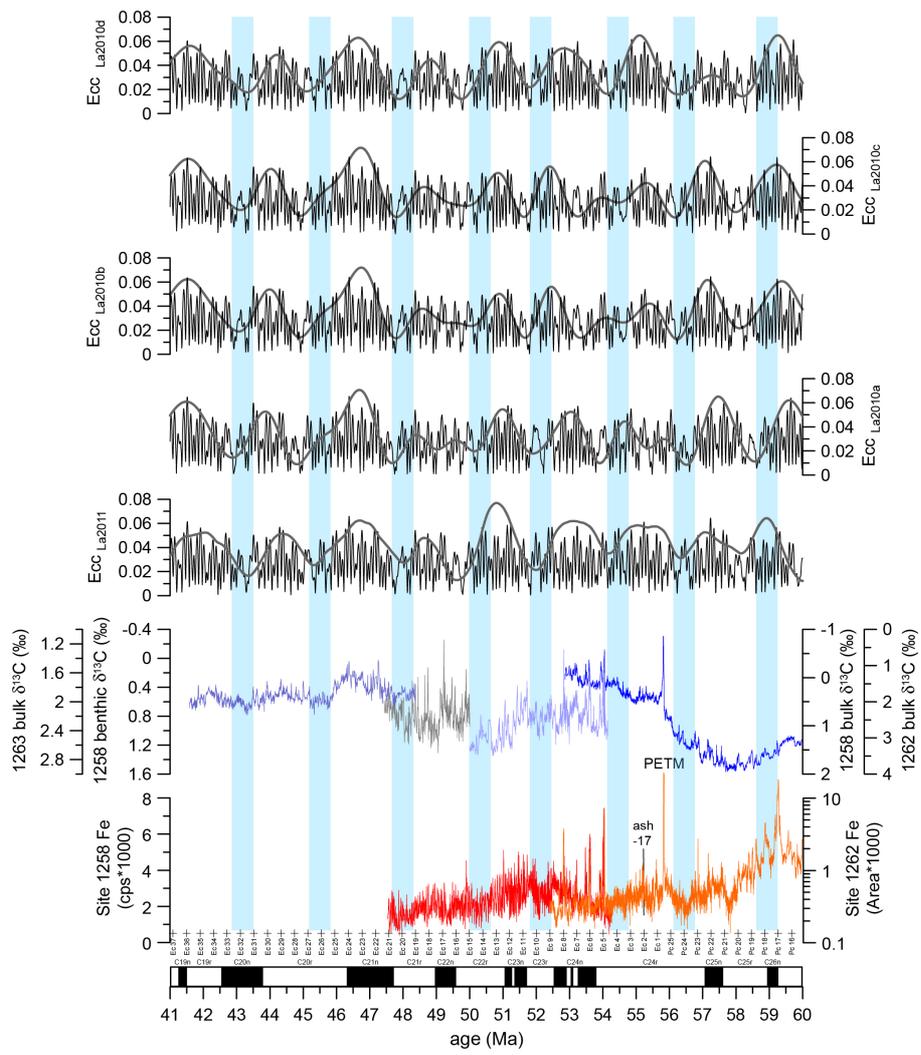


Figure S6

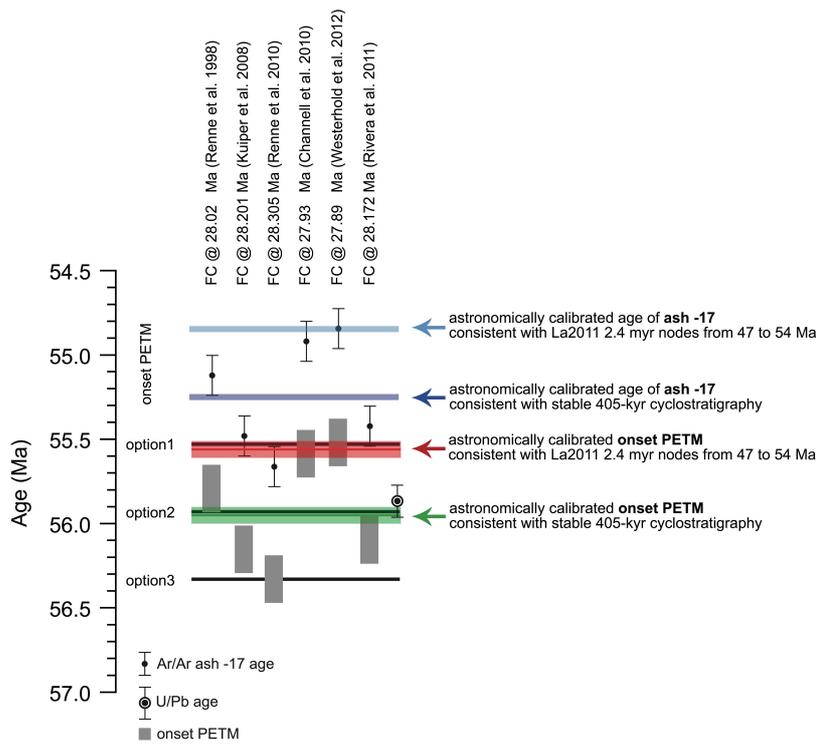


Figure S7

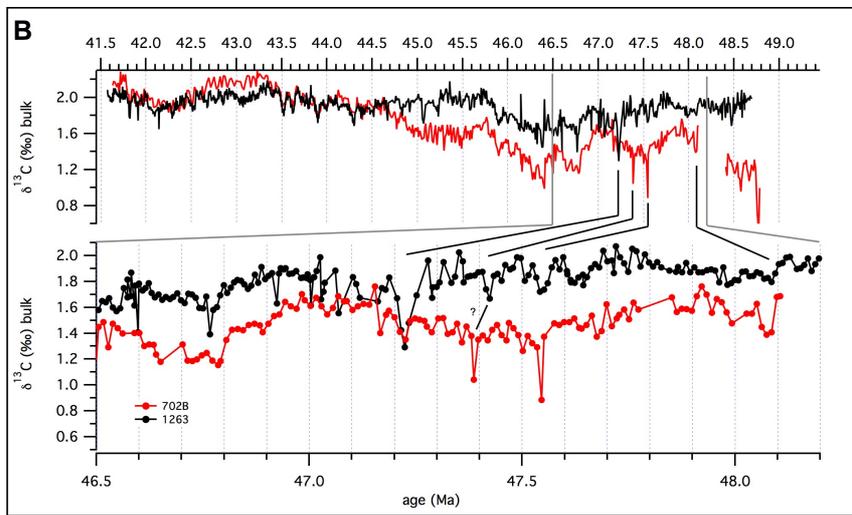
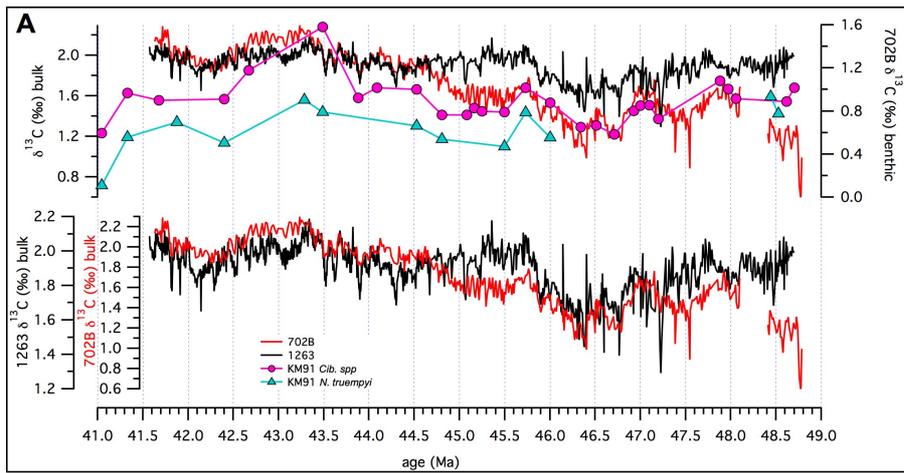


Figure S8

Dataset

Astronomical Calibration of the Geological Timescale: Closing the Middle Eocene Gap

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The data reported in this paper are open access archived at the Pangaea (www.pangaea.de) database online at <http://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.845986>. This supplement includes tables S4 to S13; extensive tables S1 to S3 are open access available at the links to Pangaea database.

Tables:

[Table S1 - Bulk stable isotope data ODP 702B \(available here\)](#)

[Table S2 - Bulk stable isotope data ODP 1263 \(available here\)](#)

[Table S3 – ODP 1263 raw inclination, declination, and intensity data for each measurement step \(available here\)](#)

[Table S4 - Magnetostratigraphy ODP 1263](#)

[Table S5 - Hole 702B and Site 1263 Calcareous Nannofossil datums](#)

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[Table S11 - Comparison of magnetochron boundary ages in million years](#)

[Table S12 - Comparison of magnetochron boundary durations in million years](#)

[Table S13 - Comparison of durations of magnetochrons in million years including uncertainties in magnetic anomaly width](#)

Table S4 Magnetostratigraphy ODP 1263

Chron	Top			Bottom			Mean		
	Site, Hole, Core,	Depth		Site, Hole, Core,	Depth		Depth	Error	
	Section, Interval (cm)	(mbsf)	(rmcd)	Section, Interval (cm)	(mbsf)	(rmcd)	(mbsf)	(rmcd)	(m)
C20n (y)	1263B-10H-4, 30	136.30	160.34	1263B-10H-4, 50	136.50	160.54	136.40	160.44	± 0.1
C20n (o)	1263B-11H-4, 141	146.91	171.94	1263B-11H-5, 11	147.11	172.14	147.01	172.04	± 0.1
C21n (y)	1263A-19H-5, 108	170.88	199.94	1263B-14H-1, 97	170.47	200.14	170.68	200.04	± 0.1
C21n (o)	1263B-15H-6, 99	185.49	216.34	1263B-15H-6, 39	185.89	216.74	185.69	216.54	± 0.2

Table S5 Hole 702B and Site 1263 Calcareous Nannofossil datums

Bioevent	Age ³	Position in ⁴	Top		Bottom		Top	Bottom	Mean	error
			Core, section	interval (cm)	Core, section	interval (cm)				
		Magneto-					(m)	(m)	(m)	(±m)
		stratigraphy								
Hole 702B ¹										
LO <i>R. umbilicus</i> >14µm	43.06	C20n.58	702B11X-5,5		702B11X-5,45		97.85	98.25	98.05	0.20
Site 1263 ^{2*}										
HO <i>Nannotetrina</i> spp.	43.06	C20n.58	1263A15H-CC		1263A16H-1,45		155.27	157.16	156.22	0.94
HO <i>N. fulgens (alata)</i>	43.72	C20n	1263A15H-CC		1263B11H-4,80		169.84	171.34	170.59	0.75
HO <i>C. gigas</i>	43.96	C20r.93	1263B12H-1,40		1263B12H-1,140		177.09	178.09	177.59	0.50
LO <i>C. gigas</i>	46.11	C20r.06	1263B13H-3,120		1263B13H-4,40		192.38	193.08	192.73	0.35
LO <i>N. fulgens (alata)</i>	46.80	C21n.68	1263B14H-3,40		1263B14H-3,120		202.58	203.39	202.99	0.40
HO <i>D. lodoensis</i>	48.37	C21r.59	1263A21H-2,40		1263A21H-2,140		215.04	215.56	215.06	0.26

Note: HO = highest occurrence, LO = lowest occurrence; ³Agnini et al. 2014, ⁴Pea 2011, ¹Shipboard Scientific Party 2004, ²Position in Magnetochron is from Base of Chron; depth in 702B is mbsf and 1263 is rmcd.

Table S6 Relative and absolute 405-kyr eccentricity cycle age model for ODP Hole 702B and Site 1263

405-kyr cycle	Site 702B depth (mbsf)	Site 1263 depth (rmcd)	relative age		absolute age	
			(Ma)		405-kyr cycle	La2011 (Ma)
# 1	-	158.60	0.405		# 104	41.904
# 2	-	161.25	0.810		# 105	42.308
# 3	-	165.10	1.215		# 106	42.708
# 4	108.20	168.70	1.620		# 107	43.112
# 5	115.20	172.20	2.025		# 108	43.516
# 6	121.60	175.50	2.430		# 109	43.928
# 7	128.00	178.90	2.835		# 110	44.336
# 8	133.80	183.00	3.240		# 111	44.740
# 9	-	186.70	3.645		# 112	45.140
# 10	148.20	(192.10)	4.050		# 113	45.540
# 11	154.40	197.20	4.455		# 114	45.948
# 12	161.60	202.40	4.860		# 115	46.360
# 13	168.50	207.10	5.265		# 116	46.768
# 14	175.30	211.70	5.670		# 117	47.176
# 15	183.00	216.30	6.075		# 118	47.572
# 16	189.70	220.90	6.480		# 119	47.972
# 17	195.30	225.70	6.885		# 120	48.372

Table S7 Offsets applied to cores from Holes 1263A, 1263B, 1263C

Core	Offset Ship	Revised Offset	Δ Ship – Revised	Depth		Source
	(m)	(m)		(mbsf)	(rncd)	
208-1263A-						
1H	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	ship
2H	0.41	0.41	0.00	2.30	2.71	ship
3H	2.12	2.12	0.00	11.80	13.92	ship
4H	3.83	3.83	0.00	21.30	25.13	ship
5H	3.85	3.85	0.00	30.80	34.65	ship
6H	7.25	7.25	0.00	40.30	47.55	ship
7H	9.11	9.06	0.05	49.80	58.86	this study
8H	10.71	10.11	0.60	59.30	69.41	this study
9H	11.77	11.14	0.63	68.80	79.94	this study
10H	11.79	11.29	0.50	78.30	89.59	this study
11H	13.17	12.67	0.50	87.80	100.47	this study
12H	13.73	13.23	0.50	97.30	110.53	this study
13H	17.53	17.03	0.50	106.80	123.83	this study
14H	17.75	21.03	-3.28	116.30	137.33	this study
15H	20.52	23.73	-3.21	125.80	149.53	this study
16H	21.89	25.13	-3.24	135.30	160.43	this study
17H	23.02	26.34	-3.32	144.80	171.14	this study
18H	23.94	27.44	-3.50	154.30	181.74	this study
19H	25.47	29.06	-3.59	163.80	192.86	this study
20H	27.77	31.36	-3.59	173.30	204.66	this study
21H	30.34	33.83	-3.49	182.80	216.63	this study
22H*	32.34	31.86	0.48	192.30	224.16	this study
23H	32.55	32.55	0.00	201.80	234.35	ship
24H	34.65	34.65	0.00	208.10	242.75	ship
25H	35.85	35.85	0.00	217.60	253.45	ship
26H	36.85	36.85	0.00	222.60	259.45	ship
27H	40.03	40.03	0.00	232.10	272.13	ship
28H	42.52	42.52	0.00	241.60	284.12	ship
29H	43.70	43.78	-0.08	251.10	294.88	W07
30H	45.71	45.79	-0.08	260.60	306.39	W07
31H	46.40	46.48	-0.08	270.10	316.58	W07
32H	48.38	49.08	-0.70	271.60	320.68	W07
33H	51.00	50.60	0.40	281.10	331.70	W07
34X	51.24	50.86	0.38	284.10	334.96	W07
35X	52.36	51.98	0.38	290.30	342.28	W07
36X	54.10	53.72	0.38	300.00	353.72	W07
37X	55.38	55.00	0.38	307.10	362.10	W07
38X	57.11	56.73	0.38	316.70	373.43	W07
39X	58.85	58.47	0.38	326.40	384.87	W07
40X	60.58	60.20	0.38	336.00	396.20	W07
208-1263B-						
1H	7.31	7.30	0.01	46.00	53.30	this study
2H	9.41	9.00	0.41	55.50	64.50	this study
3H	11.04	10.45	0.59	65.00	75.45	this study
4H	12.09	11.43	0.66	74.50	85.93	this study
5H	14.69	14.25	0.44	84.00	98.25	this study
6H	15.64	15.27	0.37	93.50	108.77	this study
7H	16.98	20.32	-3.34	103.00	123.32	this study
8H	18.34	21.57	-3.23	112.50	134.07	this study
9H	19.95	23.23	-3.28	122.00	145.23	this study
10H	20.78	24.04	-3.26	131.50	155.54	this study
11H	21.78	25.03	-3.25	141.00	166.03	this study
12H	22.68	26.20	-3.52	150.50	176.70	this study
13H	24.57	28.17	-3.60	160.00	188.17	this study
14H	26.12	29.67	-3.55	169.50	199.17	this study
15H	27.35	30.85	-3.50	177.00	207.85	this study
16H	29.69	33.13	-3.44	186.50	219.63	this study
17H*	29.69	29.21	0.48	196.00	225.21	this study
18H*	31.11	30.63	0.48	197.20	227.83	this study
19H	32.60	32.60	0.00	201.00	233.60	ship
20H	33.71	33.71	0.00	204.90	238.61	ship
21H	35.92	35.92	0.00	214.40	250.32	ship
22H	38.33	38.33	0.00	223.90	262.23	ship
23H	40.47	40.47	0.00	233.40	273.87	ship

24H	42.29	42.29	0.00	242.90	285.19	ship
25H	42.95	43.03	-0.08	252.40	295.43	W07
26X	44.12	44.20	-0.08	261.90	306.10	W07
27X	47.38	49.28	-1.90	271.10	320.38	W07
28X	50.83	50.58	0.25	280.70	331.28	W07
29X	52.56	52.16	0.40	290.30	342.46	W07
30X	54.30	53.90	0.40	300.00	353.90	W07
31X	56.03	55.63	0.40	309.60	365.23	W07
32X	57.76	57.36	0.40	319.20	376.56	W07
33X	59.51	59.11	0.40	328.90	388.01	W07

208-1263C-

1H	13.11	12.72	0.39	90.00	102.72	this study
2H	14.98	17.5	-2.52	99.50	117.00	this study
3H	18.26	21.48	-3.22	109.00	130.48	this study
4H*	32.32	31.84	0.48	193.00	224.84	this study
5H	33.00	33.00	0.00	202.50	235.50	ship
6H	33.83	33.83	0.00	212.00	245.83	ship
7H	34.27	34.27	0.00	221.50	255.77	ship
8H	36.94	36.94	0.00	225.40	262.34	ship
9H	39.79	39.79	0.00	234.90	274.69	ship
10H	41.88	41.88	0.00	244.40	286.28	ship
11H	43.71	43.79	-0.08	253.90	297.69	W07
12H	45.42	45.5	-0.08	263.40	308.90	W07
13H	47.21	47.98	-0.77	272.90	320.88	W07
14H	50.31	49.91	0.40	282.40	332.31	W07
15H	50.31	49.91	0.40	285.60	335.51	W07
16X	50.83	51.08	-0.25	285.70	336.78	W07

208-1263D-

1H	46.48	45.76	0.72	272.00	317.76	W07
2H	48.38	47.73	0.65	275.20	322.93	W07
3H	50.61	50.34	0.27	281.50	331.84	W07
4H	50.63	50.30	0.33	284.30	334.60	W07

* strong core disturbance

Table S8 List of tie points to create the revised composite depth scale (rncd) for Site 1263

Hole, core, section interval (cm)	Depth			Hole, core, section interval (cm)	Depth		Source
	(mbsf)	(rncd)			(mbsf)	(rncd)	
1263A-1H-2, 50	2.00	2.00	Append to	1263A-2H-1, 0	2.30	2.71	ship
1263A-2H-7, 30	11.60	12.01	Append to	1263A-3H-1, 0	11.80	13.92	ship
1263A-3H-7, 30	21.10	23.22	Append to	1263A-4H-1, 0	21.30	25.13	ship
1263A-4H-7, 35	30.65	34.48	Tie to	1263A-6H-1, 0	40.30	47.55	ship
1263A-6H-5, 12.5	46.425	53.675	Tie to	1263B-1H-1, 37.5	46.375	53.675	this study
1263B-1H-6, 57.5	54.075	61.385	Tie to	1263A-7H-2, 102.5	52.325	61.385	this study
1263A-7H-5, 47.5	56.275	65.345	Tie to	1263B-2H-1, 85	56.35	65.345	this study
1263B-2H-5, 52.5	62.025	71.035	Tie to	1263A-8H-2, 12.5	60.925	71.035	this study
1263A-8H-6, 42.5	67.225	77.345	Tie to	1263B-3H-2, 40	66.90	77.345	this study
1263B-3H-5, 47.5	71.475	81.935	Tie to	1263A-9H-2, 50	70.80	81.935	this study
1263A-9H-7, 7.5	77.375	88.525	Tie to	1263B-4H-2, 110	77.10	88.525	this study
1263B-4H-6, 45	82.45	93.89	Tie to	1263A-10H-3, 130	82.60	93.89	this study
1263A-10H-7, 42.5	87.725	99.025	Tie to	1263B-5H-1, 77.5	84.775	99.025	this study
1263B-5H-7, 17.5	92.705	106.965	Tie to	1263C-1H-3, 125	94.25	106.965	this study
1263C-1H-6, 12.5	97.625	110.37	Tie to	1263B-6H-2, 10	95.10	110.37	this study
1263B-6H-6, 127.5	102.275	117.545	Tie to	1263C-2H-1, 55	100.05	117.545	this study
1263C-2H-7, 6	108.06	125.54	Tie to	1263B-7H-2, 72	105.22	125.54	this study
1263B-7H-6, 137.5	111.875	132.075	Tie to	1263C-3H-2, 10	110.60	132.075	this study
1263C-3H-4, 47.5	113.975	135.465	Tie to	1263B-8H-1, 140	113.90	135.465	this study
1263B-8H-4, 55	117.55	139.13	Tie to	1263A-14H-2, 30	118.10	139.13	this study
1263A-14H-6, 150	123.89	144.93	Append to	1263B-9H-1, 0	122.00	145.23	this study
1263B-9H-4, 115	127.65	150.88	Tie to	1263A-15H-1, 135	127.15	150.88	this study
1263A-15H-5, 40	132.20	155.94	Tie to	1263B-10H-1, 40	131.90	155.94	this study
1263B-10H-5, 30	137.80	161.85	Tie to	1263A-16H-1, 142.5	136.725	161.85	this study
1263A-16H-6, 17.5	142.975	168.105	Tie to	1263B-11H-2, 57.5	143.075	168.105	this study
1263B-11H-6, 75	149.25	174.29	Tie to	1263A-17H-3, 15	147.95	174.29	this study
1263A-17H-6, 15	152.45	178.80	Tie to	1263B-12H-2, 60	152.60	178.80	this study
1263B-12H-6, 80	157.50	183.71	Tie to	1263A-18H-2, 47.5	156.275	183.71	this study
1263A-18H-5, 102.5	161.325	188.765	Tie to	1263B-13H-1, 60	160.60	188.765	this study
1263B-13H-4, 132.5	165.825	194.005	Tie to	1263A-19H-1, 115	164.95	194.005	this study
1263A-19H-5, 102.5	170.825	199.895	Tie to	1263B-14H-1, 72.5	170.225	199.895	this study
1263B-14H-5, 137.5	176.875	206.555	Tie to	1263A-20H-2, 40	175.20	206.555	this study
1263A-20H-5, 70	180.00	211.37	Tie to	1263B-15H-3, 52.5	180.525	211.37	this study
1263B-15H-7, 5	186.05	216.90	Tie to	1263A-21H-1, 27.5	183.075	216.90	this study
1263A-21H-3, 97.5	186.775	220.605	Tie to	1263B-16H-1, 97.5	187.475	220.605	this study
1263B-16H-7, 57.5	196.075	229.215	strong coring disturbance from 229.22 to 233.60				
				1263B-19H-1	201.00	233.60	W07
1263B-19H-3, 8	204.08	236.68	Tie to	1263A-23H-2, 83.5	204.13	236.68	W07
1263A-23H-4, 48	206.76	239.31	Tie to	1263B-20H-1, 70	205.60	239.31	W07
1263B-20H-7, 33	214.22	247.93	Tie to	1263A-24H-4, 67.5	213.28	247.93	W07
1263A-24H-7, 25	217.25	251.90	Tie to	1263B-21H-2, 7.5	215.98	251.90	W07
1263B-21H-5, 103	221.42	257.34	Tie to	1263C-7H-2, 11	223.07	257.34	W07
1263C-7H-4, 15	225.28	259.55	Tie to	1263A-26H-1, 10	222.70	259.55	W07
1263A-26H-3, 120	226.80	263.65	Tie to	1263B-22H-1, 142	225.32	263.65	W07
1263B-22H-7, 65	233.55	271.88	Append to	1263A-27H-1, 0	232.10	272.13	W07
1263A-27H-6, 55	240.15	280.18	Tie to	1263C-9H-4, 98.5	240.39	280.18	W07
1263C-9H-7, 65	244.55	284.34	Tie to	1263A-28H-1, 22.5	241.82	284.34	W07
1263A-28H-3, 78	245.38	287.90	Tie to	1263B-24H-2, 121	245.61	287.90	W07
1263B-24H-6, 20	250.60	292.89	Tie to	1263C-10H-5, 61	251.01	292.89	W07
1263C-10H-7, 122	254.12	296.00	Tie to	1263A-29H-1, 112	252.22	296.00	W07
1263A-29H-5, 120	258.30	302.00	Tie to	1263C-11H-3, 138.5	258.29	302.08	W07
1263C-11H-7, 5	263.35	307.06	Tie to	1263A-30H-1, 75	261.35	307.14	W07
1263A-30H-7, 33	269.92	315.63	Tie to	1263C-12H-5, 81	270.21	315.71	W07
1263C-12H-CC, 28	273.09	318.59	Tie to	1263D-1H-1, 82.5	272.825	318.585	W07
1263D-1H-2, 115	274.65	320.41	Tie to	1263B-27X-1, 3	271.13	320.41	W07
1263B-27X-1, 145	272.55	321.83	Tie to	1263A-32H-1, 115	272.75	321.83	W07
1263A-32H-5, 30	277.90	326.98	Tie to	1263C-13H-5, 10	279.00	326.98	W07
1263C-13H-cc, 10	282.87	330.77	Append to	1263D-3H-1, 0.0	281.50	331.84	R07
1263D-3H-1, 90	282.40	332.74	Tie to	1263C-14H-1, 43	282.83	332.74	R07
1263C-14H-2, 149	285.39	335.30	Tie to	1263D-4H-1, 70	285.00	335.30	R07
1263D-4H-1, 90	285.20	335.50	Tie to	1263A-34X-1, 54	284.64	335.50	R07
1263A-34X-2, 146	287.06	337.92	Tie to	1263C-16X-1, 114	286.84	337.92	R07
1263C-16X-3, 60	288.80	339.88	end of splice				

Table S9 Paleomagnetic data interpretation from ODP 1263

Site	Hole	Core Type	Section	Section depth (cm)	Depth mbsf	Depth rmed	Inclination (°)	Declination (°)	MAD (°)	steps used
1263	A	15H	4	91	131.21	154.94	61.9	245.7	3.3	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	10H	1	40	131.90	155.94	42.4	159.5	5.9	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	10H	1	140	132.90	156.94	52.1	75.2	3.8	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	10H	2	90	133.90	157.94	3.8	11.3	7.1	2,3,4,5,6
1263	B	10H	3	40	134.90	158.94	48.1	32.9	5.0	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	10H	3	140	135.90	159.94	80.2	93.3	3.3	2,3,4,5,6
1263	B	10H	4	10	136.10	160.14	56.3	307.5	2.5	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	10H	4	30	136.30	160.34	65.3	43.6	4.2	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	10H	4	50	136.50	160.54	-48.7	279.4	8.4	2,3,4,5,6
1263	B	10H	4	70	136.70	160.74	-64.0	224.3	4.0	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	10H	4	90	136.90	160.94	-80.8	272.7	5.2	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	10H	5	40	137.90	161.94	-49.3	223.9	4.9	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	16H	2	101	137.81	162.94	-42.4	112.1	5.4	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	16H	3	51	138.81	163.94	-37.0	170.3	2.6	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	16H	4	1	139.81	164.94	-9.8	160.5	3.1	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	16H	4	101	140.81	165.94	-20.8	114.9	5.5	2,3,4,5,6
1263	A	16H	5	51	141.81	166.94	-45.0	155.8	3.0	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	16H	6	1	142.81	167.94	-29.2	159.8	2.0	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	11H	2	141	143.91	168.94	-20.7	245.0	3.7	2,3,4,5,6
1263	B	11H	3	91	144.91	169.94	-24.4	247.1	4.0	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	11H	4	41	145.91	170.94	-35.8	212.7	1.7	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	11H	4	141	146.91	171.94	-46.2	161.1	5.0	3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	11H	5	11	147.11	172.14	37.0	189.3	5.8	2,3,4,5,6
1263	B	11H	5	31	147.31	172.34	27.5	259.2	4.7	3,4,5,6
1263	B	11H	5	51	147.51	172.54	66.6	269.7	4.2	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	11H	5	71	147.71	172.74	-4.7	213.8	5.6	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	11H	5	91	147.91	172.94	71.0	134.7	2.1	3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	11H	6	41	148.91	173.94	54.2	117.2	7.2	2,3,4,5,6
1263	A	17H	3	80	148.60	174.94	-56.9	3.2	6.7	2,3,4
1263	A	17H	4	30	149.60	175.94	64.8	341.3	3.4	2,3,4,5,6
1263	A	17H	4	130	150.60	176.94	70.8	312.5	3.5	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	17H	5	80	151.60	177.94	16.3	315.3	5.0	2,3,4,5,6
1263	B	12H	2	74	152.74	178.94	-14.7	296.4	5.1	4,5,6,7
1263	B	12H	3	24	153.74	179.94	45.8	23.4	6.6	2,3,4,5,6
1263	B	12H	4	39	154.74	180.94	14.3	313.8	3.7	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	12H	5	54	155.74	181.94	-9.3	53.9	1.6	4,5,6,7
1263	B	12H	6	4	156.74	182.94	12.8	295.3	1.5	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	18H	2	70	180.44	183.94	86.5	228.4	4.4	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	18H	3	20	181.44	184.94	79.6	140.7	3.5	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	18H	3	120	182.44	185.94	53.2	145.5	2.5	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	A	18H	4	70	183.44	186.94	73.0	51.2	3.7	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	18H	5	20	184.44	187.94	72.8	122.2	2.4	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	13H	1	77	160.77	188.94	82.6	339.8	2.3	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	13H	2	27	161.77	189.94	62.9	131.6	2.6	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	13H	2	127	162.77	190.94	44.0	147.8	5.5	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	13H	3	77	163.77	191.94	47.8	121.9	2.3	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	13H	4	27	164.77	192.94	49.2	146.5	5.5	3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	13H	4	127	165.77	193.94	69.4	253.3	6.6	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	A	19H	2	58	165.88	194.94	29.7	225.4	4.3	2,3,4,5,6
1263	A	19H	3	8	166.88	195.94	53.4	296.0	3.7	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	19H	3	108	167.88	196.94	49.1	141.1	4.8	3,4,5,6
1263	A	19H	4	58	168.88	197.94	28.1	159.4	4.1	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	19H	5	8	169.88	198.94	47.5	321.9	4.6	2,3,4,5,6
1263	A	19H	5	108	170.88	199.94	35.4	355.1	3.8	2,3,4,5
1263	B	14H	1	77	170.27	199.94	39.6	305.4	3.8	2,3,4,5
1263	B	14H	1	97	170.47	200.14	-43.5	259.1	6.0	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	14H	1	117	170.67	200.34	-22.4	238.1	8.9	3,4,5,6
1263	B	14H	1	137	170.87	200.54	-9.4	279.2	5.3	4,5,6
1263	B	14H	2	7	171.02	200.74	-29.7	259.5	5.4	2,3,4,5,6
1263	B	14H	2	27	171.26	200.94	-28.6	249.0	8.1	4,5,6
1263	B	14H	2	47	171.47	201.14	-82.1	270.8	1.5	2,3,4,5,6
1263	B	14H	2	127	172.27	201.94	-67.0	300.2	5.1	3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	14H	3	77	173.27	202.94	23.8	305.1	6.3	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	14H	4	27	174.27	203.94	-57.7	301.9	3.5	2,3,4,5,6
1263	B	14H	4	127	175.27	204.94	-32.9	344.6	5.9	4,5,6,7
1263	B	14H	5	77	176.27	205.94	-74.0	315.8	3.4	4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	20H	2	78	175.58	206.94	-18.0	238.8	1.8	2,3,4,5,6,7

1263	A	20H	3	28	176.58	207.94	10.3	212.4	7.4	2,3,4,5,6
1263	A	20H	3	128	177.58	208.94	-0.4	256.3	2.4	4,5,6,7
1263	A	20H	4	78	178.58	209.94	8.7	238.2	2.4	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	15H	3	20	180.20	211.05	-40.4	143.9	2.7	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	15H	3	109	181.09	211.94	-8.7	124.4	2.0	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	15H	4	59	182.09	212.94	-18.5	216.9	6.4	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	15H	5	9	183.09	213.94	-15.7	147.0	3.8	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	15H	5	109	184.09	214.94	-36.7	146.0	3.8	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	15H	6	39	184.89	215.74	-46.0	169.5	1.1	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	15H	6	59	185.09	215.94	-44.8	158.5	4.7	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	15H	6	79	185.29	216.14	-36.7	158.3	2.2	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	15H	6	99	185.49	216.34	-12.0	155.1	2.7	3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	15H	6	119	185.69	216.54	-6.9	147.6	2.1	3,4,5,6
1263	B	15H	6	139	185.89	216.74	16.5	170.6	3.6	2,3,4,5,6
1263	B	15H	7	9	186.09	216.94	5.7	169.8	1.2	4,5,6,7
1263	A	21H	1	31	183.11	216.94	11.9	260.4	2.3	2,3,4,5,6
1263	B	15H	7	29	186.29	217.14	-25.3	145.5	4.5	2,3,4,5,6
1263	B	15H	7	49	186.49	217.34	-12.7	148.6	6.1	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	A	21H	1	131	184.11	217.94	46.6	251.3	3.1	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	A	21H	2	81	185.11	218.94	10.0	1.0	2.7	2,3,4,5
1263	A	21H	3	31	186.11	219.94	2.5	272.8	3.1	3,4,5,6,7
1263	A	21H	3	131	187.11	220.94	70.8	203.5	4.5	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	A	21H	4	81	188.11	221.94	52.3	37.0	2.6	3,4,5
1263	A	21H	5	31	189.11	222.94	12.0	274.6	2.1	3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	A	21H	5	131	190.11	223.94	57.3	2.8	3.8	2,3,4,5,6
1263	A	21H	6	81	191.11	224.94	63.9	87.7	9.0	2,3,4,5
1263	B	16H	5	31	192.81	225.94	32.0	15.5	8.4	2,3,4,5,6,7,8
1263	B	16H	5	131	193.81	226.94	66.1	62.1	3.1	2,3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	16H	6	15	194.15	227.28	-1.6	153.2	4.9	3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	16H	6	50	194.50	227.63	-9.2	191.4	5.5	4,5,6,7
1263	B	16H	6	81	194.81	227.94	-49.0	168.0	6.2	3,4,5
1263	B	16H	6	137	195.37	228.50	-35.2	192.0	6.8	3,4,5,6,7
1263	B	16H	7	35	195.85	228.98	3.7	0.9	9.0	3,4,5,6

Table S10 Astronomical tuning age tie points

ODP 1263		ODP 702B	
depth (rncd)	Age La2011 (Ma)	depth (mbsf)	Age La2011 (Ma)
150.69	40.945968	91.69	41.621043
152.14	41.136030	94.92	41.818290
158.17	41.816454	98.23	42.083093
161.86	42.287809	103.22	42.513360
164.64	42.679338	112.04	43.344957
168.04	43.063264	115.02	43.522767
172.93	43.618246	116.70	43.619268
175.41	43.895737	121.26	43.894984
178.85	44.294868	126.92	44.293018
186.25	45.161553	133.80	44.740000
192.10	45.540000	148.20	45.540000
197.23	45.895194	154.36	45.898210
202.53	46.377953	162.16	46.381028
207.07	46.761879	168.83	46.757840
211.77	47.142004	175.94	47.225596
217.13	47.628564	181.74	47.545265
220.76	47.981547	190.89	48.082781
226.47	48.472441		

Table S11 Comparison of magnetochron boundary ages in million years

Chron	standard GPTS			tuned			tuned – this study [†]			
	CK95	GPTS		PEAT Sites [‡]	Contessa Hyw	ODP Site 1260	ODP Site			702B
		2004	2012				1258 opt.2	1263	702B	
C18n.2n (o)	40.130	39.464	40.145	40.076 ± 5	40.120					
C19n (y)	41.257	40.439	41.154	41.075 ± 7	41.250	41.061 ± 9			41.030 ± 13	
C19n (o)	41.521	40.671	41.390	41.306 ± 5	41.510	41.261 ± 4			41.180 ± 11	
C20n (y)	42.536	41.590	42.301	42.188 ± 15	42.540	42.152 ± 7			42.107 ± 13	42.124 ± 4
C20n (o)	43.789	42.774	43.432		43.790	43.449 ± 18			43.517 ± 11	43.426 ± 3
C21n (y)	46.264	45.346	45.724		46.310				46.151 ± 9	46.080 ± 3
C21n (o)	47.906	47.235	47.349					47.723 ± 118	47.575 ± 18	
C22n (y)	49.037	48.599	48.566					48.954 ± 16		
C22n (o)	49.714	49.427	49.344					49.593 ± 42		
C23n.1n (y)	50.778	50.730	50.628					51.051 ± 21		
C23n.1n (o)	50.946	50.932	50.835					51.273 ± 39		
C23n.2n (y)	51.047	51.057	50.961					51.344 ± 32		
C23n.2n (o)	51.743	51.901	51.833					51.721 ± 23		
C24n.1n (y)	52.364	52.648	52.620					52.525 ± 23		
C24n.1n (o)	52.663	53.004	53.074					52.915 ± 29		
C24n.2n (y)	52.757	53.116	53.199					53.037		
C24n.2n (o)	52.801	53.167	53.274					53.111		
C24n.3n (y)	52.903	53.286	53.416					53.249 ± 17		
C24n.3n (o)	53.347	53.808	53.983					53.806 ± 20		

[†] tuned to the orbital solution La2011 (Laskar et al. 2011)[‡] combined ages based on Pacific Equatorial Age Transect Sites 1218, U1333 and U1334 (Westerhold et al. 2014)**Table S12** Comparison of magnetochron boundary durations in million years

Chron	standard GPTS			tuned			tuned – this study [†]			
	CK95	GPTS		PEAT Sites [‡]	Contessa Hyw	ODP Site 1260	ODP Site			702B
		2004	2012				1258 opt.2	1263	702B	
C18n.2r	1.127	0.975	1.009	0.999 ± 12						
C19n	0.264	0.232	0.236	0.231 ± 12	0.260	0.200 ± 7			0.150 ± 24	
C19r	1.015	0.919	0.911	0.882 ± 20	1.030	0.891 ± 6			0.927 ± 24	
C20n	1.253	1.184	1.131		1.250	1.297 ± 13			1.410 ± 24	1.302 ± 7
C20r	2.475	2.572	2.292		2.520				2.634 ± 20	2.654 ± 6
C21n	1.642	1.889	1.625						1.424 ± 27	
C21r	1.131	1.364	1.217					1.231 ± 134		
C22n	0.677	0.828	0.778					0.639 ± 58		
C22r	1.064	1.303	1.284					1.458 ± 63		
C23n.1n	0.168	0.202	0.207					0.222 ± 60		
C23n.1r	0.101	0.125	0.126					0.071 ± 71		
C23n.2n	0.696	0.844	0.872					0.377 ± 55		
C23n.2r	0.621	0.747	0.787					0.804 ± 46		
C24n.1n	0.299	0.356	0.454					0.390 ± 52		
C24n.1r	0.094	0.112	0.125					0.122		
C24n.2n	0.044	0.051	0.075					0.074		
C24n.2r	0.102	0.119	0.142					0.138		
C24n.3n	0.444	0.522	0.567					0.557 ± 37		

[†] tuned to the orbital solution La2011 (Laskar et al. 2011)[‡] combined ages based on Pacific Equatorial Age Transect Sites 1218, U1333 and U1334 (Westerhold et al. 2014)**Table S13.** Comparison of durations of magnetochrons in million years including uncertainties in magnetic anomaly width

Chron	CK95		GPTS2004		GPTS2012		this study		Source Site
	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	
C19	1.197	1.360	1.069	1.232	1.066	1.228	1.074	1.106	ODP 1260 [†]
C20n	1.172	1.334	1.103	1.266	1.050	1.212	1.273	1.323	ODP 1260 [†]
C20r	2.324	2.626	2.420	2.723	2.141	2.443	2.675	2.729	ODP 1260 [†] , 1263 [‡]
C21n	1.506	1.778	1.753	2.026	1.489	1.761	1.397	1.451	ODP 1263 [‡]
C21r	0.975	1.287	1.209	1.520	1.061	1.373	1.345	1.413	ODP 1258 [§]
C22n	0.615	0.739	0.765	0.890	0.716	0.840	0.581	0.697	ODP 1258 [§]
C22r	0.911	1.217	1.150	1.456	1.131	1.437	1.395	1.521	ODP 1258 [§]
C23	1.241	1.931	1.574	2.263	1.647	2.337	1.430	1.518	ODP 1258 [§]
C24	3.119	3.961	3.596	4.438	4.060	4.902	4.492	4.558	ODP 1258 [§] , 1262 ^{**}

[†]Westerhold & Röhl (2013); [‡]this study; [§]Westerhold & Röhl (2009); ^{**}Westerhold et al. (2007; option 2)

Note: minimum and maximum durations for CK95, GPTS2004 and GPTS2012 are based on the error given for the mean width of magnetic anomalies as published in table 4 of Cande & Kent (1992)