

# ***Interactive comment on “Environmental dynamics since the last glacial in arid Central Asia: evidence from grain size distribution and magnetic properties of loess from the Ili Valley, western China” by Yue Li et al.***

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Dear authors, I agree with most of your replies and thank you for the modifications. I just want to react with 2 comments: 1. To the origin of the very fine silt-clay component: Chemical weathering is indeed a good candidate as measured by Konert and Vandenberghe 1997, and well illustrated by the experiments of Sun YB et al 2006. Transport as aggregates of fines by monsoonal dust storms (Qiang et al 2010) is contradicted by their very widespread and general occurrence (Vandenberghe 2013). Adherence of fines to larger grains has been contradicted by several authors. 2. Provenance of EM 1-2:

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I agree with your explanation. I understand now that you also agree with a northern wind, however not crossing the high mountains to the north but carrying dust only at low elevation over short distance. In my opinion, the carrying agent may still be the northern monsoonal wind, although restricted to the Ili basin. Jef Vandenberghe

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