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4 **1 New archaeomagnetic direction result from China and its constraints on**
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7 **2 paleosecular variation of the geomagnetic field in Eastern Asia**
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41 **14 SUMMARY**
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44 15 We carried out an archaeomagnetic directional study on 38 oriented samples (bricks
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47 16 and baked clays) collected from four archaeological locations at three provinces in
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50 17 China. The ages of our samples, spanning from ~3000 BCE to ~1300 CE, were
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53 18 constrained using a combination of archaeological context, radiocarbon dating and
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56 19 stratigraphic information. Rock magnetic results demonstrate that the main magnetic
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59 20 minerals of the studied samples are magnetite and/or hematite in single domain (SD)
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21 and superparamagnetic (SP) states. A total of 20 new reliable archaeodirectional data

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4 22 from 12 independent sites are obtained after thermal demagnetization experiments.
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7 23 These are the first set of archaeodirectional data in China produced since the 1990s.
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10 24 The published data are largely from the past 2 kyr and data from older time periods
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13 25 are rare. Our new data, especially those from period older than 3 ka, fill many gaps of
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16 26 the presently published dataset and will provide strong constraints on paleosecular
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19 27 variation (PSV) of the geomagnetic field in Eastern Asia and on the improvement of
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22 28 global models. In this study, we combine our new data with published ones and the
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25 29 predictions of global models, to discuss the PSV of the geomagnetic field in Eastern
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28 30 Asia over the past 10 kyr.

29 31 **Key words:** archaeomagnetic direction; China; paleosecular variation; Eastern Asia.

32 1 INTRODUCTION

33 Paleosecular variation of the geomagnetic field during the Holocene is important for
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37 34 our understanding of the geodynamic mechanisms on time scales from decades to
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40 35 millennia (Amit *et al.* 2011; Aubert *et al.* 2013; Tarduno *et al.* 2015). High-resolution
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43 36 records over the last few millennia are also useful for stratigraphic chronology
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46 37 (Barletta *et al.* 2010; Ólafsdóttir *et al.* 2013) and archaeomagnetic dating (Ben-Yosef
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49 38 *et al.* 2008b; Pavón-Carrasco *et al.* 2011; Ertepinar *et al.* 2016). The establishment
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52 39 and updating of various reference field models, such as CALS10k.1b (Korte *et al.*
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55 40 2011), pfm9k (Nilsson *et al.* 2014), ARCH3k.1 (Korte *et al.* 2009) and CALS3k.4
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58 41 (Korte & Constable 2011), ultimately rely on having a large quantity of reliable data
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60 42 from around the globe in the Holocene. In the past few years, a number of PSV curves

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4 43 from sediments spanning the Holocene in Eastern Asia were published (Ali *et al.*
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7 44 1999; Hyodo *et al.* 1999; Frank 2007; Yang *et al.* 2009, 2012, 2016; Zheng *et al.*
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10 45 2014). However, data from archaeological materials or lava flows, which can record
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13 46 data points with high precision and high temporal resolution, are sparse. The
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16 47 archaeomagnetic directions for China compiled in the GEOMAGIA50 database
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19 48 (<https://geomagia.ucsd.edu>, Brown *et al.* 2015) were mainly published in the 1980s
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22 49 (Wei *et al.* 1981, 1983, 1984; Batt *et al.* 1998). A total of 80 directions are in the
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25 50 database and only 29 of them have both declination and inclination, while the other 51
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28 51 include only inclinations. Data from Korea were all published by Yu *et al.* (2010) and
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31 52 no publications are available before that. The Japanese data are relatively abundant
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34 53 and have been published between 1967 and 2008 (all the references can be found in
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37 54 the GEOMAGIA50 database). But even in this most robust of the eastern Asian data
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40 55 sets, most of the data points are from the past 1.5 kyr and older data are rare. In this
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43 56 study, we carried out an archaeomagnetic directional study on oriented samples
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46 57 collected from four archaeological locations in three provinces of China and two of
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49 58 them are from a time period older than 3 ka, which will supply important constraints
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52 59 on the PSV of the geomagnetic field in Eastern Asia.

60 **2 SAMPLING BACKGROUND**

61 The samples in this study were collected from four archaeological locations in three
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64 62 provinces in China, which are Baojiaying (BJY) in Hebei, Daxinzhuang (DXZ) and
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67 63 Shuangwangcheng (SWC) in Shandong and Liujiazhai (LJZ) in Sichuan (Fig. 1a).

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4 64 The BJY site, located in Longhua county, Chengde city, was a major kiln factory that
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7 65 started during the Liao-Jin dynasty (907-1125 AD) and terminated in the Yuan
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10 66 dynasty (1271-1368 AD). The kilns excavated at this site are usually well preserved
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13 67 probably because of the short period of activity. We collected six oriented samples
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16 68 including bricks and burnt clay from the edge of one of those kilns, which were fired
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19 69 during the Yuan dynasty (Fig. 1b). Of these, only two bricks (BJY2 and BJY5)
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22 70 survived as the others broke because of the fragile texture.

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24 71 The DXZ site, located at Jinan, Shandong province, is a large living site dated to late
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27 72 Shang dynasty (1300-1000 BCE), from which a large number of building bases,
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30 73 hearths and graves were unearthed. We collected oriented burnt clays from four
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33 74 different firing units: DXZ1, (hearth; Fig. 1c), DXZ3-DXZ8 (round kiln-like
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35
36 75 structure), DXZ9-DXZ11 (channel of a kiln) and DXZ12-DXZ15 (two strips of burnt
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39 76 clay).

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41 77 The SWC site is located in Shouguang, Shandong province, which is near the Bohai
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44 78 Sea. This site used to be a huge area for salt manufacturing with ages ranging from
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47 79 the Shang (1600-1000 BCE) to the Song-Yuan (960-1368 AD) dynasty. A number of
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50 80 hearths whose original purpose was for boiling brine were excavated and we collected
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53 81 three oriented samples from one hearth dated to Song-Yuan dynasty (Fig. 1d).

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55 82 The LJZ site, located in Jinchuan, Sichuan province, belongs to the late Neolithic
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58 83 period with an age of approximately 3000 BCE (Fig. 1e). Various artifacts including
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60 84 pottery kilns, hearths, ash pits and house vestiges were uncovered at this site. We

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85 collected oriented samples from seven kilns (Y2-Y8). Here we treat each kiln as a
86 separate cooling unit and to avoid any confusion, we use the kiln names defined by
87 the archaeologists to name our samples. For example, in Y32-01, 'Y3' is the kiln
88 name, '2' is the sample name and '01' is the specimen name.

89 We employed three kinds of orientation methods during sample collection. For
90 well-consolidated baked clay (Fig. 1d), we shaved a horizontal plane on the surface
91 with a non-magnetic knife and a bubble level, marking the north direction with a
92 magnetic compass. In those cases where it was difficult to shave a horizontal surface
93 on the samples, we made a plane with non-magnetic plaster and marked the north
94 direction on it (Fig. 1c and e) and then transferred the direction to each specimen
95 during processing. For the hard samples such as rocks beside the kiln in LJZ (Y21 and
96 Y31), we measured the attitude of the samples with a magnetic compass and then
97 corrected the results during data processing. All the oriented block samples were cut
98 into cubic specimens (2 cm×2 cm×2 cm) in the laboratory.

99 Dating of the samples from BJY, DXZ and SWC relies on archaeological context.
100 Because radiocarbon materials (charcoals and animal bones) and clear cultural layers
101 are available in LJZ site, we adopted various dating techniques, including radiocarbon
102 analysis, stratigraphic information as well as archaeological background, to determine
103 the ages of the kilns. The detailed description about dating can be found in Cai *et al.*
104 (2015). Here we include only the dating results used in this study.

105 In total, 48 oriented samples (6, 15, 3 and 24 from BJY, DXZ, SWC and LJZ,

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4 106 respectively) were collected in this study, but only 38 (2, 15, 3 and 18 from BJY,
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7 107 DXZ, SWC and LJZ, respectively) of them were successfully processed and
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10 108 underwent a thermal demagnetization experiment. The sample information including
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13 109 ages and dating methods of each unit are listed in Table 1.

110 **3 EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES**

111 3.1 Rock magnetic experiments

112 We carried out rock magnetic experiments including hysteresis loops, first order
113 reversal curves (FORCs) and variation of susceptibility versus temperature (χ -T) to
114 determine the magnetic mineralogy of the studied samples. Hysteresis loops and
115 FORCs were measured with the MicroMag 3900 VSM in the Paleomagnetism and
116 Geochronology Laboratory (PGL) at the Institute of Geology and Geophysics,
117 Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGGCAS). χ -T curves were measured on the
118 Kappabridge MFK1-FA system (made by AGICO Ltd., Brno, Czech Republic) in air
119 environment at the frequency of 967 Hz. Since alteration temperature of
120 archaeological samples during heating can be used for estimating the original firing
121 temperature of the artifacts, we measured step-wise χ -T curves (300°C, 500°C, 600°C
122 and 700°C) to determine the alteration temperature. The rock magnetic characteristics
123 will contribute to understanding demagnetizing behaviors of the samples.

124 3.2 Thermal demagnetization methods

125 Samples collected as blocks were processed into cubic specimens (2 cm×2 cm×2 cm).
126 We conducted step-wise thermal demagnetization experiments on these specimens to

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4 127 separate the characteristic remanent magnetization (ChRM). The demagnetizing
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7 128 procedures were carried out on the ASC-MMTD48 thermal demagnetizer oven with a
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10 129 residual field of less than 10 nT in the cooling chamber. Step intervals vary from 50°C
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13 130 to 20°C, larger at low temperatures and smaller at high temperatures. We measured
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16 131 the natural remanent magnetization (NRM) and remanence remaining after each step
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19 132 with a 2G 755 SQUID magnetometer. The demagnetizing procedure terminates when
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22 133 the remanence drops to less than 10% of the NRM. All the procedures were
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25 134 conducted in the shielded room with residual field less than 300 nT at PGL.

26 135 **4 RESULTS**

27 28 29 136 4.1 Rock magnetism

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32 137 Representative hysteresis loops and FORCs are shown in Fig. 2. Generally, the
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35 138 coercivities (B_{cs}) of the samples are ~ 10 mT (Fig. 2b-f), indicating the dominance of
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38 139 soft magnetic minerals. An exception is BJY2 (Fig. 2a), which is still unsaturated at
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41 140 the high field of 2 T and with a minimum coercivity of 164 mT, demonstrating the
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44 141 existence of hard magnetic carriers, such as hematite. The shapes of the FORCs (Fig.
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47 142 2g-i) allow us to explain the grain sizes of the magnetic particles as mixtures of SD
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50 143 and SP, some of which have relatively strong interactions between particles (Fig. 2i).

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52 144 The χ -T curves shown in Fig. 3 can give a rough estimation of the Curie/Neél
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55 145 temperature (T_c/T_N) of magnetic minerals in the sample and also help detect the
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58 146 mineral alterations during heating. The representative χ -T curves show that T_c/T_{NS} of
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60 147 the samples are usually over 600°C (Fig. 3d, l, p) while that of DXZ1 is $\sim 580^\circ\text{C}$ (Fig.

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4 148 3h). The latter indicates magnetite as the main magnetic carrier. However, the values
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7 149 in excess of 600°C, could point to a hematitic mineralogy (Tauxe *et al.* 2010). Yet
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10 150 hematite is not consistent with the lack of high coercivity components in the
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13 151 hysteresis results (SWC2 and Y82). Combining all the rock magnetic characteristics,
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16 152 we may attribute the high T_C/T_{NS} to the presence of fine-grained hematite (in the SP
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18 153 state, for example); this interpretation will be further supported by the thermal
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21 154 demagnetization results.

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24 155 The step-wise χ -T curves of BJY2 (Fig. 3a-d) are reversible at each temperature until
25
26 156 700°C, illustrating that no alteration happens during heating and the original firing
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29 157 temperature may be over 700°C. The step-wise χ -T curves of DXZ1 (Fig. 3e-h) show
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32 158 that slight alteration starts at 500°C and alteration becomes significant over 600°C,
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35 159 from which we can infer that the original firing temperature of this sample was likely
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38 160 to be around 500°C. Alteration at 700°C is apparent for SWC2 (Fig. 3i-l) and Y82
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41 161 (Fig. 3m-p), indicating that the alteration may start at any temperature over 600°C.
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44 162 That is to say, these samples were originally fired to a temperature of above 600°C.

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46 163 From the representative diagrams of orthogonal projections (Zijderveld 1967) for
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49 164 successful specimens (Fig. 4), we see that some of the specimens (BJY2-02 and
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52 165 SWC2-10) are totally demagnetized by around 620°C (Fig. 4a and d). Both of their
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54
55 166 χ -T curves suggested the existence of hematite but the B_C s of BJY2 and SWC2 are
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58 167 ~164 mT and ~12 mT respectively, from which we can infer that these samples have
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168 hematite with different grain sizes, where the former is coarser and the latter is finer

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4 169 (Banerjee 1971; Jiang *et al.* 2014). The remanence of other samples decreases to less
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7 170 than 10% of the NRM around 450-500°C (Fig. 4b and c). This is consistent with the
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10 171 conclusion drawn from the step-wise χ -T curves that the remanences of these samples
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13 172 are carried by partial thermal remanent magnetization (pTRM). In this case, the
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16 173 totally demagnetized temperature is mainly dependent on the original firing
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19 174 temperature rather than the T_c/T_N of the magnetic carriers. Other samples are totally
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21
22 175 demagnetized by around 540-560°C (Fig. 4e and f). But the χ -T curve of Y82 (Fig. 3p)
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25 176 indicates the existence of hematite while the hysteresis characteristics do not show
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28 177 any high coercivity component (Fig. 2f). This possibly can be explained by an
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31 178 assumption that these samples contain fine-grained hematite in the SP state, as this
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34 179 fraction would not contribute to the remanence.

35 180 In summary, the rock magnetic results demonstrate that the main magnetic minerals
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38 181 of the studied samples are magnetite and/or hematite in SD and SP state. The original
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41 182 firing temperatures of our samples varied from ~500°C to at least 700°C, (higher
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44 183 values can not be determined by the χ -T curves), indicating that the remanence of our
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47 184 samples is carried by either total TRM (as BJY2) or pTRM (as DXZ1). This makes us
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50 185 optimistic that the geomagnetic directions recorded by the studied samples represent
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53 186 the ones while they were last fired.

54 187 4.2 Archaeomagnetic directions

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57 188 We calculated the direction of ChRM for each specimen (green lines in Fig. 4)
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60 189 following the method of principal component analysis (Kirschvink 1980). When

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4 190 analyzing the thermal demagnetization data, we followed three basic criteria: 1) the
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7 191 deviation angle from the origin (DANG of Tauxe & Staudigel (2004)) must be less
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10 192 than 6°; 2) the maximum angle of deviation (MAD of Kirschvink (1980)) is less than
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13 193 6°; and 3) the number of data points used for statistics is no less than four. In total,
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15 194 188 out of 236 specimens passed these selection criteria. However, a few of the
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18 195 “successful” specimens record abnormal directions (Table S1); these are interpreted
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21 196 as having been incorrectly oriented during sampling (DXZ15) or processing
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24 197 (BJY5-02 and BJY5-04) as these specimens have remarkably different directions
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27 198 from sister specimens from the same cooling unit (e.g. DXZ3-03 and DXZ5-15 in
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29
30 199 Table S1), we consider these few “deviant” specimens to be outliers. In order to avoid
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33 200 contaminating an otherwise excellent result, we exclude those specimens discussed
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36 201 above from further statistics although they passed the selection criteria. Finally, 171
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39 202 specimens are considered to record reliable geomagnetic field directions; hence, we
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42 203 have a success rate of ~72%. All the results of specimens passing the selection criteria
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45 204 are listed in Table S1, with all the accepted specimens marked with a flag of ‘g’ while
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48 205 those excluded from further analysis are marked with ‘b’.

49 206 Fisher statistics (Fisher 1953) were employed when calculating the mean directions of
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52 207 samples and sites. We treat samples from the same archaeological unit (a hearth or a
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55 208 kiln), which are supposed to be the same age, as a paleomagnetic site. The locations
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58 209 of BJY and SWC both have only one cooling unit, which can also be treated as a site.
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60 210 However, samples from DXZ belong to four different cooling units (DXZ1,

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4 211 DXZ3-DXZ8, DXZ9-DXZ11, DXZ12-DXZ15), and we calculate the site mean
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7 212 directions separately. Samples from LJZ belong to seven independent kilns and each
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10 213 kiln is treated as a site. Since some of the block samples were very fragile, and were
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13 214 small, so only few standard specimens are available for them. However, for those
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16 215 specimens that behaved well during thermal demagnetization and were consistent
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19 216 with each other, it is not reasonable to reject them just because the number is not
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22 217 enough for sample average, especially when we are certain they belong to the same
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25 218 age. Therefore, we calculate the Fisher mean of all the specimens from each kiln to
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27 219 get site mean instead of sample mean from each individually oriented sample.

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29 220 We converted each site mean direction into virtual geomagnetic poles (VGPs). The
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32 221 statistical results for sample and site level are listed in Table 1. On sample level, only
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35 222 those with at least three accepted specimens and the 95% confidence limit (α_{95}) less
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38 223 than 10° (the α_{95S} of our samples are all less than 8) are accepted. The samples with
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41 224 α_{95} values over 10° (DXZ2 and Y21) are marked with ‘*’ in Table 1 and not included
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44 225 for either statistics of site mean or VGP calculation even though the individual
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47 226 specimens are acceptable. In total, 12 independent site means (1, 4, 1 and 6 from BJY,
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50 227 DXZ, SWC and LJZ, respectively) from 20 reliable sample means were obtained in
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52 228 this study.

54 229 **5 DISCUSSION**

57 230 5.1 Compilation of the geomagnetic directions over the last 10 kyr in Eastern Asia

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60 231 In Fig. 5, we compare our 12 new site mean directions with the published data from

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4 232 China, Japan and Korea as well as with predictions for a location at the center of
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7 233 China (35°N, 105°E) from the global models (CALS10k.1b (Korte *et al.* 2011),
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10 234 pfm9k (Nilsson *et al.* 2014), ARCH3k.1 (Korte *et al.* 2009) and CALS3k.4 (Korte &
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13 235 Constable 2011). The published data are available in the GEOMAGIA50 database
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16 236 (Brown *et al.* 2015). Only those sites with $\alpha_{95} \leq 10^\circ$ and $\sigma_{\text{age}} \leq 600$ yrs are included in
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19 237 Fig. 5. For the published data in China, we include only those with full-scale
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22 238 directions (both declination and inclination). All the published data adopted in this
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25 239 study are listed in Table S2. In order to exclude deviations caused by different
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28 240 latitudes, all the new and published data are relocated to the center of China (35°N,
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31 241 105°E) following the conversion via VGP method (Noel & Batt 1990). The relocated
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34 242 directions of new and published data can be found in Table 1 and Table S2
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37 243 respectively.
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40 244 The declinations of our new data from LJZ dated to ~3000 BCE deviate eastward
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43 245 from both the CALS10k.1b and pfm9k models while the inclinations lie between
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46 246 these two models. A decrease of paleointensity with extreme low value less than 30
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49 247 $Z\text{Am}^2$ around this age was reported by Cai *et al.* (2015). However, the directional data
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52 248 do not show a significant anomaly apart from the slight eastward deviation of the
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55 249 declinations. There are two possible explanations: one is the geomagnetic intensity
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58 250 anomaly at ~3000 BCE is not associated with a directional change, which is thought
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251 to be possible by numerical simulation (Brown & Korte 2016); the other scenario is
252 that we have not captured the large directional anomaly because of either limited

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4 253 temporal and spatial data distribution or insufficient age precision. Additional reliable
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7 254 data from this period are necessary to resolve this issue.
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10 255 Directions of the four sites in DXZ can be divided into two groups (Fig. 5): DXZ1
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12 256 (Dec/Inc: $347.4^{\circ}/56.9^{\circ}$) and DXZ3-8 (Dec/Inc: $345.4^{\circ}/60.1^{\circ}$), with a combined mean
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15 257 of Dec/Inc: $346.6/58.5$, and DXZ9-11 (Dec/Inc: $2.8^{\circ}/52.4^{\circ}$) and DXZ14 (Dec/Inc:
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18 258 $359.7^{\circ}/50.0^{\circ}$), with a combined mean of Dec/Inc: $1.2/51.2$. This interpretation implies
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21 259 that these archaeological units belong to two different periods although they share the
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24 260 same archaeological age of late Shang dynasty (1300-1000 BCE). Further constraints
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27 261 on relative ages are unfortunately not available. In any case, these four sites provide
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30 262 us with directional information of the field between 1300-1000 BCE and the average
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33 263 of them fit well with the pfm9k model. The results of SWC and BJY are consistent
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36 264 with both the previous data and all of the models, demonstrating their reliability.

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38 265 Most of the previous data in Eastern Asia have ages concentrated in the past 2 kyr and
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41 266 data from older time period are sparse, which makes our new data, especially those
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44 267 from LJZ and DXZ, significant.

45 46 268 5.2 Paleosecular variation of the geomagnetic field

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49 269 As shown in Fig. 5, the declination of the geomagnetic field in Eastern Asia varies
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52 270 between 30°W and 20°E while the inclinations range from 30° to 70° over the past 10
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55 271 kyr. It seems that both the geomagnetic declination and inclination before ~ 3 ka have
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58 272 limited variations (except the abnormal inclination around 6500 BCE recorded by a
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60 273 single point in the Japanese data). In contrast, at around 300 BCE there is a

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4 274 remarkable sequence of westward drift of the declinations accompanied by shallow
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7 275 inclinations recorded by the Chinese published data. Perhaps because of the rapid
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10 276 directional shift, there is little agreement among different datasets and the global
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13 277 models as the latter are heavily smoothed. For example, the Korean data (Yu *et al.*
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15 278 2010) have similar shallow inclinations as seen in the Chinese data, but the feature is
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18 279 much younger (~300 CE) in Korea than in China (~300 BCE). Also the Koren
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21 280 inclination anomaly is not accompanied by a declination change but the Chinese
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24 281 feature is seen in both declination and inclination. Moreover, only one of the models
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27 282 (ARCH3k.1) predicts the Chinese inclination anomaly at ~300 BCE and only two
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29 283 predict the declination shift (pfm9k and CALS3k.4). Unfortunately, our new data do
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32 284 not cover this period and no published Japanese data are available from around this
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35 285 age. Therefore, further study is needed to resolve this issue.

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38 286 The picture improves for the last 1.5 kyr during which the PSV of the geomagnetic
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41 287 field in Eastern Asia is well constrained owing to the abundant published data. The
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44 288 declinations start from a slight eastward deviation at ~500 CE and drift to the west
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47 289 until ~1000 CE, and then recover to the east at ~1500 CE and switch to the west again
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50 290 afterward. The inclinations follow a sinusoidal variation over the past 1.5 kyr, with
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53 291 the steepest directions occurring between 500-1000 CE and a shallowest at ~1500 CE.
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56 292 In order to further track the directional variation of the geomagnetic field, we
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59 293 calculate Fisher means of the Chinese data and all the Eastern Asian data in Fig. 5
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294 with a time window of 100 years (except that we did not average data point of 100

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4 295 BCE with other data because it is significantly different from the other directions).
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7 296 These averages are plotted on the declination-inclination (D-I) projection plots in Fig.
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10 297 6. The average age in each time window is used as the new age. The new and
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12 298 published data are calculated separately for China and jointly for Eastern Asia. The
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15 299 Fisher means of the new data in this study are marked with color dots in Fig. 6a and
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18 300 Fig. 6c (red/cyan/purple/blue: DXZ/LJZ/SWC/BJY). The Chinese data show a
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21 301 general westward movement of the geomagnetic field direction prior to 1000 BCE.
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24 302 Between 1000 BCE and 0 the directions trace a counterclockwise loop, and this
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27 303 pattern continues between 0-1500 CE. When considering PSV of the field in Eastern
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30 304 Asia, it is controlled by the Japanese data before 4500 BCE and by the Chinese data
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33 305 between 4500-1000 BCE, generally following a clockwise motion. Since no data from
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36 306 Japan are available between 1000 BCE-0, the path is mainly controlled by the
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39 307 Chinese data and modified by a few Korean data points, showing a counterclockwise
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42 308 movement generally.
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45 309 A more detailed record is available after 0 because of the abundance of data. The field
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48 310 moves westward first until ~800 CE, followed by a recovery to the east until ~1500
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51 311 CE and then back to the west again. Generally, the field in Eastern Asia drifts more to
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54 312 the west than east during the past 10 kyr, which is coincident with the numerical
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57 313 simulation results of Amit *et al.* (2011).
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60 314 Combining variations of declination and inclination versus age (Fig. 5), we can
315 recognize a few time points/periods when the field changes its sense of motion:

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4 316 ~6500 BCE, ~4000 BCE, ~3000 BCE, ~900-600 BCE, ~300 BCE-0, ~300 CE,
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7 317 ~600-1000 CE and ~1500 CE. Some of them are synchronous with or close to the
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10 318 maxima (~4000 BCE, ~500 CE) and minima (~3000 BCE, ~100 BCE) of the
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13 319 paleointensity in Eastern Asia (Cai *et al.* 2014, 2015), indicating full-vector variations
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16 320 of the field during these periods. Several archaeomagnetic jerks around 800 BCE, 200
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19 321 CE, 800 CE and 1400 CE were reported in Europe (Gallet *et al.* 2003). As discussed
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22 322 in Yu *et al.* (2010), all of them are recorded in Eastern Asia at similar times but the
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25 323 Eastern Asian data record more field changes. However, it is necessary to mention
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28 324 that these features depend strongly on the precision and resolution of the data,
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31 325 especially the dating. We would like to say it is important to get more reliable data
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34 326 with well constrained ages before we reach unambiguous conclusions.

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37 327 Based on the Eastern Asian data from Fig. 6 as well as the modern field data at the
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40 328 center of China (35°N, 105°E) from the gufm1 model between 1590-1990 CE
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43 329 (Jackson *et al.* 2000) and the IGRF model between 1990-2010 CE (Finlay *et al.* 2010),
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46 330 we calculated the PSV rate, expressed as the angular variation per year, of the
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49 331 geomagnetic field during the past 10 kyr (Fig. 7). The average rate (red solid circle) is
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52 332 calculated by the angular difference divided by the time interval between two average
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55 333 ages while the lower boundary of the average rate (blue square) is calculated by the
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58 334 same angular difference divided by maximum time interval after considering age
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335 uncertainties. The average variation rate is very low between ~6000-2000 BCE
336 (<0.01°/year), followed by an increase after that which reaches a maximum between

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4 337 500 BCE-0 ($>0.2^\circ/\text{year}$), and fluctuates afterward. The average PSV rate is generally
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7 338 less than $0.15^\circ/\text{year}$ during the past 10 kyr, which is consistent with the variation rate
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10 339 of the modern field (insert in Fig. 7). However, the average variation rate between 500
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12 340 BCE-0 (with a maximum of $\sim 0.28^\circ/\text{year}$) is much higher than any observational
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15 341 variation of the modern field in this area. Even the lower boundary, which is the
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18 342 minimum estimation, of the PSV rate shows a notable increase during this period. It is
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21 343 necessary to mention that the data between 500 BCE-0 have undesirable coherence in
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24 344 Eastern Asia and thus the PSV rates during this period should be treated with caution.
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27 345 The calculated variation rates depend on both data precision and time resolution,
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30 346 which will be updated by new reliable data in the future. The discussions in this study
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33 347 are based on our best knowledge at present. The directional variation of the field in
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36 348 Eastern Asia is generally consistent with the paleointensity variation in this area,
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39 349 which is relatively low and with limited variation before ~ 2000 BCE and increases
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42 350 sharply after then and keeps staying at relatively high values with large fluctuations
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45 351 afterward (Cai *et al.* 2014, 2015). Our new data and compilations of the published
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48 352 data as well as discussions in this study will provide context for numerical modeling
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51 353 in the future.

52 354 **6 CONCLUSIONS**

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54 355 We present 20 (2, 10, 2 and 6 from BJY, DXZ, SWC and LJZ, respectively) new
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57 356 reliable archaeodirectional data points from four different archaeological locations in
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60 357 this study. These are the first new directional data from China since the 1990s and fill

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4 358 many gaps of the present dataset in this area. The existing data from Eastern Asia
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7 359 generally agree with each other and fit well to the global models in the past 2 kyr
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10 360 reflecting the abundance of data for this period. However, at periods before 2 ka, data
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13 361 are sparse and supply few constraints for models, which make our new data,
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16 362 especially those from LJZ and DXZ, significant. The declinations and inclinations of
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19 363 the geomagnetic field in Eastern Asia vary between 30°W - 20°E and 30° - 70°
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21 364 respectively over the past 10 kyr. Both westward and eastward drift is observed and
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24 365 the former is generally dominant. Quite a few inflection points of the geomagnetic
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27 366 field direction are recorded in Eastern Asia over the past 10 kyr including those
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30 367 archaeomagnetic jerks reported in Europe (Gallet *et al.* 2003) and some of them are
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33 368 synchronous with the maxima (~ 4000 BCE, ~ 500 CE) and minima (~ 3000 BCE,
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36 369 ~ 100 BCE) of the paleointensity variations. The PSV rates of the field direction are
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39 370 generally low (according to present data distribution) before ~ 2000 BCE but are
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42 371 followed by fast increase and large fluctuations afterward, which is generally
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45 372 consistent with the pattern of paleointensity variations in this area.

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12 382 (<http://earthref.org/MagIC/11189/>).

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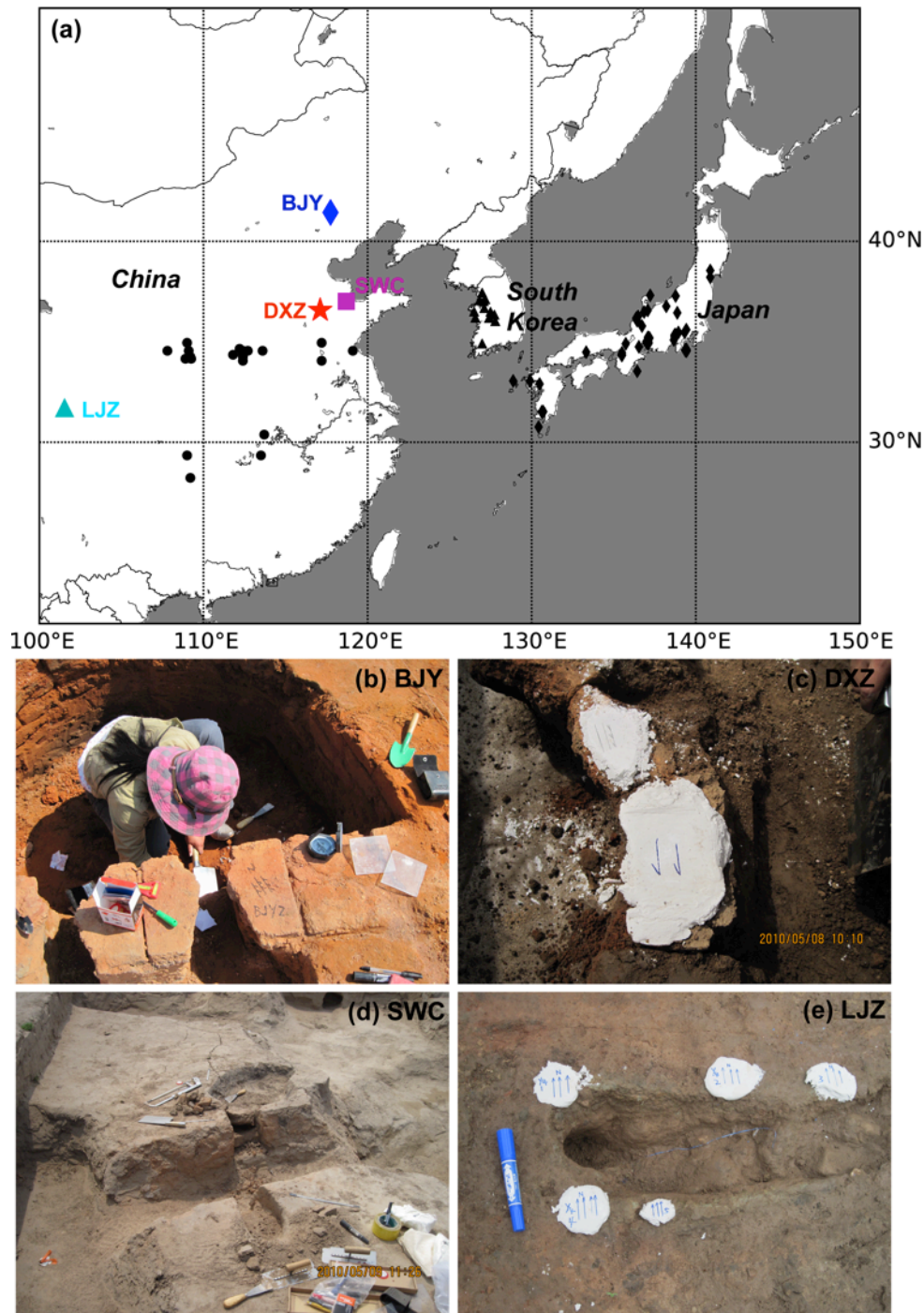
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492 **Table 1** Statistic results on sample and site level.

Sample/Site	Age (BCE/CE)	Dec	Inc	Dec-reloc	Inc-reloc	$\alpha_{95}(^{\circ})$	κ	n_a/n_0	N_a	Lon ($^{\circ}$ E)	Lat ($^{\circ}$ N)	VGP-Lon ($^{\circ}$)	VGP-Lat ($^{\circ}$)
BJY2		353.5	58.2			2.4	523.9	8/8					
BJY5		5.6	56.0			3.0	507.6	6/8					
Ave(BJY2-5)	1320±49^a	358.8	57.4	358.1	51.3	2.4	267.9		2	117.74	41.33	313.7	86.6
DXZ1		347.4	56.9			5.4	155.1	6/9					
DXZ2*		355.4	59.5			17.2	13.3	7/7					
Ave(DXZ1)	-1150±150^a	347.4	56.9	348	57.3	5.4	155.1		1	117.11	36.71	35.3	79.9
DXZ3		351.8	58.8			6.5	358.3	3/5					
DXZ5		345.3	65.7			7.9	135.6	4/7					
DXZ6		349.8	57.8			2.8	741.2	5/7					
DXZ7		333.4	59.0			5.7	178.3	5/7					
DXZ8		351.5	58.3			3.2	1475.6	3/5					
Ave(DXZ3-8)	-1150±150^a	345.4	60.1	347.1	60.7	2.6	152.8		5	117.11	36.71	52.3	77.9
DXZ9		1.2	51.2			1.9	1062.2	7/7					
DXZ10		2.5	53.1			2.1	852.9	7/7					
DXZ11		5.0	52.8			1.4	2186.1	6/6					
Ave(DXZ9-11)	-1150±150^a	2.8	52.4	1.8	50.1	1.1	963.2		3	117.11	36.71	264.6	85.6
DXZ14		359.7	50.0			4.7	166.9	7/7					
Ave(DXZ14)	-1150±150^a	359.7	50.0	358.3	48.3	4.7	166.9		1	117.11	36.71	299.6	84.1
SWC1		356.0	52.3			7.1	167.4	4/11					
SWC2		348.8	47.2			3.5	297.7	7/12					
Ave(SWC1-2)	1164±204^a	351.3	49.1	349.7	48.8	3.4	178.1		2	118.70	37.14	346.6	79.8

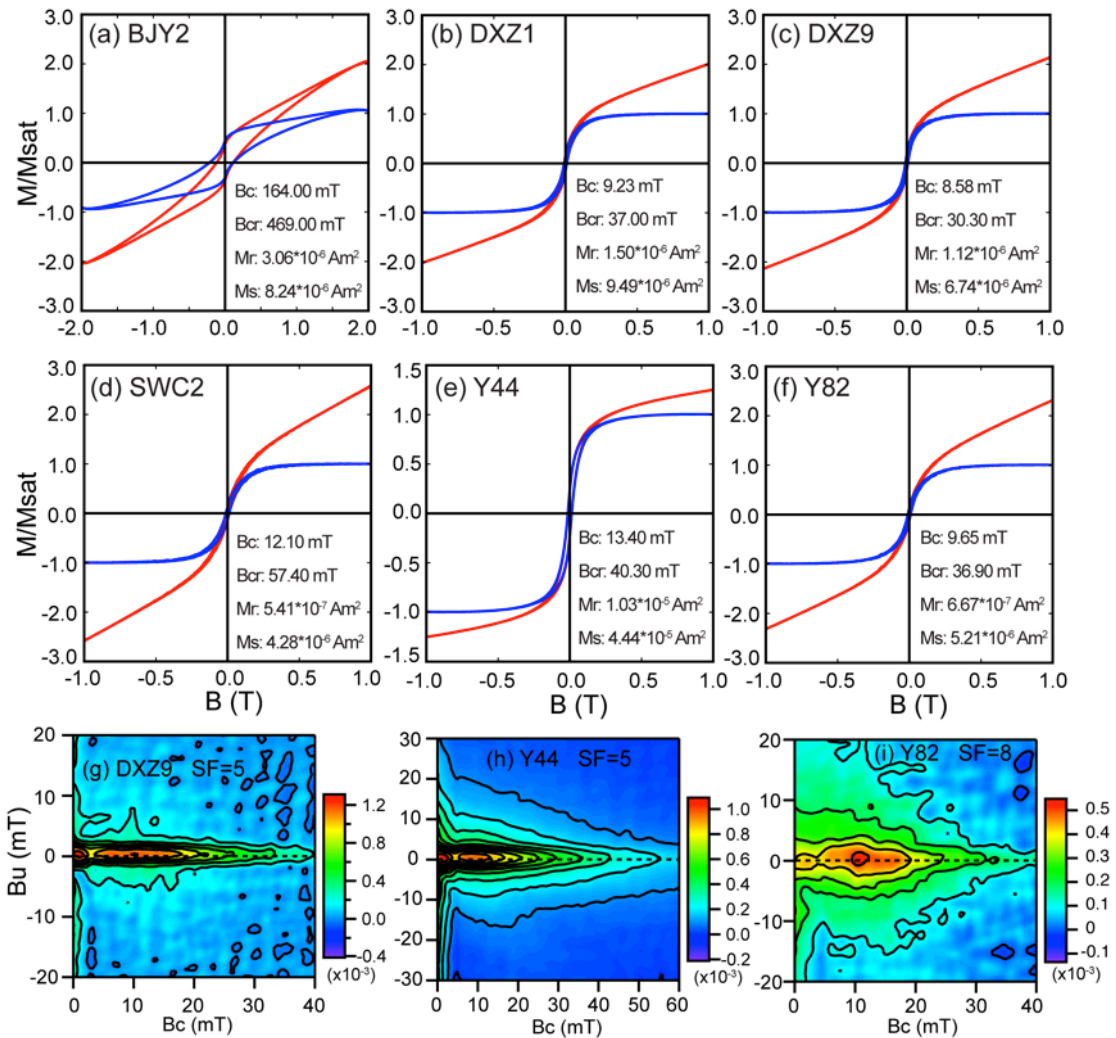
Y21*	-2893±27 ^b	357.3	48.8			10.1	58.3	5/5					
Y3	-2677±99 ^c	8.1	48.1	8.6	52.1	2.9	273.5	10/10	1	101.53	31.80	210.4	82.5
Y4	-3011±95 ^c	13.4	51.2	14.0	55.1	3.5	167.4	11/13	1	101.53	31.80	187.6	78.6
Y5	-3004±87 ^c	15.4	43.6	16.3	48.3	6.8	97.9	6/6	1	101.53	31.80	212.8	75.1
Y6	-3011±95 ^b	6.3	50.0	6.6	53.8	5.8	135.7	6/6	1	101.53	31.80	200.5	84.5
Y7	-3011±95 ^b	4.7	51.3	4.9	54.9	4.8	69.4	14/14	1	101.53	31.80	187.9	86
Y8	-2725±98 ^c	8.0	53.6	8.1	57.1	1.3	477.7	27/27	1	101.53	31.80	170.1	82.9

- 493 Dating methods of the ages are marked with character notes, a: archaeological dating; b: stratigraphic information combining with ¹⁴C dating; c:
- 494 ¹⁴C dating. Dec/Inc: declination/inclination; Dec-reloc/Inc-reloc: relocated declination/inclination; α_{95} : 95% confidence limit; κ : precision
- 495 parameter; n_a/n_0 : number of accepted/experiment specimens; N_a : number of accepted samples; Lon/Lat: Longitude/Latitude; VGP-Lon/VGP-Lat:
- 496 Longitude/Latitude of VGP. Samples marked with ‘*’ are rejected because of $\alpha_{95} \geq 10^\circ$.

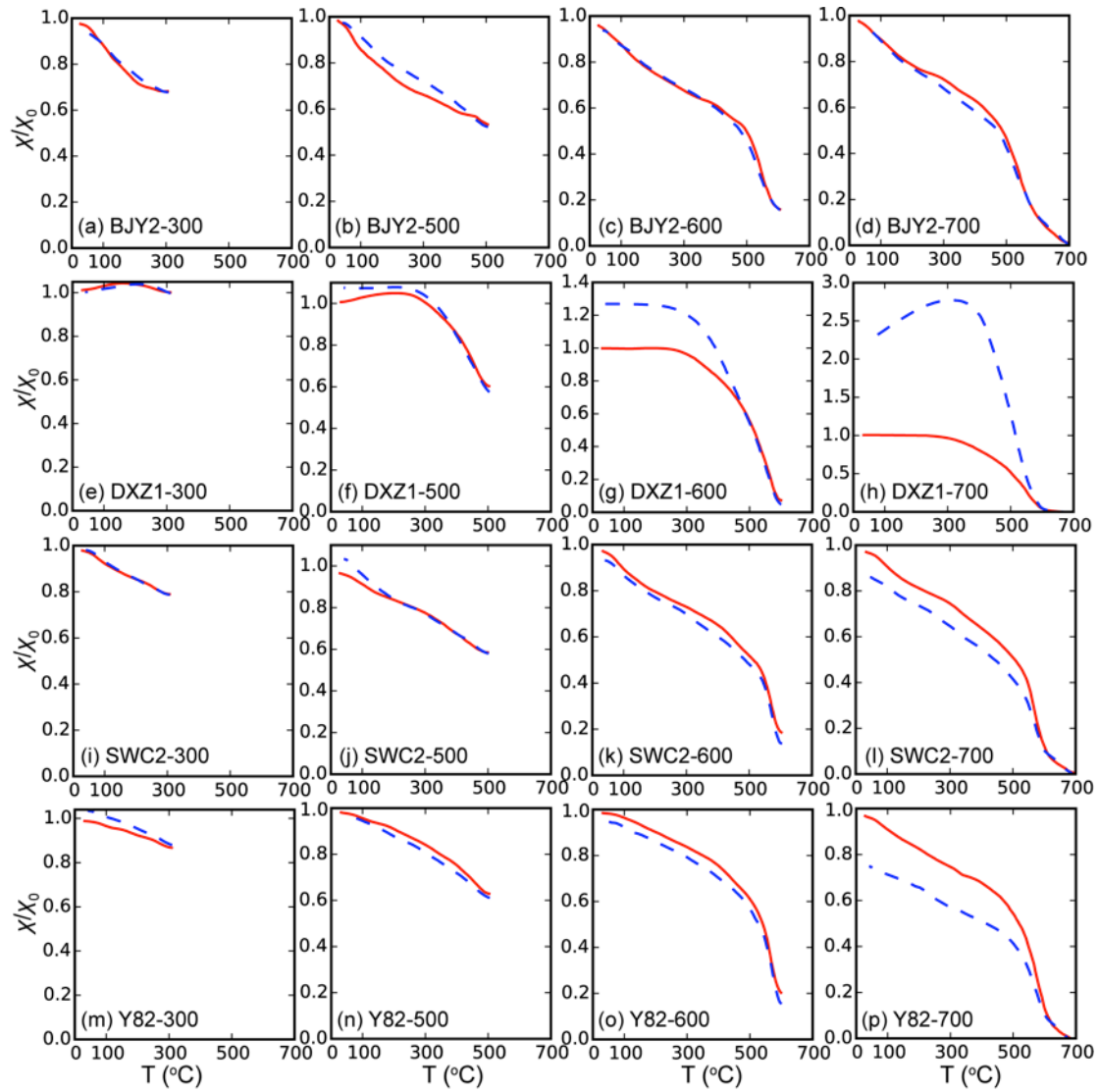


497 **Fig. 1** (a) Sitemap of this study and the published data in Eastern Asia. Blue
 498 diamond/red star/purple square/cyan triangle is the locations of BJI/DXZ/SWC/LJZ
 499 in this study. Black solid circles/triangles/diamonds represent locations of the
 500 published directional data in China/Korea/Japan from the GEOMAGIA50 database
 501 after data selection. Data selection criteria please see the text. (b-e) Representative

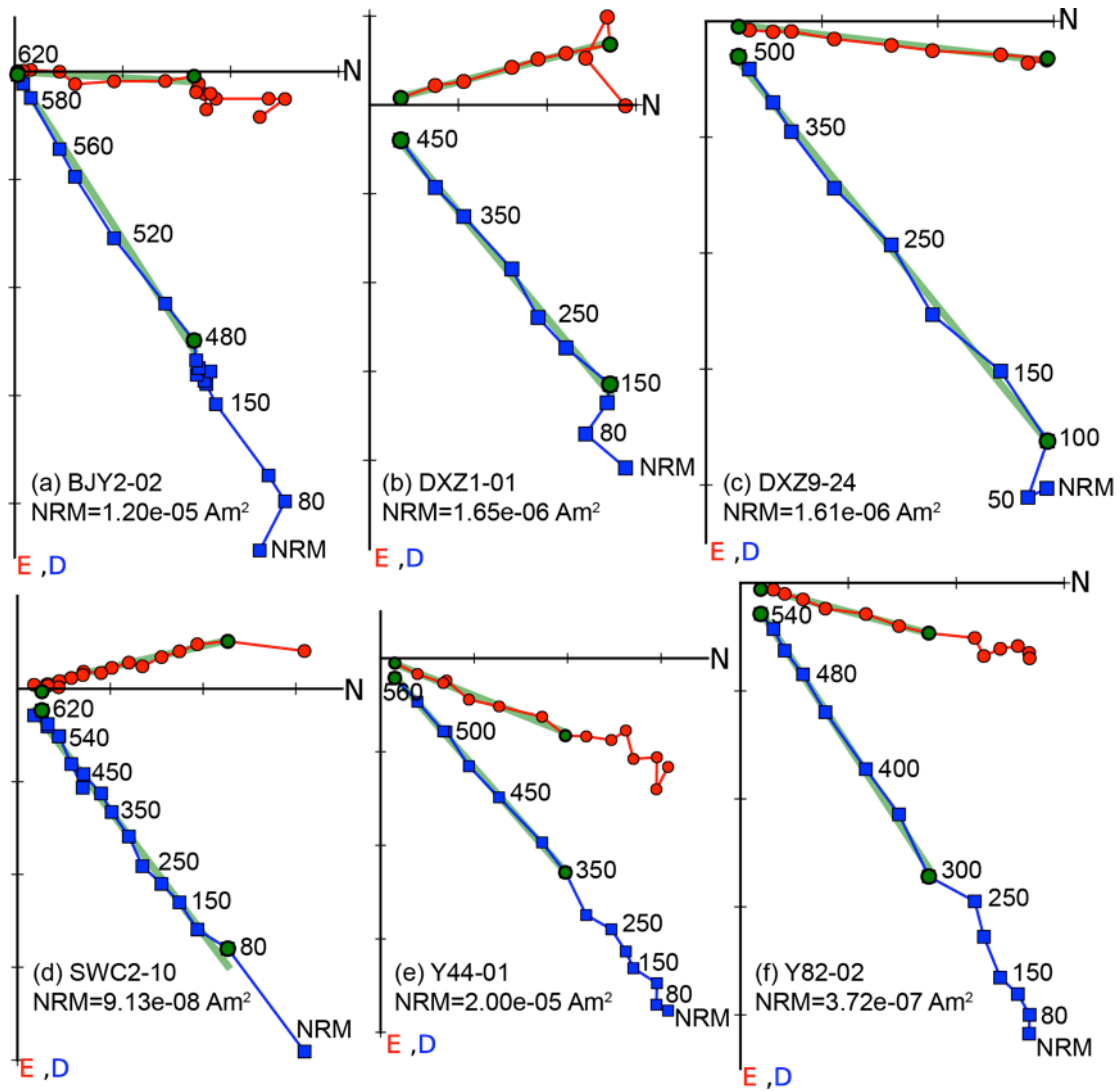
502 pictures of the four sampling locations: (c) is the hearth of DXZ1; (d) is Y4 from LJZ.



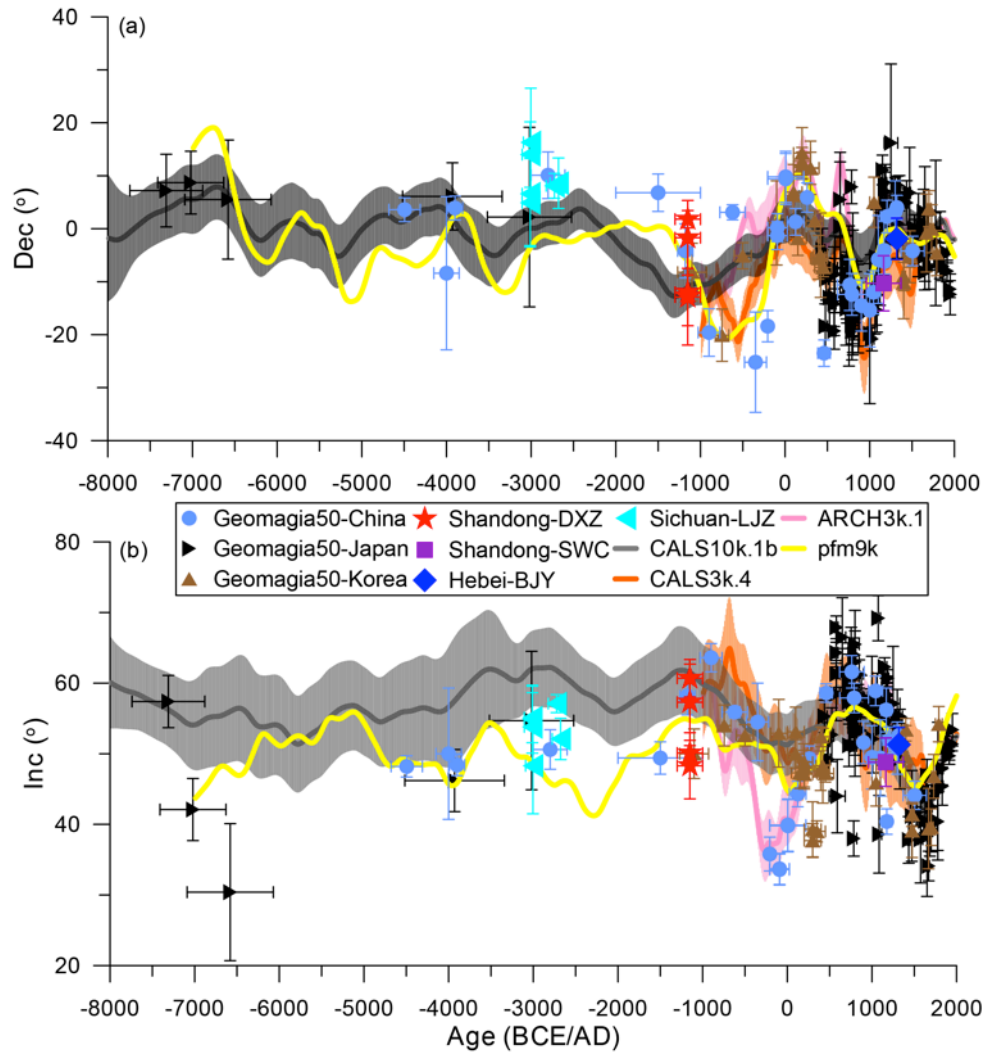
503 **Fig. 2** (a-f) Hysteresis loops of representative samples. Red (blue) loop is before (after)
 504 paramagnetic correction. B_c , coercivity; B_{cr} , remanent coercivity; M_r , remanent
 505 magnetization; M_s , saturation magnetization. Data are analyzed with the software of
 506 Pmagpy-2.184. (g-i) FORC plots analyzed with the software of FORCinel_1.17.



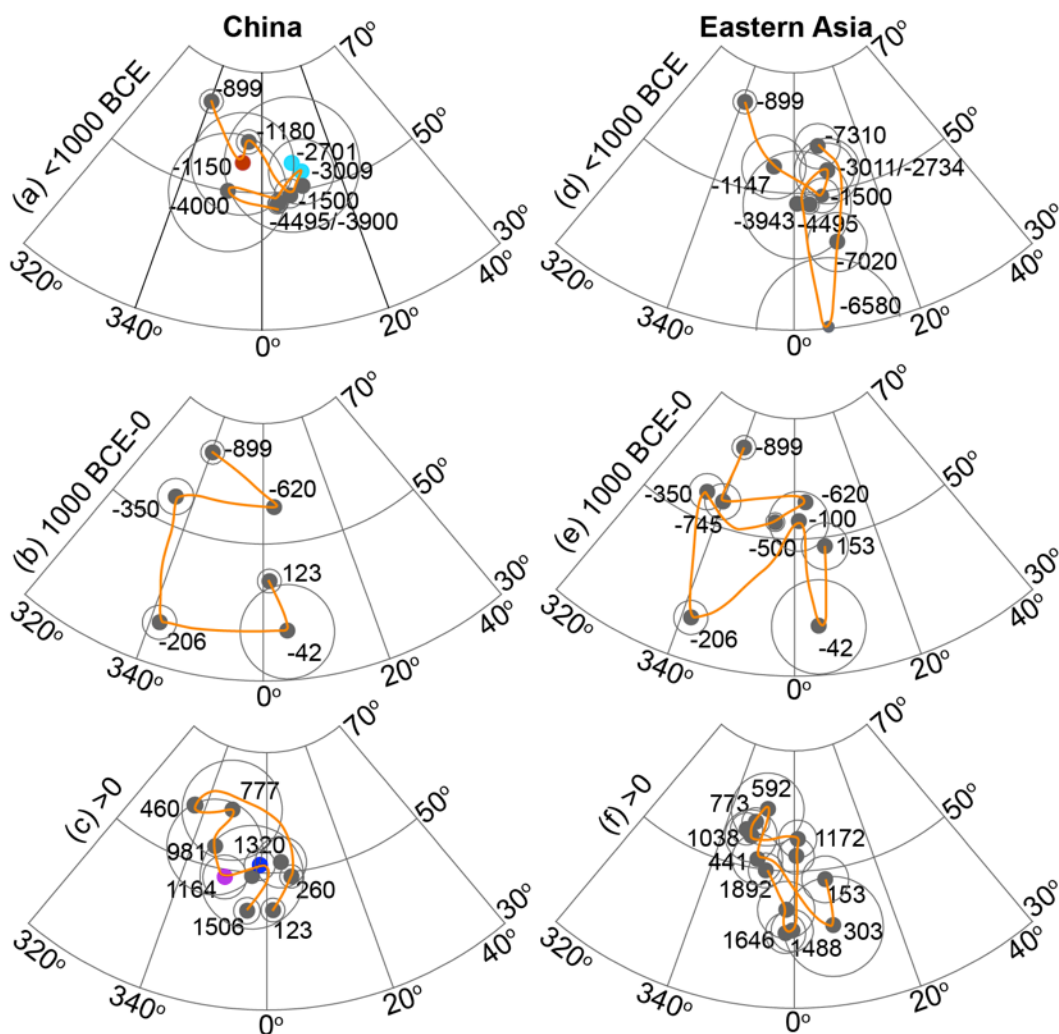
507 **Fig. 3** Step-wise variations of normalized susceptibility versus temperature. Samples
 508 are processed in air. Red solid (blue dashed) line represents heating (cooling)
 509 procedure.



510 **Fig. 4** Representative orthogonal projections for accepted specimens. Red solid
 511 circles/blue squares represent projections on horizontal/vertical plane. The green line
 512 on each plot shows the temperature section used to calculate the characteristic
 513 direction. Numbers on the diagrams are temperature steps in centigrade (°C). The
 514 plots were made with the software of Thellier_GUI (Shaar & Tauxe 2013).

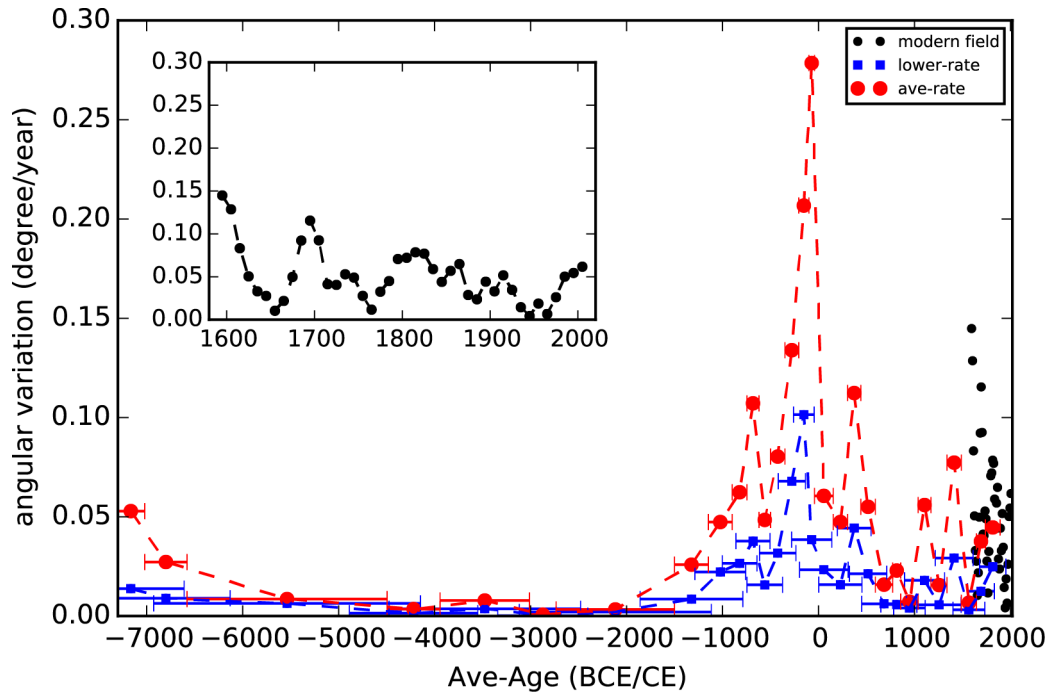


515 **Fig. 5** Variations of geomagnetic declination (a) and inclination (b) versus age. Blue
 516 diamond/red stars/purple square/cyan left triangles are data from BJY/DXZ/SWC/LJZ
 517 in this study. Baby blue solid circles/brown triangles/black right triangles represent
 518 locations of the published directional data in China/Korea/Japan from the
 519 GEOMAGIA50 database after data selection. Error bars of declination and inclination
 520 are $\alpha_{95}/\cos I$ and α_{95} respectively. All the data in this figure are relocated to the center
 521 of China (35°N , 105°E). The grey/orange/pink/yellow line is the prediction from
 522 global model of CAL510k.1b/CAL53k.4/ARCH3k.1/pfm9k at the center of China
 523 (35°N , 105°E).



524 **Fig. 6** D-I projections of the Chinese data (a-c) and all the Eastern Asian data (d-f).
 525 Fisher means of the data set in Fig. 5 are calculated with a time window of 100 years.
 526 The Fisher means of the new data in this study are marked with color dots in (a) and
 527 (c) (red/cyan/purple/blue: DXZ/LJZ/SWC/BJY). All the published and new data are
 528 included in the Eastern Asian projections. 95% confidence circles are shown for each
 529 data. Numbers in each plot are ages where negative represents ‘BCE’. Orange lines
 530 show moving trajectories of the field.

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531 **Fig. 7** PSV rate (angular variation per year) of the geomagnetic field in Eastern Asia
 532 over the past 10 kyr. Data from Fig. 6 are used for calculation. Ave-rate (red solid
 533 circle) is the average rate while lower-rate (blue square) is the lower boundary of the
 534 average rate. The age interval for each rate is shown with error bar on x axes. The
 535 insert is amplification of the variation rate of the modern field (black solid circle). The
 536 modern directions are predicted at the center of China (35°N, 105°E) by gufm1 model
 537 between 1590-1990 CE and IGRF model between 1990-2010 CE. PSV rates of the
 538 modern field are calculated at a 10-year window.

539 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

540 **Table S1** The list of specimens passing selection criteria. T_{\min}/T_{\max} :
 541 minimum/maximum temperature step used to calculate the directions of ChRM. n:
 542 number of data points used for the calculation of ChRM directions. Dec/Inc:
 543 declination/inclination of each specimen. The declinations are corrected with local

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4 544 magnetic declinations of each area at the time of sampling. MAD: maximum angular
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7 545 deviation. DANG: deviation angle from the origin. Flag: a mark showing whether the
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10 546 specimen is accepted ('g') or excluded ('b').
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12 547 **Table S2** All the published data in Eastern Asia used in this study. N/n: number of
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15 548 samples/specimens, '-' means unknown. The meanings of other items are the same as
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18 549 Table 1.
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1400	20	- #	352.2	50.6	351	53.4	1.6	35.06	126.98
1400	20	- #	352.5	46.4	349.8	49.6	4.4	35.06	126.98
1475	25	- #	0.4	40	354.7	39.1	3.8	36.49	127.73
1475	25	- #	0	42.4	355	41.4	1.7	36.49	127.73
1670	25	- 8	4.6	41.8	359.2	39.4	5.7	36.17	127.78
1700	25	- #	9	43.9	3.8	39.6	2.6	36.17	127.78
1730	25	- #	3.1	48.7	0	46.8	3.1	36.17	127.78
1790	40	- #	355.7	54.5	355.4	54.2	2.5	36.64	126.49
