



SHA.DIF.14k: a new archaeomagnetic model for the Holocene period

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A new global model of the Earth's magnetic field based on archaeomagnetic and lava flow data covering the Holocene period, from 12000BC to 1900AD, is presented. This model, called SHA.DIF.14k, was developed in space using the spherical harmonic analysis and in time using the penalized cubic b-splines. According to the model predictions, the dipolar moment of the Earth's magnetic field shows a minimum during the Neolithic (between 5500BC to 3000BC), then a maximum around 500 BC, followed by the well-known decreasing trend of the last two millennia. The north magnetic dip pole is characterized by a mean rate of motion of 5.1 km/yr for the last 14ka (6.3 km/yr for the last 8ka) and it can be averaged as axial dipolar in about 2000 yr within an error of 5°, the classical error of palaeomagnetic studies, although the rigorous geocentric axial dipole (GAD) hypothesis is reached when it is averaged over more than 10000 yr.