

The Local Last Glacial Maximum of the southern Scandinavian Ice Sheet front: Cosmogenic nuclide dating of erratics in northern Poland

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cosmogenic nuclide dating of erratics in northern Poland

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Abstract

 This paper presents new results of terrestrial cosmogenic nuclide dating of erratics in northern Poland. We report the first exposure ages of erratics located on the pre-Local Last Glacial Maximum and the Local Last Glacial Maximum moraines in Poland. Published radiocarbon ages are calibrated and used as a background indicator of the possible time window for the Local Last Glacial Maximum.

 The terrestrial cosmogenic nuclide exposure ages presented in this study indicate that: (1) exposure ages of erratics located on the pre-Local Last Glacial Maximum moraines (15.9 \pm 1.4 to 101.7 \pm 8.5 ka) are not clustered around any specific time interval, (2) the age of the 22 ice-sheet retreat from the Local Last Glacial Maximum ice limit in western Poland is $20.7 \pm$ 0.8 ka and the probable duration of the Local Last Glacial Maximum in western and central 24 Poland is between \sim 25 ka and \sim 21 ka, (3) the age of the ice sheet retreat from the Local Last

25 Glacial Maximum ice limit in eastern Poland is 17.3 ± 0.5 ka and the probable duration of the 26 Local Last Glacial Maximum in eastern Poland is between \sim 22 ka and \sim 18 ka. Our results show that the Local Last Glacial Maximum ice limit in western and central Poland is probably $28 \sim$ 3 ka older than in eastern Poland. This support a scenario for a complex response of the last Scandinavian Ice Sheet southern margin to the climatic fluctuations and/or to internal dynamics of the ice sheet.

 Key words: Local Last Glacial Maximum, Leszno (Brandenburg) Phase, Poznań (Frankfurt Phase), cosmogenic nuclide dating, Scandinavian Ice Sheet, erratics.

1. Introduction

 The Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) is defined as the most recent period with the maximum global integrated volume of ice sheets and the corresponding minimum global sea level (Mix et al., 2001; Clark et al., 2009; Hughes et al., 2013) and dated to 23–19 cal ka BP or 24–18 cal ka BP (cf. Mix et al., 2001; Hughes and Gibbard, 2015). The termination of the LGM climatic cooling resulted in the progressive shrinking of the inland ice, which for most 39 of the Northern Hemisphere ice sheets is dated at \sim 20–17 ka (Hughes and Gibbard, 2015). However, numerical ages (based on calibrated 14C, terrestrial cosmogenic nuclides – TCN or luminescence dating) of terrestrial deposits show significant regional variability in the timing of the ice sheets' maximum extent and the commencement of their retreat. Most of the ice sheets reached their maximum extents in a 7.0 ka time interval between 26.5 ka and 19.0 ka (Clark et al., 2009), but the maximum extents of specific ice sheets (Local Last Glacial Maxima – LLGM) were found to be asynchronous and not always in agreement with the global LGM (Hughes et al., 2013).

 The Scandinavian Ice Sheet (SIS) was one of the main Northern Hemisphere ice sheet and covered a significant part of northern Europe during the LGM. Timing of the last SIS

 maximum expansion and retreat is important to understand climatic fluctuations at the end of the Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 2. The LLGM to the south of the Baltic Basin (Fig. 1A) is 51 dated at ~24 ka in Germany and western Poland, and at ~19 ka in eastern Poland based on calibrated 14C and OSL ages (Marks, 2012 after Stankowska and Stankowski, 1988; Wysota 53 et al., 2009) and at 21–19 ka in Belarus and Lithuania based on calibrated ¹⁴C and ¹⁰Be ages (Rinterknecht et al., 2007, 2008). Thus, the maximum extent of the of the last SIS in Poland was probably asynchronous with earlier maximum expansion of the ice sheet in western and central Poland and subsequent maximum expansion further to the east (Fig. 1A and B). Nevertheless, there is still a relatively small number of geochronological data constraining the timing of LLGM in north Poland. Specifically, there is a lack of direct dating (TCN) of moraines correlated with the maximum limit of the last ice sheet in this region.

 Here we present a new set of TCN exposure ages of erratic boulders located within the southern front of the last SIS in northern Poland. It provides the first exposure ages of erratics located on the pre-LLGM moraines and new exposure ages on the LLGM moraines in Poland. Additionally, published 14C ages were calibrated with the most recent radiocarbon calibration curve and used as a background indicator of the possible time window for the LLGM. We discuss our results in a wider chronological context including specifically the growing number of luminescence ages available for the southern fringe of the last SIS (e.g. Houmark-Nielsen and Kjaer, 2003; Wysota et al., 2009; Lüthgens et al., 2011; Bitinas, 2012; Lasberg and Kalm, 2013), as well as existing reconstructions of the SIS evolution (e.g. Hughes et al., 2016; Stroeven et al., 2016). The objective of this paper is to date the asynchronous maximum extent of the last SIS in northern Poland based on new exposure ages, and on the extensive dataset of TCN exposure ages already published.

2. Study area

 The study area is located in NW Poland and covers ~20% (~500 km) of the LLGM ice sheet margin south of the Baltic Sea. The investigated region is situated within the eastern part of the extensive, lobe-shaped fringe of the last SIS (Fig. 1A). The region is large enough to find a considerable number of erratics suitable for TCN exposure dating (Tylmann et al., 2018) and to track the last SIS retreat from its maximum limit.

 The ice sheet limit of the LLGM in northern Poland is mostly based on the spatial distribution of end moraines, outlets of tunnel valleys or proximal parts of outwash plains and fans (Majdanowski, 1947; Galon and Roszkówna, 1961; Marks, 2002). This limit defines the "young glacial" landscape located to the north and the "old glacial" landscape located to the south of it (Fig. 1B). According to recent reconstructions, the LLGM was diachronous and it occurred during the Leszno/Brandenburg Phase in the western part and during the Poznań/Frankfurt Phase in the eastern part of the study area (Marks, 2011, 2012, 2015; Fig. 1B). It is supported by lithostratigraphic evidences which suggest asynchronous maxima of the last SIS across the study area. In north-central Poland two till layers separated by ice- wedge casts, are correlated with the glacial phases mentioned above (Wysota et al., 2009; 88 Narloch et al., 2013). However, in the former Vistula Ice Lobe area (Fig. 1B), only one till layer has been identified, and OSL dating of fluvial and glaciofluvial sediments suggests that it is correlated with the Poznań Phase (cf. Wysota et al., 2009; Roman, 2017). In contrast, in the western part of the study area, the till layer correlated with the Leszno Phase occurs close to the maximum extent of the last SIS, and no basal till layer correlated with the Poznań Phase has been documented there. Therefore, the ice marginal belt formed during the Poznań Phase in western Poland is commonly interpreted as a result of the ice margin standstill, which occurred during the last SIS recession after the LLGM of the Leszno Phase (e.g. Kasprzak, 1988; Kozarski, 1988, 1995).

 Fig. 1. The main ice margin limits of the last Scandinavian Ice Sheet (SIS) in the area south of the Baltic Sea and the study area with erratic boulders. (A) Location of the study area within the southern front of the last SIS. Dark dots indicate location of radiocarbon ages used in the article. (B) The location of erratic boulders dated with terrestrial cosmogenic nuclides (TCN). Limits of the last SIS from Marks et al. (2006) and Kozarski (1995).

 Up until recently, the age of the maximum extent of the last SIS in the study area was interpreted mainly based on available radiocarbon ages (Table 1 and references therein). Published 14C data significant for the interpretation of the last SIS advance and retreat (locations in Fig. 1A) indicate the possible time window for its maximum extent and the beginning of its retreat. Radiocarbon ages from organic deposits resting below the LLGM till layers have been obtained in the vicinity of the last SIS maximum limit in central Poland (Stankowska and Stankowski, 1988; Gogołek and Mańkowska, 1989) as well as in the area of the northern Polish coastline (Rotnicki and Borówka, 1995) and in offshore boreholes drilled into the Baltic Sea bottom (Kramarska, 1998; Krzyszkowski et al., 1999). The youngest calibrated radiocarbon ages of these deposits constrain the maximum reliable age of the LLGM. The most reliable ages for the ice sheet retreat, may be estimated by the oldest calibrated radiocarbon ages of the organic sediments deposited after deglaciation at the bottom of lake basins close to the last SIS maximum extent in central and northern Poland (Niewiarowski, 1995; Stankowski et al., 1999; Gamrat et al., 2017). Because of the risk of organic matter redeposition at the bottom of lake basins and the associated overestimated radiocarbon ages, these ages should be interpreted as a maximum reliable time interval for the deglaciation of north-central Poland after the LLGM.

 The calibrated radiocarbon ages of organic deposits underlying the LLGM till layers 121 range between 26.5 ± 1.3 and 25.2 ± 3.4 cal ka BP. The oldest minimum age predating the LLGM was found on the northern Polish coastline (Rotnicki and Borówka, 1995) and the youngest one in central Poland (Gogołek and Mańkowska, 1989). The post-LLGM maximum 124 ages of organic sediments deposited after deglaciation range between 21.4 ± 1.9 cal ka BP and 125 19.1 \pm 0.2 cal ka BP. The oldest age (21.4 \pm 1.9 cal ka BP) from bottom part of the lake deposits resting above the LLGM till in central Poland (Stankowski et al., 1999). A similar 127 age (21.4 \pm 0.6 cal ka BP) was obtained from the bottom of the lacustrine deposits overlying

further to the east started not earlier than ~19.0 cal ka BP.

3. Methods

3.1. Sample selection

 The largest erratic boulders located in situ on glacial landforms in the vicinity of the maximum extent of the last SIS and to the north of this limit were our targets for sampling for surface exposure dating with TCN (Fig. 1B). The boulders were carefully selected from an extensive dataset of almost 500 erratics, based on their dimensions and geomorphological locations (Tylmann et al., 2018). We selected erratics located on depositional glacial landforms, i.e. terminal moraines, dead-ice moraines, moraine plateaux or proximal zones of outwash fans/plains. Samples were collected with a manual jackhammer from the upper surface of 33 stable and massive boulders of perimeter ranging from 6.0 to 14.3 m and of height ranging from 0.8 to 2.9 m (Table 2; see examples in Fig. 2). Almost all boulders (n = 32) are characterized by quartz-rich lithologies – granitoid, granite gneiss and gneiss. Because of the availability of quartz, these erratics were sampled for surface exposure dating with in 150 situ-produced ¹⁰Be. Out of 33 samples for ¹⁰Be analysis (Table 2), one boulder was sampled twice; we took a sample from the top (LGM-02T) and one from the side (LGM-02S). The

 motivation of this sampling was that from the field observations the boulder looked to have been rotated by 90°, with the original top surface on the side (Fig. 2C). One boulder does not 154 contain quartz (gabbro) and it was sampled for exposure dating with in situ-produced ³⁶Cl 155 (Fig.2D, Tables $3 - 5$). In total, 34 new samples were analyzed: 33 for ¹⁰Be analysis and one for 36Cl analysis.

 Fig. 2. Examples of erratic boulders sampled for TCN exposure dating. (A) Sampling of FRT- 01 boulder upper surface with a manual jackhammer. (B) FRT-01 sampling spot with the scar (outlined by a white dashed line) and the collected material. (C) LGM-02 boulder, probably rotated 90° clockwise. Arrows show location of samples LGM-02T (present top of the boulder) and LGM-02S (hypothesized to be the original top). (D) FRT-11 boulder (gabbro); 163 the only one sampled for Cl.

165 The samples were crushed and sieved. The 0.25–1.0 mm fraction was divided with a 166 Frantz separator into magnetic and non-magnetic subsamples. The non-magnetic fractions 167 were enriched in quartz decontaminated by successive acid leaching $(HCl + H_2SiF_6)$ then 168 dilute HF). The purified quartz was spiked with \sim 100–300 mg of a 3025 ppm home-made 169 carrier then dissolved in 48% HF. After evaporation and purification with Dowex 1 X 8 and 170 Dowex 50W * 8 (100-200 mesh) ion exchange resins, BeOH was dried and then oxidized to 171 BeO at 800°C. BeO was mixed with 325 mesh Nb-powder prior to measurement at the 172 accelerator mass spectrometer (AMS). Sample preparation was conducted at the Laboratoire 173 National des Nucléides Cosmogéniques (LN₂C) at CEREGE, Aix-en-Provence, France. The 174 French AMS facility ASTER was used for the ¹⁰Be measurements (Arnold et al., 2010). The 175 measured ¹⁰Be/⁹Be ratios were normalized relative to the in-house standard STD-11 using an 176 assigned ¹⁰Be/⁹Be ratio of (1.191 \pm 0.013) \times 10⁻¹¹ (Braucher et al., 2015) and a ¹⁰Be half-life 177 of $(1.387 \pm 0.012) \times 10^6$ years (Chmeleff et al., 2010; Korschinek et al., 2010).

178 ¹⁰Be ages were calculated using the most recent global production rate (Borchers et al., 2016) and the 'Lm' time-dependent scaling scheme for spallation according to Lal (1991) and 180 Stone (2000). The modern global ¹⁰Be production rate at sea level and high-latitude is derived from a recalibrated global data set and recent calibration studies (Borchers et al., 2016). This production rate was used as the most adequate, because the local production rate for Poland 183 was not estimated so far. A recently published Swedish ¹⁰Be production rate (Stroeven et al., 184 2015) would generate slightly younger exposure ages $(\sim 5\%)$. The ¹⁰Be production rate was corrected for sample thickness according to an exponential function (Lal, 1991) and assuming an average density of 2.7 g/cm3. A correction for self-shielding (direction and angle of surface dipping) was applied when the surface of a sampling spot was sloping >10°. However, for most of the sampled boulders no correction for surface inclination was necessary. We apply a

189 correction for surface erosion, assuming a maximum erosion rate of 1.3 mm ka⁻¹ for granitic surfaces (Gosse et al., 1995; Rinterknecht et al., 2012, 2014). Corrections for snow/vegetation 191 cover were not included due to their minimal impact on ¹⁰Be ages in the temperate vegetation zone (e.g. Plug et al., 2007; Rinterknecht et al., 2014). All calculations were performed using the online exposure age calculator formerly known as the CRONUS-Earth online exposure age calculator – version 3 (http://hess.ess.washington.edu/math/; accessed: 2019-02-01), 195 which is an updated version of the online calculator described by Balco et al. (2008). ¹⁰Be exposure ages corrected and uncorrected for erosion are reported with 1σ uncertainties (including analytical uncertainties and the production rate uncertainty) in ka in Table 2. In the following sections we use ages uncorrected for the erosion and we interpret them as minimum ages for the ice sheet retreat.

200 *3.3. 36Cl dating methodology*

201 Gabbro sample FRT-11 was crushed and sieved to a grain size fraction of 250–710 μ m 202 at CALM (Cosmonucléides Au Laboratoire de Meudon) at the Laboratoire de Géographie 203 Physique (LGP), France, and chemically prepared for in situ 36 Cl dating at the LN₂C. The 204 procedure is described in Schimmelpfennig et al. (2011). Sample specific data and 205 compositional results are given in Tables 3, 4 and 5. The 36Cl age of sample FRT-11 was 206 calculated with the Excel® spreadsheet of Schimmelpfennig et al. (2009), using the scaling 207 method of Stone (2000) and employing the following ³⁶Cl production rates, referenced to sea 208 level and high latitude (SLHL): 42.2 ± 4.8 atoms ³⁶Cl (g Ca)⁻¹ yr⁻¹ for spallation of Ca 209 (Schimmelpfennig et al., 2011), 148.1 ± 7.8 atoms ³⁶Cl (g K)⁻¹ yr⁻¹ for spallation of K 210 (Schimmelpfennig et al., 2014), 13 ± 3 atoms ³⁶Cl (g Ti)⁻¹ yr⁻¹ for spallation of Ti (Fink et al., 211 2000), 1.9 ± 0.2 atoms ³⁶Cl (g Fe)⁻¹ yr⁻¹ for spallation of Fe (Stone et al., 2005), and 696 \pm 185 212 neutrons $(g \text{ air})^{-1}$ yr⁻¹ for the production rate of epithermal neutrons from fast neutrons in the 213 atmosphere at the land/atmosphere interface (Marrero et al., 2016b). We used a high-energy

214 neutron attenuation length of 160 g cm⁻². The resulting ³⁶Cl age in Table 5 with its 1 σ uncertainty including all analytical and production rate errors is shown with and without 216 correction for an erosion rate of 1.3 mm ka⁻¹. The $36Cl$ age was also calculated using the CRONUScalc calculator (Marrero et al., 2016a) for comparison with the results calculated with the Excel® spreadsheet (Schimmelpfennig et al., 2009).

4. Results

4.1. Erratics located beyond the ice marginal belt of the LLGM

221 Exposure ages for SAAL samples show significant scatter $(16.2 \pm 1.4 \text{ to } 115.2 \pm 11.0 \text{ m})$ ka; Table 2). The observed variability (53.2%) is much larger than the average external uncertainty (8.4%). This shows that random uncertainties are dominated by geological uncertainties rather than by analytical ones. Most of the pre-LLGM exposure ages are younger than 100 ka (six samples) with five ages younger than 60 ka (Table 2).

4.2. Erratics of the LLGM ice marginal belt

 We sampled 13 erratics located on the ice marginal belt identified geomorphologically as the Leszno (Brandenburg) Phase (Fig. 1B). The exposure ages for samples LGM (01 to 08) 229 and FRT (01 to 04 and 06) range between 19.3 ± 2.1 and 75.3 ± 6.3 ka (Table 2). The distribution of the ages is bimodal with the narrow and high mode containing ages ranging 231 between 19.3 ± 2.1 and 25.1 ± 2.1 ka, and wider and lower mode containing ages between 232 39.5 \pm 3.3 and 75.3 \pm 6.3 ka (Fig. 3A). The results for the boulder that has been sampled twice 233 (LGM-02) belong to the older distribution, and are: 39.5 ± 3.3 ka for the top sample (LGM-234 02T) and 58.6 ± 3.9 ka for the side sample (LGM-02S). The older age of the weathered side of the boulder support our hypothesis that this erratic was rotated and the original top surface is on the side (Fig. 2C).

 Fig. 3. Distribution of surface exposure ages for erratic boulders located on the LLGM ice 239 marginal belts. (A) Erratic ¹⁰Be ages located on the ice marginal belt of the Leszno Phase. (B) Surface exposure ages (22 10Be and one 36Cl) of the Poznań Phase ice marginal belt. Yellow 241 areas represent cumulative kernel density estimates of all ¹⁰Be ages; blue, red and grey curves represent kernel density estimates for individual 10Be ages: blue – included in the error- weighted mean age calculation, red – outliers, grey – not accepted ages (older mode of ages from ice marginal belt correlated with the Leszno Phase).

 Ages belonging to the younger distribution are much more clustered around the mode than the ages of the older distribution (Fig. 3A). The reduced chi-squared test for ages of the 247 younger distribution indicates that they represent a single population (χ^2 _r = 0.8 and *K* = 2.2), 248 while the ages of the older distribution do not represent a single population (χ^2 _r = 7.2 and *K* = 2.2). We used the criterion '*K*' to test whether the reduced chi-squared value fall within a 2σ envelope (95% confidence). This criterion depends on the degree of freedom, and thus the 251 number of samples (n): $K = 1 + 2\sqrt{2/(n-1)}$. If χ^2 _r < *K* then there is a >95% probability that the analyzed measurements represent a single population. We therefore used the younger distribution to interpret the age of the Leszno Phase ice marginal belt. The oldest age of this 254 dataset $(25.1 \pm 2.1 \text{ ka})$ was identified as an outlier according to the Chauvenet's criterion. A Shapiro-Wilk test, applied after rejecting the outlier, showed that we cannot reject the 256 normality assumption for $p = 0.05$ (W = 0.97) for distribution of the remaining six ages. The error-weighted mean and the standard deviation of the mean calculated for these ages is 20.7 258 ± 0.8 ka (Table 2). The spatial distribution of the analyzed erratics indicates that statistically reliable ages (included in the mean age calculation) are located mainly in the western part of the study area (Fig. 4).

 Twelve boulders located on the Poznań (Frankfurt) ice marginal belt were sampled for 10Be (samples LGM-09 to12, FRT-05, FRT-07 to 10 and FRT-12 to 14) and one boulder for ³⁶Cl exposure dating (sample FRT-11). We also recalculated and used ¹⁰Be ages of ten boulders from published data (Rinterknecht et al., 2005, 2006), located close to the ice sheet limit during the LLGM in the eastern edge of the study area (Table 2; Fig. 1B) using the same procedure as for our samples.

267 ¹⁰Be ages range between 5.8 ± 0.8 and 40.6 ± 3.9 ka (Table 2) with narrow modes 268 occurring at \sim 5–7 ka and \sim 15–19 ka, and wide, low mode at \sim 30–40 ka (Fig. 3B). The 269 voungest mode includes two ages 5.8 ± 0.8 and 7.0 ± 1.9 ka, the intermediate mode consists

284 Fig. 4. Spatial distribution of ¹⁰Be ages and single ³⁶Cl age in the study area. Ages used in the calculation of the error-weighted mean ages for specific ice marginal belts are framed in black frame.

5. Discussion

5.1. Pre-LLGM erratics

 The distribution of the exposure ages of erratics located beyond of the ice sheet limit 290 during the LLGM is very large (from 15.9 ± 1.4 to 101.7 ± 8.5 ka; Table 2) and these ages are not clustered around any particular time interval. We have only one exposure age (sample SAAL-05) that may be roughly interpreted as representing the timing of retreat of the MIS 6 293 ice sheet: 101.7 ± 8.5 ka (Table 2). Six out of seven boulders display much too young ages 294 (from 15.9 ± 1.4 to 66.8 ± 5.5 ka) for the retreat of the MIS 6 ice sheet, and probably result from degradation of moraines and erosion of erratics (e.g. Hallet and Putkonen, 1994) during the long time period after deglaciation. Postglacial weathering and erosion of an erratic surface, removes cosmogenic nuclide accumulated in the surface layer of the sample and thus produces too young ages, but we consider the obtained exposure ages most probably represent long-term geomorphic processes acting after deglaciation, and therefore largely underestimate the timing of ice sheet retreat. Similar inconsistencies of 10Be ages for erratics located within Saalian (MIS 6) landscapes were reported in Germany, in the Hocher Fläming area (Rinterknecht et al., 2012), and in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Rinterknecht et al., 2014) in 303 front of the ice sheet limit during the Brandenburg Phase. For 14 erratics sampled for ¹⁰Be 304 dating in Germany, ten boulders have exposure ages too young (from 27.7 ± 1.3 to 92.8 ± 3.0 ka) for the deglaciation at the end of MIS 6 and four erratics have exposure ages ranging from 306 101.7 \pm 10.4 to 143 \pm 5.0 ka.

 In central-western and northern Poland, deposition of organic sediments resting below 318 the LLGM till is dated to \sim 26.5–25.2 cal ka BP (Table 1) indicating that the maximum extent of the last SIS in this region occurred later than ~25 cal ka BP. Moreover, the radiocarbon age 320 of the basal part of gyttia $(21.4 \pm 1.9 \text{ cal ka BP})$ resting on the same till (Stankowski et al., 321 1999) indicates that the ice sheet retreat from its maximum limit started not earlier than \sim 21.4 cal ka BP. Recently, Marks (2012) determined, based on his interpretation of the available ages, the age of the maximum extent of the last SIS in central and western Poland during the Leszno Phase at 24 cal ka BP.

 Our results for the Leszno (Brandenburg) Phase in western Poland are clustered 326 around two modes at \sim 19–22 ka and \sim 40–70 ka (Fig. 3A). We used this younger mode to 327 calculate an error-weighted mean surface exposure age of 20.7 ± 0.8 ka (Fig. 5). We interpret this age as a minimum age of the commencement of the ice sheet retreat from its maximum limit at the end of the LLGM in central and western Poland. Ages used in the error-weighted mean age calculation agree, within uncertainty, with the radiocarbon ages coming from deposits resting below and above the till of the ice advance during the Leszno Phase in central 332 Poland (Stankowski et al., 1999). The ages of the older distribution (between 39.5 ± 3.3 and 75.3 ± 6.3 ka) probably result from inherited ¹⁰Be. This could have happened either due to redeposition of previously exposed boulders by the last SIS with no or limited erosion (cf. Håkansson et al., 2008; Rinterknecht et al., 2012).

 The new exposure age of the last ice sheet retreat in western Poland is also consistent with most luminescence ages constraining the timing of the Leszno Phase (Fig. 5). OSL dating of fluvial, fluvioglacial and periglacial sediments underlying the till correlated with the Leszno Phase (Stankowski et al., 1999; Wysota et al., 2009; Molewski and Weckwerth, 2009; 340 Weckwerth et al., 2011) yields ages that mostly range between \sim 29 and \sim 24 ka. Additionally, OSL ages of sediments underlying the LLGM till in the northernmost region of Germany 342 suggest that the last ice sheet reached the southern Baltic coast at Rügen Island after 22.7 ± 1 343 1.9 ka (Pisarska-Jamroży et al., 2018) or 22.0 ± 2.0 ka and 23.0 ± 2.0 ka (Kenzler et al., 2015, 2017). OSL ages of fluvial and periglacial deposits overlying the till correlated with the Leszno Phase in Poland range between ~21 and 19 ka (Molewski 2007; Wysota et al., 2009; see Fig. 5). We thus suggest that the error-weighted mean exposure age of erratics in western 347 Poland (20.7 \pm 0.8 ka) represents the most reliable age for the initiation of the ice sheet retreat after the ice advance during the Leszno Phase.

349 Our results also corroborate TCN data published by Heine et al. (2009), who 350 determined the exposure ¹⁰Be age of three boulders located on the Brandenburg (Leszno) and 351 Frankfurt (Poznań) Phase ice marginal belts in north-eastern Germany. Our error-weighted 352 mean exposure age $(20.7 \pm 0.8 \text{ ka})$ and the results of Heine et al. (2009) $(22.0 \pm 1.1 \text{ ka})$, are 353 coeval within uncertainties. We suggest that the duration of the LLGM in central and western 354 Poland, constrained with the available radiocarbon ages and our new ¹⁰Be exposure ages, is 355 between \sim 25 ka and \sim 21 ka (Fig. 5).

- 1) the beginning of the ice sheet retreat during the LLGM in eastern Poland, after the ice advance during the Poznań Phase,
- 2) the ice sheet retreat from the Poznań Phase limit in north-central Poland, postdating the LLGM represented by the Leszno Phase.

 These results are in general agreement with OSL ages (~18.7–16.7 ka; Fig. 5) of fluvioglacial sand overlying the till correlated with the ice advance during the Poznań Phase 371 in north-central Poland (Stankowski et al., 1999; Wysota et al., 2009; Roman, 2017). ¹⁰Be exposure dating of erratics located on moraines correlated with the LLGM in Belarus and Lithuania (Rinterknecht et al., 2007, 2008) yields mean exposure ages of deglaciation at 17.7 374 ± 0.8 and 20.1 ± 1.2 ka respectively. Furthermore, the recent results from Valday Heights in 375 NW Russia show a ¹⁰Be age for the LLGM at 18.9 ± 0.5 ka (Rinterknecht et al., 2018). These data suggest an older age for the LLGM further east of eastern Poland. We propose a possible 377 duration for the LLGM in eastern Poland, constrained by radiocarbon ages and our new ¹⁰Be exposure ages as well as recalculated data of Rinterknecht et al. (2005, 2006), between ~22 ka 379 and \sim 18 ka (Fig. 5).

Fig. 5. Distribution of TCN, 14C, and OSL ages relevant for the reconstruction of the timing of the LLGM and the initiation of the last ice sheet

retreat in the study area. Sources of 14C ages are listed in Table 1.

 Our results do not agree with OSL data and reinterpretation of 10Be exposure dating of erratics proposed recently by Hardt et al. (2016). Based on OSL dating of fluvioglacial deposits in the vicinity of the Frankfurt (Poznań) ice marginal belts, they assigned the age of \sim 26.3 \pm 3.7 ka for the initiation of the ice sheet retreat in north-eastern Germany. This is 387 significantly older than our mean exposure age of 17.3 ± 0.5 ka, which we interpret as a minimum age of the start of deglaciation during the Poznań Phase in northern Poland. The inconsistency may result from the overestimation of the OSL ages obtained by Hardt et al. (2016), due to incomplete bleaching of fluvioglacial sediments. Although these authors applied a single grain method and minimum age model in OSL age calculation, the risk that all quartz grains within the sample are not fully bleached persists, especially when fluvioglacial (outwash) sediments deposited close to the ice margin are dated (e.g. Houmark- Nielsen, 2008; Bickel et al., 2015). However, if the OSL ages were correct for the ice sheet recession, it would suggest a high asynchrony of the ice margin retreat during the Poznań (Frankfurt) Phase: the beginning of the ice sheet retreat in northern Poland occurred at least $397 \sim 5$ ka later than in north-eastern Germany. Furthermore, Hardt et al. (2016) interpreted the recalculated surface exposure ages of Heine et al. (2009) as an indicator of landform stabilization after deglaciation rather than a reliable age of the ice-sheet retreat (Houmark- Nielsen et al., 2012). On the other hand, our exposure ages of erratics in the study area correlate strongly with independent geochronological data from Poland, such as OSL dating, and we argue that they represent a reliable age for the initiation of the ice sheet retreat in the study area. They also correlate with the OSL ages cited above and recently obtained on Rügen Island (Kenzler et al., 2015, 2017; Pisarska-Jamroży et al., 2018).

5.3. Asynchrony of LLGM

 Although already postulated by other authors (e.g. Marks 2012; Larsen et al., 2016; Stroeven et al., 2016; Patton et al., 2017) the asynchrony of the LLGM ice sheet limit in the southern sector of the SIS was strongly confirmed by our results. TCN dating of the ice front 409 retreat along the last SIS ice margin in northern Poland show clearly a \sim 3 ka delay of the LLGM in the eastern Poland with respect to the LLGM in western and central Poland. This 411 generally agrees with the recent reconstructions of the diachronous LLGM dated at \sim 24 ka 412 (Leszno/Brandenburg Phase) in the western part and at \sim 19 ka (Poznań/Frankfurt Phase) in the eastern part of the study area (Wysota et al., 2009; Marks, 2011, 2012, 2015). This asynchrony of the LLGM may be related to the activation and deactivation of the Vistula and Odra ice streams (Wysota et al., 2009; Woźniak and Czubla, 2015; Spagnolo et al., 2016; Roman, 2017). These ice streams most likely shaped the ice margin (Fig. 5) and to a large extent controlled the timing of the last SIS retreat. Timing of the ice margin retreat within the last SIS have been recently reconstructed

 based on GIS compilation of available geochronological data and construction of the deglaciation isochrones (Hughes et al., 2016, Stroeven et al., 2016). The reconstruction for the Eurasian ice sheets suggests the maximum ice sheet extent within the southern sector of the last SIS 24–22 ka, with the LLGM in western Poland most likely 24–23 ka and the LLGM in eastern Poland most likely 22 ka (Hughes et al., 2016). Our results of TCN dating indicate larger time offset between the maximum ice sheet expansion in western and eastern Poland. They correspond more closely to the reconstruction of Stroeven et al. (2016), who interpreted the timing of the LLGM to be 22 ka in western and 19 ka in eastern Poland.

6. Conclusions

 1. A wide distribution of erratic exposure ages located on the pre-LLGM moraine 429 plateaux $(15.9 \pm 1.4 \text{ to } 101.7 \pm 8.5 \text{ ka})$ is not clustered around any particular time interval. The 10Be exposure ages represent long-term postglacial geomorphic processes.

- 2. 10Be exposure dating of erratics resting on the ice marginal belt of the Leszno (Brandenburg) Phase in western Poland show the initiation of the ice sheet retreat 20.7 434 ± 0.8 ka.
- 435 3. The duration of the LLGM in western and central Poland, constrained by our ¹⁰Be 436 exposure dating and the available radiocarbon dating is between \sim 25 ka and \sim 21 ka. 437 4. ¹⁰Be exposure dating of erratics resting on the ice marginal belt of the Poznań Phase 438 show the initiation of the last SIS retreat 17.3 ± 0.5 ka. 439 5. The duration of the LLGM in eastern Poland is best constrained by our new ¹⁰Be exposure ages, recalculated exposure ages of Rinterknecht et al. (2005, 2006) and 441 calibrated radiocarbon ages is between \approx 22 ka and \sim 18 ka.
- 6. Our results confirm that different sectors of the last SIS southern front advanced and retreated asynchronously. The LLGM ice limit in western and central Poland is 444 probably \sim 3 ka older than in eastern Poland. The documented asynchrony supports a complex response of the last SIS southern margin to hemispheric climatic fluctuations and internal dynamics of the ice sheet controlled largely by activation and deactivation of ice streams.

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7. References

Table 1. Published radiocarbon ages significant for the timing of the last SIS advance and retreat along the LLGM limit in Poland.

* Calibrated using IntCal13 calibration curve (Reimer et al., 2013) with the Calib 7.0.4 software (Stuiver et al., 2017).

Table 2. Surface exposure ¹⁰Be ages of pre-LLGM and LLGM erratic boulders in northern Poland. The list consists of 33 new exposure ages and 10¹⁰Be ages recalculated from the original data of Rinterknecht et al. (2005, 2006). Densities of all samples (granitoids, granite gneisses and gneisses) were assumed at 2.7 g/cm3. All 10Be exposure ages are calculated with 'Lm' time-dependent scaling scheme for spallation according to Lal (1991) and Stone (2000) and global production rate according to Borchers et al. (2016).

All samples measured at the ASTER facility. AMS results are standardized to STD-11 (samples LGM and FRT) and SRM 4325 (samples LES). ¹⁰Be/⁹Be ratios were corrected for a process blank value of 6.08 x 10^{-12} (samples LGM and FRT-01 to FRT-10), 5.97 x 10^{-12} (samples FRT-11 to FRT-14), and $26.8 \pm 1.4 \times 10^{-12}$ (samples LES).

1 Corresponding to self-shielding (direction and angle of surface dipping).

* Surface exposure ages recalculated from the original data of Rinterknecht et al. (2005, 2006).

^ Ages used in the error-weighted mean age calculation for the LLGM moraines.

n.a. – not available

Table 3. Bulk composition of sample FRT-11 before chemical treatment, analysed at the SARM-CRPG (Nancy, France) by ICP-OES (major elements), ICP-MS (trace element), atomic absorption (Li), colorimetry (B) and spectrophotometry (Cl).

| Sample Name | SiO ₂ $\%$ | Al ₂ O ₃ $\frac{6}{9}$ | Fe ₂ O ₃ $\%$ | MnO $\frac{1}{2}$ | MgO | CaO $\frac{0}{0}$ | Na ₂ O $\frac{0}{0}$ | K_2 O $\frac{6}{10}$ | TiO ₂ | P_2O_5 $\frac{0}{0}$ | LOI $\frac{0}{0}$ | Total | Cl (ppm) | . . Lı (ppm) | (ppm) | Sm (ppm) | Gd (ppm) | Th (ppm | (ppm) |
|----------------|--------------------------|---|--|----------------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| FRT-1 | 50.46 | 23.48 | \sim | 0.08 | 38 1.JU | 10.38 | 3.90 | $- -$ V. / | | 0.44 | . . 10 | 99.26 | \sim . . <i>.</i> | 6.9 | | -. ب | J . | | Δ ϵ $v.\sim$ |

Table 4. Major element concentrations in sample splits after acid etching, which removed 14% of the sample, analysed at the SARM-CRPG (Nancy, France) by ICP-OES. Ca, K, Ti and Fe are target elements for the spallogenic/muogenic production of 36Cl.

| Sample name | ∩•∩ SiU 70 | AI ₂ O ₃ 70 | He ₂ O ₃ \mathbf{a} | MnO 70 | MgO | CaO 70 | Na ₂ C $\mathbf{0}$ | \mathbf{L} $\mathbf{N}_2\mathbf{U}$ $\mathbf{0}$ | TiO $\mathbf{0}$ | 7V $\mathbf{0}$ | LOI $\frac{0}{0}$ | nm. Total |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| FRT- | -1 -1 -0.01 | \sim $+0.4$ 22.01 | $= 0.09$ $.56 \pm$ | ,069 0.007 | 0.99 ± 0.01 | $1.10 -$ 0.22 $\mathsf{v}.\mathsf{v}$. <u>. .</u> | : 0.61 .04 | ± 0.04 0_{\cdot} | ≈ 0.0 $\sqrt{2}$ <u>д</u> | 0.88 = 0.18 | 1.59 | 99.51 |

Table 5. Surface exposure 36Cl age of LLGM gabbro erratic with characteristics of FRT-11 sample. Sample and blank were spiked with a solution enriched in ³⁵Cl (99.9%). AMS measurements were normalized to in-house standard SM-CL-12, using an assigned value of 1.428 (\pm 0.021) x 10¹² (Merchel et al., 2011), and assuming a natural ratio of 3.127 for the stable ratio $35 \text{Cl}/37 \text{Cl}$. The chemistry blank correction was performed by subtracting the number of atoms of Cl and ³⁶Cl in the blank from those in the sample.

* Sample values are not yet corrected for blank.