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North Pole; (ii) $1.4 \times 10^{16}$ kg uniformly distributed from one hemisphere to the other; or (iii) $1.1 \times 10^{16}$ kg from the oceans to land at high latitudes. We suggest that any reasonable model should therefore have a total seasonal transported mass within 40% of $1.0 \times 10^{16}$ kg. Secondly, models should predict that the load peaks near the poles in their respective late-winter seasons. Thirdly, models should predict that the load’s trajectory follows an approximate great circle over the continents (Fig. 3).

From remote sensing, it is known that the mass of snow in the Northern Hemisphere peaks during February to March at $0.3 \times 10^{16}$ kg (5, 16). Recent analysis in atmospheric research (6) confirms earlier interpretations (7) on the existence of interhemispheric oscillations in atmospheric mass at the level of $0.4 \times 10^{16}$ kg, which appears to be driven in part by anomalous cooling over snow-covered areas, particularly over Siberia and Canada (17). Our results therefore suggest that the observed pattern of deformation is dominated by winter groundwater storage enhanced by atmospheric pressure. Assuming an upper bound on the net redistributed mass at $1.4 \times 10^{16}$ kg, we infer the non-snow component of winter groundwater to be $<0.7 \times 10^{16}$ kg.

The load’s trajectory over the continents (in approximately the y-z plane) is consistent with the land’s ability to sustain loads (unlike the ocean’s tendency to rapidly approach equilibrium). An interesting feature of the load moment time series is the asymmetric pattern of z oscillations (Fig. 1) and the rapid southward equatorial crossing of mass (Fig. 3) in May. This is consistent with rapid water runoff, which is known to peak during late spring in the Northern Hemisphere (18). A small y component of load moment also appears during the transition seasons traversing regions of known intense hydrological loading (9) in southeast Asia and South America (Fig. 2). An anomaly in the z direction is apparent during 1996/1997, immediately preceding the 1997/1998 El Niño event. Possible mechanisms that might enhance the y component include an equatorial oscillation in (nonsteric) sea level across the Pacific (driven by wind stress) and anomalous monsoon precipitation over land.

To conclude, we detected a global-scale mode of Earth deformation that we have identified as the response of an elastic Earth to redistribution of surface load, specifically the degree-one spherical harmonic mode that theoretically corresponds to change in the load moment. This mode compresses one hemisphere and expands the opposite hemisphere in such a manner that it does not change Earth’s overall shape, but nevertheless stretches its surface and so affects site coordinates. In Earth’s center-of-figure frame, the poles appear to be displaced downward by 3.0 mm during their respective winter, and the equator appears to move toward the winter pole by 1.5 mm. Our inversion procedure produces a load moment time series with an annual signal in Earth’s polar direction with amplitude $6.6 \times 10^{15}$ kg m. Stacking reveals that the load moment follows the approximate trajectory of a great circle traversing the continents, peaking at $6.9 \times 10^{15}$ kg m near the North Pole in winter. These results are consistent with seasonal loading of land surfaces by fluids, corresponding to an annual mass exchange of $1.0 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{16}$ kg between the hemispheres.

References and Notes
11. For deformations up to degree n, a network can be considered “well distributed” if neighboring stations everywhere are spaced much less than $180^\circ / n$, for which n = 1 implies multiple stations in arbitrary hemispheres.
13. Information on relevant GPS station data is provided at
   www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/294/5550/2342/DC1.
19. We thank J. Wahr and V. Dehant for comments, and IGS for providing data. Supported by U.S. Department of Energy grant DE-FC08-98NV12081, NASA grant SINDIV99-0325-0015, U.K. Natural Environment Research Council grant GR3/11976, and a University of Nevada Reno international activities grant. We thank NSF for supporting continuation of this research.

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Oxygen isotope records of five stalagmites from Hulu Cave near Nanjing bear a remarkable resemblance to oxygen isotope records from Greenland ice cores, suggesting that East Asian Monsoon intensity changed in concert with Greenland temperature between 11,000 and 75,000 years before the present (yr. B.P.). Between 11,000 and 30,000 yr. B.P., the timing of changes in the monsoon, as established with $^{230}$Th dates, generally agrees with the timing of temperature changes from the Greenland Ice Sheet Project Two (GISP2) core, which supports GISP2’s chronology in this interval. Our record links North Atlantic climate with the meridional transport of heat and moisture from the warmest part of the ocean where the summer East Asian Monsoon originates.

The Asian and Australian Monsoons are important because they transport heat and moisture from the warmest part of the tropical ocean (the West Pacific Warm Pool) across the equator and to higher latitudes. The East Asian Monsoon, a sub-system of the Asian Monsoon, affects an area east of the Bay of Bengal and the Tibetan Plateau (1). Spring heating of Asia initiates the summer monsoon, which transports northward moisture and heat from north of Australia across the Warm Pool, as far as northern China. The winter monsoon is characterized by cold, dry Siberian air flowing southward across eastern China, ultimately contributing to the Australian summer monsoon (1). Plausible factors affecting the monsoon are orbitally controlled changes in insolation (2, 3), shifts in sea level causing changes in Warm Pool surface area (4), and circulation changes internal to the climate system (5). Loess records (6, 7) show clear evidence for monsoon changes (4) that are possibly linked to global climate (7) and Heinrich Events (5). However, resolution and dating problems limit the loess work. We reconstruct mon-
soon with the oxygen isotopic composition of speleothem calcite, which has key advantages over many archives of past conditions. Well-chosen inorganic calcite can be dated precisely (8, 9) with mass spectrometric $^{230}$Th methods (10). Speleothems may form continuously for tens of thousands of years and can be sampled at high resolution for dating and $\delta^{18}$O analysis.

We collected five stalagmites from 35 m depth in Hulu Cave, 28 km east of Nanjing (32°30'N, 119°10'E). We halved samples along growth axes and sub-sampled on cut surfaces for $^{230}$Th dating by thermal ionization (10) and inductively coupled plasma mass spectroscopy (11, 12) and $\delta^{18}$O analysis (13). Fifty-nine $^{230}$Th dates (Fig. 1 (14), all in stratigraphic order, have analytical errors equivalent to about $\pm$150 years at 10,000 years and $\pm$400 years at 60,000 years. The oldest age is 74,875 $\pm$1,010 yr. B.P. (relative to 1950 A.D.) and the youngest is 10,933 $\pm$160 yr. B.P., with at least one stalagmite active during all intervening times. Sample YT has visible banding throughout, and three $^{230}$Th ages with errors of $\pm$60 to $\pm$90 years. Numbers of bands are equal to differences in age between dated sub-samples, indicating that the banding is annual. We established the time scale for sample H82 with two $^{230}$Th ages (Fig. 2) (14), by matching its oxygen isotope record to YT’s at 14.6 thousand years ago (ka), and by band counting between 11.0 and 11.8 ka and between 13.0 and 14.6 ka.

A key issue is whether calcite $\delta^{18}$O can be interpreted solely in terms of the $\delta^{18}$O of meteoric precipitation and equilibrium fractionation during calcite precipitation. Hendy (15) described additional processes (e.g., kinetic fractionation) that could also affect $\delta^{18}$O. A robust test is the comparison of $\delta^{18}$O for contemporaneous stalagmites from the same cave (16). If the records replicate, the net effect of additional processes on $\delta^{18}$O must have been the same. Consistent offsets are unlikely because each stalagmite-precipitating drip has a unique combination of flow path, CO$_2$ partial pressure, residence time, concentration of solutes, and degassing history. Thus, replicated records strongly suggest that such additional processes are not important. With modern dating and $\delta^{18}$O
measurement techniques, the replication test can be made with high resolution and little temporal ambiguity.

Stalagmites MSD and MSL (Fig. 1) grew contemporaneously between 53 and 36 ka. Considering dating errors and resolution differences, the records are virtually identical. On the order of 0.5‰, the 

On the basis of modern data, the effects of summer temperature and rainfall amount on mean 

percentage for all times between 17 and 10.5 ka. Considering dating errors and resolution errors in the ice core chronologies (<20 years), the transition ending the YD (12,823 ± 60 yr. B.P. at Hulu and 12,880 ± 260 yr. B.P. in GISP2) is of similar short duration (<20 years). The transition ending the YD (11,473 ± 100 yr. B.P. at Hulu, 11,550 ± 70 yr. B.P. in the Greenland Ice Core Project (GRIP) (23), and 11,640 ± 250 yr. B.P. in GISP2 (22)) is also extremely rapid at both localities (<10 years). The duration of the YD as recorded at Hulu (1350 ± 120 years) is the same within error as its duration in Greenland.

Given the apparent synchronicity between Hulu and Greenland for times when the ice core chronologies are robust, we may correlate late events, for which ice core chronologies are less certain (Fig. 1). This correlation appears straightforward as far back as 38 ka. The highest Hulu 

The long-term Hulu trend (Fig. 1) appears to follow summer (integrated over June, July, and August) insolation (20, 21) at Hulu Cave (33°N), at least for a good portion of the record, suggesting that high summer insolation increases the continent-ocean temperature difference, enhancing the summer monsoon (2, 3). However, the record is punctuated by numerous millennial-scale events and by shifts in 

These features resemble the Greenland ice-core 

Given records that replicate and the lack of a clear positive correlation between 

Stalagmites MSD and MSL (Fig. 1) (14) grew contemporaneously between 53 and 36 ka. Considering dating errors and resolution differences, the records are virtually identical. Over this interval, at least two stalagmites (out of PD, YT, and H82) grew contemporaneously for all times between 17 and 10.5 ka (Figs. 1 and 2) (14). Samples YT and H82, both sampled at high resolution, have an overlapping section with 

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blue numbers (Fig. 1) appear to follow logically as we correlate peaks back from GIS 8. However, this correlation places the beginning of GIS 12 (the end of H5) at 48 ka. Both GISP2 (25) and GRIP (23) as well two other high-precision stalagmite records place the end of H5 at 45 ka (26, 27). The differences among stalagmite records (Hulu, Sorel Cave, Israel (26), and Crevice Cave, Missouri (27)) highlight important regional differences in past climate at this time. If we take the end of H5 at 45 ka as a tie point, we obtain the correlation depicted by the brown numbers. At present, we cannot distinguish between the two. Beyond GIS 13, the correlation appears straightforward and is consistent with the only other high-resolution speleothem correlation that covers this whole time range (27). The oldest part of our record correlates to the end of GIS 21.

The Hulu record identifies a link between the East Asian Monsoon and North Atlantic climate and supports the idea that millennial-scale events first identified in Greenland are hemispheric or wider in extent (28–32). The Greenland events have been explained by changing rates of North Atlantic deep water formation, resulting in changing heat transport to the North Atlantic (28, 33). The millennial-scale changes that we observe may result similarly from massive and rapid changes in oceanic and atmospheric circulation patterns. The temporal relations between the Hulu and Greenland deglacial sequences are consistent with North Atlantic events that trigger large-scale circulation changes (28). Regardless of the trigger, our observations are consistent with the idea that Northern Hemisphere atmospheric circulation patterns are more meridional in character during Greenland interstadials and are more zonal during stadials. Our data support the idea that changes in the East Asian Monsoon are integral to millennial-scale changes in atmospheric/oceanic circulation patterns and are affected by orbitally induced insolation variations; however, our data do not show clear evidence that sea level itself has an observable effect on East Asian Monsoon intensity.


deciphering higher level relationships among mammalian orders is a difficult problem in systematics (1–6) and has important ramifications for evolutionary biology, genomics, and biomedical sciences (7, 8). Studies based on different, multikilobase molecular data sets (5, 6) independently resolved placental mammals into four superordinal groups: Afrotheria and other placental mammals, and the World Data Center-A for Paleoclimatology, National Geophysical Data Center, Boulder, CO. Also available online at: www.ngdc.noaa.gov/paleo/icecore/greenland/summit/index.html.

Resolution of the Early Placental Mammal Radiation Using Bayesian Phylogenetics

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Molecular phylogenetic studies have resolved placental mammals into four major groups, but have not established the full hierarchy of interordinal relationships, including the position of the root. The latter is critical for understanding the early biogeographic history of placentalts. We investigated placental phylogeny using Bayesian and maximum-likelihood methods and a 16.4-kilobase molecular data set. Interordinal relationships are almost entirely resolved. The basal split is between Afrotheria and other placentalts, at about 103 million years, and may be accounted for by the separation of South America and Africa in the Cretaceous. Crown-group Eutheria may have their most recent common ancestor in the Southern Hemisphere (Gondwana).

References and Notes
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13. δ18O values were determined on a Finnigan MAT 251 (Bremen, Germany) at the Nanjing Institute of Geol-