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GEOMAGNETIC EXCURSIONS IN SEDIMENTARY SECTIONS

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Paleomagnetic results from a high resolution 60 ka section in rapidly deposited Gulf of California sediments show evidence of the Laschamp, Mono Lake, and Summer Lake excursions at circa 50, 28, 23 ka before present, respectively. Although they are not always observed, the absence of brief excursions from even high quality sedimentary paleomagnetic records does not preclude their existence. Simple calculations show that due to the finite and variable thickness of the zone of remanence acquisition, short geomagnetic excursions and subchrons will not be recorded in certain sedimentary sections, especially when these excursions are associated with low field intensities.