

Worldwide Open Proficiency Test for X Ray Fluorescence Laboratories

PTXRFIAEA10

**Determination of Major, Minor and
Trace Elements in a Sandy Soil**

IAEA Laboratories, Seibersdorf
December 2013

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FOREWORD

The IAEA assists its Member States laboratories to maintain their readiness by producing reference materials, by developing standardized analytical methods, and by conducting inter-laboratory comparisons and proficiency tests as tools for quality control. To fulfil this obligation and ensure a reliable worldwide, rapid and consistent response, the IAEA Nuclear Science and Instrumentation Laboratory in Seibersdorf, Austria, organises tests for Member States laboratories.

This summary report presents the results of the worldwide proficiency test PTXRFIAEA10 on the determination of major, minor and trace elements in a Sandy Soil. Methodologies, data evaluation approach, summary evaluation of each element and individual evaluation reports for each laboratory are also described. The test was carried out within the IAEA Project 1.4.3.4 (D.3.03) Nuclear Spectrometry for Analytical Applications, under the Nuclear Science Programme. The main objective of the Project was to enhance capability of interested Member States in effective utilization of nuclear spectrometries and analytical services in industry, human health, agriculture, and in monitoring and evaluation of environmental pollution.

This proficiency test was designed to identify analytical problems, to support IAEA Member States laboratories to improve the quality of their analytical results, to maintain their accreditation and to provide a regular forum for discussion and technology transfer in this area. The type of sample and the concentration levels of the analytes were designed in a way to enable identification of potential analytical problems.

The IAEA officer responsible for this publication was A. Migliori of the IAEA Nuclear Science and Instrumentation Laboratory, Seibersdorf.

1. INTRODUCTION

The PTXRFIAEA10 proficiency test was aimed at analytical laboratories applying X-ray fluorescence (XRF) techniques in environmental monitoring. The participants were requested to use their established and proven analytical procedures for the determination of concentrations of chemical elements in a Sandy Soil sample.

Sandy Soil test samples with established homogeneity and well characterized known target values of the mass fractions of analytes were distributed to participating laboratories. The laboratories were requested to analyze the sample using established techniques following their analytical procedures. Based on the results of the proficiency test presented in the report, each participating laboratory should assess its analytical performance by using the specified criteria and, if appropriate, to identify discrepancies, and to correct relevant analytical procedures.

The samples, together with detailed instructions for analysts, were distributed to the participating laboratories in May 2013. The deadline for submission of the results was September 15th, 2013. The last results were received on October 30th, 2013. The submitted results were processed, grouped versus analytes/laboratories and compared with the analytes' assigned values. The values of *z*- and of *u*-scores were calculated for three fit-for-purpose levels. For the definitions of the *z*- and *u*-scores please see Section 3.2. The obtained results as well as the description of the data evaluation procedures have been presented in this report. Each laboratory was assigned a code, therefore full anonymity of the presented results is guaranteed. The link between the laboratory code and the laboratory name is known only to the organizers of the proficiency test and to the laboratory itself.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE TEST SAMPLE

The test sample was a Sandy Soil material prepared and tested by an external independent laboratory. The powdered, homogenized, and dried material was distributed to 46 laboratories in sealed plastic bottles, each bottle containing 100 g of the test sample. The participants were asked to conduct the determination of the mass fractions of chemical elements making up the sample according to their routine analytical procedures. They were also instructed to determine the moisture content of the material by using a separate sample and to report the results on a dry-weight basis. Only one result per element per analytical technique should be submitted. Each result should be accompanied by an estimate of its uncertainty expressed as one standard deviation. No restriction on the number of the reported elements was imposed.

3. DETAILS OF THE EXERCISE

3.1. ASSIGNED VALUE AND TARGET STANDARD DEVIATION

The reference values supplied by the provider of the material, established by independent inter-laboratory survey, were used as the assigned values of the analytes, X_A . The results for 55 analytes were submitted by participants of this proficiency test: Ag, Al, As, B, Ba, Br, C, Ca, Cd, Ce, Cl, Co, Cr, Cs, Cu, Dy, Eu, Fe, Ga, Gd, Ge, Hf, I, K, La, Lu, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Nb, Nd, Ni, P, Pb, Rb, S, Sb, Sc, Se, Si, Sm, Sn, Sr, Ta, Tb, Th, Ti, U, V, W, Y, Yb, Zn and Zr. The *z*- and *u*-scores were calculated for all the submitted results of all analytes except Ag, As, B, Cl, Co, Cs, Dy, Eu, Gd, Ge, Hf, I, La, Lu, Nd, Se, Sm, Sn, Ta, Tb, Th, W and Yb, for which the assigned values were not available. For each analyte a target value of the standard deviation has been assigned using a modified Horowitz function as proposed in the reference [1]:

$$H_A = \begin{cases} 0.22X_A & X_A < 1.2 \cdot 10^{-7} \\ 0.02(X_A)^{0.8495} & 1.2 \cdot 10^{-7} \leq X_A \leq 0.138 \\ 0.01\sqrt{X_A} & X_A > 0.138 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

In Eqn. (1) the assigned value of analyte, X_A , is expressed as a mass fraction. The target value of the standard deviation, σ_A is related to H_A by a factor k :

$$\sigma_A = kH_A, \quad k = 0.5, 1.0, 1.5 \quad (2)$$

Depending on the value of the factor k the target value of the standard deviation is recognized as fit-for-purpose at three levels of uncertainty: $k = 0.5$ - appropriate for high precision analysis; $k = 1.0$ - appropriate for well-established routine analysis; $k = 1.5$ - satisfactory for common analytical tasks. The relative value of the target standard deviation, RSD , expressed in per cent, is defined as follows:

$$RSD = \frac{\sigma_A}{X_A} \cdot 100\% \quad (3)$$

The relative value of the target standard deviation as a function of the assigned mass fraction of the analyte, X_A , is shown in Fig. 1.

3.2. z -SCORES AND u -SCORES

The reported concentrations of analytes were compared with the assigned values by using the z -score analysis. For every result a z -score was calculated:

$$z = \frac{x - X_A}{\sigma_A} \quad (4)$$

The term ‘ x ’ denotes the reported mass fraction of analyte. Defined by different fit-for-purpose ranges of the target standard deviation, three different values of z -scores were calculated by combining Eqns. (2) and (4). Assuming that appropriate values for X_A and σ_A have been used and that the underlying distribution of analytical errors is normal, apart from outliers, in a well-behaved analytical system z -scores would be expected to fall outside the range $-2 \leq z \leq 2$ in about 4.6% of instances, and outside the range $-3 < z < 3$ only in about 0.3%. Therefore, based on the z -scores the following decision limits were established:

- $|z| \leq 2$ - a satisfactory result
 - $2 < |z| < 3$ - the result is considered questionable
 - $|z| \geq 3$ - the result is considered unsatisfactory
- (5)

The advice to the laboratory is that, independent of the fit-for-purpose range selected by the laboratory, any z -score for an element outside the range $-2 \leq z \leq 2$ should be examined by the analyst and all steps of the analytical procedure verified to identify the source(s) of the analytical bias.

For every participant the rescaled sum of z -scores, RSZ , as well as the sum of squared z -scores, SSZ , were calculated as defined by the following equations:

$$RSZ = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^L z_i}{\sqrt{L}} \quad (6)$$

$$SSZ = \sum_{i=1}^L (z_i)^2 \quad (7)$$

The symbol ‘ L ’ denotes the number of results provided by the laboratory/participant for all the analytes determined. The summing up in Eqns. (6) and (7) takes into account all z -scores for all analytes with known assigned values reported by participant. The RSZ can be interpreted as a standardized normally distributed variable, with expected value equal to zero and unit variance. It is sensitive in detecting a small consistent bias in an analytical system, however, it is not sensitive in cases where there are even big errors but having opposite signs. The SSZ takes no account of the signs because it depends on the squared z -scores. It has a chi-squared (χ^2) distribution with L degrees of freedom. The SSZ can be regarded as complementary to RSZ , which means that if RSZ is well within the range $-3 < RSZ < 3$ and if at the same time the value of SSZ is above the $\chi^2_{critical}$ value the overall performance of the laboratory requires improvement.

The reported results were accompanied by the standard uncertainty estimate made by the participant. The values were used to calculate u -scores:

$$u = \frac{|x - X_A|}{\sqrt{(\sigma_A)^2 + (\sigma_x)^2}} \quad (8)$$

The symbol ‘ σ_x ’ denotes the standard uncertainty of the submitted result x . If the assumptions about X_A and σ_A and about the normality of the underlying distributions are correct, and the laboratory estimate of σ_x takes into account all the significant sources of uncertainty, the u -scores would have a truncated normal distribution with unit variance. In a well-behaved analytical system only 0.1% of u -scores would fall outside the range $u < 3.29$. Therefore, the following decision limits for the u -scores were established:

- $u \leq 1.64$ - reported result does not differ from the assigned value
 - $1.64 < u \leq 1.95$ - reported result probably does not differ from the assigned value
 - $1.95 < u \leq 2.58$ - it is not clear whether the reported and assigned values differ
 - $2.58 < u \leq 3.29$ - reported result is probably different from the assigned value
 - $3.29 < u$ - reported result differs from the assigned value
- (9)

The u -scores are especially useful for deciding whether the laboratory fit-for-purpose criteria are fulfilled. By comparing Eqn. (4) and Eqn. (8) one can notice that for corresponding values of u -score and z -score the following inequality is always fulfilled:

$$u \leq |z| \quad (10)$$

It implies that if the u -score is larger than 3.29 also the decision limit for the corresponding z -score is triggered and the laboratory has to check the analytical procedure as well as review the uncertainty budget estimation. If u -score stays below the value of 1.64 and at the same time the z -score decision limit is triggered ($|z| > 3$) the laboratory should reevaluate its fit-for-purpose status for that particular analyte.

3.3. CONSENSUS VALUES

To examine the overall performance of the participating laboratories the submitted results have been statistically processed and the consensus values were calculated. The results were tested for the presence of outliers using a set of seven outlier rejection tests.

Description of symbols:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 < \dots < x_n & \quad - \text{set of analytical results}, \\ \bar{x} & \quad - \text{mean value}, \\ s & \quad - \text{standard deviation}, \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

- Coefficient of kurtosis [2], number of results: $5 \leq n \leq 100$, two-sided test, confidence level = 0.95:

$$b_2 = \frac{n \sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{x} - x_i)^4}{\left[\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{x} - x_i)^2 \right]^2} \tag{12}$$

- if $b_2 >$ critical value then reject the result that is at the furthest distance from the mean, decrease n , repeat the procedure until $b_2 \leq$ critical value.
- 2. Coefficient of skewness [2], number of results, $5 \leq n \leq 60$, one-sided test, confidence level = 0.95:

$$\sqrt{b_1} = \frac{\sqrt{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^3}{\left[\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \right]^{3/2}} \tag{13}$$

if $|\sqrt{b_1}| >$ critical value then: if $\sqrt{b_1}$ is positive then reject x_n , otherwise reject x_1 , decrease n , repeat the procedure until $|\sqrt{b_1}| \leq$ critical value.

3. Veglia's test [3,4], number of results: $4 \leq n \leq \infty$, two-sided test, confidence level = 0.95:

$$h = \sqrt{\frac{n}{n-1}} \frac{|x_k - \bar{x}_{n-1}|}{s_{n-1}} \tag{14}$$

where:

x_k , examined value, the result at the furthest distance from the mean

\bar{x}_{n-1} , the mean value of the population of the results with the examined result excluded

s_{n-1} , the standard deviation of the population of the results with the examined result excluded

- if $h >$ critical value then reject x_k otherwise temporarily exclude the x_k from the population of results and proceed with testing the next outlier candidate, if the following

value of $h >$ critical value then reject both results, decrease n respectively, repeat the procedure until $h \leq$ critical value.

4. Dixon's test [5], number of results: $3 \leq n \leq 25$, two-sided test, confidence level = 0.95:

- if x_1 is at the furthest distance from the mean value, then calculate:

$$r = \begin{cases} (x_2 - x_1) / (x_n - x_1), & 3 \leq n \leq 7 \\ (x_2 - x_1) / (x_{n-1} - x_1), & 8 \leq n \leq 10 \\ (x_3 - x_1) / (x_{n-1} - x_1), & 11 \leq n \leq 13 \\ (x_3 - x_1) / (x_{n-2} - x_1), & 14 \leq n \leq 25 \end{cases} \quad (15a)$$

- if x_n is at the furthest distance from the mean value then calculate:

$$r = \begin{cases} (x_n - x_{n-1}) / (x_n - x_1), & 3 \leq n \leq 7 \\ (x_n - x_{n-1}) / (x_n - x_2), & 8 \leq n \leq 10 \\ (x_n - x_{n-2}) / (x_n - x_2), & 11 \leq n \leq 13 \\ (x_n - x_{n-2}) / (x_n - x_3), & 14 \leq n \leq 25 \end{cases} \quad (15b)$$

- if $r >$ critical value then reject the tested result, decrease n , repeat the procedure until $r \leq$ critical value.

5. Outlier rejection test proposed in [2], number of results: $4 \leq n \leq 100$, two-sided test, confidence level = 0.95:

$$w/s = (x_n - x_1) / s \quad (16)$$

- if $w/s >$ critical value then: if $x_n - \bar{x} = \bar{x} - x_1$, reject both x_1 and x_n , otherwise reject x_k ($x_k = x_1$ or $x_k = x_n$), the result that is at the furthest distance from the mean, for the remaining population of results ($n' = n - 1$) calculate: $T_k = |\bar{x}' - x_k| / s'$, where: \bar{x}' is the mean value and s' is the standard deviation of the population of the results excluding the rejected value x_k , if $T_k >$ critical value then reject also the second extreme result, decrease n respectively, repeat the procedure until $w/s \leq$ critical value.

6. Outlier rejection test proposed in [6], number of results: $3 \leq n < \infty$, two-sided test, confidence level = 0.95:

$$B_4 = |x_k - \bar{x}| / s \quad (17)$$

where:

x_k , examined value

- if $B_4 >$ critical value then reject the tested result, repeat the procedure until $B_4 \leq$ critical value.

7. Outlier rejection test proposed in [7], number of results: $3 \leq n \leq 100$, two-sided test, confidence level = 0.95:

$$S_k^2 / S = \frac{\sum_{i=1, i \neq k}^n (x_i - \bar{x}')^2}{\sum_{i=1, i \neq k}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}, \quad k = 1 \text{ or } k = n \quad (18)$$

where:

x_k , examined value, the result at the furthest distance from the mean

\bar{x}' , the mean value of the population of the results with the examined result x_k excluded

- if $S_k^2 / S >$ critical value then reject x_k , decrease n , repeat the procedure until $S_k^2 / S \leq$ critical value.

The results which passed the outlier rejection procedures were used to calculate the consensus mean value of analyte, X_C , and corresponding consensus value of its standard deviation, σ_C :

$$X_C = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m x_i}{m} \quad (19)$$

and

$$\sigma_C = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^m (x_i - X_C)^2}{m(m-1)}} \quad (20)$$

The term m denotes the number of reported values for a given analyte excluding the outliers rejected by at least one of the outlier rejections tests. The summing up in Eqn. (19) and (20) takes into account only the results which passed all the outlier rejection tests. The obtained consensus values were compared with the assigned values of analytes.

4. RESULTS

The Sandy Soil test sample was distributed to 46 laboratories for chemical composition analysis. Out of the 46 laboratories, 35 participated in the test submitting 632 individual results for 55 chemical elements. The list of the participating laboratories is presented in Appendix I. The techniques used by the participants and their codes are listed in Table 1. The techniques EDXRFS, EDXRFISOTOP, and EDXRFTUBE should be considered of similar type. The distinction between them (EDXRFISOTOP or EDXRFTUBE) was based on information provided by the participants. In the case that insufficient information was available a generic type technique EDXRF was assumed. All submitted results have been evaluated. In Table 2 a summary of the assigned analyte values, the target values of standard deviation, the consensus values and their standard deviations are shown. The consensus values (Eqn. 19) and corresponding standard deviations (Eqn. 20) were calculated based on 584 reported analytical results after excluding 48 results classified as outliers. The correlation between the assigned and the consensus values is shown in Fig. 2.

TABLE 1. THE CODING, DESCRIPTION AND THE ABBREVIATED NAMES OF THE ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES USED BY PARTICIPANTS OF THE PROFICIENCY TEST EXERCISE

Technique Code	Description	Abbreviation
1.0	Energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence	EDXRFS
1.1	EDXRF, radioisotope excitation	EDXRFISOTOP
1.2	EDXRF, X-ray tube excitation	EDXRFTUBE
1.3	EDXRF, excitation using X-ray tube and secondary targets	EDXRFTUBE-ST
1.4	Total reflection X-ray fluorescence	TXRF
2.0	Wavelength dispersive X-ray fluorescence	WDXRF
5.0	Neutron Activation Analysis	NAA
10.0	Prompt-Gamma Activation Analysis	PGAA

TABLE 2. THE ASSIGNED VALUES OF ANALYTES, THE TARGET VALUES OF THE STANDARD DEVIATIONS, OBTAINED BY USING MODIFIED HOROWITZ FUNCTION, EQN. (1), AND THE CONSENSUS VALUES. THE POPULATIONS WITH AT LEAST 5 REPORTED RESULTS WERE TESTED FOR NORMALITY BY USING KOLMOGOROV-SMIRNOV TEST, ALL EXAMINED POPULATIONS PASSED THE TEST. FOR THE ELEMENTS Ag, As, B, Cl, Co, Cs, Dy, Eu, Gd, Ge, Hf, I, La, Lu, Nd, Se, Sm, Sn, Ta, Tb, Th, W AND Yb THE ASSIGNED AND TARGET VALUES WERE NOT AVAILABLE

Analyte symbol	Assigned value of the analyte, X_A	Target value of standard deviation, σ_A			Consensus value of the analyte, X_C	Consensus value of the standard deviation, σ_C	Number of results	Number of outliers
		$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$				
[g/kg]								
Al	20.5	0.37	0.74	1.10	28.89	2.14	20	1
C	33.6	0.56	1.12	1.68	35.11	2.81	1	0
Ca	3.35	0.79	0.16	0.24	5.11	0.37	29	0
Fe	6.10	0.13	0.26	0.39	7.38	0.35	34	1
K	9.43	0.19	0.38	0.57	10.44	0.33	31	3
Na	5.16	0.11	0.23	0.34	5.16	0.29	9	1
P	1.46	0.39	0.078	0.12	3.22	0.57	15	1
Si	398	3.15	6.31	9.46	352.88	10.80	19	2
Ti	1.89	0.049	0.097	0.15	2.13	0.093	30	1
[mg/kg]								
Ag	-	-	-	-	2.25	2.47	2	0
As	-	-	-	-	4.43	0.40	11	3
B	-	-	-	-	20.70	0.20	1	0
Ba	193	6.99	13.98	20.98	217.85	15.77	14	2
Br	10.4	0.5847	1.17	1.75	10.23	0.87	18	1
Cd	0.283	0.0274	0.0547	0.0821	0.26	0.11	3	1
Ce	28.4	1.37	2.75	4.12	32.84	1.99	10	1
Cl	-	-	-	-	199.28	4.64	4	2
Co	-	-	-	-	1.65	0.14	7	1
Cr	52.2	2.30	4.60	6.91	66.50	6.80	20	0
Cs	-	-	-	-	1.65	0.09	3	0
Cu	18	0.9319	1.86	2.80	24.61	2.14	24	1
Dy	-	-	-	-	1.80	0.28	2	0
Eu	-	-	-	-	0.35	0.03	3	0
Ga	4.76	0.3010	0.6021	0.9031	4.28	0.16	6	2
Gd	-	-	-	-	8.31	9.78	2	0
Ge	-	-	-	-	2.02	0.80	2	0
Hf	-	-	-	-	10.95	0.66	4	1

Analyte symbol Assigned value of the analyte, X_A	Target value of standard deviation, σ_A				Consensus value of the analyte, X_C	Consensus value of the standard deviation, σ_C	Number of results	Number of outliers
		$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$				
		[mg/kg]						
<i>I</i>	-	-	-	-	5.30	0.50	1	0
<i>La</i>	-	-	-	-	13.05	0.53	11	3
<i>Lu</i>	-	-	-	-	0.32	0.12	2	0
Mg	856	24.78	49.56	74.35	1655.43	283.29	10	0
Mn	226	7.99	15.99	23.98	259.53	9.21	30	1
Mo	1.36	0.1039	0.2077	0.3116	1.49	1.35	2	0
Nb	6.15	0.3742	0.7485	1.12	5.20	0.29	11	3
<i>Nd</i>	-	-	-	-	11.86	0.79	6	1
Ni	8.76	0.5054	1.01	1.52	11.53	1.85	14	2
Pb	26.3	1.29	2.57	3.86	32.61	2.51	22	1
Rb	41.8	1.91	3.81	5.72	45.07	2.01	31	1
S	395	12.85	25.69	38.54	866.82	158.06	12	0
Sb	0.638	0.0546	0.1092	0.1638	0.69	0.02	4	0
Sc	2.22	0.1575	0.3150	0.4724	2.28	0.14	3	0
<i>Se</i>	-	-	-	-	5.35	7.14	2	0
<i>Sm</i>	-	-	-	-	2.25	0.32	4	1
<i>Sn</i>	-	-	-	-	6.31	6.63	2	0
Sr	53.7	2.36	4.72	7.08	62.33	2.59	31	2
<i>Ta</i>	-	-	-	-	0.52	0.01	2	0
<i>Tb</i>	-	-	-	-	0.28	0.01	2	0
<i>Th</i>	-	-	-	-	4.00	0.18	7	0
U	1.57	0.1173	0.2347	0.3520	1.71	0.16	7	0
V	29.8	1.43	2.86	4.29	39.10	2.97	20	3
<i>W</i>	-	-	-	-	1.03	0.14	1	0
Y	10.8	0.6038	1.21	1.81	9.76	0.63	19	2
<i>Yb</i>	-	-	-	-	1.32	0.06	2	0
Zn	47.8	2.14	4.27	6.41	62.33	2.70	29	2
Zr	387	12.63	25.25	37.88	396.10	18.88	21	1

In Table 3 the values of the z - and u -scores for all submitted results are listed. The z - and u -scores were calculated for the three different fit-for-purpose ranges, as defined by Eqn. (2). In Table 4 the combined z -scores for the three different fit-for-purpose ranges, the RSZ and SSZ as defined in Eqns. (6) and (7), for the participating laboratories are shown. In Figs. 3 and 4 the distributions of the proficiency test results are shown. For few elements, the result of density distributions shown in Fig. 3 could only be used as indicators of the trends observed in the reported data due to the limited number of results (only density distributions of analytes for which at least 5 results passed the outlier rejection tests are shown). All the populations of results, after outlier rejection, have passed a normality test (Kolmogorov-Smirnov). In Fig. 4 the bar chart distributions of the z -scores are presented for the analytes with at least 6 submitted results. The results are sorted in ascending order versus laboratory/technique code. The decision levels of satisfactory results, $|z| < 2$, for different fit-for-purpose targets have also been marked. For every participating laboratory its overall performance is presented in Fig. 5. The plots presented in this figure relate all the u -scores and z -scores calculated for a given laboratory. The decision limits of unsatisfactory results were marked with black lines ($|z| > 3$, $u > 3.29$). They divide the plot area in four quadrants. Due to inequality (10) all the points accompanied by a laboratory estimate of the uncertainty fall always below the line $u = |z|$. The smaller the laboratory estimate of the uncertainty the closer the related point to the $u = |z|$ line. The well performing laboratories would have more points located in the lower-left quadrant of the plot. If there are many points located in the upper-right quadrant it suggests that these results do not fall in the defined fit-for-purpose targets and that the laboratory provided too “narrow” uncertainty estimate.

The partitioning of the results between different analytical techniques is presented in Fig. 6. The largest fraction of analyses, about 71%, was carried out with the energy dispersive spectrometry (EDXRF+TXRF), about 15% with wavelength dispersive mode. Most of the determinations were carried out on samples prepared in the form of pellets (~ 56%), about 9% of the results were obtained after converting the sample to a liquid form by acid digestion or dissolution, about 6% of measurements were carried out on fused beads, and about 29% of analyses were performed without any sample preparation.

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF THE REPORTED RESULTS AND THE CALCULATED z -AND u -SCORES. THE RESULTS REJECTED BY THE OUTLIERS REJECTION PROCEDURES WERE MARKED WITH '*' IN THE "ANALYTE CONCENTRATION" COLUMN. IN BRACKETS NEXT TO THE ELEMENT SYMBOL THE ASSIGNED VALUES OF ELEMENT CONCENTRATION AND THE TARGET STANDARD DEVIATION FOR $K = 1$ ARE SHOWN

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z -scores			u -scores		
					$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$	$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$
Al (20.5 ± 1.00) [g/kg]										
92	1.4	11.400	1.190	10.44	-24.73	-12.36	-8.24	7.31	6.50	5.61
53	2.0	16.490	1.500	9.10	-10.90	-5.45	-3.63	2.60	2.40	2.15
63	1.2	19.353	3.276	16.93	-3.12	-1.56	-1.04	0.35	0.34	0.33
74	2.0	20.436	0.0003	0.00	-0.17	-0.09	-0.06	0.17	0.09	0.06
98	2.0	20.630	0.460	2.23	0.35	0.18	0.12	0.22	0.15	0.11
40	5.0	21.630	0.630	2.91	3.07	1.54	1.02	1.55	1.17	0.89
72	1.0	22.60152	2.40881	10.66	5.71	2.86	1.90	0.86	0.83	0.79
85	1.3	23.990	3.000	12.51	9.48	4.74	3.16	1.15	1.13	1.09
86	1.3	26.663	0.32040	1.20	16.75	8.37	5.58	12.63	7.68	5.36
77	1.2	30.410	2.06362	6.79	26.93	13.47	8.98	4.73	4.52	4.23
37	1.2	31.42464	0.33904	1.08	29.69	14.84	9.90	21.83	13.48	9.46
75	1.0	33.62222	1.75269	5.21	35.66	17.83	11.89	7.33	6.90	6.33
58	1.0	35.079	1.35700	3.87	39.62	19.81	13.21	10.37	9.44	8.33
93	2.0	35.200	2.940	8.35	39.95	19.97	13.32	4.96	4.85	4.68
94	2.0	36.500	1.065	2.92	43.48	21.74	14.49	14.20	12.36	10.43
73	1.0	37.21099	1.43863	3.87	45.41	22.71	15.14	11.25	10.34	9.22
64	1.1	41.000	3.400	8.29	55.71	27.85	18.57	5.99	5.89	5.73
34	1.2	42.472	0.420	0.99	59.71	29.85	19.90	39.35	25.93	18.60
69	1.1	42.800	2.580	6.03	60.60	30.30	20.20	8.56	8.31	7.95
89	1.3	68.63945*	5.84331	8.51	130.82	65.41	43.61	8.22	8.17	8.10
C (33.6 ± 1.77) [g/kg]										
101	10	35.114	2.810	8.00	2.70	1.35	0.90	0.53	0.50	0.46
Ca (3.35 ± 0.282) [g/kg]										
35	1.0	0.183	0.042	22.95	-40.10	-20.05	-13.37	35.40	19.38	13.16
101	10	2.856	0.228	7.98	-6.25	-3.13	-2.08	2.05	1.78	1.50
53	2.0	3.030	0.300	9.90	-4.05	-2.03	-1.35	1.03	0.94	0.84
72	1.0	3.214999	0.12136	3.77	-1.71	-0.85	-0.57	0.93	0.68	0.51
85	1.3	3.234	0.323	9.99	-1.47	-0.73	-0.49	0.35	0.32	0.29
74	2.0	3.302	0.00001	0.00	-0.61	-0.30	-0.20	0.61	0.30	0.20
98	2.0	3.317	0.103	3.11	-0.42	-0.21	-0.14	0.25	0.17	0.13
95	1.4	3.400	0.200	5.88	0.63	0.32	0.21	0.23	0.20	0.16
40	5.0	3.600	0.150	4.17	3.17	1.58	1.06	1.47	1.15	0.89
78	1.1	3.806	0.002	0.05	5.77	2.89	1.92	5.77	2.89	1.92
92	1.4	3.840	0.391	10.18	6.20	3.10	2.07	1.23	1.16	1.07
63	1.2	4.106	0.269	6.55	9.57	4.79	3.19	2.70	2.42	2.11
86	1.3	4.5678	0.11970	2.62	15.42	7.71	5.14	8.49	6.14	4.59
64	1.1	4.600	0.100	2.17	15.83	7.91	5.28	9.81	6.69	4.86
77	1.2	4.940	0.27116	5.49	20.13	10.07	6.71	5.63	5.07	4.42
89	1.3	5.05102	0.32048	6.34	21.54	10.77	7.18	5.15	4.76	4.27

TABLE 3 (cont.)

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z-scores			u-scores		
					k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5	k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5
73	1.0	5.58803	0.01903	0.34	28.34	14.17	9.45	27.55	14.07	9.42
37	1.2	6.107224	0.06595	1.08	34.91	17.45	11.64	26.80	16.11	11.21
57	1.2	6.15553	0.19155	3.11	35.52	17.76	11.84	13.54	11.30	9.21
34	1.2	6.640	1.800	27.11	41.66	20.83	13.89	1.83	1.82	1.81
102	1.3	6.812	1.829	26.85	43.83	21.92	14.61	1.89	1.89	1.88
69	1.1	7.040	0.346	4.91	46.72	23.36	15.57	10.40	9.70	8.80
75	1.0	7.11444	0.09157	1.29	47.66	23.83	15.89	31.13	20.62	14.82
94	2.0	7.320	0.330	4.51	50.26	25.13	16.75	11.70	10.85	9.77
59	1.2	7.469	0.101	1.35	52.15	26.08	17.38	32.13	21.97	15.99
58	1.0	7.496	0.298	3.98	52.49	26.25	17.50	13.45	12.29	10.89
56	1.3	7.552	0.350	4.63	53.20	26.60	17.73	11.71	10.94	9.94
93	2.0	7.590	0.720	9.51	53.68	26.84	17.89	5.84	5.74	5.58
90	1.3	8.150	0.810	9.94	60.77	30.39	20.26	5.90	5.82	5.69
Fe (6.10 ± 0.327) [g/kg]										
35	1.0	0.464*	0.046	9.91	-42.89	-21.44	-14.30	40.48	21.12	14.20
53	2.0	2.370	0.240	10.13	-28.38	-14.19	-9.46	13.63	10.48	8.08
63	1.2	5.158	0.163	3.16	-7.17	-3.58	-2.39	4.50	3.05	2.21
78	1.1	5.550	0.001	0.02	-4.19	-2.09	-1.40	4.19	2.09	1.40
61	5.0	5.710	0.095	1.66	-2.97	-1.48	-0.99	2.41	1.40	0.96
73	1.0	5.716851	0.01688	0.30	-2.92	-1.46	-0.97	2.89	1.45	0.97
101	10	5.770	0.336	5.82	-2.51	-1.26	-0.84	0.91	0.77	0.64
97	1.3	5.783188	0.318	5.50	-2.41	-1.21	-0.80	0.92	0.77	0.63
72	1.0	5.894316	0.05588	0.95	-1.57	-0.78	-0.52	1.44	0.77	0.52
82	1.2	6.06375	0.253.82	4.19	-0.28	-0.14	-0.09	0.13	0.10	0.08
74	2.0	6.134	0.00003	0.00	0.26	0.13	0.09	0.26	0.13	0.09
69	1.1	6.180	0.350	5.66	0.61	0.30	0.20	0.21	0.18	0.15
89	1.3	6.19388	0.36857	5.95	0.71	0.36	0.24	0.24	0.21	0.17
79	1.1	6.488135	0.29632	4.57	2.95	1.48	0.98	1.20	0.98	0.79
59	1.2	6.501	0.073	1.12	3.05	1.53	1.02	2.67	1.47	1.00
40	5.0	6.644	0.163	2.45	4.14	2.07	1.38	2.60	1.76	1.28
77	1.2	6.850	0.44820	6.54	5.71	2.85	1.90	1.61	1.44	1.26
86	1.3	7.109	0.12230	1.72	7.68	3.84	2.56	5.62	3.48	2.44
90	1.3	7.180	0.430	5.99	8.22	4.11	2.74	2.40	2.14	1.85
37	1.2	7.286403	0.02413	0.33	9.03	4.51	3.01	8.88	4.50	3.00
85	1.3	7.540	0.750	9.95	10.96	5.48	3.65	1.89	1.81	1.70
92	1.4	8.070	0.818	10.14	14.99	7.50	5.00	2.38	2.29	2.17
95	1.4	8.200	0.200	2.44	15.98	7.99	5.33	8.78	6.36	4.75
56	1.3	8.224	0.410	4.99	16.16	8.08	5.39	4.93	4.36	3.73
94	2.0	8.250	0.125	1.52	16.36	8.18	5.45	11.85	7.39	5.20
34	1.2	8.260	1.090	13.20	16.44	8.22	5.48	1.97	1.93	1.86
75	1.0	8.28889	0.05089	0.61	16.66	8.33	5.55	15.53	8.18	5.51
93	2.0	8.500	0.975	11.47	18.26	9.13	6.09	2.44	2.38	2.28
57	1.2	8.59822	0.67415	7.84	19.01	9.51	6.34	3.64	3.45	3.20
71	1.1	9.86665	1.02467	10.39	28.66	14.33	9.55	3.65	3.56	3.43
65	1.2	9.9136	0.15130	1.53	29.02	14.51	9.67	19.03	12.58	9.03
64	1.1	11.210	0.210	1.87	38.89	19.44	12.96	20.63	15.19	11.44
102	1.3	11.799	0.882	7.48	43.37	21.68	14.46	6.39	6.19	5.90
58	1.0	12.285	0.320	2.60	47.07	23.53	15.69	17.88	14.94	12.18

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z-scores			u-scores		
					$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$	$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$
K (9.430 ± 0.516) [g/kg]										
35	1.0	0.742*	0.156	21.02	-45.66	-22.83	-15.22	35.31	21.13	14.68
92	1.4	2.580*	0.264	10.23	-36.00	-18.00	-12.00	21.05	14.79	10.89
53	2.0	7.380	0.700	9.49	-10.77	-5.39	-3.59	2.83	2.57	2.27
72	1.0	8.629308	0.26384	3.06	-4.21	-2.10	-1.40	2.46	1.73	1.27
101	10	8.678	0.764	8.80	-3.95	-1.98	-1.32	0.96	0.88	0.79
73	1.0	8.723903	0.03070	0.35	-3.71	-1.86	-1.24	3.66	1.85	1.24
86	1.3	8.7478	0.19430	2.22	-3.59	-1.79	-1.20	2.51	1.60	1.13
78	1.1	8.918	0.004	0.04	-2.69	-1.35	-0.90	2.69	1.35	0.90
97	1.3	8.957657	0.515	5.75	-2.48	-1.24	-0.83	0.86	0.74	0.61
63	1.2	9.002	0.491	5.45	-2.25	-1.12	-0.75	0.81	0.69	0.57
74	2.0	9.106	0.00003	0.00	-1.70	-0.85	-0.57	1.70	0.85	0.57
98	2.0	9.430	0.225	2.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
57	1.2	9.4857	0.103592	10.92	0.29	0.15	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.05
40	5.0	9.500	0.300	3.16	0.37	0.18	0.12	0.20	0.14	0.11
65	1.2	9.9806	1.19680	11.99	2.89	1.45	0.96	0.45	0.44	0.42
56	1.3	10.114	0.500	4.94	3.60	1.80	1.20	1.28	1.09	0.90
90	1.3	10.350	1.550	14.98	4.84	2.42	1.61	0.59	0.58	0.56
95	1.4	10.500	0.400	3.81	5.62	2.81	1.87	2.42	1.94	1.54
93	2.0	10.600	0.902	8.51	6.15	3.07	2.05	1.27	1.20	1.10
34	1.2	10.708	2.400	22.41	6.72	3.36	2.24	0.53	0.53	0.52
37	1.2	10.98657	0.08785	0.80	8.18	4.09	2.73	7.43	3.99	2.70
77	1.2	11.370	0.76850	6.76	10.20	5.10	3.40	2.45	2.26	2.03
64	1.1	11.400	0.450	3.95	10.35	5.18	3.45	4.03	3.34	2.71
85	1.3	11.560	1.100	9.52	11.20	5.60	3.73	1.91	1.83	1.72
69	1.1	12.300	0.603	4.90	15.08	7.54	5.03	4.54	4.03	3.46
102	1.3	12.343	1.311	10.62	15.31	7.66	5.10	2.20	2.13	2.04
58	1.0	12.722	0.118	0.93	17.30	8.65	5.77	14.70	8.26	5.65
75	1.0	12.800	0.15814	1.24	17.71	8.86	5.90	13.62	8.18	5.69
89	1.3	12.9932	0.80530	6.20	18.73	9.36	6.24	4.31	4.00	3.61
94	2.0	15.070	0.290	1.92	29.64	14.82	9.88	16.26	11.79	8.81
59	1.2	16.734*	0.188	1.12	38.39	19.19	12.80	27.31	17.21	12.15
Na (5.160 ± 0.456) [g/kg]										
74	2.0	4.155	0.00001	0.00	-8.82	-4.41	-2.94	8.82	4.41	2.94
85	1.3	4.260	0.050	1.17	-7.89	-3.95	-2.63	7.23	3.86	2.60
61	5.0	4.900	0.130	2.65	-2.28	-1.14	-0.76	1.50	0.99	0.71
98	2.0	4.915	0.242	4.92	-2.15	-1.07	-0.72	0.92	0.74	0.58
101	10	5.120	0.290	5.66	-0.35	-0.18	-0.12	0.13	0.11	0.09
40	5.0	5.420	0.133	2.45	2.28	1.14	0.76	1.48	0.99	0.71
93	2.0	5.830	0.616	10.57	5.88	2.94	1.96	1.07	1.02	0.95
94	2.0	6.660	0.300	4.50	13.16	6.58	4.39	4.67	3.98	3.30
58	1.0	9.080*	0.678	7.47	34.39	17.19	11.46	5.70	5.48	5.16
P (1.460 ± 0.093) [g/kg]										
63	1.2	1.333	0.124	9.30	-3.26	-1.63	-1.09	0.98	0.87	0.74
98	2.0	1.378	0.067	4.86	-2.10	-1.05	-0.70	1.06	0.80	0.61
53	2.0	1.390	0.150	10.79	-1.79	-0.90	-0.60	0.45	0.41	0.37
74	2.0	1.492	1.5E-6	0.00	0.82	0.41	0.27	0.82	0.41	0.27
101	10	1.654	0.149	9.01	4.97	2.49	1.66	1.26	1.15	1.02

TABLE 3 (cont.)

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z-scores			u-scores		
					k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5	k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5
72	1.0	1.71452	0.07319	4.27	6.53	3.26	2.18	3.07	2.38	1.84
75	1.0	1.78778	0.10067	5.63	8.40	4.20	2.80	3.04	2.57	2.12
92	1.4	2.230	0.234	10.49	19.74	9.87	6.58	3.25	3.12	2.94
58	1.0	3.860	0.242	6.27	61.53	30.77	20.51	9.79	9.44	8.93
37	1.2	4.391142	0.02523	0.57	75.15	37.57	25.05	63.10	35.75	24.49
34	1.2	4.730	0.040	0.85	83.84	41.92	27.95	58.53	37.30	26.44
69	1.1	5.080	0.406	7.99	92.81	46.40	30.94	8.88	8.76	8.57
93	2.0	6.590	0.501	7.60	131.52	65.76	43.84	10.21	10.12	9.97
77	1.2	7.490	0.32529	4.34	154.60	77.30	51.53	18.41	18.03	17.44
64	1.1	16.600*	0.665	4.01	388.16	194.08	129.39	22.73	22.61	22.42
Si (398 ± 6.4) [g/kg]										
85	1.3	170.950*	30.000	17.55	-71.98	-35.99	-23.99	7.53	7.41	7.22
73	1.0	200.2283*	0.62610	0.31	-62.70	-31.35	-20.90	61.50	31.20	20.85
93	2.0	261.000	9.340	3.58	-43.43	-21.72	-14.48	13.90	12.16	10.30
102	1.3	295.991	35.898	12.13	-32.34	-16.17	-10.78	2.83	2.80	2.75
86	1.3	301.604	5.04990	1.67	-30.56	-15.28	-10.19	16.19	11.93	8.99
69	1.1	316.000	15.400	4.87	-26.00	-13.00	-8.67	5.22	4.93	4.54
37	1.2	321.6573	3.15207	0.98	-24.20	-12.10	-8.07	17.12	10.83	7.65
64	1.1	326.800	8.500	2.60	-22.57	-11.29	-7.52	7.85	6.73	5.60
53	2.0	343.360	30.000	8.74	-17.32	-8.66	-5.77	1.81	1.78	1.74
101	10	351.602	5.626	1.60	-14.71	-7.35	-4.90	7.19	5.49	4.21
58	1.0	355.286	5.636	1.59	-13.54	-6.77	-4.51	6.61	5.05	3.88
94	2.0	364.130	7.500	2.06	-10.74	-5.37	-3.58	4.16	3.46	2.81
77	1.2	370.700	18.45715	4.98	-8.65	-4.33	-2.88	1.46	1.40	1.32
34	1.2	378.756	19.000	5.02	-6.10	-3.05	-2.03	1.00	0.96	0.91
89	1.3	389.4558	23.33866	5.99	-2.71	-1.35	-0.90	0.36	0.35	0.34
75	1.0	390.3333	2.93742	0.75	-2.43	-1.22	-0.81	1.78	1.10	0.77
74	2.0	395.463	0.00005	0.00	-0.80	-0.40	-0.27	0.80	0.40	0.27
98	2.0	413.200	8.417	2.04	4.82	2.41	1.61	1.69	1.45	1.20
63	1.2	423.620	53.370	12.60	8.12	4.06	2.71	0.48	0.48	0.47
Ti (1.890 ± 0.099) [g/kg]										
35	1.0	0.111*	0.016	14.41	-36.63	-18.31	-12.21	34.79	18.07	12.14
92	1.4	0.905	0.09260	10.23	-20.28	-10.14	-6.76	9.42	7.34	5.71
97	1.3	1.570085	0.100	6.37	-6.59	-3.29	-2.20	2.88	2.29	1.81
63	1.2	1.604	0.097	6.05	-5.89	-2.94	-1.96	2.64	2.08	1.63
37	1.2	1.655252	0.01209	0.73	-4.83	-2.42	-1.61	4.69	2.40	1.61
101	10	1.708	0.113	6.62	-3.75	-1.87	-1.25	1.48	1.22	0.99
59	1.2	1.771	0.033	1.86	-2.45	-1.23	-0.82	2.03	1.16	0.80
72	1.0	1.771999	0.06475	3.65	-2.43	-1.21	-0.81	1.46	1.01	0.74
78	1.1	1.781	0.003	0.17	-2.24	-1.12	-0.75	2.24	1.12	0.75
53	2.0	1.830	0.180	9.84	-1.24	-0.62	-0.41	0.32	0.29	0.26
74	2.0	1.900	0.000005	0.00	0.21	0.10	0.07	0.21	0.10	0.07
98	2.0	1.900	0.056	2.95	0.21	0.10	0.07	0.13	0.09	0.06
40	5.0	1.937	0.081	4.18	0.97	0.48	0.32	0.50	0.37	0.28
86	1.3	1.9377	0.05960	3.08	0.98	0.49	0.33	0.62	0.42	0.30
73	1.0	1.999157	0.02235	1.12	2.25	1.12	0.75	2.04	1.10	0.74
85	1.3	2.010	0.200	9.95	2.47	1.24	0.82	0.58	0.54	0.48
89	1.3	2.03061	0.12568	6.19	2.90	1.45	0.97	1.04	0.89	0.73
64	1.1	2.100	0.080	3.81	4.32	2.16	1.44	2.24	1.67	1.26

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	<i>z</i> -scores			<i>u</i> -scores		
					<i>k</i> = 0.5	<i>k</i> = 1.0	<i>k</i> = 1.5	<i>k</i> = 0.5	<i>k</i> = 1.0	<i>k</i> = 1.5
95	1.4	2.100	0.100	4.76	4.32	2.16	1.44	1.89	1.51	1.19
69	1.1	2.250	0.110	4.89	7.41	3.71	2.47	2.99	2.45	1.97
94	2.0	2.450	0.095	3.88	11.53	5.77	3.84	5.25	4.12	3.22
58	1.0	2.470	0.266	10.77	11.94	5.97	3.98	2.14	2.05	1.91
75	1.0	2.50889	0.04770	1.90	12.74	6.37	4.25	9.09	5.72	4.04
102	1.3	2.558	0.134	5.24	13.75	6.88	4.58	4.69	4.04	3.37
93	2.0	2.570	0.268	10.43	14.00	7.00	4.67	2.50	2.39	2.23
77	1.2	2.610	0.11711	4.49	14.82	7.41	4.94	5.68	4.73	3.85
57	1.2	2.83293	0.13277	4.69	19.41	9.71	6.47	6.67	5.73	4.78
34	1.2	2.847	0.395	13.87	19.70	9.85	6.57	2.40	2.35	2.27
90	1.3	3.010	0.240	7.97	23.06	11.53	7.69	4.57	4.33	3.99
56	1.3	3.175	0.150	4.72	26.46	13.23	8.82	8.15	7.19	6.14

TABLE 3 (cont.)

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z-scores			u-scores		
					<i>k</i> = 0.5	<i>k</i> = 1.0	<i>k</i> = 1.5	<i>k</i> = 0.5	<i>k</i> = 1.0	<i>k</i> = 1.5
Ag [mg/kg]										
82	1.2	0.51	0.37	72.55	-	-	-	-	-	-
64	1.1	4	2.50	62.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
As [mg/kg]										
63	1.2	2.66	0.42	15.79	-	-	-	-	-	-
37	1.2	3.336	0.42	12.56	-	-	-	-	-	-
92	1.4	3.81	0.42	11.02	-	-	-	-	-	-
101	5.0	4.5	2.00	44.44	-	-	-	-	-	-
61	5.0	4.61	0.35	7.59	-	-	-	-	-	-
85	1.3	4.8	1.30	27.08	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	5.0	5.73	0.15	2.62	-	-	-	-	-	-
74	2.0	6	1.02	17.08	-	-	-	-	-	-
75	1.0	9.56*	2.30	24.06	-	-	-	-	-	-
82	1.2	17.18*	1.92	11.18	-	-	-	-	-	-
58	1.0	28.7*	1.00	3.48	-	-	-	-	-	-
B [mg/kg]										
101	10	20.7	0.20	0.97	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ba (193 ± 17.6) [mg/kg]										
82	1.2	34.3*	5.01	14.61	-22.70	-11.35	-7.57	18.45	10.68	7.36
92	1.4	34.7*	4.27	12.31	-22.64	-11.32	-7.55	19.32	10.83	7.40
74	2.0	172	16.48	9.58	-3.00	-1.50	-1.00	1.17	0.97	0.79
93	2.0	173	13.00	7.51	-2.86	-1.43	-0.95	1.35	1.05	0.81
63	1.2	178	8.30	4.66	-2.15	-1.07	-0.72	1.38	0.92	0.66
101	5.0	187	15.00	8.02	-0.86	-0.43	-0.29	0.36	0.29	0.23
40	5.0	190	9.00	4.74	-0.43	-0.21	-0.14	0.26	0.18	0.13
69	1.1	197	15.00	7.61	0.57	0.29	0.19	0.24	0.20	0.16
75	1.0	197.11	75.12	38.11	0.59	0.29	0.20	0.05	0.05	0.05
85	1.3	214	21.00	9.81	3.00	1.50	1.00	0.95	0.83	0.71
71	1.1	218.56	11.59	5.30	3.66	1.83	1.22	1.89	1.41	1.07
65	1.2	256.5	53.80	20.97	9.08	4.54	3.03	1.17	1.14	1.10
64	1.1	271	5.00	1.85	11.16	5.58	3.72	9.07	5.25	3.62
102	1.3	360	38.00	10.56	23.89	11.94	7.96	4.32	4.12	3.85
Br (10.4 ± 1.35) [mg/kg]										
77	1.2	5	0.01	0.20	-9.23	-4.62	-3.08	9.23	4.62	3.08
92	1.4	5.3	0.57	10.75	-8.72	-4.36	-2.91	6.25	3.92	2.76
101	5.0	5.9	0.40	6.78	-7.70	-3.85	-2.57	6.35	3.64	2.50
75	1.0	7.22	2.96	41.01	-5.44	-2.72	-1.81	1.05	1.00	0.92
37	1.2	7.32	0.26	3.54	-5.27	-2.63	-1.76	4.82	2.57	1.74
79	1.1	8.528	1.10	12.89	-3.20	-1.60	-1.07	1.50	1.17	0.90
69	1.1	9	0.80	8.89	-2.39	-1.20	-0.80	1.41	0.99	0.73
63	1.2	9.61	1.75	18.21	-1.35	-0.68	-0.45	0.43	0.38	0.32
89	1.3	10.27	0.74	7.21	-0.22	-0.11	-0.07	0.14	0.09	0.07
85	1.3	11	2.00	18.18	1.03	0.51	0.34	0.29	0.26	0.23
40	5.0	11.6	0.30	2.59	2.05	1.03	0.68	1.83	0.99	0.67
82	1.2	11.78	0.38	3.23	2.36	1.18	0.79	1.98	1.12	0.77

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z-scores			u-scores		
					k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5	k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5
90	1.3	12	1.50	12.50	2.74	1.37	0.91	0.99	0.84	0.69
34	1.2	12.9	3.00	23.26	4.28	2.14	1.43	0.82	0.78	0.72
56	1.3	13.3	0.60	4.51	4.96	2.48	1.65	3.46	2.21	1.56
93	2.0	14.4	1.89	13.13	6.84	3.42	2.28	2.02	1.80	1.55
65	1.2	18.7	3.00	16.04	14.19	7.10	4.73	2.72	2.58	2.39
72	1.0	29.498*	3.37	11.43	32.66	16.33	10.89	5.58	5.35	5.02
Cd (0.283 ± 0.0554) [mg/kg]										
101	10	0.18	0.01	5.56	-3.76	-1.88	-1.25	3.53	1.85	1.25
82	1.2	0.34	0.20	58.82	2.08	1.04	0.69	0.28	0.27	0.26
69	1.1	3.1*	0.30	9.68	102.92	51.46	34.31	9.35	9.24	9.06
Ce (28.4 ± 6.77) [mg/kg]										
71	1.1	25.49	1.80	7.06	-2.12	-1.06	-0.71	1.29	0.89	0.65
69	1.1	25.8	2.00	7.75	-1.89	-0.95	-0.63	1.07	0.77	0.57
101	5.0	28.5	1.90	6.67	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.02
61	5.0	29.44	0.46	1.56	0.76	0.38	0.25	0.72	0.37	0.25
40	5.0	33	0.90	2.73	3.35	1.68	1.12	2.80	1.59	1.09
75	1.0	34.33	2.96	8.63	4.32	2.16	1.44	1.82	1.47	1.17
58	1.0	38	3.10	8.16	6.99	3.50	2.33	2.83	2.32	1.86
74	2.0	39	10.97	28.13	7.72	3.86	2.57	0.96	0.94	0.90
64	1.1	42	10.00	23.81	9.91	4.95	3.30	1.35	1.31	1.26
93	2.0	129*	13.50	10.47	73.28	36.64	24.43	7.41	7.30	7.13
Cl [mg/kg]										
101	10	55*	1.50	2.73	-	-	-	-	-	-
93	2.0	196	15.80	8.06	-	-	-	-	-	-
75	1.0	202.56	27.53	13.59	-	-	-	-	-	-
64	1.1	2000*	180.00	9.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Co [mg/kg]										
63	1.2	1.29	0.30	23.26	-	-	-	-	-	-
75	1.0	1.33	0.49	37.11	-	-	-	-	-	-
61	5.0	1.565	0.06	3.83	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	5.0	1.7	0.06	3.53	-	-	-	-	-	-
101	5.0	1.8	0.40	22.22	-	-	-	-	-	-
85	1.3	2.2	1.10	50.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
89	1.3	33.64*	4.31	12.81	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cr (52.2 ± 11.72) [mg/kg]										
35	1.0	5.63	0.52	9.24	-20.23	-10.11	-6.74	19.73	10.05	6.72
37	1.2	25.517	1.28	5.02	-11.59	-5.79	-3.86	10.13	5.58	3.80
77	1.2	40	0.49	1.23	-5.30	-2.65	-1.77	5.18	2.63	1.76
63	1.2	42.22	5.42	12.84	-4.33	-2.17	-1.44	1.69	1.40	1.14
75	1.0	43.33	5.04	11.64	-3.85	-1.93	-1.28	1.60	1.30	1.04
61	5.0	51.3	1.40	2.73	-0.39	-0.20	-0.13	0.33	0.19	0.13
72	1.0	52.276	4.45	8.52	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
74	2.0	55	4.48	8.15	1.22	0.61	0.41	0.56	0.44	0.34
92	1.4	55.6	5.91	10.63	1.48	0.74	0.49	0.54	0.45	0.37
101	5.0	63	3.90	6.19	4.69	2.35	1.56	2.38	1.79	1.36
40	5.0	68	2.00	2.94	6.86	3.43	2.29	5.18	3.15	2.20

TABLE 3 (cont.)

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z-scores			u-scores		
					k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5	k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5
86	1.3	68.4	3.60	5.26	7.04	3.52	2.35	3.79	2.77	2.08
64	1.1	71	3.00	4.23	8.17	4.08	2.72	4.97	3.42	2.50
98	2.0	75	3.30	4.40	9.90	4.95	3.30	5.67	4.02	2.98
89	1.3	81.36	9.37	11.52	12.67	6.33	4.22	3.02	2.79	2.51
102	1.3	82	11.00	13.41	12.94	6.47	4.31	2.65	2.50	2.29
93	2.0	98.6	10.60	10.75	20.15	10.08	6.72	4.28	4.01	3.67
58	1.0	105.3	11.40	10.83	23.06	11.53	7.69	4.57	4.32	3.98
59	1.2	115	8.00	6.96	27.28	13.64	9.09	7.54	6.80	5.94
57	1.2	131.47	8.34	6.34	34.43	17.22	11.48	9.16	8.32	7.32
Cs [mg/kg]										
101	5.0	1.5	0.10	6.67	-	-	-	-	-	-
61	5.0	1.65	0.10	6.06	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	5.0	1.8	0.05	2.78	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cu (18.0 ± 2.63) [mg/kg]										
35	1.0	1.46	0.21	14.38	-17.75	-8.87	-5.92	17.32	8.82	5.90
78	1.1	12	5.00	41.67	-6.44	-3.22	-2.15	1.18	1.12	1.05
63	1.2	15.37	1.13	7.35	-2.82	-1.41	-0.94	1.80	1.21	0.87
74	2.0	16	0.49	3.06	-2.15	-1.07	-0.72	1.90	1.04	0.70
82	1.2	16.6	2.50	15.06	-1.50	-0.75	-0.50	0.52	0.45	0.37
72	1.0	17.617	0.36	2.05	-0.41	-0.21	-0.14	0.38	0.20	0.14
98	2.0	17.7	0.80	4.52	-0.32	-0.16	-0.11	0.24	0.15	0.10
37	1.2	18.655	1.25	6.70	0.70	0.35	0.23	0.42	0.29	0.21
34	1.2	20	2.00	10.00	2.15	1.07	0.72	0.91	0.73	0.58
58	1.0	20.5	5.20	25.37	2.68	1.34	0.89	0.47	0.45	0.42
56	1.3	22.2	1.00	4.50	4.51	2.25	1.50	3.07	1.99	1.41
92	1.4	24	2.51	10.46	6.44	3.22	2.15	2.24	1.92	1.60
90	1.3	25	5.00	20.00	7.51	3.76	2.50	1.38	1.31	1.22
69	1.1	25	3.00	12.00	7.51	3.76	2.50	2.23	1.98	1.71
89	1.3	27.18	2.10	7.73	9.85	4.93	3.28	4.00	3.27	2.63
64	1.1	29	2.00	6.90	11.80	5.90	3.93	4.99	4.02	3.20
57	1.2	31.94	4.29	13.45	14.96	7.48	4.99	3.17	2.98	2.72
75	1.0	32.56	4.17	12.79	15.62	7.81	5.21	3.41	3.19	2.90
102	1.3	33	4.00	12.12	16.10	8.05	5.37	3.65	3.40	3.07
93	2.0	33.8	4.36	12.90	16.96	8.48	5.65	3.54	3.33	3.05
73	1.0	40.369	2.00	4.96	24.00	12.00	8.00	10.12	8.17	6.50
95	1.4	43	9.00	20.93	26.83	13.41	8.94	2.76	2.72	2.65
94	2.0	43	5.00	11.63	26.83	13.41	8.94	4.92	4.69	4.36
77	1.2	60*	2.12	3.53	45.07	22.54	15.02	18.14	14.88	11.97
Dy [mg/kg]										
101	5.0	1.6	0.10	6.25	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	5.0	2	0.05	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eu [mg/kg]										
101	5.0	0.312	0.00	0.64	-	-	-	-	-	-
61	5.0	0.329	0.03	9.42	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	5.0	0.4	0.01	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z-scores			u-scores		
					k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5	k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5
Ga (4.76 ± 0.611) [mg/kg]										
74	2.0	4	0.00	0.04	-2.52	-1.26	-0.84	2.52	1.26	0.84
37	1.2	4.035	0.51	12.61	-2.41	-1.20	-0.80	1.23	0.92	0.70
72	1.0	4.397	0.32	7.30	-1.21	-0.60	-0.40	0.83	0.53	0.38
89	1.3	4.68	0.79	16.88	-0.27	-0.13	-0.09	0.09	0.08	0.07
82	1.2	6.13*	1.01	16.48	4.55	2.28	1.52	1.30	1.17	1.01
93	2.0	15.1*	1.95	12.91	34.35	17.17	11.45	5.24	5.07	4.81
Gd [mg/kg]										
101	10	1.4	0.08	5.71	-	-	-	-	-	-
72	1.0	15.227	1.59	10.47	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ge [mg/kg]										
72	1.0	1.455	0.23	15.57	-	-	-	-	-	-
82	1.2	2.58	0.33	12.79	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hf [mg/kg]										
61	5.0	9.64	0.50	5.19	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	5.0	11.4	0.03	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-
101	5.0	11.8	0.70	5.93	-	-	-	-	-	-
72	1.0	36.532*	0.34	0.94	-	-	-	-	-	-
I [mg/kg]										
69	1.1	5.3	0.50	9.43	-	-	-	-	-	-
La [mg/kg]										
58	1.0	10.8	3.00	27.78	-	-	-	-	-	-
69	1.1	11.7	0.90	7.69	-	-	-	-	-	-
71	1.1	11.84	0.92	7.77	-	-	-	-	-	-
75	1.0	13.11	3.95	30.11	-	-	-	-	-	-
98	2.0	13.2	2.60	19.70	-	-	-	-	-	-
101	5.0	14.3	0.90	6.29	-	-	-	-	-	-
61	5.0	14.49	0.24	1.66	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	5.0	15	0.40	2.67	-	-	-	-	-	-
64	1.1	33*	2.00	6.06	-	-	-	-	-	-
37	1.2	79.195*	3.63	4.58	-	-	-	-	-	-
72	1.0	128.018*	6.76	5.28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lu [mg/kg]										
40	5.0	0.23	0.01	4.35	-	-	-	-	-	-
101	5.0	0.4	0.03	7.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mg (856 ± 117.8) [mg/kg]										
74	2.0	850.2	0.02	0.00	-0.23	-0.12	-0.08	0.23	0.12	0.08
98	2.0	885	36.00	4.07	1.17	0.59	0.39	0.66	0.47	0.35
40	5.0	912	35.00	3.84	2.26	1.13	0.75	1.31	0.92	0.68
85	1.3	930	100.00	10.75	2.99	1.49	1.00	0.72	0.66	0.59
63	1.2	1036	82.00	7.92	7.26	3.63	2.42	2.10	1.88	1.63
58	1.0	1374	120.00	8.73	20.90	10.45	6.97	4.23	3.99	3.67
94	2.0	2290	180.00	7.86	57.86	28.93	19.29	7.89	7.68	7.36

TABLE 3 (cont.)

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z-scores			u-scores		
					k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5	k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5
93	2.0	2400	230.00	9.58	62.30	31.15	20.77	6.67	6.56	6.39
75	1.0	2631.11	123.32	4.69	71.63	35.81	23.88	14.11	13.36	12.33
86	1.3	3246	795.70	24.51	96.44	48.22	32.15	3.00	3.00	2.99
Mn (226 ± 16.7) [mg/kg]										
35	1.0	14.7*	1.60	10.88	-26.43	-13.21	-8.81	25.92	13.15	8.79
63	1.2	153	11.50	7.52	-9.13	-4.57	-3.04	5.21	3.71	2.74
73	1.0	189.78	5.69	3.00	-4.53	-2.27	-1.51	3.69	2.13	1.47
78	1.1	197	4.00	2.03	-3.63	-1.81	-1.21	3.24	1.76	1.19
90	1.3	200	36.00	18.00	-3.25	-1.63	-1.08	0.71	0.66	0.60
97	1.3	200.387	16.00	7.98	-3.20	-1.60	-1.07	1.43	1.13	0.89
98	2.0	210	7.00	3.33	-2.00	-1.00	-0.67	1.51	0.92	0.64
69	1.1	212	20.00	9.43	-1.75	-0.88	-0.58	0.65	0.55	0.45
101	10	218	13.00	5.96	-1.00	-0.50	-0.33	0.52	0.39	0.29
79	1.1	228.792	12.22	5.34	0.35	0.17	0.12	0.19	0.14	0.10
40	5.0	230	6.00	2.61	0.50	0.25	0.17	0.40	0.23	0.16
72	1.0	246.026	6.75	2.74	2.50	1.25	0.83	1.91	1.15	0.80
59	1.2	252	12.00	4.76	3.25	1.63	1.08	1.80	1.30	0.97
75	1.0	258	30.04	11.65	4.00	2.00	1.33	1.03	0.94	0.83
77	1.2	260	8.65	3.33	4.25	2.13	1.42	2.89	1.87	1.33
64	1.1	264	40.00	15.15	4.75	2.38	1.58	0.93	0.88	0.81
94	2.0	265	20.00	7.55	4.88	2.44	1.63	1.81	1.52	1.25
74	2.0	271.1	0.00	0.00	5.64	2.82	1.88	5.64	2.82	1.88
82	1.2	279	23.94	8.58	6.63	3.31	2.21	2.10	1.84	1.56
86	1.3	279.9	4.20	1.50	6.74	3.37	2.25	5.97	3.26	2.21
37	1.2	283.431	7.93	2.80	7.18	3.59	2.39	5.10	3.22	2.27
93	2.0	293	32.90	11.23	8.38	4.19	2.79	1.98	1.83	1.65
92	1.4	293	30.10	10.27	8.38	4.19	2.79	2.15	1.97	1.74
89	1.3	298.98	22.37	7.48	9.13	4.56	3.04	3.07	2.65	2.23
95	1.4	300	30.00	10.00	9.26	4.63	3.09	2.38	2.18	1.93
56	1.3	300	15.00	5.00	9.26	4.63	3.09	4.35	3.38	2.62
34	1.2	320	47.00	14.69	11.76	5.88	3.92	1.97	1.89	1.78
57	1.2	321.02	36.64	11.41	11.89	5.94	3.96	2.53	2.38	2.17
102	1.3	342	27.00	7.89	14.51	7.25	4.84	4.12	3.70	3.21
58	1.0	361	10.00	2.77	16.89	8.44	5.63	10.54	7.16	5.20
Mo (1.36 ± 0.316) [mg/kg]										
63	1.2	0.53	0.13	24.53	-7.99	-4.00	-2.66	4.99	3.39	2.46
75	1.0	2.44	0.99	40.45	10.40	5.20	3.47	1.09	1.07	1.04
Nb (6.15 ± 1.153) [mg/kg]										
69	1.1	3.8	0.30	7.89	-6.28	-3.14	-2.09	4.90	2.91	2.02
63	1.2	4.26	0.91	21.36	-5.05	-2.53	-1.68	1.92	1.60	1.31
34	1.2	5	1.00	20.00	-3.07	-1.54	-1.02	1.08	0.92	0.76
56	1.3	5.2	0.40	7.69	-2.54	-1.27	-0.85	1.73	1.12	0.80
85	1.3	5.5	1.00	18.18	-1.74	-0.87	-0.58	0.61	0.52	0.43
98	2.0	5.71	0.13	2.28	-1.18	-0.59	-0.39	1.11	0.58	0.39
90	1.3	6	2.00	33.33	-0.40	-0.20	-0.13	0.07	0.07	0.07
79	1.1	6.1	0.96	15.67	-0.13	-0.07	-0.04	0.05	0.04	0.03
93	2.0	8.23*	1.09	13.24	5.56	2.78	1.85	1.80	1.57	1.33
102	1.3	10.27*	1.27	12.37	11.01	5.50	3.67	3.11	2.79	2.43

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z-scores			u-scores		
					$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$	$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$
					64	1.1	19*	4.00	21.05	34.34
Nd [mg/kg]										
63	1.2	9.4	2.30	24.47	-	-	-	-	-	-
69	1.1	11.1	0.90	8.11	-	-	-	-	-	-
71	1.1	11.78	1.26	10.70	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	5.0	13	0.70	5.38	-	-	-	-	-	-
101	10	14	1.90	13.57	-	-	-	-	-	-
72	1.0	19.157*	4.65	24.25	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ni (8.76 ± 1.529) [mg/kg]										
63	1.2	4.03	1.46	36.23	-9.36	-4.68	-3.12	3.06	2.66	2.25
82	1.2	5.25	0.52	9.90	-6.94	-3.47	-2.31	4.84	3.09	2.19
89	1.3	5.34	1.97	36.89	-6.77	-3.38	-2.26	1.68	1.54	1.38
72	1.0	7.345	0.55	7.53	-2.80	-1.40	-0.93	1.89	1.23	0.88
37	1.2	8.04	0.74	9.18	-1.42	-0.71	-0.47	0.80	0.58	0.43
74	2.0	9	1.49	16.56	0.47	0.24	0.16	0.15	0.13	0.11
92	1.4	10.4	1.12	10.77	3.24	1.62	1.08	1.33	1.09	0.87
98	2.0	12.7	0.30	2.36	7.80	3.90	2.60	6.70	3.74	2.55
75	1.0	15.11	1.00	6.62	12.56	6.28	4.19	5.67	4.47	3.50
78	1.1	18	3.00	16.67	18.28	9.14	6.09	3.04	2.92	2.75
102	1.3	18.1	2.70	14.92	18.48	9.24	6.16	3.40	3.24	3.02
56	1.3	25	1.00	4.00	32.13	16.07	10.71	14.49	11.42	8.94
93	2.0	41.5*	5.33	12.84	64.78	32.39	21.59	6.12	6.04	5.91
59	1.2	59*	4.00	6.78	99.40	49.70	33.13	12.46	12.18	11.74
Pb (26.3 ± 3.41) [mg/kg]										
35	1.0	3.97	0.12	3.02	-17.36	-8.68	-5.79	17.29	8.67	5.79
82	1.2	14.6	2.24	15.34	-9.10	-4.55	-3.03	4.53	3.43	2.62
75	1.0	20.56	5.92	28.80	-4.46	-2.23	-1.49	0.95	0.89	0.81
101	1.0	26	2.00	7.69	-0.23	-0.12	-0.08	0.13	0.09	0.07
74	2.0	27	0.07	0.26	0.54	0.27	0.18	0.54	0.27	0.18
37	1.2	27.756	0.70	2.52	1.13	0.57	0.38	1.00	0.55	0.37
56	1.3	28.4	1.40	4.93	1.63	0.82	0.54	1.10	0.72	0.51
63	1.2	28.89	5.70	19.73	2.01	1.01	0.67	0.44	0.41	0.38
69	1.1	30.4	2.40	7.89	3.19	1.59	1.06	1.51	1.17	0.90
57	1.2	32.01	1.89	5.92	4.44	2.22	1.48	2.49	1.79	1.33
98	2.0	32.6	0.80	2.45	4.90	2.45	1.63	4.16	2.34	1.60
85	1.3	33	4.00	12.12	5.21	2.60	1.74	1.59	1.41	1.21
90	1.3	34	4.00	11.76	5.99	2.99	2.00	1.83	1.62	1.39
102	1.3	35	3.00	8.57	6.76	3.38	2.25	2.67	2.20	1.78
34	1.2	36.5	3.00	8.22	7.93	3.97	2.64	3.12	2.58	2.09
93	2.0	38.7	5.07	13.10	9.64	4.82	3.21	2.37	2.18	1.95
92	1.4	40.4	4.18	10.35	10.96	5.48	3.65	3.22	2.87	2.48
89	1.3	44.9	8.46	18.84	14.46	7.23	4.82	2.17	2.10	2.00
72	1.0	45.489	2.09	4.59	14.92	7.46	4.97	7.83	5.79	4.37
58	1.0	51.7	4.00	7.74	19.75	9.88	6.58	6.05	5.34	4.57
95	1.4	53	7.00	13.21	20.76	10.38	6.92	3.75	3.58	3.34
64	1.1	150*	20.00	13.33	96.19	48.09	32.06	6.17	6.13	6.07

TABLE 3 (cont.)

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z-scores			u-scores		
					k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5	k = 0.5	k = 1.0	k = 1.5
Rb (41.8 ± 2.22) [mg/kg]										
35	1.0	4.03*	0.52	12.90	-19.81	-9.91	-6.60	19.11	9.82	6.58
77	1.2	20	0.23	1.15	-11.44	-5.72	-3.81	11.35	5.71	3.81
92	1.4	24.8	2.57	10.36	-8.92	-4.46	-2.97	5.31	3.70	2.71
63	1.2	29.53	1.30	4.40	-6.44	-3.22	-2.15	5.32	3.05	2.09
73	1.0	34.43	1.19	3.46	-3.87	-1.93	-1.29	3.28	1.85	1.26
74	2.0	35	2.44	6.97	-3.57	-1.78	-1.19	2.20	1.50	1.09
69	1.1	40.8	2.40	5.88	-0.52	-0.26	-0.17	0.33	0.22	0.16
72	1.0	41.173	4.15	10.07	-0.33	-0.16	-0.11	0.14	0.11	0.09
56	1.3	41.2	2.00	4.85	-0.31	-0.16	-0.10	0.22	0.14	0.10
101	5.0	41.5	2.70	6.51	-0.16	-0.08	-0.05	0.09	0.06	0.05
37	1.2	41.911	0.69	1.65	0.06	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.02
90	1.3	42	3.00	7.14	0.10	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.04	0.03
97	1.3	42.204	2.10	4.98	0.21	0.11	0.07	0.14	0.09	0.07
93	2.0	42.4	5.56	13.11	0.31	0.16	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.08
98	2.0	42.5	0.50	1.18	0.37	0.18	0.12	0.36	0.18	0.12
85	1.3	43	4.00	9.30	0.63	0.31	0.21	0.27	0.22	0.17
61	5.0	43.1	5.50	12.76	0.68	0.34	0.23	0.22	0.19	0.16
59	1.2	44	4.00	9.09	1.15	0.58	0.38	0.50	0.40	0.32
89	1.3	44.23	2.78	6.29	1.27	0.64	0.42	0.72	0.51	0.38
64	1.1	46	5.00	10.87	2.20	1.10	0.73	0.78	0.67	0.55
40	5.0	47.8	1.30	2.72	3.15	1.57	1.05	2.60	1.49	1.02
95	1.4	49	5.00	10.20	3.78	1.89	1.26	1.35	1.15	0.95
34	1.2	49	5.00	10.20	3.78	1.89	1.26	1.35	1.15	0.95
57	1.2	49.45	4.93	9.97	4.01	2.01	1.34	1.45	1.23	1.01
71	1.1	51.62	10.64	20.61	5.15	2.58	1.72	0.91	0.87	0.81
82	1.2	52.81	0.39	0.74	5.78	2.89	1.93	5.66	2.87	1.92
75	1.0	55.78	5.92	10.62	7.33	3.67	2.44	2.25	1.98	1.70
58	1.0	56.5	3.90	6.90	7.71	3.86	2.57	3.39	2.70	2.12
94	2.0	60	7.00	11.67	9.55	4.77	3.18	2.51	2.28	2.01
102	1.3	69	8.00	11.59	14.27	7.13	4.76	3.31	3.07	2.77
65	1.2	71.4	3.30	4.62	15.53	7.76	5.18	7.77	5.87	4.48
S (395 ± 68.8) [mg/kg]										
72	1.0	216.713	20.29	9.36	-13.88	-6.94	-4.63	7.42	5.45	4.09
92	1.4	332	36.50	10.99	-4.90	-2.45	-1.63	1.63	1.41	1.19
75	1.0	347.33	36.41	10.48	-3.71	-1.86	-1.24	1.23	1.07	0.90
63	1.2	351	25.00	7.12	-3.42	-1.71	-1.14	1.57	1.23	0.96
101	10	358	32.00	8.94	-2.88	-1.44	-0.96	1.07	0.90	0.74
34	1.2	703	70.00	9.96	23.97	11.99	7.99	4.33	4.13	3.85
56	1.3	928	45.00	4.85	41.49	20.74	13.83	11.39	10.29	9.00
73	1.0	1190.381	25.25	2.12	61.91	30.96	20.64	28.07	22.08	17.26
69	1.1	1320	133.00	10.08	72.00	36.00	24.00	6.92	6.83	6.68
37	1.2	1425.401	24.53	1.72	80.20	40.10	26.73	37.21	29.01	22.55
93	2.0	1510	119.00	7.88	86.79	43.39	28.93	9.32	9.16	8.91
58	1.0	1720	74.00	4.30	103.14	51.57	34.38	17.64	16.91	15.88
Sb (0.638 ± 0.0858) [mg/kg]										
101	5.0	0.63	0.05	7.94	-0.15	-0.07	-0.05	0.11	0.07	0.05
61	5.0	0.681	0.04	6.17	0.79	0.39	0.26	0.62	0.37	0.25

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z-scores			u-scores		
					$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$	$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$
40	5.0	0.71	0.02	2.82	1.32	0.66	0.44	1.24	0.65	0.44
82	1.2	0.73	0.51	69.86	1.68	0.84	0.56	0.18	0.18	0.17
Sc (2.22 ± 0.356) [mg/kg]										
101	5.0	2.1	0.10	4.76	-0.76	-0.38	-0.25	0.64	0.36	0.25
61	5.0	2.205	0.05	2.04	-0.10	-0.05	-0.03	0.09	0.05	0.03
40	5.0	2.55	0.06	2.35	2.10	1.05	0.70	1.96	1.03	0.69
Se [mg/kg]										
92	1.4	0.3	0.05	16.67	-	-	-	-	-	-
101	5.0	10.4	0.80	7.69	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sm [mg/kg]										
101	10	1.7	0.10	5.88	-	-	-	-	-	-
61	5.0	2.259	0.03	1.20	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	5.0	2.8	0.07	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
72	1.0	24.54*	1.99	8.12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sn [mg/kg]										
82	1.2	1.62	0.19	11.73	-	-	-	-	-	-
64	1.1	11	2.00	18.18	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sr (53.7 ± 3.87) [mg/kg]										
35	1.0	10.17*	1.81	17.80	-18.46	-9.23	-6.15	14.64	8.62	5.96
92	1.4	35.2	3.63	10.31	-7.84	-3.92	-2.61	4.27	3.11	2.33
77	1.2	40	0.85	2.13	-5.81	-2.90	-1.94	5.46	2.86	1.92
73	1.0	41.168	1.11	2.69	-5.31	-2.66	-1.77	4.81	2.59	1.75
63	1.2	50.52	4.50	8.91	-1.35	-0.67	-0.45	0.63	0.49	0.38
72	1.0	50.928	4.16	8.16	-1.18	-0.59	-0.39	0.58	0.44	0.34
69	1.1	52.2	3.00	5.75	-0.64	-0.32	-0.21	0.39	0.27	0.20
97	1.3	52.755	2.90	5.50	-0.40	-0.20	-0.13	0.25	0.17	0.12
85	1.3	53	10.00	18.87	-0.30	-0.15	-0.10	0.07	0.06	0.06
75	1.0	53.22	3.95	7.42	-0.20	-0.10	-0.07	0.10	0.08	0.06
98	2.0	55.6	0.70	1.26	0.81	0.40	0.27	0.77	0.40	0.27
56	1.3	56.1	2.50	4.46	1.02	0.51	0.34	0.70	0.45	0.32
37	1.2	56.176	0.46	0.82	1.05	0.52	0.35	1.03	0.52	0.35
59	1.2	57	4.00	7.02	1.40	0.70	0.47	0.71	0.53	0.41
74	2.0	59	1.72	2.91	2.25	1.12	0.75	1.82	1.06	0.73
90	1.3	63	4.50	7.14	3.94	1.97	1.31	1.83	1.43	1.11
89	1.3	63	3.80	6.03	3.94	1.97	1.31	2.08	1.54	1.16
93	2.0	63.2	8.35	13.21	4.03	2.01	1.34	1.09	0.99	0.87
57	1.2	65.31	5.87	8.98	4.92	2.46	1.64	1.84	1.54	1.26
82	1.2	65.98	1.61	2.44	5.21	2.60	1.74	4.30	2.46	1.69
34	1.2	68	6.00	8.82	6.06	3.03	2.02	2.22	1.87	1.54
101	5.0	70	10.00	14.29	6.91	3.46	2.30	1.59	1.47	1.33
94	2.0	73	4.00	5.48	8.18	4.09	2.73	4.16	3.12	2.37
79	1.1	73	8.54	11.70	8.18	4.09	2.73	2.18	1.98	1.74
58	1.0	73.1	3.60	4.92	8.23	4.11	2.74	4.51	3.27	2.44
71	1.1	74.66	5.89	7.89	8.89	4.44	2.96	3.30	2.78	2.28
40	5.0	78	4.00	5.13	10.30	5.15	3.43	5.23	3.93	2.99
95	1.4	79	6.00	7.59	10.73	5.36	3.58	3.92	3.31	2.73

TABLE 3 (cont.)

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z-scores			u-scores		
					$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$	$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$
64	1.1	92	4.00	4.35	16.24	8.12	5.41	8.25	6.19	4.71
65	1.2	93.4	3.00	3.21	16.83	8.42	5.61	10.40	7.10	5.17
102	1.3	148*	16.00	10.81	39.99	19.99	13.33	5.83	5.65	5.39
Ta [mg/kg]										
101	5.0	0.51	0.04	7.84	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	5.0	0.53	0.02	3.77	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tb [mg/kg]										
101	5.0	0.28	0.02	7.14	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	5.0	0.29	0.01	4.14	-	-	-	-	-	-
Th [mg/kg]										
37	1.2	3.23	0.54	16.59	-	-	-	-	-	-
85	1.3	3.6	1.00	27.78	-	-	-	-	-	-
101	5.0	3.9	0.20	5.13	-	-	-	-	-	-
98	2.0	4.15	0.36	8.67	-	-	-	-	-	-
61	5.0	4.23	0.10	2.36	-	-	-	-	-	-
77	1.2	4.3	0.10	2.33	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	5.0	4.6	0.11	2.39	-	-	-	-	-	-
U (1.57 ± 0.299) [mg/kg]										
77	1.2	1.2	0.04	3.33	-3.15	-1.58	-1.05	2.98	1.55	1.04
37	1.2	1.275	0.14	11.14	-2.51	-1.26	-0.84	1.60	1.08	0.78
85	1.3	1.5	0.50	33.33	-0.60	-0.30	-0.20	0.14	0.13	0.11
101	5.0	1.71	0.15	8.77	1.19	0.60	0.40	0.74	0.50	0.37
61	5.0	1.94	0.22	11.34	3.15	1.58	1.05	1.48	1.15	0.89
40	5.0	2	0.10	5.00	3.66	1.83	1.22	2.79	1.69	1.18
75	1.0	2.33	0.99	42.36	6.48	3.24	2.16	0.76	0.75	0.73
V (29.8 ± 5.82) [mg/kg]										
74	2.0	23	6.26	27.22	-4.76	-2.38	-1.59	1.06	0.99	0.90
92	1.4	26.8	3.03	11.31	-2.10	-1.05	-0.70	0.90	0.72	0.57
101	10	27	3.00	11.11	-1.96	-0.98	-0.65	0.84	0.68	0.53
85	1.3	27	4.00	14.81	-1.96	-0.98	-0.65	0.66	0.57	0.48
37	1.2	27.621	2.16	7.82	-1.52	-0.76	-0.51	0.84	0.61	0.45
98	2.0	29	0.80	2.76	-0.56	-0.28	-0.19	0.49	0.27	0.18
40	5.0	29.4	0.94	3.20	-0.28	-0.14	-0.09	0.23	0.13	0.09
63	1.2	29.76	7.83	26.31	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
72	1.0	41.989	3.54	8.43	8.52	4.26	2.84	3.19	2.68	2.19
102	1.3	43	5.00	11.63	9.23	4.62	3.08	2.54	2.29	2.00
56	1.3	44	4.00	9.09	9.93	4.96	3.31	3.34	2.89	2.42
64	1.1	44	3.00	6.82	9.93	4.96	3.31	4.27	3.43	2.71
89	1.3	51.19	14.24	27.82	14.96	7.48	4.99	1.49	1.47	1.44
86	1.3	52.8	1.10	2.08	16.08	8.04	5.36	12.75	7.51	5.19
69	1.1	52.9	6.60	12.48	16.15	8.08	5.38	3.42	3.21	2.93
75	1.0	56.78	2.96	5.21	18.87	9.43	6.29	8.20	6.55	5.18
58	1.0	58.5	7.90	13.50	20.07	10.03	6.69	3.57	3.42	3.19
59	1.2	162*	7.00	4.32	92.45	46.22	30.82	18.50	17.48	16.10
95	1.4	200*	40.00	20.00	119.02	59.51	39.67	4.25	4.24	4.23
34	1.2	807*	80.00	9.91	543.48	271.74	181.16	9.71	9.71	9.70

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	z-scores			u-scores		
					$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$	$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$
W [mg/kg]										
101	5.0	1.03	0.14	13.59	-	-	-	-	-	-
Y (10.8 ± 2.30) [mg/kg]										
74	2.0	5	0.19	3.90	-9.61	-4.80	-3.20	9.14	4.74	3.18
72	1.0	5.824	1.00	17.11	-8.24	-4.12	-2.75	4.27	3.18	2.41
89	1.3	6.96	2.17	31.18	-6.36	-3.18	-2.12	1.70	1.55	1.36
37	1.2	7.453	0.44	5.92	-5.54	-2.77	-1.85	4.48	2.60	1.80
63	1.2	7.88	0.82	10.41	-4.84	-2.42	-1.61	2.87	2.00	1.47
101	1.0	8	1.00	12.50	-4.64	-2.32	-1.55	2.40	1.79	1.35
56	1.3	9.2	0.50	5.43	-2.65	-1.32	-0.88	2.04	1.22	0.85
69	1.1	9.6	0.60	6.25	-1.99	-0.99	-0.66	1.41	0.89	0.63
98	2.0	10	0.20	2.00	-1.32	-0.66	-0.44	1.26	0.65	0.44
58	1.0	10.3	1.20	11.65	-0.83	-0.41	-0.28	0.37	0.29	0.23
93	2.0	11.3	1.49	13.19	0.83	0.41	0.28	0.31	0.26	0.21
82	1.2	11.33	0.51	4.50	0.88	0.44	0.29	0.67	0.40	0.28
90	1.3	12	2.00	16.67	1.99	0.99	0.66	0.57	0.51	0.44
73	1.0	12.114	1.04	8.58	2.18	1.09	0.73	1.09	0.82	0.63
75	1.0	12.22	2.96	24.23	2.35	1.18	0.78	0.47	0.44	0.41
34	1.2	13	1.00	7.69	3.64	1.82	1.21	1.88	1.40	1.06
102	1.3	13.8	3.30	23.91	4.97	2.48	1.66	0.89	0.85	0.80
65	1.2	19.8*	1.90	9.60	14.91	7.45	4.97	4.51	4.00	3.43
64	1.1	28*	3.00	10.71	28.49	14.24	9.50	5.62	5.32	4.91
Yb [mg/kg]										
101	5.0	1.28	0.08	6.25	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	5.0	1.37	0.04	2.92	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zn (47.8 ± 5.31) [mg/kg]										
35	1.0	5.1*	0.46	9.02	-19.99	-9.99	-6.66	19.54	9.94	6.65
63	1.2	38.47	2.41	6.26	-4.37	-2.18	-1.46	2.90	1.90	1.36
82	1.2	45.45	2.64	5.81	-1.10	-0.55	-0.37	0.69	0.47	0.34
97	1.3	45.757	3.50	7.65	-0.96	-0.48	-0.32	0.50	0.37	0.28
72	1.0	46.534	2.57	5.53	-0.59	-0.30	-0.20	0.38	0.25	0.18
101	5.0	47	6.00	12.77	-0.37	-0.19	-0.12	0.13	0.11	0.09
74	2.0	49	0.96	1.96	0.56	0.28	0.19	0.51	0.27	0.19
78	1.1	51	1.00	1.96	1.50	0.75	0.50	1.36	0.73	0.49
69	1.1	52.5	3.80	7.24	2.20	1.10	0.73	1.08	0.82	0.63
75	1.0	52.56	5.60	10.65	2.23	1.11	0.74	0.79	0.68	0.56
98	2.0	53.5	0.90	1.68	2.67	1.33	0.89	2.46	1.31	0.88
90	1.3	57	6.00	10.53	4.31	2.15	1.44	1.44	1.25	1.05
37	1.2	57.522	0.64	1.11	4.55	2.28	1.52	4.36	2.25	1.51
73	1.0	59.504	1.90	3.20	5.48	2.74	1.83	4.09	2.50	1.75
56	1.3	61.2	3.00	4.90	6.27	3.14	2.09	3.64	2.57	1.89
93	2.0	64.9	8.39	12.93	8.00	4.00	2.67	1.98	1.82	1.62
64	1.1	65	7.00	10.77	8.05	4.03	2.68	2.35	2.10	1.81
57	1.2	65.48	5.70	8.71	8.28	4.14	2.76	2.90	2.48	2.06
92	1.4	65.7	6.76	10.29	8.38	4.19	2.79	2.52	2.24	1.92
94	2.0	70	5.00	7.14	10.39	5.20	3.46	4.08	3.38	2.73
59	1.2	71	3.00	4.23	10.86	5.43	3.62	6.30	4.44	3.28

TABLE 3 (cont.)

Laboratory code	Technique code	Analyte concentration	Standard dev.	Relative std. dev., [%]	<i>z</i> -scores			<i>u</i> -scores		
					<i>k</i> = 0.5	<i>k</i> = 1.0	<i>k</i> = 1.5	<i>k</i> = 0.5	<i>k</i> = 1.0	<i>k</i> = 1.5
Zr (387 ± 65.8) [mg/kg]										
95	1.4	74	9.00	12.16	12.26	6.13	4.09	2.83	2.63	2.37
89	1.3	75.14	4.69	6.24	12.80	6.40	4.27	5.30	4.31	3.44
34	1.2	76	10.00	13.16	13.20	6.60	4.40	2.76	2.59	2.37
86	1.3	78.6	4.10	5.22	14.42	7.21	4.81	6.66	5.20	4.05
102	1.3	79	5.00	6.33	14.60	7.30	4.87	5.74	4.74	3.84
58	1.0	84.5	8.60	10.18	17.18	8.59	5.73	4.14	3.82	3.42
65	1.2	96.7	8.50	8.79	22.89	11.44	7.63	5.58	5.14	4.59
77	1.2	130*	5.49	4.22	38.48	19.24	12.83	13.95	11.82	9.74
Zr (387 ± 65.8) [mg/kg]										
95	1.4	116*	7.00	6.03	-21.46	-10.73	-7.15	18.77	10.34	7.04
58	1.0	269	16.00	5.95	-9.35	-4.67	-3.12	5.79	3.95	2.87
73	1.0	274.111	1.58	0.58	-8.94	-4.47	-2.98	8.87	4.46	2.98
75	1.0	306.848	6.91	2.25	-6.35	-3.17	-2.12	5.57	3.06	2.08
77	1.2	310	22.36	7.21	-6.10	-3.05	-2.03	3.00	2.28	1.75
90	1.3	321	20.00	6.23	-5.23	-2.61	-1.74	2.79	2.05	1.54
63	1.2	323.9	9.20	2.84	-5.00	-2.50	-1.67	4.04	2.35	1.62
59	1.2	358	6.00	1.68	-2.30	-1.15	-0.77	2.07	1.12	0.76
93	2.0	374	49.70	13.29	-1.03	-0.51	-0.34	0.25	0.23	0.21
69	1.1	378	21.00	5.56	-0.71	-0.36	-0.24	0.37	0.27	0.21
98	2.0	380	9.00	2.37	-0.55	-0.28	-0.18	0.45	0.26	0.18
82	1.2	384.85	11.08	2.88	-0.17	-0.09	-0.06	0.13	0.08	0.05
56	1.3	395.3	20.00	5.06	0.66	0.33	0.22	0.35	0.26	0.19
34	1.2	406	110.00	27.09	1.50	0.75	0.50	0.17	0.17	0.16
74	2.0	418	1.18	0.28	2.46	1.23	0.82	2.44	1.23	0.82
71	1.1	482.47	55.58	11.52	7.56	3.78	2.52	1.68	1.56	1.42
64	1.1	484	12.00	2.48	7.68	3.84	2.56	5.57	3.47	2.44
102	1.3	494	60.00	12.15	8.47	4.24	2.82	1.75	1.64	1.51
94	2.0	495	10.00	2.02	8.55	4.28	2.85	6.71	3.98	2.76
101	5.0	499	30.00	6.01	8.87	4.44	2.96	3.44	2.86	2.32
65	1.2	568.6	10.70	1.88	14.38	7.19	4.79	10.97	6.62	4.61

TABLE 4. THE COMBINED z -SCORES FOR THE PARTICIPATING LABORATORIES. THE ANALYTES WITHOUT ASSIGNED VALUES (Ag, As, B, Cl, Co, Cs, Dy, Eu, Gd, Ge, Hf, I, La, Lu, Nd, Se, Sm, Sn, Ta, Tb, Th, W AND Yb) WERE NOT CONSIDERED

Lab Code	Number of analytes	Rescaled sum of scores (RSZ)			Sum of squared scores (SSZ)			Critical value
		$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$	$k = 0.5$	$k = 1.0$	$k = 1.5$	
34	19	193	96.43	64.29	309492	77373	34388	32.85
35	11	-92.05	-46.03	-30.68	9731	2433	1081	21.92
37	21	42.01	21.01	14.00	15222	3806	1691	35.48
40	18	11.51	5.76	3.84	247	61.66	27.41	31.53
53	7	-28.14	-14.07	-9.38	1362	340	151	16.01
56	17	49.91	24.95	16.64	6845	1711	761	30.19
57	11	47.39	23.69	15.80	3679	920	409	21.92
58	21	106.32	53.16	35.44	25384	6346	2820	35.48
59	12	93.71	46.86	31.24	23517	5879	2613	23.34
61	8	-.13	-.06	-.04	25.77	6.44	2.86	17.53
63	24	-12.72	-6.36	-4.24	742	185	82.42	39.36
64	20	165	82.69	55.13	168352	42088	18706	34.17
65	9	46.58	23.29	15.53	2612	653	290	19.02
69	22	82.21	41.11	27.40	31593	7898	3510	36.78
71	6	21.15	10.57	7.05	1002	251	111.35	14.45
72	19	7.42	3.71	2.47	1744	436	194	32.85
73	14	20.74	10.37	6.91	11411	2853	1268	26.12
74	23	-3.29	-1.65	-1.10	335	83.74	37.22	38.08
75	25	53.75	26.88	17.92	10630	2657	1181	40.65
77	16	67.63	33.81	22.54	29317	7329	3257	28.85
78	8	2.25	1.13	.75	454	113.55	50.47	17.53
79	5	3.65	1.82	1.22	86.09	21.52	9.57	12.83
82	15	-3.26	-1.63	-1.09	788	197	87.60	27.49
85	16	-9.74	-4.87	-3.25	5641	1410	627	28.85
86	11	44.44	22.22	14.81	11387	2847	1265	21.92
89	18	55.97	27.98	18.66	18985	4746	2109	31.53
90	14	30.62	15.31	10.21	4492	1123	499	26.12
92	18	-13.27	-6.64	-4.42	4045	1011	449	31.53
93	25	124.87	62.43	41.62	47449	11862	5272	40.65
94	14	74.82	37.41	24.94	10416	2604	1157	26.12
95	12	59.97	29.98	19.99	16448	4112	1828	23.34
97	7	-5.98	-2.99	-1.99	66.75	16.69	7.42	16.01
98	20	5.00	2.50	1.67	233	58.14	25.84	34.17
101	25	-5.32	-2.66	-1.77	583	145.77	64.79	40.65
102	18	65.80	32.90	21.93	9185	2296	1021	31.53

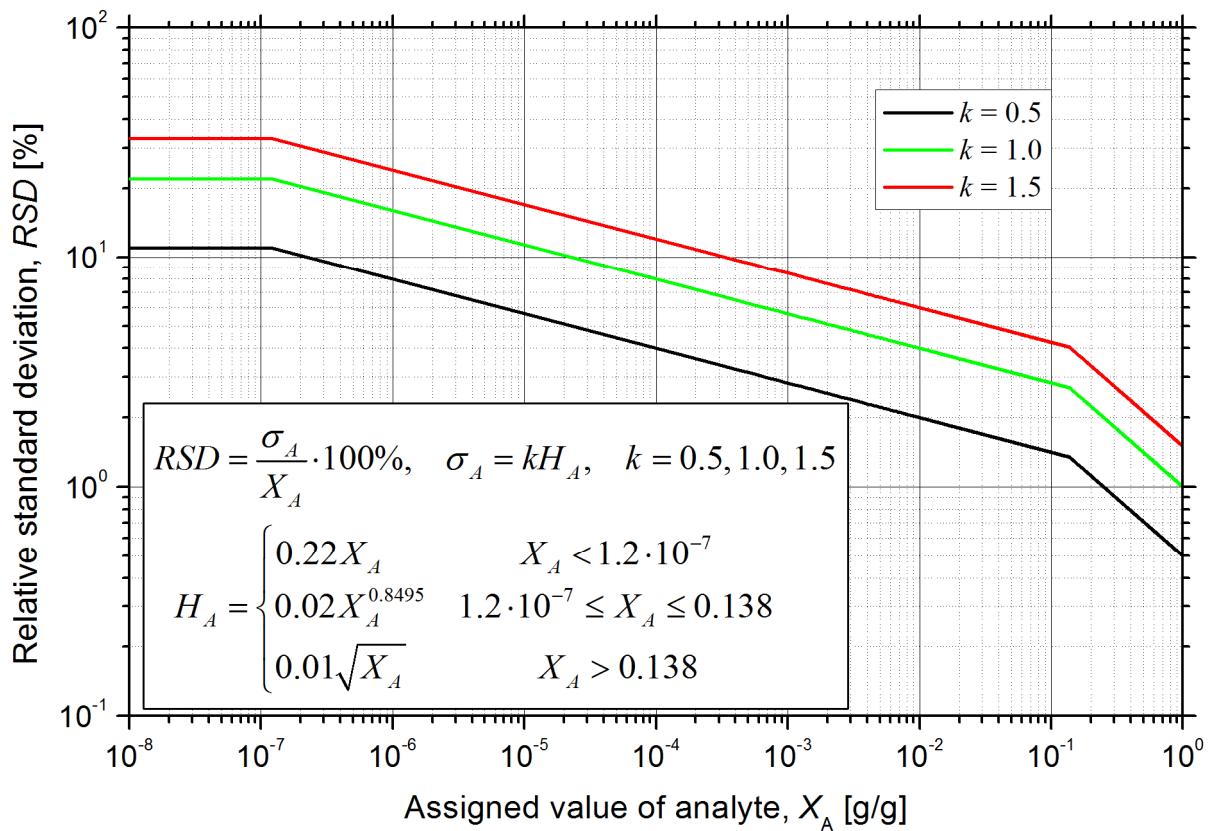


FIG. 1. Relative value of the target standard deviation, RSD , as a function of the assigned mass fraction of the analyte, X_A , calculated by using a modified Horowitz function, Eqn. (3). The target value, σ_A , is related to H_A by a factor k and it is recognized as fit-for-purpose in three levels of uncertainty: $k = 0.5$ - **solid black line**, appropriate for high precision analysis; $k = 1.0$ - **solid green line**, appropriate for well-established routine analysis; $k = 1.5$ - **solid red line**, satisfactory for common analytical tasks.

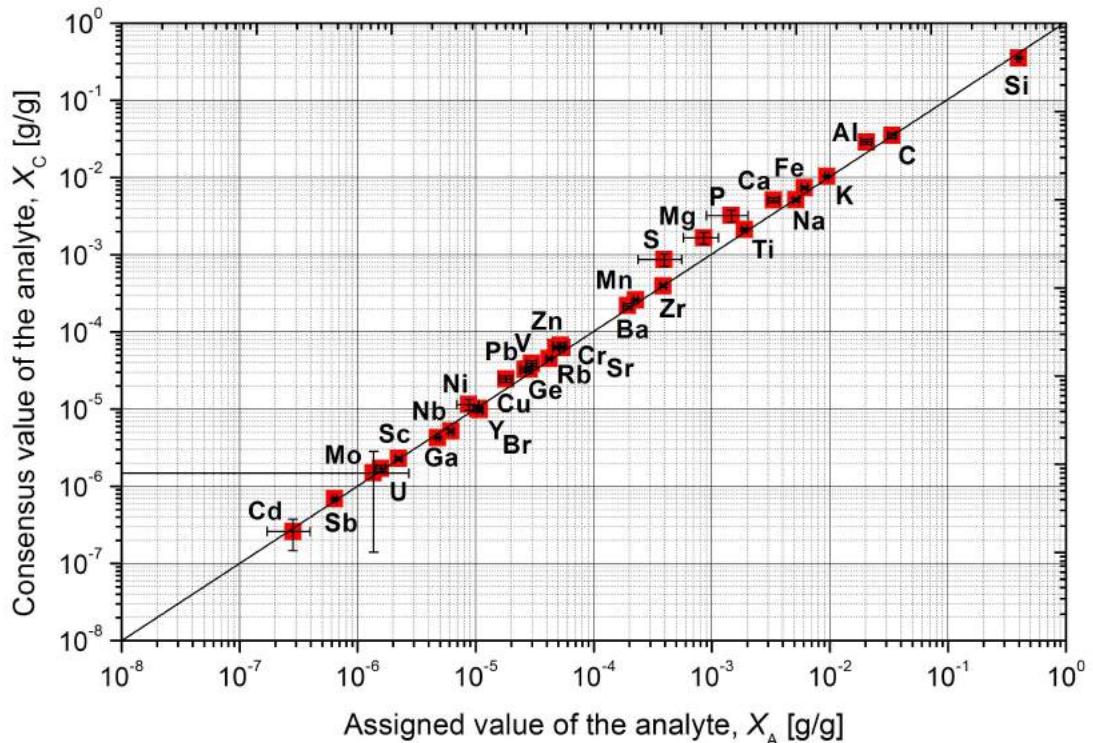


FIG. 2. Correlation between assigned, X_A , and consensus values of analytes, X_C . Solid red squares correspond to the elements the assigned values of which were known with high degree of accuracy. The uncertainties of the assigned values were calculated according to Eqn. (2) with $k = 1$. The uncertainties of the consensus values were calculated according to Eqn.(20), except for the results reported by single laboratory, in such a case the laboratory estimate of the uncertainty was shown in the plot.

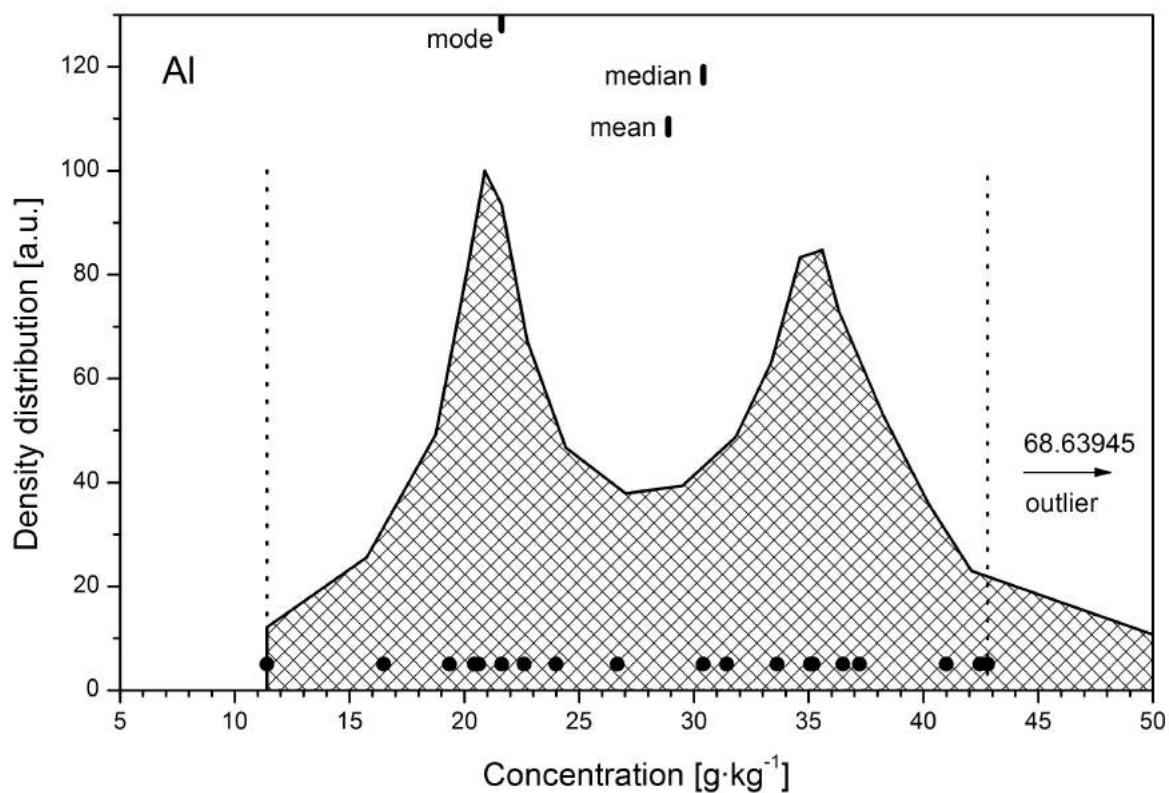
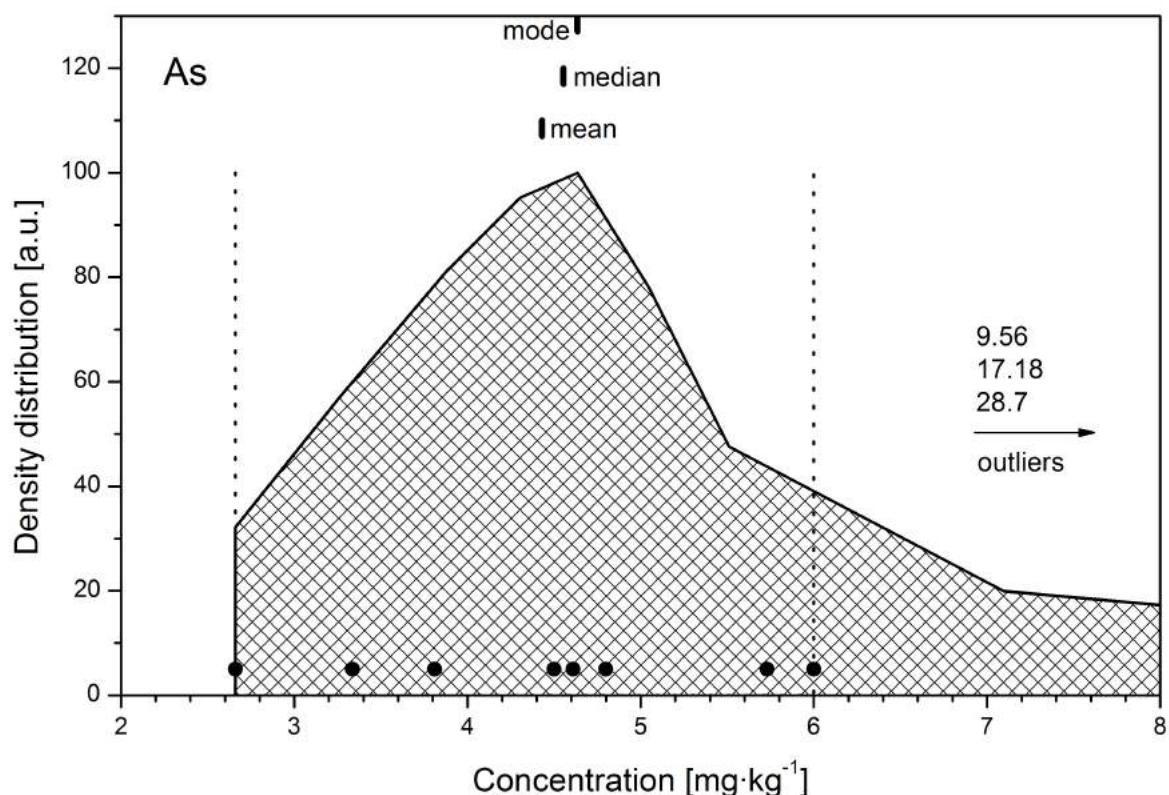
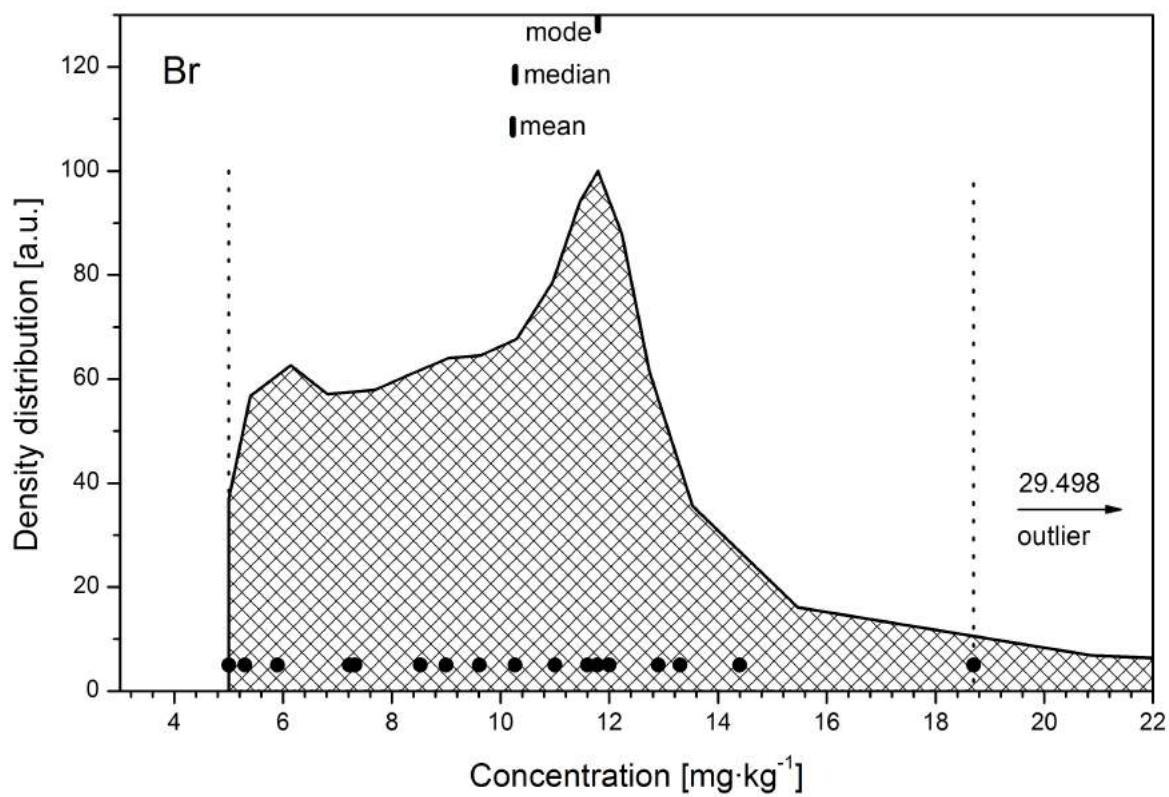
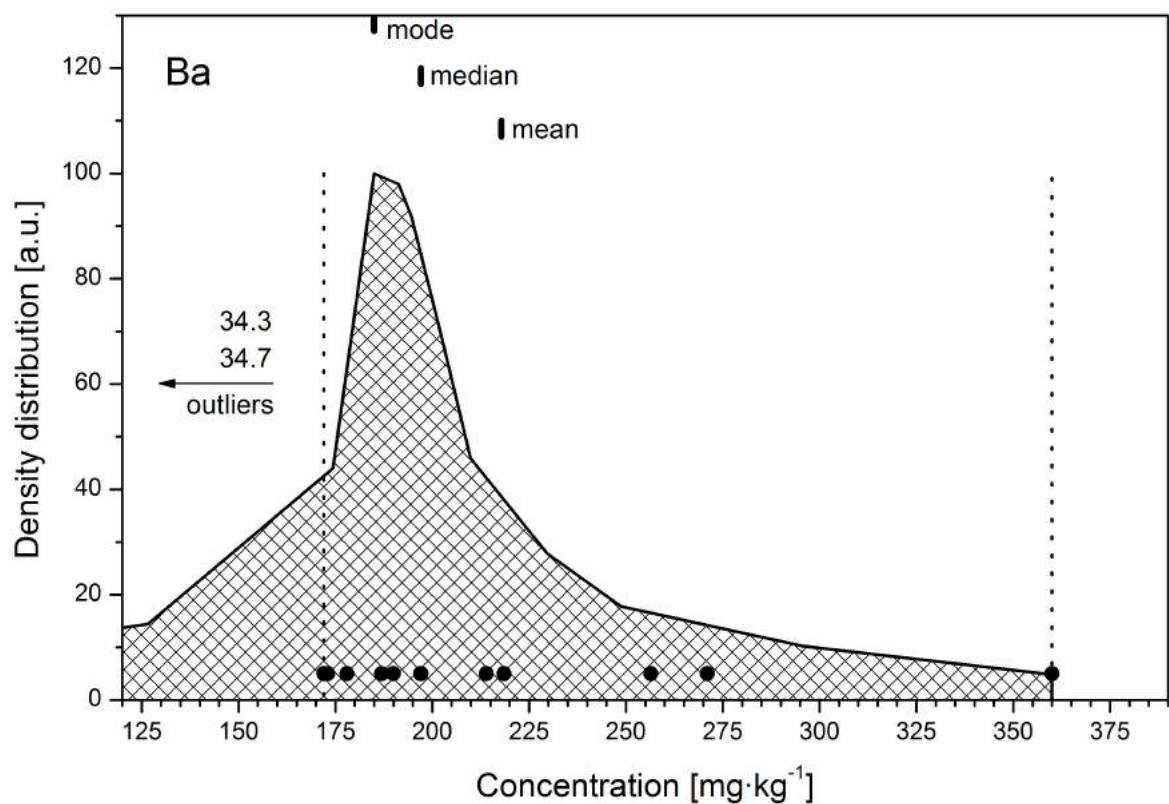
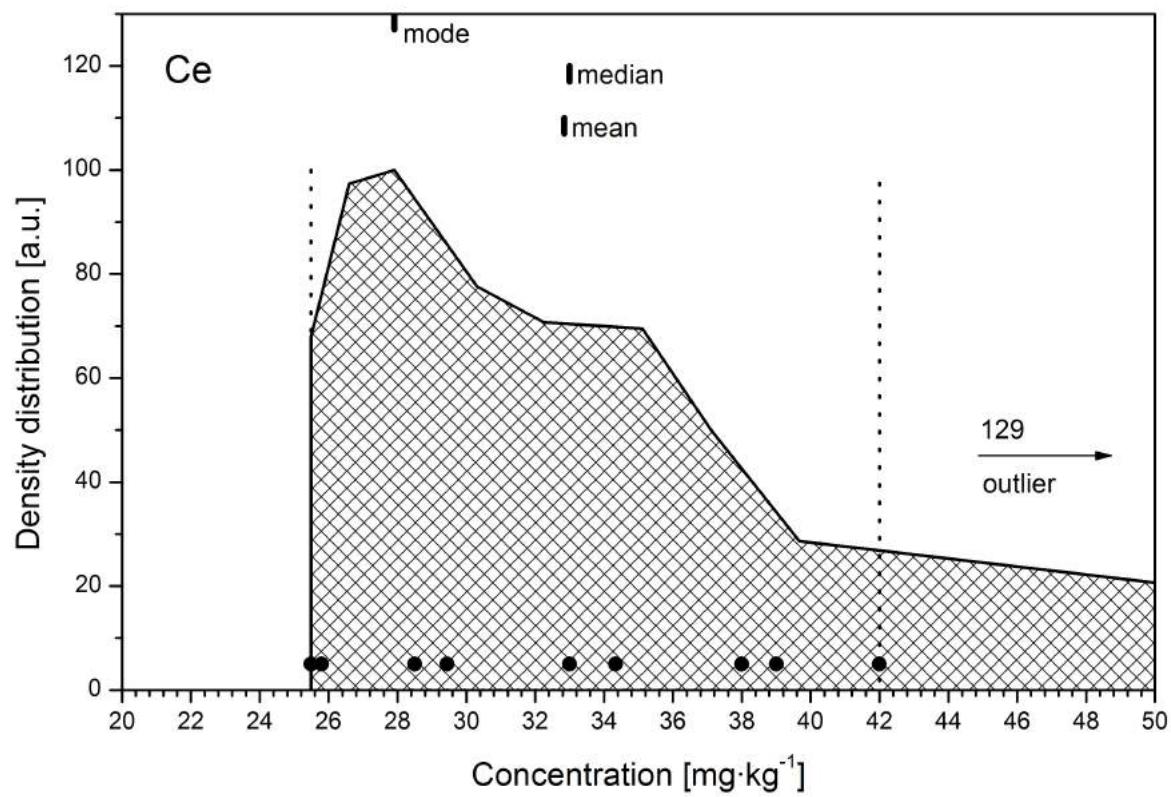
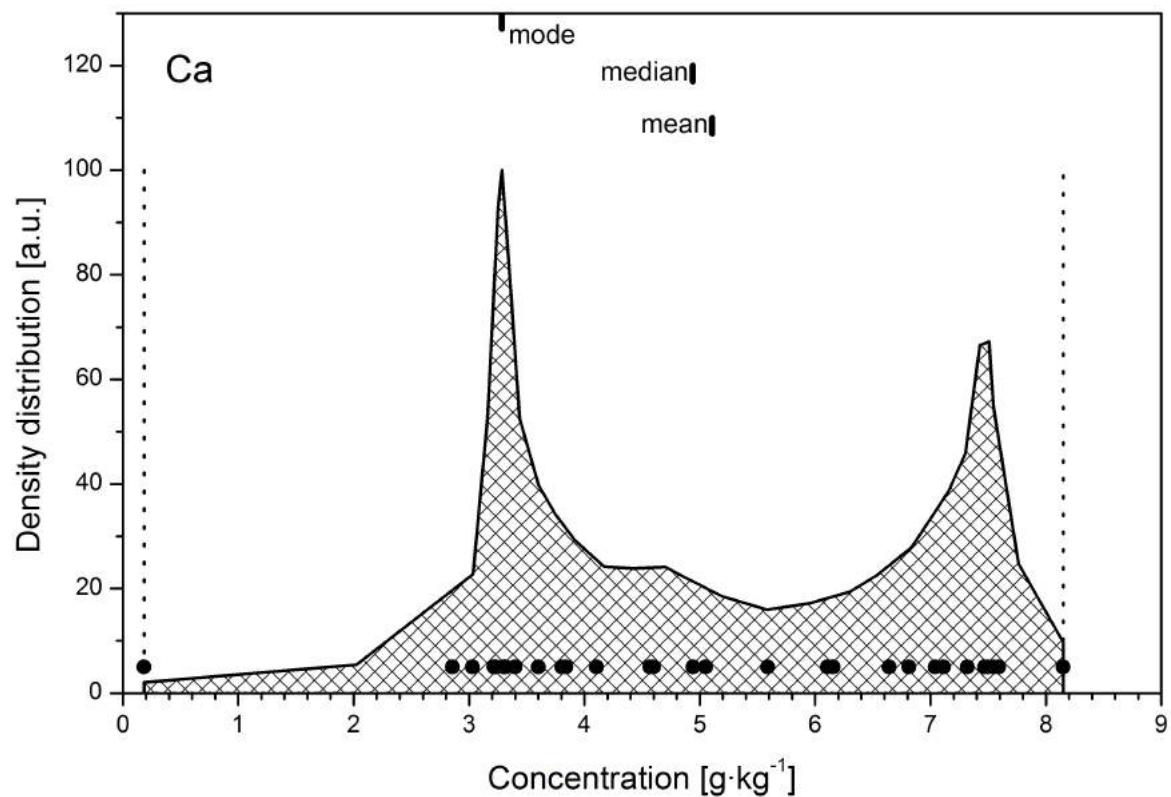
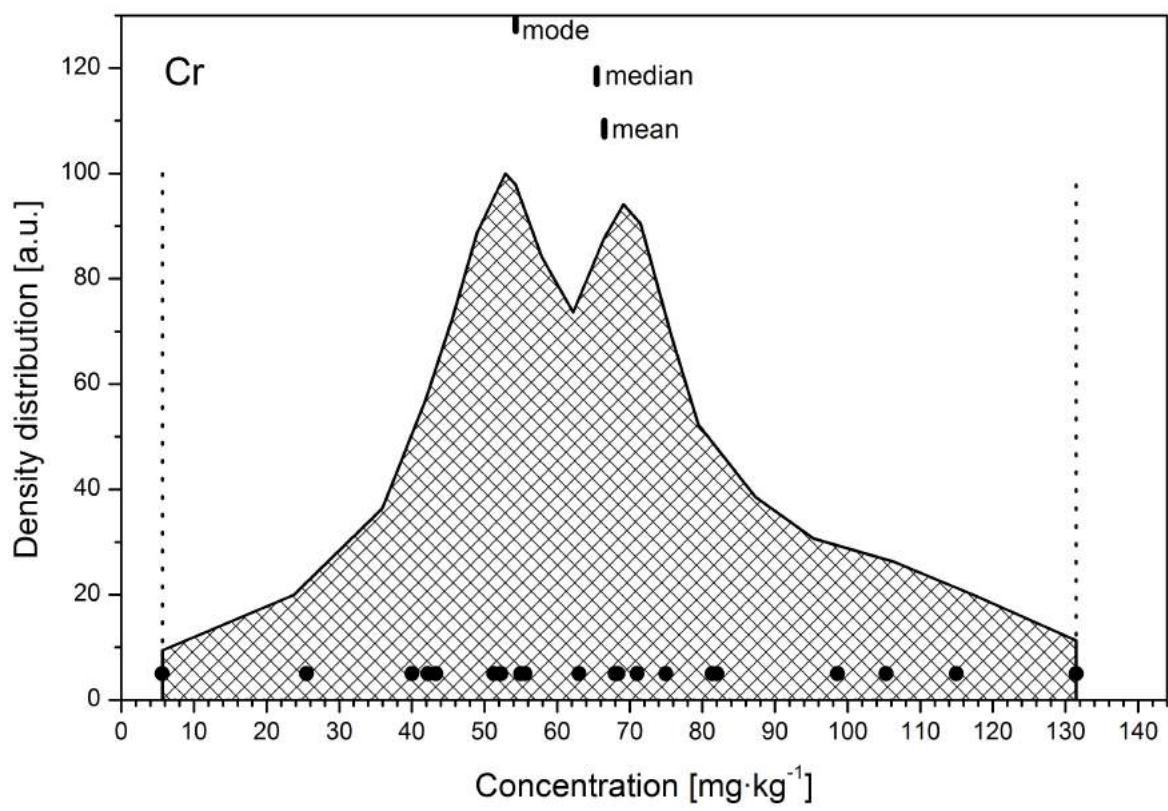
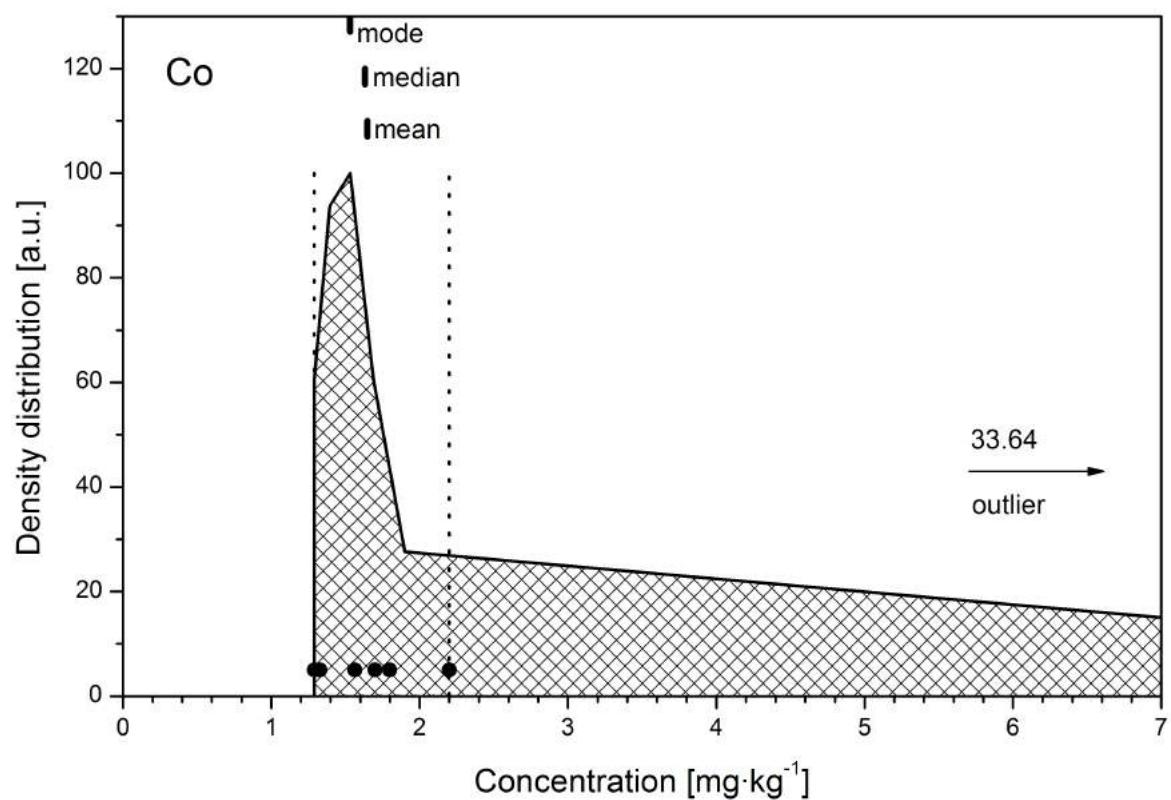


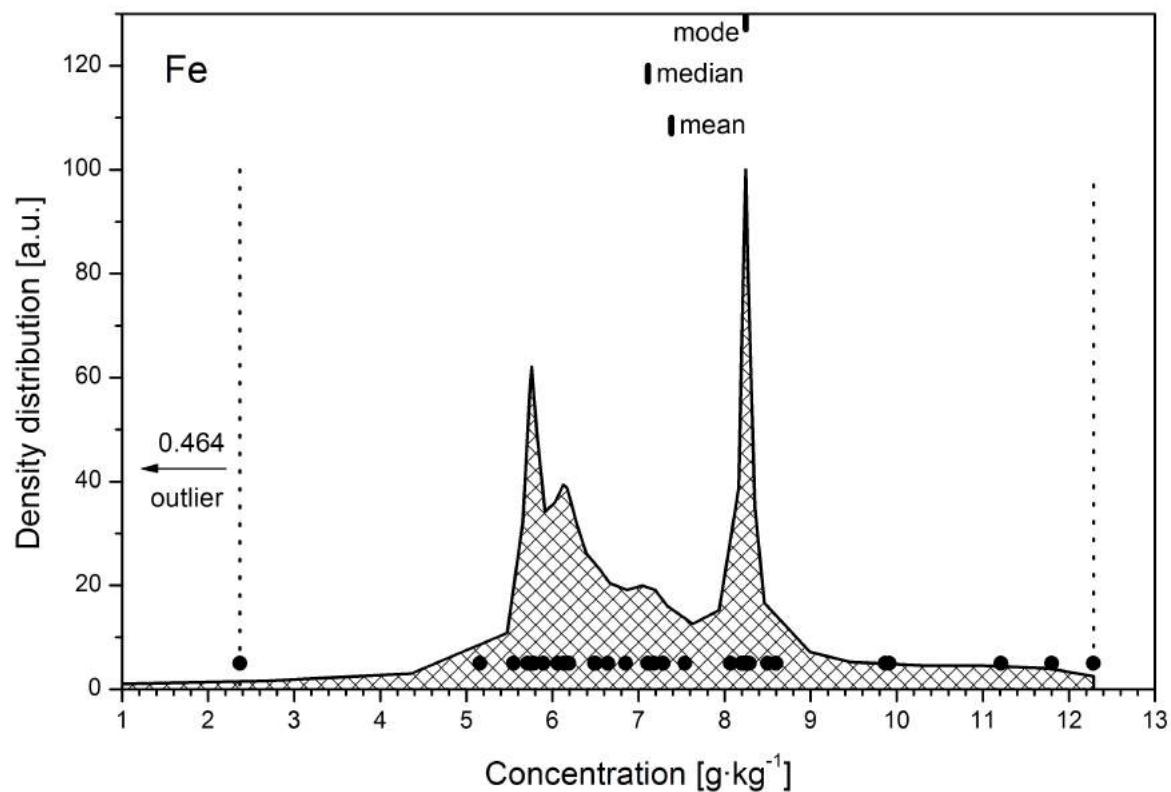
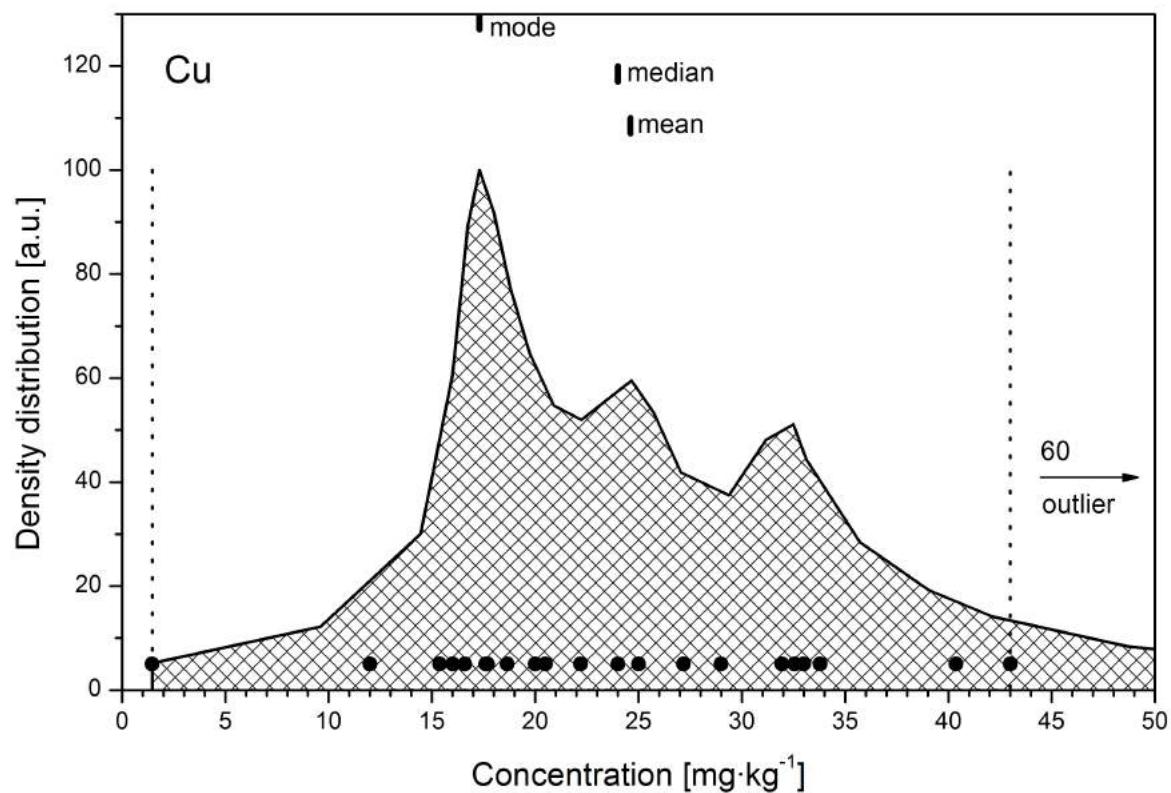
FIG. 3. The density distribution functions for the analytes for which at least 5 results passed the outlier rejection tests. The individual results are marked with filled circles. The dotted lines show the range of the accepted results – these results were used to calculate the consensus values. The outliers are marked with arrows. Also shown are the estimated parameters of the distribution (after outlier rejection): mode, median, and the mean value.

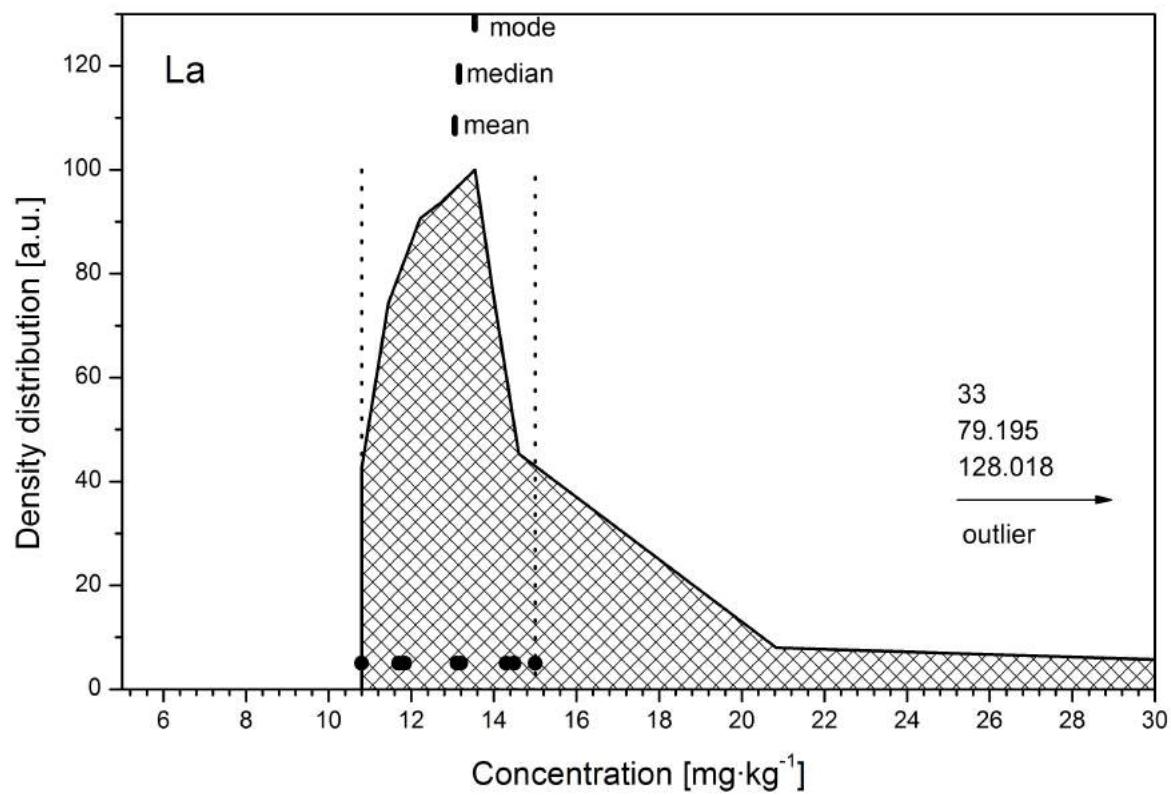
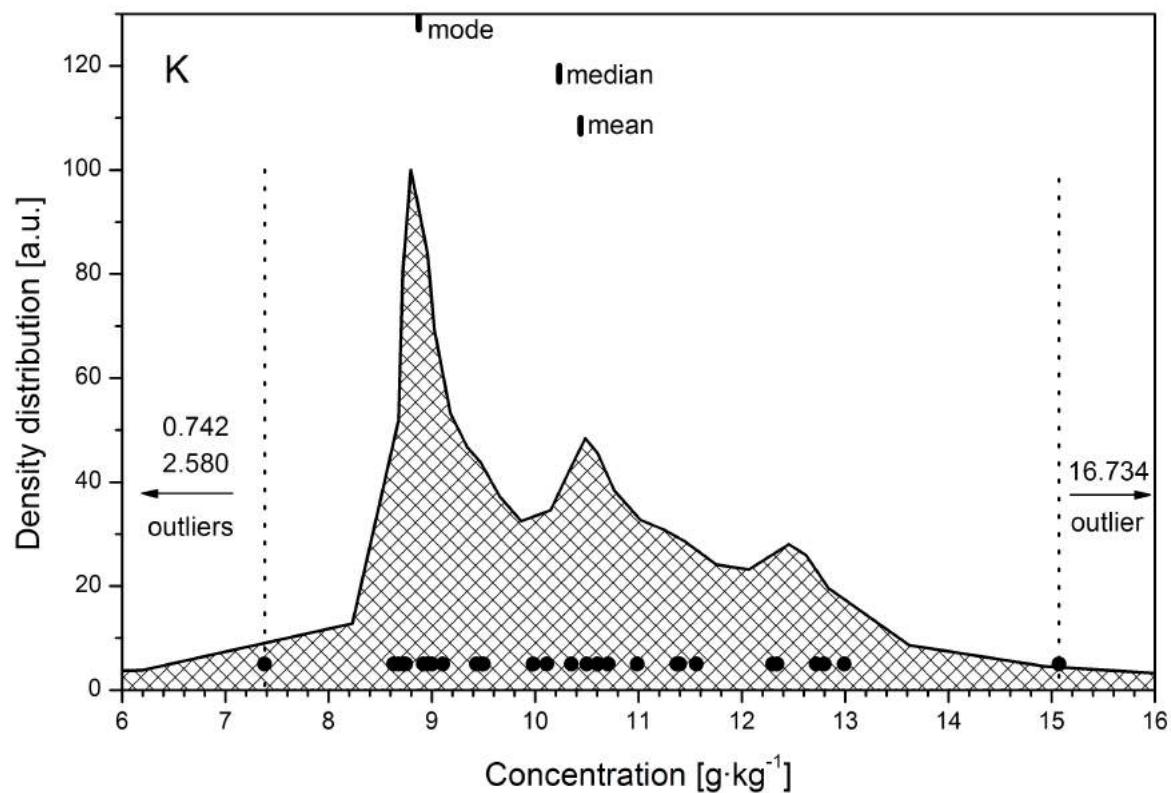


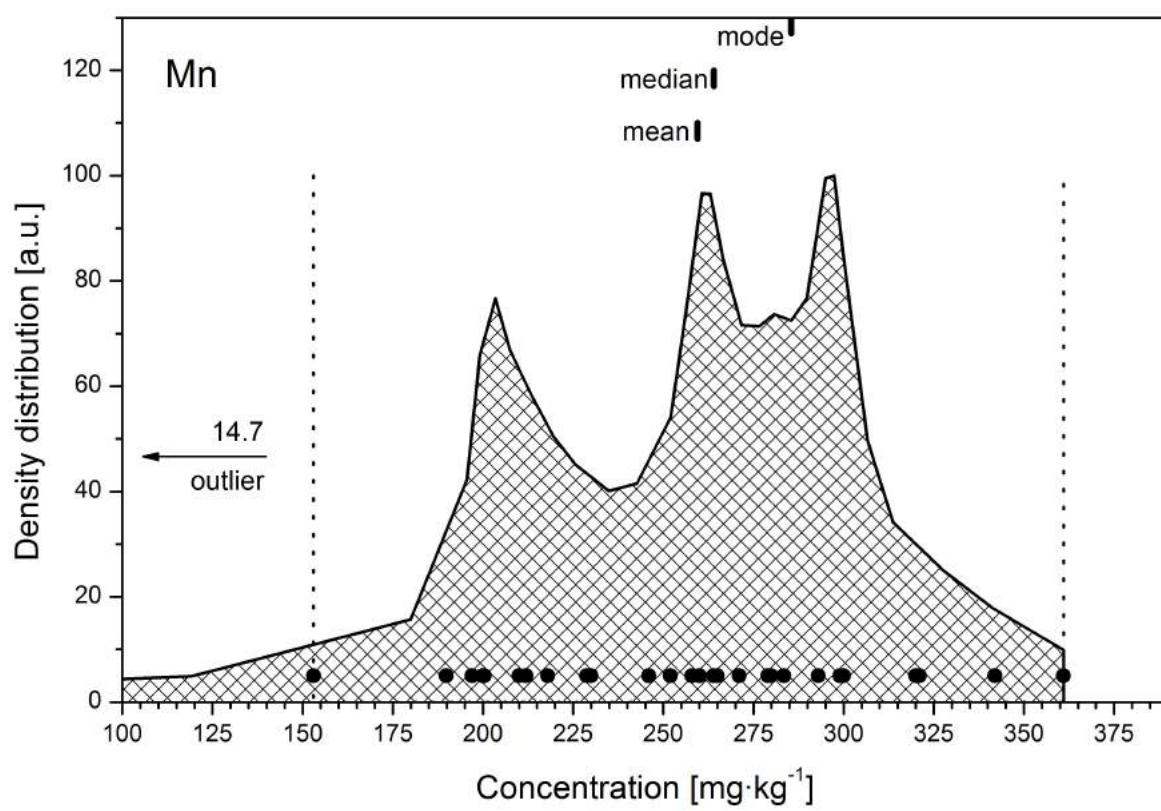
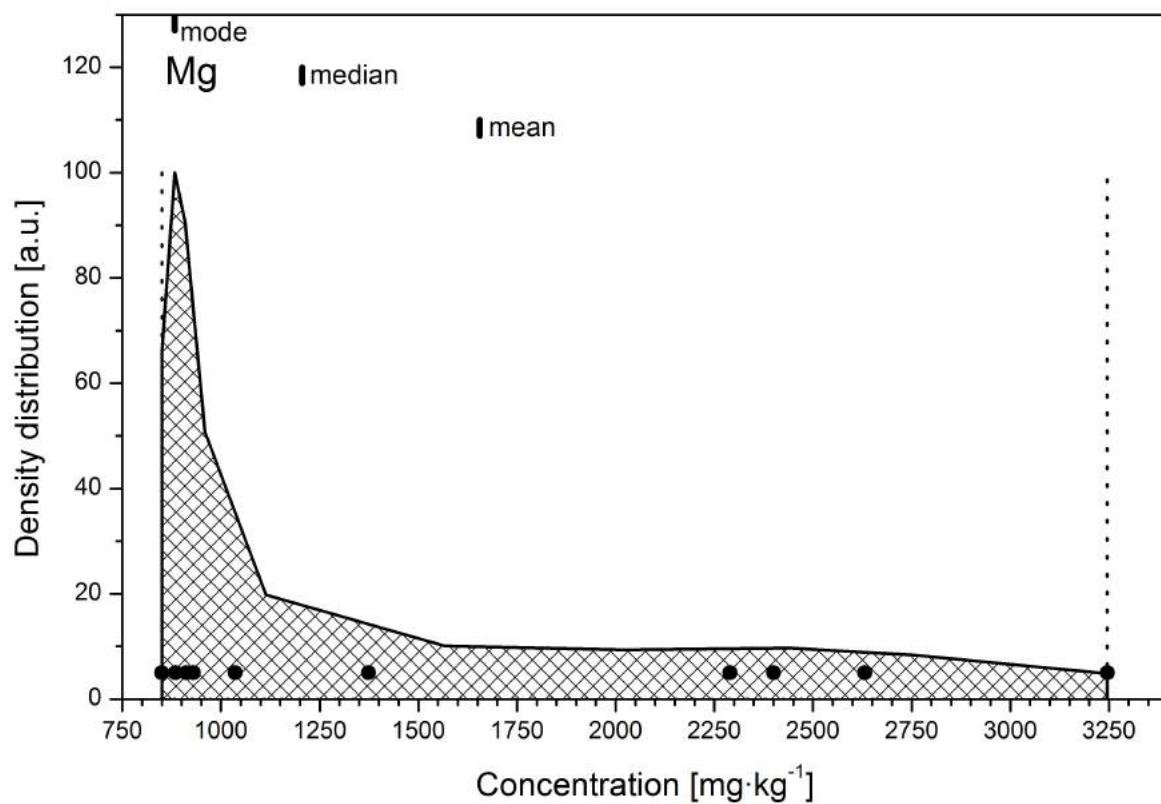


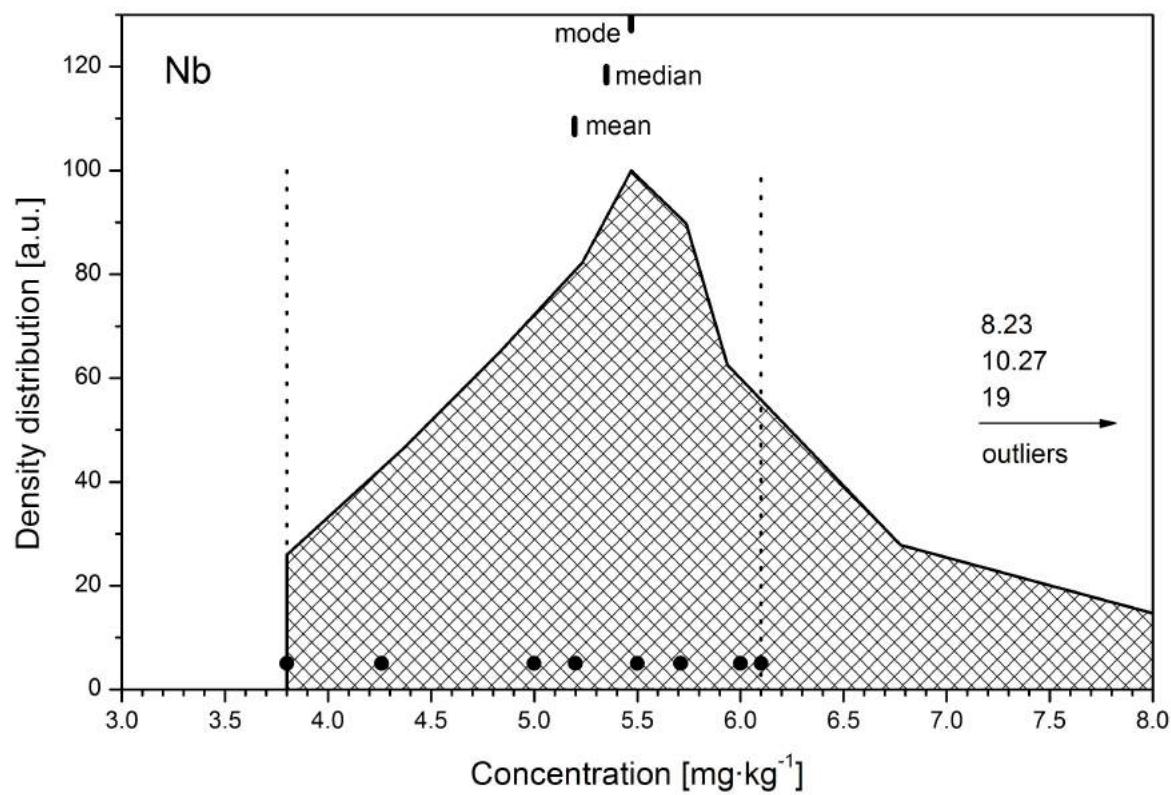
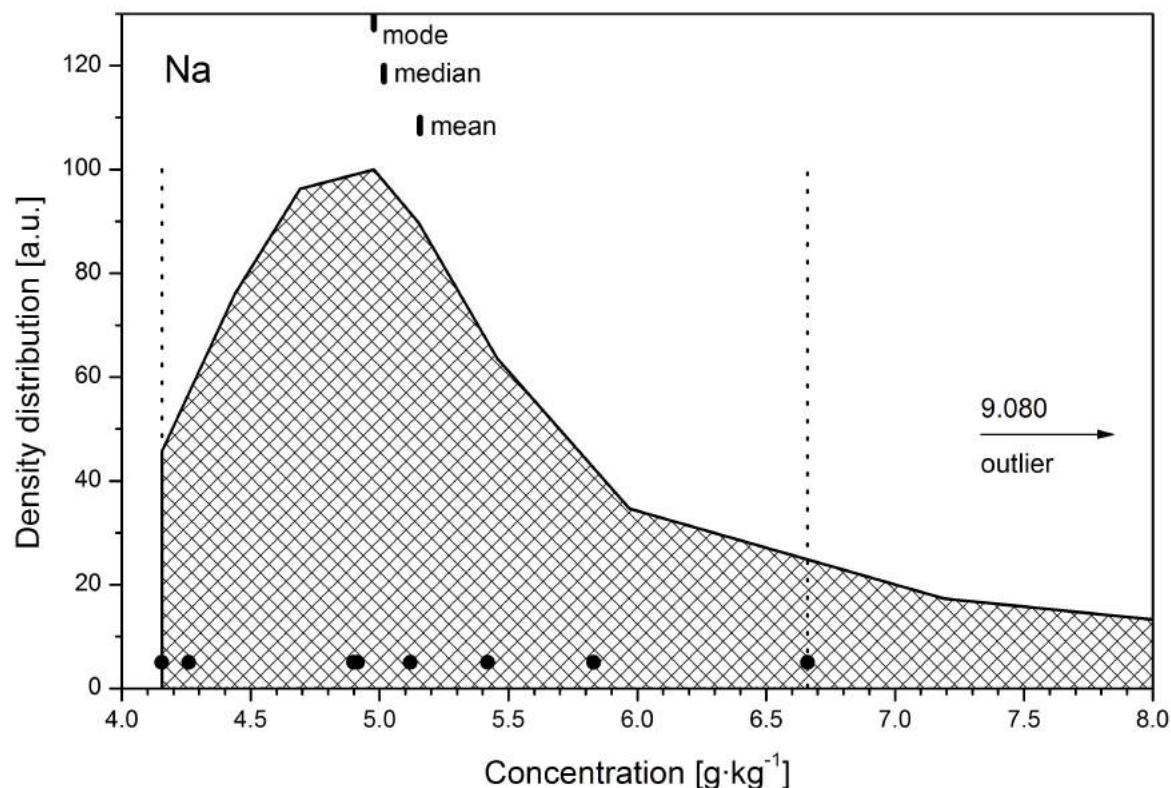


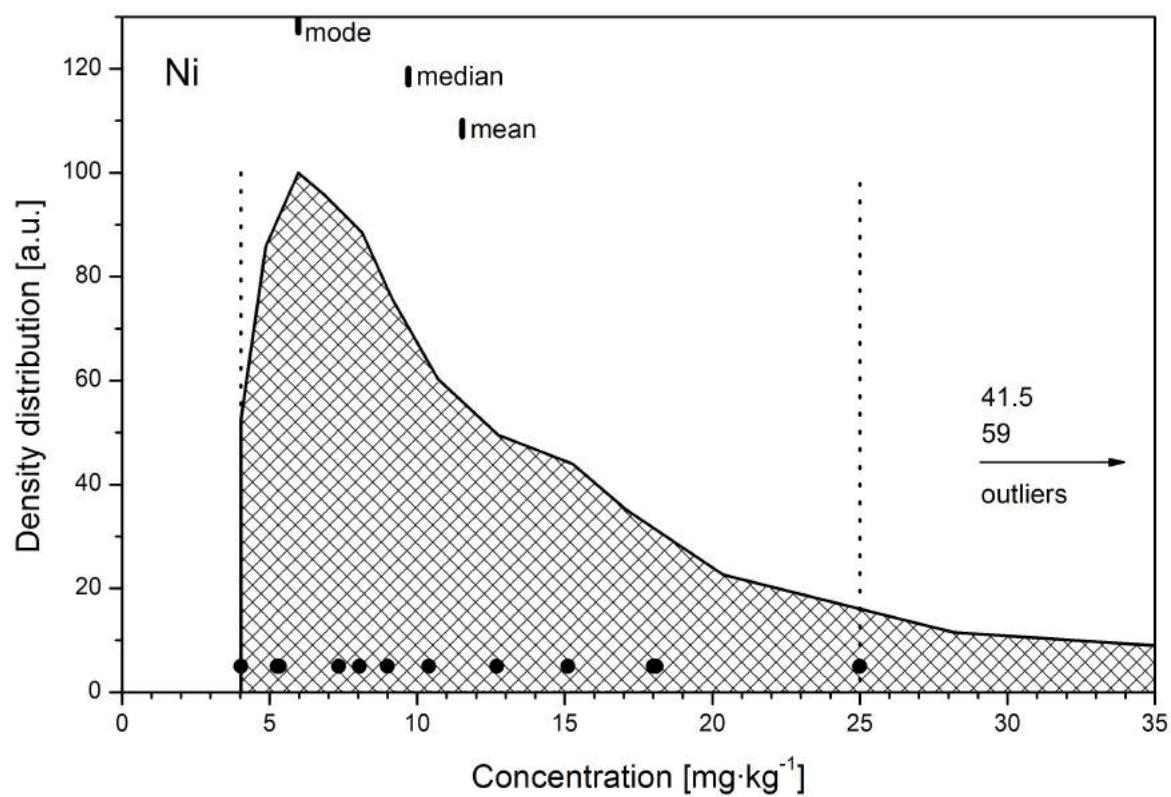
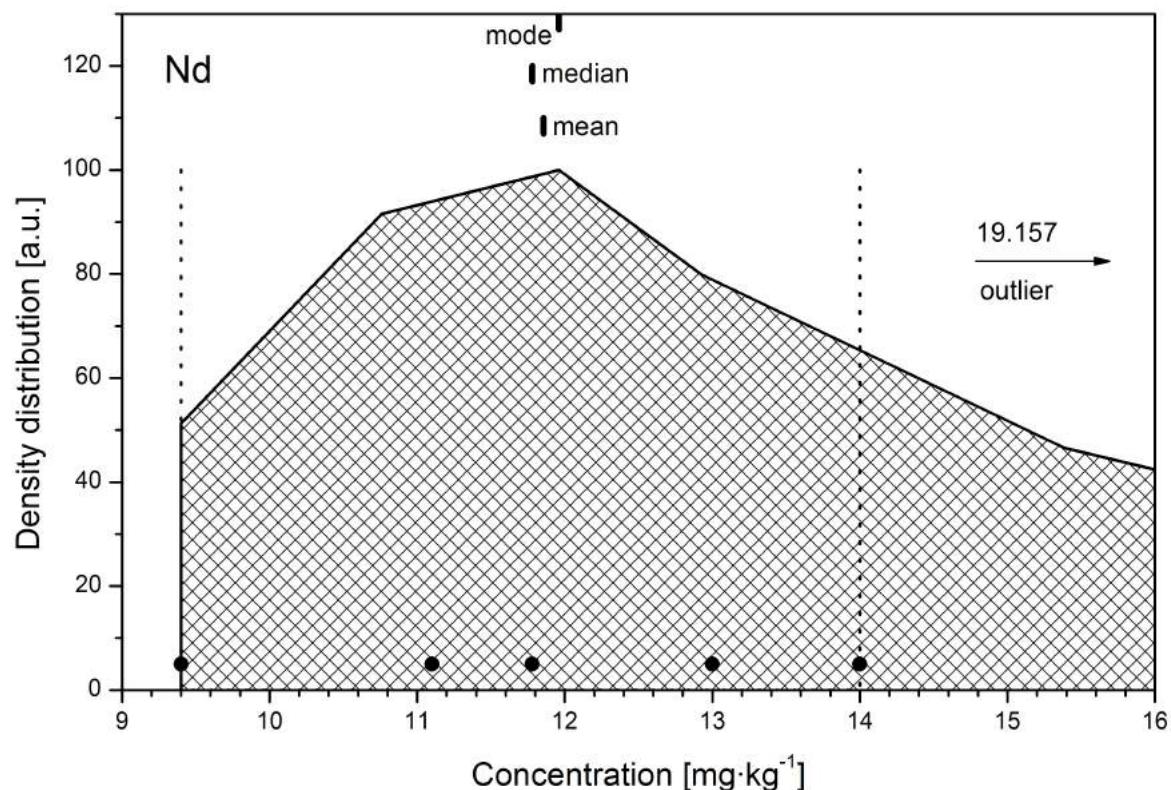


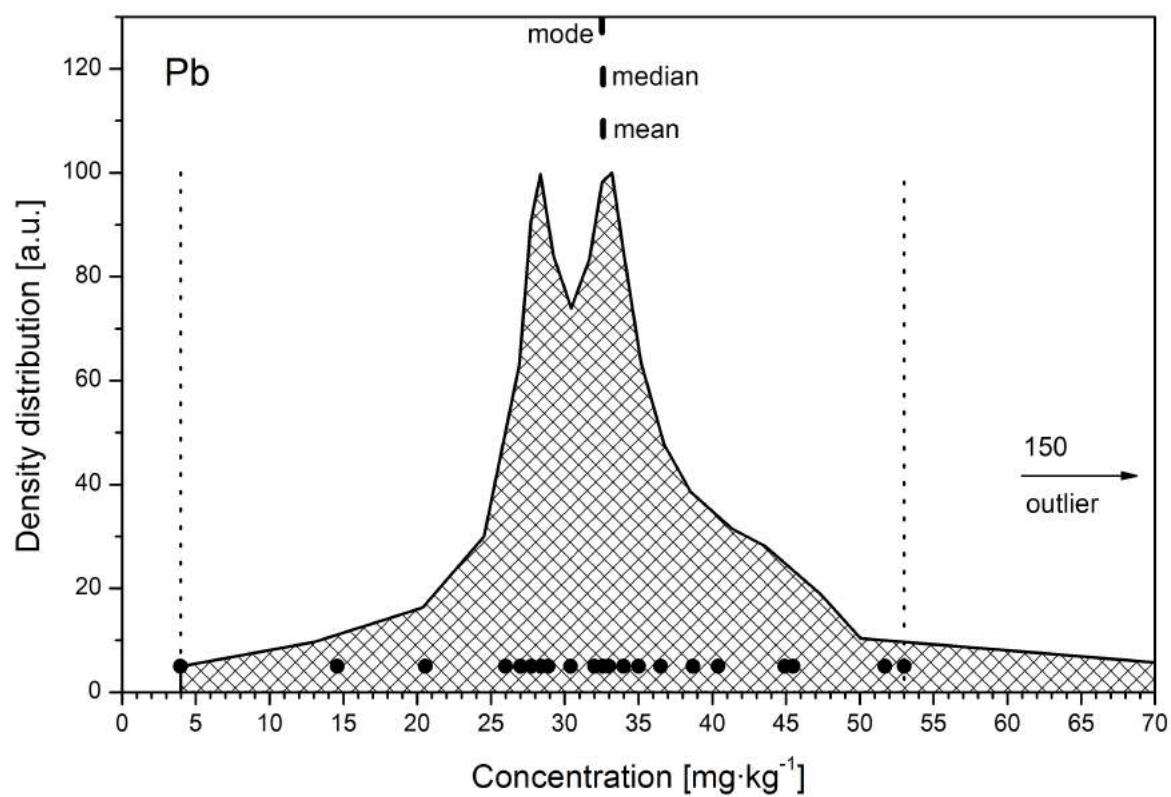
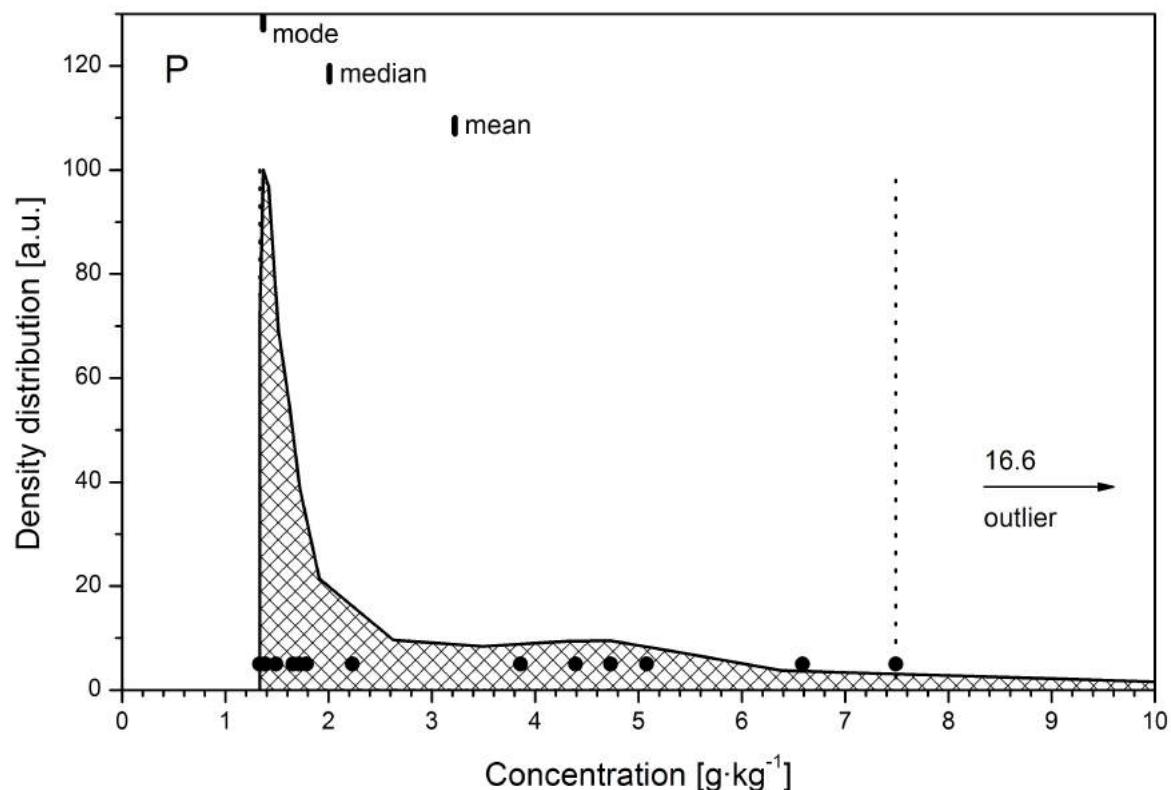


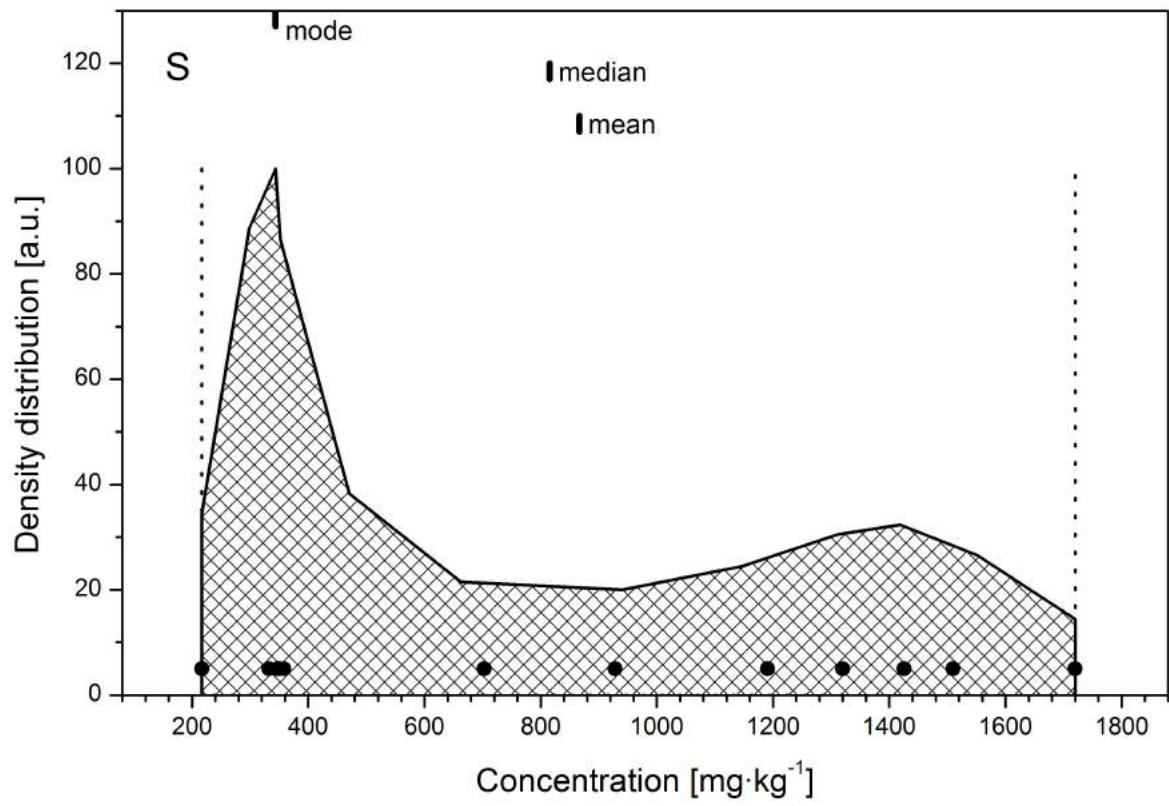
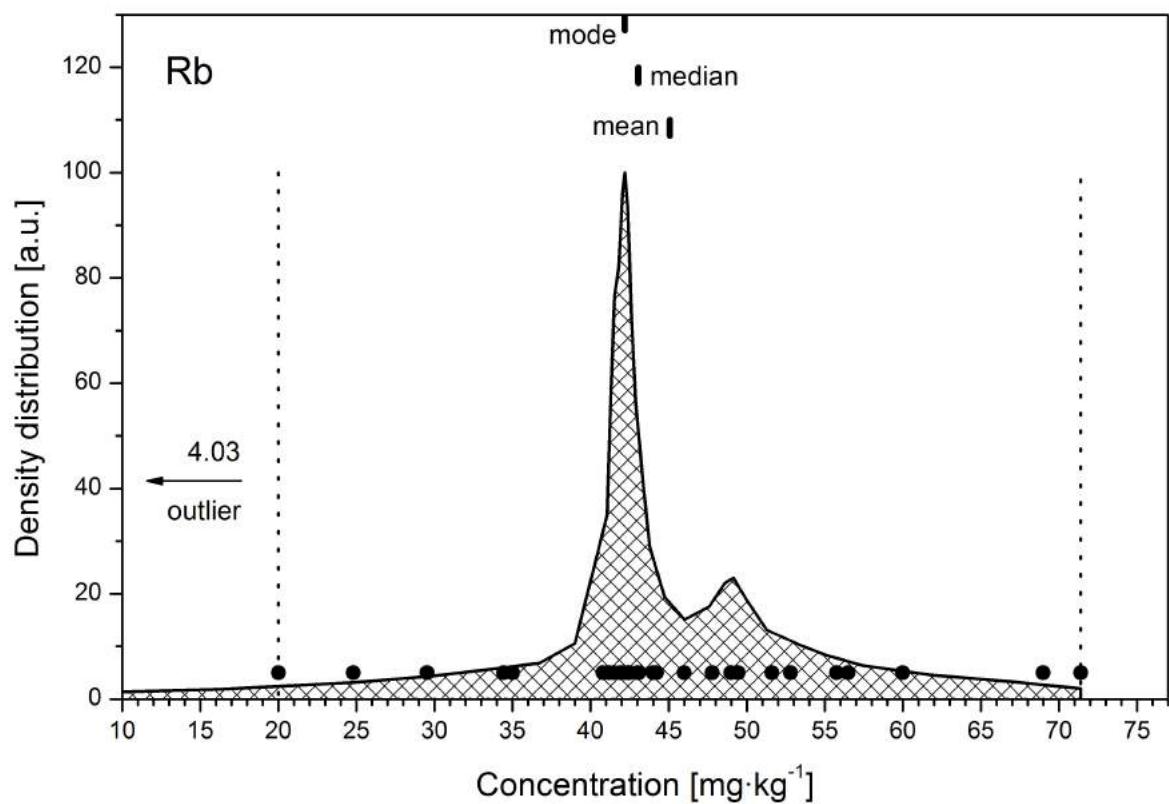


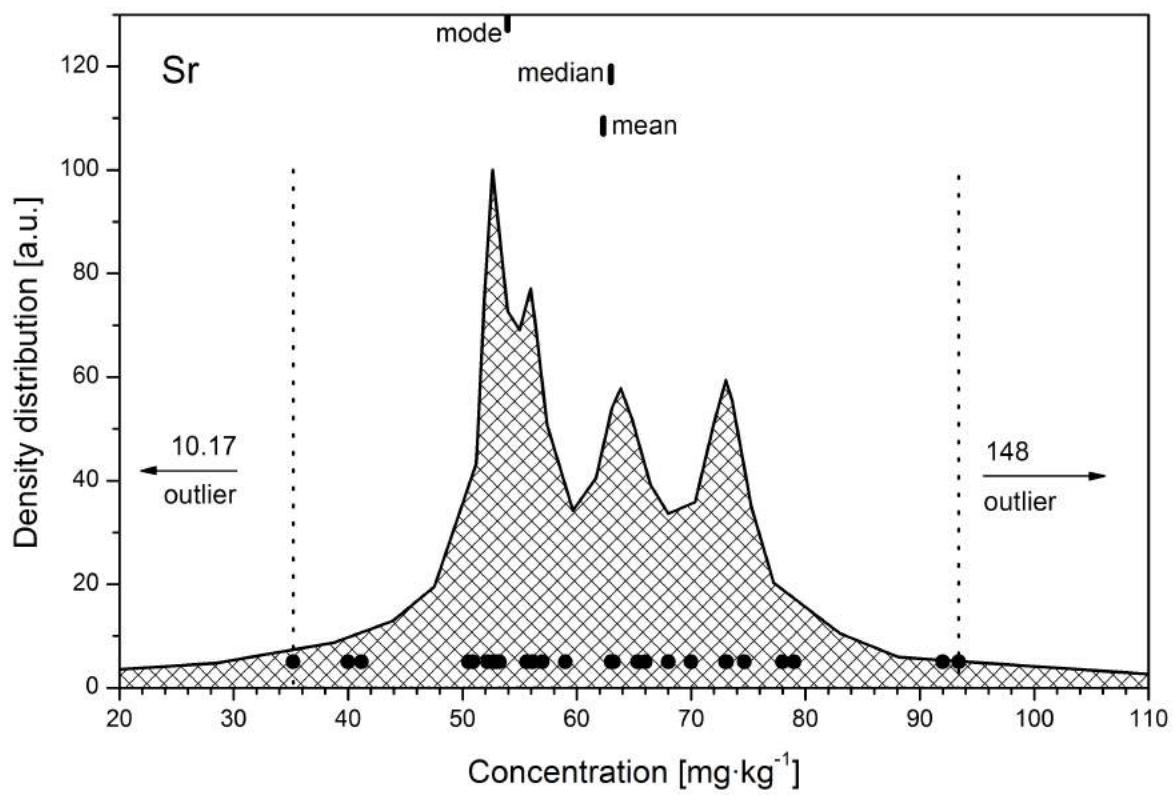
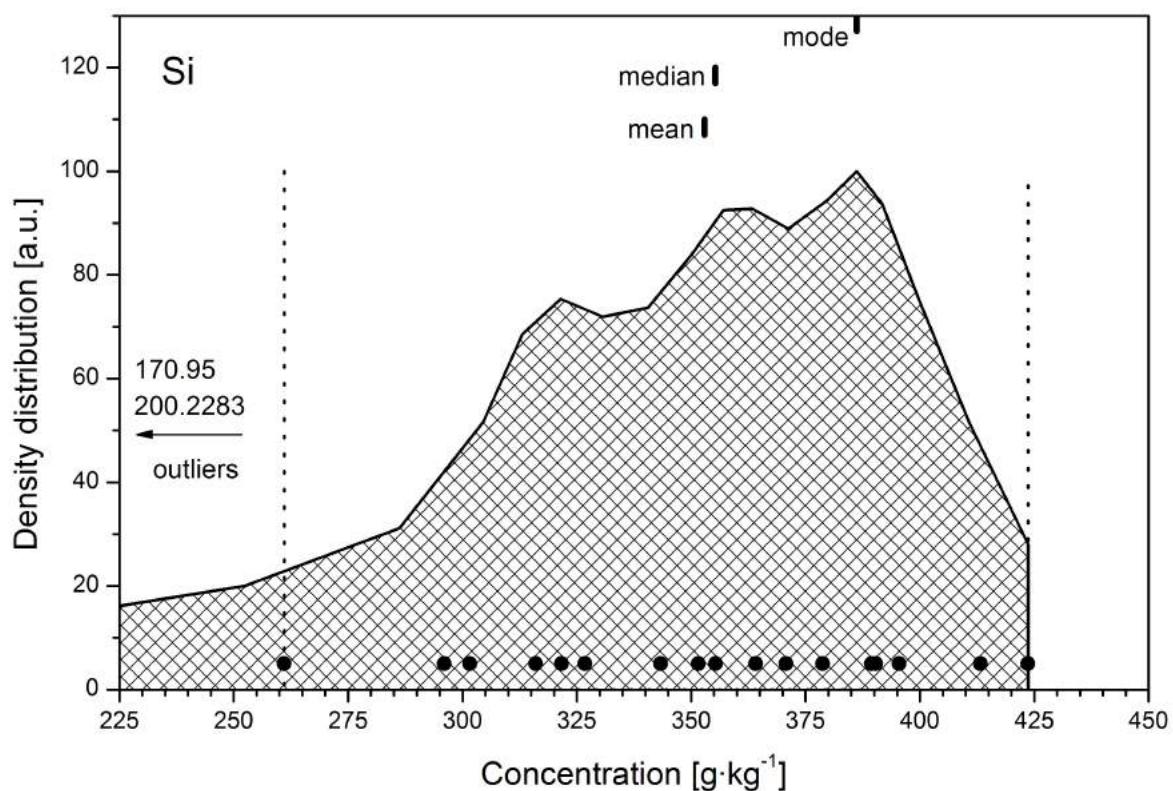


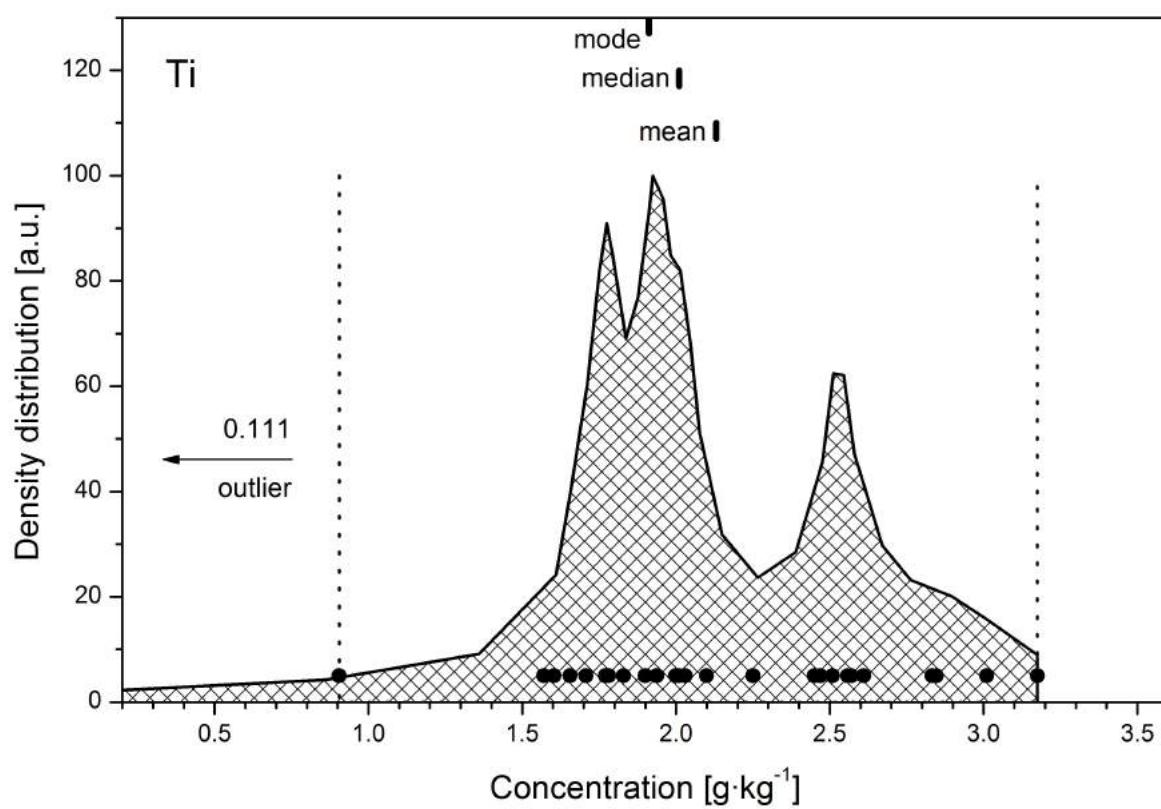
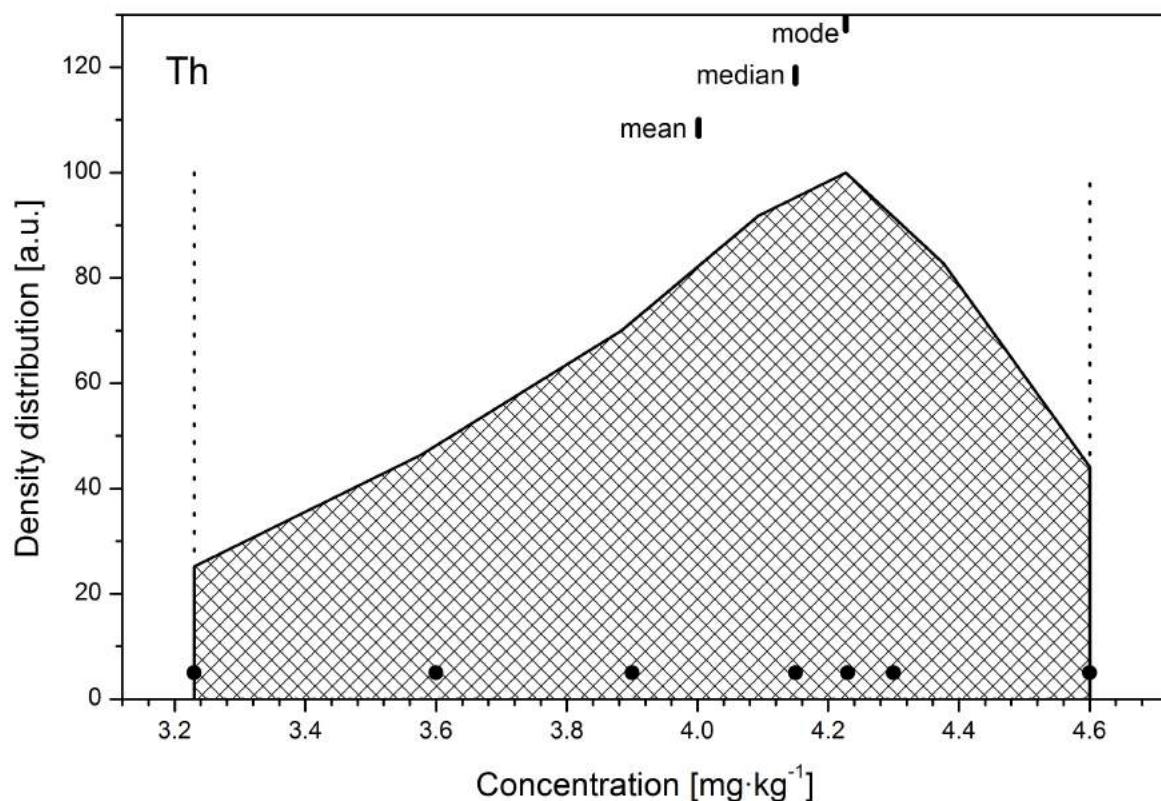


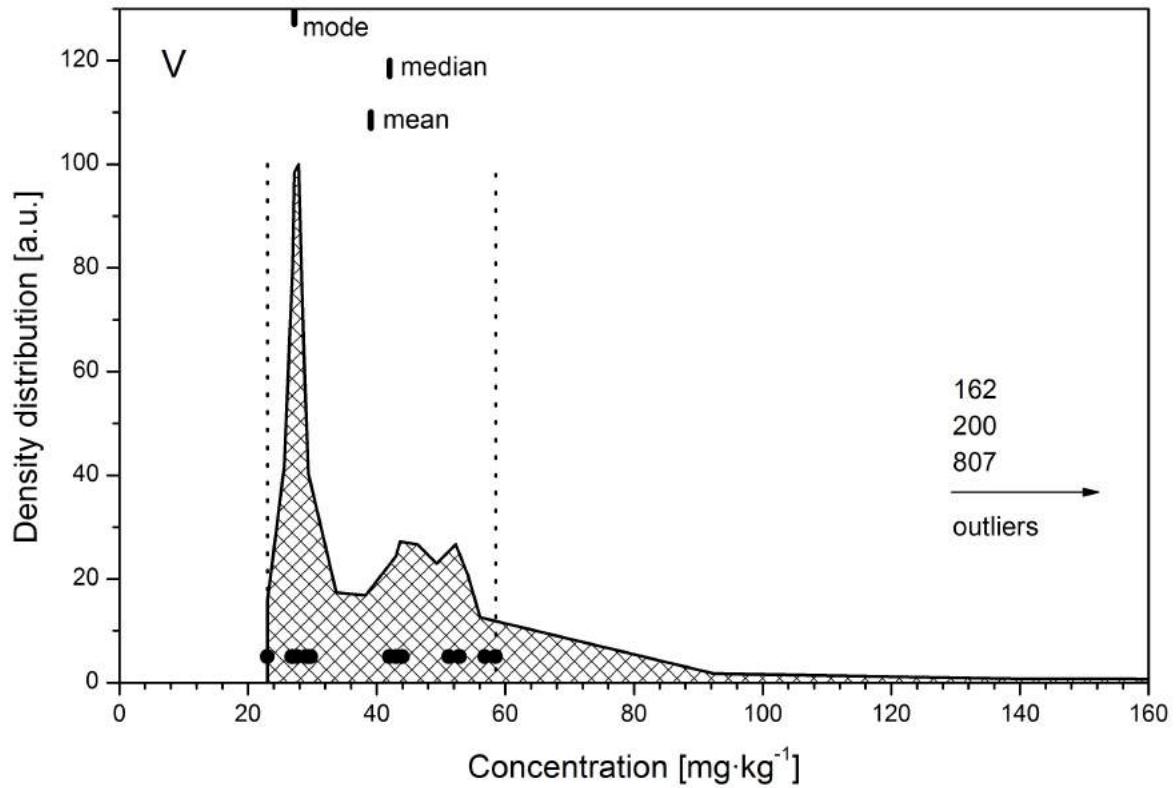
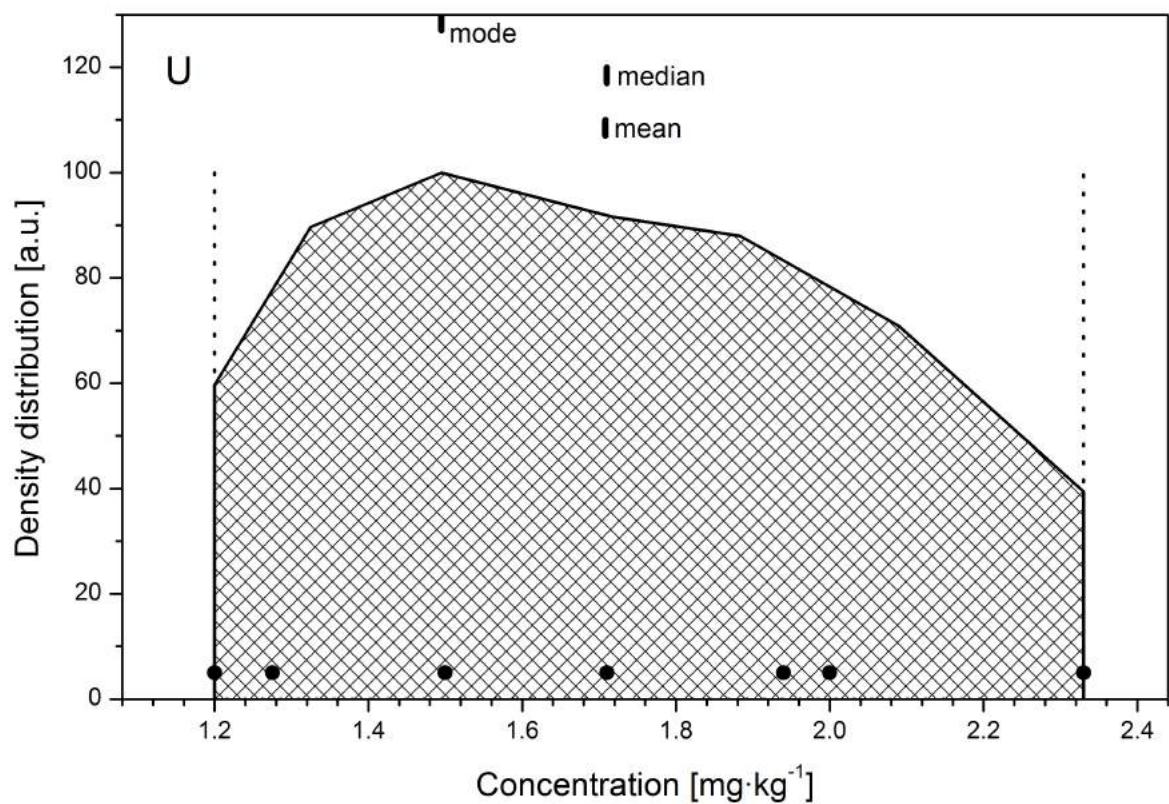


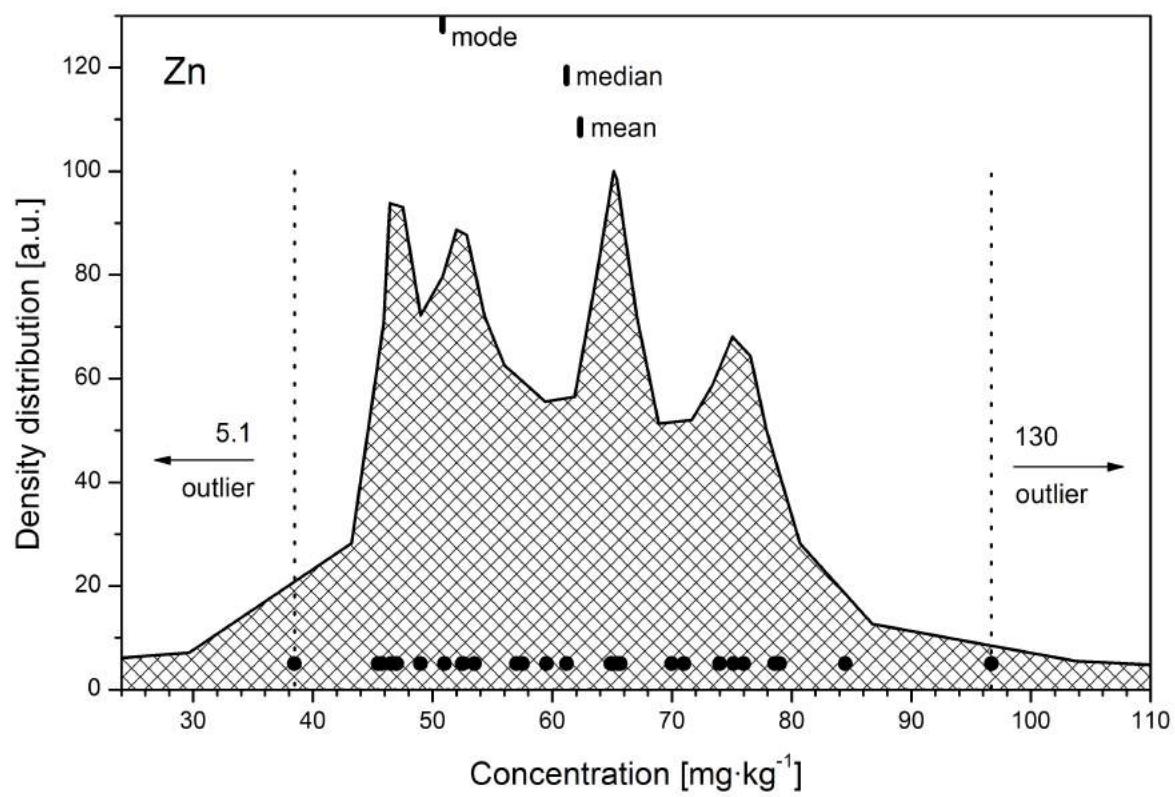
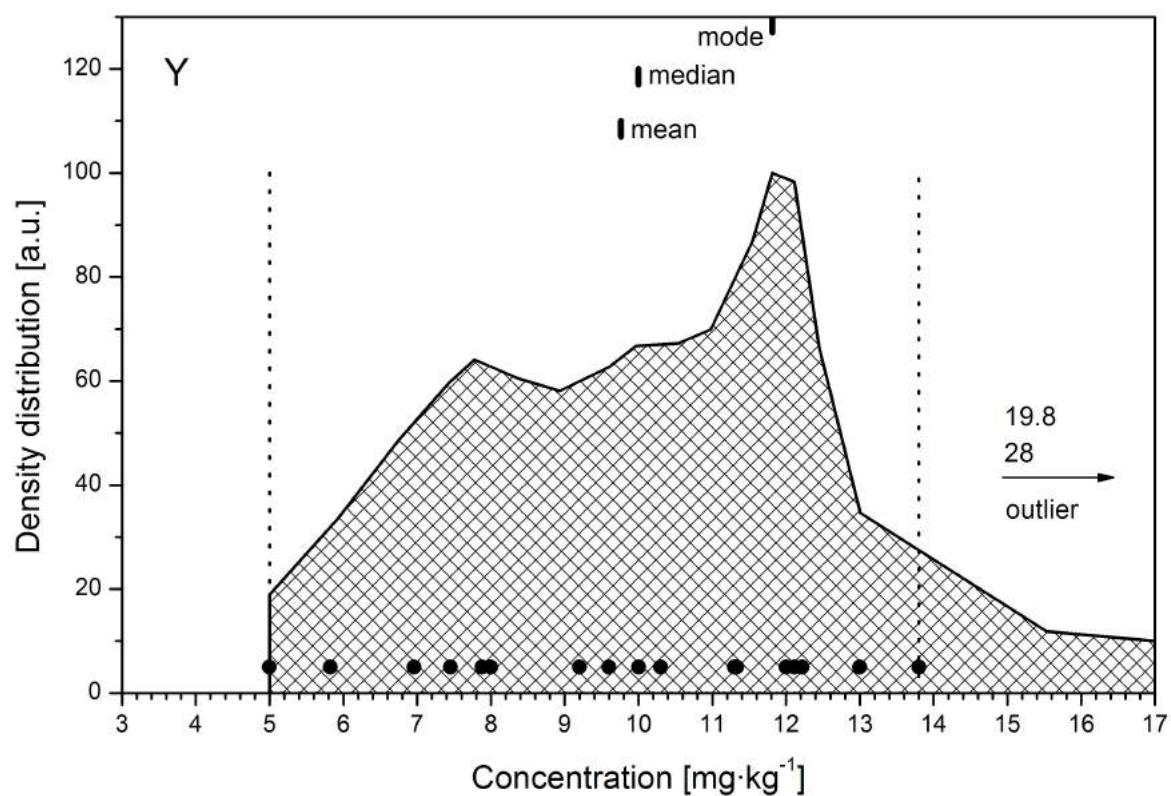


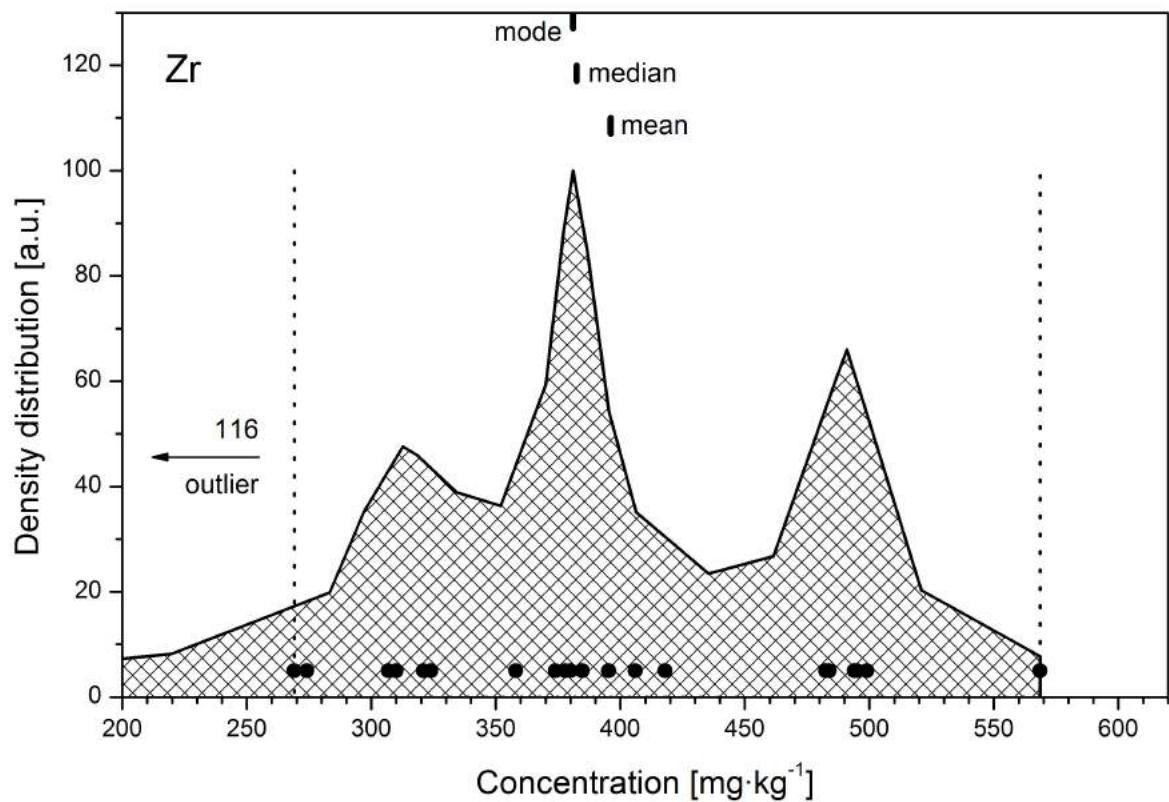












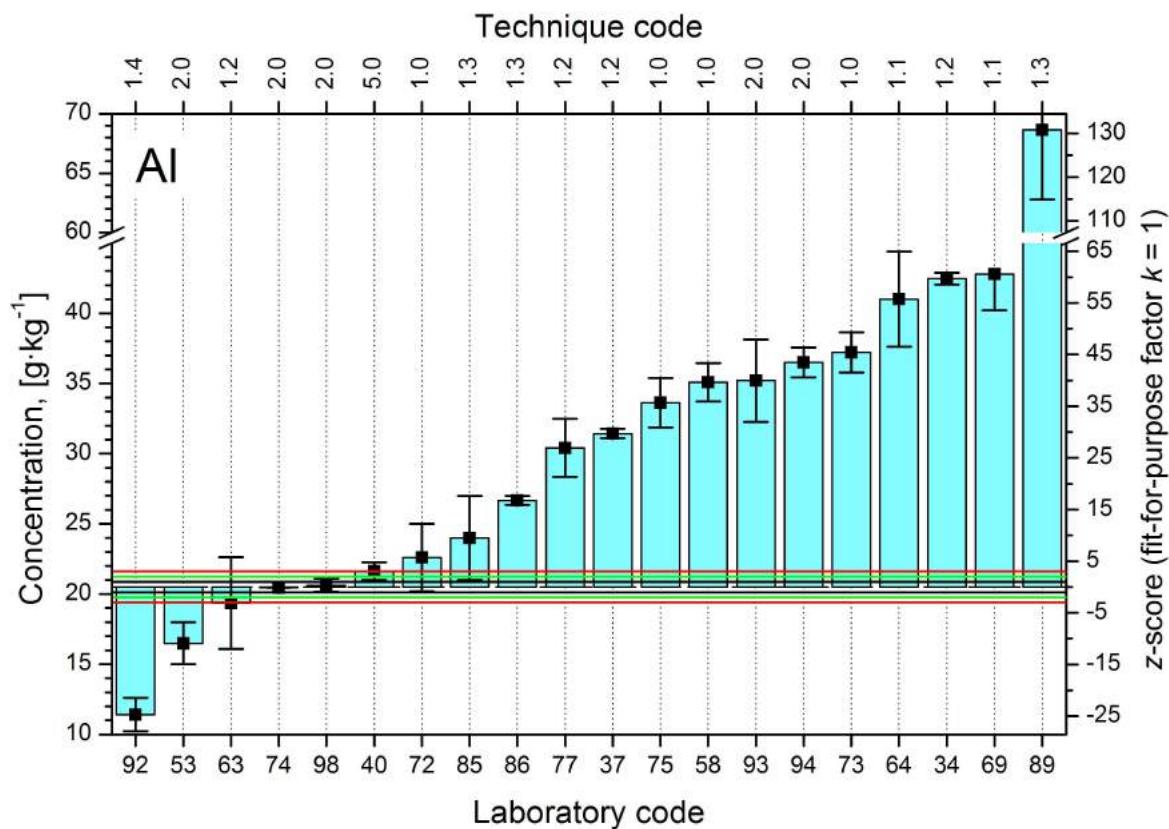
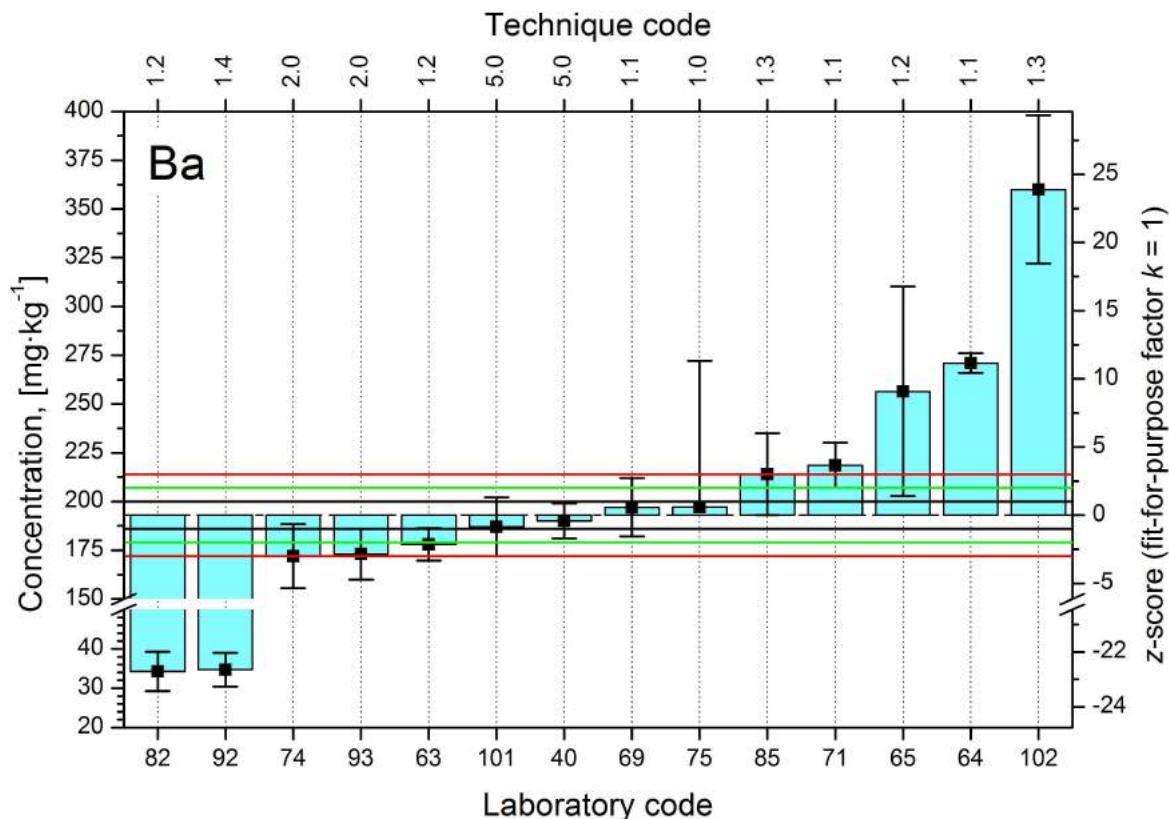
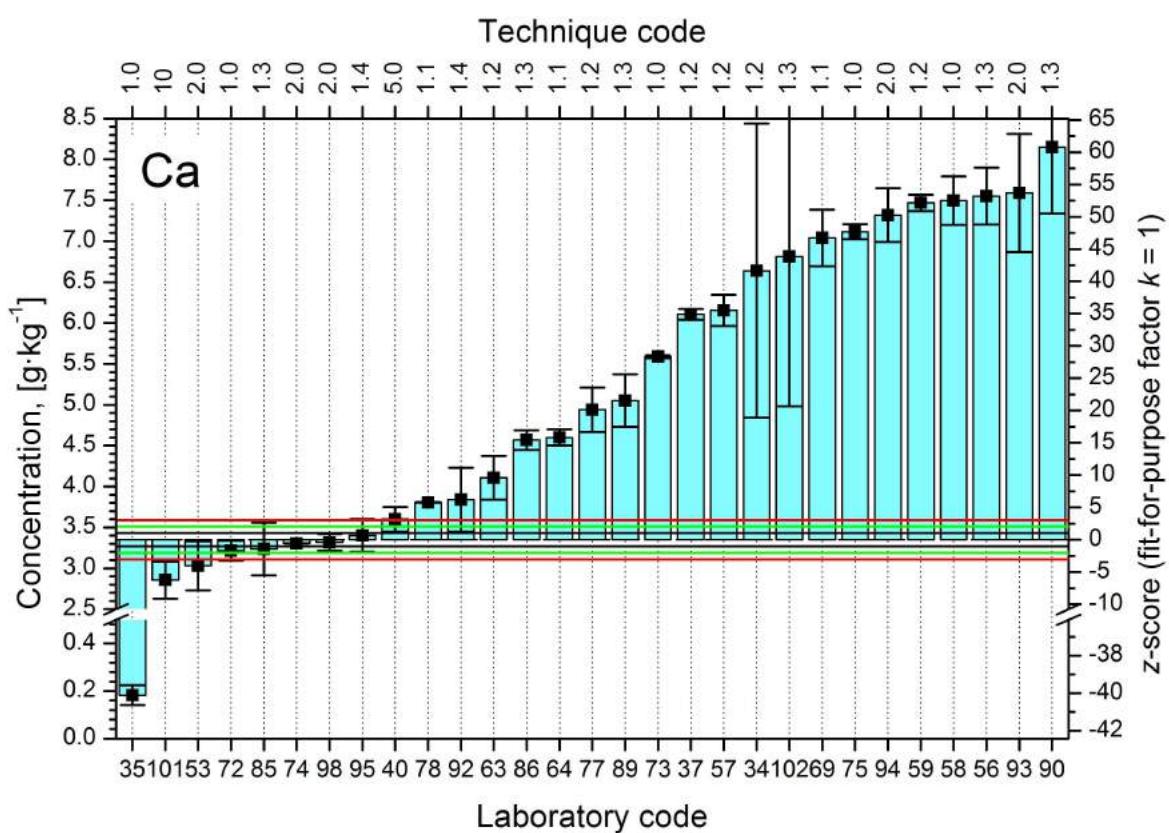
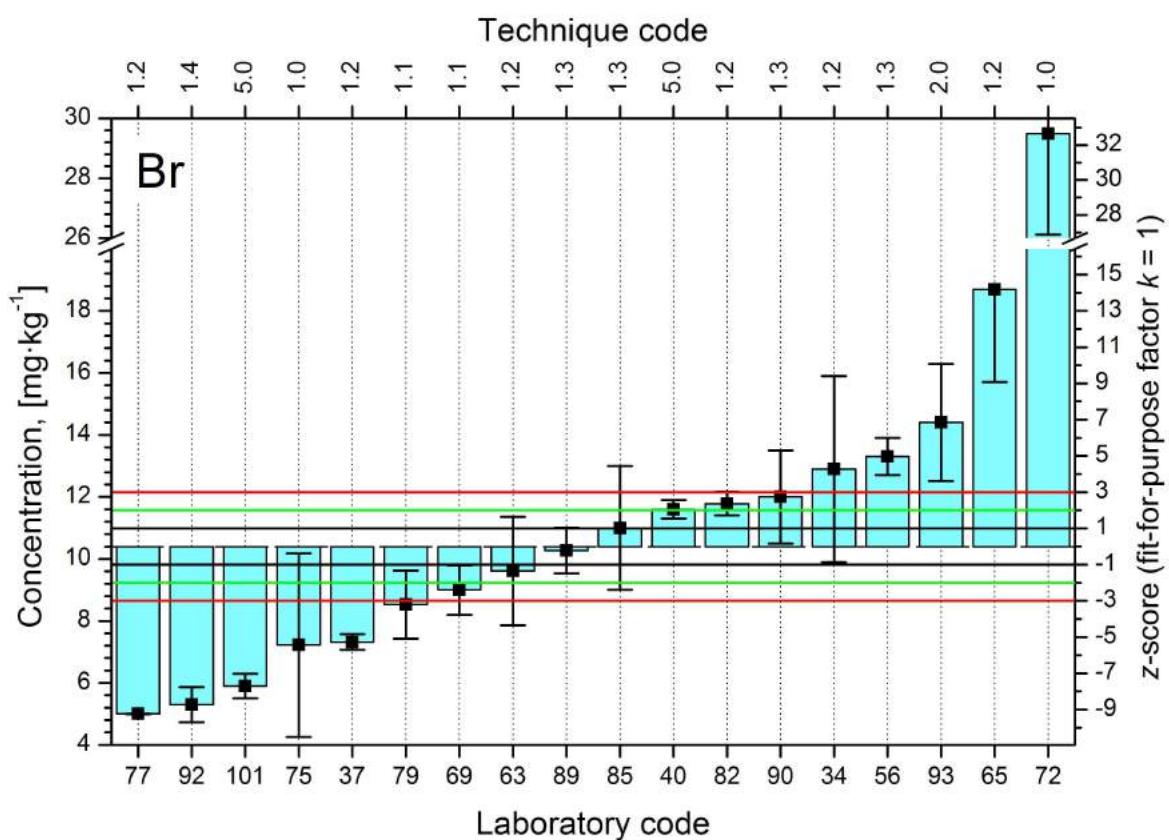
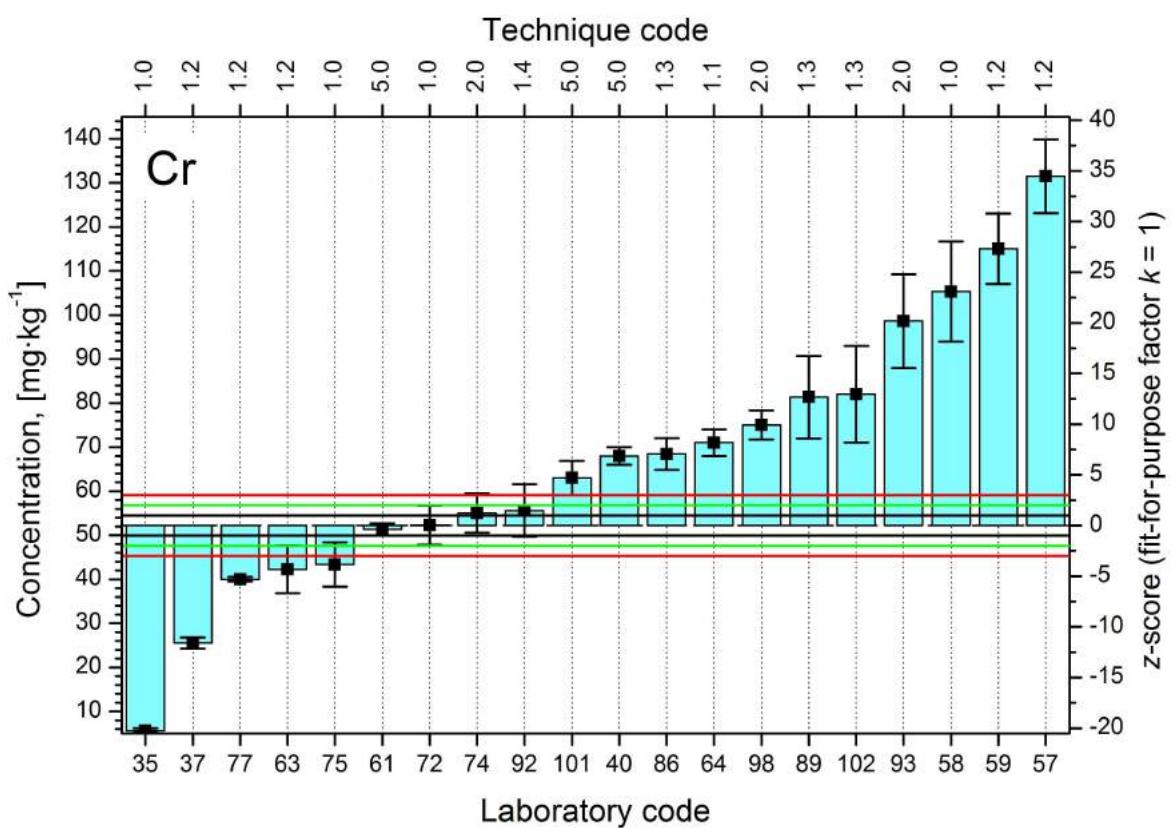
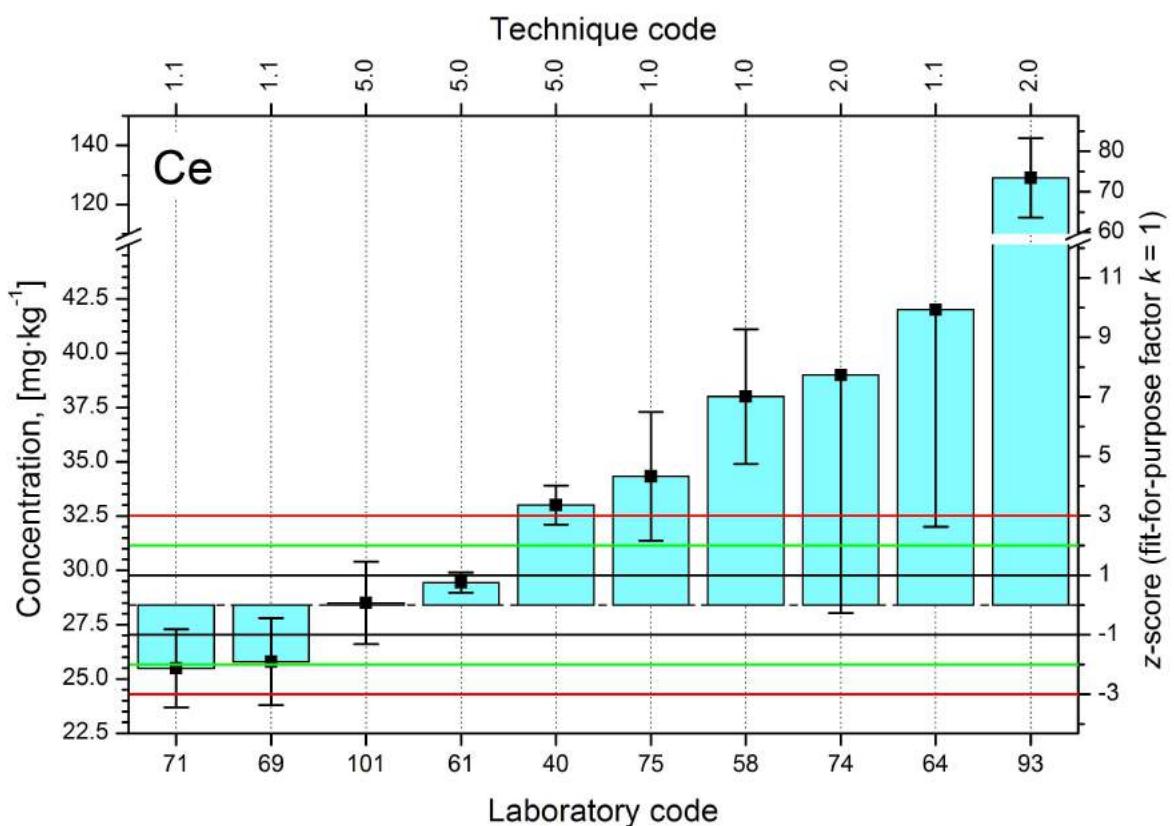
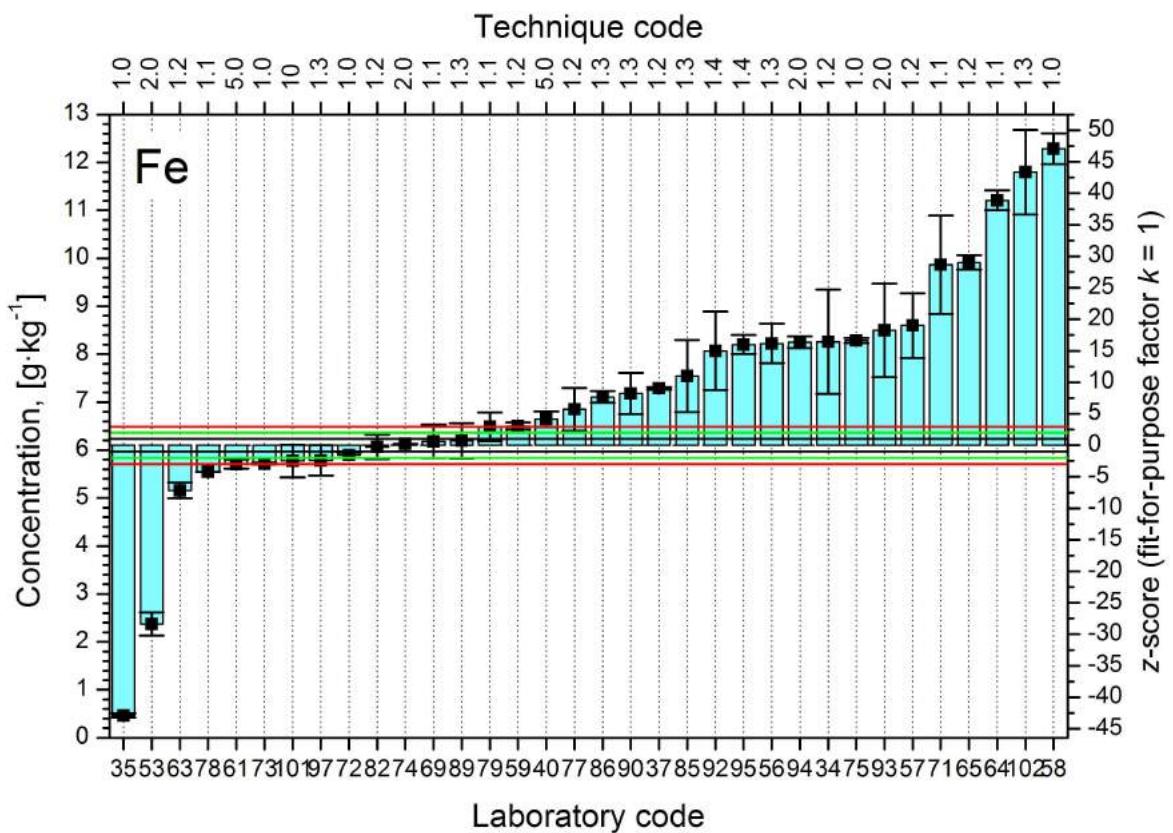
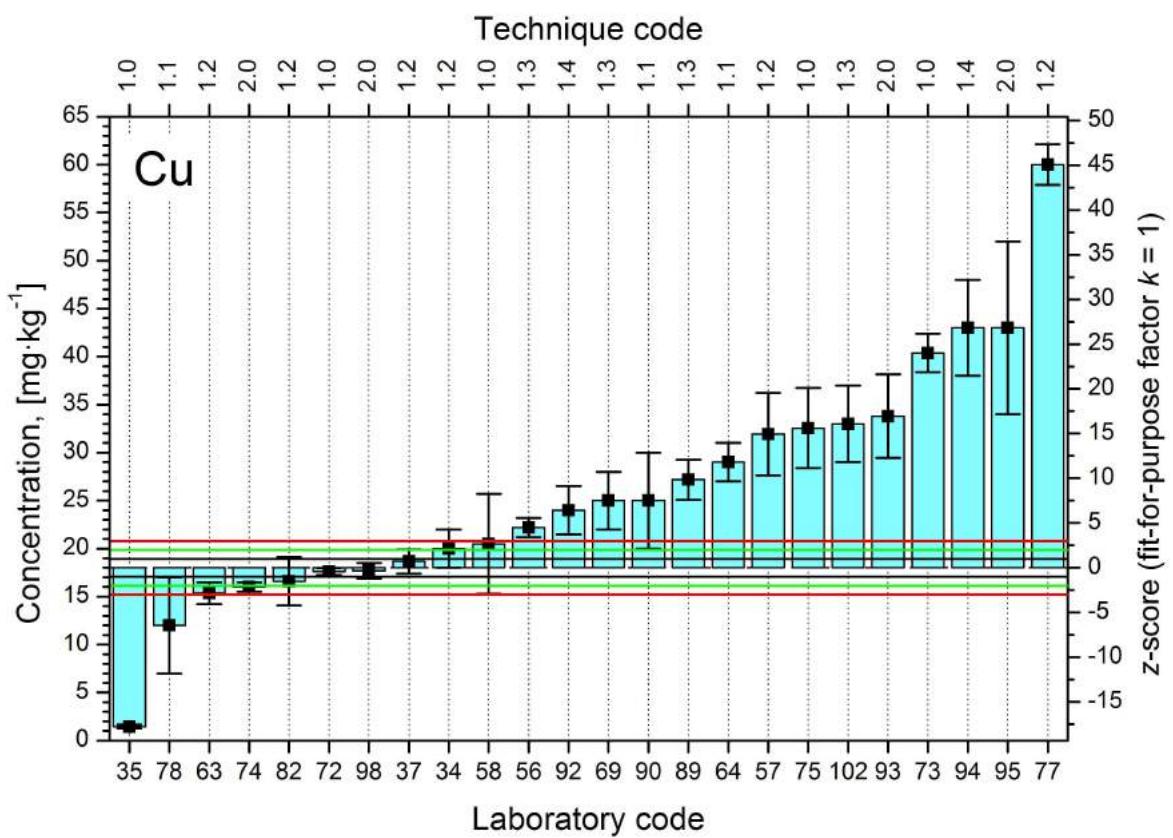


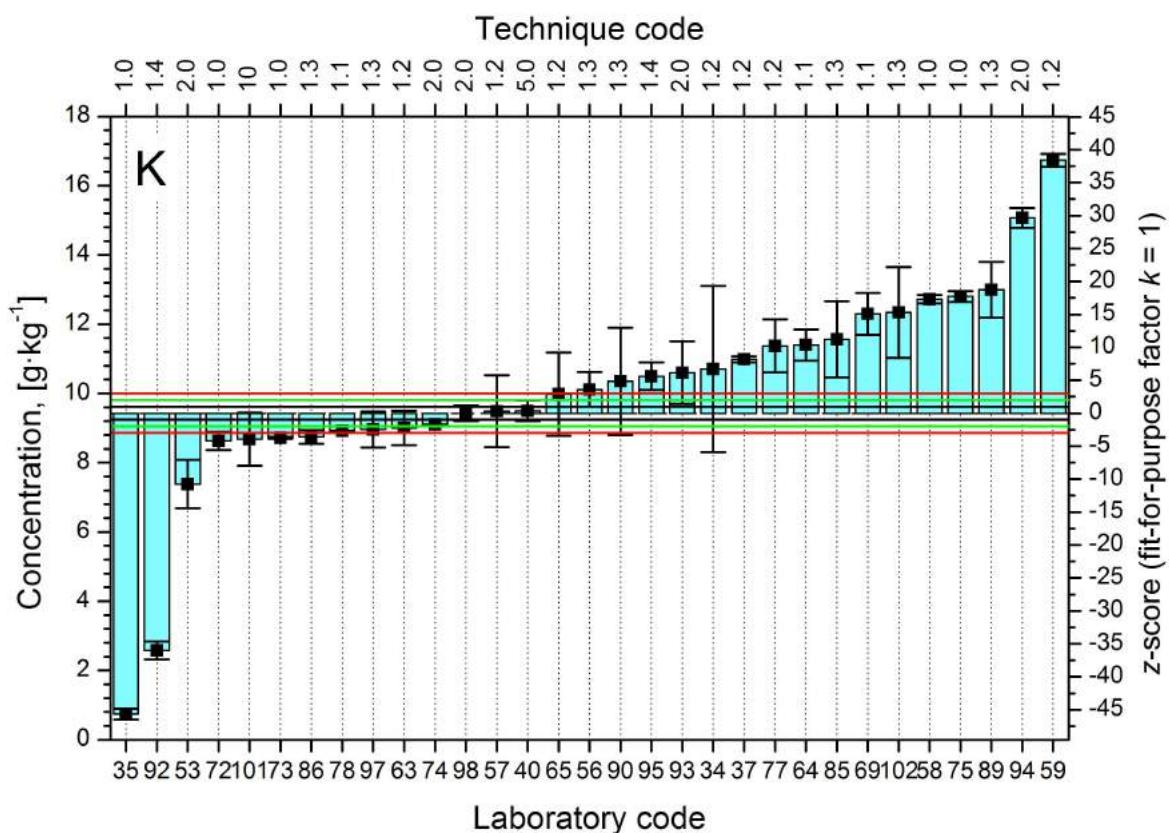
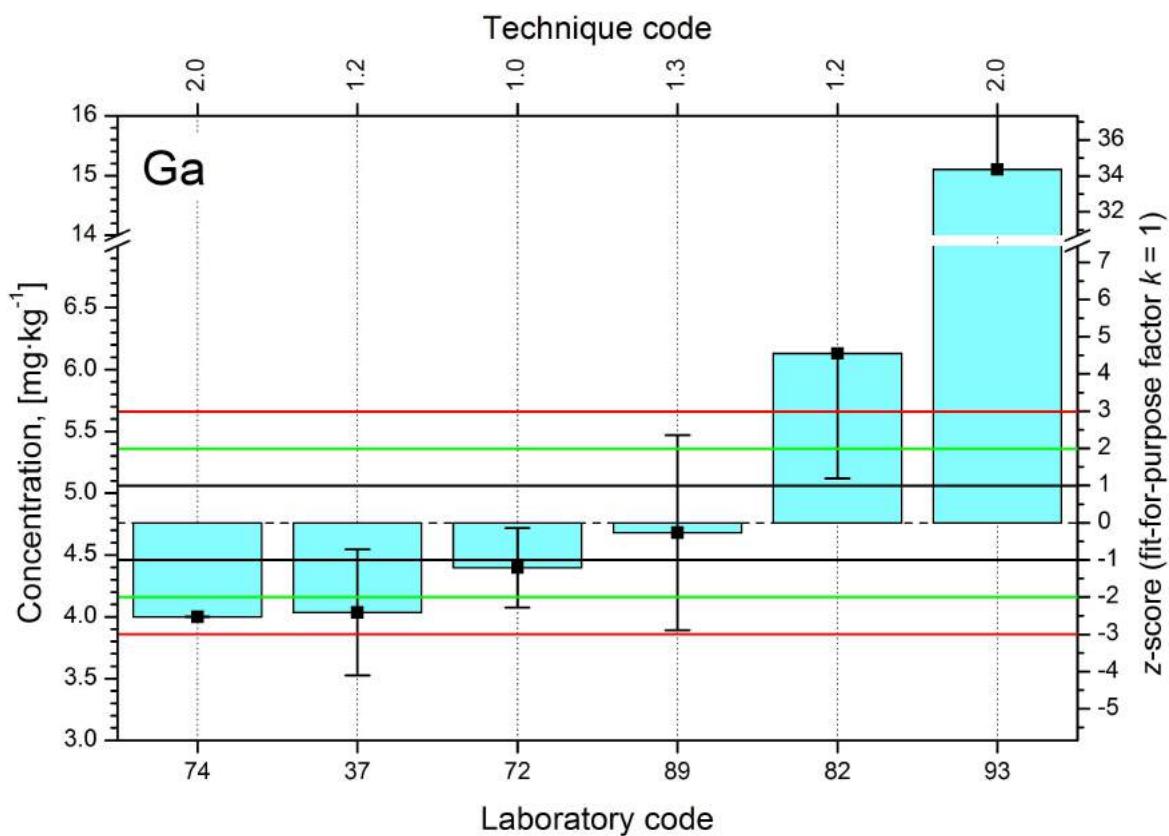
FIG. 34. Distributions of z -scores for analytes reported by at least 6 laboratories. The bar charts show the distance between the reported and the assigned values of the analyte. The submitted results and their uncertainties, as provided by the analysts, are marked with filled squares accompanied by uncertainty bars. The horizontal lines show the admissible levels of z -score, $|z| < 2$, for three different fit-for-purpose ranges defined by factor k in Eqn. (2): $k = 0.5$ - solid black lines, $k = 1.0$ - solid green lines, and $k = 1.5$ - solid red lines.

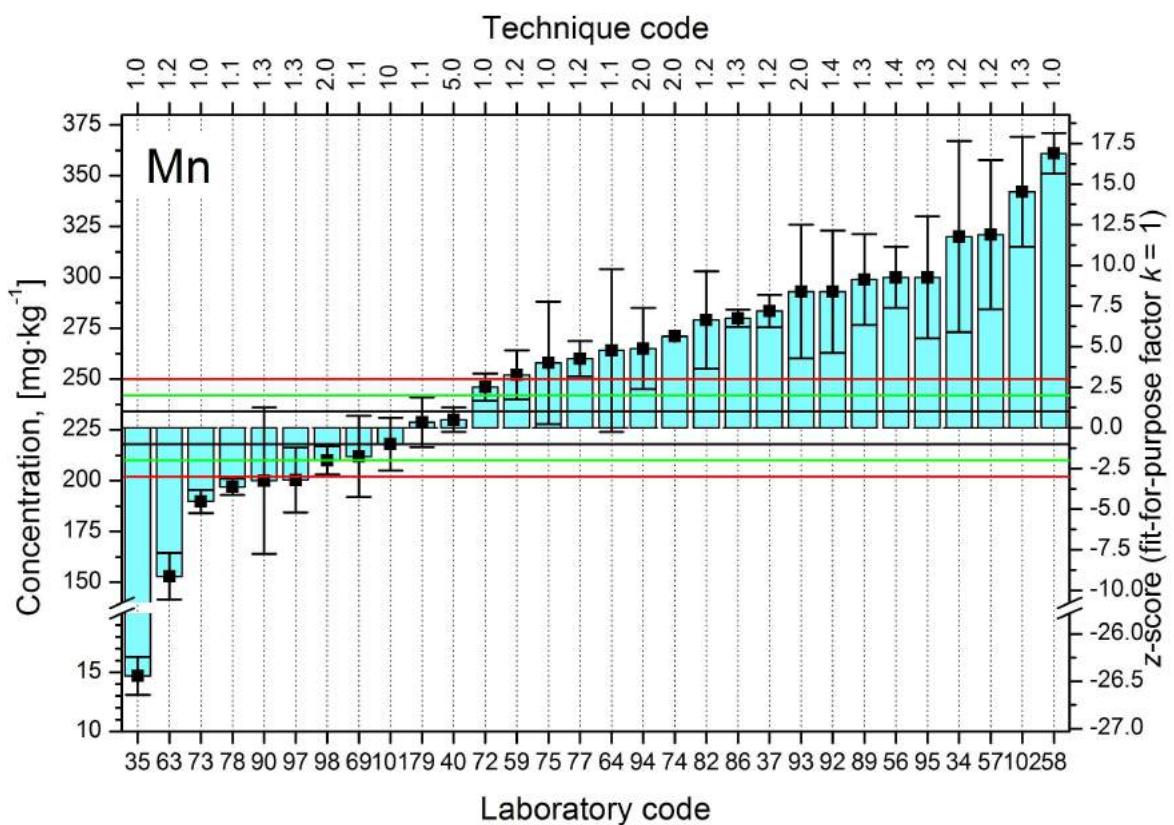
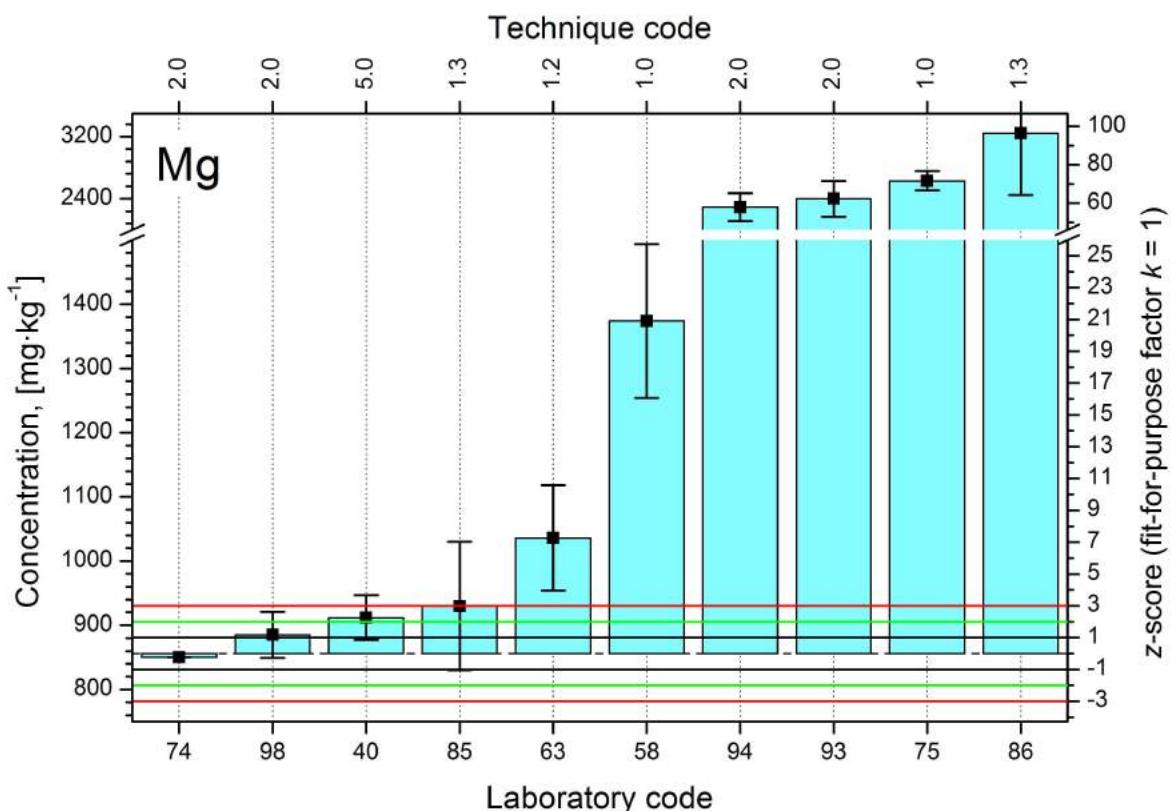


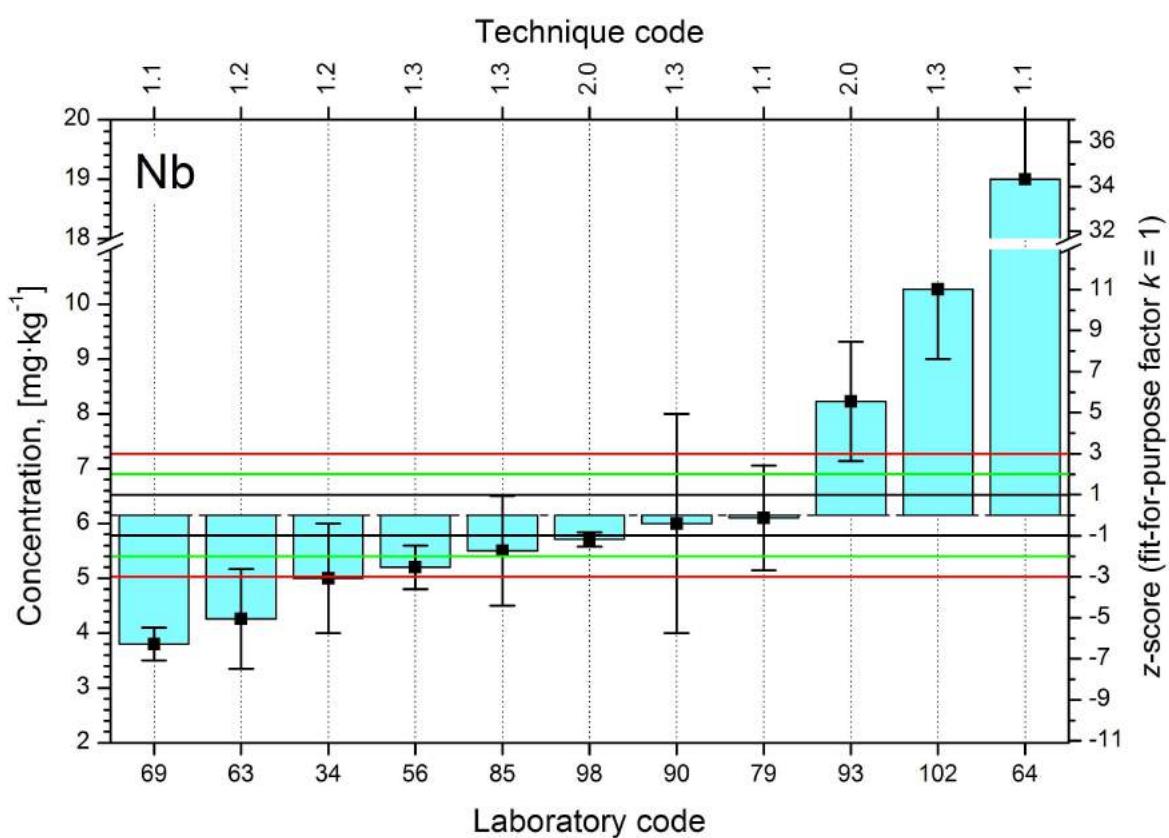
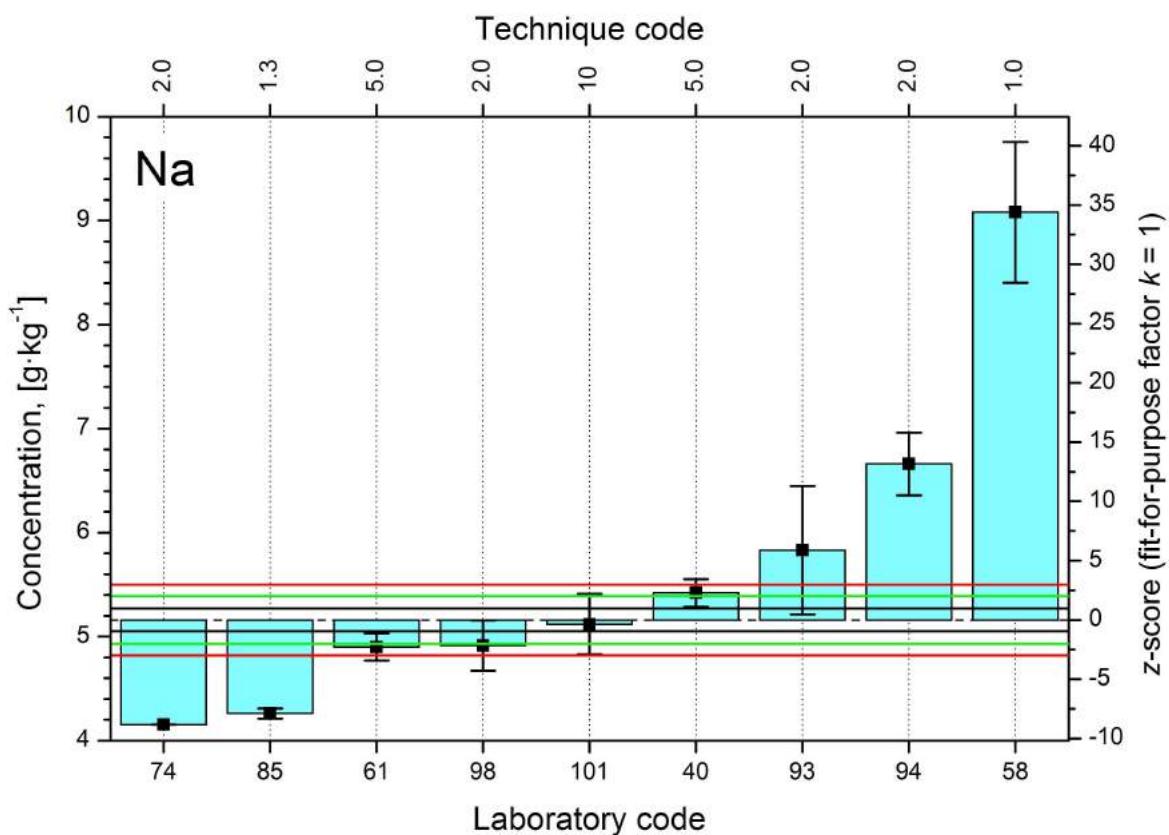


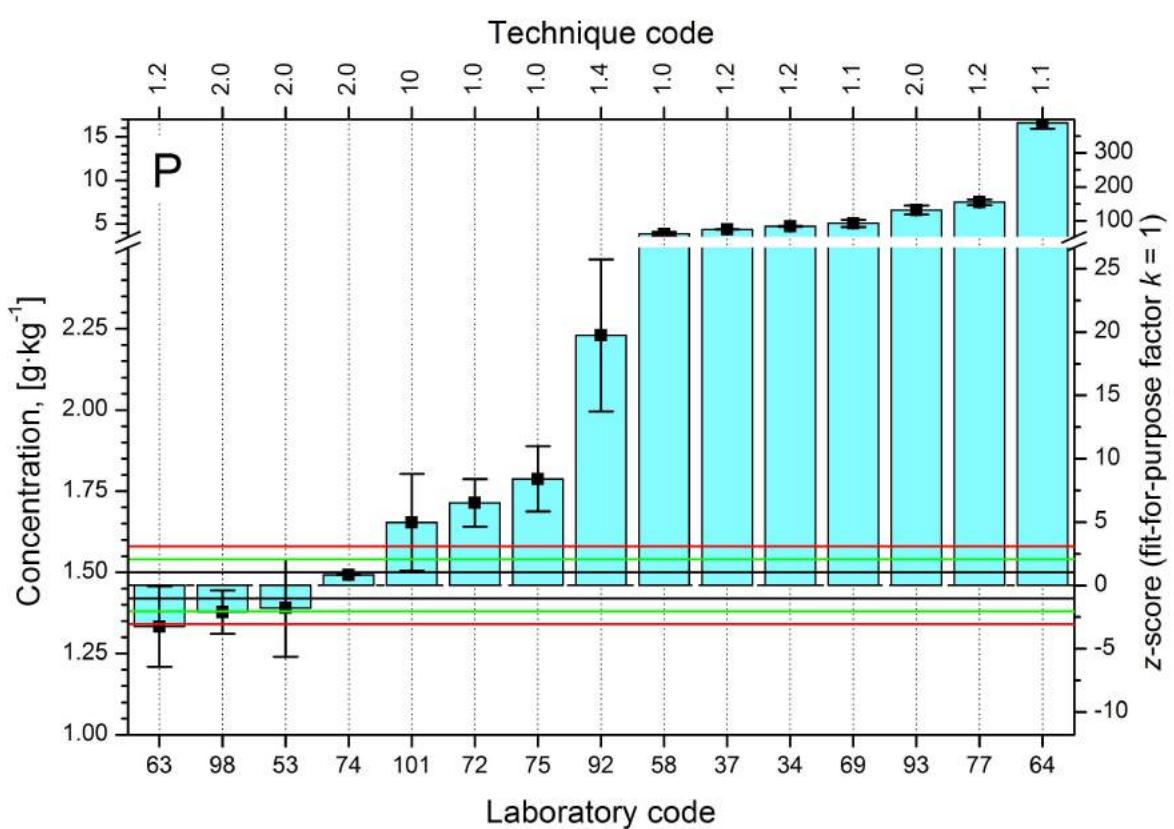
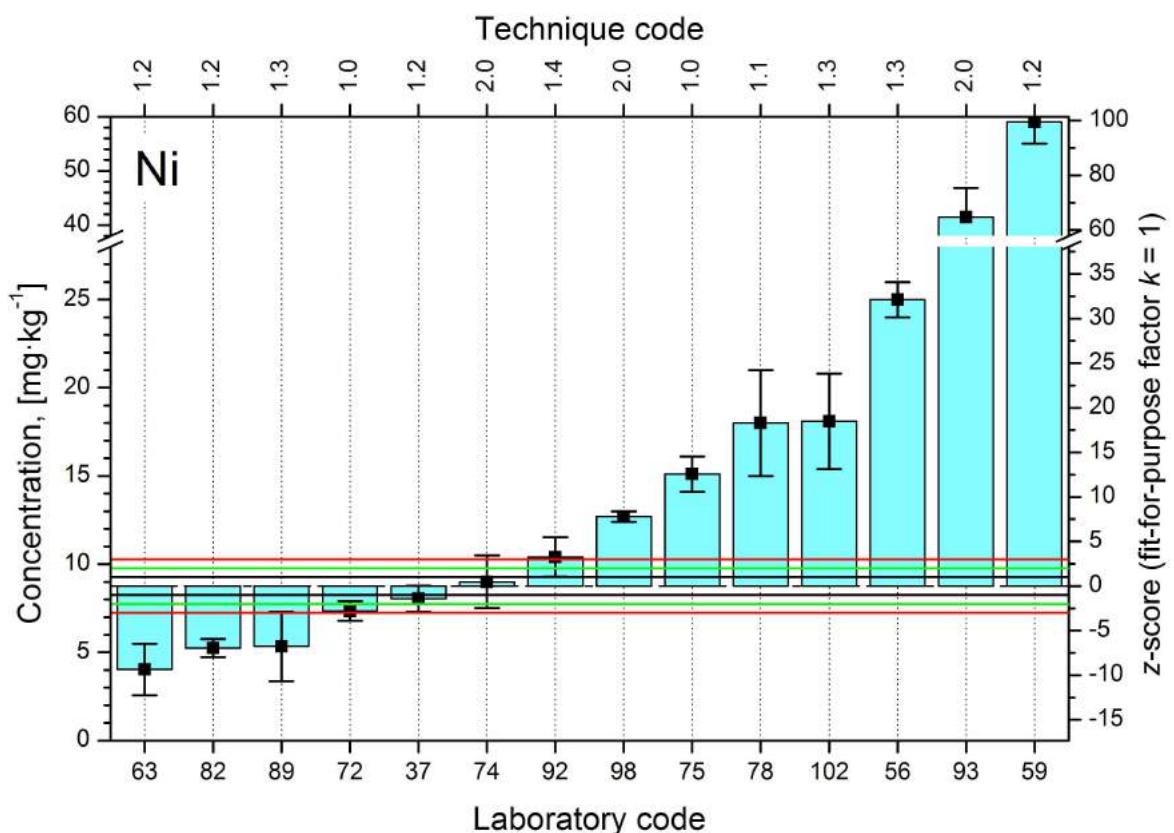


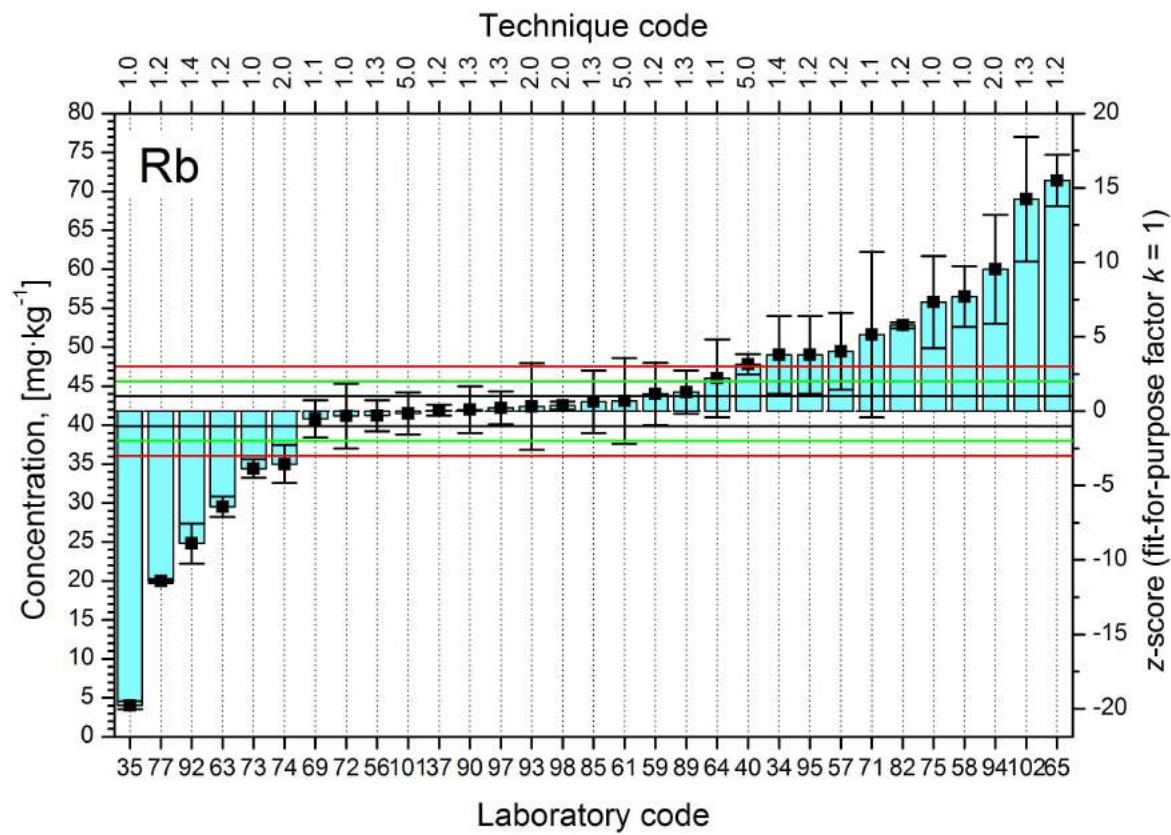
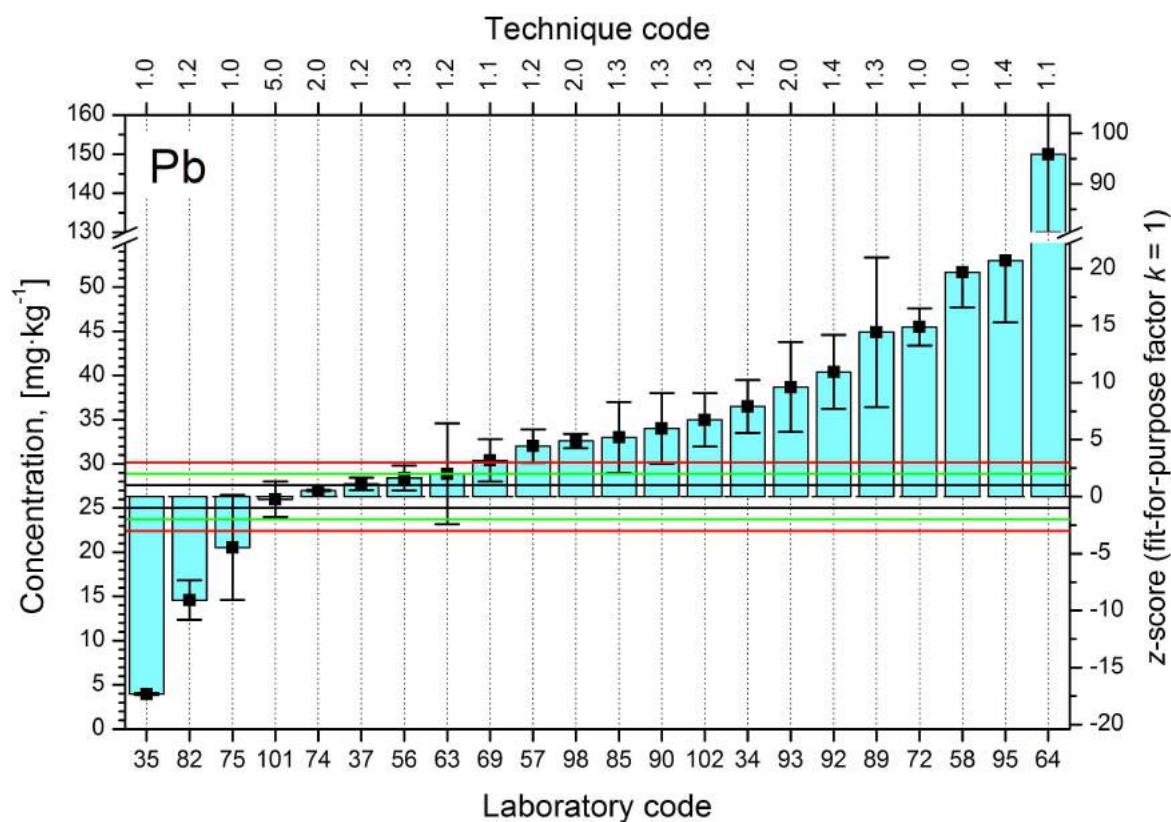


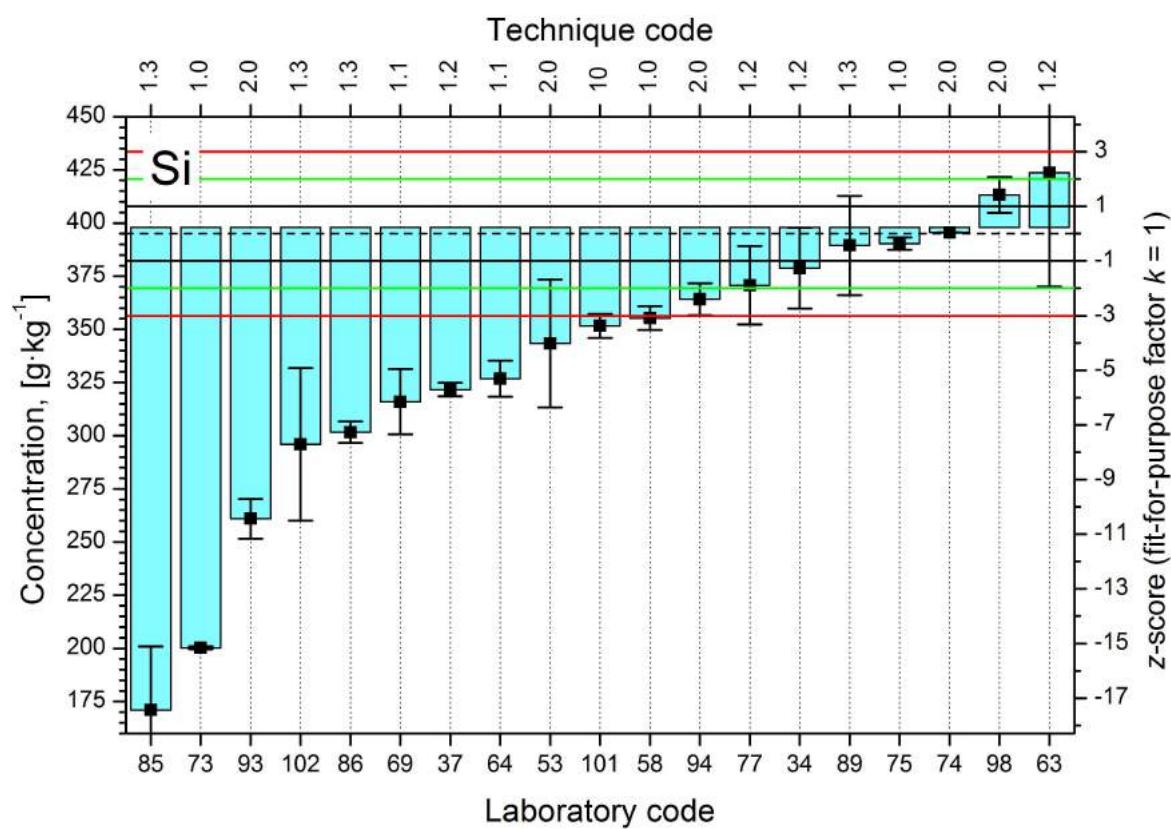
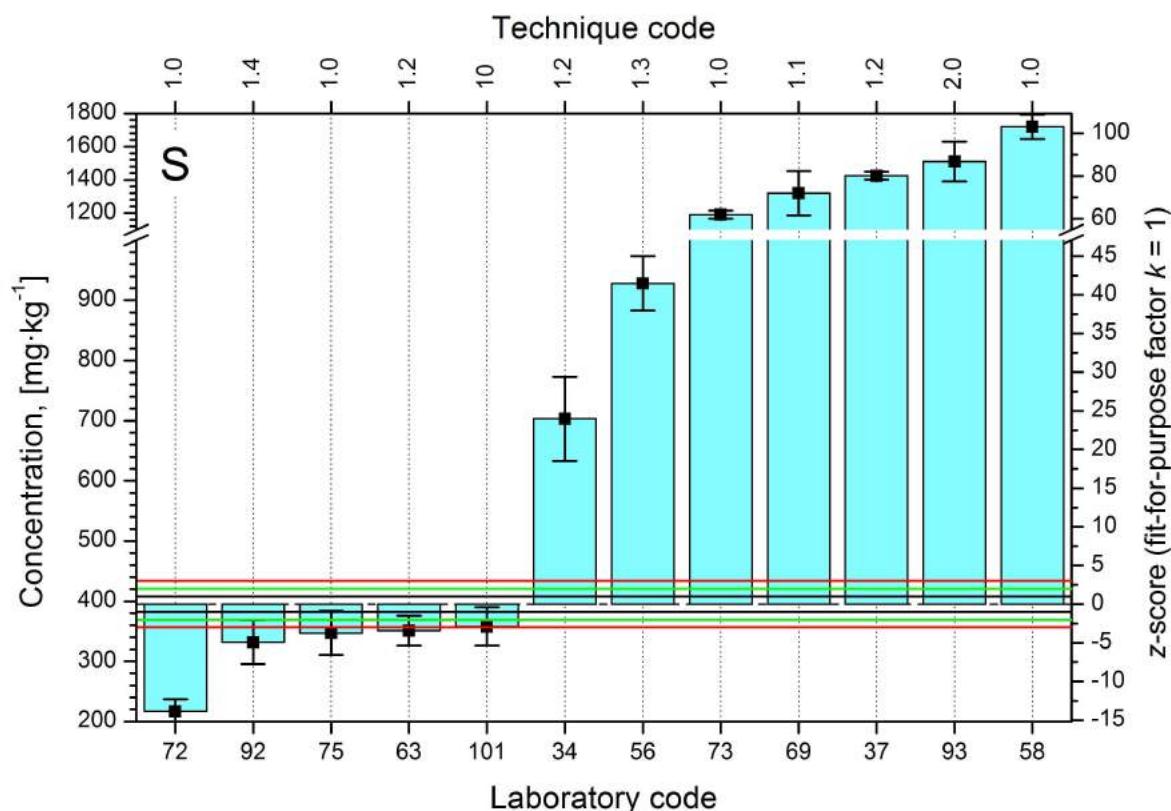


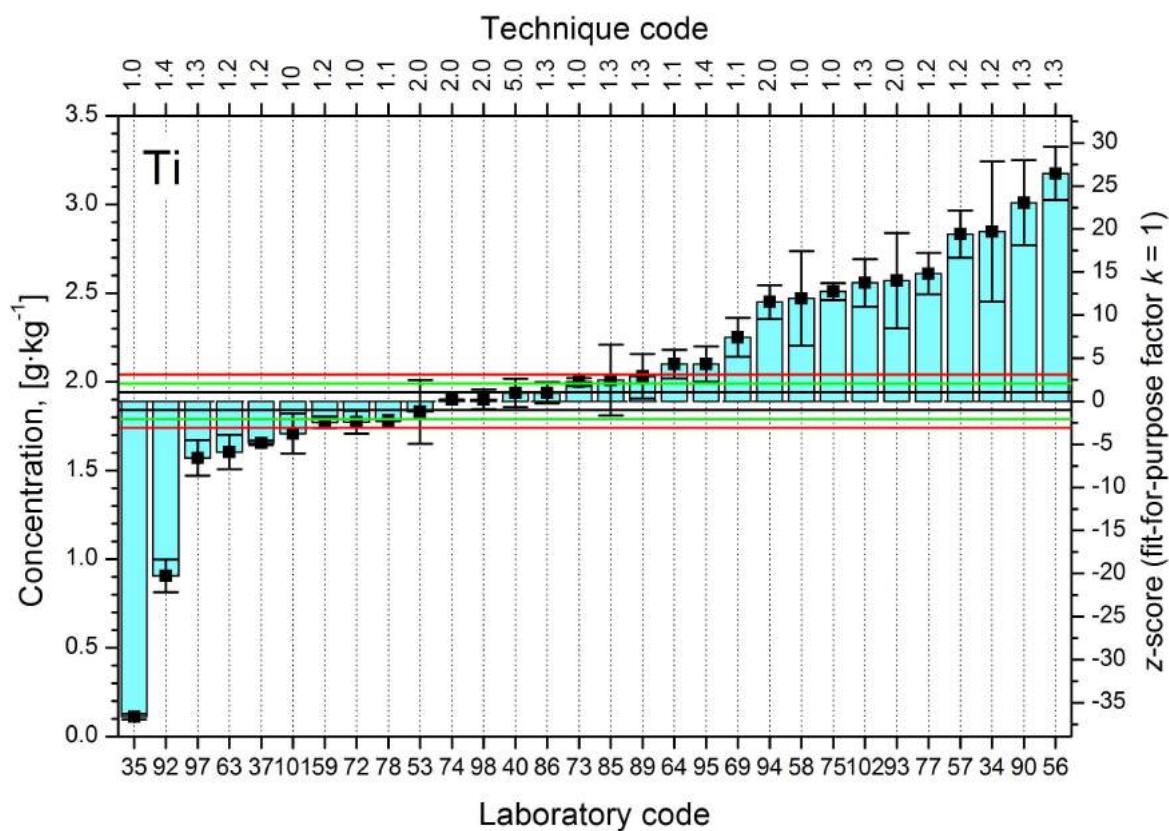
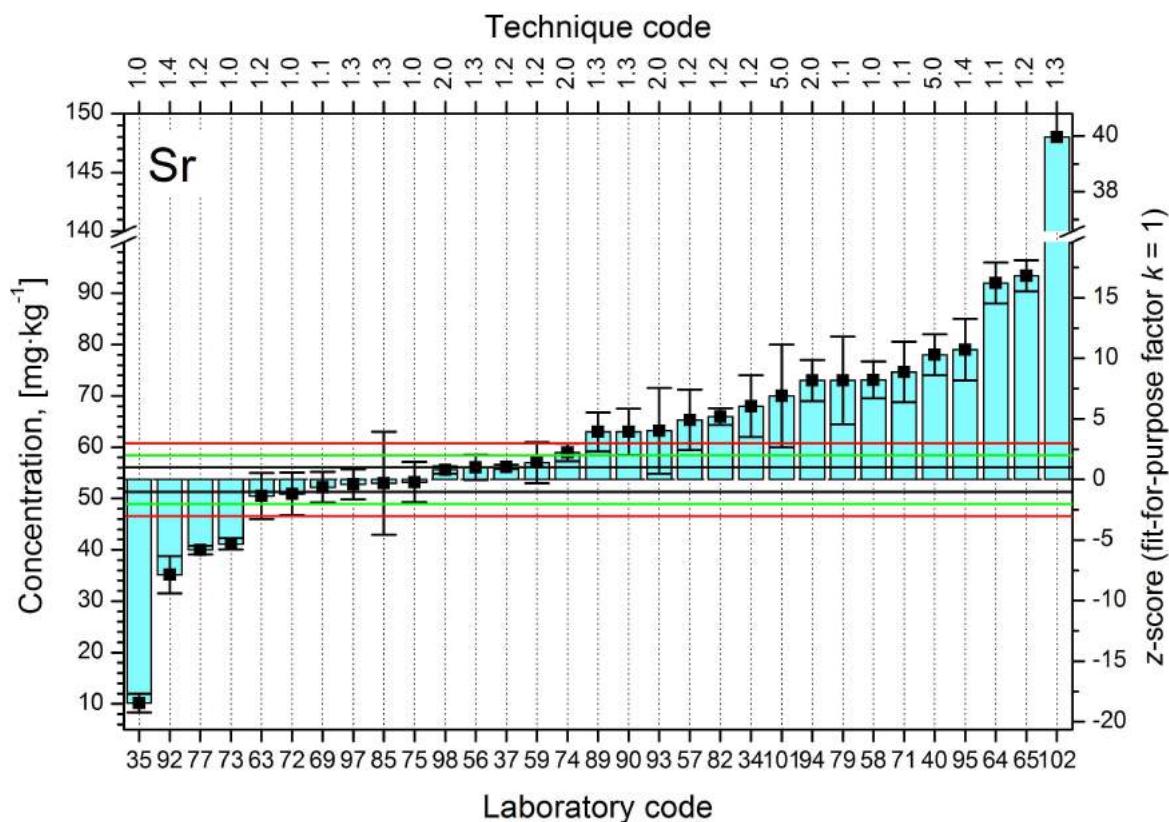


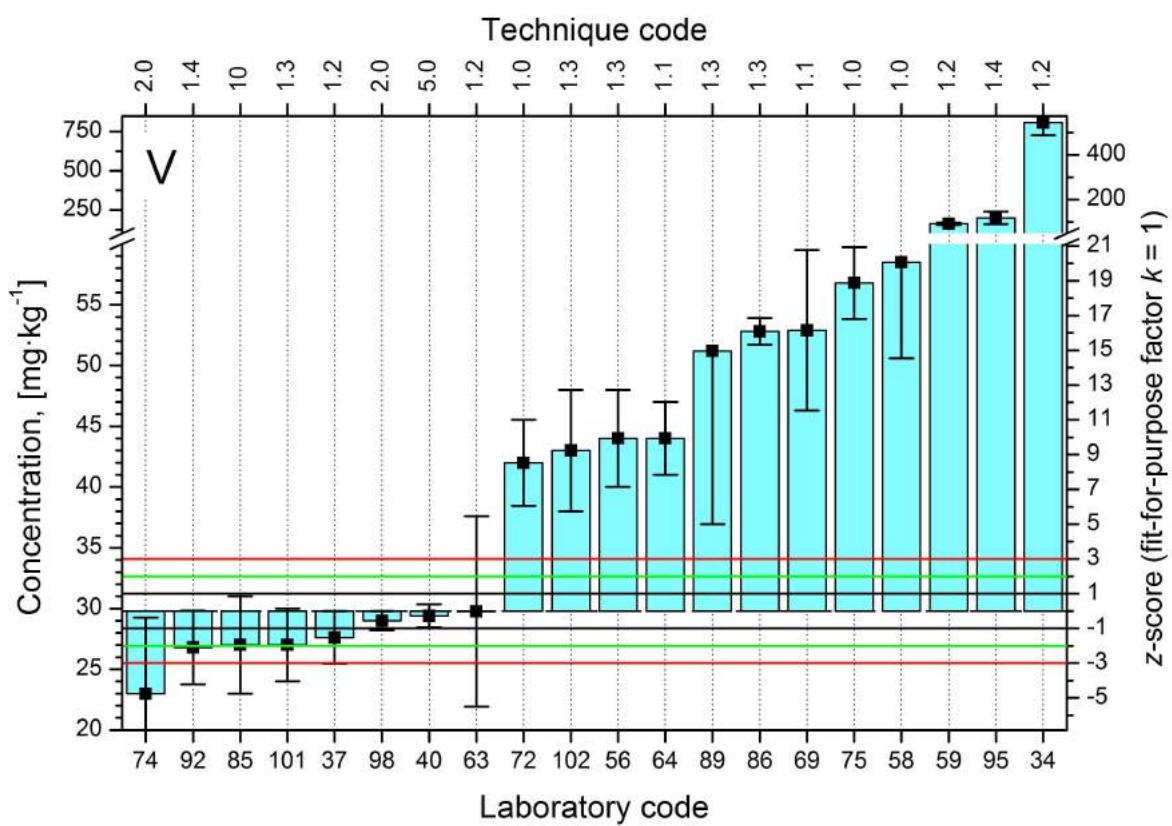
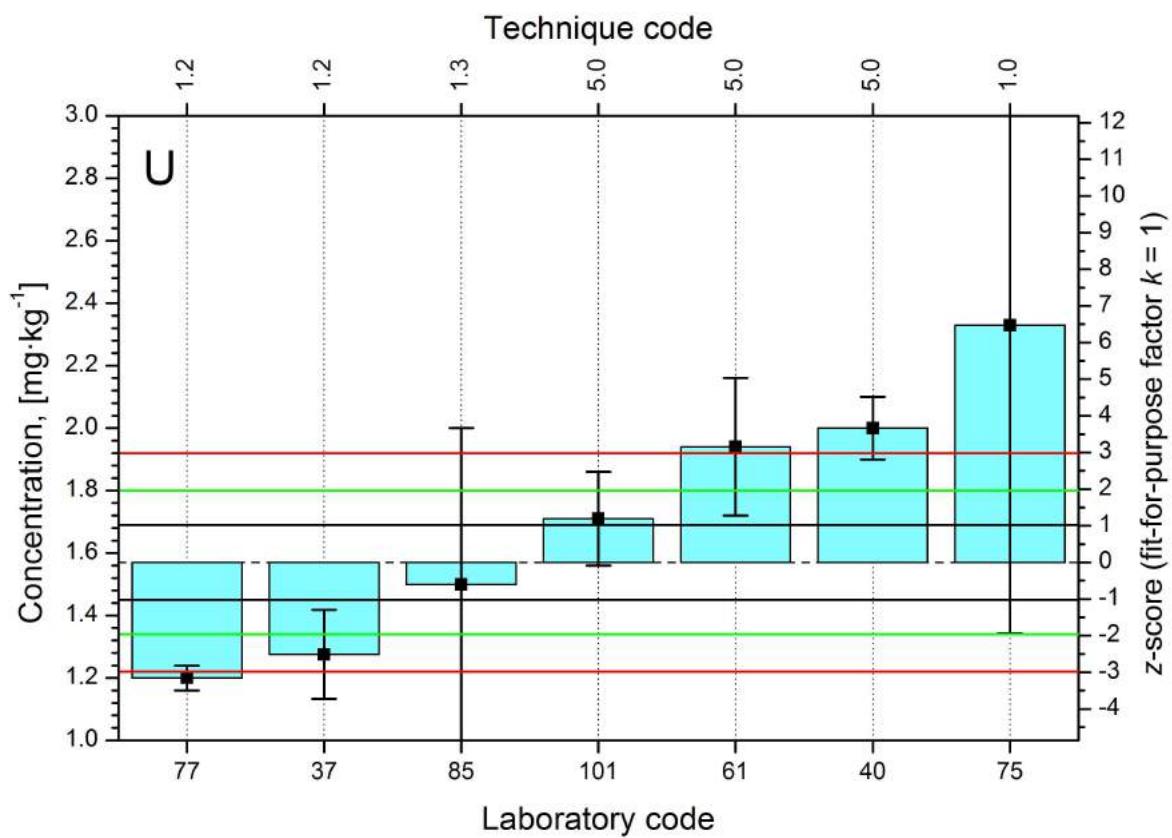


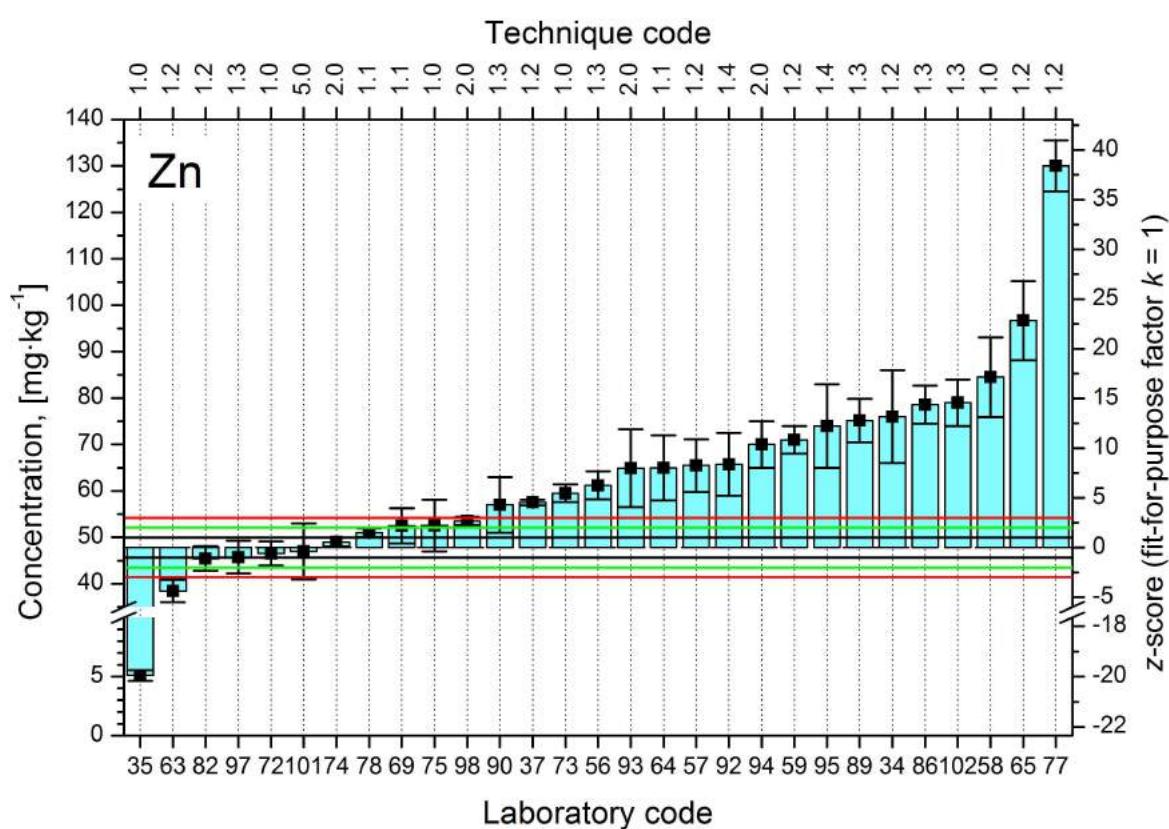
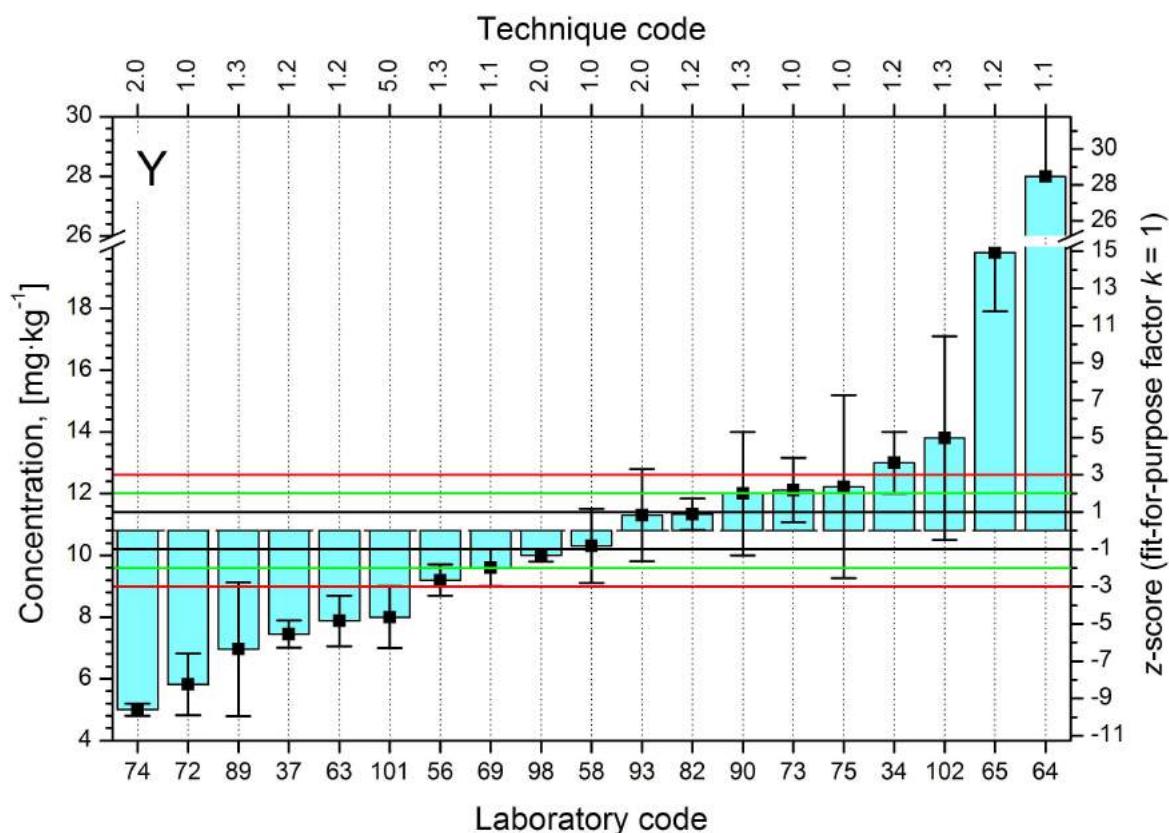


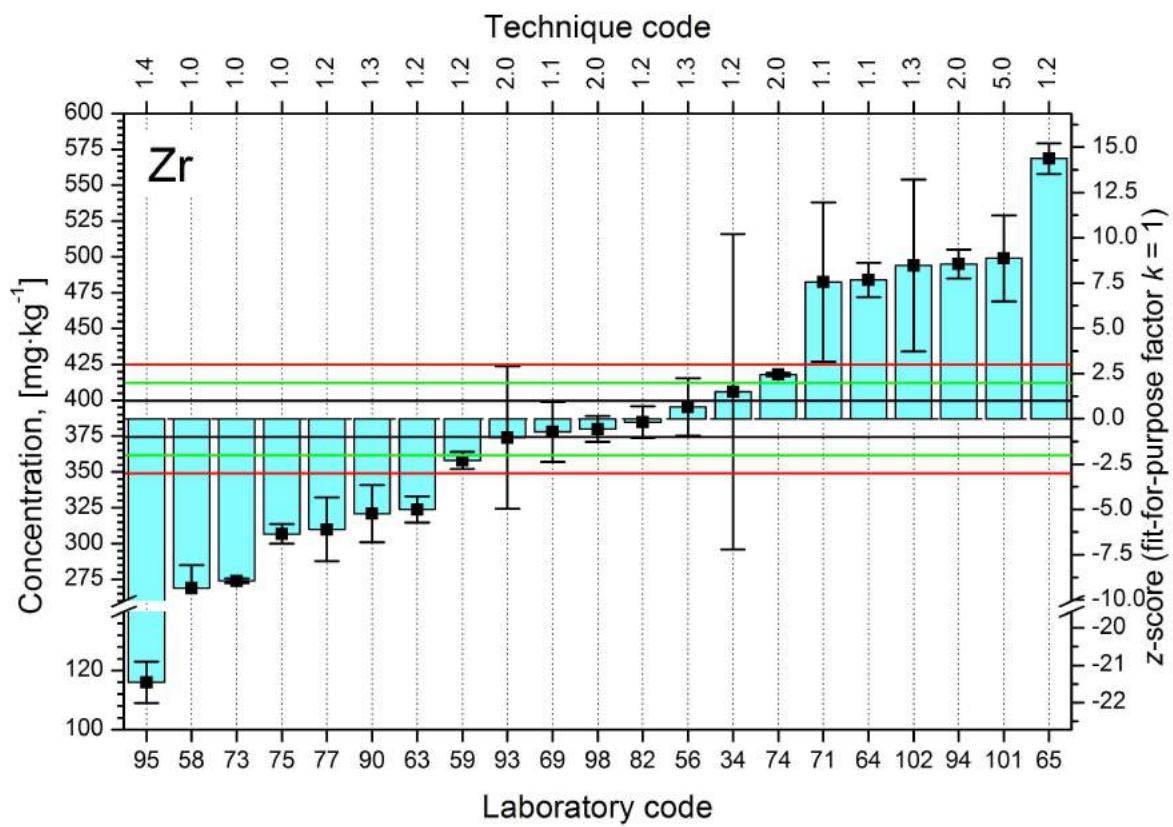












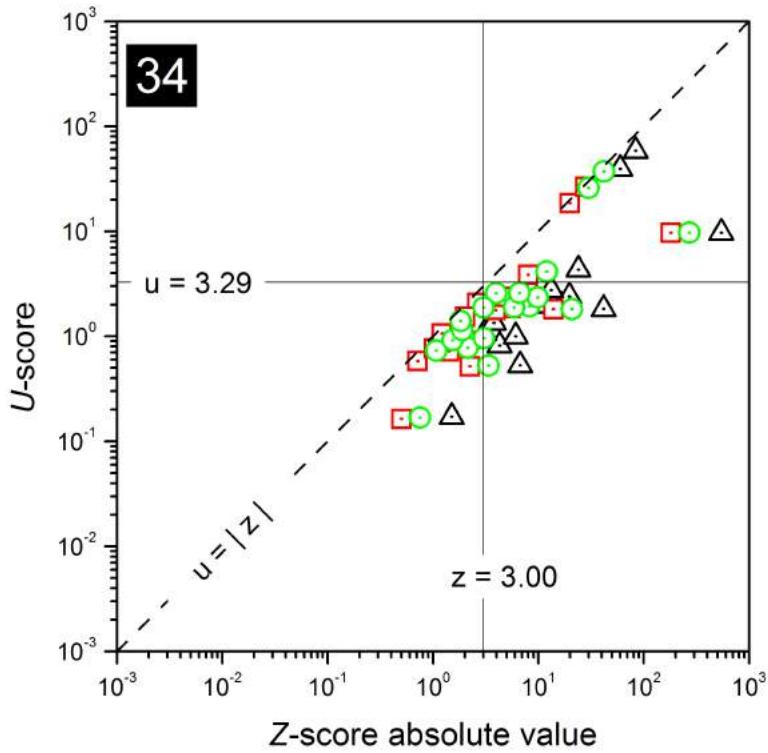
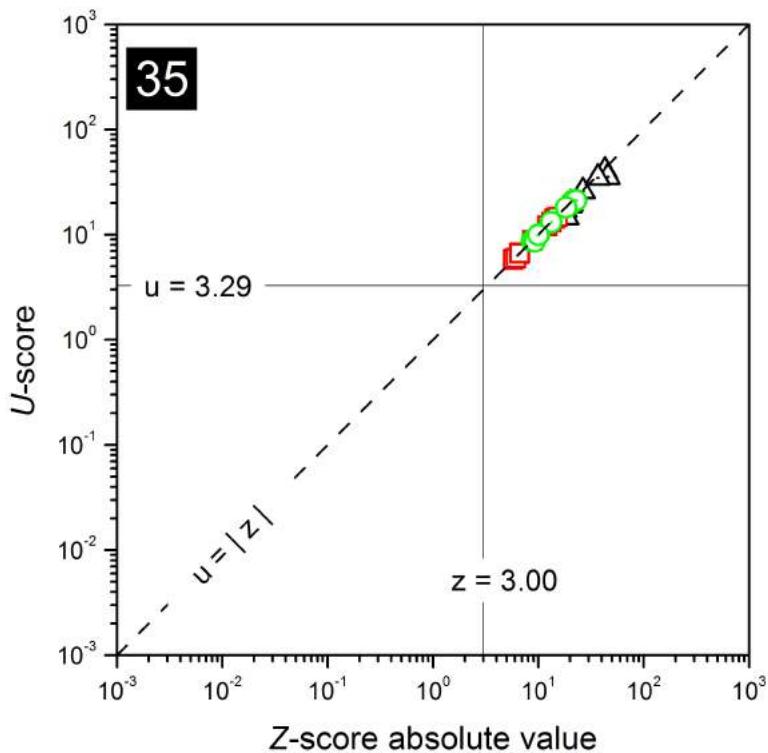
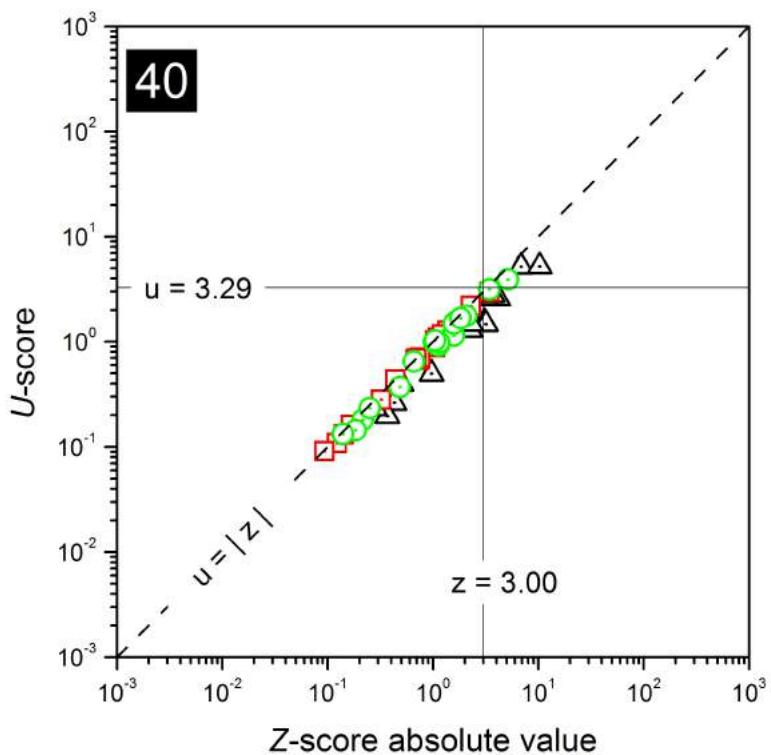
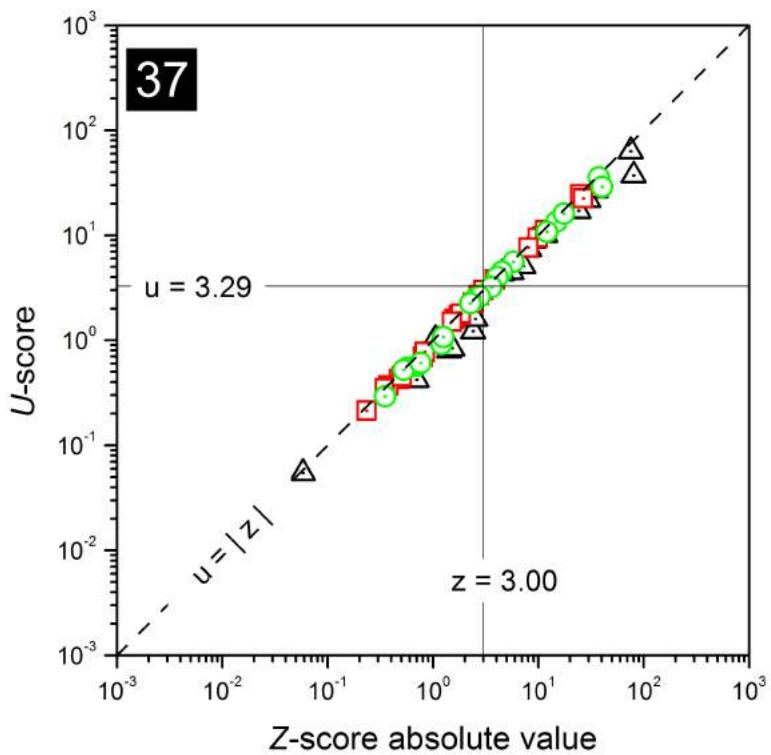
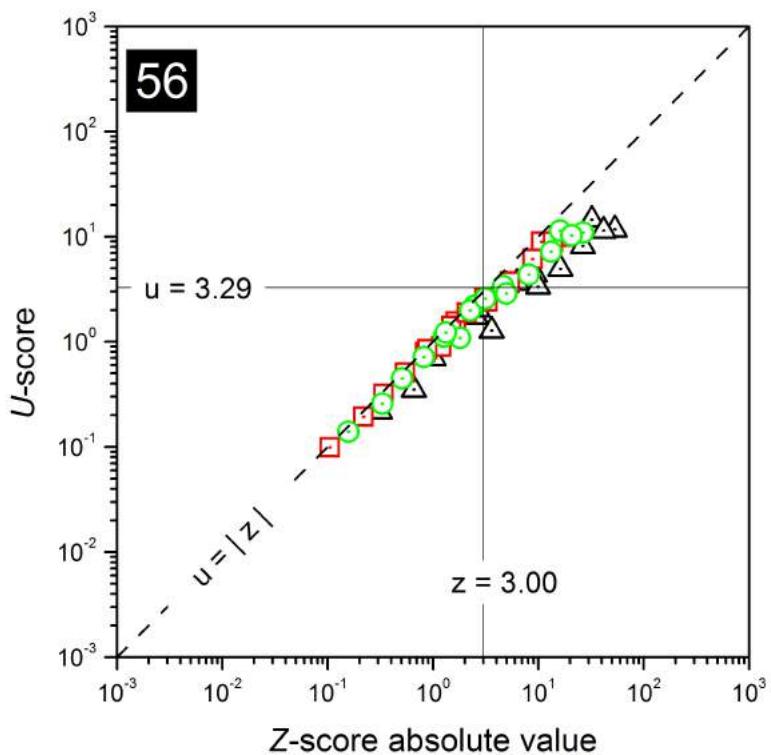
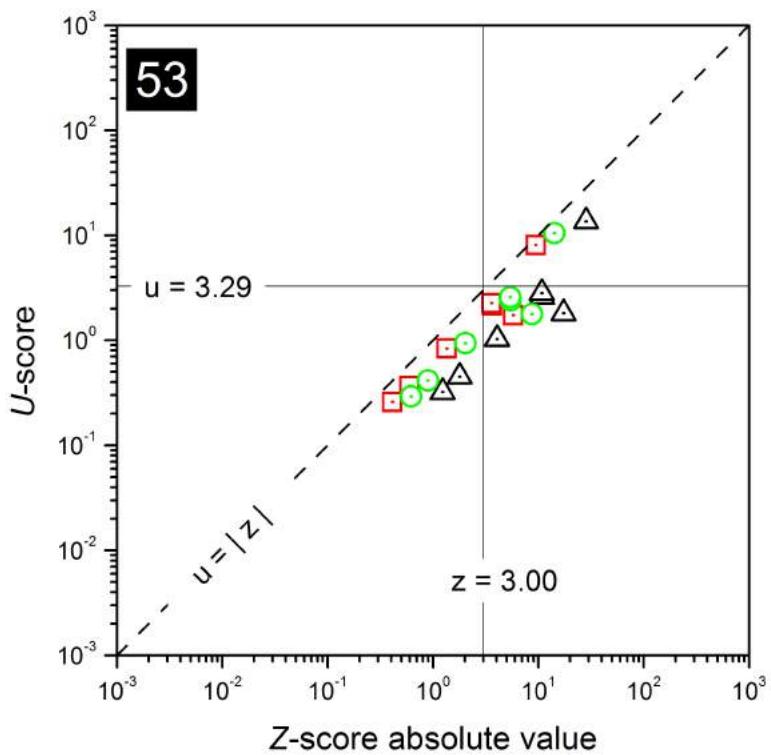
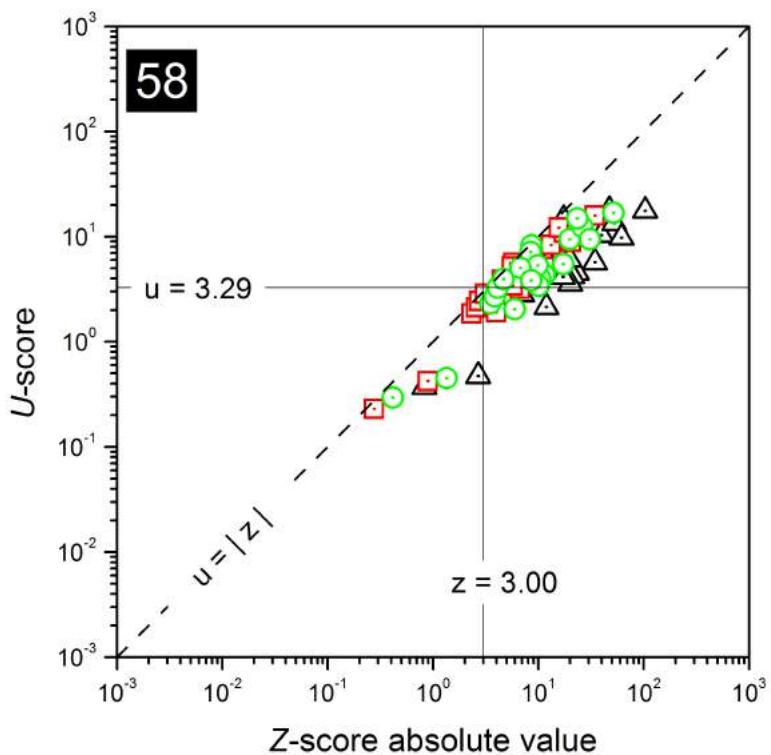
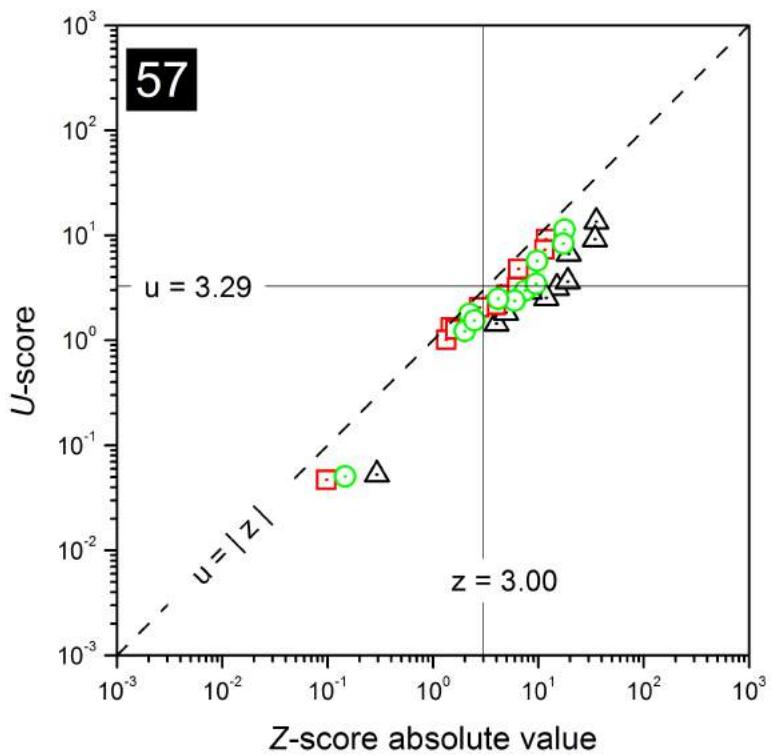


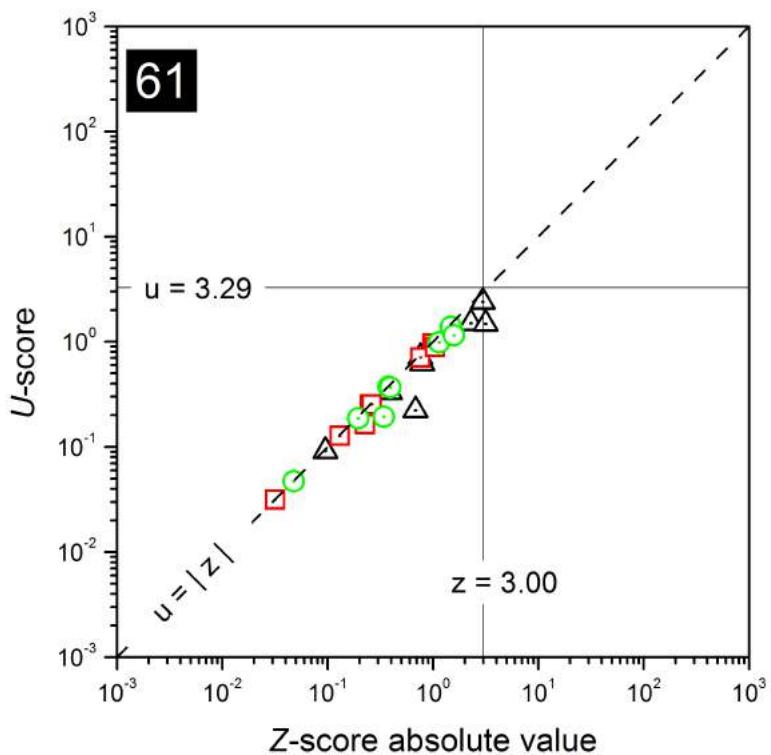
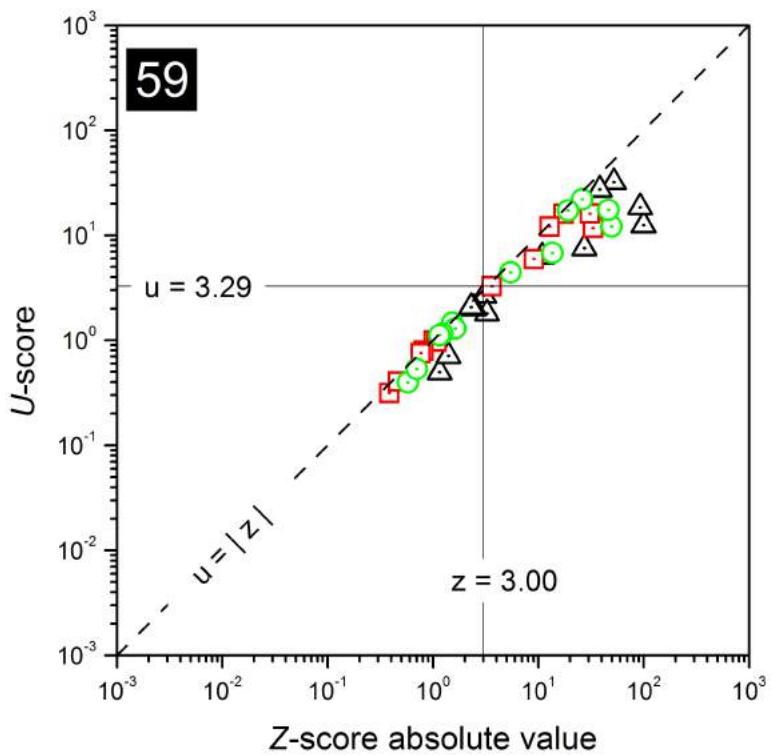
FIG. 65. Combined plots of z- and u-scores for participating laboratories. The laboratory code is shown in the left upper corner of each plot. The hollow symbols denote the values calculated for specific fit-for-purpose levels as defined in Eqn. (2) with factor k, namely: $k = 0.5$ - black triangles, $k = 1.0$ - green circles, and $k = 1.5$ - red squares. The solid lines mark the decision levels for z-score, $|z| = 3$, and u-score, $u = 3.29$. Points in the immediate proximity of the dashed diagonal line ($u = |z|$) have underestimated uncertainty values.

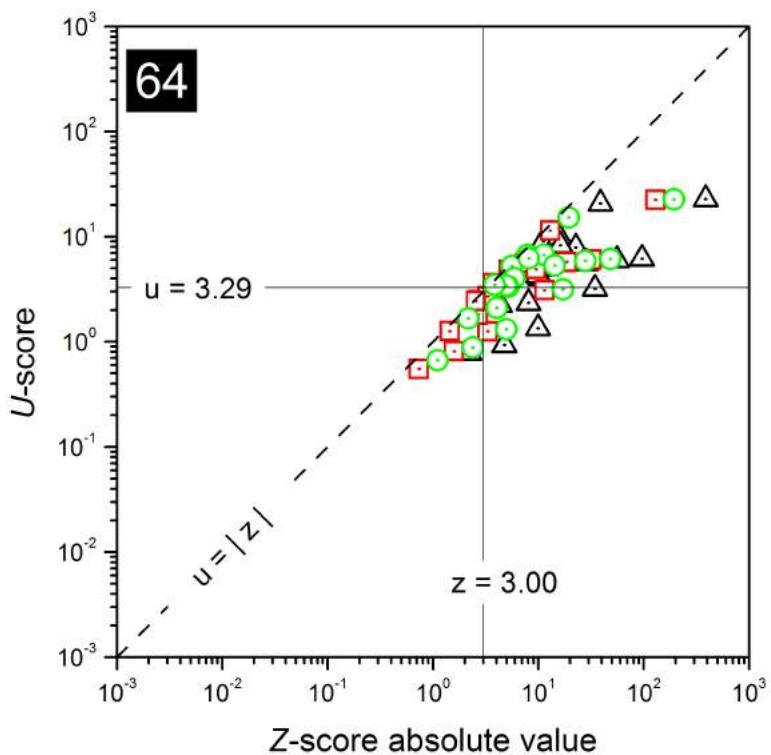
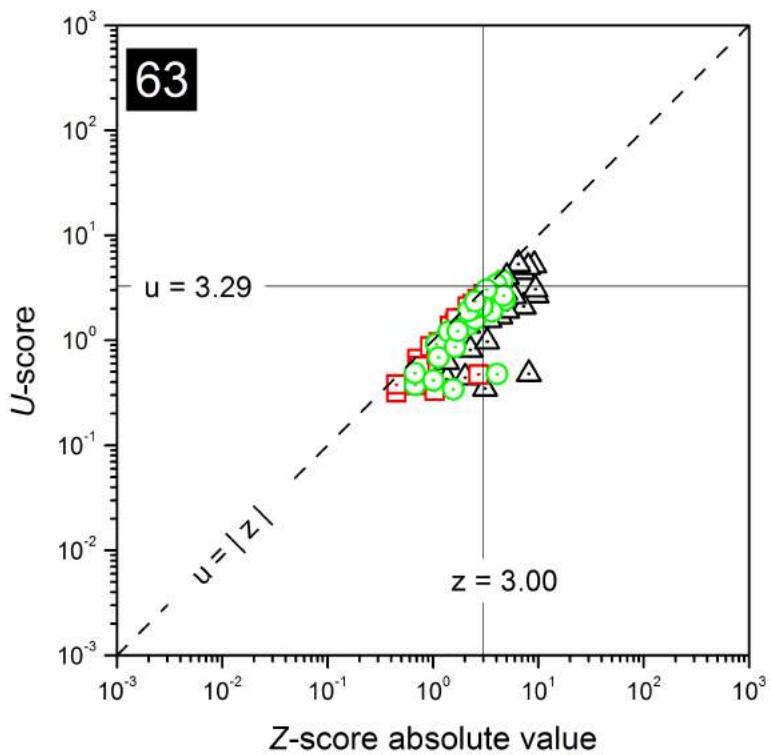


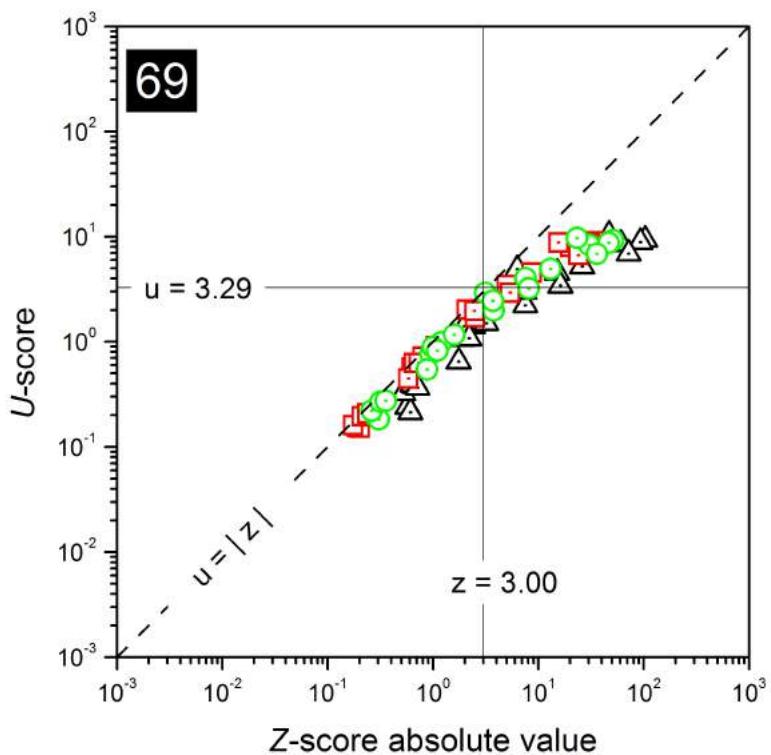
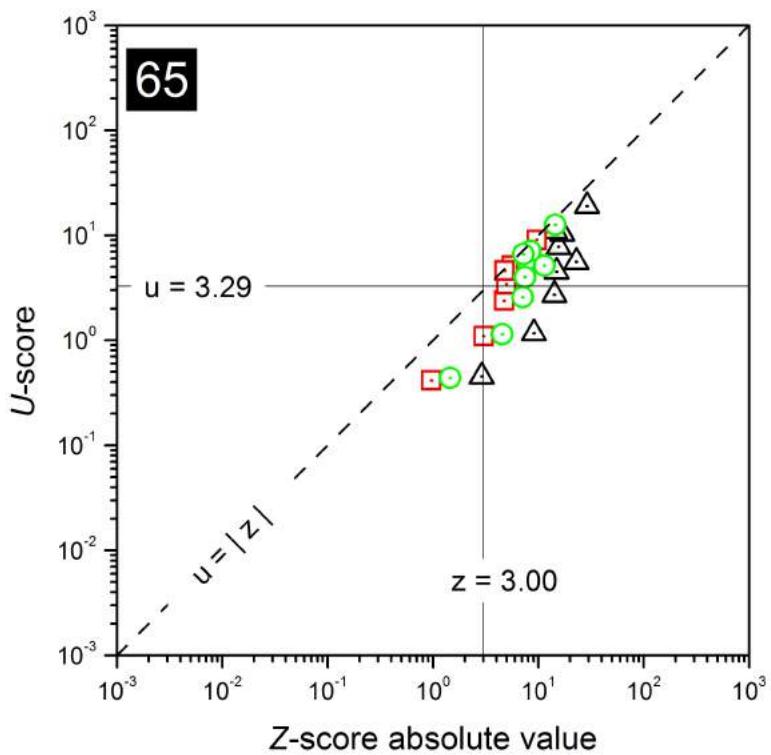


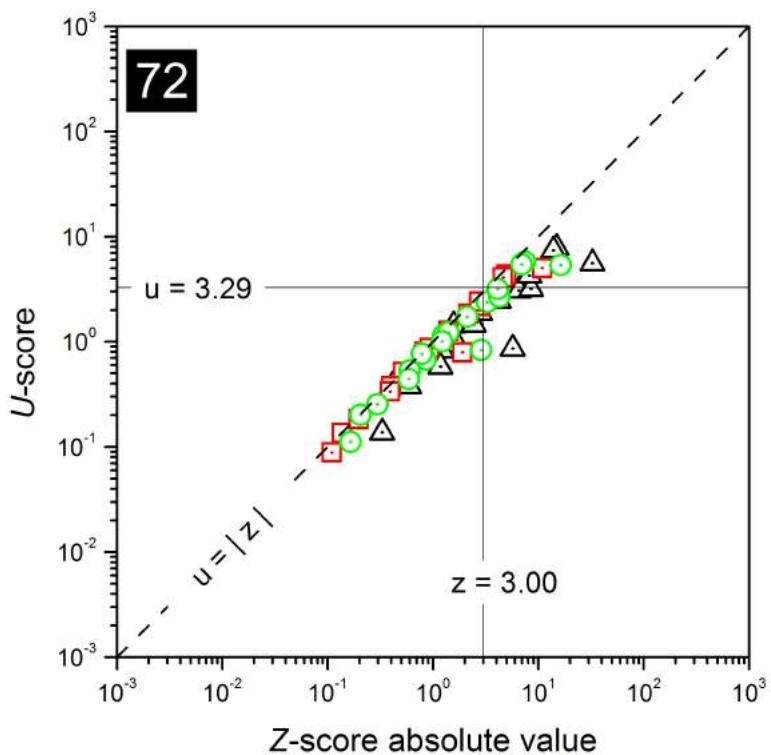
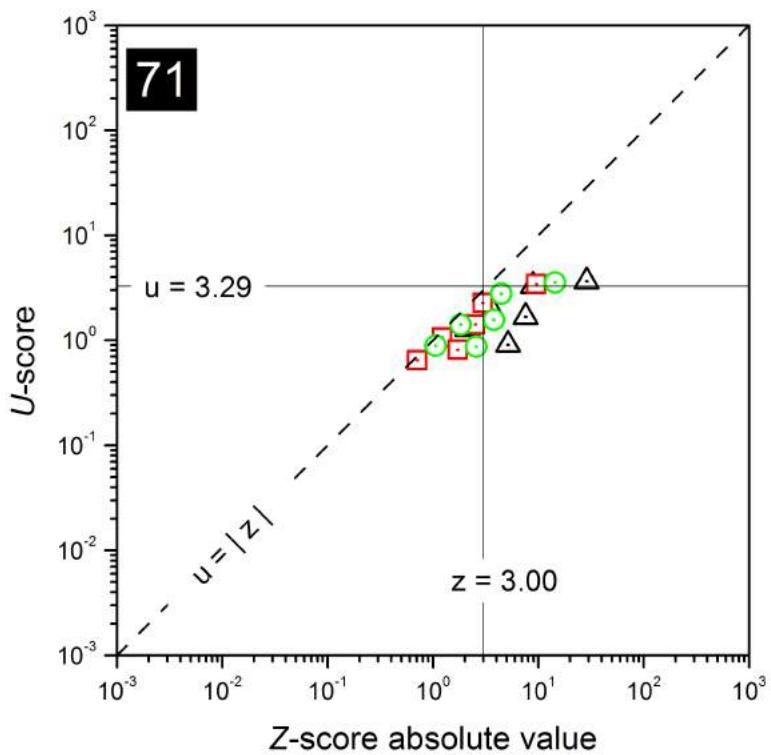


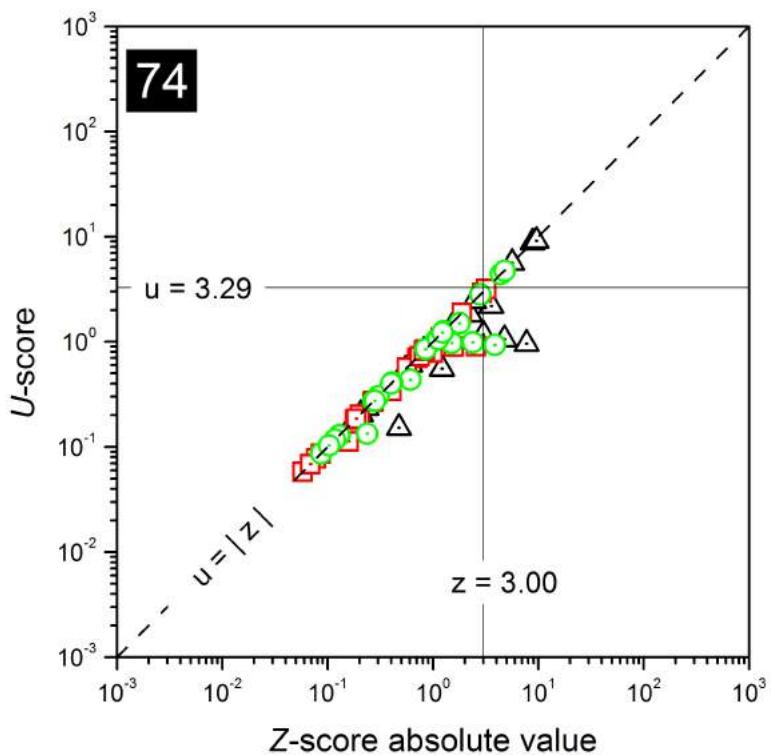
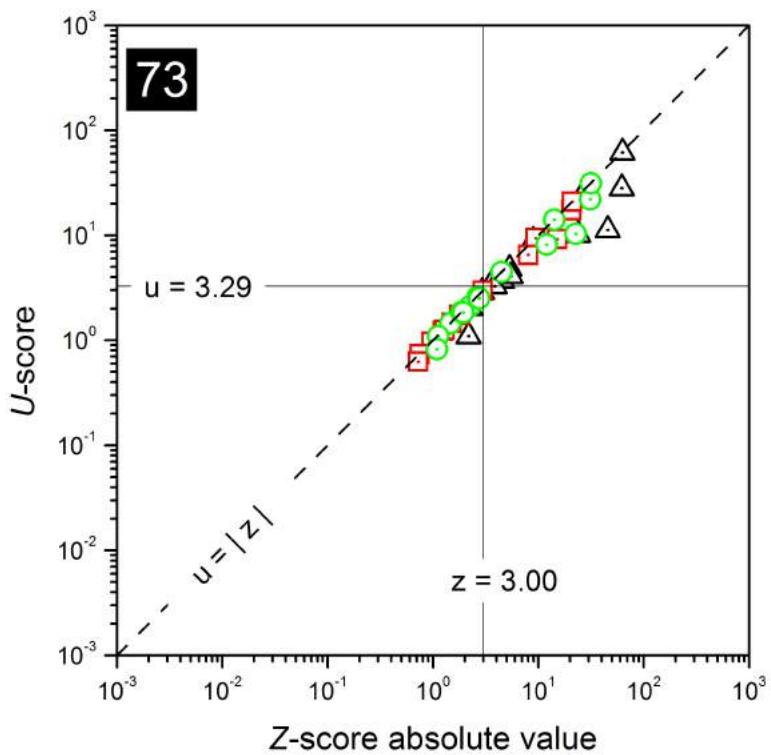


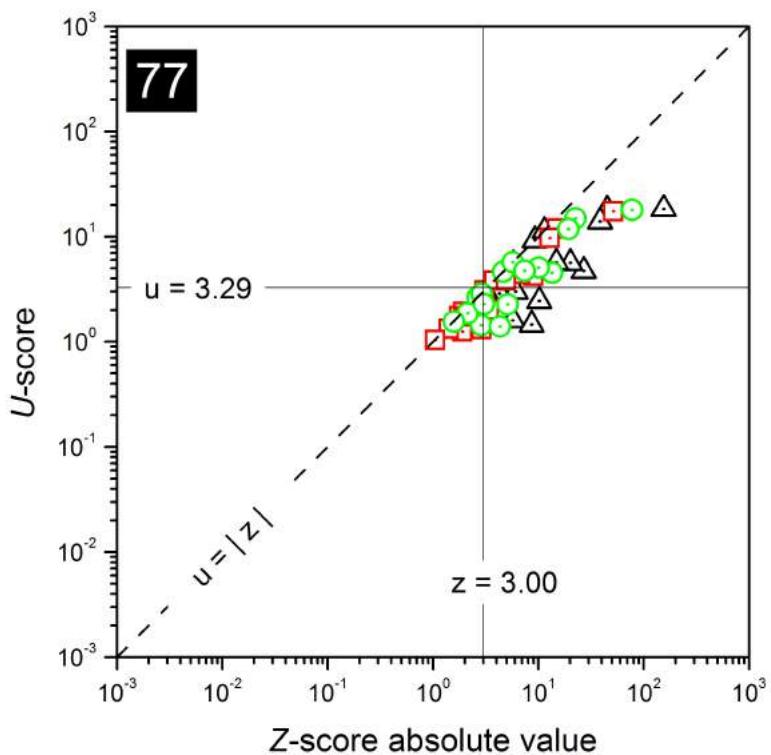
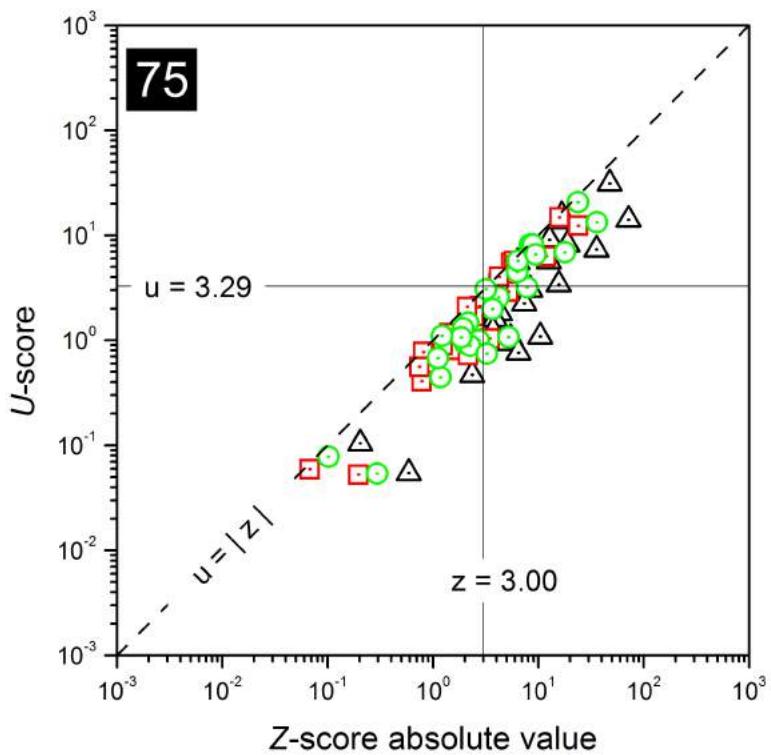


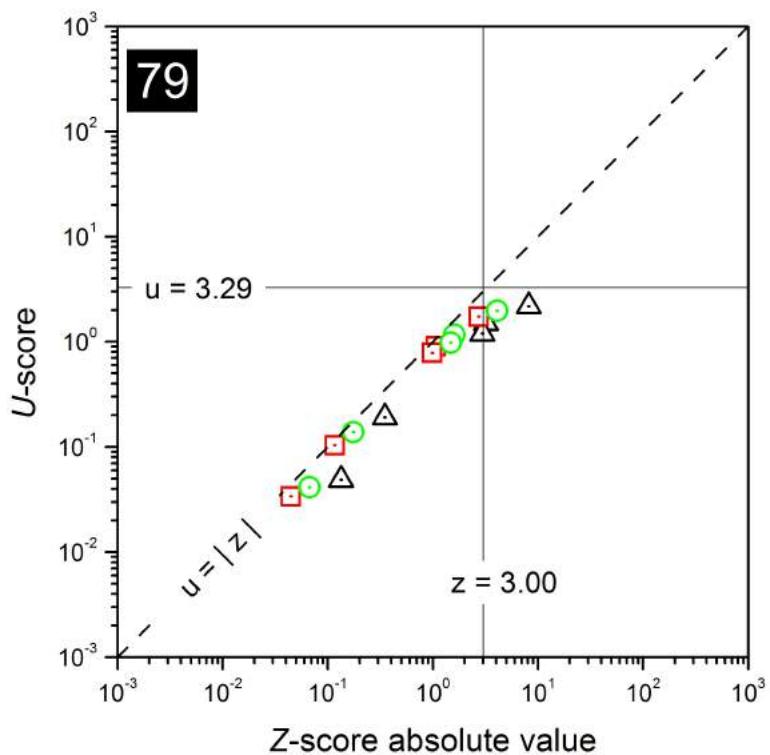
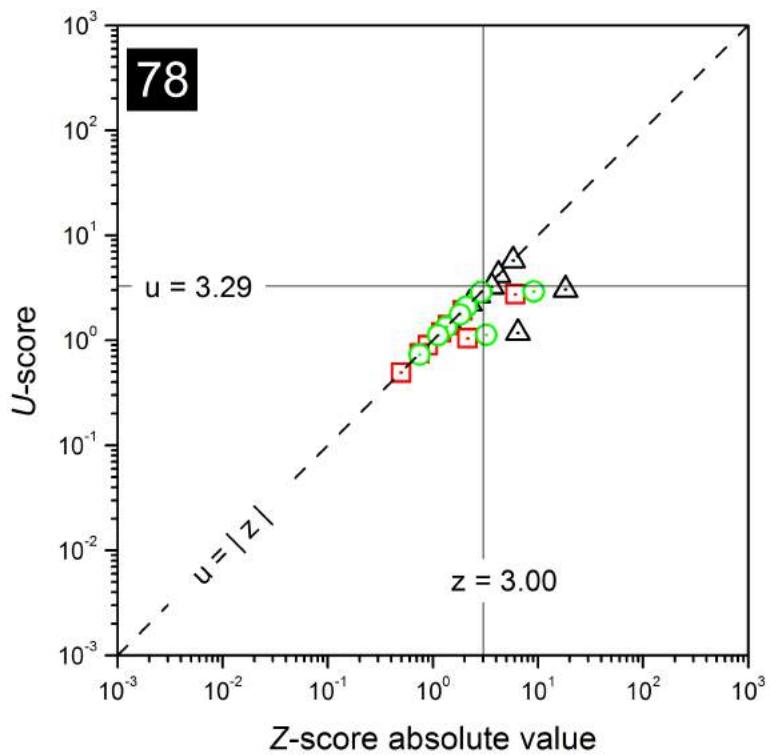


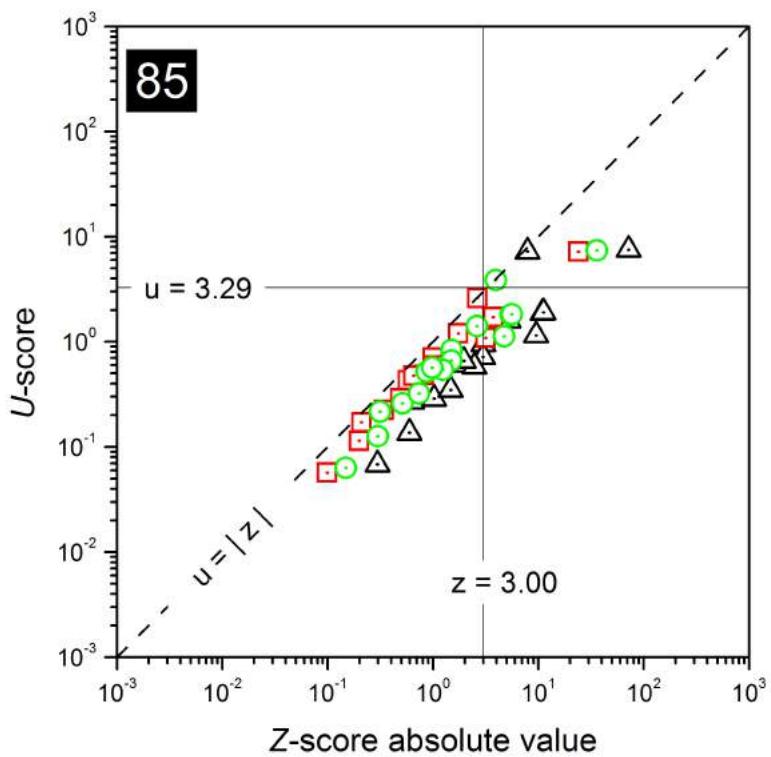
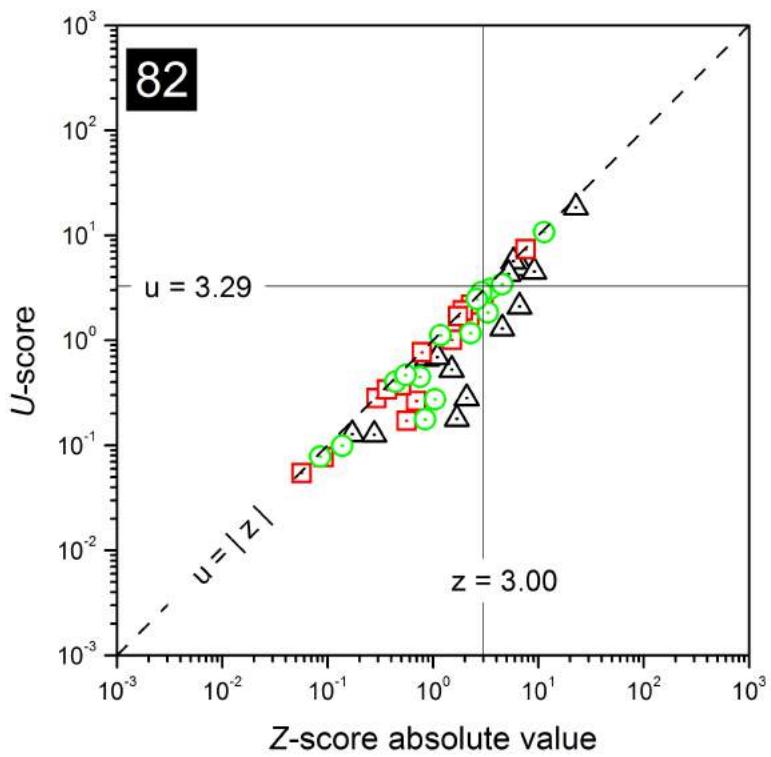


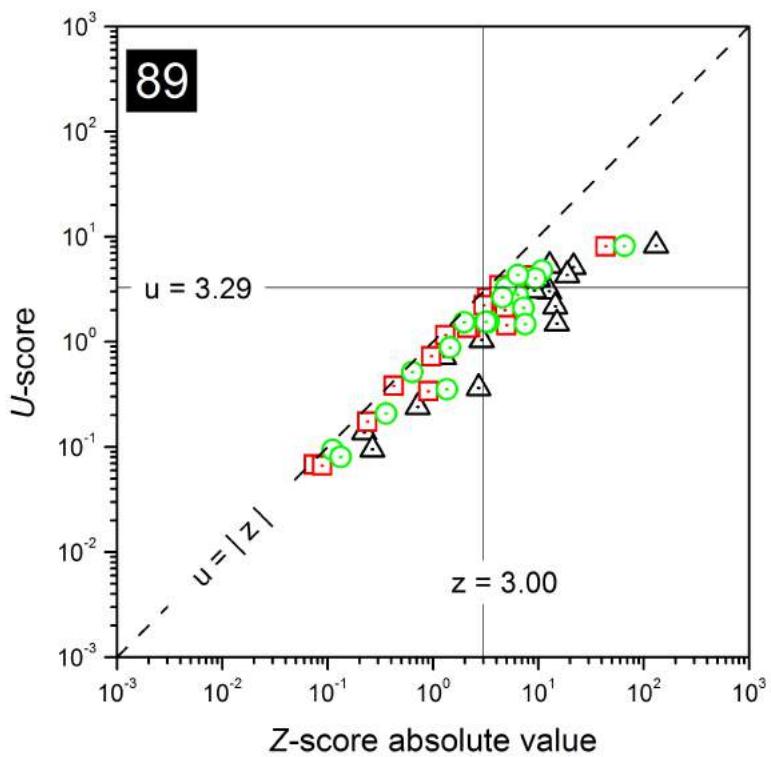
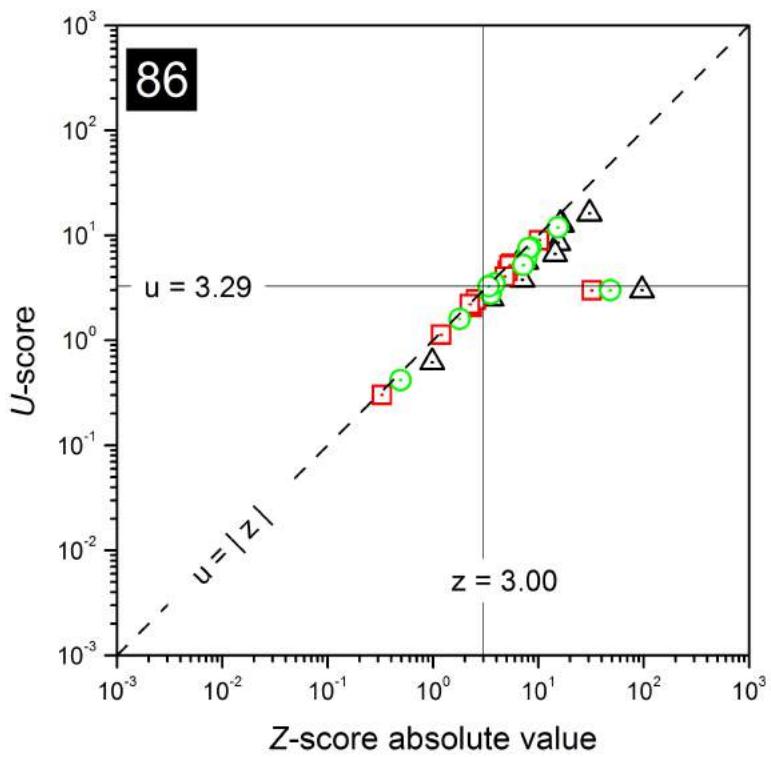


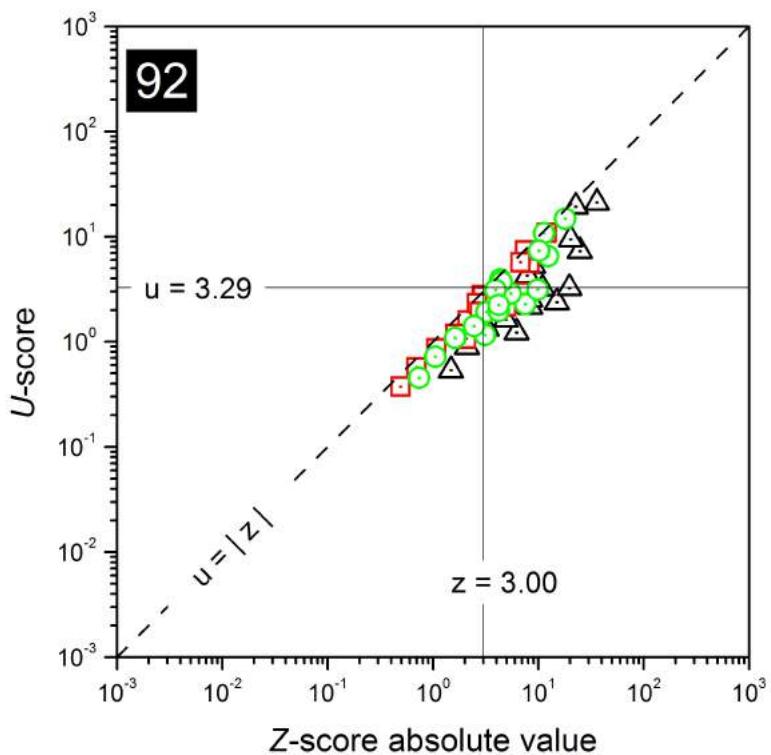
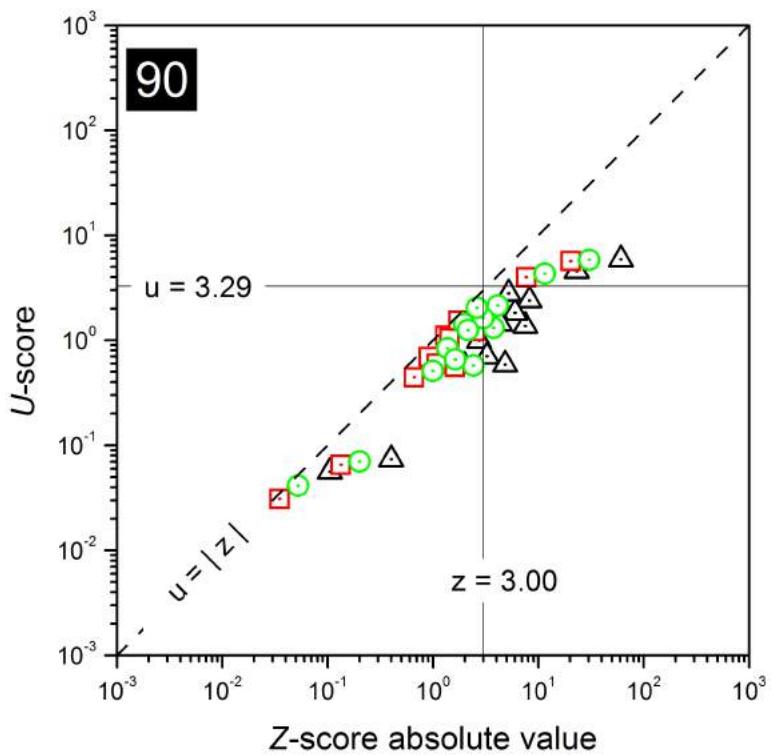


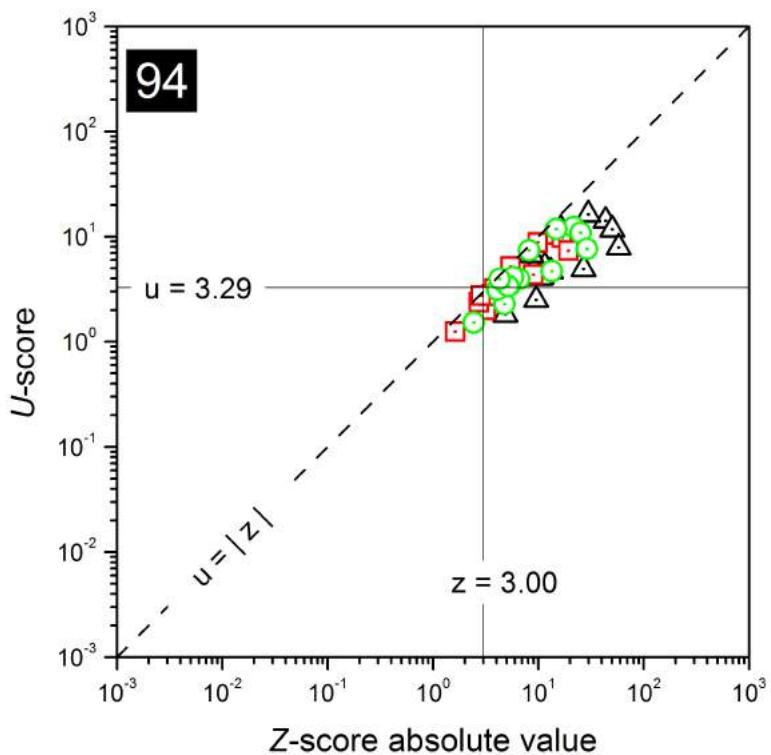
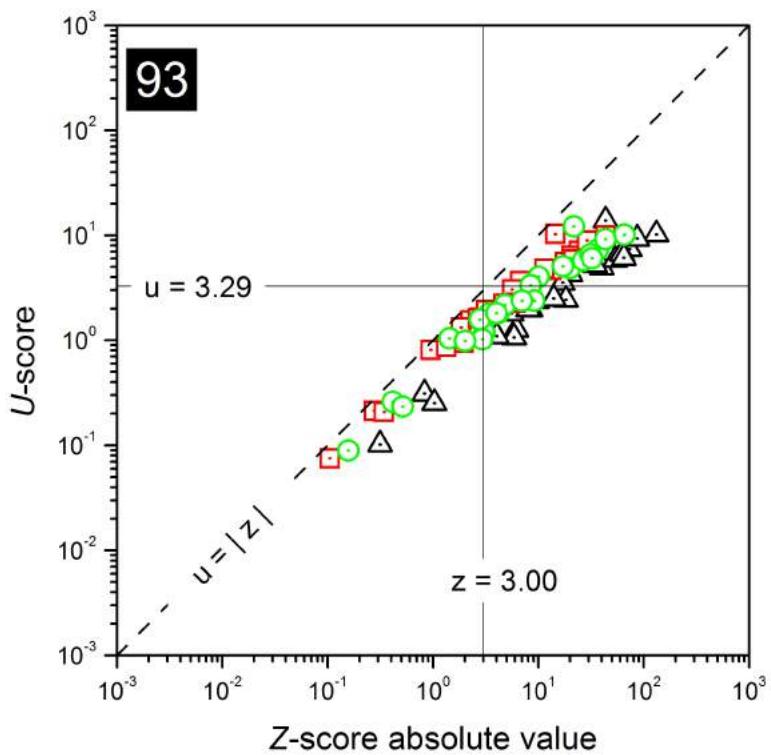


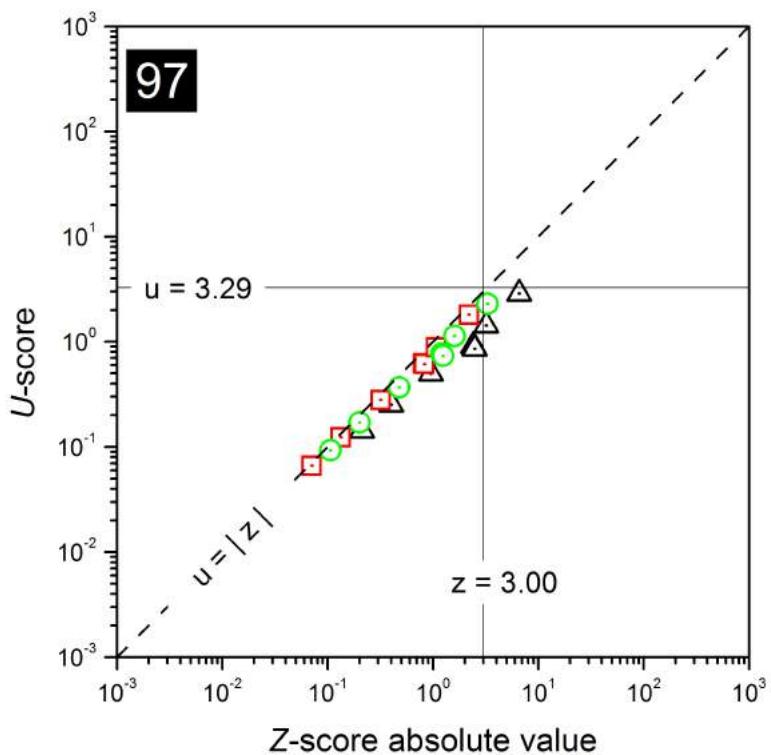
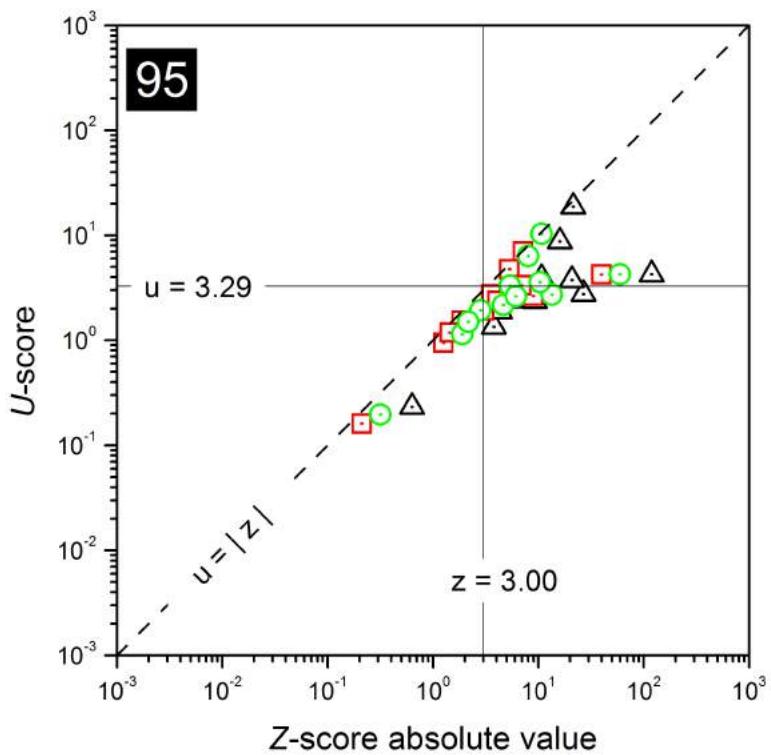


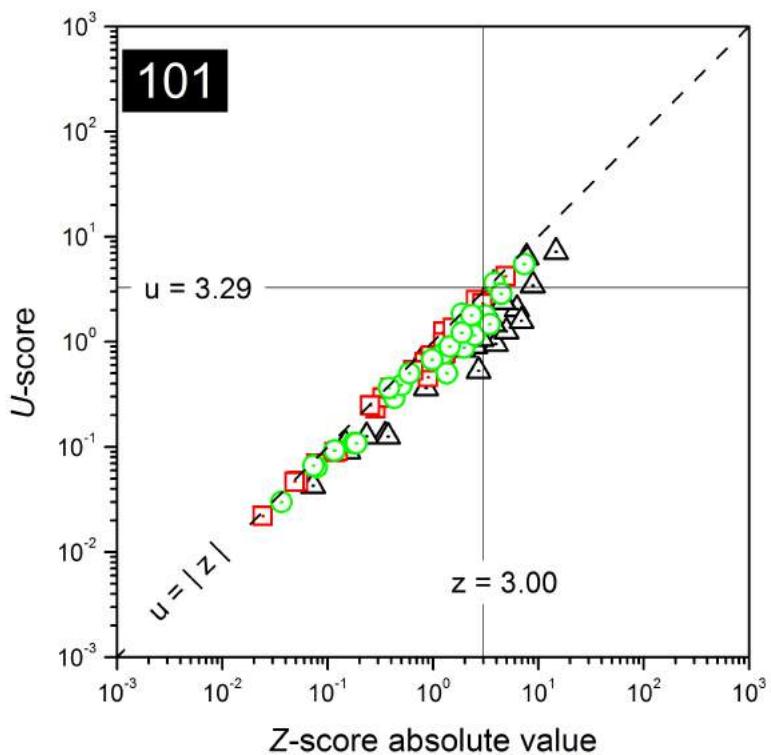
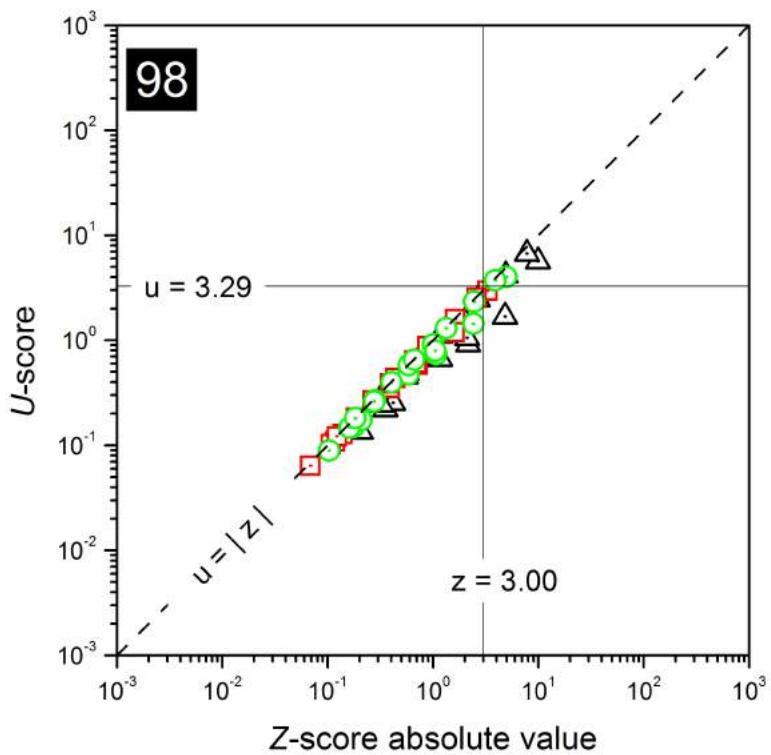


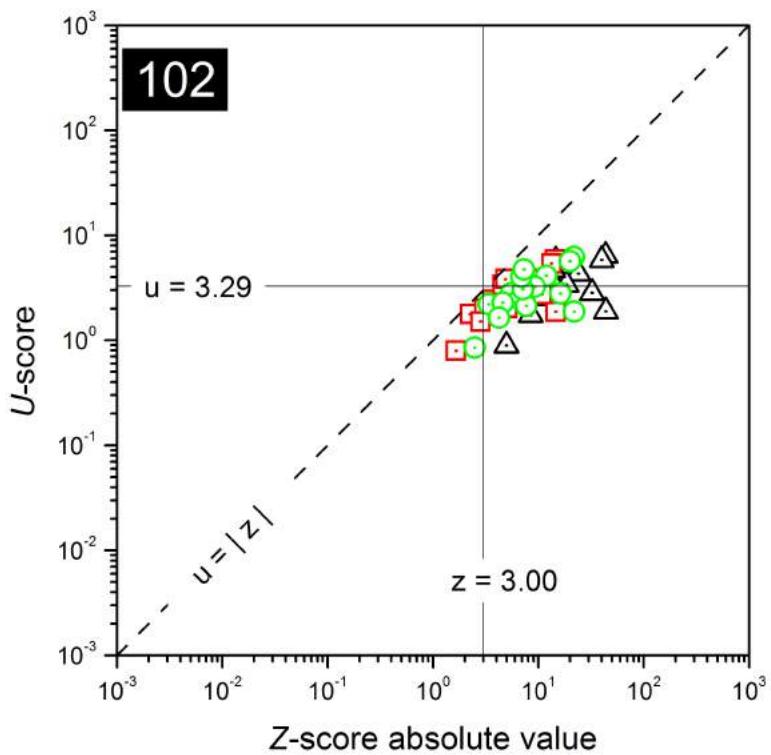












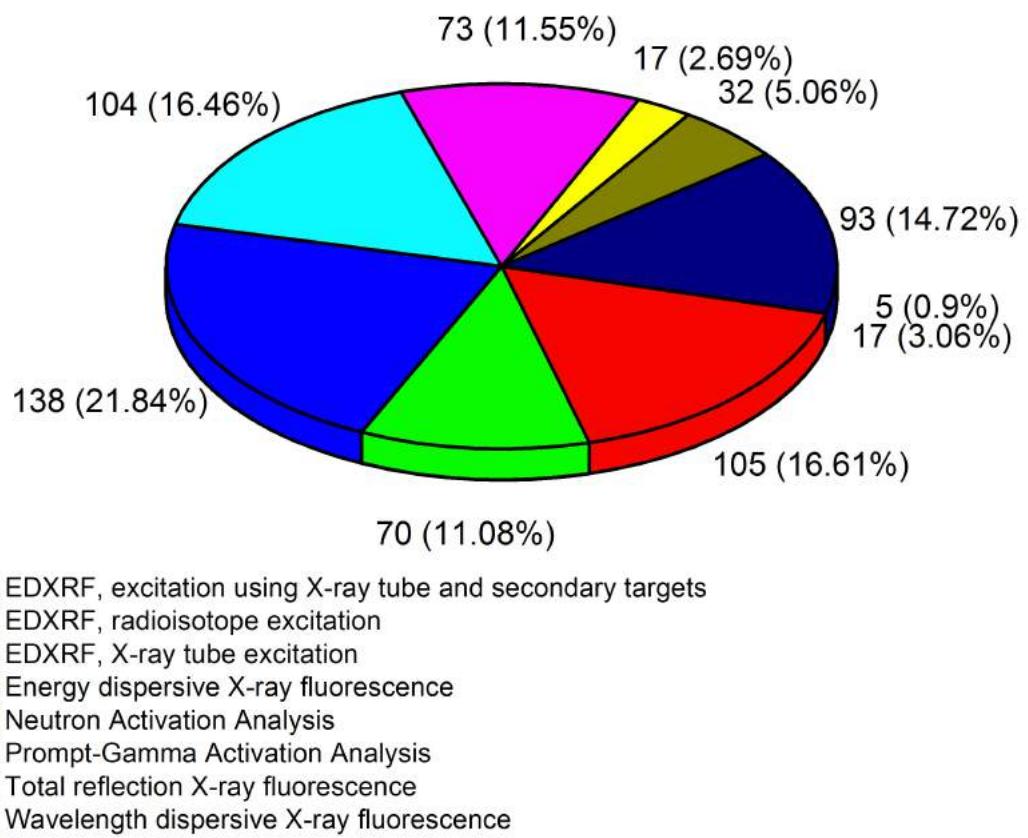


FIG. 6. Utilization of analytical techniques. For each analytical technique the number of submitted results is shown. The percent values relate to the total number of 632 submitted results.

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

The definitions of terms used in the proficiency testing schemes are provided. Although this terminology might be known to the participants or can be found elsewhere [8-10] the terms used in this report are clearly defined to avoid any ambiguity.

Proficiency Testing: evaluation of participant performance against pre-established criteria by means of interlaboratory comparisons.

True Value: the actual concentration of the analyte in the matrix.

Assigned Value: the value of the concentration of the analyte in the matrix used as the true value by the proficiency testing coordinator in the statistical treatment of results (or the best available estimate).

Target Value for Standard Deviation: a numerical value for the standard deviation of a measurement result, which has been designated as a target for measurement quality.

Consensus value: the mean value of the reported laboratory results after the removal of outliers.

Standard deviation of the consensus value: the standard deviation of the mean value of the reported laboratory results after the removal of outliers.

Certified Reference Material: A reference material, accompanied by a certificate, one or more of whose property values are certified by a procedure which establishes traceability to an accurate realization of the unit in which the property values are expressed, and for which each certified value is accompanied by an uncertainty at a stated level of confidence.

APPENDIX I
LIST OF PARTICIPATING LABORATORIES

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