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Exploring uni-element geochemical data under a compositional perspective

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13 Abstract

Different features of geochemical information were studied by comparing spatial distribution of 14 concentration values and compositional data values. Geochemical data are compositional and 15 should be treated as such to avoid spurious correlations and misleading interpretations. However, 16 geochemists are also interested to discuss in terms of elemental concentrations. In this work the 17 spatial distribution of Fe, Mn, Ti, Co, Cr, Ni and V based on 3,535 topsoil samples collected in 18 Campania region (Southern Italy) and analysed by ICP-MS after aqua regia digestion, is studied. 19 Unielement maps and CoDA based maps, namely of ilr-transformed data and of two 20 subcompositions of 3 components have been produced and interpreted. Results show that the ilr 21 22 maps often show different geochemical patterns from those provided by the maps based on raw concentrations, namely for V, Fe and Co. This is not surprising as each studied ilr is a (log)ratio of 23 an element against the others and account for the compositional variability. Nevertheless, the 24 geochemical patterns of both raw and ilr based maps relate mostly with the geolithological features 25 of the region: (1) (Ti, Ni, Cr)log-ratio variables are the best pathfinder in differentiating between 26

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