

## Supplementary information

### Limitations in using the Cu isotopic composition of minerals from ancient copper mines for archaeometric purposes

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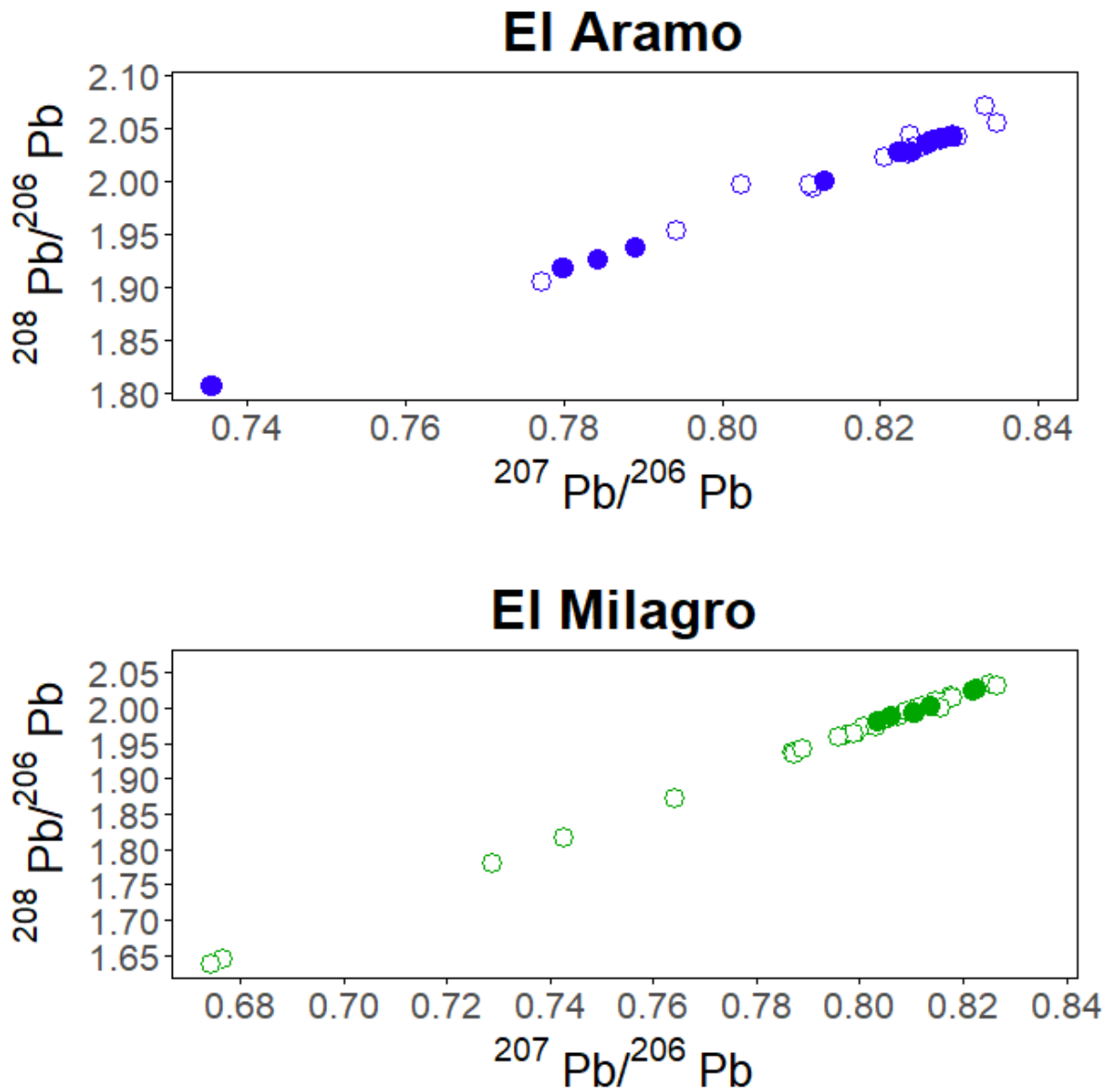
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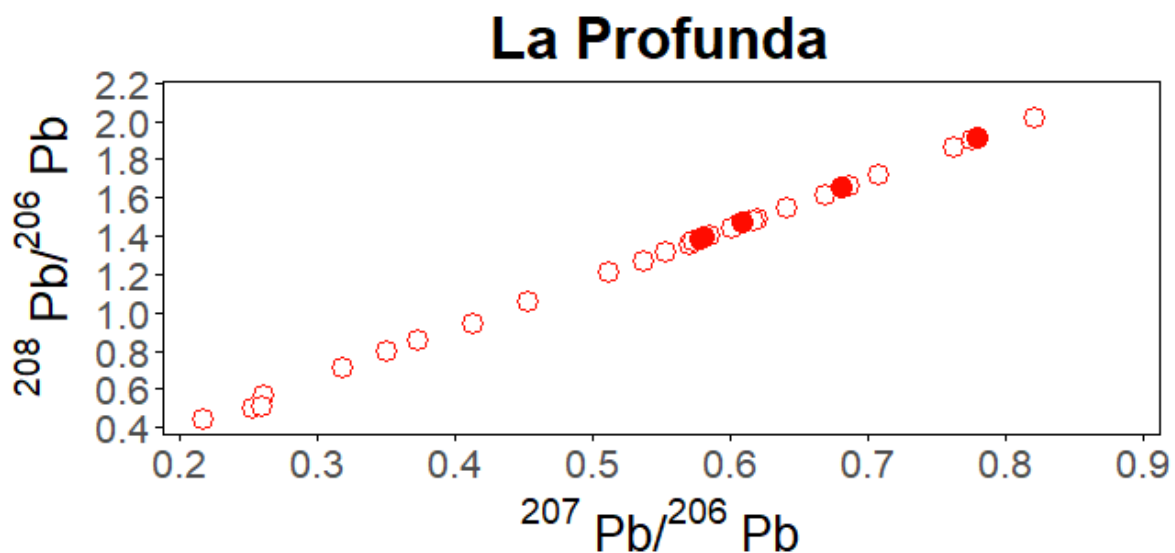
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**Figures S1-S4**

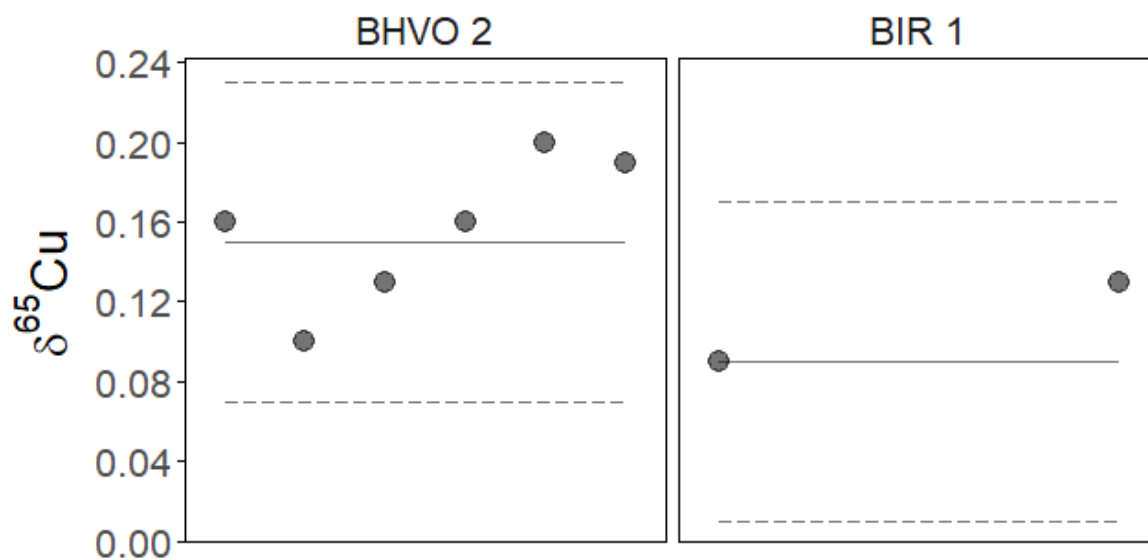
**Tables S1-S3**

**Figure S1.** New data for lead isotope ratios for the three mines studied (shaded symbols) in comparison with previously published data<sup>18-20</sup> (open symbols).

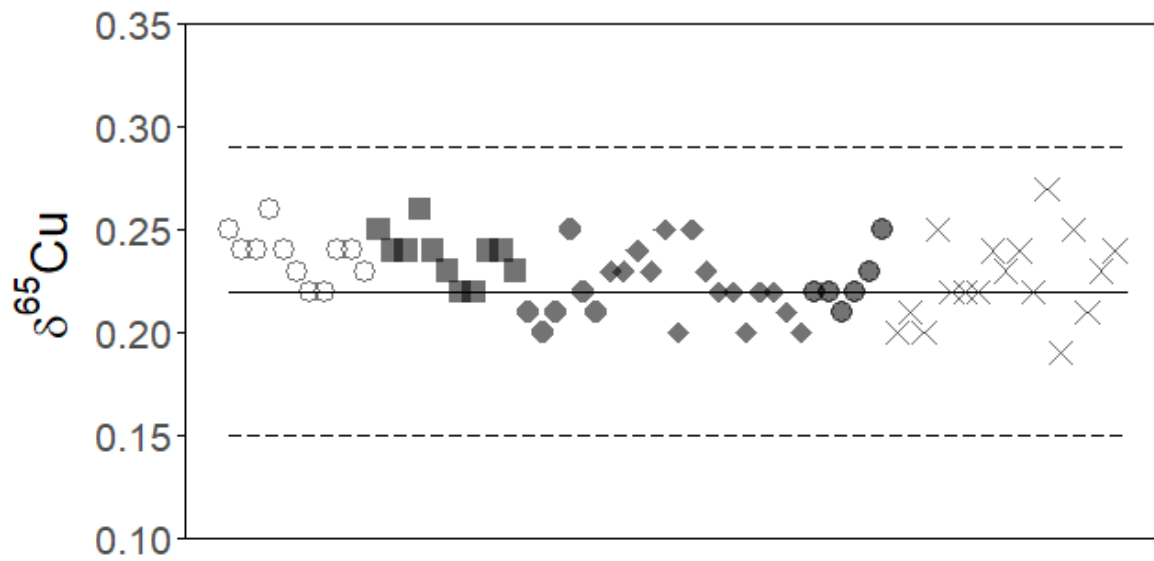




**Figure S2.** Cu isotope ratio data obtained for the certified reference materials BHVO 2 ( $\delta^{65}\text{Cu} = 0.15 \pm 0.08 \text{ ‰}$ ) and BIR 1 ( $\delta^{65}\text{Cu} = 0.09 \pm 0.08 \text{ ‰}$ ). Dots represent the experimental values, the solid line represents the average reported value<sup>1</sup> and the dashed lines represents the reported value  $\pm$  SD.



**Figure S3.** Quality control data based on analysis of the in-house copper standard ( $\delta^{65}\text{Cu}$  reference value =  $0.22 \pm 0.07$  ‰ (2 SD), horizontal line) on 6 different measurement days (using different markers for each day).



**Table S1.** Instrument settings and data acquisition parameters for the Neptune MC-ICP-MS units.

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| <b>Neptune MC-ICP-MS</b>                   |                      |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                     |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| RF Power (W)                               | 1200                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                     |
| Guard electrode                            | Connected            |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                     |
| Ar flow rates(L min <sup>-1</sup> )        | Plasma gas: 15       |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                     |
|  | Auxiliary gas: 0.80  |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                     |
|  | Nebulizer gas: 1.050 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                     |
| Sample uptake rate (μL min <sup>-1</sup> ) | 100                  |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                     |
| Acquisition mode                           | Static               |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                     |
| Number of blocks                           | 1                    |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                     |
| Number of cycles                           | 50                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                     |
| Integration time                           | 4.194                |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                     |
| Cup configurations                         | L4                   | L2                | C                 | H2                | H4                |                                     |
|  | <sup>63</sup> Cu     | <sup>65</sup> Cu  | <sup>67</sup> Zn  | <sup>69</sup> Ga  | <sup>71</sup> Ga  |                                     |
|  | L3                   | L2                | L1                | C                 | H1                | H2 H3                               |
|  | <sup>202</sup> Hg    | <sup>203</sup> Tl | <sup>204</sup> Pb | <sup>205</sup> Tl | <sup>206</sup> Pb | <sup>207</sup> Pb <sup>208</sup> Pb |

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**Table S2.** Pb isotopic composition of the measured samples. Data are expressed as the mean isotope ratio and 2 times the standard deviation (2SD) calculated from 3 measurement replicates. (a), (b) and (c) correspond to sub-samples.

| Mine/Site           | Sample ID | $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ | 2SD    | $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ | 2SD    | $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ | 2SD    |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| El Aramo/inner part | AI 01 (a) | 1.8066                            | 0.0003 | 0.7354                            | 0.0001 | 21.4826                           | 0.0093 |
|                     | AI 01 (b) | 1.8067                            | 0.0003 | 0.7354                            | 0.0001 | 21.4810                           | 0.0093 |
|                     | AI 01 (c) | 1.8072                            | 0.0002 | 0.7356                            | 0.0002 | 21.4788                           | 0.0092 |
|                     | AI 02 (a) | 2.0353                            | 0.0003 | 0.8260                            | 0.0002 | 18.9699                           | 0.0084 |
|                     | AI 02 (b) | 2.0352                            | 0.0003 | 0.8260                            | 0.0002 | 18.9658                           | 0.0084 |
|                     | AI 02 (c) | 2.0357                            | 0.0003 | 0.8262                            | 0.0002 | 18.9651                           | 0.0085 |
|                     | AI 03 (a) | 1.9172                            | 0.0004 | 0.7780                            | 0.0001 | 20.0921                           | 0.0089 |
|                     | AI 03 (b) | 1.9171                            | 0.0004 | 0.7799                            | 0.0001 | 20.0874                           | 0.0089 |
|                     | AI 03 (c) | 1.9170                            | 0.0003 | 0.7799                            | 0.0001 | 20.0954                           | 0.0090 |
|                     | AI 04 (a) | 1.9372                            | 0.0004 | 0.7891                            | 0.0001 | 20.0017                           | 0.0086 |
|                     | AI 04 (b) | 1.9372                            | 0.0004 | 0.7891                            | 0.0002 | 20.0001                           | 0.0086 |
|                     | AI 04 (c) | 1.9372                            | 0.0004 | 0.7891                            | 0.0002 | 20.0003                           | 0.0085 |
|                     | AI 05 (a) | 1.9995                            | 0.0004 | 0.8130                            | 0.0001 | 19.3623                           | 0.0083 |
|                     | AI 05 (b) | 1.9995                            | 0.0003 | 0.8130                            | 0.0001 | 19.3628                           | 0.0082 |
|                     | AI 05 (c) | 1.9995                            | 0.0003 | 0.8130                            | 0.0002 | 19.3630                           | 0.0081 |
|                     | AI 06 (a) | 2.0411                            | 0.0004 | 0.8291                            | 0.0002 | 18.9620                           | 0.0082 |
|                     | AI 06 (b) | 2.0411                            | 0.0004 | 0.8291                            | 0.0001 | 18.9606                           | 0.0081 |
|                     | AI 06 (c) | 2.0411                            | 0.0004 | 0.8291                            | 0.0002 | 18.9608                           | 0.0080 |
|                     | AI 07 (a) | 2.0274                            | 0.0004 | 0.8224                            | 0.0001 | 19.1250                           | 0.0083 |
|                     | AI 07 (b) | 2.0275                            | 0.0004 | 0.8225                            | 0.0002 | 19.1255                           | 0.0084 |

|                 |           |        |        |        |        |         |        |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
|                 | AI 07 (c) | 2.0275 | 0.0004 | 0.8224 | 0.0002 | 19.1258 | 0.0081 |
|                 | AI 08 (a) | 1.9251 | 0.0004 | 0.7844 | 0.0001 | 20.1411 | 0.0087 |
|                 | AI 08 (b) | 1.9252 | 0.0003 | 0.7844 | 0.0001 | 20.1406 | 0.0087 |
|                 | AI 08 (c) | 1.9252 | 0.0004 | 0.7844 | 0.0002 | 20.1400 | 0.0086 |
|                 | AI 09 (a) | 2.0276 | 0.0004 | 0.8241 | 0.0002 | 19.0914 | 0.0082 |
|                 | AI 09 (b) | 2.0276 | 0.0004 | 0.8241 | 0.0002 | 19.0907 | 0.0081 |
|                 | AI 09 (c) | 2.0276 | 0.0004 | 0.8241 | 0.0001 | 19.0913 | 0.0083 |
|                 | AI 10 (a) | 1.9909 | 0.0004 | 0.8078 | 0.0002 | 19.4428 | 0.0089 |
|                 | AI 10 (b) | 1.9907 | 0.0004 | 0.8078 | 0.0001 | 19.4348 | 0.0084 |
|                 | AI 10 (c) | 1.9908 | 0.0004 | 0.8078 | 0.0002 | 19.4387 | 0.0086 |
|                 | AI 11 (a) | 2.0410 | 0.0003 | 0.8276 | 0.0002 | 18.9993 | 0.0082 |
|                 | AI 11 (b) | 2.0409 | 0.0004 | 0.8276 | 0.0001 | 19.0000 | 0.0085 |
|                 | AI 11 (c) | 2.0410 | 0.0004 | 0.8276 | 0.0002 | 18.9998 | 0.0083 |
| El Milagro/dump | MD 01 (a) | 2.0244 | 0.0004 | 0.8219 | 0.0002 | 18.5747 | 0.0085 |
|                 | MD 01 (b) | 2.0244 | 0.0004 | 0.8219 | 0.0002 | 18.5773 | 0.0085 |
|                 | MD 01 (c) | 2.0243 | 0.0004 | 0.8218 | 0.0001 | 18.5775 | 0.0084 |
|                 | MD 02 (a) | 2.0277 | 0.0004 | 0.8227 | 0.0001 | 18.9748 | 0.0082 |
|                 | MD 02 (b) | 2.0277 | 0.0003 | 0.8226 | 0.0002 | 18.9781 | 0.0083 |
|                 | MD 02 (c) | 2.0276 | 0.0004 | 0.8226 | 0.0002 | 18.9729 | 0.0083 |
|                 | MD 03 (a) | 2.0089 | 0.0004 | 0.8092 | 0.0001 | 18.1898 | 0.0084 |
|                 | MD 03 (b) | 2.0091 | 0.0004 | 0.8093 | 0.0001 | 18.2069 | 0.0078 |
|                 | MD 03 (c) | 2.0090 | 0.0005 | 0.8093 | 0.0001 | 18.2144 | 0.0088 |
|                 | MD 04 (a) | 2.0316 | 0.0005 | 0.8198 | 0.0001 | 19.5262 | 0.0074 |

|                        |           |        |        |        |        |         |        |
|------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
|                        | MD 04 (b) | 2.0310 | 0.0004 | 0.8197 | 0.0001 | 19.5317 | 0.0075 |
|                        | MD 04 (c) | 2.0296 | 0.0004 | 0.8192 | 0.0001 | 19.5329 | 0.0079 |
|                        | MD 05 (a) | 2.0209 | 0.0004 | 0.8149 | 0.0002 | 19.7002 | 0.0083 |
|                        | MD 05 (b) | 2.0207 | 0.0004 | 0.8148 | 0.0002 | 19.7100 | 0.0089 |
|                        | MD 05 (c) | 2.0207 | 0.0004 | 0.8149 | 0.0002 | 19.7080 | 0.0088 |
|                        | MD 06 (a) | 2.0113 | 0.0004 | 0.8098 | 0.0001 | 19.5229 | 0.0096 |
|                        | MD 06 (b) | 2.0117 | 0.0005 | 0.8099 | 0.0001 | 19.5218 | 0.0090 |
|                        | MD 06 (c) | 2.0116 | 0.0004 | 0.8099 | 0.0001 | 19.5090 | 0.0094 |
|                        | MD 07 (a) | 2.0184 | 0.0004 | 0.8127 | 0.0001 | 19.3398 | 0.0083 |
|                        | MD 07 (b) | 2.0182 | 0.0005 | 0.8126 | 0.0001 | 19.3405 | 0.0079 |
|                        | MD 07 (c) | 2.0181 | 0.0005 | 0.8126 | 0.0001 | 19.3405 | 0.0080 |
| La Profunda/dump       | PD 01 (a) | 1.4676 | 0.0004 | 0.6085 | 0.0001 | 26.3387 | 0.0116 |
|                        | PD 01 (b) | 1.4674 | 0.0004 | 0.6084 | 0.0001 | 26.3404 | 0.0115 |
|                        | PD 01 (c) | 1.4680 | 0.0005 | 0.6086 | 0.0001 | 26.3304 | 0.0158 |
|                        | PD 02 (a) | 1.9080 | 0.0004 | 0.7797 | 0.0001 | 20.2423 | 0.0087 |
|                        | PD 02 (b) | 1.9080 | 0.0004 | 0.7797 | 0.0001 | 20.2434 | 0.0087 |
|                        | PD 02 (c) | 1.9080 | 0.0005 | 0.7797 | 0.0001 | 20.2433 | 0.0088 |
|                        | PD 03 (a) | 1.3880 | 0.0003 | 0.5814 | 0.0001 | 27.8593 | 0.0120 |
|                        | PD 03 (b) | 1.3880 | 0.0003 | 0.5813 | 0.0001 | 27.8614 | 0.0122 |
|                        | PD 03 (c) | 1.3880 | 0.0003 | 0.5813 | 0.0001 | 27.8581 | 0.0121 |
| La Profunda/inner part | PI 01 (a) | 1.3812 | 0.0003 | 0.5780 | 0.0001 | 28.0003 | 0.0121 |
|                        | PI 01 (b) | 1.3812 | 0.0003 | 0.5780 | 0.0001 | 27.9991 | 0.0103 |
|                        | PI 01 (c) | 1.3813 | 0.0003 | 0.5780 | 0.0001 | 27.9975 | 0.0105 |



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|           |        |        |        |        |         |        |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| PI 02 (a) | 1.6490 | 0.0003 | 0.6804 | 0.0001 | 23.4332 | 0.0108 |
| PI 02 (b) | 1.6492 | 0.0003 | 0.6804 | 0.0001 | 23.4316 | 0.0102 |
| PI 02 (c) | 1.6493 | 0.0003 | 0.6805 | 0.0001 | 23.4292 | 0.0105 |

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**Table S3:** Cu isotope ratio for the measured samples. Data are expressed as the mean  $\delta^{65}\text{Cu}$  value (‰) and 2 times the standard deviation (2SD) calculated from 3 measurement replicates. (a), (b) and (c) correspond to sub-samples.

| <b>Mine/Site</b>    | <b>Sample ID</b> | <b><math>\delta^{65}\text{Cu}</math> (‰)</b> | <b>2SD</b> |
|---------------------|------------------|--|------------|
| El Aramo/Inner Part | AI 01 (a)        | -0.142                                       | 0.019      |
|                     | AI 01 (b)        | -0.072                                       | 0.016      |
|                     | AI 01 (c)        | -0.015                                       | 0.009      |
|                     | AI 02 (a)        | 0.902  | 0.006      |
|                     | AI 02 (b)        | 0.610  | 0.035      |
|                     | AI 02 (c)        | 0.950  | 0.031      |
|                     | AI 03 (a)        | -0.173                                       | 0.017      |
|                     | AI 03 (b)        | -0.363                                       | 0.011      |
|                     | AI 03 (c)        | -0.989                                       | 0.014      |
|                     | AI 04 (a)        | -0.531                                       | 0.023      |
|                     | AI 04 (b)        | -0.004                                       | 0.091      |
|                     | AI 04 (c)        | -0.157                                       | 0.035      |
|                     | AI 05 (a)        | -0.398                                       | 0.017      |
|                     | AI 05 (b)        | -0.952                                       | 0.017      |
|                     | AI 05 (c)        | -1.472                                       | 0.034      |
|                     | AI 06 (a)        | 0.347  | 0.062      |
|                     | AI 06 (b)        | -0.698                                       | 0.008      |
|                     | AI 06 (c)        | -0.209                                       | 0.019      |
|                     | AI 07 (a)        | -0.782                                       | 0.011      |

|                 |           |        |       |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|-------|
|                 | AI 07 (b) | -1.165 | 0.039 |
|                 | AI 07 (c) | -0.968 | 0.050 |
|                 | AI 08 (a) | 0.600  | 0.036 |
|                 | AI 08 (b) | 0.594  | 0.031 |
|                 | AI 08 (c) | 0.380  | 0.060 |
|                 | AI 09 (a) | 0.778  | 0.021 |
|                 | AI 09 (b) | 0.808  | 0.001 |
|                 | AI 09 (c) | 1.020  | 0.013 |
|                 | AI 10 (a) | 0.329  | 0.012 |
|                 | AI 10 (b) | 0.399  | 0.009 |
|                 | AI 10 (c) | 0.386  | 0.019 |
|                 | AI 11 (a) | -0.584 | 0.005 |
|                 | AI 11 (b) | -0.634 | 0.029 |
|                 | AI 11 (c) | -0.765 | 0.034 |
| El Milagro/dump | MD 01 (a) | -0.345 | 0.021 |
|                 | MD 01 (b) | -0.315 | 0.011 |
|                 | MD 01 (c) | -0.515 | 0.010 |
|                 | MD 02 (a) | -0.215 | 0.011 |
|                 | MD 02 (b) | -0.040 | 0.023 |
|                 | MD 02 (c) | -0.346 | 0.016 |
|                 | MD 03 (a) | 2.103  | 0.016 |
|                 | MD 03 (b) | 1.628  | 0.002 |
|                 | MD 03 (c) | 1.983  | 0.026 |
|                 | MD 04 (a) | 0.158  | 0.016 |
|                 | MD 04 (b) | -0.079 | 0.024 |

|                        |           |        |       |
|------------------------|-----------|--------|-------|
|                        | MD 04 (c) | -0.382 | 0.019 |
|                        | MD 05 (a) | -1.640 | 0.026 |
|                        | MD 05 (b) | -1.504 | 0.005 |
|                        | MD 05 (c) | -1.308 | 0.021 |
|                        | MD 06 (a) | 0.245  | 0.002 |
|                        | MD 06 (b) | 0.260  | 0.013 |
|                        | MD 06 (c) | 0.468  | 0.021 |
|                        | MD 07 (a) | 1.020  | 0.011 |
|                        | MD 07 (b) | 1.370  | 0.012 |
|                        | MD 07 (c) | 0.638  | 0.021 |
| La Profunda/dump       | PD 01 (a) | 2.167  | 0.020 |
|                        | PD 01 (b) | 1.986  | 0.090 |
|                        | PD 01 (c) | 2.089  | 0.057 |
|                        | PD 02 (a) | 0.878  | 0.020 |
|                        | PD 02 (b) | 0.967  | 0.015 |
|                        | PD 02 (c) | 0.573  | 0.059 |
|                        | PD 03 (a) | 1.115  | 0.007 |
|                        | PD 03 (b) | 1.395  | 0.014 |
|                        | PD 03 (c) | 1.194  | 0.008 |
| La Profunda/inner part | PI 01 (a) | -0.618 | 0.023 |
|                        | PI 01 (b) | -0.498 | 0.045 |
|                        | PI 01 (c) | -0.616 | 0.017 |
|                        | PI 02 (a) | -1.045 | 0.033 |
|                        | PI 02 (b) | -0.629 | 0.040 |
|                        | PI 02 (c) | -0.834 | 0.048 |

|   |           |        |       |
|---|-----------|--------|-------|
| El Aramo/inner part (intra-variability) | IV 01 (a) | -0.358 | 0.025 |
|   | IV 01 (b) | -0.321 | 0.013 |
|   | IV 01 (c) | -0.177 | 0.021 |
|   | IV 02 (a) | -0.371 | 0.030 |
|   | IV 02 (b) | -0.643 | 0.027 |
|   | IV 02 (c) | -0.475 | 0.024 |
|   | IV 03 (a) | -1.248 | 0.023 |
|   | IV 03 (b) | -1.292 | 0.013 |
|   | IV 03 (c) | -1.723 | 0.036 |
|   | IV 04 (a) | -0.970 | 0.021 |
|   | IV 04 (b) | -1.021 | 0.022 |
|   | IV 04 (c) | -1.084 | 0.009 |
|   | IV 05 (a) | -1.374 | 0.010 |
|   | IV 05 (b) | -1.156 | 0.023 |
|   | IV 05 (c) | -1.296 | 0.002 |
|   | IV 06 (a) | -0.736 | 0.012 |
|   | IV 06 (b) | -0.375 | 0.005 |
|   | IV 06 (c) | -0.635 | 0.013 |
|   | IV 07 (a) | -1.381 | 0.015 |
|   | IV 07 (b) | -1.171 | 0.019 |
|   | IV 07 (c) | -1.140 | 0.020 |
|   | IV 08 (a) | -0.991 | 0.010 |
|   | IV 08 (b) | -1.331 | 0.006 |
|   | IV 08 (c) | -1.314 | 0.027 |

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|           |        |       |
|-----------|--------|-------|
| IV 09 (a) | -0.338 | 0.008 |
| IV 09 (b) | -0.501 | 0.018 |
| IV 09 (c) | -0.331 | 0.022 |
| IV 10 (a) | -0.831 | 0.010 |
| IV 10 (b) | -0.703 | 0.020 |
| IV 10 (c) | -0.565 | 0.013 |
| IV 11 (a) | -0.621 | 0.010 |
| IV 11 (b) | -0.944 | 0.026 |
| IV 11 (c) | -1.060 | 0.011 |
| IV 12 (a) | -0.517 | 0.026 |
| IV 12 (b) | -0.567 | 0.016 |
| IV 12 (c) | -0.400 | 0.017 |
| IV 13 (a) | -0.755 | 0.007 |
| IV 13 (b) | -0.163 | 0.010 |
| IV 13 (c) | -0.126 | 0.007 |

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## References

1. H. Jeong, K. Ra and J. Y. Choi, *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research*, 2021, **45**, 551-563.