



# EUREGEO 2012

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**SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF BACKGROUND AND ANOMALOUS POPULATION OF CHROME IN STREAM SEDIMENTS ON TUSCAN-EMILIAN APENNINES BASED ON THRESHOLDS DEFINED FROM CONTINUOUS AND DISCRETE CATCHMENT BASIN SURFACE OF THE CR DATA.**

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Bologna, 14 june 2012



# Introduction:

- The definition of background and anomalous values is a fundamental issue.

How dividing a geochemical data set?

Which are the number of classes?

Which of these classes represent presence of mineralization in a study area?

- The choice of methods depends on the distribution pattern of the data sets.

Which kind of frequency distribution will be expected?

How data values should be treated?

- It can be useful to consider that geochemical landscapes have spatial variability, geometrical properties and scale-invariant characteristics (Li et al, 2003).

Which kind of technique takes into account such attributes of geochemical landscapes?

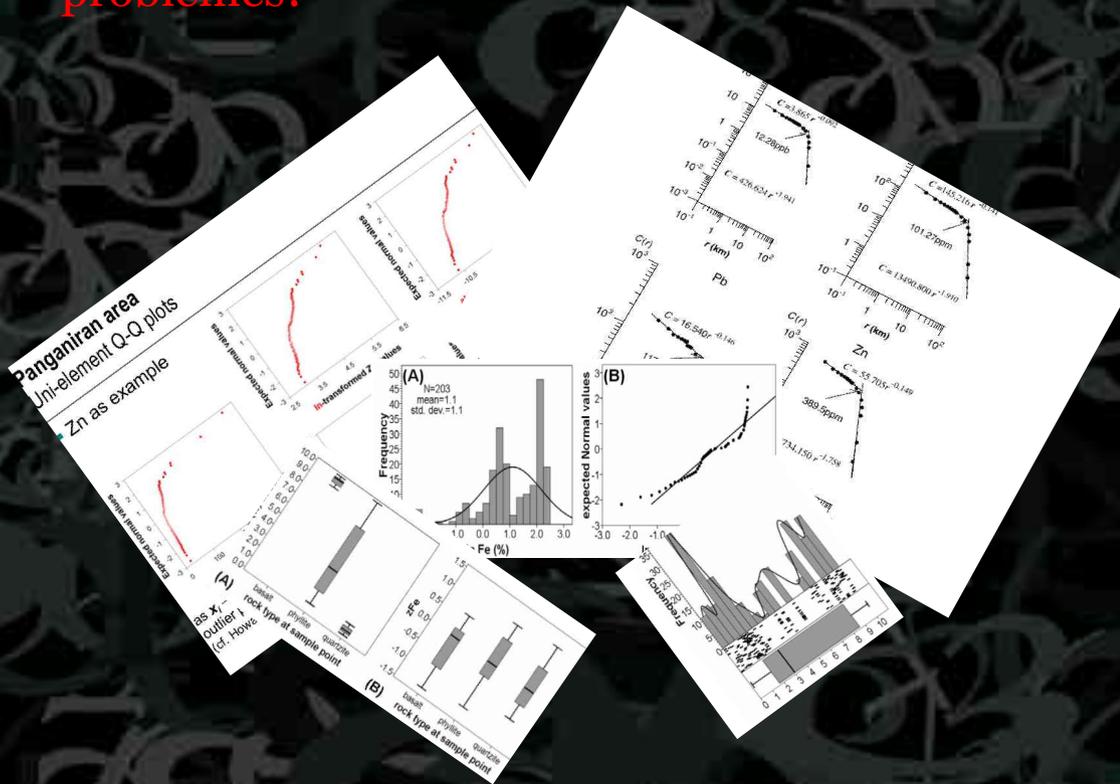
Background  
or anomaly???



# Introduction:

- Can statistics methods help to solve these problemes?

Don't worry!!!  
Be statistical!



- Recently, some authors (Reimann & Filzmoser, 2000; Reimann et al, 2005, Reimann, 2005) have been improving various statistical methods.

Can we trust in statistics?

*"To trust is good but don't trust is better!"*



# Objectives:

- Analyze frequency distribution of geochemical data and select some mapping techniques
- Compare threshold values derived from continuous and discrete field models of stream sediment geochemical landscapes.
- Discuss about limit between anomaly and background values.

Let's go!!!

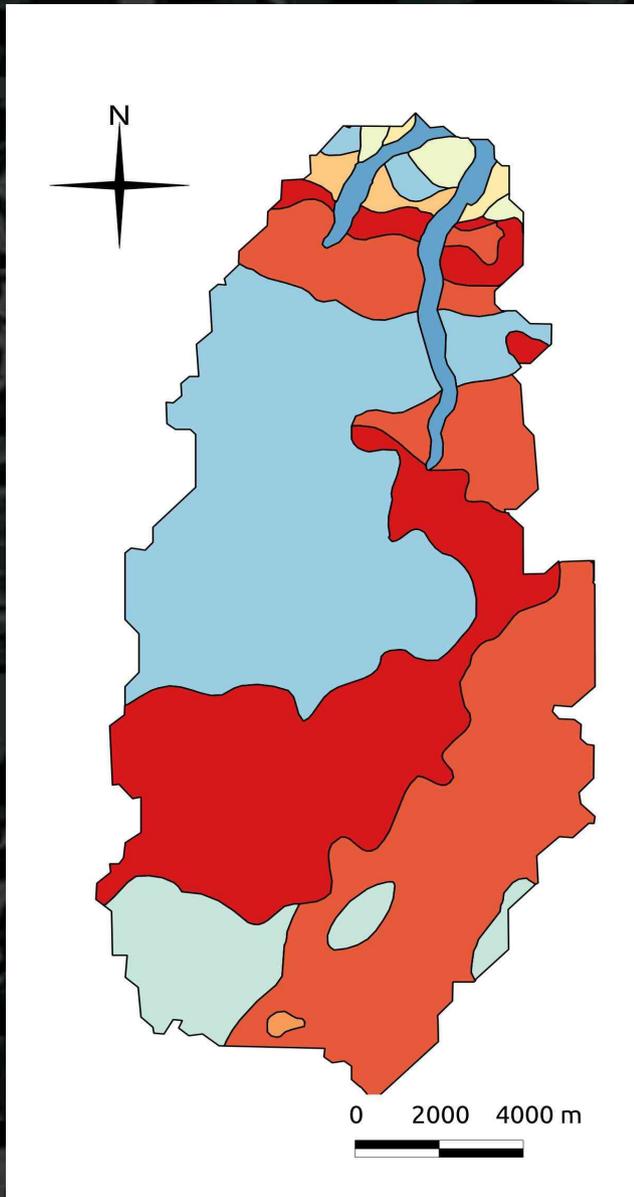


# Study area



Area: 207 km<sup>2</sup>  
Province: Bologna  
Municipalities: Loiano, Pianoro  
Monzuno

# Lithology



- *Areniti e peliti*
- *Argille, argilliti e breccie argillose, marne, arenarie e ofioliti*
- *Gabbri, basalti, serpentiniti, rari graniti e breccie*
- *Gessi, gessoruditi e calcari evaporitici*
- *Ghiaie e sabbie - Depositi di conoide e di terrazzo*
- *Ghiaie, sabbie, limi e limi argillosi - Depositi alluvionali indifferenziati*
- *Marne, argille e calcari*
- *Sabbie ed areniti*
- *Sabbie, limi sabbiosi e limi - Depositi di conoide e di terrazzo*

The area is located in a particular geological site between Tuscan Emilian Apennines and Romagna Apennines characterized by the presence of typical formations (Desio, 1973):

- Formazione delle argille azzurre (Calabriano-Zancleano);
- Formazione a colombacci (Messiniano);
- Formazione gessoso-solfifera (Messiniano-Tortoniano);
- Formazione marnoso arenacea (Tortoniano-Langhiano);
- Depositi epiliguridi (Langhiano-Burdigaliano).

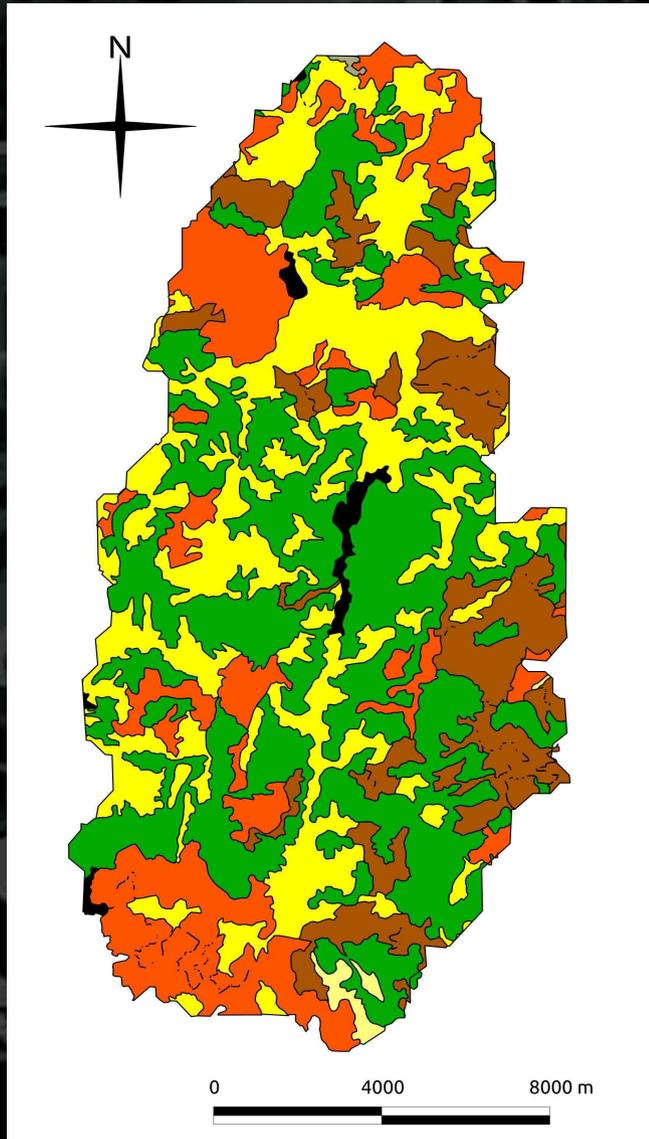
Lithology consists mostly of sedimentary rocks, spanning from the Triassic to the recent age that include:

- stratigraphic Mesozoic units, made up of calcareous-marly and marly-arenaceous-pelitic turbidites,
- detrital and organogenic limestones.
- marly limestones, marls, pelites, sands and conglomerates

(Geological Survey of Italy, 2011).

Fonte: Catalogo dati geografici del Servizio Geologico Sismico e dei suoli della Regione Emilia Romagna  
<http://geo.regione.emilia-romagna.it/geocatalogo/>

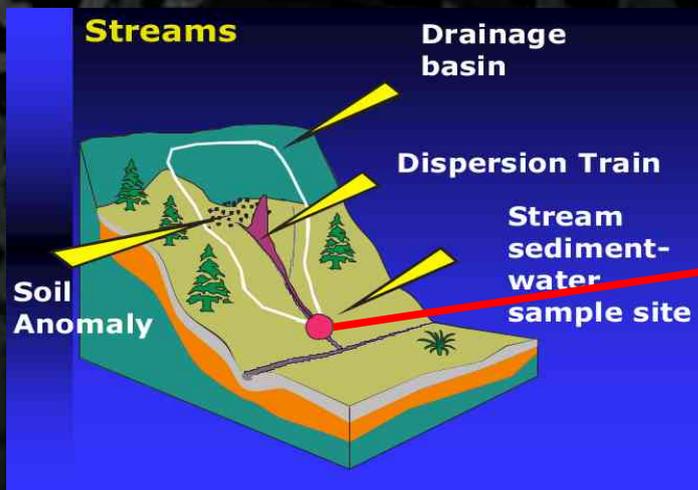
# Land Use



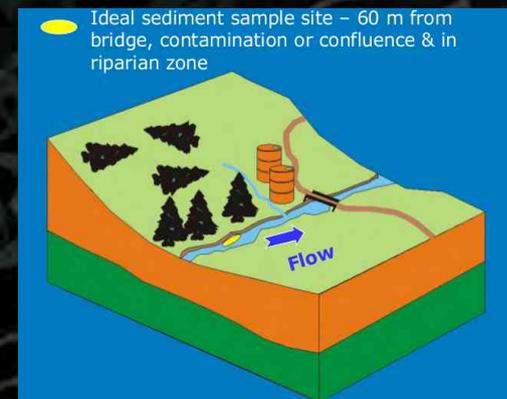
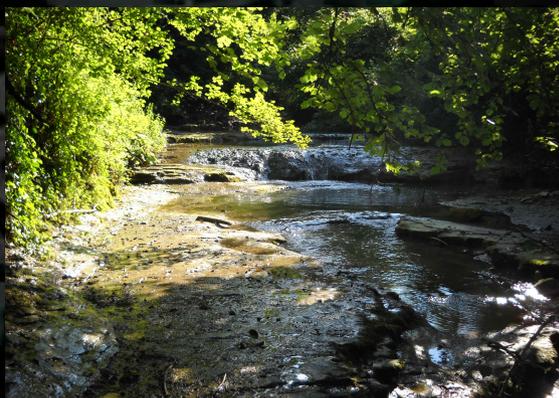
Fonte: European Environmental Agency. Corine Lan Cover 2008  
<http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/clc-2006-vector-data-version>

# What kind of sampling?

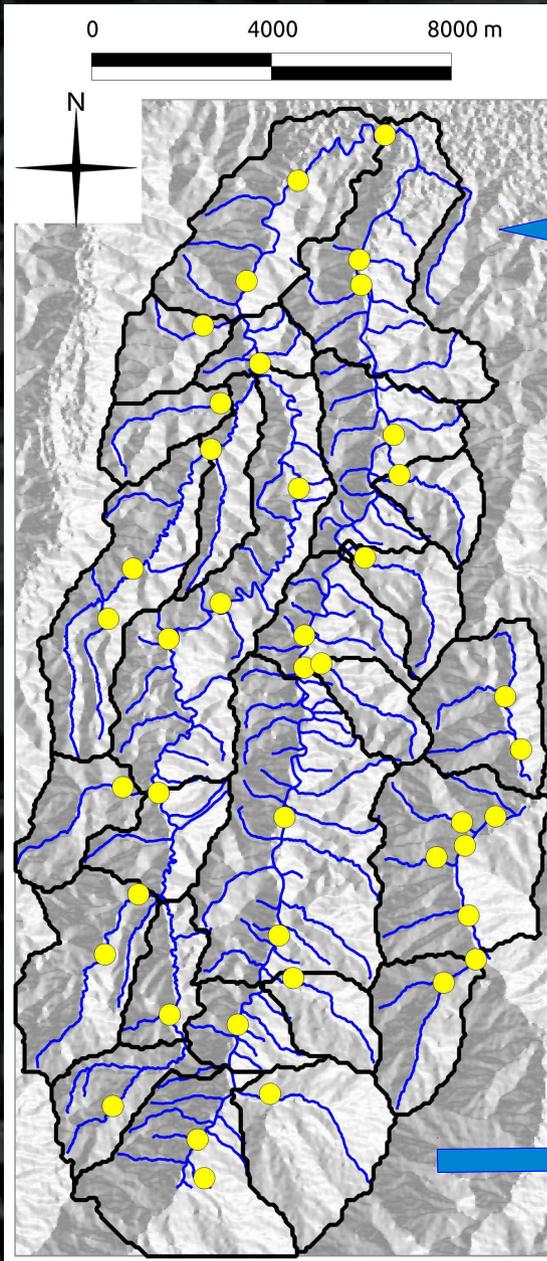
In exploration and environmental geochemistry, one of the most commonly used method of prospecting is based on the study of active stream sediments (Carranza, 2004). They can be considered as averagely representative of the outcropping rocks in the drainage basin, upstream of the sampling point (Webb et al., 1978; Meyer et al., 1979, Bölviken et al., 1986; Lahermo et al., 1996)



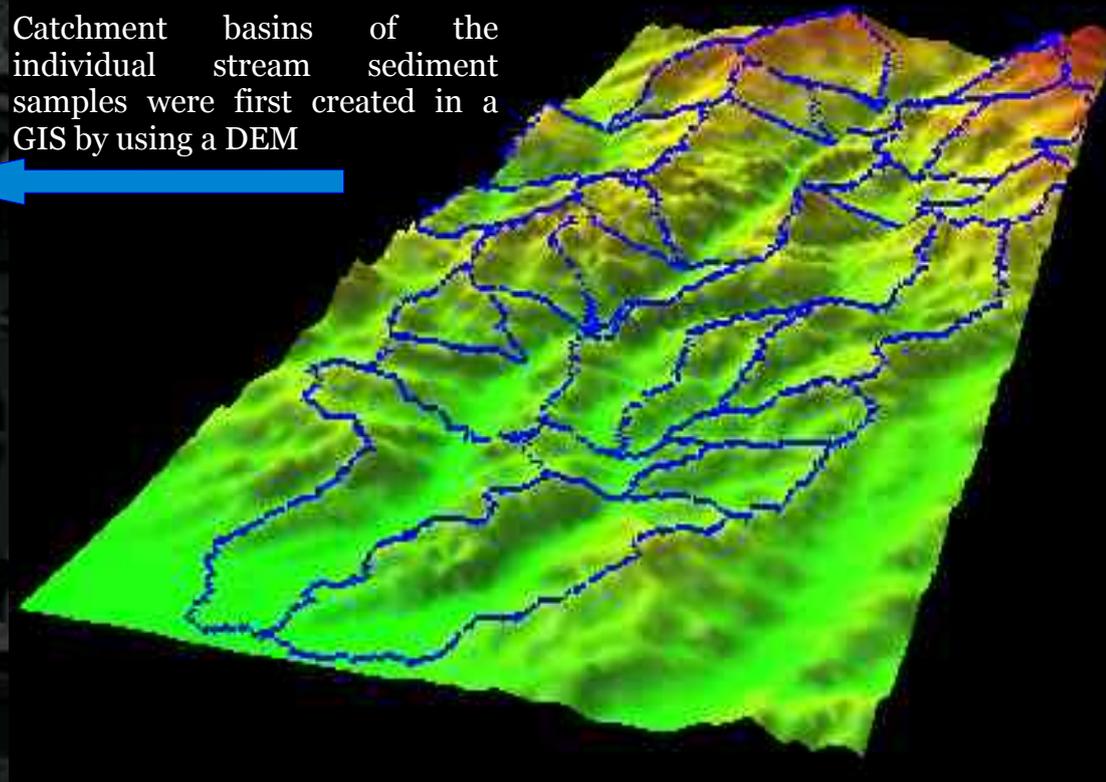
Lett E.R., 2007. Drainage Geochemical Surveys - Stream Sediments, Lake Sediment, Moss Mats, Heavy Minerals



# Extraction of catchment basins



Catchment basins of the individual stream sediment samples were first created in a GIS by using a DEM



● 42 Stream sediment Sample

Sampling was organized by choosing at least one sediment sample for each river basin.

# Laboratory analysis

First step



Fragmentation of stream sediment samples

Second step



Preparation of tablets for XRF analysis

Third step



XRF analysis (35 elements)

LOI

Computer computing

# Database

subset\_nord.xls - LibreOffice Calc

25°C 17.51 Valerio

File Modifica Visualizza Inserisci Formato Strumenti Dati Finestra



AU1  $f(x)$   $\Sigma$  =

|    | A    | B      | C       | D     | E    | F     | G    | H    | I    | J     | K    | L    | M    | N     | O  | P   | Q   | R  | S   | T  | U   | V  | W  | X   | Y   | Z  | AA  | AB | AC  | AD | AE | AF | AG | AH   |
|----|------|--------|---------|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|------|
| 1  | C_ID | XCOO   | YCOO    | Si    | Ti   | Al    | Fe   | Mn   | Mg   | Ca    | Na   | K    | P    | LOI   | Sc | V   | Cr  | Co | Ni  | Cu | Zn  | Ga | As | Rb  | Sr  | Y  | Zr  | Nb | Ba  | La | Ce | Pb | Th | S    |
| 2  | 1    | 906646 | 4910682 | 47.49 | 0.54 | 14.06 | 4.89 | 0.13 | 3.09 | 10.95 | 0.71 | 2.37 | 0.08 | 15.7  | 19 | 84  | 98  | 15 | 71  | 15 | 84  | 11 | 3  | 111 | 322 | 24 | 134 | 10 | 557 | 27 | 52 | 15 | 8  | 610  |
| 3  | 2    | 906292 | 4911834 | 45.53 | 0.52 | 13.57 | 5.15 | 0.14 | 3.05 | 12.9  | 0.68 | 2.3  | 0.08 | 16.08 | 18 | 86  | 105 | 13 | 67  | 19 | 86  | 8  | 3  | 101 | 352 | 22 | 126 | 10 | 765 | 25 | 52 | 17 | 6  | 960  |
| 4  | 3    | 900078 | 4909171 | 45.33 | 0.59 | 15.29 | 5.88 | 0.11 | 2.92 | 10.21 | 0.49 | 2.35 | 0.07 | 16.77 | 20 | 97  | 101 | 17 | 60  | 15 | 93  | 14 | 6  | 114 | 259 | 24 | 109 | 9  | 302 | 25 | 55 | 12 | 4  | 480  |
| 5  | 4    | 905332 | 4909041 | 42.38 | 0.58 | 14.2  | 5.58 | 0.12 | 2.93 | 13.14 | 0.56 | 2.24 | 0.07 | 18.22 | 22 | 95  | 100 | 17 | 67  | 20 | 93  | 12 | 4  | 115 | 345 | 22 | 108 | 11 | 294 | 24 | 54 | 11 | 4  | 480  |
| 6  | 5    | 905397 | 4908523 | 39.98 | 0.54 | 12.83 | 5.11 | 0.1  | 2.71 | 14.99 | 0.53 | 1.85 | 0.06 | 21.28 | 22 | 89  | 94  | 15 | 55  | 15 | 82  | 15 | 0  | 97  | 329 | 21 | 107 | 9  | 310 | 24 | 52 | 15 | 2  | 840  |
| 7  | 6    | 904765 | 4908283 | 47.06 | 0.61 | 15.71 | 6.33 | 0.13 | 3.17 | 8.9   | 0.6  | 2.39 | 0.07 | 15.04 | 20 | 100 | 113 | 19 | 66  | 16 | 90  | 12 | 6  | 118 | 253 | 23 | 121 | 10 | 298 | 32 | 58 | 11 | 6  | 450  |
| 8  | 7    | 905478 | 4906967 | 41.14 | 0.54 | 13.22 | 5.06 | 0.11 | 2.68 | 14.68 | 0.48 | 1.92 | 0.07 | 20.1  | 19 | 88  | 84  | 12 | 47  | 22 | 86  | 11 | 1  | 100 | 304 | 22 | 129 | 9  | 455 | 28 | 58 | 14 | 6  | 520  |
| 9  | 8    | 905640 | 4905995 | 44.87 | 0.62 | 15.71 | 5.55 | 0.09 | 2.93 | 9.57  | 0.6  | 2.28 | 0.07 | 17.71 | 20 | 93  | 110 | 15 | 63  | 13 | 88  | 13 | 1  | 114 | 228 | 23 | 125 | 11 | 365 | 33 | 72 | 17 | 7  | 470  |
| 10 | 9    | 904927 | 4905477 | 46.58 | 0.65 | 16.03 | 5.95 | 0.09 | 4.15 | 6.85  | 0.55 | 2.37 | 0.06 | 16.72 | 17 | 101 | 131 | 21 | 130 | 5  | 89  | 12 | 4  | 129 | 194 | 25 | 143 | 14 | 325 | 34 | 67 | 14 | 3  | 260  |
| 11 | 10   | 903048 | 4921540 | 47.11 | 0.57 | 14.63 | 5.47 | 0.12 | 3.01 | 10.54 | 0.45 | 1.98 | 0.09 | 16.04 | 25 | 104 | 112 | 17 | 62  | 47 | 102 | 18 | 0  | 114 | 299 | 26 | 129 | 9  | 529 | 30 | 61 | 16 | 9  | 800  |
| 12 | 11   | 903092 | 4920981 | 38.6  | 0.49 | 11.81 | 4.38 | 0.11 | 2.86 | 17.31 | 0.46 | 1.65 | 0.1  | 22.24 | 27 | 88  | 107 | 12 | 66  | 41 | 107 | 17 | 4  | 97  | 469 | 20 | 114 | 8  | 338 | 28 | 60 | 18 | 7  | 1170 |
| 13 | 12   | 901064 | 4903007 | 47.34 | 0.67 | 16.44 | 6.16 | 0.1  | 3.27 | 8.35  | 0.53 | 2.08 | 0.1  | 14.97 | 27 | 133 | 132 | 21 | 67  | 46 | 104 | 23 | 2  | 126 | 227 | 24 | 117 | 11 | 281 | 40 | 73 | 20 | 12 | 460  |
| 14 | 13   | 889452 | 4901992 | 43.78 | 0.57 | 14.32 | 5.37 | 0.08 | 2.8  | 12.49 | 0.59 | 1.91 | 0.09 | 18.01 | 25 | 103 | 99  | 14 | 54  | 55 | 106 | 21 | 3  | 114 | 303 | 22 | 146 | 9  | 438 | 27 | 54 | 21 | 3  | 570  |
| 15 | 14   | 889601 | 4901133 | 48.63 | 0.75 | 17.82 | 6.93 | 0.11 | 3.17 | 5.94  | 0.6  | 2.3  | 0.09 | 13.67 | 27 | 141 | 133 | 25 | 66  | 44 | 113 | 25 | 3  | 141 | 330 | 26 | 124 | 14 | 349 | 35 | 70 | 18 | 5  | 270  |
| 16 | 15   | 903816 | 4917650 | 36.22 | 0.37 | 8.63  | 3.46 | 0.07 | 2.46 | 21.78 | 0.51 | 1.17 | 0.19 | 25.13 | 28 | 85  | 108 | 7  | 71  | 36 | 109 | 14 | 3  | 74  | 626 | 19 | 106 | 6  | 519 | 22 | 41 | 13 | 4  | 900  |
| 17 | 16   | 901827 | 4912479 | 39.23 | 0.38 | 8.76  | 3.18 | 0.08 | 2.76 | 22.17 | 0.7  | 1.45 | 0.11 | 21.18 | 29 | 62  | 109 | 6  | 69  | 33 | 71  | 15 | 0  | 77  | 559 | 21 | 128 | 7  | 361 | 21 | 44 | 16 | 3  | 760  |
| 18 | 17   | 901827 | 4913194 | 51.53 | 0.38 | 8.16  | 2.62 | 0.16 | 2.16 | 20.64 | 1.17 | 1.41 | 0.08 | 11.69 | 29 | 40  | 287 | 1  | 58  | 28 | 55  | 13 | 2  | 60  | 329 | 24 | 261 | 4  | 347 | 18 | 36 | 14 | 3  | 180  |
| 19 | 18   | 901386 | 4909152 | 43.54 | 0.46 | 11    | 4.66 | 0.09 | 2.84 | 16.94 | 0.67 | 1.61 | 0.13 | 18.06 | 28 | 80  | 105 | 14 | 71  | 33 | 93  | 17 | 3  | 87  | 437 | 22 | 140 | 9  | 355 | 29 | 50 | 18 | 2  | 1140 |
| 20 | 19   | 901262 | 4906526 | 50.67 | 0.55 | 14.61 | 5.2  | 0.12 | 2.79 | 10.1  | 0.73 | 1.94 | 0.09 | 13.19 | 24 | 93  | 106 | 16 | 58  | 40 | 95  | 17 | 4  | 107 | 257 | 23 | 134 | 10 | 450 | 30 | 53 | 17 | 10 | 440  |
| 21 | 20   | 900345 | 4904544 | 47.56 | 0.58 | 14.26 | 4.99 | 0.1  | 2.67 | 11.6  | 0.7  | 1.9  | 0.09 | 15.56 | 26 | 98  | 94  | 13 | 53  | 42 | 94  | 18 | 0  | 107 | 286 | 24 | 154 | 10 | 399 | 27 | 58 | 19 | 7  | 510  |
| 22 | 21   | 901579 | 4905580 | 48.5  | 0.67 | 16.95 | 6.06 | 0.1  | 3.44 | 6.83  | 0.5  | 2.12 | 0.09 | 14.74 | 25 | 128 | 127 | 22 | 75  | 40 | 105 | 23 | 1  | 134 | 219 | 27 | 124 | 12 | 295 | 28 | 62 | 19 | 5  | 380  |
| 23 | 22   | 903940 | 4916758 | 50.39 | 0.65 | 15.72 | 6.21 | 0.11 | 2.8  | 7.47  | 0.63 | 2.25 | 0.08 | 13.67 | 18 | 104 | 105 | 18 | 61  | 42 | 109 | 22 | 3  | 115 | 220 | 23 | 118 | 11 | 289 | 28 | 54 | 17 | 5  | 520  |
| 24 | 23   | 903176 | 4914922 | 42.1  | 0.42 | 9.33  | 3.5  | 0.08 | 2.76 | 20.8  | 0.96 | 1.62 | 0.1  | 18.32 | 21 | 54  | 90  | 5  | 57  | 27 | 68  | 14 | 3  | 74  | 553 | 21 | 130 | 5  | 304 | 23 | 50 | 11 | 4  | 1000 |
| 25 | 24   | 902205 | 4912571 | 43.64 | 0.37 | 8.53  | 2.97 | 0.08 | 2.53 | 21.57 | 1.04 | 1.67 | 0.1  | 17.5  | 20 | 45  | 96  | 2  | 54  | 29 | 63  | 14 | 0  | 73  | 517 | 18 | 134 | 8  | 281 | 20 | 35 | 13 | 4  | 940  |
| 26 | 25   | 903618 | 4924315 | 50.34 | 0.41 | 10.37 | 3.68 | 0.11 | 2.48 | 14.26 | 0.93 | 1.64 | 0.09 | 15.68 | 24 | 68  | 142 | 9  | 64  | 27 | 75  | 14 | 3  | 85  | 356 | 21 | 156 | 9  | 386 | 33 | 49 | 16 | 9  | 470  |
| 27 | 26   | 887568 | 4902735 | 43.99 | 0.51 | 12    | 3.69 | 0.09 | 1.72 | 17.23 | 0.71 | 1.75 | 0.07 | 18.25 | 24 | 72  | 55  | 5  | 33  | 31 | 73  | 19 | 0  | 105 | 238 | 22 | 167 | 9  | 474 | 29 | 51 | 22 | 5  | 580  |
| 28 | 27   | 888832 | 4904767 | 60.51 | 0.38 | 12.19 | 2.89 | 0.22 | 1.5  | 7.26  | 1.26 | 2.34 | 0.33 | 11.12 | 14 | 51  | 46  | 1  | 22  | 26 | 81  | 14 | 4  | 118 | 178 | 20 | 155 | 7  | 496 | 27 | 46 | 19 | 5  | 580  |
| 29 | 28   | 888585 | 4909694 | 56.46 | 0.38 | 10.68 | 3.38 | 0.08 | 2.02 | 11.05 | 1.01 | 1.84 | 0.11 | 12.99 | 18 | 57  | 85  | 6  | 48  | 28 | 70  | 14 | 2  | 97  | 310 | 22 | 151 | 6  | 394 | 24 | 39 | 16 | 4  | 440  |
| 30 | 29   | 901684 | 4923299 | 49.84 | 0.41 | 11.63 | 4.02 | 0.11 | 2.77 | 13.74 | 0.83 | 1.82 | 0.1  | 14.72 | 23 | 71  | 127 | 12 | 62  | 30 | 80  | 17 | 2  | 92  | 340 | 19 | 115 | 7  | 406 | 25 | 46 | 17 | 4  | 510  |
| 31 | 30   | 900543 | 4921069 | 48.82 | 0.51 | 12.54 | 4.75 | 0.12 | 2.78 | 12.33 | 0.66 | 1.72 | 0.11 | 15.67 | 24 | 89  | 179 | 12 | 64  | 35 | 91  | 18 | 5  | 95  | 303 | 23 | 162 | 10 | 327 | 22 | 48 | 17 | 7  | 700  |
| 32 | 31   | 900841 | 4919236 | 47.21 | 0.37 | 8.73  | 3.25 | 0.14 | 2.51 | 17.67 | 0.91 | 1.45 | 0.1  | 17.87 | 24 | 55  | 238 | 6  | 82  | 31 | 75  | 15 | 4  | 73  | 409 | 24 | 198 | 6  | 519 | 23 | 36 | 24 | 2  | 570  |
| 33 | 32   | 901705 | 4916460 | 50.72 | 0.36 | 8.95  | 3.18 | 0.12 | 2.52 | 17.74 | 0.98 | 1.49 | 0.08 | 13.85 | 27 | 50  | 130 | 2  | 54  | 26 | 62  | 11 | 5  | 71  | 362 | 22 | 228 | 5  | 331 | 25 | 47 | 13 | 3  | 810  |
| 34 | 33   | 899964 | 4913909 | 52.91 | 0.29 | 8.89  | 3.01 | 0.11 | 2.68 | 15.59 | 1.11 | 1.57 | 0.08 | 13.78 | 23 | 49  | 136 | 5  | 72  | 24 | 61  | 13 | 1  | 65  | 297 | 14 | 72  | 4  | 354 | 18 | 31 | 12 | 0  | 290  |
| 35 | 34   | 888807 | 4913116 | 44.87 | 0.33 | 9.25  | 3.29 | 0.11 | 2.54 | 18.79 | 0.76 | 1.43 | 0.08 | 18.55 | 26 | 55  | 132 | 3  | 66  | 28 | 71  | 14 | 4  | 79  | 381 | 17 | 106 | 4  | 332 | 21 | 42 | 10 | 1  | 540  |
| 36 | 35   | 887468 | 4913562 | 49.07 | 0.28 | 8.03  | 3.54 | 0.16 | 3.13 | 17.53 | 1.3  | 1.29 | 0.05 | 15.62 | 16 | 38  | 173 | 6  | 89  | 26 | 66  | 13 | 3  | 58  | 394 | 22 | 132 | 5  | 223 | 20 | 39 | 11 | 0  | 410  |
| 37 | 36   | 888014 | 4914677 | 50.38 | 0.36 | 9.02  | 3.57 | 0.16 | 2.84 | 16.4  | 1.31 | 1.47 | 0.07 | 14.43 | 19 | 48  | 193 | 7  | 78  | 27 | 66  | 10 | 1  | 63  | 335 | 19 | 175 | 5  | 244 | 18 | 37 | 12 | 1  | 190  |
| 38 | 37   | 889964 | 4918355 | 49.3  | 0.58 | 14.22 | 5.64 | 0.14 | 2.83 | 9.31  | 0.72 | 2.25 | 0.1  | 14.92 | 18 | 101 | 120 | 19 | 76  | 35 | 102 | 20 | 6  | 118 | 269 | 24 | 125 | 11 | 260 | 23 | 51 | 19 | 4  | 180  |
| 39 | 38   | 889750 | 4917328 | 51.92 | 0.54 | 12.62 | 5.46 | 0.11 | 2.89 | 9.79  | 1.05 | 1.88 | 0.1  | 13.63 | 19 | 83  | 123 | 16 | 78  | 32 | 93  | 19 | 8  | 93  | 266 | 23 | 164 | 11 | 242 | 27 | 51 | 13 | 3  | 490  |
| 40 | 39   | 889576 | 4920078 | 50.1  | 0.57 | 13.5  | 5.32 | 0.1  | 2.9  | 9.38  | 0.88 | 2.2  | 0.13 | 14.92 | 17 | 100 | 112 | 12 | 64  | 30 | 79  | 21 | 3  | 115 | 264 | 22 | 129 | 11 | 248 | 26 | 52 | 18 | 6  | 270  |
| 41 | 40   | 887791 | 4909821 | 48.78 | 0.58 | 14.04 | 5.35 | 0.09 | 2.74 | 10.28 | 0.71 | 2.2  | 0.09 | 15.19 | 18 | 95  | 110 | 13 | 66  | 39 | 107 | 20 | 3  | 111 | 293 | 20 | 108 | 11 | 246 | 29 | 55 | 17 | 4  | 360  |
| 42 | 41   | 888138 | 4907442 | 61.7  | 0.41 | 11.76 | 2.69 | 0.05 | 1.54 | 7.86  | 1.84 | 2.55 | 0.11 | 9.5   | 12 | 47  | 44  | 2  | 23  | 24 | 64  | 12 | 1  | 112 | 239 | 24 | 214 | 8  | 370 | 21 | 47 | 14 | 7  | 390  |
| 43 | 4    |        |         |       |      |       |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |       |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |    |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |    |    |    |    |      |

# Statistical analysis: frequency distribution

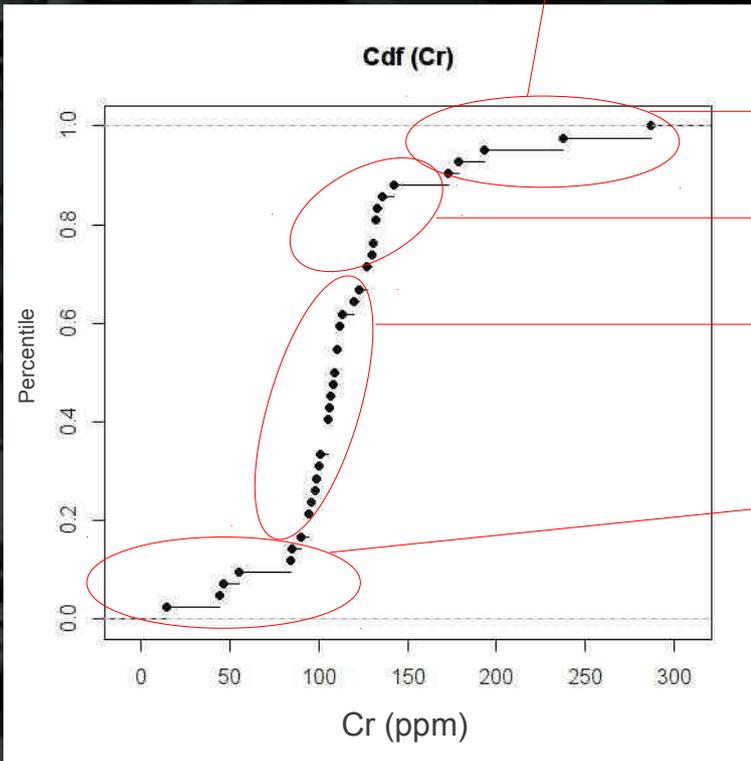


```
DAS+R(0.0-12)
File Edit Select Statistics Worksheet Diagrams Maps Text Symbol Advanced Tools Windows Help
Data set: subset_nord | Edit data set | New data set | Model | (No active model)
Script Window
importDASimpData("C:/users/valerio/My Documents/Documents/mapapp/DATI/subset_nord")
histDAS(datname="subset_nord", varname="Cr", col="red", lwd=1, main="", cex.main=1)
Output Window
> importDASimpData("C:/users/valerio/My Documents/Documents/mapapp/DATI/subset_nord")
> histDAS(datname="subset_nord", varname="Cr", col="red", lwd=1, main="", cex.ma
Messages
NOTE: The dataset subset_nord has 42 rows and 34 columns.
```

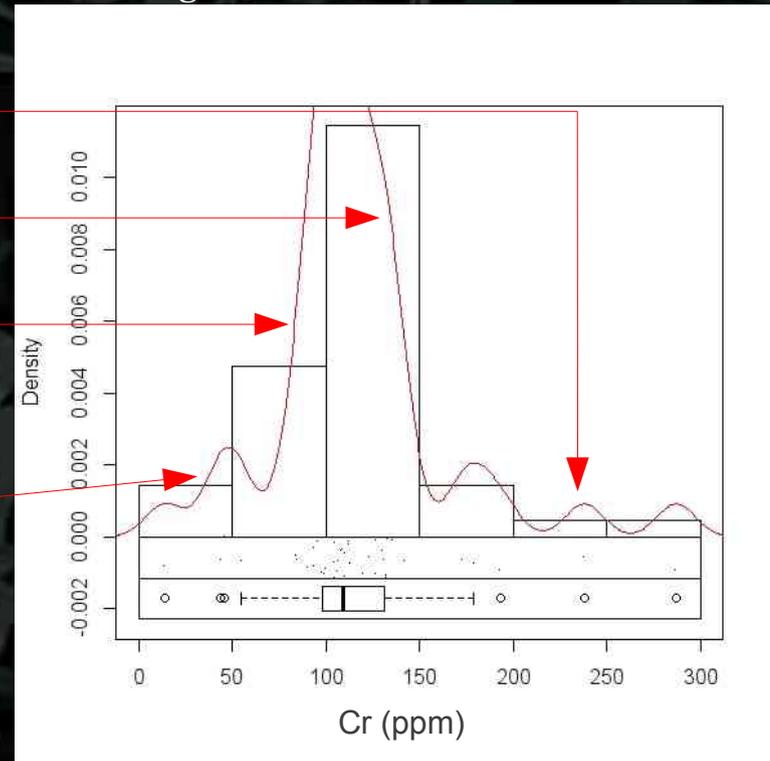
The empirical frequency distributions of measured point values show varying degrees of skewness, implying the presence of multiple and intertwined geochemical populations.

Mapping of anomalies in geochemical data sets containing multiple populations can be facilitated by application of probability plot (Sinclair, 1974, 1991).

These plots suggests that geochemical landscapes based on this stream sediment geochemical data are multifractal.



Empirical frequency distributions of point values in selected stream sediment geochemical data



EDA graphics (density trace, jittered one-dimensional scatterplot, boxplot) depicting the empirical density distribution of the soil Fe data

# Which kind of mapping techniques?

Several authors have postulated that geochemical landscapes based on stream sediment geochemical data are multifractals (Bölviken et al. 1992; Cheng et al. 1996; Cheng 1999; Agterberg 2001; Rantitsch 2001; Li et al. 2002; Shen & Cohen 2005; Carranza, 2009). Among these workers, some authors have tried to model geochemical landscapes in different ways:

- Cheng (1999) modelled geochemical landscapes as continuous fields by contouring stream sediment geochemical data and then mapped geochemical anomalies by application of the C-A fractal method (Cheng et al. 1994).

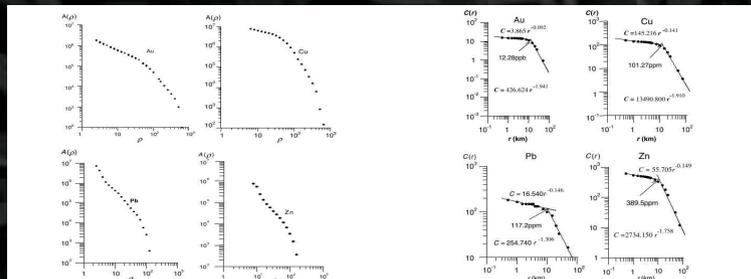


Fig. 1. Log-log plots representing the relationships between area ( $A$ ) and concentration values greater than the average value  $\mu$  and  $r$  on the theoretical average size of the Cu, Pb, and Zn from 1700 coarse sediments sampled in the Panganiran (Philippines), Ziboing Province.

“Application of a fractal method relating concentrations and distances for separation of geochemical anomalies from background”. Li, Ma and Shi, 2003.

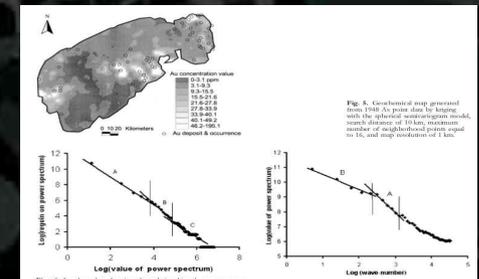
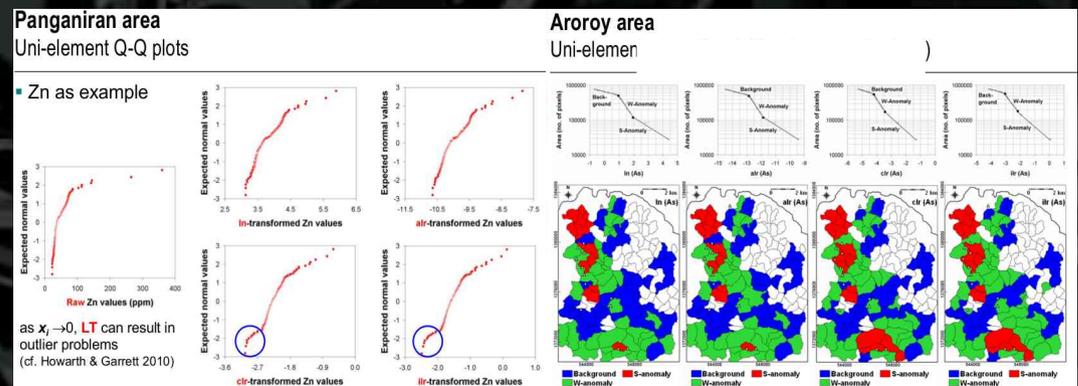


Fig. 6. Log-log plot showing the relationship between power spectrum value  $f$  and  $\log_{10}(f)$ . Straight lines are fitted by means of LS. The line A has slope  $-1.62$  and correlation coefficient  $0.998$ . B has slope  $-2.27$  and correlation coefficient  $0.998$ . C has slope  $-1.39$  and correlation coefficient  $0.998$ .

“A fractal filtering technique for processing regional geochemical maps for mineral exploration”. Xu & Cheng, Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis, Vol. 1 2001, pp. 147–156

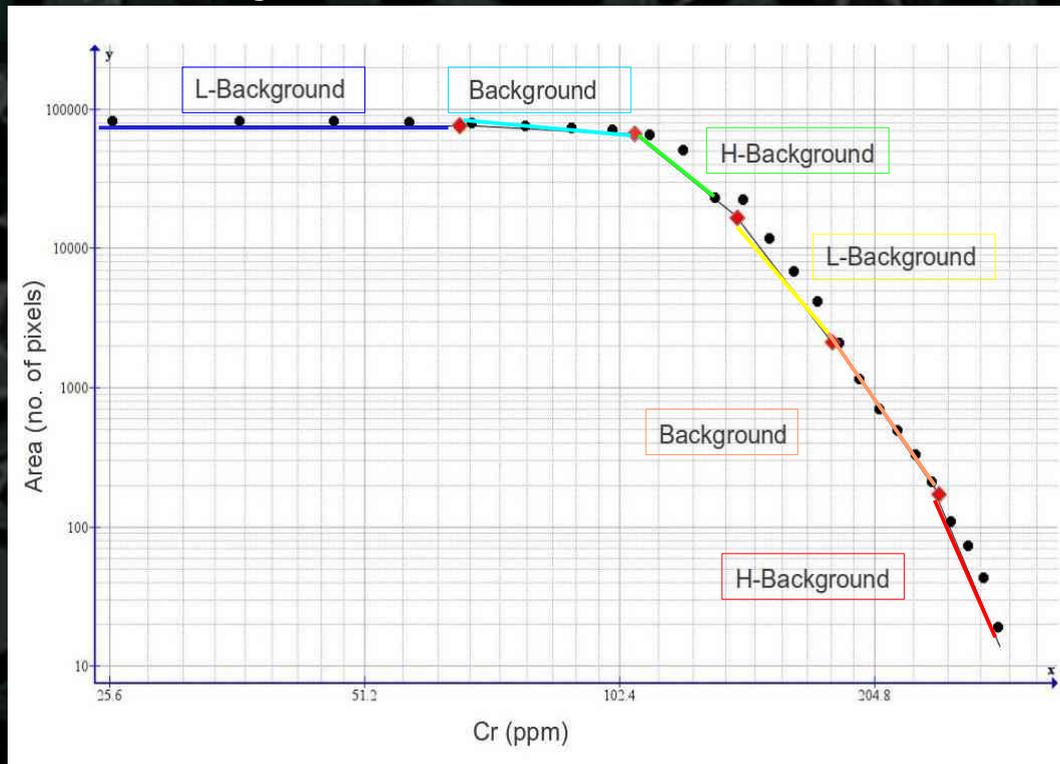
- Carranza (2009) modelled geochemical landscapes as discrete fields by attributing stream sediment geochemical data to their sample catchment basins and then mapped geochemical anomalies by application of C-A fractal method.



“Analysis and mapping of stream sediment geochemical anomalies: should we logratio-transform the data?”. Carranza, 2007.

# Log-log plot of point values: C-A method of continuous field model

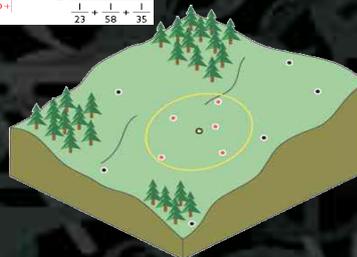
In this study, the C-A fractal method (Cheng et al. 1994), was adopted in mapping of anomalies in the continuous and discrete field models of stream sediment geochemical landscapes using classes defined from analysis of empirical frequency distributions of point stream sediment geochemical data.



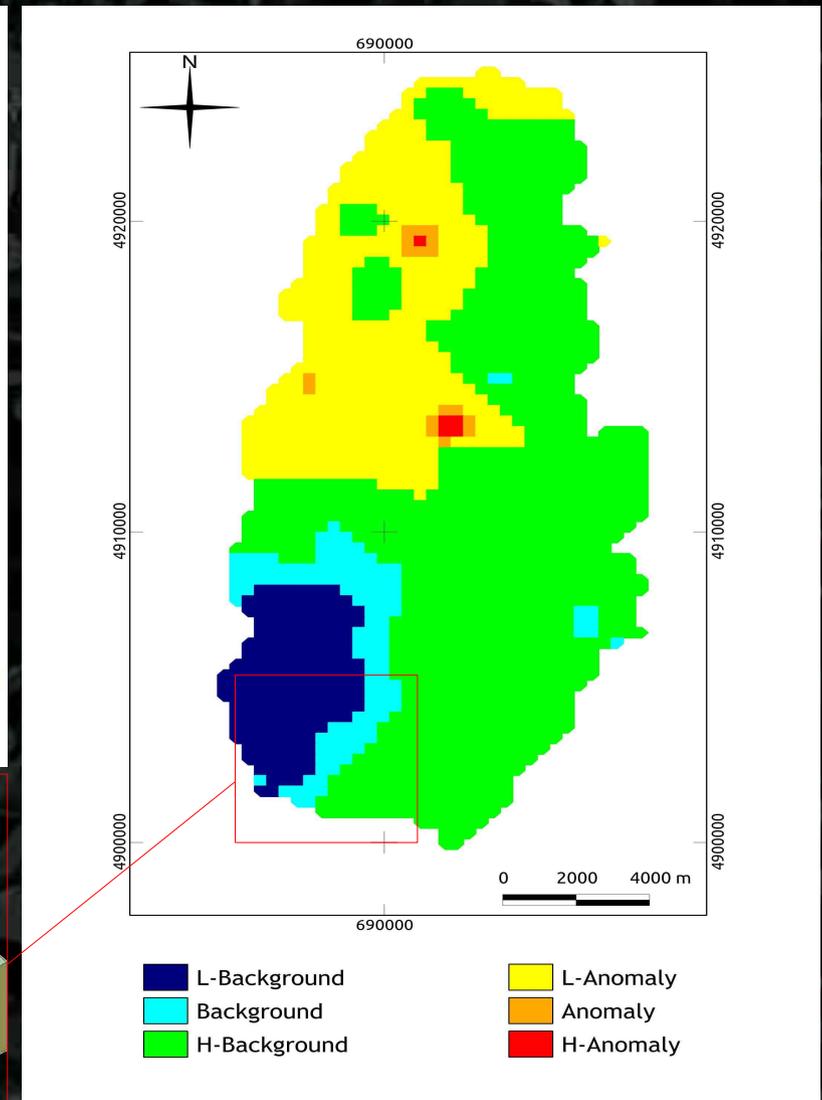
|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 70   | Low Background  |
| 71 – 94   | Background      |
| 95 – 132  | High Background |
| 133 – 187 | Low Anomaly     |
| 188 – 229 | Anomaly         |
| 230 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

Threshold values obtained by fitting of log-log graph

$$Z_p = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\frac{z_i}{x_i})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (\frac{1}{x_i})}$$

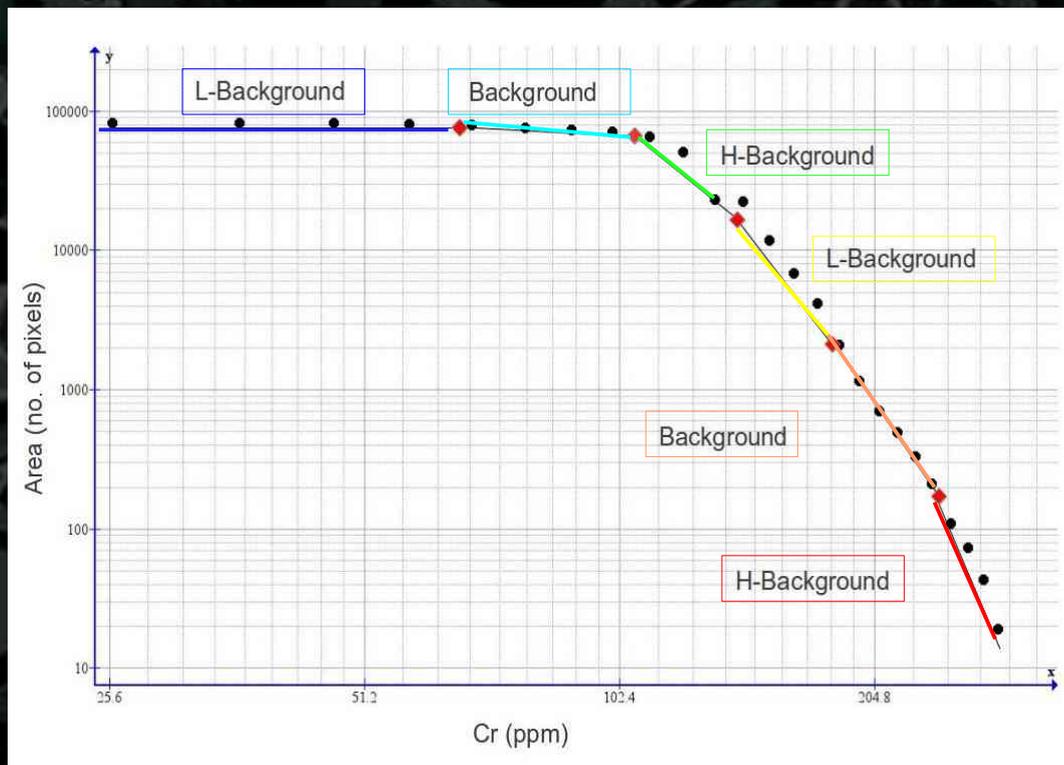


IDW Interpolation



Continuous field geochemical landscapes based on threshold values obtained via C-A analysis of concentration contours of point values.

# Log-log plot of point values: C-A method of discrete field model



|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 70   | Low Background  |
| 71 – 94   | Background      |
| 95 – 132  | High Background |
| 133 – 187 | Low Anomaly     |
| 188 – 229 | Anomaly         |
| 230 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

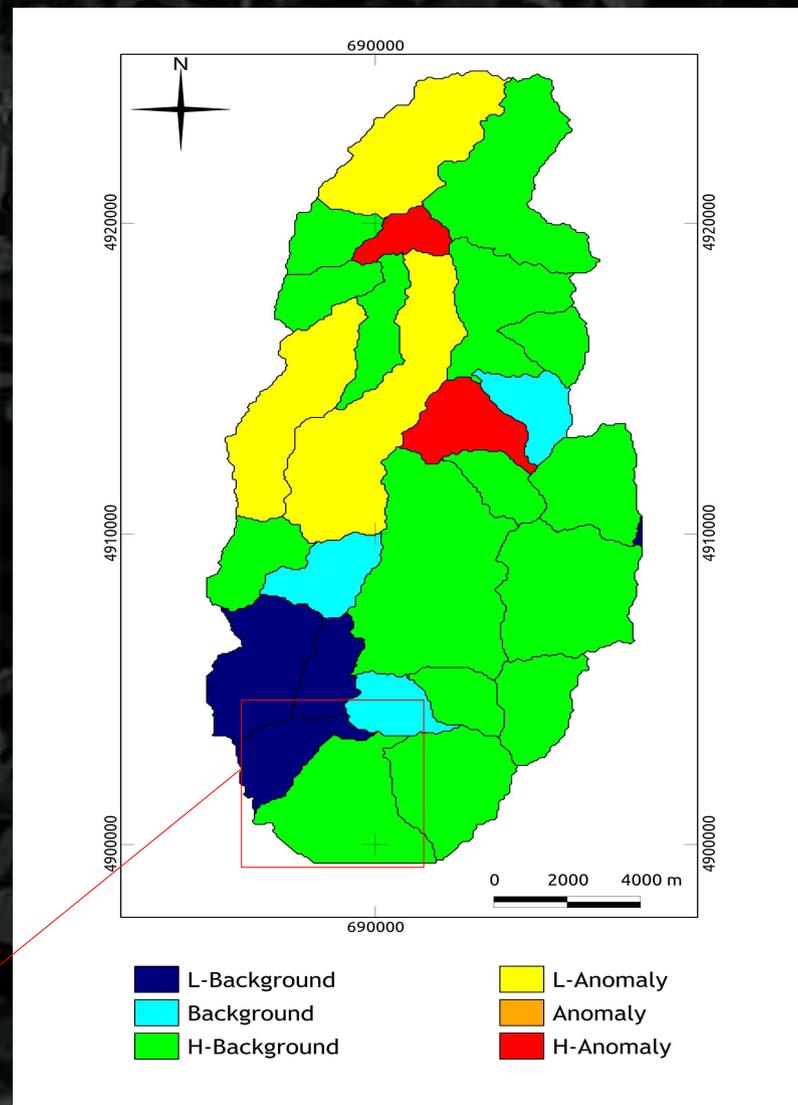
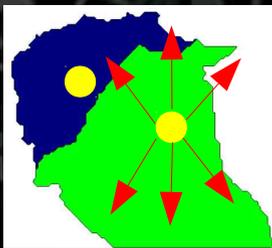
Threshold values obtained by fitting of log-log graph

Cr value of sample extended to catchment basin area

| Bacino | Cr(ppm) |
|--------|---------|
| 1      | 55      |
| 2      | 116     |

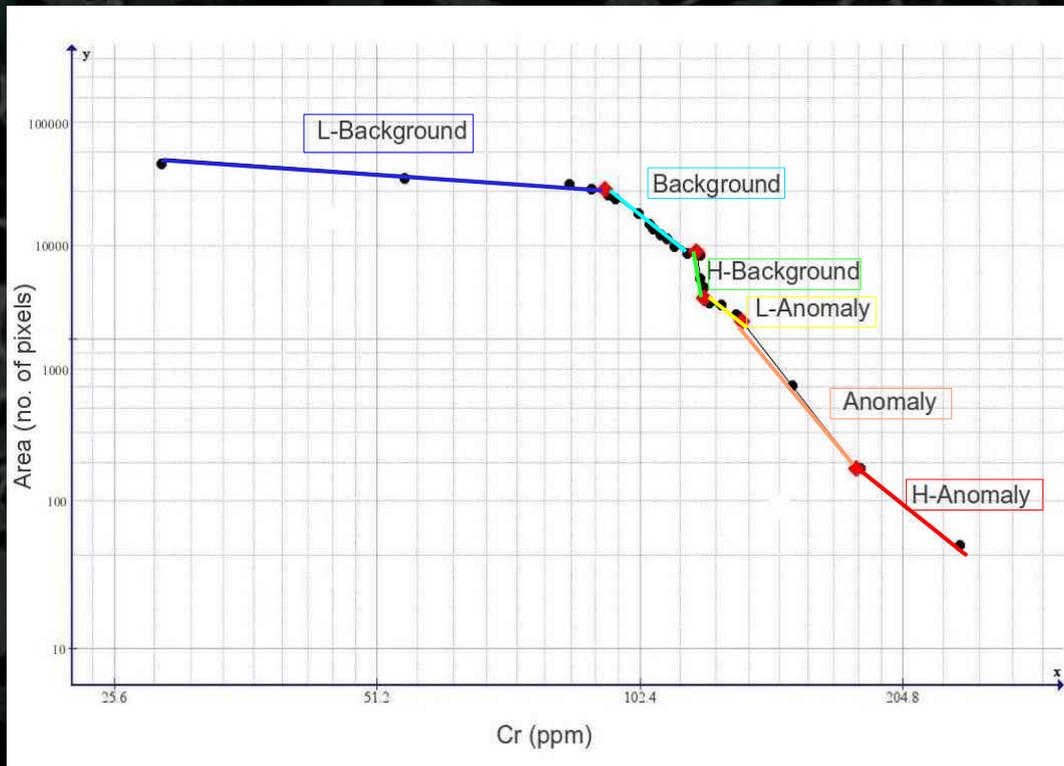
  

| Sample | Cr(ppm) |
|--------|---------|
| 1      | 55      |
| 2      | 116     |



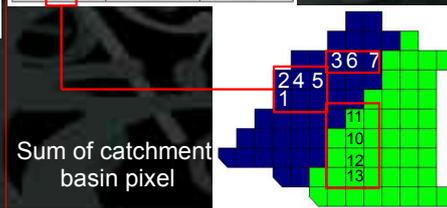
Discrete field geochemical landscapes based on threshold values obtained via C-A analysis of concentration contours of point values.

# Log-log plot of pixel values: C-A method of discrete field model

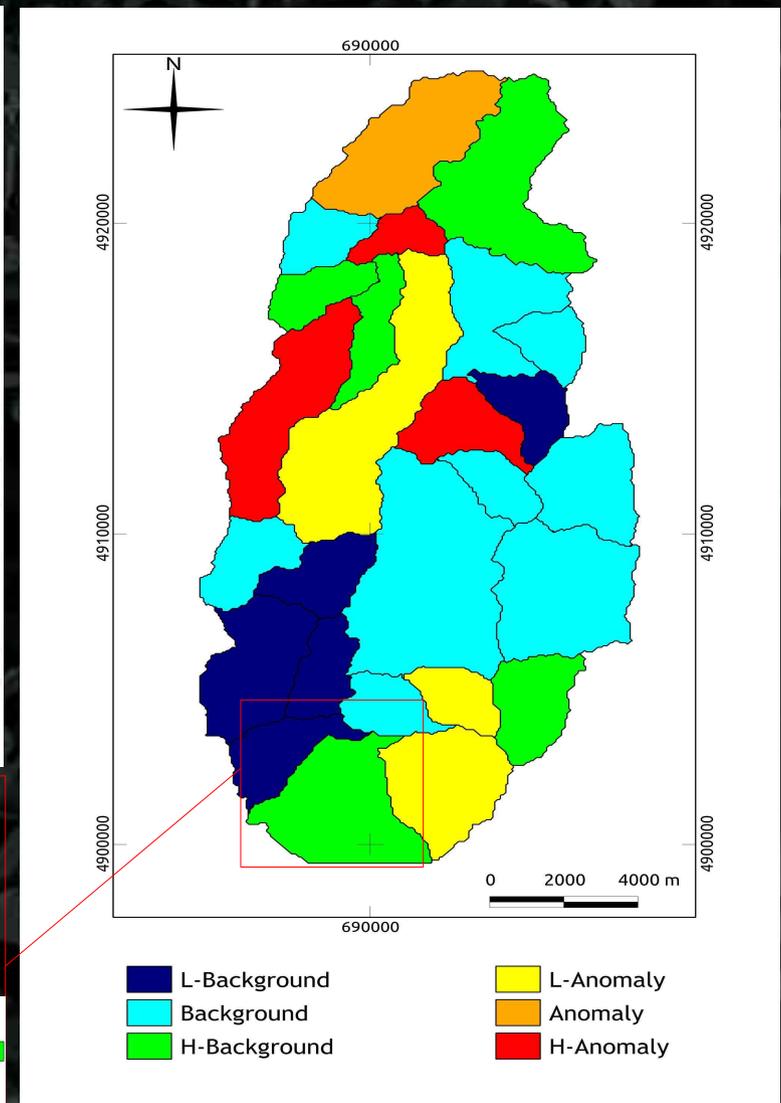


|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 86   | Low Background  |
| 87 – 117  | Background      |
| 118 – 130 | High Background |
| 131 – 160 | Low Anomaly     |
| 161 – 180 | Anomaly         |
| 181 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

| ID pixel | Extension (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Cr (ppm) |
|----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1        | 50                          | 55       |
| 2        | 50                          | 55       |
| 3        | 50                          | 55       |
| 4        | 50                          | 55       |
| 5        | 50                          | 55       |
| 6        | 50                          | 55       |
| 7        | 50                          | 116      |
| 8        | 50                          | 116      |
| 9        | 50                          | 116      |
| 10       | 50                          | 116      |
| 11       | 50                          | 116      |
| 12       | 50                          | 116      |
| 13       | 50                          | 116      |
| 14       | 50                          | 116      |
| 15       | 50                          | 116      |

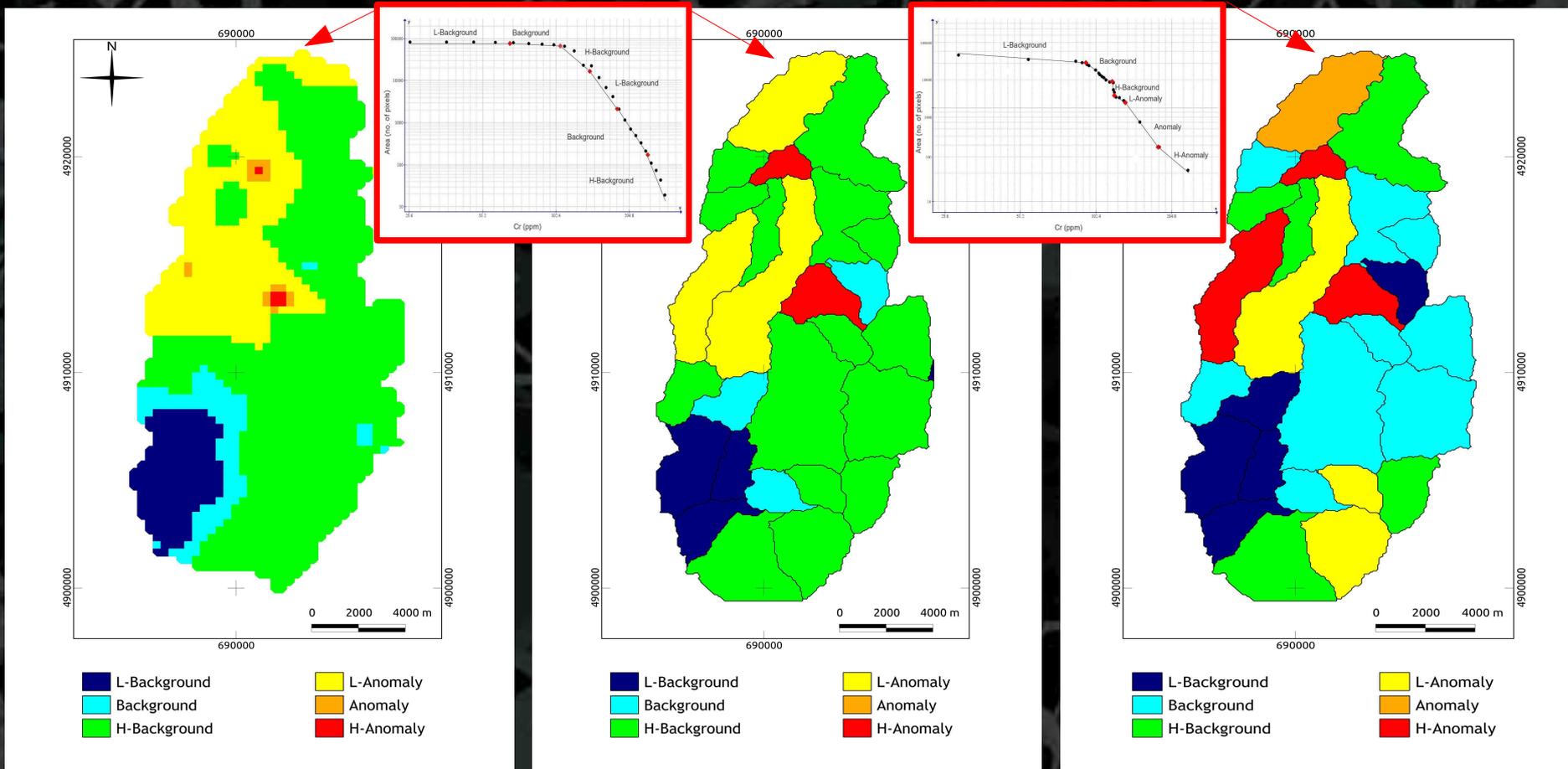


Threshold values obtained by fitting of log-log graph



Discrete field geochemical landscapes based on threshold values obtained via C-A analysis of concentration contours of pixel values.

| Geochemical variable | Range of concentration values in geochemical landscapes |                       | Interpretations |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|
|                      | Continuous field models                                 | Discrete field models |                 |
| Cr                   | 25 - 70   | 25 - 86               | Low background  |
|                      | 71 - 94   | 87 - 117              | Background      |
|                      | 95 - 132  | 118 - 130             | High Background |
|                      | 133 - 187   | 131 - 160             | Low anomaly     |
|                      | 188 - 229   | 161 - 180             | Anomaly         |
|                      | 230 - 287   | 181 - 287             | High anomaly    |

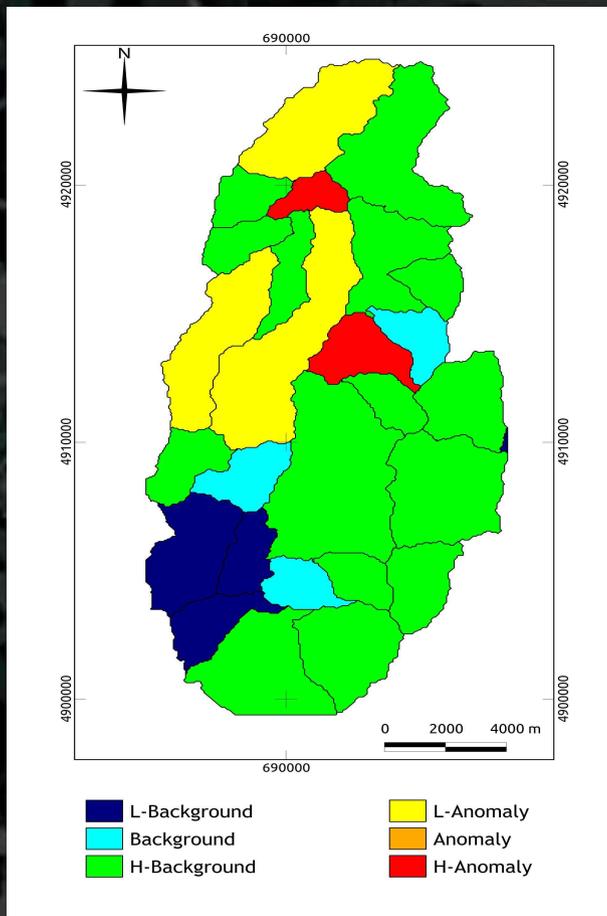


Continuous field geochemical landscapes based on threshold values obtained via C-A analysis of concentration contours of point values.

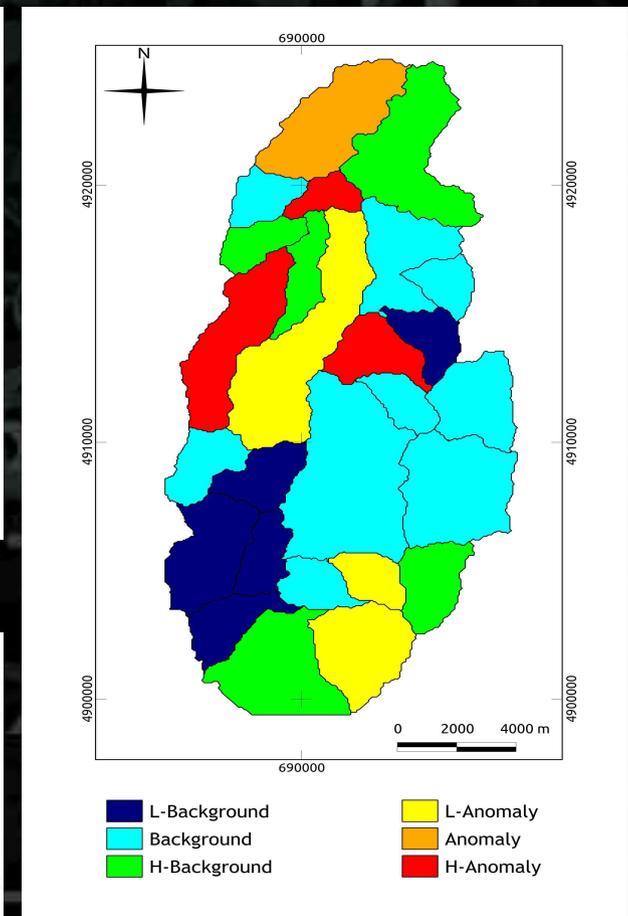
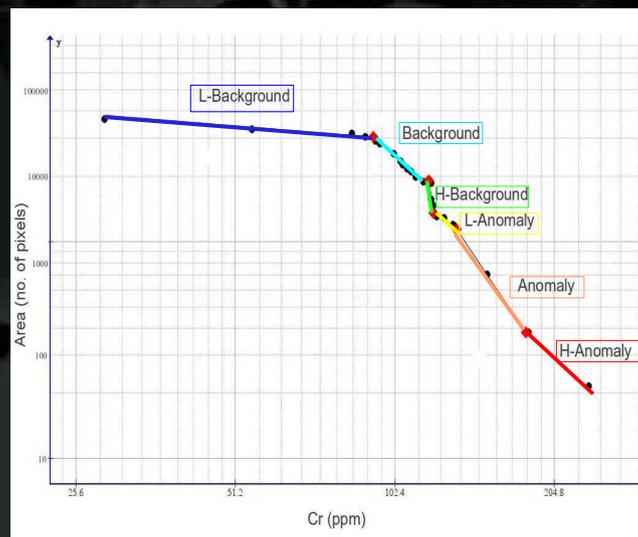
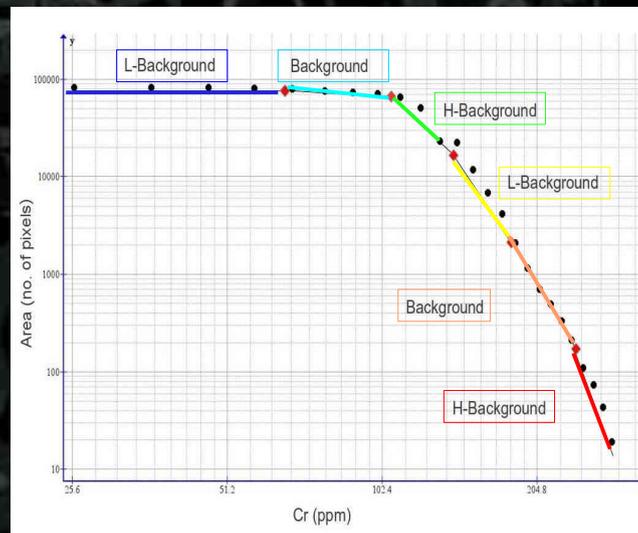
Discrete field geochemical landscapes based on threshold values obtained via C-A analysis of concentration contours of point values.

Discrete field geochemical landscapes based on threshold values obtained via C-A analysis of concentration contours of pixel values.

# Which are the best threshold values between discrete field geochemical landscape ?



|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 70   | Low Background  |
| 71 – 94   | Background      |
| 95 – 132  | High Background |
| 133 – 187 | Low Anomaly     |
| 188 – 229 | Anomaly         |
| 230 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

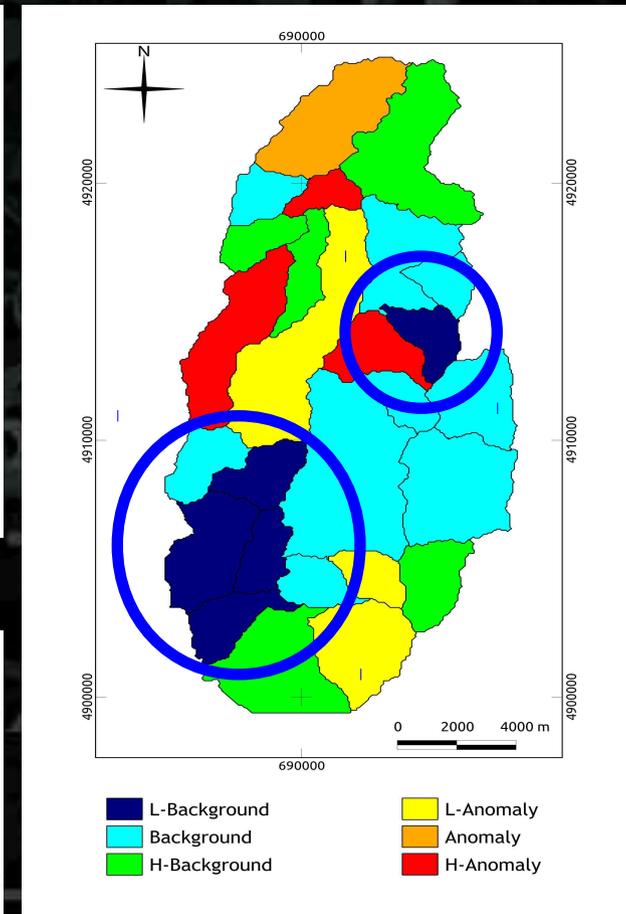
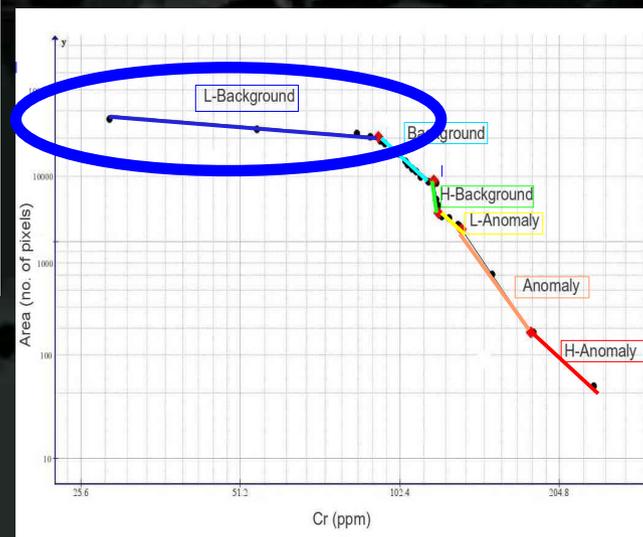
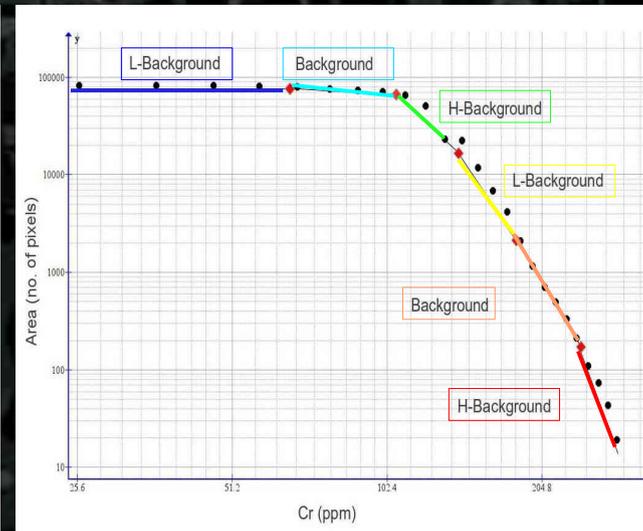
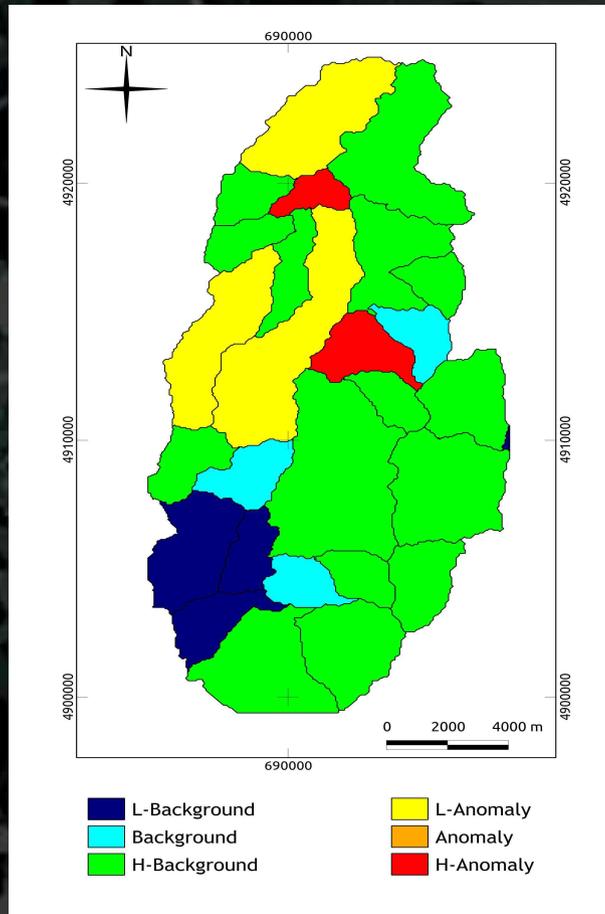


|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 86   | Low Background  |
| 87 – 117  | Background      |
| 118 – 130 | High Background |
| 131 – 160 | Low Anomaly     |
| 161 – 180 | Anomaly         |
| 181 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

# Increase in Low Anomalous values

Point values

Pixel values



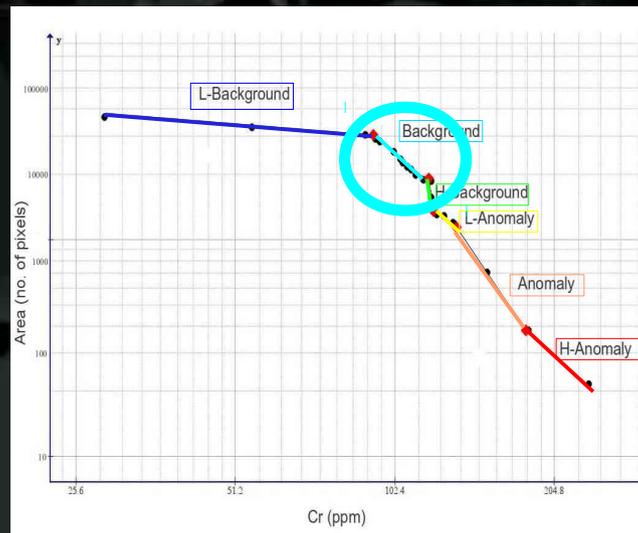
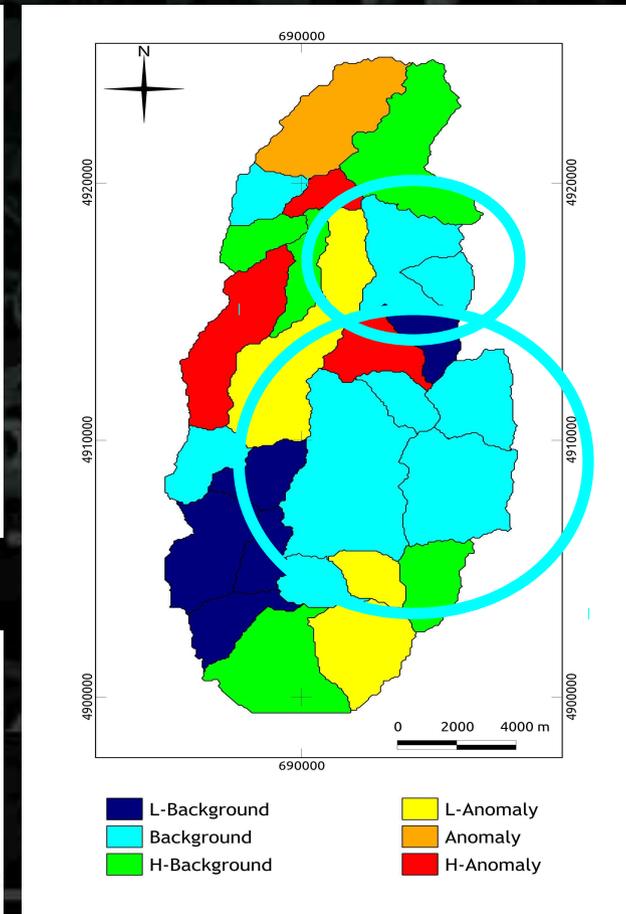
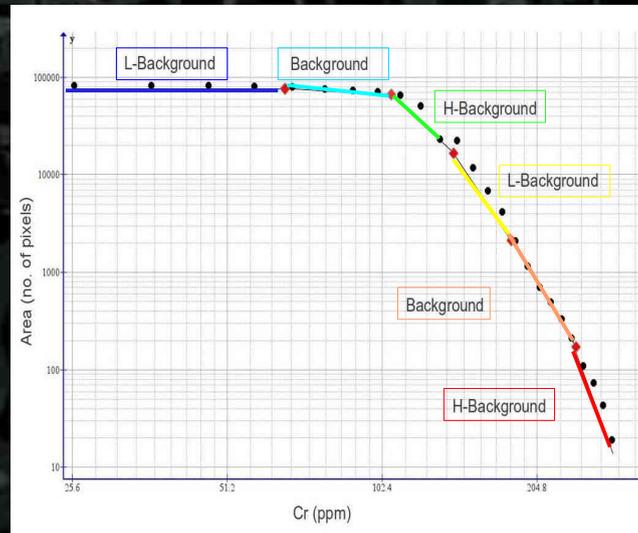
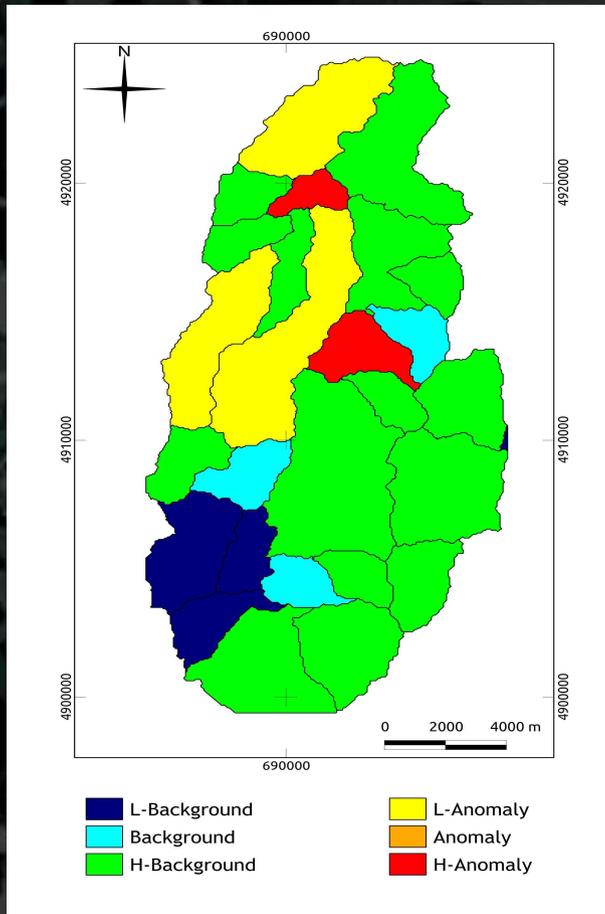
|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 70   | Low Background  |
| 71 – 94   | Background      |
| 95 – 132  | High Background |
| 133 – 187 | Low Anomaly     |
| 188 – 229 | Anomaly         |
| 230 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 86   | Low Background  |
| 87 – 117  | Background      |
| 118 – 130 | High Background |
| 131 – 160 | Low Anomaly     |
| 161 – 180 | Anomaly         |
| 181 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

# Increase in background threshold values

Point values

Pixel values



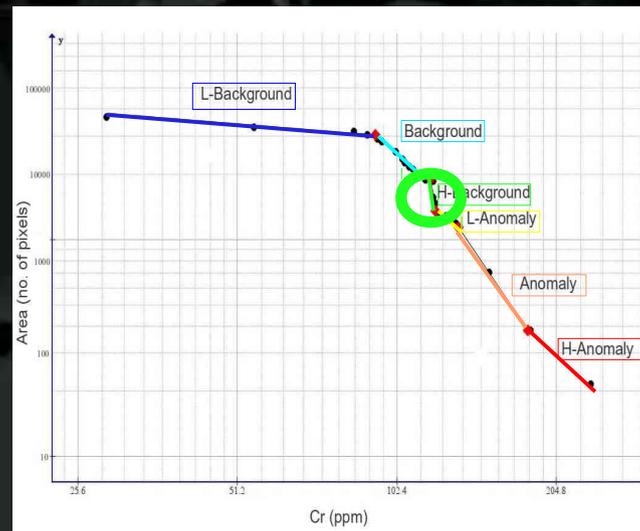
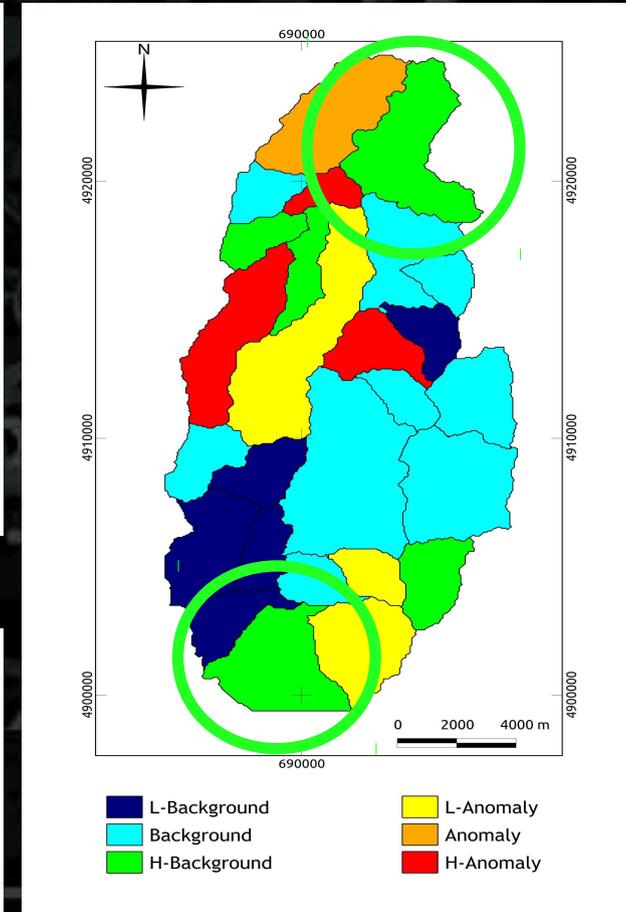
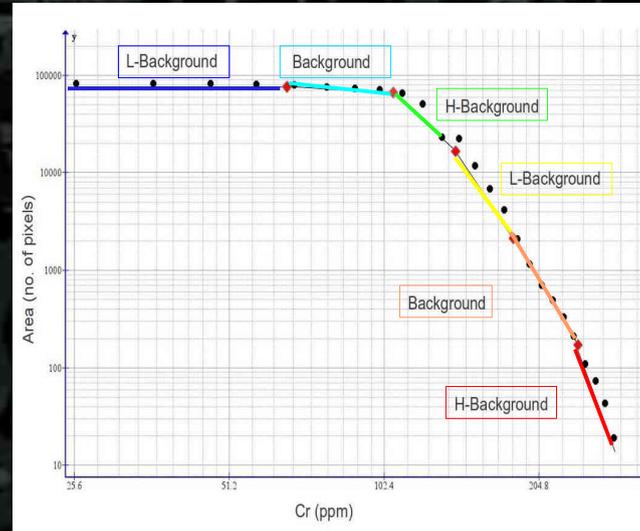
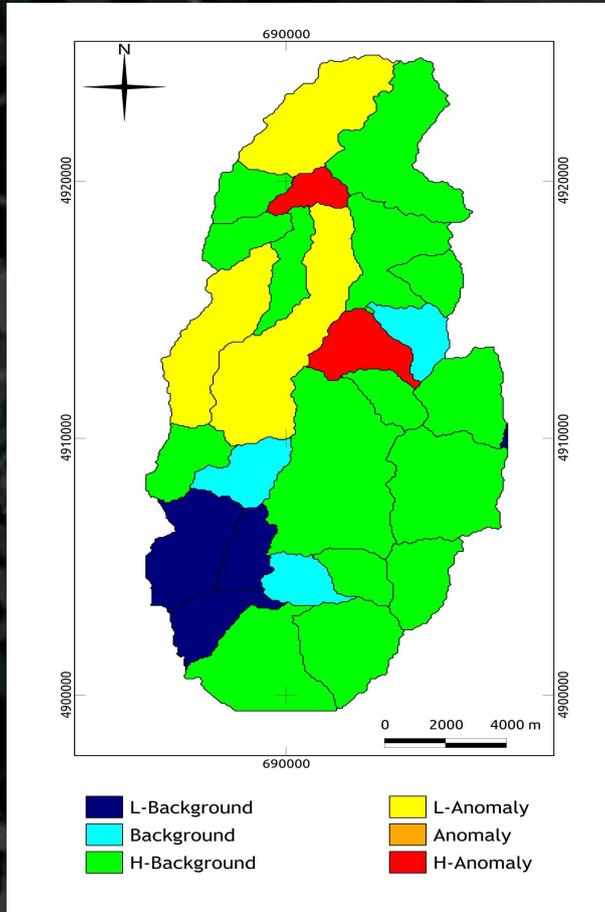
|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 70   | Low Background  |
| 71 – 94   | Background      |
| 95 – 132  | High Background |
| 133 – 187 | Low Anomaly     |
| 188 – 229 | Anomaly         |
| 230 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 86   | Low Background  |
| 87 – 117  | Background      |
| 118 – 130 | High Background |
| 131 – 160 | Low Anomaly     |
| 161 – 180 | Anomaly         |
| 181 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

# Decrease in High Anomalous values

Point values

Pixel values



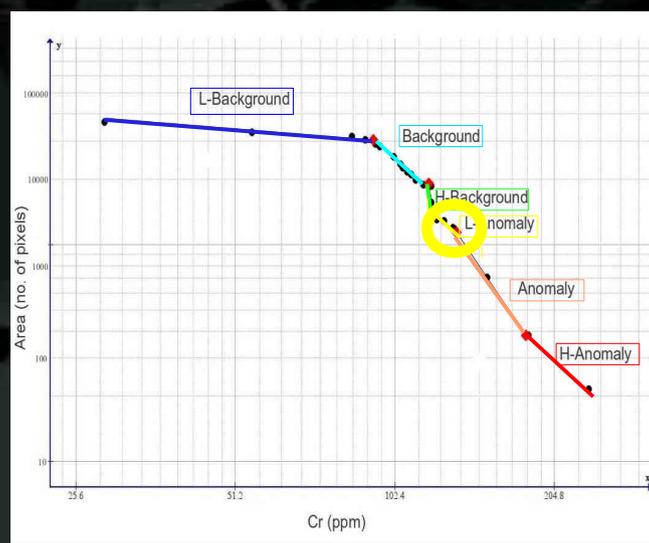
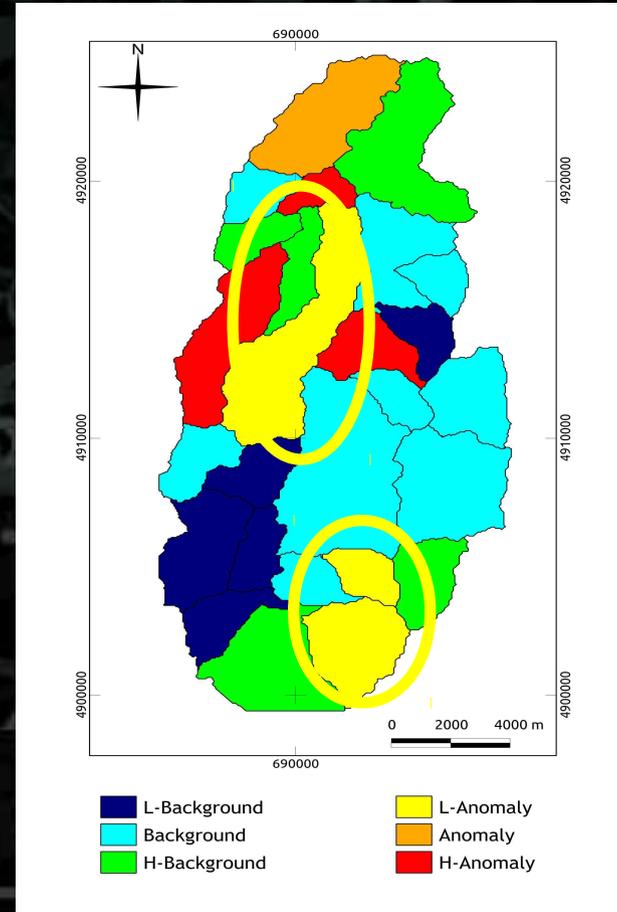
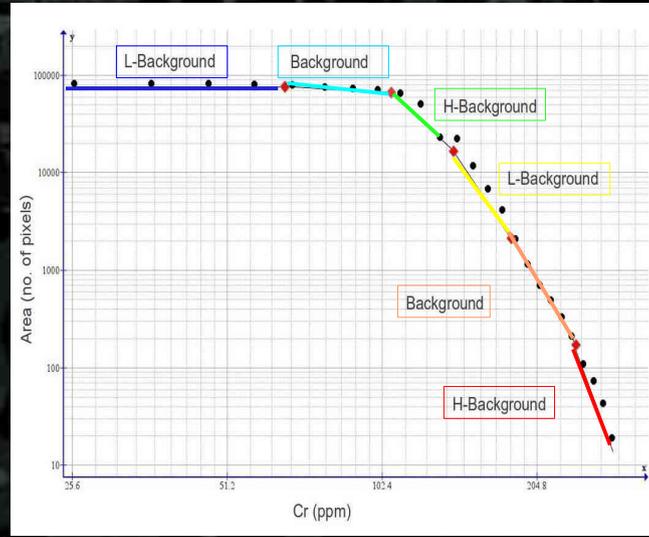
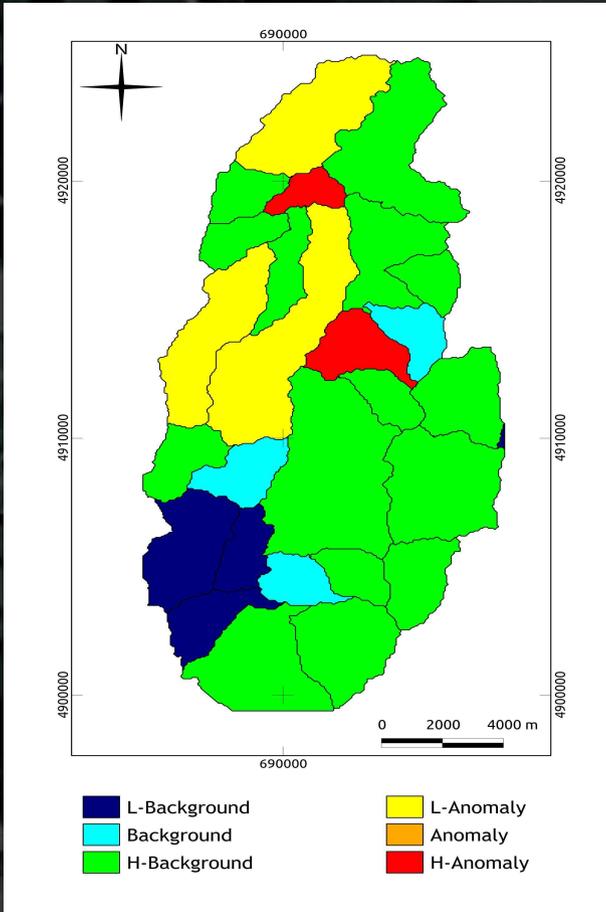
|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 70   | Low Background  |
| 71 – 94   | Background      |
| 95 – 132  | High Background |
| 133 – 187 | Low Anomaly     |
| 188 – 229 | Anomaly         |
| 230 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 86   | Low Background  |
| 87 – 117  | Background      |
| 118 – 130 | High Background |
| 131 – 160 | Low Anomaly     |
| 161 – 180 | Anomaly         |
| 181 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

# Restriction of low Anomalous range

Point values

Pixel values



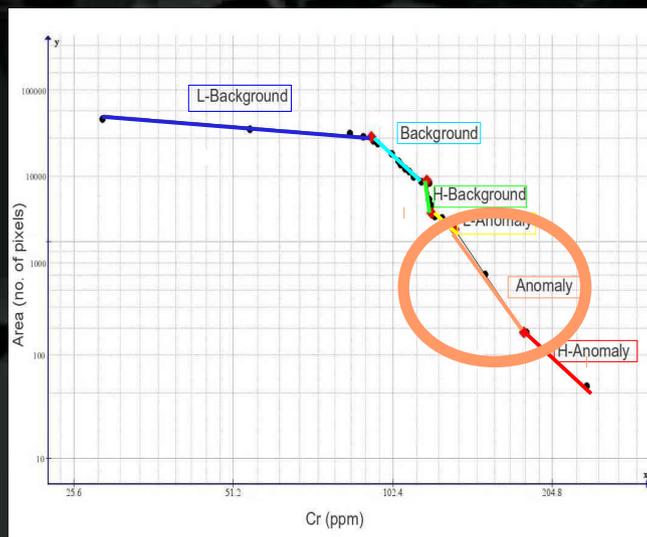
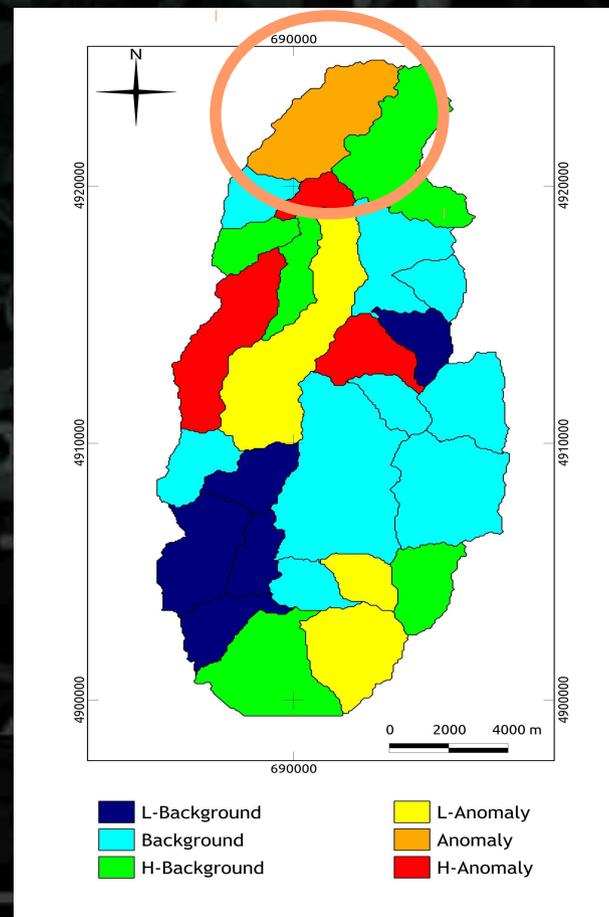
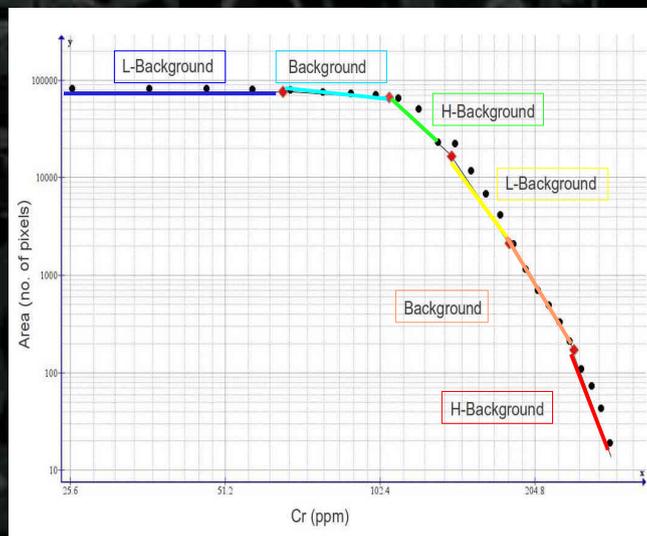
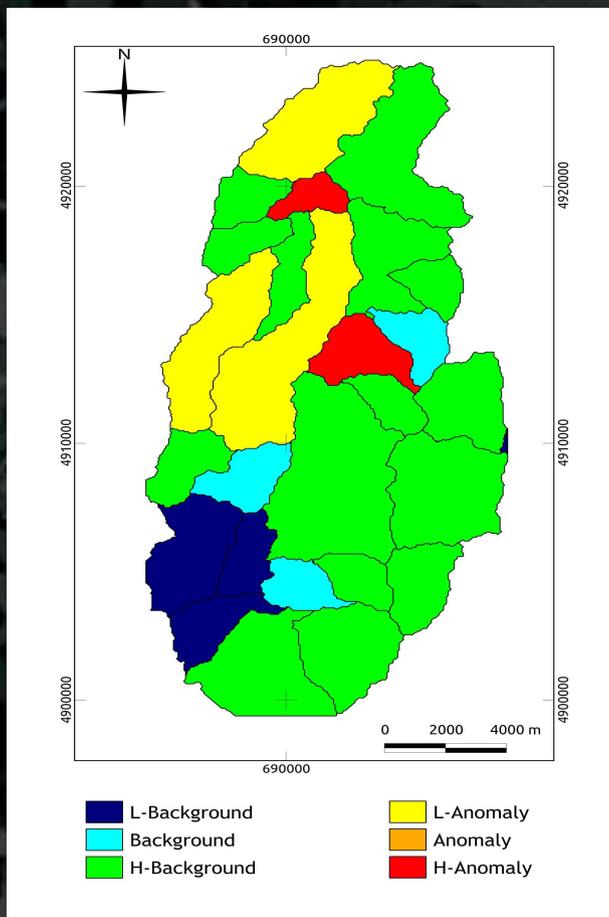
|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 70   | Low Background  |
| 71 – 94   | Background      |
| 95 – 132  | High Background |
| 133 – 187 | Low Anomaly     |
| 188 – 229 | Anomaly         |
| 230 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 86   | Low Background  |
| 87 – 117  | Background      |
| 118 – 130 | High Background |
| 131 – 160 | Low Anomaly     |
| 161 – 180 | Anomaly         |
| 181 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

# Decrease in threshold values of Anomaly (161 vs 188)

Point values

Pixel values



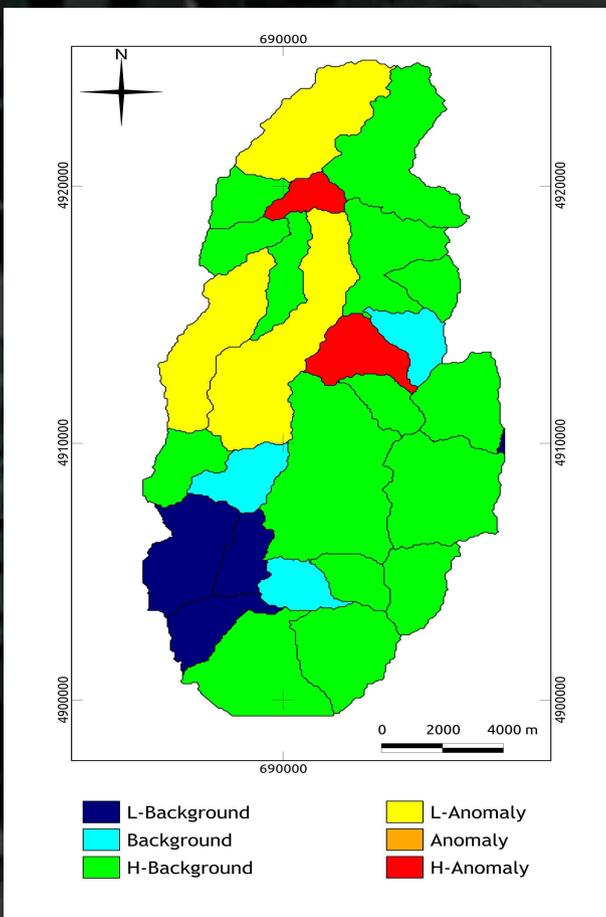
|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 70   | Low Background  |
| 71 – 94   | Background      |
| 95 – 132  | High Background |
| 133 – 187 | Low Anomaly     |
| 188 – 229 | Anomaly         |
| 230 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 86   | Low Background  |
| 87 – 117  | Background      |
| 118 – 130 | High Background |
| 131 – 160 | Low Anomaly     |
| 161 – 180 | Anomaly         |
| 181 – 207 | High Anomaly    |

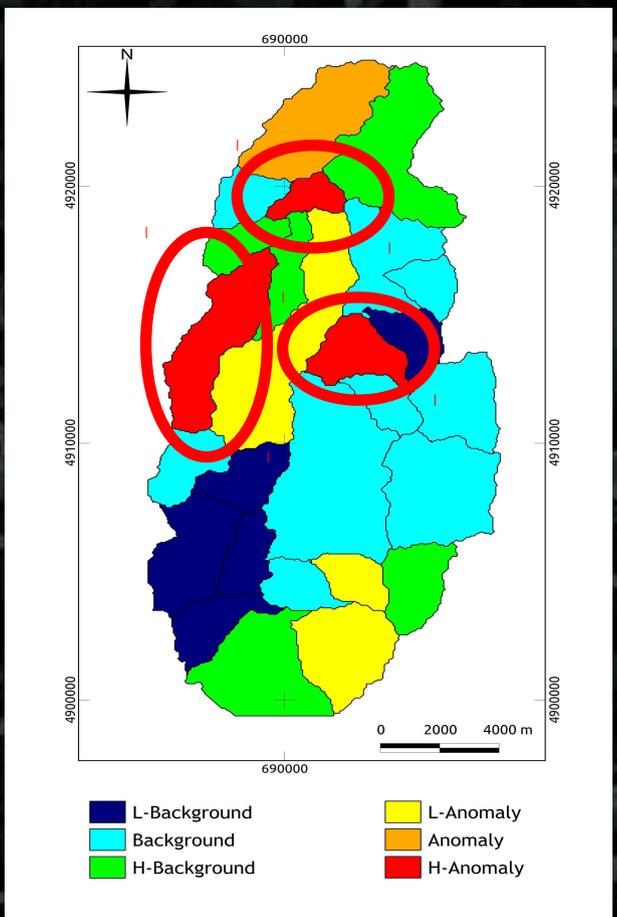
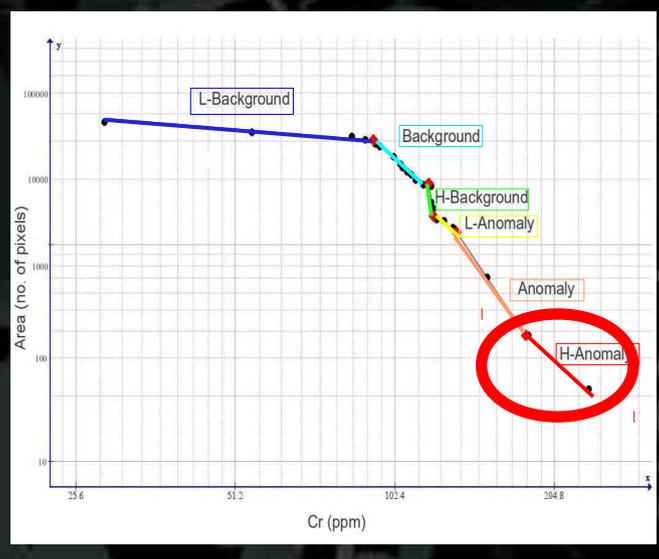
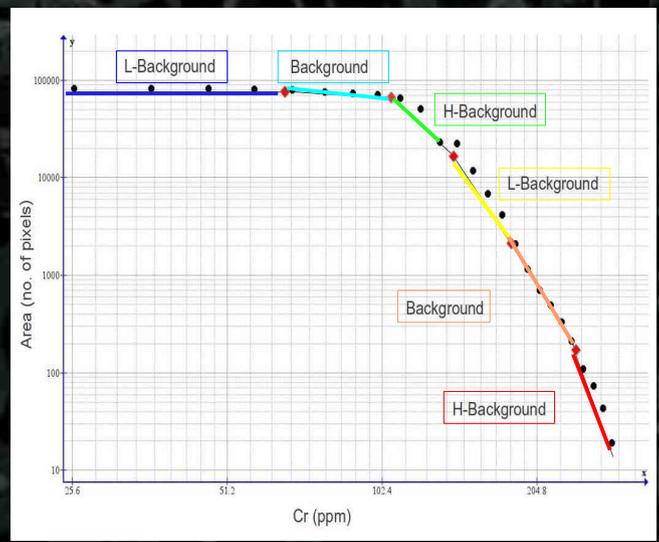
# Decrease in threshold values of High Anomaly (181 vs 230)

Point values

Pixel values



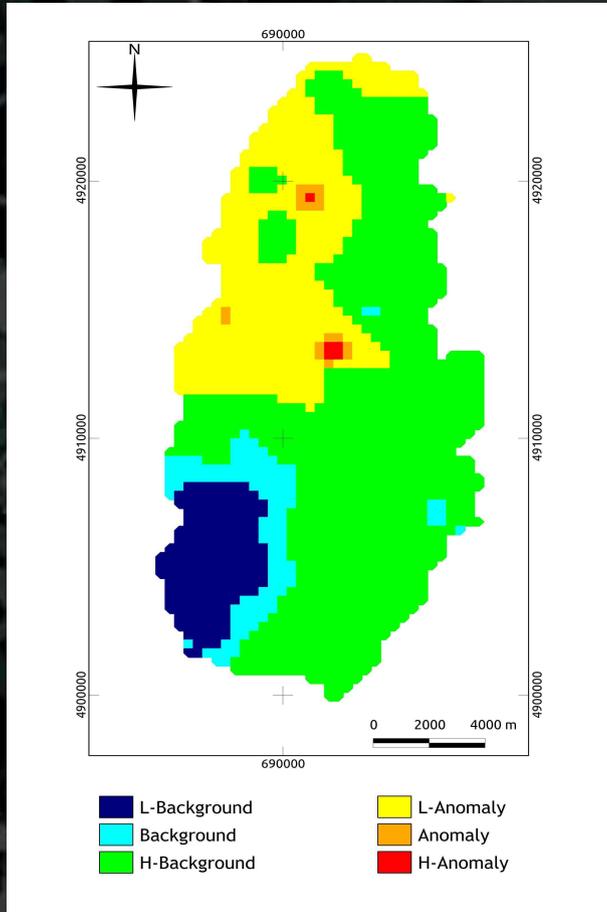
|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 70   | Low Background  |
| 71 – 94   | Background      |
| 95 – 132  | High Background |
| 133 – 187 | Low Anomaly     |
| 188 – 229 | Anomaly         |
| 230 – 287 | High Anomaly    |



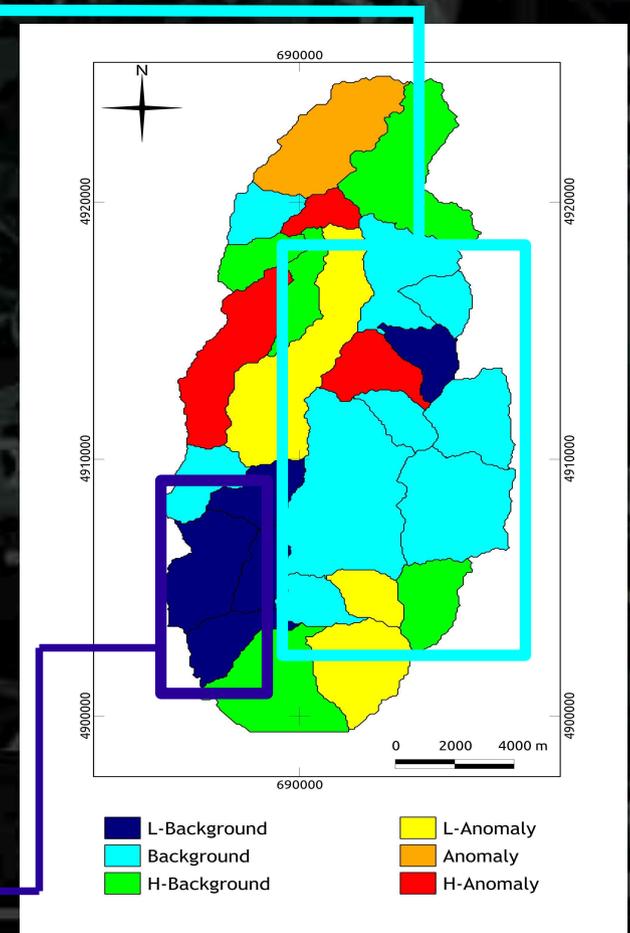
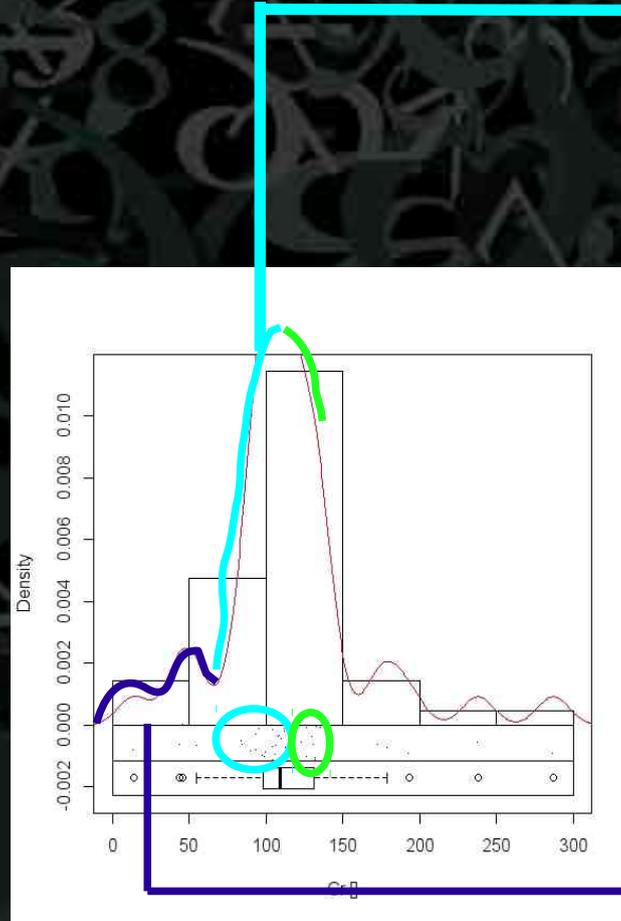
|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 86   | Low Background  |
| 87 – 117  | Background      |
| 118 – 130 | High Background |
| 131 – 160 | Low Anomaly     |
| 161 – 180 | Anomaly         |
| 181 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

# Continuous field model VS Discrete field model

Best Correspondance between frequency distribution and spatial distribution of basin's concentration



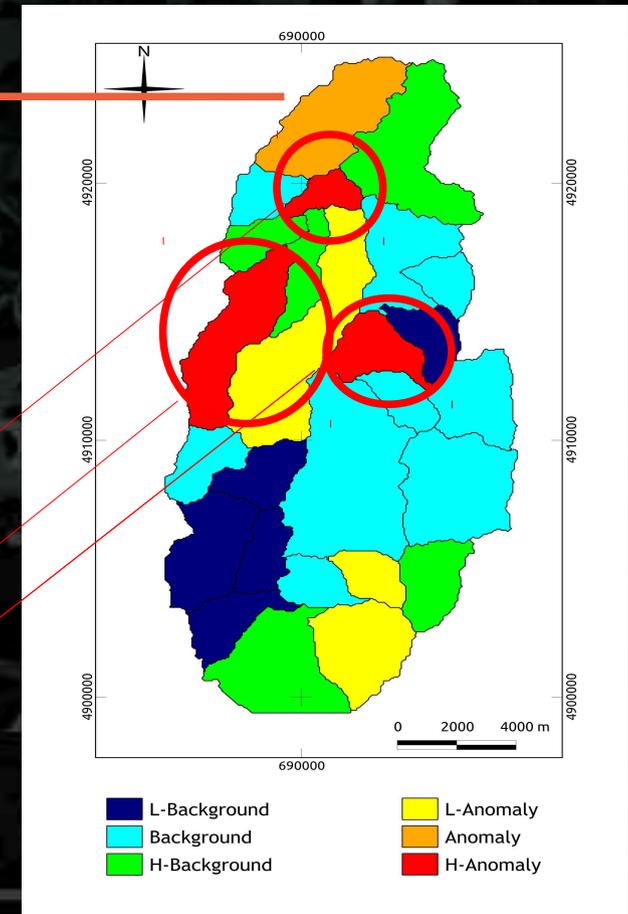
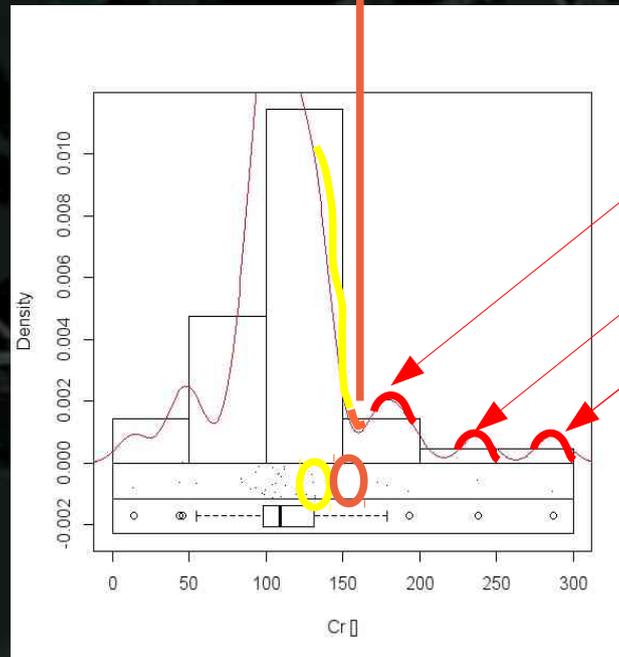
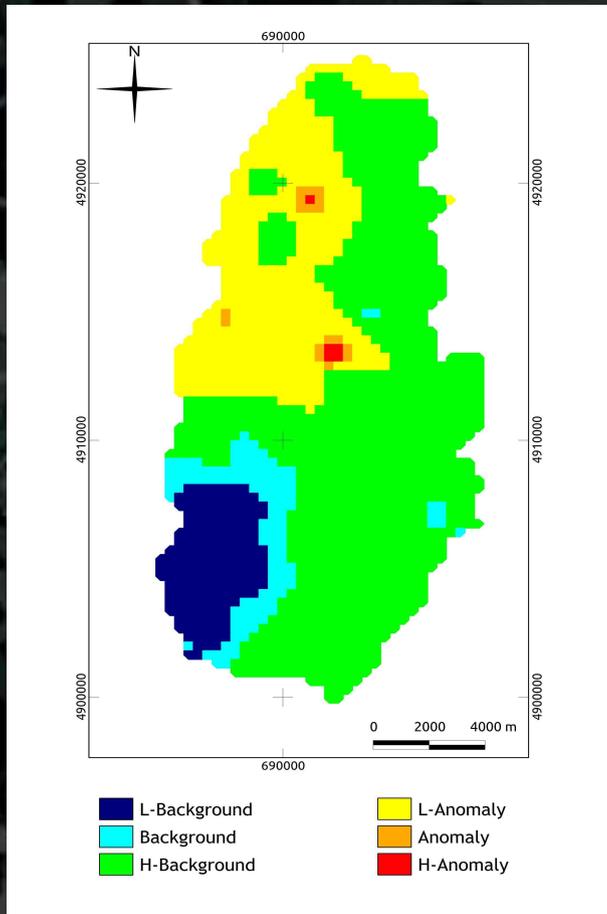
|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 70   | Low Background  |
| 71 – 94   | Background      |
| 95 – 132  | High Background |
| 133 – 187 | Low Anomaly     |
| 188 – 229 | Anomaly         |
| 230 – 287 | High Anomaly    |



|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 86   | Low Background  |
| 87 – 117  | Background      |
| 118 – 130 | High Background |
| 131 – 160 | Low Anomaly     |
| 161 – 180 | Anomaly         |
| 181 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

# Continues field model VS Discrete filed model

Best Correspondance between frequency distribution and spatial distribution of basin's concentration



|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 70   | Low Background  |
| 71 – 94   | Background      |
| 95 – 132  | High Background |
| 133 – 187 | Low Anomaly     |
| 188 – 229 | Anomaly         |
| 230 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25 – 86   | Low Background  |
| 87 – 117  | Background      |
| 118 – 130 | High Background |
| 131 – 160 | Low Anomaly     |
| 161 – 180 | Anomaly         |
| 181 – 287 | High Anomaly    |

# Conclusions:

Catchment-based discrete field modelling of stream sediment geochemical landscapes is preferable to continuous field modelling.

- The former respects the zone of influence of each stream sediment while the latter does not.
- Discret field model determines thresold values compareble to the thresold values established by law
- There is a better correspondance between frequency distribution and spatial distribution of basin's concentration.
- The weight of extreme values (low and high anomaly; low and high background) decreases.