

Sample Homogeneity Testing

Following the Protocol Outlined in:

"The International Harmonized Protocol for the Proficiency Testing of Analytical Laboratories", 2006 (IHP), MICHAEL THOMPSON, STEPHEN L. R. ELLISON AND ROGER WOOD





Heterogeneity between the sample units ($\sigma^2_{Sampling}$) can inflate the spread in sample results. This can mask the true Lab Bias and interferes with Z scores.

Sources of Variance for Check Sample Results can be expressed as follows:

$$\sigma_{\text{SampleResults}}^2 = \sigma_{\text{Analytical}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{Labs}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{Sampling}}^2$$

Ideally, to test for sample homogeneity we would like to minimize the analytical variance ($\sigma^2_{Analytical}$) and the Lab Bias (σ^2_{Labs}) and isolate the variance due to the sample units ($\sigma^2_{Sampling}$).





So, how do we minimize the analytical variance ($\sigma^2_{Analytical}$) and the Lab Bias (σ^2_{Labs}) and isolate the variance due to the sample units ($\sigma^2_{Sampling}$).

- Randomly select 10 sample units from a batch for analysis.
 - Represents the sampling bias we wish to measure.
- Select a single expert lab (we used an ISO 17025 accredited lab using methods reported by AAFCO participant labs).
 - Should remove inter Lab bias between the samples.
- Choose a method with very low analytical variance.
 - Minimize analytical variance.

A Quote from the IHP:

"Homogeneity tests should be regarded as essential, but not foolproof, safeguards."





Let's look at a Dataset for 10 sample units analyzed in duplicate at one lab.

- > A Chochran test checks for outliers in duplicates.
- Subtracting duplicates removes the sampling bias in each sample unit.
- > Adding the duplicates generates **twice this bias**.

Sample Code		Moi	sture (%)	
(Sample Unit)	Dup 1	Dup 2	Difference	Sum
1	5.69	5.60	0.09	11.29
2	5.84	5.72	0.12	11.56
3	5.59	5.54	0.05	11.13
4	5.70	5.69	0.01	11.39
5	5.69	5.56	0.13	11.25
6	5.72	5.65	0.07	11.37
7	5.54	5.53	0.01	11.07
8	5.58	5.42	0.16	11.00
9	5.52	5.65	-0.13	11.17
10	5.64	5.65	-0.01	11.29





Now we can Calculate the Sampling Variation

Number of Pairs	10
Grand Avgerage	5.626
Sampling Variation Calculation	
A - Variance of Differences (sampling error removed)	0.00448
B - Variance of Sums (includes A and 2 x sampling error)	0.02766
Variance Attributed to Sampling (B/2-A)/2	0.0047
Repeatability %rsd	1.19%
% RSD of Sample Means	1.48%
σ _{analytical} /σ _{proficiency} (Should be ~< 0.5)	0.3789

Next we need to calculate a critical Variance which should not be exceeded





Calculating a one sided 95% CI for the Sampling Variation

Number of Pairs	10
Grand Avgerage	5.626
Allowed Variation	
We must decide what dispersion is ffp! Median Robust % RSD from last 19 CSP Samples Chosen to represent the $\sigma_{\rm ffp}$ for the % Moisture Method	3.14%
SD for Proficiency Testing (σ_{ffp}) 5.626 * 3.14/100.	0.1767
From the IHP: Allowed Variance (30% of target)	0.0028
F1 constant (95% Confidence)	1.8799
F2 constant (95% Confidence)	1.0102
Critical Allowed Variance (σ ² _{Allowed})	0.0098

Since 0.0047 is less than 0.0098 there is no evidence of sampling variance.





Let's Talk About $\sigma_{\rm ffp}$...

We need our best estimate of the usual and expected dispersion for the analysis with respect to our sample matrices and concentration types.

In the CSP we calculate σ_{ffp} for each sample from participants data.

This is not practical for Homogeneity testing. We need to pick a σ_{ffp} appropriate to a particular analyte/method but across all our samples.

I looked back over the last 21 CSP samples and selected the Median Reproducibility %RSD for each Analyte used in the Homogeneity test.

This is a first approximation which we can refine as we move forward with more samples.

I favor using %RSD as it reflects variance dependent on concentration.





For example, we ran 2 Check Samples for Homogeneity Testing:

- Medicated Chicken Starter (201326)
- > Soya Flour (201342)

And requested the following analyses:

Analyte	Method	CSP Method #
Moisture	Moisture-Forced Draft (Food Products) - AOAC 930.15	011.01
Protein	Nitrogen by Combustion - AOAC 990.03	002.06
Ca	Calcium by ICP - AOAC 965.17 / 985.01 mod.	019.41/019.44
Fe	Iron by ICP - AOAC 965.17 / 985.01 mod.	025.41
Mg	Magnesium by ICP - AOAC 965.17 / 985.01 mod.	027.41/027.44
Mn	Manganese by ICP - AOAC 965.17 / 985.01 mod.	028.41/028.44
Р	Phosphorus by ICP - AOAC 965.17 / 985.01 mod.	031.41/031.44
K	Potassium by ICP - AOAC 965.17 / 985.01 mod.	032.41
Na	Sodium by ICP - AOAC 965.17 / 985.01 mod.	035.41
Zn	Zinc by ICP - AOAC 965.17 / 985.01 mod.	037.41/037.44





Medicated Chicken Starter (201326)

Expert Lab Sample Code		Moisture (%)		Protein (%)		Ca (%)		Р ((%)
#	Ending in:	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
1	6040235	11.11	11.59	18.63	18.88	0.9068	0.9097	0.7447	0.7471
2	6040236	11.13	11.52	18.56	18.63	0.9417	0.9101	0.7613	0.7667
3	6040237	11.23	11.54	18.75	18.63	0.9009	0.9175	0.7698	0.7548
4	6040238	11.13	11.44	18.63	18.63	0.9048	0.9238	0.7677	0.7675
5	6040239	11.12	11.39	18.75	18.75	0.9088	0.9284	0.7487	0.7665
6	6040240	11.08	11.40	18.56	18.69	0.9077	0.9340	0.7663	0.7655
7	6040241	11.09	11.32	18.81	18.94	0.9093	0.9248	0.7576	0.7606
8	6040242	11.02	11.25	18.56	18.94	0.9206	0.9195	0.7623	0.7668
9	6040243	11.09	11.32	18.75	18.63	0.9143	0.9243	0.7589	0.7663
10	6040244	11.27	11.28	18.81	18.50	0.9127	0.9122	0.7715	0.7650
Outlie	er Test	PA	SS	PASS		PASS		PASS	
Allow	ed Variation								
Media	an % RSD from CSP	3.1	4%	1.5	8%	4.2	0%	4.1	1%
Critica	al variance	0.0	671	0.0	333	0.0	004	0.0	002
Actua	al Variation								
Varia	nce Attributed to Sampling	0.0000		0.0000		0.0000		0.0000	
Homo	Homogeneity Decision		SS	PA	SS	PA	SS	PASS	





Medicated Chicken Starter (201326)

	Expert Lab Sample Code	Fe	(%)	Mg	(%)	Mn (ppm)	K ([%)	Na	(%)	Zn (j	opm)
#	Ending in:	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
1	6040235	0.0267	0.0266	0.2048	0.2109	91.51	90.43	0.7591	0.7628	0.2153	0.2201	89	88
2	6040236	0.0272	0.0272	0.2112	0.2119	93.04	91.97	0.7765	0.7764	0.2187	0.2234	90	90
3	6040237	0.0274	0.0269	0.2045	0.2110	93.88	92.39	0.7614	0.7676	0.2168	0.2214	92	90
4	6040238	0.0273	0.0272	0.2103	0.2145	90.86	90.82	0.7639	0.7603	0.2176	0.2207	89	93
5	6040239	0.0272	0.0269	0.2119	0.2166	93.46	93.81	0.7693	0.7799	0.2180	0.2209	90	91
6	6040240	0.0272	0.0274	0.2078	0.2124	92.62	91.83	0.7630	0.7628	0.2176	0.2213	90	90
7	6040241	0.0272	0.0271	0.2091	0.2107	90.33	89.67	0.7724	0.7613	0.2195	0.2194	92	88
8	6040242	0.0277	0.0271	0.2156	0.2159	92.67	91.13	0.7740	0.7590	0.2208	0.2212	90	90
9	6040243	0.0273	0.0270	0.2113	0.2279	94.49	90.92	0.7672	0.7591	0.2204	0.2197	90	90
10	6040244	0.0272	0.0274	0.2116	0.2137	90.66	92.72	0.7667	0.7553	0.2188	0.2181	89	89
Outlier	Test	PA	SS	PA	SS	PA	SS	PA	SS	PA	SS	PA	SS
Allowed	d Variation												
Median	% RSD from CSP	5.7	3%	4.5	6%	4.5	2%	4.7	7%	5.0	6%	6.3	2%
Critical \	variance	0.0	000	0.0	000	4.1	897	0.0	003	0.0	000	7.3	932
Actual \	Variation												
S ² Attrib	outed to Sampling	0.0	000	0.0	000	0.6	244	0.0	000	0.0	000	0.0	000
Homo	geneity Decision	РА	SS	PA	SS	PA	SS	PA	SS	PA	SS	PA	SS





Soy Flour (201326)

Expert Lab Sample Code		Moisture (%)		Protein (%)		Ca (%)		P (%)	
#	Ending in:	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
1	6040245	5.69	5.60	50.44	50.38	0.2705	0.2683	0.6982	0.7001
2	6040246	5.84	5.72	50.00	50.00	0.2662	0.2724	0.7024	0.7019
3	6040247	5.59	5.54	50.56	50.56	0.2659	0.2687	0.6996	0.6965
4	6040248	5.70	5.69	50.06	50.44	0.2650	0.2686	0.7022	0.7039
5	6040249	5.69	5.56	50.75	51.19	0.2669	0.2723	0.6976	0.7032
6	6040250	5.72	5.65	50.38	50.56	0.2686	0.2706	0.7019	0.6992
7	6040251	5.54	5.53	50.75	50.81	0.2604	0.2708	0.6934	0.6949
8	6040252	5.58	5.42	50.06	50.31	0.2668	0.2686	0.6961	0.7014
9	6040253	5.52	5.65	51.06	50.75	0.2620	0.2703	0.6978	0.7008
10	6040254	5.64	5.65	50.81	50.75	0.2642	0.2701	0.6980	0.7081
Outlie	er Test	PA	SS	PASS		PASS		PASS	
Allow	ed Variation								
Media	n % RSD from CSP	3.1	4%	1.5	8%	4.2	0%	4.1	1%
Critica	l variance 0.0098 0.1351 0.0000		000	0.0	001				
Actua	Actual Variation								
Variar	nce Attributed to Sampling	0.0047		0.0929		0.0000		0.0000	
Homogeneity Decision		PASS		PA	SS	PA	SS	PASS	



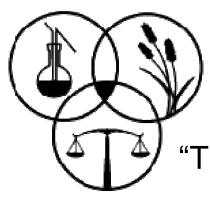
Soy Flour (201326)



	Expert Lab Sample Code	Fe	(%)	Mg	(%)	Mn (ppm)	K ((%)	Na	(%)*	Zn (_l	opm)
#	Ending in:	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
1	6040245	0.0071	0.0072	0.2898	0.2935	33.28	32.84	2.3078	2.2967	0.0031	0.0032	46	46
2	6040246	0.0071	0.0071	0.2870	0.2909	32.54	32.73	2.2889	2.2632	0.0026	0.0032	46	45
3	6040247	0.0070	0.0071	0.2887	0.2910	32.97	32.47	2.3172	2.2846	0.0055	<0.002	45	45
4	6040248	0.0071	0.0071	0.2876	0.2906	32.58	32.51	2.3162	2.3006	0.0024	0.0044	45	45
5	6040249	0.0071	0.0071	0.2889	0.2901	32.76	32.59	2.3029	2.3024	0.0033	0.0032	45	48
6	6040250	0.0070	0.0072	0.2871	0.2902	32.72	32.64	2.2905	2.2968	0.0028	0.0035	45	48
7	6040251	0.0070	0.0070	0.2851	0.2891	32.59	32.58	2.3039	2.2784	0.0022	0.0033	46	46
8	6040252	0.0071	0.0071	0.2861	0.2917	32.36	32.58	2.2937	2.3073	0.0035	<0.002	47	45
9	6040253	0.0071	0.0072	0.2835	0.2872	32.58	32.53	2.2670	2.2966	0.0033	<0.002	46	45
10	6040254	0.0072	0.0073	0.2899	0.2882	32.45	32.74	2.2924	2.3365	0.0036	<0.002	46	45
Outlie	er Test	PA	SS	РА	SS	PA	SS	PA	SS	No	Test	PA	SS
Allow	ed Variation												
Media	n % RSD from CSP	5.7	3%	4.5	6%	4.5	2%	4.7	7%	5.0	6%	6.3	2%
Critica	al variance	0.0	000	0.0	000	0.4	016	0.0	023	0.0	000	2.6	772
Actua	l Variation												
Varia	nce Attributed to Sampling	0.0	000	0.0	000	0.0	097	0.0	000	0.0	000	0.0	000
Hom	ogeneity Decision	PA	SS	PA	SS	PA	SS	PA	SS	F.A	AIL	PA	SS

^{*}A review of the failure for Na reveals concentrations too close to the reporting limit, $\sigma^2_{\text{Analytical}}$ not consistent.





Sample Homogeneity Testing

"The Remarkable Case of Combustion Nitrogen"

Protein by Combustion Nitrogen (# 002.06) Method Parameters		Assigned Value - Robust Mean	# Labs Included in Calculations	Between Labs %RSD	Repeatability %rsd	Reproducibility %RSD	sR/sr	Modified Horwitz %RSD
201341	Chicken Meal	64.93	48	1.02%	0.75%	1.27%	1.69	1.24
201342	Soya Flour	50.61	39	0.97%	0.41%	1.05%	2.59	1.41
201230	Beef Feedlot special, Medicated	43.41	140	1.86%	0.45%	1.91%	4.30	1.52
201223	Beef Feedlot special, Medicated	41.18	141	0.82%	0.72%	1.10%	1.51	1.56
201225	Dry Cat Food	32.47	137	1.08%	0.58%	1.22%	2.12	1.75
201222	Senior Pig Starter, Medicated	23.37	140	1.07%	0.76%	1.31%	1.73	2.07
201323	Swine Pre-starter, Medicated	22.94	133	1.51%	0.66%	1.65%	2.50	2.09
201229	Swine Pre-starter, Medicated	22.58	139	1.40%	0.62%	1.53%	2.46	2.10
201226	Dairy Herd & Beef Calf Milk Replacer, Medicated	19.48	140	2.09%	0.85%	2.26%	2.65	2.27
201321	Dry Dog Food	19.07	152	1.47%	0.61%	1.59%	2.61	2.29
201322	Chicken Starter/Grower, Medicated	18.85	122	1.70%	0.60%	1.81%	3.00	2.30
201326	Chicken Starter/Grower, Medicated	18.57	129	1.23%	0.69%	1.41%	2.05	2.32
201232	Calf Sarter/Grower, Medicated	18.10	145	1.46%	0.71%	1.63%	2.29	2.35
201221	Chicken Sarter/Grower, Medicated	17.81	142	1.59%	0.84%	1.80%	2.14	2.37
201325	Pelleted Beef Special, Medicated	17.14	128	1.75%	0.72%	1.89%	2.63	2.42
201224	Chicken Starter/Grower, Medicated	17.12	143	1.63%	0.80%	1.81%	2.26	2.42
201228	Beef Cattle Pellet, Medicated	15.44	134	1.86%	0.95%	2.09%	2.19	2.55
201227	Sheep and Goat Grower/Finisher, Medicated	15.29	141	2.10%	0.94%	2.30%	2.44	2.56
201324	Sheep & Goat Grower/Finisher, Medicated	15.04	140	1.81%	0.83%	1.99%	2.39	2.58
201231	Preconditioning cattle starter, Medicated	12.81	144	3.27%	1.21%	3.49%	2.89	2.72
201298	Feed grade monocalcium phosphate	0.83	17	47.15%	5.65%	47.48%	8.41	4.12





Can We Estimate Homogeneity From the CSP Data?

- ➢ In "Protein by Combustion N₂" we have a very precise method with over 140 Analysts consistently reporting Reproducibility < 2% (%RSD) and Repeatability < 1% (%rsd) for each sample.</p>
- This is an extremely narrow dispersion for so many Labs.
- So looking at our sources of variance again:
 - Reproducibility is heavily reflected in σ_{Labs} and is low!
 - Repeatability is essentially the σ_{Analytical} and is low!

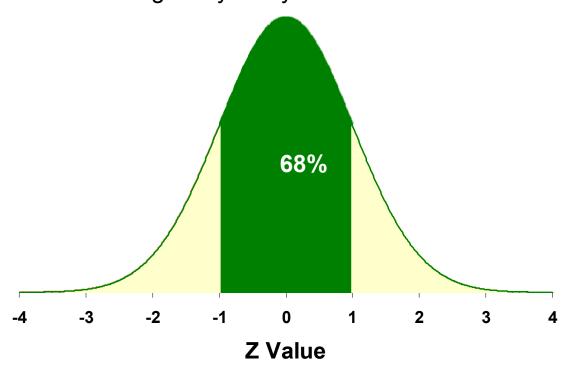
$$\sigma_{\text{SampleResults}}^2 = \sigma_{\text{Analytical}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{Labs}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{Sampling}}^2$$





Can We Estimate Homogeneity From Protein Data?

So if I take the center portion of the data (Z between \pm 1, \sim 68% representing typically 140 labs), these Labs should begin to approach the data from a Homogeneity study.



Let's call this the "Z" Cut – the "filet mignon" of the data, if you will.

Now let's compare the Soya Flour Homogeneity report with the "Z" Cut samples run by different labs/analysts from the CSP.

Soya Flour (201342)	Expert Lab	CSP 002.06
Homogeneity Decision	PASS	PASS
Number of Pairs (samples)	10	88 of 120 (Z Cut)
Grand Average	50.53	50.59
Allo	wed Variation	
Median % RSD from CSP	1.58%	1.58%
SD for Proficiency Testing	0.7984	0.7993
Allowed Variance (30% of target)	0.0574	0.0575
F1 constant	1.8799	1.2618
F2 constant	1.0102	0.2120
Critical variance	0.1351	7 0.0809
Act	ual Variation	
Variance of Differences	0.02695	0.03949
Variance of Sums	0.42535	0.19100
Variance Attributed to Sampling	0.0929	0.0280
Repeatability %rsd (σ _{analytical})	0.32%	0.39%
% RSD of Sample Means	0.65%	0.43%
Outlier Test	PASS	PASS

Medicated Chicken Starter (201326) Homogeneity report with the "Z" Cut samples run by different labs/analysts from the CSP.

201326	Expert Lab	CSP 002.06
Homogeneity Decision	PASS	PASS
Number of Pairs	10	133 (Z Cut)
Grand Average	18.7	18.55
Allowed Va	ariation	•
Median % RSD from CSP	1.58%	1.58%
SD for Proficiency Testing	0.2955	0.2930
Allowed Variance (30% of target)	0.0079	0.0077
F1 constant	1.8799	1.2107
F2 constant	1.0102	0.1660
Critical variance	0.0333	0.0131
Actual Va	riation	
Variance of Differences	0.01836	0.0223
Variance of Sums	0.02795	0.0576
Variance Attributed to Sampling	0.0000	0.0033
Repeatability %rsd (σ _{analytical})	0.72%	0.80%
% RSD of Sample Means	0.45%	0.65%
Outlier Test	PASS	PASS

Z Cut Pseudo Homogeneity Testing at 3.00 %RSD to Calculate σ_P Sample # and Sample Name Decision n_z Mean Critical Allowed 201321 **Dry Dog Food PASS** 172 19.10 0.0371 0.0155 Chicken Starter/Grower, Medicated 201322 **PASS** 141 18.87 0.0381 0.0102 201323 Swine Pre-starter, Medicated **PASS** 147 22.95 0.0549 0.0107 201324 **PASS** Sheep & Goat Grower/Finisher, Medicated 152 15.04 0.0238 0.0226 201325 Pelleted Beef Special, Medicated **PASS** 127 0.0324 0.0148 17.11 201326 Chicken Starter/Grower, Medicated **PASS** 0.0374 0.0033 133 18.55 201341 **Chicken Meal PASS** 100 64.93 0.4598 0.0582 201342 **PASS** Soya Flour 88 50.59 0.2699 0.0280 201221 Chicken Sarter/Grower, Medicated **PASS** 141 17.82 0.0344 0.0045 201222 Senior Pig Starter, Medicated **PASS** 141 23.37 0.0564 0.0069 Beef Feedlot special, Medicated 201223 **PASS** 158 41.17 0.1690 0.0210 201224 Chicken Starter/Grower, Medicated **PASS** 158 17.14 0.0305 0.0196 201225 **Dry Cat Food PASS** 0.1077 0.0031 145 32.49 201226 Dairy Herd & Beef Calf Milk Replacer, Medicated **PASS** 141 19.45 0.0392 0.0206 Sheep and Goat Grower/Finisher, Medicated 201227 **PASS** 156 15.30 0.0251 0.0206 201228 **PASS** 0.0255 **Beef Cattle Pellet. Medicated** 144 15.45 0.0139 201229 Swine Pre-starter, Medicated **PASS** 158 22.60 0.0520 0.0117 201230 Beef Feedlot special, Medicated **PASS** 156 43.42 0.1900 0.0170 201231 Preconditioning cattle starter, Medicated **FAIL** 159 12.84 0.0225 0.0300 201232 Calf Sarter/Grower, Medicated **PASS** 169 18.10 0.0344 0.0133 201298 Feed grade monocalcium phosphate **FAIL** 13 0.84 0.0011 0.0319





Recommendation:

- ➤ I run a "Z" Cut pseudo Homogeneity test on "Protein by Combustion Nitrogen" data for each sample.
- ➤ If it passes the pseudo Homogeneity test at say 3.0 %RSD then we can assume acceptable homogeneity for our purposes.
- If it does not pass we will examine the sample data more closely before reporting a possible homogeneity issue.

This does not substitute for a legitimate Homogeneity study.

But, I think we can make a good case that it is a very reasonable (cost effective!) sample to sample homogeneity flag.