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Intercomparison of methods used for chemical analysis of the EPICA ice cores

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In the framework of the European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica (EPICA), two ice cores have been drilled to bedrock in East Antarctica. High-resolution chemical analysis has been done on both ice cores, using different methods and involving several European laboratories. In general, the different laboratories and the different methods used agree reasonably well. Here we present the methods and sampling schemes used to analyse the two ice cores. A detailed comparison of data measured in different laboratories or by different methods is shown and the procedures used to homogenize the data sets are described. We make use of the experience from the EPICA project to suggest strategies for future sampling and chemical analysis of ice cores involving several laboratories.