

NIST Human Identity Project Team

NIST Resources for the Forensic DNA Community

John M. Butler
and Human Identity Project Team
National Institute of Standards and Technology

NIJ Conference
Crystal City, VA
July 22, 2008

Presentation Outline

- NIST projects overview ([OLES](#))
- SRM update: SRM 2372, 2391b, 2392, 2395
- STR allele sequencing ([Margaret Kline](#))
- Mixture work ([Amy Decker](#), [Angie Dolph](#) & [Michelle Burns](#))
- Additional STRs and 26plex ([Becky Hill](#))
- Rapid PCR for DNA biometrics ([Pete Vallone](#))
- Training workshops ([John Butler/Pete Vallone](#))

Our publications and presentations are made available at:
<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/NISTpub.htm>

National Institute of Standards and Technology
 ...working with industry to foster innovation, trade, security and jobs

Physics Laboratory
 Defines U.S. Time
 3 Nobel Prize Winners (97, 01, 05)

MSEL
 Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory

NIST Center for Neutron Research

MEL
 Microchip and Microwave Engineering Laboratory

CNST
 Center for Nanoscale Science & Technology

Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory
 Technology Services
 Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory
 Information Technology Laboratory
 Building and Fire Research Laboratory

CSTL
 Human Identity Project Team

SRMs
OLES
 Biometrics
 WTC Investigation

Forensic DNA Work
 Microchip and microwave PCR
 Fingerprints
 Iris scans
 Other biometrics

Mark Stolorow is now Director of the NIST Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLES)

<http://www.eeel.nist.gov/oles/directory.html>

Sue Ballou
 (Forensics)

<http://www.eeel.nist.gov/oles/forensics.html>

NIST Gaithersburg Campus

Located in Gaithersburg, Maryland, on approximately 234 hectares (578 acres) just off Interstate 270 about 25 miles northwest of Washington, D.C.

<http://www.nist.gov>
 ~2,500 staff

OLES
 (Building 220)

Human Identity Project Team

Advanced Chemical Sciences Laboratory (Building 227)

<http://www.eeel.nist.gov/oles/>
Office of Law Enforcement Standards

Public Safety and Security Technologies

Weapons and Protective Systems

Detection, Inspection, and Enforcement Technologies

Forensic Sciences

Public Safety Communications Systems

Critical Incident Technologies

Helping law enforcement, corrections, criminal justice, and public safety agencies ensure that the equipment they purchase and the technologies they use are safe, dependable, and effective.

Forensics Research at NIST

- Computer (digital evidence) forensics
- Ballistics
- Fingerprints
- Arson investigation
- **DNA**



NIST SRM 2460 Standard Buller
SRM 2460 Serial #024

SRM 2461 Standard Casing
In development

For more information, contact:
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 Program Manager for Forensic Sciences
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 301-975-8750

NIST Human Identity Team Projects

Funded by the National Institute of Justice

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/NIJprojects.htm>

Projects **33 different projects are described**

[Human DNA Quantitation] [Mitochondrial DNA] [Y Chromosome] [Compromised DNA Evidence] [Miniaturization and Automation] [General Tools and Information] [Non-Human DNA] [Alternative Forensic DNA Markers]

Alphabetical Listing of Projects

ABI 3100 performance with various STR typing systems (April 2001-June 2003)

ABI 3130xl upgrade evaluation (Sept 2005-May 2006)

AutoDimer: software to enable rapid multiplex PCR design (2000-2005) [see also [software.htm](#)]

Autosomal SNP loci (July 2002-present)

Autosomal STR loci beyond the CODIS markers (Jan 2004-present) [see also [newSTRs.htm](#)]

Biometrica dry storage device DNA stability studies (June 2007-present)

ABI 3100 Performance with Various STR Typing Systems
 Participants: John M. Butler, Margaret C. Kline, Richard Schokke, and Peter M. Vallone

ABI 3130xl Upgrade Evaluation
 Participants: Carolyn R. "Becky" Hill, Amy E. Decker, Peter M. Vallone, Margaret C. Kline, and John M. Butler

AutoDimer: Software Developed to Enable Rapid Multiplex PCR Design
 Participants: Peter M. Vallone and John M. Butler

Autosomal SNP Assays
 Participants: Peter M. Vallone, Amy E. Decker, and John M. Butler

Autosomal STR Loci: Beyond the CODIS Markers
 Participants: Carolyn R. "Becky" Hill, Michael D. Coble (now at AFDIL), Peter M. Vallone, Margaret C. Kline, and John M. Butler

Biometrica Dry Storage Device DNA Stability Studies
 Participants: Margaret C. Kline

Project Timeframe: June 2007 to present

Purpose: The ability to ship and store DNA samples at room temperature (20-30°C) benefits laboratories. This particular study has been designed to measure the effect of "shipping" well characterized person DNA extracts on Biometrica's *bioStore* Dry Storage Devices.

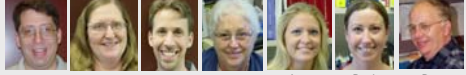
Purpose: The device (three replicate plates) have been prepared at NIST with 20 µL of person DNA at concentrations of 1 ng/µL, 0.25 ng/µL, and 0.10 ng/µL. NIST plans to analyze the selected person DNA extracts before and after application on the storage device using appropriate DNA quantification methods such as Quantifiler and short tandem repeat (STR) genotyping methods such as Identifier. These plates are being shipped at ambient temperature back and forth multiple times between Maryland (NIST) and California (Biometrica) in the middle of the summer via U.S. Postal Service in Bubble packs supplied by Biometrica. Two parallel temperature/humidity monitors are being shipped along with the plates to enable monitoring environmental conditions. Sampling is being conducted at NIST with each arrival of the shipped plates and compared to a control plate stored at NIST for the duration of the study. The range of temperature and humidity changes experienced by the shipped samples will be tracked. The shipping and analysis processes will be repeated until degradation of the samples is detected or the samples have been exhausted. Starting this study during the summer months is desirable to stress the system at extreme heat and humidity conditions commonly occurring during the shipping process.

Publications or Presentations Resulting From This Project:

(Return to 2007 Home page) (Return to 2008 Home page)

STRBase
[.../NIJprojects.htm](http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/NIJprojects.htm)

NIST Human Identity Project Team




John Butler Margaret Kline Pete Vallone Jan Redman Amy Decker Becky Hill Dave Duerwer

Publications and presentations available on STRBase:
<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/NISTpub.htm>

FY 2007 Achievements:
 14 publications
 44 presentations
 9 workshops


Since 2000:
 98 publications
 254 presentations
 29 workshops



Leading the Way In Forensic DNA...


NIST Human Identity Project Team

>100 years experience in scientific research



John Butler Margaret Kline Jan Redman Pete Vallone Becky Hill Amy Decker Dave Duerwer

Former Project Team Members



Mike Coble Chris DeAngelis Jill Appleby Rich Schoske Christian Ruitberg Dennis Reeder

AFDIL Medical School NC SBI Air Force Pharma Retired/ABI

Why We Have Been Successful



- **Well-qualified and hard-working team members**
- Meet weekly and communicate daily on project specifics
- **Solid financial support from NIJ**
- Our own supply sergeant (Jan Redman)
- Publish and present often (maintains focus)
- Maintain a comprehensive literature collection for our field
- Share what we learn (STRBase, textbook)
- Know our customers' needs and work hard to meet them

Support to the Community

...Bringing traceability and technology to the scales of justice...

- Conduct interlaboratory studies
- Perform beta-testing of new human identity testing products
- We provide input to (or have aided):
 - Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM)
 - Department of Defense Quality Assurance Oversight Committee for DNA Analysis
 - American Prosecutor's Research Institute (APRI) DNA Forensics Program "Course-in-a-Box" for training lawyers
 - WTC Kinship and Data Analysis Panel (KADAP)
 - 2005 Hurricane Victim DNA Identification Expert Group (HVDIEG)
 - NIJ Expert System Testbed (NEST) Project

STRBase: a Community Resource...

The Revised Quality Assurance Standards (which were recently approved by the FBI Director—to be effective July 1, 2009) will be posted on STRBase tomorrow.

Benefits of Website like STRBase

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase>

- Develops expertise when collecting information
- Requires me to stay up-to-date with field
- Provides transparency to our team's work
- Training tool and resource for the world
- Respected resource for >11 years
- ~10,000 pages of information available now
- >300,000 hits cumulative

Our Team Provides Support to Other NIJ Grantees and Commercial Collaborations

Support to NIJ-Funded Projects

- Akonn Biosystems (microchip SNPs)
- Network Biosystems (microchip CE)
- Roche (mtDNA strips)
- IBIS (mass spec of STRs)
- Marshall University (NEST Project)
- Florida International University (miniSTRs)

We welcome new collaborations...

Recent Commercial Collaborations

- Applied Biosystems – MiniFiler concordance
- Biomatrica – testing new DNA storage materials

Supplying U.S. population samples, multiplex assays, or evaluation of materials

Current Activities at NIST

Enabled by Our NIJ Partnership

- Standard Reference Materials**
 - SRM 2372 (DNA quant) released Oct 2007 (**>130 units in use**)
 - Updates to SRM 2391b (STRs), 2395 (Y-STRs), 2392 (mtDNA)
- Technology Evaluation and Development**
 - Unusual STR allele characterization
 - Y-chromosome characterization (mutation rates, deletions)
 - New STR loci and assays (26plex)
 - Rapid multiplex PCR protocols (multiplex STR amplification in <35 min)
- Training Materials**
 - AAFS workshops on DNA quantitation and mixture interpretation
 - Third edition of *Forensic DNA Typing* textbook

Standard Reference Materials

http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/srm_tab.htm

Traceable standards to ensure accurate measurements in our nation's crime laboratories

Helps meet DAB Std. 9.5 and ISO 17025

- SRM 2391b – CODIS STRs
- SRM 2392-1 – mtDNA
- SRM 2395 – Y-STRs
- SRM 2372 – DNA quantitation

Calibration with SRMs enables confidence in comparisons of results between laboratories

Certificate Updates – new information (loci) added and stability testing performed to enable extension of expiration dates

Unusual STR Allele Characterization (Free)

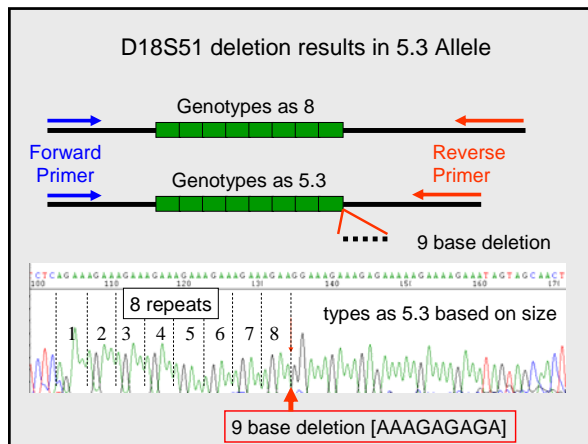
Send us any unusual variant or null alleles and we will sequence them...

Address <http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/STRseq.htm>

Variant allele characterization

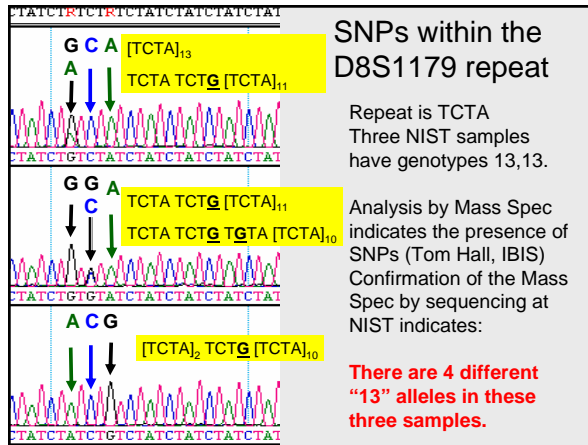
Locus	Variant Allele	Sample Source	Comments
TPOX	10.3	Maryland State Police	Deletion of a "G" that is 157 bp from the repeat region under PowerPlex 11 and Identifiler primers does not affect primer binding or allele sizing. However, PowerPlex 2.1 and PowerPlex 16 products are 1 bp smaller because they are further away from the repeat and encompass the deletion.
FGA	46.2	Denver Crime Laboratory	Checked with Identifiler allele ladder.
D18S51	null allele 18	PSS and Kuwait government lab	Base change was a C-to-T transition 172 bp downstream of the repeat region which impacts the ABI D18S51 reverse primer but not the PowerPlex 16 D18S51 reverse primer that is internal to this mutation.
D18S51	40	Nebraska State Crime Lab	DNA sequence analysis showed 40 GAAA repeats.
D18S51	"5.3"	DNA Solutions	DNA sequence analysis revealed a 9 bp deletion beyond the end of the 18th repeat unit to produce a "5.3" allele.
Penta D	6	Peter de Knijff's lab at Leiden University	DNA sequence analysis confirmed 6 repeats.

Send 10-20 ng of DNA (or 2-3 FTA bloodstain punches)
 Contact margaret.kline@nist.gov or john.butler@nist.gov
 Information will be posted on [STRBase .../STRseq.htm](http://STRBase.../STRseq.htm)
 Sequence details provided back to sender



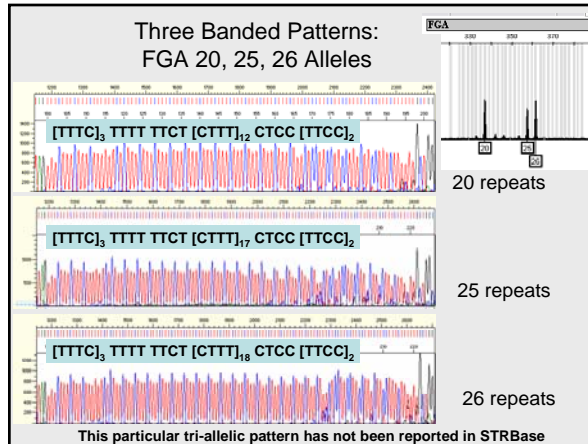
STR Locus Sequence Variability

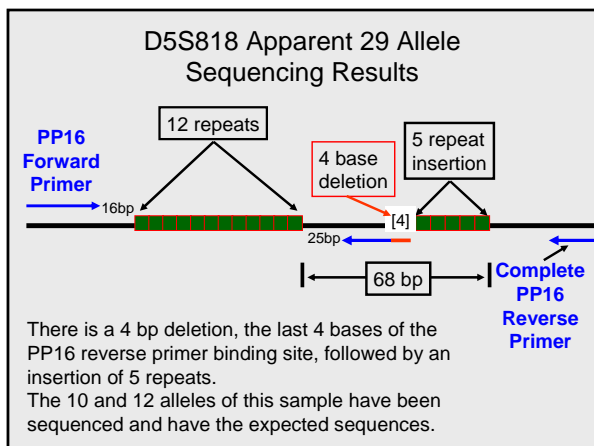
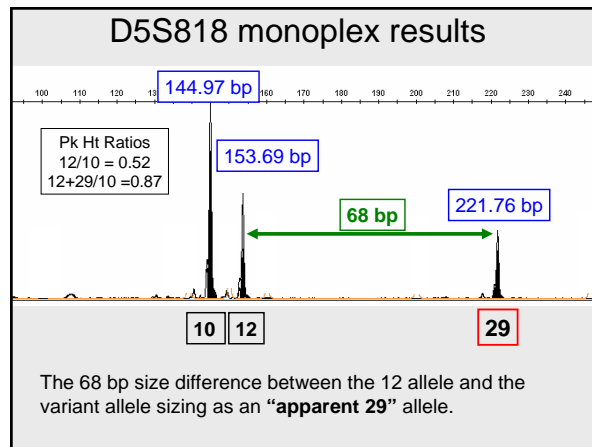
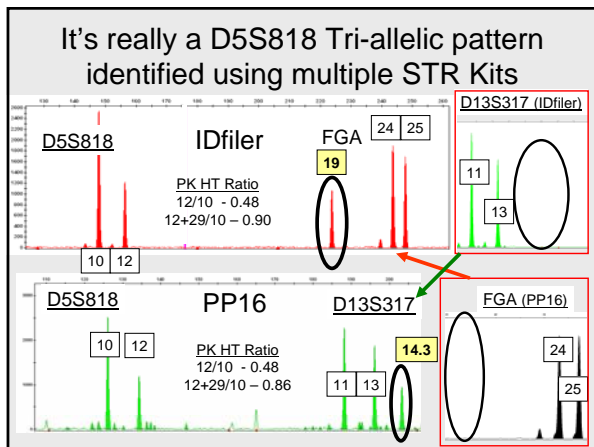
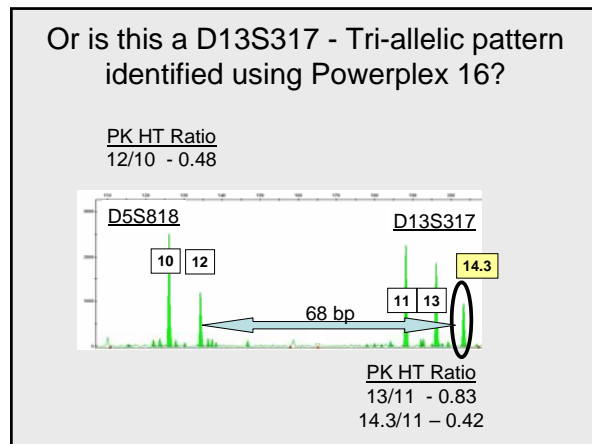
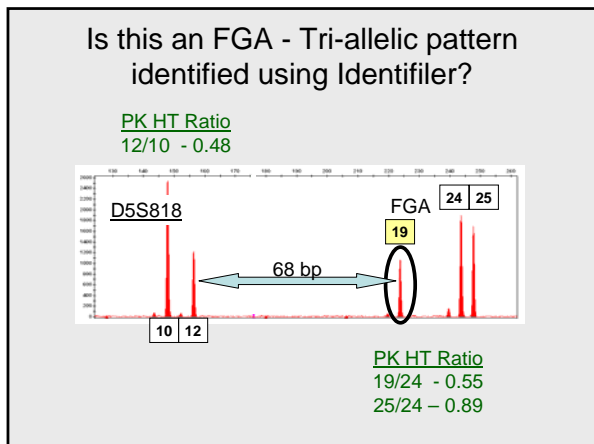
- Collaboration with Tom Hall (IBIS): has analyzed some of our NIST U.S. population samples by their mass spec methods
- In many samples the mass spec detected SNPs (base pair changes) within specific STR loci
- Margaret Kline has gone back and sequenced some of these samples to verify the mass spec results and determine where the SNPs are located



Base Pair difference between Repeats

D8S1179					D16S539				
[TCTA] ₁₃					Mass Spec detected fewer SNPs in this locus.				
TCTA TCTG [TCTA] ₁₁					Less average bp variability seen between repeat sizes.				
TCTA TCTG TGTA [TCTA] ₁₀									
[TCTA] ₂ TCTG [TCTA] ₁₀									
Allele	AVG	SD	N		Allele	AVG	SD	N	
8	123.82	0.02	10	4.1	5	252.08	0.01	2	4.0
9	127.90	0.02	7	4.1	8	264.09	0.11	17	4.0
10	132.03	0.06	42	4.1	9	268.14	0.11	93	4.1
11	136.17	0.05	35	4.3	10	272.20	0.12	56	4.0
12	140.42	0.07	80	4.5	11	276.18	0.14	162	4.1
13	144.93	0.08	153	4.4	12	280.25	0.14	158	4.1
14	149.36	0.07	131	4.3	13	284.30	0.12	72	4.1
15	153.67	0.07	89	4.3	14	288.35	0.07	8	4.1
16	157.93	0.07	21	4.1					
17	162.02	0.04	2	4.1					





Are there other large D5S818 alleles?

- STRBase Tri-allelic reports for FGA for 19,*,* patterns with AB amplification kits.
 - 5 reports :
 - 19,20,21; 19,20,23; 19,20,24; 19,22,23; 19,24,25
 - But there we have sequenced true tri-allelic FGA samples
- STRBase Tri-allelic reports for D13S317 for *,*, OL patterns with PP16 amplification kits.
 - NO tri-allelic patterns with Off-Ladder alleles reported

Y-STR Mutation Rates Measured at NIST

Decker, A.E., Kline, M.C., Redman, J.W., Reid, T.M., Butler, J.M. (2008) Analysis of mutations in father-son pairs with 17 Y-STR loci. *FSI Genetics* 2(3): e31-e35

- **389 father/son sample pairs**
 - U.S. Caucasians, African Americans, Hispanics and Asians
- **17 Y-STR loci** in the Yfiler kit
- **24 differences** between father and son
 - 13 mutations resulted in the gain of a repeat in the son
 - 11 resulted in a loss of a repeat
- All single step repeat mutations
 - except a two repeat loss at Y-GATA-H4
- **2 sample pairs were found to have two mutations**
 - African American pair: mutations at **DYS458** and **DYS635**
 - Asian pair: mutations at **DYS439** and **Y-GATA-H4**
- Also observed 4 duplications, 1 triplication, and 4 deletions that were seen in both father and son

Mixture Work

- Testing software tools
 - FSS-i3
 - DNA_DataAnalysis (US Army Crime Lab)
- Examining reproducibility of mixture replicates to see how well mixture ratios hold across loci
- Peak height ratio studies with multiple data sets to understand mixture ratio ranges

New STR Loci Characterized

Hill et al. (2008) *J. Forensic Sci.* 53(1):73-80

J Forensic Sci. January 2008, Vol. 53, No. 1
doi: 10.1111/j.1556-4029.2008.00995.x
Available online at www.blackwell-synergy.com

Carolyn R. Hill, M.S.; Margaret C. Kline, M.S.; Michael D. Coble,¹ Ph.D.; and John M. Butler, Ph.D.

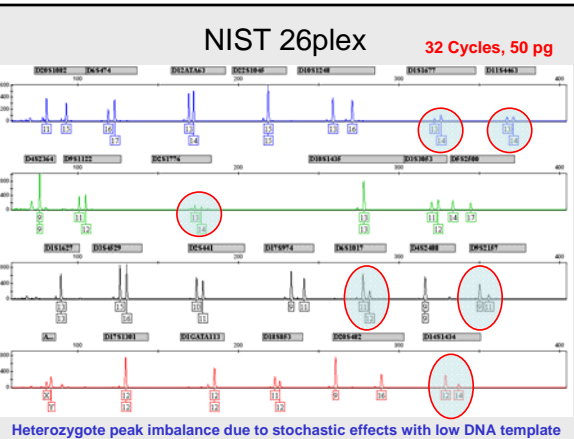
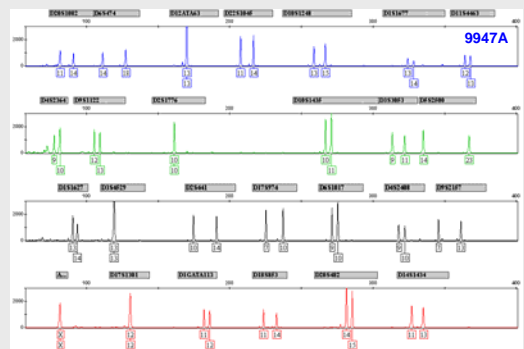
Characterization of 26 MiniSTR Loci for Improved Analysis of Degraded DNA Samples

- Primer sequences, GeneMapper bins and panels, genotypes on common samples, and allele frequency information **available on STRBase**

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/miniSTR.htm>
http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/miniSTR/miniSTR_NC_loci_types.htm
http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/miniSTR/miniSTR_Panels_Panels.txt
http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/miniSTR/miniSTR_Panels_NC_bins_bins.txt

“Autoplex” (26plex)

Hill et al. AAFS 2008 talk (Washington, DC) and poster at DNA in Forensics 2008 meeting (Ancona, Italy)



Promega Meeting Proceedings Paper

New Autosomal and Y-Chromosome STR Loci Butler et al.

New Autosomal and Y-Chromosome STR Loci: Characterization and Potential Uses*

John M. Butler¹, Carolyn R. Hill¹, Amy E. Decker¹, Margaret C. Kline¹, Thomas M. Reid², and Peter M. Vallone¹

¹Biochemical Science Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg MD 20899
²DNA Diagnostics Center, Fairfield, OH 45014

http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/pub_pres/Promega2007_NewSTRloci.pdf

- **42 page article** available on STRBase and Promega site
- Describes 26 miniSTR loci
- Covers 23plex STR assay
- Includes world-wide Yfiler data review

The 26plex assay (including primer sequences) has been submitted for publication in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*

STRs vs SNPs Article

Forensic Sci Med Pathol (2007) 3:200-205
DOI 10.1007/s12024-007-0018-1

ORIGINAL PAPER

STRs vs. SNPs: thoughts on the future of forensic DNA testing

John M. Butler · Michael D. Coble · Peter M. Vallone

- Describes challenges with SNPs in terms of mixture detection and interpretation
- Most likely use of SNPs is as ancestry-informative markers (AIMs)

Butler et al. (2007) STRs vs SNPs: thoughts on the future of forensic DNA testing. Forensic Science, Medicine and Pathology 3:200-205.

Typical STR DNA Analysis Workflow

Sample Extraction
-2 h

Quantitation
-1.5 h

PCR
-3 h

CE Run
-1.5 h

Data Review ?

How can we reduce the time needed for cycling?

What happens when we alter cycling parameters?
How will existing commercial kits work?
How will different polymerases perform?
How robust will the results be?
Can we develop novel assays and further the understanding/limits of rapid multiplex PCR?

Rapid PCR Project at NIST

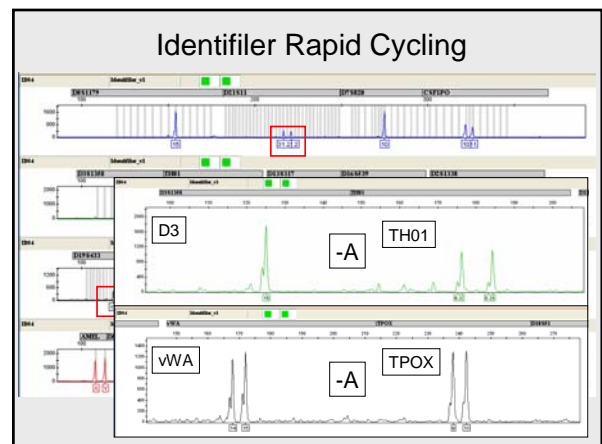
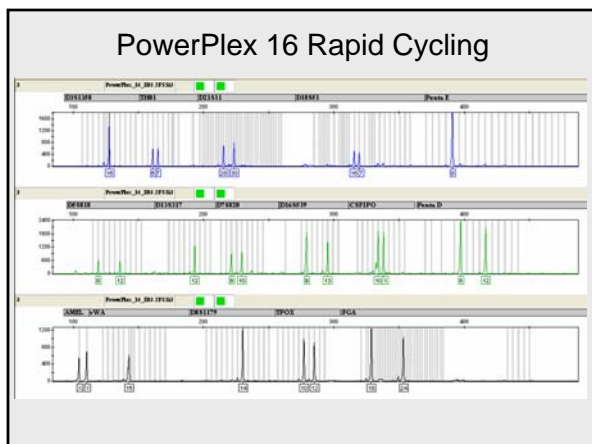
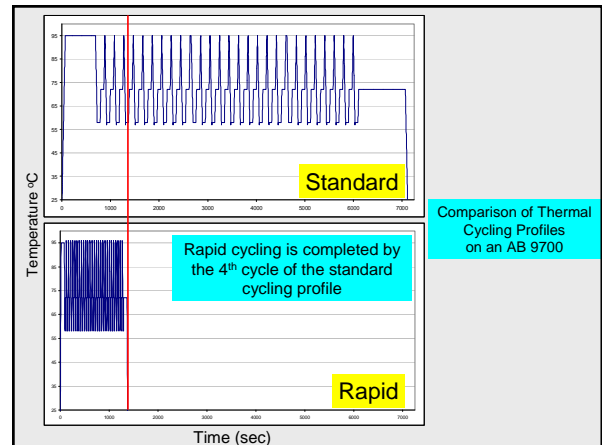
Rapid Thermal Cycling with ABI 9700

Parameter	Unit	Trad	Rapid	Difference (min)	%
Hot Start	Min	10	1	9.0	6.3
Hold	Sec	60	5/10	72.3	50.6
Soak	Min	60	1	59.0	41.2
Ramp rate	(deg/sec)	1	4	22.4	15.7
Cycles		28	28		
Time		2:58:41	0:35:38	2:23:03	

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Hot Start	Primer Dimer, non-specific amplification
Hold	Denature, annealing, elongation, Inter and intra locus balance
Soak	Full adenylation of PCR products

Evaluate robustness and reproducibility

Using different DNA polymerases besides TaqGold







Seminars and Training Workshops to Individual Forensic DNA Laboratories

 Feb 3, 2005	 May 19, 2005	 June 8, 2005	 June 13-14, 2005	
 Apr 27-28, 2006	 June 6, 2006	 Aug 7, 2006	 Nov 15, 2006	 Dec 5-6, 2006
 March 7, 2007	 March 14, 2007	 Apr 3-4, 2007	 Apr 5, 2007	 June 5, 2007

Training Workshops in the Past Year

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/training.htm>

-  ISFG Meeting (August 2007, Copenhagen, Denmark)
 - CE Fundamentals and Troubleshooting
 - Validation
-  Int. Symposium on Human Identification (Promega) Meeting (October 2007, Hollywood, CA)
 - Validation
-  NEAFS Meeting (November 2007, Bolton Landing, NY)
 - Mixture Interpretation
 - Low-copy Number DNA Issues
 - miniSTRs
-  AAFS Meeting (February 2008, Washington, DC)
 - DNA Quantitation by qPCR (158 page handout)
 - Mixture Interpretation (196 page handout)

Planned Promega 2008 Meeting

Troubleshooting Workshop

- Title: "Principles of Interpretation and Troubleshooting of Forensic DNA Typing Systems"
- Instructors: John Butler (NIST) and Bruce McCord (FIU)
- Date: October 16, 2008 with Promega Int. Symp. Human ID

The workshop will consist of three parts:

- (1) a thorough examination of theoretical issues with capillary electrophoresis PCR amplification of short tandem repeat markers
- (2) a discussion of how to properly set instrument parameters to interpret data (including mixtures), and
- (3) a review of specific problems seen by labs submitting problematic data and commentary on possible troubleshooting solutions.

Seeking input of problems observed with CE systems

Forensic Science Review Article

Anal. Chem. 2007, 79, 4365–4384 *Analytical Chemistry* (June 15, 2007 issue)

Forensic Science

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J. R. Almirall
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and International Forensic Research Institute, Florida International University, University Park, Miami, Florida 33199

560 references covering articles published in 2005-2006
181 articles on forensic DNA analysis

Brettell, T.A., Butler, J.M., Almirall, J.R. (2007) Forensic science. *Anal. Chem.* 79: 4365-4384.

Thank you for your attention...

Funding from the **National Institute of Justice (NIJ)** through NIST Office of Law Enforcement Standards

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase>
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301-975-4049

Questions?



 Margaret Kline	 Pete Vallone	 Jan Redman
 Amy Decker	 Becky Hill	 Dave Duewer

Summer Interns
Angie Dolph ('07)
Angela Gorman ('07)
Michelle Burns ('08)

Collaborators
Mike Coble (AFDIL)
Bruce McCord (FIU)
Tom Hall (IBIS)
Tom Reid (DDC)