



# Development of Multiplexed Assays for Typing SNP and STR Forensic Markers

**NCI - Advanced Technology Center**

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National Institute of Standards and Technology

## Outline of Presentation

Multiplexing

Assays and Instrumentation

Y Chromosome and Mitochondrial DNA

Primer design strategy

Results

mtSNP 10 plex

Y SNP 5 plex

Y STR multiplexes

Other



## What are the Advantages of Multiplexing?

- Obtain more information per unit time
- Reduce the amount of limited forensic sample used
- Save on reagents; enzyme, buffers, DNA oligomers
- Reduces labor
- Streamlines data analysis
- For certain markers it is essential (SNPs, YSTRs)
- Coincides with high capacity instrumentation

## What are the Challenges of Multiplexing?

- Only guidelines exist for designing multiplexes
- More markers = increased complexity
- Testing a robust multiplex
- Inclusion of useful markers in the multiplex
- Managing the volume of information obtained

## What Type of Genetic Variation?

- Length Variation

short tandem repeats (STRs)

CTAGTCGT**(GATA)(GATA)(GATA)**GCGATCGT

- Sequence Variation

single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)

insertions/deletions

GCTAGTCGATGCTC**(G/A)**GCGTATGCTGTAGC

## What Assays are we Multiplexing?

### Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)

Amplification of specific region of the human genome

Typically used for STR and SNP

Use **Capillary Electrophoresis** for detection

### Primer Extension reaction (minisequencing)

Typically used for SNP markers

Use **Capillary Electrophoresis** and

**Mass Spectrometry** for detection

## Goals for Multiplex Assay Development

Working with collaborators who have markers of forensic interest

By using our multiplex assays collaborators can type markers and evaluate forensic utility

Further understanding of multiplex assays

Publish assay details for others to evaluate (commercial and research)

Multiplexing

Assays and Instrumentation

Y Chromosome and Mitochondrial DNA

Primer design strategy

Results

mtSNP 10 plex

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## Instrumentation

SNaPshot/PCR

Multi-Color Capillary Electrophoresis  
(ABI 310 or 3100)

Luminex Beads



Luminex 100 Flow Cytometer

TaqMan



Roche LightCycler

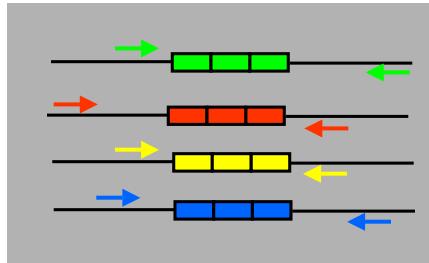
Primer Extension



Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer

## Multiplex PCR

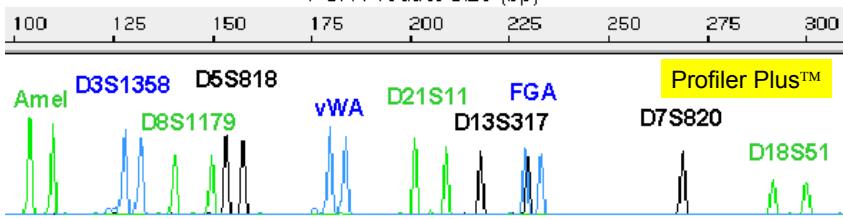
Multiple primer pairs target more than one specific site on the DNA strand

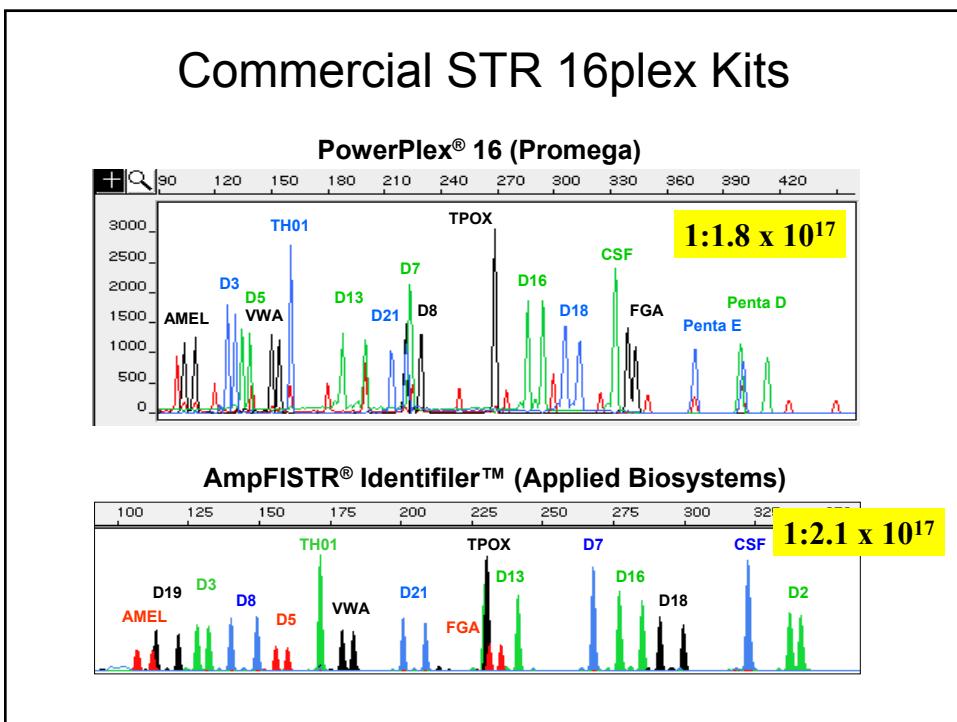
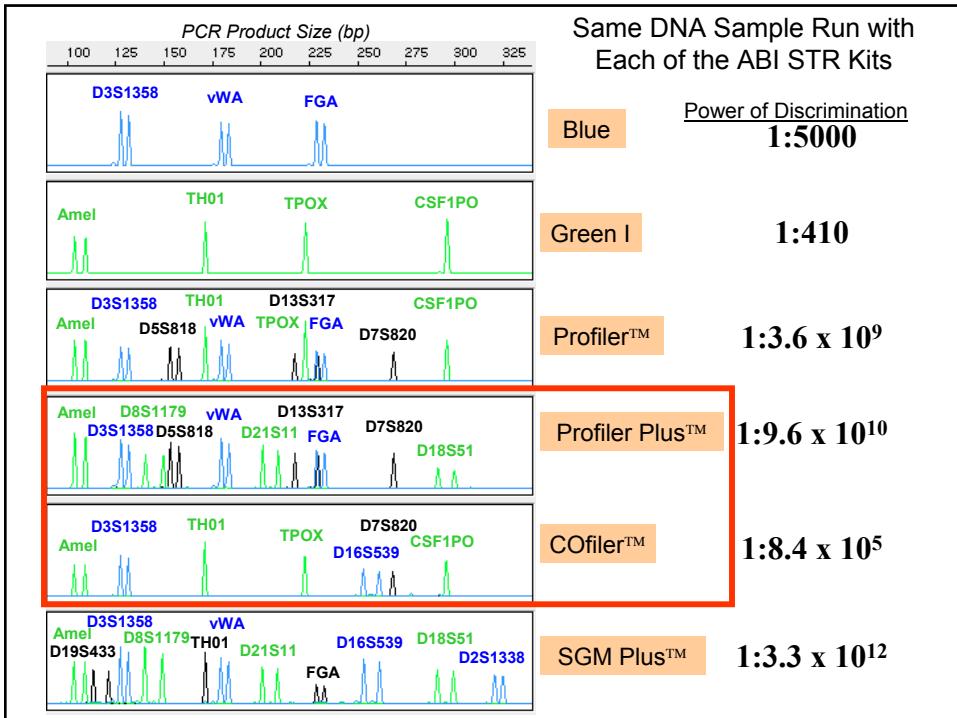


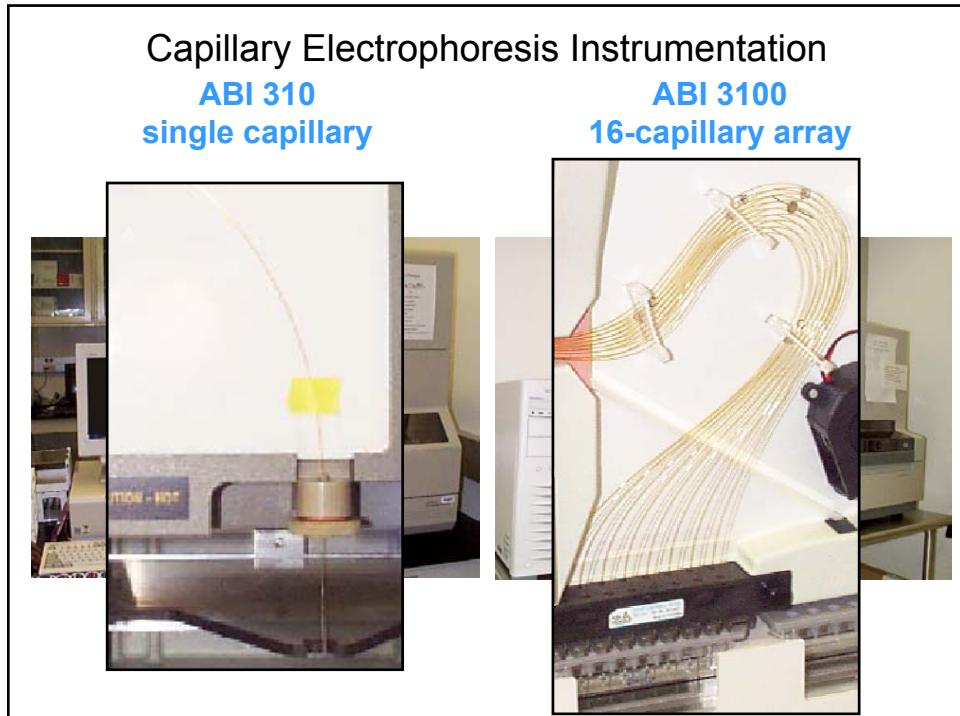
Compatible primers are the key to successful multiplex PCR

Commercial kits are available for targeting and simultaneously amplifying 16 markers

PCR Product Size (bp)







### Primer Extension Reaction Using the ABI PRISM® SNaPshot™ Multiplex System

**Primer extension** assay that utilizes  
fluorescently labeled ddNTPs



Analysis of fragment size and fluorescent  
label identity by CE allows typing of multiple  
SNPs

Multiplexed amplicons or pooled singleplex  
PCR amplicons can be used as templates

**Primer design must be done by user!**

## Primer Extension with SNaPshot™

SNP Primer is extended by one base unit

The diagram shows a horizontal black arrow pointing to the right, representing the direction of synthesis. At the left end of the arrow, there is a vertical blue line labeled "5'". At the right end, there is a vertical yellow line labeled "3'". Above the arrow, the text "Oligonucleotide primer 18-28 bases" is written in red. Above the 5' end, there is a blue dashed line labeled "tail" in blue, with the text "used to vary electrophoretic mobility" written in blue next to it.

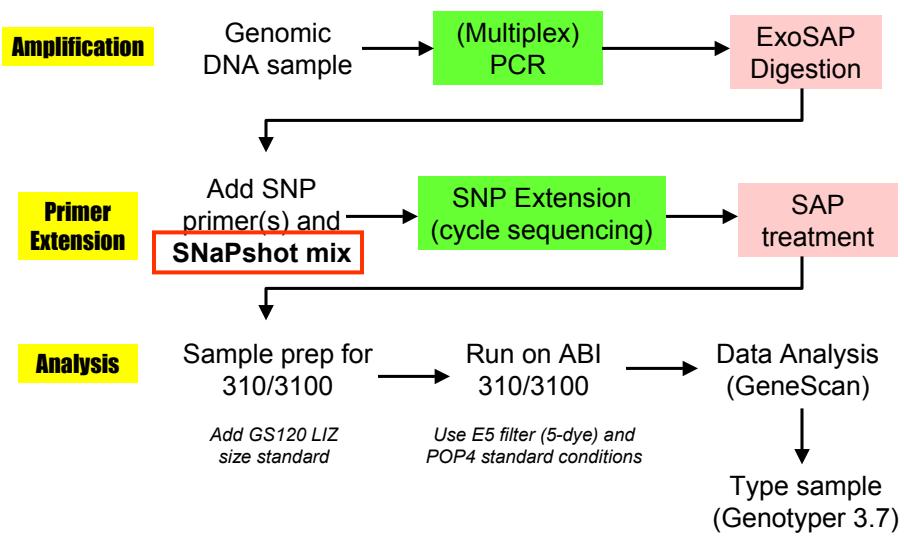
Fluorescently  
labeled ddNTPs +  
polymerase

## PCR Amplified DNA Template

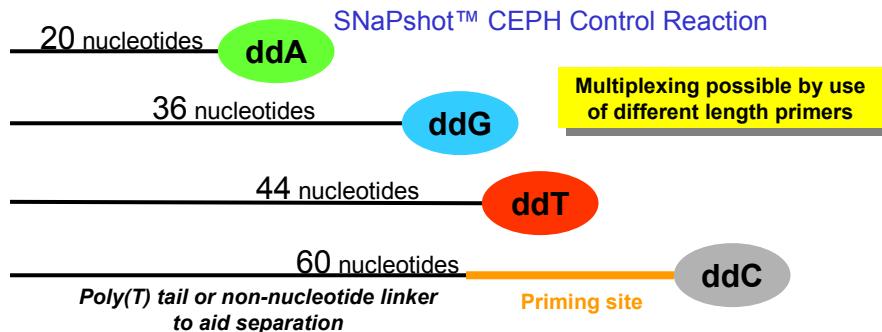
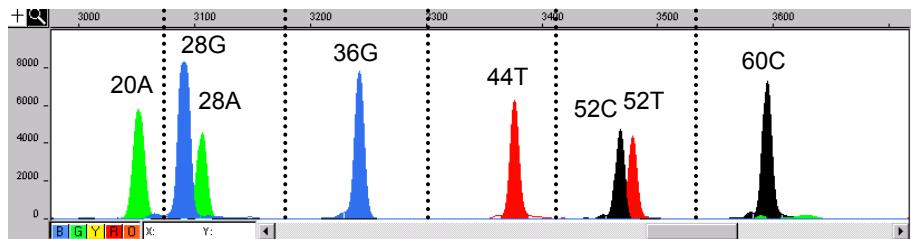
ddNTP	Dye label	Color
A	dR6G	Green
C	dTAMRA	Black
G	dR110	Blue
T	dROX	Red

25 Cycles  
96°C 10s  
50°C 5s  
60°C 30s

## Protocol with SNaPshot™ “Kit”



## Detection of SNPs with ABI 310/3100



## Primer Extension for MALDI TOF MS Analysis

SNP Primer is extended by one base unit

Oligonucleotide primer 18-28 bases



Natural non-labeled ddNTPs + polymerase

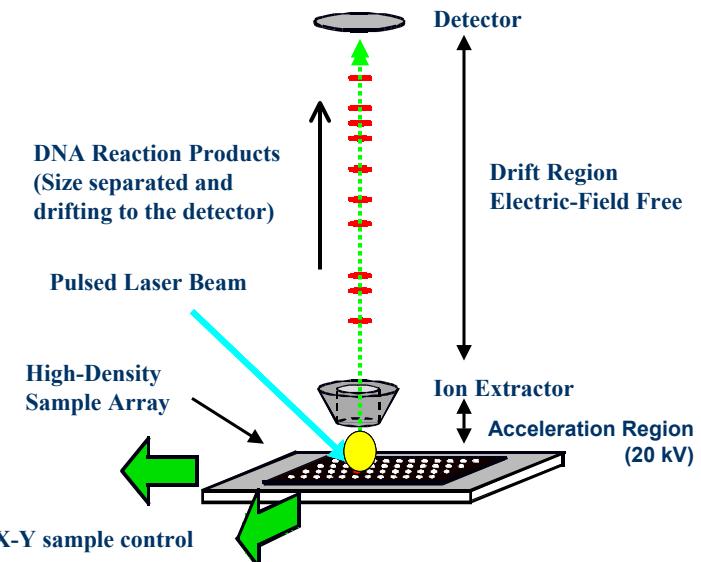
PCR Amplified DNA Template

ddNTP	Mass (Da)
A	297
C	273
G	313
T	288

40 Cycles
96°C 10s
50°C 20s
72°C 30s

Mass difference between SNP primer and single base extension product provides genotype

## Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometry (TOF-MS)



MWG Robotic Sample Preparation Workstation

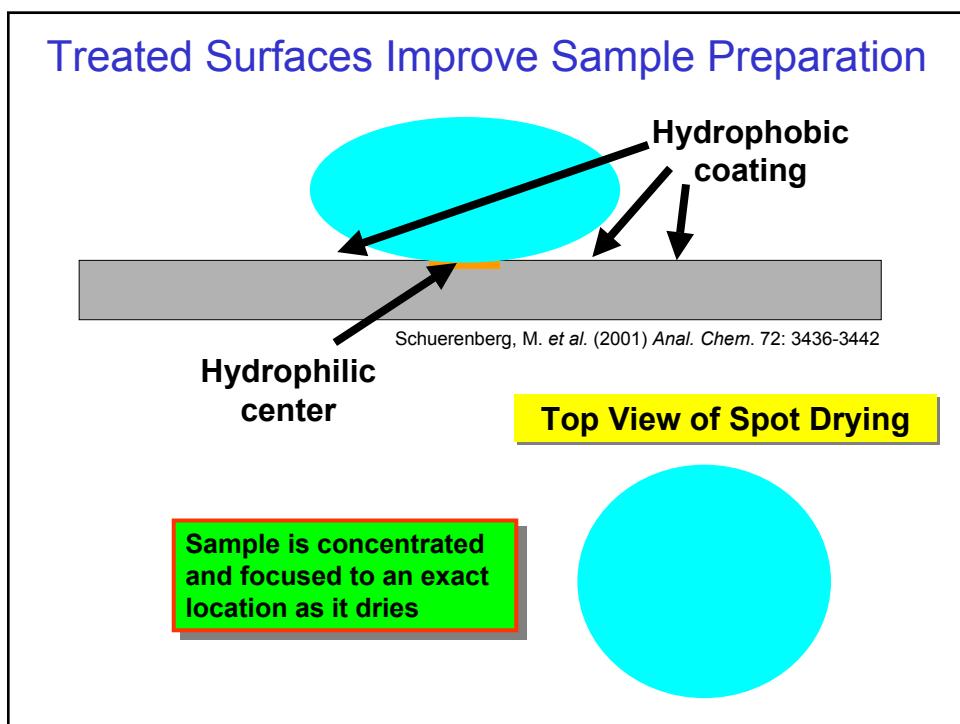
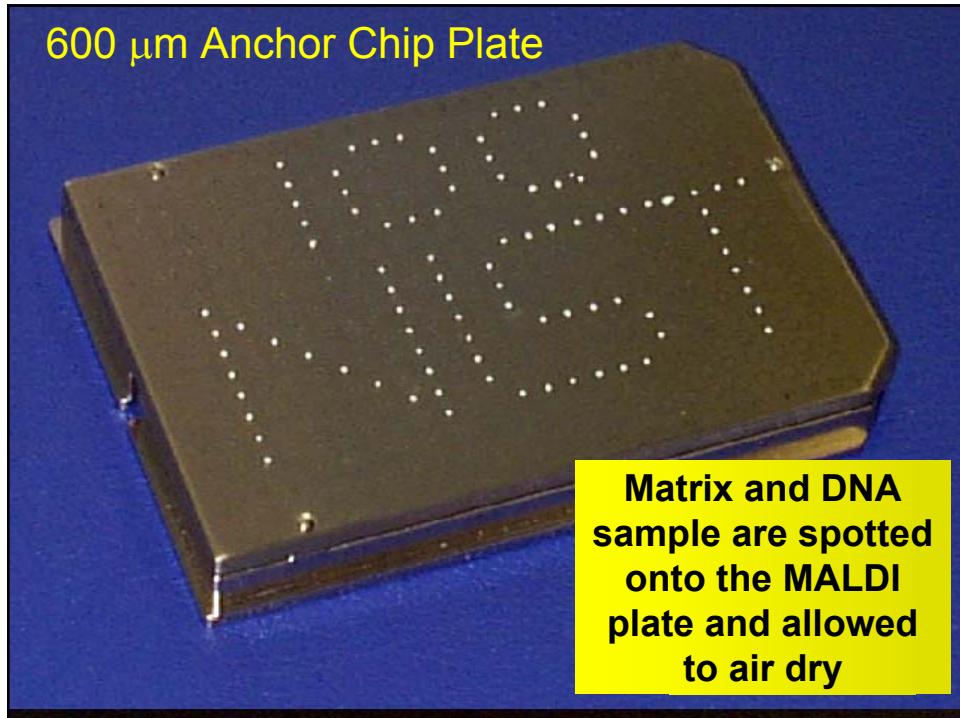


Bruker BIFLEX III MALDI-TOF MS



### Instrumentation at NIST

- MWG Biotech RoboAmp 4200 (Ebersberg, Germany) capable of on-board PCR thermal cycling with non-cross contamination 96-well plates
- Bruker BIFLEX III MALDI-TOF mass spectrometer (Bremen, Germany) capable of operation in both linear and reflectron mode



### Different Types of Matrix Spots on MALDI Targets

3 HPA Matrix Dried on  
600 µm Anchor Spot



Concentrated spot (greater sensitivity)  
Uniform spot (impacts automation)  
Specific Location

3 HPA Matrix Dried on  
Stainless Steel Surface



Non-uniform crystallization produces “sweet spots”

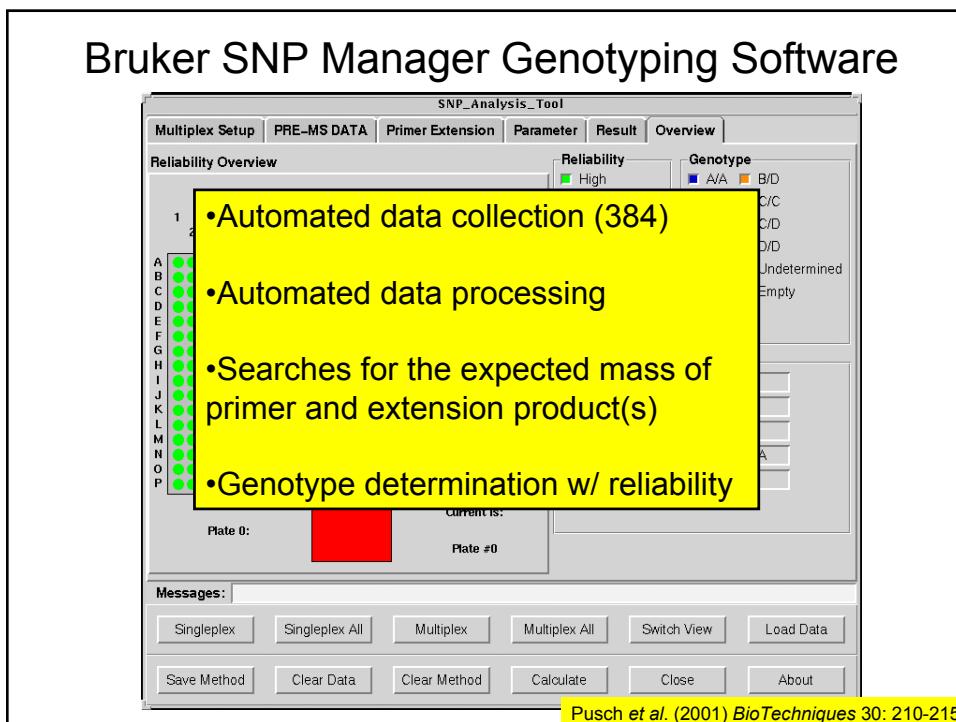
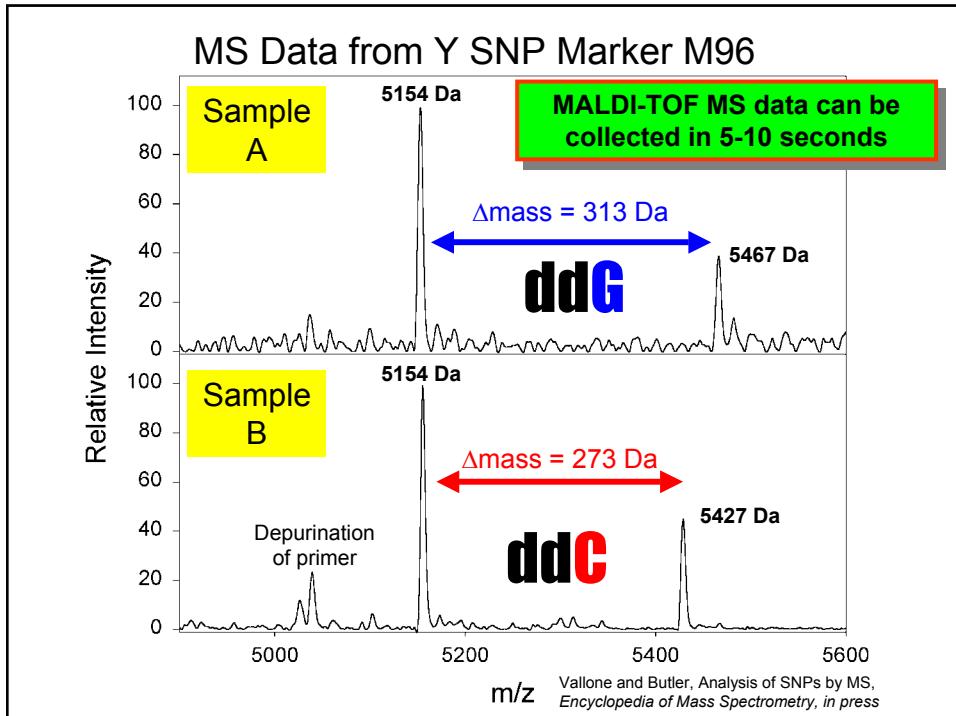
### Desalting Primer Extension Reactions

Genopure Beads (single stranded DNA)

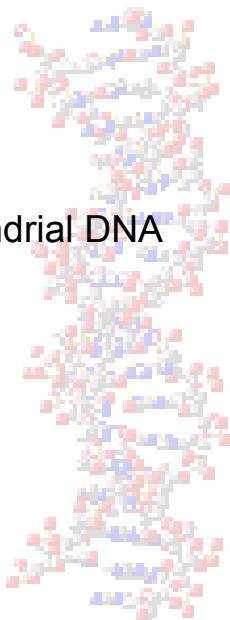
8 strip or 96 well format

Single stranded DNA oligomers are bound and washed free from salts, enzyme, ddNTPs

Salt free sample is eluted from the bead, spotted on the MALDI target



Multiplexing  
Assays and Instrumentation  
**Y Chromosome and Mitochondrial DNA**  
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Y SNP 5 plex  
Y STR multiplexes  
Other

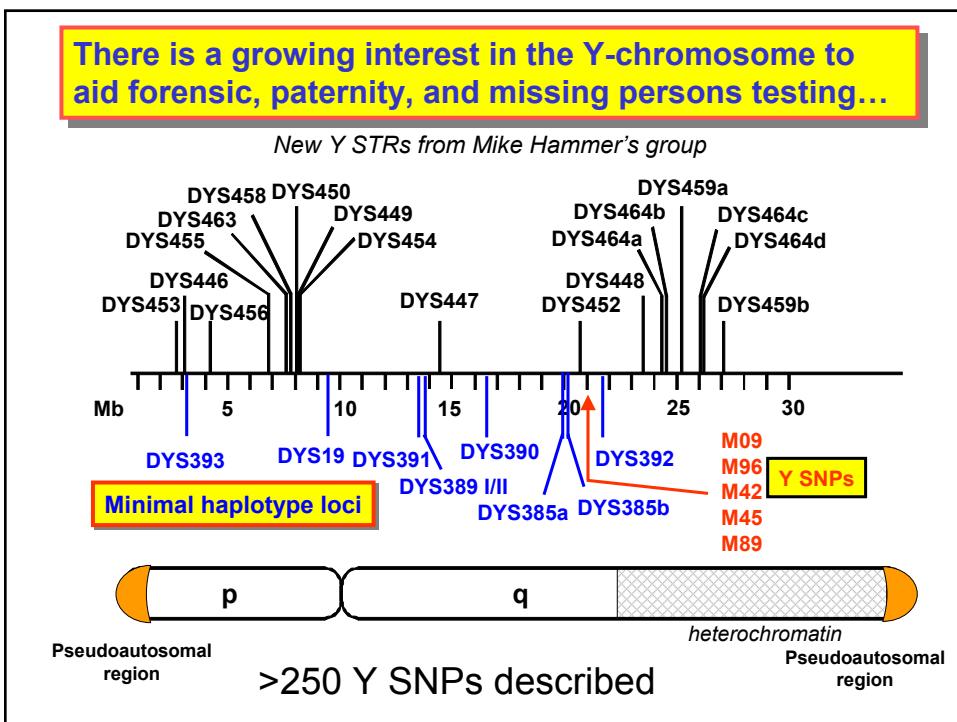
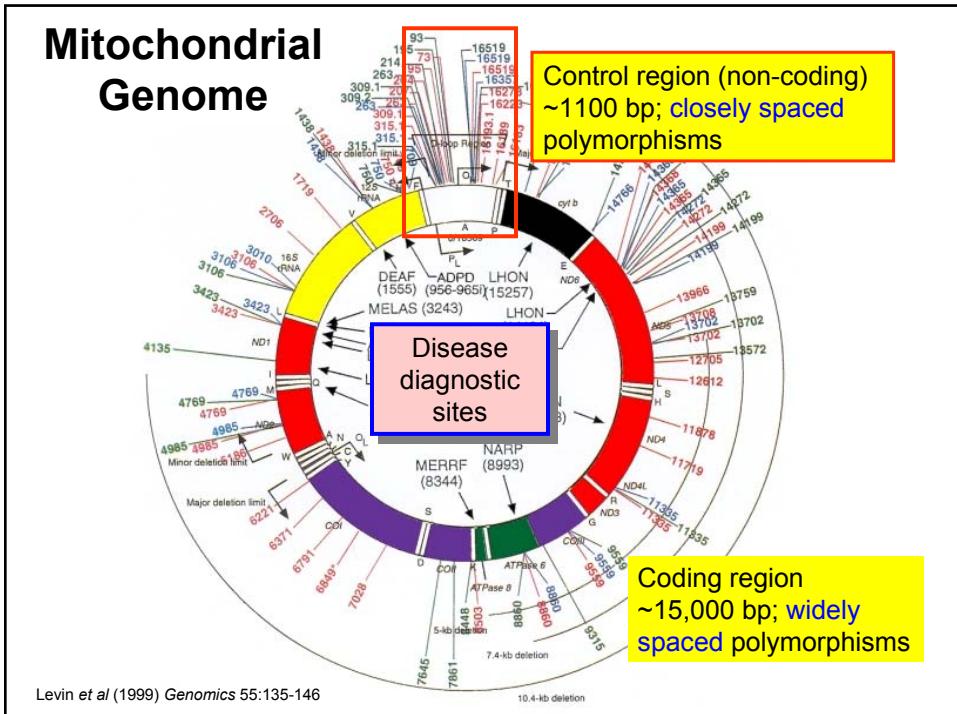


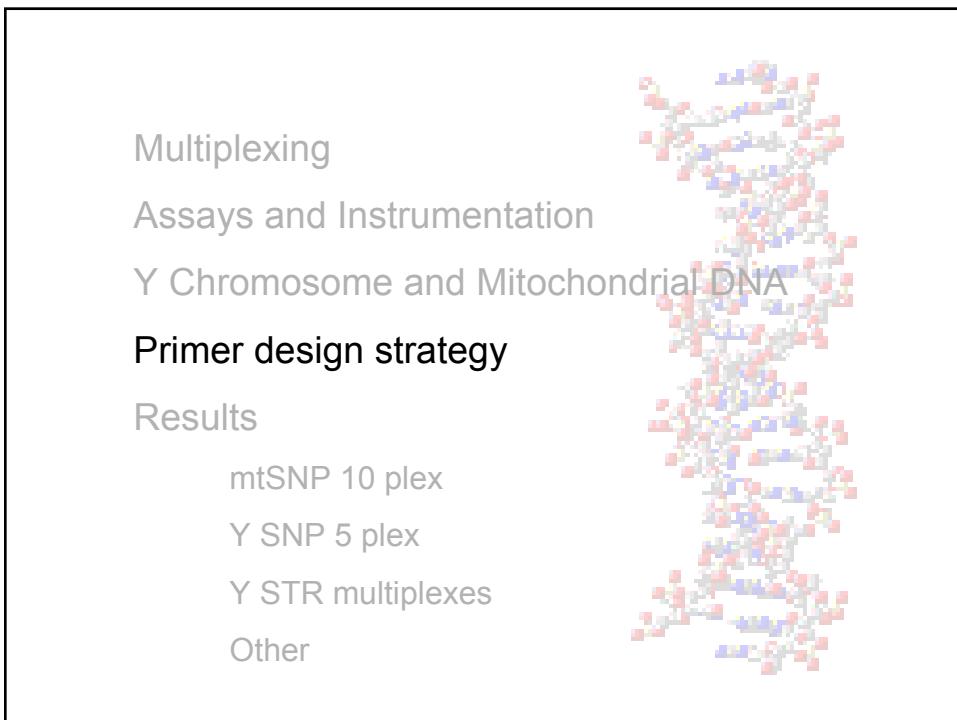
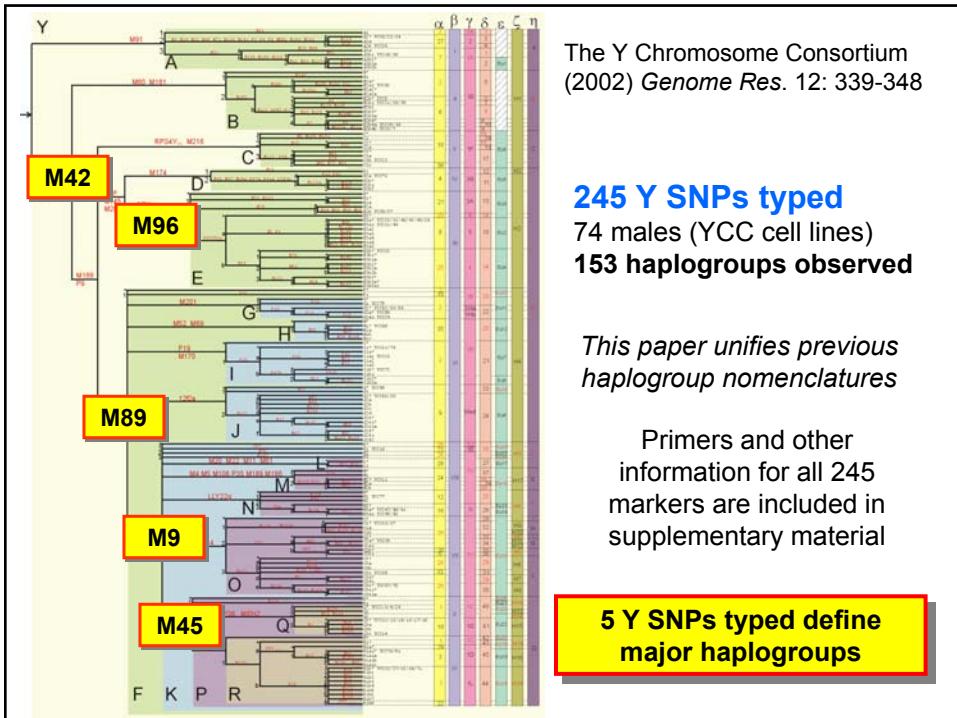
## Markers of Interest

- Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)
  - maternally inherited
  - polymorphic control region (D-loop)
  - ~1000's of copies per cell
- Y chromosome
  - paternally inherited
  - variety of Y STR and Y SNP markers
  - ***haplotype rather than genotype***



Require large databases because recombination does not occur





# Multiplex PCR Primer Selection

Identify markers of interest (collaborations, literature, research)

Obtain reference sequences containing the sites of interest (Genbank) with approximately 500 bases of sequence information upstream and downstream of the marker

Decide upon a desired PCR product size

## Short amplicons for degraded samples, SNPs

### Longer amplicons for STRs

Use software for selecting singleplex primer pairs

## Primer3

[www-genome.wi.mit.edu/genome\\_software/other/primer3.html](http://www-genome.wi.mit.edu/genome_software/other/primer3.html)

# Multiplex PCR Design

Select singleplex PCR primers for each amplicon using Primer 3 software

## Stand Alone Primer3

Sending multiple sequences over the web for primer selection can be tedious

The Primer3 web output is fine for the screen viewing or printing but not for organizing in spreadsheets

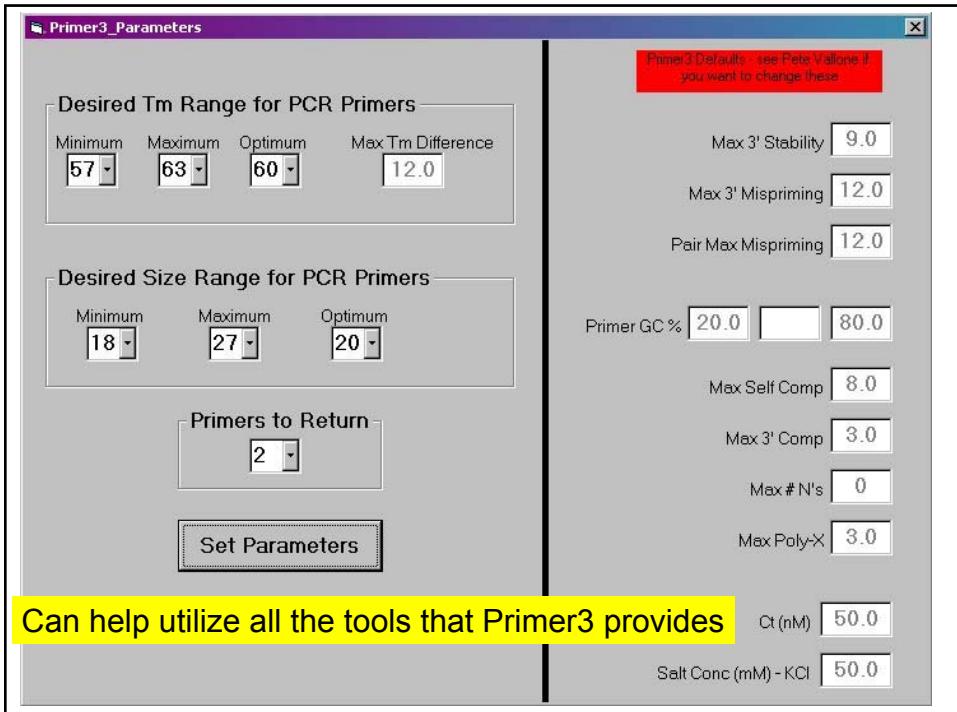
Primer3 is publicly available and can be run (in batch!) on a Unix, PC (Linux), or Mac (OSX) computer

Developed a program that formats files for Primer3 input

Reference sequences that are stored in Excel can be quickly formatted for Primer3

Example input format for Primer3

```
PRIMER_SEQUENCE_ID=M9
SEQUENCE=GCAGCATATAAAACTTCAGGACCCCTGAAATACAGAACTG
CAAAGAAACGGCTAAGATGGTGAATNCTTTATTCTTAATTAG
ACATGTTCAAACGTTCAATGTCTTACACTACTTAGTTATGTAAGTAAGGTAG
CGCTTACTTCATTATGCATTTCAATACTCAAAAAAAATTCTTGTGAAAT
GTTGAAATATTTCTAATCTGTTACGAGCTTCAAAAATGAGGAAAAAA
GATTCACTTACAGTACATTACGCTTGAGCAAAGTTAGTTT
ACTTAACACATTACAGTACATTACGCTTGAGCAAAGTTAGTTT
PRIMER_COMMENT=(340 bp); G to C at position 68
PRIMER_MISPRIMING_LIBRARY=/Users/vallone/Desktop/primer3/misprM9
PRIMER_MAX_MISPRIMING=8
PRIMER_PAIR_MAX_MISPRIMING=20
EXCLUDED_REGION=38,60
PRIMER_PRODUCT_SIZE_RANGE=90-150
PRIMER_PRODUCT_OPT_SIZE=105
PRIMER_MIN_SIZE=18
PRIMER_MAX_SIZE=27
PRIMER_OPT_SIZE=20
PRIMER_OPT_TM=60
PRIMER_MIN_TM=57
PRIMER_MAX_TM=63
PRIMER_NUM_RETURN=1
PRIMER_EXPLAIN_FLAG=1
PRIMER_LIBERAL_BASE=1
=
PRIMER_SEQUENCE_ID=M42
SEQUENCE=AAAGCGAGAGATTCATCCAGGATGACAGAATGCGTTCAC
CTTAAAGGGATTAAGAAGTATAATACAGTCTGTATTAGATCACC
AGAGACACACAAAACAAGAACCGTGAATTGAATTAGTGGTATAACTAATAG
```



## Non-Specific Interactions

Primers that interact with non-specific (undesired) regions of a genome OR with each other can degrade PCR performance

Screening for alternate genomic binding regions can be accomplished using **BLAST** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>

Screening for potential primer-dimer interactions is accomplished using in house software - **AutoDimer**

## AutoDimer Check

$2n^2+n$

15plex

M45-R TGTTCTGACACCTTCCACA versus M91-R TGTGTTAGCGATTTGAAGC  
Matches = 8  
Blast = 7  
M89-F TGCCAGCCTCTCCTGATACT versus M130-F GATAAGAGGCTGGCCACCAA  
Matches = 11  
Blast = 7

3-GGAAGTTGTAGCGATTGTGT-5  
||||| |||||

5-GATAAGAGGCTGGCCACCAA-3  
| |||||||

3-TCATAGTCCTCTCCGACCGT-5

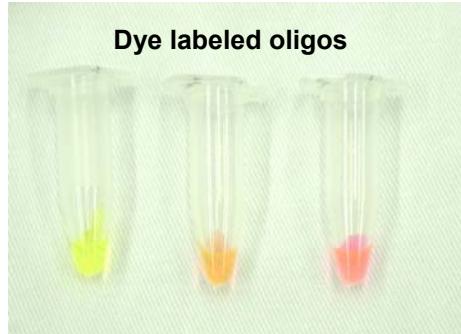
Screening for potential intramolecular hairpin and intermolecular primer-dimer formation

## PCR Assay Design

If primer pairs meet criteria

Obtain primer pairs and test singleplex PCR  
(QC all primers with MS/CE/HPLC)

## PCR Primer Quality Control



6FAM (yellow), VIC (orange), NED (red)

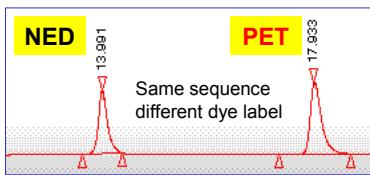
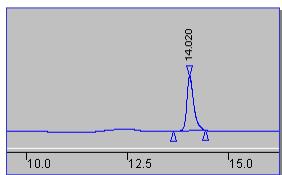
- UV Spec to determine concentration
- HPLC to evaluate purity
- TOF-MS to confirm correct sequence

Butler *et al.* (2001) *Forensic Sci. Int.* 119: 87-96

## Varian Helix DHPLC System

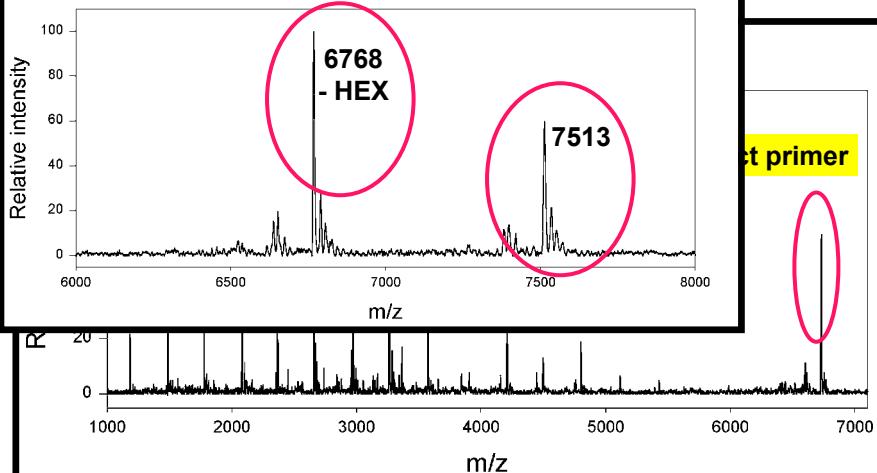


Oligo QC  
Oligo Purification  
STR allele isolation for sequencing purposes  
Fluorescent dye studies (excess dye removal)



## MALDI QC of Commercial Oligos

### Loss of Fluorescent dye



Vallone and Butler (Oct 2000) *International Symposium on Human Identification* (Biloxi, MS)

## PCR Assay Design

If primer pairs meet criteria

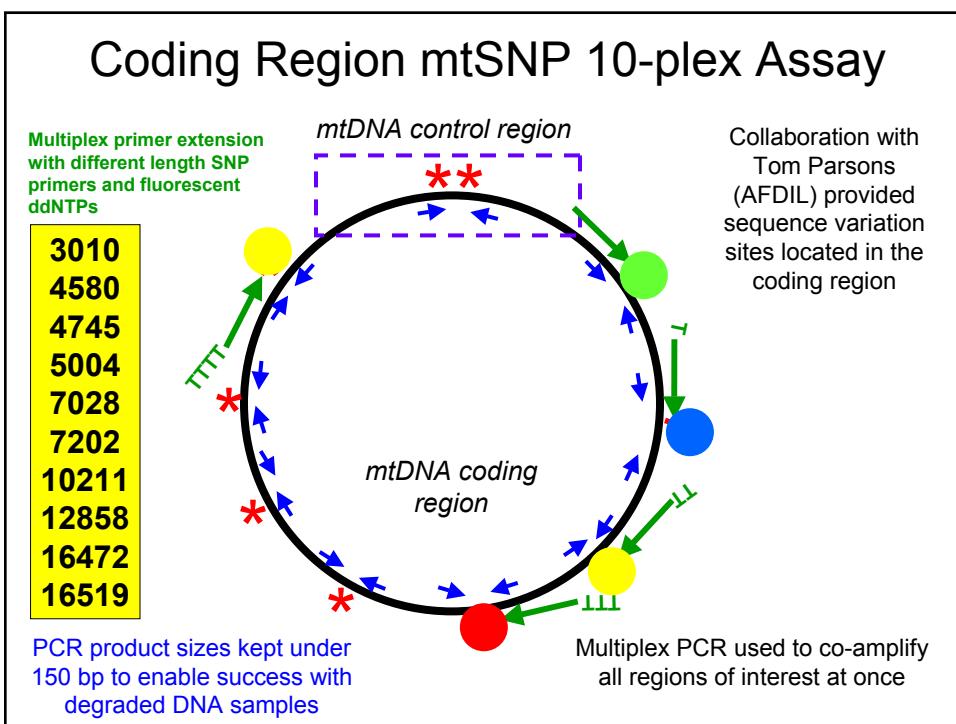
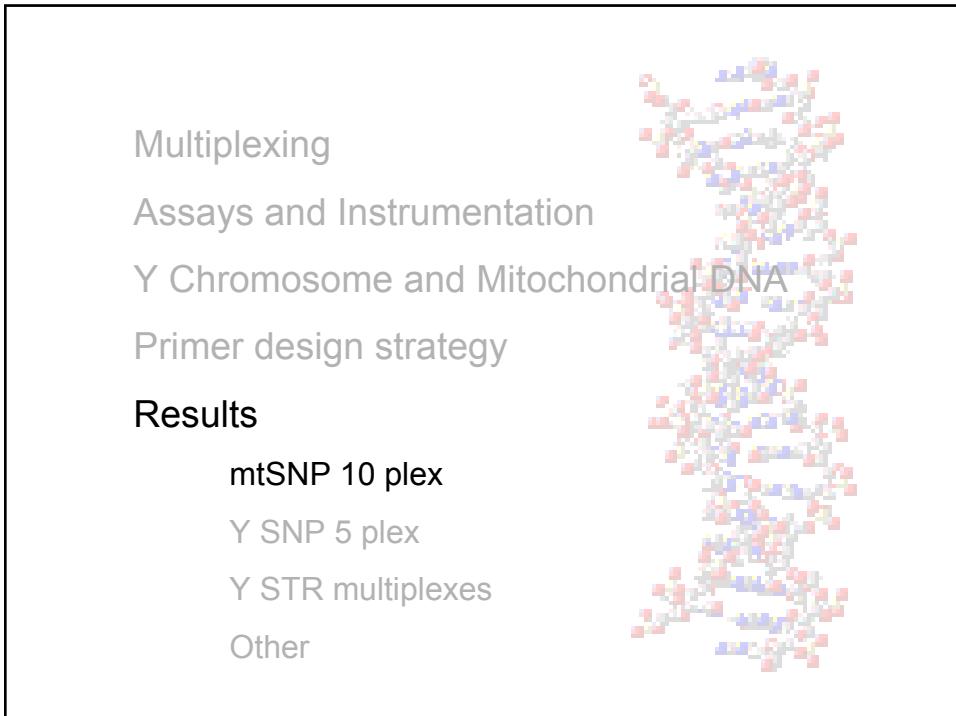
Obtain primer pairs and test singleplex PCR  
(QC all primers with MS/CE/HPLC)

Begin initial testing of multiplex PCR  
Start with a PCR mix containing  
1.0  $\mu$ M of each primer pair

Evaluate amplicon yields, presence and balance

Vary primer pair concentrations, [polymerase], number of cycles,  $[Mg^{++}]$ , [dNTPs], BSA

Redesign and retest failing loci



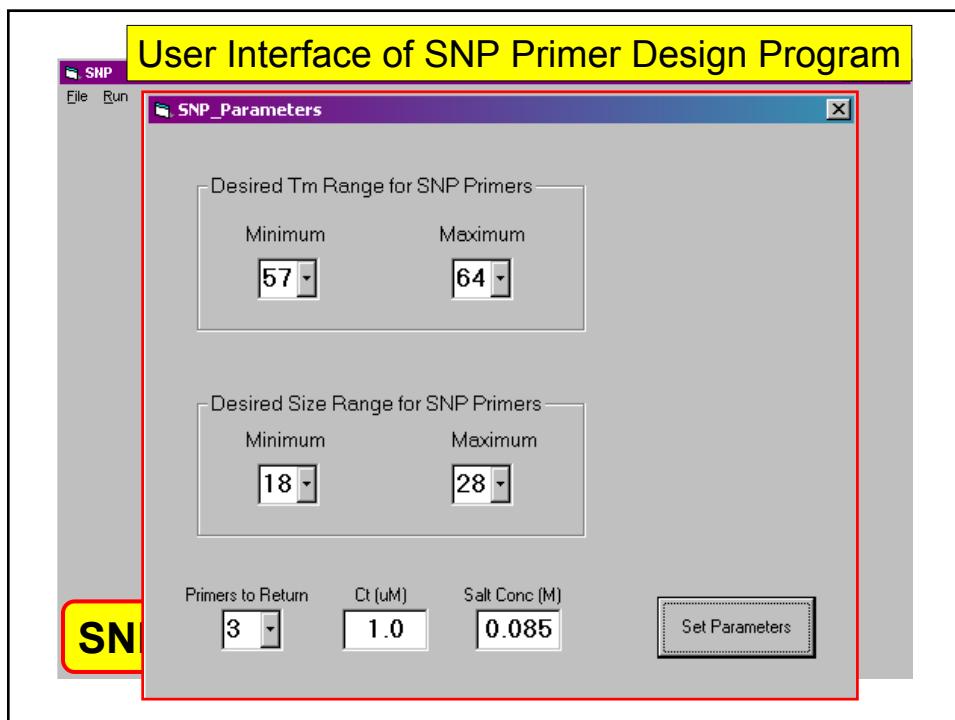
## Tailed SNP primers allows for multiplexing in the SNaPshot assay

### Sequences for 10 SNP primers

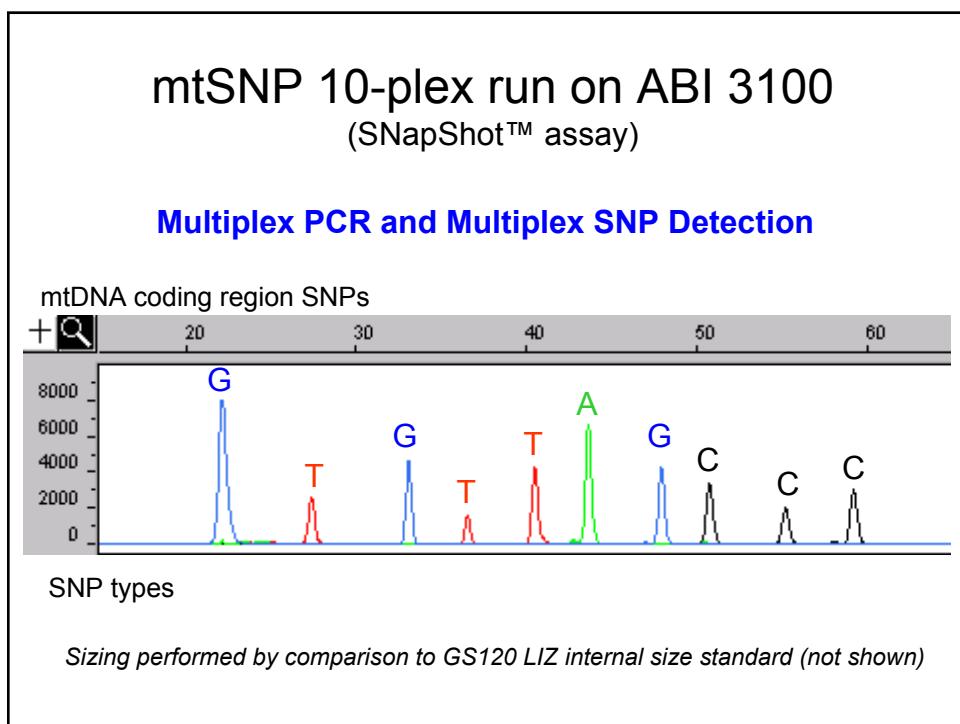
TCAGAAGTGAAAGGGGGC	18/ <b>na</b>
TTTTTTTGTGGATCAGGACATCCC	19/ <b>26</b>
TTTTTTTTTACTAAGAAGAATTATGGAA	20/ <b>30</b>
TTTTTTTTTTTAGACCCAGCTACGCCAAATC	20/ <b>34</b>
TTTTTTTTTTTTGACACGTACTACGTTGTAGC	20/ <b>38</b>
TTTTTTTTTTTCCACAACACTTCTCGGCCT	20/ <b>42</b>
TTTTTTTTTTTGTTGGCTATTTAGGCTTATG	22/ <b>46</b>
TTTTTTTTTTTGCAGCCATTCAAGCAATCCTATA	23/ <b>50</b>
TTTTTTTTTTTGGTTAGAACTGGAATAAAAGCTAG	25/ <b>54</b>
TTTTTTTTTTTGAACCATAACCAAACTACCAATCA	25/ <b>58</b>

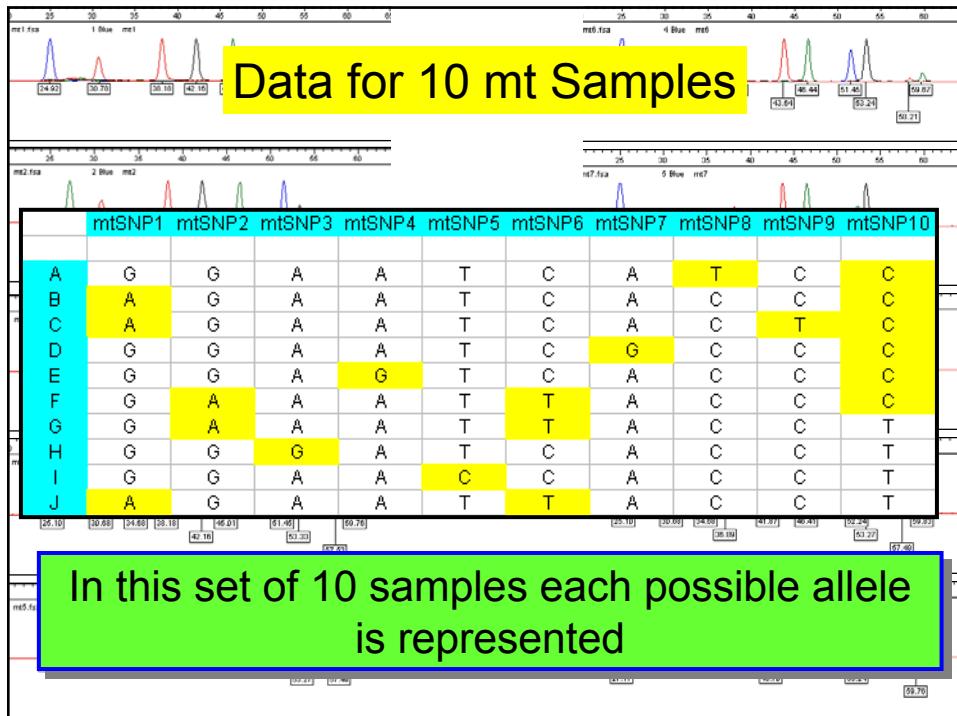
Template binding sequence – black

Tailed sequence for fragment separation - red



Program Output									
Label	Length	Sequence			Position	Tm			
Forward Primers Salt = 0.3Ct = 10									
M42 340 bp (A/T 297 W) AC010889	18	ATTTAGGACACAAAAGCW			280	60.65398			
M42 340 bp (A/T 297 W) AC010889	19	GATTAGGACACAAAAGCW			279	61.96716			
M42 340 bp (A/T 297 W) AC010889	20	AGATTTAGGACACAAAAGCW			278	63.67808			
Reverse Primers									
M42 340 bp (A/T 297 W) AC010889	23	GCTCTCTTTTCATTATGTAGTW			319	63.5462			
M42 340 bp (A/T 297 W) AC010889	21	TCTCTTTTCATTATGTAGTW			317	59.28964			
M42 340 bp (A/T 297 W) AC010889	20	CTCTTTTCATTATGTAGTW			316	57.50257			
Hairpin	Dimer	Template	Mass	Rank	Mutation	+ddC	+ddT	+ddA	+ddG
4	8	10	5273.48	2.133333	W	N/A	5561.67998	5570.68998	N/A
5	10	10	5602.69	2	W	N/A	5890.889941	5899.899941	N/A
5	10	11	5915.9	2	W	N/A	6204.099902	6213.109902	N/A
4	8	22	6734.42	2.133333	W	N/A	7022.619922	7031.629922	N/A
4	8	20	6116.02	2.133333	W	N/A	6404.22002	6413.23002	N/A
4	8	19	5811.82	2.133333	W	N/A	6100.019824	6109.029824	N/A

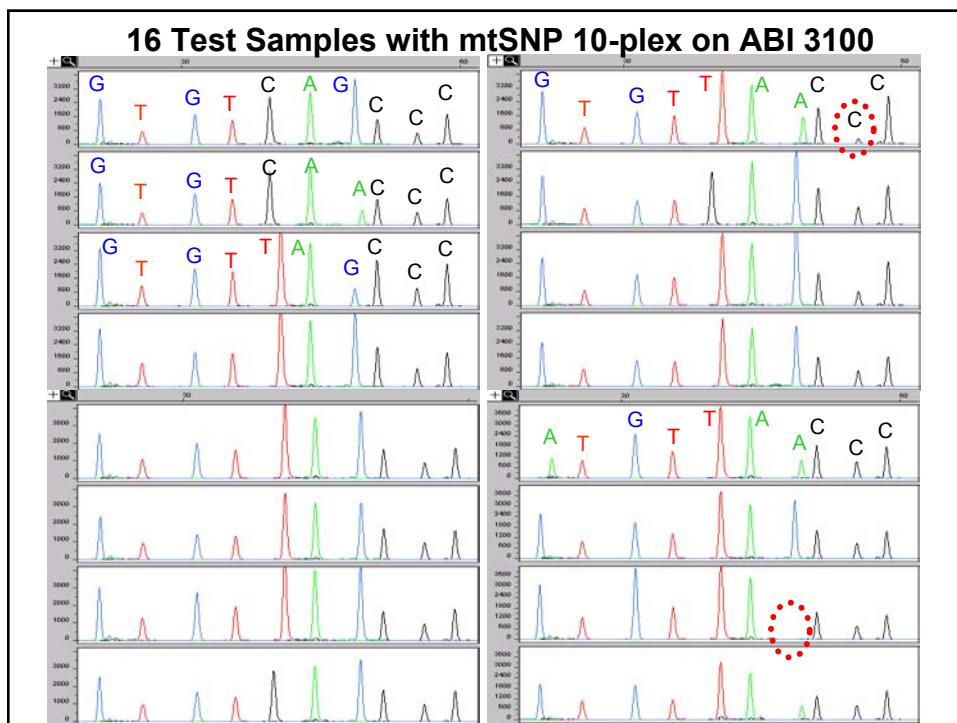
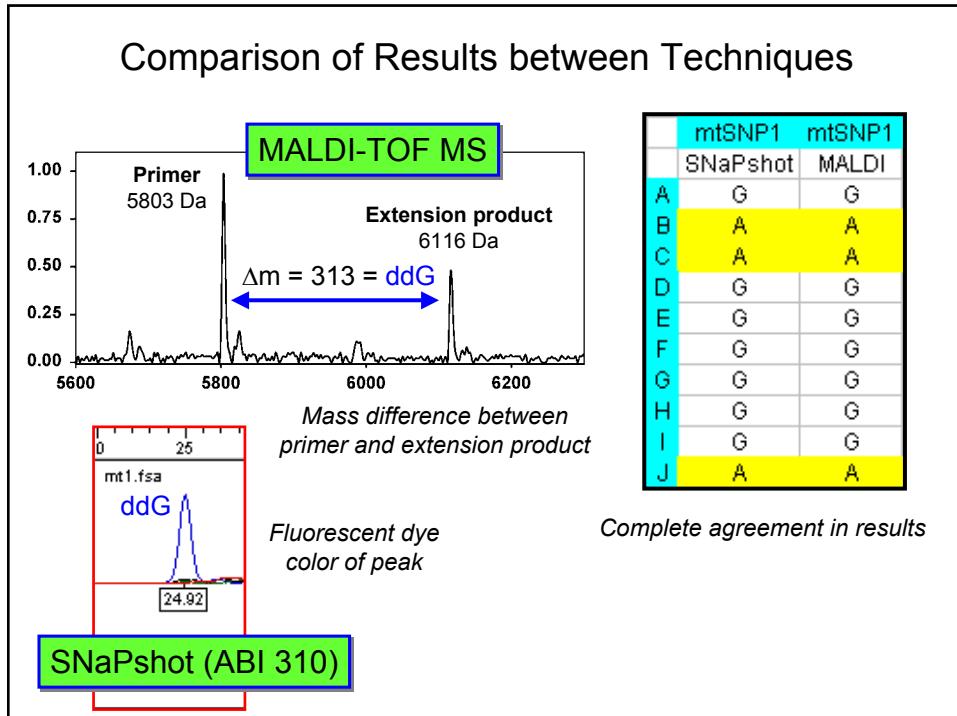




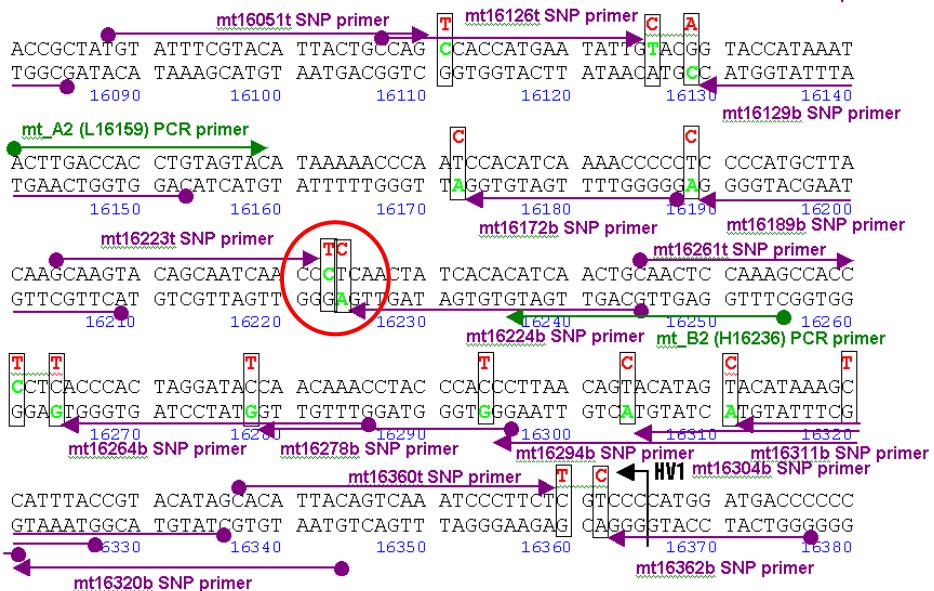
## Sizing of Fragments in mtSNP 10plex Actual versus observed

Actual length (bases)	allele 1	allele 2	$\Delta$ allele 1	$\Delta$ allele 2
18	25.0	27.1	-7.0	-9.1
26	28.6	30.7	-2.6	-4.7
30	34.7	35.6	-4.7	-5.6
34	36.9	38.2	-2.9	-4.2
38	42.2	43.7	-4.2	-5.7
42	45.0	46.4	-3.0	-4.4
46	51.4	52.2	-5.4	-6.2
50	53.3	54.2	-3.3	-4.2
54	57.5	58.3	-3.5	-4.3
58	59.2	59.7	-1.2	-1.7

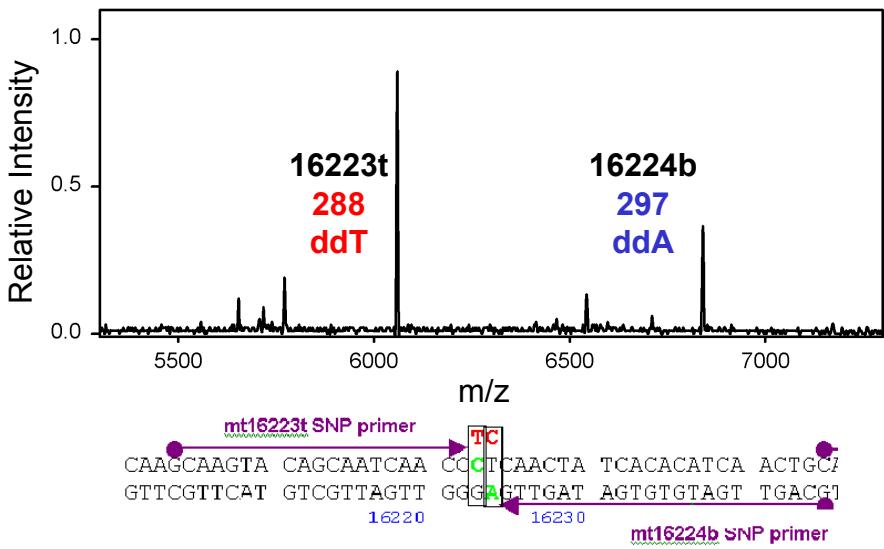
Sizing differences vary with sequence, length and fluorescent dye attachment

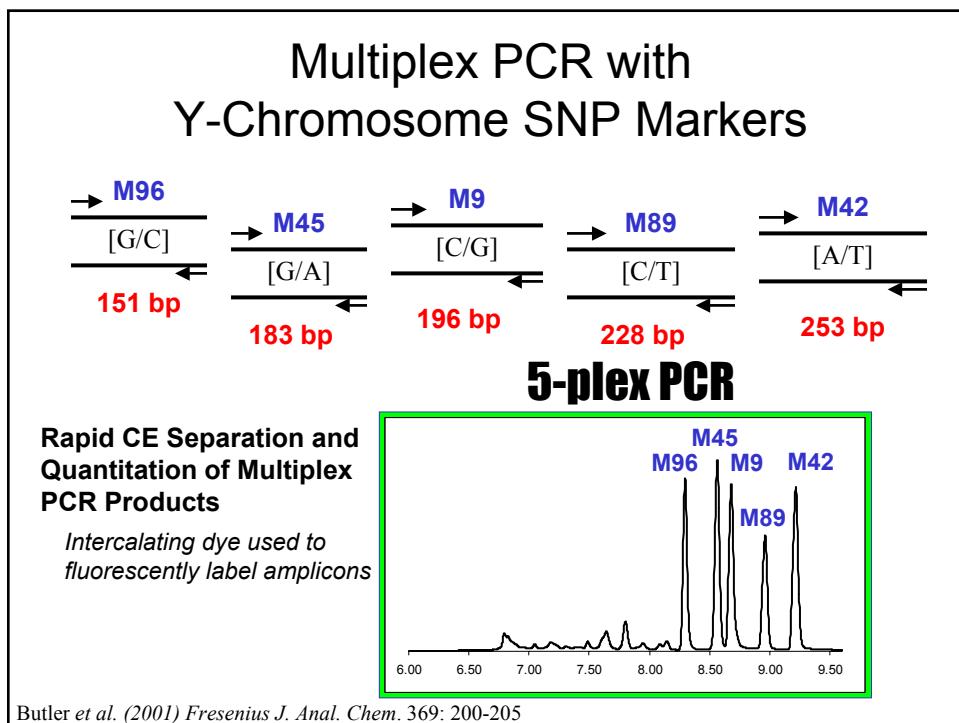
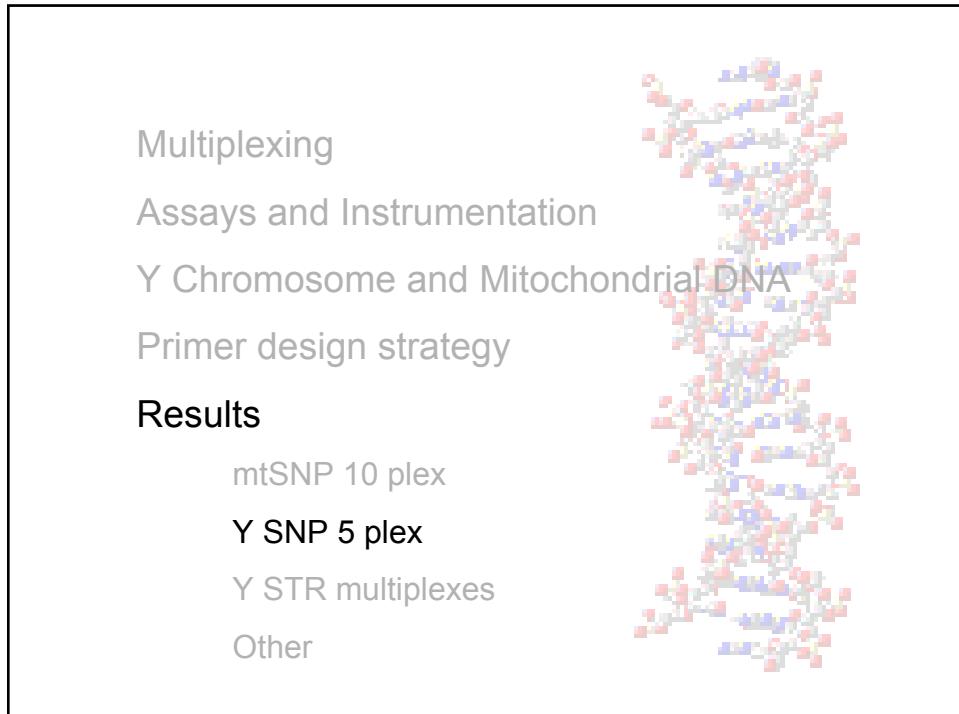


## Control Region mtSNPs

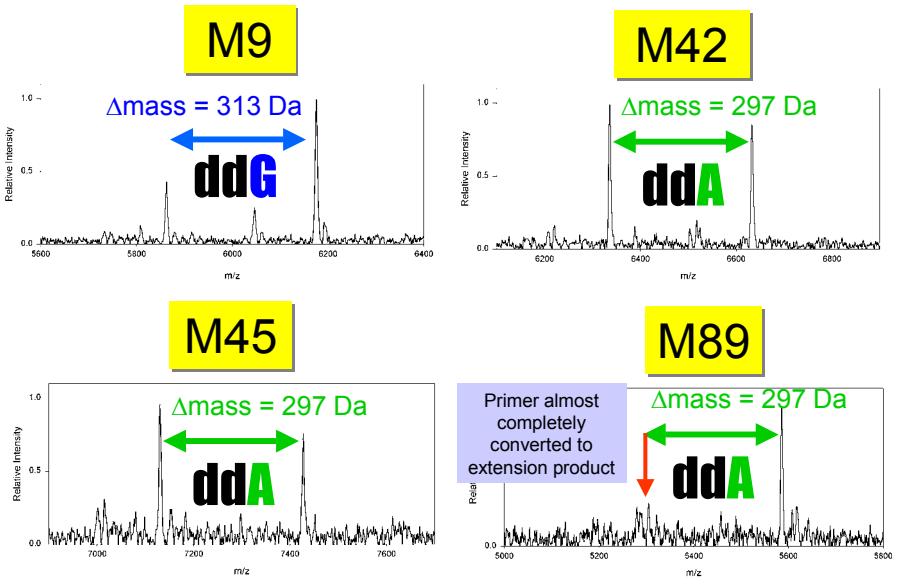


## Two Adjacent Mitochondrial SNPs 16223 (C/T) and 16224 (A/G)

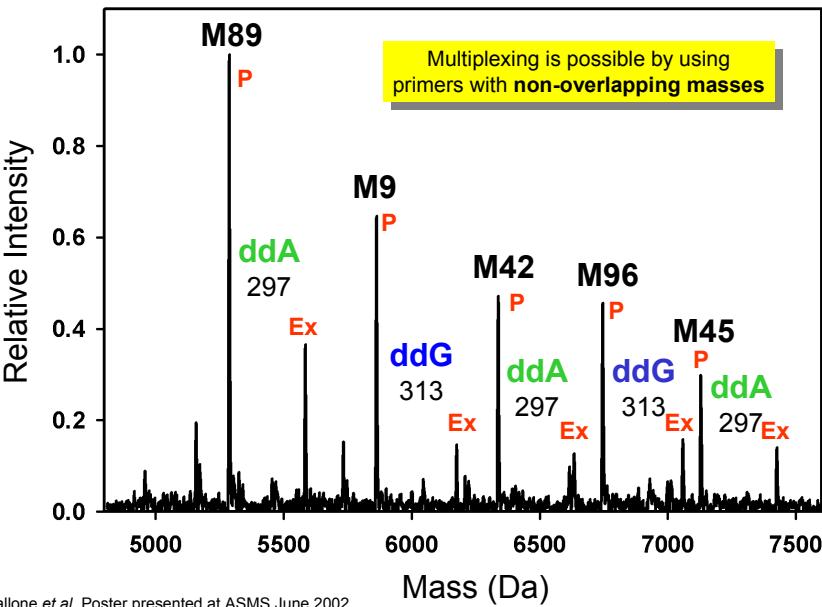




## Y Chromosome SNP Results by Probing PCR Products through Primer Extension and TOF-MS Detection



## Multiplexed Y SNPs (5-plex) Analyzed by TOF-MS



Vallone et al. Poster presented at ASMS June 2002

## SRM 2395 Candidate Sample Testing

### Y SNP Results with Primer Extension and MALDI-TOF MS

	M9(C/G)	M42(A/T)	M45(G/A)	M89(C/T)	M96(G/C)
A	G	T	A	T	C
B	C	T	G	T	C
C	C	T	G	T	C
D	C	T	G	C	G
E	C	T	G	T	C
F	--	--	--	--	--

### Primer Extension Using a UV Photocleavable Analyte

A standard primer extension assay (mini-sequencing) is performed using an extension primer that contains a UV photocleavable linker

After the extension reaction is completed, the linker is cleaved ( $\lambda = 366$  nm) resulting in a ~5 base oligonucleotide for MALDI TOF MS analysis

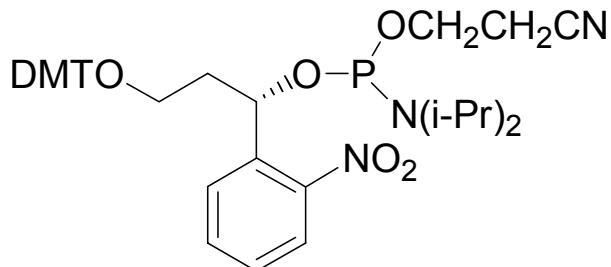
An analyte of reduced mass results in higher sensitivity, resolution, and more uniform ionization for multiplexing

Example M42

5' CCAGCTCTTTTCATTATLTAGT 3' mass = 7492.9

5' TAGT 3' mass = 1268.8

## Structure of Cleavable Moiety



Ordoukhalian, P. and Taylor, J.S., J. Am. Chem. Soc 1995 117:9570-9571

**Collaboration with Jay Stoerker and Markus Kostrzewa at  
Bruker Daltonics**

## UV Cleavable SNP Primers

Locus	Extension Primer	Mass
M9	ACATGTCTAAATTAAAGAAAAATA <u>AA</u> <sup>OMe</sup> GA <sup>OMe</sup> G	1362.9
M42	CCAGCTCTTTTCATTAT <u>G</u> TAGT	1268.8
M45	GCAGTGAAAATTAT <u>AG</u> <sup>OMe</sup> ATA	1307.8
M89	CTCTCCTAAGGTTATGTACAAA <u>A</u> ATCT	1228.8
M96	AACTTGGAAAACAGGTCTCTCA <u>T</u> AATA	1261.8

Underlined base = position of UV photocleavable moiety

$\text{A}^{\text{OMe}}$  and  $\text{G}^{\text{OMe}}$  are 2'-O-methyladenosine and 2'-O-methylguanosine, respectively

## Desalting Primer Extension Reactions

### Biotin-Strepavidin

96 or 384 well format

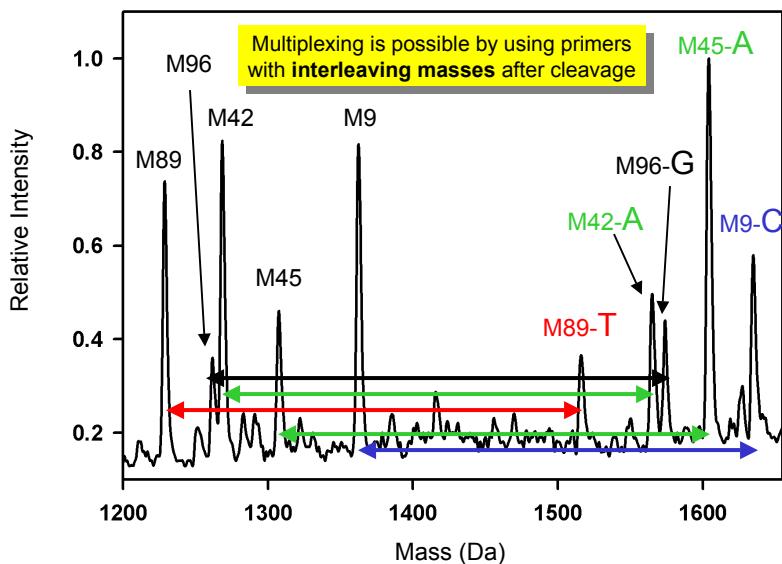
5' Biotin labeled extension primers are required

Primers are bound to a 384 well plate with strepavidin coated wells

Salt is washed off as DNA remains anchored to plate surface

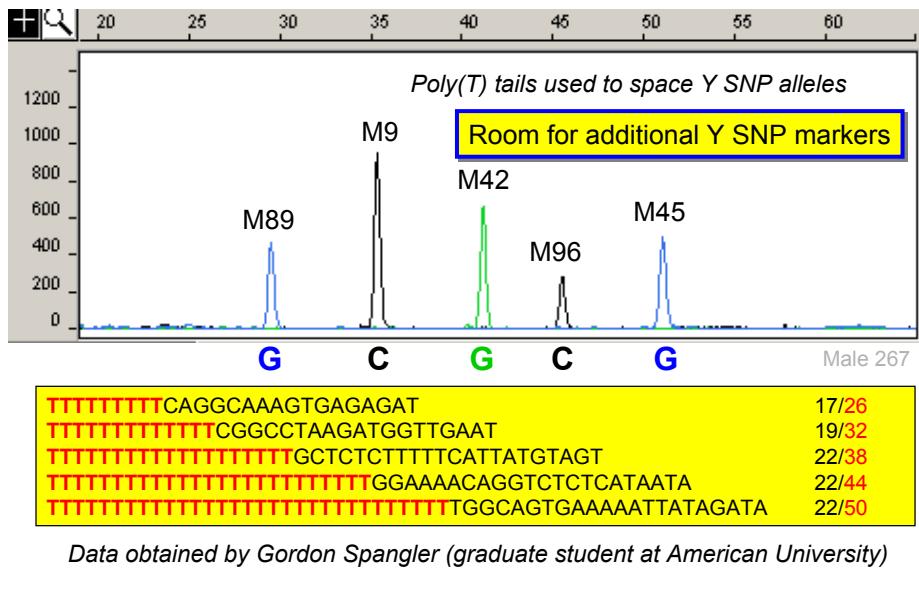
Salt free DNA is cleaved by UV light in solution on the plate and the fragment is spotted onto the MALDI target

### Y SNP 5plex using UV Photocleavable Extension Primers



Vallone et al. Poster presented at ASMS June 2002

## Y SNP Results with SNaPshot Assay



## Y SNP Haplotypes for 16 Test Samples

Sample ID	M9 (C/G)	M42 (A/T)	M45 (G/A)	M89 (C/T)	M96 (G/C)
Male 1	G	T	A	T	C
Male 2	G	T	A	T	C
Male 3	G	T	A	T	C
Male 4	G	T	A	T	C
Male 5	G	T	A	T	C
Male 6	G	T	A	T	C
Male 7	G	T	A	T	C
Male 8	C	T	G	C	G
Male 9	C				
Male 10	C				
Male 11	C				
Male 12	C	T	G	C	G
Male 13	C	T	G	C	G
Male 14	G	T	G	T	C
Male 15	C	T	G	T	C
Female	-	-	-	-	-

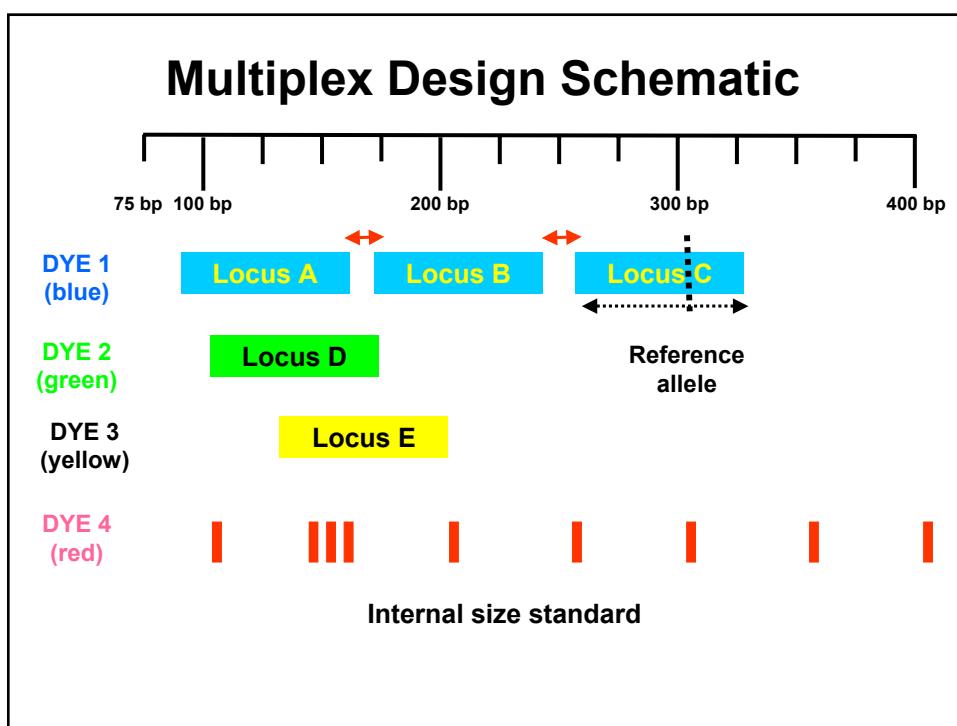
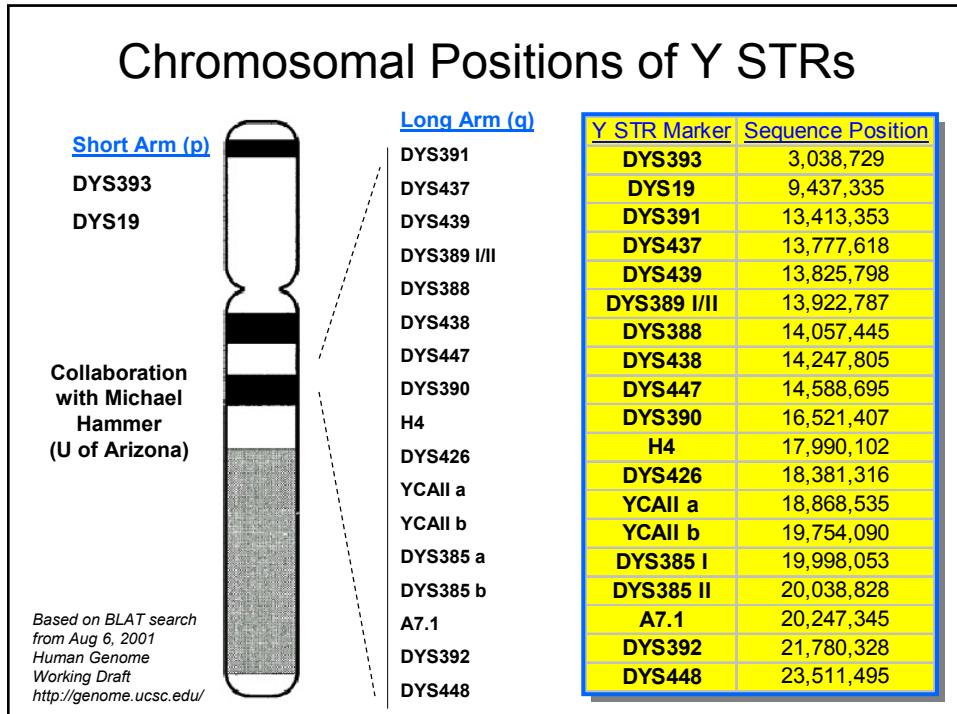
Typing Results Obtained from SNaPshot and MS techniques Agree

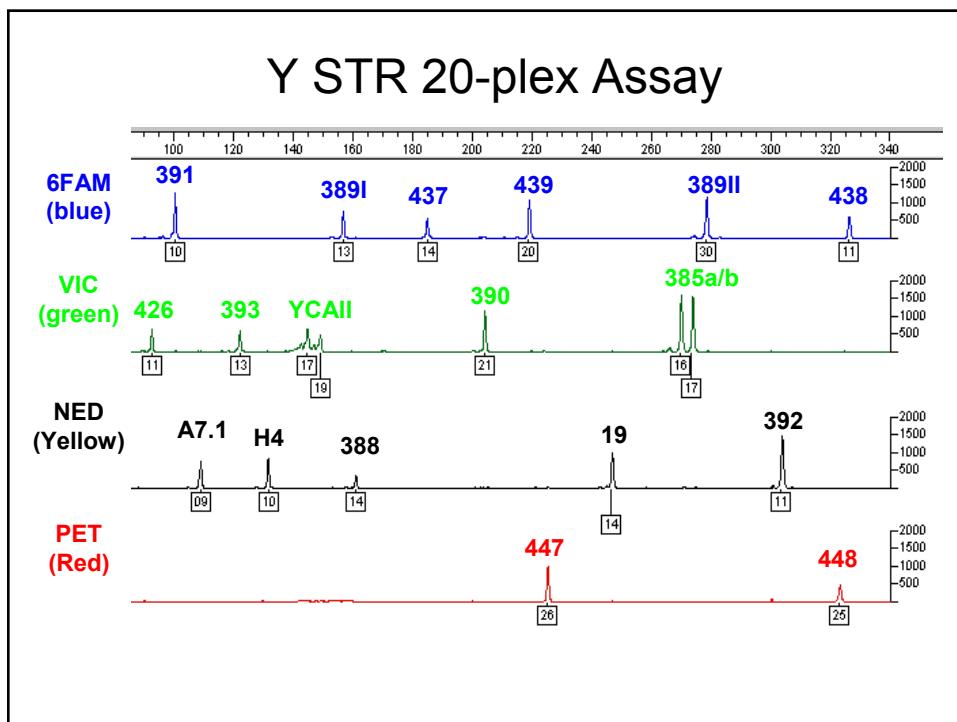
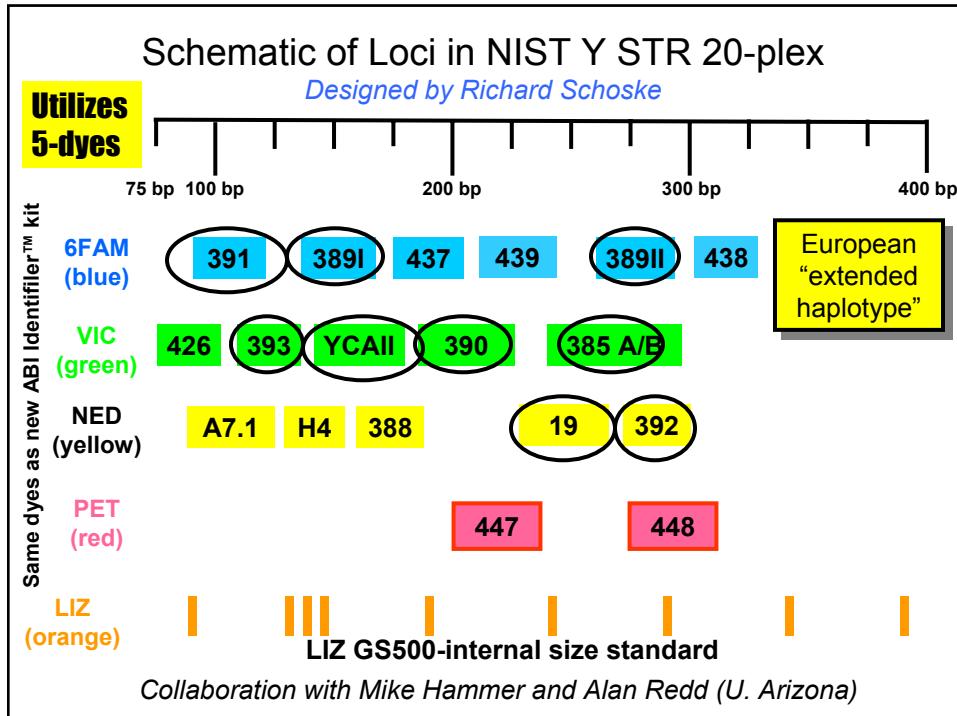
## Advantages/Disadvantages of the Basic Primer Extension Assay (TOF MS)

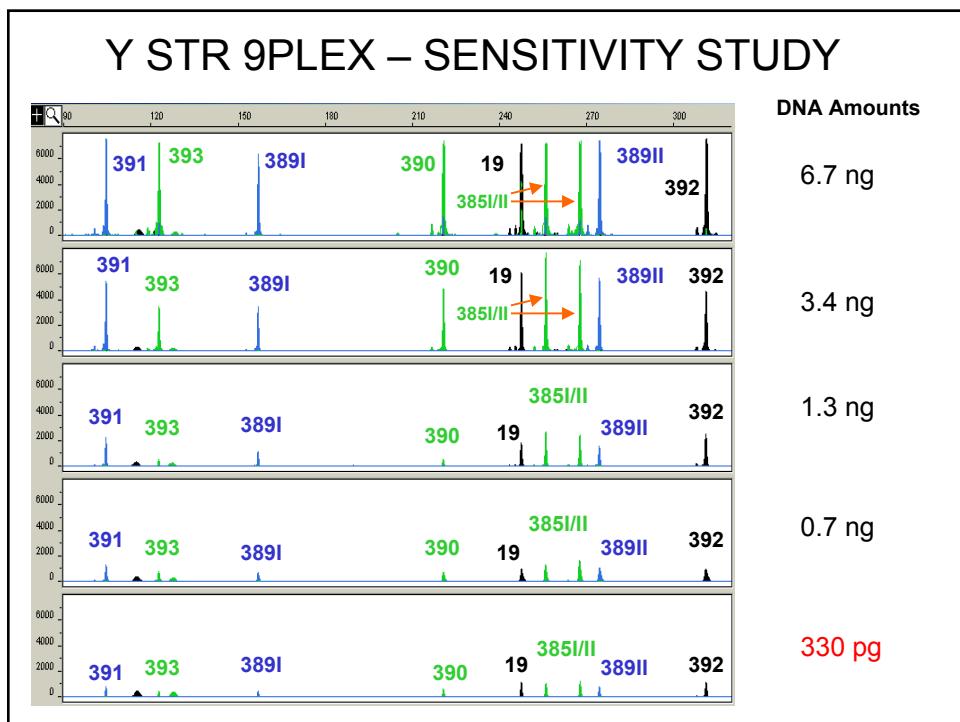
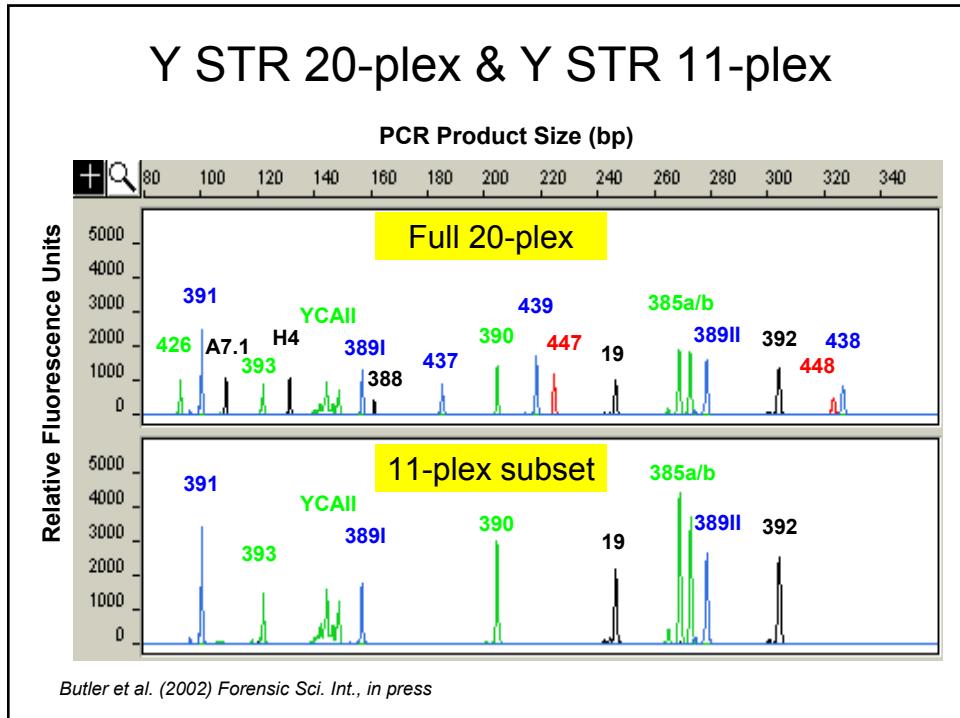
- Uses readily available reagents
  - Synthetic primers (no modifications)
  - ddNTPs
  - Automation of assay
- 
- Limited multiplexing capabilities
  - As mass range increases, resolution decreases
  - Heterozygous samples may be difficult to resolve
  - Salt adducts may interfere with data interpretation
    - products must be purified
  - 3HPA matrix
    - non-homogeneous crystal formation

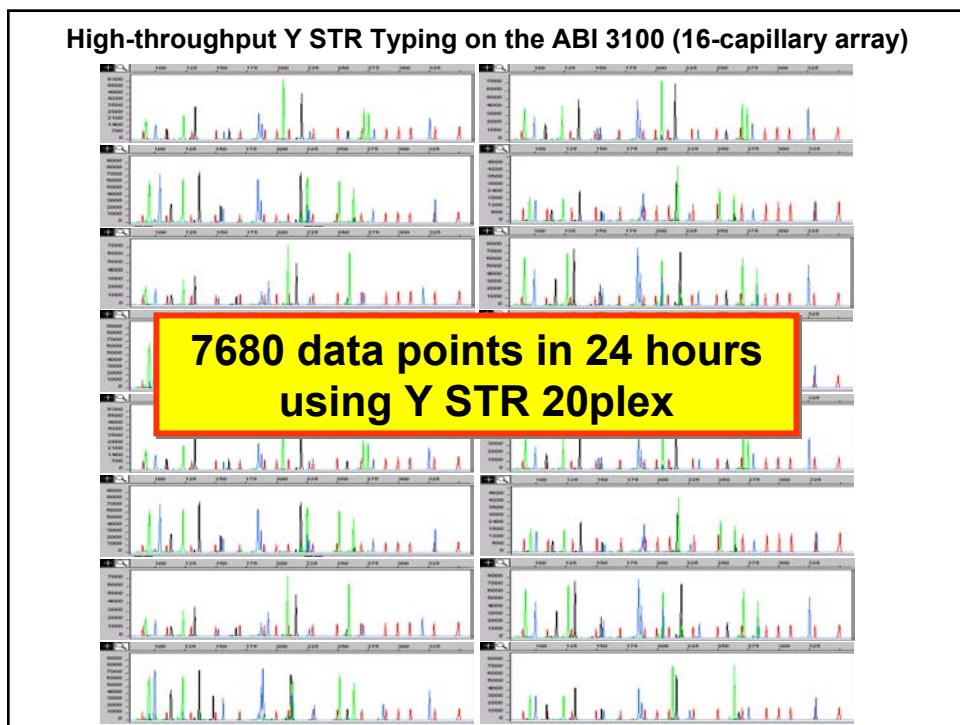
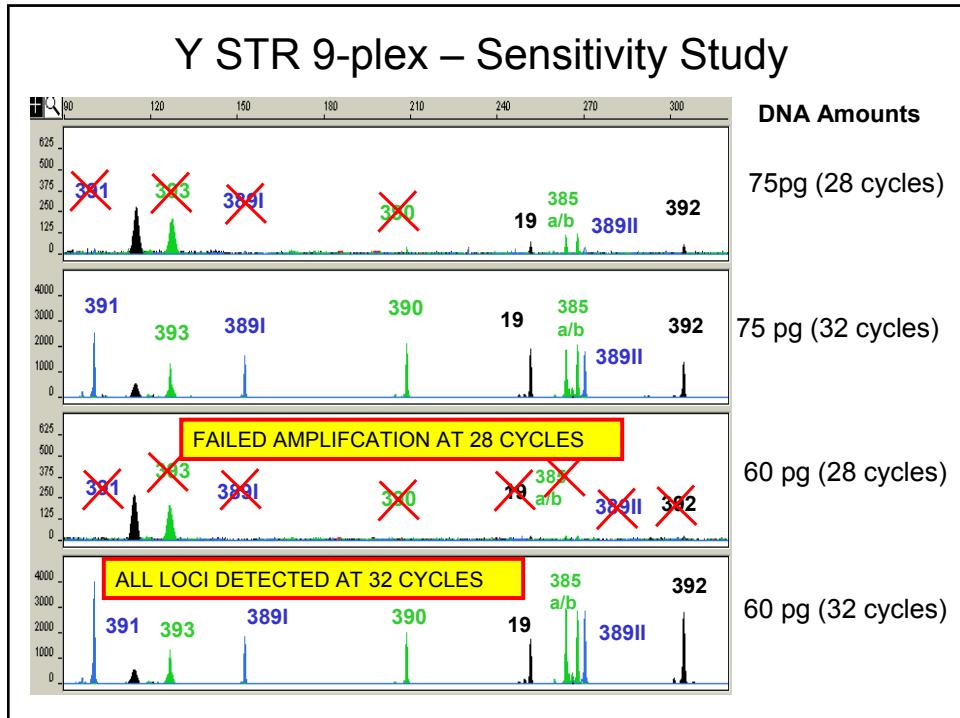
Multiplexing  
Assays and Instrumentation  
Y Chromosome and Mitochondrial DNA  
Primer design strategy  
Results  
    mtSNP 10 plex  
    Y SNP 5 plex  
    Y STR multiplexes  
    Other

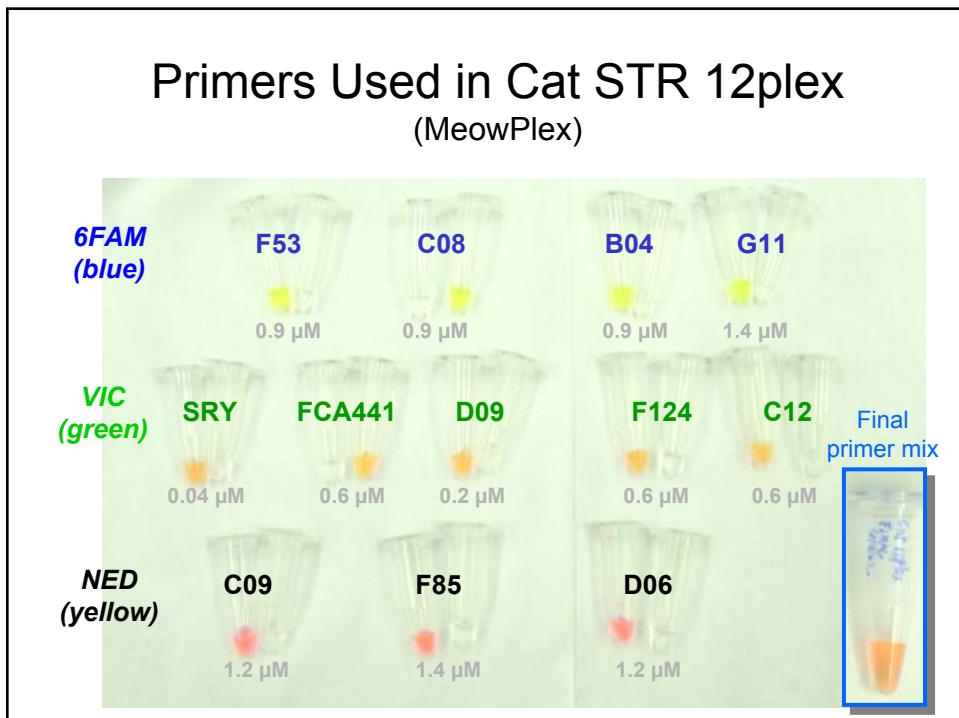


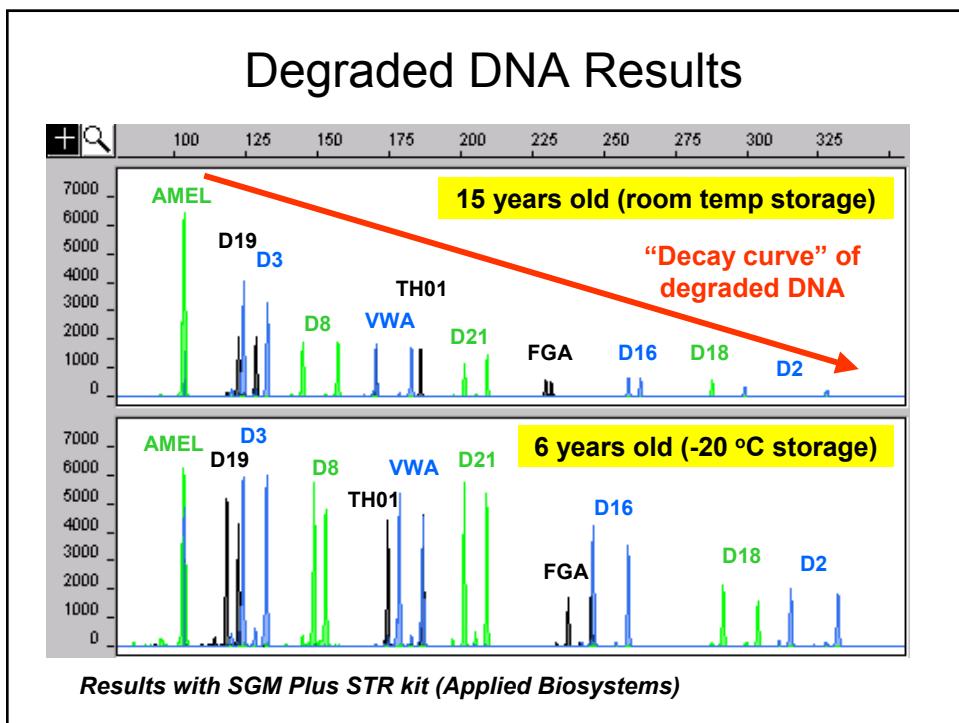
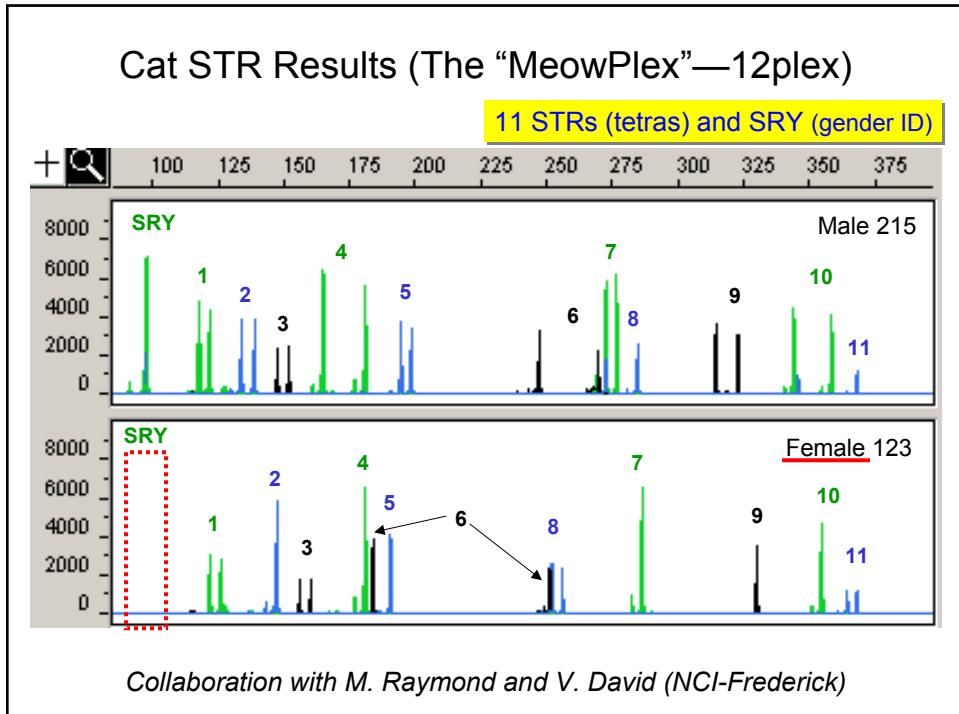






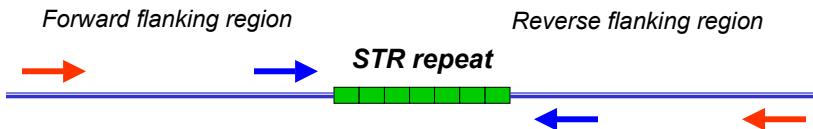






## STR Size Reduction

Through Moving Primer Positions Closer to Repeat



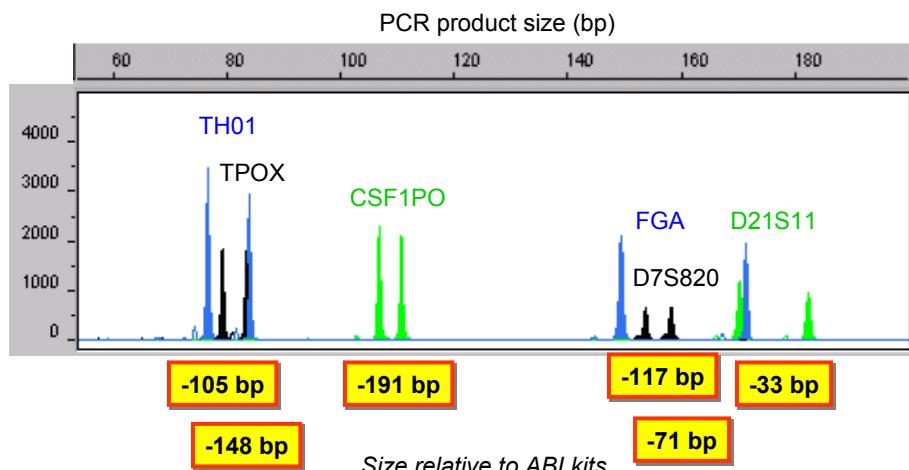
**Primer positions define PCR product size  
Repeat information is independent of amplicon size**

### Advantages of Approach:

- Size reduction enhances success rate with degraded DNA
- Retains same marker information (database compatibility)
- Uses highly polymorphic STR loci (high discriminatory power)

## miniSTR Systems:

Size Reduction to Aid with Typing Degraded DNA Samples



## Future Directions



- Collaborations
- Continue comparisons with various SNP chemistries and technologies on the same model Y SNP and mtSNP markers
- Optimize automation of assays/data analysis to permit high throughput typing
- Type population samples with forensic markers
- Further understanding of multiplex assay design
- Informatics

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