



# NIST Experience with FSS-i<sup>3</sup> Software

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## Disclaimers

**Funding:** Interagency Agreement 2003-IJ-R-029 between the [National Institute of Justice](#) and NIST Office of Law Enforcement Standards

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





The Forensic Science Service  
**FSS-i<sup>3</sup> V4.0.1**  
Integrity Interpretation Innovation  
Forensic systems designed by forensic scientists for forensic scientists

- i-STress
- i-STream
- i-integrity

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## Packaging for FSS i-Cubed Software



Currently very limited documentation is provided with the software (some PowerPoint files are on CD-ROM)

## Cost to the End User

- Software**
  - single copy, single computer **\$20,000**
  - If 5 copies purchased, then \$50,000
- Maintenance agreement**
  - **\$4,000** per year
  - Unclear whether or not software upgrades are included
- Training**
  - **\$2,000** if at Promega (plus your travel expenses)
  - \$12,000 for up to 5 people if performed in your lab
- Requires GeneMapper ID or GeneScan/Genotyper software to already be in place in your lab

**Minimum starting cost of \$26,000**

## NIST Experience with Software Purchase

- Attempted to purchase directly from FSS
  - No quote provided by Chris Macguire despite multiple attempts and email agreements to do so (Dec 2004, Jan, Feb, May, June 2005)
- Quote for software from Promega on Oct 18, 2005
  - Told that we had to purchase \$4,000 maintenance agreement along with at least \$2,000 training (plus travel expense to Madison, WI)
  - NIST contract officer signed off Dec 19, 2005
- Promega installed software January 3, 2006
- Becky Hill went to Madison, WI Jan 9-13, 2006 for first training class held at Promega

### Promega Training Overview

- **Day 1:** Introduction to the software, batching of data (macro), creating RAW files from GenoTyper and GeneMapper ID, input templates
- **Day 2:** Scientific settings, ladder templates, FSS-i<sup>3</sup> Rule Sets
- **Day 3:** Settings folder, output templates, i-ntegrity Module
- **Day 4:** Mixture Interpretation Theory of i-STReam Module
- **Day 5:** Review of software features

### Agreements Coming with Software

- There are two documents imbedded in the software installation that must be reviewed and accepted prior to loading FSS-i<sup>3</sup> software.
- Hard copies were not provided and had to be obtained later from Promega.

### Overview of Software Components



**i-STRes** quickly and accurately calls your allele types and objectively assesses the quality of your data. This allows analysts to reduce the time spent manually reviewing data and focus on "problem" samples.

**i-STReam** module evaluates two-person DNA mixtures and produces a best-fit major profile. This aids the reporting analyst in mixture deconvolution and unbiased interpretation.

**i-ntegrity** checks for potential sample-to-sample contamination within a batch by comparing all alleles called in a sample to the alleles in every other sample in the batch.

<http://www.promega.com/applications/profile.asp?appname=Genetic+Identity&sku=FSSi3&spl=off>

### Features of FSS-i<sup>3</sup>

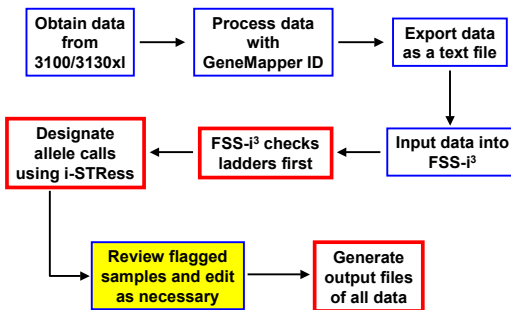
listed on Promega website

<http://www.promega.com/applications/profile.asp?appname=Genetic+Identity&sku=FSSi3&spl=off>

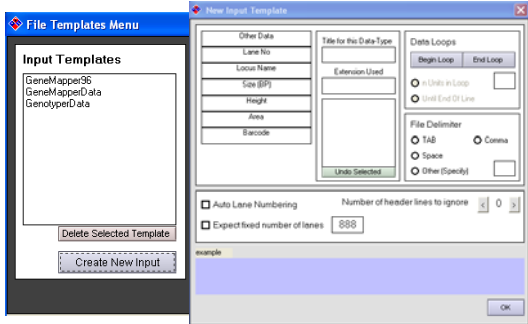
- Integrates with existing commercial software
- Works with most autosomal STR multiplex kits
- User-customizable input and output files
- User-configurable settings for optimized data analysis
- Two-person DNA mixture deconvolution
- Contamination Check

## Introduction to FSS-i<sup>3</sup> Software

### FSS-i<sup>3</sup> Flow Chart

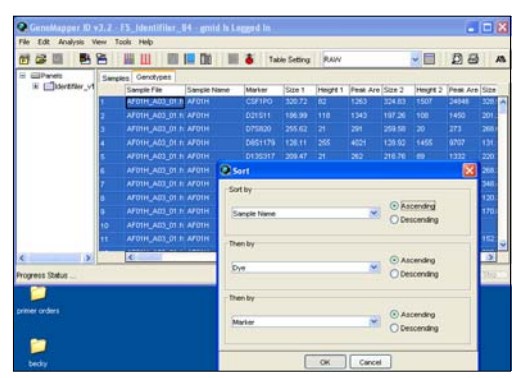


### FSS-i3 Input Template

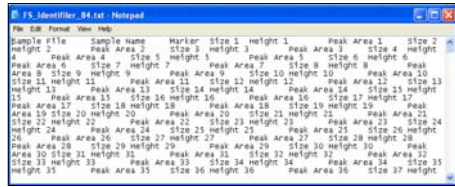


Controls what and how information will be brought into the FSS i3 program

### GeneMapper ID Raw Data Sorted



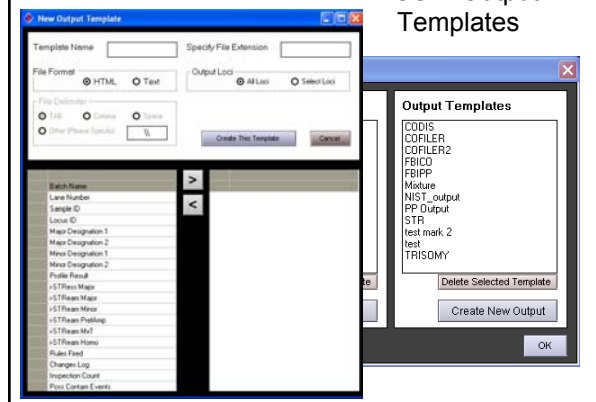
### Text File Saved from GeneMapper ID "Raw Data"



Microsoft Excel used to examine data  
 (allelic ladders if in position A01  
 must be moved elsewhere)

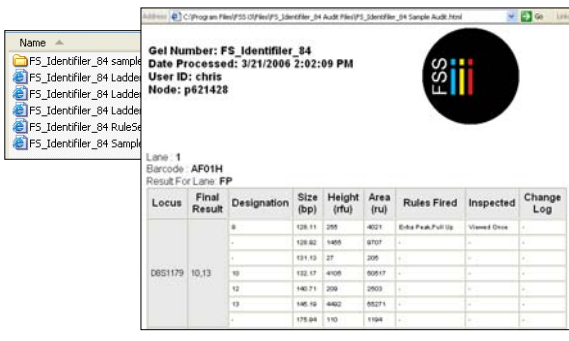
Sample File	Sample Name	Marker	Size 1	Height 1	Peak Area 1	Size 2	Height 2	Peak Area 2
1	AF01H_A03_01.fsa	AF01H						
2	AF01H_A03_01.fsa	AF01H						
3	AF01H_A03_01.fsa	AF01H						
4	AF01H_A03_01.fsa	AF01H	D75820	255.62	21	291	259.58	20
5	AF01H_A03_01.fsa	AF01H	D6S1179	126.11	295	4021	126.92	1465
6	AF01H_A03_01.fsa	AF01H	D13S317	209.47	21	262	216.76	89
7	AF01H_A03_01.fsa	AF01H	D16S539	264.33	103	1600	256.3	26

### FSS-i3 Output Templates



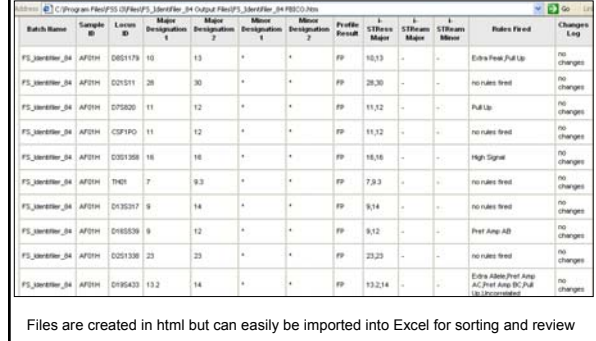
### Output Files Created by FSS-i3 i-STress

C:\Program Files\FSS i3\Files\FSS\_Identifier\_84 Audit Files

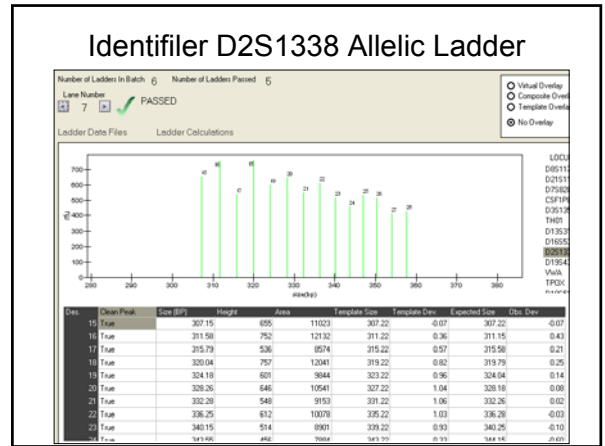
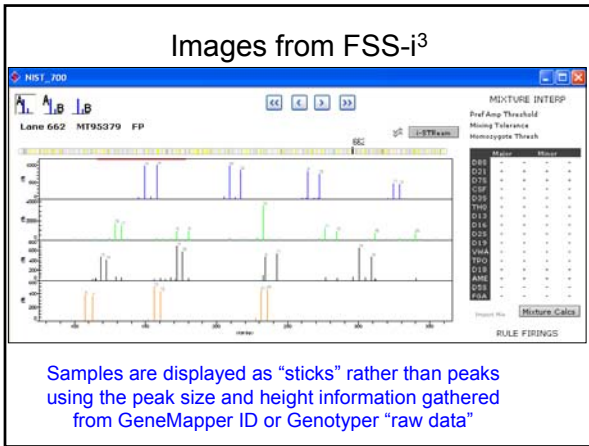


### Output Files Created by FSS-i3 i-STress

C:\Program Files\FSS i3\Files\FSS\_Identifier\_84 Output Files



Files are created in html but can easily be imported into Excel for sorting and review



# Work Performed at NIST

- ### Allele Concordance Studies at NIST
- Manual calls
    - with GeneScan/Genotyper v3.7
    - with GeneMapper ID v3.2
  - Automated calls with GM/FSS-i3
  - Comparison of output with Excel spreadsheets written by Dave Duewer (NIST)

- ### NIST Data Sets Available for Examination "Database" Samples
- Identifier (ABI 3100 – data collection 1.0.1, POP-6)
    - **700 NIST U.S. population samples (JFS 2003.48:908-911)**
    - 375 cell-line samples from collaborator
    - 500 father-son samples from paternity testing lab
  - Identifier (ABI 3130xl – data collection 3.0, POP-7)
    - 375 cell-line samples from collaborator
  - Profiler Plus (ABI 3100 and ABI 3130xl)
    - 95 father-son samples from paternity testing lab
  - PowerPlex 16 (ABI 3100 – data collection 1.0.1, POP-6)
    - 318 aged blood stains from collaborator showing degraded profiles
  - ProfilerPlus/COfiler and Profiler (ABI 310, POP-4)
    - >3,500 samples from 1998-2001 AFDIL QC sample checks
- ~5,500 samples processed with commonly used STR kits and instruments**

- ### Single Source Samples Examined with i-STRess
- 
- Ran **84 Identifier** samples (father-son samples) with GM/FSS-i3 and compared to GeneScan/Genotyper and GeneMapper ID results
  - Ran **864 Identifier** samples (700 reported NIST U.S. population samples) with GM/FSS-i3 and compared to GeneScan/Genotyper results (see <http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/NISTpopdata/JFS2003IDResults.xls>)
- Over 1,200 unique samples will be examined eventually**

### Issues with Review of Previous Data

- Need a rapid way to compare allele calls for concordance purposes
  - Allele calls from Genotyper are in different format from FSS-i3 output
- **Potential of finding mistakes in original allele calls that you thought were without error**
  - Do you have a protocol for fixing “mistakes”?
  - **Error rate in double manual data review is not zero!**

### Data Comparison Between Methods

- Dave Duewer (NIST Analytical Chemistry Division) has written several computer programs to convert and compare FSS-i3 data that utilize Excel macros
  - **DNA\_FSSi3\_Convert.xls** (converts data format)
  - **STR\_MatchSamples.xls** (compares samples)
- These programs will be made available to the community after additional testing and refinement
  - <http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/software.htm>

### DNA\_FSSi3\_Convert.xls

First five columns in FSS-i3 output are converted to be like Genotyper allele designation table

Batch Name	Sample ID	Locus ID	Major Designation 1	Major Designation 2
ID_FSpairs_1	AF01C	D8S1179	13	13
ID_FSpairs_1	AF01C	D21S11	*	*
ID_FSpairs_1	AF01C	D7S820	*	*
ID_FSpairs_1	AF01C	CSF1PO	*	*
ID_FSpairs_1	AF01C	D3S1358	16	17
ID_FSpairs_1	AF01C	TH01	6	9
ID_FSpairs_1	AF01C	D13S317	11	11
ID_FSpairs_1	AF01C	D16S539	11	11

Each row is an individual locus

↓ Data Transformation

Sample	D8S1179	D8S1179	D21S11	D21S11	D7S820
AF01C	13	13	0	0	0
AF02C	11	13	28	29	8
AF03C	10	13	30	30.2	10
AF04C	11	13	28	29	11

Each row is an individual sample

### STR\_MatchSamples.xls

### Exact Matches (Full Concordance) Observed with STR\_MatchSamples.xls Program

Type	Description	D8S1179	D21S11	D7S820
ExactMatch	AF01H:FSSi, AF01H:T011806gt	10,13	28,30	11,12
ExactMatch	AF02H:FSSi, AF02H:T011806gt	12,15	30,33.2	10,12
ExactMatch	AF03H:FSSi, AF03H:T011806gt	10,13	28,29.2	10,13
ExactMatch	AF04H:FSSi, AF04H:T011806gt	13,14	30,31	8,10
ExactMatch	AF05H:FSSi, AF05H:T011806gt	13,14	29,30	9
ExactMatch	AF06H:FSSi, AF06H:T011806gt	14,16	31.2	9,11
ExactMatch	AF07H:FSSi, AF07H:T011806gt	14,16	28,31	8,10

AF07H:FSSi (FSS-i3 data) is an exact match to AF07H:T011806gt (Genotyper data)  
 – thus all allele calls are concordant with AF07H

### Uncovering Previous Mistakes During Data Review with Expert System

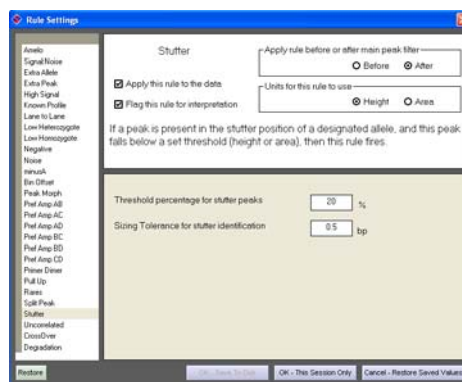
• Data included in Butler *et al.* (2003) *J. Forensic Sci.* 48(4): 908-911

• D13S317 African American allele 8 frequency changes from 0.03295 to 0.03101

### Types of Error Considered

- Expert system makes a wrong call
- Expert system misses a call

### FSS-i3 Rule Sets and Thresholds



### Batch Summary

83 samples x 16 loci = 1,328 potential allele calls

#### Profile Results

- **FP** (full profile) = 1,136 times
- **PP** (partial profile) = 96 times
- **FP-MIX** (full profile with potential mixture) = 80 times
- **NSD** (no signal detected) = 16 times → negative control

#### Rules Fired

72.1%

- **No rules fired = 957 times**
- Pref Amp AB = 89 times
- High signal = 75 times
- Pull-up = 66 times
- Extra allele, etc. = 57 times
- Extra peak, etc. = 26 times
- Noise = 21 times
- Signal:Noise, etc. = 19 times
- Degradation = 13 times
- Peak Morph = 4 times
- Bin Offset = 1 time

### Rules Fired by Locus

Loci	#Total	#0	#1	#2+
TPOX	83	75	6	2
CSF1PO	83	72	9	2
D16S539	83	68	15	0
D13S317	83	67	12	4
AMEL	83	66	17	0
D21S11	83	66	12	5
D5S818	83	65	5	13
FGA	83	64	10	9
D2S1338	83	63	15	5
D18S51	83	62	13	8
D7S820	83	57	25	1
TH01	83	56	22	5
D3S1358	83	52	22	9
D19S433	83	52	13	18
D8S1179	83	40	24	19
VWA	83	32	33	18

This information is output from one of Dave Duewer's programs

All loci had at least one rule fired

D19, D8, and VWA had the most rules fired – most problematic loci in terms of data review

### Rules Fired by Sample

Sample	#Total	#0	#1	#2+	# loci where a rule was fired
C18H	16	16	0	0	
C30H	16	16	0	0	
AF11H	16	15	1	0	
AF28H	16	15	1	0	
AF93C	16	15	1	0	
C11H	16	15	1	0	
C19H	16	15	1	0	
AF98C	16	15	0	1	
AF06H	16	14	2	0	
AF97C	16	14	2	0	
C04H	16	14	2	0	
C28H	16	14	2	0	
C15H	16	14	1	1	
C23H	16	14	1	1	
AF21H	16	14	0	2	

Provides a form of quality checks to the data examined

This information is output from one of Dave Duewer's programs

### Concordance Evaluation

- Identifier data collected on ABI 3100; 83 samples processed in a single 96-well plate with a single allelic ladder (84 samples total)
- Typed with GeneScan/Genotyper (MCK)
- Same data processed through GeneMapperID/FSS-i3 (JMB)
- Results from **81 samples compared** (removed pos. & neg.):
  - 67 samples matched with no data review
  - 14 pairs exhibited a mismatch with **unedited** FSS-i3 results
- **Examination of mismatches to determine which rules fired and if user would be able to make correct calls following editing**

STR\_MatchSamples.xls Output Under "Best Match" Showing Several Discordant Calls

Type	Sample	Q081174021811	Q158202	CFP1P0	Q301358	TH01	Q130317	CHES5392	Q201338	Q180433	VWA	TP53	Q18051	AMEL	Q55818	FGA
Unmatched	AF174 FSS	10.13	29.30	9.12	7.0	13.14	6.8	7.2	11.13	12.14	16.17%	13.17	3.7	12.13	20.22	
Unmatched	AF174 T011808dgt	10.13	29.30	9.12	7.0	13.14	6.8	7.2	11.13	12.14	16.17%	13.17	3.7	12.13	20.22	
Unmatched	AF094 FSS	13.16	29.31	2.7%	10.11	18.17	7	11.13	16.7	18.23	7.4	16.19%	18.21	3.7	9.11	22.24
Unmatched	AF094 T011808dgt	13.16	29.31	2.7%	10.11	18.17	7	11.13	16.7	18.23	7.4	16.19%	18.21	3.7	9.11	22.24
Unmatched	AF154 FSS	7.4	30.22	11.12	10.12	17.18	8.1	8.11	11.12	7.7	11.1	16.17	8.10	15.10	7.2	
Unmatched	AF154 T011808dgt	7.4	30.22	11.12	10.12	17.18	8.1	8.11	11.12	7.7	11.1	16.17	8.10	15.10	7.2	

**Example 1** "Loss" of an Allele  
**Example 2** "Gain" of an Allele  
**Example 3** "Wrong Call"

FSS-i3 Call (unedited)	D2S1338 7,24	vWA 16,18	FGA 7,51.2
Genotyper Call	D2S1338 24,26	vWA 18,18	FGA 22,26

**Example 1**  
 Unedited FSS-i3 Data:  
 D2S1338 Allele 26 "Loss"

RULE FIRINGS	
<b>Extra Allele</b>	allele A
<b>Pref Amp AB</b>	24, 1095 height
<b>Pref Amp AC</b>	allele B
<b>Pref Amp BC</b>	26, 574 height
obs. %	52.42%
thresh used	70.00%
upper thresh	70% at 200 ru
lower thresh	50 % at 100 ru

Generate Output

GeneMapper ID View of D2S1338 Allele 26 "Loss"

Heterozygote peak imbalance  
 $574/1095 = 52.4\%$

Stutter product (pointing to peak 24)  
 Stutter product (pointing to peak 26)

**Would re-amp and re-run but because of stutter product allele 26 was not ruled out**

**Example 2**  
 Unedited FSS-i3 Data:  
 Pull-up from TH01 to vWA

pull-up in other dye channels (pointing to off-scale peaks)

vWA (red box)

TH01 (purple dashed circle)

vWA size(bp) 180

FSS-i3 Rules Fired for vWA Locus

RULE FIRINGS	
<b>Pref Amp AB</b>	allele A
	18, 2894 height
	allele B
	16, 2006 height
obs. %	69.32%
thresh used	70.00%
upper thresh	70% at 200 ru
lower thresh	50 % at 100 ru

RULE FIRINGS		
<b>Pull Up 1/2</b>	pull-up allele	16
		176.19bp
		2006rfu
	source allele	TH01
		7
		176.02bp
		6444rfu
setting	Height	
threshold	80%	
obs %	31.13%	

RULE FIRINGS		
<b>Pull Up 2/2</b>	pull-up allele	16
		176.19bp
		2006rfu
	source allele	TH01
		7
		176.37bp
		6659rfu
setting	Height	
threshold	80%	
obs %	30.12%	

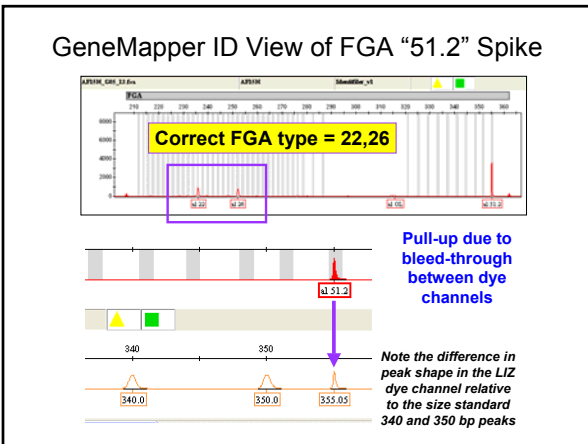
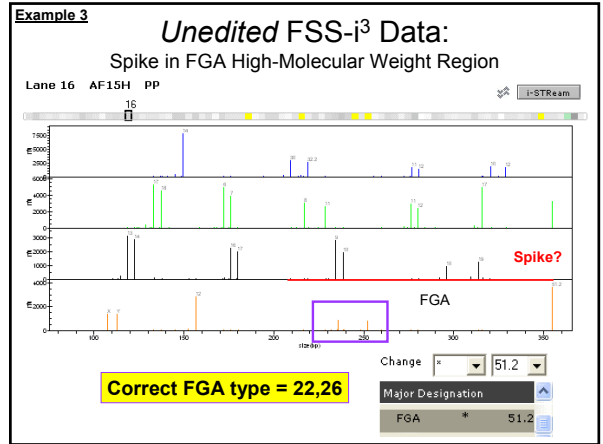
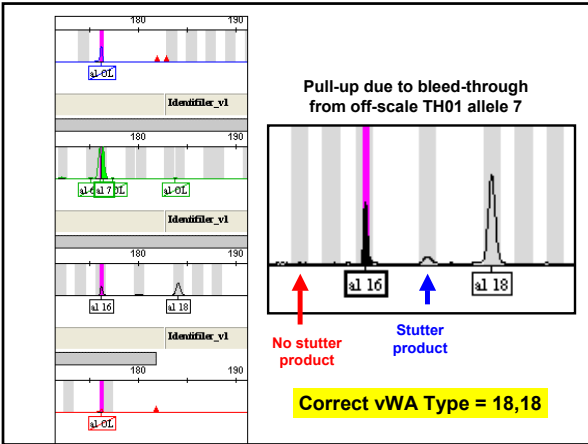
Generate Output

**Pull-up due to bleed-through from off-scale TH01 allele 7**

GeneMapper ID View

TH01 (off-scale)

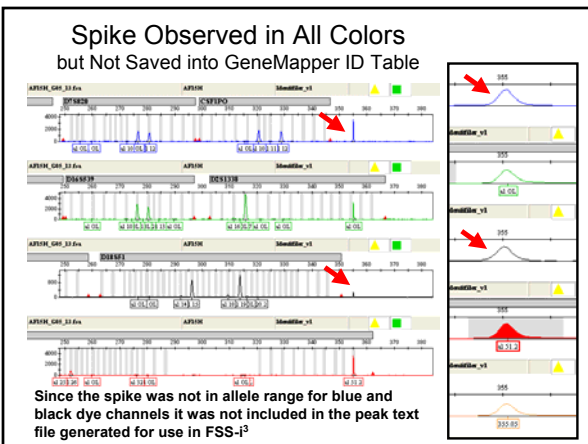
vWA (pull-up)



**FSS-i<sup>3</sup> Rules Fired**  
 Spike in FGA High-Molecular Weight Region

RULE FIRINGS		RULE FIRINGS		RULE FIRINGS	
Extra Allele		Pref Amp AB		Pref Amp AC	
rule settings		allele A		allele A	
N alleles	3	allele B	51.2, 3600 height	allele C	51.2, 3600 height
allele thresh	50	obs. %	24.33%	obs. %	21.83%
setting	Height	thresh used	70.00%	thresh used	70.00%
obs alleles	3	upper thresh	70% at 200 ru	upper thresh	70% at 200 ru
	21,22,25,26,51.2	lower thresh	50% at 100 ru	lower thresh	50% at 100 ru

**No pull up or peak morph. rule fired!**  
 – probably due to GeneMapperID data extraction problem?



**STR\_MatchSamples.xls Output Under "Best Match" Showing Several Discordant Calls**

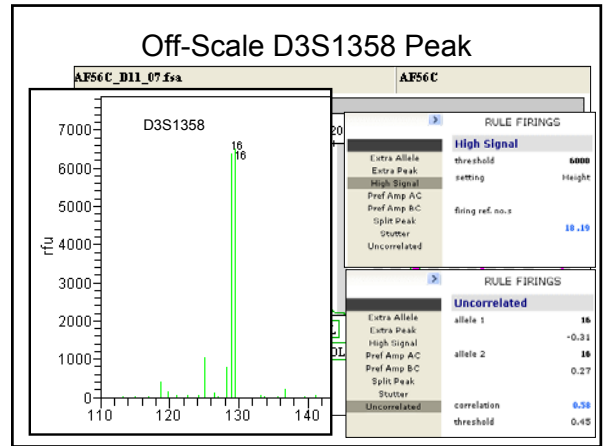
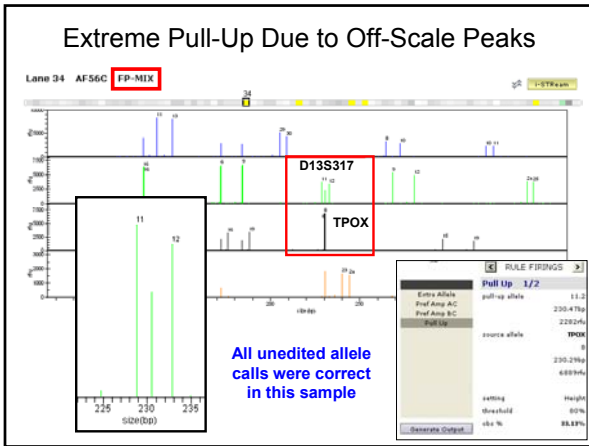
Type	Sample	CSB117D21B11	D7S822	CFR1PQ	D3S1358	TH01	GT	3B317	FGA	CSB117D21B11	AMEL	CSB117D21B11	FGA
Unmatched	AF17H FFG	10,13	29,30	9,12	7,10	13,14	6,8	7,2	11,13	13,14	16,17	13,17	12,13
Unmatched	AF17H T11806gr	10,13	29,30	9,12	7,10	13,14	6,8	7,2	11,13	13,14	16,17	13,17	12,13
Unmatched	AF09H FFG	13,16	29,31	2	7,10	10,11	16,17	7	11,13	18,23	7,4	16,19	16,21
Unmatched	AF09H T11806gr	13,16	29,31	2	7,10	10,11	16,17	7	11,13	18,23	7,4	16,19	16,21
Unmatched	AF15H FFG	7,4	30,32	2	11,12	10,12	17,18	6,1	11,12	7,7	13,1	16,17	15,19
Unmatched	AF15H T11806gr	7,4	30,32	2	11,12	10,12	17,18	6,1	11,12	7,7	13,1	16,17	15,19

**Example 1**  
 "Loss" of an Allele  
 FSS-i<sup>3</sup> Call (unedited) D2S1338 ?,24  
 Genotyper Call D2S1338 24,26  
 FSS-i<sup>3</sup> Call (edited) - after checking rule firings D2S1338 24,26 ?  
 Correct call is 24,24 (using 70% threshold)

**Example 2**  
 "Gain" of an Allele  
 FSS-i<sup>3</sup> Call (unedited) vWA 16,18  
 Genotyper Call vWA 18,18  
 FSS-i<sup>3</sup> Call (edited) - after checking rule firings vWA 18,18  
 Call would likely be edited (due to pull-up rule firing)

**Example 3**  
 "Wrong Call"  
 FSS-i<sup>3</sup> Call (unedited) FGA ?,51.2  
 Genotyper Call FGA 22,26  
 FSS-i<sup>3</sup> Call (edited) - after checking rule firings FGA 22,26  
 Pull-up and peak morph. rules did not fire but an experienced analyst would probably make the correct call during data review





### If No Rules Fired, Were There Any Mistakes?

- 957 genotypes made with "no rules fired" (1,328 possible types across 83 samples) – still must click through most samples
- Each genotype was carefully re-reviewed manually
- **No discrepancies (discordance) were noted in calls based on rules set**
- **This observation provides confidence that when no rules are fired, data quality is acceptable in the data sets reviewed thus far...**

### Reviewing a Large Data Set

Nice Features

- Rapid check of all allelic ladders and generation of composite allelic ladders
- Rapid processing of data

Cumbersome Features

- Having to click through every sample in order to review rule firings

### Developmental Validation Studies?

**SOFTWARE VALIDATION**

The FSS-i3™ expert systems software has been developed over time by the FSS and refined by casework analysts. Upon developing the software package, a large validation project was undertaken. Data from approximately 20,000 convicted offender samples and 50,000 crime-stain samples were analyzed using the software and compared to previous allele calls. Minor discrepancies were noted for only 0.03% of all samples, and all of these samples triggered rule firings that flagged the sample for further review by the user. This resulted in all discrepancies being resolved and no errors in calls made by the software. The results of the validation studies will be published in the future.

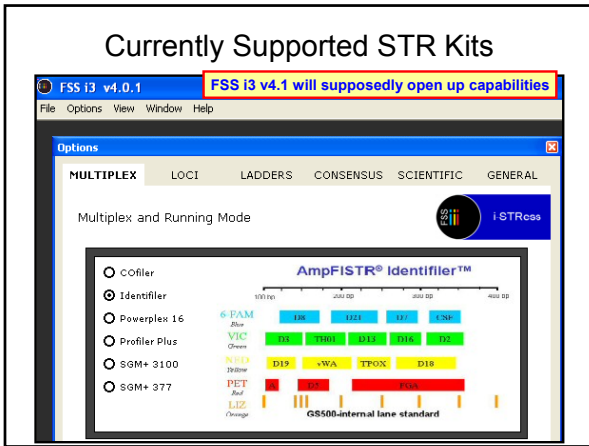
By Martin Ball and Curtis Knorr  
 The Forensic Science Service, United Kingdom, and Promega Corporation

Requests by NIST to both FSS and Promega for copies of developmental validation studies have not been acted upon...

We have also been told that validation studies will likely not be published since FSS has been privatized.

### What FSS i<sup>3</sup> cannot do...

- Process the following kits:
  - Profiler STR kit
  - Yfiler or PowerPlex Y kits (e.g., we have >1,200 Yfiler profiles available at NIST)
  - Custom assays (e.g., miniSTRs)
- Input/Output format issues:
  - Once data input and output formats have been created, cannot pull up formats to view and modify



- ### Thoughts Regarding FSS-i<sup>3</sup> Software
- There is a learning curve with the software
  - Much faster to process data but **full data review can be lengthy**
  - Must examine rule firings—cannot just accept unedited data


- ### What We Would Like to See Improved
- Suggestions for next update:
- Detailed User Manual
  - Capability of processing more kits and custom assays
  - **Accounting for all data points??**
  - Modify sample position layout in i-integrity to be a 96-well format
  - Permit allelic ladder to be in the A01 position
  - View data input/output formats and edit them
  - Save changes during session
  - System shuts down if 50/50 mixtures are present
    - Accommodate for this problem in i-STReam mixture module even if allele calls cannot be made

- ### Possibility of NIST Standard Data Set
- Is there any interest?
  - Data set of .fsa files could be made available for download from STRBase as WinZip files
  - Could be used for verifying allele calls with new allele calling software or upgrades to existing expert systems running in your lab

- ### Future Plans
- MIX05 Interlab mixture data sets have been run and data is currently under review to evaluate i-STReam module
  - More data sets are available at NIST and will be processed with FSS-i<sup>3</sup> for comparison purposes
  - Release additional software tools on STRBase (Dave Duewer programs)
  - Publish recommendations on approaches for validation of expert system software

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