

Countdown to 2017: Internal Validation of the New CODIS Loci

Workshop: Countdown to 2017: Internal Validation of the New CODIS Loci
26th annual International Symposium on Human Identification
October 15, 2015
Grapevine, TX

NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

Agenda

1. Meet the new loci! (Becky Steffen) 
2. Design of internal validation experiments (Peter Vallone)
3. Analysis and interpretation of validation data (Erica Romsos)
4. Examples of interpretation issues (Michael Coble)  

Workshop Overview

- **Description:** With the adoption of new core STR loci, the validation and implementation of the new STR typing kits will be required by 2017. This workshop aims to review the new loci, discuss the design and analysis of experiments for internal validation, and illustrate interpretation issues. Examples of real validation data will be used throughout the workshop.
- Brief review of new STR loci and commercially available STR typing kits
- Thoughts behind the design of internal validation experiments (the final application should guide the experiments)
- Examples of data analysis
- Discussion of specific interpretation issues

Materials related to this workshop can be found on STRbase
<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/strbase/training.htm>

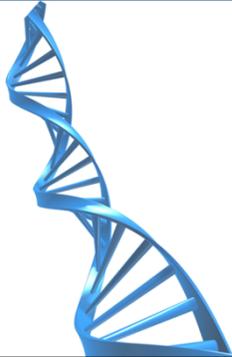
Disclaimer

We will mention commercial STR kit and instrument names, but we are in no way attempting to endorse any specific products.

NIST Disclaimer: Certain commercial equipment, instruments and materials are identified in order to specify experimental procedures as completely as possible. In no case does such identification imply a recommendation or it imply that any of the materials, instruments or equipment identified are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

Information presented does not necessarily represent the official position of the National Institute of Standards and Technology or the U.S. Department of Justice.

Acknowledgements



NIST
David Duewer
Margaret Kline
Steve Lund (NIST SED)
Sean Oliver (AFDIL)
Jo-Anne Bright (ESR)

Promega
Doug Storts

Contact Information
peter.vallone@nist.gov



Meet the New Loci:
An Introduction to the Additional Loci Beyond
the 13 Core Loci

Becky Steffen
National Institute of Standards and Technology

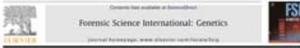
Validation Workshop
Countdown to 2017: Internal Validation of the New CODIS Loci
Grapevine, TX
October 15, 2015



Need for Additional STR Loci

- Larger DNA databases will require more loci
 - CODIS database currently has >14 million profiles and it continues to quickly grow
- To reduce the likelihood of adventitious matches in growing databases
- To increase international compatibility for data sharing efforts
- To increase discrimination power to aid missing persons cases

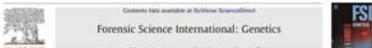
Expanded U.S. Core Loci



Letter to the Editor

Expanding the CODIS core loci in the United States

Hares, D.R. (2012a) Expanding the CODIS core loci in the United States. *Forensic Sci. Int. Genet.* 6(1), e52-4.



Letter to the Editor

Addendum to expanding the CODIS core loci in the United States

Hares, D.R. (2012b) Addendum to expanding the CODIS core loci in the United States. *Forensic Sci. Int. Genet.* 6(5), e135.

**Proposed Required and Recommended
 CODIS Core Loci**

Table 1
 Revised ranked list of CODIS core loci.

Locus	
Section A (required) Required Loci	
Amelogenin	
D18S51	
FGA	
D21S11	
D8S1179	
VWA	
D13S317	
D16S539	
D7S820	
TH01	
D3S1358	
D5S818	
CSF1PO	
D2S1338	
D19S433	
D151656	
D12S391	
D2S441	
D10S1248	
D2S391	
Section B (in order of preference) Recommended Loci	
TPOX	
D22S1045	
SE33	

Penta D and Penta E were removed from this list in the addendum

Y-STR to confirm Amelogenin null alleles

No longer required

Consortium Validation Project (CVP)
 October 2012 – July 2014

- The CVP involved a consortium of 11 CODIS laboratories representing casework, database and missing person laboratories
- Evaluated two STR multiplex kits that contain the proposed 20 CODIS core loci
 - Life Technologies' GlobalFiler® and GlobalFiler® Express PCR Amplification Kits
 - Promega PowerPlex® Fusion System
- Data from this validation project resulted in lessons learned and supported the final decision to expand the 13 CODIS core loci in the U.S. to 20

The Role of NIST in the CVP

- We provided 10 samples for the "Known Samples" portion of Component 1
- We worked closely with Doug Hares, the NDIS Custodian (oversees the U.S. National DNA Database), to evaluate all of the submitted data from each of the labs
- Dave Duewer has been instrumental in creating Excel macros to analyze the data and these programs are available for future validation studies
- We plan on co-publishing all of our findings in several manuscripts to the forensic community

Conclusions from the CVP

- Review of the validation data did not result in exclusion of any of the current 13 CODIS Core Loci or the proposed additional core loci
- Based on the validation data, it was determined that the 20 loci that were in common between the two available PCR amplification kits would be selected as the new 20 CODIS Core Loci: the original 13 CODIS Core Loci, D1S1656, D2S441, D2S1338, D10S1248, D12S391, D19S433 and D22S1045
- Amelogenin, DYS391, SE33, Penta D, and Penta E (also present in commercial STR kits) are accepted loci but are **NOT** required CODIS Core Loci

NIST U.S. Population Samples Used to Characterize the New Core Loci

NIST 1036 U.S. Population Samples

- 1032 males + 4 females
 - 361 Caucasians (2 female)
 - 342 African Americans (1 female)
 - 236 Hispanics
 - 97 Asians (1 female)
- Anonymous donors with self-identified ancestry
 - Interstate Blood Bank (Memphis, TN) – obtained in 2002
 - Millennium Biotech, Inc. (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) – obtained in 2001
 - DNA Diagnostics Center (Fairfield, OH) – obtained in 2007
- **Complete profiles with 23 autosomal STRs + PowerPlex Y23**
 - Examined with multiple kits and in-house primer sets enabling concordance
- Additional DNA results available on subsets of these samples
 - mtDNA control region/whole genome (AFDIL)
 - >100 SNPs (AIMs), 68 InDel markers, X-STRs (AFDIL)
 - NIST assays: miniSTRs, 26plex, >100 Y-STRs, 50 Y-SNPs

Unrelated samples
All known or potential related individuals (based on autosomal & lineage marker testing) have been removed from the 1036 data set (e.g., only sons were used from father-son samples)

Data available on STRBase: <http://www.cstl.nist.gov/strbase/NISTpop.htm>

Benefits of NIST 1036 Data Set

- **Elimination of potential null alleles due to primer binding site mutations** through extensive concordance testing performed with different PCR primer sets from all available commercial STR kits
- **Ancestry testing performed** on DNA samples with autosomal SNPs, Y-SNPs, and mtDNA sequencing to verify self-declared ancestry categorization
- **Related individuals removed** based on Y-STR and mtDNA results

Characterization of STR Loci 13 CODIS + 10 Additional (23 total)

The 10 STR Loci Beyond the CODIS 13

STR Locus	Location	Repeat Motif	Allele Range*	# Alleles*
D2S1338	2q35	TGCC/TTCC	10 to 31	40
D19S433	19q12	AAGG/TAGG	5.2 to 20	36
Penta D	21q22.3	AAAGA	1.1 to 19	50
Penta E	15q26.2	AAAGA	5 to 32	53
D1S1656	1q42	TAGA	8 to 20.3	25
D12S391	12p13.2	AGAT/AGAC	13 to 27.2	52
D2S441	2p14	TCTA/TCAA	8 to 17	22
D10S1248	10q26.3	GGAA	7 to 19	13
D22S1045	22q12.3	ATT	7 to 20	14
SE33	6q14	AAAG [†]	3 to 49	178

5 new European loci

*Allele range and number of observed alleles from Appendix 1, J.M. Butler (2011) *Advanced Topics in Forensic DNA Typing: Methodology*; [†]SE33 alleles have complex repeat structure

Acknowledgments

Dr. David Duewer


Dr. Doug Hares


Contact info:
becky.steffen@nist.gov
301-975-4275



Design of internal validation experiments

Peter M. Vallone, Ph.D.
Leader, Applied Genetics Group

Workshop: *Countdown to 2017: Internal Validation of the New CODIS Loci*
26th annual International Symposium on Human Identification
October 15, 2015
Grapevine, TX



Background

- Take you through our process of developing and carrying out an internal validation plan for PowerPlex Fusion 6C
- Why Fusion 6C – new for us
- Context: *at NIST we are primarily typing single source DNA extracts for population and concordance studies*
- We do not run casework samples or undergo audits
- **Not meant to be a recipe – improvements can be made**



Team of People

- Pete, Mike, Becky, Erica
- Steve Lund
- (NIST Statistical Engineering Division)
- Dave Duewer (NIST data analysis)
- Sean Oliver 
- Jo-Anne Bright 



Getting started – Homework

- Refresh our knowledge of internal validation
- Previous validation articles, talks, and workshops
 - What is new?
- Draft internal validation experiments
 - Discuss and revise

Documents to start

DOCUMENT TYPE	REF CODE	ISSUE NO.	ISSUE DATE
PROCT	ENFSI/DNA	015	November 2010
WORKING GROUP			

These are online for you to download
Not exhaustive

Initial Parameter Testing

- 'Test drive' the new STR typing kit
- Determine # of PCR cycles, injection time/voltage, and optimal DNA input amount
- This lays the groundwork for the validation experiments
- Carefully coordinate and quantitate candidate samples to be used in the validation work
- Running on a 24 capillary 3500xL; Veriti thermal cycler

DNA Template Quantitation

- The importance of selecting and characterizing the validation samples
- Use the same quantitation kit as one you have already validated
- For the sensitivity and mixture studies to be meaningful the samples must be well characterized (LOD, ratios)
- Our candidate validation samples were quantitated with PowerQuant and assigned a value against the SRM 2372 A calibration standard

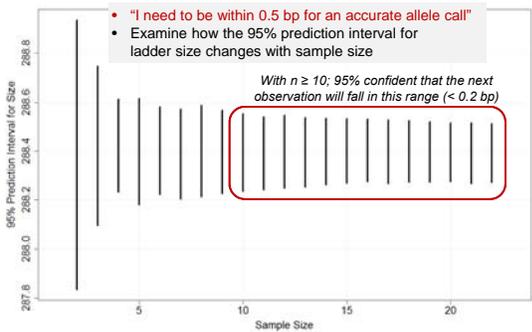
Top 10 unanswerable questions

1. How many samples do I need to run for my validation?
2. What is the meaning of life?
3. Did Tony Soprano die?
4. Is there a God?
5. Do blondes have more fun?
6. What is the best way to lose weight?
7. Is there anybody out there?
8. How many licks does it take to get to the center of a lollipop?
9. What is the secret to happiness?
10. How long will I live?



Confidence

Discrete measurements e.g. base pair sizing



Confidence

Kit/assay concordance

- Testing results from **Kit A** to **Kit B** – do I get the same genotype?
- Different: primers; mastermix; cycling conditions
- Typing multiple samples will provide confidence in the overall the genotyping process
 - Test different population groups, number of alleles, separation between alleles (in bp), challenging separations, etc
- Compare profiles and assess concordance across kits
e.g. < 99.3%
- Balancing cost and time

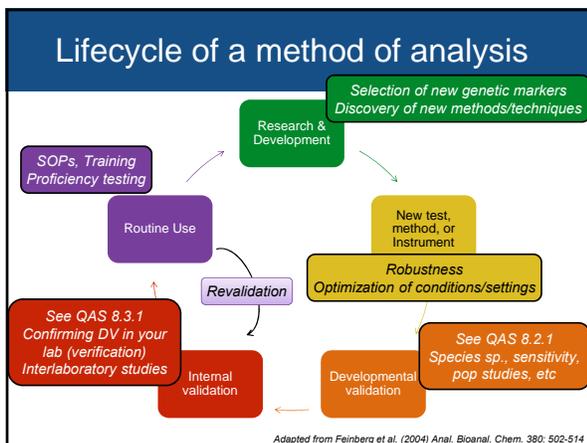
Confidence

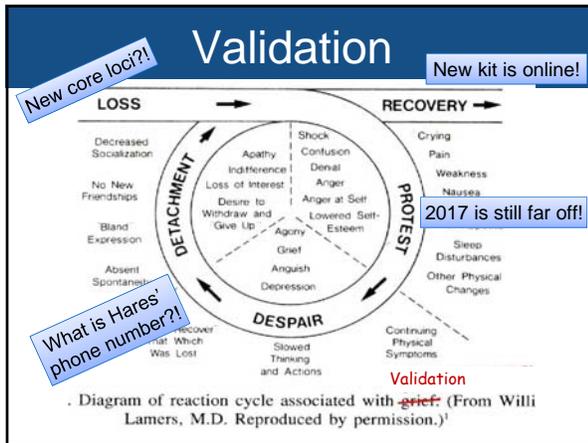
Genotyping

Steve Lund

- **Rule of 3:** When a particular outcome is not observed in the first n independent "trials," the observer can be 95% confident that the long-term (i.e. after MANY trials) proportion of future trials in which the particular outcome is observed is **less than 3/n**.
- Quick illustrations:
 - If you watch me make 100 free throws in a row, it's reasonable for you to conclude that I'm not worse than a 97% free-throw shooter ($3/100 = .03$).
 - If you observed no discordances in 10,000 allele designations, it's reasonable to conclude the rate of concordance is at least 99.97%.

This may be a reasonable means to assess confidence in genotyping
 Samples*loci*alleles = n
 $50*27*2 = 2,700$; $3/2,700 = 99.89\%$...is this useful? Maybe?





Internal Validation

- The internal validation process shall include the studies detailed below. If conducted within the same laboratory, developmental validation studies may satisfy some elements of the internal validation guidelines. The laboratory should evaluate the appropriate sample number and type, based on the methodology and/or application necessary to demonstrate the potential limitations and reliability. The laboratory should determine the suitability of each study based on the methodology and may determine that a study is not necessary.

SWGAM validation guidelines 2012

Internal Validation

- Known and nonprobative evidence samples or mock evidence samples
- Sensitivity and Stochastic Studies
- Precision and accuracy (Repeatability/Reproducibility)
- Mixture studies
- Contamination assessment

SWGAM validation guidelines 2012



Known and nonprobative evidence samples or mock evidence samples

- Methods intended for casework samples should be evaluated and tested using known samples and nonprobative evidence samples or mock case samples. Methods intended for database samples should be evaluated and tested using known samples. Results from these studies should be compared to the previous results of known samples and/or nonprobative evidence or mock case samples to **ensure concordance**.

Known and nonprobative evidence samples or mock evidence samples

- Why?
 - Genotype concordance
 - Baseline stutter and peak height balance values
 - Will the technique work with my 'type' of sample?
- Comments
 - Nonprobative or mock evidence: **NIST population samples**
 - Knowns: SRM 2391c can be useful (esp. with the newer STR loci)
 - Commercial controls, ATCC, Coriell, blood – **master set concept**
 - How many should be run?

Known and nonprobative

Sensitivity and Stochastic Studies

- The laboratory should demonstrate sensitivity levels of the test. Sensitivity studies are used to determine the **dynamic range, ideal target range, limit of detection, limit of quantitation, heterozygote balance (e.g., peak height ratio) and the signal to noise ratio associated with the assay.** Sensitivity studies can also be used to evaluate excessive random (stochastic) effects generally resulting from low quantity and/or low quality samples.

Sensitivity and Stochastic Studies

- Why?
 - Dynamic range of STR kit
 - Optimal DNA input target range
 - Analytical threshold**
 - Stochastic threshold (and effects/artifacts)
- Comments
 - Select samples with varying alleles and degrees of heterozygosity
 - Well characterized samples quantitated with appropriate qPCR kit
 - Dilution range?



Precision and accuracy of the assay should be demonstrated

- Precision** characterizes the degree of mutual agreement among a series of individual measurements, values and/or results. Precision depends only on the **distribution of random errors and does not relate to the true value or specified value.** The measure of precision is usually expressed in terms of imprecision and computed as a standard deviation of the test results.
- Accuracy** is the degree of conformity of a measured quantity to its **actual (true) value.** Accuracy of a measuring instrument is the ability of a measuring instrument to give responses close to a true value.

Repeatability: Precision and accuracy of results (e.g., quantitative and/or qualitative) of the **same operator** and/or detection instrument should be evaluated.

Reproducibility: Precision and accuracy of results (e.g., quantitative and/or qualitative) among **different operators** and/or detection instruments should be evaluated.

Precision and Accuracy Reproducibility and Repeatability

- Why
 - **Precision:** for STR typing we seem to mean bp sizing
 - Important for sizing peaks and assigning alleles
 - **Accuracy:** 'true value' – similar to genotype concordance
- Comments
 - Allelic ladders (Precision)
 - Positive control, knowns (Accuracy)
 - Repeatability: same sample typed multiple times (use the positive control)
 - Reproducibility: same samples run by different operators (nonprobative)



Mixture Studies

- Mixed DNA samples that are representative of those typically encountered by the testing laboratory should be evaluated. These studies will assist a casework laboratory to establish guidelines for **mixture interpretation**, which may include determination of the number of contributors to the mixture, determination of the major and minor contributor profiles, and contributor ratios or proportions. **A simplified mixture study may also assist a databasing laboratory to recognize mixtures and/or contamination.**

Mixture studies

- Why
 - General LOD for minor contributors in a mixture
 - Should mirror contamination LOD
 - Development of mixture interpretation guidelines
- Comments
 - Samples with varying degrees of allele overlap
 - Again, samples must be well characterized and quantitated
 - Varying ratios and contributors. Set total target DNA template amount
 - Basic study – more needed for mixture interpretation validation?



Contamination assessment

- The laboratory should evaluate, using both controls and known samples, the detection of exogenous DNA (including allele drop-in and heteroplasmy) originating from **reagents**, consumables, operator and/or laboratory environment.

Contamination assessment

- Why
 - **Reagents**
 - Consumables
 - Operator
 - Laboratory environment
- Comments
 - **Negative controls (TE/water)**
 - **Not reagent blanks, not CE checkerboards, zebra stripes**
 - **Focusing on the STR kit reagents; not CE crosstalk**



Internal validation plan

After discussing these Internal Validation topics...

- Sat down and discussed the experimental plan for validation, appropriate sample types, number of samples, dilutions, mixture ratios, and replicates
- Reference to previous studies, developmental validation studies, discussions with other labs performing validations
- Iterative process within our group

Master List of Samples

- NIST population samples (35)
- SRM 2391c (six samples) **44 total**
- 9947A, 9948, 2800M (three samples)
- Allelic ladder from kit

Known and nonprobative evidence samples or mock evidence samples

44 unique samples

- 35 NIST population samples
- 9947A and 9948
- Positive control 2800M
- 6 samples from SRM 2391c (knowns)



Known and nonprobative evidence samples or mock evidence samples

1 injection on 3500xL
 1 ladder
 1 pos/neg control

	1	2	3
A	SRM 2391c A	Ladder	
B	SRM 2391c B		
C	SRM 2391c C		
D	SRM 2391c D		
E	SRM 2391c E		
F	SRM 2391c F		
G	+		
H	-		



Known and nonprobative evidence samples or mock evidence samples

2 injections on 3500xL
 2 ladders
 2 pos/neg controls

	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	Ladder	9	17	25	33	1
B	2	10	18	26	34	16
C	3	11	19	27	35	24
D	4	12	20	28	9947a (36)	
E	5	13	21	29	9948 (37)	
F	6	14	22	30	+	
G	7	15	23	31	-	
H	8	+	-	32	Ladder	

Operator One

Positive control = 2800M

Known and nonprobative

Known and nonprobative evidence samples or mock evidence samples

2 injections on 3500xL
 2 ladders
 2 pos/neg controls

	7	8	9	10	11	12
Ladder	9	17	25	33	1	
2	10	18	26	34	16	
3	11	19	27	35	24	
4	12	20	28	9947a (36)		
5	13	21	29	9948 (37)		
6	14	22	30	+		
7	15	23	31	-		
8	+	-	32	Ladder		

Operator Two

Performed (amp and injection) by a different operator
 Reproducibility

Known and nonprobative

Precision and accuracy (rep&rep)

Sensitivity and Stochastic Studies

- 3 unique samples
 - High levels of heterozygosity
 - Subset of our nonprobatives (sample # 29, 31, 32)
- Run in triplicate
 - Three unique amplifications of the serial dilutions
- Dilution points
 - 2000, 1000, 500, 250, 125, 62.5, 31.3 pg

Sensitivity and stochastic

Sensitivity and Stochastic Studies

3 injections on 3500xL
 3 ladders
 3 pos/neg control

Sensitivity and stochastic

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	2.00	+	2.00	-	2.00	Ladder	2.00	Ladder	2.00
B	1.00	0.03	1.00	0.03	1.00	0.03	1.00	0.03	1.00
C	0.50	0.06	0.50	0.06	0.50	0.06	0.50	0.06	0.50
D	0.25	0.13	0.25	0.13	0.25	0.13	0.25	0.13	0.25
E	0.13	0.25	0.13	0.25	0.13	0.25	0.13	0.25	0.13
F	0.06	0.50	0.06	0.50	0.06	0.50	0.06	0.50	0.06
G	0.03	1.00	0.03	1.00	0.03	1.00	0.03	1.00	0.03
H	Ladder	2.00	-	2.00	+	2.00	-	2.00	+
	Sample 29			Sample 31			Sample 32		

Sensitivity and Stochastic Studies

3 injections on 3500xL
 3 ladders

Sensitivity and stochastic

3 Comments on sensitivity (from RSO)

- For low template work test down to 15 pg
- For databasing labs test higher limits to confirm upper end (for 'blown out' signal)
- Sensitivity is a function of STR kit/lab/CE parameters (can't just rely on Dev. Validation)
- It is important for the internal validation to assess this performance

	9
A	2.00
B	1.00
C	0.50
D	0.25
E	0.13
F	0.06
G	0.03
H	+

Precision and Accuracy Reproducibility and Repeatability

Precision and accuracy (rep&rep)

- 35 allelic ladders were run
 - One ladder per injection (11)
 - One injection of just ladders (24) (to cover all capillaries)
- 6 + 37 knowns/nonprobative (genotype accuracy)
- 16 Positive controls
 - A positive was typed per every 24 samples (one per injection) for repeatability
 - Repeatability: positive also typed six times in a single experiment
- 37 samples were typed by another operator as part of the reproducibility study – as discussed in the known and nonprobative section

Mixture studies

2 injections on 3500xL
 2 ladders
 2 pos/neg control Three, two person mixtures

Mixtures

	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	20:1	20:1	1:1	1:1	20:1	20:1
B	15:1	15:1	1:2	1:2	15:1	15:1
C	10:1	10:1	1:3	1:3	10:1	10:1
D	5:1	5:1	1:5	1:5	5:1	5:1
E	3:1	3:1	1:10	1:10	3:1	3:1
F	2:1	2:1	1:15	1:15	2:1	2:1
G	1:1	1:1	1:20	1:20	1:1	1:1
H	+	-	Ladder	+	-	Ladder
	Samples 27:28		Samples 35:33		Samples 8:2	

Mixture studies

1 injection on 3500xL
 1 ladder
 6 pos/7 neg control

Mixtures

	7	8	9
9947A:9948	1:1	1:1:1	+
	1:1	5:4:1	+
	1:1:1	+	-
Samples 9:2:7	5:4:1	-	Samples 22:16:6
	1:1:1	1:1:1	-
	5:4:1	5:4:1	-
	-	+	-
	Ladder	-	-

Contamination assessment

- 17 negative controls (TE) were interspersed throughout the study
- Focusing on the STR reagent kits
- Evaluate for allele and elevated noise

Contamination

Comments

- Discussions between members of the validation team were invaluable
 - Pull in new people as needed
 - Asking Why? versus just How many?
- Create a sizeable pool of well characterized samples
 - This will not be your last internal validation
- An opportunity for members of the lab to have buy in on the experiments that will become part of SOP

Acknowledgements



NIST
David Duewer
Margaret Kline
Steve Lund (NIST SED)
Sean Oliver (AFDIL)
Jo-Anne Bright (ESR)

Promega
Doug Storts

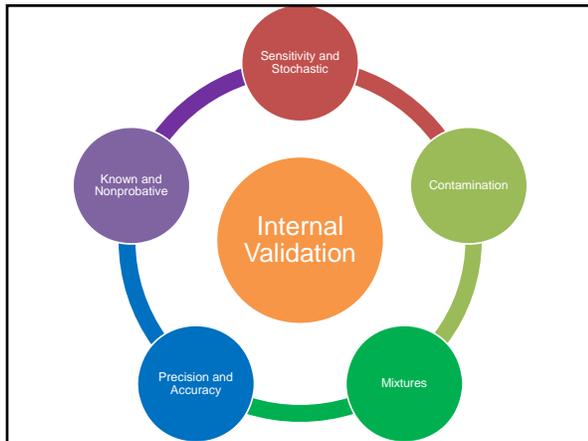
Contact Information
peter.vallone@nist.gov



Analysis of Validation Data

Erica Romsos
National Institute of Standards and Technology

Validation Workshop
Countdown to 2017: Internal Validation of the New CODIS Loci
Grapevine, TX
October 15, 2015



Assumptions Being Made

- All samples have been extremely well quantified prior to testing
 - PowerQuant chemistry
 - All candidate samples tested in triplicate
 - SRM 2372 Component A used for producing the standard curve (in triplicate)
 - Precise standard curve produced for all samples (within the limits expected for slope, intercept and R²)

Initial Parameter Testing

- 7 samples were selected for initial testing
 - Diluted to 0.5 ng/μL and 1.0 ng/μL
- Amplified in triplicate using PowerPlex Fusion 6C
 - 28 cycles, 29 cycles, 30 cycles
- Injected on 3500xL at 1.2 kV
 - 24 seconds, 15 seconds, 8 seconds

Initial Parameter Testing: Signal

Per the manufacturer's guidelines the signal range targeted was 4000-8000 RFU

DNA Input Amount and Cycle Number	Injection Time			Average Observed RFU Values
	8s	15s	24s	
0.5ng_28cyc	613	1473	2433	
0.5ng_29cyc	1123	2309	3695	
0.5ng_30cyc	2592	4795	7900	
1.0ng_28cyc	1080	2338	4231	
1.0ng_29cyc	3015	5773	9886	
1.0ng_30cyc	4950	8699	13642	

Amplification and detection instrumentation may vary. You may need to optimize protocols including the amount of template DNA, cycle number, injection conditions and loading volume for your laboratory instrumentation. Testing at Promega shows that 29 cycles works well for 1.0ng of purified DNA templates.

Initial Parameter Testing: Peak Height Ratios

DNA Input Amount	Injection Time			Average Observed Peak Height Ratio
	8s	15s	24s	
0.5ng_28cyc	89.0%	88.9%	89.0%	
0.5ng_29cyc	89.6%	89.5%	89.5%	
0.5ng_30cyc	86.8%	86.8%	86.7%	
1.0ng_28cyc	92.4%	92.4%	92.3%	
1.0ng_29cyc	91.7%	91.8%	91.8%	
1.0ng_30cyc	90.9%	90.9%	90.8%	

Peak height ratios were less than 90% with 0.5 ng DNA input at all cycling and injection parameters

Initial Parameter Testing: Decision Making

- Comparison of signal strength at each parameter and peak height ratios
- Signal was within the “sweet spot” at 1.0 ng DNA input, 29 cycles, and 15 second injection at 1.2 kV
- Highest peak height ratios were observed at 1.0 ng DNA input, 28 cycles, and 15 second injection at 1.2 kV
 - Signal was low at these parameters (~2300 RFU)

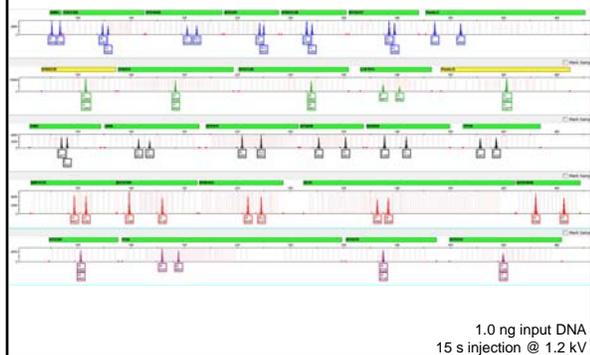
Final Parameters

Signal Strength		Injection Time			Average Observed RFU Values
		8s	15s	24s	
DNA Input Amount and Cycle Number	0.5ng_28cyc	613	1473	2433	
	0.5ng_29cyc	1123	2309	3695	
	0.5ng_30cyc	2592	4795	7900	
1.0ng_28cyc	1080	2338	4231		
1.0ng_29cyc	3015	5773	9886		
1.0ng_30cyc	4950	8699	13642		

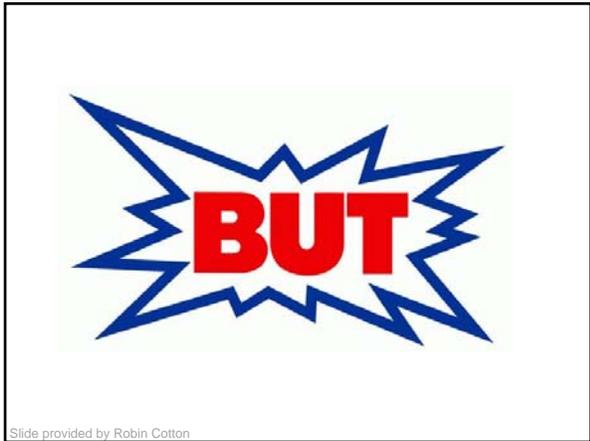
Peak Height Ratios		Injection Time			Avg Obs PHR
		8s	15s	24s	
DNA Input Amount	1.0ng_28cyc	92.35%	92.45%	92.34%	
	1.0ng_29cyc	91.72%	91.82%	91.80%	
	1.0ng_30cyc	90.91%	90.90%	90.83%	

1.0 ng DNA input, 29 cycles, and 15 second injection at 1.2 kV was selected for moving forward with internal validation testing

Representative Electropherogram



From here we move into our internal validation strategy



The data is here!

Plan A

Plan B

Slide provided by Robin Cotton



Sensitivity Testing: Experimental Design

Sensitivity and Stochastic

- Three mostly heterozygous samples selected
 - 112 individual alleles represented
- Diluted from stock to the following DNA input amounts:
 - 2.0 ng, 1.0 ng, 0.5 ng, 0.25 ng, 0.125 ng, 0.0625 ng, and 0.031 ng
- Amplified in triplicate with positive and negative controls

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
A	2.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	Ladder	2.00	Ladder	2.00	
B	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	
C	0.50	0.25	0.50	0.25	0.50	0.25	0.50	0.25	
D	0.25	0.13	0.25	0.13	0.25	0.13	0.25	0.13	
E	0.13	0.06	0.13	0.06	0.13	0.06	0.13	0.06	
F	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.03	
G	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.01	
H	Ladder	2.00	2.00	2.00	Ladder	2.00	2.00	2.00	
	Sample 29			Sample 31			Sample 32		

Sensitivity Testing: Goals

Sensitivity and Stochastic

- Establishment of thresholds
 - Analytical and stochastic thresholds

350 RFUs — Stochastic Threshold
 Reasonable to assume that allelic dropout has not occurred

150 RFUs — Analytical Threshold
 Minimum threshold peak detection and allele calling

Called Peak
 (Cannot be confident dropout did not occur)

Noise

Example values (empirically determined based on own internal validation)

Butler, J.M. (2009) Fundamentals of Forensic DNA Typing. Elsevier Academic Press: San Diego.

Analytical Threshold: Methodology

Sensitivity and
Stochastic

- Calculated the average noise per dye channel

f_x =AVERAGE('Raw Data Export (For Dye)'!R2C6:R484C105)

Select all data for each dye set and calculate average, standard deviation, minimum, and maximum within Excel

Analytical Threshold: Calculations

Sensitivity and
Stochastic

AT = Average Noise + 10(SD)

Dye Specific Analytical Thresholds

	Average	Stdev	Min	Max
FL	11	11.5	1	104
JOE	14	13.9	2	241
TMR-ET	11	11.0	1	160
CXR-ET	13	15.2	2	154
TOM	9	6.4	1	88

Heat Map Explanation

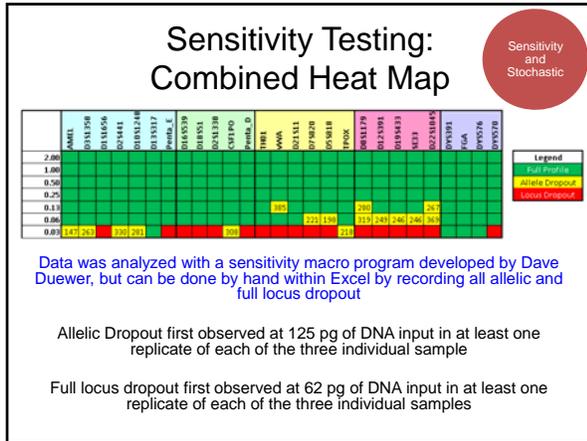
Results broken down by locus

Green = full (correct) type
Yellow = allele dropout
Red = locus dropout

A single profile slice

A replicate slice

This is an easy way to look at a lot of data at once



Stochastic Threshold: Methodology

Sensitivity and
Stochastic

- Analyzed data from the sensitivity study with dye specific analytical thresholds
- Examined sample amounts where dropout was observed (125 pg, 62 pg, and 31 pg)
 - Used to examine stochastic effects including severe imbalance of heterozygous alleles and allele dropout

70 heterozygous loci were evaluated

Stochastic Threshold: Calculations

Sensitivity and
Stochastic

Stochastic Threshold: The RFU value of highest surviving false homozygous peak per dye channel

	Blue	Green	Yellow	Red	Purple
min	135	159	125	167	79
max	452	431	385	369	357
average	209	240	166	232	184
stdev	71	81	52	53	128

Summary of Thresholds

PowerPlex Fusion 6C: 15 sec @ 1.2 kV (29 cycles; 1.0 ng DNA Input)			
	AT (RFU)	Highest Surviving Peak (RFU)	ST (RFU)
FL	130	452	455
JOE	155	431	435
TMR-ET	125	385	385
CXR-ET	165	369	370
TOM	75	357	360

Thresholds need to be reestablished when changes to DNA input, injection time, injection voltage, and number of cycles are altered

Peak Height Ratios

- All samples at 1.0 ng of DNA input included in PHR calculation
 - Positive controls (n=16)
 - Non-probative (n=37)
 - Known (n=5)
 - 1.0 ng sensitivity (n=9)

Median peak height ratio above 87% across all 1.0 ng DNA samples (n=67)

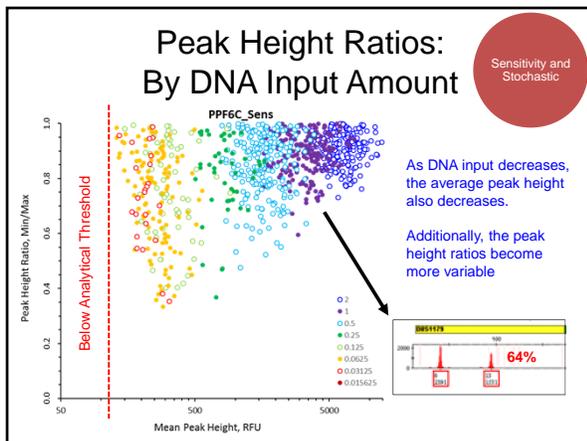
Locus	Median
TPOX	0.939
D5S818	0.934
D13S317	0.927
D16S539	0.922
D1S1656	0.917
D18S51	0.913
D2S441	0.910
TH01	0.909
D10S1248	0.909
D8S1179	0.908
D7S820	0.908
vWA	0.902
D19S433	0.901
D21S11	0.901
AMEL	0.901
Penta_E	0.899
Penta_D	0.898
SE33	0.898
D2S1338	0.896
D22S1045	0.892
D3S1358	0.892
FGA	0.889
D12S391	0.884
CSF1PO	0.871

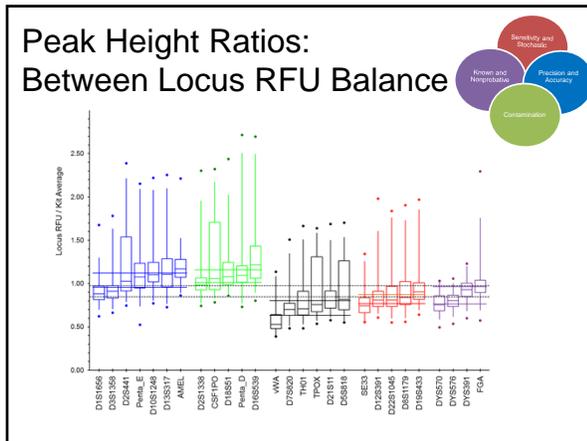
Sensitivity and Stochastic

Precision and Accuracy

Contamination

Known and Nonprobative





Stutter Percentages

- All samples at 1.0 ng of DNA input included in PHR calculation
 - Positive controls (n=16)
 - Non-probative (n=37)
 - Known (n=5)
 - 1.0 ng sensitivity (n=9)

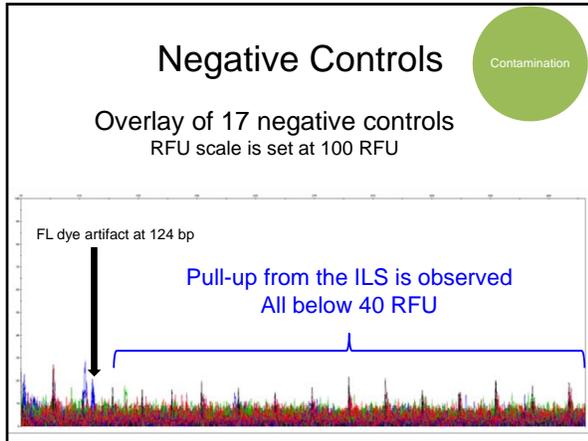
Stutter percentages ranged from 1.88% (Penta D) to 15.55% (SE33)

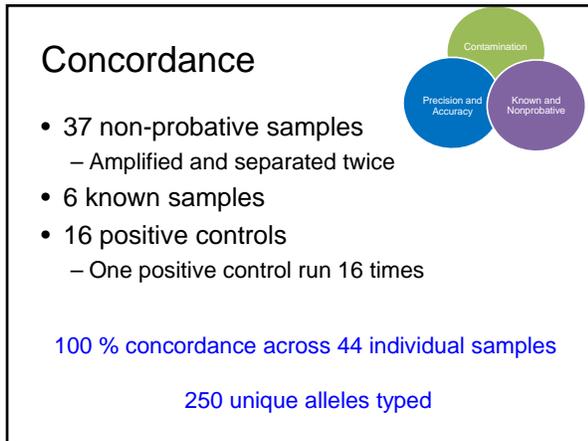
Loci	Median
Penta_D	1.88
TH01	2.01
Penta_E	3.38
TPOX	3.59
D2S441	5.21
D13S317	5.69
D7S820	6.43
D5S818	6.66
CSF1PO	6.81
DYS391	6.89
D19S433	7.10
D16S539	7.34
D6S1179	7.56
FGA	7.85
D21S11	8.16
D2S1338	8.34
vWA	8.38
DYS570	8.53
D10S1248	8.60
D1S1656	8.62
D3S1358	8.84
DYS576	8.90
D18S51	8.92
D22S1045	8.99
D12S391	9.01
SE33	15.55

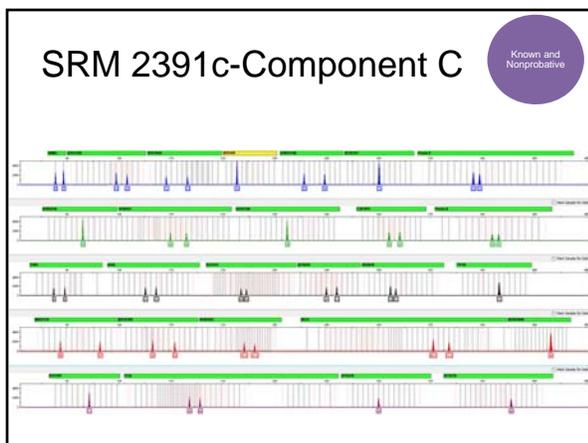
Contamination

- 17 negative controls evaluated
- No observed contamination (peaks above AT)
- Pull-up from ILS observed

Artifact observed ~124 bp in the FL dye in all negative controls



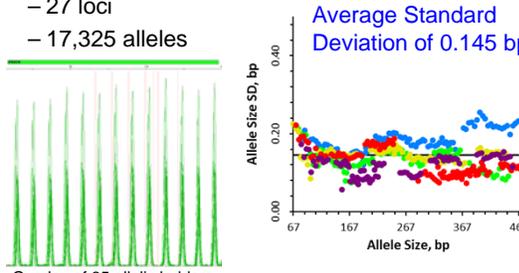




Precision and Accuracy

Precision and Accuracy

- 35 allelic ladders analyzed
 - 27 loci
 - 17,325 alleles



Average Standard Deviation of 0.145 bp

Allele Size SD, bp

Allele Size, bp

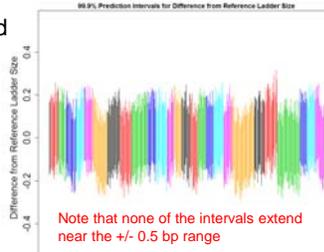
Overlay of 35 allelic ladders

Precision and Accuracy

Precision and Accuracy

One injection of 24 ladders performed

- 1 ladder assigned as the “ladder”
- 22 ladders assigned as samples
- 1 ladder failed



99.9% Prediction Intervals for Difference from Reference Ladder Size

Difference from Reference Ladder Size

Note that none of the intervals extend near the +/- 0.5 bp range

How wide of an interval would you need to capture 99.9% of future allele calls?

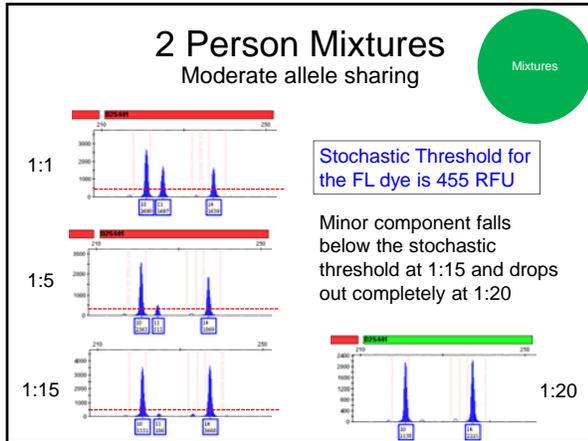
Repeatability

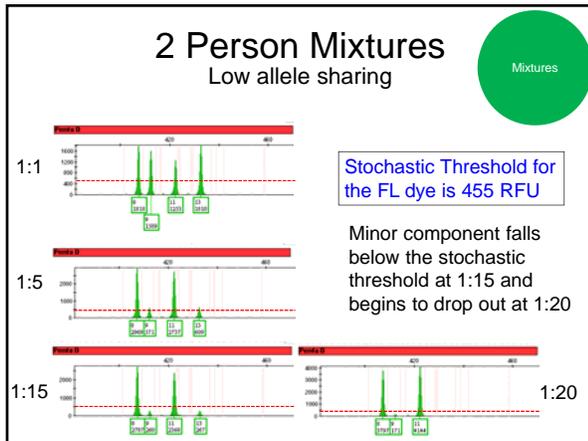
Precision and Accuracy

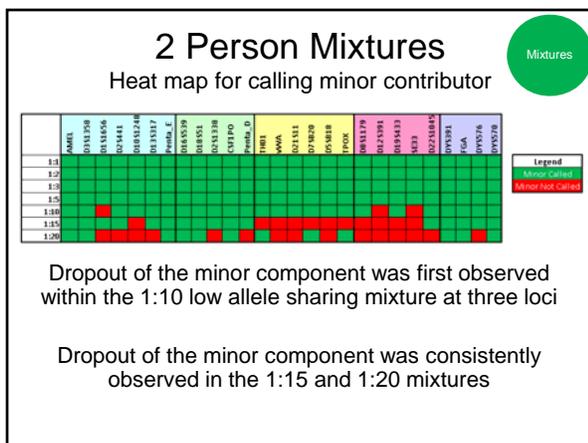
Known and Nonprobative

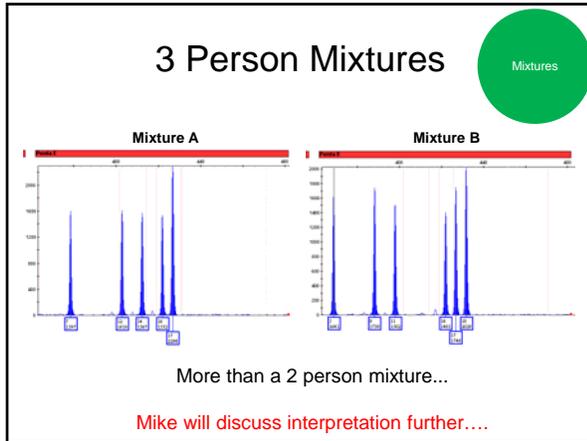
- Positive control typed in every injection
- One injection with 6 positive controls
- Total of 16 positive controls typed by a single operator

100 % concordance across 16 positive controls









NIST Software Tools Used

Developed by Dave Duewer (NIST)



- In-house software programs have been developed to assist with data analysis and concordance studies
 - Peak Height Ratios, stutter, allele frequencies, population statistics, concordance
- Recently, additional programs have been developed to aid in the FBI Consortium Validation Project (CVP)
 - Precision, sensitivity and stochastic, mixture, challenging and non-probative samples
- **These programs can be utilized during validation studies**

http://www.cstl.nist.gov/strbase/pub_pres/ValidationWebinar-Hill-Aug2014.pdf

New NIST Software Tools

Developed by Dave Duewer (NIST)



From NIST STRBase Website:

- **STR_AlleleFreq**
 - Allele frequencies
 - Peak height ratios
 - Inter-locus balance
- **STR_StutterFreq**
 - Stutter frequencies
 - Locus-specific stutter
 - Allele-specific stutter
- **STR_Genotype**
 - Population statistics
 - Allele frequencies

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

Multiple tools within Excel used to evaluate data

General Summary

1.0 ng DNA input, 29 cycles, and 15 second injection at 1.2 kV

	AT (RFU)	Highest Surviving Peak (RFU)	ST (RFU)
FL	130	452	455
JOE	155	431	435
TMR-ET	125	385	385
CXR-ET	165	369	370
TOM	75	357	360

Peak height ratios above 70% for 98% of the data at 1.0ng DNA input

Stutter percentages ranged from 2% to 15%

Precision within 0.15 base pairs

100% Concordance (for knowns, positives, and nonprobatives)

Minor component within mixtures can be detected at 1:15

Conclusions

- Validation is a necessary evil within any laboratory
 - With the implementation of the new CODIS loci, everyone is doing it (so you're not alone)
- The data generated from your internal validation determine **interpretation guidelines** and sets the groundwork for writing your SOPs
- With any changes to your initial protocols (cycle number, injection time, injection voltage, etc) you need to revalidate to determine appropriate thresholds for data analysis and interpretation
 - The new STR kits are more sensitive and may require additional testing at the lower bounds

Acknowledgments

Dr. David Duewer (NIST)
 Dr. Charlotte Word (Consultant)
 Dr. Robin Cotton (BU)
 Dr. Jo Bright (ESR)

Contact info:
erica.romsos@nist.gov
 +1-301-975-5107





Interpretation Issues

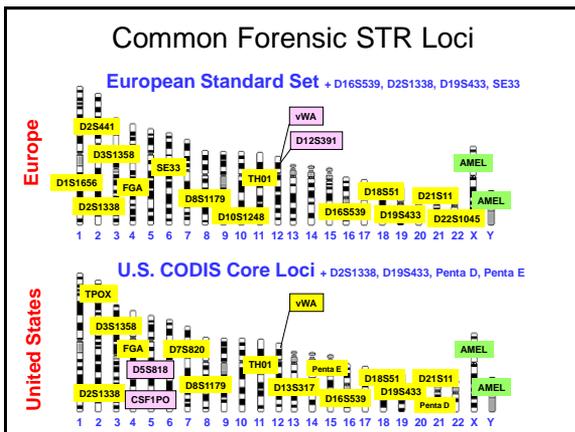
Michael Coble
 National Institute of Standards and Technology

Validation Workshop
 Countdown to 2017: Internal Validation of the New CODIS Loci

Grapevine, TX
 October 15, 2015

Some things to know...

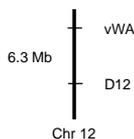
- Syntenic STRs
- One-base separation issues
- Stutter issues



Syntenic Loci – vWA and D12S391

Table 2
 Inter-STR physical separation, genetic distances in cM and Kosambi-adjusted recombination fractions (Rc) for the 20 closest STR pairs.

Chrom.	STR pair	d(SNP identifiers or repeat region/ neighbour SNPs)	SNP position	Physical distance in nucleotides	cM interval of closest MapMap SNP probes	Rc from Kosambi mapping function
6	SE33	rs71021371	88,086,027	3,462,987	4.4141	0.0440
	D6S1043	rs11544865	92,449,914			
21	D21S2055	rs113225349	41,191,444	3,865,246	9.9114	0.0978
	D12S391	rs7279663	45,056,212			
12	vWA	rs10729067	6,093,104	6,357,030	11.9414	0.1172
	D12S391	rs113002069	12,450,134			
8	D8S1132	rs71307053	107,328,546	18,583,159	16.4798	0.1591
	D8S1179	rs67563232	126,507,114			
6	D6S1043	rs11544865	92,449,914	20,430,123	18.7992	0.1796
	D6S474	rs113991233	112,879,130			



Phillips et al. FSI:G (2012)

Syntenic Loci – vWA and D12S391

- Given the close proximity of these loci, should we be concerned when we evaluate the rarity of a match?
- It depends on the question asked...

Syntenic Loci – vWA and D12S391

- For RMP statistics – there is no apparent association between the loci. It is perfectly fine to multiply these probabilities as the loci act independently.
- For very close kinship scenarios (parent-child). The association DOES make a difference.

An evaluation of potential allelic association between the STRs vWA and D12S391: Implications in criminal casework and applications to short pedigrees

Peter Gill^{a,b,c}, Chris Phillips^c, Catherine McGovern^d, Jo-Anne Bright^d, John Buckleton^d

^aDepartment of Forensic Genetics, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, 0403 Oslo, Norway
^bBiologisk Institutt, University of Oslo, Norway
^cForensic Genetics Unit, Institute of Legal Medicine, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
^dCSI, PO 3302, Auckland, New Zealand

Forensic Science International: Genetics 6 (2012) 473–486

Short communication

Effect of linkage between vWA and D12S391 in kinship analysis[☆]

Kristen L. O'Connor^{a,1}, Andreas O. Tillmar^{b,c}

¹U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8174, United States
^aNational Board of Forensic Medicine, Department of Forensic Genetics and Forensic Toxicology, Linköping, Sweden

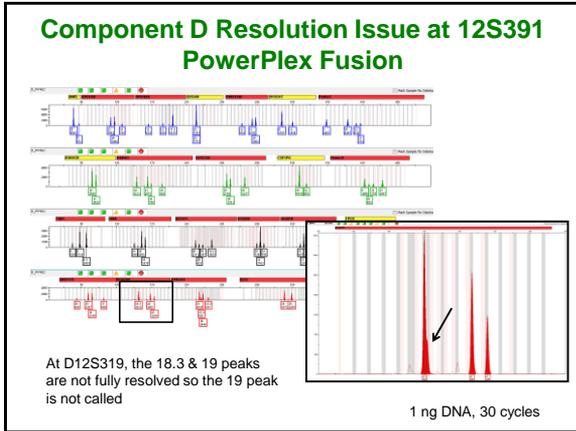
Forensic Science International: Genetics 6 (2012) 840–844

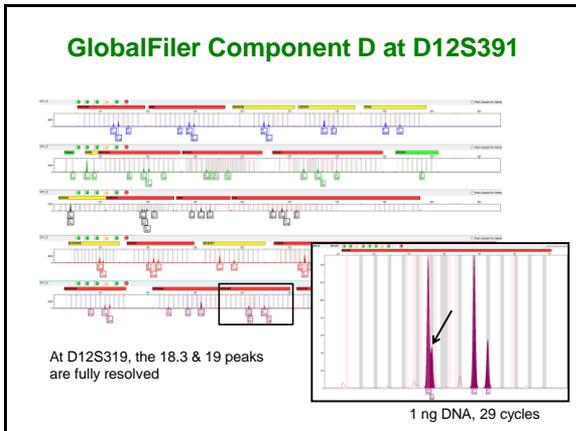
Possible solutions

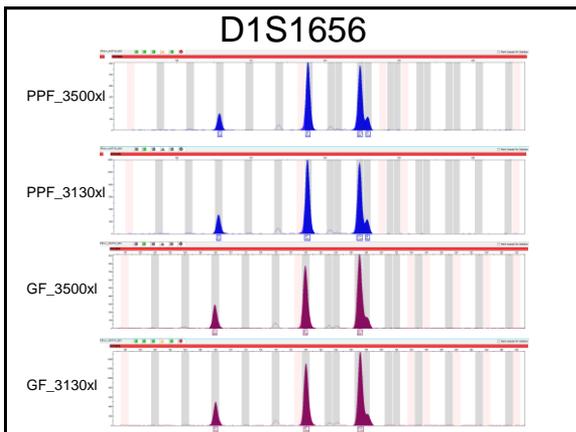
- (1) Drop one of the loci (*Budowle et al. JLM (2011)*).
- (2) Treat the two loci as a haplotype.
- (3) Incorporate the recombination frequency into the LR (*Gill et al. FSI:G (2012)*).

One-base Separation

- Noted during the CVP when component D of the NIST SRM 2391c was analyzed.
- D12S3391 – major = 18,3, 22
minor = 19, 23







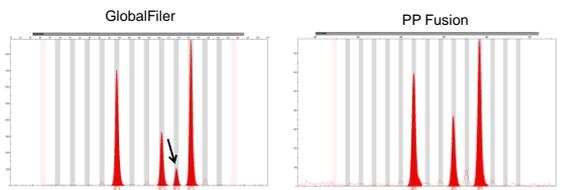
One-base Separation

- This has also been observed in TF kits
- D1S1656 may also show this phenomena (several common microvariants).
- May especially be an issue with mixture samples...

Stutter Issues

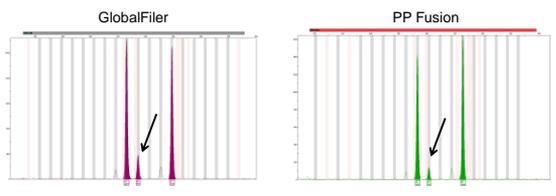
- Some labs are reporting an increase in +4 (forward) stutter.
- Be aware of D22S1045 – trinucleotide repeat.
- Developed as a non-CODIS miniSTR locus.

D22S1045 Issue



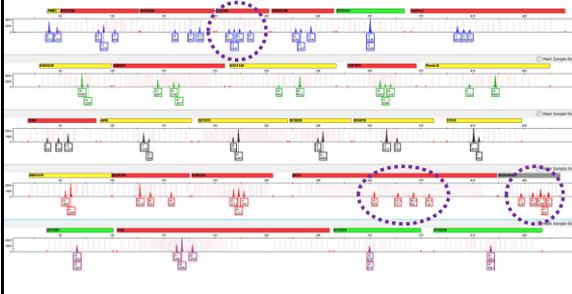
High stutter peak was called with GlobalFiler but not with PP Fusion for Sample 9 (mixture)

D2S1338 Issue



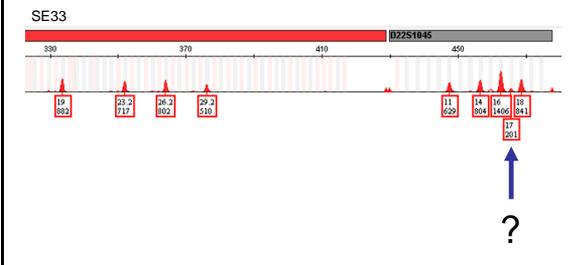
High forward stutter peak was called with both kits for NIST Sample 6

DNA Mixture



9947a+9948 (1:1 ratio)

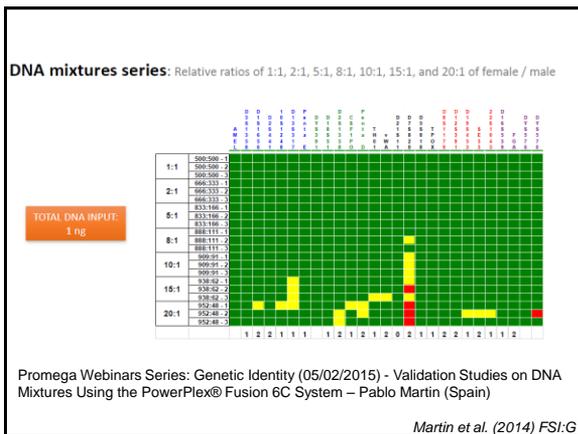
9947a+9948 (1:1 ratio)



Mixtures

Goals of validating mixtures

- How low can I detect the minor contributor?
- Am I paying attention to major contributor stutter and minor contributor alleles?



Goals of validating mixtures

- Higher order mixtures (3+) – you can't test all possible ratios!
- The greater concern with 3+ person mixtures is allele stacking!
- Can you detect all contributors? Does stacking lead to false genotypes?

Forensic Science International: Genetics 19 (2015) 207–211

Short communication

Uncertainty in the number of contributors in the proposed new CODIS set

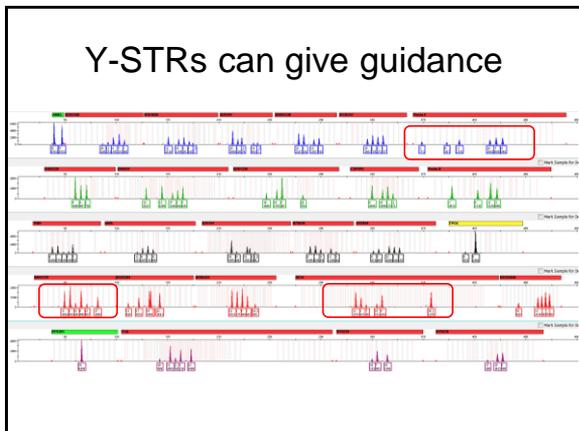
Michael D. Coble^{a,*}, Jo-Anne Bright^{b,c}, John S. Buckleton^{a,b}, James M. Curran^c

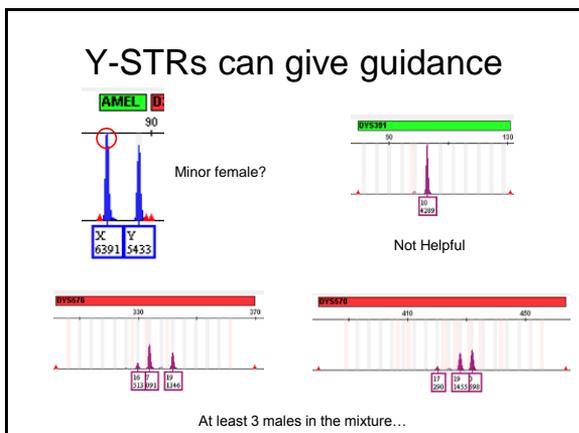
^aNational Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, USA
^bESR, Private Bag 92021, Auckland 1142, New Zealand
^cUniversity of Auckland Department of Statistics, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142, New Zealand

Table 3
 Cumulative probability of an *N* person mixture appearing as a *k* or fewer person mixture, where *k* = 1, ..., *N* - 1 for the Caucasian allele frequencies.

Configuration (# loci)	<i>N</i> contributor mixture	Appearing as <i>k</i> or fewer				
		1	2	3	4	5
Existing CODIS (13)	6	2.13E-40	6.3E-09	0.1612	0.9456	0.9999
GlobalFiler (21)		5.4E-75	9.11E-21	5.31E-05	0.3882	0.8399
Proposed CODIS (20)		1.18E-66	1.68E-16	0.0039	0.6798	0.9909
Fusion (22)		1.51E-75	2.11E-19	0.0009	0.5758	0.9941
Existing CODIS (13)	5	9.66E-33	2.10E-06	0.4141	0.9897	
GlobalFiler (21)		8.21E-61	7.1E-15	0.0048	0.6039	
Proposed CODIS (20)		5.62E-54	9.1E-12	0.0592	0.8228	
Fusion (22)		3.57E-61	7.8E-14	0.0270	0.8883	
Existing CODIS (13)	4	6.82E-25	0.0005	0.7806		
GlobalFiler (21)		4.15E-46	3.5E-09	0.1051		
Proposed CODIS (20)		6.13E-41	3.1E-07	0.4223		
Fusion (22)		2.05E-46	1.8E-08	0.3309		
Existing CODIS (13)	3	8.4E-17	0.0595			
GlobalFiler (21)		5.83E-31	0.0004			
Proposed CODIS (20)		1.66E-27	0.0011			
Fusion (22)		3.52E-31	0.0010			
Existing CODIS (13)	2	1.7E-08				
GlobalFiler (21)		2.1E-15				
Proposed CODIS (20)		1E-13				
Fusion (22)		1.60E-15				

Coble et al. in press





Mixtures

- Are you testing the limits of mixture detection?
- If you plan to analyze 4 and 5 person mixtures, VALIDATE this! Don't apply simple rules for a 2-person 8:1 mixture to a 5-person mixture where drop-out is possible.

Goals of Validation

- What are the limitations of the system?
- Where are there failures?
- What can be done to improve or correct?
- What is the actual capacity & capability of the system being validated?

Courtesy of Charlotte Word

From Validation to SOP

Technical SOPs

- Generally this is the easiest part since the procedural steps are often provided by the developer or supplier
 - Often can “cut and paste” into the technical or procedural SOP
 - But must evaluate the validation data to make adjustments
- Did the kits, instruments, etc. perform as expected from developmental validation studies using the technical procedures provided by the developer or supplier?

Charlotte J Word - 2015

Courtesy of Charlotte Word

Technical SOPs

- Critical to evaluate all parameters tested during the validation
 - What are the ranges of the assay where “good” data are generated?
 - What are the “edges” of the system?
 - Is more testing needed to define “the edges?”
 - What are the limitations of the assay?
- May have to modify the provided procedures
- Important to define the testing parameters ranges that MUST be followed

Charlotte J Word - 2015
Courtesy of Charlotte Word

Interpretation SOPs

- This is an area needing MUCH attention at this time
- Important to recognize that interpretation guidelines and SOPs MUST come from the data generated in the validation studies
 - Some guidance from published data and recommendations (e.g., ISFG, SWGDAM)

Charlotte J Word - 2015
Courtesy of Charlotte Word

Interpretation SOPs

- Do the validation study samples tested reflect all of the types of samples accepted and tested in the laboratory?
- Do the interpretation SOPs cover all types of samples accepted and tested in the laboratory?
- Can't make interpretation procedures regarding low template samples or complex mixtures without having validation data to evaluate
 - and needed for training!

Charlotte J Word - 2015
Courtesy of Charlotte Word

Interpretation SOPs

- Important to determine:
 - What are the limitations of the assay?
 - Under what conditions...
 - Are correct full results obtained?
 - Are the data reproducible in your laboratory and by another lab?
 - Can the results lead to possible misinterpretations due to partial profiles or additional data?
 - Where and what cautions are needed
 - When do the results become uninterpretable or inconclusive?

Charlotte J Word - 2015

Courtesy of Charlotte Word

Validation of the Interpretation SOPs

It is important to demonstrate that the interpretation SOPs:

- Generate correct and accurate conclusions
- Are detailed enough to provide consistency within the laboratory
 - Do all analysts report the same alleles and genotypes from the same data?
 - How are decisions made regarding artifacts? Thresholds? What flexibility exists?
 - Do all analysts get the same conclusions from the same data?

Charlotte J Word - 2015

Courtesy of Charlotte Word

Validation of Interpretation SOPs

- If inconsistency within the laboratory:
 - SOPs not detailed or clear enough
 - SOPs do not cover all needed parameters or scenarios adequately
 - Have possibly identified types of samples that should not be interpreted in your laboratory

Charlotte J Word - 2015

Courtesy of Charlotte Word

Implementation of New SOPs

- New QA/QC measures
 - Incorporate into proficiency test cycle
 - Critical reagents or instruments
 - Periodic monitoring/assessment
- Training of Analysts
 - May be short or long depending on what is being introduced
 - Competency test
- Assessment for QAS and accreditation at next external audit/inspection

Charlotte J Word - 2015

Courtesy of Charlotte Word

Implementation of New SOPs

- Additional training/notification of availability
 - Law enforcement
 - Attorneys – prosecution and defense
 - Judges
- Discovery
 - New SOPs (some laboratories post on internet)
 - Validation studies supporting the new SOPs
 - Summaries, tables/graphs of results, actual data
 - List of publications supporting the new assay
 - Training files

Charlotte J Word - 2015

Courtesy of Charlotte Word

Implementation of New SOPs

- Consider if changes are needed to case acceptance policies
 - Are these new procedures suited to all types of samples currently accepted?
 - Need to decrease acceptance of any types?
 - Can you expand the types of samples accepted?
- Consider impact on previous cases
 - Can additional studies now be done?
 - Do the new studies invalidate anything done previously?

Charlotte J Word - 2015

Courtesy of Charlotte Word

Implementation of New System

- Plan and prepare for possible admissibility hearing
 - Publications
 - SOPs
 - Validation studies
- May need guidance from experienced attorneys and scientists
 - Very different from routine trial testimony

Charlotte J Word - 2015

Courtesy of Charlotte Word

Planning for the next validation

- Use the same samples you have tested for your old STR multiplex for the next STR multiplex.
- Positive controls, current employees, and NIST SRM components are popular examples, but have limitations.

Using Analysts as Samples...

Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008



Long title	An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.
Acronyms (colloquial)	GINA
Enacted by	the 110th United States Congress
Effective	May 21, 2008

Planning for the next validation

- Consider – buying a large supply of blood (anonymously collected) from a blood bank.
- Characterize as much as you can (nice summer intern project).
- Why?

FSI-Genetics 5(5):376-80

Analysis and interpretation of mixed profiles generated by 34 cycle SGM Plus[®] amplification

Jon H. Wetton*, John Lee-Edghill, Emily Archer, Valerie C. Tucker, Andrew J. Hopwood, Jonathan Whitaker, Gillian Tully

Forensic Science Service, 2900 Tidwell Court, Birmingham Business Park, Solihull B37 7YU, UK

Table 2
 The final distribution of major and consensus profiles across the template input and ratio range after completion of the R0 requested rework.

Ratio	Total input	Major/minor	Major/consensus	Consensus only	Unduplicated
5:1	1 ng	12		3	1
	500 pg	10 ^a		6	
	250 pg	11 ^a	1	4	
	100 pg	3 ^a	4	9	
	50 pg	2		14	
	Total	38	5	36	1
2:1	1 ng	1		14	1
	500 pg	1 ^a		14	1
	250 pg	1 ^a		15	
	100 pg		1	14	1
	50 pg		1 ^a	15	
	Total	3	2	72	3
1:1	1 ng			8	
	500 pg			8	
	250 pg			8	
	100 pg			8	
	50 pg		1 ^a	7	
	Total	0	1	39	0

One individual had a possible mutation in the Quantifiler primer binding region that underestimated the relative ratios in the study...

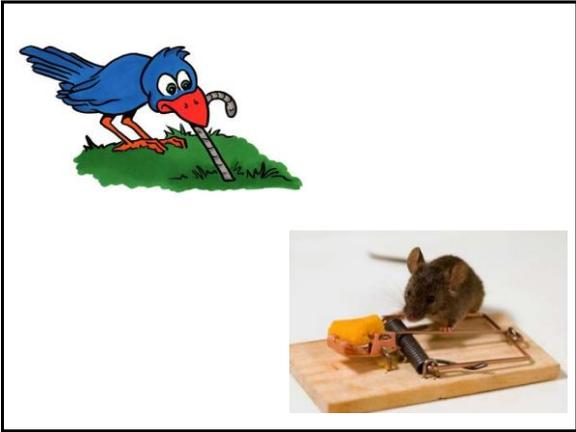
^a One observation in each of these major profile categories was due to a single individual with a possible mutation affecting the accuracy of the Quantifiler[®] concentration estimate which may have caused the input of this individual to be underestimated by half. This would tend to double its relative representation at each mixture ratio as well as the true amount of template available in the PCR. In the other rows the affected mixture was scored as a consensus.

Planning for the next validation

- Don't be an island – consider joining with other labs to plan validation studies. Other labs may have ideas that can streamline your validation.
- Share resources, cost, time. Perhaps you may find a "Steven Myers" type who saves your lab hours with a neat Excel spreadsheet.
- Inter-laboratory challenges to monitor progress.

No matter what you are validating now...

- This is NOT your last validation!
- Should you be an early adopter?
- Should you go kicking and screaming?



Here now...



LabRetriever

LRmix Likelihood Ratio Calculator, forensim v4.0

Evaluation of Likelihood Ratios

STRmix

Cybergenetics TrueAllele®

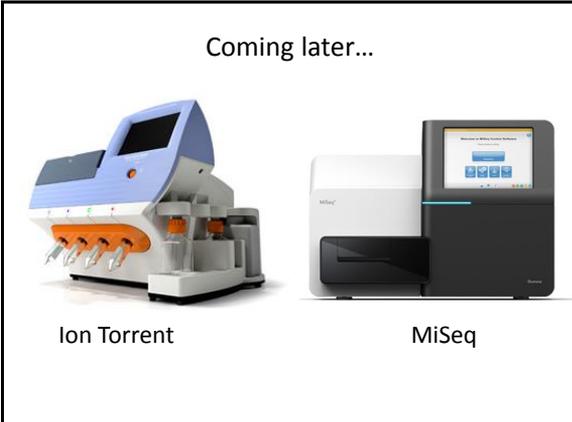
Coming very soon...



NetBio ANDE

IntegenX RapidHIT 200

Coming later...



Ion Torrent

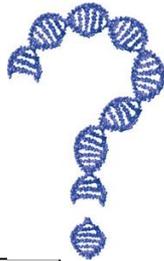
MiSeq

Final thoughts

- Proper validation is hard work. It takes a great deal of time and effort to conduct the studies, write the new SOPs, train everyone, and monitor the progress.
- A good plan up-front will go a long way to make this process as easy as possible.

Acknowledgments

Dr. Charlotte Word
Dr. Robin Cotton
Dr. Jo Bright



Contact info:
mcoble@nist.gov
+1-301-975-4330
