

# An Introduction to Forensic DNA Typing

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# Outline for today

- Forensic DNA typing workflow
- How work at NIST supports the Forensic DNA Typing community
  - *NIST does not perform forensic casework, but rather provide standards and research to support the forensic community*
- Recent advancements and applications in human identity testing



# Assumptions about DNA

# General Characteristics of Genomic DNA



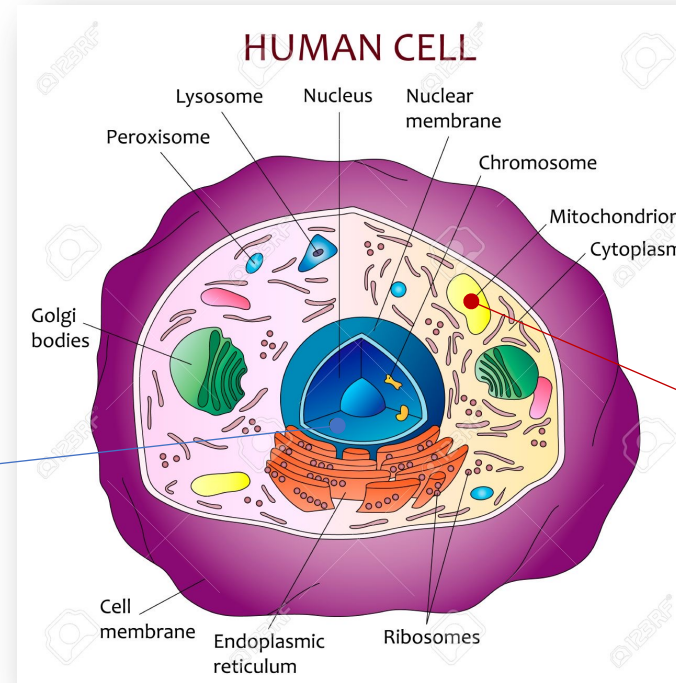
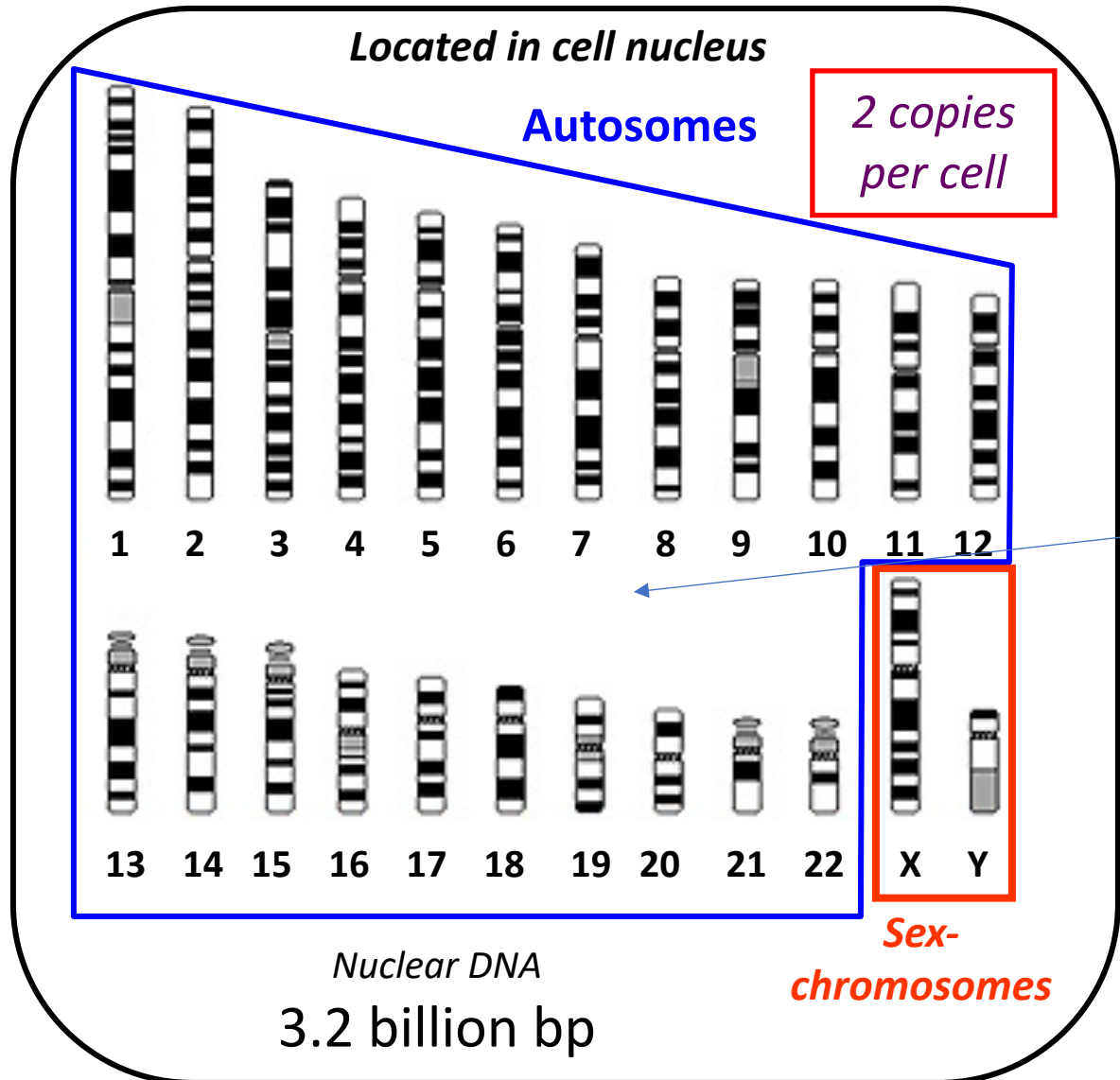
- Each individual has a unique DNA profile
  - with exception of monozygotic siblings<sup>1</sup>
- Each person's DNA is the same in every cell
  - DNA from skin cells will match DNA from blood cells
- An individual's DNA profile remains the same throughout life
- Half of your DNA comes from your mother and half from your father
  - implications for determining kinship

DNA transfers and persists and can be collected and analyzed

<sup>1</sup>Weber-Lehmann et al., *Finding the needle in the haystack: Differentiating "identical" twins in paternity testing and forensics by ultra-deep next generation sequencing* *Forensic Science International: Genetics* 9 (2014) 42–46

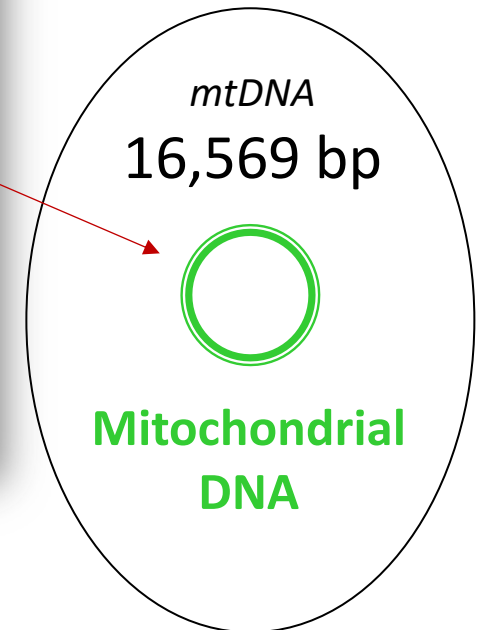
# Human Genome

23 Pairs of Chromosomes + mtDNA

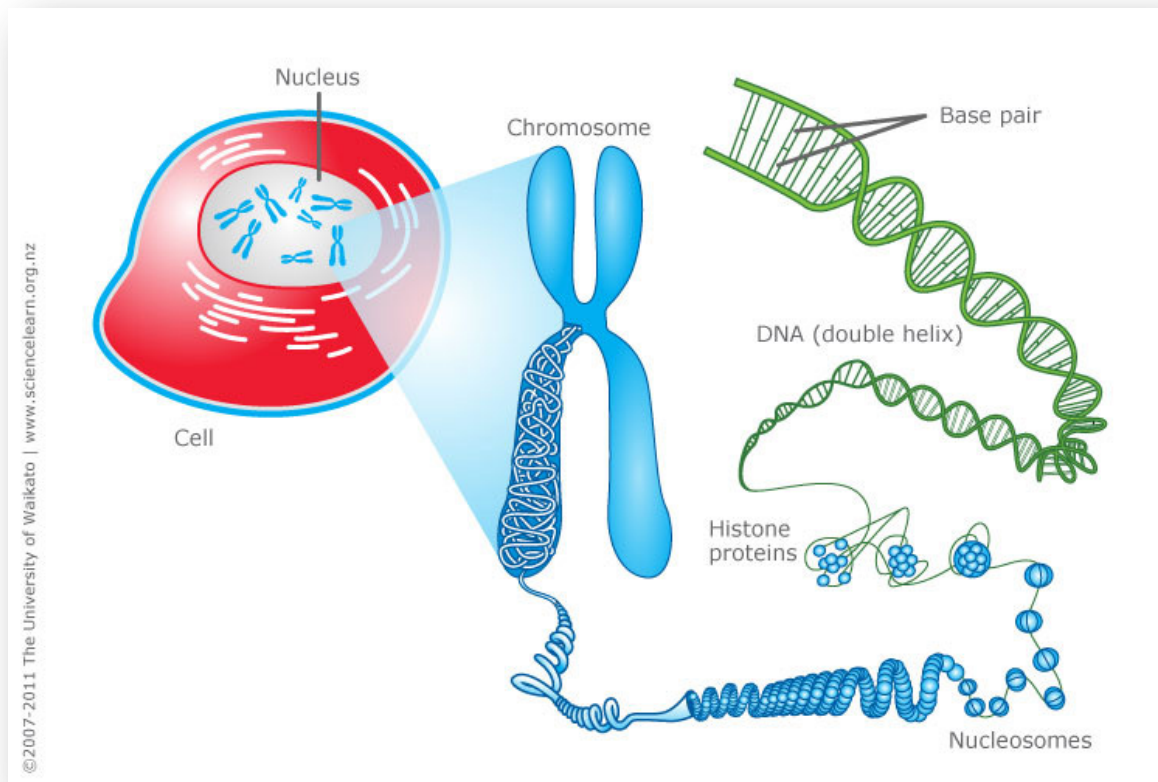


[https://www.123rf.com/photo\\_55148693\\_stock-vector-human-cell-diagram-.html](https://www.123rf.com/photo_55148693_stock-vector-human-cell-diagram-.html)

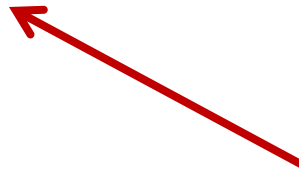
*Located in mitochondria  
(multiple copies in cell cytoplasm)*



*100s of copies per cell*



Unique identifier or 'barcode' inherent in your DNA



# 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

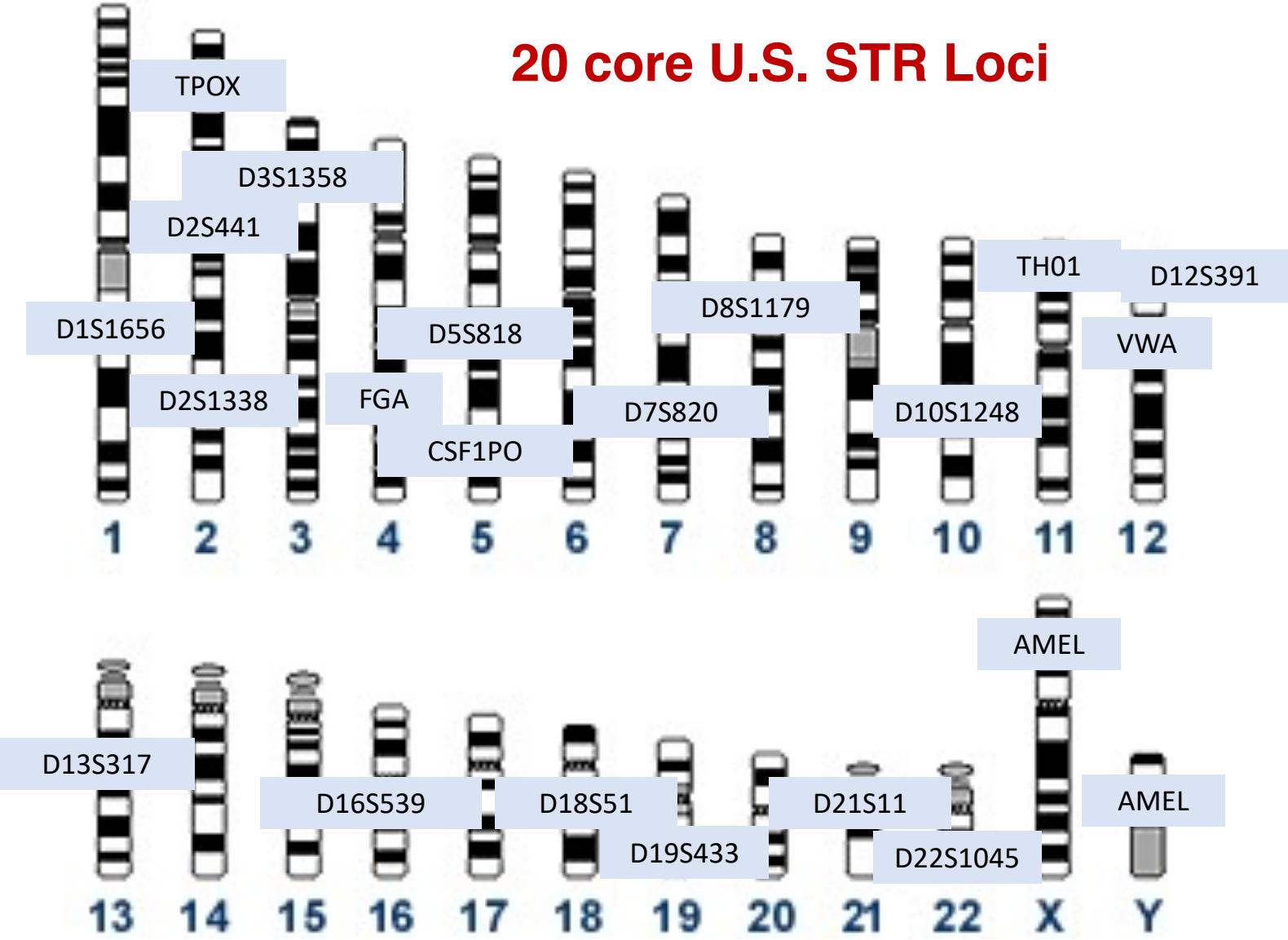




# Position of Forensic STR Markers on Human Chromosomes

Core STR Loci for the United States

## 20 core U.S. STR Loci



# Forensic DNA Testing

- Probe subsets of genetic variation in order to differentiate between individuals
  - 20 required regions in the human genome (in the U.S.)

- DNA typing must be done efficiently and reproducibly
  - The information must hold up in court
  - FBI Quality Assurance Standards

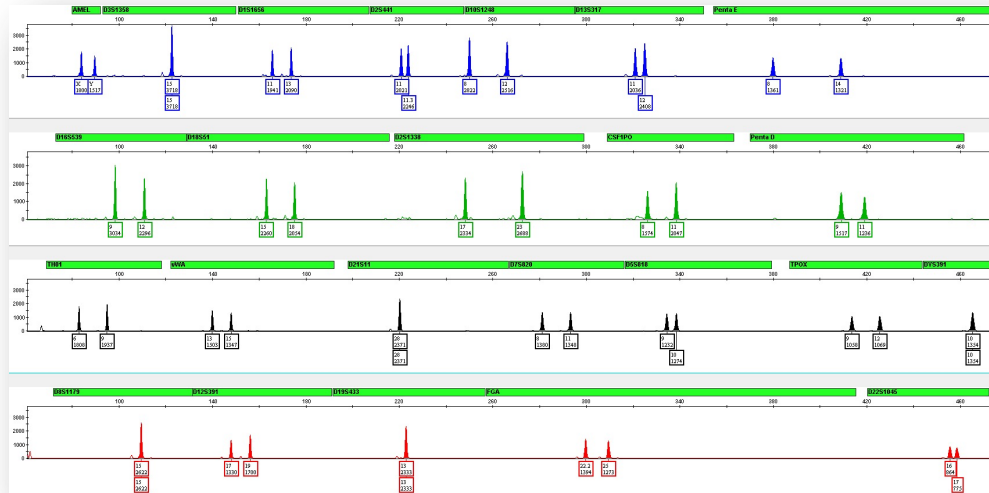
In the U.S. National DNA Database <sup>1</sup>	
Offender profiles	14.5 M
Arrestee profiles	4.3 M
Forensic profiles	1.1 M

- Typically, we are *not* looking at genes – **STR** markers contain little/no information about ancestry, predisposition to disease, or phenotypic information (facial features, eye color, height, hair color) → evolving with **SNP** markers

<sup>1</sup><http://https://www.fbi.gov/services/laboratory/biometric-analysis/codis/ndis-statistics> (April 2021)

A STR profile alone is not useful for identification without a reference for comparison

Unknown (evidence)



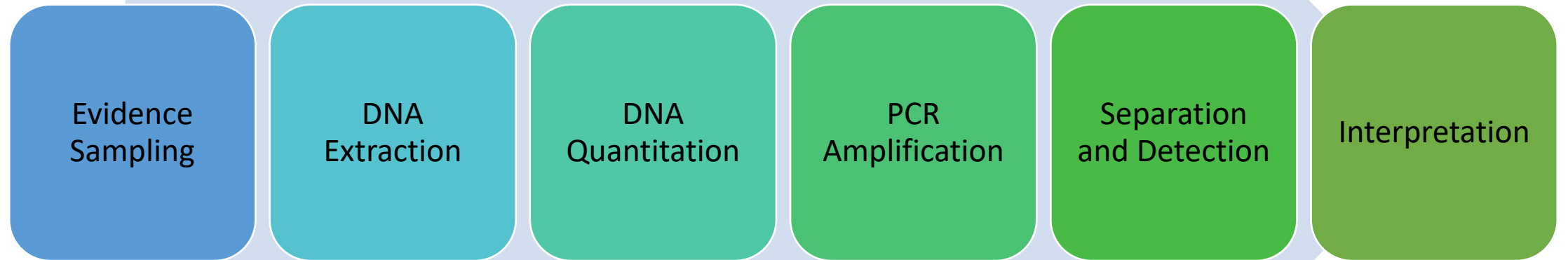
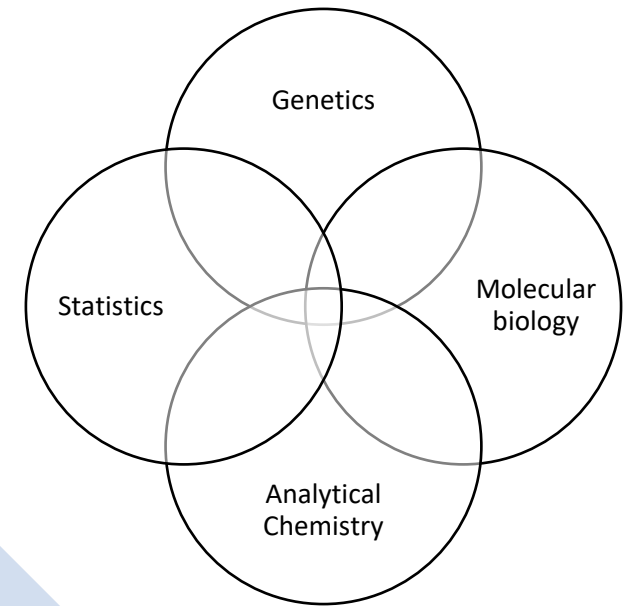
*DNA profile developed from evidence*

Database

Known profile associated with a name/identity

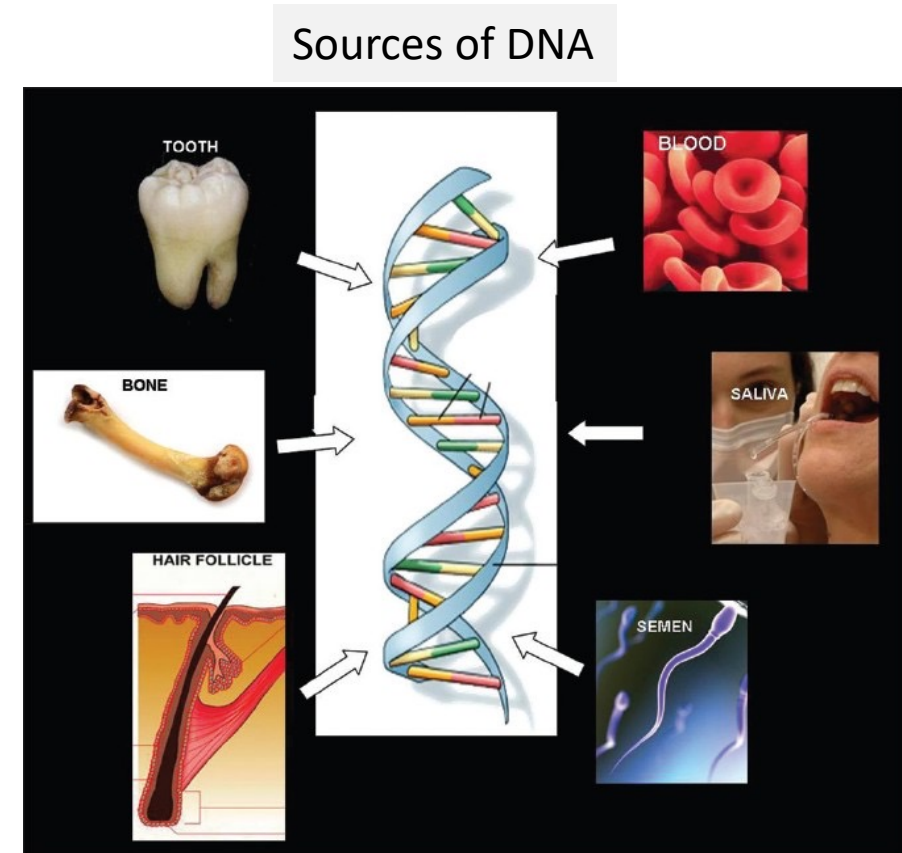
Reference taken from a suspect

# Forensic DNA Typing



## Evidence Sampling

- Goal: recover DNA and cells containing DNA
  - Sampling the evidence
- Swabs (cotton, nylon, other)
  - Wet versus Dry
  - Double swab technique
  - Buccal swab
  - Tape lift – other devices/methods
  - Cuttings and scrapings
- Keep the sample stable until it is ready for analysis
  - Dry and temperature controlled
  - Avoid contamination



Muruganandhan J, Sivakumar G. Practical aspects of DNA-based forensic studies in dentistry. J Forensic Dent Sci 2011;3:38-45

## Evidence Sampling



- Who collects the evidence (analyst, police, dedicated team)?
- What area/region should be swabbed?
- How many swabs should be taken per evidence item?
- Should separate regions be swabbed?

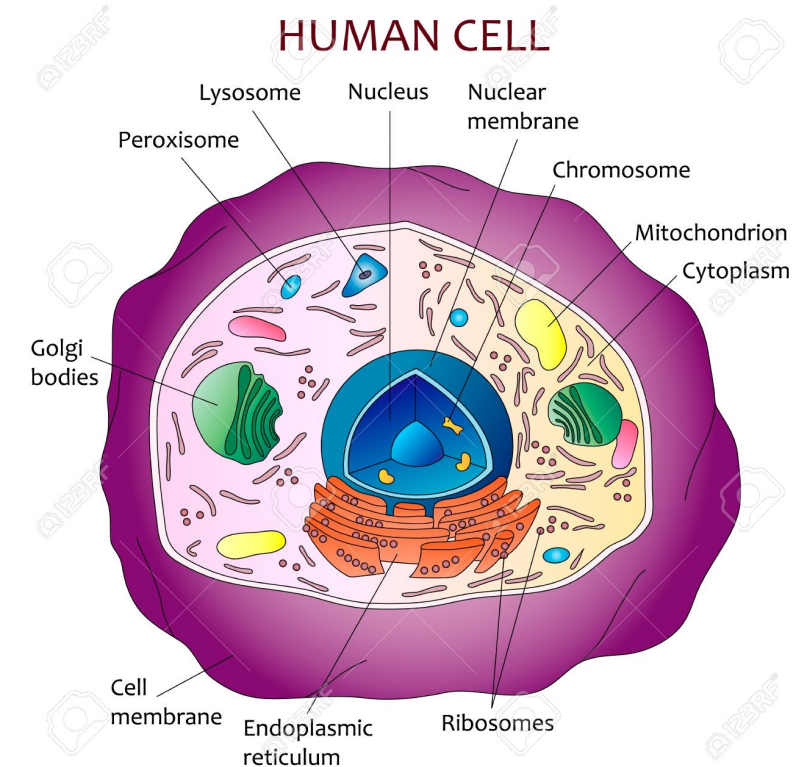
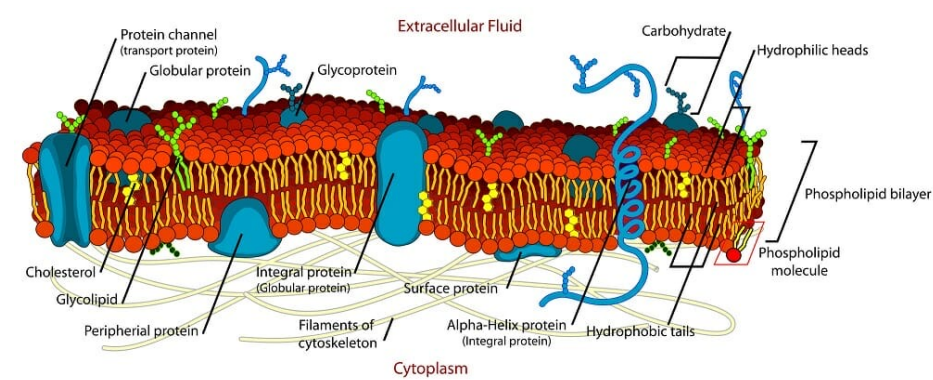


## DNA Extraction

- Goal: lyse the cells, purify, concentrate, and recover genomic DNA
  - Recover material from the collection media
- Chemicals that disrupt the cell membrane
- Conditions that degrade proteins
- Recover the DNA
  - Magnetic bead - silica binding
  - Spin column
  - Organic separation
  - Differential extraction (sperm fraction from total)

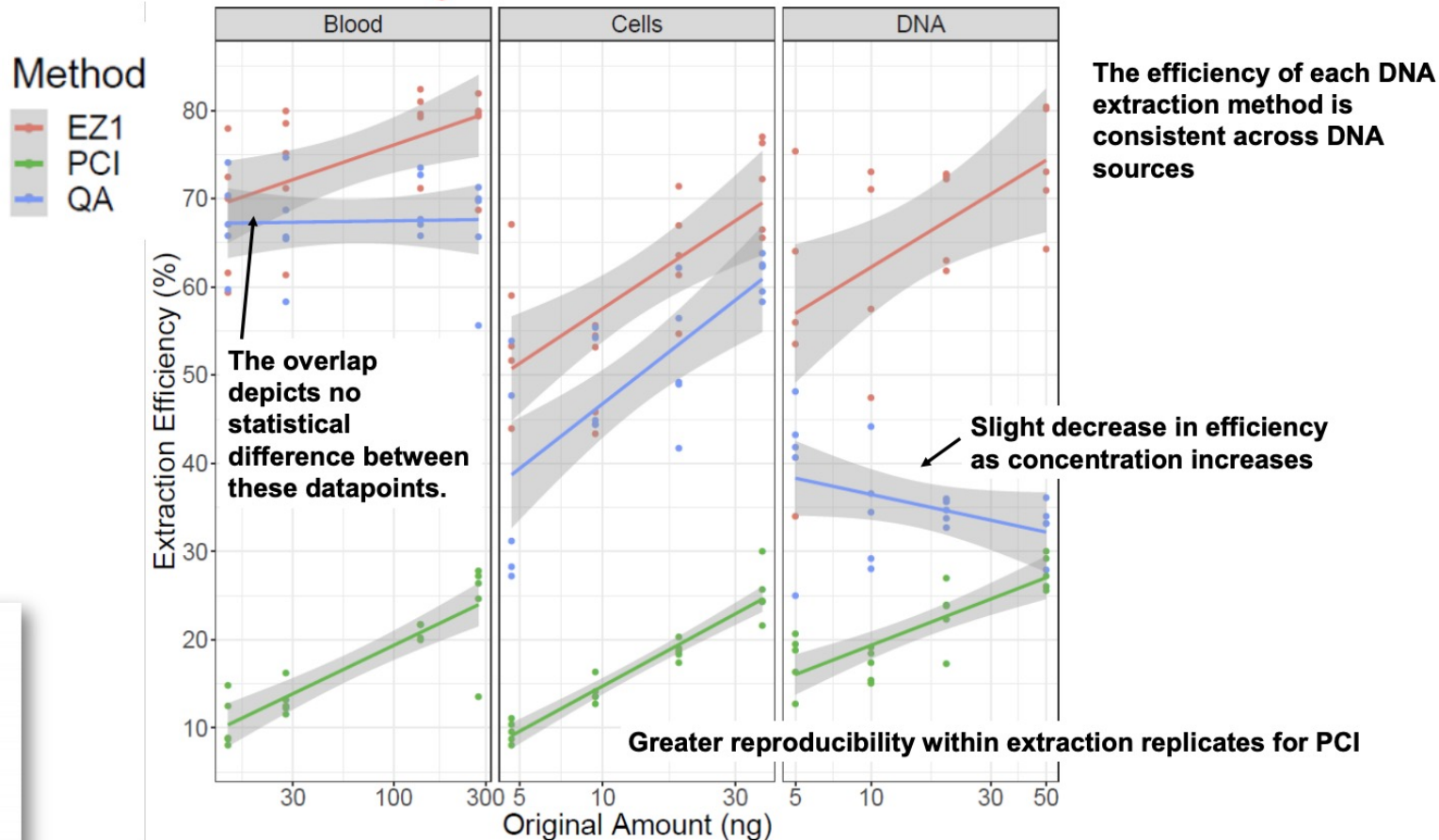
### Some analyst choices

- Manual versus robotic
- Incubation time (cell lysis)
- Elution volume



# Estimation of Extraction Efficiency by Droplet Digital PCR

### Extraction Efficiency for three methods across three DNA Sources



Research performed to assess the efficiency of different extraction methods across DNA sources

Each color represents an extraction method for each of the independent DNA sources. The individual points represent the extraction replicates for each DNA input amount. The slope of the line represents a change in efficiency dependent on original DNA input amount. Only a **slight increase in efficiency is observed across increasing DNA input amounts**, for all extraction methods *with the exception of DNA with the QIAamp spin columns*.



## DNA Quantitation

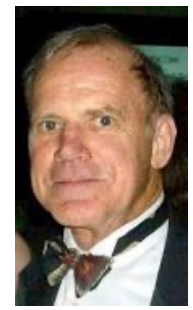
1 cell  $\approx$  6 pg of DNA (diploid genome)  
500 pg is a common target value  $\approx$  80 cells worth  
Would like to be greater than  $\approx$  100 pg (16 cells worth)

- Goal: quantify the amount of DNA recovered from the extraction process
- Why: the next step (PCR amplification) requires a specific range of input amounts – if not met, interpretation is complex
- Quantitation methods can also inform your workflow
  - Is there enough for one test or many?
  - Low amounts of DNA that can be further concentrated
  - Extent of DNA degradation
  - The ratio of total DNA to male DNA (Y chromosome)
  - Degree of inhibition (agents in the sample that reduce PCR amplification efficiency)
  - Go back and re-sample and/or re-extract
- How is this carried out?

# Real-time Quantitative PCR

(qPCR)

# Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)



Kary Mullis  
1944 – 2018

Nobel prize in Chemistry 1993

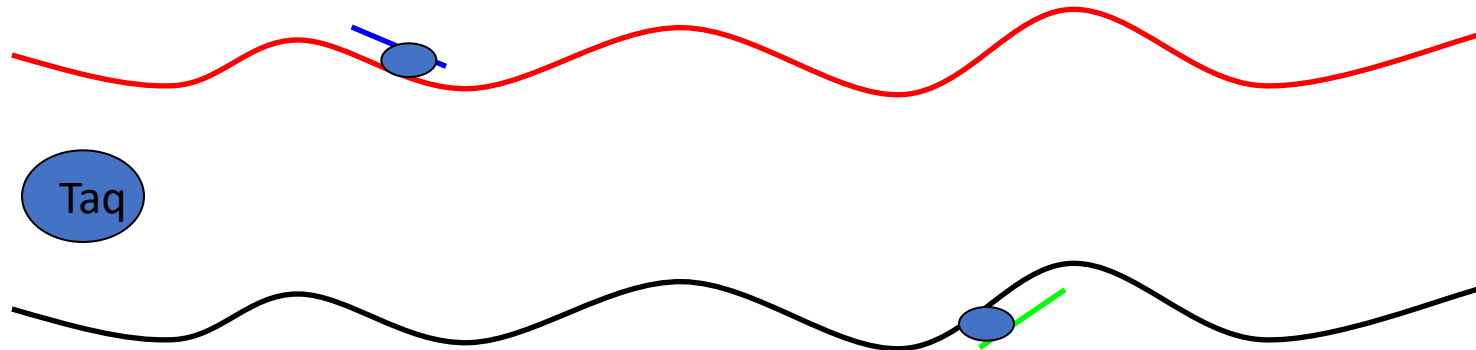
- A means to copy (amplify) the starting DNA template
- Polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, is a laboratory technique used to make multiple copies of a segment of DNA. PCR is very precise and can be used to amplify, or copy, a specific DNA target from a pool of DNA molecules
- Replicate a section of the genome (hundreds of bases long) out of billions of bases

Why: we can't detect a few copies of DNA – need to make billions to detect!

# PCR Mechanism

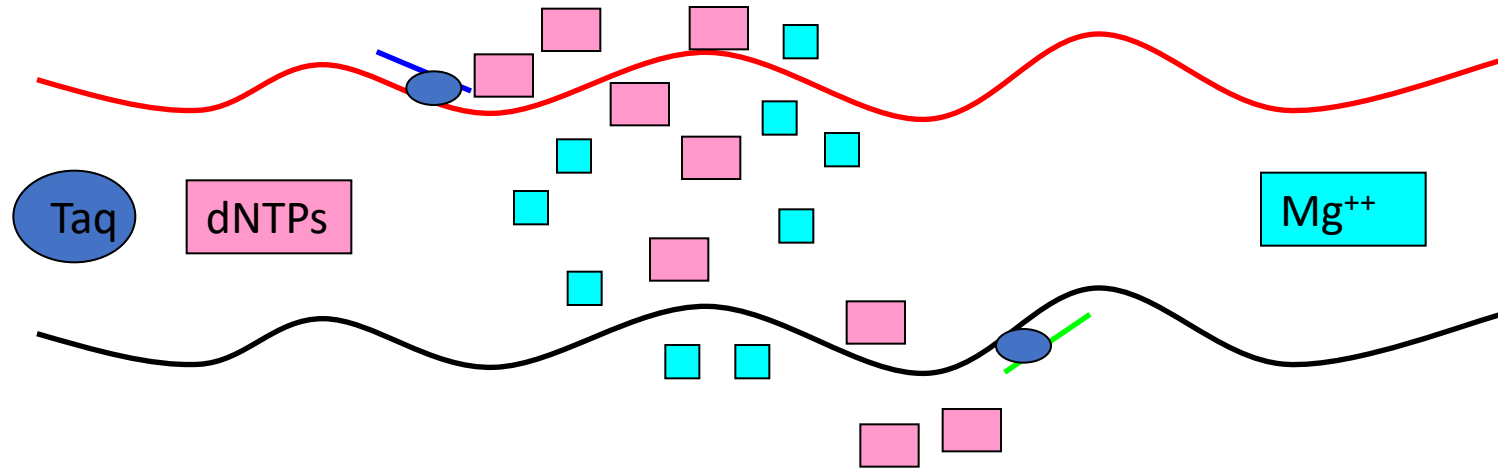


94°C: Denature the genomic DNA template

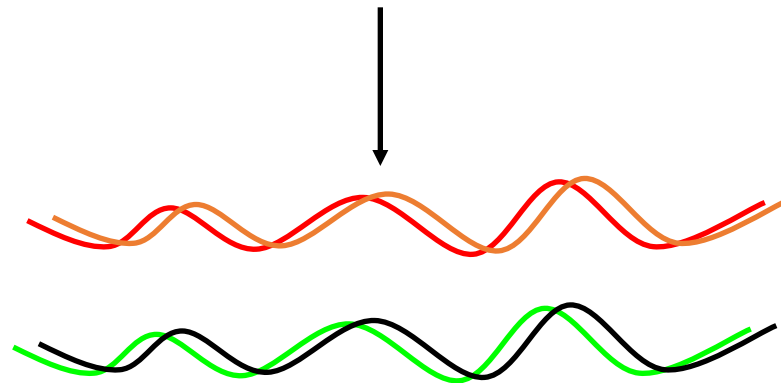


60°C: PCR primers bind to the DNA template; this will define the size of amplicon

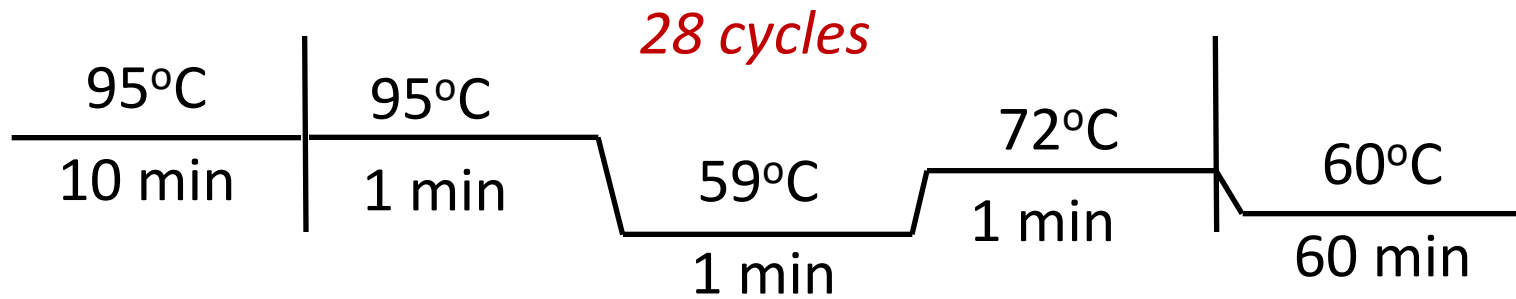
# PCR Mechanism



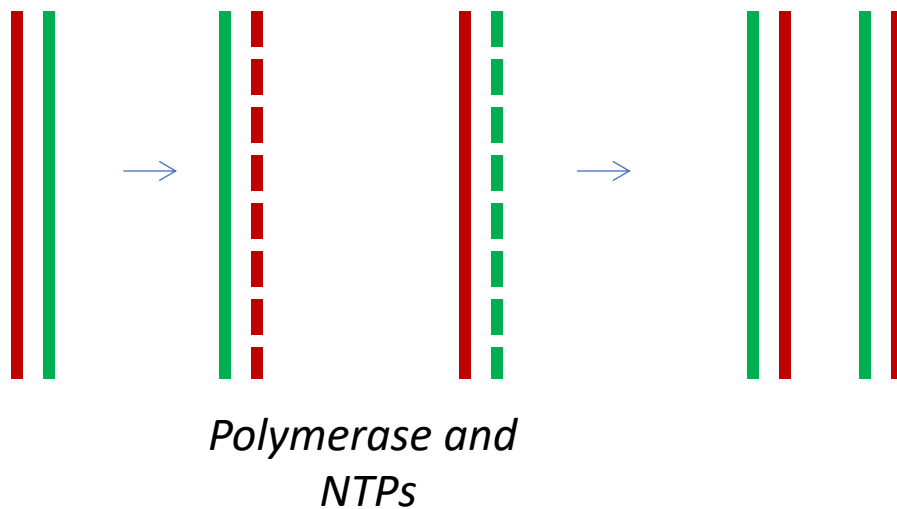
72°C: The Taq primer complex forms and the dNTPs are incorporated into the new strand(s)



# PCR Thermal Cycling Profile



Duplex DNA denatures into 2 single strands  
 Polymerase and NTPs create new duplexes  
 Repeat!



Cycles	Copies
1	2
2	4
3	8
4	16
5	32
6	64
7	128
8	256
9	512
10	1024
28	268,435,456

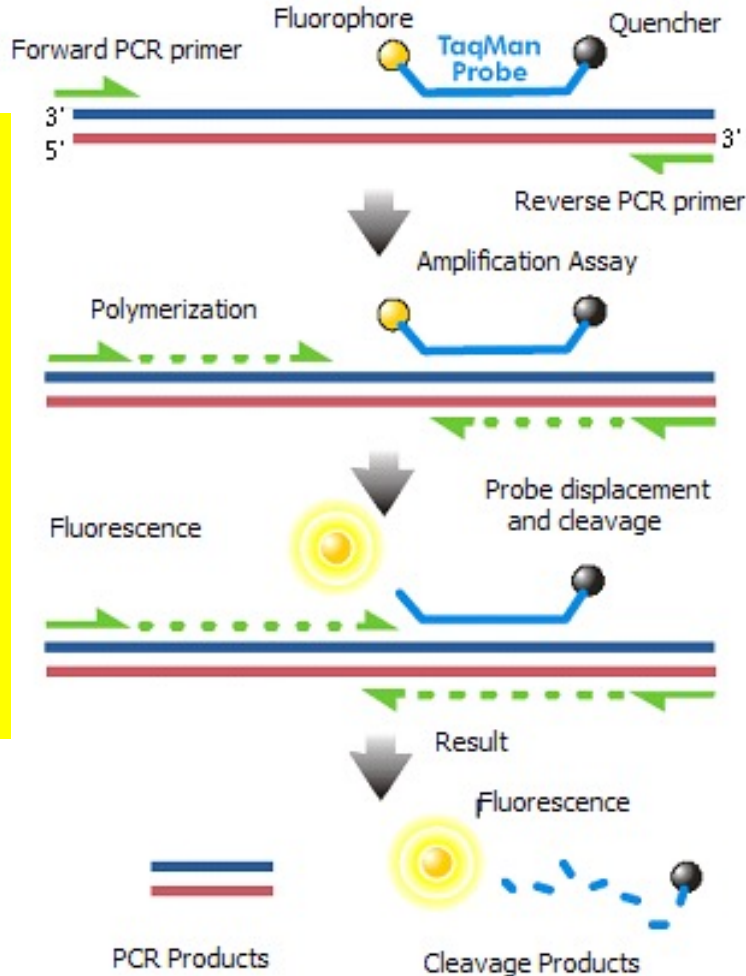
$2^N = \text{Copies}$   
 $N = \text{'cycles'}$

# Real-time Quantitative PCR (qPCR)

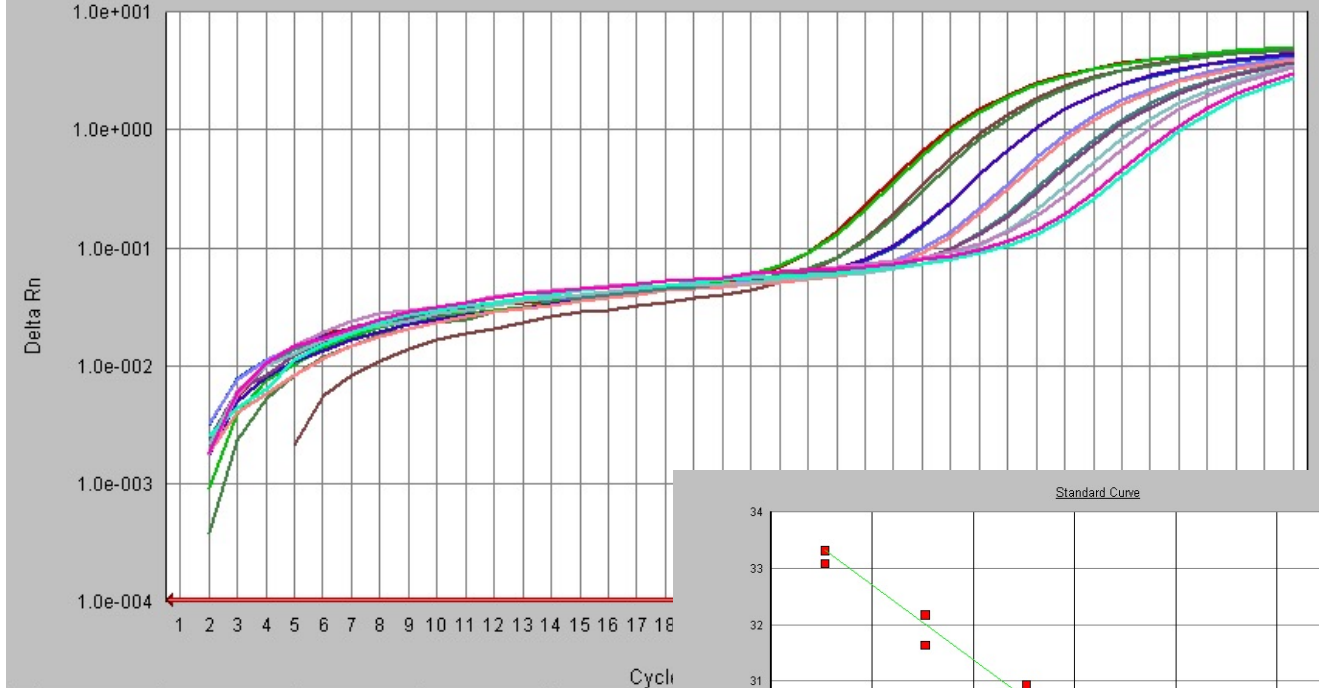
Note that DNA typing is not occurring in this PCR step – just quantification of DNA template

# Wait...what is Real-time Quantitative PCR?

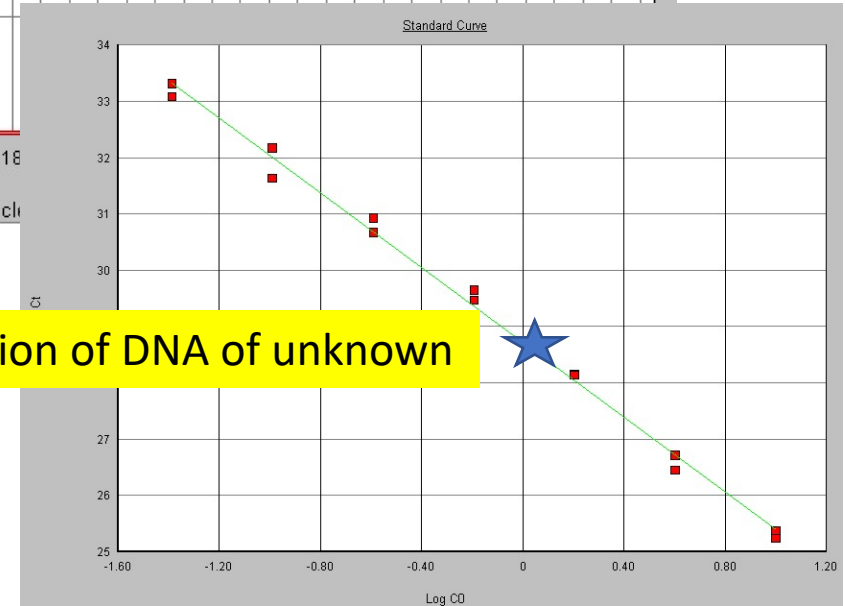
Light is emitted per PCR cycle



Create a standard curve with known amounts of DNA



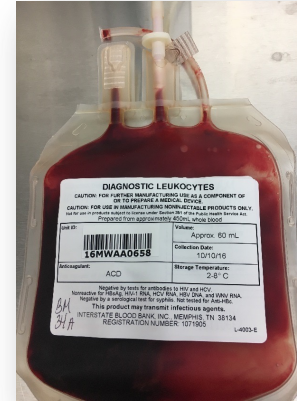
Concentration of DNA of unknown





# SRM 2372a - Human DNA Quantitation Standard

- Certified by dPCR measurements



**Table 1. Certified Values of Number and Mass Concentration for SRM 2372a<sup>(a)</sup>**

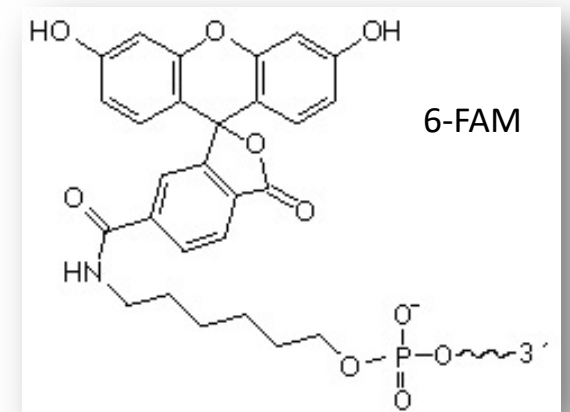
The copy number values are metrologically traceable to the natural units count 1 and ratio 1 and International System of Units (SI) derived units of volume. The DNA mass concentration values are metrologically traceable to the natural units count and ratio 1 and SI derived units of mass and volume.

Component	Copy Number <sup>(b)</sup> (per nL)	DNA <sup>(c)</sup> (ng/ $\mu$ L)
A (red cap)	15.1 $\pm$ 1.5	49.8 $\pm$ 5.0
B (white cap)	17.5 $\pm$ 1.8	57.8 $\pm$ 5.8
C (blue cap)	14.5 $\pm$ 1.5	47.9 $\pm$ 4.8

To be used as a qPCR calibrant  
OR to assign a value to a 'pot' of DNA – in house or commercial

## PCR Amplification

- Goal: amplify STR markers and attach fluorescent dye labels (for downstream detection)
- Multiplex PCR – Primers will have a fluorescent dye attached to the 5' end
- Typically 20 or more STR markers (= 20 sets of compatible PCR primers)
- Well-established commercial PCR kits to carry this out



# STR Typing Kits (Multiplex PCR Kits)



Thermo Fisher GlobalFiler



Promega Fusion 6C



QIAGEN Investigator

These all type the U.S.  
20 core STR markers

## Considerations

- Cost
- Legacy
- Performance
- Availability
- Perceived “sensitivity”
- Locus balance
- Artifacts
- Additional markers (e.g. Y)

# Commercial kit testing at NIST

- Testing of commercial products in the **development stage** to provide feedback to the manufacturer (“Beta testing”)
- STR tests (CE and NGS); qPCR tests; instrumentation
- Running sets of samples (100 to 1000) to ensure concordance and accuracy

	<b>Thermo Fisher (10)</b>	<b>Promega (16)</b>	<b>Qiagen (7)</b>	<b>InnoGenomics (1)</b>
<i>STR kits tested over the past 15 years</i>	MiniFiler	PP CS7	Hexaplex	InnoTyper 21
	Identifiler	PP S5	Idplex	
	SGM Plus	PP16	ESSplex	
	Cofiler	PP16HS	ESSplex SE	
	Profiler Plus	PP18D	ESSplex SE Plus	
	Sinofiler	PP21	24plex QS	
	NGM	SE33 Monoplex	24plex GO!	
	NGM Select	PPESI17		
	GlobalFiler Express	PPESI17 Pro		
	Yfiler Plus	PPESI17 Fast		
		PPESX17		
		PPESX17 Fast		
		PP Fusion		
		PP Fusion 6C		
		PP VersaPlex 27PY		
	PP Y23			

# Rapid PCR

Forensic Science International: Genetics 3 (2008) 42–45



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Forensic Science International: Genetics

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig)



Short communication

## Demonstration of rapid multiplex PCR amplification involving 16 genetic loci<sup>☆</sup>

Peter M. Vallone\*, Carolyn R. Hill, John M. Butler

National Institute of Standards and Technology, Biochemical Science Division, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 8311, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8311, United States

*Electrophoresis* 2014, 35, 3053–3061

3053

Erica L. R. Butts  
Peter M. Vallone

National Institute of Standards and Technology, Biomolecular Measurement Division, Gaithersburg, MD, USA

Received April 3, 2014  
Revised June 6, 2014  
Accepted June 26, 2014

Research Article

## Rapid PCR protocols for forensic DNA typing on six thermal cycling platforms

Rapid PCR protocols for the amplification of typing STR multiplexes were evaluated on six different thermal cyclers. Through the use of a faster DNA polymerase coupled with the use of rapid thermal cyclers the amplification cycling times were reduced down to as little as 14 min using PCR primers from the commercially available multiplex STR typing kit Identifiler. Previously described two-step and three-step thermal cycling protocols were evaluated for the six thermal cyclers on 95 unique single-source DNA extracts. CE characterization of the PCR products indicates good peak balance between loci (median values greater than 0.84), and N minus four stutter ratios on averages were 30 to 40% higher than for standard Identifiler PCR conditions. Nonspecific amplification artifacts were observed, but were not observed to migrate within the allele calling bins. With the exception of one locus (D18S51) in a single sample, genotyping results were concordant with manufacturer's recommended amplification conditions utilizing standard thermal cycling procedures. Assay conditions were robust enough to routinely amplify 250 to 500 pg of template DNA. This work describes the protocols for the rapid PCR amplification of STR multiplexes on various PCR thermal cyclers with the future intent to support validation for typing single-source samples in a database laboratory.

Forensic Science International: Genetics 18 (2015) 90–99



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Forensic Science International: Genetics

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig)



Review

## Rapid PCR of STR markers: Applications to human identification

Erica L. Romsos\*, Peter M. Vallone

National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, MS 8314, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8314, USA



Work performed at NIST a rapid PCR of a STR multiplex in less than 14 min (compared to 2-3 hours)

## Separation and Detection

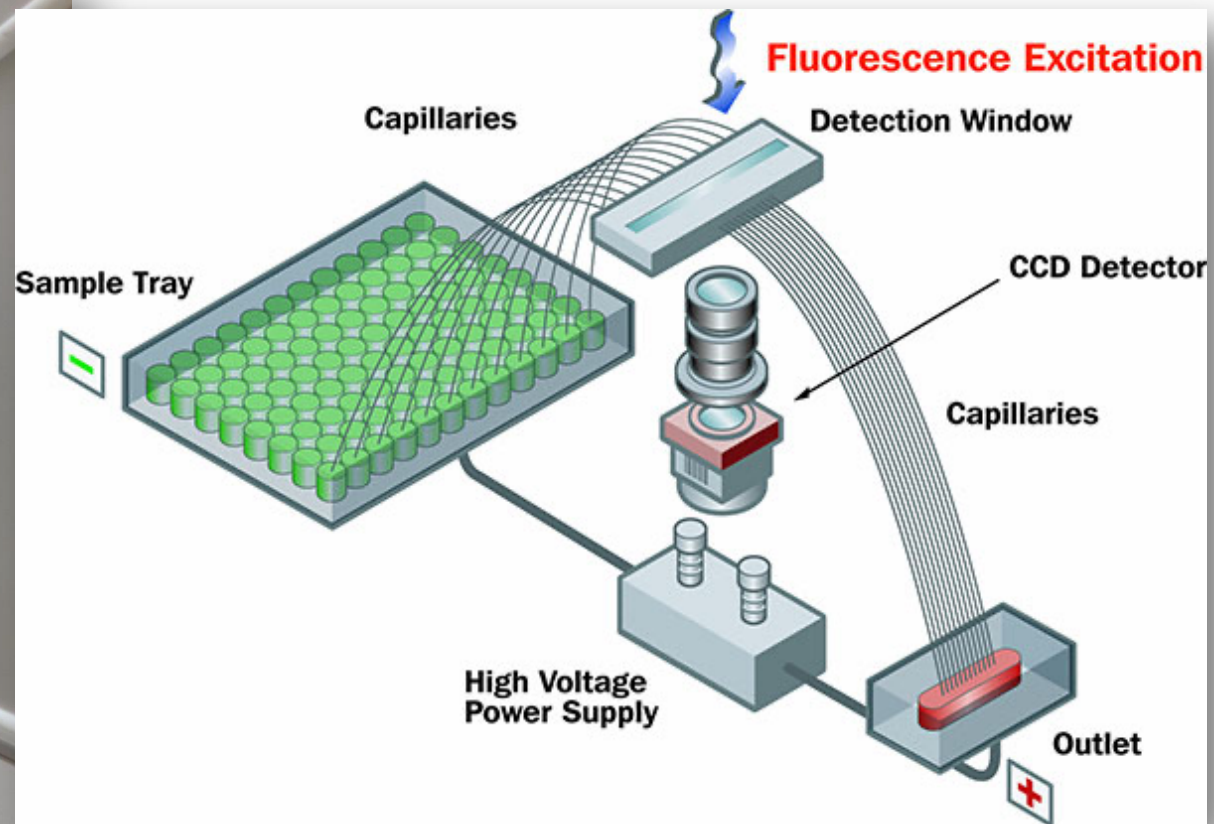
- Goal: Separate and detect PCR fragments of differing lengths
- Each fragment is 'labeled' with a fluorescent dye during PCR
- This is performed by Capillary Electrophoresis and Fluorescence Detection

# Capillary Electrophoresis

Separation  
and Detection

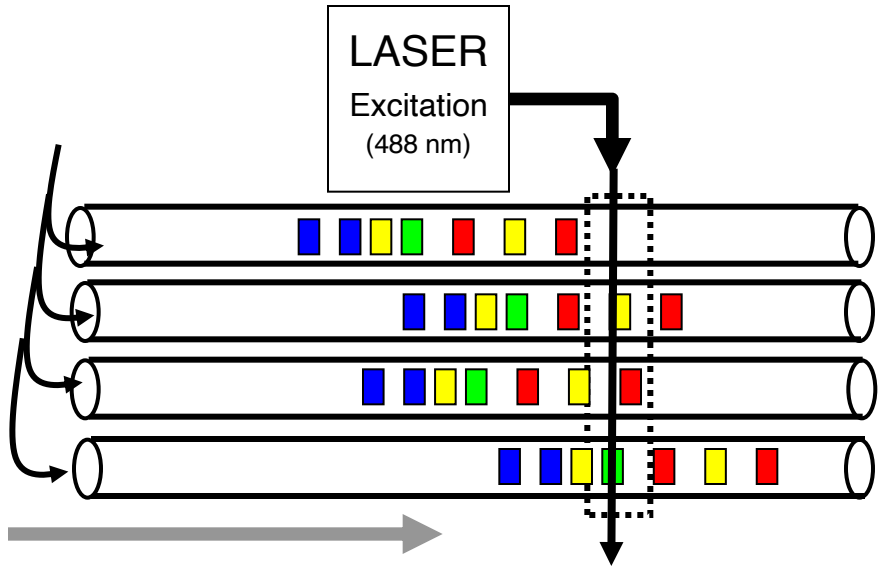
## Considerations

- Sample throughput
- Injection time and voltage



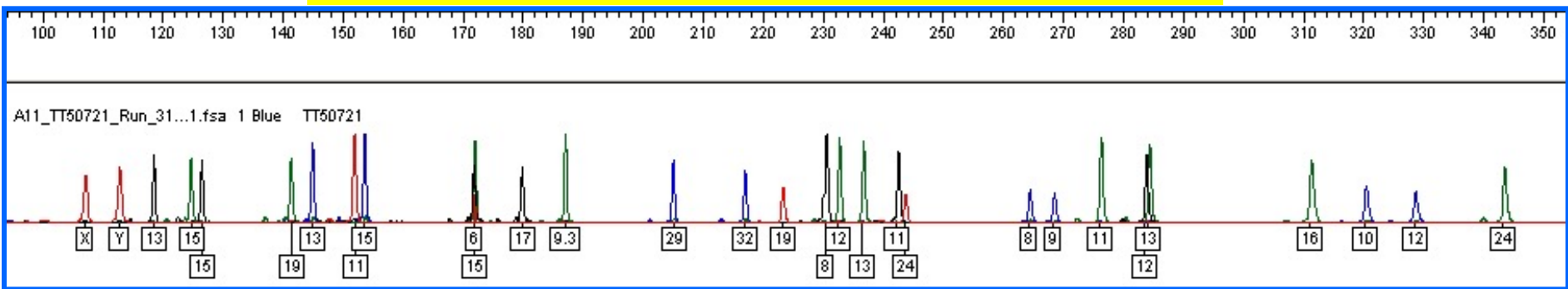
[http://www.philekorea.co.kr/kor/data/cheditor4/1305/a49f0e4c8103cb5277053a548368c0d8\\_nC5e7v8vWJZS.jpg](http://www.philekorea.co.kr/kor/data/cheditor4/1305/a49f0e4c8103cb5277053a548368c0d8_nC5e7v8vWJZS.jpg)

Separation and Detection



The labeled fragments are separated based on size and detected on a gel or capillary electrophoresis instrument ~1 hour or less

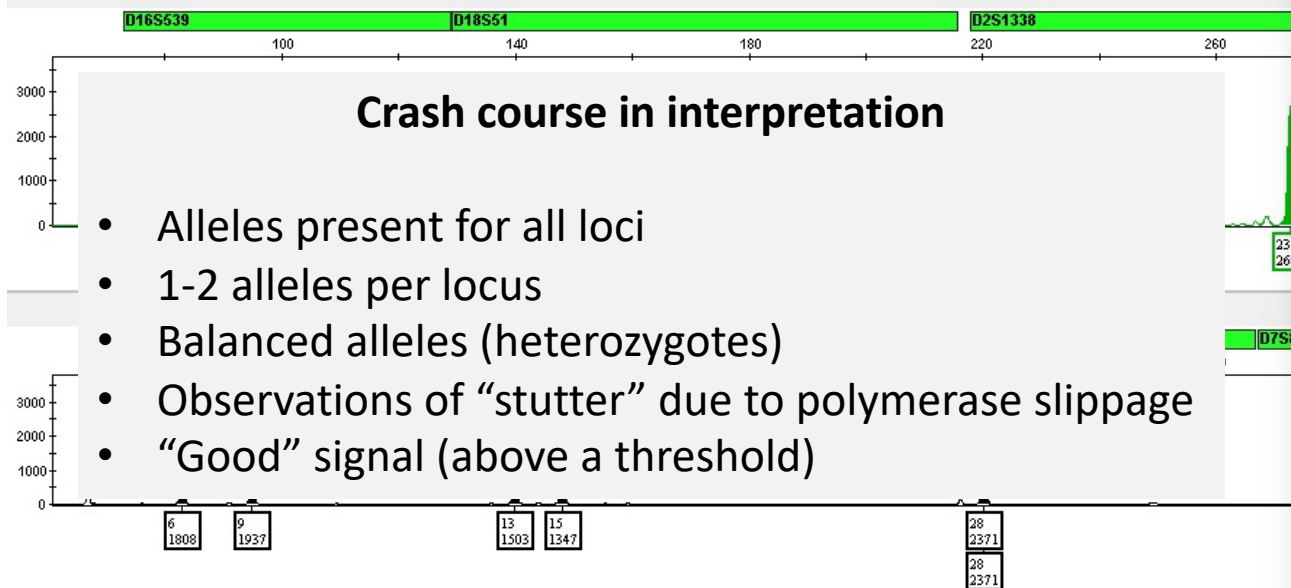
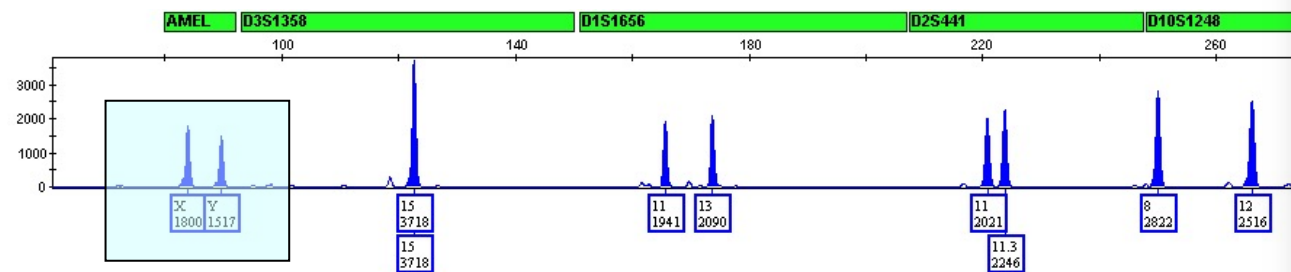
Fragment size ranges from 100 - 500 base pairs



Peaks represent labeled DNA fragments separated by electrophoresis  
This 'profile of peaks' is unique for an individual – a DNA type

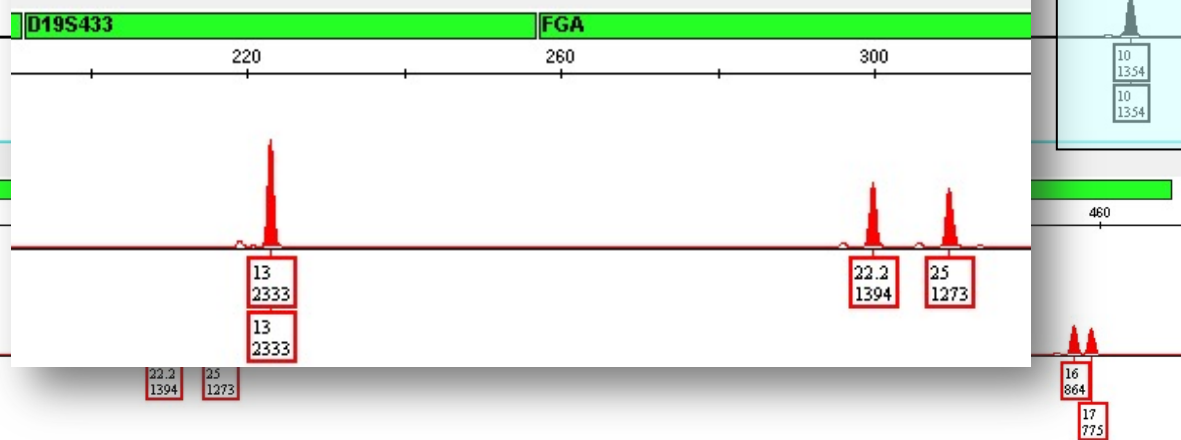
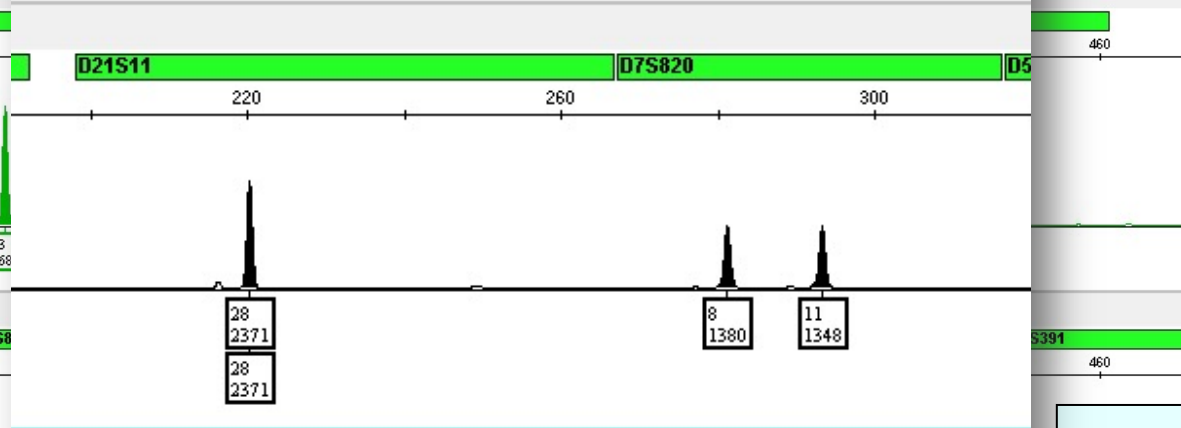
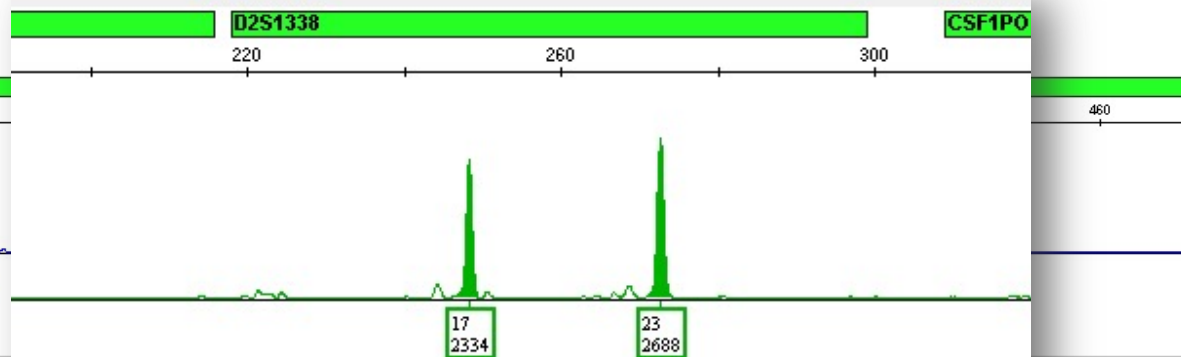
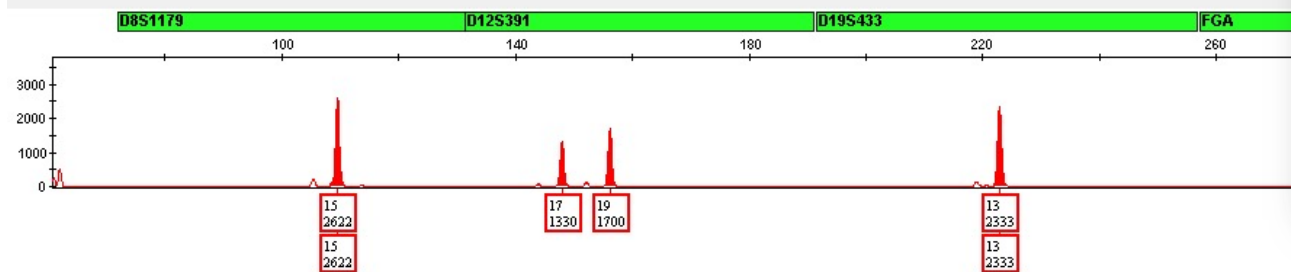


# Single Source DNA Profile (PowerPlex Fusion STR Profile)



## Crash course in interpretation

- Alleles present for all loci
- 1-2 alleles per locus
- Balanced alleles (heterozygotes)
- Observations of “stutter” due to polymerase slippage
- “Good” signal (above a threshold)



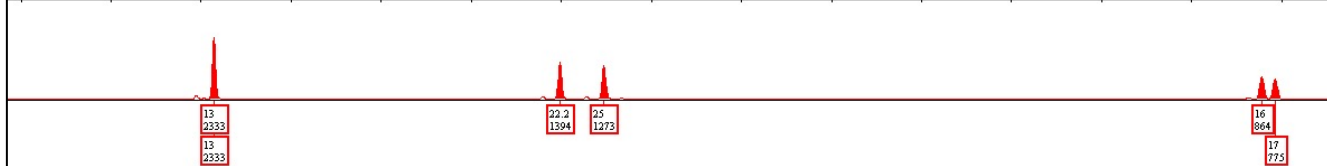
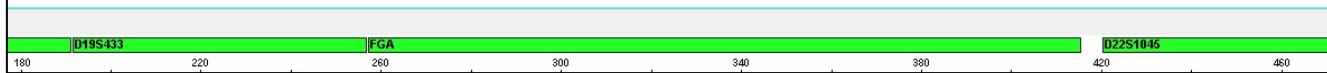
*This information goes into a database (not the electropherogram)*

Amel	{X,Y}
D3S1358	{15,15}
D1S1656	{11,13}
D2S441	{11,11.3}
D10S1248	{8,12}
D13S317	{11,12}
Penta E	{8,14}
D16S539	{9,12}
D18S51	{15,18}
D2S1338	{17,23}
CSF1PO	{8,11}
Penta D	{9,11}
TH01	{6,9}
VWA	{13,15}
D21S11	{28,28}
D7S820	{8,11}
D5S818	{9,10}
TPOX	{9,12}
DYS391	{10}
D8S1179	{15,15}
D12S391	{17,19}
D19S433	{13,13}
FGA	{22.2,25}
D22S1045	{16,17}



Multiplying the frequency of each genotype at each locus gives us the **Random Match Probability (RMP)** of  $7.81 \times 10^{-39}$  for **unrelated individuals**

*This test contains the FBI core STR markers  
NIST Caucasian allele frequencies were used for RMP calculation*



# Allele Frequencies published by NIST

*J Forensic Sci*, July 2003, Vol. 48, No. 4  
Paper ID JFS2003045\_484  
Published 19 May 2003  
Available online at: [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

## FOR THE RECORD

*John M. Butler,<sup>1</sup> Ph.D.; Richard Schoske,<sup>1</sup> M.A.; Peter M. Vallone,<sup>1</sup> Ph.D.;  
Janette W. Redman<sup>1</sup>; and Margaret C. Kline,<sup>1</sup> M.S.*

## Allele Frequencies for 15 Autosomal STR Loci on U.S. Caucasian, African American, and Hispanic Populations\*

Forensic Science International: Genetics 7 (2013) e82–e83



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Contents lists available at [SciVerse ScienceDirect](http://SciVerse.ScienceDirect.com)

Forensic Science International: Genetics

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig)



Letter to the Editor

**U.S. population data for 29 autosomal STR loci**

Dear Editor,

run and population statistics were confirmed using the PowerMarker v3.25 statistics program [10].

There were 14 instances where statistically significant deviations from Hardy-Weinberg expectations based on the exact test



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Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](http://ScienceDirect.com)

Forensic Science International: Genetics

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fsigen](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fsigen)



Correspondence

Corrigendum to ‘U.S. Population Data for 29 Autosomal STR Loci’ [Forensic Sci. Int. Genet. 7 (2013) e82–e83]

Carolyn R. Steffen, Michael D. Coble, Katherine B. Gettings, Peter M. Vallone\*

National Institute of Standards and Technology, Material Measurement Laboratory, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8314, United States



Data used by U.S. labs to assign weight of evidence to a DNA profile

# SRM 2391d – PCR-based DNA Profiling Standard

## Brief history of SRM 2391 series...

STANDARD 8.4 Newly validated DNA methods (from amplification through characterization), typing test kit or platform instrument model shall be checked against an appropriate and available certified reference material (or sample made traceable to the certified reference material) prior to the implementation of the method for database analysis.  
*From FBI Quality Assurance Standards*

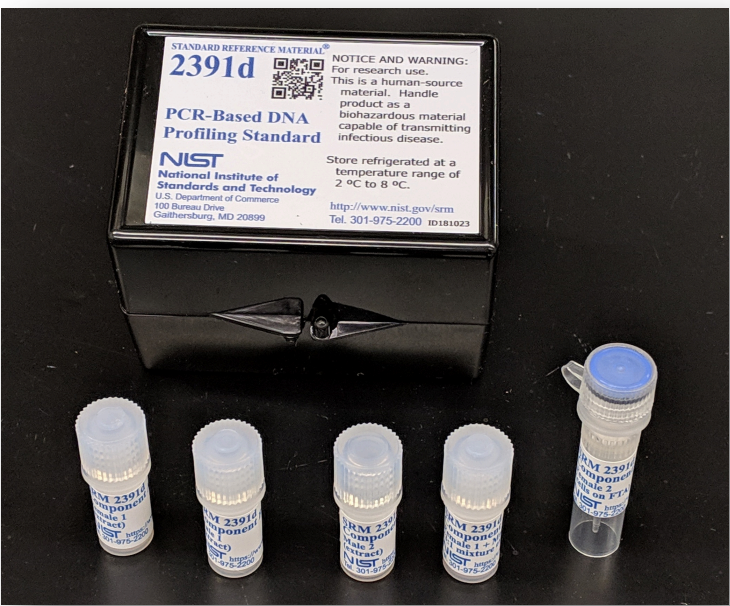
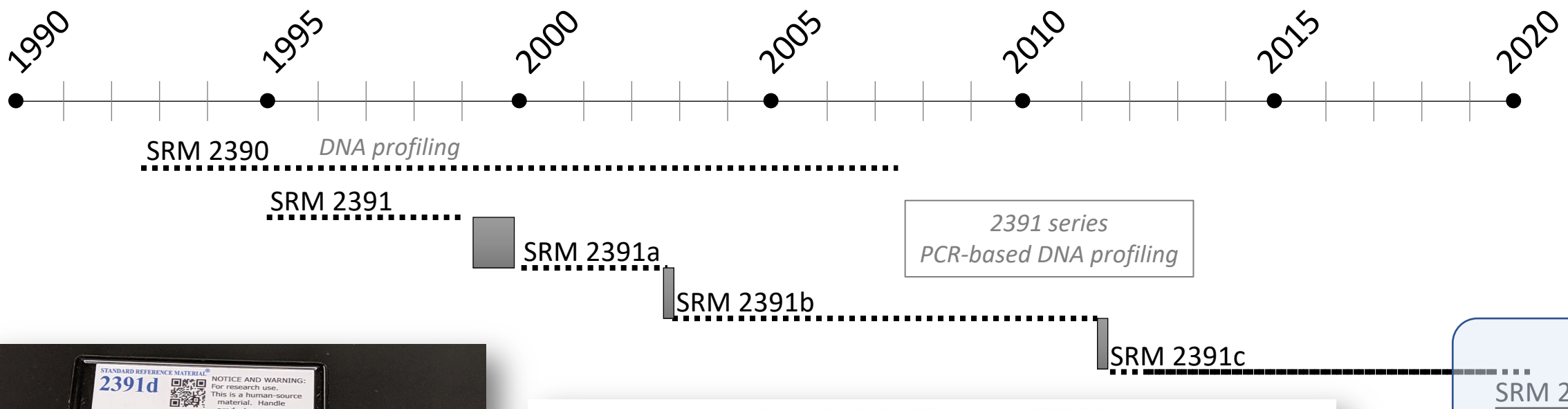
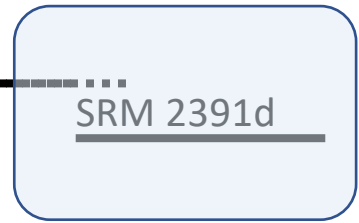
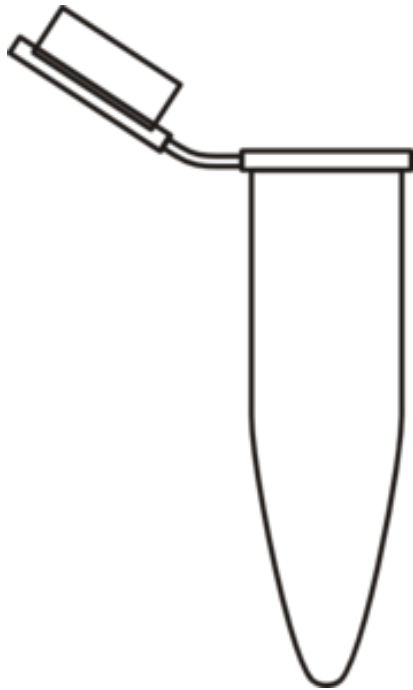


Table 1. Description of Components in SRM 2391d

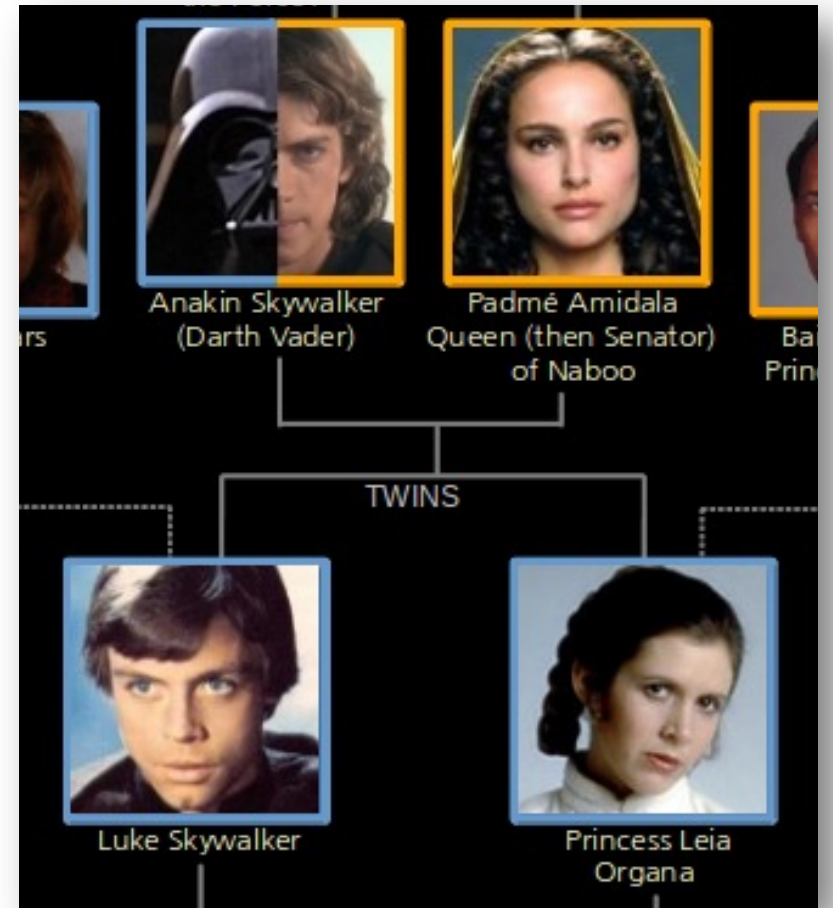
Component	Description	Volume	Concentration <sup>(a)</sup>
A	Anonymous single-source female genomic DNA in TE <sup>-4</sup> buffer	55 µL	1.6 ± 0.5 ng/µL
B	Anonymous single-source male genomic DNA in TE <sup>-4</sup> buffer	55 µL	1.7 ± 0.5 ng/µL
C	Anonymous single-source male genomic DNA in TE <sup>-4</sup> buffer	55 µL	1.6 ± 0.2 ng/µL
D	Mixed-source, 3:1 (3 parts Component A and 1 part Component C) genomic DNA in TE <sup>-4</sup> buffer	55 µL	1.5 ± 0.4 ng/µL
E	Anonymous single-source female cells spotted on FTA paper <sup>(b)</sup>	Two 6 mm punches	7.5 × 10 <sup>4</sup> cells per punch

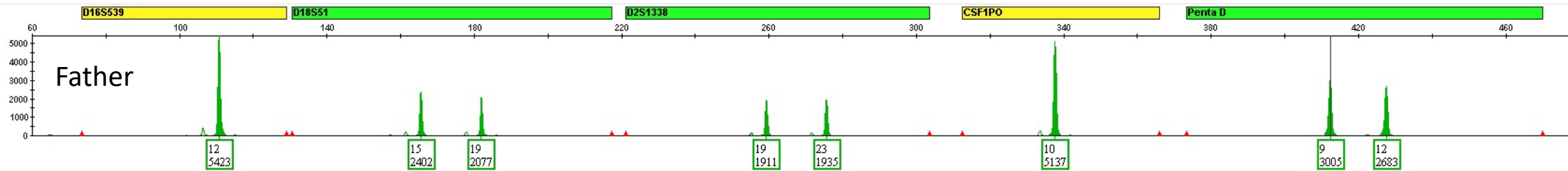
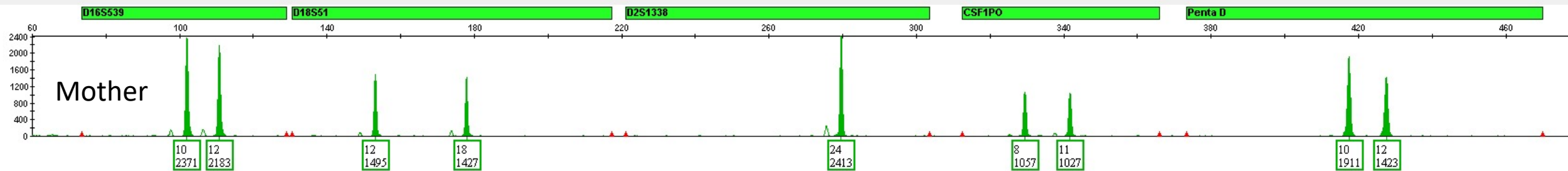
<sup>(a)</sup> DNA concentrations and cell counts are provided as Information Values.  
<sup>(b)</sup> FTA paper cards contain chemicals that lyse cells, denature proteins and protect nucleic acids from nucleases, oxidation and UV damage. FTA cards rapidly inactivate organisms, including blood-borne pathogens, and prevent the growth of bacteria and other microorganisms.

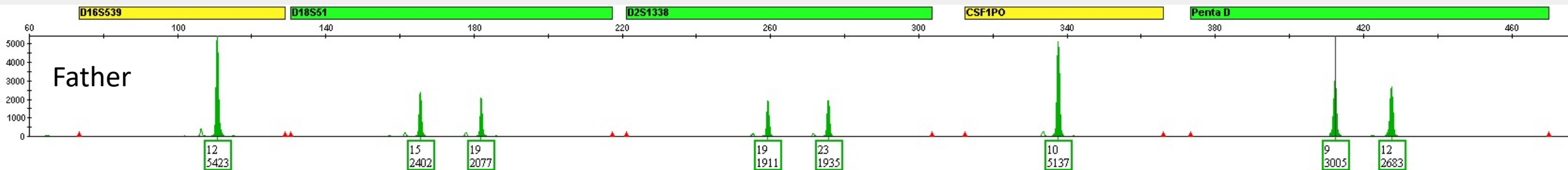
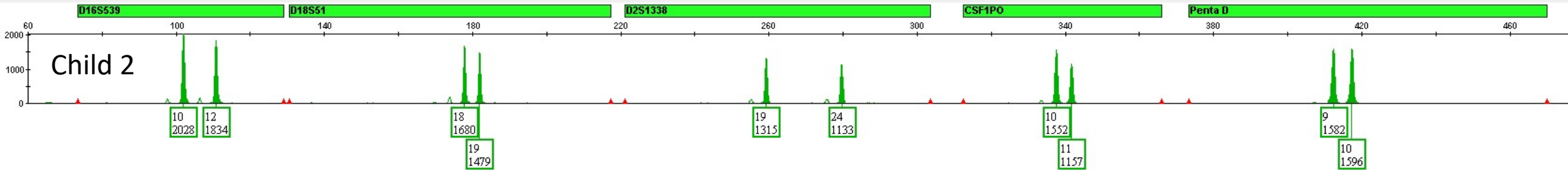
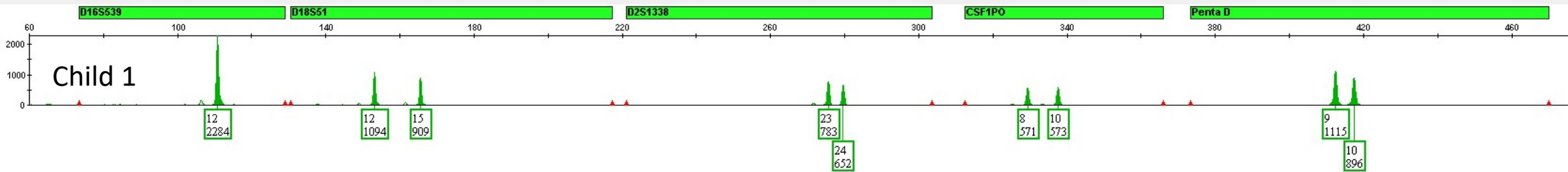
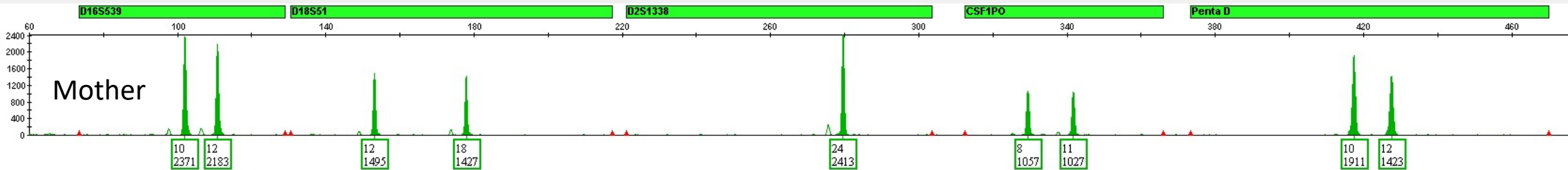




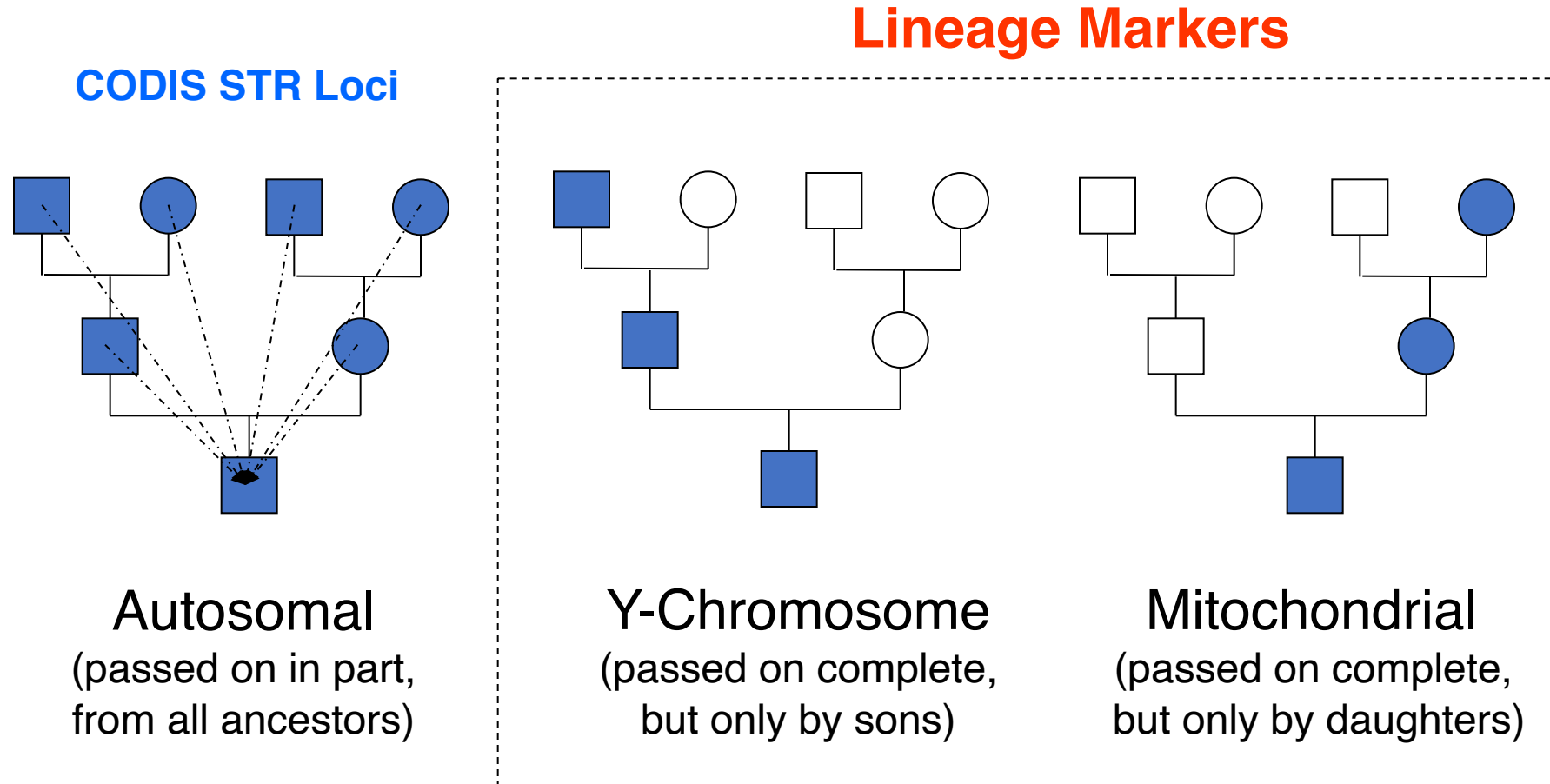
# Kinship







# Different Inheritance Patterns





Interpretation

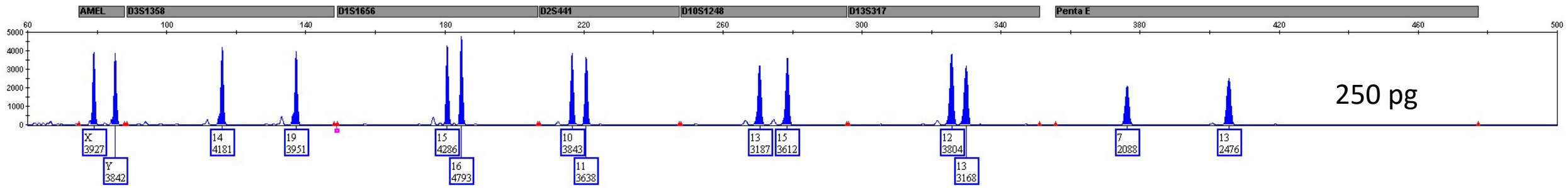
In forensic casework profile  
interpretation is more involved

Examples...

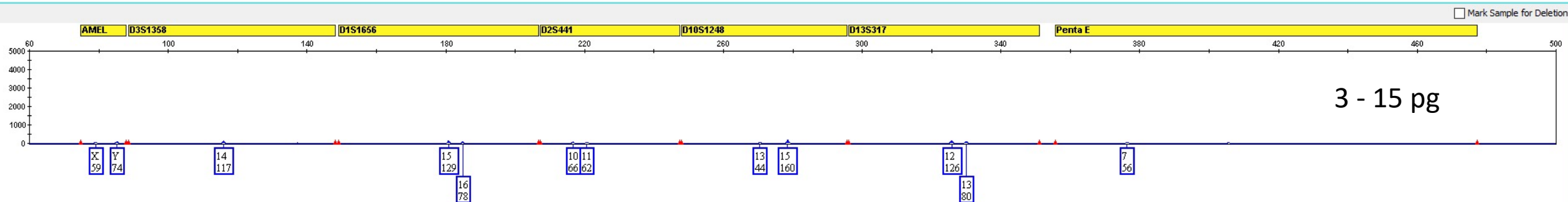
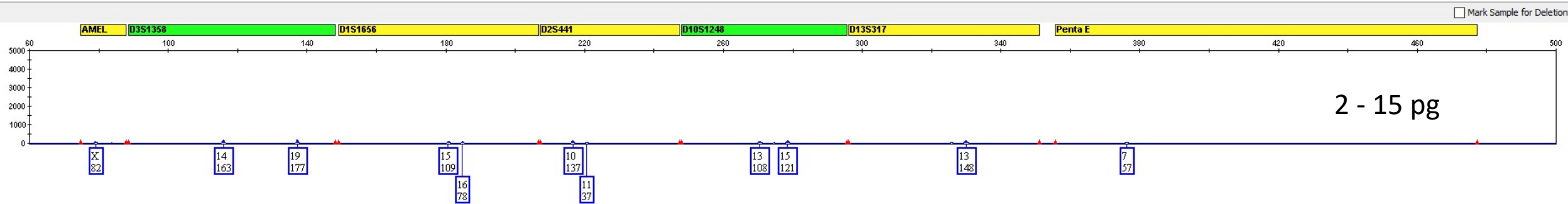
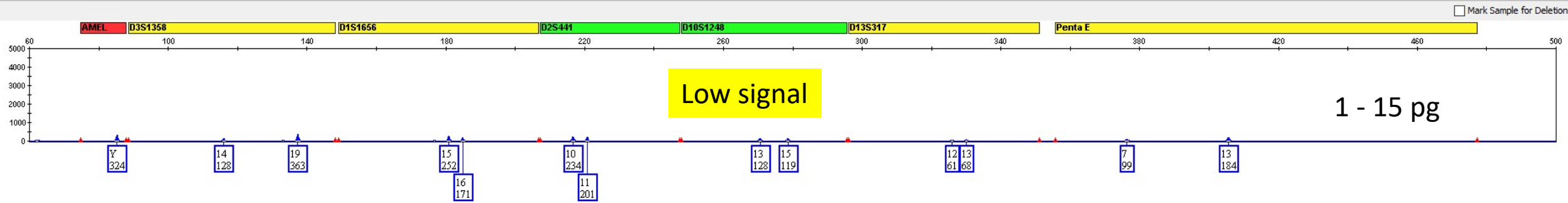
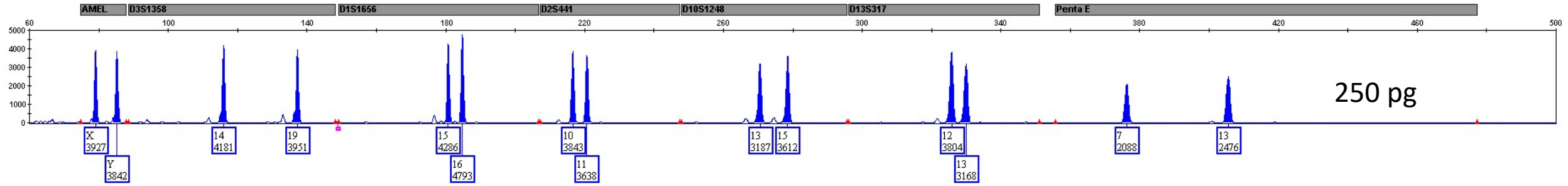
# Low template DNA Example

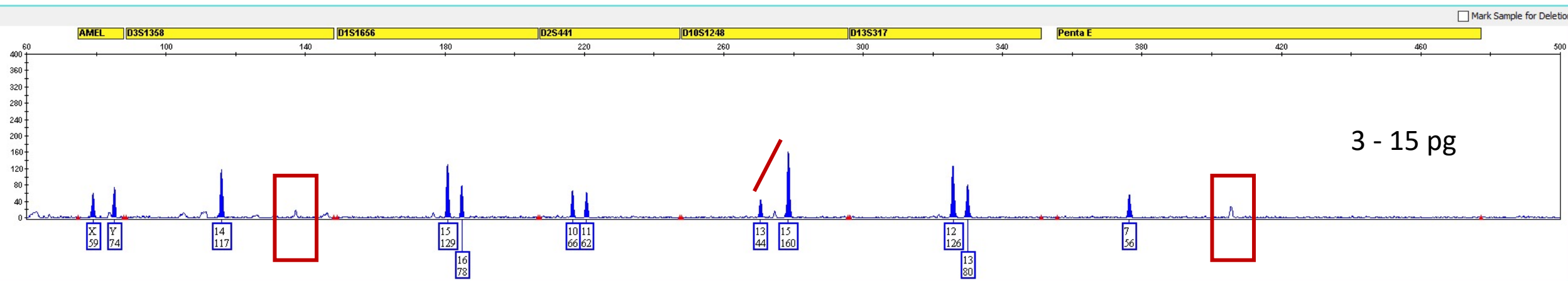
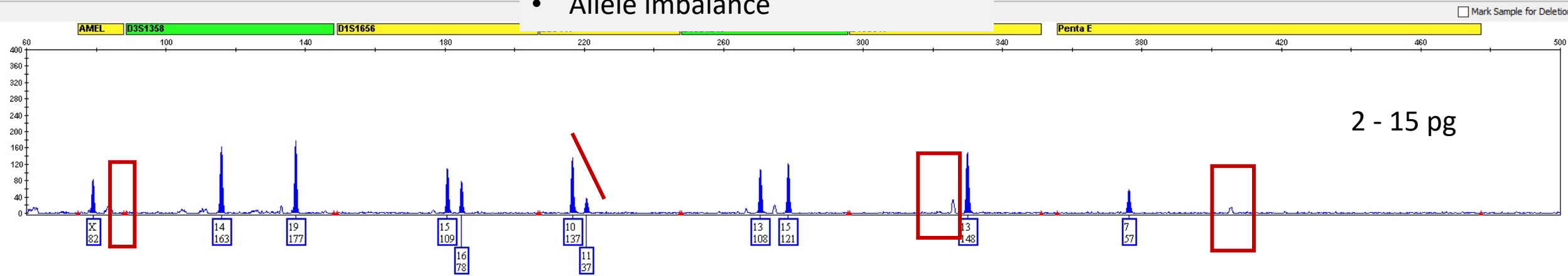
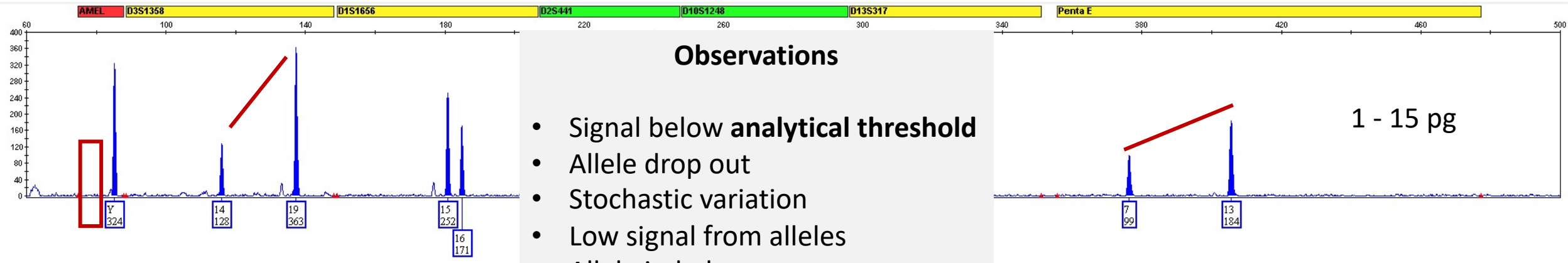
Stochastic variation

# Single source



# Single source

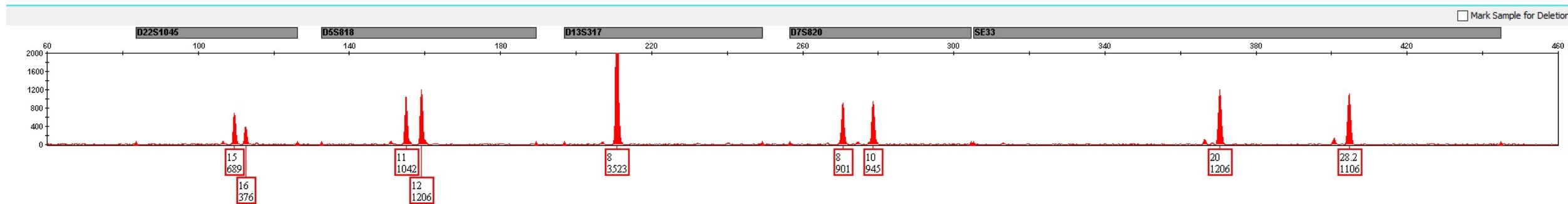
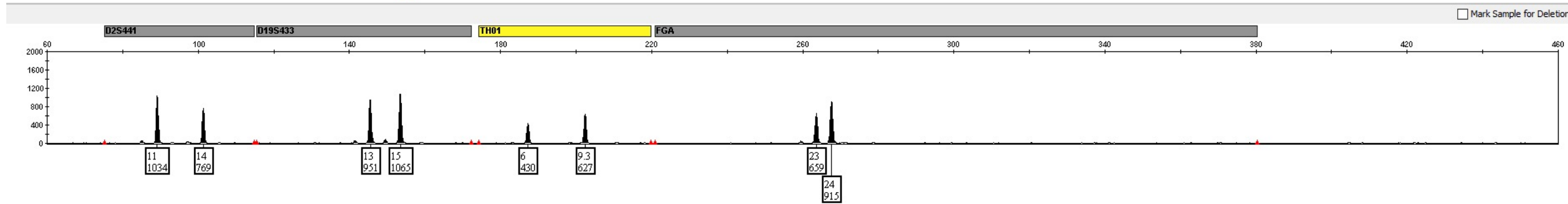
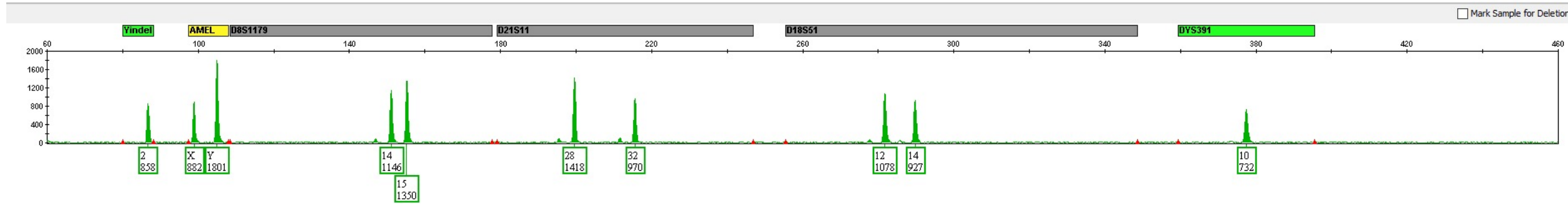
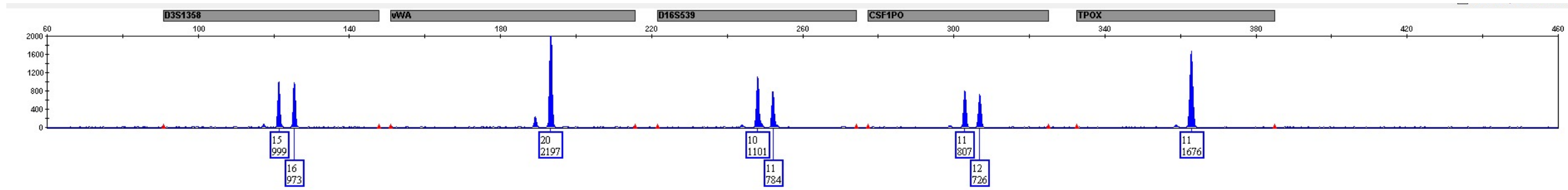




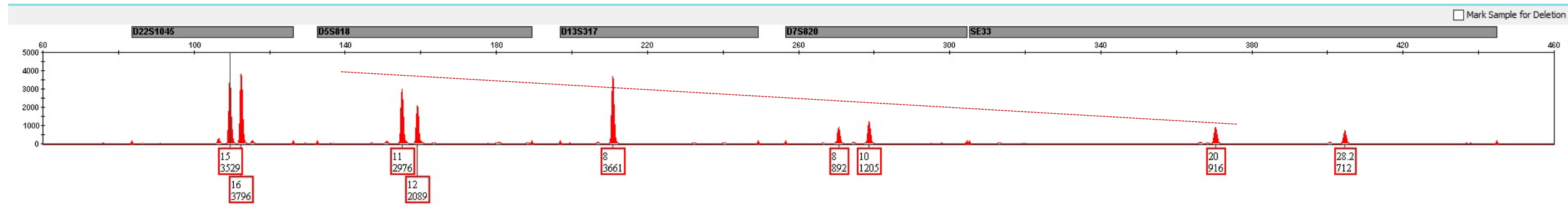
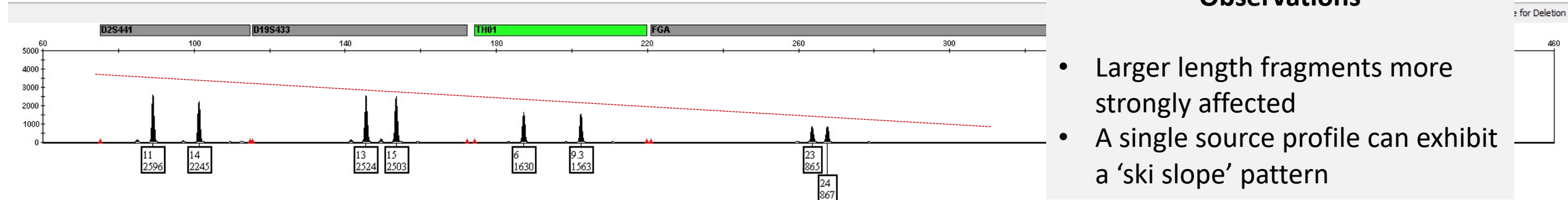
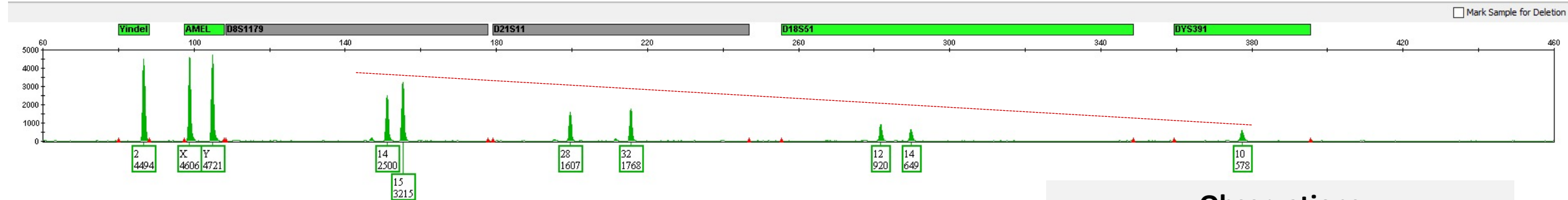
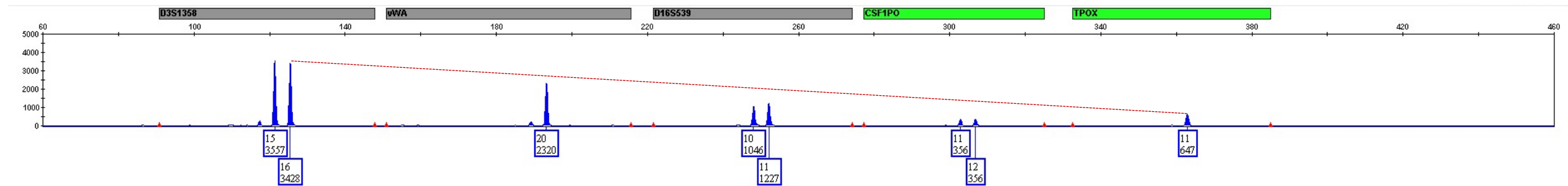
# Degraded DNA Example

<https://lftdi.camden.rutgers.edu/provedit/>

# Sample 44 - single source - pristine



# Sample 44 - single source - degraded - high template



## Observations

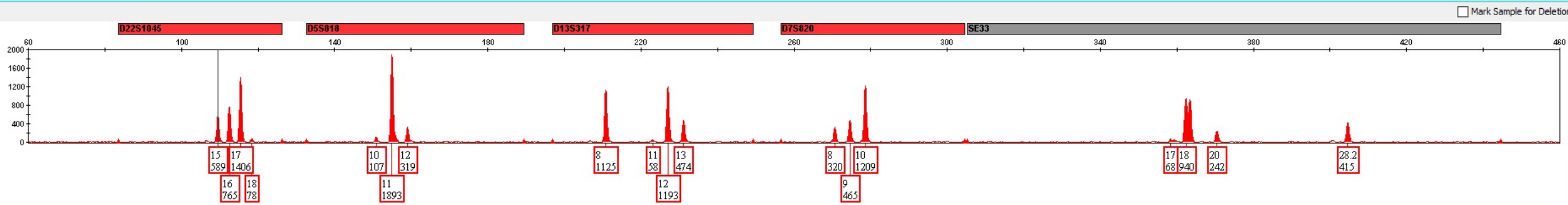
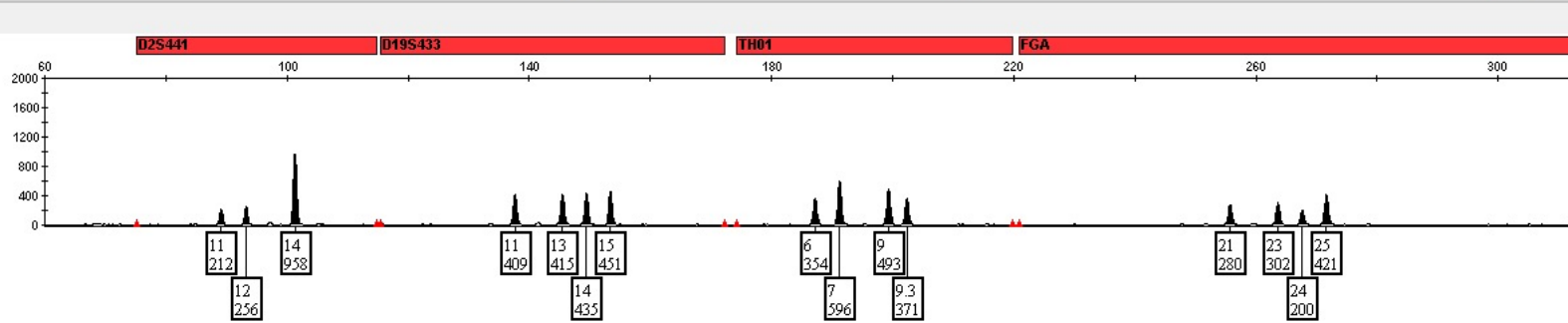
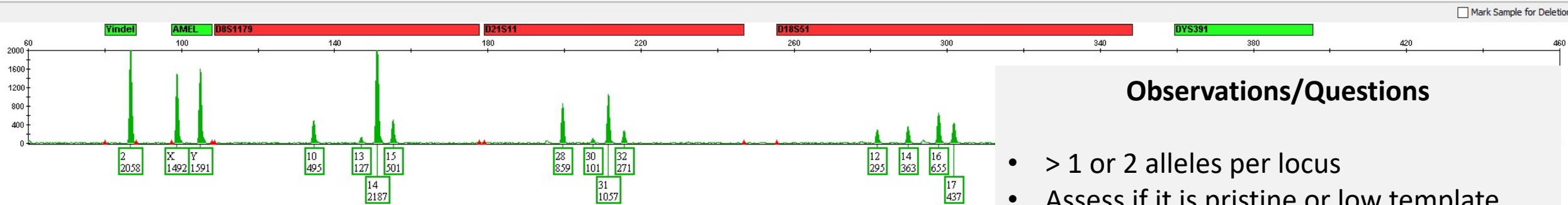
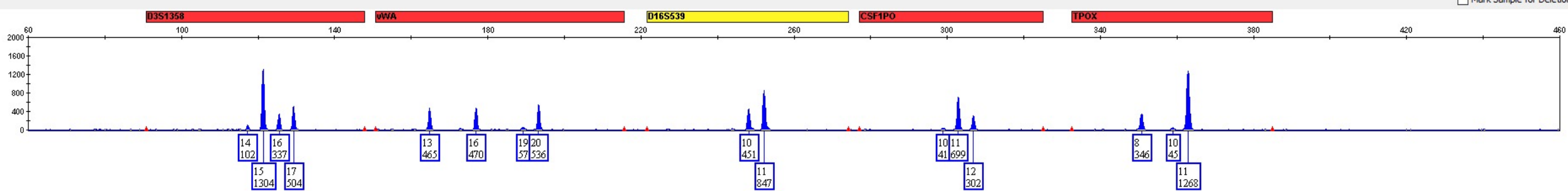
- Larger length fragments more strongly affected
- A single source profile can exhibit a 'ski slope' pattern



# Mixture Examples

<https://lftdi.camden.rutgers.edu/provedit/>

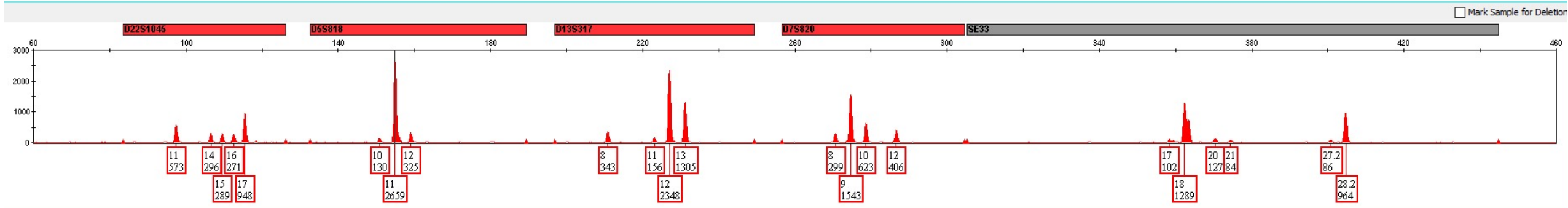
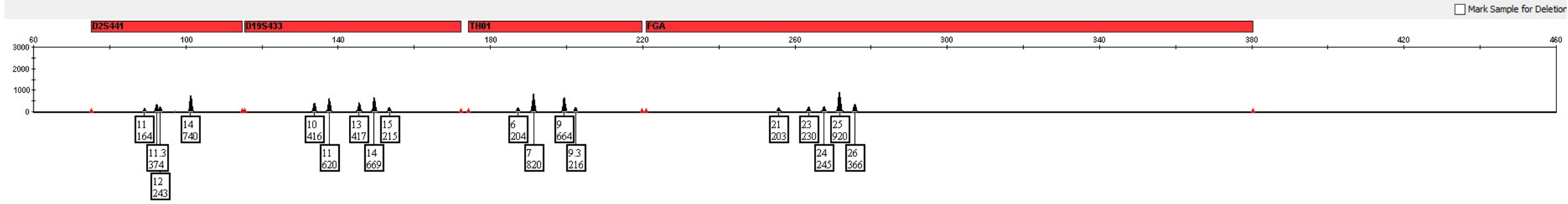
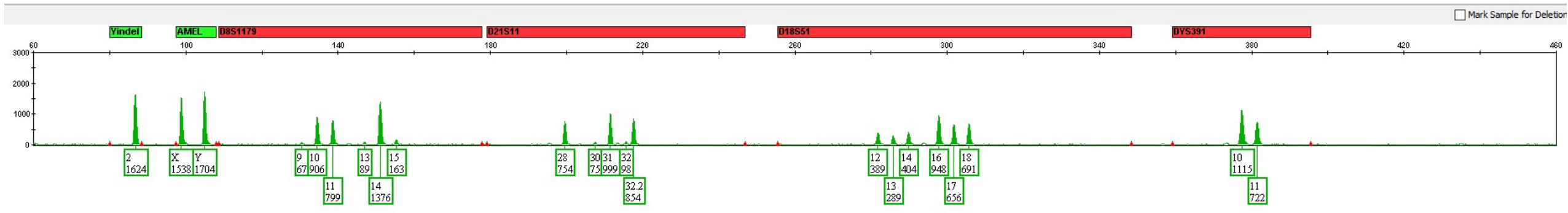
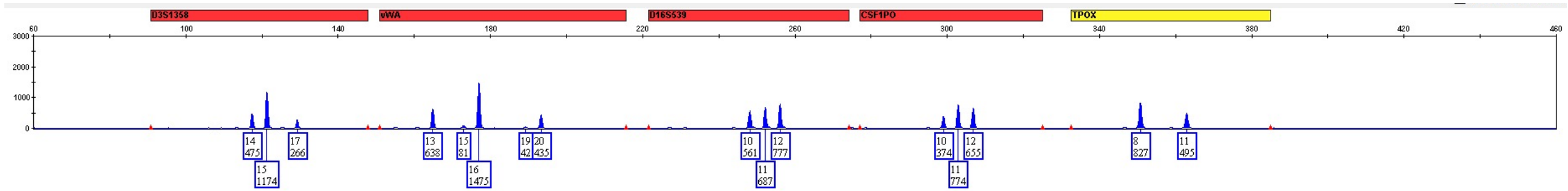
# Two person mixture Sample 44 and 45 Ratio 1:1 pristine



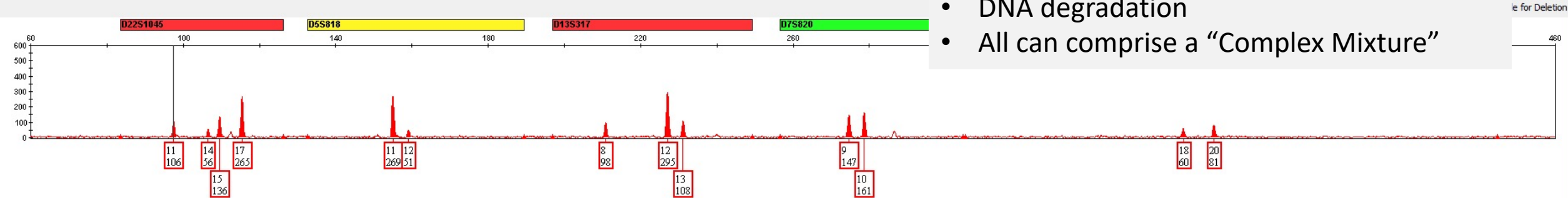
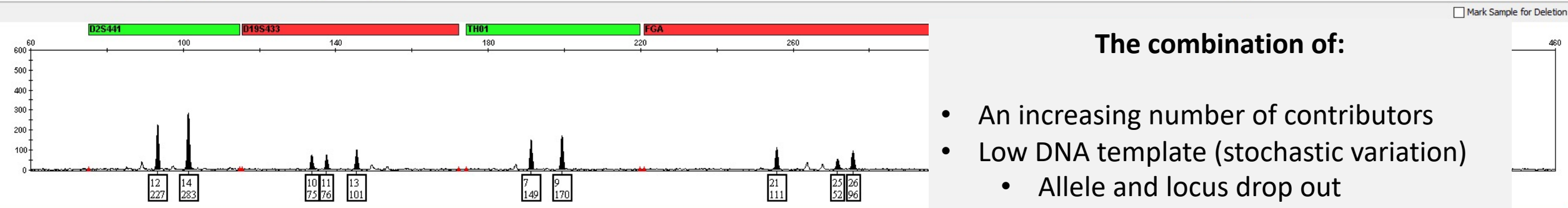
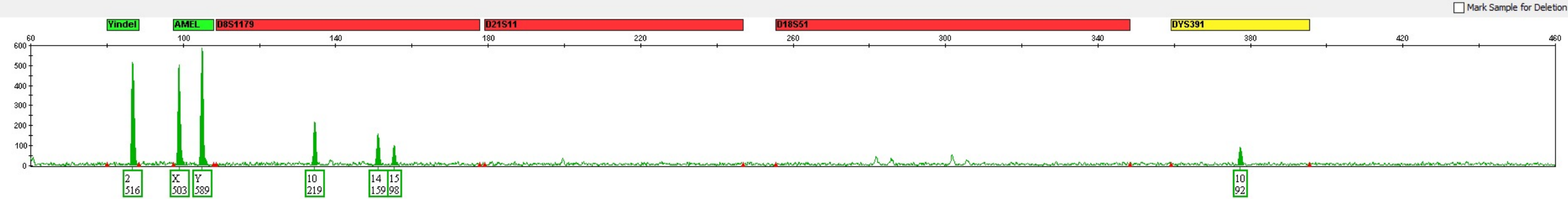
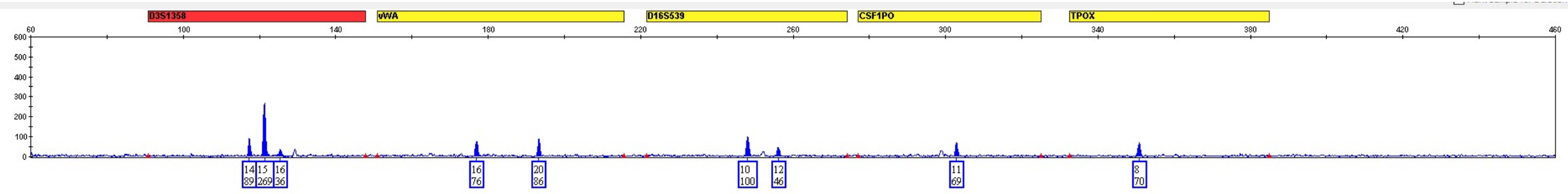
### Observations/Questions

- > 1 or 2 alleles per locus
- Assess if it is pristine or low template profile (allele drop out)?
- Is a peak from stutter or a minor allele?
- Can the NoC be estimated?
- Can the mixture ratio be estimated?

# Three person mixture Samples 44, 45, and 46 Ratio 1:2:2 pristine



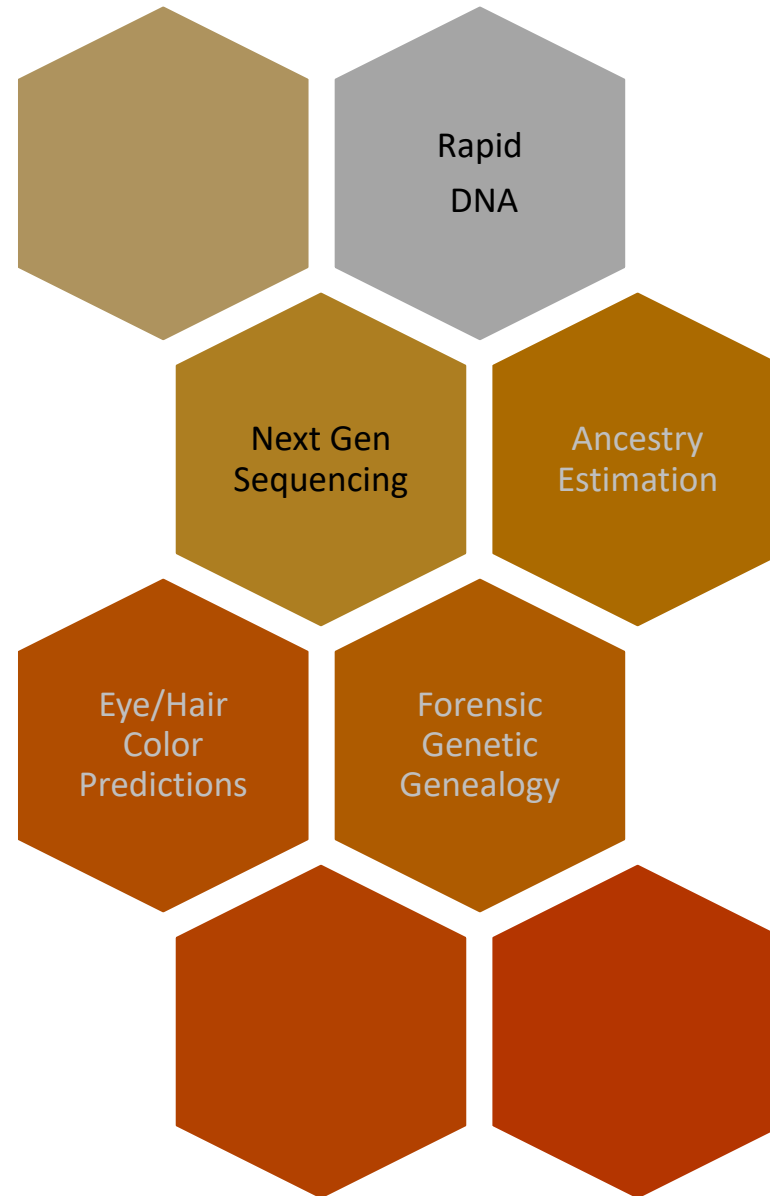
# “Complex mixture” Three person mixture - degraded - low template



**The combination of:**

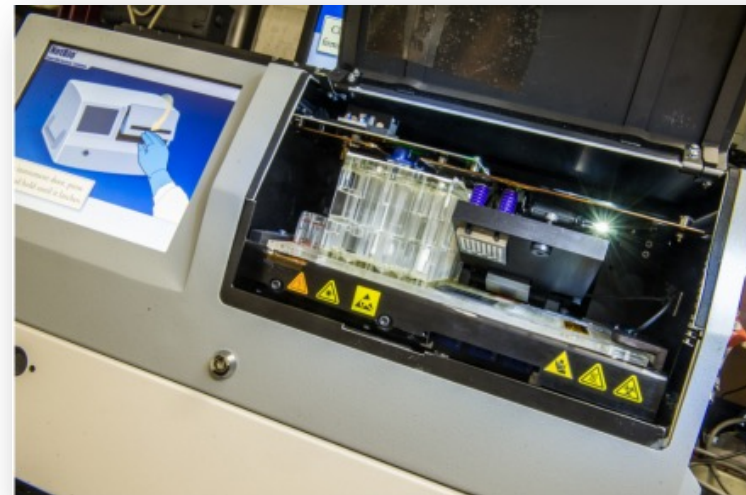
- An increasing number of contributors
- Low DNA template (stochastic variation)
  - Allele and locus drop out
- DNA degradation
- All can comprise a “Complex Mixture”

# Recent advancements and applications

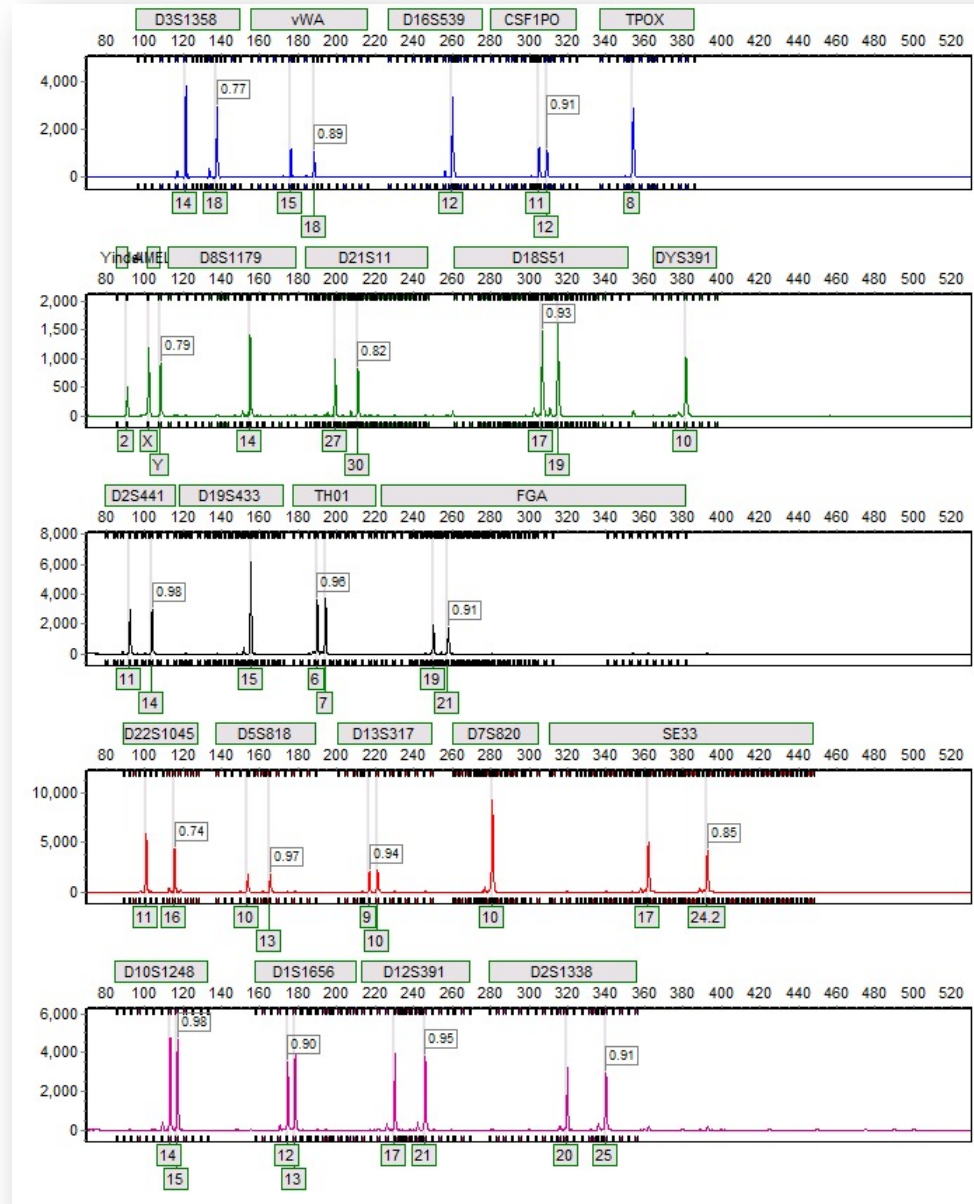
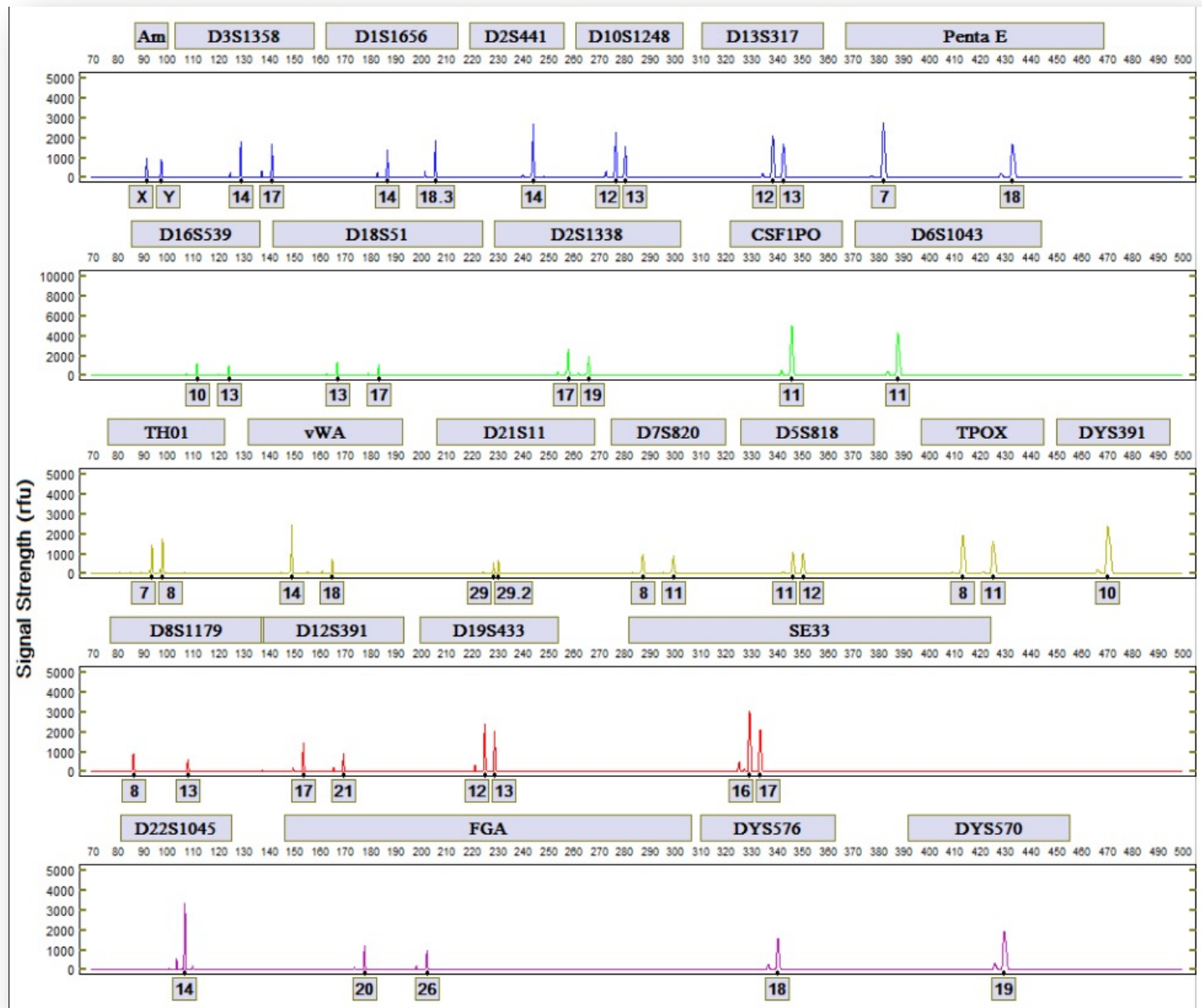


# Rapid DNA Systems

- Perform DNA Typing in a closed, integrated system
- Enroll arrestees into the national database
  - Police booking station (buccal swab – an excess of single source DNA)
- Casework?
  - Considerations for field use – is the data quality amenable to automated interpretation?
- Field applications
- Mass disasters
- Kinship
- At a border crossing



# Profiles from *high quality single source* samples generated by Rapid DNA instruments (generated in 90 - 100 minutes)



# Rapid DNA Maturity Assessment 2018



## TECHNICAL NOTE

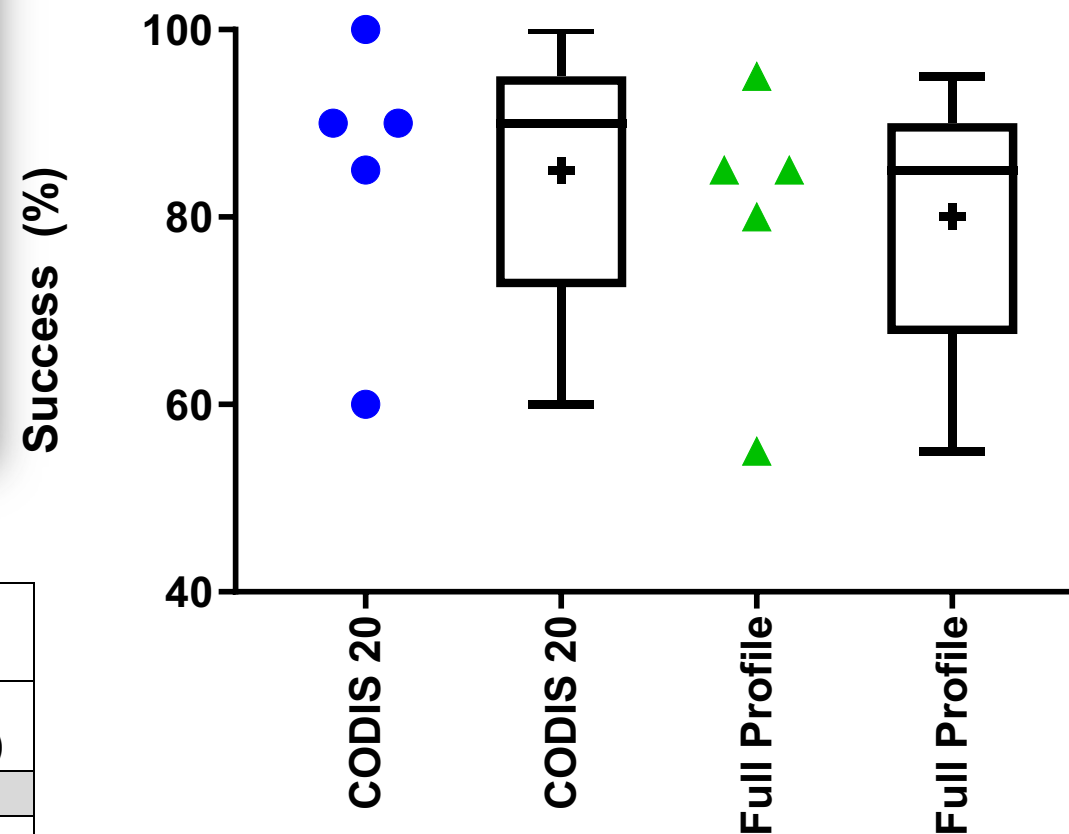
### CRIMINALISTICS

Erica L. Romsos,<sup>1</sup> M.F.S.; Julie L. French,<sup>2</sup> M.S.; Mark Smith,<sup>3</sup> B.S.; Vincent Figarelli,<sup>3</sup> B.S.; Frederick Harran,<sup>4</sup> M.S.; Glenn Vandegrift,<sup>4</sup>; Lilliana I. Moreno,<sup>5</sup> Ph.D.; Thomas F. Callaghan,<sup>5</sup> Ph.D.; Joanie Brocato,<sup>6</sup> Ph.D.; Janaki Vaidyanathan,<sup>6</sup> M.S.; Juan C. Pedrosa,<sup>7</sup> A.A.; Andrea Amy,<sup>7</sup> B.S.; Stephanie Stoiloff,<sup>8</sup> M.S.; Victor H. Morillo,<sup>8</sup> P.S.M.; Karina Czetyrko,<sup>8</sup> P.S.M.; Elizabeth D. Johnson,<sup>9</sup> M.S.; Jessica de Tagyos,<sup>9</sup> M.S.F.S.; Ashley Murray,<sup>9</sup> B.S.; and Peter M. Vallone,<sup>1</sup> Ph.D.

## Results of the 2018 Rapid DNA Maturity Assessment\*

Year of Study	Prior to Analysis Definitions	Rapid DNA Analysis		Modified Rapid DNA Analysis	
	CODIS 13 Success (%)	CODIS 13 Success (%)	CODIS 20 Success (%)	CODIS 13 Success (%)	CODIS 20 Success (%)
2013	88.3				
2014		76.1	70.0	80.0	75.0
2018			85.0		90.0

## Genotyping Success: Rapid DNA Analysis





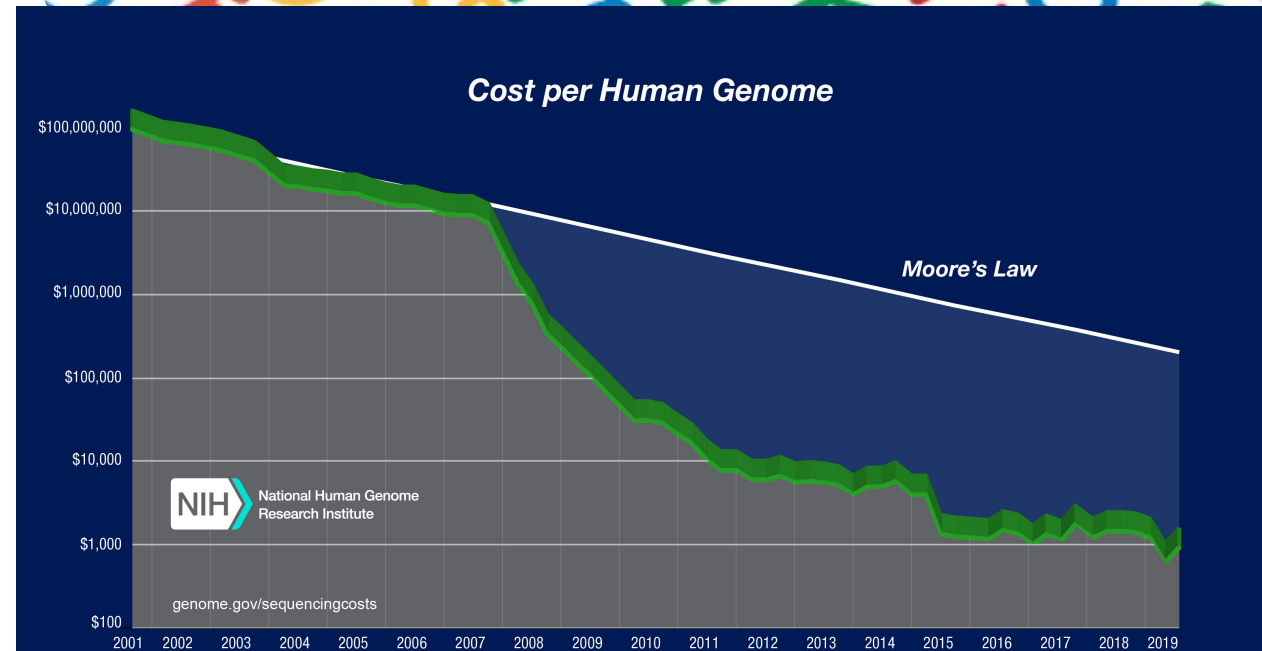
# Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)

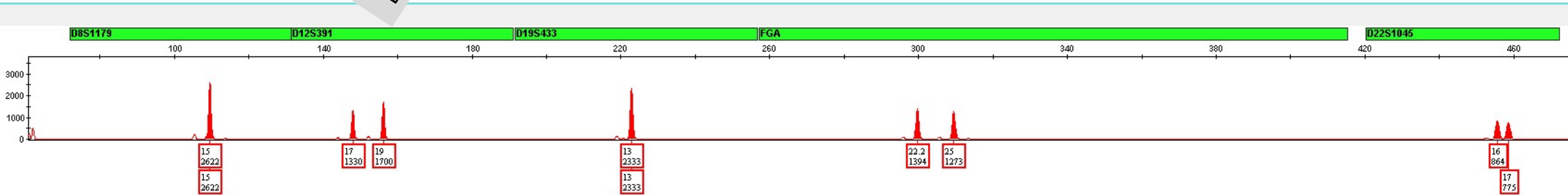
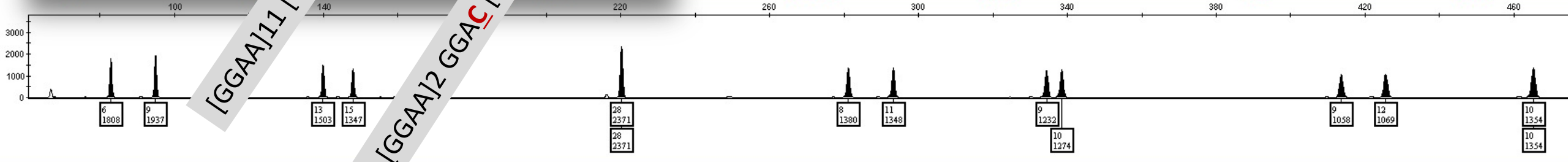
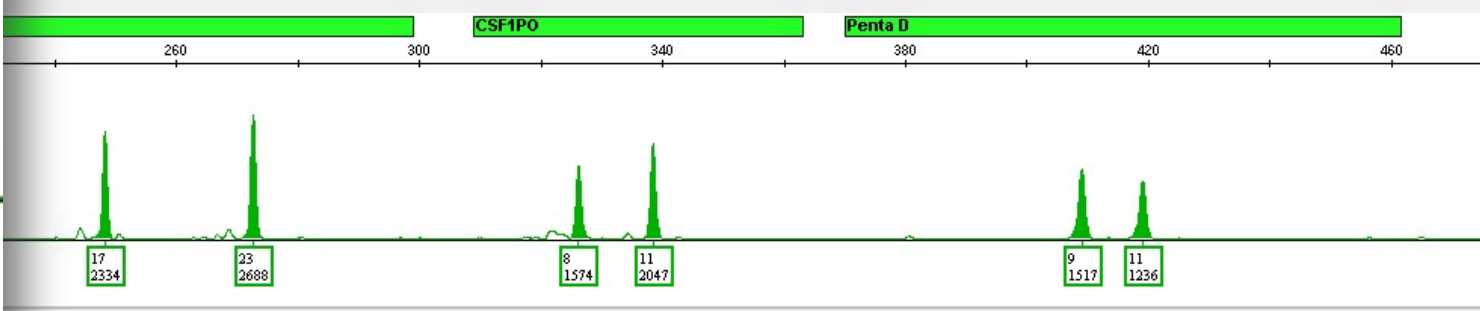
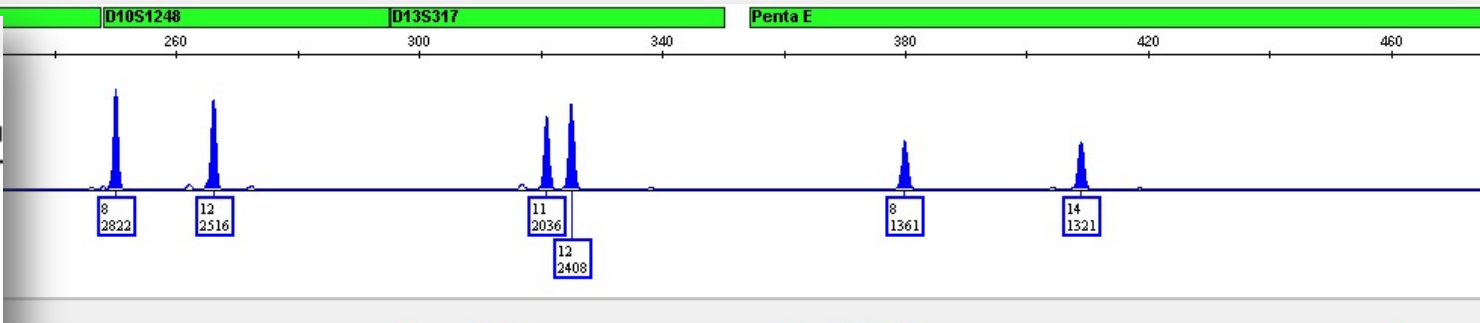
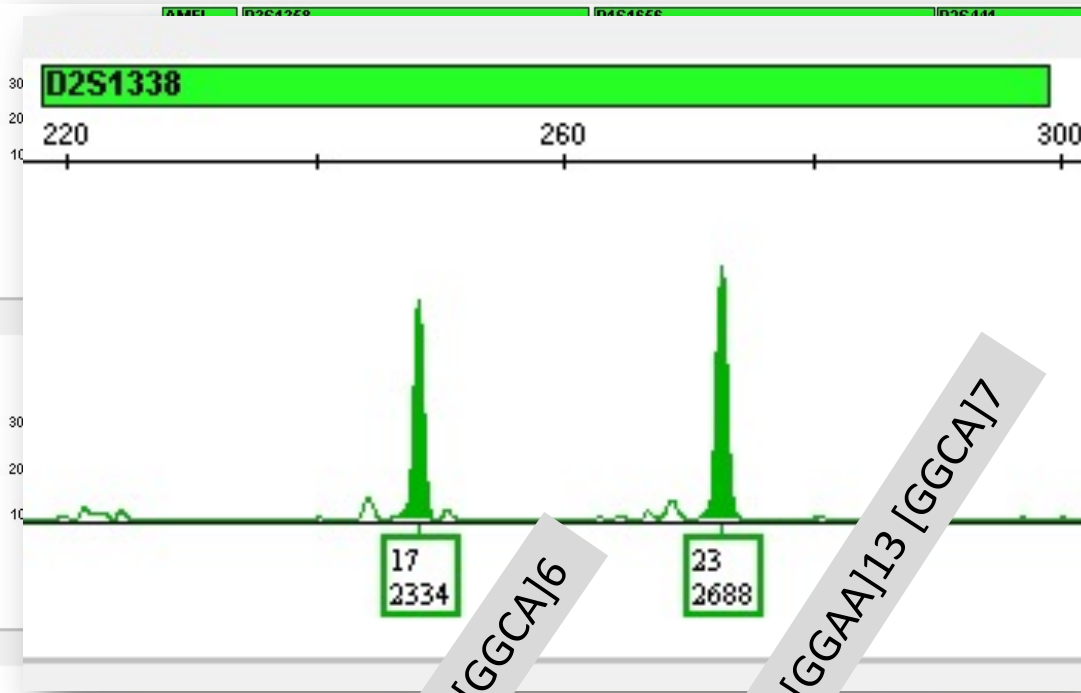


MiSeq FGx



Ion S5 XL

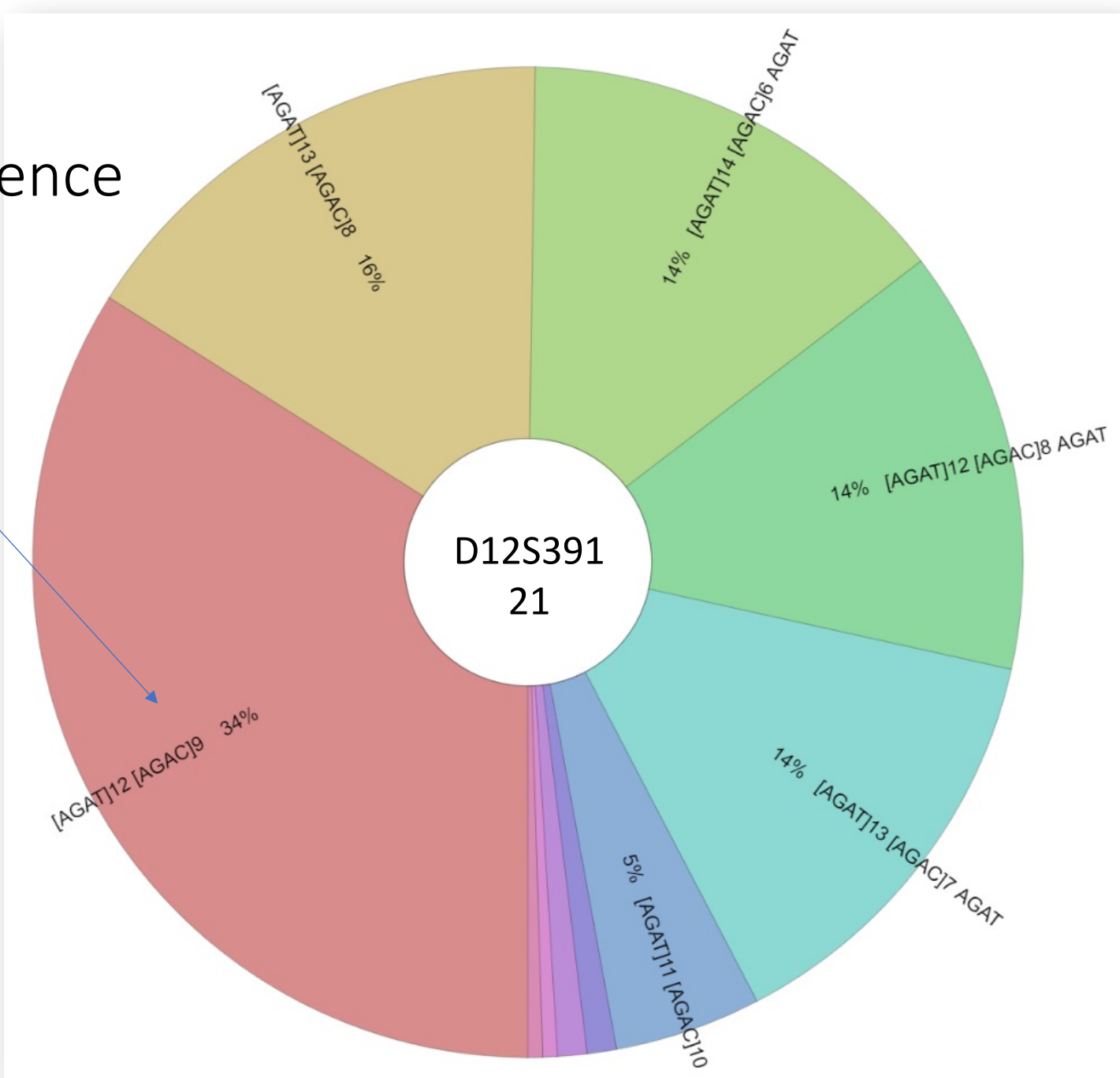




# D12S391

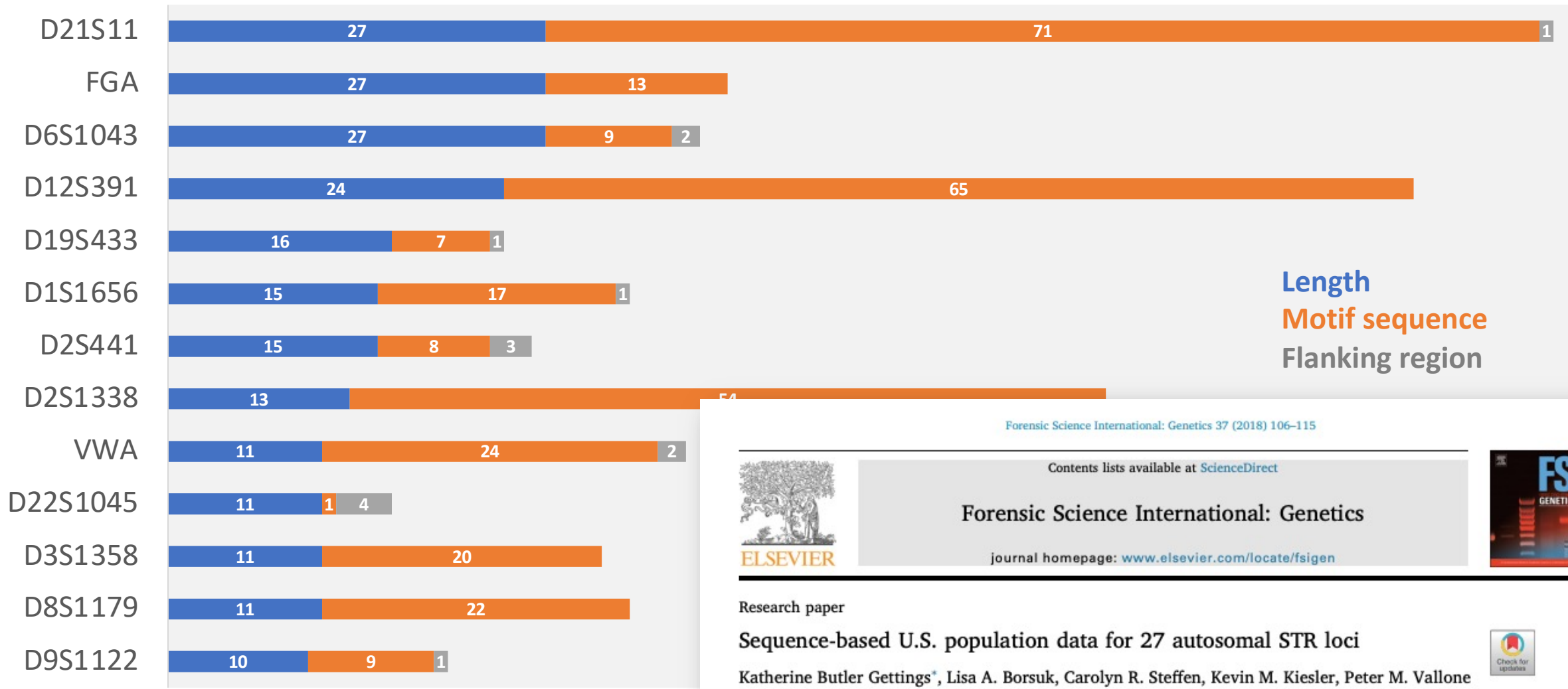
## Allele "21" frequencies by sequence

	Flavors of D12S391 - 21 allele	Global Freq
1	[AGAT]12 [AGAC]9	3.43%
2	[AGAT]13 [AGAC]8	1.64%
3	[AGAT]14 [AGAC]6 AGAT	1.25%
4	[AGAT]13 [AGAC]7 AGAT	1.40%
5	[AGAT]12 [AGAC]8 AGAT	1.40%
6	[AGAT]11 [AGAC]10	0.48%
7	[AGAT]14 [AGAC]7	0.10%
8	[AGAT]11 [AGAC]9 AGAT	0.10%
9	[AGAT]10 [AGAC]10 AGAT	0.05%
10	[AGAT]13 [AGAC]4 AGGC [AGAC]2 AGAT	0.05%
		10%



# Compound/Complex autosomal STRs

Increase in observed alleles through sequencing



Length  
Motif sequence  
Flanking region

0 10 20 30

# of unique alleles

N=1036

Forensic Science International: Genetics 37 (2018) 106–115

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Forensic Science International: Genetics**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fsigen](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fsigen)

Research paper

**Sequence-based U.S. population data for 27 autosomal STR loci**

Katherine Butler Gettings\*, Lisa A. Borsuk, Carolyn R. Steffen, Kevin M. Kiesler, Peter M. Vallone

U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology, Biomolecular Measurement Division, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, USA

Check for updates

# Sequencing Forensic STRs in Population Samples

When a match is made in a forensic case, allele frequencies are used to calculate how common or rare the DNA profile is in a given population

Example of **length** versus **sequence**-based frequency calculation:

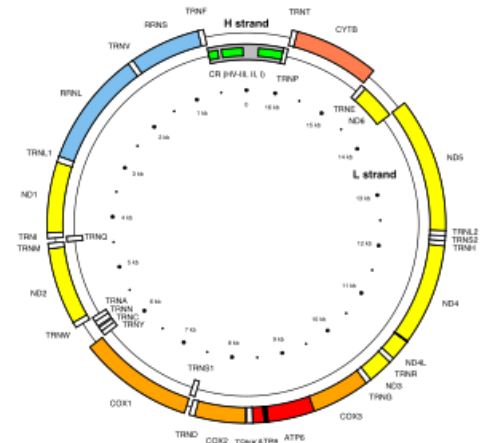
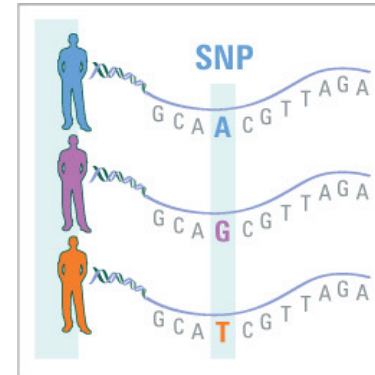
D4S2408						Length	Sequence
Allele	N	Freq	Sequence	Allele	N	Freq	
7	1	0.6%	[ATCT]7		1	0.6%	
8	23	14.4%	[ATCT]8		23	14.4%	
9	60	37.5%	[ATCT]9		18	11.3%	
			[ATCT] <b>G</b> TCT [ATCT]7		42	26.3%	
10	53	33.1%	[ATCT]10		53	33.1%	
11	21	13.1%	[ATCT]11		21	13.1%	
12	2	1.3%	[ATCT]12		2	1.3%	

8,9	[ATCT]8, [ATCT]9
2pq	2pq
$2 * 0.144 * 0.375$	$2 * 0.144 * 0.113$
0.108	0.033
1 in 9.3	1 in 30.7

# Sequencing also allows for the testing of emerging marker systems

- Mitochondrial genome sequence
- Identity SNPs – for degraded samples
- Ancestry SNPs – biogeographical ancestry prediction
- Phenotype SNPs – eye and hair color prediction



# Data Collection for Sample Screening: SNPs

## ForenSeq SNP Phenotype and Ancestry Estimation

### Hair Color Results

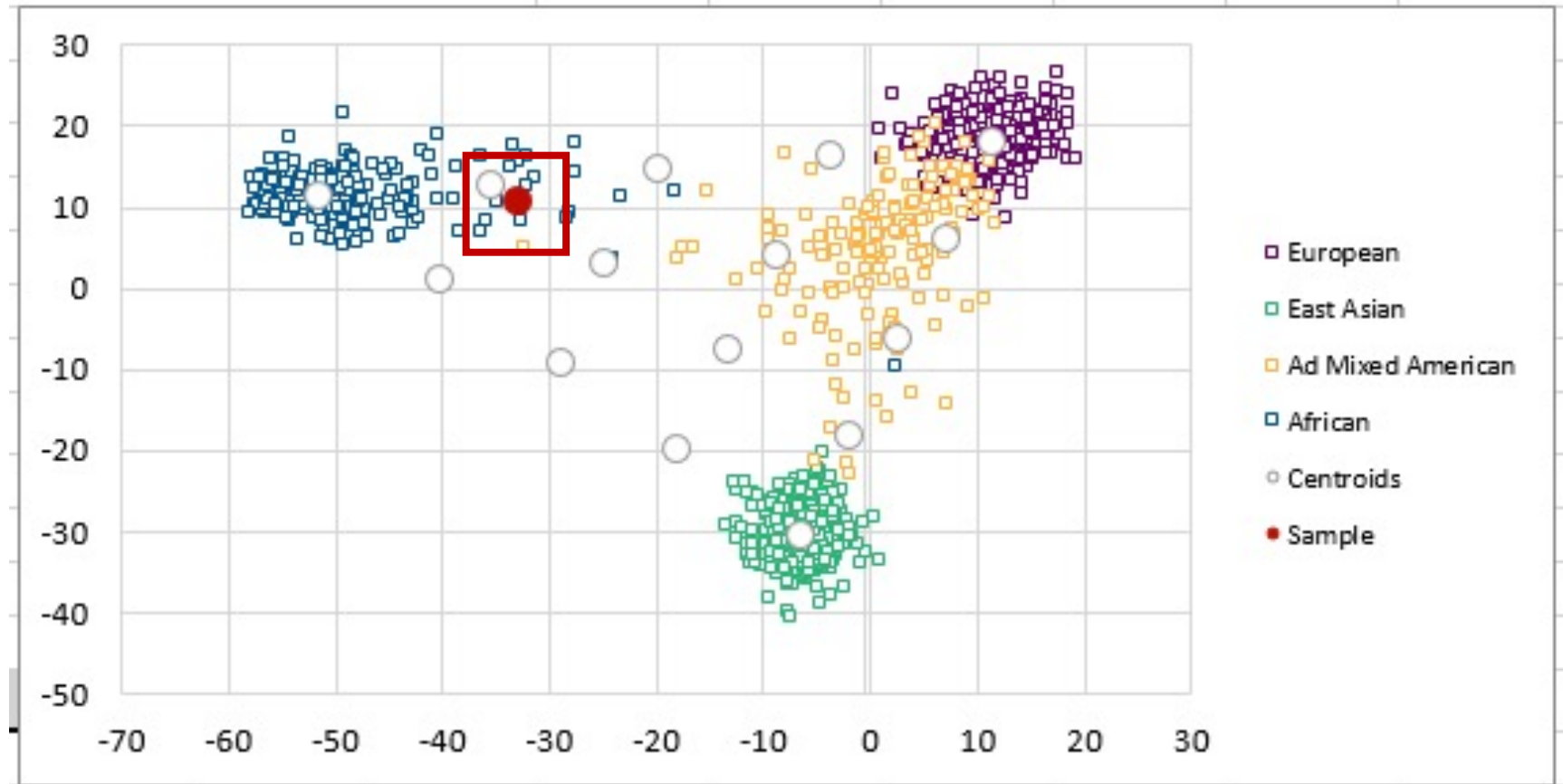
Brown	0.16
Red	0.00
Black	0.84
Blond	0.00

### Eye Color Results

Intermediate	0.00
Brown	1.00
Blue	0.00

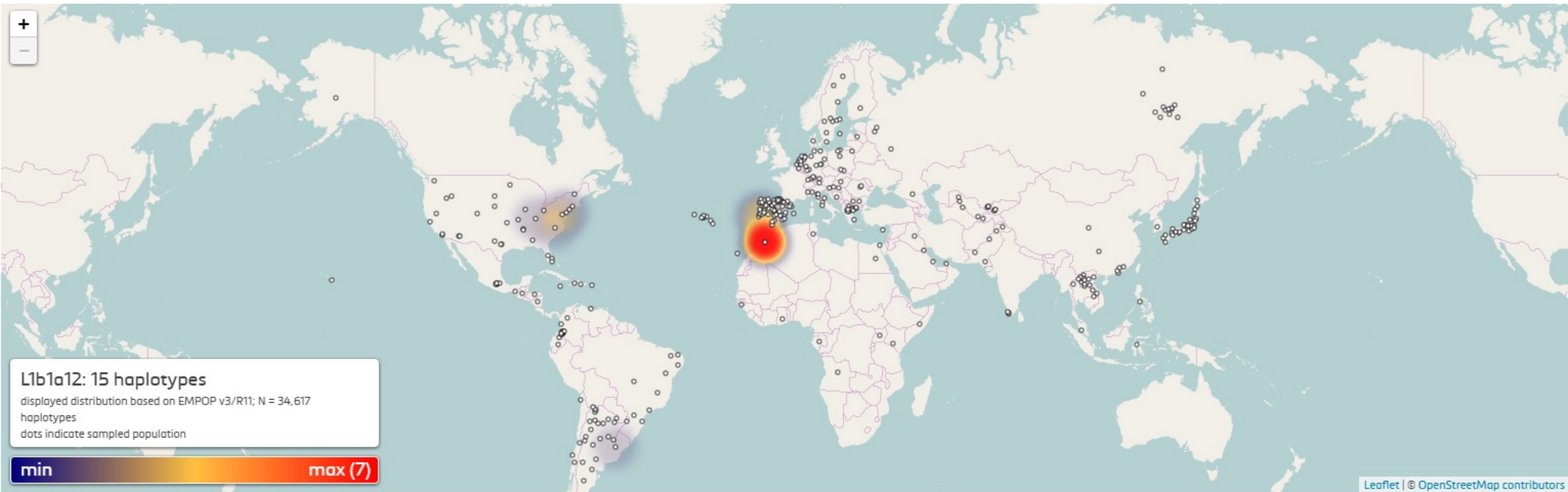
### Biogeographical Ancestry Results

Distance to Nearest Centroid	3.36
------------------------------	------



# Data Collection for Sample Screening: mtDNA

Illumina mtDNA Whole Genome Sequencing protocol with Nextera XT Sample Prep Kit



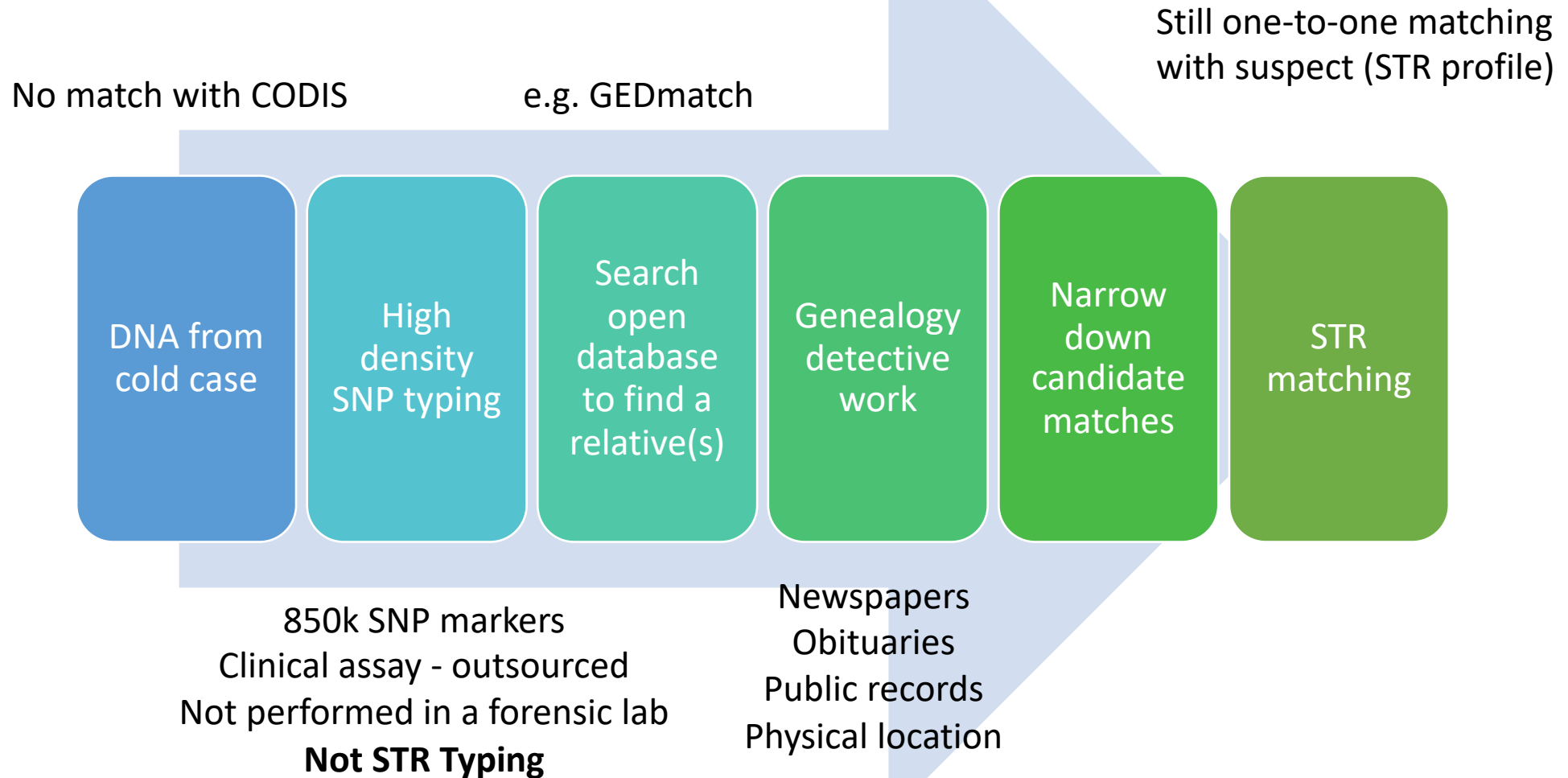
EMPOP results:

[https://empop.online/haplotypes#matches\\_details](https://empop.online/haplotypes#matches_details)

Haplogroup	Ancestry	Match
L1b1a12	African	unique



# Forensic Genetic Genealogy



# Forensic Genetic Genealogy

No match

DN  
CO



## Forensic Genetic Genealogy

Expand your network of information

FGG combines genetic and genealogy methods to identify people through relatives. The results provide investigative intelligence that exonerates the innocent, matches adoptees, and creates leads for cold cases. FGG is particularly useful when traditional methods are inconclusive, or all other options are exhausted.

A recent Verogen acquisition, the genealogical database GEDmatch aggregates DNA data files from known, voluntary contributors. Uploading a DNA data file yields a simple measurement of relatedness to help estimate kinship. This type of result makes GEDmatch a valuable tool that can create leads or eliminate suspects.

FGG and the GEDmatch database are gaining traction in real-world scenarios, providing meaningful investigative breakthroughs and resolving cases like the following.

Verogen acquisition of GEDmatch

Network typing

- The charging of Joseph DeAngelo with 13 cases of murder and 13 cases of kidnapping. After decades of dead ends, GEDmatch assisted with the identification of DeAngelo as the alleged Golden State Killer.
- The conviction of William Earl Talbott II of a 1987 double homicide was the first conviction to apply FGG. Data from DNA collected at the crime scene over 30 years ago were uploaded to GEDmatch and ultimately led investigators to Talbot.
- The exoneration of Christopher Tapp for the 1996 homicide of Angie Dodge and the charging of Brian Leigh Dripps marked the first genealogy-based exoneration. A DNA sample from the crime scene was processed and compared in GEDmatch, narrowing the focus to Dripps. A DNA sample from Dripps then confirmed him as the source of the crime scene material.

Leveraging the MiSeq FGx System and working in concert with the forensic community, Verogen is developing FGG as an end-to-end, fully integrated solution. As the only portfolio to include this capability, Verogen is uniquely able to bring the next era of genealogy into your laboratory.

the matching  
(STR profile)

ng

# The Shared cM Project – Version 3.0

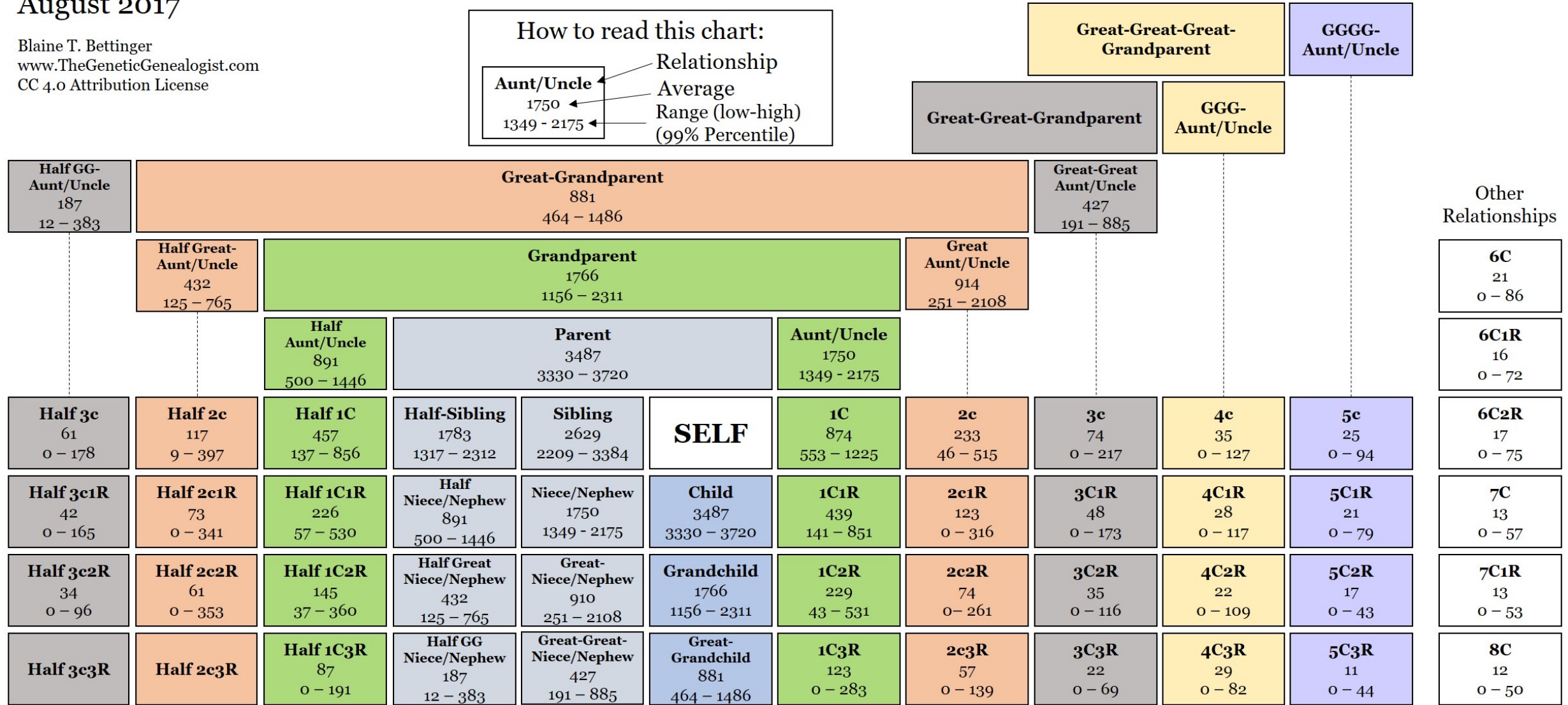
For MUCH more information (including histograms and company breakdowns) see: [goo.gl/Z1EcJQ](http://goo.gl/Z1EcJQ)

August 2017

Blaine T. Bettinger  
www.TheGeneticGenealogist.com  
CC 4.0 Attribution License

**How to read this chart:**

<b>Aunt/Uncle</b>	Relationship
1750	Average
1349 - 2175	Range (low-high) (99% Percentile)



Minimum was automatically set to 0 cM for relationships more distant than Half 2C, and averages were determined only for submissions in which DNA was shared

# Involvement in community working groups

- SWGDAM – FBI Scientific working group for DNA analysis methods
  - Rapid DNA, Validation of STR typing methods, Next Generation Sequencing, Body Fluid Identification
  - Rapid DNA Task Force Groups
- NIST OSAC – Organization of Scientific Area Committees
  - Validation of STR typing methods, Sequencing, Profile interpretation
- NIJ – National Institute of Justice
  - FLN-TWG – Forensic laboratory needs technical working group
  - Grant peer review
  - Technical working group (TWG) for Research and Development





## Short Tandem Repeat DNA Internet DataBase



<https://strbase.nist.gov/index.htm>

Serving the human identity  
community since 1997

STRBase 2.0

- First round of development
  - STR fact sheets (for 24 loci)
  - Variant allele reporting
- Provide search, sort, and download functionalities
- Automated submission of variant alleles
- Embedded viewer for STR sequence and presentations

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

STRBase 2.0

Register | Log in

Forensic Markers ▾ NIST Resources ▾ Community Resources ▾ About ▾

Search

### Introduction

STRBase is a resource for Short Tandem Repeat and other human identification markers. Within this site, users can navigate, search, and download locus information such as reported variant alleles, tri-allele, and general information including genomic coordinates, allele size ranges, sequence motifs. Information is also available by kit or core set. Registered users can upload newly observed length-based variant alleles and receive alerts of new information on pages of interest.

Additionally, STRBase hosts content produced by NIST Applied Genetics: publications, presentations, population data, sample data sets, and information regarding Standard Reference Materials of interest to the Forensic DNA community.

STR data produced via next generation sequencing is cataloged separately in the STRSeq BioProject at NCBI, with sequence-specific tools and resources forthcoming at [strseq.nist.gov](https://strseq.nist.gov).

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<https://strbase-b.nist.gov/>

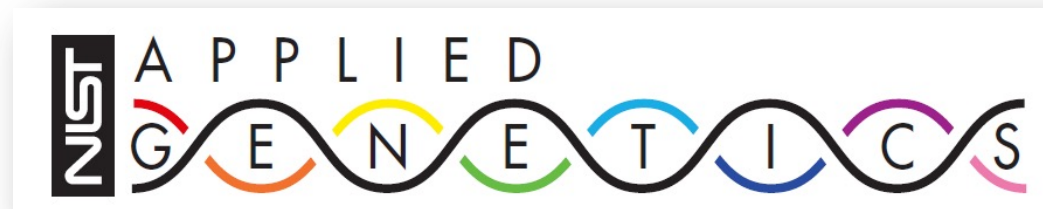
News:

15- - **STRBase 2.0** Launches  
Oct-18 - beta test site!

30- - New content has been  
Apr-19 - added  
Bugs continue to be  
fixed

# Thank you for your attention! Questions?

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  - NIST Special Programs Office: *Forensic DNA*
  - FBI Biometrics Center of Excellence: *Forensic DNA Typing as a Biometric tool.*
  - NIH: *STRSeq and Nomenclature*
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