



NIST Concordance Evaluations to Assist in the Improvement of Commercial STR Multiplex Kits

Becky Steffen, Margaret Kline, David Duewer, and Peter Vallone

National Institute of Standards and Technology

International Forensics Symposium on Error Management

Crystal City, VA

July 22, 2015

Outline of Topics to Discuss

- Introduction and importance of concordance testing
- NIST role in concordance testing
- Commercial STR multiplex kits examined
- Concordance results with various STR multiplex kits
- Summary and conclusions

Why are concordance
studies important?

Importance of Concordance Testing

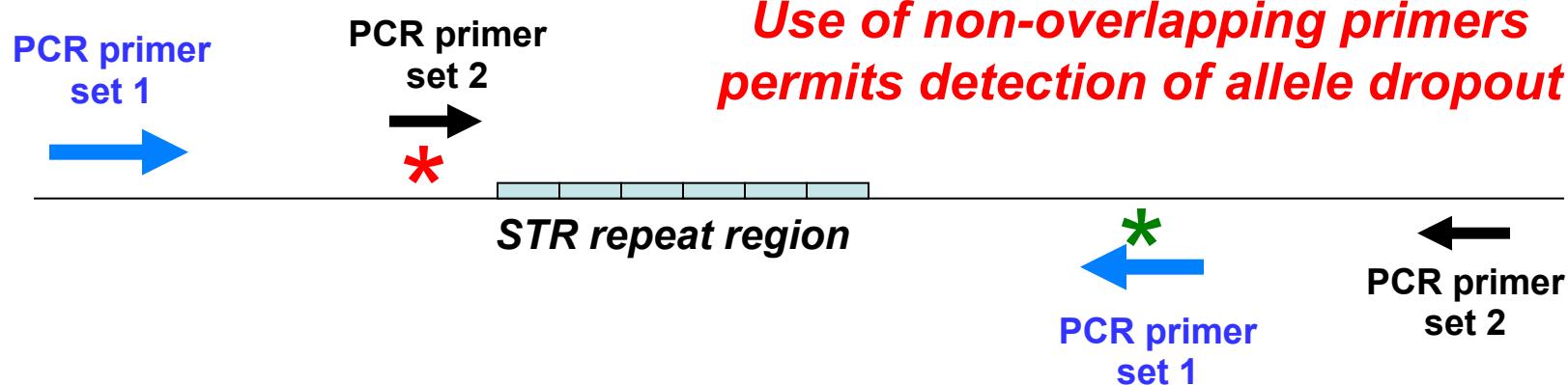
- There are a variety of commercial STR multiplex kits with different configurations of STR markers
 - Different primer sequences are used to amplify the same markers
 - Discordant results can impact DNA databases
- Detection of primer binding site mutations that cause **null alleles**, or allele drop-out
 - Can only be determined with concordance testing and DNA sequencing
- Concordance with NIST reference materials
 - Important to test with all new STR typing kits

Hill, C.R., Kline, M.C., Duewer, D.L., Butler, J.M. (2010) Strategies for concordance testing.
Profiles in DNA (Promega), 13(1).

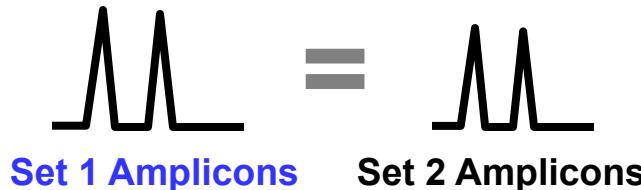
Purpose of Concordance Studies

When different primer sets are utilized, there is a concern that allele dropout may occur due to primer binding site mutations that impact one set of primers but not another

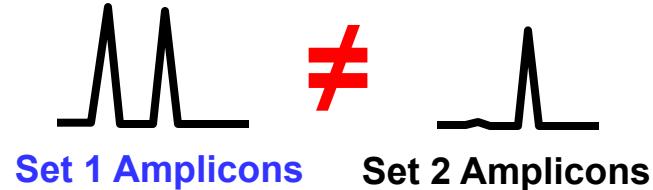
* represents potential mutations impacting primer annealing



If no primer binding site mutations

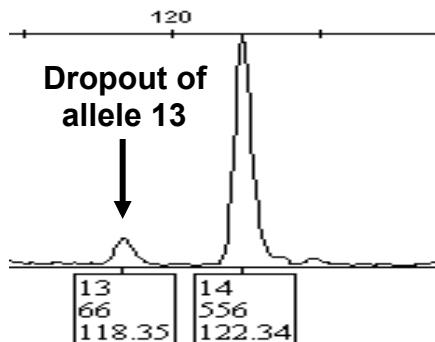


If a primer binding site mutation exists



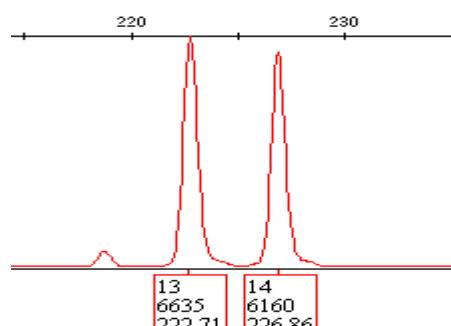
Example Primer Binding Site Mutation that Causes a Null Allele

Identifiler = 14,14



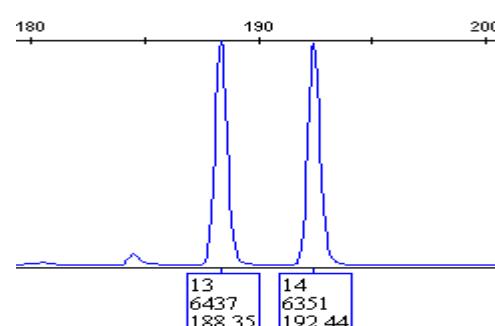
PHR = 11.9%

PP ESX 17 = 13,14



PHR = 92.8%

PP ESI 17 = 13,14



PHR = 98.7%

D19S433 repeat region

G → A
SNP

tattcgggtat

X

This region could potentially represent where the reverse primer is located to include the primer binding site mutation

To Avoid Overlapping PCR Product Size Ranges with STR Loci in the Same Dye Channel

- Life Technologies (Strategy 1)
 - **Maintains primer sequences** (except MiniFiler & NGM kits)
 - Utilizes mobility modifiers or additional dyes, no primer redesign is necessary
 - Enables comparison to legacy data with earlier kits but null alleles may go undetected with the potential for incorrect genotypes within data sets
- Promega Corporation (Strategy 2)
 - Moves primer sequences to change PCR product size ranges
 - Primer redesign can be difficult, but can be moved from primer-binding-site mutations
 - **Requires concordance studies to check for potential allele dropout**

Why is NIST involved in
concordance studies?

Purpose of Concordance Studies

1. To test SRM 2391c (PCR-based DNA Profiling Standard) components with all new STR multiplex kits and verify results against certified reference values
2. To gain a better understanding of primer binding site mutations that cause null alleles

What are the NIST
strategies for
concordance testing?

STR Kit Concordance Testing

Profiles in DNA Article Published April 2010

Article Type: Feature

Volume 13 No. 1, April 2010

Strategies for Concordance Testing

Carolyn R. Hill, Margaret C. Kline, David L. Duewer and John M. Butler

National Institute of Standards and Technology, Biochemical Science Division, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA

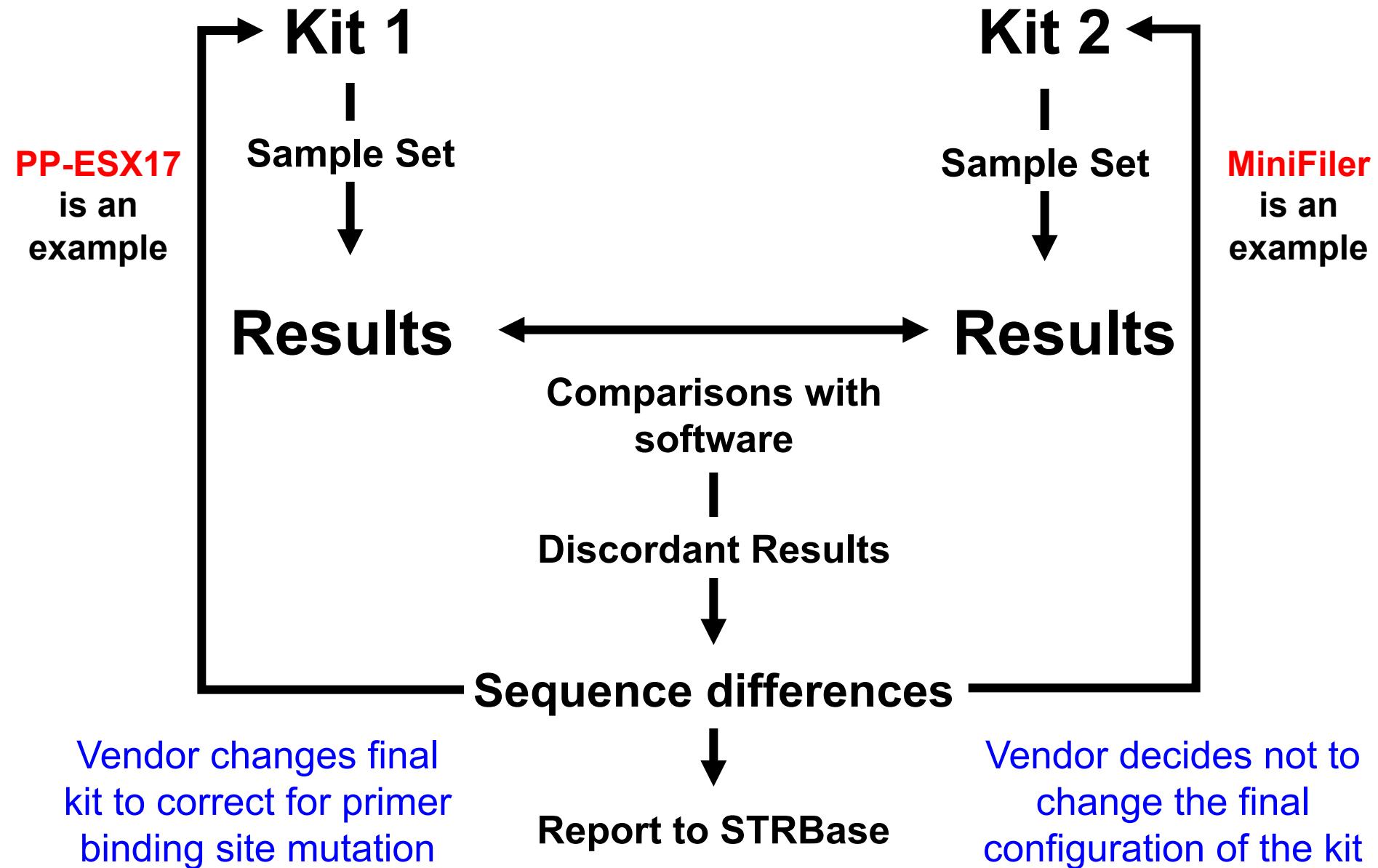
Concordance evaluations are important to conduct to determine if there are any allelic dropout or "null alleles" present in a data set. These studies are performed because there are a variety of commercial short tandem repeat (STR) multiplex kits with different configurations of STR markers available to the forensic community. The placement of the markers can vary between kits because the primer sequences were designed to amplify different polymerase chain reaction (PCR) product sizes. When multiple primer sets are used, there is concern that allele dropout may occur due to primer-binding-site mutations that affect one set of primers but not another.

http://www.promega.com/profiles/1301/1301_08.html

The 4 “S’s” of Concordance

- NIST Standard **Samples**
 - Run same samples with multiple kits to compare results
- Concordance **Software**
 - Allows comparison of data sets using NIST developed software
<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/software.htm>
- DNA **Sequencing**
 - To validate and determine the exact cause for the null allele
- **STRBase** website
 - To report verified null alleles and discordant results to the forensic community
<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/NullAlleles.htm>

NIST Concordance Testing Steps



What concordance
studies have been
completed thus far?

Life Technologies AmpFlSTR Kits

- Identifiler
- **MiniFiler**
- Profiler Plus
- SGM Plus
- NGM
- NGM SElect
- Yfiler Plus

Hill, C.R., Kline, M.C., Mulero, J.J., Lagace, R.E., Chang, C.-W., Hennessy, L.K., Butler, J.M. (2007) Concordance study between the AmpFISTR MiniFiler PCR Amplification Kit and conventional STR typing kits. *J. Forensic Sci.* 52(4): 870-873.

Promega PowerPlex Systems

- PowerPlex 16/16HS
- **PowerPlex ESX 17 (& Fast)**
- **PowerPlex ESI 17 (& Fast)**
- PowerPlex ESI 17 Pro
- PowerPlex 18D (rapid and direct kit)
- PowerPlex 21
- PowerPlex Fusion
- PowerPlex Fusion 6C
- PowerPlex Y23



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Forensic Science International: Genetics

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig



Concordance and population studies along with stutter and peak height ratio analysis for the PowerPlex[®] ESX 17 and ESI 17 Systems

Carolyn R. Hill^{a,*}, David L. Duewer^a, Margaret C. Kline^a, Cynthia J. Sprecher^b, Robert S. McLaren^b, Dawn R. Rabbach^b, Benjamin E. Krenke^b, Martin G. Ensenberger^b, Patricia M. Fulmer^b, Douglas R. Storts^b, John M. Butler^a

^a National Institute of Standards and Technology, Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8312, USA

^b Promega Corporation, Madison, WI 53711-5399, USA

Qiagen Investigator HID Kits

- ESSplex
- ESSplex Plus
- ESSplex SE
- ESSplex SE Plus
- Hexaplex ESS
- IDplex
- IDplex Plus
- 24plex
- 24plex GO!

What samples are used
at NIST to perform
concordance testing?

NIST Sample Set (>1450 Samples)

- **NIST U.S. population samples**
 - 260 African American, 260 Caucasian, 140 Hispanic, 3 Asian
- **U.S. father/son paired samples**
 - ~100 fathers/100 sons for each group: 200 African American, 200 Caucasian, 200 Hispanic, 200 Asian
- **NIST SRM 2391b**, PCR-based DNA Profiling Standard (highly characterized)
 - 10 genomic DNA samples, 2 cell line samples
 - Includes 9947A and 9948
- **NIST SRM 2391c**, PCR-based DNA Profiling Standard
 - 4 genomic DNA (one mixture)
 - 2 cell lines (903 and FTA paper)

Publications using NIST Population Samples

Data available at

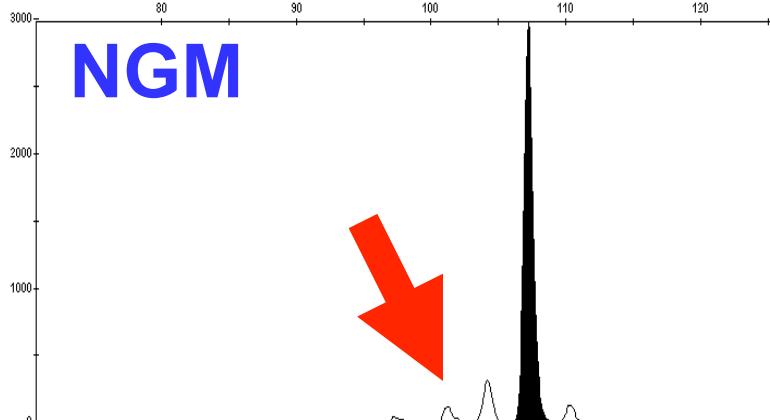
<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/strbase/NISTpop.htm>

1. Butler et al. (2003) *J. Forensic Sci.* – Identifiler allele frequencies
2. Butler et al. (2003) *J. Forensic Sci.* – miniSTR assay development
3. Drabek et al. (2004) *J. Forensic Sci.* – miniSTR concordance
4. Schoske et al. (2004) *Forensic Sci. Int.* – Y-STR 20plex & 11plex
5. Vallone et al. (2004) *J. Forensic Sci.* – 50 Y-SNPs
6. Coble & Butler (2005) *J. Forensic Sci.* – NC01 & NC02 assay development
7. Butler et al. (2005) *J. Forensic Sci.* – PowerPlex Y with Y-STR duplications & triplications
8. Vallone et al. (2005) *Forensic Sci. Int.* – 70 autosomal SNPs
9. Butler et al. (2006) *Forensic Sci. Int.* – 27 Y-STR additional loci
10. Hill et al. (2007) *J. Forensic Sci.* – MiniFiler concordance
11. Decker et al. (2008) *FSI Genetics* - Yfiler mutation rates
12. Saunier et al. (2008) *FSI Genetics* – mtDNA control region sequencing (AFDIL)
13. Just et al. (2008) *FSI Genetics* – mtGenome analysis (AFDIL)
14. Hill et al. (2008) *J. Forensic Sci.* – NC01-NC09 miniSTR loci
15. Diegoli et al. (2009) *FSI Genetics* – mtDNA control region sequencing (AFDIL)
16. Hill et al. (2009) *J. Forensic Sci.* – NIST 26plex
17. Lao et al. (2010) *Human Mutation* – 24 ancestry SNPs, Y-SNPs, mtDNA
18. Hill et al. (2011) *FSI Genetics* – ESI 17 & ESX 17 concordance
19. Diegoli et al. (2011) *FSI Genetics Suppl. Ser.* – Argus X-12 X-STR loci
20. Fondevila et al. (2012) *Int. J. Legal Med.* – 68 InDel loci
21. Fondevila et al. (2012) *FSI Genetics* – 34 ancestry SNPs
22. Butler et al. (2012) *Profiles in DNA* – introduces NIST 1036 data set
23. Hill et al. (2013) *FSI Genetics* – 29 autosomal STRs in PowerPlex CS7 and other kits
24. Coble et al. (2013) *FSI Genetics (in press)* – 23 Y-STRs in PowerPlex Y23

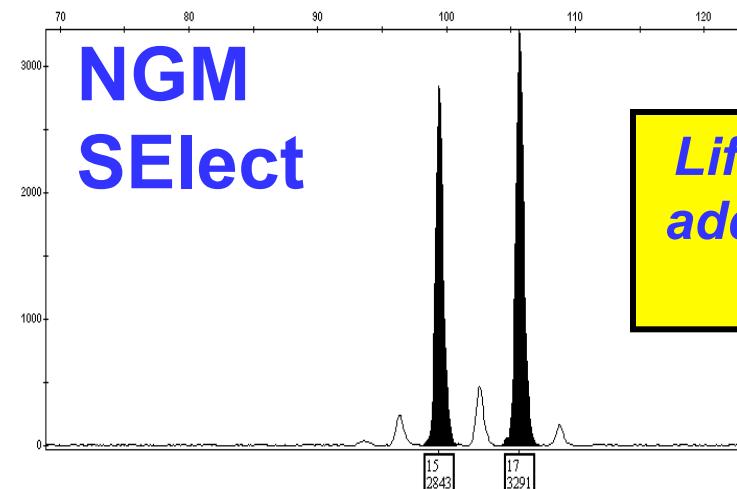
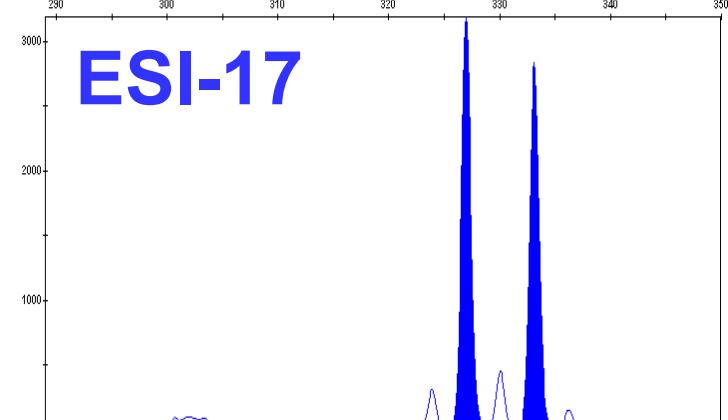
Testing also completed with
16 X-STR loci and 14 rapidly
mutating (RM) Y-STRs

What are the results from the completed concordance studies?

D22S1045 Null Allele



4/1449 samples

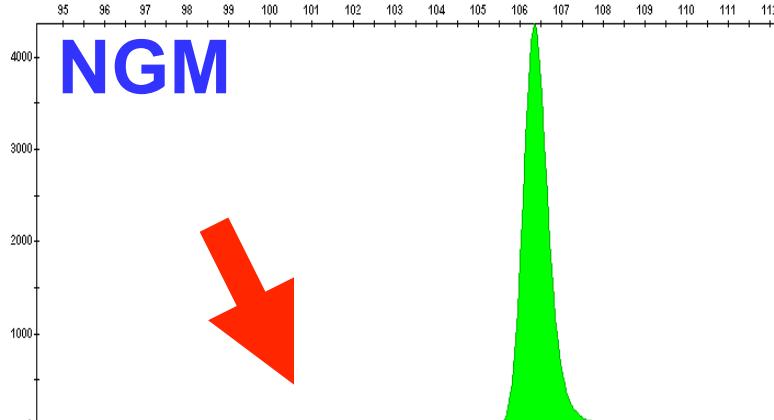


Life Tech added an additional primer to correct issue

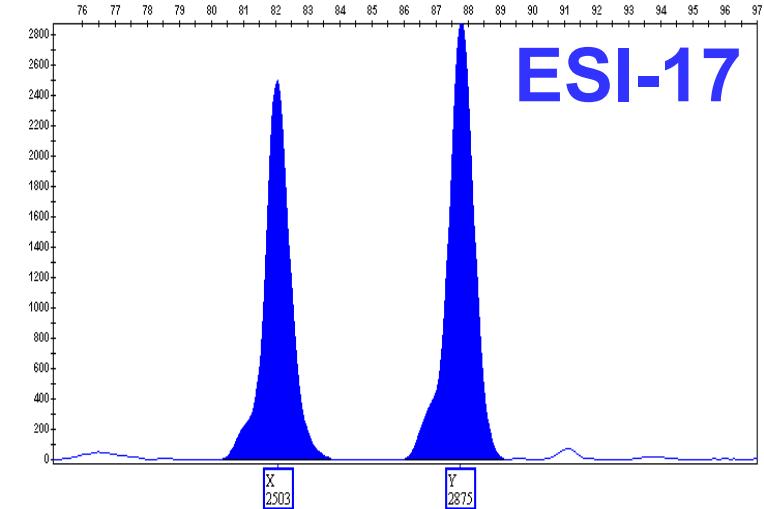
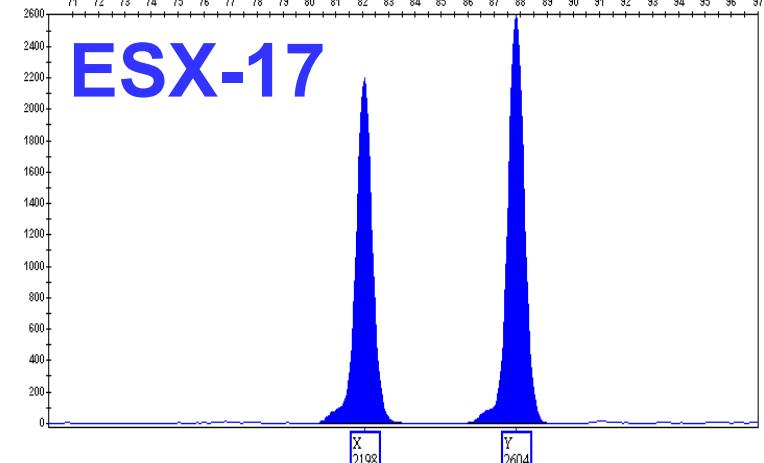
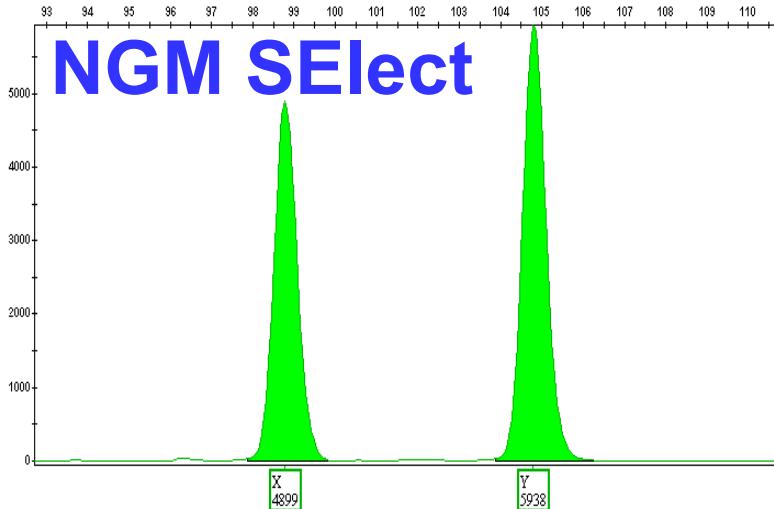
**Correct type
(15,17)**

G→T SNP 15 bp upstream impacting forward primer binding with NGM

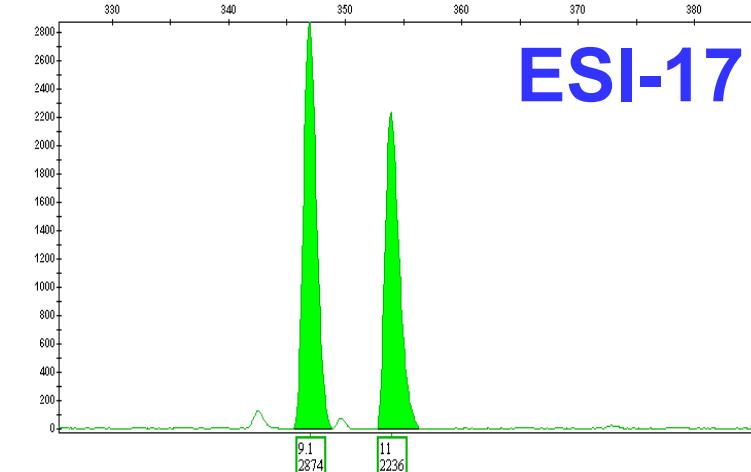
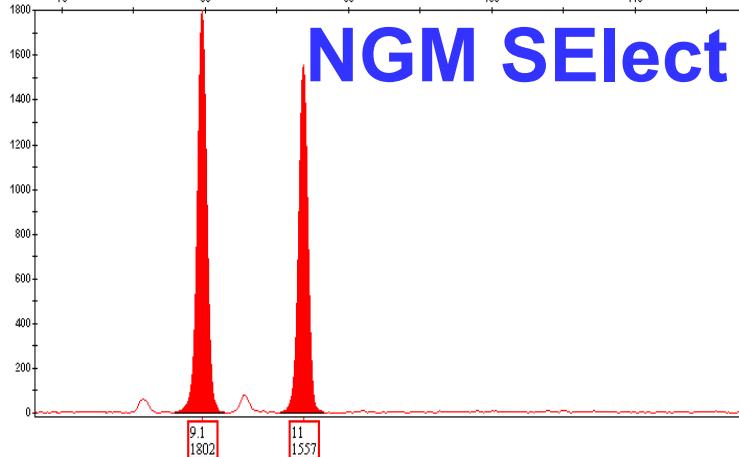
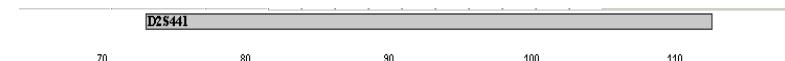
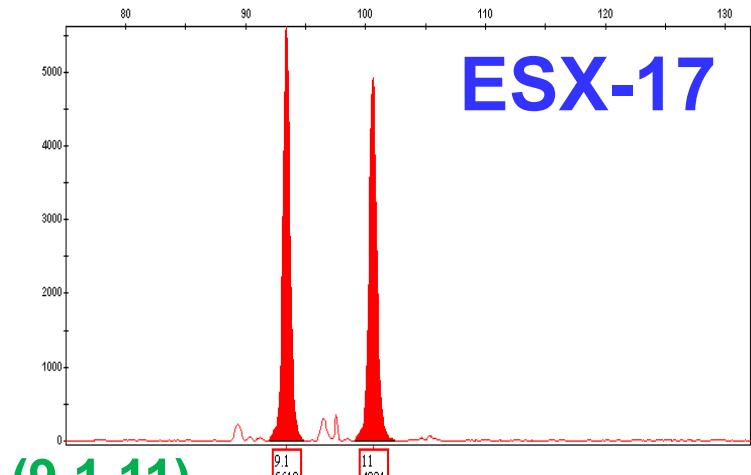
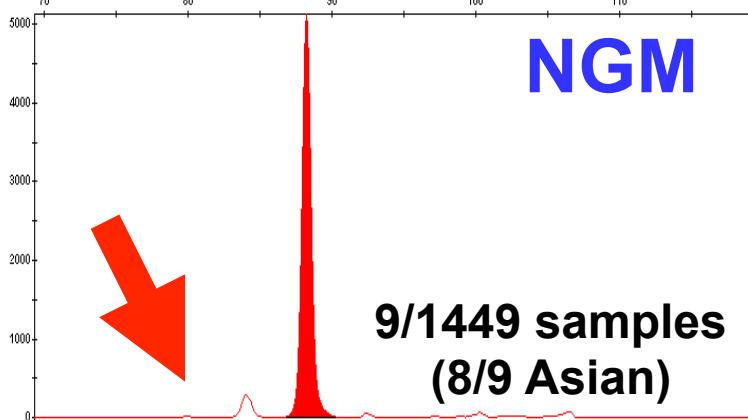
Amelogenin X Null Allele



3/1449 samples



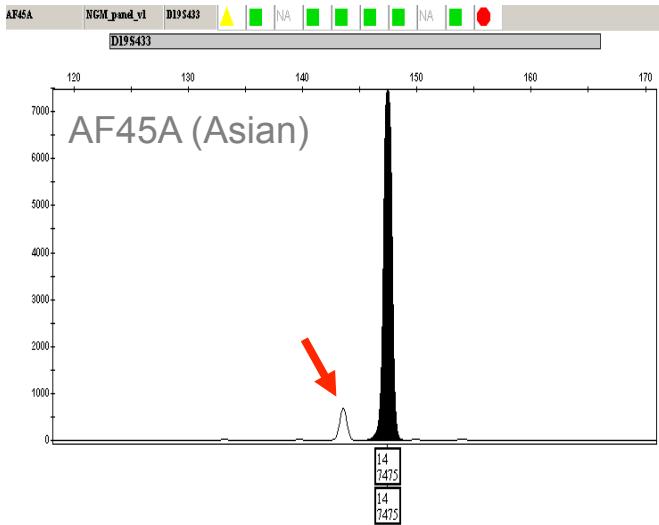
D2S441 Null Allele



G→A SNP 26 bp upstream impacting forward primer binding with NGM

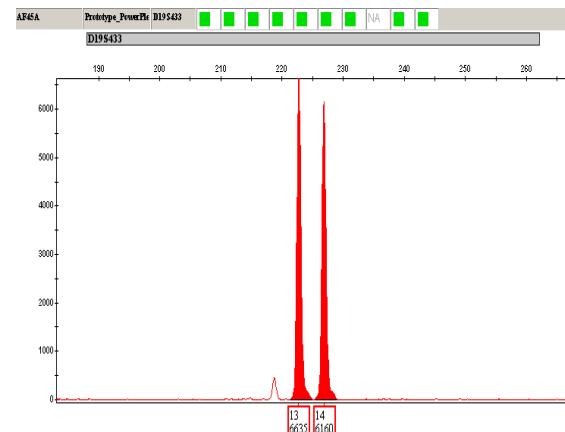
D19S433 Discordance

Identifier & NGM = 14,14



Allele 13 was missing in two different Asian samples with ABI primers
= 2/2886 =
0.07% discordance

ESX 17 = 13,14



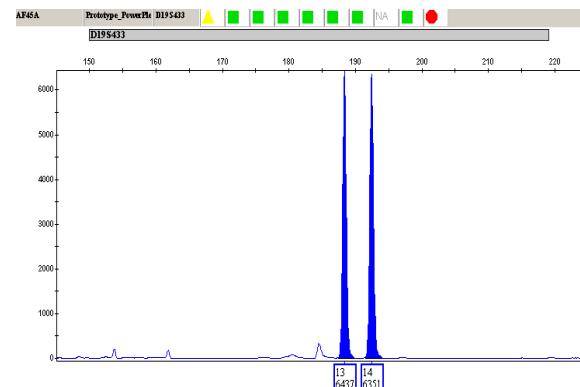
ESI 17 = 13,14

Frequencies [for] the silent allele were determined to be 0.0114 in 176 people from Shizuoka (Honshu) and 0.0128 in 156 people from Okinawa

J Forensic Sci, September 2008, Vol. 53, No. 5
doi: 10.1111/j.1556-4029.2008.00806.x
Available online at: www.blackwell-synergy.com

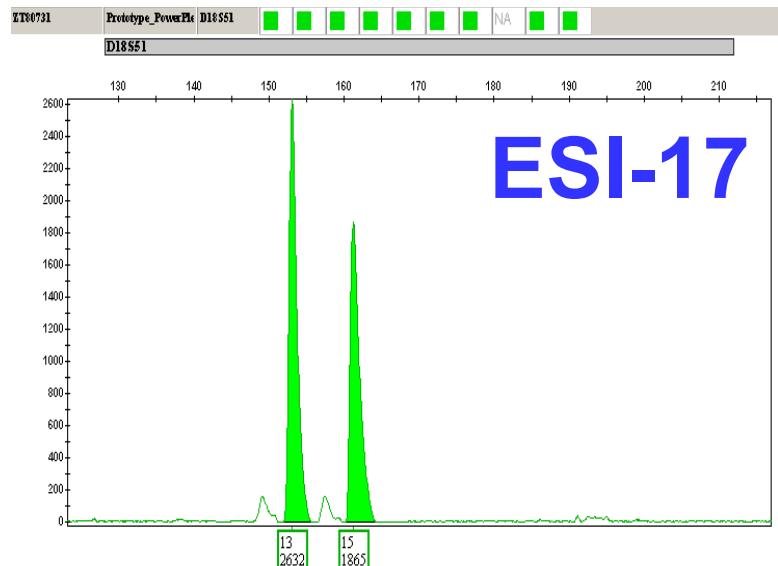
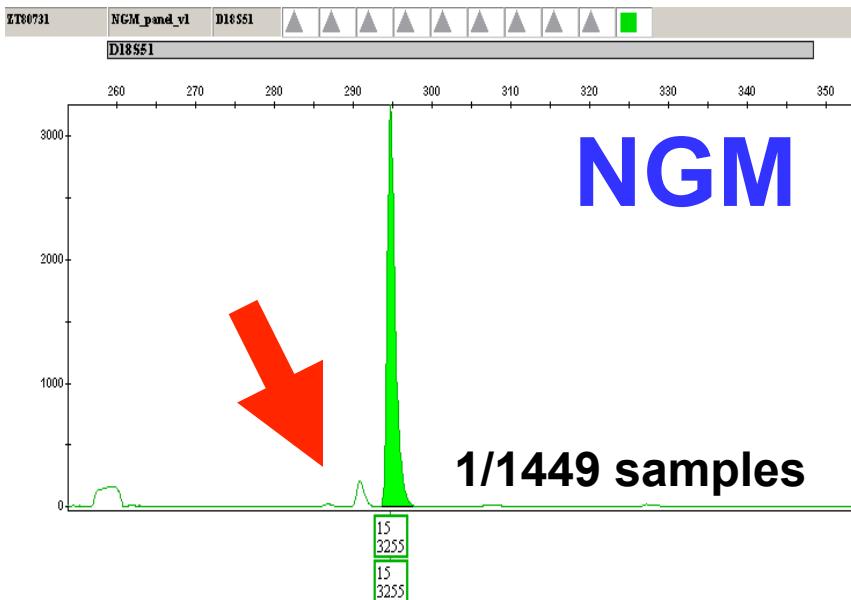
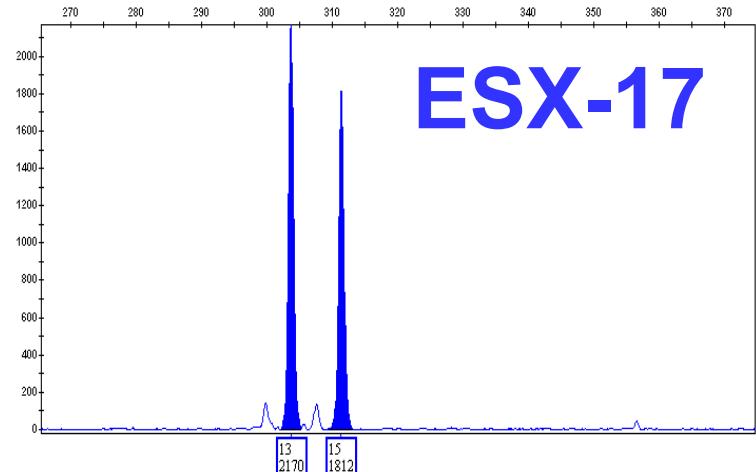
Natsuko Mizuno,¹ D.V.M.; Tetsushi Kitayama,¹ M.Sc.; Koji Fujii,¹ Ph.D.; Hiroaki Nakahara,¹ D.V.M.; Kanako Yoshida,¹ Ph.D.; Kazumasa Sekiguchi,¹ Ph.D.; Naoto Yonezawa,² Ph.D.; Minoru Nakano,² Ph.D.; and Kentaro Kasai,¹ Ph.D.

A D19S433 Primer Binding Site Mutation and the Frequency in Japanese of the Silent Allele It Causes



T→A SNP 8 bp downstream impacting reverse primer binding with Identifier (and thus SGM Plus & NGM)

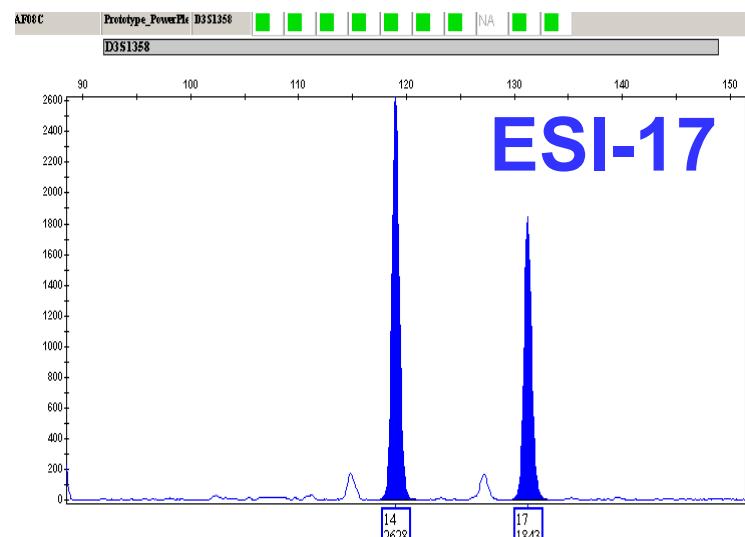
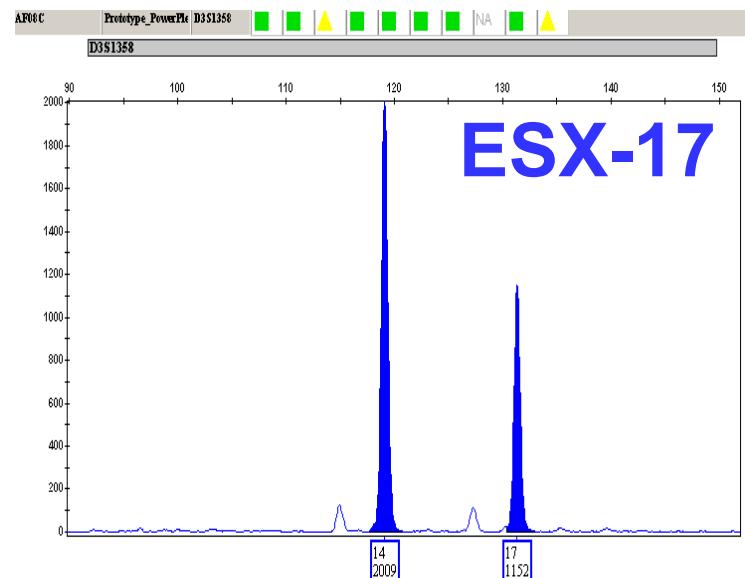
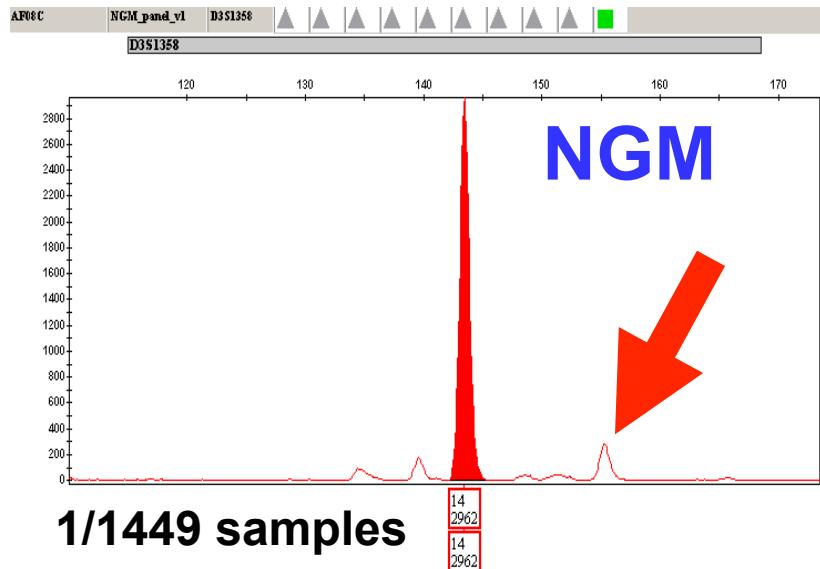
D18S51 Null Allele



Correct type (13,15)

C→T SNP 172 bp downstream impacting forward primer binding with NGM

D3S1358 Null Allele



Correct type (14,17)

G→C SNP 11 bp downstream impacting forward primer binding with NGM

Completed Concordance Studies

Kits (except Identifier) were kindly provided by **Promega**,
Qiagen and **Life Technologies** for concordance testing
performed at NIST

Final Concordance Results

- All up-to-date results can be found on STRBase:
 - ISFG poster (Vienna, Austria), 8/31-9/2, 2011, "Concordance Testing Comparing STR Multiplex Kits with a Standard Data Set"
 - Promega ISHI (National Harbor, MD), 10/4-10/5, 2011, "Concordance Testing Comparing STR Multiplex Kits with a Standard Data Set"

Was there complete
concordance with SRM
2391c?

SRM 2391c

PCR-Based Profiling Standard

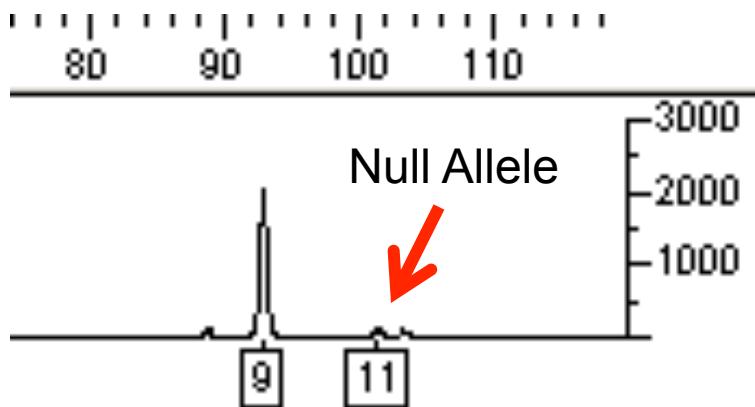
- The first set of samples run with new STR multiplex kits is SRM 2391c
- All new kits tested have been completely concordant with the certified values of all markers for each component for SRM 2391c
- One exception for SRM 2391b: **MiniFiler**
 - Genomic 8 with D16S539

SRM 2391b Genomic 8 with D16S539

Identifier

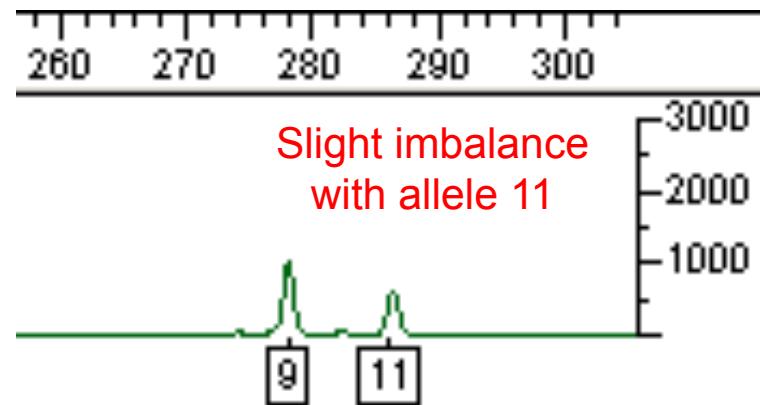
All allele calls with MiniFiler for CSF1PO, D7S820, D13S317, D18S51, D21S11, FGA, and D16S539 (with the exception noted below) **match previously certified values.**

MiniFiler



*Due to primer binding site mutation

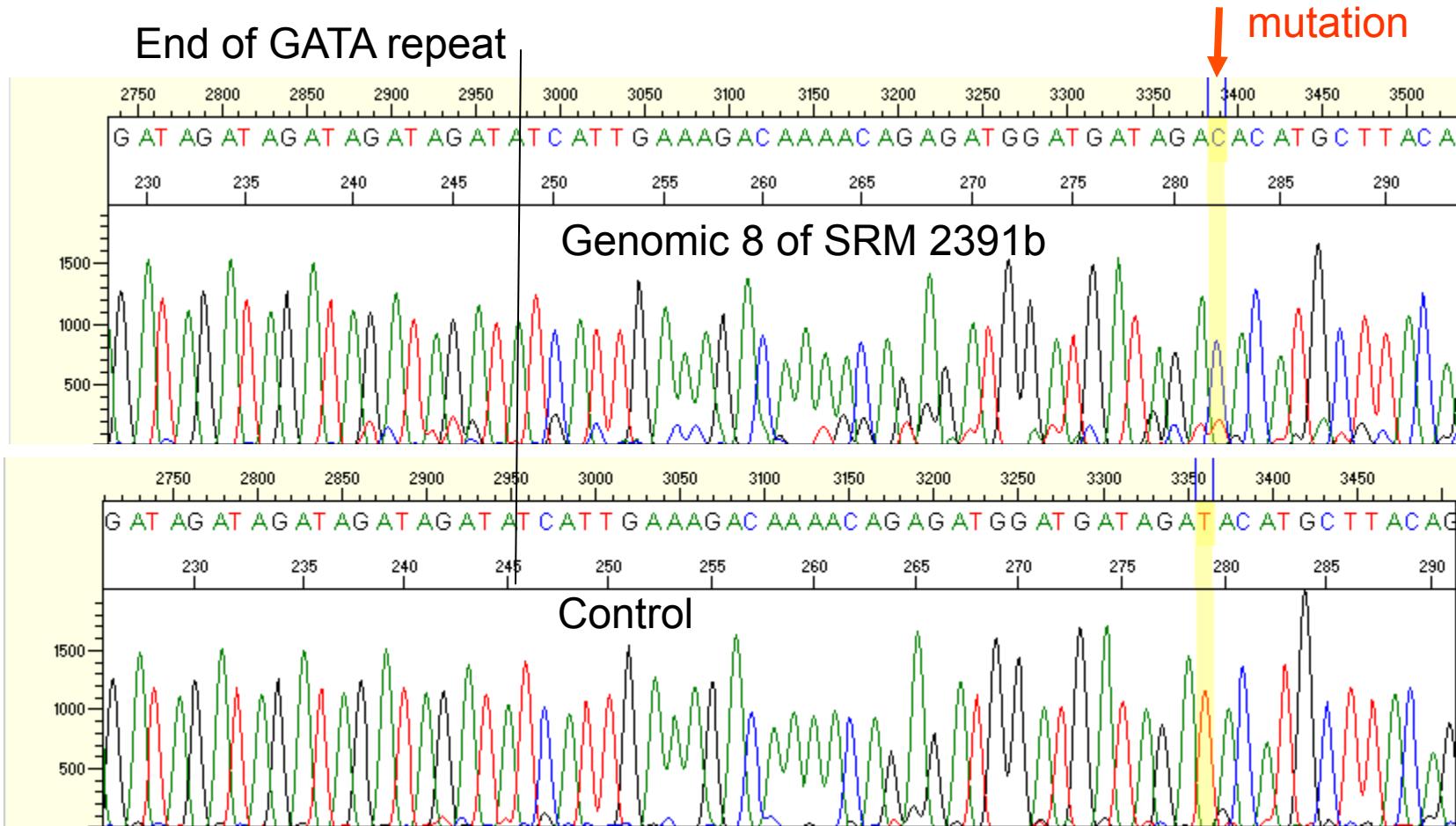
PowerPlex 16



D16S539 SRM 2391b Genomic 8

T→C mutation 34 bp downstream of the repeat

End of GATA repeat



Position of the T→C probably affects the reverse primer of Minifiler and is the 3rd base found the 5'end of the Reverse PP16 primer. This could explain the imbalance of the allele seen when using PP16.

Summary & Final Thoughts

Conclusions

- Concordance testing is valuable when different sets of primers are used to amplify the same markers
- Null alleles and discordant results are reported on STRBase:
[http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/
NullAlleles.htm](http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/NullAlleles.htm)
- NIST plays an important role in concordance testing to aid the community
 - SRM 2391c concordance
 - Several null alleles have been fixed before the final release of new STR multiplex kits

Acknowledgments

NIST Funding: Interagency Agreement 2008-DN-R-121 between the National Institute of Justice and NIST Office of Law Enforcement Standards

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 endorsement by the National Institute of Standards and Technology nor does it imply that any of the materials, instruments or equipment identified are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

Points of view are mine and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the US Department of Justice or the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

NIST Team for This Work



John Butler



Dave Duewer



Margaret Kline



Pete Vallone

A special thanks to Life Technologies, Promega, and Qiagen for providing the kits used in this study

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