ADDENDUM

Research questions regarding bloodstain pattern classification
OSAC Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Subcommittee
July 26, 2019

Introduction

This document serves as an addendum to the OSAC Research Needs Assessment Form entitled "*Bloodstain Pattern Classification*" established by the Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Subcommittee on November 17, 2016 and revised July 26, 2019. The BPA Subcommittee is of the opinion this addendum provides additional details not captured in said form.

What is the problem?

1) Different people (of similar competence/experience) may give different classifications for the same pattern.
    Evidence: CTS proficiency tests/casework testimony

2) The inter and intra pattern variability is high: two impact patterns may exhibit as much variation as an impact pattern compared to an expiration pattern.
    Evidence: BPA course exercises/personal experimentation/casework examples

3) The descriptions of patterns are sometimes/often a description of the mechanism. The decision-make process during pattern classification is not well established: before classifying a pattern, objective, measurable characteristics should direct the analyst into the correct classification.
    Evidence:
    ASB Technical Report 033 Terms and Definitions in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, First Edition 2017
    BPA language used in terminology

Why do we care about these problems?

Accurate classifications form the foundation for accurate conclusions, which are vital to a fair outcome in court.

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What are the research questions?

1) How do BPA analysts currently classify patterns?

2) What terms or data descriptors are needed to describe relevant bloodstain characteristics?

3) What are the significant characteristics of individual pattern types that are relevant to pattern classification?

4) Which criteria are necessary and/or sufficient to establish the mechanism(s) by which a pattern was created?

5) How much variation is there in classifications among different BPA analysts?

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