

Roma, 28-29 gennaio 2016

CORSO DI ALTA FORMAZIONE IN GENETICA FORENSE

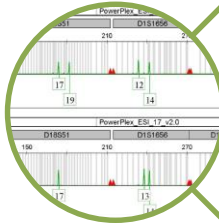
**Criticità nella analisi: stutter, contaminazione, allelic drop out/in,
materiale degradato
(reperti cadaverici, preparati istologici, campioni carbonizzati, ...)**

Ugo Ricci

AOU Careggi – SOD Diagnostica Genetica

Settore Forense - Firenze

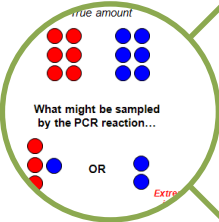




Generare un profilo genetico



I campioni reali



I campioni con basso
numero di copie



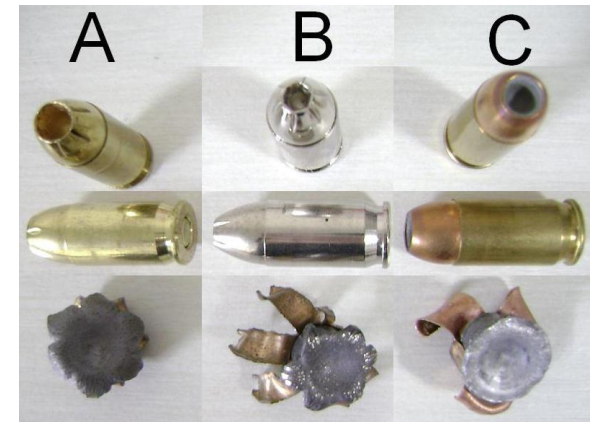
La contaminazione



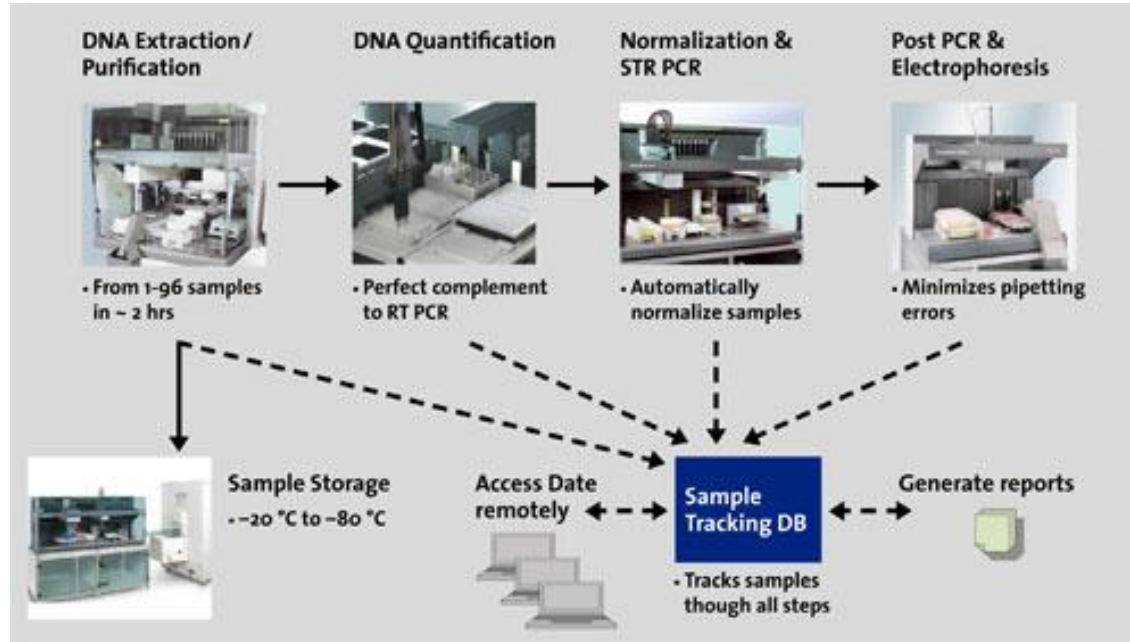
Mantovani, nel 1979, ha definito la *Criminalistica* come “quella particolare tecnica dell’investigazione criminale che studia il complesso dei mezzi, suggeriti dalle varie scienze, per l’accertamento del reato e la scoperta dell’autore ed alla quale appartiene una massa di nozioni di medicina legale, di dattiloscopia, di antropometria, di balistica giudiziaria, di grafometria, di tossicologia forense“ **in essa, dunque, confluiscono scienze e discipline, autonome ed indipendenti l’una dall’altra**, con un comune oggetto di indagine rappresentato dalla scoperta del reato, dell’autore e spesso anche alla individuazione della vittima”.



- . la dattiloscopia
- . la balistica
- . la grafologia
- . indagini merceologiche
- . indagini fisiche
- . indagini chimiche
- . indagini biologiche
- . indagini genetiche
- . indagini medico-legali
- . tecniche particolari



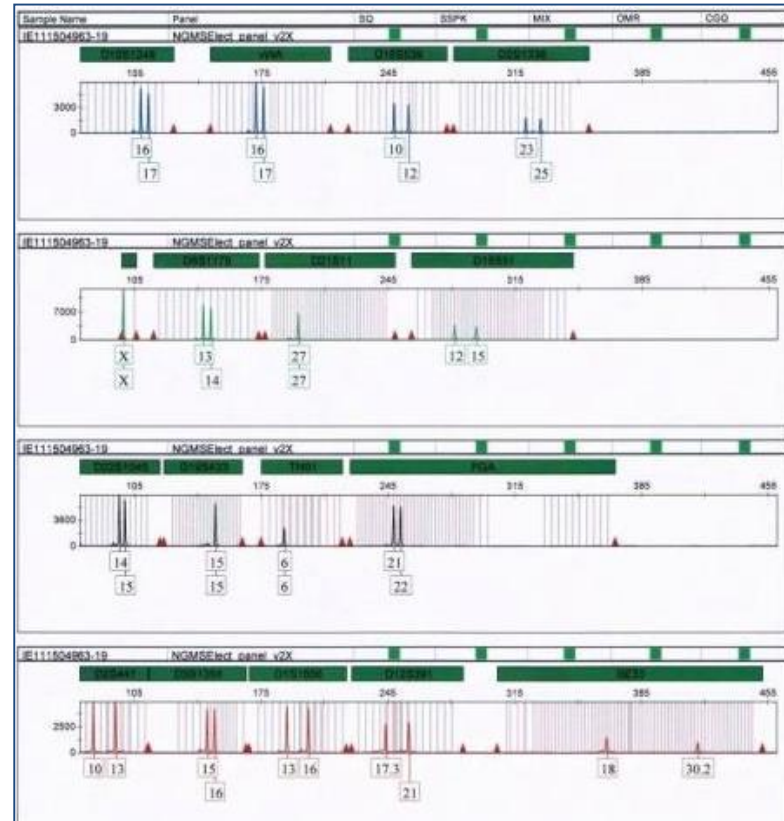
Cosa avviene nei nostri laboratori?



Nessun analista può vedere il DNA e siamo quindi costretti a usare un metodo che ci aiuti a capire come è fatto.

Quindi NON analizziamo il campione reale, ma una sua riproduzione *in vitro* generata tramite la PCR.

Generare un profilo genetico – i campioni ideali



	D3	VWA	D8	D21	D18	TH01	FGA	D1S1	D2S4	D10S	D12S	Ame
Cam	15, 16	17, 18	12, 13	29, 30	15, 16	6, 9.3	21, 22	15, 16	11, 14	13, 14	18, 19	X, Y



Vediamo l'esito della PCR con l'elettroforesi capillare



Difficoltà interpretative con strumenti di vecchia generazione

Locus THO1

allele 9.3 freq. 25%

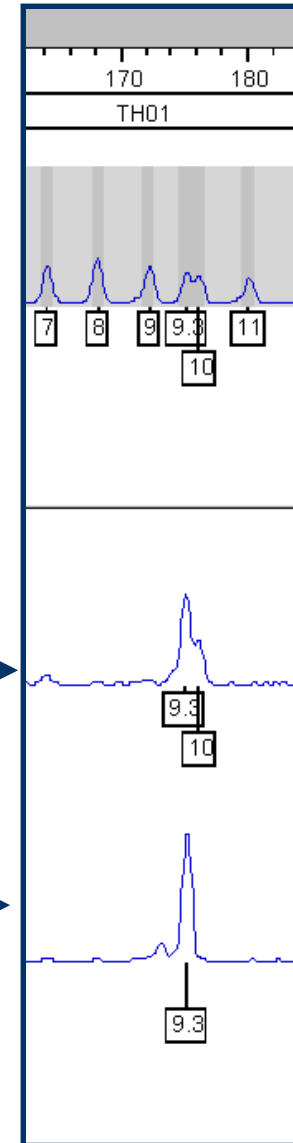
allele 10 freq. 3%

1 sola base di differenza tra i due alleli

Identità di genotipi
o sdoppiamento del
picco allelico in B?

Traccia B

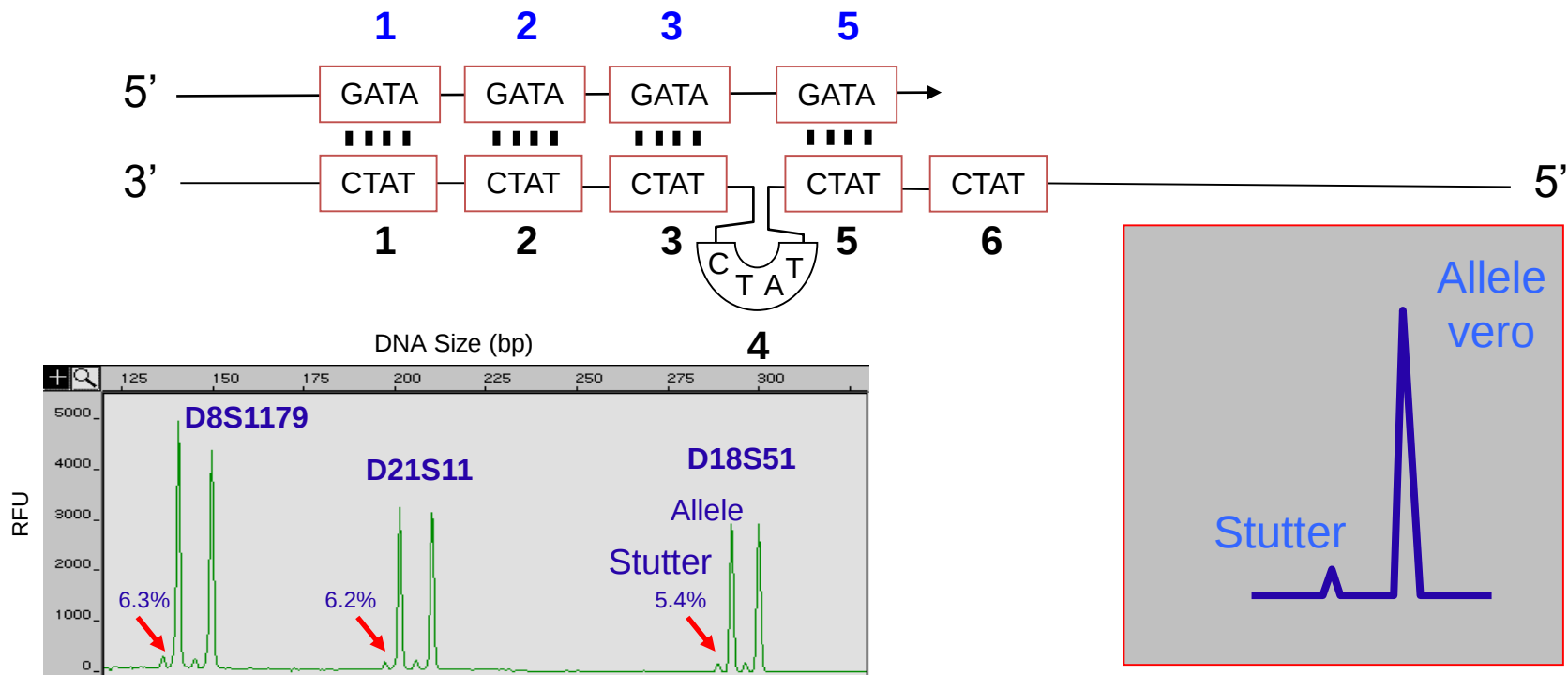
Traccia A



Prodotti stutter

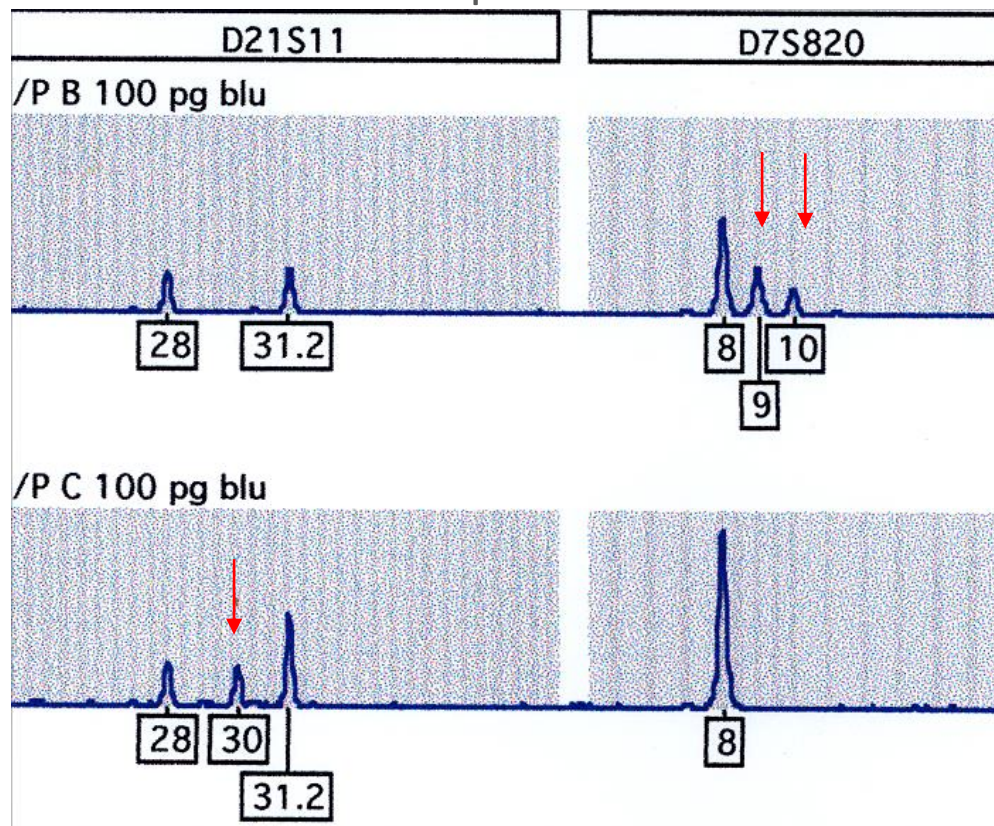
- » Prodotti stutter – sono prodotti allelici di una ripetizione più corta dell'allele di riferimento, dovuti a slippage della polimerasi durante l'amplificazione.
- » Nelle normali condizioni di PCR (28-30 cicli) l'area del picco della stutter non supera il 15% dell'area del picco di riferimento.

Meccanismo per la formazione di stutter



Alleli spuri – fenomeno del *drop-in* allelico

- » Alleli spuri – sono alleli accessori che possono formarsi per vari motivi (errori della Polimerasi, presenza di contaminanti, scarsa quantità di DNA...).
- » Possono essere svelati da una successiva riamplicificazione del campione poichè un allele spurio ha una probabilità non superiore allo 0,3% di essere amplificato in successivi esperimenti.

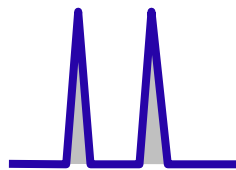


Allele e locus *drop-out*

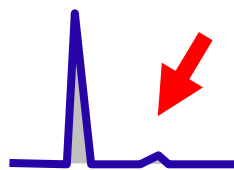
Consiste nella perdita di alleli o di loci durante l'amplificazione poichè la PCR tende ad amplificare meglio gli alleli e i loci a più basso peso molecolare.

Aumenta al diminuire della quantità di DNA iniziale e può anche essere dovuto:

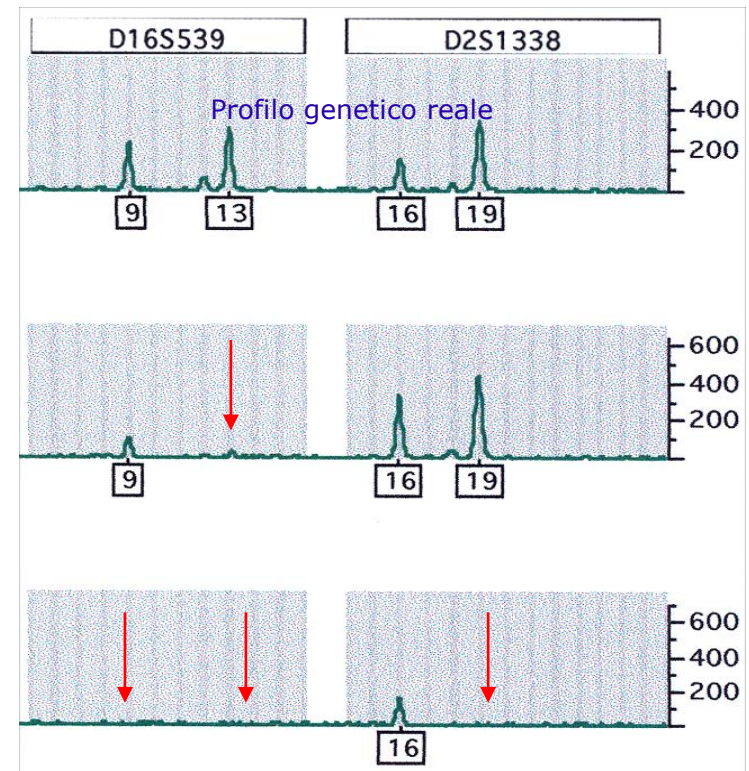
- 1) alla degradazione del DNA che rende la PCR refrattaria a rompere i legami in entrambi i filamenti
- 2) all'inaccessibilità del DNA templato a causa delle condizioni imperfette di PCR o dall'incompleta lisi cellulare (Piyamongkol W. et al. Mol Hum Reprod 2003, 9; 7:411-420)



1 ng DNA



0,05 ng DNA (50 pg)



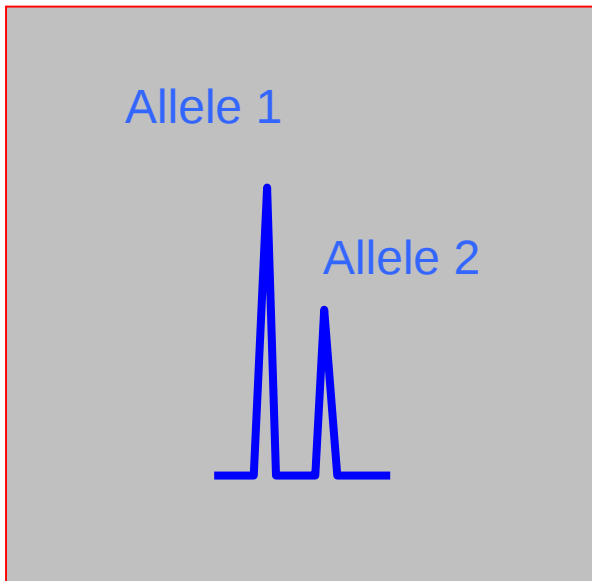
Sbilanciamento dei picchi



- » si intende una asimmetria dei picchi degli eterozigoti che trova origine nelle stesse alterazioni della cinetica di amplificazione che determina il fenomeno del drop-out:

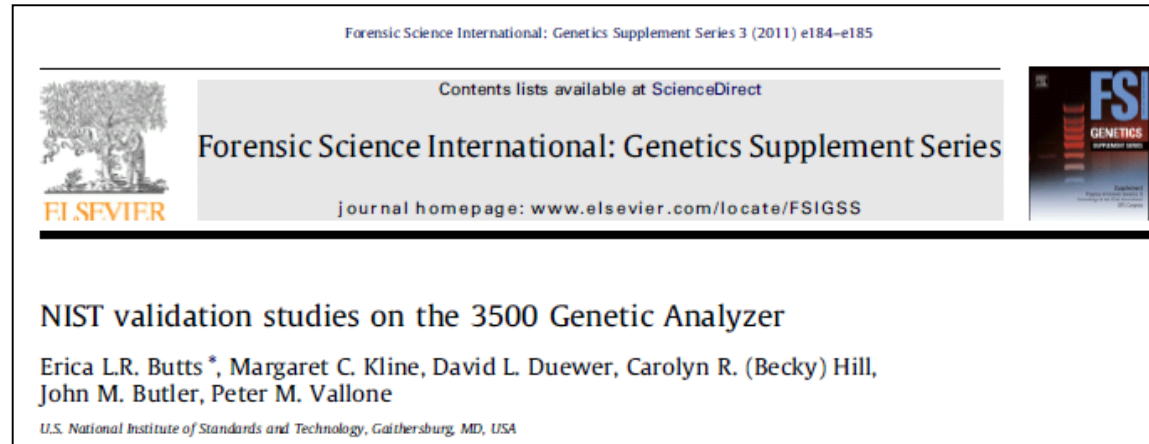
$(\Phi_a - \Phi_b) / \Phi_a > 0,2$ dove Φ_a = area del picco più grande

Φ_b = area del picco più piccolo

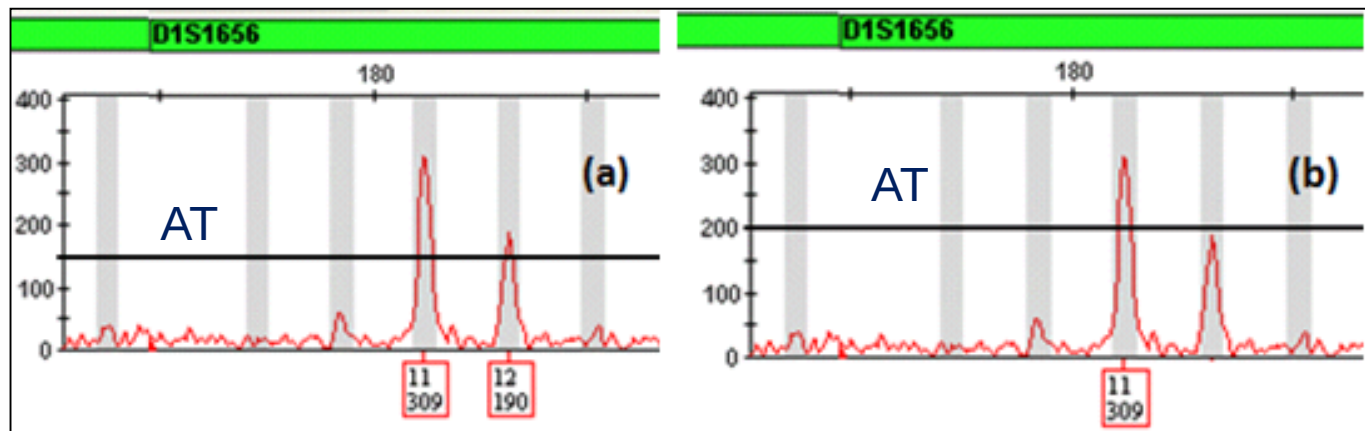


Aumenta al diminuire della quantità di DNA iniziale

Valutare la performance del sequenziatore



Definire la soglia analitica (Limit of Detection LOD) cioè quel limite che consenta di identificare un allele dal rumore di fondo dello strumento

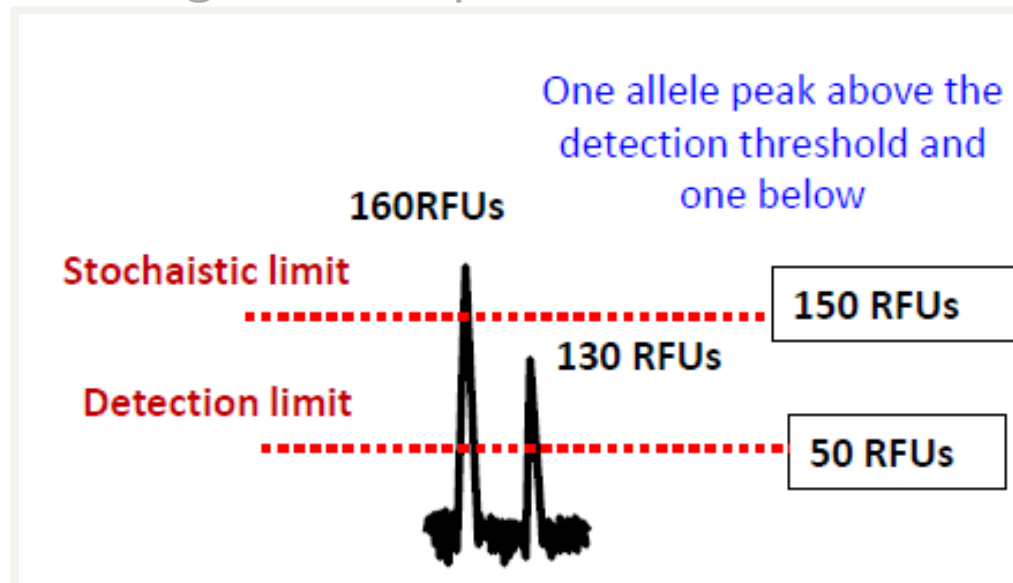




DNA typing and threshold setting

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Definire la soglia stocastica (Stochastic Threshold ST) cioè quel valore al di sopra del quale è ragionevole pensare non sia avvenuto un drop out allelico

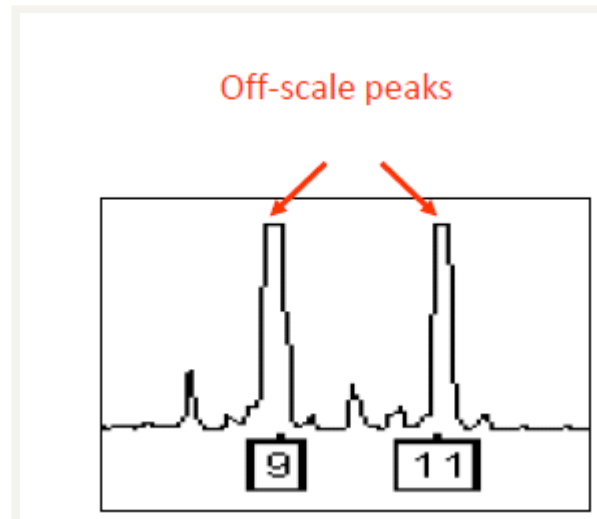




DNA typing and threshold setting

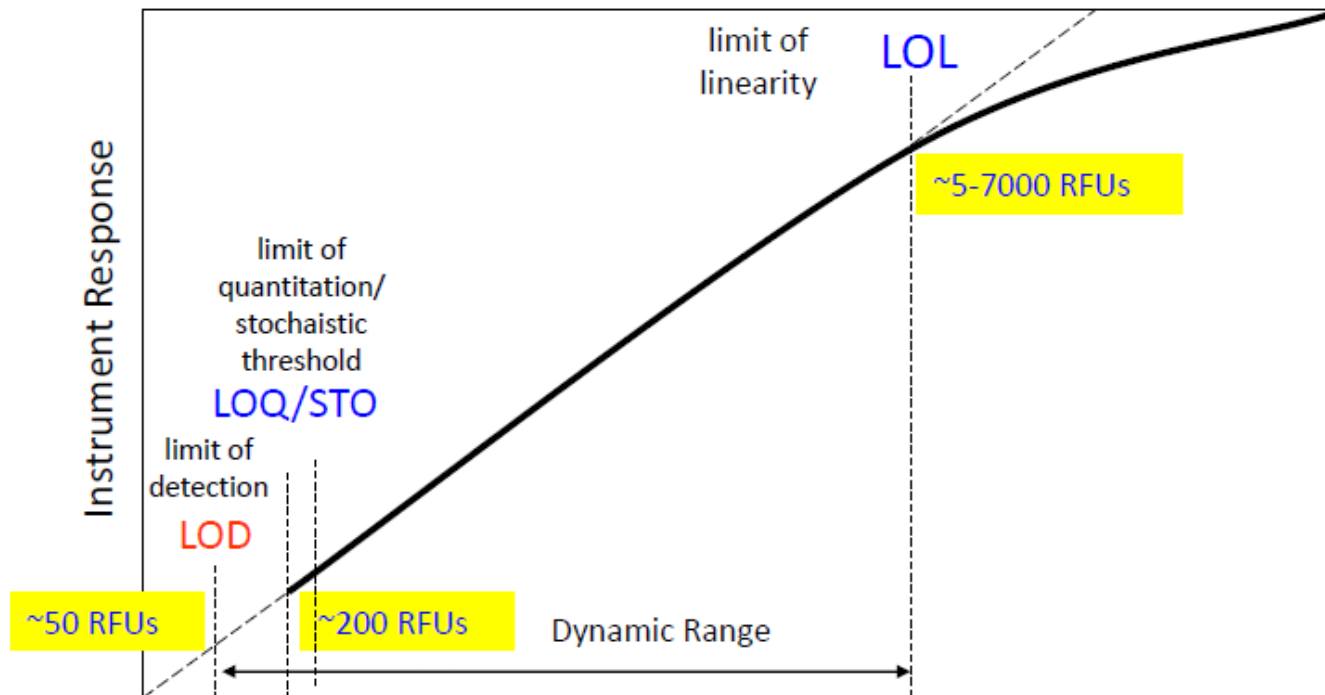
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Definire la soglia di linearità (Limit of Linearity LOL) cioè il punto di saturazione del detector della strumentazione utilizzata





Useful Range of an Analytical Method



LOD = 3x SD of blank

LOQ = 10x SD of blank

STO = peak balance threshold

Concentration of Sample



I campioni reali



- » I reperti sono consegnati al laboratorio in confezionamenti idonei, dopo essere stati raccolti sulla scena dei fatti, interi o prelevati generalmente mediante tamponi sterili.
- » I campioni di riferimento vengono assunti mediante prelievo o tramite oggetti abbandonati (mozziconi di sigarette, bicchieri, ecc.)



Non sempre è così...



Inibitori della PCR e loro origine



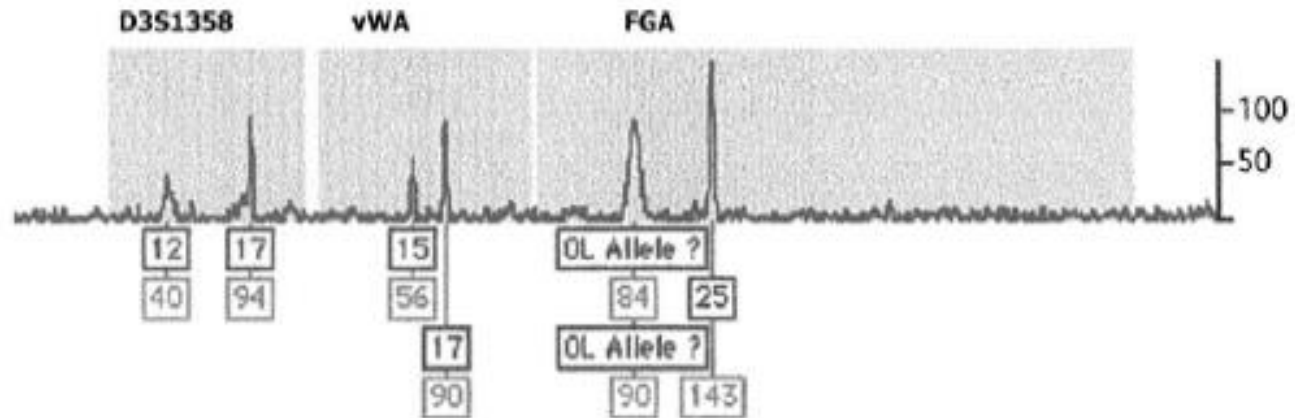
INIBITORE DELLA PCR	FONTE
Eme (ematina)	Sangue
Melanina	Tessuti e capelli
Polisaccaridi	Feci, materiali vegetali
Sali biliari	Feci
Acidi umici	Terreno
Urea	Urina
Coloranti indaco	Tessuto jeans
Collagene	Tessuti
Mioglobina	Tessuto muscolare
Ioni calcio	Ossa e denti



Painting the target around the matching profile: the Texas sharpshooter fallacy in forensic DNA interpretation

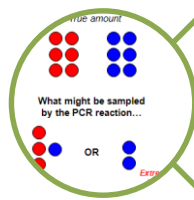
WILLIAM C. THOMPSON†

*Department of Criminology, Law and Society,
University of California, Irvine, CA 92697, USA*



Defendant	D3S1358	vWA	FGA
Tom	17,17	15,17	25,25
Dick	12,17	15,17	20,25
Harry	14,17	15,17	20,25
Sally	12,17	15,15	20,22

FIG. 2. Electropherogram of a saliva sample and four suspect profiles.



I campioni con basso
numero di copie

J Forensic Sci. 1999 Nov;44(6):1270-2.

A systematic analysis of secondary DNA transfer.

Ladd C¹, Adamowicz MS, Bourke MT, Scherczinger CA, Lee HC.

⊕ Author information

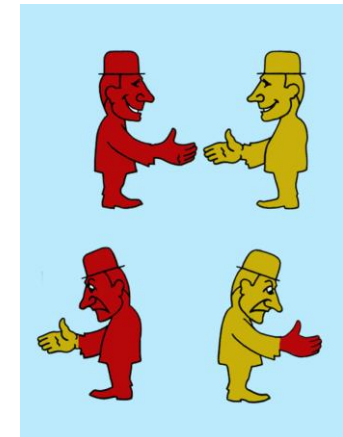
Abstract

The Nature letter by R. van Oorschot and M. Jones (1) addressed two topics: the primary transfer of DNA from person to person or to various objects, and the secondary transfer of DNA through an intermediary. Forensic scientists have described the primary transfer of DNA and other biological evidence for many years. However, the authors also reported detecting secondary transfer of DNA from an object to a person's hands, which could adversely affect DNA typing in the forensic context. The prospect of secondary transfer raises questions of interest to both the legal and forensic communities. Therefore, we sought to evaluate parameters potentially leading to secondary DNA transfer. Our data do not support the conclusion that secondary transfer will compromise DNA typing results under typical forensic conditions.

PMID: 10582367 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Teoria di Locard (Locard Transfer Theory) inizio 1900.

Quando due oggetti vengono in contatto, tracce di uno sono trasferite all'altro, in entrambe le direzioni. Queste tracce non possono sempre essere determinabili (dipende dalla sensibilità del metodo), ma sono sempre presenti.



L'attentato di Omagh



Sean Hoey was cleared of all charges relating to the Omagh bombing in Northern Ireland.

Nel 1998 nella città di Omagh nell'Irlanda del Nord ci fu un attentato terroristico nel quale persero la vita 29 persone e 200 furono ferite.

Sean Hoey, un elettricista di 38 anni fu arrestato e accusato di aver confezionato l'ordigno perché su alcuni pezzi della bomba fu rinvenuto il suo DNA.

In seguito il Tribunale decise per l'innocenza di Hoey soprattutto perché la repertazione, la custodia e la trasmissione dei reperti risultò "avventata" e "frettolosa".

A seguito della sentenza per più di 2 anni le analisi DNA *Low copy number* non furono accettate dalle Corti inglesi.





DNA quantification

Importance of quantification

Quantifying the amount of DNA in a sample before amplification allows you to determine whether or not sufficient DNA is present to permit amplification and to calculate the optimum amount of DNA to add to the reaction. The optimum amount of DNA for the GlobalFiler® Kit is 1.0 ng in a maximum input volume of 15 µL for 29 PCR cycles.

4.A. Amplification of Extracted DNA in a 25µl Reaction Volume

Materials to Be Supplied by the User

- GeneAmp® PCR System 9700, 96-Well, with a gold-plated or silver-plated sample block or Veriti® 96-Well Thermal Cycler (Applied Biosystems)
- centrifuge compatible with a 96-well plate
- MicroAmp® optical 96-well reaction plate or 0.2ml MicroAmp® reaction tubes (Applied Biosystems)
- aerosol-resistant pipette tips

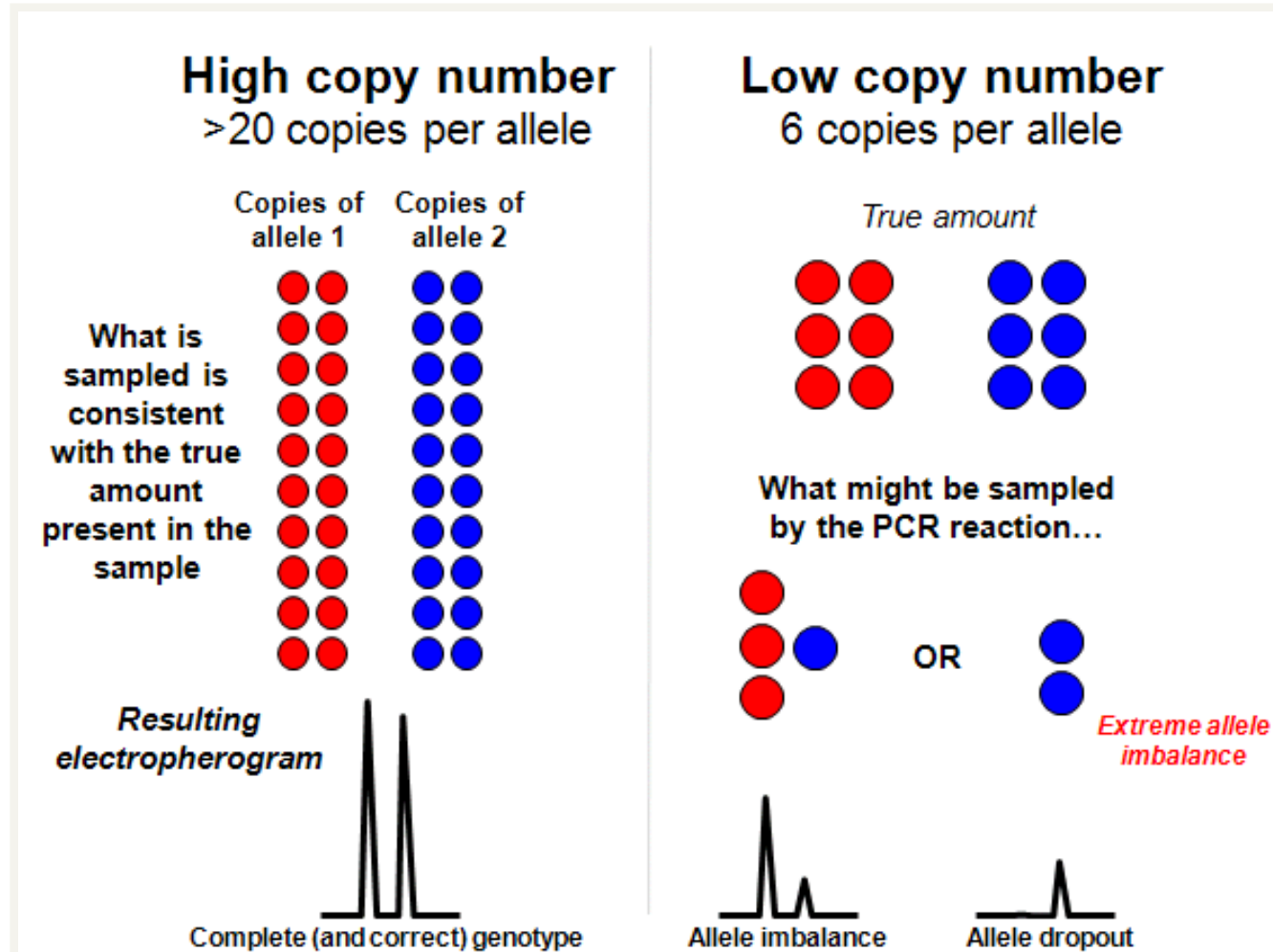
We routinely amplify 1.0ng of template DNA in a 25µl reaction volume using the protocol detailed below.

If too much DNA is added to the PCR reaction, then the increased amount of PCR product that is generated can result in:

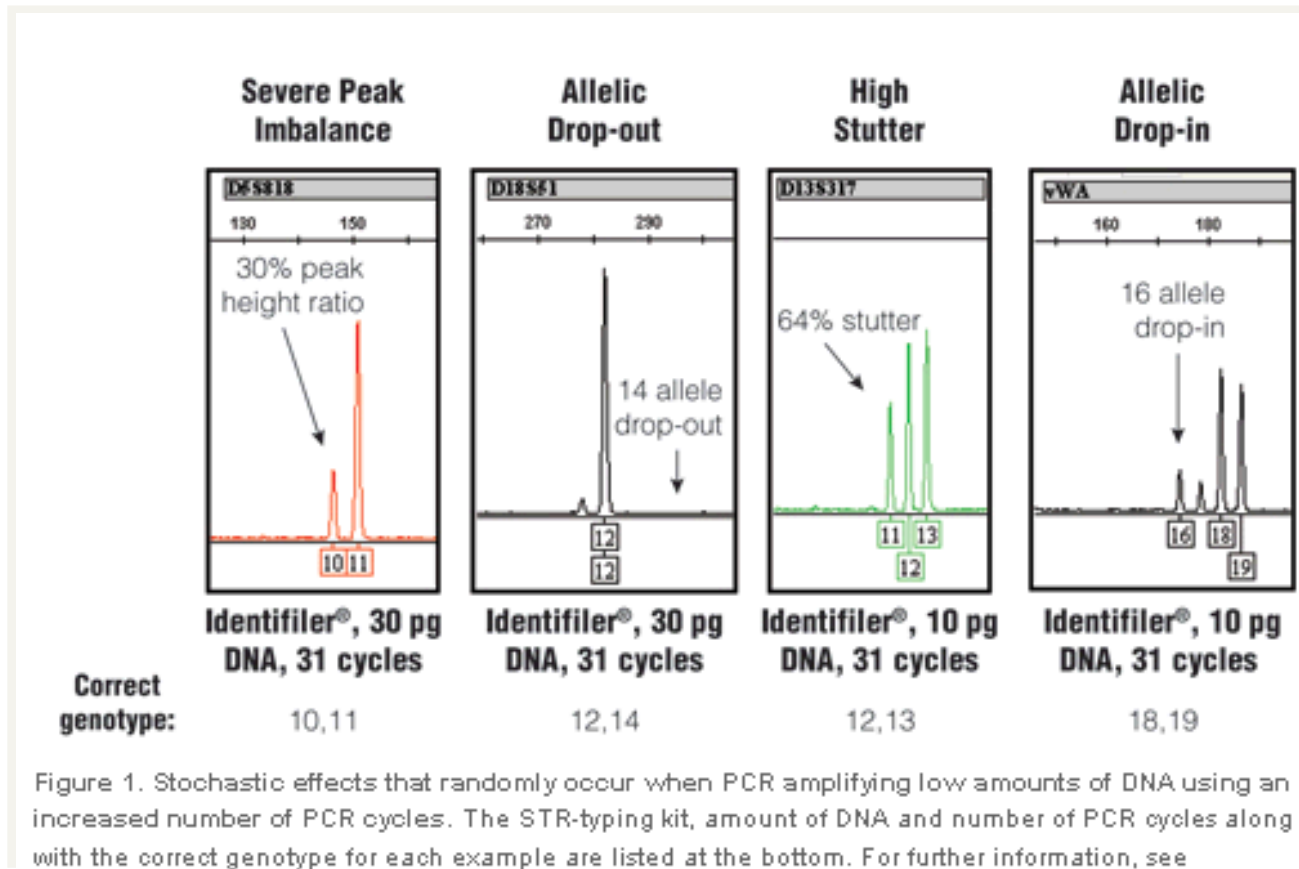
- Fluorescence intensity that exceeds the linear dynamic range for detection by the instrument ("off-scale" data). Off-scale data are problematic because:
 - Quantitation (peak height and area) for off-scale peaks is not accurate. For example, an allele peak that is off-scale can cause the corresponding stutter peak to appear higher in relative intensity, thus increasing the calculated percent stutter.
 - Multicomponent analysis of off-scale data is not accurate, and it results in poor spectral separation ("pull-up") and other artifacts.
- Incomplete A-nucleotide addition.

When the total number of allele copies added to the PCR is extremely low, allelic dropout can occur resulting in a partial profile.

I campioni con basso numero di copie



Aumentare il numero di cicli di PCR?





Typical LCN Procedure

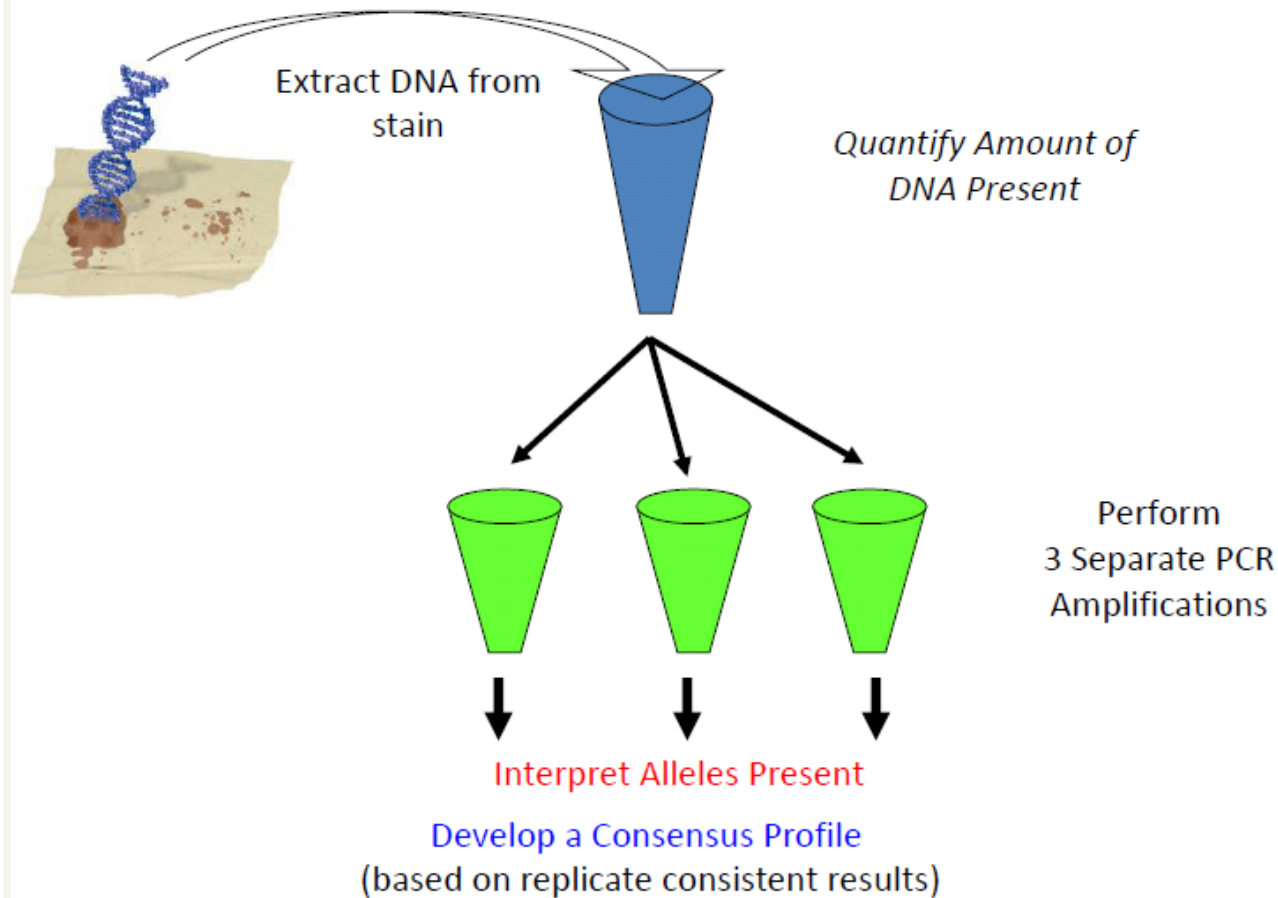




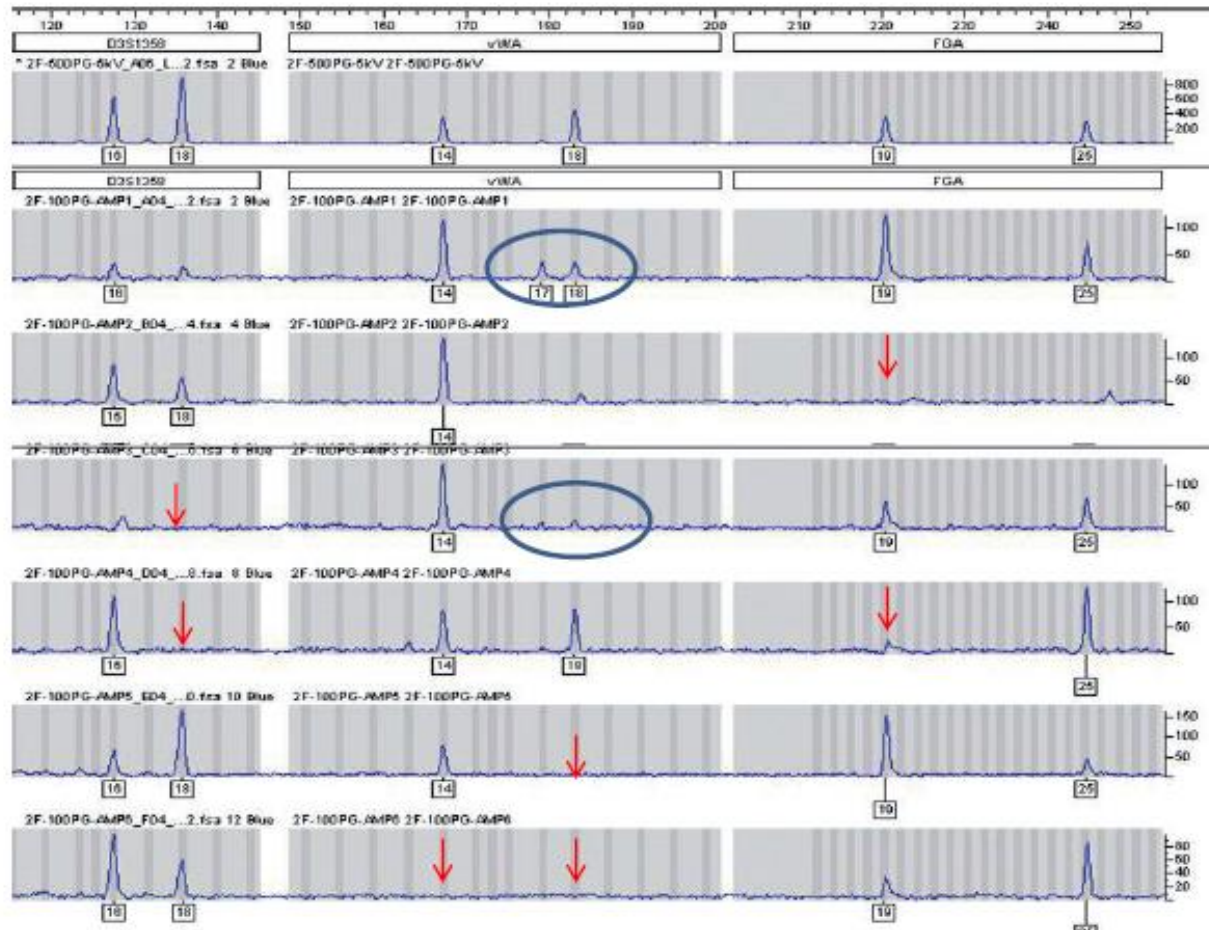
Table 2. Results of Six Replicate PCR Tests of a Sample Under Low Copy Number Analysis Conditions Compared to the Control Sample

	Amelo	D19	D3	D8	THO	VWA	D21	FGA	D16	D18	D2
CONTROL	X X	14,14	18,18	15,15	7 9.3	19,19	28 32.2	20,23	9,12	12,16	17,23
Sample											
1	--	14 F'	--	15 F'	--	--	28 32.2	20 F'	--	16 F'	--
2	X F'	--	18 F'	15 F'	--	19 F'	--	--	12 F'	--	--
3	X F'	--	--	15 F'	--	--	--	--	--	--	17 F'
4	X F'	14 F'	18 F'	--	--	--	--	--	9 12	--	--
5	X F'	--	18 F'	--	--	18 F'	--	--	--	--	--
6	X F'	14 F'	--	--	--	19 F'	28 32.2	20 F'	--	12 F'	--
Consensus	X F'	14 F'	18 F'	15 F'	--	19 F'	28 32.2	20 F'	12 F'	--	--
The consensus result is reported, provided that an allele is observed at least twice. If only one allele is observed, then an F' designation is given to denote the possibility of allele drop-out.											

Gill, P. (2002) Role of short tandem repeat DNA in forensic casework in the UK--past, present, and future perspectives. *BioTechniques* 32(2): 366-385.



Replica di amplificazione di 100 pg di DNA in condizioni standard



Budowle B et al. (2009), Validity of Low Copy Number Typing and Applications to Forensic Science. Croat Med J 2009, 50, 207-216.



La contaminazione

**«Presenza di DNA da una fonte estranea
al campione che si sta analizzando»**



Le contaminazioni

La storia del “fantasma di Heilbronn”



La Polizia in Germania ha ammesso che una donna che stavano ricercando da più di 15 anni (dal 1993 al 2008) di fatto non esisteva.

Questa “serial killer” era sospettata di 6/8 omicidi, alcune rapine e innumerevoli furti sulla base di un profilo del DNA costantemente rinvenuto nei sopralluoghi.

Solo dopo molti anni si scoprì poi che questo profilo DNA femminile era in realtà una costante contaminazione, introdotta durante i prelievi dei campioni biologici sulle scene dei crimini.

Fu accertato che i tamponi di cotone usati per repertare il DNA erano stati contaminati accidentalmente da una donna che li preparava in una fabbrica della Baviera.

Chiamati in giudizio una compagnia si giustificò dicendo che i tamponi erano intesi solo per uso medico e un'altra che non era stato richiesto che i tamponi fossero “DNA free”.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7966641.stm>



Avoiding false positives with PCR

S. Kwok and R. Higuchi

The exquisite sensitivity of the polymerase chain reaction means DNA contamination can ruin an entire experiment. Tidiness and adherence to a strict set of protocols can avoid disaster.

Shirley Kwok and Russell Higuchi are at the Departments of Infectious Diseases and Human Genetics, Cetus Corporation, Emeryville, California 94608, USA. For more information, fill in reader service number 100.

1. Erlich, H.A., Gelfand, D.H. & Saiki, R.K. *Nature* **331**, 461-462 (1988).
2. Saiki, R.K. et al. *Science* **239**, 487-491 (1988).
3. Faloons, F. & Mullis, K. *Meth. Enzym.* **155**, 335-350 (1987).
4. Li, H. et al. *Nature* **335**, 414-417 (1988).
5. Lo, Y.-M.D., Mehal, W.Z. & Fleming, K.A. *Lancet* **2**, 679 (1988).
6. Ou, C. et al. *Science* **239**, 295-297 (1988).
7. Higuchi, R., von Beroldingen, C.H., Sensabaugh, G.F. & Erlich, H.A. *Nature* **332**, 543-546 (1988).

NATURE · VOL 339 · 18 MAY 1989

Tips for better PCR

Physically isolate PCR preparations and products. To prevent carryover of amplified DNA sequences, we prepare samples in a separate room or biosafety hood from that in which the reactions are performed. The UV germicidal lamps in most biosafety hoods quickly damage any DNA left on exposed surfaces, making it unsuitable for subsequent amplification (G. Sensabaugh, personal communication), and further eliminating the possibility of contamination between samples. Separate sets of supplies and pipetting devices are dedicated for sample preparation and for setting up reactions.

Avoid splashes. Some types of sample tube have caps that require so much force to remove that liquid at the bottom of the tube may be splashed out. We use caps that do not require that much effort, and change gloves if such a splash occurs. It is also a good idea to spin any liquid down from the sides and top of the closed tube before attempting to open it.

Autoclave solutions. We routinely autoclave deionized water and those buffer solutions used in PCR and sample preparation that can be autoclaved without affecting their performance. Autoclaving under conditions that provide bacterial decontamination degrades DNA to a very low molecular weight (N. Arnheim, personal communication). We also autoclave disposable pipette tips and microcentrifuge tubes. Primers, dNTPs and Taq DNA polymerase cannot be autoclaved.

Use positive displacement pipettes. The barrel of pipetting devices may become contaminated with aerosols containing sample DNA, leading to cross-contamination of samples. To prevent this, we use positive displacement pipettes with disposable tips and plungers.

Aliquot reagents. We divide reagents into aliquots to minimize the number of repeated samplings necessary. All reagents used in the PCR are prepared, divided and stored in an area that is free of PCR-amplified product. Similarly, oligonucleotides used for amplification are synthesized and purified in a PCR product-free environment. It is advisable to record the lot(s) of reagents used so that if contamination occurs, it can more easily be traced.

"Premix" reagents. When possible, we mix reagents before dividing them into aliquots. All PCR reagents can be combined into a "premix" which can then be pipetted into reaction vessels containing DNA. This minimizes the number of sample transfers and the chances for sporadic contamination. When dispensing the mixture, we pipette a "no DNA" negative control last so that it reflects the total reagent handled.

Use disposable gloves. Our researchers wear gloves and change them frequently, at the least when entering or reentering the isolation area. Changing gloves reduces the possibility of the transfer of amplifiable DNA from outside the isolation area and between samples.

Add DNA last. Non-sample components, such as mineral oil, pre-mixed dNTPs, primers, buffer and enzyme, should be added to the amplification vessels before sample DNA. This minimizes cross-contamination by reducing the number of opportunities for the inadvertent transfer of DNA. After the addition of DNA, we cap each tube before proceeding to the next sample.

Avoiding other pitfalls

The amount of PCR product generated is sometimes insufficient, requiring re-amplification after enrichment by gel electrophoresis. If the amount of amplified target sequence DNA in a particular gel slice is very low, one should be wary of cross-contamination from analogous PCR products or plasmid DNA containing the target sequence run in other lanes of the gel. To prevent carryover from equipment used in previous experiments, gel apparatus and combs should be soaked in 1 M HCl to depurinate any residual DNA, new razor blades should be used to excise each gel band, and the surface of the UV transilluminator should be covered with a fresh sheet of plastic wrap for each gel. Other potential sources of contamination include purified restriction fragments of target sequence, dot-blot apparatus, microtome blades, centrifuges, centrifugal vacuum devices and dry ice or ethanol baths. Most of these items are also amenable to treatment, if necessary, with 1 M HCl.

Choose positive and negative controls carefully. We do not use a highly concentrated solution of plasmid DNA containing the target sequence as our positive control, because it would introduce as many amplifiable molecules into the sample preparation area as a typical PCR. If plasmid DNA containing the target sequence is used as a positive control, it should be diluted substantially. Depending upon the detection system, as few as 100 copies of target may suffice as a positive control.

We include "no DNA" reagent controls and negative sample controls with each set of amplifications. The reagent controls should contain all the necessary components for PCR, except template DNA.

Negative sample controls should not contain target sequences, but should have gone through all the sample preparation steps. Choosing negative controls for our HIV studies was complicated by the fact that PCR enabled HIV sequences to be detected from samples which were negative by all other tests. In the end, we used samples from low-risk individuals with well-known histories.

A final caution

If there is any doubt at all about a critical result, it is best to repeat the experiment again. The negative controls described above can rule out reagent contamination, but cannot guarantee against sporadic contamination events. Fortunately, the odds of a sporadic contamination event occurring twice the same way are very low. The net error rate of a series of tests is also usually lower than that of a single trial, even if the sporadic error rate of the repeated test is higher. PCR is simple and rapid, and consumes so little of most samples that repeat experiments can be performed, even in forensic work.

Kits for performing PCR are available from Perkin-Elmer Cetus under the trademark GeneAmp. □

A final caution

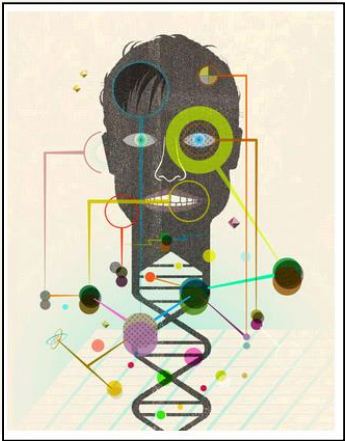
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Una cautela finale

«Se c'è qualche dubbio riguardo un risultato critico, la cosa migliore è ripetere l'esperimento. I controlli negativi possono accertare la contaminazione dei reagenti, ma non possono garantire contro eventi di contaminazione sporadica. Fortunatamente, la probabilità di un evento di contaminazione sporadica avvenuta due volte allo stesso modo è molto bassa».

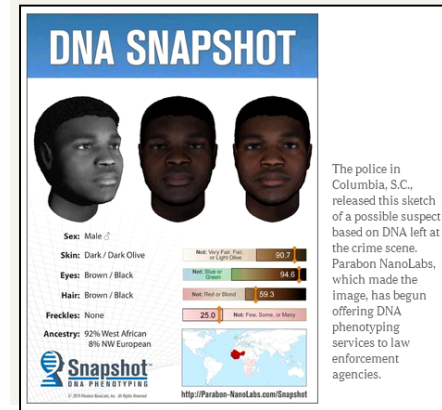




SCIENCE

Building a Face, and a Case, on DNA

By ANDREW POLLACK FEB. 23, 2015



Articolo 192 c.p.p. Valutazione della prova

1. Il giudice valuta la prova dando conto nella motivazione dei risultati acquisiti e dei criteri adottati.
2. L'esistenza di un fatto non può essere desunta da indizi a meno che questi siano gravi, precisi e concordanti.

Grazie dell'attenzione