



## Florida v. Lajayvian Daniels

In May of 2014

A Palm Beach County gas station was robbed at gunpoint. Clerk Shihab Mahmud (22) was shot and killed.

Charred clothing, a charred hat, and a pair of sneakers were found within a mile of the crime scene.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office crime lab developed DNA mixture data from the clothing, hat, and sneakers.

Due to the degraded nature of the data, the lab was unable to fully interpret some mixtures.

# TrueAllele® computer solution

- Accurate. 42 validation studies, 8 published
- Objective. Workflow removes human bias
- Accepted. Reported in 45 states, used by 10 labs
- Transparent. Give math, software (4GB DVD)
- Neutral. Can statistically include or exclude













































## Is the suspect in the evidence?

A match between the charred clothing and Lajayvian Daniels is:

872 trillion times more probable than a coincidental match to an unrelated African-American person

104 quintillion times more probable than a coincidental match to an unrelated Caucasian person

37.5 quintillion times more probable than a coincidental match to an unrelated Hispanic person

Match statistics							
3 6 9							
Item	Description	Franklin Washington	Shihab Mahmud	Lajayvian Daniels			
2-1	Charred hat	29.3 thousand					
3-2	Charred clothing			872 trillion			
3-4	Charred clothing			77.1 million			
4A-1	Pair of black Adidas sneakers, right sneaker			194 quadrillion			
4B-2	Pair of black Adidas sneakers, left sneaker			789 billion			

Match statistics					
		3	6	9	
Item	Description	Franklin Washington	Shihab Mahmud	Lajayvian Daniels	
2-1	Charred hat	4.47			
3-2	Charred clothing			14.94	
3-4	Charred clothing			7.89	
4A-1	Pair of black Adidas sneakers, right sneaker			17.29	
4B-2	Pair of black Adidas sneakers, left sneaker			11.90	



# Admissibility challenge

Defendant's Motion to Exclude the Interpretation of DNA Mixtures by the TrueAllele Software Due to the Failure to Perform the Required Internal Validation

The defendant alleged that the results of the TrueAllele analysis were **not admissible** because the evidentiary requirements **under Frye** had not been met. Specifically, the defendant argued that the TrueAllele interpretation process **lacked an internal validation** mechanism, as **"required"** under **generally accepted** national standards.

### Irrelevant standard

If a standard isn't relevant to a technology, then it isn't applicable to that technology. TrueAllele doesn't need or use calibration parameters, because it learns that information from the data.





has a clutch

Automatic transmission has no clutch









Ballantyne J, Hanson EK, Perlin MW. DNA mixture genotyping by probabilistic computer interpretation of binomially-sampled laser captured cell populations: Combining quantitative data for greater identification information. *Science & Justice*. 2013;53(2):103-114. Perlin MW, Hornyak J, Sugimoto G, Miller K. TrueAllele® genotype identification on DNA mixtures containing up to five unknown contributors. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. 2015;60(4):857-868.

Greenspoon SA, Schiermeier-Wood L, Jenkins BC. Establishing the limits of TrueAllele<sup>6</sup> Casework: a validation study. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. 2015;60(5):1263-1276.

Bauer DW, Butt N, Hornyak JM, Perlin MW. Validating TrueAllele® interpretation of DNA mixtures containing up to ten unknown contributors. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. 2020; 65(2):380-398.

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Perlin MW, Dormer K, Hornyak J, Schiermeier-Wood L, Greenspoon S. TrueAllele<sup>®</sup> Casework on Virginia DNA mixture evidence: computer and manual interpretation in 72 reported criminal cases. *PLOS ONE*. 2014;(9)3:e92837.



















# Specificity

The extent to which interpretation does not misidentify the wrong person

True exclusions, without false inclusions

101 matching genotypes x 10,000 random references x 3 ethnic populations, for over 1,000,000 nonmatching comparisons









### Higher human error rate

TrueAllele specificity (million samples) From noncontributor distribution, for LR > 100: Error rate = 1 in 1,000,000 (**0.0001**)%

> CPI – analytical threshold 5 false positives in 81 comparisons Error rate = 5 in 81 (**6%**)

mCPI – stochastic threshold 17 inconclusive results 1 false positive in 53 comparisons Error rate = 1 in 53 (2%)

## Reproducibility

The extent to which interpretation gives the same answer to the same question

MCMC computing has sampling variation

duplicate computer runs on 101 matching genotypes measure log(LR) variation





























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#### 34 US admissibility rulings

S4F USC additional Science (additional science) (Control (Contro)

## TrueAllele today

Invented math & algorithms Developed computer systems Support users and workflow Routinely used in casework Validate system reliability Educate the community Train or certify analysts Admissibility challenges Testify about LR results Educate lawyers and public Make the ideas understandable



Perlin MW, Dormer K, Hornyak J, Schiermeier-Wood L, Greenspoon S. TrueAllele<sup>®</sup> Casework on Virginia DNA mixture evidence: computer and manual interpretation in 72 reported criminal cases. *PLOS ONE*. 2014;(9)3:e92837.

## Conclusions

TrueAllele Casework DNA mixture interpretation is:

- A reliable method
  - objective
  - sensitive
  - specific
- reproducible
- accurate

TrueAllele computer genotyping is more effective than human review

## **Background Reading**

Background Reading binder exhibit

- Is there background reading that can help the court understand the method?
- Does the reading include a glossary?
- Are there magazine articles and book chapters for lawyers?

## Validation Paper

#### Validation Paper binder exhibit

- What is peer-review?
- How many peer-reviewed TrueAllele validation studies have been published?
- Were the validations conducted
- independently of the current case?Do these studies test TrueAllele and
- establish error rates?

## Validation Study

#### Validation Study binder exhibit

- How many other validation studies have been conducted?
- Who has conducted these studies?How are these studies related to the
- current case?Do these additional studies test
- TrueAllele and establish error rates?

## **Forensic Application**

Forensic Application binder exhibit

- Has TrueAllele only been used by prosecutors?
- Was it used to help identify victim remains in the World Trade Center disaster?
- Has the federal government used TrueAllele to help establish DNA standards?

## **DNA Exoneration**

#### DNA Exoneration binder exhibit

- Has TrueAllele helped exonerate the innocent?
- How many innocent men has TrueAllele helped free from prison?
- Has Cybergenetics sometimes done these exonerations *pro bono*?

# **Regulatory Approval**

#### Regulatory Approval binder exhibit

- Do regulatory bodies oversee TrueAllele or related systems?
- What state regulators have assessed and approved TrueAllele?

## Standards Compliance

Standards Compliance binder exhibit

- Are there accepted validation standards and guidelines for probabilistic genotyping?
- What is the FBI's SWGDAM (Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods)? What is ANSI (American National Standards Institute)?
- What is ASB (American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board)?
- Do these organizations issue standards for validating probabilistic genotyping?
- Does TrueAllele validation comply with all of these standards and guidelines?

## National Standards

#### Validating probabilistic genotyping

 SWGDAM 2010 (§ 3.2.2) (January, 2010) – probabilistic genotype computer interpretation
 SWGDAM 2015 (June 15, 2015) – probabilistic genotyping validation guidelines
 ANSI/ASB Standard 020 (September 2018) – mixture validation and interpretation standards
 ANSI/ASB Standard 040 (September 2019) – DNA interpretation and comparison standards
 ANSI/ASB Standard 018 (July 2020) – probabilistic genotyping validation standards
 FBI QAS 2020 (Section 8) (July 1, 2020) – DNA quality assurance validation standards

### Complying with Standards

Based on empirical testing of software on DNA data

#### Developmental & internal validation

Internal validation: The acquisition of test data within the laboratory to verify the functionality of the system, the accuracy of statistical parameters, the appropriateness of analytical and statistical parameters, and the determination of limitations of the system.

		2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36,
4.1.6	Mixture samples	37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42
4.1.6.1	Various contributor ratios	4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42
4.1.6.2	Various total DNA template quantities	4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 27, 28, 32, 35, 36, 37, 40, 41
4.1.6.3	Various numbers of contributors in samples	7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42
4.1.6.4	Over- and under- estimating of number of contributors input	8, 27, 28, 30, 32, 34, 39
4.1.6.5	Allele sharing among contributors	8, 11, 12, 18, 20, 26, 29, 38, 40

## Method Reports

#### Method Reports binder exhibit

- Is the mathematics underlying TrueAllele available?
- Are Cybergenetics TrueAllele procedures provided?
- Can TrueAllele calculate an error rate for each reported match statistic?
- Was that done in this case?

### **General Acceptance**

#### General Acceptance binder exhibit

- How many TrueAllele reports has Cybergenetics issued?
   In how many states?
- In how many trials has Cybergenetics testified? • In how many states?
- Has TrueAllele been used by both prosecution and defense?
- How many crime labs use TrueAllele for DNA mixture analysis?
- How many scientific papers cite TrueAllele publications?
- Is probabilistic genotyping generally accepted in the forensic community?
  - · Does the FBI use probabilistic genotyping?

## **Related Systems**

#### Related Systems binder exhibit

- Are there other probabilistic genotyping systems for computing match statistics?
- How many other software systems are there?
- Do crime labs use these methods to calculate match statistics for DNA mixtures?

## feature

### **Suspect-centric Bias in DNA Mixture Interpretation**

Mark W. Perlin, Ph.D., M.D.

Bis abounds in criminal justice. Predictive policing can bake bias into software, reflecting and rein-norcing prior beliefs. Bail-tisk computer programs may entrench pre-trial detention disparity. Human judgment pervades the process. Prosecutor and defender alike passionately argue their client's case, drawing opposite conclusions from identical facts. Science is above the first, Objective data suggest forensic match between crime scene and suspect. Statisti-cal data analysis yields incontrovertible numbers for the strength of match. Cold DNA facts are presented as confirmed thereis in court

confirmed theories in court.

continued memores in court. Bott what if DNA analysts could pick and choose their data? Or adjust software parameters to suit their theories? Changing data and parameters will alter forensic match results. Quantitatively, subjective manipula-tion can artificially inflate match strength. Qualitatively, some DNA evidence that excludes a suspect may be statistically twisted to include him.

## Subjective computer analysis

#### New York v. Oral "Nick" Hillary

#### New Zealand probabilistic genotyping software

#### Calibration

Modern Bayesian computing derives parameter probabilities directly from the data. However, limited DNA modeling may lack that math capability, and instead substitute historical data for case evidence. Crime labs usually develop calibration data to tune the foreign analysis software. However, no lab-specific calibration was done in the Hillary case. The foreign expert had to pick and choose calibration parameters in order to run his software on the NYSP lab data.









Hum	an limitation	ns of	othe	r PGS
Feature	Description	Human	STRmix	TrueAllele
bias	Cognitive bias?	yes	yes	no
bias	Contextual bias?	yes	yes	no
prepare	People prepare input data?	yes	yes	no
filtering	People can discard input data?	yes	yes	no
intervention	People can adjust input data?	yes	yes	no
subjective	Human decision making?	yes	yes	no
limits	Follow human limitations?	yes	yes	no
time	Labor intensive process?	yes	yes	no
	Human processing error?	ves	ves	no







## Admissibility Rulings

#### Admissibility Rulings binder exhibit

- Have there been admissibility challenges to TrueAllele reliability? How many challenges? In how many states? How often has TrueAllele been admitted as reliable evidence?
- What does this admissibility ruling binder contain?

## Legal Commentary

#### Legal Commentary binder exhibit

Have legal scholars and practitioners written about TrueAllele?
What have they said?

## Scientific Development

#### Scientific Development binder exhibit

- When did Cybergenetics scientists first publish how to solve PCR stutter?
- When did Cybergenetics first publish its mixture analysis methods?
- Does Cybergenetics regularly publish articles about DNA mixture interpretation?

### **Other Papers**

#### Other Papers binder exhibit

- Is TrueAllele largely based on Bayesian probability modeling, Markov chain Monte Carlo computer methods, and the MATLAB programming language?
- Are these three methods generally accepted as reliable in the scientific community?

### Daniels trial court ruling (2018)

This Court finds that the TrueAllele DNA test results in this case **meet the requirements of Frye**. The scientific methodology used will **assist the trier of fact**. The methodology has been subjected to <u>peer review and publication</u>, there is a <u>known rate of error and standards</u> controlling the technique's operation, **the methodology is generally accepted in the scientific community and the scientific principle being challenged is not new or novel**. All of the defense arguments in opposition to admission of the TrueAllele results are ripe for **cross-examination**.

# The Palm Beach Post

COURTS

#### Jury finds man guilty in 2014 Wellington gas station fatal shooting Hannah Winston hwinston@pbpost.com

Published 12:20 p.m. ET Feb. 7, 2019 | Updated 9:32 a.m. ET Feb. 8, 2019

After two days of deliberations, a 12-person jury found Lajayvian Daniels guilty of first degree murder and robbery in the 2014 fatal shooting of 22-year-old Shihab Mahmud at a Wellington gas station.

Circuit Judge Joseph Marx sentenced Daniels, 25, to life in prison, the mandatory sentence for a first-degree murder conviction.

## Appellate opinion (2021)

... we are satisfied that the trial court properly assessed and concluded that the DNA statistical interpretation performed by the **TrueAllele software program was reliable** after considering:

 (1) the theory or technique has been tested;
 (2) the theory or technique has been subjected to peer review and publication;
 (3) the known or potential rate of error for the program; and
 (4) the general acceptance of the program. See Daubert, 509 U.S. at 593-94.

## Appellate opinion (cont'd)

We are also satisfied that the trial court gave specific consideration to Appellant's argument regarding the **lack of internal validation** but concluded the argument and evidence did not merit excluding the TrueAllele evidence.

It is also particularly significant that the **defense expert** in this case was **not sufficiently familiar with the TrueAllele software** to effectively opine as to how the failure to internally validate the software using PBSOgenerated test data compromised the reliability of the analysis of the DNA samples collected from clothing during the criminal investigation of this case.



