

**ANSI/ASB Standard 018, First Edition 2020
Standard for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems**

TrueAllele® Casework System

Cybergenetics, Pittsburgh, PA

July 14, 2023

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Introduction

This document describes how Cybergenetics TrueAllele® Casework system complies with the Standard for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems (ANSI/ASB Standard 018), as promulgated in the ANSI/ASB July 2020 document.

The document embeds the ANSI/ASB Standard 018 text, and gives a paragraph-by-paragraph description of system compliance. Separate appendices list the many TrueAllele validation studies that establish the system's reliability. There is also an appendix on the availability of the supporting documents referred to herein.

The ANSI/ASB Standard 018 document is downloadable from:

http://www.asbstandardsboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/018_Std_e1.pdf

Glossary

- *AAFS* is the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, an organization for forensic science professionals.
- *ANSI* is the American National Standards Institute, a standards organization that oversees standard conformity.
- *ASB* is the AAFS Standards Board, an organization that provides forensic standards.
- *Cybergenetics* is a Pittsburgh-based company founded in 1994 that specializes in computer interpretation of DNA evidence data.
- *Peer review* is an assessment scientific research by a journal that has two (or more) independent workers review a manuscript before accepting it for publication.
- *Probabilistic genotyping* is any method that interprets DNA data and produces more than one genotype, assigning probabilities to the possibilities.
- *SWGAM* is the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods, a standing committee that helps establish guidelines of interest to the FBI.
- *TrueAllele Casework* is a computer system that accurately and automatically interprets DNA evidence data, producing reliable match statistics.
- *Validation* is a testing procedure for establishing the reliability of a method.
- *Validation study* is a scientific study that documents validation testing.

Cybergenetics

Cybergenetics is a bio-information company that develops and uses TrueAllele Casework. Cybergenetics is not a traditional crime laboratory, but rather an independent forensic statistical consultant (IFSC). As an IFSC, Cybergenetics can review DNA data from a case and provide any party with the DNA information present in the data and the match statistics for any reference or evidence comparison. IFSCs are not crime labs. Thus, the standard requirements that apply to crime labs do not apply to IFSCs.

TrueAllele Casework

TrueAllele Casework is a probabilistic genotyping (PG) software that interprets DNA data. The system does not have user input analytical or statistical parameters that need to be set. Therefore, the computer does not rely upon historical data to calibrate or set parameters. The computer calculates the information from the data. In addition, these parameters do not vary from run to run. Moreover, there are no specific parameters used by TrueAllele that need to be tested outside of validation data sets.

Internal Validation

Crime laboratories use TrueAllele technology. Before implementing TrueAllele in casework, all TrueAllele labs perform an internal validation study. These laboratories also ensure that they comply with all standards relevant to their use of TrueAllele PG software. The labs document their internal validations, and these documents can be part of the lab's disclosure. Cybergenetics provides all validation studies (both developmental and internal) in every case where disclosure materials are needed.

The compliance described in the next section is applicable to all TrueAllele laboratories.

Standard for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems (ANSI/ASB Standard 018)

4. Requirements

4.1 The laboratory shall validate a probabilistic genotyping system prior to its use for casework samples in the laboratory.

The TrueAllele Casework system has been extensively validated on both laboratory and casework DNA samples, with over 40 studies completed. Eight of these validation studies have been published in peer-reviewed journals. Currently, TrueAllele validation studies have been completed on samples containing up to 10 unknown contributors with both high and low template samples tested across a range of conditions. Sensitivity, specificity, and reproducibility of the TrueAllele system have been thoroughly established, with other measures studied as well. Performance checks are done when software updates are made.

Appendix 1 (*TrueAllele Validation Summary*) lists all TrueAllele validation studies and describes the metrics tested in each validation study based on the 2015 SWGDAM Guidelines for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems.

4.1.1 Validations shall include both developmental and internal studies.

Developmental validation may be conducted by the manufacturer/developer of the application or another laboratory/agency. Developmental validation shall not replace internal validation.

Appendix 1 (*TrueAllele Validation Summary*) lists all TrueAllele validation studies (both developmental and internal) and describes the metrics tested in each study based on the 2015 SWGDAM Guidelines for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems.

There are 8 TrueAllele developmental validation studies. Appendix 2 (*TrueAllele Developmental Validations*) lists these studies.

4.1.2 Developmental validation studies shall address the following: accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and precision. These studies shall include case-type profiles of known composition that represent (in terms of number of contributors, mixture

ratios, and total DNA template quantities) the range of scenarios that would likely be encountered in casework. Studies shall not be limited to pristine DNA samples but shall also include compromised DNA samples (e.g., low template, degraded, and inhibited samples).

These studies have been conducted. Appendix 1 (*TrueAllele Validation Summary*) describes the metrics tested in each developmental TrueAllele validation study based on the 2015 SWGDAM Guidelines for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems.

4.1.3 Internal validation studies shall address the following: accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and precision. These studies shall include internally generated case-type profiles of known composition that represent (in terms of number of contributors, mixture ratios, and total DNA template quantities) the range of actual casework samples intended for analysis with the system at the laboratory. Studies shall not be limited to pristine DNA samples but shall also include compromised DNA samples (e.g., low template, degraded, and inhibited samples). The internal validation shall not exceed the scope of the conditions tested in the developmental validation. Case type profiles that fall outside the range of conditions explored in developmental validation shall require additional developmental validation studies. See Annex A.

These studies have been conducted. Appendix 1 (*TrueAllele Validation Summary*) describes the metrics tested in each internal TrueAllele validation study based on the 2015 SWGDAM Guidelines for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems.

4.1.4 Internal validation studies shall include evaluating user input parameters that vary run to run. The effects of artifacts (e.g., stutter) and parameters that relate to the statistical algorithm (e.g., run time parameters for the software system that can vary from system to system) shall also be evaluated. The parameters may vary depending upon the approach or intended use of the software. Therefore, the specific parameters to be tested shall be determined by the laboratory.

These studies have been conducted. Appendix 1 (*TrueAllele Validation Summary*) describes the metrics (including those for artifacts and run time

input) tested in each TrueAllele validation study based on the 2015 SWGDAM Guidelines for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems.

4.1.5 Internal validation studies shall also include the evaluation of multiple propositions for case type samples to aid in the development of propositions. Such studies shall also consider the effect of overestimating and underestimating the number of contributors.

These studies have been conducted. Appendix 1 (*TrueAllele Validation Summary*) describes the metrics (including those for propositions and contributor number input) tested in each TrueAllele validation study based on the 2015 SWGDAM Guidelines for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems.

4.1.6 For internal validation, the laboratory shall evaluate both the appropriate sample types (i.e., number of contributors, mixture ratios, and template quantities) and the number of samples within each type to demonstrate the potential limitations and reliability of the software. The laboratory shall base this evaluation on the intended application of the software.

These studies have been conducted. Appendix 1 (*TrueAllele Validation Summary*) describes the metrics tested in each TrueAllele validation study based on the 2015 SWGDAM Guidelines for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems.

4.2 The underlying scientific principle(s) of the probabilistic genotyping model and associative method and software including the mathematical basis and underlying algorithms shall be published in peer-reviewed scientific journal(s).

TrueAllele's underlying scientific principles, methods of analysis, mathematical basis, underlying algorithms, and statistical formulae are described in various peer-reviewed and other publications. The TrueAllele Methods: Statistical Model document summarizes those methods and citations. Appendix 3 (TrueAllele Peer-reviewed Papers) lists TrueAllele related peer-reviewed papers.

4.3 Quality assurance parameters, analytical procedures, and interpretation protocols shall be derived from internal validation studies. Developmental and manufacturer recommendations may be used in addition to internal validation studies but shall not replace internal validation.

Appendix 1 (*TrueAllele Validation Summary*) lists all TrueAllele validation studies and describes the metrics tested in each validation study based on the 2015 SWGDAM Guidelines for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems. These studies encompass the processes and procedures Cybergenetics follows when analyzing casework data. Cybergenetics TrueAllele workflow and interpretation guidelines are described in the *TrueAllele® Casework Process: Standard Operating Procedures* document.

4.4 Software modifications, changes to computing platform or changes to upstream analytical processes (i.e., amplification processes, detection platforms) that may impact the interpretation or reported result(s) shall be evaluated to determine whether a validation or performance check is required prior to implementation. Such modifications shall require a validation or performance check of the affected software component. If neither is conducted after a software modification, changes to computing platform or changes to upstream analytical processes, the laboratory shall document the justification (e.g., software update simply enhances visual output or displays, therefore no performance check was conducted). See Annex A.

When server code updates affect interpretation, validation is done before the new version is distributed and used in routine processing.

Additionally, when a new module is added, a performance check is done to test the new software. Once sufficient testing has been done, the software or server version is deployed for use in casework. This testing is documented, and any new software features are documented prior to release.

4.5 All validation and performance check studies conducted by the laboratory shall be documented and retained by the laboratory. See Annex A.

Appendix 1 (TrueAllele Validation Summary) lists all TrueAllele validation studies, including some performance check reports. All studies and reports are documented and available upon request.

4.6 The laboratory shall have a mechanism to record the software settings that are used each time an analysis is performed. See Annex A.

Each TrueAllele interpretation request stores the software setting information once it is uploaded to the TrueAllele server (e.g., contributor number, number of cycles, etc.). This information can be viewed in the Report module for each interpretation request. The *TrueAllele® VUler™: Report Module* manual describes where the setting information can be found.

In addition, the analyst can save the interpretation requests in a .req file. This file saves the requests and settings for each session. The *TrueAllele® VUler™: Request Module* manual has more information about this file type.

4.7 Prior to implementation, the laboratory shall verify the functionality of its defined software settings and parameters utilizing different data sets than what were originally used to establish those settings and parameters. See Annex A.

Sufficient testing is done on a variety of data sets before new software is distributed and used in routine processing. This testing is documented, and any new software features are documented prior to release.

5. Conformance

Documentation demonstrating conformance with the standards described in this document will be reviewed and approved by the laboratory's DNA technical leader (or equivalent) and will be made readily available in hard copy and/or electronic form for review.

The current document describes Cybergenetics TrueAllele Casework compliance with the Standard for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems (ANSI/ASB Standard 018).

Appendix 1: TrueAllele Validation Summary

Introduction

The TrueAllele Casework system has been thoroughly validated across a range of conditions. Cybergenetics and other groups have conducted over 40 validation studies. These studies have been presented either as peer-reviewed papers, or as written reports or presentations. Additional validation studies are currently being conducted.

This section contains a table describing the validation studies that fulfill the various developmental and internal validation guidelines presented in sections 3 and 4 of the 2015 SWGDAM Guidelines for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems. The table contains the SWGDAM *Guideline* number, a *Description* of the guideline, and a *Study* number that corresponds to the study fulfilling the guideline. These *Study* numbers correspond to both the *TrueAllele Validation Citations* section in this document as well as the study information contained in the *TrueAllele Validation Reports and Papers (ReadMe)* document. Many of these guidelines appear in other standards and guideline documents. Thus, this appendix can be used to show how TrueAllele complies with those standards and recommendations as well.

A Dropbox link to all of the papers and reports can be provided upon request. It should be noted that this table may not list every topic covered in a study but is representative of the major points covered in each study.

Note: SWGDAM guideline 4.1.12 (establishing in-house parameters) is not applicable to TrueAllele analysis.

TrueAllele Studies and SWGDAM Guidelines

Guideline	Description	Study
3.2.1, 4.1.13	Sensitivity	4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43
3.2.1.1	Type I errors (False exclusions)	16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 32, 34, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43
3.2.1.2	Sensitivity range of LR values expected for contributors	4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 43
3.2.2, 4.1.13	Specificity	7, 8, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43
3.2.2.1	Type II errors (False inclusions)	16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43
3.2.2.2	Specificity range of LR values expected for non-contributors	12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 43
3.2.3, 4.1.13	Precision	2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 43
3.2.3.1	Range of LR values expected between multiple analyses (σ_w)	5, 7, 8, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 43
3.2.3.2	Reducing the variability of LR variation (e.g., increasing MCMC iterations)	15, 16, 18, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 37, 39, 42
3.2.4, 3.2.4.1, 4.1.1	Case-type samples (reliable evaluation)	5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 17, 19, 25, 27, 31, 33, 37, 38, 40, 43
3.2.5	Control samples	1, 9, 25
3.2.6	Accuracy	2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 27, 29, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 43
3.2.6.1, 4.2	Comparison with manual review	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 25, 29, 31, 33, 35
3.2.6.2	Comparison of allele calling of raw data (.fsa) files	1, 17
4.1	Data from kits, instruments, and analysis software used in casework	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 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, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43
4.1.1	Known contributor samples	4, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43
4.1.2, 4.1.2.1	Hypothesis testing with contributors and non-contributors	4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43
4.1.3	Variable DNA typing conditions	9, 16, 18, 19, 22, 24, 28, 31, 32, 36, 37, 40, 43
4.1.4	Allelic peak height	3, 9, 16, 18, 19, 22, 24, 28, 30

4.1.5	Single-source samples	1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 15, 25, 28, 29, 31, 35, 37, 38, 40, 43
4.1.6	Mixture samples	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, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43
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, 43
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, 43
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, 43
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
4.1.7	Partial profiles	5, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18, 28, 29, 35
4.1.7.1	Allele and locus drop-out	5, 8, 15, 18, 29, 34, 35, 39
4.1.7.2	DNA degradation	8, 12, 28, 29, 30, 32, 36, 37, 40, 43
4.1.7.3	Inhibition	30, 32, 36, 43
4.1.8	Allele drop-in	14
4.1.9	Forward and reverse stutter	1, 8, 13
4.1.10	Intra-locus peak height variation	1, 3, 29, 41
4.1.11	Inter-locus peak height variation (mixture weight modeling)	4, 5, 13, 14, 15, 17, 27, 41
4.1.14	Additional challenge testing (spikes, etc.)	1, 29
4.2.1	Determination if results produced are intuitive and consistent with expectations	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 25, 29, 31, 33, 35
4.2.1.1	If included manually, also included with probabilistic genotyping	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19, 25, 29, 31, 33, 35
4.2.1.2	Single-source concordance between manual and probabilistic genotyping methods	1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 15, 17, 25, 31, 35
4.2.1.3	Weightings given to individual genotypes decrease with increasing mixture complexity	5, 8, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 42, 43

TrueAllele Validation Citations

This section lists the citations for all TrueAllele validation studies.

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Appendix 2: TrueAllele Developmental Validations

This section lists the citations for TrueAllele developmental validation studies.

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

Appendix 3: TrueAllele Peer-reviewed Papers

This section lists citations for TrueAllele-related peer-reviewed papers.

1. Perlin MW. Transforming conjunctive match into RETE: a call-graph caching approach, *International Journal of Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering*, 1991;1(4):373:408.
2. Perlin MW, Burks MB, Hoop RC, Hoffman EP. Toward fully automated genotyping: allele assignment, pedigree construction, phase determination, and recombination detection in Duchenne muscular dystrophy. *Am J Hum Genet*. 1994;55(4):777-87.
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7. Perlin MW, Szabady B. Linear mixture analysis: a mathematical approach to resolving mixed DNA samples. *J Forensic Sci*. 2001;46(6):1372-7.
8. Kadash K, Kozlowski BE, Biega LA, Duceman BW. Validation study of the TrueAllele[®] automated data review system. *J Forensic Sci*. 2004;49(4):1-8.
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10. Perlin MW, Kadane JB, Cotton RW. Match likelihood ratio for uncertain genotypes. *Law, Probability and Risk*. 2009;8(3):289-302.
11. Perlin MW, Sinelnikov A. An information gap in DNA evidence interpretation. *PLoS ONE*. 2009;4(12):e8327.

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14. Perlin MW, Belrose JL, Duceman BW. New York State TrueAllele® Casework validation study. *J Forensic Sci.* 2013;58(6):1458-1466.
15. Perlin MW, Dormer K, Hornyak J, Schiermeier-Wood L, Greenspoon S. TrueAllele® Casework on Virginia DNA mixture evidence: computer and manual interpretation in 72 reported criminal cases. *PLOS ONE.* 2014;9(3):e92837.
16. Perlin MW. Inclusion probability for DNA mixtures is a subjective one-sided match statistic unrelated to identification information. *Journal of Pathology Informatics*, 6(1):59, 2015.
17. Perlin MW, Hornyak J, Sugimoto G, Miller K. TrueAllele® genotype identification on DNA mixtures containing up to five unknown contributors. *J Forensic Sci.* 2015; 60(4):857-868.
18. Greenspoon SA, Schiermeier-Wood L, Jenkins BA. Establishing the limits of TrueAllele® Casework: a validation study. *J Forensic Sci.* 2015;60(5):1263-1276.
19. Stokes NA, Stanciu CE, Brocato ER, Ehrhardt CR, Greenspoon SA. Simplification of complex DNA profiles using front end cell separation and probabilistic modeling. *Forensic Science International: Genetics.* 2018;36:205-212.
20. Perlin MW. Efficient construction of match strength distributions for uncertain multi-locus genotypes. *Heliyon*, 4(10):e00824, 2018.
21. Bauer DW, Butt N, Hornyak JM, Perlin MW. "Validating TrueAllele® interpretation of DNA mixtures containing up to ten unknown contributors." *J Forensic Sci*, 2020; 65(2):380-398.

Appendix 4: Other Reports and Supporting Documentation

Several supporting reports and other materials are mentioned throughout this document. These materials give additional support for TrueAllele's compliance with various guidelines and standards. A Dropbox link to these documents can be provided upon request.

TrueAllele reports

Perlin MW. Scientific validation of mixture interpretation methods. Promega's Seventeenth International Symposium on Human Identification, 2006; Nashville, TN.

Perlin MW. Explaining the likelihood ratio in DNA mixture interpretation. Promega's Twenty First International Symposium on Human Identification, 2010; San Antonio, TX.

Other supporting documents:

- *TrueAllele® Methods: Statistical Model*
- *TrueAllele® VUIer™ user manuals:*
 - o *Workflow Introduction*
 - o *Getting Started*
 - o *Analyze Module*
 - o *Data Module*
 - o *Request Module*
 - o *Review Module*
 - o *Report Module*
 - o *Tools Module*
 - o *Tutorial*
 - o *Database Application Note*
 - o *Specificity Application Note*
 - o *Likelihood Ratio Calculation Application Note*
- *Cybergenetics' TrueAllele® Casework Process: Standard Operating Procedures*
- *TrueAllele® Server Quality Assurance Checklist*