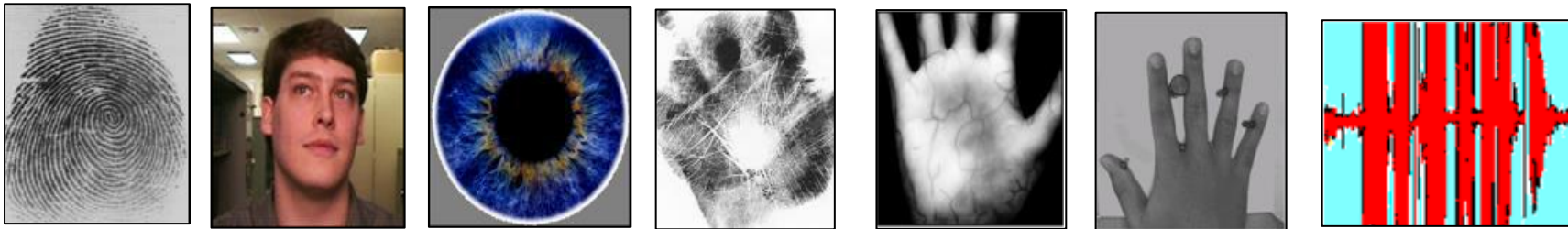


Biometrics: The Foundation of Aadhaar

Anil Jain and Mayank Vatsa

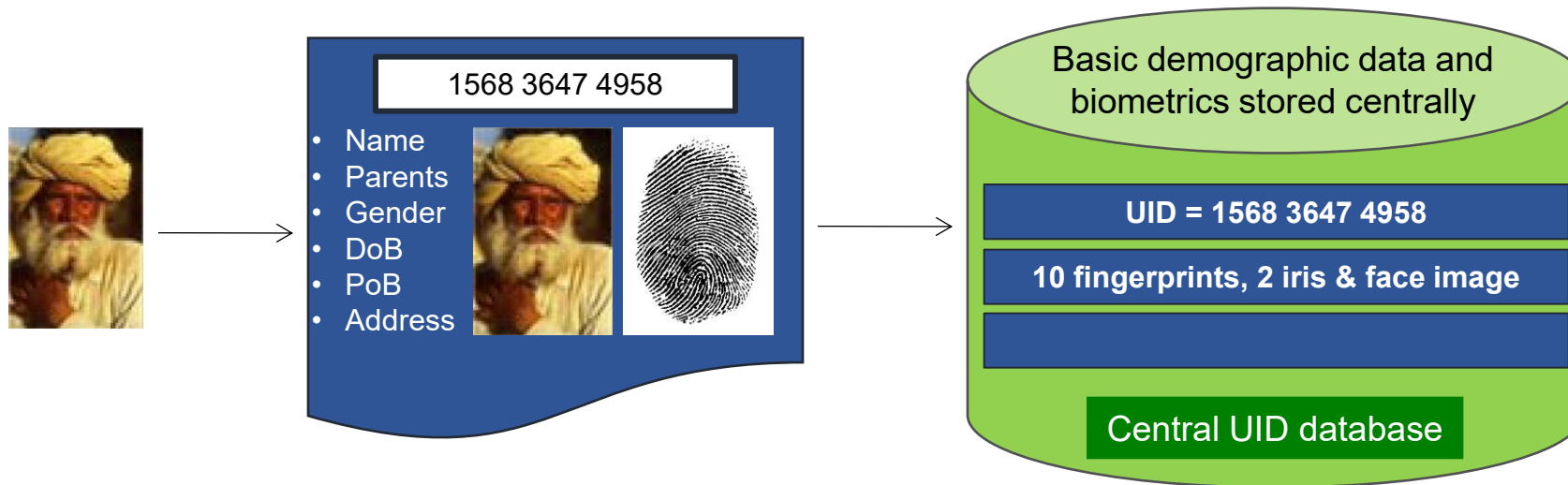
Aadhaar Vision Subcommittee on Biometrics

December 4, 2025



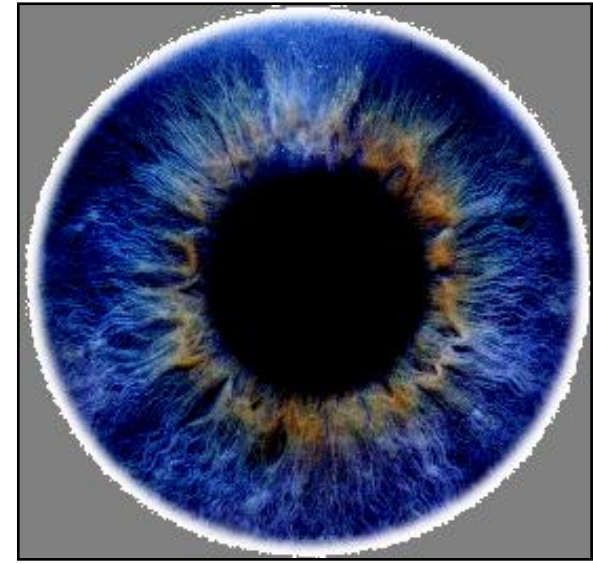
Aadhaar

*Issue a 12-digit unique identification number (UID) to Indian residents that can be used to **eliminate duplicate and fake identities**.*



Biometrics is the only way to eliminate duplicate and fake identities

Most Frequently Used Body Traits



- Individuality and permanence properties.
- High accuracy and low latency (small template size) in NIST evaluations.
- **Identical twins birth rate: 3 to 4 per 1000 live births.**

Need For High Quality Capture



No. of false minutiae = 0

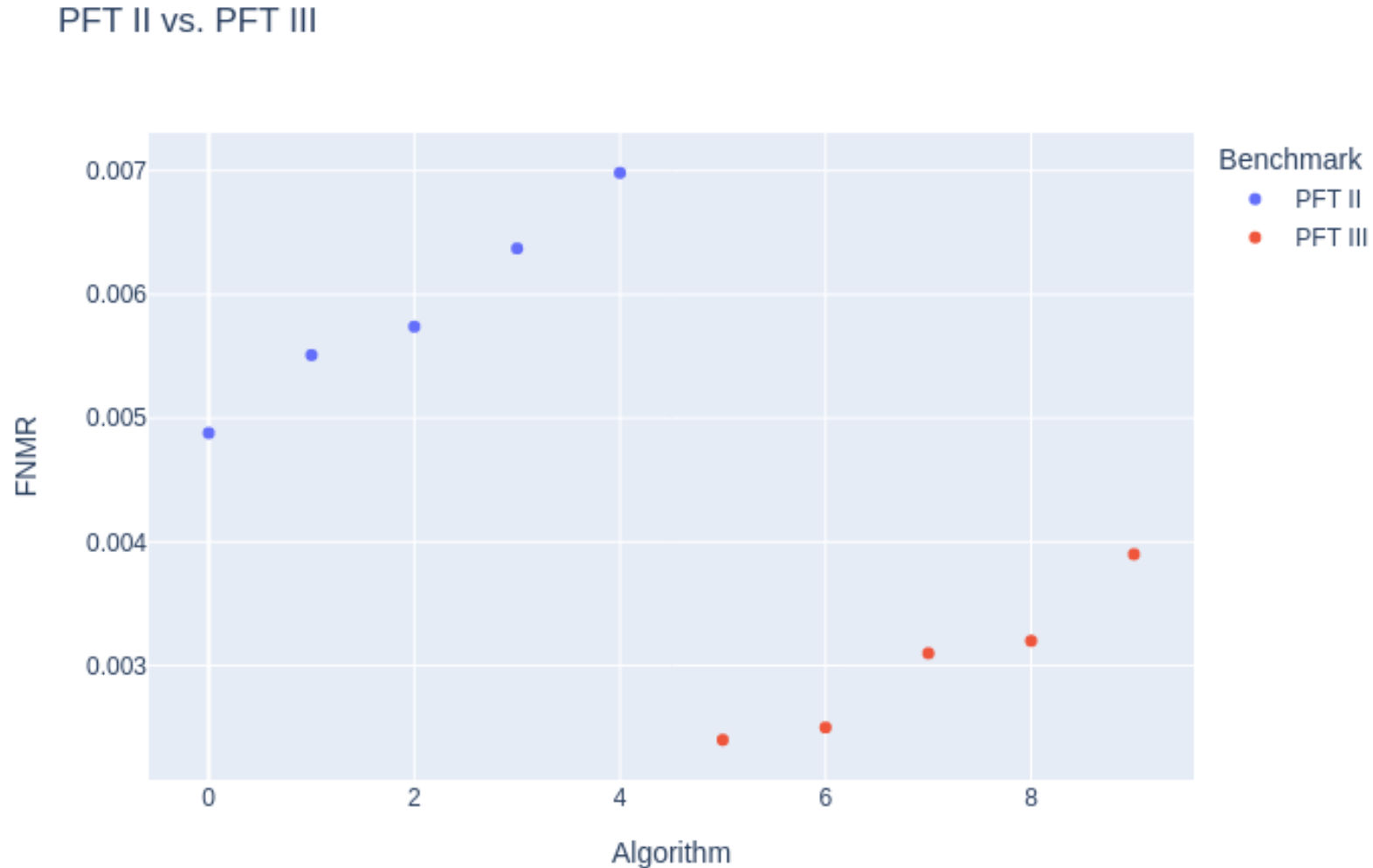


No. of false minutiae = 7



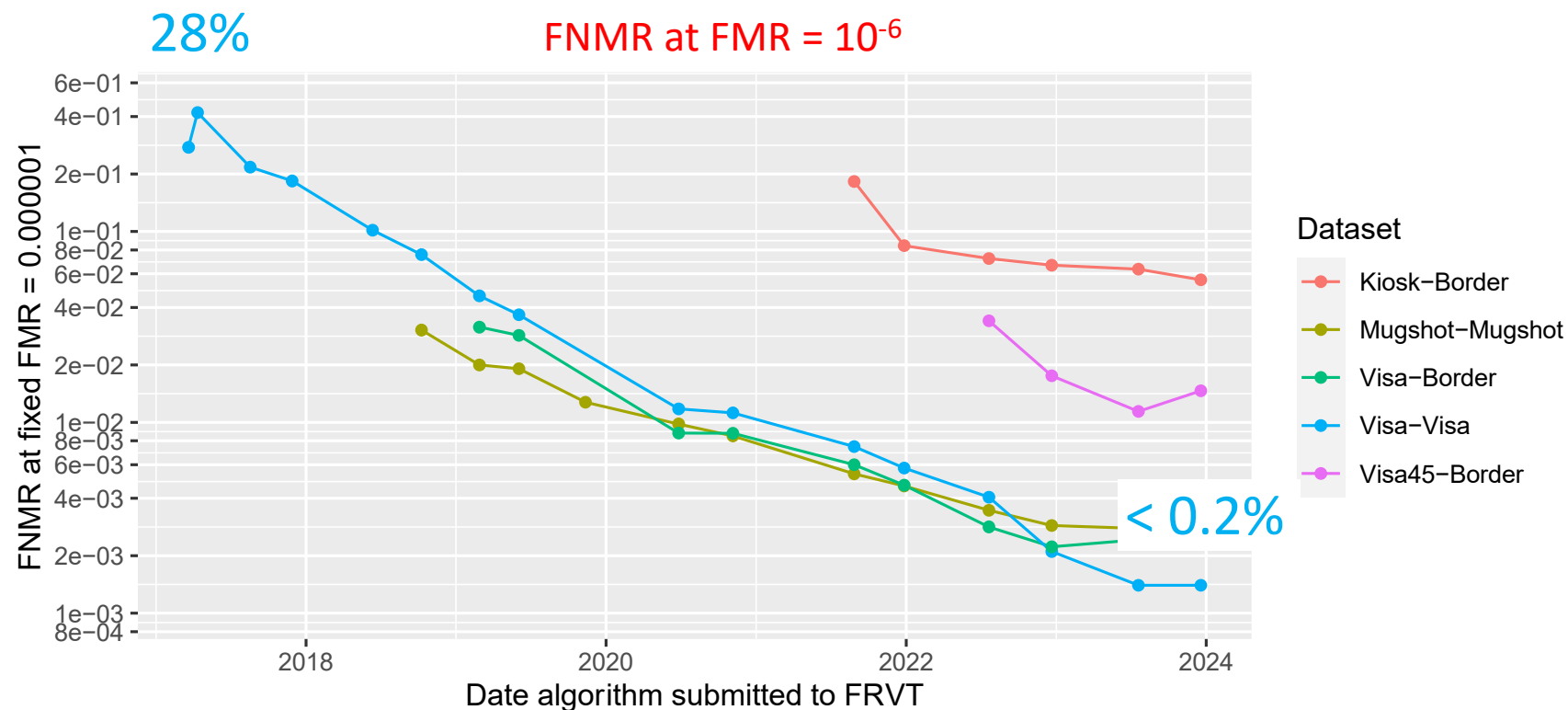
No. of false minutiae = 27

Fingerprint Performance Over Time

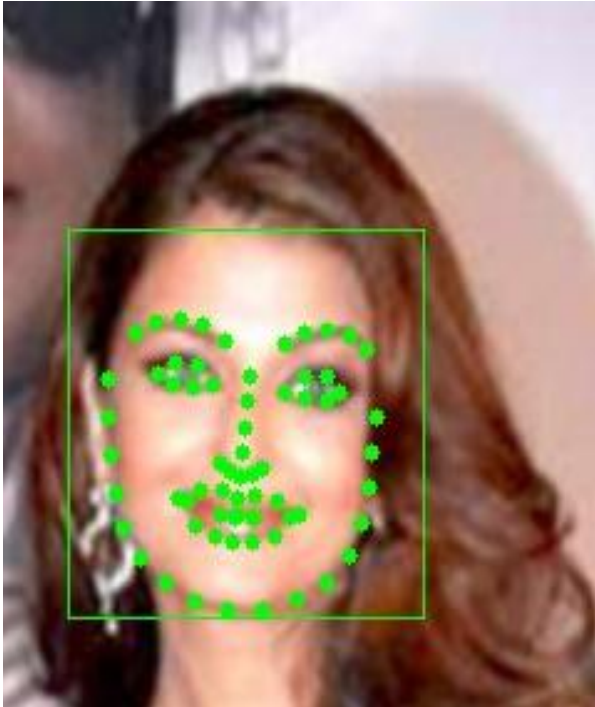


Performance of top-5 algorithms in PFT II (2010-2019) & PFT III (2019-): FNMR @FMR=1e-4)

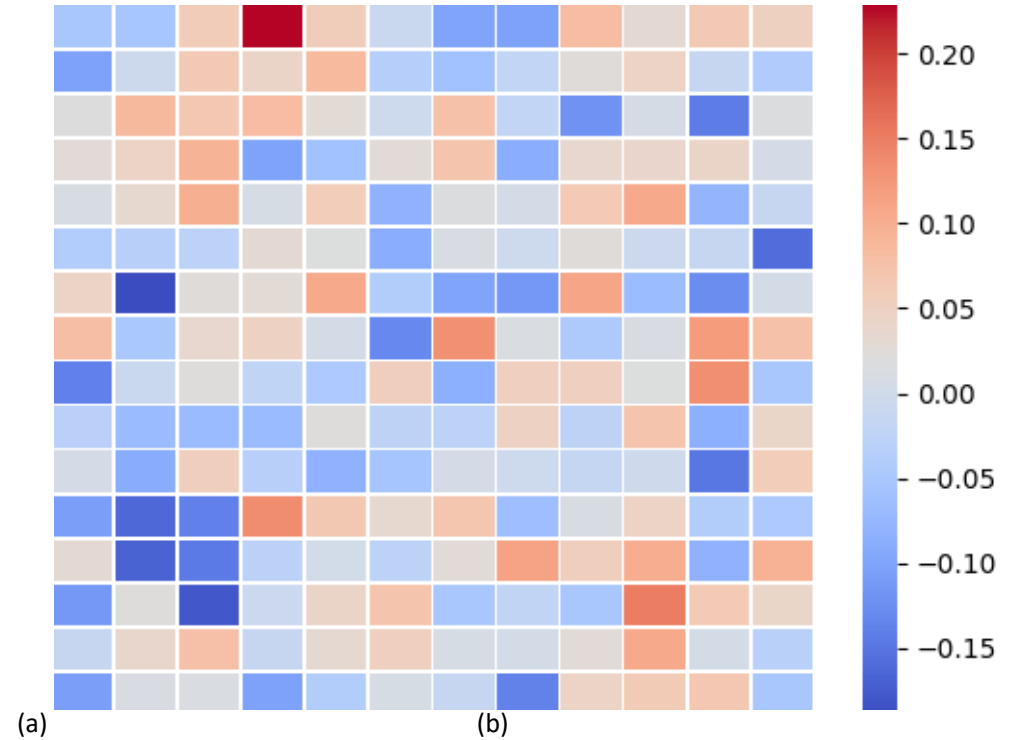
1:1 Face Accuracy Gains Over Time



Face Representation

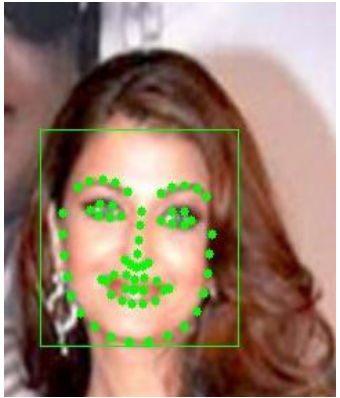


+

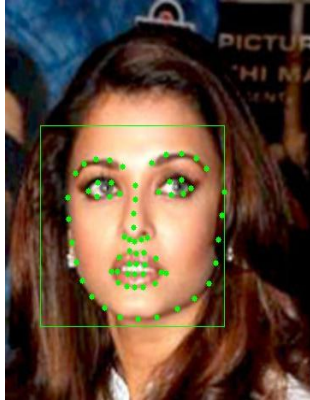


Fusion of landmarks & embeddings has boosted face recognition

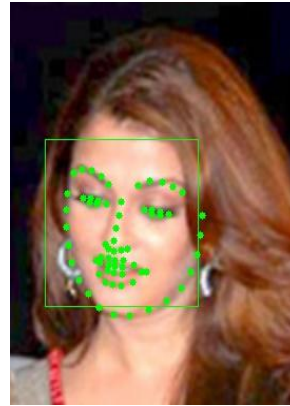
Gains in Recognition Accuracy



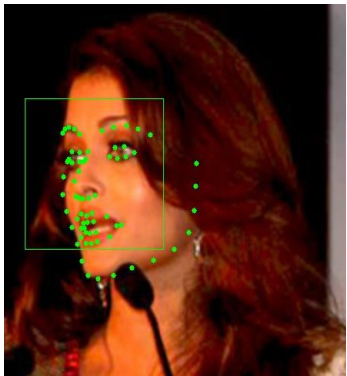
0.56



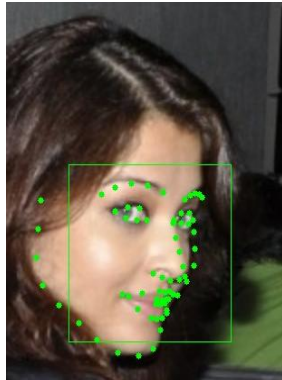
0.38



0.57



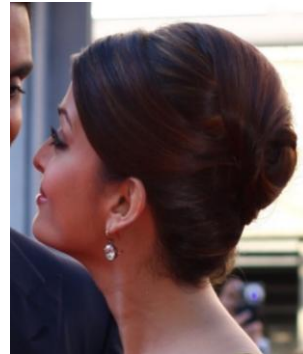
0.48



0.48



0.35



0.01



Doppelgänger of Obama 0.31



Identical twins 0.69

Robust to PIE, Occlusion & Aging



Probe (1984)

Threshold=0.54 @ FAR=0.01%



0.83



0.89



0.72



0.81



0.58



0.72



0.82



0.71



0.74



0.66



0.63



0.49



0.17

Summary/Discussion

- Biometrics is the only way to assure “*a person is who they say they are.*”
- Fingerprint and face will continue to dominate the market.
- Enrollment age of 3 yrs. is feasible (child can follow instructions).
- Challenges: 2-Billion scale search; 200M authentications/day; recognition under “non-ideal” conditions; system integrity; latency; model training on “Aadhaar-like” data.
- What to do about deceased individuals? Remove from database?
- Recommendations:
 - Support academic research, train students & foster startups
 - Merge outputs of all three BSPs to further reduce FPIR/FNIR

Backup Slides

Real or Synthetic?



Real or Synthetic?

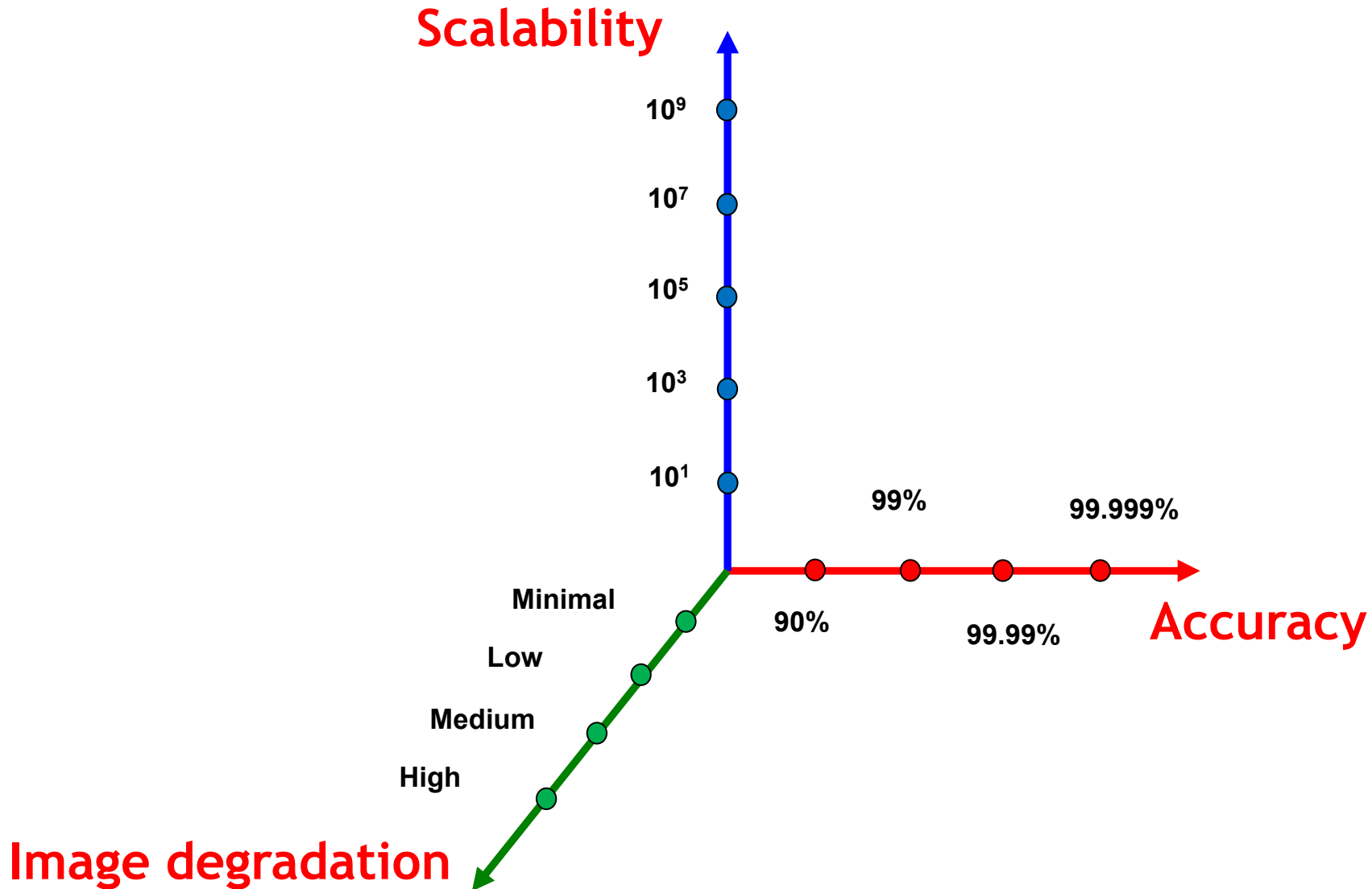


Two-factor Authentication



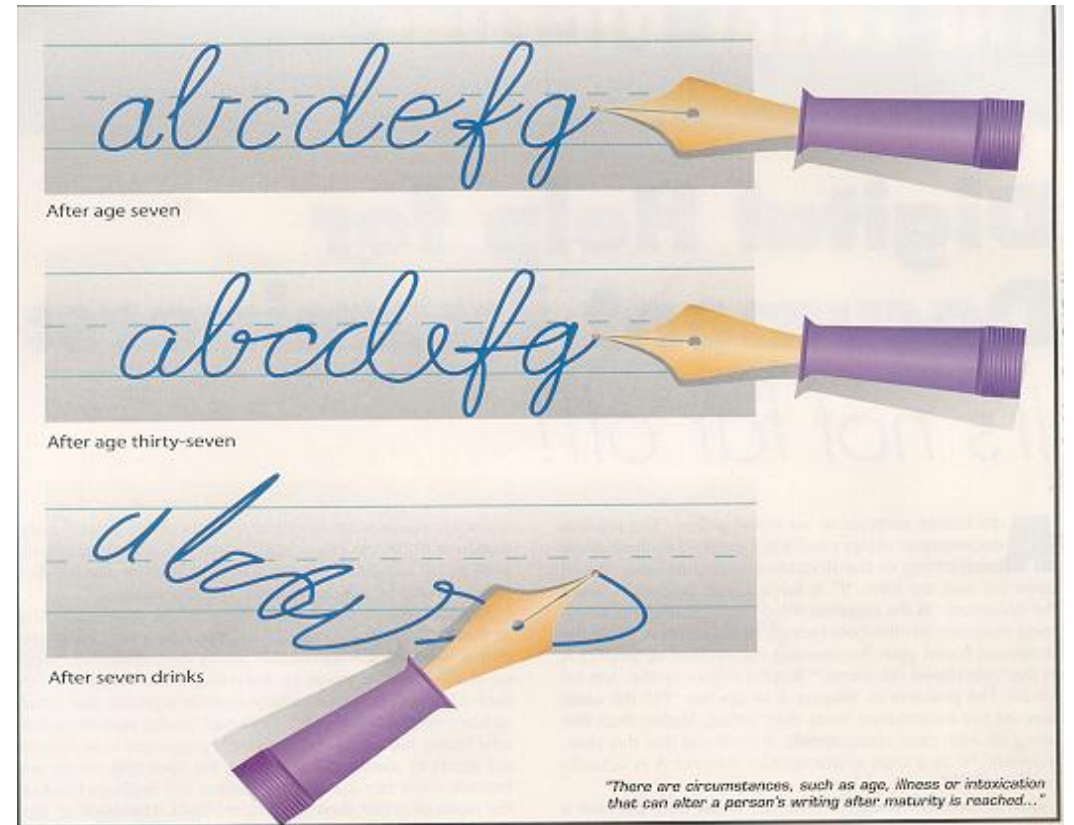
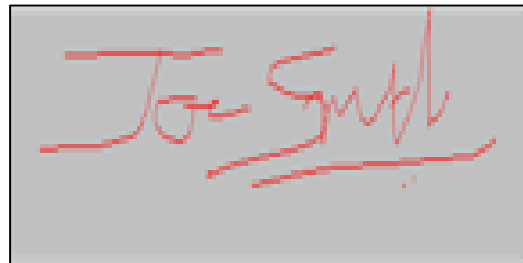
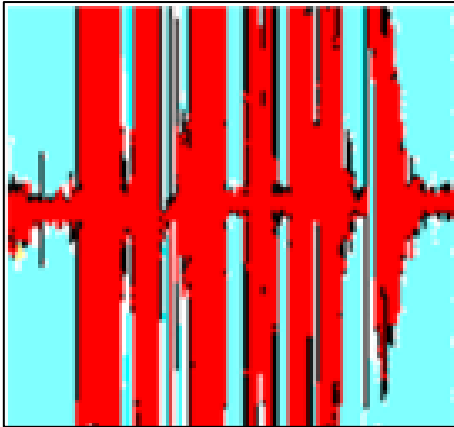
~90M authentications/day

Challenges



- 1:N accuracy for **2B enrollment**
- Quality-based fusion
- System security (presentation attacks, injection attacks)
- Remote IDV
- Integrity of enrollment
- Lower enrollment age

Additional Biometric Traits?



- Do they satisfy individuality and persistence properties?
- Any third-party evaluation for 1:N evaluation?
- How easily can they be spoofed?

Aadhaar Enrollment

- Minimal supporting documents collected; Never to deny Aadhaar.
- Fingerprint & iris were selected based on their **individuality** and **permanence** properties (cannot be shared); face was not considered a “core” biometric.
- Minimum age of 5 years was based on child understanding instructions.

Discussion points:

- Any new modality? Must satisfy properties of distinctiveness, ...
- Lowering the enrollment age.
- Integrity of enrolment; who is getting enrolled?
- Any special consideration for identical twins? (~3/1000 live births).
- Investigate backward-compatible sensing technologies.
- Self enrollment? Is it even advisable?

De-duplication (1:N Comparison)

- Fusion of fingerprints, iris & face to individualize @billion scale

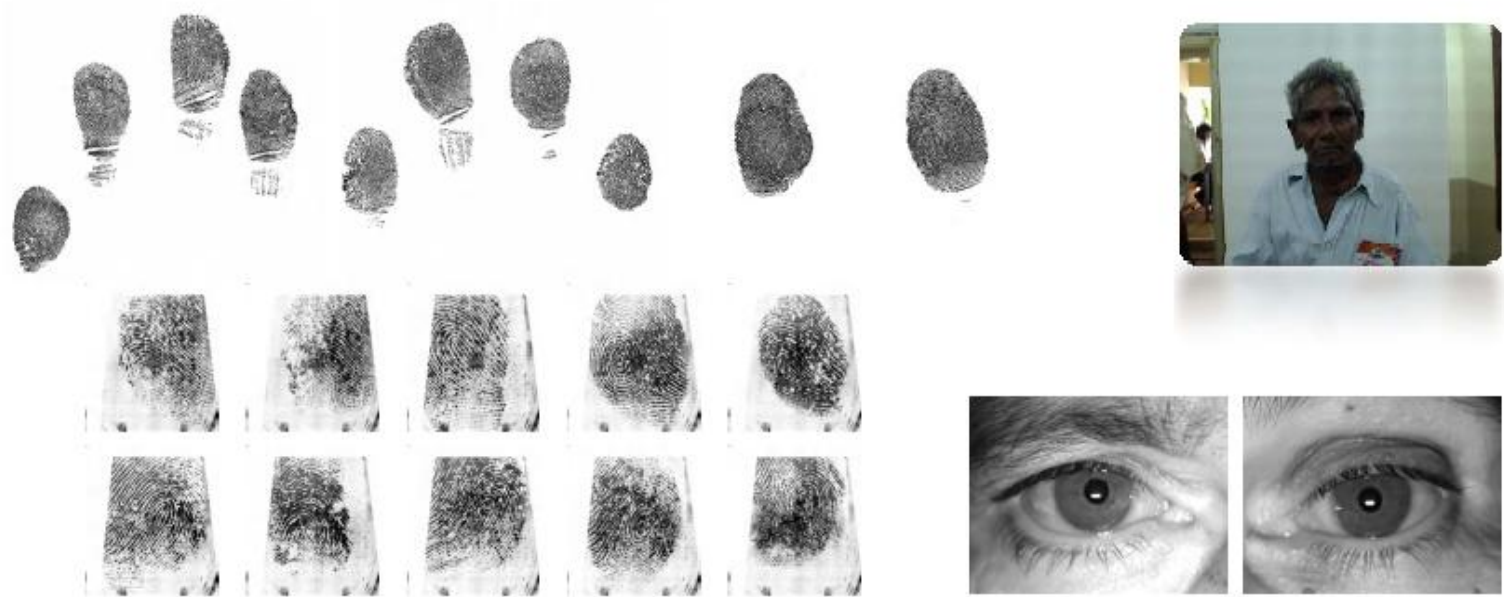
Points for Discussion

- What is the current FPIR & FNIR? What has been the trend since 2009?
- Understand failure cases to further improve the algorithms.
- NIST evaluations show continuous improvements in face, fingerprint and iris accuracies. Is Aadhaar getting best of the breed?
- Trade off between accuracy (FPIR, FNIR) and template size!
- What improvements will we get by **fusing output of all three BSPs?**
- New algorithms for quality-based fusion and score modification
- How to predict 1:2B search performance?

Authentication

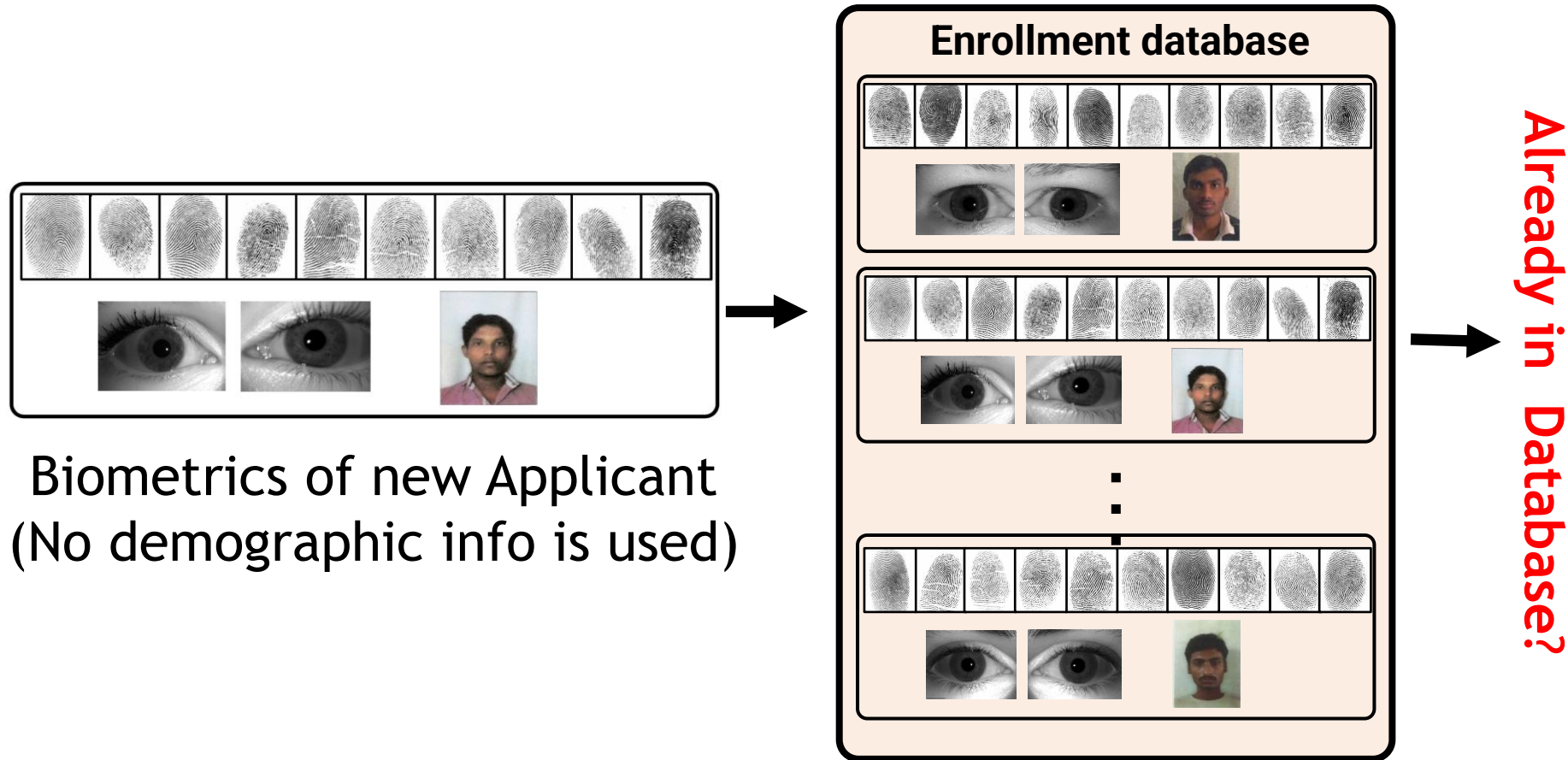
- 2-factor (Aadhaar + biometric) authentication; user agencies can decide which modality to use
- ~90 million authentications per day.
- Discussion Points:
 - What percentage of authentication attempts are unsuccessful in 1, 2 or 3 tries?
 - What is the current authentication time? Any system outages?
 - How to prepare for, say 200M authentications/day
 - Can we bypass Aadhaar server for authentication?
 - Detection of presentation attacks

Aadhaar Enrollment



- Face, fingerprint and iris were selected; in 2008, face was not considered a “core” biometric in Aadhaar act
- Attended enrollment
- High search (1:N comparisons) accuracy in NIST evaluations
- ~50 million face comparisons/second; small template size
- Minimum enrollment age set to 5; child understands instructions
- What about identical twins? **3.5 identical twins per 1000 live births**

De-duplication (1:N Comparison)



Fusion of fingerprints, iris & face required to individualize @billion scale

- What is the current FPIR, FNIR? What has been the trend since 2009?
- What is the main reason for failure? Poor image quality?

Biometric Recognition Accuracy: NIST

1. Face (constrained/semi-constrained)

- 1:1 comparison: FNMR = 0.0026 @ FMR = 0.000001.

1 in a million chance *you may be mistaken as someone else* and 26 out of 10,000 times you may not be recognized as you.

- 1:N comparison (N=12M): FNIR=0.0190 @ FPIR = 0.001.

2. Fingerprint

- One-finger (five-finger) Accuracy: FRR=0.0047 (0.0011) @ FAR=0.0001.
- 1 in 10,000 chance of you being mistaken as someone else, and 47 out of 10,000 times you may not be recognized as you.
- Latent (Crime scene) fingerprint accuracy (N=32M) Rank-1 retrieval=96.12%.