Fingermarks: Whodunnit? Towards an Open-Source Matcher

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Fingermarks



Burglary & Entry case in Pittsburgh Township, Michigan (2010). Linked to 19 other cases; Hits made with Cole (examiner) and Belcher (AFIS) tenprints on file.

Cole Tenprint Card



Belcher Tenprint Card



Habitual Criminal Act (1869)

"What is wanted is a means of classifying the records of habitual criminal, such that as soon as the particulars of the personality of any prisoner (whether description, measurements, marks, or photographs) are received, it may be possible to ascertain readily, and with certainty, whether his case is in the register, and if so, who he is."



Habitual Criminals Returns Book

G. Pavlich, "The Emergence of Habitual Criminals in 19th Century Britain: Implications for Criminology", Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Criminology, 2(1), pp. 1–59, 2010

Bertillon System (1882)





H.T. F. Rhodes, Alphonse Bertillon: Father of Scientific Detection, Harrap, 1956

Friction Ridge Patterns

- "Perhaps the most beautiful and characteristic of all superficial marks
- (on human body) are the small furrows
- with the intervening ridges and their pores that are disposed in a singularly
- complex yet even order on the under

- surfaces of the hands and feet."
- Francis Galton, Nature, June 28, 1888

Rolled, Slap and Fingermarks



TP-to-TP Search: De-duplication



FBI has over 100M tenprints (rolled and slap) and Aadhaar has over 1B slap tenprints

Latent-to-TP Search: Whodunnit?



FBI conducted ~20K latent searches in Jan. 2017 alone



TP-to-Latent Search: Cold Cases



New suspect booking



Latents from cold cases

Fingerprint Features



Level 1

Level 2 Global ridge flow Local ridge proprty Fine ridge details

Level 3

Fingerprint Recognition: 1960s



Courtesy: James Blanchard, Michigan State Police

Michigan AFIS: 1989



1989 statistics: 725K TP database; 4.8K TP-to-TP searches; no latent-to-TP search; 15K comparisons/sec. (Courtesy, Scott Blanchard, MSP)

Michigan AFIS: 2017



2017 Statistics: 4M TP database; 650K TP-to-TP 5.6K latent-to-TP transactions Avg. search time for TP search: 5.3 sec; avg time for latent search: 42.9 sec.

AFIS Performance



Rolled

Plain

Latent

- Lights-out rank-1 hit rate
 - Plain: 99.3%

– Latent: 67.2% (70.2% with image + markup)

C. Watson, G. Fiumara, E. Tabassi, S. L. Cheng, P. Flanagan, W. Salamon. Fingerprint Vendor Technology Evaluation, NISTIR, 8034, 2012.
M. Indovina, V. Dvornychenko, R. Hicklin, and G. Kiebuzinski. ELFT-EFS Evaluation of Latent Fingerprint Technologies: Extended Feature Sets [Evaluation# 2], NISTIR, 7859, 2012.

Source of Error: Image Quality



Challenges With Latents



Background noise



Distorted ridge structure

Who Left the Mark?



The most common forensic evidence

Fingerprint Evidence: An Expert's Confidence

At the trial of Dennis Gunn, charged with murder and robbery, Inspector Fowler said he was in charge of the fingerprint bureau of the New South Wales police for 17 years, and was for some time in the same work at Scotland Yard. His own bureau had 70,000 sets of prints (10 fingers each). Scotland Yard had about 250 000 sets. In all his experience he had never seen two sets of prints alike, unless made by the same person. From the fingerprints submitted to him in the present case he picked a half-print of one finger out of 1010 prints recorded on 101 different forms made by 101 different people. The forms were not marked in any way. Inspector Fowler said : "I am more convinced that Gunn handled the revolver and cashbox than if I had actual sight of him handling them."

Poverty Bay Herald, Volume XLVII, Issue 15227, 27 May 1920, Page 6 Anil K. Jain, ICB 2018

How Well do Examiners Perform?



Cognitive Bias



Itiel Dror's argument is that experts can be swayed by "cognitive bias": what they knew (or thought they knew) about the case in front of them

https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/can-unconscious-bias-undermine-fingerprint-analysis/ Anil K. Jain, ICB 2018

Inter-examiner Variations



Wrongful Conviction





Brendan Mayfield was wrongly incarcerated of the Madrid train bombing (2004)

DNA Exonerations in the United States

- 1989: The first DNA exoneration took place
- 20 of 354 people exonerated were on death row
- **39 of 354:** Pled guilty to crimes they did not commit
- **70%:** Involved eyewitness misidentification
- 41% were a cross-racial misidentification
- 184: DNA exonerations by the Innocence Project

Automated Latent AFIS

Reference database



Anil K. Jain, ICB 2018

Candidate list

71

70

48

290

MSU Latent AFIS



Recognition Performance



258 latents (NIST SD27) against 100K rolled prints

Kai and Jain, "Automated latent fingerprint identification", IEEE Trans. PAMI, 2018 Anil K. Jain, ICB 2018

What's Next?

- Improve search accuracy
- Lights-out capability
- Speedup
 - On an E5-2680@2.5GHz + (with 128GB RAM & 24 threads), comparing 1 latent against 100K rolled prints takes about 7 minutes
- Provide "true" similarity score at the output for probabilistic analysis

Confidence in Latent Comparison



latent (8 minutiae)



Rolled mate



Score = 6.54; retrieval rank = 1; score range: [0, 13.29]

Summary

- Fingermarks are the most frequently used forensic evidence
- Recognition accuracy for slap, rolled and touch fingerprints has improved to a level for large-scale deployments
- Fingermark recognition needs to be improved
- We hope an open-source SDK would generate more interest from biometrics community