

# Forensic Pattern Recognition: Challenges and Opportunities

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**MULTIFORESEE 2021**

**MULTI-modal Imaging of FOREnsic Science Evidence tools for Forensic Science Conference**

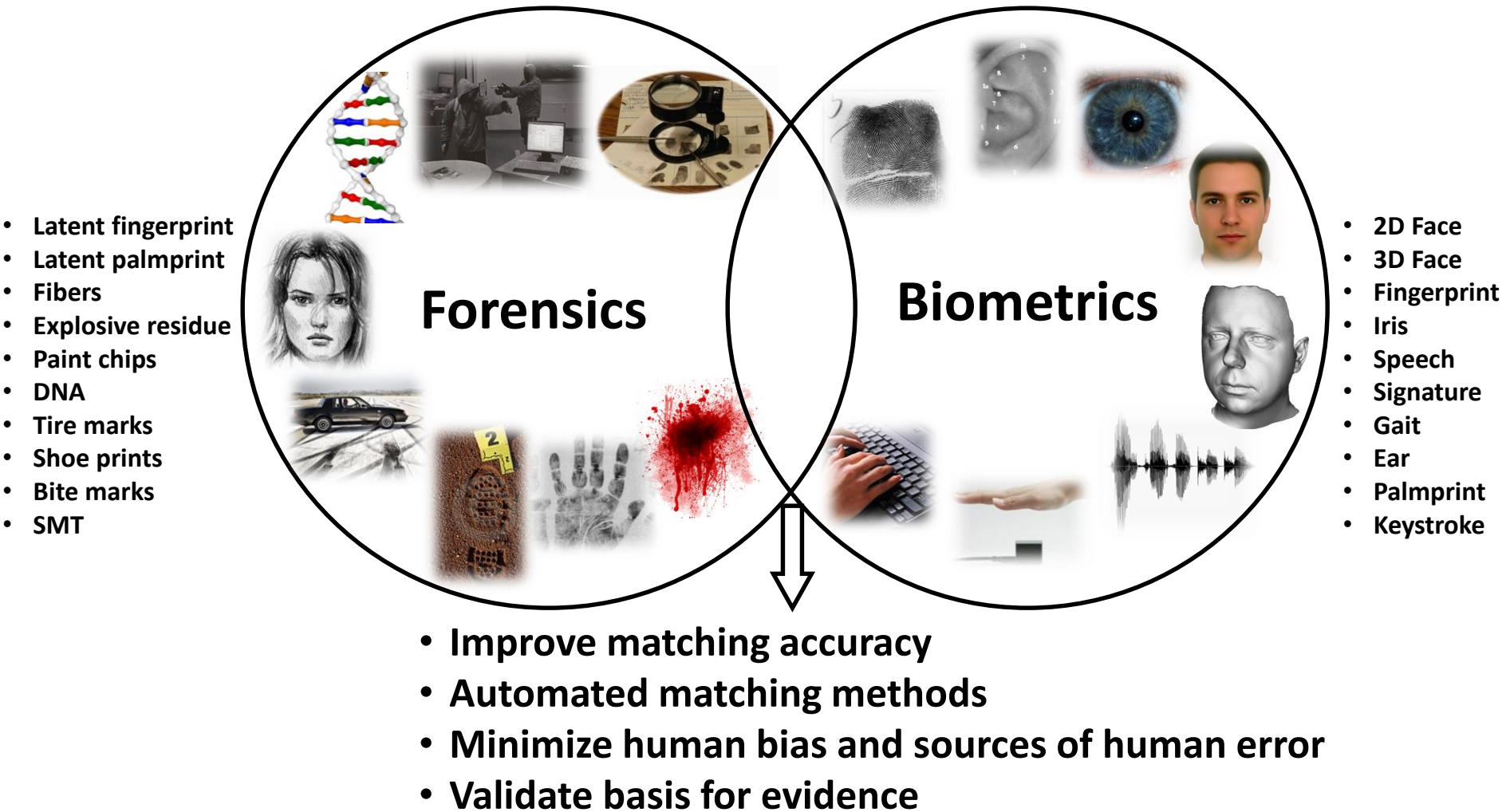
# Locard's Exchange Principle

Edmond Locard (1877–1966), a pioneer in forensic science, stated that *the perpetrator of a crime will bring something into the crime scene and leave with something from it, and that both can be used as forensic evidence.*

# Forensic Evidence

*“..... Not only his fingerprints or his footprints, but his hair, the fibers from his clothes, the glass he breaks, the tool mark he leaves, the paint he scratches, the blood or semen he deposits or collects. All of these and more, bear mute witness against him. This is evidence that does not forget. ....Only human failure to find it, study and understand it, can diminish its value.”*

# Biometrics Vs. Forensics



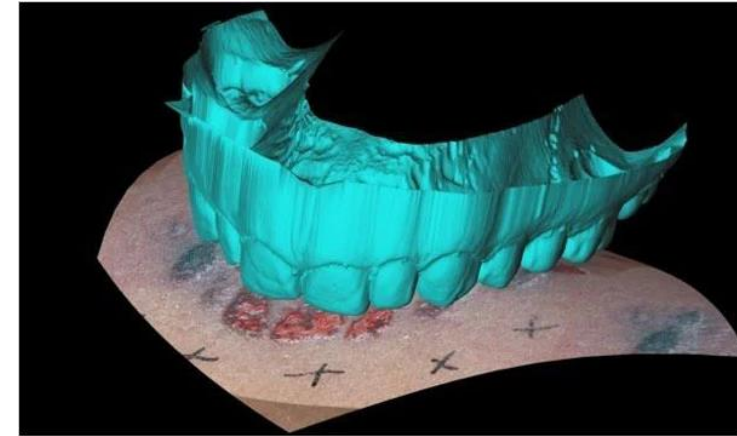
**Forensics: Use of “trace evidence” from crime scenes to identify specific objects/persons**

**Biometrics: Identification of a living person by their body traits in “real time”**

# Experts Deride Bite Marks as Unreliable in Court (USA Today, June 16, 2013)



Forensic odontologist, Dr. Richard Souviron, testified at Theodore Bundy's murder trial that his unusual, mangled teeth were a match.



**IMPRINTED** A bite left on a victim helped Swiss prosecutors gain a conviction in 2003. Credit...National Library of Medicine

- **At least 24 convicted or charged men have been exonerated since 2000 due to bite-mark evidence**
- **There is no definitive proof that teeth can be matched to a bite into human skin**

# Outline

- **Tattoo-ID**
- **Composite to photo matching**
- **Latent fingerprint matching**
- **Altered fingerprint detection**

# Tattoos

- **2015 Harris Poll:** About 30% of Americans have at least one tattoo; among those with any tattoos, 70% have two or more.
- **Why do people get tattoos?** attention, self-expression, rebellion, visual display of a personal narrative, identification with a group.
- **Tattoos provide clue for victim and suspect identification**



(a)



(b)



(c)

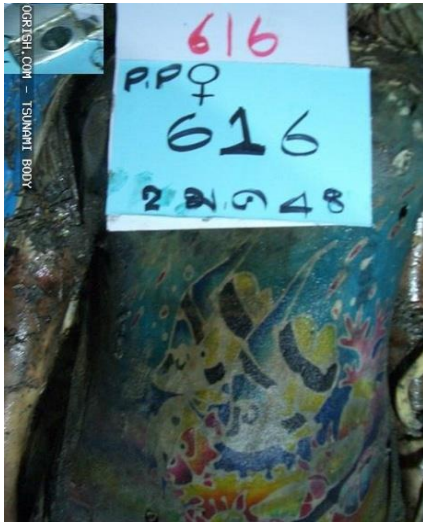


(d)

(a) Tattoo on the “Iceman”, a 5200-year-old frozen mummy, (b) 18th street gang tattoo, (c) religious tattoo, (d) tattoo related to 9/11 terrorist attack

# Victim Identification

- Tattoo may be the **only clue** to identify victims



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Tattoo on (a) Asian tsunami (2004) victim, (b) victim of 9/11 terrorist attack, (c) body of an unidentified murdered woman, and (d) body part found in a Florida state park



# Suspect Identification



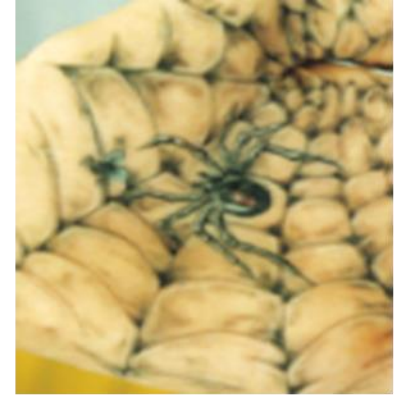
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

**Gang tattoos** of (a) Latin kings and (b) Family stones; (c) **teardrop** criminal tattoo (person has killed someone or had a friend killed in prison); (d) **spider within a web** tattoo (drug addict or a thief)

# Facial Tattoo Caught in CCTV Camera



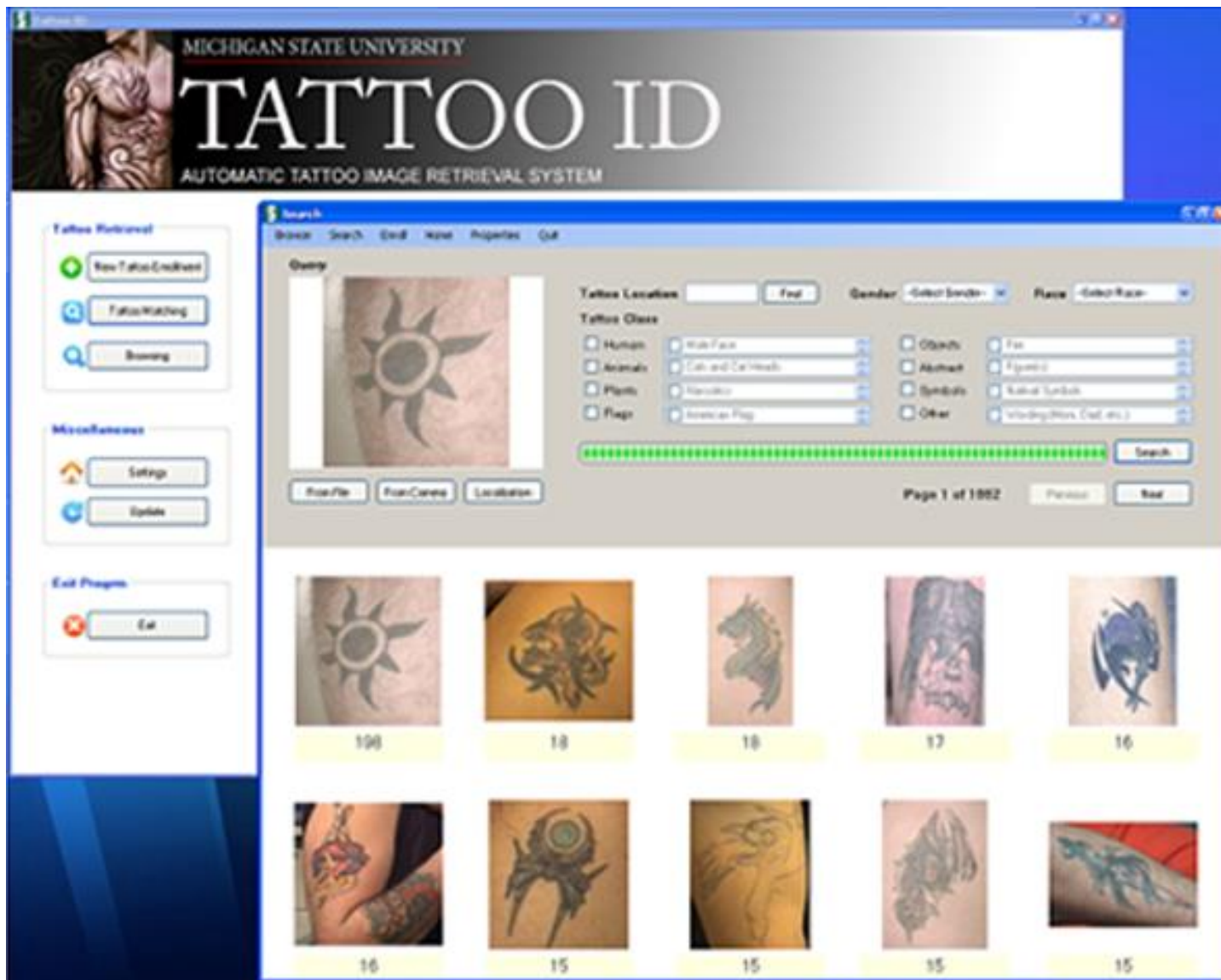
Detroit police linked at least six armed robberies at an ATM on the city's west side after matching up a tipster's description of the suspect's distinctive tattoos

# Looking for shirtless, heavily-tattooed suspect



“Investigators are looking for the man who broke into a car dealership and damaged several vehicles... They noted the suspect has numerous tattoos on his forearms. One tattoo, on his right elbow, is of the North Star.”\*

\* **CBS 6 News**. PICTURES: Investigators seek shirtless, heavily-tattooed suspect, May 4, 2012  
(<http://wtvr.com/2012/05/04/pictures-investigators-seek-shirtless-heavily-tattooed-suspect/>)



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Lee, Tong, Jin and Jain, "Image Retrieval in Forensics: Tattoo Image Database Application", IEEE Multimedia, 2012.

# Matching Composites to Face Images

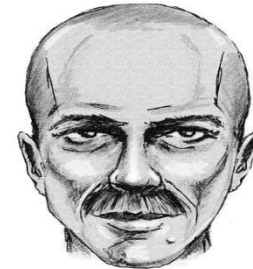


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# Fighting Crime With Pencil and Paper



**Juan Perez, Detective and Artist with NYPD, creates sketches based on victims' descriptions**



**Pleaded Guilty:** After the release of a sketch in the sexual abuse case of a 9-year-old girl in the East Village in April, the police arrested Rene Otero.

**Charged With Murder:** A sketch of a suspect was released after a man was shoved in front of a subway train. Erika Menendez was arrested a day later.

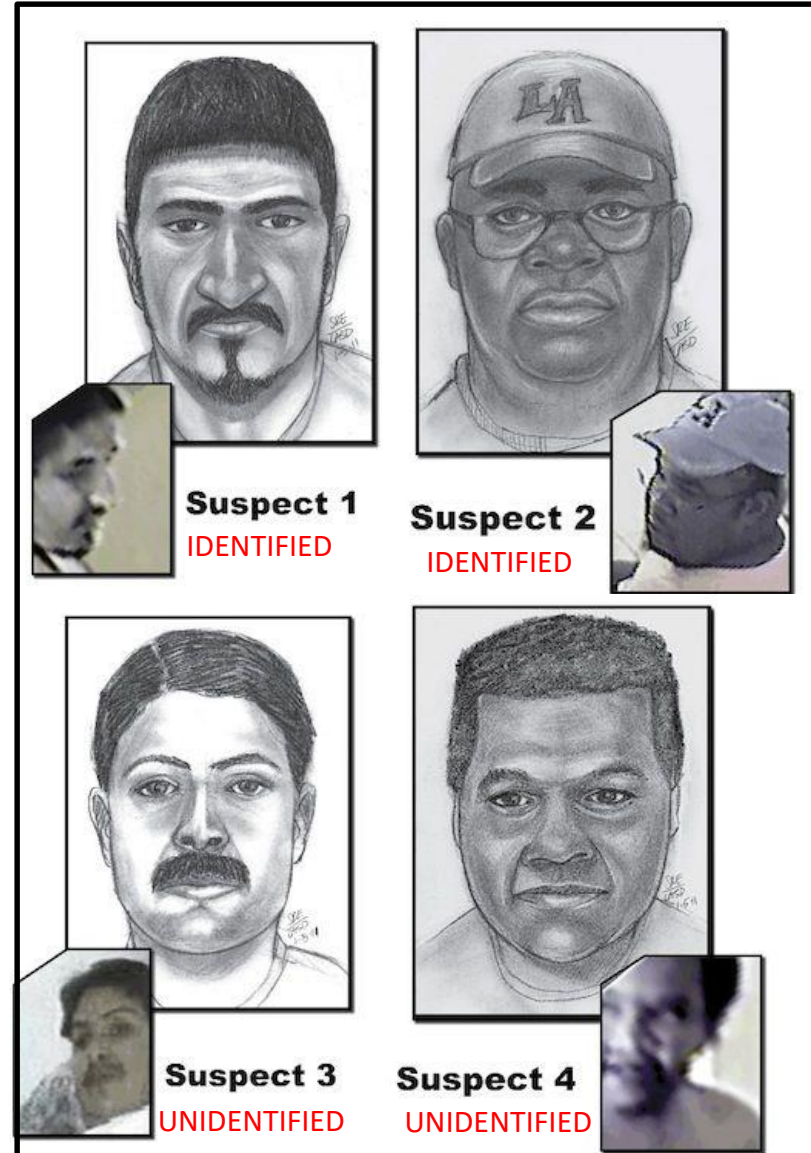
**Now in Prison:** In the case of Steven Pappas, a sketch led to his identification. He is serving time for kidnapping and sexual assault.

# Sketch from Video

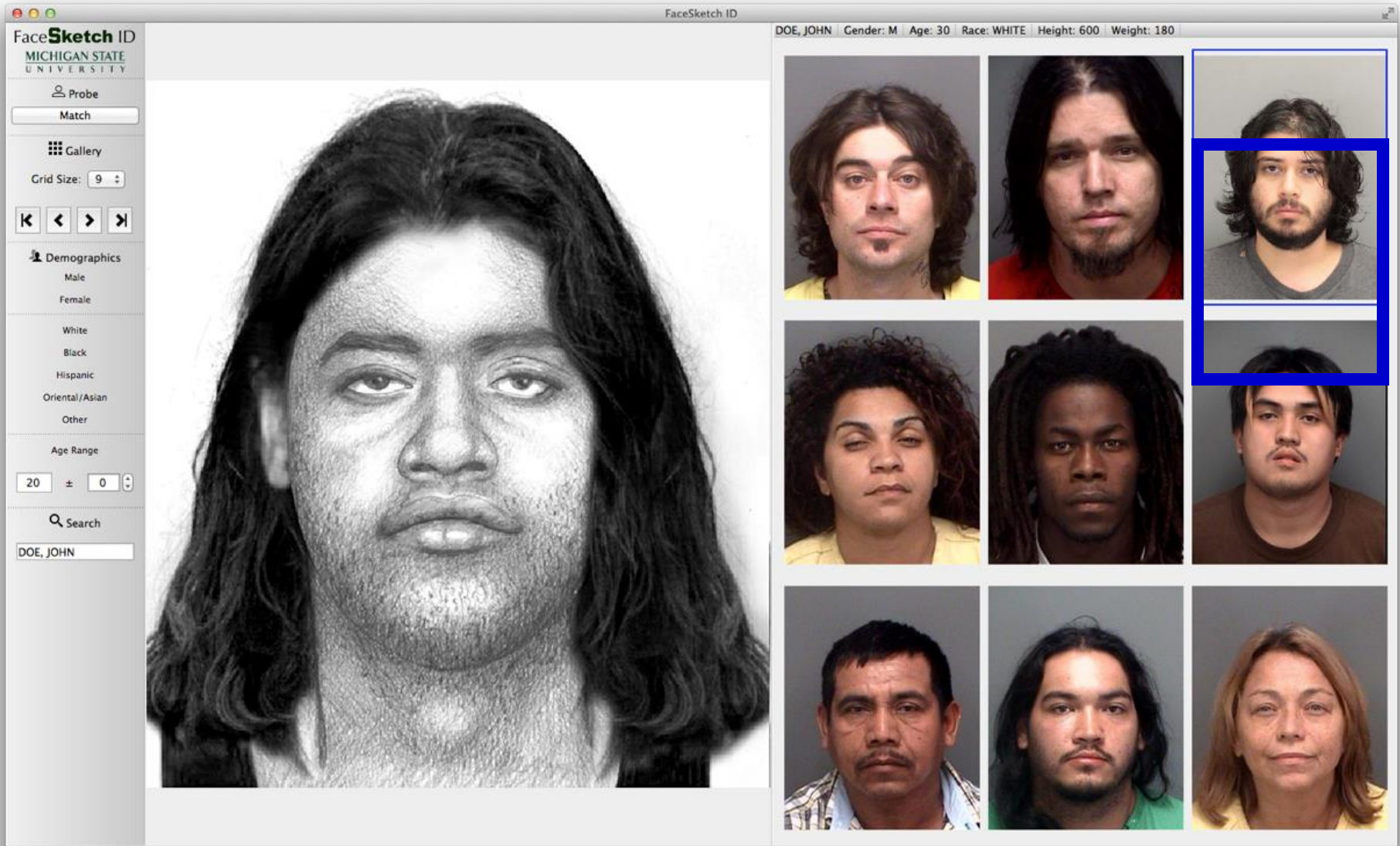
**The New York Times**

Los Angeles Officials Identify Video Assault Suspects

*“Composite drawings of four of the suspects have been made based upon video images”*



# FaceSketch-ID System



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Han, Klare, Bonnen, Jain, "Matching Composite Sketches to Face Photos: A Component-Based Approach", IEEE Trans Information Forensics and Security, 2013

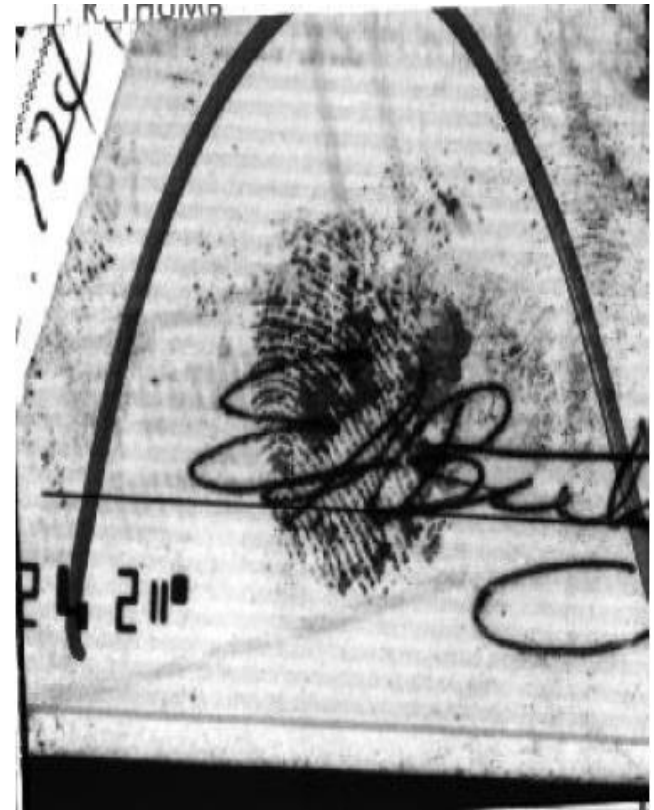


# Fingerprints

APPLICANT		LEAVE BLANK		TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION IN BLACK		FBI		LEAVE BLANK	
Leave Blank		Teacher, Theresa C.		Last Name		First Name		Middle Name	
SIGNATURE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED		ALIAS AKA		O I		NY921940Z		DATE OF BIRTH	
318 School Street Hometown, NY 11211		Formerly: Theresa Smith		NYSTED Dept-FPU ALBANY, NY		12/31/70		DOB	
DATE		CITIZENSHIP		SEX		HT		WT	
5/02/02		US		F		5'7"		155	
SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL TAKING FINGERPRINTS		VIEW NO		POP A		POW		RUB	
(if applicable)		Leave Blank		Leave Blank		Gr		Bro	
EMPLOYER AND ADDRESS		EDUC		CLASS		REP		PLACE OF BIRTH	
Smart Falls Central School Dist Smart Falls, NY 11211		Leave Blank		Leave Blank		Leave Blank		Ohio	
REASON FINGERPRINTED		SOCIAL SECURITY NO		BENEFIT ANNUITY NO		MATH		POB	
Leave Blank		000-10-1111		Leave Blank		Leave Blank		Ohio	

IDENTIX TP600 1259		ADS004228 . LEX004229			



**Rolled, Slap (TP) & Latents (fingermarks)**

# Who Left the Mark?



**The most common forensic evidence**

# Latent-to-TP Search



**FBI conducted ~36K latent searches in May, 2021**



# 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.**

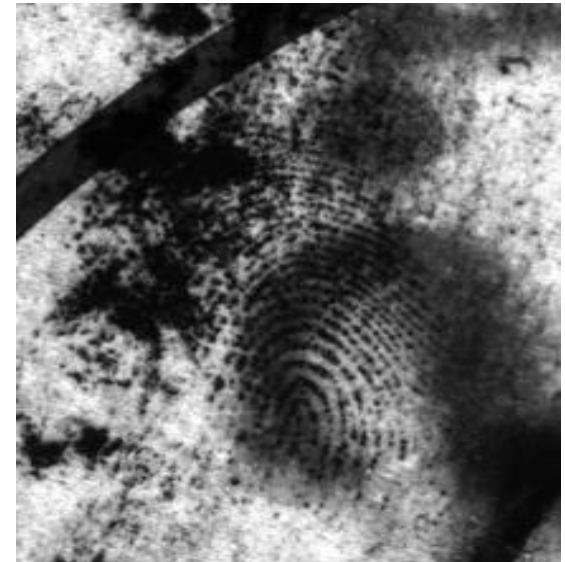
# AFIS Performance



Rolled



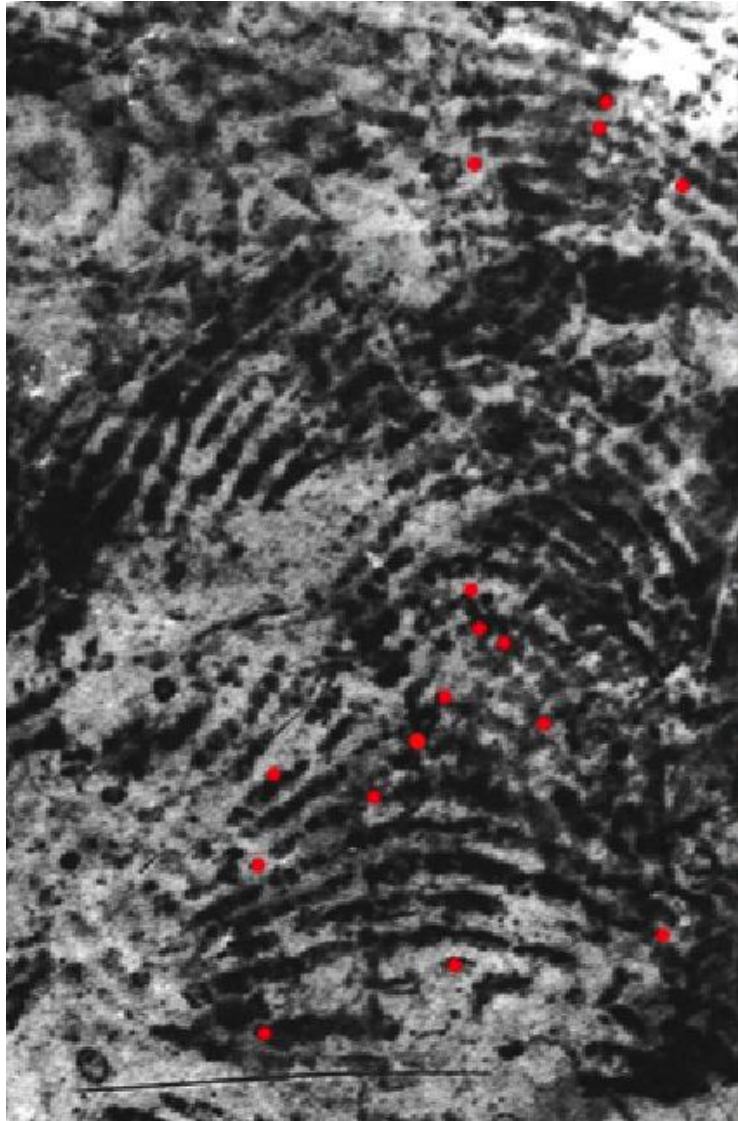
Plain



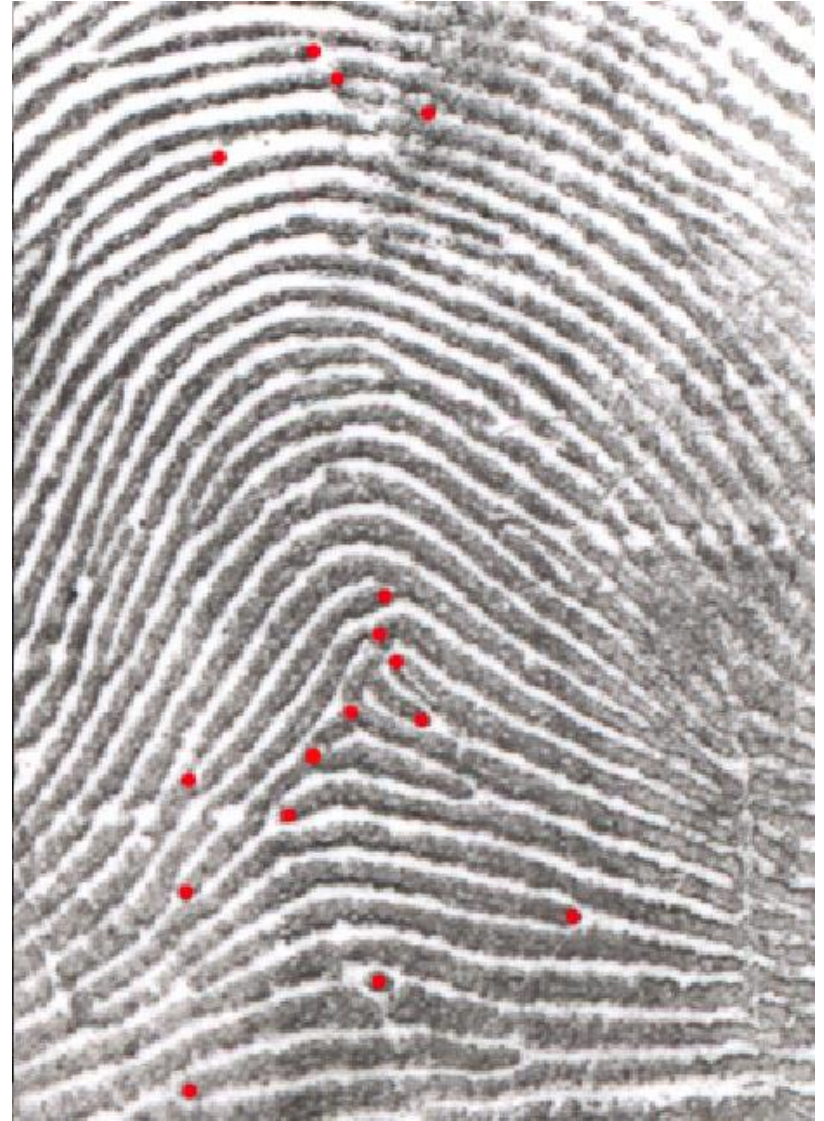
Latent

- 1 to 1 verification accuracy: 99.3%
- 1 to 5M search accuracy: FNIR = 0.11% @FPIR = 0.001 (NIST FpVTE, Dec 2014)
- Latent: 67.2% (70.2% with image + markup)

# Madrid Train Bombing (2004)



**Partial print on a duffel bag**

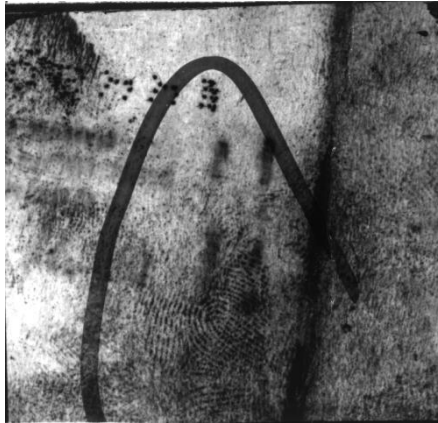


**Brandon Mayfield's prints in file**

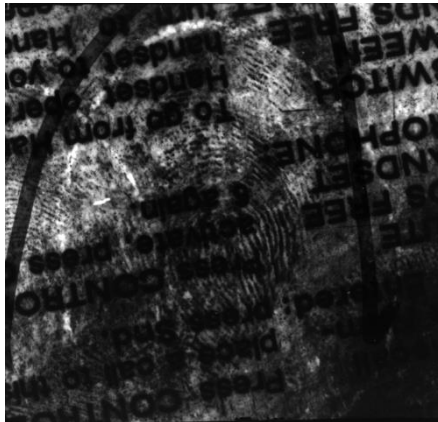


# Challenges in Latent Recognition

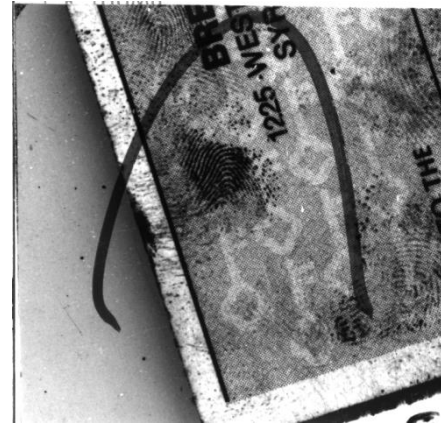
Reliable  
feature  
extraction



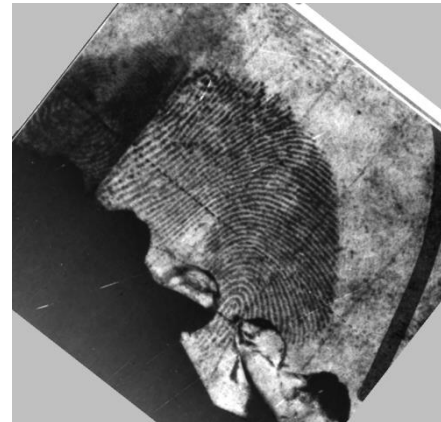
Unclear ridges



Complex background



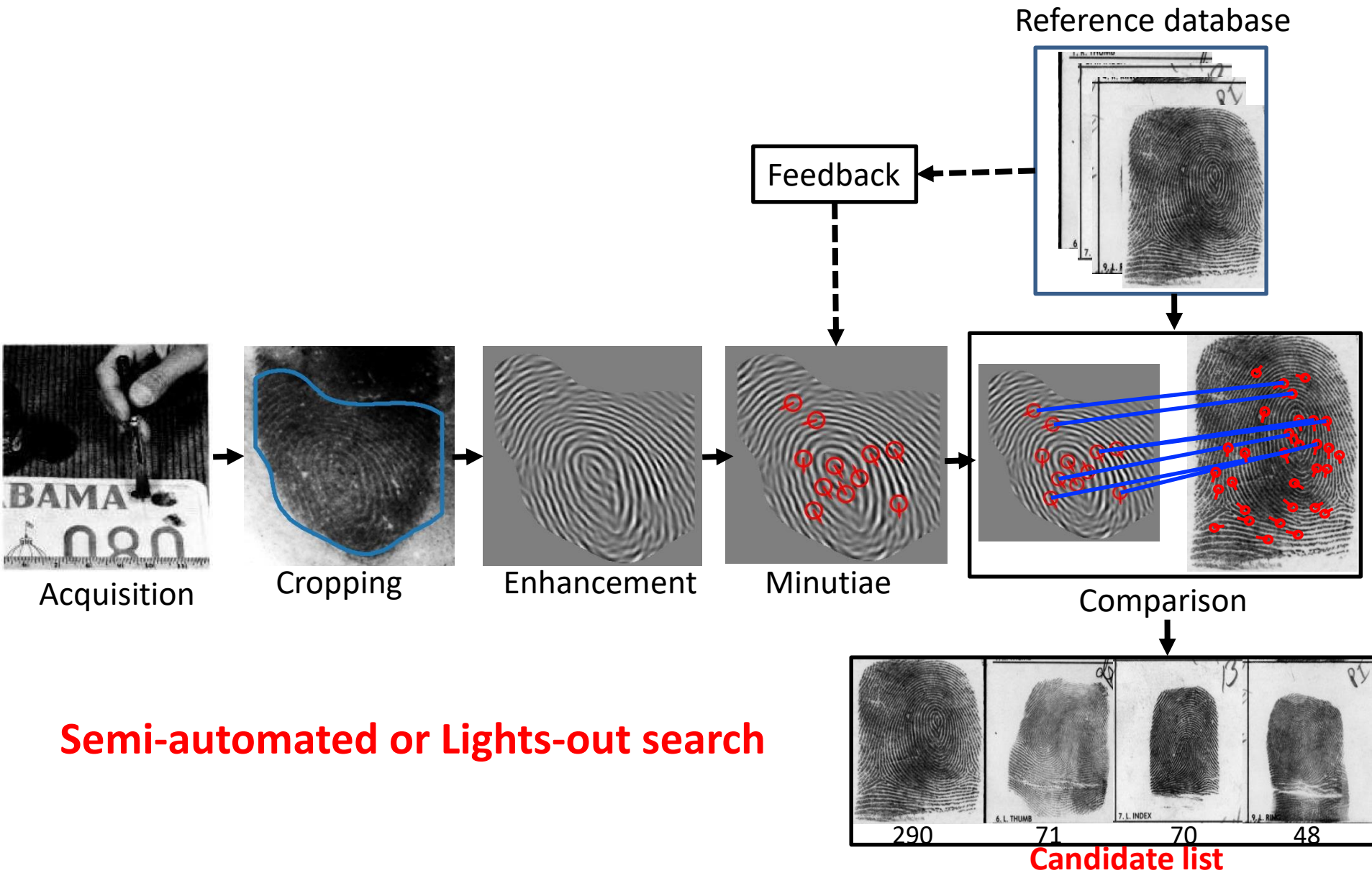
Partial fingerprint



Large distortion

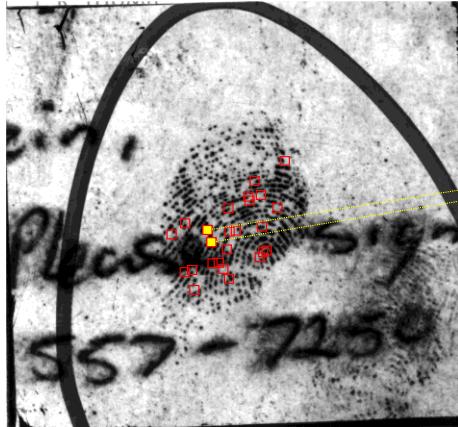
Robust  
feature  
matching

# Automated Latent AFIS

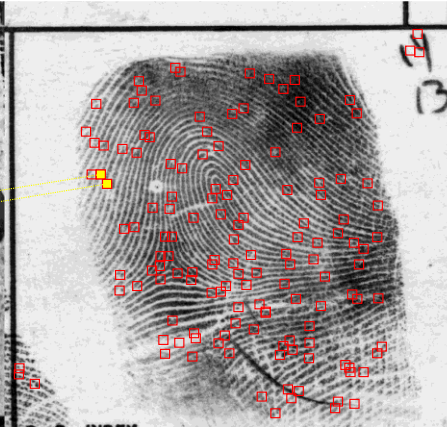


# Successful Match

Latent

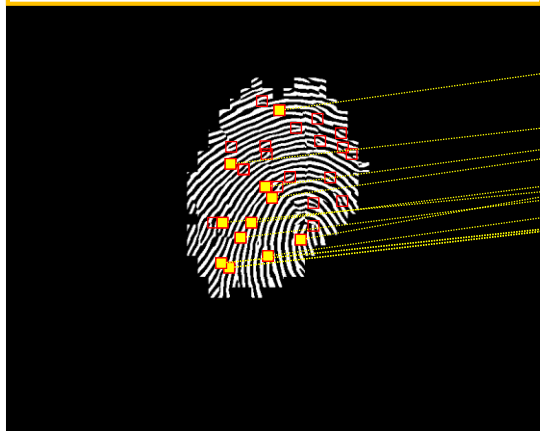


Mated Rolled

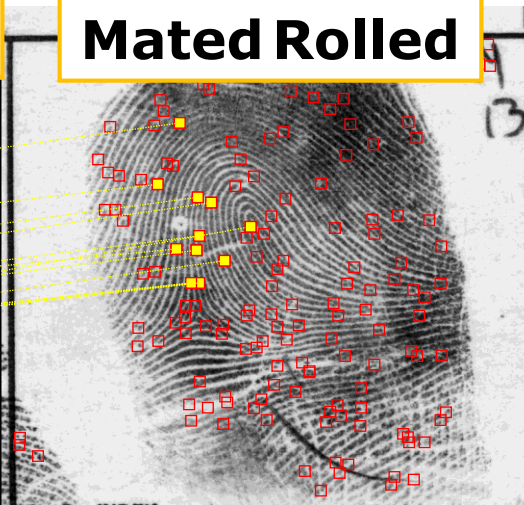


# Matched minutiae = 2  
Similarity score = 3

Enhanced Latent

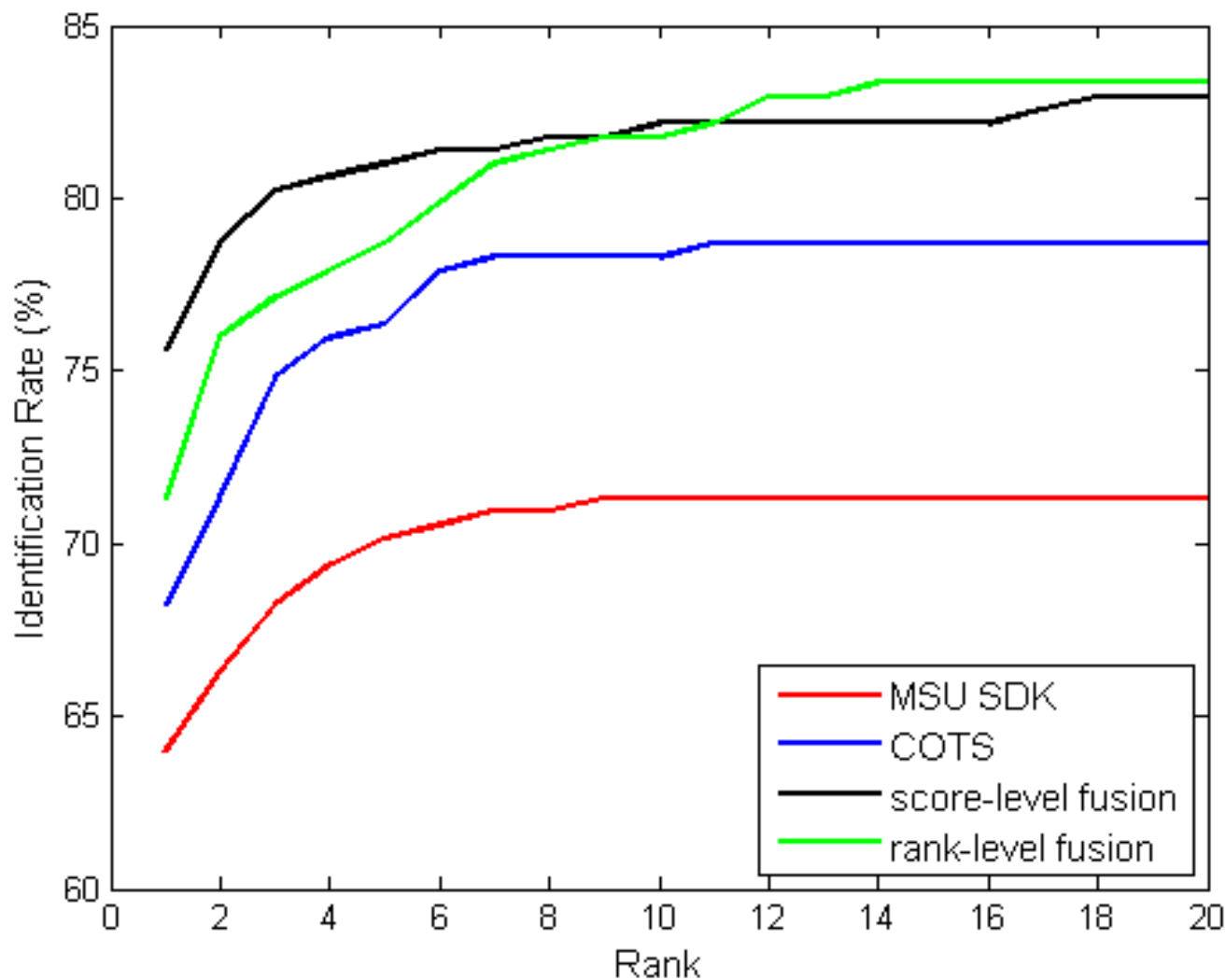


Mated Rolled



# Matched minutiae = 13  
Similarity score = 38

# MSU Latent Matcher Performance



**NIST SD27:  
258 latents matched to  
100K rolled prints**

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

K. Cao, D. Nguyen, C. Tymoszek and A. K. Jain, "End-to-End Latent Fingerprint Search", IEEE Trans. Information Forensics and Security, DOI 10.1109/TIFS.2019.2930487, 2019.

# Fingerprint Alteration



**Gus Winkler (1933): Double-loop changed to left loop**

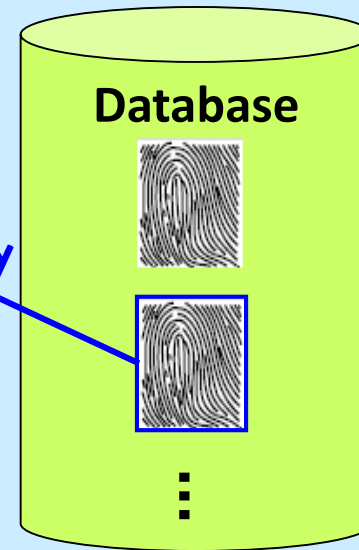
# Alteration vs. Spoofing



**Fake  
Fingerprint**



**Altered  
Fingerprint**



**Database**

*Matched*

**Adopt another  
identity**

*Not matched* ?

**Evade  
identification**

# Orientation Field Discontinuity

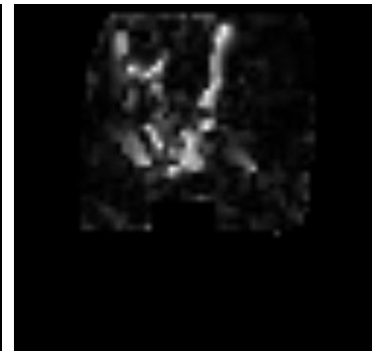
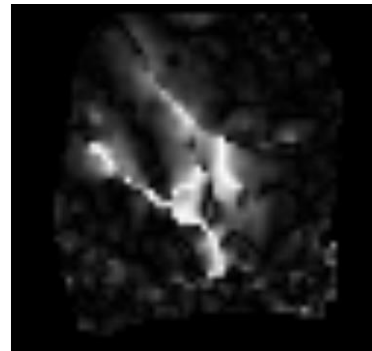
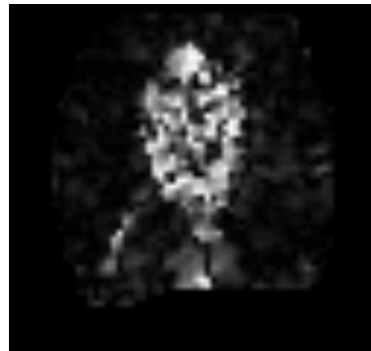
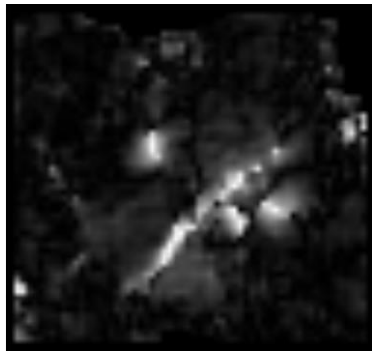
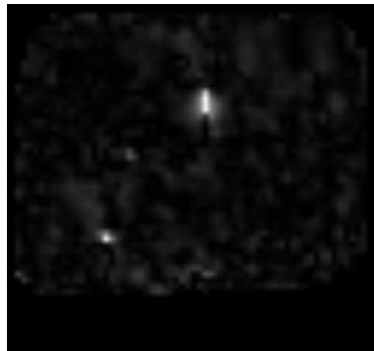
Natural

Scar

Mutilation

Z-cut

Transplanted

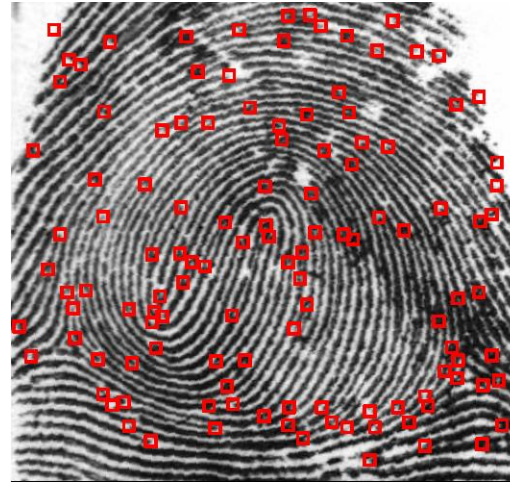


# Minutiae Density Map

Natural Fingerprint



Minutiae



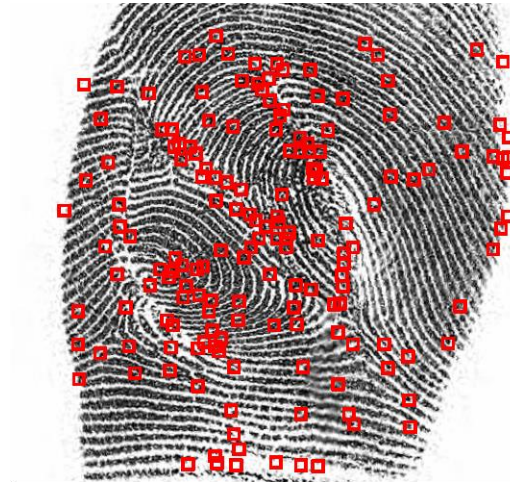
Minutiae Density Map



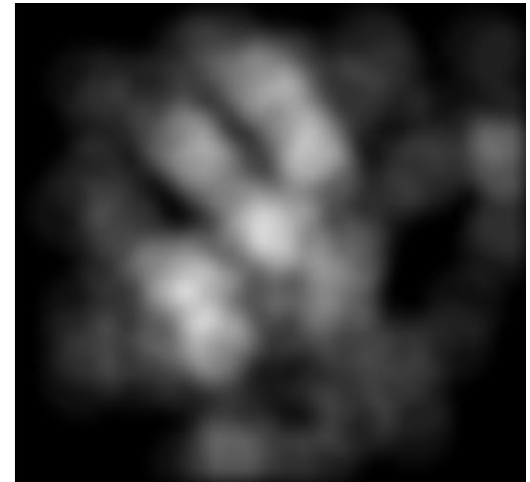
Altered Fingerprint



Minutiae



Minutiae Density Map



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# Summary

- Forensics domain offers a range of challenging problems to CV/ML/PR/biometric researchers
- Two challenges: (i) collaboration with domain experts; (ii) data for design and test of algorithms
- **Open problems:**
  - Establish a baseline to compute the match confidence
  - Interpretability of the decision to convincing the courts
  - How to resolve differences in the decisions by the prosecutor and defense software