

A close-up photograph of a human eye, focusing on the iris and pupil. The iris is a mix of green and brown, with a dark pupil in the center. The eye is surrounded by eyelashes and skin. The text is overlaid on the lower part of the eye.

# IRIS recognition

Eduard Bakštein,

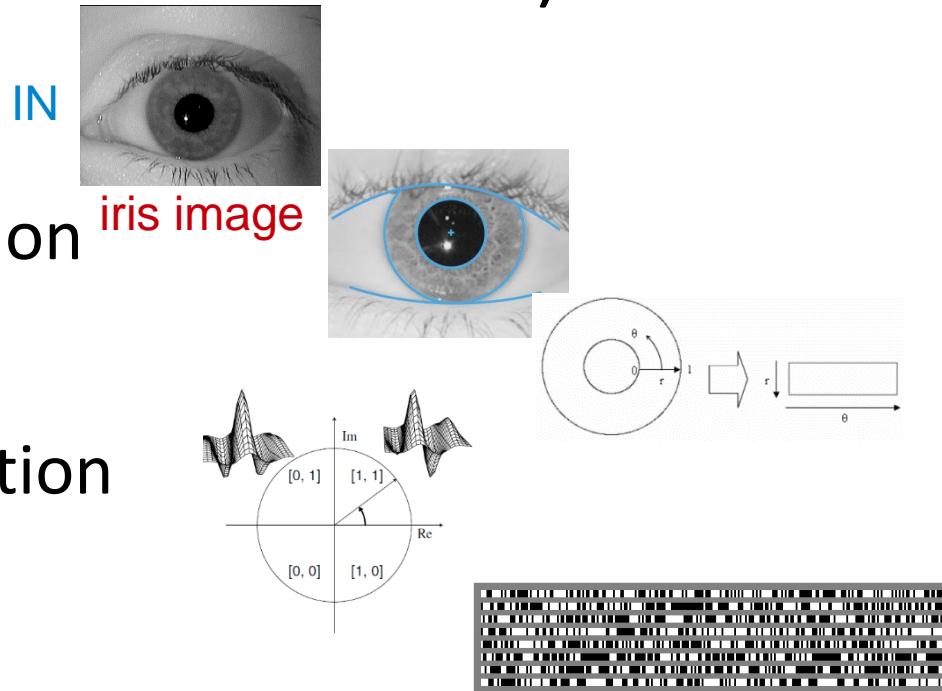
[edurard.bakstein@fel.cvut.cz](mailto:edurard.bakstein@fel.cvut.cz)

23.11.2023

acknowledgement: **Andrzej Drygajlo, EPFL Switzerland**

# Motivation: Iris recognition process

- Iris recognition process (Basic J. Daugmann approach and some modalities)

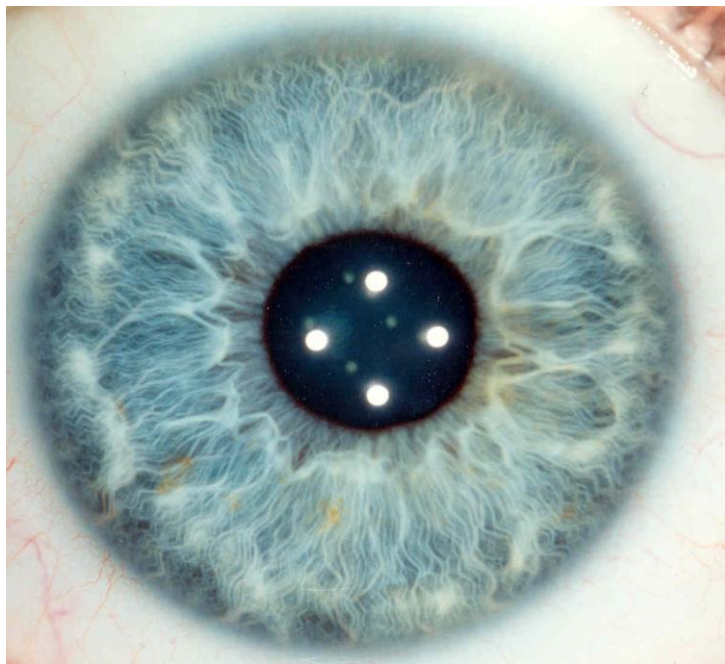


- Iris segmentation
- Unwrapping
- Feature extraction
- Encoding
- Comparison

OUT

result of iris code comparison

# Outline



- Introduction
- Basics
- Iridology
- Iris in biometry
- Properties of the Iris
- Sensing
- Applications
- Processing

# Ethymology

**Iris:** late 14c., flowering plant (*Iris germanica*), also "prismatic rock crystal," from L. *iris* (pl. *irides*) "iris of the eye, iris plant, rainbow," from Greek *iris* (gen. *iridos*) **a rainbow**; the lily; iris of the eye,

originally "**messenger of the gods**," **personified as the rainbow**. The eye region was so called (early 15c. in English) for being the colored part; the Greek word was used of any brightly colored circle, "as that round the eyes of a peacock's tail" [Liddell and Scott]

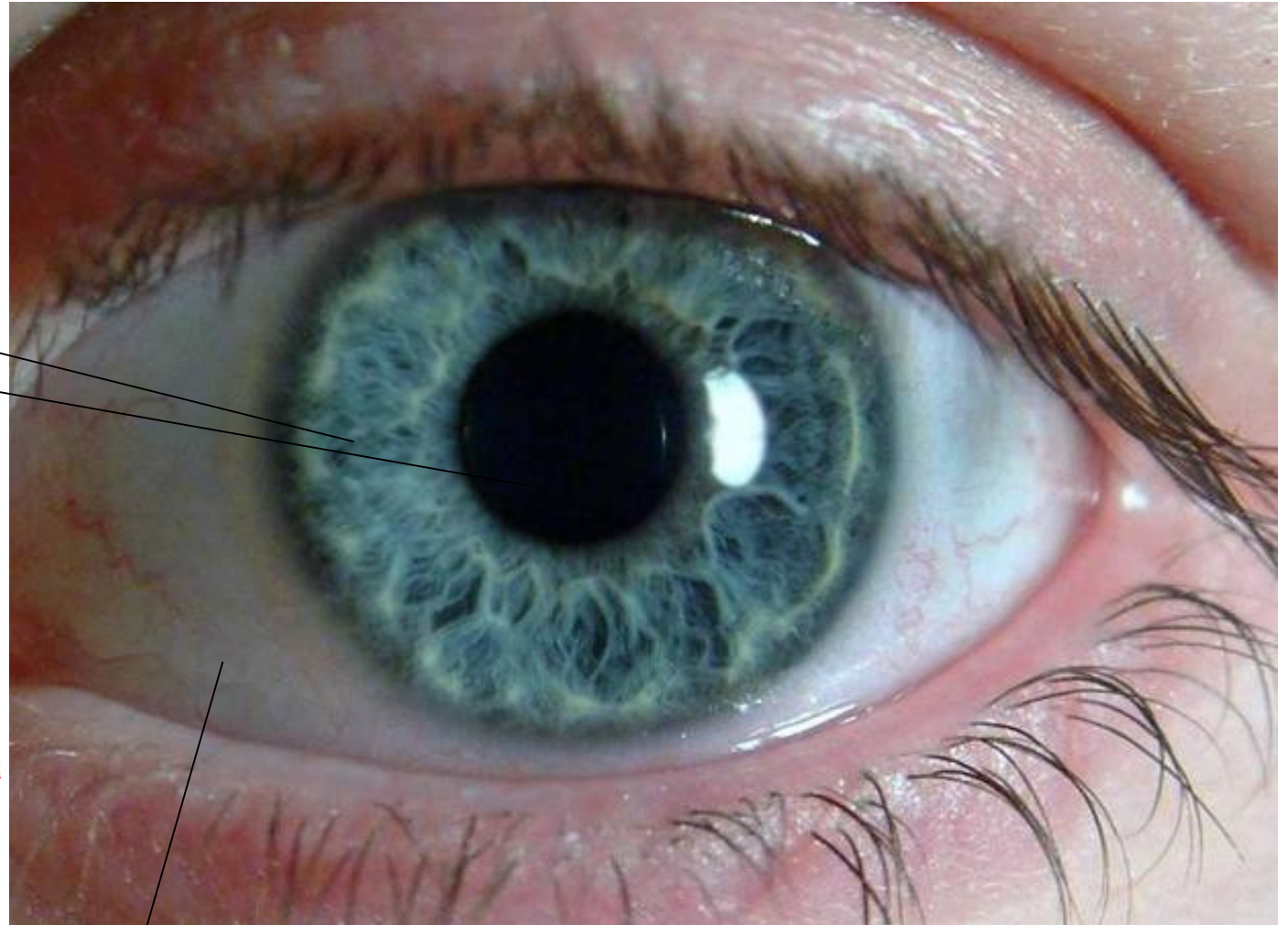
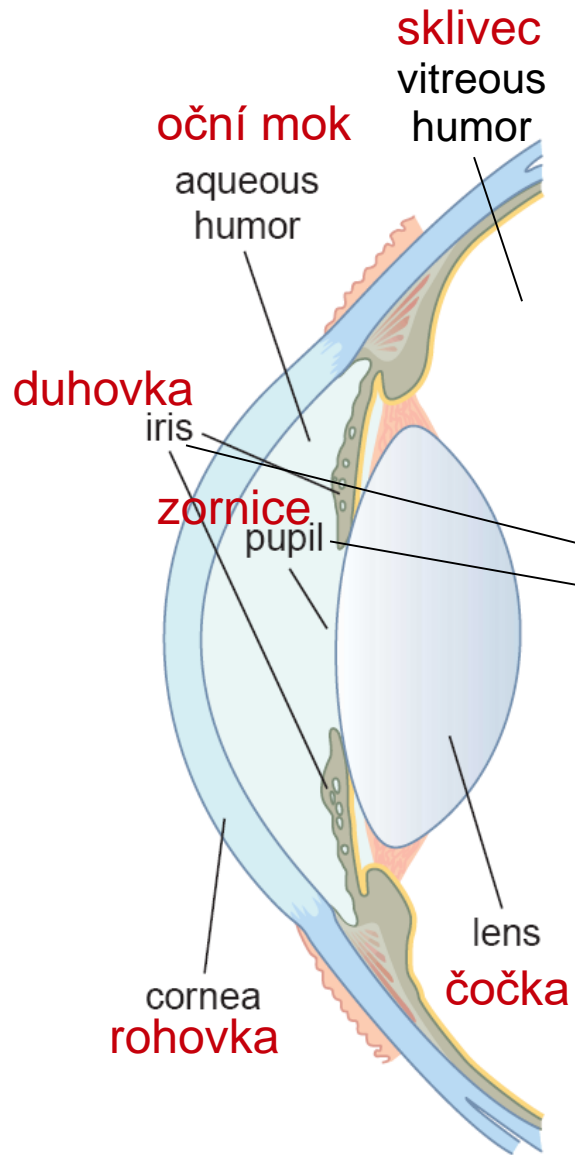
source: <http://ethymonline.com>



**Morpheus and Iris,**  
GUÉRIN, Pierre-Narcisse, 1811  
(neoclassicism), Hermitage



# The IRIS (Basics)



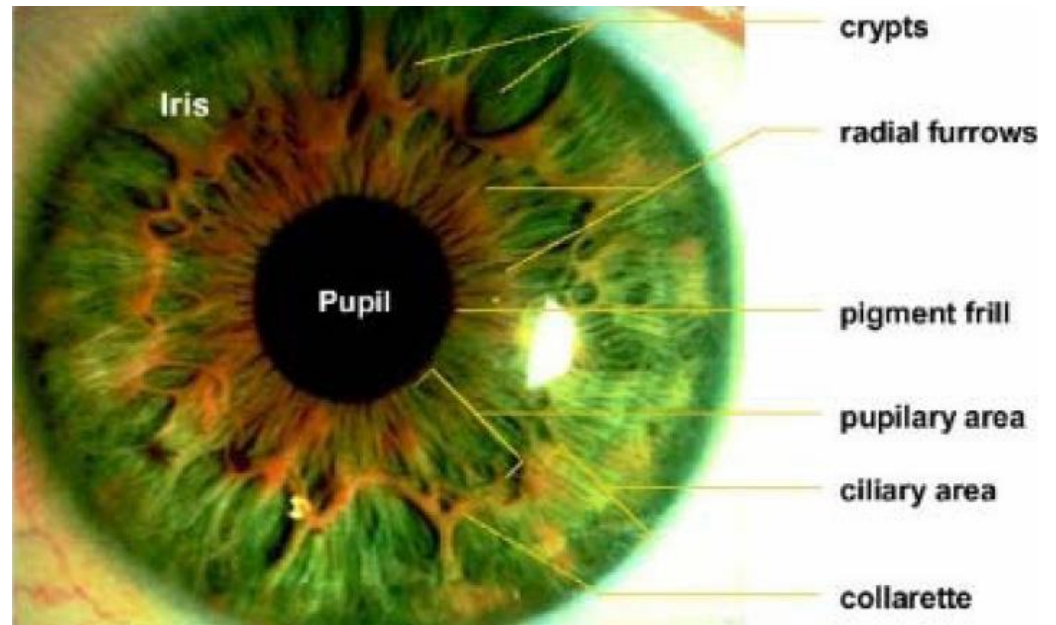
sclera  
bělma

# The IRIS (Basics II)



- most of the structure formed in 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> month of gestation (prenatal period)
- pigmentation can continue after birth
- iris color: mostly melanin pigment (blue iris = absence of pigment)

Distinctive features:  
furrows, ridges, crypts,  
rings, corona, freckles etc.



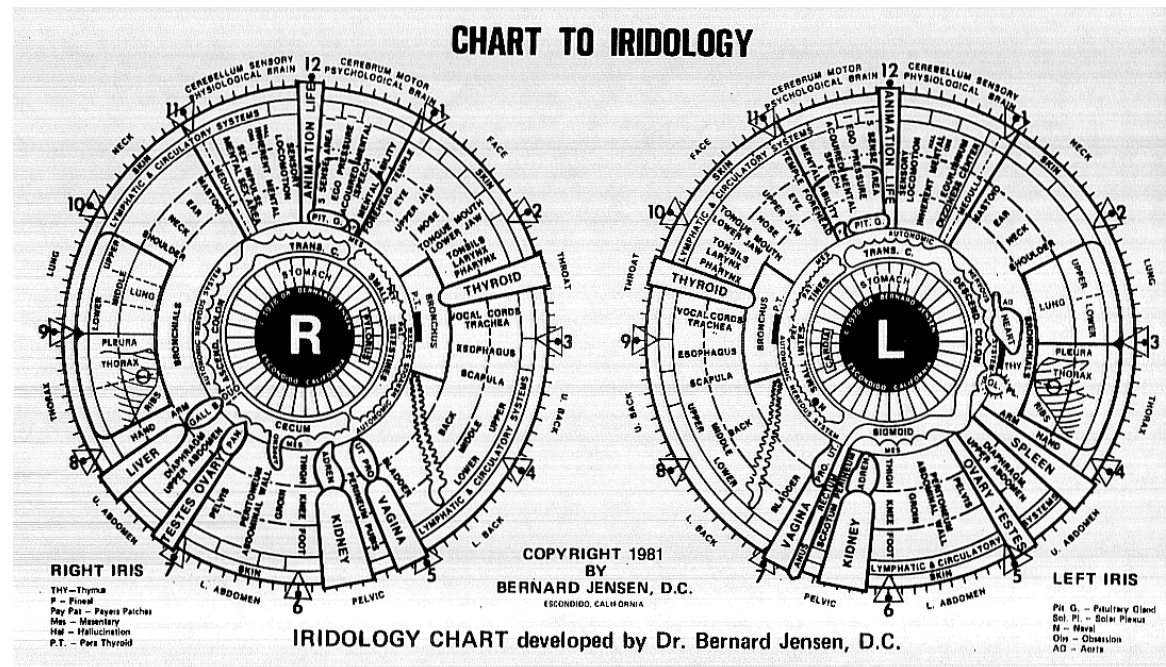


# History of Iris recognition

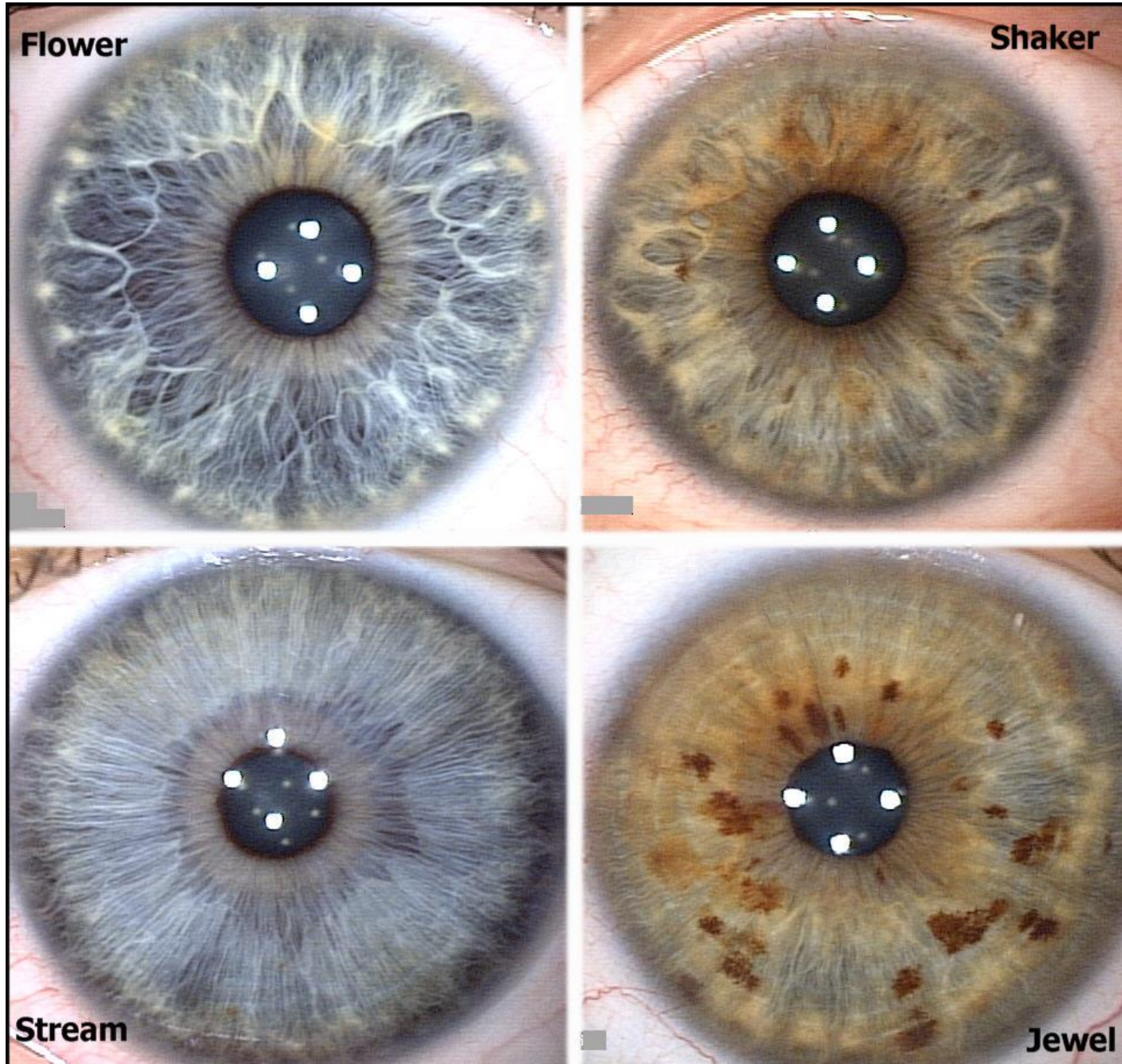
- **Ancient civilizations** - Ancient Egypt (~3000 B.C.), Ancient China Chaldea in Babylonia (~700 B.C.), Ancient Greece (~300 B.C.) - divination from iris
- **19th century** - Ignaz von Peczely: iridology
- **1885** - Alphonse Bertillon: idea of using iris for personal identification (color and pattern type)
- **1949** - James Doggart: examined the complexity of iris patterns. Iris could be used instead of fingerprints
- **1987** - Flom, Safir: patented Doggart's concept
- **1989** - John Daugman invented and patented iris recognition system (basis of all commercially available systems)

# Iridology

- Branch of alternative medicine
- **Basics:** Systematic changes in the iris pattern reflect the state of health of each of the organs in the body
- Matching observer properties of the iris pattern to *iris charts* (below)



# Iridology (2)



# Iridology (epilogue)

## Iridologists:

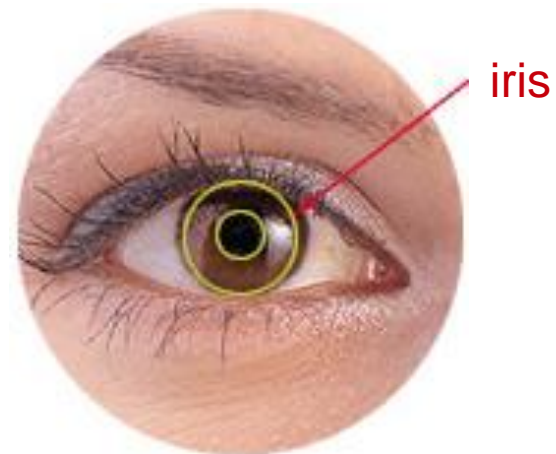
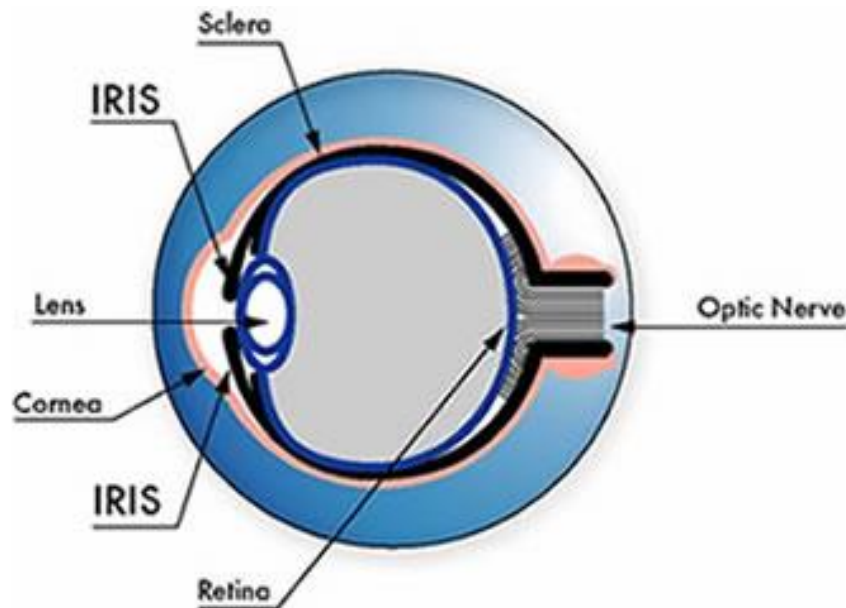
- Eye = “window to the soul”
- “Modern medicine neglects true roots of medical problems”

## Medical experts:

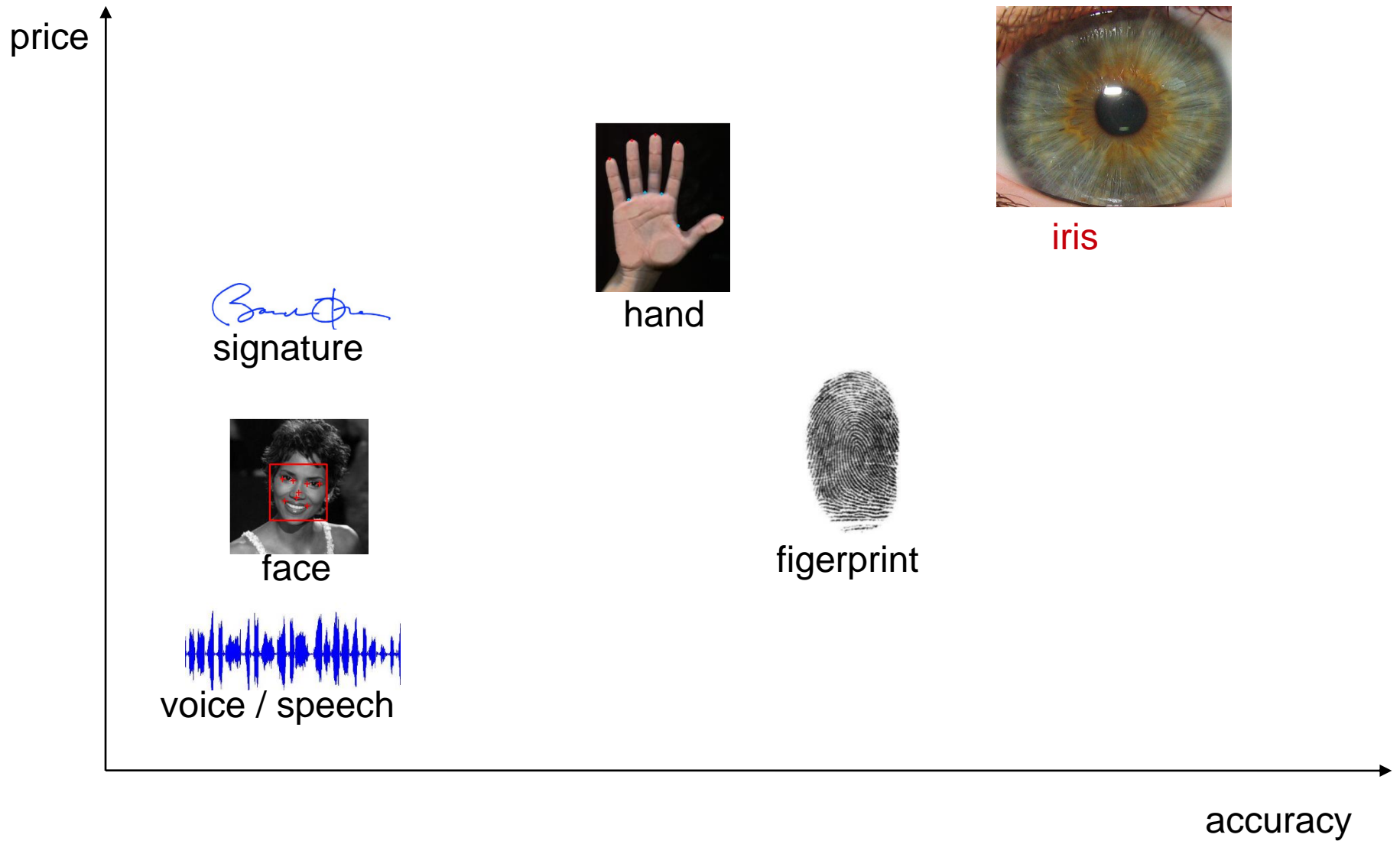
- Iridology = medical fraud
- Supported by scientific tests
  - Berggren, L. (1985), “Iridology: A critical review”, *Acta Ophthalmologica*, 63(1): 1-8

# IRIS for biometry

- Well protected (internal organ of the eye, cornea)
- Externally visible from a distance
- Unique, highly complex pattern
- Stable over the lifetime (except pigmentation)



# IRIS vs Other biometric techniques



# Biometric characteristics

- Biological traces
  - DNA (DeoxyriboNucleicAcid), blood, saliva, etc.
- Biological(physiological) characteristics
  - fingerprints, eye irises and retinas, hand and palms geometry, facial geometry
- Behavioral characteristics
  - dynamic signature, gait, keystroke dynamics, lip motion
- Combined
  - voice

# Genotypic vs Phenotypic

**Genotypic** - based on genetic makeup of a cell

- DNA, blood type, gender

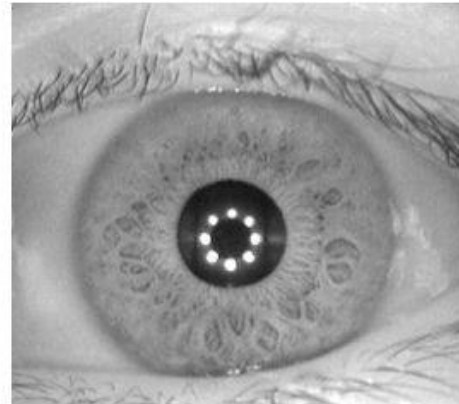
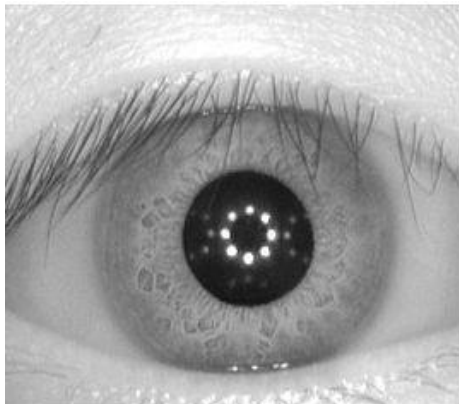
**Phenotype** - all observable properties of a living organism.

- fingerprints, iris (except eye color)

Phenotype = genotype + environment

Every biometric feature somewhere inbetween

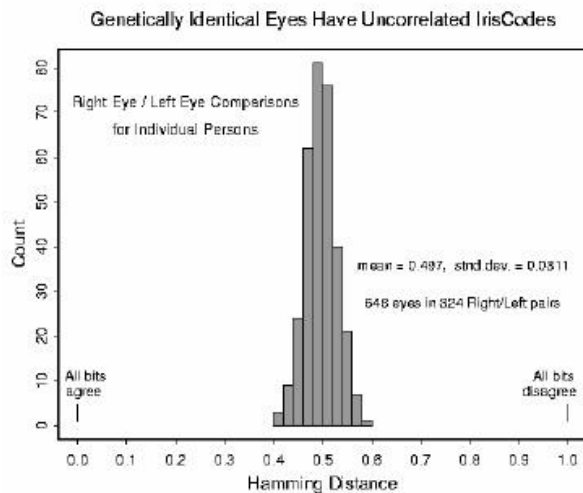
Iris pattern is a phenotypic feature



# Proof: monozygotic twins

Genetically identical eyes have iris patterns that are uncorrelated in detail:

Monozygotic Twins B  
(18 year-old women)



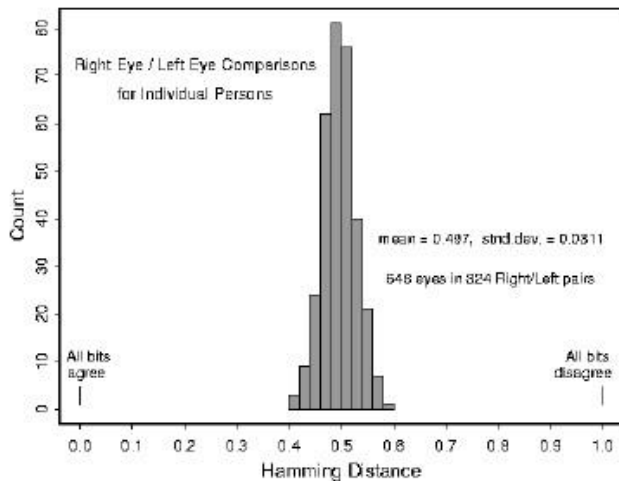
# Monozygotic twins (2)

Genetically identical eyes have iris patterns that are uncorrelated in detail:

Monozygotic Twins C  
(78 year-old men)



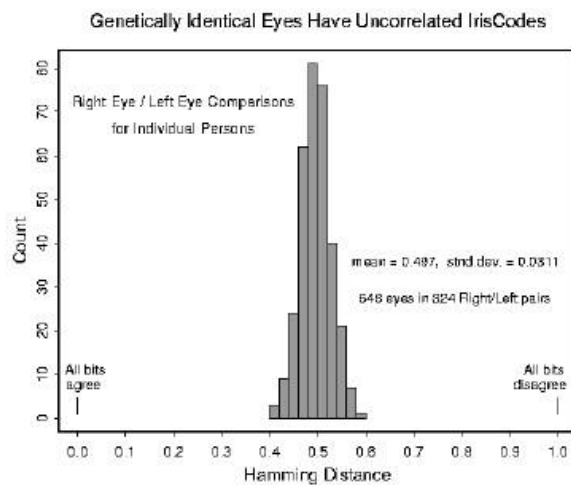
Genetically Identical Eyes Have Uncorrelated IrisCodes



# Monozygotic twins (3)

Genetically identical eyes have iris patterns that are uncorrelated in detail:

Monozygotic Twins A  
(6 year-old boys)



# Iris scan

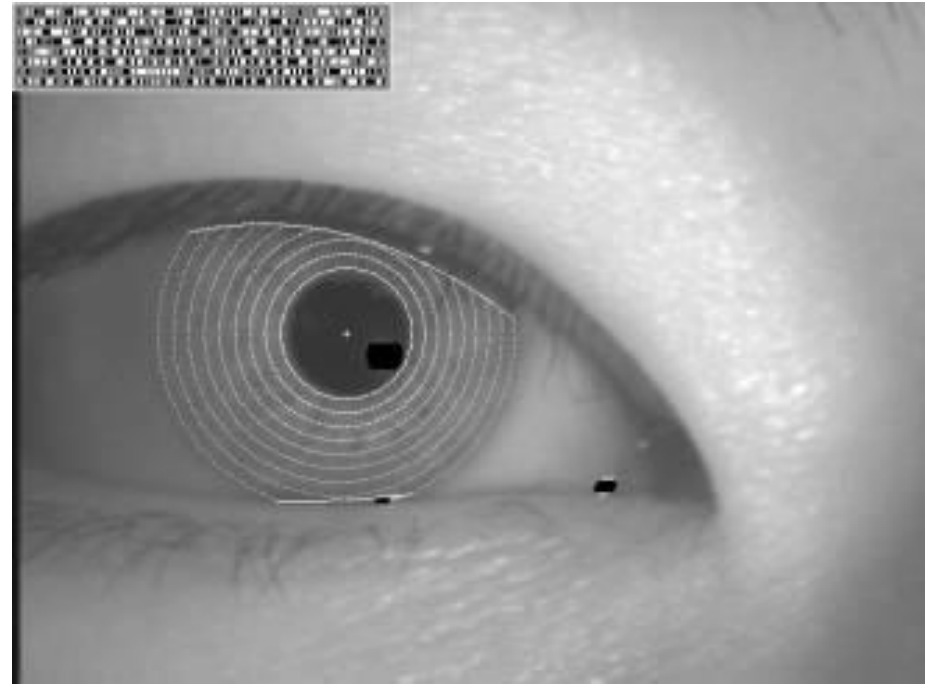
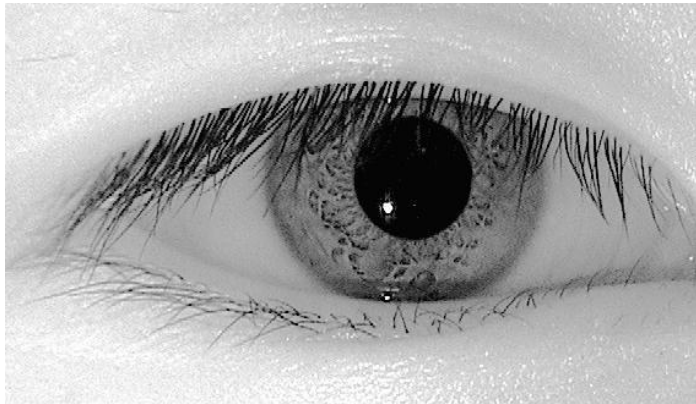
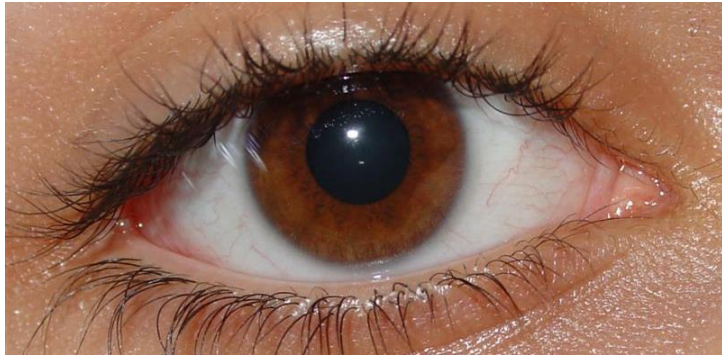


Image size is, say,  $256 \times 256 = 65536$  bytes and the iris code is  $8 \times 32 = 256$  bytes

# Visible x Infrared light



## Visible light

- Little texture in dark eyes
- causes pupil dilation
- reflection from the ambient light

## Near infrared (NIR) light

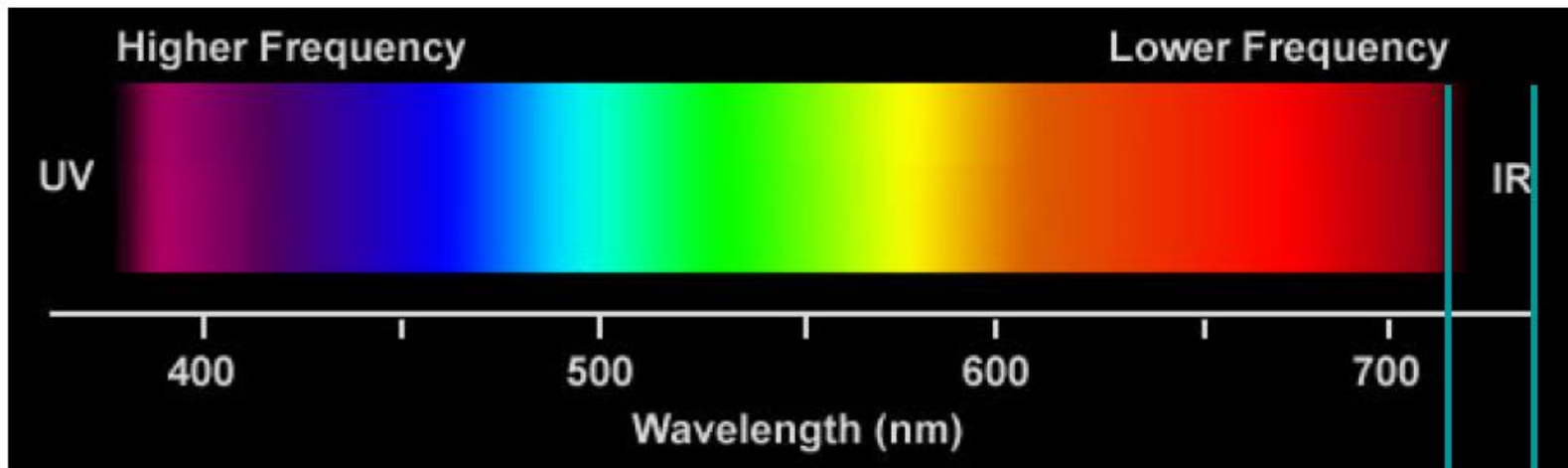
- Similar results for dark and light eyes
- solves the problems above



# NIR illumination

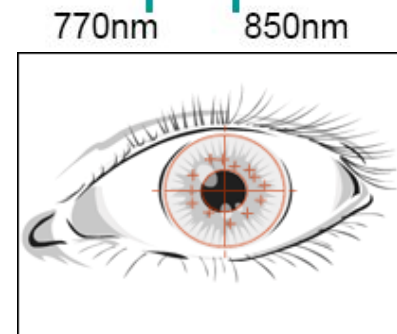
**Consider:** absorbed heat depends on wavelength

ANSI certified range for illumination:



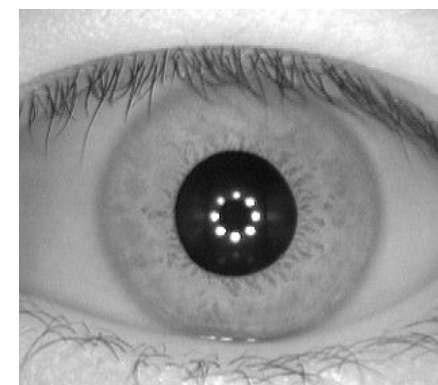
The Panasonic ET-300 illuminators operate just below the visual spectrum. This low power, low frequency light source causes no tissue heating in the anatomy of the eye. For a given power, the higher the frequency, the more tissue heating will occur.

Common IR LEDs: 880nm, 940nm...



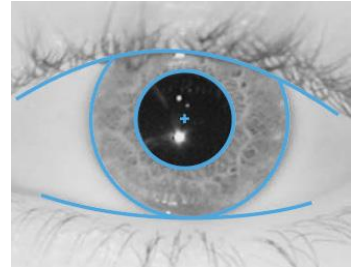
# Iris image acquisition: requirements

- At least 70 pixels per iris radius (typically 100-140px)
- Monochrome CCD camera 640x480 px with NIR filter usually sufficient
- Getting the detailed view of the iris:
  1. Another wider-angle “face” camera used to steer the Iris camera to the direct spot
  2. User asked to move to desired position

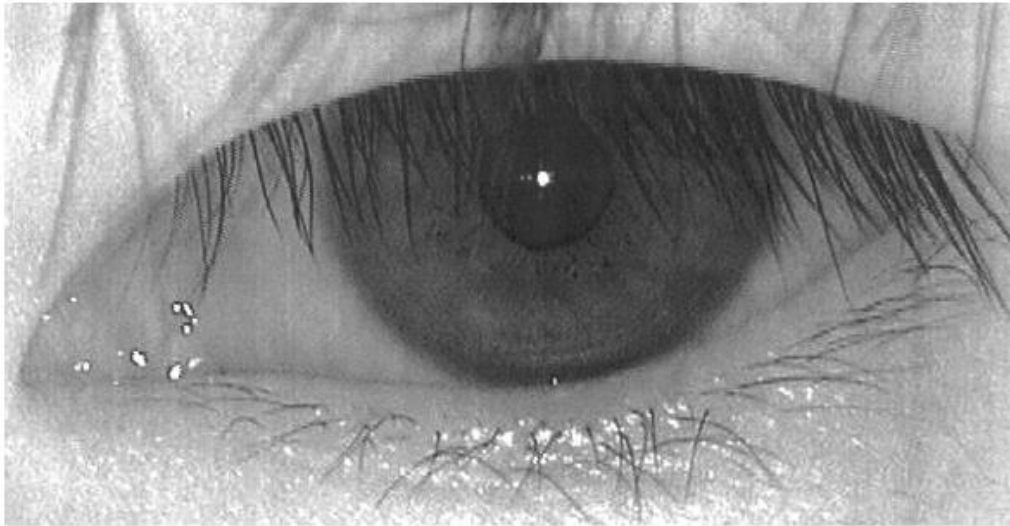


# Difficulties in IRIS biom. recog.

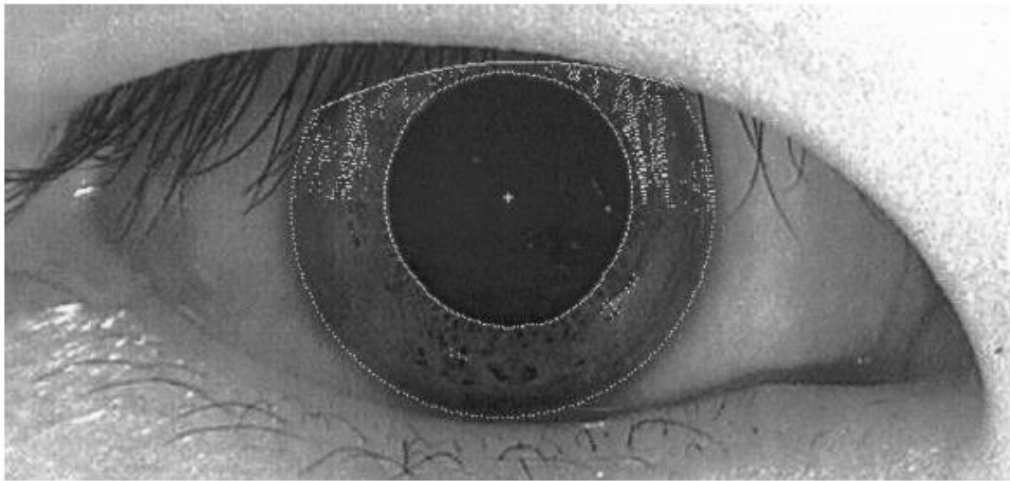
- Acquire small target (~1 cm) from (~1 m) distance
- Moving target
- Located behind a curved, wet, reflecting surface
- Curvature of the cornea causes wide-angle reflections
- Obscured by lashes, lenses, reflecting eyeglasses
- Partially occluded by eyelids, often drooping
- Some ethnic groups show less than half of each iris
- Iris deforms non-elastically as pupil changes size
- Illumination should not be visible or bright



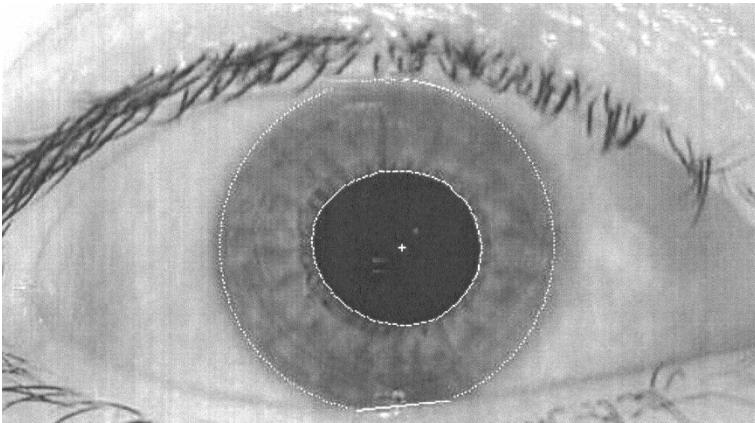
# Difficulties: Eyelashes



- Iris often partially covered by eyelashes
- Occlusions need to be detected (marked white)



# Difficulties: iris shape

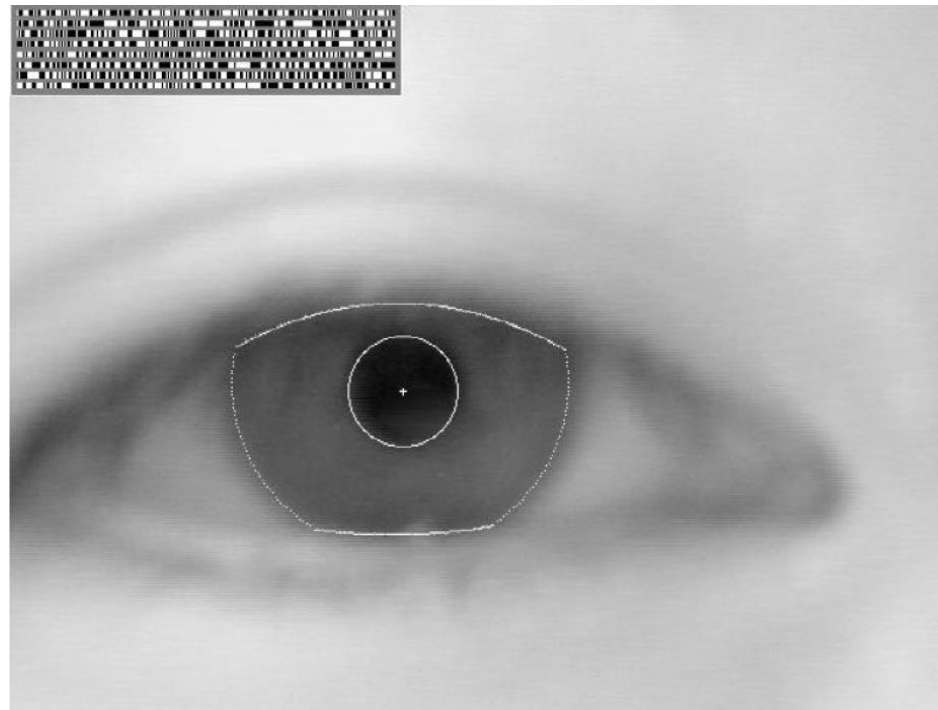


- Pupils often non-circular
- Pupil and iris often non-concentric



# Difficulties: defocusing

- It is often hard to achieve perfect focus, especially at longer distance or with moving subject
- Motion blur may be an issue too
- Iris code from such image: such as from random noise



# Attacks: fake iris



- Presentation of fake (printed on paper or contact lens, LCD) iris to the camera
- Problem for systems without surveillance (e.g. access systems)

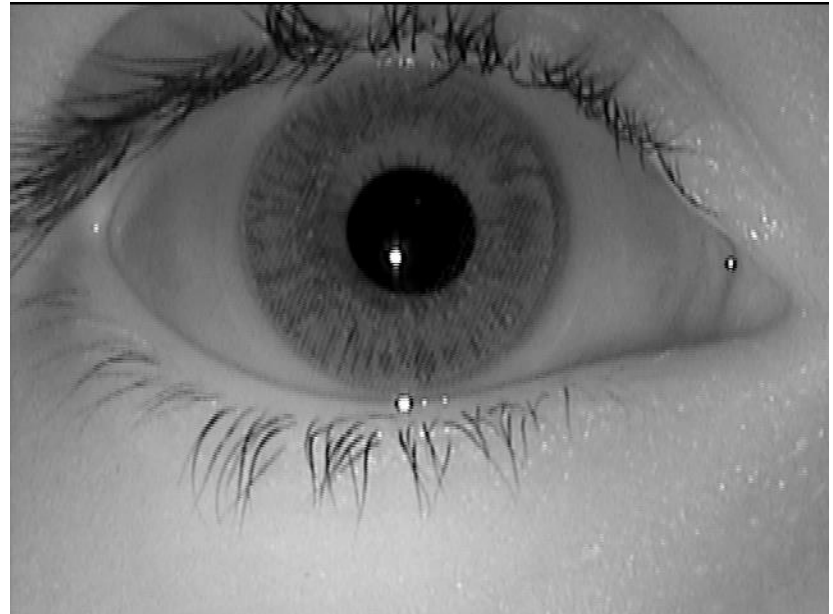
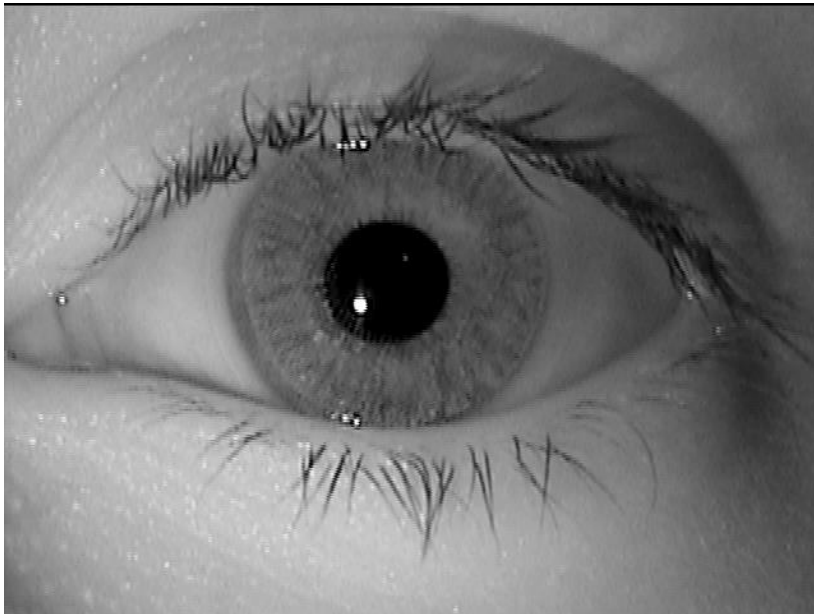
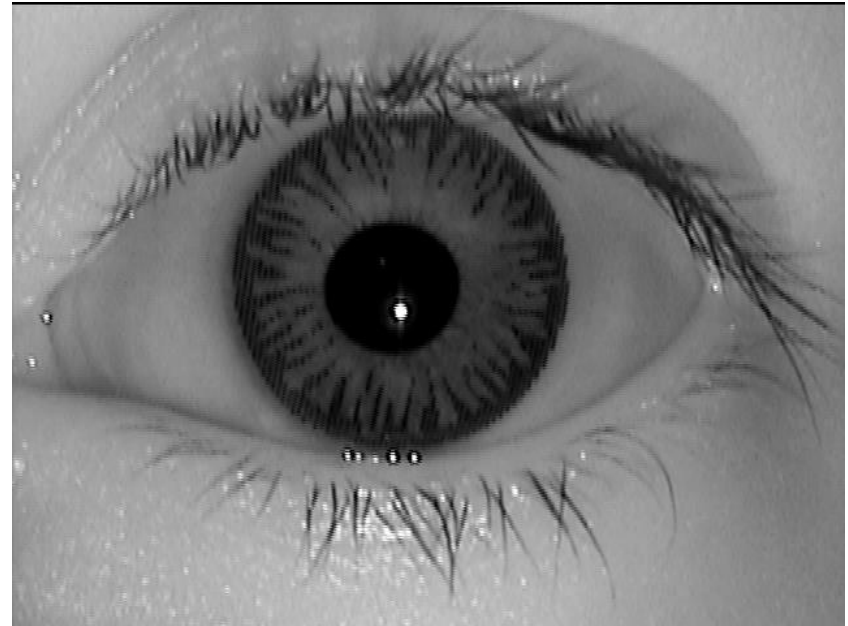
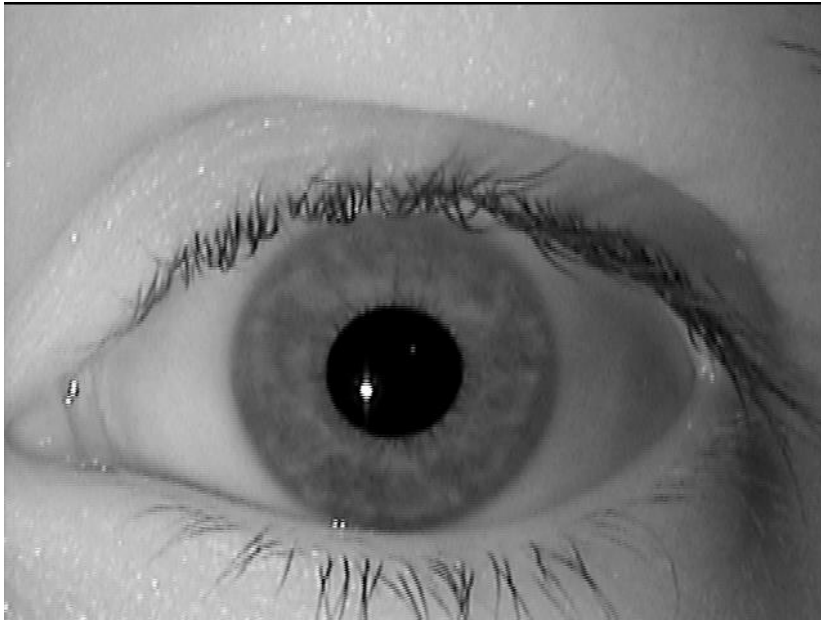


:)



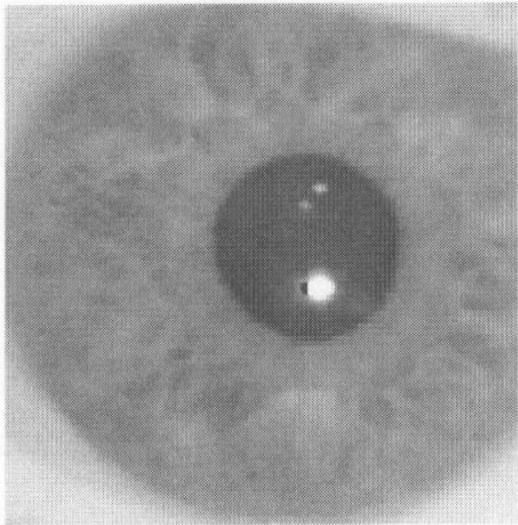
cosmetic contact lenses

# Contact lenses

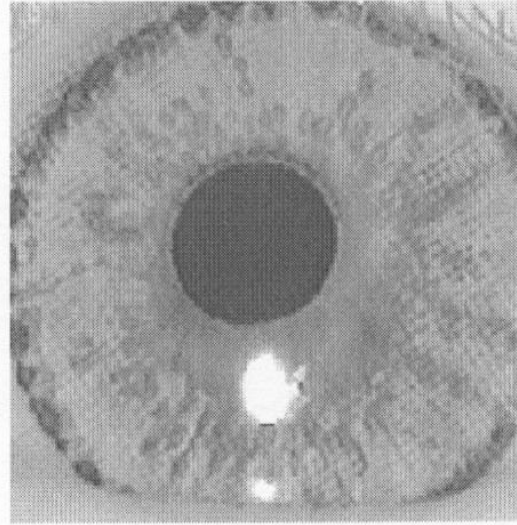


# Fake iris attack solutions

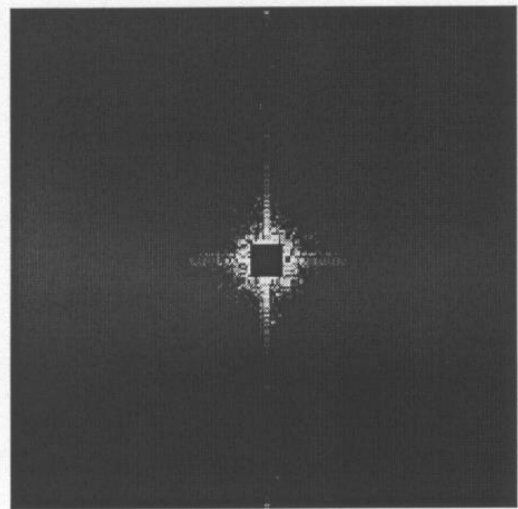
- Checking for pupil-dilation effect (switching visible light intensity)
- FFT transform of the iris image shows artefacts caused by printing halftone patterns
- (frequency: radial, direction:angle)



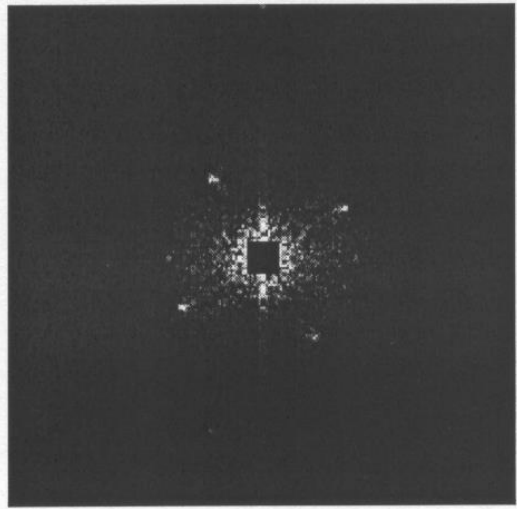
Natural Iris



Fake Iris printed on a contact lens



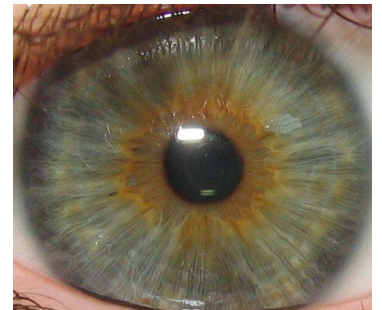
2D Fourier spectrum of natural Iris



2D Fourier spectrum of fake Iris

# Fake iris attack solutions (2)

- Iris displayed on an LCD screen
  - Observation of temporal properties of the image (intensity peaks in LCD image)
- Identification of reflections
- Verification of pupil dilation reflex
  - pupil diameter measured for different light intensities



# Iris scan: devices



# Iris capturing devices



Princeton identity  
Access200



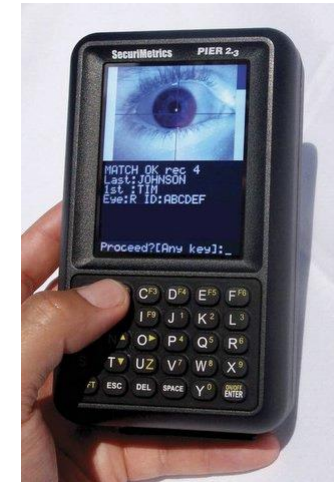
IriTech iriShield 2120



IrisGuard ATM



IrisGuard IG/H100

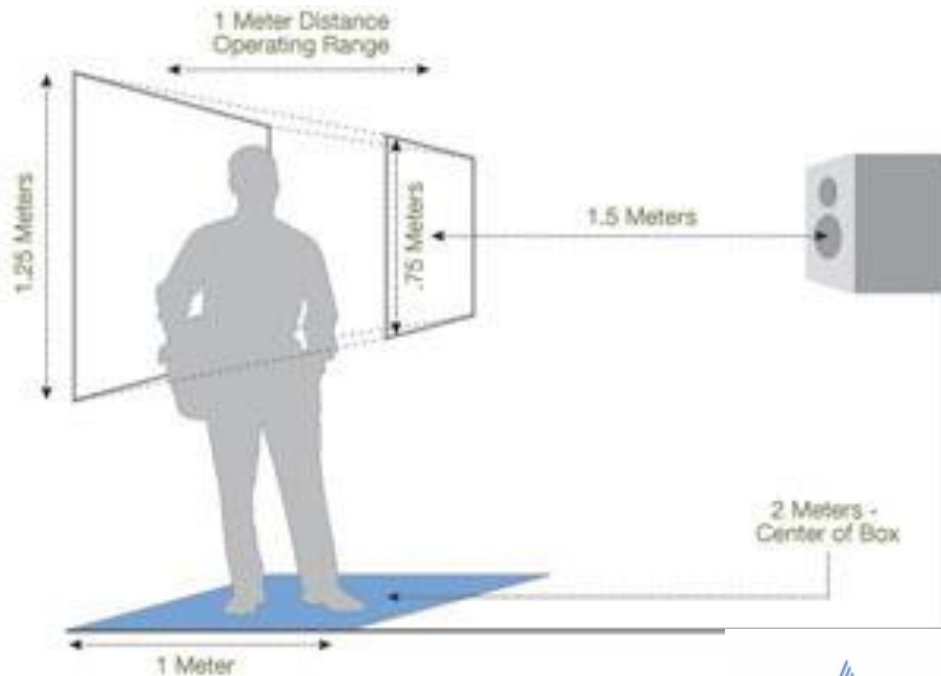


PIER 2.3, Hand-held,  
SecuriMetrics Inc.,



wall mounted  
Entry access control  
Panasonic ET300

# Iris capturing at long distance



- Distance 2m
- **Adaptive Optics** technology automatically finds the eye, then locks in with its closed-loop control subsystem to capture a series of high-quality iris images.
- Subjects merely need to glance at the target for a short period of time once inside the capture zone.



The instruction set is extraordinarily simple: step into the capture volume, look at the imager, and open your eyes.

Reduced need of subjects cooperation

a Iris on the move (Sarnoff Int.)

# Iris on the move



**SRI International**  
SARNOFF

Now: Princeton identity

- Capturing IRIS images while the subject is walking through a gate
- The subject only has to look straight at given point (the camera)
- 3m distance, works through sunglasses (!), 30 people/min
- supports iris code calculation
- stand-alone (including enrollment)
- Discontinued?



NEC walkthrough terminal

# Applications (current and future)

- **computer login**: the iris as a living password
- **national border** controls: the iris as a living passport
- secure access to bank **cash machine** accounts
- ticket-less, **document-free, air travel**
- premises **access control** (home, office, laboratory, etc)
- driving licenses, and other **personal certificates**
- entitlements and benefits authentication
- forensics; birth certificates; tracing **missing or wanted persons**
- **credit-card** authentication
- automobile ignition and unlocking; **anti-theft devices**
- anti-terrorism (e.g. **security screening** at airports)
- secure **financial transactions** (electronic commerce, banking)
- **Internet security**; control of access to privileged information
- "**Biometric-Key Cryptography**" for encrypting/decrypting messages
- any existing use of keys, cards, PINs, or passwords



# Usage of IRIS at Airports

- 'Iris as Passport': Expedited immigration clearance for arriving passengers
  - Amsterdam Schiphol, Frankfurt, 10 UK airport terminals and 8 Canadian airports in 2004
- Expedited processing and check-in of departing passengers
  - Tokyo Narita (1'000 frequent travelers)
- Airline crew facility access and expedited security clearance
  - Charlotte Douglas Airport (1'200 transactions per day)
- Airport employee access to tarmac and other restricted areas (80 access control points)
  - New York JFK, Amsterdam Schiphol (72'000 airport employees)
- 'WatchList' screening of all arriving passengers (505'000 expellees in WatchList)
  - 7 airports

# United Arab Emirates

- Iris recognition system
- Fully operational since April 2003
- 36 land, air and sea ports
- 12,000 passengers each day
- 1 central database
  - [Watchlist of expelled persons](#)
  - Fully networked
  - Enrolment centres: prisons and deportation centres
  - More than 1 million enrolments (150+ nationalities)
  - Exhaustive search takes <2 seconds
- 12 billion comparisons each day (12,000 passengers against 1 million enrolments)
- About 330,000 persons caught since launch in 2005



# India: National ID system

- UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority in India): Adhaar ID card (unique citizen system) <https://uidai.gov.in/>, Launched: 2009
- Biometric verification : fingerprint (fingers) / Iris / Face photo
- More than 1.2B+ users enrolled (99% of adult population in India) – voluntary enrollment, required to access social services
- Biometrics can be locked to prevent misuse
- Controversy: can private companies require the adhaar number <https://time.com/5409604/india-aadhaar-supreme-court/>
- ...leprosy sufferers with no fingers or eyes having their state benefits cancelled because fingerprints and iris scans are mandatory

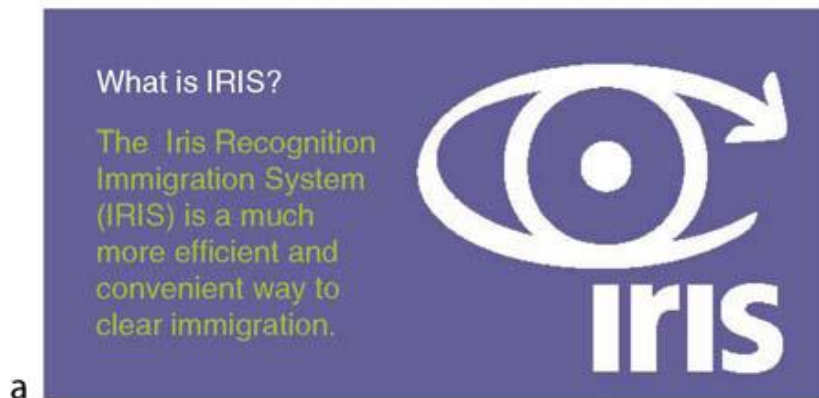


# United Arab Emirates



# Usage in the UK

- UK's *IRIS (Iris Recognition Immigration System)* replaces passport control
- Available at several airports in the UK between 2004-2013
- Automatic counters for registered travellers
- Over 1 000 000 registered frequent flyers
- No ID – one-to-all identification scheme
- Superseded by biometric passport



# The Netherlands

- Similar to the UK system (frequent flyers' programme to avoid queues)
- Paid service



# Access systems



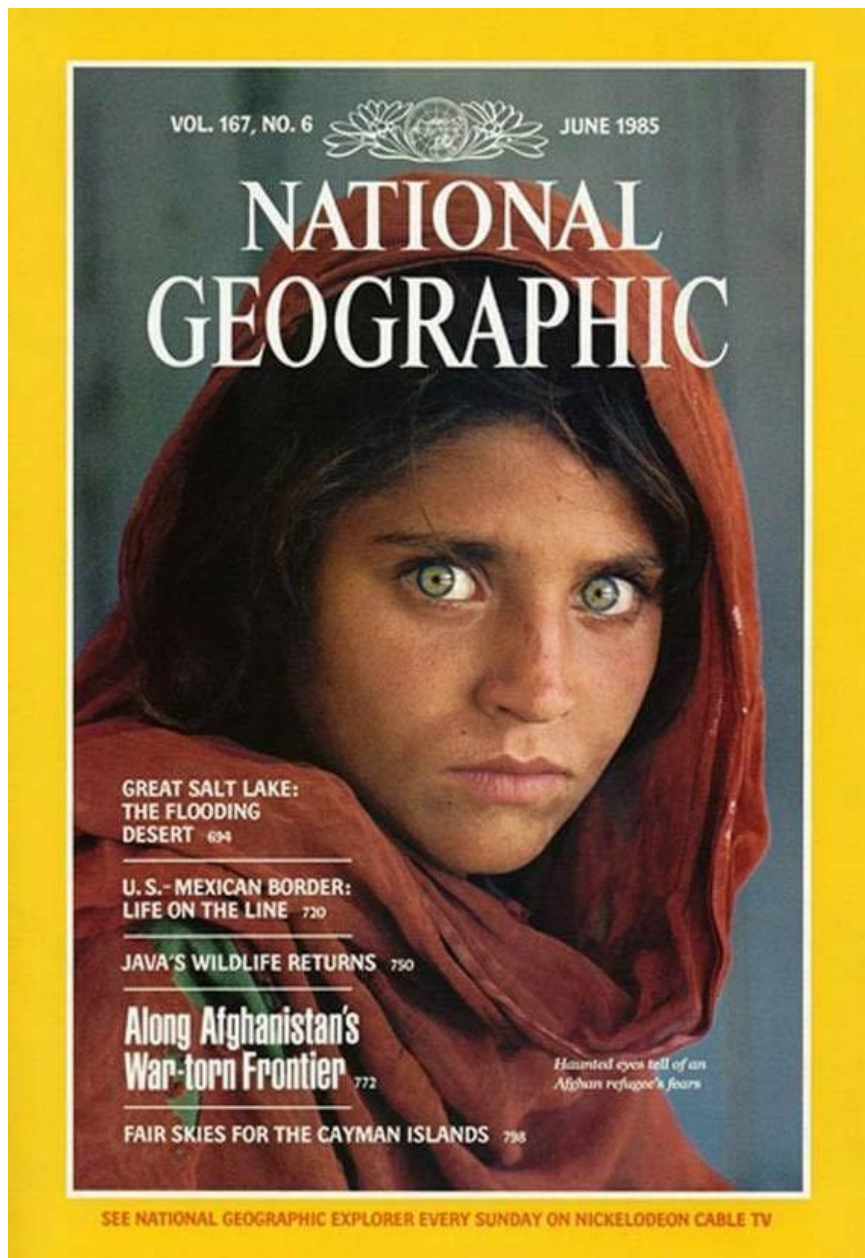
Residential Access to Condominium (and Lift Calling), Tokyo.

# IRIS in humanitarian projects



Takhtabaig Voluntary Repatriation Centre, Pakistan-Afghan border. United Nations (UN) cash grants for returnees are administered by Iris identification

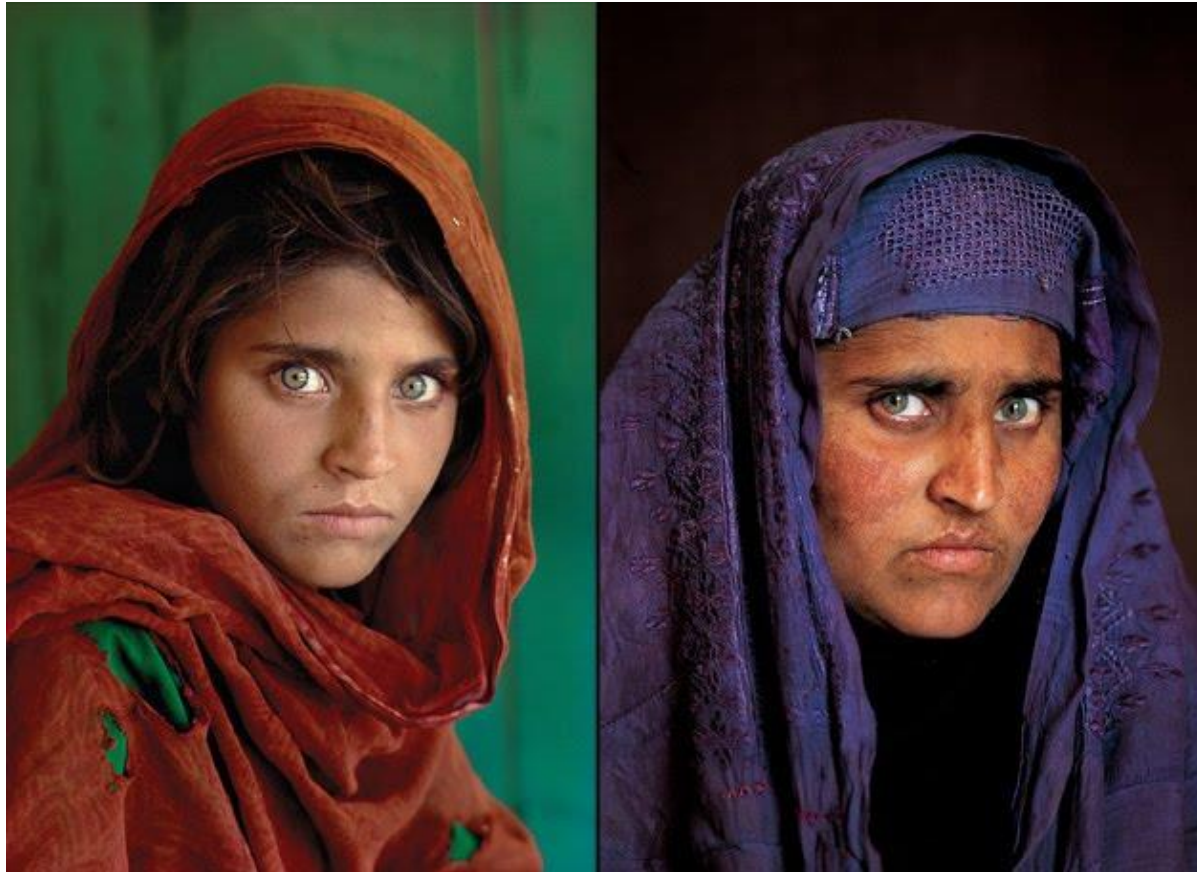
# Motivation: NG story



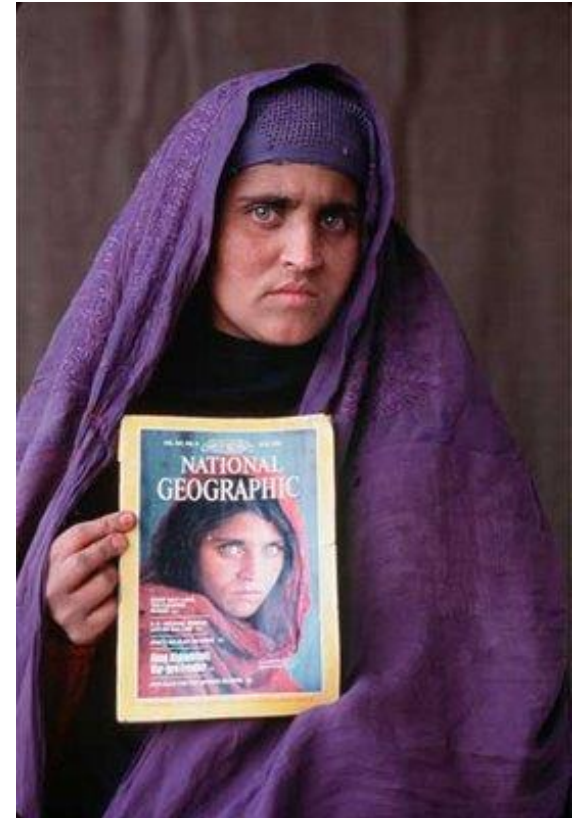
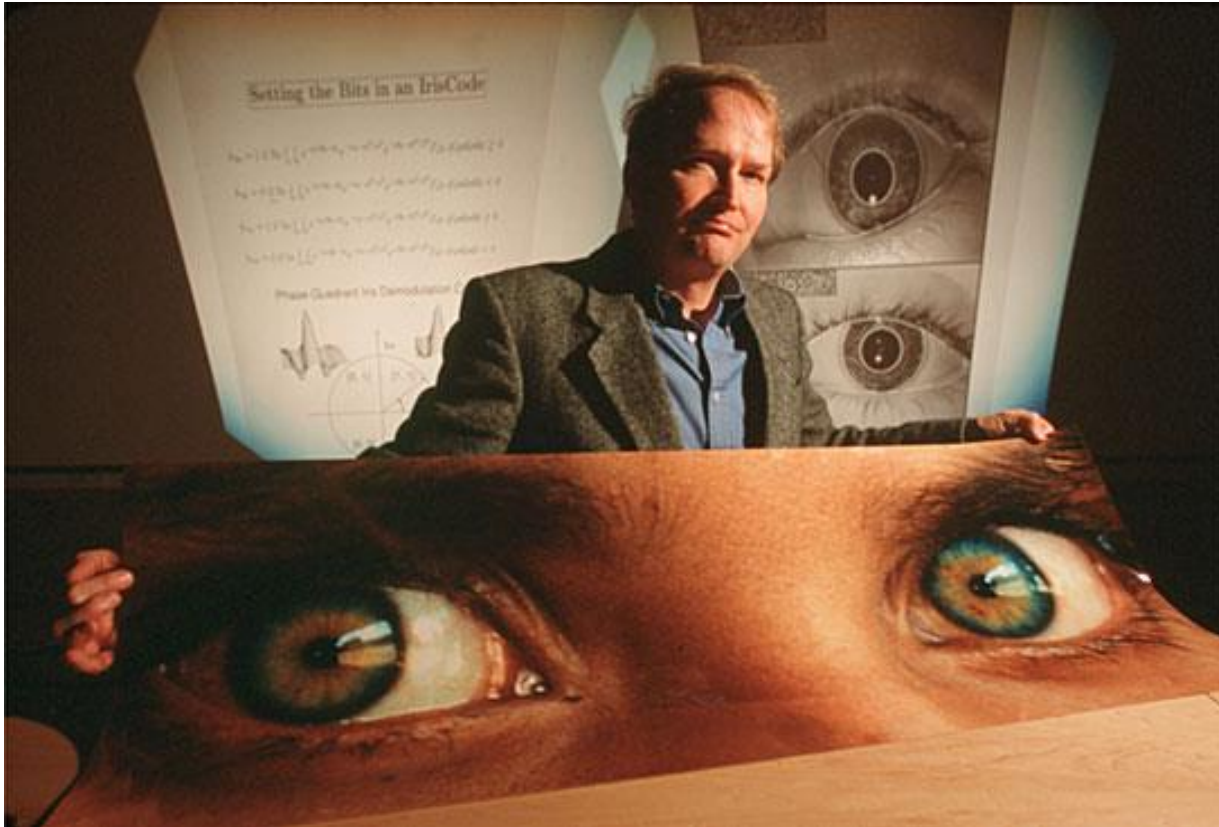
- National Geographic cover story: a girl refugee in Pakistanian refugee camp after her city in Afghanistan was bombed by USSR army.
- One of the most recognized pictures in the history of NG (“Afghan girl”)
- Photographed by S. McCurry in 1984

# “Afghan girl” story continued

- McCurry tried to locate the girl 17 years later in 2001
- Several women claimed they were the girl in the picture
- Several men claimed the girl was their wife...
- Iris recognition matched Sharbat Gula to the original picture



# John Daugman



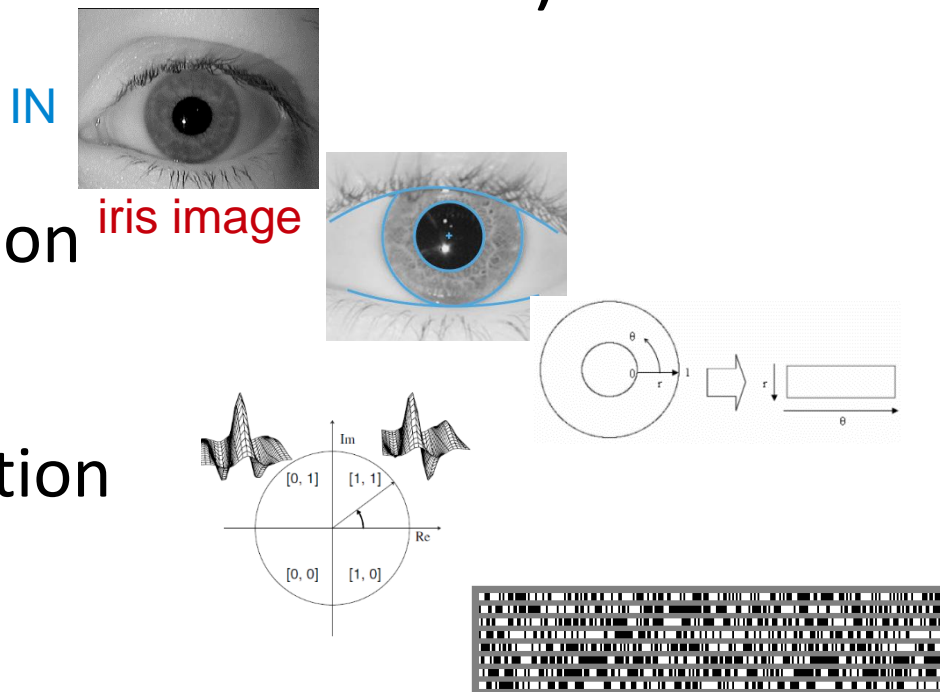
**Core Technology Patent:** "Biometric Personal Identification System Based on Iris Analysis", U.S. Patent No. 5 291 560 issued March 1, 1994 (J. Daugman)

# Key messages

- Iris: **stable** and very **individual** property
- Highly suitable for biometric identification/verification
- Iris **image** rather **difficult to capture** (focusing, motion-blur, lighting, reflections, pupil dilation...)
- Iris recognition systems in operation in **large-scale** border and **access control systems**

# Overview of the next lecture

- Iris recognition process (Basic J. Daugmann approach and some modalities)



- Iris segmentation

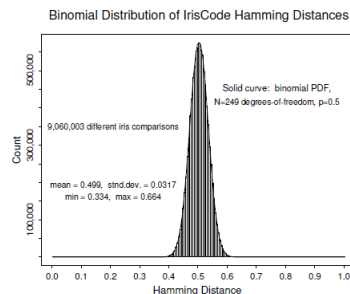
- Unwrapping

- Feature extraction

- Encoding

- Comparison

OUT



result of iris code comparison

Thank you for your attention

