

# Validated Polygraph Techniques

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The polygraph techniques which meet the scientific requirements of the International Society of Polygraph Examiners (ISOPE) to be classified as Evidentiary Polygraph Techniques **are Zone Comparison Techniques consisting of no more than 3 Relevant Questions administered as a single issue examination.**

These techniques adhere to a set of validated principles which through research have demonstrated that they have the capability to reach a **minimum criterion accuracy of truth or deception of 90%** with an **inconclusive rate not exceeding 20%**.

Three types of studies were used to validate the principles of these polygraph techniques:

## **Field study**

Uses actual real-life polygraph examinations whose results are confirmed with acceptable scientific or judicial evidence.

## **Laboratory study**

Uses a mock crime with participants assigned the role of Guilty or Innocent examinees.

## **Monte Carlo study**

Uses a statistical method that is based on repeated random sampling of data from independent source of confirmed field cases that is used to estimate polygraph decision accuracy.

A full discussion of the merits of field versus laboratory studies entitled "[Guiding Principles and Benchmarks for the Conduct of Validity Studies of Psychophysiological Veracity Examinations Using The Polygraph](#)" is available for review on this website.

# Evidentiary Polygraph Techniques

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## **Backster Zone Comparison Technique**

The Backster Zone Comparison "You Phase" Technique, from which all other Zone Comparison Techniques originated.

## **Federal You-Phase**

## **Federal Zone Comparison Technique**

## **Integrated Zone Comparison Technique**

## **Matte Quadri-Track Zone Comparison Technique**

## **Utah Zone Comparison Technique – Probable Lie Test**

## Investigative Polygraph Techniques

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The polygraph techniques which meet the scientific requirements of the International Society of Polygraph Examiners (ISOPE) to be classified as Investigative Polygraph Techniques have the capability to reach a **minimum criterion accuracy of 80%** with an **inconclusive rate not exceeding 20%**. These techniques cannot consist of more than 4 relevant questions and can accurately be used to make determinations of **NO SIGNIFICANT REACTIONS** or **SIGNIFICANT REACTIONS**. A significant unresolved reaction can only be confirmed as deception with the use of a Single-Issue Validated Zone Comparison Technique, also referred to as a Successive Hurdle Approach. The following techniques meet the requirements for classification as Investigative Polygraph Techniques:

Air Force MGOT

Arther Known Lie Test

Backster “SKY”

Marcy Technique

Matte “SKG”

Reid General Question Technique

### SCREENING EXAMINATIONS

For screening examinations a 3 or 4 relevant question Zone Comparison Test is recommended, however the following techniques are also recognized when employed as the initial examination to identify possible areas of concern in a process that utilizes a Successive Hurdle Approach prior to making a final determination of truth or deception.

Backster Exploratory Technique

Israeli ART Technique

Relevant Irrelevant Technique

## Validated Scoring Techniques

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The polygraph techniques which meet the scientific requirements of the International Society of Polygraph Examiners (ISOPE) to be classified as Validated Scoring Techniques are those with research showing their accuracy rates and demonstrate **inconclusive rate not exceeding 20%**:

**Backster 7 Point Scoring System**

**Empirical Scoring System**

**Federal 7 Point Scoring System**

**Federal 3 Point Scoring System**

**Horizontal Scoring System**

**Matte Scoring System**

**Utah Scoring System**