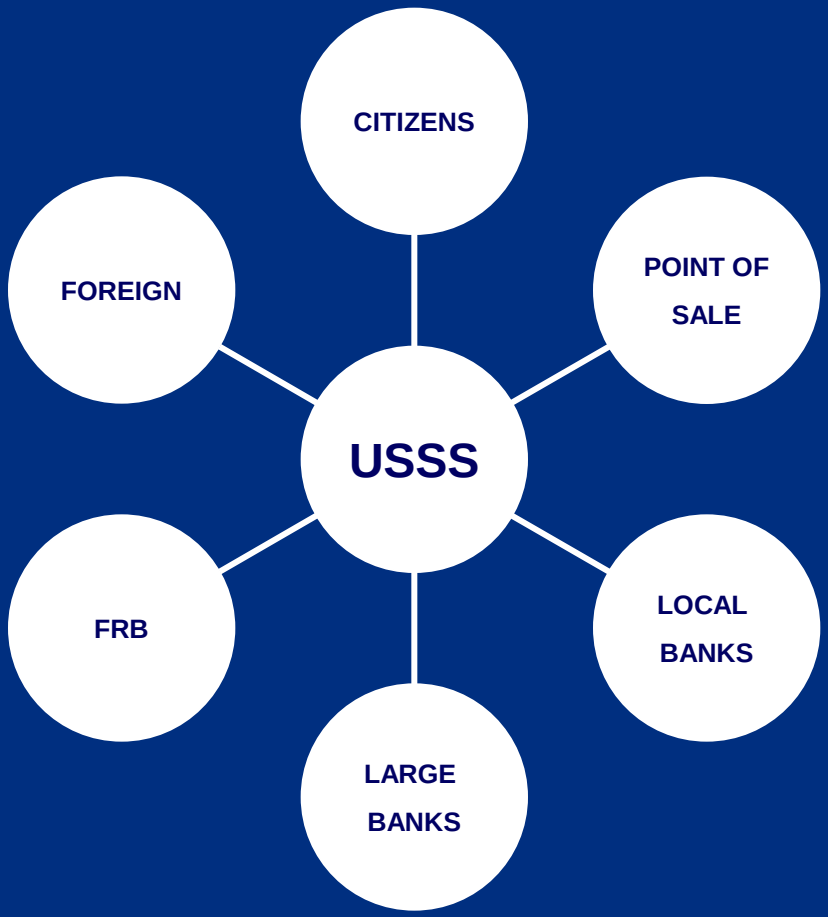
Current Trends in Counterfeiting

U.S. Secret Service
New York Field Office

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States
Secret Service

Counterfeit Flow



Counterfeiting Methods

"TRADITIONAL" COUNTERFEITING

- Primarily Foreign
- Large Equipment
- Higher Volume
- "Technically Proficient"

"DIGITAL" COUNTERFEITING

- Primarily Domestic
- Office Equipment
- Smaller Volume
- "Amateurs"

Counterfeit Production

TRADITIONAL PRINTING PROCESSES

- OFFSET LITHOGRAPHY
- TYPOGRAPHY
- INTAGLIO
- SCREEN

DIGITAL PRINTING PROCESSES

- INKJET
- TONER

Traditional Printing Processes

- COMMONLY USED FOR COMMERCIAL PRINTING INCLUDING NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND POSTERS
- REQUIRES LARGE EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE
- REQUIRES PHOTOGRAPHY AND PRINTING PLATES, NEGATIVES, ETC

Circular Classification System

- BASED ON IDENTIFIERS AND DEFECT TRANSFER
- USED TO HELP ASSOCIATE COUNTERFEIT NOTES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD BACK TO THE ORIGINAL COUNTERFEITER
- ALSO USED FOR GATHERING COUNTERFEIT STATISTICS FOR INVESTIGATIVE AND SENTENCING PURPOSES

Identifiers

DENOMINATION

SERIES YEAR

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK

CHECK LETTER

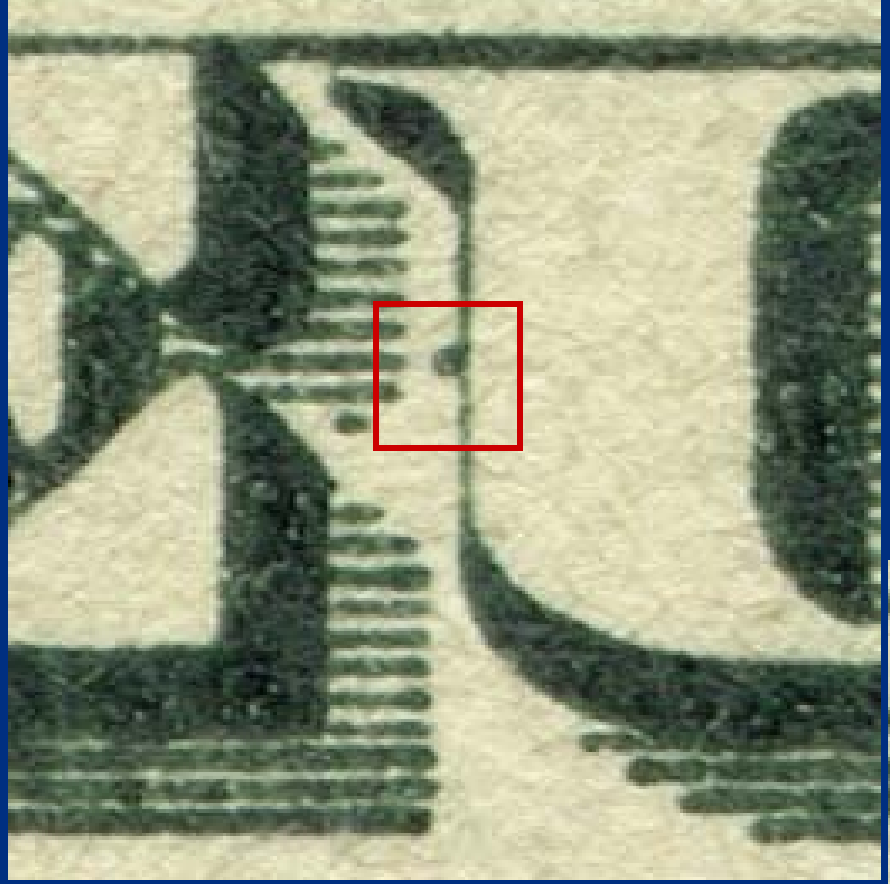
QUADRANT NUMBER

FACE PLATE NUMBER

BACK PLATE NUMBER

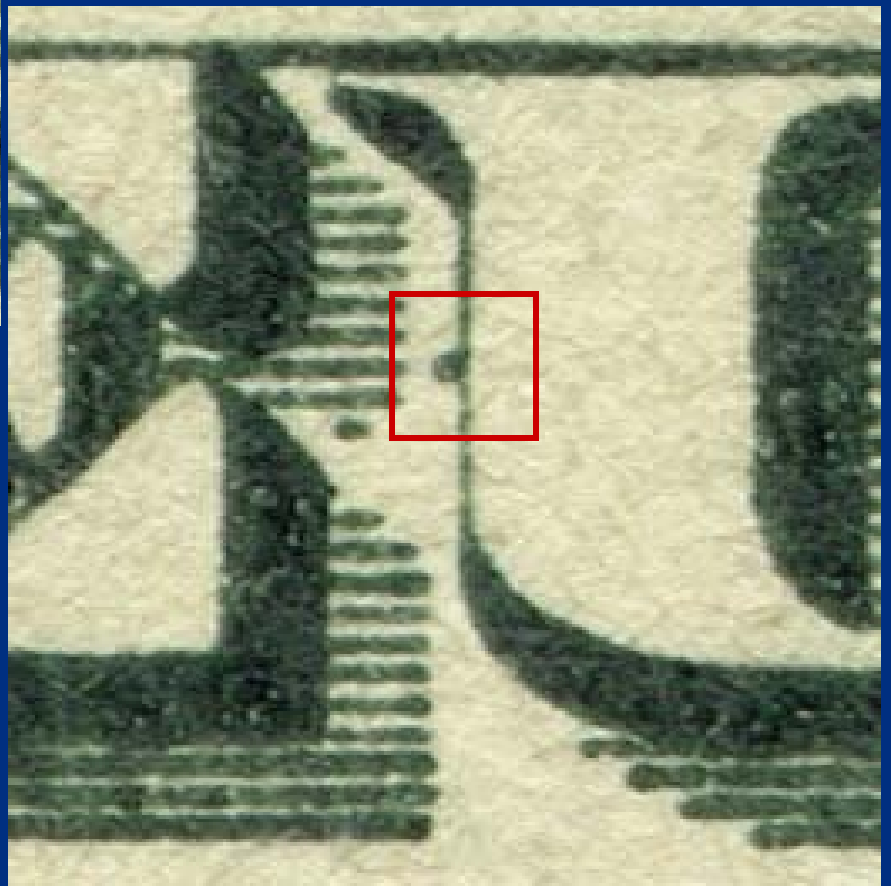
FP

Same Defects



BP

Same Defects



Treasury Seal

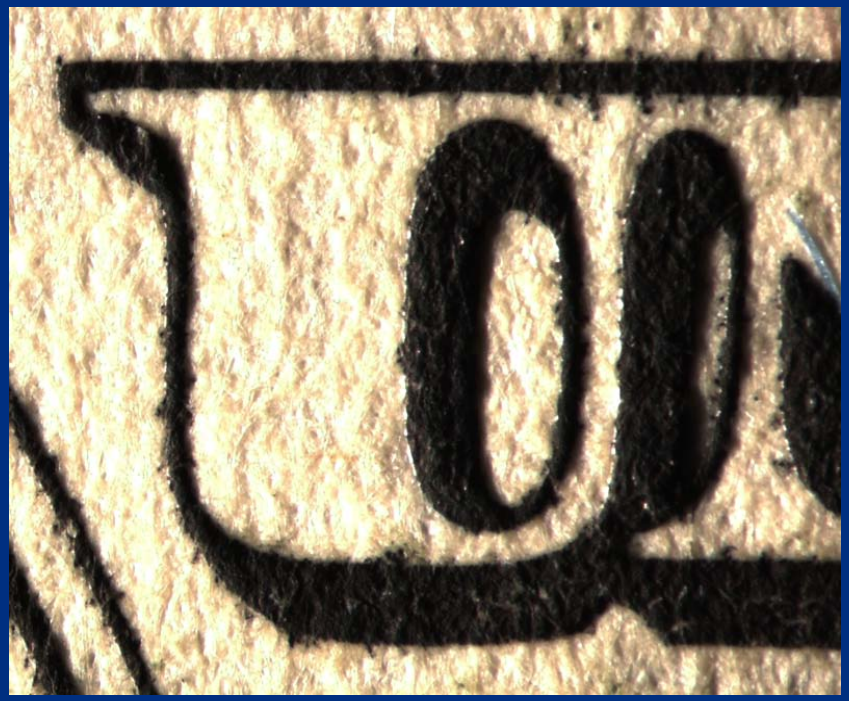
Same Defects

Traditional Printing

Common methods used in Traditional Counterfeit production

- Use of “bleached” genuine US and foreign currency paper
- Printed simulations of the security features

Traditional Printing

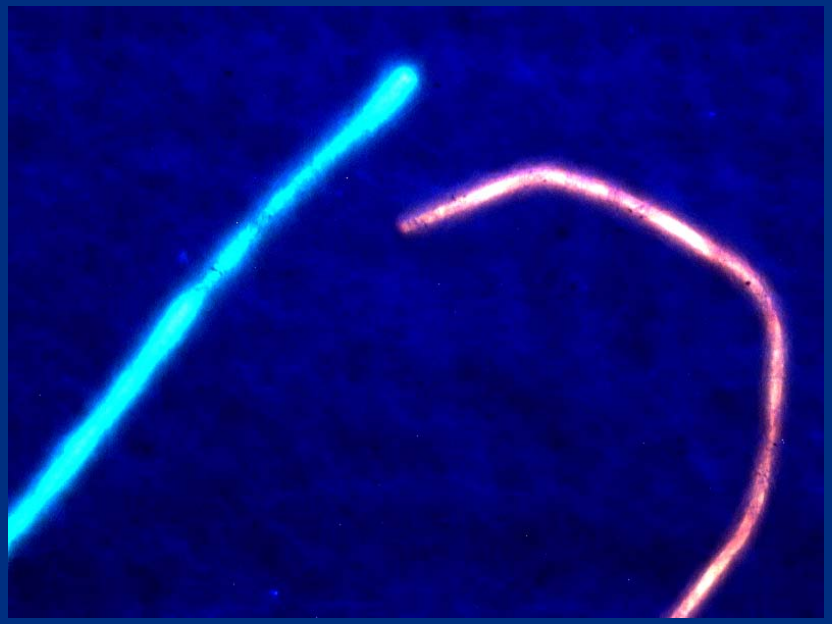


Genuine

Counterfeit

Venezuelan 10 Bolivar banknote

Foreign currency security fibers in counterfeit



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WARNING

COUNTERFEIT MONEY ON BLEACHED GENUINE $5 PAPER IS BEING PASSED IN YOUR AREA

GENUINE

GENUINE MICROPRINTING READS "100USA100USA"

$100 WATERMARK

$100 SECURITY THREAD GLOWS PINK/RED UNDER UV LIGHT AND IS IN THIS LOCATION

$100 SECURITY THREAD READS "USA 100" WHEN HELD UP TO LIGHT

COUNTERFEIT

UNREADABLE INKJET MICROPRINTING

$5 WATERMARK

$5 SECURITY THREAD GLOWS BLUE UNDER UV LIGHT AND IS IN DIFFERENT LOCATION

$5 SECURITY THREAD READS "USA FIVE" WHEN HELD UP TO LIGHT

If anyone attempts to pass one of the above described counterfeit notes, please obtain as much information as possible about the individual(s) and contact your local Police and the United States Secret Service

Bleached $5
TSM 4/4/07

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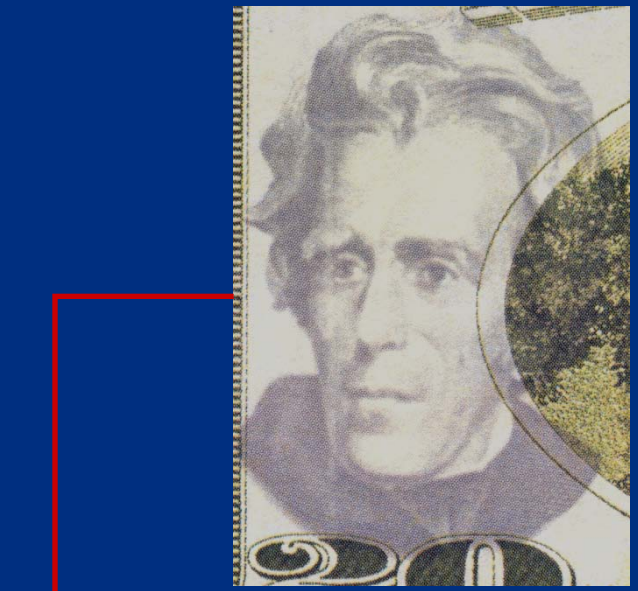

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IN GOD WE TRUST
THE WHITE HOUSE
20

Digital Printing

INKJET	TONER
Computer Printer	Copy Machine
All-in-One Device	Laser Printer

Digital Printing Processes- Inkjet and Toner

- Quality varies greatly
- Often no attempts to simulate any security features
- Random “dot” pattern
- Black toner appears glossy and shiny

Inkjet Counterfeit

GENUINE

INKJET COUNTERFEIT

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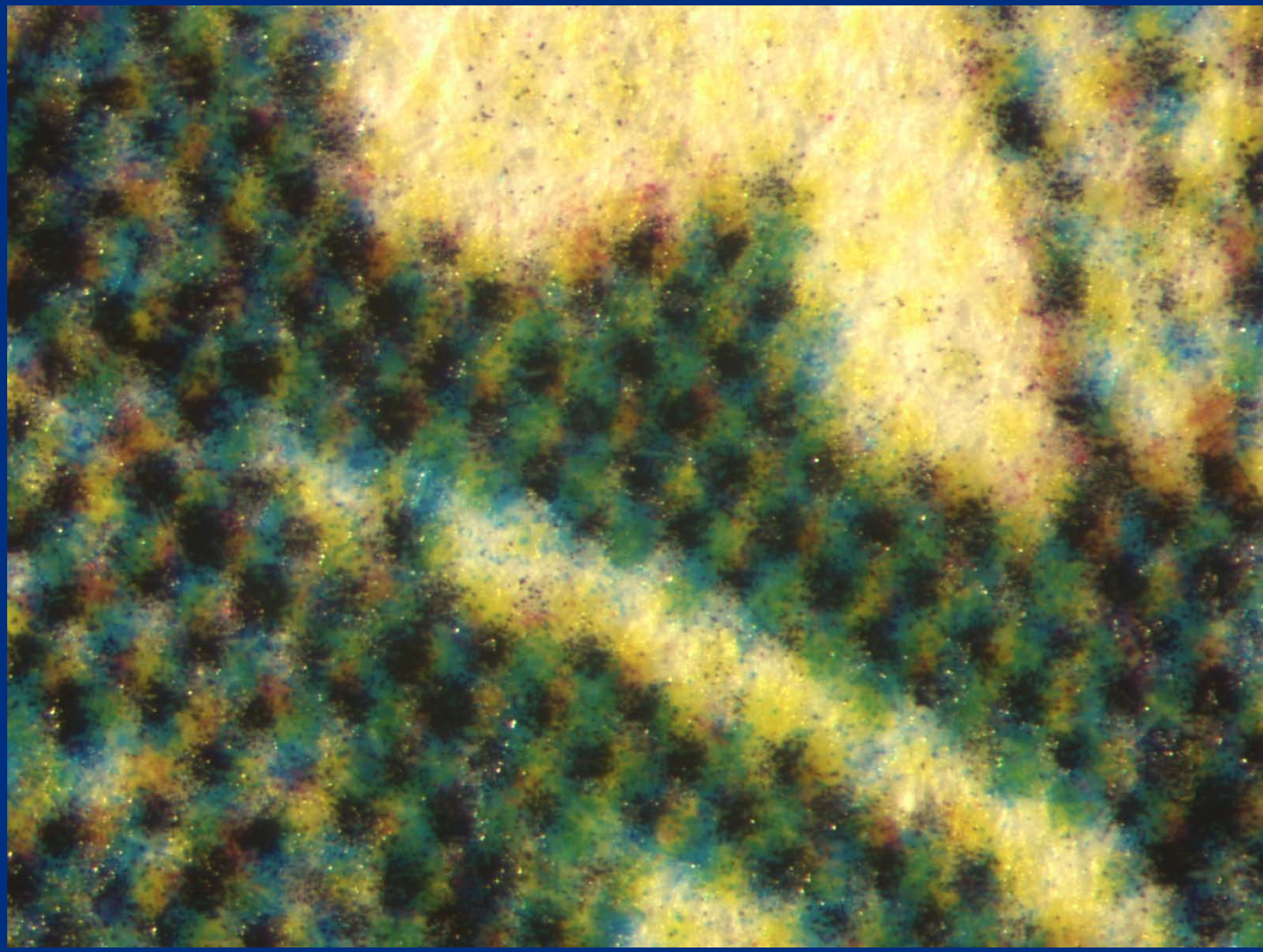
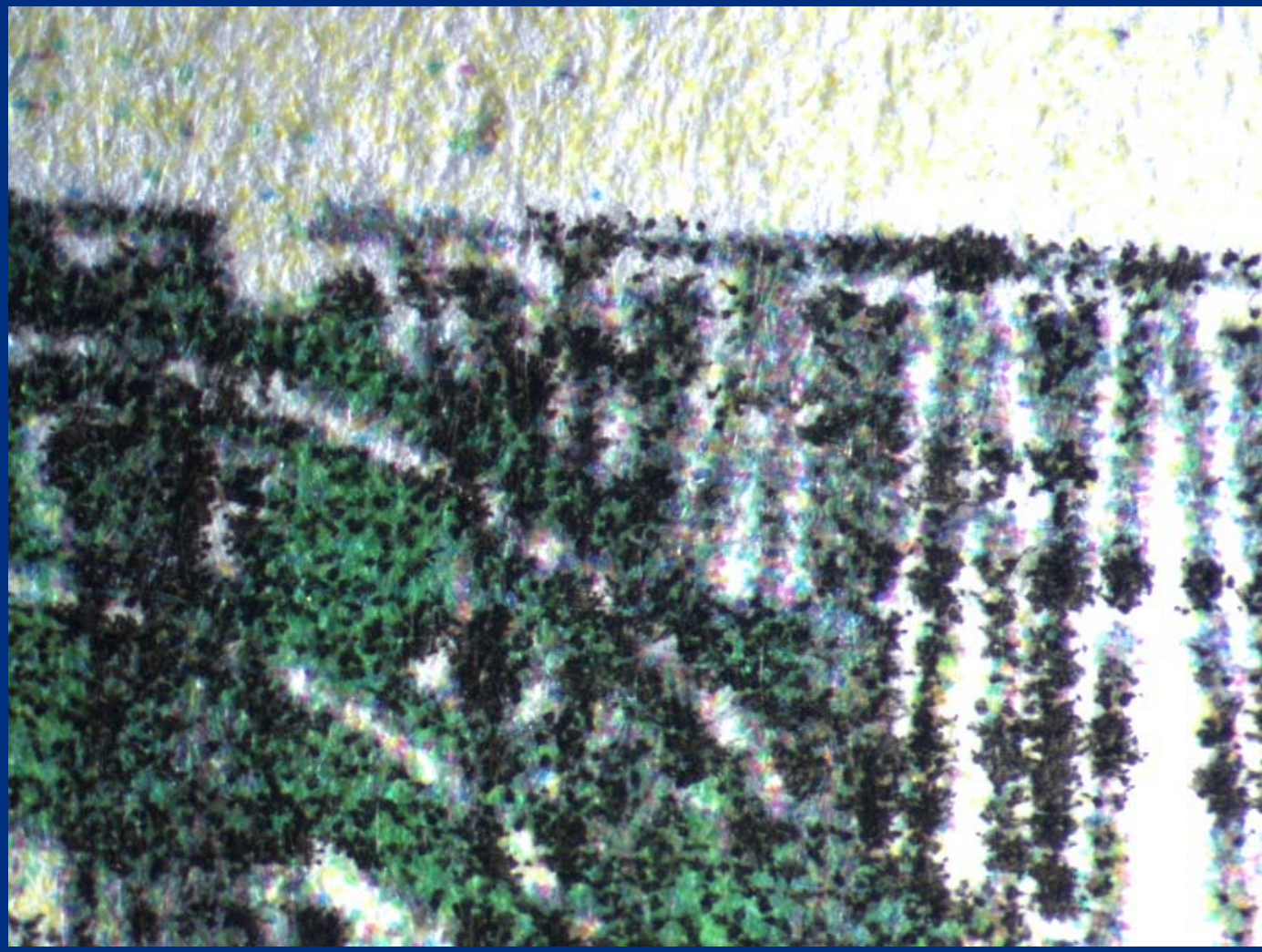
Toner Printing



Inkjet Printing



Inkjet Printing

QUESTIONS?

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