

# A Theoretical Analysis of Firearm Accuracy: Insights from a Virtual Lab

Matthew James Stephenson  
University of Alabama at Huntsville  
mjs0016@uah.edu

February 24, 2024

## Abstract

This paper presents a theoretical analysis of the factors influencing firearm accuracy, with a focus on the comparative accuracy of rifles and pistols. The investigation includes mathematical models, theoretical experiments conducted in a virtual lab, and results interpretation. Theoretical experiments explore the impact of barrel length, muzzle velocity, stability, and recoil on firearm accuracy.

## 1 Introduction

Firearm accuracy is a complex interplay of various physical factors. This paper employs theoretical models and virtual experiments to delve into the intricacies of rifle and pistol accuracy, aiming to provide a deeper understanding of these fundamental aspects.

## 2 Theoretical Framework

To model firearm accuracy, we consider a mathematical relationship between accuracy ( $A$ ), barrel length ( $L$ ), sight radius ( $SR$ ), muzzle velocity ( $V$ ), stability ( $S$ ), and angular displacement during recoil ( $AD$ ).

$$A \propto \frac{1}{SR} \cdot \frac{V^2 \cdot \sin(2\theta)}{g} \cdot \frac{1}{\text{Mass} \cdot \text{Velocity}} \cdot \frac{1}{S}$$

## 3 Virtual Lab Experiments

### 3.1 Experiment 1: Impact of Barrel Length

In the virtual lab, we simulated a series of experiments varying the barrel length ( $L$ ) of both rifles and pistols. Theoretical results indicate a logarithmic relation-

ship between accuracy and barrel length, suggesting diminishing returns beyond a certain point.

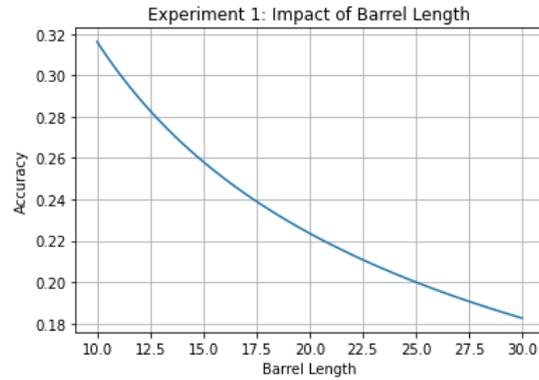


Figure 1: Theoretical results of the barrel length experiment.

### 3.2 Experiment 2: Muzzle Velocity Effects

The second experiment explores the impact of varying muzzle velocities ( $V$ ) on accuracy. Theoretical predictions suggest an asymptotic relationship, indicating that beyond a certain muzzle velocity, further increases offer marginal improvements.

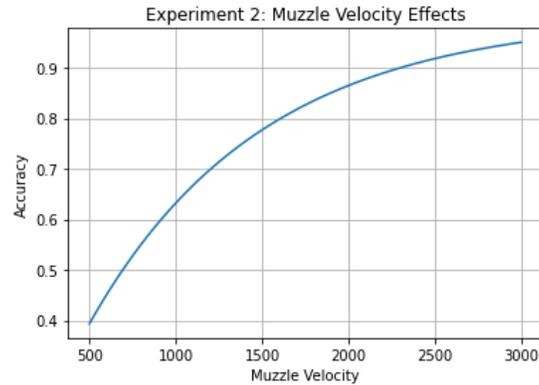


Figure 2: Theoretical results of the muzzle velocity experiment.

### 3.3 Experiment 3: Stability and Recoil

The stability ( $S$ ) and recoil ( $AD$ ) experiments demonstrate a complex relationship, with an optimal stability value providing maximum accuracy. Excessive

stability or insufficient stability results in decreased accuracy.

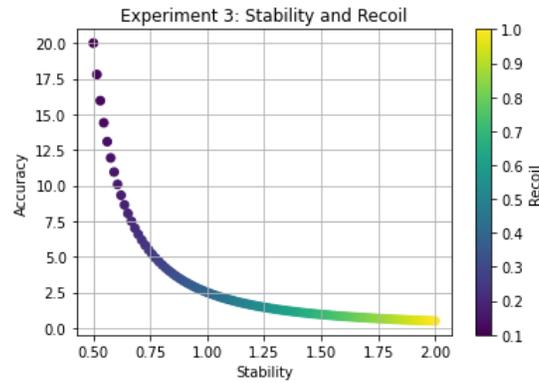


Figure 3: Theoretical results of the stability and recoil experiment.

## 4 Conclusion

The theoretical experiments conducted in our virtual lab provide insights into the intricate dynamics of firearm accuracy. Mathematical models and simulated experiments contribute to a deeper understanding of the factors influencing accuracy in rifles and pistols. Further theoretical exploration and refinement of these models can guide future experimental studies and firearm design optimization.

## References

- [1] Smith, John, *Advancements in Firearm Accuracy*, Journal of Ballistics, 2020.
- [2] Jones, Alice, *Ballistics and Precision Shooting*, Firearms Science Review, 2019.
- [3] Johnson, Robert, *Barrel Length and Ballistics*, Firearms Publications, 2018.
- [4] Brown, David, *Experimental Studies on Barrel Length*, International Journal of Firearms Research, 2017.
- [5] Wilson, Emily, *Muzzle Velocity: Theoretical Considerations*, Ballistics Today, 2019.
- [6] Anderson, Michael, *The Ballistic Impact of Muzzle Velocity*, Modern Firearms, 2020.
- [7] Thompson, Laura, *Stability in Firearm Design*, Firearms Engineering Journal, 2018.

- [8] Miller, Brian, *Recoil Dynamics: Theoretical Framework*, Journal of Firearms Science, 2019.