

# The effect of dimple error on the horizontal launch angle and side spin of the golf ball during putting

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1 **The effect of dimple error on the horizontal launch angle and side spin**  
2 **of the golf ball during putting**

3

4 **Abstract**

5 This study aimed to examine the effect of the impact point on the golf ball on  
6 the horizontal launch angle and side spin during putting with a mechanical  
7 putting arm and human participants. Putts of 3.2 m were completed with a  
8 mechanical putting arm (four putter-ball combinations, total of 160 trials) and  
9 human participants (two putter-ball combinations, total of 337 trials). The  
10 centre of the dimple pattern (centroid) was located and the following  
11 variables were measured; distance and angle of the impact point from the  
12 centroid and surface area of the impact zone. Multiple regression analysis  
13 was conducted to identify whether impact variables had significant  
14 associations with ball roll variables; horizontal launch angle and side spin.  
15 Significant associations were identified between impact variables and  
16 horizontal launch angle with the mechanical putting arm but this was not  
17 replicated with human participants. The variability caused by 'dimple error'  
18 was minimal with the mechanical putting arm and not evident with human  
19 participants. Differences between the mechanical putting arm and human  
20 participants may be due to the way impulse is imparted on the ball. Therefore  
21 it is concluded that variability of impact point on the golf ball has a minimal  
22 effect on putting performance.

23 Words: 199

24

25

26 **Introduction**

27 Based on Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour statistics during 2014,  
28 the putting stroke accounted for approximately 40% of all strokes during  
29 tournament rounds (PGA Tour, 2015a; 2015b). This is in accordance with  
30 Dorsel & Rotunda (2001) and Alexander and Kern (2005), who identified that  
31 putting average was a key contributor to determining earnings on the PGA  
32 Tour. A number of factors are considered to influence the success rate of a  
33 golf putt, namely, green reading, aim, stroke and ball roll (Karlsen, Smith &  
34 Nilsson, 2008). Regarding the putting stroke, Pelz (2000) considered two  
35 variables that account for direction variability, face angle at impact (83%) and  
36 the putter path (17%). Karlsen et al. (2008) accounted 80% of direction  
37 consistency to face angle at impact ( $0.50^\circ$  effective variability), 17% to putter  
38 path ( $0.18^\circ$  effective variability) and 3% to horizontal impact point on the  
39 putter ( $0.09^\circ$  effective variability). One variable that has not been considered  
40 at length within the literature considering direction variability is the impact  
41 point on the golf ball.

42

43 Golf balls are designed with dimples to reduce the drag of the golf ball when  
44 in flight (Aoki, Nakayama, Hayasida, Yamaguti & Sugiura, 1998; Goff, 2013).  
45 These dimples, however, may also be a detriment to putting performance.  
46 Due to the dimples a golf ball is not perfectly spherical with potential for the  
47 golf ball to rebound off the putter during impact at an unexpected angle  
48 (Cross & Nathan, 2007). To explain this further, the putter could strike the  
49 perimeter of the dimple 'flat' allowing the initial roll of the ball to leave in the  
50 intended direction towards the target. Or the putter could strike an edge of a

51 dimple causing a deflection of direction off the intended target line (Figure 1).  
52 Research has acknowledged that dimples do affect the direction variability  
53 during a golf putt, however; only limited data is presented through a simple  
54 analysis of the distance that putts have rolled off line (Pelz, 2000). The  
55 authors of the current study propose that the direction variability away from  
56 the intended target line accountable to the impact point on the golf is termed  
57 dimple error. In addition to the horizontal launch angle another variable  
58 relatively unexplored is the side spin imparted on the golf ball. Hurrion and  
59 Mackay (2012) have identified that side spin imparted on the ball (> 20 rpm)  
60 has potential to cause the ball travelling off the intended target line; this is  
61 accountable to resultant angle differences between the putter path and face  
62 angle. Therefore, could potentially be a contributing factor to missed putts  
63 along with the horizontal launch angle.

64

65 FIGURE ONE ABOUT HERE

66

67 Dimple error will be more prominent when executing shorter golf putts, this is  
68 due to greater compression of the golf ball during longer golf putts (Pelz,  
69 2000). Dimple error is likely to have an inverse relationship with the  
70 compression of the golf ball, therefore may only be applicable during a  
71 shorter golf putt. Cross (2006) demonstrated in a non-golf environment that  
72 the golf ball can deflect off at a random angle, whereas a ball bearing  
73 bounced symmetrically and vertically. It was suggested that the dimples  
74 caused the random deflection (Cross, 2006). This was tested dropping the  
75 balls onto a marble surface from a height of 80 cm. There are limitations

76 associated with this experiment, as in a golf situation the ball is the stationary  
77 object and the club the moving object. Therefore, Cross (2006) does not  
78 accurately replicate the putter-ball impact as it occurs on the putting green.  
79 With the initial direction of the golf ball predominantly being determined by  
80 the putter face angle (Karlsen et al., 2008), the random deflection will be less  
81 significant than observed by Cross (2006). Therefore research is needed to  
82 determine whether this mechanism is apparent to any extent in a golf  
83 environment.

84

85 Different types of putter face have previously been compared (Hurrion &  
86 Hurrion, 2002; Brouillette, 2010), however, putting remains to date an under  
87 researched area. Additionally, focus has predominantly been on the effect of  
88 topspin imparted on the golf ball rather than the initial direction of the golf  
89 ball, which is clearly an important factor of whether a putt is successful or  
90 not. Contrasting results were however observed, whereby Hurrion and  
91 Hurrion (2002) observed improved topspin in trials completed with a grooved  
92 faced putter whereas Brouillette (2010) did not report improved topspin  
93 between a grooved faced and traditional faced putter. This provides rationale  
94 to test putters with different face inserts however, neither considered the  
95 effect of the variability of the impact point on the golf ball.

96

97 The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of impact point on the golf  
98 ball on the resulting horizontal launch angle (initial direction) and side spin of  
99 the golf ball. This will be investigated using a mechanical putting arm and  
100 human participants. It was hypothesised that significant associations

101 between the variance of the kinematic variables (horizontal launch angle and  
102 side spin) and the impact point on the golf ball would exist.

103

## 104 **Methods**

105

### 106 **Participants**

107 A total of 22 right handed golfers participated in the study (age  $42 \pm 12$   
108 years; handicap  $13.6 \pm 7.4$  (handicap range 0 – 24); height  $1.76 \pm 0.21$   
109 metres; mass  $88.6 \pm 23.8$  kg). All golfers were free of musculoskeletal injury  
110 for the previous three months and played a minimum of once a week. During  
111 testing participants wore their own personal golfing attire and golf shoes. All  
112 participants provided written informed consent and the study was approved  
113 by the institutional ethics committee of University of Hertfordshire.

114

### 115 **Experimental set-up**

116 Two testing sessions were completed to establish the association between  
117 the impact point on the golf ball and the initial direction of the golf putt.  
118 Firstly, with a mechanical putting arm where the putting stroke parameters  
119 putter face angle, putter path and impact point on the putter were  
120 standardised and secondly with human participants to determine whether  
121 results are applicable in a practical setting.

122

123 A mechanical putting arm was setup to reproduce a putt of 3.2 metres on an  
124 artificial putting surface registering 12 on the stimpmeter (The United States  
125 Golf Association, Far Hills, NJ, USA). A square to square swing path was

126 selected to ensure a square club face at impact, referring to a single  
127 horizontal axis that was perpendicular to the putting line. Human participants  
128 completed a level straight 3.2 metre putt on a Huxley Golf (Huxley Golf,  
129 Hampshire, UK) artificial putting green (3.66 x 4.27 metres) registering 11 on  
130 the stimpmeter.

131

132 The putters used for both testing sessions were the grooved faced GEL<sup>®</sup>  
133 Vicis (GEL GOLF., Wan Chai, Hong Kong) and traditional faced Odyssey  
134 White Hot #3 (Callaway Golf Europe Ltd., Surrey, UK). Both putters had a  
135 standardised 69° lie and 2.5° loft. Srixon Z-STAR golf balls (Srixon Sports  
136 Europe LTD., Hampshire, UK) and Titleist Pro V1 golf balls (Acushnet  
137 Europe Ltd., Cambridgeshire, UK) were aligned using two Superline 2D line  
138 lasers (Property Perspective Ltd., Warwick, UK). Ball placement during  
139 testing with the mechanical putting arm was standardised by placing one  
140 laser directly behind the golf ball and the second 90° perpendicular to the  
141 path of the golf ball. Dimples were then orientated by ensuring the visual aid  
142 printed on the golf ball was intersected with both lasers. Participants testing  
143 were completed with only the Srixon golf ball; these were aligned in the  
144 manner as the mechanical putting arm to ensure the same placement of the  
145 golf ball across trials.

146

147 To record the horizontal launch angle (degree to which the ball deviates (°)  
148 from the original putting line) and side spin (the amount of side spin (rpm)  
149 placed on the ball at impact) of the golf ball, a Quintic (Quintic Consultancy  
150 Ltd., Coventry, UK) high speed camera (UI-5220RE) sampling at 220 Hz was

151 positioned perpendicular to the putting line. The Quintic Ball Roll v2.4 launch  
152 monitor software was used to analyse the recorded videos. A Quintic GigE  
153 high speed camera sampling at 220 Hz was positioned vertically (1.8 m  
154 above putting surface) to validate the horizontal launch angle values during  
155 testing with the mechanical putting arm. A Canon (Canon Europe Ltd, Tokyo,  
156 Japan) EOS 1000d camera was placed on a tripod away from the putting line  
157 where it did not disturb the view of the participant during the trial or impede  
158 the mechanical putting arm. This camera took images of the impact point of  
159 the golf ball post trial.

160

## 161 **Procedure**

162 During testing with the mechanical putting arm, each putter was held  
163 securely within a clamping mechanism. A putting arm block was placed at an  
164 appropriate distance behind the golf putter to produce the desired length of  
165 putt, and the putting arm was released by deactivating an electromagnet.  
166 Before each trial a thin layer of pigmented emollient was applied to the putter  
167 face and smoothed. The golf ball was then aligned using the Superline lasers  
168 dissecting the ball into four equal sections, ensuring the same position for  
169 each trial. Forty trials were completed with each putter-ball combination  
170 (GEL<sup>®</sup>-Srixon, GEL<sup>®</sup>-Titleist, Odyssey-Srixon and Odyssey-Titleist). Trials  
171 were filmed with the Quintic Ball Roll software. Additionally, after each trial a  
172 picture was taken of the golf ball placed in a pre identified position (50 cm  
173 away from the camera) (identifying the pigmented emollient imprint on the  
174 ball) with the Canon EOS 1000d camera.

175



176 During testing with human participants, an initial period of habituation was  
177 allowed with the first putter that had been randomly selected. This  
178 habituation period was repeated for the second putter when swapped during  
179 the protocol. During both habituation periods the participant was informed of  
180 the initial ball velocity threshold (2.10 – 2.28 m/s). This was to ensure a  
181 similar pace of putt between participants and during habituation subjects  
182 found it relatively easy to satisfy this criteria. After habituation, the  
183 investigator lined up the putt with the Superline lasers. This process was  
184 completed until six successful (holed) putts had been completed with each  
185 putter; however, missed putts were included within the analysis. Six  
186 successful putts were selected as criteria, due to procedural limitations (time  
187 of analysis) whilst still giving a suitable number of trials.

188

### 189 **Data Processing**

190 Using Adobe Photoshop CS5 (Adobe Systems Incorporated., CA, USA) a 0,  
191 0 coordinate was identified as the centre of the dimple pattern. This was  
192 defined as the centroid location (Figure 2; centre of the pentagon and where  
193 lines A) and B) join). All impact measurements were then made from this 0, 0  
194 coordinate. For the Srixon golf ball an equilateral triangle drawing was  
195 overlaid on the image identifying the centroid location of three dimples. The  
196 Titleist ball had two different sized dimples; therefore a pentagon drawing  
197 was placed on the image identifying the centroid location of one smaller  
198 dimple surrounded by five larger dimples.

199

200 The contact made between the putter and ball during the impact was termed  
201 the impact zone. To determine the length (mm) and angle (direction of  
202 impact from the centroid location (°)) the centre of the impact zone had to be  
203 calculated. To complete this a polygon was drawn at the outermost edges of  
204 the impact zone and intersected from the four corners, giving a centre point  
205 (Figure 2; end of line A) away from centroid location). From this, differences  
206 in length (Figure 2; of line A)) and angle (Figure 2; angle between line A) and  
207 B) between the standardised centroid location and impact point were  
208 measured. The surface area of the impact zone (area of contact between the  
209 putter and ball) was measured using ImageJ (National Institutes of Health,  
210 Bethesda, Maryland, USA). Using the polygon selection tool the edges of the  
211 impact zone were connected giving an output (mm<sup>2</sup>) of surface area (Figure  
212 2; area of grey shading within white outline). A more detailed explanation of  
213 how the data were processed is presented in Richardson, Mitchell and  
214 Hughes (2015).

215

216 FIGURE TWO ABOUT HERE

217

### 218 **Data Analysis**

219 The impact variables measured were the length of the impact point from the  
220 centroid location, angle of the impact point from the centroid location and  
221 surface area of the impact zone, which was used for the multiple regression  
222 analysis. The dependent variables were the horizontal launch angle (the  
223 degree to which the ball deviates from the original putting line) measured in  
224 degrees and side spin (the amount of cut or hook spin (rpm) placed on the

225 ball during impact). Data were exported to statistical software packages  
226 SPSS v21 (SPSS Inc, Chicago, USA) for analysis.

227

228 The linearity of the data was first assessed by examining residual plots  
229 (standardised residuals as a function of standardised predicted values)  
230 (Pedhazur, 1997). Then the data were analysed for normality by assessing  
231 histogram and box-plot graphs, kurtosis and skewness values. If kurtosis or  
232 skewness values were found to be  $> \pm 1$ , the data set was identified as highly  
233 skewed or kurtosed, between  $\pm 0.5$  and  $\pm 1$  the data set was identified as  
234 moderately skewed or kurtosed, and between 0 and  $\pm 0.5$  the data was  
235 considered to be approximately symmetrical (Bulmer, 1979) and therefore  
236 displaying normality. Any data sets that were found to be highly skewed or  
237 displaying high kurtosis was transformed logarithmically (log) in order to  
238 increase uniformity to a normal distribution curve (Atkinson & Nevill, 1998;  
239 Hopkins, Marshall, Batterham & Hanin, 2009). The only data set that  
240 required log transforming was the Odyssey-Titleist group (tested with the  
241 mechanical putting arm). Descriptive data of the log-transformed data sets  
242 are presented in their absolute form. Box-plots were used to identify outliers  
243 within the data set; if an outlier was identified for one impact variable the  
244 entire trial was removed from analysis.

245

246 Bivariate analysis was undertaken for the independent and dependent  
247 variables to ensure multicollinearity was avoided. Correlations were  
248 identified as very high if  $r \geq 0.90$  (Ntoumanis, 2001). Additionally, collinearity  
249 diagnostics, variance inflation factor (VIF) and the tolerance statistic were

250 used to assess multicollinearity. A VIF greater than 10, was identified as a  
251 cause of concern (Bowerman & O'Connell, 1990; Myers, 1990) and a  
252 tolerance below 0.2 indicated a problem (Menard, 1995). Multiple regression  
253 analysis was then completed. The independent variables length from the  
254 centroid location (mm), angle from the centroid location ( $^{\circ}$ ) and surface area  
255 ( $\text{mm}^2$ ) were the predictors used to assess whether the impact point on the  
256 golf ball effected side spin and horizontal launch angle. Level of significance  
257 was set at  $\alpha < 0.05$ .

258

## 259 **Results**

### 260 **Horizontal Launch Angle with the mechanical putting arm**

261 Mean and standard deviations for the independent variables length, angle  
262 and surface area are presented in Table 1. The multiple regression model  
263 was found to be a significant predictor of horizontal launch angle for the  
264 GEL<sup>®</sup>-Titleist ( $p = 0.001$ ), GEL<sup>®</sup>-Srixon ( $p = 0.001$ ) and Odyssey-Srixon ( $p =$   
265  $0.03$ ) groups, but not for the Odyssey-Titleist group ( $p = 0.18$ ) (Table 2). The  
266 impact variables accounted for 34% of the variability of horizontal launch  
267 angle for the GEL<sup>®</sup>-Titleist group, 44% for the GEL<sup>®</sup>-Srixon group and 21%  
268 of the variability for the Odyssey-Srixon group. The range of results  
269 observed for the horizontal launch angle were  $-1.00$  to  $0.71^{\circ}$ .

270

271 TABLE ONE ABOUT HERE

272

273 TABLE TWO ABOUT HERE

274

275 **Horizontal Launch Angle with human participants**

276 The multiple regression model was not a significant predictor of horizontal  
277 launch angle for either the GEL<sup>®</sup>-Srixon ( $p = 0.52$ ) or Odyssey-Srixon ( $p =$   
278  $0.49$ ) combinations (Table 3). Although not significant, the variability  
279 accountable to the impact (predictor) variables would have been negligible at  
280 2% ( $0.03^\circ$ ) and 1% ( $0.02^\circ$ ) for the GEL<sup>®</sup>-Srixon and Odyssey-Srixon groups  
281 respectively. Figure 3 demonstrates the different variance in the impact  
282 points on the golf ball between the mechanical putting arm and human  
283 participants, where increased variance is observed in the latter.

284

285 TABLE TWO ABOUT HERE

286

287 **Side spin with the mechanical putting arm**

288 Significant association was found between side spin with all predictors  
289 (length, angle and surface area) coupled for the Odyssey-Srixon combination  
290 ( $p = 0.04$ ). The impact variables accounted for 20% (2.8 rpm) of the variation  
291 within this group (Table 4). There were no significant associations between  
292 the impact variables and kinematic variables for the other three putter-ball  
293 combinations.

294

295 TABLE THREE ABOUT HERE

296

297 **Side spin with human participants**

298 The multiple regression model was found to be a significant predictor of side  
299 spin (Table 5) for the GEL<sup>®</sup> putter ( $p = 0.04$ ) but not for the Odyssey putter ( $p$

300 = 0.93). The impact variables accounted for 6% of variation observed in side  
301 spin (1.54 rpm) for the GEL<sup>®</sup> putter

302

303 TABLE FOUR ABOUT HERE

304

### 305 **Discussion**

306 This is the first study to have measured and analysed the effects of the  
307 impact point on the golf ball on subsequent ball roll kinematics. It was  
308 hypothesised that significant associations would exist between the variance  
309 of the horizontal launch angle and impact point variables. This were  
310 accepted with the mechanical putting arm but rejected with human  
311 participants. Regarding side spin, the hypothesis can be rejected with the  
312 mechanical putting arm and partially accepted with human participants. The  
313 variance of the horizontal launch angle with the mechanical putting arm was  
314 minimal. This however can be attributed to dimple error during putting, with  
315 the dimple orientation, putter face angle and path being controlled during the  
316 experiment. With no significant associations identified with human  
317 participants, dimple error is unlikely to have any implications on putting  
318 performance. This is also apparent with side spin where only 20% of  
319 variance was accountable for one putter-ball combination.

320

321 Pelz (2000) states that the larger the golf ball dimples, the more likely contact  
322 made on the edge of a dimple will affect the horizontal launch angle, as each  
323 dimple is covering a larger surface area. However, the smaller the dimple,  
324 the increased number of dimples there will be covering the ball, therefore

325 increasing the chance of making contact with the edge of a dimple. Although  
326 a golf ball with larger dimples has less chance of contact being made to a  
327 dimple edge, the horizontal deviation caused by impact may increase. This  
328 was not observed in the current study. Dimple circumferences of 12.4 mm  
329 (Titleist Pro V1) and 12.9 mm (Srixon Z-STAR) were measured, indicating  
330 more variability was expected for the Srixon golf ball. More variance was  
331 however observed for the Titleist ball (GEL<sup>®</sup>-Titleist = 0.15°, Odyssey-Titleist  
332 = 0.06°) in comparison to the Srixon (GEL<sup>®</sup>-Srixon = 0.13°, Odyssey-Srixon  
333 = 0.04°). Differences are marginal between each group, however, based on  
334 these results, it seems the different putters used in testing had more  
335 influence on the horizontal launch angle (and therefore success rate of a  
336 putt), rather than the impact point on the golf ball when using a mechanical  
337 putting arm with standardised stroke kinematics. This is based on the  
338 differences in variance of the horizontal launch angle being observed  
339 between putters rather than golf balls.

340

341 During testing with the mechanical putting arm, all 160 trials would have  
342 resulted in a successful putt (holed), even with the variation observed with  
343 the horizontal launch angle and side spin. Therefore, the variation  
344 accountable to the impact variables can be considered negligible for a  
345 simulated putt. This is in accordance with Karlsen et al. (2008) who stated  
346 that variables of the putting stroke including the putter face angle, putter path  
347 and horizontal impact point on the putter face (standardised in mechanical  
348 putting arm protocol) only have a minor influence on the direction  
349 consistency in golf putting in elite players. Karlsen et al. (2008) accounted

350 3% of direction consistency to the impact point on the putter face. This  
351 variability may not just be due to the variability on the putter face but also the  
352 impact point on the golf ball, as demonstrated by the results in the current  
353 study with the mechanical putting arm. This minor variation will not affect  
354 success rate from 12 feet. As Hurrion and Mackay (2012) state that for a putt  
355 to be successful from this distance a horizontal launch angle threshold of  
356  $0.75^\circ$  would need to be exceeded. Results in the current study were within  
357 this threshold whilst using the mechanical putting arm.

358

359 Along with the mechanical putting arm, dimple error can additionally be  
360 considered inconsequential for golfers, with no significant associations  
361 identified (Table 3). Differences in significant associations between the  
362 mechanical putting arm and human participants may be due to human  
363 participants' differences in stroke kinematics such as the face angle and  
364 putter path trial to trial as previously identified within the literature (Karlsen et  
365 al., 2008; Pelz, 2000). Whilst no measurements were made of the putter face  
366 angle and putter path the authors consider this to be a reasonable  
367 assumption. The magnitude of the effects of the variation in putter face angle  
368 and putter path may render the effects of dimple error statistically negligible.  
369 For example, if the left hand side of a dimple was struck by the putter, for  
370 dimple error to potentially affect the horizontal launch angle the putter face  
371 would also have to be slightly open. However, natural variation will occur in  
372 clubface angle at impact which may have contributed to the larger variation  
373 observed in golfers in comparison to the mechanical putting arm (Figure 3).  
374 Additionally, with a large range of handicaps observed in the current study



375 (handicap:  $13.6 \pm 7.4$ ), golfers with a higher handicap will demonstrate a  
376 wider range of natural variation in the face angle and putter path. Therefore,  
377 these factors will have an increased effect, rendering dimple error even less  
378 important regarding putting performance.

379

380 For a putt of 12 feet, Hurrion and Mackay (2012) state a putt with an initial  
381 horizontal launch angle of within  $0.75^\circ$  would be successful which would be  
382 produced with a putter face angle of  $0.69^\circ$  based on the putter face angle  
383 determining 92% of the direction of the putt. Based on results with the  
384 mechanical putting arm (Table 2), the addition of dimple error could reduce  
385 the chance of a successful putt. However, with results not being reproduced  
386 with golfers it can be considered that dimple error is not a problem a golfer  
387 should be concerned about, particularly considering the difficulty in  
388 controlling for it.

389

390 No literature to date has explored the initial phase of skid and side spin and  
391 has focused on when the ball enters a state of pure rolling (Alessandri, 1995;  
392 Hurrion & Hurrion, 2002; Lorensen & Yamrom, 1992; Penner, 2002). It has  
393 been stated that friction between the ball and the green removes all spin in  
394 approximately the first 20% of the roll (Pelz, 2000), therefore it may be  
395 possible that friction between the stationary ball and green contributes  
396 towards the side spin initially along with the small amounts of rotation during  
397 impact. Potentially explaining a portion of the large variability observed in  
398 human participants (Table 5).

399

400 The practical implications of this study are that golfers should not be overly  
401 concerned with dimple error, as the effects are very small and it would be  
402 very difficult to control for. Dimple error has the potential to reduce the  
403 success rates of putts by taking a putt over the initial horizontal launch angle  
404 'threshold' of a holed putt. Despite being identified as statistically not  
405 significant in the current study, dimple error may add to the direction error  
406 along with larger contributions of the putter face angle and putter path.  
407 However, as this can be considered negligible at most, therefore golfers  
408 training and practice focus should remain on factors known to affect the  
409 variability of the horizontal launch angle, with particular emphasis on the  
410 putter face angle.

411

## 412 **Conclusion**

413 Significant associations were identified between the horizontal launch angle  
414 and the point of impact on the golf ball when using a mechanical putting arm  
415 with standardised parameters. This, however, was not replicated with golfers  
416 where no significant associations were identified. The differences may be  
417 accountable to the variance across trials of the putter face angle and path  
418 with the human participants. The practical implications of this study are that  
419 golfers should not be concerned with dimple error during the putting activity  
420 and should instead focus on other elements that contribute to a successful  
421 golf putt, such as focusing on the putter face angle, which has previously  
422 been found to significantly contribute to the direction of a golf putt.

423

424

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497 **Tables**

498 Table 1. Mean  $\pm$  SD for the independent variables used in regression (HP)

499 refers to testing completed by human participants.

	Length: Mean $\pm$ SD (mm)	Angle: Mean $\pm$ SD (°)	Surface Area: Mean $\pm$ SD (mm <sup>2</sup> )
GEL <sup>®</sup> -Titleist	2.82 $\pm$ 0.85	140.94 $\pm$ 12.38	18.88 $\pm$ 4.34
GEL <sup>®</sup> -Srixon	1.49 $\pm$ 0.59	122.60 $\pm$ 41.06	21.36 $\pm$ 4.04
Odyssey-Titleist	3.09 $\pm$ 0.74	145.37 $\pm$ 11.57	21.83 $\pm$ 4.63
Odyssey-Srixon	1.59 $\pm$ 0.70	131.77 $\pm$ 54.73	23.95 $\pm$ 4.72
GEL <sup>®</sup> -Srixon (HP)	4.54 $\pm$ 2.45	152.87 $\pm$ 110.41	24.86 $\pm$ 4.78
Odyssey-Srixon (HP)	4.46 $\pm$ 2.25	119.53 $\pm$ 82.04	26.71 $\pm$ 4.98

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510 Table 2. Linear regression model, between predictors and the kinematic  
 511 variable horizontal launch angle,  $R^2$  ( $\pm$  standard error normalised as a  
 512 percentage of the mean (SE%)) and standardised coefficients.

	GEL <sup>®</sup> - Titleist	GEL <sup>®</sup> - Srixon	Odyssey- Titleist	Odyssey- Srixon
Mean $\pm$ SD				
(Right (+), Left (-), °)	0.47 $\pm$ 0.43	0.31 $\pm$ 0.30	0.12 $\pm$ 0.44	0.34 $\pm$ 0.18
$R^2 \pm$ SE%	0.34 $\pm$ 78.7	0.44 $\pm$ 74.2	0.13 $\pm$ 350.0	0.21 $\pm$ 47.1
F-ratio, ( <i>p</i> -value)	6.17 ( $<0.01$ )*	9.58 ( $<0.01$ )*	1.71 (0.18)	3.23 (0.03)*
Length ( $\beta$ ), ( <i>p</i> -value)	-0.43 (0.02)*	-0.60 ( $<0.01$ )*	-0.22 (0.29)	-0.41 (0.04)*
Angle ( $\beta$ ), ( <i>p</i> -value)	0.76 ( $<0.01$ )*	-0.14 (0.30)	0.21 (0.45)	0.23 (0.22)
Surface Area ( $\beta$ ), ( <i>p</i> -value)	-0.07 (0.72)	0.42 ( $<0.01$ )*	0.21 (0.36)	-0.23 (0.17)

513 \*Denotes significance.

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520 Table 3. Linear regression model, between predictors and the kinematic  
 521 variable horizontal launch angle,  $R^2$  and standardised coefficients with  
 522 human participants

	GEL <sup>®</sup> -Srixon	Odyssey-Srixon
Mean $\pm$ SD (Right (+), Left (-), °)	-0.07 $\pm$ 1.57	-0.22 $\pm$ 1.50
$R^2 \pm$ SE	0.02 (1.58)	0.01 $\pm$ 1.50
F-ratio, ( $p$ -value)	0.76 (0.52)	0.81 (0.49)
Length ( $\beta$ ), ( $p$ -value)	-0.04 (0.65)	-0.09 (0.28)
Angle ( $\beta$ ), ( $p$ -value)	-0.12 (0.23)	0.03 (0.67)
Surface Area ( $\beta$ ), ( $p$ -value)	0.02 (0.88)	-0.04 (0.66)

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542 Table 4. Linear regression model, between predictors and the kinematic  
 543 variable side spin,  $R^2$  and standardised coefficients are reported.

	GEL <sup>®</sup> -Titleist	GEL <sup>®</sup> -Srixon	Odyssey-Titleist	Odyssey-Srixon
Mean $\pm$ SD				
(Cut (+), Hook (-), rpm)	-12.62 $\pm$ 18.35	1.64 $\pm$ 15.25	-13.36 $\pm$ 13.76	0.86 $\pm$ 14.32
$R^2 \pm$ SE	0.20 $\pm$ 16.50	0.17 $\pm$ 14.47	0.16 $\pm$ 13.16	0.20 $\pm$ 13.31
F-ratio, ( $p$ -value)	2.84 (0.052)	2.43 (0.08)	2.21 (0.10)	3.04 (0.04)*
Length ( $\beta$ ), ( $p$ -value)	-0.31 (0.10)	-0.32 (0.07)	-0.29 (0.16)	-0.02 (0.93)
Angle ( $\beta$ ), ( $p$ -value)	-0.26 (0.24)	-0.14 (0.39)	-0.07 (0.79)	-0.37 (0.052)
Surface Area ( $\beta$ ), ( $p$ -value)	0.10 (0.62)	0.27 (0.11)	-0.13 (0.56)	-0.16 (0.35)

544 \*Denotes significance.

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553 Table 5. Linear regression model, between predictors and the kinematic ball  
 554 roll variable side spin,  $R^2$  and standardised coefficients are reported with  
 555 human participants.

	GEL <sup>®</sup> -Srixon	Odyssey-Srixon
Mean $\pm$ SD (Cut (+), Hook (-), rpm)	-10.90 $\pm$ 25.69	-8.00 $\pm$ 24.87
$R^2 \pm$ SE	0.06 (20.74)	0.003 $\pm$ 25.04
F-ratio, ( $p$ -value)	2.87 (0.04)*	0.15 (0.93)
Length ( $\beta$ ), ( $p$ -value)	-0.10 (0.26)	-0.05 (0.52)
Angle ( $\beta$ ), ( $p$ -value)	-0.04 (0.69)	-0.002 (0.98)
Surface Area ( $\beta$ ), ( $p$ -value)	0.21 (0.03)*	0.007 (0.94)

556 \*Denotes significance.

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559 **Figure titles**

560 Figure 1. Examples of the two types of contact possible during impact  
561 between the putter face and golf ball. Image A) highlighted area shows the  
562 square contact with a dimple and Image B) highlighted area shows the  
563 contact where an edge of a dimple is struck.

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565 Figure 2. Diagram demonstrating the 2D structure identifying the centroid,  
566 the polygon used to identify the centre of impact and impact variables; A)  
567 length of the impact point from the centroid, B) line representing 90°  
568 (normalised to each image) the angle is represented by the degrees between  
569 line A and B and the area surrounded by the solid white line was the surface  
570 area of the impact zone.

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572 Figure 3. X, Y scatterplot graphs demonstrating the variability in the impact  
573 point, axes have been adjusted for clarity (a large black circle represents the  
574 0, 0 coordinate). Graphs A – D were completed with the mechanical putting  
575 arm and E – F were completed with human participants (HP).

Figure 1

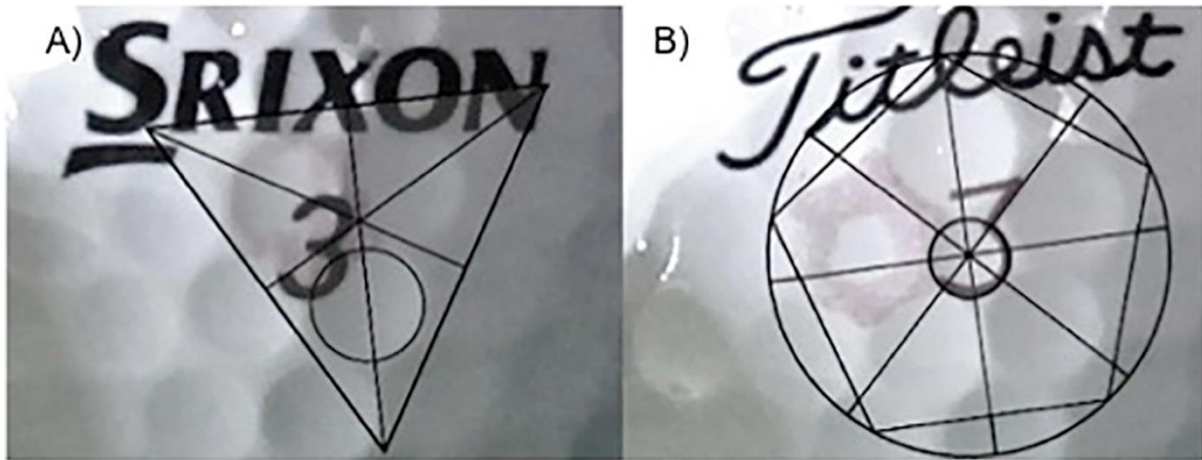


Figure 2

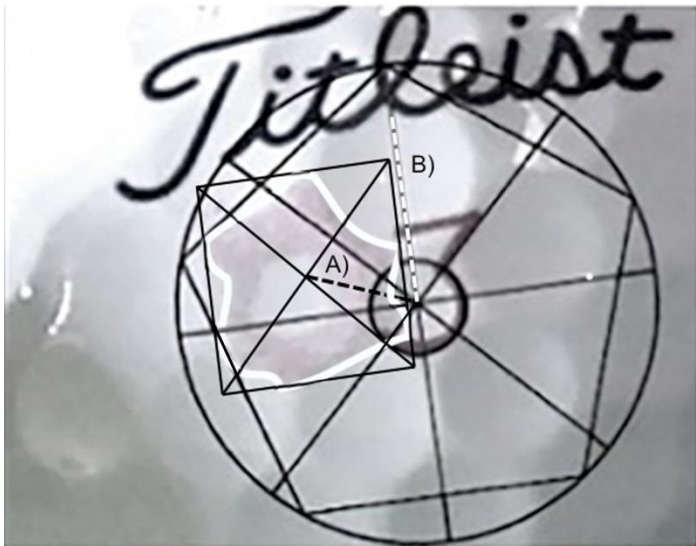


Figure 3

