

# Stab at writing up some of the Bullet findings/progress

Heike Hofmann and Eric Hare

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## 1 Data Format

The data is in x3d data format as specified for 3d topographic data. It consists of a header with scan specifications, and a two-dimensional matrix of depths recordings.

We build on the R package `x3pr` OpenFMC (2014) developed by Nicholas Petraco from John Jay College of Criminal Justice at CUNY.

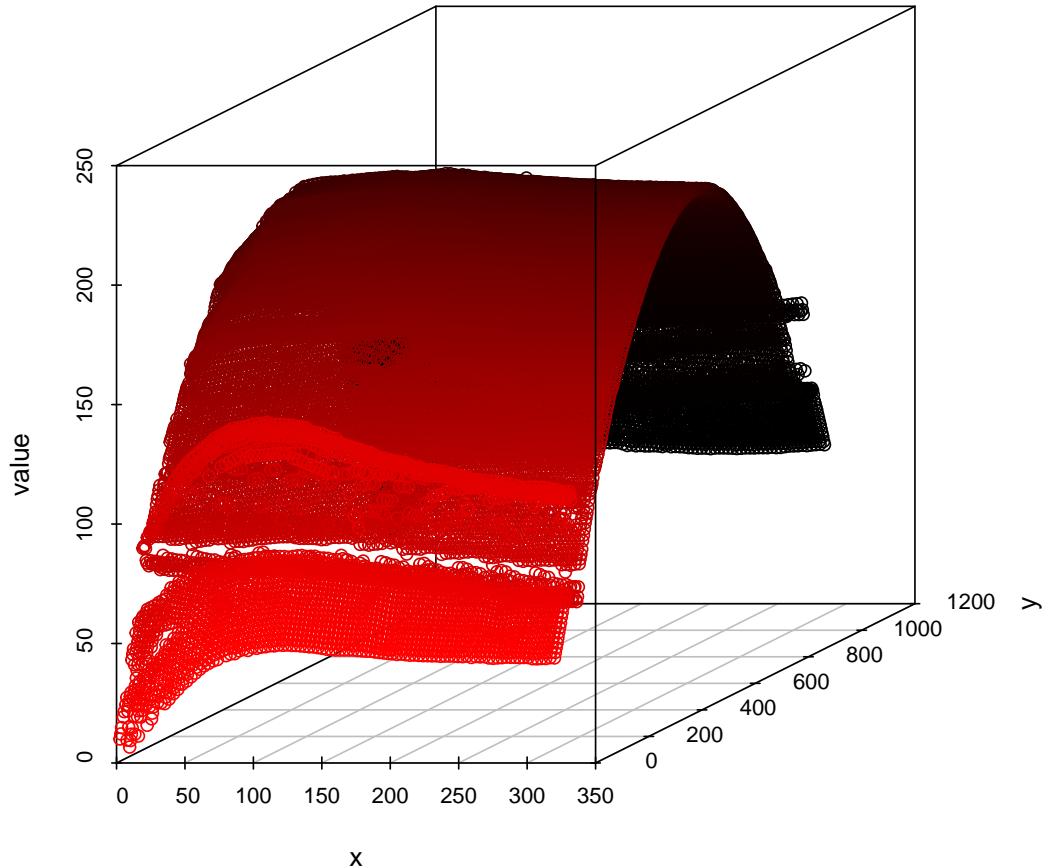
The command `fortify.x3p` (our function) allows us to get a data set of a grid of equi-spaced  $x$  and  $y$  values and scanned values:

```
require(x3pr)
require(x3prplus)
br111 <- read.x3p(paste(datadir, "Br1 Bullet 1-1.x3p", sep="/"))
dbr111 <- fortify.x3p(br111)
head(na.omit(dbr111))

##      x y     value
## 14 8.32 0 6.259791
## 15 8.96 0 6.313651
## 16 9.60 0 6.673841
## 17 10.24 0 7.528872
## 25 15.36 0 11.056715
## 26 16.00 0 11.275522
```

The NIST database at <http://www.nist.gov/forensics/ballisticsdb/> makes data for different studies available. We are looking at the James Hamby Consecutively Rifled Barrel Study (Hamby J, 2009), in particular. Each bullet is scanned six times, from one groove to the next, and each scan is stored in a separate file. The figure below shows an image of one of these scans.

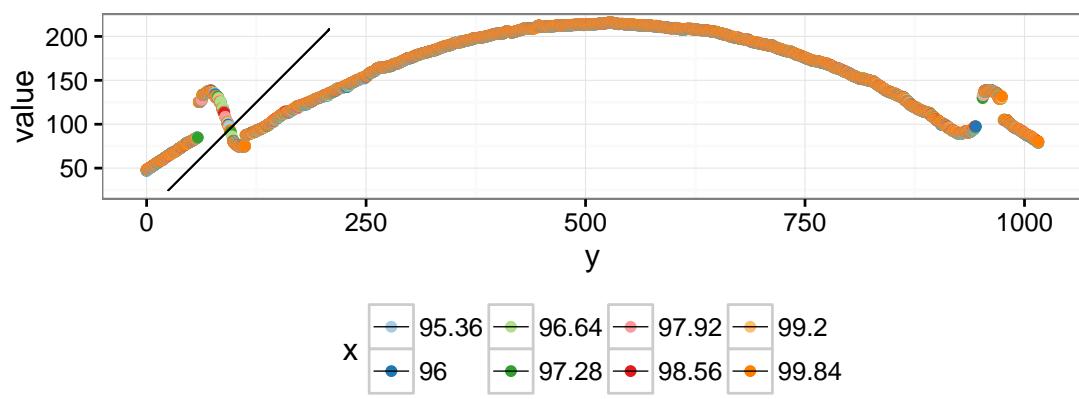
```
library(scatterplot3d)
subdbr111 <- sample.x3d(dbr111, byxy=c(5,5))
with(data = subdbr111,
      scatterplot3d(x = x, y = y, z = value, highlight.3d=TRUE,
                    angle=20))
```



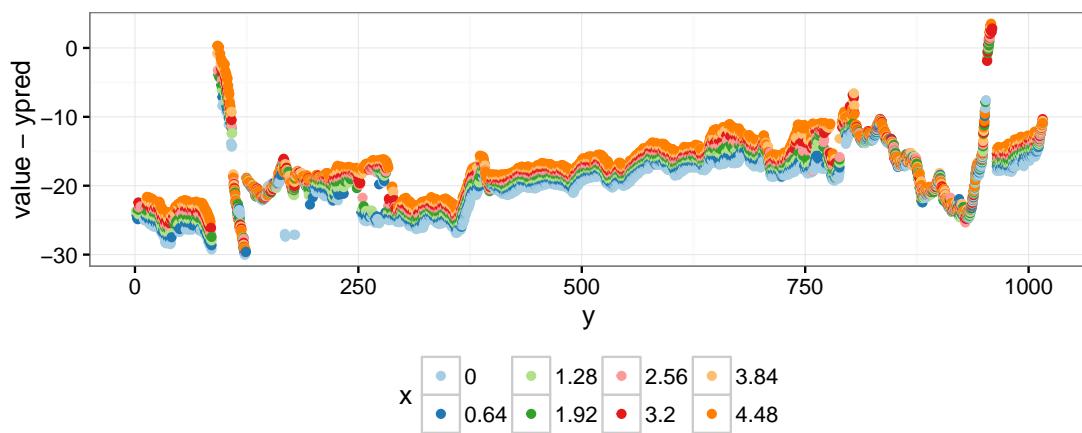
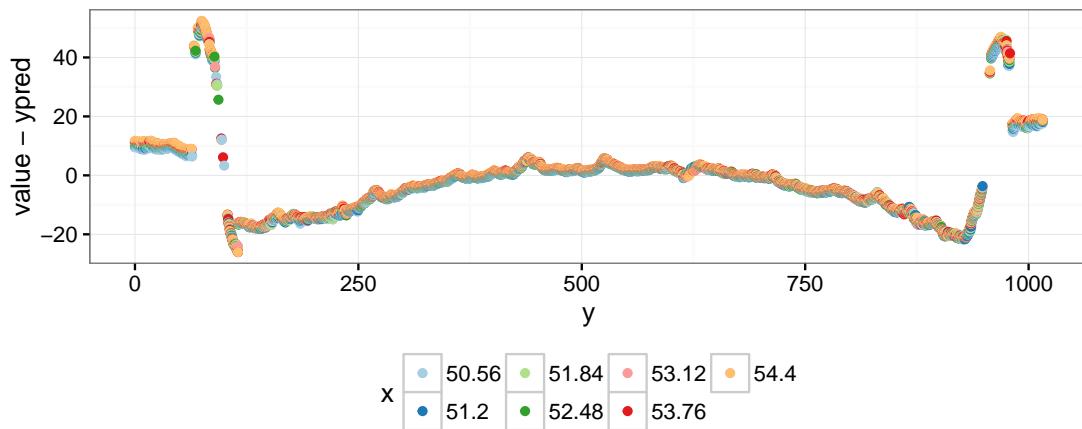
The strongest signal in the image is the curvature of the bullet. In order to be able to (statistically) focus on striations and other toolmarks, we have to model this signal first, and investigate its residuals further.

## 2 Cylindrical Fit

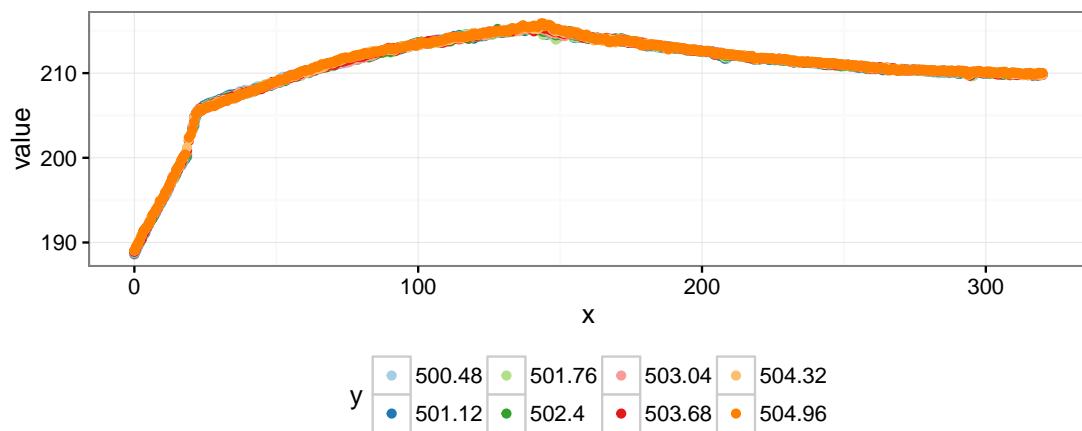
The picture below shows several cross sections of the first scan at a realistic aspect ratio. The black line is a fit assuming a perfect cylindric shape for a bullet.



The scatterplot below shows the residuals of the fit shown in the previous plot. The residuals are dominated – as to be expected – by the grooves, which show up as large positive residuals. For cross sections of  $x$  values between 50 and 55, there is a residual circular structure that does not show up for all cross sections.

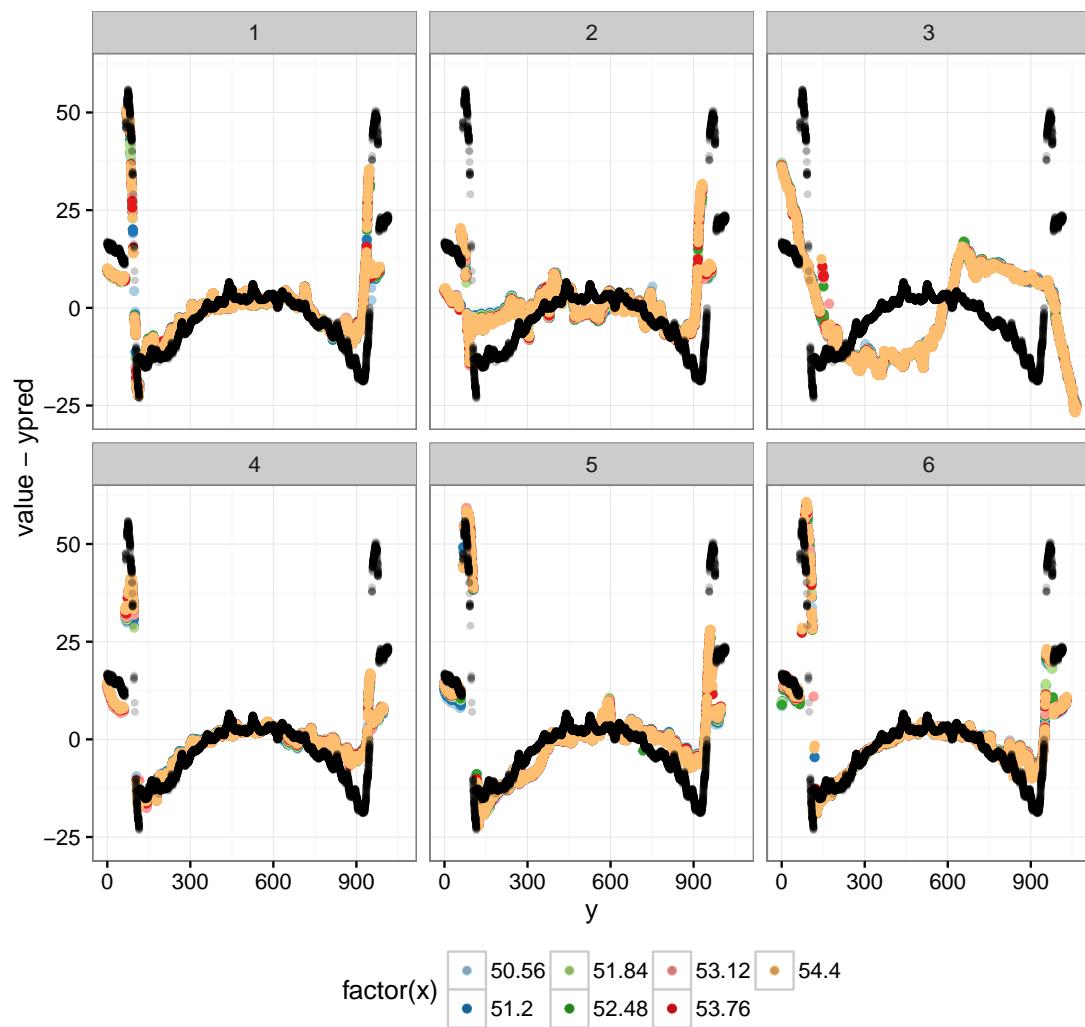


A single cylinder as a fit is unlikely to be a particularly good fit; because there seem to be quite massive deformations in vertical direction:



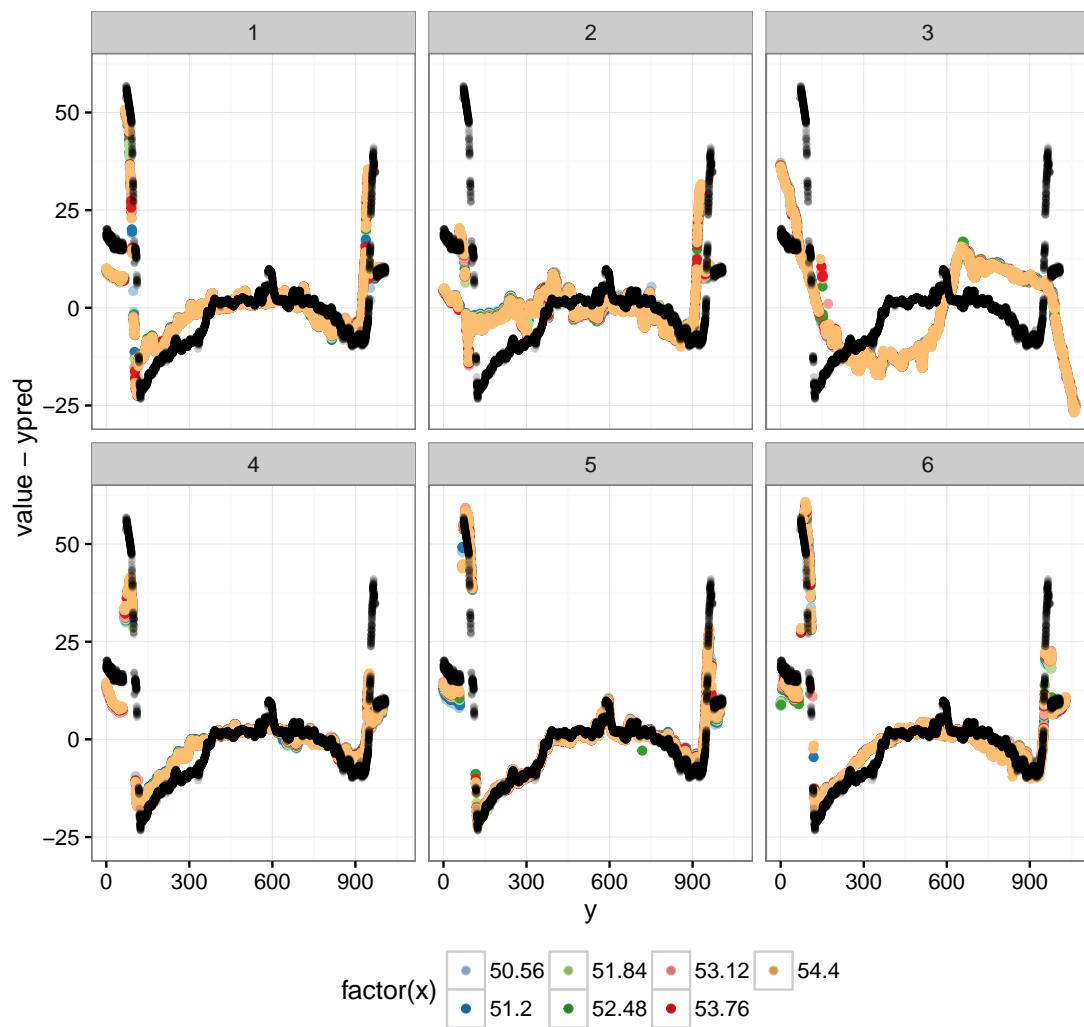
We therefore fit a circle for each cross section of the bullet, and compare the figure again:  
First attempt to match - something is wrong with bullet piece 3.

Part 1 of Bullet 1 in black



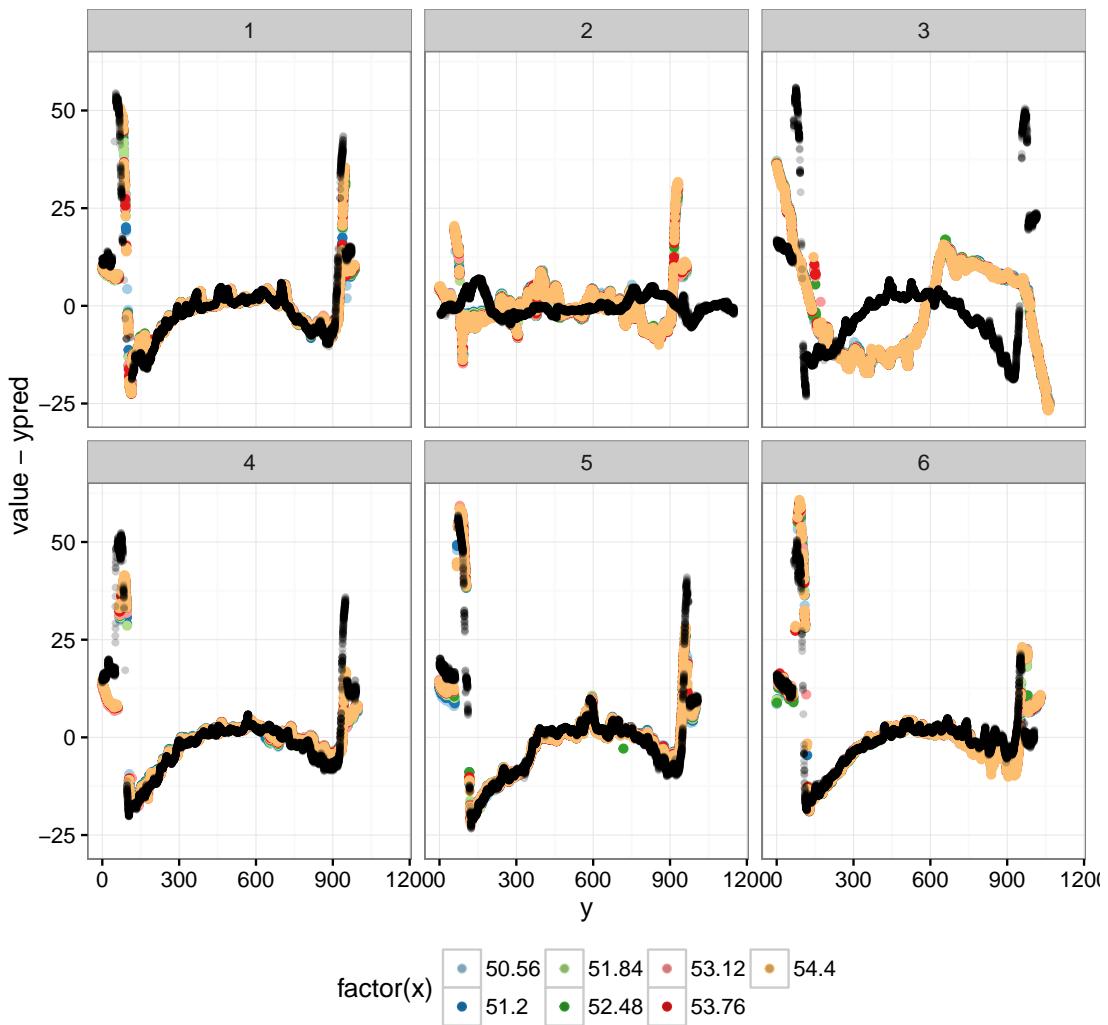
Using a different part of Bullet 1 and overlaying it on all pieces of Bullet 2.

### Part 3 of Bullet 1 in black



And now an all in one attempt to match Bullets 1 and 2 from Barrel 1. The assumptions that go into that match are, that bullets are scanned in the same manner: scans are done consecutively and are rotated between scans in the same direction.

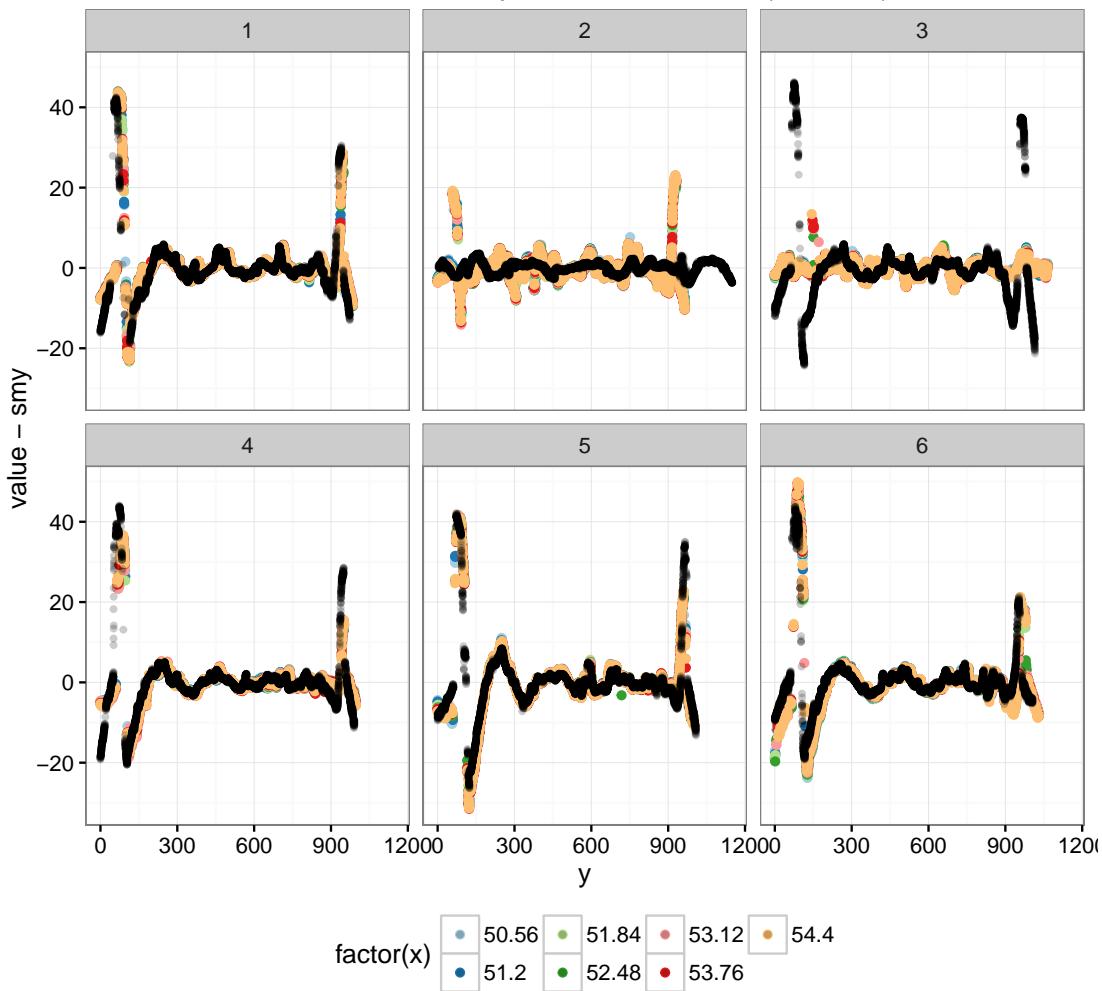
Attempt at an overall match of Bullets 1 and 2 (Barrel 1)



### 3 Nonparametric Smooth

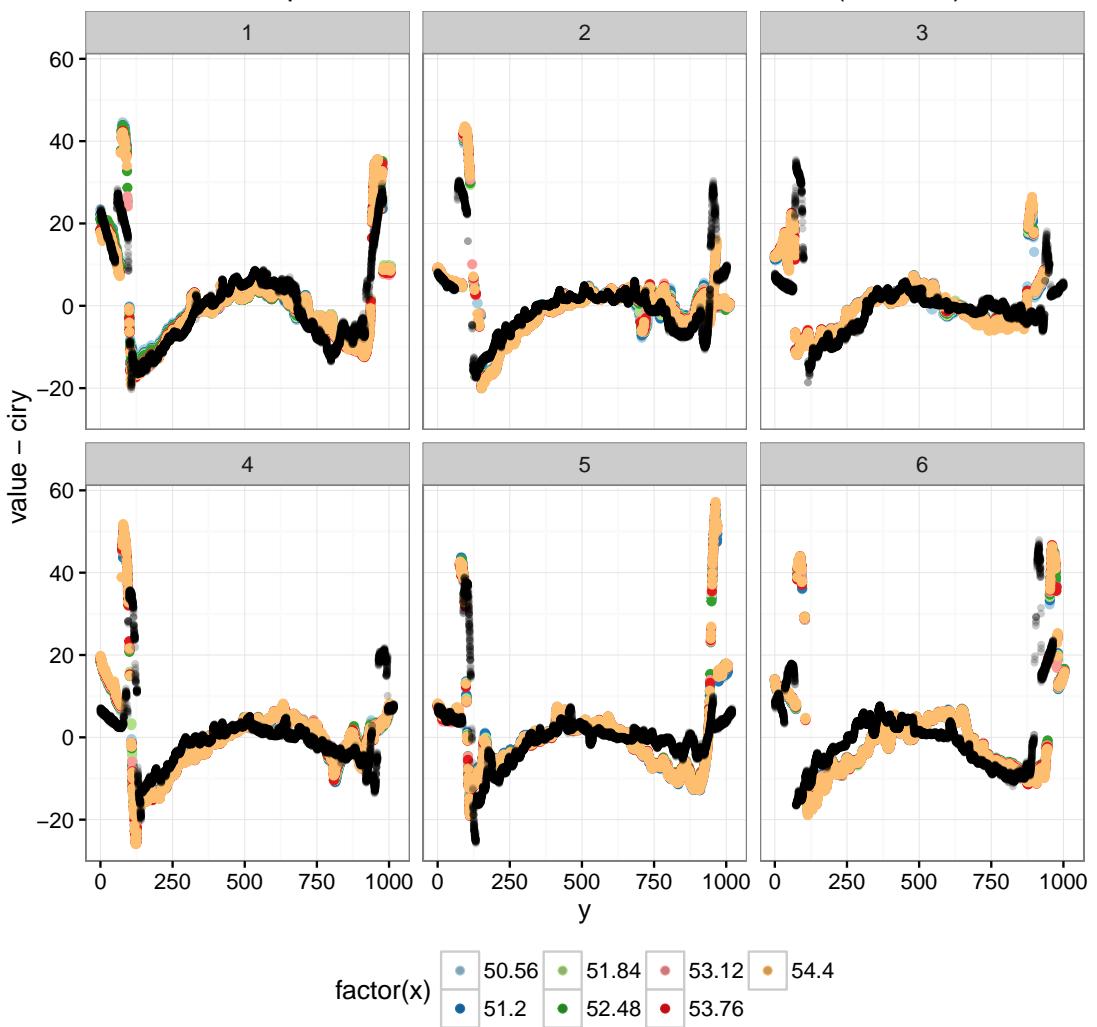
```
## Warning: Removed 2334 rows containing missing values (geom_point).
## Warning: Removed 2555 rows containing missing values (geom_point).
```

Attempt at an overall match of Bullets 1 and 2  
based on a nonparametric smooth (Barrel 1)



#### 4 Matching Bullets for Barrel 2

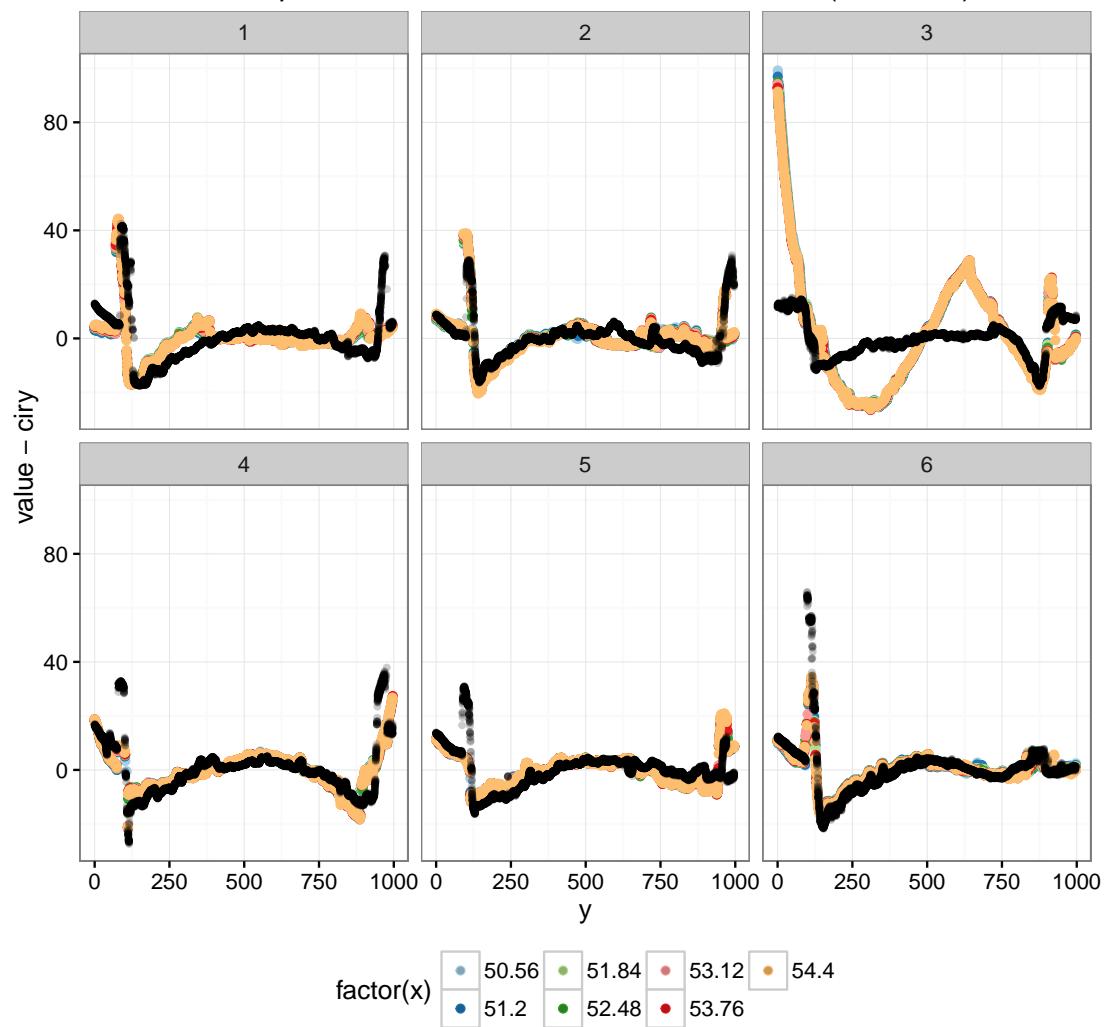
Attempt at an overall match of Bullets 1 and 2 (Barrel 2)



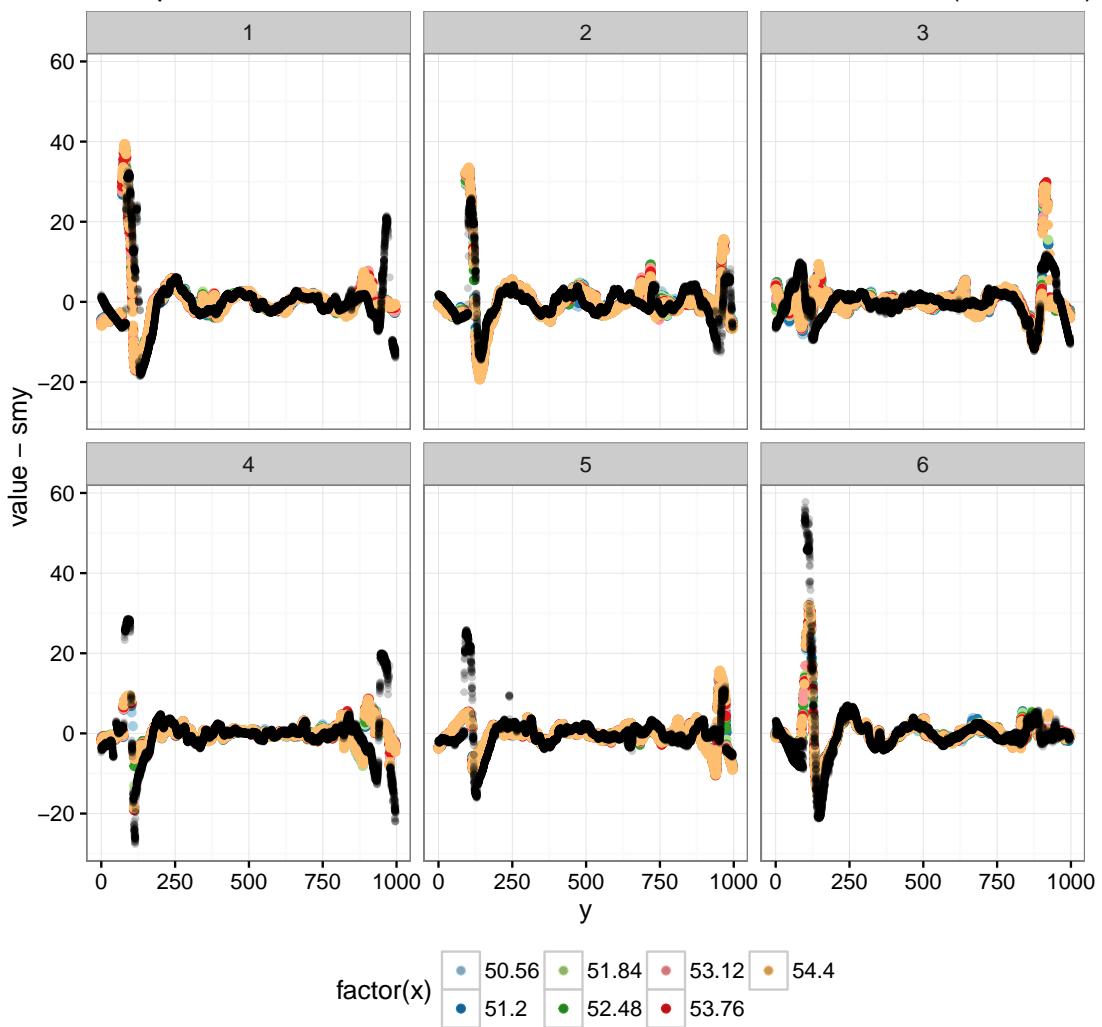
## 5 Matching Bullets for Barrel 10

The two bullets from barrel 10 are not as good a match as the two bullets from barrel 1, but piece 6 matches well with large scale detail, and parts of other pieces (middle of 4, some of 1).

Attempt at an overall match of Bullets 1 and 2 (Barrel 10)



Attempt at an overall match of Bullets 1 and 2 based on smooth (Barrel 10)



## References

Hamby J, Brundage D, T. J. (2009). The identification of bullets fired from 10 consecutively rifled 9mm ruger pistol barrels: A research project involving 507 participants from 20 countries. *AFTE Journal*, 41(2).

OpenFMC (2014). *x3pr: Read/Write functionality for X3P surface metrology format*. R package version 1.0.