

THE HEAT AND MOISTURE TRANSMISSION PROPERTIES OF KNITTED FABRICS

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INTRODUCTION

Fibre properties and fabric structures are the key factors governing the heat and moisture transmission property of a fabric. In this work, three fibre types viz.: polyester filament (P), coolmax (Co), and mercerized cotton (Cm), and three knitted fabric types: plain, plating plain, and interlock structures were investigated. KES Thermo Labo II and Thermovision were used to measure the heat and moisture transmission properties.

METHOD OF MEASUREMENTS

- Measurement of fabric surface temperature: (T_{fs})

The fabric surface temperature was measured by thermal dynamic images using the Thermovision 900 series instrument. Fabrics were placed on top of the flask which is stationed in a constant temperature bath. Two sets of temperature (35°C and 40°C) were used in the test. The distance between fabric and water was 7 cm.

- Measurement of warm/cool feeling: (q_{max})

The warmth or coolness of fabric surface was measured by the KES system [1] to obtain:

$$q_{max} = \Delta T f(\lambda)$$

where ΔT is the initial temperature difference between the heat source and the material, and

$$\lambda = 4.2 \sqrt{\frac{\rho c k}{\alpha_0}}$$

ρ : Density (g/cm^3) c : Specific heat ($J/g \cdot deg$)

k : Thermal conductivity ($J/cm \cdot deg \cdot sec$)

α_0 : Heat source constant

- Measurement of fabric thermal resistance (clo)

The fabric thermal resistance values were obtained on the KES system, the test condition was maintained at room temperature 21°C, and air movement at 0.1 m/s [1].

$$1 \text{ clo} = 0.155^\circ C \text{ m}^2/w$$

- Calculation for fabric permeability index (i_m)

The permeability index is a dimensionless expression relate vapor resistance to thermal resistance. The index were measured by KES system [1].

$$i_m = \frac{\frac{\text{resistance of material to passage of heat}}{\text{resistance of material to passage of vapor}}}{\frac{\text{resistance of air to passage of heat}}{\text{resistance of air to passage of vapor}}}$$

- Calculation for fabric comfort limit (C_{min} , C_{max})

Comfort limit is the range of body activity levels, within which an individual wearing a clothing system is predicted to be thermophysiologicaly comfort [2].

$$6.46/clo < M_n < 6.46[(T_s - T_a) + 14.025 i_m] / clo$$

where $C_{min} = 6.46/clo$, $C_{max} = 6.46[(T_s - T_a) + 14.025 i_m] / clo$

T_s : 35°C, T_a : 20°C

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The surface temperature of fabric specimen were measured at water temperatures 35°C and 40°C , after 5 minutes the measurements were taken. The results are shown in Table 1, and the q_{max} , clo , i_{m} , C_{min} and C_{max} values are shown in Table 2.

From Table 1, it was observed that the T_{fs} values at 35°C were $C_{\text{m}} > C_{\text{o}} > P$. The same relationship holds at 40°C . However, the effect of fabric structure on T_{fs} was not found obvious. From Table 2, it was noted that for the q_{max} , C_{min} , and C_{max} values, $C_{\text{m}} > P > C_{\text{o}}$ relation applies; but for the clo values it was $C_{\text{o}} > P > C_{\text{m}}$. The i_{m} values did not appear to be affected by the yarn or fabric parameters, and the effect of fabric structure in this category was again not obvious.

Table 1 Results of fabric surface temperature (T_{fs}) after 5 minutes exposure

fabric yarn	35°C			40°C		
	plain	plating	Interlock	plain	plating	Interlock
C_{m}	27	-	27	28.3	-	27.7
C_{o}	26.3	-	26.2	28	-	27.6
P	25.8	-	26.1	26.8	-	26.7
$C_{\text{m}}/C_{\text{o}}$	-	25.8	26.4	-	28	27.2
C_{m}/P	-	25.4	26.7	-	26.6	27
C_{o}/P	-	25.3	25.9	-	26.5	27.1

Table 2 Results of heat and moisture properties of fabrics

fabric yarn	clo			im			qmax			comfort limit		
	plain	plating	Interlock	plain	plating	Interlock	plain	plating	Interlock	plain	plating	Interlock
C_{m}	0.66	-	0.748	0.36	-	0.395	0.142	-	0.111	142~198	-	125~181
C_{o}	0.877	-	0.867	0.5	-	0.463	0.115	-	0.088	109~162	-	112~161
P	0.725	-	0.783	0.345	-	0.487	0.128	-	0.1	132~175	-	123~180
$C_{\text{m}}/C_{\text{o}}$	-	0.833	0.8	-	0.6	0.497	-	0.095	0.116	-	115~181	115~177
C_{m}/P	-	0.717	0.725	-	0.433	0.4	-	0.108	0.137	-	132~190	132~182
C_{o}/P	-	0.875	0.9	-	0.49	0.665	-	0.087	0.109	-	111~164	107~174

CONCLUSIONS

1. The fibre type was found affecting the heat and moisture transmission properties of knitted fabrics.
2. The effect of fabric structure was not obvious.
3. The measurement of T_{fs} by thermal dynamic image was found practical.

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