

**STUDIES ON THERMAL TRANSMISSION
PROPERTIES OF FABRICS**

by

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Department of Textile Technology

Submitted

In fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

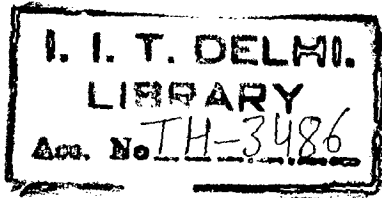
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Textile Fiber - Thermal Properties

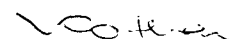
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis titled “Studies on Thermal Transmission Properties of Fabrics”, being submitted by Mrs. Debarati Bhattacharjee to the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, is a record of bonafide research work carried out by her. She has worked under my guidance and supervision and fulfilled the requirements for the submission of the thesis, which has attained the standard required for a Ph.D degree of this institute.

The results contained in this thesis have not been submitted, in part or in full, to any other university or institute for the award of any degree or diploma.



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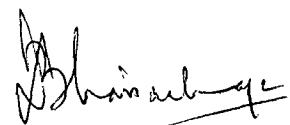
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ABSTRACT

Prediction of thermal properties of textile materials has always been an issue of concern for the characterization of clothing comfort as well as designing of textile materials for specific insulation applications. A number of investigations have been carried out to understand the phenomenon of heat transfer through fabrics. The effects of fabric and fibre properties and the environmental parameters on the thermal insulation properties have been studied by many researchers. Many methods of measurement have been devised to measure the thermal insulation of textile materials in different conditions. Prediction tools that can be used to estimate the thermal insulation of fabrics prior to their manufacture can greatly decrease the time taken to design a clothing assembly. However, a comparative analysis of different prediction tools available at present that can be used for the prediction of thermal properties has not been reported. A comparative study of different prediction models for thermal insulation based on constructional parameters of fabrics has been carried out to see which model gives the best prediction performance with least errors.

The focus of this thesis is to analyse various models that can be used to predict the thermal resistance of a woven fabric based on its basic constructional parameters. The fabric parameters considered were weave, warp and weft linear density, thread spacing, thickness and fabric weight. The last two parameters, although derived properties, have been reported to have a major influence the thermal resistance of the fabrics. Hence, inclusion of these two properties was necessary. Different methods of prediction, mainly statistical modelling and artificial neural networks were used to check their capability to estimate the thermal resistance of the same set of woven fabrics and compare the prediction performance of both these tools. It was not possible to segregate the constructional parameters and find their individual effect on the thermal resistance because

they are all inter-related to each other. It was observed that the thermal properties of fabrics are based on the collective influence of all the constructional parameters instead of one or two. A polynomial function including all the parameters as variables and consisting of linear, interactive and square terms gave the best prediction. A feed forward back propagation neural network with two hidden layers was designed with the constructional parameters as inputs and thermal resistance as output. It was seen that the neural network was able to predict the steady state thermal resistance value of the fabrics with excellent correlation and less error as compared to the statistical model.

A conduction-radiation model of heat transfer through woven fabrics was developed based on the first principles. The basic weaves can be converted into a common structure consisting of unsupported lengths of warp and weft, stack of warp and weft and air pore. This structure can be used to find the conduction heat transfer by lumped method. The radiation heat transfer through this structure was divided into two parts viz. heat transfer through air pores which can be calculated by net radiation method in an enclosed surface and secondly heat transfer through the fibrous web which can be solved with the help of linear anisotropic scattering through a web of infinite cylinders. A MATLAB based code was generated which could predict the thermal resistance of basic woven fabrics based on their constructional parameters. The values obtained from this program were compared with the actual experimental values and it was observed that the mathematical model was able to predict the thermal insulation of woven fabrics in a non-convective environment.

Convection heat transfer over the fabric at different velocities through the wind tunnel could be simulated with the help of computational fluid dynamics. The effect of various fabric parameters like fabric porosity and thickness and environmental parameters like air velocity on the convective heat losses was studied. It was observed that the

convection heat transfer increases with increase in air velocity. The convective heat transfer decreases with the increase in the fabric thickness and also with increase in fabric porosity. The latter was an interesting and contradictory observation and it was suggested that in the case of fabrics placed in a direction parallel to the wind flow, increase in porosity means increase the air pores inside in the fabric which act as insulators and the thermal resistance is increased. The mathematical model along with the values obtained from the computational fluid dynamics was used to predict the thermal insulation of fabrics, in natural as well as forced convective modes and the values obtained thereof compared well with the experimental data.

Contents

	Page No.
Certificate	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Abstract	iv
Contents	vii
List of figures	xiii
List of tables	xix
Chapter 1 Introduction	
1.1 Thermal properties of Textiles	1
1.2 Prediction of thermal properties	3
1.3 Motivation	4
1.4 Objective	5
1.5 Layout of the thesis	5
Chapter 2 Literature Review	
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Thermal properties of textiles	8
2.2.1 Quantities and Units	10
2.2.2 Methods of measurement of thermal insulation of fabrics	11
2.2.2.1 Use of sweating devices and heated manikins	13
2.3 Characterization and prediction of thermal properties	14

2.3.1	Effect of fabric and environmental parameters	14
2.3.2	Development of mathematical models	23
2.3.3	Heat transfer through porous materials	28
2.4	Studies on transient heat transfer through textile materials	32
2.5	Heat and moisture vapour transfer through textiles	39
2.6	Heat transfer by convection	41
2.6.1	Convection heat transfer through porous media	42
2.6.2	Use of computational fluid dynamics (CFD) to measure convective heat loss from simulated human body	51
2.7	Use of artificial neural networks for prediction of heat transfer	53
2.7.1	Application of neural networks in textiles	55

Chapter 3 Measurement of Thermal Resistance

	Nomenclature	58
3.1	Introduction	58
3.2	Materials	60
3.2.1	Testing of materials	61
3.3	Instruments for measuring thermal properties	64
3.3.1	Alambeta: Principle and overview	64
3.3.1.1	Description of different parts	64
3.3.1.2	Accuracy and precision of the instrument	66
3.3.2	Thermal insulation tester with wind tunnel: Principle and overview	67
3.3.2.1	Description of parts	69
3.3.2.2	Accuracy and precision of the instrument	73
3.4	Summary	74

Chapter 4 Comparison of Statistical and Neural Network Models for Prediction of Thermal Resistance

	Nomenclature	75
4.1	Introduction	76
4.2	Statistical model	77
4.3	Neural Network	78
4.4	Steady state thermal values obtained from Alambeta	83
	4.4.1 Single regression analysis	83
	4.4.2 Multiple regression analysis	86
	4.4.3 Response surface fitting of a polynomial	88
4.5	Steady state thermal resistance values obtained from thermal insulation tester in natural convection	92
	4.5.1 Single regression analysis	92
	4.5.2 Multiple regression analysis	94
	4.5.3 Response surface fitting of a polynomial	95
4.6	Steady state thermal resistance values obtained from thermal insulation tester in forced convection	97
	4.6.1 Single regression analysis	97
	4.6.2 Multiple regression analysis	99
	4.6.3 Response surface fitting of a polynomial	100
	4.6.4 Observations	101
4.7	Neural network formulation	102
	4.7.1 Network architecture	103
	4.7.2 Optimization of the network	108
	4.7.3 Reduction of error and overfitting	109
	4.7.4 Network training	110
	4.7.5 Prediction performance of the networks	111

4.7.5.1	Performance parameters	111
4.7.5.2	Observations	113
4.8	Summary	113

Chapter 5 A Mathematical Model to Predict the Thermal Resistance of Woven Fabrics

	Nomenclature	115
5.1	Introduction	117
5.2	Salient features of the model	118
5.2.1	Defining fabric geometry	118
5.2.1.1	Modified diameters of yarns	122
5.2.2	Conductive heat transfer through fabric	123
5.2.2.1	Effective conductivity of yarns	126
5.2.3	Radiative heat transfer through fabric	126
5.2.3.1	Radiative heat transfer through air pore	127
5.2.3.2	Radiative heat transfer through yarns	129
5.2.4	Combining all the modes together	131
5.3	Experimental validation with λ values for conductive and radiative heat transfer	132
5.3.1	Materials	133
5.3.2	Comparison of theoretical and experimental values	133
5.4	Summary	139

Chapter 6 Heat transfer in Natural and Forced Convective Environments

	Nomenclature	140
6.1	Introduction	141

6.2	Theoretical aspects	142
6.3	Features of FLUENT	144
6.4	Computational aspects	145
6.4.1	Pre-processing of the model	146
6.4.1.1	Meshing	146
6.4.1.2	Materials	147
6.4.2	Boundary and initial conditions	148
6.4.2.1	Processing parameters for forced and natural convection heat transfer	149
6.4.2.2	Discretization, relaxation factors and convergence conditions	150
6.5	Post processing and analysis of results	151
6.5.1	Heat transfer by convection over uncovered plate	152
6.5.2	Effect of air velocity on the convective heat transfer coefficients	154
6.5.3	Effect of thickness of the material	164
6.5.4	Effect of porosity of the material	166
6.5.5	Experimental validation with thermal resistance values obtained from thermal insulation tester for conductive, convective and radiative heat transfer	173
6.5.5.1	Comparison of theoretical and experimental values	176
6.6	Summary	177
Chapter 7	Conclusions	179
Chapter 8	Suggestions for Further Work	183
References		185

Appendices

A	Calculation of maximum heat losses and resistance of the heater wire	194
B	Uncertainty of the thermal insulation tester	195
C	Plots of single and multiple regression analysis for the thermal resistance values obtained from Alambeta and thermal insulation tester	196
D	Code for the feed forward back propagation neural network model	211
E	Calculation of complex angle of refraction	212
F	MATLAB input file for measurement of resistance to thermal conduction and radiation	213
Bio-data		218