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Hemdan A. Abo-Taleb

IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICABILITY PROPERTIES OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY FABRICS

تحسين خسواص الخدمسه للأقشة العسكريسة المصبريسة

 Bv

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خبيلاصية ب في هذا البحث أجريت محاولة للتعديل في التركيب الأنشائي للاقشة التي تصنع منها الملابس الخارجيه للجنود ابغرض زيادة عبر خدمتها باللهذا التعديل أمكن تحقيقه عن طريق معرفة ألعبوامل الانشائية البثالية للقباش بثل البادة الخام المستعملة في خيوط اللحمة » نعرة خيط اللحمة » كثافة الحدقات والتصبيم النسجى · الخواص البيكانيكيه التي تم دراستها والمتعلقه بالاستعمال النهائي للملابس الخارجيه للجنود هي أجهاد القاش تتيجة للاستطالة المتكرره، خواص ترييع القسائل بعسد الاستطالة » تحمل القياش للذي المتكررة حيل الشد واستطالة القطع للاقيشة » مقاومة القياش للتأكسل والثنى لمعا وصلابة القياش عند الثنى · الموديلات الرياضية التي تصف هذه الخواصألمن الحصول عليها أسا باستخدام طريقة تصميم التجارب ــ للتنبو؛ بخواص الخدمه النوم معين العلابس الجنــــــــــود الخارجيه الصيغيه بأستعمال الطريقه البيانيه والطريقه الرياضيه وجد أن التركيب الأنشائي الأمثل لاحد أنواع الاقتشه التستعمله لصناعة البلايس الخارجية للجنود يوصى بأن يحتوى على خيوط لحمه نيره ٢٥٢] انجليزي لخلوطه من القطن والبولي أستر بنسبة ٥٠٪ لكل منهما بأستعمال ٦٠ حدقه في البوضة مع تركيب تسجى ميرد ٢/١ وقالك مع استعمال مواصفات السداء للصنف رقم ٢٥٠٩٠

ABSTRACT- In this paper an attempt has been made to modify the construction of one type of fabrics which are used to make outer wear cloths for soldiers in order to increase its service life. This modification could be achieved by means of knowing the optimum constructional factors of fabrics such as material used for weft yarns, weft yarn linear density pick density and weave design (average float length). The investigated mechanical properties that correlated with the end-use performance of the outer wear cloths of soldiers are fabric fatigue at repeated extension, relaxation characteristics of fabrics at extension, fabric endurance to repeated flexing, tensile load and extensibility of fabrics, flexing and abrasion resistance of fabrics and stiffness at bending. Mathematical models describing these properties could be obtained, by using fact-
orial design method, for predicting the service life behaviour of military fabrics. By using both the graphical and mathematical methods, it wa found that the optimum fabric construction to make outer wear cloths for soldiers is recommended to be contained weft blended yarns (50% cotton/ 50% polyester) of 52/2 Ne (11.36 x 2 tex) at 60 picks/inch with using twill I/2 weave design and with using warp specifications of article No. 2509.

1. INTRODUCTION

Fabrics which are used to make outer wear cloths for soldiers during training and battle fields are exposed in many cases to extra stresses-especially at the elbow, knee, collar, sleeve and sitting place-than the same fabrics used in civil services, this of course, leads to a great reduction in the actual lifetime of these garments.

Although military fabrics are widely used in the army as an outer wear cloths for soldiers, no work has yet been carried out to design or modify these military fabrics. The military fabrics must suit product specifieations for the resistance to repeated extension, repeated flexing and abrasion and creep-recovery properties, absorbed energy in ten-
sile deformation and limpness. These product properties are correlated to a large extent by the material used, pick density, yarn structure and weave design.

Any attempts to modify the construction of these fabrics to suit the inviormental conditions and nature of end-uses will lead to increase the service life of these garments, and consequently to reduce the yearly consumption of these fabrics.

The purpose of the study reported in this paper was to modify the construction of the military fabrics which are used to make outer wear cloths for soldiers to increase its service life by means of knowing the optimum constructional factors of these fabrics.

When designing a fabric to suit specific product demands, it is fairly easy to suit any one of the demands. But suiting two or more demands makes the problem difficult enough to consider a mathematical treatment.

2. FABRICS PRODUCED AND EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

Misr Spinning & Weaving Co. in El-Mehalla El-Kubra produces three different articles of military fabrics used to make outer wear cloths for soldiers with the following specifications:

* P- polyester fibres, ** C- cotton fibres.

However, it is necessary to determine the optimum constructional factors of these fabrics. For studying the wear problem of these fabri-
ics the first article No. 2509 was basicly selected with changing its specifications only in weft direction according to the next experimental
plan. The experimental plan that was used was fractional factorical design [1] of four variables at two levels, namely, -1 and +1.

The response Y is given by a second-order polynomial, i.e.:

$$
Y = bo + \sum_{i=1}^{k} bi Xi + \sum_{i,j=1}^{k} bij Xi yi,
$$

where $Xi = i$ th variable.

k = number of variables, and

bo, bi and bij = regression coefficients associated with the variable.

In order to determine the regression coefficients, the response Y had to be found by using different experimental combinations of the variables under consideration. For the case of four variables, the actual levels of the variables are given in Table I and the experimental plan is given in Table II.

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Table I: Lavels of Studied Variables.

Table II: Experimental Plan for Four Variables.

3. METHODS OF FABRIC TESTING

The fabrics produced in El-Mehalla Co. were tested in the labora-
tories of Science of Textile Materials Dept. (Moscow Textile Institute) in order to determine the most important properties such as fabric fatique at repeated extension, relaxation characteristics of fabrics at extension, fabric endurance to repeated flexing, tensile load and exten-
ibility to breakage of fabrics, flexing and abrasion resistance of fabrics and fabric stiffness at bending.

3.1 Fabric Fatigua at Repeated Extension:

Fabric fatigue at repeated extension was tested by the pulsator PD-5M shown in Fig. 1 designed by Prof. A. Koblyakov in Moscow Textile
Institute, Dept. of science of textile materials. This instrument allows testing for repeated extension of five fabric specimens 0.1 - 5 mm thick simultaneously. The instrument has a high sensitivity and the maximum error in deformation, 0.02 mm. The tests were carried out with the following conditions:

Fig. 1: Diagram of pulsator PD - 5M

The instrument (Fig. 1) has clamping units for specimen 1, locks 6 in quides 7, the loading arrangement 5 with change weights 4, the balancing arrangement 8 with weights 9, pushers 2 of semispherical shape mounted on rods 3 which rest on cross-piece 10 which interacts with the
amplitude adjuster 11. The latter is kinematically connected with cam 15 of the distributing shaft 16 which carries also the cam 20 and ensures the control of lock 6 by means of the lever 21 and rod 22.

The instrument is also orgyided with a worm drive 17 kinematically connected through a couple of gears 18 and 19 with the distributing shaft 16, the scale of cyclic amplitude 13, the scale of residual deformation 23, the counter unit 14 and the counters of deformation cycles (not shown in the drawing).

The specimens are deformed by the pusher 2 with rod 3 which is moved in action by the displacement of cross-piece 10 with the closed ball lock. When the pusher reaches the maximum amplitude unloading and rest of specimens start. Then, the ball lock disengages the bush, which ensures the take-up of residual cyclic deformation. In the ball lock there is a skew bushing which in rotating makes the balls out of engagement with the power bushing. The rotation is effected by rod 22 displaced by lever 21 which is moved by cam 20.

When operating, the amplitude is adjusted by means of mechanism 11. The value of amplitude is reqistered on scale 13. At the same time, on the loading arrangement 5 a maximum load is set by means of change weights 4.

Prior to starting the tests adjust the amplitude by turning the knob 12 (See Fig. 1) up to the required division on scale 13, the defor-
mation freauency by changing the gears 18 and 19, and the required number of deformation cycles.

This later process is automatic and performed as follows. Press the knob of the cycle counters (not shown in the drawing) and turn it counterclockwise. Holding the knob on the general counter 14, set the number of deformation cycles by pushing the button of this counter.

Mounting of specimens in the clamp is made as follows. A 100 - mm diameter specimen is placed between clamping rings, inserted into a sleeve and fixed with a nut. The clamp with the specimen is placed in a

special seat, the clamping nut is tightened with a wrench, placed on the power bushing and fixed with a union nut. A static tension load is placed on the clamps, the instrument is switched on and the readings of the residual cyclic deformation are taken on the scale 23. The results obtained of residual cyclic deformation are shown in Table III.

3.2 Relexation Characteriatics of Fabrics at Extension

For evaluating the shape retention of fabrics it is important to study their relaxation characteristics at extension. For testing the fabrics for single-cycle extension (creep-creep recovery properties), A. Koblyakov and V. Osipov have designed a new unified tester PRTP.

Figure 2 shows the general view of this the instrument. The fabrics could be tested on this instrument with the following conditions:

Fig. 2: Tester PRTP.

1- Power unit; 2- control unit; 3- housing; 4- stands; 5- cross-piece;
6- multiplier; 7- working clamp; 8- control handle; 9- rods;
10- scale; 11- control switch; 12- scale; 13- non-working clamp (at uniaxial extension); 14- clamp at double-axial extension.

The equations for calculating the component parts of deformation are given below:

total deformation (φ) , %

$$
\sum = (L_1 - L_0)/L_0 \times 100
$$

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instantinuous (quickly recoverable deformation Σ_1 , %)

 $\mathcal{E}_1 = (L_1 - L_2)/L_0 \times 100$

elastic (slowly recoverable deformation ζ_2 , %)

 $\mathcal{E}_2 = (L_2 - L_3)/L_0 \times 100$

permenant (non-recoverable deformation $f(x)$, %)

 $\begin{array}{ll}\nE_3 = (L_3 - L_0)/L_0 \times 100 \\
\text{Where } L_0 \text{ is the initial (gauge) length of the tested specimen; } L_1 \text{ is the} \\
\text{length of the specimen in the last measurement under load; } L_2 \text{ is the}\n\end{array}$ length of specimen immediately (from 1 to 2 sec.) after removal of load L₃ is the length of specimen in the last measurement of deformation after removal of load (at rest).

However, the recoverable deformation ($\mathcal{E}_1 + \mathcal{E}_2$) are determined at a constant load (5% of breaking load). The results obtained of the recoverable deformation are shown in Table III.

3.3 Fabric Endurance to Repeated Flexing

The resistance of military fabrics to destruction during use depends on many factors, among which the repeated flexing. It causes the
fatigne of the material resulting in the local change of fabric structure and progressive deterioration of its properties. For assessing the fabric resistance to repeated flexing the term of endurance was used. The number of bending cycles which the material withstands up to its destruction is known as endurance.

Resistance of fabrics to repeated flexing is determined in flex testers. The automatic flex tester for fabrics is used for transversal destruction of fabric specimens at the fold. The tester can be used
for testing three specimens simultaneously. The tester operates on the principle of transformation of the motor shaft rotation through a crank gear into oscillatory motion of the lop jaws. The specimen 3 (Fig. 3),
as a strip 10 mm wide is fixed in the jaws 2 and 4. The screw 1 reli-
ably fixes the specimen in the top jaws which, effecting oscillatory motion with a speed of 100 cycles per minute, can bend the specimen bel the line of its clamping. A static load is suspended from the lower ja
4 by means of weights 5. The used static load was 25% of breaking load Each couple of jaws is equipped with electrical pulse counters for reco rding the number of bends. The counters are switched by means of electric magnet control contacts.

After the readings are taken, the counters are set to zero.

Fig. 3: Schematic diagram of flex tester.

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When the specimen is mounted in the jaws, the instrument front panel is closed with a cover and the switch is turned on. The signal lamp goes up, thus indicating that the instrument is ready for work. The Ine instrument is stopped at the breakage of the last specimen and also when the cover is opened.

The endurance of the specimen greatly depends upon such testing parameters as the angle and radius of bending, static stretching load and width of the specimen.

The tests were carried out with the following conditions:

The results of enducrance are shown in Table III.

3.4 Specific work of Rupture in Tensila Deformation

Fabric specific work of rupture is given by $[2]$, as:

Fabric sp. work of rupture in $q(f)/\text{tex}$ =

energy to break specimen in g(f).Cm

area density of fabric in a/m^2 X specimen width in mm X specimen length in cm

The specific work of rupture (absorbed energy) in the fabric quves a useful comparative value of the fabric resistance to breakage as a result of repeating loading cycles. The absorbed energy in each fabric
specimen could be obtained from the above expression. The results obtained are shown in Table III.

3.5 Flexing and Abrasion Resistance of Fabrica

Wear is a process occurring in time under the action of some fact-
ors causing its destruction. The ability of the material to resist destruction is called wear resistance. Abrasion is one of the most largely encountered kind of wear, as a result of which a considerable part of the material is lost under the action of friction. The capacity of the material to resist destruction due to abrasion is called the abrasion resistance [3].

The fabrics were tested by means of Flexing and Abrasion Tester
shown in Fig. 4 following ASTM standard methods [4]. For testing the abrasion, the following conditions were used: tested specimen 8 in. long and 1 in. wide after ravelling; number of specimens from each sample, 10; pressure on abradant plate, 2 lb: fabric strip under a tension
of 5 lb using unidirectional abrasion to automatic end point.

When the specimen is completely abraded the instrument is automatically stopped and the number of cycles is recorded on the counter. The results obtained are shown in Table III.

3.6 Fabric Stiffness at Bending

Stiffness is the ability of fabrics to resist changes in their shape at bending deformation and it affects their draping capacity, i.e the ability to form soft rounded folds with a small radius of curvature[3]. Mansoura Engineering Journal (MEJ) Vol.14, No.2. Dec. 1989

Fig. 4: Schematic diagram of flexing and abrasion tester.

The fabric stiffness is determined on a flexibility tester by the cantilever method. The tested specimen 1 (Fig. 5) is symmetrically placed with the face upwards on a horizontal supporting platform 3 and fixed in place by a weight 2. When the switch 8 is cut in the mechanism 7 smoothly and uniformly lowers the movable side shelves of the platform, thus imparting a flexural deformation to the test specimen. From the moment of its seperation from the platform the specimen flexes under the action of its own weight. When the side shelves are completely lowered,
the deflection indicator 5 is displaced upwards by screw 6, noting on scale 4 the deflection f of both sides of the specimen with a precision
up to 1 mm. Ten specimens of 160 x 30 mm in size are cut in weft direction for each sample according to the standard method.

Fig. 5: Diagram of a flexometer for determining stiffness of fabrics at bending.

The relative deflection is calculated by the formula;

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$$
f \circ = \frac{\dot{f}}{1} \times 100
$$

Where f is the average deflection of tested specimens, cm; L is the length of the hanging-down ends of the tested specimen, equal to 7° Cm (see Fig. 5). The results of relative deflection are listed in Table III.

Table III: Experimental Data.

* RCD = residual cyclic deformation at repeated extension, mm.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Experimental Analysis

The results obtained for residual cyclic deformation; recoverable deformation; endurance; specific work of rupture; flexing and abrasion resistance and relative deflection in Table III were fed to an U.K. 101
computer, and regression coefficients were determined. The coefficients were tested for significance at the 95% significance level. Only significant terms were taken into consideration for a further analysis of the results. The response-surface equations for the various fabric characteristics are given in Table IV with the correlation coefficients between the experimental values and the calculated values obtained from the response-surface equation. The response surface agrees fairly with the experimental data, as can be seen from the high correlation coefficients. Contour maps were constructed by using the response-surface equations as shown in Figures $6 - 17$.

4.2 Graphical Method

Figures 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 are contour plots of each property on two or three dimensions represent two or three variables in a twodimensional space when $X2 = +1$ (material used 50% P/50% C). But Figures 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 are contour plots of each property when $X2 = -1$
(material used 100% cotton). The plots show how the studied properties behave within the limitation of the tested materials.

The problem of improving the servicability properties of military fabrics could be solved by overlaying the graphs (Figures 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16) of the response - surfaces together as shown in Fig. 18. Overlaying the graphs $(6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16)$ when $X2 = +1$ (50 P/50 C) is prefered to overlaying the graphs $(7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17)$ when
 $x2 = -1$ (100% cotton) because when $x2 = +1$, the best servicability properties can be achieved. In Fig. 18 if the value of residual cyclic deformation was equal to 7.6 mm and downward and % age recoverable

Fig. 6: Contours for residual cyclic deformation(mm).

Fig. 7: Contours for residual cyclic deformation(mm).

Fig. 8: Contours for recoverable deformation (%)

------- Cross section of (x_3-x_1) at $x_2 = +1$, $x_4 = 0$ Yarn count

Float length _______ Cross section of (x_3-x_4) at $x_2 = -1$, $x_1 = 0$ ------- Cross section of (x_3-x_1) at $x_2 = -1$, $x_4 = 0$ Yarn count

Float iength _____ Cross section of (x_3-x_4) at $x_2 = +1$, $x_1 = 0$ Yarn count ------- Cross section of (x_3-x_1) at $x_2 = +1$, $x_4 = 0$

Flost length - - - Cross section of (x_3-x_4) at $x_2 = -1$, $x_1 = 0$ -------- Cross section of (x_3-x_1) at $x_2 = -1$, $x_4 = 0$ Yarn count

Fig. 14: Contours for flex & abrasion resistance (Cycle).

Fig. 15: Contours for flex & abrasion resistance (Cycle).

Fig. 16: Contrours for relative deflection (%).

---------- Cross section of (x_3-x_4) at $x_2 = +1$, $x_1 = 0$
-------- Cross section of (x_3-x_1) at $x_2 = +1$, $x_4 = 0$ Flost length-Yarn count

Fig. 17: Contours for relative deflection (%).

Float length ______ Cross section of (x_3-x_4) at $x_2 = -1$, $x_1 = 0$ --------- Cross section of (x_3-x_1) at $x_2 = -1$, $x_4 = 0$ Yarn count

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Table IV: Response-surface Equations.

residual cyclic deformation.

recoverable deformation (cross section of (x_7-x_4) at $x_1 = 0$) endurance (Cross section of (x_3-x_4) at $x_1 = 0$)
Sp. work of rupture (Cross section of (x_3-x_4) at $x_4 = 0$) flex & abrasion resistance. . . .

-- relative deflection (Cross section of (x_3-x_1) at $x_4 = 0$)

deformation was larger than 1.8 and endurance was equal to 1400 cycles and upward and specific work of rupture in tensile deformation was greater than 0.6 gf/tex and abrasion resistance was higher than 1900 cycles and relative deflection was more than 50%, then the desired constructional factors would be found either in point A which $X_1 = +0.6$ (52/2 Ne);
 $X_2 = +1$ (material used 50 P/50 C); $X_3 = +1$ (60 picks/inch) and $X_4 = +0.6$
(average float length 1.8) or in point B which $X_1 = -0.06$ (38.8/2 Ne) which represent all the investigated properties.

4.3 Mathematical Method

Although the graphical solutions seem to be a reasonable approach, the graph is not general because other solutions may be better. Then, the solution of equations will in general solve the problem. However, some inequality constraints are made, by many iterations, to obtain one optimum solution for the equations as the following:

 y_1 $\left\langle \beta \right\rangle$ mm; y_2 $\left\langle \right\rangle$ 2.2; y_3 $\left\langle \right\rangle$ 1300; y_4 $\left\langle \right\rangle$ 0.70; y_5 $\left\langle \right\rangle$ 1900 and y_6 $\left\langle \right\rangle$ 70.

By using the computer "Micronet" all six nonlinear equations are solved and one result could be printed as one optimum solution for the six equations. Table V shows the typical computer solution for the six equations.

Table V: Solution of Equations.

Then the graphical solution, at point A, supports the validity of the mathematical solution. Thus, these computed optimum factors can be used to design a new military fabric for soldiers with a long service life.

2.2855 1358.75 0.72206 1940.279 72.2454

5. CGNCLUSION

7.603

The study reported in this paper with respect to both blend ratio, yarn linear density, pick density and weave design, led to the determin-
ation of the values of these variables that permit the longest service life to be attained for one type of military fabrics.

Thus, in this paper, it could be deduced that the optimum values of the studied variables are yarn count(English), 52/2 Ne; cotton percent in the blend, 50%; pick density, 60 picks/inch; and average float length, 1.7, (weave design is nearly twill 1/2).

These optimum factors are very important for designing a new fabric, with a longer service life, suits the outer wear cloths for soldiers in Egypt.

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