
Effect of Lowering Twist Levels on Quality Parameters of Rotor Spun Cotton Yarn

FAROOQ AHMED*, GHULAM YASIN SHAIKH**, AND ASHFAQUE AHMED PATHAN***

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ABSTRACT

Investigations were made to explore the influence of lowering twist level on quality characteristics of rotor spun yarn. Three levels of yarn linear density (i.e. 40, 35 and 30 tex) and five levels of twist (i.e. 700, 600, 550, 500, and 450) were employed during yarn spinning trials. Each twist multiple was investigated at all linear densities for tensile strength, elongation, total CV_m (Coefficient of Mass Variation) imperfection index and hairiness. 100% cotton yarn samples were prepared on Reiter R-40 at rotor speed of 90,000 rpm. Determination of elongation, yarn strength, hairiness, mass variation, and total imperfections index was carried out on Uster Tensorapid-4 and Uster Tester-4 as per set standards of ISO standard test methods. Based on investigations it is established that yarn strength and elongation declined minutely (Insignificant) with lowering twist levels but still can be confidently used for knitting yarns. However, significant improvement in total imperfection index and marginal enhancement in CV_m were experienced.

Key Words: Low Twist Multiples, 100% Cotton, Rotor Spun Yarn, Strength, Elongation, CV_m, Total Imperfection Index.

1. INTRODUCTION

In order to maintain the spinning process; coherence mechanism in rotor spinning is achieved by twist insertion, which as a rule must be higher than the yarn twist required for yarn tenacity. Consequently higher twist levels are used for rotor yarns in comparison to ring spinning to attain the strength equivalent to ring yarn [1-3].

Mechanical properties of yarns are a function of their physical structure and morphology [4]. Owing to

structural distinction open end yarn is comparatively weaker than ring yarn at equivalent twist levels [2,5]. Presence of fiber belly bands (bridging or belt fibers) in structure of rotor yarn is a disturbing feature, as they do not contribute significantly in coherence of rotor yarns as compare to conventional ring yarn structure [1,6-8].

Yarns are composed of fibers of different lengths and shapes, resulting in yarns spirals with varying radius, which can form kinks at intervals, and even project from

* Department of Textile Engineering, Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro.

** Department of Industrial Engineering & Management, Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro.

*** Department of Civil Engineering, Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro

the yarn surface. Therefore, it is not the overall length of the fiber that contributes to the yarn strength, but only the spun-in part of it as a result optimum yarn tenacity obtained at higher twist multiple than normal [4,9].

Among other factors, residual torque or twist liveness of a twisted yarn is the most prominent and fundamental factor contributing to the spirality of single jersey fabrics. If a twist-lively yarn is used for knitting, the resultant loop will no longer be symmetric because of the varying induced torsional strain in the yarn [10]. Moreover, high twist multiple makes the rotor yarn harsher to hand feel. In order to obtain a fabric without spirality, balanced twist factors for both ply yarns and single yarns are essential [11].

A high twist multiple is responsible for producing many unfavorable aspects of the yarn such as poor handling to the fabric, reduced production, complications to snarling, poor cover factor, etc. [12-14]. These problems can be addressed by reducing the twist multiple up to certain limits. Lowering of twist levels will improve hand feel, count variation, evenness (mass variation), as well as imperfections [15-17]. Though, strength of yarn will decrease further by reducing twist level. However, the low strength yarn can be confidently used for knitting as yarn strength is not a critical factor in knitting as compared to weaving. This lowering of twist multiple will not only help to trim down the unit price of finished product and

relief the manufacturer to compete in international market, but also facilitates the knitter by enhancing the smooth running of yarn on knitting machines, as kinkiness of yarn minimizes with low twists [13,18-19].

Keeping in view the benefits of low twist multiples this study was undertaken to explore the effects of lowering twist level on quality parameters of rotor spun knitting yarn.

2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

2.1 Samples Preparation

To prepare yarn samples, 100 % Pakistani cotton (MNH-93), was tested at HVI (High Volume Instrument) and then processed through Rieter blow room line and card (C-51). 4 ktex carded slivers were then processed through drawing machine (RSB D-35). In order to regulate leveled and homogeneous drawn slivers of 4 ktex, carded slivers were given two passages through drawing machine. Actual mass variation and linear densities of carded and drawn slivers are mentioned in **Table 1**. These drawn slivers were used to spun yarns of selected linear densities i.e. 30, 35, and 40 tex on a rotor spinning machine Rieter (R-40), at rotor speed of 90,000 rpm. Yarn samples of all linear densities were prepared at twist levels of 700, 600, 550, 500 and 450 tpm. Process parameters employed for samples preparation are mentioned in **Table 2**.

TABLE 1. PROCESS FINDING OF INTERMEDIATE OUTPUTS

Process Product	Characteristics	Result
Carded Sliver	Characteristics	Result
	Mass variation (U)	2.66 %
	Weight of sliver	4.05 ktex
Drawn Sliver	Coefficient of variation	0.886 %
	Mass variation (U)	2.62 %
	Weight of sliver	4.0 ktex

2.2 Sample Testing

Uster Tensorapid-4 was employed to determine yarn strength and elongation at break as per ISO standard test method 2062:1993 [16]. Ten cones from each yarn sample were selected randomly and conditioned for 48 hours at $20 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and $65 \pm 5\%$ relative humidity. Conditioned samples were put to test at an extension speed of 5000 mm/min with adjusted gauge length of 500 mm between the clamps. Twenty readings per cone were taken from each of the ten packages thus an average tensile strength was determined from 200 readings. Similarly after 24 hours conditioning, CVm%, hairiness and total imperfections (thick places, thin places and neps) were measured with Uster Tester-4 at speed of 400 m/min for one min through the respective passage and capacitor plates according to ISO standard test method 16549:2004 [15].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To explore the effects of lowering twist levels on quality characteristics of rotor yarn, cotton material was spun with three linear densities i.e. 40, 35, and 30 tex at rotor speed of 90,000 rpm. Twist levels selected for these linear densities were 700, 600, 550, 500, and 450. Results obtained are reported in Figs. 1-5.

3.1 Effect of Lowering Twist Levels on Strength and Elongation

Influence of lowering twist levels on tensile strength and elongation are presented in Figs. 1-2. It is evident from Fig. 1 that tensile strength for all linear densities decrease with lowering twist level from 700-450 tpm. Similar trend is observed with respect to elongation. However, coarser counts have higher yarn strength and elongation than finer counts. Reason behind this effect can be discussed as; the function of twist is to hold the constituent fibers in yarn assembly thus providing coherence to yarn [5]. With decreasing twist levels binding effect of yarn or source of coherence reduces. Furthermore with decreasing twist levels delivery of yarn increases which also affects feeding rate. This increase in feeding and delivery rate reduces the interval of fibers' stay in rotor groove [6], which results in reduction of number of core fibers than number of fibers in intermediate zone. In addition with reducing twist, helix angle of core fibers also decreases due to which lateral force holding the fibers together gets weakened and fibers in yarn are held less tightly. This increases slippage of fibers under tensile loading and the number of fibers contributing to overall strength of the yarn gets reduced. Consequently yarn could not withstand against higher load as well as could not be elongated as much as at higher twist. It is also evident by Fig. 1 that this effect is more pronounced with finer yarn counts.

TABLE 2. SETTINGS OF PROCESS PARAMETERS FOR 100% COTTON YARN SAMPLES

Twist levels (tpm)	700	600	550	500	450
Hank Sliver (ktex)	4	4	4	4	4
Rotor Diameter (mm)	31	31	31	31	31
Rotor Type	GB	GB	GB	GB	GB
Navel	K4K R	K4K R	K4K R	K4K R	K4K R
Torque Stop	w-3	w-3	w-3	w-3	w-3
Rotor speed (rpm)	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Delivery Speed (m/min)	128.57	150	163.63	180	200

It is apparent from Fig. 2 that elongation also falls with decreasing twist levels for all linear densities. Actually, at high twist levels yarn becomes compact and angle between the fiber spiral position and yarn axis is increased. It boosts up the springy behavior of fibers and is a source of higher elongation. Provided higher compactness also reduces fiber slippage during tensile testing. Furthermore, with lowering twist levels, delivery rate and feeding rate increase which gives less time to adjust the fibers in yarn assembly due to which incidence of wrapper fibers gets amplified. These wrapper fibers act like constriction on the yarn whilst the flow of the strain is along the length of the fibers composing the yarn. As a result elongation drops fairly.

3.2 Influence of Lowering Twist Level on Coefficient of Mass Variation, Imperfections and Hairiness

Results obtained regarding CVm, Imperfections index and Hairiness are presented in Figs. 3-5. According to results shown in Fig. 3 coefficient of mass variation decreases with lowering twist levels from 700-450 tpm. This means that yarn irregularity for cotton is slightly decreased with lowering twist multiples [20]. CVm refers to variation in number of fibers in yarn cross-section, variation in the

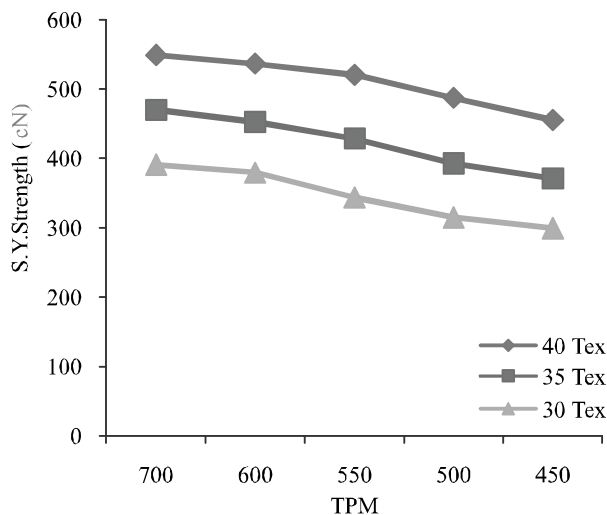


FIG. 1. INFLUENCE OF TWIST ON SINGLE YARN STRENGTH

fineness of the fibers themselves as well as variation in fiber inclination to the yarn axis. With decreasing twist multiples yarn compactness and fiber inclination to the yarn axis decreases. Thus, a little improvement in yarn irregularity occurs. Moreover reducing twist level develops bulkiness by relieving strain on fibers. This will reduce frequency of wrapper fibers thus improves evenness. It is found by observing Fig. 4 that total imperfections index reduced by lowering twist levels. At high twist levels neps, thick and thin places become prominent and marked by evenness tester as imperfection[17]. However, by reducing twist multiple compactness of yarn reduces and bulkiness or diameter

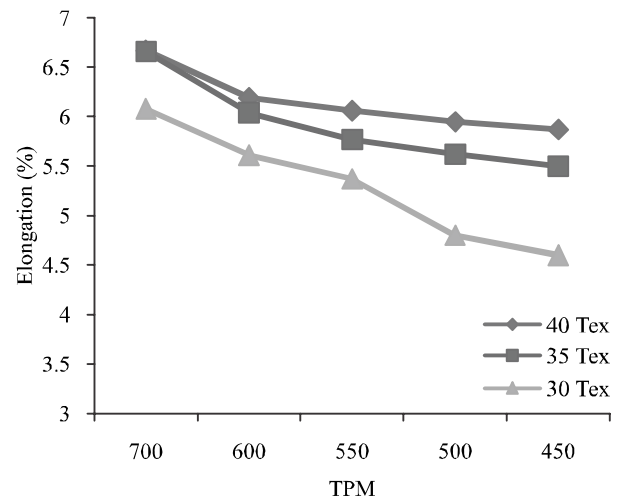


FIG. 2. INFLUENCE OF TWIST ON YARN ELONGATION

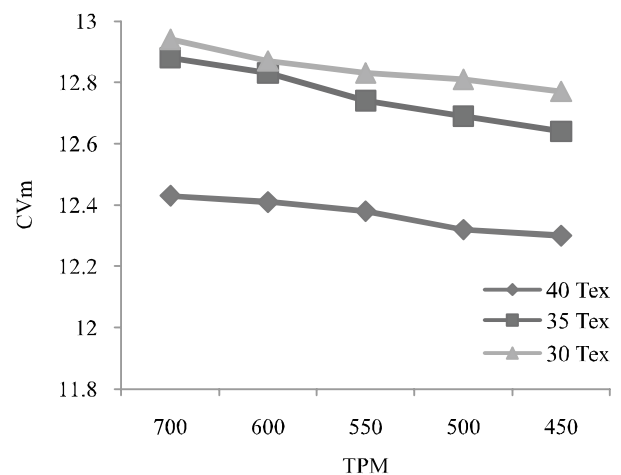


FIG. 3. INFLUENCE OF TWIST ON CVM

increases which covers up several imperfections, as their sizes becomes diminutive with respect to yarn diameter.

It is evident from Fig. 5 that hairiness of yarn at all linear densities increases with lowering twist multiples. As a matter of fact hairiness decreases with increasing compactness of yarn but lowering twist levels makes yarn soft which results in additional protruding ends from yarn surface [6]. Further, this slight increase in hairiness can also be attributed to wobbly wrapper fibers at low twist [17]. The high rotor speed of 90,000 rpm would also play a negative role of increase in hairiness.

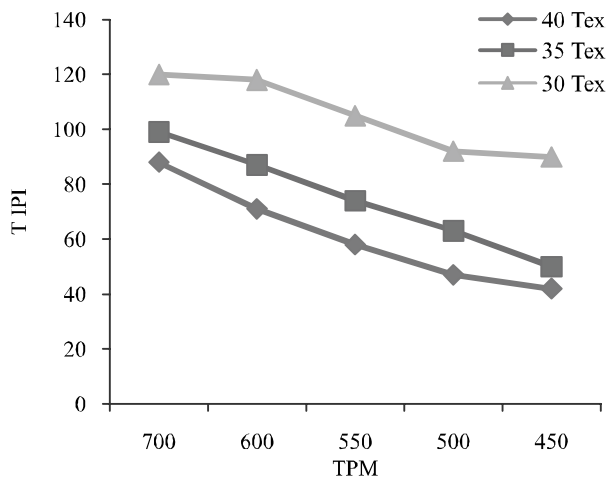


FIG. 4. INFLUENCE OF TWIST ON TOTAL IMPERFECTION

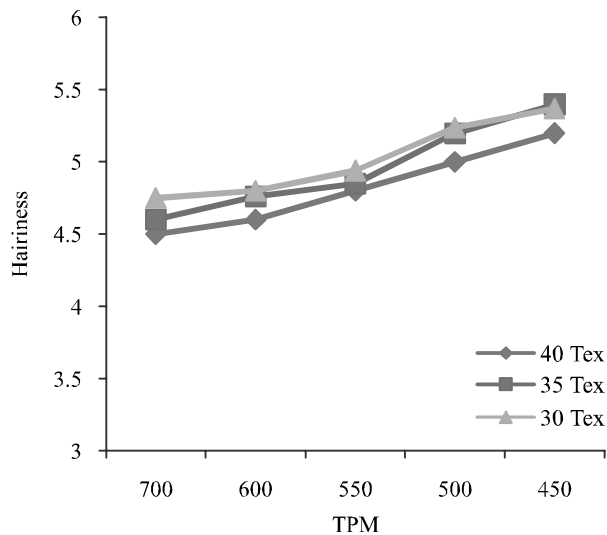


FIG. 5. INFLUENCE OF TWIST ON HAIRINESS

4. CONCLUSION

Investigations made to explore the effect of lowering twist levels on quality parameters of rotor yarn reveals that at all linear densities, with lowering twist level, tensile strength and elongation declined to some extent. However, this low strength yarn can be confidently used for knitting as yarn strength is not a critical factor in knitting. On the other hand, fabrication of soft yarn improved evenness and total imperfection index of yarn which will improve hand feel effect and esthetic properties of yarn. An insignificant negative influence on hairiness of yarn was observed at low twist levels.

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