

Opinion

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Mathematical Modeling in Textile Research



N Gokarneshan^{1*} and D Anita Rachel²

¹Formerly Professor, Department of Textile Chemistry, SSM College of Engineering, India

²School of Fashion Design, Footwear Design and Development Institute, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

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***Corresponding author:** N Gokarneshan, Formerly Professor, Department of Textile Chemistry, SSM College of Engineering, Komarapalayam, Tamil Nadu, India

Keywords: Mathematical modeling; Textile research; 3D fabric geometry; Optimization techniques; Key models

Opinion

Mathematical modeling in textile research uses mathematical, physical, and computational techniques to analyze, predict, and optimize fabric structures and manufacturing processes. These models cover areas like fiber mechanics, heat/moisture transport in fabrics, textile structure generation, and supply chain management. Key models facilitate predicting deformation, simulating 3D fabric geometry, and enhancing production efficiency.

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Key Application Areas in Textile Research

a) Structure and Geometrical Modeling: Researchers use mathematical tools (e.g., binary matrices) to define weaving structures. Models can predict the geometrical and physical properties of knitted fabrics, such as density and thickness, based on yarn properties.

b) Physics-Based Modeling: Used to simulate how fabric drapes and responds to stress, utilizing triangle mesh models for bending and stretching.

c) Production Optimization: Mathematical planning optimizes production schedules and manufacturing cells in clothing factories, often increasing product output while reducing material waste.

d) Functional Clothing Simulation: 1D, 2D, and 3D models predict heat and moisture transport through porous fabric structures, which is critical for smart or technical textiles.

e) Supply Chain Control: Optimization techniques (like linear and stochastic programming) help manage inventories and improve the logistics of textile production, including fiber blending and logistics.

Key Modeling Methods

a) Differential Equations: Used to describe dynamic phenomena like yarn tension.

b) Geometric Modeling: Defines structures through parameters like curvature radius.

c) Algebraic Optimization: Used for planning and scheduling to enhance operational efficiency.

Benefits

a) Predictive Analysis: Allows for forecasting fabric behavior, such as weight, thickness, and porosity, before physical production.

b) Optimization: Enhances production speed, reducing costs and material waste.

c) Design Efficiency: Enables virtual testing of garments, accelerating design iteration.

In textile research, mathematical modeling is used to bridge the gap between microscopic fiber properties and the macroscopic behavior of finished fabrics. These models allow researchers to predict mechanical performance, optimize manufacturing processes, and simulate complex behaviors like drape and heat transfer before physical production.

Multiscale Modeling Hierarchy

Textile structures are modeled across three primary scales to capture their complex, hierarchical nature:

a) **Micro-scale (Fiber Level):** Focuses on single fibers or bundles. Models use helical geometry to describe fiber paths within a yarn and statistical distributions (like discrete uniform distributions) to handle variations in fiber length and number.

b) **Meso-scale (Yarn/Unit Cell Level):** Treats yarns as homogeneous structures (e.g., solid beams) to study their interlacing in a single “unit cell” of woven or knitted fabric.

c) **Macro-scale (Fabric Sheet Level):** Models the entire fabric as a continuous material (often using shell or plate theories) to predict complex deformations like draping and wrinkling (Table 1).

Table 1: Core Modeling Types.

Model Type	Primary Use Case	Key Mathematical Tools
Geometrical	Defining spatial arrangements of fibers/yarns to predict fabric weight and thickness.	Trigonometry, B-splines, Bézier curves.
Mechanical	Predicting stress-strain response, bending, and shear behavior.	Finite Element Method (FEM), Euler-Lagrange equations.
Intelligent	Predicting properties like yarn strength or color based on hundreds of input variables.	Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Genetic Algorithms.
Geometrical (Chebyshev)	Analyzing how a woven fabric wraps onto curved surfaces (e.g., aircraft engine blades).	Differential geometry, Chebyshev net equations.

Key Research Applications

a) **Manufacturing Optimization:** Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP) and Genetic Algorithms are used to minimize material waste and improve the efficiency of production lines by up to 71%.

b) **Predictive Geometrics:** Models of knitted fabrics use loop-mesh units to forecast fabric weight, thickness, and stitch

density before a single loop is knitted.

c) **Functional Textiles:** Research into medical or sports compression garments uses Tex Math software to simulate the pressure profiles a textile will apply to the human body.

Heat & Moisture Transfer: Models simulate thermal conductivity through various fabric layers to optimize the “comfort” of polymer-based outdoor apparel..



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