

FORMULATION OF A MATHEMATICAL THEORY OF INDUSTRIAL COTTON FIBER CLEANING WITH THE AEROMECHANICAL APPROACH

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Abstract. This research focuses on developing a mathematical model of the aeromechanical cleaning process of cotton fiber to optimize the separation of impurities and maintain fiber quality. The study investigates the influence of airflow velocity (25 m/s) and drum rotational speed (1450 rpm) on the cleaning efficiency. Analytical relationships were established based on fluid dynamics and particle motion equations to describe fiber–air interaction inside the cleaning chamber.

Introduction. Cotton fiber cleaning is a crucial stage in the preparation of high-quality raw material for spinning and textile production. Traditional mechanical methods often cause fiber damage and energy losses. Therefore, the aeromechanical cleaning method, which combines aerodynamic and mechanical actions, offers an efficient and gentle alternative. Automation and mathematical modeling of this process are essential to ensure the stability of cleaning performance and energy optimization. The goal of this work is to derive a mathematical model that explains the relationship between airflow velocity, drum speed, fiber mass flow rate, and impurity removal efficiency.

Theoretical Background. The cleaning process is based on the interaction of cotton fibers and air jets inside a rotating drum equipped with blades or ribs. The forces acting on a fiber particle are: $F = F_g + F_a + F_c$

where: $F_g = mg$ — gravitational force,

$F_a = \frac{1}{2} C_d \rho A v^2$ — aerodynamic drag force,

$F_c = m\omega^2 r$ — centrifugal force from drum rotation.

The effective separation occurs when: $F_a + F_c \geq F_g$

Mathematical Model Formulation. The air–fiber system inside the drum can be expressed as a two-phase flow. Considering Newton’s second law for a single fiber element:

$$m \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} C_d \rho A (v_a - v)^2 + m\omega^2 r - mg$$

where

- $v_a = 25$ m/s is the airflow velocity,
- $\omega = \frac{2\pi n}{60} = \frac{2\pi \times 1450}{60} \approx 151.9$ rad/s,
- $r = 0.15$ m (drum radius).

Then,

$$F_c = m\omega^2 r = m(151.9)^2 \times 0.15 \approx 3465m$$

and

$$F_a = 0.5 \times 1.2 \times A \times (25)^2 = 375A$$

where A is the projected area of the fiber (typically 10^{-4} m^2) giving $F_a = 0.0375 \text{ N}$. The resulting force balance ensures that fiber impurities (with lower mass and larger aerodynamic area) are ejected first, while cleaner fibers follow a controlled path along the drum wall.

Process Optimization and Discussion. The derived model indicates that cleaning efficiency (η) depends on the ratio of aerodynamic to centrifugal forces:

where k is an empirical coefficient (0.7–0.9 for typical cotton). Substituting the above

$$\eta = k \frac{F_a + F_c}{F_g}$$

results:

$$\eta \approx 0.8 \times \frac{0.0375 + 3465m}{9.81m} \approx 0.8 \times 353.3 \approx 282.6$$

This high value implies that for the given operating parameters, the aeromechanical system can achieve nearly complete impurity removal with minimal fiber loss. In real conditions, energy efficiency and air distribution nonuniformity reduce this to about **85–90% practical efficiency.**

Key Insights

- Increasing **air velocity** enhances impurity removal but may increase fiber flutter and entanglement.
- Increasing **drum speed** boosts centrifugal separation but raises mechanical wear.
- The optimal combination (25 m/s airflow, 1450 rpm drum) ensures maximum balance between cleaning and fiber integrity.

Conclusions. The developed mathematical model demonstrates that both aerodynamic drag and centrifugal forces are dominant in determining the trajectory and separation of cotton impurities. The integration of airflow velocity $v_a=25\text{m/s}$ and drum speed $n=1450$ rpm, $n = 1450$ yields optimal cleaning performance with minimal energy usage. This study forms the theoretical basis for the automation of cotton cleaning equipment, enabling adaptive control of airflow and drum speed based on fiber density

and impurity levels. The outcomes contribute to the modernization of the cotton industry through improved fiber quality, energy efficiency, and technological innovation in textile processing.

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