

# Structure–Mechanical Properties Relationship of Poly(ethylene terephthalate) Fibers

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**ABSTRACT:** The correlation between the fiber structure and mechanical properties of two different poly(ethylene terephthalate) fiber types, that is, wool and cotton types produced by three producers, was studied. Fiber structure was determined using different analytical methods. Significant differences in the suprastructure of both types of conventional textile fibers were observed, although some slight variations in the structure existed between those fibers of the same type provided by different producers. A better-developed crystalline structure composed of bigger, more perfect, and more axially oriented crystallites was characterized for the cotton types of PET fibers. Crystallinity is higher, long

periods are longer, and amorphous domains inside the long period cover bigger parts in this fiber type in comparison with the wool types of fibers. In addition, amorphous and average molecular orientation is higher. The better mechanical properties of cotton PET fiber types, as demonstrated by a higher breaking tenacity and modulus accompanied by a lower breaking elongation, are due to the observed structural characteristics. © 2003 Wiley Periodicals, Inc. *J Appl Polym Sci* 89: 3383–3389, 2003

**Key words:** fibers; mechanical properties; structure-properties relations

## INTRODUCTION

The conventional spinning and drawing process of commercial poly(ethylene terephthalate) (PET) textile fibers involves the extrusion of the PET melt and winding-up at a speed of 500–1500 m min<sup>-1</sup>.<sup>1</sup> The yarns produced by low-spinning processes are non-crystalline and only very slightly oriented [low-oriented yarns (LOY)].<sup>1</sup> The birefringence is less than 0.01 at a windup speed below 1500 m min<sup>-1</sup>.<sup>2</sup> The resulting undrawn yarn (UDY) is then drawn three to five times and heat-treated to give the fully oriented yarn or drawn yarn (DY).<sup>3</sup>

Drawing is an essential fabrication process to achieve well-oriented structures with appropriate mechanical properties. The mechanical and/or thermal treatments result in the transformation of the isotropic structure into a fibrillar one.<sup>4</sup> Extraordinarily large-chain orientations, which are desired to increase material stiffness, can be obtained by applying a multi-step drawing procedure with passing through an oriented and noncrystalline intermediate structure.<sup>5</sup> It is still difficult, however, to produce high-modulus and high-strength materials owing to the low deformability of PET.<sup>6</sup>

The process of drawing using conventional spinning at conventional draw ratios introduces some crystallinity into the yarn, but is insufficient to stabilize the yarn against thermal shrinkage during further processing and use. It is therefore usual in filament yarn production to crystallize the yarn further by setting it during the drawing process through passage over a hot plate at a temperature within the range 140–220°C or by using a heated draw roller at similar temperatures.<sup>2</sup>

Even though there is a substantial use of polyester staple fiber in an unblended form, a much higher proportion is blended with other fibers to produce yarns, which benefit from the properties of each component. The type of staple fiber used is adjusted in terms of the diameter, length, and physical properties of the individual fibers to suit the particular blend. In the cotton system, the fibers usually used are 38 mm in length and their fines are 1.3 and 1.7 dtex, respectively. The polyester processed, either 100% pure or blended with wool, is usually in the range of 3.6–6.7 dtex and its staple length is about 58 mm.<sup>2</sup> Much research has been focused on the determination of quantitative structure–property relationships for predicting the performance of fibers, (e.g., refs. 7–11), but there is currently no exact study available on the differences between the structure and properties of the wool and cotton types of PET fibers. The aim of this present article was a detailed study of the structure–properties relationships of several commercial PET fibers of dif-

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ferent origins of wool and cotton types and to compare both types of PET fibers.

## EXPERIMENTAL

### Materials

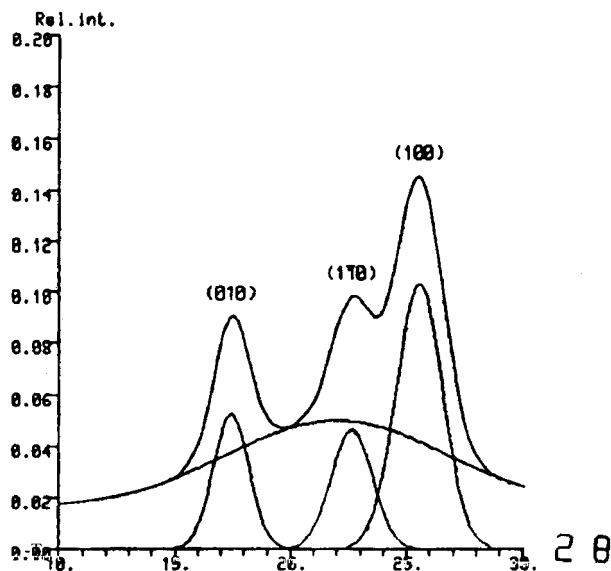
Different kinds of commercial PET staple fibers of wool and cotton types were studied. Cotton types (c) of different provenances with lengths of 38 mm and fineness varying between 1.5 and 1.7 dtex are marked I<sub>c</sub>, II<sub>c</sub>, and III<sub>c</sub>. The wool types of PET fibers (w) were obtained from the same fiber producers (I, II, III) and they are marked I<sub>w</sub>, II<sub>w</sub>, and III<sub>w</sub>. Fibers lengths are 75 and 90 mm, respectively, and their fineness, 3.3 dtex. PET polymer was produced after two different polycondensation processes. Fibers from producer II were synthesized from dimethyl terephthalate and ethylene glycol. The process of fiber formation was continuous and drawing was performed in one step for the wool types of fibers and in two steps to achieve higher tenacity for cotton fiber types. Details of the production conditions were unavailable for the fibers produced by the first producer. Fibers from the third producer were synthesized from terephthalic acid and ethylene glycol in a discontinuous process.

### Methods

Different analytical methods were used such as X-ray analyses, calorimetric measurements, density measurements, acoustic measurements, and birefringence determination for evaluation of the structural parameters. These methods are described in detail in refs. 11–16.

Detection of wide-angle X-ray scattering (WAXS) was performed using a flat-film camera and a Siemens D 500 diffractometer installed on a Kristallofleks 805 X-ray tube. Distribution of WAXS was followed on the equator where three interference reflections were observed of the (100), (110), and (010) paratropes. Additionally, an amorphous sample with the density of 1.335 g cm<sup>-3</sup> was measured. These measurements were performed over a scattering angle between 2θ = 10° and 2θ = 35°. Additionally, the azimuthal scanning of the meridional (105) reflection was carried out to determine the crystalline orientation.

To separate the equatorial scattered intensities on the crystalline and amorphous parts, the Killian method<sup>15</sup> was used, as only a relative relationship between the different fiber types was of interest although several other more precise techniques were proposed (e.g., refs. 17–19). After inserting the measured amorphous background into the experimental scattering curve, the interference reflections of (100), (110), and (010) planes were separated. For the individual crystalline profiles, the Gauss distribution was used for the



**Figure 1** Equatorial WAXS curve with inserted amorphous background and separation of the crystalline and amorphous scattering (sample I<sub>c</sub>).

approximation. The procedure is demonstrated in Figure 1 and was described in detail in refs. 11 and 12.

The crystallinity determined from the X-ray scattering  $\alpha_{X\text{-ray}}$  is given by the ratio of the integrated intensities of the scattering of the equatorial reflections and the total coherent scattering, according to eq. (1)<sup>14,15</sup>:

$$\alpha_{X\text{-ray}} = \frac{\int_{2\theta_1}^{2\theta_2} I_c(\theta) d\theta}{\int_{2\theta_1}^{2\theta_2} I(\theta) d\theta} \quad (1)$$

$I$  is the entire coherently scattered intensity;  $I_c$ , the coherent intensity present in the crystalline peaks; and  $2\theta$ , the diffraction angle.

The dimensions of crystallites perpendicular to the fiber axis,  $\Lambda^*_{(100)}$ ,  $\Lambda^*_{(110)}$ , and  $\Lambda^*_{(010)}$ , were determined from the half-width of the equatorial reflections using the Scherrer equation:

$$\Lambda^*_{(hkl)} = \frac{K\lambda}{\beta_{(hkl)} \cos \theta} \quad (2)$$

where  $K$  is the Scherrer constant;  $\lambda$ , the applied wavelength (0.1542 nm);  $\beta$ , the half-width of the reflection; and  $\theta_{hkl}$ , the scattering angle of the  $(hkl)$  crystalline planes. The orientation function of the crystallites  $f_c$  defined by Hermans' equation was determined from the diffraction curves of the submeridional (105) reflection.<sup>12,15</sup> The separation of the submeridional (105) reflection is demonstrated in Figure 2:

$$f_c = \frac{1}{2} |3(\overline{\cos^2 \tau}) - 1| \quad (3)$$

$$\cos \sigma \approx \cos \tau$$

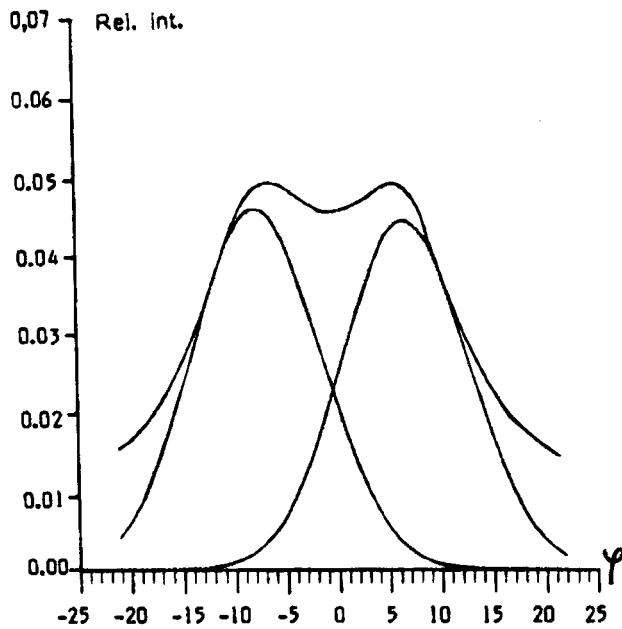


Figure 2 Meridional WAXS intensity curve of a PET fiber (sample IIc); separation of the submeridional (105) reflection.

$\cos \sigma \approx \cos \tau$ .  $\tau$  is the average angle of the crystallites' tilt according to the fiber axis, and  $\sigma$ , the half-width of the (105) reflection.

Small-angle X-ray scattering (SAXS) led to some information about the periodical fiber structure parallel to the fiber axis. SAXS was registered by a Kiessig film camera. The long spacing  $L$ , the dimensions of the crystallites parallel to the fiber axis  $D$ , and the length of the amorphous part of the fiber were determined from SAXS photographs. Long spacing, which is defined as the average repeating distance between the center of two crystallites, was determined directly by measuring the distance between the meridional reflection and the primary beam. The calculation of the long spacing followed Bragg's law<sup>14,15</sup>:

$$L = \frac{\lambda l_p}{A} \quad (4)$$

$\lambda$  is the wave length of the X-ray beam (0.1542 nm);  $l_p$  the distance between the sample and the film (400 mm); and  $A$ , the mean measurement value of the meridional reflection/primary beam distance.

The length of the crystallites parallel to the fiber axis  $D$  is defined by the ratio among the long spacing, crystallinity index  $\alpha_{X\text{-ray}}$ , sample density  $\rho_s$ , and density of the crystalline phase  $\rho_c$ :

$$D = \frac{L \alpha_{X\text{-ray}} \rho_s}{\rho_c} \quad (5)$$

$L$  is the long spacing (nm);  $\alpha_{X\text{-ray}}$ , the crystallinity index determined from X-ray scattering;  $\rho_s$ , the sample

density ( $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ ); and  $\rho_c$ , the density of the PET crystalline phase ( $1.455 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ).

The length of the amorphous part inside the long spacing  $l$  represents the difference between the long spacing and the length of the crystallites:

$$l = L - D \text{ (nm)} \quad (6)$$

The floating method according to Juilfs<sup>20</sup> was used for fiber density determination. The measured values were used for the crystallinity  $\alpha_p$  calculation [cf. eq. (7)]:

$$\alpha_p = \frac{\rho_c(\rho_s - \rho_a)}{\rho_s(\rho_c - \rho_a)} \quad (7)$$

$\rho_c$  is the density of the crystalline PET ( $1.455 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ )<sup>21</sup>;  $\rho_a$ , the density of the amorphous PET ( $1.335 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ )<sup>21</sup>; and  $\rho_s$ , the density of the sample ( $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ ).

DSC thermograms were obtained on a Perkin-Elmer 7 differential calorimeter and the crystallinity parameter was calculated from the measured melting enthalpies according to eq. (8):

$$\alpha_{\Delta H} = \frac{\Delta H_{ms}}{\Delta H_{mc}} \quad (8)$$

$\Delta H_{ms}$  is the melting enthalpy of the sample ( $\text{J g}^{-1}$ ), and  $\Delta H_{mc}$ , the melting enthalpy of the 100% crystalline PET ( $121.3 \text{ J g}^{-1}$ )<sup>22</sup>.

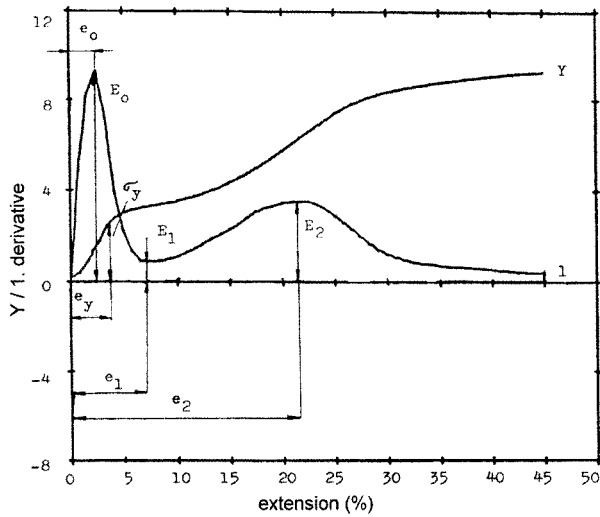
The acoustic modulus was determined from the acoustic impulse propagation in the longitudinal fiber direction using the Bergmann equation ( $E_a = \rho c^2$ )<sup>23</sup> and the average molecular orientation  $f_{ma}$  and the orientation of macromolecular chains in the amorphous phase  $f_{aa}$  were calculated [eqs.(10) and (11)]. The Morgan Dynamic Modulus Tester PPM-5R apparatus was used for the acoustic measurements. Equation (9) was involved for the average molecular orientation factor  $f_{ma}$ :

$$f_{ma} = 1 - \frac{E_n}{E_s} \quad (9)$$

$f_{ma}$  is the average molecular orientation factor;  $E_n$ , the acoustic modulus for nonoriented PET ( $0.26 \times 10^{10} \text{ Pa}$ )<sup>23</sup>; and  $E_s$ , the acoustic modulus of the sample (Pa).

The orientation of macromolecular chains in the amorphous phase  $f_{aa}$  is defined by

$$f_{aa} = 1 - \frac{E_n}{E_a} \quad (10)$$



**Figure 3** Method of the calculation and determination of the viscoelastic data of PET fibers: Y, stress-strain curve  $\sigma = f(\epsilon)$ ; 1, derivative of the experimental curve.

$$E_a = \frac{E_n(1 - \alpha_p)}{\frac{E_n}{E_s} - (1 - f_c)\alpha_p} \quad (11)$$

$f_{aa}$  is the orientation factor of the amorphous phase;  $f_c$ , the orientation factor of the crystallites;  $E_a$ , the acoustic modulus of the amorphous PET (Pa); and  $\alpha_p$ , the crystallinity index determined by the density measurements.

A compensation method according to Eringhaus was used for birefringence determination on a polarization microscope.<sup>24</sup> The average molecular orientation factor  $f_{m\Delta n}$  and the amorphous orientation factor  $f_{a\Delta n}$  were determined [cf. eqs. (12) and (13)] from these measurements:

$$f_{m\Delta n} = \frac{\Delta n_s \rho_c}{\Delta n_{oi} \rho_s} \quad (12)$$

$f_{m\Delta n}$  is the average molecular orientation factor;  $\Delta n_s$ , the birefringence of the sample;  $\Delta n_{oi}$ , the birefringence

of the ideally oriented PET ( $0.290 \pm 0.009$ )<sup>23</sup>;  $\rho_c$ , the density of crystalline PET; and  $\rho_s$ , the density of the sample:

$$f_{a\Delta n} = \frac{\Delta n_s - \alpha_y f_c \Delta n_c^0}{(1 - \alpha_x) \Delta n_a^0} \quad (13)$$

$f_{a\Delta n}$  is the amorphous orientation factor;  $\Delta n_c^0$ , the birefringence of the ideally oriented crystalline PET ( $0.220$ )<sup>23</sup>; and  $\Delta n_a^0$ , the birefringence of the ideally oriented amorphous PET ( $0.275$ )<sup>23</sup>.

Additionally, the mechanical properties of different PET fibers of both types were measured on an Instron 1122 dynamometer equipped with a data analyzer. The testing length was 10 mm, breaking was performed in 20 s, and the measurements of each sample were repeated 60 times. A mean curve was constructed from the measurements, and from there, some typical viscoelastic parameters were calculated and determined from the stress-strain curve, the integral curve, and the 1, 2, and 3 derivatives of the experimental curves ( $\sigma'$ ,  $\sigma''$ ,  $\sigma'''$ ), respectively, as shown in Figure 3. The elasticity modulus ( $E_0$ ,  $E_1$ ,  $E_2$ ,  $E_3$ ) with adequate extensions ( $\epsilon_0$ ,  $\epsilon_1$ ,  $\epsilon_2$ ,  $\epsilon_3$ ) was determined at the gradation points of the 1 derivative curve, where the 2 derivative curve crosses the x-axis. The yield point ( $\sigma_y$ ,  $\epsilon_y$ ) was determined on the first derivative curve at the position of  $\sigma''' = 0$ . The work to rupture represents the area under the stress-strain curve and was determined by the integration of the experimental curve.<sup>25</sup>

## RESULTS

The structural parameters of two different types, that is, cotton and wool types of PET fibers calculated from diffraction patterns, are collected in Tables I and II. The cotton-type PET fibers' crystallinity index as determined from the X-ray intensity distribution is between 0.398 and 0.437, and for wool types, between 0.328 and 0.405, respectively, that is, an increased crystallinity index of about 20% is observed for cotton

**TABLE I**  
Crystalline Structure of Different PET Fibers of Cotton Type (Samples I<sub>c</sub>, II<sub>c</sub>, III<sub>c</sub>)

Parameter	I <sub>c</sub> cotton type	II <sub>c</sub> cotton type	III <sub>c</sub> cotton type
$\alpha_{X\text{-ray}}$	0.425	0.398	0.437
$\alpha_p$	0.395	0.382	0.463
$\alpha_{\text{DSC}}$	0.353	0.336	0.329
Long spacing $L$ ( $10^{-1}$ nm)	110.0	107.5	116.0
Crystallites length $D$ ( $10^{-1}$ nm)	44.3	40.5	48.4
Length of amorphous domain $l$ ( $10^{-1}$ nm)	65.7	67.0	67.6
$l/D$ ratio	1.48	1.65	1.4
Apparent crystallite size $\Lambda_{(100)}^*$ ( $10^{-1}$ nm)	38.50	33.69	41.80
Apparent crystallite size $\Lambda_{(110)}^*$ ( $10^{-1}$ nm)	43.08	40.99	49.06
Apparent crystallite size $\Lambda_{(010)}^*$ ( $10^{-1}$ nm)	49.41	42.77	55.56

TABLE II  
Crystalline Structure of Different PET Fibers of Wool Type (Samples I<sub>w</sub>, II<sub>w</sub>, III<sub>w</sub>)

Parameter	I <sub>w</sub> wool type	II <sub>w</sub> wool type	III <sub>w</sub> wool type
$\alpha_{X\text{-ray}}$	0.389	0.328	0.405
$\alpha_{\rho}$	0.442	0.446	0.450
$\alpha_{\text{DSC}}$	0.345	0.340	0.330
Long spacing $L$ ( $10^{-1}$ nm)	93.7	87.2	96.6
Crystallites length $D$ ( $10^{-1}$ nm)	34.7	31.7	37.3
Length of amorphous domain $l$ ( $10^{-1}$ nm)	59.0	55.5	59.3
$l/D$ ratio	1.7	1.75	1.59
Apparent crystallite size $\Lambda_{(100)}^*$ ( $10^{-1}$ nm)	38.77	33.37	40.65
Apparent crystallite size $\Lambda_{(110)}^*$ ( $10^{-1}$ nm)	43.74	38.51	46.89
Apparent crystallite size $\Lambda_{(010)}^*$ ( $10^{-1}$ nm)	47.93	38.76	37.14

types in comparison to the wool types of PET fibers (Table I). The most crystalline fiber is the cotton type PET fiber III<sub>c</sub> with a crystallinity index of 0.437 and the lowest crystallinity was found in the II<sub>c</sub> fiber. Similar findings are characteristic for the wool types. There are some differences between the crystallinity index determined from X-ray measurements and the crystallinity index determined by density measurements, that is, for cotton types, the crystallinity determined from X-ray measurements is higher, and for wool types, the crystallinity determined by measuring the fiber density is higher. Nearly the same variations' tendency, however, is observed between fibers from different producers within the results of both determination techniques. Crystallinity determined from calorimetric measurements ranges from 0.329 to 0.353 for cotton types and from 0.330 to 0.345 for wool types. Crystallinity determined by the DSC method is lower than is the crystallinity obtained by the other two methods. Unexpectedly, low  $\alpha_{\text{DSC}}$  crystallinity is observed for sample III in both groups when compared to the results obtained by X-ray scattering and density measurement, that is, these two samples show the highest crystallinity  $\alpha_x$  and  $\alpha_{\rho}$  indices (Tables I and II).

Long spacing, consisting of about 60% of the amorphous domains, is larger in the case of cotton PET fiber types (for cotton types, it is from 10.7 to 11.6 nm, and for wool types, from 8.7 to 9.7 nm). In both groups of fibers, the greatest long period is detected for fibers marked with III. The ratio  $l/D$  was used to study the structure of the long period. It represents the relationship between the lengths of amorphous and crystalline domains in the fiber fibrillar structure. A ratio of

about 1.7 was determined for the wool-type PET fibers and a lower one (about 1.5) for cotton-type PET fibers.

There are some common structural characteristics in regard to the fiber producer. Fibers of both types marked with III have a higher crystallinity index, a greater long period, and a lower ratio between  $l/D$  and they are formed of larger crystallites.

Average molecular orientation, orientation of the crystallites, and orientation of the amorphous molecular segments are given in Tables III and IV. Crystalline orientation in cotton types of PET fibers is higher compared to the wool types. In the group of cotton types, the fibers from the first (I<sub>c</sub>) and the third (III<sub>c</sub>) producers have nearly the same crystalline orientation functions (0.935) and are higher than the crystalline orientation of the second sample (II<sub>c</sub>) (0.907). Crystalline orientation varies much more between the PET fibers of the wool types. Lower average molecular orientations were observed when calculated from the measured birefringence of the fibers in comparison to the values obtained by measuring the acoustic impulse propagation through the fiber sample. There are no significant differences between the average molecular orientations in fibers from different groups. A higher amorphous orientation is determined for fibers of the cotton type using both methods. PET fiber of the wool type from the first producer (I<sub>w</sub>) differs from others because of the very low average orientation and amorphous orientation but with a rather high crystalline orientation function.

The mechanical properties are collected in Tables V and VI and are graphically represented in Figure 4. A steep and a rather short load-elongation curve is ob-

TABLE III  
Orientation Parameters of Different PET Fibers of Cotton Type (Samples I<sub>c</sub>, II<sub>c</sub>, and III<sub>c</sub>)

Parameter	I <sub>c</sub> cotton type	II <sub>c</sub> cotton type	III <sub>c</sub> cotton type
Crystalline orientation factor $f_c$	0.936	0.907	0.935
Average molecular orientation factor $f_{m\Delta n}$	0.562	0.573	0.561
Average molecular orientation factor $f_{ma}$	0.779	0.779	0.808
Amorphous orientation factor $f_{a\Delta n}$	0.425	0.471	0.423
Amorphous orientation factor $f_{aa}$	0.739	0.757	0.731

TABLE IV  
Orientation Parameters of Different PET Fibers of Wool Type (Samples I<sub>w</sub>, II<sub>w</sub>, and III<sub>w</sub>)

Parameter	I <sub>w</sub> wool type	II <sub>w</sub> wool type	III <sub>w</sub> wool type
Crystalline orientation factor $f_c$	0.927	0.832	0.901
Average molecular orientation factor $f_{m\Delta n}$	0.517	0.519	0.561
Average molecular orientation factor $f_{ma}$	0.681	0.683	0.790
Amorphous orientation factor $f_{a\Delta n}$	0.344	0.406	0.435
Amorphous orientation factor $f_{aa}$	0.486	0.564	0.699

served for the cotton type of PET fibers. Extension suddenly becomes much easier after a rather long initial period with a steep slope. In this region, the yield point occurs and fiber deformation is not facilitated until a relative high load and breaking occurs at a breaking extension of between 35 and 55%. A high modulus  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  with a low elongation at these points was determined for the analyzed cotton types of fibers as the initial modulus is equal to the slope of the stress-strain curve at the origin. The curves of the wool types already show a lower curve slope in the elastic domain, having a lower tenacity at the yield point and a higher extensibility than those of the cotton types. They are somehow softer after the yield point, which means that, for deformation, a low load is needed, and after the strengthening domain, breaking occurs at a lower load but with a higher breaking extension compared to the cotton variety.

The curve  $\sigma/\varepsilon$  for fibers I<sub>c</sub> and III<sub>c</sub> are typical for the cotton type of PET fibers, while sample II<sub>c</sub> shows some characteristics of the wool PET fibers. In the wool-type group of analyzed fibers, an exemption is represented by sample I<sub>w</sub>, with the tenacity-extension curve being very similar to a typical curve for the cotton types of PET fibers.

Steep tenacity-extension curves, higher breaking tenacities accompanied by lower breaking extensions, and higher moduli of the cotton types of fiber are due to the higher crystallinity and orientation, especially amorphous orientation of these types of PET fibers.

The breaking tenacity of fiber II<sub>c</sub> is even higher than is the tenacity of the other two fibers in the cotton-type group. This is due to the high orientation of the amorphous domains in spite of a rather low crystallinity and a low average molecular orientation leading to unsuitable other viscoelastic parameters. The high breaking tenacity of fiber I<sub>w</sub> arises from the high fiber crystallinity. The results are in a good correlation with structure-property relationship observed for other fiber types.<sup>13,23, 26-30</sup>

## CONCLUSIONS

In this article, the structural-property correlation for cotton and wool types of PET fibers was studied. Fine structure parameters significantly differ between these two types of PET fibers, although some differences also exist in groups of the same fiber types.

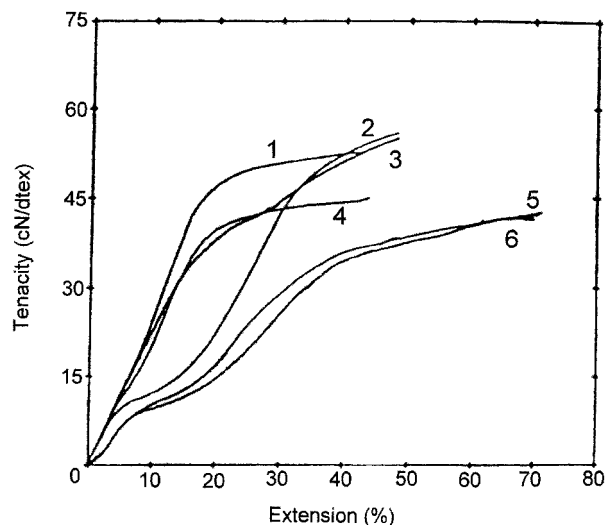
The higher density of the PET cotton fiber types arises from a higher crystalline and more oriented structure. The long periods in the cotton-type fibers are longer but the dimensions of the crystallites are very similar to the wool types. The cotton types of PET fibers are more rigid, due to these structural differences, which are confirmed by higher initial moduli, lower elongations, and the slopes of the tenacity-elongation curves, which are more precipitous. A slightly higher glass transition temperature is observed for this fiber type and the relaxation shrinkage is in correlation with the amorphous orientation. Comparing

TABLE V  
Mechanical Properties of Different PET Fibers of Cotton Type (Samples I<sub>c</sub>, II<sub>c</sub>, and III<sub>c</sub>)

Property	I <sub>c</sub>	II <sub>c</sub>	III <sub>c</sub>
Tenacity $\sigma_B$ (cN/tex)	51.7	54.9	53.6
Breaking extension $\varepsilon_B$ (%)	35.4	55.2	46.4
Initial modulus $E_0$ (GPa)	3.64	3.41	3.25
Deformation $\varepsilon_0$ (%)	3.50	2.40	2.80
Modulus $E_1$ (GPa)	2.75	1.27	2.45
Deformation $\varepsilon_1$ (%)	5.50	7.70	6.00
Modulus $E_2$ (GPa)	4.58	3.02	4.03
Deformation $\varepsilon_2$ (%)	12.50	20.20	13.00
Modulus $E_3$ (GPa)	-0.67	-1.36	-0.53
Deformation $\varepsilon_3$ (%)	4.0	3.5	4.3
Yield stress $\sigma_y$ (cN/tex)	10.20	8.39	9.56
Yield strain $\varepsilon_y$ (%)	4.2	3.67	4.40
Work to rupture $A_B$ (mJ)	0.30	0.23	0.25

TABLE VI  
Mechanical Properties of Different PET Fibers of Wool Type (Samples I<sub>w</sub>, II<sub>w</sub>, and III<sub>w</sub>)

Property	I <sub>w</sub>	II <sub>w</sub>	III <sub>w</sub>
Tenacity $\sigma_B$ (cN/tex)	44.6	41.6	41.0
Breaking extension $\varepsilon_B$ (%)	61.6	69.2	66.1
Initial modulus $E_0$ (GPa)	3.34	2.18	2.49
Deformation $\varepsilon_0$ (%)	2.75	4.00	3.00
Modulus $E_1$ (GPa)	1.26	0.43	0.24
Deformation $\varepsilon_1$ (%)	6.70	10.00	11.00
Modulus $E_2$ (GPa)	4.20	1.73	2.04
Deformation $\varepsilon_2$ (%)	12.10	29.00	23.00
Modulus $E_3$ (GPa)	-0.81	-0.48	-0.36
Deformation $\varepsilon_3$ (%)	4.4	6.0	5.0
Yield stress $\sigma_y$ (cN/tex)	10.24	7.30	11.10
Yield strain $\varepsilon_y$ (%)	4.38	5.97	8.09
Work to rupture $A_B$ (mJ)	0.59	0.67	0.65



**Figure 4** Mechanical properties of PET fibers of cotton and wool types of different origins: (1) I<sub>c</sub>; (2) II<sub>c</sub>; (3) III<sub>c</sub>; (4) I<sub>w</sub>; (5) II<sub>w</sub>; (6) III<sub>w</sub>.

the structural parameters of fibers from different origin fibers from producer II show a not so well developed fibrillar structure compared to that of the other two fibers from producers I and III and they differ according to their response to the mechanical forces. Fibers are softer and they have higher breaking elongation accompanied by higher tenacity.

Greater structural differences were observed in the wool-type fibers' group. The fibers differ significantly in crystalline and amorphous orientation, which is in correlation with the relaxation shrinkage and glass transition temperature, but not as clearly confirmed by the viscoelastic properties.

The observed differences in the fiber fine structure and the properties are due to the different conditions prevailing during fiber production. The fiber-production process of producer III enables formation of bigger, more highly oriented crystalline structures which are too stiff for conventional textile requirements. In contrast, fibers from producer II possess a structure that is not developed enough, the crystallites are

smaller and defective with a lower orientation, and the fibers are too extensive when compared to the others.

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