
Investigating the Interactive Effect of Card Cylinder Speed and Roller Gauge Settings of Breaker Drawing on Combed Yarn Evenness and Imperfections

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Abstract: This project work deals to investigate the interactive impact of cylinder speed and roller gauge setting of breaker drawing frame on ring spun combed yarn evenness and imperfections. In this work, carded slivers were produced by keeping cylinder rpm of 750 rpm, 800 rpm and 850 rpm while subsequent roller gauge settings (front zone/ back zone) in drawing frame were selected at three levels (i.e., F38mm/B42 mm, F40mm/B44 mm & F42mm/B46 mm) for each cylinder rpm. Cotton combed yarns of 32 Ne and 36 Ne from roving hank of 0.76 Ne have been produced for each combination of cylinder rpm and roller setting gauge. However, results show that best combination of cylinder rpm and roller gauge settings is found 800 rpm and F40/B44 respectively in terms of yarn evenness and imperfections for both types of yarn count. Moreover, roller gauge settings should be kept somewhat narrower (i.e., Front 38 mm/ Back 42 mm) for carded slivers produced at higher cylinder speed (i.e., 850 rpm), otherwise it is observed that short fiber percentage and $CV_{1m}\%$ of combed sliver have been increased for the combination of higher cylinder speed with wider roller gauge settings. As a result, final yarn evenness and imperfections results also have been deteriorated. On the other hand, for comparatively lower level of cylinder speed (i.e., 750 rpm) little wider roller gauge settings of subsequent drawing frame improves evenness and decreases SFC% of combed sliver and finally it has contributed to improve the combed yarn quality as well. Simultaneously it is also noticeable that comparatively wider roller setting (i.e., F42mm/B46 mm) gives poor results for all three level of cylinder speed. However, for both types of yarn count, results show similar trend in terms of evenness and imperfections but finer yarn count reacts more intensively in comparison with coarser count.

Keywords: Cylinder Speed, Roller Gauge Setting, Combed Yarn, Yarn Evenness & Imperfections

1. Introduction

Yarn formation is the process of converting loose fiber into a yarn structure, involving a progression of distinctly different and separate processes. The yarn produced from fibers that have been combed is known as combed yarn [1]. Combing is a process by which quantity of short fibres and remnant fragments of impurities present in a carded or drawn sliver are minimized to give a clean sliver, having more of a rectangular staple diagram, with vast majority of constituent

fibres in a straightened and parallel state [2]. However, Quality and cost of production are two important considering parts during production of combed ring spun yarn. The presence of high yarn unevenness and imperfections affect the appearance and strength variation of woven and knitted fabric. Increase in yarn unevenness and imperfections will increase the breakage rate of ring spinning and thereby reduce the productivity. From this perspective, it is important to optimize the processing conditions of spinning preparatory stages such as carding and breaker drawing frame. Otherwise

faulty feed lap will be produced that is certainly linked with comber noil% and also with combed yarn quality. The lap sheet with high degree of evenness produces the highly uniform combed sliver. Therefore, good fiber orientation in the feed lap is a prerequisite for obtaining better sliver quality. The uniformity of lap across the width of is highly important for smooth combing operation. If there are too many thick and thin places in the lap, then it will affect the productivity and as well as quality of output sliver [3].

Fiber to yarn conversion process has been affected by several factors which include properties of raw material, level of technology, machinery and skill of machine operators [4]. The complexity of fiber to yarn spinning process and interaction among various spinning conditions is very high.

The fundamental operations of yarn manufacture are carding, drawing, twisting and spinning [5]. Carding is the most vital process in spinning, which influences the sliver quality and the resulting yarn characteristics [6]. The carding quality is primarily determined in the cylinder region [7]. The cylinder wire takes over the fibers from the licker-in and is responsible for the main carding action with the flexible tops [8]. In card, the action of the cylinder is to individualize fibers and to give parallelism to the fibre mass flow. Van Alphen reports that increasing cylinder speed causes more fibre breakage than increasing taker-in speed and that this is reflected in the yarn properties [9]. The higher sensitivity of ring yarns to fibre breakage was attributed to the negative effect of short fibres during roller drafting [10]. On the other hand, exceeding higher cylinder speed can lead to higher neps generation which decreases the quality of card sliver. Fiber hooks those are produced in carding machine influence the effective fiber length or fibre extent. This will affect the drafting performance as well.

After carding process the carded sliver is subjected to drawing and doubling operation. The draw frame in a textile mill is unavoidable in yarn spinning as fibers need to be kept side by side termed as parallelization of fibers in textile technology [11]. Owing to various differences in the technical parameters of drawing machines, their capacity of controlling the fibers during drafting differs considerably, resulting in different natures of added of irregularity of the drafted sliver [12]. Most of the improvement in fiber parallelization and reduction in hooks takes place at first draw frame passage than at second passage [13].

Fiber properties and their interaction with drafting conditions, which determine fiber behavior, affect drafting force, variation in drafting force, and sliver irregularity. Drafting force depends on many factors such as crimp, fiber length, surface characteristics, and friction coefficient as well as draft setting and sliver linear density [14]. Fiber length is a very important physical measure in cotton spinning industry. Yarn quality parameters such as strength, elongation, hairiness, and evenness are strongly correlated to the length of cotton fibers [15]. Drafting is an important process affected due to the length variability [16].

The distance between the nips of the pairs of rollers is commonly referred as the roller setting. Roller setting is one

of the very important process parameters in draw frame. Generally, the setting in back zone is little wider than their setting in the front zoning [17]. The roller setting predominantly influences the output sliver quality and process efficiency [18]. When the setting is low, the irregularity may also increase as many fibers will be simultaneously gripped or nipped by both the nips of the drafting rollers and they will be pulled out in the form of a bunch from the back roller nip and hence there is a there is an increase in irregularity. If we increase the setting too much most of the fibers will behave like short fibers. And therefore, they will move in an erratic manner within the drafting zone and as a result there will be increase in irregularity [19]. The effect of floating fiber is to produce a succession of thick and thin places in the output length where some fiber extents have been drafted in the ideal manner. The thick and thin variation has a sinusoidal waveform and is therefore called the drafting wave. The drafting wave gives and irregularity additional to that of the input irregularity [20]. At optimum roller gauge settings, the hook removal is obtained maximum also. Hence, roller settings adjustment based on fiber length distributions of carded sliver would have a great significance.

However, knowledge of the interactions of fiber length properties after carding process for various type of cylinder speed with the understanding of fiber drafting behavior for different roller gauge settings should be perceived in depth before combing operation. Since combing operation is specially destined for producing yarn having minimum imperfections and maximum evenness by removing short fibers and fiber neps those are considered as the main disturbing factors in spinning processes for getting quality yarn, so it demands the study of short fiber formations and NRE% in carding at various cylinder speed and also the study of seeking the optimum roller gauge settings accordingly. Otherwise, during combing operations feed lap may contain large amount of short fiber, neps and more importantly uneven lap sheet may produces and that will affects the noil percentage, fiber parallelism, neps amount and irregularity of combed sliver as well. As a result, combed yarn evenness and imperfections will be affected also. For this reason, we have examined the interactive effects of cylinder rpm of card and roller gauge settings on breaker drawing frame on combed yarn evenness and imperfections.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Raw Materials and Yarn Sample Preparation

100% cotton fibers of West Africa (Benin) were used to produce ring spun combed yarn of 32 Ne and 36 Ne. Quality parameters of raw cotton fibers are given in table 1. 100% cotton combed yarns were produced on Marzoli ring spinning frame. For the yarn samples preparations, Blow room to Ring frame material processed through same machinery conditions as well as settings except two variables i.e., card cylinder speed and draw frame roller gauge setting. Constant

processing parameters from blow room to comber machine are given in table 2. The flyer rpm of speed frame and roving hank were 1100 and 0.76 Ne respectively. Spindle rpm of ring frame was maintained 16000 rpm throughout the experiment. However, design plan for this experiment has been given in table 3. Cylinder rpm has been varied in three levels (i.e., 750, 800 and 850) for each three types of roller gauges (i.e., 38 mm/42 mm, 40 mm/44 mm and 42 mm/46 mm). The settings for the back zone were maintained at Front Zone Setting + 4mm in all the cases.

Table 1. Specifications of fiber used.

Fiber specifications	value
Fiber Type	100% cotton
Fineness	145 mtex
Maturity Ratio	0.79
Upper quartile length (UQL _w)	29.72mm
SFC (w)	11.7%
SFC (n)	31.4%
Uster 5% length (n)	34.86 mm
Fiber neps cnt/g	184
Nep Size (μm)	668
Seed Coat Nep cnt/g	16

Table 2. Constant processing parameters of experiment.

Machine	Parameters	value
Blow room	Cleaning Intensity of Uniclean, Rieter B-12	0.4
	Cleaning Intensity of Uniflex, Rieter B-60	0.2
	Production/kg	60
Carding, C60	Flat speed	0.33m/min
	Licker-in rpm	1450
	Sliver weight	78 grain/yard
	Breaker sliver weight	75 grain/yard
Breaker draw frame, RSB	Total Doubling	6
	Total draft	6.81
D-45	Break draft	1.15
	Delivery speed	500 m/min
Lap former,	Lap weight	70gram/meter

Table 4. AFIS report of carding mat and carded sliver.

Cylinder rpm	Quality parameters	Card Mat (Input) (Average results)	Card sliver (Output) (Average results)
750	Fiber neps (cnt/g)	347	136
	Fiber neps size (μm)	672	611
	SFC (w)	11.92%	12.85%
	SFC (n)	31.2%	31.9%
	5% L (n)	34.57 mm	34.13 mm
	NRE%	60.80%	
800	Fiber neps (cnt/g)	362	117
	Neps size (μm)	680	591
	SFC (w)	12.1%	13.4%
	SFC (n)	31.8%	32.8%
	5% L (n)	34.27 mm	33.77 mm
	NRE%	67.67%	
850	Fiber neps (cnt/g)	358	129
	Neps size (μm)	646	597
	SFC (w)	12.03%	13.68%
	SFC (n)	32.2%	33.6%
	5% L (n)	34.09 mm	33.34 mm
	NRE%	63.94%	

Machine	Parameters	value
Unilap	Total doubling	24
	Feed/min	4.7 mm
Comber, E-76	Detachment setting	11 mm
	Combing cycle/min	400
Finisher draw	Total Doubling	6
Frame, RSB	Delivery speed	500 m/min
D-22	Sliver weight	75 grain/yard

2.2. Testing of Yarn Samples

Yarn evenness and imperfections results have been tested by UT- 5 at testing speed 400m/min. Total IPI/1000 m was calculated by adding Thin (-50%), Thick (+50%) and Neps (+200%) value. Average results of 10 samples produced for each experiment according to design of this project work have been calculated. It is worth mentioning that AFIS report (given in table 4) of carding input (i.e. card mat), carding output (i.e., card sliver) for each rpm of cylinder have been tested by Uster AFIS-PRO. However, all slivers evenness have been tested by Uster tester-5 and SFC% and neps amount have been tested by Uster AFIS-PRO.

Table 3. Design plan of experiment.

Experiment no.	Cylinder Speed (rpm)	Breaker drawing Roller gauge (front zone /back zone in mm)
01.	750	Front/Back=38/42
02.	800	Front/Back=38/42
03.	850	Front/Back=38/42
04.	750	Front/Back=40/44
05.	800	Front/Back=40/44
06.	850	Front/Back=40/44
07.	750	Front/Back=42/46
08.	800	Front/Back=42/46
09.	850	Front/Back=42/46

Table 5. Results of sliver U%, comber waste%, and AFIS results of combed sliver.

Cylinder rpm	Carded sliver U% (Avg.)	Breaker drawing roller gauge in mm	Breaker sliver U%	Combed sliver U%	Combed sliver CV _{1m} %	Comber Noil%	Fiber neps in combed sliver (cnt/g)	SFC% (n) in combed sliver
750	3.62%	F38/B42	3.26%	4.82%	1.34	11.89%	76	17.3%
		F40/B44	3.06%	3.91%	0.98	12.10%	50	15.8%
		F42/B46	3.17%	4.08%	1.29	12.22%	67	16.4%
800	3.2%	F38/B42	3.08%	3.85%	1.1	11.98%	52	15.9%
		F40/B44	2.59%	3.33%	0.84	12.02%	41	14.8%
		F42/B46	2.79%	3.62%	1.16	11.88%	57	16.1%
850	3.51%	F38/B42	2.92%	3.93%	1.12	12.33%	59	15.9%
		F40/B44	3.15%	4.12%	1.25	12.18%	70	16.5%
		F42/B46	3.73%	4.70%	1.41	12.04%	76	17.1%

3. Results and Discussions

The experimental results for all the nine yarn samples are given in Table 6.

Table 6. Unevenness, Imperfections (Thick+50%, Thin-50% and Neps +200%) results of Yarns.

Expt. no.	Yarn U%				Thin Place/km (-50%)		Thick Place/km (+50%)		Neps/km (+200%)		Total IPI/km	
	32 Ne		36Ne		32 Ne	36 Ne	32 Ne	36 Ne	32 Ne	36 Ne	32 Ne	36 Ne
	Avg	CV%	Avg	CV%	Avg	Avg	Avg	Avg	Avg	Avg	Avg	Avg
01.	11.02	2.6	11.63	2.5	2	4	33	74	61	70	96	148
02.	9.14	1.9	10.81	2.7	0	3	18	44	43	54	61	101
03.	9.87	2.3	10.28	1.7	0	2	25	56	59	64	84	122
04.	10.14	1.7	9.85	1.4	0	1	21	53	48	66	69	120
05.	8.95	1.6	9.21	1.2	0	0	14	37	37	49	51	86
06.	10.37	2.2	11.40	2.5	2	3	37	70	65	77	104	150
07.	10.75	3	11.19	2.8	0	0	29	67	50	75	79	142
08.	10.44	1.5	10.64	2.2	2	2	34	55	41	58	77	115
09.	11.26	2.5	11.88	2.3	5	6	52	79	67	72	124	157

3.1. Yarn Irregularity

To get maximum yarn evenness the attenuation of fiber strand should be achieved with the minimum variation in its linear density. Since fiber of different lengths will tend to move differently during drafting, this will increase the yarn irregularity% [21]. Figures 1 and 2 shows that yarn U% for both 32 Ne and 36 Ne are obtained minimum for the combination of cylinder rpm of 800 and roller gauge setting of F40/B44 while U% is obtained maximum for the combination of cylinder rpm of 850 and roller gauge of F42/B46. This can be attributed due to the fact that an increase of cylinder speed will increase short fiber percentage as well. Increased level of short fiber in carded sliver will create drafting wave in breaker drawn sliver certainly because of their uncontrolled movement during drafting. As a result, higher irregularity is obtained in drawn sliver that hinders the combing operations accordingly because irregular lap sheet permits poor combing efficiency. Ultimately, for higher cylinder speed, yarn irregularity has been increased when roller settings are kept wider. Although cylinder rpm 750 generates lower level of short fiber percentage (shown in table 4) but fiber individualization will be lowered also in comparison with that of 800 rpm. Optimum fiber individualizations resulted in improved fiber parallelization of

fiber strand with lower irregularity of sliver. That's why roller gauge setting F40/B44 gives improved results of yarn evenness for 800 rpm compared to cylinder rpm of 750 for both yarn counts. It is also seen that for 750 rpm of cylinder, wider roller setting (F42/B46) deteriorates yarn evenness slightly for both 32 Ne and 36 Ne. It can also be happened due to the fact that cylinder rpm of 800 produce more cleaned carded sliver with better fiber individualization with lower level of damaged fiber formation compared to cylinder rpm of 750. As a result, it is seen in table 5 that for the combination of cylinder rpm of 800 and roller gauge of F40/B44, short fiber content (n) in combed sliver is obtained minimum because of better fiber parallelization in drafting zone of breaker draw frame leads better combing performance that is ultimately attributed to improved fiber length uniformity in combed sliver by removing short fiber. Among three types of roller gauge settings, it can be mentioned that roller settings F40/B44 gives best results compared to other two settings. Simultaneously, it should also be stated that higher cylinder speed (i.e., 850 rpm) lowers the value of 5% span length of fibers (shown in table 4). As a result, lower roller gauge setting (F38/B42) gives better results of yarn evenness for 850 rpm of cylinder. However, roller gauge setting F40/B44 gives improved results of yarn evenness for both 800 rpm and 750 rpm for both types of yarn count.

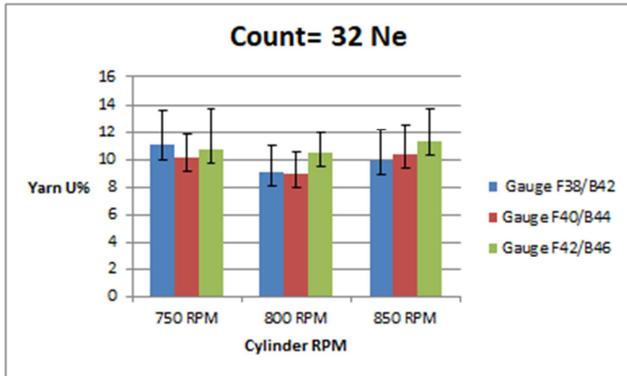


Figure 1. Effect of cylinder speed and roller gauge on Yarn U% (Count=32 Ne).

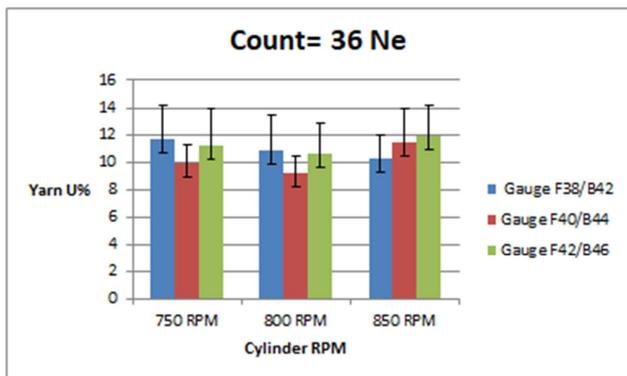


Figure 2. Effect of cylinder speed and roller gauge on Yarn U% (Count=36 Ne).

3.2. Yarn Imperfections

Yarn faults in the shape of thin places, thick places, and neps which are called the imperfections are decisive on the external appearance of yarns and the products obtained from them [22].

Figure 3 and 4 show that when cylinder rpm is kept 800, yarn imperfections (IPI value per km) for both yarn count (i.e., 32 Ne and 36 Ne) reduces distinguishably for all three types of roller gauge setting compared to other two cylinder rpm of 750 and 850. It may be occurred due to higher level of NRE% and better individualization of fibers with lower level of hooked fiber formations by cylinder wire in card. Although cylinder rpm of 850 produced low level of hooked fiber due to high cylinder speed but simultaneously short fiber and neps formation tendencies are also high in this case. On the other hand, cylinder rpm of 750 creates somewhat lower amount of short fiber but NRE% (shown in table 4) is also lower for 750 rpm. It is also worth mentioning that poor individualization of fibers is happened and tendency of trailing hooked fiber formation is higher due to lower level of cylinder rpm of 750. These negative two phenomena outweigh the positive effect created by 750 rpm in carded sliver. However, from the results of figures 3 & 4, it is observed that 5% span length of carded sliver is maximum for 750 rpm and minimum for 850 rpm (shown in table 4). From this perspective, optimum roller gauge settings are

F40/B44 and F38/B42 for 750 rpm and 850 rpm respectively in this experiment. It is also noticeable that fibers treated at roller gauge of F40/B44 with cylinder speed of 800 rpm gives better improvement in term of yarn imperfections for both types of yarn count. In table 5, it is seen that neps (cnt/g) and SFC% in combed sliver is obtained minimum for the combination of cylinder rpm 800 and roller gauge of F40/B44. This positive effects may be incorporated in sliver and ultimately in combed yarn because of better combing performances that is mainly linked with decreasing NRE% and increasing fiber length uniformity of card sliver and subsequently better evenness of breaker sliver as well.

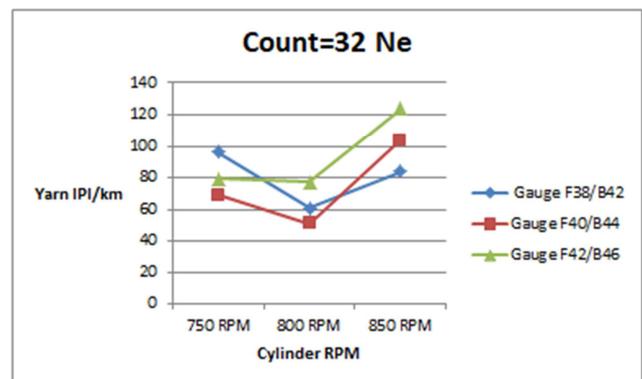


Figure 3. Effect of cylinder speed and roller gauge on Yarn Imperfections (Count=32 Ne).

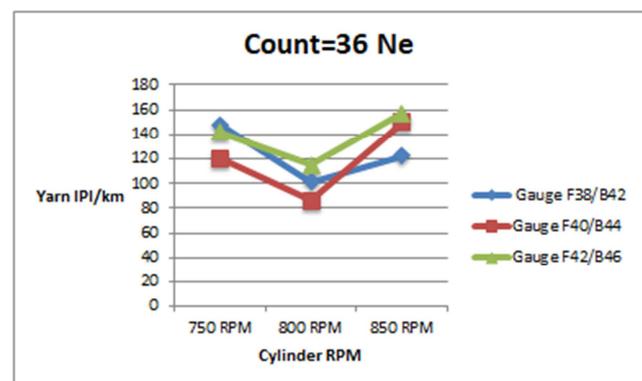


Figure 4. Effect of cylinder speed and roller gauge on Yarn Imperfections (Count=36 Ne).

4. Conclusions

The presented work demonstrated the dependency of ring spun combed yarn quality in terms of evenness and imperfections on variations of cylinder rpm and roller gauge settings of breaker drawing frame. However, it may be concluded that for combed ring spun yarn produced with comparatively higher cylinder speed (i.e., 850 rpm) roller settings of breaker drawing frame should be kept somewhat narrower (i.e., Front 38 mm/ Back 42 mm) otherwise short fiber percentage and $CV_{1m}\%$ of combed sliver will be higher. As results, it is noticeable that combed yarn of both 32 Ne and 36 Ne produced with higher cylinder speed and wider roller gauge setting shows deterioration of quality in terms of

evenness and imperfections. It also be concluded that for lower level of cylinder speed (i.e., 750 rpm) roller gauge settings of subsequent drawing frame should be kept little wider for better evenness at combed sliver and finally at combed yarn as well. Simultaneously, it is also mentionable that much wider settings in drawing frame for any types of cylinder rpm gives poor results in terms of combed yarn evenness and imperfections. Quality parameters of finer combed yarn (i.e., 36 Ne) react similarly but more sensitively in comparison with a little coarser yarn (i.e., 32 Ne) because of not selecting optimum roller gauge setting as per cylinder speed in general. Finally, in this experiment, best combination of cylinder rpm and roller gauge settings is found 800 rpm and F40/B44 (Front zone/Back zone =40 mm/44 mm) respectively for producing combed spun yarn.

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