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Prediction of whiteness index of cotton using bleaching process variables by fuzzy inference system

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Abstract

A fuzzy prediction model has been built based on hydrogen peroxide concentration, temperature and time of bleaching as the input variables and knitted fabric whiteness index as the output variable. The process parameters affecting the whiteness index of cotton knitted fabrics are very non-linear. Fuzzy inference system is a prospective modeling tool as it can map effectively in nonlinear domain with minimum investigational data. Triangular-shaped membership functions were considered for the variables and total 48 rules were created in this study. It was found that the sole effect of the concentration of hydrogen peroxide on whiteness is pretty low, but is affected by temperature noticeably even in a fixed concentration of hydrogen peroxide. The model proposed in the present study has been verified by additional experimental data set. The root mean square, mean absolute error percentage and coefficient of determination (R^2) between the predicted and experimental values were found to be 0.536, 0.798 and 0.959 respectively. The results validate that the model can be applied suitably for the prediction of fabric whiteness index in textile industries.

Keywords: Whiteness index, Prediction, Fuzzy logic, Knitted fabric, Bleaching, Cotton

Introduction

Whiteness is an aspect of color resultant by high luminosity with an absence of any hue (Wyszecki and Stiles 1982; Steen and Dupont 2003; Choudhury 2006). A white plane reflects more than 50% light all over the visible spectrum. The whiter appearance of the substance depends on the uniformity of the spectral reflectance and percentages of light reflection (Akgun 2015). White is an achromatic color and characterized by constant absorption from 400 to 700 nm wave length (Zollinger 2003).

Cotton owns a natural color due to the protoplasmic residues of the protein as well as flavones pigments of cotton flowers (Abdel-Halim 2012). Therefore, it needs to be pretreated to produce a permanent white surface that is suitable for dyeing or any other wet process (Kabir et al. 2014). Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) is mostly used bleaching agent among all other, as it can bleach both cellulose and protein fibers successfully (Trotman 1975). This chemical is stable in acidic medium but bleaches with the addition of alkali. The per-hydroxyl ion (HO_2^-) liberated in alkaline state, acts like a weak dibasic acid



that is very unstable. The presence of oxidizable colored stuff in cotton promotes to the decomposition and bleaching takes place (Abdul and Narendra 2013).

The assessment of whiteness by instrument is usually performed by two-step operation; measurement of reflectance and evaluation of whiteness from data obtained. There are quite a few methods available in order to calculate whiteness quantitatively which took apart the dependence on visual estimations (Ganz 1979; Choudhury 2000; Jafari and Amirshahi 2008).

The CIE whiteness index (WI) under CIE1964 standard observer (10°) and D65 illuminant viewing conditions, can be represented by Eq. (1) (Jafari and Amirshahi 2008):

$$W = Y + 800(xn - x) + 1700(yn - y)$$
(1)

where, Y is the lightness and x, y and xn, yn are chromaticity coordinates of the tested sample and the illuminant respectively. The CIE WI is controlled by Eq. (2) (Jafari and Amirshahi 2008):

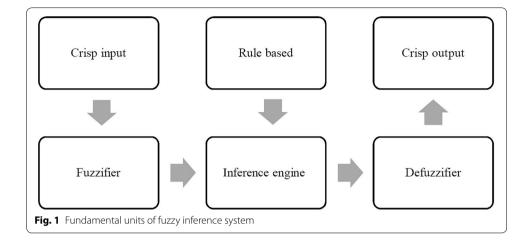
$$40 < W < (5Y - 280) \tag{2}$$

The validity of these equations in comparison to visual evaluations had already been reported by several researchers (Uchida 1998; Jafari and Amirshahi 2007, 2008).

Though bleaching is a significant part of cotton's pre-treatment and affects massively to the post-processes, there is no prediction model developed yet for whiteness index on basis of bleaching process parameters. In this context, an attempt done by Haque and Islam (2015) was to optimize the bleaching parameters for getting balance between bursting strength and whiteness index. Three non-linear parameters (H_2O_2 concentration, process temperature and time duration) those have intra relations were found to be significant that affects whiteness index in a constant pH (Haque and Islam 2015). Thus, predictions of whiteness index hold the significance before the bleaching operation starts as the whiteness of the fabric can crucially affect dyeing process afterwards.

There are different prediction models like Artificial Neural Network (ANN) and Adaptive Neuroinference System (ANFIS) used frequently in textile domain over the years. But there is only one report available which proposed on the optimization of cotton pretreatment by prediction modeling through ANN, though it was more specifically on the bio-scouring of organic cotton (Vigneswaran et al. 2012). In fact, ANN and ANFIS models need lots of input—output data for optimization of model parameters which is not an easy task. Besides, they are time consuming and labour intensive as well (Jamshaid et al. 2013; Hossain et al. 2015). Moreover, ANN does not propose the core logic base on which the decisions can be made (Hatua et al. 2014).

In contrast, fuzzy inference system (FIS) is a quite capable modeling tool to overcome the limitations of ANN and ANFIS models as it is based on fuzzy logic and can simply convert the experience of experts to a set of inference system based rule and is focused on modes of reasoning which are approximate rather than exact. Fuzzy inference system is an extension of crisp logic derived from the fuzzy mathematical set theory proposed by Zadeh (1965) (Haghighat et al. 2014; Ngai et al. 2014; Vadood 2014). It is an artificial intelligence having a multi-valued logic structure and the implementation is easier than other models due to its ability to perform with a small amount of experimental data in non-linear, trial—error, ill-defined and complex textile domain. Furthermore, this system



is cheaper and more reasonable in design cost and very simple in application (Majumdar and Ghosh 2008; Vadood 2014; Hossain et al. 2015, 2016). Fundamentally FIS contains four major modules (Gopal 2010; Hossain et al. 2014) which are shown in Fig. 1.

Fuzzy model has previously been applied successfully by several researches in textile. For instance, predicting yarn strength in spinning, predicting bursting strength, spirality, shrinkage, tactile sensory properties of knitted fabric, predicting fabric GSM, predicting color properties and predicting needle penetration force in denim fabric (Majumdar and Ghosh 2008; Jeguirim et al. 2011; Haghighat et al. 2014; Hossain et al. 2014, 2016, 2017; Shahid and Hossain 2015). However, there is no report on prediction of whiteness index of cotton fabric by varying different bleaching parameters which is taken into account in the current study.

Methods

Fabric and chemicals

Single jersey cotton knitted fabric of 130 GSM was considered for the study. Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH) and Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) of commercial grade were used for the bleaching operations. Kappazon H53 peroxide stabilizer (Kapp-chemie, Bangladesh) was also used for H_2O_2 stabilizing action.

Bleaching of fabric

Bleaching operations of the samples were done in a Mathis Labomat lab dyeing machine. Fabrics were treated according to a set of values for Hydrogen peroxide concentration $(1.8-2.2~{\rm g/L})$, temperature $(78-108~{\rm ^\circ C})$ and time $(20-50~{\rm min})$. Sample weight was $12.5~{\rm g}$ constant with a $1:10~{\rm Material}$ liquor ratio (MLR). Concentrations of NaOH and Kappazon H53 were kept 2 and 1 g/L constant respectively in each bleaching bath. The after treatment of the fabric samples was done by the following steps-

Hot wash (70 °C)

↓

Cold wash (27 °C)

↓

Squeezing (by hand)

↓

Drying (70 °C, 30 min)

A total of 40 bleached samples were collected for measuring whiteness index.

Whiteness index (WI) measurement

The beached fabrics were tested in a spectrophotometer (datacolor 650, USA) for determining the whiteness index in D65 illuminant and 10° observer setting. The results are shown in Table 1.

Development of fuzzy prediction model

Three bleaching process variables- hydrogen peroxide concentration (PC), temperature (T) and time (t) were used as input variables and whiteness index (WI) of the bleached fabrics was used as the output variable for the development of the fuzzy prediction model. A fuzzy logic toolbox from MATLAB (version 7.10.0) was used to develop the proposed fuzzy prediction model of whiteness index. For fuzzification, the input variable PC was specified by three possible linguistic fuzzy sets, namely low (L), medium (M) and high (H). Four fuzzy numbers, TI, T2, T3 and T4 were used for the input variables of T and for t, four fuzzy numbers t1, t2, t3 and t4 were considered. For the output variable WI, eight linguistic fuzzy sets, L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, L6, L7 and L8 were used. These linguistic fuzzy sets are able to cover appropriately the complete ranges of input and output variables for regular cotton bleaching process in industries. The linguistic fuzzy sets for input—output parameters are depicted in Table 2.

For this fuzzy prediction model, triangular-shaped membership functions were used for both input and output variables as it is the most precise among other all membership functions (Marakoğlu and Çarman 2010). The triangular formed membership functions for the fuzzy variables *PC*, *T*, *t* and *WI* developed by MATLAB fuzzy toolbox are shown in Figs. 2, 3, 4, and 5. Following fuzzification, total 48 rules were created for the input and output variables based on expert knowledge and previous experience. A mamdani max—min inference approach was used to combine the fuzzy sets into a single fuzzy set. Finally, the centre of gravity defuzzification method was applied to convert the fuzzy output into non-fuzzy crisp numeric value by Eq. (3) below (Haghighat et al. 2014).

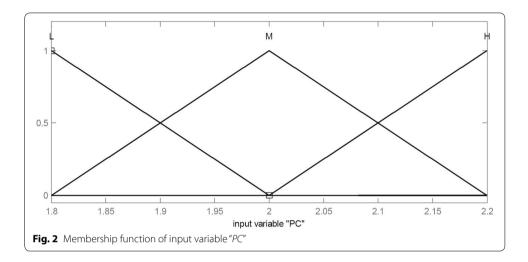
$$z = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\mu_i \times b_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\mu_i)}$$
 (3)

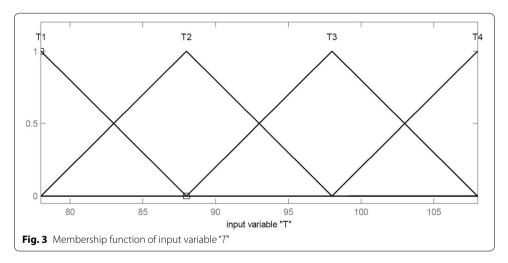
Table 1 Experimental results of whiteness index

Trial number	Input values	Target value		
	PC (g/L)	T (°C)	t (min)	WI
1	1.8	78	20	47.21
2	1.8	78	40	58.65
3	1.8	78	50	59.26
4	1.8	83	30	58.01
5	1.8	88	20	55.55
6	1.8	88	40	61.25
7	1.8	93	50	62.50
8	1.8	98	20	58.65
9	1.8	98	50	63.16
10	1.8	103	20	58.76
11	1.8	103	40	62.94
12	1.8	108	40	63.04
13	1.8	108	50	63.62
14	2.0	78	20	47.76
15	2.0	78	30	57.31
16	2.0	78	40	59.64
17	2.0	83	30	58.61
18	2.0	83	40	59.96
19	2.0	83	50	61.02
20	2.0	88	40	61.84
21	2.0	93	20	57.75
22	2.0	98	20	59.16
23	2.0	98	40	63.45
24	2.0	98	50	63.86
25	2.0	108	30	62.45
26	2.0	108	40	63.51
27	2.2	78	20	48.25
28	2.2	78	40	59.64
29	2.2	78	50	60.11
30	2.2	88	30	60.54
31	2.2	88	40	62.66
32	2.2	88	50	62.73
33	2.2	93	40	63.03
34	2.2	93	50	63.65
35	2.2	98	20	59.98
36	2.2	98	30	62.53
37	2.2	103	20	60.11
38	2.2	103	30	62.84
39	2.2	108	30	63.01
40	2.2	108	50	64.65

Table 2 Linguistic fuzzy sets for input-output parameters

Parameters	Range	Linguistic fuzzy sets low (L), medium (M), high (H)	
Peroxide concentration, PC (g/L)	1.8–2.2		
Temperature, T (°C)	78–108	T1, T2, T3, T4	
Time, t (min)	20-50	t1, t2, t3, t4	
Whiteness index, WI	47–65	L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, L6, L7, L8	



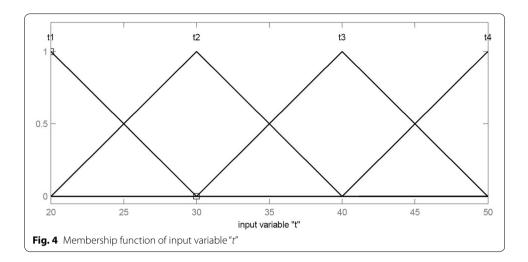


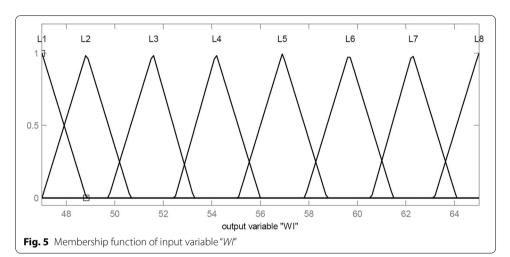
where, b_i is the position of the singleton in the ith universe and μ_i is equal to the membership function of rule i.

The schematic diagram of the modeling is shown in Fig. 6.

Prediction performance analysis

The prediction performance of the developed model was analyzed by root-mean square (RMS), mean absolute error percentage (MAEP) and coefficient of determination (R^2). The formulation of RMS, MAEP and R^2 are given below.





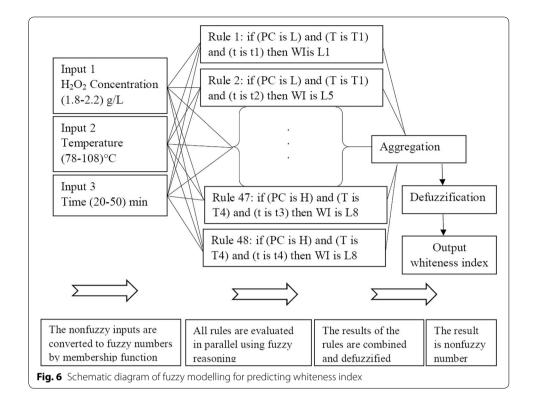
$$R^{2} = 1 - \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{i=N} (E_{a} - E_{p})^{2}}{\sum_{i=1}^{i=N} (E_{a} - E_{M})^{2}}\right)$$
(4)

$$RMS = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{i=N} (E_a - E_p)^2}{N}}$$
 (5)

$$MAEP = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{i=N} \left(\frac{|E_a - E_p|}{E_a} \times 100 \right)$$
 (6)

where, $E_{\rm a}$ is actual result, $E_{\rm p}$ is predicted result, $E_{\rm m}$ is mean value and N represents number of pattern.

The coefficient of determination (R^2) is expected to compare the accuracy of a given model with the accuracy of a trivial benchmark model whereas RMS becomes small as close as zero for good accuracy of prediction. The MAEP shows the deviation between



the predicted and investigational values and it is required to reach zero for the best accuracy.

Results and discussion

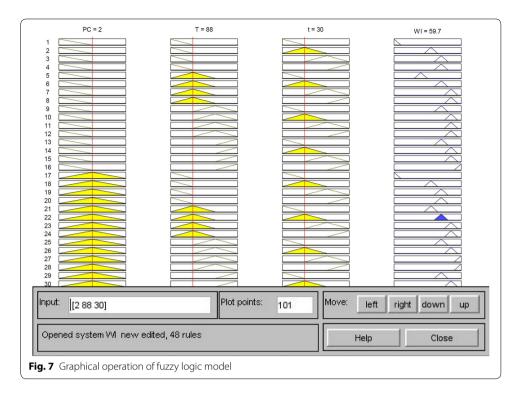
Operation of fuzzy prediction model

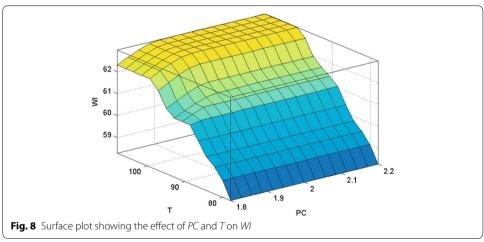
An example of the graphical operation of fuzzy logic model is shown in Fig. 7. Only one fuzzy rule (Rule 22) out of 48 is shown in the image for simplicity. According to rule 22, when hydrogen peroxide concentration is medium (M), Temperature is T2 and Time for bleaching is t2, whiteness index is L6. For instance, if PC is 2 g/L, T is 88 °C and t is 30 min, all 48 fuzzy rules are reviewed simultaneously to get the fuzzy output whiteness index (WI). After aggregation and defuzzification, the ultimate crisp output whiteness index of the fuzzy set is found to be 59.7.

Influence of input variables on whiteness index

The fuzzy control surfaces were developed Using MATLAB as displayed in Figs. 8, 9 and 10. The images show the relations between hydrogen peroxide concentrations (PC), temperature (T) and time (t) on the input part and whiteness index (WI) on the output part. The surface plots revealed in Figs. 8, 9 and 10 show the influence of PC, T and t on WI.

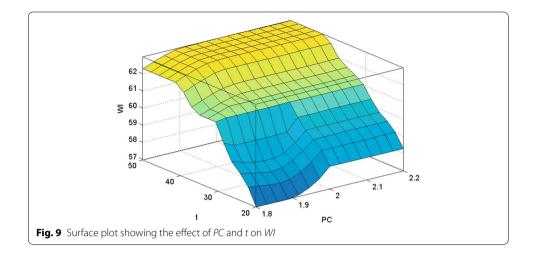
Figure 8 represents that *WI* increases with the increase of *PC* and *T* and vice versa. Temperature has a steady influence on whiteness index which is enhanced further by peroxide concentration. However the individual effect of peroxide concentration on whiteness index is pretty low and no change in whiteness is found at higher concentrations if temperature remains constant. In fact, *WI* increases around 2.20% only for about 22% increase of *PC*. On the other hand, *WI* increases near about 25.33% for around

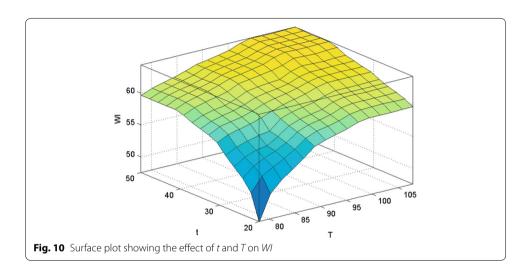




38.46% rise of *T*. It indicates that the whiteness index is affected by temperature significantly even in a fixed concentration of hydrogen peroxide.

A similar phenomenon is observed from Fig. 9 for t and PC on WI. The figure shows that WI increases progressively with the increase of t. The effect of PC on WI is found very little here again. Lastly, from Fig. 10, it is observed that both T and t have almost similar influence on WI. Whiteness index increases smoothly with the increase of temperature and time. The rate of increase is initially sharp but slows down later on. For instance, WI increases around 17.65% for raising temperature from 78 to 88 °C, but it increases only about 6.12% for raising temperature from 88 to 108 °C. Similarly WI increases around 19.95% for increasing time from 20 to 30 min, but it increases only



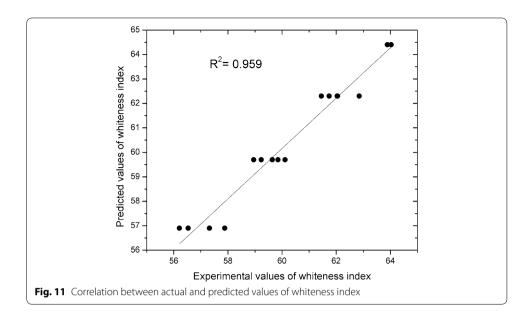


about 4.83% for increasing time from 30 to 50 min. The influence of t in higher T and influence of T in greater t are found very low in fact (about 4.28% increase of WI from 20 to 50 min in 108 °C and about 7.36% increase of WI from 78 to 108 °C in 50 min).

Hence, it can be concluded that though hydrogen peroxide is the main element for bleaching operation, temperature of the bleaching bath has a very important positive influence on whiteness index which can be improved by increasing time duration.

Validation and comparison of fuzzy model

The developed fuzzy prediction model was validated by some new investigational data. 16 fabric samples were bleached again in random parameters and considered to validate the fuzzy model. The correlation between the actual whiteness index and that predicted by the fuzzy logic model are illustrated in Fig. 11. The root-mean squared (RMS), mean absolute error percentage (MAEP) and coefficient of determination (R^2) between the predicted and experimental values of whiteness index of cotton knitted fabric were



found to be 0.536, 0.798 and 0.959 respectively, which evident the close conformity of the developed model. The results are depicted in Table 3.

Conclusions

In the current study, a fuzzy model has been developed for the prediction of the whiteness index of single jersey cotton knitted fabric. The model was generated by taking three bleaching process parameters ($\rm H_2O_2$ concentration, temperature and time) as the input variables and fabric whiteness index as the output variable. The model developed

Table 3 Prediction performance of fuzzy model

SI no.	PC (g/L)	T (°C)	t (min)	Actual WI	Predicted WI	Absolute error %
1	1.8	78	30	56.53	56.9	0.65452
2	1.8	88	30	59.23	59.7	0.793517
3	1.8	88	50	61.74	62.3	0.907029
4	1.8	98	30	61.45	62.3	1.383238
5	1.8	98	40	62.85	62.3	0.875099
6	1.8	108	20	58.95	59.7	1.272265
7	1.8	108	30	62.05	62.3	0.402901
8	2	78	50	59.64	59.7	0.100604
9	2	88	20	56.21	56.9	1.22754
10	2	88	30	60.11	59.7	0.682083
11	2	88	50	62.04	62.3	0.419084
12	2	108	20	59.85	59.7	0.250627
13	2.2	78	30	57.88	56.9	1.693158
14	2.2	88	20	57.32	56.9	0.732729
15	2.2	98	40	63.89	64.4	0.798247
16	2.2	98	50	64.03	64.4	0.577854
R^2					0.959	
MAEP					0.798	
RMS					0.536	

presents an outstanding perceptive on the interaction between bleaching process variables and their effects on whiteness index. It was found that though hydrogen peroxide despite of being the key element for bleaching, the other variables- temperature and time has greater influence on whiteness index. The fuzzy model derived in this study was validated by new investigational data. The root-mean squared (RMS), mean absolute error percentage (MAEP) and coefficient of determination (R^2) between the predicted and experimental values of whiteness index were found to be 0.536, 0.798 and 0.959 respectively. The results exhibit a brilliant prediction performance of the developed fuzzy model. The model will highly suit textile industries for predicting the whiteness index of cotton knitted fabric as a decision making support tool.

Authors' contributions

MAI, NF and FS did the experimental part of the project. SAS produced the Fuzzy model and ANMAH conducted the interpretation and analysis. The whole project was closely overseen by MH. All authors read and approved the final manuscript

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

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