# ANALYTICAL STUDY FOR FIBER STRENGTH AND ELONGATION MEASUREMENTS OF EGYPTIAN COTTON (Gossypiam barbadense L.)

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Interrelationships among single fiber strength / elongation measured by Favigraph and the various bundle strength / elongation measurements including Fibrotest, High Volume Instrument (HVI), Stelometer and Pressly were determined. In addition, the relationships between fiber strength / elongation and fiber length and yarn strength were determined. Materials used in the present study included lint grades ranged from Fully Fair (FF) to Fully Good (FG) of the Egyptian cottons varieties (Gossypian barbadense L.), Giza 86, Giza 90, Giza 92 and Giza 88.

The measurements of fiber strength exhibited high variations for cotton varieties and lint grades. The correlation coefficients among fiber strength measures were highly significant, especially of Favigraph single fiber and Fibrotest bundle strength. The HVI elongation showed insignificant association with other measurements. Favigraph and Fibrotest elongation showed insignificant correlations with HVI elongation, and significant correlation with Stelometer elongation and each of fiber strength measures. The association of Fibrotest elongation to the breaking force for bundles was poorer than for Favigraph single fibers. The relationship between fiber strength measurements and fiber length and yarn strength was highly significant, especially Fibrotest and Favigraph strength that exhibited the highest agreement with yarn strength.

The absolute Fibrotest strength represents the real strength behavior of cotton during the spinning process; therefor Fibrotest is able to check cotton bales in relative Fibrotest strength to HVI mode and to test cotton regarding the processing behavior.

Keywords: Cotton fiber, elongation, fiber strength, Favigraph, Fibrotest

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Tensile strength of cotton fibers is important at various stages of processing such as ginning, spinning and weaving. Inferior tensile properties lead to poor fiber length distribution, increased short fiber content, poor yarn quality, lower fabric appearance and low productivity (Jackowski, *et al*, 2003 and Farag and Elmogahzy, 2009). Various methods have been employed to determine the strength and extensibility of cotton fibers. An early method, Pressley, used a flat bundle of fibers and a simple beam-lever mechanism to break them.

To improve reproducibility and add a measure of extensibility, Hertel and Carven (1956) developed the Stelometer. They used Pressely jaws but added fiber combing and tensioning devices to provide better fiber alignments. All fiber specimens were prepared

and pretensioned by hand which introduced operator differences.

The High volume instrument (HVI) is being developed to improve the precision and accuracy of strength measurements (Taylor and Godbey, 1993).

The HVI instrument has a high level of mechanization to reduce operator errors and the number of reference measurements required. Fibers tested for strength are captured in a second clamp and combed in the opposite direction to form a non-tapered specimen. They are loaded into Pressely jaws under a controlled level of tension and tested at the HVI rate of extension (Taylor and Godbey, 1995).

Beginning of 1993, all US cotton crops have been classed by the HVI. The tensile properties of HVI bundle are largely determined by the tensile properties of the component fibers within the bundle. Therefore, a proper interpretation and utilization of bundle tenacity-elongation curves requires a basic understanding on the relationship between bundle tensile properties and the tensile properties of the fibers making up the bundle (Koo *et al.*, 2001).

It is generally understood that fiber strength is one of the most important fiber properties, and it is quantitatively inherited (Foulk *et al.*, 2009). Taylor and Godbey, (1995) concluded that, due to the method of instrument calibration, HVI strength readings for high quality cottons grown in the US has been increasing at a rate between 0.43 % and 0.62 % years above Stelometer. This trend was equivalent to an average yearly increase between 0.12 and 0.17 g/tex in HVI strength readings.

This difference could not be traced to fiber or yarn quality increase. Yearly variations in the HVI strength data for high quality cottons were 3.22 % compared to 1.54 % for Stelometer. Therefore, additional improvements are needed in the HVI reference method to reduce calibration level changes and control drift.

Single fiber tensile properties are critical to the processing efficiency of cotton fibers into products and the quality of the products. The mean single fiber tensile properties and their variations have been reported to have significant effects on fiber bundle and yarn strength (Sasser *et al.*, 1991, Liu, *et al.*, 2001 and 2005).

Thibodeaux *et al.*, (1998) reported that both the Stelometer tenacity (TI,  $R^2 = 0.952$ ) and HVI breaking strength ( $R^2 = 0.783$ ) can be expressed by a multilinear relationship that includes the Mantis breaking load and projected fiber ribbon width. They added, both the Stelometer tenacity ( $R^2 = 0.907$ ) and HVI breaking strength ( $R^2 = 0.720$ ) are linearly proportional to the ratio of the mantis breaking load to the square of the projected ribbon width determined by the mantis electro-optical sensor.

Liu et al., (2005) revealed that during testing of bundle tensile strength, fibers with a lower extension at break contribute little to bundle tenacity because they are broken first, before the majority of fibers in the bundle. Suth, et al., (1994) reported that efficiency loss of tensile properties in a fiber bundle was largely (46 %) due to variations in the single fiber breaking elongation, and to a lesser degree (7 %) due to the slack in the fiber bundle. The higher the single fibers strength and the lower the variations of single fiber breaking elongation,

the closer the bundle and yarn tensile strength would be to the sum of single fiber strength (Liu *et al.*, 2005).

On a recent study on cotton fiber elongation measurements using 17 upland and three pima cottons, Yang and Gordon (2014 and 2016), confirmed that there is no correlation between Favimat single fiber elongation and HVI bundle elongation, which indicates some issues with HVI elongation measurements. Further to such questions, their study showed there should be a positive correlation between cotton fiber elongation (single or bundle) and fiber tenacity.

They added that the negative correlation coefficients with HVI elongation are believed to be caused by a fiber length bias and variable jaw positioning in HVI fiber tenacity and elongation measurements.

Delhom and Cui, (2011) conducted single fiber tensile testing on eight Upland cottons using Favimat and compared the results with bundle testing results from HVI and the Stelometer. They showed a reasonably good correlation between Favimat single fiber elongation and bundle elongation of Stelometer with  $R^2 = 0.64$ .

While HVI bundle tensile testing is rapid and easy to conduct, single fiber tensile testing is more tedious and thus not undertaken routinely, but gives a better indication of the intrinsic fiber tensile inconsistencies and variable strain at break problems (Long *et al.*, 2014).

The interaction captures between variety and instrument method for tensile properties provides practical insight to researches that need to carefully measure these attributes to develop production systems (and varieties) to produce finer, stronger, and more consistent uniform cotton fiber. On this study four Egyptian cotton varieties were used to compare determining methods of single and bundle fiber strength and elongation and investigate the reliability of these measurements.

#### 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The materials used in this study are four commercial varieties of Egyptian cotton which were grown in 2015 season. Giza 88 and Giza 92 varieties belong to the extra-long staple category, while Giza 86 and Giza 90 belong to the long staple class. For each variety, nine lint cotton grade namely; Fully Good (FG), Good /Fully Good (G/FG), Good (G), Fully Good Fair/Good (FGF/G), Fully Good Fair (FGF),

Good Fair /Fully Good Fair (GF/FGF), Good Fair (GF), Fully Fair /Good Fair (FF/GF) and Fully Fair (FF) were supplied. From each lint grade, sub samples of each one were drown to determine the raw fiber strength, fiber elongation, and fiber length and yarn strength. The experimental procedures followed in this below; research are listed Favigraph (Textechno): The procedures conducted using 120 single fiber breaks for each sample. Parameters measured were breaking force, strength and elongation.

High Volume instrument (HVI): Was used to obtain bundle strength data according to ASTM, D: 4605-86(1987).

Stelometer: Tests were performed according to ASTM, D:1445-90 (1993). Data obtained were bundle strength and elongation at 1/8 inch gauge.

Pressly: According to ASTM, D: 1445(1967) Pressly index was used to determined bundle strength at zero inch gauge.

Fibrotest:The Textechno Fibrotest is a testing device for the absolute determination of length distribution, as well as the fiber bundle strength and elongation. In addition to absolute strength measure, this instrument can also measure relative calibration cotton refer to HVI–mode.

FPH-FS	Favigraph single fiber strength
FB-FS	Fibrotest bundle strength
Rel-FS	Fibrotest bundle strength relative
to HVI	
HVI–FS	HVI fiber strength
STL-FS	Stelometer fiber strength
PSI	Pressly index
FPH-E	Favigraph elongation
FB-E	Fibrotest elongation
HVI–E	HVI elongation
STL-E	Stelometer elongation
FPH-Force	Favigraph breaking force
FB-Force	Fibrotest breaking force
UHM	Upper Half Mean (Fiber length)
LP	Lea Product (Yarn strength)

## **Glossary of test names**

Lea product: Yarn strength quoted is the product of lea strength in pound x count using the Good Brand Lea Tester according to ASTM, D1578 – 93(2016).

All tests were conducted at the laboratories of the Egyptian International Classification Center (EICCC), Cotton Research Center Institute (CRI), Egypt; Only Favigraph test were conduct at Textechno Company, Herbert Stain GmbH, Germany.

Data obtained were computed using Minitab <sup>TM</sup> 15 Software (Minitab, Inc., State College, PA) for Descriptive statistics, correlation coefficients between all possible trials and regression models according to English and Taylor, (1996).

#### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study will be dealt under two headings; the first section discusses the variation in fiber strength and elongation measurements. The second, comparing the methods of fiber strength and elongation assessment. Fiber tenacity defined as the ratio of the fiber (bundle) breaking strength or force to the fiber's linear density or bundle mass. Elongation defined as the ratio of the fiber or bundle or bundle elongation-to-break value to its linear density or bundle mass.

# 3.1. Variation in fiber strength and elongation

Descriptive statistics for fiber strength and elongation measurements of each test method are shown in Table 1 and Table (2).

The data shown in Table (1) distinct differences in reported values of fiber strength by each method. Favigraph tenacity (FPH-FS) values were higher than HVI and Fibrotest relative to HVI (Rel. FS) fiber strength. There is a big gap between absolute strength (FB–FS) and strength relative to HVI (Rel. FS) measured by Fibrotest; Rel. FS values are always measured to high, *i.e.* the HVI level is nearly the same like measured at single fibers.

The standard deviation of fiber strength values between the samples was highest for Stelometer strength (STL-FS), this reflecting the wide range of this method. The coefficients of variation were highest for the absolute Fibrotest strength (FB-FS) and (STL-FS) reflecting HVI (Rel. FS), each property's median and mean values are approximately the same indicating symmetric distribution of these measurements. This is not so in the case of each of absolute Fibrotest, Favigraph and HVI strength, where the differences between the median and mean would indicate a positively showed distribution.

Table (1): Descriptive statistics of fiber streng	th measurements (FB-FS, FPH-FS, HVI-
FS, STL-FS, PSI and Rel. FS).	

Variable	N	Mean	SEM	SD	CV%	Min	Median	Max
FB-FS	251	19.37	0.347	5.49	28.34	10.00	19.0	32.0
FPH-FS	251	39.37	0.42	6.78	17.24	24.90	39.0	55.80
HVI-FS	251	37.00	0.34	5.42	14.97	24.30	36.0	49.00
STL-FS	251	31.91	0.52	8.24	25.84	13.70	31.90	48.00
PSI	251	9.49	0.06	0.98	10.42	7.40	9.50	11.70
Rel.FS	251	35.90	0.39	6.17	17.19	24.0	52.80	52.50

Table (2): Descriptive statistics of fiber elongation measurements (FB-E, FPH-E, HVI-E and STL-E).

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Variable	N	Mean	SEM	SD	CV%	Min	Median	Max
FB-E	251	7.68	0.07	1.21	15.85	4.70	7.50	11.00
FPH-F	251	10.20	0.10	1.67	16.39	6.30	10.60	13.60
HVI-E	251	7.00	0.24	3.30	12.48	5.50	7.40	8.00
STL-E	251	6.54	0.06	1.08	16.59	4.50	6.40	9.30

The descriptive statistics of fiber elongation are shown in Table (2) indicated wide range especially the HVI elongation (HVI–E). The differences between median and mean values would indicate negatively skewed distributions for Favigraph elongation (FPH–E) and HVI elongation (HVI-E). On the other hand, Fibrotest elongation (FB–E) and Stelometer elongation (STL–E) inhibited positive skewness.

Specification of all observation pertaining to nine lint cotton grades for fiber strength measurements of relevance to the study are shown in Table (3). Results depict wide differences among lint cotton grades for Favigraph, Fibrotest, HVI, Stelometer and Pressely fiber strength measurements. It could be seen that the increase in the value of fiber strength is associated with an increase in lint cotton grades thus better lint quality, Militky *et al.*, (2004).

Fig.(1) reveals the poor association for each measure of elongation between lint cotton grades. The Favigraph elongation (FPH–E) showed values of elongation higher than the other methods. It could be noted the high differences between the Fully Good (FG) and the other grades for HVI elongation (HVI-E). Lint cotton grade are very close with little apparent significance in each of Fibrotest, HVI and Stelometer elongation, whereas, the

differences between lint grades were apparent for Favigraph elongation, to large extent.

# 3.2.Comparing the methods of fiber strength and elongation assessment

The relationships among fiber strength and elongation measurements are examined in correlation matrix in Table (4). The association between fiber strength measures is quite high. The strongest correlation coefficients are that of Favigraph (FPH-FS) and absolute Fibrotest (FB-FS) strength to other methods. Fibrotest absolute strength showed high correlation coefficients to Favigraph strength and Fibrotest (Rel.FS) fiber strength relative to HVI (r = 0.938 and r = 0.950, respectively).

Fibrotest elongation (FB–E) showed significant correlation with Favigraph elongation (FPH-E) and Stelometer elongation (STL-E). On the other hand, correlation coefficients among the other elongation measurements were insignificant. The correlation coefficients among fiber strength measures were highly significant with fiber strength measurements. HVI and Stelometer elongation showed poor association with the other elongation measurements and fiber strength measurements. These findings are in agreement with Virgin and Wakeham, (1956), Delhom and Cui, (2010) findings. The breaking force is measured and divided by the linear

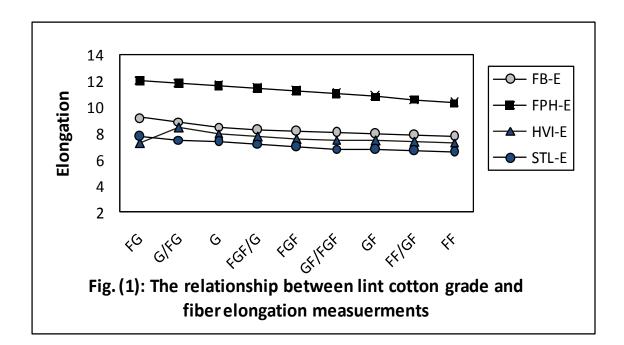


Table (3:). Mean values of Fiber strength measurements for Egyptian lint cotton grades

Tubic (5.)	tuble (5.). Weath values of Fiber strength measurements for Egyptian and cotton grades									
	FB-FS	FPH-FS	HVI-FS	STL-FS	PSI	Rel.FS				
FG	36.1 <sup>a</sup>	47.4 <sup>a</sup>	45.2 <sup>a</sup>	42.1 <sup>a</sup>	10.4 <sup>a</sup>	44.9 <sup>a</sup>				
G/FG	34.4 <sup>b</sup>	45.7 <sup>ab</sup>	42.9 <sup>b</sup>	40.5 <sup>ab</sup>	10.4 <sup>a</sup>	42.3 <sup>ab</sup>				
G	31.7°	43.3 <sup>b</sup>	37.4°	35.2 <sup>b</sup>	10 <sup>b</sup>	39.6 <sup>b</sup>				
FGF/G	29.8 <sup>d</sup>	42.1 <sup>b</sup>	37.0°	32.0°	9.9 <sup>b</sup>	36.7°				
FGF	28.7 <sup>d</sup>	40.3°	34.8 <sup>cd</sup>	31.3°	9.6b <sup>c</sup>	35.5 <sup>cd</sup>				
GF/FGF	27.1 <sup>de</sup>	37.6 <sup>d</sup>	33.7 <sup>d</sup>	29.8 <sup>cd</sup>	9.2°	33.8 <sup>d</sup>				
GF	25.5 <sup>e</sup>	35.2 <sup>de</sup>	$33.0^{d}$	27.0 <sup>d</sup>	8.9 <sup>cd</sup>	32.5 <sup>de</sup>				
FF/GF	24.5 <sup>e</sup>	33.2 <sup>e</sup>	33.0 <sup>d</sup>	26.9 <sup>de</sup>	8.8 <sup>d</sup>	30.6 <sup>e</sup>				
FF	22.5 <sup>f</sup>	30.5 <sup>f</sup>	30.4 <sup>de</sup>	23.5 <sup>e</sup>	8.5 <sup>de</sup>	28.2 <sup>f</sup>				

<sup>•</sup> a .....e letters indicates the differences between the means.

Table (4): Correlation coefficients between fiber strength and elongation measurements.

	FB-FS	FPH-	HVI-FS	STL-FS	PSI	Rel.FS	FB-E	FPH-E	HVI-E
		FS							
FPH-FS	0.938**								
HVI-FS	0.913**	0.855**							
STL-FS	0.830**	0.812**	0.810**						
PSI	0.716**	0.824**	0.630**	0.593**					
Rel.FS	0.950**	0.917**	0.929**	0.851**	0.682**				
FB-E	0.322*	0.252*	0.496*	0.300*	0.059	0.427*			
FPH-E	0.663**	0.741**	0.639**	0.568**	0.681**	0.679**	0.306*		
HVI-E	0.090	0.089	0.138	0.110	0.044	0.111	0.088	0.073	
STL-E	-0.004	0.009	0.153	0.017	0.087	0.099	0.398*	0.205	0.097

<sup>-\*:</sup> significant, \*\*: high significant and without stars: non significant.

and	a yarn st	rengtn .							
	FB-FS	FPH-FS	HVI-FS	STL-FS	PSI	Rel.FS	FB-E	FPH-E	HVI-E
LP 0.022	0.951**	0.937**	0.850**	0.726**	0.786**	0.900**	0.255*	0.687**	0.076
UHM 0.056	0.929**	0.928**	0.907**	0.863**	0.695**	0.944**	0.386*	0.691**	0.103

Table (5): Correlation coefficients of fiber strength and elongation measurements with fiber length

density of the sample, located means of a fully automatic weighing process.

Fig.(2) illustrates the relationship between breaking force of single fibers measured by Favigraph (FPH–Force) and the breaking force of bundle measured by Fibrotest (FB–Force). It is evident the good agreement between Favigraph breaking Force and Fibrotest breaking Force ( $R^2 = 0.892$ ). This relation confirmed the high association between strength and elongation measures of Favigraph and Fibrotest devices.

Fig.(3) and Fig.(4) illustrate the relationship between breaking force, strength and elongation measurements, for Favigraph and Fibrotest. For Favigraph single fibers, breaking force showed highly significant correlation coefficient with fiber strength, whereas, elongation exhibited poor association (Fig.3). For Fibrotest bundles, breaking force showed the same trend with bundle fiber strength and elongation, since the correlation with fiber strength was highly significant and with elongation was insignificant (Fig. 4). It could be noted that the association of elongation to breaking force for bundles was poorer than for single fibers.

Another angle to these data is if there is impact of fiber length on fiber strength and elongation, and low impact on yarn strength.

Person correlation coefficients of fiber strength and elongation measurements with yarn strength expressed as lea product (LP) and fiber length expressed as upper half mean length (UHM) are shown in Table (5).

Single and all bundle strength / elongation measures showed highly significant correlation coefficients with fiber length (UHM) and yarn strength (LP). Favigraph elongation (FPH-E) showed highly significant correlation with UHM and LP, followed by significant correlations with Fibrotest elongation (FB-E).

On the other hand, the Stelometer and HVI elongation measures exhibited insignificant relation with fiber length an yarn strength. The strongest correlation was of fibrotest bundle

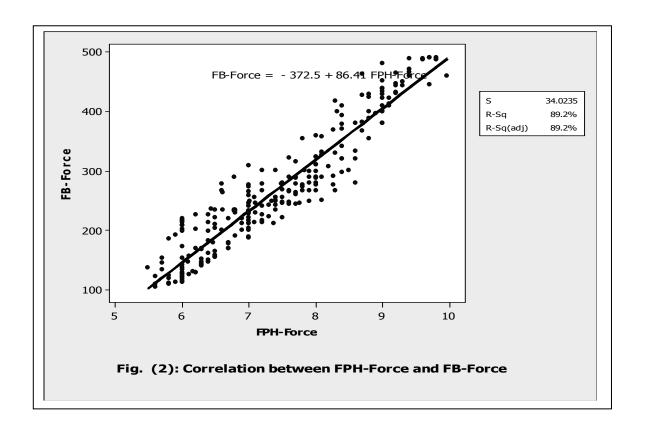
strength (r = 0.950), followed by Favigraph single fiber strength (r = 0.937). Fig.(5) through Fig.(10) illustrate the agreement of fiber strength measurements with yarn strength (LP). These results were agreement with Sasser *et al.*, (1991) and Liu *et al.*, (2001) findings.

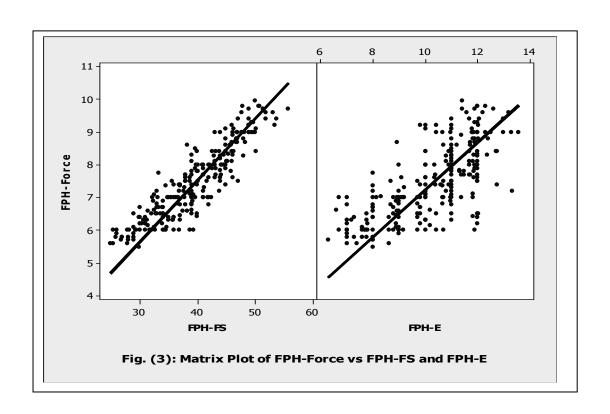
The high association of fiber strength measures to varn strength is apparent clearly in the Figures. The highest agreement with yarn strength was of absolute Fibrotest strength ( $R^2$  = 0.896), and the lowest was of Pressely strength  $(R^2 = 0.620)$ . It could be noted that the bundle strength related to HVI obtained from Fibrotest (Rel.FS) showed correlation coefficient with yarn strength higher than HVI strength, to some extent. Within the spinning process, the fiber is always in a composite, such like sliver, roving or yarn. Within such a bundle the strength of fibers is completely different. The relative strength of Fibrotest value to HVI represents the real strength behavior of the cotton fibers during the spinning process. Therefore, Fibrotest device is able to check cotton regarding the marked values and the processing behavior (Kugler, 2012).

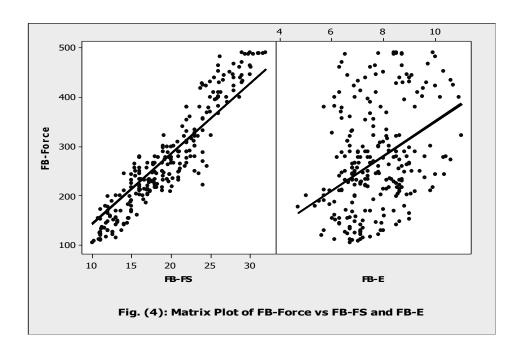
# Conclusion

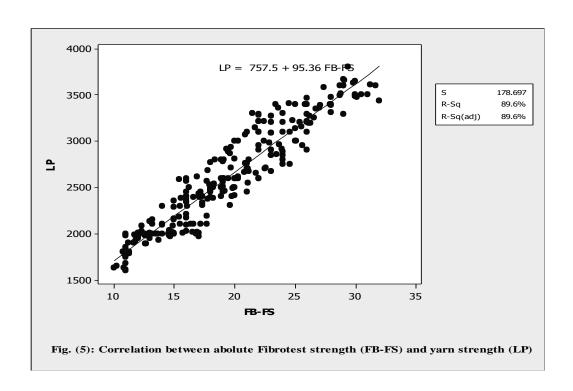
There is a big gap between Fibrotest absolute fiber strength (FB-FS) and strength relative to HVI (Rel.FS) measured by Fibrotest values are always measured to high, *i.e.*, the HVI level is nearly the same like measured at single fibers.

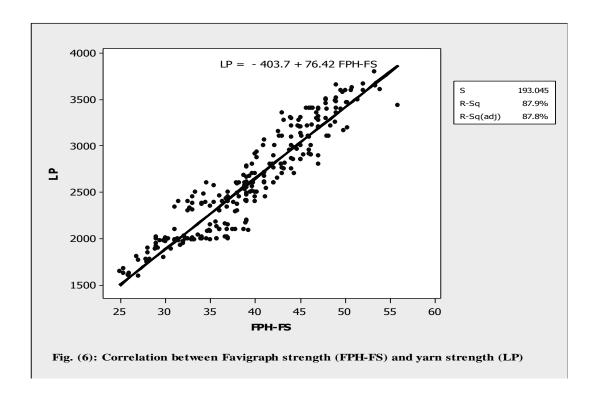
The increase in the value of fiber strength is associated with an increase in Egyptian lint cotton grades. For Pressly and Fibrotest strength relative to HVI 9Rel. FS), each property's median and mean values are approximately the same indicating symmetric distribution of these measurements. Fibrotest absolute strength showed high correlation coefficients Favigraph strength and Fibrotest fiber strength relative to HVI (r=0.938 and r=0.950, Fibrotest elongation (FB-E) respectively). correlated significantly with **Favigraph** elongation (FPH-E)

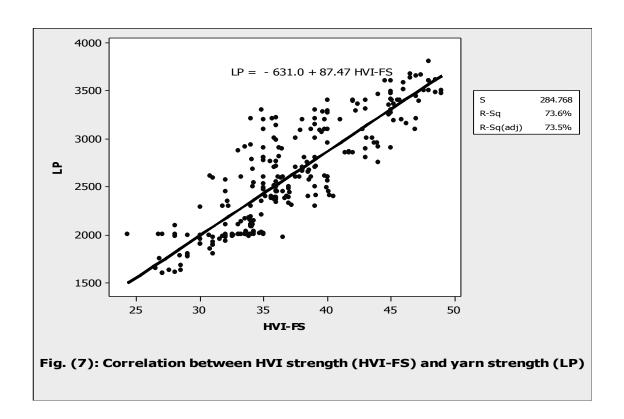


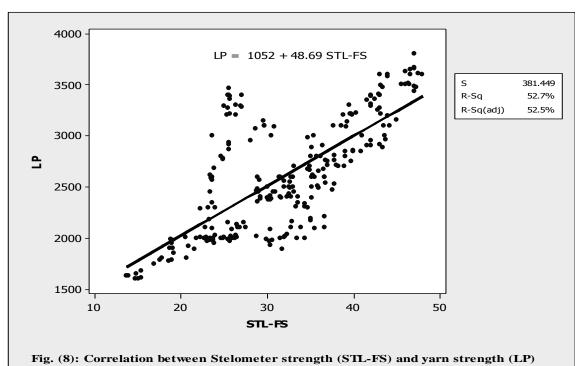




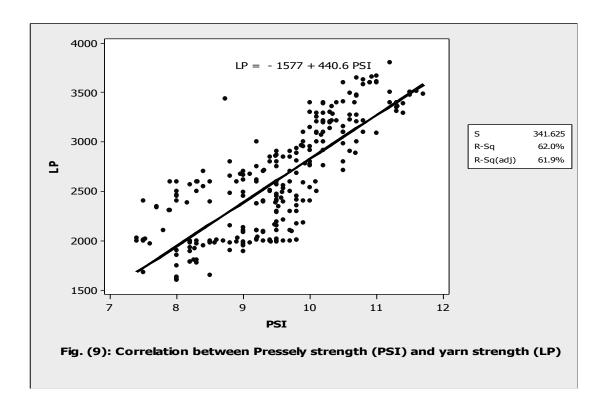


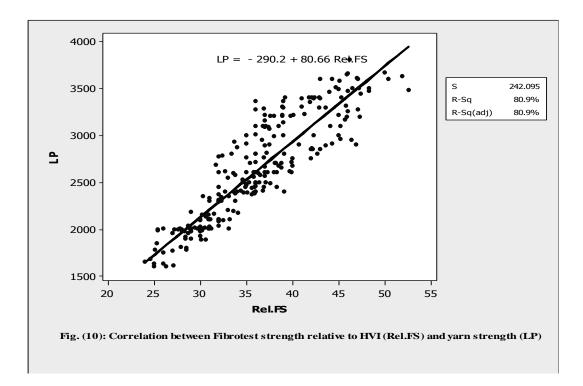






rig. (6). Correlation between Steionieter strength (312-13) and yarn strength (21)





and Stelometer elongation (STL–E). Whereas, HVI elongation showed insignificant association with other measurements. The association of Fibrotest elongation to breaking force for bundles was poorer than for Favigraph single fibers. The Fibrotest and Favigraph showed the strongest correlations with fiber length, and associated highly significant with yarn strength.

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# دراسة تحليلية لقياسات متانة وإستطالة التيلة في القطن المصرى البراهيم أحمد عبيدو - خالد محمد حسين- ياسر شكرى عبد الرحمن

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# ملخص

تم فى هذه الدراسة تحديد العلاقات المتداخلة بين متانة وإستطالة الشعره المفردة المقاسة بواسطة جهاز Favigraph و متانة وإستطالة الخصلة المقاسة بواسطة أجهزة الأستيلوميتر – البريسلى – Fibrotest – HVI . هذا بالأضافة لدراسة العلاقة بين قياسات متانة وإستطالة التيلة جميعها وطول التيلة ومتانة الشلة وقد تم لهذا الغرض إستخدام رتب القطن المصرى المختلفة إبتداء "من رتب فولى جود حتى رتبة فولى فير.

أظهرت قياسات متانة الشعرة المفردة والخصلة أيضا إختلافات كبيرة بين ألاصناف والرتب. معاملات الإرتباط فيما بين قياسات المتانة كانت عالية المعنوية وخصوصا متانة الشعرة المفردة المقاسة بجهاز Favigraph . أظهرت إستطالة النيلة المقاسة بجهاز HVI إرتباطا غير معنوبا مع باقي القياسات.

كانت إستطالة كلا من Favigraph و Fibrotest كان لهما إرتباطا غير معنوبا مع إستطالة HVI ومعنوى مع الأستيلوميتر, ومعنوى ايضا مع كل قياسات المتانة. العلاقة بين أستطالة Fibrotest وقوة شد الخصلة كانت أقل معنوية من العلاقة بين أستطالة Fivigraph وقوة شد الشعرة المفردة.

عموما العلاقة بين قياسات المتانة وطول التيلة ومتانة الغزل كانت قوية وخصوصا Fibrotest و Favigraph و Arvigraph و حيث كانت علاقتهم قوية جدا بمتانة الغزل. أظهرت المتانة الفعلية المقاسة بواسطة Fibrotest السلوك الحقيقي لمتانة الشعيرات أثناء التشغيل في مراحل الغزل كما أنه يمكن استخدام متانة Fibrotest لإختبارات بالات القطن بالنسبة HVI. المجلة العلمية لكلية الزراعة – جامعة القاهرة – المجلد (68) العدد الثاني (أبريل 2017):119- 131.