

Application Note AN-NIR-118

# Quantification of cotton content in textiles by near-infrared spectroscopy

## Fast, non-destructive cotton content analysis with NIRS

Cotton and polyester are two of the most popular fabrics for creating garments. Polyester is a synthetic material produced from petrochemical products, and cotton is a natural and sustainable fiber harvested from cottonseeds. Of these textile materials, polyester is the best choice of for water-resistant, durable apparel, while cotton is better suited for breathable, cool summer clothing.

Textile products must be labeled according to their fiber composition. The procedures for the determination of fiber composition include mechanical, chemical, and microscopic methods—all of which are time consuming. In contrast, near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) is a fast and chemical-free alternative. This Application Note shows how NIR spectroscopy can be used to determine the cotton content in textile products within 30 seconds.

## EXPERIMENTAL EQUIPMENT

In this study, 10 textile samples of varying cotton and polyester composition were analyzed with NIR spectroscopy to create a prediction model for quantification of cotton content. Samples were analyzed on a NIR spectrometer (OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid, Figure 1) in reflection mode (1000–2250 nm) using a large lid and no holder to ensure that the textile samples were evenly pressed against the measurement window. Multi-point measurement was selected as the measuring mode. Data acquisition and prediction model development were performed with OMNIS software.



**Figure 1.** The OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid from Metrohm.

**Table 1.** Hardware and software equipment overview.

| Equipment | Article number |
|---|---|
| OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid | 2.1071.0010 |
| Large lid OMNIS NIR, black, 100 mm | 6.07402.110 |
| OMNIS Stand-Alone license | 6.06003.010 |
| Quant Development software license | 6.06008.002 |

## RESULT

The 10 measured NIR spectra (Figure 2) were used to create a quantification prediction model for the percentage of cotton in different blends of natural and synthetic textiles. The quality of the prediction model was evaluated using a correlation diagram which displays a very high correlation between the NIR prediction and the reference values. The respective figures of merit (FOM) display the expected precision and confirm the feasibility during routine analysis (Figure 3).

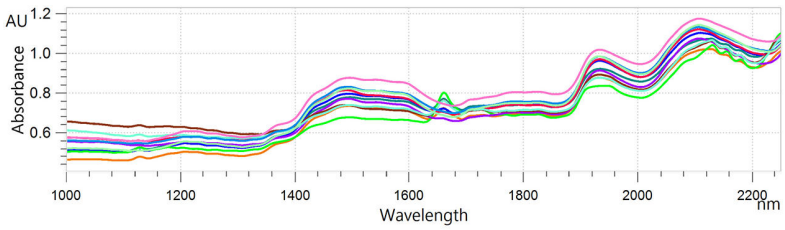


**Figure 2.** Overlaid NIR spectra of 10 textile samples analyzed on an OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid.

## RESULT COTTON CONTENT IN TEXTILE

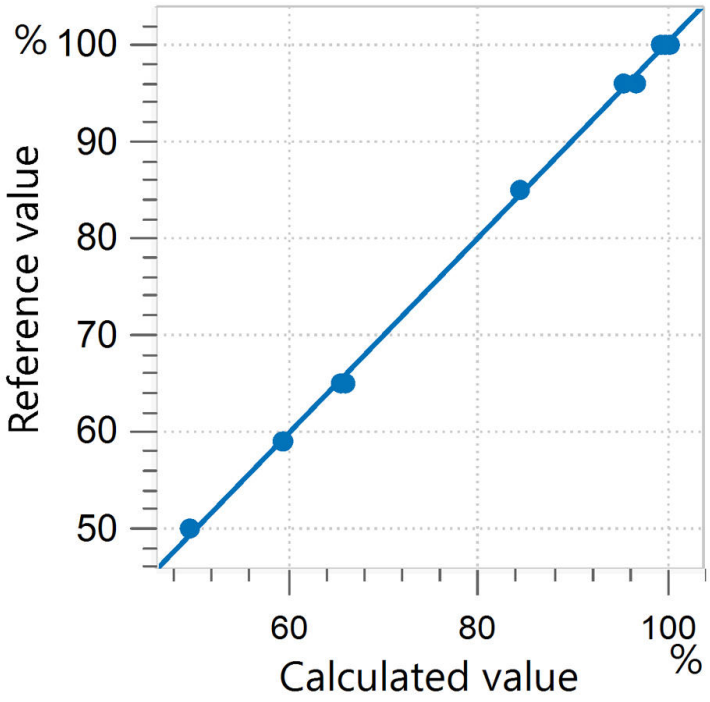


**Figure 3.** Correlation diagram and the respective figures of merit for the prediction of cotton content in textile using an OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid.

| $R^2$ | SEC (%) | SECV (%) |
|---|---|---|
| 0.999 | 0.50 | 0.59 |

## CONCLUSION

This Application Note demonstrates the feasibility to determine the cotton percentage in textile blends quickly and easily. NIR spectroscopy offers users a fast, cost-effective, and highly accurate alternative to other standard testing methods when identifying textiles. Additionally, NIRS analysis is non-destructive, completely reagent-free, and gives results in only 30 seconds.

## CONTACT

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## CONFIGURATION



OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid

**Near-infrared spectrometer for solid and viscous samples.**

Developed and produced in accordance with Swiss quality standards, the OMNIS NIR Analyzer is the near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) solution for routine analysis along the entire production chain. Its application of the latest technologies and its integration in the modern OMNIS Software are reflected in its speed, operability and flexible utilization of this NIR spectrometer.

Overview of the advantages of the OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid:

- Measurements of solids and viscous samples in less than 10 seconds
- Automated multi-position measurements for reproducible results, even with nonhomogeneous samples
- Simple integration in an automation system or link with additional analysis technologies (titration)
- Supports numerous sample vessels



### Large cup OMNIS NIR, 100 mm

Large sample vessel for the spectra acquisition of powders and granulates in reflection at various sample positions.

The glass bottom is made of resistant Gorilla® Glass.

Compatible with:

- Large holder OMNIS NIR, 100 mm (6.07402.100)

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### OMNIS Stand-Alone license

Enables stand-alone operation of the OMNIS software on a WindowsTM computer.

Features:

- The license already includes one OMNIS instrument license.
- Must be activated via the Metrohm licensing portal.

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### Software license Quant Development

Software license for the creation and editing of quantification models in a stand-alone OMNIS Software installation.