

of elementary units in the sample, irrespective of their size.

## ■ Conclusion and outlook

The washing relaxation of double face knitted fabrics from polyester fibre yarn with 20% stainless steel fibres has been shown to follow a logarithmic curve for up to 100 washing cycles. A quantitative as well as qualitative change in this behaviour is recognised when washing without detergent. Moreover, the original dimensions of the knitted fabrics have been proven to strongly influence the relaxation process.

More detailed examinations of these unexpected findings will follow. In particular the idea of a macroscopic knitted fabric as a model for a microscopic system will be examined in further experiments and compared with respective simulations.

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# INSTITUTE OF BIOPOLYMERS AND CHEMICAL FIBRES LABORATORY OF METROLOGY

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