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## Introduction

Fabric drape refers to the falling behavior of the cloth along a vertical stack. It is one of many factors that influence the aesthetic appearance of a fabric and has an outstanding effect on the formal beauty of the cloth. Fabric drape is an important criteria for the selection and development of textile material for apparel industries. Fabric drape is a complexly determined of fabric mechanical properties and is influenced by the low stress mechanical properties like bending rigidity, firmability, wrinkle and shear properties and compressibility of the fabric. All these mechanical properties have a direct bearing on fabric hand properties and fabric construction. Thus, by many means by which information on fabric properties can be obtained. Three of the more popular methods include the Kawabata testing system (KES),<sup>1</sup> the fabric assistance by simple testing (FAST) system and the Shirley stiffness meter.<sup>2</sup>

The relationship between fabric drape and its mechanical properties is complex and inherently non-linear. Many attempts have been made to explore this relationship. Niwa and Seto<sup>3</sup> discussed the relationship between drape coefficient and fabric mechanical properties using a multiple regression method and they determined the fabric mechanical properties with the help of the KES system. Many researchers also tried the artificial neural network (ANN) to solve this problem but the precise relationship between these various factors and their outcomes was not published.

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