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Synthetic clothing and the problem with odor: Comparison of nylon and polyester fabrics

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Synthetic Clothing and the Problem with Odor: Comparison of Nylon and Polyester Fabrics

3 Odor arising from the axilla (underarm) is a significant source of human body odor and has been described as the most "powerful and distinctive" of all human body odors (Takeuchi, 4 Yabuki, & Hasegawa, 2013, p. 223). Axillary sweat is initially odorless but can become odorous 5 through the bacterial metabolism of products present in sweat (Shelley, Hurley, & Nichols, 6 7 1953). Significant quantities of liquid sweat can be generated during exercise (Manshahia & Das, 8 2014), and this sweat can transfer from the body to adjacent clothing; thus, it is common for 9 clothing to pick up axillary odors. Many consumers have reported problems with odor on clothing used for exercising. Furthermore, some odor within clothing has been described as being 10 even more intense than the original source (i.e., axilla) (Dravnieks, Krotoszynski, Lieb, & 11 12 Jungermann, 1968). Clothing fiber content plays an important role in how intense axillary odor becomes following wear. Researchers have shown that odor within polyester fibers is 13 significantly more intense than odor within cotton and wool fibers (McQueen, Laing, Brooks, & 14 Niven, 2007a). Polyester is a synthetic fiber characterized as being nonpolar and subsequently 15 hydrophobic; it is the most dominant fiber used in sportswear apparel (Shishoo, 2015). Nylon is 16 another common synthetic textile fiber exhibiting many of the same benefits as polyester (e.g., 17 ability to manipulate the fiber structure to enhance wicking, quick drying). However, nylon is 18 less hydrophobic than polyester, with a moisture regain of 4.5% at 20 °C and 65% relative 19 humidity (R.H.) compared with 0.4% for polyester (Canadian General Standards Board, 2001). 20 McQueen, Laing, Delahunty, Brooks, and Niven (2008) compared merino wool, cotton, and 21 polyester fabrics and showed a relationship between the ability of a fabric to absorb moisture 22 23 with its propensity to absorb and/or emit odor. To date, there are no reports of trials evaluating the odor intensity of nylon following wear next to the axillary region in comparison to other 24

25 fabrics.

26 The current study was designed to determine whether odor intensity on nylon fabrics differed from odor intensity on polyester fabrics. As no laboratory tests exist which can suitably 27 mimic the process of how human body odors are generated, transferred, and subsequently 28 emitted from clothing, a wear trial was carried out in order to collect axillary odor on nylon and 29 polyester fabrics. As the human nose can capture the overall axillary bouquet and assign a single 30 measurement rating such as "intensity" to it, this makes it an appropriate measurement tool. 31 32 Therefore, odor was detected using a sensory panel of 13 assessors. The wear trial was compared to a standard test method to evaluate the odor absorption of two volatile compounds 33 (International Organization for Standardization, 2014). A secondary purpose of this study was to 34 determine the effect that two types of storage conditions (freezing versus stored at room 35 36 temperature) had on odor intensity.

37

Background

38 Odor Retention in Fabrics

Researchers have shown that odor intensity released from clothing, following wear next 39 to the skin, can differ considerably due to the generic fiber content from which the fabric is made 40 (McQueen et al., 2007a; Munk, Johansen, Stahnke, & Adler-Nissen, 2001). Knit fabrics that 41 varied by fiber type (merino wool, cotton, polyester) and fabric structure (interlock, 1x1 rib, 42 single-jersey) were worn next to the axillary region of male participants. A panel of assessors 43 perceived the intensity of odor on wool fabrics to be significantly lower than on cotton fabrics, 44 which were significantly lower than on polyester fabrics (McQueen et al., 2007a). There were no 45 differences found between the bacterial populations on the test fabrics one day after wear; 46 47 however, as fabrics were stored, the counts of viable bacteria remaining on polyester fabrics declined at a faster rate than bacteria on cotton and wool. After 28 days of wear, merino wool 48

49 fabrics had significantly higher counts of bacteria than polyester did. In another study, 50 researchers found there to be selective growth of *Micrococcus* species in polyester (but not on cotton) clothing following exercise (Callewaert et al., 2014). How axillary odor is retained and 51 released by textiles is a complex phenomenon; little is understood about what mechanisms are at 52 play to make some fabrics more odorous than others. Bacteria may create the odor in the first 53 place, and some selective growth on different textile fibers can occur, but when assessing odor 54 that has been transferred from the body to the clothing, the chemical and physical properties of 55 56 the generic fibers play a more significant role. The ability to chemically bind odorants within the fiber structure itself may be very important. 57

Selective sorption and release of volatile compounds (odorous and non-odorous) can 58 differ depending on the fiber content of the fabric. Researchers comparing the chemical odor 59 60 profiles of cotton and polyester fabrics following contamination with male sweat found that polyester had a much more diverse range of high-impact odorants than cotton (Munk et al., 61 2001). Furthermore, washing removed odorants more effectively from cotton than from polyester 62 (Munk et al., 2001). McQueen, Harynuk, Wismer, Keelan, Xu, and de la Mata (2014) found 63 higher concentrations of carboxylic acids in the headspace above polyester fabric when 64 compared to cotton fabric after wear. In subsequent analysis of the same fabrics, de la Mata, 65 McQueen, Nam and Harynuk (2017) were able to distinguish between cotton and polyester 66 fabrics based on their selective sorption of semi-volatile compounds. In a study on the profiles of 67 volatiles released in the headspace from four different fabrics (cotton, polyester, wool, and 68 rayon), Prada, Curran, and Furton (2011) noted that the different fabrics selectively retained and 69 released compounds based on various chemical classes. 70

McQueen et al. (2008) observed a negative correlation between moisture regain and odor
intensity for wool, cotton, and polyester fabrics; they found that as the moisture regain increased,

the perceived odor intensity decreased. This highlights a relationship that may exist between the fiber's ability to absorb moisture vapor and the ability to absorb odorous volatile compounds from the environment. If the volatile compounds are trapped within the fiber, then the nose perceives less odor. Activated carbon, perhaps one of the best known materials with the capacity to sorb many liquids and gases within its porous structure, is used in many applications for odor control (Dohmae et al., 2008; Eza, Ahmad, & Ahmad, 2012).

79 Nylon and Polyester Fibers

80 Moisture management has been described as the most important factor in sportswear comfort as it plays a key role in both sensorial and physiological comfort in sportswear 81 (Brotherhood, 2008; Morrissey & Rossi, 2013). Synthetics are widely used in sportswear because 82 of their ability to manipulate the fiber structure to create capillary pathways and pores, which 83 84 enable effective wicking of liquid moisture (Roberts, Waller, & Caime, 2007). Manshahia and 85 Das (2014) reported that fiber-liquid transport is higher in sportswear knitted with polyester composed of filament fibers/yarns. Nylon is another synthetic fiber with superior moisture 86 transport properties. It is the second most widely used synthetic in sportswear (Kothari, 2008). 87 Polyester fiber is a manufactured fiber "composed of linear macromolecules having, in the chain, 88 at least 85% by mass of an ester of a diol and terephthalic acid" (International Organization for 89 90 Standardization, 2013, p. 7). The most common form of polyester fiber is polyethylene terephthalate, which is produced by a reaction of terephthalic acid or dimethyleterephthalate with 91 ethylene glycol (East, 2005). Polyester is nonpolar and aliphatic, with no available groups for 92 making hydrogen bonds. Therefore, polyester fabrics are characterized by low moisture regain 93 (0.4% in 65% R.H.) and with problems such as the buildup of electrical charges, retention of 94 95 soils (especially oily soils), and other difficulties associated with laundering (East, 2005). Nylon (polyamide) fiber is also a manufactured fiber "composed of linear 96

97 macromolecules having in the chain recurring amide linkages, at least 85% of which are joined to 98 aliphatic or cycloaliphatic units" (International Organization for Standardization, 2013, p. 7). The 99 two most important types of nylon used in apparel are nylon-6 and nylon-6,6. Nylon-6 is produced by the self-condensation of caprolactam and nylon-6,6 is produced through the 100 interaction of hexamethylene diamine and adipic acid (Cook, 2001). Nylon, like polyester, is 101 semi-crystalline, characterized by both amorphous and crystalline states throughout the fiber, 102 with van der Waal's and (unlike polyester) hydrogen bonds as intermolecular forces. Hydrogen 103 104 bonds involve the amine and carboxylic moieties, and are important in denoting strength to the fiber, but also are sites for water sorption (Yang, 2007). Nylon has a moisture regain of 4.5% at 105 20 °C and 65% R.H., so although more hydrophobic than natural fibers, it is the most hydrophilic 106 of the synthetic fibers. This is because the amide groups can form hydrogen bonds with water 107 108 (Richards, 2005). Water can reduce the glass transition temperature (T_g) of nylon considerably. At 85% R.H. the T_g can be reduced to room temperature (Richards, 2005). This plasticizing 109 effect that water can have on nylon fibers may increase its likelihood of absorbing polar acidic 110 compounds (and other polar compounds) known to be present in axillary odor. In wool, the rate 111 of sorption of acetic acid was found to increase as the relative humidity increased from 20% R.H. 112 to 80% R.H. (Pucher, 1971), which could be explained by the plasticizing effect of moisture on 113 wool (McQueen et al., 2008). A similar effect may occur for nylon fabrics as more amide groups 114 may become available for bonding with polar molecules with increasing humidity. The research 115 hypothesis was that nylon fabrics would be significantly lower in odor intensity than polyester 116 fabrics. 117

118 Storage Conditions on Odor

The numerous studies on evaluating odor after collecting human axillary odors onto
fabrics or pads were primarily done with cotton or regenerated cellulose. The authors of these

121 studies have focused on discrimination among individuals; odor recognition of gender, kin, or 122 partners; attractiveness of the opposite sex; or perception of emotional responses (Ackerl, Atzmueller, & Grammer, 2002; Wedekind, Escher, Van de Waal, & Frei, 2007). Collecting odor 123 samples can be onerous for the participants, who may be required to follow specific hygiene and 124 dietary routines (Ferdenzi, Schaal, & Roberts, 2009). In order to minimize changes that may 125 occur due to microbial action, samples may be evaluated a few hours after the odor has been 126 collected, or samples are frozen prior to evaluation. Lenochova, Roberts, and Havlicek (2009) 127 128 conducted two experiments to evaluate the effect that freezing the samples had on quality and intensity of the odor, and whether multiple freeze-thaw cycles had an effect on odor. The 129 researchers found that, when compared to fresh odor samples, odor quality and hedonics (i.e., 130 pleasantness) were not affected by freezing. However, a significant reduction in intensity was 131 132 noted for essences applied to fabrics, and a significant increase in odor intensity was observed for axillary samples after the samples had been twice frozen and thawed (Lenochova et al., 2009). 133 Freezing samples between odor collection and odor evaluation has not typically been 134 carried out when the purpose of the research has been to compare odor intensity on different 135 types of fabrics. McQueen et al. (2007a) evaluated axillary odor intensity on nine different 136 fabrics one day, seven days and 28 days after wear; fabric specimens were stored at 20 °C at 40% 137 or 60% relative humidity. No statistical differences were found in odor intensity between the 138 three time periods. However, since the same fabric samples were evaluated at each time interval, 139 it was not possible to conduct a direct comparison among the three sessions. Munk et al. (2001) 140 also did not freeze samples between odor collection and odor evaluation. 141 Airing clothing could be viewed as a method for deodorizing it, but odor could also 142

intensify on clothing with time, as bacteria continue to metabolize sweat and thus intensify odor.How odor changes on clothing between wear and washing could be fiber-specific. For example,

McQueen et al. (2008) identified compounds, likely to be short-chained carboxylic acids, in higher concentrations after seven days following wear on polyester fabrics. This increase was not observed on wool or cotton fabrics (McQueen et al., 2008). The research hypothesis was that a significant difference in odor intensity would be detected following storage at room temperature when compared with samples that had been frozen.

150

Method

151 Fabric Selection and Preparation

152 Four fabrics were selected for this study: two nylon and two polyester fabrics (see Table 1). To minimize the effect that different finishing and dyeing processes on fabrics may have on 153 odor retention, the fabrics were purchased from TestFabrics Inc. (West Pittston, PA), where 154 minimal finishing treatments are conducted. The fabric pairs consisted of one nylon fabric and 155 156 one polyester fabric matched by the fabric structure (i.e., weave and knit). The fabrics were grouped into these two sets of fabric pairs in order to match the fabrics by structure and other 157 physical properties as closely as was practicably possible. Fabrics were washed five times using 158 Tide® Free and Gentle fragrance-free detergent based on the protocol CAN/CGSB-4.2, No. 58-159 2004 (Canadian General Standards Board, 2004). The fabrics were washed to reduce the 160 likelihood of odor from "as received" fabrics. Fabric swatches (20 cm x 20 cm) were cut from 161 162 the fabrics; woven fabrics were over-locked to prevent fabric fraying. The fabric pairs, nylon and polyester, were sewn into the underarm region of a 100% cotton T-shirt, and were randomly 163 assigned to either the left or right side of the body. 164

165

[Insert Table 1 about here]

166 **Research Approach**

167 This study was conducted as a wear trial where participants wore fabric swatches (sewn168 into T-shirts) next to the axillary region. A wear trial was deemed appropriate due to the

169 complexity of how axillary odor is transferred and retained within fabrics, as it represents how odor
170 is transferred in real life. The Human Research Ethics Board 2 at the University of Alberta
171 approved all research protocols prior to the start of research with human participants.

Prior to selection for the wear trial, participants were screened to ensure they had sufficient odor intensity. The screening trial involved participants wearing a cotton T-shirt, which had polyester fabric swatches sewn into the underarm region, during at least one hour of physical activity (activity was of participant's own choice). The fabric swatches were removed from the T-shirts and later assessed by three experienced assessors for odor intensity. Participants were assessed for strong left/right odor imbalances, (a difference of 2 points on a 10-point category scale is allowable) (American Society for Testing and Materials, 2009).

Eight participants (four male, four female) with an age range of 18-45 years were 179 180 accepted for the study. Sample sizes of 5-10 are common in studies where the topic of investigation is body odorants or examination of skin microbiology (Curran, Rabin, Prada, & 181 Furton, 2005; McQueen et al., 2007a; Troccaz, Starkenmann, Niclass, van de Waal, & Clark, 182 2004). The participants were asked to either wear T-shirts/fabrics for one hour of vigorous 183 exercise or for a full 12-hour day of low levels of physical activity. The goal of the wear trial was 184 to generate sufficient odor so that it would be transferred to fabric worn next to the underarm 185 186 region. As axillary odor can vary greatly among individuals in quality and intensity, the type of activity was not deemed to matter since the nylon and polyester fabrics within the same fabric 187 pair had been exposed to the same environment. Therefore, the independent variables were fiber 188 type (nylon and polyester), storage condition (room temperature and frozen), and participant (as a 189 random factor). The dependent variable was odor intensity as rated on a 150 mm line-marking 190 191 scale.

192 Wear Trial

193 Four participants (F1, M1, M2, M3) carried out a minimum of one hour of exercise (high level of sweating) and four participants (F2, F3, F4, M4) wore the T-shirts during their normal 194 daytime activity for a 12-hour period that did not involve excessive sweating. All participants 195 were asked to refrain from using antiperspirants, deodorants, or other cosmetic or antibacterial 196 products in the underarm region two days prior to beginning the first T-shirt wear and until all T-197 shirt wears had been completed. They were also asked to avoid swimming in a chlorinated pool, 198 and to avoid spicy food, including garlic and onions, 48 hours before and during each T-shirt 199 200 wear.

After T-shirts were worn and returned, fabric swatches were removed from the T-shirts and cut into smaller fabric specimens (18 mm x 18 mm). Small fabric specimens were grouped together into two groups of 16 following a sampling procedure similar to that described in McQueen et al. (2007a). The two groups of specimens were: i) stored in a freezer (F) at -20 °C; and ii) stored at room (R) temperature (20 °C and 65% R.H.) for one week prior to sensory analysis.

207 Sensory Analysis

Sensory evaluation is the scientific discipline used to evoke, measure, analyze, and 208 interpret reactions to characteristics of products as they are perceived by the senses of sight, 209 210 smell, taste, touch, and hearing (Stone & Sidel, 2004). Sensory measurement is an important tool despite difficulties associated with human variation. In the analysis of axillary odorants on 211 textiles, sensory measurement is highly appropriate. Ultimately, it is because the human nose 212 detects odor in clothing that odor emanating from clothing is considered a problem in the first 213 place. Thirteen assessors (12 females, one male; age range 18-45 years), screened for their 214 215 olfactory acuity, were trained in odor intensity ratings according to Section 7 "Assessor Selection and Training" of ASTM E1207-09 (American Society for Testing and Materials, 2009). 216

217 Two to three hours prior to sensory analysis, the two groups of fabric specimens (frozen 218 [F] and room [R]) were placed in amber wide-mouth bottles (120 mL in volume) and lids were 219 screwed on to prevent loss of volatiles. Isovaleric acid solution, which was used in training, was inoculated onto a polyester fabric to serve as a low reference for the panel during the assessment 220 of the samples. The samples, together with the reference sample, were placed in a water bath at 221 36-38 °C and presented to the sensory panel following the Latin square design in standard 222 sensory testing rooms (International Organization for Standardization, 2007) at 21 ± 2 °C. The 223 224 sensory panels were conducted over four separate test days, with a maximum of 12 test samples presented at one time. The assessors were asked to sniff the samples and rate the odor intensity 225 by marking a vertical line on a 150 mm line-marking scale with an "extremely low" anchor on 226 227 the left and an "extremely high" anchor on the right. Line marking requires assessors to rate a 228 sensation by placing a mark on a line that has been anchored at each end point by some form of descriptor (e.g., weak/strong). Line-marking scales have a perceived advantage over category 229 scales (e.g., 7-point Likert scale) in that the choices seem more continuous and less limited so 230 231 potentially greater discrimination can be obtained (Lawless & Heymann, 2010). The linemarking scale (commonly used to rate attribute intensity by trained panels) is an appropriate tool 232 for measuring intensity ratings in comparison to a simpler paired-comparison approach, as it 233 234 allows for a magnitude of a difference to be determined (McQueen, Keelan, Xu, & Mah, 2013; McQueen, Laing, Wilson, Niven, & Delahunty, 2007b). Assessors were asked to take a 30-235 second break between each sample and to refresh the nose by sniffing distilled water (American 236 Society for Testing and Materials, 2017). Scores were converted to a number by using a ruler to 237 measure the distance from the left of the line to the vertical line marked by the assessor. 238 239 Measurements were taken to the nearest 0.5 mm.

240 **Odor Reduction Rate**

241 The odor reduction rate (ORR) was calculated following ISO 17299-3 Method A (International Organization for Standardization, 2014). Isovaleric acid \geq 98% (Sigma Aldrich) 242 and 2-nonenal \geq 95% (Sigma Aldrich) were used to represent compounds in body odor. The 243 analysis was performed using a Gas Chromatography-Flame Ionization Detector (GC-FID) HP 244 6890 (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA). The column used was a 30 m \times 0.53 μ m, 1 245 µm film thickness Restek Rxi-5MS (Chromatographic Specialties). Helium (5.0 grade; Praxair, 246 Edmonton, AB) was used as the carrier gas with flow controlled at 2.5 mL/min. The samples 247 248 were injected in the split/splitless injection port of the GC-FID using an inlet temperature set at 250 °C, operating in splitless mode. For nonenal, the oven temperature was set at 120 °C for 13 249 minutes, and for isovaleric acid the oven temperature was set at 70 °C for 12 minutes. The FID 250 251 was set at 250 °C with an H₂ flow of 30.0 mL/min and air flow of 300 mL/min. Makeup helium 252 flow was set at 20.0 mL/min. A 1 mL Hamilton gastight syringe (Fisher Scientific) was used to perform the injections. One mL of the headspace was injected to the GC-FID. 253

254 255

 $ORR = \frac{B-A}{B} * 100$

Where: B is the average of the concentration of the testing gas without a specimen; and A is the average of the concentration with a specimen (International Organization for Standardization, 2014). The propagated error percentage was calculated for each value.

The odor reduction rate (ORR) was calculated using the following formula:

259 Statistical Analysis

The mean (M) and standard error of the mean (SME) of the assessors' ratings were calculated for each participant and each fabric. The intention was to use parametric statistics to analyze the data with a three-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), with fabric and storage as fixed factors and participants as a random factor. Parametric statistics are frequently applied to data obtained using category or line-marking scales, assuming equal intervals (Lawless, Horne, 265 & Spiers, 2000; Villarino, Dy, & Lizada, 2007). However, it can be argued that meeting the 266 underlying statistical assumptions, such as normal distribution and equal variance, is more important than whether data is interval or ordinal (Gaito, 1980). If there is doubt about the 267 statistical significance, from applying parametric statistics to data from category or line-marking 268 scales, data can be reanalyzed using nonparametric statistics in an effort to avoid faulty 269 conclusions (Lawless & Heymann, 2010). Therefore, the data from each fabric pair (i.e., Pair 1: 270 N1 and P1; Pair 2: N2 and P2) were analyzed by the Friedman test for all participants combined 271 272 and also separately for each individual participant. Where significant differences were found in the Friedman test, a post-hoc Wilcoxon signed-rank test was carried out. The Friedman and the 273 Wilcoxon tests are non-parametric equivalents of a one-way ANOVA and paired t-test, 274 respectively, and were deemed to be more appropriate as the data did not fit the assumptions of 275 276 normality and equal variance required for parametric tests. 277 To account for the multiple (six) paired comparisons in the Wilcoxon post-hoc tests, a Bonferroni correction was carried out, and significance was taken when the p-value was less than 278

or equal to 0.008 rather than 0.05 (Kaltenbach, 2012). All statistical analysis was carried out
using SPSS Version 23.

281

Results and Discussion

282 Effect of Fiber Content

A summary of the overall means in odor intensity, for all participants combined, is shown in Table 2. Fiber type differences are only evident with a larger difference in nylon odor intensity for Pair 1 fabrics, after storage at room temperature, with mean odor intensity ratings of 40.14 (\pm 14.35) compared to 26.19 (\pm 4.36) for nylon and polyester, respectively. In all other fabric pair/storage conditions, the mean odor intensities did not differ (e.g., frozen condition: N2 = 33.76 \pm 14.39; P2 = 31.35 \pm 16.60).

290	The odor intensity ratings for separate individuals for Fabric Pair 1 (N1, P1) and Fabric
291	Pair 2 (N2, P2) for both storage conditions (frozen [F] and room temperature [R]) are shown in
292	Figures 1 and 2, respectively. No apparent trend for either fabric pair, where one fabric was
293	perceived to be consistently lower than the other in odor intensity, appeared to be occurring. For
294	example, in the frozen storage condition, the N1-F fabric had a higher mean rating than the P1-F
295	fabric for four participants (F1, F2, F4, M1), and for the other four participants, P1 was rated
296	higher in odor intensity than N1 (Figure 1). For Fabric Pair 2, N2-F had a higher mean rating
297	than P2-F for four of the participants (F1, F2, F3, M2) (Figure 2).
298	[Insert Figures 1 and 2 about here]
299	The mean ranks of odor intensity ratings and the levels of significance for individual
300	participants are shown in Table 3. Only a few of the fabric pairs resulted in statistical differences.
301	For Fabric Pair 1, a significant difference was found among the fabric/storage combinations
302	when all participants were combined ($\chi^2 = 43.233$, p < 0.001) (see Table 3). The rating for nylon
303	stored at room temperature was significantly higher than for all other fabrics. For individual
304	participants, significant differences were found for three of the eight participants (F2, M2, M4),
305	although the highest ranked N1-R fabric was significantly higher than P1-R for two participants
306	(F2, M2). The nylon fabric worn by Participant M4 and stored at room temperature (N1-R) had a
307	much higher rating than the corresponding polyester fabric (P1-R). However, when the
308	Bonferroni correction was applied requiring $p \le 0.008$ to be met, it was not considered
309	statistically significant (Z = -2.000, $p = 0.046$). It is still important to note that of 12 assessors, 10
310	rated the nylon fabric to be higher in odor intensity than the polyester. N1-F was also
311	significantly higher than P1-F for Participant F2 ($Z = -2.706$, $p = 0.007$).
312	[Insert Table 3 about here]

313 For Fabric Pair 2, there were no significant differences among any of the fabric/storage combinations when all participants were combined ($\chi^2 = 4.676$, p = 0.197) (see Table 3). 314 Statistical differences were found for four individual participants (F1, F4, M2, M4). However, 315 only differences between fabric type (when keeping storage condition constant) were apparent 316 for M2 after frozen storage (Z = -2.900, p = 0.004) and room temperature (Z = -3.180, p =317 0.002), and Participant F4 for fabrics stored at room temperature (Z = -2.903, p = 0.004). Only in 318 one case was nylon statistically higher in odor intensity than the matched polyester fabric. Based 319 320 on these results, the hypothesis that nylon fabrics would be lower in odor intensity following wear next to the axilla was not supported. 321 Since nylon has polar groups in its chemical structure, and therefore the capacity to 322 absorb moisture (evident by its much higher moisture regain), it was hypothesized that more 323 324 odorous polar compounds, which constitute much of the axillary bouquet, would be absorbed within the fiber and subsequently trapped so as to not be perceived in the headspace above the 325 fabric. The ORR was higher for nylon fabrics compared to the matched polyester fabrics for both 326 327 chemical compounds (see Table 4). For example, the ORR for isovaleric acid was 63% and 79% for N1 and N2, respectively, compared with 17% and 23% for P1 and P2, respectively. 328 Therefore, the ORR would also indicate that nylon should be perceived to be less odorous than 329 polyester, as greater absorption by the nylon fabrics of the isovaleric acid (polar) and nonenal 330 (nonpolar) was evident. Yet, the results from the wear trial show that nylon was not perceived to 331 be less odorous than polyester overall. In fact, in most of the cases where differences were 332 significant, nylon was perceived as the most intense fabric rather than polyester. 333 [Insert Table 4 about here] 334 335 The researchers conducting this study are the first to compare nylon and polyester fabrics

for retention of axillary odor. Researchers in one study did examine a method to control odor on

337 nylon fabrics by treating them with an antimicrobial (Mao & Murphy, 2001), but no comparisons 338 with polyester fabrics were made. Bowers and Chantrey (1969) discuss the importance of a fiber's hydrophobic-hydrophilic characteristics in relation to soiling. They show that soiling 339 propensity increases rapidly as the fiber moisture regain decreases, and that 4% regain is the 340 critical point at which soiling rapidly increases (i.e., below this value). The hydrophobic 341 characteristics of polyester should increase its capacity to absorb and retain oily soils from 342 human skin, some of which would provide the necessary nutrients for bacteria to metabolize and 343 generate odor. This selective sorption was shown by the chemical analysis, with higher sorption 344 by polyester fabrics of the nonpolar nonenal compared with the polar isovaleric acid. The fabrics 345 in the current wear trial were worn against the underarm for a relatively short period of time, and 346 therefore, the buildup of odor over multiple uses, similar to the study carried out comparing 347 348 cotton and polyester (McQueen et al., 2014), may result in more distinct differences in odor. This may be due to the fact that nylon fabrics would release soils more readily during washing than 349 polyester (Fort, Billica, & Grindstaff, 1966). 350

351 In both fabric pairs, the nylon fabric was heavier than the polyester fabric, and this might explain why nylon was not lower in odor than polyester. Nylon has a lower specific gravity than 352 polyester (Deopura, 2008; East, 2005), so the fiber is lighter. Although it was not measured in 353 354 this study, based on fabric density and specific gravity, the surface area of the nylon would have been larger than that of the polyester, and as such the capacity for adsorbing compounds onto the 355 surface would have been greater. Fabric density was not found to be an influencing factor of odor 356 intensity in fabrics that emitted low axillary odor, such as cotton and wool fabrics (McQueen et 357 al., 2007a). However, the thinner, lighter-weight, single-jersey polyester fabrics were perceptibly 358 359 lower in odor intensity than the heavier-weight 1x1 rib and interlock constructions (McQueen et al., 2007a). The authors postulated that for high odor-emitting fabrics, structural differences that 360

affect physical properties of the fabrics might have an impact on how odorous the fabric can
become, whereas, for low odor-emitting fabrics, fabric physical properties could be less
influential.

As the intensity emitted from the fabrics was not perceived overall to be significantly 364 different, it is possible that a left/right odor imbalance may explain some of the differences that 365 were observed between fabrics. For example, for Participant M1, the Fabric Pair 1 nylon fabric 366 (N1) was perceived as more odorous than polyester (P1); for Fabric Pair 2, where the polyester 367 and nylon fabrics were switched to opposite sides of the T-shirt, the nylon fabric (N2) was 368 perceived as less odorous than polyester (P2). Differences in odor between the left and right side 369 of the body are generally non-significant, so the sides can be considered the same in terms of 370 odor collection (Ferdenzi et al., 2009). 371

372 Effect of Storage Conditions

In terms of storage conditions, the nylon fabric in Fabric Pair 1 had higher overall mean odor intensity ratings at room temperature than when frozen (Table 2). That is, the odor intensity was perceptibly higher for room-stored fabrics than for frozen fabrics. The nylon stored at room temperature had a mean odor intensity rating of 40.14 (\pm 14.35) compared to 28.08 (\pm 14.17) for nylon stored in the freezer. No perceptible differences in odor intensity between storage conditions were found for any of the Fabric Pair 2 fabrics.

Despite a general trend of odor intensity ratings increasing, there were still only a few cases where statistical differences were found. Significant differences between storage conditions for nylon fabrics in Fabric Pair 1 were evident for Participant M1 (Z = -2.726, p = 0.006) and Participant M4 (Z = -2.981, p = 0.003). Polyester fabrics worn by Participant M1 also were significantly different, although the frozen polyester exhibited higher odor than the fabric stored at room temperature (Z = -3.180, p = 0.002). For Fabric Pair 2, statistical differences between the nylon fabrics stored at frozen and room temperature conditions were only found for Participant F3 (Z = -2.621, p = 0.008). Differences between storage conditions for polyester fabrics were found in Fabric Pair 2 for Participant F4 (Z = -2.981, p = 0.003), where polyester stored at room temperature was higher than the frozen polyester fabric.

For the nylon fabrics, where odor intensity was found to increase following storage at 389 room temperature, there could be two explanations for what was happening. The frozen fabrics 390 could be diminishing in odor intensity as a result of freezing; the odor on fabrics stored for one 391 392 week at room temperature could be intensifying. Both could be occurring simultaneously. A major challenge in textile odor research, when handling fabric samples which have been worn 393 next to the human body, is the potential for the odor to change as a result of volatilization, as 394 some of the odorous compounds dissipate and reduce in intensity and/or microbial degradation, 395 396 while other odorous compounds are produced and the odor intensifies. From the perspective of understanding more about the mechanisms of how odor is retained and released from apparel 397 fabrics, both scenarios have very practical implications. For example, "airing" clothing could be 398 399 one method used to reduce odor when the garments are not immediately laundered after wear. The moist microclimate within the "unaired" clothing (e.g., in a laundry pile or gym bag) could 400 facilitate the growth of microorganisms that continue to produce odors. In research it is important 401 402 to be able to capture the odor profile within a specific period of time following wear prior to sensory or instrumental analysis. Freezing samples has been the common approach to this as 403 researchers have focused on mate preference, attractiveness, and hedonics of body odor 404 (Lenochova et al., 2009; Rantala et al., 2006). Researchers found that odor quality and hedonics 405 did not change as a result of freezing compared to "fresh" odor samples (obtained on cotton 406 407 pads), yet there was a small impact on odor intensity (Lenochova et al., 2009). Some odor intensity may be lost as a result of freezing, and the frozen samples used in the current study may 408

difficult to know with certainty whether room-stored samples were intensifying or frozen
samples were becoming less intense. Results from Fabric Pair 1 for Participant M1 are quite
interesting, as the polyester fabrics became less intense following storage at room temperature,
yet the nylon fabrics became more intense. Similarly, for Participant F1, there was an increase in
intensity for the N1-R fabric compared to the N1-F fabric, but no difference was observed with
the P1 fabric. The N1 fabric was heavier than the P1 fabric (218 g/m² and 190 g/m²,
respectively). Therefore, it is possible that the sorption capacity of precursors to odor compounds

not be identical to the samples if they had been evaluated as "fresh" samples. However, it is

417 from axillary sweat may have harbored more bacteria for the generation of odor.

418 Limitations and Future Directions

409

This research is important because the authors are the first to address the topic of comparing odor retention among polyester and nylon fabrics. Although axillary odor retention and buildup within polyester fabrics have been identified as major concerns by textile manufacturers, clothing marketers, and consumers alike, nylon itself has been either overlooked or lumped together with polyester as "synthetics." Therefore, this study is only the beginning in understanding the impact nylon may have on odor buildup within clothing.

As a result of this study, we now raise a number of other questions that should be 425 426 addressed in future research. The test fabrics selected from this study were purchased from TestFabrics Inc., so were undyed and exposed to minimal finishing treatments. As such, they do 427 not represent the commercial fabrics used in sportswear apparel. Determining the effect that dyes 428 and other finishing treatments, unique to the two generic fiber types, have on odor retention is 429 one direction for future research. Both nylon fabrics were nylon 6,6, so a comparison to nylon 6 430 431 fabrics may yield different results. Matching the fabrics more closely in fabric density may also result in differences in odor intensity. Chemical analysis, coupled with sensory detection, such as 432

gas chromatography-olfactometry (GC-O), would be useful to determine the key chemicalodorants retained and then released from nylon and polyester fabrics.

Human participants as T-shirt wearers (odor providers) and as assessors (odor detectors) 435 play an essential role in the measurement of differences among fabrics following wear against 436 the axilla. Humans are highly variable sources of odor, which can lead to variable and conflicting 437 results; controlled laboratory studies that can independently examine a range of chemical 438 odorants, as well as investigate the precursors to odor in combination with odor-causing bacterial 439 440 species, are required. Standard laboratory tests that can be used to predict the way in which odor develops within a textile fabric, effectively simulating how odor is transferred and generated 441 within clothing fabrics during real-use circumstances, do not yet exist. 442

443

Conclusions

444 The purpose of this study was to compare the odor intensity of nylon and polyester fabrics following wear against the axillary region, as well as to evaluate how storage conditions 445 affected odor intensity. It was hypothesized that nylon would be less odorous than polyester 446 fabrics due to its higher moisture regain, as previous researchers studying wool, cotton, and 447 polyester fabrics found moisture regain was negatively correlated with odor intensity (McQueen 448 et al., 2008). It was evident from this wear trial that nylon fabrics can hold and retain odor after 449 450 being worn next to the axilla. It was also apparent that there was no difference (overall) in odor intensity of nylon fabrics compared to polyester fabrics, and for some individuals the nylon 451 fabrics were significantly more odorous than polyester fabrics. The ORR also showed that nylon 452 fabrics were more absorbent of odorous chemical compounds compared with polyester fabrics. 453 The approach to evaluate odor intensity through the use of human participants both as 454 455 odor providers and odor assessors was appropriate, as odor generated on the human body and then transferred to clothing (where more odor may still be produced) is a highly complex 456

457 phenomenon. The ORR did not predict axillary odor intensity of clothing following wear, which may be due to the oversimplification of a complex problem. That is, odor-causing bacteria, sweat 458 (precursor to odor), and odorous products themselves are all transferred to clothing during wear, 459 while further odor may be generated within the fabric. Sensory assessment is both relevant and 460 applicable as a tool to measure odor intensity. There was some evidence to suggest that odor 461 intensity could increase on nylon fabrics when stored at room temperature, but this was less 462 apparent for polyester fabrics. This may also be dependent on the specific nylon fabric and the 463 464 individual who wore the fabric.

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Table 1. Description of test fabrics

Pair	Fabric code	Fabric description	Mass per unit area (g/m ²)	Thickness (mm)	TestFabric code #
Pair 1	nylon [N1]	texturized nylon 6.6, double knit	218 ± 1.8	0.94 ± 0.02	314
	polyester [P1]	texturized polyester, double knit	190 ± 6.7	1.02 ± 0.02	720H
Pair 2	nylon [N2]	nylon 6,6 spun yarn, plain weave	204 ± 6.6	0.87 ± 0.01	365
	polyester [P2]	spun polyester type 54, plain	182 ± 2.1	0.85 ± 0.01	755
		weave			

Pair	Fabric	Storage conditions				
		Frozen	Room			
1	Nylon	28.08 ± 14.17	40.14 ± 14.35			
	Polyester	25.85 ± 9.71	26.19 ± 4.36			
2	Nylon	33.76 ± 14.39	34.28 ± 18.20			
	Polyester	31.35 ± 16.60	34.73 ± 17.71			

Table 2. Odor intensity ratings (Mean \pm SD) from sensory panel for all participants combined

		Mean Rank			Mean Rank Friedman test results					
		Ny	lon	Polyester						
Pair	Participant	Frozen	Room	Frozen	Room	Ν	χ^2	df	Sig.	
1	ALL	2.26 ^a	3.22 ^b	2.30 ^a	2.23 ^a	102	43.233	3	0.000	***
	F1	1.77	3.00	2.38	2.85	13	7.440	3	0.059	
	F2	3.19 ^a	3.62 ^a	1.73 ^b	1.46 ^b	13	27.095	3	0.000	***
	F3	2.08	3.29	2.04	2.58	12	7.711	3	0.052	
	F4	2.42	2.92	2.12	2.54	13	2.756	3	0.431	
	M1	2.65 ^a	3.85 ^b	2.42 ^a	1.08 ^c	13	30.395	3	0.000	***
	M2	2.12	2.96	2.85	2.08	13	5.227	3	0.156	
	M3	1.92	2.54	2.69	2.85	13	3.921	3	0.270	
	M4	1.88^{a}	3.58 ^b	2.13 ^a	2.42 ^{a,b}	12	12.641	3	0.006	**
2	ALL	2.34	2.40	2.59	2.67	104	4.676	3	0.197	
	F1	2.23 ^a	3.31 ^b	1.62 ^a	2.85 ^{a,b}	13	12.692	3	0.005	**
	F2	2.54	2.04	2.23	3.19	13	6.118	3	0.106	
	F3	3.08	2.62	1.92	2.38	13	5.571	3	0.134	
	F4	1.73 ^a	2.15 ^a	2.38 ^a	3.73 ^b	13	19.578	3	0.000	***
	M1	1.92	3.04	2.23	2.81	13	6.209	3	0.102	
	M2	3.04 ^a	3.73 ^a	1.81 ^b	1.42 ^b	13	27.281	3	0.000	***
	M3	2.23	2.73	3.15	1.88	13	7.746	3	0.052	
	M4	1.92 ^a	1.92 ^a	3.08 ^a	3.08 ^a	13	10.385	3	0.016	*

Table 3. Mean of rank order for fabric by storage conditions and level of significance

*, **, *** Friedman's test was significant at p < 0.05, p < 0.01 and p < 0.001 respectively; a, b, c Mean rank values followed by the same letter are not significantly different at p < 0.008Wilcoxon ranked sign test

	Isovale	eric acid	Nonenal		
	Nylon	Polyester	Nylon	Polyester	
Pair 1	62.6 ± 32.2	17.2 ± 22.3	51.1 ± 11.8	36.8 ± 10.7	
Pair 2	79.4 ± 3.1	32.2 ± 13.9	67.5 ± 5.4	38.9 ± 14.2	

Table 4. Odor reduction rate (ORR) of isovaleric acid and 2-nonenal for nylon and polyester fabrics (%)



Figure 1. Sensory panel ratings for Fabric pair 1 (N1, P1) and effect of storage (F, R) for eight participants



Figure 2. Sensory panel ratings for Fabric pair 2 (N2, P2) and effect of storage (F, R) for eight participants