(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) Publication number: **0 123 667**
A2

(12) # EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: **84870051.4**

(22) Date of filing: **10.04.84**

(51) Int. Cl.³: **D 01 F 8/12**
D 01 D 5/32

(30) Priority: **11.04.83 US 484110**

(43) Date of publication of application:
31.10.84 Bulletin 84/44

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE FR GB IT LI LU NL SE

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(54) **Conjugate filaments and process for producing same.**

(57) Conjugate filaments are prepared by a spinstretch process wherein two polymers having different terminal velocity distances are melt spun at a spinning speed of at least 1829 mpm to form filaments in which the polymers are arranged in an eccentric configuration along the length of the filaments and then the filaments are stretched in-line at a stretch ratio greater than 1.0 prior to their being collected. According to a preferred embodiment, the polymers consist of two nylon 66 polymers having different relative viscosities and the spinning conditions are selected to provide filaments having a high level of high-load crimp and a low level of boiling water shrinkage which render the filaments particularly useful in the construction of stretch garments and, especially, ladies' leg hose and pantyhose.

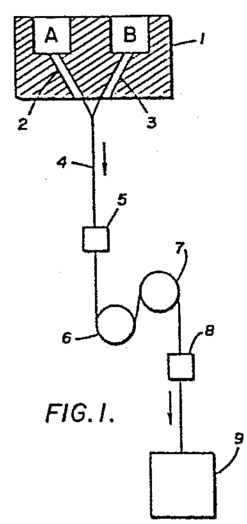

FIG. 1.

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CONJUGATE FILAMENTS AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to novel conjugate filaments and to novel processes for producing conjugate filaments. In particular, the invention relates to novel polyamide conjugate filaments having a high level of "high-load" crimp and to a novel process for producing such filaments.

The term "high-load crimp" as used herein means crimp (e.g., helical coils) being developed and/or retained during performance of the high-load crimp test hereafter defined. The term "low-load crimp" means crimp developed and/or retained during performance of the low-load crimp test hereinafter defined.

B. Description of the Prior Art

Conjugate filaments and their preparation are well known in the art. Typically, their preparation comprises two completely separate and discontinuous operations; a melt spinning operation in which two different polymers are co-extruded to form as-spun filaments which are wound onto a bobbin to form a package, and a stretching operation in which the as-spun filaments are withdrawn from the bobbin, stretched and then wound onto a second bobbin to once again form a package. The polymers may differ from one another with respect to, for example, their chemical structure (e.g., see U.S. Patent 4,019,311) or the polymers may have the same structure and be different because of a difference in relative viscosity (e.g., see U.S. Patent 3,536,802) or because one polymer contains an additive that changes its morphology and the other polymer does not (e.g., see US Patent 4,271,233). US Patents 4,244,907 and 4,202,854 describe a process for producing conjugate filaments wherein, instead of co-extruding two polymers, a single polymer is extruded to form a monocomponent molten stream that is treated, such as by subjecting the stream to one-sided cooling before it is completely solidified (e.g., see US Patent 4,244,907) or to one-sided heating immediately after it is solidified (e.g., see US Patent 4,202,854). In these instances the filament is stretched immediately after the one-sided treatment.

Conjugate filaments prepared by the prior art processes, in general, lack the ability to develop crimp characteristics of the type required of filaments used in the construction of "stretch" garments such as leg hose, pantyhose, athletic wear, leotards, etc. For this reason most filaments heretofore used commercially for stretch garment applications are monocomponent nylon 66 or nylon 6 filaments that have been mechanically false-twist textured. Although the polyamide conjugate filaments described in US Patents 3,399,108 and 3,418,199 have the ability to develop adequate crimp having characteristics of the type required for stretch garment applications, the filaments are lacking in other respects as compared to the false-twist textured monocomponent nylon filaments. For example, the monocomponent filaments have lower boiling water shrinkage values and, therefore, offer greater dimensional stability to garments, such as hose, where the crimp is developed after the hose are knitted. Also, the crimp of the monocomponent filaments can be developed in the dye bath during conventional garment dyeing operations (i.e., in boiling water at atmospheric pressure), whereas the crimp of these conjugate filaments require a special treatment, i.e., superheated steam (118°C).

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to novel processes for producing conjugate filaments and to novel conjugate filaments. More specifically, the invention provides a simple and economical process for producing conjugate filaments having improved properties, such as crimp characteristics. In particular, the invention provides polyamide conjugate filaments having requisite high-load crimp and boiling water shrinkage characteristics for stretch garment applications and, especially, for ladies' leg hose. The invention also provides a process for producing such polyamide filaments.

According to one aspect of the invention, the process comprises stretching a fresh filament at a stretch ratio greater than 1.0 and less than that which would cause the filament to break, said filament being melt spun at a spinning speed of at least 1829 mpm (meters per minute) and comprising a first longitudinal polymeric segment and a second longitudinal polymeric segment arranged in an eccentric configuration along the length of the filament and differing from each other in dimensional change characteristics, said difference and said stretch ratio being selected to provide a filament having a low-load crimp test value of at least 12% and, preferably, at least 20%. By "fresh" filament is meant a filament which has not been allowed to age under conditions such that when stretched no substantial improvement is obtained as compared to characteristics obtained when a filament spun under the same conditions is aged for four (4) hours at 70% relative humidity and at a temperature of 25°C prior to stretching to the same stretch ratio. Fresh filament characteristics can, in some instances, be preserved at least temporarily by collecting and maintaining the filament under anhydrous conditions until it is drawn as shown, for example, in Example 12 herein. Although applicants do not wish to be limited by theory, the use of a fresh filament is believed to provide desirable results due to crystalline characteristics at the time of stretching.

Preferably, the process is a spin-stretch process wherein the stretching of the filament is accomplished in-line during melt spinning after the filament is formed and before it is collected.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the spin-stretch process comprises co-extruding two molten fiber-forming polymers having different terminal velocity distances to form a molten stream in which the polymers are arranged in an eccentric configuration along the length thereof, cooling and solidifying said molten stream in a quenching zone to form a filament (solidified molten stream), attenuating and accelerating said molten stream by withdrawing the filament from the quenching zone at a speed (i.e, spinning speed) of at least 1829 mpm and then stretching the filament at a stretch ratio greater than 1.0 in-line before it is collected and, preferably, as soon as possible after the molten stream has solidified, the processing conditions and polymers being selected to provide a filament having a low-load crimp test value of at least 12% and preferably 20%. Preferably, at least one of the polymers is a polyamide and most preferably is nylon 66. As used herein, the term "solidified" means the molten stream has cooled sufficiently so that it no longer sticks (i.e. fuses) to other filaments or to yarn guide surfaces. Polymers having "different terminal velocity distances" are characterized in that under the particular spin-stretch conditions employed to form the molten stream the polymers solidify at different distances from their point of extrusion (i.e., at different distances from the spinneret). The measurement of terminal velocity distances is hereinafter described.

According to the most preferred embodiment of the spin-stretch process, both polymers are polyamides and the processing conditions and polyamides are selected to provide a conjugate filament having a high-load crimp test value of at least 12% and a boiling water shrinkage test value such that the quotient obtained by dividing said crimp test value by said boiling water shrinkage test value is at least 1.0. This quotient is referred to herein as the "CRIMP/BWS ratio". In general, the highest high-load crimp test values and lowest boiling water shrinkage test values are attained by selecting highly crystalline homopolyamides, such as nylon 66 and to a lesser extent nylon 6. Preferably, both homopolyamides are of the same chemical structure, that is, consist of recurring structural units of the same chemical formula. Most preferably each polyamide is a nylon 66.

The conjugate filaments prepared in accordance with the present invention have little or no torque (i.e., are substantially torque-free) and, therefore, offer certain advantages over false-twist textured filaments which contain substantial torque (i.e. are torque-lively). One advantage is that conjugate filaments may be used in the form of a mid-denier singles yarn (e.g. 140 denier/34 filament yarn), whereas friction false-twisted filaments cannot normally be used in this form because of torque, but rather are used in the form of a plied yarn where two 70 denier singles yarns of opposite torque are plied to form a 140 denier yarn of balanced torque.

The high-load crimp test (hereinafter defined) is used herein to determine the suitability of conjugate filaments for hosiery and other stretch garment applications. The higher the high-load crimp test value the more suitable the filament is for stretch garment applications. For hosiery, the test value should be at least 12% and, preferably, at least 15%. Although in practice the hose are normally placed in a dye bath maintained at or near the ambient temperature and then the temperature of the bath is subsequently raised to the boil to simultaneously develop the crimp and dye the hose, the high-load crimp test is much quicker and easier to use than crimp tests conducted in boiling water. The high-load crimp test correlates very well to boiling water crimp tests for filaments prepared from two homopolyamides of the same chemical structure but of different terminal velocity distances. Filament yarns of the present invention have been knitted into ladies' hose and have developed excellent crimp characteristics and exhibited acceptable boiling water shrinkage characteristics when the hose were placed without restraint in a dye bath.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Figure 1 is a schematic representation of equipment useful in practicing the spin-stretch process of the present invention; and

Figure 2 is a representation of the cross-section of a conjugate filament prepared by the spin-stretch process of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

The process of the present invention provides conjugate filaments having improved properties. For example, the process of the invention can be utilized to provide polyamide conjugate filaments which are particularly useful for ladies' leg hose applications. While the process of this invention may be used to prepare a conjugate filament composed of three or more fiber-forming polymeric segments, the two-segment filament is preferred since it offers economic advantages over other multi-segment filaments; as the number of segments increases, the process becomes more and more complicated and less and less practical. Accordingly, the invention is described herein with reference to the two-segment conjugate filament.

As used herein the term "conjugate filament" means a filament comprising a first longitudinal polymeric segment and a second longitudinal polymeric segment arranged in an eccentric configuration along the length of the filament and differing from each other in longitudinal dimensional change characteristics. The term "eccentric" as used herein includes both side-by-side and asymmetrical sheath-core structures. By differing in "longitudinal dimensional change characteristics" is meant that when the filament is structurally relaxed, for example, by exposure to boiling water while under no tension, one of the segments shrinks or otherwise changes in length to a different extent than the other segment(s), as evidenced by the filament assuming a helical configuration or if the segments separate, by a difference in their individual lengths. The formation of helical crimp or filament splitting in the foregoing test, of course, confirms the presence of at least two eccentrically arranged segments as well as their differing dimensional change characteristics. Conjugate filaments having segments differing from each other in longitudinal dimensional change characteristics can be produced by methods well known in the art, such as, by using polymers having different relative viscosities (e.g. see U.S. Patent 3,536,802). There may be a distinct line of demarcation between the segments at their interface or, in some instances, merely a gradient change in composition of the filament across its cross-section.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the process is carried out using the equipment arrangement shown in Figure 1. Referring to Figure 1, polyamides A and B of different terminal velocity distances are coextruded at about the same melt temperature at a given speed (extrusion speed) in molten form through circular capillaries 2 and 3, respectively, of spinneret 1. The molten polymers converge below the spinneret face to form molten stream 4 in which polyamides A and B are arranged, as segments, in a side-by-side configuration. For purposes of illustration the formation of only one filament is shown in Fig. 1. It will be understood, however, in actual practice of the invention the spinneret will normally have provisions for forming a plurality of molten streams; that is, the spinneret will have a plurality of capillary pairs 2 and 3. Molten stream 4 is then quenched by conventional means to form a filament (i.e., solidified molten stream). The filament is then passed into contact with finish applicator means 5 which applies a liquid finish to the filament. Where there is a plurality of filaments, the filaments are conveniently converged on applicator means 5. The filament is then passed around feed roll 6 with a partial wrap, around stretch roll 7 with a partial wrap, heated by heating means 8 (e.g., a heated tube through which the filament passes) and finally collected by collecting means 9 (e.g., a bobbin on which the filament is wound). Roll 6 is rotated at a peripheral speed of at least 1829 mpm. Roll 7 is rotated at a peripheral speed greater than that of roll 6 but usually no greater than twice that of roll 6. The partial wraps are of an angle sufficient to prevent slippage of the filament on the rolls. When the filament is collected on a bobbin, it should be collected at a speed less than the peripheral speed of roll 7, thereby permitting the filament to relax (retract) before it is collected; otherwise, difficulty is encountered in removing the bobbin from the chuck on which it is rotated, particularly, where the filament or yarn makes a large number of wraps on the bobbin to form the package. In instances where the filament makes only a small number of wraps on the bobbin, heating of the filament by means 8 may be omitted. The filament collected on the bobbin normally has both original crimp (visible crimp) which manifests itself when the spinning tension is released and latent crimp which can be developed by subsequent treatment of the yarn.

Figure 2 shows the cross-section of a typical conjugate filament prepared in accordance with the process of the invention wherein the ratio of segment A to segment B used in forming the filament is 1:1.

In accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention, the spin-stretch process is carried out under processing conditions and using polyamides so as to provide a filament having a high-load crimp test value of at least 15% and a CRIMP/BWS ratio value of at least 2 and most preferably values of at least 20% and 3, respectively. The following discussion considers the effect of changing the indicated processing variable while leaving all other variables constant.

One segment of the conjugate filament is preferably formed from a rapidly crystallizable fiber-forming polyamide and the other from a less rapidly crystallizable fiber-forming polyamide. This difference in crystallizability may be achieved by selecting polyamides having different terminal velocity distances. In general as the difference between their terminal velocity distances increases, the high-load crimp test value increases to or approaches a maximum value and thereafter remains substantially the same. In general, polymers become less crystallizable as the ratio of homopolymeric segments to copolymeric segments increases, for example, the crystallizability of nylon 66> nylon 66-6 (95:5)> nylon 66-6 (90:10)> nylon 66-6 (85:15). Therefore, highly crystalline homopolyamides such as nylon 66 and nylon 6 are preferred, with nylon 66 giving the highest high-load crimp test values and, therefore, being the preferred polyamide for use in practicing the invention. Nylon copolymers are designated herein in a conventional manner, for example, "nylon 66-6" means the copolymer consisting of randomly occurring 66 units, $-NH(CH_2)_6NHCO(CH_2)_4CO-$, and 6 units, $-NH(CH_2)_5CO-$, formed, for example, by copolymerizing hexamethylene diammonium adipate and caprolactam. Mole ratios when given are given in parenthesis following the copolymer designation, for example, (95:5) means a mole ratio of 95:5, respectively.

When the polyamide used to form one of the segments of the conjugate filament is composed of structural repeating units of the same chemical formula as the polyamide used to form the other segment, selection of polyamides differing from each other in relative viscosity values will provide the desired result in this process. When nylon 66 polyamides of different relative viscosities (RV) are used to form the segments, the difference in RV between the two nylon 66's should be at least 5, preferably at least 15 and most preferably at least 30 with the RV of the high RV nylon 66 being at least 30 and, preferably, at least 50 and most preferably at least 65.

While nylon 66 is the preferred polyamide, other polyamides may be used in practicing the invention. Examples of other suitable homopolyamides include nylon 6 and nylon 610. Examples of suitable copoly amides include, but are not limited to, those described in U.S. 3,399,108, 3,418,199, 3,558,760 and 3,667,207. Examples of such copolyamides are: nylon 6-66, nylon 66-610; nylon 66-610-611-612; nylon 66-612; nylon 66-6I (6I=$-NH(CH_2)_6NH\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-C_6H_4-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-$ units); nylon 66-6T (6T=$-NH(CH_2)_6NH\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-C_6H_4-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-$ units) nylon 66-6-612; nylon 6-66-610 and nylon 6-612.

The spinneret may be designed so that in forming a molten stream each of the molten polymers may be extruded through a separate capillary in such a manner that the molten polymers converge at the spinneret face to form the molten stream or the polymers may be combined and then extruded through a common spinneret capillary to form the molten stream. However, it is preferred that each of the molten polymers be extruded through a separate capillary and converge below the spinneret face to form the molten stream as shown in Fig. 1. Unless the molten polymers converge at or below the face of the spinneret, the one segment (e.g. the low RV segment) tends to wrap around the other segment (e.g. high RV segment), which in turn tends to reduce the ultimate crimp of the filament.

The filament may be of any desired cross-section, e.g., circular, trilobal, etc. However, it is more economical to manufacture spinnerets having circular capillaries. Filaments having a cross-section resulting from the use of capillaries which are circular in cross-section are shown in Fig. 2.

The volume ratio of the polyamide segments can vary over a wide range. As a practical matter, the segment system normally will be within the range of 3:1 to 1:3. In the case where both segments are nylon 66, a ratio of 1:1 to 1:3 (high to low relative viscosity) is preferred with the greatest amount of crimp being obtained with a ratio of about 30:70 (high to low relative viscosity).

Cooling of the molten streams normally occurs in a quench chamber, commonly referred to as a chimney. The term "quench" as used herein means the cooling of the molten streams sufficiently to provide solidified streams (i.e., filaments). Although cooling of the streams may be assisted by a transverse (or concurrent) stream of flowing air, such a stream is not required in order to provide filaments having high levels of high-load crimp.

In conventional processes, the filaments are passed from the quenching chamber through what is called a "steam conditioning" tube. Steam is circulated through the tube and comes into intimate contact with the filaments. The purpose of the steam is to facilitate subsequent processing of the filament. It has been found, however, that the use of conditioning steam with the spin-stretch process of this invention significantly reduces high-load crimp, i.e., to a level substantially below 10%. Accordingly, conditioning steam should not be used with the process when high-load crimp is desired or, if it is used, it should be used very sparingly.

Finish (aqueous or anhydrous) may be applied to the filaments by conventional means, for example, by passing the filaments over a roll which transfers finish on to the filaments from a reservoir in which the roll is partially submerged and rotating. Alternatively, a stationary V-shaped guide may be used. The guide is arranged so that filaments ride in the V and a finish is metered to the filaments via a small tube. A finish is not necessary in order to obtain the desired filament properties. However, if a finish is not used, the filaments become statically charged and difficult to handle, for example, when unwinding them from a bobbin. As a practical matter, the finish is preferably an aqueous finish (water per se or a water base finish) in view of the environmental considerations involved in the use of non-aqueous finishes.

The filaments are conveniently converged on the finish applicator means (e.g. the above mentioned finish guide). If desired, the filament may be converged by means of a conventional convergence guide after being quenched and prior to a finish being applied thereto.

The molten streams are attenuated and accelerated from the spinneret (or, when formed below the spinneret, from their point of formation) by a feed roll which withdraws the quenched streams (filaments) from the quenching zone at a spinning speed greater than the extrusion speed. The extrusion speed is the linear speed at which the molten polyamide is theoretically traveling through the spinneret capillary or capillaries and is calculated from the dimensions of the capillary, the extrusion rate and the density of the polyamide. When more than one capillary is used to form the filament, the linear speeds are averaged and the average speed is used as the extrusion speed. The term "jet attenuation" (JA) as used herein represents the quotient obtained by dividing the spinning speed (SS) by the extrusion speed (ES). It has been found that increasing jet attenuation has little effect on the high-load crimp. In general, in order to obtain filaments having a high level of high-load crimp, the spinning speed must be at least 1829mpm. Preferably, spinning speeds of at least 2286 mpm and most preferably at least 2743 mpm are used in practicing the process of the invention. In general, increasing the spinning speed and other processing speeds accordingly improves the economics of the process.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the filaments are stretched in-line before being collected, for example, before being wound onto a bobbin. Normally, if the filaments are collected and then subsequently stretched in a separate operation, the filaments will not possess a significant level of high-load crimp even though they may possess a moderate level of low-load crimp. It has been discovered however, that if the filaments are spun and collected under anhydrous conditions and kept under anhydrous conditions for a limited period of time until subsequently stretched, it is possible to obtain filaments having a high-load crimp level in excess of 8% even though the stretching of the filaments is accomplished in an operation subsequent to and separate from the spinning operation. However, such conditions are usually not practical from the standpoint of commercial operations.

The stretching is preferably accomplished using a roll arrangement as shown in Figure 1 wherein roll 6 is a feed roll and roll 7 is a stretch roll. The stretch roll is operated at a peripheral speed higher than the peripheral speed of the feed roll. With the roll arrangement shown in Figure 1 the filaments are stretched as they leave feed roll 6. In general, as the stretch ratio is increased from 1, the level of highload crimp imparted to the filaments increases through a maximum level and thereafter decreases slightly. Normally, maximum high-load crimp test values are attained when the filaments are stretched at a ratio greater than 1.0. In many instances use of a stretch ratio greater than 2.0 can not be used without breaking filaments. It is contemplated that, if desired, the stretching of the filaments may occur downstream of the feed roll; for example, between two pairs of rolls where the first pair is rotating at the same peripheral speed as that of the feed roll and the second pair at a higher peripheral speed. Preferably, the filaments are stretched as soon as possible after being quenched. As a practical matter, at spinning speeds of at least 1829 mpm the stretching will occur within a fraction of a second after quenching. However, as mentioned above, the stretching can be delayed for long periods of time (i.e., minutes, even hours), providing the filaments are kept under anhydrous conditions. Under such conditions an anhydrous finish or no finish at all must be used. Accordingly, where the filaments are lagged for a substantial period of time (in excess of 4 seconds) before being stretched, such as in a stuffer box type tower or by means of a roller around which the filaments make a plurality of passes, an anhydrous finish is preferably used to be certain the level of high-load crimp is not significantly reduced. Where the period of time between quenching and stretching is significantly greater than about 4 seconds, the filaments may also need to be kept in an anhydrous environment. Whether or not an anhydrous finish and/or anhydrous environment provide satisfactory results can easily be determined experimentally. Where the filaments are stretched within a few seconds after quench the use of an aqueous finish and ambient conditions has very little, if any, effect on the high-load crimp level obtained by the process.

In commercial practice of the process, it will normally be desirable to wind the filaments onto a bobbin by means of a winder with the winder being operated at the lowest speed that can be used and still provide sufficient tension on the yarn to obtain an acceptable package on the bobbin. Normally, a yarn tension between 0.05 and 0.1 grams per denier is used. Generally, the difference between the peripheral speed of the stretch roll and the winder is in the range of 2 to 12%. This difference in speeds causes the yarn to relax between the stretch roll and winder. Conventional winders are available and may be used in practicing the process, which permit yarn tensions to be preset, whereby the speed of the winder automatically adjusts to maintain the preset tension. In certain instances it may be desirable to heat the yarn as it is relaxing, depending on factors such as total yarn denier, package size, processing speeds and the like. The heating of the yarn may be accomplished by exposing the yarn to radiant heat or by passing the filaments through a tube heated with air. It is also contemplated that the yarn may be heated by maintaining the stretch roll at a suitable temperature to heat the filaments. The yarn, of course, should not be heated in a manner or to a temperature that would significantly reduce its crimp. In this regard it has been found that the use of steam to heat the yarn tends to significantly reduce the high-load crimp level. Therefore, the use of steam to effect the heat relaxation of the filaments is not recommended where high levels of high-load crimp are desired.

Measurements

A. Relative viscosity (RV) values, when given herein, are given without units. First, the intrinsic viscosity [n] of the polymer is determined and then the relative viscosity (RV) is calculated from the equation:

$$[n]=(0.184)(RV)^{0.941}: \text{ solving for RV:}$$

RV= e raised to the following power:

$$\ln \frac{[n]}{0.184} + 0.491$$

The intrinsic viscosity is determined from the equation:

$$[n]=\lim_{c \to 0} \ln t/t_o + C$$

where t_o is the flow time at 25°C through a viscometer of 90% formic acid (pure solvent) and t is the flow time through the same viscometer of a solution of the polymer having the concentration (c) in grams of polymer/100 ml of pure solvent. In determing the [n] of the high RV polymer a concentration of 0.25 grams/100 ml is used; in determining the [n] of the low RV polymer a concentration of 0.50 grams/100 ml is used.

B. High-load crimp test values, when given herein, are given in terms of percent (%) and are determined on a sample of filament(s) prior to development of its latent crimp, as follows:

(1) Determine the denier of the sample

(2) Calculate the number of revolutions on a denier reel that would be required to make a skein (a continuous bundle of filaments in the form of a collapsed coil) having a denier of 4000.

$$\text{No. of Revolutions} = \frac{4000}{\text{Denier of sample}}$$

(3) Prepare a skein having a denier of 4000 from the sample.

(4) Vertically hang the skein from a stationary hook by placing the skein over the hook being careful to avoid stretching or tangling of the skein. Hook a low weight

wire hook (reshaped paper clip) through the bottom of the skein.

(5) With the skein hanging vertically from the hook, suspend a 800g weight from the wire hook (the skein now has the appearance of a single 8000 denier strand).

(6) After the weight has been suspended for 0.5 minutes, remove the 800g weight and replace it with a 20g weight.

(7) Suspend the skein with the 20g weight in a 120°C forced draft oven for 5 minutes.

(8) Remove the skein from the oven, let it cool for one minute and hang it once again over the stationary hook with the 20g weight suspended from the skein via the wire hook.

(9) then without removing the 20g weight, determine the length of the doubled skein to the nearest 0.1 cm. Record this length (L_1).

(10) Remove the 20g weight and replace it with an 800g weight; after 30 seconds determine the length of the skein to the nearest 0.1 cm. Record this length (L_2).

$$\% \text{ High-load Crimp} = \frac{L_2 - L_1}{L_2} \times 100$$

C. Low-load crimp test values, when given herein, are given in terms of percent (%) and are determined from a sample of filament(s) before development of its latent crimp, as follows:

(1) Determine the denier of the sample

(2) Calculate the number of revolutions on a denier reel that would be required to make a skein (a continuous bundle of filaments in the form of a collapsed coil) having a denier of 5412.

$$\text{No. of Revolutions} = \frac{5412}{\text{Denier of sample}}$$

(3) Prepare a skein having a denier of 5412 from the sample.

(4) Vertically hang the skein from a stationary hook by placing the skein over the hook being careful to avoid stretching or tangling of the skein. Hook a low weight wire hook (reshaped paper clip) through the bottom of the skein.

(5) With the skein hanging vertically from the stationary hook, suspend a 1000g weight from the wire hook (the skein now has the appearance of a single 10824 denier strand), and after 0.5 minutes measure the length of the doubled skein to the nearest 0.10m and record this length as L_1. Remove the 1000g weight.

(6) Suspend the skein in a 120°C forced draft oven for 5 minutes.

(7) Remove the skein from the oven, let it cool for one minute, attached a 10g weight to the skein via the wire hook and hang it once again over the stationary hook with the 10g weight suspended from the wire hook.

(8) Then, without removing the 10g weight, determine the length of the doubled skein to the nearest 0.1cm. Record this length as L_2.

(9) Remove the 10g weight and replace it with the 1000g weight; after 30 seconds determine the length of the skein to the nearest 0.1 cm. Record this length as L_3.

$$\% \text{ Low-Load Crimp} = \frac{L_3 - L_2}{L_1} \times 100$$

D. Boiling water shrinkage values, when given herein, are given in terms of percent (%) and are determined:

(1) Determine the denier of the sample.

(2) Calculate the number of revolutions on a

denier reel that would be required to make a skein having a denier of 2250.

$$\text{Revolutions} = \frac{2250}{\text{denier of sample}}$$

(3) Prepare a skein having a denier of 2250.

(4) Vertically hang the skein from a stationary hook by placing the skein over the hook being careful to avoid stretching or tangling of the skein. Hook a low weight hook (reshaped paper clip) through the bottom of the skein.

(5) With the skein hanging vertically from the stationary hook, suspend a 1500g weight from the wire hook (the skein now has the appearance of a 4500 denier strand).

(6) After the weight has been suspended for 10 seconds, determine the length of the doubled skein to the nearest 0.1 cm and record this length as L_i (initial length).

(7) Replace the 1500g weight with a 6.1g weight and immerse the skein in a boiling water bath for 1 minute.

(8) Remove the skein from the bath, then remove the 6.1g weight and permit the skein to air dry. After the skein is dry, condition at standard atmospheric conditions (72% RH) for 12 hours.

(9) Again suspend the 1500g weight from the skein while the skein is hanging vertically from the stationary hook.

(10) After 10 seconds, determine the length of the doubled skein to the nearest 0.1 cm and record this length as L_f (final length).

$$\text{\% boiling water shrinkage (BWS)} = \frac{L_i - L_f}{L_i} \times 100$$

E. Terminal Velocity Distance: According to one aspect of the invention, the process is carried out by co-extruding through a spinneret two polymers (e.g., Polymer A and Polymer B) having different Terminal Velocity Distances, Polymer A and Polymer B being joined to form a molten stream that is solidified in a quenching zone to form a filament and being attenuated and accelerated by withdrawing the filament from the quenching zone at a speed (spinning speed) of at least 1829 mpm. The velocity of a molten stream continually increases up to the point at which it solidifies at which point its velocity corresponds to the spinning speed. The Terminal Velocity Distance of Polymer A is determind under the same conditions used when co-extruding Polymer A and B except in this instance only Polymer A is extruded. A Laser Doppler Velocimeter using a He-Ne laser with optics for 9 mm beam separation and 250 mm focal length and using a counter type signal processor Model 1980 built by TSI, Inc., St. Paul, Minnesota (or equivalent instrument) is used to determine the point at which the molten stream consisting entirely of Polymer A attains its maximum or terminal velocity. The distance from the spinneret to this point is measured and recorded as the Terminal Velocity Distance of Polymer A. The Terminal Velocity Distance of Polymer B is then determined in the same manner. The actual Terminal Velocity Distance values are not important so long as the values are different.

The following examples are given to further illustrate the invention. In the following examples yarns are made using the same general apparatus and procedure described in Example 1. The specific conditions utilized are given in each example along with test results obtained.

EXAMPLE 1

This example illustrates the preparation of conjugate filaments of the present invention in which a high relative viscosity nylon 66 is used to form one of the segments and a lower relative viscosity nylon 66 is used to form the other segment.

A high relative viscosity nylon 66 (RV=82) and a lower melt viscosity nylon 66 (RV=41) having different terminal velocity distances are co-extruded in a side-by-side configuration in a 1:1 ratio using the apparatus arrangement shown in Fig. 1, except that instead of one pair of capillaries the spinneret has seven (7) pairs of circularly spaced holes (capillaries) each having a diameter of 20 mils (0.51mm). The extrusion temperature is 285°C and the extrusion rate is 0.011896 cc/sec/capillary. A convergence guide (metered finish pin) is located 91.44 cm from the face of the spinneret. The finish pin is rectangular in shape with its long axis being parallel to the threadline. The pin is grooved to receive and converge the seven filaments. Aqueous finish is metered to the groove and into contact with the converged filaments. The filaments are quenched enroute to the finish pin by means of a cross-flow (2.83 cmm) of ambient air. The filaments in the form of a yarn are withdrawn from the finish pin at 2858 mpm (i.e.spinning speed) by means of a driven roll (feed roll) around which the yarn makes a partial wrap. The feed roll is 19 cm in diameter and located 6.1 m from the face of the spinneret. The yarn is withdrawn from the feed roll at 4572 mpm by means of a stretch roll around which the yarn also makes a partial wrap. The stretch roll is also 19 cm in diameter. The distance between the centers of the two rolls is 63 cm. The feed roll and stretch roll are arranged to prevent slippage of the yarn on the rolls. The yarn is withdrawn from the stretch roll and wound onto a bobbin by means of a conventional winder at a yarn tension of 1.0g. Enroute to the bobbin from the stretch roll the yarn passes between, but not in contact with, two strip heaters (30.48 cm by 10.16 cm) placed 6.35 mm apart face-to-face and heated to about 275°C. The yarn relaxes between the stretch roll and bobbin an amount equal to the quotient obtained by dividing the difference between the peripheral speed of the stretch roll (S_1) and the winding speed (S_2) by (S_1), i.e.:

$$\% \text{ relaxation} = \frac{S_1 - S_2}{S_1} \times 100.$$

In this instance the hot relaxation is 0.098 or 9.8%.

A second bobbin of yarn is prepared and collected under identical conditions, except in this instance the heaters are eliminated from the process. The processing conditions used in making the two bobbins of yarn are summarized below:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.51/0.51
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	82/41
RV's Difference	41
Feed roll speed (mpm)	2858
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	4572
In-line stretch (X)	1.6
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Given in Table 1

The effect of eliminating hot relaxation is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Item	In-Line Relax/%	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %	BWS %	Tenacity gpd
1A	Hot/9.8	19.0	69	5.1	2.6
1B	Cold/7.8	20.9	71	6.0	2.7

The results given in Table 1 show that the use of heat in relaxation has a slight adverse effect on crimp and strength properties and a slight beneficial effect on BWS. The use of heat in relaxation can be avoided except to the extent larger packages are required.

EXAMPLE 2

This example shows that in the absence of an in-line stretch, yarns of high-load crimp are not obtainable even at high spinning speeds. Yarns are prepared as described in Example 1 using the following conditions:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.45/0.45
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	71/39
RV's Difference	32
Feed roll speed (mpm)	Given in Table 2
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	ditto
In-line stretch (X)	ditto
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold

Test results are given in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Item	Feed Roll Speed mpm	Stretch Roll Speed mpm	In-line Stretch (X)	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %	Tenacity gpd
2A	3201	3201	1.0	2.9	23	1.7
2B	3658	3658	1.0	3.4	26	1.8
2C	4115	4115	1.0	2.5	24	1.9
2D	4572	4572	1.0	3.1	23	1.8
2E	4572	4572	1.0	2.4	21	1.9
2F	3048	4572	1.5	19.1	64	2.4
2G	3048	4572	1.5	19.4	64	2.5

EXAMPLE 3

This example shows that substantial changes in the jet attenuation (JA) factor has little effect on high-load crimp and tenacity. Yarns are prepared as described in Example 1 using the following conditions:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	Given in Table 3
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	Given in Table 3
RV's Difference	ditto
Feed roll speed (mpm)	3356
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	5029
In-line stretch (X)	1.5
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Hot (9.0%)

Test results are given in Table 3.

TABLE 3

Item	Capillary Spinneret Diameter (Hi/Lo) mm	RV's (Hi/Lo)	RV	High-Load Crimp %	Tenacity gpd
3A	0.25/0.25	84/43	41	17.7	2.8
3B	0.51/0.51	82/42	40	18.3	2.7

The results given in Table 3 show that increasing the JA by a factor of four gives only a slight increase in high-load crimp.

EXAMPLE 4

This example shows the effect on crimp and tenacity of varying feed roll speeds (spinning speeds) from 1486 to 4572 mpm, stretch roll speeds from 2743 to 5486 mpm and in-line stretch ratios from 1.1 to 1.85. The highest high-load crimp values are obtained at spinning speeds (feed roll speeds) of 2743 mpm and higher and in-line stretch ratios of 1.2 or higher.

In a first series of runs, yarns are prepared as described in Example 1 using the following conditions:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.51/0.51
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	66/42
RV's Difference	24
Feed roll speed (mpm)	Given in Table 4A
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	ditto
In-line stretch (X)	ditto
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold

Test results are given in Table 4A.

TABLE 4A

Item	Feed Roll Speed mpm	Stretch Roll Speed mpm	In-line Stretch (X)	High-Load Crimp %	Tenacity gpd
4AA	2195	2743	1.25	5.3	2.7
4AB	1829	2743	1.5	3.7	3.4
4AC	1715	2743	1.6	3.7	3.5
4AD	1481	2743	1.85	3.9	3.8

In a second series of runs, yarns are prepared as described in Example 1 using the following conditions:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.51/0.51
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	60/48
RV's Difference	12
Feed roll speed (mpm)	Given in Table 4B
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	ditto
In-line stretch (X)	ditto
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold

Test results are given in Table 4B.

TABLE 4B

Item	Feed Roll Speed mpm	Stretch Roll Speed mpm	In-line Stretch (X)	High-Load Crimp %	Tenacity gpd
4BA	2494	2743	1.1	3.6	2.1
4BB	2286	2743	1.2	7.9	2.1
4BC	2110	2743	1.3	10.5	2.2
4BD	1960	2743	1.4	11.5	2.8
4BE	1829	2743	1.5	8.9	2.6
4BF	2910	3201	1.1	5.3	2.1
4BG	2667	3201	1.2	12.1	2.3
4BH	2462	3201	1.3	14.4	2.3
4BI	2286	3201	1.4	14.7	2.6
4BJ	2133	3201	1.5	14.2	2.6
4BK	3325	3658	1.1	5.4	2.2
4BL	3048	3658	1.2	12.3	2.3
4BM	2814	3658	1.3	16.4	2.3
4BN	2613	3658	1.4	15.3	2.6
4BO	2439	3658	1.5	15.0	2.8
4BP	3741	4115	1.1	6.7	2.3
4BQ	3429	4115	1.2	12.5	2.3
4BR	3166	4115	1.3	15.3	2.4
4BS	2939	4115	1.4	16.4	2.6
4BT	2743	4115	1.5	15.7	2.7

In a third series of runs yarns are prepared as in Series 4B except the melt ratio is different and the RV difference between the polymers is much higher. The following conditions are used:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.51/0.51
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	40/60
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	70/42
RV's Difference	28
Feed roll speed (mpm)	Given in Table 4C
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	ditto
In-line stretch (X)	ditto
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold

Test results are given in Table 4C.

TABLE 4C

Item	Feed Roll Speed mpm	Stretch Roll Speed mpm	In-line Stretch (X)	High-Load Crimp %	Tenacity gpd
4CA	3429	4115	1.20	14.9	1.8
4CB	3292	4115	1.25	16.5	1.9
4CC	3166	4115	1.30	19.4	1.9
4CD	3048	4115	1.35	19.8	1.9
4CE	2940	4115	1.40	21.3	2.1
4CF	3809	4572	1.20	15.2	1.9
4CG	3658	4572	1.25	18.0	2.0
4CH	3516	4572	1.30	19.2	1.9
4CI	3383	4572	1.35	21.8	2.0
4CJ	3264	4572	1.40	22.5	2.1
4CK	3155	4572	1.45	24.1	2.1
4CL	3048	4572	1.50	23.4	2.2

In a fourth series of runs yarns are prepared as in series 4C using the following conditions:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.51/0.51
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	63/36
RV's Difference	27
Feed roll speed (mpm)	Given in Table 4D
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	ditto

In-line stretch (X) ditto

In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold Cold

Test results are given in Table 4D.

TABLE 4D

Item	Feed Roll Speed mpm	Stretch Roll Speed mpm	In-line Stretch (X)	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %	Tenacity gpd
4DA	4156	4572	1.1	4.9	34	2.4
4BD	3810	4572	1.2	12.8	57	2.5
4DC	3517	4572	1.3	18.0	63	2.5
4DD	3265	4572	1.4	19.2	66	2.7
4DE	3048	4572	1.5	19.7	68	2.7
4DF	2858	4572	1.6	17.6	67	2.9
4DG	4572	5029	1.1	3.9	41	2.2
4DH	4191	5029	1.2	11.7	58	2.5
4DI	3869	5029	1.3	17.5	64	2.7
4DJ	3593	5029	1.4	19.9	67	2.8
4DK	3353	5029	1.5	19.5	67	2.8
4DL	3144	5029	1.6	19.4	68	3.0

In a fifth series of runs, yarns are prepared as in series 4D except the melt ratio is different. The following conditions are used:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm 0.41/0.51

Melt ratio (Hi/Lo) 40/60

Nylon types (Hi/Lo) 66/66

Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo) 72/41

RV's Difference 31

Feed roll speed (mpm) Given in Table 4E

Stretch roll speed (mpm) ditto

In-line stretch (X) ditto

In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold Cold

Test results are given in Table 4E.

TABLE 4E

Item	Feed Roll Speed mpm	Stretch Roll Speed mpm	In-line Stretch (X)	High-Load Crimp %	Tenacity gpd
4EA	3870	4572	1.20	15.3	1.9
4EB	3516	4572	1.30	20.0	2.0
4EC	3388	4572	1.35	22.7	2.2
4ED	3266	4572	1.40	22.1	2.2
4EE	3155	4572	1.45	21.4	2.3
4EF	3048	4572	1.50	21.2	2.6
4EG	2950	4572	1.55	21.9	2.5
4EH	2858	4572	1.60	21.4	2.4
4EI	3726	5029	1.35	21.5	2.2
4EJ	3594	5029	1.40	22.3	2.4
4EL	3354	5029	1.50	22.3	2.5
4EM	3244	5029	1.55	21.8	2.7
4EN	3146	5029	1.60	20.7	2.7

In a sixth series of runs, yarns are prepared as in series 4D except a stretch roll speed of 5486 mpm is used. The conditions used are:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.25/0.25
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	75/41
RV's Difference	34
Feed roll speed (mpm)	Given in Table 4F
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	ditto
In-line stretch (X)	ditto
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Hot (8.0%)

Test results are given in Table 4F.

TABLE 4F

Item	Feed Roll Speed mpm	Stretch Roll Speed mpm	In-line Stretch (X)	High-Load Crimp %	Tenacity gpd
4FA	3786	5486	1.45	17.6	3.2
4FB	3658	5486	1.50	17.0	3.3
4FC	3543	5486	1.55	16.1	3.3
4FD	3429	5486	1.60	15.5	3.4
4FE	3328	5486	1.65	15.2	3.6

EXAMPLE 5

This example shows the effect of varying the ΔRV in the 24 to 34 range. Yarns are prepared as in Example 1 using the following conditions:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.25/0.25
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	Given in Table 5
RV's Difference	ditto
Feed roll speed (mpm)	3048
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	4572
In-line stretch (X)	1.5
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold (6.3%)

Test results are given in Table 5.

TABLE 5

Item	RV's (Hi/Lo)	ΔRV	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %	BWS %
5A	62/38	24	15.1	60	5.3
5B	72/38	34	18.0	65	5.1
5C	75/46	29	17.1	65	5.0
5D	54/22	32	18.0	-	-

The results in Table 5 show that in general increasing the ΔRV increases high-load crimp.

EXAMPLE 6

In this example yarns are prepared as in Example 5. In this instance the RV of the high RV polyamide is varied while the RV of the Low RV polyamide is held constant. The conditions used are:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.51/0.51
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	40/60
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	Given in Table 6
RV's Difference	ditto

Feed roll speed (mpm)	3155
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	4572
In-line stretch (X)	1.45
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Hot

Test results are given in Table 6.

TABLE 6

Item	RV's (Hi/Lo)	ΔRV	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %
6A	67/49	18	16.5	65
6B	90/49	41	24.9	72

As in Example 5, the results show that high-load crimp increases with increases in ΔRV.

EXAMPLE 7

This example shows the effect of varying the melt ratio on high-load crimp and low-load crimp. The yarns are prepared as in Example 6 using the following conditions:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.23/0.23
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	Given in Table 7
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	62/39
RV's Difference	23
Feed roll speed (mpm)	2857
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	4115
In-line stretch (X)	1.4
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold

Test results are givn in Table 7.

TABLE 7

Item	Melt Ratio (Hi/Lo)	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %
7A	65/35	8.3	54
7B	63/37	9.6	58
7C	60/40	10.5	59
7D	58/42	12.0	60
7E	55/45	13.5	62
7F	53/47	14.3	64
7G	50/50	15.0	64
7H	50/50	15.2	62
7I	47/53	16.8	64
7J	45/55	17.9	66
7K	42/58	18.0	67
7L	40/60	18.8	69

The results show that changing the melt ratio has a significant effect on high-load crimp and relatively little effect on low-load crimp.

EXAMPLE 8

This example illustrates the effects of steam conditioning the yarn on crimp. Yarns are prepared as in Example 1 except that the filaments are passed through a tube (steam conditioning tube) having a diameter of 12.7 cm and a length of 182.9 cm. The tube is placed 132 cm from the face of the spinneret. Steam is introduced into the tube through ports located near the filament inlet end of the tube. The following conditions are used:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.41/0.51
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	89/44
RV's Difference	45
Feed roll speed (mpm)	2858
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	4572
In-line stretch (X)	1.6
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold (7.1%)

Test results are given in Table 8.

TABLE 8

Item	Tube Fluid	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %	BWS %
8A	Ambient Air	21.3	72	6.4
8B	Steam, 136 kN/m^2	3.3	42	8.5
8C	Steam, 153 kN/m^2	2.0	24	8.8
8D	Steam, 205 kN/m^2	2.1	27	8.9

The negative effects of steam conditioning on high-load crimp is dramatically shown in Table 8.

EXAMPLE 9

This example illustrates the use of spinnerets constructed in such a way that the polymer streams converge at a point other than below the spinneret face.

In one series of runs, two yarns of different denier (9AA and 9AB) are prepared as in Example 1 except in this instance a spinneret is used in which the two angled capillaries (polymer streams) join at the spinneret face rather than below the spinneret face as shown in Fig. 1. The following conditions are used:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.25/0.25
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	61/47
RV's Difference	14
Feed roll speed (mpm)	2939
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	4115
In-line stretch (X)	1.4
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold

Test results are given in Table 9A.

TABLE 9A

Item	Denier/ Fils.	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %	Tenacity gpd
9AA	20/7	14.5	69	3.0
9AB	40/13	13.9	68	2.8

In another series of runs, two yarns (9BA and 9BB) are prepared as above except that in this instance each filament is formed by combining the polymer streams above the spinneret face and then extruding the combined streams through a common capillary of the spinneret. Also, the nylon 66's have a RV of 28 instead of 14. The following conditions are used:

Spinneret capillaries (mm)	0.51
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	69/41
RV's Difference	28
Feed roll speed (mpm)	3048
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	4572
In-line stretch (X)	1.5
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold

Test results are given in Table 9B.

TABLE 9B

Item	Denier/ Fils.	High-Load Crimp %	No-Load Crimp %	Tenacity gpd
9BA	22/7	22.3	76	2.7
9BB	40/13	15.6	73	2.9

The results given in Tables 9A and 9B show that spinneret constructions other than those where the polymers converge below the spinneret may effectively be used in practicing the present invention.

A comparison of the crimp values in Table 9B with those in Table 9A shows that in this instance increasing the ΔRV results in an increase in crimp values.

EXAMPLE 10

This example illustrates the preparation of yarns in accordance with the invention wherein the high viscosity and/or low viscosity polyamide is a polyamide other than nylon 66.

In one series of runs, yarns are made from nylon 610 and nylon 66 using the following conditions:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.25/0.25
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	610/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	Given in Table 10
RV's Difference	ditto
Feed roll speed (mpm)	2858
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	4572
In-line stretch (X)	1.6
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold

Test results are given in Table 10A.

TABLE 10A

Item	RV's (Hi/Lo)	ΔRV	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %	BWS %
10AA	63/48	15	17.4	64	7.2
10AB	56/48	8	9.8	50	6.3

The results in Table 10A show that acceptable crimp values are obtained using nylon 610 in combination with nylon 66 (Item 10AA). The results also show the importance of the ΔRV. Note that in run 10AB the ΔRV is not of a sufficient magnitude to obtain a significant high-load value.

In another series of runs, yarns are made from nylon 66 and nylon 6 using the following conditions:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.51/0.51
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	Given in Table 10B
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/6
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	Given in Table 10B
RV's Difference	ditto
Feed roll speed (mpm)	ditto
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	4572
In-line stretch (X)	Given in Table 10B
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold

Test results are given in Table 10B.

TABLE 10B

Item	RV's Hi/Lo	ΔRV	Melt Ratio	Feed Roll Speed mpm	In-line Stretch X	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %
10BA	67/38	29	40/60	3048	1.5	13.9	68
10BB	67/38	29	50/50	3048	1.5	12.9	63
10BC	78/36	42	50/50	2858	1.6	16.6	63

In another series of runs, yarns are made from nylon 6 using the following conditions:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.51/0.51
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	Given in Table 10C
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	6/6
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	57/38
RV's Difference	19
Feed roll speed (mpm)	3048
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	4572
In-line stretch (X)	1.5
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold

Test results are given in Table 10C.

TABLE 10C

Item	Melt Ratio	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %
10CA	50/50	14.6	62
10CB	40/60	16.9	64

In another series of runs, yarns are made from nylon 66 and a nylon 66-612 (50:50) copolymer using the following conditions:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.51/0.51
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	Given in Table 10D
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66-612 (50:50)

Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	78/36
RV's Difference	42
Feed roll speed (mpm)	2858
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	4572
In-line stretch (X)	1.6
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold

Test results are given in Table 10D.

TABLE 10D

Item	Melt Ratio	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %	BWS %
10DA	50/50	12.8	59	10.6
10DB	40/60	15.3	62	10.3

In another series of runs, yarns are prepared under the same conditions employed in Series 10D except in this instance the copolymer is the high RV polymer and the homopolymer is the low RV polymer. The following conditions are used:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo) mm	0.25/0.25
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66-610 (50:50)/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	Given in Table 10E
RV's Difference	ditto
Feed roll speed (mpm)	2858
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	4572
In-line stretch (X)	1.6
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold

Test results are given in Table 10E.

TABLE 10E

Item	RV's (Hi/Lo)	ΔRV	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %	BWS %	CRIMP/BWS
10EA	72/46	26	11.7	54	20.4	0.57
10EB	82/49	33	13.5	55	18.2	0.74

The results shown in Table 10E show the adverse effects on BWS values when the copolyamide is used as the high RV component.

In another series of runs, yarns are prepared under the same conditions employed in Series 10E except in this instance the polyamides are:

nylon types (Hi/Lo)	6-66(15:85)/66
nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	Given in Table 10F

Test results are given in Table 10F.

TABLE 10F

Item	RV's (Hi/Lo)	ΔRV	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %	BWS %
10FA	93/48	45	18.9	64	7.7
10FB	68/48	20	12.5	50	8.1

EXAMPLE 11

In this example various as-spun conjugate yarns were prepared at low spinning speeds using the equipment described in Example 1 and conditions given in Table 11A. The as-spun yarns are lagged at ambient conditions and then subsequently stretched in a separate operation between stretch rolls under conditions given in Table 11B. Test results are also given in Table 11B.

TABLE 11A

Yarn	Polymers (Hi/Lo)	RV's (Hi/Lo)	ΔRV	Feed Roll Speed mpm	Stretch Roll Speed mpm	Stretch
A	66-610*/66	65/55	10	640	640	None
B	66/66	79/55	24	640	640	None
C	66/66-6**	45/36	9	474	474	None

* 50:50
** 15:85

TABLE 11B

Yarn	Stretch (X)	Stretch Temp. °C	High-Load Crimp %	BWS %
A	4	112	0.8	15.3
A	4	55	6.6	30.5
A	4	Ambient*	6.4	30.9
B	4	112	0.8	11.1
B	4	55	0.8	12.2
B	4	Ambient*	0.8	12.2
C	2.5	Ambient	0.8	13.0
C	4.0	Ambient	0.9	12.9

* Over a cold pin

The results in Table 11B show that when the yarn is spun at low speeds and then stretched in a subsequent operation, the yarn does not have significant high-load crimp.

EXAMPLE 12

This example demonstrates the effect on high-load crimp of using an aqueous finish (Aq) versus an anhydrous finish (Anhy) in instances where the stretching of the filaments is an in-line stretch versus a post stretch in a separate operation.

A series of yarns are prepared as in Example 1 using the following conditions:

Spinneret capillaries (Hi/Lo)mm	0.25/0.25
Melt ratio (Hi/Lo)	50/50
Nylon types (Hi/Lo)	66/66
Nylon RV's (Hi/Lo)	Given in Table 12
RV's Difference	ditto
Feed Roll speed (mpm)	ditto
Stretch roll speed (mpm)	ditto
In-line stretch (X)	ditto
In-line relaxation, Hot/Cold	Cold

Test results are given in Table 12.

TABLE 12

Item	Fin. Type	RV's (Hi/ Lo)	Feed Roll Speed mpm	Str. Roll Speed mpm	In-Ln. Stretch (X)	Post Stretch (X)	High-Load Crimp %	Low-Load Crimp %
12A	Anhy	69/49	2858	4572	1.6	-	17.2	64
12B	Aq	69/49	2858	4572	1.6	-	19.2	66
12C	Anhy	69/49	2858	2858	1.0	1.6*	9.4	50
12D	Aq	69/49	2858	2858	1.0	1.6*	3.3	27
12E	Anhy	77/47	2858	4572	1.6	-	16.7	66
12F	Aq	77/47	2858	4572	1.6	-	16.2	67
12G	Anhy	77/47	2858	2858	1.0	1.6**	11.6	60
12H	Aq	77/47	2858	2858	1.0	1.6**	2.5	30
12I	Anhy	77/47	2858	2858	1.0	1.6***	9.0	45
12J	Aq	77/47	2858	2858	1.0	1.6***	2.3	21

*As-spun yarns are collected and sealed in small plastic bags until post stretched 3-1/4 hrs. later.

**Same as * except post stretch 2/3 hr. after collection of as-spun yarns instead of 3-1/4 hours.

***Same as ** except post stretched 24 hours after collection.

Post stretching is done between two pairs of rotating rolls, a first pair rotating at a peripheral speed of 2858 mpm and a second pair rotating at a peripheral speed of 4572 mpm.

The results in Table 12 show that considerable high-load crimp is lost if the yarn is lagged before stretching. Compare items 12A and B to 12C and D and 12E and F to 12G through J. The results also show that moisture has an adverse effect on the power crimp of lagged yarn (compare 12C to 12D) and worsens with time (compare 12D to 12H to 12J).

In the foregoing examples the importance of selecting and correlating processing conditions and of selecting polymers with respect to melt viscosities, melt viscosity differences, polymer type, etc. on high-load crimp values is demonstrated.

What is claimed is:

1. A substantially torque-free filament comprising a first longitudinal polyamide segment and a second longitudinal polyamide segment arranged in an eccentric configuration along the length of the filament and differing from each other in longitudinal dimensional change characteristics, said filament having a high-load crimp test value of at least 12% and a boiling water shrinkage test value such that the quotient obtained by dividing said crimp test value by said shrinkage test value is at least one.

2. The filament of claim 1 wherein the filament consists of two segments arranged in a side-by-side configuration along the length of the filament.

3. The filament of claim 2 wherein the volume ratio of the segments is in the range of 3:1 to 1:3.

4. The filament of claim 2 wherein said quotient is at least 2.

5. The filament of claim 4 wherein said crimp test value is at least 15%.

6. The filament of claim 2 wherein said quotient is at least 3.

7. The filament of claim 6 wherein said crimp test value is at least 18%.

8. The filament of claim 6 wherein said crimp test value is at least 20%.

9. The filament of claim 2 wherein one of said segments consists essentially of a homopolyamide and the other segment consists essentially of a copolymer.

10. The filament of claim 9 wherein said homopolyamide is nylon 66.

11. The filament of claim 9 wherein said homopolyamide is nylon 6.

12. The filament of claim 2 wherein each segment consists essentially of a homopolyamide.

13. The filament of claim 12 wherein one segment consists essentially of nylon 66 and the other segment consists essentially of nylon 6.

14. The filament of claim 12 wherein each segment consists essentially of nylon 6.

15. The filament of claim 12 wherein each segment consists essentially of nylon 66.

16. The filament of claim 15 wherein said quotient is at least 3.

17. The filament of claim 16 wherein said crimp test value is at least 18%.

18. A process characterized by stretching a fresh filament at a stretch ratio greater than 1.0, said filament being melt spun at a spinning speed of at least 1829 mpm and comprising a first longitudinal polymeric segment and a second longitudinal polymeric segment arranged in an eccentric configuration along the length of the filament and differing from each other in dimensional change characteristics, said difference in change characteristics and said stretch ratio being selected to provide a filament having a low-load crimp test value of at least 12%.

19. The process of claim 18 wherein said difference in dimensional change characteristics and said stretch ratio are selected to provide a filament having a low-load crimp test value of at least 20%.

20. The process of claim 19 wherein said stretching is accomplished in-line immediately following melt spinning and before said filament is collected.

21. A spin-stretch process for preparing a conjugate filament said process comprising co-extruding two molten fiber-forming polymers having different terminal velocity distances to form a molten stream in which the polymers are arranged in an eccentric configuration along the length thereof, cooling and solidifying said molten stream in a quenching zone to form a filament, attenuating and accelerating said molten stream by withdrawing the filament from the quenching zone at a speed of at least 1829 mpm and then stretching the filament in-line at a stretch ratio of greater than 1.0 before it is collected, the processing conditions and polymers being selected to provide a filament having a low-load crimp test value of at least 12%.

22. The process of claim 21 wherein said processing conditions and polymers are selected to provide a filament having a low-load crimp test value of at least 20%.

23. The process of claim 22 wherein the filament is stretched within 1 second after the molten steam is solidified.

24. The process of claim 23 wherein said speed is at least 2288 mpm.

25. The process of claim 23 wherein at least one of the polymers is a polyamide.

26. The process of claim 23 wherein at least one of the polymers is nylon 66.

27. The process of claim 23 wherein said polymers are converged after extrusion.

28. The process of claim 23 wherein said filament consists of said segments arranged in a side-by-side configuration.

29. The process of claim 28 wherein the volume ratio of said polymers is in the range of 1:3 to 3:1.

30. A spin-stretch process for producing a conjugate filament, said process comprising co-extruding two molten fiber-forming polyamides having different terminal velocity distances to form a molten stream in which the polyamides are arranged in an eccentric configuration along the length thereof, cooling and solidifying said molten stream in a quenching zone to form a filament, attenuating and accelerating said molten stream by withdrawing the filament from the quenching zone at a speed of at least 1829 mpm and then stretching the filament in-line at a stretch ratio greater than 1.0 before it is collected, the processing conditions and polyamides being selected to provide a filament having a high-load crimp test value of at least 12% and a boiling water shrinkage value such that the quotient obtained by dividing said crimp value by said boiling water shrinkage test value is at least 1.0.

31. the process of claim 30 wherein said polyamides are arranged in a side-by-side configuration along the length of the filament.

32. The process of claim 30 wherein said speed is at least 2286 mpm.

33. The process of claim 30 wherein said speed is at least 2743 mpm.

34. The process of claim 30 wherein the filament is stretched within 4 seconds after said molten stream is solidified.

35. The process of claim 30 wherein the filament is stretched within 1 second after said molten stream is solidified.

36. The process of claim 31 wherein the spinning conditions and polyamides are selected to provide a filament having a said crimp test value of at least 15% and a said quotient of at least 2.0.

37. The process of claim 31 wherein the spinning conditions and polyamides are selected to provide a filament having a said crimp test value of at least 20% and a said quotient of at least 3.0.

38. The process of claim 31 wherein said polyamides are extruded in a volume ratio ranging from 3:1 to 1:3.

39. The process of claim 31 wherein each polyamide is a homopolyamide.

40. The process of claim 39 wherein one homopolyamide is nylon 66 and the other is nylon 6.

41. The process of claim 39 wherein one homopolyamide is are nylon 6 and the other homopolyamide is a nylon 6 of a different relative viscosity.

42. The process of claim 39 wherein one homopolyamide is nylon 66 and the other homopolyamide is a nylon 66 of a different relative viscosity.

43. The process of claim 42 wherein said polyamides are extruded in a volume ratio of 1:1 to 1:3, high relative viscosity polyamide to low relative viscosity nylon 66.

44. The process of claim 42 wherein the difference between the relative viscosities of said nylons is at least 15.

45. The process of claim 42 wherein the difference between the relative viscosity of said nylons is at least 30.

46. The process of claim 42 wherein one nylon 66 has a relative viscosity of at least 50 and the other nylon 66 has a relative viscosity of less than 50.

47. The process of claim 42 wherein one nylon 66 has a relative viscosity of at least 65 and the other nylon 66 has a relative viscosity of less than 65.

48. Filaments of claim 1 in the form of a yarn.

49. Filaments of claim 15 in the form of a yarn.

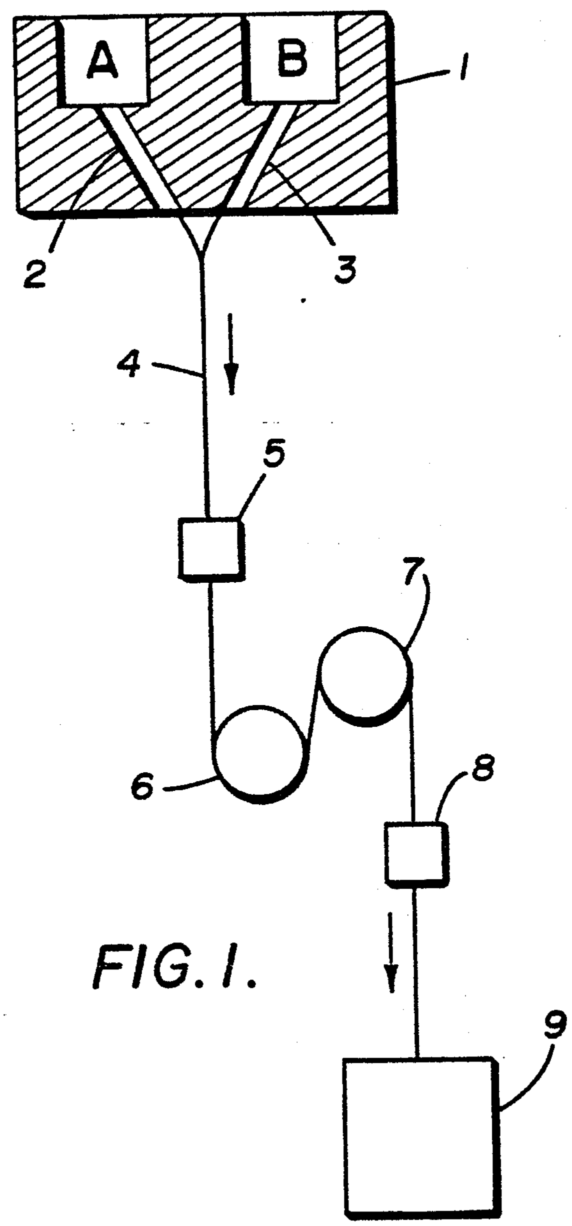

FIG. 1.

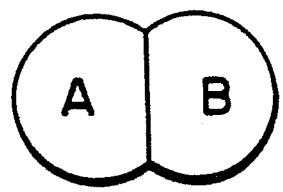

FIG. 2.