



## Experimental Investigations and Ageing Studies on Effects of Insulating Barriers in Transformer Oil during High Frequency High Voltage Transients in Inhomogeneous Field

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**Abstract:** Insulating barriers utilized in complex high voltage insulation systems has been exploited widely by manufacturers of power apparatus. Barriers have found utility in a variety of power apparatus for protection against direct lightning strokes, as an interface at the boundaries of composite insulation materials etc. Though investigations have been carried out by researchers on the breakdown characteristics, barrier position in the gap, influence of space charge etc these characteristics have been analyzed based on aspects pertinent to classical testing procedures only. Advent of high speed switching devices in power systems provides avenues to investigate the effect of insulation performance due to High Frequency High Voltage (HFHV) also. Further, uncharacteristic failures in oil filled distribution transformers have been reported indicated fast transients as the major cause for failures which was not revealed during classical laboratory testing. This research focuses on the influence and effects of solid insulating barriers placed in transformer oil due to HFHV in inhomogeneous fields. Test cell arrangement has been fabricated for carrying out experimental investigations to adhere international standards. Exhaustive experimentation has been performed to infer the influence of the position of barrier, nature of field and breakdown voltage, erosion characteristics of the barrier at an appropriate range of frequencies. A detailed comparison between HFHV and classical power frequency voltage has been carried out. The nature of ionization at the barrier interface and the subsequent increase in the breakdown voltage as explained by Double Electric Layer (DEL) theory has been cross validated. In addition, a study has also been carried out to assess and characterize the ageing of oil based on Dissolved Gas Analysis (DGA) analysis using Weibull distribution.

**Keywords:** High Frequency High Voltage- HFHV; Double Electric Layer- DEL; Barrier; Dissolved Gas Analysis – DGA

### 1. Introduction

The concept of introducing a dielectric barrier in insulation system of high voltage power equipment has been exploited widely since it has been substantiated during experimental studies and detailed analysis that the withstand voltage strength of the insulation system considerably increases. Insulating barriers have found utility in a wide variety of critical equipments of power system such as spacers in transformers, as end rings (shield rings) for lightning protection against lightning strokes in transformers, as nano-dielectrics for enhanced voltage withstand capability of composite insulation system etc. Researchers have carried out substantial studies utilizing barriers to analyze the characteristics and performance of the composite insulation system such as withstand voltage, role of barrier location in the gap, ratio of permittivity of the insulating barrier and the primary dielectric, influence of the space charge etc. However, most of these studies have been confined to analysis based on classical voltage test procedures (power frequency, impulse voltages- switching and lightning).

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However, in recent times, investigations on the effect of insulation performance due to high frequency high voltages have gained attention and focus among researchers, since it has relevance in applications related to high speed switching circuits such as IGBT, GTO, converter transformers switches, etc. Also unpredicted failures in oil-filled distribution transformers have been reported [1] in the recent years which have been attributed to fast transients (high frequencies) which have not been disclosed during classical/ standard tests (a.c power frequency withstand test and impulse test– lightning and switching) conducted in laboratory. Studies and analysis by a group of researchers [1] clearly indicated an increase in voltage stresses due to high frequencies and unconventional wave shapes which was attributed to major cause for such failures and in a number of studies related to the internal resonance. The scientific and research community has ever since embarked on providing comprehensive solutions to comprehend this obscure aspect by formulating a working group, IEEE C57.142 [2] as a part of the IEEE Transformer Committee with the principal focus on creating a testing procedure that would include methodologies related to transient (high frequency) voltages induced by resonant, switching etc.

The goal of this research is to infer on the nature and position of barrier in transformer oil in an inhomogeneous field due to HFHV transients. Detailed studies and analysis is carried out on solid barrier (Kraft paper) due to HFHV transients in an inhomogeneous field placed in transformer oil. Studies related to the role of voltage withstand strength due to classical and HFHV tests are taken up to ascertain the role played by the position of the barrier, nature of inhomogeneity in electric field and erosion characteristics during breakdown of barrier. In addition degradation in oil samples is also characterized utilizing the two parameter and three parameter Weibull distribution based on dissolved gas analysis.

## 2. Basic Concepts of HFHV and Barrier Effect

Studies by researchers have revealed that primarily five unique ranges of frequencies are obtained which are related to the frequency dependence of breakdown voltage and have different characteristics with specific physical processes [3]. Figure 1 shows a plot indicating breakdown voltage for the five distinct ranges of frequencies.

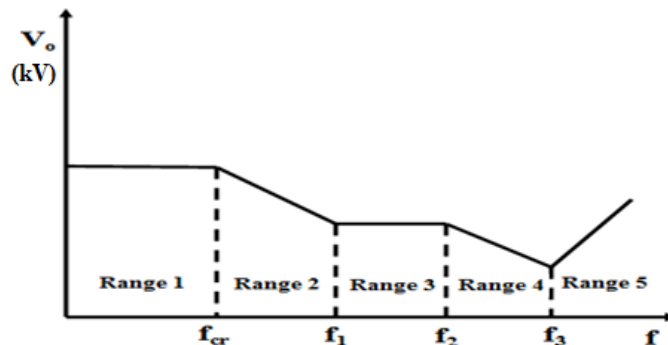


Figure 1. Plot of Breakdown Voltage and Frequency

During measurements up to a frequency called the ‘critical frequency ( $f_{cr}$ ), breakdown voltage independent of frequency and it is governed by elementary breakdown processes such as ionization, streamer mechanism etc. At a frequency beyond the critical value decrease in breakdown voltage is observed with increase in frequency. This is usually attributed by the role played by volumetric charges. This aspect is due to the less rapid frequency whereby the ions produced in a half period have enough time to reach the electrodes during this period while and in next half period the process starts in the absence of volume charge. However, as the frequency increases further, a small part of the ions (usually the positive ions due to its mass as

compared to the electrons) do not acquire sufficient time to reach the electrodes. Hence, the quantum of ions left over in the gap between the electrodes keeps increasing which reduces the breakdown voltage. This aspect explains the reason for lesser values of breakdown voltage in range 2 of Figure 1 shown. However, at frequency ' $f_2$ ', there is a possibility of further decrease in the breakdown voltage. The half period duration of voltage is seemingly lesser than the time duration taken by electrons to travel the spacing in between the electrode configurations. Thus, a segment of negative charges (electrons) remain in space and participates in the ionization process thus leading to a further reduction in breakdown voltage value. At very high frequencies (Range 5), increase of breakdown voltage is observed which may be ascribed to very drastic reduction in the half period which becomes insufficient to initiate the process of ionization. Further field enhancement and hence additional applied voltage would be essential to breakdown the insulation system.

The effect of barrier [4] in HV (High Voltage) engineering essentially relates to an increase in the breakdown strength (enhancement of withstand voltage of the insulation system) because of the usage of many additional layers of insulation which are located in the primary insulation. The effect is widely applied in HV equipment design with a standard needle-plane electrode configuration to enhance the breakdown strength. Preliminary studies by Marx and Rozer reported the role of enhanced withstand strength due to barriers during the discharge studies in air gaps irrespective of the dielectric medium's phase (liquid, gaseous, or solid), voltage type (DC, AC power frequency or Lightning Impulse (LI) and Switching Impulse (SI)) [5], configuration of electrode (needle-plane or plane-plane configuration) and inter-electrode distance of air gap (short, medium and long gaps). Though many experimental studies [6] have been carried out to address this problem, the barrier effect mechanism is yet to be completely understood comprehensively. In the rudimentary models, the effect of barrier in gaseous dielectrics was related with realization of redistribution of the electric field in the air gap due to space charge the formation due to impact ionization near the tip of the needle and the accumulation on the barrier surface. Since this model representation may not be completely construed to be appropriate for liquids (supposes in a broader sense as a compressed gas and hence the role of mean free path, mobility etc may be applicable) and solid dielectric systems, further studies to substantiate the effect of aspects such as role of space charge, charge carriers related to mobility etc would be essential. Hence, the main aim of this research is to ensure the influence of the barrier on many parameters such as position and barrier dimensions with respect to the electrode, polarity (positive and negative) and the applied voltage profiles (50Hz AC Power frequency, lightning impulse (LI) voltage and switching impulse (SI) voltage) surface condition of the barrier, aspects pertaining to electrostriction, etc. Though a few research works [7-10] related to HFHV transients in transformer oil has been carried out with moderate success, analysis and comprehensive studies on the role of barrier for such non-classical voltages still continue to present difficulties.

### **3. Basic Aspects on Selection of Range of Frequency during HFHV Testing**

The selected range of high frequencies for the experiment varies from 5– 90 kHz. This range has been selected based on the studies carried out by a group of researchers [11] utilizing HFHV on oil filled distribution transformers since there has been reported incidence of failures in such frequency ranges (20kHz, 40kHz and 60kHz) in transformers. Air core inductor coil (Tesla coil) has been used along with suitable combination of various capacitors to form a resonating circuit of the selected/ chosen test frequencies. A Tesla Coil which has been used for generating high frequency oscillations at various frequencies has been developed with tappings at various points of the coil for obtaining an appropriate choice of inductance and for providing various choices of resonance frequencies. Figure 2 depicts a snapshot of the coil developed for experimentation.

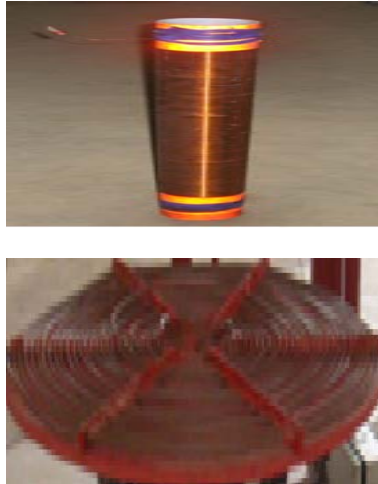


Figure 2. Snapshot of Tesla Coil (Helical – Vertical and Flat-plane coils for HFHV Testing)

#### 4. Test Cell Arrangement and Experimental Test Setup

The test cell comprises a point-plane electrode configuration fabricated from stainless steel. The plane electrode is fabricated with a diameter of 25 mm and the point electrode has an apex angle of  $45^\circ$ . The test cell container is fabricated with acrylic sheets to ensure testing of transformer oil with barrier to retain a volume of 0.56 litres ( $10 \times 7 \times 8 \text{ cm}^3$ ). An electrode spacing of 2mm is adopted during the studies and Kraft paper is utilized as the insulating barrier. Figure 3 shows the test cell arrangement used in this study.



Figure 3. Test Cell Arrangement comprising Transformer Oil with Insulating Barrier

#### 5. Laboratory Test Arrangement- Classical and HFHV Setup

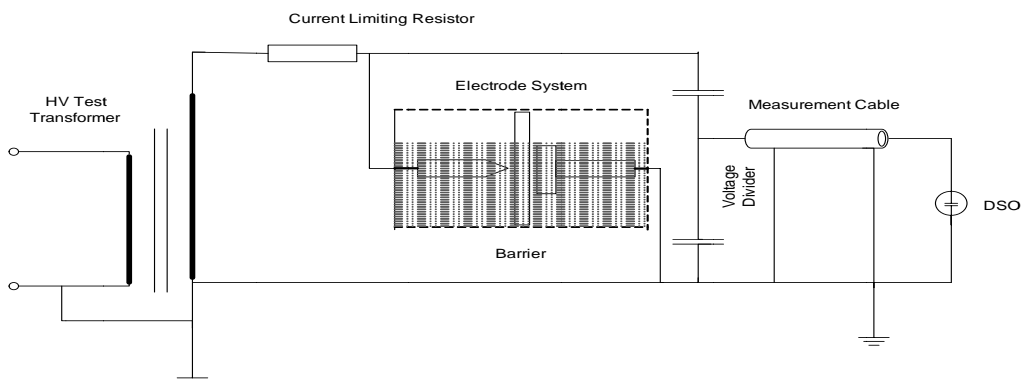


Figure 4. A.C. Power Frequency Test Setup

The laboratory test setup comprises a high voltage transformer source which can provide a voltage of 100kV (r.m.s). In addition, several components such as power diodes, wave-shaping circuit components essential for developing a Marx Impulse Voltage circuit etc are appropriately devised in High Voltage Laboratory, SASTRA University for carrying out the studies. Figure 4 shows the layout for carrying out testing of transformer oil with barrier with an a.c. power frequency test setup.

Figure 5 depicts the generic layout of the Marx impulse voltage generator used for conducting studies related to the other major classical testing studies. The wave-shaping components are so chosen such that the standard lightning and switching wave shapes are obtained.

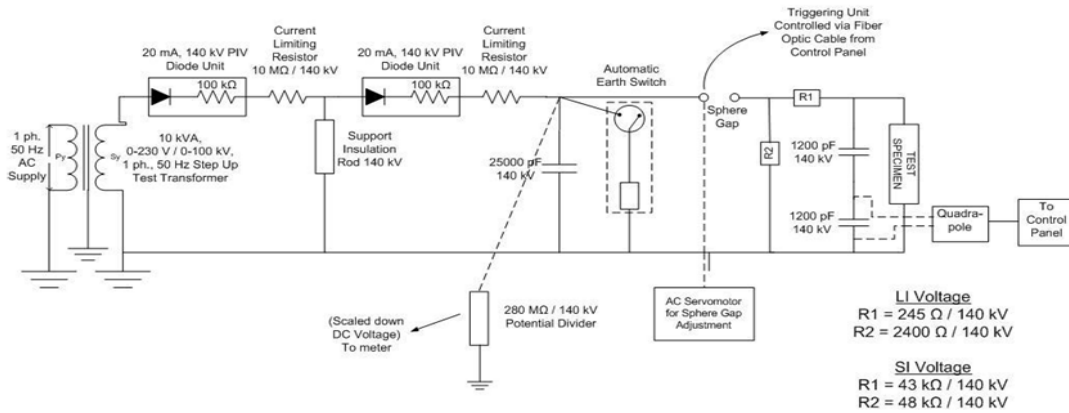


Figure 5. LI and SI Voltage Test Setup

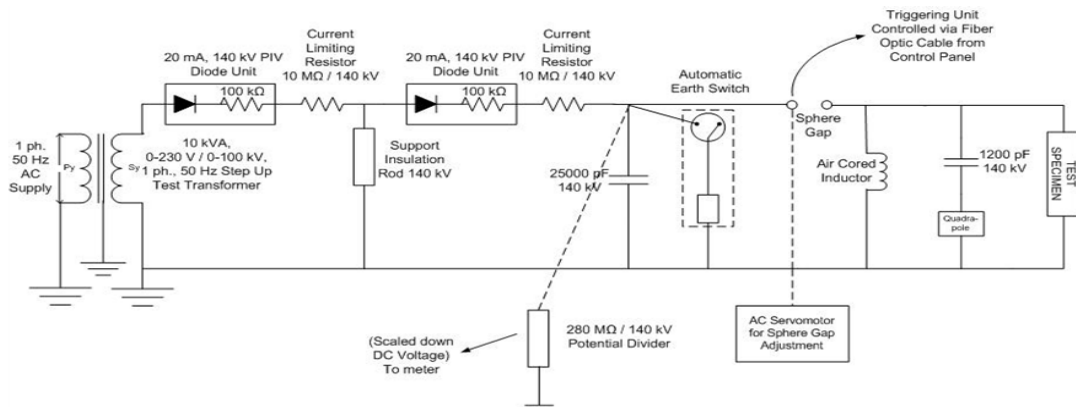


Figure 6. High Frequency High Voltage Test Setup

The experimental setup for High Frequency High Voltage (HFHV) testing consists of two capacitors C1 and C2 in parallel with an inductor L resonating to generate a HVHF signals; the sphere gap behaves like a closed switch before the event of discharge through the test object. During the discharge through the test specimen the capacitor voltage reduces and the discharge through the sphere gap ceases and isolates the capacitors C1 and C2. With the reduction in voltage across C2 the discharge in the test specimen also ceases. This can be observed experimentally in the wave shapes obtained from the DSO, as two distinct frequencies of

oscillation before and after the occurrence of discharge through the test specimen. Figure 6 shows the layout of the test facility developed in the laboratory.

Figure 7 depicts a snapshot of the arrangement implemented for developing HFHV for carrying our studies on transformer oil with insulating barriers.



Figure 7. Snapshot of Test Setup of HFHV Layout Implemented for Composite Insulation Studies

## 6. Observations, Analysis and Inferences

### A. Nature of Electric Field and Ionization Process

Double Electric Layer (DEL) comprises of a dense part is which is formed by adsorption of dissolved ions and the polar molecules neighboring to the electrode. The diffused part extend deep into the gap to a depth which is based on the Maxwell's Dielectric Relaxation Period  $\tau$ . Under the influence of electric field, the accumulation of ions near the electrodes with appropriate signs changes the contact potential difference. With increase in voltage, due to undischarged ions (space charge) the interface potential also increases leading to a higher breakdown voltage as compared to the main dielectric medium (oil). This concept is shown in Figure 8.

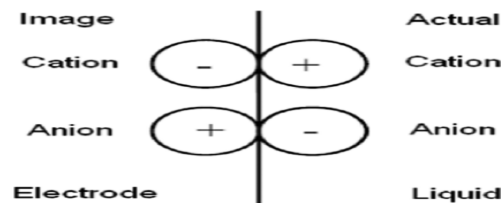


Figure 8. Ionization Model at the interface between the media (with different permittivity)

The concept of Double Electric Layers (DEL) is exhibited in the case of barrier with oil as a composite dielectric material. This explains the reason for the enhancement in the dielectric withstand strength of the oil-barrier composite after the instance of breakdown leading to erosion in the barrier.

### B. Theory of Stressed Oil Volume

Based on the physical configuration of electrodes and its profile the role of the stressed volume of oil during a pinhole in the barrier is observed. This theory called the stressed oil volume theory which also reiterates the claim made by the DEL whereby there is an increase in the breakdown voltage of the oil-paper composite dielectric.



Figure 9. Formation of Pinhole in Barrier Insulation due to Erosion Mechanism

#### *C. Position of Barrier*

It is observed in this research and also further reiterated by several other researchers that the barrier influence is maximum when the dielectric barrier is at about 25% of the gap from the HV electrode in an inhomogeneous field. Our experimental results indicate an increased breakdown voltage characteristic for HFHV oscillations irrespective of the values of frequencies for barrier position near the HV electrode. It is also evident from sample studies that the breakdown strength is not influenced to a large extent if the barrier is positioned near the LV electrode.

#### *D. Erosion Characteristics*

It is observed that initial breakdown leads to a pinhole that initiates carbonization and thus leading to erosion. Hence the breakdown voltage value at first breakdown during a pinhole subsequently reduces the breakdown voltage during periodic oscillatory HFHV applied. However, it is observed that the barrier at the end of erosion process brings down the breakdown value to almost the breakdown value of oil (i.e.) the main dielectric. Figure 9 indicates the formation of pin-hole during the studies.

*E. Comparison & Analysis of the Influence of Solid Insulating Barriers*

Table 1 shows the comparative values of breakdown with and without interface (Kraft paper as barrier). The barrier is positioned such that it is about 25% of the gap from the HV electrode. The gap distance between the point and the plane electrode is 2 mm as stipulated by ASTM D3300-2000 Standards and IEC 156.

Table 1. Comparison of Breakdown Voltage- With and Without Barrier

Frequency	Oil Alone/ Oil with Barrier	100% Maximum Withstand Voltage kV <sub>p</sub>	Minimum Breakdown Voltage kV <sub>p</sub>	Corona Inception Voltage and Breakdown Voltage	Power Frequency Withstand Voltage immediately after breakdown (tested with barrier) kV <sub>rms</sub>	Power Frequency Withstand Voltage after 30 mins duration time (with barrier) kV <sub>rms</sub>	Power Frequency Withstand Voltage on Pure Oil kV <sub>rms</sub>
8.2 kHz	Oil Alone	71	72	Audible Corona	17.2	14.0	19.0
				Visible Corona	20.2	20.0	21.0
	Oil with Barrier	87	88	Breakdown Voltage	25.0	27.0	30.5
13.9 kHz	Oil Alone	87	88	Audible Corona	17.3	18.0	19.0
				Visible Corona	18.3	21.0	21.0
	Oil with Barrier	95	96	Breakdown Voltage	22.0	25.0	30.5
27.16 kHz	Oil Alone	75	76	Audible Corona	17.0	17.0	19.0
				Visible Corona	20.5	21.0	21.0
	Oil with Barrier	91	92	Breakdown Voltage	25.0	27.0	30.5
59.8 kHz	Oil Alone	103	104	Audible Corona	16.0	16.0	19.0
				Visible Corona	21.0	21.0	21.0
	Oil with Barrier	127	128	Breakdown Voltage	25.5	25.5	30.5
89.7 kHz	Oil Alone	99	100	Audible Corona	15.0	18.0	19.0
				Visible Corona	21.0	21.0	21.0
	Oil with Barrier	116	117	Breakdown Voltage	27.0	28.0	30.5
Lightning Impulse (LI) Voltage Test	Oil Alone	136	137.3	Audible Corona	16.5	18.0	19.0
				Visible Corona	21.0	21.0	21.0
	Oil with Barrier	86	87	Breakdown Voltage	28.0	30.0	30.5
Switching Impulse (SI) Voltage Test	Oil Alone	55	56	Audible Corona	16.0	14.0	19.0
				Visible Corona	20.5	21.0	21.0
	Oil with Barrier	79	80	Breakdown Voltage	25.0	26.0	30.5
1 min. Power Frequency Test on Pure Oil	Oil Alone	-	-	Audible Corona	-	-	19.0
				Visible Corona			21.0
				Breakdown Voltage			30.5



Typical waveforms acquired during studies pertaining to HFHV during withstand and breakdown is indicated in Figure 10 and Figure 11.

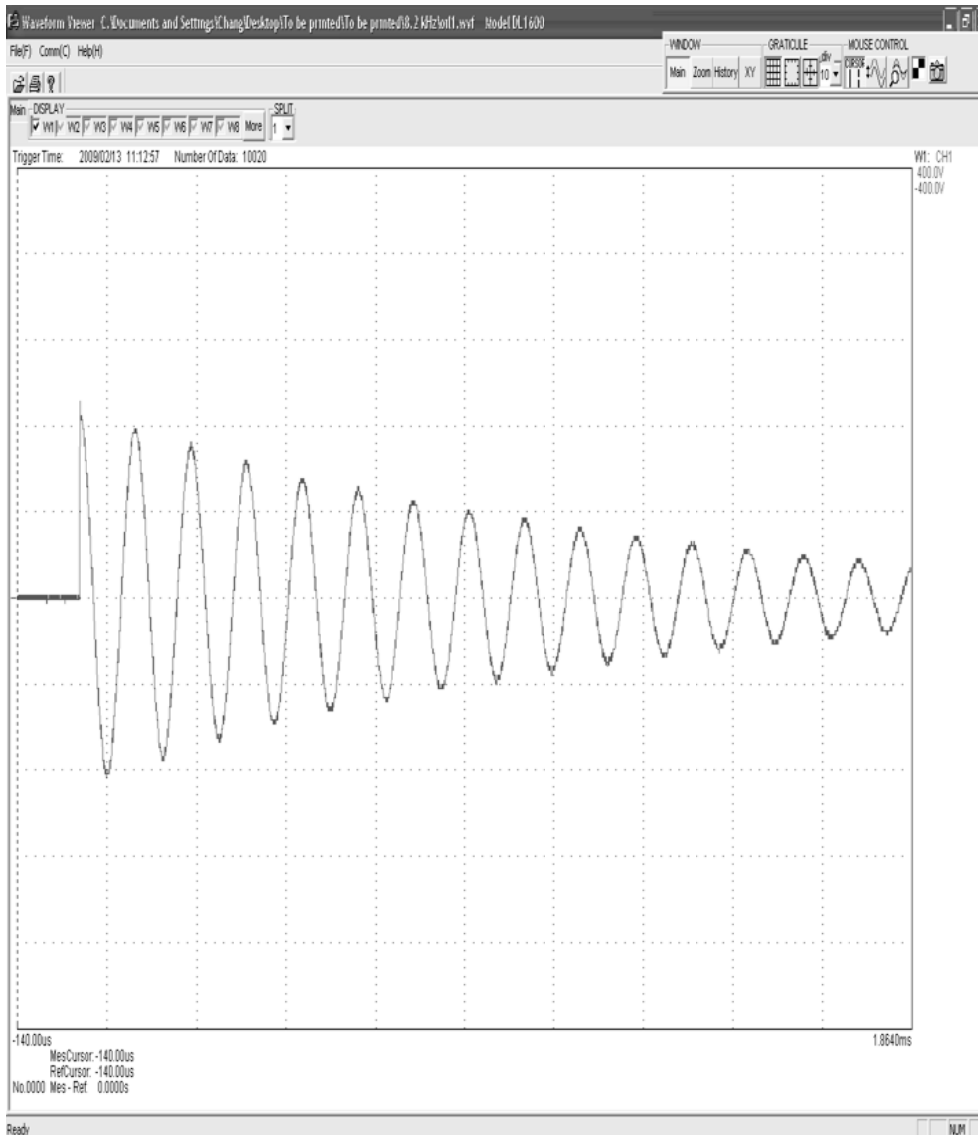


Figure 10. Withstand Voltage (71 kV) at 8.2 kHz -Oil

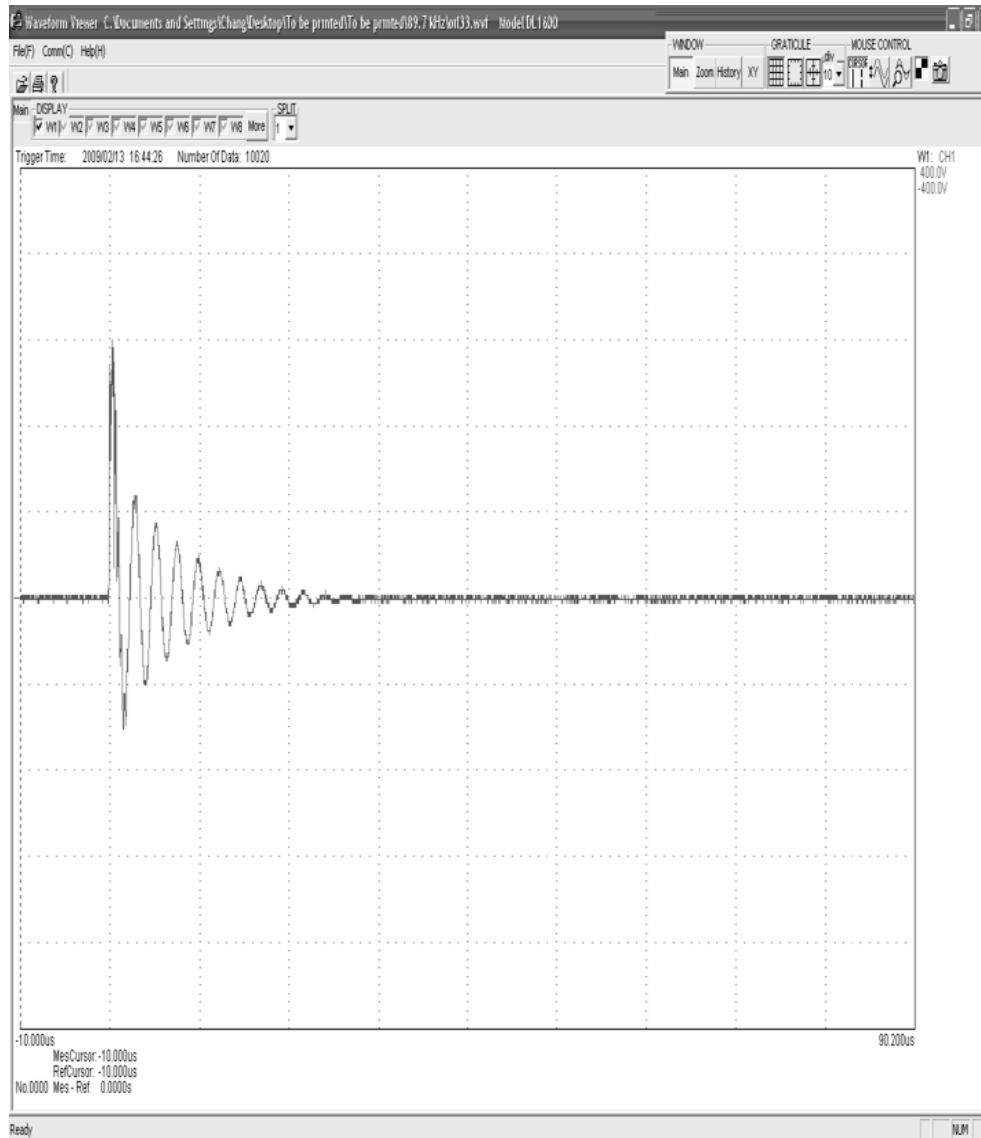


Figure 11. Breakdown Voltage (100 kV) at 89.7 kHz- Oil

Waveforms obtained during studies pertaining to oil with barrier during formation of pin-hole breakdown are shown in Figure 12 and Figure 13.

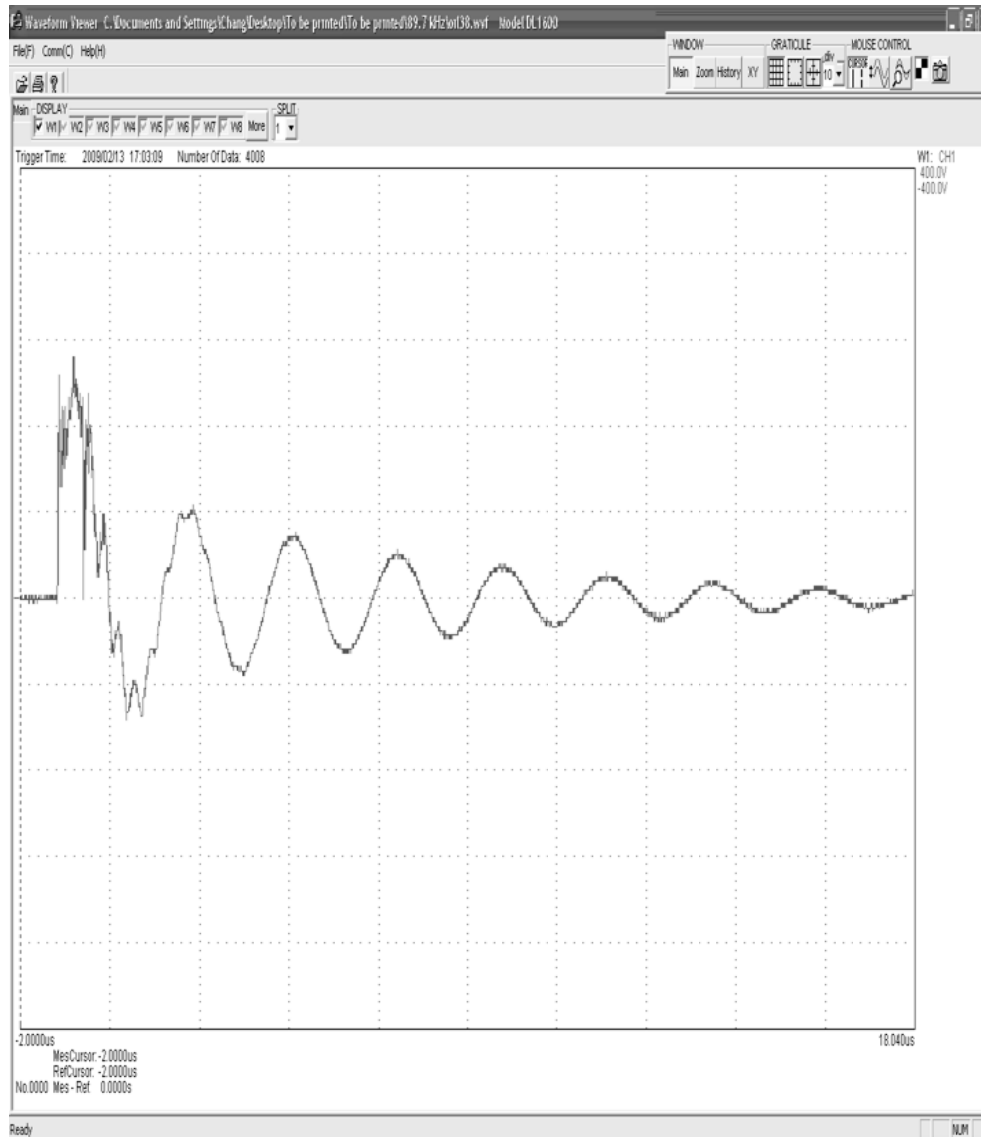
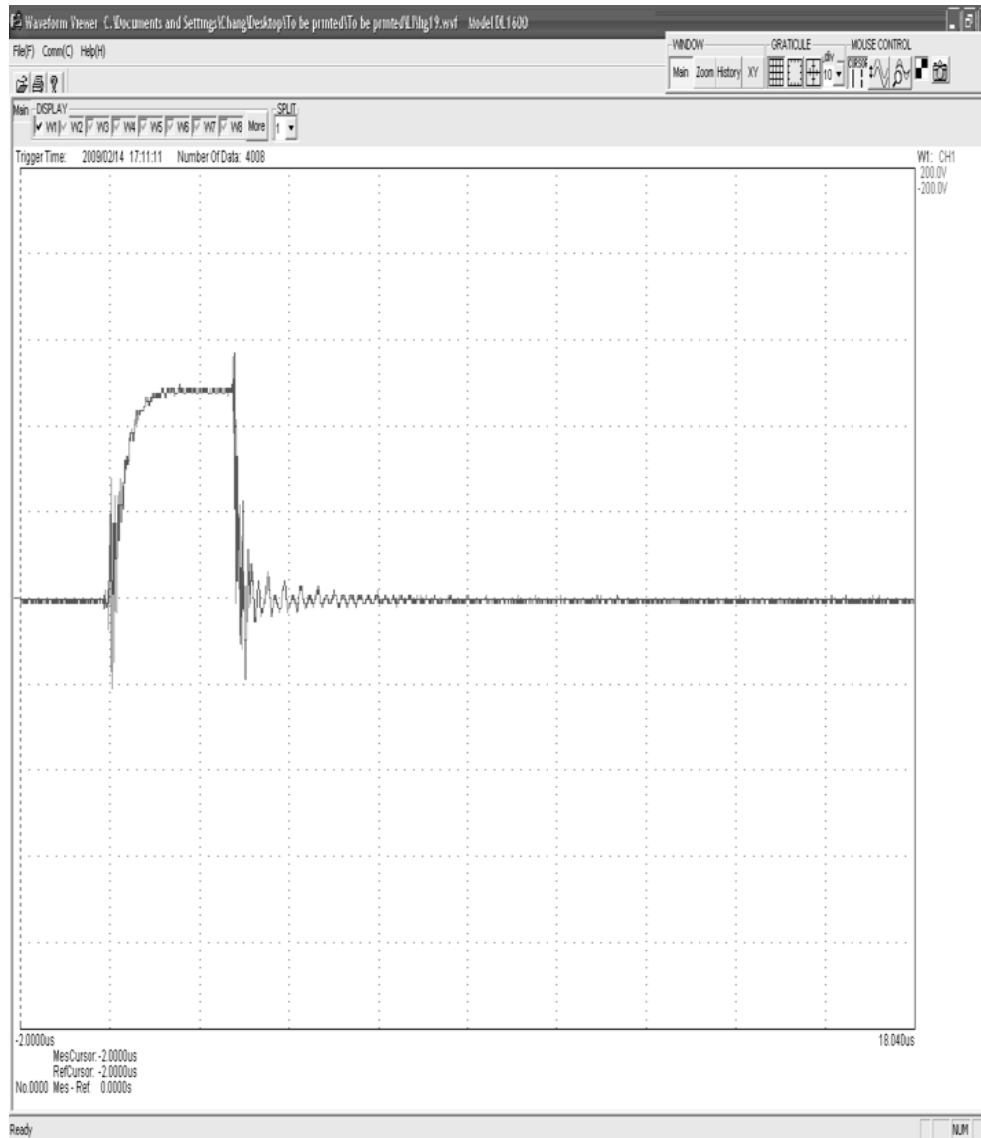


Figure 12. Breakdown Voltage after formation of Pinhole at 89.7 kHz of Oil with Barrier



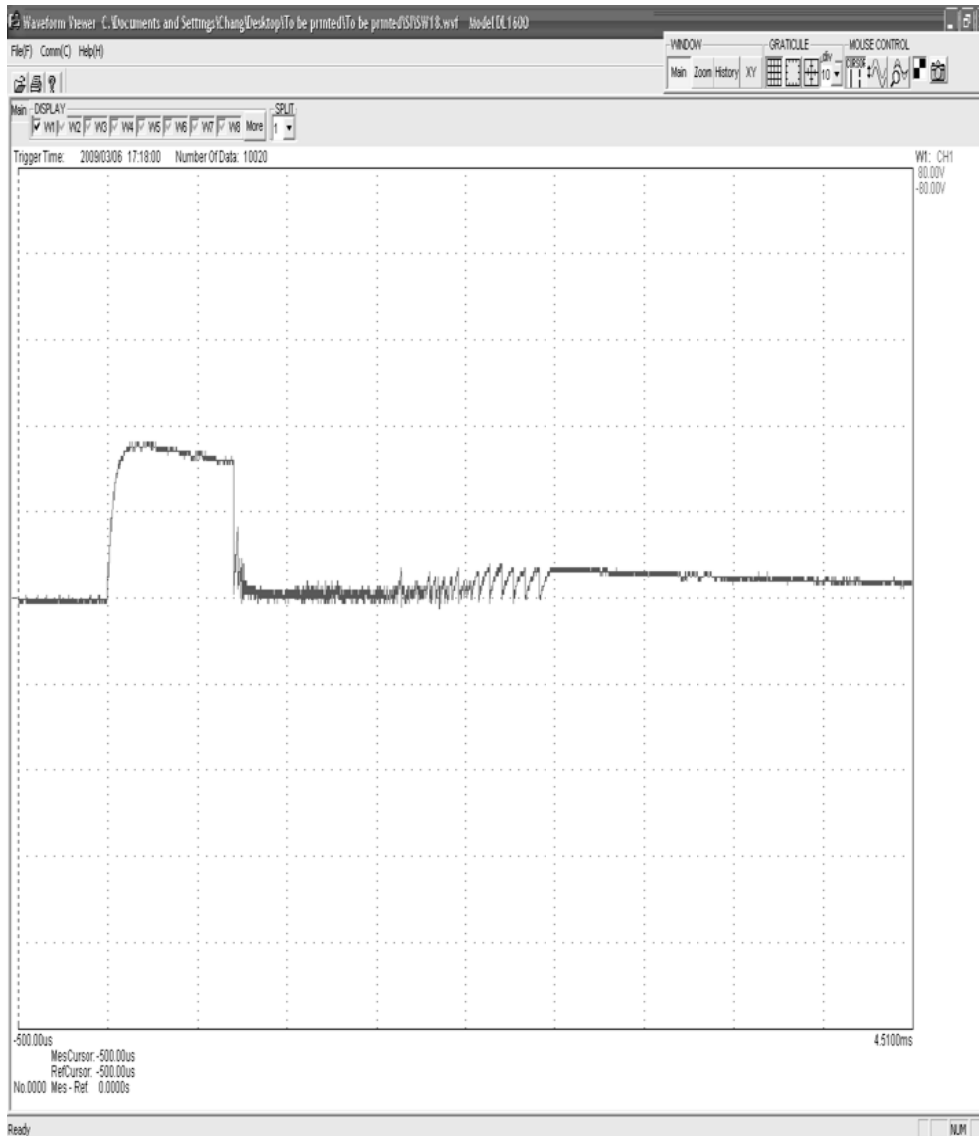


Figure 13. LI and SI Breakdown Voltage Waveforms after formation of Pinhole of Oil with Barrier

#### F. Interpretation and Analysis of Dissolved Gas Analysis (DGA) of Oil- Barrier Samples

Literature studies clearly indicate that several methods to interpret excessive gas concentrations in oil have been utilized by researchers for analysis of oil degradation. Transformers in operation invariably generate gases due to prolonged use and the fundamental objective of DGA is to provide a mechanism to discriminate between normal and abnormal conditions. Since reliable and meaningful results are a pre-requisite of any diagnostic procedure it is appropriate that DGA as a tool provides a mechanism for obtaining data related to gas content on a regular basis. It is pertinent to note that the key to analysis is based more on

the gas concentration rather than the evaluating the quantum of gas. However, no general rule exists to characterize ‘normal’ gas concentrations since each transformer is unique to a particular design, age and operation duty cycle which becomes critical factors to be taken into consideration when deciding whether gases in a transformer changes significantly. Interpretation is usually carried out by skilled personnel since it is imperative that details related to prior experience based on various case studies serve as the appropriate mechanism to analyze DGA data. Insulating oils under abnormal electrical or thermal stress breakdown invariably liberate small quantum of gases. Since the composition of these gases is related to the type of fault it provides a possibility to distinguish fault such as partial discharge (corona), overheating, and arcing in a wide variety of oil filled power equipment. There are many methods in DGA of which two of the more commonly used methods namely the Roger ratio method and IEC ratio method are taken up for studies in this research. The latter is similar to the first method except for leaving out the computation of the ratio of  $C_2H_6/CH_4$  since it has been observed during studies by researchers [12] that only a limited change in the temperature during decomposition was evinced. IEC ratio codes shown in Table 2 indicates the categories/classification of faults.

Table 2. Classification based on IEC Ratio Method

<b>L</b>	<b>i</b>	<b>k</b>	<b>Diagnosis</b>
0	0	0	Normal Ageing
*	1	0	Partial Discharge of Low Energy Density
1	1	0	Partial Discharge of High Energy Density
1-2	0	1-2	Discharge of Low Energy (Continuous Sparking)
1	0	2	Discharge of High Energy (Arc with power follow through)
0	0	1	Thermal Fault <150 <sup>0</sup> C
0	2	0	Thermal Fault 150 <sup>0</sup> C - 300 <sup>0</sup> C
0	2	1	Thermal Fault 300 <sup>0</sup> C - 700 <sup>0</sup> C
0	2	2	Thermal Fault >700 <sup>0</sup> C

Based on the methodology indicated in both methods three oil samples have been taken up for DGA analysis. The samples pertain to a total of 50, 70 and 100 HFHV pulses at 89.7 kHz in oil with barrier. The details given in Table 3 indicate the various gas concentrations observed during studies carried during laboratory.

Table 3. Concentration of Gases during DGA Analysis

<b>Details of Oil</b>	<b>Hydrogen</b>	<b>Methane</b>	<b>Ethane</b>	<b>Ethylene</b>	<b>Acetylene</b>	<b>Carbon dioxide</b>
<b>Sample 1</b>	88	111	17	403	3709.29	2096
<b>Sample 2</b>	113	170	28	665	5905.69	1421
<b>Sample 3</b>	145	336	68	1299	8501.05	916

Table 4 and Table 5 present the calculated ratios of the third sample taken up for analysis and classification of codes as described by Roger’s ratio method.

Table 4. Roger’s Ratio Method for Oil Sample 3

<b>Gas Ratios</b>	<b>Ratio Code</b>	<b>Ratios</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Code</b>
$CH_4/H_2$	i	$336/145 = 2.32$	$\geq 1.0, < 3.0$	1
$C_2H_6/CH_4$	j	$68/336 = 0.21$	$< 1.0$	0
$C_2H_4/C_2H_6$	k	$1299/68 = 19.11$	$\geq 3.0$	2
$C_2H_2/C_2H_4$	l	$8501.05/1299 = 6.54$	$\geq 3.0$	2

Table 5. IEC Ratio Method for Oil Sample 3

Gas Ratios	Ratio Code	Ratios	Range	Code
$C_2H_2/C_2H_4$	l	$8501.05/1299 = 6.54$	>3.0	2
$CH_4/H_2$	i	$336/145 = 2.32$	1.0-3.0	2
$C_2H_4/C_2H_6$	k	$1299/68 = 19.11$	>3.0	2

From the gas ratios obtained from Table 5 following are the inferences.

1. The nature of breakdown is diagnosed to be either discharge of low energy (continuous sparking) or thermal fault at high temperatures. This cross validates the observations and analysis made during experimental studies wherein the former type of fault i.e. discharge of low energy (continuous sparking) was observed.
2. This also reiterates the claim on the the increased values of acetylene that led to faults which usually occurs at relatively higher temperatures.

*G. Reliability Analysis of Oil-Barrier Composite using Weibull++:*

Weibull distribution is one of the most widely used lifetime distributions in reliability. It is a substantially robust distribution that can take on the characteristics of other types of distributions, based on the value of the shape parameter 'β'. A three parameter Weibull

function is represented by  $f(T) = \frac{\beta}{\eta} \left( \frac{T-\gamma}{\eta} \right)^{\beta-1} e^{-\left( \frac{T-\gamma}{\eta} \right)^\beta}$  where η is the scale parameter, β is

shape parameter (or slope), and γ is the location parameter. The one-parameter Weibull probability density function (pdf) is obtained by setting γ = 0 and assuming β = C = constant. The formulation of the one-parameter Weibull can be done by assuming that the shape parameter β is known a priori from past experience on identical or similar occurrences. The

two-parameter Weibull pdf is obtained by setting γ = 0 and is given by  $f(T) = \frac{\beta}{\eta} \left( \frac{T}{\eta} \right)^{\beta-1} e^{-\left( \frac{T}{\eta} \right)^\beta}$

Based on DGA studies, 2 & 3 parameter Weibull functions have been plotted using Weibull++<sup>®</sup> software with simulated values of no. of HFHV pulses as shown in Table 6. Corresponding Weibull plots of unreliability of gas ratios corresponding to the no. of HFHV pulses simulated are shown in Figure 14. Table 6 depicts the various gas ratios obtained for oil samples taken up for studies.

Table 6. Details of Oil Sample Ratios, Gas Values (in ppm) and HFHV Impulse shots

Details	$C_2H_2/C_2H_4$	$CH_4/H_2$	$C_2H_4/C_2H_6$	No. of HFHV Shots
Normal Sample	$5/12 = 0.42$	$60/70 = 0.86$	$12/15 = 0.8$	1
Sample 3 : 100 pulses HFHV – 89.7 kHz – Oil + Barrier	$8501.05/1299 = 6.54$	$336/145 = 2.32$	$1299/68 = 19.11$	100

*F.1 Two Paramter Weibull Distribution Analysis of Transformer Oil Sample*

Based on the studies carried out on oil samples the unreliability estimates of the various gas ratios obtained is indicated in Figure 14, Figure 15, Figure 16 and Figure 17.

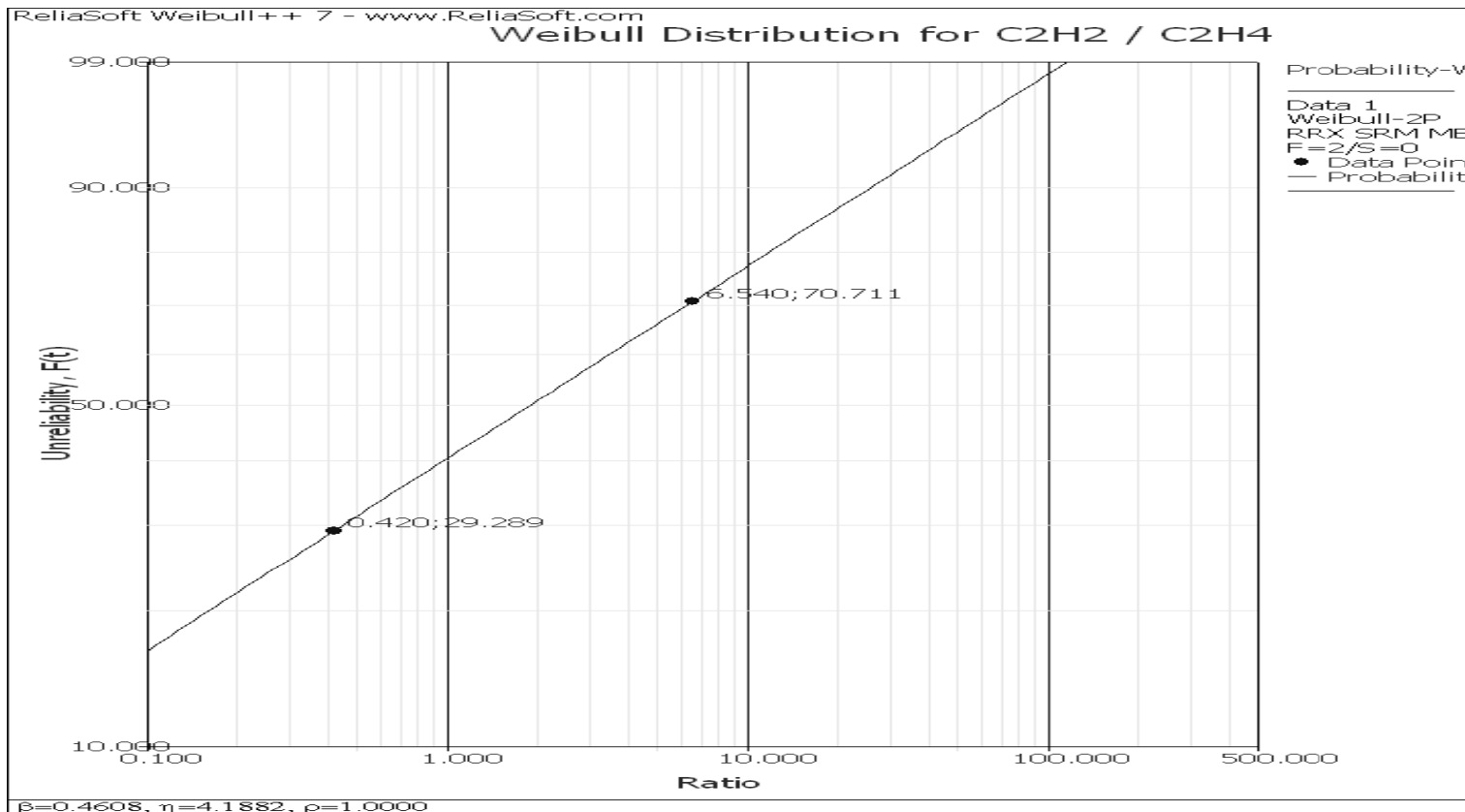


Figure 14. Two Paramter Weibull Plot for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> Ratio of IEC Method



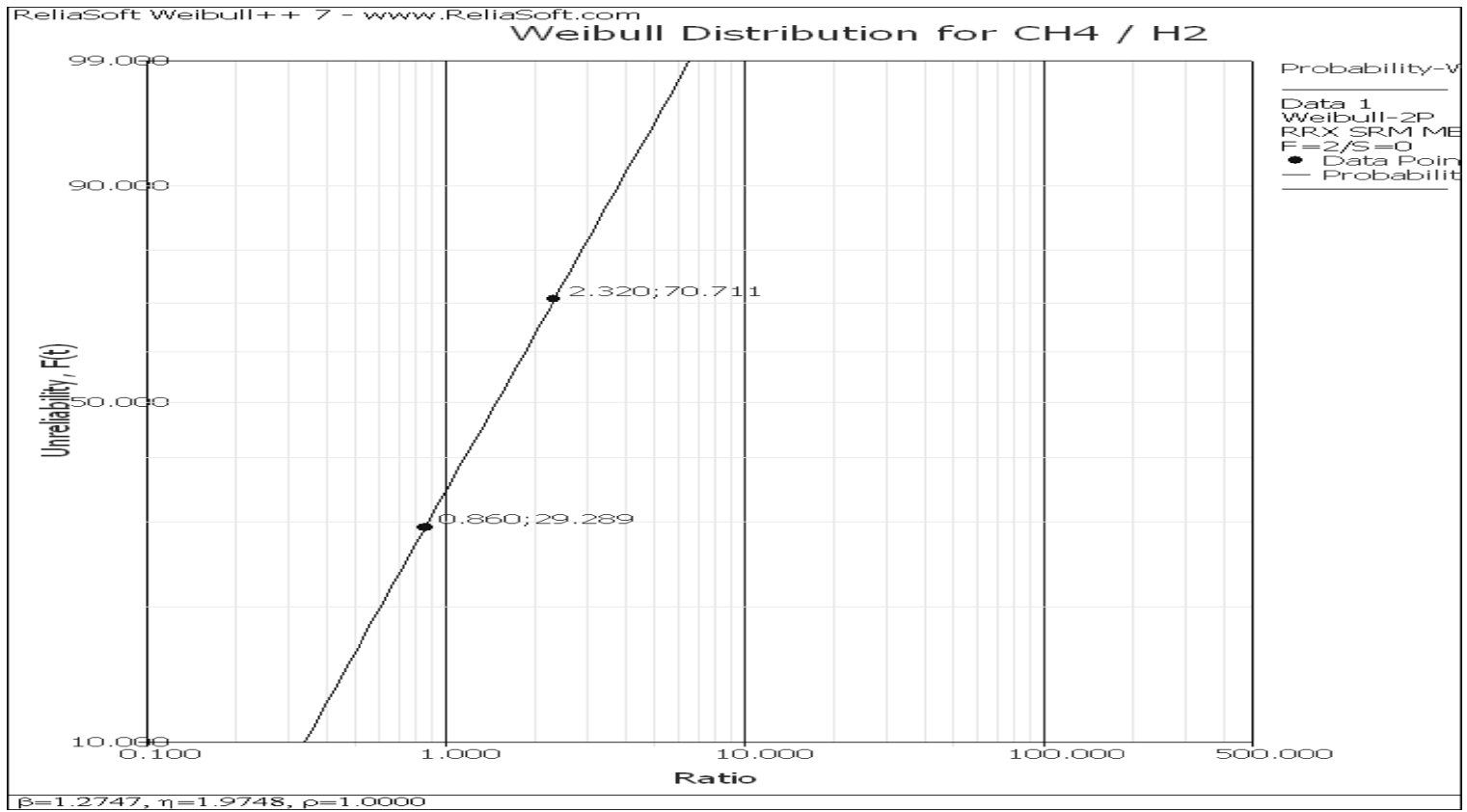


Figure 15. Weibull Plot for CH<sub>4</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> Ratio of IEC Method

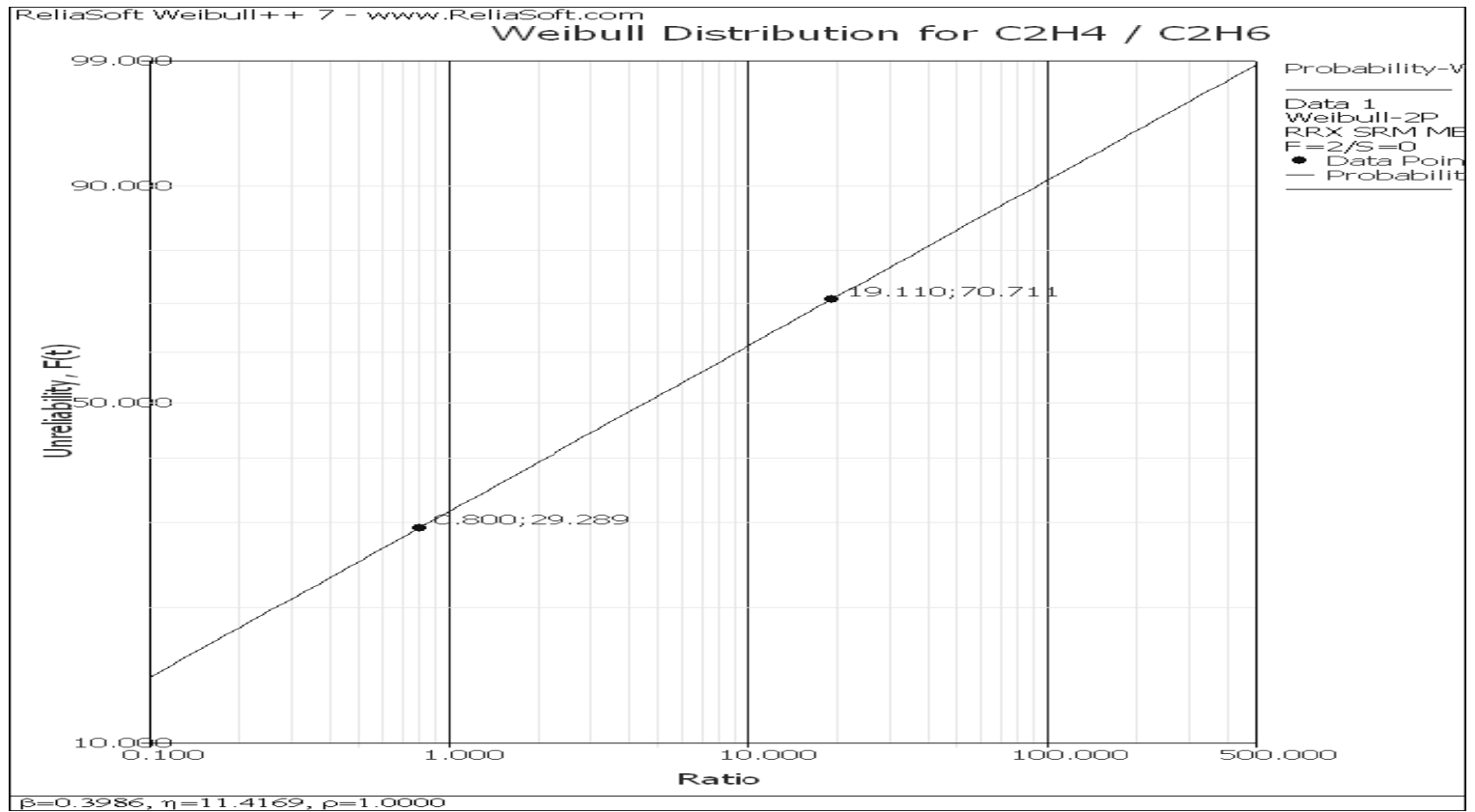


Figure 16. Weibull Plot for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>/ C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> Ratio of IEC Method

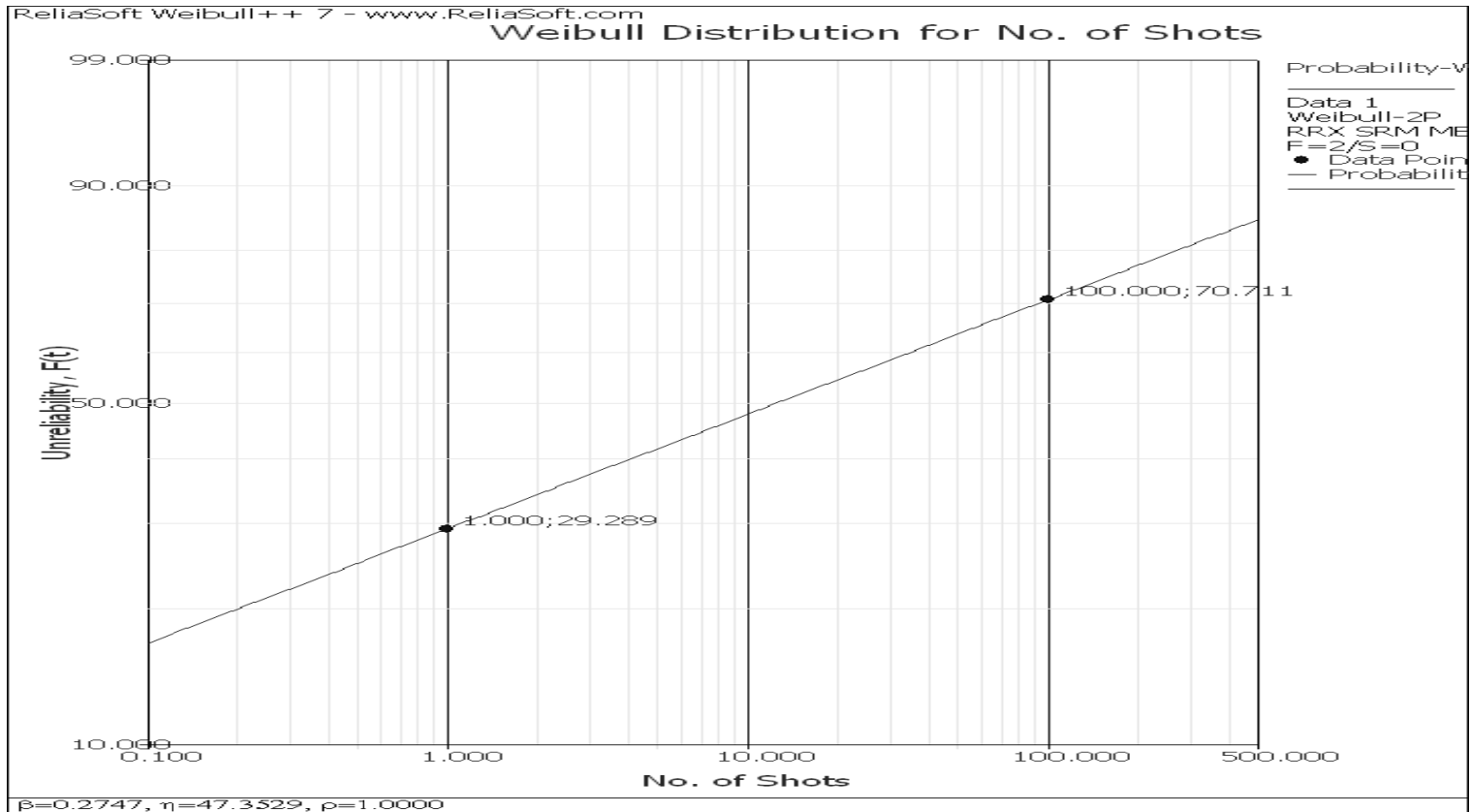


Figure 17. Weibull Plot for Number of HFHV Impulse Shots

*F.2 Three Parameter Weibull Distribution Distribution for Transformer Oil Sample*

Similar studies were on the studies carried out on oil samples the unreliability estimates of the various gas ratios obtained is indicated in Figure 18, Figure 19, Figure 20 and Figure 21.

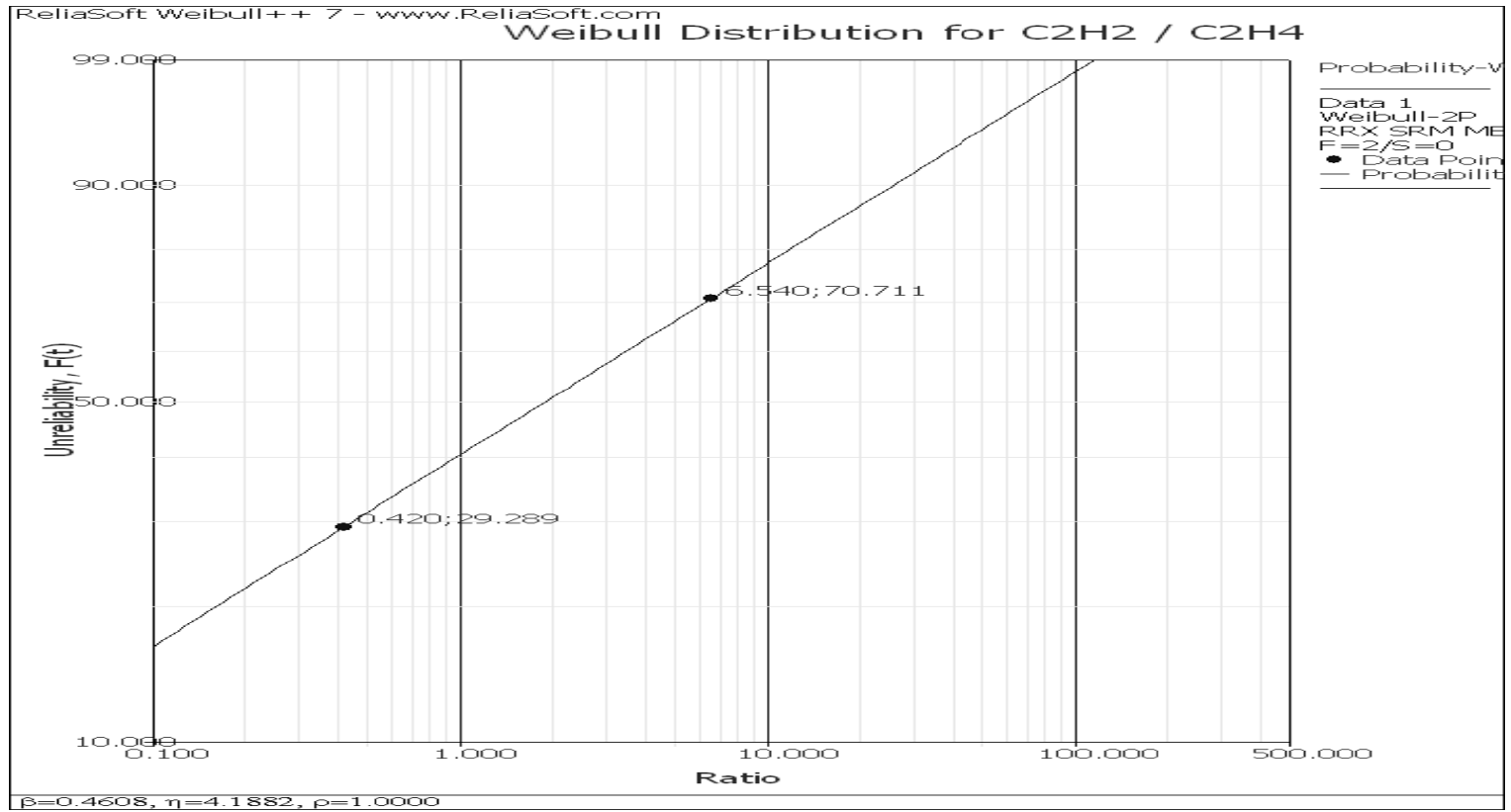


Figure 18: Three Parameter Weibull Plot for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> Ratio of IEC Method

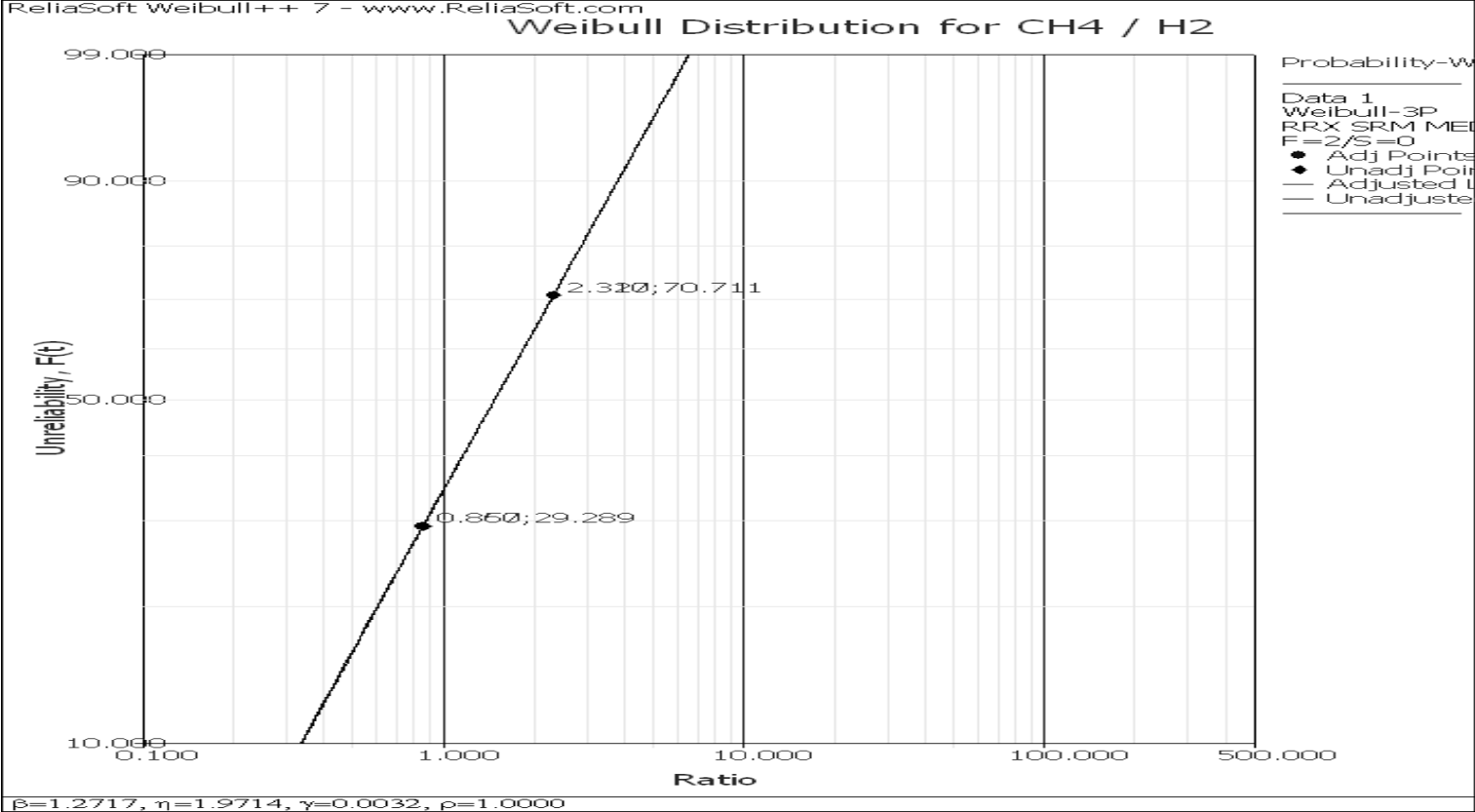


Figure 19: Three Paramter Weibull Plot for CH<sub>4</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> Ratio of IEC Method

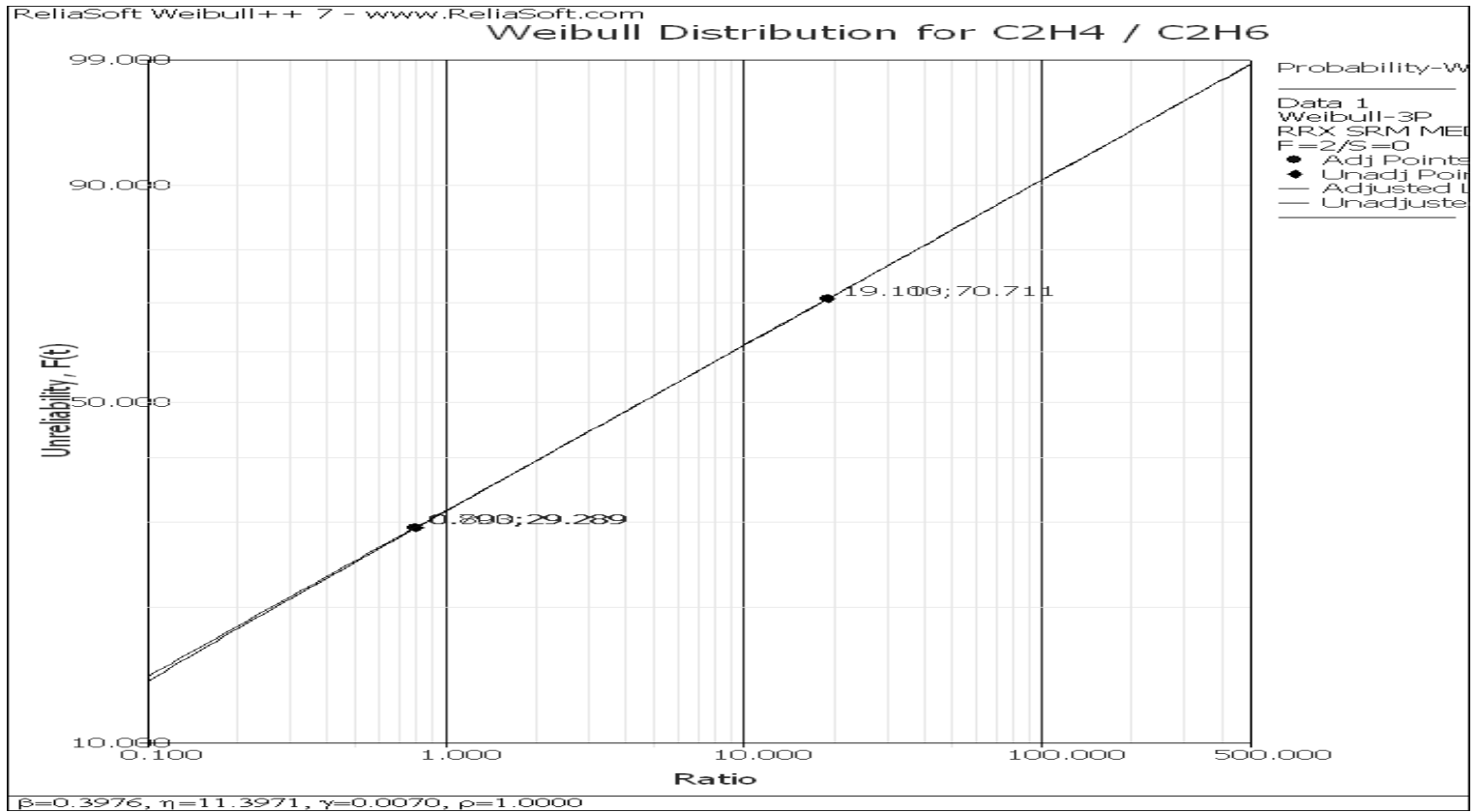


Figure 20. Three Parameter Weibull Plot for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>/C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> Ratio of IEC Method

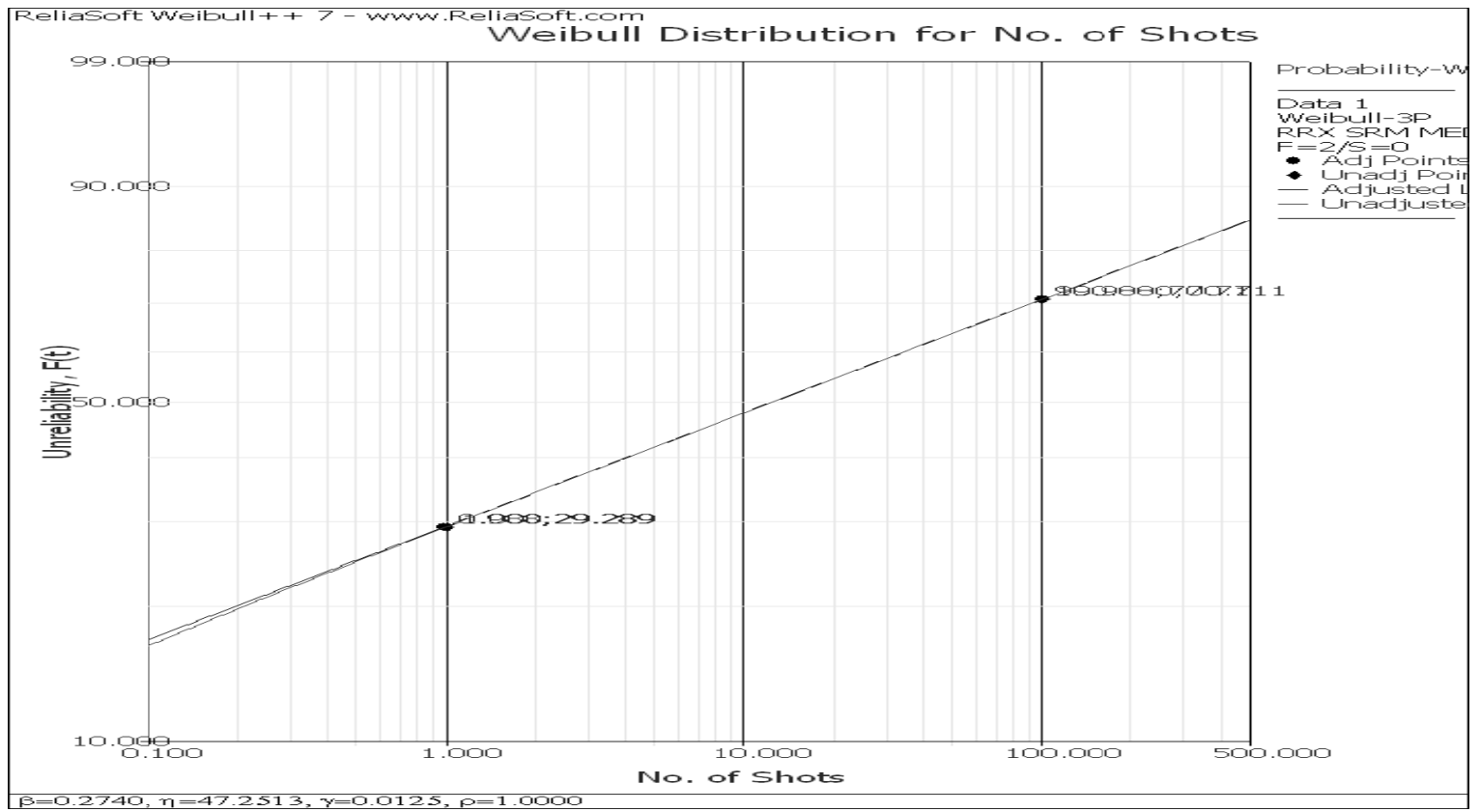


Figure 21. Weibull Plot for Number of HFHV Impulse Shots

Table 7 indicates the analysis describing the unreliability percentages for various gases for increasing number of HFHV shots carried out during studies.

No. of shots	Unreliability in %	$C_2H_2/C_2H_4$	$CH_4/H_2$	$C_2H_4/C_2H_6$
1	29.289	0.42	0.86	0.80
3	38	0.85	1.2	1.8
5	42	1.2	1.3	2.4
20	55	2.6	1.7	6.5
40	62	4	1.9	11
60	67	5.5	2.2	17
80	69	6	2.25	18
100	70.711	6.54	2.32	19.11
120	72	7.5	2.5	22
140	74	7.8	2.7	24

Table 7. Analysis of Two Parameter Weibull Distribution for Oil - Normal and Sample - 3

Table 8. Analysis of Three Parameter Weibull Distribution for Oil- Normal & Sample-3

No. of Shots	Unreliability in %	$C_2H_2/C_2H_4$	$CH_4/H_2$	$C_2H_4/C_2H_6$
1	29.289	0.42	0.86	0.80
3	38	0.85	1.2	1.8
5	42	1.2	1.3	2.4
20	55	2.6	1.7	6.5
40	62	4	1.9	11
60	67	5.5	2.2	17
80	69	6	2.25	18
100	70.711	6.54	2.32	19.11
120	72	7.5	2.5	22
140	74	7.8	2.7	24

It is inferred from the reliability studies carried out using Weibull distribution characterization that the transformer oil degradation starts substantially after five pulses of HFHV at 89.7 kHz. If it is assumed that the simulated high frequency overvoltages are rare in occurrence (since they are usually internal faults such as ferroresonance) it may be construed that two HFHV pulses are likely to occur in a month. Thus the ageing of the transformer oil under study indicates safe use for about 3 months.

## 7. Conclusions

The following salient aspects are observed and inferred during the detailed studies:

1. The influence of stressed volume theory explains the increase in breakdown voltage at the instant of breakdown of barrier which created a pinhole. This theory is also explained in terms of Double Electric Layer mechanism. The experimental results substantiate this interaction of interface with oil.
2. The barrier influence is maximum when the barrier is at about 25% of the gap from the HV electrode in an inhomogeneous field.
3. Experimental results indicate an increased breakdown voltage characteristic for HFHV oscillations irrespective of the values of frequencies for barrier position near the HV electrode.
4. It is also evident from sample studies that the breakdown strength is not influenced to a large extent if the barrier is positioned near the LV electrode.



5. It is evident from the case studies based on Roger's Ratio and IEC Ratio methods that barriers with small airgaps in oil led to breakdown voltages at high temperatures with subsequent to continuous arcing. Indications of high temperature arcing were substantiated by increased values of acetylene.
6. It is also pertinent to note that dissolved content of carbon dioxide was not substantial since the degradation of oil-barrier composite occurred at high temperatures. This fact is diagnosed and cross verifies the claim made by researchers who have carried out diagnosis on insulation condition of transformer oil [16] Thus it can be concluded that arcing faults at high temperatures lead to thermal degradation of oil without participation of degradation of cellulose.
7. It is also inferred from the reliability studies carried out using Weibull distribution characterization that the transformer oil degradation starts substantially after five pulses of HFHV at 89.7 kHz. If it is assumed that the simulated high frequency overvoltages are rare in occurrence (since they are usually internal faults such as ferroresonance) it may be construed that two HFHV pulses are likely to occur in a month. Thus the ageing of the transformer oil under study indicates safe use for about 3 months.

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