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Optimal allocation of fixed capacitor for distribution system  
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DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

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MARCH 2005

**OPTIMAL ALLOCATION OF FIXED CAPACITOR FOR DISTRIBUTION  
SYSTEM**


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**THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR IN ELECTRICAL  
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**March 2005**

"Saya/~~kami~~\* akui bahawa saya telah membaca karya ini pada pandangan saya/~~kami~~ karya ini adalah memadai dari skop dan kualiti untuk tujuan penganugerahan Ijazah Sarjana Muda Kejuruan Elektrik ( Kuasa Industri )."

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“I admitted that this project is written by me and is my own effort and that no part has been plagiarized without citations”.

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Tarikh : 10 MARCH 2005 .....

For my beloved mother  
Maimunah Binti Mahmud  
In appreciation of supported and understanding

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## ABSTRACT

This project presents an optimal capacitor placement that simplified by load flow simulation and calculation. Many methods have been proposed over the last thirty-five years using different models and mathematical solution techniques. The objectives of this project are to identify optimal allocation of fixed capacitor, which determines the size and location of capacitor to be installed at distribution system. This capacitor compensation will reduce energy losses, improve power factor of the system and increase the power transmission capability. This project has been applied to the IEEE test system and real system using ERACS software that suite power system analysis.

## ABSTRAK

Projek ini membincangkan kaedah peletakan kapasitor yang optimum melalui simulasi analisis aliran kuasa dan juga pengiraan. Dalam tempoh 35 tahun yang lepas, banyak kaedah dan juga pendekatan penyelesaian yang ditemui dimana melibatkan banyak jenis model dan juga teknik penyelesaian matematik. Matlamat utama projek ini adalah untuk memperolehi dan mengenalpasti kedudukan optimum sesebuah kapasitor tetap melalui penentuan saiz dan lokasi kapasitor yang hendak diletakkan dalam sistem pengagihan. Hasil daripada pemampasan kapasitor ini akan mengurangkan kehilangan tenaga, meningkatkan faktor kuasa sesebuah sistem dan juga meningkatkan kadar kebolehan penghantaran kuasa. Projek ini telah diterapkan kepada IEEE sistem ujian dan juga sistem sebenar dengan menggunakan perisian ERACS yang sesuai untuk analisis sistem kuasa.



## TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAPTER	DESCRIPTION	PAGES
	<b>TITLE</b>	i
	<b>ADMISSION</b>	ii
	<b>DEDICATION</b>	iii
	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	iv
	<b>ABSTRACT</b>	v
	<b>TABLE OF CONTENT</b>	vii
	<b>LIST OF TABLE</b>	x
	<b>LIST OF FIGURE</b>	xi
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	1
	1.1 Project Background	1
	1.2 Project Objective and Scope	4
	1.2.1 To find optimal allocation of fixed capacitor in power system network.	4
	1.2.2 To analyze system with and without capacitor at distribution system.	4
	1.2.3 To improve power factor of the system due to addition of capacitor.	4
<b>2</b>	<b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	5
	2.1 Type of Capacitor	6
	2.1.1 Shunt capacitors	6
	2.1.2 Series capacitors	6
	2.1.3 Filter capacitors	7
	2.1.4 Static var compensator (SVC) Capacitors	8
	2.1.5 HVDC capacitors	8
	2.2 Size of Capacitor	9
	2.3 Power Factor Study	12
	2.3.1 Cause of low power factor	13
	2.3.2 Power factor improvement	14
	2.3.3 Correcting of power factor	14
	2.4 Purpose of fixed capacitor	15

3	<b>REASEARCH METHODOLOGY</b>	16
	3.1 Fixed Capacitors Design	17
4	<b>RESULT AND DISCUSSION</b>	19
	4.1 Simulation Test System	19
	4.1.1 Simulation without capacitor	20
	4.1.2 Simulation with capacitor at bus 11kV-1	21
	4.1.3 Simulation with capacitor at bus 11kV-2	22
	4.1.4 Simulation with capacitor at bus 11kV-3	23
	4.1.5 Simulation with capacitor at bus 3.3kV-1	24
	4.1.6 Simulation with capacitor at bus 3.3kV-2	25
	4.1.6 Simulation with capacitor at bus 0.415kV-1	26
	4.2 Test System Calculation	27
	4.2.1 Calculation without capacitor	27
	4.2.2 Calculation with capacitor at bus 11kV-1	27
	4.2.3 Calculation reactive power compensated at bus 11kV-1	28
	4.2.4 Calculation with capacitor at bus 11kV-2	28
	4.2.5 Calculation reactive power compensated at bus 11kV-2	29
	4.2.6 Calculation with capacitor at bus 11kV-3	29
	4.2.7 Calculation reactive power compensated at bus 11kV-3	30
	4.2.8 Calculation with capacitor at bus 3.3kV-1	30
	4.2.9 Calculation reactive power compensated at bus 3.3kV-1	31
	4.2.10 Calculation with capacitor at bus 3.3kV-2	31
	4.2.11 Calculation reactive power compensated at bus 3.3kV-2	32

	4.2.12 Calculation with capacitor at bus 0.415kV-1	32
	4.2.13 Calculation reactive power compensated at bus 0.415kV-1	33
4.3	Test System Discussion	34
4.4	Simulation Real System	35
	4.4.1 Simulation without capacitor	36
	4.4.2 Simulation with capacitor at bus 11 kV-6	37
	4.4.3 Simulation with capacitor at bus 11 kV-7	38
	4.4.4 Simulation with capacitor at bus 11 kV-12	39
	4.4.5 Simulation with capacitor at bus 11 kV-6, 11 kV-7 and 11 kV-12	40
4.5	Real System Discussion	41
<b>5</b>	<b>CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATION</b>	<b>43</b>
	5.1 Conclusion	44
	5.2 Recommendation	
	<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>45</b>

**LIST OF TABLE**

<b>NO</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PAGES</b>
Table 1	Kilowatts Multipliers for Determining Capacitor Kilovars	18
Table 2	Simulation Test System After Adding Capacitor	34
Table 3	Simulation Real System Without Capacitor	41
Table 4	Simulation Real System After Adding Capacitor at bus 11kV-6	41
Table 5	Simulation Real System After Adding Capacitor at bus 11kV-7	41
Table 6	Simulation Real System After Adding Capacitor at bus 11kV-12	42
Table 7	Simulation Real System After Adding Capacitor at bus 11kV-12	42

## LIST OF FIGURE

NO	TITLE	PAGES
Figure 1	Final power factor as a function of added capacitor size	9
Figure 2	Phasor diagram shows effect of adding capacitors	15
Figure 3	Flowchart of optimal capacitor placement	18
Figure 4	Test system without capacitor	20
Figure 5	Test system with capacitor at bus 11kV-1	21
Figure 6	Test system with capacitor at bus 11kV-2	22
Figure 7	Test system with capacitor at bus 11kV-3	23
Figure 8	Test system with capacitor at bus 3.3kV-1	24
Figure 9	Test system with capacitor at bus 3.3kV-2	25
Figure 10	Test system with capacitor at bus 0.415kV-1	26
Figure 11	Real system without capacitor	36
Figure 12	Real system with capacitor at bus 11 kV-6	37
Figure 13	Real system with capacitor at bus 11 kV-7	38
Figure 14	Real system with capacitor at bus 11 kV-12	39
Figure 15	Real system with capacitor at bus 11 kV-6, 11 kV-7 and 11 kV-12	40

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

Capacitors have been very commonly used to provide reactive power compensation in distribution system. They are provided to minimize power and energy losses, maintain best voltage regulations for load busses and improve the system. It is essentially for determination of the location and size of capacitors to be placed in the system.

Optimal capacitor placement allows engineers to strategically place capacitors for voltage support and power factor correction while minimizing installation and long-term operation costs. The advanced graphical interface gives users the flexibility to control the capacitor placement process and graphically view the results. The precise calculation approach automatically determines the best locations and bank sizes. In addition, it reports the branch capacity release and the estimated savings during the planning period due to var loss reduction.



Computer applications in electric distribution systems are quite common in distribution system expansion planning and optimal capacitor allocation. These studies require knowledge of the actual reactive power and power factor correction (PFC) demands at each load of the distribution system.

The application of capacitors for power factor (PF) improvement is quite common in industrial plants and commercial establishments. Similarly, capacitors are commonly used by electric utilities for feeder voltage control and for efficiency improvement of the distribution system. If a distribution system has a low power factor, more current must flow through power distribution lines. Energy and money is wasted due to additional energy being required for non-productive purposes.

One of the outstanding and major problems in the distribution system is the loss that causes energy losses. In power system operation, the tendency is to maximize the real power transmission line, bring the voltage profile within tolerance and reduce the system losses. However, a certain critical voltage level limits increase of real power transmission in a particular system. This critical voltage is dependent on the reactive power support available in the system to meet the additional load in that operating condition.

Power provided and maintained for the explicit purpose of insuring continuous, steady voltage on transmission networks. Reactive power is energy, which must be produced for maintenance of the system and is not produced for end-use consumption. Electric motors, electromagnetic generators and alternators used for creating alternating current are all components of the energy delivery chain, which require reactive power. Losses incurred in transmission from heat and electromagnetic emissions are included in total reactive power. This power is supplied for many purposes by capacitors and similar devices that can react to changes in current flow by releasing energy to normalize the flow, and regulating generators may also have this capability.

Optimal capacitor placement, consideration of active loads such as induction motor and passive load such as lighting purpose need to look after. Sizing of capacitor also important for correct power factor (PF). For example, the capacitor of motor will not run properly with a weak capacitor. This is not to imply bigger is better, because a capacitor that is too large can cause energy consumption to rise. In both instances, be it too large or too small, the life of the motor will be shortened due to overheated motor windings.

There are several type of capacitor need to considered such as shunt capacitors, series capacitors, filter capacitors and static var compensation (SVC) capacitors. Normally shunt fixed capacitor is used on lower voltage at distribution system but for series capacitors and SVC capacitors is used on transmission voltages because of need for reactive power and voltage regulation. Judiciously applied shunt capacitors can boost power factor, reduce system losses, enhance voltage regulation, and release system capacity for new load.

The application of capacitors for power factor correction and voltage support must be carefully considered to prevent operating difficulties and potentially damaging over voltages. System load variations and the type of loads served must be evaluated in the analysis. Each system is unique and solutions should be modeled on a computer to determine the optimum type of capacitor system, amounts of correction needed and where it should be installed. Several different analytical tools and computer programs (E-RACS software) can utilize for the evaluation of electrical systems and determination of the best and safest approach to power factor improvement.



## **1.2 Project Objective and Scope**

### **1.2.1 To find optimal allocation of fixed capacitor in power system network.**

The aim of this project is to determine optimal capacitor placement. It will consider the size, type and location of capacitor to be installed at distribution system. This placement applied at test system and real system under load flow simulation. The load flow module calculates the steady state conditions of the power system network. Under given constraints the program will determine the network voltage profile, power factor, real power and reactive power flows.

### **1.2.2 To analyze system with and without capacitor at distribution system.**

Capacitor used to provide reactive power compensation in distribution system. It is important for analyzing the system before and after addition of capacitor. The solution procedure start off with performing a simplified power flow study to calculate size of capacitor and reactive power compensation that been provided by capacitor.

### **1.2.3 To improve power factor of the system due to addition of capacitor.**

Power factor improvement is the main purpose for capacitor installation. It will give the positive effect to the system such as increased transmission capability and reduced transmission losses. Power factor of at each load and at the main intake need to take account for improve power system efficiency. This positive changing of power factor is called 'power factor correction'.

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Several studies have been conducted over the last thirty-five years, and there have been many proposed methods using different models and mathematical solution techniques to solve the capacitor placement problem such as sensitivity based optimal [2], distribution-analyzer-recorder, genetic algorithms (GA) [1] and etc. Use of shunt compensation is some of the remedial measures suggested for this method. Test system and real system has been applied in distribution power system. This method is very well known and capable method for optimization problems. It is capable of determining and solving suitable fixed capacitor placement problem.

The proposed method allows design a distribution system to select the optimal allocation of the fixed capacitor size and location. Design of distribution system model using E-RACS software with different fixed capacitor placement is considered in the system simulation. In this method, constant power, constant current and constant impedance is considered because selection of fixed capacitor is to be installed in distribution system. The proposed method will effect power factor correction and power transmission capability.

The proposed optimal fixed capacitor placement simulation is to determine the actual condition happen at distribution systems. In order to accurately simulate the distribution systems, it is vitally important to take into account the parameter such as reactive power, power factor and terminal voltage.

## **2.1 Type of Capacitor**

### **2.1.1 Shunt capacitors**

Shunt capacitor installed in transmission and distribution networks will increase transmission capability, reduce losses and improve the power factor. Shunt capacitors are primarily used to improve the power factor ( $\cos \phi$ ) in the network.

Active load such as induction motors consume reactive power and needed is generated by capacitors. By applying capacitors adjacent to equipment consuming reactive power, several advantages are obtained such as improved power factor of the system, reduced the transmission losses and improved power quality.

### **2.1.2 Series capacitors**

Series capacitors in transmission systems increase power transfer capability and reduce losses. Series capacitors are also installed in distribution systems, mainly to improve the voltage stability.

Series compensation of a network positively affects the voltage and the reactive power balance. When the load currents pass through the capacitor, the voltage drop over capacitor varies in proportion to the current.

The voltage drop is capacitive, i.e. it compensates the inductive voltage drop, which also varies with the load current. The result is an automatic stabilizing effect on the voltage in a network.

### **2.1.3 Filter capacitors**

Many of the loads in a power network such as converters, rectifiers, welding equipment and arc furnaces generate harmonics. Increased losses and damage to electronic equipment are among the problems that may occur. Harmonic filters eliminate the problem by reducing the harmonic content in the network and also improve the power factor by generating reactive power.

Modern electrical equipment generates harmonic currents, which are transmitted to the supply network. Most of the harmonics arise from electronically controlled equipment such as converters, variable speed drives, static converters, welding equipment etc. but also from arc furnace. Among the problems that may occur due to excessive harmonic currents are increased losses in motors, transformers, and cables. It may lead to overheating, overloading of capacitors, damage to or malfunction in electronic equipment, malfunction of receiver relays in ripple control system and interference with telephone circuits.

#### **2.1.4 Static var compensator (SVC) capacitors**

In static var compensation (SVC) thyristors are used for switching and control of capacitors and reactors. Instant transient -free switching is obtained, as well as continuously variable control of the reactive power. Static var compensators in transmission systems increase the transmission capacity; improve voltage control and stability, and damp power swings due to network faults or tripping of heavy loads in interconnected systems.

They are also used in distribution systems and for difficult loads, e.g. arc furnaces, where asymmetrical fluctuations in the current occur due to the instability of the consumption of the arc. Fluctuations in current resulting in variations in the consumption of reactive power can be controlled and the furnace is provided with more active power, thus increasing productivity.

#### **2.1.5 HVDC capacitors**

Power capacitors form an important part of an HVDC transmission system for harmonic filtering as well as supply of reactive power. Capacitors with high quality and reliability are essential to the overall performance of the system.

HVDC capacitors use the self-protected where can be either of a patented fuseless design or equipped with internal fuses. The self-protected design offers advantages of vital importance for all applications where high reliability is an absolute necessity, such as in HVDC systems.



Single element failures do not affect the performance and protection coordination is easier, enabling increased selectivity compared to other protection solutions. High quality and reliability not only improve the electrical performance of the capacitors, also the ability to resist severe climatic and seismic conditions is enhanced.

## 2.2 Size of Capacitor

Sizing of a fixed capacitor required to achieve a utility mandated power factor is simple, as shown in Figure 1. Systems with small differences between minimum and maximum loading can be designed for the average loading and fixed (non switched) capacitors can be applied.

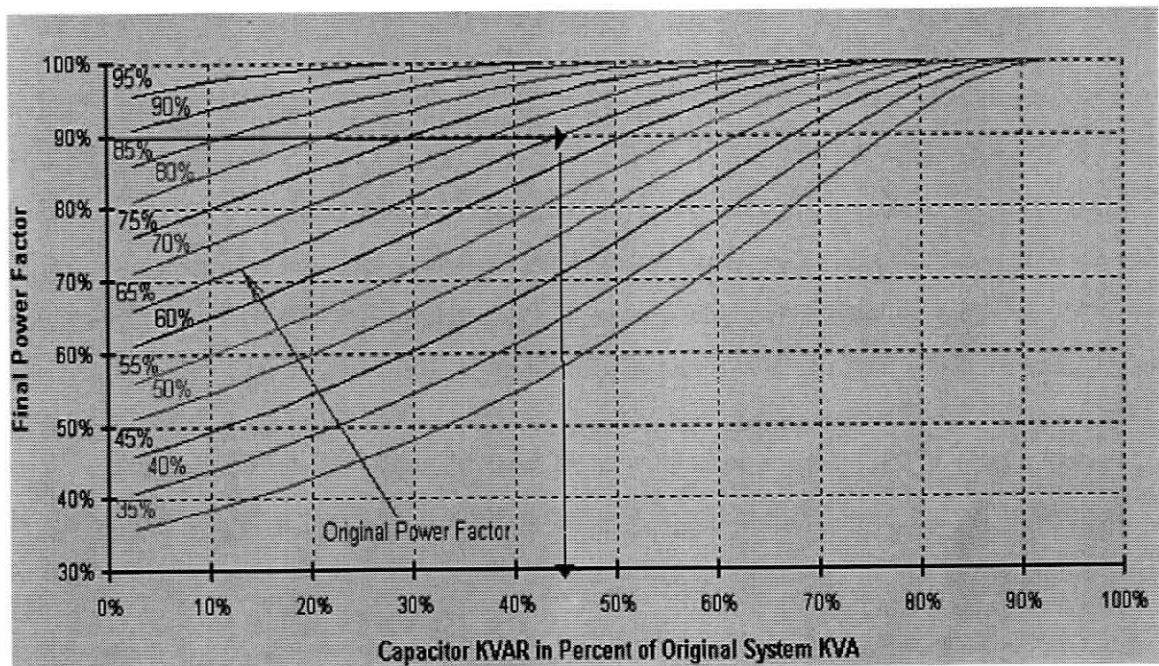


Figure 1: Final power factor as a function of added capacitor size

Figure 1 is provided for quick estimation of the additional kVAR needed to achieve a higher power factor. To use Figure 1, draw a horizontal line from the desired PF to intersect with the curve corresponding to the original PF. Extend a vertical line down to the horizontal axis and read the value for the required capacitor bank (given in percent of the original load kVA). Example of the use of Figure 1: Original kVA of system 2500, Original PF = 65% Required capacitor size = 1100 kVAR (44% of 2500 kVA) for a desired PF of 90%.

We can also determine the overall KVAR requirements, when the normal load KW and the original power factor known. This information can usually be obtained from the electric utility bill or from the local power company. To compute the total KVAR, required, refer to Table 1, and multiply the value found at the intersection of "Original Power Factor" and "Desired Power Factor" by the normal loads KW. As an example to improve the power factor of a 400 KW load from 0.77 to 0.92:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{KVAR} &= \text{KW} \times \text{Multiplier} \\
 &= 400 \times 0.403 \text{ (Table 3)} \\
 &= 161.2
 \end{aligned}$$

Example: Total KW-input of load from wattmeter reading 100 KW at a power factor of 65%. The capacitive KVAR necessary to raise the power factor to 95% is found by multiplying the 100 KW by the factor found in the table (0.840). Then  $100 \text{ KW} \times 0.840 = 84 \text{ KVAR}$ . Use 85 KVAR.



Table 1: Kilowatts Multipliers for Determining Capacitor Kilovars

Original Power Factor	Desired Power Factor																			
	0.81	0.82	0.83	0.84	0.85	0.86	0.87	0.88	0.89	0.90	0.91	0.92	0.93	0.94	0.95	0.96	0.97	0.98	0.99	1.00
0.51	962	989	1 015	1 041	1 067	1 094	1 120	1 147	1 175	1 203	1 231	1 261	1 292	1 324	1 358	1 395	1 436	1 484	1 544	1 687
0.52	919	945	971	997	1 023	1 050	1 076	1 103	1 131	1 159	1 187	1 217	1 248	1 280	1 314	1 351	1 392	1 440	1 500	1 643
0.53	876	902	928	954	980	1 007	1 033	1 060	1 088	1 116	1 144	1 174	1 205	1 237	1 271	1 308	1 349	1 397	1 457	1 600
0.54	835	861	887	913	939	966	992	1 019	1 047	1 075	1 103	1 133	1 164	1 196	1 230	1 267	1 308	1 356	1 416	1 559
0.55	795	821	847	873	899	926	952	979	1 007	1 035	1 063	1 093	1 124	1 156	1 190	1 227	1 268	1 316	1 377	1 519
0.56	756	782	808	834	860	887	913	940	968	996	1 024	1 054	1 085	1 117	1 151	1 188	1 229	1 277	1 338	1 480
0.57	718	744	770	796	822	849	875	902	930	958	986	1 016	1 047	1 079	1 113	1 150	1 191	1 239	1 300	1 442
0.58	681	707	733	759	785	812	838	865	893	921	949	979	1 010	1 042	1 076	1 113	1 154	1 202	1 263	1 405
0.59	645	671	697	723	749	776	802	829	857	885	913	943	974	1 006	1 040	1 077	1 118	1 166	1 226	1 368
0.60	609	635	661	687	713	740	766	793	821	849	877	907	938	970	1 004	1 041	1 082	1 130	1 192	1 334
0.61	575	601	627	653	679	706	732	759	787	815	843	873	904	936	970	1 007	1 048	1 096	1 157	1 299
0.62	542	568	594	620	646	673	699	726	754	782	810	840	871	903	937	974	1 015	1 063	1 123	1 265
0.63	509	535	561	587	613	640	666	693	721	749	777	807	838	870	904	941	982	1 030	1 091	1 233
0.64	474	503	529	555	581	608	634	661	689	717	745	775	806	838	872	909	950	998	1 068	1 200
0.65	445	471	497	523	549	576	602	629	657	685	713	743	774	806	840	877	918	966	1 027	1 169
0.66	414	440	466	492	518	545	571	598	626	654	682	712	743	775	809	846	887	935	996	1 138
0.67	384	410	436	462	488	515	541	568	596	624	652	682	713	745	779	816	857	905	966	1 108
0.68	354	380	406	432	458	485	511	538	566	594	622	652	683	715	749	786	827	875	937	1 079
0.69	325	351	377	403	429	456	482	509	537	565	593	623	654	686	720	757	798	846	907	1 049
0.70	296	322	348	374	400	427	453	480	508	536	564	594	625	657	691	728	769	817	878	1 020
0.71	268	294	320	346	372	399	425	452	480	508	536	566	597	629	663	700	741	789	850	992
0.72	240	266	292	318	344	371	397	424	452	480	508	538	569	601	635	672	713	761	821	963
0.73	212	238	264	290	316	343	369	396	424	452	480	510	541	573	607	644	685	733	794	936
0.74	185	211	237	263	289	316	342	369	397	425	453	483	514	546	580	617	658	706	767	909
0.75	158	184	210	236	262	289	315	342	370	398	426	456	487	519	553	590	631	679	740	882
0.76	131	157	183	209	235	262	288	315	343	371	399	429	460	492	526	563	604	652	713	855
0.77	105	131	157	183	209	236	262	289	317	345	373	403	434	466	500	537	578	626	687	829
0.78	078	104	130	156	182	209	235	262	290	318	346	376	407	439	473	510	551	599	661	803
0.79	052	078	104	130	156	183	209	236	264	292	320	350	381	413	447	484	525	573	634	776
0.80	026	052	078	104	130	157	183	210	238	266	294	324	355	387	421	458	499	547	608	750
0.81	000	026	052	078	104	131	157	184	212	240	268	298	329	361	395	432	473	521	582	724
0.82		000	026	052	078	105	131	158	186	214	242	272	303	335	369	406	447	495	556	698
0.83			000	026	052	079	105	132	160	188	216	246	277	309	343	380	421	469	530	672
0.84				000	026	053	079	106	134	162	190	220	251	283	317	354	395	443	504	645
0.85					000	027	053	080	108	136	164	194	225	257	291	328	369	417	478	620
0.86						000	026	053	081	109	137	167	198	230	264	301	342	390	451	593
0.87							000	027	055	083	111	141	172	204	238	275	316	364	425	567
0.88								000	028	056	084	114	145	177	211	248	289	337	398	540
0.89									000	028	056	086	117	149	183	220	261	309	370	512
0.90										000	028	058	089	121	155	192	233	281	342	484
0.91											000	030	061	093	127	164	205	253	314	456
0.92												000	031	063	097	134	175	223	284	426