

The variation of Tmax is summarised as

< 430°C	immature
430/435° - 460°C	mature (oil window)
> 460°C	overmature

Hydrogen Index (HI = S2 x 100/TOC) and Oxygen Index (OI = S3 x 100/TOC), when plotted against one another, provide information about the type of kerogen and the maturity of the sample. Both parameters decrease in value with increasing maturity. Samples with high HI and low OI are dominantly oil prone and samples with low HI and high OI are gas prone.

2.2 Analysis of Kerogen

2.2.1 Organic Petrology - Vitrinite Reflectance

Vitrinite is a coal maceral which responds to increasing levels of thermal maturity. This response is measured microscopically by the percent of light reflected off the polished surface of a vitrinite particle immersed in oil.

Measurement of vitrinite reflectance can be carried out on uncrushed, washed and dried cuttings (10-50gms of sample material required), sidewall cores (2-10gms), conventional cores (2-10gms) or outcrop samples (2-10gms).

The values given are for standard lower size limits. In special cases, however, useful data may be obtained from as little as 0.1gm.

For each sample a minimum of 25 fields is measured in order to establish a range and mean for reflectance values.

Maturity classifications according to vitrinite reflectance values are:

% V _R (approx)	Maturity
0.2 - 0.55	immature
0.55 - 1.2	mature
1.2 - 1.8	overmature
> 1.8	severely altered

Following vitrinite reflectance measurements, microscopic examination in fluorescence mode allows the description of liptinite macerals and an estimate of their abundances. The amount of dispersed organic matter is reported and its composition described.

Vitrinite reflectance results and maceral descriptions are best obtained from coals or rocks deposited in environments which received large influxes of terrestrially derived organic matter. Vitrinite reflectance cannot be measured in rocks older than Devonian age, since land plants had not evolved prior to this time.