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# REACTIVE FLOW MODEL DEVELOPMENT FOR PBXW-126 USING MODERN NONLINEAR OPTIMIZATION METHODS

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The initiation and detonation behavior of PBXW-126 has been characterized and is described. PBXW-126 is a composite explosive consisting of approximately equal amounts of RDX, AP, AL, and NTO with a polyurethane binder. The three term ignition and growth of reaction model parameters (ignition + two growth terms) have been found using nonlinear optimization methods to determine the "best" set of model parameters. The ignition term treats the initiation of up to 0.5% of the RDX. The first growth term in the model treats the RDX growth of reaction up to 20% reacted. The second growth term treats the subsequent growth of reaction of the remaining AP/AL/NTO. The unreacted equation of state (EOS) was determined from the wave profiles of embedded gauge tests while the JWL product EOS was determined from cylinder expansion test results. The nonlinear optimization code, NLQPEB/GLO, was used to determine the "best" set of coefficients for the three term Lee-Tarver ignition and growth of reaction model.

## INTRODUCTION

The reactive flow parameters for simulating the initiation and detonation behavior of PBXW-126 were determined using the nonlinear optimization code NLQPEB/GLO. PBXW-126 is a composite high explosive (HE) consisting of approximately equal amounts of RDX, AP, AL, and NTO with a polyurethane binder. The three term form of the reactive flow model (ignition + two growth terms) was used to simulate the initiation response of this composite HE. The ignition term treats the initiation of up to 0.5% of the RDX. The first growth term treats the RDX growth of reaction up to 20%. The second growth term treats the subsequent growth of reaction of the remaining AP/AL/NTO.

The unreacted EOS was determined from known HE properties and by matching simulations to a no-reaction embedded gauge flyer impact experiment. The product EOS was determined from a JWL fit to a 100 mm cylinder test. The growth of reaction parameters were determined with NLQPEB/GLO by matching simulations to the experimental pressure traces from a shock to detonation transition (SDT) embedded gauge flyer impact experiment. The growth of reaction parameters were verified by comparing a 100 mm diameter wave front curvature simulation to experimental results.

## NONLINEAR OPTIMIZATION CODE

The nonlinear optimization software package, NLQPEB/GLO (1,2), consists of a controller, GLO (Global Local Optimizer), an optimization code NLQPEB (3), and the hydrocode, DYNA2D. GLO runs the optimization code and hydrocode in an iterative loop to minimize a figure of merit (FOM), the difference between the analysis and experimental results. NLQPEB uses a Broyden, Fletcher Goldfarb, & Shanno variable metric sequential quadric programming methodology with a modified Powell merit function (4,5). It treats DYNA2D as a function, supplying material property parameters. DYNA2D returns the FOM, which is the squared error difference between the experimental result and the calculated result. GLO runs NLQPEB and DYNA2D in a loop until it finds the "best" set of material parameters by minimizing the FOM.

## PBXW-126 PROPERTIES

PBXW-126 is a composite explosive consisting of 20 wt% RDX, 20% AP, 26% Al, 22% NTO, and 12% polyurethane. The density is 1.80 g/cc, with a detonation velocity of 6.47 cm/ $\mu$ sec and Us-Up of 0.222 cm/ $\mu$ sec + 2.0 Up. Small scale safety data is summarized in Table 1.

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TABLE 1. Small Scale Safety Data for PBXW-126

	PBXW126	TNT	HMX
Impact <sup>a</sup>	95.7	148	32
CRT <sup>b</sup>	0.033	$\leq 0.012$	$\leq 0.025$
DSC <sup>c</sup>	196	250	270
Spark <sup>d</sup>	no rxn	no rxn	no rxn
Friction <sup>e</sup>	4.0	11.6	11.6

a Impact (cm) - 2.5 kg, Type 12A, 35 mg pressed pellets.

b Chemical reactivity test. 120°C for 22 h at 1 atm Hg.

c Differential scanning calorimeter (°C)- 10°C/min, max of endothermic response & onset of exotherm.

d 1 J with 510W.

e Friction (kg), BAM.

### Reactants Equation of State

The JWL EOS of the reactants (unreacted material) was determined from an embedded gauge non-reactive flyer plate impact experiment. The test setup is shown in Figure 1. An impact velocity of 0.94 mm/μsec produced no reaction in the HE. Shock wave times of arrival at the gauges were used to determine the reactants EOS given in Table 2. A comparison of the calculated and experimental shock wave profiles is shown in Figure 2.

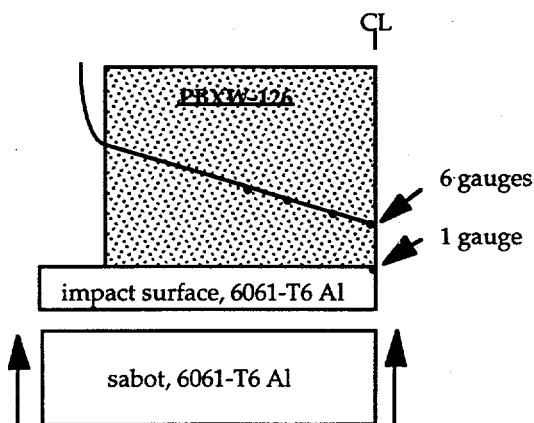


FIGURE 1. Embedded gauge test setup.

TABLE 2. JWL Reactants EOS parameters

A(mbar)	3.1696e+02	$\rho$ (g/cc)	1.800
B(mbar)	-2.596e-03	$C_v$ (mbar <sup>4</sup> /K)	2.487e-05
$R_1$	0.947	$T_0$ (°C)	298.0
$R_2$	-1.559	$E_0$ (mbar cc/cc)	6.759e-03
$\omega$	0.912		

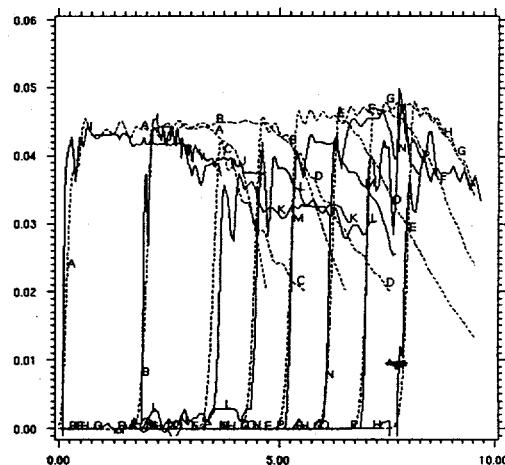


FIGURE 2. Comparison of calculated and experimental wave profiles for the 0.94 mm/μsec non-reactive test.

### Products Equation of State

The JWL EOS of the detonation products was determined from a fit to a 100 mm diameter, full wall, copper cylinder test. The JWL products EOS parameters are given in Table 3. Small and large volume cylinder wall velocity vs. expansion histories are shown in Figures 3 & 4.

TABLE 3. JWL Products EOS parameters

A(mbar)	6.735567	$\omega$	0.250
B(mbar)	0.011804	$P_{cj}$ (mbar)	0.170
$R_1$	4.970	$E_0$ (mbar cc/cc)	0.080
$R_2$	1.000	D (cm/μsec)	0.647

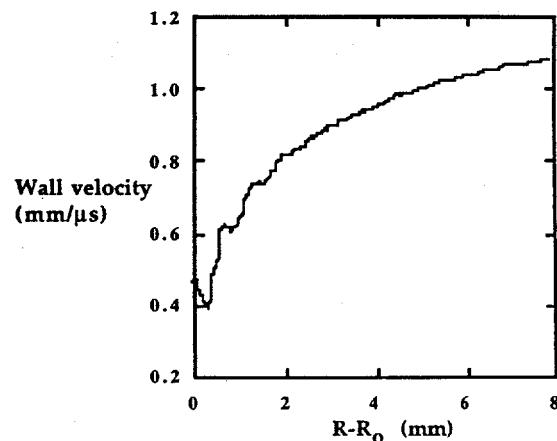


FIGURE 3. Cylinder wall velocity (mm/μsec) versus cylinder wall radius expansion,  $R-R_0$  (mm).

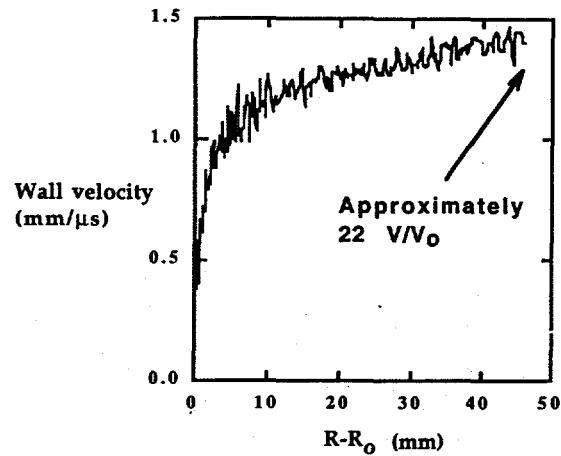


FIGURE 4. Cylinder wall velocity (mm/μsec) versus cylinder wall radius expansion,  $R-R_0$  (mm).

### REACTIVE FLOW EOS

The three term form of the reactive flow model (ignition + two growth terms) was used to simulate the initiation response of this composite explosive. The reaction rate for this form of the model is given in the Equation 1. The ignition term treats the initiation of up to 0.5% of the RDX. The first growth term in the model treats the RDX growth of reaction up to 20% reacted. The second growth term treats the subsequent growth of reaction of the remaining AP/AL/NTO mixture.

$$\frac{dF}{dt} = I \cdot (1-F)^b \left( \rho / \rho_0 - 1 - a \right)^x + G_1 (1-F)^c F^d p^y + G_2 (1-F)^e F^g p^z \quad (1)$$

### Model Parameter Determination

The NLQPEB/GLO optimization code was used to determine eight of the parameters used in the reaction rate equation. The other seven parameters were held constant at values defined for typical RDX/HMX based explosives. The eight parameters determined by the optimization code specify the growth of reaction terms and growth rate form factors. A summary of all of the values is given in Table 4. A plot of the growth rate form factor given by Equation 2 is shown in Figure 5 for  $c = 0.9$  and  $0.0 < d < 1.0$ .

$$\text{growth rate form factor} = G \cdot (1-F)^c \cdot F^d \quad (2)$$

TABLE 4. Ignition and growth of reaction parameters.

ignition	I	fixed	40.0
	b	fixed	0.667
	a	fixed	0.01
	x	fixed	4.0
growth 1	G <sub>1</sub>	variable	124.0
	c	variable	0.900
	d	variable	0.100
	y	fixed	3.0
growth 2	G <sub>2</sub>	variable	41.0
	e	variable	0.900
	g	variable	0.200
	z	fixed	2.0
ignition max	f <sub>igmx</sub>	variable	0.005
grow 1 max	f <sub>g1mx</sub>	fixed	0.200
grow 2 min	f <sub>g2mn</sub>	variable	0.035

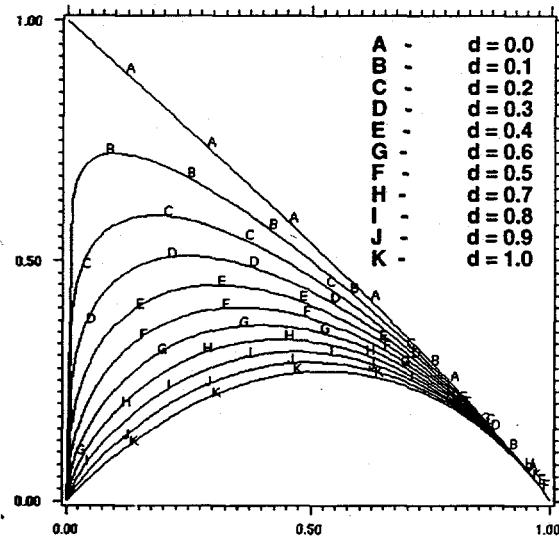


FIGURE 5. Growth rate form factor as a function of  $F$  (fraction reacted) for  $G = 1.0$ ,  $c = 0.9$ , and  $0.0 < d < 1.0$ .

### SDT Simulation

A comparison of the calculated and experimental shock wave profiles for the 1.409 mm/μsec embedded gauge SDT impact experiment is shown in Figure 6. This DYNA2D SDT simulation was iterated by the NLQPEB/GLO code until a match to the experimental results was obtained. The figure of merit was based on the detonation wave arrival times at the gauges and the magnitude of the growth of the reaction observed by the gauges.

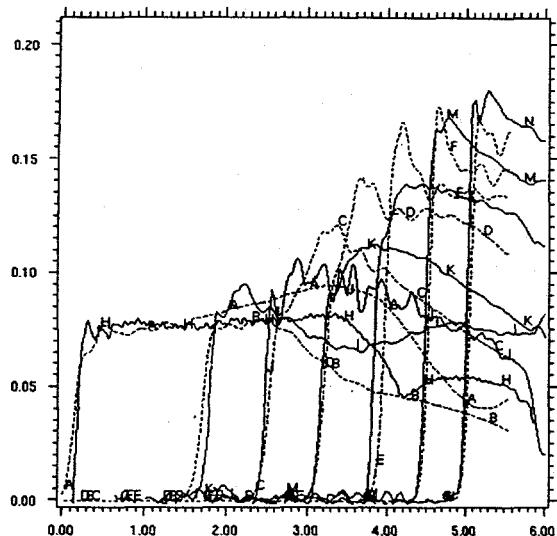


FIGURE 6. Comparison of calculated and experimental wave profiles for the 1.409 mm/μsec SDT test.

#### DETONATION WAVE CURVATURE

The results of a 100 mm diameter detonation wave front curvature experiment (breakout) were used to verify the ignition and growth of reaction parameters determined by NLQPEB/GLO. The experimental results are shown in Figure 7. The DYNA2D calculated results are shown in Figure 8.

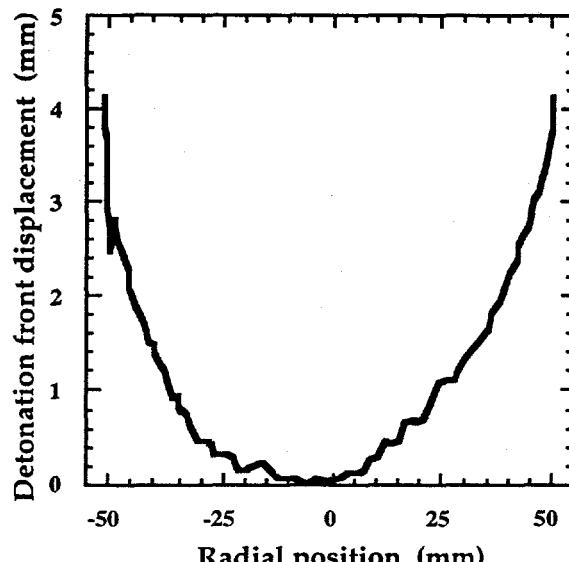


FIGURE 7. Experimental wave front curvature results.

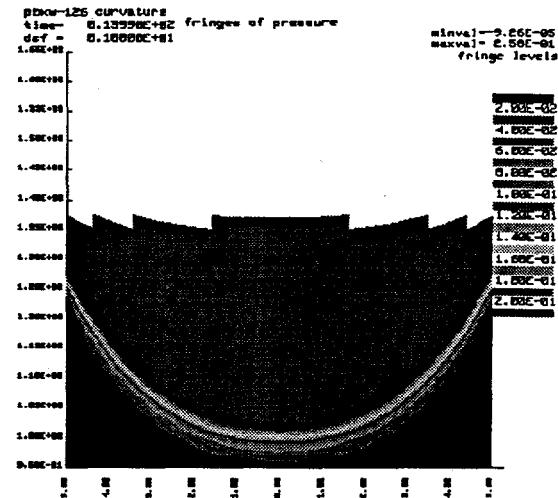


FIGURE 8. Results of the DYNA2D calculated 4 inch diameter wave front curvature simulation.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The modern nonlinear optimization code package NLQPEB/GLO is fast, accurate, and very useful for parameterizing the ignition and growth of reaction model. It is important to note that the hydrocode model must be robust and treat the salient features of the growth of the explosive reaction. The accuracy of the "optimized" set of reaction rate parameters is primarily limited by the accuracy of the hydrocode numerical solution (not the optimization code).

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