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Detonation Waves: models & experiments

National Security Energetics council: summit series talk

Ralph Menikoff

Colleagues:

Sam Shaw

Christina Scovel

Data:

Rick Gustavsen

HE model regimes

Regime	Reactive mode	Model or experiment	Pressure scale	Time scale
Design mode	Shock Initiation	Ignition &Growth hot spots	Pshock > few GPa	< 1 μ s
	Propagation	Programmed burn pseudo-reaction rate	Pcj ~ 30 GPa	10s μ s
Safety issues and Accident scenarios	Non-shock initiation	Low velocity impact shear heating	Impact P < 1 GPa	few ms
	Thermal ignition	Cookoff expt. ODTX chemical reactions	< 100 MPa	seconds to hours

- Dominant physics depends on regime
- Need different model for each regime

HE burn model

■ Equations of state

- Reactants
- Products

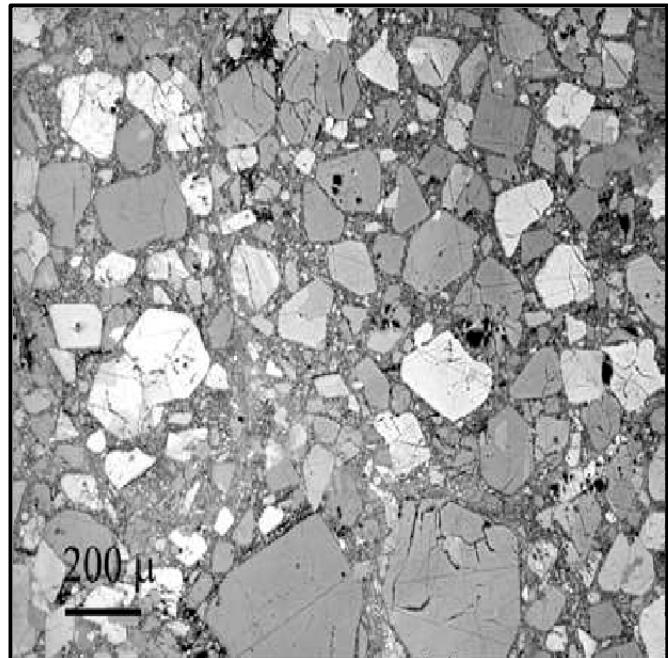
■ Mixture rule

- Homogenized PBX
Average over grains, binder and pores
- λ products mass fraction
 $P(V,e,\lambda)$ for partly burned HE
- Typically P-T equilibrium
Thermodynamically consistent

■ Burn rate

- Volume averaged rate
Account for temperature fluctuations
Hot spots dominate – chemical rate temperature sensitive
- Empirically calibrated

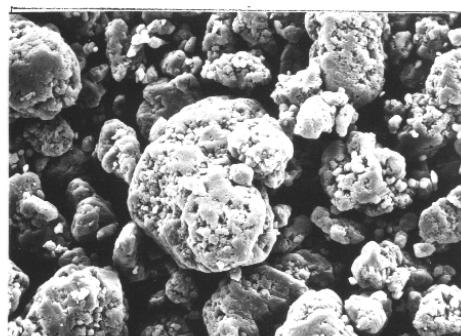
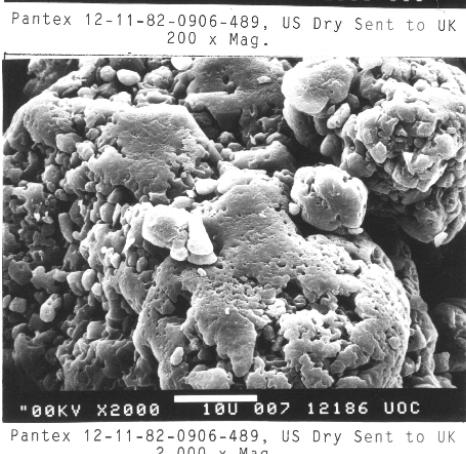
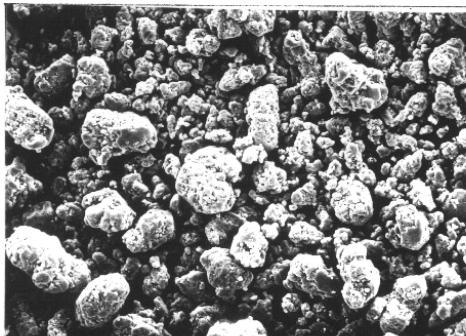
PBX 9501 (HMX)



Polarized light micrograph
Cary Skidmore, 1998

TATB crystals (dry animated)

- Scanning electron micrograph
 - Pores (worm holes) within crystal



TATB used in PBX 9502
Insensitive HE

Ignition & Growth concept

■ Shock front triggers hot spots

Void collapse on fast time scale

■ Burn centers

Competition between heat conduction & reaction

- Small hot spots quench
- Large hot spots become burn centers

■ Reactive wavelets

Deflagration waves from burn centers

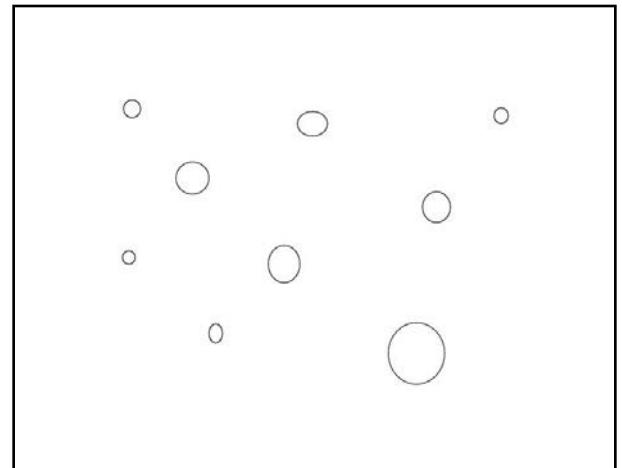
Burn rate = (front area) * (deflagration speed)

■ Depletion of reactants

Overlap of reactive wavelets

Geometric effect on front area

Potential hot spot sites



For PBX:

Pores between gains

Inclusions within a grain

Cracks in grain when pressed

Ignition & Growth concept – 1

■ Shock front triggers hot spots

Void collapse on fast time scale

■ Burn centers

Competition between heat conduction & reaction

- Small hot spots quench
- Large hot spots become burn centers

■ Reactive wavelets

Deflagration waves from burn centers

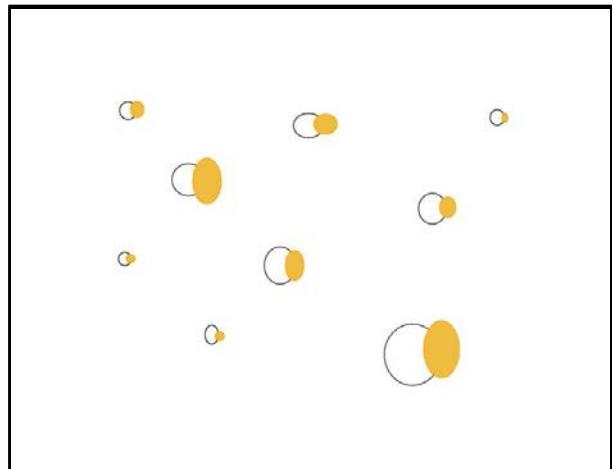
Burn rate = (front area) * (deflagration speed)

■ Depletion of reactants

Overlap of reactive wavelets

Geometric effect on front area

Shock sweeps over pores



Hot spots require
dissipative mechanism

Ignition & Growth concept – 2

■ Shock front triggers hot spots

Void collapse on fast time scale

■ Burn centers

Competition between heat conduction & reaction

- Small hot spots quench
- Large hot spots become burn centers

■ Reactive wavelets

Deflagration waves from burn centers

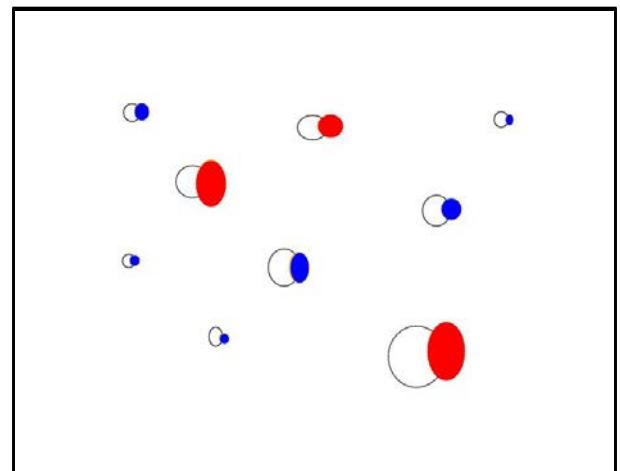
Burn rate = (front area) * (deflagration speed)

■ Depletion of reactants

Overlap of reactive wavelets

Geometric effect on front area

Ignition regime



Number density of burn centers
Increases with shock pressure

Ignition & Growth concept – 3

■ Shock front triggers hot spots

Void collapse on fast time scale

■ Burn centers

Competition between heat conduction & reaction

- Small hot spots quench
- Large hot spots become burn centers

■ Reactive wavelets

Deflagration waves from burn centers

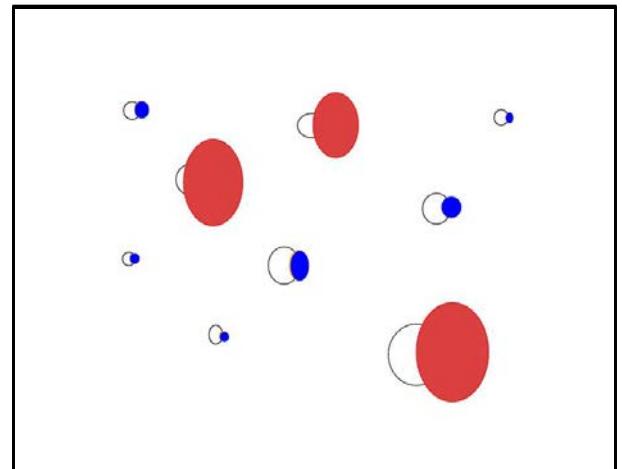
$\text{Burn rate} = (\text{front area}) * (\text{deflagration speed})$

■ Depletion of reactants

Overlap of reactive wavelets

Geometric effect on front area

Early growth regime



Burn front area increasing

Reactants & products
are phase separated

Ignition & Growth concept – 4

■ Shock front triggers hot spots

Void collapse on fast time scale

■ Burn centers

Competition between heat conduction & reaction

- Small hot spots quench
- Large hot spots become burn centers

■ Reactive wavelets

Deflagration waves from burn centers

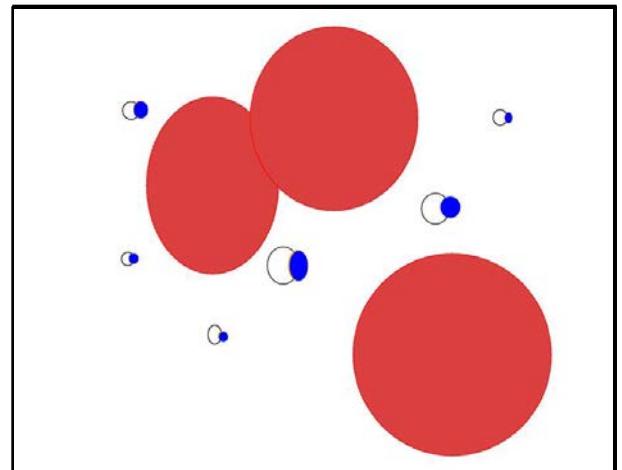
Burn rate = (front area) * (deflagration speed)

■ Depletion of reactants

Overlap of reactive wavelets

Geometric effect on front area

Late growth regime



Burn front area decreasing

Burn front area model
scales as function of λ
and proportional to
number of burn centers

Burn front area scaling

■ Hot spot assumptions

- Spherical hot spots
- All same radius
- Large number
- Randomly distributed

■ Al Nichols derivation, 2002

r_{hs} = hot spot radius

d_{hs} = av distance between hot spots

N = number of hot spots

Vol = total volume = $N d_{hs}^3$

● Key results

1. λ is function of r_{hs}/d_{hs}
2. Burn front area is function of λ

$$\begin{aligned}1 - \lambda &= \prod_{hs} \left[1 - \frac{r_{hs}^3}{Vol} \right] = \left[1 - \frac{r_{hs}^3}{Vol} \right]^N \\&= \left[1 - \frac{1}{N} \left(\frac{r_{hs}}{d_{hs}} \right)^3 \right]^N \\&\rightarrow \exp \left[- \left(\frac{r_{hs}}{d_{hs}} \right)^3 \right] \quad \text{as } N \rightarrow \infty\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\lambda}{dt} &= 3(1 - \lambda) \cdot \left[\frac{r_{hs}}{d_{hs}} \right]^2 \cdot \frac{1}{d_{hs}} \frac{dr_{hs}}{dt} \\&\propto (1 - \lambda) \left[-\ln(1 - \lambda) \right]^{2/3} \\&\approx \lambda^{2/3} (1 - \lambda)^{2/3}\end{aligned}$$

Ignition & Growth assumptions

■ Wave width

$$\text{width} = \int d\lambda \frac{D-u}{\text{Rate}} \quad \text{in stationary frame of wave}$$

deflagration speed < CJ detonation speed

■ Hot spots

deflagration width < hot spot size < detonation width

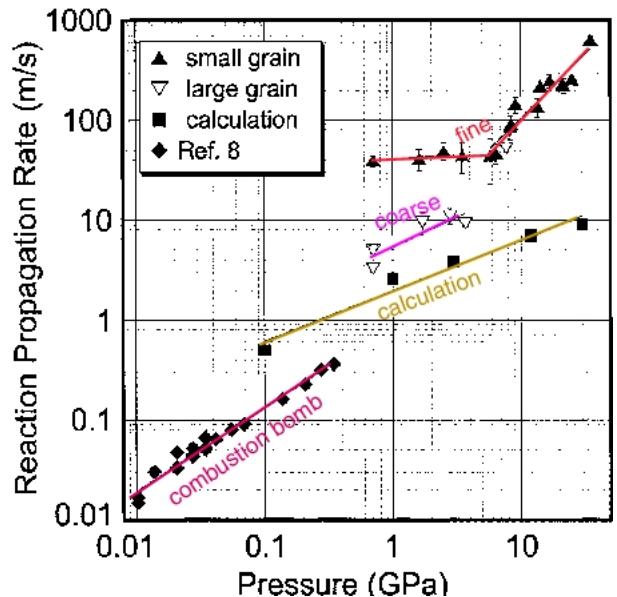
- Hot spot triggers deflagration wave but not detonation wave
- Collective effect of many hot spots

■ Deflagration speed

- Deflagration speed $\propto P^n$
- Much lower than detonation speed
- For fixed pore volume

Need many small hot spots

HMX / PBX 9501
Esposito et al. 2003



HE burn models (pressure dependent rate)

■ Ignition & Growth model (Lee & Tarver, 1980/Tarver, Hallquist & Ericson, 1985)

- Rate is sum of three terms
switch on λ = mass fraction of products
 1. Ignition, $0 \leq \lambda < \lambda_i$ small,
 2. Growth, $\lambda_i \leq \lambda < \lambda_g$
 3. Burn out, $\lambda_g \leq \lambda \leq 1$

$$\text{Rate}(\lambda, \rho) \propto (\rho/\rho_0 - a)^n$$

$$\text{Rate}(\lambda, P) \propto (1-\lambda)^q \lambda^r P^n$$

added for slow rate in TATB

■ WSD model (Wescott, Stewart & Davis, 2005)

Variation of Ignition & Growth

- Smooth transition between terms in λ
- Two coefficients for growth term: ignition & propagation regimes
Switches on shock density (ρ_s from hydro code)
- Ad hoc extension for shock desensitization
Adds timer variable to cut off reaction

HE burn models (rate dependent on lead shock strength)

- **SURF model** (Shaw & Menikoff, 2010)

L2 milestone (2010) : Reactive flow model for IHE

- Transformed variable

$\lambda = g(s)$ and s is scaled reactive variable = $\frac{\text{hot spot radius}}{\text{av dist between hot spots}}$

$\frac{d}{dt} s = f(P_s)$ where P_s is lead shock strength, $f \propto D \times (\text{hs number density})^{1/3}$

- Rate function of lead shock pressure

$$\text{Rate}(\lambda, P_s) = \frac{d}{dt} \lambda = \frac{d}{ds} g \cdot \frac{d}{dt} s$$

Naturally accounts for shock desensitization

- Algorithm to detect lead shock

Local, based on Hugoniot equation: $e = e_0 + \frac{1}{2}(P + P_0)(V_0 - V)$

- Some aspects similar to other models

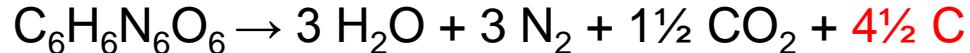
- CREST (AWE, 2006)

- History Variable Reactive Burn model (Kerley, 1992)

HE burn models (two-step reaction)

■ TATB – insensitive HE

- Excess carbon due to stoichiometry



- Carbon clustering



C-bonds release energy

- Experimental evidence for fast & slow reactions
- Recovery experiments find nanometer size diamonds

■ SURFplus model (Menikoff & Shaw, 2012)

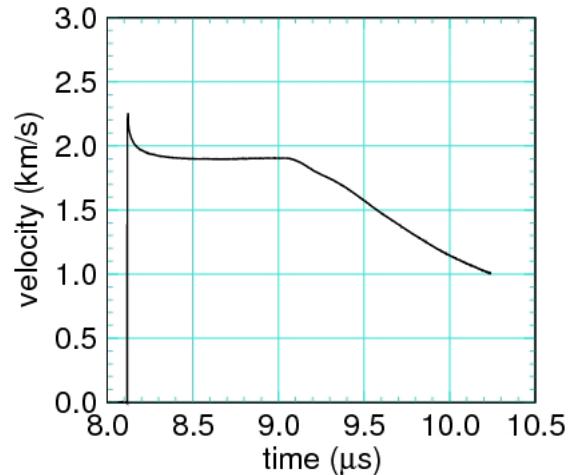
- SURF model for fast reaction

Hot spot model

- Plus second slow reaction for carbon clustering

Based on analysis of Shaw & Johnson (1987)

Diffusion process for cluster formation, hence slow rate



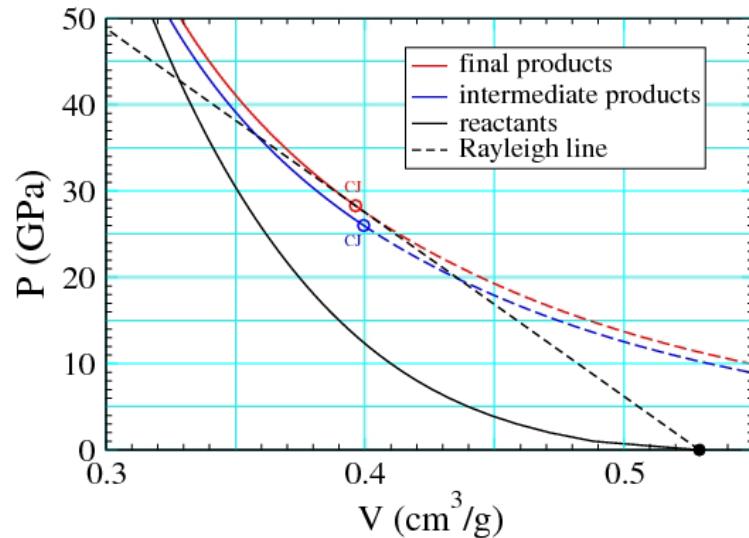
Shot 4f112

Vorthman et al.
1999

Effect of fast-slow rate

■ Carbon clustering energy release

- Shifts detonation locus and release isentrope



- Final products

Equilibrium with carbon clustering

- Intermediate products

Without carbon clustering energy

■ Slow approach to steady state

- Shock initiation to CJ state of intermediate products
- Detonation speed increases to CJ state of final products
- Slow transient due to sonic condition

Equations of state

■ Reactants

- Hugoniot data
- Diamond anvil cell data (HE grains)

■ Products

- Overdriven detonation
- Release isentrope
- Cylinder test wall velocity

■ EOS fitting form

- Mie-Gruneisen form
Ref curve: $P_{\text{ref}}(V)$, $e_{\text{ref}}(V)$

- Principal Hugoniot or isentrope for solid
- CJ release isentrope for products

- Common fitting forms

JWL, HOM, Davis, Shaw table for products

$$P(V, e) = P_{\text{ref}}(V) + \frac{\Gamma(V)}{V} [e - e_{\text{ref}}(V)]$$

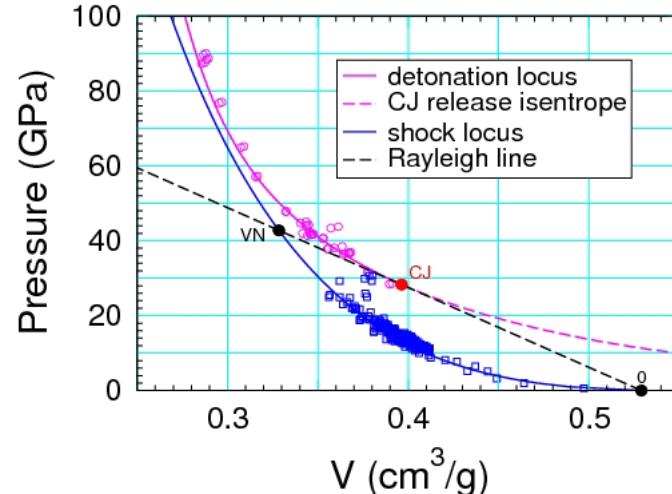
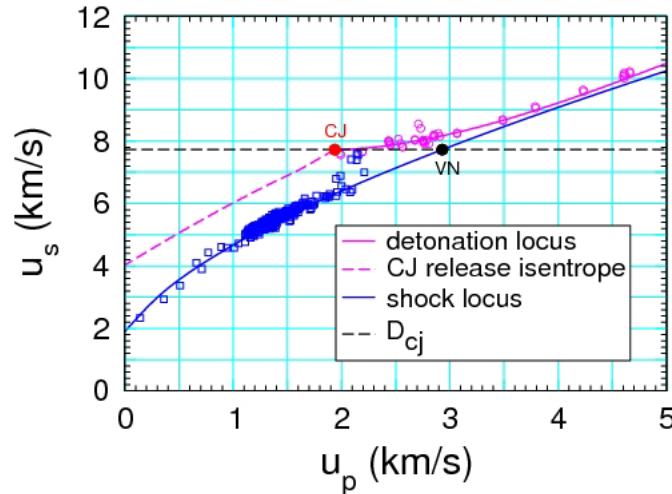
Thermodynamic consistent
T based on Γ and C_v

$$C_v(T, V) = C_v(T/\theta(V))$$

$$\Gamma(V) = -V \frac{d \ln \theta}{dV}$$

PBX 9502 – Hugoniot & detonation loci

■ Principal Hugoniot and release isentrope



■ $\Gamma(V)$ difficult to measure

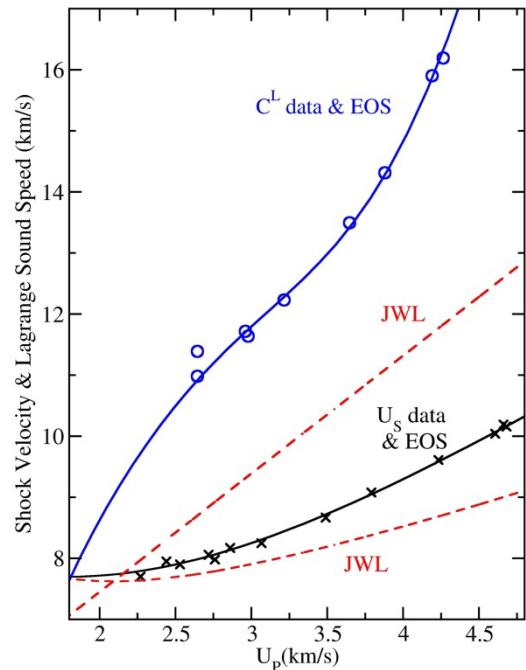
- Need sound speed or 2 reference curves

■ Little temperature data

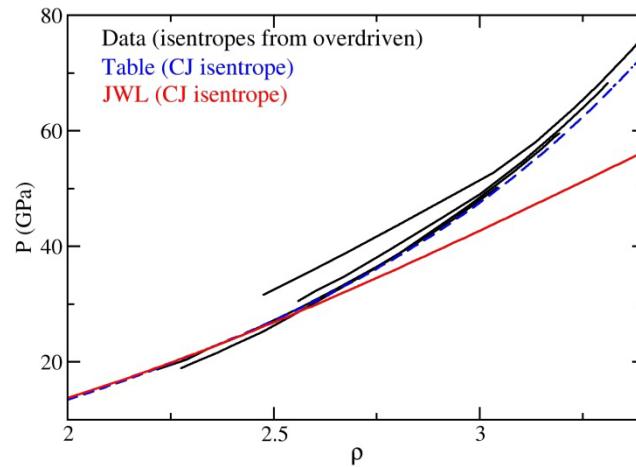
- Cv solid based on phonon spectrum from MD simulations or Raman scattering and infrared spectrometry

PBX 9502 – overdriven detonation & release wave

■ Uncertainty in CJ state



Courtesy Sam Shaw, 1999
Fritz, Hixson, Vorthman, Anderson

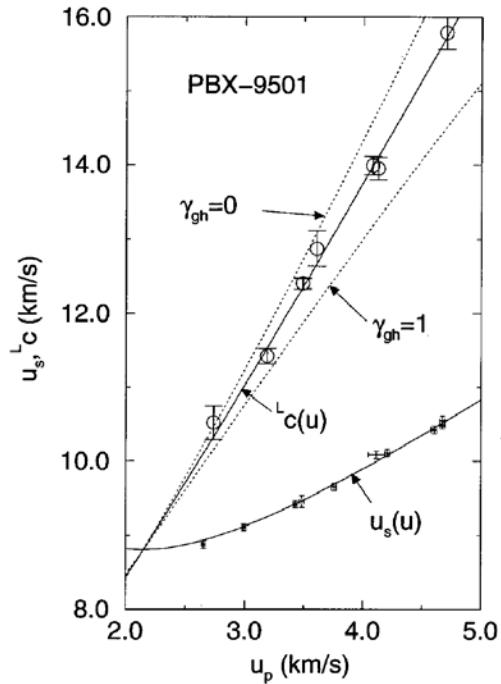


■ Anomalous behavior of isentropes

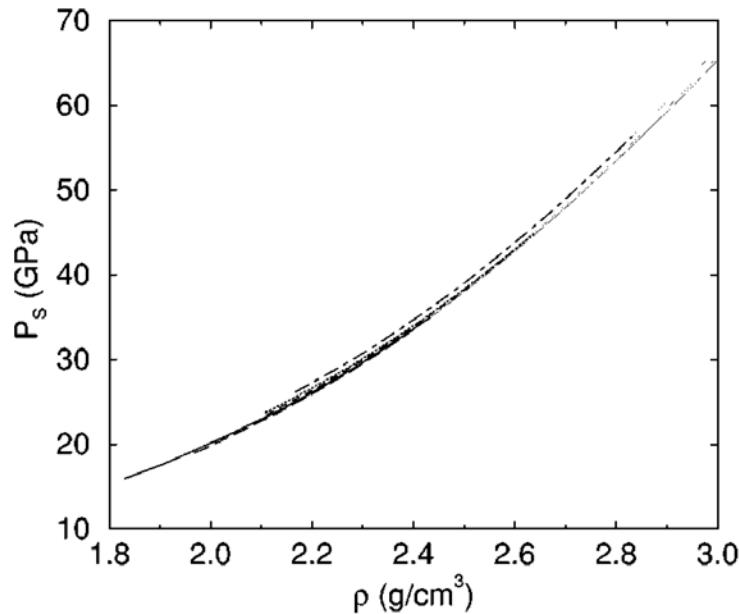
- Likely due to carbon clusters
Possibly diamond/graphite transition
Or surface molecules on cluster
- Limits accuracy of EOS model

PBX 9501 – overdriven detonation & release wave

- Fast reaction, no carbon clustering
 - Expected behavior



Fritz et al, 1996



Hixson et al, 2000

PBX 9501 – CJ release isentrope

■ Cylinder test

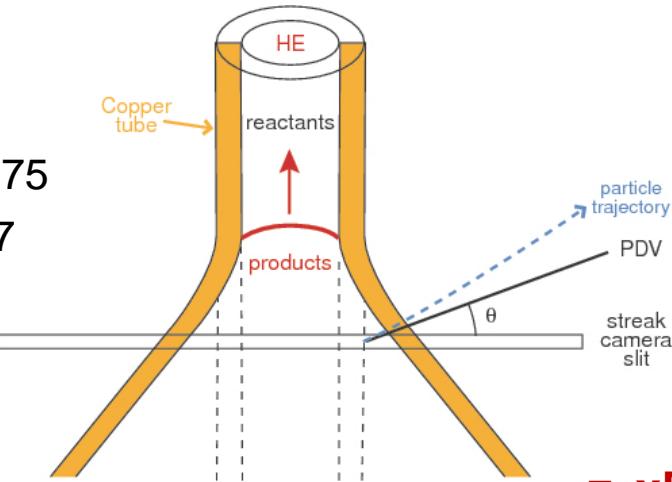
- Streak experiment

Campbell & Engelke, 1975

Reanalyzed by Hill, 1997

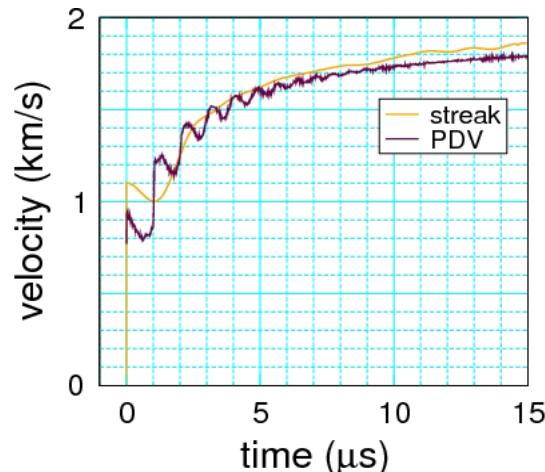
- PDV experiment

Pemberton, 2011

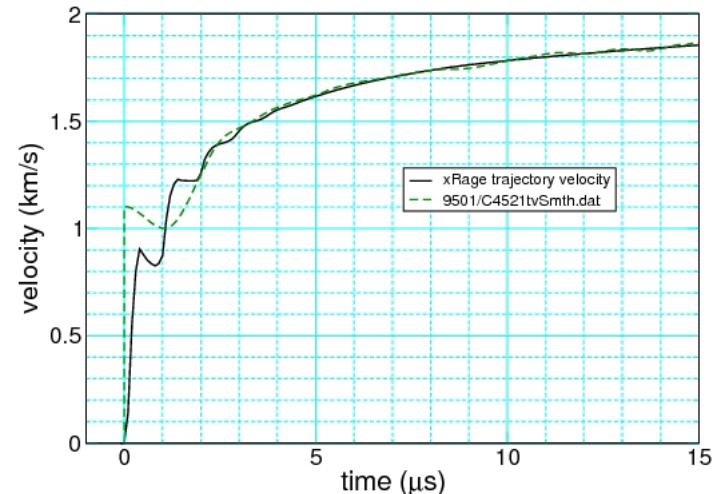


LLNL, early 1970s
Originally used to calibrate JWL EOS
for HE products

■ Wall velocity data



■ xRage simulation



Data to calibrate & validate burn rate

■ Pop plot data

- Distance of run-to-detonation as function of initial shock pressure

■ Shock-to-Detonation Transition data

1-D experiments, gas gun – embedded velocity gauge data or PDV probes

- Sustained shock
- Short shock
- Double shock – shock desensitization

■ 2-D experiments

- Rod impact
- Corner turning
- Initiator/booster
 Onion skin, Mushroom, Hockey puck
- Curvature effect and failure diameter

PBX 9502 – Pop plot

■ Sensitive to initial temperature

- Hot more sensitive
- Cold less sensitive

Also dependence on lot

■ Sensitive to initial density

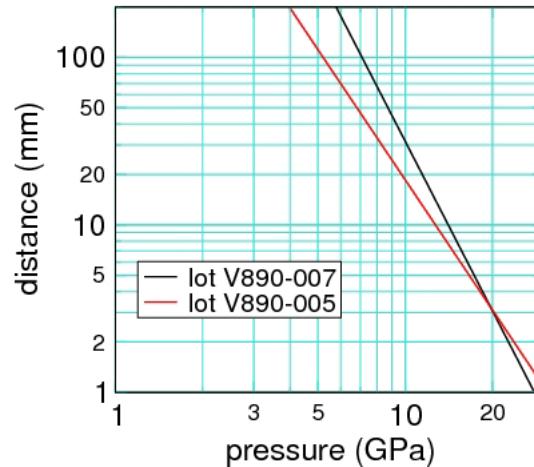
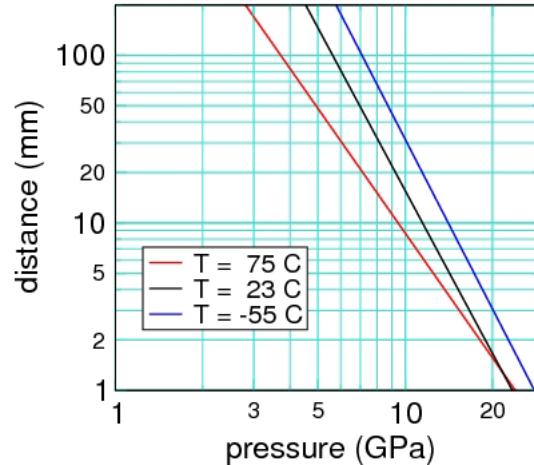
- Lower density (increased porosity)
More shock heating, $\Delta e = \frac{1}{2} P \Delta V$
- CJ detonation speed varies with initial density

Roughly $\Delta D = 2$ to 3 (m/s) / (mg/cm³)

$$\text{Thermal expansion } \frac{\Delta V}{V \Delta T} = 1.4 \times 10^{-4} / \text{K}$$

■ EOS issues

- PBX density measured at room temperature
- Thermal expansion not accurate
Change in pore volume fraction



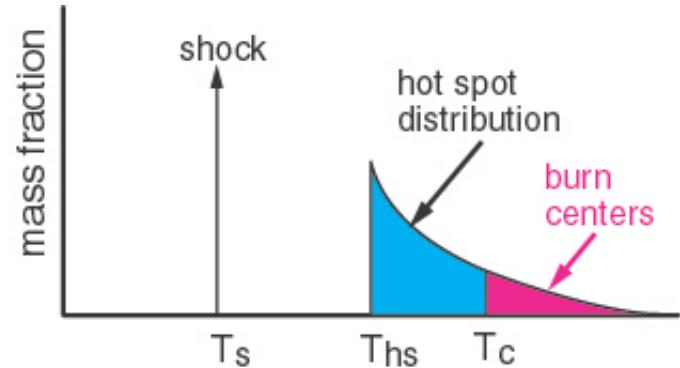
Ignition & Growth concept – shock sensitivity

■ Burn centers

- Tail of hot spot distribution

Initial temperature shifts distribution

Hence affects number of burn centers



■ Shock desensitization

Campbell & Travis, 1985

- Weak shock closes pores

Eliminates potential hot spot sites

- Limiting case

Pure crystal (no pores) very insensitive

Detonation wave in PBX 9404 failed to initiate HMX crystal

Detonation wave in HMX crystal can be initiated by flyer plate

- Thermal rate at von Neumann spike temperature

PBX 9502 – shock-to-detonation transition - 1

■ Sustained shock

- Embedded velocity gauges

Shot 2s58

$P_s = 10.9 \text{ GPa}$

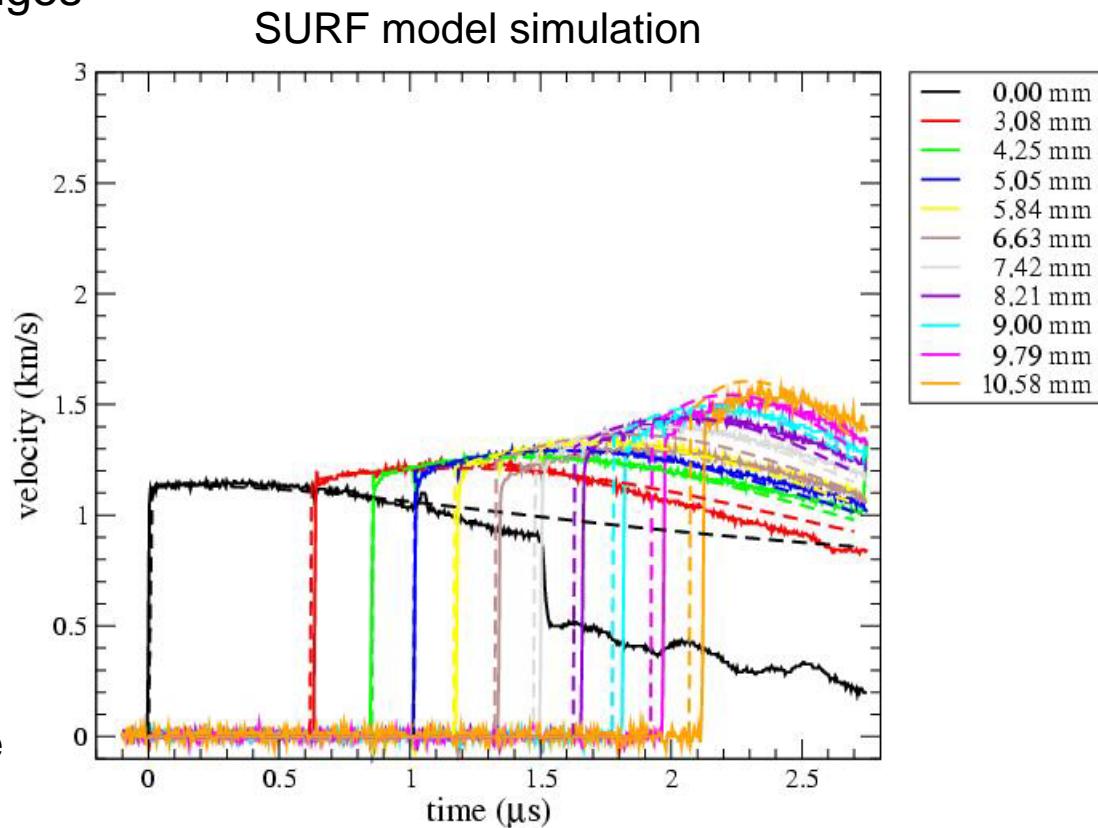
- Solid, experiment
- Dashed, simulation

Gas gun experiments

- Rick Gustavsen et al

Simulations

- **Amrita** environment
by James Quirk
Lagrangian equation set
and patch integrator for
Amr_sol computational engine



PBX 9502 – shock-to-detonation transition - 2

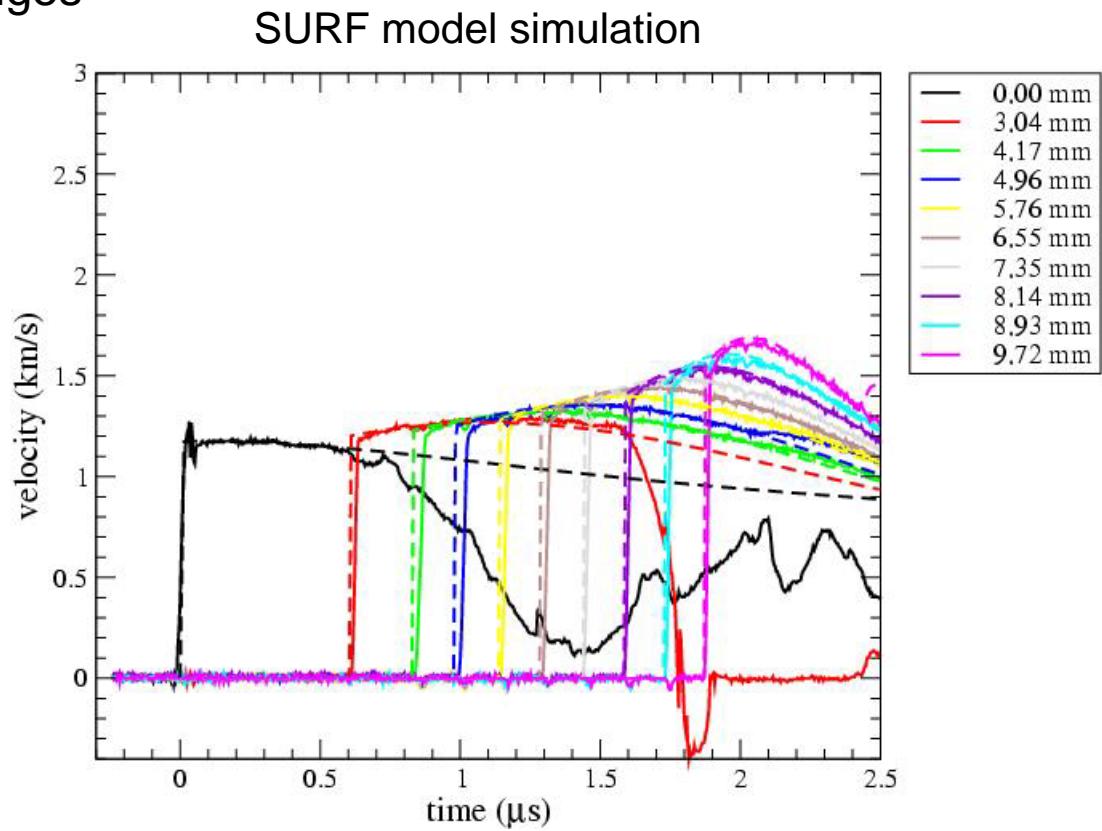
■ Sustained shock

- Embedded velocity gauges

Shot 2s42

$P_s = 11.2 \text{ GPa}$

- Solid, experiment
- Dashed, simulation



PBX 9502 – shock-to-detonation transition - 3

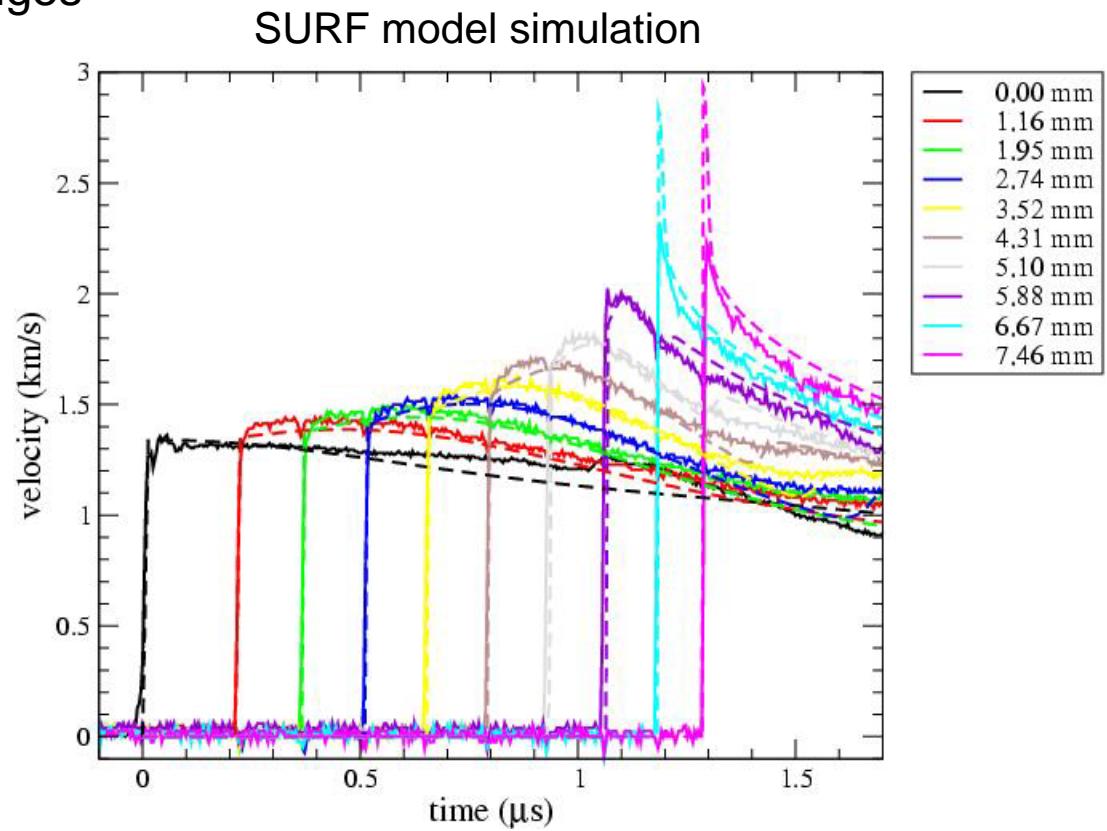
■ Sustained shock

- Embedded velocity gauges

Shot 2s40

$P_s = 13.5$ GPa

- Solid, experiment
- Dashed, simulation



PBX 9502 – shock-to-detonation transition - 4

■ Short shock

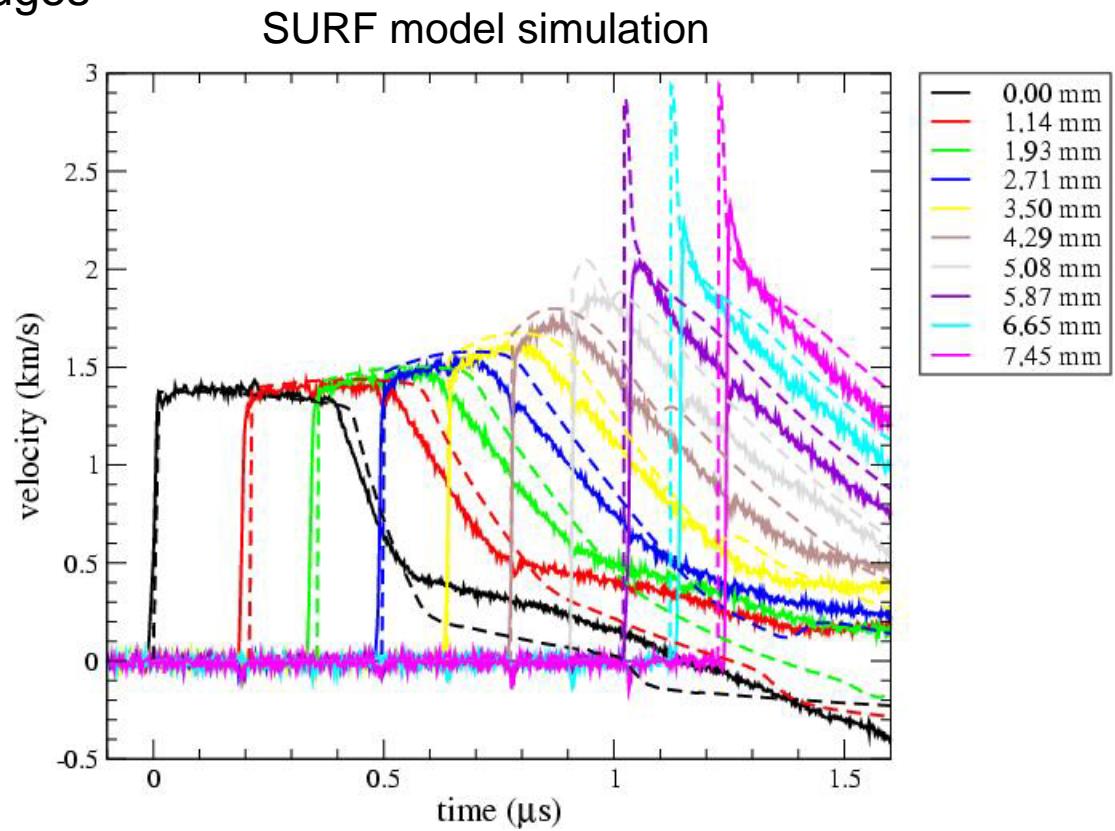
- Embedded velocity gauges

Shot 2s100

$P_s = 14.0 \text{ GPa}$

$\Delta t = 0.35 \mu\text{s}$

- Solid, experiment
- Dashed, simulation



PBX 9502 – shock-to-detonation transition - 5

■ Short shock

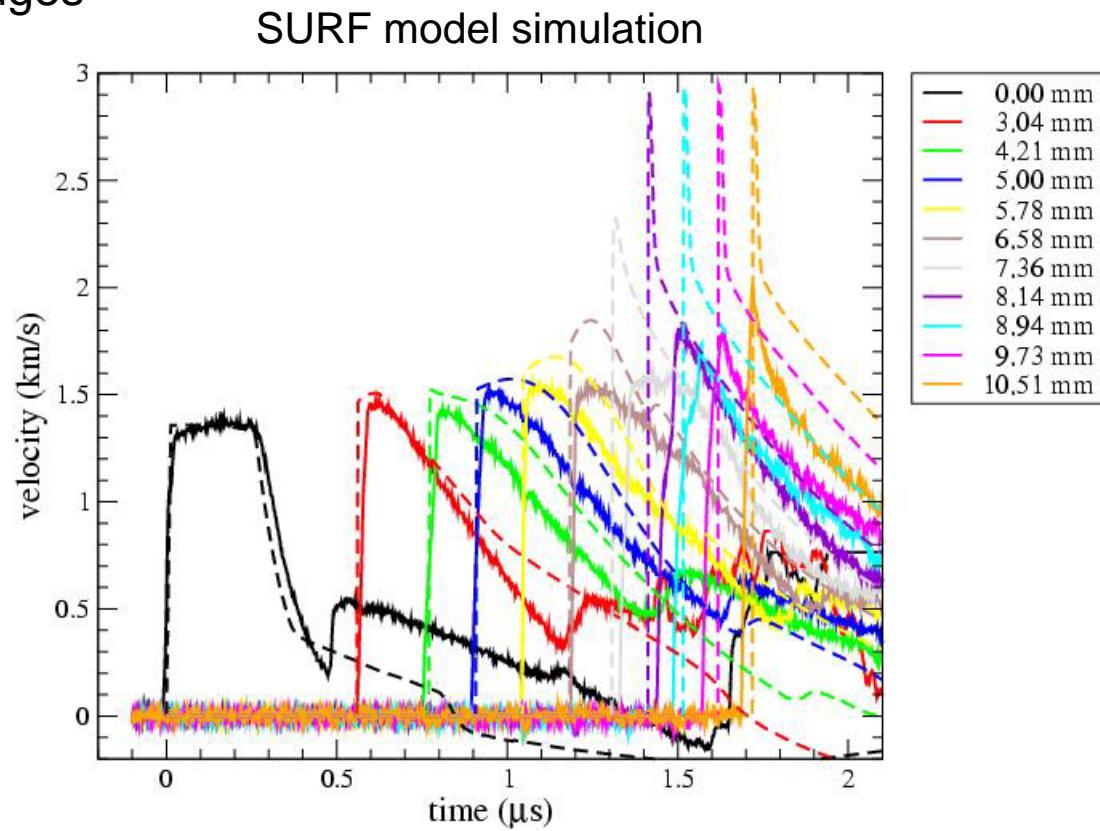
- Embedded velocity gauges

Shot 2s105

$P_s = 13.9$ GPa

$\Delta t = 0.27$ μ s

- Solid, experiment
- Dashed, simulation



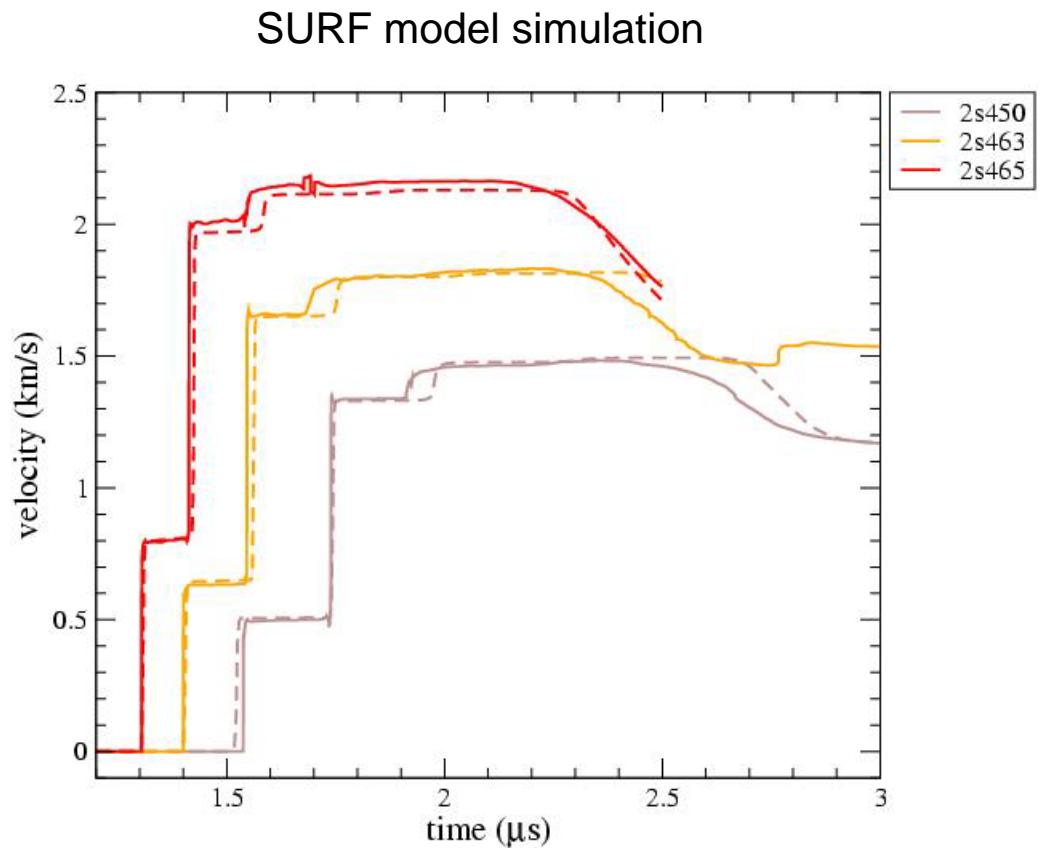
PBX 9502 – shock desensitization

■ Double shock

- PDV probes
 - Solid, experiment
 - Dashed, simulation

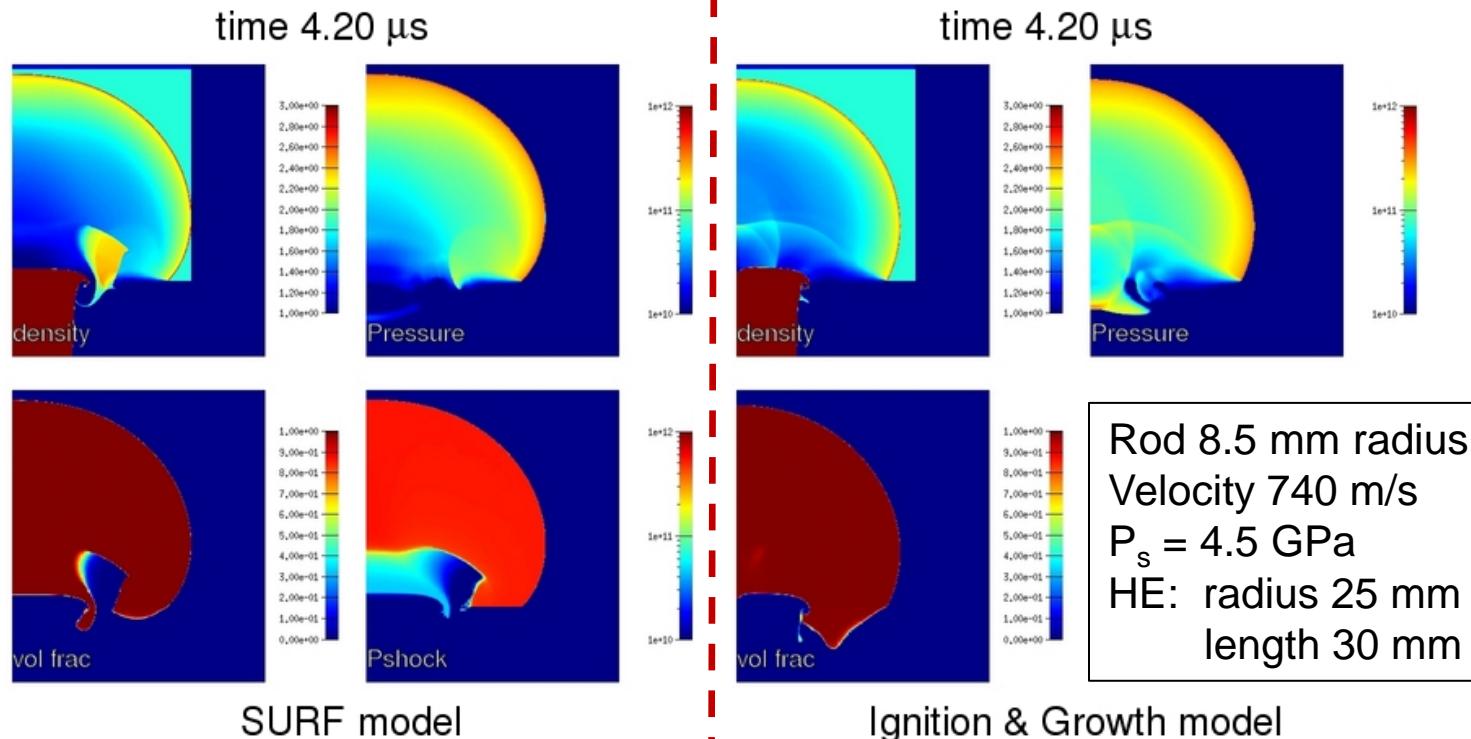
shot	P1	P2
	GPa	GPa
2s450	5.3	19
2s463	7.0	25
2s465	9.0	33

CJ pressure 28 GPa
VN spike pressure 42 GPa



PBX 9501 – shock initiation & corner turning

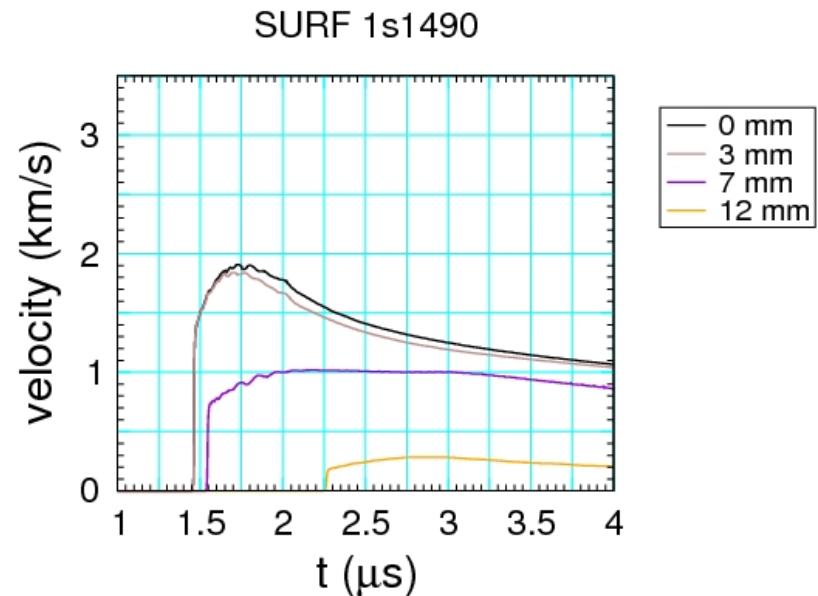
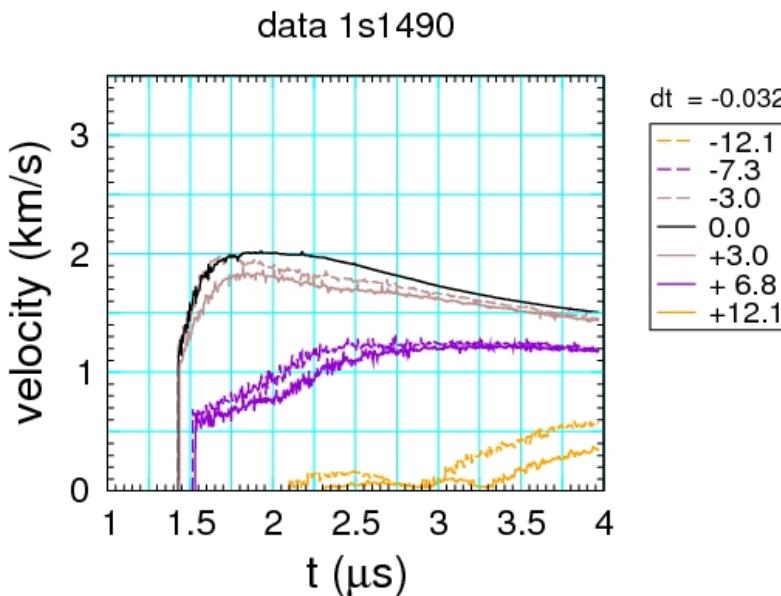
- Rod impact, xRage simulations (click on plots to see movie)



PBX 9501 Rod Impact Experiment: comparison 1

■ Shot 1s1490

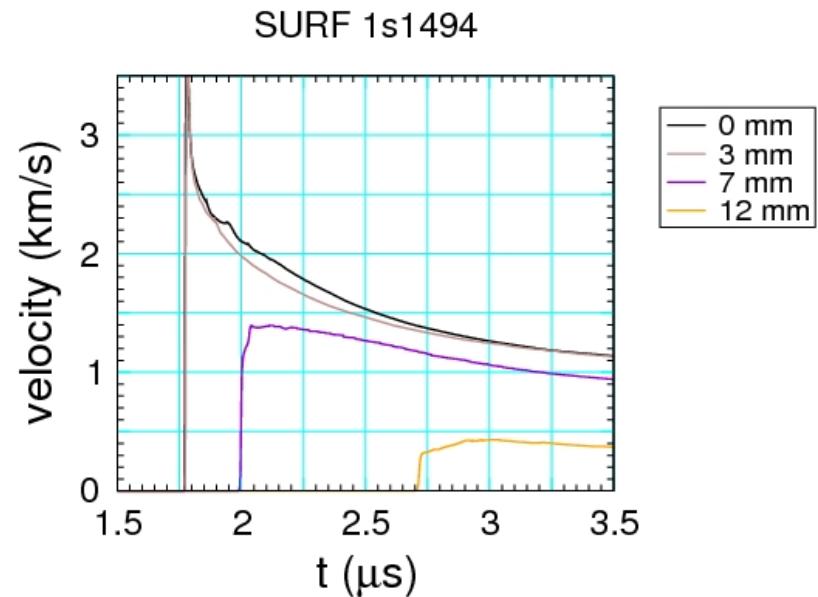
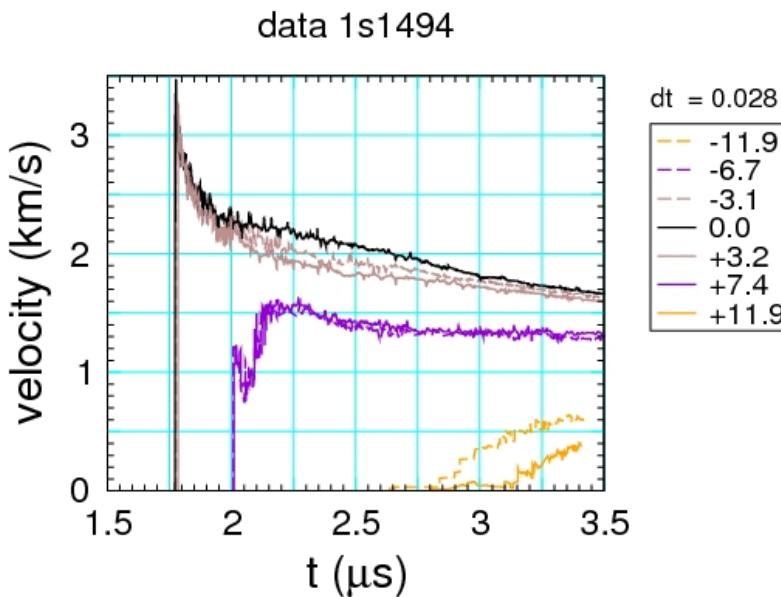
- HE 6 mm thick
- Below run distance on Pop plot
- No shock-to-detonation transition



PBX 9501 Rod Impact Experiment: comparison 2

■ Shot 1s1494

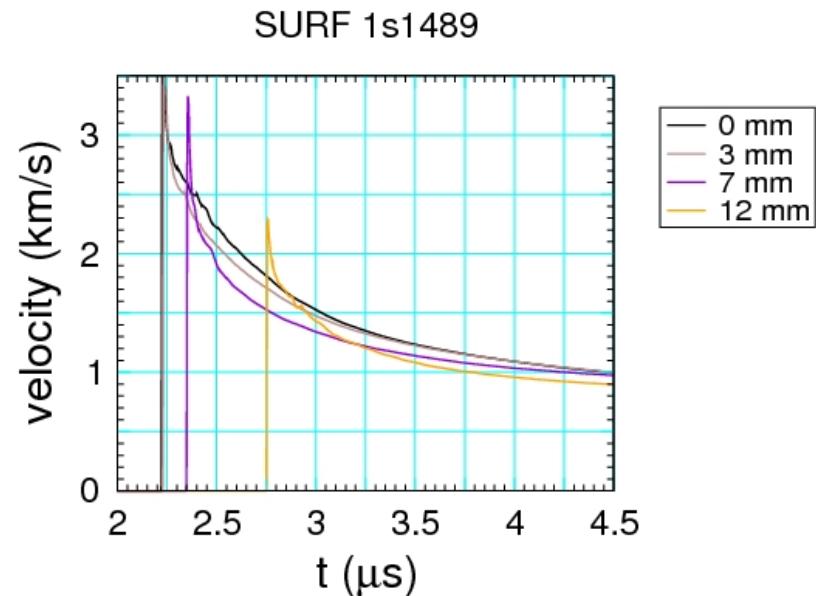
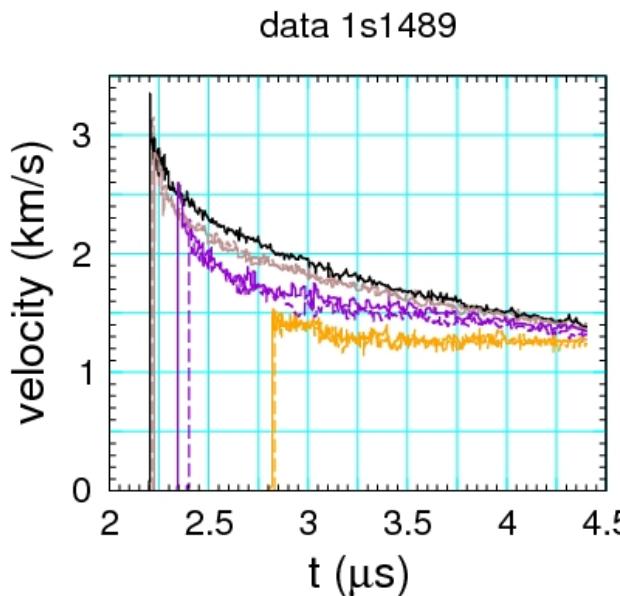
- HE 8 mm thick
- Shock-to-detonation transition on axis
- Detonation does not spread transverse direction



PBX 9501 Rod Impact Experiment: comparison 3

■ Shot 1s1489

- HE 12 mm thick
- Shock-to-detonation transition on axis
- Detonation spreads in transverse direction



PBX 9502 – curvature effect

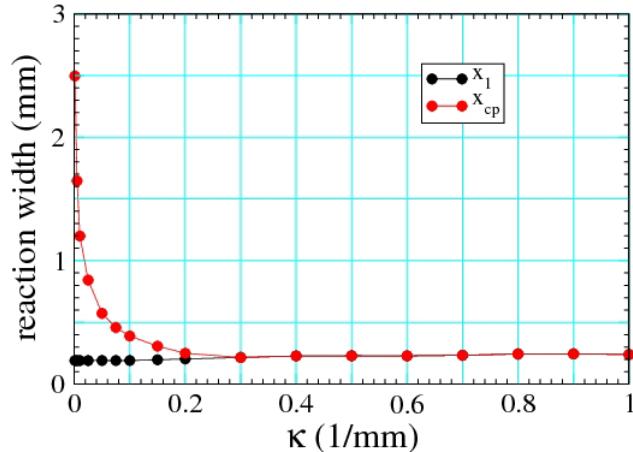
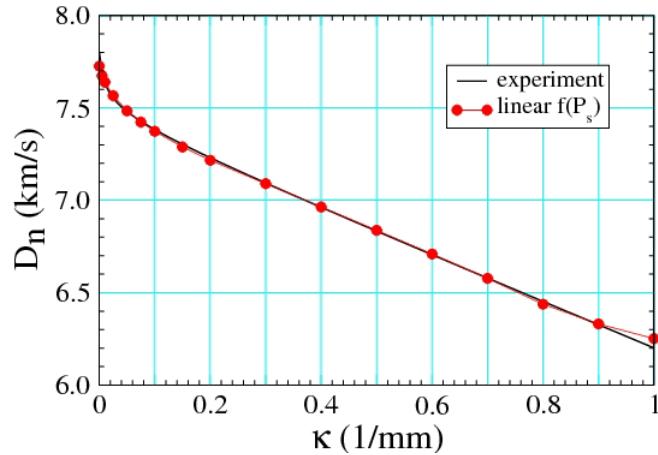
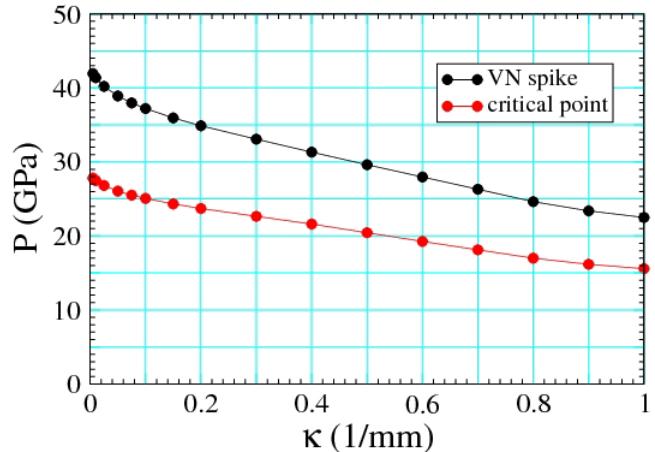
■ $D_n(\kappa)$ curve

D = Detonation speed

κ = front curvature

■ SURFplus model

- Quasi-steady ODEs
- Determines curved detonation state
- Requires high resolution



Model calibration

■ What data is available

- Small Scale Database

Extension and replacement for High Explosive Database

On line 4thQ FY2013 (Scovel & Menikoff)

Funded by V&V program (Wysocki)

■ Automate simulations

- Data file from Small Scale Database

Header block with key experimental parameters

■ Fitting parameters

- Minimize metric for “*goodness of fit*”

Weight function for data from many different experiments

Shock arrival times & velocity profiles with uncertainties

- Non-linear fit with many variables (up to 26 in WSD model)

Need good initial guess to start iteration & fix inessential parameters

Computational issues

■ Mesh resolution

- Hot spot reaction zone width ~ 0.1 mm
Comparable to grain size – smaller than needed for homogenization
- Need mesh refinement to track detonation front (AMR)

■ Curvature effect

- Detonation speed as function of front curvature
Affected by mesh resolution
- Detonation state for curved front
Depends on rate and reaction zone width
Issue for programmed burn (DSD) model

■ Accuracy requirement

- Detonation speed, CJ state and release isentrope
- Application simulations – typically not mesh converged

Coarse mesh, reactive shock rather than ZND profile

Predictive capability

- **Validation of HE model**
 - Need good EOS for reactants and products
 - Need to compare with wide range of detonation phenomenon
 - Large number of experiments to simulate
 - For each explosive
 - For each HE model (EOS + burn rate)
 - Need to automate simulations
- **Initiation sensitive to initial temperature and initial density**
 - Calibration for each T_0 and ρ_0
Treated as distinct explosive – effectively, many more explosives
- **Shock desensitization**
 - SURF model
 - Naturally accounts for desensitization, rate function of P_s
 - Possibly account for sensitivity change with initial temperature