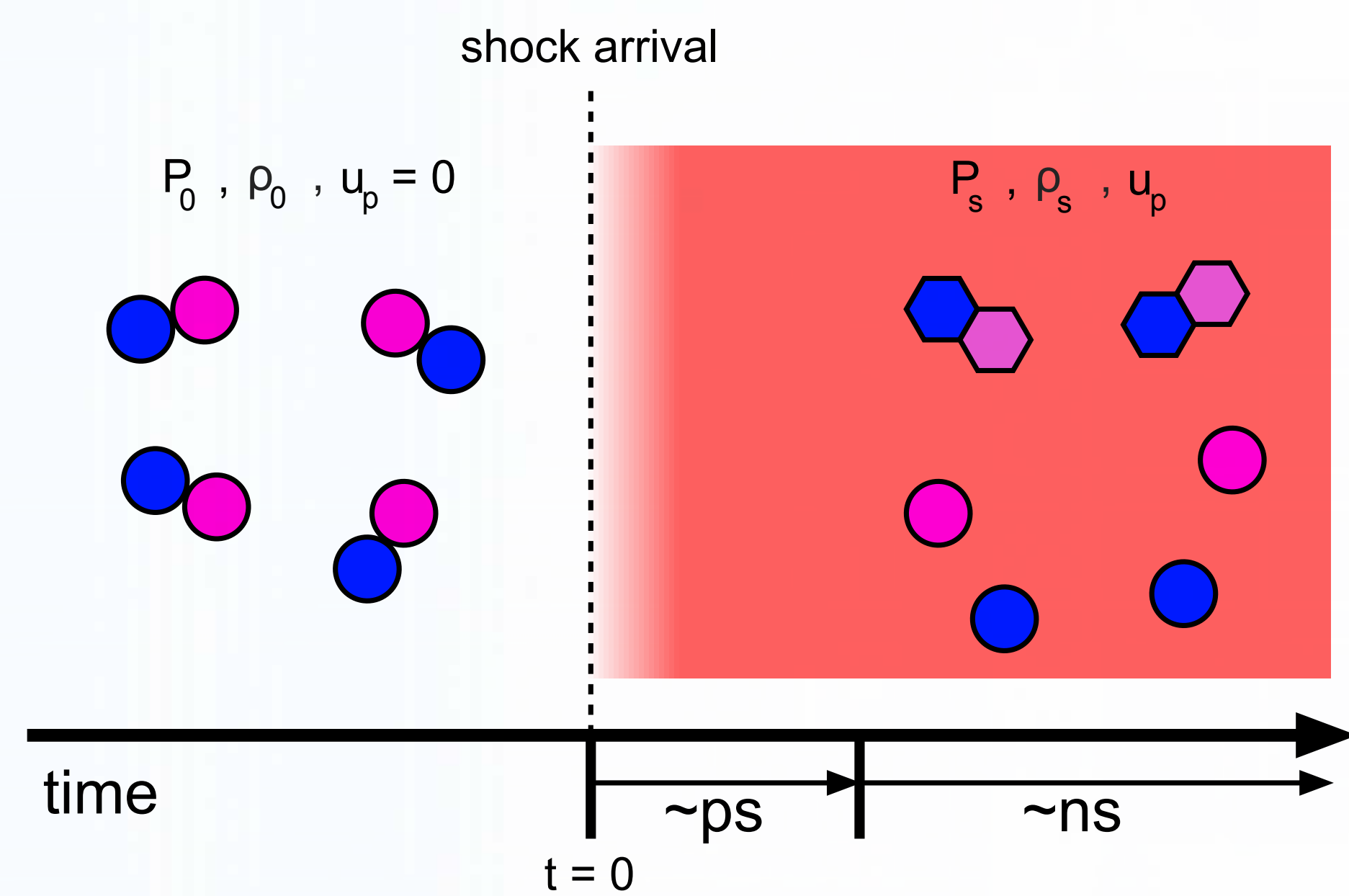


Ultrafast Shock Interrogation (USI) of Energetic Materials

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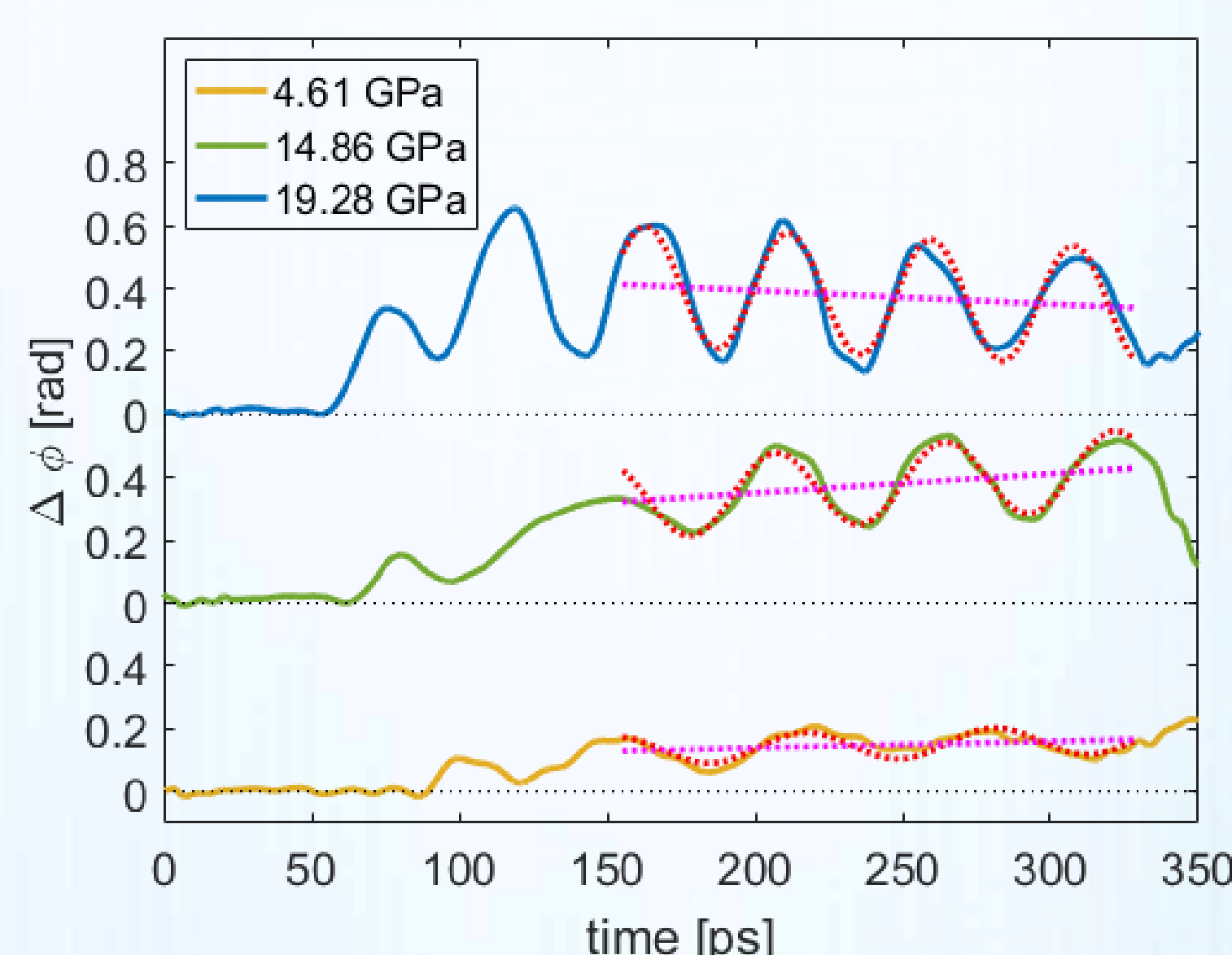
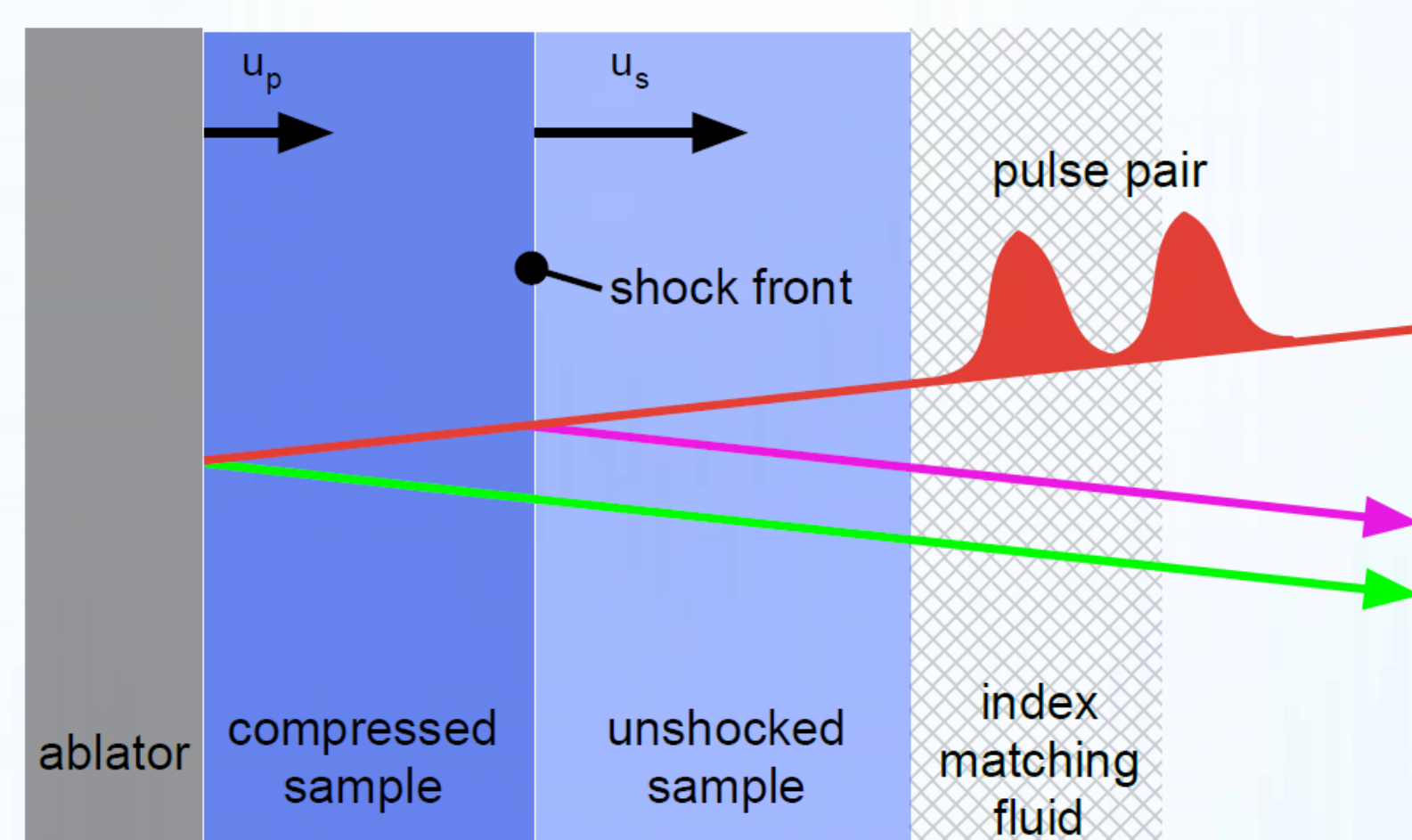
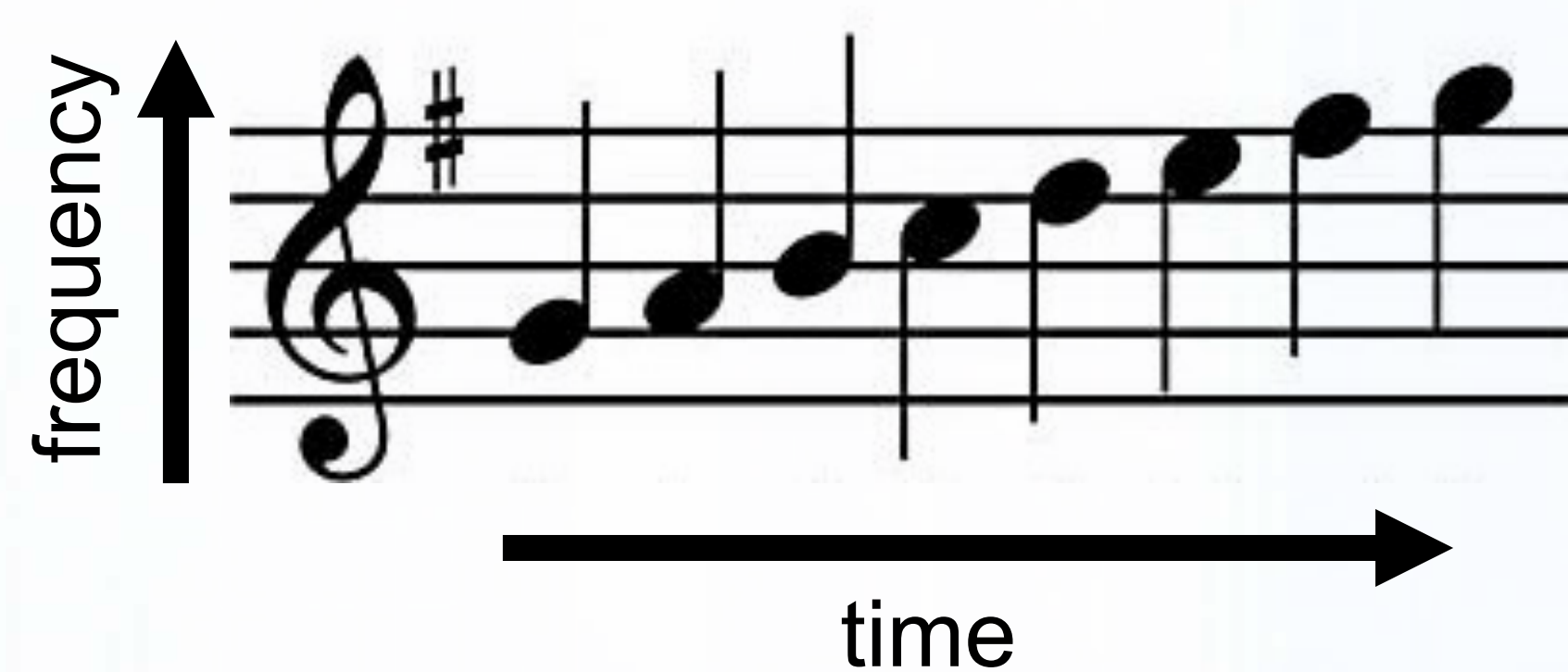
Introduction

- Shock waves can change the thermodynamic state of a material over the picosecond time scale.¹
- Understanding shock initiation of energetic materials requires the ability to diagnose the state of materials on the picosecond time scale of shock compression.²



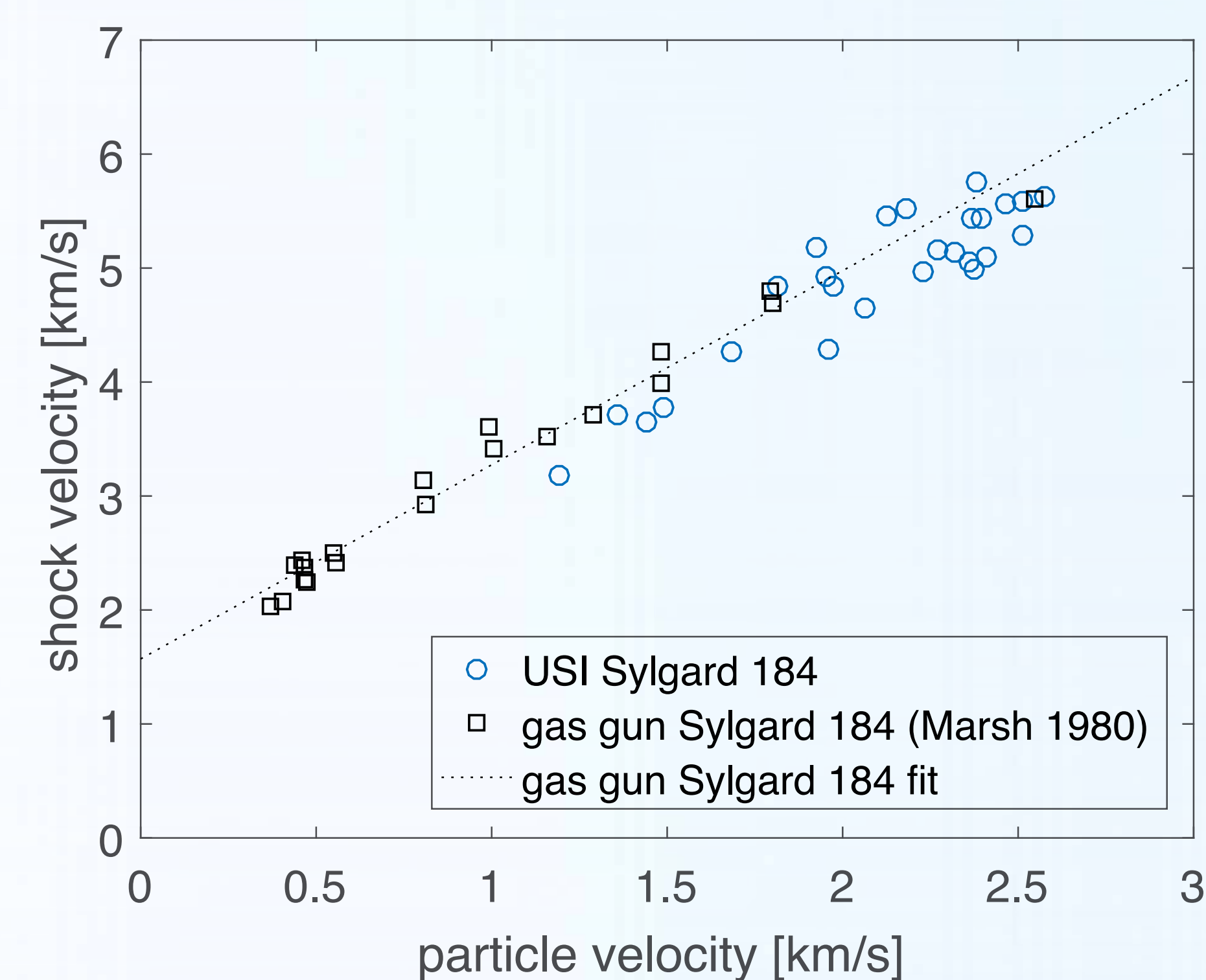
Experimental Methods

- Detonation chemistry is an irreversible process.
- Measure in time-frequency domain to probe the material during the initial stages of shock compression with high time resolution (~10 ps).
- Ultrafast pulses are linearly chirped to ~400 ps, which governs the temporal range and resolution of our measurements.
- Simultaneous spectral interferometry is used to retrieve phase information, which is where the particle and shock velocities are encrypted.
- Traveling shock wave compresses the material, which changes the thermodynamic and physical properties of the material (such as refractive index).
- The shock front and metallic ablator surface (typically Aluminum) act as a scanning optical etalon, with a total reflectance varying as the thickness of the shocked region.



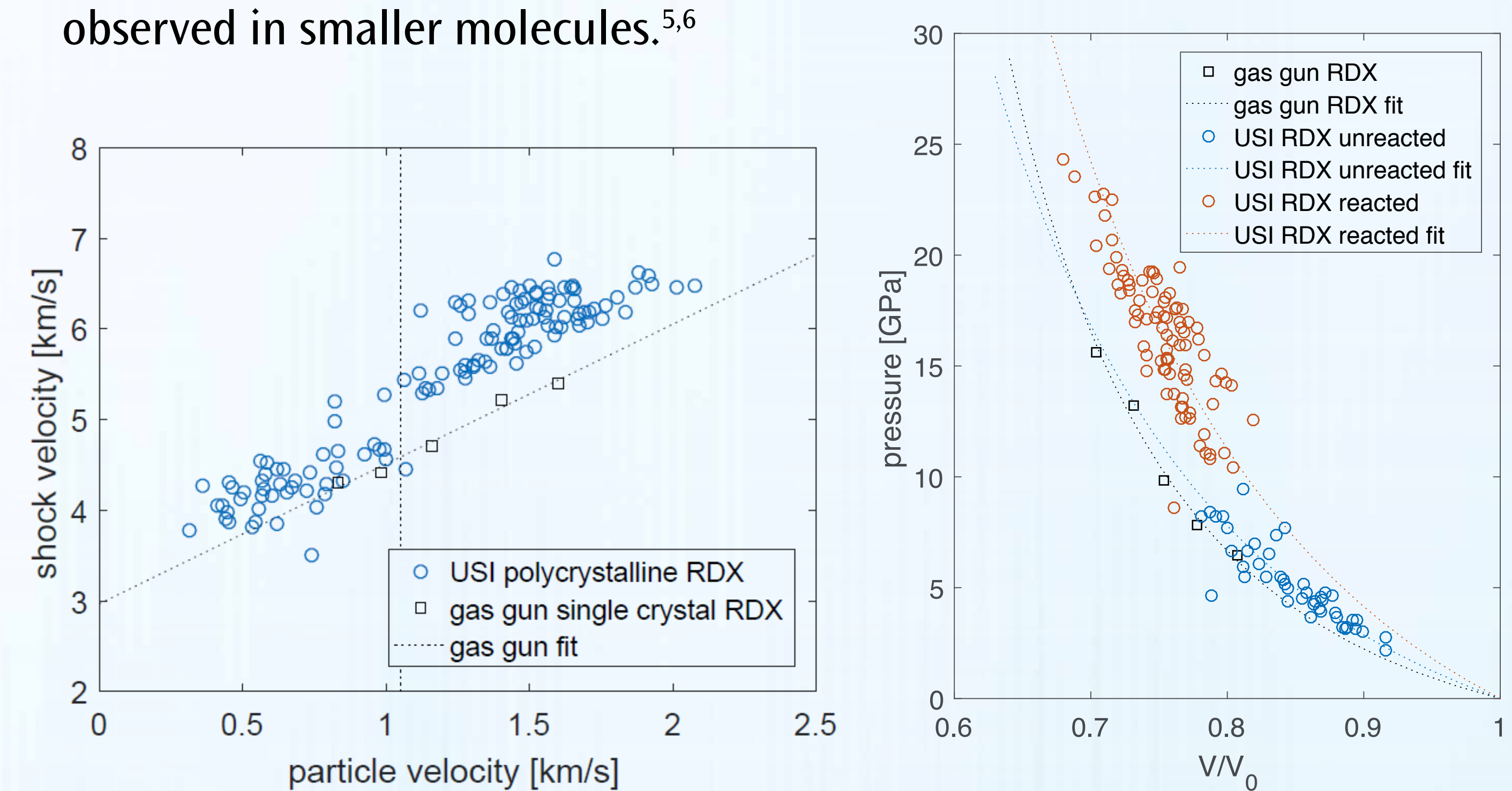
Results: Sylgard 184 (polymer)

- Good agreement with previously reported gas gun results on polymer, Sylgard 184.³
- USI results are expected to lie on gas gun results because there are no expected chemical or physical changes in the material under shock compression.



Results: Polycrystalline RDX

- Good agreement with previously reported (unreacted) single crystal RDX gas gun data at lower pressures.⁴ (Small discrepancies are attributed to a lower initial density in prepared RDX films.)
- Observation of volume expansion at ~9 GPa – signature of exothermic chemical reaction.
- Ultrafast shock induced chemical reactions have been previously observed in smaller molecules.^{5,6}



Conclusions

- USI has the temporal and spatial capabilities relevant for measuring shock initiation.
- First USI measurements on polycrystalline RDX.
- Measurements that can resolve chemical reactions can lead to capabilities of measuring performance of energetic materials.
- Theoretical calculations are in progress to validate experimental results.
- Simultaneous measurement of electronic absorption can help elucidate the mechanism of initiation of energetic materials

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