



In order to validate the magneto-hydrodynamic code ALEGRA, computer simulations and experiments of exploding wires in air are compared. Of particular interest is the evolution of the shock wave as it changes from its cylindrical shape early in time where it is expanding quickly to the more slowly varying spherical shape. The shock wave generated by exploding a 5-mm-long, 96.35-um-diameter aluminum wire in air is imaged using a laser schlieren technique. This image shows the experimental image along with the ALEGRA simulation. The Andor ICCD image shows the aluminum wire explodes from both sides simultaneously