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**Title:** Detonation Waves in High Explosives

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# Detonation Waves in High Explosives



**Ralph Menikoff, T-1**

HE seminar series  
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# Lectures: Detonation Waves in High Explosives

## Part I: Overview

1. Introduction
2. Solid high explosives

## Part II: Theory

3. Reactive flow equations
4. Detonation wave relations
5. Planar detonation wave

## Part III: Detonation phenomena

6. Shock-to-detonation transition
7. Hotspot burn rate
8. Diameter effect and curvature effect
9. Failure diameter, corner turning and dead zones
10. EOS data



# Lecture 1 outline

## 1. Introduction

What is an explosion

What is an explosive

Explosive applications

High explosive & Detonation wave

Detonation wave properties

Detonation wave vs Shock wave

Detonation wave width

Chemical energy released

Measurement of energy released

# What is an explosion

## Conditions for an explosion

- **Energetic material**  
Can undergo an exothermic chemical reaction (release energy)
- **Sufficiently high reaction rate and confinement**  
To support a propagating reactive wave

Explosion is large energy release on short time scale

## Examples

1. Catastrophic explosion of **2000 tons ammonium nitrate** in Beirut, Lebanon (August 2020)
2. **Aerosols**: Suspensions of solid particles or liquid droplets in a gas
  - Fuel droplets in air
  - Coal dust in mine
  - Grain dust in silo
  - **sugar particles** in refinery, Port Wentworth, Ga (2008)

# What is an explosive

## Explosive

- Energetic material that contains both fuel and oxidizer  
In contrast, aerosol oxidizer from  $O_2$  in air  
Particle surface burning requires diffusion of oxidizer
- Supports quasi-steady propagating reactive wave  
Called a **detonation wave**

## Detonation wave

1. Lead shock triggers fast reaction
2. Reaction releases chemical energy
3. Energy release supports lead shock
4. Detonation wave can be self-sustaining (unsupported)

Once initiated a detonation wave is self-sustaining  
and releases large amount of energy on  $\mu s$  time scale

# Explosive applications

## Applications of explosives

1. Mining, construction, demolition
2. Explosive welding, jet cutter with shaped charge, explosive bolts
3. Argon flash lamp, [explosive art](#)
4. Drive projectile to high velocity (several km/s)  
High pressure EOS data (LASL Shock Hugoniot Data, Ed. S. Marsh, 1980)
5. [Explosive driven flux compression generator](#) (30 MA at 10 kV)
6. Weapons

# High explosives & Detonation waves

Compared to gaseous explosive, solid explosives have much higher density and higher energy per volume  
They are referred to as **high explosive** (HE)

Solid high explosive with 1 reaction

Reactants  $\rightarrow$  Products + energy release

Meta-stable reactants  $\Rightarrow$  Irreversible reaction

Reactive burn models differ in

1. EOS used for partly reacted HE
2. Burn rate (not simply chemical rate)

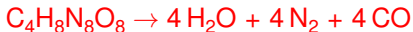
Detonation wave (lead shock followed by reaction zone)

- For large burn rate  $\sim 100 / \mu\text{s}$  and high detonation wave speed  
Reaction zone is very narrow,  $\sim 0.1 \text{ mm}$
- Pressure rise is abrupt and shock 'like', especially for simulations with cell size comparable to the reaction zone width

# Detonation wave properties

## Detonation wave properties for PBX 9501

initial density	1.84	g/cc
pressure	35.	GPa
detonation speed	8.8	km/s
sound speed	6.6	km/s
energy release	5.0	MJ/kg



## Perspective on energy release

sugar not explosive but burning  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{11} + 12 \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 12 \text{CO}_2 + 11 \text{H}_2\text{O}$   
 releases 3.94 kcal/g = 16.5 MJ/kg, more energy per mass than PBX 9501

## Example

KE of 2 ton car at 100 mph = 1.8 MJ = 1 kWh

same energy as 5.8 cm cube (360 g) of PBX 9501 released in 6.6  $\mu\text{s}$

Also PBX 9501 can drive projectile up to sound speed ( $14.7 \times 10^3$  mph)

# Detonation wave vs Shock wave

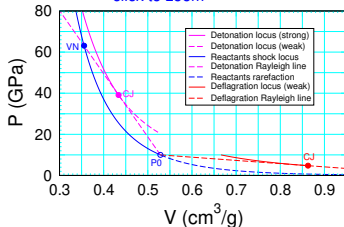
## Both shock and detonation loci

- Hugoniot equation for 1-D waves  

$$e = e_0 + \frac{1}{2}(P(V, e) + P_0)(V_0 - V)$$

$P$  with reactants EOS for shock  
and products EOS for detonation
- Compressive waves
- Supersonic ahead  
Subsonic behind, CJ state sonic

click to zoom

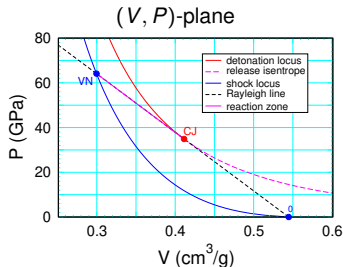
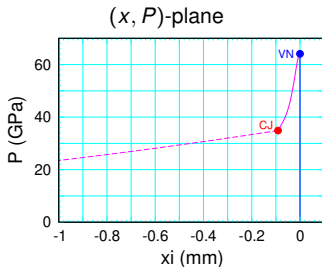


## Detonation wave locus only

- Locus shifts up wrt initial state
- Rayleigh line tangent at 'CJ' point
- CJ (Chapman-Jouguet) state**  
 Minimum detonation speed  
 Unsupported detonation & sonic  
 Decouples from acoustic waves
- Above CJ state (strong branch)  
 Overdriven detonation waves  
 Decay without support, 'shock like'
- Below CJ state (weak branch)  
 Unphysical branch (no wave profile)
- Expansive deflagration branch  
 Slow burn mode, low wave speed  
 Explosive also propellant

# Detonation wave width

## Detonation wave reaction-zone width [◀ return](#)



- Detonation profile

From VN spike on reactants shock locus to CJ state on detonation loci

- In contrast to shock wave

Detonation wave width is physical length scale

Depends on burn rate

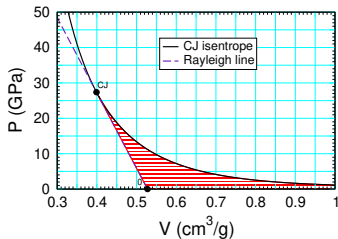
- Effects detonation phenomena (*e.g.*, curvature effect)



# Chemical energy released

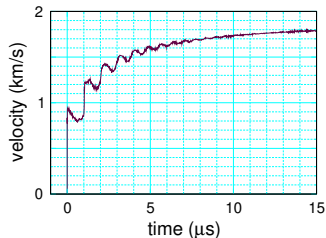
Heat of detonation is change in enthalpy ( $H = e + PV$ ) between products expanded out to  $P = 0$  and reactants state

Heat release  
 $-\Delta$  enthalpy is area shown in red



► cylinder test

Cylinder test wall velocity



convert HE energy to KE of wall

Useful energy limited by expansion

At expansion of  $V/V_0 = 7$ ,  $P \approx 0.1$  GPa  
 and recover above 80% of chemical energy

# Measurement of energy released

- Bomb calorimeter**

Large volume implies small change in pressure when HE reacts

1. Inert gas in calorimeter gives **heat of detonation**
2. Air in calorimeter gives **heat of combustion**

Additional reactions with oxygen in air

For oxygen poor explosives, such as for TNT

- Heat of reaction**

Equilibrium products constituents mass fractions from thermo-chemical code

(rapid expansion may freeze out products *e.g.*, liquid or gaseous  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )

Reactants  $\rightarrow \sum_i \nu_i \text{prod}_i$  where  $\nu_i$  are stoichiometry coefficients

$$\Delta H_{\text{reaction}} = \sum_i \nu_i H_{\text{prod}_i} - H_{\text{reactants}}$$

where  $H_{\text{prod}_i}$  and  $H_{\text{reactants}}$  are heats of formation

and  $\Delta H_{\text{reaction}}$  is either heat of combustion or heat of detonation

## Convention for heat release

$$Q = -\Delta H_{\text{reaction}} \begin{cases} > 0 & \text{for exothermic reaction} \\ < 0 & \text{for endothermic reaction} \end{cases}$$

# End Lecture 1. Introduction

## Questions

# Lecture 2 outline

## 2. Solid high explosives

- HE molecules

- Plastic-bonded explosive

- PBX manufacture

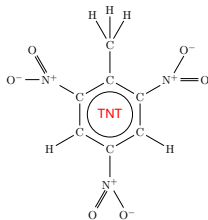
- Example of meso-scale structure

- Heterogeneities and burn rate

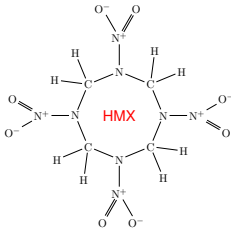
- HE reactive burn models

# HE molecules

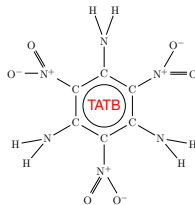
TriNitro-Toluene



cyclo-tetramethylene-tetranitramine



TriAmino-Trinitro-Benzene



TNT (21 atoms):  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_5\text{N}_3\text{O}_6 \rightarrow 2.5 \text{ H}_2\text{O} + 1.5 \text{ N}_2 + 3.5 \text{ CO} + 3.5 \text{ C}$

HMX (28 atoms):  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{N}_8\text{O}_8 \rightarrow 4 \text{ H}_2\text{O} + 4 \text{ N}_2 + 4 \text{ CO}$

TATB (24 atoms):  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6\text{N}_6\text{O}_6 \rightarrow 3 \text{ H}_2\text{O} + 3 \text{ N}_2 + 3 \text{ CO} + 3 \text{ C}$

TNT melts at 80 C and thermal runaway at 228 C.

TNT can be cast or pressed into HE

HMX crystallites: coarse/fine similar size to table/powdered sugar

TATB crystallite slightly smaller than HMX

HMX or TATB crystallites need binder to form HE

# Plastic-bonded explosive

## Plastic-Bonded Explosive (PBX)

1. Explosive grains
2. Polymeric binder
3. pores

### Examples

- **PBX 9501**, conventional HE (CHE)  
95 wt % **HMX** + 2.5 % estane + 2.5 % elasto-plasticizer
- **PBX 9502**, insensitive HE (IHE)  
95 wt % **TATB** + 5 % Kel-F

	TNT	HMX based PBX 9501	TATB based PBX 9502	
$\rho_0$	1.64	1.84	1.89	g/cc
$P_{cj}$	19.	35.	28.	GPa
$D_{cj}$	6.9	8.8	7.8	km/s
$-\Delta H_{det}$	4.2	5.0	3.5	MJ/kg

# PBX manufacture

## 1. Batch of molding powder

Combine coarse and fine HE grains

Random closed packing of spheres, vol fraction 64 %

Coat grains with binder to form granules (conglomerate of grains)

## 2. Blend batches into a lot

Heterogeneities more similar within a lot than between lots

## 3. Heat and press molding powder to form PBX

Compress out porosity to achieve specified density

Grains can fracture and change size distribution

Grain orientation can align with pressing direction

### • PBX specification on molding powder

Minimize local variations of heterogeneities

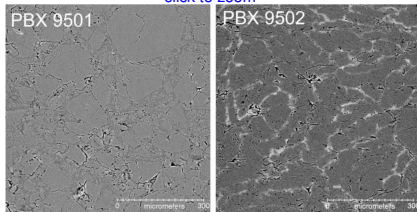
Spatial average more uniform and behavior more reproducible

### • Improve accuracy comparing experimental data

Use same lot and correct for firing temperature and density

# Example of meso-scale structure

[click to zoom](#)



## Computer X-ray micro-tomography images

[Patterson \*et al.\*, 2020](#) fig 3a,b

Slices through samples ( $0.8 \mu\text{m}$  pixel size)

Can see grains and pores greater than  $1 \mu\text{m}$

Issues with binder contrast and resolution

## nano tomography of TATB grains

[Patterson \*et al.\*, 2022](#)

Smaller field of view with higher resolution

## ultra-small angle neutron scattering (USANS)

Pore diameter ranged from  $0.1$  to  $10 \mu\text{m}$ .

Analysis of volume averaged pore and binder size distributions

depend on assumption for form factors (spherical, cylindrical)

- **PBX 9501** [Mang \*et al.\*, 2010](#)

Peak and mean pore diameter,  $0.7$  and  $2.2 \mu\text{m}$  (spherical)

Binder thickness peak and mean  $0.14$  and  $0.16 \mu\text{m}$  (cylindrical)

- **PBX 9502** [Thompson \*et al.\*, 2010](#)

Large volume fraction of pores with diameter less than  $1 \mu\text{m}$



# Heterogeneities and burn rate

## Underlying physics issues

- **Shock initiation experiments show**  
Chemical reaction rate from shock temperature orders of magnitude too small for observed time to detonation
- **Shock in heterogeneous HE**  
Temperature variations behind lead shock
- **Chemical rate temperature sensitive**  
Localized regions of high temperature called 'hotspots'  
Generated by pore collapse dominate burn rate
- **Not feasible for simulations to resolve sub-micron hotspots**  
Need sub-grid model for burn rate that averages out short wavelengths  
Burn rate is spatial average of chemical rate over length scale of heterogeneities

**Burn rate depends on meso-scale structure of PBX**

# HE reactive burn models

## Homogenized reactive burn model for heterogeneous solid HE

1. HE treated as homogeneous material  
Characterized by  $V$ ,  $e$  and **mass fraction of products  $\lambda$**
2. EOS for partly burned HE function of  $(V, e, \lambda)$   
Typically,  $P$ ,  $T$  equilibrium of reactants and products
3. Empirical burn rate to account for heterogeneities  
Distribution and dynamics of hotspots not understood (no data)  
well enough to develop sub-grid model for burn rate  
Typically burn rate strongly depends on  $P$  rather than  $T$   
Major difference with gaseous detonation
4. **Burn rate calibrated to experimental data**  
Scatter in data from heterogeneities affects accuracy

Following lectures on theory then detonation phenomena and experimental data that can be used to calibrate burn rate.

# End Lecture 2. Solid high explosives

## Questions

# Lecture 3 outline

## 3. Reactive flow equations

- Model PDEs

- Single irreversible reaction

- EOS for partly burned HE

- P-T equilibrium

- Ideal explosive EOS

- Energy source term

- Characteristic equations

- Shock state & characteristics

- Shock acceleration

# Model PDEs

## Reactive Euler equations

Conservation form for one reaction progress variable  $\lambda$

$$\partial_t \begin{pmatrix} \rho \\ \rho u \\ \rho(e + \frac{1}{2}u^2) \\ \rho\lambda \end{pmatrix} + \partial_x \begin{pmatrix} \rho u \\ \rho u^2 + \underline{P} \\ \rho u(e + \frac{1}{2}u^2 + \underline{P}V) \\ \rho u\lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \rho \underline{Q\mathcal{R}} \\ \rho \underline{\mathcal{R}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$\rho$ ,  $u$ ,  $e$  are density, particle velocity and specific internal energy

$\underline{Q}$  is specific energy release and  $\underline{\mathcal{R}}(V, e, \lambda)$  is reaction rate

Hydro and reaction coupled through the pressure  $\underline{P}(V, e, \lambda)$

For an explosive  $(\partial_\lambda \underline{P})_{V,e} > 0$

**Shock relations:** mass and reaction equations imply  $\lambda$  is continuous

Last component reduces to **rate equation** (like ODE along particle path)

$$(d/dt)\lambda = (\partial_t + u\partial_x)\lambda = \mathcal{R}$$

# Single irreversible reaction

## Typical assumption on rate for solid HE

- $\lambda$  is mass fraction of products  
Hence  $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$
- Irreversible reaction  
Hence  $\mathcal{R} \geq 0$
- Rate vanishes when reactants depleted  
Hence,  $\mathcal{R} \rightarrow 0$  as  $\lambda \rightarrow 1$
- **Why single reaction**  
Homogenized burn model for heterogeneous solid HE  
Reactive wave outward from hotspots dominates burning  
Multi-step reactions on slower time scale of thermal ignition
- **Why irreversible reaction**  
Hotspot burn model implies fully burned reaction regions within background of reactants

# EOS for partly burned HE

EOS:  $P(V, e, \lambda)$ ,  $T(V, e, \lambda)$

1. Reactants EOS for  $\lambda = 0$ , unreacted
2. Products EOS for  $\lambda = 1$ , completely burned
3. Mixture rule to interpolate for  $0 < \lambda < 1$

Typically, P-T equilibrium for partly burned HE

- Gibbs free energy  
 $G(P, T, \lambda) = \lambda G_p(P, T) + (1 - \lambda) G_r(P, T)$   
 Unique solution provided reactants and products  
EOS are thermodynamically consistent and stable
- Products hotspots and reactants not in temperature equilibrium  
Calibrated rate can compensate for mixture rule  
 Rate dominated by pressure (for most models)

In principle can use 2-phase model with 2 temperatures

Different set of issues (additional jump condition needed for energy)

# P-T equilibrium

Frequently used mixture rule is *P-T* equilibrium

Given  $V, e, \lambda$  find  $V_p, e_p$  and  $V_r, e_r$  such that

$$P(V, e, \lambda) = P_p(V_p, e_p) = P_r(V_r, e_r)$$

$$T(V, e, \lambda) = T_p(V_p, e_p) = T_r(V_r, e_r)$$

$$V = \lambda V_p + (1 - \lambda) V_r$$

$$e = \lambda e_p + (1 - \lambda) e_r$$

Subscripts 'p' and 'r' denote products and reactants, respectively

Corresponds to phase separation between reactants and products

Evaluation of  $P$  and  $T$  requires iteration algorithm

Computationally more expensive than analytic EOS

Solid EOS in expansion may lose thermodynamic stability,  $K_T < 0$   
and P-T equilibrium solution break down



# Ideal explosive EOS

Reactants (ideal gas)

$$P_r(V, e) = (\gamma - 1)e/V$$

$$T_r(V, e) = e/C_V$$

Products (ideal gas with energy offset  $Q$ )

$$P_p(V, e) = (\gamma - 1)(e + Q)/V$$

$$T_p(V, e) = (e + Q)/C_V$$

PT equilibrium

$$V_r = V_p = V$$

$$e_p = e - (1 - \lambda) Q$$

$$e_r = e + \lambda Q$$

Equivalent to

$$P(V, e, \lambda) = (\gamma - 1)(e + \lambda Q)/V$$

$$T(V, e, \lambda) = (e + \lambda Q)/C_V$$

# Energy source term

## Relative energy origins of products and reactants

PDEs invariant under transformation

$$P'_p(V, e) = P_p(V, e + q)$$

$$(d/dt)e = -P'(d/dt)V + (Q - q)(d/dt)\lambda$$

if EOS mixture rule satisfies  $e = \lambda e_p + (1 - \lambda)e_r$

## Heat release can be

explicit,  $Q$  in energy equation

or offset in energy origin between reactants and products  $q$

or both ▶ Hugoniot eq

## Convention to eliminate energy source term

Chose  $e_0 = 0$  for reactants and energy origin of products

such that  $P_{cj} = P_p(V_{cj}, e_{cj})$  where  $e_{cj} = \frac{1}{2}P_{cj} \cdot (V_0 - V_{cj})$

Then no source term in energy equation, *i.e.*,  $Q - q = 0$

# Characteristic equations

## Acoustic wave families

[◀ return](#)

$$(d/dt + c\partial_x)P + \rho c (d/dt + c\partial_x)u = s\mathcal{R}, \quad \text{along } dx/dt = u + c$$

$$(d/dt - c\partial_x)P - \rho c (d/dt - c\partial_x)u = s\mathcal{R}, \quad dx/dt = u - c$$

## Contact wave families

$$(d/dt)P + (\rho c)^2(d/dt)V = s\mathcal{R}, \quad \text{along } dx/dt = u$$

$$(d/dt)\lambda = \mathcal{R}, \quad dx/dt = u$$

where

$d/dt = \partial_t + u\partial_x$  is the convective time derivative

$S$  and  $T$  are entropy and temperature

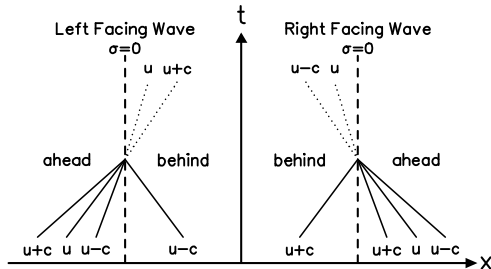
$$s = (\partial_\lambda P)_{V,e} + \Gamma \rho Q$$

$\Gamma = (V\partial_e P)_{V,\lambda}$  is the Grünesien coefficient

Characteristic velocities (wave speeds) are  $u + c$ ,  $u - c$  and  $u$

# Shock state & characteristics

## Characteristics in rest frame of shock front



- Ahead state**

Determined by characteristics ahead of shock front

- Behind state**

Shock locus from ahead state

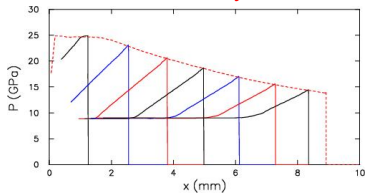
Incoming characteristic behind front

Source terms affect behind state

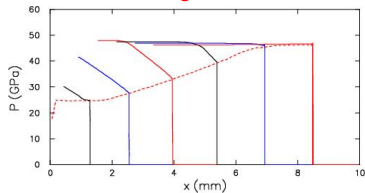
# Shock acceleration

Pressure profiles at sequence of times

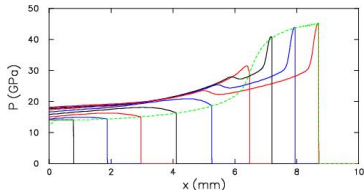
rarefaction wave  
shock decays



compressive wave  
shock growths



shock-to-detonation transition  
reaction accelerates shock



► detonation wave

# End Lecture 3. Reactive flow equations

## Questions

# Lecture 4 outline

## 4. Detonation wave relations

- Shock relations

- CJ state relations

- Shock and detonation loci

- Detonation speed dependence on initial state

- Experimental reaction-zone profile

- Detonation locus from EOS

- Programmed burn

- Solutions to PDEs for programmed burn model

# Shock relations

$$e = \lambda Q + e_0 + \frac{1}{2} [P(V, e, \lambda) + P_0] \cdot (V_0 - V) \quad \text{◀ return}$$

$\lambda = 0$  gives reactants shock locus (reactants EOS)

$\lambda = 1$  gives the products detonation locus (products EOS)

- When ahead state is at rest  $u_0 = 0$

$$P = P_0 + \rho_0 u D \text{ and } V/V_0 = 1 - u/D$$

Measurement of particle velocity and wave speeds  $u$  and  $D$  determines point on shock/detonation locus

- $\frac{P - P_0}{V_0 - V} = (\rho_0 D)^2$

Slope of Rayleigh line in  $(V, P)$ -plane

- $(\Delta u)^2 = (P - P_0)(V_0 - V)$

Change in particle velocity from thermodynamic variables

Straight forward to transform from  $(V, P)$ -plane to  $(u_p, D)$ -plane



# CJ state relations

Jump relations and sonic condition imply ( $P_0 = 0$ )

$$P_{CJ} = \frac{\rho_0 D_{CJ}^2}{\gamma + 1}$$

$$V_{CJ} = \frac{\gamma}{\gamma + 1} V_0$$

$$u_{CJ} = \frac{D_{CJ}}{\gamma + 1}$$

$$c_{CJ} = \frac{\gamma}{\gamma + 1} D_{CJ}$$

where  $\gamma = c^2/(PV)$  is adiabatic exponent at CJ state

$$D_{CJ} > c_{CJ} > \frac{1}{2} D_{CJ} > u_{CJ}, \text{ if } \gamma > 1$$

Typically, for solid explosive  $\gamma_{CJ} \approx 3$

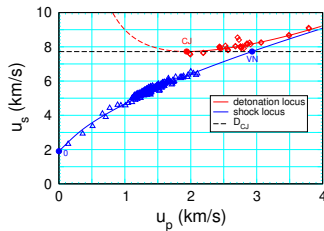
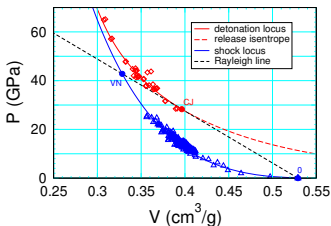
Ideal HE EOS:  $D_{CJ}^2 = 2(\gamma^2 - 1)Q$

Detonation speed proportional to square root of  $Q$

Detonation pressure proportional to energy release  $Q$

# Shock and detonation loci

## Example shock/detonation loci for PBX 9502



- Experiments measure  $u_p$  and  $u_s$

Determine  $P$ ,  $V$  and  $e$  from shock relations

Scatter in data partly from HE heterogeneities

- Overdriven detonation waves

Experiments with flyer plate to support detonation

- Reactants shock Hugoniot

Data limited by reaction, extrapolate to high  $P$

Constraint: Reactants and products loci do not cross if thermicity positive

# Detonation speed dependence on initial state

- Density of PBX varies with porosity of pressing  
Detonation speed depends on energy release per volume
- Range of temperatures,  $-55 < T < 75C$ , for applications  
Thermal expansion affects initial density

Linearizing Hugoniot equation and sonic condition gives

$$\frac{\Delta D_{cj}}{D_{cj}} = A \frac{\Delta \rho_0}{\rho_0} + B \frac{\Delta e_0}{D_{cj}^2}$$

where

$$A = \frac{\gamma(\gamma - \Gamma - 1)}{2\gamma - \Gamma} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \frac{\Gamma}{2\gamma - \Gamma} (\gamma + 1)^2$$

$\gamma$  is adiabatic exponent and  $\Gamma$  is Grünesien coefficient

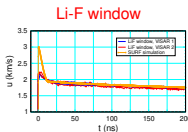
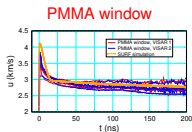
Typically, at CJ state  $\gamma \approx 3$  and  $\Gamma \approx 0.5$  would give  $A \approx 0.82$  and  $B \approx 1.45$

Ref: Fickett & Davis, Detonation (1979), §3B, “experimental test of theory”

Vary  $\rho_0$  &  $T_0$  for solid and liquid TNT, same equilibrium products [◀ return](#)

# Experimental reaction-zone profile

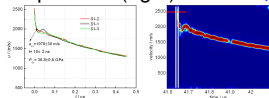
Profile experiments of Gustavsen *et al.*, 11<sup>th</sup> Detonation Symposium, 1998  
VISAR velocity profiles of PBX 9501 detonation wave and simulations



[click fig to zoom/return](#)

- VN spike is low
- Noise in signal
- Scatter in PMMA data

PDV velocity profiles (left) for 'PBX 9501 like' detonation wave into Li-F window and PDV signal spectrum (right) [Pei \*et al.\*, 2019](#)

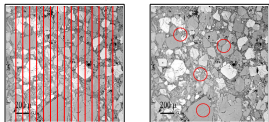


[click fig to zoom/return](#)

- large spread in spectrum at shock front

Polarized light micrographs for PBX 9501

Skidmore *et al.*, 11<sup>th</sup> Detonation Symposium, 1998, fig 4



[click fig to zoom/return](#)

- Left fig red guide lines 100  $\mu\text{m}$  apart about reaction-zone width
- Right fig red circles 200  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter about spot size for VISAR and PDV

More details see LA-UR-20-24842 [Menikoff, 2020](#) [◀ return](#)

# Detonation locus from EOS

- Point on detonation locus

For fixed  $V$ , Newton iteration in  $e$  to solve

$$e - e_0 - \frac{1}{2}(P_{prod}(V, e) + P_0) \cdot (V_0 - V) = 0$$

Then jump relations to determine  $P_{cj}$  and  $u_{cj}$

Iteration converges rapidly since  $(\partial_e P)_V = \Gamma(V, e)/V$  smooth function

With Mie-Grüneisen type of EOS for products

$\Gamma$  function of only  $V$  and linear equation in  $e$

- CJ state

Parameterize detonation locus by  $V$

Bisection routine in  $V$  to find point on locus satisfying sonic condition

$$\begin{aligned} (\rho c)^2 &= [\rho(D - u)]^2 = (\rho_0 D)^2 \\ &= (P - P_0)/(V_0 - V) \end{aligned}$$

where  $V$ ,  $P(V)$  and  $e(V)$  on detonation locus and  $c_{prod}(V, e)$  from EOS

Effectively, double iteration for CJ state

# Programmed burn

## Programmed burn model (Wilkins, 1964)

- Motivated by Chapman-Jouguet hypothesis  
Unique speed of unsupported detonation wave  
Applies to CHE with narrow reaction zone and small curvature effect
- Burn table** for detonation time as function of position  
 $t_{bt}(x)$  based on Huygens construction with **constant** wave speed  $D_{cj}$
- Pseudo rate** analogous to numerical dissipation for shock capturing

$$\mathcal{R}(x, t, \lambda) = \begin{cases} (1 - \lambda)^n \tau^{-1}, & \text{if } t > t_{bt}(x) \text{ and } \lambda < 1; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise;} \end{cases}$$

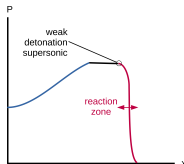
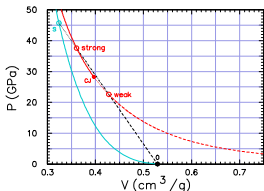
where parameter  $\tau$  is time constant and parameter  $n < 1$

- Pseudo rate independent of hydro state**  
No feedback to keep hydro front and burn front in sync  
**Solution to PDEs may be unphysical**  
 In particular, if  $D$  for burn table not equal to  $D_{cj}$  from EOS

# Solutions to PDEs for programmed burn model

## Burn table $D$ greater than $D_{cj}$ from EOS

Reactive shock, detonation on weak branch of detonation locus

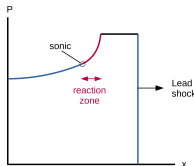
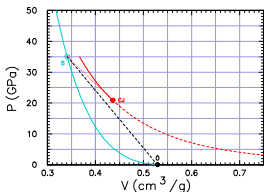


Unphysical for  $D > D_{cj}$

- Reaction triggered arbitrarily  
Larger  $D$  gives smaller pressure
- Constant state behind detonation  
Head of rarefaction slower than detonation speed
- For  $D = D_{cj}$  ok as approximation

## Burn table $D$ less than $D_{cj}$ from EOS

Precursor shock followed by slower deflagration wave



Unphysical for  $D < D_{cj}$

- Split wave  
Shock followed by deflagration
- Burn out of sync with hydro front  
No feedback

# End Lecture 4. Detonation wave relations

## Questions



# Lecture 5 outline

## 5. Planar detonation wave

- Unsupported detonation wave

- Wave profiles

- Reaction-zone width

- Derivation of ZND profile

- Detonation locus and Rayleigh line

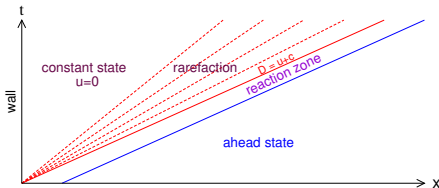
- Taylor wave

- Simulated PBX 9501 profile

# Unsupported detonation wave

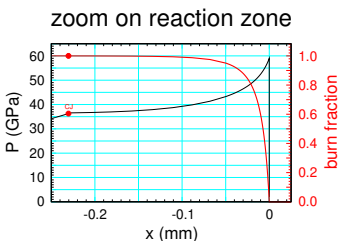
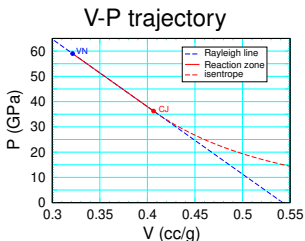
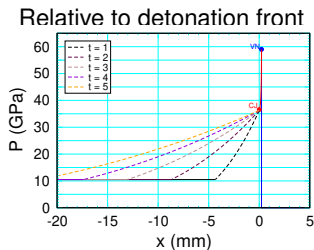
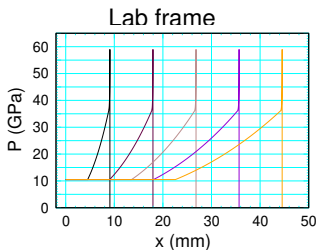
- Chapman-Jouguet detonation wave is shock like discontinuity propagating at the CJ detonation speed  
 “Programmed burn” model for propagating detonation waves
- Zeldovich (1940), von Neumann (1942), Doering (1943)  
Modeled reaction zone due to finite rate (reactive fluid equations)
- Unsupported 1-D detonation  
 Steady ZND reaction zone  
 + Taylor wave (rarefaction) which spreads out in time  
End of reaction zone and head of rarefaction coincide

Wave diagram



# Wave profiles

## Time sequence of pressure profiles for propagating detonation wave



# Reaction-zone width

Depletion factor:  $\mathcal{R} \rightarrow 0$  as reactants burned up

$$\mathcal{R} \propto (1 - \lambda)^n \text{ as } \lambda \rightarrow 1$$

## Tail of wave profile

$$(d/dt)\lambda = \mathcal{R}(\lambda)$$

- $n < 1$

Hotspot burn rate

Finite burn time and reaction zone width

$$1 - \lambda(t) \propto (t_* - t)^{1/(1-n)} \text{ as } t \rightarrow t_*$$

Important for curvature effect

- $n = 1$

First order reaction

exponential tail,  $1 - \lambda(t) \propto \exp(-t)$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$

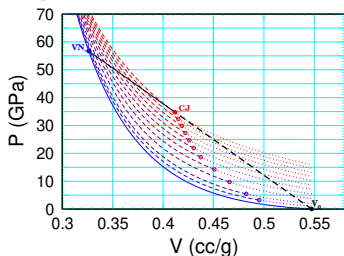
- $n > 1$

Reaction order for chemical reaction

Algebraic tail,  $1 - \lambda(t) \propto t^{-1/(n-1)}$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$

# Derivation of ZND profile

## Partly burned detonation loci



For details see LA-UR-22-29247 [Menikoff, 2022](#)

- For steady wave,  $\xi = x - D t$   
mass, momentum and energy fluxes are constant in rest frame of front
- In  $(V, P)$ -plane flow on intersection of Rayleigh line, slope =  $-(\rho_0 D_{CJ})^2$  and partly burned detonation loci  
Parameterized points by  $\lambda$  ► Hugoniot eq

## Rate equation reduces to ODE

$$(d/d\xi)\lambda = -\mathcal{R}(V(\lambda), e(\lambda), \lambda)/[D - u(\lambda)]$$

where  $V(\lambda)$ ,  $e(\lambda)$ ,  $u(\lambda)$  are point on partly detonation locus with detonation speed  $D$ , reduces to algebraic equation in 1 variable

Profile for strong branch of detonation locus,  $D \geq D_{CJ}$

# Detonation locus and Rayleigh line

## Point of partly burned detonation locus with detonation speed $D$

Use jump condition to reduce to 1 equation for  $V(\lambda)$

Newton iteration to find solution  $f(V) = 0$

$$e_h(V) = \lambda Q + e_0 + \frac{1}{2} m^2 (V_0 - V)^2 + P_0 (V_0 - V)$$

$$P_h(V) = P(V, e_h(V), \lambda)$$

$$f(V) = P_h - P_0 - m^2 (V_0 - V)$$

$$f'(V) = -(c/V)^2 + \Gamma [P_h - P_0 - m^2 (V_0 - V)] / V + m^2$$

$$V \rightarrow V - f(V)/f'(V) \quad \text{Newton iteration}$$

where  $m = \rho_0 D$  is mass flux for detonation speed  
which defines Rayleigh line

For ODE for  $\lambda(\xi)$  use last  $V$  to start iteration.

Algorithm very robust for any model EOS.

# Taylor wave

1. ODEs for CJ isentrope of products EOS and velocity for rarefaction wave (right facing) ▶ characteristic equations

$$\frac{d}{dV} \begin{pmatrix} e \\ u \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} P(V, e) \\ c(V, e)/V \end{pmatrix}$$

Integrate trajectory starting at CJ state  $(V_{CJ}, e_{CJ}, u_{CJ})$   
 til the back boundary condition is met (such as piston velocity)

2. Rarefaction wave (right facing)

All variable  $(V, e, u)$  are constant on characteristics,  $dx/dt = u + c$

Characteristics are straight line in  $(t, x)$  ▶ wave diagram

Characteristic speed is monotonic function of  $V$   
 for convex isentropes,  $(\partial^2 P / \partial V^2)_S > 0$

# Simulated PBX 9501 profile

- **Numerical shock profile**  
Rather than discontinuous shock
- **Head of rarefaction/end of reaction zone**  
Rapid but smooth transition  
Rather than kink
- **With low resolution**  
Burning in shock rise  
clip VN spike
- **Release wave behind detonation**  
Fairly insensitive to resolution

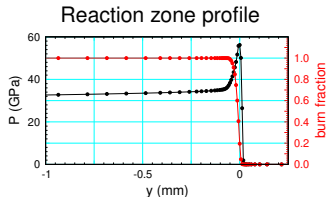
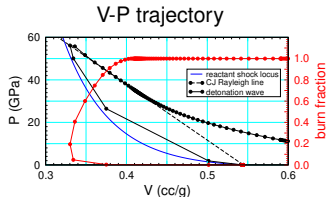
Planar propagating detonation wave

Verification test for reactive-hydro codes

Semi-analytic solution to compare with

For any EOS and any burn rate

## High resolution simulation



► Compare Resolution



# End Lecture 5. Planar detonation wave

## Questions

# Lecture 6 outline

## 6. Shock-to-detonation transition

- Initiation mechanism

- Shock initiation experiments

- Pop plot data (ambient PBX 9502)

- Pressure range for Pop plot

- Temperature variation

- Lot dependence

- Density variation

- Shock desensitization

- Other shock initiation

- HE initiation in a simulation

# Initiation mechanism

## Positive feedback mechanism for shock initiation

- Shock initiates reaction

Hotspot burning for heterogeneous HE

- Reaction increase shock strength

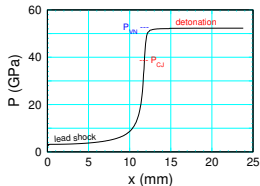
Source term in characteristic equation from reaction

Pressure gradient forms due to reaction behind lead shock

- Increased shock pressure increases reaction rate

More hotspots and increased burning around each hotspot

## Shock-to-detonation transition



$P_s(x)$  similar to  $T(t)$  for “cook-off” experiment

induction regime then runaway regime

run distance not sensitive to transition criterion

# Shock initiation experiments

## 1-D shock initiation with sustained shock

- Wedge experiment (1960s)

Lead shock trajectory

Shock breakout on wedge

Outruns side rarefaction

Phase velocity  $u_s / \sin(\theta) > c$

Booster/Attenuator minimizes pressure gradient

- Gas gun experiment (late 1990s)

Embedded magnetic velocity gauges

25  $\mu\text{m}$  Teflon + 5  $\mu\text{m}$  Al + 25  $\mu\text{m}$  Teflon

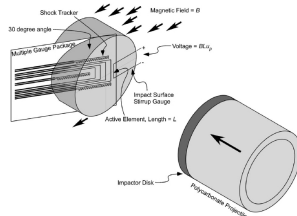
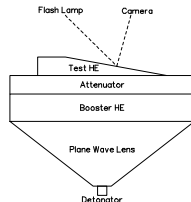
Tracker gauge for shock trajectory

Lagrangian velocity time histories

Vary shock loading with

material layers on projectile

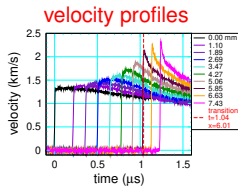
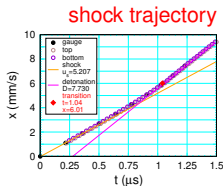
e.g., double shock, short shock



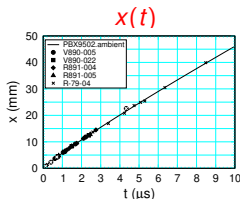
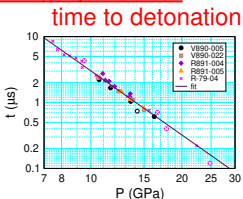
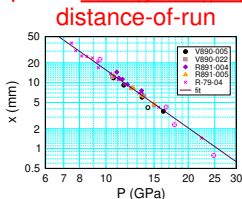
Gustavsen *et al.*, (2006), fig 1

# Pop plot data (ambient PBX 9502)

Example data for each experiment



Pop plots, each point separate experiment



Pop plot: fits linear on log-log scale (empirical relation)

Power law dependence

Both run distance and run time, hence  $x(t)$

# Pressure range for Pop plot

## Limitations on Pop plot data

- Low pressure

Large run distance

Sustained drive pressure limited by side rarefactions

Pore collapse not effective at low pressures

PBX shock width due to visco-elastic and elastic-plastic effects

Run distance greater than linear fit on log-log plot

Data for HMX based PBXs (projectile from 6 inch howitzer) show

Run distance and run time bend upward at low pressures

▶ HMX Pop plot

- High pressure

Short run distance

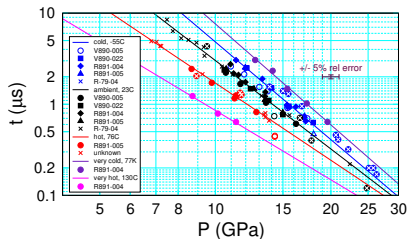
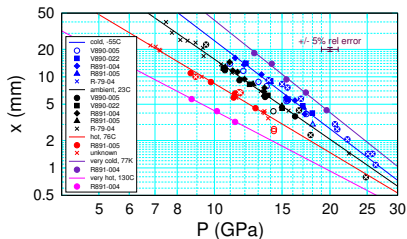
Large uncertainties in shock trajectory and initial shock pressure

Near  $P_{cj}$  or run distance  $\sim$  steady reaction-zone width

Approach to steady wave rather than initiation

# Temperature variation

PBX 9502,  $T = 77\text{ K}, -55\text{ C}, 23\text{ C}, 76\text{ C}, 130\text{ C}$

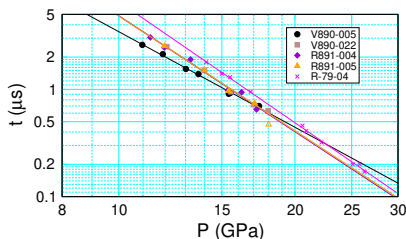
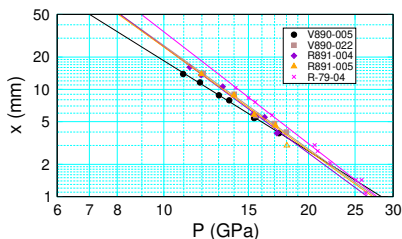


See [Menikoff \(2019\)](#) for references to experiments

- **Shock sensitivity**  
More sensitive explosive has shorter run distance
- **As temperature increases**  
More sensitive
- **Scatter in data** ( $\pm 7\%$  for fixed  $P$  & outliers up to 30 %)  
Uncertainties from experiment  
Sample variation from heterogeneities

# Lot dependence

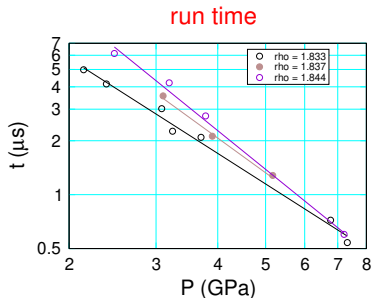
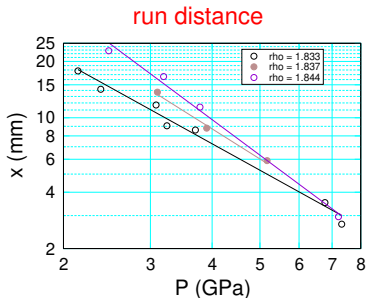
cold (-55 C) PBX 9502



- **Large lot dependence**  
Greater than uncertainty in data  
Correlated variation in run time and run distance
- **Burn rate affected by variation in heterogeneities**  
Model parameters need to be fit for each lot  
or loss accuracy and potentially predictivity
- **Issue for detonator/booster systems**



# Density variation



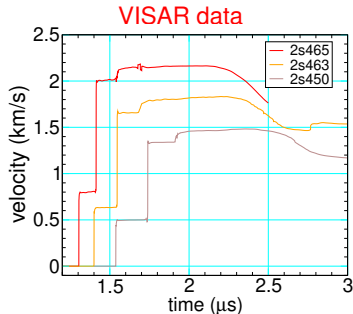
Gustavsen *et al.*, 1999, fig 12

- **PBX 9501 pressing density**  
1.833, 1.837 and 1.844 g/cc  
small density variation  $\pm 5$  mg/cc or  $\pm 0.3\%$   
large change in porosity  $\pm 20\%$
- **Run distance** at 3 GPa, 11 to 19 mm or  $\pm 25\%$
- **Run time** at 3 GPa, 3 to 4.5  $\mu$ s or  $\pm 20\%$

# Shock desensitization

## Double shock PBX 9502

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



- **Double shock**  
Rate set by first shock
- **Single crystal HMX very insensitive compared to PBX 9051**  
Failed to detonate in 7 mm at shock pressure of 34 GPa
- **Interpretation**  
First shock closes pores and sets hotspot density
- **Rate behind second shock**  
About same as rate behind first shock

# Other shock initiation

## Complex shock loading

- **Short shock**

- Time duration of shock less than time to detonation
  - Layered gas gun projectile high/low impedance
  - Transverse wave from fragment impact

- **Multiple shocks**

- Shock desensitization
  - Layered gas gun projectile low/high impedance
  - Weak transverse shock can quench propagating detonation wave
  - Dead zones for corner turning

- **Shock followed by rarefaction**

- Gap test
  - Detonation wave in donor HE  $\rightarrow$  inert  $\rightarrow$  acceptor HE

- **Shock initiation with divergent lead shock**

- Detonator / booster

# HE initiation for simulation

## Initiate detonation wave in simulation

- **Macroscopic 'hotspot'**

Small region of high pressure in simulation

For example products at CJ state

- **Drives shock into reactants**

Riemann problem, hotspot  $\rightarrow$  reactants

Determines lead shock pressure

- **Prompt shock-to-detonation transition**

Hotspot needs to maintain pressure

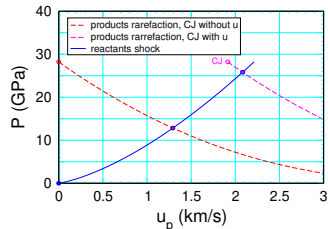
for time to detonation on Pop plot

at reactants shock pressure

Similar to 1-D short shock initiation

## **Hotspot plays role of a detonator/booster**

Or programmed burn HE to generate hotspot



# End Lecture 6. Shock-to-detonation transition

## Questions

# Lecture 7 outline

## 7. Hotspot burn rate

- Properties of initiation data

- Chemical rate

- Homogeneous vs Heterogeneous initiation

- Quench propagating detonation wave

- Ignition & Growth concept

- Hotspot requirements

- Pore collapse as hotspot mechanism for shock initiation

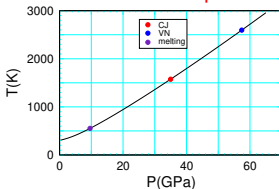
# Properties of initiation data

## Motivation for hotspot burn rate

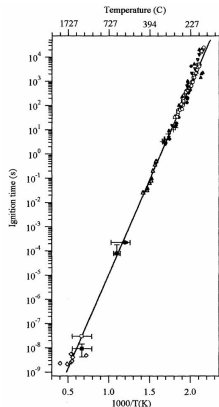
1. Rate much larger than chemical rate at shock temperature  
next slide
2. Homogeneous and heterogeneous shock initiation  
Qualitative different velocity profiles  
second next slide
3. Shock desensitization  
Double shock initiation data  
Single crystal HMX insensitive compared to PBX 9501  
previous lecture  
Quenching of propagating detonation wave  
third next slide
4. Run distance-to-detonation  
Sensitive to porosity  
previous lecture

# Chemical rate

## Reactants shock temperature



- 3 GPa on Pop plot for PBX 9501  
Time to detonation  $4 \mu\text{s}$
- Shock temperature 358 K
- Melt temperature, 550 K  
Thermal initiation time,  $\sim 5000 \text{ s}$
- Chemical rate at shock temperature  
Orders of magnitude too low  
Hotspots reconcile discrepancy



Henson-Smilowitz (2002), fig 1  
PBX 9501 global rate

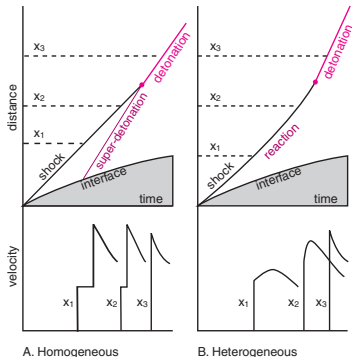


# Homogeneous vs Heterogeneous initiation

Chemical rate at bulk temperature vs hotspot rate

Campbell *et al.*, (1961) [homogeneous ignition](#) and [heterogeneous ignition](#)

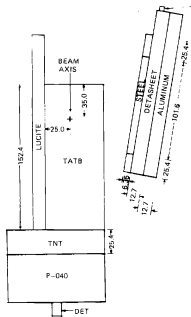
- Homogeneous shock initiation**  
 Thermal runaway near HE interface  
 Leading to **super-detonation wave**  
 in shock compressed HE Detonation overtakes lead shock
- Heterogeneous shock initiation**  
 Reaction behind lead shock  
 Shock strengthens to detonation
- Adding glass beads to nitromethane**  
 Velocity profiles change character  
 from homogeneous to heterogeneous  
**Also bubbles in liquid nitroglycerin**



# Quench propagating detonation wave

Detonation wave  
in PBX 9502

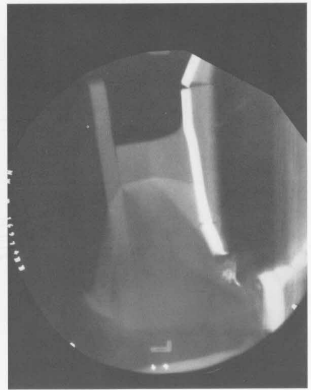
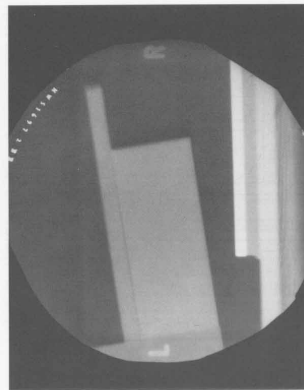
Transverse shock  
from steel flyer plate



Phermex shot # 1697

static

dynamic



# Ignition & Growth concept

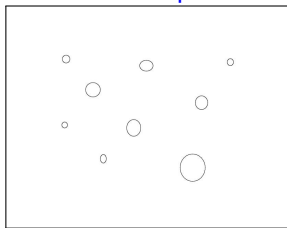
Hotspots for initiation by friction and impact (Bowden & Yoffe, 1952)

Hotspots for shock initiation in heterogeneous HE (Campbell *et al.*, 1961)

Ignition & Growth concept (Lee & Tarver, 1980)

- Shock front triggers hotspots  
Pore collapse on fast time scale
- Burn centers  
Competition: heat conduction & reaction  
Small hotspots quench  
Large hotspots become burn centers
- Reactive wavelets  
Deflagration wave from burn centers  
 $\text{Burn rate} = (\text{front area}) \cdot (\text{deflagration speed})$
- Depletion of reactants  
Overlap of reactive wavelets  
Geometric effect on front area

Potential hotspot sites



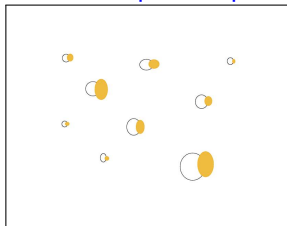
Pores or cracks  
inter- or intra-granular

# Ignition & Growth concept – pore collapse

## Ignition & Growth concept (Lee & Tarver, 1980)

- Shock front triggers hotspots  
Pore collapse on fast time scale
- Burn centers  
Competition: heat conduction & reaction  
Small hotspots quench  
Large hotspots become burn centers
- Reactive wavelets  
Deflagration wave from burn centers  
 $\text{Burn rate} = (\text{front area}) \cdot (\text{deflagration speed})$
- Depletion of reactants  
Overlap of reactive wavelets  
Geometric effect on front area

Shock sweeps over pores



Hotspots form

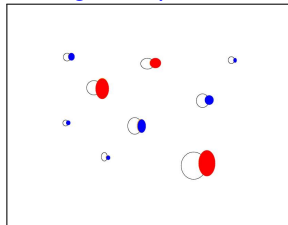
Localized spatial regions  
of high temperature

# Ignition & Growth concept – Ignition phase

## Ignition & Growth concept (Lee & Tarver, 1980)

- Shock front triggers hotspots  
Pore collapse on fast time scale
- Burn centers  
Competition: heat conduction & reaction  
Small hotspots quench  
Large hotspots become burn centers
- Reactive wavelets  
Deflagration wave from burn centers  
Burn rate = (front area) · (deflagration speed)
- Depletion of reactants  
Overlap of reactive wavelets  
Geometric effect on front area

### Ignition phase



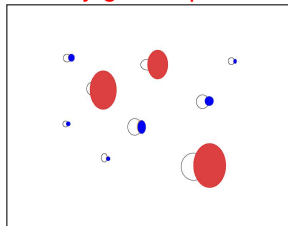
Hotspots react  
some form burn centers  
average  $\mathcal{R}(T) \gg \mathcal{R}(\text{average } T)$   
Burning dominated by  
tail of temperature distribution

# Ignition & Growth concept – early growth phase

## Ignition & Growth concept (Lee & Tarver, 1980)

- Shock front triggers hotspots  
Pore collapse on fast time scale
- Burn centers  
Competition: heat conduction & reaction  
Small hotspots quench  
Large hotspots become burn centers
- **Reactive wavelets**  
**Deflagration wave from burn centers**  
**Burn rate = (front area) · (deflagration speed)**
- Depletion of reactants  
Overlap of reactive wavelets  
Geometric effect on front area

### Early growth phase



**Burn front area increases**

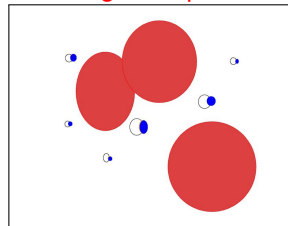
Reactants & products  
are phase separated

# Ignition & Growth concept – late growth phase

## Ignition & Growth concept (Lee & Tarver, 1980)

- Shock front triggers hotspots  
Pore collapse on fast time scale
- Burn centers  
Competition: heat conduction & reaction  
Small hotspots quench  
Large hotspots become burn centers
- Reactive wavelets  
Deflagration wave from burn centers  
Burn rate = (front area) · (deflagration speed)
- Depletion of reactants  
Overlap of reactive wavelets  
Geometric effect on front area

### Late growth phase



Depletion limited

Burn front area decreases

# Hotspot requirements

- Minimum hotspot temperature

Pop plot run time to detonation for PBX 9501:  $4 \mu\text{s}$  at 3 GPa

Hotspot thermal ignition time much shorter than run time ▶ gauge

(little reaction in ignition phase, volume of hotspots is small)

Estimate based on Henson-Smilowitz global rate for HMX (PBX 9501)

Temperature greater than 1100 K at 3 GPa ▶ rate

Need dissipative mechanism to localize energy in hotspot

- Hotspot size range

$(\text{deflagration wave width}) < (\text{hotspot size}) < (\text{detonation wave width})$

Estimated hotspot size between  $0.1 \mu\text{m}$  and  $5 \mu\text{m}$

USANS data goes to smaller sizes

Manufacturing defect if pores on the order of small grain size

Single hotspot can trigger deflagration but not detonation

- Number density of pores

For fixed porosity, number density scales as  $(\text{pore size})^{-3}$



# Pore collapse as hotspot mechanism for shock initiation

## Pore collapse properties

- Produces sufficiently high temperatures for hotspots  
Either shock heating from micro-jetting or viscous heating
- Peak temperature increases with shock pressure  
More burn centers and faster rate at higher shock pressure
- Consistent with shock sensitivity  
More pores at higher porosity and faster rate
- Consistent with shock desensitization  
First shock crushes pores and eliminates potential hotspot sites
- Consistent with low pressure Pop plot data  
Linear Pop plot (log-log scale) breaks down at low pressure

In the pressure range of Pop plot data  
other mechanism don't produce sufficient heating

Below pressure of Pop plot data other mechanism needed  
Such as shear heating for low velocity impact

# End Lecture 7. Hotspot burn rate

## Questions

# Lecture 8 outline

## 8. Diameter effect and curvature effect

- Unconfined rate stick experiment

- Diameter effect

- Modified jump conditions

- Duct flow equations

- Characteristic equation

- Curvature effect

- Detonation Shock Dynamics (DSD)

- Converging or overdriven detonation wave

- Experimental measurement of  $D_n(k)$

- Example curvature effect

# Unconfined rate stick experiment

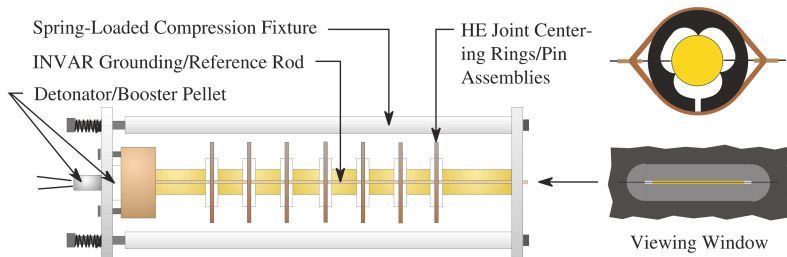
- Cylinder of HE surrounded by air [◀ return](#)

Initiate at one end and run long enough to reach steady state  
rule of thumb, length 4 times the diameter

- **Measurements**

Timing pins for axial detonation speed

Curvature effect: Wave breakout along diameter with streak camera



Hill *et al.*, 11<sup>th</sup> Detonation Symposium (1998)

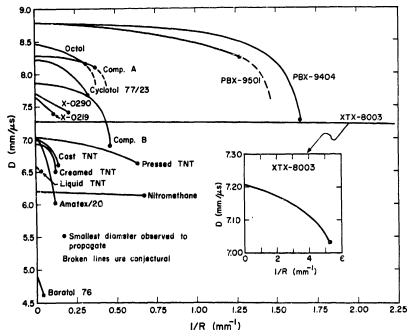
# Diameter effect

## Axial detonation speed for unconfined rate stick diameters

Detonation speed decreases as diameter decreases

Less than  $D_{CJ}$ , minimum based on shock jump conditions

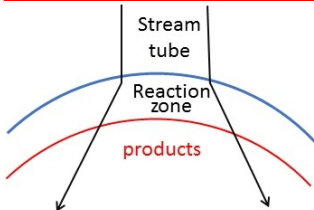
- Minimum (failure) diameter to propagate detonation wave
- Limit of large diameter,  $D_z(R)/D_{CJ} \rightarrow 1 - a/R$  as  $R \rightarrow \infty$



Detonation speed vs  $1/R$   
Campbell & Engelke (1976)  
6<sup>th</sup> Detonation Symposium

# Modified jump conditions

- Stream tube in rest frame of detonation front



Blue is lead shock front

Red is end of reaction zone

subscripts 'a' and 'b' denote states ahead and behind reaction zone

'A' is cross sectional area

Diverging wave front if  $A_b > A_a$

## Duct flow equations

Flux is proportion to cross sectional area

At shock front  $d \ln(\text{area})/dx = \kappa$ , sum of principal curvatures

- Partly burned detonation loci

Correction to jump conditions from reaction-zone width + front curvature

Diverging detonation wave,  $\kappa > 0$

Sonic point lies within reaction zone

Detonation speed decreases with front curvature  $\kappa$

# 1-D duct flow equations & jump conditions

$$\partial_t \begin{pmatrix} \rho A \\ \rho A u \\ \rho A (e + \frac{1}{2} u^2) \\ \rho A \lambda \end{pmatrix} + \partial_x \begin{pmatrix} \rho A u \\ \rho A u^2 + AP \\ \rho A u (e + \frac{1}{2} u^2 + PV) \\ \rho A u \lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ P \partial_x A \\ -P \partial_t A + \rho A Q \mathcal{R} \\ \rho A \mathcal{R} \end{pmatrix}$$

For quasi-steady detonation:  $d \ln(A)/dx = \kappa$  is constant and  $\partial_t A = 0$

Re-express PDEs in conservation form with **additional geometric source term**

$$\partial_t \begin{pmatrix} \rho \\ \rho u \\ \rho (e + \frac{1}{2} u^2) \end{pmatrix} + \partial_x \begin{pmatrix} \rho u \\ \rho u^2 + P \\ \rho u (e + \frac{1}{2} u^2 + PV) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \rho Q \mathcal{R} \end{pmatrix} - \kappa \begin{pmatrix} \rho u \\ \rho u^2 \\ \rho u (e + \frac{1}{2} u^2 + PV) \end{pmatrix}$$

and  $(d/dt)\lambda = \mathcal{R}$

For partly burned detonation loci, steady wave variables function of  $\xi = x - Dt$

Integrating across reaction zone, no longer perfect differential

Jump conditions no longer algebraic expressions depend on rate as well as EOS

$$\kappa = \begin{cases} 1/x & \text{PDEs corresponds to cylindrical-symmetric flow; } x = r, \text{ independent of } z \text{ \& } \theta \\ 2/x & \text{PDEs corresponds to spherically-symmetric flow; } x = r, \text{ independent of } \theta \text{ \& } \phi \end{cases}$$

# Characteristic equation

## Extra geometric source term for diverging wave

For right facing characteristic,  $dx/dt = u + c$

$$(d/dt + c\partial_x)P + \rho c(d/dt + c\partial_x)u = [\Gamma\rho Q + (\partial_\lambda P)_{V,e}]\mathcal{R} - \kappa\rho c^2 u$$

## Shock-to-detonation transition is competition among

1. Pressure gradient behind shock front
2. Chemical reaction
3. Geometric source term for divergent flow



# Curvature effect

- Theory**, Bdzil, Stewart, Aslam (circa 1990)  
 To first order in  $\kappa \cdot$  (reaction-zone width)  
Can neglect transverse flow in duct and curvature of streamlines  
 Duct flow PDEs reduce to ODEs for quasi-steady wave  
 ODEs determine reaction-zone profile ► profile ODEs  
 and for unsupported detonation waves the curvature effect,  $D_n(\kappa)$   

Detonation speed normal to front as a function of front curvature
- Reaction-zone width is important length scale**  
 Slope of  $D_n(\kappa)$  strongly depends on reaction-zone width  
 Hence burn rate at high pressure,  $P_{cj} \lesssim P \lesssim P_{vn}$   
 Numerical resolution affects detonation speed ► examples
- Diameter effect vs Curvature effect**  
 Diameter effect,  $D_z$  vs  $1/R$ , is global for unconfined rate stick  
 Curvature effect,  $D_n(\kappa)$  is local, material property  
 It can predict diameter effect

# Detonation Shock Dynamics (DSD)

DSD theory developed by Bdzil, Stewart, Aslam (circa 1990)

Reaction zone to sonic point decouples from flow behind

- **Boundary condition**

From angle with inert determined by shock polar analysis ► shock polar

Most important, sonic point on shock polar for weak confinement

- **Time evolution of detonation front**

$D_n(\kappa)$  + **boundary angle** determines evolution of front  
using level set algorithm

Precompute burn time table,  $t_{bt}(\vec{x})$ , before hydro simulation

- **Model for propagating diverging detonation wave**

Generalization of programmed burn model

front curvature dependent wave speed

- **State behind detonation front**

**Depends on numerical reaction-zone width**

Issue for simulations with coarse resolution

# Converging or overdriven detonation wave

- Cylindrical or spherically converging shock wave  
Guderley similarity solution for polytropic EOS  
Shock velocity hence shock pressure increases as shock propagates
- Converging detonation wave  
Detonation speed increases as detonation propagates
- Overdriven detonation wave  
Collision of diverging fronts [▶ example](#)  
Interaction portion of front is overdriven

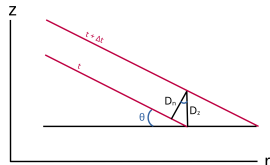
## In either case

- Reaction zone is subsonic (with respect to) front  
Analog of planar overdriven detonation wave  
Supported by flow behind reaction zone
- DSD assumption breaks down  
Detonation wave does not decouple from flow behind

# Experimental measurement of $D_n(\kappa)$

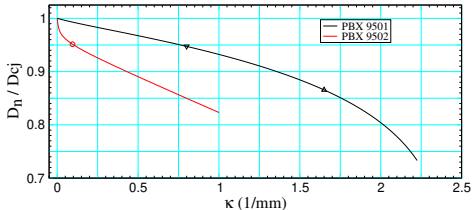
## Unconfined rate stick experiment ► rate stick

- **Axial detonation speed**,  $D_z$   
Determined from timing pins
- **Front shape**,  $z(r)$   
Determined from streak camera breakout time along diameter  
Detonation front, 2-D surface of revolution about cylinder axis
- **Front curvature**,  $\kappa$   
Fit front shape  $z(r)$  with analytic function  
From first and second derivative calculate  $\kappa$   
Principal components of curvature tensor  
radial and azimuthal directions
- **Normal detonation speed**,  $D_n$   
 $D_n = \cos(\theta) \cdot D_z$  where  $\tan(\theta) = dz/dr$
- **$D_n(\kappa)$  determined parametrically**  
 $D_n$  and  $\kappa$  as functions of  $r$



# Example curvature effect

## Normalized curvature effect for PBX 9501 and PBX 9502



- $D_n(\kappa)$  for PBX 9501 representative of CHE**  
 Small initial slope  $dD_n/d\kappa$  due to large burn rate (narrow reaction-zone width)
- Shape of  $D_n(\kappa)$  curve for PBX 9502** ▶ PBX 9502 profile  
 PBX 9502 has fast (hotspot) and slow (carbon clustering) burn rates  
 Large variation in reaction-zone width for small  $\kappa$   
 sonic point shifts from end of slow reaction to near end of fast reaction  
 Large slope  $dD_n/d\kappa$  for small  $\kappa$  and then smaller slope due to fast reaction

# End Lecture 8. Diameter effect and curvature effect

## Questions

# Lecture 9 outline

## 9. Failure diameter, corner turning and dead zones

- Breakdown of DSD assumptions

- Boundary layer

- Transverse energy flux

- Rate stick simulations near failure

- Failure mechanism

- Additional comments on failure

- PBX 9501 failure diameter

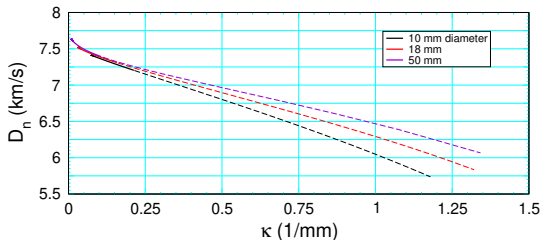
- Corner turning – experiment

- Corner turning – simulation

# Breakdown of DSD assumptions

DSD assumes  $D_n(\kappa)$  independent of geometry

- PBX 9502 experiments show  $D_n(\kappa)$  depends on diameter of rate stick
- Lead shock pressure changes rapidly in boundary layer  
Related to failure diameter & sonic boundary condition
- Transverse gradients not accounted for in duct flow PDEs (1-D)  
 Profile ODEs may not have solution for large  $\kappa$   
 Nevertheless, 2-D simulations can fit shape of detonation front

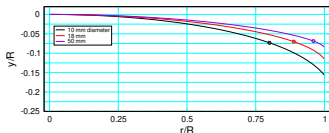


Hill, Bdzil & Aslam, 11<sup>th</sup> Detonation Symposium (1998)

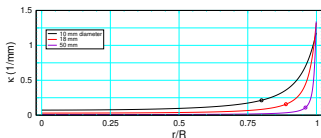


# Boundary layer

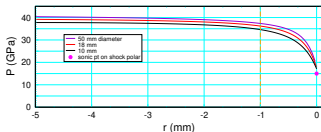
normalized front shape



curvature vs normalized radius



$P_s(r)$  within 5 mm of boundary

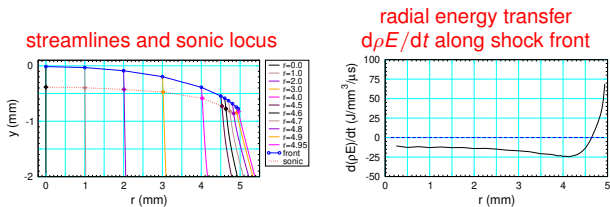


- Front shape  $y(r)$  from experiment  
Flatter than it looks, aspect ratio 2 : 1
- Curvature  $\kappa$  from front shape  
up to 1.4/mm at boundary  
but  $< 0.25/\text{mm}$  up to 1 mm of boundary
- Shock pressure  
Calculated from  $D_n$  and reactants shock locus  
Shock locus from assumed EOS
- Boundary pressure  
Sonic pressure from  $D_y$  and shock polar  
About 1/2 pressure on axis  
Large  $\Delta P_s$  between axis and boundary
- Boundary layer  
Pressure gradient  $dP_s/dr$   
small up to 1 mm of boundary  
large within 1 mm of boundary

# Transverse energy flux

PBX 9502 failure diameter of 8.5 to 9 mm

Simulation of 10 mm diameter unconfined rate stick

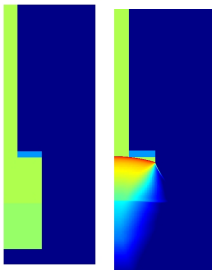


- **Detonation wave profile ODEs apply along streamlines**  
Sonic locus intersects shock front at boundary
- **Detonation**  
Supported by energy release along between front and sonic point  
Not sufficient for neighborhood of boundary
- **Neighborhood of boundary**  
Radial pressure gradient leads to radial energy flux  
Lead shock supported by energy flux from interior

# Rate stick simulation near failure

Start with detonation wave in large diameter cylinder

Initiates slightly overdriven detonation in small diameter cylinder

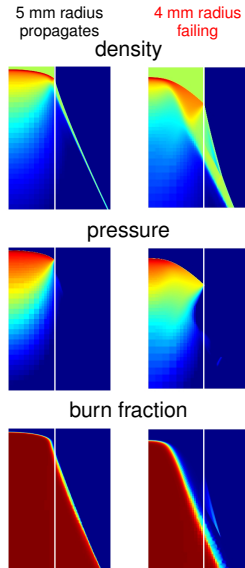
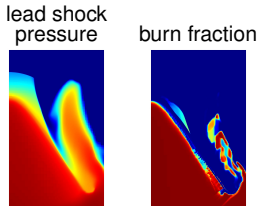


Two cases for PBX 9502

1. 10 mm diameter, above failure diameter
2. 8 mm diameter, below failure diameter

# Failure mechanism

- **Transverse energy flow behind front**  
Weak lead shock in boundary layer  
Very low burn rate behind weak shock
- **Failure wave**  
Transverse radial flow in reaction zone  
drains energy from detonation  
Detonation front shrinks in radial extent  
Larger energy drain on detonation
- **Weak shock after failure**



# Additional comments on failure

## Detonation wave failure

- Depends on geometry

Unconfined rectangular slab of HE

failure thickness < failure diameter

- Depends on confinement

Strong confinement, such as by steel

Shock polar analysis at boundary

Lead HE shock is subsonic ▶ shock polar

Higher boundary pressure and smaller failure diameter

Issue with boundary layer reduced or eliminated

Caveat: To apply shock polar analysis at boundary

No gap between HE and confiner

For example, assembly tolerance in cylinder test ▶ cylinder test

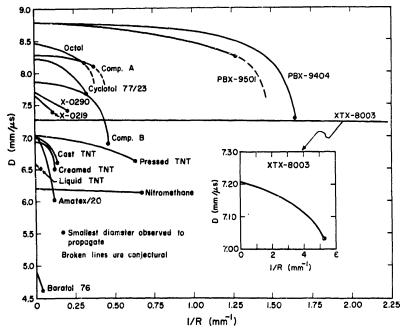
Otherwise sonic condition at boundary

Weak confinement (filler or glue) also sonic condition

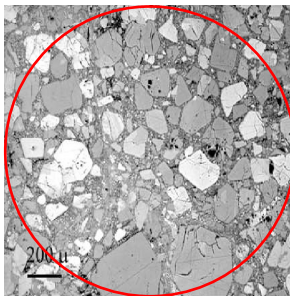
Same front shape and detonation speed

# PBX 9501 failure diameter

diameter effect



mesoscale structure

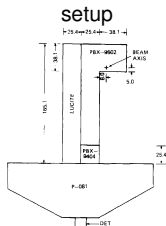


← 1.8 mm →

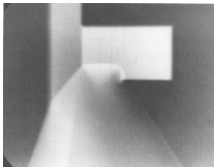
For rate stick near failure diameter ( $\approx 1.8$  mm for PBX 9501)

Expect statistical variations of HE grain distribution on mesoscale to cause fluctuations from localized failure and reignition along boundary similar to what is seen for gaseous or liquid detonation due to instabilities that cause transverse waves

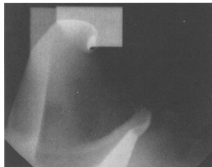
# Corner turning – experiment



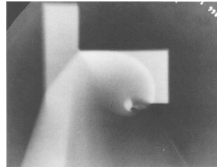
Shot 1941



Shot 1796



Shot 1943



## Phermex shots (1975, 1976)

- Time evolution

Three experiments with 1 radiograph per shot

Diffraction of lead shock lowers pressure

Detonation spreads out laterally

- Dead zone

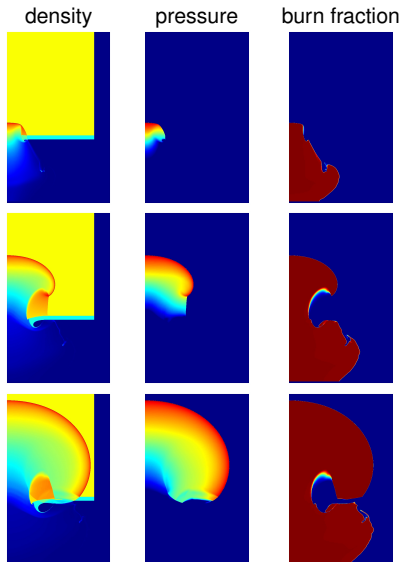
Region of low rate or shock desensitized

# Corner turning – simulation

- **Setup** similar to experiment



- **Small HE cylinder width**  
Affects corner turning  
and extent of dead zone
- **Applications**  
Detonator-booster  
Fragment impact
- Programmed burn or DSD  
Not intended for either  
ignition or dead zones





# End Lecture 9. Failure diameter, corner turning and dead zones

## Questions

# Lecture 10 outline

## 10. EOS data

- Needed PBX data

- Reactants EOS

- Products EOS data

- Cylinder test experiment

- Cylinder test uncertainties

- CJ detonation speed

- CJ pressure for CHE

- CJ pressure for IHE

- Final remarks

- Model calibration

# Needed PBX data

## Before calibrating burn rate

- **Reactants EOS data**

Prefer EOS for theoretical maximum data (TMD), no porosity

Porosity model for initial PBX density

$\text{porosity} = 1 - \rho_0 / \rho_{TMD}$  determines initial density

Reactants EOS independent of initial PBX state

Reactants EOS should be consistent with  $P_s$  for Pop plot data

$P_s$  from impedance match from projectile into PBX

- **Products EOS data**

Energy offset consistent with convention previously stated

Offset convention only at 1 initial density

Equilibrium products EOS independent of initial PBX state

Reaction-zone fluctuations affect homogenized products EOS ?

- **CJ state**

► Fickett & Davis

Detonation speed and pressure

# Reactants EOS

## Available data to calibrate EOS model

- **Principal shock Hugoniot**  
Limited pressure range due to reaction  
Possibly take advantage of shock desensitization  
Reverse impact experiments
- **Diamond anvil cell for isothermal compression**  
Powder diffraction on small HE crystals not PBX  
Density measurement not accurate at high pressures
- **Specific heat from phonon frequencies (measured or DFT)**  
 $C_V$  varies by factor of 2 between ambient and VN spike  
Shock temperature measurements based on Raman scattering
- **Molecular dynamics simulations**  
Force fields available for HMX, RDX, TATB  
Mixture for HE crystallites plus binder

# Products EOS data

## Minimum data needed for good model

- **CJ state**  
Detonation speed & pressure
- **Overdriven detonation locus**  
Requires supported planar wave
- **CJ release isentrope**  
1-D release isentrope from overdriven detonation  
Grüneisen coefficient from pair of overdriven isentropes  
 $\Gamma$  allows extrapolating in  $e$  off the release isentrope  
2-D Cylinder test or Sandwich test or Disc Acceleration Experiment (DAX)  
Unlike shock Hugoniot, infer isentrope with simulations for fitting form

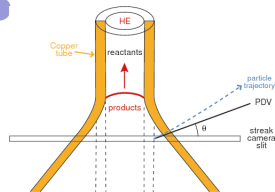
## Alternative, thermo-chemical code

BKW (Mader), CHEETAH (LLNL), MAGPIE (PEM-LANL)  
Calculate equilibrium species, then uses  $P$ - $T$  equilibrium  
Typically, needs to be tweaked for greater accuracy

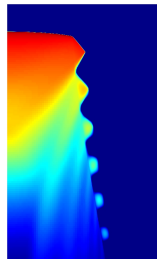
# Cylinder test experiment

- Standard test**
  - 1 inch diameter HE
  - 0.1 inch thick copper tube
  - 2 inch long HE pellets slip fit
  - wall tolerance 1 mil
  - gives 1 % uncertainty in wall mass
- Scaled tests** (consistency check)
  - 0.5 and 2 inch diameter HE
- Steady state flow**
  - Curved detonation front
  - Approximately isentropic behind front
  - Ringing in the wall (copper material strength)
  - Radial variation of pressure
- Data**
  - Axial detonation speed
  - Wall velocity from multiple probes

◀ return

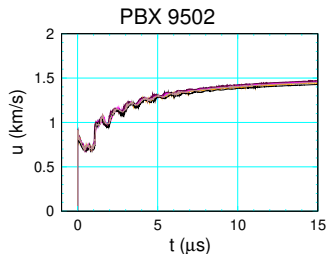
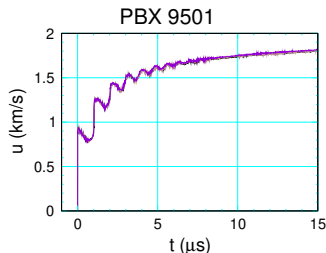


Log pressure



# Cylinder test uncertainties

- **Wall velocity variation**  
With azimuthal angle  
wall thickness tolerance
- **Detonation speed variation**  
With lot and initial temperature  
Due to  $\rho_0$  and curvature effect
- **Wall expansion**  
 $R/R_0 \approx 3$  ( $V/V_0 \approx 7$ ) at  $15 \mu\text{s}$   
 $P \sim 0.1 \text{ GPa}$   
Wall acceleration  $> 0$  but decreasing
- **Wall thins with expansion**  
Thickness  $\propto 1/\text{Radius}$   
Spall at larger radii
- **Fit products isentrope**  
Match data with simulations



Pemberton *et al.*, 2011

# CJ detonation speed

## Experiments

- Planar detonation wave

Thin flyer plate (short shock)

Overdrive for prompt initiation

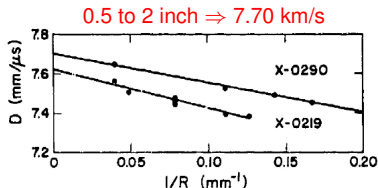
Long enough run to decay to steady underdriven detonation

Timing pins to measure detonation speed

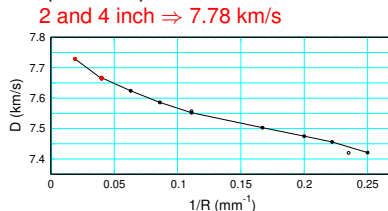
- Extrapolate diameter effect

$$D(R) = D_{CJ}(1 - a/R) \text{ for large } R$$

Large diameter needed for PBX 9502 (X-0290)



Campbell & Engelke 1976



Campbell 1984



# CJ pressure for CHE

Difficulty with applying shock jump conditions to CJ detonation

Unsupported detonation is followed by rarefaction

Difficult to tell where reaction zone ends and rarefaction begins ► VISAR profile

For CHE (thin reaction zone) Duff & Houston (1955)

1. Large diameter cylinder of HE initialized with plane wave lens  
Detonation front in neighborhood of axis is planar
2. Metal plate much thicker than reaction-zone width  
Shock match from reaction zone decays to match from CJ state  
Then decays at slower rate due to release rarefaction
3. Window and VISAR or PDV probes (at least 3 to measure tilt)  
Measure velocity at lead shock front  
From EOS of window and plate back out shock pressure
4. Series of experiments varying thickness of plate  
Extrapolate to zero plate thickness to account for rarefaction

# CJ pressure for IHE

## Overdriven detonations are shock like

$u_p$  constant behind reaction zone

At CJ state,  $du_s/du_p = 0$

- Fit locus in neighborhood of CJ

$$D = D_{cj} + a \cdot (u_p - u_{cj})^2$$

3 parameters:  $D_{cj}$ ,  $u_{cj}$ ,  $a$

- Compare with  $D_{cj}$  from extrapolating diameter effect

Estimate of uncertainty about 2 %

- Pressure from jump conditions

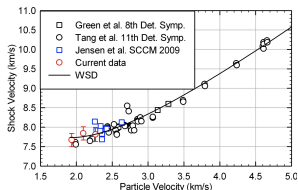
$$P_{cj} = \rho_0 u_{cj} D_{cj} \text{ (about 2 \% uncertainty or } \pm 0.5 \text{ GPa)}$$

If data too noisy use CJ release isentrope PDV or VISAR data

then assume Mie-Gruneisen form for local EOS

Fit to CJ isentrope and overdriven locus, see [Wescott et al., \(2005\) §IIB](#)

## Detonation locus for PBX 9502



[Gustavsen et al., \(2014\)](#), fig 4

# Final remarks

- **Accurate HE model for wide range of detonation phenomena**  
Need a lot of calibration data, hence time and effort
- **Correct for variation in initial density and temperature**  
Need additional data
- **When available data is incomplete**  
Use estimates based on past experience with other HE  
Model is less accurate
- **Predictive model**, shock initiation and detonation propagation regimes  
Needed accuracy for application  
Design to avoid ignition thresholds  
Accident scenarios in more difficult regimes  
Model uncertainty  
Depends on accuracy of calibration data  
and meso-scale heterogeneities in HE
- **Simulation accuracy**  
Physical length scale (reaction-zone width) and resolution

# Model calibration

- **Select data to fit (subjective)**  
Experiments aimed at single detonation phenomena
- **Metric to compare model with multiple datasets (subjective)**  
Simulated data for model (2-D simulation computationally expensive)  
Resolution for accurate simulation and uncertainty in data
- **Calibration**  
Iterative algorithm to vary parameters to minimize metric
- **Issues**  
Minimization is highly non-linear (local or global minimum)  
Metric may be insensitive to correlated changes in parameters  
or insufficient data may lead to underdetermined model
- **Domain of applicability**  
Tacit assumption: hotspot distribution same as calibration experiments  
Model accurate for applications similar to calibration experiments  
May lose accuracy for other applications

# Detonation Waves in High Explosives

End of HE lecture series

# Zoomed figures I

Detonation loci

Computer Micro-Tomography

VISAR profiles

PDV profiles

PBX 9501 micrograph

Program burn  $D > D_{cj}$

Program burn  $D < D_{cj}$

Wave diagram

Partly burned detonation loci

PBX 9501 V–P trajectory

PBX 9501 pressure profile

PBX 9501 compare resolution

Shock initiation – wedge experiment

Shock initiation – embedded gauges

## Zoomed figures II

Pop plot data – shock trajectory

Pop plot data – velocity profiles

Pop plot – run distance

Pop plot – time to detonation

Pop plot –  $x(t)$

HMX Pop plot

9502 Pop plot  $x(P,T)$

9502 Pop plot  $t(P,T)$

Match hotspot at CJ state to reactants

Chemical rate

Diameter effect

Profile ODEs with curvature

Resolution and curvature effect

PBX 9502 profile

## Zoomed figures III

Shock Polar

1D interaction

Oblique shock

2D wave pattern

Phermex shot 1037

$Dn/Dz$

Boundary layer  $y$  and  $\kappa$

Boundary layer pressure

Sonic locus

PBX 9501 wall velocity

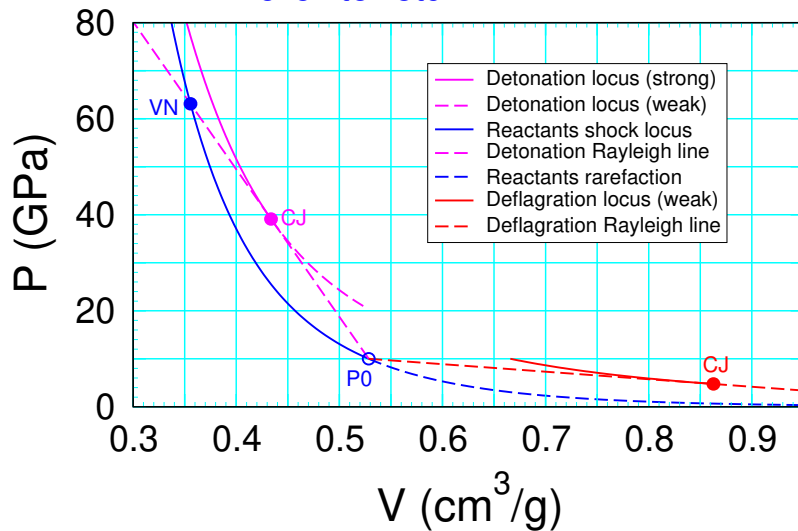
PBX 9502 wall velocity

PBX 9502 detonation locus



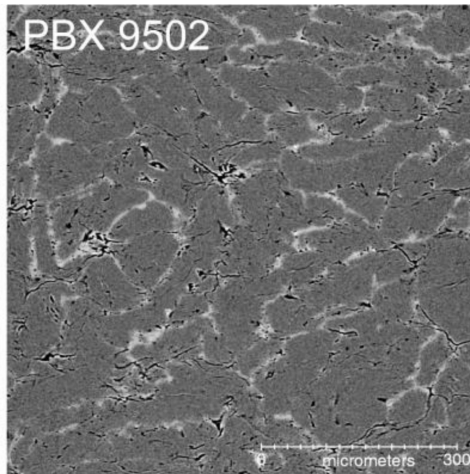
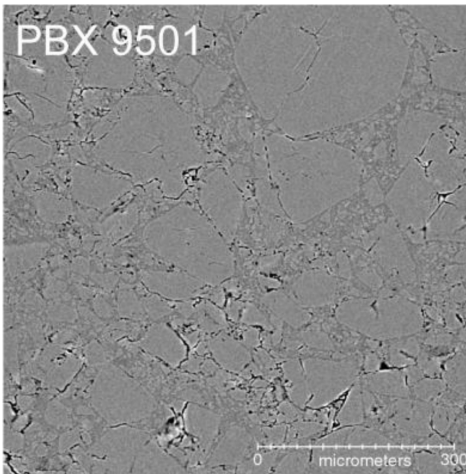
# Shock and Detonation loci

[click to return](#)



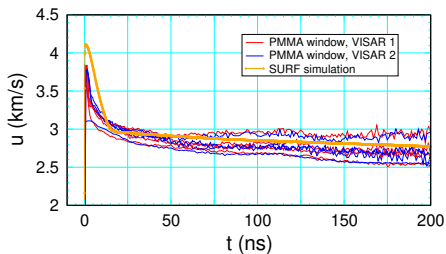
# Micro-tomography image

[click to return](#)

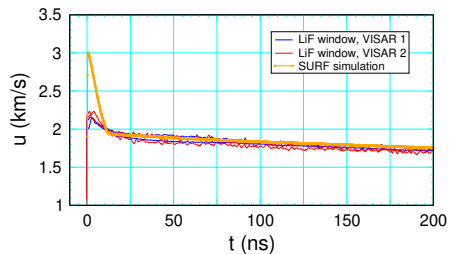


# VISAR profile

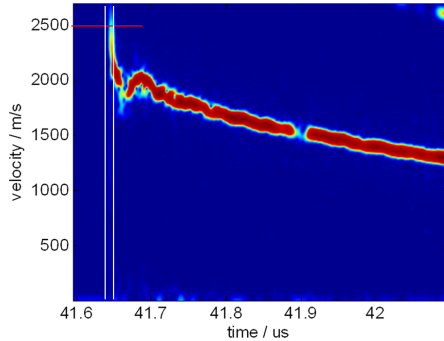
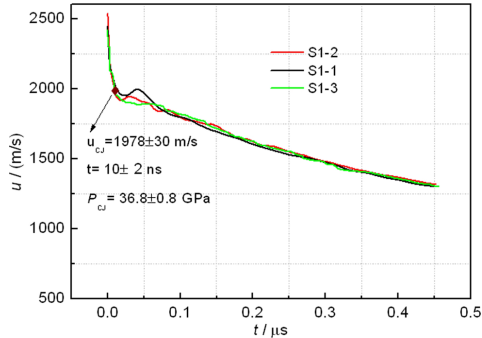
## PMMA window



## Li-F window

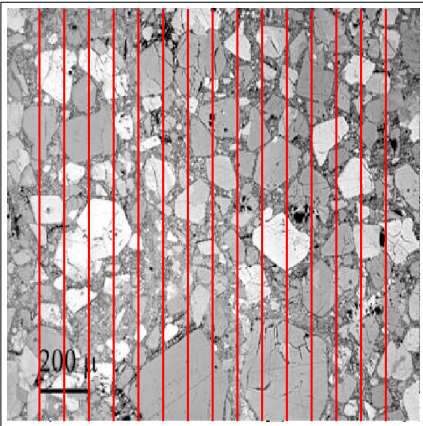


# PDV profile

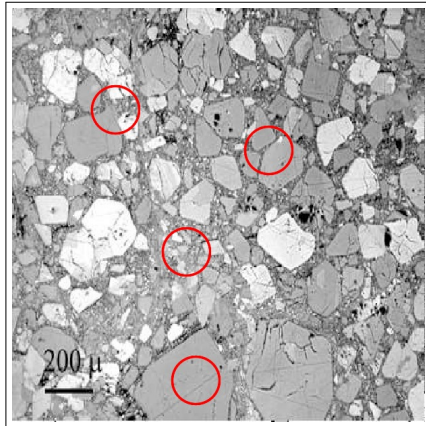


white guide lines  
reaction time  $\approx 10$  ns

# PBX 9501 polarized light micrograph

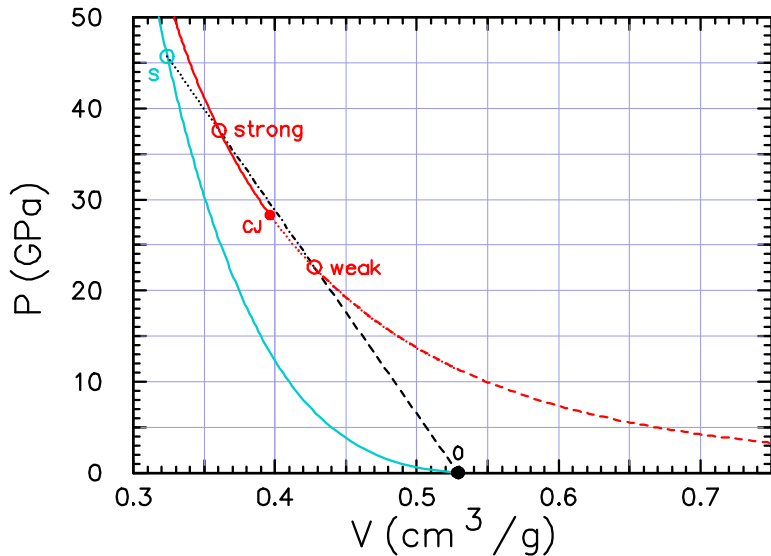


Red guide lines 100  $\mu\text{m}$  apart  
Estimated reaction-zone width  
based on curvature effect

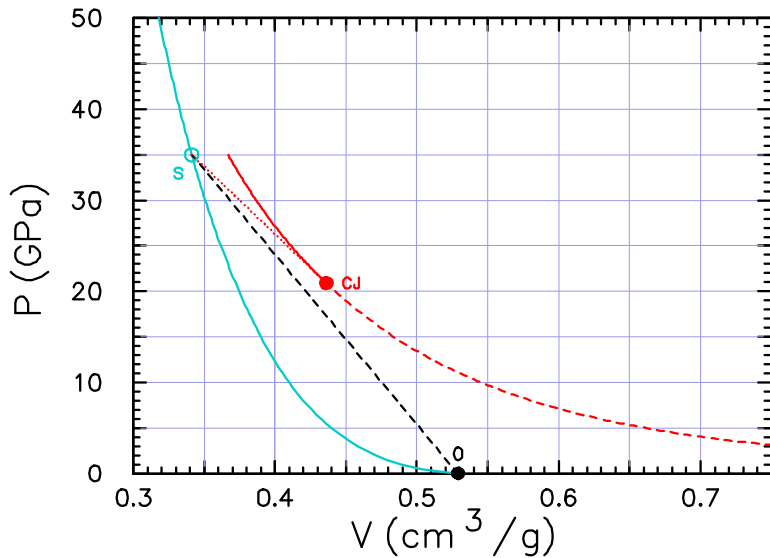


Red circles 200  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter  
VISAR or PDV spot size

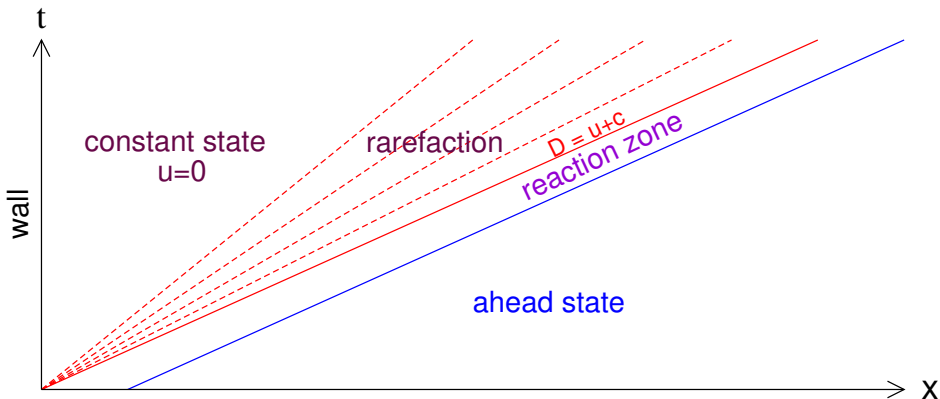
# Programmed burn $D > D_{cj}$



# Programmed burn $D < D_{cj}$

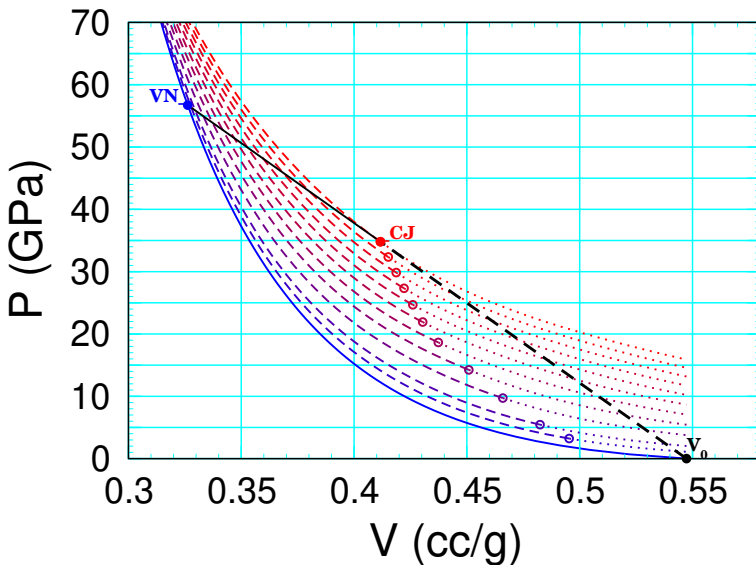


# WaveDiagram

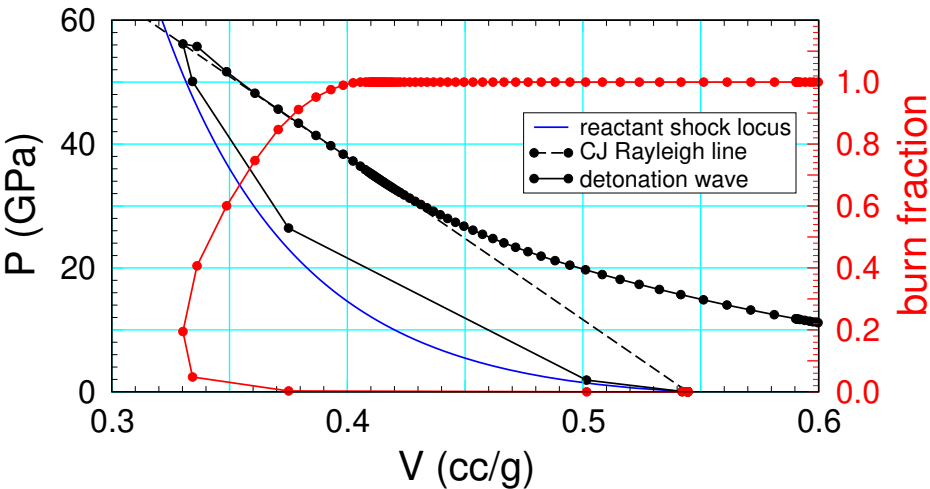




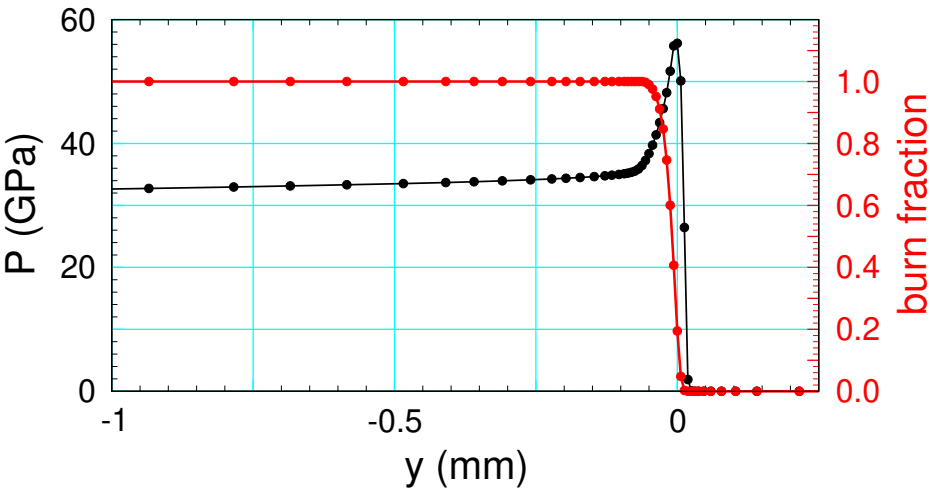
# Partly burned detonation loci



# PBX 9501 V-P trajectory



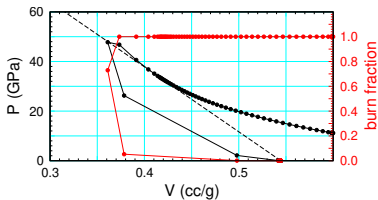
# PBX 9501 pressure profile



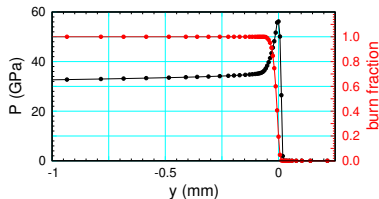
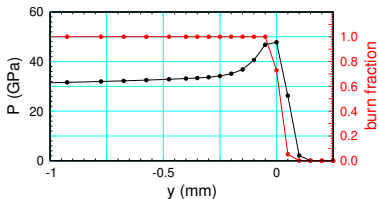
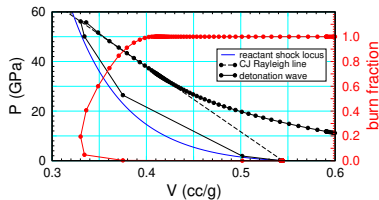
# PBX 9501 compare resolution

Model reaction-zone width  $\approx 70$  microns

50 micron resolution



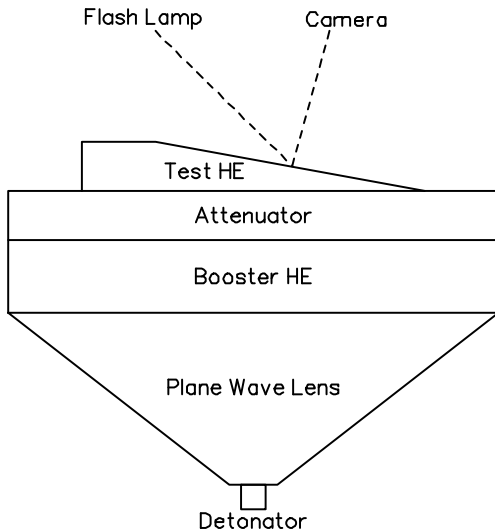
6.25 micron resolution



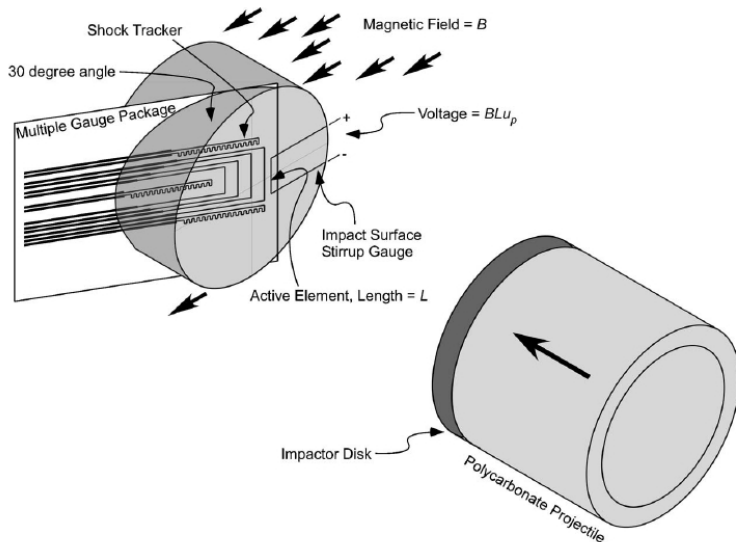
Effect of resolution is model and code dependent

This example is for SURF model in xRage code [← return](#)

# Shock initiation – wedge experiment

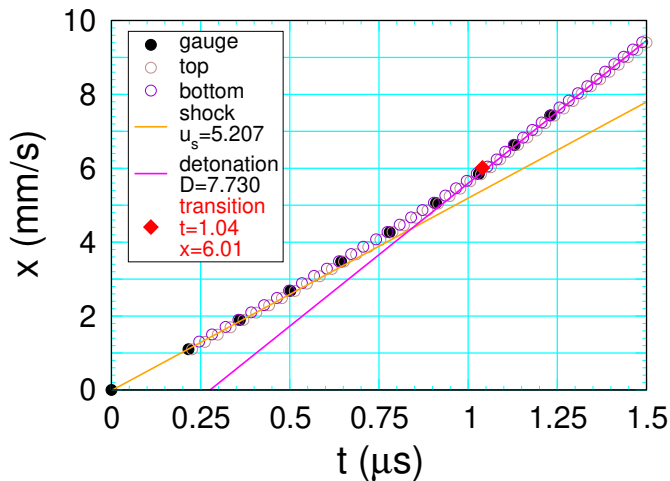


# Shock initiation – embedded gauges



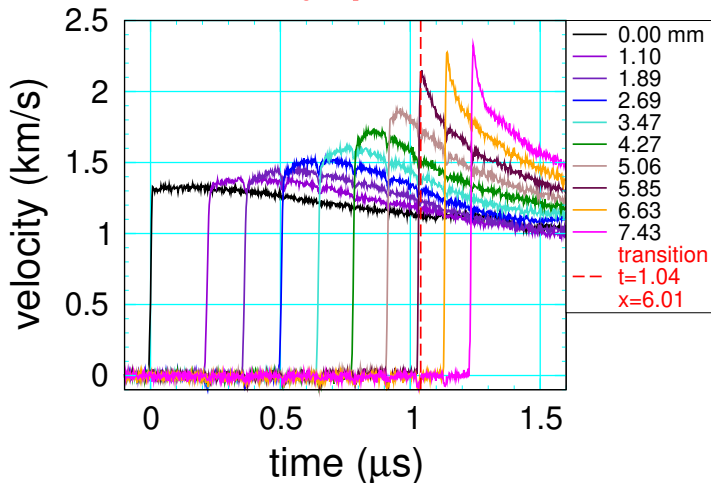
## Pop plot data – shock trajectory

## shock trajectory



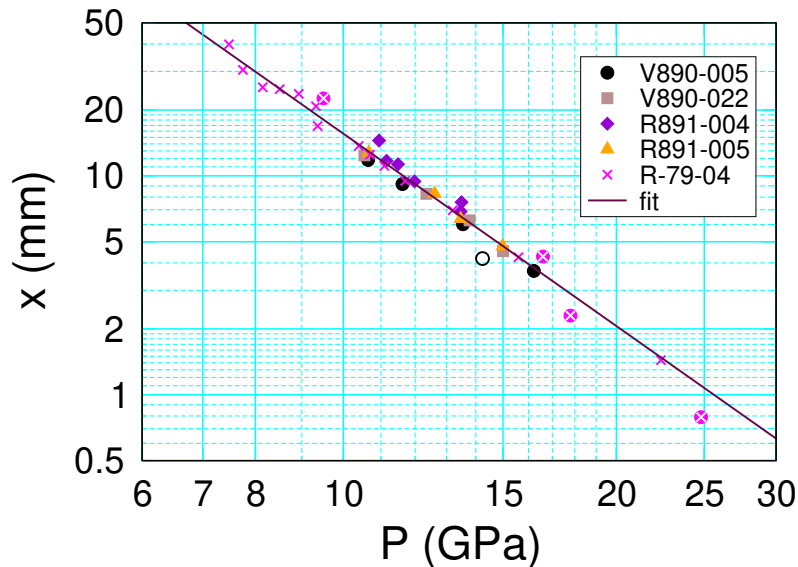
## Pop plot data – velocity profiles

## velocity profiles

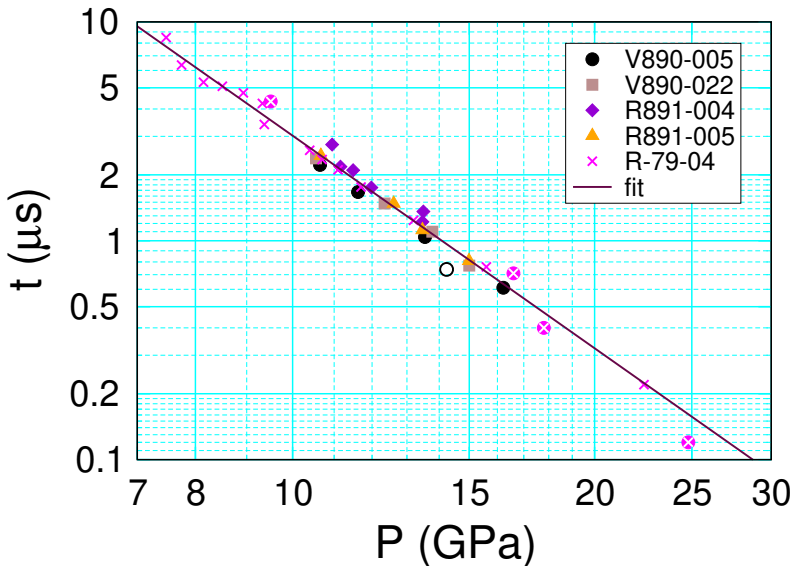




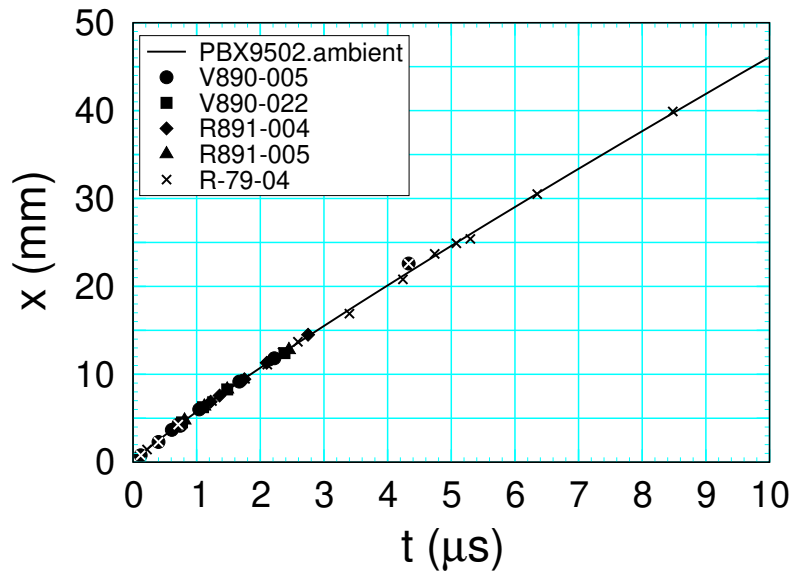
# Pop plot – run distance



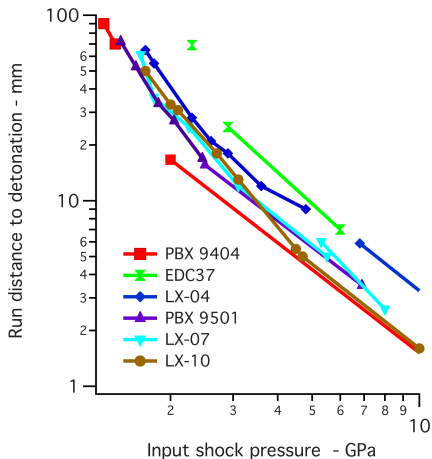
# Pop plot – time to detonation



# Pop plot – $x(t)$

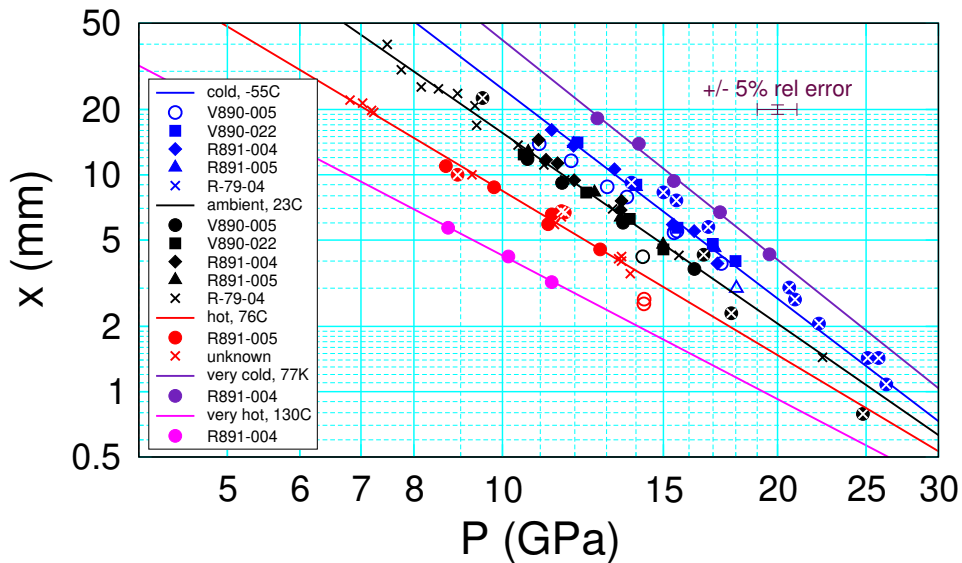


# HMX Pop plot

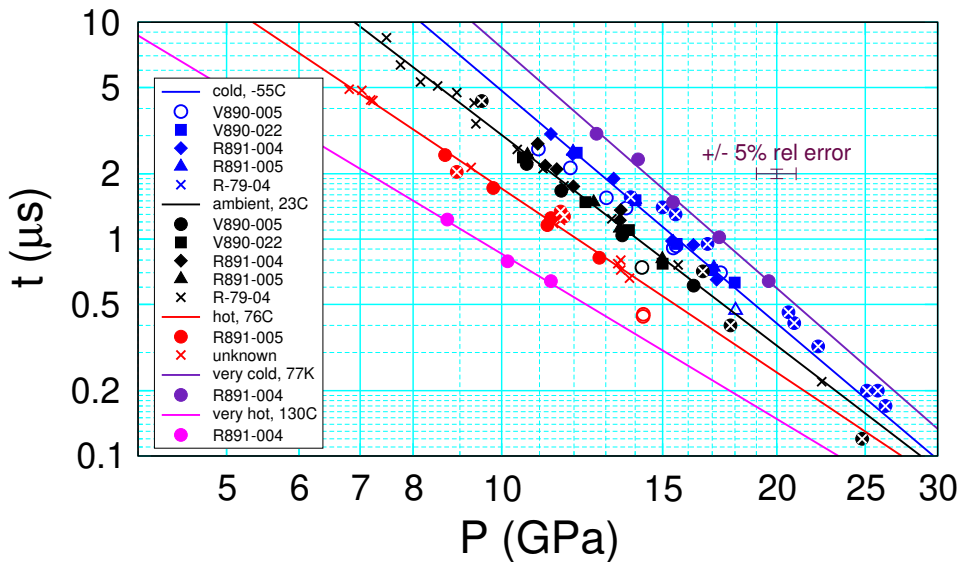


Vandersall *et al.*, 2010, fig 15 [◀ return](#)

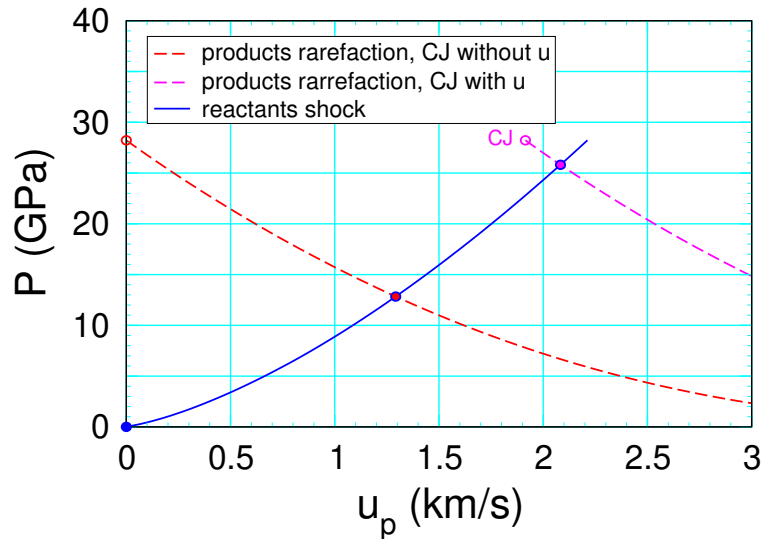
# Pop plot x(P,T)



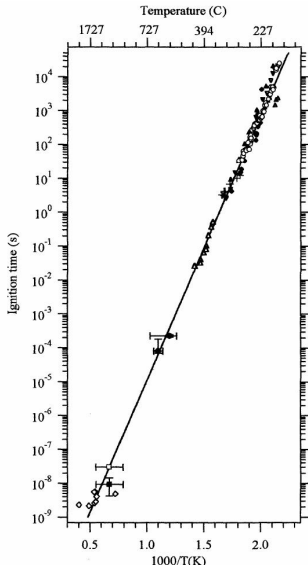
# Pop plot $t(P,T)$



# Match hotspot at CJ state $\rightarrow$ reactants

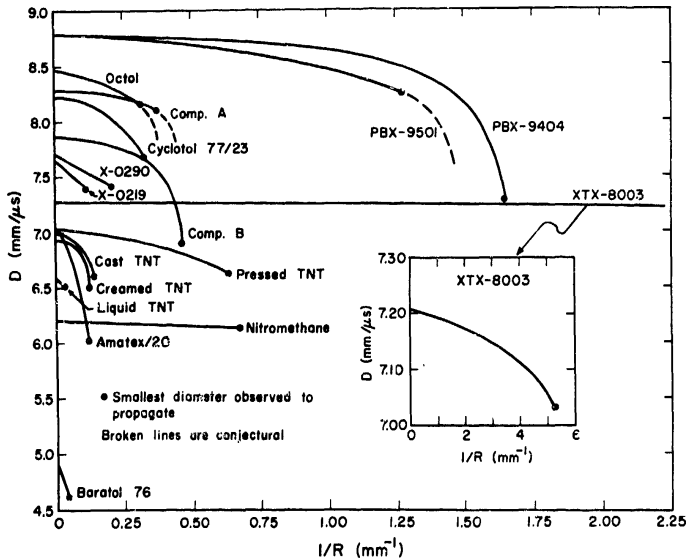


# PBX 9501 – global rate (Henson & Smilowitz)





# Diameter effect: D vs 1/R



# Profile ODEs with curvature

Quasi-steady profile ODEs with front curvature  $\kappa$  [← return](#)

$$-[\mathcal{C}^2 - (D - u)^2] \frac{d}{dx} \begin{pmatrix} V \\ D - u \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} [\sigma \mathcal{R} \mathcal{C}^2 - u \kappa (D - u)^2] V / (D - u) \\ (\sigma \mathcal{R} - u \kappa) \mathcal{C}^2 \\ [\mathcal{C}^2 - (D - u)^2] \mathcal{R} / (D - u) \end{pmatrix}$$

plus Bernoulli equation  $e + P V + \frac{1}{2}(D - u)^2 = \text{constant}$

where  $\sigma = (\partial_\lambda P)_{V,e} / (\rho \mathcal{C}^2)$  is thermicity

$$\kappa \begin{cases} > 0, & \text{diverging front, unsupported detonation} \\ = 0, & \text{planar front, reduces to ZND profile} \\ < 0, & \text{converging front, overdriven detonation} \end{cases}$$

- Diverging detonation wave

$D_n(\kappa)$  determined by “eigenvalue” like problem

ODE trajectory with  $\sigma \mathcal{R} - u \kappa = 0$  at critical point  $[\mathcal{C}^2 - (D - u)^2] = 0$

- Sonic point within reaction zone

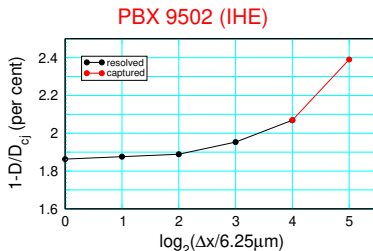
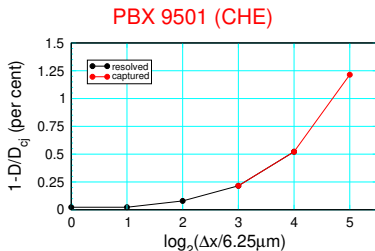
$D_n$  decreases as  $\kappa$  increases

# Resolution and curvature effect

## Axial detonation speed for cylinder test

### Examples of dependence on numerical resolution

Cell size from 6.25 to 200 microns



Accuracy decreases rapidly when reaction zone captured

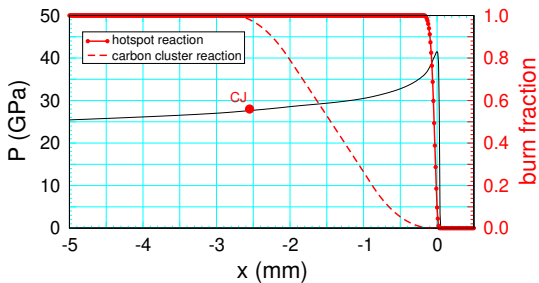
*i.e.*, cell size  $\gtrsim$  reaction-zone width

Convergence rate is model and code dependent

These examples are for SURF model in xRage code, [Menikoff, 2019](#)

◀ return

# PBX 9502 profile

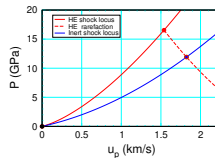
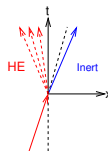
[◀ return](#)

# Shock polar

◀ return

## 1-D shock interaction

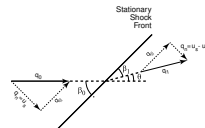
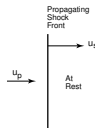
$P$  and  $u$  continuous  
across contact  
particle trajectory  $\sim$  time direction



## Oblique shock & turning angle

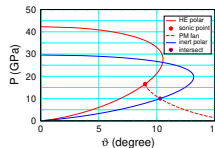
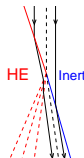
$$\tan \theta = \frac{u_p u_s}{q_0^2 - u_p u_s} \cdot \frac{q_{\parallel}}{u_s}$$

$$q_{\parallel}^2 = q_0^2 - u_s^2$$

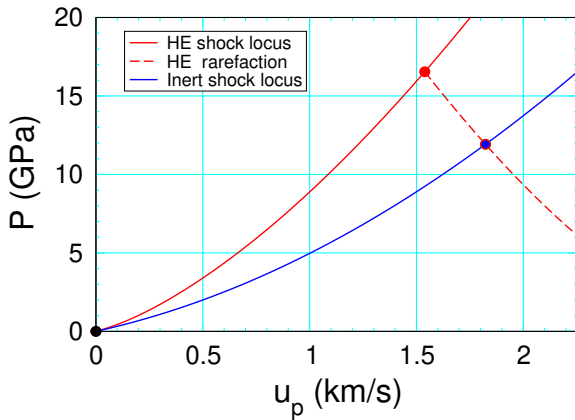
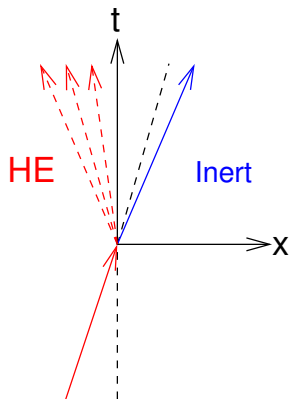


## Steady 2-D wave pattern

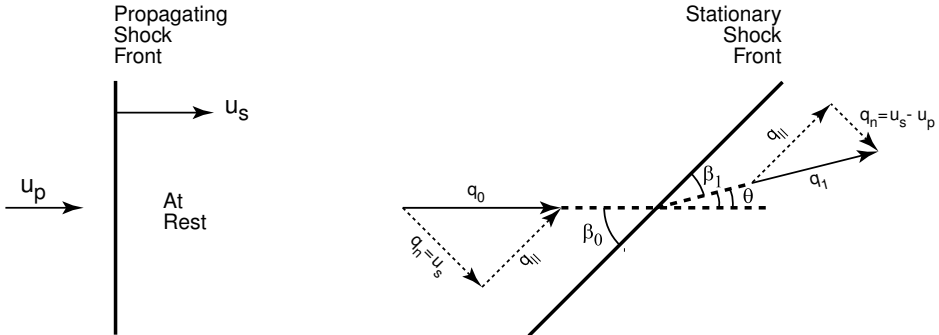
$P$  and  $u_{\perp}$  continuous  
 $u_{\parallel}$  discontinuous (slip line)  
across contact  
streamline  $\parallel$  contact  
streamline  $\sim$  time direction



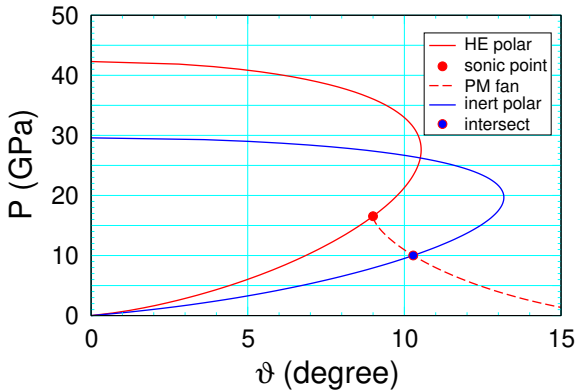
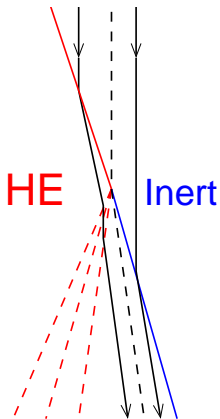
# 1-D interaction



# Oblique shock



# 2-D wave pattern

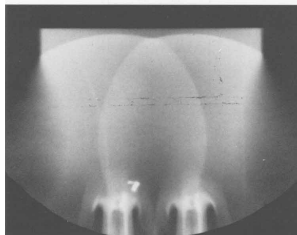
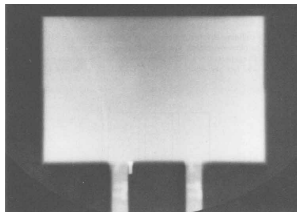
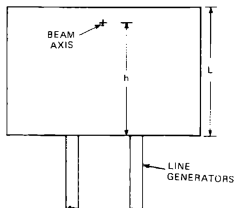
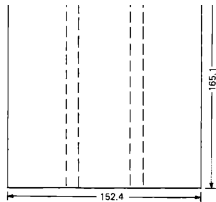




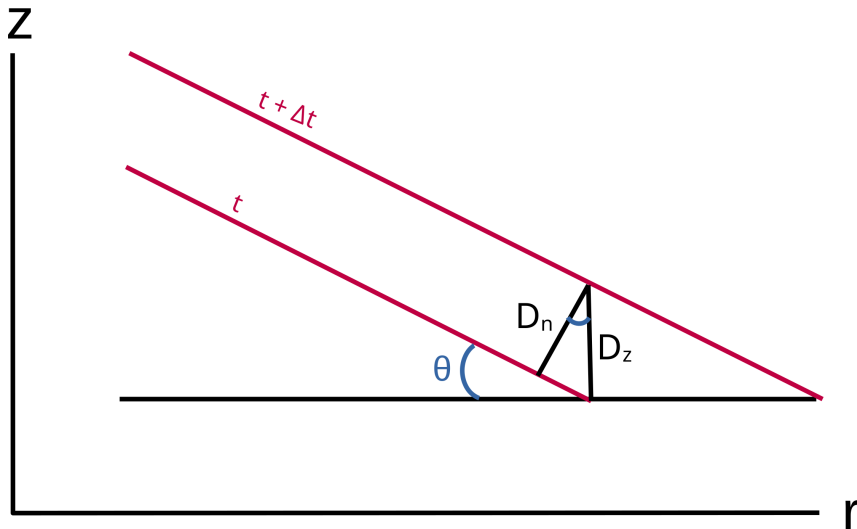
# Intersecting detonation wave fronts

[◀ return](#)

Phermex shot 1037

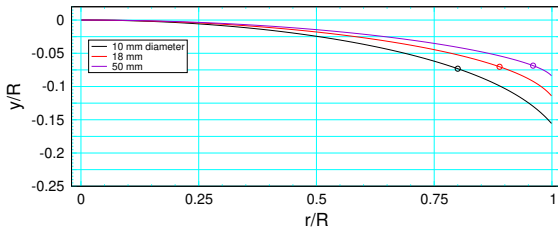


# Experimental measurement of $D_n(\kappa)$

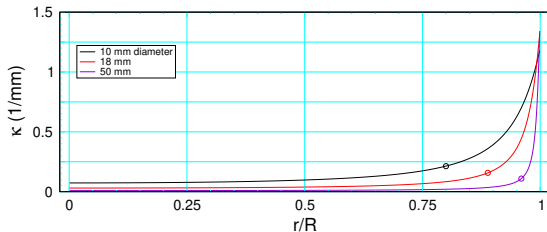


# Boundary layer $y$ and $\kappa$

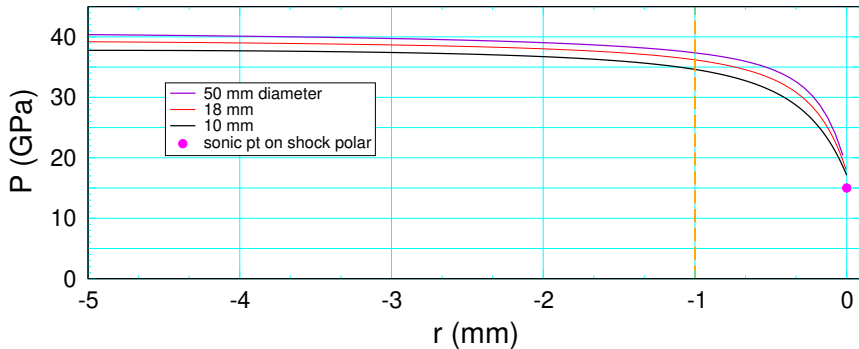
## normalized front shape



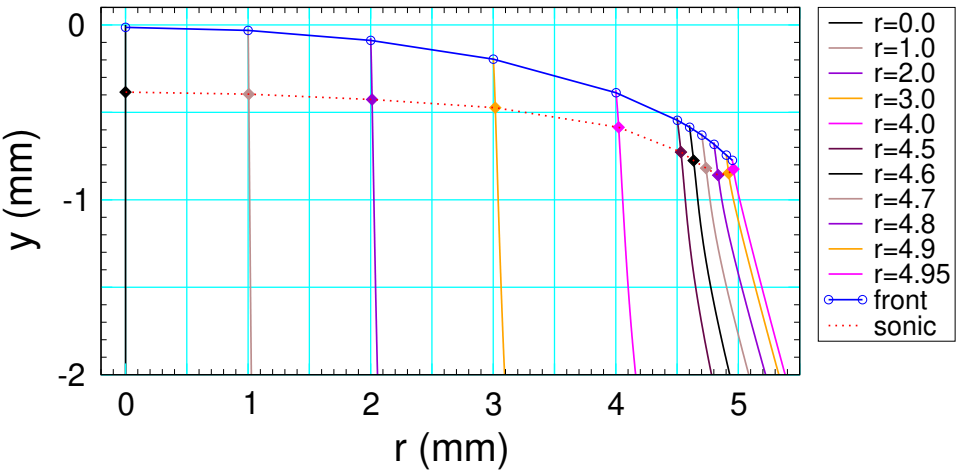
## curvature vs normalized radius



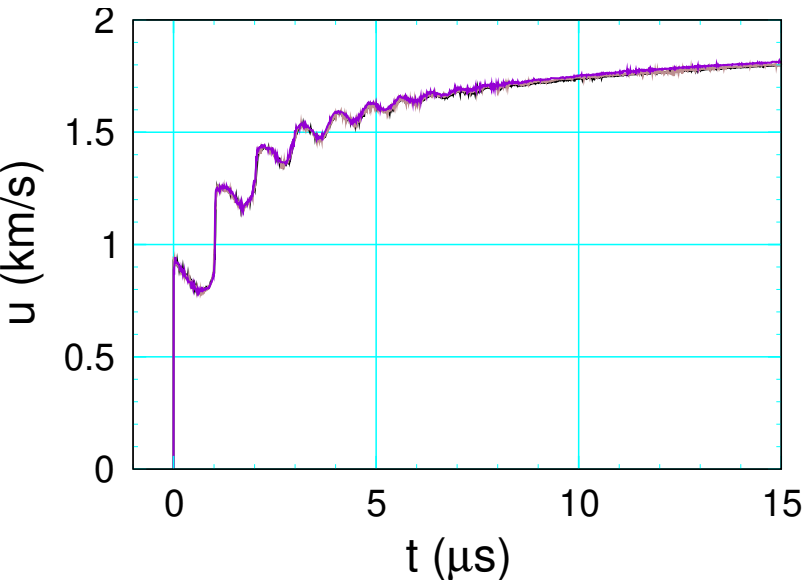
# Boundary layer pressure



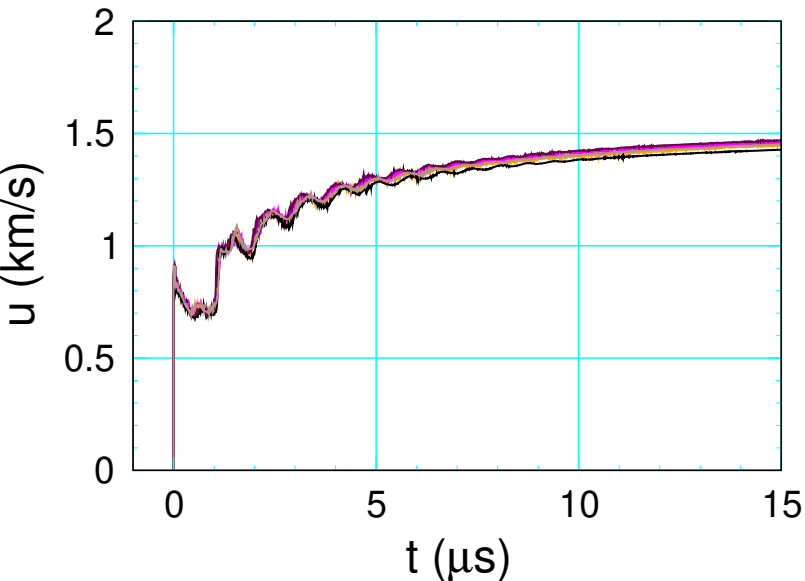
# Sonic locus



# PBX 9501 wall velocity



# PBX 9502 wall velocity



# PBX 9502 detonation locus

